



THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE

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ISSUE NO. 146
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SUMMER (JUNE) 2023
HAF (MEHEFIN) 2023

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EDITORIAL

In this issue we have our usual round up of news from local clubs and societies including some new ones (Flintshire Vintage and Classic Tractor Society, the Woodcarving Group and Holywell Football Club). We have the second installment of Professor Moore's analysis of the 2021 census particularly focussed on local employment and travel to work.

We have a report and photographs of the Royal congratulations sent to residents on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary and news of a young fundraiser doing her best to help the homeless.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and do please consider writing something yourselves for inclusion in a future issue. It's your magazine and it can tell your stories.

Finally, do please try to support our advertisers and mention the Five Villages Chronicle when you use their services. We also welcome reports of just how helpful they have been. We are grateful to them and to Whitford Community Council for their considerable help.

NEWS FROM GORSEDD AND WHITFORD CHURCHES



(Kathryn Evans – Vicar of Gorsedd and Whitford)

Hi everyone, hope your summer is going well, and we have had at least some good weather by the time this magazine is published!

Back when I was first ordained, and again as I began my first incumbency, I was asked what my vision for our churches was? My answer has hardly changed over the nine years – I want our churches to be at the centre of our communities, showing the love of God to everyone. This time last year, I wrote of new beginnings – we were finally coming out of all restrictions following the pandemic and the church in Gorsedd was just opening its doors after

COVER PICTURE

View from Pantasaph looking out towards the Clwydian Hills. Many thanks to Steven Jones.

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the re-ordering. What a year we have had, and slowly, I hope and pray that the church is a key part of the community. The space that the re-ordering has opened up means community groups can hire the church space – we already host St Paul's Ladies Guild meetings, Keep Fit classes, Pulmonary Rehabilitation run by the NHS and Whitford Community Council meetings, to name a few. We also host our own monthly coffee mornings held on the third Saturday of the month from 10am to 12 noon – do look out for the banners on the wall the week before, but a heads-up for the coming months - 17th June, 15th July, 19th August and 16th September. For me, hospitality is a really important way of mirroring God's love, in the Bible, it says that in showing hospitality, we may entertain angels unawares (Hebrews 13:2). On Saturday 21st October we will swap our morning coffee morning for an afternoon Autumn Fayre – more details, closer to the time, so watch this space, and pop the date in your diaries so you don't miss out.

Whitford church is also forging new links and we are working in partnership with Aberystwyth University as part of the Curious Travellers (Thomas Pennant) project to promote our beautiful and unique church, with its outstanding heritage and magnificent stained-glass windows. We are already blessed with a lot of historical interest from the Nobilis stone, dating back to the late 6th Century and other stones, all

the information about the Mostyn family and the work of the naturalist Thomas Pennant. If you would like to be involved in any of this work, please do contact us.

As part of the wider community, I am delighted with the growing relationships and partners we are blessed with. This summer, on the afternoon of Saturday 15th July 2023, Mostyn Hall are hosting a unique tour of both the Hall and the Gardens, together with a Cream Tea, with monies raised used to support Whitford Church. Entrance is by ticket only and I suspect there will still be a few tickets available when this is published. Do contact me on 01745 799200 or kathrynevans@cinw.ork.uk if you are interested and would like a ticket (£25 each – including Cream Tea).

I hope and pray that our churches are centres and hubs for our communities. We are here throughout all the highs and lows of life, whether you have faith or not, but we cannot do this on our own. Just as they say it takes a community to raise a child, so a community needs all the people living there to be part of making it flourish. I pray we will all flourish together and find joy, companionship and contentment together. Have a wonderful summer and I look forward to building deeper relationships across our communities – after all, someone said strangers are just friends we haven't met yet.

Every blessing, Kathryn Evans – Vicar of Gorsedd and Whitford

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THE WOOD CARVING GROUP (Geoff Hill, Chairman)

WHY NOT TRY SOMETHING NEW?

The Carmel and Holywell Woodcraft Association founded by a small group of like minded people in May 1999, has grown today into a flourishing club with members covering all age groups. The club is probably unique in that it is open on Thursdays and Fridays from 9.00am until 3.00pm and because of its popularity and to accommodate members who are working during the day, it now operates on a Tuesday night from 5.00pm to 9.30pm.

Working from a dedicated building in the renovated textile mill adjacent to the Holy Well, Greenfield Road, Holywell CH8 7PN the modern machine shop comprises lathes with dust extraction and an air filtration system, a new heavy duty bandsaw, scroll saws, bench drill, a planer thicknesser and tool sharpening systems for both turners and carvers.



A second room has tables for up to 5 carvers together with a small kitchen and library area. Everyone benefits from their membership from the younger people learning new skills to those facing retirement which in itself can bring the experience of restlessness, a loss of purpose and meaning in their lives.

The Group fosters creativity and a development of skills leading to a renewed sense of purpose and contentment in life. Accordingly, it provides a vital role within the community through enhancing mental health and wellbeing at all ages.

Members love the camaraderie of the Club especially during the coffee and lunch breaks whereby new friends are made and help and tips are always available.

For further details, contact Geoff Hill – tel. no. 01352 386775

OPEN DAY

This is a chance for local people to view what is available within the Old Mill at Greenfield Road, Holywell with an Open Day being held on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 August 2023 from 10.30am to 4.00pm.

With four different activity groups working at the Old Mill complex, everyone is taking part to make this an informative and enjoyable day out for the whole family. Apart from the Woodcraft Association with demonstrations and craft items available for sale, Up a Yard Jamaican Cuisine Restaurant (situated on the main road) will give visitors a chance to meet their team and find out more with various demonstrations of Jamaican and traditional cooking methods.



On the first floor of the Old Mill, visit Paint Me Pretty by Bethan where you can meet her and her team and find out about the numerous beauty treatments they offer

and also collect your 10% discount voucher.

If woodcraft is not your thing then why not visit Lulu's Cabinet Art & Craft Studio where Lucy will be making masks and puppets. Why not join her weekend classes and learn to turn felts into works of art with the addition of embroidery to make creative items?

And finally, you'll be able to visit St Winefride's Shrine and Well and for a £1 donation you can experience the legend of St Winefride, its Visitor Centre and Gift Shop with a guided tour just as visitors have done for over 1300 years.

Why not make this weekend a date for your diary and find out more about the activities and history within the Holywell area?



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WHITFORD COMMUNITY
COUNCIL
(Phillip Parry, Clerk)**

**Whitford Community Councillors:
Names of Councillors and contact
telephone numbers:**

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
Joseph Williams - 07850 924805



*Councillor Richard Dolphin (Carmel)
Chair of Whitford Community Council
2023 / 2024*

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

Carmel:

- 1 x Anti social behaviour
- 1 x Criminal damage
- 1 x Public Order
- 3 x Theft
- 2 x Vehicle crime
- 3 x Violence

Gorsedd:

- 1 x Anti social behaviour
- 1 x Burglary
- 1 x Criminal damage

- 1 x Drugs
- 1 x Violence

Lloc:

- A55 Services 2 x Drugs
- 5 x Theft
- 1 x Public Order
- 1 x Robbery
- 1 x Violence

Pantasaph:

- 1 x Violence

Whitford:

No crimes reported

Community Award:

The Community Council are pleased to announce that the Management Committee of the Five Villages Chronicle have been awarded a Community Award. A presentation event will be held and reported in the next edition of the Chronicle.

**Installation of Large Television
on Mobile Stand:**

The Community Council with the permission of St. Paul's Church, Gorsedd, installed a large television on a mobile stand. Whilst the television will be used for Council business, it is for use by other users booking the Church meeting room, in particular, for presentations. As the Church has wi fi installed the large screen could live stream various services and be used for other Church purposes.

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

(1) A5026 Road – Triangular sign post lighting is flashing near entrance to Saith Aelwyd, Carmel (2) A5026 Road: Excessive litter on roadside in area of Misty Waters, Lloc (3) A5151 Road: Excessive litter on roadside – between MacDonalds roundabout and roundabout with A5026

(4) A5026 Road: Between roundabout and entrance to services; following a road traffic accident trees have been damaged; debris from the vehicle in grass verge (5) Whitford Road – travelling from Carmel; a number of deep potholes (6) Flashing light on stop sign as you approach the crossroads when travelling from Babell (7) Light on the left hand side needs adjusting – one way street in Lloc. Both wide based posts are in need of replacement as they are quite rusty (8) Digital Speed Camera: The camera in Gorsedd does not appear to be working (9) Pot holes: A5026 Road in Lloc at the Crossroads on the garage side – opposite the former Rock Inn (10) Carmel Hill: Ivy & tree branches near bottom of hill – hanging over road and catching passing vehicles (11) Monastery Road, Pantasaph. Could the whole length of road through the village be considered for re-tarmacking (12) Pot holes: A5026 Road - travelling from Lloc towards Holywell (13) Pot holes: A5026 Road - travelling from Lloc to the junction to Pant Y Wacco (14) Pot holes: Gorsedd Crossroads (15) Pot holes: Outside Lloc Service Station (16) Pot hole: Top area of Whitford Road (17) Roundabout (Misty Waters) Road surface breaking up (18) Tree fallen on Bridleway – travelling up to Carreg Woods – from Misty Waters direction (also reported to Public Footpaths)

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: FUL/000804/22 – for variation



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of condition 2 following grant of planning permission 059661 & 062348, at land to rear of Bryn Mair & Cilan, Gorsedd (2) Application number: FUL/000046/23 – for relocation of 29 Touring Pitches to adjacent amenity field, at Misty Waters Holiday Park, Fachallt Road, Lloc (3) Application number: LBC/000128/23 – for replacement of modern rooflight with conservation rooflight replacement of modern top hung timber bathroom window with timber casement window, at 2 Gelli Fawr, Whitford (4) Application number: FUL/000144/23 – for change of use from existing annex to holiday let, at Glan Llyn, Tan Y Lloc Lane, Lloc (5) Application number: FUL/000132/23 – for proposed extension to provide games room / ancillary accommodation, at 2 Ffordd Aelwyd, Carmel (6) Application number: 000268/23 – for proposed two storey rear extension, at Gorsedd House, Gorsedd (7) Application number: 000256/23 – for demolition of existing kitchen / utility and construction of improved kitchen / dining / living area, at Bryn Eos, Gorsedd.

Planning Decisions:

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

(1) Application: FUL/000461/22 – for the erection of 2 storey pitched roof extension to east side of existing dwelling, at Glasfryn, A5026 Road Lloc to A5151 Pen Ffordd Llan Roundabout, Lloc. Approved (2) Application number: DET/000084/22 – for approval of details at Land east of McDonalds, Lloc, Fully discharges (3) Application number: ADV/000724/22 – for Roundabout Sponsorship Signs - 3 No Signs to be positioned to the right of the traffic chevrons, at Roundabout No 25, Crossways South (A55), Adjacent to Dragons Rest Cafe, Caerwys. Consent (4) Application number: FUL/000396/22 – for Minor internal alterations, window replacement and installation of an EV charger, at 3 Monastery Road, Pantasaph. Permits (5) Application number: FUL/000039/22 – for Removal of condition 4 imposed on 01/0108 to allow barn previously occupied as annexe accommodation to be occupied as an independent dwelling, at The Barn, Fachallt Farm, Whitford. Permits (6) Application for Roundabout Sponsorship Signs - 4 no to be positioned to the right of the traffic chevrons, at Roundabout No. 24, Crossways North (A55), Adjacent to McDonalds, Lloc. Permits (7) Application for siting of 29 steel containers in the existing garage yard, at Modern Vehicle Services, St Asaph Road, Lloc. Permits (8) Application for demolition of former Halfway House & replacement with two detached dwellings, associated parking & residential amenity, at Halfway House, Allt y Golch, Carmel. Permits.

Applications for Financial Support and Donations:

The Community Council have granted

the following financial assistance since the last edition of the Five Villages Chronicle:

£1,500.00 - Five Villages Chronicle Association
£2,000.00 - Carmel Village Hall
£200.00 - MacMillian Cancer Support
£250.00 - Five Villages Gardening Club
£500.00 - Wales Air Ambulance
£200.00 - Llangollen Eisteddfod.

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

THE GOOD COMPANIONS OF HOLYWELL HOSPITAL (John Saunders)

This year we are holding a coffee morning on July 1st from 11am to 3pm. This will be held at Holy Trinity Church Greenfield. The Holywell Band will be in attendance and there will be sales tables. All money raised is for Holywell Community Hospital.

Please try and support this event.

The tea bar is up and running and doing well; we also have a book table 40p a book 4 for £1.




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MORE ABOUT WHITFORD FROM THE 2021 CENSUS (Robert Moore)

There is a working population of 1,120 people in Whitford, 343 or 30 percent work at home or mainly at home. Seven hundred and nineteen (64.2 percent) travel to work by car or van (40 as passengers). Sixty-six of those travelling by car travel 30 km or more, 317 travel between 10 and 30 km to work and 160 travel less than 10 km. The census includes a rather unhelpful category of 'Not in employment or works mainly offshore, in no fixed place or outside the UK', this could include, for example, consulting engineers or supply teachers living in Whitford.

According to the census three people travel on foot more than 30 km or more to work, these could be three marathon runners subjecting themselves to a punishing training routine, but, more likely, people who ticked a wrong census box, or who didn't know their miles from their metres. Sixty kilometres, there and back every day would be a lot of running! Though less improbable, the same errors may apply to the six who said they walked over 10 km to work.

Housework and childcare (which falls mainly to women) does not count as 'work' or gainful employment, even though it has enormous value for the economy.

Four hundred Whitford people were enumerated as 'Disabled under the Equality Act'. Unsurprisingly the numbers increase with age:

'Disabled' under the Equality Act	Number	Percent
Under 45	68	17.0
45 to 65	130	32.5
Over 65	202	50.5

Of those 'Disabled under the Equality Act' just over 40 percent find their day-to-day activities significantly limited (or 'a lot' in census terms). Whitford people care for one another. Just over a quarter of care is provided by people over the age of 65 and three quarters of the care is provided by over 50s. We care out of love not for money, but care has value. My back of envelope calculation based on the published census figures suggest that the people of Whitford provide care which if paid for at the National Minimum Wage would probably cost around £3 million a year.



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CARMEL WI NEWS (Jacqui Arstall)

Carmel WI members have enjoyed a busy start to their new calendar year which commenced in April.

At our April meeting we welcomed Karen Lloyd, florist from the Flower Bowl in Holywell. Karen demonstrated how to make a beautiful Spring flower basket arrangement, which made for a colourful end to an enjoyable evening.

At our 11th May meeting we changed our time and venue. To commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III, we met at the Greenfield Valley Park to plant a Cherry Tree. We were very fortunate to be advised and assisted by Doug Don, Ranger at the Valley Park. Following the tree planting we adjourned to the Valley cafe for an enjoyable, social lunch.



*Liz Hawthorne our President,
assisted by Doug Don, Ranger at the
Valley Park, planting the cherry tree*

To start our Summer programme of events, some members were at the Dance Festival in Holywell on Saturday 3rd June 2023. We will be distributing WI promotional information and enjoying the lively entertainment.

On June 13th members attended Ysceifog WI's 75th birthday celebrations. Following this on 15th June, a Ladies Fashion Show at Jacksons Garden Centre.

At our monthly meeting on 8th June, we are delighted to welcome a presentation and visit from Therapy Dogs and their owners... I am sure the dogs will steal the show.

Carmel WI programme for the remaining Summer months is:

July Meeting – Presentation from RNLI
August – Annual Outing.

We would like to wish you all a temperate, happy and relaxing Summer.

Carmel WI meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 7.30pm at Carmel Village Hall.

New Members are always very welcome.

YSGOL BRO CARMEL (J Garbutt, Headteacher)

Celebrating the King's Coronation May 2023.

To celebrate the King's Coronation the children had a wonderful day, having fun on the Playbus and eating delicious ice-cream!



CARMEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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THE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY CLWYD GROUP

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

Meetings are held at the **Halkyn Cricket Club**, Holywell CH8 8BS on the third Tuesday of the month. Talks start at 7.30pm. Doors open from 7pm for plant sales and raffle tickets. Meetings start up again in September as we have private garden visits over the summer.

If you would like to join our HPS Clwyd Group until the end of December 2023 we are offering a discounted rate of £7 per person for new members from September with free admission to 3 meetings, £3 for visitors.

The next meeting is
Tuesday 19 September Within Sight of Snowdonia, Tim Lever, Aberconwy nursery.

Programme can be subject to change.

Information: 01352 781458 (leave a message)
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CARMEL BOOK CLUB (Sally Brighton)



Our Book Club has continued to thrive and the more we read, the more frank and searching our discussions become. We have covered three books since the last Five Villages edition, all three of which have provoked discussion and very diverse opinions strongly argued. The following, reviewed here with detail and conviction by Lindy Moore, did not on the other hand, find favour with many of our membership: -

THE BINDING by Bridget Collins

This book captivated me from the start, and this was very appropriate as it is a story about magical books — books which can be used to capture real peoples' personal, painful memories and enable the individuals concerned to forget that these events had ever occurred. But this facility, which depends on an unexplained magical ability of the individuals who make the books' bindings, can be used for cruelty and evil as well as for kind and caring purposes, while repeated "bindings" or too deep a memory loss can destroy the personality of the individual. The story centres around two young men, one a farmer's son, the other the son of a wealthy, superficially likable but manipulative townsman, who fall in love, and the events that follow when their respective families intervene to keep them apart. The writing is atmospheric and intense, with beautifully drawn accounts of various relationships, especially that of the growing attraction between the two young men, which is sensual without being graphic. The story is also convincing in its depiction of the social networks which enable powerful male individuals to use psychological and physical cruelty to control others across social class and

gender without fear of retaliation. *The Binding* got rave reviews on its release as 'compelling ... lush, romantic', 'intriguing, thought-provoking and heartbreaking'. Despite this, it was unpopular with most of the other readers in our book club, principally for being too grim; indirect praise, perhaps, for the realistic quality of the writing of this 'rich gothic entertainment'.
(Lindy Moore)

MRS DALLOWAY by Virginia Woolf reviewed here by Kath Williams was found to be well worth persevering with, whereas others found its style and content over challenging: -

This book was published in 1925 and is thought to be one of her best novels. The book has two stories which have been combined although not connected.

Society hostess, Clarissa Dalloway, is arranging a party. This is a skill at which she excels. Her thoughts on that one day of her life are of choices and decisions she has made and of people whose lives have been interwoven with hers. In particular she thinks of her husband, Richard, a safe, sensible suitor and how she married him, rather than the impulsive, possessive and perhaps more exciting Peter. Peter has returned from India, embroiled in a confusing love affair but still clearly loves Clarissa. The second of the stories, involves poor Septimus, a war hero with an extreme mental illness which would now be recognised as P.T.S.D. His treatment by two different doctors is interesting. Bradshaw, one psychiatrist is the link between the two stories as he is a late guest, due to Septimus' suicide. The death upsets Clarissa very much. I felt a connection here. Septimus was haunted by horrors of war, whilst she was haunted by thoughts of what

could have happened and the worth of her life, generally.

At first, I found this book a challenging read. The style of writing, with so much description, comparison and detail in the style of the time was frequently beautiful ...but overloading! However, I found it quite addictive and became used to the lyrical writing. I began to realise why it has been given such good reviews over the years. The characters were easily visualised and interesting, with expert detail, as is also the bustle of London life contrasted with the natural world (clouds, flowers, bird's song etc.).

I would recommend that readers persevere with this book if they find it challenging, as it's well worth the effort and I feel it will stay with me for a very long time.

(Kath Williams)

THE GUEST LIST by Lucy Foley, reviewed by Pat Hadfield.

Undoubtedly an entertaining 'who dunnit'. Events take place on a remote island off mainland Ireland which is only accessible by the local boatmen offering their services to ferry visitors across (there is no formal ferry service!!). The description of this remote island is eerie, we sense the bones buried beneath the boggy ground.

The bride-to-be, Jules, a high-profile successful editor of a popular magazine has chosen this remote island for her wedding venue because it is a totally different 'Theatre' setting which may promote a new trend for weddings, a 'talk about town wedding' and it's a possible new business venture, plus Aoiffe, (the owner) gave her an exceptionally good deal. Her partner, Will, is her equivalent, a 'drop dead gorgeous hunk' who also fronts a very successful TV programme. They are the perfect 'Dream Couple', but are they?

Aoiffe and her partner Freddy who are promoting this island folly are an unlikely match. Aoiffe who is described as having a subtle beauty was a successful professional and Freddy is a chef but they are a perfect combination for this kind of commercial business venture.

Will attended a public school and the author makes reference to 'Lord of the Flies', Why? Is there any significance, is she hinting at any similarities?

Will you guess who did the murder and can you sympathise?

We get to know the main characters invited to this wedding and where life has led them after their time together at public school but then we are left thinking about the future these characters have ahead of themselves now, after this rediscovery and re-examination of past events..... and nothing is conclusive!!

An enjoyable read, something you can switch-off to.

(Pat Hadfield)

ORIEL GLASFRYN GALLERY

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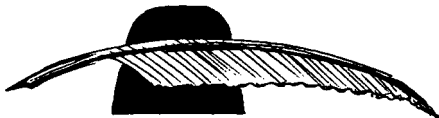
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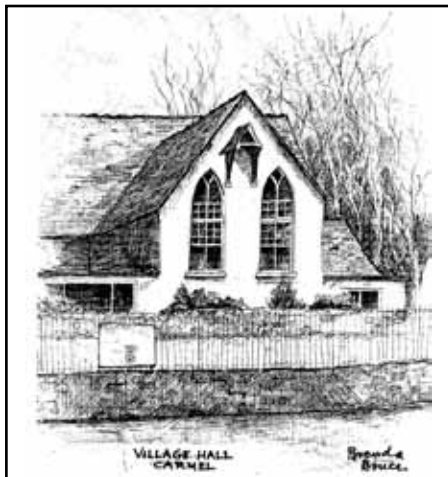


Any comments, opinions and feedback relating to the Five Villages Chronicle or any aspect of local news would be gratefully received.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Brenda Bruce, the original cover artist for the Five Villages Chronicle celebrated her 100th birthday in May.

Here is a drawing made for this magazine 20 years ago!



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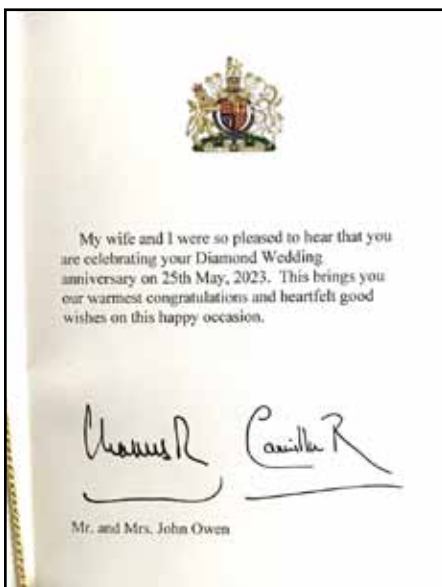
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CONGRATULATIONS!

John & Megan (nee Jones) Owen were married 25th May 1963 at Pendref Chapel Holywell followed by reception at Carmel Village Hall.

It was the day Manchester United were in the FA cup final so they lost most of the congregation to the Halfway pub enroute to Carmel.

They have lived in Carmel, Lloc and now Holywell. They have two daughters Deanna & Andrea, and two grandchildren Callum and Grace.



ALL IN A GOOD CAUSE - CHILDLINE / NSPC. . .



A group of volunteers and well-wishers led by Nia Griffiths of Gorsedd organised a series of pub quizzes over several months at the Druid Inn in Gorsedd in support of Childline/NSPCC. A total of £1054 was raised and a cheque was presented by Sarah Elson of the Druid Inn.



A further £70 was donated by friends towards the fund, making a grand total of £1124. Nia would like to thank all those who supported this worthy cause.

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FUNDRAISING FOR THE HOMELESS

My name is Emma and I am 8 years old and as some of you know I am fundraising for the homeless.

My Story

One day I was walking down London Street and I saw something very sad. I saw someone homeless. It made me feel upset because I did not know why people were on the floor. I burst into tears when my mum told me the reason was because these people do not have homes. I decided that I wanted to make a difference for these people.

Events



I have a go fund me page, which with the help of friends, family and people from the community I raised £1,000 in one week. I am so grateful but given the success I upped my target, if you can please have a look at my Instagram fundraising page https://www.instagram.com/fundraising_with_emma/.

On 17th June I held a quiz at the Stamford Gate, Holywell. It was £5 a team with up to 6 adults and children. There was also a musical surprise!

A raffle was also held with tons of prizes. Prizes included: Chester Races tickets, sports signatures, various electronic prizes, Drinks Hampers, Afternoon Tea, beauty goodies, hair and makeup vouchers, family tickets to various places, white water rafting for 2, bungee jump, boiler service and sooo much more. I hope to be able to give a report in the next issue.

1st July



Even though I do not like walking I am going to walk round the lake at Llyn Brenig which is about ten miles long.

6th August, 1.30pm

To finish off I wanted to do a big reveal of how much I have raised in my community village hall in Carmel, so I have organised a fun quiz and it will be here that I tell everyone the grand total. Hopefully you can join me.

All I want from this is to get people to care which people can do by donating, coming to the quiz or by telling people about my fundraising.

Thank you to everyone. For further information please contact 07378 380472.

From Emma



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JUNIOR SECTION

It's great to see (some) warmer weather arriving as the junior cricket season has just got underway with youngsters aged 6 to 13 years taking part in our club sessions. These are held on Thursdays at 6pm, and the first couple of games against other club teams have also commenced. Carmel's boys' and girls' teams are in for a busy summer!

Once again, we have many youngsters attending the weekly national cricket programmes, All Stars and Dynamos, at our ground on Friday evenings at 6pm. These programmes provide eight weeks of fun and activities for the youngsters taking part and have become extremely popular throughout Wales and England. There is no doubt that parents also enjoy their free time, especially the home-made cakes which we have each week!

It's great to see children taking part in sport and enjoying the experience, as many life skills can be learnt and adopted.

If your son and/or daughter would like to attend one of our Thursday coaching sessions as a 'taster,' please contact Alun Davies on 07889 095 712 or adifa@hotmail.co.uk.

SENIOR SECTION

At the time of writing, Carmel's First XI is in seventh place in Division Two of the North Wales Cricket League following an excellent win at home to Hawarden Park Second XI. The visitors batted first and scored a total of 107 runs before Carmel successfully chased down the score thanks to an excellent partnership between Ryan Roberts (49 not out) and Matthew Isgar (18 not out). This victory was a real boost for the team and hopefully augurs well for the remainder of the season.

Carmel Seconds are currently tenth in Division Four following an away defeat against Bersham Second XI. The hosts posted 174 from their 40 overs before dismissing Carmel for 108, with Richard Sim scoring 37 and Sean Moores scoring 23.

This season, Carmel Women's team is competing in the Eastern section of the North Wales Women's Cricket League and will be playing against teams like Buckley, Northop and Gwersyllt Park. It's great to



Ryan Roberts batting for Carmel in the game against St. Asaph

see women's and girls' cricket developing so well across North Wales, and the new regional divisions reflect the growing popularity of the sport. Thanks must go to Rachel Warrenger from Cricket Wales who has worked very hard to support and encourage the establishment of new women's teams in north Wales.

Carmel Cricket Club is always on the lookout for new senior players of all abilities for its men's teams and women's team. Anyone interested in joining the club should e-mail carmelcricket@hotmail.co.uk

Everyone at the club would like to pass on our best wishes to Paul Brighton who has been having treatment in hospital recently. Paul is a popular and valued member of Carmel Cricket Club and has made an important contribution to the development and running of the club over many years. As well as providing practical

hands-on support at the ground on match days, Paul is a great advocate for the club in the wider community and is held in very high regard by everyone here.

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MARK ISHERWOOD MS



As Chair of the Cross-Party Autism Group in the Senedd/Welsh Parliament, I have long been highlighting the challenges faced by Autistic people and calling for improved diagnosis times, understanding and support for Autistic people and their families. I regularly raise the barriers and battles they face with Welsh Government Ministers in the Senedd Chamber.

Although most people have heard of Autism, sadly too few people understand what life is actually like for Autistic people and how hard life can be if Autistic people don't have the right understanding and support.



Chair of the Cross-Party Autism Group in the Senedd/Welsh Parliament, Mark Isherwood, with National Autistic Society Cymru Youth Participation Group during their visit to the Senedd.

Each year, I am therefore pleased to support World Autism Acceptance Week (27 March to Sunday 2 April 2023), which aims to change attitudes towards Autistic people and their families.

Speaking in the Senedd during this year's World Autism Acceptance Week, I outlined a vision created by Autistic people, their families and experts, of a world that works for Autistic people, and called on my fellow MSs to help make it a reality.

In a 90 second statement, I stressed that with one in 100 people in Wales on the spectrum, "it's crucial that we all consider the part we can play" in creating a society

which works for Autistic people.

I said: "As part of its 60th anniversary year, the National Autistic Society collaborated with Autistic people to create a vision of a society that works for them. Through interviews, workshops, social media and non-verbal creative activities, the charity invited Autistic people, their families and subject experts to describe a world that works for Autistic people. The resulting 'The Moonshot Vision' report outlines five key 'Future Realities', as well as short-, medium- and long-term milestones".

"It found that an autism-friendly society 'Values autistic individuals. Understands and appreciates what autism is and how it is unique for each individual'; 'Maximises autistic power, empowers Autistic people to control how they live their lives and make distinctive contributions that influence the world'; 'Guarantees support, provides seamless diagnosis, support and care for Autistic people from all backgrounds, at all moments of need throughout their lives'; 'Adapts public spaces and services, ensures they are inclusive, with flexible adjustments that recognise that not all Autistic people have the same preferences'; and 'Is free from discrimination, rejects stereotypes and stigma, removes the expectation to mask, and doesn't accept being told to fit in'."

Subsequently, responding to the Statement earlier this month by the Deputy Minister for Social Services on the 'Neurodivergence Improvement Programme', I stressed that I hear almost daily from neurodiverse people, their families and carers, who are still having to fight for the support and services they need to enable them to lead independent lives, only to be blamed by senior officials who refuse to understand either their neurodiversity or their own legal duties under the Equality Act, the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, and the statutory Code of Practice on the Delivery of Autism Services in Wales.

Having previously sought to introduce an Autism Bill, and based on my daily casework, I disagreed with the Minister who said there's no point in revisiting the possibility of introducing an Autism Bill.

Addressing the Minister, I said "I assure you that where good practice exists it's laudable, and it's good for the people who live in those areas, but bad practice is being allowed to continue to exist because we still don't have the legal duties that would have been introduced by my Act and then the Act proposed by my colleague Paul Davies MS".

I also raised the case of a Flintshire constituent with diagnosed conditions, including Autism and ADHD, who e-mailed me recently, speaking on behalf of both herself and the ever growing number of other Flintshire families in a similar position, who are having to support each other.

She told me: "We're concerned about the number of children being removed instead of preventative services being put in place for those families who need support. I'm sure I'll have a target on my back now, so I may as well make it worth it, given their gaslighting, discrimination, unlawful and corrupt behaviours. We're tired of the bullying and failures whilst they pretend to be autism friendly under the guise of the North Wales Integrated Autism Service. They're a danger to society and have traumatised many, but what makes it worse is they show no remorse, no compassion and no sign of changing".

I urged the Minister to listen "to these people whose lived experience is horrifying to listen to on a daily basis, and of course deeply, not just traumatising, but agonising for them, and in some cases leading to outcomes that are shocking and in some cases unbelievable for those families".

Nobody with lifelong neurodevelopmental conditions, including Autism, or their families, should be having to deal with this.

The fact that Public Bodies have failed to understand individual needs and make adjustments accordingly, is causing heightened anxiety and meltdown for those affected.

Until services are truly designed, delivered and monitored with neurodiverse people, their families and carers, lives will sadly continue to be damaged in this way – the situation needs to change and quickly, and I will continue pushing to ensure that it does!

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY HOLYWELL ART CLUB! (Jeni Taylor, club secretary)

This year is a very special one for our art club - we celebrate our fiftieth anniversary!

Holywell Art Club started in the early 1970's with three or four artists meeting together once a week at one or other of their homes to paint and discuss art. At that time it was run informally with five artists including our founder Kenneth Radcliffe who is still our Life President. As their works and existence became known more people wished to join, resulting in premises being needed. At this time the Club was known as Holywell Artists and for several years met at Llwyn Onn. Then followed a period when meetings were held at several venues and the name was changed to Holywell Art Club.

The Club now has about sixteen members meeting on Wednesdays at Pentre Halkyn Community Centre, Holywell from 10.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. Our members

are mainly painters, but some have skills in other mediums, and our ages range between people in their 30's to those in their 80's.

Members develop at their own rate and range from beginners to competent painters, who really form the majority, 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.

Besides meeting once a week, the Club also has talks, outings, demonstrations and exhibitions; sketching venues are organised in the summer. About every six weeks we organise demonstrations by well known artists from North Wales and the North West.

We firmly believe that the primary objective of painting is to gain pleasure but that anyone can paint, and with practice, within a club like ours, surprisingly good results can be obtained.

On Wednesday 5th July from 11.00 – 1.00 we will be hosting an Open Day to mark our anniversary. Please come along and join us for a piece of birthday cake and a 'glass of something' to celebrate. Members will have examples of their paintings on display so you will be able to see the diverse nature of our work.

I'm happy to say that we are now in a position to invite new members to join our club. If you are interested, just come along

to Pentre Halkyn Community Centre any Wednesday between 11.00 and 1.00 and meet us, we are a really friendly group; remember our main aims are to enjoy what we do and help each other to improve our work. You can also contact us through our web site at www.holywellartclub.com go to the Contact page and you'll be able to send us an email.

I hope that you have enjoyed reading a little bit about us and will come along to join our celebration on July 5th.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our long standing, art club member and friend, Marjorie Scott, who first joined Holywell Art Club approximately 40 years ago and had been chair for over 25 years.

A beautiful artist who was especially known for her figurative and portrait art work.

Marjorie was also a member of the Clwydian art society and Grosvenor art society.

She was also a member of the Flintshire Visual Arts and in more recent years was greatly involved with the Clwydian Creatives Art Trail. This led to setting up a group of artists friends from Holywell Art Club, known as "Halkyn Mountain Artists".

She will be very much missed.

Rest in peace, Marjorie.

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RECIPES FOR SUMMER (Isabel Burnage)

BAKED PORK FILLET

You will need 12-16 oz (350-450g) of pork fillet for 4 people. Chops can be used as an alternative.

Ingredients:

Pork Fillet
1 large onion, peeled and chopped
3 oz (75g) button mushrooms
2 tablespoon oil
Seasoning
1 tablespoon sage & onion stuffing

Method:

- 1.Heat oil in large frying pan and lightly fry onion and mushrooms 2-3 minutes and transfer to large baking dish.
- 2.Lightly fry pork in same pan to brown then put on top of onion and mushrooms.
- 3.Season and cover with foil and bake at 200°C, gas 6 for 20 to 30 mins.
- 4.Thicken juices with sage and onion stuffing mix for a tasty sauce.

SPICY CUP CAKES

Ingredients:

3 oz (75g) soft butter spread
3 oz (75g) caster sugar
2 medium eggs
5 oz (150g) S R flour
1 teaspoon sweet mixed spice
1-2 tablespoon warm water

Method:

- 1.Cream butter and sugar
- 2.Add eggs and beat lightly
- 3.Fold in flour and spice
- 4.Add a little water if necessary to make a soft consistency.
- 5.Spoon into cake cases and bake on centre shelf at 190°C, gas 5 for 12-15 minutes
- 6.When cool, decorate with glacé icing and crumbled chocolate flake.

EGLWYS GYMRAEG BRO TREFFYNNON HOLYWELL & DISTRICT WELSH CHAPEL

Dyma restr o'r gwasanaethau am yr wythnosau nesaf.
Here is a list of services for the next few weeks:

Mehefin / June.

25ain. - Y Parch. Huw Powell-Davies (Gweinidog)

Gorffennaf / July.

2il. - Dennis Davies, Llanrwst.

9fed. - Marian Simkin, Nercwys.

16eg. - Y Parch Huw Powell-Davies (Gweinidog)

23ain. - Uno yn y Berthen, Llicswm - Norman Closs- Parry.

30ain. -

Awst / August.

6ed. - Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Llŷn ac Eifionydd.

13eg.

20fed. - UNO yn y Berthen, Llicswm - Y Parch. Robert Parry.

27ain. - Y Parch Huw Powell-Davies (Gweinidog)

Medi / September.

3ydd. - Y Parch. Brian Wright, Deganwy

10fed. - Y Parch Huw Powell-Davies (Gweinidog) Cymun.

17eg. - Corey Hampton, Yr Wyddgrug.

24ain. - Y Parch Huw Powell-Davies (Gweinidog)

Hydref / October.

1af. - Debbie Roberts, Rhydyfoel.

8fed. - Y Parch Huw Powell-Davies (Gweinidog)

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REFEREEING (Richard Dolphin) SEASON REVIEW – 2022/23

Slightly unusual, but this is an individual season review, rather than an anticipated team review. Let me explain. For those who don't know me, I'm currently the Chairman of Whitford Community Council, a Carmel Village Hall Trustee, Social Worker employed by the Health Board, 5 Villages family-man of two young girls, and with what spare time I have, a Specialist Assistant Referee operating within the Welsh Premier League on behalf of Football Association Wales.

I undertook my referee course in 2016 and started my journey in the Flintshire & Wrexham League. After listening to others, learning from mistakes and experiences, improving my fitness, I was successful in a series of promotions. In 2019/20, I gained promotion to the Welsh Premier League, having now completed my third season in Tier 1 Welsh football.

Being an official requires a lot of time for fitness sessions, match preparation, assessment debriefs, training conferences, and travelling throughout Wales. From Carmel, this could be as far as Haverfordwest or locally to Flint Town United. To continue operating within the top tier of Welsh football, I am required to pass an annual Laws of the Game test, and twice annual fitness test.



Richard Dolphin (right) and refereeing colleagues at 'The Showground', home of Coleraine FC

The highlight of my season, and my refereeing career, has to be the 28th September 2022. I had the honour to represent Football Association Wales within the UEFA Youth League in Northern Ireland, officiating Coleraine FC v Pobeda (of North Macedonia). This 3 day trip was an amazing experience from start to finish. Travelling from Manchester airport, excursions in Belfast, match day preparation, the game itself, observation assessment feedback, and return travel.

Other highlights this season have included a friendly between Wrexham and Macclesfield in front of 4000+ fans at the Racecourse, Wales v Scotland in



Richard Dolphin (right) and refereeing colleagues at the 'Racecourse', home of Wrexham FC

the Centenary Shield, North East Wales Football Association Challenge Cup Final, Welsh Blood Service Northern Cup Final, and the Tier 3 Play Off Final.

Of course, these opportunities would not be possible without my individual effort, performance and determination, however I also have my wife, parents, and wider family to thank for their continued support which allows the time and prospect to achieve.

Do you know the Laws of the Game, or want to become a football referee? If you're interested in finding out more, please visit becomearef.wales for further information and to access the course online. If anyone would like an informal chat about how to get into refereeing and the opportunities available, please feel free to email me on r.dolphin@hotmail.co.uk

HOLYWELL COMMUNITY MUSEUM (Andrea Yarnell Dakin)

We are, as usual, always busy at the museum working behind the scenes to ensure there is always something new for you to enjoy. By the time you read this our Victorian schoolroom area will be ready for visitors complete with teacher's desk, blackboard and easel and child's desk. Don't be startled by the people you might see in there!!

You can also browse through the files on many local schools and view pictures of classes from schools, in the area. Why not come along and see if you can spot yourself on one of them or help us to add names where they are missing.

Also we have a 'Tribute to the N.H.S. display - featuring pictures, files and memorabilia. These are all additions to our existing attractions: the Chapel, the 1940s/50s living room, Point of Ayr room with ex miner John Wiltshire, who is a wealth of knowledge in his subject and has many tales to tell.

All of this and much, much more.

Why not come along to one of our interest groups in our community room:

Monday - bingo at noon

Tuesday - reminiscence group from 10.30 a.m. Free of charge - come and share your memories with like minded

people - we are a happy group of fifteen regular members and more who just 'drop in' from time to time. All sharing memories, photos etc which all add to our ever growing archives.

Wednesday - knit and natter - Free of charge - from 10.00 a.m. - sometimes more natter than knit - but bring your own project or if you have a talent to share they will be happy to welcome you.

Thursday - general knowledge prize quiz at 1 p.m. with Bob our experienced and genial host. £2 per head - don't worry if you come alone - we are a friendly bunch and teams will form naturally.

Friday - new this season - Play Reading - Free of charge - at 11.00 a.m. - no previous experience necessary - just enthusiasm.

Also our 'Talk of the Town' history walks will be starting on the first Wednesday morning in June. Learn some things about the history of the High Street which you might not have previously known. Just £5 per head for a two hour walk at your own pace. Please book in advance at the museum.

If you are interested in writing your story for your family to treasure - just £25 for a six week / two hourly course - starting soon on Thursday mornings.

You will learn tips and hints from an experienced, professional tutor to get you started on answering the questions for your loved ones which you wish you could ask your grandparents.

We are always looking for new volunteers who can contribute in any way with anything from greeting our visitors, helping in the cafe or helping with fundraising. Please call in at any time and enjoy a cuppa or something to eat in our welcoming cafe.

We are looking for someone to volunteer their services to translate into Welsh our signage and descriptions of exhibits or perhaps just check our Google translations. Please get in touch if you are willing to help. Thank you.

The museum's number is 01352 217170 - but if you want to ask me about any of the groups please either email me on andreadakin112@btinternet.com or phone me on 01352 711240.

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1ST CARMEL SCOUT GROUP

Beavers (6-8 yrs.)

Cubs (8-11 yrs.)

Scouts (11-14 yrs.)

Beavers

The Beavers have been doing lots of different activities and having lots of fun working towards different badges.

Several will be transferring across to Cubs after the half term, which means there is space if anyone would like to join.

Cubs



We arranged a visit to the Fire Station in Holywell, at the end of March.

They had a great time learning about fire safety, climbing in and out of the engines and trying on some of the fire fighter gear. Our thanks to everyone involved at the station for making it an enjoyable evening.

To finish the term off we had a 'Nerf' party. The cubs were using the Nerf guns for target shooting, other games and generally having a wild time. Even the leaders got a chance to join in.

We have been doing the Cyclist badge with them since Easter. They have been able to practise their cycling skills riding around or over various obstacles. They have also been learning about safe cycling, and how to look after their bike.

Scouts

We arranged an air rifle session at the beginning of March, with Terry from Holywell Scouts running the session for us. Everyone enjoyed the evening and we have another session planned for late June.

On one of the meeting evenings we divided them into two teams and set them the challenge of building a bridge between



two points using garden canes, string & elastic bands. Both teams completed the challenge, although one bridge was a lot sturdier than the other. Good team effort though.

Before Easter they did a sponsored bike ride. Going from Prestatyn to Pensarn and back (approx. 16 miles). We had lunch in Pensarn and the mini donut kiosk did very well out of us. All completed the ride successfully, although some did find it a challenge.



At the end of April, a group of 5 scouts and several adults went for a hike in Snowdonia. The group were walking well and as they were up for the challenge we went to the top of Glyder Fawr (at 1001m it's the fifth highest mountain in Wales). The weather was good for walking and we were blessed with some great views at the top.

Summer Camp

This year we are doing a group camp at the Gladstone centre in Hawarden in early July.

This will be our first proper camp in 3 years and also the first time we have taken all 3 sections at the same time, so we're quite excited about it and we're currently planning the activities.



Five of the scouts plus myself will be joining Holywell Scouts in attending the Forest Fest International camp, in Nottinghamshire at the end of July. This is something that we are very much looking forward to and we will be arranging some of our activities to raise some money towards the cost of attending the event.

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 you are doing the 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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FLINTSHIRE VINTAGE & CLASSIC TRACTOR SOCIETY (Steve Watts, Chairman)

Flintshire Vintage and Classic Tractor Society was created by several vintage tractor enthusiasts that felt North Wales needed a club to foster their vision and appetite for veteran, vintage, and classic tractors.

December 2005 was when it all began for us and our first meeting which was held at the Glanyrafon public house in the Milwr, Holywell. Following advertisements in the Daily Post the Society's first meeting saw 95 members making a request to join. This first meeting was a huge success, but it was clear to the committee we needed an alternative venue to accommodate such a membership.

Several alternative venues were considered, and Brynford Golf Club surpassed all of our requirements. We are still meeting there to date.

Our Society meets each year from January to May, with a summer break, when we return in September to a year end in December. We meet every third Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm at Brynford Golf Club. Members then enjoy a complete variant of speakers covering any topic that springs to mind from Tractor manufacturers, collections, architecture, railways, roads and life stories just mention a few. For the remainder of our programme for 2023 we have Adrian Hughes Commonwealth War Graves, a visit to Peter & Julia Browning tractor collection, Morris Oil and Natural Gas Co Shrewsbury, and Alun Elider TV personality in December at our Christmas Dinner.

Chosen local charities that benefit from this Society's activities are Flint & Holywell Rotary Club, St Kentigern's, Ty Gobaith, Hope House, Air Ambulance, Flint Lifeboat, Danger Point, Fishing with Smiles, Holywell Scout Group and many more. All these charities are magnificent and are favourites for our members and their families.

One of our main funds raising is our



The front cover of this year's programme which sees Mr Edwin Hughes the Society's Vice Chairman receiving his awards from Mr Harry Fetherstonhaugh OBE FRAGS at the 2022 Royal Welsh Show. The lady sitting on the tractor is Harry's wife Davina

annual tractor road run around the roads of our Five Villages. With my dear friends John and Olwen Hooson from Penyffordd Farm Brynford we have organised and ran this event for over 25 years. This year's event is planned in for Sunday 21st May 2023, with a run of around 28 miles which if the weather is lovely then it's a great pleasure for all who participate. We will start and finish at Maverick's Greenfield and travel through our local villages.

We as a Society also support and help our local Agricultural Shows, Caerwys, Flint and Denbighshire show and the Royal Welsh Show, with an excellent quality of tractors and machinery that spans the last 100 years of Tractors and mechanisation

in Wales agriculture.

You can also see us at Holywell Town Council and Buckley Town Council Fun day events within the spring and summer months.

Personal thanks have to go to Edwyn and Jo Hughes for the loan of their farmland at Flint Mountain where every year in August we host an open day for the public where they can come and see the Society's members work their pride and joy on the land as they meant to be. Again, this is another successful fund raiser for us as the public donate money to our causes. Sunday 20th August 2023 everyone is welcome.

The Society's committee has changed and evolved with the times, and we are bringing in the younger generation to ensure our Society stands the test of time. Its very pleasing to see girls and ladies in great numbers now attending our meetings with equal aspirations and adding value to the Society's vision.

Great work by our Hon Secretary Julia Hodson and our money man, our treasurer Jason Davies.


Mertyn Abbott Farm, Whitford.


Coming soon:

24-27 July The Royal Welsh Show
12 August Eglwysbach Show, Conwy
17 August Flint & Denbighshire Show
20 August FVCTS Working Day, Flint Mountain
27-28 August Onlsow Steam Rally, Shrewsbury



Chairman Steve Watts working the land with his Massey Ferguson 174c



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BEWARE OF HIDDEN TREASURE! (Geraint Roberts)

How many of you I wonder have been on a treasure hunt?

When you consider that the definition of a treasure hunt covers many forms which can range from diving for gold bullion on a sunken Spanish galleon to an Easter egg hunt in the back garden it's probably safe to assume most people have!

But, leaving PTA car treasure hunts and similar aside I would like to cast a glance at some hidden treasures which form some of our colourful legends.

Here in Wales we have more than our fair share, and inevitably, they have been shanghaied by the ever eager world of folklore; more especially the ones which haven't been found. Some of these concealed caches come with a government health warning— in the form of threats and curses. Take the small, ruined fortress of Castell Odo some two miles north east of Aberdaron on the Llyn peninsula.



Castell Odo

It lies on the summit of Moel Ystum, a low hill not much more than 400 feet above sea level. It is an iron age structure which has probably seen considerable conflict over the years. Folklore insists there is a cauldron of gold buried somewhere between its ruined ramparts but if anyone tries to dig for it the most ferocious storm in the history of the world will break! That is some threat!

This projected thunder and lightning threat is a common theme. A golden harp hidden somewhere beneath another old castle up the Lliw valley to the west of Llanuwchllyn will also incur a similar storm. Castell Carndochan was probably built by Llywelyn ap Iorwerth in the thirteenth century on the site of an earlier fortification. Archeologically discovered ash as well as a lack of documented history suggests it was burnt in one of the many skirmishes with the English during that tempestuous century.

I spent my adolescent years in the



Ruins of Carndochan castle

little village of Staylitt high up in the Cambrian mountains between Llanidloes and Machynlleth. Amongst several colourful legends local to the area was one describing the head of a Romany family who was buried in the hills above the village. Several artefacts of value were also buried with him but if anyone ever tried to 'rob' his grave a terrific storm of thunder and lightning would descend on the perpetrators. The legend, which I was told several times went a step further and described two local men who, in their youth actually made the attempt. I knew one of them when he was an old man and his description of the lightning bolt and the noise of the accompanying thunderclap which made them abandon their digging tools and run for their lives was a story well worth listening to several times!



Don't dig here!

It is such an electrical storm which guards the gold hidden in the Giant's Grave (Bedd y Cawr) deep in the Cynllwyd valley between Bala and Dinas Mawddwy. The grave is one of several sites claiming to be the resting place of Rhitta the giant. The summit of Yr Wyddfa is another cairn where this notorious giant may be resting. He had a nasty habit of slaying kings who wore beards in order to make himself a cloak. Unfortunately for him King Arthur didn't want to donate his beard for a cloak and a fight ensued. Again, the site of this battle varies but the version which concerns this article took place near the mountain road leading over Bwlch y Groes to Llyn Efyrynwy.



Craig yr Ogof

The fight began by a dramatic cliff called Craig yr Ogof. It was a vicious battle which continued as both assailants rolled down the steep slope to end up at the bottom of the Cynllwyd valley near the present-day farmhouse of Tan y Bwlch. Here Rhitta was eventually overpowered and killed by the nation's favourite king and buried where he lay at a spot called 'Bedd y Cawr' (the Giant's Grave).

At some point in history legend has placed gold in his grave, protected by the now familiar threat of thunder and lightning.



The Giant's Grave

In his book on the valley Simon Jones describes one 'Jack Six' who went to dig for this gold in 1920. He apparently had the fright of his life when the portended storm did actually break forcing him to retreat to the safety of the farmhouse.

Other treasure hoards protected by this elemental threat are the 'Tump Terret' in the sleepy village of Trellech in Gwent. The 'Tump' was one of the early motte and bailey castles built soon after the 1066 conquest and despite having had a nineteenth century summer house built on it folklore will insist that deep in its bowels there is a hidden treasure.



Tump Terret mound

South east of Dyffryn Ardudwy there is a huge flat rock situated between the farmhouse of Hendre Eirian and the ancient hilltop fort of Pendinas. Beneath this stone a huge cache of weapons and valuables have been hidden; but woe betide anyone who goes digging, as it too is guarded by the threat of thunderstorms.

High on the peaty plateau above the Elan valleys two streams called the Clettwr and Nant y Beddau are born, both eventually drain into the Craig Coch and Claerwen reservoirs respectively. Near their sources is an old tumulus which folklore claims to contain valuable artefacts. Two nineteenth century miners decided to dig for these artefacts, and no sooner had they started that a thunderstorm broke to send them scurrying for the valley. And although this came as a surprise because tradition made no mention of a threatened storm it was taken as an omen that the grave should not be disturbed and left in peace.

Indeed, it seems that one doesn't necessarily need to actually dig for treasure to attract storms; in some locations, digging is enough! During one hot summer a series of watermills in Talybont just north of Aberystwyth which were normally driven by the river Ceulan ceased working because of a long drought. It was decided to dig a channel to tap a little hillside lake

called Llyn Moel y Llyn which lay on the 1600-foot contour some four miles east. Very early on into the work it seems a terrible thunderstorm broke, which the superstitious workforce took as an omen that the lake wasn't meant to be drained; the work was duly abandoned.

Three miles south of Builth on a plateau which reaches 1400 feet above sea level there is another lake, and this too suffered the indignity of an attempted drainage. It was believed locally that Pant y Llyn lake lay above an ancient city, and an attempt was made to dig a channel so this ancient city could be explored. But as in so many of these treasure hunting examples an electrical storm forced the work to stop. This apparently happened twice and on the second occasion the work was abandoned; superstition in those days was a powerful belief. Remains of the channel can still be seen.

There are several ways these treasures are protected from discovery; I am reminded of the cave containing King Arthur's sleeping warriors awaiting the day when Wales has need of them once again. They are asleep, surrounded by riches in a hidden cave whose location has been claimed by several districts. There are variations of a tale describing a young shepherd or drover who cuts himself a walking stick from a dense thicket. As he crosses London bridge an old man with a white beard approaches him and asks to be shown the very spot where he cut his stick. When they arrive at the thicket the old man shows him the cave concealed nearby and offers him all the riches he can carry but warns him not to touch a bell hanging in the cave entrance. Of course, laden with treasure, as he stumbles out of the cave the young shepherd knocks into the bell which awakes the sleeping warriors and in his panic he drops the treasure and runs. Despite several attempts to return and find the cave he is never able to do so. The old man with the white beard was none other than Merlin himself.



Tryfan

This inability to re-locate treasure caves too is a common theme. A cave hidden in rocks on the slopes of Tryfan above the Ogwen valley was once found by a shepherd from Cilthllan farm. He and his brother were looking for a lost sheep when he stumbled across the opening; inside he could see glittering silver and gold plates. He went to seek his brother who was nearby but when they returned, try as they might, they couldn't find the cave. Another version

has a ferocious dog guarding the entrance. According to legend only a person of Irish descent is destined to find this treasure. Could this be a vaguely remembered folk memory alluding to a tribal hoard hidden in haste sometime in the fifth century? When the Romans departed and left a political and power vacuum history tells of an influx of Irish invaders who populated and stayed for over a century along some of our coastal areas and mountain valleys. It took a great warrior from Northumberland called Cunedda to finally drive these Irish tribes away (many of them were in fact Norse whose recent ancestors had themselves settled on the east coast of Ireland). It would be reasonable to envisage hastily hidden riches just before a battle with the intention of retrieving them, which of course never happened. A more detailed story describes an Irish settlement in the Gwynant valley which alludes to specific place names, and of course a hidden tribal treasure.

Other legends tell of young shepherds coming across treasure caves whilst looking for lost lambs. Two in particular describe the enterprising young shepherd whittling his stick all the way home with the intention of returning in the morning by following the wooden chips to re-locate the cave. Unfortunately, the 'Tylwyth Teg' (fairies) had gathered the chips in the night and the cave was never found again.

Less than a mile to the north west of Dyffryn Ardudwy, south of Harlech there is a crock of gold hidden on land near Ystum Gwern farm awaiting discovery; legend, however, describes the spirits of a monk and a soldier guarding it! Another treasure which is awaiting discovery is the hoard of jewellery hidden by Elizabeth Owen of Nanteos mansion near Aberystwyth. She was in an unhappy marriage and in 1757 she fell ill; as she had no children she decided to hide her jewellery somewhere in the grounds or in the mansion itself. Her ghost 'The Grey Lady' is said to guard the treasure. And so the litany of hidden riches guarded by curses, entities and the weather does seem to form a comforting and familiar pattern to many of these treasure legends.

It would seem therefore that one of the golden rules for hiding treasure (apart from hiding it well) is to issue some sort of threat or curse against those who would seek it!

One of the greatest treasure hoards ever found was the contents of Tutankamen's tomb and if we are to believe the lurid press both Lord Caernarvon and Howard Carter both succumbed to the curse said to be guarding the tomb!

But what of treasures which have no such threat?

John Roberts who was one of the early landlords of Pen y Gwryd hotel which stands on the junction of the Capel Curig/Beddgelert/Llanberis roads discovered a hoard of hidden gold coins. Details of their provenance is sketchy, but he is known to have sold them and used the proceeds to emigrate to America.

Another treasure was found by two miners crossing a mountain path above the Dolgellau to Barmouth road in 1890.

They had apparently stopped for a rest and whilst idly investigating some nearby rocks stumbled across a chalice and paten concealed under a large boulder.



Dolgellau Chalice and Paten

It is thought that they had been hurriedly hidden there by monks from the nearby Cymmer Abbey during the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536 and had lain there undisturbed for 354 years! An even older artefact was discovered in Mold in 1833 by workmen excavating Bryn Ellyllon. The Golden Cape which has been estimated to be almost four thousand years old is one of the country's most important finds from the Bronze age.

Not far from Caerwys in 1816 a gold torque tenuously linked with Bodicea was discovered amongst a pile of scrap metal offered for sale to a gypsy family when they called at Bryn Sion. It was only when the little gypsy daughter commented on the different metal of the torque that both her mother and the farmer of Bryn Sion realised its significance. Legend has it that a scuffle between the two broke out over its ownership! The torque, of pure gold which weighed 24 ounces and was over four feet in length was purchased at the time by the Marquis of Westminster for three hundred guineas.

There are several other examples of riches found; a gold cross on the summit of Carnedd y Ddelw above the village of Aber on the A55; Roman coins found by a schoolboy during a school trip in the cave above Llanymynech on the A483 are just a few examples. I am sure that many more are unrecorded up and down the country.

The provocative question, what exactly is treasure I suppose can be best answered by the old saying "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder". Metal detectorists can get quite excited by the discovery of an old George V halfpenny even though you can pick one up for 50p in a car boot sale. Archaeologists find great value upon discovering a small shard of pottery or an old post hole.

When something of monetary value is found the legal definition of Treasure Trove is used to determine the ownership; and this, in its most simplistic form rests on whether the hoard was hidden with the intention of being retrieved or simply lost.

Despite chasing several rainbows over the years the greatest treasure I own is a woolly rhinoceros tooth complete with roots and enamel which I found in a cave many years ago; it has no monetary value but is a nice artefact to show visiting friends.

HANNAH BLYTHYN MS



It was a proud moment for me in May as the Social Partnership & Public Procurement Act became law, a piece of ground-breaking legislation brought forward by me in my role as Deputy Minister for Social Partnership – the first piece



of Welsh law given royal assent by King Charles III. My values as your Member of the Senedd have been shaped by the trade union movement and it's been an absolute

privilege to have led on this landmark legislation which will give workers more of a say in shaping public services, workplaces and Wales. Social partnership – bringing together government with trade unions and employers – has become a Welsh way of working over the course of devolution and will help to make Wales a stronger and fairer place to live and work.



It was also a real honour to attend the Remembering National Service event in May at the National Memorial Arboretum on behalf of the Welsh Government and, of course, in memory of the many Welshmen who did national service. The moving event, organised by the Royal British Legion, marked the 60th anniversary of the end of national service and remembered all those who were conscripted from 1947 to 1963. I know this is something that many people have personal connections to and family recollections of, myself included. My own grandad Norman Wood served in Lagos, Nigeria, shortly after World War II and I grew up looking through photos of his time doing his national service, accompanied by lovely notes to my nana who he was then 'courting'! It was a privilege to be part of the service alongside many veterans, their families and the armed forces community.

On a related note, a new scheme has been launched in Wales to enable GPs to register to become 'veteran-friendly' and I urge Flintshire GP practices to sign up to provide specialist care for current and former military personnel. Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) has created the new programme to enable GP practices to sign up voluntarily to undertake specialist training on veterans' health and wellbeing and promote fair treatment and respect for people who have served with the armed forces and their families. Practices will need to stay up to date with the latest training and guidance on veterans' health, so they can support their patients' health most effectively.



Recently I joined the First Minister Mark Drakeford to welcome metro mayors from across the border to our corner of north Wales as well as the Irish Consul General Denise McQuade. The visit, which included Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham, the Mayor of the Liverpool City Region Steve Rotherham and local authority leaders, is part of a cross-border drive to work together closely with our neighbours in England – where residents of Flintshire have many historic links – as well as cultivating our shared history with Ireland.

The visit took in the advanced manufacturing facility at AMRC Cymru in Broughton and toured the Port of Mostyn to understand more about potential opportunities at the site and along the north

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Wales coast. North Wales has a long and proud history with Ireland and the north west of England with strong economic and cultural links and these visits help to cement our shared vision for the future of these areas.

I also had the chance to visit local business Retrospect Energy in Greenfield, which helps to retrofit homes to help both future-proof them in terms of energy usage but to also help people save on their bills, something which Welsh Government has worked hard to lay the groundwork for through its Optimised Retrofit Programme and various funding interventions over the years. I know that the current financial climate and rising energy costs are pushing more people into fuel poverty and making it harder and harder to stretch household budgets to heat homes and safeguard health. Retrospect Energy offers residents help to access energy efficiency funding through government schemes as well as managing, designing and delivering energy efficiency projects like retrofitting homes with better insulation – making energy more affordable while also lessening the impact on the climate.

Back in the Senedd, the Welsh Government recently announced its Retail Action Plan, which provides a framework for policies to help our retail sector in social partnership with workers, unions and employers as well as local government. The retail sector is one of the largest private sector employers in Wales, providing jobs to 139,000 people and with a reach into communities across Wales. It is a diverse sector that is instrumental in providing employment opportunities and services which are critical to the vitality of Wales' town centres and rural communities. The plan sets out common ground where the sector can come together to improve its prospects, as well as the prospects of those who work within it, and the Welsh Government chose Mold town centre for its launch video – to see the video, check out my post on www.facebook.com/HannahBlythynForDelyn.

Is there someone in your community who goes above and beyond to help out? I'm always on the lookout for new Community Champions who deserve to be recognised for the work they do in our communities, so if you can think of anyone suitable you can nominate them on my website at www.hannahblythyn.cymru.

As always, if you would like advice and/or support, please don't hesitate to get in touch on any of the following contact details – 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/HannahBlythynForDelyn Constituents are, of course, welcome to contact my office to arrange an appointment to see me, you don't need to wait until an advice surgery.



(Richard Dolphin)

The Hall continues to be the hive of activity for 15 regular group users on either a weekly or monthly basis. Further to this are the Hall's fundraising events, and Monthly Coffee Mornings. With such a busy schedule, particularly during school term times, it is important the Hall is properly maintained. This responsibility falls initially upon the individual group users, ensuring the Hall is 'left as found' and therefore can be enjoyed by all. Secondly, the Hall Trustees need to ensure a maintenance and modernisation programme is in place, making the beloved community meeting place a focal point of Carmel and the 5 Villages.

In February 2023, Litegreen undertook an Energy Efficiency Assessment at the Hall. As recommended within the report, the Hall are exploring cavity wall insulation (approx. £2,000) and solid wall insulation (approx. £15,000) as a priority. Looking ahead, further discussions will be required as to the feasibility and viability of solar panels. As a small volunteer-led Charity Incorporated Organisation, grant funding will be applied for to support the above projects.

Monday's		
10am – 12:30pm	Papercraft Group	Weekly
6:15 – 7:45pm	Cubs	Weekly – Term Time
Tuesdays		
1:30 – 4pm	Craft Group	Weekly
7:30 – 9pm	Scouts	Weekly – Term Time
Wednesdays		
10am – 12pm	Laughter Tots	Weekly – Term Time
2 – 4pm	FCC Meeting	1 st & 2 nd Wednesday
4:45 – 5:45pm	Rainbows	Weekly – Term Time
6 – 7:15pm	Girl Guides	Weekly – Term Time
7:30 – 8:30pm	Yoga with Julie	Weekly
Thursday		
1 – 4pm	Gardening Club	1 st Thursday
10am – 12pm	Coffee Morning	2 nd Thursday
1 – 3pm	Yoga with Julie	2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th Thursday
6:30 – 7:30pm	Beavers	Weekly – Term Time
7 – 9:30pm	Carmel WI	2 nd Thursday
Friday		
2 – 4pm	Tai Chi & Qi Gong	Weekly
5 – 7:30pm	Irish Dancing	Weekly
Sunday		
5:30 – 7:30pm	Carmel Christian Church	Weekly

For regular updates about the 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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HOLYWELL TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB (Steve Roberts, Secretary)



The Wellmen were looking forward to the start of another season in the JD Cymru League North, and the opening fixture was Holyhead Hotspur at home. With tough league games against Llandudno and Colwyn Bay who many were tipping as league favourites scheduled after this game, it was important to try kick off the season with a victory. Unfortunately, despite creating many chances, the game ended 0-0 and Town kicked off the season with a point on the board. A few days later, the Wellmen travelled to Llandudno and suffered a disappointing 3-0 defeat.

The following weekend, the Wellmen made the long journey to Caersws in the Nathaniel MG Cup and progressed into the next round after a 6-1 victory. The following Friday, the Wellmen put in their worse performance of the season, getting beaten 6-1 at home to Colwyn Bay. It was an awful game and one which hurt everyone connected to the club, but it also marked the turning point of the season for the Wellmen, with only a handful of games played.

The Wellmen welcomed Conwy Borough to the Achieve More Training stadium and picked up their first league victory of the season courtesy of a 3-1 victory, before progress was made in the NEWFA Challenge cup by beating Rhydymwyn 2-1. Next the Wellmen

travelled to The Rock to face Cefn Druids and picked up another 3 points courtesy of a 3-0 victory, with Dave Forbes grabbing two goals, then the August Bank Holiday derby against Buckley Town saw the Wellmen victors by 2 goals to 1. As we entered September, the Wellmen made the long journey to face Guilsfield, which is always a tough place to get a victory, but the Wellmen picked up their 5th successive victory with a 2-1 win. Guilsfield had taken a 62nd minute lead, but Myles Hart equalised soon after then Luke Wiltshire grabbed an injury time winner, much to the delight of the supporters who had made the midweek trip to Mid Wales.

The Wellmen's reward for beating Caersws in the previous round of the Nathaniel MG Cup was a trip to Welsh Premier League side Connah's Quay Nomads, there was no cup upset as the Wellmen were narrowly beaten 1-0. Town resumed their winning ways in the League the following weekend with a 2-1 victory at Gresford Athletic, then a 3-0 victory over local rivals Mold Alex in the NEWFA Challenge saw the Wellmen progress into the next round. A 2-0 victory over Penrhyncoch saw the Wellmen continue to climb up the table then an emphatic 5-0 victory away at Llanuwchllyn saw the Wellmen progress into the next round of the Welsh Cup. Llanidloes Town visit the Achieve More Training Stadium and were beaten 2-1 before Town beat Porthmadog 3-2 at Y Traeth, two goals behind at the break and the Wellmen turned it around and a last-minute goal by Ollie Buckley saw the three points return home to Flintshire after a brilliant second half performance. A 2-0 victory over Mold Alex was next then the following week saw the Wellmen travel to Chirk AAA for a Sunday afternoon kick off and returned with the points after a 2-0 victory.

The following Saturday saw the team travel to Southwest Wales to play Hakin

United, a side from Milford Haven in the Welsh Cup. Cheered on by a great number of supporters who had made the long trip, The Wellmen put in a great performance and booked their place in the next round with a 5-1 victory. Next up saw the Wellmen play the double header against Ruthin Town and two victories (4-1 and 2-0) saw the Wellmen handily placed in the upper reaches of the League at the halfway stage of the season.

The first match of 2023 saw Porthmadog visit Holywell and the Wellmen made it their 13th successive League victory after a great 4-0 win. The Wellmen progressed into the Quarter Final of the Welsh Cup courtesy of a hard fought 2-1 victory over Guilsfield and were rewarded with a tough away game at Welsh Premier League side Penybont. But before the Welsh Cup Quarter Final tie, Town had two tough League games but picked up successive wins number 14 and 15 against Llanidloes Town and Gresford Athletic respectively.

The big Welsh Quarter Final match was soon upon the side, and S4C's Sgorio programme decided to show the game live on TV, which meant the game was to be played on Sunday Lunchtime. Despite the early start for supporters, an excellent following turned up at Penybont to cheer the lads on. Town took an early lead through a great goal by Danny Andrews, but late in the game the home side pulled one back, and with the game heading for penalties, it was heartache for Town after a 98th minute penalty saw them knocked out at the Quarter Final stage of the competition, but the Wellmen had picked up a lot of fans along the way in their brilliant cup run.

February saw the Wellmen play 5 League matches against Mold Alex, Guilsfield, Buckley Town, Prestatyn Town and Cefn Druids, which they won them all, scoring thirteen goals and not conceding a single goal. The Wellmen were now in second place and had leaders Colwyn Bay

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in their sights, who they were due to play at the end of March. The Wellmen first had to travel to Conwy Borough and on a cold Friday night, returned home with the points after a 4-1 victory, then made the long journey to Penrhyncoch and picked up all three points with a 5-0 victory which saw the Wellmen extend their unbeaten league run to 22 matches.

Confidence was high going into the match against Colwyn Bay, who themselves were on a 25-match unbeaten run and hadn't lost a game all season. Over 1300 supporters made their way to Colwyn Bay's stadium for the game and the home side took the lead before Jake Cooke equalised late in the first half. The second half was only a couple of minutes old when Morgan Murray put us ahead, then shortly afterwards Dave Forbes fired the Wellmen further ahead and the game ended 3-1 to the Wellmen to extend our successive winning run and inflicted the Bay with their first League Defeat of the season. After that victory, just 6 points separated the Wellmen with Colwyn Bay, but the Wellmen had one game in hand on the league leaders and it was all to play for going into the last few games of the season. Could they do it?

The Wellmen faced Chirk AAA the following week and kept the pressure on the leaders with a 2-0 victory, then a great victory at Prestatyn after being a goal behind at the break. The victory at Prestatyn Town was the Wellmen's 25th Successive League victory and the Wellmen knew that victory on Good Friday against Llandudno would see them pass Colwyn Bay with the number of successive victories. Unfortunately, in front of a good crowd, the Wellmen were unable to find the victory and narrowly lost 2-1 to Llandudno. The defeat saw Town's title hopes disappear, but the season wasn't over and Town still had one League game left and the NEWFA Challenge Cup semi-final against Llay Welfare.

Town's last league game saw the side travel to Holyhead Hotspur and buoyed with a large number of travelling supporters behind them, rounded off the season with an emphatic 6-0 victory, helped with a Dave Forbes hat trick. Town finished the season in 2nd place behind Colwyn Bay, but the record books show that the number of points the Wellmen had picked up would have seen them win the league for the past 16 years.

The Wellmen booked their place in the final of the NEWFA Challenge Cup final thanks to a 6-2 victory over Llay Welfare, and a tough final waited the Wellmen against Gresford Athletic. The Wellmen had to wait a month before the final, but it was worth the wait as John Haseldin's side rounded off the season crowned NEWFA Challenge Cup winners thanks to a 3-1 victory. Town had to do it the hard way after being a goal behind but Kai Edwards and a brace by Tom Bibby saw the Wellmen pick



up the trophy to cap a remarkable season.

The Wellmen finished the season on 79 points, 4 points behind the league champions, won the NEWFA Challenge Cup, reached the quarter final of the Welsh Cup and individual awards went to Dave Forbes for being the League Joint Top scorer, and goalkeeper Keighan Jones picked up the most clean sheet awards. In the end of season award ceremony, Danny Sullivan, Jake Cooke and Danny Andrews were included in the JD Cymru League North team of the Season.

It was a great season and hopefully, next season will be just as successful.

NATURE COLUMN (Jan Miller)

I often go for a walk at dawn or dusk in Spring and summer, partly because I want to see if the Barn owls are nesting and hunting in my fields, and partly because I have insomnia. I walk slowly up the garden gradient, through the shading fruit trees there since the seventeenth century, the dew is springing heavy on the grass underneath. The bird song just before dusk in May is delightful. There are so many, so many different trills, piercing, echoing, rising, falling, sharp and liquid sounds that it is difficult for me to distinguish one from another species. There was definitely a Blackbird in there, the most liquid one

that starts off the evening serenade. Then Robin, Goldfinch and Great Tit. All the bird feeder congregation thanking me for their tea. The Pipistrelles are darting hither and thither like ghostly grey hankies, after mini insects invisible to me. I smell the scent of damp grass as I crush through the meadow. There is lots of common sorrel in this field, Rumex acetosella, which has a sharp lemony taste. I make soup with it, very nice, but one year I overdid it and we got a bit ill. Apparently it contains the same semi-toxic oxalic acid as Rhubarb; you can have too much of a nice thing! However, the caterpillar of our scarce butterfly the Small Copper can eat this alone. I have planted lots of larval foodplants in my garden and fields for moths as well as butterflies. Some nights in summer I put out a light trap for moths to record what I get. But not tonight, I want my eyes to adjust to the dark so I can sit on the bench at the top of the next field where the Barn owl nestbox is. I can hear the Tawny owls calling. I think they are nesting in that old dead Wych elm. But I am listening for the throat-clearing scratchy screech of the Barn owl. The male seems to wake up and use this to say to the wife 'Right then, I'll be off hunting now then' and suddenly and silently he appears and flies out of the nest hole, an unfolding white parachute, up and flapping away slowly. He swoops around the uncut field grass where the voles love to make their runs. I drink my glass of wine and wait quietly for half an hour, then I see those white wings on the way back. Slowly lolloping, silently swooping - does he have a vole or mouse in his beak? Yes! -but Oh no, but he has seen me there by the box and hides in a tree in the hedgerow. I quietly slip away and leave them in peace.

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SUMMER FUN AT AURA LIBRARIES! (Paula Jones)

The 2023 Summer Reading Challenge will launch on Saturday 8 July and celebrate play and participation, encouraging children to get involved in games and sports in any way that best suits them.



When you sign up to the Summer Reading Challenge at your local library a special collector folder will be given and your challenge begins, special incentives will be awarded at every visit to the library throughout the Summer, when you reach the challenge goal a certificate and medal of completion is presented.

Look out for a wide variety of events and activities taking place at Aura libraries throughout the Summer!

FIT FED AND READ

We are back out again this summer with our colleagues from Aura Sport Development for Fit Fed and Read sessions every Thursday during the holidays. Come along with the family for lots of free activities including the Summer Reading Challenge, storytime and crafts, sports and games for all ages plus all children will be able to have a sandwich, drink and a snack. There will be some extra special guests and the opportunity for each child to get books to take home. Come along and join the fun!

Find us every Thursday starting 27th July to 24th August at Maes Pennant Park, Mostyn CH8 9PE 11am-12.30pm. Holywell Fron Park, by skate park, CH8 7TQ 2.00-3.30pm.

SPORTING MEMORIES

Do you, or someone you know, love talking about or sharing memories of sporting moments, the great events or the disasters! Join us at Holywell Library every Monday 2.30pm and Flint Library every Wednesday 10.30am for this free session meet new friends and share your sporting memories. Please contact Holywell Library 01352 703850 or Flint Library 01352 703737 for further information.

STORY AND RHYME TIME WITH AURA LIBRARIES

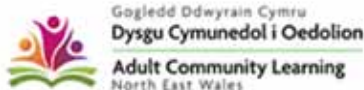
Join us at Aura libraries for story and rhyme time these sessions are free of charge and are a great way for you and your children to socialise with others. No need to book just turn up on the day!

- Buckley Library Tuesday and Friday 10.30am
- Broughton Library Wednesday 10.30am
- Connah's Quay Library

Thursday 10.30am

- Deeside Library Wednesday 10.30am
- Flint Library Wednesday and Friday 10.30am
- Holywell Library Tuesday 10.00am
- Mold Library Tuesday 9.30am and 10.30am

ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING COURSES



Aura Leisure and Libraries are a lead provider in the North East Wales Adult Community Learning Partnership. We offer a variety of free courses to develop employability and learn new skills. We offer a wide range of both accredited and non-accredited provision across the county in our community buildings, outdoor spaces and online. Fully funded by the Adult Community Learning grant, courses are available to anyone aged 19 or older who would like to learn a new skill, gain a qualification or improve their physical and mental wellbeing.

Working with our partners we are able to provide pathways and support to enable people to gain employment.

Our partners include

- Groundwork North Wales
- Deeside Community Trust
- Theatr Clwyd
- Eleni Dance
- The Denbigh Workshop
- The Little Learning Company
- Communities for Work
- DWP and Job Centre Plus
- Coleg Cambria

For further information and to find out what is available <https://www.facebook.com/northeastwalesacl> email ACL@aura.wales or contact your local library.

JOIN THE LIBRARY FOR FREE ONLINE!

If you are not already a library member but would like to become one, you can join online via the Aura Wales website

for free instant access to hundreds of library resources such as eMAGAZINES, COMICS & NEWSPAPERS Aura Library members can download eBooks and eAudiobooks free of charge. Download to a PC, Laptop or Mac and transfer them to an eReader or download the app directly to a smartphone or tablet.

Alternatively, you can download the apps directly to a smartphone or tablet. All links and further details about our digital library resources can be found on our website: www.aura.wales/libraries

- RBDigital-Magazines - Access full colour, digital copies of your favourite magazines for your enjoyment for free

- RBDigital - Comics - Download or stream your favourite comics and graphic novels including Marvel and Disney titles for free

- PressReader - Pressreader delivers an endless stream of top news stories to read, discuss and share. Get full issues of thousands of top newspapers, magazines and comics just as they appear in print for free.

DIRECT TO YOUR DOOR – AURA HOME LIBRARY SERVICE

We feel passionately that everyone should be able to access and enjoy library services, whether it is in person or from the comfort of their own home. We would like to remind our library users, and the community, that our Home Delivery service is here to help you enjoy library resources without having to leave your house.

We offer a direct library delivery service that can bring library resources straight to the doors of residents across Flintshire who are unable to access their local library. We can put together a collection of books based upon your personal preferences and favourite genres. We will then pop your order into a bag ready to be delivered, free of charge.

If you would like any further information about joining our Home Library service, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us, either by phoning 01352 704400, emailing libraries@aura.wales or sending us a message on Facebook or Twitter; we would love to hear from you.



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Mobile: 07774 885475

FREE courses for people aged 19 and over

Aura Leisure and Libraries Timetable May-Jun 23

Course	Venue	Start Date	Time	Contact
Tai Chi	Deeside Leisure Centre, CH5 1SA	17 May 2023- 6 weeks	2-3pm	Vickie.Evans@aura.wales
Safeguarding Level 2	Online via Zoom	30 May 2023	9am-12pm	ACL@aura.wales
Mindfulness – Introduction to Advanced techniques	Online via Zoom	8 Jun 2023- 6 weeks	10-11am	Stephanie.Fearnley@aura.wales
Mindfulness –	Deeside Library, CH5 1SA	6 Jun 2023- 6 weeks	11am-12.30pm	Stephanie.Fearnley@aura.wales
Introduction to Holistic & Cosmetic Practices	Afon Spa, Deeside Leisure Centre, CH5 1SA	8 Jun 2023	11am-3pm	ACL@aura.wales
Grandparent and Toddler Multisport	Jade Jones Pavilion, CH6 5ER	8 Jun 2023- 6 weeks	1.30-2.30pm	01352 704301
Parent and Toddler Football	Deeside Leisure Centre Holywell Leisure Centre Jade Jones Pavilion	10/19 Jun 2023- 6 weeks 10 Jun 2023 10 Jun 2023	9-10am or 4-5pm 9-10am 9-10am	aurafootball@aura.wales
Adult Ice Skating for beginners	Deeside Leisure Centre, CH5 1SA	8 Jun 2023- 12 weeks	10.30am-12.30pm	01352 704200
Parent and Toddler Ice Skating	Deeside Leisure Centre, CH5 1SA	7 Jun 2023- 13 weeks	4.30-5.30pm	01352 704200
Manual Handling Level 2	Flint Library, CH6 5AP	7 Jun 2023	9.30am-1.30pm	ACL@aura.wales
Mental Health First Aid	Mold Library, CH7 1AP	2 Jun 2023	9.30am-3.30pm	ACL@aura.wales
Emergency First Aid for work Level 3	Flint Library, CH6 5AP	20 Jun 2023	9.30am-3.30pm	ACL@aura.wales
Food Safety Level 2	Connah's Quay Library, CH5 4HA	30 Jun 2023	9.30am-2.30pm	ACL@aura.wales

amserlen
2023 - 24
timetable

Am fwy o wybodaeth
For more information:

07584 335 409
e: acl@wrexham.gov.uk

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Hello Five Villages! I thought I would tell you all a little about us here at Celtic Law in this edition.

We feel it's important for you to get to know us, and for us to get to know you and your family so that we develop our working relationship. This is what we love most about our job, and why we have such a loyal and friendly client base.

The firm was set up in 2017 by me, Emily. I never envisaged setting up a business. Managing my own firm means I can be a little more creative in how we deliver our legal services – I am keen to be less 'solicitor-like'. Our values are to be approachable, transparent, ethical and accessible.

The team consists of Frankie and I (and Roxie – the office pug!) We work closely for our clients and we are lucky that we get on as friends as well as work colleagues. This makes for a nice working environment, but also a jolly place for you to come! We promise that making a Will won't be morbid for you.

Emily has been in the profession for 16 years and Frankie is studying towards her law degree. We enjoy what we do, we specialise in what we love – Wills, trusts, Power of Attorney and bereavement services. Our costs are mostly fixed and transparent and we offer packages to ensure your wealth is protected fully for you and for your family.

To see what our client say about their experience with us – have a look at our 'Review Solicitors' page online or on our website. You can meet us both in our Mold office, and our new Conwy office! Please feel free to get in touch for a no obligation initial meeting. Enjoy your summer – from Emily and Frankie.

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COUNCILLOR CHRIS DOLPHIN

Hello everyone, Sut mae pethau:
UPDATES:

Black Bin collections – at the last-minute Flintshire decided to postpone/delay the roll out of a fortnightly black bin collection, whilst another Review/Survey took place. The Survey/Review will enable residents themselves to improve recycling figures! The Five Villages is not an area of concern for poor performance, this rests with more urban areas including Holywell.

Community Councillor Richard Dolphin and I applied and wrote an Active Travel application on behalf of the Community Council last year. This was mainly for footway completion on Babell Road and other new paths with associated street furniture. The County Council have indicated a very positive result and we are now awaiting the outcome; our area in Flintshire is the only application to be at the final stage. This is a huge achievement for a rural application, and a massive thank you to Richard is required, as his technical skills have been invaluable and commented upon by Transport for Wales (TfW) who are deciding upon issues. Do you remember, the Active Travel mapping online? And the Public events online culminating in a public engagement event at Carmel Village Hall, all in 2021. Many residents responded, and that was the start...of something big. This will be a massive award for the Five Villages area.

During May, a major diversion from the A55 took all night traffic onto the A5026 – Lloc, Carmel, and Holywell southern areas. This seems to have become an annual spring/summer diversion whilst the A55 is bought back to standard by Welsh Government. Apart from the real noise nuisance, it is unbelievable that the County Council does not receive any compensation for the immense damage to our local roads during these periods. I have called for this matter to be raised with the Minister.

20 mph speed limits will come into effect in all of Wales during September by law. You may have heard about the furore in the Buckley area, which has been one area trialling the speed limit. So, at present any road which is now 30mph will automatically default to 20mph. Brilliant for estate roads, areas near schools etc. However, some respite, an Exceptions Criteria is available to be used by the County Council and I have forwarded areas of exception, which are few. Areas under consideration and which will need to align with the Exception Criteria are parts of the main route A5026, and main route Dyserth Road, Lloc. A new request for the top of Mertyn Lane, Carmel where the housing is to default to 20mph has also been forwarded. This is an area which should have been 30mph sometime ago. The local authority will publish its findings at the appropriate time...which must be soon. If you wish to view guidance by WG which will allow Councils to have exceptions go to <https://www.gov.wales/>

[setting-exceptions-20mph-default-speed-limit-restricted-roads.html](#)

For the first time in years, I have been a regular visitor with grandchildren to not just Carmel and Whitford play areas but also Greenfield, Holywell, Brynford and Caerwys. They are all good play areas, swings, roundabouts, good play surfaces, and tidy too. Many years ago, two County Councillors (I was one of them, the other is an Assembly member now) led on lobbying the County Council to proceed with match funding with Town and Community councils for upgrading of play areas. Carmel Play area was abused and in a poor state. The match funding schemes have been a real success in many areas and needs to carry on. When match funding is available, always try to take part.

DID YOU KNOW?

County Council - During the period April 2022 - April 2023, 99 employees took maternity leave. As of March 2023, 23.45% of the Council workforce is aged 35-44. 704 employees left during 2022/23, 50% left voluntarily. The largest area of employees leaving was within schools (179 employees). The second largest is within Social Services (88 employees).

Attendance figures for 2022/23 show days lost as 11.78% which is only slightly down on the previous year. The actual target figure is 8%, so a long way short. 24% of all absences across the council are related to mental health, 16.04% musculoskeletal, 13.88% are Covid related

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SPRING IN THE FIVE VILLAGES (Robert Moore)

<i>Weather in the Five Villages Spring 2023 (2022 figures in brackets)</i>				
	Temperatures ° C			Total rainfall mm
	Average	Maximum	Minimum	
March	6.9 (8.8)	15.7 (19.5)	-1.5 (-3.0)	158.0 (29.7)
April	10.8 (11.4)	18.0 (22.0)	1.1 (-0.9)	167.0 (26.7)
May	15.3 (14.9)	24.0 (21.6)	5.2 (5.3)	6.1 (22.1)

Spring average 2001 - 2020 and average 2023		
	Average 2001 - 2020	2023
Air Temperature 1800 UTC	10.4	10.9
Maximum Temperature	20.3	19.2
Minimum Temperature	0.7	1.6
Days air frost	2	2
Days ground frost	9	5

It has been a very wet Spring compared with last year; even given a very dry May, we had four times 2022's rainfall. England and Wales had the heaviest March rainfall for 40 years. According to the Met Office our corner of north Wales had 175 percent of the 1991 - 2020 average rainfall. At the weather station even with our very dry May our Spring rainfall was 50 percent above our 2001 - 2020 average. But it has not rained enough to restore reservoirs and aquifers throughout the UK, though Welsh reservoirs are reported to be at a healthy level. To restore water levels throughout the UK we still need more rain.

Looking back to March, we had snow on the ground from the 8th to the 12th, it was 220 mm thick at the weather station. When the snow thawed it was surprising to see the damage it had done in the garden, spredeagling previously compact shrubs, bending and breaking large shrubs – our Yucca that had five heads now only has one! I believe similar damage was reported throughout the five villages.

Temperatures rose through March, levelled off in April and continued to rise in May. In the second half of May we experienced 10 days in which the temperatures rose to the low 20s, with blue skies and very little cloud. By the end of May the ground temperature had risen above 13 degrees C, with a maximum of 13.8 degrees on the 28th.

Readers who use the weather station website will have noticed that it has ceased to operate. A small but important component in the system used at the weather station was corrupted. After numerous conversations with the manufacturer in California It became clear that it could not be replaced because the system has changed. At the time of writing, I am installing a fully digital system, but I am not sure if it will support the current website. Just to make matters worse the minimum thermometer went unserviceable too. The minimum temperatures reported above should be regarded as good approximations because the station switched temporarily to a digital minimum thermometer. The good news is that the satellite system has been upgraded.

On the 12th April we had a rather unusual weather situation, with two depressions, one centred over Scotland and the other over central England. On the 11th and 12th we had very thick cloud with some short spells of heavy rain. In the satellite image opposite you can just see East Anglia and southeast England poking out from under the cloud and a small strip of the Scottish borders between the two storms, but X marks the spot for the five villages.

Weather forecasters on radio and television report good weather ahead when they expect sunshine and high temperatures, but much as we enjoy this weather, we should not forget the need for rain.

If you would like weather information for any particular day or a longer period, please contact me at rsmoore@liv.ac.uk (email only).

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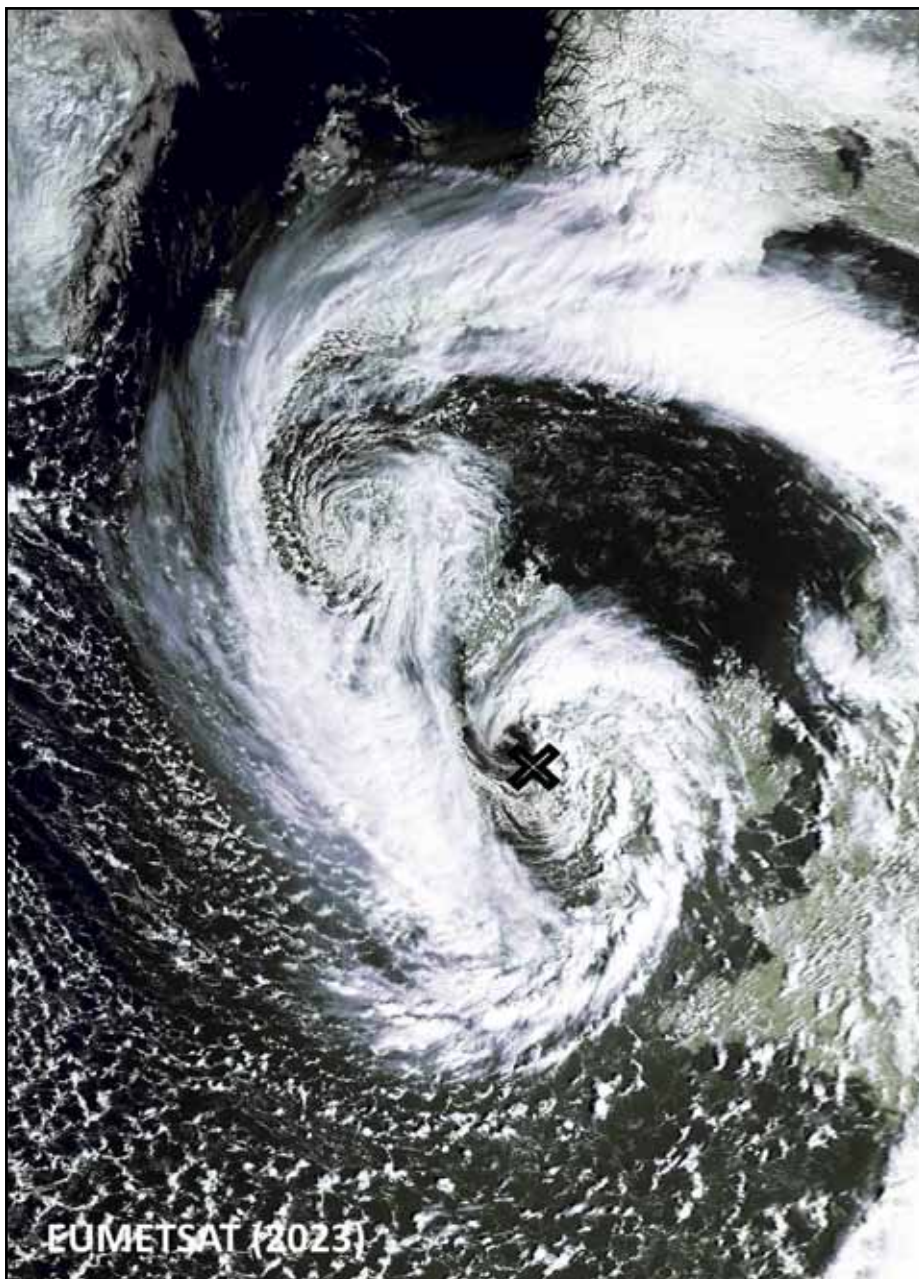
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ST WINEFRIDES SCHOOL

Eisteddfod:

St Winefride's successfully held their School Eisteddfod where each class performed either a song, dance or a poem. Everyone was amazing!

All classes completed some Welsh Art. The Criw Cymraeg judged the top three from each class and presented the winners with their prizes.

Here are some of our Art winners.



Glan Llyn:

Blwyddyn 5 recently went on a school trip to Glan Llyn. Glan Llyn is an outdoor education centre where children and staff are encouraged to speak lots of Welsh. The children all thoroughly enjoyed the trip, the challenges they faced and had fantastic behaviour. Our children took part in activities such as archery, climbing, swimming, a bird show, a disco, raft building, problem solving games and ten pin bowling. Staff also enjoyed the trip and commented on how the children were a



credit to the school and their parents. A huge thank you to the staff who gave up their own time to accompany the children on this trip and who gave the children a wonderful and unforgettable experience.

School Mosaic:



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Email: matthewstreeandgarden@gmail.com

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All cuttings and material can be removed and any suitable timber can be processed into logs if required.

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.



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St Winefride's have recently worked with Mr David Bowers from Mosaic Madness to produce a beautiful mosaic piece that is now outside our school. All children and staff participated in creating our mosaic. We ensured we had Welsh elements and Catholic elements and all the things that make our school wonderful!

Helo, we are the Criw Cymraeg in St Winefride's Catholic Primary School.



In our school we are working hard to promote the Welsh Culture and Welsh language. We are trying really hard to promote and increase the Welsh spoken by children and staff, provide a range of enriching activities that help children to enjoy learning Welsh and to make sure everyone understands the importance and privilege to learn and live in Wales.

We have recently celebrated Dydd Gwyl Dewi (St David's Day), celebrated Wythnos Cymraeg (Welsh Week), had a visit from Llion Williams to teach us about the history of the Welsh Language, held our

School Eisteddfod and we also celebrated Cwpan Y Byd (The World Cup.)

We work really hard with our teacher Miss Rainford to participate in 'Cymraeg Campus' where we are very close to reaching our Bronze Award. We want to ensure Welsh is prominent in our school. We want everyone to feel proud to be Welsh and to keep the Welsh language alive.

We have recently been looking at achieving our targets linked to Welsh reading, playing some Welsh PE games, emailing other schools in Welsh, ensuring Welsh was in our Reception area and we also ensuring Welsh was on our new school mosaic outside the school and we have also been learning the benefits of speaking Welsh.

CYMDEITHAS THOMAS PENNANT SOCIETY

These are difficult times for the Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant Society as we are without the services of our general secretary Paul Brighton. Paul is unwell and although being closely monitored by specialists at Betsi Cadwaladr and elsewhere, he will need some time to recover. We wish him well and a rapid journey back to good health.

Despite the problems, the Cymdeithas enjoyed a highly successful event with the visit of the well-known naturalist and

tv personality Iolo Williams. Thanks to Dr Gornwy Wynne for coordinating this.

The book launch by our president Dr Eiddwen Jones of her book 'Recall', a historical novel about Thomas Pennant, was another successful and popular event.

In the meantime, the Cymdeithas has had to make some adjustments to its programme. Christmas Dinner is pencilled for 'On the Corner' as last year with Alun Evans (Treasurer) organising it.

The Meirion Griffiths Memorial School Environmental competition will be held on 21st June at the Eglwys Gymdeithasol Bro Treffynnon (formerly known as Penbryn Chapel) at 7pm

The Coffee Evening at Carmel Cricket Club on September 2nd has, unfortunately, had to be cancelled.

The annual Pennant lecture in September is unaffected and will take place as advertised.

Further events are as follows: August 25th at 2 pm, Jan Miller on 'Wild Garden'.

Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant Society AGM on 17th November.

The talk by Dr Edwin Rose on Pennant and the Globe will take place at Holywell Library on September 28th at 7pm.



Holywell Leisure Centre
Canolfan Hamdden Treffynnon

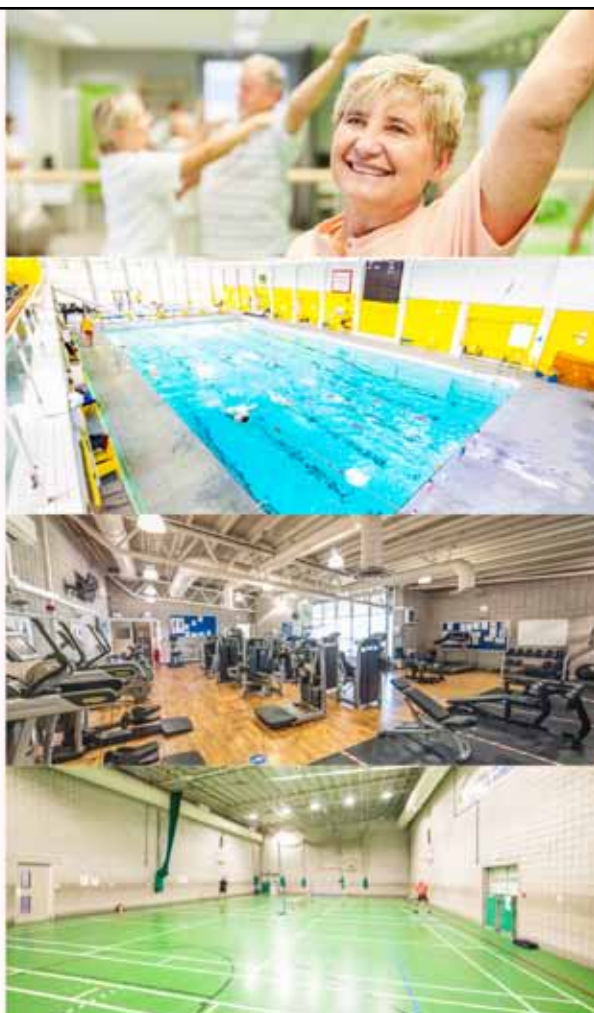
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(Sian Croston, Business Manager/Rheolwr busnes)

Our school is one that cares about each individual. We understand the impact that physical and emotional wellbeing has on our students' ability to learn effectively and to achieve their full potential as ethically informed citizens of their local and wider communities.

This academic year has been super busy and we have celebrated numerous successes.

YOUTH SPEAKS FINALISTS 2023!

Ysgol Treffynnon celebrated a double success as both our senior and intermediate debate teams won the regional rounds of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition, giving them a place in the UK finals in Rugby. It was a brilliant outcome for our students who worked so hard organising, collating and perfecting their presentations. This was the first year that the competition, organised by Rotary International of Great Britain and Ireland (RIGBI), had run since the pandemic. The four-stage debate competition is designed to support and encourage the development of effective communication skills. On the intermediate team consisting of year 8's - their presentation was "should school uniform be compulsory?". This was a topic which the students felt passionate about and had researched thoroughly resulting in a confident performance in the competition.

Year 11 students made up the senior team and their presentation was titled, "Is data sharing a threat to our privacy?". They each had their own unique perspective on the subject, and a great understanding of both the social and personal implications of data sharing in today's world. The teams did so well to get to the national finals knocking out teams from Kings School and Middleton College in the regional rounds, representing

the whole of the North West and North Wales. We are so incredibly proud of our students – what an amazing achievement!

TALENTED STUDENTS GAIN AWARD FOR PARTICIPATION IN UNIVERSITY STYLE PROJECT

A group of talented students gained an award and an insight into university learning after participating in an online tutoring programme with a PhD student.

Nine Ysgol Treffynnon more able and talented (MAT) students from year 9, who are amongst those with the top expected grades in their year group, each achieved a Seren Foundation Award for taking part in the initiative which runs in conjunction with The Brilliant Club, an organisation that aims to support students to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to progress to the most competitive universities.

The students attended three one-hour online lecture style tutorials delivered by Hamza Ali, a PhD student from Nottingham University, examining the subject of photochemistry for a sustainable future. Each tutorial concluded with questions and answers, discussions, and work for students to complete in between sessions.

On completion of the tutorials, students were asked to write a university-style essay answering the question, "Photochemistry: to what extent can light-driven chemical reactions allow us to achieve a sustainable future?"

Students were given two weeks to complete their essays, and Hamza was available for them to contact via The Brilliant Club's platform to answer any queries prior to submission.

Hamza marked the essays, providing valuable feedback, and awarded three students with a 1st and the remaining students with a 2:1.

As well as gaining knowledge about photochemistry and its impact on sustainability, the opportunity gave students a deeper understanding about what it is like to study at university, as well as key study skills such as researching, writing

assignments, and referencing.

Mr Hobbs said: "Opportunities like those offered by The Brilliant Club are a fantastic way of broadening our students' horizons. Our students gained a fantastic insight into the academic side of university, and coped really well with what was a challenging scientific question. To achieve so highly on their essays is testament to their determination, willingness to learn and their engagement with the sessions."

The project formed part of the school's SEREN programme, aimed at developing MAT students.

Seren is a collaborative initiative between the Welsh Government, schools, colleges, leading universities, Seren Graduates, local authorities and third sector organisations to provide extensive national and regional study and enrichment activities for year 8 to 13 learners from state schools and further education colleges across Wales. The aim is to support students to broaden their horizons, develop a passion for their chosen field of study, and achieve their goals.

The Seren Award is an online tutoring programme delivered to the most able learners across Wales. It is designed to help the transition into Key Stage 5 study and enable students to develop both university and subject specific knowledge, as well as academic skills, to support their university applications and prepare them for future university level study.



INDUSTRY IN ACTION!

A group of Year 9 pupils visited Airbus this term to experience industry in action.

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The pupils were given a guided tour around the A350 factory and watched a really interesting presentation which explained the workings of the business as well as future employment opportunities. A big thank you to Careers Wales for organising this event.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – STEM AT VENUE CYMRU

We celebrated International Women's Day at Venue Cymru with a group of Year 9 girls at a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) event. They programmed 'Microbits' and completed an RAF Engineering Challenge. We want to inspire more girls to study STEM subjects and continue to bring the new skills and inspiration they gain from events such as these back to the classroom!



FILM/TV/MUSIC INDUSTRY WORKSHOP

Students from years 7-10 took part in a workshop with Rhys Bebb, Education and Training Officer at Screen Alliance Wales. Rhys has worked with Bad Wolf studios on some of their most famous productions, including: A Discovery of Witches and His Dark Materials. Rhys shared inside tips on how different characters are designed and created on screen, using CGI etc. He also set the students off on activities that included pitching their own ideas for films and TV shows, as well as thinking about how they could design a time machine using materials from inside the room. He had many examples of how everyday objects were used or manipulated to help visualise or create a physical product in a film or TV show. He also explored with the students lots of examples of career paths they could follow, and how they could gain experience in the industry. The students found it very helpful, were incredibly engaged and were very excited by the inside scoops and revelations that Rhys had to offer!

PRIMARY TRANSITION TO YSGOL TREFFYNNON

Staff at Ysgol Treffynnon always enjoy the opportunity to welcome young visitors from our local primary schools and we have had a very busy term working alongside colleagues and pupils from many of our feeder schools.

As well as staff sharing their expertise and knowledge, these sessions provide the opportunity for the primary pupils to get to know the staff at Ysgol Treffynnon and become more familiar with the school which is so beneficial at the time of transition. We are looking forward to many more activities that are planned throughout the summer term including an exciting trip to Glan Llyn. Further details about transitioning to Ysgol Treffynnon can be found on the transition

pages of our website at <https://www.ysgoltreffynnon.cymru/parents/transition/>
COMMUNITY CORONATION EVENT



We love getting involved with the local community! Some of our students created a coronation afternoon tea in the Holway Community Centre. Entertainment was provided from the school choir, followed by bingo. It was a lovely event and great to see all ages having a great time together.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR LA/ COMMUNITY GOVERNORS WITH RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Ysgol Treffynnon are looking to recruit innovative and committed individuals who share our vision for high quality education to become governors at our school.

Do you have a genuine desire to help improve standards of education within our school in partnership with the Headteacher and Governing Body? We are looking for a Community or Local Authority governor who has knowledge and understanding of modern education issues as well as a knowledge and interest within the community of Holywell.

You would need to commit to regular attendance at full governing body meetings, as well as any meetings of any committees of the governing body to which you are elected. We are seeking new members of the governing body who have relevant

skills, knowledge and experience that match the challenges of our school.

The role of a governor would be to drive the school at a strategic level. You will bring an outside perspective to the running of the school, supporting and challenging by asking the what, why, how and when of our senior leadership team. Governors use their own professional skills and life experience to compliment school staff to ensure Ysgol Treffynnon continue to provide exceptional education for our local community and is able to be agile and responsive to our current and future needs.

You will be part of the largest volunteer group in the country and gain valuable skills that will have a positive impact on your personal and professional life and you will make a real difference to children, young people, their school and the local community.

The Governor Appointments Panel will consider on the basis of the contribution applicants can bring to a school in terms of their skills and experience.

If you fit the bill, please email S.Salisbury@YT.flintshire.sch.uk detailing your skills and experience and why you think you would be a good fit for our school.

TAKE A LOOK AT OUR NEW WEBSITE

Ysgol Treffynnon has a new and updated website. Take a look at www.ysgoltreffynnon.cymru

YSGOL TREFFYNNON – SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

We are lucky enough to have secured funding again to run the "FOOD and FUN" summer holiday programme. It is a FREE holiday club open to all year 6 children transitioning to Ysgol Treffynnon in September 2023. Breakfast and a hot lunch is provided alongside a packed programme of fun activities, including multi-sports, cooking and games. Further information can be found on the transition pages of our website – www.ysgoltreffynnon.cymru/transition or email us at foodandfun@yt.flintshire.sch.uk

AND FINALLY....

We wish all the luck in the world to our Year 11 leavers as they embark on their next journey whatever path they have chosen. We look forward to welcoming them back for GCSE results day on Thursday 24th August 2024!



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

Once again we have had lots going on in school over the last term, from participating in Earth Day and gaining our second Green Flag Award, to cheerleading competitions and launching our own rockets on the school field.



We were also thrilled to open our first Parent & Child session on Wednesday 26th April, and have been overwhelmed by the turnout each week. It is lovely to see the children interact socially and it gave parents the time to chat to others in similar situations.

If you know anyone who would benefit from this session, please ask them to contact the school office. This session is free and is open to parents, grandparents, toddlers, babies and expectant mothers. We intend on running the session for the remainder of this academic year and during the Autumn term. A huge thanks to one of our parents and some staff for preparing the session each week.

Two years on from gaining our first Green Flag Award, it was time to re-assess the work of our Eco-Committee. I was delighted to hear the good news that we were awarded the Green Flag for the second time. A HUGE thanks to our Eco-Committee, Mr Thomas and all of the school community for making this happen. Below is the message we received:

Many thanks for the time given by you and the Eco-Committee during the recent virtual visit. I was very pleased to see your school's continuing enthusiasm for taking positive environmental action, as well as for the Eco-Schools programme as a whole. It was great to hear the children speak about their achievements through the presentation, it gave me a good picture of the range of actions that you are working on and the impact that you're having. I



was particularly pleased to hear how the whole school is involved and informed in many of your activities, such as the recent book and toy swap around Earth Day, as well as through assemblies and a fantastic newsletter. It was also good to hear about the regular monitoring that's taking place to check that the bins, computers and taps are used responsibly, and very importantly, that the Eco-Committee flag any issues with their classes in order to promote good habits.

The Green Flag award is a fantastic achievement. The school, staff and pupils should feel proud of their hard work and commitment. This is a great opportunity to celebrate success!

Class 1 teacher – Mrs Hughes



In Dosbarth 1 we have been making the most of the warmer weather and have spent lots of time outdoors.

On Monday 24th April we celebrated Earth Day by thinking about how we can be kinder to our planet and what we can encourage others to do in school and at home. We went on a mini beast hunt and used a tally chart to record what we saw and the items we found. We looked at some natural art by Welsh artists and collected natural resources to create our own masterpieces. We played lots of games and took part in races and created our own 1st, 2nd and 3rd rosettes with the chalks for the winners and practised writing our names.

Miss Wiggins (Class 2 teacher), The Extra Eight and The Disney Divas



On Sunday 21st May, we competed in

Cheerfest, run by Buckley Cheerleading Club. We entered two teams: The Extra Eight, comprising of eight Year 5 and 6 pupils, and The Disney Divas, made up of eight Year 1 and 2 pupils. The children have been practising since February, giving up their lunchtimes sometimes twice a week, and it definitely paid off. We won 3 trophies in total, being placed 1st, 3rd and winning the Spirit Award!

The children did a fantastic job, learning a sport they have never done before, perfecting jumps, learning chants and performing in front of a large audience! The Extra Eight in particular were commended for their "sassy facial expressions". Each child demonstrated fierce passion, dedication, commitment and fantastic teamwork.

I would like to thank parents and grandparents for giving up their Sunday to attend the competition – the children and staff appreciated it! Similarly, I would like to thank Mrs Graham for voluntarily supervising the children during the day and spreading her positivity, easing the children's nerves and adding to the spirit of the day. We definitely have some budding cheerleaders in our school!

Class 3 teacher – Miss Roberts



Class 3 were fortunate enough to take up a prize tour of Llaeth y Llan dairy in Llanefydd recently. They followed the process of making the yogurts and learnt about the most popular flavours before suggesting some new flavours for the company to try! Diolch Llaeth y Llan for such an informative visit, and for the fabulous goody bags we all received!

Class 3 had a lovely visit from Techno Camp. I'm sure you have caught sight of some pictures or videos but they had a BLAST! Not only were they inputting data into an online dashboard in order to launch digital rockets into space, but they even got to build and launch their own rockets on site. How cool is that?

Class 4 teacher – Mr Thomas

Key Stage Two pupils were fortunate enough to benefit from a building resilience day this term with Paul Griffiths from the



Awakening Programme.

We all experience mental health worries, anxiety and self-doubt throughout our lives. Now more than ever it's important to recognise this and take positive steps towards improving our confidence and wellbeing. Using nature, philosophy and neuroscience - the Awakening Programme uses inspiring talks, practical workshops and training sessions to provide pupils and staff with a well-deserved break and much needed morale boost.



Upper Key Stage Two pupils were also fortunate enough to benefit from some free introduction sessions on life saving skills and British Sign Language, thanks to New Directions supply agency.

The children thoroughly enjoyed both sessions and took away some valuable life skills. They were even able to sign a couple of songs by the end of the session including one of Mr Griffiths' favourites – you can watch the clip here: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/784957016486306>

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BUTCHER, BAKER AND A KOREAN WEDDING DRESS (Paulene Ellis)

Running a bed and breakfast in Carmel for over 20 years was a joy most of the time because of the wonderful people who visited us from all over the world.

One special memory was of a couple who lived abroad and came to have a blessing for their wedding as his family lived locally. The bride asked me if she could use an iron to press her wedding dress. As we only supplied small ironing boards and irons in the guest rooms, I offered her my huge ironing board and steam iron. She then produced the most beautiful and delicate Korean kimono style wedding outfit. I was so frantic that my iron might spoil it that I hovered around like a mother hen whilst she pressed her lovely gown. It was a real privilege to see her and her husband leave in their finery.

Clothes were often left behind in wardrobes or drawers, and sometimes in beds! Most of the time we were able to return items to their owners. Jackets hanging in wardrobes seem to be the most common garments left behind; one stayed in the hall for nearly a year waiting for its owner to return. On another occasion a lovely warm jacket was left by a walker. Even though we contacted them on several occasions they didn't seem to want it back. It was an expensive make, and I didn't want to just throw it away, so it stayed hanging in the hall. A young couple came and stayed and planning a walk up Snowdon. The weather was horrible, and young girl didn't really have a suitable jacket. So yes, I gave her the jacket to wear and it was a perfect fit! They came back having had a lovely day and she brought me flowers and chocolates as a thank you!

We were lucky enough to receive gifts from other guests over the years. It was always a surprise as they were paying us to stay!

However, the downside of running any business these days is of course social media and the dreaded reviews! It has become silly now with Amazon asking you to review a packet of nails or envelopes!

99.9% of our reviews were excellent. With comments like 'best breakfast ever' and 'comfortable, clean and welcoming'; all the things you want to hear. But in the early days of TripAdvisor we had a bad review. We found out afterwards that 'our visitors' weren't who they seemed. It was obviously a deliberately ploy by some competition! I wanted to close and never have guests again, but we carried on and in the end, it didn't really make any difference, people still came and stayed, and many returned. In fact, in our 20 years of business it was the only bad review we received, but of course it's the one we remember the most. To be continued.



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KERRS ASS (Norman Closs-Parry)

Three cheers for the "Pan Celtic Annual festival" say I...other than during the "pandemic", it was an Irish, Scot, Welsh, Manx and Cornish [Celtic] Song and Dance Festival held in the àn Geltacht [the Gaelic speaking regions of the Irish Republic! I was not a Welsh pioneer to it in Killarney - and it took a lot of persuasion by Arwel Roberts and his wife Awen to persuade Beti that she would not be shot by the IRA if she attended. Anyway, once bitten...there was no stopping us. Every year we would attend the Festival at Eastertide (Ireland is magnificent at Easter - special - colour, creed and smell of peat burning from the cottages). We have been to Killarney, Galway, Tralee, Carlow, Letterkenny and Donegal...that more or less covers the first decade of this Century. The crossing is exciting for a naturalist (sea birds!), the camaraderie is fantastic - Wales and the rest - and the locations are fairy tales and little people, and the 40 shades of green all rolled into one. Also, now and again Arwel Roberts has arranged first class trout fishing on Corrib, Mask or other locations - icing on the cake. "Holy Mary, mother of God, give this Welshman a fish - one gillie's prayer in a snowstorm!"

As a person besotted in literature and poetry in particular - there have been daily excursions to the popular home of great Irish people of letters. From the Dingle Peninsula for example we went to the Blasket Islands - the island of exceptional genius writer Tomos O'Croan, Tomos O'Sullivan and Peig Sayers in particular. I drank their primitive prose! Then there was Sligo - and W B Yeats - Drumcliffe now his resting place with the exceptional three-line poem on his grave in the shadow of Ben Bisiben.

Look right

Look left

Horseman pass by!

What does it mean - it gives me the creeps if it means what I think it means. Then there were the perambulations of Seamus Heaney from Derry in the North to Wexford in the South and books like "Haw and North" which explained really why he predicted that although a Nobel Laureate, he would never make "The British Poet Laureate - "my passport is green"

On the fly leaf of Patrick Kavanagh Collected Poems I have written

"O hyd y Ban Geltaidd

Donegal. Donegal

Pasg 2008

Gwelais ei fan geni yn Inniskeen ac euthym i weld ei fedd yn y Ganolfan Goffa yno"

All this means that in 2008 on the way home from Donegal I called at the birthplace in Inniskeen, Co Monaghan (bare and stark, hard and poor) - it was here that he spent his first 25 years, it was here he became a poet and a very special one - a "Roots and Soil" poet - I love to read his work - history, geography, natural history, social history can be found in one line - of seven syllables of his work! He left home to come back to be honoured in death and revered, he went to London and Dublin, he became acerbic, cantankerous and detestable by some who had given him a leg up to the popularity path - but there was always something there - spring - there is always something there for me! If you think I am fishing - get/read his autobiographical novels The Green Fool and Tarry Flynn - cut the stories in half, and you will still say I am a truthful interpreter of the great country prose and poetry writer.

In Letterkenny in 2001 I bought an anthology of his prose work - edited by his biographer, Antoinette Quinn, The Potes Country. I think the photographer who designed the cover of that work is a genius too - it is Kavanagh to a T...Kneeling on terrible soil - looking at its potential in disgust thinking - how the hell I'm going to get paties and turnips and cabbages out of this...Mam works wonders with making bubble and breeding pigs (Mucker) but !! I will get up and go now to Dublin fair city.

For my column - I have chosen one lyric by my top 10 country poet - Patrick Kavanagh (1904-1967) Son of Monaghan Soul Roots as well who wrote Kerr's Ass. I will keep the explanation to the minimum - and let the poet speak:

We borrowed the loan of Kerr's big ass

To go to Dundalk with butter,

Brought him home the evening before the market

An exile that night in Mucker [Mucker - an area of the country - pig area]

We heeled up the cart before the door,

We took the harness inside - [Just in case]

The straw stuffed straddle, the broken breeching

With bits of bull - wire tied; [however bad it was - it was good to have been honed.-

Make do and mend in the Country]

The winkers that had no choke - band,

The collar and the reins....

In Ealing Broadway, London Town

I name their several names [when he left Inniskeen for London - he

REMEMBERED in the middle of the hurley burly of English life...]

Until a world comes to life -

Morning, the silent bog, [As I go I remember]

And the god of imagination waking

In a Mucker fog.

Is not 'hiraeth' the Welsh word that has no equivalent - longing (not good enough) for home - for the rubbish tackle, for the Irish bog life of skimp and scrape - but...look - stranger, bog asphodel that flower in this peat - the miracle of GOD!!!?

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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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We do have a web page where previous issues may be downloaded at www.5villages.org.uk

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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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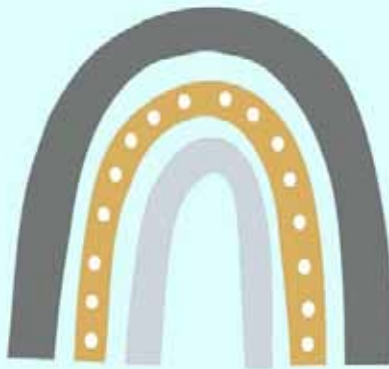
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