



THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE

CRONICL Y PUM PENTREF

ISSUE NO. 152
RHIFYN 152

WINTER (DECEMBER) 2024
GAEAF (RHAGFYR) 2024

PRICELESS
AMHRISIADWY



CARMEL VILLAGE HALL



(Chris Dolphin)

The old, loved hall is still a hub of activity hosting many groups and activities such as the joy of the Beavers having a Sleepover in October. Happy days are always a birthday party, and recently have ranged from aged 1 upwards.

The Hall AGM was in November, and the hall has just 6 Trustees, plus a Treasurer and Bookings Manager. We do really need more Trustees, COME FORWARD AND LET'S TALK. Are you good at organizing? Do you just want to join in and help? There is always something to do, and that includes matters we have probably never thought of.

The hall financial year is from July 31st, and we have our accounts professionally audited and reported to the Charity Commission. Recently audited and all up to date and in good order, thanks to our Treasurer and Auditor.

The grounds maintenance of the hall is usually taken care of by two great friends of the hall who live very locally. During the Autumn the grounds had a makeover, not a leaf was to be seen on the grounds of the hall, now in very early November, the grounds and Carmel Hill are thick with the magnificent tree's autumn fall again.

The hall Coffee Mornings are a joyous social event and managed by the Coffee Gang, five lovely ladies. The Coffee Mornings are every second Thursday of the month at 10am.

Another good friend of the hall and Carmel, manages a weekly Tea and Toast session every other Thursday of the month from 8am – 10am.

If you would like more information on becoming a Trustee at the hall, just get in touch with Chris Dolphin on 01352 713415 or email chris_dolphin@hotmail.co.uk

COVER PICTURE

This was taken in crecas lane woods during this year's first snowfall. Many thanks to Kirsty Jones.

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WE NEED MORE HELP!



In the last issue of the Five Villages Chronicle we made a plea for volunteers to help on the organising committee. We are delighted to say that it was answered and we have a new Secretary and further help available. But, we now have an extra problem. Our Distribution Manager has indicated that he will soon be unable to fulfil this crucially important role.

Distribution is at the very heart of the 5V Chronicle operation and we have all fingers crossed that someone in the 5 villages community will feel able to take on this role.

Here is what happens after each edition is sent by the Editor to the Printers: a phone call or email tells us that it is ready for delivery to the manager. 1300 copies of the new issue are delivered in 13 boxes each weighing about 15kg and left in a suitable location decided by the distribution manager (such as a garage) or loaded straight into your car boot. Then, when convenient, they distribute them to the 30 deliverers.

The deliverers are always eager to have the 5VC and you are a welcome visitor. Come and have a drive out with Chris, the current distribution manager, and enjoy the trip, helping to bind a community. In the first instance please email the chair, Peter Erasmus on petererasmus1138@gmail.com.

THE FIVE VILLAGES GARDENING CLUB

(Janet Tattum)

In **September** we had our visit to Mostyn Hall Gardens where we were taken on a woodland walk by Philip Handley. We were lucky to have good weather so the views over the estuary were very clear. Afterwards we toured the walled gardens where Philip told us all about the fascinating history of Mostyn Hall. Our tour finished in the huge greenhouse where tea and a selection of homemade cakes were waiting for us, a perfect end to an afternoon spent in a well-tended and well-loved garden.

October. This month Joe Wainwright, a renowned photographer of gardens of the North West, Midlands and North Wales, visited. We were shown amazing photographs of some of the most colourful and varied gardens across Great Britain. He also gave us lots of tips on how to achieve the best results when we photograph gardens we visit. The competition for a vase of autumn fruits and flowers was won by Wendy Erasmus.

November. A.G.M. We finish with the presentation of vouchers and the Menden Plate.

December. We round off our year with our Christmas lunch at the Crown Inn in Lixwm.

All our meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month in Carmel Village Hall at 2.00p.m. and our outings are in the afternoons. We hold our Plant Sale in June and our Garden Show in August, our only evening meeting which is at 7.00 p.m.

For any other information contact our Secretary on Tel. 01352 716273.

LOCAL DEFIBRILLATORS

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

GORSEDD WRITING GROUP (Sandy Neville)

We hope you enjoy the following poems written by members of our supportive and inspiring creative writing group.

The group meets on the first and third Thursday of each month at St Paul's Church, Gorsedd from 7.00 – 9.00 p.m.

Anybody, from complete novice to experienced writer, who is interested in creative writing in any form: maybe to produce a biography; poetry; short stories; novel writing or non-fiction articles, please come along and give us a try. You'll be made very welcome.

For more information, simply contact sandy@thenevilles.net or by phone on 01352 961597. It would be great to hear from you.

In Autumn

(Neil Jones)

I love and loathe
this time of year:
the sadness
and the splendour.
I wear it
like a Sunday coat
and gather its magnificence.

Grey acres
with their gold
remind me;
Friday afternoons -
I'd never known such peace,
remember well
the day I turned
and waved
with that anxiety
I never spoke of,
then or since.

I love and loathe
this time of year:
too many anniversaries,
too many deaths.
Now this one too.
And here's the end
of all we knew,
our journey's close
where trees shake hands
across the road. Imagine this.

The memories pile up
and, year by year,
I deal them out
like photographs,
remind myself
of something lost.
Our business fades.

We occupy two worlds
and, thinking of you now,
try seeing you again,
everywhere, in everything –
the vigour of a windy day,
the music in an empty room,
the song of blackbirds after rain.

Bardic stones

sunk in circles of dandelions
entwined in stems of ivy
buttoned with snowdrops
in spring

listen to the sound of raindrops
dancing on their tongues
pointing up to the sky
waiting to be kissed
by snow

Meini hirion

*ynghanol cylchoedd o ddaint y llew
eiddeu wedi tyfy drosto
eirlys yn wasgaredig o'i gwmpas
yn y gwanwyn*

*clywch y glaw yn disgyn arnynt
yn dawnsio ar ei tafodau
edrych i fynd at y nef
disgwyl cysan yr eira*

(Sarah L Dolan,
translated by Dewi Jones)

The Christmas Ornament

(Liz Davies)

Last Year

There it still hangs, alone, forlorn
Forgotten since the Twelfth Night morn
But Candlemas will soon be here
If still forgot will hang all year
Til Christmas once again returns
And, as the Christmas Candle burns
All through the day and through the night
And children squeal with great delight
So then at last it may once more
Be put to bed, not hang for yore

Next Year

Lovingly held and gently placed
Upon the tree to shine with grace
No more abandoned, left unseen
Beside the tree, not in the green
Last year so sadly left alone
Hanging apart all on its own
Proudly displayed on branches new
For all to see all Christmas through

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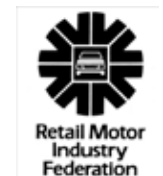
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1ST CARMEL BROWNIES (Sharon Jones)

We finished off the summer term (way back in July!) with a Yoga session kindly run by Julie from Rejuvenate. It was a great evening, we leaders got the chance to join in too. The Guides and Brownies enjoyed it and have asked if we can do it again.



September term flew by with the girls working on the Take Action theme. A fashion parade was held using Trash fashion which the girls designed themselves then showed off their outfits.



Ending our term, a fabulous movie night was held in St. Peter's Church with both Rainbows and Guides watching Inside Out



2 complete with pizza and hot chocolate.

Last week we held our session in St. Pauls, Gorsedd (Thanks to Ian for arranging). The girls made remembrance pebbles and also poppies with which we created a waterfall, decorating the font for Remembrance Sunday, which we attended.

We finished the special evening in the

church with Promises taken by Rose, Ruby and Sienna.

As usual we'd like to thank the parents for all their support. If anyone is looking to volunteer please join us at Carmel Brownies Wednesday 6 - 7.15pm.

Sharon Jones carmelbrownies2024@outlook.com



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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

CONGRATULATIONS

Best wishes from all of us to Tomos Auld from Tremostyn, gaining BA Hons in Welsh Primary Education at Bangor university.

(Aprille Auld)



BIRTHDAY



Wishing our lovely Grandson Peter Joseph Dickens, a very happy first birthday, on the 13th December. We are very proud of our cute little Grandson. With lots of love from 'Mops' and 'Pops', Colin and Ceri Fishwick.

CONGRATULATIONS!



The wedding of Dylan Harold Edwards, eldest son of Darren and Jacqui Edwards of Whitford, and Gabrielle Mary Phoebe Lukins-Brown daughter of Malcom and Odette Lukins-Brown of Meare, Somerset took place on 29th August at South Petherton, Somerset, in the presence of family and friends and their son Bailey. We wish them all the happiness in the world as they embark on their life together.

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CARMEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Gareth Roberts) COMPETING SIBLINGS!

Anyone who has brothers or sisters will know how almost anything can be turned into a competition. A boy and girl were given identical analogue watches, that's a wind up watch with moving hands, for younger readers. The siblings were telling their uncle how much better their identical watches were than the other siblings, then the girl said, "yes but mine is faster".

The bible tells us of many competing siblings, the first being Cain and Abel. Abel did what God wanted but Cain wasn't really bothered about God. So when God disapproved of Cain's offering he became angry and downcast. This means he was depressed. He was without hope!

The account in Genesis 4 goes on to tell us how Cain killed his brother Abel becoming the first murderer.

Depression is a huge problem in society and seems to be more prevalent in the affluent west.

Many people who feel depressed say they have no hope for the future. I want to point you to one who says he can give hope to those without hope and that's Jesus Christ.

Most people will try almost anything to fill an emptiness they may feel inside but they are reluctant to give Jesus a try.

This Christmas why not join us to celebrate the birth of Jesus and find out how he can give you a full life and a certain hope for the future.

You're also welcome every Sunday to our services, to tea and toast on Thursday mornings and to our quiz nights, the last one was 23rd November in the village hall.



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HANNAH BLYTHYN MS



Back in 2021, I was proud to stand on a manifesto pledge to explore the possibility of establishing a new national park in North East Wales. I truly believe it could bring significant benefits to our region, highlighting the natural beauty and rich offerings we have here. However, it's crucial that communities feel engaged and informed about the proposal from the outset and so recently I met with Gareth from the Campaign for National Parks in the Senedd to discuss the proposals – although we talked about the positives

from a climate, social and economic perspective, I stressed the importance of community engagement in the process of setting up a park.

Recently I asked the Welsh Government for more details on the planned public consultation and how residents can share their views – the consultation is now open and it's important that local residents share any concerns about what a national park could mean for the area. You can find out more information and take part at <https://ymgynggori.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/north-east-gogledd-ddwyrain/wales-national-park-proposal-public-consultation>. The



Hannah with Howard Sutcliffe and Huw Morgan from Clwydian Range AONB

consultation closes on December 16.

On the subject of tourism, October saw the launch of the next round of a Welsh Government tourism fund aimed at enhancing visitor experiences across Wales. The Brilliant Basics fund is a

capital fund delivering small-scale tourism infrastructure improvements across Wales and it's designed to deliver improvements in basic but essential visitor infrastructure, including accessibility, at strategic tourism destinations across the country to ensure that all visitors have a positive and memorable experience. The Brilliant Basics fund for 2025-2027 will see a further £5m invested to support local authorities and national parks to deliver improvements to tourist destinations which will benefit both visitors and local communities.

Since my last Chronicle column, I've started work on the Senedd's Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee with a session talking to representatives from the tourism sector in Wales. Since being elected, I've always been keen to champion our tourism offer here in North Wales, whether that's in my role as a Senedd Member or personally. I was also appointed as Chair of the Senedd's Standards of Conduct Committee, a committee which has been tasked with undertaking a hugely important piece of work and I am grateful to colleagues for giving me the opportunity to lead it. I'm very much looking forward to the change and challenge that comes with it and to playing my part in ensuring and advancing the integrity of the Senedd – from processes to policies and the people who serve within it.

I've been busy in the Senedd and

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recently I held a short debate entitled 'It's the economy stupid!: How can devolution make it work for workers and Wales?' While Wales may not have control over major macroeconomic levers, there is an opportunity to think differently about what we can do, from procurement and the power of the public purse to approaches such as community wealth building. You can watch or read my full speech at www.hannahblythyn.cymru/its-the-economy-stupid-how-can-devolution-make-it-work-for-workers-and-wales.

Back home in Flintshire, I was happy to support the Women's Institute's campaign to raise awareness about moves to make communities cashless and how that has been impacting people who don't have access to the sort of banking facilities that make this possible. Not everyone in our corner of North Wales can go cashless and many people, especially older generations, find online banking difficult to use – with the closure of many banks in Flintshire and some shops preferring to use cards or phones for accepting payments, we run the risk in Wales of simply leaving more vulnerable people behind. I've offered to support the campaign moving forward and I recently had the chance to raise this issue on the floor of the Senedd Siambr, where I made the point that in Wales we have the opportunity to think differently about our approach to this issue and that we need to make sure that this is on the agenda of the UK Government as well and we don't just go with the assumption that everybody is comfortable, confident and able to move with the times – because, if we do that, we are not going to be an inclusive and accessible country here in Wales.

Recently, the Welsh Government announced a further £1.5m grant to local authorities to support and expand safe and warm hubs across Wales, which for many people offer a chance to socialise and get warm in a safe and supportive environment. More than 850 hubs have been established across Wales since 2022, helping more than 117,000 people, and, here in Flintshire, the council runs 'Warm Welcome' hubs across the county – check out the map available at www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Cost-of-Living-Hub/Warm-Welcome.aspx for details on where they are.

Warm hubs are just one of the programmes the Welsh Government has in place to help with the cost of living in Wales. Despite the pressures on the current Welsh Government budget, there are a variety of schemes aimed at helping to make things easier for Welsh families this winter, from the Discretionary Assistance Fund to the Warm Homes Programme, plus there are schemes from the UK Government available as well. For a full list of the help that's available, go to my website at www.hannahblythyn.cymru/help-with-the-cost-of-living, or, if

you prefer, email me at hannah.blythyn@senedd.wales for a version you can read on screen or print out.

Finally, I recently held a funding fair in partnership with Flintshire Local Voluntary Council (FLVC) for local groups and organisations to help them to get hold of the grants they need to continue doing the great work they do in our communities – if you missed it you can still discover funding opportunities through FLVC by signing up to their newsletter at www.flvc.org.uk. If you represent a group or organisation that's looking for grants, you might also find Community Foundation Wales a useful resource – the organisation not only provides help with grants but also lets groups know about funding opportunities in the wider community. You can find out more at www.communityfoundationwales.org.uk.

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

HOW DID CARMEL GET ITS NAME?

Query from land of the Bible (Dorothy Williams)

Chris Dolphin writes: Dorothy Williams of Carmel found the article below in some long-forgotten belongings. The clues to dating are in the piece. The Councillor's name is on a plaque in the present village hall; he died in 1966. Perhaps others may have a memory of the sub postmasters and where it was? Must be late forties / 1950's to 1966.

Someone in Israel wants to know how the village of Carmel got its name. The query comes from Mr A Blum of Kfar Hanoar, Ben Shemen, Israel, who has sent an international reply postcard addressed to "The Postmaster, Carmel, Holywell, Flintshire, saying "Please could you explain why your place bears the biblical name Carmel."

Mr Iorwerth Parry, sub-postmaster of Carmel, who has only recently taken over the local post office and stores on the retirement of Mrs M Gregson, has handed the card to Councillor Llewelyn Edwards, the local representative of Flintshire County Council and Holywell Rural Council.

Mr Edwards has done some research in the matter, and he is of the opinion that the village of Carmel took its name from Mount Carmel in Israel formerly Palestine. Both places are high up overlooking the sea – Carmel the Dee estuary and Mount Carmel the Mediterranean.

The first place to bear the name of Carmel in the Flintshire village was the old Carmel Calvinistic Methodist Chapel which was built in 1814. Services continued there until 1899 when the present Carmel Chapel, only a short distance away, was opened. The old chapel, which is behind the old Carmel C P school, now the Village Hall, has been derelict for years and is due for demolition by the Council.

The Methodist cause in Carmel started at the Golch in 1765. Golch is taken from the Welsh word for wash, and it was the place where miners used to wash the lead they mined in the locality. The cause was started by William Davies, a preacher, who lived at the Golch Farm and who died in 1822.

After a few years the cause moved to Penfforddwaen (Gorsedd) where the first Sunday School was formed. In 1813 a piece of land was bought in Carmel and the following year the first chapel was opened.

The name Carmel was given to the chapel after the Biblical Mount Carmel, and that is how the village got its name.

Before the opening of the chapel in 1814, the top part of the village was known as Penuchn Golch (top part of Golch) and the lower part was Penisa Golch (lower part).



**CYNGOR CYMUNED
CHWITFFORDD
WHITFORD COMMUNITY
COUNCIL**

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

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

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

Carmel - 3 x Anti-social behaviour / 1 x
Other theft / 3 x Violence
Gorsedd - 2 x Burglary
Lloc - 1 x Other crime
Lloc (Services) - 1 x Other theft / 1 x
Public order / 1 x Shoplifting
Pantasaph - 2 x Public Order
Whitford - No crimes reported

COMMUNITY AWARD - 2024:

The Chair of Whitford Community
Council, Councillor Billy Glynn, in his

speech stated the following: 'I congratulate
Russell Williams as being the worthy
recipient of the Council's 2024 Community
Award, for his exceptional 24 years -
this month - for the commitment to this
community and to the younger generation
as Group Scout Leader for the 1st Carmel
Scout Group, the Beavers and the Cubs'.



*Russell Williams receiving his
Community Award from Councillor
Billy Glynn – Chair of Whitford
Community Council*

Russell regularly plans, organises and
leads programmes of games, activities, and
in particular, to develop the leadership skills
for the younger generation. This clearly
shows his ability to communicate with
people of different ages.

'The commitment Russell has provided
to this community over a substantial period
of his life is absolutely praiseworthy - and
on behalf of this Council and the residents,
we all thank you'.

Russell was presented with a crystal
glass trophy, framed certificate and
vouchers.

SUMMER PLAY SCHEME – 2024:

The Community Councillors were
pleased to receive a report from Flintshire
County Council (Aura Leisure) which
provided statistics following the bilingual
Children's Summer Play Scheme held in
Carmel over a six-week period (part July &

August). During the six weeks the number
of attendances by the youth of the area
totalled 1,184. The cost of this scheme was
£7,663.00. The Community Council have
committed to fund the play scheme for a
further two years.

RED PHONE BOX IN WHITFORD:

The Community Council are pleased
that the Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant
Society have kindly agreed to place
information literature within the red phone
box. The Council would also be pleased to
receive further suggestions as to items to
be housed within the red phone box. The
maintenance of the box would still be the
responsibility of the Council.

**RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR
RICHARD DOLPHIN:**

The Community Council recently
received the resignation of Councillor
Richard Dolphin.

Richard had been a member of the
Council for several years. Councillors
expressed their sincere gratitude for his
service to the Council and Community,
together with his commitment and time to
the active travel project and also as Vice
Chair and Chair of Council for a two-year
period. The Councillors sent their best
wishes to Richard and his family in their
new home.

Following the display of a Public
Notice under the Local Government
Act, 1972 (Section 87(2)) the Flintshire
County Returning Officer has advised the
Community Council that there had been no
call for an election and the Council were
authorised to fill the vacancy by co-option
(Public Notice displayed within this edition
whereby Expressions of Interest to fill the
vacancy can be sent to the Community
Council by Thursday 2nd January, 2025).

**COUNCIL MEMBERS BROUGHT
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(1) Two buddleia shrubs growing out of a wall adjacent to the pavement on the A5026 road in Carmel (2) Missing road sign on the border between this Council and Mostyn (Whitford to Tre Mostyn Road) (3) Fly tipping in car park opposite Lloc Chapel. Following inspection, the County advised that the area is private land and the County were unable to assist with the removal (4) One Way Street in Lloc: At the former Rock Inn end of the street a large tree branch has fallen onto the road (5) A5026 road at entrance to McDonald's area: Advertising signage has appeared on the metal wire fence between the A5026 road and A55. Comment made that the advertisements are a distraction to drivers when exiting the complex (6) Pot holes on Carmel Hill, Carmel: Near the following properties named; Greenacres and Westgate (7) Pot Holes on Waen Road: General road surface damage which appears to be caused by water running down the road (8) Councillor Emma Warbrick had been approached to assist two residents whereby water egress to their properties was emanating from the highway on the Babel Road in Gorsedd. The Street Scene Officer had visited and provided the following report: The County Council will replace three kerbs to the entrance to one of the properties, which will cease the water gaining access to both properties.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

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

(1) Application number: COU/000589/24 – for proposed change of use of detached barn to form a holiday let and extension to existing dwelling, at Mwdwl Eithin Farm, Carmel (2) Application numbers: FUL/000470/24 and LBC/000564/24 (Listed Building Consent) – for proposed 2 storey rear extension and roof alterations to existing elements with internal alterations, at St Philomena's, Monastery Road, Pantasaph (3) Application number: FUL/000635/24 – for demolition of existing stable blocks and the erection of 6 self-contained holiday flats with biodiversity improvements, at Penpalment, Mertyn Downing Lane, Maes Pennant (4) Application number: COU/000696/23 – for proposed conversion of redundant Chapel to single dwelling, at The Seion Chapel, Allt Y Golch, Carmel (5) Application number: FUL/000704/24 – for proposed replacement dwelling and associated works, at Sarn Farm, Whitford (6) Application number: FUL/000699/24 – for proposed extension and alterations to existing holiday let and proposed change of use from holiday let to agricultural workers dwelling, at Y Bwthyn, Pen Ffordd Llan, Lloc (7) Application

number: FUL/000697/24 – for proposed extension and internal alterations, at Pant Glas Farm, Pen Ffordd Llan, Lloc (8) Application number: LBC/000698/24 – for listed building consent for proposed extension and internal alterations, at Pant Glas Farm, Pen Ffordd Llan, Lloc

PLANNING DECISIONS:

The following planning decision has been received from Flintshire County Council:

Application number: FUL/000470/24 – for proposed 2 storey rear extension and roof alterations to existing elements with internal alterations, at St Philomena's, Monastery Road, Pantasaph. 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: £360.00 - Carmel Play Group (Early Years Centre, Ysgol Bro Carmel) - towards purchase of equipment / £350.00 - Urdd Gobaith Cymru (Flintshire Branch).

Applications for financial Support

The Whitford Community Council each year provide financial assistance to local Groups and Committees, who are registered within the Council area. This funding is awarded towards the cost of meeting room hire, general running costs, together with capital purchases.

The Whitford Councillors look forward to receiving financial assistance applications for consideration. An application form together with a policy document are displayed on the Councils web site (Public Notices & Financial page) and can also be downloaded. Further information can be obtained from the Clerk to the Council – as below contact details:

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



**CYNGOR CYMUNED CHWITFFORDD
WHITFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

PUBLIC NOTICE


VACANCY FOR ONE COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR

Applications are invited to fill one vacant Community Councillor seat, by co-option, on Whitford Community Council. More information on how the vacancy will be filled, can be found on the Council Web Site at www.whitford-council.wales (Public Notices) or by contacting the Clerk to the Council, as details below, for either a paper or electronic copy.


Closing date for applications (Expressions of Interest) is 12 Noon on Thursday 2nd January, 2025.

R. Phillip Parry,
Clerk to Whitford Community Council
E-mail: clerk@whitford-council.wales
Tel: 01352 720547

**Merry Christmas from the
Whitford Community Council**



**Nadolig Llawen gan gyngor
Cymuned Whitford**



**EGLWYS GYMRAEG BRO TREFFYNNON.
HOLYWELL & DISTRICT WELSH CHAPEL**

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

Rhagfyr /December:

8fed Y Parch Huw Powell-Davies (Gweinidog)
15fed Gwasanaeth Nadolig dan ofal yr aelodau,
22ain Gweinidog
29ain Uno yn y Berthen – Join with Berthen Chapel, Licswm.

Ionawr/ January:

5ed Cyfarfod Gweddi.
12fed Gweinidog (Cymun)
19eg I'w drefnu,
26ain Gweinidog.

Chwefror/February:

2ail I'w drefnu.
9fed Gweinidog
16eg Siân Morris.
23ain Gweinidog.

Mawrth/ March:

2ail Dathlu Gwyl Dewi
9fed Gweinidog (Cymun)
16eg Hedd ap Emlyn
23ain Gweinidog

Ar bawn Sul, 15fed Rhagfyr am 4 o'r gloch bydd Gwasanaeth Carolau Dwycieithog yn Eglwys Gorsedd yn cael ei drefnu ar y cyd rhwng Eglwys Gymraeg Bro Treffynnon ac Eglwys Gorsedd. Croeso cynnes i bawb.
On Sunday afternoon, 15th December at 4 o'clock a Bilingual Carol Service will be held at Gorsedd Church arranged between the Welsh Chapel in Holywell and Gorsedd Church. All are welcome.

**COUNCILLOR CHRIS
DOLPHIN
Hello everyone, Sut mae
pethau:
FLINTSHIRE LIBRARIES AND
LEISURE (FLL);**

FLL took over from Aura in early November. A whipped up online hysteria, as intended, became inflamed with comments of inaccuracy. A tense full council meeting resolved matters in late October. Importantly, all employees who transferred to what is now a Local Authority Trading Company have their terms and conditions protected under the Transfer of Undertaking Regulations 2006. In terms of pension, employees will see no difference, pensions remain the same. So why has all this happened?

Firstly, this change has never been about the model of delivery or quality of service. The situation arose as contractual arrangements between the Council and Aura were coming to an end, and a new arrangement, compliant with subsidy control law, needed to be in place. The funding model was agreed in June 2023, however Aura declined to sign the new arrangements and thus no new longer-term arrangement was reached.

Main concerns to the Council were impact on customers and staff, however this was reliant on the timely co-operation of Aura as the then current Data Controller, hence a short weekend closure on transfer. Locally, Holywell Leisure Centre is independently managed by Trustees after an Asset Transfer from the council some years ago; it's a success story. A library is sited in the leisure centre, and now the library is part of Flintshire Leisure Services.

There is obviously a lot more detail, have you noticed a difference now with libraries, museums and leisure services? **20MPH TO 30MPH? ;**

Welsh Government have previously announced plans to work with local authorities to prepare for revising the guidance on which local roads are exempted from 20mph. The authority has received over 1,000 application requests for roads to change back to 30mph. Each application received must be assessed in accordance with WG criteria.

Locally the A5026 in Lloc, that's the present 20mph area from the main junction by the garage to Penfforddilan roundabout. This road is identified with many others in the county such as the Coast Road in Greenfield, as meeting the requirements to change back to a 30mph. The statutory consultation process started on 8th November for a period of 21 days, when formal objections could have been received. Notices will have been on site, in the Flintshire Leader and an information pack available in the Holywell Connects centre. All objections will be impartially

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assessed, and then a report produced, followed by a final decision.

SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (SPF);

This is a fund from UK government which succeeds some EU grants and is part of the Levelling Up structure. An announcement in the recent UK budget confirmed a transitional extension to the SPF which will enable some projects to run for longer from 2026. The council has received funding from the SPF for projects in Flintshire including; "We Mind The Gap" a social mobility charity designed to upskill participants. The charity offers six months of on-the-job experience with four different employers alongside weekly GCSE level maths and English lessons. Another SPF programme delivered by the council is "Sidestep" which benefits young people aged 11plus and at risk of exploitation and crime. Latest stats show 100% of the young people improved their connection with education, training, or employment, while 89% reduced their involvement, or risk of involvement in serious organised crime.

Flintshire County Council has improved and transformed the county coastline during the last 20 years through different means. At present funding from the SPF has delivered further improvements in the Bagillt area. Bettisfield Colliery is one example, where rubbish has been removed, pathway

upgrades laid, and continued support to protect the Natterjack toad continues. An area in Connahs Quay known as "The Rock" has also received SPF advantages. To tidy up this area for residents, tractor flail to reduce dominant vegetation, opened a Right of Way, removed Ash tree scrub, removed old gates and fencing, laid a path and generally made the area much safer.

COAST PATH BARRIERS;

Due to problems with county lines gangs and other anti-social behaviour, pedestrian barriers were erected on the coastal path between Chester and Connahs Quay, this inevitably did restrict legitimate users. Notably, the barriers caused indirect discrimination against disabled people.

When installed legal opinion was there was a valid and convincing argument to erect barriers to prevent illegal vehicular use. However, the provision of barriers, which allows an able-bodied person right of way, would prevent a disabled person. In considering all the information now available and to adhere to legislation concerning The Equalities Act the barriers are to be removed in a staged approach. The first removals will take place in Higher Ferry, Saltney this year, and then in the Connahs Quay area early next year.

NATIONAL PARK;

The study area for a proposed National Park is based on the Clwydian

Range and Dee Valley. Within Flintshire the study reflects the current outline of the AONB. It was initially sought to have Hope Mountain and Caergwrle outskirts, and the existing AONB boundary to the north included, however these proposals were dismissed. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) are leading on work to develop a new national park for North East Wales. A questionnaire and mapping are online and open until 16th December 2024. NRW is independent and will make an evidence-based recommendation for the benefit of the people of Wales, accounting for all legislation. The assessment procedure will decide if the evidence demonstrates that statutory criteria relating to natural beauty and opportunities for open air recreation are met, and if the area is of sufficient national significance that National Park purposes may apply.

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

Prepare to make your Will

We always ask our clients to do some homework before they come to us - this helps make the most of our initial meeting

- **List your Assets - this helps us look at inheritance taxes and other planning**
- **Your Executors - the people who administer the Will for you**
- **Guardian for children under 18**
- **What do you want your Will to say**
- **Funeral wishes - often overlooked but helpful**

Our initial appointments are without obligation. If you fancy a chat please contact us:

hello@celtic-law.co.uk
Celtic Law Ltd, Florence House, Bromfield Lane, Mold, CH7 1JW
01352 860890



'THIS DAY'

(Norman Closs – Parry)

My title for this issue is taken from the title page of Wendell Berry's Collected and New Sabbath poems. When one Googles his name - a question pops up...Is Wendell Berry religious?



After a long time reading his novels, essays, poems, conservation pieces and political come philosophical articles... I think he is an honest and different seeker after the truth, realising that in everything there is a wonderful spirit of creation and life...as for the title, here is a clue...

Every Sabbath Day [Sunday] he takes time off farm working for his daily bread... and wanders by the river that runs through his Kentucky Farm.

He sits, he looks, he communicates.. he - yes he might say in his mind

'Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses...'

This Kentucky farmer is now 90 years old. His output has been phenomenal, his influence is inspirational and personal for many - including myself. He is oft quoted say - Google - and we found out...As a foretaste, just in case a reader would want a bit more of the wisdom of age sage earth and sky...I will quote at lib... the titles are just the Year of Writing and is headed by Roman numerals...

1997

I

Best of any song
is bird song
in the quiet, but first
you must have the quiet.

1997

VII

There is a day
when the road neither
Comes nor goes, and the way
Is not a way but a place.

1999

IX

The incarnate Word is with us
Is still speaking, is present

always, yet leaves no sign
but everything that is.

2005

XVIII

A hawk in flight
The clearing sky
A young man's thought
An old man's cry.

XIX

Born by our birth
Here on the earth
Our flesh to wear
Our death to bear.

2009

XI

O Thou who by Thy touch give form
To all things and their polity,
Whose sight is light to all, draw thanks
From us as we draw breath from Thee.

2012

I

Now falls upon our hope and work
The years end and the early dark
The avar on its ceaseless flow all day
Bears widening circles of the rain away.

XX

Sit and be quiet. In a while
The red berries, now in shadow,
will be picked out by the sun.

The short poem that 'shook' me most was

2012

XII

Once there was nothing
not even darkness,
not even silence,
not even nothing
Think of that.

I will add a line or two of my own...

Now you have everything.
The planet has enough
for everyone's need

not for our greed
That's what makes it tough!
Peaceful Christmas
spare Him a thought...
and the gold
the frankincense
the myrrh
and 2025 will be all right!!
In His hands...

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SENIOR SECTION SEASON REVIEW

Carmel's senior teams can look back on a very encouraging and successful 2024 season competing in various North Wales League divisions. Here is a brief summary of events.

Women's and Girls' Team

The team reached its highest ever position in the North Wales Women's Cricket League (East) Division, ending the season as runners up to league champions Northop Hall. The team amassed a total of 220 points and enjoyed notable victories against some very good teams. Amongst the season's highlights were Charlotte Taylor's excellent innings of 31 against Halkyn and Katie Ryle's 3 wicket bowling display against Pontblyddyn. As always, the progress made in 2024 was a real team effort, and all members of the squad made valuable contributions throughout the season. Everyone connected with the team is already looking forward to 2025 with great enthusiasm and excitement.

Men's First XI

Carmel's First XI finished the season on a real high, winning the majority of their final games and ending the season in fifth place in Division 2 of the North Wales Cricket League. There were many highlights throughout the season, including an excellent away win in August against the division's runners up Marchwiell and Wrexham. Captain Ben Sim and wicket-keeper Ryan Roberts both scored 33 runs in this game to steer the team to victory. Another highlight was the thrilling tied game against Mochdre Second XI (and eventual league champions) at Pen-y-Gelli on 26th August. Carmel's top scorer in this game was Jeivishnu Prithiviraj who batted very well against top quality bowling to score 45 runs. The strong finish to the 2024 season created a real sense of positivity around the team which augurs well for next season.

Everyone connected with the club was also delighted to learn that Ryan Roberts has won the Division 2 wicket-keeping award for 2024. Ryan enjoyed an outstanding season behind the stumps and fully deserves this divisional accolade.

Men's Second XI

Following recent difficult seasons due to player availability issues, it was very pleasing to see the team making real progress in 2024. Under the captaincy of

Cameron Ackroyd, Carmel's Second XI finished the season in ninth place in Division 4 and once again the team provided a great platform for some of the club's younger players to gain valuable match experience. The team enjoyed some notable victories during the season, including an excellent away win at Hawarden Park Third XI where Steve Jones scored 108 runs and Rick Kirkham scored 85. The team also ended the season on a high with an excellent victory against Marchwiell and Wrexham Seconds, with Jason Hookey and John Williams both taking 3 wickets.



An autumn view of the pavilion at Carmel's Pen-y-Gelli ground

END-OF-SEASON AWARDS

The club held its end-of-season awards ceremony on Friday 1st November at Pen-y-Gelli. Here is a list of all the senior teams' winners:

Women and Girls:

Batting Award – Haf Read
Bowling Award – Katie Ryle
Captain's Player of the Year – Carol Owen
Players' Player of the Year – Charlotte Taylor

Men's First XI:

Batting Award – Ben Sim
Bowling Award – Amer Jamil
Captain's Player of the Year – Ryan Roberts
Players' Player of the Year – Ryan Roberts

Men's Second XI:

Batting Award – Jonathan Fisher
Bowling Award – Dafydd Timothy
Captain's Player of the Year – Rick Kirkham
Players' Player of the Year – Steve Nash

2025

The club is already looking ahead to next season, and winter nets for all senior teams will commence in the new year, details of which will be available on the club's website in due course. In the meantime, we would like to wish all readers of the Five Villages a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i chi gyd.

'The Carmel & District Cricket Club junior teams are now in the middle of their indoor winter training in Holywell. As coaches this is a time where we can reflect on the season just gone and how we can build and improve for next season.

The indoor sessions are great fun and the juniors absolutely love them. We focus on making the sessions enjoyable, inclusive and safe while developing the core skills needed to play cricket. There is a great joy in just throwing and catching a ball with friends and with the younger ones we start with those basics and build from there and move on to simple batting and bowling techniques.

Developing skills and knowledge of all aspects of the game is important for the junior teams. The older juniors will be refining their techniques in, bowling actions, scoring runs and fielding and wicketkeeping and sessions move through warm ups, specific skill practices and competitive games so they can get used to using their skills in match like scenarios where the other team is trying to get them out and score more runs to win.

Our next set of indoor training sessions will start in February and we always welcome new junior players. They are a good opportunity to develop some skills before the season and the teams start their outdoor matches around May time.

Our youngest juniors are 5-8 or 8 years old and we have u9, u11, u13 and u15 teams which can be mixed or boys and girls teams depending on numbers, age and ability.

If you think your child would like to take part next spring do get in touch via email at carmelcricket@hotmail.co.uk, Facebook, Instagram or Twitter - we'd be happy to talk to you and welcome you to the club!

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ESTUARY VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME (Paul Williams)

As we prepare to celebrate 30 years of service with a rebrand in the New Year, Estuary Voluntary Car Scheme is reaching out for new trustees and volunteer drivers to help us meet the growing needs of our community. Our dedicated team provides vital transportation services for those needing assistance reaching medical appointments, social events and group activities, and we're eager to expand our impact with more helping hands!

The organization is in a transformation stage with the past few months seeing a number of changes. We say goodbye to some of our longest standing trustees who have been an excellent support to the business but who have decided it's time to retire after many years of very support service. We would like to thank them for all that they have done.

We have also welcomed three new trustees who are lending their support to make 2025 a year to remember for the organisation. These three trustees will bring a wealth of knowledge following years of service in business and commerce and also community-based support roles, but we are looking for one more trustee to join us on the team.

If you think your background and knowledge could help out, please get in touch, we'd be delighted to hear from you. We are holding our AGM later this month so if you think you might be interested in helping out, we can organise an invite.

As we are approaching our 30th birthday, it only seems fitting that the organization should have a bit of a revamp and we are currently working on improving our profile within the community. This will include new logos, a refresh of the website, promoting ourselves a lot more on social media and within the community in general, and possibly a slight name change, so watch this space.

As you can imagine, a volunteer led transport scheme is heavily reliant on their volunteers, we are no exception. We are constantly looking to increase our driver pool as people move on or changes in personal circumstances mean they are unable to help in the same way they used to. Recruitment of new drivers is crucial to us.

Anyone over 21 years of age, with a clean driving licence and is happy for us to conduct a DRB check is able to drive for us. We provide the vehicles, the fuel and the insurance, all our volunteers need to worry about is how much time they can spare us. So again, if this is something you are interested in then please get in touch with us.

Moving into 2025, we will be looking improve our funding opportunities and in the last month we have had meetings with Becky Gittins, our new MP in Westminster as well Mark Isherwood and Hannah Blythyn, our local MSs. These discussions have been extremely positive and have given us new avenues to explore. We have also reached out to all the community councils in our area of operation, many of which already knew about us and already

provide us with some funding. We have also met with the Community Transport Association who have been a massive help.

Funding is crucial, we need to upgrade our fleet of vehicles and keep the ones that we have in the best operational condition, which can sometimes be challenging. However, there are a number of community grants we are entitled to and once our rebranding has been agreed we will certainly be applying for these wherever we can.

Finally, I'd just like to say that if anyone is in need of our services then please get in touch, at the end of the day we are here to help.

Contact us at admin@estuaryvoluntarycar.co.uk or call us on 01352 710149.



THE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY CLWYD GROUP

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

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

Visitors welcome £3 per meeting.

Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 18th February, 'Snowdrops and other Spring Bulbs', Sue Clarke

Sue is Chair of the Cottage Garden Society and has been involved in the creation of their displays at the NEC for Gardeners' World Live Show and the RHS Tatton Show. She holds a National Collection of *Geranium sylvaticum* and *Geranium renardii*. Sue opens her garden in Cheshire for Plant Heritage and the NGS by appt.

Tuesday 18th March, 'Heuchera, Heucherella & Tiarella and How to get the best from them', Vicky & Richard Fox

Vicky and Richard of Jubilee Cottage Nursery aka 'Plantagogo' in Crewe, Cheshire hold National Collections of all 3 genus of these plants. They are multiple Chelsea Gold Medal winners since 2009 and in many other shows. As well as heritage varieties available they also have a breeding programme for new varieties.

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

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

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SACRIFICE, HONOUR, AND GRATITUDE (Ceri Fishwick)



I write this article at a time when we honour our fallen and injured heroes in the line of duty. Remembrance Sunday is a day to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian

servicemen and women in the two World wars and later conflicts.

A few months ago, I revisited the Museum of Liverpool and was particularly interested in the personal diaries of many soldiers in which they wrote about their time with the King's Regiment during various wars. These diaries give an insight into the personality of individual soldiers, and also help us to understand the conditions in which soldiers serve during war time. One diary followed a Private who was a drummer with the Regiment, another a Lieutenant serving during the Boer War whom, during the First World War, reached the rank of Major.

A colour Sergeant wrote of the deaths of his comrades on the front line in 1916 and the horror of the First World War trenches in the build up to and during the Battle of the Somme. British soldiers stood ankle-deep in mud and with lice infected clothes, without any washing facilities, in constant fear of bullets, shelling and gas attacks, awaiting command to 'go over the top'; many died doing so. After the battle came the task of searching possessions of dead comrades for their last letter home to give to their grieving families. The war took away fathers, brothers and uncles. Some boys as young as fifteen lied about their age and signed up having the inspiration of 'for God, King and Country'. Some 25,000 service men were awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for exceptional acts of bravery during the First World War and around 1,900 awarded during World War II.

During World War One, initially the British volunteer army was tiny compared with the huge conscripted German force. As Britain needed to expand force numbers, a call for troops went out across Europe. Thousands volunteered, mainly from poorer, unskilled backgrounds. In Liverpool, Lord Derby urged businessmen to serve together in battalions of comrades and called them 'Pals'. Within weeks more than four thousand came forward and other towns and cities followed with their own 'Pals' battalions. None of these young men had any idea of the horrors that would face them on the Western front. The same could be said for the medical staff and nurses who were to treat the wounded soldiers, where medical dressing stations were set up as close to the front line as possible.

During the Second World War, one of the most important campaigns was the Battle of the Atlantic; the longest battle from 3rd September 1939 until 8th May 1945, the day Germany surrendered. Many British and Allied merchant seamen became prisoners of war mainly due to the activities of the German warships and armed auxiliary cruisers. The scene of torpedoes, shells, bombs or the depth charge was terrifying, and countless men, women and children suffered further horror of trying to evacuate sinking ships in mid ocean, often at nighttime and spending days and weeks in open lifeboats or on makeshift rafts clinging on in desperate hope of rescue.

RAF Coastal Command played a decisive role in the Battle of the Atlantic, particularly from 1943 onwards as a multi-national air force.

It is probable that at least one quarter of the men who were in the British Merchant Navy at the outbreak of the war did not survive to the end of the war. By the end of the First World War

in 1918, almost one million soldiers from the British Empire had died. Almost an entire generation of young men had gone off to battle. Vast amounts of animals died during World War I and World War II including horses, mules, donkeys, carrier pigeons, dogs and whales

At home with the shortage of farm labour, as men were conscripted into the forces during the First World War and there was need to grow more food due to the threat with supplies, this led to the establishment of the women's Land Army in 1917. By 1918 there were over 113,000 women working on the land. Other roles included caring for animals, working with the prisoners of war, felling trees, and shepherding sheep. Many women played an essential role in packing parachutes, working in factories and at airfields to sew, cut fold, and secure the lines of parachutes.

The 'home front' supported the war effort in many ways, including a wide range of volunteer efforts and submitting to government managed rationing and price controls. Britain's Home Front is remembered for many things: preparing air raid shelters, provision of gas masks, training Air Raid Precaution 'ARP' wardens, organising the women's voluntary service, the black outs, evacuations and the showing of morale boosting films.

'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends'. Jesus speaks of the greatest act of love and of his forth coming crucifixion; the son of God taking our deserved punishment for sins committed. The Christian message of our repentance and God's forgiveness, He is condemned in our place.

We acknowledge the huge sacrifices made by so many, for their valour and protection, during all wars for defending people's rights and thank all our veterans for their great courage, strength and dedication in keeping us safe....'Lest we forget'.

Ceri Fishwick/ Carmel

November 2024



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📺 Carmel Christian Church Flintshire

EXORCISE WITH CARE! (Geraint Roberts)

I'm sure that most of us as children will, at one time or another have been sent to bed for misbehaving. I certainly was, during my illustrious career as a mischievous child.

Punishments for adults of course have been refined over the years, which have ranged from public executions (with their inevitable element of entertainment), banishment to Botany Bay, or imprisonment at one end of the continuum to the more topical delights of washing graffiti off public walls or wearing an electronic leg tag at the other. Our penal system, in the absence of a better one surely works, are not the prisons full?

Exceptions subjected to the above were the landed gentry and spirits, which to some extent is still true today. Folklore however, had its own way of dealing with these; here are a few anecdotal examples.

We all know spirits cannot be executed, they're already dead; nor can they be incarcerated in a normal prison; but, they can be exorcised. Tales from all over the world attest to this and several productions from Hollywood and Pinewood Studios have helped create an image of a sweaty priest in a circle of salt feverishly clutching a crucifix and wrestling with an evil manifestation whilst reciting a prayer. But what happens to these exorcised spirits? Do they just cease to exist or do they return to join ordinary spirits who actually do know how to behave? Or, as described in the following examples, are they condemned to somewhere very special for eternity?

A couple of summers ago I went for a mountain bike trip through the uplands rising to the north of the narrow mountain road connecting Tregaron to the little hamlet of Abergwesyn. Among the several places of interest I sought was the lonely farmhouse of Moel Prysgau which lay just



Moel Prysgau

off the ancient Monk's track from Ystrad Fflur (Strata Florida). Moel Prysgau was at one time haunted by a very troublesome spirit. In 1720, the tenant of Moel Prysgau was one Edward Evans who was known to be a particularly violent man. Although it couldn't be proven, he had drowned his brother Thomas, in the river whilst they were washing some horses. He had also murdered a Scottish pedlar whose body was later found to have been buried beneath the floor of the farmhouse. Despite the pedlar's horse running free in the district for several days he escaped suspicion. It was only when his wife discovered his affair with a woman from Pontrhydyfendigaid and confronted him that things began unravelling for Edward Evans. In a fit of temper, he killed her by the side of the ancient track. This time he was arrested, and following a trial was hanged. Was it his troubled spirit which haunted the old farmstead, or was it the restless ghost of a previous victim said to date from the sixteenth century which refused to be at rest? A religious man from Ystrad Fflur was eventually summoned to conduct an exorcism and the ceremony ended when he threw a handful of sand into a pool in the Nant Wineu stream and condemned the spirit to gather every last grain before he could be set free.

A similar fate befell the devil himself when the vicar of Llanfyllin caught him in

church one day. Following a ritual which involved walking around the church three times and chanting the Lord's prayer the devil was cast into the river Dee which flowed several miles to the north, and whilst a lamp burnt in the church, he would have to remain in the river. After several years, when the purpose of the permanently burning lamp was forgotten, it was extinguished. The devil immediately returned in the guise of an old man and continued to disrupt the service on the Sabbath. This time he was tackled by two holy men and was turned into a black cockerel and cast once again into the waters of the Dee, into a particularly deep pool called Llyn Geulan. Here he would have to stay until he had counted every single grain of sand on the riverbed.



Swallow Falls

Sir John Wyn of Gwydir near Llanrwst was a cruel and dishonest landowner who was responsible for many injustices, none of which brought him to account. When he died however, his evil soul was banished beneath the cold, turbulent waters of

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Rhaeadr Ewynnol (Swallow Falls) near Betws y Coed, there to be cleansed for all eternity.

Some two miles to the north of Tremadog high up in the hills is Erw Suran farmhouse. This was once troubled by a very noisy poltergeist whose antics of moving furniture and throwing pots was occasionally made worse when it appeared in the form of a huge, snarling, cat-like creature. Eventually the spirit was exorcised and cast into Llyn Du, a nearby lake where it has to remain whilst there is water in the lake. Extremely dry summers makes some of the older locals very nervous!



Llyn Du

Less than a mile after passing Tallyllyn lake on the road to Tywyn, a cairn of rocks can be seen in the field on the left; this is the site of a small lake which was drained almost a century ago. The cairn used to form a small island on Llyn Maes y Pandy where the nearby farm of the same name used as a water supply. Following the death of his wife, who had left him a little boy, a past occupant re-married. His new wife too had a young son and one day when she took both boys to the lake to wash some clothes she drowned her husband's little son, claiming it was an accident. The little boy's spirit refused to rest and troubled the family for generations. It is said two sons from two succeeding generations also drowned in the lake. When the spirit was eventually laid it was put into an earthen jar and buried beneath the cairn.



Llyn Efyrrwy

When, in 1881, work began on the construction of the Efyrrwy reservoir just west of Oswestry it was decided to alter the course of the river in order to build a new construction road. A huge boulder which weighed twenty tons lying in the riverbed had to be blasted. On the day this was to happen many of the villagers went away for the day to escape the wrath of

an evil goblin which had been imprisoned beneath the boulder fully expecting it to be released!

A tanner from Henllys, Disserth, a few miles to the south-west of Llandrindod by the name of Charles Lewis was known locally as Cawr Disserth (Disserth Giant). He was a large man, reviled by most who dealt with him on account of his dishonesty and brash, bullying nature. He apparently had two weighing scales; one for buying, and one for selling. When he died his troubled soul could find no peace and he continued to plague the locals, especially, it seemed, those on horseback; several instances occurred when frightened horses threw their riders. Eventually the Parson of Cefnlllys and three accomplices summoned the spirit of Cawr Disserth to church. When he arrived in a loud swirling tempest the candles of the three accomplices went out and they immediately fled outside, but the Parson had had the foresight to place his candle in his boot. A long and tiring struggle then took place lasting several hours which all but exhausted the Parson. Eventually the spirit was reduced to a blue-bottle and placed inside the quill of a goose feather. This was then locked in a silver snuff box, attached to a heavy iron bar and buried in Llyn Coededdig bog much to the joy and relief of the locals. The Parson, the Reverend Jones died in 1844 aged 89.

The spirit of Black Vaughan of Hergest was also put in a silver snuff box and thrown into the lake in front of his castle.



Herbiest Pool

Squire Vaughan had seemingly devoted his life inflicting cruelty and hardship on his tenants and when he was beheaded following one of the many battles in the Wars of the Roses his restless ghost continued to torment the area, which is south-west of Kington. It took twelve ministers to conduct the exorcism and reduce him to a size which would fit inside the snuff box.

An ordinary tobacco box was used to contain the spirit of a restless pedlar who was murdered near Beulah. This was then buried beneath a stone in front of the Gilwern farmhouse.

Another notorious Squire whose life had been spent inflicting injustices and oppressing his tenants was the squire of

Bagbury in the village of Hyssington, near the town of Montgomery. After his death he would appear in the form of a huge bull whose roar was enough to damage buildings in the village. The Parson of St. Ethelreda church was given the task of dealing with him. After a lengthy, exhausting service the bull was reduced to a size which would fit into a boot. This was tightly laced and buried beneath the doorstep of the church, there to remain for all time.

In 1692 a coach accident not far from Llanrothal church a few miles east of Abergavenny occurred when all the occupants perished in the swollen river Monnow; not a single body was found. The driver's soul, one Henry Milborne, doubtless ridden with guilt, could not rest, and several nocturnal incidents which disturbed passers by were attributed to his spirit. The old Vicar of Raglan was asked to help. He summoned the spirit and asked him if he would seek rest in the river to which the spirit asked, "For how long?" "Until I next eat bread" was the old Vicar's reply. The unquiet spirit of Henry Milborne complied and went into a pool still known as Milborne's Pool. Very shortly afterwards the old Vicar died, without having touched a crumb of bread! He had known his time was near!

On rare occasions the exorcised spirit remains where it can be seen, usually petrified into a rock. One of the best examples can be found on the cliff



Petrified demon of Aberglaslyn

high above Aberglaslyn gorge below Beddgelert. An evil demon had been luring solitary travellers passing through the gorge on stormy nights to their deaths in the raging waters below. When she was finally exorcised, she was made to kneel in the form of a white rock with her head bowed in shame for all eternity.

And that's it, a few examples of stories from folklore's rich library showing how some spirits were not only tamed but condemned to a specific place or made to complete specific tasks which would last for eternity, thus allowing the living to live in peace. These are stories which symbolise good prevailing over evil, wisdom overcoming foolishness, and God vanquishing the devil. Tales, which in their oft told versions served to reinforce the Faith; a succour once so essential to the simple folk in our rural areas of yesteryear.

MARK ISHERWOOD MS



Last month, as Chair of the Cross-Party Group on Hospice and Palliative Care, I met with end-of-life charity Marie Curie to discuss in more detail the findings of their latest report, 'Time to Care', as well as the action they would like to see taken to improve end of life care in Wales. The report's key findings include "Too many people die in pain and without the support they need for their symptoms" and "Gaps in 24/7 community care prevent people from dying in comfort at home".



Earlier in the month, I sponsored and attended their briefing event, organised jointly with Hospices Cymru and Hospice UK, 'Hospice Care Week: Celebrating Welsh Hospices and Securing their Future'.

Wales is home to 16 charitable Hospices operating in every Health Board and providing essential care to more than 20,000 people affected by terminal illness each year. Their services allow people who are dying to stay in their own homes as well as access in-patient beds supporting end of life in their local communities.



They reduce hospital admissions, and have a far-reaching impact on people's lives and the entire healthcare system. Every year, they provide specialist palliative care to over 36% of people who die in Wales, nearly three-quarters of which is delivered in the community.

Demand for palliative care is projected to rise by over 42% by 2040 and Hospices are caring for patients with increasingly complex needs.

However, Hospices in Wales are currently forecasting a combined deficit in 2024-25 totalling £9.5m. One in five Welsh Hospices say they are reducing the number of inpatient beds or wider Hospice services.

Speaking in the Member Debate on Assisted Dying, I emphasised the desperate need to improve palliative and end of life care.

I said: "As Hospice UK state 'regardless of any change in the law, Welsh Government need to reduce inequity in access to, and experience of palliative and end of life care'.

"And as Marie Curie state 'urgent action is needed in Wales to ensure that our palliative and end of life care system meets the needs of people across Wales ... and can respond to the growing number of people who will require palliative and end of life care in coming years'. Adding that there is an 'implementation gap' between what the Welsh Government set out in its vision for palliative and end of life care and this becoming a reality for all."

Wales has a rapidly ageing population, with the number of people aged 65 and over projected to increase by 36.6% between 2016 and 2041.

Of the 34,000 people who die every

year in Wales, 75% need some form of palliative and end of life care. Therefore, we need to see effective collaboration between the NHS and Charitable sector if we are to radically improve access to hospice and palliative care for everyone across Wales – with Health Boards asking Hospices how they can help them deliver more.

Also last month, I met with the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and RADLD (Raising Awareness of Developmental Language Disorder) ahead of DLD Awareness Day.

Developmental language disorder (DLD) is a condition where children have long-term challenges talking and/or understanding words.

Children with DLD may have lots of ideas but find it hard to put their ideas into words and understand what other people say to them. Their difficulties can be hard to spot and may be 'hidden' for a long time.

A child can be diagnosed with DLD if their challenges with talking and/or understanding words have a big impact on how well they do at school, or in everyday life; are not caused by another condition, such as hearing impairment or autism; and are not likely to get better by age five – their challenges are likely to be life-long.

Most children with DLD will need support and changes to the environment at school to help them. Some people with DLD continue to need support when they are adults.

For further information about DLD please visit RADLD - Raising Awareness of Developmental Language Disorder - RADLD.

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1ST CARMEL SCOUT GROUP

Beavers (6-8 yrs.)

Cubs (8-11 yrs.)

Scouts (11-14 yrs.)

CUBS

This half term the Cubs have been concentrating on the 'Team Work Challenge' badge.

To complete this, they have had to take part in at least six different team games, look at different types of teams and the roles in those teams, complete several team building activities and take part in a couple of pack forums.

For one of the activities, we asked them (in teams) to invent their own games complete with a set of rules.

This task was carried out with enthusiasm and was largely successful. All the games were tried out, and a couple will probably be used on a regular basis.

The meeting before Bonfire night saw us have our own fire complete with sparklers.

On the lead up to Christmas we will be visiting Whitford Church, to learn a little about its history and do some badge work while we're there.

A Christmas craft evening is also planned, and weather permitting we will hopefully go for a night walk.

SCOUTS

'The Navigator Stage 3' badge has been the main focus for most of the half term.

The activities for this include learning to read 6 figure grid references, understanding contour lines, looking at map scales & symbols, and completing a 5km walk.

Either side of the half term they have also been doing activities towards the 'Angling' badge. A practical session is being arranged at a local fishery for one Sunday in November. (Our thanks to Ben for running these evenings & organising the coarse fishing). Hopefully we will catch some fish.

On the lead up to Christmas we have an Air Rifle shooting session planned, along with a Christmas craft evening, and an afternoon hike.

Thanks to those who were able to come along to our AGM and bingo evening.

It was a fun evening and raised some money which will go towards activities.

If anyone wants to gain some experience working with young people, why not come & join the team. 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, or go to the Scouts website (www.scouts.org.uk)

Russell Williams
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YSGOL BRO CARMEL (Michael Martell, Pennaeth / Headteacher)

We have had a wonderful start to the year at Ysgol Bro Carmel and we would be delighted to share a little news about all of our goings-on! We recently held an exciting World of Work at our school, and it was a fantastic experience! Throughout the week, we welcomed a variety of visitors from different professions who came to share their stories and insights about the world of work. From nurses and vets to artists, firemen, and local business owners, each guest brought something unique, giving us a glimpse into what their jobs are really like. Pupils were able to ask questions, learn about different career paths, and understand how the subjects they study connect to real-life skills. The visitors' stories were inspiring, showing us all the diverse possibilities for our future careers and encouraging us to dream big!



We have also received a grant from Flintshire Council, as well as a grant from and Whitford Community Council for a new school pond, which is due to be rebuilt in December.

Having a school pond and wildlife area will be a wonderful asset, bringing countless benefits to our learning and the environment. The pond provides a hands-on, outdoor classroom where pupils can observe and study local wildlife up close, fostering curiosity and a love for nature. It's a peaceful space where children can watch frogs, insects or birds in their natural habitat, learning about life cycles, ecosystems, and biodiversity. Caring for the pond and its surroundings teaches responsibility, as students work together to keep the area healthy and clean. We can't wait to see what it will look like!

We have also elected our School Council! Pupils had the chance to nominate and vote for their classmates, choosing representatives who will share their ideas and help make our school even better. The election process was a wonderful experience, as students learned about leadership, teamwork, and the importance of having a voice in the school community. Our new council members are eager to take on their roles, bringing fresh ideas for activities, events, and ways to make our school a fun, inclusive place for everyone. We look forward to seeing the positive impact they will have throughout the year!



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

Weather in the Five Villages Summer 2024 (2023 in brackets)				
	Temperatures °C			Total rainfall Mm
	Average	Maximum	Minimum	
June	15.6 (20.8)	28.0 (31.1)	3.1 (5.3)	114.2 (25.2)
July	17.3 (17.1)	26.7 (27.6)	2.5 (9.0)	154.1 (117.5)
August	17.5 (16.9)	26.9 (28.5)	6.7 (8.7)	53.1 (71.6)

Summer 2024 compared with Summer 2001 – 2020				
Air temperature at 1800 UTC	Average	Maximum	Minimum	Rainfall (mm)
2001 to 2020	17.0	26.8	8.4	76.5
2024	16.8	27.2	4.1	107.1

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

'Flaming June' did not live up to its reputation; the average temperature was 5.2 degrees lower than last year's, but we should bear in mind that June 2023 was one of the hottest on record, this year it was the only summer month to fall below the Five Villages' 20-year average. July and August were warmer than last year. In June last year we were wondering when the hosepipe ban would come, this year we had four and a half times last June's rainfall, 80 percent of it falling on just five days. It was gloomy too, only on four days was there a completely clear sky at seven o'clock in the evening (six o'clock UTC - GMT). In both June and July, the rainfall exceeded the 20-year seasonal average. July and August's temperatures were above last years and August really felt like summer.

Many gardeners noticed the late starting of many plants put out in May and early June. My begonia tubers showed no signs of life until late September and only bloomed in October, similarly Fuchsias bloomed very late. However, the heavy rain was obviously welcomed by trees and bushes, that made very vigorous growth that posed problems for trimming hedges later. It was also another good year for berries, although every year there seem fewer birds to enjoy them.

The weather station suffered a catastrophic cyberattack in August, the data are backed up to the cloud, but not, unfortunately, the first outline of this report and my chosen satellite image. The Met Office report for the summer showed that our region has about the same temperature compared with the national 20-year average. The official record has a one-degree bracket of half a degree above or below the average. The Carmel weather station was therefore spot on! We had between 85 and 95 percent of the average sunshine according to the Met Office. The weather station is unable to measure sunshine, but my impression is that this figure is right for us. On rainfall, there is a big difference between the Met Office figures and our local record. The Met Office says this region (roughly Chester to Holyhead) had less than 90 percent of the national 1991 – 2020 average rainfall. As can be seen above we exceeded our regional average by a substantial margin, underlining how localities may vary according to regional conditions, depending very often on the local terrain.

I kept an image, for my own records, on the 25th of May – as it happened the precursor of the gloomy June. So, I include it this quarter, with apologies.



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MRS IRIS EDWARDS 1930-2024



Anyone reading this who went to Carmel School in the 1980's or earlier, is most likely to have known "Iris the Shop", as that is where the children went to buy their sweets. She had worked in and then owned Ridgeway Stores & Café / The Mace / Carmel Post Office from the mid 1940's to until 1988.

Iris lived in her beloved Carmel nearly all her 94 years. Her family were steeped in the Five Villages; her mother, Ellen, lived in Plas Captain, Lloc and father, Samuel Williams, in Pen-y-Gelli Bach and Glasfryn, Lloc. With her two brothers, Trevor and Elwy, she went to Carmel School, (what we know today as the Village Hall). She then went Holywell County School in preparation for the 11+, which she passed and then attended Holywell Grammar School. Iris's educational achievements allowed her to be accepted for Nursing in Liverpool but after only two weeks, she "ran home", home sick.

Returning to work for Owen and Blanche Chambers at the shop, (one of four shops in the Village at the time), Iris was a popular addition as many of the local boys would come to the shop just to be served by her. She talked about counting the ration coupons in the war and the bread being delivered by the actor Jonathan Pryce.

Iris met Don at a dance and they were married in Carmel Chapel 1955. David came along in 1956 and Anne in 1964. In 1965 Don and Iris took over the shop: they worked hard, delivering orders numerous

days a week to the local area; even in the snow when the sledge came out. Most people remember Iris behind the counter wearing her shop overalls or apron and where there was always laughter to be heard.



On 4th December 1983, Iris' life was turned upside down, when Don suddenly passed away at the age of 53. Jeff and Anne were married just four months later. When Don died David decided to leave the Merchant Navy, join the police and have a family; Iris was thrilled to have two granddaughters, Laura and Emma. As for the shop and Post Office, Iris continued, with the help of Kay Jones, to run it until 1988, when she moved across the road to No.3 St Mary's. (She never moved far).

Iris filled her retirement working in the shop and tea bar for the League of Friends in Ysbyty Glan Clwyd and being on their committee for over 20 years. She renewed her love of music and joined Cantorion Glan Alun. The Choir took Iris abroad and around the UK, even singing in the same concert as Bryn Terfel.

Iris was of a generation that supported Carmel and Zion Chapels, the Village Hall and Gorsedd Church throughout her life, valuing what they brought to the Community. She was such a kind person; making more than 20 Christmas cakes for her family, friends and people of the Village as well as the Tea loaves and Lemon cakes that she gave throughout the year. Iris was also known for never putting fuel in her car even when the Holway garage went self-service - they came out and put it in for Iris.

At Iris' funeral it was said, "Iris was Carmel and Carmel was Iris", indeed she would have probably been able to tell a tale about every house, or the land that it was built on, not just in Carmel but in the Five Villages; she was such a wealth of local knowledge. Iris was so happy living in her beloved Carmel, she always said that she couldn't live anywhere where she couldn't see the sea. So, moving across the road to live with Jeff and Anne in 2019 was the perfect way to spend her twilight years and where the house had frequent visitors, including her grand and great-grandchildren and was always full of fun and laughter.

Always known as a very smart lady with beautiful hair, Iris was perfectly summed up as, "A wonderful, funny inspirational Lady with a very naughty sense of humour". Although she is no longer with us in person, she leaves treasured memories to so many and for that we are eternally grateful.

YSGOL GWENFFRWD NEWS (M I Owen)

It has been a busy half term yet again here at Ysgol Gwenffrwd. It was lovely to welcome the children back after the Summer break and especially our new Nursery pupils- Dosbarth Meithrin.

Our whole school theme for this half term is "TAITH" (this translates to Journey). All the classes have been following different Big Questions relating to this theme, from the children and parents' perspective. The little ones, focusing on themselves and their small journeys in the Holywell area, whilst the older pupils were looking at the pilgrim's journey from St Winefride's Well all the way across to Ynys Enlli. Years 5 and 6 have just completed reading a class novel "Sky Hawk" by Jill Lewis- a fabulous read, a rollercoaster of emotions and fantastic journeys within e.g. the friendship journey, life and death journey, migration to South Africa journey and the NHS journey. We are currently planning a visit to Manchester Airport to have an air transport journey workshop - a very exciting prospect for our pupils before the end of November.

Please see below, portrait writing from Brooke, Year 6 and Jed Year 5:

Brooke Kennedy

Portrait: Who are you?

I have chosen my mum, Hannah Blackwell because she is very important to me. My mum lives with me, my siblings and my dad in Pentre Halkyn, thirteen Maes Lygan. She has gorgeous brown hair and captivating green eyes that shine like emeralds. She has three sisters and one brother. She is the youngest child. She has many friends like Tiffany and Nicki. She enjoys reading true crime books and playing with our three dogs called Gemma, Jess and Nala. She doesn't like spiders or foxes!

My mum works for the NHS as a ward clerk, the hospital is always extremely busy! To relax, she likes to walk our dogs around Pentre Halkyn. My mum's aspiration is to become a paramedic and help people. My mum wanted to ask an important question which was 'what makes you happy?'. My response was spending time with my amazing family.

Jed Henley

Portrait: Who are you?

His name is Kenneth Henley and he is my grandad. He lives in the woodlands, Bryn Celyn, Greenfield. He has light brown hair like the color of the clouds and he has gray-blue eyes and is approximately five feet and six inches tall.

In the family there are ten adults and five children. My grandad loves walking, bird watching and gardening. But on the other hand he hates shopping, crowds of people and the cold winter!

My grandad is now retired but he used to maintain airplanes for

an American company and once he maintained an airplane that had a connection with the Queen!

To relax he sits in the garden but he isn't the best at relaxing. His biggest aspiration is to live until he's a hundred (he is currently eighty years old). He also asked me a funny question, "why do you want to know all this information?" and my answer was "I need this for school work which is a portrait about someone important to you".

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AN UNUSUAL AUTUMN IN THE FIVE VILLAGES (Robert Moore)

	Temperatures °C			Total rainfall mm
	Average	Maximum	Minimum	
September	13.8 (16.7)	26.0 (28.1)	2.1 (4.5)	264.4 (165.0)
October	11.0 (11.0)	17.6 (22.0)	2.0 (1.0)	153.3 (227.1)
November	9.4 (7.6)	15.4 (12.2)	4.1 (0.0)	5.2 (13.6)

November data until 14 November only (2023 to 14th also)

Air temperature at 1800 UTC	Average	Maximum	Minimum	Rainfall (mm)
2001 to 2020	10.7	18.0	3.4	87.7
2024 to Nov 14	11.4	19.7	2.7	141.0

Tables for 2001 to 2020 are available at Holywell library and the County Archives.

The Autumn 2023 report ended with a comment on the damage done by Storm Ciaran; more data are now available about this storm, which raised considerable interest in the meteorological community. Pressure fell low enough in southern England to make a small but noticeable reduction in the boiling point of water. In the Channel Islands, trees were felled, roofs stripped or removed altogether, cars damaged, roads blocked and airports closed. Life was disrupted right across the Islands. Within this very violent storm Jersey experienced a tornado ('twister') which cut a narrow path across the island wreaking almost total devastation – for example one house had pieces of roof timber from a house 600 metres away embedded in its wall. Hailstones of 50 mm were reported. On the tornado scale of 0 to 10, the Jersey tornado was 6 – extremely rare for Europe. It was fortunate that this was a nighttime event when most people were (relatively) safe at home. Even outside the immediate path of the tornado, some families have not yet been able to return home. In the five villages we were fortunate only to have high winds and very heavy rain, with some branches down, here and there.

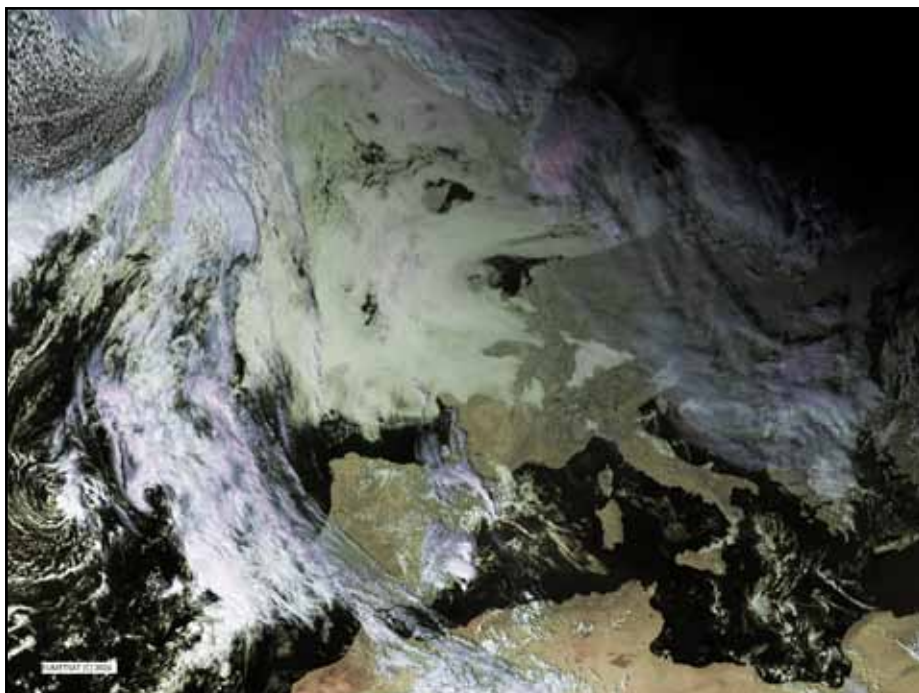
Autumn 2024 started very wet but ended extremely dry. In October-November the high pressure that we needed in August to bring us nice weather finally arrived – not bringing clear blue skies but low cloud and grey skies. It was very warm (even the ground temperature started to rise) and with no rain. Warm air was coming up from north Africa and southern Europe. One useful consequence of this late warmth was that no greenhouse heating was needed – indeed I left the doors open on mine. The mainland was not so fortunate; the Jet Stream was passing north of the UK and curling down towards central Europe, reaching Austria and Hungary. There was bad weather in Austria and Hungary with some heavy flooding in the former. A 'cut-off low' was trapped over south-east Spain giving exceptionally high rainfall, a year's rain in eight hours in parts of Valencia with heavy loss of life (over 215 at the time of going to press). This was probably the most disastrous weather event in Europe this century.

Much of this report has been about the weather we did not have in the Five Villages. But I thought events in the wider field were especially interesting. To come home again; the tables above show that locally we had a warm Autumn up to the 14th of November with a slightly lower average minimum temperature. It was very wet with over 160 percent of the local seasonal average rainfall despite negligible rain early in November. This Autumn looks set to break long-established records for temperatures and for rainfall – we shall see at the end of November.

We have all heard of being 'under the weather'; this quarter's satellite image (opposite) is typical for the last weeks of October and early November 2024, high pressure held low grey cloud right across the UK, Ireland and the sea. The cloud later extended across the Baltics, through Poland to Russia. I hope this is not the most boring image you have seen from the weather station, but just for fun I have put no outline on this image. Only one part of the UK is visible; see if you can find John O'Groats! On a cheerful note, I hope readers saw the quite magnificent rainbow in the afternoon of the 25th of October.

The new satellite mentioned in a previous Five Villages Chronicle is now sending images every 10 minutes with much more information than the current satellite. To cope with the high volume of data I now have a computer with eight terabytes of storage to handle and store the images, in addition to the normal processing disk. Careful housekeeping is necessary. The new images are looking good, but because the satellite is not yet officially operational, I am not allowed to publish any pictures. I hope I may be able to publish an image or two in the Winter issue.

If you would like weather information for any particular day or a longer period, please contact me at rsmoore@liv.ac.uk (email only). Students or teachers who would like weather data or satellite images for projects or teaching please contact me in the same way – note that unless requested otherwise I only keep satellite imagery for one week. So, don't delay if there's something you need. Satellite images are available strictly for educational purposes only.



ISABEL BURNAGE'S WINTER RECIPES

STUFFED CHICKEN BREAST

Ingredients

- * 2 boneless chicken breasts
- * 6 slices of smoked streaky bacon
- * 1 tablespoon breadcrumbs
- * 2 sausages, skin removed
- * 1 small onion finely chopped
- * 1 tablespoon chopped sage leaves
- * 1 tablespoon cranberry sauce
- * vegetable oil

Method

- * Saute onion until soft, and cool
- * Mix the sausage meat with the sage, breadcrumbs, cranberry sauce and onion
- * Cut slit in chicken breasts and divide the stuffing between them
- * Stretch the bacon and wrap the breasts
- * Drizzle with oil
- * Bake in pre heated oven at 190c/170c fan on baking tray for 25-30mins ensuring cooked through
- * Rest for 10 minutes and serve with new potatoes and fried mushrooms

MINCEMEAT SCONES

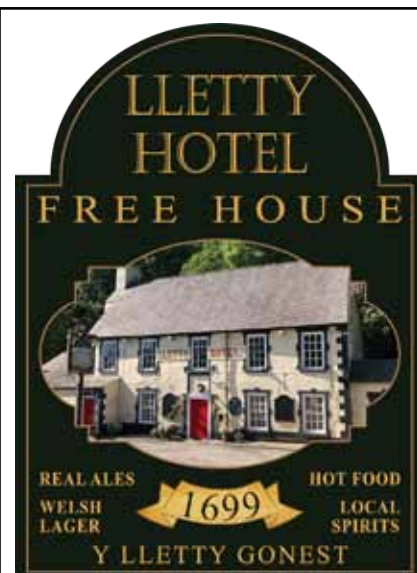
This is a variation on the basic scone recipe

Ingredients

- * 8 oz(250g) S R flour
- * 1 tspn baking powder
- * ½ tspn mixed spice
- * 3 oz(70g) butter or soft margarine
- * 2 oz (50g) sugar
- * 125g mincemeat
- * 125ml milk

Method

- * In a large bowl rub the butter or marg into the flour, baking powder and mixed spice
- * Add sugar and mix well
- * In a bowl mix the mincemeat and milk to break up any lumps
- * Add to the flour mixture to make a soft dough but firm enough to handle. Add more milk if required
- * Roll out on floured board and cut into scones 3 centimetres thick
- * Brush with milk and put on baking tray
- * Bake in preheated oven at 200c for 12-15minutes
- * Serve with butter or cream



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ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY IN CARMEL (Sophie Roberts)

Despite Carmel being a small village, it is of huge importance for biodiversity, being home to several wildlife sites including areas designated for grasslands and woodlands.

Across Carmel, there are several areas of importance for their grassland. These sites are often managed for wildflowers. Although they seem small and sometimes a bit messy, wildflowers are surprisingly important for several reasons. The wide variety of flowers and grasses provide a haven for many insects, birds and mammals that use wildflower meadows throughout the year. Pollution absorption is also an unexpected benefit to these colourful areas, meaning the air quality is improved when wildflowers are grown in urban areas. Simply the presence of natural spaces in urban areas has shown to boost mental health. Wildflowers are also known to be excellent at absorbing surface water, making them integral in mitigating against flooding. In Carmel, we have a few different wildflower areas. One of these areas is Y Bryn which is managed by Whitford Community Council. Y Bryn is a neutral grassland which has a natural bank of wildflower seeds in its soil, making it a particularly important naturally diverse site with species such as Mountain Pansy, Spring



Mountain Pansy

Sandwort and Wild Thyme. By managing this site correctly through cutting and removing the arisings, Whitford Community Council are trying to ensure this important habitat is protected into the future. There is signage on site to highlight the importance of the site, however the site has recently been damaged with the creation of a track across it. With only 2% of wildflower meadow habitat left in the UK, this naturally diverse wildflower site is one of very few fragments of habitat. We would like to request that as a community we value and support its long-term sustainability.

To help enhance and increase connectivity of the biodiversity assets in Carmel, Flintshire County Councils' biodiversity team and



Wild Thyme

colleagues have been working closely with the staff and pupils at Ysgol Bro Carmel. Flintshire County Council have installed a new fence and footpath which will help to resolve ongoing access issues to the bowling club, allowing members and the community to access the site during school hours all year round.

This project has been supported by Welsh Governments Local Places for Nature grant (LP4N). During this year's tree planting season which runs between December and March each year, a new hedge will be installed spanning the length of the new fence line. Over the last 50 years the UK has lost more than half of its hedgerows. Hedgerow removal has been identified as a factor in the decline of many plant and animal species which benefit from the habitat and source of food these plants created. Consequently, this new hedge line is of huge importance for biodiversity in the local area, increasing connectivity by forming corridors between habitats along which wildlife can disperse. This hedge will also help provide shelter from the wind and



Footpath creation

visual screening between the school and community space.

Additionally, works will include restoration of the school pond. Almost 70% of the UK's natural ponds have now been lost and species such as dragonflies, waterbugs and the great crested newt have declined rapidly over the last 40 years. Even small ponds can support a wealth of species and collectively, ponds play a key role in supporting freshwater wildlife. The restoration of the pond will allow for improved access to the area, helping to create an indisputably valuable resource for environmental education. Pupils and staff will also have the opportunity to learn about the importance of environmental conservation, the key role water bodies play in supporting biodiversity, and the ecosystem services they provide. Overall, there are high hopes for the positive ongoing development of biodiversity in Carmel, as well as the wealth of education they can provide to the public.

This project has been able to address access issues at the bowling club, create new accessible community greenspace and enhance site biodiversity value and we hope it will be enjoyed by the community and pupils into the future.

(Just for clarity, the newly laid path is on the Alt y Golch end of the open access fields. The flowers shown are on The Bryn which is off Carmel Road/Celyn Lane, Carmel -Ed)



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TRIBUTE TO MIRIAM HUGHES OF CARMEL, FROM DAVID



Miriam Hughes passed away peacefully with her family around her at St Kentigern's Hospice on 2nd August 2024. Born in Liverpool on 25th April 1950, Miriam grew up in Huyton-with-Roby, apparently the posh end of town. During school and art college she worked part time in Timpson's shoe shop and in one of her father's electrical shops (BECO). Then she obtained a fulltime job at the tax office in the Liver building.

Miriam's parents moved to Celyn Park, Carmel in May 1968 and that weekend she went to a barn dance near Llanasa where a Liverpool group, The Jets, were playing: this is where she met David. Miriam was still living in Liverpool with her grandparents only visiting her own parents one weekend a month. After the first meeting Miriam and David became pen pals writing to each other once or twice a week. Her visits to Carmel soon became fortnightly and then weekly. Miriam left her job in Liverpool in 1969 and started work in Holywell Job Centre and moved to her parent's home in Celyn Park.

David and Miriam married on 1st March 1972 at Gorsedd church which was a Wednesday as her father's shops only opened for a half day, and he didn't want to close all day on a Saturday. A new build was purchased on Carmel Road, where three fine sons Mark, Chad and Aaron were raised, and the family now also has five grandchildren. This loving home is still the family home today.

In 1976 a 6-berth tent was purchased, for what was to be one of the hottest summers ever. The tent was used at least twice a year travelling as far as Hastings with Butlins holiday camps also became a great favourite. In the mid-eighties the family began travelling abroad once a year.

Miriam continued working during these times, and when the Holywell Job Centre closed, she transferred to Mold. Miriam continued her love of art joining Mold and Queensferry art clubs and paying for just the one pottery lesson. David and Miriam also enrolled together at Yale, Wrexham to learn printing, which they thoroughly enjoyed together. The family have many examples of Miriam's work and some were also sold.

Miriam would meet up socially with friends on Monday mornings at the Pet Cemetery café and once a month with ex work colleagues for breakfast at Hawarden Garden centre. Miriam was a member of many clubs. Knit and Natter(craft), Gardening club, Friendship, Keep Fit, RHS and National Trust. When the boys were older David and Miriam began to have many more holidays, travelling all around the UK, renting cottages or staying in Shearings hotels. Traveling to Italy, Austria, Spain, Portugal, and Madeira several times to each were a thrill.

Miriam had many friends, as was shown by the numbers who came to her funeral. The service was held by Reverend Kathryn Evans to whom we are very grateful. Miriam's ashes are now in Gorsedd Church grounds, next to Derek and Lila Edwards who were both great friends. Derek was also Miriam's first manager at Holywell Job Centre.

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(Father Paul Parekkattil,
Parish Priest and Director
of the Divine Retreat Centre,
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I very much hope you enjoyed reading my article in the autumn edition of the *Five Villages Chronicle* about Saint David's R.C. Parish Church Pantasaph and the Divine Mercy Retreat Centre. I am grateful to the Editor for publishing the article.

Since then, our programme of daytime and residential retreats has continued to attract several hundred visitors made up of people making their first visit or making return visits.

I am also pleased that Father Denny is now here at Pantasaph, as Father Jose has moved on to Rome. Father Denny has been made most welcome and very much looks forward to meeting more people and having time in our local communities.



On 31st October (All Hallows' Eve – the eve of All Saints' Day), we held a twilight candle lit walk from our National Shrine garden of Saint Padre Pio to Our Lady's grotto, saying the Rosary prayer followed by refreshments in our café. I was delighted to see so many local people attending with overwhelming feedback being of enjoyment and a sense of peace.



This season of Advent, celebrating the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Christmas Day is one of the most special times of the year. Our church will be decorated and I warmly invite you all to call in to the church and to attend our Christmas Masses which will be held at 8.00 p.m. (with carols from 7.30 p.m.) on Christmas Eve and at 10.00 a.m. on Christmas Day.

I wish you much happiness for the Christmas season and throughout 2025.

Further information and details of our programme are available at www.pantasaph.org.

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NEWS FROM GORSEDD AND WHITFORD CHURCHES



I am writing this Winter article with very mixed feelings. As Autumn comes to an end and the seasons change around us, so are the seasons in my own life changing and this article is the final one I will write for the Five Villages magazine. It has been an absolute privilege to be the Vicar in Gorsedd and Whitford (as well as Bagillt and Mostyn) for the past five years, however, I will be travelling further west to the Diocese of Bangor in mid-January, where I feel God has called me to ministry in Bro Cybi (Holyhead). I have loved my time here and have felt completely at home, thank you everyone for taking me into your hearts. As I write this, we do not have details of who will take my place, but do keep your ears open!

One of the constants for those with faith is that God is always with us, and in Advent, we particularly remember that God didn't come to earth as a King in a palace, but as a small baby, in an ordinary family, in the most unusual of circumstances. At Christmas, just as the shortest day has passed, we celebrate the Light of the World coming amongst us, God incarnate, to bring us together with one another and with God. I was recently reminded of one of Martin Luther King Jr's quotes "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that". Christmas gives us a wonderful opportunity to say thank you to God for their incredible gift to us in Jesus. I would love to celebrate my final Christmas here with as many of you as possible – and there are a variety of special services for this time of year (with many of our favourites) as follows

Gorsedd Church – Bi-lingual Carol Service – Sunday 15th December at 4pm

Christmas Eve Midnight Communion – Tuesday 24th December at 11:30pm (mulled wine available from 11pm)

Whitford Church – Carol service Sunday 15th December at 11am

Family Crib service – Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December at 4pm

Christmas morning, 25th December at 10:30am Family communion.

And on Sunday 29th December we will be joining together for a joint service at Whitford at 10:30am.

I hope you can join us at some point, and if not, may I wish you a blessed Christmas and peaceful and Happy New Year.

With thanks and prayers
Kathryn



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*'Quality you thought
had disappeared'*

EVERY MEMORY MATTERS (Andrea Dakin)

The Holywell reminiscence group is going from strength to strength. All of our Christmas olde Holywell themed merchandise is now available and includes:

- A4 laminated - year at a glance calendar
- Month by month calendar - two pictures for every month.
- Christmas cards - 2 different designs - one of the High Street in the snow and the other of Beeches toy shop in its heyday when Frank Beech WAS the Father Christmas of Holywell.
- Two reprints of Cynthia Roberts' books on 'Growing up in Bryn Celyn' and 'Greenfield Valley People' - first published and sold out thirty years ago.

We also have two different design birthday cards and get well cards with picture of the old cottage hospital. All cards have bespoke verses to which many people will relate. They will all be for sale at Martin's Pop Up shop in Post Office Lane, and at the Greenfield Valley Christmas markets on 7th and 8th December.

Donna - one of our members is an experienced and knowledgeable genealogist and will be happy to give pointers to help you.

We continue to meet weekly at the leisure centre on Tuesday mornings to share and archive memories. Everyone welcome. If you are from the area come and share your memories - if you are new to the area - you will be fascinated by the history surrounding you.

The group also has a general knowledge quiz every Thursday at 1 pm - small prizes - but big fun with our genial host and experienced quiz master Bob.

We are closely linked with the library - if you would like to come along for research or to view our extensive archives on the area please let me know and one of our group will be happy to help.

For any more info please contact me, Andrea on andreadakin112@btinternet.com, or phone me on 01352 711240 - happy to help in any way.

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NATURE (Jan Miller)

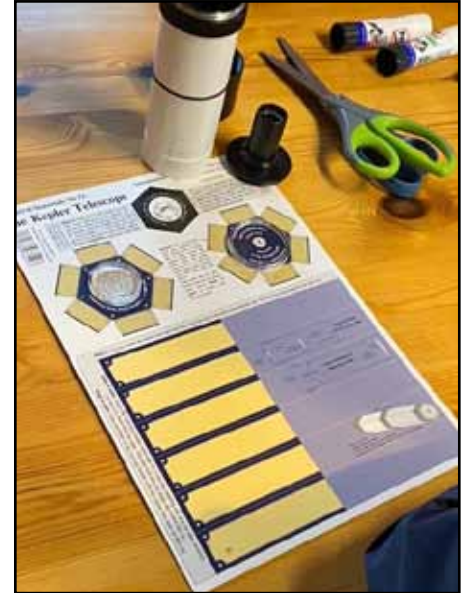
The Carmel and Holywell Scouts, 11 to 14 year olds, came to camp in our field near Whitford in October half term. They have girls as well now. They all hiked across country from Holywell (about 3 ½ miles to avoid roads) carrying their personal equipment required for a four day camp. The food, a mess tent, patrol tents, benches and tables as well as portaloos!, were brought by Land Rover.



They had come to do their Survivors Badge. This involved group-making of shelters from locally found materials - luckily, we had a lot of willow that needed cutting back, and they had to sleep out in it overnight too. Five Scouts decided to work together on one shelter; they said it was a bit crowded. There were four girls and three boys in the other shelters but they didn't get cold or wet. Very luckily, for this wet year, there wasn't any rain for the three nights,



and it was remarkably warm because of the thick cloud cover. However, that meant there wasn't any clear darkness to use our telescopes to look at the stars. My husband made some cardboard telescopes with



some of the boys who wanted to do their Astronomers badge and showed them how the computerised telescopes work.

The Scout survival badge also requires catching your own local game and cooking and eating it! Well, they learned how to chop logs and make fires to grill chicken and 'plank' a mackerel (nailing it to a board leant against a fire) that was supplied by a local fisherman who prepared it. They learned how to use and sharpen knives and axes safely, first aid and outdoor safety. How to send signals out in order



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to get rescued. And they played a 'wide game' at night after dinner, which they took turns to cook for the group. All evening meals were made from scratch, some do not do any cooking at home. They had pasta bolognese, chicken stew and beef with dumplings. The game involved just one person in the middle of the field with a torch, while the others had to sneak up on them without being seen and try to get it from them. As one night was Halloween, one of the Scout leaders dressed up as Frankenstein with a homemade cardboard costume that he surprised them with in the dark. Great shrieks and laughter, as well

as keeping warm.

I showed some the wild herbs growing in our old meadow, sorrel, marjoram, thyme and wild basil, to use with their cooking. And gave them a taste of my hedgerow jam made from blackberries, damsons, sloes, hips and haws growing in the hedges. I would have liked to have told them more about the wildlife there, but the season wasn't good for that and the old Baden-Powell mindset was more about surviving against the hardships of the outdoors than of enjoying the wild world. In the woods I mentioned to a group not to worry if they hear the rustling of wild badgers or fox when they were sleeping out. 'Well I've got this!' said one of the boys, wielding an axe. 'Oh no, don't hurt them!' I was shocked, 'they will be more afraid of you that you need to be of them!' One of the girls was worried about spiders. It was all a good experience for them, they seemed to have enjoyed it, in spite of mud, nettle stings, brambles and bruises!



Other badges earned, Hikes and Nights away with two Scouts achieving the 20 Nights Away badge.

If you are interested in your child joining the local Scouts contact;

Holywell - David Hardy
(gettodave2000@yahoo.co.uk)

Carmel - Russell Williams Group leader 07936197962

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ST WINEFRIDE'S Dosbarth Coch at St Winefride's Well and Holywell Town

Dosbarth Coch visited St Winefride's Well as part of their 'Wonderful World' topic.

They learnt that St Winefride's Well is one of the seven wonders of Wales so we had to visit!

Mrs. Murphy taught us a lot about St Winefride and the Well.



Dosbarth Coch chose to pray for 'God's World' in their Autumn prayer box. They decided that they wanted to live this out by litter picking around Holywell. We used the equipment to safely complete a litter pick. We found lots of rubbish but we were happy that we were keeping God's World tidy and clean.



Dosbarth Melyn RVE Work

Our RVE theme is the creation of God's wonderful world. We have been finding things in our garden area that God created, retelling the Creation Story, and looking at ways to care for our world.

Dosbarth Glas

Our new Nursery children and reception

have enjoyed exploring the school grounds, looking for signs of Autumn.



Eco Club



Following winning the Schools Holywell in bloom competition this year our amazing

Eco club have now also been presented with the Jim Goodwin Young Persons Award. This is a very prestigious award and a fantastic achievement.

They have all worked so hard and we are very proud that Mrs Tallon, along with Mr Tallon and all the children have received the recognition that they deserve. Well done all of you!

Wearing yellow for Young minds





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On Friday 11th October we all wore yellow to help raise awareness of the importance of young people's mental health.

Forest School



Lots of the children have been spending time in Forest School this half term. Using the outdoors to get creative and improve social and emotional wellbeing.

Dosbarth Menai



Dosbarth Menai have been celebrating



black history month and have explored significant individuals who have had big dreams. They have created their own art about people who have had an impact on history and culture.

They have also been looking at Human Rights and have written letters to MPs requesting more funding for schools and awareness to ensure that every Child has an education.

Dosbarth Dyfi



Dosbarth Dyfi have had a fantastic trip to Chester to learn all about the Romans.

They have also been enjoying visits from Paws B, learning about how they can deal with their worries.



Macmillan Coffee Morning



Pupils visited St Winefride's Guest House to assist with their Macmillan Coffee Morning. It was lovely to receive such positive feedback about how helpful, polite and kind all our pupils were.



SOME RECOLLECTIONS OF A CHILDHOOD IN CARMEL **(Jim Quinlan)**

I was born in 1935, the third child of George and Bertha Quinlan, brother of Betty and Isabel. We lived in Summerville, Carmel. The Quinlans had lived here since the early 1920s when my grandmother rented the house. Isabel continued to live in Summerville until 2020 when she passed away at the age of 88. Typical of the people of Carmel, Isabel received much help from friends and neighbours during her long life.

One of my earliest memories was when I was about three years old and my mother took me onto the Bryn, across the road from our house, to look down to the former A55 road. She had heard that the circus was travelling towards Holywell. Sure enough, a string of brightly coloured vehicles travelled slowly along the road but much more interesting were the animals walking behind, horses and an elephant.

About this time, I remember being given a few pennies and sitting near our front gate to wait for the Lodwick lorry, delivering fruit and vegetables around the village. When it arrived the driver, Emlyn, would exchange my pennies for a small bunch of green grapes.

My father had his own business involving property maintenance (plumbing, electrical work and small scale building) and usually employed one man. He rarely

spoke about his experiences particularly during the Great Depression (1920s and early 1930s) when unemployed men in the village would sometimes sit across the road from our house in the hope that my father could offer employment. This was to have a profound effect on his political thinking and his support of socialism. When the war broke out in 1939 it became difficult to obtain supplies for his business, so my father closed this and joined the engineering section at the Courtaulds factory in Greenfield which at that time mainly produced Rayon for which there was much demand to make parachutes.

My father met my mother in the Isle of Man. He was employed by a Liverpool water company which had a contract to develop a water distribution system in the island. He was carrying out this work and he was based in Port St Mary, staying in a hotel where my mother worked. My father was too old for armed service during the Second World War, but he enrolled as a member of the ARP (Air Raid Precautions).

I have various memories of the early part of the war. There were frequent movements of troop carriers and tanks along the A55 but of much more interest to a small boy were the many aircraft flying over Carmel. For a period, when Liverpool was being bombed, usually at night, we could sometime see the glow of fires burning in the city. When the Bootle gasworks were bombed and caught fire the sky lit up

almost like daybreak. On rare occasions a German bomber would fly over our area after bombing Merseyside and sometimes might jettison a bomb not dropped over the target area, simply getting rid of it in the countryside in our area of North Wales.

Winters were very cold with much snow. This was perfect for sledging on the roads, there being few vehicles (and no gritting!). Some of the hilly roads in the village stretched for half a mile or more.

Betty, Isabel and I attended the village primary school (now the Village Hall) normally from the age of five. This was a large room divided into two parts by a sliding screen across the middle separating the juniors from the older children. Heating was by a coke-burning stove in each of the two areas. The junior children were in the area furthest from the main door and were taught by Miss Edwards whilst the older children were in the adjoining room with the Headmaster, Mr W E Williams, as teacher. Later, an intermediate class was held in the chapel vestry with Mrs Mathews as teacher. Mr Williams was a very caring headmaster, retaining an interest in his pupils in their later life. I maintained contact with him for many years through exchange of letters and on one occasion he visited me at East Malling Research Station in Kent where I was employed following university. My mother for a short time cleaned the school and lit the stoves but changed to become a cook when hot lunches were first provided



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in the school.,

Mr Williams was a keen sportsman and occasionally took the older boys to play football in a field at Celyn Farm (coats being used as goalposts!). He also prepared an area growing vegetables in 'Creed's Field' where the pensioners' bungalows are now built. I think his purpose was to show older pupils how to grow vegetables.

At home we children each had our jobs – Betty cleaned the family shoes, Isabel went to the village shop to get the daily bread and I provided kindling for the home fire and the two school stoves when my mother lit these. I was using an axe from an early age and I often think of this when using the same axe 80 years later in my Wiltshire home!

Food rationing was quite strict. As a child, the most important restriction was the sweet ration amounting to two ounces per week. Towards the end of the year we tended to save our sweets so that we would have more than usual at Christmas. During wartime Christmas and birthday presents were rarely new. My father was very adept at making toys but this must have been very difficult for parents generally.

When I was six years old my mother had to go into hospital for a lengthy spell and as we had no relative in the wider area it was decided that we three children would go to the Isle of Man to be looked after by my mother's Manx relatives. This was in 1942 during the height of the war and I remember the Manx ferry with a sailor manning a machine gun mounted on the bridge. Without incident we arrived safely to start an idyllic stay of nine weeks. We stayed with my grandfather, aunt and uncle on their farm near the foot of South Barrule mountain, with lovely views down to the sea about four miles away. My grandfather was one of the few remaining people who learned and spoke Manx from childhood.

Living on a farm was a completely new experience, being surrounded by farm animals including horses (no tractors at that time), cows and calves, sheep and lambs, pigs, geese, ducks, hens and many dogs and cats. We were soon given jobs such as feeding calves, ducks and hens and collecting eggs. We also became involved moving cattle about the farm and even trying our hands at milking cows (Isabel became quite expert). Milk was divided into cream (for making butter) and whey (used to feed animals). Each week butter, eggs and potatoes were taken for sale in the local town (Castletown). My uncle also took vegetables to Port St Mary where people with family links to Germany were interned. Coming from Carmel, with fairly severe food rationing, we now had a more plentiful supply of food, if more simple. All too soon it was time to return home but over the following years, right up to my late teens, I would return to work on this farm during my holidays and it was no surprise to my parents when I decided to go to

university to study agriculture.

Returning home, it was time for school again. Betty had passed the scholarship and started at Holywell Grammar School while Isabel and I returned to the primary school. We now had several refugee children from London in our classes. Accommodation for these children was provided by village families and my father helped in organising these placements. Also in the village was a Jewish family, Mr and Mrs Teitelbaum with their son Ernest. The family were from Austria and had escaped very narrowly before being interned by German supporters. Ernest was the same age as me and we became firm friends. The Teitelbaums remained in Carmel for much of the war before leaving for the USA to join family members.

Carmel was a very safe place for a child. We could roam the woods and fields around the village with no concerns. We would collect mushrooms and blackberries which were welcome additions to the family diet. Occasionally, schoolchildren were asked to collect plants from the countryside.

I remember a demand for dried nettles and on another occasion rose hips, presumably for extraction of vitamin C. Carmel was much smaller in those days of course and we knew and were known by most villagers.

Isabel followed Betty to Holywell Grammar in the next year. In those days parents were expected to pay a sum of money towards secondary education but this arrangement was eventually discontinued. I was ten when I went to the grammar school; by mistake I had been put forward for the 11+ a year early. It was quite a traumatic experience as none of my Carmel schoolmates were with me and Betty and Isabel did not want anything to do with me of course! However, I soon made friends and some of these friendships lasted many years after we left school. Several of the male teachers had recently returned from war service and, looking back, it is clear that some had difficulty dealing with children again.

I often recall my time growing up in Carmel and feel lucky to have had such a happy time during a very interesting period.

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NEXUS CREATIVE SPACES



(Martin Evans)

Nexus Creative Spaces is a new startup company based in The Old Sorting Office in Holywell and offers many services for small businesses owners who are looking for help to raise brand awareness, expand their reach, grow their network, and make more sales online and offline.

We also offer workshops run by small businesses for the local community who wish to learn new skills, and/or expand on a particular skillset they already have.

One of the services Nexus Creative Spaces offer to small businesses owners is PopUp Shop space.

WHAT IS A POPUP SHOP?

Revitalising Local Economies: The Power of Popup Shops for Small Businesses

In an era where online shopping has dominated retail, the resurgence of popup shops offers a refreshing blend of traditional commerce with modern entrepreneurial flair. For small businesses, particularly those run by artisans, crafters, and local artists, popup shop initiatives provide a unique opportunity to connect with customers, test markets, and gain invaluable exposure. Here, we explore the



multifaceted benefits of popup shops not only for small business owners but also for the communities they enrich.

The Rise of Popup Shops, often temporary retail spaces where businesses can sell their products for a limited time, have become a strategic tool for businesses, especially post-2020. After closing a successful popup shop initiative in Buckley just before the COVID-19 pandemic, Nexus Creative Spaces is now expanding on this concept at The Old Sorting Office in Holywell., with a dynamic space designed to foster community engagement and business growth.

BENEFITS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES Market Testing and Brand Visibility:

Popup shops allow small businesses to test products in a real-world environment without the long-term commitment of a permanent retail space. This low-risk approach helps in understanding consumer preferences firsthand, refining product offerings, and building brand visibility.

Cost-Effective Marketing:

For small businesses with limited marketing budgets, a popup shop acts as a live advertisement. The uniqueness of a temporary store often draws in curious shoppers.

Community Engagement:

Operating a popup shop in a local area



means becoming part of the community fabric. This engagement fosters loyalty, as customers appreciate supporting local ventures. It also allows for direct feedback, creating a dialogue between the business owner and the customer.

Networking Opportunities:

Popup shops often attract other local business owners, leading to networking opportunities. Collaborations, joint promotions, or even permanent business partnerships can evolve from these interactions.

Professional Services and Exposure:

In innovative spaces like Nexus Creative Spaces, small businesses aren't just renting space; they're gaining access to professional services like photography for online listings and social media assistance. This additional exposure can significantly boost online sales, complementing the physical popup experience.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS Economic Revitalisation:

Popup shops contribute to local

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economies by drawing foot traffic to areas that might otherwise be underutilised. This influx can benefit surrounding businesses, leading to a ripple effect of economic activity.

Cultural Richness:

These shops often feature unique, handmade, or locally sourced products, enriching the cultural tapestry of the area. They provide a platform for local artists and crafters, showcasing talents that might not find space in conventional retail settings.

Skill Development and Education:

Our popup initiatives at Nexus Creative Spaces, offer workshops and events. These educational opportunities allow community members to learn new skills, from crafting to digital marketing, fostering a knowledgeable and skilled populace.



Workshops and Learning:

The new space isn't just a marketplace; it's a learning center. Workshops on photography, social media strategies, and e-commerce provide invaluable knowledge, helping both existing and aspiring entrepreneurs.



Social Hubs:

Popup shops can become social hubs where community members meet, exchange ideas, and participate in events, strengthening community bonds.

The Role of Workshops in Empowerment Workshops are a cornerstone of this initiative, offering several layers of benefits:

- **Innovation and Creativity:** Exposure to different crafts and business strategies through workshops can spark innovation. Attendees might discover new techniques or business models that can be adapted to their ventures.
- **Community Building:** These sessions create a network of support.

Participants often leave with not just new skills, but also new friendships and business contacts.

- **Empowerment:** For many, especially underrepresented groups in the entrepreneurial world, these workshops can be empowering. They provide the knowledge base to start, manage, or expand a business confidently

Looking Ahead - The initiative of combining popup shop spaces with community workshops represents a forward-thinking approach to business and community development. It underscores the understanding that economic growth and community welfare are intertwined. By providing a platform where small businesses can thrive, where local talents can shine, and where community members can learn and grow, these spaces are not just retail outlets but centers of innovation, education, and social interaction.

For small business owners, this model offers a chance to grow in a supportive environment while giving back to the community. For the community, it's an opportunity to engage with local commerce, learn new skills, and enjoy the cultural and economic benefits that come from vibrant, local entrepreneurship.

As we move forward, such initiatives could very well become the blueprint for revitalising local economies, proving that in the blend of commerce, culture, and education, everyone stands to gain.

We hope that whether you are a small business owner or a local community member, you will find Nexus Creative Spaces a fantastic space to be a part of. Visit us soon at Nexus Creative Spaces at The Old Sorting Office (directly behind the Post Office) in Holywell.

For more details find us on Facebook: facebook.com/NexusCreativeSpaces

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THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE ASSOCIATION

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

Chairman - Peter Erasmus (01352 746896); Secretary - Sandy Neville (01352 961597); 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 web page where previous issues may be downloaded at www.5villages.org.uk

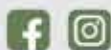
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New Year's Day: 12 - 9pm

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Boxing Day: 12 - 6pm

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New Year's Day: 12 - 6pm

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