



THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE

CRONICL Y PUM PENTREF

ISSUE NO. 154
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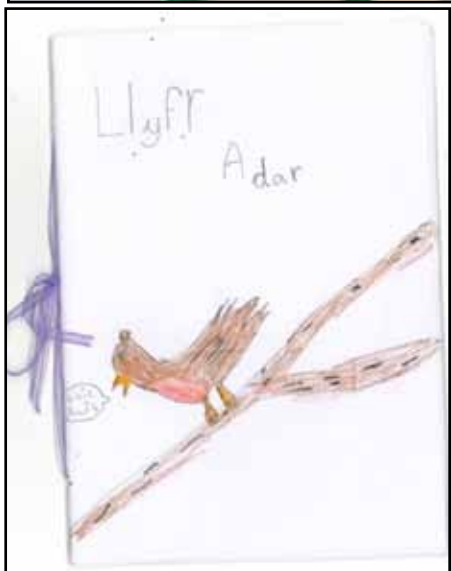
SUMMER (JUNE) 2025
HAF (MEHEFIN) 2025

PRICELESS
AMHRISIADWY



SPRING TERM NEWS FROM YSGOL GWENFFRWD (Angharad Rule)

As the sunshine begins to return, there has been a real buzz of activity at Ysgol Gwenffrwd. Our new whole school topic is 'Cynefin' (Habitat), with each class exploring this in different and exciting ways. The Infants have been learning all about the birds in our gardens, carefully observing and identifying them.



They've also been busy drawing and creating their own books about birds. Nursery and Reception children have also planted sunflowers and are watching them grow — a lovely way to learn about nature and nurture.

Further up the school, Years 3 and 4 have been looking at gardens and rainforests. They've explored where these important habitats are found around the world and why they matter. Years 5 and 6 have taken on the bigger picture, learning about Climate Change and the

COVER PICTURE

Carmel First XI v Llay Welfare First XI, Pen-y-Gelli, May 2025. Many thanks to Steven Jones.

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impact it has on habitats across the globe. Important lessons for our pupils as they grow into responsible global citizens.

At the end of last term, our fantastic Eco Committee launched a creative challenge for the whole school — to upcycle items from around the home into something new. Their creations were wonderful — da iawn chi, blant!

We are also incredibly grateful to our amazing PTA who have helped to transform our school garden. Thanks to funding received through the Tesco token scheme, and many hours of hard work, they have weeded, tidied, and repaired the polytunnel, making the space something we can all be proud of. Diolch o galon!



Cadi Ha



Celebrating our local Welsh traditions continues to be an important part of school life. Some of our Year 3 and 4 pupils took part in the Cadi Ha celebrations in Tower Gardens on Saturday, 10th May. They danced beautifully, and it was lovely to



Gwenffrwd's Year 3 and 4 Football Team

see families joining in too — all made even better by a sunny day!



Gwenffrwd's Girls Football Team

Our residential trips have brought more opportunities for adventure and learning. Year 4 had a fantastic time at Glan-llyn, while Year 5 enjoyed a packed itinerary in Caerdydd, visiting the Senedd, Sain Ffagan, the Principality Stadium, The Big Pit and more. Year 6 are now looking forward to their own trip to Llangrannog in June. Pob hwyl i chi, blant!



Gwenffrwd's Year 5 and 6 Football Team

We're also very proud of our budding footballers at Ysgol Gwenffrwd, with three teams recently taking part in different competitions. Not only did they perform well, but they also showed great sportsmanship, teamwork and respect throughout the events. We were so proud of their behaviour and effort on the day.

As we come to the end of the school year, we say a fond farewell to our Year 6 pupils. We wish them every success and happiness as they begin their next exciting chapter in secondary school. Pob lwc i chi i gyd!

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CARMEL VILLAGE HALL



(Gareth Sharp)

Firstly, as a hall, we would like to thank Vinnie for the tidy-up of the exterior of the hall and the garden, and our cleaner, who does it out of love for the hall.

The monthly coffee morning now has a bimonthly visit from the children from Ysgol Bro Carmel. I want to note from a personal perspective that the bond between the school and the hall should flourish in the future, as I am going to become a council rep on the school governing body. I am hoping this will create a link between the two establishments, which will only benefit the village.

Also, there is a "healthy 5 villages" campaign in the early processes being led by one of our community councillors. This will involve sessions, hopefully, at the village hall, coffee mornings, involving

"fitness for all sessions, healthy eating sessions, to name but a few.

We also have a railing project in the pipeline, which is very costly, but we are committed to improving the hall and sustaining it for the future.

The hall hosts a knit and natter group, which is very helpful indeed. For example, a great knitter asked for advice on crochet and enjoyed it so much she can't stop crocheting now. Why not join them on a Tuesday at 1.45 pm.

Also, the hall's gardening club has a sale on the 5th of June, yet another fantastic advisory club, friendships, guest speakers, various trips and plant advice.

Whilst about trips, there is a trip on the 5th of July, leaving the hall at 9 am to Harlow Carr at Harrogate.

Any further information, please contact David Hughes 01352712243 or Christine Hamer 01352716273.

For any information about clubs, please contact Chris Dolphin at 07849459568 or take a look at the village hall Facebook page.

I would like to bring to everyone's attention the memorial walk/run that will take place on 20th July in Greenfield Valley, in memory of Craig Petrie, who was sadly killed in New Zealand on his bike. Craig was from Carmel village and was educated at Ysgol Bro Carmel and Holywell High.

Any further information about the event, please contact sheilapetrie1@aol.com



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Cyngor Cymuned Chwitffordd Whitford Community Council

Councillors: Tim Barks - 01352 720375 / Caradoc W. Jones - 01352 712079 /
Alexander Lamb - 07887 724200 / Matt Marshall - 077639 75531 / 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

Tribute & Minutes Silence: Councillor Billy Glynn



Councillor Caradoc Jones as Vice Chair of Whitford Community Council paid tribute to Councillor Billy Glynn, the Chair of Whitford Community Council, following his recent sad passing. Councillor Jones referred to Councillor Glynn's dedicated service to the community for over forty years and also the loss of his knowledge of the area and understanding of the Council duties, including planning.

Councillor Billy was elected as Chair of the Council on the first occasion in

May 1999 – and was elected Chair on another five occasions. That is quite an achievement for any Councillor being a member of any Council.

Billy took an absolute interest in the Whitford Council, its responsibilities and governance aspects to the areas that the Council covered – namely: the Villages and Communities of Carmel, Gorsedd, Lloc, Pantasaph, Pant Y Wacco and Whitford. Billy had an incredible 'Fortune of Knowledge' in relation to planning and could

recollect most probably all the sections from the Flintshire Local Development Plan. When the Whitford Council considered a planning application and it was somewhere way out in the countryside, Billy knew where it was. In fact, Billy knew where every property was in the area.

Whilst Billy had many achievements, one in particular, whereby he was instrumental in overseeing the footpath project which commenced from the Monastery Road area of Pantasaph, then we had phase two

and more recently phase three has been completed to the brow of hill in Gorsedd.

During the funeral service the Clerk to the Council R. Phillip Parry provided a eulogy on behalf of Councillor Glynne's family and the Community Council. The Whitford Community Councillors provided a Guard of Honour as Councillor Glynne's coffin left the Church to the Cemetery.

At the commencement of the March Council meeting the Members stood in a minutes silence in memory of Councillor Billy Glynn.

QUARTERLY REPORT

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

Carmel - 1 x Anti social behaviour / 1 x other theft / 1 Vehicle crime

Gorsedd - 2 x Anti social behaviour / 1 x Burglary / 1 x Other theft

Lloc - 1 x Anti social behaviour / 1 x Violence

Lloc (Services) - 2 x Violence

Pantasaph - No crimes reported

Whitford - 1 x Violence

NEW CHAIR OF WHITFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL:



Councillor Caradoc Jones

At the May Annual Meeting of the Community Council Councillor Caradoc Jones was elected Chair of Council. Councillor Paul Urquhart was elected as Vice Chair of Council.

COUNCILLOR VACANCY:

A Public Notice can be found in this edition of the Five Villages Chronicle notifying as to a co-option process to appoint a new Community Councillor. Notices can also be viewed on the Council notice boards and web site. Closing date for Expressions of Interest in filling the Councillor vacancy is 12 Noon Thursday 3rd July.

COMMUNITY AWARD:

The Council are seeking nominations for the 2025 Community Award. A Public Notice can be found in this edition of the Five Villages Chronicle. Notices have been displayed on the Council notice boards, whereby the

Community Award Policy and application form can either be downloaded from the Council's web site or received from the Clerk. Closing date for nominations is: 12 Noon on 7th July, 2025.

MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS:

The Community Council have agreed the following maintenance contracts for this financial year – to March 2026: Litter picking on all roads within the Community Council area: Additional grass cutting around the Council's bench seating in all villages together maintenance of the seats; grass cutting in area of the car parking area adjacent to Ysgol Y Llan in Whitford, including The Bryn (Bio-diversity area in Carmel); maintenance around the Red Telephone Boxes in Pantasaph and Whitford. The Council have also agreed a quotation for bio-diversity enhancement and tree maintenance in the Pen y Gelli Nature Reserve.

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

(1) Carmel Road, Carmel: Pot holes have been repaired but require repairing further (2) Gorsedd Crossroads (Turning into Parc Gorsedd). Many potholes / road possibly requires re-surfacing (3) Penfforddilan Crossroads: Pot holes and road surface broken-up (4) Llwyn Ifor Lane: Pot holes: Monastery Road, Pantasaph. Whilst repairs have taken place it is reported to the Council that further repairs are required (5) Pot holes: In area of the hill – from Sarn to Whitford (6) Pot holes: In area of entrance to Parc Gorsedd, Gorsedd (7) Fly tipping: in area of the top end of Fachallt Road (8) Complaint received from resident in relation to the overgrowth on a public footpath adjacent to the A5026 road in Carmel with the Whitford Road junction (photographs provided) (9) Overgrown pathway in Gorsedd (10) Carmel Hill: Pot holes on both sides of the road (11) Sarn to Whitford Road: Pot holes on edge of road – in hill area (12) Sarn: Pot holes at T junction by Gelli Farm (13) Gorsedd Village Road: Pot holes in hill area (near eggs for sale sign) (14) Saithffynnon Cross Roads to Old A55 Junction: (15) Pot holes A5151 Road, Lloc: Pot holes from area of Penfforddilan Cross Roads and near to Ghia (16) A5026 Road, Lloc: The road surface is poor in general – in area of Pen Y Gelli

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

The Community Council Members provide their observations to the Flintshire Planning Authority on all planning applications received within their Community. Full details of the observations made can be viewed in the Minutes of each Council meeting, which are displayed on the Council web site, or from the Clerk – as per contact details below: (1) Application number: COU/001095/24 – for proposed change of use of former commercial land to domestic and the erection of a new oak framed utility barn for the storage of vehicles, at Holliberry House, Babel Road, Gorsedd (2) Application number: COU/000080/25 – for change of use of agricultural land to provide a dog walking trail and all associated works, at Mynydd Mostyn, Berthengam (3) Application

number: FUL/001114/24 – for amendments to submitted proposal – for proposed new silage clamp, at Ty Newydd Farm, Whitford (4) Application number: FUL/000172/25 – for proposed reinstatement of former door opening and insertion of new external door (Conservation area), at 6 St Clare's Court, Pantasaph (5)

PLANNING DECISIONS:

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

(1) Application number: FUL/001026/24 – for proposed single storey garden room extension to the rear of Pen y Parc Farm, Pen Y Parc, Lloc. Approved (2) Application number: FUL/000699/24 - for proposed extension and alterations to existing holiday let at Y Bwthyn, Pen Ffordd Llan, Lloc. Refused (3) Application number: ADV/001106/24 – for application for Consent to Display an Advertisement(s) at Land East of McDonalds, Lloc. Approved (4) Application number: FUL/001111/24 - for single storey rear extension, at Little Timber, Gorsedd. Approved (5) Application number: FUL/001098/24 – for front infill two storey extension for new entrance & first floor extension, at Fron Fedw, Whitford. Approved (6) Application number: FUL/000841/24 – for proposal for the installation of one rapid electric vehicle charging station, at McDonalds Restaurant, Lloc. Approved (7) Application number: AGN/000198/25 - Proposed building for the storage of hay, straw and feed, at Groesffordd Bach, Whitford. Refused (8) Application number: LDP/000031/25 - Proposed Lawful use C3 (Residential) to C2 (Children's Home), at Westcroft, Babel Road, Gorsedd. Approved (9) Application number: FUL/000697/24 - Proposed extension and internal alterations, at Pant Glas Farm, Pen Ffordd Llan, Lloc. Approved (10) Application number: LBC/000698/24 - Listed Building Consent for proposed extension and internal alterations, at Pant Glas Farm, Pen Ffordd Llan, Lloc. Approved (11) Application number: COU/000696/23 - Conversion of redundant chapel to single dwelling The Seion Chapel, Allt Y Golch, Carmel. Approved

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND DONATIONS:

The Community Council have granted the following financial assistance since the last edition of the Five Villages Chronicle: £250.00 - Rotary Club of Flint & Holywell (funding towards the Christmas float that visits the Villages within this Council area) / £2,000.00 - Carmel Village Hall (towards running costs) / £500.00 - Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant (annual grant) / £1,500.00 - Carmel Bowling Club (capital grant to fund additional security / safety gates) / £400.00 - 1 s t Carmel Scouts' £400.00 - Carmel Beavers; £400.00 - Carmel Cubs (towards running costs) / £250.00 - Five Villages Gardening Club (annual grant).

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



**CYNGOR CYMUNED CHWITFFORDD
WHITFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**PUBLIC NOTICE
COMMUNITY AWARD**

The Whitford Community wish to receive from residents nominations for a Community Award. The award is to promote pride and give recognition to those who have made a significant contribution within the community as something to be valued. The presentation of the award will provide an opportunity to increase awareness of those people - who voluntarily and selflessly work to improve and enhance the lives of people in the Whitford Council area - and to allow that work to be celebrated.

The nominees can be an adult (over 18), a young person (under 18) or a Community Committee / Group, who must either reside, or be registered within the Whitford Community Council boundary.

The award policy and nomination form are available to download from the Council's web site at: www.whitford-council.wales (Public Notices & Financial – Page). Copies can be e-mailed or posted upon application to the Clerk – as contact details below.

The closing date for nominations is 12 Noon on Monday 7th July, 2025.

R. Phillip Parry - Clerk & Financial Officer
01352 720547 / clerk@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 3rd July, 2025.

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



**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 once a month on a Tuesday. Talks start at 7.30pm. Doors open from 7pm for plant sales and raffle tickets and free refreshments. Visitors welcome £3 per meeting.

Meetings start up again in September as there are private garden visits over the summer for members, their family and friends.

Information: 01352 781458 (leave a message)
email: clwydgroup@hardy-plant.org.uk
www.facebook.com/HPSClwyd
www.hardy-plant.org.uk/clwyd

WILLIAM 'BILLY' GLYNN

Billy was born in Widnes and moved with his family to North Wales when he was just a few months old. Billy initially worked as a farm hand in Pantasaph, where a friendship was formed some 70 years ago with Wyn Griffiths – who also sadly passed away just two months prior to Billy's passing.

When Billy's father passed away Billy took over the family 'block' business. He worked tirelessly and was completely devoted to continue his father's successful and reputable business.

Just over 40 years ago Billy became a member of Whitford Community Council where he served his community until his passing. Billy was highly respected within the community and he had no hesitation with assisting others, especially with his local knowledge and experience. In recent years whilst Billy suffered ill health, this did not stop his passion for helping others in his role as a Councillor and or a friend.

Liz Payne and Billy were partners for over 47 years with Liz by his side supporting him. Liz recollects the good times she shared with Billy, their holidays and annual visits to the Royal Welsh Shows.

We, as Liz Payne's family are so proud of Liz who had been Billy's devoted and loving partner for over 47 years. Billy and Liz cared so much for each other and the way Liz has conducted herself since Billy's passing - and especially for the love and attention she had always given to Billy, including in his final days - we are all so proud of her.



Billy & Liz at a Northop Hall wedding in 2006

Liz wishes to thank her family, her friends and many other people, including Billy's friends, who have supported her during this difficult time. Thank you for the numerous cards of condolences, the bouquets of flowers and countless visitors to her home, which has been such a comfort to Liz during her sad loss of Billy.
(Liz Payne's family)

GORSEDD CREATIVE WRITING GROUP (Sandy Neville)

The group continues to go from strength to strength. Meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of each month 7.00 – 9.00 p.m. at St Paul's Church, Gorsedd.

The ethos of the group is fun, inspiration and support. No matter if you are an experienced writer or a complete beginner, there is something for all.

Interested? Contact me either by email: sandy@thenevilles.net or ring me on 01352 961597 for more details.

The following poems have been inspired by themes suggested at group meetings. We hope you will enjoy them.

LOST by Moira Gelder

There's a dark hidden hole in my house it seems
Where socks disappear whilst we sleep with our dreams,
Spirited away by a fairy hand
To someone who lives in a distant land.
There's no coming back once that border is crossed,
We don't know its name but we call it 'Lost'

A one-legged ogre I say each day,
Found your sock and took it away.
My children sigh and shrug with no word.
I suggest a mouse, or maybe a bird
Came in whilst they slept and it was those
Who carried away the missing hose.

Maybe the elves came in while you slept
Took one sock and away they crept.
'Why do they need them?' They ask unbelieving
But how would I know? It's me they're deceiving.
I gather up the sock that's debased,
I launder it nicely 'just in case'

In a cupboard upstairs we keep a box,
In it there live the bereaved single socks.
Their partners have gone, presumably dead.
In a far distant land, my children said.
I bid them, 'Take care of your socks,' as good night we're kissing.
(At one time we were up to thirty-five missing).

'When your socks are dirty and before they're divided
Put them in the bathroom in the wash bin provided'.
'Ok,' they say then completely ignore me
Their yawn indicates, 'Mother don't bore me'

I realise what a lost cause prevails
And the true cost of raising children entails.
It's a phenomenon I no longer bemoan,
They're grown up now and have kids of their own.
They complain how their children keep losing their socks,
I smile and present them with their own little box.

And the strange thing is, in my house, the Dark Way
Has vanished completely and so socks they stay
In the drawer where I left them in their pair.
Happy to be put away with care.
There's no longer a route to the border they crossed.
The portal has closed to that land we called 'Lost'

HOLYWELL AREA COMMUNITY MUSEUM (Mike Jones)

Holywell Area Community Museum has had a great month. One of the nicest compliments we have received is that alongside Holywell Community Hospital, "the Museum is one of the jewels in the crown of Holywell."

We were really pleased to get involved with VE Day Eighty, celebrating the end of World War Two in Europe. The following Saturday the Cadi Ha took place in the High Street. This wonderful dancing festival has its roots in the coal mining communities of Flintshire.

John in the Point of Ayr mining room has had a busy few weeks. With donations from former miners and his unsurpassed knowledge he is a real boon to visitors, always ready to answer questions and

The following three poems are very much a family affair. Liz is a lynch pin of the group and it seems her husband and daughter are also budding writers.

VERTIGO by Liz Davies

I sit upon the topmost stair,
My bottom on the landing.
I'm anxious as I'm sitting there;
I get vertigo when I'm standing

ANSCHLUSS by Paul Davies

German anschluss
Made me anxious.
War declared
Over there.
Ike demanding,
Allied landing.
War is over.
We're in clover.

CHILDISH CHATTER by Charlotte Lawson

The incessant noise that emanates.
The talking and talking for talking's sake.
The gobbledegook; the nonsense; the chatter.
It's all just her learning, so why should it matter?
The lack of peace,
It drives me insane.
I miss sitting in silence.
There's no space in my brain.

explain exhibits. This month was especially poignant as planning permission was received from Flintshire County Council allowing a memorial to the miners who lost their lives at Point of Ayr in 1952 to be erected at the Colliery wheel Ffynnongroyw.

The Warm Hub run by The Museum was once again a great success, providing a warm meal and great company at no expense to a large number of local people. A great effort by all the volunteers involved.

With the warmer weather making an appearance The Museum has been offering locally grown tomato plants, sunflowers and cucumber plants for sale. All monies going towards the running costs.

The Museum was also involved in events planned for Holywell including The Classic Car show in the High Street in June and the Community Information and Awareness Event held at the leisure centre in May.

Regular events taking place at the Museum include the Sewing Repair Service, Knit and Natter, Bingo and Welsh Lessons. We are also starting a Memory Bear service which involves using a loved ones clothing to create a stuffed animal that is a unique representation of cherished memories.

As usual our heartfelt thanks goes to all our volunteers and the community of Holywell and surrounding areas who ensure that The Museum continues to thrive. Thank you.

All enquiries Holywell Area Community Museum 01352 217170 or holywellmuseum@gmail.com

RECIPES (Sandy Neville)

CHICKEN IN ORANGE AND HONEY SAUCE

Serves 2

Ingredients

2 free-range skinless chicken breasts
Flour for coating
Oil for frying
Juice of 1 orange
1 tsp of honey (not set)

Method

Coat the chicken breasts in flour and fry in the oil until seared on both sides. Place them in a small casserole and pour on the orange juice and honey. Cover and bake in the oven at 180°C for 50 minutes. Serve with rice or mashed potatoes.

LEMON WETTY

Serves 4

This pudding mysteriously separates into sponge on top and lemon custard underneath.

Ingredients

6oz Granulated Sugar
2 level tbspn Plain Flour
½ oz Butter
3 Eggs
1 Large Lemon
Large cupful Milk

Method

Beat sugar, flour and butter together in a large mixing bowl and add the yolks of the three eggs, grated rind and juice of lemon. Stir in large cupful of milk and beat with a whisk until smooth. Whisk up the egg whites into soft peaks and fold into the rest of the mixture. Pour into an ovenproof dish and set this in a larger baking tin with water to come halfway up the dish.

Preheat oven and bake for 35 minutes at 360°F – 370°F (170°C, 150°C fan). Serve hot or warm.

CARMEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Gareth Roberts) THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

Remember Bruce Springsteen's hit Glory Days? He meets an old high school friend who used to be a great baseball player so they go for a drink, but that's all he keeps talking about, the boring glory days.

As we get older we can look back with a hint of sadness at our glory days and remember when we won awards and achievements. When we were in our prime and could do things with ease some things we struggle with now. We also can come to the realisation that the glory days are long gone and things are only going to get worse.

Anyone who accepts Jesus Christ as their Lord and saviour can look forward with absolute confidence that the best is yet to come. Not only are we going to be with Jesus in the new heaven and earth but we are promised that we will receive a new body perfect in every way. (1 Cor 15)

If you want to have a certain hope for the future and want to find out more, why not join us at Carmel Village Hall every Sunday 5 pm.

We would love to see you there!



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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.

CARMEL BOOK CLUB

Kath Williams writes: it is with regret that I report that the book club is no longer able to meet. Hopefully we may be able to re-group in the future. We would like to thank the editor and hard working and loyal staff of the *Five Villages Chronicle* for their coverage and support.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without paying a heart felt tribute to my dear friend and fellow member, Sally Brighton, who was of course our IT link with the magazine. She enjoyed our discussions immensely and attended meetings even when mobility was a major problem. Sally kept us in order with humour and her excellent literary knowledge.

She worked tirelessly during the lockdowns to keep us in touch and develop and encourage our skills in story writing. With her guidance we even graced the cover of the W.I national magazine!

We miss her and remember her with great affection. Her contribution to our group and the many others that she was involved in was invaluable.

Fellow members:

Helen Audley

Delyth Williams

Ann Taylor

Lindy Moore

Jacqui Arstall

Pat Hadfield

Gail Lewis

Pat Weaver

Sally Jones (moved to live in mid-Wales)

Patricia McCauley-Fraser

Christian Williams

CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to our son Daniel Davies of Ffordd Aelwyd, Carmel, on gaining his Chartership with the Institution of Civil Engineers. We wish Daniel continued success with his career, currently based in London.

Paula and Tim Davies

DISCOVER THE MAGIC OF THEATRE

JOIN ABC DRAMATICS! (Nigel Skinner, Secretary)

Have you ever wondered what goes into putting on a play? Whether you've always wanted to try acting, or you're more curious about what happens behind the curtain, ABC Dramatics invites you to be part of the magic.

We're a friendly, amateur dramatics group based in Caerwys, and we've been entertaining our community with high-quality productions for over 30 years. Since our founding in 1991, we've performed two shows most years, powered entirely by volunteers who share a passion for theatre and community spirit.

Now, we're looking for new members

to help us continue our story. And no, you don't need any experience—just enthusiasm and a willingness to get involved! From acting, set design, and sound and lighting, to marketing and front-of-house, there's a place for everyone at ABC Dramatics.

Come along to our New Members Evening: "From Page to Stage"

📅 15th July

📍 Caerwys Town Hall

🕒 Evening time – just turn up!

Join us for a fun, hands-on drama workshop where, with our help, you'll take a short comedy script and bring it to life—learning the ropes from first read-through to final bows. We'll explore props, blocking, lighting and more. Expect plenty of laughs, a warm welcome, and of course, tea and biscuits!

We're a not-for-profit group, fully run by volunteers, and financially secure. We always strive to deliver professional standard productions and what we need now is fresh energy and new faces to keep the curtain rising for years to come. Our current members come from across Flintshire and Denbighshire, and our ethos is inclusivity, everybody is welcome, no matter what your ability or experience.

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HOLYWELL ART CLUB (Lynda Wilson)

Holywell Art Club is presently holding an exhibition of their work at Colwyn Bay Library. Ends June 30th. A beautiful selection of artwork of different styles and media, all works are for sale. Colwyn Bay Library, Woodland Road West. LL29 7DH.

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1ST CARMEL BROWNIES (Sharon Jones)

Carmel Brownies have had a busy few months.

At the start of the year the girls completed the Year of the Snake challenge badge, the best part was eating skittles with chopsticks apparently!

Sienna gained her 'Express myself Theme' award after completing interest badges in her own time. Well done Sienna.

Before Easter we had an Easter bonnet competition judged by Nia Davies the Guide leader. Eva and Liv Newsome won.



During the Easter term a few of the girls completed their Eco challenge badge and will soon be awarded the Theme badge. We had lots of pictures of the girls recycling at home.

Recently all of the Brownies attended a skills builder outdoor challenge day at Ty Clwyd, Llanfair TH. There were over 150 girls from Brownies, Guides and Rangers. All in uniform, ensuring that there was no peer pressure to look different. To hear all the laughter and chattering throughout the day along with the girls making new friends mixing with other units is what makes being part of Girlguiding special.

This term parent Becky Farrell-Jones ran a STEM session for the girls. Becky taught



the girls how to build a mini electric circuit, explaining what happens if the circuit breaks or is not connected properly. All girls enjoyed the session and earned a certificate.

Finally, we have had such glorious weather that we have had our last few sessions outdoors. Rounders on the bottom school field was a hit followed by the weeks afterwards in the woods. The first week we made hedgehog homes out of sticks



and twigs whilst learning how to knot them together and last week we were after having completed our explore badge at the county day. We then went into the woods in two teams laying trails for the other team to follow. Finished off with returning back to the hall singing the new camp songs they had learned.



We are now at full capacity with a waiting list (unless we have more volunteers). If your daughter is 14 and over and is looking for work experience or something to do on a Wednesday evening for an hour, then let me know, we would be happy to have her join us in having fun running the sessions.



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RHOSCOLYN (Geraint Roberts)

Looking for somewhere interesting to go this Summer?

I can best describe Rhoscolyn as a rustic hamlet clutching the southern-most point of Holy Island on Anglesey. It is beautifully rural; boasting a fine, clean beach, a handful of small islands, some awesome sea cliffs containing several caves and natural arches and is a worthy investment of anyone's time.

Take the second left after crossing Four Mile Bridge, and half a mile will bring you to a point where two tracks cross the road; this is the site of the nineteenth century Pwll Pillo marble quarry. It is one of four recorded on Anglesey and the green marble known as verd antique was quarried from here. Bristol, Peterborough and Worcester cathedrals are all adorned with Pwll Pillo marble. The rights were eventually acquired by the young furniture maker George Bullock who was commissioned to make marble furniture for Napoleon in his exile on St. Elba. He has been described as an intense but flawed genius who committed suicide in 1816 at the age of thirty-four!

Another short mile and you will arrive at the 1879 St. Gwenfaen's church; the original was built in the sixth century and dedicated to the saint of that name.

Although a car park and toilet is available near the beach, parking by the church is preferable to the narrow twisting lane which has ten right hand corners that need to be negotiated with very few passing places.



The 'Plas'

Just below the church is the lego-esque gabled Plas Rhoscolyn, once the holiday home of Lady Margaret Verney whose main residence was the spectacular Plas Rhianfa on the Menai Strait. The family had close and interesting ties to Florence Nightingale. Margaret's father, Sir Harry had asked Florence to become his second wife, but when she turned him down, he promptly married her sister Parthenope!

Young Nellie Owen who was a maid working for Margaret at the Plas in 1885 was persuaded to move to London to work for the 'Lady with the Lamp'; where she remained for six years. Interestingly Nellie's younger brother who became a barrister was W.D.Owen who wrote the well-known Welsh smuggling novel 'Madam Wen' based a mere three miles away.

In a field just above the right hand side of the beach is what appears to be an ancient



Florence Nightingale

megalithic tomb, a cromlech; similar to several others on the island. However, this is in fact a modern addition, probably raised by a JCB!



The modern 'cromlech'

The beach is embraced by rocks on both flanks, a bit like the arms of a sofa. Over on the left the heather clad plateau between the cliff tops and a handful of expensive looking bungalows is the abode of vipers! A couple of us very nearly trod on one a few summers ago when we were fishing off the rocks!

On the right is the 1903 lifeboat hut and slipway which has been closed since 1929. It is actually the sixth building to house the lifeboat which was first based here in 1830. Another, originally built in 1877 has been converted to a cottage. Over its 99 years it is estimated to have been launched over seventy times and to have saved 90 lives. The most notorious incident involved the steamship 'Timbo' in 1920. Mountainous seas prevented the then lifeboat 'Ramon



Maen Piscar reef

Cabrera' from securing a line and she was forced to aim for the relative shelter of Llanddwyn Island. Five of the thirteen crew were lost which included two brothers, Richard and Evan Hughes. Four of the 'Timbo's eight-man crew also perished in that terrible storm. A memorial can be seen in St. Gwenfaen cemetery very close to the Hughes brothers' grave.

The signposted path meanders and climbs gently from the beach towards the small coastguard lookout station on the hill above which was first built in 1914 but abandoned in the 1990s. In 2011 it was renovated by volunteers who now man it on a rota basis. Notice the tuff of rock on which it stands; this is Pre-Cambrian, the oldest rocks in the world, ie the first part of our then planet of lava to solidify!

Nearby is a rather grand memorial to Dennis Wood who died in 2001. He was a world renowned Geologist who recognised Rhoscolyn as a venue with an unusual variety of geological interest. He was a descendant of George and Robert Stephenson.

Above, on the skyline is Lady Verney's folly, built so she could enjoy the views and be sheltered from the wind from whichever direction it blew.



Lady Verney's folly

Looking south, several rocky islets are seen, usually in a shimmering sea. The largest of these has a beacon whose purpose was to warn ships away from the rocks.



The Beacon

During the first world war bi-plane pilots in the budding RFC used the beacon to practise their strafing runs with their rudimentary mounted machine guns, it must have been an incredible sight! It must also have terrified the colony of seals who can still be seen hunting for fish or basking on rocky shelves near the water's edge.

Continue north along the path and you will soon reach St. Gwenfaen's Well. The now levelled ruin once had a roof. It has



St. Gwenfaen's Well

been said to cure melancholy – or was it the bracing cliff top walk to get here that did that?

The path now keeps very close to the wall on the seaward side above a steep cliff which offers several single pitch climbs for rock climbers; interestingly, most of the named routes having a 'solar' theme eg 'Icarus'.

An interesting rescue took place here in the early 1960s. Two orphaned ravens were saved and taken to live out their lives in the Tower of London. It seems that Larry and George lived for many years alongside the Beefeaters.

The awesome canyon which suddenly appears below on the left continues as a sea cave below the path; glance over the wall on the right and you will see the cave open out to become a steep, forbidding pit. In Spring tides driven by south westerly



Cave and blowhole (from an earlier trip)

gales the full fury of the waves rushing into this cave can be felt as percussive tremors which sends spray exploding out of the blow hole pit – Impressive!



The White Arch

Soon we reach a spectacular natural arch known as 'Y Bwa Gwyn' (White Arch), probably the most photogenic offer of the day. The rock is 'kaolinite' and was used to make china clay. The arch can be crossed with care (not recommended in strong winds) where the concrete base of a flagpole can be seen which looks very much like an old grindstone.

A further two hundred yards and another less spectacular arch appears 'Y Bwa Du'



The Black Arch

(Black Arch). Both can be swum and kayaked through safely when there is no swell or large waves.

Look out for a singular lone boulder close to the path between the two arches which has a short but poignant inscription to immortalise 'Tyger'. 'Tyger' was a Retriever onboard a ketch bound for Liverpool with a crew of four in 1819. It was foggy and the ketch hit a submerged reef called 'Maen Piscar' which lies almost a mile offshore. The rock can clearly be seen at low water. As the boat sank 'Tyger' started swimming,

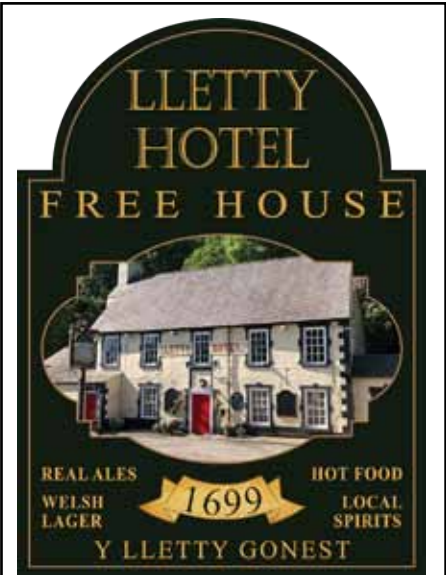


Tyger's memorial

and the sailors followed him assuming correctly that with his acute sense of smell and canine instincts he would head for the shore. The dog helped the rapidly tiring captain the final few yards and then swum back to help another of the crew who hung on to 'Tyger's' collar. When all four had made it safely ashore 'Tyger' licked the captain's hand and died, the strain on his heart had been too much! A popular 'doggy' tale very much of the same genre as Gelert.

The way back to the car is to return along the path for some four hundred yards and take a path climbing left past a small squat building which ascends steadily up past a farm and back to the church.

There are worse places than the nearby White Eagles for a refreshing coffee before starting the long drive back!



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In recent weeks, the whole of the UK came together to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day in 1945, the day World War II ended in Europe. VE Day marked a significant moment in British history and the work to rebuild our country after the war could start in earnest – the events marked the unconditional surrender of German troops across Europe on May 8, 1945, sparking widespread celebrations.

My own lovely and much-missed nana, then aged just 17, was part of a VE Day

celebration in Primrose Street in Connah's Quay – you can see her in the photo I've published on my Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HannahBlythyn. There were ceremonies and parades all over the UK to celebrate this historic event and towns and villages across Flintshire held their own celebrations to pay tribute to the Armed Forces and the people of Britain who had lived through a terrible war – I was privileged to attend the Holywell VE Day event during the week.



Since my last *Five Villages Chronicle* column, there's been a lot of talk in the Senedd and here at home about transport and how important it is to our communities and economy. Recently, the Welsh Government put forward proposals for bus reform, aimed at improving bus services for our communities as well

as creating a reliable, affordable and joined-up bus network, which is essential for connecting people across North Wales and enabling our economy – and especially important in rural areas where access to public transport is limited.

In my question to the Welsh Government in the Senedd on the subject, I raised the importance of workforce engagement – social partnership means listening to and involving those who keep our buses running. Issues around bus scheduling and the impact on the workforce was raised at the Public Transport Forum I organised towards the end of last year. The Bus Bill puts local bus services back into public control, meaning a network can be designed that truly works for people – putting passengers first. Back in February, the Welsh Government took a step in the right direction when it set out a new scheme for cheaper bus travel for people aged 21 and under. The £15m pilot will see a single bus journey cost just £1 and £3 for all-day travel.

But buses are just one part of the wider transport network and readers will know about Ambition North Wales' draft Regional Transport Plan, which was put out to consultation in April. In the Senedd recently, I asked about the Welsh Government's transport priorities for North East Wales, taking the opportunity to raise what feels like an attempt to resurrect the 'red route' buried away in the transport plan. We need improvements to the A55 and

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A494, but recycling past proposals is not the answer. I will certainly be raising more suitable solutions such as a crawler lane on the A55 at Halkyn, as well as investing in our public transport infrastructure with stations at Greenfield and Mostyn, as part of ongoing discussions.

North Wales has the highest electricity standing charges in the whole of the UK – at 69.54p per day, North Wales faces significantly higher charges than London (46.20p) and South Wales (51.79p) and the unit rate is the highest too! This isn't fair and it needs to change so I have written to Ofgem to ask them to look into the issue as well as suggest that a meaningful social tariff, on top of existing support, could target people and places that need it most. I've had a high number of messages from constituents on this issue, so it's obviously something that affects a great many people in our area.

As the exam season approaches, I'd like to wish pob lwc to all those taking their exams this summer. I know students across the country will be revising and this can be a time of great stress and anxiety for young minds – exams can be a challenging time and the pressure to do well can feel overwhelming. It's perfectly normal to feel worried about exams, but it's important that you find ways to manage your worries. If you're a student about to start exams or a parent or guardian concerned about the exams, you might find these tips useful from Place2Be – the children's mental health charity – go to www.place2be.org.uk/exams for help and advice.

While the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) was scrapped in England under the previous UK Government, I'm proud that the Welsh Government has not only kept it but also increased it to £40 a week and expanded eligibility – making it the most generous scheme in the UK. Over the last three academic years, 1,870 students in Flintshire have made

a successful EMA application. This vital support means that hundreds of students across Flintshire will have help with transport, meals, textbooks and equipment, ensuring that financial barriers don't stand in the way of their education. Everyone deserves the opportunity to learn and it's great to see Wales leading the way in investing in young people's futures. You can read more about how EMA is benefiting students in our corner of North Wales at www.hannahblythyn.cymru/hundreds-more-students-in-flintshire-to-be-entitled-to-the-40-education-maintenance-allowance – applications for next year's EMA are now open.

Finally, I recently had the chance to meet with Holywell Town Council alongside my parliamentary colleague Becky Gittins MP to discuss the March announcement by Santander Bank that it's planning to close their Holywell branch in August, leaving the town with no high street banking facilities at all. Bank closures are challenging for people who don't use computers or smartphones to do their banking and especially the older generations who rely more on high street facilities. It's vital that we don't simply cut these people off and so I support the introduction of 'banking hubs' like the one recently opened by the Post Office in Flint, in which you can pay in cheques and cash and pay bills. Holywell needs something similar, as do many other areas affected by bank closures.

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.

CARMEL BOWLING CLUB (Brenda Taylor, Secretary)

April was the start of the 2025 bowling season, and we are hoping (at least a few of us) to improve over the next few months.

Over the pre-season months the bowling club's situation was in a very rocky place, and it looked unlikely that we would be able to field a team for the 2025 season. There was a suggestion that we abandon Carmel and play out of another club's green. However, after much discussion, members decided to remain at Carmel and try to attract new members.

Last summer, Flintshire County Council organised a "Fun in the Park" event which was well supported by the local community. Phil Thomas and Teifion Roberts secured a place for Carmel Bowls and spent a busy day showing adults and children how to bowl. Unfortunately, we did not have any success attracting new members. This did not deter Phil and Teifion and they decided to post on Facebook, and it worked. Approximately six people showed interest. Phil and Teifion coached them on the bowling green and introduced them to indoor bowling. Today, Jane, Malcolm, Natasha and Neil are now very much part of the club and have blended in so well.

From October to March, we play indoor bowls at Holywell Leisure Centre, which is organised by Frank Cowan, assisted by Dave Massey. This is well supported, and it means we are all able to stay in contact with each other during the winter months.

At the beginning of this season, Linda Williams, a well-known bowler in her own right, approached our club to see if it would be feasible for her Bagillt team to use our green this season. Bagillt's green is in need of a lot of attention which, hopefully, will be fit to play on next season. At present it all seems to be working well. Carmel plays in the Deeside Vets league every Thursday afternoon and Bagillt in the Flintshire league which is Wednesday evenings. As Linda hasn't got enough players, Carmel players have agreed to be available whenever needed.

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BECKY GITTINS MP



Writing in the previous edition of the *Five Villages Chronicle*, I detailed some of the actions I had taken to try and improve access to cash and banking services in Holywell.

I had put in an application for a banking hub at the end of last year, which had been rejected by LINK, who are responsible for granting these types of facilities. Since then, we have learnt that the Santander in the town is due to close this year, a bitter blow to those that rely on the services it provides.

I have appealed the decision to reject the request for a banking hub and I will continue to push as I know Holywell would really benefit from one. Not only that, but some of the hard work that the Council and community groups have put into regenerating the town centre are potentially at risk if they cannot maintain good access to cash and banking services.

I also sat down with the Treasury Minister responsible, to discuss how we can do more to ensure that rural areas, like in the communities in the Five Villages around Holywell, are able to get access to these vital services. I reflected the views of the local community that the current criteria for granting banking hubs is too narrow and puts more rural areas at a disadvantage. I will be providing more evidence on the case to the Treasury.

The recent VE day commemorations gave us all an opportunity to come together as a community and reflect on the sacrifices made by those fighting for our country 80 years ago. I attended events in Holywell, Mold, Prestatyn, as well as a commemoration service organised by Denbighshire County Council, to pay my respects and help mark such a significant milestone in our nation's history. It was brilliant to meet both veterans and the many talented and committed cadets

across the constituency.

As well as looking back, it is important that we do more now to support our veterans. Backed by £50m of funding, a new network of VALOUR-recognised support centres is to be established in every nation and region of the UK.

VALOUR aims to help veterans fulfil their potential and foster the enterprising spirit of veteran charities. And where veterans have complex needs, it will help ensure the support on offer is data driven and better tailored to their need. The first support centres will be operational next year.

As well as the new Borders legislation, designed to tackle the gangs that profit from bringing people across the Channel illegally, the Government has taken further action to control immigration in the UK.

In the House of Commons, I reminded the Home Secretary of her visit to the Betty Berkins café in Holywell last year, to discuss the increase in overseas recruitment,

at the time when the investment in our domestic workforce was falling.

To tackle this the Government has published a new White Paper which will establish new workforce strategies, so key sectors using the visa system have to train people at home. It tackles student and graduate visa abuse, supporting genuine study whilst fixing loopholes that drive up numbers claiming asylum.

It is vital that we reverse the long-term trend of increasing international recruitment at the expense of skills and training in the UK. New requirements on employers to boost domestic training will end this reliance, restoring order to a failed system that saw net migration quadruple between 2019 and 2023.

As ever, if you would like to know more about any of my work, either in Clwyd East or Westminster, please do contact me and I look forward to seeing many of you out in the community. Becky.gittins.mp@parliament.uk



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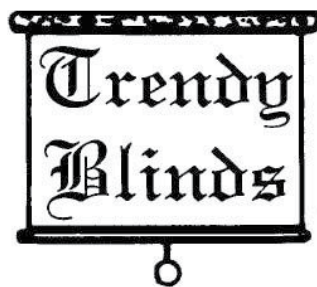
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SENIOR SECTION

At the time of writing in early May, Carmel's senior teams are in the early stages of the 2025 season and have enjoyed playing their opening games in the sunshine. Here is a brief summary of events to date.

Men's First XI



Carmel First XI v Llay Welfare First XI, Pen-y-Gelli.

The team has made its best start to a league season in many years, winning all four of its opening fixtures to rise to second place in Division 2 of the North Wales Cricket League. Early highlights include Amer Jamil's excellent bowling figures of 5 wickets for 9 runs in the away fixture against Menai Bridge Seconds, Supun Eranga's score of 52 against Llanrwst, captain Ben Sim's outstanding innings of 113 against Ruthin, and Supun Eranga's excellent innings of 72 not out which helped the team to victory against Llay Welfare. Carmel's Aled Proffitt also took a stunning one-handed catch in this game. It's early days yet, but this promising start to the league campaign augurs well for the remainder of the season.

This year the league rules have changed to allow first teams to wear coloured kits, and Carmel are therefore playing the new campaign in striking yellow and black jerseys. This design is a nod to the club's history, as these were the colours worn by Carmel United Football Club, predecessors of the cricket club at the original Golch Farm ground in Carmel.

Men's Second XI

At the time of writing, the team is in ninth place in Division 4 of the North Wales Cricket League after playing three games. The team picked up two points in the away defeat at Dolgellau where Nick Hughes scored 23 runs, and Jonathan Fisher scored 29 runs in the game against Hawarden Park. It has been very encouraging to

see the team fulfilling all its early fixtures, particularly the long journey away to Dolgellau. Carmel Seconds provide a great opportunity for the club's younger players to gain valuable game time and learn from more senior members of the team.

Women's and Girls' Team

Carmel Women's and Girls' have just started their league season and are currently in third place after their two opening fixtures. Haf Read scored a very impressive 31 runs in the game against St. Asaph Spinners and Katie Roberts scored 12 not out. This year the team is competing in Softball Division 1 East of the North Wales Women's Cricket League

and will be competing against St. Asaph Spinners, Pontblyddyn, Gwersyllt Park, Mold Mavericks, Buckley Belles and Halkyn. The team is really looking forward to the challenge of the new campaign.

Carmel and District Cricket always extends a warm welcome to anybody wishing to play for one of our senior teams and to any potential sponsors and supporters. Why not come up to Pen-y-Gelli to watch a game this summer? The club is located in a stunning setting with fantastic views towards the Clwydians and we are developing our facilities for players and supporters all the time.



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Hello everyone, Sut mae pethau:

PLANNING:

The local Community Council and I are informed and consulted upon all planning applications in the 5 Villages areas of Carmel, Gorsedd, Lloc, Pantasaph and Whitford. Concern has been raised recently concerning application number 31/25 for a Certificate of Lawfulness in Gorsedd, for a residential property change to a Children's Home, (1 max) person under 18 yrs of age). This type of application requires no prior notification and no consultation. I was contacted, after the decision was made, and co-ordinated contact with the applicant, supplying email and mobile numbers and welcomed the offer of personal meetings with concerned residents. The contacts need to be maintained. Other problematical sites for planning reasons are at Groesffordd Bach number 198/25 which has a long history of applications, mainly refused, the latest being this year for hay and feed storage sheds. The site is still subject to Enforcement concerning Static Caravan use for residential. A new planning application number which will be of concern is 331/25, 11 new lodges at Pennant Park Golf Club. This site is in the Mostyn ward, although all roads lead from the A5026 in Carmel and through our lanes. All details for County planning applications are on the Flintshire County Council website. You do not need the actual number (its easier and quicker if you do), there is also a good mapping screen. To access an application, Google in Flintshire County Council; choice of language; scroll down to Planning; view and comment on planning applications; scroll to Search for a planning application and then enter the number / or from Search scroll to Planning Applications Map and move / enlarge local map to the exact site you require.

FLINTSHIRE COAST PARK:

This is an exciting project to be involved with. The new Flintshire Coast Park was launched at a Festival of the Sea event in Flint Castle. We now have our first five-year Management Plan, with a vision that can, and will be achieved. A main central hub with a new visitor centre will be built (year 5) in conjunction with the RNLI in Flint which is chosen as the main centre for its geographical location, its proximity to the castle and foreshore, the town and its transport links. Our hubs also include, Saltney, Garden City, Shotton, Connahs Quay, Bagilt foreshore, Greenfield Dock, Llanerch y Mor, and Talacre/Gronant. Grants from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund have funded the work so far and for this financial year. All the hubs have specific work projects designated for different years. Some work has already started such as

removing derelict boats from Connahs Quay, Bagilt and Greenfield.

Locally, plans for Greenfield Dock area in years 1 and 2 include: adding a meadow border, implementing wildflower seeding and daffodil bulbs to be refreshed; removing an unsightly crash barrier near the slip and replace with integrated street design of seating, planters, marine bollards and boulders; screen electric compound with 15m ivy and hedgerows, removing tarmac strip; finish the rock armour to protect the remaining 5m area from the viewpoint where there are erosion issues; re-establish the circular "Pennant Walk"; repair the Slipway for continued RNLI use; removing further abandoned boats (year 1-3). Plans for Year 5 onwards include, establishing café and toilets in the old derelict building; a Pen y Maes link path, by developing 450m pathway and 1.6km waymarking route. Landowner agreement is in progress; consider re-routing Wales Coast Path closer to the waterside from the dock to Duke of Lancaster ship; create a children's cycling area upgrading 850m path to tarmac and adding a 1.8km loop of wide pathway.

An update on the "A" frame barriers on the coast path, is that all of them have been removed between Saltney and Connahs Quay and all other "A" frame barriers will be removed within council land. Discussions are taking place with private landowners in the Talacre area.

GRASSLAND AND WILDFLOWER AREAS:

I am keeping a close watch on the "wildflower" area bordering the A5026 and Ocean View Estate. The original Daffodil bulb planting still pays dividends after many years now. The area has been difficult to cultivate and since the huge success of the first year, has been disappointing. This year it appears half of the site may be partially successful in blooming some colour. The open field on the school site, was to also have wildflower growth, however now it's considered a herbal border may be more successful. Walking "home" with grandchildren from Ysgol Bro Carmel on the public footpath has been a joy, wildflowers in late spring bloom, still plenty of "stingers" so be a bit careful. I am also lobbying and supplying photos regularly to the Council concerning the access from Carmel Road, the steps are too steep and have caused falls to local people and are completely unsuitable for a young child.

Flintshire have 15ha of wildflower and grassland sites which are managed to improve our environment. The calendar for management is generally, cut and collect mowings for some sites until mid-April; leave our grasslands uncut to flower from mid-April to mid-July; cut and collect mowings after most of the flowers have seeded from mid-July to mid-October and

then monitor sites. What can long grass do for us? It naturally controls rainfall, helping to absorb water and prevent flash flooding; reduces pollution; it locks up carbon from the atmosphere; grass keeps temperatures cooler on ground surfaces, by as much as 10 degrees; longer grass helps retain moisture; longer grass can help with noise on busy roads; long grass provides homes for insects and earthworms, which in turn provide food for birds and mammals like hedgehogs; grass is 80% root and can stabilise soil structure and prevent erosion.

UKSPF (UNITED KINGDOM SHARED PROSPERITY FUND) :

This has been and is an important grant funding measure, delivered by UK Government, perhaps better known as part of the "Levelling Up", the UKSPF replaced previous European funding. This is now in its final transition year, when it is expected the Welsh Government will take over decision making for the funding. The following projects are continuing until April 2026, when further future decisions will have been made. This year the Revenue fund approved is £3,176,593 with Capital funding of £1,218,309 in Flintshire. Some of the successful applicants have included - **Employer Skills Flintshire** (Coleg Cambria) supporting businesses in Flintshire to upskill staff and develop business: **Supportive Steps** (Coleg Cambria) helping the most vulnerable Flintshire learners with additional support to help stay at college and achieve qualifications: **Town Centre Investment Programme** (Flintshire County Council) delivering and managing 6 projects to improve our towns: **Connecting Coast to Countryside** (Flintshire County Council) to deliver environmental improvements and raise awareness: **The Flintshire Fund** (Antur Cymru) a social enterprise providing 50% contribution towards the cost of installing carbon reduction technology in Flintshire businesses and delivers carbon reduction plans to support carbon reduction and tendering: **Minding the Gaps of Young People** (We Mind The Gap) WeMindTheGap will use findings from their Appreciative Inquiry "Big Conversation Flintshire" to expand stakeholders and implement the WeGrow employability programme: sidestep (Action for Children) to continue diversionary opportunities and engage with young people: **ADAPTS2** (AMRC Cymru) ADAPTS2 is a business intervention programme that will provide Flintshire manufacturers with access to advanced manufacturing engineers and technology, demonstrators, knowledge transfer, training/upskilling in digital and decarbonisation strategies. **Flintshire Community Key Fund** (Cadwyn Clwyd) provides wrap around support for community led and/or community owned venues facilities to develop and



enhance community infrastructure and local projects: **Supporting Tourism Business Sector Key Fund** (Cadwyn Clwyd) supporting micro and small tourism business enterprises in Flintshire:

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

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MARK ISHERWOOD MS



As a Member of the Senedd, and in my capacity as Chair of a number of Senedd Cross-Party Groups, I am often asked to speak at events, and in April I was delighted to sponsor and speak at the Family Fund Senedd Event, which launched the charity's 'The Cost Of Caring 2025' Report.



The Family Fund is the UK's largest charity, providing grants to families raising disabled or seriously ill children. Their mission is a simple but powerful one: to ensure that all families, regardless of income or circumstance, have access to the support they need so their children can live full, dignified lives.

Last year they delivered over 150,000 grants and services worth over £32.3 million, with the support of the four UK Governments, charitable trusts, trading income and donations.

These grants help cover essential items like kitchen appliances, sensory toys, bedding, clothing, technology, and short family breaks — items and experiences many of us might take for granted, but which can be lifelines for families under immense pressure.

But Family Fund does more than just offer material support. They provide information, guidance, and connect families with other services. For families often left isolated or underserved by wider systems, this is a critical source of both hope and help. It is a cruel paradox that families doing the most — those caring for children with complex additional needs — are often the ones receiving the least.

The Family Fund believes that families raising disabled or seriously ill children and young people should have the same choices, quality of life, opportunities and aspirations as wider families — a view that I strongly share.

For over fifty years, Family Fund's

main function has been to help redress this balance by distributing public money across the UK in the form of grants to families with sick and disabled children.

Families in Wales can apply for a Family Fund grant every 24 months and are eligible if they:

are the main carer for a disabled or seriously ill child, aged 17 or younger and have a low income from work or benefits.

Disabled families still face barriers daily, whether it be physical, attitudinal, communication, social or policy, and charities such as Family Fund provide a vital lifeline to these Families. The service they provide helps with early intervention and prevention, taking some of the pressures off those families and saving Public Services in Wales millions every year. However, despite their dedication, their support currently only reaches a small fraction of those in need.

The demand for grants is rising as more families face income insufficiency, food insecurity, and limited employment options due to caring responsibilities. In addition to basic living expenses, families with disabled children also face steep specialist costs — for items like adapted equipment, therapies, and sensory tools.

Seventy-six percent report having to pay for these out of pocket without any financial support.

Currently the Charity provides a variety of schemes, such as the Take a Break Wales scheme, funded by Welsh Government, which provides short break grants or resources like sensory/play items to give carers a break.

They also provide urgent items like white goods, beds, bedding, and clothing,

funded by various foundations and partners, a Mobility Support Scheme, funded by The Motability Foundation, which offers lease cars for families with disabled children under three with mobility needs and Your Opportunity, which supports disabled young people aged 18–24 with grants during a key transition period.

Their Cost of Caring 2025 report provides essential insight for the Welsh Government when constructing child poverty policies and examines why families raising disabled or seriously ill children are disproportionately affected by financial hardship, exploring key factors such as:

*Income insufficiency,
the role of paid work as a potential route out of poverty,
the unique barriers parent/carers face in accessing employment
and how multiple disadvantages compound these challenges.*

The Report's findings included that almost half of families experience income insufficiency and almost 90% of parent-carers can't work as many hours as they'd like due to caring responsibilities and two thirds say their financial situation has affected their child's emotional wellbeing.

No-one chooses disability. No parent should have to sacrifice their own health to keep their child safe and warm, and no child should go without a toy, a meal, independence, simply because they have health conditions or impairments.

As I have repeatedly said as Chair of the Cross-Party Group on Disability, we need to ensure that disabled families are no longer forgotten. We must ensure they are heard, seen, supported, and valued. Not just with words, but with real action.

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BRIMSTONE AND TREACLE (Jan Miller)

Well what a difference a year makes! After the long cold, wet Spring of last year, we had the worst records of butterflies in living memory. But this April and May have been so dry and sunny that butterflies are bouncing back. In particular the beautiful, pointed wings of the bright yellow Brimstone have been more frequent in my garden than usual, and for the first time ever in some 20 years of growing their only larval foodplants, I just saw a male Brimstone chasing a female!

The only food the caterpillar can eat is Purging Buckthorn (and the Alder Buckthorn is for acid bogs), a small tree or hedging plant that I have lots of along a sunny boundary. The female is said to be able to fly up to 15 miles to find the right plant to lay her eggs on. But often I see the males patrolling mine before the leaves are even opening from buds. How do they know? It seems they have some unknown sense to read the chemistry of plants



The female is not such a deep yellow as the male, especially with her wings closed, she is very pale and greenish. This maybe helps her in hiding amongst leaves to avoid being eaten by birds, as she has a surprisingly long life, can delay mating and egg laying depending on the weather. The Brimstone is fairly common in the southern half of England, but is scarce in North Wales because its larval foodplant was not used as farm hedging historically here.

The spring of 2024 had unsettled weather with plenty of cloud and rain. These conditions do not allow our longest-lived butterfly, the Brimstone, to emerge from its over-wintering quarters to begin its breeding cycle. Late in March is typically when it emerges to seek mates, feed and begin to look for breeding plants.

The Brimstone has one generation a year. After mating and laying eggs in spring and early summer, the adults die off, but quite slowly, with some surviving as late as early July. During July and August, the new generation is emerging as adult butterflies, but unlike most of our butterflies, they do not breed until the following spring after hibernation is complete.

So how does the Brimstone deal with several months when breeding is impossible, when the weather is unsuitable, and food is unavailable? And why does it appear to be more numerous in spring after hibernation than it was during the previous summer?

The Brimstone, unlike most of our butterflies, is sexually immature when it hatches from the pupa. A reproductive diapause occurs in this butterfly. Diapause is the suspension of development or activity in any life stage of a butterfly. This strategy is used to survive months of unsuitable weather which often corresponds with the period during which its breeding plants are unsuitable. Diapause (similar to hibernation) is a rest period undertaken by butterflies, moths and other insects with a seasonal life cycle.

Diapause aligns the butterfly's complete life cycle to seasonal changes in the environment to ensure that further development occurs in the most suitable conditions.

In the case of the Brimstone, diapause occurs in the adult, winged butterfly and

takes the form of delayed sexual maturity. In most species it occurs in the pupal or egg stage. This is likely an adaptation to the coldest months of the year and the condition of the foodplants from July to April. Between July and October, buckthorn leaves are tougher than they are in April-June and perhaps contain toxins making them unsuitable for the larvae.

So it is all rather complicated trying to arrange my garden to benefit our local butterfly life cycles, but a great challenge to try! Hopefully I should have a breeding colony here in future, so if you see any flying over your way please let me know at Jan@7wells.org – and if you would like to try growing a Buckthorn of your own, I have a few spare ones left.

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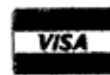
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ESTUARY COMMUNITY TRANSPORT (Paul Williams) 30 YEARS, THOUSANDS OF JOURNEYS, AND A WORTHY LEGACY

It all began back on 27 March 1995, when petrol was 54 pence a litre, mobile phones were the size of a house brick, and a "Zoom" was still just the sound a child made when pushing a toy car across the carpet.

But in the heart of Flintshire, a group of big-hearted volunteers got together to launch The Estuary Voluntary Car Scheme - a small, not for profit, local service with a big ambition, to help people who needed transport, but had no easy way to get it.

Fast forward to today, and not only is the service still going strong, it's thriving - with a new name, Estuary Community Transport, and a mission that's as relevant now as it was 30 years ago.

The only thing that hasn't changed? The sheer determination to go the extra mile, sometimes quite literally, for the people of Flintshire.

A JOURNEY BUILT ON KINDNESS (AND PROBABLY A FEW BISCUITS)

For three decades, Estuary has been the quiet hero of North Wales roads. Its drivers don't wear capes (though we're not ruling out the occasional woolly cardigan), but they do show up in all weathers, with warm smiles, listening ears, and an unshakable sense of direction... eventually.

They've tackled narrow country lanes, surprise roadworks, the great parking-space droughts of Mold, and more than one particularly vocal sat-nav. And all in the name of helping people get to medical appointments, social events, lunch clubs, family visits, and anything else that keeps our community connected and thriving.

Estuary isn't just a transport service. It's a lifeline. And often, it's also the only friendly face someone might see all day. That's what makes it special.

FROM ONE CAR AND A MAP TO A COMMUNITY ON THE MOVE

In 1995, the original scheme began with a few trusty volunteers, using their own well-loved cars, and a whole lot of heart. Thirty years on, Estuary Community Transport has grown into a professionally run, community-rooted organisation offering accessible, assisted transport across Flintshire—and beyond.

The vehicles may be more modern and occasionally with heated seats, the ethos remains wonderfully old-fashioned: help people, be kind, and always carry a spare mint.

From helping passengers into vehicles with gentle hands, to swapping stories on country roads, to patiently waiting for delayed appointments with a smile, our drivers have created more than just a transport service, they've created relationships, built trust, and helped combat loneliness, one journey at a time.

WANT TO KNOW THE REAL FUEL BEHIND ESTUARY? VOLUNTEERS.

While the wheels keep turning, it's the volunteers who keep the engine running. And there's always room for more in the team.

Whether you're a confident driver with a sat-nav and a smile, or someone who's better suited to organising things behind the scenes, Estuary would love to hear from you. You don't need superhero powers—just a bit of time, compassion, and the ability to operate a kettle (tea is vital to operations).

NEED A LIFT? WE'RE JUST A CALL OR CLICK AWAY

If you—or someone you know—find getting around a bit of a challenge, Estuary Community Transport is here to help. Whether it's a regular hospital appointment, a trip to the pharmacy, or simply the chance to stay connected, we're just a phone call or an email away.

📞 Call us on 01352 710149

✉ Email: admin@ect.wales

Our friendly team will talk you through how the service works, and help get you on the road safely and comfortably—no fuss, no stress.

TO EVERYONE WHO'S BEEN PART OF THE JOURNEY... THANK YOU

To the founders with a vision, the drivers with a map, the

passengers with stories, and the community with heart—Estuary wouldn't be here without you.

So, here's to 30 years of service, support, and stories shared in the front seat.

Because while public transport is about routes and schedules, our Estuary Community Transport is about helping the community, and we think that's a road well worth travelling.

Happy 30th Anniversary, Estuary Community Transport. You've earned your place in Flintshire's heart, one mile at a time.

FIVE VILLAGES GARDENING CLUB

March

Our illustrated talk was by Mr Anthony Tavenor who has been involved with the restoration of Plas Cadnant, The Hidden Gardens, on Anglesey since about 1996 and his colourful illustrations showed the fantastic transformation that the garden had undergone. The range of trees, shrubs and plants was really spectacular, definitely a garden to visit. The competition for three hebebores was won by Jean Parry.

April

April was an illustrated talk by David Winnard who told us all about the special plants he had found locally in the year since his last visit. The competition for a vase of spring flowers was won by Buddug Neale.

May

On 1st May we paid a return visit to Mostyn Hall Gardens and were exceptionally lucky with glorious weather. There was extensive work in progress in the rose garden but all the spring shrubs and plants provided lots of interest and colour. Our guide, Kevin Woods, gave us a very informative and interesting talk on the history and running of Mostyn Hall and served us very welcome refreshments before we left.

For further information please contact:

Christine Hamer 01352 716273

Maria Evans 01352 715156

HANNAH BLYTHYN MS

Member of the Senedd for Delyn
Aelod o'r Senedd dros Delyn

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STRONG SPRING (Norman Closs - Parry)

What 'springtime' we have experienced this year (2025). As I wake, the sun streaming into my home - As Dylan Thomas [Rev Eli Jenkins] in Under Milk Wood writes..."Every morning as I wake, to Thee Dear Lord a prayer I make..."



Merfyn Davies

But there are some - friends and neighbours have not made it...far too many good people...gone and the train called "Eternity"...Merfyn Davies, Abergele was one. He was known in his lofty Range Rover as Merfyn BBC! He was an excellent "Country" reporter...the once hill farmer from Nanty in Dyffryn Ceiriog. If there was any environmental story and then there in Cardiff wanted a slant on it...if it had anything to do with faith, feathers or fish!... he was here...instant radio! No money ever changed hands and the transaction was that one pheasant gets two big rainbow trout (Brenig!) Beti did not agree...and she was convinced that I could pluck as well as skin the quang. He wrote a book called "My Own Furrow". He did me the honour of giving the volume its title! It was natural - ex smallholder in The Ceiriog Valley, BBC News Wales correspondent... Welsh Country dancing expert etc etc - and of course shooter and manager of a shoot! If you speak the language of heaven, seek Chapter 11 in his book...the day with Gareth (son in law - mine not his) and myself on Llyn Padarn in Llanberis...I did not know that the BBC Country Correspondent was scared of water!! Now he is gone...well on the train...

Nova, his wife did me the honour of including my 'englyn' in his memory on the funeral programme...

Gwladwr Diwylliedig

*Ef fu ddyn ei dyddyn a'i dir - y dweud
a dawns bro'r ucheldir;
tro'i dalent, glan a phentir
a gweld ac adrodd y gwir.*

I'll miss coming home from school to find a pheasant hanging just out of cat and dog reach on the door!

This is an inadequate crude attempt at

translating:

*He was the man of farm and land -
compare
wanderer from its highland
turned talent - shore and coastland
seeing reporting hardy band.*

I have just finished reading 'Blythe Spirit' biography of the great country writer Ronald Blythe - [Do some of you remember his modern history volume Akenfield - the Suffolk/Essex farmers of bygone days?] - he sold thousands of copies - and T.V...

Ian Collins has written the biography. Hmmm - I had made him an idol/icon...in country writing his Wormingford Trilogy is SOME sequence...The Rev Brian Taylor introduced me to him via the column 'Word from Wormingford' the circling Year in a Country Parish - words, sounds, happening human, natural and divine...I was captivated. Now.. the biography ...well I suppose we, ALL OF US, have feet of clay! Or in Welsh we are Bara Brith - Currant Bread!

He died a few years ago - over 100 years old - never having lived away from his beloved East Anglia...man of letters, man of vision...man of God...He kept his old farm Bottengorms to the nation to foster young writers and poets and umpteen volumes of unique essays, articles, novels...

I picked one of them up after finishing Collins' Biography. 'The Writer's Day Book (Trent Editions) Well - one essay in particular has really made my April Fools Day! 'The Runaway' - Laurie Lee.

It was books flying everywhere then until I had "Cider with Rosie" - Did any of you have warm cider at hay gathering time with Rosie, the larks having disappeared but heard overheard, the hay rucks dry, the silence full of country sounds and humming bees...?

I also found his Collected Poems too, the book fell open at Cock-Pheasant -

*Guided with leaf- thick paint; a steady
Eye fixed like a ruby rock;
Across the cidrous banks of autumn,
Swaggers the stomping pheasant
cock...*

He was a very acceptable country writer too - as I recall and sip my cider... but no Rosie.

I did follow this author down the years... the Slad Gloucestershire lad who walked to the Civil War with just a violin under his arm - one midsummer morning...

Then the reflective 'A Moment of War'...There was 10 years between each book. Ten years of reflection purported Blythe...the Wormingford Sage was right of course...momentous happenings can not be evolved momentarily...

A Blythe - now under a plain headstone next to John and Cathy Nash his friends, the artist. Its inscription is so wise - like all in print by him...

Love bade me welcome

Ronald Blythe
Writer
1922-2023

In his final essay in a Writer's Day Book, he concluded with this description...

"How would I describe today's real countryman and woman? They would be people who looked at crops, capa for domestic and wild creatures, primarily education, were part of the parish church, played games on the local pitch and who saw through its falsities and naff notions which have recently descended upon them. Rural life and town life will never again be as distinctive as they once were, and now they are separated by the thinnest green lines..."



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Summer Fun at Gwella Libraries!

Summer Reading Challenge 2025

Look out for a wide variety of events and activities taking place across Gwella libraries throughout the Summer! The theme for 2025 is 'Story Garden' where nature and imagination come together.

When you sign up to the Summer Reading Challenge at your local Gwella library a special collector folder will be given and your challenge begins, special incentives will be awarded at every visit to the library throughout the Summer, when you reach the challenge goal a certificate and medal of completion is presented.

Look out for a wide variety of events and activities taking place at Aura libraries throughout the Summer!

Holywell Library Book Club



Come and join us at Holywell library on the last Friday of every month, for our new book club. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be provided.

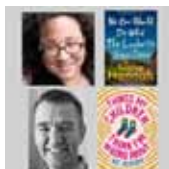
For further information contact 01352 703850.

Author Events at Mold Library

In partnership with Mold Bookshop, Mold Library will be hosting the following Author evenings throughout June and July. Tickets are available from Mold Bookshop Tel:-01352 759879 or online at [Events – The Bookshop. Mold. \(mold-bookshop.co.uk\)](http://Events-TheBookshop.Mold.(mold-bookshop.co.uk))



Mark Billingham & T. M. Logan
in conversation with Luca Veste
Tuesday 17th June 2025 ~ 7:00pm



An Evening Of Fun Wine & Crime with
Sophie Hannah & Nic Aubury
Tue 24 Jun 2025 ~ 7:00pm



Shari Lapena - Book Launch
Thursday 17th July 2025 ~ 7.00pm

Holywell Library Weekly Activities

Why not join us for our 'FREE' friendly, weekly activities for more information contact Holywell Library 01352 703850

- Monday Lego Club 10.00am and 3.30pm
- Tuesday Rhymetime 10.00am – 10.30am
Drawing/Colouring club 4.30pm – 5.30pm
- Wednesday Wednesday Craft and Chat 2.00pm – 3.00pm (every fortnight)
- Friday Welsh Conversation 2.00pm (1st & 3rd Friday of the month)
- Saturday Lego Club 10.00am

Advice and Guidance at Holywell Library with C.A.B.

Looking for help or guidance a representative from Citizen's Advice is available at Holywell Library every Wednesday morning from 09.00 a.m.

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• Buckley Library	Tuesday and Friday	10.30am
• Broughton Library	Wednesday	10.30am
• Connah's Quay Library	Thursday	10.30am
• Deeside Library	Wednesday	10.30am
• Flint Library	Wednesday and Friday	10.30am
• Holywell Library	Tuesday	10.00am
• Mold Library	Tuesday	9.30am and 10.30am

FREE Adult Community Learning courses

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

For further information or to book on one of the courses below contact acl@gwella.wales

www.gwella.wales

Date	Course	Time	Venue
11 June	Online skills for work	10.00 – 12.00 noon	Flint Library
16 June	Emergency First Aid	9.30 – 3.30pm	Flint Library
17 June	Find your inner Superhero	10.00 – 12.00 noon	Mold Library
	- A course to help cope and understand anxiety		

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EXCITING SUMMER AHEAD FOR 1ST CARMEL SCOUTS!

All three of our sections—Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts—remain very active and have an exciting summer term planned.

A key highlight this year is the upcoming Clwyd Area Camp, taking place near Hope from 11th to 13th July. This special event only comes around every 5 or 6 years and brings together Scouts from across the Clwyd Area for a weekend packed with activities for all age groups, plus evening entertainment. We're encouraging as many of our young people as possible to attend and make the most of this unforgettable experience. Fingers crossed for good weather!

Interested in Volunteering?

If you're looking to gain experience working with young people, why not consider joining our team? You'll have the chance to learn new skills, meet great people, and have plenty of fun along the way!

We also welcome anyone working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award—you can complete the volunteering section with one of our groups.

Get Involved

If you'd like more information or want to get involved, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Russell Williams
Group Lead Volunteer
07936197962

You can also visit the Scouts website:

www.scouts.org.uk

Let's make it a summer to remember!





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EGLWYS GYMRAEG BRO TREFFYNNON HOLYWELL & DISTRICT WELSH CHAPEL

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

Mehefin / June:

15fed Marion Simkin
22ain Y Parch. Huw Powell-Davies (Gweinidog)
29ain I'w drefnu / To be arranged

Gorffennaf / July:

4ydd Y Parch Trefor Lewis
11eg Gweinidog
18fed Pererindod yr Ofalaeth / Pastorate Pilgrimage.
25ain Y Parch David Owens

Awst / August:

3ydd Oedfa Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Wrecsam
Service at National Eisteddfod,
Wrexham

10fed)
17eg) I'w drefnu / To be arranged
24ain)
31ain Y Parch Brian Wright.

Medi / September:

7fed Debbie Roberts
14eg Gweinidog (Cymun) Gwasanaeth ar y cyd
gydag Eglwys Gorsedd.
Communion - Joint Service with Gorsedd Church.
21ain I'w drefnu / To be arranged
28ain Gweinidog.

Hydref / October:

5ed Dafydd Iwan Uno yn y Berthen/ Joint Service
Berthen Chapel, Llicswm
12fed Gweinidog

Y gwasanaethau i gyd am 10 o'r gloch y bore. Croeso cynnes i bawb.
All the services at 10a.m. All are welcome.

A VERY DRY SPRING IN THE FIVE VILLAGES (Robert Moore)

Weather in the Five Villages Spring 2025 (2024 figures in brackets)				
	Temperatures °C			Total rainfall mm
	Average	Maximum	Minimum	
March	8.7 (7.5)	17.1 (15.4)	-1.0 (-5.0)	27.0 (33.7)
April	12.8 (10.3)	26.6 (16.8)	2.0 (2.1)	43.9 (173.7)
May	15.7 (15.3)	23.7 (24.1)	3.0 (4.0)	56.9 (181.4)

Spring average 2001 - 2020 and average 2024		
	Average 2001 - 2020	2025
Air Temperature 1800 UTC	10.4	12.5
Maximum Temperature	20.3	23.5
Minimum Temperature	0.7	1.3
Days air frost	2	0
Days ground frost	9	4.6

Last year's Spring report was titled 'A Dry Spring in the Five Villages' and began, 'We will probably all remember this Spring for the rain.' This Spring will be remembered for the lack of rain and the problems this caused gardeners and farmers. May was very dry, with no rain until the 23rd, when we had 7 mm of rain, most of the month's rain fell on the 27th and 28th (32.5 mm).

Sitting under high pressure we experienced clear skies and sunshine for a large part of Spring. At 1800 UTC daily I record cloud cover, in May there were four days with only a tiny amount of high cloud (two or three tiny wisps of cloud) and a further ten days when I recorded zero cloud. This Spring in the UK has had more sunshine than the whole of Summer last year. April was the sunniest since records began in 1910, with 630 hours of sunshine. The five villages had about 150 percent of the 1990-2020 average hours of sunshine. These figures are from the Meteorological Office, the Carmel weather station cannot record

sunshine. April was the third warmest April in the UK since records began in 1884. That it was very warm in the five villages compared with last year, may be seen in the table above.

The relatively placid weather has also allowed the sea surface to warm up, our coastal temperatures were 1.5 to 2.0 degrees higher than expected. Off the west coast of Ireland, the Met Office recorded an 'Extreme marine heatwave' (up to 4 degrees C warmer). Thermal expansion is one cause of rising sea levels, alongside the melting of polar ice. NASA has a home experiment to show the effect of warming water – a nice little activity with your children or grandchildren; <https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/resources/project/how-warming-water-causes-sea-level-rise/>

One immediate effect of the sea surface warming is to reduce the effect of sea breezes in cooling the land. More turbulent weather will mix the sea water and reduce the temperature at the surface.

There is a very interesting Met Office website dealing specifically with climate change in Flintshire, after a brief general introduction to the topic; <https://www.reports.esriuk.com/view-report/b8eb3cee8f764147a2cfcd69cf36238f/W06000005>

This quarter you can see two satellite images received at the weather station. The first image was received on the afternoon of 25th May. After weeks of rather uninteresting images of the British Isles, we can see the shower clouds that brought a little rain over the mainland in a rather haphazard way. There are more such clouds over the Atlantic on their way eastwards. One nice feature of the new satellite is that it has channels that enable us to see more detail by night.



The second image, from 30th April, will test your knowledge of European geography, more importantly it is useful for identifying thin cloud at night. I also see this picture as illustrating human folly! Why are we lighting up the night sky and wasting so much energy and the resources that produce it? So, you could think of this image as showing the equivalent of huge bonfires of banknotes burning right across Europe.

If you would like weather information for any particular day or a longer period, please contact me at rsmoore1936@gmail.com (email only). If you would like satellite images, please let me know immediately because I normally keep them for three days only. These images may only be used for educational purposes (school projects or teaching slides for example).

HOLYWELL REMINISCING GROUP NEWS (Andrea Dakin)

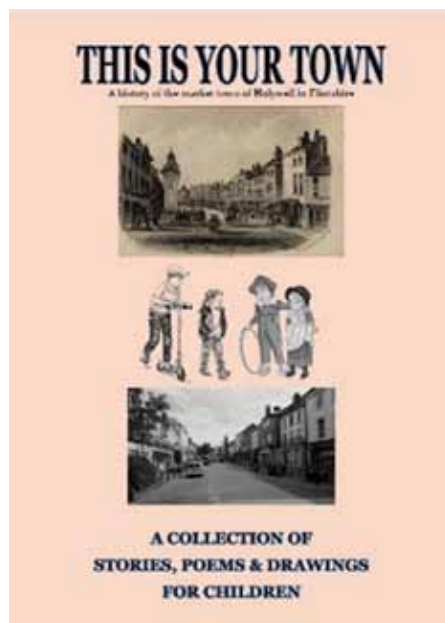
We would like to announce that we have re-named our group HOLYWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY. This was due to an assumption being made by other history groups in the county that as a reminiscing group we must be an organisation set up to help and support those with dementia or Alzheimer's. Whilst of course we know the value of reminiscing sessions for dementia sufferers, and in fact have visited care homes in the past to carry out such sessions, we feel that this is only a small part of what we can offer to the community.



As a historical society we hope that we will be instantly recognised as a group involved in all things pertaining to the history of Holywell and the surrounding villages. Holywell Reminiscing Group will now come under the banner of Holywell Historical Society, along with a Family History Hub to deal with all things genealogy/family history related.

The Holywell Reminiscing Group continues to meet every Tuesday at Holywell Leisure Centre. Over the space of a few years the group has evolved and grown into a close-knit community of friends, brought together to share their memories of growing up in Holywell and the surrounding area. We're always happy to welcome new members to our

Tuesday meetings, or you can join our Facebook group, that now has in excess of 1500 members <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2256532077884382>



This month saw the publication of our book for children. Entitled This is Your Town, the book contains accounts of historical events, together with poems and illustrations to complement the stories of Holywell in years gone by. We believe this is the first publication of its kind to introduce children to the history that surrounds them. Although written for children, we believe this book will appeal to children and adults alike! This book is now available to buy from the gift shop at Greenfield Valley Heritage Park. We have 2 other publications on sale in the gift shop, Growing up in Greenfield Valley and Bryn Celyn People, both written by one of our Reminiscing Group members, Cynthia Roberts. All of these publications, together with our greetings cards, can also be purchased

from Nexus Creative Spaces, the pop-up shop, behind Holywell Post Office in the High Street.

Our group continues to go from strength to strength as we reach out to the local community. Last month, we were delighted to take part in Ruthin's Spring Fair at the Gaol Museum—one of several events helping us raise awareness and welcome new faces. We're especially keen to build connections with younger people and were recently approached by the Humanities Department at Holywell School. Plans are now in motion for us to visit and give a talk to the students. We hope this will spark their interest in the town's history and lead to some of them joining us for a guided walk along the High Street. In addition, we're currently in discussions with the local library to run a children's history club over the summer holidays—we believe the best way to keep the past alive is by inspiring the future.

The BIG news for June was hosting the very first Holywell History Fair—a celebration of our area's rich past and a chance to bring together local history groups, including some travelling from as far afield as Conwy. Each group had its own stall, offering a unique perspective on local history, along with a selection of items for sale. At our stand, you would have found our popular greetings cards featuring nostalgic images of old Holywell. We also had a limited number of our beautifully presented calendars available — at a reduced price. Though we're halfway through the year, these calendars still make lovely keepsakes with their evocative photographs of Holywell's past. Plus, all of our current publications were all available to buy on the day. We hope to do this again in the future!

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ST. WINEFRIDE'S SCHOOL

St. Winefride's School are bringing hope to Holywell

We are in a Jubilee Year and Pope Francis has chosen the theme of the Jubilee 'Pilgrims of Hope.'

As a school the children wanted to live this out and bring 'Hope to Holywell.' Each class discussed and voted on who they would like to help in our local community.

Dosbarth Glas chose to collect donations and make a card for Celyn vets to thank the staff for looking after our animals.



Dosbarth Melyn wanted to bring signs of hope to patients at Holywell hospital by delivering them some daffodils and artwork.



Dosbarth Coch voted to visit Plas Yr Ywen. We decided to make Easter cards, bake some Easter cakes and spend some



of our time colouring and talking with the residents. We had a great afternoon and definitely felt that we spread some joy and hope.

Dosbarth Dyfi chose to help the local

environment and went on a litter pick around Holywell town.

Some of our year 6 children had a great



time helping out at the lent lunch in St. Peters Church.

Our whole school had a fantastic pilgrimage down to St. Winefride's well. Well done to everyone for representing the school so wonderfully and making all of us proud.

Dosbarth Glas have enjoyed making their own Easter Gardens during our RVE sessions this week. Once they had been made, the children carefully labelled the key symbols within the garden.

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Dosbarth Melyn loved helping Noi and the Storm Whale. We explored push and pull, made predictions on whether it's easier to push or pull the Storm Whale along the shore, investigated how different surfaces make pushing and pulling easier or harder, and learnt how to use a Newton meter. We also practiced saying our keywords 'push' and 'pull' in Welsh, 'gwrthio' a 'tynnu'.



Children from Year 4 chose to go and plant flowers and sunflowers in the church gardens.

They joined the church gardening club to plant some bedding plants and sunflower seeds.

Dosbarth Clywedog Chose to help for people who need Shelter and a safe home in Wales by completing a sponsored walk.



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YSGOL BRO CARMEL (Michael Martell, Pennaeth / Headteacher)

As always, we are pleased to share all the latest news from Ysgol Bro Carmel with the Five Villages.

Our school pond project has been completed, and the first growth of the season has occurred! Our pond-dipping jetty has been constructed, as well as a new path around the pond. This beautiful new area could not have been completed without the support of Sophie Roberts and the Biodiversity team at Flintshire council, as well as Whitford Council, who provided much-needed funding for the construction of the pond. Our next step is now to cultivate the plants and wildlife in the area - the children will be doing much of the digging and planting taking an active role in developing this area into a wildlife habitat for years to come! In the longer term, and once wildlife is established in the pond, we will share this with the other schools in the area, allowing children from all over Holywell and the wider area to access pond-dipping and wildlife exploration at our school.

Outdoor learning is a cornerstone of what we do at Carmel, and teaching the children to be responsible, environmentally conscious pupils is one of the main drivers of our curriculum, now and into the future. We have been fortunate to receive grants from Keep Wales Tidy and the Local School Nature Grant towards further developing our outdoor area. Over the next few months, we will be rebuilding our outdoor areas to ensure that we have the resources we need to allow our school and pupils to thrive. This includes an array of new planters, fruit-bearing trees, beehouse, polytunnel, vegetable and fruit plants from Keep Wales Tidy, to an outdoor firepit from the School Nature Grant. We can't wait to get going!



After our Year 6 children had their residential trip in Cardiff, the Spring Term gave our Year 5 children the opportunity to have their residential trip, heading to Boreatton Park in Shropshire. The children had 3 exciting days of outdoor pursuits, from archery to ziplining and from abseiling to aeroball!

We have had Welsh week at school, which included a lovely service in the hall in which the children sang, danced and celebrated Welsh culture. We have also



had World Book Day, which provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our favourite books, authors and characters. We have also had an animation workshop in school, giving our children in upper Key Stage 2 the opportunity to develop their digital skills, as well as show our teachers and staff how we can provide even more of these opportunities in the future. If you have not had chance yet, I would advise looking at our social media pages to see the St David animation the children created following the workshop—truly amazing!



Our School Council has been busy deciding how we can best share some of the books that we have finished reading, or no longer use. They have decided upon a Carmel Book Swap! This took place in March, and was a great opportunity for the



children to trade in a book and take home a new one to read! A great idea by our School Council, and a wonderful way to recycle books, allowing those finished books to be enjoyed by a new keen reader! Bendigedig School Council!



In sports news, we have had a lot of competitive fun at the Tom Roberts Cup at Flint Football Club, as well as the Carmel Cavaliers at the basketball festival in Glan Aber, the upcoming Elwyn Owen Cup for our Y3/4 pupils, and the John McBrien Football Memorial at Ysgol Treffynnon. Not only that, we have had Alun, from Carmel Cricket Club, visit us over the last few weeks, teaching the pupils about cricket—thanks to Alun for providing really excellent sessions for the pupils and giving them an authentic taste of cricket! We hope to put these skills to use as we host the Cricket Festival for Holywell schools in a couple of weeks' time!

After some excellent persuasive writing from Dosbarth Y Fan Fach, we are



delighted to share that we will be holding our junior performance in the Summer term! Y Fan Fach created some informative presentations and shared them with the other junior classes, in order to select which production we would be undertaking. Each pupil in the juniors had one vote, and after the final votes came in, we can confirm that we will be performing Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back! Next stop, Broadway!



Finally, we are also pleased to share that Baby Brews will be taking place on Mondays at Ysgol Bro Carmel. Baby Brews is a wonderful organisation for non-walking babies and their parents, and we are delighted to host such a fantastic community organisation at the school.

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YSGOL Y LLAN VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

T Williams (Headteacher)

DOSBARTH 3

Since coming back to school after the Easter break, we finished off our old topic 'Revolution' and we have started our new topic 'Biodiversity'. Our last task from the previous topic was to design a sustainable city. We started off our new topic by going for a walk into the Downing woods to explore the biodiversity in our local area. We have started looking at classification of animal species and the life processes of living things. We also finished off our class novel 'Street Child'. The children said that they enjoyed the story and we have just started our latest book 'The Explorer' which is about a plane that crashes in the Amazon Rainforest and four children are stranded alone trying to survive. This book is forming the basis for the children to write their own adventure stories with a nature theme, which we are in the process of developing currently. We celebrated the 80th Anniversary of VE day recently. The class enjoyed looking at various sources about World War II (see photos). This week we have been celebrating Mental Health Awareness week where we have explored the 5 ways to wellbeing and wore green to help raise awareness.



PC Mark came in to talk to the children about Friends or Foes. Helping the children to make positive decisions. It's only a short half term but it has been jam packed and the class has been working well so far.



DOSBARTH 2

Outdoor learning

We have been learning how to tell the time in Dosbarth 2, and we have been using twigs as the hands on our chalk-drawn clock faces.

For our language work this term we are using the story 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We have been writing diary entries for Jack and his Mum, and have used Adobe

to create wonderful posters to sell some magic beans at the market!

As our topic 'Growing up in the world', is all about living things we have been planting vegetables in our raised bed. We have beetroot, spring onions, lettuce and tomatoes growing! We have also been planning an investigation to find out how food, water and light affects how well seeds can grow. We have also planted sunflowers so that we can measure them as they grow. I wonder if any will grow taller than us!

Children continue to explore charanga (music program) and playing instruments. They've learned about 'notes, staves, beats, and pitch'.



Since returning after Easter, Dosbarth 1 have started to look at our new topic Animal Safari. We have shared about our pets in Show and Tell, telling our friends how we take care for them and completing graphs to show who has what pets. We have been learning the names of the animals in Welsh and adding our photo to a tally chart every morning with a different question. We have been enjoying spending lots of time outdoors, learning all about subtraction by playing outdoor games and activities such as 'hook a duck'. Elmer the elephant has also helped us to learn about patterns and size. This week is Mental Health Awareness Week, so we have been following the five ways to well-being by Connecting, Being Active and Taking Notice in nature. We have enjoyed nature hunts, using nature to create pictures for others and finding things in nature that make us smile. We have been busy building on their writing skills.



As part of our whole school writing project (story writing), they have been reading 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea by Judith Kerr'. We can't wait to see their finished stories in a couple of weeks.



VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

"As part of our VE Day celebrations last week, all our children took part in a special day of activities. Each class explored different aspects of the occasion, from traditional wartime party games and flag designs to creating and tasting classic party food."

COMMUNITY / CYMUNED



As part of our Eco pledge and half term value of 'Service' our pupils, governors, staff and parents have been out in the community to help tidy up the litter. We were pleasantly surprised that there wasn't much to pick up!

Diolch to our helpers, Mr Thomas and the Eco committee for organising this along side Eco-Schools and Keep Wales Tidy - Cadwch Gymru'n Daclus

During the Easter break, the Ysgol y Llan held a special celebration.

Pupils and their families, as well as children and members of the wider community, gathered outside on the grounds, and made the most of the sunshine.



On the day their childcare building was given its official opening to mark its one-year anniversary. Numbers continue to grow at Whitford Playgroup and have increased from 9 to 25 children since September.

Headteacher Tomos Williams said: "The



Welsh Government-funded childcare facility has been a huge success, supporting our families and significantly increasing pupil numbers at the school. The official opening is a perfect time to reflect on its positive impact.

Youngsters enjoyed the facilities inside and out, getting creative in play.

And children made the most of the Gwella mobile library visiting the school, with many choosing a new book to take home.

Also taking place was a Fit, Fed and Read Fun Day, with Home-Start Flintshire.

The charity helps children prepare for school, and Ysgol y Llan will be working closely with them over the summer.

Home-Start, in collaboration with Gwella, will be offering several groups at the school.



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Pastor Gareth Roberts



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A FOND FAREWELL AND HEARTFELT THANKS TO RUSSELL WILLIAMS

This July, Russell Williams will retire after an incredible 25 years of devoted service to the local scouting community at 1st Carmel Scouts. His dedication, enthusiasm, and kindness have left a lasting legacy on countless children and families throughout the area.



Russell's journey began as an assistant Cub leader, initially volunteering after helping out at camps such as the District Millennium Camp. His aim was simple yet powerful: to ensure his two sons—and all local children—could benefit from the opportunities and values the Scout Movement has to offer.

When the Cub leader at the time stepped down, Russell stepped up and became Akela (Cub Leader). He later took on the role of Group Scout Leader (GSL), and over the years has served as a leader in every section—Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Explorers.

Russell's time with the Scouts has been filled with adventure, learning, and lasting friendships. From canoeing, rafting, climbing, and abseiling to gorge walking, coasteering, hiking (including summiting Pen-y-Fan and Scafell Pike), archery, air rifle shooting, axe throwing, and bushcraft—he's done it all. Whether camping in bunkhouses or sleeping under the stars in all seasons, Russell has always led by example, encouraging young people to challenge themselves and discover their potential.



His tireless dedication and selfless commitment have shaped the experiences of so many young people over the years. Russell has not only helped to build skills and confidence but has inspired a love of adventure, teamwork, and kindness in every child he's supported. Without his unwavering efforts, much of what 1st Carmel Scouts has achieved simply would

not have been possible.

As a community of parents, volunteers, and friends, we extend our deepest gratitude and heartfelt appreciation. Russell's generosity, good humour, and steadfast leadership have made him a role model not only for the Scouts but for us all.

Russell, thank you for everything. Your legacy will live on in the spirit of every young Scout who took that first step into the unknown—knowing you believed in them, encouraged them, and were right there cheering them on. You have truly made a difference, and you will always be remembered with respect, admiration, and affection.

Jayne Lowes (mother of Ben Lowes (Scouts) and Max Lowes (Cubs))



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SQUIRRELS (Laura Davies)

This term we have been working towards lots of new badges. We have used the nice weather to explore our local area. We took a small walk into Greenfield Valley to make a Den for our squirrel mascot (pictured), we all worked together to do this and added lots of extra features including a small garden. We have also learnt about rationing during WW2 and had our own VE day tea party to celebrate. We also welcomed one new squirrel to our drey and we are all looking forward to investing them. Some of our squirrels also took part in District wide events for the St Georges Day Parade and JOTT, a walk of 6 miles!



As part of Trash the Trash day some of our squirrels litter picked around Holywell town, we picked lots of rubbish and got to know the other sections including Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers.

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WONDERFUL FIND!

In the Spring issue of the Five Villages Chronicle, Ceri Fishwick wrote a very interesting article on the 'Local history of medical care from the early 18th century'. Mentioned, of course were the old Holywell Cottage Hospital and Llesty Hospital. This inspired Brenda Bruce to enquire as to the whereabouts of two watercolours she had given to these hospitals in 2001. After some detective work by Ceri, they have been found and are displayed currently in the staff area of the new cottage hospital. They are beautiful watercolours and after consultation with Brenda (who incidentally prepared many drawings and covers for the Five Villages Chronicle many years ago) we have decided to reproduce them here. A wonderful 102nd birthday present and thank you to Brenda! *(The Editor)*



Holywell Cottage Hospital



Llesty Hospital

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Our next edition will be published
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will be 15th August 2025.

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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 - Nadine King (07495 085937); Treasurer - Bob Brown (01352 710967);
Advertisements - Melanie Wallis (01352 712369); Distribution - Steve Neville (01352 961597) - Chris Dolphin (01352 713415);
Editor - Jonathan Duggan-Keen (01352 720477); Terry Ireland, Robert Moore, Sandy Neville.


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

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

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

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