



THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE

CRONICL Y PUM PENTREF

**ISSUE NO. 144
RHIFYN 144**

**WINTER (DECEMBER) 2022
GAEAF (RHAGFYR) 2022**

**PRICELESS
AMHRISIADWY**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS**

EDITORIAL (Terry Ireland)

Life is a continuous process of change and adaptation and all of us spend our lives struggling to accept and cope with this. The Five Villages Chronicle published its first edition 35 years ago in February 1987, proposed and paid for from her allowance by Moraig Jelley, the Chairman of Whitford Community Council. At that time, every village possessed a church or chapel and a pub, where people could pop in for a chat and a drink. Sadly the Halfway House is about to be demolished to provide a site for two more houses, so Gorsedd will be the only village with its own pub. Do you remember the Singing Kettle, Rock Inn, Fielding Arms, the Huntsman and the Travellers Inn, now either converted for housing or demolished?

Carmel is fortunate in retaining its village hall as in the past it looked as if it might be sold for development. However, dedicated committees and the Community Council have seen it converted to a fully modernised, warm and well-decorated venue for use by local organizations or to hire for private functions.

Covid 19 is still with us but the mass vaccination programme has worked well to minimise the terrible tragedies that affected families in 2020 and 2021. Just as we thought we had turned a corner, the war in Ukraine broke out in February 2022 and the resultant interruption of gas and oil supplies by Russia has affected world economics badly, and we find ourselves in Britain with an inflation rate of 10%. Basically this means we have all had an incomes cut of 10%! Local food banks set up to help our society's very poorest have become places of weekly obligatory visits for wage earners and for people on lower salaries, such as nurses, teachers and council workers. Not only have heating and fuel costs risen but basic food items have increased in cost by more than 10%.

These changes are demanding that we all try to help each other as people have always done in time of need. It is a time for new ideas and coming together as we were encouraged to do by clapping the nurses and doctors on our doorsteps as they put their lives on the line before vaccinations were available.

Looking around the Five Villages you may have noticed walkers as you drive around our rural lanes. They started in lockdown for exercise and found they felt fitter and better, in the process meeting walking friends. Many of the walkers are out with their dogs and we must thank them for using their pooper scoopers and the red boxes provided.

COVER PICTURE

Many thanks to Steven Jones.

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Recent research by Aston University in a comprehensive wide-ranging study by Dr James Brown has proved that a daily walk is the magic pill to slow ageing, helping to prevent obesity and diabetes, lowering the risk of some cancers and reducing the risk of hip fractures by 40% among older adults. More importantly perhaps they found in this study that daily walkers had reduced mental health problems and significant help in maintaining good cognitive abilities so reducing the risk of the onset of dementia. It was ironic that they found marathon running and more strenuous exercise did not do this!

The landscape of the Five Villages is a truly beautiful, often undiscovered one and is served by a wealth of country lanes and field footpaths. Now is the time for small groups to form to meet in each village to walk regularly. You need a day, a time and a village rendezvous point. It will help solve loneliness, keep blood circulating vigorously and build new friendships. It would be a small step for homemade soup in someone's house to start a worthwhile tradition. Strangers are often friends you have not yet met. We need new ideas to keep us happy and active. There is no age limit on walking!

GOOD COMPANIONS (John Saunders)

The hospital tea bar remains closed but we hope to re-open in the not too distant future.

Although our fundraising has been curtailed our income is boosted by donations, the most recent being £266 in memory of Mrs Gertie Jones (Carmel) and £150 in memory of Mrs Maud Brookes (Holywell). Thank you.

As Christmas comes near we are starting to think about the purchase of presents for the patients and all the hospital departments. That's a lot of shopping and wrapping!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of staff for their continued good work.



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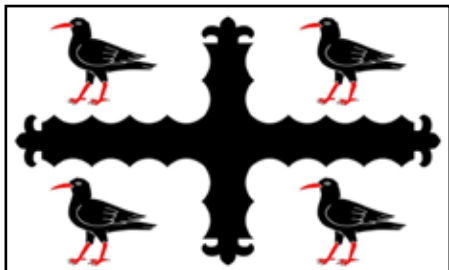
LOCAL DEFIBRILLATORS

Carmel Village Hall, Carmel Hill, Holywell, CH8 8NZ
Ysgol Bro Carmel, Carmel, Nr Holywell, CH8 8NU
Druid Inn, Gorsedd, Holywell, CH8 8QZ
Whitford CP School, Whitford, Holywell, CH8 9AN
Strand Walk, Bank Place, Holywell, CH8 7AN
Brynford Primary School, Brynford, Holywell, CH8 8AD
Scott the Jewellers, 46 High Street, Holywell, CH8 7LH
Holywell Golf Club, Brynford, Holywell, CH8 8LQ
Ysgol Treffynnon, Pen y Maes Road, Holywell, CH8 7EN
Old Town Hall, 46 High Street, Holywell, CH8 7LH
Ideal Lighting, 61 High Street, Holywell, CH8 7TF
Pen y Maes Stores, 5-7 Bryn y Gwynt, Pen y Maes, Holywell, CH8 7BX
Tesco, Bank Place, Holywell, CH8 7TJ
Ysgol Gwenfrwdd, Whitford Street, Holywell, CH8 7NJ
Toe 2 Toe Fitness, North Road, Holywell, CH8 7TQ
Please advise editor@5villages.org.uk if there are any we have missed!

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.



Hello my name is Ike Lewis. I go to Carmel school and spend a lot of time in the area. I was wondering if you could answer my question. What does the bumpy cross with four crows mean as I saw it in the village hall and on the Flint soldier's shield?

Yours sincerley,
Ike Lewis (10 years old)

Hello Ike,
thanks for getting in touch, and with a great question. The flag/battle banner is very historic in this area. The four birds on the flag are called a "Chough", and hundreds of years ago these birds nested on the seashore of Flintshire. They no longer do, however I have seen a few on the western side of the Great Orme in Llandudno. Looking at the *Five Villages Chronicle*, now it's printed in colour I will have to get a new picture of the flag/banner as a Chough has a red beak and legs, just like the big sign in front of Carmel Village Hall our "old loved Hall"

So, your question about the "bumpy cross", it's a black engrailed flory cross on a white background. The four Choughs are in each quarter of the flag/banner.

The flag/banner belonged to Edwin Tegeingl (Edwin ap Gronwy) a 11th century Lord or King of Tegeingl. Where was Tegeingl? Well all those hundreds of years ago it was, here, where we live today.

I have really enjoyed writing to you about our (yours too) great flag. Would you ask your parents if I could forward your letter to the *Five Villages Chronicle* and use it in the next issue, which will be ready to read in early December? We love receiving letters and photos for the *Chronicle*.

Yours,
Chris Dolphin



THE "MAEN ACHWYNFAN" LOVE SPOON

Over the years I have made many love spoons for my late wife to mark various occasions within our family.



I made this one for one of our anniversaries. I copied the design from the 10th century standing stone cross of "Maen Achwynfan" which is in the parish of Whitford.

It is an interlaced knot which can be seen in the circle of the cross.

The message I wanted to give to my wife on that anniversary was like "Maen Achwynfan" which has stood for a 1000 years so our Love for each other will also stand the test of time, the interlace represents that we are inseparable.



Love spoons have been made in Wales for hundreds of years. The earliest surviving Love Spoon is dated 1667 and is in the museum of Welsh life in San Fagan's.

Love spoons are a simple but lovely old Welsh tradition and were first made by young men who would carve a design on the handle of the spoon to show his love for a girl of his choice, if she accepted the Love Spoon, it meant she accepted him.

Ted Mckay
Bechgyn Treffynnon

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to our daughter Sophie Jean Davies, of Afallon, Gorsedd, on gaining a First Class Honours Masters degree in Biology (with placement year), at the University of York.

Sophie, a former pupil of Ysgol Y Llan, Whitford and St Richard Gwyn High School Flint, has taken a position at a Bio Technology company based in York.

A well deserved reward for many years of hard work, we wish Sophie continued success in the future.

Melvyn & Janet Davies.

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

**WHITFORD COMMUNITY
COUNCILLORS:**

Names of Councillors and contact telephone numbers:

Councillors: Tim Barks - 01352 720375 / Richard Dolphin - 01352 710764 / Matthew Foster - 07900 520790 / Billy Glynn - 01352 712418 / Sharon James - 01352 716822 / Caradoc W. Jones - 01352 712079 / Matt Marshall - 077639 75531 / Gareth Sharp - 01352 715614 / Paul Urquhart - 01745 563133 / Melanie Wallis - 01352 712369 / Emma Warbrick - 01352 712356

POLICE REPORT TO COUNCIL:

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

Carmel - 4 x Anti-social behaviour / 1 x

Criminal damage / 3 x Public order / 1 x Theft

Gorsedd - 1 x Anti-social behaviour / 2 x Violence

Lloc - 3 x Violence

Lloc - A55 Services: 1 x Public order / 1 x Other crime

Pantasaph - 2 x Violence

Whitford - No crimes reported

**RESIGNATION OF COMMUNITY
COUNCILLOR:**

The Chair of Council Councillor Billy Glynn brought to the attention of Councillors a resignation letter from Chris Dolphin as a Whitford Community Councillor. Council Members agreed that the Clerk to send the following letter to Mr. Dolphin: To express their appreciation for his public service over a considerable length of time, together with his assistance to the Council as County Councillor. (Chris still continues to represent the Whitford County Ward as a Flintshire County Councillor).

(Public Notice in relation to a casual Vacancy as a Whitford Community Councillor – in this edition of the Five Villages Chronicle).

NEW VILLAGE NAME SIGNS:

The Community Council have agreed that the various village name signs that require replacing through age, fading and or damage, will be replaced. Councillors Richard Dolphin and Matt Marshall are in the process of visiting all areas of signage and where appropriate taking

measurements. The Community Council will thereafter seek a quotation from County Highways.

**SPEEDING CONCERNS ON A5026
ROAD IN AREA OF CARMEL
CRICKET CLUB:**

Following a joint agenda item by Councillors Tim Barks and Matt Marshall in relation to concerns of speeding vehicles, travelling between the lower speed limits on the outskirts of Lloc to the area of the MacDonald's – whereby the speed limit increases from 40mph to 60mph. Both Councillors referred to the increase of traffic to the cricket ground and the pending businesses of KFC and a national Café chain, together with the usage of the pavement which is frequented by pedestrians and dog walkers. The Community Council have requested that the County Council place speed monitoring tubes in the area which will ascertain the number and speed of vehicles.

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

The Chair of Council – Councillor Billy Glynn welcomed Nigel Seaburg (Flintshire County Council Street Scene) to the meeting. The following was discussed with Nigel: (1) Roundabout at Penfforddilan: Surface breaking up (2) Kerb sinking: In area of Pen Y Gelli Quarry – midway up hill (3) Wildflower area near Ocean View

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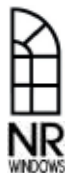
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Estate – grass requires cutting (4) Whitford Road / Llwyn Ifor Lane – grass requires cutting (5) Request for Community Council to receive copy of County grass cutting schedule.

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: LDC/000320/22 – for a Lawful Development Certificate, for the existing use of agricultural dwelling for residential use, at Dwyndant, Whitford (2) Application number: FUL/000393/22 – for alterations to existing gateway, at Misty Waters, Lloc (3) Application number: FUL/000456/22 – for proposed flat roof single storey side extension, at land adjoining Celyn Villa, Carmel (4) Application number: FUL/000461/22 for the erection of 2-storey pitched roof extension to east side of existing dwelling. First floor extension over existing single storey structure to west side of existing dwelling. Single storey orangery style extension in lieu of existing conservatory to south of existing dwelling and construction of open porch to north elevation, at Glasfryn, Lloc (5) Application number: FUL/000396/22 – for minor alterations, window replacement and installation of an EV charger, at 3, Monastery Road, Pantasaph (6) Application number: LBC/000402/22 – for listed building for minor alterations, window replacement and installation of an EV charger, at 3, Monastery Road, Pantasaph.

PLANNING DECISIONS:

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

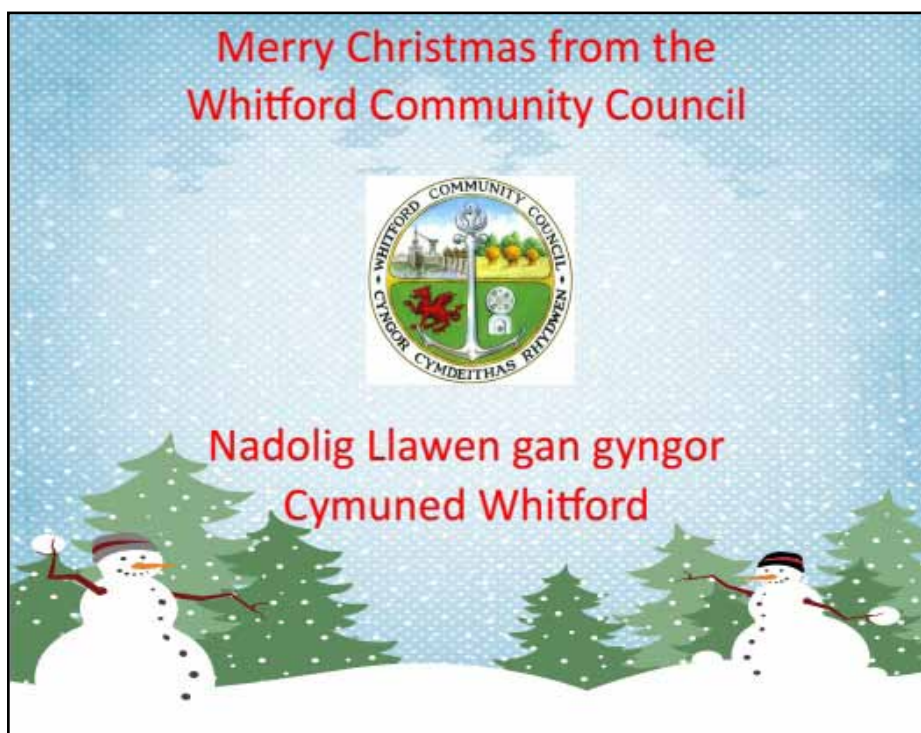
(1) Application number: 064333 – for infill extension to rear of property, alterations to exterior hard landscaping to provide level access from parking area to back door and onto rear patio area, at Ael Y Bryn, Carmel Road, Carmel. Approved (2) Application number: 064264 – for listed building consent for installation of a fire suppression system, at Plas Ucha Farm, Tre Mostyn. Refused (3) Application number: FUL/000021/22 – full building works, at 1 Mwdwl Eithin Cottages, Carmel. File closed (4) Application number: 064304 – for the erection of new roof allowing additional living accommodation at first floor; extension to front of dwelling and Juliet balcony to rear, at Kingsway, Gorsedd. Approved (5) Application number: 064471 – for extension to existing double garage to create triple garage, at

Moorfield House, Pantasaph. Approved (6) Application number: 064118 – for operation of a dairy vending machine / farm shop and all associated works, at Mynydd Mostyn, Berthengam. Approved.

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND DONATIONS:

The Community Council have granted the following financial assistance since the last edition of the Five Villages Chronicle: £250.00 – Holywell Amateur Swimming Club (funding toward capital purchase of Backstroke Ledges) / £350.00 – Hope House / Ty Gobaith (annual grant).

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



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HANNAH BLYTHYN MS



The impact of the cost-of living crisis continues to be felt in communities across the country – sadly too many people are finding themselves in increasingly challenging circumstances, from simply struggling to make ends meet, being able to heat homes, putting food on the table and covering the cost of things like school uniforms and the various kit learners need.

I know that the cost of school uniform, particularly the need to buy branded school clothing is something that has been of concern locally, as we have seen the – much welcome – growth of school uniform exchanges. In response to this, the Welsh Government has launched a new consultation aimed at parents, guardians, and learners and asks if school logos on uniforms are necessary or if there are ways it can be done that cut down on expense.

Options set out in the consultation include the use of school branding and whether schools should have no logo at all, or use 'iron on logos' to be made available free of charge. This could give families the option to buy uniform at cheaper costs and from a retailer of their choice. The consultation also asks whether schools should enter into single supplier contracts, as well as views on the role of schools in uniform recycling and exchange schemes. Links to the consultation can be found online <https://gov.wales/changes-statutory-guidance-school-uniform-and-appearance-policies> and ran until 28th November 2022.

Flintshire County Council also has a really useful project for unwanted or unused school uniform [School Uniform Exchange \(flintshire.gov.uk\)](http://flintshire.gov.uk). The School Uniform Exchange aims to encourage the people of Flintshire to recycle and donate unwanted or unused school uniform items rather than putting them in the bin. All donated school uniform will be available for sale in **Nightingale House Hospice shops** throughout Flintshire at a fraction of high street prices. Likewise, I know there have been voluntary initiatives in both Holywell and Mold.

The Welsh Government is stepping in to support people in these difficult financial times but there is much more the UK Government should and could do. With domestic fuel prices on the rise many people will struggle to keep their

homes at a healthy temperature this winter, that's why the Welsh Government has recently announced plans to support the establishment of Warm Hubs across the country.

Warm Hubs are intended as places where people can find a safe, accessible and warm environment during the day to help reduce the cost of heating their own homes and to help those facing extreme fuel poverty this winter. Many organisations including local authorities, community councils, faith groups, sports clubs, community centres are already setting up, or looking to set up, Warm Hubs within local communities. For more information on the local arrangements for Warm Hubs and local funding, I would encourage people/organisations to contact Flintshire County Council to register their interest.

There is also another Welsh Government scheme that could be useful which is Claim What's Yours, <https://gov.wales/claim-whats-yours>. Thousands of people in Wales are entitled to more benefits. Families across Wales are feeling the strain on their household budgets due to the rising cost of living, making that extra bit of help more important than ever. Many people are unaware they may be entitled to benefits that could offer them the support they need. If you are unsure about what benefits you can claim, Advicelink Cymru can help you check and claim what's yours. Get in touch with one of their advisors by calling their free helpline on 0808 250 5700.

It's come to that time of year again

when we start to think about Christmas. Last year, with the kind support of local businesses and generous donations I was able to help make the festive season a little bit brighter for nearly 200 families with Christmas Cheer boxes. This is something I'm planning on doing once again this year and will be in touch with primary schools across Delyn to help identify families that would benefit from a box.

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 my constituency office - 52 High Street, Mold, Flintshire, on 01352 753464 or by email Hannah.blythyn@senedd.wales. You can also keep up to date via my Facebook page www.facebook.com/hannahblythynMS.

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FLINT & HOLYWELL

ROTARY CLUB

It is coming to that time of year again when the nights are drawing in, the leaves are falling off the trees, we are starting to see the shops selling Christmas decorations and Rotarians can be heard hard at work, preparing the Christmas Float for another year, touring the towns and villages to bring the wonder of Father Christmas with his brightly illuminated sleigh and the sounds of Christmas hymns and songs to the children of North East Wales.



The Flint & Holywell Rotary Club Christmas Float

But behind the scenes, there's an awful lot of work required to ensure the Float looks at its best and everything works!

For the best part of a month each year the Float with its various teams of volunteers suffers the vagaries of Welsh December weather, from hail and snow to driving rain and all this takes its toll on not only the Float, but also the specialist four-wheel drive dedicated towing vehicle, (not to mention the Rotarians themselves!). Rotary President Malcolm Mellor commented that each year, after the float finishes its touring just before Christmas Day, it languishes unloved in outbuildings kindly provided by local farmer Edwin Hughes at Cornist Farm, just one of the many generous sponsors, without whose support, the Christmas Float would not be possible.

Then October comes round and both Float and towing vehicle are inspected and a schedule of repair, refurbishment and replacement works is prepared. Rotarian John Williams who has a well-known motor engineering business in Rhosesmor ensures the ageing Daihatsu towing vehicle is serviced and MOT'd, an increasingly onerous duty in view of the age of the vehicle, whilst other Rotarians with specialist skills or simply the ability to wield a paint brush give up many weekends to ensure The Float looks at its best. Malcolm commented "all the members' time is undertaken on an entirely voluntary basis; however the additional costs of renewals and repair are significant and the Club are this year asking for donations from the general public to ensure the future of this much loved tradition".

This year's touring schedule, like last year, is somewhat reduced from previous years, due not only to the reduced number of volunteers, but also ever increasing health and safety obligations, although all the ever popular Static Town Centre events will remain.

Float organiser, Gordon Cook stated that he has arranged the touring schedule in such a way that the Float can be seen by as many people as possible, although this does mean that "Santa Stops" are limited to fixed points only as advertised on the touring schedule. This is shown below and can also be found on the Rotary Club's website.

If you wish to donate the details are provided below:

A/C Name: Rotary Club of Flint & Holywell. Sort Code: 40 24 27. Account Number: 51159666

TIMETABLE

NO DRIVING TOURS - STATIC STOPS ONLY

Friday 16th December	7.50pm Gorsedd - Druid Inn
Monday 19th December	7.40pm Carmel - Bottom of Ocean Heights
	7.55pm Holway - Holway Community House

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MY 'EVO TRIANGLE' (Geraint Roberts)

Much has been written in recent years concerning the notorious 'Evo Triangle' up on the Denbigh Moors, following an article in a motoring magazine a few years ago which encouraged drivers of cars with throaty exhausts and bikers who lie forward on their petrol tanks to try and complete the 20 mile 'triangle' of roads as fast as possible. Thankfully, average speed cameras have now been installed and the Hiraethog uplands have become a safer place.

I shall use the 'Evo Triangle' circuit in this article as a framework from whence to visit some lesser-known attractions and points of interests you may wish to seek for yourselves up on Hiraethog.

Using Llyn Bran, which provided water for the North Wales Hospital for many years, as a starting point and ignoring the B4501 junction, we shall continue along the A543



Sportsman's Arms

for half a mile to the 'Sportsman's Arms'. One of the highest pubs in the country it was once a popular venue for dinner parties and other revelries. Today, however, having lived in the echo of the knell for country pubs all through this century it stands, at the time of writing behind a 'For Sale' sign.

Back in the day the annual sheep dog trials were legendary, as each June hundreds gathered in the field behind. Another notable event was the annual supper given to local shepherds by Lord Davenport, as his way of securing co-operation for his grouse shoots.



Gwylfa Hiraethog, the old shooting lodge

On the hill above the old tavern, at over 1600 feet above sea level Davenport placed his wooden shooting cabin. Constructed in Norway and brought over to be erected by Norwegian workers it was once known as the highest dwelling in the land. Among the dignitaries who visited was King

Edward VII and Lloyd George; it was he, incidentally who suggested the name 'Gwylfa Hiraethog'. That was in 1897. By 1913 a stone mini-mansion had been built by John Jones of Cerrigydrudion based on a design by Sir Edwin Cooper. Davenport sold it in 1925 and there was talk of a possible hotel conversion but by 1940 when it was sold again very little had been done and the slow process of deterioration began speeding up. Today, all its crumpled ruins can offer are photogenic sunset shots as its teeth-like silhouette stands against the occasional orange horizon.

Back on the road, if time allows, take the next turning right which leads along a refreshingly unfenced road past the attractive Aled reservoir. On its far bank are the ground level remains of a once flourishing sailing club whose demise came when the much larger Brenig reservoir opened its own club.

Further along just before the Aled Isaf reservoir there are parking places if you fancy looking for two giant boulders which, according to the Ordnance Survey are somewhere else! 'Cesyg Aled' (The Aled Mares) are marked on the map as being somewhere on the eastern slopes between the two reservoirs, but they are actually on the western slopes.

Continue to the bridge over the dam to admire the dramatic waterfalls plunging down to become a steep six-mile gorge carrying the river Aled to Llansannan. The waterfall, 'Rhaeadr y Bedd' translates as 'The Waterfall of the Grave'.

Return to the A543 where you will see the tail of the Alwen reservoir and the 150-yard-long footbridge carrying the circular bike track across its upper end. A noted highway robber known as 'Heilyn

the Crooked Shoulder' once troubled this lonely spot.

Cross the infant Alwen and climb the other side and the distant Llyn Alwen comes to view over to the right, this provides the main feeder stream for the reservoir.



Old toll cottage on the moors

The next feature worthy of mention is the neglected little cottage on the outside of a left-hand bend. This used to be the toll house erected in 1824 when the road was built by Thomas Telford. I can remember an elderly couple living here up to the turn of the century. Today, the door is boarded up, the windows broken and there are holes in the roof; soon the slates will be gone, the timber will rot and like many such cottages



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All enquiries welcome.**

on these peaty uplands only the walls will remain.

We are now only two miles from Pentrefoelas and the A5, the second leg of the 'triangle'. Turn right into the village and enjoy a cuppa perhaps in the little café over the bridge. Then climb past the 'Foelas Arms' and the church to reach a large copse of trees hiding a handful of dwellings. The trees also hide a couple of features, both worth inspecting. 'Llywelyn's Stone' or the 'Levelinus Stone' is surrounded by metal railings and choked with brambles; it is not often visited. One version claims it commemorates the gifting of the land to the Aberconwy Abbey by Llywelyn the Great. Another version of less credulity maintains it is the true burial spot of Llywelyn the Last whose traditional grave is Cwm Hir Abbey in Mid Wales. The original stone is in the National Museum in Cardiff. The other feature, three hundred yards away is the remains of the 'Foel Las' fort originally built by Owain Gwynedd, lost to the Normans and later re-taken by Llywelyn Fawr. It was on the occasion of this re-taking that he gifted the land to the monks. The old name for the village was 'Tirabad' (Monk's Land).

Back on the A5 and heading east you should notice the old water mill, the last building on your left as you leave the village.



Pentrefoelas mill, now a micro brewery

It worked almost continuously grinding flour from 1540 until it closed in 1984. It then briefly opened as an education centre in the 1990s. Today, despite its broken windows and dilapidated wheel it is a small micro-brewery run by locals; I can recommend 'Aur y Felin' and I wish them every success.

Another mile and a half and a turning right will take you almost immediately into the hamlet of Rhydlydan with its handsome old bridge spanning the sluggish Merddwr stream. It was on the parapet of this bridge that Robert Harry, a local character and keen card player, found himself playing cards with the devil one moonlit night having accepted an invitation to play with a stranger. Fortunately, when one of the cards fell into the river, Robert looked over and saw the reflection of his companion's feet in the still water; they were cloven hooves; he hastily made his excuses and left!

Another mile along the A5 and the large farmhouse on the right is 'Ceirniog Mawr'

which was once an important staging post for the London to Holyhead stagecoach. At its height in the first two decades of the nineteenth century it kept fifty horses. It even had its own lake stocked with fish. By 1839 however, the 'Foelas Arms' had taken over as the main station.

Less than a mile down the road another short diversion from the 'triangle' takes in another couple of features worthy of a visit. Take the minor road on the left for Cefn Brith and four hundred yards after the sharp right hand bend a small lay-by will appear on your left. In the field behind, one of six craters can be seen which were made by German bombs during the second world war. The next farm on the right is 'Aelwyd Brys' which used to be an old drover's tavern complete with a field for the cattle to graze overnight. In the field opposite, on the left, activities like weight lifting, stone throwing and other recreational gatherings used to take place, there was even an old bowling alley which lay very close to the road. The next house, when you reach the junction on the left is an old tollhouse which has been tastefully renovated. Long before Telford's A5 this was the route the drovers and other travellers used. And although the 'Capel Curig Turnpike Trust' only lasted a few years, many of the toll cottages can still be seen alongside the present A5.



Y Maen Llwyd

You must find somewhere to park the car and walk up the hill for two hundred yards and cross a small crossroads, this soon deteriorates into a track which leads all the way into the Alwen forestry. Once past a small sheepfold a gate on the right will take you onto the last of the valley



The giant's footmark

pastures, it will also take you to a huge erratic boulder known as 'Y Maen Llwyd' or 'Carreg y Cawr', (The Grey Rock or Giant's Boulder). It was gently deposited on a soft bed of slate by the retreating ice 12,000 years ago. Folklore however, disagrees with the ice age theory; the rock was actually thrown here by an angry giant many, many years ago. Evidence of this throw can be seen three hundred yards away almost hidden in some gorse in the form of the giant's footprint deeply embedded in a rock! Beneath the 'Maen Llwyd' generations of locals have carved



Example of the writing beneath

their initials on the soft bedrock beneath, some going back two centuries. Both rocks are worth seeking out.

As you return to the car look down on to the flat, level section of the A5; this section is known as 'Pant Dedwydd' and presented Telford with all manner of problems. No sooner had his contractors laid a base of foundation stones for the road, they would sink into the bog. The great man eventually came up with a solution said to be suggested by the locals; thousands of heather and rush sheafs were gathered,



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Cerrigydrudion church

bound and laid on the wet peat which were then covered with shale to form a foundation for the stones.

The route now takes us off the A5 to Cerrigydrudion. The present church and its earlier buildings have provided a place of worship for over seven hundred years, but local lore will insist that the original site was



Moel yr Eglwys, the intended site

on the hill south of the A5. Work had started on the church on 'Moel yr Eglwys' but each morning when the workmen came to their labours it was found that some stones had been moved and the walls had fallen over. This went on for some time until eventually a 'wise man's counsel' was sought over the matter. His advice was that a white roebuck should be hunted, and wherever it was run to ground and killed, that should be the site for the church. The white buck was raised on 'Craig yr Ilychen' about half a mile north of the 'Maen Llwyd' and chased until it was caught and slain on the very site of the present church. An almost identical legend is told of the church at Llangar which is half-way between Corwen and Cynwyd in the Dee valley.



Site of the Lake of the Two Oxen

Another interesting legend which links the church with the Hiraethog hills concerns an evil spirit which was plaguing the church. Following some advice from a learned 'seer' two oxen were employed to drag the spirit from the church to release it into a lake

high up on Hiraethog. Unfortunately, in the struggle the oxen were drowned and the lake was known ever after as 'Llyn y Ddau Ychain' (Lake of the Two Oxen). When the Alwen reservoir was built between 1911 and 1916, Llyn y Ddau Ychain was drained and became no more. In a recent trip to locate its site I found it to be still very wet but extremely well hidden, deep in the Alwen forest.

Taking the B4501 north from Cerrigydrudion we are now on the final leg of the triangle.

Two miles will allow us once again to cross the river Alwen, this time below the reservoir before we climb up the hill towards its younger sister the Brenig reservoir. A detour left to the little car park perched on the lip of the Alwen dam is worth a visit especially if the lake is full and water is cascading over the wall. A walk or cycle around the Alwen is good value.

Tales are told by some of the old forestry workers who were responsible for planting the first generation of pine-trees of experiments conducted with prototypes of the Barnes Wallis bouncing bomb. And although no actual explosives were used the workmen were instructed to shelter in their huts when these activities took place.

Further along, on the right the entrance to the Brenig Visitor Centre (again worth a visit) uses the original road which traversed the valley before the reservoir was completed in 1976.



Ffowc Owen's cairn

A mile and a half further on an innocuous track enters the forestry on your left, incredulous as it seems, this was the original track over the moors. According to local folk memory there was even an annual

fair held just to the right of the track. Two hundred yards along the track a small pile of quartz stones can be seen in the gloom on the left; this is 'Carnedd y Bachgen' (The Boy's Cairn) and it tells a sad story. Young Ffowc Owen was the son of a local farm, 'Tan y Graig', and he had fallen in love with a servant girl called Sioned who worked in another nearby farm called 'Foty Tai Canol'. Ffowc's parents would not allow the union and Ffowc eventually married someone else and set up home in 'Ty'n Gors'. 'Ty'n



Ty'n Gors

Gors', although a ruin can still be seen a mile further along this track. He was a carpenter by trade and one day in the winter of 1792 he set off to Nantglyn to collect a bundle of timber for a piece of furniture he was making. Unfortunately, a heavy snow storm hit Hiraethog that day and Ffowc did not arrive home. Several of the men in this close community undertook a search the following morning but all they found was his bundle of timber which he had abandoned by the old Brenig bridge. A fortnight passed and then Sioned, his first sweetheart had a strange dream. In the dream she saw Ffowc scything hay in one of Ty'n Gors's fields on a hot summer day. He then sat down with his back to an earth bank and placed his cap over his face to keep out the sun. The dream recurred a few nights later and she then told her master who organised a search at the site of Sioned's dream. When they dug into a large snowdrift they found Ffowc's body, with his cap over his face!

If you retrace your steps along the path and continue across the B4501 you will reach the old Brenig bridge in a quarter of a mile; the bridge is part of the walking and

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

We will be more than happy to hear from you.





The old Brenig bridge

cycling path around the Brenig.

There are so many other features of interest which I am tempted to include in this article like the weight lifting stone hiding in the heather of Maen Llwyd bog, the 'Hundred Pound Sheepfold' or the boulder split by a giant's sword which lies above a house which once housed a murderer. There is the medieval farmhouse of 'Hen Ddinbych' or the bronze age burial circles, and the ancient household of 'Bwlch Du' whose choice of roof material has been prolific over the years, but room prevents their inclusion.

Back on the B4501 after the quick visit to Pont y Brenig; Llyn Bran and the completion of the trip is now less than a mile away.

This has been my version of the 'Evo Triangle', a version which makes you look for parking places rather than the speedometer needle!

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL GENERAL INFORMATION

(Sandra Donoghue)

Christmas Activities – Promote Your Festive Event!

The Festive Season can be a lonely time for many older people, but it doesn't have to be. If you know of any local festive events and activities taking place across Flintshire, between the 1st December 2022 and 1st January 2023, that are welcoming for older people, please let me know the details so I can share throughout December. Tel: Sandra 07748528505 or sandra.donoghue@flintshire.gov.uk

Launch of Tenant Information page on Flintshire County Council website

Flintshire's housing team has launched a new webpage for tenants showcasing the changes to the Renting Homes Wales Act (2016) which come into force on the 1st of December. With these major changes happening, it is vital for all tenants to be aware of these very significant changes which will affect them. More information will follow in the coming weeks.

Croeso Cynnes/Warm Welcome

Flintshire is extending a warm welcome to its residents this winter and you can find out more by visiting flintshire.gov.uk/warmwelcome. Click here to find a "Warm Welcome" near you. The map will be updated regularly so keep checking back to see what's on in your area.

The Council is also offering financial assistance to local organisations and centres to help set up as many warm welcome centres as possible. Are you an existing organisation, community centre or local business that wants to get involved and can offer their space as a warm welcome? Please email CommunityDevelopmentTeam@flintshire.gov.uk with your details so we can add them to our map. Or does your organisation, community centre or local business need additional funding to run your warm welcome space? In that case, funding is available, and you can apply

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by completing the form on the Flintshire website. Anyone living in Flintshire's sheltered accommodation should contact their accommodation support team on 01352 762 898 to find out what's on close to them.

Get help with the cost of living

Welsh Government have updated their information on what help is available to assist with the cost of living. In May 2022, the UK Government announced further energy and cost of living support payments for some households. The information Welsh Government has updated covers all ages:

- Living costs
- Housing
- Financial help
- Benefits entitlement
- School and childcare expenses
- Further and higher education costs
- Health and well-being
- Get help with the cost of living

North East Wales Community Equipment Service

Do you have any Community Equipment that is no longer required?

- Crutches / walking frames & sticks
- Commodore (static or mobile)
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- Toilet frames/seats

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New research shows 20mph speed limit could save Wales £100 million in first year

New research showing a reduction in deaths and injuries as traffic slows down is being published alongside new survey results showing continued public support for the national roll out of the lower 20mph speed limit next year – a UK first. The Welsh Government will introduce a default 20mph speed limit on restricted roads across Wales in September 2023. Restricted roads include those with streetlights and are usually located in residential and built-up areas with high pedestrian activity. The new research, conducted by the Transport Research Institute (TRI) at Edinburgh Napier University, in conjunction with Public Health Wales, estimates a new default 20mph speed limit on residential roads across Wales will save around £100 million in the first year alone. The estimated cost saving is the direct result of fewer deaths and injuries.

The Welsh Ambulance Service

The Welsh Ambulance Service has partnered with a life-saving app that lets first aiders know when there is a cardiac arrest in their area 'GoodSAM' uses GPS technology to alert trained first responders registered on the app to a nearby cardiac



arrest. If the responder is available, they can accept the alert via the app and make their way to the patient to begin CPR prior to the arrival of an ambulance. Responders include NHS workers like doctors, nurses, paramedics, and therapists, as well as police and fire staff, first aiders and others who are trained in CPR. Several thousand responders in Wales are already signed up to the app, 800 Welsh Ambulance Service staff and volunteers – but now the Trust is inviting more. More information on the GoodSAM app and to register can be found online.

Scheme launched offering discounts on energy bills to households who use less electricity

A new scheme has officially been launched that will pay people to use less electricity in their homes as part of efforts to prevent power blackouts this winter. It is estimated that a typical household could save up to £100 of their bills during 12 demonstration tests, however that does depend on how much energy they save their energy company. The UK's electricity system operator National Grid is testing the idea, called "Demand Flexibility Service" (DFS) at scale for the first time, earlier this year. If you have a smart meter and your energy supplier is participating, you'll be able to sign up for the service with them.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS: Carmel Village Hall

Monthly Coffee Morning, everyone is welcome on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 10am to 12pm. The next coffee morning is on Thursday 8th December at 10am.

Christmas Day Dinner

The 8th Holywell Community Christmas Dinner at St Peter's Church. Don't be alone this Christmas Dinner, come and join us for a free Christmas dinner at 1pm on Christmas Day Sunday 25th December at St Peter's Building, Rose Hill, Holywell. This year we're anticipating an increase in numbers so it's VERY important to reserve your place through Keith and Linda Roberts on 01352 713414 or 07449003168 or Father Dominic on 01352 712872

Please support Flintshire Foodbank this Christmas!

Reverse Advent Calendar Please bring donations to our Warehouse open Tuesday & Friday every week 9am–2pm. Please share your Reverse Advent Calendar on Facebook & Instagram. Email: info@flintshire.foodbank.org.uk | Telephone: 01352 757 235 Warehouse Address: Former Library HQ, Raikes Lane, Mold, CH7 6NW

TRAINING, VOLUNTEERING & EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES Warm Hub Volunteers Urgently Needed!

Rivertown United Reform Church, 10-12 Chester Road West, Shotton CH5 1BX Contact: Chris Byrne on 07889 052119 or by email: chris.byrne@rivertown.org.uk

GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES The National Lottery Community Fund

New Priorities in Response to the Cost-of-Living Crisis Grants of up to £10,000 and grants of £10,001 and over are available to help organisations who may be experiencing current cash flow problems or increased demand as a result of the cost-of-living crisis, to deliver activities or to support them to change and adapt to new and future challenges. These new priorities sit alongside the original priorities and community groups can choose which they are applying under. Applications can be made at any time.

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/news/press-releases/2022-09-01/the-national-lottery-community-fund-in-wales-responds-to-cost-of-living-crisis-with-new-priorities>

Music For All's Next Funding round is now open!

Music for All's next funding round is now open! In this round both community and individual awards are available. Categories include: BBB Trust School Orchestras Award. State primary and secondary

schools can apply for this award of up to £8,000.

Award for projects which use music to support those with degenerative conditions. Up to £1,500 is available.

Electric/Acoustic Guitar Awards. Community-based groups using electric or acoustic guitars to support underprivileged or marginalised communities can apply.

Awards for community-based groups using music to support the underprivileged can apply.

Disadvantaged individuals are also invited to apply for an instrument donation of an electric or acoustic guitar. This awards round closes to applicants on 25th November 2022. <https://www.musicforall.org.uk/>

Keep checking the FLVC website for the latest community group grants

<https://www.flvc.org.uk/en/sustainable-funding/funding-advice/current-grants/>

Sandra Donoghue - My Contact Details:

Please feel free to contact me with any queries, questions, positive news stories, any information you'd like me to share with our older people network or if you'd just like to chat! Sandra Donoghue, Ageing Well Engagement Officer, Flintshire County Council Tel: 01352 702541 or Mobile: 07748 528505 or Email: sandra.donoghue@flintshire.gov.uk

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There is never a huge amount of activity to report during the dark winter months. Whilst committee meetings continue throughout the year, the period between October and March is generally a lot quieter.

However, the club was due to hold its annual presentation evening on 19th November in the pavilion at Pen-y-Gelli. This is the event where the club presents awards to last season's top performers, and details of the winners will be included in the next edition of The Five Villages. The club was also due to hold its Annual General Meeting on 25th November at the same venue, and again details of the event will appear next time.

The club is hoping to commence its indoor net training sessions for senior players at Holywell Leisure Centre in December. These sessions are open to members of the women's team and the men's teams, and they provide an excellent opportunity for players to practice their batting and bowling skills over the winter months. Carmel and District Cricket Club is always on the lookout for new players of all ages and abilities and will extend a warm welcome at these sessions to new recruits.

Junior Section

It's been a busy year with the Juniors at Carmel and District Cricket Club, and we are still keeping the children active with indoor sessions at Holywell Leisure Centre. In fact, junior coaching has become a year-round role, with further indoor sessions starting again in February before the light is sufficient for us to venture outdoors towards the end of April.

It's great to see so many children enjoying sport, and we have up to 40 attending on Sundays. The greater national focus on girls' and women's sport has certainly made a difference, as half of those attending our sessions are girls. Children from the age of five can join our junior section, and we hope that they will remain with us as lifelong club members.

I know many of the juniors went to Old Trafford to watch The Hundred cricket competition during the summer and that they thoroughly enjoyed the event. This will increase their enthusiasm and was a great experience for them.

In addition to coaching the children, the club's coaches are also busy attending

courses over the winter months to increase their knowledge. Being a volunteer is not only very rewarding but also very time consuming!

If any parent or grandparent would like to know more about the sporting benefits our club can offer their children, please contact Alun Davies on 07889 095 712.

THE HOLYWELL & DISTRICT SOCIETY CYMDEITHAS TREFYNNON &ARDAL (Sally Brighton)

Our Society would like to invite all ex-members, members and well-wishers to join our 'Winter Warmer' which takes place on Saturday January 14th at 1pm

It will be at our usual venue, The Penbryn Chapel in Whitford Street (CH87NL) but book soon as only 40 places are available for the cost of £10 each. Do come, as we would love to see you there to share our meal.



Thereafter our 2023 programme continues at Penbryn as follows on the first Saturday of the months of:-

February 4th: Steve Griffiths talks on 'The Battle of Colleshill 1157'.

March 4th: Jill Burton talks on 'Sir Thomas Myddleton, Civil War, and more.'

April 15th: Celia Drew talks on 'WW1 and The Canadian Riot'

Our ANNUAL OUTING is yet to be arranged for the summer months until:-

September: Tony Griffiths talks on Frederick Birks VC. MM. WWI .

Our charges to attend talks for ex-members and visitors alike is £3.00 per head, and that price will include Tea/Coffee/ biscuits and a welcome to all.

More information, and tickets for the 'WINTER WARMER' contact Gwladys Harrison on Telephone :- 01352 712738 or g_harrison@sky.com

CARMEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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BETTY JONES 1928 – 2022



Beatrice ('Betty') Jones was born in Rhyl on 15th November 1928. She grew up with her parents and her younger sister, Rita in a boarding house for visitors run by her mother on Butterson Road. She had a very happy childhood and remained close to her parents and sister throughout their lives.

Later on, the family moved to Greenfield when Betty's father started work as a bus driver for Crosville at the company's Flint depot. After leaving school, Betty worked at the Holywell Textile Mill and made many lifelong friends there. Before long, she met her future husband, Des, at one of the Saturday night dances held at Holywell Assembly Hall.

For their first proper date, Des asked Betty if she would like to go to Liverpool with him on the train. Naturally, Betty was excited by this prospect and was looking forward to visiting the large shops, seeing the tall buildings, and experiencing the hustle and bustle of city life... a few hours later she found herself stood on the Kop at Anfield watching a football match!

Betty and Des were married at Holy Trinity Church in Greenfield, and their first home was a flat in Whitford Street in Holywell. Soon after, they moved up to St Josephs on Carmel Hill and went on to have a family of five children. This house was to remain Betty's home for around sixty-five years until she passed away on 18th October.

Betty was well known in the village of Carmel and was an active member of the local community for a long period of time. She regularly watched her husband Des playing football for Carmel United in the 1950s and often attended away games on coach trips organised by Owen Chambers. Later, when Carmel Cricket Club was established, she was one of a number of people who helped with off the field activities, including preparing the teas.

Over the years, Betty could be seen regularly walking up Carmel Hill on her return from a shopping trip on the bus to Holywell or Rhyl, and she was still able to make the

trek up the hill well into her eighties. She also delivered the Five Villages Chronicle on Carmel Hill for a period of time following the death of her husband, Des in 2007.

When her five children had grown up, Betty worked at the Teapot Café and made lots of friends amongst the staff and regular customers there. Many local people will remember her from her years working at the café where she was always a popular person.

Family was always important to Betty. She enjoyed the company of her eleven grandchildren and took great pride in watching them develop as young people as they stepped out into the world. She also had eleven great-grandchildren (soon to be twelve) and always enjoyed their visits to St. Josephs.

Betty was happy living on Carmel Hill and in her later years she liked nothing more than sitting in the garden during the summer months listening to the birds singing. She was an avid reader of books, and also enjoyed knitting and watching comedy programmes and old classic films. She could talk with great enthusiasm about these subjects and knew a lot about the Hollywood greats.

Over the years, Betty's neighbours on Carmel Hill became good friends and she often commented on how lucky she was to live in such a lovely place surrounded by caring people. She also had many close friends in the village of Carmel itself. The carers who visited Betty towards the end of her life became good friends too and she was always grateful for their support.

Betty was a kind and gentle person who enjoyed a happy and long life. She will be deeply missed by everyone who knew her and will always be remembered with great affection here in Carmel.

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MEMORIES OF MY GREAT FRIEND, JON CARNEY (Paul Sharp)

One Tuesday evening in early February, some years ago, a few of us were assembled in our local village pub, The Druid Inn in Gorsedd. Jon Carney was there, as always laughing, joking and shaking hands, even when he's on his own! We were joined by our friend known as 'Chemistry John' on account of him being a qualified scientist or so he said? Now Chemistry John drinks something awful, I should know he let me try some!

"Sharpy", a voice rang out. I didn't respond immediately as I was bemused and distracted by the landlord who, when I asked for a stiff drink, handed me an ice lolly! "Is that stiff enough?" he asked with a wry smile.

"Sharpy", the voice boomed again. It was Jon Carney, "I want to go scuba diving." Jon had just finished telling Chemistry John that the best thing to do as you get old is to get drunk a lot and that way, when you kick the bucket, you miss!

Before I could react, Chemistry John piped up "let's go tomorrow evening after work because it's Wednesday."

"Chemistry John," I intercepted, "did you know that snowmen fall from the sky unassembled?" This was met by blank faces and silence. "Well," I continued, "going diving in the pitch black, in freezing cold water and in the middle of winter, specifically on a Wednesday, makes about as much sense as my comment about snowmen!" And with that, it was arranged!

The following evening saw a convoy of cars take off down the A55 towards Vivian Quarry in Llanberis. Jon Carney brought along his son and daughter, affectionately known as Bink and Dink, who probably wanted to reaffirm in their own minds just how mental daddy was and an 'observation crew' to witness and ponder over our sanity!

Vivian Quarry was just as imagined; cold, windy, isolated and pitch black. However, in the limited light given off by



our torches, you could not fail to see our three beaming faces as we anticipated our scuba diving adventure. I turned to Chemistry John and joked, "You know you're a chemistry type person, is there anything you can do to warm up the water?" I instantly regretted my question as, had we been in The

Druid Inn, this would have resulted in people stopping their game of darts to allow Chemistry John access to the black board with a piece of chalk in hand and makeshift props ready to give a lecture. Usually, we would stand there and say "wow" every now and then, not the most intellectual response, but it masks a yawn! Luckily, my question went unheard as Chemistry John was distracted preparing for the dive.

All equipment checked: tanks, gauge readings, dive computers, underwater torches, masks, snorkels, fins and knives, along with all seals and zips. Then, off to the side of the quarry into what looked like the abyss!

Chemistry John was the first to jump in and to be fair none of us realised how religious he was judging by his reaction!

"Are you OK?" shouted Bink from the side observation spot.

"Yes," Chemistry John shouted back with the following excuse, "I'm just a little stiff from rugby".

"It doesn't matter where you're from" shouted Dink, "it's what's in your heart that matters!" I'm not sure if I jumped or fell in the water laughing. Jon Carney was the last in and joined us in a chorus of "Oh my God!" and "Flipping heck!" or words to that effect.

The night was greeted by the hissing sound of air being vented from our buoyancy control devices and dry suit ports, which turned into a bubbling sound as we entered the cold murky depths of the water. We descended eighteen metres, travelling through the old blast hut, around the underwater gnome garden then over to the old shipwreck, which had been put there by a group of us some years earlier as a point of interest. We entered a clearing and sat on the stony quarry bed turning our torch lights out. The only sound was that of air being inhaled and exhaled, it was quite eerie but exhilarating and an unforgettable experience nonetheless.

Back at The Druid Inn, we arrived just in time for last orders and were greeted by bar staff and the locals looking puzzled, "Where have you lot been on a cold windy winter's night like this?" I looked at Jon Carney and we looked at Chemistry John, who was heading for the black board, and we both shouted "Hide the chalk!"

As a fully qualified diving instructor and having dived around the world, this dive will stay with me forever along with the enclosed picture I took of Jon Carney. We lost Jon recently through a stroke far too early, although there is never a right time. He and I dived together both here and abroad along with a few of the other locals from The Druid Inn.

In memory of Jonathan Carney 1964 – 2022.

ROB ROBERTS MP
Member of Parliament for Delyn

Please contact me with any issues you would like to raise

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MARK ISHERWOOD MS



Members of the Senedd (MSs) have several ways to scrutinise, debate and seek to influence decisions, one of these being in the Senedd Chamber during the two weekly Plenary meetings, which are held on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons.

As a member of the Official Opposition and Shadow Cabinet in the Senedd Cymru/ Welsh Parliament, not of the separate Welsh Government, I ask questions and challenge the First Minister and other Welsh Government Ministers over an array of issues, as well as taking part in debates.

My roles as an MS currently include Shadow Minister for Social Justice and Shadow Counsel General, Chair of the Senedd Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee and Chair of the Cross-Party Groups in the Senedd on Disability, on Autism, on Hospices and Palliative Care, on Funerals and Bereavement, on Deaf Issues, on Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency, and on North Wales. I am also Wales Species Champion for the Curlew.

As a Shadow Minister, I have the opportunity to scrutinise the Welsh Government Ministers I 'shadow' during Spokespersons Questions in the Chamber.

In recent weeks I have questioned and challenged the Minister for Social Justice over a number of issues affecting people here in North Wales, and indeed across the whole of Wales.

With the latest figures showing that 34% of children in Wales are living in poverty, I chose to raise this with the Minister, emphasising the need for the Welsh Government to take a different approach to dealing with the problem.

I said: "The primary reason for this remains that Wales has had the lowest growth in prosperity per head out of the UK Nations since 1999, that, with 5 per cent of the UK population, Wales only produces 3.4 per cent of the UK's wealth, that Wales has the lowest employment rate in Great

Britain, and that pay packets in Wales are the lowest in the UK", despite the Welsh Government "having received Billions in supposedly temporary funding designed to support economic development and reduce inequality between Nations and Regions".

Referring to the fact that child poverty in Wales has been rising since 2004, when I first raised this with the Welsh Government, I noted that it had already reached the highest level in the UK before the 'Credit Crunch' in 2008, the year it rose to 32 per cent in Wales.

I said: "As I said here in 2009, 'it is a national tragedy that more children are falling into poverty in Wales and that the Welsh Government's policies to tackle it appear to have failed'. After a further 13 years, what action, if any, will you take with your Cabinet colleagues to learn from this experience, change tack and deliver a Growth Plan with the Business and Third Sectors, and our Communities, to finally build a more prosperous Welsh Economy?"

In her response, the Minister claimed that "child poverty fell year after year under the Labour Government and it has risen year after year during the last 12 years of coalition and Tory Governments".

Replying to her, I said: "I don't think you were listening earlier to my figures, which were accurate. Child poverty in Wales did fall for a few years after the Blair-Brown Government came in, but then it started

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rising again and had reached the highest level in the UK, not last year but in 2008. And it has risen again, whilst going backwards in the rest of the UK.....consequent upon Welsh Government policies”.

In a further question to the Minister for Social Justice, I referred to concerning findings that Welsh communities are the least empowered in Britain and called on Welsh Government Ministers to respond to calls for the Welsh Government to develop better support for community-led, long-term, local approaches in Wales.

I said: “The Local Trust ‘Left Behind?’ report in England evidences that poorer areas with greater community capacity and social infrastructure have better health and well-being outcomes, higher rates of employment and lower levels of child poverty compared to poorer areas without.

“January’s Wales Co-operative Centre discussion paper, ‘Communities Creating Homes’, states ‘Wales is trailing other nations in the UK when it comes to community ownership rights’, adding that the policies in Wales do not offer ‘quite the same empowerment as enjoyed by communities in England or, particularly, Scotland’.

“February’s Institute of Welsh Affairs ‘Our Land: Communities and Land Use’ report found ‘that Welsh communities are the least empowered in Britain’, and community groups in Wales told them ‘about an arbitrary, demoralising scenario with little real process for communities to take ownership of public or private assets’.

“Further research by the Building Communities Trust with community groups across Wales shows they often feel ‘overlooked and under-resourced by local and national government’. How, therefore, do you respond to their statement that they ‘believe there is a big opportunity for Welsh Government to develop better support for community-led, long-term, local approaches in Wales’?”

As I have previously said, “Social Justice will only be delivered by really empowering people to fulfil their potential and to take ownership in their own communities”.

HOLYWELL ART CLUB (Lynda Wilson)

Holywell Art Club was founded in 1974 with a few local artists meeting once a week at one of their homes to paint and discuss art. At that time, it was run informally with just five artists, including our founder Kenneth Radcliffe who is still our Life President and as they became better known other people wished to join. At this time the Club was known as Holywell Artists. Eventually the name was changed to Holywell Art Club.



A weekly meeting

We are a friendly and welcoming club, and our aim is to encourage and support our members in their painting, drawing and related activities.

Our members vary in expertise from beginners to experienced and everything in between, we welcome new members who would like to practice, develop and grow their skills and confidence.

We now have some 15 members meeting on Wednesday mornings at Pentre Halkyn Community Centre CH8 8JE, from 10-00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. We meet weekly for most of the year and work to a programme which includes demonstration/workshops in various media approximately every 5 – 6 weeks.

As well as time to pursue our own work, we show DVDs about various techniques and genres and in-between these days we work on still life. August is a free month when some of us go to sketch in the surrounding countryside (weather permitting).



Colwyn Bay library

Members develop at their own rate and range from beginners to competent painters, with some well-known local artists producing work to a very high standard.

We work on a self-help basis with members encouraging and learning from each other.

We try to put on two exhibitions each year and usually organise visits to art galleries.

Our annual subscription was £20, and we used to pay £2 per week to cover the cost of the hall, tea/coffee and biscuits, unfortunately we are going to have to increase these prices slightly in the new year.



One of our demonstrators

On demonstration/ workshop days the weekly subscription is a little more due of the cost of the demonstrators.

I hope this gives you a little information about our club, should you wish to get in touch with us you can do so through the ‘contact’ page of our website, www.holywellartclub.com, or why not just pop along one Wednesday morning and meet us in person, the kettle is always on.



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RECIPES FOR CHRISTMAS

(Isabel Burnage)

TURKEY BAKE

The following recipe is delicious and filling and provides a festive aroma while cooking. It can be eaten hot or cold.

Ingredients:

- 12 oz minced turkey
- 1 onion peeled and finely diced
- 1 egg
- 2 oz rolled oats
- 2 tablespoons of sage and onion stuffing mix
- + water to mix and seasoning

Method:

1. In a large bowl place all the ingredients and mix well
 2. Add enough water gradually to make a firm but soft dough
 3. Place mixture in a greased dish or tin and cover with foil
 4. Bake on centre shelf at 180°C, gas 4 for about 30-35 minutes.
- Serve hot with favourite vegetables or cold with salad and pickles

RUM BUTTER TART

Ingredients:

- 8 oz shortcrust pastry
- 2-3 oz of dried apricots, finely chopped
- 2 oz raisins
- 1 tablespoon dark rum
- 2 oz butter
- 2 oz soft brown sugar
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 oz ground almonds
- 1 tsp mixed spice

Method:

1. Soak apricots and raisins in the rum for 15-20 minutes
2. Roll out the pastry to cover a 9" plate or shallow tin
3. Mix remaining ingredients in a bowl and add the soaked fruit
4. Place filling in pastry case
5. Bake on centre shelf at gas 5, 190°C for approximately 20 minutes
6. Cool and dust with icing sugar

ST PAUL'S CHURCH,

GORSEDD

(Ian Austerberry)

Following the re-ordering of the Church, the community can now benefit from its availability, and we are starting to see bookings for its use. The Church is now establishing a monthly Coffee and Chat morning on the third Saturday of each month from 10.00am to 12 noon. These are starting to prove popular with over 30 people attending the last one. It enables people to meet up with old friends in a relaxed and convivial setting.



We have had a regular booking from the NHS for a Pulmonary Rehabilitation Clinic. They are really impressed with our facility and aim to continue using it. Whitford Community Council are now holding their Council Meetings also. In response to a request from these two users, we now have wi-fi installed.

In addition, the Gorsedd Ladies Guild meet regularly and also a Ladies Keep Fit Group.

We are hoping to cater for other bookings in the future. With the facility having a toilet and a kitchenette, plus the wi-fi, it is an ideal venue for meetings, training sessions to name but a couple. We want the local community to feel that St Paul's is for them and to become a central part of community activities.

For enquires regarding potential bookings, please contact Ian Austerberry, phone 01352 714740 or E-mail ian.austerberry45@uwclub.net, and I will be happy to discuss your requirements.

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GORSEDD CHURCH LADIES GUILD (Wendy Erasmus)

The Guild has arranged a programme of meetings for Spring/Summer and a warm welcome assured for all. Meetings are held in St Paul's Church in Gorsedd and start at 2.30 pm.

Wednesday 1st February: Peter Robinson
- RNLI Rhyl Lifeboat

Wednesday 8th March: Fr Dominic of St Peter's Church, Holywell

Tuesday 4th April: Jackie Williams Mostyn
- Flower arranging

Wednesday 3rd May: Mike Tyler - Coastal paths

Wednesday 7th June: Visit to Mostyn Hall

Wednesday 5th July: Afternoon Tea

NEWS FROM GORSEDD AND WHITFORD CHURCHES
(Rev Kathryn Evans, Vicar of Gorsedd and Whitford Churches, together with Bagillt and Mostyn)



'Tis the season to be jolly' or so the Christmas cards and slogans remind us, the only problem with that is that I'm writing this article on early November, and I'm a strong believer of a different motto - 'keep Christmas in December' – so hopefully, by the time you read this, it will be the season of goodwill and I won't be in danger of being labelled 'Bah humbug'. As I get older I am sure the years fly by even quicker, and now I'm a proud grandparent, I am amazed all over again at the speed of babies and children growing up.

As this is the Winter edition, it seems entirely appropriate to reflect on the season

which brings us periods of Remembrance (All Saints', All Soul's, 5th November and Remembrance Sunday), times when we reflect on history and all that those who have gone before us who have served and contributed to the world we enjoy today. The darker nights invite us to 'batten down the hatches' and ponder, although, like many, I think this will be a very difficult time for many as they struggle to choose between eating or heating. The shortening days signal changes in nature around us, most of the autumn leaves have now fallen and creation rests and recuperates, ready for the burst of new life next Spring.

The Winter Solstice occurs in December when various festivals have taken place. A quick Google search will bring up various celebrations over the centuries – in Scandinavia, the feast of Juul took place, with a Juul – or Yule log brought into the house (where we get our Yule chocolate logs from). In Ancient Rome, the feast of Saturnalia was held for 7 days from 17th December, when our Advent Antiphons begin and honoured the Roman god of war - Saturn. It is probably no coincidence that our Christmas celebrations correspond with the time of these festivals. By 'overtaking' these long-standing, some would say, pagan festivals, the early Church hoped to bring the light of Christ into the darkness of winter and bring a new focus. Whatever the original intention, a key celebration in our winters is Christmas, even if you

don't believe that God chose to come to earth in the shape of a small baby, born to ordinary parents, and whose life became an extraordinary revelation of God's love for each and every one of us. Light in the darkness, joy, love, peace and goodwill to all humankind. That is an eternal and everlasting message of hope for the world yesterday, today and always. However you celebrate Christmas, may I wish you love, joy and peace, and a warm welcome at either Gorsedd church for Midnight Communion (11:30pm on Christmas Eve) or our Family Crib service in Whitford church, earlier on Christmas Eve at 4:pm if you should like to join us. Have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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FROM 'V' TO 'F' TO 'FF' (Norman Closs-Parry)

In September 1960 I left security for good! The rocks, trees, tyddynod and cottages – with pigstys of Fachwen, would always be part of me, but I had to leave, and make my own way in the world as is commonly said.

Between June 1960 and September I had, like so many students with pristine certificates, been seeking work. I got lucky. The visionary head of Castell Alun, Hope wanted a rural Science and Biology teacher, 'I was the man he chose!'

Since this is an essay about 'words' – I will not relate the adventures of train travelling and – changing lines at Shotton- low/high level or – vice versa – of hell!- but the connection got me and my portmanteaux to Hope – and my new life.

The new secondary school at Hope catered for the outlying villages of Coedllai (Leeswood) Pont-y-bodkin, Pontblyddyn, Coed Talon, Treuddyn, Llanfynydd Cymau and Ffrith... as well as Caergwrie, Hope and Pen y Ffordd. The reasons for naming these villages is they were the ones that kept me sane! Their pupils with a smattering of Flintshire Welsh [Fi Gyn!!!!] was so reassuring for a man who virtually was 'Welsh Monoglot' and away from home for the first time! Also the Chapels! They were Welsh.... and very early made my stay easier. 'I got involved – spreading the Word

as my faith taught me. Also the topography and ecology of these hill hamlets spoke security and reminded me of home – and there was always the fishing!... but that is another story. That is why the Ffrith and Llanfynydd will always mean so much to me.

What's brought all this nostalgia on? I went to Treuddyn (of Urdd fame) the other day, to Ysgol Terrig to fetch Mali who had, had a day's work in the Nursery there! On the journey up from Pontblyddyn zigzagging through the autumnal grandure of the trees leaking sunlight in drabs - eventually came to a cross roads [which I remember] which said "Llanfynydd and Ffrith...." For the last twenty odd years the 'word' has intrigued me, it has occupied some of my thinking time and research - why? Well I have been very interested in a tract of land 'Ffrith y Garreg Wen' on the Lloc/Caerwys Cross now referred to as MacDonaldis !

I will not mention the development and 'improvement' of the 365 acre 'Biggest field in North Wales' nor the number of bird species recorded - but concentrate on the word "Ffrith".

The more I thought and researched the more intricate it got! Quite naturally as an Eryri lad I wrote (spelt) the word as 'Ffridd,' thinking that the 'th' ending was the influence of the English Language! Also I realised that there were instances of the word spelt "Frith" – which I understood

perfectly since in the English alphabet they have not got the 'ff' letter to emphasise the sound! That alphabet only has 'f' – which has been misused, misinterpreted as 'V' [Voel] Foel motors, Vivod – Meifod a hamlet in Llangollen and Powys! Also in the Welsh alphabet 'd' is a hard sound but 'dd' is soft and has been compared with the English



'th'. So, lets look at my Frith dilemma again.

Somewhere, sometime, the 'Frith' word had travelled west – yes – go to Derbyshire! 'Chapel en la Frith [Capel ar y Ffridd] and through natural use by the native [mostly in those dim distant past, - Welsh Speaking] F became Ff and TH became 'DD'... (and miners will migrate and mine for lead!?) The late Professor R.T Jenkins then the late Prof Bedwyr Lewis Jones were the two Welsh scholars who 'specialised in root – place names. Prof Jenkins' volume "Enwau Lleodedd" (The Name of Places) being the corner stone. Space does not



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allow me to analyse country by country in Wales the occurrence of *Frith*, *Ffrith*, or *Ffridd*! Generally though, there is a drift 'Westwards – Frith in Derbyshire, *Ffrith* in Welsh border, "Llanfynydd" in Sir y Fflint ... then we come to the area of the five villages – Treffynnon!



On the same OS map, and as near or apart of each other as Pen y Gelli [Lloc] and Tre Mostyn one gets *Ffrith* y Garreg Wen and *Ffriddoedd* [p]! The best of Welsh scholarship – Geiriadur y Brifysgol gives a definition thus "ffridd, ffrith [a wood, woodland, wooded countryside] Gwaun rhos; porfa arw fynyddig, cynefin defaid, defeidiog; coetir, coedwig, parc; moorland; frith, rough mountains pasture, sheep-walk; woodland, forest, park." I from Eryri associate the word with the area of land always nearest 'Clawdd y mynydd' the mountain wall – "clawdd terfyn" As I travel this borderland, and the five villages... as I dwell on Welsh scholarly forms and observe OS maps under magnifying lenses, I ask myself - does this matter? The answer – to me it gives satisfaction of working towards knowledge and understanding! I also realise that since 1965 I have lived in the area where frith becomes ffrith and frith became ffridd which bridges language but emphasises the land and nature! It also states the type of farming conducted there! Then I take a drive towards the coast and the razzamatraz of Ffrith Beach in Prestatyn!

Another drift? Another quandry? O.M.G!

It never stops. My grand daughter Mali is at University at Bangor. She is associated with the welsh hostel "John Morris Jones" in the student hostel complex – where? Ffriddoedd. Ffriddoedd when I was there in the 50's was the site and place of the University playing field – and very wet and boggy they were too – Ffriddoedd – more than one!

I conclude by quoting R. Williams Parry's famous lyric Tylluanod (Owls) ... from his experience of listening to them in Sarnau Meirionydd –

.. Llyn y Ffridd ar Ffridd y Llyn
trostynt yn chwipio'n oer,.....
(1928)

Therefore we can trace the migration of this ecological noun – from the Anglo Saxon in the Peak District of Derbyshire – to the Borderland and hill land above Hope – Caergwrle to the pastureland of Treffynnon – where the Ffridd/ffrith was used a few miles from each other and then down to the coastal strip around Prestatyn. When it was adopted in the north Western Wales area – i.e Bangor and Arfon, Meirionydd (Bala), it stood by itself like in R.W.P's poem!

"Ffrith lake on Ffrith of the Lake
over them whipping cold..."

CARMEL BOOK CLUB (Sally Brighton)



Christmas has come and gone already at Carmel Book Club.... in the shape of one of its recent books! 'The Authenticity Project' by Clare Pooley, despite its cover being uninviting and its title, a little strange, was found by our members to be a most satisfying read. At one point, a Christmas Dinner, meticulously planned by Monica for the motley crew of characters who have met at her cafe, demonstrates how the best of ideas can go badly wrong and lead to chaos and above all, change.

Julian, Hazard, Riley, Monica, Jessie and Alice couldn't be more different from each other, but life has thrown them together from nearby and faraway places, through the unlikely medium of a peculiar green exercise book. Grappling with the tribulations of their differing lives, and raising problems of loneliness, such as addiction, rootlessness, bereavement, and overdependence on social media..... as well as dishonesty, the author deals sensitively with issues which can drive us apart, but also act as a spur to draw people together in warmth and harmony, should the climate be right.

If you want a novel to enjoy this Christmas, or give as a present, this absorbing and uplifting although at times bittersweet story, may happily fit your bill.



CYNGOR CYMUNED CHWITFFORDD WHITFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Applications are invited to fill one vacant Community Councillor seat, by co-option, on Whitford Community Council. More information on how the vacancy will be filled, can be found on the Council's Web Site at www.whitford-council.wales (Public Notices) or by contacting the Clerk to the Council, as details below, for either a paper or electronic copy.

Closing date for applications (Expressions of Interest) is 12 Noon on Friday 6th January, 2023.

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A POINTLESS EXPERIENCE (Paulene Ellis)



An old friend came to stay, and as an avid quizzer she was telling me about her quizzing experiences. She had appeared on Eggheads and was desperate to try for Pointless, but no one would volunteer to do it with her. In a moment of madness, I said 'I'll do it with you'. A few years previously I had been on a cooking show and enjoyed it so what could go wrong I wouldn't have to cook anything this time.

The next thing I know is we are heading to Birmingham for an audition which obviously went well as from there a date was booked to appear on the show.

I was driving to Elstree Studios on 4th September 2019, too late to back out now I thought what can be worse than making a fool of myself in front of the nation. We had been booked into a hotel close by the studios and should have been spending the evening swotting up 'flags of the world' and 'the periodic table', but alas we had a nice meal and a few drinks instead. We

were up early the next day as we had to be at the studio for 8.30am.

We arrived and were shown by a 'Runner' to the Green Room (a white conservatory). There we meet most of the contestants that would be appearing that day. There were quite a few of us as they film three or four episodes a day. Meeting everyone was quite amusing as some were playing it cool to start with, after all we were in competition with each other. However, after a while we all became chatty, and the atmosphere became relaxed. Not to say that we didn't privately eye up each other and think who would be better or worse than us. They all seemed such fans of the show and some had been studying for weeks whereas I hadn't.

We had been asked to take a minimum of four outfits to wear so that the costume department could choose suitable outfits for each show. I had brought a couple of new sweaters and a lovely necklace that matched both, trousers, and a dress. Two outfits were chosen as suitable and were whisked off to be pressed.

By this time, it was late morning, and one show has already been recorded. We didn't get to see the couple that won but those that didn't came back to the Green Room to wait for their second appearance. You get three goes these days but back then before the pandemic it was only two. We were supplied with tea and coffee on a regular basis but to be honest all the sitting about was a bit tedious. We all hoped that we would be on next.

About 12 noon we were given a jacket potato for lunch. There was me hoping for the BBC canteen and being able to celebrity spot!

The afternoon dragged on much the same with people coming and going and at around 3pm Patti and I were ushered into makeup. A lovely girl did my makeup


which was fascinating. She put it on with a trowel, but she assured me that it was necessary for the TV. I loved it.


We got changed into our first outfits and we were suddenly ushered into the studio where much to my disappointment my lovely necklace (purchased for the occasion) was removed because it interfered with the microphone.



The studio was vast with a small audience and lots of cameras and a very efficient Floor Manager. We were shown to our podium and then in came Alexander Armstrong (who is exactly as he appears on TV) and Richard Osman (who is extremely tall and slim) and came along the line and introduced themselves, and then we were off.

The first show was a bit of a blur and of course we got the periodic table in round two! Not only that we had to choose between only certain letters of the







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The costs of this publication have been met by the Senedd Commission from public funds

alphabet. Well nearly everyone apart from me and another contestant got pointless answers. At this point I thought maybe I should have done a bit of practice as my mind went completely blank. I managed an answer 'Radon' which under the circumstance I thought might just scrape through but alas I was beaten by one point, and we were out.

Back to the green room with Patti muttering that my answer was much better and should have won!

We didn't know if we would be on again or would have to wait till the next day for our second show. It could mean another night in the hotel and as we were tired, we hoped that would be our fate. Alas we were asked to get changed into our second outfit and were shortly back in the studio. First time around you get to introduce yourself and a brief description of what you do and Alexander, or Zander as he likes to be called, asked me about running a Bed and Breakfast. On the second show I told him about my painting, and we had quite a long and very funny conversation about selling my paintings to the B&B guests. I told him I had painted Talacre Lighthouse more times than I care to remember as guests always like to buy local scenes. Unfortunately, it was cut from the show, but it was fun at the time.

On the Second show we got through to the head-to-head but as we weren't the golden couple, we had the disadvantage of going second. A question on birds was our downfall. I had also mispronounced 'Stipend' in one round although it didn't send us out, I got 100. I stupid error that I blame on nerves!

Patti was disappointed that we didn't win a trophy, but I was just pleased to have

come through relatively unscathed. It was a great experience but one I wouldn't repeat. I don't think I am a natural TV quizzer. It was a long day and I had to drive back from Elstree afterwards so finally got home about midnight very tired. I still might try for Bake Off next time though!

1ST CARMEL SCOUT GROUP

Beavers (6-8 yrs.)

Cubs (8-11 yrs.)

Scouts (11-14 yrs.)

Cubs

The nights seem to have drawn in quicker than usual this year, maybe it's because we had a good summer. It has meant that we have not been able to do much outside up to half term. We have however been busy inside, with the cubs concentrating on the DIY badge.

They have been learning about different tools, what they are used for and how to use them safely.

They have had a go at making several items, including a pen/pencil holder and a small seat for a cuddly toy.

Amongst the activities planned before Christmas, is an indoor climbing session and a District competition at Laser Zone in Rhyl.

Scouts

The scouts have been doing some mixed activities, doing a little bit on survival skills and also some team building challenges.

On the last night before half term, I had the opportunity to bring along a Mobility scooter. I set them the challenge of devising some courses to test their driving skills. A challenge they rose too very enthusiastically. A good evening was had

by all and not one crash, plus a unanimous request to do it again next term.

All 3 sections attended the Remembrance service at Gorsedd church on the 13th November, and we had a good turnout.

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.

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

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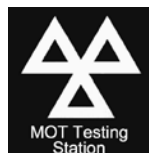
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PUFFBALLS, EARTHSTARS AND BIRDS NESTS

(Jan Miller (with thanks to
David Winnard, local Fungi
Recorder))

These are all names of common fungi found locally in autumn, believe it or not, but they don't look like the usual mushrooms at all. They are not very poisonous in this country, but still you should not eat anything from the wild unless you can definitely identify it.

Some Giant puffballs can grow to more than one foot across and look just like a smooth white football that has got lost in the grass. As they age they go brown, and when anything knocks them or raindrops fall on them, they puff their spores (kind of seeds) into the air to drift to another site on the wind. It has been estimated that if all the spores from two generations grew into new puffballs they would produce about 800 times the volume of the earth! Just as well that many of them don't find the right place to grow.



Giant Puffball Fungus

The Earthstars (Geastrum). These weird and fascinating fungi start like a bulb, but the outer skin unfurls to become 'legs' revealing a sac of spores on top. We have a number of species of Earthstar in North Wales and at this time of year it can be fun to seek them out. Send any records of any species of Earthstar and if you are unsure of their identity you can always submit photos on Cofnod and one of the fungi verifiers will help you identify them.



Striated Earthstar (Geastrum striatum)



Collared Earthstar (Geastrum michelianum)

The Collared Earthstar (Geastrum michelianum, formerly G. triplex) is the commonest, whilst Striated Earthstar (Geastrum striatum) and Crowned Earthstar (Geastrum coronatum) are the next most recorded. You may even find something really unusual like Geastrum britannicum, a species that was only described a few years ago and currently the only records come from a handful of sites around the UK; it was found in NE Wales a few years ago.

Most fungi reproduce by spores and they often have ingenious ways of hiding and spreading them.

The "bird's nest" fungi (Nidulariaceae) are beautiful mushrooms that look like small nests containing multiple tiny eggs, but they have nothing to do with birds. Because the ecological role of bird's nest fungi is to decompose wood, they are common in disturbed areas with plant debris and



Bird's Nest Fungus taken in Halkyn churchyard by R. Miller

mulch, such as churchyards, trails and backyard gardens. These fungi tend to grow in large clusters, but they are very tiny- only about 3 or 4 mm across, so you need to get up close to rotting twigs with a hand lens, or macro-lens on your camera (did you know you can get really good macro-lenses for smart phones online now? Very cheap too!) Bird's nest fungi are not considered dangerous to plants, animals, or humans.

The so-called 'eggs' contain millions of fungal spores that will disperse by splashing and grow into a new fungal individual. Bird's nest fungi obtain nutrients by decomposing organic matter, mainly plant-based materials. Although they look quite different than other fungi, bird's nest fungi are related to the common fungi that we find in supermarkets, including button mushrooms, shitake mushrooms, and

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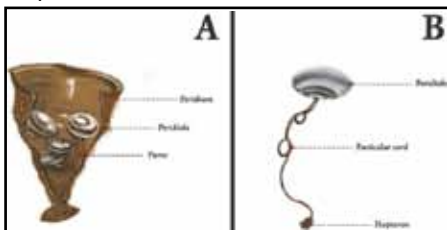


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oyster mushrooms. They all belong to the same order of fungi, called Agaricales, which includes many species of gilled mushrooms.

As the fungus matures, the egg-like spore mass (known as peridioles; Figure 2) forms within the nest. There can be as many as 30 million spores in a single peridiole, so an individual bird's nest fungus fruiting body could have more than a billion spores! Peridioles are typically attached to the peridium via a thin string (known as a funicular cord; Figure 2) with a sticky end (known as a hapteron; Figure 2). Both the funicular cord and the hapteron are coiled and packed inside an envelope (known as a purse; Figure 2). Each peridiole has its own purse, which remains intact until dispersal occurs.



A botanical illustration showing different parts of a bird's nest fungus fruiting body. A: Section through fruiting body showing peridioles that are attached to the inner wall B: Stretched funicular cord with a sticky hapteron on one end and a peridiole on the other end. This illustration is not to scale.

Fungi are decomposers that absorb nutrients from dead organic materials. Thus, they play an important role in recycling nutrients and decomposing plant debris in gardens and natural ecosystems. Bird's nest fungi need rain for their reproduction and dispersal. Raindrops trigger the dispersal of peridioles by splashing them upward from the peridia, during which the purse is ruptured and the funicular cord is uncoiled and stretched out. After this, the funicular cord will sometimes wrap around a twig or branch and will stick to the plant material with the aid of the hapteron. The peridiole is now attached to the new substrate. It is unclear what happens to those peridioles following the splashing event or how they germinate. Further studies are warranted to examine the biology and germination of bird's nest fungi.

Please let us know about any species of fungi you find in North Wales by submitting your finds, with photographs, to the free phone LERC Wales App or the Cofnod ORS. This way it will help us build up our knowledge of these.

©Jan Miller Jan@7wells.org and website; www.7wells.co.uk

Jan Miller's wildlife garden was featured on BBC Gardener's World on September 9th.2022; See it on i-player, episode 25.



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COUNCILLOR CHRIS DOLPHIN

Hello everyone, Sut mae pethau: WINTER FUEL SUPPORT SCHEME:

In the last issue of this Chronicle, I wrote about "grants". Nowadays grants from UK and Welsh Governments are many and varied, and particularly now we have a "cost of living crisis". The Winter Fuel Support Scheme is open for applications until February 28th, 2023. Eligible households can claim a one-off £200 payment from the Council to provide support towards household energy costs. This payment is in addition to the UK Government funding for the Energy Bill rebate and Winter Fuel payment to pensioners. It's only one payment per household, and if you or anyone in your household is on a benefit of any kind, please apply...now. You need to apply for the grant, it's not an automatic payment. You need a Winter Fuel Support Scheme form; the quickest and easiest way is to go to the Flintshire County Council website, look under the heading of Council Tax and Benefits. As an alternative ask at the Connects Centre in Holywell.

If you're experiencing hardship, make a claim for the "Discretionary Assistance Fund", once again online or enquire at the Connects Centre.

HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES (HRC):

The new policy of not allowing caged trailers of a certain size into a HRC is now being reviewed. I and a few other

Councillors (3) consider a small standard caged trailer is preferable to any open trailer for carrying waste items/garden waste. A second possible change is that the compost waste may become bagged and sold.

Our local HRC is in Greenfield; I find it to be quite excellent with a fine team working at the location. The other HRCs are in Buckley, Nercwys (Mold), Rockcliffe (Oakenholt), and Sandycroft. During the last twelve years the council have moved from a backdoor collection service to a modern, controlled kerbside collection with the emphasis on recycling. Do you remember the old landfill sites? Or the skips dotted around villages and the countryside? I remember the last skip in Babel on a wide verge, it was full very quickly... a car was in it! The grassed verges in Maes Rhydwen all cut up by the wagons, and the overfull skips just about anywhere. So, largely driven by Welsh Government (WG) Statutory Recycling Targets, the council have reduced, modified, and upgraded the counties HRCs. The target required without infraction fines is recycling of 70% by 2024. In 2018/19 the council had achieved 69.16%, 2019/20 the start of Covid it dropped to 65.85%. 2020/21 Covid pandemic it was 63.98% and 2021/22 it was down to 61%. During covid there was a rise in residual waste. None of this was surprising, you may remember for some months the HRC was ordered to be shut by WG, however the set targets have not changed.

The five HRC sites in Flintshire are fully regulated by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) under an Environmental Permit. The purpose of the permit is to ensure protection of the natural environment, and all sites are regularly visited by inspectors. Data on how much waste is collected, where it has come from, and where it is disposed of are all fully documented in NRW quarterly returns.

Where all our recycling and waste ends up can be viewed on the web at myrecyclingwales.org. During October the Flintshire recycling rate was 64% with total waste per person being 519kg.

Did you know? where does your waste **carpet** go – Econpro, Shotton; Where do your **batteries** go – H J Enthoven Ltd, West Bromwich and Matlock Bath; Where does your **metal** go – various locations in Wales and England, the nearest is Lelo Metals in Corwen with 96.46tonnes 2020/21; where does your **paper** go – 1 location in Wales – UPM Kymmene Ltd, Shotton and 4 locations in England. Where do all the **plastics** go – nearly all to England, 13 sites in total, a massive 818.72tonnes to Biffa Waste Services in Pemberton, Greater Manchester is the biggest; in Wales, Roydon Polymers of Caerphilly took 35.2tonnes.

TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION:

Our local town, Holywell, is one of seven Flintshire towns – Buckley, Connahs Quay, Flint, Mold, Queensferry and Shotton being the others, which must develop Place



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Plans. There is nothing new about having individual town plans, however in May 2022 Welsh Government informed all local authorities of the requirement to establish Place Plans, which will replace any present plans, but also of course include and build on work already achieved. Place Plans must be established as WG confirmed that the availability of funding would be conditional on Place Plans being in place. The first three towns to establish the plans will be Buckley, Holywell and Shotton.

One of the major additions to this new plan is an Enforcement Action Plan to assist local authorities in dealing with empty properties. The Council has completed training and produced their own local action plan for dealing with long-term empty properties. There are several criteria for dealing with this problem. Examples are special architectural or historic interest, anti-social behaviour, and public concern. Properties which are targeted for action will remain confidential to enable effective and commercially sensitive discussions with owners to take place. Funding has been secured from WG to deliver town centre regeneration priorities in Flintshire; £510,000 revenue for use over the next three years to support development activity; £680,000 capital towards town centre regeneration and £1,260,000 to administer as a repayable loan scheme over the next five years. In addition, £250,000 is available per application for town centre regeneration from April 1st, 2023, and £150,000 per year for small scale property improvement in Flintshire. A series of public meetings and digital consultations are required to take place at the appropriate time.

PLANNING MATTERS:

Oh yes, planning really does matter. I receive all applications for the Five Villages area (Whitford ward) as does the local Community Council. The Community Council are requested for their observations whereas I can agree with the planning officer concerned or object and if needed take an application to the Planning Committee. The decision of the Planning Officer is vital, after all this person is the true professional. However, at times there is disagreement, including policy issues and local knowledge can be invaluable. The matter of planning application 063720, conversion of a field with seven glamping pods, and five log cabins in 2021 really exercised minds: the many objectors did exactly what was needed and on policy the Planning Officer agreed. The present application 501/22 on the same site off Monastery Road, Pantasaph should go the same way, slightly less in scale, however the same site. People power can be marvellous and mighty.

CONTACT:

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

CYNGOR CYNGHORYDD:

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

CARMEL WI NEWS (Jacqui Arstall)

SEPTEMBER 2022 MEETING

Carmel WI Autumn programme started on a sad and sombre note. The death of HRH Queen Elizabeth II being announced just prior to our meeting, the evening was spent quietly reflecting on the life of our longest serving monarch. Queen Elizabeth was a member of the WI for over 80 years.



OCTOBER 2022 MEETING

At our October meeting we invited members of other local WI groups to join us to celebrate with us our Guest Night and Carmel WI 77th Birthday.

We were entertained this evening

by the fabulous local duo Backbeat. We all enjoyed an evening of socialising, singing, dancing and of course indulging in the delicious buffet.

NOVEMBER 2022 MEETING



This meeting is our AGM followed by a Safety awareness presentation from the Fire and Rescue service.

Later this month a number of our members are joining a trip to Chatsworth House. This includes entry to the house and enjoying the Christmas Market stalls within its grounds.

DECEMBER 2022 MEETING

Christmas Party Night and Christmas Hat competition.

Carmel WI meet on 2nd Thursday of each month at Carmel Village Hall starting at 7.15pm. New members are always very welcome.

All of our members would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.



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ORIEL GLASFRYN GALLERY



The Gallery

Dave and Lise Roberts have turned their love of art into an exciting venture by opening a new art and craft gallery at Glasfryn Hall, a fine country house in Caerwys.

The only independent gallery in North East Wales, Oriel Glasfryn Gallery showcases work by the best artists and makers from across Wales. All mediums are represented including paintings, jewellery, ceramics, sculpture, glass, textiles, wood and metalwork. It opened at Easter and is already being described as a 'hidden gem' and one of the best galleries in Wales. All of the work is available to buy.



The Gallery

The main gallery is a purpose-built contemporary space, converted from the Hall's former cart shed. It is open all year and visitors can see the work of around 40 artists at any one time.



The Gallery

In addition, Glasfryn Hall and its splendid Victorian gardens are opened for special summer and winter exhibitions, allowing even more work to be shown, this time in the much more domestic and intimate setting of a family home. The Hall also happens to boast stunning views of the Clwydian Hills!

Dave and Lise moved to Glasfryn Hall three years ago from nearby Rhes-y-Cae. Dave had just given up his 'normal' career to pursue his dream of becoming a full-time



'Moel Famau Morning' by Dave Roberts

artist. He specialises in pastel paintings of North Wales, particularly Snowdonia and the Clwydians and the main gallery hosts a permanent display of his increasingly popular and collectable work.



Glasfryn Hall

While the initial goal had been to create a space for Dave's work, the ambition quickly grew and they decided to look for somewhere that could be run both as

their home and a 'cultural' arts destination. Glasfryn Hall fitted the bill and opening Oriel Glasfryn Gallery has taken the couple's vision for promoting Welsh art to the next level.

While the gallery artists represent all corners of Wales, some of the talent is more local.



Ostrich egg bowl by Lesa Grimes-Thomas

Lesa Grimes-Thomas is a ceramicist from Ffynnonogroyw who recently graduated from Glyndwr University with an MA in Design. Her surroundings play a big part in her work, including the mountains with their different colours and textures, as well as the waves on local beaches that have smoothed the stones by rolling them along the seabed.

Dyserth-based Louise Schrempft is also a ceramicist. Whilst some of her work is full of humour and playfulness, her focus is often on a single figure bearing witness. "Some are resigned, some angry, and some seem to be waiting, watching the sunset and listening for a whisper on the evening breeze" says Louise.

Another Dyserth resident, Gary





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Ceramic sculpture by Louise Schrempft



The Gallery

Griffiths, is a well-known landscape artist who paints mainly in watercolours. Gary will be showing some of his work during the Gallery's special Winter exhibition, which opens soon.

Oriel Glasfryn Gallery is open 10 – 5 Wednesday to Saturday and 10 – 4 on Sundays and bank holidays. This year's Winter exhibition runs from 25th November until 18th December.

Further information about the gallery, including directions, can be found at www.orielglasfryn.com.



Lise and Dave Roberts

CARMEL VILLAGE HALL



(Richard Dolphin)

Hello All – you may have noticed the subtle banner picture change above? Now including colour to highlight key features of the Flintshire Flag, proudly presented and promoted at the Old Loved Hall.

Trustees and volunteers continue to be busy with general maintenance and ensuring the smooth running of charitable business. This has included the Hall holding an Annual General Meeting on the 9th October 2022 where it was agreed all held nominated positions will continue. The Chair, Gareth Sharp, presented a report with the Halls successes and an acknowledgement to all those working hard to ensure the Hall remains a cornerstone of our community in the short, medium and long term. A recent audit of accounts has also been conducted, vitally important as

a small charity, championed by volunteers, assuring the Halls fiscal responsibilities.

The 'Old loved Hall' prides itself on being the epicentre of activity for children, young people and adults within the 5 Villages and surrounding areas. The Hall is home to a variety of groups and events, whether they be social, educational,



crafting, recreational, or celebratory.

Since the last issue, the Hall has held a number of events including Coffee Mornings, Mid-Summer Afternoon Tea and Bingo, and the more recent Halloween Bingo! The latter being a 'spooktacular' event, as demonstrated by some of the children who attended.

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

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YSGOL Y LLAN VA PRIMARY SCHOOL, WHITFORD (Headteacher, Mr. Bryan Griffiths)



It has been a busy first term at Ysgol Y Llan. As always, the team at Whitford work extremely hard to provide many exciting opportunities for the children.

I am always proud of our wonderful school, but this term, I personally had the honour of attending a WESP (Welsh in Education Strategic Plan) meeting in Flintshire, where we were congratulated on being the first school in North Wales to achieve a prestigious award for Welsh. We were asked to share our journey towards the Aur Award in Cymraeg Campus and our general development in Welsh over the years due to us being the first school in North Wales to be awarded with both the Arian/Silver and Aur/Gold Award (July 2022) for this Welsh initiative.



Miss Randall and I gave a ten-minute presentation to the panel with representatives from Welsh Government, the Urdd, the local authority Welsh advisory team, Welsh Medium Primary & Secondary Headteachers, our local Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture &



Leisure, and our Chief Officer in Education and Youth.

The presentation was well received by the committee and the feedback of 'Ysbrydoledig / Inspirational' made us feel immensely proud of what our wonderful school has achieved. Miss Randall and I agreed that it would not have been achieved without the support of our staff, pupils, parents and governors. Da iawn pawb! 😊

Here is a Tweet about the award:

<https://twitter.com/CymraegSyFflint/status/1544785355836166153?s=20&t=aTtIfgK1DnGAo156APXog>



What else has been happening at Ysgol y Llan this term?

Dosbarth 1



In Dosbarth 1 we have been enjoying learning about our Big Wide World. We

have talked about where we live and how we travel to school, we shared holiday photographs with our friends, we have enjoyed many stories about journeys and adventures and we have coded our Blubots on a grid from one local feature to another. After reading 'What will we build?' we created our own models in lots of our provision areas indoors and outdoors.

We have also been learning about the changes that happen during Autumn. We had a lovely walk in the sunshine, collecting natural items on our way and used these to make repeating patterns and faces.

by Mrs. Hughes

Dosbarth 2



In Dosbarth 2, our topic has been 'explorers.' We have been using maps to locate human and physical features in our local area, and have drawn our own maps! We have also created travel brochures to persuade people from around the world to visit Wales.

In maths, Blwyddyn 2 have been learning about money, using column addition and subtraction to work out how much change should be given to a customer. Blwyddyn 1 have been learning how to add and subtract numbers up to 10. In literacy, we have been trying very hard to remember to use our capital letters and full stops, and have started to use adjectives and adverbs to extend our writing.

After half term, we will be writing a fact file about an animal of the children's choice. I have been very impressed by Dosbarth 2 this half term. They have all settled in very well and we have had lots of fun together!

by Miss Wiggins

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Dosbarth 3



As the weather changes and the temperature outside drops, Dosbarth 3 have been busy investigating the temperature of different areas in our school.

The children worked independently using Data Loggers to take accurate temperature readings which they then recorded in their books.

Dosbarth also had a fantastic day at Caerwys Church, working alongside pupils from other local schools and Reverend

Kathryn on activities based on the theme of the 'Hope Journey'.

The children from Ysgol y Llan worked with enthusiasm and were fantastic representatives for our school.

by Miss Roberts

Dosbarth 4



In Dosbarth 4, our topic this term has been 'Perfect Planet'. We have been looking at the different aspects which enable life to thrive on Earth and the things which are affecting the Earth in a negative way. Our focus has been on the 'ethically, informed citizens' aspect of the four core purposes of the curriculum and we have been specifically looking at climate change.

We have recently carried out a climate

change enquiry in groups (see pictures for examples), the class were given a success criterion to ensure that they gathered different information on key aspects of climate change and were given the freedom to share their information however they wanted to.

We are going to write non-chronological reports in the first week back to share what we have learnt about climate change and to see if we can apply the grammar work which we have been working on. These will be shared on seesaw when they are finished. The class have worked excellently in their groups, showing how well they can work collaboratively to achieve a goal and also their creativity in how they decided to share what they found from their research.

by Mr. Thomas

Criw Cymraeg

This half term, the Criw Cymraeg have played a massive part in making sure that Welsh is being spoken around the school. They have continued with their responsibility from last year, leading all Criw Cymraeg assemblies and encouraging the younger children to try their best when speaking Welsh.



During Healthy Schools Week, the children have been selling fruit in our Pod Siarad, ensuring that Welsh is being spoken by both buyers and sellers. The Criw Cymraeg have done a fantastic job at helping Miss Wiggins settle in and I am very looking forward to hearing their ideas after half term!



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AUTUMN IN THE FIVE VILLAGES (Robert Moore)

Weather in the Five Villages Autumn 2022 (2021 in brackets)				
	Temperatures °C			Total rainfall mm
	Average	Maximum	Minimum	
September	14.7 (16.2)	24.5 (28.5)	5.3 (5.1)	84.5 (116.6)
October	11.9 (11.5)	17.0 (19.6)	4.0 (3.5)	55.5 (87.7)
November	10.1 (10.7)	15.3 (11.6)	4.4 (6.0)	56.7 (30.0)
November data until 14 November only (2021 to 14th also)				

The Summer summary is published by the Met Office in October. This year it shows that Summer in our part of North Wales was warmer, a lot drier and with slightly above average sunshine compared with the 20-year national average. This is the second year running for which the same statement may be made, both nationally and locally. Although we now have our own 20-year averages, I cannot give comparable figures for Autumn yet because *The Five Villages Chronicle* appears before the end of the season. September and October were, however, warmer and drier than the 20-year average for those two months. Temperatures rose during the first half of November but overall the average temperature was similar to the same two weeks last year – and wetter.

Walkers and gardeners will have noticed a 'slow' autumn, with trees changing their colours and losing their leaves only gradually. Many garden plants that we would have expected to be over by now still appear green and some may still be blooming. Last year however I picked a Dahlia on 14th November, this year there were no blooms beyond the first two days of November.

Once again, the end of October and the beginning of November saw a heavy rainfall. The first two days of November gave us 25 mm of rain (one inch). This rainfall was accompanied by strong winds, although the weather station, being sheltered from the south did not feel much of the wind. On a few mornings in mid-November the ground was very wet, so it looked as if it had rained overnight. The two rain gauges said it had not – we had a series of heavy dews, sufficient to give the appearance of rainfall. Up to the middle of the month the relative humidity had seldom fallen below 90 percent at 18.00 UTC, a small drop in temperature some time later resulted in water condensing on to cool surfaces.

Those of you who watch the weather forecast on television will have noted that for much of October and into early November the jet stream was to the south of us – for a while we were in a tight loop of the jet stream. On its eastern side this brought us warm air from Spain and North Africa, but gradually the cold air from northerly regions moved southwards. For a while it was push and shove, with the warm air giving us a mild October, but then cooler air moved over us in a series of cold fronts. Where warm air meets cold, fronts develop and along them strong rainfall and potentially high winds. Ours was textbook weather as we moved into November.

This quarter's satellite image (see opposite page) is of Claudio, one of the deeper of the series of depressions crossing the British Isles. Claudio brought early November's wind and rain (and a yellow wind warning from the Met Office). The cold front is conspicuous in this image. These weather systems are vast – you can see the cold front stretches to the Azores, at its end it joined a warm front and petered out over Newfoundland. The centre of the depression was meanwhile over Ireland!

Weather reports from 2015 to 2020, with additional information, are now in Holywell library and the county archives, so there is a full twenty-year record available at both places.

The weather station may be viewed at <http://www.robertsmoore.co.uk/>, it updates every 15 minutes. If you would like weather information for any particular day or a longer period, please contact me at rsmoore@liv.ac.uk (email only). Students or teachers who would like weather data or satellite images for projects or teaching please contact me in the same way – note that unless requested otherwise I only keep satellite imagery for one week. So, don't delay if there's something you need. Satellite images are available strictly for educational purposes only.

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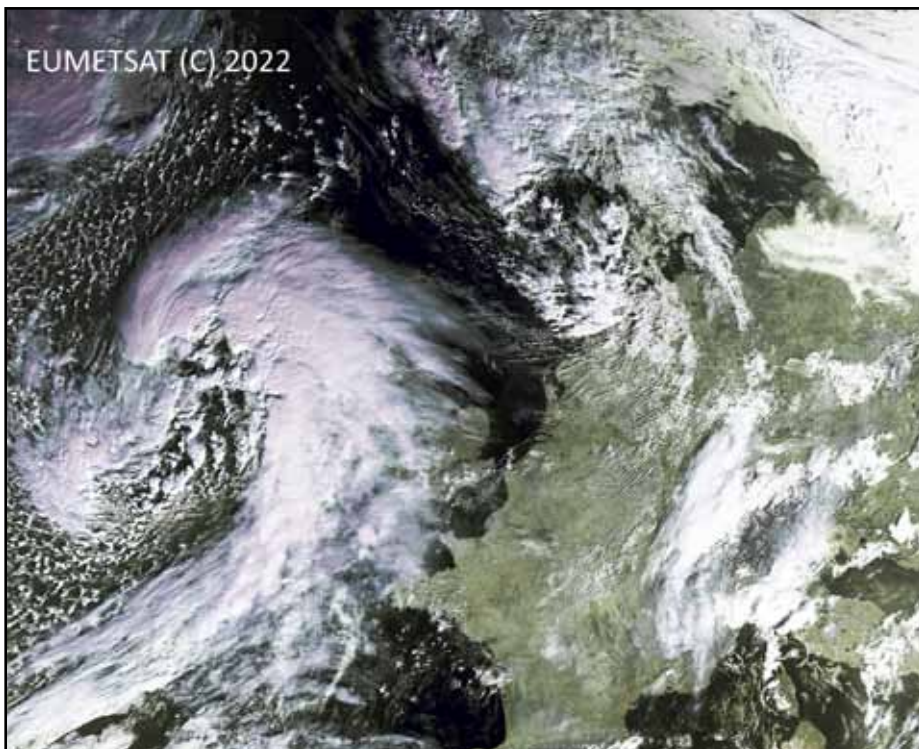
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GARDENING CLUB (Isabel Burnage)

The members enjoyed an interesting and informative visit to Pottles Premier Plants, Gorsedd in September. It was a lovely sunny day so we could see the nursery at its best. Mark Pottle greeted us all and gave a short talk on the history of the nursery before guiding us round the different areas and explaining what needed doing at this time of the year. He gave us hints and tips on taking cuttings, cutting back different shrubs and answered all our questions. Everybody appreciated the time he gave. We then walked across to the Druid Inn where afternoon tea had been prepared for us which all enjoyed. We had a chance to look round the garden at the back of the Druid which was very colourful.

In October Jude and Malc Mollart were welcomed back, and they gave an informative, illustrated talk on 'Designing an Atmosphere' in your garden. They gave tips on using humour, subtle colours, surprises, texture, scents, features creating enclosed spaces and using colours to soothe the soul. It was most enjoyable. The competition for an Autumnal arrangement of fruits and flowers in a vase was won by Janet Tattum.

At the AGM held on Thursday 3rd November the followings officials were elected:

Chair- Members of the Club to share
Minute Secretary- Maria Evans
Programme Secretary- Christine Hamer and Isabel Burnage
Treasurer- Ann Brown
Auditor- Bob Brown
Committee members- Terry Jones, Wendy Erasmus, Josie Polden, Janet Tattum, David Hughes.

The vouchers were presented to the members who accumulated the most competition points during the year. 1st Wendy Erasmus, 2nd Christine Hamer and 3rd Terry Jones.

The overall winner was also presented with the Menden Plate.

Our Christmas lunch this year, on 1st December, is being held at the Druid Inn, Gorsedd.

The programme for 2023 has been arranged and for spring there are the following:

All indoor meetings at Carmel Village Hall start at 2pm.

2nd February Gardeners' Question Time
2nd March when Isabel Burnage will demonstrate how to use herbs with vegetables.

6th April when Janice Edington will talk on the Language of Flowers. There will also be a sales table.

4th May is an afternoon visit to the Laundry Retreat, Denbigh. The Club visited here several years ago, and a lot of development has taken place since then so worth another visit.

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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.

The next meetings in 2023 are:-

Tuesday 28 February, Woody Plants that Merit Attention, Kevin Pratt, Village Plants Nursery.

Tuesday 21 March, Holland and its Tulip Story, Mary Jones.

Tuesday 18 April, Hardworking Plants for the Small Garden, Maureen Sawyer.

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

YSGOL GWENFFRWD (Alys Williams)

Strengthening our community links as well as establishing new ones is of utmost importance to us at Ysgol Gwenffrwd. How wonderful it was to open our doors to parents and friends for a hymn and a prayer together as we gave thanks in our thanksgiving service. It was truly humbling to see all the food donations made by our families in support of the St Peter's Church Food Bank. Thank you all for your generosity.

As we continue to deliver the Curriculum for Wales here, we celebrate the status it gives to the Welsh language and celebrate the provision of a bilingual education that we provide our pupils.

During October we marked Black History Month and in Year 5 and 6 studied the contributions of key figures such as Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks and how they shaped not only our history but continue to inspire us for the future.

Rosa Parks

What was life like for Rosa Parks and other black people in America and how did this shape her beliefs and her future actions?

Rosa Parks' life was incredibly hard. Rosa hated the thought of discrimination but that was all she could see. She had seen racism nearly all of her life. Rosa used to go to town with her dad and it didn't take long for her to notice all the segregation that was going on. Black people had different things i.e Bathrooms and water fountains. She thought it was incredibly unfair.

What was the significant event for which Rosa Parks became best known?

On 1st December 1955 Rosa sat on the bus to go home and sat on the first row of seats for Black people. The White bus driver walked to the back of the bus to tell Rosa to move back to give their seats to the White people. After being asked to move by the bus driver Rosa moved to the side and not back. The driver told her that if she did not move back then he would call the police and she refused so the bus driver called the police. When the police came she still didn't budge so then police had to remove her. She was arrested and fined.

What impact did her actions have? Were they really that significant?

Inspired by her actions about 40,000 black and white people boycotted buses. This carried on for 381 days - so over a year! Lawmakers were forced to let people black and white sit on the bus together. That one small thing that Rosa did changed so much.

How would you describe her and why?

I think she was a brave, beautiful and significant woman because she did such a magnificent thing. She did something no one else could dream of doing.

Why do you think that Rosa Parks continues to inspire people today? What could we learn from her?

I learnt that you don't need to be famous or popular to be a hero you just need to be determined and stick with what you want.

Leah Gabriel

Taking inspiration from the infamous speech 'I have a dream', the children took the lead and considered what was important to them and what would help achieve a happier, more peaceful world.

I have a dream that people will not try so hard to fit in and certainly not try so hard to be different, just try hard to be themselves. That people change the way they see - it doesn't matter what

size you are. We are all beautiful the way we are. I have a dream that people will treat others as they want to be treated. It doesn't matter what we look like, we should all respect each other. I have a dream that people will not give up and keep trying. If you can dream it, you can achieve it.

I have a dream today.

Seren Jones

I have a dream where the world is in peace. I have a dream where people are more thoughtful to one another. I have a dream where everything and everyone is treated as they want to be treated. I have a dream where no one abandons their pet in their pens. I have a dream where global warming stops and where everyone replants trees. I have a dream today.

Jo Fearnley



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HOLYWELL COMMUNITY MUSEUM NEWS (Andrea Yarnell Dakin)

We have once again been very busy over the past weeks taking down some of the exhibits and rearranging others to make room for our POACH displays.

John, our resident mining expert, has now moved into what was the old community room. Who knew how much memorabilia he had in the far room; it must have been like a Tardis!! He has now (just about) sorted everything. So John is ready to welcome interested visitors to hear their stories of their mining days and regale them with his memories of Point of Ayr.

The room which John has vacated will eventually house our N.H.S. display and our 'Education in the Area' exhibition and we are waiting for carpeting for the new community room so that our three weekly groups can move in.

If only we didn't have to put our exhibits into storage to show different displays. When I win the lottery I would love to buy bigger premises for us - my dream is of housing the museum in the old Midland Bank building - there is so much history attached there - especially the visit of (the then) Princess Victoria before she became queen.

The Tuesday reminiscence group is still thriving, and we have over the sixteen months in which we have been running become more than a reminiscence group. We also have developed into an archive

group as the members bring in so much of their memorabilia and ephemera to copy and share and we now have folders on most aspects of the area.

The latest 'Every Memory Matters' booklet (the fourth), deriving from the group's memories is now ready for sale. Just £2 to read our shared memories and tributes to local people who have recently passed - all proceeds to the museum.

We still hold bingo sessions - now EVERY week on Mondays at noon.

Tuesday is the reminiscence group - free of charge.

Wednesday is the Knit and Natter/Craft group - free of charge and open at 10 a.m. until when you want to leave - some days less knit and more natter as we have become such a close-knit group (pardon the pun) sharing our joys and worries.

The Thursday 1 pm prize quiz is now also thriving. Just £2 a head. You don't have to come as a team - just come on your own and the teams form naturally. You can win chocolate, Sudoku books or scented candles - it is great fun and a we have an entertaining and experienced quiz host - you may remember Bob Parry from the Mill Tavern in Flint?!?! He is also a regular and contributing member of our Tuesday group and kindly offered to run our quiz with no reward for himself. He has also contributed much to the chapel room which is now open to view and will soon have a blessing by local clergy.

During October we had a visit from a

group of local Brownies who were working towards their Local History badge. They really enjoyed their evening visit, the goody bag which we gave each one of them and the picture quiz which Sue and Paul devised for them to hunt the object on the displays.

If you are looking for a stocking filler for Christmas for children or adults - what better than "This is Your Town", a forty-page book of drawings, poems and prose by a local author telling interesting stories of old Holywell. For sale at the museum - just £5 - all proceeds to the museum. And talking of Christmas - it doesn't seem long since we were taking down the grotto last year and now Santa will be visiting once more in his grotto in December. Just £1.50p for a small gift and a chat with Santa to tell him what's on your list this year.

For any more details of any of the above - please phone the museum on 01352 217170.

I run three of the groups - so if you want more details on any of them please feel free to phone me at home on 01352 711240 or email me - andreadakin112@btinternet.com

We would love to see you as a visitor, member of one of our groups or as a volunteer. We always need more help so if you have a few hours to spare!!!! And to misquote Strictly Come Dancing - KEEEEP coming to see us - there is always a warm welcome to all in our friendly little cafe.

Hope you all have a happy and blessed Christmas - see you in 2023.



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THINKING ABOUT EXTENDING YOUR HOUSE? (Adrian Waters BAHons DipArch(Kingston) RIBA, Adrian Waters Chartered Architect Ltd

As a sole practitioner with my studio on Halkyn Mountain I am involved with a wide variety of local projects.

If you've been thinking about having your house extended you'll find it useful to read how changes to town planning law of October 2013 could benefit you.

Were you aware that some proposed domestic extensions that come within certain criteria are deemed to meet the Town & Country Planning Act and as such don't need a specific planning consent? These are termed Permitted Development.

These criteria in essence are that if your extension doesn't exceed certain measurements you don't have to go through the drawn-out process of applying for and receiving planning permission. Many modest extensions would clearly come within the criteria, and you could get on with building and complying with building regulations.

If your proposal looks close to falling foul of just one of the criteria the recommendation is that the home owner seek the planning department's confirmation that a full planning application would not be needed; a process known as applying for a "Certificate of Lawful Use or Development-Section 192"(or LDC), in other words – confirmation of what you are thinking of doing would be legal.

On 1st October 2013 the criteria for Permitted Development in Wales were changed to bring what was allowed closer to the amended criteria that England has enjoyed for some years.

The revised part of the Act is 14 pages long and there is a Welsh Government guidance document 67 pages long!

Simpler? More beneficial – it seems to be. Read on...

The shape of our houses and situations within gardens varies: one or more storeys, detached, semi detached, terrace, corner plot, hard on the roadside, sloping garden, and so on.

So careful consideration of each case is needed - in broad terms the changes will mean that, where previously a properties 'allowance' would be used up in one single-storey flat roof extension; now a property could have numerous extensions of a certain size to the sides, rear and roof without specific planning permission, just so long as the criteria are met.

The Act it is written in the negative rather than the positive; in other words – it lays down what you are not allowed to do. The Guidance tries to put a positive spin on the Act and show us what we can do within the restrictions. The following is an overview of the guidance.

PRINCIPAL ELEVATION -

The starting point in determining what will be permitted by the Act is to establish which side of your house is which in terms of the Act. Firstly find the "Principal Elevation", this is often the side of the house with the front door &/or the most windows (but there is a long list in the guidance to help decide). No extensions (apart from a small draught lobby) are allowed in front of the "Principal Elevation". If you did want to extend in front then you'd have to make a full planning application.

WHICH IS WHICH -

Now consider your house as a rectangular box: when stood looking square on to the Principal Elevation the "Sides" are the two ends of the building to the left and right running away at 90 degrees to the Principal Elevation, the "Rear" is the opposite side from the Principal.

FOOTPRINT -

The size of the proposed extension's 'footprint' (area covering the ground) once

all other limitations have been taken into account can be up to 50% of the total garden space.

Once you've understood the above, in broad terms there are now opportunities for:

REAR EXTENSIONS -

Single storey. Width, up to that of the Rear Elevation. Depth, up to 4 metres (13'1"). Overall Height, not greater than the existing property or 4 metres (13'1") whichever is lower, eaves not higher than the existing property and up to 3 metres (9'10") at or within 2 metres (6'6") of the boundary.

REAR EXTENSIONS -

Multi-storey. Width, up to that of the Rear Elevation. Depth, ground storey as above, upper storeys to a depth of 3 metres (9'10"). All must be at least 10.5m (34'5") from any boundary. Height, top storey eaves can be up to the existing properties eaves, ground storey no more than 4 metres (13'1") and up to 3 metres (9'10") at or within 2 metres (6'6") of the boundary.

SIDE EXTENSIONS -

Single storey. Width, you can extend to both sides (ends) and each can be up to 50% the width of the Principal Elevation as long as the extension doesn't come within 5 metres (11'7") of a boundary. Depth can be up to the depth of the existing property and in some cases plus the permitted depth of Rear Extension. Overall Height, not greater than the existing property or 4 metres (13'1") whichever is lower, eaves not higher than the existing property and up to 3 metres (9'10") at or within 2 metres (6'6") of the boundary.

SIDE EXTENSIONS -

Multi-storey. Width, you can extend to both sides (ends) and each can be up to 50% the width of the Principal Elevation as long as the extension doesn't come within 10.5m (34'5") of any boundary. Overall Height, not greater than the existing property, top storey eaves can be up to the existing properties eaves.

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ATTIC EXTENSIONS & OUTBUILDINGS-

Can be achieved within the amended Act, but probably best to call me.

OTHERS -

No verandas, raised platforms, balconies or roof terraces; although 'Juliet Balconies' are allowed.

MATERIALS -

There are a number of clauses relating to what you can build the extension of, the simplest but not only route is to match or mimic the existing house.

TOWN PLANNING DEPARTMENT -

Unfortunately sometime back Flintshire County Council issued a letter advising that they would not give pre-application advice on Permitted Development and LDC applications to homeowners or their agents; a position which in recent years seems to have softened slightly.

HELP IS AT HAND -

If you've found the above bamboozling and would welcome some initial specific no obligation advice please give me a call.

(Adrian Waters 01352-312669, Monday-Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm office hours please).

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Dyma drefniant y gwasanaethau am yr wythnosau nesaf:

Here are the services arranged for the next few weeks:

4ydd Rhagfyr/ December - Dilwyn Jones
11eg - Y Parchedig Huw Powell-Davies
18fed - Gwasanaeth Carolau (paned i ddilyn)
25ain - Dydd Nadolig/ Christmas Day

2023

1af Ionawr/ January - Cyfarfod Gweddi
8fed - Y Parchedig Huw Powell-Davies
15fed - i'w drefnu
22ain - i'w drefnu
29ain - Y Parchedig Huw Powell-Davies

5ed Chwefror /February - i'w drefnu
12fed - Y Parchedig Huw Powell-Davies
19eg - i'w drefnu
26ain - Y Parchedig Huw Powell-Davies

5ed Mawrth / March - Siân Morris
12fed - y Parchedig Huw Powell-Davies
19eg - Maryl Rees
26ain - Y Parchedig Huw Powell-Davies

Y gwasanaethau i gyd i ddechrau am 10 o'r gloch y bore.

Croeso cynnes i bawb.

All services begin at 10.00am. A warm welcome to all.

Cofiwch am rai o'n haelodau sydd yn yr ysbyty neu gartrefi gofal.

Cydymdeimlwn â Glyn Griffiths o Garmel sydd wedi colli ei briod Ann yn ddiweddar.

Dymunwn fendithion yr Ŵyl i'n haelodau i gyd ynghyd a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda.

We remember some of our members who are in hospital or care homes.

We sympathise with Glyn Griffiths of Carmel, who lost his wife Ann recently.

We wish all our members the blessings at Christmas time and a Happy New Year.

The Simple Mirror Will – Should it be that Simple?

By Emily Littlehailes of Celtic Law Ltd

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

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

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

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

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

Clients frequently express concern about the following:

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

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

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CYMDEITHAS THOMAS PENNANT
(Paul Brighton: Secretary/Ysgrifennydd
Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant)
CHRISTMASTIDE GREETINGS AND EVENTS



We are very conscious, as others are, as to what a tough year it has been for residents of The Five Villages, what with the lingering Covid Pandemic and serious economic and cost of living issues facing us all. But, we are moved to report that, as with other societies and groups, we are beginning again to be active. Thus, on 2nd September, we had a delightful social gathering in Carmel Cricket Club, and we were so pleased to be present at Northop History day on 1st

October. Some local societies were well represented, and it was so good to see many old friends who we had not seen during the Pandemic. The event was well attended, and we look forward to participating next year! Finally, at the end of October, very kindly Brian Bennett gave us a splendid and interesting talk on Deltiology, postcards of the local area. We were so grateful to Brian as we have had to delay his talk.

But one of the highlights of our activities so far was the Annual Pennant Lecture on 20th October in Holywell Library. We were a little anxious as regards attendance, though we did achieve, as it turned out, a respectable number of participants. We were also so grateful to the staff of Holywell Library for their generous and kind support to us, especially to Paula Jones who, out of hours, opened up the library and at the end of the lecture provided refreshments. The lecturer this year, was Dr. Rhys Kaminski-Jones, an established academic who is on attachment to The Advanced Centre for Welsh and Celtic Studies (CAWCS), University of Wales, Aberystwyth and based in the National Library. Dr. Kaminski-Jones is currently working at The Maritime Museum Greenwich researching Thomas Pennant and his writings re The Globe. It was fascinating to listen to Dr. Kaminski-Jones who explained Pennant's links to the Poetry, Prose and Plays of his time, emphasising Pennant's Literary contribution. He revealed to us areas of study about which we knew little. We were also so glad that Professor Mary-Ann Constantine was with us, from Aberystwyth, to explain the extension to 'The Curious Travellers' Project and the intention to be involved with Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant and our local community. We see great opportunities here to work with schools, Welsh and English medium, and to promote interest in Thomas Pennant. I am further so grateful to our Chair, Norman Closs-Parry and our other officers, for all their help and contribution over the organisation of the lecture. We are already planning next year's lecture! We have also received a copy of a book by Professor Nigel Leask of The University of Glasgow and a colleague of Prof. Mary-Ann Constantine, in 'The Curious Travellers' project. The book is entitled 'Stepping Westward: Writing The Highland Tour c 1720-1830'. Included is a chapter on Thomas Pennant's Tours in Scotland.

Towards Christmas, we will have held our AGM on 18th November. Further we are delighted that this year, thanks to the 'On The Corner' Café in Caerwys and to our Chair, that we will be able to hold a Christmas Lunch on 16th December in Eglwys Gymraeg Bro Treffynnon, formerly, Penbryn Chapel, Whitford St., Holywell. Again, this will be an opportunity to reunite with our members and friends and to plan the way forward.

For 2023, we are already planning a series of events. Apart from the Annual Pennant Lecture and for which, already, we have a speaker lined up, we hope to arrange a series of talks and social gatherings. If we can pull it off, one of the highlights, in the Spring, may be a revival of the Meirion Griffith Memorial Prize competition, involving local schools. This also fits in very well with Prof. Mary-Ann Constantine's extended project.. We envisage this as a multi-media approach and involving the new primary curriculum, introduced by the Welsh Government into Wales. We are so gratified that community and local history in all its aspects will play a higher role in what we will try to achieve. Finally, a most important event is planned for 2023, on March 21st, in Holywell Library at 7.30pm: Iolo Williams, the very distinguished Natural Scientist and TV presenter will give a lecture and hopefully this event will be very well supported.

As we have said, 2022 was a tough year, but we look forward positively and with hope, to further activity and contribution in 2023. We are here to promote interest in Thomas Pennant, and we are always grateful to receive comments and ideas from our fellow residents.

Very finally, we do sincerely wish all our readers and friends a very happy and peaceful Christmas, notwithstanding those who in our community face great difficulties, health-wise and so forth.

All good wishes and for 2023: Nadolig Llawen, Blwyddyn Newydd Dda.

HANNAH BLYTHYN MS | AS



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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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Os hoffai unrhyw breswlydd drafod unrhyw fater neu ymholiad gyda mi, mae croeso i chi gysylltu â mi drwy'r manylion cyswllt isod.

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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.

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