



THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE

CRONICL Y PUM PENTREF

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AUTUMN (SEPTEMBER) 2026
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PRICELESS
AMHRISIADWY



EDITORIAL

The Senedd elections have changed the way we are represented within the Five Villages and so we have asked the members allocated to our constituency to introduce themselves. Their replies are in this issue.

I have also included a little more information from our library service. They have regular events and readings but I wonder how many of our readers know about Borrowbox and PressReader? You need to enter your library membership number and PIN (you can join online) and then you can 'borrow' and read online, lots of magazines, e-books as well as audiobooks, all for free! I use it all the time for the latest IT magazines, but nearly every subject is covered, from gardening, fitness, motoring and fashion. Do have a look.

CARMEL BOWLING CLUB

(Jane Bowness)



Yes, that's us, well some of us, in the photo, looking maybe a little wary, apprehensive... well that's because we knew what was coming...

I'll start at the beginning. We have been competing in the John Griffiths

COVER PICTURE



This image features St. Winefride's Well in Holywell.

Autumn marks a significant religious date in the local calendar. November 3rd is celebrated as St Winefride's feast day, acting as the climax of the pilgrimage season.

Many thanks to Peter Smith for this photo.

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Shield; this is a competition between those teams in the third and fourth division of the Deeside Veterans league.

We got through to the semi-final and won, so on to the final. We are in division four and our fellow finalists are top of division three. Perhaps you can begin to understand the trepidation shown in the photo.

Monday 11th August seemed like any other day and we were all on parade in team shirts and regulation black trousers at 11.30am. The short version would be to tell you that although we played valiantly we came second. A couple of us won their matches - well done. Indeed, a couple of us did us proud by scoring well, earning us points, even though they lost and a couple of us would wish the afternoon to fade into obscurity. Well done and congratulations to Hawkesbury who retain the shield for a second consecutive year, and thanks to Sychdyn Bowling Club who hosted the event and looked after us all very well.

The evening of Monday was spent hosting Flint and Holywell Rotary Club who had expressed a wish to 'have a go at bowling'. Thanks to our visitors, we partook of refreshments and had a much more enjoyable and less stressful time than we'd had in the afternoon.

On a different note, at the end of the summer term we said goodbye to our friends in our after-school bowling club. We presented them with pens and certificates which I am hoping are all proudly displayed on fridges around Carmel. Most of them will be off to secondary school in September and we wish them well for the future. We hope to see those pupils staying on in school again in the near future.

We are currently placed second in our league but by the time this magazine

is being read the bowling season will be almost over, (funny how match days seem very long but the season seems very short), and the final result can't really be predicted.

The summer has given us constant sunshine which has had its effect on the greens. Many of them have suffered and playing conditions have not been easy. Our green has been nurtured by our maintenance committee and will recover well once the weather changes.

On 13th August our Captain organised a fun pairs competition within the club as we had a bye. He has promised prizes and refreshments; so, another enjoyable and stress free afternoon.

During the autumn we will close the green and repair to Holywell leisure centre to play short mat bowls indoors. We play on Tuesdays, starting at 10.00am. Last year it cost £2.20 for an hour and a half of bowling and we usually get three matches in during our time.

Should you wish to join us and subject yourself to any or all of the above then please get in touch, we would love to meet you. Jane 01352 721794.

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FIRST XI

At the time of writing these notes with five games remaining, the team is top of the North Wales Cricket League Second Division and in a strong position to gain promotion at the end of the season. However, the players will be taking nothing for granted and know that they will need to be at the top of their game to secure a top two finish. There have been some outstanding individual batting and bowling performances this season, but a key feature of the success has been the strong team spirit in the camp under the excellent captaincy of Ben Sim. The team has taken part in some very close and exciting matches, including the away game at Marchwiel and Wrexham on 1st August which ended in a tie with both teams scoring 161 runs. Dafydd Bailey was top scorer for Carmel in this game with 79 runs. Maneesha Nissanka and Supun Eranga have both batted excellently for Carmel

throughout the 2026 season and will be hoping to continue their good form to help the team secure promotion.

SECOND XI



Second XI captain Dan Stuchfield during his outstanding innings of 116 not out against Corwen Seconds

The team is currently in eighth place in Division Four of the North Wales Cricket League and looks set to record its highest finish for a number of years. Captain Dan Stuchfield has carried on the excellent work undertaken by previous captain Cameron Ackroyd and has created a strong team ethos and spirit. As in previous seasons, the team has included a good blend of senior players and younger cricketers who have gained valuable playing time. There have been many highlights this season, including the victory against Corwen Seconds on 1st August where Dan Stuchfield scored 116 not out and Rick Kirkham scored 48. Carmel's bowling was outstanding in this game, with J. Stuchfield taking 4 wickets, H. Maggs taking 3 wickets and D. Timothy taking 2 wickets. The team will be eager to continue this good form right up until the end of the season.

WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' TEAM

Once again, the team is enjoying a successful season and has taken part in some really exciting matches against strong opponents in the Softball Division 1 East League. The team lost narrowly by 5 runs to Pontblyddyn on 12th July with M. Benjamin scoring 17 runs and T. Noakes scoring 13 runs. All the players bowled well in this game, with T. Bailey taking two wickets. The team also had a thrilling game against Gwersyllt Park in the Second Round of the Women's Welsh Plate (North) competition. Batting in reply to Gwersyllt's net score of 117, Carmel came agonisingly close to winning the game before eventually losing by 3 runs. Carmel Women and Girls have an excellent team spirit and sense of togetherness under captain Carol Owen, and the team continues to develop new players which augers well for the future of women's cricket at Carmel Cricket Club.

VOLUNTEERS

While it is great to report on Carmel's success on the field of play this season, it is important to remember that none of this would be possible without the hard work of the club's volunteers. Committee members in particular give up a lot of their time to carry out a whole range of practical and administrative tasks in order to ensure that the club can function on a daily basis and also develop into the future. These individuals deserve huge thanks for their commitment, and the club is indebted to them for their efforts.

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SCAN ME





LAKES WALK (PART ONE) (Geraint Roberts)

As I write this during our third heatwave this year, it is certainly reminiscent (for those of us old enough to remember) of the fabled hot summer of 1976, which was quite a summer. It was during another less memorable heatwave in 1984 that along with two companions I set off to visit every lake in Wales which lay above the two-thousand-foot contour. The reason or excuse for doing this was to raise money for Bangor City hockey club for whom the three of us played at the time. As the club funds were low, I thought I would combine a sponsored event with a trip I'd been wanting to do for some time as my contribution to the cause. I was accompanied by my brother Dafydd and my friend, also called Dafydd.

We began at 6:00am from the eastern end of Llyn Ogwen striding effortlessly up to the little lake of Ffynnon Lloer (2133 feet). Youth and exuberance coupled with the anticipation of all the wonderful places we would visit was a powerful drive. The Carneddau mountain range is the highest plateau south of Scotland and we had decided to tackle the four target lakes nestling as they were in their hidden corries first.

Cwm Lloer is an unusual cwm which almost faces south and must have been formed in the early phase of the glacial retreat some twenty thousand years or more ago as most of the classic Eryri cwms

are north facing. Having sipped a mouthful of water from its quiet shore we continued up the slopes towards the summit of the broad whale-back plateau which eventually drops down onto the A55 fifteen miles north. We passed the wing and undercarriage of a wartime Ventura which tragically crashed here in 1943 killing all four on board. Up on the top a refreshing breeze greeted us as we gathered our breath before making our way along the ridge up to Carnedd Llewelyn. From the summit we descended to a spot where we would leave the plateau and drop down to the east through a jumble



A sombre looking Melynlllyn

of peat hags and coarse grass. Our next lake was Melynlllyn (2100 feet) which supplied water to Llandudno and district. Passing the remains of an abandoned slate quarry which once provided hone stones for sharpening chisels etc, away to our right we couldn't help noticing birch twigs which still had bark sticking out of the several peat hags we passed. These are the remnants of



Five thousand year old birch twigs

an ancient forest going back five thousand years – interesting. It's a long drop down to the lake and we knew it would be an even longer climb back up. We didn't tarry long.

Back up the slope and we toiled west across a broad ridge to cross a series of tiny streams, some of which had dried out in that hot July. We climbed towards a distant tiny cwm perched on the very eyebrow of Carnedd Llewelyn, the second highest mountain in Wales. Tiny the streams may have been, but one sluggish pool which was no more than three feet across must have been about eight foot deep, and lying in the bottom was the long-range fuel tank of a crashed Canberra jet which came to grief in 1957.

Ffynnon Llyffant (Frog's Spring) at 2674 feet is the highest lake in Wales and is dramatically set amongst a jumble of huge boulders. Henry VIII is said to have sent an envoy to investigate the rumour that one of the boulders moved itself in 1542, the

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Ffynnon Llyffant

envoy apparently returned convinced the story was true!

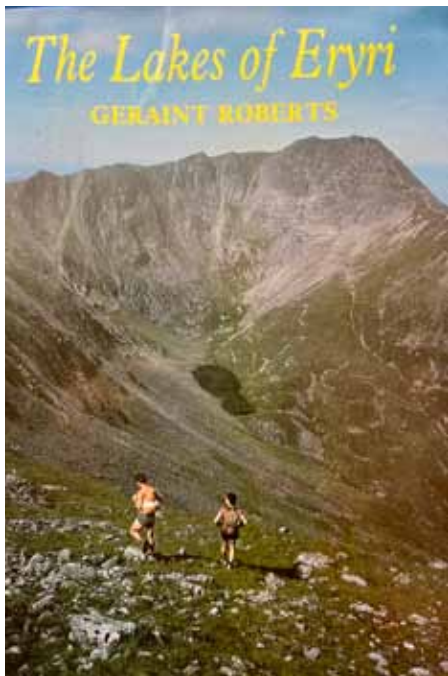
One of the Canberra's wheels complete with tyre lies on the little tarn's western shore. We saw no frogs.

We now faced another steep climb of about five hundred feet back up to the plateau before contouring diagonally down to visit the last of the Carneddau high lakes. Ffynnon Caseg (Mare's Spring). At 2461 feet it is another high lake and is beautifully

set in its own little mini cwm. Half-way down the rocky slope I took a photo of my two companions with the little tarn in the distance, a photo which would form the cover of 'The Lakes of Eryri' book I was to publish a decade later!

Traditionally, the wild Carneddau ponies come to foal at Ffynnon Caseg. With the enclosing cliffs of Yr Elen at their backs and the little tarn guarding the valley it's the ideal place to defend against possible threats; it also gives the little tarn its name.

Another sip of water before we climbed up the steep curving ridge to the very summit of Yr Elen which happens to be one of my favourite mountains. Having already visited Llewelyn we traversed right and saved about three hundred feet of climbing to reach the broad ridge once again before eventually dropping back down to Ogwen. By now the early morning 'youth and exuberance' drive was having to deal with some lactic acid in the legs; three down seventeen to go!



Ffynnon Caseg and the two Dafydd



Llyn Caseg Fraith with Tryfan as background

Our next three lakes involved the unavoidable climbing and crossing of the Glyderau, another three-thousand-foot plateau of rocky slopes and summits. Initially a long ascending trek through Cwm Tryfan would take us to join the old miner's path which climbs the back wall of the cwm to enjoy a sudden arrival at the lake which is perched on the very lip of the mountain.

Llyn Caseg Fraith (2461 feet) translates as the lake of the speckled mare and is a large rainwater pool lying in a black peaty saucer on the summit ridge; it is one of the few we would visit which couldn't boast its own cwm. There are several smaller pools surrounding the main lake. From there we had a seven-hundred-foot climb west to the summit of Glyder Fach to attain the plateau proper. The whole mountain is a jumble of rocks once famously described by Charles Kingsley as –

"The dead bones of the eldest born of time."



The Cantilever rock

We walked past the famous 'Cantilever Rock' and the 'Castle of the Winds' as we made our tired way towards Glyder Fawr. A long descent followed down some loose scree to another lake without a cwm; Llyn y Cwn (Lake of the Dogs).



Llyn Cwn

At 2333 feet it is mentioned in Giraldus Cambrensis description of his 1188

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Crusade recruitment tour of Wales as a lake containing trout with only one eye! It is thought its name derived from the days when hunting was a popular pastime in Eryri for the Welsh princes. We saw no fish with one eye; indeed, we doubted any fish could survive in so bleak and shallow a lake. Three hundred yards away the stream draining the lake forms the waterfall in the famous 'Devil's Kitchen' chasm.



Llynau Clyd with Idwal and Ogwen in the background

Our next goal was to climb Y Garn, another three-thousand-foot peak looming before us before dropping down its eastern ridge to Llyn Clyd (Cosy Lake). There are in fact two little tarns, both lying at 2198 feet nestling in a mini cwm above the larger and more famous Cwm Idwal seven hundred feet below. It was so tempting to follow the stream down and dismiss Llyn Cywion (pool of the chicks) which lay a difficult half a mile



Tiny little Llyn Cywion at 2001 feet!

north in the next cwm as being below two thousand feet, but to the purist, to miss out the little tarn which may or may not lie right on the two-thousand-foot contour would have sat uncomfortably; so off we set to find the furthest north of three little pools whose surface area would just about fit in a badminton court.

By the time we reached the car and drove down to Capel Curig to gratefully wolf down some tea and cholesterol in a café which was about to close it was breaking into evening; and we still had three lakes to do on the slopes of Y Wyddfa – whose idea was this expedition?

In 1984, evening parking without pre-booking and paying £20 at Pen y Pass was possible, and we duly pulled into the slowly emptying car park as most sensible people were going home! With herculean resolve we set off up the PYG track to the accompaniment of clouds

of dancing midges in the characteristic orange sunlight of a summer evening; if we weren't so fatigued we could have enjoyed it. Somewhere on the two-thousand-foot contour of our climb up Crib Goch we began traversing right and around the steep northern ridge to drop into Cwm Glas. The



Llyn Glas complete with island and tree!

mountain is well named as the last of the evening sun accentuated the red shaly rock as the iconic little lake of Llyn Glas (2300 feet) came into view. I say iconic because the little tarn has a small island on which grows a small conifer making it extremely picturesque and almost like something out of Lord of the Rings. Higher up in the upper cwm Llyn Bach at 2450 feet completed our lakes on the northern side.



Llyn Bach in upper Cwm Glas

Slowly with the measured gait of the exhausted we climbed up a gully called Parsley Fern to emerge with leaden legs to enjoy one of the best views in Wales. Below us and away to the south, Cardigan Bay stretched out of sight, to our right Ynys Mon lay beyond the glistening orange of a sunset kissed Menai Strait. Several other lakes sparkled and shimmered on the slopes all around us, and we thanked fate that they all lay beneath the two-thousand-foot contour. Immediately below lay Llyn Glaslyn, the last of the day's targets and although there was still a couple of hours' leg wrenching descent before us, we could now see some light at the end of the tunnel.

Here I must hold my hand up to some dubious research; Glaslyn lies sixteen feet below the two-thousand-foot contour, but I missed this fact in the planning, I discovered it later!

Once known as Llyn Ffynnon Glas it lies in a rocky cauldron at the foot of a precipice rising over fifteen hundred feet to the very summit of Y Wyddfa. Dotted around, the remains of the old copper works still ensure no fish can live in the

lake although according to legend it does contain a creature known as the afanc which was dragged here by two oxen from a pool in the river Conwy. Seemingly the creature was a cross between a crocodile and a beaver and proved very troublesome for the locals. It was enticed out of the water by the singing of a young girl, leapt upon and wrapped in chains and dragged to Llyn Glaslyn.

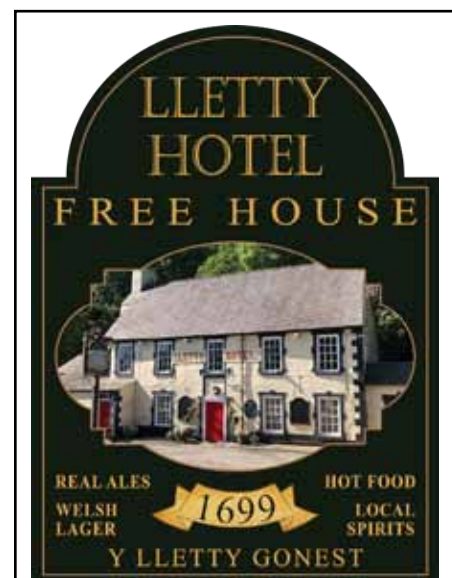


Glaslyn

As we started the long walk back to Pen y Pass in the failing light, tired, but content, in between long periods of silence when we focussed only on putting one foot in front of the other, we reflected on the fact that out of the first ten lakes, five had been named after creatures. We had a frog, two mares, dogs, and a chick; and we may have had a twilight encounter with a mythical monster!

That night we camped on the back road above the Gwynant valley and slept like proverbial logs!

(Part 2 in the next issue)



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Special Services and Events:

Saturday October 17th our Autumn Fayre from 11.00am to 1.00pm.

Sunday October 11th Harvest Festival Service at 10.30am.

Sunday November 1st All Souls Service at 4.00pm.

Sunday November 8th Remembrance Service at 10.30am.

Sunday December 6th Joint Carol Service with the Welsh Chapel at 3.00pm.

Thursday December 24th 1st Communion of Christmas at 10.00pm.

We would love to welcome you to our services here at Gorsedd, we are a very friendly family of worshippers. We are also a Dementia Friendly Church.



HOLYWELL TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

**CLWB PÊL-DROED
TREFFYNNON**

A crowd of 1,001 flocked to the Bartons North Wales Stadium, home of Holywell Town Football Club, on Friday 7th August to watch the team's return to the top tier of Welsh domestic football. It had been 27 years since the club last competed in the Welsh Premier League, and there was a real sense of excitement and anticipation in the town and surrounding areas to witness the club's return.

Despite losing 3-1 on the night to a very strong Connah's Quay Nomads team who were runners up in the league last season, the Holywell players gave a good account of themselves and showed real



An action shot from the Holywell Town v Connah's Quay Nomads game (Holywell are in the red and white stripes). Thanks to Dan Davies for this great photo.

determination and resilience which augers well for the season.

It was particularly pleasing to see the local community coming together to support the club, and hopefully this will continue throughout the season. The Holywell Brass Band played the Welsh national anthem before the game and the Holywell players were given a guard of honour onto the pitch by the club's junior teams. There was a great atmosphere in the ground which certainly helped the players' performance.

Gaining promotion to the top-flight of Welsh football is a huge achievement for Holywell Town and has only been possible thanks to the hard work of the club's volunteers, committee members, coaches, sponsors and loyal supporters. Many thanks to all of them and best wishes to the club for the 2026/27 season.



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(Gareth Sharp)

Good times for the hall at this moment with the completion of the restoration of our fencing. Vinnie has done a marvellous job and only possible due to the financial help from Whitford Community council.

Before



After



The hall hosted for free another fundraiser for the NSPCC, organised by the local resident Nia, a total of £1250 was raised, a tremendous achievement.

The hall has another two new clubs starting: a new Yoga class with Jamie Owen on a Wednesday night and we have Circus skills starting this Friday with Tomos and Sam, this will not include lion taming, so no need for our residents to panic.

Tomos The Great Firecracker and Sam the Amazing Samprindi, - no fire is being used in the Hall. With this being a new group they will advertise when required. Here is the up-to-date village hall timetable and please contact the leader of the groups or the secretary Chris Dolphin if any interests.

The hall financial year has now finished, and our books are being presented for audit.

The hall is a charity and relies on its volunteers for well... everything, and it is going very well.

DATE	TIME	GROUP	MH	CR
Monday	10am - 12:30pm	Paper Craft		X
	6.30pm-8pm	Cubs	X	
Tuesday	Morning	Hall Cleaning	X	X
	1:30 - 4pm	Craft Group		X
	6pm-7pm	Beavers	X	
	7.25 - 8.45	Scouts	X	
Wednesday	1st & 2nd			
	7pm - 8.30pm	RCC		X
	9pm - 10pm	Giri Guides/Brownies	X	X
	7.45pm-8.45pm	Yoga	X	
THURSDAY	1st		X	
	1 - 4pm	Gardening Club	X	
	2nd	20am-noon	Hall Coffee Morning	X
	9pm-8.30pm	Church Study		X
Friday			X	
	2 - 4pm	Tai Chi & Qigong	X	
	5.30-8.30pm	Circus Skills	X	
Saturday				
Sunday				
	4pm-7pm	Church Service	X	X

Key
MH - Main Hall
CR - Committee Room

All groups have whole hall use.

GROUP	CONTACT	
Paper Craft	Joan Henley	joanhenley51@gmail.com
Cubs	Russ Williams (Trustee)	nature27@gmail.com
Cleaning	Jane Ricketson	janeb1berton@gmail.com
Craft Group	Barbara Davies	01352 713256
Beavers	Russ Williams (Trustee)	nature27@gmail.com
Scouts	Russ Williams (Trustee)	nature27@gmail.com
RCC	Lesley Karen Jones	sammy.owen1978@btinternet.co.uk
Guides/Brownies	Ruth Davies/Harry Jones	elannruth.davies@gmail.com
Yoga	Jamie Owen	jamieowen572@gmail.com
Gardening Club	Christine Hunter	chunter511@btinternet.com
Coffee Morning	Evelyn Griffiths	evgriffiths135@gmail.com
Church	Gareth Roberts	evgriffiths135@gmail.com
Tai Chi & Qigong	Henry Thakross	hthakross@gmail.com
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BECCA MARTIN MS



Hesitantly standing up, I started to speak. Knees knocking below the desk, I could hear the question being asked but it didn't feel like it was me asking it. Sitting back down to the whispered praise of my nearest colleagues I breathed a sigh of relief that I had managed to give my maiden contribution without messing up. But, I couldn't help thinking, how did I get here? How was I, a 38 year old mam from North Wales, stood in the Siambr asking my first question as an elected member of the Senedd?

Growing up I didn't come from a particularly political family, my mum was a 1960's feminist but my dad hadn't cast a single vote until he'd reached his forties. I guess you could say we were your typical working class family and there was a certain apathy surrounding choosing which privately educated, 1990s career politician was going to represent us next; "nothing ever changes, so what is the point?"

Of course, we all see the faults in society: an NHS that's not fit for purpose; an education system that's broken; the 1000s of children living in relative poverty right outside our doors. It took me longer than it should have to realise that these conversations I was having were political and that, that quiet passion for social justice that was stirring inside me was going to become a lot louder.

In 2017 I was asked if I had ever considered standing for local council. At this point, having a sister-in-law who was heavily involved in local politics (and who I have to say has been the most amazing inspiration and mentor to me over the last years), I had more of a grasp on the concept of politics. In 2017 it was a hard no from me – though I was already a member of Plaid Cymru and I had been involved, albeit on the periphery, in some campaigns, politics still "wasn't for me".

Then in 2018 I had my son. This

changed absolutely everything for me. It was no longer "just" me that wasn't represented in the decision-making that directly affects us, it was my son too. In fact, not just my son, but also his friends and so many of his generation, and the generations to follow. And so, that quiet passion became deafening; I vowed that at the next local elections I would fight for a seat and by winning local by-election in 2021 I began a journey that has led me to where I am now.

I got into politics to make a difference, to represent the under-represented and to be a loud voice against social injustice. I feel so privileged and grateful that so many of you put your faith in me and in Plaid Cymru to represent you at Senedd level and I pledge to you that, whilst I can't promise I can solve everything, I promise I will always try.

If anyone has anything they feel I can help with please don't hesitate in contacting me on my email: becca.martin-as@senedd.cymru.

CARMEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Gareth Roberts)

Who do you turn to for help?

Every person you meet is going through something and I wonder who do they turn to when trouble strikes.

I had the great privilege of officiating at my Aunt Nell's funeral recently. She died

in a home in Rhyl at the age of 91. Her only son, Lawrence passed away recently but with having dementia she was spared the agony of fully understanding the passing of her only son.

She attended Carmel Christian Church for the last 10 years and the gospel message did not seem to touch her.

But in the last six weeks of her life, when we knew she was dying, she cried out "Help me Jesus!"

And that is enough for anyone to be saved (that means rescued from death destruction and despair in Hell and given a place of joy unspeakable and eternal glory in heaven)

To call out to Jesus is enough to save anyone and turn their life around. The thief on the cross said, "Remember me Jesus when you come into your kingdom" and Jesus replied, "today you will be with me in paradise!"

My Aunt Nell is now rejoicing in paradise because she cried out to Jesus and He will not turn anyone away who genuinely calls on his name.

Turn to Jesus because he will never let you down, in this life or the next.

You are welcome to find out more at our services on Sunday at 5 pm or look out for our good news charity quizzes.

We also have a Harvest guest service on Sunday 4th October at 5pm. There will be refreshments provided and everyone is welcome to join us.

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

Carmel - 3 x Violence
Gorsedd - No crimes reported
Lloc - No crimes reported
Lloc (Services) - 1 x Anti social

behaviour / 1 x Other theft / 1 x Violence
Pantasaph - 1 x Anti social behaviour /
1 x Vehicle crime / 1 x Violence
Whitford - 2 x Violence

**Council Property Maintenance:
PUBLIC BENCH SEATING:**

The Community Council are in the process of refurbishing the eight wooden and concrete bench seating which are sited around the various villages within the Community Council area.

PEN Y GELLI NATURE RESERVE:

(1) Both entry gates (top and bottom) to the reserve have been refurbished and re-painted (2) Trees planted in the reserve that were kindly donated by a local resident - are healthy and growing.

WHITFORD RED K6 PHONE BOX (& POST BOX)

Red K6 Telephone Box: The Red K6 Telephone Box in Whitford and following the installation of the wooden shelving to accommodate a book swap will be repainted (with BT authorised red and gold paint). The vandalised glass panes will be replaced with toughened glass, including the installation of book exchange glass signage.

VILLAGE ROAD SIGNS:

Following funding to Flintshire County Council received from the Welsh Government the Village name signs in Carmel, Gorsedd, Lloc, Pantasaph and



Whitford are currently in the process of being replaced with the new signage. Whilst the majority of the signs have been erected, the Pant Y Wacco two signs are subject to a decision by the Welsh Language Commission's Office - who have advised, that the spelling of Pant Y Wacco should be spelt with one 'C'. The Community Council have requested through Flintshire Council to seek the Commissioner's Office

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to reconsider and to retain the current spelling.

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

(1) Pot holes: Near Glol Farm, Sarn (2) Pot holes: Sarn Crossroads (3) Potholes: Whitford to Sarn Road (4) Pot holes: by Rock Inn, Lloc (5) Parc Gorsedd, Gorsedd: Weeds and long grass along kerbsides (6) Faded white lines: By Sarn Crossroads (7) Pot holes: Penffordd Llan, Lloc Pot holes: Alongside Pant Y Wacco towards garage (8) Drains appear to be blocked: A5026 Road travelling past the garage towards the A55. Road flooding during rainfall (9) Kerb still not been cleared in Parc Gorsedd (10) Grass verge not been cut in Parc Gorsedd (11) Pavement overgrowth: A5026 Road, between Mertyn Lane and Holway Court. Difficulty for perambulators, mobility vehicles and wheelchair users (12) Pavements crumbling in area of Ocean View Estate which causes issues for residents (13) Concerns reported by residents as to the standard of patching recently completed: Travelling out of Pantasaph – from bend to cattle grid

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/000180/26 – for proposed full planning permission for a small-scale equestrian development including two stable units, a field shelter, a mobile welfare unit, access improvements and associated paddock and boundary works, at Land off Dyserth Road, Lloc (2) Application number: FUL/000276/26 – to relocate air source heat pump, from the front of the house to the side of the house, at Ty Newydd, Mertyn Lane, Carmel (3) Application number: FUL000348/26 – for temporary siting of static caravan, at Downing Cottage, Whitford (4) Application number: FUL/000090/26 (Mostyn Community Council area) for full - building works, at land adjacent to Llwyn Ifor Bach, Llwyn-Ifor Lane, Whitford, for the erection of four lodges, together with access via the existing field access, internal access road, parking, refuse storage, and associated infrastructure including a septic tank (5) Application number: FUL/000374/26 – for proposed construction of replacement dwelling & associated works in lieu of existing dwelling & ancillary structures, at Ivy House, Tan Y Lloc Lane, Lloc (6) Application number: ADV/000414/26 – for

proposed advertisement consent to install four nonilluminated sponsorship signs 1000 x 500mm placed on the roundabout using a powder coated two posts and plate, passive sign system, one sign located facing each road entrance, at Roundabout 24, Caerwys interchange, NW Expressway, Pen y Cefn

PLANNING DECISIONS:

No planning decisions received from Flintshire Planning.

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND DONATIONS:

The Community Council have granted the following financial assistance since the last edition of the Five Villages Chronicle: £500.00 - Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant (Annual grant) / Caerwys Agricultural Show (Annual grant to support agriculture in Flintshire)

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

GORSEDD CREATIVE WRITING GROUP (Sandy Neville)

Several of the writing group members formed a team 'Write Stuff' and took part in the quiz night held on the sweltering evening of 25th June at St Paul's Church. They did really well by coming joint second and in doing so helped to raise over £300 for the church funds.

We are on our summer break as I write this and will be starting a new year on 3rd September. Should any of our readers be interested in joining the group, that would be an ideal time to give us a go. I can

promise you a warm welcome and a lot of laughs as well as plenty of encouragement and inspiration for your writing ambitions.

Our meetings are held in St Paul's Church, Gorsedd from 7.00 – 9.00 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of each month. You can either come along on the evening or, if you'd like more details, please contact me: sandy@thenevilles.net or 01352 961597 and we can have a chat.

Here's a poem written by Gareth Williams. Gareth's poetry was recently shortlisted in the Cheshire Prize for Literature and I'm sure he'll go on to have more successes.

Polling Day, 7th June 2026 by Gareth Williams

In a village hall on a hillside
with a heater blasting hot air onto
the occasional voter who enters in
sit a Poll Clerk and Presiding Officer.

One is reading a magazine
and the other a book. Both staring
down such is the uninterrupted view
through the window in front.

There is a purposeful unhurriedness
in placing their entertainment down
when the plastic door creaks open
and a flash of person catches their sightline.

Their smiles are gentle. Their greeting
convivial. The one extending a hand
in the presence of a polling card
while the other flicks open the register.

A number is found. A name is called
to be confirmed. A line is drawn
and a ballot paper issued. All that's left
is an 'X' to mark the spot. Then

once slotted into the box
another smile and thanks
before the room returns to a quiet existence,
unassuming in this important task.

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TOM MONTGOMERY MS

It is a pleasure to be writing what I hope will be the first of many contributions to this magazine.

I would like to take the opportunity to express how impressed I am that this publication is largely produced and distributed by volunteers.

Here in Wales, it is estimated that almost a million volunteers, so almost a third of our population, contribute 145 million hours, each year. That's worth around £1.7 billion! But there is also another value, one that we cannot put a price on: the joy, stronger sense of community, and improved public health brought about by engaging with and serving others. As such, I take my hat off to you all.

In fact, prior to being elected I worked in the third sector at Crest Cooperative, using the power of re-use to help disabled and unemployed people increase their skills and gain employment. Through this role I saw the immense difference volunteers across our community make.

During my time as a Town and County Councillor I strove to bring people together to tackle issues large and small. From arranging local litter picks to holding public meetings so to discuss major developments, my aim was always to ensure that the residents I served had a say on and role in tackling issues that are important to them.

The same is true for me as one of your Members of the Welsh Parliament. Already, I am liaising with thousands of residents down the road from your homes: in the Llanasa Community Council area.

Today, I have been out delivering letters to constituents updating them on my work with the UK Government, Welsh Government, and Flintshire County Council, so to outline how inappropriate it is that as many as 52 asylum seekers could be moved to Gronant.

One of my most simple asks to all three authorities is that they issue joint updates to all elected representatives simultaneously, including all of the relevant Members of the Welsh Parliament, our local Member of Parliament, the local County Councillors, and the Community Council. My hope then is that all of us can, together, provide the most accurate information to residents.

Time will tell if my proposed cross-authority and cross-party working on the case will be taken up. However, I hope that such action, and my background in the third sector, highlights to you that I am fully committed to help, where possible, any constituent who approaches me, and to putting the best interest of our community first.

If there is anything I can do to assist you, please contact me on Tom.Montgomery-MS@senedd.wales or 0300 200 6303



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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

AWARD



The people in the picture are Becky Gittins MP, Robert Moore, Lal Davies, Marie-Pascale Onyeagoro-Onkonkwo, Lindy Moore

Shortly after celebrating his 90th birthday, Robert Moore (Carmel), attended the North Wales Police & Crime Commissioner's Community Awards ceremony held at the Quay Hotel, Deganwy on 18th June, where Andy Dunbobbins, the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner presented him with a Certificate of Recognition, "As a mark of gratitude and recognition for many years of faithful and dedicated service to the people of North Wales and to fostering closer relations between policing and the community whilst challenging racism and consistently championing equality."



CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations to Donna Richards (previously Jones) from Holywell who played for Wales recently in the Masters Hockey World Cup in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

The Welsh team had an excellent tournament beating Belgium, Scotland and the Czech Republic to reach the Quarter Finals before losing to Argentina (the eventual winners). In the play-off game to finish 5th and 6th Wales drew 1-1 with England before losing on penalty flicks. Wales therefore ended the competition



Donna at the Masters Hockey World Cup

in 6th place out of the 18 countries who competed.

Donna made a significant contribution to the tournament and was named Wales Player of the Match against Argentina. Donna now lives in Chester but was brought up in Holywell with her parents Mike and Pauline and has strong links with Carmel where her Grandparents lived. She currently plays for Chester and will be hoping to represent Wales again in the next international tournament.

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WELL DONE

Dear Editor,

I had asked you to advertise an event in the last magazine, which you kindly included. It was a Fashion Show for NSPCC held at Carmel Village Hall on July 31st.



It was extremely well attended by over a hundred people and Glamour House Fashions did not disappoint. A good way to raise charity funds. The raffle made £425, local businesses in Holywell had donated vouchers and gifts. The community spirit was high, the Prosecco was flowing and accompanied delicious canapés. The total amount raised was £1250.

Fundraising for NSPCC is ongoing. If anyone has ideas or would like to contribute to local fundraising please contact me. Every pound raised makes a difference to help children in need.

Kind regards

Nia Griffiths (griffithsnia@gmail.com)

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Emily Hall, daughter of the late Karen and John Hall, on graduating from Manchester Metropolitan University with a First Class Degree in Primary Education with Q.T.S. We are all so very proud of her and wish her success and happiness in the future.



DARREN MILLAR MS



I was delighted to be re-elected to the Senedd in May to represent the new Clwyd constituency. Having had the privilege of serving as a Member of the Senedd for large parts of the constituency since 2007, I am determined to work just as hard for my new constituents, as I always have for those of the former Clwyd West patch.

Given that many people in the new constituency will not have had me as their representative before. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and, most importantly, to let you know that I am here to serve everyone in our community.

North Wales is my home. I grew up in Towyn, was educated in Abergele and Rhos-on-Sea, began a career in accountancy in Rhyl and now live in Kinmel

Bay with my wife and our two grown-up children. I care deeply about our area and feel incredibly proud to represent the people and communities that make it such a special place to live and work.

I represented the former Clwyd West constituency for 19 years and I am honoured to now be serving my fifth term in the Senedd.

Immediately before entering the Senedd in 2007, I worked in the third sector, where I became a senior manager for an international charity working in dozens of countries around the world. I have also served on Conwy County Borough Council, the North Wales Police Authority and the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

Over the years, I have held a number of other roles, including Shadow Cabinet responsibilities for Health, Education, Local Government, the Constitution, North Wales and International Affairs. I have also served as the Welsh Conservative Chief Whip and chaired the Senedd's influential Public Accounts Committee. In December 2024, I was unanimously elected as Leader of the Welsh Conservatives.

While these positions have given me the opportunity to influence national policy, my greatest priority has always been helping local people and standing up for the communities I represent. In addition to taking on casework for thousands of constituents I have always believed that being an MS is about being visible,

accessible, and willing to listen.

Throughout my time in the Senedd, I have campaigned on a wide range of local issues that matter to people across North Wales. These include improving NHS performance and reducing waiting times, increasing access to NHS dentistry, protecting hospitals and schools from closure, strengthening flood defences, improving broadband and mobile connectivity, opposing inappropriate developments, and securing improvements to road safety and public transport. I know these issues continue to affect families and businesses across the new Clwyd constituency, and I remain committed to working hard to deliver positive change.

As your Member of the Senedd my door is always open. Whether you need help with a personal issue, want to raise a concern about your local area or simply wish to share your views on matters affecting Wales, I would be pleased to hear from you. My team and I are committed to providing a responsive and approachable service, and we will always do our very best to help. You can find my contact details and read more about my work on my website www.darrenmillar.wales.

I am looking forward to meeting many more residents, businesses, schools, charities and community groups across the constituency over the coming months and working to make Clwyd an even better place to live, work and raise a family.

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FIVE VILLAGES GARDENING CLUB (Janet Tattum) MARCH

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

APRIL

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

MAY

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

JUNE

Following her talk in March, we visited Janet Wainwright's Meadow in Lixwm



Carol Madden and Louise Jones

and it was an absolute delight. So much colour and variety, so much work involved to transform a field into that meadow. We finished our evening with a superb meal in The Crown.

JULY

We were very lucky once again to have good weather for our coach trip, which was to Bridgemere Garden Centre where we had the optional bonus of visiting a Chelsea Flower Show Garden, which was well worth viewing.

AUGUST

Our Annual Garden Show



Carol Madden and Terry Jones

Despite the hot dry weather there was a good colourful display of flowers and vegetables. Terry Jones won the shield and Louise Jones won the cup and rose bowl.

SEPTEMBER

Visit to Chirk Castle with guided tour.

OCTOBER

A demonstration by Ellen Flock on making a Christmas Wreath.

All meetings are held in Carmel Village Hall on the first Thursday of the month. New members will be made very welcome. For further information contact:

Christine Hamer 07778 872913
Maria Evans 0749 3013 777



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BECKY GITTINS MP



It has certainly been a summer of change in politics, with Andy Burnham becoming Prime Minister and Ken Skates elected as the new leader of Welsh Labour.

I have known and worked with Ken for many years and was delighted to see him become the first North Walian to lead Welsh Labour. He knows our part of Wales incredibly well and I look forward to working closely with him to make sure North Wales has a strong voice.

I have also had a number of conversations with Andy since he became Prime Minister. He sees the huge potential we have here in North Wales and knows the area well himself. In fact, he has a particular soft spot for Talacre, where he spent holidays as a child. I know he understands how much our communities have to offer and I will be making sure Clwyd East has a strong voice.

One of the highlights of the last few months was welcoming pupils from Ysgol Bro Carmel to Parliament in July. Regular readers may remember that I have written before about pupils from the school getting in touch with me on issues they care about, so it was wonderful to see them at Westminster as part of their visit.



I really enjoyed answering their questions about Parliament, my job as

an MP and the work that goes on in Westminster. They certainly came prepared with plenty to ask! I always enjoy speaking to young people about politics and it was great to see their enthusiasm and interest.

Closer to home, I recently met with Flintshire Fabrications, based in Lloc, to discuss some of the issues currently affecting the steel industry and what these mean for businesses locally. Manufacturing and the skilled jobs that come with it remain hugely important to our area, and it was useful to hear directly from the team about some of the challenges they are facing. I will be visiting them again soon to get out onto the factory floor and continue those conversations.

Another issue I know matters to many people across the Five Villages is broadband. Over the summer I met with Openreach to discuss the continuing rollout of Full Fibre across North Wales.

There has been huge progress, with more than 80 per cent of homes and businesses across Wales now able to access Full Fibre. But I know that headline figure doesn't tell the whole story, particularly for people living in rural communities.

There are still broadband blackspots across the Five Villages and I regularly hear from people struggling with slow speeds or unreliable connections. If this is affecting you, please get in touch with my office. I want to build as clear a picture as possible of where the remaining problems are and can make representations to Openreach on behalf of residents.

It has also been an exceptionally hot and dry summer. Drought has been declared in parts of North Wales and we have seen a number of wildfires locally, including on Halkyn Mountain. I recently

joined a litter pick close to the site of the fires and would like to thank everyone who came along and gave up their time to help look after the mountain.

I also want to say a huge thank you to our emergency services. Firefighters and other emergency workers have had to deal with the knock-on effects of the extreme heat in incredibly difficult conditions, including tackling fires across some very challenging terrain. We are extremely fortunate to have people prepared to put themselves in harm's way to keep our communities safe.

Despite the heat, it has been lovely to see so many fetes, fairs, carnivals and other community events taking place over the summer, and I have really enjoyed getting out to as many as I can.

One I particularly enjoyed was GwyddGig in Mold in June. It was a brilliant celebration of Welsh language and culture, with live music and activities taking place across the town. I am currently learning Welsh myself, so I enjoyed the opportunity to practise – although I still have plenty to learn!

These events rely on people giving up their own time to organise them, run stalls, raise money and make sure everything comes together on the day. A big thank you to all the volunteers and community groups who have worked so hard to put on events across Clwyd East this summer.

I am looking forward to being out and about at plenty more over the coming weeks. As always, if there is anything I can help with, whether that is broadband, a local issue or something you need support with personally, please do get in touch with me by emailing becky.gittins.mp@parliament.uk or calling my office on 01352 871130.

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YSGOL GWENFFRWD (D Owen)

We have enjoyed an exciting and successful end to the school year at Ysgol Gwenffrwd. A particular highlight was saying goodbye to our Year 6 leavers, who celebrated their time at Ysgol Gwenffrwd with a wonderful presentation showcasing their memories, wishes and achievements. Families joined staff and pupils for a special little tea party, providing an opportunity to reflect on their journey and celebrate all they have accomplished. While we will miss them greatly, we are incredibly proud of the confident, caring and ambitious young people they have become, and we wish them every success as they begin the next chapter of their education at Ysgol Maes Garmon.



Our Sports Days were another highlight of the summer term, with pupils showing fantastic enthusiasm, determination and sportsmanship throughout the day. Children took part in a variety of events, including high jump, long jump, egg and spoon races, obstacle courses and running races. The field was filled with excitement as families and friends cheered on the children, creating a wonderful community atmosphere. It was fantastic to see every pupil taking part, trying their best and celebrating each other's successes.

The end of the school year has also been full of exciting experiences for pupils across the school. Year 3 to Year 6 pupils enjoyed a memorable trip to the beach, where they had the opportunity to explore the coastline and spend time together outdoors. Meanwhile, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils visited Manorafon Farm, learning about farm life and meeting a variety of animals. Nursery and Reception pupils were delighted to welcome Magi Ann to the school, enjoying an engaging and entertaining visit that sparked their imagination. These experiences provided wonderful opportunities for learning, fun and creating lasting memories with friends.

The whole school came together for a fantastic Sponsored Skip event in support of Maggie's North Wales. Throughout the day, every class took part in fun skipping sessions, with each child receiving a certificate to celebrate their effort and achievement. Pupils showed great enthusiasm and determination while raising money for a very worthwhile cause. To make the day even more special, the children were surprised with a visit from an ice cream van and enjoyed a well-earned treat. We are incredibly grateful for the support of our families and community, and all money raised will be donated to Maggie's North Wales to support the

invaluable work they do.

We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our fantastic PTA for their continued support throughout the year. This term, they organised a wonderful Summer Fayre which brought the school community together and helped raise valuable funds for the school. PTA members also generously gave their time to help tidy and improve the school gardens, ensuring our outdoor spaces look their very best. We are incredibly grateful for their hard work, enthusiasm and dedication to supporting Ysgol Gwenffrwd.

INTRODUCING LLYR GRUFFYDD MS Member of the Senedd for Clwyd



It is a great privilege to write to you as one of your elected Members of the Senedd for the new Clwyd constituency following the Senedd election in May.

Many readers may already know me from my previous role representing North Wales in the Senedd, a position I held since 2011. During that time, I worked with individuals, families, community groups and businesses across the region, helping constituents navigate challenges and ensuring that local voices were heard in Cardiff Bay.

Following the election, I was honoured to be appointed Cabinet Minister for Rural Resilience and Sustainability in the new Plaid Cymru Government led by First

Minister Rhun ap Iorwerth. The role brings responsibility for many of the issues that matter deeply to communities such as Carmel, Gorsedd, Lloc, Pantasaph and Whitford, including agriculture, the rural economy, environmental sustainability and strengthening the resilience of our rural communities.

While my ministerial responsibilities are important, I remain firmly committed to serving the people of Clwyd. Representing local residents and standing up for the interests of our communities will continue to be at the heart of everything I do. Whether it is supporting individuals with problems involving public services, campaigning for investment in local infrastructure, or raising concerns that affect our villages and towns, I will work tirelessly to ensure that your voice is heard.

The North East of Wales is a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family. Our villages have strong community spirit, proud histories and dedicated volunteers who do so much to bring people together. Publications such as The Five Villages Chronicle play an important role in helping to keep that community spirit alive, and I would like to thank everyone involved in producing and distributing it.

Over the next four years, I look forward to working on behalf of residents across Clwyd and helping to deliver positive change for our communities. My office is always available to assist constituents, and I encourage anyone who needs support or wishes to raise an issue to get in touch.

I am grateful for the trust that voters have placed in Plaid Cymru – electing both myself and Becca Martin as your representatives in the Senedd, and I will continue to work hard every day to repay that trust by being a strong voice for Clwyd in the Senedd and in Government.

You can contact me on - Llyr.Gruffydd-as@senedd.cymru or 01824 703593.

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NATURE COLUMN (Jan Miller)

Making notes for this edition's Nature column after the hottest and driest summer on record, all I keep thinking is: climate change, drought, wildfires, polluted water and air, what can I say to give some hope? Of course we have to keep up the pressure on the powers that be to make climate change a priority, and to not light barbecues or drop cigarettes in wild areas. But I keep remembering that all is not quite lost...yet. Rob Whitehead, the county recorder for butterflies before me, once said that on a visit to mid-Wales that had wildfires the previous year, the butterflies were more numerous than ever. And there is some scientific backing for this. After all, controlled burns have been used to create and maintain habitats for some species for hundreds of years. A number of our species thrive in newly cleared areas, like dragonflies are attracted to new ponds, and beavers are moving into areas and creating more water trapping dams that will prevent fires in future. Clearing gorse and tall woody heather can massively improve the chances of wildflowers germinating where before it was too cool and shady under the covering bushes. And butterflies and bees, of course, depend on these new wild flowers to feed their young as well as the adults. Many plants that have evolved to cope with drought can have deep roots and are not so affected; they live on until the next rains. And some animals can hide in deep burrows. Climate change is also causing a number of species that used to be rare and can fly, to come into our islands from the continent, with eagles, storks, kites, spoonbills and egrets making a comeback. In fact one professor I heard at a conference a few years ago said Britain could become a nature reserve for many species being driven northwards by the heat, and create a tourism trade out of that! Species that used to be rare here that I have had in my garden are butterflies like the Clouded Yellow (loads of them about



Clouded Yellow

this year, as well as the increasing Painted Ladies), moths like the Hummingbird Hawkmoth, the Red Underwing and the Blue Underwing, bees like the Tree Bumblebee and the Ivy bee, and the hornet mimic Hoverfly Volucella. None of these do any harm to us, but increase the number of pollinators we have. You may have heard of



Another moth that has come north in recent years, photographed by me in my garden, the Hummingbird Hawkmoth



Red Underwing

some new pests as well, but so far they have not done as much damage as was feared. In my long life I have lived through several sea-changes (or 'tipping points' in modern speak) to people's attitudes in many areas.



Blue Underwing or Clifden Nonpareil

Consider the change in attitudes to 'green' policies during the 40 years I have lived in the Five Villages area. When we bought this small holding in the mid 1980s, there had been a surge of publicity about the countryside losing all its wildflowers, so I wanted to grow a wildflower meadow. And then I discovered all the insects that came to it, long before any of us knew about our crop-pollinators dying out. In those days I was embarrassed to tell the farmers who rented our fields about not wanting some parts grazed because I had planted wildflowers there, or that I had planted a 'wildlife hedge'. And they would smile indulgently, not taking me seriously. Now the attitude is quite different, with some farmers and most gardeners being keen to not use pesticides too much and trying to replenish the environment rather than just take away from it.

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Hoverfly Volucella

And a well known commentator has just said he thinks we could be approaching a tipping point on climate breakdown. For years we've been told, "You're asking for the moon. Fossil fuels are here to stay." Part of me has believed it. But now, suddenly fossil fuels are far more



Scarlet Tiger

expensive than renewables. Suddenly it is green technologies that are generating vast employment and income. Suddenly, technological barriers that looked insuperable have come tumbling down. Suddenly, fossil-funded politicians look outmoded, ridiculous, corrupt. Suddenly, we



Once scarce species moving north photographed in my field, Essex Skipper

are waking up to the need for urgent action, as heat shocks hammer the message home. The trouble with a tipping point, whether positive or negative, is that you never know in advance where it might be. You can see it only in retrospect. If we have already caused so much global heating that the Atlantic current system (the Gulf Stream) is destined to collapse, or cascading failure of the Amazon rainforest is locked in, we don't yet know. But similarly, if the conditions required for a major social shift have already lined up, we won't know until the system flips.' This kind of rapid change requires a public informed by independent media sources, journalists interested in the facts rather than corporate interests. Watering the garden has become a real pain! But the grass really will be alright without water until the Autumn rain, and it cuts down on the mowing! Any new plants have to be kept watered, of course, and that makes the soil around them diggable for hungry badgers and rabbits. So I am putting heavy crates or heavy open clothes on top of those. Also putting some shallow dishes of water out for the wildlife. Plants in

my garden that help insects and birds that have done well in this drought are teasels and thistles - flowers great for butterflies and bees as well as the seed being a magnet for goldfinches in the autumn and winter. Buddleia, as ever! I have several different species that flower from May to December. Dahlias - the single varieties are best for insects. Hardy geraniums, salvias and herbs like marjoram, thyme and rosemary. And roses, surprisingly! I have decided not to have so many plants in hanging baskets or big terracotta pots outside anymore; it takes too much watering and they still look ropey. Although the tip on Gardener's World about lining your big containers with unwanted sheep fleece has worked quite well for me. We will have to keep adapting to these droughts now, even if we can stay at 2 degrees warming, it's not going to go back to how it used to be. Do send me any records (with photos if possible) of any new species of wildlife you see appearing locally; keeping records is important for keeping track of climate change. Just heard that with global warming and facilitated by the Suez Canal, a new species is entering the Mediterranean every two weeks!



Once rare moths in the north found in my garden. Scarlet Tiger moth caterpillar, don't it mistake for cabbage white!

Jan Miller - (Jan's book; 'Gardening for Butterflies, bees and other beneficial insects' has nearly sold out of the 3000 copies, but she still has a few left if you would like to contact her through the editor)

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TEGWYN THOMAS



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Tegwyn Thomas, who passed away on 31st of May. He was a very special friend, a highly respected member of the community and a man known for his wisdom, dedication and remarkable sense of organisation.

Tegwyn was born the eldest son of Bob and Lizzie Thomas of Tŷn y Graig, Cefn Brith. He had two brothers, Gerallt and Gwilym, both of whom sadly predeceased him.

He graduated in Agriculture from Bangor University, but returned home to work on the family farm following his father's death, as his brothers were still too young to take full responsibility for the farm. He later became County Organiser for the Denbighshire Young Farmers, and it was during this period that he met Ceinwen, whom he married in 1957.

In 1955, Tegwyn began working for Shell Chemicals, specialising in agricultural chemicals and fertilisers. He remained with the company until his retirement in 1987, by which time he had become Chief Adviser. His contribution was highly valued, and on his retirement the company praised his work in Product Development and Technical Service, particularly his sound judgement, common sense and ability to find practical solutions. He was also described as a highly respected and honest technical specialist who would be greatly missed by farmers and advisers.

Tegwyn and Ceinwen lived in Treforys for eight years before moving to Henley-on-Thames, where their sons, Alun and Dewi, were born. They later moved to Gorsedd, where they remained for the rest of their lives. They were wonderful neighbours and friends, and their home became a much-loved part of the community.

Tegwyn gave many years of dedicated service to Carmel Chapel, where he served as a deacon and treasurer. Within the Presbytery, he served as statistician and president.

He also worked tirelessly as a community councillor for nearly forty years. He was deeply committed to his community and particularly enjoyed being part of the Five Villages.

Tegwyn was a faithful friend who was always ready to offer wise and thoughtful advice. He was immensely grateful to all those friends who supported him when he was no longer able to manage everything himself. People loved his company. He had an extraordinary wealth of knowledge and a lifetime of fascinating stories, and when he spoke, you listened.

The Welsh language was especially important to Tegwyn. He was delighted that Niamh and Mia, his grand-daughters, were educated through the medium of Welsh, and during his time on the council he worked to ensure that Welsh names were given priority for new housing developments. He was also proud to live long enough to see Plaid Cymru representatives elected to the Senedd.

Tegwyn leaves behind a wonderful legacy of friendship, service and commitment to his community. He will be remembered with great affection by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Ffarwel, Tegwyn. Mi fydd hiraeth mawr amdanoch – eich cwmni, eich cyngor a'ch chwerthiniad hudolus.

Nesta



COUNCILLOR CHRIS DOLPHIN

Hello everyone, Sut mae pethau?

I write this in full summer mode, and a hot topic is Waste and Recycling collections. As reported previously in this article Recycling figures have improved dramatically in our county and that is down to You and the Council working in partnership. Please note you can put out as many grey and blue bags as you wish, they can be collected from the Connects Centres or give me a call/email and I will arrange to deliver myself. It sounds quite simple You/I put it out; the Council picks it up... as you know it does not always work that well. I have dealt with many missed collections, for whatever reason such as, in compact rural areas, assisted collections, unadopted roads, and the new one... hot weather... just like snow and ice has impacted on collections. These problems were county wide. Black/Brown bins and food collections were prioritised. It was hot, capacity in the wagons was problematical. They filled up much quicker and needed to go back to the depot and empty, which all took time. On one collection day, Whitford village had late collections of Black Bins, (the next day), Recycling was not collected in Pantasaph, most of Gorsedd, and most of Carmel. I went around all the Five Villages to have my facts correct when I met up with council managers to, shall we say, discuss matters. This is fully recognised as a failure by the Council. Earlier starts did not get the rounds completed, and tinkering with the Recycling Centre times in Greenfield did not help the customer...that's you and me.

I do not know of any county ward that has not been badly affected by waste and recycling missed collections at some time; some across the county went on for weeks and months. Prolonged hot weather has been a quick learning curve; the Council should be ready next time.

CONNECTS CENTRES:

The county council Connects service is expanding, and there have been changes to the Holywell opening days. The Holywell Connects now opens on a Monday and Wednesday 09.00hrs to 16.30hrs. There are Connects centres in Buckley, Connahs Quay, Mold, Flint and Holywell. New locations in Deeside and Saltney open one day a week. A new mobile service is to serve more isolated areas along the north coast and south of the county, bringing the Connects into the countryside and helping those that find it more difficult to get into town areas. It is envisaged by having this revised model of delivery the service is more flexible, and we can create a stronger and more resilient service.

SOCIAL IMPACT:

The county council and Flintshire Social Enterprises continue to collaborate, recording and measuring social impact. An audit has now been completed and to last March 31st a social value of

£9,503,955 was recorded. This is more than double the previous year. The audit and development of certificates for participating social enterprises can be used to lever in funding /finance, support applications and business awards or just raise the profile of organisations. This massive increase has been achieved by better reporting by participating enterprises, increased service delivery, and developing new activities. This year the toolkit used for measuring has been amended to align with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 (Wales). The issuing of certificates was held in the Wings club at the Broughton Airbus site, was well attended and was noticeable for the enthusiasm and eagerness to succeed in the future.

WEEDKILLER:

The non-use of an actual Glyphosate weedkiller is the main reason we have



Taken in July, pictured is young Walter having a ride out on Holway Road the main A5026 in Carmel. Without the use of Glyphosate weedkiller the grasses, wild flowers and weeds will thrive. This area was cleared a couple of weeks later due to safety on this main through route. You may also notice the drain to the immediate left of Walter.

tall grass, weeds and wildflowers growing so profusely on or adjacent our footways, kerbs and roads. The council can brush, spray hot foam, or spray with non-actual weedkiller as much as they like, it will not remove growth. The Holway Road footway was one example of invasive wildflower growth...Stonecrop/ Sedum as the photo shows is a lovely wildflower however it does impede adjacent footways. This year where I live it's noticeable that some residents are clearing their own frontages, which tidies them up, and if you can, it's worth doing the job. It would be great if the council had

the staff to clear frontages... however, that was a different time.

PUBLIC TOILETS:

The public toilets in Holywell, Mold and Talacre are being transferred to the relative local council once upgraded. Grants from Pride in Place funding has been approved, £70,000 for Holywell. Building condition surveys have been completed. The local appropriate councils have an input into developing the designs work, which includes solar energy provision and rainwater harvesting where feasible.

BUS FRANCHISING:

Transport for Wales (TfW) will be holding public engagement sessions in Flintshire during September. The Holywell session is on Thursday 17th September in the Museum, Holywell High Street.

HOLYWELL CEMETERY:

I know of the problems sheep grazing has caused to many in Holywell cemetery. Countryside services have assisted with funding regarding prevention of sheep straying. Agreement has been achieved with a tenant farmer for the installation of the Pen y Ball cattle grid on common land. A second cattle grid on the opposite side of the field (leading to A55) has also been agreed. Natural Resources Wales issued permits to Grosvenor Estates for the works to be undertaken within the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

POT-HOLE PRO:

Pot-hole Pro is a specialist JCB machine which replaces pothole gangs and lays a

high standard surface. The team lay 30-40 tonnes of tarmac a week. This programme of works supplements the Highway and Maintenance programme. Locally Carmel Hill is an example of its work...not a full resurfacing however much of the road provided with long lasting repairs.

TOWN CENTRE PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT GRANT:

This grant was launched earlier in the year and across the county has received 49 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from the eight eligible towns which includes Holywell. The total grant funding demand from the EOIs was £1.228million and with the applicant's own contribution, a total of just over £2m proposed investment for 2026/27. Eleven EOIs were received from Holywell, not all will be successful bids.

CONTACT:

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

CYNGOR CYNGHORYDD:

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RECIPES

CHEATS' TOMATO SOUP

Ingredients:-

- 2 onions, chopped
- 1oz butter
- 1 tsp dried basil
- Salt and black pepper
- 1/2 pint orange juice or vegetable stock
- 400g tin chopped tomatoes

Method:-

- 1 Gently melt the butter; add the onions and cook until they are transparent.
- 2 Add tomatoes, basil and juice or stock.
- 3 Bring to the boil and simmer gently for about 10 minutes.
- 4 Season to taste and it's ready.

Tips:-

For a really smooth soup, whizz and/or push through a sieve.
Basil croutons go well with this.
A swirl of cream looks good when serving.

CHOCOLATE CRUNCHIES

Ingredients

- 8 oz butter or margarine
- 5 oz caster sugar
- 3 oz desiccated coconut
- 2 1/2 oz crushed cornflakes
- 1 tablespoon cocoa
- 5 oz self raising flour
- 4 oz chocolate (melted)

Method

- 1 Melt the butter or margarine in a saucepan over a low heat
- 2 Stir in the sugar, cocoa, coconut and cornflakes. Mix well.
- 3 Gradually stir in the flour and mix well.
- 4 Turn into a greased swiss roll tin measuring about 6 inches by 12 inches, and level with a knife.
- 5 Bake for 30 mins in oven 180C, 350F, Gas 4.
- 6 Cut into desired-sized squares whilst still warm and cover with melted chocolate.

Tip: Don't crush the cornflakes to powder - they help to make it crunchy. I usually mix plain and milk chocolate together for the topping.

Many thanks to Sandy Nevile for these recipes.

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

Please email editor@5villages.org.uk

EGLWYS GYMRAEG BRO TREFFYNNON. HOLYWELL & DISTRICT WELSH CHAPEL.

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:

13/9/26	Rev Huw Powell-Davies (Minister)
20/9/26	Marian Lloyd Jones
27/9/26	Rev.Huw Powell-Davies
4/10/26	Local arrangement
11/10/26	Rev.Huw Powell-Davies
18/10/26	Thanksgiving
25/10/26	Rev.Huw Powell-Davies
01/11/26	Arwel Roberts
08/11/26	Rev.Huw Powell-Davies
15/11/26	Helena Jones
22/11/26	Rev.Huw Powell-Davies
29/11/26	Hedd ap Emllyn
06/12/26	Service at Y Berthen. Licswm (United)
13/12/26	Rev.Huw Powell-Davies
20/12/26	Carol/Christmas Service.
27/12/26	Local arrangement.

1ST CARMEL BROWNIES

(Sharon Jones)

A BUSY AND SUCCESSFUL TERM

The final term for 1st Carmel Brownies has absolutely flown by! The girls have worked incredibly hard to complete their final badges before the end of term, while making the most of the warmer weather by fitting in as many outdoor activities as possible. It has been a term full of energy, enthusiasm, and a real sense of achievement.

One of the highlights of our Brownie year is County Day, held at Ty Clwyd, Llanfair Talhaiarn. More than 100 girls attended on the Saturday, with numbers still in the 80s on Sunday, when we attended. This is particularly impressive when you consider just how many activities and opportunities are available to children today. With so much choice, it can sometimes be overwhelming, yet County Day continues to be something the girls look forward to every year.



It is therefore wonderful to see our Brownies running around outdoors, meeting and mixing with girls from other units and sections, while having fun and



working towards their badges. There are no phones, gadgets or pressures about appearance — just the freedom to be themselves, make friends and enjoy a safe, happy environment. The confidence and independence they show in this



setting is always lovely to see.

We finished the term with our presentation evening, celebrating the girls' fantastic achievements. Our newest Brownie gained her first Theme Award, while 11 girls achieved their Bronze Award and four girls achieved their



Silver Award. It was a proud evening for everyone involved, with plenty of smiles and well-deserved recognition.

The star of the evening was undoubtedly Sienna. Not only has she completed all of the themes, but she did so by completing at least one interest badge from each theme independently at home. She now has just one more task to complete next term before she becomes our first Brownie to earn her Gold Award. She has certainly set the bar high for our future Brownies and has been a brilliant role model throughout the year!



There are already several other girls making great progress towards their badges in their own time at home, so we are looking forward to seeing what they achieve next. Their enthusiasm and commitment outside of meetings has been fantastic to see and is a real credit to them.

After a well-earned summer holiday, we hope the girls will return refreshed and ready for another term of fun, friendship and new adventures. We already have plenty of exciting activities planned, and we cannot wait to welcome everyone back for another busy and enjoyable term.

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KEN SKATES MS



It was the honour of my life to be named the new leader of Welsh Labour in July – the first person from North Wales to take on the role.

As a proud son of Flintshire, I have always done my best to stand up for the north to whoever needs reminding that we want – and deserve – a better deal. That includes during my many years serving in a Welsh Government where representatives from North Wales were always outnumbered.

I was born in Wrexham in 1976 and grew up in Flintshire in the 1980s, the son of a steelworker who met my mum at Shotton Steel. That decade of division shaped my values. I saw first-hand the consequences of unemployment, as well as the value of good people who fought for fairness.

I went to school in Gwernaffield and Mold, and then on to university in Cambridge. After graduating, I worked as a local journalist in Flintshire and then for Mark Tami MP for 10 years before being elected as Member of the Senedd for Clwyd South in May 2011.

I'm delighted that my new constituency of Fflint Wrecsam has brought me back home. There are huge opportunities to support growth and the creation of better jobs in our corner of Wales, and I will do everything I can to help deliver them.

I would like to wish new First Minister Rhun ap Iwerth well, and I look forward to my party being effective in scrutinising and holding the new Welsh Government to account where necessary. No one knows better than Welsh Labour that it's a privilege to govern, and that privilege – and the immense responsibility that goes with

it – now rests on different shoulders.

I hope that as a Minister in previous Welsh Governments, I demonstrated how collaboration and challenge both benefit the government and our democracy. No one party has a monopoly on good policy, and I hope the people of Wales will see that Welsh Labour in opposition will remain focused on serving their interests and improving their lives.

Where we agree and align with the Welsh Government, we will support them and not resort to playground politics which holds Wales back. Where we disagree, I will hold them to account and call them out – as I have done recently with regard to funding for schools and children with additional learning needs. It might not always be popular, but I will make no apology for fighting for honesty and transparency in our politics.

Something that really chimed with me

was Andy Burnham saying that we need to see less rage and more solutions in our politics, and I think that's something most people would agree with.

I was in Manchester recently for his speech just a few days before he became Prime Minister. He talked about how North Wales can feel remote from Cardiff, and I think that's something else which will chime with a lot of people. As a long-time supporter of devolving more power to local communities, I'm excited by some of the things he has been saying in this area.

Andy is very familiar with, and has a keen interest in, our part of the world. I've worked with him on a lot of cross-border issues over the years and I rarely missed an opportunity to extol the virtues – and underline the potential – of North Wales. I don't think it will be long until his next visit here.

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(Andrea Dakin)

We continue to go from strength to strength. We have taken more of Cynthia's books on 'Growing up in Bryn Celyn' down to Martin's pop up shop where he continues to sell our merchandise.

We are in the process of preparing two new cards to add to our collection of Holywell picture themed merchandise - with bespoke verses written especially to match the chosen picture. This time it will be a 'Congratulations' card and a general 'Best Wishes' card. Keep looking on our facebook page for when they will be available. Also in the pipeline will be 'Wedding Anniversary' and 'Congratulations on passing your driving test'. We have almost covered all aspects of greetings.

Another book is being prepared on famous people associated with the town - both residents and visitors.

We are visiting various other history groups - most recently it was to Caerwys for an extremely interesting talk on Bookbinding - given by Paul Broadbent, who has contributed to both of our History Fairs. As we all have the same goal - i.e. that Every Memory Matters we are happy to keep that link with other groups in the area to form a close 'history team'.

In September we will begin our autumn programme of history talks, which will be held at the library - we feel that Thursday evenings would be the ideal time and the library is happy to host us and help us with this venture. Again please keep an eye out on our facebook page for the first date.

We have also been invited back to share our memories and their memories with the residents of both Llys Gwenffrwd and Rhiwlas care homes as they have so much enjoyed our previous visits.

Carolyn Watts, who was for many years the librarian at Flint, has contacted me about a donation of her collection of pictures etc and we hope to welcome her to the group soon.

I am pleased that there are so many people out there who want to contribute to our extensive and ever growing archives of

the town and its outlying areas.

Everyone is welcome to join our busy group any Tuesday morning from 10.30 - leave when you want. Where else could you get a cuppa, biscuits, the chance to browse through the history of the town and the company of like-minded people for just £2 - to pay for the cost of the room hire? We hope you would like to be in on the growing development of our happy group. Also you would be very welcome at our general knowledge fun quiz - Thursdays at 1pm - with a big emphasis on FUN - although you could win a choccy bar...

If you have not already joined our facebook page please do and see the vast number of contributions and conversations going on.

If you would like to contribute to our ventures or have any ideas for further projects or have any queries please contact me on email andreadakin112@btinternet.com or phone me on 01352 711240.

LOUISE EMERY MS



Louise has been a County Councillor for 9 years representing Llandudno on Conwy County Council as well as a Llandudno Town Council. During that time, she also held the Economy portfolio, including culture & theatres and then Adult Social Care during the pandemic. She was elected to the Senedd at the recent elections and was given the role of Shadow Minister for Culture, Tourism & Hospitality based on her many years working with the hospitality sector in Llandudno and the wider North Wales tourism industry.

Outside of politics, Louise runs a property investment & management company based in Chester. She has three daughters and is a keen fell runner!

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Join us this Christmas at the Druid Inn for festive food, seasonal celebrations and plenty of Christmas cheer. From special events to cosy winter gatherings, there's something for everyone. Come and celebrate with us. We would love to welcome you.

Cheers Ray and the team



Wreath Making Masterclass | Tuesday 1st December | 12:30pm & 6pm

Get into the festive spirit with Kate Waterhouse of Waterhouse Flowers and create your very own Christmas wreath. Enjoy a welcome drink and delicious two-course meal as part of the experience. £65 per person | 20 spaces per session. Booking is essential, payment in full on booking.

Wine tasting evening - Berkmann Wines | Wednesday 2nd December | From 7pm

Join the experts from Berkmann Wines for a fabulous guided tasting of five delicious wines, each perfectly paired with a delicious small plate. Discover wines ideal for celebrating, sharing or gifting this Christmas. £50 per person. Booking is essential, payment in full on booking.



Christmas Carols | Wednesday 9th December | From 6pm

A festive evening of Christmas carols, delicious mince pies, warming mulled wine and plenty of Christmas merriment. Gather your friends and family and sing along with us!

Charity Christmas Quiz Night & Christmas Jumper Competition Tuesday 15th December | From 8pm

Put your knowledge to the test with our Christmas charity quiz! No maximum team size, minimal rules and lots of fun. Just grab your friends, settle in and see how you do. £2.50 per person | All proceeds go to charity. No booking required.

Christmas Walk | Saturday 26th December | At 10:30am

Join us for our annual Christmas hike! Meet at the Druid for complimentary bacon butties, tea and coffee before we set off at around 11am for a festive morning stroll. Dogs & families welcome, No booking required.

New Year's Eve | Thursday 31st December

See in the New Year with us at the Druid! Enjoy live music from Alaura from 7pm, delicious food and a few extra special dishes to make the evening one to remember. Booking is essential, deposits required for bookings from 6pm



CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

CHRISTMAS DAY: BAR ONLY | 12PM - 3PM
BOXING DAY: BAR AND FOOD | 12PM - 6PM
27TH - 30TH: NORMAL OPENING HOURS
NEW YEAR'S EVE: BAR | 11:30AM - LATE || FOOD | 12-9
NEW YEAR'S DAY: BAR AND FOOD | 12PM - 6PM





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. Storytime, music bubbles and fun!
Wednesday	Craft and Chat (every fortnight) 2.00pm
Thursday	Knit and Natter 11.00am
Friday	Welsh Conversation 2pm (1 st & 3 rd 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

Halloween Fun with The Midnight Wizard

Friday 30th October at 10.00am and 11.30am at Holywell Library
1 hour (30 minute story & 30 minute interactive workshop)



Gwella Libraries in partnership with Theatr Clwyd invite you to join us for Halloween fun!

Where do all the scary dreams come from? Mari is about to meet the Midnight Wizard...

Enjoy this magical live storytelling performance and interactive workshop!

Brimming with enchanted forests, spooky castle and moonlight shadows, this captivating tale follows Mari as she goes on a quest to discover where scary dreams come from...

Tickets are now live to book on the Theatr Clwyd website for The Midnight Wizard tour taking place in October. <https://www.theatrclwyd.com/event/the-midnight-wizard> or book a place in your local Gwella library.

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 contact info@moldbookshop.co.uk



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CROESO! Grŵpiau Sgwrsio 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 1st and 3rd 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

Citizen's 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

SCORCHED EARTH (Peter Smith, Whitford)

We are often guilty of talking weather too much, but we can be forgiven for referencing the summer of 2026 as a scorcher. At the time of writing we are bracing ourselves for another heatwave.

I am often taking photographs and captured both shots between June and July. The contrast is stark. It is reported that the extreme dry spell put July on track to be the driest in Wales in 190 years of record keeping. Who knows, I might be shooting the same scene covered in snow in a few months time.



YSGOL BRO CARMEL (Michael Martell)

As usual it has been a busy summer term at Ysgol Bro Carmel. In the summer term, we have been able to go outside and outdoors much more often. This has included taking Y4/5/6 to Coleg Cambria for our regional athletics tournament, where the children were able to experience the thrill and excitement of athletics in an arena environment! Additionally, Year 6 completing their cycling proficiency—no doubt the skills learned will benefit the children as they move on to Secondary School in September! We also took Year 5 and 6 to Dangerpoint, where the children learned about the most common dangers in the community, from railway lines to coastal paths, and dangers in the home as well as on the roads. It was a really interesting and useful visit and will really help the children become increasingly independent and aware. Da iawn pawb!

In Foundation Phase we have been excited to see our butterfly life cycles in action! Each class has had some caterpillars to look after over the last few weeks of the summer term, and the children have seen these caterpillars turn to chrysalises, and now are seeing them become butterflies! It has been wonderful to see how engaged the children have been and we look forward to releasing the butterflies into the wild. KS2, on the other hand, have been planting a range

of fruit and vegetables in the allotment. This has also meant that Eco Club have been really busy weeding and pruning the plants—fortunately Mr Leighton has been on hand to help our Eco Club ensure our allotment is weed-free!

This term, one of our after-school clubs has been Bowling, which has taken place at Carmel Bowling Club. It has been a huge success with the Y5 and Y6 pupils—not only have the club members been wonderful with the children, but the community spirit it helps to foster has been fantastic too. We look forward to continuing Bowling Club in the Autumn term.

During the summer term, we had the police visit school as part of their efforts to ensure safe parking and safe traffic management around the school site. You may see the officers around over the next few weeks, as they will be visiting school at pick-up and drop-off to ensure that the parking zones are adhered to and that the traffic passing the school remains within the speed limit. We are thankful to the officers for supporting the safe traffic management around school and supporting keeping our children safe.

Our Year 6 football team played in the John McBrien memorial tournament at Ysgol Treffynnon late on in the summer, playing incredibly well and coming home with the shield! This year's Year 6 are a very talented team, having also returned carrying a trophy from our previous Flintshire

tournament too! Llongyfarchiadau boys!

The biggest event in our school diary over the last few weeks of the year has been Year 6's performance of 'Rock Bottom.' The show was a joy to watch, and the audience feedback was really positive, with many saying it was their favourite show! A huge thanks to the wonderful Year 6 pupils, who did us all proud, as they always do! We couldn't have had such a successful show without Dobarth Celyn, Dinas and Elsi singing, dancing and performing their roles to such a high standard. Thank you to the audience, the pupils and the staff involved.

We had a beautiful morning for our Sports Day back in July, and the children impressed us all with their speed, effort and sportsmanship! Our Summer Prom was also a huge success—we raised £1250 and every penny raised will be going directly to the children, via upgraded digital devices for classroom learning and digital literacy. Diolch to all the parents, grandparents and community who have bought tickets, attended the events, donated raffle prizes and raised much-needed funds for our school. On Monday, Year 6 visited London and toured the Houses of Parliament. This is the first year we have run this trip, and after the success of the day, we look forward to making this an annual event in the school calendar.

The last week of the year saw our Year 6 pupils have their leavers service in school. It was an emotional afternoon, celebrating

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our wonderful Year 6 children. They have been such exemplary role-models to the rest of the school not only this year, but throughout their time at Carmel. We are all tremendously proud of the young people they have become, and we can't wait to see them continue to flourish in secondary school.



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YSGOL Y LLAN (T Williams, Headteacher)

Well, we have reached the end of another wonderful school year! I can't quite believe that I have now completed my second year as Headteacher of Ysgol y Llan. The past two years have been truly amazing, and I honestly don't know where the time has gone! It has been an absolute privilege to lead such a caring, hardworking and supportive school community.

Looking back, this has been a truly successful year for our school. We have been delighted to welcome many new pupils and families into our community, continuing to see our school grow and flourish. We have also celebrated outstanding achievements, including our excellent Estyn inspection outcomes and being awarded the Gwobr Aur Cymraeg, once again recognising our commitment to promoting and developing the Welsh language. These successes are a testament to the dedication of our pupils, staff, governors and families, who work together every day to make Ysgol y Llan such a special place.

This term has been packed with memorable experiences. One of the highlights was our annual sponsored walk to Mostyn Hall. I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who sponsored them so generously and to Mostyn Estates for providing us with refreshments and such a kind welcome. All your support is greatly appreciated and will help us continue to provide exciting opportunities and resources for all of our pupils.



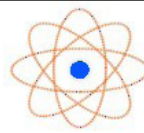
SUMMER FAIR SUCCESS

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Summer Fair. Thank you to everyone who came along to support the event and helped create such a fantastic community atmosphere. It was lovely to see families, friends and members of the local community enjoying the afternoon together.

Thanks to your incredible generosity and the hard work of our PTA, staff and volunteers, we raised a fantastic total of £701. Every penny raised will go directly towards enhancing opportunities and resources for our children.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated prizes, volunteered their time, helped organise the event or simply came along to support us. Your continued support makes a real difference to our school, and we are incredibly grateful.

As I bring this report to a close, I would



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like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who makes Ysgol y Llan such a special place.

Thank you to our dedicated staff for your hard work, care and commitment, to our governing body for your continued support and challenge, to our parents and carers for working in partnership with us, and to our local community for your generosity and encouragement throughout the year.

Most importantly, thank you to our wonderful children. You make us proud every single day through your kindness, enthusiasm, resilience and determination. You are the heart of our school, and it is a privilege to watch you grow, learn and succeed.

Have a fantastic summer holiday, make lots of wonderful memories with your families, stay safe, and I look forward to welcoming you all back in September for another exciting year together.

We were also delighted to welcome Darren Millar MS to Ysgol y Llan. During his visit, he met with pupils and staff, spoke with the children about the Senedd and his role as a Member of the Senedd, and took the time to see the many wonderful things happening across our school. It was a pleasure to showcase everything that makes Ysgol y Llan such a special place, and we were incredibly proud to receive such positive feedback following his visit. See the press release:

<https://www.darrenmillar.wales/news/flintshire-village-school-impresses-ms>



CYMRAEG CAMPUS – GWOBR AUR!

I am delighted to share some fantastic news.

Last week, we were assessed for our Cymraeg Campus Gold Award. It has now been four years since we first achieved this prestigious award, and I am incredibly proud to announce that we have successfully retained our Gwobr Aur (Gold Award).

As we reach the final month of another fantastic school year, it has been wonderful to reflect on all that the children have achieved. Our Year 6 pupils have been making the most of their final weeks at primary school with a range of memorable leavers' activities. From the laughter-filled Carpool Karaoke to their special

Leavers' Service, and of course the much-anticipated annual water fight, they have created memories that will hopefully stay with them for years to come. We wish them every success and happiness as they move on to the next stage of their journey.

Meanwhile, our Year 4 and Year 5 pupils have continued to impress with their enthusiasm and dedication to learning. They have been working incredibly hard on writing informative explanation texts about the circulatory system, demonstrating both excellent scientific understanding and strong writing skills. In computing and design technology, they have also enjoyed designing and programming their own robots, which were able to detect a noise and respond by waving – a fantastic showcase of their creativity and coding



abilities.

On a personal note, I would like to say how incredibly proud I am of this class. Over the past few weeks, they have shown great maturity and kindness, supporting



me while continuing to maintain the high standards they have set throughout the year. Their resilience, enthusiasm and willingness to always do their best have

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made them a truly special class to teach. It has been an absolute privilege to be part of their journey this year, and I would like to thank every one of them for making this such a memorable and rewarding year. I wish them all a happy, restful summer and look forward to seeing all the year 4s and 5s back in school in September and I hope that the year 6s enjoy the next part of their educational journey.



Dosbarth 2 have had a very busy and exciting end to the school year. We sang out loud at 'Flintshire Sings' with our colourful kites on a trip to Theatr Clwyd. Year 3 returned to Theatr Clwyd with their Ukeleles to take part in the Sinfonia culmination concert where we played alongside an orchestra! Our main school trip this year was to Llangollen



International Eisteddfod. We took part in a body percussion workshop, painted some clay craft, and watched a performance by the Bollywood Brass Band, alongside lots of other exciting experiences!

This month, Dosbarth 1 have been making the most of the lovely weather by spending lots of time outdoors, including enjoying a little paddle to help us cool down and have fun with our friends. We have also been busy designing and making special superhero capes for our teddies from home, using our creativity and developing our cutting and decorating skills. As part of our work with Ten Town, we helped Tia Ten prepare for a grand banquet by making our own chef's hats and creating delicious-looking biscuits in the playdough bakery. We have also been developing our IT skills by talking about and sharing our experiences of visits from two police officers, using technology to help us communicate our ideas and remember what we learned. It has been a busy and exciting month full of learning, creativity



and fun!

We would also like to express our sincere thanks to Rev Andrea for everything she has done for our school, our community and our church. As Andrea prepares to move to Liverpool at the end of August, we want to wish her every happiness in this exciting new chapter. She will be greatly missed by pupils, staff, governors and families alike. It has been a genuine pleasure to work alongside you, and we thank you for your friendship, guidance and unwavering support over the years. We wish you every success and God's blessing for the future.



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Opportunity - Clerk to the Governors

Clerk to the Governors – Vacancy Information
Our school governors are looking to appoint a **Clerk to the Governing Body**. This is an important behind-the-scenes role that helps the governors work effectively and make sure the school meets all legal and procedural requirements. You do not need to be a teacher or have worked in a school before. Organisation, reliability and good communication skills are the most important qualities. Training and guidance can be provided. **Please contact the school office if you are interested and have any questions.**

What does a Clerk to the Governors do?
The Clerk supports the governors by:

- Organising meetings (usually 6 full meetings per year, plus some committee meetings)
- Preparing and sending out agendas and paperwork before meetings
- Attending meetings and taking clear, accurate minutes
- Keeping records of decisions and actions
- Making sure the Governing Body follows the correct procedures and legal requirements
- Keeping information confidential and well organised
- Supporting new governors with paperwork and records

Skills that would be helpful

- Good organisation and time management
- Confident writing skills (for minute taking)
- Ability to use email and basic computer programs
- Reliability and attention to detail
- Ability to be impartial and professional

Knowledge of school governance is helpful but **not essential**.

Time commitment
Most work can be done from home. The role involves:

- Attending evening meetings (Normally 6pm-8pm)
- Preparing paperwork beforehand
- Writing up minutes afterwards

Why this role matters
The Clerk plays a key part in helping governors support the school, staff and pupils. It is a valuable way to contribute to the school community and local education. If you are interested or would like to know more, please contact the school office for further details.

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ANOTHER SUMMER OF RECORDS IN THE FIVE VILLAGES (Robert Moore)

Weather in the Five Villages Summer 2026 (2025 in brackets)				
	Temperatures ° C			Total rainfall Mm
	Average	Maximum	Minimum	
June	19.0 (17.9)	33.4 (30.0)	7.5 (6.0)	61.0 (124.1)
July	21.7 (18.6)	35.5 (36.0)	10.5(10.0)	8.2 (75.4)
August	18.8 (18.9)	31.5 (28.3)	9.2 (10.0)	155.2 (20.7)

Summer 2026 compared with Summer 2001 – 2020				
Air temperature at 1800 UTC	Average	Maximum	Minimum	Rainfall (mm)
2001 to 2020	17.0	26.8	8.4	76.5
2026	19.8	33.5	9.1	74.8

Last year the UK has had the hottest Summer since records began in 1884. Summer 2026 has been even hotter. Given the daily press and TV coverage I hardly need to report this for readers of the *Five Villages Chronicle*. According to the Met Office *July 2026 will be remembered as one of the most remarkable weather months in modern UK records*.

From June 16th until August the 21st (with the exception of the 19th) minimum 24-hour temperatures was in double figures, in July the average minimum temperate was 13.9 degrees. June, July and most of August will probably be remembered by many people for uncomfortable or sleepless nights. While June and July had notably higher average temperatures than 2025, our maximum temperature was half a degree short of last year's record. We had very little rain until the end of August. In June we had a ten day spell without rain in a month with 15 rain free days. July had 25 days without rain including a nineteen day spell from the 6th to the 25th when there was a 0.2 mm rainfall, which few people will have noticed. By this time most fields and lawns had turned brown and gardens needed daily watering. In the first 16 days of August we had 5.8 mm of rain. There was more serious rainfall on the 20th with two days of heavy showers bringing a total of 63.5 mm of rain (just over two and a half inches). A *little* green returned to lawns and fields. Rain came at the end of August when over 72 percent of the summer rainfall fell just three days. In fact August alone had twice our twenty-year summer average rainfall. We also had a brief thunder storm on the 26th, followed by heavy rain.

This quarter's satellite image received early on the morning of the 11th of August shows the depression south west of Iceland that brought us a little rain on the 14th. The slanting sunlight illuminates the 'overshooting tops' where vigorous convection drives cloud upwards above the dense cumulonimbus cloud and into the stratosphere. There was probably thunder, lighting, hail and strong winds under these clouds. The arrival of the edge of this depression marked the end of the dominance of high pressure over north west Europe and the UK. This pressure anomaly has been much discussed by meteorologists and in the Met Office's Tuesdays *Deep Dive* podcasts – which I recommend to anyone who wants a know more about weather.

Last year our skies were influenced by fires in Canada and the northern USA, but this year we had our own local fires to contend with, including one on Halkyn mountain. None of our local fires matched the extent and deadly ferocity of fires in Spain, France. Greece and north America. We also escaped the serious flooding that followed the end-of-season rainfall in some parts of Wales.

So it has been an exceptional summer. Towards the end of autumn we can look forward to the first effects of *el Niño*.

We receive EUMETSAT geostationary images at the weather station, the satellite also relays images from geostationary and polar orbiting satellites right around the globe. These are available strictly for educational purposes. Images are normally kept for seven days, so students and teachers should email to ask about them sooner rather than later and book images in advance if possible (rsmoore1936@gmail.com). Geostationary satellite images can be used to produce spectacular weather animations for Audio-Visual displays.



AN AUTUMN LEAF (Doug Thompson)

Swaying gently on the breeze, attached by the finest stalk
 what would you tell me of your life, if only you could talk
 I sat here many months ago, and watched your form unfold
 the brightest greenest chlorophyll, and now the finest gold
 you opened out to take your place, to feed and clothe your tree
 and through the spring and summertime, to shade and shelter me
 you gathered rays of summer sun, you gathered CO₂,
 you gave me oxygen to breath, for that I'm thanking you
 you hung on tight through stormy winds, you were battered by the rain
 then the long hot drought was hard on you, when the sun came back again
 you saw the flowers come and go, you watched the seeds take flight
 and still you hang by the finest stalk, as the shortening days stretch the night
 so your gold will fade into brown, and your tree will soon let you go
 and perhaps you will rest for a little while, under the crisp new snow
 but you played your small part in a magical thing, as your season draws to its end
 and I will remember your glorious life, and I say this goodbye to a friend.

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"I was born in Colwyn Bay and brought up in Llandudno, so North Wales has always been home. I returned to live in Clwyd in 1987 and, in 1995, began studying law at Aberystwyth University.

Since then, I have built a career in law and legal education, teaching both academic law and legal practice. Alongside this work, I have served as a reviewer for the Nursing and Midwifery Council, a senior examiner for the Welsh Joint Education Committee, and a member of the Lay Committee of the Royal College of Anaesthetists.

Community service has also played an important part in my life. I served as a Colwyn Bay town councillor from 2015 to 2022 and, for nearly ten years, have been Chair of Governors at Ysgol Iau Hen Golwyn. These roles have given me a valuable insight into the dedication of those who serve our communities, as well as the challenges facing local children, families, and schools.

In May 2026, I had the honour of being elected as a Member of the Senedd for Clwyd. I take the responsibility of representing local people very seriously. The most rewarding part of the role is being able to listen to residents, help them with problems and use my experience to support those who may be struggling to have their voices heard.

Life has certainly been busy since the election, with regular travel to Cardiff for Senedd business and the opening of my constituency office on Wynnstey Road in Colwyn Bay. At times, it has felt as though my feet have barely touched the ground, but it has also been an exciting and rewarding experience.

Over the coming years, I hope to meet as many people as possible from across Clwyd and to remain closely involved with the communities I represent.

Anyone who needs assistance with a matter relating to the devolved responsibilities of the Welsh Government is welcome to contact my constituency office at Adrian.Mason-MS@senedd.wales or on 0300 200 6277. My staff will be pleased to help and, where appropriate, arrange an appointment with me.



THE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY CLWYD GROUP

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

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

Visitors welcome £3 per meeting.

Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 15th September

Irises for the Natural Garden – Alun and Jill Whitehead

Alun and Jill are owners of Aulden Farm, a relaxed, natural, 3-acre garden, which has been created since 1996 from a bare field on heavy Herefordshire clay. Open for individuals and groups for the NGS. Large collection of Siberian Iris (beardless). Alun is a qualified British Iris Society judge, and Jill is secretary of the same society. Plants for sale.

Tuesday 13th October

Going Higher and Higher – Jack Willgoss

Jack and wife Laura own and run Wildegoose Nursery and Walled Garden nestled in the beautiful Shropshire Hills. They started the nursery as specialist growers of hardy perennial violas and now grow a wide range of flowering perennials and grasses. This talk is about using tall perennials to create an immersive atmosphere in the garden going through some of their favourite tall and even taller perennials and grasses. Plants for sale.

Tuesday 10th November

Hardy Planters' Winter Survival Kit – Don Witton

Don is holder of a Plant Heritage National Collection of Euphorbia; author of the Euphorbia HPS booklet; has featured on BBC Gardener's World and in numerous magazines including RHS The Garden. His talk will be about plants, projects, activities and strategies to help you get through the dark nights and cold days between October and March. An amusing talk with some wonderful slides of winter plants. Plants for sale.

Information: 01352 781458 (leave a message)

email: clwydgroup@hardy-plant.org.uk

www.facebook.com/HPSClwyd

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NEXT EDITION

Our next edition will be published
on 12th December 2026 and the
submission deadline for that edition
will be 12th November 2026.

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

Please note our email address:

editor@5villages.org.uk



THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE ASSOCIATION

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

Chairman - Peter Erasmus (01352 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, Peter Smith, 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

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

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

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

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