



THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE

CRONICL Y PUM PENTREF

ISSUE NO. 147
RHIFYN 147

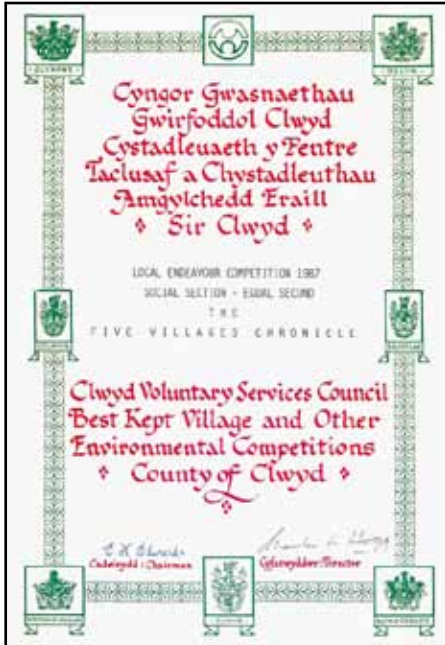
AUTUMN (SEPTEMBER) 2023
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PRICELESS
AMHRISIADWY



EDITORIAL

As featured below the committee here at The Five Villages Chronicle are delighted to have received the first Community Award from Whitford Community Council. I will leave it to Bob Brown to tell how it all started and to Melanie Wallis to explain in more detail. In the next issue I hope to report an interview with Morag Jelley whose idea it was to start the magazine.



A Local Endeavour Award from 1987

WHERE IT BEGAN (Bob Brown)

I remember being invited to attend a meeting at the home of Morag Jelley at the top of Carmel Hill. She was the Chairperson of Whitford Community Council and proposed that part of her annual allowance should be used to fund a community newspaper. Many of those who attended the meeting have sadly passed away and I can only think of Terry Ireland and Morag who remain beside myself.

The mainstay amongst the attendees was undoubtedly Bob Williams. He worked for Clwyd County Council and did a bit of work producing printing work for people so was a good man to have on the team. Not only that he had some really good ideas that became the foundation of the paper that we know today. The result of the meeting was the first issue and it arrived at Carmel Village Hall whose members had arranged for us to have use of the hall for paper activities. Bob Williams had produced the paper which was in separate pages. These were laid out in piles along several tables. The members then walked along the line of tables and took a sheet off each pile and at the end the selected papers were stapled together then back to the start. A far cry from the polished professional version you get today.

Of course it didn't have a name at that time and the first issue contained a competition for a name and the winner was 'The Five Villages Chronicle' I was

on holiday in USA and visited Carmel, the home of Clint Eastwood and there I saw on their community paper the price which was 'priceless' and brought this back and so it has remained.

The first issue was underwritten by Morag but where would the funding come from in future? Bob Williams had thought of that and had approached several local businesses and invited them to advertise and their support over the years has been invaluable.

But how was it going to get delivered to the local population? A system of distribution soon fell into place and a distribution manager was appointed and he recruited a team of local deliverers who undertook to deliver the paper to individual houses.

Sadly, Bob passed away but we were fortunate to be joined by his daughter, Margaret, who did our composition work for a long time. Whitford Community Council realised our worth as a method of communicating with their constituents and we have carried contributions from the Clerk to the Council, our local MP, our Assembly member and local Councillor since we began.

The main objective was to provide a means of communication for all the local groups and so it has been since then. Whatever the interest of local groups, their contribution has been welcomed.

Well, it's issue 147 coming up so that's going on for 37 years. And I am proud to have been associated with the paper from the beginning.



Peter Erasmus receiving the award from Richard Dolphin

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FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE COMMUNITY AWARD (Melanie Wallis)

In the Spring edition of this magazine there was a notice from Whitford Community Council about a Community award and nominations were requested from residents for those who had made a significant contribution within the community. I would like to thank the people who nominated us and to the Community Council who chose us as the winners.

On the 12th July the committee had their usual after publication meeting, but also to receive our Community Award.



The Community Award

Richard Dolphin, the Chair of Whitford Community Council and Phillip Parry, the clerk of the council attended our meeting. The group was given a certificate and members of the committee all received an engraved glass plaque.



The whole committee, Richard Dolphin and Morag Jelley

We also welcomed Morag Jelley who was the Chair of Whitford Community Council in 1987 and whose idea it was to produce a local magazine funding the first issue out of the Chair's budget and also Margaret Williams whose father, Bob Williams, had been one of the original founders and herself the typesetter for sixteen years and then secretary of the committee for 9 years only retiring from the post in 2022.

I would like to pay tribute to all the past and present committee members,

COVER PICTURE

Autumn colours courtesy of Robert Moore. Can you tell where it is?

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particularly the founding members. Terry Ireland, former editor for more than 27 years and Bob Brown, the treasurer from the beginning, both of whom are still members of the committee. Peter Erasmus who does a grand job as our Chairman, Jonathan Duggan-Keen our current editor and the one who puts it all together, Robert Moore who always contributes his weather and other articles, Chris Dolphin who co-ordinates the deliveries to the volunteers, and Paulene Ellis who recently joined the committee and who has taken over as advertising manager from myself. I am now the secretary.

I also have to thank all the volunteers who deliver the magazines through your doors and the advertisers who have supported us throughout the years as the revenue continues to keep the magazine going and Whitford Community Council for their continued support and financial assistance.

Last but certainly not least to mention are all the people who read the magazine. We hope that you continue to enjoy it.

THANK YOU ALL.

CARMEL BOOK CLUB (Sally Brighton)



Our Book Club and its enthusiastic membership has been continuing its monthly meetings, and discussions of fictional works. Books, kindly loaned to us by Holywell Library have, however been borrowed in less of a steady stream, due to illness of members and other summer demands such as holidays and childcare. Nonetheless we have encountered some interesting books which wider readers from The Five Villages may also care to sample.

One of these, *'The Light Between Two Oceans,'* by M.L. Steadman and reviewed here by our member, Kath Williams, certainly received warm praise from a cousin of my husband, Paul, who was briefly staying with us from abroad. She actually lives in precisely the area in Australia where the story was set, and to where she is shortly to return. Although this setting had been adapted and changed, she had no doubts about its authenticity and general ambience. Reading a book, set in one's own familiar territory is always a very particular experience!



The story tells of a war hero who, with his feisty young wife, decide to become lighthouse wardens on a tiny island called Jann's Rock. Deeply saddened after

several miscarriages, the couple decide to keep a baby which is not theirs. Tom's strong guilt festers with the deception but as he grows to love the child, his wife Isabel thrives on mothering it until gradually all of them evolve into a reasonably fine and happy family.

On a visit to the mainland, however they learn that sometime ago, another baby and her father have hitherto gone missing at sea, leaving a grieving and heartbroken mother. This discovery puts them both in a complex dilemma to which there is no easy moral, ethical or practical solution leading to much suspicion, love, despair and betrayal.

At this point, the plot develops progressively and the characters are tested to the full.

The story is sensitively told and the characters well defined, my favourite being the child's maternal grandfather who forms a close, unlikely bond with her. I felt for the child, put in such an intolerable situation and enjoyed the author's written style, particularly the lighthouse and the seasons. The film made of the book was publicly well received, although as in the story, the number of coincidences seem unlikely.

Our members were various in their opinions, some of them finding it bordering on over-sentimental. I took the middle ground, and although never finding it unreadable, it would be interesting to know the opinions of a wider readership.

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CARMEL VILLAGE HALL (Richard Dolphin)

As can be seen by the timetable below, the Hall continues to be the home and community hub for users of all ages, abilities, and interests. Many groups are

'term-time' only and therefore the school holidays present an opportunity for the Hall to have a well earned rest, whilst some maintenance works also take place.

The Hall Trustees and the Events Committee comprise of local dedicated volunteers, with a vision of ensuring the Hall has longevity and purpose within our community. If you are interested in being an active volunteer at the Hall, please see the contact details below.

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

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

CARMEL VILLAGE HALL – MEMORIES (Richard Polden)

I came across my old 'Work Book' for Carmel Village Hall the other day.

It started with the 2015 Asset Transfer - which was the transfer of the lease from the Council to the Trustees - an article placed in the 5 Villages magazine in the spring of 2015 which invited villagers to a public meeting on the 1st April (no joke).

My book says what we wanted to do was to improve the hall, deal with the damp, the windows, doors, toilets, floors, the flat roofs, the kitchen, re-decoration inside and out, the garden, the Car Park and much more. It was daunting, but has all been achieved with the help of many people and many hours of grant applications.

My book also tells me of a meeting held at my old Carmel home on the 20th August 2015 (still got the email) those attending, Joan Henley, Evelyne Griffiths, Bev Williams, Josie & myself (not a lot has changed) to discuss, guess what.....a 'Coffee Morning' to raise funds, and the first one was held on the 10th September 2015. The minutes stated the event would be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month until further notice. Well here we are eight years on, and no notice has been given, Pat & Joan are still manning the kitchen, Josie is still on the door, and Evelyne with the bric a brac table, helpers who are priceless.

That first Coffee Morning raised £171, and 45 people attended. With that £171 we bought a brand new fridge, and Carmel WI announced they would fund a new water heater in the kitchen, the journey had started.

With the exception of Covid and one snow cancellation the event continues today, and is still raising valuable funds. Since September 2015 to June, we have held 77 Coffee Mornings in total which has raised approximately £9000.00 and interestingly the entrance charge has only risen by 50p.

During those 8 eventful years, we have welcomed many friends to the hall who are still supporting us today, and sadly there are many that we miss.

If you haven't been before, why not come along on the second Thursday of the month at 10am to 12am for a cuppa and cake or toast, and you will also get to know what other activities are happening in the hall.

To those stalwarts who have supported us over the years – a massive

THANK YOU!

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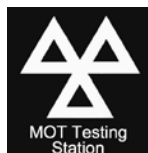
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NEWS FROM GORSEDD AND WHITFORD CHURCHES

(Rev Kathryn Evans, Vicar of Gorsedd and Whitford)

A TIME FOR EVERYTHING



One of the greatest privileges in my life as a priest and a vicar is to walk alongside families during the highs and lows of life. Sadly, there always seems to be more lows than highs, but maybe that helps us appreciate the good times so much more. One of the

readings that is sometimes used when we say goodbye to a loved one is from the Old Testament – Ecclesiastes 3. It speaks of there being a time for everything, for every season under the sun. A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot. Autumn is a time when I think we become even more conscious of the seasons as the green of summer gives way to the beautiful colours of Autumn. Only yesterday, as I was driving over to Ruthin for a meeting (we vicars do get about a bit haha) I noticed the leaves are already beginning to change. As I write this, it is only the third week of August, yet somehow, I feel the changes that signal the ending of one season and the beginning of the next are already visible. Even if it's not raining, the dew is heavier, the nights are drawing in, although thankfully the days are still longer than the nights, and I've spotted mushrooms and fungi around – a sure sign Summer is coming to a close.

The rhythm of the seasons is a reminder for us that life is not meant to always be run at a frenetic pace. As the seasons change, the natural world begins to slow down, many of the trees shed their leaves and berries are in abundance to feed the birds over the winter. Some animals prepare for hibernation and nature hunkers down for the winter – as do many of us! But before that, we have the season of Harvest, the crops are gathered in and where possible, we store fresh produce or turn into jam and chutney to see us through the winter months. As a child, I only ate fruit and vegetables in season – none of these strawberries, raspberries, soft fruit and salad all year round. I'm not sure what to think about this, but I do feel many of us have lost that appreciation of the 'first fruits', and as we continue to struggle with the effects of climate change on our weather, I wonder if our insatiable appetite for produce 'out of season' contributes to the increasing number of lorries on the road, travelling across the continents to provide food wherever we fancy a lettuce or cucumber, pepper or melon?

For me, one of the joys of living in the countryside, with livestock in the fields, is the reminder that all is connected. Harvest is a time for giving thanks – in my Harvest Assemblies, I often use the anagrams within the word HARVEST to remind the children of some of the principles which accompany the biblical concept of Harvest – HAVE, STARVE, SAVE and SHARE, to identify a few. As we gather food for the winter, we remember those who have less than we do. I am always amazed by the generosity of everyone, so a massive THANK YOU for all the ways in which you support both our local communities and our churches – we wouldn't exist without you all. If you enjoy joining in with a Harvest festival, ours are being held as follows: Gorsedd – 8th October at 9:30am, and Whitford on 15th October at 11am. In addition, St Paul's, Gorsedd is holding an Autumn Fair on 21st October between 11am and 2pm. Do pop in if you are passing and raffle tickets are available through the church (with cash prizes!).

I hope to see many of you over the coming months, with every blessing. Kathryn






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HANNAH BLYTHYN MS



Now that the summer holidays are over and, for many families, the agonising wait for exam results is behind us, I do hope that students in Delyn received the grades they wanted and secured their places at schools, colleges and universities. I'd like to pay tribute to the hard work and commitment of everyone involved, from the learners themselves to the teachers and all of the education workforce – thank you and well done!

As attention turns to the new school term, a new campaign was launched recently encouraging parents to get their children's eyes tested at their local opticians. Research shows that around 20% of school-aged children have an undiagnosed vision problem and regular eye health checks, for both adults and children, can help to prevent or detect a range of eye issues, including glaucoma, diabetes and myopia, earlier. The Help Us Help You optometry campaign is designed to help everyone in Wales – but especially children – to get their eyes checked to help prevent future problems and to ensure they're getting the most out of school. The NHS will provide glasses for children who need them to help with their vision and eye care treatment for children is free in Wales.

The summer holidays gave me the opportunity to get out and about a bit more and recently the sun was shining on the return of the ever-popular Denbigh and Flint Show – an annual event that is supported by a wide range of individuals and organisations. I enjoyed spending



Hannah Blythyn with FUW at Flint Show

time at the show and the opportunity to meet with a number of organisations, from discussing the future of sustainable farming in Wales with the Farmers Union of Wales (FUW) to the work that is being done to help keep our communities safe with Andy Dunbobbins, North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner.



Hannah Blythyn with Andy Dunbobbins at Flint Show

It was also good to take the chance to visit the food hall and it was fantastic to see it featuring a growing number of producers from here in Delyn, including Mold-based Hafod Brewing Company Limited and K & G Chocolates and Truffles, alongside Mostyn Kitchen Garden and the Clwydian Range Distillery. I also enjoyed seeing lots of familiar faces in one place, including some school friends I hadn't seen in a while!

I also took the opportunity to spend some time on the Maes at the National Eisteddfod in Boduan, near Pwllheli. The festival – which is considered the largest poetry and music festival in Europe – is a truly remarkable event in the Welsh cultural calendar and it was great to spend some time there and practice my Welsh. While

there, I also attended the launch of Camp Cymru – an event which I helped to launch in my role as Deputy Minister for Social Partnership which brings artists, creatives and members of the LGBTQ+ community together to discuss Welsh language queer arts in Wales.

While it may have been the summer recess at the Senedd, my work in both a constituency and ministerial capacity continues. Recently, in my role as Deputy Minister for Social Partnership, I went along to the first Veterans Breakfast event at HMP Berwyn in Wrexham. The prison has a veteran's wing and the purpose of the newly launched breakfast club is to provide support for those there who have identified as veterans to help with their transition to outside life once again, addressing any challenges they may face. It was good to see several veterans' organisations in attendance, such as the RBL (Royal British Legion) and Help for Heroes, alongside the various internal provision from HMP Berwyn.

It was good to catch up once again with Theatr Clwyd Executive Director Liam Evans-Ford recently and to see first-hand the work that has now begun on site to transform our theatre thanks to the support of Flintshire County Council, the Arts Council Wales and £22m of Welsh Government investment – all while continuing to put on productions in a temporary theatre and locations in the community. Like many of us, I've grown up with Theatr Clwyd and benefited from it being in our area of north Wales. This is a big project – it has to be – it will change lives, contribute to the economy, nurture artists and creatives, inspire imaginations, support vulnerable people in our community and make amazing theatre happen. See how you can play your part at www.theatrclwyd.com/play-your-part.

As always, if you would like advice and/or support, please don't hesitate to get in touch on any of the following contact details – 52 High Street, Mold, Flintshire, on 01352 753464 or by email hannah.blythyn@senedd.wales. You can also keep up to date via my Facebook page – www.facebook.com/HannahBlythynForDelyn. Constituents are, of course, welcome to contact my office to arrange an appointment to see me, you don't need to wait until an advice surgery.



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ST. WINEFRIDE'S CIRCUS SENSIBLE:



Dosbarth Coch, in St Winefride's, recently had a very exciting visit from 'Circus Sensible.' This was our 'Sparkley Start' to our new topic, 'Roll up, Roll up! We took part in activities such as plate spinning, using stilts, juggling, wheel walking and using flower sticks. We had an amazing time and can't wait for our new circus topic!



GREENFIELD VALLEY TRIP:



Nursery and Reception from St Winefride's recently went on a school visit to Greenfield Valley. This was their 'Fabulous Finish' to their 'Amazing Animals' topic. The children enjoyed feeding the animals, exploring the museum and taking part in a farm hunt.

SCHOOL SLEEPOVER:



Some of our Key stage 2 children enjoyed having tea, watching a film and a sleepover at school with the staff. They enjoyed lots of crafts and games before a film and hot chocolate. 50 tired but very happy faces the next morning!!

HOPE HOUSE COLOUR RUN:



We held a colour run to raise money for the fantastic Hope House. Many of our friends and families have benefitted from this wonderful service and we hope to help support them as much as possible in the future.

BUTCHER, BAKER AND AN AMERICAN FOOTBALL QUARTERBACK (Paulene Ellis)

Running a bed and breakfast in Carmel for over twenty years meant that we welcomed guests not just from the UK but also the rest of the world. We were always amazed that someone in say Argentina was looking at our b and b and planning a stay with us ! So many great guests over the years and so many stories.

Looking through our guest book these are some of the countries and nationalities that visited us over the years: German, French, USA, New Zealand, Indian, Belgium, Australian, South African, Spanish, Polish, Korean, Swedish, Portuguese, Canadian, Dutch, Russian, Norwegian, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Danish, Irish, Serbian, Austrian, Latvian, Croatian, Algerian, Thai, Italian, Chinese, Singapore, Argentinian, Israel, Malaysian, Malta, Cyprus, Hungary, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Finland and Greece.

During the early days we had many Americans stay. Most were larger than life personalities and we are still in touch with several guests who stayed. One couple send us a poem every Christmas detailing their years activities in prose!

Another memorable group booked all three rooms and were from the deep south of Louisiana! Six guests for our two doubles and one twin room. Those of you who have travelled stateside will understand that twin beds might mean two double beds in one room, but here it means two single beds! Although ours were three foot wide and zipped together to make one queen size if required !

Our guests arrived straight from Manchester airport and we were their first stop on a tour of the UK. One of the guests ' Billy Bob ' was at least six foot six inches tall and had been an American football player so without being politically incorrect he was a big guy!

When we showed them the rooms it was hysterical ! The two couples were fine with their king size beds but the twin room was a bit of a shock! Billy Bob and his partner were planning on sharing the twin room and expected a double bed each! We explained that our twin room was the normal in the UK and in the end they found it quite amusing ! However they realised that they needed to look at the rest of the accommodation they had booked for their trip around the UK as they had booked twin rooms for much of their stay. Having sorted out the bed situation they produced a couple of bottles of bourbon and insisted we helped them drink them!

On many occasions over the years guests have invited us to join them in the odd glass of something! In the early days we would sit down and chat with guests for hours but we soon realised that as we had to get up early to prepare breakfast the next day, we should try to limit our interaction, particularly the alcoholic kind ! to be continued.



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COUNCILLOR CHRIS DOLPHIN

Hello everyone, Sut mae pethau:

20 MPH:

The Welsh Government voted to pass legislation to lower speed limits from 30mph to 20mph in July 2022. The new Welsh Government 20mph legislation began on Sunday 17th September 2023, as a local authority and as citizens we are all bound legally to these speed limits. An "Exceptions Criteria" was consulted upon during August, locally only 2 sections of road were to be considered to remain at 30mph. The 2 roads are a section of the B5121 Greenfield Road and here in the Five Villages a section of the A5026 in Carmel. The process is complicated, as even though those that have been consulted upon will still default to 20mph on 17th September, and then a new Traffic Regulation will be introduced for roads which will return to 30mph.

Once 20mph are formally introduced, local communities will be able to put forward further roads for consideration for the "exceptions criteria". Further information will be public in the Autumn.

It is also possible to have an increase in speed limits, under consideration were Station Road, Talacre and 4 roads in the Buckley area.

As a general overview, the new 20mph is generally welcomed in our villages, near schools, and on estate roads, we will have to travel more slowly and overtime those that will not,will slow down.

I do realise that many residents will feel that too much emphasis has been put on the 30mph speed limit and the likes of Monastery Road, Pant y Wacco, and indeed the likes of Fron Park Road in Holywell which are 40mph. and narrow country lanes still set at national speed limit remain much faster than even a main road. The local authority does carry out speed surveys, and many local roads have had multiple surveys during recent years, however lobbying and having the statistics is vital for any future work.

ACTIVE TRAVEL:

Richard Dolphin the present Chair of the local Community Council and myself spent many hours devising and presenting a written and photographic application for funding to the local authority, Welsh Government and Transport for Wales, and this hard work has been successful. The primary project is completion of the footway on Babell Road to Gorsedd. This project began many years ago when I led on as a match funding scheme between the County and Community Council for a start on Monastery Road. Since then, and in more recent times much credit is due to the Community Council for its foresight in carrying on with the project to what this year will now be a completion. Other footway projects are in the application and will need to be followed up and worked on. This successful application for funding is massive for the Community Council financially as it saves tens of thousands of pounds on its Capital funding projects.

UPDATES:

Part of being the local Councillor, is to be available as much as possible and help resolve any matters with residents involving the County Council – sometimes this is achieved and quickly, but as you know, not always. It may be just supplying the reason as to why the local authority will not commit or provide certain services. The successes are many, and invariably private. Now, what about other matters – Litterbins, (none in stock) – bins of some sort are requested, some are denied due to the location, however I assure you they are not forgotten about.

Wildflowers are now ending, and the Carmel Banks off the A5026 will have been cut earlier this year to help reduce the grass becoming so abundant next year. The County Ecologist has recorded 17 species of wildflower with Oxeye Daisy abundant, Red Campion, Red Clover, Yarrow and Knapweed frequent. However, grasses such as Yorkshire Fog, and False Oatgrass were also frequent. Knapweed provides the purple flowers and needs to set seed prior to cutting back.

The Whitford Road has received attention during August. I assure you the Area Supervisor, the County Council and myself regularly speak/write about the condition of the road network within the Five Villages Whitford ward. The worst no doubt is Bryn Coch Lane, long and potholed and very muddy at times with a pool of water. I personally travel all the roads at times. Carmel Hill and Alt

y Golch are also consistently lobbied for resurfacing. The footway on Dyserth Road, Lloc needs a good "sorting out", the County Council is aware of required work.

Collections of Refuse and Recycling have invariably and regularly been a source of disagreement on a weekend. My own personal collection on an estate in Carmel is good. However, more inaccessible properties can be missed, and it can become quite a problem to overcome for various reasons, however they are resolved – eventually. If you have or do live in parts of Crecas Lane, Post Office Lane, Y Drainniog Lane, Top y Lloc, or other rural properties you will have at times been like me, ..."climbing the ceiling". At present all are resolved...or do you know different?

PLANNING:

I receive all planning applications and occasionally my Support or Objections are sought by interested parties. I always form my own view and may or may not support an application. Planning decisions need to be adhering to appropriate planning policy. An interesting application which has importance within the area at the present time is application 696/23 the conversion of a redundant chapel to a single dwelling at Seion Chapel, Alt y Golch, Carmel. Details are on the council website. If at any time you wish to check a piece of land as what you're looking at does not seem correct or right, such as static caravans on any land, new structures in the countryside, extensions, change of a use, etc, go to the Flintshire County Council website, scroll to Planning, click View all, click Application Search, and either enter the number or click on the map and scroll sideways to the exact location and enlarge and/or check all details.

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 Chwittffordd 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



St Paul's Gorsedd

AUTUMN ARTISAN FAYRE

Saturday 21st October
11:00am to 2:00pm

- many stalls from the local area,
such as Woodcraft, Candles, Skin Care,
Glass Working, Cakes, Christmas Table
Decorations, Cariad Gin
and Face Painting for
the children

ENTRY
£2.00*
per Adult
Children
FREE

*which includes
a drink and
a cake



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

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

Tim Barks - 01352 720375
Richard Dolphin - 01352 710764
Matthew Foster - 07900 520790
Billy Glynn - 01352 712418
Sharon James - 01352 716822
Caradoc W. Jones - 01352 712079
Matt Marshall - 077639 75531
Gareth Sharp - 01352 715614
Paul Urquhart - 01745 563133
Melanie Wallis - 01352 712369
Emma Warbrick - 01352 712356
Joseph Williams - 07850 924805

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

Carmel

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

Gorsedd

- 2 x Criminal damage

Lloc

- A55 Services - Lloc (Services) – 2
x Anti social behaviour / 1 x Burglary / 1 x
Theft / 1 x Violence

Pantasaph

- No offences reported

Whitford

- No offences reported

**VANDALISM IN RED PHONE BOX IN
PANTASAPH – AGAIN!**



*(Red Phone Box on Monastery Road,
Pantasaph – with several broken
glass panes)*

Following a similar incident, a second round of vandalism at the Red Phone Box in Pantasaph which houses a defibrillator, whereby several of the glass panes have been broken. The Community Council would be pleased if residents in the area, pedestrians and passing vehicles could kindly notify either the Community Council or the Police should any suspicious activity be viewed.

**SPEEDING CONCERNS – A5026
ROAD IN LLOC:**

The Community Council with the assistance of County Councillor Chris Dolphin had previously sought a road traffic speeding survey on the stretch of the A5026 from the outskirts of Lloc and in particular,

in the area of the entrance to the Carmel Cricket Cub.

The speed analysis figures indicate that whilst a number of vehicles exceeded the 60mph limit the average recorded: Eastbound: 57.5mph and Westbound: 55.9.

Councillor Tim Barks expressed his concern that the monitoring tubes were placed during November – at a time of inclement weather, whereas the speed figures would have possibly been higher had the survey been carried out during the summer months. Both Councillors Matt Marshall and Tim Barks brought to the attention of Council further concerns in relation to speeding traffic on the A5026 Road in the area of Carmel Cricket Club. Photographs of a recent accident whereby a stone wall was damaged were produced. Social media messages which expressed concern with the speed of traffic, in particular, with vehicles conveying children to the Cricket Club and other seasonal activities that are held in the area.

The Community Council have requested a further speed survey to be carried out in late July and cited the following reasons: The A5026 road is used by A55 traffic during road closure / works, including diverted traffic following accidents. The public footway is regularly used by pedestrians and visitors to the Pen Y Gelli Nature Reserve.

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

(1) A5026 Road – Travelling from MacDonald's towards Pen Y Gelli. Overhanging trees a cause of concern for pedestrians (2) A5026 Road - Pot holes in centre of road – near Holway Garage and Carmel Road (3) A5026 Road - Sunken



grid – travelling eastbound near the former Rock Inn, Lloc (4) Carmel Road: Many pot holes (5) A5026 Road, Lloc – Near Flintshire Fabricators: Collapsed grid (6) Bends near Wern Farm: Grass verges require cutting back (7) Monastery Road, Pantasaph: Black bin near the Red Phone box has disappeared (8) A55 Junction 31. Both the MacDonalds and Dragons Rest Roundabouts road surface requires attention (9) A5026: Footpath from Carmel area to Lloc. Hedges are overgrown whereby pedestrians have to walk on roadway (10) Carmel Road: Road is cracking in large areas – travelling from the A5026 up towards the Park area (11) A5026 Road, Lloc. Manhole collapsing near entrance to Flintshire Fabricators (12) A5026 Road, Lloc. Pot hole on pavement – near to a white large property (13) Gorsedd: Travelling from Carmel – light flashing on signage – after speed sign

BINS, RECYCLING AND WASTE:

Both the Community Council and County Councillor Chris Dolphin receive reports of missed collections for the general waste, recycling and nappy collections on a regular basis. To ensure that Flintshire are able to collate the information residents are requested to please report direct to the County any missed collections. This will identify the areas(s) of concern and enable Flintshire to monitor and take action. Reports can be made as follows: Web site: www.flintshire.gov.uk / Phone: 01352 701234 / E-mail: customerservices@flintshire.gov.uk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

The Community Council Members provide their observations to the Flintshire Planning Authority, on all planning applications within their Community. Full details of the observations made, can be viewed in the Minutes of each Council

meeting, which are displayed on the Council web site, or from the Clerk – as per details below: (1) Application number: 000341/23 – for demolition of a previous two-storey extension and replacement with a new two-storey extension along with associated internal layout alterations, as new first floor extension, new raised timber decking, relocation of the driveway entrance and a detached, single-storey pitched-roof garage, at Pickpocket Hall, Babell Road, Pantasaph (2) Application number: 000385/23 – for application to vary condition number 6 Ref: 055855, at Bryn Mair, Gorsedd (3) Application number: COU/000400/23 for the change of use from agricultural land to tourism facility to provide 4 luxury lodges, together with access and associated landscaping and planting, at Waen y Lloc, Penffordd Llan, Lloc (4) Application number: FUL/000496/23 – for garden decking to be installed in rear garden, at 7 Celyn Park, Carmel (5) Application number: FUL/000471/23 – for amendment to former approved application - demolition of garage, rear bedroom, conservatory & front bay - proposed replacement roof with rear dormer & gable, proposed front porch, at Trem y Don, Celyn Lane, Carmel (6) Application number: FUL/000597/23 – for single storey rear extension, at 6, Saithaelwyd Park, Carmel (7) Application number: ADV/000631/23 – for sponsorship signs on roundabout, at Pen Ffordd Llan, Lloc.

PLANNING DECISIONS:

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

(1) Application for Variation of Condition 2 following Grant of land to rear of Bryn Mair & Cilan, Gorsedd. Permits (2) Application for erection of a single storey storage building, at Carmel & District Cricket

Club, Pen y Gelli Cricket Ground, Lloc. Permits (3) Application for proposed replacement Silage Pits, at Mynydd Mostyn Farm, Pen-Yr-Allt, Holywell. Permits (4) Application for proposed flat roof single storey side extension, at Land Adjoining Celyn Villa, Carmel. Permits (5) Application for alterations to existing gateway, at Misty Waters, Lloc. Permits (6) Application number: FUL/000268/23 – for proposed two storey rear extension, at Gorsedd House, Gorsedd. Permits (7) Application number: LDC/000320/22 – for Certificate of Lawfulness, at Dwyndant, Whitford. Permits (8) Application number: 064148 – for application for approval of details reserved by condition no's - 6 (Tree Protection Plan), 7 (Hard and Soft Landscaping Scheme) attached to Planning Permission reference 061376, at Pen Y Glol Caravan Park, Whitford. Fully Discharges (9) Application number: 064333 – for infill extension to rear of property, alterations to exterior hard landscaping to provide level access from parking area to back door and onto rear patio area, at Ael Y Bryn, Carmel Road, Carmel. Permits (10) Application number: 064264 – for Listed Building Consent for the installation of a Fire Suppression system, at Plas Ucha Farm, Tre Mostyn. Refused.

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND DONATIONS:

The Community Council have granted the following financial assistance since the last edition of the Five Villages Chronicle: £250.00 - Caerwys Agricultural Show (annual grant) / £300.00 - Carmel Women's Institute (annual grant)

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



EARLY MOUNTAIN BIKING (Geraint Roberts)

When I bought my first mountain bike in 1985 soon after they became more widely available I also bought into the term 'mountain biking', believing naively that I would be able to cycle up any mountain. In fact, the first trip I did was from Bangor up onto the Carneddau plateau well over three thousand feet above sea level and along its whalebone back before descending dramatically into Bethesda and back to Bangor. I should have learnt my lesson then; the amount of pushing and carrying I did that day would, by today's standards, have been totally unacceptable.

I didn't; and several other epic trips over the coming months which were outrageous in their ambition also ended up with me exhausted on a very muddy bike. I do however still retain some precious memories of those trips, many conducted 'on a wing and a prayer'.

By the following year my eldest son also had a mountain bike and this article is based on one trip we did, which, although tempered in its severity from some of my earlier trips did involve some pushing.

My account isn't so much about the cycling but more about the 'top heavy' dose of local folklore I subjected my son to as we worked our way up through a couple of lonely mountain passes between Bala and Dolgellau.

We parked the car at Talardd; a cottage above Llanuwchllyn where an old friend called Dewi lived his frugal, rustic life. He had a rudimentary hydro electric system worked by the stream which flowed past his front door and the electric bulb above the porch was constantly on, day and night. Dewi is no longer with us and Talardd has been modernised for many years. Howell Harries the early non-conformist preacher is reputed to have stayed at Talardd; of this, Dewi was adamant.



Y Maen Bras

We began cycling up the narrow tarmac lane which intrudes into Cwm Croes and serves four households, the furthest of which is Nant y Barcut where the tarmac ends. High above the 'Afon Groes' stream to our left on the 1500-foot contour if you know where to look is 'Y Maen Bras'; a singular column of white quartz which is twelve feet high. If it was anywhere near

habitation it is dramatic enough to have generated several legends of ghosts, frozen witches, hanged felons or at the very least to have been hurled there by a giant. But here, set as it is so high, aloof and remote it seems content to be just 'Y Maen Bras'.



Pont y Gilfach bridge

Some way into the cwm and below, also to our left, covered in ivy and hiding in Rowan trees is 'Pont y Gilfach'; the only bridge above Llyn Tegid to survive the 1781 flood. Mentioned in George Bollam's 1913 book, 'Wild-life in Wales' as an excellent abode for trout it now lies forgotten and disused; it has long lost its parapet but, as it was after the 1781 flood, is still standing.

Continuing up the valley past the houses of Gweirglodd Gilfach and Nant y Llyn and the Afon Groes is joined by another lively little stream tumbling down to our right. This is Nant y Llyn and drains the sombre lake of Llyn Lliwbran skulking in the dark cwm above under the shadows of some menacing looking cliffs. The disused 'Aran' slate quarry on the slope above the lake is reputed to have provided slates to roof the houses of parliament, Talardd was also roofed with this slate. The quarry closed in 1926.



Llyn Lliwbran

A.G. Bradley in his 1925 book 'In Praise of North Wales' when reminiscing about a day's fishing he didn't enjoy here writes a classic but disparaging account of "securing an urchin from the local school" to carry his tackle. The almost colonial, contemptuous way he describes his treatment of the "urchin" makes interesting reading and an insight into the way things were 'done' in Edwardian days! Some time into the expedition Bradley's tackle were abandoned by the "urchin" who made his own way off the mountain; and who can blame him? At one time the lake was patrolled by an aggressive bull, anecdotal

examples of its encounter by worthy anglers have passed into local fishing lore.

It was somewhere on these brooding cliffs above the lake that the young wife of Nant y Llyn fell to her death in the early years of last century whilst out with her husband in circumstances said to be less than straightforward.



Llwybr Leusa

South of the lake and visible from the road is a grassy diagonal fault crossing the steep face of Aran Benllyn rising from right to left; this is called 'Llwybr Leusa' (Leusa's Path). One explanation describes Leusa, an old lady from this valley who bought a cow in Dolgellau market and brought it back this way. Another story describes it as the route taken by a thief from Dolgellau who stole a side of beef hanging on the rafters in Nant y Barcut farmhouse. A friend and I went up it a few years ago and apart from one rocky step is a quite straightforward route to gain the summit shoulder of Aran Benllyn.



Llyn Penaran

The plateau containing the summit is a craggy, boulder strewn hinterland inundated with several small pools. One is called Llyn Penaran and merits a mention because it has an amusing little puzzle in the form of a Welsh poem which I have roughly translated: -

*The pool on Aran's summit Is twenty yards along.
There's fifteen more across it If Sion Pant Clyd's not wrong.*

There's two clear feet of depth there, and this is known of old;

So tell me men of wisdom the quartz this pool can hold?

It is also one of only twenty recognised lakes which are over two thousand feet above sea level in Wales.

Back to the bikes, and the tarmac morphs into a dirt track at Nant y Barcut as we continued climbing steadily for

another three quarters of a mile up the 'cul de sac' valley. Here the track forks and we turned left and briefly downhill to the abandoned little cottage of Cwmffynnon; the last downhill we would do for a couple of hours. The right fork continues for another mile to end in Cwm Llwyd where several little gullies and streamlets draining the steep head of the valley begin to organise themselves to form the Afon Croes. The Croes will join the Twrch at Talardd, one of the major feeder rivers for Llyn Tegid.

In the great flood of 1781 when a massive cloudburst fell on the Aran mountain range to cause considerable devastation the little stream we effortlessly crossed with our bikes became a raging torrent of brown destruction which poured through one window of Cwmffynnon and out through another. For such a volume of water to have gathered in a watershed not much more than two miles in any direction must indeed have been a cloudburst of 'biblical proportion'.

We looked inside the old homestead and reflected on the flood before choosing a sheep path which headed south and seemed to go our way. The slope began to steepen dramatically as our lowest gears were found to not be low enough and we settled into a rhythm of panting and mainly pushing with the occasional lifting over rocky steps. I remember very little actual cycling as we slowly ascended seven hundred steepening feet towards Bwlch Sirddyn. The slope is not without interest however as one three hundred yard section is comprised of dozens of huge white quartz boulders; no doubt from the same vein as 'Y Maen Bras'. We stopped several times for breathers and for me to impose some more folklore on my young 'captive audience'. A short ridge called Braich yr Hwch (Spur of the Sow) splits the main head of the valley and on its eastern flank is a curious oval shaped



Buarth yr Hyrddod

structure like a ruined sheep pen. This is called Buarth yr Hyrddod (Compound of the Rams). Dewi Talardd had once told me it was a place where the shepherds of old brought rams to stage fights. It is unlikely to be the real explanation however. It is a very remote spot to stage such events, and why would such valuable assets as rams be wasted on sport when every daylight hour was needed to scratch a living from these unforgiving hills? As several ancient arrowheads have been found in the vicinity I prefer the theory that Buarth yr Hyrddod was part of an ancient settlement or 'hafod'.

The slope steepens considerably as it rises but eventually after much sweating our efforts were rewarded with the dramatic col of Bwlch Sirddyn, and what a place! It is a classic col with very little shelter as even the slightest breeze is channelled through the gap. Raindrops falling on this peaty bed of coarse tussocky grass and rushes have a choice, a choice measured in yards whether they flow down the Dee or down the Dyfi to reach the respective seas. We stopped for lunch and I took the opportunity to impart some more 'culture' on Dylan, my young offspring.



Summit of Aran Fawddwy

Looking across and above Braich yr Hwch the imposing bulk of Aran Fawddwy formed a majestic mountain dominating the western horizon. Outside the Northern Eryri giants this is the sixteenth highest peak in Wales; but was not always thought to be so. It was implied at one time that Cadair Idris was slightly higher, so the locals decided to build a cairn on Aran Fawddwy's summit to ensure it was higher than Cadair! They needn't have worried, Aran Fawddwy has always been 46 feet higher!

High up its eastern face a dark cleft is said to contain a cave where a giant blessed with eternal youth once lived. Dylan strained to see it as I recounted the tale; this eternal youthfulness came with a caveat; he wasn't to take a mortal being back to his cave. Alas, he fell for, and kidnapped a princess from Llanymawddwy and took her back to the cave. (as you do). It was whilst her brother climbed up with a magical ladder to rescue her that the forces which had empowered him with this eternal youth decided to punish him and both the unfortunate brother and the giant were hurled to their deaths to the lake below. The legend does not mention what happened



Craiglyn Dyfi

to the princess! The lake is called Craiglyn Dyfi and is the source of the river bearing the name. Just above its fishless waters on the slope leading to the summit is a tract of land called Erw'r Ddafad Ddu (Acre of the Black Sheep). It seems that many years ago a dispute arose between the farmer of Nant y Barcut and a farmer from the Mawddwy valley over the ownership of this land. The Nant y Barcut farmer carried a square foot of turf from one of his fields in the valley all the way up to where a meeting had been arranged with the local magistrate to settle the dispute. When he then stood on the turf and swore an oath that he was indeed standing on his own piece of land the matter was settled!

Our way now was downhill to the south and very soon we picked up a rudimentary track which made for some delightful cycling, this took us down past a little gorge to join the Llaethnant brook; in essence the infant Dyfi.

Here in this upland valley the saint Tydecho came and tried to work the land much to the consternation of Maelgwn Gwynedd who took away his oxen when he saw him ploughing. Unperturbed, Tydecho harnessed some stags and and a wolf to continue with his work. Maelgwn then set his hunting dogs to chase the stags and sat down to laugh at the spectacle until his heels became stuck in the rock. Tydecho agreed to release him in exchange for land, on which, with his sister Tegfedd he subsequently built several churches in the area.



Llaethnant

A peculiar flat rock on the left of the track as we descended is called Gwely Tydecho (Tydecho's Bed) and a nearby spring also attributed to him has his finger marks on the rock. Other legends tell of one of Tydecho's milkmaids dropping her pail as she crossed the stream which has been

white ever since. The name Llaethnant literally means 'milk brook'.

We stopped at an amusing little mini gorge for a quick dip in a handsome pool which spectacularly overlooked the Mawddwy valley much like an infinity pool. Another kilometre of pleasant riding and we reached the tarmac on the apex of an extremely steep right-hand bend. We were at the foot of the infamous 'hellfire pass', one of the steepest and sustained tarmac roads in Britain. It gets a full 10/10 in a cycling guide to road climbs. This was Bwlch y Groes and much hard work was to be done. My mantra for steep ascents by bike has always been to go as slow as I can, the idea being to conserve some energy in case it gets steeper. This we did, and with mountain bike gears the wall rearing up before us seemed do-able despite the rucksacs we carried and the exertions of the past four hours. And then, just as we were on the steepest part grimacing with effort and zig-zagging to ease the gradient a kite appeared, no more than twenty feet above and ahead lithely playing in the thermals, looking for its prey. In those days kites were very much a rarity, the feeding programme at Rhayader still in its infancy. Should I stop and dig out my camera or keep to what little momentum I had and carry on? The decision was made for me as it gracefully wheeled and rose with its feather-tip adjustment to look elsewhere for its snack. In a lather of sweat and pumping hearts we reached the summit of Bwlch y Groes (Pass of the Cross) and knew the worst of the day's labours were done. Today, the pass is adorned with a cross on the junction of another road which climbs up from Llyn Efyrynwy, much as it was in the old days; but on our cycling trip that day, in the late eighties there was no cross to greet us. Memories of a family picnic we had here in the mid sixties came back to me when I left my school blazer behind and my father had to drive two hours back to retrieve it!



Craig yr Ogof

Our way back to Talardd was now downhill but with still some more 'folklore' features to point out on the steep and fast descent. We stopped just before reaching a magnificent looking crag by the side of the road called 'Craig yr Ogof'. It was here that king Arthur and the giant Rhita began their fight to the death. One of several

sites in Wales where this legendary battle occurred, it occurred because Rhita wanted Arthur's beard which along with other beards whose owners he had slain he was making a cloak!



Bedd y Fawr (Giant's Grave)

The fight continued all the way down the hill into the valley below until Rhita was finally slain near where Tan y Bwlch farmhouse stands today. He was buried nearby; the spot is still called Bedd y Cawr (the 'Giant's Grave'); and is reputed to contain treasure. Thankfully Dylan was too tired to suggest we go and dig for it! Two fields away from Tan y Bwlch a large flat stone can be seen in the open meadow; this is known as 'Y Garreg Lyncu' (The Swallowing Stone) and anyone daring to lie on it runs the risk of being swallowed by the stone!



Y Garreg Lyncu (Swallowing Stone)

The final two and a half miles to Talardd passed quickly as we reflected on our mountain bike trip. It had been Dylan's first big one and he had done very well, the images he had retained no doubt the fast exhilarating downhills, a bearded king Arthur slaying a giant and a thunderstorm borne deluge which raged through a mountain cottage. I too enjoyed the downhills but the elements I retained from the trip were those magic places and features which over the years had given rise to legends and hearsays; features which would repeatedly bring me back to visit, photograph and ultimately write about. But, like many such trips I have repeated over the years they can only ever be 'add-ons' to the original when I was privileged to share in my young son's first big mountain bike trip and the sparkle in his eyes when looking for a giant's cave in the distant cliffs three quarters believing the legends his old Dad told him!

Hair and nails



By Sam

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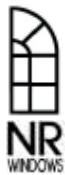
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WHAT IS IN A NAME? (Norman Closs-Parry)

This essay is about art or science, fact or fiction...it could be about Carl Von Linn - the great Swedish naturalist who dedicated his life to name "all creatures that on earth do dwell" and plants too...

No! It's about Beti (my late wife), "The Week. The best of the British and International Media - all you (I) need to know about everything that matters..."and...wait for it ...Close ...Closs ...Clos family name!

Years ago, Beti saw the weekly magazine advertised, and decided that the publication was worthwhile and just the thing to keep the 'busy' Closs family abreast at times...it still arrives every Friday and makes a good buffers guide to...everything... Politics (home and abroad) Sport, Current Affairs - Finance...The Week - you name it it's got a snippet in it!

There is a little column in every week "A good week was had...a bad week was had by..." Very interesting. So interesting, I decided to make it central to my thoughts for this Autumn issue of The 5 Villages Chronicle - see what you think? My references will not just be about a week's happenings though, but the idea is there!

People have asked me from time to time about the 'Closs' part of my surname? It has increased these last few weeks! Dame (please note!) Elan Closs - Stephens became Acting Chairperson of the BBC!! Any relation they ask? - Yes!..and no!...Elan Closs - Roberts was born and grew up in the neighbouring valley in Eryri! The Nantlle Vale...Dame Elan, a native Welsh speaker, was the first Welsh speaker, was the first person from Ysgol Penygroes (Comp) to win a scholarship to Oxford...but she could have been a Williams, Davies, Closs - Jones - but through marriage was a Closs-Roberts! In our valley there were instances of Closs, Closs-Williams and like me (and ours now) Closs-Parry! It all depended on who married who in those copper/zinc/slate mining communities... because the masters - the greatest estates like The Faenol Estate, brought Cornish experts into the industry to teach the locals about explosives!! True! So goes one theory...but in history there is nothing simple. I, a Closs-Parry, after formal education - Dinorwig Primary, Ysgol Ramadeg Brynrefail, Coleg Normal and eventually Bangor University, came to Flintshire in 1960. In time, I got to know a Secondary School head - Bryn Ellis - an expert historian about Halkyn mountain who during his research had found a Closs- and a Close in their records somewhere - they also came to work the mines from Derbyshire and Yorkshire - hurrah! - Close! Brian Close!? Cricket! Lovely Cricket! Brian Close at 18 made Freddy Brown's Ashes Tour of Australia 1950 - He did not make it regularly - but eventually he became Yorkshire and MCC Captain - Who cannot but remember the same Close of facing the might of the Windies fast bowling in the fearsome form of Wes Hall and Charlie Griffiths hurling them down at a constant 95mph...thump...thump... puff of dust! Brian Close went to bat - he did not have a helmet hat...he did not wear a protective vest...Brian Close knew - he knew best...The psychology of the game - and the papers loved it - his body black and blue - but head unbowed, Close pride too! What a man? What a leader? But, come back to the Nantlle Vale for a minute...After Ysgol Penygroes and Oxford the world of Academia appealed to Elan, and eventually, this distant relative still clung to the "Closs" when she married Dr Roy Stephens a scientist and a brilliant analyst and writer of cynghanedd (Welsh strict metre poetry - like the englyn). Indeed, I did not read any of his chemistry papers - but his Odliadur [Rhyming dictionary for poets] is my constant companion - I have learnt most of it by heart!

Now Roy died very young, and Elan carried on with the academic world - becoming a professor of culture and the performing arts in Aberystwyth. Because of her brilliant analytical mind she was invited onto various national bodies - S4C amongst them - and now - head of British Broadcasting Corporation - Wow a Closs from Eryri head of BBC! A bed of nails as Ray Gunter (Labour) said of his brief once!

"A good week" by the Closs family does not end there!

A few weeks ago there was a mighty funeral in the family - my cousin's husband- an ex-Mayor of the Royal Borough of Caernarfon, had passed away - and in the 'bara brith' - after a dignified service, 'Calon Lân' and eulogies; another Closs relation

popped up at the table where Gwawr and I were sandwich picking!!

"How is that granddaughter of yours now - playing for Wales, yes?"

I cleared my throat - my hour had arrived...

"She is not the first Closs to make it in the game you know?!"

Hmm - clearing my throat again...but Bethan was in full flow - "look on Google when you get home - E.C.Jones - Cricketer...!! And off she went for or with more goss! Closs goss of course!

When we got back to Treffynnon, - well Carmel - Gwawr went on Google...and there it was/is <https://www.espnccricinfo.com/cricketers/closs-jones-15541>

Emrys.Closs.Jones.Right arm Off-break bowler - Glamorgan County Cricket Club...(and my Closs of spelling too and Elan!?)-[My brackets]

A few weeks ago, Gareth, my son in law and I went as far as Malvern College Cricket Festival. Tîm Cymru - Merched Dan 18 [Wales U18 Girls Team] were in the tournament involving umpteen county and regional squads...Ela Closs - Sharp - yes that's right - another branch line now! Was selected for Cymru - Wales!

After observing the beauty of Elgar country; the opulence of this private school - I settled down with my sarnies and water under a massive cool ash tree!! Eventually Ela Closs - Sharp was called up to bowl...off breaks ...slow medium aka E.C.Jones Glamorgan!

I peered at her through my Leitz pocket binoculars. I looked at her eyes - it's all right - fire and explosive - (family Cornish connection!) There was jubilation on the field, Ela broke the opening stand...and Cymru went on to win... The journey home did not look half so long...! I got a scorecard for the Welsh bowling.

	Overs	Maiden	Runs	Wickets
Closs-Sharp E	6	2	26	3

No - not a bad week for the Clos, Close, Closs - and do you know - someone has suggested Klaus!! God forbid - no - don't bring the Almighty into this!! But it's dawned on me! Now there is a Closs - Sharp line in the family and that is how it's been since the dynamite experts came!!

I wonder where and when the next explosion will be?

Thomas Pennant Lecture Darlith Thomas Pennant 2023



Thomas Pennant and the Practice of Natural History

Dr Edwin Rose:

Advanced Research Fellow, Darwin College, Cambridge.

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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.

LITTER!

(Sandy Neville, Gorsedd)

Being new to the area, we were most impressed with the 'The Five Villages Chronicle', which was delivered soon after our move to Gorsedd. It's already been very useful in finding local tradesmen to carry out some work.

What a beautiful area this is. However, it's such a shame to see so much litter on the grass verges and road sides.

In our previous village, in Ceredigion, we had regular organised litter picks and I just wonder if that might be something we could do in the villages. I'm thinking about maybe organising something for the October half term, where children and their parents/guardians could join in. It's great to involve the community and particularly the young people. I'm busily looking into what is involved in getting something like this set up and have had some help from the Council and also many thanks to Chris Dolphin for his very useful suggestions.

The first step though is to discover how many of you who might be willing to be involved. If you're interested please do contact me: sandy@thenevilles.net or 01352 961597. It would be great to hear from you.

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

We had a lot of fun one Sunday night playing a game of 'Would I Lie to You'. The members had to try and work out which of the following statements was a fib from one of the facilitators –

1. That she had been stuck in a lift with Sir Anthony Hopkins
2. That she had sung a solo in front of 2,000 people
3. That she had done the 20 meter 'Fire Walk'

From September onwards we are changing the group slightly in that we are inviting those that are not so fluent in Welsh to join us. We have two facilitators on at each session so one will be chatting with the more advanced members and the other will be chatting with those not so far along on the journey.

Siaawns am Sgwrs meets on the first and third Sundays of the month at Bethel Chapel, Caerwys from 6pm to 7pm. The cost is £3 per session.

We don't meet during August, so the next one will be Sunday 1st October.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Jack Lancelott, son of David and Carys of Ffordd Gwelfor, Carmel, who recently graduated from Loughborough University.



Jack gained a Master of Engineering degree, with first class honours, in Automotive Engineering and has since taken up the position of Dyno Test Engineer with the Mercedes AMG Petronas Formula 1 team at Brackley in Northamptonshire.

We are so proud of your achievements Jack and wish you all the best for the future.
Mam & Dad



(Lynda Wilson)

The Art Club, will be hosting an exhibition of their work at Afonwen Craft Centre, September 28th/29th.

Some of the members will be there to chat with visitor and answer any questions regarding the art club and offer any painting tips and ideas.

Hope you can pop in to see us, we would love to meet you!

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THE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY CLWYD GROUP

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Meetings are held at the **Halkyn Cricket Club**, Holywell CH8 8BS on the third Tuesday of the month. Talks start at 7.30pm. Doors open from 7pm for plant sales and raffle tickets.

The next meetings are:

Tuesday 17th October, 'Autumn Bulbs', Zdenek Valkoun-Walker.

A choice cross-section of this vast group of plants and how to successfully cultivate them. Zdenek is the Head Gardener at Dorothy Clive Garden, Market Drayton, Shropshire.

Tuesday 21st November, 'Evergreen Plants for Small Gardens', Anthony Norman.

Anthony and Susan Norman are specialist growers of variegated and coloured foliage hardy nursery stock with a great knowledge of how get the most from this range of plants. They own and run Conquest Plants Nursery in Macclesfield, Cheshire. Nursery plants for sale.

No meetings December and January.

Programme can be subject to change.

Information: 01352 781458 (leave a message)

email: clwydgroup@hardy-plant.org.uk

www.facebook.com/HPSClwyd

www.hardy-plant.org.uk/clwyd

MARK ISHERWOOD MS



The default national speed limit in built up areas in Wales is set to reduce from 30mph to 20mph next month, on September 17th.

Welsh Government Ministers have said that lowering the speed limit by 10mph will reduce road collisions and noise and encourage people to walk or cycle.

However, the public are not convinced it is a good move. A survey of North Wales Live readers found that just 12% of respondents support Labour's plans to change the default speed limit in residential areas to 20mph, with 88% opposing the plans, and in areas where the new limit has been piloted, including Buckley in Flintshire, the feedback has not been positive.

Speaking in the Senedd Debate on a Petition to 'Stop the change of speed limits to 20mph on 17th September' in June, I pointed out that whilst this petition gained 21,920 signatures before being closed, one

set up in Buckley, which was one of eight pilot areas across Wales to trial a default 20mph speed limit, had reached 58,546 signatures up until that point.

I said: "This reflects the real lived experience of people living in the North Wales pilot area, feeling sidestepped by the Deputy Minister who selected it".

During the Debate, I quoted from the flood of e-mails I have received from residents of Buckley, which have included, 'Many of these roads are busy access roads on steep hills. The lorries are struggling to get up the hills in such a low gear, and sticking to such a low speed downhill is hard on the brakes'.

A cyclist - one of many, wrote:- 'Instead of overtaking and getting out of the way, these cars, vans and lorries will be driving close behind, in front or alongside me. This has not been thought through'.

Another resident said, 'It's doing the opposite of what it supposedly set out to do. There's more pollution with cars chugging around in lower gears, people pay less attention to the road and more on the speedometer, leading to incidents on roads that previously had none'.

Another said 'The so-called default scheme is a mistake, resulting in bad driving, near misses and increased pollution'.

I stressed that I am the Father and Grandfather of Buckley residents who accept the benefit of this on certain residential estates, but totally oppose

what they perceive to be the quasi-blanket approach thus far adopted. I told the Deputy Minister "Those people and their neighbours want to be heard".

Prior to the vote on the Restricted Roads (20 mph Speed Limit) Order last July, which Labour and Plaid Cymru voted through, I challenged accident rate statistics put forward by the Minister for Climate Change.

The Minister referred to Police recorded road accidents for 2021, which she said show that "over half of all road accidents—53 per cent—occurred on 30 mph roads. Pedestrians are five times more likely to be killed at 30 mph compared to 20 mph, and 52 per cent of all casualties were killed on 30 mph roads during 2019".

Challenging the figures, I said: "Did you notice that 3 per cent of the accidents occur on 20 mph roads, but they only account for 2.5 per cent of roads in Wales? So, actually, the accident rate is higher by 0.5 per cent and pretty much aligned with the accident rate on 30 mph roads."

Transport for Wales data estimates that the change will increase 20 mph speed limits from 2.5 per cent to 36.9 per cent of roads in Wales, whilst reducing 30 mph speed limits from 37.4 per cent to 3 per cent. This would mean that the accident rate on 20 mph roads would approach 50 per cent, whilst falling to 4.2 per cent on 30 mph roads.

In pursuit of evidence-based road safety policies, the UK Department for



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

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

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

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

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

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

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Transport (DfT) published an authoritative 20mph Research Study in November 2018, which includes:

- The study has shown that the speed at which people drive is influenced more by the look and feel of the road, than whether a 20mph or 30mph limit is in place.
- This study has found no significant safety outcome (in terms of collisions and casualties) in residential areas, based on the post implementation data available to date.

Following this, a 2022 study from Queen's University Belfast, Edinburgh University and the University of Cambridge found that reducing speed limits from 30mph to 20mph has had 'little impact' on road safety.

The implementation of this unpopular policy will adversely affect people's daily lives, making their journeys longer and more difficult. Astonishingly, even the Labour Government's own Explanatory Memorandum to the Bill acknowledged that this policy will impose a staggering cost of £4.5 billion on the Welsh economy.

The cost of replacing thousands of speeds signs across Wales is believed to be around £26.7m, with many motorists seeing this as a complete waste of taxpayers' money.

I am not against introducing 20mph speed limits outside schools, playgrounds, places of worship, high streets or other locations where this is supported by local communities, but a blanket roll-out is quite frankly ludicrous. The people of Wales strongly oppose the implementation of default 20mph speed limits, but their views have been ignored.

As Welsh Conservative Shadow Transport Minister, Natasha Asghar MS, recently said: "We need sensible case-by-case speed limits that reflect local people's wishes, not top-down diktats from the socialists in Cardiff Bay."

Currently, just 2.5% of Welsh roads have a speed limit of 20mph, but from next month this is expected to increase to approximately 35%, slowing down our roads and slowing down Wales.

CARMEL WI NEWS (Jacqui Arstall)

We hope that you have all had a relaxing summer, and avoided this years unseasonal rain showers.

During the summer period we have enjoyed participating in our monthly meetings and other local events.



At our June meeting we were delighted to welcome Alex and Belle, 2 gorgeous therapy dogs accompanied by their owners. We gained an informative insight into the extensive role of a Therapy dog and their owner. As anticipated Alex and Belle were the stars of the evening and rewarded generously with treats and cuddles.

In July we were treated to a very interesting talk and slide show detailing the history and work of Rhyl RNLI.

It was astonishing to see the technological advances and state of the art equipment that has been developed during the last few decades. The dedication, expertise and bravery of the Rhyl RNLI crew and support staff became apparent during this presentation.



Carmel WI annual August outing took a different path this year. Members decided that an Indian Meal was the order of the day. We spent an evening at the Indian Lounge experiencing beautifully presented and delicious cuisine, drinks, chatter and laughter.



The programme for our Autumn period is varied.

Thursday 7th September 2023, members are taking part in a Charity Quiz Night in support of Dementia UK.

Monday 11th September 2023, we are hosting Afternoon Tea at Carmel Village Hall in aid of St Kentigern's Hospice.

At our September monthly meeting the presentation is an 'Alaskan Adventure' - talk and slide show.

Our October meeting is Guest Night and we will be entertained by the much acclaimed Signing Choir.

In November with Christmas rapidly approaching we are having a Christmas Craft evening.

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

New members are always very welcome.

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JUNIOR SECTION

It has certainly been a busy year running four junior teams at Carmel and District Cricket Club. Training started in February (indoors), with a move outside in April through to the end of August. The coaches at the club will have September to take a breather before our Autumn indoor sessions begin.

It has been really pleasing to see the enthusiasm for playing cricket shown by nearly 40 children aged 6 to 13. Some of these children will go on to play in our senior teams. The current captain of our First XI, Ben Sim, came to us as an enthusiastic 7-year-old.

Carmel has an all-girl Under 11 team and a senior women's team, and the growth of females playing what used to be seen as a male dominated sport is refreshing and reflects the growth of women and girls now trying and playing many sports that had been previously seen as 'out of bounds'. The skill and desire have always been there, it was the opportunity that was missing.

If anybody in your family would like to try the sport for the first time or return to cricket after a break, please contact Alun Davies on 07889 095712.

SENIOR TEAMS

At the time of writing these notes in late August, Carmel's women's and girls' team have completed their season and the men's senior teams only have a few games

remaining. Here is a brief summary of the 2023 season:

CARMEL WOMEN'S AND GIRLS TEAM



Haf Morgan-Read scoring runs for Carmel in the game against Halkyn

This season the team was competing in the newly formed Eastern section of the North Wales Women's Cricket League which included teams like Northop, Halkyn and Gwersyllt Park. The team enjoyed a very successful season and finished third in the league behind champions Northop Hall and runners-up Buckley. Carmel took part in some really close and exciting matches this year and all of the players continued to develop their batting, bowling, and fielding skills. This team was only established a few years ago, and all of the players deserve great credit for the progress they have made. One of the season's highlights was Haf Morgan-Read's excellent innings of 31 which was key to Carmel's victory against Northop on 11th June.

MEN'S FIRST XI

The team is currently in ninth place in Division Two of the North Wales Cricket League and looks set to maintain its place in the division at the end of the season. There have been a number of highlights this year, including captain Ben Sim's excellent maiden century away at Pontblyddyn Seconds on 12th August. Ben's innings of 109 not out helped to secure victory and was also a great personal achievement



Ben Sim batting for Carmel Firsts against Pontblyddyn Seconds

for Ben who has shown real consistency at the crease throughout the year. Another highlight was Danny Owens' exceptional bowling display against Pontblyddyn Seconds on 3rd June when he finished with six wickets for nine runs – his best ever bowling figures.

MEN'S SECOND XI

This has been a challenging season at times for the Second XI, as a combination of wet weather and lack of player availability has led to the cancellation of a large number of games. There have, however, been a number of highlights, including Jonathan Fisher's excellent innings of 90 not out in the game against Abergele Seconds on 12th August. Jonathan's fine batting display helped the team to successfully chase down Abergele's total of 152 and secure a 14 points to 1 victory. A number of the club's youngsters have also gained valuable experience playing for the team this year, which augurs well for the future of the club.

As we draw towards the end of the season, everyone at the club would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to keep the club running. Carmel Cricket Club would be unable to function without them, and their efforts are greatly appreciated. If anyone would like to join the club in any capacity – as a player, volunteer, or committee member – please e-mail carmelcricket@hotmail.co.uk

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CERIDWEN JOHNSON 1927-2023



Ceridwen Johnson (Parry) was born in Hafod-y-Coed, Carmel on 26th May 1927. She grew up there with her three brothers, Will, Terney and Neville, and her sisters Myfanwy and Olwen. She was always very keen to tell stories about their happy family life. She had fond memories of picnics and rock climbing in the White Quarries and sledging from the top of Carmel Hill right down to the Halfway House at the bottom. She talked about her brother, Terney, always getting up to mischief and her admiration for her mother who had brought up the family alone following

the death of their father when Ceridwen was just thirteen.

Carmel Chapel played a big part in their lives, with attendances three times every Sunday and meetings and clubs during the week. One of these clubs was the Band of Hope, a teetotal organisation aiming to teach sobriety to children. The Second World War started when Ceridwen was twelve and soon the evacuees began to arrive to escape the bombing raids on Merseyside. The local children were told to make friends with them and to speak English to make them feel welcome. This resulted in many lifelong friendships being made. One of the evacuees, Beryl, became close friends with Ceridwen and their friendship continued when they were both married with their own families. The girls from Carmel School used to attend cookery lessons at the school in Holywell once a week. One day they made bread in the lesson and their finished attempt was so hard they couldn't even cut it, so they decided to use it as a football and kicked it all the way home to Carmel!

When Ceridwen left school she worked in various shops in Holywell, including Roberts the Couriers, Dan Mills and later, Woolworths. At weekends she and her friends would go to dances in Holywell, before walking back to Carmel in the blackout, having to count the gates as they walked along, to work out who lived at which house.

In January 1954 Ceridwen became Mrs Johnson when she married Harry at Carmel Chapel. The ceremony was followed by a reception in Carmel Village Hall. They lived in a bungalow on the Babell Road for a few years before moving to Pen-y-Maes Road in Holywell where they brought up their two daughters, Pauline and Karen. When Harry died just before Christmas in 1971 Ceridwen had to continue to bring up the two young girls alone, no doubt inspired by memories of her own mother in the same situation.

Ceridwen was well known in Holywell and was involved in various chapel-based activities. Moriah Chapel in Pen-y-Maes played an important role in her life, just as Carmel Chapel had done in her younger days. She helped out for many years at the Whitton-Morris dance school and could always be relied on to participate in school activities involving her girls. Ceridwen was an enthusiastic knitter and could make anything from thick Arran and Fair Isle sweaters to delicate christening shawls.

When Karen started High School Ceridwen had the opportunity to return to work. She worked in Alma's Newsagent's in Holywell for several years and enjoyed the company of her colleagues and serving and chatting to customers. It's safe to say that there couldn't be many people in Holywell that she didn't know.

In 1983 Ceridwen acquired the new title of Nain when Donna was born, soon followed by Mark, Matthew, Catherine and Anna. She thought the world of her five grandchildren, and they all grew up knowing how special they were to her. She also became Hen Nain, as she loved to be called, to Olivia and Jack.

In the years after she finished work, Ceridwen remained active for as long as her health allowed and was still walking to Holywell town when she had turned ninety years of age. She would meet a group of friends for coffee or lunch - the coffee gang, as she called them. Due to deteriorating health, Ceridwen spent the last three and a half years of her life at Pen-y-Bryn Care Home in Bagillt where she always appreciated the care given by the dedicated staff who work there.

Ceridwen was a well-loved figure in all the communities where she had lived and will be remembered fondly by the people who knew her, especially her family. She passed away on May 21st just five days short of her 96th birthday.

THE TEXTILE MILL OPEN WEEKEND

(Geoff Hill, Chairman)

**CARMEL & HOLYWELL
WOODCRAFT ASSOCIATION**

What goes on behind the gate? was the theme advertising the open weekend on Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 August at the Textile Mill, Holywell. Despite the poor weather, people certainly took advantage to find out what was behind those gates at Greenfield Road.

Apart from the local visitors, people from as far as Australia and America, whilst in the area, took advantage to see what was going on. With a steel band to welcome people on their arrival which was provided by Up A Yard Jamaican Restaurant, a lively warm atmosphere was soon created.



The Carmel & Holywell Woodcraft Association provided plenty to see with demonstrations of wood turning, wood carving and pyrography in a format where various techniques could be discussed on a one-to-one basis on just what can be achieved from working with wood. The woodcraft members stall was well received not only allowing people to purchase items but also see the detailed work that its members had achieved.

Moving upstairs to Paint Me Pretty by Bethan, the ladies saw first hand her team



Aubrey Lawson explains to a visitor the techniques of woodcarving



A great detail of interest was created by the work by examples of work on display

in operation demonstrating the numerous beauty treatments that were on offer to her clients with the opportunity of collecting a 10% discount voucher for future treatments.

It was back downstairs to the far end of the building to visit Lulu's Cabinet Arts and Craft Studio. Unfortunately, due to illness, Lucy was absent on the Sunday but she has asked people to contact her direct to find out about future classes in making creative items and embroidery (mobile 07863 329954).

With a visit to St Winefride's Shrine and Well, it was the final part of a very successful weekend. Judging by the comments received, people found their visit both interesting and informative and now a great many more people are aware of what goes on behind those gates in Greenfield Road.

As the weekend was so enjoyable for the participating organisations, it will in all probability be repeated in 2024 where even more people can find out 'what goes on behind those gates'.

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THE DRUID INN (Jeremy Brunning)

Well at least The Druid has been saved. So many rural pubs are just shut down and left to decay before being sold off as houses and you don't need to look outside the Five Villages to see the evidence. But the Druid is now secure as a pub and will serve it's community for many years to come or until the Senedd bans them.

I imagine that you'll be wondering what sort of pub we're going to give you and, when asked, I usually say one I'd like.

I've always used pubs as places to meet and socialise. I want a pleasing, comfortable building, quality food and drink (for me interesting cask beer, decent red wine and classic dishes done well), kind staff and reasonable prices. I want the building to be clean and in good order with everything working most of the time. I want to feel safe. I want it to be somewhere I can use time and again because I know I like it and I know what I'm going to get. I don't want to be entertained in my pub, in fact the opposite, I find people trying to entertain me distracts from the pleasure I get from just talking with the people I'm with. So I don't like gaming machines, pool tables, dart boards, television, music, quiz nights, pub football teams or anything else that tries to interfere with simple socialising. I just want the pub to be the same pleasing place every time I choose to visit.

Why the Druid? Well it's simple really – it's a lovely village and a lovely pub. Practically a pub needs to be in a good location vis-a-vis potential customers and the building needs to be one that will respond to love and affection. It's a considerable advantage if there is no competition, although competition seems to follow me. Gorsedd is in a proper settled community, the surrounding villages are charming and of an ilk and none of them have a pub. It has drawbacks – it's small, the garden faces north and does not have views and there's no gas in the village but apart from that I think we can make it work. It's charming now but when I stand and stare at the building I can't help thinking it must have been even more charming before the first war. There would have been truly outstanding views out over the Wirral and on to Liverpool, you might even have seen a few tall ships, while Gorsedd would have been a quiet rural community. It must surely have been a truly spiritual place. I think that spirituality still lives in the fabric of the village.

The modern-day Druid Inn is a typical example of a pub that has not had investment for a long time. It's tired and shabby and it needs it's socks pulled up. So that's where we'll start - sorting out the fabric of the building so that we don't have to worry about it again in my lifetime. We can't do everything so the pantile roof and strangely sculptured plaster work will, I think, have to stay. The flat roofs will need replacing, the fireplaces opened up and the fire surrounds rebuilt. It needs rewiring and replumbing, it needs a new kitchen which will probably be our biggest expense. The loos need renovating and refitting. All the floors need to be renovated with a combination of tiles and floorboards. Then we'll need to furnish it, put our pictures in and then add the tech that today's business needs. I don't want the pub to be flash or garish or unusual or unique I want it to be comfortable. I always tell my crew that it should be like visiting a home loving eccentric Aunt who's gathered all sorts of strange pictures and possessions over the years. Eclectic.

Once the building is ready, or more likely at the same time, we need to get staff. This is no mean task nowadays but we have the small advantage of a stable (relatively) workforce of 130 or so souls which will hopefully reassure potential staff that we are half decent people to work for and could be a good long term bet. We'll have to train all these people and this will be a combination of on site instruction with some of the new staff going to work in our other four pubs so they can get the hang of things and teach the others. This is why we can't open too close to Christmas as it might be too much pressure for new and inexperienced staff. They'd get flustered, the customers would be impatient, I'd be upset and dogs would howl. No – we need to ease our new team into their new roles during the quieter January and February period

so that by Easter we are firing on all cylinders.

Matt Marren, our principal chef, will be beaver away in the background with the process of getting the menus right and the kitchen staff working together as a team. A starting menu will have to be created, a few items on the menu will generally change every day thereafter so we will need a bank of dishes for months down the line. I like classic dishes done well but of course I'm old fashioned and we also need to cater to modern tastes – vegan, vegetarian, Asian fusion etc. which I have to say I like too if for some reason the fish pie's not on.

Then, finally, we have to tell everyone about it. This has, in the past, proved to be a problem for me and I think it's because I don't use social media, I don't have first-hand experience of how it works when it comes to telling people what's happening. I still love local newspapers and local mags like this one. What a joy to have a decent parish magazine – "priceless" as it correctly describes itself.

I do think web sites are important. They are the modern-day equivalent of a company brochure, but they are workaday tools for people who are largely already customers or close to being one. You can book a table, check opening times, download the day's menu, get the address, send a link to your friend.

So, in the hope of getting around this hole in my knowledge, for this pub I've hired a professional who I hope will do the job of telling people about us without sounding like a prat.

One thing I should warn you of is that there will be lots of people who won't like the Druid. For a start all those people I've mentioned above who do like to be entertained. They do want to play darts and watch TV and they really like quiz nights and a pub cricket team. I sympathise with these people greatly; I often want these things too. However, I have learnt over the years that doing one thing well is much better than trying to be all things to all people. I believe people want meeting places and that's why pubs have been a success since Roman times.

The people I expect to be customers will live not too far away, will come from all walks of life but will have one thing in common, an appreciation of a good aesthetic. Perhaps a better word would be traditionalists, our customers come from every walk of life but are traditionalists, lovers of classic pubs. That sounds right to me, I hope it's not pretentious.

My one sadness is I can't see how I'll be able to regularly use this pub myself. Obviously I'll visit during the day to just to see what's happening, but I also like to use the pubs as a customer. With the other four I regularly pop in for a pint and a scotch egg. This one is 45 minutes from my house and there won't be any chance of getting Beth, my wife, to come and collect me if I get drawn into having a few too many. Perhaps I should get myself a driver or maybe find a local B and B. We'll see.

So, I hope many of you will become customers when we finally open. Watch this space for more news or, for those that prefer the on-line world I believe we have a Facebook page. If I were you I'd stick with this lovely magazine.



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CYMDEITHAS THOMAS PENNANT SOCIETY (Glyn Jones)

Paul Brighton, our highly valued Secretary, is now undertaking a course of chemotherapy and we all wish him well as we do Jan Miller who unfortunately had to cancel our visit to her Wildlife Garden whilst also receiving medical attention.

We celebrated our Meirion Griffith Memorial Evening in June which involved a number of local schools who "competitively" shared their imaginative ideas and projects relating to Thomas Pennant. Penybryn Chapel was bouncing with the sound and presence of so many youngsters. Their submissions were judged by Dr Eiddwen Jones and Mr Colin Roberts and shields and prizes were awarded. The evening was highly successful and the varied efforts of the young people were enjoyed and appreciated by all attending.

The opportunity was taken to present Paul, in his absence, with a large picture recording many of the happy and successful events and occasions he will have participated in during his continuing long and loyal years of service to the Cymdeithas.

The highlight of our season is the Annual Lecture again to be held in Holywell Library timed at 7pm on Thursday, 28th September. Tickets are priced at £3 and are available from either the Library, Telephone No. 01352 703850 or Closs-Parry Telephone No. 01352 711036.

Our guest Lecturer this year is Dr Edwin Rose, who is an Advanced Research Fellow of Darwin College, Cambridge University. This is always a popular and highly regarded event and we look forward to sharing Dr Rose's thoughts and specialist knowledge by way of his lecture which is entitled Thomas Pennant and the Practice of Natural History.

There is limited capacity in the Library so tickets are numbered – may we suggest that tickets be bought early to help both the Library and the Cymdeithas.

We give advance notice of our meeting on Thursday October 19th when Celia Drew has kindly agreed to give a talk at 2pm on "The Holywell Workhouse" and this to be followed by our a.g.m timed for 3.30pm. following Celia's talk.

Whilst it is most important that we all enjoy the remainder of the summer our Officers are nonetheless making early preparations for a Programme for 2024 onwards!

Our best wishes to all.

THE FIVE VILLAGES GARDENING CLUB (Isabel Burnage)

The trip to Gordale Garden Centre and Ness Gardens in July was a great success. First we went to the Garden Centre to have a good look round all the different areas both inside and out. The plants all looked colourful. The café offered a choice of food and drink before we moved on to Ness Gardens in the afternoon. Although there was a short shower of rain as we arrived, it brightened up and was very pleasant walking round the gardens. There are lots of paths around the different areas slowly descending into the lower sections including the kitchen gardens.

By the time we arrived back at the top, the café offered a welcome cup of tea before leaving for home. Thanks to David Hughes for all the arrangements making the trip so enjoyable.

Our yearly Mini Show was held in Carmel Village Hall on 3rd August and was well supported by members, old and new, with many entries across the 12 different categories. Congratulations to the overall winner, Buddug Neale who was presented with the shield.

Our programme continues with an outing to Bryn Bella gardens, Tremeirchion in September. This will be followed by afternoon tea at the Salusbury Arms, Tremeirchion.

In October we will welcome Kate from Waterhouse Flowers, Holywell who is going to demonstrate floral arrangements.


All our indoor meetings are held in Carmel Village Hall on the 1st Thursday of the month starting at 2pm apart from August when we have the Mini Show and start at 7.30pm.

New members are always welcome.


For further information please contact either Christine Hamer on 01352 7162763 or Maria Evans on 01352 715156.


HANNAH BLYTHYN ^{MS}


Member of the Senedd for Delyn
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HOLYWELL AREA COMMUNITY MUSEUM NEWS (Andrea Yarnell Dakin)

A TRUE BLESSING AT THE MUSEUM

The 4th of July 2023 was also an important day for our museum – for this was the day on which our beautiful chapel room received its blessing and the day on which the plaque dedicated to the loss of four miners in a tragedy on 4th July 1952.

Many people were invited, and we had three separate blessings from the three clergymen in the town.

Father Matthew represented the Roman Catholic church, Brother Dominic the Anglican church and Rev David Campbell pastor of the Bethel Baptist Chapel all in their own unique way brought something to the chapel with their individual blessings which now makes the room feel even more special than it felt before.



Some of those present had donated precious items, one person had donated enough money for us to be able to paint and carpet the room, some were associated with the chapel from which the furnishings had been obtained - Hebron chapel in Mostyn.

The importance of the day was added to by the unveiling of a plaque in dedication to six miners who lost their lives in the sinking of shaft number three in Point of Ayr colliery on that day - 4th July 1952. This is now in the museum thanks to the dedication of our resident miner John Wiltshire who is a wealth of knowledge in his field.

The miners were:

Patrick Joseph McPartland aged 28 a lead miner from Weavers Land, Dyserth.

James N. Thompson aged 43 of Dawson Park, Prestatyn

Samuel Dempster aged 31 also of Dawson's Park, Prestatyn

Goronwy Jones aged 30 of Primrose Hill, Holywell

Percy Maisey aged 33 of Gwelfor, Ffynnonogroyw

Edward James Hill aged 31 of Deptford in London

One can only imagine the sadness and grief of their families and loved ones when they received the awful news seventy one years ago.

A quote on the bottom of the plaque speaks something of what was most certainly felt that dreadful day:

"Struck down in the midst of honest toil,

how little do we know the dangers they go through".

Cllr Glyn Banks unveiled the plaque and the words spoken by Cllr Gwladys Healey – Mayoress of Flintshire who, coming from a mining family herself truly came from the heart.



All present were treated to a delicious spread of a vast choice of refreshments and cakes excellently organised by Jodie Bennet and Sue Johnson – one cake for the chapel blessing and another for the unveiling of the plaque.

Many of those who came are still talking about the day and how they felt blessed in their own individual ways to be there.



Do come to see our lovely little chapel room - there is much to see relating to all most of the places of worship in the area. Perhaps you can add to what we have? We would be very grateful for anything you could bring in - even if it is just an article from a newspaper, because, to quote the

name of our reminiscence group - Every Memory Matters.

Apart from this wonderful day we still have lots going on including our schoolroom and N.H.S. tribute - of course the 4th of July was also the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the N.H.S. and our group is gathering together memories of what would happen pre-NHS.



Just to remind you of our pop-up antique shop, our books for sale on local history, our lovely little cafe, Bingo, Reminiscence Group, Knit and Natter and Thursday lunchtime quiz. Plus, guided history walks along the high street.

A new "Writing your Story for Your Family" - six-week course of two and a half hours a week (£25) will be run in September limited to just six people so please register your interest.

If you want any information on anything which is happening please phone the museum on 01352 217170 or to chat about any of the groups please contact me on 01352 711240 or email me on andreadakin112@btinternet.com.

If you have been to see us, please come again - if not why not come and chat with us about the past we would love to meet you.

Or if you have a few hours of your time to spare why not come and volunteer. We would love to see you whatever your reason for your visit.

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NATURE COLUMN (Jan Miller)

A strange summer of weather again! First a long cold spring so things didn't get going, then hot drought all of June, then continuous cool, overcast and rain for July and August, with the odd sunny day here and there. How wildlife copes with this is different each year, the exact timing is important and different species exploit this variability in different ways. For example many species of butterfly did not do so well this spring, but the Holly Blue has done exceptionally well due to the hot June. That's because that is its peak larval development time. Different species go through egg laying, caterpillar feeding, pupation and adult flight in different months so they each get a chance on some good weather in separate years. The butterflies of high summer tend to be the brown family whose caterpillars have to feed on the old fashioned meadow grasses with wonderful names like Couch, Cocks foot, Yorkshire Fog, sheep's fescue, Timothy, old uncle Tom Cobbler and all!

98% of meadows with such grasses have disappeared now, but we happen to be very lucky in that our small holding has not been a working farm since before the war so has never been ploughed up and reseeded with modern foreign species which our wild pollinators cannot use. I was

excited to see twice a species of butterfly which has only just started spreading into this part of the country it is called the Essex Skipper because it used to be confined to that county.



With climate change our county recorders have been tracking its movements and there was an explosion in population on Broughton shopping park rough grassy area a few years ago. Since then it has been recorded in Wrexham area and along the border. I first noticed a smaller and faster than normal, small skipper on its own. Luckily I had my camera and could take many snaps quickly and look on the computer screen later. Tips of antennae look like they have been dipped in black ink, like matchsticks and the borders of the wings (top pair held at 45 degrees)

have a broader white and brown border. How do insects spread though, why some species and not others? Locusts have a behaviour that is quite benign until their feet brush against 3 others of the same species in a short period. Then they change to swarming mode. Research done by Butterfly Conservation in Clocaenog forest over 7 years showed that Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries stayed within less than a mile for some years until their population got to a density that changed their behaviour to be able to fly 3 or 4 miles to start a new colony. Fascinating! Butterfly Conservation have just launched a new education website which will be great fun as well as useful to train recorders and scientists of the future, see www.wild-spaces.co.uk © Jan Miller 2023





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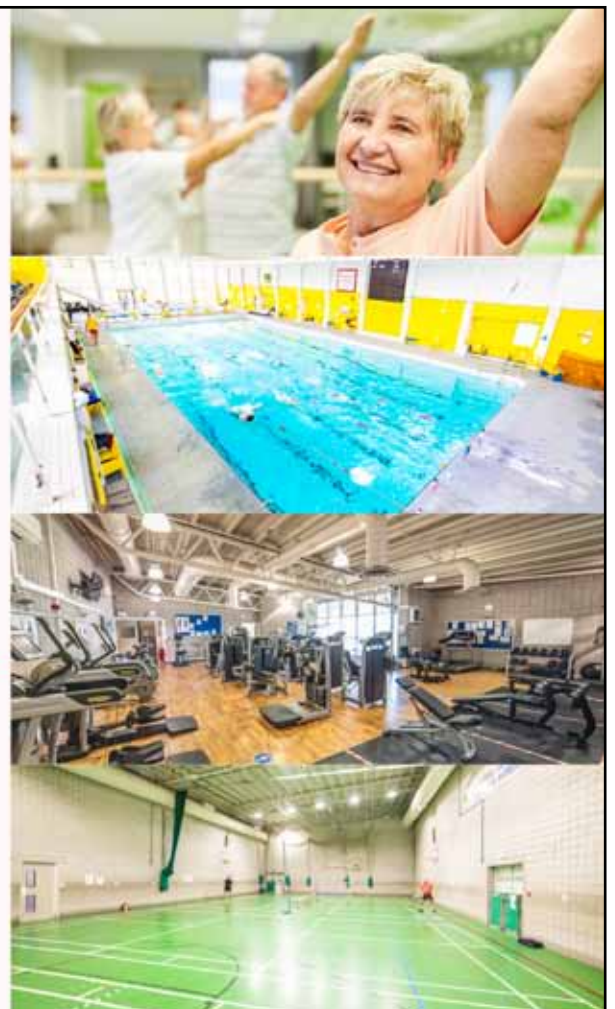
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YSGOL TREFFYNNON (Sian Croston, Business Manager/Rheolwr busnes)

Our last academic year was fantastic and I am looking forward to all the exciting things that are planned for this coming year.

Indeed, the end of the school year is a time of change and transition, so as we said goodbye to our year 11s, our new year 7 cohort joined us in September. Luckily, they had the opportunity to attend lots of transition events last term getting to know the school and their new routine. They have settled in really well so far and we are excited to see them grow as they embark on their secondary school journey.

TAYLOR MADE FOR A CAREER IN TEACHING



A huge well done to Miss Taylor Burns who won "New Teacher of the Year" award in 'The Leader Education Awards'. Miss Burns and Mr Hobbs were both nominated in the "New Teacher of the Year" category. We are incredibly proud of them both for their commitment and determination to go above and beyond for our students. Miss

Burns was the overall winner, however both of them are amazing and we are thrilled they have been recognised.

YEAR 11 PROM



We were incredibly proud of this year group and the resilience they have shown in their preparation for the exams. We hope that they all enjoyed the extra-long summer and wish them all the best with their futures.

The Year 11 prom was held at the Celtic Arms in Northop County Park Golf Club on 22nd June 2023 and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone that attended. We held a progress file celebration in school before the buses took our wonderful students to their destination! The venue commented on how well behaved they all were and a fantastic night was had by them all.

SPORTS DAY 2023



Ysgol Treffynnon's highly anticipated sports day took place in school and was a resounding success. The rain held off and it brought students together from Year 7 to Year 10, showcasing their athletic

prowess whilst fostering a great sense of healthy competition. Overall, our sports day celebrated athleticism, team work and the Ysgol Treffynnon team spirit!

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Our bronze Duke of Edinburgh group enjoyed both their practice and real expeditions last term. Students learned key skills like navigation, camp-craft, first-aid, but more importantly developed intangible qualities such as resilience and teamwork. The trip was a culmination of hard work committing time to physical activities, skills-based tasks and volunteering.

Any pupils interested in completing the Duke of Edinburgh should speak to Mrs Reid if they are interested in completing this.

ANNUAL PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY

Last term we all attended our annual prize giving ceremony held at the school. It was wonderful to come together as a community to recognise our students' achievements and to celebrate the end of a fantastic year.

We would like to thank all the parents that attended to support our students and would also like to extend our thanks to our wonderful guest speaker, Norma Collin. The evening provided us with the opportunity to gather as a community and reflect on our collective journey as a school over this academic year. There have been so many highlights throughout the year and it was wonderful to celebrate the progress and achievements of our students in all areas of school life.

IN SCHOOL EISTEDDFOD 2023!

We had a wonderful day today celebrating the Year 7 Eisteddfod. A lovely celebration of music, visual arts and literature. We are so proud of all our competitors who fully encompassed all aspects of arts and culture in Wales.

The overall winners of the event in each category were:

Pencampwr Cymraeg - Eylul Acar

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Pencampwr Y Celfyddydau - Harley Prescott



**VISIT TO LLANGOLLEN
INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL
EISTEDDFOD**



Year 7 and some Year 8 attended the International Musical Eisteddfod in Llangollen last term. The pupils had a fabulous time integrating into the diversity of the festival, experiencing different cultures and amazing music and dance.

ENGINEERING TRIP TO TOYOTA



12 Year 10 students studying Engineering gained behind the scenes access at the world's fastest engine production line during their recent visit to Toyota at Deeside, where an engine rolls off the production line every 44 seconds!

Students were given an overview of the company and its history, before gaining exclusive access to Toyota's cutting-edge Hydrogen Fuel Cell technology. Students were also treated to a tour of the factory floor, including manufacturing and maintenance sections where they got to see many of the engineering skills they have developed in lessons in a real life scenario. Students then took part in a team challenge where they had to demonstrate many of the values which Toyota look for in future employees before finishing up with a Q&A session and overview of its apprenticeship programmes.

HISTORY ACTIVITIES IN BASINGWERK ABBEY



On Friday 7th July, all of year 7 History students walked down to the Greenfield Valley. When we reached Basingwerk Abbey we were met by Lorna and Will from Keystone Heritage who had planned an escape room type activity. Students worked in group to find clues and solve puzzles all around the abbey. We had been learning about the role of Basingwerk Abbey in lessons so it was fun to apply that knowledge in a fun and interactive way. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, even if it was way too hot!

GETTING GIRLS INTO CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING

Year 8 and 9 girls visited Coleg Cambria in Wrexham and participated in a Women in Construction and Engineering Day. They completed a taster session in plumbing, plastering and automotive studies. They made a pipe structure, a plaster wall plaque and a water powered car. They thoroughly enjoyed the event and were encouraged that the options of Product Design and Engineering, that they have picked in school, can lead to so many varied and



interesting careers with vast opportunities for women and girls. Well done girls!!

JOB ADVERT

Relief Midday Supervisor

Do you have any spare time in the day and want to support our school? We are looking to appoint a couple of relief/supply midday supervisors to support the school during our busy break and lunchtime periods.

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SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME 2023



We had an amazing time in the food and fun programme over the summer holidays. 30 children attended over 12 days to take part in lots of fun activities, cookery, food, nutrition and sport. The children enjoyed a reptile experience, musical theatre session, street dance, kicks for kids' session and much much more.

NEW SCHOOL WEBSITE

Many of you may have noticed that the school website has received a bit of a makeover. Keep an eye out for the latest news, where we will share photographs and things happening in the school community throughout the term. All letters will also be uploaded into the letters section under the parents tab. <https://www.ysgoltreffynnon.cymru/>



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RECIPES FOR AUTUMN 2023 (Isabel Burnage)

PORK PATTIES

Ingredients:

10 oz (275g) lean Pork mince
1 medium onion peeled and chopped finely
1 tablespoon sage & onion stuffing mix
2 tablespoon breadcrumbs
1 large egg
2-3 tablespoon water to mix
Seasoning

Method:

1. In a large bowl combine all the ingredients and season to make a firm mixture.
2. Divide mixture to make 4 large patties or 8 smaller patties.
3. Fry the patties in a hot frying pan in a little oil on both sides until cooked through and serve with mashed potatoes and tomato sauce.

FARMHOUSE FRUIT CAKE

Ingredients:

10 oz (275g) S R flour
6 oz (175g) soft brown sugar
2 medium eggs made up to 1/4 pint with milk
6 oz (175g) butter or margarine - softened
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
8 oz (225g) mixed dried fruit.
2 oz ((50g) chopped walnuts.
2 o-z (50g) chopped glace cherries
1-2 tablespoon warm water

Method:

1. In a large bowl mix flour, sugar and cinnamon
2. Add butter/margarine and mix to resemble breadcrumbs
3. Fold in fruit, nuts and cherries
4. Add eggs and milk and mix
5. Bake in a lined 8-inch (20cm) round cake tin on centre shelf at 350°F, 180°C Gas reg 4 for about 1 hour 45 mins

1ST CARMEL SCOUT GROUP

Beavers (6-8 yrs.)

Cubs (8-11 yrs.)

Scouts (11-14 yrs.)

GROUP SUMMER CAMP

This was our first proper camp in three years and also the first time we have taken all 3 sections at the same time.



It took place over the weekend 7th to 9th July at the Gladstone centre in Hawarden.

We had spent several evenings sorting out which tents we needed, planning the weekend menus and the activity programme.



There would be 24 young people and 6 leaders on camp all weekend with several more joining for the day on the Saturday.

The scouts would be sleeping in tents, whereas the Cubs and Beavers were given the choice of sleeping in a tent or in the bunkhouse.

The advance party arrived at the camp



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site at 4.00 p.m. on the Friday, to start setting up the camp. The weather was good, and everything was put up in time for the arrival of the scouts. The rest of the evening was spent sorting out the sleeping arrangements and playing games. After a super of biscuits and hot chocolate it was off to bed.



Saturday started bright and early (the first scouts were up before 6.00 a.m.).

Sunshine was forecast for the morning with rain (and possible thunder storms) for the afternoon. With this forecast in mind, we decided to split the scouts into 3 groups and run 3 of our planned activities in the morning and rotate the groups.



The activities were Archery, Pedal carts and Zorb football. All three activities were completed despite a hint of what was to come.

After lunch we went down to the wooded area of the campsite, where we had a fire lighting demonstration and have a go session planned. During the session the skies started to cloud over, with rumbles of thunder circulating. Suddenly there was an almighty clap of thunder overhead, the heavens opened and we all rushed for cover in the bunkhouse. The indoor craft activities and games came out for the rest of the afternoon.

Fortunately, the rain cleared in time for

us to do a campfire, which helped warm us up and dry us out.

Sunday started with sunshine and a breeze, perfect for drying the tents, before they were taken down.

The activities for this morning were Laser Tag and Orienteering, with some extra Zorb football thrown in.

After a big lunch it was time to pack up, before sending the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts happy but tired after what proved to be a good camp despite the Saturday afternoon thunder storm.

Russell Williams
Group leader
01352 713205



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Here is the list of services for the next few weeks.

Medi / September:

24ain Y Parch Huw Powell-Davies (gweinidog)

Hydref / October:

1af Debbie Roberts, Rhydyfoel.

8fed Diolchgarwch / Harvest Thanksgiving: Y Parch Huw Powell-Davies

15fed Dafydd Timothy. Y Rhyf

22ain Y Parch Huw Powell-Davies (Gweinidog)

29ain Glyn Williams, Llandudno.

Tachwedd/ November:

5ed Richard Lloyd Jones, Bethel, Arfon.

12fed Y Parch. Huw Powell-Davies (Gweinidog) CYMUN.

19eg I'w drefnu.

26ain Gŵyl Gerallt yn y fro. (Manylion i ddilyn)

Rhagfyr/ December:

3ydd Dilwyn Jones, Dinbych

10fed Y Parch Huw Powell-Davies (Gweinidog)

17eg Arwel Roberts, Rhuddlan.

24ain Gwasanaeth Nadolig/ Christmas Service: Y parch Huw Powell-Davies.

Cydymdeimlwn â Dewi Jones a'i chwaer ym marwolaeth eu mam Glenys Jones, Ivy House, Lloc. Bu'n aelod ffyddlon iawn gydol ei hoes yng nghapel Sion, Lloc. Bu'r angladd yn Amlwgfa, Bae Colwyn ar ddydd Llun, 13eg Awst gyda'r Parch. Huw Powell Davies yn gwasanaethu. Anfonwn ein cofion at holl aelodau a charedigion yr achos sy'n wael. Bydd Swper Diolchgarwch yn cael ei gynnal ar nos Wener, 13eg Hydref a derbynir rhoddion at Ganolfan Dydd, Waun Golegoed.

We sympathise with Dewi Jones and his sister in the loss of their mother Glenys Jones, Ivy House, Lloc. She was a faithful member ar Sion Chapel, Lloc throughout her life. The cremation Service was held at Colwyn Bay Crematorium on Monday 13th August with the Reverend Huw Powell Davies officiating.

We send our best wishes to all members and friends who are unwell. A Harvest Thanksgiving supper will be held Friday evening, 13th October and a collection will be made towards the Waun Golegoed Day Centre.

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(David W Pearse)

**LIXWM ELECTRIC CONTACTOR IS
NEW ROTARY PRESIDENT**



Outgoing Rotary President, Malcolm Mellor, hands over the Chain of Office to new President, Andrew Orhan

After a most successful year as President of The Rotary Club of Flint & Holywell, Gorsedd resident and retired Chartered Accountant Malcolm Mellor handed over the Chain of Office to the Club's new President, Andrew Orhan. Andy is a local Flintshire lad having been born in Carmel. He is married to Lisa and they have three children. After living in Bagillt for the first 5 years of their married life, Andy and Lisa moved to Lixwm some nineteen years ago and both play an important part in local village life, including taking a prominent role in the Village Institute and the organisation of the annual Caerwys Show.

Andrew was apprenticed to an electrical engineer immediately after leaving school, and nineteen years ago he set up Orhan Electrical Limited, which has evolved into one of the county's leading firm of Electrical Contractors. He joined the local Rotary Club thirteen years ago and has held many appointments within the Club, before taking on the role of President. Also elected as The Rotary Club's Vice President was local undertaker and farmer, Edward Davies, who also lives in Lixwm

Further Information from Rotary Club Press Officer David W Pearse 01352 758922 davidpearse@icloud.com

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SUMMER KEPT US GUESSING IN THE FIVE VILLAGES (Robert Moore)

Weather in the Five Villages Summer 2023 (2022 in brackets)				
	Temperatures °C			Total rainfall Mm
	Average	Maximum	Minimum	
June	20.8 (17.1)	31.1 (26.1)	5.3 (5.4)	25.2 (16.0)
July	17.1 (19.1)	27.6 (35.7)	9.0 (7.7)	117.5 (13.5)
August	16.9 (19.7)	28.5 (32.5)	8.7 (7.4)	71.6 (16.6)

Summer 2022 compared with Summer 2001 – 2020				
Air temperature at 1800 UTC	Average	Maximum	Minimum	Rainfall (mm)
2001 to 2020	17.0	26.8	8.4	76.5
2023	18.3	29.1	7.7	71.5

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

At the end of the Spring report, in commenting on a long period of comparatively dry weather, I wrote that 'we should not forget the need for rain.' Well, all readers will agree that we got the rain we needed!

June was one of the hottest Junes on record and hosepipe bans were expected but did not materialise. Then came July, with day after day of rain, there were only ten days on which no rain was recorded at the weather station. The rain was unrelenting in the middle of the month. July's rain made up for the very dry June. Anyone who watches television weather forecasts will now be thoroughly familiar with the importance of the jet stream. The jet stream steered depression after depression across the Atlantic to northern Europe, but in so doing it held at bay the extremely hot air to the south. The extreme heat to the south of Europe precipitated crop losses and extensive fires right across the region, with loss of life. No doubt excess deaths caused by the impact of smoke on the health of the more vulnerable will follow. High temperatures elsewhere saw devastating fires in Hawaii, the US mainland, China and western Canada. The Canadian smoke was carried around the globe and reached Europe from Spain to northern Norway.

Would August be 'normal' or even compensate for the loss of a warm July? No, we had sunshine and showers throughout August. The table above shows August was cooler than last year, but with a higher minimum temperature.

There was heavy rain over the Bank Holiday. 'Sunshine and showers' would make an appropriate title of this issue's satellite image showing the UK under broken cloud on 26th August.

One slight compensation has been that seasonal conditions have been ideal for berries. Even the brambles that I fight every year in the garden are producing a good crop. Local people have also reported anomalies in the growth and blooming of their established garden plants.

It has been all systems go at the weather station; satellite reception has been upgraded with a higher quality dish and software to give access to new satellite data-streams. I have recovered world-wide satellite coverage, not that this is used for local forecasting. New rain gauges have been installed. Although I use traditional instruments for most daily readings, I have a radio weather station on the lawn as a backup and for reporting ground and grass temperatures. The failure of this station was mentioned in the Spring report, but the replacement has only just been commissioned. The new setup does not allow the local design of weather web sites – one has to use one of a series of pro-forma provided by the manufacturer. In my view the two formats offered provide too little and too much data respectively. So, although I hope to re-establish the web site soon, it will not look like the old one and will provide less information. The new website will only show current weather conditions and limited daily reports.

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

(see image opposite) →

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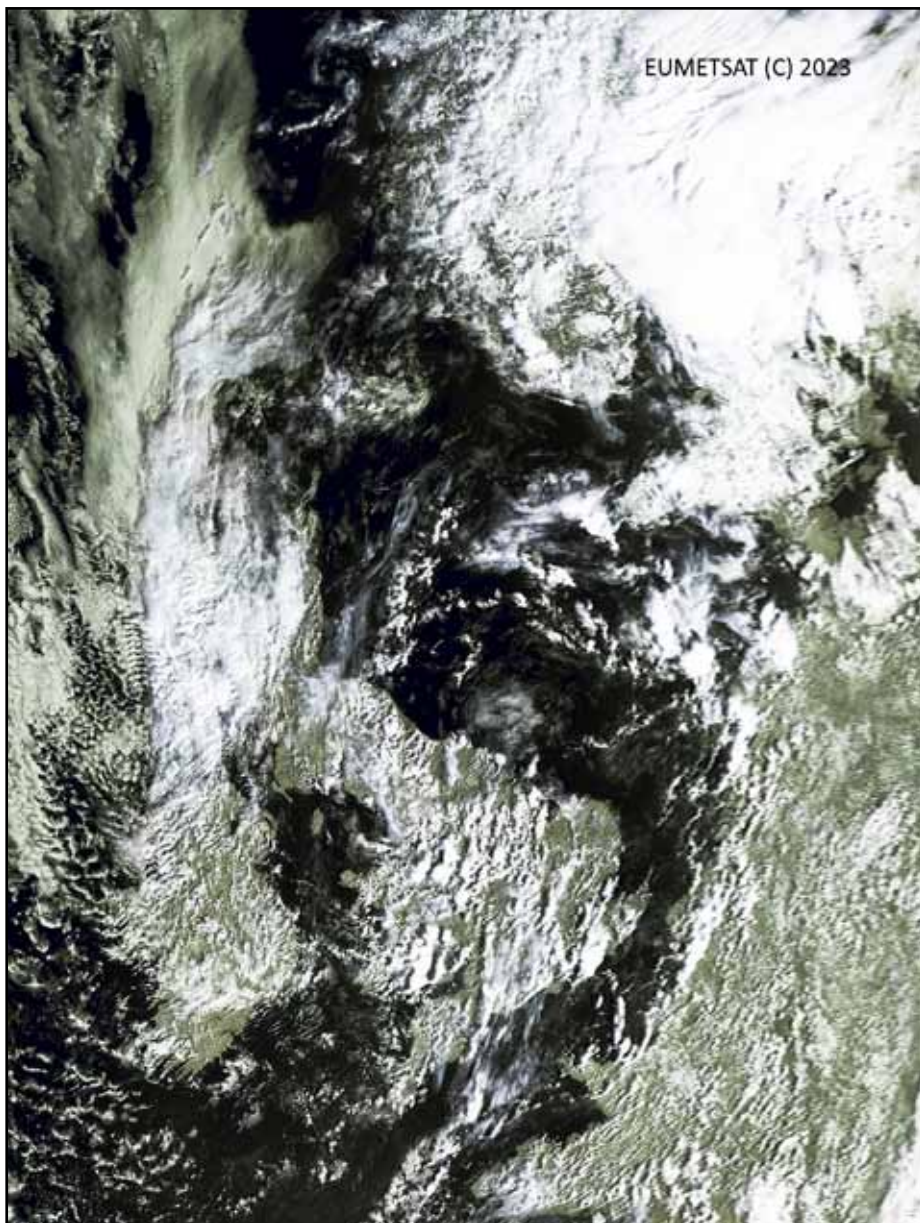


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PROGRAMME FOR 2023

Sept 13th at 2.30pm A talk by Carol Allen on *Natural Products made from Goat's Milk.*

Oct 4th at 2.30pm F a t h e r Dominic, Vicar of Holywell

Oct 18th at 7.30pm Rev Wynne Roberts - *The 'Welsh Elvis' entertains*

This is a joint charity event with St Paul's Church in Gorsedd.

A very warm welcome to everyone to an evening of fun and nostalgic songs in the Elvis mode- with refreshments.

Nov 1st at 2.30pm Mr Bob Evans *Anglesey Search and Rescue - MÔN SAR*

Dec 6th Christmas Lunch - details later.

The Guild has had a successful and interesting programme this year including a tour of Mostyn Hall with afternoon tea and a visit by Lord Mostyn. In July it was a tour of Rhyl Lifeboat Station when members could have a close-up view of the Lifeboat and learn something of the life and experiences of the volunteers who run the lifeboat service.



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Ysgol Bro Carmel Class of 2023

These are 'before' and 'after' photographs





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TheFDF (formerly Flintshire Disability Forum) has been supporting disabled people of all ages for more than 20 years, across Northeast Wales. In 2017 we became a Centre for Independent Living only the second CIL in Wales. On a day-to-day basis, we support disabled people to live independently, that is to live where they want, with whom they want and how they want. That does not mean living on your own it means being able to make an informed decision to live your own life being fully included in all aspects of your local community that is leisure, employment, education, health, social activities, transport, finance, equipment, advice, and information. We will provide for you or your carers:

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FLINTSHIRE NEWS (Sandra Donoghue, Flintshire County Council)

FLINTSHIRE CONNECTS

Flintshire Connects brings together Flintshire County Council, North Wales Police, Job Centre Plus and other partner organisations, to deliver high quality customer focused services to the public and vulnerable individuals in our community that find it difficult to access services online or by phone. At Flintshire Connects, you can speak to one of our trained Customer Service Advisors about a range of Council services which include: Council Tax reduction & Universal Credit - Blue Badges - Streetscene & Highways - Concessionary Travel - Payment facilities for all Council Services - Planning enquiries Information/ Advice and referrals for Environmental Services - Self service facilities and Digital support. You can find Flintshire Connect local office at:

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SKETCHTOWN

The forest was cold. The lean branches of the tall proud trees swayed gently in the wind. Hundreds of trees surrounded him. His wispy black hair was covered by a crimson, hand-made woolly hat. On his torso was a warm, comfortable jumper that was as green as spring grass. Derek was lost. While he stumbled over the roots, he came across an aged, gnarled tree, which was different from the rest. Consumed by curiosity, Derek came closer to the tree and crept around it. The tree gave him a strange feeling and once he looked closer he gasped. There it was, a crooked antique door on the side of the tree. Intrigued, Derek reached for the smooth, brass knob and turned it. On the inside, it was not what a tree should look like. It was an eerie, empty void, the only thing in it was a massive, imposing notebook, which was closed. Derek felt a strong sensation, it was like an urge to step through, a longing to investigate. Following the urge, he stepped through.

Inside there was solid floor, but it was like being on a glass floor. Derek took three cautious steps and realised it was safe to press on, even though it was otherworldly. Then notebook was a considerable distance from Derek, at least it appeared that way as the void was hard to judge distance. As fast as a hawk, the book opened and Derek lost his footing. The pages were smooth, pristine sheets and the cover was deep blue. Derek started to slide on his bottom towards the book, as if he was on ice. He panicked "AH, what's happening?" he reached the book and it shut. Once able to see, Derek found himself in a very strange world. The sky and ground were paper. Everything appeared hand drawn. A thought dawned on him, was he in the notebook? The surroundings were a town of drawn houses and people walked by

him, unfazed by his undrawn appearance. Except, he was drawn, he was a black pencil outline. Distressed he talked to a woman walking down the street "Excuse me, where are we?" he asked.

"Sketchtown, of course" she replied.

"How do I leave this world?"

"That reminds me of the experiment with rocket powered scissors in the lab"

That was all he needed to know. He saw a sign for the lab and ran towards it.


The exterior of the lab was an expansive box with no windows and a depleted car park in the front. There were bulky robots guarding the door, so Derek didn't suspect that they would like him going in. After five minutes of thought on how to get in, an important looking man in a suit and tie exited the building. Looking closer Derek could see a badge reading "Mayor". Derek immediately knew he was the man to ask about the scissors. He ran up to the man and said, "I need the robot powered scissors to leave".


"Those scissors are extremely dangerous; you are forbidden to use them!" he snapped before walking off briskly. Derek was back where he started, until he saw the ventilation system. "All rooms must have ventilation so I can crawl through them," he thought. The entrance was a metal grate one metre off the floor. Sneakily, he lifted the grate off and crawled in. Inside it was cold and dark. Derek didn't know where he needed to go. The repetitive clunk of the metal seemed to only be heard in the cramped tunnels themselves. Every so often the path would turn and at regular intervals a room would become visible through the grates. Each room was a sterile chamber, filled to the brim with all manner of scientific instruments: test tubes, Bunsen burners, microscopes and petri dishes were all present. After ten minutes of crawling, he saw the scissors.


He saw them through the grate. It was huge, the size of a person. It has two perfect steel handles and the blades had miniature rockets strapped to the tips. Derek stealthily removed the grate that he was peering through and realised just how high up he actually was. Nevertheless, he bravely dropped down on to the floor with a sudden bang. Wincing at the sound, Derek crept closer to the scissors and really took in the magnificence of the chunky device. He thought that it would be best to test it in an open space, but soon realised that he would have to leave the conventional method as the vents were too high up to reach. Quickly, he swiped the scissors from its stand and walked calmly through the corridors. Well, it would appear like that to you or me, on the inside he was full of fear. Then the alarm went off. The sound thundered through the paper halls and a swarm of security robots diligently pursued him. Derek was running now. When he was nearing the exit, the Mayor accompanied by two robots entered, blocking Derek's escape. Desperate, unsure, terrified, he lifted the scissors high and opened the blades. Instantly, the rockets activated snapping the blades shut. It cleared through the three-dimensional page, making a tear in reality. The hole was only visible from one angle and through it Derek could see the door. Without hesitation he leapt through...

He was in the void again, the notebook was behind him, shut. In front of him was the door, wide open. It was a short distance from him. Bewildered he ran straight towards it. There it was again, the feeling, the longing to be on the other side of the door. Once more he followed the urge. When he was back in the woods the door slammed shut. Astounded by his astronomically large discovery Derek sat down and thought about the question: was that real?

Ike Lewis Year 6, Ysgol Bro Carmel





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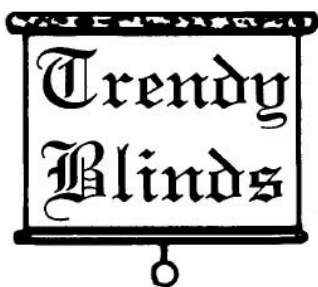
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Established in 1986, the Five Villages Chronicle Association publishes the *Five Villages Chronicle*, a quarterly community magazine which is delivered to most households in the Flintshire villages of Carmel, Gorsedd, Lloc, Pantasaph and Whitford,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

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

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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).

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