



# THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE

*CRONICL Y PUM PENTREF*

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SUMMER (JUNE) 2026  
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## EDITORIAL

The Five Villages Chronicle committee work hard to produce a magazine which focuses on the life of our community and we would welcome any contributions from our readers: stories, events, photographs, favourite family recipes, etc.

Recently we connected with some Facebook groups within the Five Villages area and we are delighted to have had almost immediate responses from both Pantasaph and Whitford groups. We hope to repeat this with other local groups in the future.

This is your magazine and your feedback is essential to enable us to continue producing a publication which will include something of interest for you all. Is there anything you would like to see included in future issues?

Can you help us to keep the Five Villages Chronicle a fresh and interesting magazine which will be of interest to all our recipients? Send your contributions or thoughts to: [editor@5villages.org.uk](mailto:editor@5villages.org.uk) or post on our own Facebook page [www.facebook.com/5villageschronicle/](http://www.facebook.com/5villageschronicle/)

We look forward to your responses.

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*'Quality you thought  
had disappeared'*

## COVER PICTURE

Carmel Bowling Green. Many thanks to Malcolm Bowness. See above right.

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## CARMEL BOWLING CLUB (Jane Bowness)

Well, we opened our green on Easter Monday, 6th April and although it's been a little chilly the rain has kept away and we've been enjoying some good bowling. It's great to be back outside, bowling and renewing friendships with fellow members that we've not seen since last season.

In the Deeside Veterans League we have played four matches and won four matches; so far so good. We have been encouraged by this early success and are working hard to continue this good form.

Our green has suffered slightly over winter but thanks to the dedication of our Green Maintenance Members; regular cutting and general upkeep is helping its recovery and it is looking better with each passing day.

The committee has been working hard to strengthen our finances but seeking support from local businesses. We are grateful to Hillcrest Garage, Holywell and V & M Tyres, Bagillt for their sponsorship which has enable us to buy fertiliser, paint and other materials for the clubhouse and the green.

We have also been able to purchase some junior bowling equipment for the after school club, with children participating in fun activities and games which are designed to help their bowling techniques. The children are from Ysgol Bro Carmel Primary School and are an absolute delight - it is a joy to spend time with them - plus they are beginning to show some real talent.

We are also benefitting from the company of three new members who have started bowling this season. They are practising hard and have been registered to play matches - when the opportunity arises - no pressure!

We're always hoping for good weather - but it is what it is what it is, and we've all played in rain and wind. The sunshine always makes up for it in the end; come on summer!

For any more information about our club or joining us in the future please contact Jane by email [jane.bowness@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.bowness@btinternet.com) or phone 01352721794.

### *Happy Hounds by Helen*



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## 1ST CARMEL BROWNIES A TERM FULL OF FRESH AIR, CREATIVITY AND IMAGINATION (Sharon Jones)

The Spring and Summer term is always a favourite at 1st Carmel Brownies, and it's easy to see why. With lighter evenings and warmer weather, the girls love swapping four walls for wide open spaces—whether that's meeting in the woods, enjoying the park, or making the most of the bottom of the school field. These outdoor sessions give the girls the freedom to play, learn and laugh together, without worrying about keeping up or fitting in—just being themselves and having fun.

Alongside enjoying the great outdoors, the Brownies have been working towards their Safety Badge. We even managed to turn the roadworks on Carmel Road into a learning opportunity! The girls carefully noted all the potential dangers they might face if they didn't stay safely on the pavement. After all that sensible thinking, they well and truly let off steam in the park—where safety rules were, naturally, forgotten as they piled onto the swings together, giggling away.



We were also lucky enough to have the village hall for a few hours on a Saturday, giving us space and time to work on our Craft Badge. With a theme of imagination and mystical creatures, creativity filled the room. An impressive 16 unicorns were sewn, stuffed and glued—while three leaders just about held it together by a thread! The afternoon ended perfectly with the girls making s'mores over tealights, a simple treat that was enjoyed just as much as the crafting itself.



To complete the Imagination Badge, we spent an evening acting out short sketches. Each group was given just three words to inspire them: unicorn, pig and frying pan. The results were hilarious and wonderfully creative, including one sketch featuring a unicorn hitting a pig with a frying pan before

sitting down to enjoy bacon and sausages. The girls' imaginations were certainly firing on all cylinders that night.

By the time this article is published, we will proudly have four girls achieving their Silver Awards and twelve earning their Bronze Awards. The girls also work independently on interest badges at home, dipping into topics they genuinely enjoy. Amelie completed her Kindness Badge, Gioia created an amazing aeroplane for her Aviation Badge, Willow danced her way through her Dance Badge, and Phoebe finished her Book Lovers Badge.

Our group is made up of girls from four different schools—Carmel, Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Greenfield and Whitford—bringing together new friendships and shared experiences. The girls from Ysgol Gwenffrwd also took part in the Urdd Eisteddfod, earning their Performing Badges along the way.

We are always incredibly grateful for the support we receive from parents and relatives, and this term we've also had wonderful support from Ysgol Bro Carmel's Headmaster. Each week, a different Brownie gets to take home our much-loved Brownies dog, Theo. The headmaster has even taken photos of Theo enjoying his school day, which has delighted the girls—so thank you very much for that extra support too.

Spring is the perfect time to work on outdoor survival skills, and we made the most of the good weather by heading into the woods with both Brownies and Guides. The girls practised their knots while creating useful camping equipment. One team built a tool rack, another made a shoe and boot shelf to keep things off the ground, and the final team constructed a shelter complete with a tripod for utensils. Teamwork, problem-solving and plenty of laughter were all part of the experience.



Throughout the term, everyone has been working on the Be Well theme. The Brownies and Guides were delighted to welcome St John Ambulance, led by their trainer Sophie. She showed the girls how and when to call for help in an emergency, what information to give, how to bandage a wound properly, and even gave them the chance to practise CPR on training dummies—learning important life skills in a calm, supportive way.



Meanwhile, Carmel Girl Guides have spent the term exploring cooking themes, including making popcorn in takeaway tins and cooking over campfires made from colanders, with even more exciting activities planned for the summer term.

It's been a term filled with creativity, confidence and connection—where girls have been free to learn, play and grow together, without pressure, simply enjoying being part of something special.

Finally we would also like to thank all those involved with the 5 Villages, for patiently waiting for our articles and allowing us to share out Girlguiding adventures with you all. Diolch x

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## GORSEDD CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

As I write this, the group is preparing to watch a play written by David Grieve, one of our members, being performed by Nannerch Players. It's such a joy when we can celebrate a writing success and we look forward to many more such occasions.

If you are interested in writing poetry, fiction or non-fiction and could use friendly advice and encouragement, come along to one of our meetings, where you will receive a warm welcome. We meet on 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month from 7.00 – 9.00 p.m. The venue is St Paul's Church, Gorsedd. If you want any more details, please contact me either by phone 01352 961597 or email [sandy@thenevilles.net](mailto:sandy@thenevilles.net)

The following is a short story written by Kath Winn inspired by the topic 'Lights in the Sky'. We hope you will enjoy this:

### The Sky at Night

When the family moved to the city for Dad's new job at the bank headquarters, they told themselves it would be a fresh start. Better opportunities, better schools, a better life for their little girl. And in many ways, it was — except for one thing.

Five year old Heidi had stopped sleeping.

It began the very first week in their new flat. She tossed and turned, whimpered in her dreams, woke with dark circles under her eyes. Her parents tried everything — warm milk, hot chocolate, no cheese before bed, no television, lavender spray, soft music. Nothing helped. Each morning, she grew a little more tired, though she refused to nap because she adored school and didn't want to miss a single moment.

Doctors shrugged sympathetically. "She'll settle," they said, but weeks turned into months, and Heidi only grew more exhausted.

Victoria, her mum, found herself confiding in other parents at the school gates. One morning, a mother leaned closer and said quietly, "We had something similar. A friend of mine — a child psychologist — helped us. It made all the difference."

Desperate, Victoria and her husband arranged an appointment.

The psychologist was gentle, patient, and observant. She asked Heidi about school, friends, toys, dreams. She asked the parents about routines, habits, and the move. But it wasn't until she asked Heidi about her old bedroom that something shifted.

"I could see the sky," Heidi whispered. "Every night."

The psychologist looked up. "With the curtains open?"

Heidi nodded. "The stars watched me."

It was such a simple sentence, yet it held the whole truth. In the countryside, the night sky had been dark and deep, sprinkled with stars that felt close enough to touch. Here in the city, the streetlights glared through the window, too bright and too busy. The sky was hidden. The stars were gone.

"Your little girl," the psychologist said gently, "is homesick for the night."

So, the family made a plan — together.

One Saturday morning, they transformed Heidi's bedroom. They chose soft colours, cosy blankets, and a lamp shaped like the moon. But the most important change came last. They hung thick blackout curtains to block the city glare, and then, one by one, they pressed glowing stars onto the ceiling. Hundreds of them. A whole sky.

When the lights went out that night, Heidi gasped. Above her, the ceiling shimmered with constellations — her own private universe.

She slept. Peacefully. Deeply. For the first time in months.

Her parents stood in the doorway, holding hands, hardly daring to breathe. Relief washed over them like warm sunlight.

## COMMUNICATION ERROR (Doug Thompson)

I have a device in my pocket, I know that you have one too  
we call it a mobile phone, but here are some things it can do

I can talk to anyone anywhere, I can answer when they speak to me  
I can spend my money increasingly fast, on items I don't need to see

I can watch an old film, or a new one, I can listen to music all day  
I can play candy crush or Tetris, or read what the newspapers say

I can order a pizza, a burger, pay for a parking fine too  
with this device in my pocket, there is nothing it seems I can't do

I have hundreds of friends on face book, and thousands of meaningful chats  
and don't get me started on tick tock or X, or the YouTube exploits of cats

but if I sit down with my family or friends, no one looks up from their screen  
no body asks, have you had a nice day, says hello or where have you been

in fact talking with people around me, has sunk to an all time low  
I can talk to anyone, anywhere, but not to the people I know.

## COUNCILLOR CHRIS

### DOLPHIN

Hello everyone, Sut mae pethau?

Social Impact in Flintshire for the last year had an official reported value of £4.2m, and with the accounts audited in April this year is expected to be improved upon. The council now reports on 20 activities, including just recently "Hospital Beds Freed Up" which is the social value of supporting patients to leave hospital and return home and therefore avoiding blocking beds on hospital wards. Each patient supported creates a social value of £2,370. The second one is "Carbon Reduction", we now have a conversion figure for various material prevented from being sent to landfill.

I have recently visited Cambrian Aquatics in Wepre Lane, Connahs Quay for an information evening regarding Seasearch and Tidy Britain. A visit to Dangerpoint in Talacre a charity-based organisation also took place. Whilst there a school trip was taking place from Anglesey. You can visit Dangerpoint during school holidays, however it may be advisable to book in advance, on a wet day a great place to find out about danger in the home, at sea and other areas.

### OUR ENVIRONMENT:

Whilst in Talacre, I walked the new 140 metre timber boardwalk, which replaced worn timber sections to maintain a safe, low level and fully accessible route. All paid for by a grant from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). The Connecting Coast to Countryside team is continuing to enhance key coastal hubs across the county, you may have seen the recent major local works in Greenfield Dock, improving safety for visitors and users. Additional access improvements were delivered at the Dock through a £40,000 Wales Coast Path funding scheme, which enabled the re-routing of users away from areas of moving traffic. Significant additional funding for the installation of cycle parking (Sheffield Stands) and Wales Coast Path funding to enhance access infrastructure is also completed in Greenfield, Flint, Bagillt, Shotton and Saltney. Some important Feasibility Studies have been completed - The Greenfield Dock Derelict Building Study, Greenfield Dock Slipway and Bettisfield (The Holy) Slipway. The slipways have suffered erosion over time and are needed for important use by the RNLI and dock users. Discussions with Natural Resources Wales are also ongoing regarding flooding solutions in Llanerch y Mor, Mostyn.

Major grant-funded works have also taken place between Higher Ferry Saltney footbridge to River Lane in Saltney, where green spaces and existing infrastructure have been revitalised. This will also boost

a sense of communal pride. This area has had a hedgerow and meadow project including native planting, meadow creation and hedge laying.

The long grass banks adjacent the main A5026 in Carmel will have major bulb planting in the Autumn. It is acknowledged the original matting has not rotted away and the planting was not wholly successful after the first 2 years.

#### MORE GRANTS:

Much of the councils funding comes from applying for appropriate grants, such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund; Pride in Place; Transforming Towns; Place Making Plan and others. Our county towns have and will further benefit from the new Town Centre Property Improvement Grant. The scheme was launched in March 2026 and is part of the UK Government's Pride in Place Impact Fund. This is a real opportunity for local business in our main county town centres to improve/modernise their infrastructure. The scheme is designed to help businesses fund improvement works they may not otherwise be able to afford, with the goal of making town centres more attractive, reducing vacancy rates and supporting existing and new businesses to thrive.

The minimum grant is £5,000 per project up to £50,000 per project which would be up to 70% of the total projected costs, 30% is required from the business. The funding is for Shopfronts, Internal improvements, energy efficiency, restoration, signage, exterior of the building such as window / door replacement guttering, rendering... just about anything which renews /improves the building. The funding is from May 2026, with 5 rounds of application deadlines. Deadlines were in April, June and the next are July 14th, August 25th and September 30th, 2026. All projects must be physically completed by the end of January 2027.

#### THANKS TO YOU:

Previously, recycling targets had not

been met by the county council and Welsh Government fined the council £663,000 via a tonnage infraction charge for 2021/22. In addition, an infraction charge of £356,279 for 2022/23 plus £184,340 for 2023/24. To counter this possible disastrous financial burden, the Council introduced a new Resource and Waste Strategy and a three weekly non-recyclable collection service. This, with the people's willingness to help, significantly increased recycling figures verified by Natural Resource Wales. Early indications suggest that Flintshire has achieved the statutory 70% recycling target for 2025/26, up from 63% the previous year. When the 2025/26 figures are confirmed, its hoped the fine of about £960,000 will be waived. The Strategy can work...The People make it work.

#### WHERE DOES THE COUNCIL'S MONEY GO?

Well, most of it is spent on Social Services and Education. Where does the council's money come from? 68% comes from Welsh Government, 27% comes from council tax, 5% comes from fees such as planning fees, garden waste charge and Register Office fees. There is always a funding gap, last December it was £28.945m, eventually this led to the council tax rise for this year. It's important to note Flintshire is always near the bottom of the Welsh funding table, for the last year 19th of 22 local authorities. We received £1,887 per head of population. 18th in the table was Wrexham who received £1,939 per head, Gwynedd were 8th in the table £2,185 per head. Denbighshire were 3rd in the table £2,341 per head. Therefore, due to the formula used, a person in Denbighshire is worth £454 more than a person in Flintshire. This figure really impinges on us. The Barnet Formula is outdated and there is no reason to use it nowadays.

Since 2008 Flintshire has cut its spending by a whopping £142m. The

council does not have large reserves. Just like our household spending, once we spend our savings they are gone. Due to the decades of the Barnet Formula being used, some authorities do have large reserves, however as you know, we have never been well funded. Flintshire has the sixth largest population in Wales, £170 on average worse off per head than the national average. If Flintshire received the Welsh average, we would be around £26.5m better off financially. Let's see what the new Welsh Government delivers for us all.

#### 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](mailto:chris_dolphin@hotmail.co.uk) or write to me at 11 Ffordd Aelwyd, Carmel, CH8 8SH.

Cyngor Cyngorydd: Er gwybodaeth rhif cyswllt cyngorydd sir ardal Chwittfordd a'r pum pentref yw Chris Dolphin, 01352 713415, ebost [chris\\_dolphin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chris_dolphin@hotmail.co.uk) neu pe dymunwch ysgrifennu llythyr fy nghyfeiriad yw, 11 Ffordd Aelwyd, Carmel, CH8 8SH

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**Chair of Whitford Community Council – Re-elected:**



At the May Annual Council Meeting Councillor Caradoc Jones (pictured) was re-elected as Chair of Whitford Community Council. Councillor Paul Urquhart was also re-elected as Vice Chair of Council.

Councillor Jones thanked the Councillors for his re-election and stated: 'It is a privilege to be the Chair of this Council, and especially, to be elected for a subsequent year'.

**Buckingham Palace Garden Party:**

The Chair of Whitford Community Council Councillor Caradoc Jones together with his wife Nerys attended one of the Buckingham Palace Garden Parties held during May. Councillor Jones advised that the day was wonderful, together with the refreshments and was well organised – including the weather ! Councillor Jones who has served as a Whitford Councillor for over 40 years had been chosen by One Voice Wales to represent the Town & Community Councils in Wales at the Garden Party.



Photograph: Councillor Caradoc Jones & Mrs Nerys Jones – standing outside the main entrance to Buckingham Palace – with the Queen Victoria Memorial in the background.

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

Carmel - 2 x Vehicle crime  
Gorsedd - No crimes reported  
Lloc - 2 x Public order  
Lloc (Services) – 1 x Other theft  
Pantasaph - 2 x Criminal damage  
Whitford - No crimes reported

**Whitford Council End of Year Annual Report 2025 – 2026**

The Whitford Community Council have published their annual report for year ending March 2026. The report is available from the Clerk and is also displayed on the Council's web site (as below link) and is published under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (Section 52). The report includes the following information: Council and Councillors, report on the Council's objectives - 2025 / 2026 and the objectives for 2026 / 2027, together with various financial and other details.

**Maintenance Contracts**

The Community Council have agreed the following maintenance contracts for this financial year – to March 2027: Litter picking on the majority of roads within the Community Council area: Additional grass cutting around the Council's bench seating in all villages, including additional public footpath grass cutting jointly with Flintshire County Council. Maintenance of the Councils bench seats (some will be refurbished); 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. A number of further quotations will be sought to enhance the area of the Community Council.

## **Council Members brought the following concerns, and other matters to the attention of Flintshire Street Scene:**

(1) Shrubbery: in area of Junction from Pantasaph and Gorsedd / Babell Road – from junction on left and immediately towards the bridge - the shrubbery requires cutting back as it scratches vehicles (2) Road surface crumbling: Area of road from Lloc Garage traveling to the top entrance to Pant Y Wacco (past former Police Station) (4) Pot Holes: Whitford to Sarn Hill (5) Pot Holes: Whitford to big tree area (6) Flooding: Area of the bend at Maen Achwyfan. Request for the area be inspected with a view to a more permanent solution to alleviate the flooding (7) 2nd request for gully requires clearing: Road from Saith Ffynnon crossroads to area of Tre Eden Owain Junction. The road floods during rainfall (8) All drains appear to be blocked with silt: Lon Y Waen Road from junction by The Druids Inn to junction with A5026 (9) Culvert blocked: Area of Waen Hill towards crossroads on Old A55 Road in Whitford (10) Pot holes and road surface crumbling: Pen Ffordd Llan roundabout, Lloc (11) Pot holes - Large: Llwyn Ifor Lane

### **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's web site, or from the Clerk – as per contact details below: (1)

Application number: FUL/000119/26 – for proposed erection of pitched roof garden room at front of dwelling, at Highfield House, Gorsedd (2) Application number: FUL/000238/26 for proposed application for a new 3-bedroom detached dwelling, forming a change of use from a former builders yard at Bedw Cottage, Whitford Road, Whitford (3) Application number: FUL/000284/26 for proposed demolition of a previous two-storey extension connecting two parts of a single dwelling and proposed replacement with a new two-storey extension along with associated internal layout alterations, a new first floor extension to the rear, varying the main driveway entrance to an existing alternative access and construction of a detached, single-storey pitched roof garage., at Pickpocket Hall, Babell Road, Pantasaph.

### **Planning Decisions:**

The following planning decision has been received from Flintshire County Council: Application number: FUL/000119/26 – for the erection of pitched roof garden room at front of dwelling, at Highfield House, Gorsedd. 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 - Five Villages Gardening Club (Annual grant) / £200.00 - Llangollen Eisteddfod (Annual grant).

R. Phillip Parry  
Clerk & Financial Officer to Whitford Community Council  
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E-mail: [clerk@whitford-council.wales](mailto:clerk@whitford-council.wales)  
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## EASTER ACROSS THE FIVE VILLAGES

### A SEASON OF JOY AND NEW LIFE

This Easter has been a truly joyful and life-giving time across our churches in Whitford and Gorsedd, and it has been a privilege to share it with so many of you.

At St Mary's and St Beuno's Church, Whitford, we were blessed with a full and vibrant congregation over the Easter celebrations. It was especially wonderful to see children so fully involved—serving at the altar with such reverence and joy, reminding us all that the life of the Church continues to grow through the youngest among us. One of the highlights was the beautiful Easter garden, thoughtfully created by the children of Ysgol y Llan. Through their creativity, the story of the empty tomb came alive in a simple yet powerful way.

Easter morning itself was especially moving, as we celebrated five baptisms—a truly beautiful moment in the life of the church. In the joy of the resurrection, we also welcomed new life into the family of faith, a powerful sign of hope and new beginnings among us.

There was also great delight in our Easter traditions, including the much-loved egg rolling—a moment of laughter and community that echoed the joy of the resurrection.

At St Paul's Church, Gorsedd, we welcomed many families and children to a deeply meaningful all-age Stations of the Cross. Through creative activities and reflection, people of all ages were able to walk the journey of Holy Week together, entering into the story of Christ's love in a way that was both accessible and profound.

It was a joy to serve in both St Mary's and St Beuno's, Whitford, and St Paul's, Gorsedd on Easter Sunday, witnessing such warmth, faith, and togetherness across our communities.

### A REFLECTION ON EASTER

Easter is more than a single day—it is the unfolding of a promise: that light overcomes darkness, that love is stronger than death, and that new life is always possible.

In the empty tomb, we are reminded that God is always at work, often in ways we do not expect. Where there has been sorrow, God brings comfort. Where there has been struggle, God brings hope. And where things may seem finished, God quietly begins something new.

This Easter, as we gathered in our churches—through children's laughter, shared worship, simple acts of creativity, and moments of stillness—we glimpsed something of that resurrection life among us. It is present not only in grand celebrations, but in small, faithful acts of love, kindness, and community.

As we look towards the summer, we have so much to be thankful for. It has been a season of growth, connection, and joy across our communities, and we look forward to all that is still to come.

Messy Church continues on the second Sunday of each month, offering a welcoming and creative space for families to explore faith together. On 14th June, we will gather at St Paul's Church, Gorsedd, and all are warmly invited.

We are also especially excited to be planning a Messy Church outing to the Welsh Mountain Zoo, where we will share a day of fun, fellowship, and discovery together. This will be open to all, with a

community price of £3 per person, and we would love as many people as possible to join us.

May the hope of Easter continue to grow in our villages, in our homes, and in our hearts—reminding us that we are held in God's love, and that each new day carries the promise of renewal.

With every blessing,  
Revd Andrea de Vaal





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At the time of writing these notes in mid-May, the 2026 cricket season is well underway for Carmel and District Cricket Club. Here are a few of the highlights to date:

#### FIRST XI

The First XI is currently in fifth place in the Second Division of the North Wales Cricket League after winning two and



*Maneesha Nissanka batting for Carmel Firsts against Denbigh Seconds*

losing two of its opening four fixtures. The team began the new season with an impressive win against Denbigh Seconds at Pen-y-Gelli where Maneesha Nissanka was the star of the show thanks to his four wickets and 50 runs. The team also had a comfortable win against Brymbo thanks to Supun Eranga's excellent innings of 65 and captain Ben Sim's score of 39.

Amer Jamil bowled well for Carmel in this game, returning very impressive figures of 5 wickets for 39 runs. It's early days yet, but the team is showing signs that it can compete at the top end of the division this season.



*Lee Rowles bowling for Carmel Firsts against Denbigh Seconds*

#### SECOND XI

The team is currently in ninth place in the Fourth Division of the North Wales Cricket League having lost four and won one of its opening fixtures. There have been some notable individual performances to date, including Nick Hughes' score of 51 against Marchwiell and Wrexham Seconds, Ranjith Appuhamy's 3 wickets against Gresford Seconds, and Dafydd Timothy's 4 wickets against Hawarden Park Thirds. As always, the Second XI is made up of senior players and younger cricketers who are able to gain valuable playing experience in a supportive environment.

#### WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' TEAM

This season the team is competing in the Softball Division 1 East League and is currently in third place after winning one and losing one of its opening fixtures. Captain Carol Owen scored 10 runs and C. Taylor scored 28 not out in the defeat against Northop Hall. The team had an impressive 16 points to 5 points victory against Gwersyllt Park, with H. Maggs taking a wicket and scoring 24 runs, and

C. Taylor scoring a very impressive 33 not out. A number of younger players have made their debuts for the team this season, and it is very encouraging to see Carmel Women's and Girls' team continuing to make great progress.

#### PAINTING

The club has received a stunning painting based on an action photo of a match at Pen-y-Gelli which featured on the cover of the Five Villages last year. We are extremely grateful to David Chance who painted the picture and kindly donated it to the club, and we are looking forward to displaying it in the pavilion and inviting David and his wife to see it. There will be more on this story in the next edition of the *Five Villages Chronicle*.

#### SPONSORSHIP

The club is absolutely delighted to announce that it has secured sponsorship from Weetabix for the 2026 season. The players will soon be wearing new cricket shirts with the Weetabix logo on the front. This is a real boost for the club, and we are extremely grateful to Weetabix for their kind sponsorship.

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## PRESERVING MEMORIES WITH DEE VALLEY DIGITAL (Matthew from Dee Valley Digital)

Many of us still have old VHS tapes, camcorder tapes, DVDs or cassette tapes tucked away at home. They might be labelled "Wedding Video", "Christmas 94", "School Play" or "Family Holiday" — small handwritten reminders of moments that once meant everything.



The problem is that many of these older formats are becoming harder to watch. VHS players are no longer common, camcorders are often long gone, and tapes themselves can deteriorate over time. Years of storage in lofts, garages, cupboards or drawers can expose them to changes in temperature, damp and general wear. Mould, damage and age can all make precious recordings harder to recover if they are left too long.

With this in mind, Dee Valley Digital was created as a small local service run by Matthew to help people preserve old memories by transferring older media into modern formats. The focus is on personal and family recordings, such as weddings, birthdays, holidays, school plays, camcorder footage and other home-recorded memories.

The service can help with formats including VHS, VHS-C, DVD, MiniDV and audio cassette. Tape mould cleaning is also available where suitable.

The idea came from a long-standing love of older media and physical formats, but the service is not just about nostalgia. For many people, these tapes and discs hold personal memories that cannot be replaced. Home recordings are unique. Once they are lost, damaged or thrown away, there may be no other copy.

Part of the aim is to keep the process local and personal, especially for people who may not want to send family tapes away in the post to a large chain or distant service.

Finished recordings are supplied on USB, disc or by cloud delivery, depending on the customer's needs. This makes it easier to watch, share and store old memories on modern devices.

Customers are asked to contact Dee Valley Digital first to discuss their tapes or discs. Once arranged, items can be left at the local drop-off point at Tower Crafts in Holywell.

For enquiries, search Dee Valley Digital on Facebook, email [deevalleydigital@gmail.com](mailto:deevalleydigital@gmail.com), or call 07498 911 752.

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*Gweinidog*/Minister: Y Parchedig Huw Powell-Davies

*Dyma restr o'r gwasanaethau am yr wythnosau nesaf:*

Here is a list of services for the next few weeks:

### Mehefin / June:

21ain Marion Simkin  
28ain Gweinidog

### Gorffennaf / July:

5ed I'w drefnu / To be arranged.  
12fed Gweinidog  
19eg Pererindod / Pilgrimage  
26ain I'w drefnu / To be arranged

### Awst / August:

2ail Oedfa'r Eisteddfod / Eisteddfod Service.  
9fed Dim oedfa / No Service  
16eg Dim oedfa / No Service  
23ain Dim Oedfa / No Service  
30ain Celfyn Williams

### Medi / September:

6ed Llinos Mary Jones  
13eg Gweinidog  
20fed Marian Lloyd Jones  
27ain Gweinidog

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## BECKY GITTINS MP



One thing that always stands out to me is the strong sense of community spirit across the Five Villages and surrounding area. Whether it is volunteers keeping clubs running, neighbours supporting one another or local groups organising events and activities, there is a real pride in our communities which deserves to be recognised and celebrated.

Recently, I met with a group of local farmers from across the area to discuss

the challenges facing farming and rural communities. We spoke about everything from rising costs and infrastructure concerns to the long-term future of farming and the pressures many families are under.

Farming remains such an important part of life across Clwyd East, supporting local jobs, businesses and traditions that have been part of our communities for generations. I will continue making sure rural voices are heard both locally and in Westminster.

I also know many households across our area continue to feel the pressure of rising heating oil and LPG costs, particularly those living off-grid. I recognise this is a big issue for people and it has been raised with me repeatedly by residents, especially older people and families worried about the cost of keeping their homes warm during colder months.

Over recent months, I have been working with ministers and raising concerns about the impact rising energy costs are having on rural communities, in particular. I was pleased to see additional support announced for eligible households using heating oil and LPG, including targeted support through the Welsh Government and changes to the Discretionary Assistance Fund. In addition, the Government is looking into what more needs to be done to regulate the off-grid energy sector. While I know significant challenges remain, it is important that rural communities are not overlooked

when support is being considered.

I know how strongly people across the Five Villages feel about the importance of reliable public transport, particularly in rural communities where buses are often the link connecting people to train stations, major towns, colleges, workplaces and hospital appointments.

This is especially important for younger people. I regularly hear from young people and parents about the difficulties caused by unreliable services and the challenges of travelling to work, education and training opportunities without access to a car.

I was therefore pleased to see improvements introduced to rail services across North Wales from May, including a significant increase in services along the North Wales Coastline and new direct trains through to Liverpool. Better rail links can make a real difference for local people, helping connect communities across North Wales and opening up more opportunities for work, education and leisure.

At the same time, I know that for many people across rural communities like the Five Villages, buses are just as important as trains. For public transport to work properly, bus and rail services need to connect in a practical and reliable way so people can complete journeys without long waits or missed connections.

There has been a focus on creating a more joined-up transport network across North Wales, including better coordination

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between buses and trains and simpler ticketing across services. There are some positive changes beginning to happen, but I know there is still much more work to do, particularly around rural bus services and connectivity for smaller villages. I will continue engaging with Transport for Wales, local councils and residents to push for improvements which genuinely work for local communities and make everyday journeys easier and more reliable.

Alongside these local issues, I am also proud to see the Employment Rights Act become law. People across our communities work incredibly hard, often balancing work alongside caring responsibilities, family life and rising household costs. Everyone deserves security, dignity and fairness at work.

The new legislation strengthens protections for workers in a number of important areas, including sick pay, flexible working rights and protection from unfair dismissal. For many people, these changes will provide greater peace of mind and help create a fairer and more secure working environment.

One initiative I have particularly enjoyed over recent months has been my Community Champion of the Month award, which recognises local people who go above and beyond for others in their communities.

I have received nominations highlighting volunteers, carers, fundraisers, coaches and community organisers making a real difference to people's lives across Clwyd East. Reading through those nominations has been a brilliant reminder of the kindness and generosity that exists across our area and of the many people quietly working behind the scenes to support others.

If you know somebody who deserves recognition, I would really encourage you to nominate them at: [beckygittins.co.uk/contact/community-champions/](https://beckygittins.co.uk/contact/community-champions/)



*Becky with her rescue dog Mabel*

As always, thank you to everyone who has taken the time to speak with me, invite me along to local events or contact my office for support. I look forward to continuing to meet residents across the Five Villages and surrounding communities over the summer.

If there is ever anything I can help with, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me by emailing [becky.gittins.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:becky.gittins.mp@parliament.uk), using the contact form at [beckygittins.co.uk](https://beckygittins.co.uk) or calling my office on 01352 871130

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## 'GONE FISHIN'

(Geraint Roberts)

We Homo sapiens, the Neanderthals, the Denisovans and other extinct branches of mankind have taken food from the rivers and the sea for countless aeons. This would have included shellfish, seaweed and of course fish. The ways for catching fish have been varied; spearing, netting, and hooking are only three examples of several methods which have been used for thousands of years.

In this short article I'm going to take a quick peek at another method which was one of the most successful, given the resources available in 'ye olden times'; so successful in fact that it was made illegal in most cases in 1535. That most endearing of monarchs, Henry VIII decreed that unless proof of ownership could be shown to be pre-Magna Carta (1215) then all fish weirs would have to be destroyed; unless they belonged to the crown of course.

The principle of catching the fish was simple. An enclosure was constructed at the lowest point of the tide with its open end up the beach. This allowed fish to enter when the tide was in, possibly lured with animal offal. As the tide dropped the upper end of the enclosure would dry out thus leaving the fish trapped. The enclosures were mostly made of wooden stakes driven into the sand with willow or hazel plaited in between which would allow water and small fish through but keep the larger ones trapped. Some of these fish weirs had a base of stone and five centuries on many can still be traced today.

In Welsh they are called 'gored', the old Breton was 'coret', the Irish name is 'corae', whilst the old Cornish name was 'cores'. Probably the most obvious and famous of these old fish weirs in North Wales which actually carries the name 'gored' is seen by thousands every day as they drive over the two bridges crossing the Menai Strait. Ynys



*Ynys Gored Goch*

Gored Goch is the island with a house seen between the two bridges. As it was owned by each succeeding bishop in Bangor and answered the Magna Carta criteria it was allowed to survive the 1535 purge. It was eventually passed on to private ownership in 1888. It was once known as Bishop's Island and boasted its own smokery. For many years before the Dissolution, it provided herring for Holyhead, Penmon and Amlwch monasteries.

In 1590 the lease was recorded as £3 a year plus a barrel of herring paid to Hugh Bellot, Bishop of Bangor by a Thomas Fletcher of nearby Treborth. The island was seized during the Civil War and ended up in 1649 belonging to a John Jones from London and a George Twisleton from Caernarfon but was eventually returned to the diocese. It has also been called Madog's Island and three generations of the Madog family who lived and fished there took their name from the island. One Madawg lived there for 74 years from 1820 to 1894. When he died, he was buried in the little churchyard on the nearby 'Church Island' in the nearest possible grave to his beloved home. A major renovation of the weir took place in 1824. Fish were caught on the ebbing current and in the photograph the two arms can clearly be seen embracing all which flowed southwest.

At the beginning of last century, it

was known as 'Whitebait Island' because whitebait fried in a basket and a pot of tea for a shilling became a popular attraction for Edwardian visitors ferried across; this included Lloyd George in 1910.

A view from one of the bridges at low tide will show two arms extending from the island in a semi-circle encircling the fierce currents. These have openings with metal grills to allow the water through but not the fish. At one time the island even had its own smokery. Tragically, a young woman swept into the weir in 1937, was trapped and drowned.

Legend maintains that during the days when drovers swam their animals across the odd pig would be found in the weir and provide free bacon for the Madog family for several weeks! Due to increasing difficulties in viability and maintenance the fishery



*Tysilio fish weir*

eventually closed in 1959. Another fish weir can be seen just north of Church Island, the old Tysilio weir.

There were in fact a recorded 20 fish weirs along the Strait's 16-mile length, some remains of which can still be seen at low tide, eight of them are classified scheduled monuments. Halfway between Beaumaris and Penmon an old fishing weir called Goret Trecastell is clearly marked on the OS Explorer 1:25000 map extending south and forming a hook to the west, the remains of another one can clearly be seen

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five hundred to the east.

In 1438 a fishery near the old lime kiln in Beaumaris (where the Green car park is today) is recorded as being leased for a twenty-year period, whilst another was built three hundred yards away ten years later.



*Llanddona weir, Red Wharf Bay*

Another simpler shaped structure hugs the rocks on the eastern extremity of Red Wharf Bay which is also marked on the map as a disused fishing weir. It was recorded on Lewis Morris' hydrography chart of 1748 and was designated a



*Gored Trecastell photographed with a drone*

scheduled monument in 2002. Further west on the eastern end of Llugwy Bay is another structure which is marked simply as 'Gored'. This comprises of one arm about four metres wide which may have been higher but has collapsed. The other arm of the V may possibly have been a wattle fence. These rock and boulder constructions have luckily survived. They may possibly have had an upper wooden section to raise the height of the barrier but the basic principle of trapping the fish on a falling tide would have been the same. Ironically it works in the opposite way to tourists who become trapped on sandbanks on a rising tide!

Ynys Dulas or Ynys Gadarn as it was



*The Skerries*

once known, lying off the northeastern coast of Anglesey also had a successful fishery which was an important farm in the pre-1535 period commanding rents ranging between two and ten shillings per annum. Another set of islands northwest of Anglesey, the Skerries, were also bountiful, and records show a heated dispute over fishing rights between the bishop and the owner which went on for several years.

On the southern shore of the Menai



*Remains of a stake at Gored Trecastell*

Strait a large fishing weir known as the Ogwen Weir is also clearly marked on the map and extends almost a kilometre from the Penrhyn castle grounds.

Further east in Llandrillo yn Rhos (Rhos on Sea) are the remains of a once very important fishing weir, marked on the OS map as the Royal Fishing Weir, it is known locally as the Rhos Fynach weir. The weir

was gifted to the Abbey of Aberconwy by Llywelyn ap Iorwerth as well as significant parcels of land, ferry rights etc in the Charter of Aberconwy in 1198. One theory maintains that the Rhos Mynach hotel was built to accommodate the monks from Maenan who came to empty the weir on falling tides.

As this document preceded the Magna Carta the fish trap was allowed to survive Henry's 1535 act and continued to flourish well into the first decade of the twentieth



*Remains of Rhos Fynach weir today*

century. It also survived an Act passed in 1861 designed to protect salmon numbers by closing several weirs countrywide, again due to the 1198 Charter. A similar weir a mile to the west had to be pulled down.

The Rhos Fynach weir is situated about halfway between the tiny St. Trillo's chapel and the breakwater some fifty yards offshore. The barnacle encrusted wooden

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stakes can still be seen protruding a few inches above the seabed.

In 1850 an estimated 35,000 herring were caught on one tide, another night in 1907 records ten tons of mackerel, many ended up as fertilizer on nearby fields. An eight-foot shark was caught in 1865. The owner at the time, one John Evans had a little terrier named Jack which had been



*An old photo of the remains of Rhos Fynach weir*

trained to jump in and retrieve the salmon. His antics became such a popular tourist attraction that he was gifted a silver collar through public donations! Eventually Jack succumbed to a shark bite received during one of his salmon forays.

The weir fell into disuse during the first world war and the surviving wooden stakes were eventually cut by the local sailing club.

The above examples are just a few of the hundreds of these efficient fish traps which once dotted our shoreline but are now, rightly so not being used due to the alarming drop in global fish numbers.

Perhaps a tongue in cheek claim for the most valuable catch belongs to an ancient goret which existed somewhere near the mouth of the river Dyfi several centuries ago. The goret belonged to Elffin ap Gwyddno, the unluckiest of heirs. He had been left the legendary 'Cantref Gwaelod' which was land out in what is now Cardigan Bay which according to legend was lost one night because the floodgates were left open. All he was left with was the goret, and even that was empty of fish when he inspected it one morning. But then he



*As shown on the map*

spotted a leather bag which the tide had left draped over one of the stakes. When he opened it, he found a tiny baby which he took home and named Taliesin; and that was when his luck changed for the better. Taliesin became a great seer and a sixth century bard whose work still exists today.

It is inevitable that so great a character was hijacked into the world of Arthurian legend and a colourful tale is told of his life before his inception as Taliesin.

A little boy called Gwion had been

tasked by the witch Ceridwen to stir a cauldron of magic potion for a year and a day. However, towards the end of the year three hot drops splashed on his finger which he instinctively put into his mouth, in that instant he had a vision that Ceridwen intended to kill him, so he ran. Unfortunately, she too had the gift to see so she chased him. Using his newly acquired gift he turned himself into a hare, Ceridwen duly changed into a hound. He then transformed into a fish; Ceridwen became an otter to continue the chase. When he turned into a bird and took to the air, she became a hawk and was on the point of catching him when he flew into a nearby barn, he turned himself into a wheat



*Llugwy Gored*

seed to hide amongst the millions of others. Ceridwen became a hen and started eating the seeds until eventually she ate him. This made her pregnant and when the baby was born, evil as she was, she didn't have the heart to kill him, so she put him in a leather bag and threw him into the sea. The bag eventually washed up on Elffin's weir!

Many weir-based fish traps were built across rivers to catch the annual salmon migrating and, in the days, when salmon were readily available to even the poorest families these weirs doubtless had their place. Dwindling numbers of all fish species have however, sealed the doom for all fish traps both in rivers and on the seashore.

Whenever you're next walking along the seashore and you notice an unusual straight line of boulders at low tide it may well be the remains of an old goret.

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## FIVE VILLAGES GARDENING CLUB (Janet Tattum)

In March Janet Wainwright of Joleen Meadows, Lixwm talked to us about how she turned a field into a very productive flower garden. It sounded very hard work and in June we will visit Joleen Meadows and see the result. This visit is on June 4th at 5.00 p.m. Louise Jones won the monthly competition.

Sarah Griffiths visited us in April and talked to us about the Ancient Egyptians being the world's first gardeners. She talked extensively, without notes, and showed wonderful slides to demonstrate how precise they were in laying out their gardens. Louise Jones won the monthly competition.

Despite being a month early and in a different venue due to the election, there was an excellent selection of plants and shrubs on sale at our annual plant sale. £141 was raised for club funds. A big thank you to everyone who supported us.

### JULY

Coach trip to Bridgemere Garden Centre, leaving Carmel at 9.30 a.m. Cost £23. For further details contact David Hughes on 01352 712243.

### SEPTEMBER

A visit to Chirk Castle Gardens with a guided tour by David Lock. Arrive at 2.00 p.m.

## OCTOBER

A demonstration by Ellen Firth, Firth Flock Flowers on making a Christmas Wreath.

All meetings are held in Carmel Village Hall on the first Thursday of the month at 2.00 p.m. Any new members will be made very welcome.

Christine Hamer Tel. 07778 872913  
Maria Evans Tel. 0749 3013777

## CARMEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH INTEGRITY (Gareth Roberts)

While writing this article, it was 3 days before the Senedd elections, and the results of those elections are now clear.

Every leaflet, from all the parties, that came through the door were full of promises of how they were going to fix the NHS and improve education, create jobs, and generally improve our society and living conditions.

Yet we are all accustomed to most, if not all, of those promises being broken leaving us slightly cynical of politics and politicians in general.

"You can't trust any politician" and "They are just in it for themselves" seems to be on the lips of the public as another politician is embroiled in a tax fiddle or there is another u turn in government.

What we deeply desire is someone who's totally honest and keeps his promises.

But there is only one person who ever did that and he is the only one who ever will.

That person is Jesus Christ, the God Man. Here are some of the promises that he fully keeps and they are available to anyone who will believe in him.

An abundant life, no more loneliness, answered prayer, no more worry, no more fear, his protection, rest, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, purpose and meaning, community, fellowship, the ability to overcome evil with good, the ability to forgive others and maybe to forgive yourself.

Best of all he promises eternal life to all who truly believe.

No politician or political party can change your life the way Jesus Christ can.

There is a saying that insanity is continuing to do the same thing but expecting a different outcome!

If you want your life to change for the better, why not give Jesus Christ a chance.

To find out more come to our Sunday services at 5PM in the Carmel Village Hall or why not join us for one of our Good News Charity Quiz nights the next one is 13th June 6pm in the Carmel Village Hall. You will be made most welcome.

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<p>Cyneddfas Thomas Pennant <b>Adar yn Sir Fflint 1965</b> Birds in Flintshire</p> <p>Cyneddfas gair 7 ffigurio by Catherine Wynne prifffig: Alan Williams &amp; Norman Owen Parry</p> <p><b>A Heritage Celebration of Flintshire's Birds</b></p> <p>Marking 300 years since the birth of Thomas Pennant (1726-1798) — traveller, naturalist and "the father of Cambrian tourists"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 33 Colour Plates</li> <li>• 28 Pages</li> <li>• 1 Map &amp; 1 Table</li> <li>• 1965 Holywell Grammar School Survey</li> <li>• Modern Ayslauna Comparisons</li> </ul> <p><b>Price: £7.50 + £1.90 Postage (Total: £9.40)</b></p> <p>All enquiries to be made to Acanthophyllum Books, Longchase Farm, Sundown Avenue, Holywell, CH8 7BH</p> <p><b>How to Order:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PayPal: raesans88@hotmail.com</li> <li>• Cheque: Payable to "Cyneddfas Thomas Pennant"</li> </ul> <p>Orders open now. Books mailed from 13 June 2026.</p>	<p>Cyneddfas Thomas Pennant <b>Adar yn Sir Fflint 1965</b> Adar yn Sir Fflint</p> <p>Cyneddfas gair 7 ffigurio by Catherine Wynne prifffig: Alan Williams &amp; Norman Owen Parry</p> <p><b>Dathliad Treftadaeth o Adar Sir Fflint</b></p> <p>Yn nodi 300 mlynedd ers geni Thomas Pennant (1726-1798) — teithiwr, naturiaethwr a "thad twristiaid Cambria"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 33 Plât Lliw</li> <li>• 28 Tudalen</li> <li>• 1 Map a 1 Tabl</li> <li>• Arolwg Ysgol Ramatdeg Treftynnion 1965</li> <li>• Cymariaethau Ffawna Adar Modern</li> </ul> <p><b>Pris: £7.50 + £1.90 Cost Postio (Cyfanswm: £9.40)</b></p> <p>Pob ymholiad i'w gyfeirio at: Acanthophyllum Books, Longchase Farm, Sundown Avenue, Holywell, CH8 7BH</p> <p><b>Sut i Archebu:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PayPal: raesans88@hotmail.com</li> <li>• Sioc: Dridedus i "Cyneddfas Thomas Pennant"</li> </ul> <p>Archebu'n nawr. Bydd llyfrau'n cerku postio o 13 Mehefin 2026.</p>
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## JAN MILLER

We went to see the poet Brian Bilston in Wrexham recently, as part of their literary festival. It was really funny and delightful, so do go if he comes our way again. He has got a new book out called 'How to lay an Egg with a Horse inside' which explains how poetry has developed into so many forms, with many humorous examples along the way. But many of them have serious messages too, like the following

### THE LAST BEE

(© Brian Bilston)

After the last ee  
had uzzed its last uzz,  
  
the irds and the utterflies  
did what they could.  
  
ut soon the fields lay are,  
few flowers were left,  
  
nature was roken,  
and the planet ereft.

When you have been writing nature columns for a number of years, you tend to run out of ideas for new things to say. The alarming trends in modern governments meaning environment is often the furthest down the list of concerns, the fact that all the pollinators are dying out so much that I had hardly any runner beans the last two summers. The fact that our ecosystems are collapsing and the Gulf Stream is close to switching off, leading to literally arctic summers for the whole of Western Europe including us, that the atmosphere and the water and the soil are filling up with pollutants. Well, after a lifetime of delighting in the natural world and volunteering in many practical ways to conserve it, I sometimes get depressed. But recent events like the celebrations for David Attenborough's incredible life, and the successful birth of my new grandchild in difficult circumstances, have encouraged me again.

### A POEM FOR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH'S 100TH BIRTHDAY LIFE OF A NATURALIST

(© Brian Bilston)

it's his birthday  
and the sloths are up early for once  
the flamingos line up in pink, long-legged salute  
the birds of paradise parade in their finest  
the elephants blow their trumpets  
the blue whales gush with joy  
the gorillas act out stories of his visits  
the lions lay off the wildebeest for one day  
and stand together on the Serengeti plain  
the lyre birds sing his voice in tribute  
the seals cannot stop clapping  
and the ostriches urge us  
to listen to him  
and not bury our heads in the sand

## YSGOL BRO CARMEL (Michael Martell)

As always, we are pleased to share all the latest news from Ysgol Bro Carmel with the Five Villages. Since the last edition, we have been busy with our spring and summer terms. Back on 1st March, Criw Cymraeg delivered St David's Day gifts to our school neighbours. The wildflower seeds and a St David's Day keyrings were incredibly well-received by our neighbours, and we'd like to give a special thanks to Willow, who was able to use her uncle's 3D printer to make the keyrings! We followed this up with our St David's Day service in school, where some of our friends from the Carmel Coffee morning came to enjoy some tea, Welsh cakes and the service in the hall. Thank you to Criw Cymraeg, all the staff and the pupils across the school for putting together such a lovely service. We have also had Year 3 and Year 4 visit Chester, as part of their topic of Celts and Romans. We had a fantastic day at the Deva Roman Experience, and we have a number of excellent Roman Centurions in the making! It was great fun to see the learning really come to life, with a mixture of artefacts to observe, ruins to explore, items to interact with and a Roman soldier to take us around the city!

On the sports front, Year 6's football team qualified for the Hardwick Shield final, showing real determination and teamwork throughout. The team finished second out of all the Flintshire schools, and we are immensely proud of every player and the way they represented our school. Well done Year 6 — you should all be very proud and you were exemplary in your behaviour and sportsmanship!

In March, we celebrated World Book Day. We were really pleased to have some brilliant visitors in for World Book Day this year. Having the Story Tent in school, as well as storyteller Sue Povey really added to our day. This year we also asked our older children to spend some time with the younger children, to read them a book and share a story. It was lovely to see the care, attention and enthusiasm of our older children with the younger pupils. And let's not forget, we also saw a wide range of wonderful outfits, comfy pyjamas and fantastic characters around school. Bendigedig pawb!

Our School Liaison Officer, PC Priamo, came to visit KS2 in the spring. She talked to the children about internet safety and being responsible online. We have also had the Holywell Historical Society visit school, showing artefacts and giving the children in Y5 and Y6 first-hand information about life during WW2. Thank you to the Historical Society for really enjoyable, informative sessions!

To start the summer term, Dosbarth Y Fan Fach have been taking part in science workshops with Xplore—the pupils had a tremendous time during their first session (see our socials for the evidence!) and discovered how different substances react with each other. We have also had the





pleasure of seeing Dosbarth Dinas perform their St David play at Stiwdio Anne in Mold. We have filmed their performance and will be sharing it with Y4 parents over the next couple of weeks! Over the last week or two, Alun from Carmel Cricket Club has been in to provide introductory sessions to the children from Y1—Y6. They've had great fun and children have taken home information for how to get involved in cricket! Not only this, we have a new after school club, hosted by Carmel Bowling Club. Every Monday after school, the new generation of bowlers practice alongside Carmel Bowling Club – it has been a really enjoyable and popular club this far, thank you to the team at the bowling club for making this possible!

We had tremendous fun at the Easter Raffle at the end of the spring term—I think we beat last year's prizes and donations, and it raised a huge amount for school! Events like this are really important for us. As you will know, this year, our fundraising theme is Digital Literacy. Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the whole community, so far this year we have been able to purchase 8 NEW IPADS for the foundation classes, as well as a full new set of headsets and headphones for the pupils. Between now and the end of the year, we will be purchasing 8 NEW LAPTOPS for the KS2 children, replacing the older and no-longer-supported devices in school. Thank you everyone for your efforts, it really does help!

After a number of years of dedicated service, our long-serving School Administrator, Mrs Linda Leighton, will be moving on to a new professional opportunity on Friday 8th May. While we are naturally sad to lose such a vital member of our school family, we are incredibly supportive of her decision to take on a role that offers significant career advancement and new challenges. From being the voice on the phone to the first person to welcome people to Ysgol Bro Carmel, Mrs Leighton's impact on our students, staff, and families

has been immeasurable and she will always be a welcome member of the Ysgol Bro Carmel community.



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### Activities at Holywell Library

Why not join us for our friendly, **FREE** weekly activities

- **Monday** Lego Club 10.00 a.m. and 3.30pm
- **Tuesday** Rhymetime 10.00 a.m.
- **Wednesday** Craft and Chat (every two weeks) 2.00pm
- **Thursday** Knit and Natter
- **Friday** Welsh Conversation 2pm (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month)
- **Friday** Holywell Book Club (last Friday of the month)
- **Saturday** Lego Club 10.00am

For further information on events and activities in your library email [libraries@gwella.wales](mailto:libraries@gwella.wales)

### Gwella Author Evenings - Coming Soon to Mold Library

Gwella Libraries in partnership with Mold Bookshop invite you to join us at our author evenings. Tickets are available from The Bookshop and online 33 High Street, Mold website [www.mold-bookshop.co.uk](http://www.mold-bookshop.co.uk) contact [info@moldbookshop.co.uk](mailto:info@moldbookshop.co.uk)



**Robin Ince: Normally Weird & Let the Quiet Ones Rise**

Mold Library & Museum, Mold, CH7 1AP

7.00pm on Tuesday 30th June 2026



**An Evening With Barbara Erskine**

Mold Library & Museum, Mold, CH7 1AP

7.00pm on Wednesday 12th August 2026

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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

## CONGRATULATIONS

Croeso i'r byd Loxley Liliwen, the newest resident of St Gerard's, Pantasaph, born 30th March. Thank you to all of the community who have given us such a warm welcome since we moved in last August.



Erin, Rhodri, and new big sisters Poppy and Tansy

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## CHARITY FASHION SHOW

I have been a volunteer Childline counsellor at Prestatyn for over 25 years. I also have been involved in fundraising for NSPCC over the past few years. I enjoy engaging with the local community and putting on some fun activities to raise money. Working for Childline and the NSPCC helps save lives and build better futures for young people.

I am holding a Charity Fashion Show on July 31st at Carmel Village Hall at 7.00.

This will showcase quality Italian fashion items. Tickets are £6 from Tower Craft shop Holywell or email [griffithsnia@gmail.com](mailto:griffithsnia@gmail.com) and also available on the door. Entrance will include canapés and Prosecco. Raffle. All proceeds for NSPCC.

Kind regards,  
Nia Griffiths

## MWM mums who move

After spotting your recent post on Whitford community group I thought I'd take the opportunity to tell you a little bit about what myself and my friend have been doing lately. We are two local mums who recently started a community walking group called MWM- Mums Who Move, and we would love to share what we're doing with the local community through your newspaper.

MWM was created to offer mums and babies a welcoming, pressure-free way to get out of the house, meet other parents, enjoy lovely walks, and have genuine adult conversation-all completely free of charge.

We noticed that many baby groups available locally involve sign-up fees, subscriptions, or pressure to commit to weekly sessions, which can feel overwhelming for many mums, especially during the early stages of motherhood. We wanted to create something different; a relaxed, no-pressure environment where mums can simply turn up, walk, chat, and feel supported.

We currently organise two walks each week in different locations, (Dyserth walkway and Greenfield walkway) giving mums the opportunity to meet others, enjoy fresh air, and stay active, followed by an optional tea or coffee afterwards for those who would like to stay and socialise.

Our aim is simple: to help mums feel less isolated, build friendships, and create a supportive local community where everyone feels welcome! Whether they are first-time mums, experienced mums, pregnant, postpartum, or simply looking to connect with others.

We would love the opportunity to spread the word and reach more local mums who may benefit from joining us.

We would be happy to provide photographs, further information, or details of upcoming walks if needed.

Kind regards,  
Emily Bucknall and Alex Lewis



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## RECIPES

### ETON MESS

#### Ingredients:

1lb 2oz Strawberries, hulled  
14 fl oz Double Cream  
3 x Meringue Nests, crushed

#### Method:

Puree half the strawberries in a blender. Chop the remaining strawberries, reserving four for decoration.

Whip the cream until stiff peaks form, then gently fold in the strawberry puree and crushed meringue. Fold in the chopped strawberries.

Spoon into four cold glass dishes and serve garnished with the whole strawberries.

### SAUSAGE STUFFED CHICKEN BREAST

#### Ingredients:

3 good pork sausages (about 200g)  
1 shallot, finely chopped  
1 tbsp finely chopped fresh sage (or 1 tsp dried sage)  
1/2 tsp English mustard  
1 small apple finely chopped  
4 skinless chicken breasts  
88g pancetta slices (or streaky bacon)

#### Method:

Preheat oven to 200c

Peel off and discard sausage skins

Put sausage meat into a bowl Mix through the shallot, sage, mustard, apple and some freshly milled black pepper.

Slice each chicken breast horizontally in half through one side, keeping opposite side attached (open out like a book)

Press a quarter of the sausage mixture over one side of an open breast and fold other side over to cover the stuffing Repeat with the other breasts

Wrap 2-3 slices of pancetta or bacon around each breast, securing the stuffing as much as possible. (I sometimes tie mine with string as well)

Put wrapped breasts in a heatproof dish

Cook for 30-35 mins until piping hot and cooked through.

Serve with new potatoes and a green salad.

*Many thanks to Sandy Nevile for these recipes.*

Have any readers got any favourite seasonal dishes for the next (autumn) issue?

Please email [editor@5villages.org.uk](mailto:editor@5villages.org.uk)

## YSGOL Y LLAN

We have had a very busy and exciting few months since the last edition of the Five Villages newspaper.

The spring term ended with our much-loved Easter Bingo, which was once again a huge success. It was wonderful to see so many families and members of the community joining us for a fun evening of "Eyes Down!" with plenty of Easter eggs won throughout the night. We would like to thank everyone who supported the event.

During Easter, pupils also enjoyed taking part in celebrations at church and created beautiful Easter Gardens. A special thank you goes to Rev Andrea for supporting the children and helping them learn more about the Easter story.



Around the school grounds, the cherry blossom tree at our main entrance has been in full bloom this spring. It is always a delight to arrive at school and see the beautiful white blossoms welcoming everyone each morning.

As we head into the summer term, our pupils have also been very busy preparing for Sports Day. Children across the school have been practising throwing, jumping and running races and are enjoying developing their sporting skills and teamwork.

The Criw Cymraeg and Ethos Committees continue to play an important role within school life. Pupils regularly lead assemblies for the rest of the school, taking responsibility and developing their confidence when speaking in front of others.



In Dosbarth 1, children have been developing their mathematics skills by adding and subtracting to 10 using practical resources such as blocks and whiteboards. The children have enjoyed learning through hands-on activities and games.

Our Eco Group has been busy caring for the school environment by watering plants and keeping on top of the spring weeds around the grounds. The pupils take great pride in looking after our outdoor areas.

Music and the expressive arts have been a major focus this term. Pupils from Dosbarth 3 worked alongside children

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from Ysgol Trelawnyd and Ysgol Bro Carmel on a special performance project at Theatr Clwyd. The theme was Saints, with our focus being Saint David. As part of the project, pupils learnt to compose and perform music, including playing "Oh When the Saints" on xylophones and glockenspiels. Our triad was successful in gaining funding from the St Mary's trust which has allowed us to carry out this work.

We were also incredibly proud of pupils who performed during Theatr Clwyd's 50th anniversary celebrations, where they showcased their harp-playing talents.

Our whole school focus on writing continues. Dosbarth 2 have thoroughly enjoyed reading the story of The Three Billy Goats Gruff. As part of their literacy work, the children created scenes from the story using recycled materials before recording themselves retelling the story to bring it to life.



Dosbarth 1 have also been experimenting with capacity by pouring water into different containers and ordering them into groups of full, nearly full, half,



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nearly empty and empty.

This term, we also celebrated the 100th birthday of Sir David Attenborough. The whole school took part in activities linked to nature, recycling, plants and mini beasts, helping children learn more about caring for the world around them.

Dosbarth 3 were fortunate to visit St Asaph Cathedral. We would like to thank the Diocese for welcoming us to such a wonderful building, as well as all the helpers who supported the visit.



Several pupils also represented the school at the Flintshire Eisteddfod competitions in Flint and Wrexham. We were delighted that our pupils achieved both 1st and 3rd place in the opening rounds. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning and performing Welsh poetry, and we are looking forward to taking part in more events next year.

Earlier in the term, pupils and staff also enjoyed celebrating World Book Day. The school was full of exciting reading activities, costumes and stories, making it another memorable annual event for everyone involved.

*Hair and nail*  
*By Sam*



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Bron Haul  
Lloc  
CH8 8RG

As always, we are incredibly proud of our pupils for their enthusiasm, creativity and positive attitudes. We look forward to an exciting and busy summer term ahead at Ysgol y Llan.

Wraparound at Ysgol y Llan and Whitford Playgroup

Whitford Playgroup and Ysgol y Llan, together provide wraparound care for families from 7:45am until 5:15pm Monday to Friday during term time. Our school and nursery settings continue to grow each term! We cater for pupils aged 2-11 years old. If you would like further information about our Playgroup provision, please contact us via email at [WhitfordP5@hwbcymru.net](mailto:WhitfordP5@hwbcymru.net). If you would like to find out more about our school, please email [whmail@hwbcymru.net](mailto:whmail@hwbcymru.net) or follow us on Facebook and visit our new website.



### Summer Reading Challenge 2026

Look out for a wide variety of events and activities taking place across Gwella libraries throughout the Summer! The theme for 2026 is 'Read to the Beat' it inspires children to explore the connection between stories and songs and develop their creativity and imagination.

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.

### CROESO! Grŵpiau Sqwrsio Cymraeg Welcome! Welsh Conversational Groups

Are you learning Welsh? Or want to join a conversational Welsh group?

Holywell Library have a conversational group session on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month at 2.00pm.

These sessions are a friendly and relaxed space for Welsh learners and Welsh speakers to socialise and build confidence. A very warm welcome awaits you

For more information, contact [libraries@gwella.wales](mailto:libraries@gwella.wales)

### Citizen Advice Bureau

**Looking for help or guidance**, a representative from Citizen's Advice is available to help at Holywell Library from 9.30a.m. until 12.30 every Wednesday. For further information contact [holywell.library@gwella.wales](mailto:holywell.library@gwella.wales)



### (Gareth Sharp)

Let us begin by saying the hall is doing very well now after just holding the local ballot.

The railing work we undertook is almost complete now, which makes the hall surroundings look far more presentable.

We have a new trustee who is local to Carmel and will hopefully be a great asset to the existing group of trustees who work so hard to keep this hall looking so good for our users.

We have had a few groups move around, and we have a new Pilates class starting on Wednesday, 17th June. If anyone wishes to enquire, don't hesitate to get in touch with our Facebook page or [REjuvenate.yoga](http://REjuvenate.yoga)

Although the hall is doing very well, in today's climate, as with us all, it is finding the utility bills very demanding, and anything our users can do to keep them to a minimum would be greatly appreciated.

I will finish by adding a timetable, so any interested users know when it is available before contacting the hall's Facebook page.

So, until the next issue



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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](mailto:clwydgroup@hardy-plant.org.uk)

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DATE	TIME	GROUP	MH	CR	CONTACT
Monday	10am - 12:30pm	Paper Craft		X	Joan Henley <a href="mailto:joanhenley51@gmail.com">joanhenley51@gmail.com</a>
	6.30pm-8pm	Cubs	X		Russ Williams (Trustee) <a href="mailto:russw276@gmail.com">russw276@gmail.com</a>
Tuesday	Morning	Hall Cleaning	X	X	Jane Bickerton <a href="mailto:janebickerton@gmail.com">janebickerton@gmail.com</a>
	1:30 - 4pm	Craft Group		X	Barbara Davies 01352 713256
	6pm-7pm	Beavers	X		Russ Williams (Trustee) <a href="mailto:russw276@gmail.com">russw276@gmail.com</a>
	7.15 - 8.45	Scouts	X		Russ Williams (Trustee) <a href="mailto:russw276@gmail.com">russw276@gmail.com</a>
Wednesday					
	1st & 2nd	2pm - 4.30pm	FCC	X	Lesley Karen Jones <a href="mailto:sammy.myatt@flintshire.gov.uk">sammy.myatt@flintshire.gov.uk</a>
		6pm-7.15pm	Girl Guides/Brownies	X	Ruth Davies/Sharon Jones <a href="mailto:ellenruth.davies@gmail.com">ellenruth.davies@gmail.com</a>
		7.45pm-8.45pm	Pilates	X	Julie Roberts (Trustee) <a href="mailto:julin2013@gmail.com">julin2013@gmail.com</a>
THURSDAY			X		
	1st	1 - 4pm	Gardening Club	X	Christine Hamer <a href="mailto:c.hamer21@btinternet.com">c.hamer21@btinternet.com</a>
	2nd	10am-Noon	Hall Coffee Morning	X	Evelyn Griffiths <a href="mailto:evelyngriffiths125@gmail.com">evelyngriffiths125@gmail.com</a>
		6.30pm-8.30pm	Church Study	X	Gareth Roberts <a href="mailto:gncor13@hotmail.co.uk">gncor13@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Friday			X		
		2 - 4pm	Tai Chi & Qigong	X	Henry Shallcross <a href="mailto:shallcrossh@gmail.com">shallcrossh@gmail.com</a>
Saturday					
Sunday					
	4pm-7pm	Church Service	X	X	Gareth Roberts <a href="mailto:gncor13@hotmail.co.uk">gncor13@hotmail.co.uk</a>

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## HALKYN MOUNTAIN ARTISTS

are looking forward once again in taking part in this year's Clwydian Creatives Art Trail. September 2026.

Thank you to Sharon Wagstaff and Carol Udale who started CCAT and have tirelessly continued to organise this amazing event every year. They are both part of Cilcain Artisans. Their studio will be open the 1st and 2nd weekends at Cilcain village hall.



Artists will be opening their studio doors every weekend during September. Some are situated in village halls where more than one artist has the opportunity to display their work and demonstrate their medium.



and style. Light refreshments are always on offer to visitors.

Look out for the orange leaflets, that contain information on the days the studios are open. Halkyn Mountain Artists will



be opening their doors at Pentre Halkyn Community Centre CH8 8JE. September weekend 12th -13th. We are Jeni Taylor, Pamela Prior, Tracey Davies, Rosie Tuszynska, Lynda Wilson. We work in a variety of mediums. Both Jeni and Tracey specialise in pet or wildlife portraits and



welcome commission work. Pamela Prior works in acrylic, oils and pastel on a variety of subjects. Rosie Tuszynska, enjoys working with cold wax, oils and watercolour and produces beautiful flower paintings. Lynda Wilson, is a watercolourist but also likes to work with inks and acrylics. Country scenes and seascape. A warm welcome awaits our visitors. Hope you make it!

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- Festival Gala Dinner 13<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm Stamford Gate Holywell - Food, entertainment and special guests Tickets £30
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## YSGOL GWENFFRWD (Angharad Rule) THANK YOU!!!!

It has been a vibrant and enriching term across our school, with pupils of all ages taking part in a wide range of exciting opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.

Our youngest learners in Reception and Nursery are currently benefiting from support through My Nature's Play Grant that we were successful of securing- as one in only 7 schools in Wales.

As part of this, the children have been provided with new sets of outdoor clothing, including wet-weather gear, wellies, and sun hats, ensuring they can access outdoor learning in all conditions- great with the ever changing weather we've had recently. Outdoor play is a vital part of early development, supporting physical health, creativity, problem-solving skills, and emotional wellbeing. It allows children to take managed risks, build confidence, and develop a lifelong appreciation for the natural world. We are looking forward to planning sessions in the new term where parents will be invited to join in and experience outdoor learning alongside their children.



Years 1 and 2 have been learning about "The World of Work" as part of a whole-school theme. As part of this, they were delighted to welcome visits from a local police officer and a firefighter, who shared insights into their important roles within the community. The children asked thoughtful questions, that they had prepared and gained a deeper understanding of these professions. We are looking forward to an upcoming visit to the local fire station to further enrich their learning.

Pupils in Years 3 and 4 have been embracing Welsh culture through their participation in the traditional folk dance, Dawns y Cadi Ha. They performed this



joyful dance in Holywell town centre on May 16th. It was wonderful to see our pupils feeling proud to be part of keeping this tradition alive. What a lovely addition to see families join in the fun too.

Year 4 pupils recently enjoyed an unforgettable residential trip to Glan-Ilyn with our cluster schools- beginning to form bonds with pupils from other schools.

Situated on the shores of Llyn Tegid, it is one of the Urdd's most popular outdoor centres. The children took part in a variety of adventurous activities, developed their independence, and strengthened

friendships, all while immersed in a Welsh-speaking environment.

Morgan said "My favourite part was canoeing." Jax said "My favourite thing to do in Glan-Ilyn was the high ropes course".



Meanwhile, Year 5 pupils embarked on an exciting residential visit to Cardiff, where they explored some of Wales' most iconic landmarks. Highlights included a tour of the Principality Stadium, a visit to the Senedd to learn about Welsh democracy, and an underground experience at Big Pit National Coal Museum. These experiences provided valuable insight into Welsh history, culture, and government.



Looking ahead, Year 6 are eagerly anticipating their upcoming residential trip to Llangrannog, which promises further



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opportunities for adventure, teamwork, and lasting memories as they approach the end of their primary school journey.

This term, Year 5 and 6 pupils have been fortunate to work with the Welsh actor Iwan Garmon who has been supporting them in developing creative expression and wellbeing skills. Through drama and performance, pupils have explored confidence-building, teamwork, and emotional literacy in an engaging and meaningful way.



It has truly been a term full of growth, creativity, and memorable experiences for all our pupils. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and the way they continue to embrace every opportunity offered to them. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all the best to our Year 6 pupils as they prepare for their transition to Secondary school. Pob lwc!

## HOMAGE TO COMEDY AND HEROES (Peter Smith)



It was a pleasant surprise when I heard about the unveiling of the 'nude organist' Terry Jones life-sized sculpture displayed on Colwyn Bay promenade. Back in the 70s, Monty Python's Flying Circus was one of the highlights of my week. David



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Attenborough who recently celebrated his 100th birthday, commissioned Monty Python's Flying Circus. The show was ahead of its time for creativity and new form of comedy. If you've not had the opportunity to see the sculpture, go and have a look, you won't be disappointed. You can sit alongside a naked Terry Jones, but make sure you have your photograph taken.

The exquisite bronze sculpture is the work of Llandudno Sculptor Nick Elphick. He has recently appeared on BBC's Extraordinary Portraits creating yet another masterpiece. It features a sculpture titled

"Empathetic Protection" to honour Darryn Frost, the hero who used a narwhal tusk during the 2019 London Bridge attack. At the time of writing it was briefly displayed at the Royal Cambrian Academy in Conwy, but has now moved to Bradford.

April was a busy month for sculptures, not only in North Wales, but a striking sculpture by Banksy appearing overnight in Waterloo Place, London. Apparently it's made out of fibreglass, so not the real thing, unlike the bronze sculpture for Terry Jones. However, I'm hoping it will stay in place long enough for me to see it.

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## ST PAUL'S GORSEDD: AN INTRODUCTION (Rev. Philip Chew)

"Now faith is being sure of what we hoped for and certain of what we do not see." (Hebrews 11 v1)

I am Rev. Philip Chew, the new priest in charge of St Paul's Gorsedd, St Peter's Holywell and Holy Trinity Greenfield. I am looking forward to living and working across this beautiful part of North Wales. I have recently transferred from the Church of England with three parishes on the Fylde Coast in Lancashire. Having stated that I have ministered in St Asaph Diocese before as Rector of five churches in Dyffryn Clwyd.

We live in very uncertain times but there is one thing that we must remain true to and that is the certainty that all is in God's hands. The writer to the Hebrews says that it is an act of faith to believe that God made this world and adds that the things that are seen emerged from the things which are not seen. During the times that the writer wrote the letter to the Hebrews there was a belief that God created the world out of existing matter which, being imperfect meant that from the beginning this was an imperfect world. The writer to the Hebrews insists that God did not work with existing materials but created the whole universe from absolutely nothing. When argued like this the writer of Hebrews was not interested in the scientific

side of the whole thing – but that he wanted to stress that this is God's world.

If we can hold on to that thought, two things follow. First, we will use it as such. We will remember that everything in it is God's and will try to use it as God would have us use it. Second, we will remember, even when it may not look like it, somehow

God is in control. If we believe that this is God's world then into our lives comes a new sense of responsibility and a new power of acceptance, for everything belongs to God and all is in his hands.

I hope to meet with you in person, either in the community or at any church event over the coming months.

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**SPRING IN THE FIVE VILLAGES**  
(Robert Moore)

<b><i>Weather in the Five Villages Spring 2026</i></b> <b><i>(2025 figures in brackets)</i></b>				
	Temperatures °C			Total rainfall mm
	Average	Maximum	Minimum	
March	9.2 (8.7)	17.0 (17.1)	3.7(-1.0)	64.8 (27.0)
April	11.5 (12.8)	23.0 (26.6)	2.0 (2.0)	30.2 (43.9)
May	14.8 (15.7)	33.0 (23.7)	2.5 (3.0)	68.3 (56.9)

<b>Spring average 2001 - 2020 and average 2026</b>		
	Average 2001 - 2020	2026
Air Temperature 1800 UTC	10.4	11.8
Maximum Temperature	20.3	24.3
Minimum Temperature	0.7	2.7
Days air frost	2	4
Days ground frost	9	0

As we might expect, temperatures rose through March with a warm period from the 16th to 21st, followed by a cooler spell before the temperature rose again at the end of the month. Temperatures continued to rise through April and by the end of the month the maximum daily temperature was between 15 and 20 degrees – a welcome improvement, with night temperatures around a comfortable minimum. This pattern continued until mid-May when maximum temperatures rose significantly and suddenly news bulletins were full of reports of heat waves and temperature records being broken. Temperatures approaching 30 degrees or in the low thirties are more typical of high Summer, not the last weeks of Spring. The Carmel weather station recorded a maximum temperature of 33 degrees on the 25th May. Night time temperatures were uncomfortable with minimums in the mid-teens. Temperatures dropped to around normal for the last four days of the month. Most readers will know from repeated items in news bulletins that the cause of this exceptional heat was high pressure centred over western Europe, with very warm air from the southern continent and north Africa being drawn into western Europe. You may have found some Saharan dust on your car or window sills. What made this all so exceptional was that such high temperatures were experienced so early in the year. It seems that Spring may be shortening by a few days and Summer extending. We are expecting a very warm Summer and El Niño may bring a warmer and wetter Autumn. Regrettably, very hot weather leads to increased deaths among the most vulnerable people, especially the elderly with underlying health conditions. Tragically, healthy young lives have been lost; the lake or river looks tempting and the water feels warm, but below the surface it may be very cold, especially at this time of the year. The reflex on hitting cold water is to gasp, if your head is below the water this reflex may trigger the onset of drowning. The local sea surface temperature was 15 degrees at the end of May.

The ground temperature was 7 degrees at the beginning of March and 14 at the end of May. The relatively low rainfall means that the ground is quite hard so that rain (or water from a watering can) runs across the surface before it can soak in. Well cultivated ground may fare better in these conditions. We had our last ground frost on the 24th April and no air frost at all in Spring.

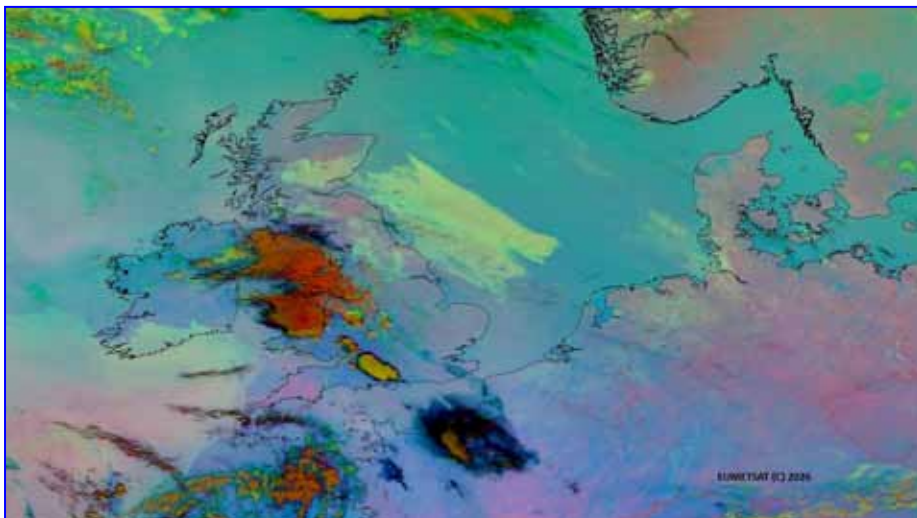
We had a spectacular weather event on the night of the 27th May. As forecast, we had thunder and lightning (relatively rare in our region). Three lines of storm travelled north across Wales, one crossing over Wrexham, another over St Asaph and a third right over the five villages. From 11 pm to midnight (BST) we had frequent cloud to cloud lightning ('sheet lightning') and regular strikes to ground ('forked lightning'). There was a very sharp rainfall at 23.30; this abated quickly and finally petered out at five to midnight. The total rainfall in this period was 6 mm with 4.6 mm in the first five minutes. The storm appeared to do little damage. There was another thunder and lightning display at around 02.00 on the 28th.

The first satellite image (see opposite) is a rare shot of England and Wales cloud free on 25th May at 09.40 (UTC) the second infrared colour-composite image showing the storm approaching our region at 23.30 (UTC) on the 27th May.

The weather station archive for 2021 to 2025 is now in the County Archives with another copy in Holywell library. This means that we now have a published weather record for the first quarter-century of the twenty-first century.

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





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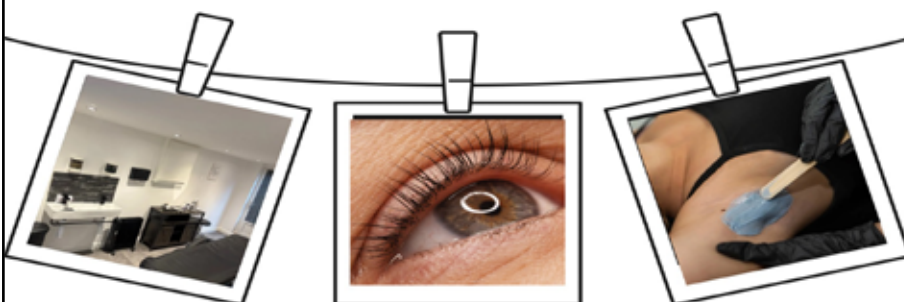
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### (Andrea Yarnell Dakin)

We are still on a high at the great success we had at our second History Fair on Sunday 12th April. To have a first successful one was beyond our dreams but to repeat it this year and have an even better response was unbelievable. New representatives were there this year - we met old friends and made new ones. Becky Gittins - our MP arrived and she and her husband spent so much time chatting with all of the representatives of the groups. Her sweet little five month old baby slept through the whole thing but judging by the passion her parents have for our shared history - maybe she will be a future member of our group.

The response was probably due to the success of last year but definitely due to the waves of publicity our secretary, Donna, put out with her 10 day countdown. And it was good that there was no wind when we were putting up the banners!

We made a substantial monetary profit

but that was nothing like the goodwill which was obvious throughout the day.

We must give a huge thanks to the leisure centre staff for allowing us to host it - for setting up the room and for being so attentive to our needs throughout the day. Thanks too to Rosie's café for opening up for our visitors to enjoy refreshments. Also thanks to all of the people who came to see us and chat - we had so many people through the doors.

Our next venture is to have monthly talks - thanks to Paula at the library who has offered us the library free of charge and with a member of staff on hand to help us. I am currently compiling a list of speakers so if anyone knows of anyone they could recommend please get in touch with me.



Holywell Reminiscence Group is five years old next month - it began on 21st June 2021 with just a handful of people and now despite some setbacks we are thriving and happy and continue to meet every week at the leisure centre 10 til 12 or

whenever you need to leave. Just walk in and you will find a warm welcome.

Don't forget also our sixty question general knowledge quiz with a picture round and Dingbats - hosted by our very own Bob, who is not just a quiz master but an entertainer. **See attached photo of Bob and myself.** Prizes are small but



the fun is great and all of that and a cuppa and biscuits - for just £2 for the room hire. No need to be on a team - teams form on the day. Every Thursday 1 - 3.

Our contacts are on our facebook page, our website and our Family History Hub with Donna who has decades of experience in family history research.

Our merchandise is also for sale at Martin's Nexus pop up shop in Post Office Lane.

You may also email me on [andreadakin112@btinternet.com](mailto:andreadakin112@btinternet.com) or phone me on 01352 711240 for a friendly chat.

We all hope you enjoy the lovely summer months to come. Thank you for your continuing interest.

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### NEXT EDITION

Our next edition will be published  
on 11th September 2026 and the  
submission deadline for that edition  
will be 14th August 2026.

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### THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE ASSOCIATION

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

Chairman - Peter Erasmus (01352 746896); Secretary - Sandy Neville (01352 961597); Treasurer - Melanie Wallis (01352 712369); Advertisements - Luyun Downes; Distribution - Steve Neville (01352 961597); Jonathan Duggan-Keen, Terry Ireland, Robert Moore, Chris Dolphin. At present there is an editorial committee.


We do have a web page where previous issues may be downloaded at [www.5villages.org.uk](http://www.5villages.org.uk)

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

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

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