



THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE

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EDITORIAL (Terry Ireland) HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Normally at this time of the year many families or friends will be away on holiday, often seeking the sun abroad around the Mediterranean or even Florida or Thailand. That the term 'we must get away from it all' features in our summer holiday planning is really a tacit admission that our everyday lives are not as satisfactory as we would like. Certainly 18 months trapped in our homes has given time for thought and reflection at a mundane level resulting in huge sales of wallpaper and paint and for some the decision to sell their house and move. Most of us recognize that life has changed and not necessarily for the better. In the media we have learned that many have suffered from isolation, and by separation from their loved ones and for many too sadly, from each other, locked up in restricted space without gardens. Consequently, a broad discussion concerning stress and mental health has taken place and unusually the topic of mental health has become part of normal conversation, previously being a social taboo subject.

In these discussions the topic, "Health and Wellbeing", has leapt to the fore. All of us have a stake in looking after ourselves but normally we mean physically but now the target is different, both body and mind.

By looking after ourselves we can save the N.H.S all kinds of problems and expense but it is also a personal investment for our own futures giving us many more years free from pain, mental anguish and with active mobility into old age. Old age used to mean 65 but today many will live well into their 80s or 90s, so we have to prepare for this.

So, at last mental health has become a permissible and acceptable topic for everyday discussion even brought to attention by well known professional footballers and Olympic gymnasts. Everyone, even the most self-assured and confident people, feels sometimes down and not right.

As Helen Mirren, the well-known actor put it, "To be human is to be full of conflict and uncertainty about things". Even people who appear worry-free or self-confident have moments of "I don't know. Am I mad?" We all know what she means! There have always been strategies to deal with this

situation and even the most famous have resorted to alcohol and magic tablets to cope, often with disastrous results. If we start to be unable to sleep well, we really start to suffer and recognize that things are just not right. Men, in particular, have to cope with the problem of being a male, as children are told big boys don't cry or as adults they are told to man up. To get something off your chest, as we put it is a valuable mental safety valve. Friends of people who have committed suicide, having lacked someone in whom they could confide, afterwards say they never knew the person had problems. We all have problems.

Frankly, talking about your anxieties, worries or self-doubt will help you to achieve a more balanced and healthy mental state. Many of us have a remarkable and unacknowledged relationship with our hairdressers, trapped in a chair without direct eye contact but close to another human being, we often reveal things we would never tell anyone else. Perhaps if you have one like that you should recognize she or he is a mentor, someone in whom you can confide.

The imposed isolation and confinement of the last eighteen months has given us all a chance to review and consider the lives we are leading.

Many have found the space of their garden a haven or oasis during this

stressful time, if you are fortunate to have a garden. If not, then parks have played a valuable role in providing a breathing space. Gardens seem to have originated in the Middle East and were walled cool spaces with shade and water, both of which are very good for resting the mind.

Googling National Health Service advice on improving and maintaining good mental health and well-being you encounter a list of recommendations. The first suggests connecting with other people by joining groups, clubs or by volunteering for community projects. Secondly it emphasizes the value of being physically active for people of all ages by walking, swimming, working in gardens or cycling and you don't need to spend hours in a gym.

Remarkably the N.H.S. stresses acts of kindness, expressions of gratitude, making phone calls to friends in need and getting involved with people locally. Then learning new skills such as sketching or painting,

woodwork, or knitting as Tom Daley the Olympic diver did while waiting to compete, or adopting a new hobby. Lastly the N.H.S. recommends we pay special attention to the present moment or what is known as mindfulness. We all have a personal responsibility for our own mental health and Covid 19, in raising its ugly head, has brought this to our attention.

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COVER PICTURE

A Lusthus is the Swedish for an open but covered garden sitting area, literally a house for fun. In Wales they are essential to protect a tea party from sudden rain. Think about building one if you like garden barbecues. Courtesy of Birgitta Ireland.

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MARK ISHERWOOD MS



Despite Wales' stunning landscapes and beautiful scenery, wildlife in Wales is in serious decline. The State of Nature 2019 Report found that 1 in 6 species in Wales are threatened with extinction.

The report revealed that of the 3,902 species assessed in Wales, 73 have been lost already, with birds like turtle doves and corn buntings now gone from Wales' skies, and a further 666 species are threatened with extinction in Wales.

Numbers of butterflies have fallen by 52% since 1976, and the numbers of species that require more specialised

habitats, such as the high brown fritillary and grayling, have declined by more than three quarters.

Wales' land mammals also fare badly, with more than 30% of species at risk of disappearing altogether.

Iconic species like red squirrels and water voles, which were once widespread in Wales, are now restricted to a few sites and under real threat of extinction.

The latest State of Natural Resources Report summary finds that ecosystem resilience in Wales is declining in line with global trends. This decline is also reflected in Curlew populations in Wales.



As Wales Species Champion for the Curlew since 2016, I am working with Gylfinir Cymru /Curlew Wales, a collaboration of government agencies and Non-governmental organizations, or NGOs,

including the farming unions, formed to try and reverse the dire decline of Curlew in Wales, an ecological umbrella/indicator species.

The UK regularly hosts up to one quarter of the global Curlew breeding population and the Curlew is now considered the most pressing bird conservation priority throughout the UK.

At current levels of decline, curlews will be extinct as a breeding population in Wales by 2033 without intervention. We have only years to save this iconic and culturally important species, and its ethereal voice in the Welsh landscape.

It is deeply concerning that we are in this position and, speaking in the Opposition Debate on Climate and Biodiversity in the Welsh Parliament in June, I emphasised the need for the Welsh Government to work more closely with the UK Government on the response to the climate emergency and nature recovery. After all, unlike football, nature knows no boundaries.

With the 26th UN Climate Change Conference, COP 26, scheduled to be held in Glasgow under UK Presidency later this year, the debate also re-emphasised the need for parity between actions taken by the Welsh Government to tackle climate change and those taken to tackle biodiversity loss.

As I stated in the debate: "Gylfinir Cymru, have been working on a Wales

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Action Plan for Curlew, which we hope Welsh Government will endorse. It will identify the most important Curlew areas in Wales and emphasise the importance of a well-designed, well-funded Sustainable Farming Scheme so that farmers can do the right things for Curlews in these places.

"Nature has intrinsic value, but it also plays an important role – we need it for the food we eat, the air we breathe, the water we drink.

"The Welsh Government therefore needs to show it is serious about tackling the nature crisis by committing to introduce legislation during the first year of government to set legally binding targets for nature's recovery in order to harness efforts across government and across sectors to halt and reverse biodiversity loss."

The nature crisis is not the only crisis facing Wales, there is also a GP crisis.

It is now 9 years since both BMA Cymru and the Royal College of General Practitioners Wales first launched campaigns warning of a ticking timebomb, and 7 years since the North Wales Local Medical Committee came to the Assembly warning that General Practice in North Wales was in crisis, and yet still patients are struggling to access GP services.

In the Welsh Parliament in July, I highlighted cases of patients across North Wales who have found it challenging to secure an appointment with their Doctor and asked the Health Minister what engagement she is having with the relevant professional bodies in order to tackle the problem.

In her response, the Minister referred to the access standards introduced in 2019 that GPs need to respond to, stating "we do have measures and ways of trying to interact and engage, and we will be doing that in the next few weeks, with general medical services, to make sure that we can drive up access for our patients around the whole of Wales."

However, the latest figures have revealed that only 58 out of the 97 GP practices in North Wales achieved the standards and that one in three telephone calls to surgeries in North Wales seem to be going unanswered.

My inbox is full of cases which back this up. The Welsh Government therefore needs to stop denying there is a GP crisis facing North Wales and instead take action to address it.

GENTLE STRETCHING WITH MINDFULNESS (Stephen Massey)

People think of stretching muscles as pulling an elastic band. As you put more force on the muscle it stretches and gets longer. WRONG! Excess force on a tense muscle may lead to injury. A study in the Journal of Bodywork and Movement Therapies showed that yoga can cause injury in a considerable number of people. Gentle stretching is the way to treat injury.

Now I am not against yoga, far from it, I recommend that my patients go to a yoga class, but they should practice with a teacher who is experienced in working with injuries.

If a muscle is tight, it is tight for a reason; it may be trying to protect an inflamed joint or it may be protecting itself so that damaged fibres can repair. Excess force on such a muscle may stimulate it to become more tense, shorter and, at worst, cause it to tear away from the bone.

In the long term, muscles can get into the habit of tension. The original problem may be cured but the muscle's protective function remains. In fact, the tension now becomes a problem, putting pressure on joints it covers. Chronic muscular tension may lead to serious conditions like arthritis of the hip.

So short term muscle tension has a protective function, but chronic muscle tension can lead to more serious injuries. We want to leave short term tension alone, but we want to get rid of chronic tension. However, forceful stretching can make things worse. So, what do we do?

GENTLE STRETCHING WITH AWARENESS

I give people a set of simple yoga stretches for their low back, and I tell them to stop and rest as soon as they feel their muscles begin to lengthen. There should be no sense of pain or forcing. Resting in the position of minimal stretch, they should start to breathe deeply. As they breathe, the rib cage and abdomen expand and contract. This rhythmical movement imparts

a gentle massage to the muscles in the back. Muscles treated like this will relax and lengthen naturally and more easily than muscles forced to stretch.



To improve the quality of this stretch it can be helpful to apply mindfulness. This means exploring the quality of how it feels around the stretching muscle. Be interested! Make micro movements into and out of the stretch; observe how the quality of sensation changes. Focussing the mind with a gentle, interested awareness can improve the healing in your body immensely.

When you try to force a muscle to stretch you are exerting mind over matter and this creates a false mind/body separation. Mindful stretching is working mind in matter or mind with matter. It is a coming together of mind and body and consequently is more likely to result in healing.

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CARMEL AND HOLYWELL WOODCRAFT CLUB (Steve Aspey)

Carmel and Holywell Woodcraft Club have finally reopened after a long spell awaiting Covid restrictions to be lifted. The Woodcraft Club has been in existence for 20 years in various locations around Holywell and Carmel, but for the last 10 years home has been at the old textile mill located next to St Winefrides Well, Holywell.

The Club has been run by the very experienced Chairman Gordon Barnabas, his wife Barbara and the members. The club is a non-profit organisation which allows membership fees to be kept very low and any profit to be reinvested in the club to enable tools / wood / machines to be bought for use by the club.

The club offers Woodturning (several lathes), carving, pyrography, pen making, furniture repair, windsor chair making, laser cutting, routing, in fact anything to do with wood and the repair of wooden items. The members share their experience and skills within the club and we believe nothing is impossible, but it might take a bit longer to achieve?

There are some very experienced woodturners, carpenters and carvers at the club who would like to share their skills and knowledge. The club follows the government guidelines regarding Covid safety and although numbers are restricted, we have some places available for new members. Anyone is welcome to come and have a look around. We have some lady members as well.

Mr Mark Isherwood (Member of the Senedd) recently attended the club on the 5th August 2021 to offer his support for this important Community club. Following his visit Mr Isherwood kindly commented below :



Mark Isherwood (MS) and Gordon Barnabas BEM

"It was a pleasure to visit the non-profit Carmel and Holywell Woodcraft Club, to experience first-hand the tremendous contributions they make, and meet some of their members for a socially distanced chat. We discussed their invaluable work

supporting the local community, sharing their knowledge, sustaining vulnerable groups and carers, and enabling youngsters to learn new skills. Their local action, helping people lead a healthier life and gain new skills, improving wellbeing and creating stronger communities, is a shining and effective example of the type of community enterprise which innovative public bodies will want to support and work jointly with."

The Club meets at present on a Thursday and Friday 9 am to 4pm.

Any members who are interested can contact me on 07427105250 or pop along to the club on the above days.

GORSEDD CHURCH LADIES GUILD (Wendy Erasmus)

The Guild was started by Rev John Somerville in the early 1970s as a meeting place for both the ladies of St Paul's and the wider community and it has met regularly in the Church Hall ever since. The usual format has been a talk by an invited speaker and, of course, lots of tea, biscuits, and chat! However, the Covid-19 virus and the subsequent lockdown rules and the sale of the Church Hall have put a sudden stop to all that. Months of 'masks', '2 metre distance signs', 'test and trace' have left many people frustrated and longing for the time when a 'normal' way of life can resume.

With the summer sunshine lifting the spirit, the Guild had the idea of an open-air



Summer Tea. The date was set as July 22nd, the venue was to be the garden at Bryneithin, the home of Wendy and Peter. Twenty-eight members were circulated, and 28 members gave a resounding "yes!". It was advised that it might be a good idea to bring a jumper or coat as the evenings can get chilly even in July. As it turned out it was the hottest day of the year with a roasting 28C temperature and a cloudless sky, so the problem was not chilly afternoons but how to provide some shade. With the help of several members, three large gazebos were erected so there was shade for everyone.



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The afternoon got off to a good start with a glass of Strawberry Prosecco served by Ann and Dorothy.

The tea was by 'Margaret's Quality Catering' in the form of an 'afternoon tea in a box' with everyone having their own box thus keeping to the 'covid hygiene rules'. The sumptuous fare was much enjoyed and even provided some with a late supper by taking home their box with unused items.



The Vicar of Gorsedd, (plus Whitford, Mostyn and Bagillt), Rev Kathryn Evans arrived just as the corona-19 pandemic was beginning to surge and the restrictions were put in place so had not been able to meet many of the ladies, so this was an ideal opportunity for everyone to get to know each other. The afternoon was judged a great success and a tonic for those long months of isolation.

In the Autumn, the Guild will discuss how it can again meet on perhaps a more regular basis while keeping everyone safe - new members will be made very welcome to any future events, if you are interested in attending, please contact Wendy Erasmus on 01352 712067.

GARDENING CLUB (Isabel Burnage)

After a break of several months, club members were pleased to meet in June to chat and exchange news while enjoying tea and cake. The programme for 2021 was discussed and agreed. Some members had brought photographs of their own gardens, which are now on the notice board for all to see.



Terry Jones being presented with the Fuchsia Cup for best fuchsia in the show. Presented by Ray Bailey.

The plant sale in July was held outside the hall and we were blessed with fine summer weather. An interesting range of plants was available, and the sale raised £75 towards club funds.

In August the club held its annual mini show, and this year our judge was Mr Ray Bailey. All 12 categories were supported and while judging took place members enjoyed refreshments and chatting. Cash prizes were awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd winners. Mrs T. Jones won the cup for best fuchsia in the show and Mrs W. Erasmus won the show shield for gaining the most points during the year and at the show. Ray Bailey awarded all the prizes and the cup and shield.

Members are looking forward to a visit to St. Kentigern hospice garden and afternoon tea in September, and a talk about vegetables in October.

The loss of two lively and knowledgeable members has been sad news for all of us. We extend our condolences to the families of Dorothy Jones and Alan George.

Meetings are held in Carmel Village Hall on the 1st Thursday of the month at 2pm, unless otherwise stated. Contact secretary Christine Hamer on 01352716273 for more information. New members will be most welcome.



Wendy Erasmus being presented with the Shield for getting the most points in the show. Presented by Ray Bailey.



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(Sally Brighton)

Those of you who were local bus travellers before lockdown, may now be a little puzzled. The trusty No 19 bus which ran from Flint through Carmel, Gorsedd, Lloc and Whitford taking Five Villagers shopping in Prestatyn or Rhyl, and back again is, reassuringly, still running..... more or less at its usual times, but whatever happened to the smaller LT1, LT2 and LT3 buses? No sign of them....and just as I, for one, had got used to them!

But fear not, the Fflecsibus is here insteadanother small and smart green bus but this time promising to carry its passengers from door to door within a designated area (including Pantasaph!) at any time between the hours of 9.15am until 18.00pm Monday to Friday, and on Saturdays 9.15am – 13.00pm. What an improvement on the buses it has replaced!

Last Wednesday, its friendly driver Carl, picked me up at my home, and drove me straight to the Community Hospital for a blood test. He would have taken me straight home, but I am preferring a shopping interlude in Holywell, he picked me up from the town centre two hours later, before depositing me at my front door in Carmel.

As flexible as this little bus is, in order to use it, I had to revise some of my long-accustomed habits, but it literally did what it promised to do. The first change was not to reach for a bus timetable to plan a journey, but instead to examine carefully the red Fflecsi leaflet I had received through my door, and which is available in Holywell. In this, is a map of the area which our Holywell, Fflecsibus covers and within which it operates. This made it possible to check if my planned route was possible. Three options were listed, via which it was possible to pre-book a bus: - by telephone, by app on a mobile or tablet, or via the Fflecsi website. I chose to opt for the phone method: - 0300 234 0300 which put me in touch with a centre in Cardiff, who took my name, area and booking.

It has proved early days for them. My journey was in July and their knowledge of a distant place called Holywell was, at that time, insufficient. My first trip did not go as planned but by my second journey, myself, Cardiff, and Carl were all in touch and it has since been plain sailing! And buses have arrived promptly, despite asking us passengers to be there for 10 minutes before and until 10 minutes after arrival time.

Now, however, it is September, and any 'teething troubles' should no longer be a problem, as Cardiff's links with Holywell and Carl should be further improved. If you have any uncertainties

about your first booking, do a trial run first, as I did, booking myself a trip to Holywell, and returning after a short spell of time to my home. That way, no urgent appointments were endangered, and early problems were easily ironed out.


Once you are safely in 'Carl's book', the vicinity is yours for the booking! If you are a bus user, make sure you use this 'new style' bus, and give it time to establish itself. It will be a great asset not just to yourself, but to all in the Five Villages! I, for one, and husband Paul for another, will be regular travellers.... and we are already planning a trip to Jackson's Nurseries, an impracticable journey hitherto.....

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CARMEL W.I. BOOK CLUB (Sally Brighton)

This month, our Book Club hopes to meet again. We have not been idle, as you knowwith so much fact and fiction around to read, it is hard to be. However, the 'writing escapade' we mentioned in past months, when we put pens to paper to create our own serial stories, has had an unexpected spin off. Having drawn the attention of the W.I. nationally as a novel way to have spent our time during lockdown, in the next edition of the national W.I. magazine, 'W.I. Life', the story of our exploits into writing, will be featured. With that in view, and under the close direction from our W.I. central body, we spent an enjoyable sunny morning in July, posing with our books and tablets in Holywell Memorial Gardens, and being photographed by a professional and award-winning photographer, from Mold. We are eagerly awaiting the results of his efforts.... and those of a professional feature writer, telling of the efforts of our happy little group, who feel quite famous as a result!

However, as we look now to the future, we cannot help but look back to the extraordinary events of the last months..... and our Book Club poet, Kath Williams has recorded for us, in verse, another 'group', from further up the coast which almost literally 'jumped into' the national headlines and TV news. This memorable group, neither book readers nor human, certainly created some havoc..... and much cheer for us all!

Majestic Billy....by Kath Williams (written after a visit to Llandudno)

*Though Lockdown has been rather strange
in some ways I've enjoyed the change.
There's been so much for us to love,
the song of blackbird, coo of dove.
daffodils nodding in the breeze,
yellowed primrose, blossomed trees,
masses of cowslips on grass verge
celandines on fields to merge,
with creatures that I've watched entranced,
the crow, swan, badger, lambs that prance.*

*My favourite creature of them all
is Billy Goat, regal and tall,
nobly he struts, out of sight
chewing weed and flowers alike
with pointy beard, majestic horn,
his shaggy coat, the edges torn.
Visitors, who quite enthralled
take pictures of him, as he calls
his mate nearby upon the ledge, and
play-fights, standing near the edge.
Sometimes, he wanders into town
with mates sedately marching down.....
on Abbey Road, stand in a row
Just like the Beatles long ago,*

*and by the barbers form a queue
for haircuts and a beard trim too.
Then back he goes to find his mate
Some little Billys to create.
I love old Billy, such a sight
He always fills me with delight!*

And, of course, as any book club should, we have carried on reviewing:-

1) Jacqui Arstall enjoyed:-
Troubled Blood.written by Robert Galbraith.

I thought it was the best book in the Cormoran Strike series after my initial apprehension as too its lengthy text, 950 pages. I was immediately immersed into the all of the characters. Galbraith continues to depict with the observation and finesse of a perfectionist. The plot was a truly amazing adventure, with plenty of twists, and I learned a lot about astrology! The main characters and their relationships continue to grow in sometimes unexpected directions.

I would thoroughly recommend this epic read. Newcomers to Galbraith's writing would not need to have read previous novels, he succinctly ensures significant character history is detailed.

2) Kath Williams was impressed by :-
The Thursday Murder Club.....written by Richard Osman.

Richard Osman is an author, producer and television personality. This much heralded book is a million copy best seller. This may in some part be due to the author's regular performances on T,V, Quiz shows, notably 'Pointless' where his polished, witty and clever demeanour contributes largely to the programme's success. The story tells of 4 pensioners in a peaceful retirement village, Cooper's Chase. Ron is a former Trade Union boss, Ibrahim, a retired Psychiatrist, Elizabeth, an ex intelligence worker and Joyce, an astute and ever observant ex nurse. Penny, a retired police officer, was also involved before her stroke. They form a club, studying cold cases of murders, using their guile and life experiences to try and solve

them. When a brutal murder takes place on their doorstep, they find themselves working with the police to solve their first live case. One death leads to another for these amateur sleuths, and everyone has a secret to be exposed as the investigation develops.

The story reminds us never to underestimate the elderly who can be intelligent, crafty and ever resourceful. The characters are fascinating and vividly described. Thus book is an exceptional debut in crime writing, well researched and beautifully written. It is comedic and full of excitement as it explores love, loss, elderly loneliness and even suicide. It is a distraction in these troubled times.

I did become rather confused towards the end of the book however, with many convoluted plots; bones, ashes and bodies and did find it difficult to follow when the author was, in conclusion, tying up all the loose ends. However I did enjoy it very much and was particularly pleased with Mr Osman's obvious respect and admiration for us, the elderly members of the community! It's a good read!

3) Finally, a book appreciated by Helen Audley:-
Big Little Liesby Liane Moriarty has a brilliant darkly comic plot.

When an unassuming single mother moves to a small Australian coastal town, events take an unexpected turn when her young son joins the local primary school and is accused of bullying a girl in his class.

The whole school community gets drawn in with families taking sides; friendships made and unmade.

The whole thing ends up with a murder. You don't find out who the victim is and why until the very end or why the mother and child have any connection to the event.

The author has an astute understanding of the complexity of human relationships.

Nicole Kidman has bought the film rights and it has been made into a TV series in the USA.

It's a great read.



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

The following crimes have been reported to the North Wales Police; over the past three months:

Carmel - 5 x Assaults / 1 x Anti-social behaviour / 2 x Other crimes / 1 x Burglary
Gorsedd - 2 x Assaults

Lloc - (Services area) 1 x Drugs / 1 x Possession of weapon / 1 x Shoplifting
1 x Criminal damage / 1 x Assault / 2 x Anti-social behaviour

Pantasaph - 2 x Assaults

Whitford - 3 x Anti-social behaviour / 1 x Burglary / 1 x Violence

SPEEDING TRAFFIC:

Following the report in the previous edition of the Five Villages Chronicle, it was stated that during the month of April, Monastery Road in Pantasaph was subject to the monitoring tubes. The speed statistics revealed that a good number of vehicles were travelling over the speed limit. The North Wales Go-Safe vehicle has been deployed in Monastery Road in Pantasaph on a number of occasions; as below photograph taken on Thursday 27th July.



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

(1) White lines in Parc Gorsedd and on junction joining Babell Road, Gorsedd; require re-painting (2) White lines from area of Crossroads (Druids / Gorsedd Church) through Babell Road up to the bridge crossing the A55; require re-painting (3) Carmel Hill signage has severe fading / age. Located opposite 'Y Bwthyn' house. Can this sign be replaced (as photograph) (4) 2 x pot holes requiring review / attention on Carmel Road near junction with Monastery Road, Pantasaph (as photograph) (5) 3 x pot holes on Babell Road, Gorsedd - outside driveway of first house on left & opposite Gorsedd Church (as photograph) (6) 1 x large pot hole on Carmel Hill; approximately 30 yards left on Lime Kiln outside Gorsedd House (as photograph) (7) Large tree stump on road

near 'T' junction of Monastery Road and Babell Road, in Pantasaph (8) Mertyn Lane, Carmel: Cracked BT manhole cover (near street light by property numbers 18 to 20) (9) Travelling from Whitford towards the Towers: Overgrown hedge concern on in area of Toll Cottage and subsidence of road (10) Pot holes: Travelling from the area of the Maes Archwyfan Cross, towards Llanasa (11) Monastery Road, Pantasaph; Pot holes in area between St. David's Close and St. Clare's Close (12) Monastery Road, Pantasaph; Tarmac requires attention in area of Red telephone box (13) A5151 Road; Pot holes and edging of road crumbling (Pen Ffordd Llan Roundabout - travelling towards Trelawnyd) (14) Whitford Road junction with A5026; large bush growing into road on right hand side - travelling to Whitford from Carmel (15) A5026 road junction with Whitford Road; travelling to area of Lloc Garage. Could a review of the brambles that have grown along this length of roadway be carried out?

STREET SCENE - UPDATE:

The following update to concerns raised by this Council have been received from Street Scene: (Street Scene Comments in italics) (1) Broken & jagged kerbstones: Turning left from the MacDonald's entrance on the A5026 - towards Holywell; the kerbstones have been damaged Kerb issue has been noted for replacement/reset and reactive team are planning to attend during the evening, due to the awkward location (2) Litter - General concern with litter from Macdonald's and the garage food outlets; especially travelling up the hill on the A5026 from the services. - and to the area of Carmel Cricket Club. Spoken to the duty manager and he explained that the area is litter picked four times a day

around the forecourt and he also goes over the A55 towards the south side to the start of the Caerwys road, also does down to Penfforddylan rbt/Misty waters along with the section up to Pen y Gelli woods. The manager is keen to assist with volunteer litter picks and has asked for Cllr Dolphin to call in if he would like some assistance. (3) Litter - in the hedgerow and some in bags; from the entrance gate to Misty Waters on Fachallt Road, to the layby area. Apparently, this has been reported directly to Customer Services / Street Scene by residents; but has not been removed. Spoken to owner of Misty Waters as owners of the Caravans have been dumping rubbish onto the verge, owners have been asked to clear the area. FCC have cleared the verges alongside the road and confirmed the rubbish has been removed by the caravan owners/ misty waters. Team are calling here today and have removed some small bags of rubbish (4) Litter - Carmel Woods in the Crecas Lane area. The rubbish consists of empty glass bottles, coffee cups and other

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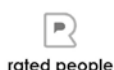
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items; in particular, along the edges of the public footpath. Information forwarded to Public Rights of Way team (5) The footpath clearing on the A5026 road between Lloc to the Waen Road area. Whilst the work completed to date in the Celyn Bends area is appreciated; with many complementary comments being passed by pedestrians; it was reported that not all of the pathway has been completed. Will contact the team to seek for the remainder to be cleaned off.

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 – as per details below: (1) Application number: 061078 – for change of use of land for the siting of 10 static caravans creation of bases, creation of internal access roads and associated landscaping, at Caeau Farm, Pen Ffordd Llan, Lloc. (2) Application number: 062716 – for change of use of 29 Touring Pitches within Holiday Park to 29 Static Caravan Pitches, at Misty Waters Caravan Park, Lloc (3) Application number: 062596 - for proposed store for Agricultural Machinery and Animal Feed and Fodder, at Bryn Hedydd Farm, Pen Ffordd Llan, Lloc (4) Application number: 062635 – or demolition of existing conservatory to facilitate a single storey rear extension to form kitchen / living area, at South View Cottage, Gorsedd (5) Application number: 062988 – to prune 5 number individual trees and 1 no yew tree, at St. Clare's Court, Pantasaph (6) Application number: 063088 – for removal or variation of condition following grant of planning permission, at Land East of McDonald's, Lloc.

PLANNING DECISIONS:

The following planning decisions have been received from Flintshire County Council: (1): Application number: 062476 – for approval of details reserved by condition no 3 (programme of archaeological work) attached to planning permission reference 060257, at Parc Yr Orsedd, Gorsedd. Approved (2) Application number: 061821 - for change of use of public house to dwelling, at Halfway House, Allt Y Golch, Carmel. Approved (3) Application number: 062801 – for the erection of a 2 storey rear extension, at 3 Hafod Y Coed, Carmel. Approved (4) Application number: 062540 – for alterations and rear extension, at Lloc Service Station, Lloc. Approved (5) Application number: 062556 – for a Lawful development Certificate for a proposed use or development, at Gelli Farm, Gelli Road, Trelogan. Approved.

Footpath - Travelling from Monastery Road, to Gorsedd Village: A further phase of the footpath travelling from the Monastery Road junction towards Gorsedd Village has been completed at a cost of £7,000.00 – as



above photograph. The continuance of the footpath to the cross roads opposite the Druids Inn, is subject to consultation with Flintshire County Council.

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 Hope House / Ty Gobaith (Children's Hospice)

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

1ST CARMEL SCOUT GROUP

(Russell Williams, Group leader)

BEAVERS (6-8 YRS.)

CUBS (8-11 YRS.)

SCOUTS (11-14 YRS.)

After a few weeks finding our feet with the covid rules & restrictions, we finally settled down to a summer of largely outdoor activities.

Thankfully the weather was kind to us most of the time, and we only spent the odd evening inside.

Both the Cubs and the Scouts spent a couple of evenings down at the wood skills centre near Bodfari, where they learnt how to make a fire, explored the woodland & toasted a few marshmallows.

One of the activities we set up for the Cubs was a simple orienteering course. We divided the pack into 3 teams, and each team had a leader with them, to ensure they stayed on course. This turned out to be a very enjoyable evening with the teams finding most of the bases in the time allowed.

Other Cub activities included an evening making paper rockets & aeroplanes, and a walk.

The Scouts also had a go at the orienteering, with mixed results. They didn't have a leader with them, so they ended up getting a bit lost. We did find them before the end of the evening, but I think some work on map reading will be required in the autumn.

We did give them chance to redeem themselves a couple of weeks later, by giving them the challenge of walking from the Crooked Horn in Brynford, back to the hall, without the leaders. This they did successfully and in good time.

On one evening we had a go at making a simple stove from a baked bean size tin.



We only had moderate success, but fun trying.

Our assistant Scout leader Brian, who has been with us for a number of years, stepped down from the role when we finished in July. I would just like to thank him for the help & support he has given the group during his time with us and wish him well for the future.

BEAVERS

We successfully relaunched the Beaver Section at the beginning of June, with a new leadership team of Vykki, James & Pete.

We have a good group of about 20, and they have enjoyed various games & activities over the summer. The final meeting of the summer saw them toasting marshmallows around a fire, before they ended the meeting by making their beaver scout promise and officially joining the scout movement.

We do need more leaders, especially in the Scout section.

If anyone would like to get involved, or wants more information, please get in touch. 01352 713205

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SUMMER IN THE FIVE VILLAGES (Robert Moore)

<i>Weather in the Five Villages Summer 2021 (2020 in brackets)</i>				
Temperatures °C				Total rainfall Mm
	Average	Maximum	Minimum	
June	18.1 (17.0)	28.0 (29.1)	5.8 (5.6)	32.6 (127.2)
July	19.7 (16.4)	30.7 (30.0)	9.9 (8.0)	91.6 (79.4)
August	17.1 (17.9)	24.0 (29.0)	7.9 (6.6)	13.5*(124.5)

The weather has been a major item in the news since May. Extreme temperatures, at an unprecedented level, in the north west USA and Canada claimed about 500 lives and contributed to devastating forest fires with many homes and livelihoods destroyed. Forest fires also raged in Turkey, southern Europe and right around the Mediterranean. Floods in Germany destroyed whole villages with over 200 fatalities, while altering the landscape of some districts. London and south east England had floods as a result of heavy rainfall. South Wales too had repeats of earlier floods. Northern Ireland had a succession of record high temperatures. Meanwhile in the arctic, large chunks of ice were breaking away from the Greenland ice sheet.

The rainfall that brought such chaos to Germany and parts of the Netherlands and Belgium was not in itself exceptional. Summer storms are common across Europe, but they keep moving. In July, complex meteorological conditions stopped the movement and all the rain fell in one region, with the consequences we have seen. We will be hearing more about these conditions in the future if the jet stream continues to slow, as seems likely.

What of the five villages? We certainly had no flooding. No rainfall was recorded between the 3rd June and the 20th while in the same period we had six days with maximum temperatures above 25 degrees C. July had rain at the beginning and end of the month and there were only six days with the maximum temperature below 20 degrees (and all of these were above 15 degrees). In the middle of the month we had seven consecutive days with the maximum above 25 degrees. This was also a period of low humidity, although it did not feel like it. The Met Office issued its first ever extreme heat warning (which did not extend to north Wales) and it certainly felt wise to stay indoors, stay as cool as possible and avoid unnecessary exertion. It was dangerously hot for some vulnerable people. Night-time brought no respite in this hot spell with the minimum temperature remaining above 15 degrees. For many this brought uncomfortable or sleepless nights. Armagh (just closer to the five villages than London) established a new high temperature record for Northern Ireland on three successive days.

August was warm but not as warm as last year, the minimum temperature was, however, more than one degree above 2020. Early August saw heavy rain in the five

villages and once again the weather station fell victim to Murphy's Law; the rain gauge did not operate from the 3rd to the 10th of the month. The problem was tracked down to a broken wire. If the wire had broken in the final seven days of the month I probably wouldn't have noticed until we have September rain, but at least we would have had full rain data for August.

The ground temperature at the weather station peaked at 18 degrees on the 23rd of July but fell away to 16 at the end of the month and remained there until the end of August.

The end of a season of extremes might be a suitable moment to look back at the recent history of our weather. In Spring this year our mean temperature was about a degree below the UK 1981 – 2010 average. Our rainfall was around average, and the hours of sunshine were 10 percent above the average. April was such an unusual month that the Met Office published a special bulletin about it. The UK had its lowest April minimum temperatures since 1922 and the third lowest since 1884 when records began. In the five villages the mean minimum temperature was around three degrees below the UK 1981 – 2010 average. April also had the highest level of air frost in 60 years and a record number of ground frosts (22 days, average 12). So the second sunniest April on record was also one of the coldest. Our part of north Wales did not exceed any frost records; the Met Office's map shows a thin strip along the river and coast from Queensferry to Bangor which was around the average for air frost. The waters of the Dee and the Irish Sea kept us just that little bit warmer than most of the region.

If you look back at the Five Villages Spring report you will see that we had clear skies, which means sunshine – but also frost. We had about 140 percent of the twenty-year average sunshine and only around 40 percent of the average rainfall. I say 'around' because in the published maps we are part of a slightly broader area and so one cannot identify the five villages as such. The Royal Horticultural Society commented

Considerable damage has been experienced in many gardens with flowers such as camellia and magnolias being scorched. Watering before sowing and after planting are now necessary, but after such a wet autumn and winter there is plenty of water lower down in the soil that established plants can access.

By the end of July I had forty six Fuchsias in bloom and had the best ever year for roses. There was however a notable and worrying shortage of butterflies and other insects.

The third volume of the Carmel station records, with additional monthly data, is now at the printers. Copies will be available in the country archives and Holywell library. The first volume covered 10 years from 2001 and the second and third, five years

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each to 2020. If I had the time, I could now calculate the twenty-year average for the five villages 2001 to 2020 and, like the Met Office, quote our weather 'anomalies' with reference to our local mean.

Weatherwise the five villages have been a safe place to live this Autumn, but the season ended with gloomy, overcast skies. So, to remind readers of what clear skies on a hot summer's day look like from space, here is a view of the UK on 20th July, a day when the temperature rose above 30 degrees. Note the aircraft contrail dispersing as cloud from Devon to southern Ireland, the reduction of air traffic during lockdown will have contributed to clearer skies.

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

A day after the Summer 2021 report was submitted, the Met Office published its own summary of the Summer weather. It may be viewed at <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/press-office/news/weather-and-climate/2021/one-of-the-hottest-summer-on-record-for-scotland-and-northern-ireland>.

AURA LEISURE AND LIBRARIES (Paula Jones)

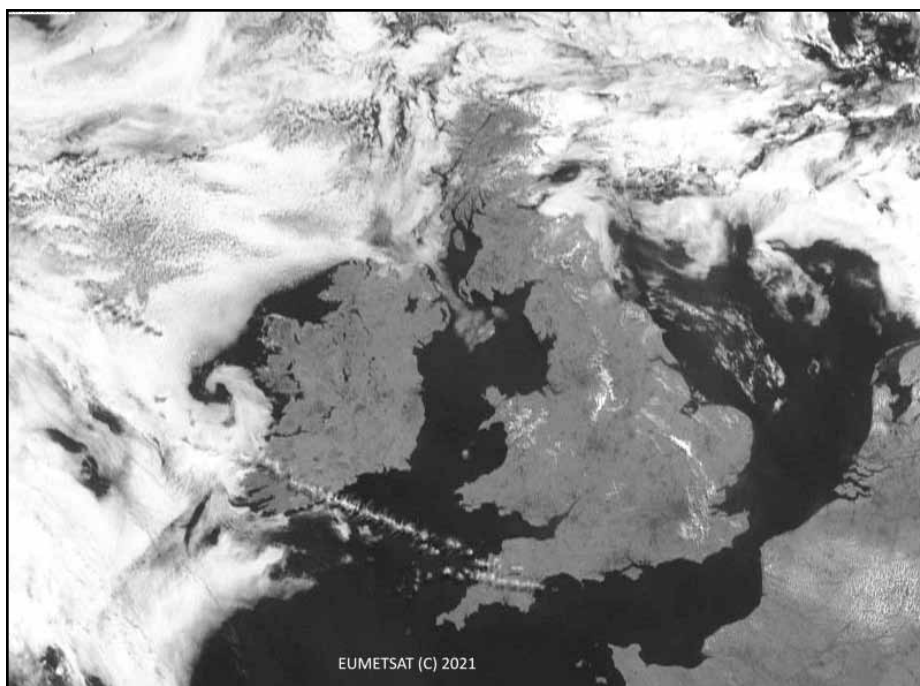
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2nd Wed 2pm

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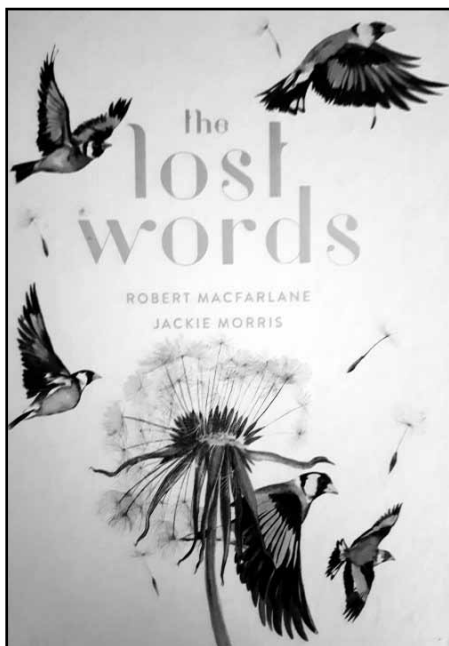
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THE LOST WORDS.... PROPHET (Norman Closs-Parry)



I was about to put a forkful of free-range fried egg in my mouth when the phone rang- "Just a quick one Closs!" (Paul my dearest friend!) "Robert Macfarlane is on 'Desert Island Disk' NOW! Bang, down went the phone, and on went Radio 4 in Bryn Ceris!

I had missed 'Nature Boy' performed by Nat King Cole, and 'The Ghost of O'Donahine'-Johnny Flynn, but the rest of Macfarlane's choices I listened too avidly. 'California Dreamin', 'Birdhouse in your Soul', 'Blessing' by Julie Folis, Karine Polwart, Seckon Keita, Kris Prever, Rachel Newton, Beth Porter, Jim Molyneux and Kerry Andrew- from 'The Last Words a book of spells', 'Four Feathers', 'The Swimming Song', and 'Messiaen', Quartet for the End of Time (third movement) by Oliver Messiaen. I did not miss, neither his answers to the age old question... 'Which book would you take out to this island?' 'Robert's answer- 'The Collected Works of Gerard Manley Hopkins!' His luxury- a very spicy- hot chilli plant! So that's the secret to the bite to his prose!

I ate the rest of my fried egg mechanically, but my mind was a whirr... I think I rang Paul to thank him for knowing me so well!

For years now Macfarlane has been tops in Natural History and Environmental writing in Britain. He was a close travelling /walking/swimming companion of the late Roger Deakin- He has become, through his scholarship- (fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge) one of the main reviewers of natural history and environmental writing as well as writing classics is that field himself- 'Mountains of the Mind', 'Landmarks' and 'Underworld ...' The difference between him and 'others' is that he 'does' whilst they think in terms of doing- He accompanied Roger Deakin (Landmarks and Waterways (my favourites...)) on his environmental journeys,

he climbs mountains, his fingertips are raw after grasping for holds on rough rock ridges...he is not just a passer byer but a stand and starrer! Probably that is why Hopkins' sonnets and prose would be with him on his desert island!?

He collaborated with Jackie Morris (now living in Pembrokeshire (Sir Benfro)) artist and illustrator extraordinaire, to bring out his "Lost Words" in 2019. At first I thought it was 'jump on the bandwagon job'- then I saw the book in a Mold bookshop. I knew straight away it was a classic... a classic in terms of art and design (I would like ALL the paintings framed and hung in my home- (that is the test!!) It nearly blew my head off when I read the first Macfarlane paragraph - his philosophy, his credo.... my experience exactly over my last few decades in education... To every illustration/painting there was a Macfarlane Acrostic, pure literature, pure natural history, pure survival, pure poetry... so I bought the volume- I presented it to Ela who had just won the chair in Ysgol Maes Garmon Eisteddfod (this is pre Covid!!) in remembrance of Nain and from me!!

Now and again I regret that I did not buy two volumes! Why? I borrow Ela's book so often when I dream... But what is it about I hear you ask? "Listen..."

"Once upon a time, words began to vanish from the language of children. They disappeared so quietly that at first almost no one noticed- fading away like water on stone. The words were those that children used to name the natural world around

them acorn, adder, blue bell, bramble, conker- gone! Fern, heather, kingfisher, otter, raven, willow, wren.... all of them gone! The words were becoming lost, no longer vivid in children's voice, no longer alive their stories...." read on... Macfarlane has it taped.

I'm afraid it's very apparent in the Welsh Language too! Perhaps that is why Professor Mererid Hopwood the new professor of Welsh at Aberystwyth, translated this volume into Welsh-yes- it's a far reaching book - simple but... is it too late for a child to say-'Look-Wren!' What can I do? I still have the words, I try and pass them to Idris, Gwenni, Ela and Mali.... but, unless I show them a raven, a skylark, a kingfisher, a wren.... but it's the damned play station and I pads! And what about the stations of raven, skylark, kingfisher and wren?"

I did think that the first lockdown started a 'back to basics'- the air was clear the stars were brighter, the songbirds were sweeter ... but ...it's the economy stupid, it's the economy... But what of our world if our children have lost the words...and the wrens?

I 'feel' that the common garden birds have depleted down here in 'lower' Carmel !? But I still, have my wren of 'farthing fame' ...remember? Four to a penny!

Macfarlane says it all... If I had to choose one acrostic, one painting it would be the one of the Wren- Y dryw bach ! With the longest Latin Scientific name Troglodytes troglodytes!! - the Smallest British bird but one... WREN!!

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WREN

When wren whirrs from stone to furze
the world around her slows, for wren is
quick, so quick she blurs the air through
which she flows, yes-

Rapid wren is needle, rapid wren is pin,
and wren song is sharp song, briar song,
thorn song, and wren's flight is dark-flight.,
flick-flight, light-flight yes-

Each wren etches, stitches, swiches,
glitches, yes-

Now you think you see wren, now you
know you don't .

But there is an old kind of magic for
Finding what is missing and for
Summoning that has vanished. If the
Right spells are spoken, the lost
Words might return.....

Macfarlane

- but there will be a price to pay!

FUNDRAISING FOR YSGOL BRO CARMEL (Catherine Evans)



*Lillie, Nancy, Emily, Ebony, Seth and
Ophelia of 1st Carmel Rainbows and
Ysgol Bro Carmel*

Due to COVID restrictions, face to face
sessions of their Rainbows group (1st
Carmel Rainbows) ended which made
it difficult for the girls to earn badges -
something which they all enjoyed doing.



badges

With restrictions also preventing fund
raising activities for their school Ysgol Bro
Carmel, four of the Rainbows - ably helped
by their younger siblings - got together
to earn their fundraising & environment
badges by completing a litter pick at
Greenfield Valley.

Despite the pouring rain, they completed
the challenge and from very generous
support from parents, family & friends they
raised just under £200.

A big thank you to Sarah O'Brien
who has arranged these activities and
supported the children, it has been very
much appreciated.

ATTENTION - WHITFORD - 27/11/2021!!

(Gareth Hughes, Race organiser)

On behalf of Prestatyn Running Council I am writing to inform local residents of an
event we are hosting in Whitford on Saturday, November 27th, 2021.

On that day we are staging a fixture of the North Wales Cross-Country League in
Upper Park, Mostyn Hall, through courtesy of Lord Mostyn and the tenant farmer, Oswyn
Jones. It will inevitably produce a considerable volume of traffic passing through the
village, most of it from the A55, but we hope that no-one will be inconvenienced.

There will be two races – for women and men over 65 at 1pm, followed by all other
men at 2pm – and we expect a total of about 300 competitors. The first will probable
arriving from 11.30am and the event will finish at about 3.30pm.

If the weather is reasonably dry parking will be on the field just inside the gates, and
if it is wet vehicles will be parked along the very long driveway (half on and half off the
drive). We shall be providing a couple of mobile toilets and a mobile caterer.

Our club has great experience of staging such events in St Asaph, Ruthin and the
Rhug Estate, Corwen, but if you need any further information or have any concerns please
do not hesitate to contact me. We would be delighted if local residents come along to
watch what should be competitions of a high standard.

Gareth Hughes, Race organiser, 01745 888078 or 07920 515408

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Hotel, Holywell (opposite the Shell Garage),

on the third Tuesday evening of the month at 7.30pm start of talk.

Doors open from 7pm for plant sales and raffle tickets. Indoor meetings start from
October.

Tuesday 21 September, Salvias by Vicki Weston ZOOM talk (link sent to members a
few days before talk).

Tuesday 19 October, Autumn into Winter and Spring by Howard Drury.

Tuesday 16 November, Why Did the Hedgehog Cross the Road?

by Hugh Warwick of HedgeOx Oxford.

December, no evening meeting.

If you would like to join our HPS Clwyd Group until the end of December 2021 we are
offering a discounted rate of £5 per person/ £7 couple at same address.

Information on 01352 375385 or clwyd@hardy-plant.org.uk or

www.hardy-plant.org.uk/clwyd

Programme can be subject to change.



WILDLIFE (Jan Miller)

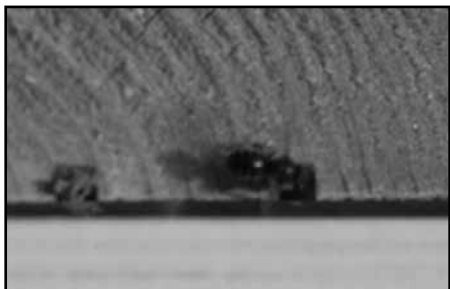
Did I tell you about my new bee houses? I've written so many of these columns now that I forget if I mentioned things before! I have had a 'bug tower' for many years with various nesting holes available, but the truth is that I only ever get Red Mason bees and leaf-cutter bees in the 8mm holes. And spiders everywhere else.



Bee house

You do know, of course, that we have some 250 species of solitary bees (only 6 or 7 of which are Bumblebees) that are just as important as the one species of honeybee, for pollination? (sure I have told you that before!) and most of them live either in burrows in the ground or old plants stems or holes in walls. Different bees have different sizes, different mouthparts and different life cycles they have evolved so they don't compete with each other for resources like nectar and pollen and use different flowers that are open at different times of year. To keep getting our food and flower crops pollinated it is essential to help them find habitats to reproduce in.

There's a marvellous chap who is an ex-policeman called George Pilkington who lives in Warrington. He has been researching these different types of bees for years and trying to make exactly the right type of nesting sites for them. He does this by routing holes of different sizes in wooden blocks and you can mount them on a wall in his custom-made frames and change them over for different seasons. He



Hylaeus sp entering hole

has recorded some 18 different species in his small Warrington town garden! He came over to see me in the summer to get some plants that I grow and sell specially for bees and brought me some new boxes. I nailed

them up on my summerhouse and was amazed that within a couple of days I had different species of bees appearing to nest in them. Here are some photos. They have inspection hatches on both side so you can watch (and photograph) the bees making their nests and laying eggs. On George's website you can see lots of videos he has made of them - some of behaviour unknown to science before, like the parasitic wasp that has such a long ovipositor that it can reach through several cells to lay her eggs into different bee larvae.

My bigger holes seem to be used by the Red Mason bee, as usual, but I caught a photo of a Hylaeus species that was laying down a plastic-like secretion from a special gland that makes her cells waterproof, so rain or flood does not damage her eggs. Ain't nature incredible?!

© Jan Miller 2021 see www.7wells.co.uk for plants for bees and butterflies and see George Pilkington's website www.nurturing-nature.com for lots of videos and info about all our marvellous native bees.

GOOD COMPANIONS (John Saunders)

Although we are unable to carry out our usual fund-raising events to raise money, we are still getting requests from the hospital. The latest being for alarm systems which, when fitted to mattresses and chairs, will alert staff to the movements of dementia patients. At a cost of £1880 this is really cutting into our reserve account, so

if anybody would like to make a donation, please send it to John Saunders The Jays, Ddrieniog Road, Carmel, Holywell (cheques made out to The Good Companions of Holywell Hospital).

Lots of people are asking when the tea bar is opening, but due to the health board's strict Covid-19 regulations I am afraid there is no sign of this at present.

Our volunteer gardeners are requesting help with the hospital gardens. So if you can find time to spare on a Tuesday please contact Mrs Sue Morris 780697 robsuemorris@gmail.com

I would like to express my thanks to Mr Alun Jones and Mr Barry Lambert for painting the benches in the hospital garden, and also thank the hospital staff for the marvellous job they are doing in these very difficult times.

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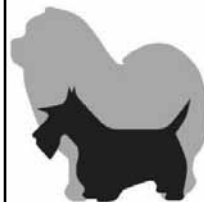
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YSGOL BRO CARMEL
(Mrs J Garbutt, Headteacher)
YEAR 6 LEAVERS 2021

I would like to wish all of our Year 6 Leavers every happiness and success as they move onto secondary school. Without exception, they have been an incredible year group who have shown tremendous resilience, hopefulness and progression. In challenging times, collaboration and cooperation are beneficial necessities. All of the Year 6 children demonstrate these skills in abundance.

Although the pandemic has prevented many of the opportunities that are usually available to them, it has not hindered their incredible determination, positivity or sense of humour!

Seeing the children blossom and mature over the years is a privilege like no other. As learners, they have all made excellent progress both academically and pastorally. The skill sets that they have developed will stand them in good stead for the challenges that lie ahead. They deserve to feel proud of everything that they have achieved at Ysgol Bro Carmel.

We are all very proud of them.



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COUNCILLOR CHRIS DOLPHIN

Hello everyone, Sut mae pethau BIODIVERSITY

Long grass in many areas and on road side verges is now much more common as a green economy and green issues are so important. This does not mean grass is not cut, however, it is cut less often and is the way all of Wales and UK authorities now proceed. The County Council have set up a Climate Change Board who will advise scrutiny committees where needed. Will the long banks fronting Ocean View in Carmel become a wildflower area? and the Village Green (Bonk) adjacent Celyn Lane have more relevant care. Did you see the wildflower roundabout in Greenfield leading to the Recycling centre? It was truly FAB. Grant funding has greatly assisted the County Council with tree and wildflower areas. Machinery that was bought in 2020 will support changes in biodiversity with a late summer "cut and collect". This type of shift from conventional management will benefit both nature and carbon emissions. This Spring newly developed wildflower sites have included areas in Flint, Mold, Buckley, Penyffordd, Bagillt and Connah's Quay.

BUS TRAVEL

I realise how important rural bus services are and the introduction of ffeicsi is a real boost, flexible travel is here. Have you seen or heard about the ffeicsi minibus in the Five Villages? This minibus service is backed by Transport for Wales and the County Council and run by a local commercial operator. The biggest difference between a traditional bus service and ffeicsi is that you need to book to enable use. Anywhere locally from Llanasa in the north of the county to Rhes y Cae and anywhere in between including Holywell, the Five Villages area, Caerwys, Greenfield and other villages. Good examples are if you wish to book a journey to the local doctors, Holywell High Street, hospital, leisure centre, Caerwys or a friend/relative within the map area, book

it up asap at the time you want it.

The fares are a standard £2.50 and £1.50 for children, concessionary card holders travel free and also mytravelpass is valid for young people.

To book ring 0300 234 0300, book online or use the app. Don't forget to book your return journeys.

Times available are Monday – Friday 09.15hrs – 1800hrs (6pm). Saturdays 09.15hrs – 1300hrs (1pm).

This service is here to help and serve, once you become a regular user, the regular drivers do not have to use the bus stops, so can pick up and drop off at actual required destinations.

Our area is also served by the number 19 service, Holwell – Prestatyn/Rhyl with its regular times. The 14A Holywell - Caerwys also operates on school days.

If you want more information on any of these services, please contact me.

FOOTWAYS

As you may have seen further progress has been made to the footway on Babel Road, the embankment area will be expensive, up to £40,000, lot of earthworks, demolish and rebuild stone wall, streetlight removal/replacement. Now, do you remember the online survey for Active Travel concerning footpaths and cycling? I have met with Leaders on the scheme and to this end it is apparent this footway and perhaps others may now qualify for funding due to rule changes which have been sought for rural areas. The new footway is also a Cycleway, number 5. I have recently met on site to discuss further advancement of schemes within the area, which may qualify for rural Active Travel funding. The online survey received a good reception from our area and with input and wide circulation from residents and in particular Richard the Chair of the Community Council.

Other possible footways are known about, north of the A55 bridge, in Gorsedd itself, Dyserth Road, Lloc. I am often asked about connecting Carmel to Gorsedd and other schemes within the area. However,

ownership of land and width of a road are sometimes insurmountable. If the verge is not wide enough, or in private ownership, in reality it will not happen.

STREETSCENE STANDARDS

The Council has a set standard of dealing with, well shall we say, problems. Dead animals such as badgers on the road once reported is 24 hours. Dog Fouling in a children play area (6 working hours). Abandoned cars, to respond and attend is 2 working days. Gully emptying is only once a year. If you know of a gully that needs sorting, let me know. A regular overflowing gully is adjacent the chapel on Allt y Golch, much of this is due to a suspected collapse on Chapel grounds.

If you need new receptacles for any of your waste, they can be collected from the Connects Centre in Holwell High Street or can be delivered to you with a standard set time which is 6 working days for anything. Food waste bags can also be signified as needed by tying an empty food bag to your green food bin when out for collection, from experience this may take up to 3 weeks though. Like you I am a customer too and have the same comprehension. Did you know – number of waste bins missed per 100,000 is 80. The Contact Centre 701234 answers a call in under 15 seconds 75% of the time. 80% are dealt with at the first point of contact, and 5% are "lost" calls. (I have had my fair share).

CONTACT

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

CYNGOR CYNGHORYDD

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

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CARMEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

(Colette Harding)

Keeping your distance or finally drawing near?

If you're anything like me, you may be a little weary of treating everybody we meet like a potential threat to life. We have all had to do it for so long now, and it has almost become second nature to stay away from people, whether total strangers or those we love and would dearly like to give a warm embrace. On the other hand, sometimes we prefer to keep a comfortable distance from anything that might rock the boat or challenge our preconceptions.

Long ago, there was a man called Zack. Everybody stayed away from and hated him because he was a traitor and a thief. As a tax collector for an occupying army in his land, he took a great deal more than the taxes required and his neighbours were much poorer due to his cheating and stealing. One day, he heard about a very different man who often chose to spend time with people like him...not because he was like them, but because he cared about them and wanted to give them a new start. Zack was intrigued by what he'd heard ~ healing the sick, calming storms, teaching with authority and even raising the dead! When he heard this man was coming to his town there was an urgency, he was desperate to see this example of a life that was so different from his own. He knew deep-down that despite his ill-gotten riches, his own life was empty.

Zack couldn't stand among the crowds who lined the street to greet this man, so he found an ideal tree to climb. It gave him a grandstand view and what he thought was safety, both from the hateful comments of the crowd and from the transformational power of the visitor. But something happened that he didn't expect. Jesus arrived at the tree and looked straight up at Zack. It was as if the world stopped as a summoning voice called him down by name. He'd just wanted to see Jesus from a safe distance, but suddenly Jesus was in his house for tea and a long talk! The result of that meeting was that Zack gave back what he had stolen plus 300% interest, and he gave generously to other poor people. From being a selfish thief, he became a changed man because Jesus gave him forgiveness and a changed heart. As he left, Jesus said, 'Today, salvation has come to this house.'

Jesus sometimes meets with people in the most unexpected of ways, in the strangest of circumstances. Often because of the shape of our lives, there's only this one particular moment, in this particular place. And Jesus knows it. And he comes and singles us out and draws near with life changing power. Jesus found Zack. He told us he 'came to seek and to save the lost.' And that's what he's still doing in 2021. He never fails in that respect.

Maybe you have spent the lockdown, or even your life, staying socially distanced from the God who gave you life. Perhaps

now you might consider taking a closer look at this Jesus. Why not come along to Carmel Village Hall on a Sunday night at 6pm, and learn more about who he is and why he came? Now we're allowed to meet inside again we'd love to see you. You'd be very welcome, and like Zack, you might find yourself meeting the One who knows your situation and can meet your greatest need.

Find us on Facebook or at carmelchristianfellowship.org

HOLYWELL AREA COMMUNITY MUSEUM NEWS

(Andrea Dakin)

It's all happening at the museum in Holywell now that we are open properly.

There is always a welcome for you 10 - 3 every day except Sunday.

EVERY MEMORY MATTERS

Reminiscence group meets every Tuesday from 11 am on.

It usually lasts a couple of hours but you can leave when you want.

Numbers vary and we see new faces every week - usually between eight and twelve turn up and share memories of old Holywell and area.

We are hoping to produce a book of memory/anecdotes based on what everyone is sharing. Do come along bring any photos you want to share or we can photocopy for the museum and give them straight back to you - or just bring yourself and enjoy a couple of hours with old and new friends reminiscing. We meet in the cafe so it is very informal and refreshments are available.

"THIS IS YOUR TOWN"

A book of tales of old Holywell - the first book written for children to tell them the stories of the history of their town. Good for grown ups too !!

In prose, poetry and with illustrations produced by KIM volunteers - this forty page booklet is crammed with information and costs just £5 - all proceeds to the museum.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Every Wednesday morning 10.30 - 12 there is a guided history tour of the high street.

For just £5 - £2.50 for children you can learn all about what the town looked like in bygone days. the tour includes a free cuppa and biscuits back at the cafe when the walk is over. All proceeds to the museum.

We are busy acquiring artefacts from Hebron chapel in Mostyn which is sadly closing - we have the font, lectern, pews and the memorial to lads who were lost in the wars, hoping to get the pulpit. We intend to recreate a chapel in one of our rooms so if you have any ephemera, news cuttings etc relating to the history of worship in the area we would welcome it - you can donate or anything you bring can be copied and given straight back to you. All of this as well as our already established exhibits are well worth a visit.

And if you want to know more about the Point of Ayr colliery and the history of mining in the area no better people to speak to than the two Johns in our POACH room - they are passionate about sharing their experiences as miners and have a wonderful collection of artefacts too numerous to mention some now displayed in our recently acquired glass display cabinets.

If you are interested in volunteering we always welcome new friends into our happy band.

Museum phone number 01352 217170 or check out our Memories of Holywell pages - they too are well worth a visit.



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GOLDEN WEDDING



Our parents, Sian and Garfield Thomas of Bryn Aelwyd Ucha, Carmel celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on the 15th July 2021. My sister wrote a poem for this special occasion.

Golden Love

*Fifty years have passed you by
In just about the blink of an eye.
Fifty golden happy years
Filled with love, laughs and of course
some tears.*

*It all started one lucky new years' eve
Dancing to the Beatles, not wanting
to leave.*

*A wedding, two children, a big move
to the North*

*Then came the Gog, but you stopped
at a fourth!*

*Now stronger than ever, your love
powers on*

*Your bond ever closer, it'll never be
gone.*

*Being together is what you do best,
Ten grandchildren later, you really are
blessed!*

*Although your big day is not what we'd
hoped*

*You'll get through this time now and see
how you've coped.*

*We'll soon be together to celebrate in
style,
And Covid permitting we'll kiss, hug
and smile!*

We want them to know how much they are loved.

Both parents are cancer fighters and we are so grateful that we are going to be able to celebrate and spend time together at the end of August as a family.

Rhiannon Marshall
Bethan Kelly
Gerwyn Thomas

Siân and Garfield Thomas got engaged on what was then the romantic and picturesque Briton Ferry Bridge over the River Neath. It marked the half way point between their respective family homes and holds many memories for them both from their years of courting. Port Talbot, 1971, saw them married and then we three children started entering the scene – Gerwyn two years in and Bethan a year after him.

Siân taught home economics and Garfield worked at British Steel in Port Talbot before training to become a lecturer. Then, the call of the North! A job opportunity arose at NEWI College, Deeside (as it was at the time) seeing them arrive in Treffynnon in 1979.

Rhiannon arrived in 1980, making up our family of five, and we moved to Bryn Aelwyd Ucha – our family home ever since. This happy house has hosted our ever expanding family occasions – children's parties, garden parties, pre-wedding get togethers, Christmases, mass baby-sitting, post-Christening parties, birthdays, anniversaries... And, since retiring from teaching, Siân and Garfield have welcomed ten grandchildren into their lives – their beautiful home and garden the focus for our family moments, our children's family moments, and many more to come.

Mam and Dad – on this, your fiftieth wedding anniversary year – we cannot thank you enough or celebrate sufficiently the myriad examples you have set us in love, life, parenthood and everything.

WEDDING



Kimberley Ruth Parsons, daughter of Keith and Helen Parsons of Pentre and Graeme James Boag, son of David and Alison Boag of Gorsedd, were married on the 14th August, 2021. The ceremony was held at St Paul's Church, Gorsedd, with Rev Kathryn Evans officiating the ceremony before close friends and family. A Reception followed at Plas Celyn, Gorsedd.



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RECIPES FOR AUTUMN (Isabel Burnage)

As the days become shorter and colder, a nourishing homemade soup is always welcome as a light meal. Using home grown vegetables makes it all the more special and the following recipe fits the bill.

BACON AND LENTIL SOUP - SERVES 4

Ingredients

- 3 slices thick cut bacon - chopped
- 1 large onion - peeled and chopped
- 1 large carrot - peeled and chopped
- 2 sticks of celery - rinsed and chopped
- 1 large potato - peeled and cubed
- 1 cup fresh or frozen peas
- 1 small cup of lentils or pearl barley
- 2 bay leaves
- A vegetable stock cube
- Salt and pepper
- Chopped parsley and chives
- Fresh cream

Method

1. Fry the chopped bacon in a large hot pan until just turning brown.
2. Add all the chopped vegetables and stir with the bacon for about 3-4 minutes.
3. Crumble the stock cube over the vegetables and add the bay leaves to the pan.
4. Add the lentils OR barley, cover with water and a pan lid.
5. Simmer for about 40 minutes and crush the vegetables with a masher.
6. Check seasoning. Add peas and allow the soup to simmer for another 3-4 minutes.

Serve in warm bowls with a swirl of fresh cream and a sprinkle of chopped parsley and chives, with a side of warm crusty bread.

GINGER AND HONEY FRUIT CAKE

Ingredients

- 4oz (110g) softened butter
- 3oz (75g) moist brown sugar
- 3 medium eggs
- 8oz (225g) mixed dried fruit
- 3 tablespoons clear honey
- 3 teaspoons grated ginger
- 1 teaspoons ground ginger
- 7oz (200g) self-raising flour
- Grated zest and juice of one lemon

Method

1. Preheat the oven to gas mark 3 (170°C, 325°F). Grease and line a cake tin.
2. Cream the butter and sugar together.
3. Add the eggs and mix well.
4. Add honey, grated ginger and ground ginger.
5. Mix in the dried fruit, along with the lemon zest and juice.
6. Fold in the flour to make a soft mixture, adding a little warm water if needed.
7. Spoon into the cake tin and bake for 45 minutes before reducing the heat to gas mark 2 (150°C, 300°F) until lightly brown and firm to the touch.
8. Allow to cool before turning out to cut or keep.



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| • Weeding & flower bed maintenance | • Pruning |
| • Landscaping | • Processing timber into logs |

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

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

We will be more than happy to hear from you.



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BONES (Geraint Roberts)

The young apprentice had been left to continue hacking away at the old wattle and daub panel which formed one of the inside walls of the Oratory in Pennant Melangell church in the Tanat valley. It was mid-morning and his master had gone to pick up some building supplies for the renovation of the venerable old church which had been in dire need of a face lift for some time.



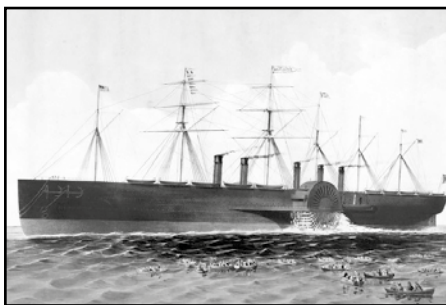
Pennant Melangell church

Pennant Melangell had been established according to legend in the eighth century by Melangell (Morcella) who had fled an arranged marriage from Ireland. Whilst out walking one day she had bravely harboured a hare fleeing from Prince Brochwel Ysgythriog's hunting dogs in the folds of her cloak. He was so impressed with her courage that he gave her land in the valley to establish a religious order where she lived for another thirty-seven years. By now, although location of the site is known there is nothing left to see of her abbey, but nearby the first church which was built in 1197 has continued to provide a place of worship. It has gone through several stages of re-building and renovation, and it was during one of these renovations that this incident is supposed to have happened.

When the builder returned at lunchtime his young apprentice was outside looking extremely pale and was very reluctant to go back inside to show his master what he had found. As he hacked away at the old plaster something strange had gradually appeared and as the dust settled, he realized with a shock it was a human skeleton which had been entombed inside the wall. At that point he had fled outside!

Closer examination revealed among the scrappy remnants of clothing a number of items, the most curious of which were a number of hazel nuts. The significance of this find was only realized when some of the older locals remembered that the incumbent vicar's son of sixty years previously had disappeared whilst out collecting hazel nuts!

Quite apart from the obvious question of its veracity the story raises several other questions: - When did this occur? Had he squeezed in to hide from someone and failed to get out? Was he murdered and walled up? If so by whom and why? Was anyone ever suspected? Could it have been an accident?



SS Great Eastern

It brings to mind a riveter who was accidentally sealed between two hulls of the Great Eastern built by Brunel in 1858; he was assumed to have just quit work and wandered off. When the ship was launched it became stuck halfway down

the launching ramp and took several weeks to free. This was only the first of a series of unexplained mishaps which happened to the ship. A boiler exploded soon after killing several of the sailors. It then collided with another ship which resulted in more loss of life and even ran aground during one of its passages. The ship gained the reputation as being an unlucky vessel. It was only when she was being dismantled at the breaker's yard 31 years later the skeleton of the riveter was found, and the ship's bad luck was naturally attributed to the entombed corpse! Alas, there are no answers or even verification that either story is true but as the tale in Pennant Melangell is a locally told tale it is worth recounting!



Site of Hywel Sele's hollow oak

Another famous Welsh skeleton which appeared forty years after its owner went missing was that of Hywel Sele of the Nannau estate near Dolgellau. The year was 1402 and a simmering 'détente' existed between Sele and his cousin Owain Glyndwr. Due to a local conflict which had escalated into a national and altogether nobler cause against the English crown Glyndwr found himself leading a Welsh revolt against Henry IV. Sele, mindful that his bread was buttered by the English king was understandably at odds with his cousin. A recently brokered peace by the Abbot of Cymer Abbey saw the two cousins



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out hunting deer one day in the Nannau deer park. Treachery, however, was afoot! Whilst training his bow at a nearby stag Sele suddenly turned and fired his arrow at his cousin! Glyndwr fortunately was wearing a chain mail vest beneath his tunic and although it must have made his eyes water, he was spared death! He immediately drew his sword and killed Sele on the spot. He then hid his body in a hollow oak tree and later returned with his men to burn Sele's house to the ground (as you do).

Four decades on a lightning strike split the old oak to reveal Hywel Sele's skeleton. From there on in the spot was always regarded as haunted and duly named (Ceubren yr Ellyll), the haunted oak; and was assiduously avoided by all after dark. The oak survived until 1813 when it eventually fell in a storm. Some of the timber was made into candlesticks and other trinkets including a small casket which was given to Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon as a wedding present by the Nannau family in 1960!

A similar legend is told concerning what is now the Welsh Language learning Centre in Nant Gwrtheyrn which squats at the foot of a deep valley on the north Llyn coast. The residential centre was adapted from an abandoned quarrying village which housed the workers for the two nearby quarries which began developing in 1861. There were essentially two granite quarries the 'Nant' and the 'Carreg Llam' on the southern end of the bay. Following a steady decline, the quarries were both finally closed at the outbreak of the second world war in 1939. Inevitably the village was slowly abandoned with the final two residents leaving in 1948.



Nant Gwrtheyrn

Nant Gwrtheyrn is supposedly where Gwrtheyrn (Vortigern) the fifth century king of Wessex came to live out his life having had to escape his countrymen for allowing the Saxon Jutes a foothold in England. He had invited them over to help fight the Picts and the Irish. It didn't help matters when he fell in love with Rowena who was the daughter of the Saxon Warlord Hengist. The kingdom of Kent was apparently the cost for her hand in marriage. However, it was when Hengist perpetrated what is known as the 'Treachery of the Long Knives' that his real troubles began. Gwrtheyrn and his Elders were invited to

a conciliatory banquet prepared by Hengist whereby all weapons were to be left outside the hall. At a given signal the host's men who had been seated strategically and had hidden knives in their boots rose and killed their guests sparing only Gwrtheyrn who was released to become a hated figure amongst his own tribes. Legend has him fleeing north and attempting to build a fort on Dinas Emrys near Beddgelert before he came here to see out his days. Folklore maintains he was buried beneath a mound above the eastern edge of the shore; a story perpetuated by a large skeleton found on the spot many years ago.

For centuries after Gwrtheyrn's fifth century antics and long before the quarries came the quiet valley supported a few families who worked the land and fished the sea.

A tale is told of a young couple, Rhys and Meinir who were to be married in the church in Clynog. On the morning of the joyous event Meinir, as was the tradition went to hide nearby so that Rhys's friends could go through the motions of finding her and take her to church. They searched high and low all over the village, the woods and even down near the seashore but to no avail. After an hour or so they had begun to call her and by lunchtime others had joined in the search shouting for her to come out. Word eventually reached Rhys and he

returned to the village to join the search. All afternoon they searched in vain and by the evening everyone was very worried, and Rhys had begun to fear the worst. Had she changed her mind? Had she run away with someone else? Perhaps she'd slipped on the rocks and been taken by the sea?

The days and weeks become months and years and no word of Meinir was ever received by anyone in the area. Rhys continued to live in Nant Gwrtheyrn but never married. Many years later when he was an old man, he was out walking one evening through the trees behind the village, it was a warm sultry evening heralding a change in the weather. He stopped beside an old oak tree where he and Meinir had often stopped to enjoy the quiet evenings many years before. Suddenly a bolt of lightning struck the old oak tree and split it wide open. It was hollow, as many ancient oaks are, and deep in the recess of rotten pith wood, cobwebs and white fungus was a skeleton wearing the sad yellowed remains of a bridal dress; after half a century he had finally found his Meinir! Such was the shock of the discovery Rhys died of a heart attack. They were both buried side by side; together at last.

Another vanishing bride story takes the form of a ballad which first appeared in print in 1822 and was popularized as a song called the Mistletoe Bough in the



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1830s. It tells of the young bride hiding on her wedding morning fully expecting to be found by her groom; but, as with Rhys and Meinir of Nant Gwrtheyrn there was no sign of her anywhere. Many years later an old chest, long abandoned in the attic was opened and the poor bride's skeletal remains were found in her wedding dress. So popular was this old story told in song that several old manorial halls and mansions dotting the south of England claimed it as their own (see map).

Here is an extract from the 'Mistletoe Bough' where Minster Lovell in Oxfordshire lay their claim.

*"They sought her that night and they
sought her next day
And they sought her in vain when a
week passed away,
In the highest, the lowest, the loneliest
spot
Young Lovell sought wildly but found
her not.
At length, an oak chest that had long
lain hid
Was found in the castle, they raised
the lid
And a skeleton form lay mouldering
there
In the bridal wreath of that lady fair.
Oh, sad was her fate, in sportive jest
She hid from her lord in the old oak
chest
It closed with a spring and dreadful
doom
The bride lay clasped in her living tomb."*

This claim for provenance may well have been confused with the real-life disappearance of Lord Lovell when he escaped from the Battle of Stoke in 1487 and was never seen again. This battle was the final throw of the Yorkists' dice in the Wars of the Roses. His lands and house had been forfeit two years earlier following the battle of Bosworth (when he picked

the wrong side!) so there was no reason to seek him in Minster mansion. Many years later however, in 1708 his skeleton was eventually found in a secret chamber in the old house.

Kate Mosse included the story in her collection of short stories published in 2013 and even Alfred Hitchcock makes reference to it in his 1948 film classic 'The Rope'.

An oft told tale which adheres to a familiar pattern concerns a returning lord after many years away fighting in the Crusade wars. Long thought dead, his wife is about to wed again when, dressed as a beggar he returns to the feast on the eve of the wedding but because he is aged and ravaged by war he isn't recognized. Some versions recount his taking up his old harp and playing a tune which only he could play or describing an event only he would remember which moves the story towards a happy ending.

But, according to 'The History of Aberconwy 1835' on the occasion of the return of the son to the Penrhyn family estate near Llandudno after many years spent travelling the world the homecoming was not to be such a happy one! The estate was run by his two sisters, and they refused to acknowledge him as their brother. Even when he showed them a needle he had hidden in the rafters as a boy and a plough harrow he had driven into a pear tree in the orchard he was whipped by two of the servants and turned away. He sought refuge in a nearby cottage with an old couple who did remember him. A couple of days later however he disappeared and was never seen again until a few years later when a lime kiln was being constructed up against some rocks behind the old manor house when his skeleton was found in a deep crevice in the rocks; he had obviously been killed!

In 1839 at the height of the Chartist

Movement an isolated cave high up on Llangynidir moor was used to make and conceal weapons for the intended march on Newport. In the event soldiers fired as they approached killing 22 and although the insurrection failed, and the main perpetrators brought to justice the resulting aftermath did bring the electoral vote to male adults.

Many years later during explorations by amateur cavers which unearthed another 400 yards of passages in what is now known as the Chartist's Cave some human skeletons were found. They were dated back to the period of the Chartists and showed signs of a violent death. At the time of the movement the Government had employed undercover agents to discover the Chartists' plans. Some of these men had gone missing and the general belief is that the discovered skeletons belonged to them. It is interesting to note that one of these undercover agents (who didn't go missing) was Sam Pinkerton who was later to establish the famous American detective agency which is so often featured in Westerns!

Perhaps the most intriguing 'discovered skeleton' account I've come across in my recent readings is the one concerning the old Meyrick family of Anglesey who ruled the Bodorgan estate for centuries. In 1742 Ann, wife of Owen Meyrick died in London and was brought back to be interred in the family vault which was located beneath the family chapel in Llangadwalader church. The vault measures four yards square by six feet high with a central support pillar and was constructed in 1730. When workmen went in to prepare for the funeral, they discovered an extra coffin containing a man's body who had not been dead more than a few weeks. He was richly dressed in gold despite the poor quality of the coffin. But the most intriguing thing



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was that scratch marks clearly showed he had been buried alive! Various rumours whispered of family feuds, Jacobite spies and even suggested he was Ann's brother who had mysteriously disappeared many years before. A bitter animosity existed between many of Anglesey's richest families particularly between Whigs and Tories, but the identity of the mystery corpse was never solved. The vault has now been sealed for many years.



Bride in the chest locations

There is a fascination borne of horror in such tales, as evidenced by the number of claimants for the provenance of the 'bride in the chest' story for example. Die, we all must, but to not have a funeral by our loved ones who continue to live in ignorance of our mouldering presence perhaps yards away surely holds an exquisite horror all of its own in our worst nightmares. Our imaginations must wrestle with the thought of how often must Rhys have wandered past the old tree thinking of his Meinir or the vicar of Pennant stood in the Oratory thinking of his missing son who was only inches away! Brrr!



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NEWS FROM GORSEDD AND WHITFORD CHURCHES

(Kathryn Evans, Vicar of Bagillt, Gorsedd, Mostyn and Whitford)



Hello, hope you are all keeping well, and have enjoyed a summer where many of us have been able to meet with family and friends after a prolonged absence? The joy of hugging our loved ones is a luxury few of us will take for granted anytime soon.

Over the past few months, as restrictions have eased, I have had the joy of officiating at what we in the church term the 'Occasional Offices' or "Hatch, Match and Despatches" as they are sometimes colloquially referred to in general conversation! [Not by us Vicars I hasten to add ;-)]. Sadly, there are many more of the sad occasions of funerals than the happy occasions but I have been very fortunate to have officiated at three weddings and two baptisms since I last wrote to you, all in St Paul's, Gorsedd. They have been truly joyous occasions, even if the guest list has been more restricted than families might have otherwise chosen, but this has given an intimacy to the occasions that has also been very special.

As the summer comes to an end, and the days grow shorter, I am very aware of the changing seasons. I love Autumn, with its vibrant colours and all the shades of red and gold as the leaves turn. It fascinates me every year, that the shortening days trigger such a dramatic response in nature and creation. The cycle of nature with the shedding of the leaves and the subsequent decaying process provides nourishment for new growth. We know that the quiet of winter allows rest and preparation for new growth, and sometimes, in our own lives, we have to let things go, so that a new chapter can begin.

In the Autumn, God willing, St Paul's Church, Gorsedd will undergo re-ordering of its beautiful building to provide new facilities for both church and community use. The pews will be removed (if you would like to buy one as a keepsake, do contact either myself, or Ian Austerberry, our warden) and a new floor laid, together with a kitchenette and toilet facilities – and of course – running water! Although it will look a little different, my hope and prayer is that this building can then be used regularly and be a real hub and focus for the community. I will keep you all posted about how it is all going. I do appreciate that any change is difficult, but this will ensure our future for many years to come, and will support my secret desire that our churches should be hubs of welcome and hospitality for all in our communities, whether we have faith or not. I am looking forward to seeing how this all evolves.

With hope, and my continued thoughts and prayers, and beware Christmas is just around the corner!

ROB ROBERTS MP
Member of Parliament for Delyn

Please contact me with any issues you would like to raise

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THE THOMAS PENNANT SOCIETY

(Glyn Jones)

UNVEILING OF BYCHTON HALL
SIGN - 17TH JULY 2021

The Society celebrated its first open meeting for approximately 2 years when ceremoniously unveiling a commemorative sign identifying and effectively promoting Bychton Hall where the Pennant family resided before taking up residence in Downing Hall.

Bychton has long since been demolished and to all intents and purposes has disappeared without trace. It was important for the Society to be putting on record where precisely this important property was situated and to be able to share this information more widely with other interested parties.

An invited guest list was drawn up limited to 30 in accordance with the Covid19 restrictions and we were pleased to have a full complement attending on the day, coming from both this locality and further afield. The weather was glorious and this, combined with the greenery of the Rhewl countryside made this a very pleasant occasion for us all.



L-R Dr Goronwy Wynne (president Thomas Pennant Society), Dr Eiddwen Jones (vice president) Norman Closs Parry (chairman)

Our Chair, Norman Closs-Parry opened the proceedings by warmly welcoming everyone and thanking them for turning out in such a good number. He gave the background to the purpose and creation of the signage and spoke generally of the aspirations of the Society "after Covid". He entertained his audience with a variety of anecdotes and then introduced Dr Eiddwen Jones by referring to their working relationship when both were actively involved in education.



Professor Mari Ann Constantine (Aberystwyth) and Dr Eiddwen Jones, both vice presidents of the Society

Dr Jones is a Vice President of the Thomas Pennant Society and had graciously accepted our invitation to unveil the plaque which incidentally had been designed and crafted by our good friend Gwyn Williams, Hafod Elwy whose rural skills, honed during his retirement, were plain for all to see. Dr Jones regaled us with stories of her very happy childhood living in one of the cottages in the grounds of Bychton, the locality and the works of Thomas Pennant seemingly knows no bounds! This was clearly a heartfelt address relating to a much-favoured time in Eiddwen's early life and we were all very pleased to be sharing her vivid recollections so eloquently delivered.

Dr Jones duly unveiled the signage to the customary round of applause and in closing her address she encouraged those interested in a closer examination of the actual site to accompany her after the proceedings when she would be able to identify where various facilities would have stood.



Ann Williams of Mostyn who presented flowers to Dr Eiddwen Jones

Following the unveiling, Ann Williams, one of our longest serving members and a loyal supporter of the Association was pleased to present Dr Jones with a vase of beautiful flowers.

Norman Closs Parry invited our long-standing President, Dr Goronwy Wynne who is very much active in the affairs of the Association, to propose the Vote of Thanks.

Dr Wynne thanked Dr Jones for sharing her interesting story leading in to the unveiling and he then thanked all those



Gwyn Williams of Denbigh who designed the sign

who had taken part during the afternoon; he thanked the officers for the preparation work undertaken prior to the event and to all our guests for their support of the Thomas Pennant Association.

In bringing the proceedings to a close, Dr Goronwy Wynne was particularly pleased to warmly congratulate Marie Anne Constantine of Aberystwyth University, a very special friend, and a regular supporter of our Association, on her newly awarded professorship.

This was our first "break-out", as an Association following the onset of Covid19 and slowly but surely our activities will increase as circumstances permit. We had a very pleasant afternoon "in the countryside"; we further embedded Thomas Pennant's links to his locality, and we had the good fortune to meet and greet many friends and acquaintances who we may not have seen for many months – in short, an enjoyable and successful day in so many different ways.



Dr Paul Evans (vice president), Cllr Merick Davies of Denbighshire Council, Dr Eiddwen Jones and a relation to Eiddwen Jones who remembers where Bychton Hall was, looking at the site

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HANNAH BLYTHYN MS



For this edition of the Five Villages Chronicle I want to thank readers for continuing to play their part in helping to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Your individual and collective actions have meant that the situation here in Wales continues to improve, with more and more aspects of life restarting. I want to take the opportunity to cover some of the most recent changes to the coronavirus situation here in Wales, as well as some of my work as your Member of the Welsh Parliament.

CORONAVIRUS AND VACCINATIONS

In early August the First Minister confirmed that following its regular three-week review of the coronavirus measures in place, the Welsh Government would move Wales to Alert Level Zero from 7 August. This meant that all businesses and venues can reopen with risk assessments in place to demonstrate that they are taking appropriate measures to keep their staff and customers safe. Face coverings must continue to be worn in all indoor public spaces, with the exception of hospitality venues, or if a person has an exemption.

We have only come this far due to the fantastic work of our world leading vaccination programme and the individual

efforts of so many in our communities, to help slow the spread of the virus. I want to again take the opportunity to thank all those key workers and individuals for all they have done and continue to do.

The Welsh Government has also confirmed arrangements for this year's flu vaccination programme, alongside a coronavirus booster campaign. The criteria for the flu jab have been expanded to cover all those over 50 and all secondary school pupils. Letters will soon be sent out by the Chief Medical Officer inviting those who are eligible for the flu vaccination to appointments.

Assessments will be carried out to assess whether or not individuals also meet the criteria for the coronavirus booster jab, which will be rolled out in phases similar to the initial vaccination programme. Betsi Cadwaladr has now started to invite 16-18 year olds to receive their vaccination based on the JCVI advice, and over 12s with medical conditions which could be impacted by the virus should also be invited for vaccinations.

GETTING OUT AND ABOUT

With restrictions easing it has been great to get out and about across the constituency, visiting a range of different community groups and businesses, to hear how they have adapted to safely engage with others once again. I've seen first-hand how businesses and community groups have continued to adapt the way in which they work, so that activities and business can resume, but in a way which is safe for all those involved.

This has included spending time at different places across the constituency, from a walk along the Coastal Path at Talacre, to visiting summer play schemes in Holywell and Flint.

As well as the walk along the coastal path, I went on a short cycle ride with Christine Boston, the Wales Director of

Sustrans, the active travel charity where we chatted about the need to ensure that all our active travel routes are as accessible as possible. Whether that means ensuring the paths can be used by everyone regardless of their ability, or better connecting them between communities and attractions, it's important that we all work together to improve active travel across our corner of the country.

TRANSPORT SURVEY

Last month I launched a transport survey to hear the views and experiences of constituents, and suggestions for how we can improve our transport network. Whether it's for work, leisure, school or shopping, being able to get into town and to and from places impacts on each and every one of us – that's why it's so important to work together to identify solutions that work for people and places here in our corner of the country.

To hear as many different opinions and experiences I have been out and about in different communities, both at street and market stalls, and speaking directly to constituents. I am also looking at the possibility of holding drop-in sessions in towns and villages, so that as many people as possible can get involved and I will ensure that I keep Chronicle readers up to date with any plans, through my social media and directly communicating with constituents.

The survey should take no more than five minutes and can be found on my website – www.HannahBlythyn.cymru – or hard copies can be requested from my office.

REMAINING ON HAND

If there are any issues you would like to raise with me, or you would appreciate hearing my views on a certain topic, then please email me at Hannah.Blythyn@senedd.wales or call 01352 762102.

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hen Rehoboth.) Etholwyd y chwech yn 1980 – y tri o Garmel oedd Norman Closs Parry, Tegwyn Thomas a Tom Williams a'r tri o Rehoboth oedd Geraint Jones, Glyn Owen ac R. Alun Evans.

Y llywydd oedd Norman Closs Parry a oedd wedi ysgrifennu englyn i gofio'r amgylchiad: 40 mlynedd.

Aseiniad i wasanaeth – hyn i'n Tad,

Tŷ, teulu a'n talaeth,

Yn ddim y blynyddoedd aeth,

A hanes yw'r gwahaniaeth.

Cafodd y chwech eu anrhegu â Thystysgrif a Cherdd wedi ei llunio gan Cen Williams o Ynys Môn.

We were able to hold our first service, lead by Rev. Marc Morgan, on the 4th July in Penbryn Chapel. Then on the 18th July, the Rev. Huw Powell-Davies led the service and he congratulated six elders for their contribution for 40 years' service. The three elders of Carmel chapel were Norman Closs Parry, Tegwyn Thomas and Tom Williams and the elders of Penbryn chapel (formerly Rehoboth) ; Geraint Jones, Glyn Owen and R. Alun Evans.

Norman Closs Parry presided the meeting and read the above poem. They were then presented with a framed certificate and also a framed poem written by Cen Williams of Anglesey.

Yn y llun gwelir o'r chwith i'r dde gan gadw pellter. In the photo from left to right: Glyn Owen, Y Parchedig Huw Powell-Davies, Tegwyn Thomas, Norman Closs Parry, Tom Williams, Geraint Jones ac R. Alun Evans.

Dyma drefn y gwasanaethau sydd wedi eu trefnu ar hyn o bryd:

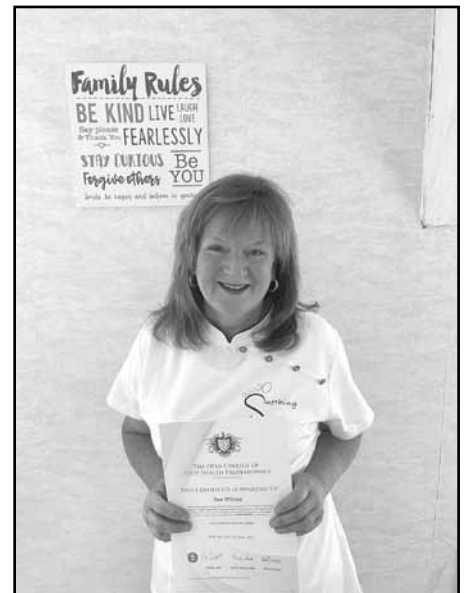
Medi /September	19 - Marc Morgan
Hydref/ October	3 - Norman Closs-Parry
	17 - Huw Powell-Davies
	24 - Marc Morgan
Tachwedd/November	14 - Huw Powell-Davies
	28 - Marc Morgan
Rhagfyr/ December	12 - Huw Powell-Davies
	26 - Marc Morgan

Ar hyn o bryd cynhelir yr holl wasanaethau ym Mhenbryn. Fe rown wybod i chwi os bydd newid neu ychwanegiadau i'r trefniadau.

At present all the services are held at Penbryn chapel, but we will notify members of any changes.

MY STORY (Sue Wilcox)

I would like to thank the 5 Villages Chronicle for letting me share my story with you.



I am a local girl, went to Holywell High School and left in 1981. I started working in Matisse hairdressers in Tower Gardens as a trainee under the watchful eye of Pat. I left there moving on to Woolworths on the record counter working alongside my sister Annette. Leaving Woolworths at the age of 21, I moved into sales where I have been most of my career. In 2018 I was encouraged by a good friend of mine to follow my dream and go back into education. I took a 2-year course on at SMAE Institute to train to become a Foot Health Practitioner. I had first looked into this course 19 years ago but it was not the right time for me. I found getting back into education after 40 years very difficult, but with the support of my family, friends and most of all my two sons Connah and Ben, I finally graduated on the 6th June 2021. I am now sole owner of Suething Soles, qualified to treat corns, calluses, fungal nails, verruca management, cracked heels and diabetic feet, I also cut and file your toe nails all in the comfort of your own home.

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HOLYWELL TOWN NEWS (Collette Lowry)

Hello everyone, hoping you have enjoyed the summer (not so much the rain!) We haven't run a feature for a while so here's a quick update on news from us here at Holywell Town Council.

Holywell Town Council held it's AGM back in May 2021, again via Zoom.

We thank Cllr Lynda Carter for her recent Mayoral term and the community work she has undertaken as Mayor, in addition to operating the eco uniform and town council stall on the Holywell market where she is assisted by various other councillors.

Retiring Mayor Cllr Lynda Carter concluded her official duties by presenting several donations, certificates and COVID memory books to members of the community.

The council were joined by PI Lewis from the Air Cadets and Charlotte Inskip from Toe2Toe who were representatives from the Mayor's chosen charities for the civic year 2020-21 who both received £415.00 from the Mayor's fund.

Certificates were also given to Panton Place residents for their community involvement in the Wales in Bloom Awards (2020), and also certificates were presented for the best dressed Christmas window 2020. (Affordables 1st place, Rosie's Cafe 2nd place).



Residents of Panton Place being presented their award by Cllr Lynda Carter

For those community members who won Community Endeavour Awards last year, Cllr Carter also presented them with a special edition book featuring the stories of all those nominated. Copies of the book can be seen at the council offices and will be available at the museum too. They can also be ordered for personal use.

We now welcome Cllr Ted Palmer as Mayor for the forthcoming civic year of 21/22, and Cllr Andy Trumper as Deputy Mayor.

EVENTS

As restrictions slowly begin to ease we hope to start bringing events back to the community, but currently this is still a waiting game and led by Welsh government announcements. This decision will be reviewed late September and information



Mayor Cllr Ted Palmer and Mayoress Lynn Ross

will be circulated via our social media outlets and noticeboards throughout Holywell and Greenfield. Information can also be found on our town council website: holywell.wales. You can find contact details for all council members and staff on this site too along with recent local and government announcements.



Deputy Mayor, Cllr Andy Trumper

When events do become permitted, Holywell Town Council is pleased to announce that an events grant is available for the community to make use of the new events area facilities. Information will be

made available from the town clerk, Jason Baker in due course.

VOUCHER AND RAFFLE SCHEME

In a bid to encourage local sales and footfall within Holywell, the town council devised 2 schemes to assist business owners. The voucher scheme, where local residents would get £2 to spend for every £1 spent up to a limit of £20.00, saw thousands pumped into the Holywell economy. The scheme was very successful and welcomed by many. A free raffle was also launched in participating shops throughout August with the draw to be held in September, with prizes such as £100 vouchers to spend in The Springfield and The Stamford Gate up for grabs.

WALES IN BLOOM AWARDS 2021

Wales in Bloom judging took place following a 2 year gap on Wednesday 21st July. John Woods (pictured) toured the Holywell and Greenfield communities before a walk through the town centre. Special thanks to Panton Place residents for refreshments, drinks and cake



Cllr Andy Trumper pictured with Beth Mearns from Beauty by Beth

WALES IN BLOOM (SCHOOLS CATEGORY)

Despite the time restraints and regulations regarding COVID-19 this year, all schools achieved marvellous results with

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John Woods, Mayor Ted Palmer and Development Committee Chair, Cllr Ian Hodge

their Eco and gardening work. Wild gardens have been developed, pupils have still been tending to their fruits, vegetables and flowers, and have even grown many from seed. Recycling and upcycling have been key and all pupils have been responsible for keeping their areas litter free. Outdoor learning has been encouraged this year with many core lessons such as maths being incorporated into gardening projects. As a result of all the hard work undertaken by both pupils and staff alike it was decided to award all 4 primary schools with a Wales in Bloom special shield this year which will be presented at the start of the new school year. Congratulations to all!

ACTIVE TRAVEL NETWORK MAP DRAFT - STATUTORY CONSULTATION

As part of the requirements of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013, all local authorities in Wales are required to continuously improve their active travel routes and plan how routes will join up to form networks.

Flintshire County Council are undertaking a 12 week statutory consultation period and have updated the online consultation so people can access the draft map for each of the settlements and leave comments and feedback. The statutory consultation period will run until 1st November 2021 and during this time people can review our draft submission, leave feedback and add comments by visiting <https://flintshire2.commonplace.is/>

If you prefer, you can send your comments via an email to active.travel@flintshire.gov.uk. Alternatively, if you do not have access to the internet, you can call FCC on 01352 701234.

DEFIBRILLATOR INSTALLED IN PEN Y MAES

Holywell Town Council have partnered with the Flint & District Lions to work on installing this new defibrillator in Pen y Maes with the assistance of Fiona from the stores. The council are donating £1,000 to the Lions to fund future maintenance of defibrillators in the area.

5TH JULY -NHS SOCIAL CARE AND FRONTLINE WORKERS' DAY.

On 5th July the Town Crier appeared in town to mark the event which was followed by a brief stop at Panton Place for a 2 minute silence and to hear Mark Davies

from Holywell Band play the Last Post and Reveille. The Community were invited to join in too at 8pm by clapping on their doorsteps and the church bells were rung then too to celebrate 73 years of the NHS.



Martin Fearnley, (HTC Projects & Development Officer), Councillor Ian Hodge, Bryn Jones (Flint & District Lions) and Roy Swinburn (Flint & District Lions)

DAY OF REFLECTION – 23RD MARCH 2021

Thank you to the pupils and teachers of Ysgol Treffynnon who assisted with our Day of Reflection project. They designed some beautiful tags for the community to visit our offices, and write a message to remember loved ones at this time. The tags were attached outside the offices and some members of the community observed a 2 minute silence at 12.00pm The offices were also lit up in the evening in remembrance.

YOUTH COUNCIL

Although we have filled our vacancies for youth councillors, we are always open to welcome enthusiastic individuals aged

16-25 who would be on board with joining a youth council forum to become involved with the town council and community.



Staff and pupils from Ysgol Treffynnon

BLOOD DONORS

The Welsh Blood service visits Holywell 2 or 3 times a year and always have a remarkable turnout. June was particularly successful, with 90 donations collected and 16 brand new donors coming along. The collections team wish to convey their thanks to the community, as Holywell blood donors saved 270 lives or 540 babies by giving blood locally.

GREENFIELD MEMORIAL REFURBISHMENT

The Council has used it's statutory powers and arranged for the completion of restoration works on the Greenfield War Memorial. This involved cleaning of the stone, repainting of the lettering and repointing of all joints. Fortunately, this was completed on time to mark the Royal British Legion's Centenary on 15th May. Wreaths

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were laid by Holy Trinity Church and Holywell Town Council as well as the Legion itself. Members of Holywell and District RBL and Holy Trinity Church were in attendance as well as the Mayor of Holywell, Councillor Lynda Carter, accompanied by Councillor Sue Delaney and Councillor Andy Trumper.



War Memorial Greenfield Gardens

CADETS

As part of a town councillor's role, members can be invited to become representatives on outside bodies. A few Holywell Town Council members have now joined the Civil Committee of the Holywell Air Cadets as the officers of the Civil Committee. Cllr Ian Hodge has become Chairman, Cllr Andy Trumper Treasurer and Cllr Sue Delaney Secretary.

Following this vein, every year the council selects 2 cadets to assist the Mayor with his civic duties from either the Army or the Air cadets on alternate years. The Honour Air cadets for this year are CWO Lara Martin and CPL Finn Fearon.

FFLECSI BUS SERVICE

Fflecsi is a new way to travel around West Flintshire and to use the service you need to book in advance. There are three main booking options - app, online or call 0300 234 0300, where they will even help you plan a journey. Fflecsi Travel offers:

- Operational from 9.15am until 6pm, Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm Saturdays, the service is ideal for getting to work, shopping, meeting with friends, appointments, school or connecting with other buses or trains.

- You can choose where to be picked up from or dropped off as the bus doesn't run to a fixed timetable or route. However, the route varies based on who else has booked at similar times or destinations.

- You can book by app (which also allows you to track your bus) on the website and by phone on 0300 234 0300.

- There are a number of ways to pay: on-board with cash, £2.50 per journey for adults, £1.50 for children. MyTravel Pass also accepted whilst concessionary card holders travel for free.

The existing Flintshire "Go Travel" Green bus will remain in operation so that passengers can easily recognise it.

- The managed booking system means that Fflecsi bus passengers are guaranteed a seat, which helps with social distancing measures.

ROWLANDS PHARMACY

Do you usually go to your doctor for advice or prescription medication?

Did you know you can visit our pharmacist without an appointment for the same results? Please ask about the NHS Common Ailments scheme which provides over-the-counter and prescription medicines free of charge for a specific range of common ailments!

If you suffer with any of the following issues then pop in and ask to speak to the pharmacist. He will quickly provide you with on the spot advice and treatments free of charge, without the need to book a doctor's appointment!

The 26 ailments covered by the Common Ailments Scheme are: acne, athlete's foot, back pain, chickenpox, cold sores, colic, conjunctivitis, constipation, diarrhoea, dry eyes, dermatitis, haemorrhoids, hay fever, head lice, indigestion, ingrowing toenails, ringworm, mouth ulcers, nappy rash, oral thrush, scabies, sore throat/tonsillitis, teething, threadworms, vaginal thrush, and verrucae.

SCHOOL UNIFORM ECO SCHEME

Head Teacher Peter Davies from Ysgol Maes y Felin, is pictured here with Cllrs Lynda Carter and Ian Hodge, being presented with a cheque for £100.00, with proceeds from the Town Council's uniform and eco stall. This scheme collects used or new uniforms from the community and makes it available at stalls held at selected dates throughout the year. These uniforms

can be acquired either for free or by making a small donation.

The council also occasionally holds an information stand at Holywell market where this is an opportunity to meet councillors and submit queries or concerns.



Head Teacher Peter Davies from Ysgol Maes y Felin

SCULPTOR/DESIGNER REQUIRED

LOCAL artists or sculptors required to quote for receptacles to act as recycling bins, to be placed in local areas such as the coastal path and parks. Quotes required for single or multiple units. May be designed/produced from any material other than plastic such as wood/metal for example. Must be lockable, but easy to access for emptying. (please note images are not our own and are for reference only).

NATWEST VAN

A reminder that the mobile Natwest van still visits Holywell and can be found at Tesco carpark at around 10.30 – 12.00 every Wednesday morning.

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CARMEL VILLAGE HALL



(Richard Dolphin)

COVID regulations have again decreased, and the Village Hall were able to hold their first fundraiser – Afternoon Tea – held in August. A great success, really well attended, 60 plus adults, children and 4 babies. Age range of just 6 days to, shall we say, those who have celebrated many birthdays. Ten different types of home baked cakes, everyone had a good time, and a good feast too.

Our well-loved Hall Coffee Morning restarted on Thursday, 9th September, 10 am until noon. As they used to be, the Coffee Mornings will be held on the second Thursday of each month. The Coffee Mornings are well supported by the community and vary in content from month-to-month. The Hall is indebted to the 'Events Team' – Richard P, Josie, Evelyn, Melanie, and Chris. It's great to be back; drawing the raffle, serving on the tables, and enjoying the company.

14th October Coffee Morning, 10am
11th November Coffee Morning, 10am
9th December Christmas Coffee Morning – Festive Theme, 10am

Bingo coming soon, lookout for the Hall banner and check on the Carmel Village Hall Facebook page.

August used to be a fallow month for the Hall, however this year it's been brilliant to welcome Delyn Gymnastics Summer Camp - held twice weekly, Moo

Music which is a baby and toddler group who meet weekly on Tuesdays between 9am – 2pm. Laughter Tots which is another baby & toddler group hosted a 'Summer Special Messy Play'. Both of these baby groups, offer something different, and have their own Facebook Pages – check them out. The Church Group and Papercraft also met throughout August and of course the Gardening Club held their Club Show. Tai-Chi also meet through August every Friday 2-4pm. Slimming World also met and meet every Saturday morning 8am until noon.



New groups starting in September include The Rainbows, starting on Wednesday 8th September, 4:45pm and will meet every Wednesday. Laughter Tots as mentioned above, will be starting their weekly sessions on Tuesday 7th September, 9am – 1pm, along with Moo Music who meet every Wednesday 9am – 2pm. The Women's Institute restart their monthly sessions on Thursday 9th September, 7pm – 9:30pm.

Craft Group (knit and Knatter) meet every Tuesday afternoon 1.30 – 4pm, get in touch more knitters, Crochet, sewing or just bring your own individual craft – more Crafters wanted.

Nineteen groups plus the Community Council (when allowed) now attend the Hall and is busier than ever. The pandemic and the absence of groups and meeting places has reiterated the importance of the old, loved Hall, and we thank all groups and

their attendees for their support.

Yoga now has Julie as the Leader and meet every Wednesday 7:30 – 8:30pm – don't forget to bring your mat – bottle of water optional!


The Hall is elated that the Girl Guides, led by Ruth, are back at the Hall every Wednesday, 6 – 7:15pm. We are so sorry we have not been able to fit The Brownies in. Cubs and Scouts, led by Russ, are stalwarts of the Hall, meeting on Monday & Tuesday evenings. Beavers are a fairly new popular group attending the Hall and meet every Thursday 6:30 – 7:30pm.


If you have children who want to dance, Mondays 5 – 6pm, come and join Dancing Gemz or Irish Dancing on a Friday evening, 5 – 7:30pm.

As you can see from the information given, all age groups are catered for. There are lots of activities to join in with and if you would like more information, please contact me (Richard D) via the Carmel Village Hall Facebook Page, ring Chris on 01352 713415, or email carmelvhhbookings@gmail.com



Thanks: its only right and proper that this column salutes and acknowledges three Trustees who have recently retired; Richard & Josie Polden and Evelyn Griffiths. The good news is all three leads on our events and that remains unchanged. So, roll on the new events calendar and activities. The Hall now has 8 Trustees plus a new Treasurer. As ever the Hall evolves with changing times, 1862 and still going strong.







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