



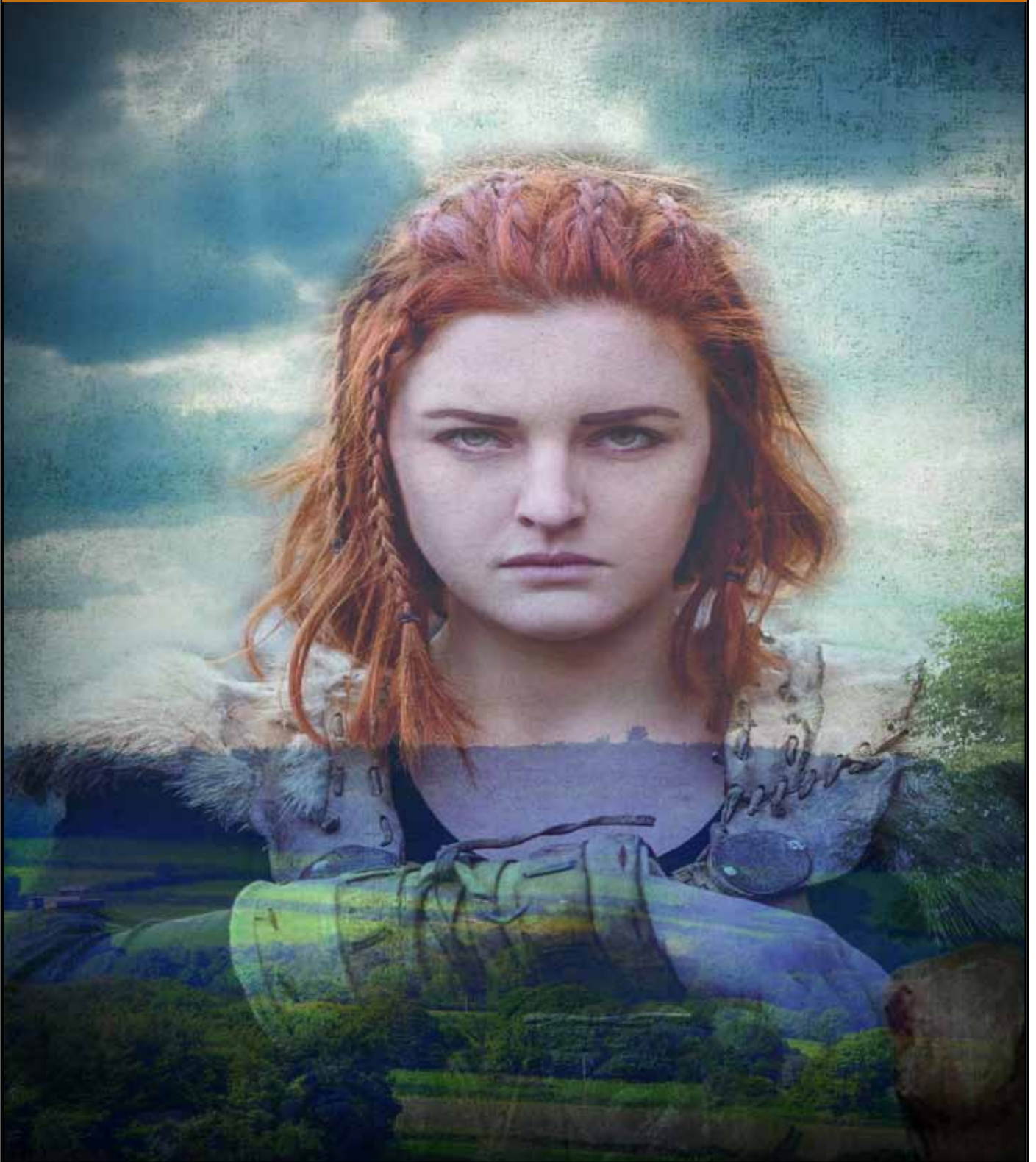
THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE

CRONICL Y PUM PENTREF

ISSUE NO. 141
RHIFYN 141

SPRING (MARCH) 2022
GWANWYN (MAWRTH) 2022

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EDITORIAL (Terry Ireland)

On the 6th February 1952 a young woman was thrust unexpectedly into the world arena when the sudden death of her father, King George VI, was broadcast to the world by the BBC. It is certain that few monarchs have ever reigned for 70 years and regardless of your political views everyone seems so impressed and proud of the way in which Queen Elizabeth II has served the United Kingdom. To celebrate this remarkable anniversary, we have been granted a Public Holiday of four days from 2nd June until the 5th June 2022. It is a time for celebration and parties.

Traditionally, such occasions have been marked by street parties when neighbours have gathered to hoist flags and bunting, erected awnings, gazebos, even marquees, to cope with our temperamental climate. Many of us on holiday on Mediterranean shores will have noticed and been intrigued by the way in which Spanish, Italian, Greek and French people have a rich celebratory life of festivals and public parties with a real sense of community. If there was ever a time to celebrate with neighbours and friends this is it, for it will be a real social antidote against the isolation and pain of the Covid pandemic. We need music on the streets, feasting, singing and dancing. It is planned to light 1500 beacons throughout the United Kingdom to mark this unique and special occasion. Happily, we have ample time to meet up with neighbours to plan and create this special community social occasion.

The 5th June 2022 also coincides with the date of The Big Lunch, an idea floated by the Eden Project in Cornwall as an annual celebration for neighbours and communities, taking place in gardens, parks and streets. If you Google The Big Lunch, you can get loads of ideas. Last year 8.5 million people had lunch together and hopefully this year will see a strong reinforcement of this joyful tradition. We would like to appeal to all the people of our Five Villages to start to plan creative community celebrations for gardens, fields, parks, streets and village greens with tables, chairs, flags, bunting and music and dancing involving people of all ages. A huge picture frame made from white painted door framing seems to attract people to hold it up and pose for hilarious group photos. It is quite remarkable how this draws out even the most shy person.

Good luck to us all with the weather. Never mind the weather as long as we are all together!

COVER PICTURE

This image reflects how Boudica might have looked. Read about a new book which makes a connection to this area. See page 9.

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Whitford CP School, Whitford, Holywell, CH8 9AN
Strand Walk, Bank Place, Holywell, CH8 7AN
Brynford Primary School, Brynford, Holywell, CH8 8AD
Scott the Jewellers, 46 High Street, Holywell, CH8 7LH
Holywell Golf Club, Brynford, Holywell, CH8 8LQ
Ysgol Treffynnon, Pen y Maes Road, Holywell, CH8 7EN
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Pen y Maes Stores, 5-7 Bryn y Gwynt, Pen y Maes, Holywell, CH8 7BX
Tesco, Bank Place, Holywell, CH8 7TJ
Ysgol Gwenfrwdd, Whitford Street, Holywell, CH8 7NJ
Toe 2 Toe Fitness, North Road, Holywell, CH8 7TQ
Please advise editor@5villages.org.uk if there are any we have missed!



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

POLICE REPORT TO COUNCIL:

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

Carmel - 2 x Criminal Damage / 4 x Violence / 1 x Anti-social behaviour / 1 x Vehicle crime / 1 x Theft / 1 x Burglary / 1 x Other crime

Gorsedd - 1 x Vehicle crime.

Lloc - 2 x Violence

Pantasaph - 1 x Criminal damage

Whitford - No crimes reported

**SPEEDING CONCERNS – A5026
ROAD:**

Following complaints to Councillors, including on local Facebook pages, in relation to speeding traffic in the area between (Holway Garage to Celyn Bends); the North Wales Police Go Safe Team will visit the area on more frequent occasions, including the evenings.

DOG FOULING:

Flintshire County Council's 'Public Space Protection Order' (PSPO) covers the following: Excludes dogs from: Equipped children's play areas; The playing areas of marked sports pitches and formal recreation areas; School grounds; Requires dogs to be kept on leads - within cemeteries; Requires dog owners to remove dog

waste - This applies to any land which is open to air and to which the public have access; Requires dog owners to put their dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer; This will apply to any public land where a dog is considered to be out of control or causing alarm and distress; Requires dog owners to have a means on their person to collect dog waste from the ground if asked by an authorised officer.

Penalty on breach of PSPO: Any persons found guilty of breaching the order are liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1,000. But breach of any of the conditions above would lead to the issuing of a fixed penalty notice of £75.00 by an authorised officer.

Complaints should be made to Flintshire County Council, either on-line at www.flintshire.gov.uk or telephone: 01352 701234

**ADOPTION OF PANTASAPH RED K6
PHONE BOX:**



Red Phone box in Pantasaph

The Community Council have formally adopted the Red Phone Box in the Village of Pantasaph. At this time, the adoption of the Red phone box in Whitford, will be further considered at a later date. Whilst the change of use for the phone box in Pantasaph is subject to both Planning and Conservation approval, if granted, a defibrillator will be installed.

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL BUDGET –
2022 / 2023:**

Members agreed the following: To increase the precept for the forthcoming financial year to £55,000.00 – an increase of £2,500.00. The Band D property charge will be £47.85, an increase to the current charge of £2.91p a year (6.48% = 24 / 25p a month increase) – per Band D household.

The Council have ear-marked funds for the following projects: Speed activated signage in Pantasaph – £11,000 / Provisional (subject to agreement) Community Asset Transfer of Land adjacent to Ysgol Bro Carmel – estimate £10,000 – includes legal fees / Environmental budget £5,000 / Upgrade to Carmel & Whitford Play areas £10,000 / Active Travel – bench seats £2,500 / Pantasaph Red Phone Box £2,000 to £3,000 Public footpath improvements, at an approximate cost of £30,000.00 to £35,000.00.

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

(1) Entrance to MacDonald's on the A5026 – a high sided vehicle appears to have knocked into the metal barrier, whereby the mesh fence is damaged, which could move into the road and catch vehicles (2) Three individual pot holes, one very, very large, one very large and one large, on Carmel Road - outside Skylark House (3) A review of the east-bound Carmel Road from property named Bryn Ceris to the A5026 is required due to cracking, white line

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damage / pot holes (photograph provided) (4) Hedging and overgrowth on Carmel Road, opposite Windsor Drive. Properties requiring a notice are located on Park Crescent. This hedging is approximately 50 yards long and is up to 50% overhanging onto the footway (photograph provided) (5) Request for road sweeper between Carmel Village Hall to the area of Mwdwl-eithin Farm (6) A5026 Road in Lloc – The grass verge along the properties to the right and left of the former Police Station. Only one section of the grass verge is cut whereby apparently the other section is not (7) A5026 Road – Passing Lloc Garage travelling downhill towards Celyn bends during heavy rain flash flooding occurs. Possibly the gully near a property named The Haven requires clearing (8) Carmel Road, Carmel. Could the road sweeper be arranged to clear the area; from the children's play area to Ffordd Neuadd road. Complaint that the pavement is slippery due to fallen leaves (9) Request for road sweeping in area between Mwdwl-eithin Farm heading up hill towards Pantasaph (10) Request for road sweeping from the children's play area to Ffordd Neuadd Road, Carmel. Pavement is slippery due to fallen leaves (11) Damaged road sign at junction of Monastery Road, Pantasaph – with Gorsedd and Babel Roads (Photograph provided) (12) A5026 Road – Lloc area travelling through Celyn bends towards Holway. The branches from the last hedge cutting have blown and gathered in the area where the pavement was cleared of undergrowth, which has resulted in a reduced width.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

The Community Council Members provide their observations to the Flintshire Planning Authority on all planning applications within their Community. Full details of the observations made, can be viewed in the Minutes of each Council meeting, which are displayed on the Council web site, or from the Clerk – as per details below:

(1) Application number: 063562 – for Change of use of former chapel as a holiday let property, at Pen Llwyn Chapel, Penfforddilan, Lloc (2) Application number: 063588 – for the erection of Single storey extensions, at The Meadows, Tan Y Lloc Lane, Lloc (3) Application number: 063761 - for Listed Building Application - Replacement of modern bathroom window with traditional side hung casement and replacement of broken roof light with similar, at 2 Gelli Fawr, Gelli Road, Pen Yr Allt, Trelogan (4) Application number: 063720, for the conversion of field to a glamping site with 7 glamping pods, 4 log cabins, plus a log cabin for the site Manager, at land adjoining The Coach House, Monastery Road, Pantasaph (5) Application number: 063816 - Demolition of garage and conservatory - Proposed front

porch/canopy, single storey side and rear extensions, new replacement roof with loft conversion & side bathroom dormer - Ridge height to match the existing ridge height, at Arnside, Gorsedd. (6) Application number: 063837 - Demolition of conservatory replaced with two storey extension, at Lloc Mill, Lloc (7) Application number: 063899 – for a 2 storey side extension and first floor extension to existing dwelling house (Revised scheme following approval of application number: 062879 on the 29th April 2021), at Pen Y Gelli Fawr, Lloc (8) Application number: 063879 – for erection of a front entrance porch, extension at rear & associated internal alterations, at Summer Breeze, Gorsedd (9) Application number: 063905 – for formation of new access and alterations to existing agricultural building (renewal of 052688), at Gelli Farm, Gelli Road, Trelogan.

PLANNING DECISIONS:

The following planning decisions have been received from Flintshire County Council: (1) Application number: 063358 - for proposed store for agricultural machinery, animal feed & fodder, at Bryn Hedydd Farm, Llyn Helyg, Lloc. Approved (2) Application number: 063316 - for proposed first floor extension, at Haulfryn, 13, Mertyn Lane, Carmel. Approved (3) Application number: 063437 – for construction of a Menage for private use, at Plas Yn Gerddi Farm, Lloc. Approved (4) Application number: 063648 – for approval of details reserved by condition 2, at 12 Park Avenue, Carmel. Approved (5) Application number: 063436 – for new standalone building at Ysgol Bro Carmel. Approved (6) Application number: 063519 – for loft conversion etc., at 23 Mertyn Lane, Carmel. Approved (7) Application number: 063485 – for approval of details

reserved etc., at Waen Y Lloc, Pen Ffordd Llan. Approved (8) Application number: 063790 – for demolition of conservatory etc., at 14 Ffordd Pentre, Carmel. Approved
APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND DONATIONS:

The Community Council have granted the following financial assistance since the last edition of the *Five Villages Chronicle*: £500.00 - Holywell Leisure Centre (towards running costs) / £250.00 - Carmel Papercraft Group (towards running costs) / £350.00 - 1st Carmel Scout group (towards running costs) / £250.00 - Wales Air Ambulance (Annual grant) / £1,000.00 - Five Villages Chronicle (Annual grant) / £100.00 - Urdd Cymru (Annual grant) / £200.00 - Hope House (Children's Hospice) (Annual grant)

R. Phillip Parry

Clerk & Financial Officer to Whitford Community Council

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YSGOL GWENFFRWD

(Alys Williams)

WHAT A SUCCESSFUL START TO THE NEW YEAR!

Following our Eco Schools assessment in January, we are delighted to announce that our Eco Schools Green Flag Platinum status has been renewed. The report drew particular attention to the fantastic work carried out by our Year 3 and 4 pupils who have worked tirelessly to improve habitats on the school ground, creating bird feeders and conducting research on their impact in attracting more birds to our school garden. Despite the challenges posed by COVID, namely being unable to hold our Eco Committee meetings as we would have done conventionally, our Eco work continues to be a significant focus within our classrooms.

We can now also proudly announce that we are World Record holders here at Ysgol Gwenffrwd! As part of the Urdd's centenary celebrations, we, along with thousands of children across Wales participated in the Urdd's attempt at breaking the World Record for the most videos of the same song being uploaded on to Facebook and Twitter. It was fantastic to know that our performance of 'Hei Mistar Urdd' had been part of such a significant achievement.

Here at Ysgol Gwenffrwd, developing both the play and learning opportunities for our pupils is paramount. We were extremely pleased to receive the news that our application for a Welsh Government Play

Opportunities Grant had been successful. This will enable us to develop our outdoor space and play opportunities for our Key Stage 2 pupils (following our development of our Foundation Phase area last year). A 'Shipwrecked' workshop by Natural Resources Wales inspired us with our planning for a large shed with equipment for den building, developing survival skills, orienteering and team building games.

Following our whole school 'Journeys' topic term, it has been wonderful to see the different trails taken by each class lead by our pupils. Below is a sample of the work that Key Stage 2 have been busy with, focusing on transport and the key figures in the industry in Year 5 & 6 and Year 3 & 4 following the journey of Mr Urdd around Wales.

HENRY FORD BIOGRAPHY

Henry Ford (1863-1947), eminent pioneer and innovator is well known for developing production lines and making cars affordable for the average person.

Early years:



Henry was born on the 30th of July 1863 on a farm in Michigan. He was one of eight children. As a child, he would take

things apart to see how they worked and put them back together again. If he didn't have the tools to do that, he would make them. When Henry turned 15 his dad bought a pocket watch for Henry which he took apart. He was destined to become an engineer. Interestingly Henry worked at the farm in the summer and went to school in the winter. Despite the fact that his dad wanted him to work on the farm, Henry had a strong desire to do engineering.

Early career:



His first job was an apprentice mechanic but subsequently he went to work for Thomas Edison's Edison Illumination Company, the creator of the light bulb. His job was keeping the streetlights on in the city of Detroit. Henry and Thomas became life-long friends. As time went on Henry realised that he had a strong interest in mechanics. Seeing the curiosity in Henry's mind, Thomas encouraged him to go and follow his dreams of being an engineer. Henry went to work in the automobile industry for a company that

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made automobiles for wealthy people where he learnt a lot about mechanics and engines. In 1896 Ford built his first car, in a small shed behind his home. It was called the quadricycle. It had four bicycle wheels and instead of a steering wheel it had a steering lever. It was a one-seater.

Biggest Achievement:



In 1903 Henry founded the Ford company. He became best known for pioneering affordable cars and developing the first continuous production line. The most successful model was the Ford Model T. Henry kept his prices low by giving people less choice because all of his cars were black. They were around \$850. Henry Ford elevated people's way of living as people could travel to places they had never been to before. People called him the pioneer of welfare because he raised the daily wage for his workers and reduced the working day from 9 hours to 8 hours. He was a very humble man who never forgot about his early childhood when he was not wealthy. He always thought about the average person.

Later life:



In 1945 Ford handed over the responsibilities for the Ford Motor Company to his grandson who was called Henry Ford too. On April 7th, 1947, Henry passed away at the age of 83 from Cerebral hemorrhage at his home in Dearborn. When he died, he donated lots of his money to the Henry Ford Foundation supporting charities.

His influence today:

He has influenced the world today in many ways. The fact that he developed the continuous production line means that manufacturing industry can mass produce items from cars to chocolate bars!

By Meadow Langley and Lexi Warburton

Year 3 and 4 have been busy "travelling" through parts of North Wales. They gathered some facts about Bala in Gwynedd and displayed these in an infographic to develop their digital skills.



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LOVELIEST OF TREES (Norman Closs-Parry)

1983 was a big year for Flintshire, and our area in particular...It was at the Anglesey National Eisteddfod that two brothers from Penryffordd won two of the major literary prizes - Tudor Wilson Evans won the literary medal with his novel *Y Pabi Coch* [The Red Poppy] and Einion, his brother won the bardic chair for his ode in strict metre [cynghanedd] - Einion also won the 'Cywydd Unodl Union' - again in cynghanedd for his poignant poem about Ennis.



A few months earlier, Einion and Betty's daughter had taken her own life...Tudor her uncle...dedicated his victory as Prif Lenor - Chief Author - to Ennis' memory. Einion won the prestigious bardic chair with a soul-searching grief full of Welsh Poetry - The title of the ode - *Ynys* [Island]. The first line of "Dyma Gariad" [Here is Love - Einion's Non de plume]

"Crindir yw ynys hiraeth" [The island of hiraeth is barren] (hiraeth - longing)

A few months after the events, full of trepidation, I made contact with Einion - Y Prifardd Einion. I took courage in both hands and asked him to have a critical look at some of the poems I had been writing... he became my mentor and my friend.

Every Sunday evening for the next couple of years I used to go to 'Meddfod' [The place of sweetness] his home in Penryffordd. Before the official lesson would start, we swapped stories of our respective week...he the National Chair Poetry Winner lauded and sought for talk and quote, I a science advisor - at home - everywhere and at home nowhere...but experiencing all the villages, lanes, nooks and crannies of Clwyd as it was then. Bit by bit I came to know Einion, his roots and beliefs... Suffice to say here, the first thing I learnt about him was that Penryffordd, Picton, Ffynnongroyw - a triangle of land was his square mile - he was Flintshire Welsh through and through - and he was a man of linguistic parts! When I went to Meddfod

first I expected a typical "Welsh" speaking saturated in the chapel/ church tradition poet - full of idioms and quotes from Bible, Hymn Book, Welsh verse and song. I did get that side of him - the ¾ collier ¼ librarian ...'Penryfforddite'...but he was master of the Flintshire dialect - and soon I came to realise he could hold his own in the coal face- pit head banter! What shocked me more than anything was that his favourite poetry, the poetry that switched him on soon after becoming a Bevin boy was - wait for it - A SHROPSHIRE LAD by A.E. Housman. I used to lie back in the chair when he recited some of the lyrics...the evening lesson in 'cynghanedd' was becoming far far more, not just in understanding about Einion but an introduction into the nature of poetry. The introduction to a scholar poet who happened to be Kennedy Professor of Latin at Cambridge...a strange dichotomy of an icy cold man, clinical classical analyst, but also a dungeon deep soul and master of feeling of the world of an ordinary human being... nature Housman - a "minor" yes, a great minor poet! I did now understand why Einion kept reciting:

'Tis spring; come out to ramble
The hilly breaks around,
For under thorn and bramble
About the hollow ground
The primroses are found.

And there's the windflowers chilly
With all the winds at play.
And there's the Lenten lily
That has not long to stay
And dies on Easter day.

And since till girls go maying
You find the primrose still,
And find the windflower playing
With every wind at will,
But not the daffodil.

Bring baskets now, and sally
Upon the spring's away,
And bear from hill and valley
The daffodil away
That dies on Easter day.

Invariably a session such as the one quoted would not be complete without Einion's favourite -

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
is hung with bloom along the bough,
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.

Now, of my three score years and ten,
Twenty will not come again
And take from seventy springs a score,
It only leaves me fifty more.

And since to look at things in bloom,
Fifty springs are little room,
About the woodlands I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow.

In Fachwen in the bookcase, bottom right-hand shelf - a very well-thumbed book "Country Verse"! The dust jacket is a spring blue sky as background to colour shots of Cherry blossom!

Editor of this treasured anthology - the late great Rev R.S Thomas - Aberdaron - Nobel nominee for Literature himself he included and praised probably the greatest of the English - Welsh poets of the last half of the 19th Century, "Loveliest of trees, the cherry now..."

If I say or write more, I will spoil it for someone - I do hope we'll have "Cherry now time..." and time to dwell on these instead of Coronavirus all the time.

Bibliography
A.E Housman. Collected Poems and Selected Prose
R.S Thomas. Country Verse
Einion Evans. *Cerddi'r Ynys*.
Einion Evans. *Tri Chwarter Colier*
Einion Evans. *Nearly a Miner*



THE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY CLWYD GROUP

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

Meetings are now held at the Stamford Gate Hotel, Holywell (opposite the Shell Garage), on the third Tuesday evening of the month at 7.30pm start of talk. Doors open from 7pm for plant sales and raffle tickets.

Tuesday 26 April, Growing and Using Medicinal Herbs by Cassie Sherriff.

Sunday 22 May, PLANT FAIR, 10.30am to 1.30pm.

Stamford Gate Hotel, Holywell, CH8 7SJ.

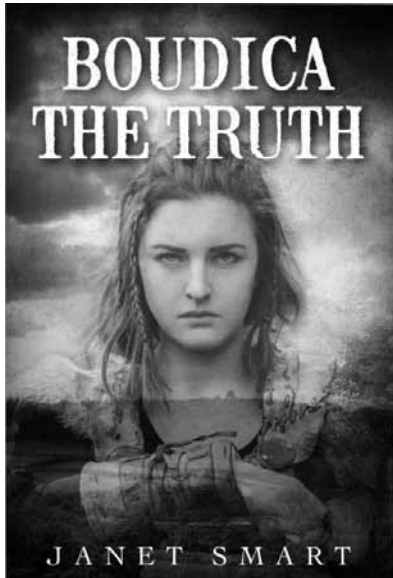
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GROUND BREAKING NEWS FOR THE FIVE VILLAGES



Many of you may recognise the landmark behind the stern young woman in the picture. It is, of course, Coed y Garreg outside Whitford Village. You may have climbed this hill many times and even admired the tall tower at its summit, a Roman Pharos dating back nearly two thousand years. But, little did you know that all this time, you could have been walking upon the site of one of the most significant battles in the history of these isles.

For generations, locals have told tales of Queen Boudica and the Celtic Britons fighting the Roman army in Flintshire. But, unfortunately, the legend of this great battle, a momentous last stand to decide the fate of ancient Britain, was all but lost in time, survived only by whispers across the meadows. But now that legend is revived. Moreover, it turns out that this may be more than just a local legend; indeed, I believe it has been true all along.

My book, *Boudica The Truth*, is the conclusion of a five-year struggle to uncover the mystery that surrounds this great battle and its location. The whereabouts of this deadly conflict have never been conclusively decided upon or proven. However, I believe that Flintshire has been overlooked, and I make the case that this area is the most likely location of the battle and contains the most supporting evidence for the fact.

The Britons, led by Queen Boudica in AD60, rose in rebellion against the occupying forces of the Roman Empire. They laid waste to the Roman settlements of Colchester, St Albans and Londinium before making their last stand against the remainder of the Roman army left in Britain. To win was to rid the people of this oppressive rule, and indeed this battle was to decide the future of our British ancestors who were fighting for their very existence and right to live as free people. Sadly, they were defeated. As a result, our country and its Celtic traditions were primarily

swept away into Romanisation, and much of our ancient culture was lost. However, in Wales, we can be proud that the language and heritage of these ancient people are preserved here more than anywhere else on these Islands.

Previously, many commentators have asserted that this defining battle took place on Watling Street, in England's Midlands. However, there is no evidence in support of this theory. In contrast, there are simply too many things here in Flintshire that cannot be easily explained without a big answer. However, clues are strewn across the landscape, pointing towards the truth. For example, the Maen Achwyfan cross at Penrallt Whitford is over one thousand years old and long fabled as a battle marker of a great slaughter because many bones of dead men and animals have been found over the centuries near it. A rare golden torque (necklace) found in 1816. A mysterious gravestone that now stands inside Whitford church are just some of the clues.

Amongst other discoveries in my book, my research has led me to believe that Boudica may have been a Welsh Princess from Flintshire. She was, therefore, returning home when the Britons made their last stand. We are so blessed to live in such a beautiful part of the country, steeped in history. Without the folklore and the hard work of local historians from antiquity, the legend may have been lost forever. Perhaps now we have uncovered the truth.

BOUDICA THE TRUTH is available at Brown dog Books, Amazon and other booksellers.
(Janet Smart, Carmel, 2022)

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COUNCILLOR CHRIS DOLPHIN



*New steps up into Crecas Woods.
This has been a big job!*

Hello everyone, Sut mae pethau:

A Saturday morning in February, Rosetta is just back from the "Park Run" in Holywell, a Marshall in Greenfield. I have checked Carmel Village Hall, all in good order. My broken ribs have now just about recovered, but it's too windy to litter pick.

COUNCIL APPRENTICESHIPS:

Each year the County Council welcomes a number of new Flintshire Trainees across a wide range of jobs, such as business, IT, construction trades, vehicle maintenance and mechanics. Our present Chair of the Whitford Community Council on leaving school was a business trainee, however with the opportunities that arose, he went to university and is now a Social Worker in Denbighshire. The apprenticeship scheme is a best practice and leader in its approach with a high percentage of success in a workplace environment.

The Council will be recruiting for its 2022 intake during the Spring. Adverts will be out in mid-March. Check the County online Apprenticeship Hub now.

ENVIRONMENT:

A mild winter, let's hope the spring

and summer will see the newly planted wildflowers within our Five Villages bloom successfully. Ash trees are still being removed due to Ash dieback disease which is a national problem. However, you may have noticed a tremendous amount of work has taken place in Carmel woods. This wood is mainly single aged Beech and needs some diversity. More than 400 trees have been planted, a mix of smaller growing trees like Hazel, Rowan, Birch, Maple, and Crab Apple. The newly laid footway from last year has now had a handrail added, as its quite a steep path. Underplanting will take place occasionally as funding becomes available.

ECONOMY:

The council can never escape the need for funding any work, the tree and wildflower planting already mentioned, plus other environmental needs as well as funding for any council delivered service. Roads, recycling, streetlights, play areas, council properties, much more, and of course the big budget items of funding for schools and social services which are massively diverse. Council tax bills will soon be with us, and I pay it too, add this and other expenses such as utility bills and life is more expensive. The County Council is at a huge disadvantage compared to nearly all local authorities in Wales. Flintshire is prosperous, therefore when it comes to funding for council tax, the formula used places us 19th out of 21. What does it mean? Well, for example, Denbighshire is 4th out of 21, considered to be far less prosperous than Flintshire, resulting in every Denbighshire resident being £332 better off than us. Only Monmouth, Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff receive less funding than Flintshire.

The annual UK Competitiveness Index places Flintshire 149th out of 362 counties, a fall of 7 places since 2020. Flintshire has consistently ranked the third highest in Wales after Cardiff and Monmouthshire.

North Wales is ranked 39 out of 47 most competitive region in the UK.

RECYCLING / BULKY WASTE:

Locally we have the best recycling centre in the county, you now need to show proof of address when visiting, and this is partly due to non-Flintshire residents using the free facility. Fly tipping anywhere is abhorrent to me, I just could not do it, dumping rubbish, fridges etc in a countryside or urban setting, what is in the mindset of these dopey, lazy, furtive people, are they the same sly, devious people who do not pick up their own dog's mess on footways?

If you can transport items to the Recycling centre in Greenfield the services are free, unlike some other local authorities in Wales. Bulky Collections are available from the home, Flintshire has an agreement with local social enterprise "Refurbs Flintshire" for collecting and handling bulky waste items. "Refurbs" is a registered charity and a not-for-profit company. Bulky waste is anything that cannot be taken by the weekly kerbside collection service. Items collected that are suitable for reuse are sold at "Refurbs" premises in Aber Park, Flint, revenue generated is reinvested into the charity. The diversion from waste



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disposal, is included in Flintshire's recycling figures. This is all important environmentally and supports the council in achieving Welsh Governments statutory recycling targets. To book a collection call Streetscene on 01352 701234 or call in at the Holywell Connects Centre in Holywell High Street. The charge for Refurbs is; Up to 5 Items £40, concessions for those on a benefit; Up to 5 items £20. Fridges and freezers are collected FREE of charge. The usage for 2021/22 (Jan) was 4,511 requests, 668 tonnes.

Recycling Centres are free to residents, however certain vehicles and vans are restricted. From April this year, if you have a van with a business /sign written but have household waste, a one-off permit will be issued. All trailers irrelevant of size will require a permit. For difficult materials, initially asbestos and mattresses a booking system is introduced. It is acknowledged a potential for negative impacts on the environment such as fly tipping is possible. However, clear information is and will be more available, all traders/residents have a duty of care. Traders will also be advised of appropriate waste facilities.

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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CROSS COUNTRY RACE (Gareth Hughes, Race organiser)

As readers of the Five Villages Chronicle will be aware we had planned to hold a fixture of the David Alun Williams North Wales Cross-Country League in the grounds of Mostyn Hall's Upper Park, Whitford, on November 27.

As organiser of the event on behalf of Prestatyn Running Club I was looking forward to two exciting races over what was going to be a challenging course.

Despite a couple of last minute hiccups everything was in place and we delivered 40 letters to local residents reminding them of what was going on – and then Storm Arwen struck.

Cross-country runners are hardy souls and well used to running in all weathers and over different terrains but with 24 hours to go we felt we had no option but to cancel the meeting for safety reasons.

The mobile toilets were due to be

delivered the previous day and with the worst of the storm and predicted 80mph winds due overnight there was a good chance that they would have disappeared in the direction of Mostyn. We also feared for the safety of the mobile caterer.

About five large trees were blown down but we could have altered the courses to overcome that problem. It was a difficult decision, especially in the light of all the preparatory work, but League officials felt it was better to be safe than sorry in these days of risk assessments. It was only the third time in the League's 52-year history for a fixture to be called off.

Unfortunately the fixture list is so busy that it has proved impossible to find an alternative date, which means that League positions will have to be based on four races instead of five.

The AGM will be in April, and I am confident that Whitford will feature in the 2022-23 season, subject to the continued support of the Mostyn Estate and tenant farmer Oswyn Jones.

Watch this space!

CARMEL BOOK CLUB

(Sally Brighton)

Now Christmas is over, and spring visibly evident, we are hopeful that Covid will have continued its current decline allowing us to meet regularly once again.

Our first meeting of this year took place in February and what more fitting a book could the library have provided for us to tackle, than *'The Giver of Stars'* by Jojo Moyes, one of her most masterly novels to date, and which is..... you've guessed it.... deeply rooted in the world of books.

It is set in Eastern Kentucky during the 1930s, and based on the W.P.A's Horseback Librarian programme. The brainchild of Eleanor Roosevelt, this extensive organisation aimed to carry books and other reading materials to some of the very poorest, depressed and deprived inhabitants in the USA. With the aim of promoting education where there was none, expanding knowledge and ideas to the hitherto ignorant..... and sowing, in those born with nothing, the seeds of hope, teams of courageous women volunteered to fetch and carry reading materials of all kinds not in motorised vans and cars but by individually riding horse and mules, often for long distances, often alone and frequently with little protection.

Our Carmel Book Group found the book uniformly uplifting. Helen Audley, one of our reviewers sums up some of what we felt.

The Giver of Stars..... A marvellous book. Through her characters and their experiences, Jojo Moyes is able to highlight the best and worst characteristics of human nature. The changing attitudes of the day towards sexism, racism, and social equality, particularly in marriage and the workplace, are amply described..... as is religious

hypocrisy where 'a good woman's place is in the home' and sex, a dirty word. This latter theme is plainly illustrated in two of her central couples, Alice and Bennett who directly contrast with Margery and Sven who are daringly emancipated, and so much happier.

The plot as a whole, evolves around five widely contrasting women who get to know each other by volunteering to deliver books and magazines to the impoverished and rural population. Many of the recipients are those who, robbed of education for themselves and their children, become increasingly grateful. Many of the women are in desperate circumstances, often ruled by the crude attitudes of their wild mountain men. These men however, in turn, are exploited by the self-seeking owners of the local workplace, a mine which allows them no rights at all.

The plot which evolves around these dedicated women librarians, grows increasingly tense and evolves step by step into a real cliff hanger of a novel with many unexpected twists and turns. It is through these twists and turns that the many different themes are revealed and the community as a whole embarks on a slow process of developmental change.

By writing so vividly that the people, and the beauties of the natural world and its dangers, become real in the imagination, this book becomes not only a riveting read but, perhaps, a potentially exciting basis for a wonderful film. (Helen Audley)

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Carmel & District Cricket Club



As winter turns to spring here in the Five Villages, cricket enthusiasts begin to dream of long sunny days either playing or watching cricket. Everyone associated with Carmel and District Cricket Club is feeling excited about the forthcoming season, and the club is busy preparing for the new campaign.

FIRST XI

Once again, this season, Carmel's First XI will be captained by Ben Sim. Ben is an exciting young cricketer who successfully led the team to second division safety in 2021. The team will be hoping to build on last season's performances and finish the campaign as high as possible in North Wales Cricket League Division 2.

SECOND XI

This season the team will be competing in Division 4 of the North Wales Cricket League under the captaincy of Cameron Ackroyd. A number of talented young cricketers made a big impression on the team last season, many of whom went on to play for the First XI, and this combination of youth alongside more experienced players will hopefully lead to a successful campaign in 2022.

THIRD XI

Carmel Third XI will be competing in the Sunday West Division in 2022, and the team will be facing strong opposition throughout the season, including teams like Bangor, Colwyn Bay and Menai Bridge.

The club will also be running two midweek teams in 2022.

CARMEL LADIES TEAM

One of the most encouraging developments at the club last season was the successful establishment of a ladies team. This team enjoyed a number of close and exciting matches throughout the campaign as team members developed their cricketing skills and grew in confidence with each game played. Andrea Jones led the newly formed team with distinction last season, and the club is delighted that she will be captaining the team again this year.

NETS SESSIONS AND NEW MEMBERS

Carmel and District Cricket Club is actively seeking new players for all the

above senior teams, and a warm welcome awaits new players of all ages and ability. The club prides itself on its friendly and inclusive approach and is now able to offer practice and training facilities of the highest order at its Pen-y-Gelli ground thanks to the recent nets installation. Indoor nets for men and ladies commenced at Holywell Leisure Centre on 13th February and will run until 10th April. Anyone interested in attending these sessions or playing for the club should e-mail Carmelcricket@hotmail.co.uk.



First Team captain Ben Sim gives the thumbs up for the new season

As the new season approaches, Carmel and District Cricket Club would like to remind residents of the Five Villages that a warm welcome awaits them at Pen-y-Gelli should they wish to join the club in any capacity or visit the ground to watch a game. We are a friendly community club with a long and proud history here in the local area.

JUNIOR SECTION

The development of junior cricket remains a top priority for everyone at the club in order to provide children with an opportunity to take part in a sport that they

can be part of for a lifetime in one capacity or another.

This season we will have junior teams in four age groups, under 9s, 11s, 13s and 15s and will be working with Halkyn and Prestatyn Cricket Clubs to have additional players available to cover absences and



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holidays to ensure we can field full teams. Cricket for juniors doesn't just start when summer is on the horizon, and we are due to begin indoor sessions at Holywell Leisure Centre on Sunday 20th February at 2pm with outdoor training starting at the end of April.

In addition to our own club sessions, we support the national initiative to get more children playing sport and cricket, in particular through All Stars (<https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars>) for those aged 5 to 8, and Dynamos (<https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/dynamoscricket>) for older children up to age 11. The children have 8 weeks of fun as well as receiving cricket equipment once they've signed up. Last year we had 72 children taking part, with all the girls and boys having a super time, which was fantastic to see.

We hope it will be a long and warm summer and can encourage as many children as possible to join our current group and have months (and maybe a lifetime) of fun!

If you have children aged 5 and above who would like to try the sport, please contact Alun Davies on 07889 095 712 or via adifa@hotmail.co.uk.

A WORK IN PROGRESS (Ian Austerberry, Church Warden)

The re-ordering of the church at Gorsedd started with a site meeting on November 25th, 2021. Following the meeting, work started on removal of all the pews, the plinths on which the pews were fixed and the dismantling of the organ case. This revealed the floor level beneath, and the old Victorian heating duct which ran centrally down the nave. The heating duct had to be removed and the floor levelled.



The next phase was to prepare the base ready for the limecrete floor to be laid, and this work was completed by Christmas 2021. The limecrete floor needs 2 to 3 months to fully dry out, before the wooden



floor can be laid.

In the meantime, work to complete the framework for the toilet, kitchenette and storage is now underway, with the initial electrical installation taking place. Whilst the floor dries out, the panelling of the walls will take place. The new heating system

will be installed, and the sound system and hearing loop will be upgraded and located in the storage area. Also included in the project is a disabled ramp to the main entrance.

The project is scheduled to be completed by April 14th 2022.



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RSPB BIRDWATCH 2022 (Jan Miller)

Bird flu this year is devastating the wild bird population. But my garden bird count for the annual RSPB at the end of January seemed very similar to last years; sitting on the end of the bed upstairs with a pair of binoculars trained on the front garden tree where I hang several different types of feeders with peanuts, seed, mealworms and sunflower hearts I got 5 or 6 Blue Tits and great Tits (these have increased a lot since nest boxes and seed feeders have become popular in gardens) at a time, one single Robin, a pair of Blackbirds, a sudden flurry of about 7 or 8 Long-tailed Tits with their sweet squeaking cries descending on the peanuts and then off again. There was the odd Goldfinch, Bullfinch and Dunnock, but no Sparrows at all. They are the species that seems to be suffering most at the moment. But then they increase again after a few years. The one bird I had not seen for several years that delighted me most was a Nuthatch.



Nuthatch © Tony Pope

Beautiful grey-blue feathers on top with a creamy orange belly and the cutest way of walking downwards on the tree trunk with its bold black eye-striped head tilted up. Maybe he has been here all along, but I just have not sat and looked at the same place long enough to notice. That's the reward for doing these citizen science projects that add important information to national data. If you search for RSPB or BTO on the internet you can find lots of pictures, songs, distribution maps over the years and in your own area. You can even send your own photos to some sites to get help with identification.

Very sad to hear of the demise of Dyserth and District Field club, which has been going since 1911 and of which I have been a member for over 35 years. The club was started by academics from Liverpool and Manchester who used to spend their weekends coming over to explore the wonders of North Wales and write papers about it which they shared at monthly meetings. But of course, as the 20th century progressed this ceased to happen, and it became less formal. It was enormously important to me when I had very young children in that they ran guided walks and talks on a Saturday afternoon when my husband was home to look after the children and I could go out and enjoy expert company and learn about local history and nature. Sadly, it seems fewer

and fewer young people want to do this anymore, and even less to run a committee, and the ageing membership do not want long walks or being instructed anymore. The North Wales Wildlife Trust has moved with the times better and far from the pandemic having stopped all their activities, they have arranged interactive walks and talks on Zoom and Facebook which you can access on your mobile phone. They also have an active programme of volunteers helping clear scrub, clear out ponds, build bird hides and other jobs on their 37 reserves around the area. This takes place outside in small groups so could still go on during the pandemic, and a good workout if the gym was closed!

As a member of the North Wales Wildlife Trust conservation committee, we are having to reconsider our policy on dogs on our reserves. The lockdowns have meant a lot more dog-walking, which I know has been a lifeline for a lot of people. But there are now many running around off the lead and the excrement from them reaching higher pollution levels than is legal in cities, according to a recent article in The Guardian. This is now affecting the wildlife on our nature reserves seriously. Please keep dogs on a lead – in spring and summer at least, as many rare birds, like Sky Larks, and animals like Hares (and voles- needed for food by Kestrels and owls), and reptiles breed on the top of the ground where they can be easily stopped from breeding and even killed by curious

dogs. And please take your poo-bags home as the council will not collect from bins on nature reserves or private land. And nobody really needs more than one dog, do they? Or do we have to ban dogs on reserves and special wildlife areas altogether? © Jan Miller Jan@7wells.org

CONGRATULATIONS!



Peter and Hayley Kenway of Kingsway, Gorsedd. Marriage at St Pauls, Gorsedd



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

We will be more than happy to hear from you.



HOLYWELL COMMUNITY MUSEUM (Andrea Deakin)

Hello everyone - here at the museum we are busy busy busy. Something on almost every day. Apart from all of the usual wonderful exhibits which you MUST visit we have:

Monday bingo.

Tuesday - Reminiscence group - free of charge.

Wednesday - Knit and natter and crafts morning - free of charge.

Thursday - Writing course.

Friday - once a month - Woody's Lodge - help for military veterans.

We are also working on a new room which will become a small chapel with the font, pews, pulpit, lectern, communion glasses and much more which we rescued from Hebron chapel in Mostyn when it was being demolished. Thank you too for the gifted Bibles and prayer books.

We will also have battery tea lights if anyone wants to remember a loved one.

SOMETHING NEW FOR TWENTY TWO--- OUR FIRST EVENING VENTURES --- COMING SOON

Weekly quiz nights.

Monthly storytelling cafe.

We volunteers are all thrilled to be sharing our varying expertise with the wonderful people who come in for all reasons and welcome anyone who would like to volunteer - all you need is enthusiasm!!

Museum phone 01352 217170 or check out our facebook page - Holywell Community Museum and our fascinating Memories of Holywell page. If you want any more info on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday groups please phone me, Andrea on 01352 711240 or email me on andreadakin112@btinternet.com

NEWS FROM GORSEDD AND WHITFORD CHURCHES (Rev Kathryn Evans, Vicar of Gorsedd and Whitford)



Happy New Year, even though a quarter of it will be gone by the time you read this - I probably should say Happy Spring!

I feel Spring is such a hopeful time - signs of new shoots are all around, I spotted my first snowdrops about 3 weeks ago and many of the daffodils in front of

the Vicarage are all in flower (in plenty of time for St David's Day). It is a time of new beginnings - in the Winter magazine, I spoke of the reordering at Gorsedd church. This is progressing steadily and is on track to be completed around Easter. We will need a few weeks to clean and put things back, but I am hoping we can have several coffee mornings / Open Days in May before Bishop Gregory re-commissions our church in its new role on 19th June. There are still some significant milestones to complete, not least connecting the water and sewage, so please do continue to hold us in your thoughts and prayers and keep your eye out for our Welcome back events.

Over the winter, Whitford church has undergone various repairs and maintenance, we are currently raising money to repair the bells so they can be rung again and looking to replace the lead on two of our leaded windows. In some ways, our old buildings are like vintage cars - in need of constant maintenance and tender loving care and holding so many memories of both happy and sad times. If we want them to be there in the future, we need to look after them now. If you think there is anything you can do to help and support us, either inside or outside in our grounds, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Spring is good time to think of our own environmental footprint. At Whitford, we are blessed to be working with Ysgol Y Llan on a joint Eco-school and Eco-church project. Over the coming months, we hope to plant wild flowers in parts of the churchyard and even house some bees to help with pollination and maybe even give us some honey - the possibilities are endless, so if you are a nature lover and would like to be involved in some way, again, please get in touch.

This column can only be a snapshot of the various plans we have to be an integral part of our communities. As we emerge from the past two years which have challenged us in ways we could never have imagine, we do so in that same spirit of hope and new beginnings that Spring gives us. Blessings everyone. 01745 799200.

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1ST CARMEL SCOUT GROUP
(Russell Williams, Group leader)
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CUBS (8-11 YRS)
SCOUTS (11-14 YRS)
Cubs



After a delayed start to the year, we welcomed some new faces to the section with 4 beavers moving across. They have been working on the communicator badge, which we hope to finish soon after half term. They have been looking at different ways of communicating (e.g., using codes, braille, pictures, signals) and the importance of good communication. As a break from this activity, we held a Bitsa evening on the Monday before half term. This allowed the Cubs to build anything they wanted. The only limitations were Time, Materials available and their imagination.



Scouts

Again, after a delayed start, the first night back saw us going out for a night walk. 2 previous attempts had to be called

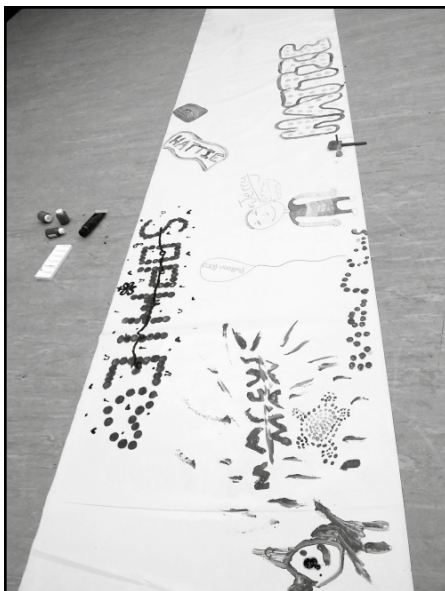


off because of bad weather, but we had a clear stary night this time. The walk started at the hall, and took us down the local lanes,



before finishing back at the hall. We had a Chinese meal at the beginning of February to celebrate Chinese New Year. The main badge focus has been on the Creative challenge, with the scouts showing off, or developing their artistic skills. A sleep over is being planned for the half term.

If anyone wants to gain some experience working with young people, why not come & join us. You can learn some skills & have some fun at the same time.



If anyone is doing their Duke of Edinburgh award, why not join us to do the volunteering part, with one of our sections.

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



GOOD COMPANIONS
(John Saunders)

As we were unable to arrange for the patients to have a visit from Santa at Christmas, due to Covid restrictions, we supplied a present for each of them and members of the staff handed them out.

In recognition of their continued good work under unusual conditions we also gave each member of staff a tin of chocolates.

The hospital tea bar remains closed to the public, but staff are able to use it on a self- service basis.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Sue Tattum for carrying out the annual review of our accounts.



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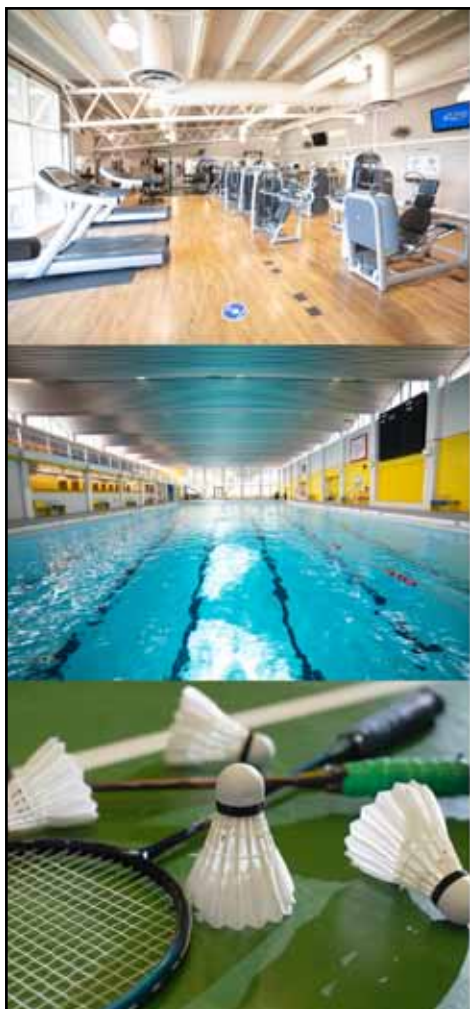
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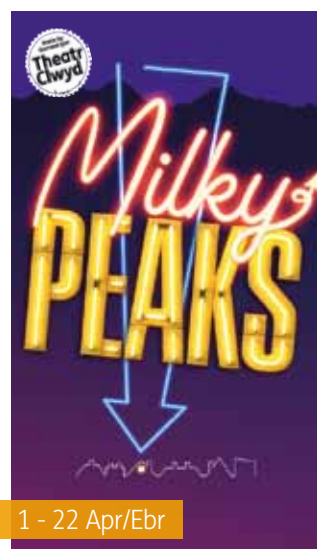
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12 - 16 Apr/Ebr



3 - 7 May/Mai



25 - 27 Mar/Maw



13 - 15 May/Mai



20 - 21 May/Mai

CARMEL VILLAGE HALL (Richard Dolphin)



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

Renovations and improvements continue to take place at the old, loved Hall. At the time of writing the car park wall project will soon start. The old stone wall has crumbled to such an extent that it can no longer have long-term repairs, a once in a life time replacement will be visibly attractive and better value for money. We look forward to your comments to this chronicle or to the hall Facebook page and to your opinions to the work that would have taken place.

The Hall continues to be as busy as ever, with groups and children's parties creating a hectic schedule.



The eight Trustees of the Hall continue the good work that many before have undertaken. We thank them from the past, those here today, and look forward to the future.

Don't forget to vote at your Polling Station; either Carmel Village Hall (WAD1) or if you live in Whitford village and some local area vote at Ysgol y Llan (WAD2) – check your registration card. Elections on Thursday, 5th May 2022 will

be for your local County & Community Council. Alternatively, register early for your postal vote by visiting www.flintshire.gov.uk. Hundreds of people visit the Hall on a voting day, have a look around at the facilities available, perhaps they may be of use to you?

Schedule

Thurs, 10th March
Tea & Coffee Morning 10am – 12 noon
Sunday, 10th April
Bingo – Eyes down 2pm
Thurs, 14th April
Tea and Coffee Morning 10am – 12 noon
Thurs, 5th May
Election Day – Voting Station WAD1
(WAD2 is Ysgol y Llan, Whitford
Voting Station)

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CARMEL WI NEWS (Jacqui Arstall)

All members of Carmel WI would like to send you their greetings for 2022.

We resumed our monthly meetings in September 2021.

In November at our Annual General Meeting, thanks were given to the retiring officers and new officers voted in.

The new officers are:

President - Mrs Liz Hawthorne.

Treasurer - Mrs Pat Hadfield.

Secretary - Mrs Jacqui Arstall.

The WI year will now run from April to April.

We would very much like to welcome visitors to come along and see what we have to offer.

Our monthly meetings take place on the 3rd Thursday of each month, at Carmel Village Hall starting at 7.15pm.

We would like to extend an invitation for visitors to join us for three meetings free of charge.

Our programme of events up to and including April 2022 is as follows:

March - Welsh night - Speaker - Rita Roberts - Florist.

April - My role as a Magistrate - Speaker - Patricia Davies JP.

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DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS!

Same place, same time 60 years later.

Wendy and Peter celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary
on 26th December



CYMDEITHAS THOMAS PENNANT (Paul Brighton, Secretary/Ysgrifennydd) A LATE WINTER/GAEAF REPORT/BULLETIN

In Memoriam: With very great sadness and regret, we report the passing of one of our much loved and respected members, Dilys Wynne. Dilys was the wife of our President, Dr. Goronwy Wynne. She was a long-serving member of Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant, participated in many of our Tours and opened her home to fund-raising functions. She will be very much missed by ALL of us and we offer our sincere condolences and sympathy to Dr. Goronwy Wynne and his family. A service, celebrating the life of Dilys was held in Berthen Chapel/Capel Berthen, Lixwm/Licswm on Saturday/Sadwrn 5th February, at 11.00am. The eulogy was given by Dilys' daughter, Llinos, with an English translation, which was much appreciated.

Programme for 2022: With the relaxation of Covid restrictions, Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant aim to resume a programme of activities for 2022. Thus:

Saturday/Sadwrn 12th February/Chwefror, 10.30am-12.30pm, a Coffee Morning was held at Penbryn Chapel/Capel Penbryn, Holywell/Treffynnon. Though limited in attendance, it was a positive and enjoyable event, good to see members in the flesh and to make a small profit, along with a raffle and membership renewals for 2022. Thanks also, to Geraint Jones and the Penbryn Chapel authorities for making us so welcome. Penbryn Chapel is our main centre for meetings, etc.

Saturday/Sadwrn 9th April/Ebrill: A talk will be given by Prof. Neil Winterton at 2.00pm in Penbryn Chapel/Capel Penbryn, on the topic of current developments in Science. Prof. Winterton is keen to receive questions re Science from participants and he can be contacted as follows: Tel/fon: 01352 711049; e-mail: neilwinterton77@gmail.com If you wish to write to Prof. Winterton, his address is: Copper Pine, Carmel Hill, Carmel, Holywell CH8 8NZ

Saturday/Sadwrn 30th July/Gorffennaf: A talk will be given at 2.00pm in Penbryn Chapel/Capel Penbryn, by Brian Bennett on the topic of Deltiology/Postcards, relating to 'Pennant Country'.

Friday/Gwener 2nd September 5.00pm-7.00pm: A Social Evening, as per 2021, in Carmel Cricket Club/Clwb Criced Carmel, Lloc. Food and refreshments will be served and a charge of £5.00 per person requested.

We also, aim to hold our Annual Pennant Lecture in October/Hydref and the AGM on 19th November/Tachwedd, as well as a possible Christmas Lunch in December/Rhagfyr. More information on these events later.

Any additional activities and events involving the Cymdeithas, will be notified to members.

Subscriptions 2022: This year we propose to reintroduce a subscription for the Cymdeithas. This will remain at £10.00 per person and cheques/cash can be forwarded to our Treasurer, Alun Evans: Tel/Ffon 01352 710445, e-mail: raevans88@btinternet.com Address: 5 Bryn Aur Gorsedd Treffynnon CH8 8RA Cheques payable to 'Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant'

Thank You/Dioch, will keep in touch.

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OPEN DAYS AT THE RAILS AND STEAM MUSEUM (Roy Hamer)

The Rail and Steam Museum, situated in the Lower Cotton Mill warehouse in the
Greenfield Valley Heritage Park, will be open to visitors between 12 noon – 3pm on the
following days in 2022:

Sunday 17th April
Sunday 29th May
Sunday 26th June
Sunday 31st July
Sunday 28th August
Sunday 25th September

Work is on-going to develop the museum and exhibits at the moment include an
electric locomotive used in the Milwr Tunnel, together with tools and other implements
recently recovered from the tunnel, a working model of Holywell Town railway station
together with short histories of the development of tramways and railways in the Holywell
area. In addition, the steam boiler will be fired up providing power for the bottling plant
on the upper floor of the museum. Free entry for all.

EGLWYSI CYMRAEG BRO TREFFYNNON WELSH CHAPELS IN HOLYWELL

*Dyma restr y gwasanaethau am yr wythnosau nesaf. Ar hyn o bryd mae'r holl
wasanaethau yn cael eu cynnal yng nghapel Penbryn, Stryd Chwittfordd, Treffynnon am
10 o'r gloch y bore. Croeso cynnes i bawb ymuno.*

Here is the list of services for the next few weeks. All the services will be held at
Penbryn Chapel, Whitford Street, Holywell at 10.00am. A warm welcome to all.

Mawrth/ March:

20 fed : Nan Powell-Davies
27ain:

Ebrill/ April:

3ydd: Huw Powell-Davies
10fed: Marc Morgan
17eg: Pasg/Easter: Huw Powell-Davies C.
24ain: Glyn Williams

Mai/May:

1af : Marc Morgan
8fed:
15fed: Huw Powell-Davies
22ain: Ifor ap Gwilym
29ain: Dilwyn Jones.

Mehafin/June:

5ed: Marian Simkin
12fed: Dewi Williams
19eg: Huw Powell-Davies.
26ain: Marc Morgan C.

*Mae ein cofion yn mynd at yr holl aelodau sydd yn gaeth i'w cartrefi neu mewn cartref
gofal.*

*Bu farw Mrs Beryl Parry, Bronallt, Meadow Bank, yr Holway cyn y Nadolig. Roedd yn
un o'n haelodau hynaf ac yn ffyddlon iawn. Mae ein cydymdeimlad gyda'i phlant Haydn
a Gaynor a'u teuluoedd.*

Our thoughts are with all our members confined to their homes or in a care home.
Mrs. Beryl Parry, Bronallt, Meadow Bank, Holway passed away before Christmas. She
was one of our oldest and faithful members. We sympathise with her children Haydn
and Gaynor and their families.



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QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY PROJECT (Vicky Bond)

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Everyone across the UK has been invited to plant trees from October 2021 through to the end of the Jubilee year 2022.

The Queen's Green Canopy will create a network of individual trees, avenues, copses and whole woodlands in honour of The Queen's service and the legacy she has built. As well as inviting the planting of new trees, The Queen's Green Canopy will highlight 70 unique and irreplaceable Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.



All the Explorers and Leaders who came down to plant trees

This initiative has been led by Cool Earth in partnership with the UK Government and the Woodland Trust. Everyone from individuals to Scout and Girlguiding groups, villages, cities, counties, schools and corporates will be encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment. This will create a green legacy of its own, with every tree planted bringing benefits for people, wildlife and climate, now and for the future. With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage planting of native trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, enhance our environment and landscape which will benefit future generations to come.

Cross County Explorers have decided to get involved in order to help the environment, replace the trees we use and to mark the Queen's Jubilee. Working with Tim Johnson, a Countryside Ranger from Flintshire Countryside Services, we have planted 190 trees in Carmel Wood in order to preserve the wood and promote more wildlife to the area. Carmel Wood is local to where our Explorer Unit meets, so it is a community place for all to use and admire. Cross County Explorers are based at Treffynnon Cyntaf Scout Hut in Holywell but take in Scouts from Carmel, Northop, Halykin and Treffynnon Cyntaf itself.

On 11th December 2021 we went and planted the trees in Carmel Wood, making sure each sapling had its own cane and guard to protect it in its first few years. Eight

Explorers and four Leaders turned out and planted 182 trees in the wood, planting a mixture of Rowan, Oak, Wild Cherry, Crab Apple, Birch and hazel trees. Each of the Explorers then took one tree home to plant in their garden. All the trees were supplied by the Woodland Trust.

As an added bonus the conservation work helps towards their Chief Scout Platinum, Diamond and Queens Scout Award.

"It's a privilege to be able to give back to the community what we take for granted. Our Explorer Scouts are amazing and have helped out with many different activities over the years to help the community, this is one of the biggest being a UK wide project."

FREEMASONS DONATION TO LOCAL EXPLORER SCOUTS (Vicky Bond, Explorer Scout Leader)

On 23rd December 2021 Worshipful Master Derek C. J. Walker of the Buckley Freemasons Lodge, along with David Anglesea, presented a cheque to Cross County Explorers to help buy some vital equipment for Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions. The cheque was received by our Unit Chair Erin Baxter, alongside Charlie Bond, Vicky Bond (Explorer Scout Leader) and Dave Jones (Group Scout Leader).



(L-R) Charlie Bond, Vicky Bond, Worshipful Master Derek Walker, Erin Baxter and Dave Jones

Freemasons are widely known for their charitable donations to others and frequently support their local community groups. Unlike other benefactors the Freemasons donate from their own resources; they do not fundraise but take

donations from their own members. This means that anything they donate comes solely from them and ultimately has a significant value to it as it is from local people and not something national. Charity is at the heart of Freemasonry by teaching and practicing concern for people, care for the less fortunate and help for those in need.

The Buckley Freemasons Lodge have kindly donated £560 to Cross County Explorers to enable them to buy four GPS trackers to be used whilst doing Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions and longer hikes in which the Explorers are self-sufficient. Cross County Explorers works with other Explorer Groups in Flintshire with Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions to enable other groups to get out and to help Explorers complete this section of their award if there are insufficient numbers in their group. As we work with several groups the GPS trackers will not only benefit us but also the other groups when we are all out together.

The trackers will enable us to locate the groups when we have difficulty with mobile communications and for locating them if they are in trouble. They have a safety feature which allows the Explorers to call for emergency services if they need to as well as send short messages to us. This also allows us to show the Explorers where they have travelled throughout the expedition.

These are a very valuable resource for us as they allow us to know where they are during their expedition, if they are struggling by looking at their speed and if they go off track so we can get them back on the right track. As for safety, we will know where they are as before we were relying on estimations of how far they have travelled in order to track them. We know that they can also call for the emergency services even if there is no mobile signal as they rely on satellite signals for transmission.

"We are extremely grateful to the Buckley Freemasons Lodge for this wonderful donation, without them we would not be able to afford them. This equipment will enable us to track the Explorers better and free up leaders to be able to go where needed in an emergency.

BRIAN E JONES

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HANNAH BLYTHYN MS



I'd like to start my first contribution of 2022 by thanking all readers of the Five Villages for their continued efforts in keeping our communities safe and helping to prevent the spread of coronavirus as much as possible. For some time we have seen changes in our response to the coronavirus pandemic moving in a positive direction, with cases falling and restrictions easing. Whilst coronavirus is still with us, we certainly seem to be in a better position.

Transport is often a key theme of concerns raised with me and I have previously written about my transport survey and announcements of improvements to services in and around our corner of the country. I am almost in a position to share the findings of my transport survey with constituents and with stakeholders such as the Welsh Government and Flintshire County Council, looking to work collaboratively to improve our transport infrastructure to the benefit of our communities.

The Welsh Government has recently announced that Lord Burns who Chaired the South East Wales Transport Commission, will now Chair a commission for North Wales, looking at what work needs to be done to strengthen and improve our transport infrastructure. Whilst the commission is in its early stages I will be sure to share the findings of the transport survey and other ideas shared with me by constituents, when the time comes.

The cost-of-living crisis is continuing to impact on households in all corners of the country, with energy and fuel prices, and the cost of everyday essentials rising. Though the levers to take meaningful action are held by the UK Government, the Welsh Government are continuing to take all possible steps to ease the pressures on the people of Wales.

To help tackle the cost of increased energy prices a £200 grant was offered to all those on means-tested benefits, whilst all properties in Council Tax Bands A-D will receive a one-off payment of £150. I will continue to do all I can to push for further support for our communities and to signpost constituents who are facing difficulties to the support available.

In recent weeks it has been great to get out and about across the constituency, meeting with constituents, businesses and community groups about all the great work which is going on. Whether that is hearing more about the efforts of Flintshire to promote growing your own food to become more sustainable, or how Cambrian Credit Union are planning to support their 1000s of members across Flintshire following the unfortunate closure of the All Flintshire Credit Union.

Since being elected I have always done my best to promote North East Wales and provide the area with as much of a platform as possible. In February I had the opportunity to give the Shadow Secretary of State for Wales a tour of the constituency, including to her former school – the Argoed – to hear about the planned £31 million revamp of the school.

We also took a short tour around Flint to look at the investment in social housing and social care from the Welsh Government, ensuring that people have good quality homes to live in and care provided should

they need it. The visit ended with a backstage tour of the jewel in the crown of North Wales – Theatr Clwyd. There we were told about the redevelopment which will see the theatre upgraded to the highest of standards.

In recognition of all of the amazing work which continues to happen in the constituency I have decided to continue my Community Champions scheme to celebrate the work being done to support others by amazing individuals and community groups. Launched initially at the height of the coronavirus pandemic the scheme is designed to acknowledge those who have gone over and above to give back to their communities. If there is someone you think deserves to be recognised, then please get in touch.

I will of course do my best to keep constituents updated on my work as your Member of the Senedd through my regular columns and social media. If you have any questions or queries, please contact me on 01352762102 or at Hannah.Blythyn@senedd.wales

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RECIPES FOR SPRING

(Isabel Burnage)

The following recipe can be part of a main meal with chips and peas, or served as a light meal with crusty bread:

HADDOCK WITH ALMONDS AND LEMON

Ingredients

3 ounces (75g) fresh breadcrumbs
1 clove garlic, grated or finely chopped
1 ounce (25g) almonds, chopped finely
2 ounces(50g) butter, melted in large pan
Juice and grated rind of a large lemon
4 haddock or cod steaks
Bunch fresh parsley
seasoning

Method

1. In bowl mix together breadcrumbs, parsley, garlic and almonds. Add the lemon rind.
2. Add the mixture to the melted butter and fry until butter is absorbed.
3. Place fish in greased casserole dish and sprinkle with lemon juice and seasoning.
4. Cover fish with the breadcrumb mixture
5. Bake in centre of oven at 350F, 180C, reg 4 for approx. 30 minutes.

DROP SCONES

Ingredients

8 ounces (225g) Self Raising flour + pinch of salt
2 ounces (50g) caster sugar
1 rounded tablespoon golden syrup
1 egg
2 ounces(50g) softened butter
½ pint milk

Method

1. Place all the ingredients in a blender or large bowl and whisk together until perfectly smooth
2. Grease a griddle or heavy based frying pan with a little lard
3. Heat gently and spoon small amounts of mixture onto surface
4. When bubbles appear turn and cook on the other side until golden brown.
5. Cool in a folded tea towel.
6. Spread with butter or whipped cream

THEY PASSED A PENDOLINO

(Douglas Thompson)

The train was almost silent as Euston slipped away,
and the houses and great walls slid past, wearing bricks of London clay
then the factories trotted by, with a bold increasing stride
lorries waiting at the gate, workers busying inside
now the barometric buffeting, as tunnels fluffed past
the pylons queuing up ahead, first slow, then very fast
then the whistle called to Milton Keynes and it rushed out to the train
and some got on and some got off, then it moved away again
the fields passed rather quickly in shades of brown and green
some home to sheep or cattle with hedges in between
soon Rugby came to greet us and it stopped beside our train
and some got on and some got off then it shuffled off again
and trees marched by as the town moved off, waving as they did
and the shiny tracks beside our train, wobbled as they slid
then canal boats travelled past us at 100 knots and yet,
they barely had a bow wave, to make the tow-path wet
Crewe came hurtling to us, slowing down to stop outside
and some got off and some got on, for this portion of the ride
now the fields were home to horses, as Chester came in sight
and soon it slipped beside our train, where we could all alight.

MARK ISHERWOOD MS



In the wake of increasing levels of air pollution and concern over Climate change, people are being encouraged to use public transport instead of their own vehicles. However, people are not going to take a train if their journey time is going to be longer than that by car, or if the service can't guarantee to get them to their desired destination on time. Passengers need fast rail services they can fully depend on, but sadly these are currently not being delivered here in North Wales.

I frequently receive emails and calls from constituents regarding problems with rail services in the region, and experience these myself through my regular use of the train to travel to the Senedd in Cardiff. Speaking in the Senedd Chamber before Christmas, I called on the Welsh Government to ensure improved passenger care and information for rail users in Wales following cases of poor service and lack of communication from Transport for Wales.

During a question on rail services, I provided examples of passengers, including myself, who were hugely inconvenienced and left stranded at Wrexham station in the freezing cold in November and December because of a lack of information from Transport for Wales (TFW). One constituent told me, 'I took the train from Cardiff at about 3.23 and arrived in Chester after midnight on a train that should have arrived at approximately 6.23 pm. Passengers and I think Transport for Wales were aware of the problem before we left Cardiff Central. This was 17th November'.

My own experience related to Monday November 29th, when I pre-booked my ticket from Wrexham General to Cardiff. I knew there were problems, so I rang Transport for Wales, who confirmed my train had been cancelled, but told me that the next one was running as scheduled. When I arrived, myself and other passengers saw, on the overhead signage, right up until the time of arrival, that the train was on time. But bang on the minute when the train was due, the tannoy

announcement said, 'train cancelled'. We had to wait another hour and a half for the next train in freezing cold weather, with the Waiting Room locked, because now Transport for Wales locks Wrexham Waiting Room from 6pm.

As I said in the Senedd: "I clearly understand that problems occur with track, and that has to be dealt with, but there was a failure of passenger care, a failure of passenger information, which could have prevented people having to stay on the platform for so long in such inclement circumstances."

I called on the Welsh Government to address the information issue, so that passengers are protected from similar situations occurring and subsequently met Transport for Wales to discuss this and other issues with them. The Deputy Minister for Climate Change, Lee Waters MS, agreed that the experience that myself and fellow passengers had "clearly isn't good enough".

The Welsh Government needs to ensure that Transport for Wales, which it owns, starts providing the people of North Wales with the rail services they need, which includes improved links to Manchester and Liverpool.



Thanks to the £14.5 million Halton Curve project, funded through the UK Government's Local Growth Funding awarded to the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership, direct daily services between Wrexham and Liverpool were introduced in 2019, however, the promised direct services between Llandudno and Liverpool are not expected until the back end of 2023. In the Senedd at the beginning of February, I therefore asked the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales what discussions she is having with her Cabinet colleagues regarding an earlier introduction of the service by Transport for Wales, in order to help build our region back from the pandemic, attract visitors, boost the local economy and encourage more people on to rail for the good of the environment.

In her response, the Minister deflected

calls for the service to be delivered sooner by instead claiming that the UK Government need "to fulfil their responsibilities for improving the rail network in Wales".

Yet, when claims that 'Wales has been the poor relation of the UK's rail investment' and that 'we have received less than 2% of the investment in rail improvements in recent years' were put to Network Rail in the Senedd's Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee in 2017, they referred us to the 2015-16 'Office of Rail and Road Annual Report on UK Rail Industry Financial Information', which stated that Wales actually received 9.6% of net Government funding for franchised train operators and Network Rail, and 6.4% of the total net Government funding for Network Rail routes. The following year's report stated that, on average, Government contributed £1.53 per passenger journey in England, £6.08 in Scotland and £8.82 in Wales. Network Rail investment in Wales will be over £1.5 billion between 2019-2024.

Also, independent analysis expects North Wales GDP to benefit from the HS2 railway.

As I stated three years ago in the Senedd Chamber, instead of blaming the UK Government for poor rail services in North Wales, the Welsh Government needs to get "back on track" and focus on making the improvements passengers in the region are desperately crying out for.



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LOCKWOOD'S CHIMNEY (Geraint Roberts)

Once, in a past life, for ten years I was a rockclimbing instructor. They were years filled with happy memories as I shared some wonderful experiences and days out in the mountains with a wonderful variety of people, children and adults. Every climb is different; this is a description of one which is even 'more different'. It is more than a climb, it's an experience.

Had our last Ice Age, which lasted 2.6 million years, continued for another thousand or so, I wouldn't be writing this article; but it didn't, and I am!

On the Snowdon flank of the Nant Gwynant valley which leads down to Beddgelert there is a vertical limestone cliff called Clogwyn y Bustach. Like all the valley cliffs it was formed during this cold Pleistocene period by the plucking and tearing action of a glacier grinding its way to the sea. The rock was carved into a steep wall as it was slowly bulldozed and torn apart by a slow-moving river of ice a thousand feet thick! –almost, but not quite! If 2.6 million years were equated to 43 minutes on a clock face it would have needed another second to complete the job and finish ripping away a piece of rock the size of a tennis court. Instead, it left a huge flake of rock separated from the main cliff face by a gap which varies between one and three feet!

Although my full story does indeed start 12,000 years ago when the last Snowdonian glacier melted leaving this huge buttress of rock detached like a giant scab the most interesting chapter begins one summer evening in 1909 when a young man spotted something on Clogwyn y Bustach he hadn't seen before. His name was Arthur Lockwood.

Lockwood was born in 1885; brought up in his native Yorkshire and trained as an electrical engineer. It was this trade which brought him to supervise the fitting

out of the new hydroelectric power station located in the Gwynant valley in 1908. He lived in Cwm Dyli cottage nearby in what is now the Pinnacle climbing club hut for women. By the following year he had met and married Florence Bloomfield who was the manager of PenyGwryd hotel. They were to stay there until 1944 during which time his contribution to the outdoor interests in the area was immense.



Lockwood's Chimney

An avid naturalist and fisherman he not only set up a successful trout hatchery behind the hotel which was used by the River Board for many years but constructed a nine-acre lake in front of the hotel in 1927. He was famous for using passing tramps as casual labour and even part of a German U boat being scrapped in Porthmadog was used to strengthen the dam! During the Great War he had been a Major in the Caernarfon Volunteer Regiment which was in effect an early version of the Home Guard of the second world war. He also became very involved in recording meteorological data regularly checking rainfall gauges and thermometers located at over 3000 feet. Despite being a keen mountaineer however he was never to become more than a competent rock climber, although that summer evening in 1909 he did happen to be in the right place at the right time.

As all landscape photographers know, morning and early evening provide the best light to bring out the texture and shape of their subject. One only has to imagine

Lockwood wending his way home one evening when he turned perhaps to view the setting sun casting its orange shadows up the valley behind him. He might have enjoyed listening to a blackbird perched on the highest branch of a nearby tree singing its even' song or watched a cloud of dancing gnats as his gaze drifted across to the dramatic profile of Gallt y Wenallt plunging from the Snowdon plateau to the valley floor. He might have frowned quizzically as he noticed a dark line splitting the Clogwyn y Bustach cliff; a shadow he hadn't noticed before. History does not tell when he returned to investigate the shadow, only that he did, and in doing so discovered one of the most interesting and entertaining rock climbs in Snowdonia; it became known as Lockwood's Chimney.

When I was a young rockclimbing Instructor based in Llanberis in the 1970s it was one of the routes of choice whenever the weather was bad. Strong winds and pouring rain lashing the more open crags make for an uncomfortable and dangerous day for any climbing course. So, amongst the choices were a series of gorges, waterfalls and sea level traverses which meant using wet suits; climbing Lockwood's Chimney was another alternative.



The marble arch

The walk down the valley passes Cwm Dyli power station and Lockwood's old cottage to reach a belt of deciduous trees reaching from the river up to the foot of the cliff. There are several 'add ons' in the form of huge boulders and mini craglets below the main cliff which can be utilized to

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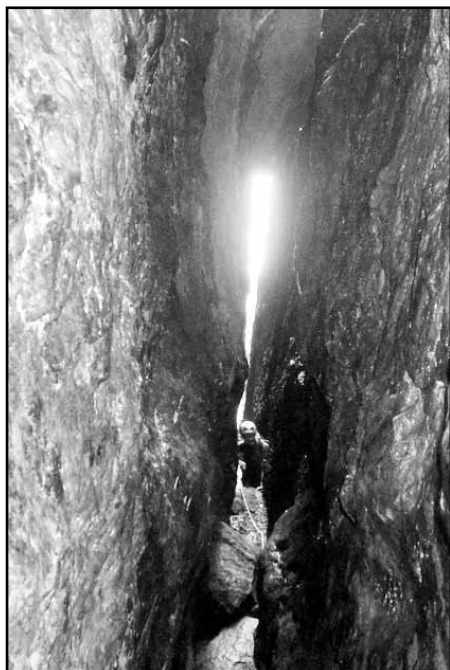
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lengthen the climb, all depending on time, weather and number in the group. They all lead to a feature some thirty feet up the cliff known as the 'marble arch'. This is a natural bridge of rock one passes through to reach a traverse line contouring across to the foot of a crack. This is quite difficult to climb. When I first climbed it back in 1973 (coincidentally, the year Arthur Lockwood died) there was the stump of a small holly tree growing in the crack which could be used as a handhold; its subsequent absence makes for an entertaining warm up for the chimney itself which awaits just above! A large tree grows at the foot of the main crack and here I would assemble my group, tied to the tree like hostages whilst I climbed the hundred foot through and behind the giant flake. On my way up I would offer a running commentary of advice on how to overcome the various difficult sections, the surreal echo of my voice fading as I climbed further into the darkness.



Start of the chimney

From a beginner's perspective the first few moves must have been like sliding into a giant gullet to be swallowed by the mountain. Upward progress is then an energetic series of earthworm like movements employing thrutches and grunts rather than any skills previously learnt on the course, there is no scope for dignity here. Despair is a frequent visitor in those first forty feet as the struggling novice's expletives compete with the leader's insistence that "it is possible". The umbilical rope snaking past their nose is tugging towards a boulder the size of a microwave choked high above in the crack, which is smooth, vertical and almost devoid of handholds. This boulder is what they must reach! One even has to do a breathing trick to pass through one particularly tight section. Some are tempted too deep into the security of the chimney, but the darkness is a fickle mistress and only



Middle section

makes the climbing harder. Others stray too near the outer edge of the crack and are suddenly frightened as they glimpse the terrible exposure of the drop to the valley below.

Eventually, after a lot of breathless contortions, desperate jamming, and a few tugs on the rope the relative safety of the boulder is reached. Next comes a

sideways shuffle after stepping across on to a thin strip of soil which has taken twelve thousand years to accumulate and a further century of climbers' boots to compact. Here the crack is very narrow, the acoustics challenging, and more squeezing is required to reach a rocky pulpit below



Near the middle ledge



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the window of light at the far end; this represents the final difficulty. Above is a spacious ledge where either banter returns to replace the uncertainty of the last twenty minutes or oaths are sworn never to return! Despite the rain, daylight is welcome as the group re-convene one by one, where bruises are compared and each one offers his or her own perspective on 'what just happened'!



Nearing the top of the chimney

The final wall to the top of the cliff is easy climbing but very exposed and any look down will bring that familiar height induced tingling of the diaphragm. Usually, it would still be raining when we emerged out of Lockwood's Chimney compounding clothes already damp in sweaty cagoules. But, as happened on two magical occasions whilst coiling the ropes at the top of the cliff, the sun broke through to form a magnificent rainbow to the rapturous appreciation of our small group!

The view from the top is magnificent; immediately below is the canopy of trees and the river Gwynant, probably brown and swollen, the valley then slopes up to the road with its procession of dinky cars going to or from Beddgelert. Rising from the road are a series of undulating hills culminating in the Moelwynion mountains, a complex area of rocks and several small lakes. Glancing left the listed building of the power station is the dominant feature still in use after more than a century. To the right, a popular campsite forms the upper shore of Llyn Gwynant, one of the loveliest roadside lakes in Snowdonia.

The traditional way to climb Lockwood's Chimney was as one of a party of large, inebriated men wearing nailed boots on a moonlit night! A tradition which did no harm

to the Pen y Gwryd bar takings and was no doubt encouraged by 'mine host' Arthur and Florence Lockwood!

Love it or loathe it; of the many thousands of rock climbs described in Snowdonian guidebooks Lockwood's Chimney is unique. And whether you do it in a storm encumbered in waterproofs or in shorts on a summer's evening you will never forget the claustro-speleological experience of squirming your way between the cliff and a massive, detached flake, perhaps just waiting to topple off any second...on the geological clock!

THE HOLYWELL & DISTRICT SOCIETY (Sally Brighton)

Our Committee continues to operate either over Zoom, or more recently in the Offices of the Greenfield Valley, but despite our very best efforts we have not succeeded in bringing our total membership together, either over the internet or in our usual 'home' at Penbryn Chapel, Holywell. BUT we are still planning and as the intensity of Covid dwindles, our hopes of a March/April first live talk of the season increase. Ray Bailey is ready prepared and waiting to outline the progress he has made in plotting the path of Offa's Dyke through Flintshire and we would ask all readers to look carefully for website information, posters around our area and other publicity as to when our sizeable group and any interested visitors can meet again to hear his exciting and well illustrated talk about his personal quest to clarify and extend what is already known. (and of course, enjoy a chat and a biscuit over a cup of tea!)

APPEAL FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FIVE VILLAGES COMMITTEE

Your community magazine is produced, organised and delivered free to your door by a team of just 8 people and a loyal team of volunteer door to door deliverers, some of whom have been involved from the very beginning with issue 1 some 35 years ago.

We desperately need to augment the committee with 'new blood'. At the

moment each role is crucial and essential in keeping the 5 Villages Chronicle in production and appearing each Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter, bringing news, reports and useful information to our community.

Owing to Covid-19 restrictions we meet four times a year using online 'zoom' meetings to review the previous issue and to plan the next one.

If you would like to join this close-knit group and contribute your skills in service to the 5 villages community please get in touch with the Chairman, Peter Erasmus by phone, text or email.
phone/text: 07715 953970
email: petererasmus1138@gmail.com

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SPRING INTO ACTION WITH AURA LIBRARIES! (Paula Jones)

Our libraries are holding Reading Friends Session – these are monthly sessions that provide a space for people to get together, have fun, socialise and share their love of reading. If you would like to attend a session they are held:-

- First Tuesday of the month 6.00pm at Deeside Library (01352 703770)
- Second Tuesday of the month 2.00pm at Flint Library (01352 703737)
- First Wednesday of the month 11.00 am at Buckley Library (01352 703860)
- First Wednesday of the month 2.00pm at Connah's Quay Library (01352 703730)
- Second Wednesday of the month 7.00pm-8.00pm (Zoom Session)
- Second Thursday of the month 11.00am at Mold Library (01352 703780)
- Children's Read Group: last Thursday of the month 4.00-5.00pm (Zoom Session)
- Ffrindiau Darllen Cymraeg for intermediate Welsh learners: second Monday of the month 2.00-3.00pm (Zoom session)
- Ffrindiau Darllen Cymraeg for Welsh speakers and advanced learners: second Tuesday of the month 7.00-8.00pm (Mold Library or Zoom session)

For further information please contact your local library or email libraries@aura.wales

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All of the above and much more are accessible through our website www.aura.wales

For further information or assistance to access any of our digital platforms please contact your local library or email libraries@aura.wales

HOLYWELL LIBRARY

Regular activities taking place at Holywell Library are below, if you want to join us contact 01352 703850 or email holywell.library@aura.wales

Tuesday 9.30am or 10.30am for Rhymetime

Wednesday 2.00pm Babies & Books
Friday 11.00a.m. Learn My Way – basic introduction to I.T.

Check out our whats on page <https://aura.wales/whats-on-guide/>



Adult Community Learning Courses

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

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Art and Soul Tribe
The Denbigh Workshop
Communities for Work
DWP and Job Centre Plus
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YSGOL Y LLAN VA PRIMARY SCHOOL, WHITFORD

Headteacher, Mr Bryan Griffiths said that it has been another busy term at Ysgol Y Llan. The Whitford team have worked tremendously hard once again and have provided many exciting opportunities for the children at our school.

From a Welsh week that was organized by members of our Criw Cymraeg, to an adrenaline fueled residential trip to Nant BH in Llanrwst. We have supported Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, Safer Internet Day, Welsh Language Music Day and the Urdd's 100th birthday when we also participated in their world record attempt to have the most people singing 'Hey Mistar Urdd' on social media.

We have been amazed by the achievement of one of our Year 5 pupils who took his Maths GCSE last term and was awarded with C grade. This is a wonderful achievement for a boy of his age and we look forward to seeing what the future holds for him.



Both BBC Wales and ITV Wales got in touch with our school once they heard the news. Miss Roberts featured on ITV Wales and BBC Radio Cymru talking about Leonardo and his incredible achievement.

Read more here:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-60000819>

We are always looking to improve our school and the opportunities that we



provide our pupils. The installation of a new trim trail has recently started and we have also had new colourful gates and fences installed at the front of our school. We have produced a new prospectus for our school which can be viewed on our school website or by following this link:

http://www.ysgolyllan.co.uk/uploads/6/0/9/8/60987703/ysgol_y_llan_whitford_prospectus_-_single_page.pdf



Members of our Criw Cymraeg, Thomas, Louie and Noah had this to say about our Welsh Week:

We are part of the Criw Cymraeg at Ysgol Y Llan Whitford and we have an important role in developing Welsh within our school.

Our latest project as a Criw was to organise a 'Wythnos Cymraeg'. We had lots of fun doing it and here was our plan:

On Dydd Llun, we held a famous Welsh people day, where we researched lots of famous Welsh people, and we then made

a biography of these different people. We also tried to recreate Rhiannon Roberts' famous artwork with Whitford as our theme.





On Dydd Mawrth it was the Urdd's 100th birthday celebration. We took part in and achieved a world record for the most people singing 'Hey Mistar Urdd' at the same time on social media. We had lots of fun making bracelets and playing games. We also celebrated Diwrnod Santes Dwynwen.



On Dydd Mercher we had an Eisteddfod creative day which involved completing arts and crafts and other items to compete in our school Eisteddfod.

On Dydd Iau we had a 'Proud to be Welsh' day. We finished our week off selling hufen ia at break time from our Pod Siarad to raise money for the Criw Cymraeg. In total we raised approximately £22. Everyone had to ask for their hufen ia in Welsh and the Criw would respond appropriately. We all had great fun during Wythnos Cymraeg and especially during







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MARK ISHERWOOD MS | AS

Member of the Welsh Parliament for I
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The costs of this publication have been met by the Senedd Commission from public funds



the hufen ia sale. On our last day of our Wythnos Cymraeg, we did an Alphabet reading focus where we all learnt all about our Welsh alphabet and drew some pictures to go with them. This was to help our nursery and reception children to learn their Welsh alphabet.



We have many ongoing projects and one of ours is currently working towards our Aur Award. We have a Welsh games system in place where three people in Class 4 organise a 30-minute activity for the rest of Class 4 during our break time every Wednesday. We are looking forward to using our new trim trail which is being installed. This will provide lots of new opportunities for new games and activities, supporting the health and wellbeing of all.



We love being part of the Criw Cymraeg and we are always busy thinking about new ideas to help promote Cymraeg in our school.

Thank you for reading our article.
Thomas, Louie and Noah.

Here are some of the activities that took place during Children's Mental Health Awareness Week:

Class 1 made worry monsters, painted their mood monsters and coloured in their 'Be Kind' posters after reading 'The Making of Milton'.



They took time to discuss who they would share their worries with and took part in circle time, telling their friends what they liked and admired about them.

Class 3 made worry dolls as part of a Children's Mental Health week activity. They discussed emotions and what can affect the way we feel.



PC Hulley also visited the classes during our Mental Health Awareness Week. On Safer Internet Day, she delivered an

interesting session all about Internet safety and the children in Class 3 had great fun taking it in turns to try her PC hat!

And finally, pupils from Years 6, 5 & 4 had a wonderful time on their residential to finish off an amazing term.



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HOLYWELL TOWN NEWS (Colette Lowry)

Hello to all readers from us here at Holywell Town Council.

Since our return to the offices in the new year, we have been busy actioning tasks and have held our full council meetings as well as holding a development committee and a Town Centre & Events Committee. Meetings are also still ongoing regarding the Railway proposal, circular bus route and active travel. The CCTV, town improvements and outdoor gym research is also in progress.



**EVENTS
GRANTS
AVAILABLE**





The Town Council has now approved its Event Grant Policy. There are a limited number of grants up to £500 available upon application to the council. These grants are exclusively for use to run events within the Tower Gardens Events area.

Please see QR link to access the booking form, process details and policy.

<https://holywell.wales>
01352 711757

We have now outlined a general events calendar for the remainder of the year. We are urging residents to come and get involved with the organising and running of events this year. You don't need to commit to all events and any help is welcome. We often need stewards on the day to guide traders or to assist with queries. Also, if anyone fancies running their own event, the Town Council has been granted limited funds this year to assist the community in holding their own events based in Tower Gardens. For more information, please email martin.fearnley@holywell.wales.

There are also plans to develop a Youth Activity guide. Currently we operate a Facebook page (Holywell Town Council Youth Forum), where groups and clubs can advertise their facilities. However, we aim to produce a paper version of this service. If you run a club or group or can provide services that would help the young people of Holywell and Greenfield, please get in touch with details. (martin.fearnley@holywell.wales) Similarly, we also run a business Facebook group (Holywell & Greenfield Business Showcase), where local businesses (not just shops), are free to advertise their goods and services. Every week we feature a different business and this is an opportunity to get to know the people behind the name and understand exactly what is available locally.

Flyers were also posted out earlier this year to test the waters for resident's

associations, primarily in Pen y Maes and Greenfield initially. Again, if this is of interest to you, reach out to us for more information.

The Mayor, Cllr Ted Palmer held a Civic service on Sunday 20th February at St. Peter's Church. Thank you to all who assisted in the organisation and also to Rosie's Café based in Holywell Leisure Centre who provided the buffet.



The Mayor's Ball will be held at The Stamford Gate on Saturday 30th April, with proceeds going to the Mayor's chosen charities, which are Holywell Swimming Club and the Danny Inskip Memorial fund. Tickets will soon be available from our offices.

On 16th February, we presented the belated 2021 Community Endeavour Award winners with their certificates and vouchers at the events area in Tower Gardens. In attendance to receive their awards were Helen Ryles, Becky Moore, Damian Evans, Doreen Lee and Donna Prydderch who also collected Ann-Marie Lewis' award on her behalf. Still to collect their awards are Daniel Thomas, Fiona Craig, Lesley Hughes and Martyn Evans. All winners were nominated for their contribution to the local area by both the

community and council members prior to Christmas.

We have also held another Eco school Uniform pop up event at the offices on Tuesday 22nd February. The offices currently hold a wide range of uniforms, PE kits, bags, shoes and coats, all of which can be taken at no cost although donations are warmly received and get gifted to the local schools on a rotation basis.

As most of you may be aware, elections will be taking place in May of this year. We are now beginning to receive information which will be regularly posted on our social media channels, website and noticeboards. If anyone is interested in being involved in the community and becoming a town councillor (a voluntary role), please contact Jason Baker (town.clerk@holywell.wales) and he will be able to advise and provide the necessary paperwork. In the meantime, further information can be found here: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/community-council-elections-wales>

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**A STORMY WINTER:
WINTER 2021/2022 IN THE FIVE VILLAGES
(Robert Moore)**

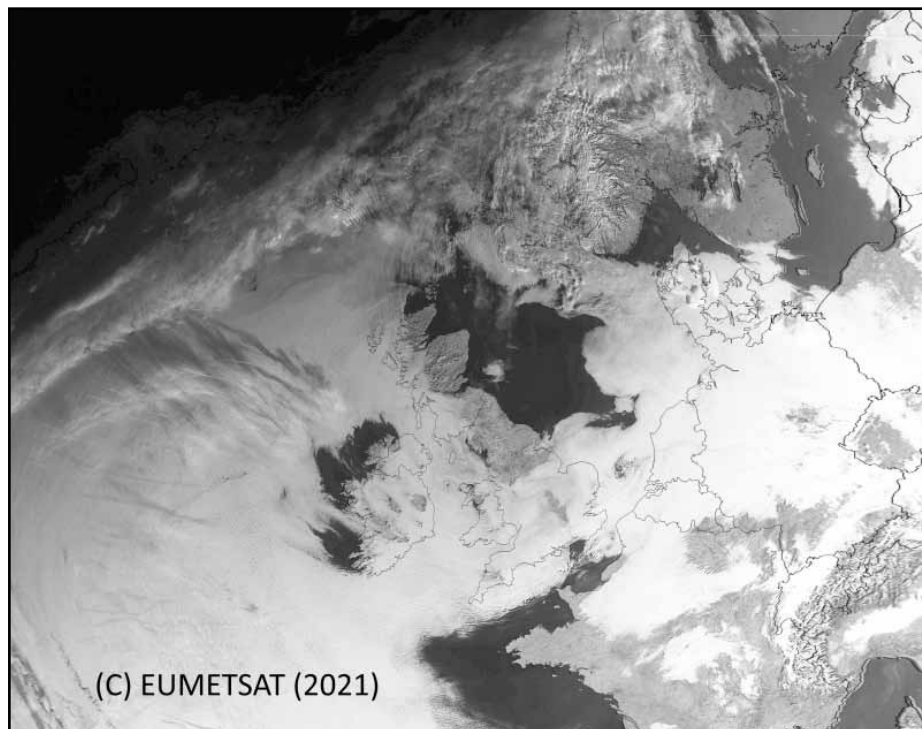
Weather in the Five Villages Winter 2021/22 (2020/21 in brackets)				
	Temperatures °C			Total rainfall mm
	Average	Maximum	Minimum	
November	9.0 (6.8)	16.9 (15.5)	-2.1 (3.0)	56.9 (55.0)
December	6.3 (5.2)	13.9 (12.7)	-2.1 (1.5)	142.5 (139.5)
January	5.5 (3.5)	14.0 (10.5)	-0.5 (-2.4)	Gauge failed (161.5)
February	6.9 (5.0)	12.5 (15.8)	-1.5 (-2.0)	122.9 (26.9)

Winter averages (December to February)		
	2000 - 2020	2021-2022
Air Temperature at 1800	5.1	6.2
Maximum Temperature	12.0	13.5
Minimum Temperature	-2.2	-1.4
Days air frost	6	4
Days ground frost	16	8

quarter's image is a picture of dull weather, with a blanket of low grey cloud over western Europe and the UK on 17th December. There was very little weather activity at this time. There was nevertheless some rain, whereupon my gauge ceased to operate. Eventually it proved to be a case of 'unplug it and plug it in again', but that did not save January's rain data. The December and February rainfall alone was treble the 20-year average winter rainfall.

February was a rather spectacular month, with stormy weather, high winds and plenty of rain. Corrie, Dudley, Eunice and Franklin all passed our way driven by a vigorous jet stream. Eunice disrupted transport and halted railways across Wales and closed schools on the 18th. I have no reports of any damage or flooding in the five villages, but there must have been some, because Carmel Road and my garden collected lots of twigs and other debris. Elsewhere in the UK there were some fatalities and damage resulting from this wild weather. Mature trees in the garden were swaying alarmingly. On the 16th I recorded wind gusts of 48 mph (21.5 metres per second) and on the 18th, 54 mph (24 m/s). No doubt the wind speed was higher on less sheltered or higher ground. For more technically minded readers there is a short and very interesting analysis of Eunice at <https://www.eumetsat.int/storm-eunice>.

Perhaps the most notable feature of this winter has been its relative warmth, no bitterly cold weather or snow, just wet and warm. March and April can always have some nasty surprises for us, however.



(C) EUMETSAT (2021)

No doubt February will be the most remembered month of this winter. But let's start at the beginning. The five villages missed the full impact of storms Arwen and Barra that marked the end of November and the beginning of December. There was damage and disruption elsewhere in the UK, including at the weather station. In the early 1990s we planted our Christmas tree in a corner of the garden. It grew to 10 metres but, sadly, fell victim to Barra. We cut off the top and had a second and splendid Christmas tree for 2021 – more than twenty-five years after the original! While December certainly began with some windy weather it quickly settled into a pattern of grey overcast days – 'drizzle' and 'light rain' are the most common entries in my daily notes, alongside poor visibility.

January was also dull and grey. Just to illustrate this, rather than showing a satellite image of spectacular cloud formations, or clear air and bright land imagery, this

The weather station exists to observe and record the weather. I am sometimes asked about weather forecasting. This I do, on and off, on a very amateur basis. But you do not need a weather station and satellite reception in order to make your own forecasts, or at least to predict the immediate weather. Just look up; observe the type, height and movement of the clouds, note the wind direction and any changes. Before you know it, you will have successfully forecast the next twelve hours' weather, maybe even the next twenty-four hours. Allan Watts' *The Weather Handbook* and Storm Dunlop's *How to Identify Weather* will help you hone your observing skills. Amaze your friends when you tell them that a warm front is on its way from the south-west. By the way, those of us who look out or look up will have seen at least three spectacular rainbows to our north around midday on 17th, 19th and 23rd February.

You will note that we can now compare each season's weather in the five villages with the seasonal average for the past twenty years. I hope readers find this interesting.

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

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FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE AGM

Wednesday 6th April

2022

at 5.00 pm

This will be a virtual meeting. If you would like to attend, please contact editor@5villages.org.uk for details of how to connect.

If you manage a local business and would like to advertise in the Five Villages Chronicle, please contact our Advertisements Manager, Melanie Wallis (01352 712369) or email advert5villages@yahoo.com

NEXT EDITION

Our next edition will be published on 18th June 2022 and the submission deadline for that edition will therefore be 20th May 2022.

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

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



THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE ASSOCIATION

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

Chairman - Peter Erasmus (01352 712067); Secretary - Margaret Williams; Treasurer - Bob Brown (01352 710967);

Advertisements - Melanie Wallis (01352 712369); Distribution - Chris Dolphin (01352 713415); Jonathan Duggan-Keen, Terry Ireland, Robert Moore. At present there is an editorial committee.

We do have a simple web page at www.5villages.org.uk

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

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

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

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