



THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE

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ISSUE NO. 153
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SPRING (MARCH) 2025
GWANWYN (MAWRTH) 2025

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EDITORIAL

THANK YOU!

The Five Villages Chronicle committee would like to thank all those who responded to our appeals for help with the magazine. We now have help with the areas where we most needed it and we look forward to working together with them.

Don't forget the Cadi Ha!

This year it's on the 10th May from 10.00am to about noon.

Hair and nail

By Sam



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COVER PICTURE

Many thanks to Steven Jones.

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As we gradually emerge from the dark winter months, cricket players and supporters everywhere begin to feel a sense of excitement and anticipation for the forthcoming season. Here is the latest news from Carmel and District Cricket Club as we approach the 2025 campaign.

GRANT AID

The club has recently benefitted from two significant grant awards, the largest of which was for an amount just under £20,000, with the club contributing an additional £5,000. This grant focused on energy saving and enabled the club to install solar panels on the pavilion roof, improve loft insulation, and change all the lighting to LED. It also enabled the club to finally have permanent heating installed in the pavilion via an excellent air-to-air system. Local firms were used to undertake this work.



The pavilion at Carmel's Pen-y-Gelli home with the new solar panels on the roof

Everyone at the club is delighted with the outcome, and as well as saving

on energy costs, this development has enabled the club to play a small part in helping to protect the environment and the climate. Special thanks are due to club Chairman Alun Davies for all his hard work overseeing this project.

The second grant awarded to the club was for the purchase of cricket equipment and amounted to £2,500. This funding has been used to purchase a top-quality bowling machine which will be an excellent addition to the club's training and coaching facilities.

SENIOR TEAMS

Carmel and District Cricket Club will have two senior men's teams and a women's team competing in North Wales leagues in 2025. At the time of writing, the men's fixtures have just been released and the first five games are as follows:

First XI:

April 19th Menai Bridge (Away)
April 26th Llanrwst (Home)
May 3rd Ruthin (Away)
May 10th Llay Welfare (Home)
May 17th Marchweil (Home)

Second XI:

April 19th Pwllheli (Home)
April 26th Dolgellau (Away)
May 3rd Hawarden (Home)
May 10th No Game
May 17th Marchweil (Away)

The league structure for women's cricket is changing slightly this year, and after finishing second in the East Division last season, Carmel's women will be competing in the North Wales Women's Softball Premier Division in 2025. At the time of writing, the women's fixtures were in the process of being finalised and were due to be announced shortly.

NEW PLAYERS

The club is always on the look out for new players for its men's and women's senior teams, and a warm welcome awaits new players of all ages and abilities. We are a friendly community club which has always placed great emphasis on enjoyment and participation in the game of cricket here in the Five Villages area. In

LOCAL DEFIBRILLATORS

Biomass Building, Lloyds Crescent/Edward Road, Tre-Mostyn, Holywell, CH8 9AY
Brynford Primary School, Brynford, Holywell, CH8 8AD
Carmel Cricket Club, Pen y Gelli Cricket Ground,
St Paul's Church, Gorsedd, Holywell, CH8 8QZ
St Asaph Road, Lloc, Holywell, CH8 8RF
Carmel Village Hall, Carmel Hill, Holywell, CH8 8NZ
Holywell Golf Club, Brynford, Holywell, CH8 8LQ
Ideal Lighting, 61 High Street, Holywell, CH8 7TF
Old Town Hall, 46 High Street, Holywell, CH8 7LH
Pen y Maes Stores, 5-7 Bryn y Gwynt, Pen y Maes, Holywell, CH8 7BX
Scott the Jewellers, 46 High Street, Holywell, CH8 7LH
Strand Walk, Bank Place, Holywell, CH8 7AN
Tesco, Bank Place, Holywell, CH8 7TJ
Toe 2 Toe Fitness, North Road, Holywell, CH8 7TQ
Whitford CP School, Whitford, Holywell, CH8 9AN
Ysgol Bro Carmel, Carmel, Nr Holywell, CH8 8NU
Ysgol Gwenfrwdd, Whitford Street, Holywell, CH8 7NJ
Ysgol Treffynnon, Pen y Maes Road, Holywell, CH8 7EN
Please advise editor@5villages.org.uk if there are any we have missed!

addition to Saturday league fixtures, the club will also be playing midweek friendly games and holding outdoor net training sessions, details of which will appear on our social media platforms. Anyone interested in joining the club should e-mail carmelcricket@hotmail.co.uk.

SALLY BRIGHTON

Everyone at the club was saddened to hear about the recent passing of Sally Brighton. Sally had a long association with the club, and her husband Paul is a long-time supporter and committee member. Their son, Jonathan, also played regularly for Carmel before moving to America many years ago. Everyone at the club offers their sincere condolences to Paul and his family.

SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP

The club is always eager to hear from local businesses who might be interested in providing sponsorship for matches across a weekend. As a community club which runs junior and senior sections, we are always grateful for any support and sponsorship we receive.

The 2025 season promises to be an exciting one for the club, especially as it marks our 60th anniversary. It's hard to believe that so many years have passed since this village club was established at its former Golch Farm home in Carmel. As we look to the future with great excitement, we also take pride in our history and remember the early founder members and pioneers who worked so hard to establish and develop Carmel and District Cricket Club.

JUNIOR SECTION (Rick)

Planning for the next season always starts at the end of the last season and the junior section are getting ready for a great summer of cricket with our teams. Indoor skills sessions have just started again and we always look forward to moving outside and practising game-like situations out on the pitch, we just need the weather to warm up a little first!

Something that always make us incredibly proud as junior coaches is when players from our teams go on to become important members in our senior teams and that is happening this year for the senior women's and men's team. Watching them develop and even playing in the same senior team as some of the older juniors will be a real pleasure this year and shows just how well our young players can progress at Carmel.

We were also delighted to have five girls and two boys on the Pathway scheme which is for those who have been chosen, after trials, to be part of the North Wales squad and who benefit from specialist training. A huge well done to all of them!

We will have a mixed under 9's softball team for boys and girls this summer and also hardball boys and girls teams at under 11's and under 12's alongside the under 15's boys side. Across all teams at Carmel, we emphasise fun and enjoyment of cricket,

always ensuring everyone feels safe and welcomed and as well as cricket specific skills, players learn many life skills along the way too.

In the summer we will be running our regular 'All Stars' and 'Dynamos' programmes which are a fantastic introduction to cricket at the club. These evenings are always fun and a great change for us to get the BBQ out. Here's a little info on those two programmes.

ALL STARS

All Stars Cricket provides a fantastic first experience for all children aged 5-8 years old where they're guaranteed 8 weeks of jam-packed fun, activity and skills development. The programme is designed to introduce children to the sport, teaching them new skills, helping them make new friends and have a great time doing so.

DYNAMOS

Dynamos Cricket provides a fantastic next step for all those graduating from All Stars Cricket and the perfect introduction for all 8-11 year-olds new to the sport! Dynamos is all about fun and provides children with a more social offer, focusing on developing the fundamental skills required to play cricket.

We'll share sign-up links for these programmes as soon as they are available so keep an eye on our social media channels.

Alternatively, if you or your children would like to try a new sport (or return to an old one) do get in touch or come along to one of our training sessions. You can contact our head of Junior Coaching, Alun Davies on 07889 095712 or on email via carmelcricket@hotmail.co.uk or through Facebook, Instagram or Twitter—we'd be happy to talk to you and welcome you to the club!

CARMEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Gareth Roberts)

PAIN AND SUFFERING

A Christian asked his barber why he didn't believe in God. The barber said that he couldn't believe in a God that allows so much pain and suffering. The Christian heads to the door and sees a homeless man with long hair and an unkempt beard. He turns to the barber and says that he doesn't believe in barbers. The barber replies saying that if the man would come to him, his hair and beard would be much tidier.

Richard Dawkins teaches that there is no good and evil just blind, pitiless indifference. This atheist worldview offers no hope to those that are suffering and experiencing pain. But the Bible tells us that God is not blind, pitiless or indifferent. He cares for people made in His image and He wants all to be saved and come to repentance. So much so that He became a man and experienced all of this world's suffering even up to the point of experiencing the most cruel death imagined, crucifixion.

Jesus knows exactly what you are going through and He cares about your every need. He also says, come to me all you who are tired and carrying a heavy load and I will give you rest. Our greatest need of all is to have our sins forgiven and to be saved from God's anger and judgment.

The bible says there is only one name by which you can be saved and that is Jesus. So why not come to Him and experience a certain hope even through pain and suffering and know for certain that there is a much brighter future?

I would like to invite you to our Easter service in Carmel Village Hall at 5pm on Sunday 20th April. Come and hear the good news.

We would love to see you!



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ROSE HIPS (Robert Moore)

In the winter 2024 issue of *The Five Villages Chronicle*, Jim Quinlan mentions children being asked to collect rose hips. Only a small minority of readers will remember wartime rose hip syrup; it came in a medicine bottle and had a distinctive flavour and was, well, very syrupy. I think we children were given one teaspoonful a day and I always thought it was nice, though I couldn't see the point of just one spoonful.

Rose hip syrup was intended to boost children's intake of vitamin C which is an important element in the human diet. Vitamin C deficiency can lead to anaemia, tiredness, softening of the gums, with teeth falling out and eventually, death. Vitamin C deficiency was the Scurvy that plagued the Navy, when sailors lived on salt meat, fat pork and ships' biscuits. Scurvy reduced ships' fighting efficiency and killed thousands of seafarers, many more than died by enemy action. The remedy was to provide sauerkraut and – most famously – lemons or limes (hence the American nickname for the British, 'Limeys'). The role of citrus fruit in preventing scurvy was known in the 1750s, but it was not until 1795 that the Admiralty acted by providing lime juice for ships' crews. Scurvy remained a serious problem in the general population throughout most of the 19th century.

So why were school children collecting rose hips in the 1940s? During the war, food was in short supply, and we depended largely on home grown vegetables. Apples, pears, plums, greengages and damsons were available only in season, as were gooseberries and various soft fruit that some people grew in their gardens. Drying and bottling fruit was quite popular for those who had the time and resources. An orange might appear in the toe of your Christmas stocking. Bananas? Never! In fact, children divided themselves into two groups – those who had tasted bananas before the war, and those that hadn't. I was in the former group.

The human body can neither make nor retain Vitamin C. So, the introduction of the syrup which was supplied from clinics – free of charge I think – was to supplement the limited availability of the usual sources of the vitamin. It was also for sale in chemist shops. One problem was to source the fruit, this was why school-children, Guides, Scouts and the W.I. were asked to collect rose hips from the hedgerows, for which they were paid 3d (or three old pence) per pound. In the first year of the scheme 600,000 bottles of syrup were produced.

The arrival of evacuee children (and in some cases their mothers) in the countryside revealed to many people the extent of deprivation and malnourishment of poorer children from cities and towns. Malnourished children were especially prone to illness, measles, mumps, diphtheria, whooping cough, polio. They were not, of course uniquely prone to these afflictions, but their powers of recovery

were reduced by poor diet and generally poor fitness. The physical state of children led to the writing of the Curtis Report (1946) which paved the way for better care of children, including the Children Act of 1948 which mandated local authorities to protect children's interests.

Today it must be hard for young people, or indeed most people, to understand these conditions; the supermarkets are full of fresh produce all the year around, even though the variety of apples and pears etc available is much reduced.

People today, perhaps some Five Villages readers, still pick berries and seasonal wild fruits to make 'hedgerow jam' or 'hedgerow jelly', both delightful treats but no longer necessary to provide Vitamin C through the winter months. You can still buy rosehip syrup – or even make your own if, like wartime children, you go out to collect hips from the hedges, or possibly your own garden. But don't forget the birds, leave plenty for them because they cannot pop into Tesco or Lidl for their food.

CARMEL BOWLING CLUB (Brenda Taylor)

All members of Carmel Bowling Club are looking forward to the 2025 season, and we are pleased to announce that the green will be open to existing members and prospective new members, on Monday 31st March.

The green will now have 24 hour access to all members, seven days per week, via the pathway across the recently completed biodiversity scheme on the bottom field adjacent to the green.

Anyone who is interested in a more gentle form of exercise, whilst taking part in a competitive sport, would be very welcome to visit the green to see whether or not they enjoyed this sport.

If you would like to come along once the season starts, then please contact:

Brenda Taylor - 01352 712465 or
Frank Cowan - 01352 713372

Alternatively visit us at Holywell Leisure Centre on any Tuesday morning until the end of March between 9.45 and 11.30 am, where club members will be playing Carpet Bowls.



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MARK ISHERWOOD MS



Throughout my time as a Member of the Senedd, I have championed charities and third sector organisations, and promoted the vital role they play in our communities.

I have repeatedly called on the Welsh Government to provide them with the funding they need to deliver their much-needed services and thereby save money for public services. They have faced various challenges over the years, but currently they are trying to cope with new pressures due to increases in National Insurance (NI) contributions.

As Chair of the Cross-Party Group on Hospice and Palliative Care, I met with both Hospice UK's Policy and Advocacy Manager Wales and the Chair of Hospices Cymru at the end of January for an update following the Welsh Government's Draft Budget announcement on Hospice Funding. We discussed the financial strain that our Hospices are under, the difficult decisions they will have to make with no change to their funding and the need for the value they bring to NHS Wales to be recognised.

In a Debate on the Draft Budget on February 5th, I raised their concerns and also highlighted the detrimental impact the NI increases will have on key services provided by other charitable and community organisations, quoting service providers themselves. As well as having to deal with NI increases, Minimum Wage increases are placing a further burden on them. Speaking in the Debate, I stressed that every Hospice in Wales is forecasting a deficit for this financial year. I said: "A survey by Hospice UK found that over 20% of Welsh Hospices are reducing the number of inpatient beds or wider Hospice services and that 90% of Welsh hospices agreed that cost of living pressures are highly likely to result in reduced support being available to the wider system, such as hospitals and care homes. "They are calling on the Welsh Government to urgently provide £5.9m in-year funding to Welsh Hospices to cover the impact of NHS pay rises on Hospice staffing costs, stating 'this is essential to safeguard the immediate future of Hospice services in Wales and the vital care they provide, pending a longer-term sustainable arrangement'.

"Although they welcome the Welsh

Government's commitment to allocate an additional £3m in recurring funding in the Draft Budget, they state that this figure cannot be described as sustainable considering it will quickly be cancelled out by NI and Minimum Wage increases of £1.8m and the expected impact on Hospice staffing costs of future Agenda for Change increases."

Other charitable and community organisations have also spoken of their concerns and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action have stated: 'This is a significant new cost that many organisations simply cannot absorb without a corresponding impact on their service delivery'.

Homelessness and rough sleeping charity, The Wallich, have said the "increase is causing genuine concern across the sector", whilst Tenovus Cancer Care have said that the effect of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget and the UK Budget will be fewer support services for people affected by cancer.

Mental health and addiction charity Adferiad, meanwhile have stressed that the rise in NI will cost them £600,000 a year and, without mitigation, they will have to let staff go and reduce services.

It both saddens and concerns me that these charities and organisations are in this position, particularly given the great work they are doing and the millions they are saving public services every year. I

regularly visit charities and third sector organisations both in North Wales and when they visit the Senedd.

This month, I was glad to visit the 50th Anniversary of Carers Trust Wales event in the Senedd, celebrating the network of local carer organisations. Carers Trust Wales is part of UK charity Carers Trust, committed to improving support and services for unpaid carers.

Carers Trust Wales aims to shape a better future with and for carers in Wales by raising awareness, empowering carers and influencing change.

I was also pleased to meet the CEO of Mind North East Wales at the No Mind Left Behind: Mind Federation in Wales Impact Report Launch.

The Mind Federation is made up of Mind, the mental health charity; Mind Retail, which operates charity shops raising valuable funds to support the work of Mind and local Minds; and The Local Mind network, which provides support and services at the heart of their communities.

Governments need to recognise and invest in our third sector organisations and charities delivering key services which improve lives, whilst also reducing demand on Statutory Services, and I will continue putting pressure on those in power in Cardiff Bay until they do. To do otherwise is dumb budgeting which will generate inefficiencies, higher public service costs and entirely avoidable social injustices.

SUE WILCOX MCFHP MAFHP

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HANNAH BLYTHYN MS



Since my last Chronicle column, members have returned to the Senedd after the Christmas break and made a start on the year ahead and all the challenges and opportunities it brings. At the tail end of last year, I held a public transport forum at Flint Town Hall which included representatives from Network Rail, Transport for Wales, Arriva Bus, Flintshire County Council, Avanti West Coast, Unite the Union and Sustrans to discuss the future of public

transport in Flintshire. It was an interesting event in which local residents were able to find out more about what's being done in Flintshire to improve public transport and to give their views on what they'd like to see change. Local residents will know all too well that Flintshire has its challenges as far as transport is concerned, especially in more rural areas, so it's important to gather as many views as possible from a range of residents from different areas.



Following on from the public transport forum, I recently had the chance to meet with the Cabinet Secretary alongside representatives from Holywell Town Council to discuss plans for a new station at Greenfield. This is a vital step towards improving transport links across North Wales, but transport isn't just about rail – it's about better buses, smarter road solutions and an integrated network that truly serves our communities. From bus franchising to

improvements on the A55 – such as the suggestion of a crawler lane westbound around Halkyn, which I brought up in the Senedd in January – we need solutions that are modern, efficient and futureproof.

The Regional Transport Plan is currently out for consultation – this is a chance for Flintshire residents and organisations have their say. The consultation is being carried out by Ambition North Wales, the organisation that's coordinating the North Wales Growth Deal, which has set out plans to enhance our transport network and support the region's economic, social and environmental wellbeing and it wants to hear what residents think about the future of transport in North Wales.

You can see the proposal and submit your feedback in the virtual consultation room at <https://northwalesregionaltransportplan.virtual-engage.com> – the consultation closes on April 14.

At First Minister's Questions recently I asked the Welsh Government what action they are taking to improve the lives of young people in Delyn. The Welsh Government is investing in our young people – whether it's increasing the Education Maintenance Allowance, delivering the Young Person's Guarantee or supporting discounted travel through MyTravelPass. These initiatives are improving opportunities for young people in Flintshire and beyond. Recently

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I had the chance to meet with Ben Harris, the Welsh Youth Parliament Member for Delyn, and we discussed our shared priorities for young people in our community, with a particular focus on public transport and accessibility in our town centres – an issue I recently raised in the Senedd. It was great to hear Ben's perspective and ideas on how we can improve opportunities for young people in our communities.

Back home in Flintshire, I recently had the chance to visit Greenfield Valley in Holywell and met with members of the Greenfield Valley Trust to discuss plans to make the attraction one of the top 10 destinations in North Wales and bring more visitors to the valley's green spaces. The trust wants to transform areas around the valley's picturesque lakes, streams, parks and ancient monuments as well as the museum, tearooms and bistro. Greenfield Valley comprises 70 acres of woodland and 2,000 years of history, so it's well worth a visit for tourists and local residents alike – a visit to the valley could also include nearby St Winefride's Well and Chapel, believed to be the oldest continually visited pilgrim site in Britain.

It was announced in February that Holywell Town FC has secured the funding to install smart LED lighting, air source



heat pumps, solar panels and battery storage – all controlled by a cutting-edge smart building system. This game-changing upgrade will slash the club's energy costs by 80%, meaning

more money can be reinvested into grassroots sports, with greater opportunities for young people to have fun with friends! As a proud supporter of grassroots football, promoting schemes such as Be Football, the FAW Pawb Fund and local clubs like Holywell, I'm pleased to see this step forward for sustainability, thanks to support from the Welsh Government through Ynni Cymru. I'm looking forward to getting back to Holywell Town FC shortly to find out more about the difference the funding will make.

Yn y Senedd yn ddiweddar, siaradais i am ddysgu Cymraeg – yn Gymraeg! In the Senedd recently, I spoke about learning Welsh – and I did it in Welsh. I asked the Welsh Government what it is doing to support more flexible learning for adults studying Welsh, from regular lessons to revision courses and online

resources to conversations in the community. My taid was a first language Welsh speaker but my nana wasn't and they didn't speak Welsh at home, so my dad never learned Welsh himself. I learnt Welsh at school in Flintshire but I wasn't able to take an exam at the time – but last summer I passed my first ever Welsh exam! The Welsh Government has a target of creating a million Welsh speakers by 2050 as part of the Cymraeg 2050 policy – I've been learning Welsh because I want to use the language through my work and in my community. Welsh is our language and it's important that we take ownership of it.

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, if you prefer, by email hannah.blythyn@senedd.wales. If you use social media, 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.

FIVE VILLAGES GARDENING CLUB



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JOYCE ANDREA LEE

This is a sad mention of my late sister Joyce who sadly passed away in September. Joyce grew up in Carmel and lived there all her life, never wanting to leave. She and I and our parents first lived in a stone cottage called Lily Villa, at the back of Carmel chapel.

The cottage had no facilities, either water or electricity, and an outside toilet. Our father used to fetch our water from the pump at the bottom of Carmel hill.

He would carry water in two big buckets, making quite a few trips to get enough water for the day, which was kept in a big basin. Our mother used to cook, using one pan at a time, on an open fire which was our only means of cooking.

It was a hard life but we were always a happy and contented family.

When Joyce was about 12 years old, we moved to 2 Mount Carmel just a couple of doors from our original home at Lily Villa. What a change that was, we now had mains water and electricity!

It took our mother a bit of time getting used to an electric cooker and in the meantime she continued to cook on the open fire.

Joyce and I both attended Carmel C P school then Basingwerk Secondary school in Holywell. Joyce was always very interested in sport and being particularly good at the shot putt, went on to represent the school in this event at the inter-school sports in Coventry.

I think Joyce's love of sport came from our father who played football for Carmel. My mother, Joyce and I would always go to watch him playing.

Joyce always loved to watch Wales playing rugby and always made sure she had a vase of daffodils on the windowsill whenever they were playing, in fact she made a point of watching any sport on TV featuring Wales.

After leaving school, Joyce went to work at Knitmesh in Greenfield, where she met her friend Molly.

Molly and her husband Elwyn were close friends of Joyce's for many years until she passed away.

After leaving Knitmesh, Joyce went to work at British Aerospace in Broughton. She decided to learn to drive to travel to work and to give herself more independence. We would meet up in Anglesey with our three daughters, their husbands and children for happy picnics on the beach in summer.

In later years Joyce became more and more disabled and had to reluctantly give up driving. She then spent even more time reading, which she had always loved, reading any and all sorts of books, fiction, non-fiction, crime and lots of reference books. Joyce's favourite saying was "every home should have at least three books: a Bible, a dictionary and an atlas".

Joyce will be sadly missed by all her family, friends and neighbours.

I would just like to finish by thanking you all on behalf of myself, my husband and all the family for the cards, kind messages and the donations which totalled £340 and which we passed on to the Cancer Centre at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd.

(Wendy Thomas)

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BECKY GITTINS MP



It was the privilege of my life to be elected as the first MP for Clwyd East last July. The new seat is considerably larger than the old Delyn seat, taking in parts of Denbighshire, all the way down to Llangollen.

However, the Five Villages are an area I know well. Having grown up in Bagillt, I live locally and intend on being a strong local voice to you all throughout the Parliament. I hold regular surgeries around the constituency and if you would like to book an appointment or if there is anything that I can help you with generally, please do get in touch with me on becky.gittins.mp@parliament.uk or call my office on 01352 871130.

Two of the key areas I want to focus on during this Parliament are improved local transport and green jobs.

I know that, for some time, Holywell Town Council has supported the idea of reopening the train station at Holywell Junction. This is something I support and will be looking to bring local groups together to see if we can't find a way forward. I have had a series of meetings on current feasibility and will keep you updated.

And it's not just better access to trains, I want to see more frequent and reliable buses to the Five Villages. Right across Wales we know that three quarters of journeys on public transport are on buses. Welsh Government plans to restore the role of local government in planning local bus services will make a positive difference and I will continue to work with colleagues as part of its delivery.

Last year, alongside a range of local service providers, I held the first of my older people drop-ins in Holywell. Many people in the area depend on Holywell for banking services and I know, after speaking with local business groups, that there are concerns about the diminished presence

of these services in the town. I have been engaging with LINK, who are responsible for rolling out banking hubs across the country, to see what the potential options are for Holywell. This is something that I will continue to make the case for.

In terms of green jobs, I have long felt that here in North Wales we have so much potential to build on some of the investment and innovation already in place to become a real leader in this area. Whilst windfarms like Gwynt Y Mor and North Hoyle have successfully shown what we can do to bring green energy and jobs to the area, I want to ensure that local communities benefit from the development of new clean energy infrastructure. I am hoping that with the re-set of the relationship between Westminster and Cardiff now there is a real opportunity to deliver more positive investment into our region.

In Westminster, last year's Budget was undoubtedly set against a difficult economic backdrop – and there were definitely some very difficult decisions that had to be made. However, I am pleased that Wales was given its biggest settlement since devolution – £21bn of new money. The benefits of which people in the Five Villages will feel through both the Barnett formula and through direct spending. It includes a record £1.7bn spending boost for the Welsh Government to support public services.

The Government also scrapped the mineworkers' pension scheme arrangement with the Investment Reserve Fund to be transferred the scheme's Trustees – paid out as an additional pension to members of the scheme. This is something I have campaigned on and I am delighted it is being delivered. In addition, in Wales, £25m of funding will also be provided to support

essential work to keep disused coal tips maintained.

Since July, this Government has also introduced legislation to: improve the rights of employees in the work place; to make the water companies more accountable and clean up our waterways; to establish Great British Railways and bringing train operators into public ownership; to introduce Great British Energy – a new publicly owned, clean energy company; provided an additional £1.1bn for policing to help prioritise neighbourhood policing here in North Wales and across the country; and introduced a Bill to strengthen our response to the organised criminal gangs that are undermining our border security.

When it comes to policing and security, the UK Government is determined to rebuild neighbourhood policing, to improve performance across police forces, and to ensure that the highest standards are being upheld across the service. This year it has already kickstarted recruitment of 13,000 more neighbourhood police and PCSOs with £200 million of funding, as part of the boost to funding.

On security, the government has established a Border Security Command to tackle criminal gangs, backed with £150 million of funding. They have also introduced the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill to create new powers and offences to improve UK border security and to strengthen the asylum and immigration system.

If you would like to know more about any of my work, either in Clwyd East or Westminster, please do contact me and I look forward to seeing many of you out in the community in the coming weeks and months.

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COUNCILLOR CHRIS DOLPHIN
Hello everyone, Sut mae pethau:
ACTIVE TRAVEL:

Do you remember the local Active Travel consultations online and at the Carmel Village Hall back in the summer of 2021? At that time Richard Dolphin was a local Community Councillor and we devised a plan including eight local projects (six were for footpaths) for consideration of funding from Active Travel. The County Council were persuaded and impressed enough to move the first and main project forward for further rounds of examination. After many false deadlines given, and with grants approved, the Babel Road footway is now complete. The final stage has taken significant groundworks: levelling the ground, removal of trees and stonewall, BT pole replacement and installation of footway. The funding gain will also pay for the replacement of the placename signs throughout the Five Villages.

NEW NATIONAL PARK FOR NORTH EAST WALES:

The consultations for a new National Park in our area to replace the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty have taken place in 2023, 2024 and now there will be a final one this year 2025. Natural Resources Wales lead on the project and it would cover at least 12% of Flintshire. The County Council at present does not

support the need for a new National Park. Many unanswered questions include what costs will be incurred by the council; costs to individuals living in or near to the proposed park; this will be another local (Park) authority, adding another level of bureaucracy, with its own governance and scrutiny committees and own planning departments, thus more costs and funding from the Welsh Government.

There must be environmental benefits, and a "halo" effect of good business for local towns. However, to succeed it will need tens of thousands, even hundreds of thousands of new visitors; the impacts may be life changing for us all. Traffic congestion, parking, toilet facilities, house prices will go up, second homes are proven to boom in national parks, more holiday lets, lots to consider. It will need a very positive final 2025 consultation to bring councils onside.

INVESTMENT ZONES:

An advanced manufacturing zone is being set up in Flintshire and Wrexham. Working in collaboration with Ambition North Wales, Welsh Government and UK Government, the aim is to create 6,000 new jobs and attract £1bn of investment. There are to be only 2 Investment Zones in Wales, "Cardiff and Newport" delivered by the South East Wales Corporate Committee and "Flintshire and Wrexham" delivered by the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee. The joint committees have been set up for these major landmark

projects and include tax incentive sites at Deeside Gateway, Warren Hall near Broughton and Wrexham Industrial Estate.

Plans are well advanced and are now at Governance Gateway 3 stage. Gateway 5 will be the Delivery Plan. The Investment Zone will provide £160m of flexible funding and a programme of occupier and developer focused tax benefits. Flintshire and Wrexham Councils will be able to retain a proportion of the new business rates. These collected sums can be used to further the objectives of the Investment Zone.

I recently attended the launch of the North East Wales Industrial Decarbonisation at AMRC in Broughton. All the big partners are involved: SP Energy, Connahs Quay Power Station, Shotton Papermill etc. A credible regional industrial decarbonisation plan is essential for a net zero gold standard full decarbonisation by 2050. It must be realistic too, it's known that probably £6.2 - £9.8 billion is required in this time. Once again, there is an almost overwhelmingly ambitious time ahead of us all.

COAST PATH BARRIERS:

I now meet up regularly with a senior environmental officer at the council for a "walk and talk" The first walk was in Higher Ferry near Saltney to discuss the future of the "A" frame barriers which were erected to deter /stop county lines gangs and other anti-social behaviour taking place along the coast path. This did work and time has moved on, but it also became apparent that

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the barriers were probably in breach of the Equalities Act 2010 and must be removed, and they are being removed in a practicable and safe manner. Now it may be that the older "chicane" type barriers erected many years ago are also in breach of the Act, and the Council are reviewing its options. Another walk took me to Flint Dock. The estuary views and birdlife are wonderful. Apart from the woodland birds such as long tailed tits, we quickly saw many knots, little stints, dunlin, various ducks and geese, all without binoculars being required. Next "walk and talk" is in the Caergwle Castle area which was rejected as being part of the proposed national park.

PLACE MAKING PLANS:

Holywell and Shotton have recently had a Place Making consultation. What is this? Place Making can be defined as a process which involves working collaboratively across sectors and disciplines to comprehensively consider the future development of a place. To try and make the Place more vibrant and successful and aligned to the needs of the local people. Seven towns in Flintshire are having Place Making Plans. We all know that our towns have changed considerably over recent years due to shopping habits and Covid. It is important we continue with the developments of Place Making Plans as they are key to attracting future investment projects which will bring positive impacts for local people and our local economy.

UNPAID CARERS SERVICE IN FLINTSHIRE:

Flintshire has the highest number of carers in north Wales, 18,000, which is reflective of the population that's 8% up from the 2001 figure. A carer is broadly someone who provides or intends to provide care and support to a family member, partner or friend. A carer can be any age, that includes under 18. Carers Trust Wales now report that 3 in 5 people in Wales will become carers at some time in their lives. The role undertaken by carers is clearly beneficial to the local economy and

contributes to easing pressure on the local authority and Health Board. The register in Flintshire of unpaid carers is maintained on a voluntary basis and records those who register for information, advice, assistance, engagement and support services. There are 10,954 adults and 472 young carers registered.

Carers are truly invaluable to us all. Following a review, from April 2025 for a five-year period carers will be recommissioned to enable the council to meet its statutory duties with regards to services and support for unpaid carers. Soon new premises in Mold will make services more visible and accessible and will become a focal support centre for carers.

Where does our council tax go? We will soon have our new council tax bills, and the first comment can sometimes be, I only get my bins emptied! / The roads are full of potholes! So, where does the money go? Roughly 73% of all council spending goes to children and vulnerable people services. This includes, education, schools, school transport, social services transport, community safety, homelessness, youth services and much more associated costs, such as wages and pension contributions. The other 27% of council spending goes on everything

else, Streetscene, filling potholes, emptying bins, recycling, planning, enforcement, housing admin, economy, the environment, countryside services and much more. Flintshire, as you may know, is and always has been poorly funded by governments compared to most other councils, who due to their funding now have many millions in Reserves. Flintshire has a minimum amount of Reserves money; this is another massive conundrum for our poorly funded council area. Sorry to say, in my opinion the County Council has, after many years of poor national funding reached a position of "managing decline". How will UK and Welsh Government change funding to councils? You and I are not treated equally compared to other local authority areas.

CONTACT:

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

CYNGOR CYNGHORYDD:

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

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YSGOL GWENFFRWD (Angharad Rule)

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda! It has been a busy start to the year here, at Ysgol Gwenffrwd. We have started our new whole school topic of 'Perthyn' (Belonging). The infants have been focusing on Welsh history and the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' while Years 3-6 have been learning more about our Celtic roots with a focus on the Celts and Romans. We look forward to welcoming parents into school to see their children's work over the next few weeks. The Infants will read their own story to their parents. The Juniors are planning a Celts v Romans themed day full of fun activities and an opportunity for their parents to come in to see all their hard work.

Being a Welsh language school, our Welsh heritage and traditions are an integral part of our learning. On Friday, 7th March we will be celebrating Dydd Gŵyl Dewi by dressing up in Welsh themed clothes, eating delicious Welsh cakes and enjoying a performance by a Welsh drama company of a show called 'Gwlan, Gwlan'.

In connection to celebrating our Welsh heritage, we also wish the best of luck to our pupils who will be competing at the Eisteddfod Cylch yr Urdd on Saturday, 15th March. Pob lwc!

Our Year 4 students are very excited for their residential trip to Glan-Ilyn at the end of March. This will be their first school residential and such an amazing experience for them, making memories to last a lifetime. Pob hwyl i chi, blant!

Recently, members of the school's Eco Committee took part in a community litter pick with other schools from Holywell. This was a great opportunity for the children to support the local community in making it a cleaner place to live. Thank you to the Town



Council for organising the event and to Mair Lloyd, a member of our School Governors, for helping out on the day.

Finally, we have a wonderfully written novel comparison from one of our Year 6 students, Brooke Kennedy. Year 5 and 6 students have enjoyed reading the fantastic novels, *Sky Hawk* by Gill Lewis and *Kensuke's Kingdom* by Michael Morpurgo. We hope you enjoy and that you will hopefully be inspired to read these two touching novels.

A Novel Comparison of Sky Hawk by Gill Lewis and Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo *Written by Brooke Kennedy (Year 6)*

Have you ever wondered what makes two detailed novels truly incredible? Well, both books are based on nature and overcoming challenges. *Sky Hawk* is written by Gill Lewis whereas *Kensuke's*

Kingdom is written by Michael Morpurgo. I will be comparing how these books are similar and different.

To start, the main protagonists are both young male characters. Another key similarity is that both characters go on many adventures making these novels more unique and thrilling. Similarly, Iris (the osprey) in *Sky Hawk* battles the ferocious sea, while the Peggy Sue also battles the sea on her journey. Not only that, but the main protagonists are isolated in some way, in *Kensuke's Kingdom*, Michael is physically isolated on a remote island, whereas after Iona's death Callum feels emotionally isolated. Likewise, both novels go through grief and loss. In addition, both protagonists build great friendships adding to a rollercoaster of emotions and creating a breathtaking read.

While *Sky Hawk* and *Kensuke's Kingdom* share many similarities they have many key differences. For example, *Sky Hawk* is focused on an Ospreys migration while *Kensuke's Kingdom* is focused on Michael's descriptive story. One difference is both novels have different themes, while *Kensuke's Kingdom* leans towards survival, *Sky Hawk* is more focused on nature and conservation. Another heartbreaking difference is Callum has the support of his parents, whereas Michael is alone with only his dog and a mysterious old man named Kensuke on a remote island.

All in all, both novels took me on an unforgettable adventure. But in my opinion, I think *Kensuke's Kingdom* had more detailed descriptions. For example, 'The whole orchestra of the jungle was tuning up' and there were also many seat-gripping moments making it my favourite. One lesson I learnt from these stories is to always have hope.

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LOCAL BARN OWL ON THE WING

We thought you all might like to see some fantastic photographs of a local Barn Owl with a gap in its wing. Tony Phillips of Haven Gardens saw it from his garden up the hill in Carmel (thanks to Jan Miller for sending on).



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

Tim Barks - 01352 720375
Billy Glynn - 01352 712418
Caradoc W. Jones - 01352 712079
Alexander Lamb - 07887 724200
Matt Marshall - 07763 975531
Sandra Roberts - 01352 714366
Gareth Sharp - 01352 715614
Paul Urquhart - 01745 563133
Melanie Wallis - 01352 712369
Emma Warbrick - 01352 712356
Steve Watts - 07778 673334
Joseph Williams - 07850 924805

**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 - 3 x Anti-social behaviour / 1
Bicycle theft 1 x Burglary
Gorsedd - 1 x Anti-social behaviour / 1
x Other theft / 1 x Vehicle crime
Lloc - 1 x Criminal damage / 1 x
Violence
Lloc (Services) - 1 x Anti-social
behaviour / 1 x criminal damage / 1
x Other crime / 1 x Vehicle crime / 2 x
Violence
Pantasaph - No crimes reported
Whitford - 1 x Violence

BUDGET (PRECEPT) - 2025 / 2026:

At the budget setting process for
2025 - 2026 the Community Council
agreed to increase the current precept
for the forthcoming financial year from
£60,500.00 to £62,500.00 – an increase
of £2,000.00. The Band D property charge
would be £52.39, an increase of £1.23p a
year (2.40% - 10 / 11p extra per month).

In reaching their decision the Councillors
took into consideration the general Council
running costs, including the provision
to increase the successful litter picking
contact in all village areas to eleven months
a year, together with consideration for the
following projects: Footpath in Area of
Top of the Hill, Gorsedd; Speed Indicator
Signage, Gorsedd; Healthy Five Villages.

**REQUEST FOR SKATEPARK IN
WHITFORD:**

The Community Council received from
a resident in Whitford who attends Ysgol
Treffynnon, seeking if the Community
Council could consider providing a skate
park in the Whitford play area. The Council
had thanked the young resident for their
request and advised that the play area
is administered by the Flintshire County
Council. However, the request had
been forwarded to the County seeking
consideration in the future and if thought
appropriate the County may seek funding
from the Community Council towards the
installation of a skate park.

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

(1) Llwyn Ifor Lane: A number of
waterways / grids are blocked which causes
flooding (2) Llwyn Ifor Lane: Flooding on
roadway in area of Penpalment (3) Llwyn
Ifor Lane: Flooding concerns in general,
including condition of road surface which
requires attention in area between Mertyn
Abbot Farm and Mertyn Uchaf Farm
(this road has a high volume of HGV's)
(4) Waen Road to Saith Ffynnon: The
surface water in this area appears to not
run within the culverts (which appear to be
blocked) – whereby the water is running
along the actual roadway and is causing
the road to erode (5) Blocked gully in
area of Tyddyn Ucha Farm, Whitford (6)
Tree branch fallen across pavement on
Monastery Road, Pantasaph (7) Salt bin:
Near Mertyn Uchaf Farm, Llwyn Ifor Lane.
The salt has been removed from this bin
by a vehicle with trailer. Request for the
bin to be refilled (8) Request for additional

salt: In area of entrance to Pennant Park
Golf Club (9) Request for additional salt
bin: Area of junction of Llwyn Ifor Lane
and Mertyn Lane (10) Between the Nook
and Penpalment – the road has subsided
(11) Blocked gullies: The blocked gullies
reported in December, whilst some have
been cleared, the vehicle apparently did
not visit the gullies in the area of the bottom
of Mertyn Lane and Llwyn Ifor Lane (12)
Blocked gullies in area of Isglan Road
(13) Collapsed gullies: The blocked gullies
reported in December in the area of Waen
Hill have apparently collapsed

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

The Community Council Members
provide their observations to the
Flintshire Planning Authority on all
planning applications received 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 contact details below: (1)
Application number: FUL/000777/24 – for
proposed roof over feeding area, at Mynydd
Mostyn, Berthengam (2) Application
number: FUL/000814/24 – for proposed
demolition of outbuildings (2 No) and
provision of single and 2 storey side
extensions, first floor extension and
installation of underground gas tank, at
Pen Y Gelli Fawr, Lloc (3) Application
number: FUL/000750/24 – for temporary
permission to site a caravan, at land
adjacent to 4, Brynhyfryd Cottages, Lloc
(4) Application number: FUL/000841/24
– for the installation of one rapid electric
vehicle charging station and ancillary
equipment within the car park, at Mc
Donald's Restaurant, Lloc (5) Application
number: Cons/000944/24 – for proposed
reinstatement of former door opening,
at 6, St Clares Court, Pantasaph (6)



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Application number: FUL/001026/24 – for proposed single storey garden room extension to the rear of Pen y Parc Farm, St Asaph Road, Lloc (7) Application number: FUL/000697/24 – for amendments to submitted application for proposed extension and internal alterations, at Pant Glas Farm, Pen Ffordd Llan, Lloc (8) Application number: LBC/000698/24 – for amendments to submitted application: Listed Building Consent for proposed extension and internal alterations, at Pant Glas Farm, Pen Ffordd Llan, Lloc (9) Application number: FUL/001098/24 – for proposed front infill two storey extension for new entrance & first floor extension/dressing along with new porch, rear parapet roof kitchen/dining with pantry, utility, shower room & replacement garage, replace bay window to include balcony and exit to existing house, at Fron Fedw, Whitford Road, Whitford (10) Application number: FUL/001103/24 – for proposed earth banked nutrient storage lagoon to comply with the Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021, at Bryn Coch Farm, Whitford (11) Application number: FUL/001111/24 – for proposed single storey rear extension, at Little Timber, Gorsedd (12) Application number: FUL/001114/24 – for proposed new silage clamp, at Ty Newydd Farm, Whitford (13) Application number: ADV/001106/24 – for consent to display advertisements: Building signage: 2no. Starbucks letters, 2no. Drive thru letters and 2no. Starbucks

roundels: Site signage: 1no. Pole sign, 1no. Height restrictor, 2no. Directional signs, 1no. Pre-menu board, 1no. Drive thru order confirmation, 1no. Menu board and 1no. Monument sign, at Land East of McDonalds, St Asaph Road, Lloc.

PLANNING DECISIONS:

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

(1) Application number: DET/000794/24 – for approval of details reserved by Condition No. 11, Planning Ref: 058502, at Ocho-Rios, Lloc. Approved (2) Application number: FUL/000777/24 – for proposed roof over feeding area, at Mynydd Mostyn, Berthengam. Approved.

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND DONATIONS:

The Community Council have granted the following financial assistance since the last edition of the Five Villages Chronicle: £500.00 - Wales Air Ambulance (Application for annual grant) / £300.00 - Carmel Papercraft Group (Application for annual grant) / £2,000.00 - Five Villages Chronicle (Application for annual grant) / £1,500.00 - Holywell Leisure Centre (Application for annual grant).

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

TREFFYNNON CYNTAF SQUIRREL DREY



(Laura Davies)

Say hello to the new Squirrel drey invested in Holywell as part of the Treffynnon cyntaf scout group. To be invested we had to learn all about the different badges we can earn, about the history of Scouting and to learn and make our Squirrel promise. We are all between the ages of four and six and we come from all over Holywell and its surrounding areas. We are looking forward to doing lots of things to help our local community and to learning lots of new skills. We have been on a night hike around Greenfield valley to earn our hiking and navigator badges. We've also been making some yummy fruit kebabs as part of our Super Chef badge. We meet on a Monday evening in the Scout hut located behind Holywell Tesco at 5.15 pm for an hour.

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YSGOL Y LLAN: A THRIVING CHURCH SCHOOL AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

A Warm Welcome from Our Headteacher



Since joining Ysgol y Llan as Headteacher in September 2024, I have been delighted to see the strong sense of community and dedication that makes this school so special. Now well into my second term, I am excited about the many fantastic opportunities ahead for our pupils and families. Together, we will continue to nurture a love for learning, personal growth, and community engagement. The school is proud to announce some exciting developments that will benefit both current and prospective families.

Expanding Playgroup Opportunities

Our Playgroup is growing! Due to increasing demand and our dedication to providing quality early years education, we are delighted to expand our Playgroup sessions. Starting soon, we will be offering Playgroup five mornings a week as well as Monday afternoons. This expansion means more children can benefit from a fun, nurturing environment that lays the foundation for a love of learning from an early age.

New Partnership with Home-Start

We are thrilled to welcome Home-Start to our childcare setting in April. Home-Start is a trusted organisation that provides invaluable support to young children and their families. Their presence will further enhance the nurturing and supportive atmosphere we strive to create, ensuring that every child receives the best possible start in life.


Exciting Creative Projects


Year 2-6 have had fun working with Mr Phormula to create raps and learn how to beatbox. They collaborated with Menter Iaith Flintshire as part of the project. Soon, they will join other local schools to finalise and perform their work, showcasing their newfound skills and creativity.

Celebrating Santes Dwynwen



As part of Santes Dwynwen, the school opened its doors to families to celebrate the day. The Criw Cymraeg led the activity, and parents came to listen to the story and create cards with their children, making it a memorable and meaningful event. Through this activity, they also raised £80 for the British Heart Foundation. Thank you to everyone who came to support this amazing event.



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



In January we said farewell to Rev Kathryn as she moves to live in Anglesey and begins a new role within the Church. Rev Kathryn has been a pleasure to work with and the children have really enjoyed listening to her services. We would like to thank her for her dedication to our community and to the school in her role as School Vicar and Governor. Pob lwc!

CLASS NEWS

Dosbarth 1

This term we have started our new topic Dangerous Dinosaurs. We discussed what we know already and what we would like to find out about dinosaurs. We are very interested in what they ate, where they lived and how they moved. In maths we have been busy learning about one more/one less and sorting dinosaurs in different ways. We have read the story 'If I had a dinosaur' and written about what we would do with our own pet dinosaur and where we would keep him. We went on a Dino Hunt around our outdoor area and had to climb over, under and through some very



tricky terrains. We have been programming the DinoBots around Dinoland and digging up fossils in our very own Dino Dig area. We have listened to the story of Harry and asked 'Beth sy yn y bocs?' whilst searching the schools playground for the missing Deinosor. We made fossils from clay and created dinosaur skeleton pictures from matchsticks.

We have also enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year, creating a dragon dance and making cards for loved ones on Diwrnod Santes Dwynwen.

Dosbarth 2

Dosbarth 2 have enjoyed starting their new topic. We will be travelling back through the ages to the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age! We're currently reading 'The Wild Girl' and have been predicting what we think is going to happen in the story. We have built our very own cave in class - Yr Ogof, and we will soon be filling it with cave art. In Maths we have been able to use our knowledge and understanding of multiplication and division to help us find fractions of quantities. We've taken our learning outdoors and had great fun using natural objects for our fractions sums.

Mr Phormula gave us a masterclass on rapping and beat boxing, and Alison from the Size of Wales taught us about the need to protect wildlife in the rainforest. We worked with a partner to build a safe shelter for TimTom the orangutan. Everyone is enjoying our weekly swimming lessons at Holywell leisure centre, and we are extremely enthusiastic in our PE lessons when we are learning some traditional Welsh folk dancing.



Dosbarth 3

Since returning to school after Christmas, Dosbarth 3 have settled in brilliantly and embraced the new term with enthusiasm and dedication. They have been working hard and demonstrating a fantastic attitude towards all aspects of school life. Our current topic, Revolution, has sparked great curiosity as we explore the Industrial Revolution and its impact on the UK, Wales and Flintshire. The children have been particularly engaged in comparing the lives of working children in the past to their own experiences today, focusing on the challenges of child labour. They loved acting out scenarios related to child labour during the Victorian era this week. We are currently reading the novel 'Street Child' which they seem to be enjoying. In science, we have been delving into electricity and circuits, developing our understanding through practical investigations. Last week, we had a workshop from the talented Mr. Phormula who gave us a masterclass in beatboxing and music producing in Welsh & English. Mr Williams has also been in class this week and pupils looked at how to write and say Welsh phrases. It has been a fantastic start to the term, hopefully the class is excited for all the things still to come.

Eco Group Tackling Food Waste

The Eco Group have been working hard to ensure the children at Ysgol y Llan are keeping a close eye on the amount of food waste in school. They are working closely with Newydd Catering as part of the EAT MORE, WASTE LESS initiative. Each day, they weigh the food waste and provide feedback to their peers, encouraging everyone to be more mindful about reducing waste.



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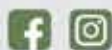
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EVENTS

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SPRING RECIPES (Isabel Burnage)

CHICKEN AND VEGETABLE STIR-FRY

The following recipe is quick and easy to cook and makes a wonderful family supper.

Ingredients:

- 4 skinless chicken breasts
- 1 family sized packet of stir-fry vegetables, including bean sprouts (I usually add some extra sliced mushrooms and celery)
- 2-3oz. (75gm) cooked pasta shapes (optional)
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger or fresh grated ginger or 1 teaspoon five spice powder.
- 2 teaspoons garlic puree.
- 4 tablespoons vegetable oil.

Method:

1. Cook pasta shapes to al dente stage, drain and coat in a little oil to prevent them sticking together.
2. Cut the chicken into strips.
3. Using a wok or a large shallow pan, fry the cut chicken in 2 tablespoons hot oil for 3-4 minutes. Remove from pan to a plate.
4. Add remaining oil to pan (wok) and when very hot add the vegetable mixture and toss and stir for 3-4 minutes, adding the seasonings and soy sauce.
5. Add the cooked chicken pieces and pasta shapes (optional) to the vegetables and stir fry for another 1-2 minutes.

Serve on warm plates with extra garlic bread and soy sauce for a hearty supper.

CHOCOLATE CHEESECAKE

(Serves 6)

I have been reading that chocolate can be good for you! The following rich and delicious recipe is bound to please everyone who tries it.

Ingredients:

- 3oz. (75gm) butter.
- 4oz. (100gm) digestive biscuits, crushed.
- 5oz. (150gm) good quality plain chocolate broken into pieces.
- 1 tablespoon cocoa powder.
- 2 tablespoons brandy.
- 9oz. (250gm) mascarpone or cream cheese.
- 2 medium eggs.
- 2oz. (50gm) dark muscovado sugar.
- Single cream to serve.

Method:

1. Melt 2oz. of butter and mix in the biscuit crumbs.
2. Tip into an 8 inch (20cm) flan tin or a shallow dish and press firmly over the base. Chill until firm.
3. Put the remaining butter, chocolate pieces, cocoa and brandy into a large heatproof bowl. Set the bowl over a pan of simmering water and allow the contents to melt. Stir to blend then allow to cool slightly.
4. Beat the cream cheese to soften then blend into the chocolate mix.
5. Put eggs and sugar into a large heatproof bowl and place over a pan of simmering water. Using a rotary or electric whisk beat until thick and fluffy.
6. Fold the egg mixture into the chocolate mix then pour onto the biscuit base and chill until firm.
7. Cut into wedges as needed and serve with a little extra single cream.

WELL I DIDN'T KNOW THAT!

It's surprising that you can live in an area and not know that these old buildings were renovated over 20 years ago into the Craft Centre next to St Winifred's Well in Greenfield Road and now house one of the finest wood carving groups in North Wales.



The Carmel & Holywell Woodcraft Association founded in May 1999 has grown into a flourishing club with membership covering all age groups. The club is probably unique in that it is open on Thursdays & Fridays 9.00am to 3.00pm and, to accommodate people who are working throughout the day, it now operates on a Tuesday evening 5.00pm to 9.00pm and Saturday mornings 9.00am to 1.00pm. Working from a dedicated building in the renovated Textile Mill adjacent to the Holywell Greenfield Road, Holywell CH8 7PN, the modern machine shop comprises of lathes with dust extraction and air filtration systems, a new heavy-duty bandsaw, scroll saws, bench drill, planer thicknesser and tool sharpening systems for both turners and carvers. A second room has tables for up to 25 carvers with a small kitchen and library area. Everyone benefits from membership from the younger people learning new skills to those facing retirement which in itself can bring a loss of purpose and meaning in their lives.

As we progress and the Association grows from strength to strength, the ongoing development of working with wood is now attracting a wide range of people, from the experienced to others with no knowledge of wood or machinery. For newcomers there is no shortage of help available and our new members have made amazing advancements in a short space of time, exceeding their wildest expectation in what they can achieve. For that person looking to giving that unique gift for such occasions as weddings, christenings, anniversaries or retirement (the list is endless), visitors can now sit with one of our designers and commission an item which can be tailored to the recipients' lifestyle or interests.

For people wishing to try a new hobby, we have now introduced a voucher system which can be purchased as a gift to be used by family members or friends (these



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introductory sessions will be held over a two-day period). Alternatively, with the introduction of our new work display area, visitors can now purchase items made solely by the Association members.

Since our last entry in the Five Villages magazine, the local community had the opportunity to see first-hand the inside of the building during the Association's second Open Day where visitors could take part in judging the various entries and items made by our members. The overall winner, as voted for by the public, was the impressive American Truck built by Chris Cummings.



And finally to round off our successful year, the Club received a commission from Holywell Town Council to design and build a new Christmas Light Switch On Unit, which the members enjoyed building and supplying. This project certainly demonstrates how the members co-operate as a team. Our members enjoy the camaraderie of the Club especially during the coffee and lunch breaks, whereby new friendships are made and help and tips are always available.



WHY NOT CALL IN DURING OUR OPENING HOURS TO FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT GOES ON IN THAT RENOVATED BUILDING.

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Joleen Meadows



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DISCOVERY ON HALKYN MOUNTAIN (Jan Miller)

Halkyn Mountain Nature Conservation Group led a walk with local fungus experts, near the windmill in November, through the deathly damp drizzle onto the ancient grassland amongst the gorse. On this undisturbed land, where the mycorrhizal networks have been allowed to criss-cross through the soil for thousands of years, is where we find some real gems, including more scarce species. There's a host of wax caps, tiny and delicate, and coloured orange, yellow and red; and moss caps, some smelling of cedar wood or honey. We find dewdrop mottlegill – slimy brown and holding onto tiny mist droplets under its pointed hood. Then there are funnel caps, bark bonnets, scurfy twiglet, and candle snuff, which appears like black teeth with white crowns or Dead man's fingers decomposing the wooden stems of the gorse. Weirdest of all is the earth fingers (or dead man's fingers) fungus, a black hand reaching out from underground.

But the star of the show arrives as a red spike – a zombie caterpillar fungus (*Cordyceps militaris*), rising from a body it has parasitised down there. This scarce, gothic thing reprogrammes insect brains to climb high to release the fungal spores, as seen in 'The Last of Us' and on BBC Planet Earth, an ant infested with *Cordyceps* (not in U.K.) recently, which fascinated me because I had only known of them on moth larvae before. I had also only heard of one being found in North Wales before, but looking it up there are said to be at least a dozen species in Britain, the most common of which is *C. militaris*, the one we found on Halkyn. There are over 400 species worldwide.

C. militaris is said to not be limited to any insect host, but we have trapped Ghost Moths on Halkyn before, whose larvae live on the roots of undisturbed grassland and said to be the common host in Tibet, where they are collected for medicine.



Here is the actual fungus, orangey spike coming out of the grass clump.

To find out more about our group events go to our Facebook page for Halkyn Mountain Nature Conservation Group.



Cordyceps militaris (detail)



Parrot waxcap



Honey waxcap



Meadow coral



The goblet



Earth tongue



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THE FIVE VILLAGES GARDENING CLUB (Janet Tattum)

Our A.G.M. in November was very well attended. All committee members agreed to carry on for 2025 and our Secretary, Christine Hamer, was re-elected with the assistance and help from all members. Christine also won the Menden Plate. The meeting ended with tea and delicious cake.

Our Christmas lunch in December was held at the Crown in Lixwm and was enjoyed by everyone.

Gardeners' Question Time in February is our first meeting of the year and everyone looks forward to meeting and catching up at the start of a new gardening year. We had three members of the Hardy Plant Society to help solve our problems, which they did with great knowledge and humour. The competition for a photograph of a garden was won by Christine Hamer. The meeting ended with tea and delicious cakes.

In March we are looking forward to an illustrated talk on Plas Cadnant Secret Gardens by Mr Anthony Tavenor and in April, a second visit by David Winnard on plants found locally in the last year. In May we re-visit Mostyn Hall Gardens to see the gardens in flower. Our guide will be Philip Handley.

All meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 2.00 p.m. in Carmel Village Hall. New members are always made very welcome. For further information, please contact:

Christine Hamer 01352 716273
Maria Evans 01352 715156

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

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23ain Y Parch Huw Powell-Davies (Gweinidog)
30ain i'w drefnu

Ebrill/April:

6ed i'w drefnu
13eg i'w drefnu
20fed Sul y Pasg / Easter Sunday: Gweinidog (Cymun)
27ain i'w drefnu

Mai/May:

4ydd Geraint Owen
11eg Gweinidog
18fed Huw V. Jones
25ain Gweinidog

Mehefin/June:

1af Uno yn y Berthen - Aneurin Owen
8fed Gweinidog
15fed Marion Simkin
22ain Gweinidog
29ain Y Parch Ifor ap Gwilym

Gorffennaf/July:

6ed Y Parch Trefor Lewis
13eg Gweinidog
20fed i'w drefnu
27ain Y Parch David Owens

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CARMEL VILLAGE HALL (Gareth Sharp)



2025 didn't get off to the best start for the community of Carmel, having to say a final goodbye to such a strong character of the village. I am sure everyone sends their condolences to the family of Sally Brighton.

It was a wintry start to the year causing disruptions across all clubs as sessions were cancelled due to health and safety issues.



The hall is a small charity existing mainly due to the hard work of a handful of trustees and "friends of the hall".

With the ever-increasing demands of inflatable energy prices, it is due to grants achieved (continued support of Whitford community council) and the fundraising that makes it possible to keep the very competitive rent prices for groups.

The recent resurfacing of the car park and the barrier (total cost of £10700) has cemented the hall as the centre of community as we allow it to be used for the community, especially for extra parking at the time of school pick up.

But I would just like to remind people this is primarily for the use of users of the hall.

In April Flintshire are adopting the new bin collections so the recycling becomes a more important issue and we at the hall would just like to express that this needs to be followed precisely to avoid waste collection issues.

The hall has a variety of groups.

Cubs, Scouts, Beavers, Brownies, Guides, Irish dance, Gardening club, Tai chi, Paper craft, WI, Christian fellowship, Yoga, 5 villages craft group, Flintshire social services and Twinkleledisplay.

If there is any interest, please either look on the village hall's Facebook page or contact Chris Dolphin 01352 713415.

This has been the debut article for me and hopefully this will lead to more colourful articles in the future.

NATURE (Jan Miller) LICHEN



I have been keeping my old wooden garden gate in place for many years past its usefulness because it has had the most marvellous colony of lichen developing on it. The glaucous green little flanges or squamous growth encroaching slowly, millimetre by millimetre over months, years, the wood being consumed by them from the hyphae penetrating. I love watching its twinkling progress in the frosty sunlight every day as I pass. That's the incredible thing; lichens are not just one plant, but a combination of a fungus and an alga. The algae provide the food through their green chlorophyll using the sunlight. And the fungal part does the reproduction through their little mushrooms or cups that grow up from the green base. But lichens do come in a lot of different colours, yellow, red, brown, white even black. So many millions of years to evolve complex strategies to grow in the most difficult of places. When I was working for the volcanoes observatory in Hawaii, many years ago, I was flown out by helicopter to areas which had been

molten lava just a few months before. There was nothing growing around as far as the eye could see, even trees had just been vaporised as the boiling lava had touched them. Just smooth or cracked black basalt in every direction. But if I crouched down to have a look in the little sheltered gullies there were the beginnings of little green or yellow patches of the only thing there that could begin life again - yes, lichens.



Lichen Cladonia fimbriata

The fairy light spores of the fruiting cups blow on the wind from far away, from where there is growth untouched. They land on the barren lava and a tiny drop of dew just enables them to stick on while the hyphae (not roots) reach out and down into any of the tiniest cracks. Once they have a toe hold they can spread very gradually, using up the tiniest amounts of sunlight and water. These are the pioneers that eventually break down the barren lava, and when they die their bodies mix with the crumbled rock to add humous and eventually together make a soil. And then, of course, the so-called 'higher plants' can start growing in that soil. But what could be 'higher' than those that create the very beginning?



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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

CONGRATULATIONS



Eleanor Bagnall and Alex Thornley were married on the 30th December 2024 at The Chesterfields.

Eleanor is the youngest daughter of Keith and Jill Bagnall of Sorlandet, Gorsedd. Eleanor is currently an Automation Test Engineer while Alex is a Marine Engineering Technician. The couple currently live in Pantymwyn. Family and friends wish them a very happy future together.

REV KATHRYN EVANS

As many of you will know, I have left the wonderful area of the Five Villages for a new post on Ynys Mon as Vicar and Ministry Area Leader of Bro Cybi on Holy Island. I should just like to express my heartfelt thanks for a wonderful send-off on 12th January and apologise that the weather cancelled the other plans. A huge thank you for the outpouring of love I have received over my time with you and for the all cards, messages and gifts and love you have given to me. This area will always hold a very special place in my heart, and I treasure the many wonderful memories.

Thank you / diolch yn fawr iawn.
Rev Kathryn

GARDEN PLOT

Hi Editor, I'm Roy Wigley, Lloc. Not sure if this might be something one of our readers would be interested in? I have a small manageable garden plot to let for free to a suitable person to use for personal usage. Might suit some one as a "hobby" or pleasure.

For more details contact me at roy.wigley@btinternet.com or 07761979819.

Regards Roy

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HOLYWELL REMINISCENCE GROUP

A very happy and healthy 2025 to you all from our group.

This past quarter has been a huge success for our group which is going from strength to strength.

Our calendars, Christmas cards and books have sold extremely well and there is plenty of funding to purchase more. We also have birthday and get well cards with pictures of olde Holywell and bespoke verses to suit the picture and are planning more types. We had a successful stall at the St Peter's Christmas Fair - sadly due to the awful weather the Greenfield Valley weekend was cancelled - however we are still placing Cynthia's two titles there on growing up in Bryn Celyn thanks to Sarah who was thrilled with the fact that there was nothing like that represented there.

Also Donna (our computer whizz) is reproducing my book especially written for children to know about their lovely little town of Holywell. That will also be on sale at the Valley.

A lot of our merchandise sales are thanks to Martin at the Nexus pop up shop in post office lane - must give a huge shout out to him for doing a wonderful job for the community. He is devoted to our town and making it the place it once was - bringing the community spirit back. If you haven't been in there do pop in and support him. He is a lovely guy and will help any local talent with their crafts.

If you want to purchase any of our cards please get in touch with us at the leisure centre on a Tuesday morning or visit Martin's - we still have a few calendars left.

After visiting the History Fair at Northop last October we are in the process of planning our own Holywell History Fair Day to establish it on alternate years to them. We already have interest in six local history societies plus ourselves and will be holding it at the leisure centre on a Sunday in early June where we have found a wonderful home for our history group and our Thursday quiz.

A mention also of Donna's "Researching Your Family History" - six week course - on a Friday morning at our room in the leisure centre. The first one is now half way through and has proved a huge success. Hardly surprising as Donna has been involved in genealogy for thirty years and can answer any questions you ask on how to find your ancestors. Already the second run is fully booked up so if you are interested in any future ones please email her at DCFAMILYHUB@gmail.com.

We are extremely excited at the prospect of the coming year and all we have planned. It would be good if you could join us on our journey - either by joining our facebook page, checking out our website (<https://hollywellreminiscing.wixsite.com/hollywell-reminiscing>) or coming to visit us at the leisure centre on a Tuesday morning.

If you would like more information please contact me on 01352 711240 or email on andreadakin112@btinternet.com.

All good wishes
Andrea Yarnell Dakin

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ST WINEFRIDE'S

Dosbarth Melyn have loved helping Old Bear and his friends during Language sessions. We visualised Old Bear from listening to a description of him and drew a picture of what he might look like. We acted out parts of the story, became Sentence Detectives using magnifying glasses and word cards to make super sentences, and we helped Old Bear to sort toys in his playroom into different materials. For our Fabulous Finish, we had a Teddy Bears' picnic with our teddies from home and a visit from Old Bear. Old Bear parachuted down from the attic just like in his story. He brought a picnic basket filled with treats. Diolch, Old Bear!



BRIGHTEN UP DAY FOR CAFOD:

As a school, we took part in Cafod's Brighten Up Day. Each class created some bright art work and we all came to school in bright clothes. We all paid £1 to raise money for CAFOD.

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Dosbarth Coch completed some pop art work in the style of Andy Warhol. We used animals as our topic is 'Rumble in the Jungle.' We had to make sure our art was very bright. Have a look at some of our fantastic creations.



Dosbarth Menai have been captivated by their 'I Have a Dream' topic, exploring the lives and legacies of inspirational figures who dared to dream of a better world. They delved into the stories of individuals who championed change and fought for human rights, examining the impact of their visions. This exploration inspired the children to reflect on their own dreams, both personal and for a more just and equitable future for all.



Dosbarth Glas (Reception) enjoyed their visit to Chester Zoo to kick off their Amazing Animals topic for the Spring term. The children loved exploring the Zoo and seeing a variety of different animals!



Our FAIRTRADE Coffee Afternoon was a great success. The classes created bakes with Fairtrade ingredients and we had Fairtrade tea and coffee and a raffle. We had Parents, Parishioners and Governors who came to join us. Our Eco club and little ways group did a great job.



Well done to our Dodgeball Team, who came first and second place in the recent tournament at Maes Glas School.



Year 4 and 5 pupils have had a wonderful time participating in the Bright Sparks workshops. They have helped Professor Sparky and friends by completing various tasks and games which involve team working, listening, problem solving, experimenting, and designing.



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YSGOL BRO CARMEL

What a brilliant few months we have had at Ysgol Bro Carmel!



In November, our pupils managed to raise a wonderful £229 for Children in Need. It was lovely seeing the children come into school in their pyjamas, and a great deal of fun was had during our Corridor Olympics! We also raised a lot of money for the Poppy Appeal, and made a poppy wreath which was contributed to by every single pupil at school. Two of our school councillors proudly lay this wreath at the memorial garden in Holywell.



On the sporting front, we have been involved in lots of competitions, including dodgeball, football and netball, to name a few! One of our sporting highlights has been the Y5/6 indoor athletics in Deeside. The children did fantastically well, coming joint first out of all the schools that attended! Not only that, Mrs Jones was delighted to share that this is the FIFTH year in a row Ysgol Bro Carmel have won the indoor

athletics! Well done everyone!

In the run up to Christmas, we had three spectacular performances of our nativity, 'Prickly Hay' which really got us all into the Christmas spirit! We were thrilled to see so many members of our community in attendance, and were delighted to see former Headteacher Mrs Garbutt and recently retired Mr and Mrs Moss come to see the production too! Prickly Hay's ticket sales raised a huge £856 for the school (over £1,000 including programmes!) and this money will go directly into supporting the children at school, in the form of renewed books and outdoor provision. Every penny counts and will be spent on the children. In addition, some children visited Carmel Village Hall to sing some Christmas songs, and were welcomed by a very friendly crowd who enjoyed their performance. The children were treated

to drinks and biscuits afterwards - well deserved after their festive singing. We finished the term off with a visit from The Grinch, a trip to see the pantomime in Rhyl (Oh no we didn't!), a delicious Christmas Dinner day, packed with crackers and bad jokes, and a wonderful array of Christmas jumpers on party day!

Our first half term of 2025 has already been a fun, memorable and enjoyable one. The standout moment over the last few weeks has definitely been the Year 6 residential trip to Cardiff. Our Year 6 pupils, supported by four brave members of staff, had three fantastic days down in the capital! Not a moment was wasted whilst the children were there. From exploring the National Museum (and seeing a real-life Van Gogh self-portrait worth millions of pounds, on loan from the Musée D'Orsay in Paris!) to visiting the Principality Stadium



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and Cardiff Castle, to bowling, movie nights, treasure hunts and water taxis, the trip was full of learning, exploration, personal development and enjoyment. The children conducted themselves maturely and responsibly, showing everyone just how wonderful they are. Diolch yn fawr a da iawn pawb!

Furthermore, Dosbarth Celyn made their way to William Aston Hall in Wrexham on the 5th February. This was for a First Experiences music concert, as Year 3 have been learning to play the P-Buzz since the beginning of the academic year. The children had the opportunity to play with other schools, supported by the Synfonia Cymru. The children were also able to see Synfonia Cymru play live in situ - a real 'wow' moment, experiencing the sounds of a full orchestra! At the end of the show, Celyn joined in with the other schools to perform a fantastic rendition of 'What a Wonderful World' by Louis Armstrong.



Recently our Reading Ambassadors participated in an online meeting with Children's Laureate Wales poet, Connor Allen. The Reading Ambassadors loved talking to Connor about the wonderful poems he has written in his book, 'Miracles'.



To top off our first half term, the wonderful pond area project has been completed! We are now waiting for the seeds to sprout, and can't wait to see what wonderful wildlife appears over the coming months!

HOLYWELL AREA COMMUNITY MUSEUM (Mike Jones)

First, a Happy New Year...Thank you to everyone that has supported The Museum through the last twelve months. We look forward to seeing old friends and welcoming new friends in 2025.

Our resident coal miner, John Wiltshire, who worked at the Point of Ayr Colliery has been busy sorting out the extensive mining display, adding new items, moving things around and ensuring that Welsh translations are on items. And don't forget that on most days John is available to recount the history of the colliery and explain mining working methods.

Given the atrocious weather of late people continue to make welcome donations to The Museum. A collection of pictures of Holywell in days gone by has been gratefully received and many are being displayed on the cafe walls. The café refurbishment is nearly complete and we have been presented with a plaque by Cadwyn Clwyd who helped with support and funding.

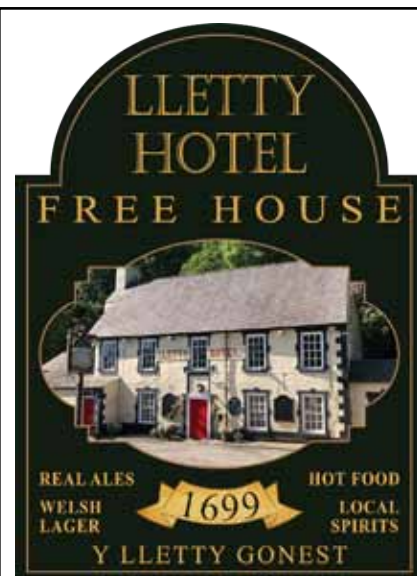
Our weekly schedule includes The Welsh Group; learning Welsh in a friendly and easy-going atmosphere; The Knit and Natter Group who come together to chat, knit crochet and swap ideas plus there is bingo every Monday.

The Museum made a bittersweet decision to take on the assets of the recently closed Holywell Garden Centre. Over the coming weeks we aim to have a wide range of items available in the Museum shop but at the moment we have a fantastic area of greetings cards priced at 40 pence each or three cards for £1. Our sincere thanks go to Holywell Garden Centre for allowing us this kind opportunity to boost Museum funds.

Recently we were so pleased to welcome the High Sheriff of Clwyd, Karen Farrell-Thornley to the Museum. Her enthusiasm and interest was really appreciated.

A usual we are indebted to Wales and West Housing Association for their continued support and to Holywell Town Council for their invaluable help. Last but not least we want to thank our band of volunteers without whom we could not function.

If you would like to come and help or volunteer at The Museum or make a donation, please call in and speak to Jodie the Office Manager.



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GORSEDD CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

At every writing group meeting, a random theme is suggested as a starting point for a piece of writing. At the last meeting, this theme was 'Harmony' and it inspired the following poem:

HARMONY

Liz Davies

A call, a laugh, a song, a sigh
All form a tapestry as life rolls by
Sometimes loud, frequently soft
The melody of time floats aloft.
High and clear and beautifully wrought
The lark's song pierces a gentle thought
Soft and low the breeze passes through
Moving grass, leaves and flowers as wind will do.
All creatures at one with the planet each day
Wandering and flying their short lives away
Never a worry for fish, fowl or bee
All living with purpose in God's Harmony.

MURDER BEFORE BREAKFAST

Louise Fury

It's not even 6am and already there's been a murder. Audrey stands in slippers on the grey flagstone floor staring at the body. She'd have to move it before Frank came down for breakfast... he'd be horrified.

The storm had been raging when Audrey and Frank arrived three nights ago. They'd set off from London in daylight with the winter sun streaming through the windows; the further north they got the darker the sky became, and the rain lashed the windscreen. It had been a relief to reach north Wales and get inside Rose Cottage with its wood burner and cosy rooms. That first night was wonderful. Sitting in matching chairs by the fire, a glass of red wine each. But then the bodies started piling up.

She'd tried to keep it from Frank at first. Sending him on endless errands to the village shop whilst she moved the bodies. But there are only so many supplies two people need and he began to get suspicious.

"We need butter," she'd told him on their second morning.

"There's butter in the fridge," he'd said from behind his paper.

"I need unsalted butter, though. It's for a special recipe."

He'd sighed and left his crossword behind to go and find unsalted butter...or so she thought. Audrey had been down at the bottom of the garden dealing with the latest corpse when Frank had come up behind her and caught her in the act.

Audrey hears the shower start upstairs. She'd better get a move on. This time the victim is a small brown mouse. Audrey pads into the kitchen to fetch what she'd come to refer to as the body remover - a cream dustpan and brush set, which had been getting a lot of use.

She comes across Arthur, the murderer, in the kitchen in his bed by the Aga. Fast asleep after a night terrorising the local wildlife. She bends down to stroke his silky tabby head and he chirrups in his sleep stretching out his paws and then tucking himself into a ball.

How could Audrey and Frank have thought a week in the countryside looking after their daughter's cat would be relaxing!

BRIAN E JONES

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LOSS

(Norman Closs - Parry)

Advent for me will never be the same however long I have left. I lost two of my cornerstones this time. Oh I know Sion Lloc complied with the pandemic national requirements - but it never reopened...and never again there will be the great Plygain there on Christmas Mornings...on Friday, January 17th, '25 it was closed forever... there are hundreds like me who feel the loss...



Advent for me meant this first Sunday of the period. Gron Ellis would have invited the Plygain choir to assemble...between lunch and tea...and religiously I would call at Grimond, Crecas Lane for Sally (Brighton) and we both would make our way to Sion...Sally to sit with the sopranos and altos, myself - well a bit of everything else!! It depended who was singing next to me! Gron would dole out the proposed carols, there would be a hive of tune humming held together by the wonderful bass of Ednyfed! - Now Sally's gone!

On Monday (16th Dec) she was Christmas lunching with nearly three dozen of us Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant at the Corner Café, Caerwys! She sat not far from me, and I could hear her erudite conversation about everything with Dr Eiddwen Jones...bright as a button...four days later...well, on the morning of the 5th day, very early Paul rang - I shall never forget his words...in a broken voice he said that Sal had sadly passed away...left us...I was stunned, mute...unbelieving...but...

After Christmas, and the Service of Thanksgiving on 24th of January '25 at the Northop Crematorium too - I can't believe it...I know that the earthly part has now departed, but Sally - no - that magnificent inner life of spirit and soul will be there...It will be in fragments of a song, in a note of music, - a shadow...I know - I have been there and am thereafter to my comfort. Paul, Jon, Cath, Darrell, Harry, Tracey,

Bob, her brother from the USA will receive the call or the thought or the clarity of a problem a la her way of dissecting it! Me also, and Heulwen, Gareth, Gwawr and my grandchildren...this my friends is my interpretation of eternity...and it will be for all those in their standing room only at the Crem will testify...and so too... the little Gron Ellis Plygain Choir and tens of pupils from Rhyl and especially Holywell who benefited from her insight into 'can't read Miss' syndrome...she was special!

Oh! I heard the chronological sequence of her life from Birmingham Academy Circle via Nottingham University then Sussex then Paul, then then CARMEL!

I will, as long as I have puff, remember Sal, Kath (Mostyn - Pete's Wife) and Beti some afternoons having a ciggy, coffee and gazz - the room blue with smoke - and Heulwen, Mark, Cath, Jonjo etc in the coal bunker!!

I will remember her as a village 'great' (and I choose my words wisely) in committees - Village Hall, WI, Book Club, lib dems, Council - i can tell you that the formidable Civil Servant - and one time President of the Welsh FA, Elfed Ellis - would not take Sally on in a political argument...he had great respect for her... did not she top election polls every time - and Paul - poor dab - No2??

I have not opened my memory box yet - and I will not - but will mention one or two instances of Sal - the country woman at heart - with the ability to peel leaves off an onion problem...and life was happy ever after.

The Brightons joined the Closs Parrys in Eryri - Fachwen some autumn terms. Me - Closs was involved with Eric Hardy - Nature Correspondent - Daily Post. I used to send him Rookery numbers in Flintshire and afield! One Saturday whilst at the cottage, I decided to have a whistle stop spotting rookeries in Anglesey. I remember going down this narrow lane - spotting and counting - but I drove the 4x4 to an overspill stream from a farm cow shed. Stuck muck stuck!! The air was blue! I developed a plan - Beti, Sally and Paul to go out and build under the spinning wheel track... they did not hear me say - "I'll try now!" It was too late...they were covered - and smell? I nearly did not let them in - neither did the toilet attendant at Bangor Toilets half an hour later. It would have not made any difference... they still smelt like Fresians! 'Paaaul - Sally!...' 'Have you your MATALAN card dear?

Sally..."Closs - Do you think we can call in Matalan Bangor?...Who was I to argue?

In an hour - 3 brightly coloured happy rookery counters came back into the car! - the old clothes - thrown in carrier bags in the boot for the rest of the stay!

Sally believed in the power of thought and contact - across rooms, across lands... and across oceans!

We once went to FREE IRELAND for a week - Daily Post token holiday! I took the four of us to the Blasket Centre - the nearest point to AMERICA in the British Isles! I could write a book about that trip, the Wake on the Dingle Road, the Wexford Lady and Passage East and Passage West Stories - but for now...come down the corridor...the Gallery of memory of the Old Islanders, The Storytellers and Poets, the fishers and crofters - now - gone!

At the very end of the corridor there is a door opening out onto the Atlantic shore...

We had lost Sally...then we saw her sitting on a rock...oblivious of us but

concentrating on Bob her brother...the hour was 3pm...and at the Stanford Gate Reception - the Burl Ives song came back when we recalled...'A little bit of tear let me down...

But what the...Cathy Davies, nee Brighton has put the whole thing together as poets can and it's my privilege to end my tribute by including her fine poem which family and friends will treasure as long as...

"I looked up at that sky today,
The sun shone brighter,
the moon bigger.
And in the centre - an extra star.
I knew it was you mum,
in that sky,
Illuminating it forever..."



THE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY CLWYD GROUP

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Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 8th April, 'Rare and Unusual and Pictorial Plants', Kevin Pratt

Kevin is author of Gardeners Guide to Growing Fritillaria; a garden speaker and lecturer for over forty years; RHS Trials Committee member; RHS Gold Medallist; previous owner of Village Plants Nursery in Cheshire and former National Collection holder of Fritillaria & Eucomis. His talk covers rare plants grown in his garden.

Tuesday 13th May, 'National Collection of Verbena at the RHS Tatton Show', Tracy Jones

Tracy achieved NC full status in 2021, a milestone she cherishes deeply. She showcased her collection at RHS Tatton in 2024 for the first time and won a bronze medal. Tracy runs Manor Farm Botanics and holds herbalism workshops using herbs from the garden. She opens her garden in Crewe, Cheshire for Plant Heritage and the NGS by appointment.

Sunday 18th MAY

PLANT FAIR 11.15am to 2pm in the Holywell Leisure Centre. HPS Clwyd and invited nurseries plant stalls. Members of the public are very welcome. Free admission; free parking; public welcome.

Information: 01352 781458 (leave a message)

email:clwydgroup@hardy-plant.org.uk

www.facebook.com/HPSClwyd

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THE CHARTISTS' CAVE (Geraint Roberts)

'THE END' overlaid the final scene of another cowboy film as the hero rode off into the sunset with his 'gal' having vanquished the gang of stagecoach robbers with a little help from one of the Pinkertons.

Another film, 'The Siege at Red River' is also of the same genre which features the famous detective agency set up by one Allan Pinkerton (1819-1884) from



Allan Pinkerton

Scotland. A cooper by trade he was made the first police detective in Chicago in 1849 and went on to eventually establish the Pinkerton Detective Agency which was the forerunner of the US Secret Service. He was synonymous with bringing down the 'Reno' gang as well as pursuing Jesse James for many years, (although he ultimately failed to apprehend him). He was a spy for the Unionists in the Civil War and was instrumental in foiling a plot to assassinate Abraham Lincoln in 1861, four years before Lincoln was, actually assassinated. Coincidentally, Abraham



Bryn Gwyn, Pentrefoelas

Lincoln's great grandmother Ellen, was born in Bryn Gwyn, Pentrefoelas, an unoccupied farm cottage which still has its roof! She emigrated in the 17th century and met a Cadwaladr Evans who had also emigrated from Bala; they had a daughter called Nancy who was to become Lincoln's 'nain'!

But what has Allan Pinkerton got to do with the title of this article?

Chartists Cave lies on a desolate plateau on the Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) above the villages of Llangynidr and Trefil. My daughter lives in Llangynidr



Chartists Cave

and whilst visiting a few months ago we decided to walk and look for the cave. It was a damp misty day, and a little map and compass work was needed to navigate the largely featureless moor. We initially had to weave our way between several threatening looking 'shake holes'. These



Shake Hole

are large funnel like features which have collapsed into subterranean voids formed by rainwater eroding the limestone bedrock beneath. They wait in the heather as if to swallow the unwary. We didn't see any open holes at the bottom of any, but I certainly wouldn't want to jump up and down to test them!

We passed a blunted un-named summit trig point marking the 1800 foot contour, and posed for a photo with Dewi, their blind dog who can still enjoy long walks on a tight



Un-named trig Point with 'Dewi'

leash. It was perhaps an hour's honest walk before we could start looking for the cave. It is in the form of a synclined arch of millstone grit lying over a softer layer of limestone which has eroded over millions of years to leave a cave.

At one time it was known as Yr Ogof Fawr (Large Cave) Tylles Fawr (Large Hole) and even Y Stabal Fawr (Large Stable) on account of the mountain ponies which used to shelter inside during inclement weather.

In 1839 however it was baptised The

Chartists Cave when its remote location was chosen by one branch of the Chartist movement to store and hide weapons in preparation for an intended march on Newport. There was even a rudimentary Smithy installed so that some crude weapons could be made!

The Chartists Movement came about essentially to secure more rights for common people. They had a package of six demands which centred on free votes for every man over 21 (even if he wasn't a land-owner), secret ballots, and payments for MPs (thus allowing non-gentry into parliament) as the most important points. The troubles had been bubbling since 1836 when the movement was established in the Carmarthen Working Men's Association and several pockets of this discontent threatened to become a more organised threat to the establishment. Her Majesty's government had managed to install a few infiltrators who could inform local constabularies, and the military of the Chartists intended plans. Some of these government spies however were rumoured and disappeared, their whereabouts or bodies at the time unaccounted for, and became a mystery which lasted for several years; until the 1960s in fact!



Cave entrance

The main 'room' of the cave itself goes in perhaps thirty feet and then the ceiling drops down in a confusion of boulders, rubble, and soil with two or three tight squeeze passages leading away into the



A narrow passage

bowels of Llangynidr mountain. It wasn't until 1969 that these narrow passages were dug and revealed by the Severn Valley caving club. The passages which have still not been fully explored stretch over 1500 feet. Amongst several items of historical interest they found, were human skeletons whose bones showed obvious marks of butchery by weapons resembling the blade of an axe. They were dated to be from the time of the Chartist assault on Newport and much conjecture has been offered that they belonged to the infiltrators who had betrayed their fellow Chartists.



Inside the cave

The actual march on Newport on the wet night of November 3rd was certainly not a success. Some had already been arrested and were kept in the Westgate Hotel which was guarded by soldiers of the 45th Foot Division. It is thought that up to 10,000 sympathisers marched that night (which included a whole congregation from one chapel picked up along the way!). John Frost, William Jones and Zephania Williams were the leaders. The Chartists managed to break into the hotel to try and free their companions but were beaten back. It is unclear who fired the first shots but once the soldiers opened fire the 'butcher's bill' was 24 dead Chartists, with fifty injured; there were five soldiers who were also wounded. 200 were arrested and 21 charged with 'high treason'. The ring-leaders were sentenced to be hung, drawn and quartered which was the traditional punishment for treason; but following a country-wide campaign the sentence was commuted, and they were transported to Tasmania.

All three were released in 1856. Frost returned and lived out his life in Bristol, Jones died in poverty in Australia but Zephania Williams who previously had coal mines near Machen decided to stay on in Tasmania where he established a flourishing coal business.

There was another minor flare up in 1848 which resulted in middle class men only, being given the vote. And even by 1918 only five of the six demands had been met!

So, finally Allan Pinkerton! It is believed that he too was one of the Newport Chartists who had used the Chartists' Cave to plan and prepare their march to Newport, a march which was meant to trigger other insurrections throughout the country. Somehow though, he evaded capture and

found his way to America in 1842. There is a school of thought that he was in fact one of the government spies buried amongst the Chartists and as such was lucky not to be hacked to death and buried at the back of the cave on Llangynidr mountain. This would also go some way to explain how, if he was known to the government as an insurgent he managed to emigrate to America!

A small plaque at the cave entrance tells the basic story; and the remoteness of the moor tells us how desperate these men must have been and how passionate they felt about civil freedom.

The walk back through the mist to a beckoning cup of tea down in the village



The plaque

gave us plenty of time to reflect upon and, be grateful for these sacrifices made by some of our forefathers. It is because of them we have the vote, and can enjoy the democracy which we have in Britain today.



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WINTER 2024/25 IN THE FIVE VILLAGES (Robert Moore)

<i>Weather in the Five Villages Winter 2024/25 (2023/24 in brackets)</i>				
	Temperatures °C			Total rainfall mm
	Average	Maximum	Minimum	
November	7.8 (7.0)	15.4 (14.0)	-0.6 (-4.8)	55.9 (149.4)
December	7.2 (6.6)	10.9 (12.0)	2.3 (-5.2)	164.9 (158.2)
January	3.6 (5.2)	11.0 (13.8)	-2.0 (-5.3)	187.7 (143.6)
February	5.4 (7.5)	16.1 (15.9)	-1.0 (-2.9)	36.0 (126.4)

Winter averages (December to February)		
	2000 - 2020	2024 - 2025
Air Temperature at 1800	5.1	5.4
Maximum Temperature	12.0	12.7
Minimum Temperature	-2.2	-0.2
Days air frost	6	3
Days ground frost	16	11

Because the full November data were not available for the Autumn edition of the *Five Villages Chronicle*, they are included in the winter table (left). The Met Office has published its data for the year 2023. In last year's winter report, it was noted that 2023 was a year of broken records. It was an exceptional year. The Met Office reported a mean temperature of 9.78C (0.64C above the 1991-2020 average) it follows 2022, 2023 and 2014 as (provisionally) the fourth warmest year for the UK.

This was true for the world as a whole; the world temperature was 1.29 degrees above the 20th century average, making it the warmest since 1850, when records were first kept. Furthermore, the ten warmest years since 1850 have all occurred since 2014. 2025 will probably be another warm year.

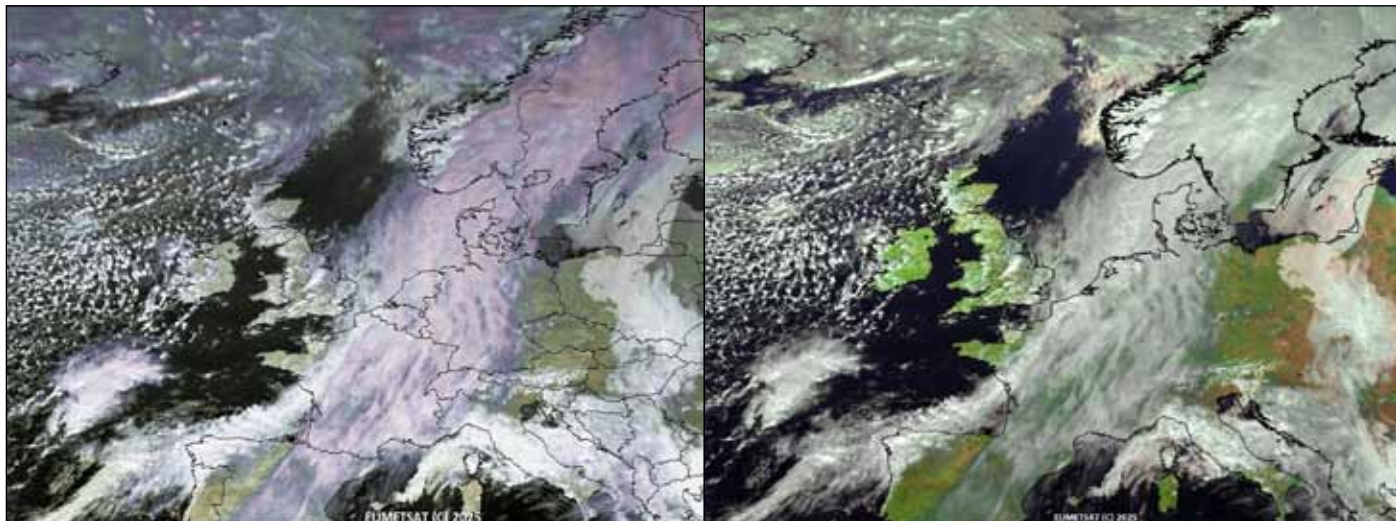
Locally, December 2024 was frost free and in January 2025 we only had four days of air frost and eight of ground frost compared with thirteen and ten last year – when we experienced an untypically frosty January. This winter, December had much the same rain as last year, nevertheless it was nearly half as much again as 2000 – 2020 being 48 percent above that average. January was a notably wet month, with more than double our twenty-year average January rainfall. January 2025 temperatures were interesting; while the average and maximum temperatures

were lower than last year, the minimum temperature was over three degrees higher.

February will be remembered for low and sporadic rainfall, and for being very gloomy. The whole UK was very short on sunshine throughout February.

We had some severe storms this winter. Perhaps the most memorable was Darragh because it triggered a very rare Red Warning for the 7th December*. Darragh brought structural damage and flooding to Flintshire and Wrexham. The A55 was closed by flooding between Halkyn and the Singing Kettle. Some local roads were closed by fallen trees. Schools were closed, some local services (like bin collection) were cancelled, sport fixtures were postponed, rail services were closed, air travel disrupted and the port of Holyhead was damaged and closed to ferries. There were widespread power cuts. Winds of 60 to 70 knots (70 – 80 mph) were recorded locally and 80 knots (92 mph) at Capel Curig. Later, Storm Eowyn, towards the end of January, was even more violent and resulted in flooding, fallen trees and power cuts across the UK and Ireland – Flintshire shared in the havoc cause by this storm.

Winter went out in style, maximum temperatures in the mid-teens accompanied by a little rain followed by sunshine, blue skies and a sharp drop in temperature.



I promised to show results from the latest weather satellite; the two images were chosen to make them look as close to one another as possible. But the 'new' image on the right is at much higher resolution and comes in every ten minutes. We receive 16 'black and white' images at different wavelengths and 30 colour composite images. This compares with eleven black and white and one high-resolution image every 15 minutes from the older satellite, for which we make our own colour composites. The elder satellite is still doing sterling work and delivering important services. You can imagine how fast the computer needs to work to handle so much data in ten minutes.

*There is an excellent account of storm Darragh at https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/binaries/content/assets/metofficegovuk/pdf/weather/learn-about/uk-past-events/interesting/2024/2024_10_storm_darragh_v1.pdf

I receive images from geostationary and polar orbiting satellites right around the globe. These are available strictly for educational purposes only. Images are normally kept for seven days, so students and teachers should email to ask about them sooner rather than later and book images in advance (rsmoore1936@gmail.com). Geostationary satellite images can be used to produce spectacular animated displays of the weather.



Put that Spring in your Step with GWELLA Libraries

Activities at Holywell Library

Why not join us for our friendly, **FREE** weekly activities

- **Monday** Lego Club 10.00 a.m. and 3.30pm
- **Tuesday** Rhymetime 10.00 a.m.
- **Wednesday** Craft and Chat (every two weeks) 2.00pm
- **Friday** Welsh Conversation 2pm (1st & 3rd Friday of the month)
- **Saturday** Lego Club 10.00am

Adult Craft and Chat

A warm welcome awaits fellow crafters at Holywell Library on Wednesday 2.00pm every fortnight. All sessions are £3.00 per adult with refreshments included. It promises to be a varied craft session with lots of different ideas and experiences.

Contact Holywell Library 01352 703850 for further information on events and activities.

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We feel passionately that all Flintshire residents should be able to access and enjoy a library service. GWELLA Home Library Service is free and delivers library books across Flintshire to customers who are unable to get to their local library for reasons such as limited mobility, illness, or caring responsibilities.

Our Library Assistants will select a collection of books based upon your personal preferences, which can be in whatever format you require, and will be delivered direct to your door every 5 weeks. To register a friend, relative or yourself for the service email libraries@gwella.wales or contact 01352 704400.

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Author Events

Gwella Libraries in partnership with the Mold Bookshop are delighted to welcome
An afternoon with Jasper Fforde

Wednesday 2nd April, 2025 at Connah's Quay Library at 3.00p.m.

An Evening with Jasper Fforde,

Wednesday 2nd April, 2025 at Mold Library & Museum at 7.00p.m.



Murder In the Library with Nicci French

Tuesday 15th April, 2025 at Mold Library & Museum at 7.00pm

Tickets available at The Bookshop, the Library and online <https://linktr.ee/moldbookshop>

Citizen's Advice Bureau

Looking for help or guidance a representative from Citizen's Advice is available to help at Holywell Library from 9.30a.m. every Wednesday morning.

CROESO! Grŵpiau Sgwrsio Cymraeg Welcome! Welsh Conversational Groups

Are you learning Welsh? Or want to join a conversational Welsh group?

Holywell Library have a conversational group session on the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month at 2.00pm.

These sessions are a friendly and relaxed space for Welsh learners and Welsh speakers to socialise and build confidence. A very warm welcome awaits you For more information, contact libraries@gwella.wales

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LOCAL HISTORY OF MEDICAL CARE FROM THE EARLY 18TH CENTURY.

(Ceri Fishwick)

As a back ground, it is documented that from the early years of the Middle Ages, St.Winefride's Well attracted people seeking healing, a role taken on at a later date by herbalist monks at Basingwerk Abbey. With the dissolution of the monasteries during the mid-16th Century, sources of medical support were significantly reduced. However after the 17th Century, doctors began to be named within town documents. It is known that there was medical attention within the work houses in Holywell and in the High Street chemist.

There were excessive numbers of poor and vagrant people in the streets all over Britain, therefore, workhouses were set up whereby people could be housed and given work. These work houses were often filled with the disabled, the sick and the mentally ill, some needing transfer to mental Institutions. The first workhouse in Holywell was opened in 1739 supported by the parish authorities and they also provided some medical aid. The second workhouse opened in 1779, was Lluesty, originally an old cottage. Improvements were made in 1913 and during the First World War, the army took over the infirmary, which became

a Military Hospital. By the beginning of the Second World War, staff received education on Air Raid Precautions and medical treatment of gas casualties. The north wing was used as a 'Scabies ward' also an isolation ward and an operating theatre, being especially active during the war years. Following the Second World War, the X-ray Department was installed.



The workhouse, Lluesty, Holywell.

In the 1840's life expectancy amongst the working class was twenty five years. A range of killer diseases were often responsible which included: diphtheria, scarlet fever, typhus, typhoid, tuberculosis, measles, whooping cough, pneumonia and cholera.

These illnesses were linked with overcrowding together with the poor living and working conditions that came with industrialisation of Britain's towns. Despite this, local annual general reports stated

that people sustaining accidents visited the medical attendant and audits showed that 80% of people were cured of their ailments within the community within the early years of the 19th century although a diphtheria outbreak in Holywell was recorded in 1896. The diphtheria vaccine was not introduced in the UK until 1942.

1854 saw thousands of British soldiers dying from cholera in the Crimean war and as a result, sanitation needed improvement and the local Medical Officer ordered vaccination equipment and drugs, as eighty eight people were recorded as dying in Holywell in the year 1866 from the disease. In the cities with the spread of cholera, typhoid and typhus fever, as doctors were so expensive, reliance on home remedies bought from quack carts were common. The first cholera vaccine was developed in the late 19th century, and the bacterium *Vibrio cholera* was identified in 1879-1883.

1893 saw a minor outbreak of smallpox contained by isolation of all infected individuals, disinfecting contaminated clothes and revaccination of everyone within the household.



During the year 1909, Holywell Cottage Hospital was converted from 'The Flintshire Dispensary' originally opened in 1825. It is reported that at the beginning of the 20th Century, doctors and nurses still made their visits on horseback and therefore the



EVENTS SCHEDULE 2025


<p>THU 08 MAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY</p> <p>SAT 10 MAY CADI HA</p> <p>SAT 07 JUNE CLASSIC CAR SHOW</p> <p>SAT 21 JUNE FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL</p>	<p>SAT 26 JULY PARTY IN THE PARK</p> <p>SAT 16 AUG PIRATE FESTIVAL</p> <p>SAT 06 SEPT WELL INN MUSIC FESTIVAL</p> <p>FRI 28 NOV CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON</p>
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WHAT'S ON IN HOLYWELL & GREENFIELD THIS MONTH?





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IF YOU WOULD LIKE AN EVENT OR ACTIVITY ADDING TO OUR 'WHAT'S ON?', PLEASE COMPLETE THE 'TELL US ABOUT YOUR EVENT' SECTION USING THE QR CODE ABOVE OR ALTERNATIVELY E-MAIL: SUPPORT.OFFICER@HOLYWELL.WALES

Cottage Hospital had a stable, or else a visiting doctor would hire a horse-drawn carriage to visit patients within mountainous villages; motor vehicles started to appear from 1910. In 1926 'The Cottage' had its first extension, 1934 its second extension with x-ray equipment purchased and after completion, an official re-opening religious ceremony took place.



Holywell Cottage Hospital.

The Cottage Hospital and Lluesty Hospital were run by visiting doctors and clinical assistants. 'The Cottage' became a GP Hospital, having an operating theatre where major surgery was undertaken, however, later only minor surgery took place here. The workhouse converted into a hospital, Lluesty, being the Headquarters of the Holywell group of Hospitals under the National Health Service. There was provision of allied health professionals such as dieticians, speech therapists, chiropodists and physiotherapists with

health visitors, district nurses, and midwives. By 1960, Lluesty became the main care of the elderly Hospital, for 'Clwyd North' and the wards were upgraded and a physiotherapy department installed.

The first record we have of ambulance use in Holywell was from 1940 driven by St. John's Ambulance, and prior to this, a record of transport via horse and cart and the police would assist on occasion. In 1955, Flintshire Ambulance Service was created initially from a base at Lluesty following which the ambulance station at the west end of Holywell was built.



Lluesty Hospital, Front View.

The National Health Service was founded on July 5th 1948.

THE GOOD COMPANIONS

The Good Companions have always been charitable people involved within the community, volunteering, fund raising, members of the Red Cross, the library

service and the 'stroke club' at Lluesty. A large amount of money was raised resulting in the purchase of furniture and medical equipment and they remain a strong force to this day.

It is clear to me that we have many to thank for their dedicated work and planning including the trustees and committees, builders, and health professionals ensuring medical care within the community setting over many years, and through tough times. Not forgetting the work of the voluntary sectors, those who gave generously financially and gave of their time to raise funds, whether that be the benefactors, the staff or members of the public.

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NEXT EDITION

Our next edition will be published on 14th June 2025 and the submission deadline for that edition will be 16th May 2025.

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We have a new Facebook page that you can use to submit comments, feedback, short articles and any other snippets of information. Visit www.facebook.com/5villageschronicle/ or search '5Villages Chronicle'. If you enjoy this edition, please click the 'like' button to let us know!

Please note our email address:
editor@5villages.org.uk



THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE ASSOCIATION

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

Chairman - Peter Erasmus (01352 746896); Secretary - Nadine King (07495 085937); Treasurer - Bob Brown (01352 710967); Advertisements - Melanie Wallis (01352 712369); Distribution - Chris Dolphin (01352 713415); Jonathan Duggan-Keen (01352 720477), Terry Ireland, Robert Moore, Sandy Neville. At present there is an editorial committee.

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

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

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

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

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USEFUL HELP AND INFORMATION FOR ALL (Sandra Donoghue, Ageing Well Engagement Officer, Flintshire)

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AGE FRIENDLY FLINTSHIRE - ACTIVITIES AND GROUPS FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Engagement with older people has identified access to

information is a priority. Older people need access to information on a variety of topics, but in particular, information about groups and social activities is important for maintaining independence and wellbeing and feeling part of their local community. Working with Older People's groups, we have developed a 'What's on Guide' listing the established groups, social activities and events for older people across Flintshire. The guide is a great way of sharing information on activities in Flintshire's local communities.

The 'What's on Guide' is currently a Word document that's distributed electronically through our Older People's network. It is also shared with partners offering advice and support to older people in Flintshire (e.g. SPoA, statutory and voluntary sector service providers). The Ageing Well team in Social Services plans to produce a paper version of the guide which will be distributed through community groups and venues (e.g. community centres, libraries, leisure centres, Connects offices) to ensure those who are digitally excluded are not disadvantaged. In the meantime, copies of the guide are printed and shared with older people's groups as part of existing engagement activity. The guide helps to ensure older people are better informed about what's on near them, providing opportunities to meet with others, make new friends or try something new. With the growing level of interest in the guide, we have no doubt it is having a positive impact on wellbeing and is helping to tackle loneliness and isolation. For a copy of the What's On or for more information on older people activities Email Sandra.donoghue@flintshire.gov.uk or phone 07748 528505.

WALES DEMENTIA HELPLINE

Supporting those living with Dementia and their Carers. The helpline offers emotional support to anyone, of any age, who is caring for someone with Dementia as well as other family members or friends. The service will also help and support those who have been diagnosed with Dementia. Contact 24/7 on Tel: 0808 808 2235 or www.callhelpline.org.uk/dementia-helpline.php

WELSH GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE

Claim what you're entitled to with free advice and support. With an estimated £2 billion of unclaimed benefits in Wales, a renewed effort is underway to make sure people get the financial support they're entitled to and maximise their household incomes.

https://www.gov.wales/claim-what-youre-entitled-free-advice-and-support?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

THE MEN'S ROOM - RHYDYMWYN

'The Men's Room was created from a lightbulb moment in the middle of the night. I wanted to simulate a social activity (craft group) that my mum attends every Monday morning for my dad. The mental health of my mum is positively transformed every Monday by attending this group. So hopefully 'The Men's Room' has the same positive effect on the group of men that attend. They are a lovely, warm bunch who laugh a lot, support one another and just want to talk to each other for 2 hours over a cuppa, a bacon bap and homemade cake. They make all new members feel welcome and I can see their friendships grow week by week. Don't sit alone with your morning coffee, start the week with us in a warm, friendly environment!

We as volunteers share the group's positive vibes, which is lovely, so thank you to every one of you. To all men out there who fancy coming why not give it a try? Everyone welcome.

We meet every Monday from 10.30am to 12.30pm at the Rhydymwyn Valley Nature Reserve, 17 Nant Alyn Road, Rhydymwyn CH7 5HQ.

For more information, please call Jo on 07850 690700.

OLDER PEOPLE'S COMMISSIONER FOR WALES

Get in touch and make your voice heard. I want to hear from as many people as possible about the action that would help to improve older people's lives, and the ways my work can support the delivery of these outcomes. So please do get in touch to share your views and ideas, and make your voice heard by completing this short questionnaire. Alternatively, if you would prefer to talk about your experiences, please call 03442 640 670.

You may want to highlight something you are concerned or worried about or share an example of something that works well and makes a positive difference that could be introduced in other parts of Wales. What you share could be based on your own experiences, the experiences of your family and friends, or those of older people you work with or support. To complete the survey and for more information, please visit our website here: <https://olderpeople.wales/haveyoursay/>



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