



# THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE

*CRONICL Y PUM PENTREF*

ISSUE NO. 148  
RHIFYN 148

WINTER (DECEMBER) 2023  
GAELF (RHAGFYR) 2023

PRICELESS  
AMHRISIADWY



## HOLYWELL AREA COMMUNITY MUSEUM (Jodie Bennett)

October has been a really exciting month at The Museum which it should be noted is nothing without its volunteers, thank you so much for all you do.

The Flint and Holywell Rotary club had an evening tour of the museum which they thoroughly enjoyed. John Wiltshire gave the 20 members a talk about the Point of Ayr Colliery which was so well received that he has been asked to give another talk to them in the near future at one of their monthly meetings. John took a trip to South Wales earlier in the month to reclaim a working colliery model which was constructed by his grandfather in 1904. Unfortunately, time has taken its toll so some repair work is required to return it to full working order. We are hopeful that the popular television programme The Repair Shop may be interested in helping with this unique item.

The popular Monday prize bingo session continues to go from strength to strength with new faces every week. Bingo Caller Colin always manages to make the session a great event.

The Museum Knit and Natter group worked really hard to achieve a fantastic Halloween window display, which has received many favourable comments. They are also due to have a stall selling their items at the Betty Berkins Christmas market on the 2nd of December 10am to 3pm.

Recent donations to the Museum include items for the Chapel room and war related memorabilia for the Remembrance Day display. The Museum will be open on Remembrance Sunday and will be serving refreshments following the service at St Peters Church and the laying of wreaths at the Memorial Gates at Pantton Place. Once again everyone is welcome.

One of our volunteers Harold has been busy with the mammoth task of writing profiles for the war dead of Holywell and district. It's a slow process but very worthwhile.

A couple of the Rhyl and Prestatyn U3A members are helping with the history of Holywell grammar school. The U3A is

a self-help organisation which supports continued learning for pleasure. We are so pleased to have them on board.

The Museum hosted two groups from Ysgol Bryn Pennant Mostyn who learnt a lot about the area and its history. Volunteers were overwhelmed with questions which hopefully they managed to answer. The Museum has received a beautiful 'thank you' card and positive feedback from the school. We are always pleased to show groups around the Museum.

Earlier this month we were visited by the Clerk of Middlewich Ms Nicola Antoney (Holywell is twinned with Middlewich) who was escorted around town by Deputy Mayor Councillor Linda Corbett and Councillor Ian Hodge. Obviously, a visit to the Museum was mandatory and Ms Antoney thoroughly enjoyed it.

The Holywell Christmas lights switch on will take place on the 24th of November. Once again, the Museum will be open late into the evening as well as being a base for the popular face painter.

Due to popular demand a new Thursday activity will be taking place which is an afternoon board games session. The Museum does have some games available, but if you have a preference for a particular game, please ensure you bring it along.

Finally, don't forget that the museum has a small retail area selling local history books together with gifts. Please pop in, it will be lovely to see you.

## GARDENING CLUB REPORT (Isabel Burnage)

The meetings and outings this year have been enjoyable and covered a range of interests from using herbs in cooking, 'The Language of Flowers' and trips locally and further afield. For our final talk, a demonstration was given by Kate Waterhouse from Waterhouse Flowers in Tower Gardens, Holywell. She encouraged us to bring foliage from our gardens and with her help and guidance several members completed tied arrangements. Kate also did a beautiful, tied arrangement using just foliage which she kindly donated as a raffle prize. She talked us through how to make the arrangements whilst doing it. This was all very helpful and interesting.



*Photo shows Kate in the middle with members and their arrangements.*

This year we are going to The Crown, Lixwm, for our Christmas lunch on Thursday 7th December.

At the AGM held on Thursday 2nd December, it was agreed that members would share doing the welcome and vote of thanks to the speakers during 2024. The vouchers were presented to members for gaining the most points in the competitions held throughout the year. In 1st place was Christine Palmer, 2nd was Janet Tattum and 3rd was Buddug Neale.

All our indoor meetings are held in Carmel Village Hall on the first Thursday of the month, starting at 2pm apart from August when we have the Mini Show and start at 7:30pm. The 2024 programme is organized, with our first meeting being held on Thursday 1st February when Mr Ray Bailey will chair our Gardeners' Question Time afternoon.

New members are always welcome.

For further information please contact either Christine Hamer on 01352 716273 or Maria Evans on 01352 715156



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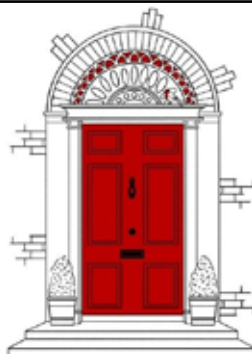
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## ST PAUL'S CHURCH, GORSEDD, ARTISAN FAYRE 2023

(Ian Austerberry, Warden)

On Saturday October 15th we held our first Artisan Fayre, and what a special event it turned out to be. We had 139 people through the door, with 13 tables selling a variety of wares. The place was buzzing, with our volunteer ladies doing a sterling role, serving refreshments throughout. It was a success beyond our wildest dreams.



The tables included woodcrafts, candle makers, homemade jewellery, aromatherapy, glass ware, fabrics, gin table, cake stall and a children's stall. All the table holders had a successful time, some even selling out completely, and all saying they would come again.

We also had a grand raffle with numerous prizes, which proved very popular.

To see the community coming together to support the event was really heartwarming, lots of happy people, meeting friends old and new, chatting together over tea and coffee.

The event raised substantial funds for St Paul's, but the main aim was enjoyment for our community which, from reactions we witnessed, I think we can say it was an unqualified success.

For the future, we are holding the Artisan Fayre again in 2024 on the 19th of October, and we are looking forward to holding a Summer Fête on June 15th.

Thank you to all our volunteers, stall holders and you the community for supporting us.

## COVER PICTURE

Mynedd y Garreg Tower. Photo courtesy of Melanie Wallis.

Printed by W. O. Jones (Printers) Ltd.  
Llangefni, North Wales, LL77 7JA

## CARMEL BOOK CLUB (Sally Brighton)



Having mentioned in this column how vocal our group can become and how confident we can be if we disagree, one of our recent books brought us together in complete concord. All of us finally allotted it our highest of marks, which can be an unusual occurrence among a varied group of people.

Written by Christie Lefteri, a native of Cyprus, it waxes topical in that it closely studies the lives, and fortunes of refugees and the dispossessed, who are trying to survive in her homeland. Both misused cruelly and used, they struggle to establish a future for themselves and their families who so often live far away from them. Reviewed here by one of our members, Helen Audley, the merits of this bestselling novel are well brought out: -

'Songbirds' by *Christie Lefteri* is a very moving, beautifully written story inspired by a true event.... the murder of immigrant domestic workers in Cyprus some years ago. The underlying message of the book is that one man's emancipation is often reliant on the servitude of others, in this case the exploitation of those immigrant domestic workers.

The disappearance of a Sri Lankan nanny in Nicosia is the vehicle the author uses to explore issues of unresolved grief in its many forms. The loss of a beloved partner or child, the loss of homeland, culture and the loss of human dignity, when denied respect and basic human rights, evolve in reality into a modern slave trade.

The story also highlights the struggle to cling on to moral integrity when the unemployed and poor, can survive only at the mercy of powerful and unscrupulous men with money, who lure them into crime for profit. Their fate is to illegally catch wild songbirds, which are then sold on the black market by the powerful exploiters. These enforced workers cannot escape, under threat of violence.

The beautiful relationship between true lovers is sharply contrasted with the coarse speech and attitudes of the men in the brothel for instance, where subjected women are regarded as sexual objects. The gentle nanny Nisha is the loving presence

in the book around which the various sub plots revolve.

Her employer, Petra, has never recovered emotionally from the death of her husband and has been unable to bond with her daughter.... so Nisha has loved and nurtured the child from birth. Too late, Petra understands how dependent on Nisha she had always been and realises how much she owes her for lovingly raising her child. She is oblivious to Nisha's pain at only being able to talk to her own daughter in Sri Lanka via Facebook.

Things begin to change when Petra determines to find the missing nanny and discovers from Nisha's friends the wretchedness of their existence; despised by the locals and treated as slaves by their employers and ignored by the police as they struggle on, totally bereft of meaningful employment or human rights.

Slowly Petra starts to reconnect with people again as she is forced out of her comfort zone and out of her self-absorption, as she searches for clues about what has happened to Nisha.

Without giving the ensuing plot away, our Reading Group were all struck by the hauntingly beautiful descriptions of nature in the book as well as challenged to examine our own attitudes towards those forced to flee their own country in order to survive.

An excellent read from an author with the soul of a poet.

*Helen Audley*

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## CARMEL WI NEWS (Jacquie Arstall)

This year continues to move at a pace. Halloween and Bonfire Night have passed, and Christmas is fast approaching, with its usual busy cycle of preparations and celebrations.

During the Autumn period we have continued to welcome members to our monthly meetings and have participated in other enjoyable events.

September was busy with members participating in and hosting events.

To kick the month off and to get the 'grey matter' working, four members participated in a Quiz Night. The evening was good fun a great success in raising money for Dementia UK. Needless to say, we were not the winners!



Hot on the heels of the Quiz Carmel WI hosted an Afternoon Tea and Raffle in aid of St Kentigern's Hospice, the charity we are supporting this year. The event was well attended and we raised £160. We would like to thank everyone who attended.



At the September meeting we were treated to an Alaskan Adventure, courtesy of Gail one of our members. It sounded amazing and included lots of adventures and breathtaking scenery. Definitely one for my 'bucket list'.



Our October meeting was Guest Night and we were joined by representatives from

other local Groups and WI's.

Our entertainment was the Deeside Signing Choir. The Choir were excellent with an inter active repertoire. Their performance enjoyed immensely by everyone. the evening continued with a Buffet Supper, Raffle and plenty of socialising.

November's meeting was our AGM followed by a Christmas Craft/Card making activity, it certainly got us into the Festive spirit.

Our Winter programme is as follows.

Christmas Meal at The Crown Lixwm in early December.

Our 14th December 2023 Meeting - Christmas Party Night.

January 11th 2024 Meeting - to start the New Year. A Quiz and Cheese and Wine evening.

February 8th 2024 – Chutney Cheer demonstration/presentation.

March 14th 2024 – Women's Health Presentation.

Carmel WI meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 7.30pm at Carmel Village Hall.

New members are always very welcome.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

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**YSGOL BRO CARMEL**  
**(Mrs Garbutt, Headteacher)**  
**WORLD OF WORK WEEK**



In line with the Four Purposes of the Curriculum for Wales, we provide opportunities for our pupils to become ambitious and capable learners in a variety of ways. World of Work week is an exciting and informative opportunity for children to gain authentic experiences of different people's jobs. This year we were very fortunate to have visits from many members of both the school and wider community. This resulted in an inspirational and motivational week where children's interesting questions and extensive

curiosity reflected that they truly are ambitious and capable. I would like to thank everyone who was able to attend and make such a positive difference to our children.

**SPELLING BEE COMPETITION**

This year we have initiated a new competition called the Spelling Bee. As an adaptation of the American version, children are tasked with a spelling quiz against two other schools. Year 2 and Year 4 children from Carmel, Trelawnyd and Whitford were set an exciting and stimulating challenge. As the host school, everyone joined us for a wonderful morning. All of the children performed excellently demonstrating super spelling, healthy competitiveness and positive collaboration. Thank you to everyone involved for making this event such a success.

**FOOTBALL TEAM**

Congratulations to our Year 5&6 football team for coming third in the Holywell town football tournament.

**INDOOR ATHLETICS**



Congratulations to our Indoor athletics team for coming first in the competition.

We are all very proud of you children!



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## 'SET IN STONE' (Geraint Roberts)

In this article I'm going to take a whimsical, superficial look at a tenacious link which exists between some rocks dotting the North Wales countryside and weapons. I include photos so you too can take a look!

Rocks were probably our first weapons when our 'homonoid' twig began sprouting from our semian cousins' branch on the evolutionary tree nearly three million years ago. Stones picked up off the floor in sudden erupting conflicts when mates were competed for, food fought over and territorial disputes arose were found to be more effective than teeth, feet and fists!

During the Palaeolithic period fondly known as the 'Old Stone Age' these 'picked up' stones saw a raised level of refinement when flints were 'knapped' to form extremely sharp cutting edges. These then evolved to become attached to wooden handles to make knives, arrow heads and spears with larger stones dressed to form axe heads; all meant to make your eyes water! Many examples are still discovered both accidentally and in archaeological digs all over the world. An example of the efficiency of these weapons was found lodged in the back of 'Otzi the ice man' who had been killed by such an arrow head and had lain preserved in the ice of a glacier in the Tyrolean Alps for five thousand years until discovered in 1991.



*Stone age axe*

However, I digress, these are my rocks and weapons/warfare links, which I said were tenuous!

A series of large rocks found mostly (but not exclusively) on the mountain plateau known as the Carneddau above the village of Llanfairfechan and the A55 are known as 'Arrow Stones'. They have on them a number of narrow grooves which are thought to have been used to



*Arrow stone*

sharpen arrows, knives and spear heads. Whether these stones were used regularly by the local inhabitants, shepherds, and huntsmen or whether there was a ritualistic significance attached to their occasional use has never been decided by historians.

One can perhaps imagine a group of hunters setting out for the mountains (in the warmer climate of the period) undergoing a blessing ceremony presided over by the village shaman as they sharpened their weapons on these 'sacred' honing stones. Or a similar such ceremony before the young warriors of the tribe cross over into the next valley to raid their neighbours for food, booty and women! Tales of such raids do exist in our folklore.

This is of course pure conjecture, but so too is the explanation offered for these enigmatic grooves. One school of thought offer them as a rough form of tribal art induced by hallucinogenic substances! There are world-wide examples of this, with several similar specimens in Ireland; further evidence of the pre-historic link between our two countries. Similar patterned examples have also been found on Orkney. A recently discovered rock in Dorset, the 'polissoir' stone was used for polishing and sharpening stone age axes 5,000 years ago.



*The polissoir stone*

There are at least sixteen of these stones that I have come across. Their locations are well documented and I can recommend the walks to find them. Historians date them to the Mesolithic – Neolithic period (Middle – New Stone Age).

The easiest to see (although a much



*Beaumaris castle*

later example) and the strongest indicator that they were in fact used for sharpening weapons can be found as a corner stone in Beaumaris castle. My imagination can easily conjure up a bored English soldier whose guard duties covered this section of the castle finding this stone suitable for sharpening his weapons. As its siting is so convenient for such use it would seem unlikely that an already grooved stone was placed there as part of the castle construction. It lies at the entrance to one of the 'garderobes' (toilets) in the corridor near the castle chapel, the stone appears to have been used extensively. Work didn't begin on Beaumaris castle until 1284 and the weapons sharpened here would have been steel; but the grooves made are very similar to many of the 'arrow stones' found on the slopes of Wales' most northerly mountains. Another such stone is found set high in the gatehouse of Chirk castle, this is a sandstone and shows obvious use as an arrow head or knife sharpener.



*Chirk castle*

Staying with castles (and stones) anyone who has visited Harlech Castle cannot fail to be impressed in one of the 'dungeon-like' rooms by the collection of rounded stones which have been gathered.



*Harlech castle*

These were erstwhile missiles thrown by one of the massive 'trebuchet' machines. Although not particularly accurate or explosive like later mortars, being anywhere near where one of these landed would certainly have been uncomfortable!

In contemplation of these massive stones flying through the air and going back to the days when giants roamed the countryside, I can think of several examples dotting Wales of boulders thrown by some of these giants. Many such boulders are the size of a car and were hurled at a rival giant. Some were taken out of the giant's shoe. Others were used in throwing competitions with other giants, and many





*A stone hurled by a giant* were just thrown in temper. I stopped counting at thirty and enclose a couple of photos of rocks thrown by 'giants'. Of course, more mundane explanations claim these tall 'menhirs' were signposts for ancient trackways, others arrived as volcanic bombs from an ancient eruption whilst many are glacial erratics; I personally prefer giants!

High up on Hiraethog (Denbigh Moors), more specifically on the eastern slopes above the Brenig reservoir is a large rock called 'Maen Cledde'. This translates as



*Maen Cledde*

'Sword Stone' and lies in a shallow valley leading up to the forestry plantation. This huge stone has been split in two by a giant's sword and is well worth the effort of finding. The piece sliced off by lies leaning against the main stone whilst high above the letters LB are scratched into its surface. It is thought the letters were written by Lord Bagot who used to hunt up here, rather than the initials of the old giant! Again, a more boring explanation would claim the split to be the action of frost!

Another stone also called 'Cerrig y Cledd' (Sword Stones) can be found with some persistent searching in the afforested mountains above Barmouth. I say stone instead of stones because the two pieces were originally one. On both boulders are the perfect imprint of a sword, more



*Carreg y Cledd*

specifically a Roman gladius; and with it comes the inevitable legend. It seems that sometime during the Roman occupation two native Britons happened upon a lone Roman soldier one day and killed him (as you would); taking his sword with them. A little further up the track they saw a group of soldiers approaching and hurriedly thrust the sword into a cleft in a nearby rock. It seems that over the years the sword left its impression in the rock although the gladius itself rusted away over the centuries. When the rock eventually split apart, through a millennia of frost action, the imprint of the sword was clearly visible on both pieces. A less colourful explanation claims the shape was formed as a result of a volcanic bubble.

The same scientific explanation is used to spoil other shapes made in rocks by giants, Arthur's horse hooves, the devil's footprints and even finger marks of various saints and the virgin Mary. But, in keeping within the adopted theme for this article it was, with my tongue firmly in my cheek definitely a Roman sword!

Deviating slightly from the offensive to defensive but staying within the theme of onomastic place name explanations I will take us to the uplands between Ffestiniog and Trawsfynydd. The world-famous collection of Welsh folk tales the Mabinogion which are amongst the oldest in Europe tells the story of Blodeuwedd, a femme fatale who couldn't stick to her embroidery. In this tale her husband Lleu, takes revenge for her infidelity (and other crimes) by a formal hurling of his spear



*Llech Gronw*

at his enemy 'Gronw'. I specify formal because Gronw was allowed to hold a stone shield for the event. Needless to say, the spear was thrown so powerfully that it penetrated the stone killing Gronw and leaving a perfect hole in the stone. The stone, known as 'Llech Gronw' (Gronw's Slate) was apparently discovered a few years ago near the site of the supposed incident and has now been set upright for all to see.

I shall now stretch the tenuous link between rocks and weapons even more. Spread across the North Wales countryside, more especially in slate quarrying districts are rocks known as 'Cannon Stones' or 'Rock Cannons'. There are at least 250 of them with many awaiting discovery under layers of moss and lichen. Essentially, they were used as firework displays to commemorate local and national events



*Rock Cannon*

of note. Various royal coronations and visits, investitures, the coming of age of local dignitaries, the relief of Mafeking and the ending of the first world war are all examples of such celebrations when these rock cannons were used.

A large slab of rock was chosen, usually in a prominent position and several holes an inch in diameter were drilled into it. These were spaced a few inches apart and each one linked by shallow grooves. Black powder was then placed in each hole and suitably tamped down (usually by qualified quarrymen) with more of this explosive powder placed in the joining grooves. At the appropriate moment in the celebration one end of this chain of holes was lit and the resulting sequenced explosive display would delight the watching crowd. One rock had the gaps between the holes apparently



*The 'Cannon', Tryfan*

spaced to detonate in time with the beat of the anthem "God save the Queen". Many of these have been forgotten about and lost over the years as grass and moss inexorably cover them. As with the arrow stones these rocks are well documented and make interesting focal points for local walks. I came across one quite by accident a few weeks ago and spent a few minutes 'cleaning' it and poking out the holes before moving on.

Staying with the word 'cannon' I enclose a photo of a rock high up on the mountain of Tryfan called 'The Cannon'. Its inclusion in this article is only because of its name, but you must admit, it's an amusing one! There are at least three rock climbs found in Eryri which have adopted 'cannon' names, Cannon Ridge on Tryfan, which is just below the aforementioned Cannon and Cannon Ball and Cannon Rib on the imposing Black Ladders cliff deep in the Carneddau. Other rock climbs which have been christened by their first ascensionists and sit within the theme for this article



### **Castell y Gwynt**

include Javelin Blade, Javelin Buttress and Javelin Gully in Cwm Idwal. There is also a route called the Javelin on the roadside cliffs above Tremadoc. The mountain of Lliwedd, one of Yr Wyddfa's satellites has a route called the Sword whilst a climb on the Gromlech cliffs high above Llanberis pass is called Sabre Cut.

I cannot in all conscience omit another rocky edifice which is not much more than, say, five bow shots south of Tryfan, which also enjoys this 'tenuous' link with weaponry and warfare; Castell y Gwynt (Castle of the Wind) however, is a completely natural structure rising up out the 3,000-foot plateau of the Glyderau. It looks to all intent and purpose like a 'Tolkien-esque' fortress (for trolls perhaps) and perched as it is so high is aptly named. Several other rocky prominences also bear the name castle, for example Castell y Geifr (Castle of the Goats) which, as the crow flies is only a good mile from Castell y Gwynt.



### **Bullet damage in Cwmllan**

Evidence of more modern conflicts can still be found in the forms of abandoned pill boxes and tank traps constructed by the Home Guard during the second world war. There are shells of buildings on the slopes of Moel Fammau which were used to provide decoy lights for German bombers and the sites of gun placements on the Orme are still there to see. Nests of rifle and machine gun shells can still be found in Eryri and the old slate quarry manager's



### **High above the Wye valley**

house in Cwmllan on the way up yr Wyddfa is still pockmarked with bullets used by the commandos training for D-Day.

I will, however, sign off with a real life artillery piece which was captured during the first World War and brought back by the local soldiers to the rural area just east of Builth Wells. However, a disagreement arose between the villages of Aberedw and Llanstephan as to which would have the honour of displaying it. The eventual compromise was to place the gun on the summit of Twyn y Garth hill high above the river Wye where it can still be seen. And although it is not a rock weapon it does lie within fifty yards of an ancient hill fort!

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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.

## CHRISTENING



We celebrated the Christening of Bailey Harold Edwards, son of Dylan Edwards (formerly of Whitford) and Gabby Lukins-Brown at St Mary and St Beuno, Whitford. Darren and Jacqui Edwards.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to a change of circumstances, I am now holding my groups in Bella's Diner. You are invited there - at the top of Holywell High Street where we now have the Reminiscence group on Tuesdays - starting at 10.30 am - free of charge - and please join our new facebook page HOLYWELL REMINISCING GROUP and share your photos and memories of the area. It is the 'go to' page for any information - supported by our wonderful group.

Fun (small prize) Quiz - Thursdays - starts at 1pm - if you are alone any one of our teams will welcome you onto theirs. We have an experienced and fun quiz master and a warm welcoming atmosphere.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Andrea Dakin



## FLINTSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY CYMDEITHAS HANES SIR FLINT WINTER/SPRING PROGRAMME 2024 (Paul Brighton)

January 27th Mold: - Twentieth century military remains in mid and north east Wales. Speaker: - Jeff Spencer, Field Monument Warden, Cadw.

February 24th Holywell: - North Wales Castles. Speaker: - Dr Erin Lloyd Jones, Archaeologist and T.V./Radio presenter.

March 23rd Mold: - Wrecks of the Dee Estuary. Speaker: - Christopher Michael, MA, D. Phil. F InstP, Emeritus Professor, Liverpool University.

April 27th Holywell: - The Mortimers, Lords of the Welsh Marches and (nearly) kings of England! Speaker: - Philip Hume, Mortimer Society.

Please note:-

All meetings are at 2,30pm on Saturdays

Mold venue: Ebenezer Baptist Church, Glanrafon Road, Mold, CH7 1PA

Holywell venue: St Peter's Church, Rosehill. Holywell. CH8 7TL

Further details contact: Celia Drew,  
Secretary, Flintshire Historical Society.  
07778 659648

<https://www.facebook.com/FlintshireHistory/>

<https://www.flintshirehistoricalsociety.org.uk/>



If you are Interested in drawing and painting? You may be interested in joining an art club. Holywell Art Club, now have vacancies for new members!

The club is based at the community centre, Pentre Halkyn. Holywell. CH8 8JZ. We meet every Wednesday 10.30am - 1.30pm.

All levels of ability are welcome - from an absolute beginner to the more advanced in their artwork. (Just enjoy painting with us at your own pace) We also have occasional visiting professional artists giving demonstrations and workshops, which are always enjoyable and informative sessions.

To find out more, please visit our website on: [www.holywellartclub.com](http://www.holywellartclub.com)

Or how about calling at the Community centre, to see us for a chat and a coffee. A warm welcome awaits!

Lynda Wilson

## CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Ieuan Edwards, son of Darren and Jacqui of Maes Rhydwen, Whitford, who graduated from Bangor University.

Ieuan gained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy and Religion and History with First class Honours.

Ieuan has returned to Bangor University to study for a PhD in Philosophy.

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## GENERAL NEWS

Although no cricket is played throughout the autumn and winter months, there is still plenty of activity at Carmel and District Cricket Club. The club has recently been busy improving facilities at its Pen-y-Gelli home, including the installation of new showers in the changing rooms and carrying out repair work to the drive approaching the pavilion. Committee meetings are also held at the pavilion each month as club members and officials plan ahead for the forthcoming season and beyond.

The club's annual presentation evening was due to be held in the pavilion on Friday 10th November, followed by the AGM on Friday 24th November. Key outcomes of both events will be included next time.

Carmel and District Cricket Club is hoping to field two senior men's teams in the North Wales League once again in 2024, offering playing opportunities to as many cricketers as possible. Following the success of the club's Women's and Girls team this season, Carmel will also be entering a team in the North Wales Women's Cricket League Eastern Division. The club will also be playing friendly matches on Sundays.

As mentioned in previous articles, the club extends a warm welcome to anyone wishing to play for any of the above teams. Training sessions at Holywell Leisure Centre for all senior teams will commence in the new year, and the club would be delighted to welcome new recruits. Carmel and District Cricket Club has always placed participation high on its agenda and is

eager to provide playing opportunities for as many people as possible. Information about dates and times of practice sessions will appear in the next edition of the Five Villages.

## JUNIOR SECTION

Once the actual cricket season finished at the end of August the coaches and children had a break of just over a month. After a well-deserved rest (especially for the coaches!), we gathered again to start our autumn indoor training sessions for various age groups, held at Holywell Leisure Centre and Maes y Felin Sports Hall. We have had a super turnout.

Coaching or volunteering requires commitment in terms of the planning work required before any sessions take place. However, it's very rewarding to see young children having fun through playing sport and learning life skills about how to be competitive whilst taking part in the 'right way' and learning to respect your team members and the opposition.

Following their attendance at cricket trials, Molly, Hollie, and Sophie have secured a place on the Cricket Pathway which is designed to develop talent and provide the girls with additional specialist coaching. Congratulations to all three girls who can be an inspiration for others to follow.

If your son and/or daughter wishes to come along to a 'taster' session on a

Thursday, please contact Alun Davies on 07889 095 712 or [adifa@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adifa@hotmail.co.uk).

Finally, Carmel and District cricket Club would like to wish all readers of the Five Villages a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i bawb.

As there are no action photos to share this time, we are including a photo from the club's archive. This Carmel team photo was taken in the 1980s at the club's original Golch Farm ground. We're sure that many Five Villages residents will recognise lots of these faces, and also remember the wooden pavilion in the right-hand side of the photo.



Back row (left to right): B. Davies, H. Cowan, P. Edwards, M. Williams, C. Barratt, B. Fraser

Middle row: P. Plaiice, M. Bland, R. Jones, M. Williams, M. Jones

Front row: P. Ferguson, D. Timothy

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## REjuvinATE.YOGA

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Hello, my name is Julie Roberts and I teach various types of yoga in Carmel, Holywell & Bagillt.

In this edition of the *Five Villages Chronicle*, I'd like to tell you about one of the classes I currently teach at Carmel Village Hall, a lovely welcoming local hall.

CHAIR YOGA - Thursday 2-3pm @ the Village Hall. £5.00 per session.

### Did you know: -

Practising Chair Yoga is a great way to stay active. It's an accessible form of Yoga that will help increase balance, flexibility, improve muscle tone and strength. It can also improve your mood and energy levels. It is especially beneficial for those who are unable to practice traditional Yoga due to age, physical limitations or recovering from injury.

Not only does chair yoga help improve range of motion through its movement of joints and gentle tugs on fascial and muscular lines, but a study found chair yoga can be beneficial in improving mobility and reducing fear of falling. Chair yoga is suitable for all ages and abilities.

### Why should I do chair yoga?

Using your chair for seated poses or balancing poses, you can take advantage of the many benefits yoga provides, such as increased circulation; feelings of well-being; and decreases in blood pressure, anxiety, inflammation, and chronic pain.

### Are there any benefits to chair yoga?

Chair yoga allows you to perform yoga poses while seated or using a chair for balance. Chair-based yoga offers the same benefits as traditional yoga, like boosting strength, flexibility, and mental well-being.

### Is chair yoga as effective as regular yoga?

While traditional yoga may not be appropriate for everyone, chair yoga is an excellent option for absolutely everyone. Chair yoga is focused on using a chair to provide support and stability while still getting all the benefits of yoga.

### Is chair yoga good for weight loss?

Whether it's from your office, the comfort of your own home or in a class format, chair exercises are a great low-impact way to incorporate movement into your routine. Most people can burn 120 to 250 calories in a 32-minute session, and with weights or resistance bands the calorie burn is even more.

### Why is breathing so important during a chair yoga class?

In a chair yoga practice, it is important to start with breathing exercises and warm-ups. Breathing exercises help to focus the mind, while the warm-ups help get circulation moving and prepare the body for this gentle practice.

### What do you wear for chair yoga?

You should wear comfortable clothing that allows for movement while seated. Chair yoga is practiced without shoes or socks to incorporate the many benefits of feeling the feet on the ground.

### Is chair yoga just for seniors?

Chair yoga is a beneficial form of yoga for any fitness level, from active seniors to those recovering from an injury.

All classes at Carmel Village Hall: -

Weds: - 7:45-8:45pm - Yoga

Thurs: - 1pm- Relaxed Yogalates & 2pm Chair Yoga.

Thank you for reading and I hope this inspires you to give chair yoga a try. Our current yogis will offer you a warm and friendly welcome.

Julie Roberts

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## MARK ISHERWOOD MS



Building Communities Trust (BCT) is a charitable organisation that enables residents to build on the strengths and talents within their communities and take action to make their areas even better places to live. In September I joined them for their "Wales Community Assets Index" virtual Launch Event. This Research uncovered 102 previously unidentified 'Less Resilient Areas' across Wales. It shows "that communities with fewer places to meet, a less engaged and active community and poorer connectivity to the wider economy, experience significantly different social and economic outcomes compared to communities possessing more of these assets" and that "Communities with fewer of these assets have higher rates of unemployment, residents often do not have qualifications and experience limiting long-term illnesses than both areas typically regarded as experiencing deprivation which do have those assets and Wales as a whole. They also have lower levels of community activity and receive lower levels of funding from both the state and charitable funders despite their social challenges".

Shortly after the launch, the Welsh Conservatives put forward a motion calling on the Welsh Government to "protect community assets by enabling local people to run and expand facilities that benefit

the local community". Our motion stated: "Community assets act as local hubs and provide important access to information, services, skills and social experiences", and asked the Senedd to recognise that "community assets improve community cohesion and allow local communities to take control of shaping the area they live in". As the Shadow Social Justice Minister, I opened the debate emphasising that "real co-production lies at the heart of this". I said: "Emphasising the genuinely transformative nature of co-production when leading the first debate here on co-production a decade ago, I stated 'it's not just a nice add-on, but a new way of operating for the Welsh Government as well as for public service professionals and citizens themselves'. "However, despite this being central to both the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, successive reports, including Audit Wales in January, found that: "too often, Local Authority work on community resilience is poorly defined and the actions are too narrowly focused". "Without effective monitoring and evaluation, there is also often push back by Senior Public Officials, who either do not want to share power with the people, individually or in communities, or who falsely claim that this change of approach is unaffordable, when doing it properly actually saves money, turning problems into solutions. "We therefore need to fully embrace co-production, moving beyond rhetoric and consultation to doing things differently in practice, with service professionals, services users and their communities working side by side to provide solutions." "Enabling Wales will require the development of a long-term, overarching communities strategy to help empower local people and establish 'asset-based community development' as a key principle within community development,

unlocking both 'people' and 'physical' assets, empowering the people of the community and using existing community strengths to build sustainable communities for the future."

Despite the UK Localism Act 2011, the Welsh Government has refused to require Councils in Wales to maintain a list of 'Community Assets' and to introduce the 'Community Right to Bid' for assets of community value, unlike England. Our motion therefore regretted that there is no statutory right for communities in Wales to buy land or assets as in Scotland, and no right to bid, challenge, or build as in England – and called on the Welsh Government to protect community assets by enabling local people to run and expand facilities that benefit the local community, and introduce a Community Ownership Fund and Right to Bid. The Institute of Welsh Affairs's 'Our Land: Communities and Land Use' report 'found that Welsh communities are the least empowered in Britain', and community groups in Wales told them 'about an arbitrary, demoralising scenario with little real process for communities to take ownership of public or private assets'.

As I said when closing the Welsh Conservative Debate on Local Communities last year, 'Welsh Conservatives recognise the need to revitalise local decision-making, encouraging decisions to be made as close to the people it effects as possible.'

We need to enable, empower and set free our local communities, but this will require a revolution in policy and service delivery in Wales: Enabling people and communities to identify their strengths and to tackle the root problems preventing them from reaching their potential; working with people to build resilient communities; seeing everyone as equal partners in local services, and breaking down the barriers between people who provide services and those who use them.

It's time to give power to the people!

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To access most online library resources you will need to enter your library membership number and pin. If you do not have this then you can join up as a member online via the Aura website for instant access. All links and further details about our digital library resources can be found here: [www.aura.wales/libraries](http://www.aura.wales/libraries)

### Baby Babble Sessions at Flint Library

The 4-Weekly sessions take place from 20th November until the 18th December at 10.00 – 11.00am in Flint library and are led by a member of the Speech and Language Therapy team.

Baby Babble is aimed at babies 0-18 months to have fun, friendly play sessions exploring how to help your baby's talking. The sessions are a great way to meet other parents and carers and for your baby to make friends.

To book the session or for further information please contact Amy via [amy.crowther@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:amy.crowther@wales.nhs.uk)

### Sharing your own memories with Aura

Reflecting on our own individual experiences and personal memories has proven beneficial effects and improves our quality of life. Sharing memories improves our self-esteem, decreases stress, gives us a heightened sense of well-being and feelings of joy.

Did you know that Aura Libraries provide opportunities for you to connect with others through our regular activities and events? Join in our wide range of free social groups such as Craft and Chat, Jigsaw clubs and Sporting Memories

### Sporting Memories



Do you, or someone you know, loves talking about or sharing memories of sporting moments, greatest sporting champions, events or sporting disasters? 'Sporting Memories' sessions are designed to get conversation flowing, help re-live positive memories and provide fun, a quiz and social interaction. At Sporting Memories Clubs, everyone finds fun, friendship and increased well-being. The sessions are run weekly on Wednesday 10.30 am at Flint Library and Monday 2.30pm at Holywell Library.

We would love for you to join us. For further information contact Flint Library

01352 703737 or Holywell Library 01352 703850.

### Activities at Holywell Library

Why not join us for our friendly, free weekly activities

Monday	Sporting Memories 2.30pm and Lego Club 3.30pm
Tuesday	Rhymetime 10.00am
Thursday	Rhymetime 2.00pm
Friday	Welsh Conversation 2pm (1st & 3rd Friday of the month)

Saturday Lego Club 10.00am

Warm Hubs don't forget, you can access Aura Libraries warm hubs every day when our libraries are open, with free warm drinks, board games, puzzles, newspapers and magazines and the chance to keep warm and chat over a cuppa. A warm welcome awaits you all.

### Let your imagination run riot at our free weekly lego clubs available in all libraries!



*Aura is a charitable, not-for-profit, organisation responsible for managing the majority of leisure, libraries and heritage services in Flintshire. Aura is owned by its employees and operates for the benefit of local communities.*

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## SANTA AND HIS ROTARY CLUB HELPERS

Will Soon Be Touring Holywell and Halkyn Mountain



The nights are drawing in and already the hillsides of Flintshire are resounding to the sounds of Santa's little helpers, who can be heard, hard at work, ensuring Santa's Sleigh will be in good order, ready to start his tour round Flint, Holywell, Halkyn and surrounding villages this Christmas. However these are not Santa's elves who are hard at work, it is popular Rhosesmor motor engineer John Williams and his team of Rotarians who are spending many hours, working on the necessary maintenance and upgrade works, needed not only to Santa's sleigh, but also to The Rotary Club's dedicated, but ageing, 4x4 tow vehicle, just as they have been doing for many years.

Although John and his team give their time entirely free, the material costs required can be significant and each year the Club finds it increasingly difficult to raise the necessary funds.

The Club's Press Officer, David Pearce commented that last year, without the magnificent support of local businesses, the Float was in danger of being unable to continue a tradition that goes back over fifty years. Indeed, many local people recall fondly, their own childhood memories of Santa's brightly lit sleigh sweeping past their homes with Santa waving to the awe-struck children to the sound of Christmas Carols. Unfortunately, in recent years, collections from the public have however fallen significantly. Too many people think that emptying their pockets of loose "coppers" is enough, but quite simply, it's not.

Last year, a special plea went out to local businesses for their financial support. We were not disappointed, David said, and within a few days, well over £2,000 had been donated from those we refer to as, "OUR HEROES". We are hoping that this year, we will once again receive similar support, but we would also ask local people to dig deeply into their pockets and help us ensure this much-loved tradition survives,

The full Christmas Float Programme will be available to view on our Facebook page. However, the Float begins its tour on November 24th in the centre of Holywell

when the Christmas lights are switched on at 4.30 pm. in the afternoon. The Float's tour covering the Halkyn Mountain area commences on December 12th at 6.00pm from the playing fields in Rhosesmor and proceeds to the Blue Bell in Halkyn at 6.15, The Halkyn Post Office at Pentre Halkyn 6.30, before moving on to Brynford School at 6.50. From there the float continues its tour arriving at The Crown Inn, Lixwm at 7.05, before reaching The Square, Caerwys at 7.30 and finally finishing at The Druid Inn, Gorsedd at 7.50.

Owing to ever increasing public safety requirements, the float will be touring though the above areas but ONLY stopping at designated "Santa Stops" at the locations mentioned above.

Obviously, these plans are liable to change for a variety of reasons and up to date news of The Float will be available on The Club's Facebook page.

### OUR LOCAL HEROES

The Rotary Club of Flint & Holywell thank our great Christmas float supporters for their financial assistance:

John Sibeon, Cambrian Gas, NWC Business Forum, Kingspan, Reid Trading, The Pet Cemetery, Griffiths & Hughes Parry, Fletcher Davies, Flintshire Windows, Holywell Golf Club, Llewellyn Jones, Flint Town Council, Trendy Blinds, Truwood Furniture, Lyonsden Fitness, Castle Cars, Roberts Manufacturing, MB Company, Celt Rowlands, Gruff Jones, Holywell Town Council, Springfield Hotel, Azet Holdings, Nannerch Rainbows.

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## WILLIAM JOHN SAUNDERS



John was born on 28th November 1939 to Henry and Florence Saunders. He was the youngest of three brothers whose early years were spent in the family home, Fircroft on the Holway Road. After attending school in Holywell, John trained as a plasterer under the guidance of his father and later worked at RAF Sealand where he became Foreman of Building Maintenance. He retired in 2004.

Having known each other since their school days John married Jean in December 1964 only to be parted after 50 years of marriage by Jean's passing in 2014.

In 1964 John and Jean, together with his brother-in-law Brian, his wife Dorothy and with the help of their families, built their own homes and this was to be their lifelong residence.

John was a keen DIYer and provided a lot of assistance to family members over the years including joinery, plastering, tiling etc.

In 1964, John's wife Jean together with Mona Morris, both ward sisters at Llesty Hospital, started raising funds to pay for the provision of rails and curtains around the beds. This led to the formation of the 'Good Companions of Holywell Hospitals', and John was soon brought on board performing various roles over the years including that of Chairman, a position he held until his recent passing.

John helped to organise and run all manner of fund-raising activities including the Summer and Christmas fayres, the hotpot lunch, concerts and sponsored walks.

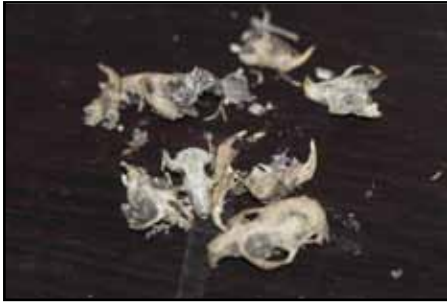
On Christmas morning John would take on the role of Santa in full costume when he and other members of the Good Companions would go around the hospital wards giving a present to each patient and staff member.

Both John and Jean were awarded the MBE and OLM (Order of the League of Mercy) for their charity work - honours which they were proud to receive.

John passed away on 8th September 2023.



## NATURE COLUMN (Jan Miller)



You may know that owls cough up pellets containing the indigestible remains of their eaten prey like the tiny bones and feathers. But species from kingfishers to Jackdaws and herons cough up bird pellets as well. Interestingly, birds will bring up a pellet most days, sometimes twice a day, and the size of the pellet varies depending on the size of the bird. I have found them in my Barn owls' nest box, and also some on the ground or even on a fence post where a Kestrel must have rested in between hunting forays in my rough, long grass meadows. This is where they find lots of voles and mice. I went to a workshop on



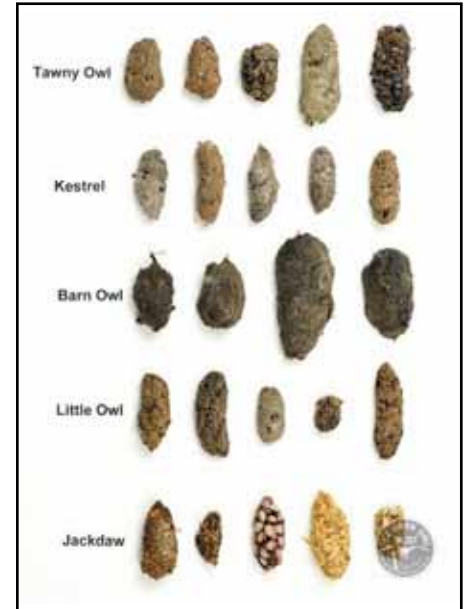
pellet dissection where we pulled pellets apart (after keeping them in a bag in the freezer for a couple of days to kill anything unpleasant), to find which creatures had been caught locally. In mine there were two pigmy shrews, which are quite rare, as well as mice and voles. The tutor was especially looking for remains of harvest mice which are particularly rare in our area. We didn't

find any that day. But this is a very useful way of finding out and recording which small mammals live in the vicinity. Some friends dissected their garden Tawny owl pellets last week and found mostly beetle remains! Maybe this is one reason that Tawny owls are more common now than Barn owls, the Tawnies are more adaptable to what food they can eat - there was even a Springwatch on TV a few years ago where they showed a poor Tawny owl chick that kept getting fed slugs, poor thing was covered in slime! But at least it was getting fed with whatever the parents could find. This is something that sometimes get forgotten; you can put up as many nest boxes as you like, but if the hunting habitat is not very close most birds won't use the nest boxes. Seed and nut eaters do very well from our artificial garden feeders and nestboxes, but the big birds that need fresh meat have to look elsewhere. I once tried putting fresh mice I had caught in traps in the house out on fence posts for birds to take. But do you know, they were still there three weeks later! I suppose the birds have to catch them live to know they are not diseased or rotten.

Apparently Pellets are useful to bird species that lay their eggs inside cavities. These birds will break up the pellets they cough up to line the floor of their nests with, digging a shallow scrape into the shredded balls when they are ready to lay a clutch of eggs. Owls do this, and kingfishers too.


Kingfisher pellets are roughly the size of a large peanut and are made up of individual tiny fish scales and fine fish bones, they are exceptionally fragile and fine. And they have an extremely important function inside the kingfisher nest. This bird species digs tunnels into riverbanks to nest in and these underground chambers are inherently damp. There is also nowhere for faeces of the developing chicks to drain. And so their pellets play a vital role in keeping the nest clean because the


shredded matter absorbs all the wet and smelly poo, like our disposable nappies!. In fact, a female kingfisher will not lay her eggs until she has built up a soft layer of pellets for them to rest on. The female uses her long sharp beak to shred them into a comfortable, soft nest. It seems it is only the female that does this, and she is very efficient about it. As soon as the male or a chick throws a pellet in the nest, she is there, deftly shredding the ball of bones into tiny pieces.



*Different bird pellets that will tell you what they are and what they have caught locally*

(With thanks to Robert E. Fullers's website, which has wonderful pictures too). Now I find this very interesting because when I went to get pellets from my Barn owl nestbox I found there was a layer of what seemed to be broken up pellets underneath whole ones, I thought they must be degraded old nest material, especially as there was a filter tip from a cigarette included. They must use the same method for nesting.





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## MARK ISHERWOOD MS | AS

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## NEWS FROM GORSEDD AND WHITFORD CHURCHES



**(Rev Kathryn Evans, Vicar of Gorsedd and Whitford)**

Firstly, I'd like to say a huge thank you to all those who supported the various events we had at St Paul's, Gorsedd to celebrate 170 years since the church's initial consecration in 1853. The variety of events - from a joint service, through to an evening with Elvis (the Welsh one!) and our Artisan Autumn Fayre were incredibly well supported and it's a delight to have our church at the heart of the community in Gorsedd. As I wrote for the Welsh magazine - Gorsedd church has had to adapt to survive. There are many within our communities who grieved when we 'lost' some of what was original in the church but we have been able to preserve the Sanctuary as it was, and even uncovered the stunningly beautiful tiles on the floor. We now have a church, very like churches in the early medieval years, where the secular and sacred mix seamlessly. I strongly believe we are in a good place to continue to be at the heart of the community for many years to come.

Whitford church is also focussing on the future, there will not be any reordering there, there just aren't the funds, but we are looking at developing our links with the

heritage aspect of the church. As a Grade I listed building, and the site of a church since the 6th century, Whitford church is unique and we do need to make the most of what we have. One of the challenges for Whitford is the lack of comfort facilities and we are beginning to look at the possibility of having a composting toilet (as many rural churches have done). If you have any experience, or insight and could support us as we explore this possibility, please do get in touch with me.

As this is the Winter magazine, our hearts are focussed on Christmas - the time Christians give thanks for God, coming to earth as a tiny baby, and who would live and die and rise again for us all. Christmas always brings me new hope - hope that there will one day be peace (our world so needs God's peace right now), hope that we

will learn to love and care for one another more, and hope that all things are possible with a little faith.

Church Carol services will be held on Sunday 17th December - 11am at Whitford and 3pm at Gorsedd do come and join us for our favourite carols and refreshments afterwards and then the usual Christmas Eve services continue (Family Crib service at Whitford at 4pm and Midnight Communion at Gorsedd at 11:00pm for refreshments, 11:30pm service). This year we are also having a Christmas Day service at Whitford church for the first time at 10am - do bring a present to open and join in the festivities.

May I take this opportunity to wish you every blessing for Christmas and a peace-filled 2024.

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## YSGOL TREFFYNNON

### Sian Croston (Business Manager/Rheolwr busnes)

A festive welcome from all at Ysgol Treffynnon!

In this edition, we've compiled highlights from the past term, showcasing the incredible journey we've been on. It's a testament to the hard work, dedication, and passion of everyone at Ysgol Treffynnon.

### CURRICULUM FOR WALES OPEN EVENING

We started the year with inviting parents and carers from Year 7 and 8 into school for a Curriculum for Wales open evening. It gave us the chance to showcase our approach to the new Curriculum for Wales with taster activities for parents to experience the learning opportunities that their children will be undertaking each day.

For more information about the Curriculum for Wales at Ysgol Treffynnon, please visit our school website at <https://www.ysgoltreffynnon.cymru/curriculum/curriculum-for-wales/>

### NEW HEAD STUDENTS

Four Year 11 students are thrilled to have been elected as Head and Deputy Head students. The recruitment process for these prestigious and responsible roles took place at the end of last term. All students were invited to campaign and submit their manifestos, with a covering letter, to the school Council setting out their ideas about the changes they would like to help introduce if elected.

### Head Students - Abi Frost and Henry Jones

Abi is looking to continue her predecessor's commitment of working with the canteen staff to look at reducing food prices and introducing a greater variety of vegetarian and vegan options. She also hopes to encourage more students to volunteer in the local community, launch more rewards for e-praise, and the production of yearbooks for the leaving class. Describing herself as a 'capable and friendly person' who 'understands the struggles many students face', Abi said: "I am so grateful for this opportunity to represent the students in our school, and I am committed to achieving everything I set out in my manifesto."

Henry is passionate about introducing more inter school events and competitions for students as well as sports activities during form time. He also wants to make the cold servery available for students during breaktimes in addition to lunchtime, in order to ease the queues for hot food. He said: "This is a very exciting opportunity, and I will work hard to achieve the things I have set out to do."

### OPEN EVENING

More than 140 families attended our open evening to gain an insight into every faculty and participate in a host of interactive activities, as well as hearing from its newest students about their



experiences since joining in September.

John Weir, headteacher, said: "The open evening was an unparalleled triumph for our school. Parents were overwhelmingly positive, commending our dedicated staff and wonderful student helpers and speakers, as well as the accessible and engaging environment we enjoy here at Ysgol Treffynnon. Attendees had the unique opportunity to delve deeply into the Ysgol Treffynnon experience, gaining hands-on insights across all academic disciplines."

"The children who visited from our partner primary schools were an absolute credit to their families, exemplifying the highest standards of politeness and engagement. Their enthusiastic participation in activities and thoughtful conversations with our staff and students significantly enriched the event."

"I would like to thank everyone who came on the night, and our amazing staff and students for making it such a wonderful evening."

Ysgol Treffynnon students showed families around the school's facilities and provided information about organised activities in each subject area for the children to take part in.

### GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP



This term our GCSE Geography students enjoyed a fantastic field trip in the heart of Snowdonia National Park.

The students spent the day exploring the stunning landscapes of North Wales! The field trip was designed to help our students deepen their understanding of various geographical concepts whilst

experiencing the natural and cultural beauty of this area.

This trip was to help our GCSE students with their NEA with the aim of helping them to enhance their knowledge and fieldwork skills. We hope our students gained a deeper appreciation of the interplay between the physical and human environments, as well as the challenges and opportunities presented in these unique geographical locations.

### RESTART A HEART DAY

On the 16th of October 2023, we enthusiastically embraced the spirit of Restart a Heart Day, a global initiative aimed at highlighting the importance of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to the general public. This annual event, coordinated by organisations such as the British Heart Foundation, the Resuscitation Council, St. John's Ambulance, British Red Cross, the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives, and Save a Life Cymru, is a crucial step towards increasing awareness about cardiac arrest and equipping individuals with the skills and confidence to potentially save lives.

Restart a Heart Day seeks to emphasise that the early moments following a cardiac arrest are critical and that a trained bystander can make a life-saving difference. By promoting education and training in CPR, this event plays a pivotal role in enhancing the chances of survival for those experiencing heart-related emergencies.



At Ysgol Treffynnon, 92 Year 7 pupils had the unique opportunity to gain invaluable insights into the significance of CPR and defibrillators. The event was organised with great enthusiasm, with the presence of Sandra Silcock from the Welsh Ambulance Service, alongside Mrs. V. Bond, who led the engaging sessions for our Year 7 students.

Throughout the day, the students were educated about the essential components of CPR, including recognising the signs of cardiac arrest, ensuring personal safety, summoning professional help, administering CPR, and comprehending the life-saving significance of defibrillators. The students actively participated in hands-on sessions that exposed them to real-life scenarios, teaching them how to act independently or collaboratively to save lives.

Mrs. V. Bond, who played a pivotal role in organising the event, expressed her



enthusiasm for the initiative, stating, "This day is very important to us, and this is a vital life-saving skill that children need to learn. After doing the session, we hope they are more confident to use these skills to help someone if they need it in the future."

The Year 7 pupils wholeheartedly embraced the learning experience. Their newfound confidence in administering CPR is an essential skill that can be used to provide aid in emergency situations. The school community takes great pride in empowering these young students with the knowledge that could one day make a profound difference in the lives of others.

The successful participation of Ysgol Treffynnon in Restart a Heart Day 2023 not only underscores the school's commitment to student well-being but also the importance of spreading awareness about CPR and its life-saving potential. The students now possess a vital skill that can potentially make a life-changing impact.

#### **AMRC ENGINEERING EVENT**

26 Ysgol Treffynnon Year 8 students joined schools from across North Wales at AMRC Cymru for an event celebrating North Wales Engineering, Manufacturing and Energy.

Organised by Deeside Business Forum, students were able to interact with local employers including TATA Steel, Toyota and Airbus, taking part in fun challenges, handling exhibits and hearing about opportunities for careers and further study. Students also heard from AMRC's own engineers who showcased their robotic, virtual reality and 3D printing technology. AMRC is the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre and is part of the University of Sheffield.

Lily Pilkington, one of the students who attended said: 'I liked looking at the machines and asking questions to the engineers about what they do and how stuff works. It was a fun day!'

Students also left topping the leader board of a Toyota challenge!

#### **CHOOSE LIFE WORKSHOP SHEDS LIGHT ON DRUG DANGERS**

In today's rapidly changing world, it's more important than ever to equip our young generation with the knowledge and awareness needed to make informed decisions. This becomes especially crucial when dealing with sensitive issues like substance abuse. At Ysgol Treffynnon, we take our commitment to the well-being and education of our students seriously, which is why we recently organised a powerful workshop with Choose Life, a remarkable organisation that leverages the first-hand experiences of recovered drug users to educate young people on the dangers of Class A drugs.

#### **The Choose Life Workshop at Ysgol Treffynnon**

Today, our Year 9 students had the privilege of experiencing the Choose Life workshop first hand, and the impact was nothing short of remarkable. The session

was an eye-opening opportunity for our students to engage with individuals who had once walked a perilous path but emerged as survivors, committed to making a difference in the lives of young people.

#### **Engaged and Empowered**

One of the most striking aspects of the Choose Life workshop was the level of engagement from our Year 9 students. They listened intently as the recovered addicts shared their stories. These stories were filled with honesty, vulnerability, and courage, making them more than just cautionary tales. They served as powerful life lessons, cautioning against the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse and urging our students to make informed choices.

#### **In Conclusion..**

The Choose Life workshop was a resounding success, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to them for their dedication and commitment to educating young people on the dangers of Class A drugs. At Ysgol Treffynnon, we believe that the most powerful lessons are often learned through the experiences of others, and Choose Life exemplifies this philosophy. The impact of this workshop will resonate with our Year 9 students for years to come, equipping them with the tools they need to make informed choices and lead healthier, happier lives.

#### **DEMOCRACY IN ACTION DAY**

Students from all over Flintshire were



invited by Hannah Blythyn MS and Jack Sargeant MS to take part in the 'Democracy in Action Day' held at Deeside Sixth. Following a warm welcome from the chief executive of Coleg Cambria, Yana Williams, students worked hard in groups to debate the issues important to them. The students created a youth manifesto with issues such as sports and leisure appearing from every school. Ysgol Treffynnon Head-girl Abbi Frost explained that quality work experience is something that could be planned for by the Senedd. Abbi and the YT team made some very sensible suggestions! Carole Green from ITV Cymru News then hosted a question time event where the students enjoyed posing challenging questions to the politicians.

As 2023 draws to a close, we want to wish all the families in our local community a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!

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## YSGOL Y LLAN VA PRIMARY SCHOOL, WHITFORD (Headteacher, Mr Bryan Griffiths)

We have had an extremely busy start to the school year. The children have had lots of learning opportunities and experiences already, and we have even managed to have the parents of our younger pupils in school for an interactive parental engagement session all about Read, Write, Inc. and how they can help children to develop their reading and writing skills at home. The feedback received was excellent and parents went away with lots of ideas to try at home.



We had a wonderful Harvest service this year and our families gave generously to the local St. Peter's Church Foodbank in Holywell.



We were thrilled to welcome our Parent & Toddlers back after the summer break. This continues to run free of charge every Wednesday morning between 10.30am and 11.30am. This is open to all local villages and is not limited to our own families.

One of the most exciting things to happen this term was the start of our new childcare building. This project has been in the pipeline for some years now, so when we finally welcomed Wynne Construction on site, everyone was thrilled. The children have been captivated by the on-going work and the progress to date is amazing.



Wynne Construction arrived mid-October and they are already making headway, in order to finish the project by mid-March.



Our children all thoroughly enjoyed participating in our annual sponsored walk to Mostyn Estates this term. This year, they raised a staggering £1290.50, all of which will be spent on improving our library



provision and resources. Congratulations to everyone for taking part and a huge thank you as always to our families and friends for supporting us.



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A huge congratulations to our football and netball teams as they finished overall winners in both the rural schools football and netball competitions. Not only did they showcase excellent skills during their games, but they made us extremely proud with their positive sportsmanship and teamwork.

### Class 1 teacher – Mrs Hughes

We have really enjoyed learning about 'Me and my community' this half term. We have talked lots about ourselves and who we live with, enjoyed telling our news every Monday morning and we have discussed people who help us in our school and in our community. We have listened well to each other and have learnt lots about each other.

We are learning to work as a team and follow our golden rules and have made friendship bracelets for each other. We are enjoying learning our sounds every day, and have listened and responded to lots of lovely stories such as Enemy Pie, Five minutes peace and Leaf man.

We have looked at patterns, one more and one less, longer and shorter, and have been very busy coding our firefighter, police and ambulance Blubots around the village floormat.



### Class 2 teacher – Miss Wiggins

This half term, our topic has been 'Magnificent Monarchs.' We have been learning about Alfred the Great, the Vikings and William the Conqueror.

The children have enjoyed making Bayeux tapestries and designing outfits for peg dolls according to their "rank" in the Feudal System.

We have been reading 'The Princess and the Pea', and the children have loved writing their own "recycled" story, using the initial plot of this fairy-tale.

Class 2 & Class 3 have also begun to work on an outdoor learning project with the Welsh advisory team. Below you can see children from Dosbarth 2 in our Goedwig/ Forest area, playing parachute games in the rain, yn Cymraeg!!



### Class 3 teacher – Miss Roberts

The pupils in Class 3 have all started to learn how to play the violin! They will all receive free music tuition for 2 terms under the Welsh Government First Experiences



scheme. Helen Richards, our violin teacher comes every Wednesday afternoon and the children are engaging brilliant with the experience.

As part of our Human Actions topic we have been learning about Andy Warhol (see next page) and have been working hard to recreate some of his fantastic pieces of Popart!

### Class 4 teacher – Mr Thomas



Class 4 have settled back into school brilliantly and have been working hard. Our

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whole school theme for this term is 'human actions, past and present'.

Our current topic is World War II. We have focused on the different causes which led to Britain and France declaring war on Germany. At the beginning of the topic, the class dressed up as evacuees to get a better understanding of what life was like for evacuees during WWII. The class loved getting under the tables when the air raid siren went off!

We had a talk from Colin, who lived in Liverpool during the war and he told us what life was like for him and his family. We have learnt about how Hitler became the leader of Germany and what the Nazi Party did to cause WWII.

In Maths & Numeracy lessons we have focused on number work, developing our understanding of place value, addition and subtraction. In our Language, Literacy & Communication lessons we have been focusing on developing our understanding of the place value of Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. We have been focussing on developing our understanding of nouns, verbs, single clause sentences and how to punctuate these sentences. Hopefully we can use this knowledge in our independent writing throughout the year. In Science & Technology lessons, we have been looking at different forces including gravity, friction and air resistance. We have carried out an investigation looking at whether objects fall at the same rate and are just about to look at the effect of air resistance on paper aeroplanes. In our RVE lessons, we have been finding out about the 5 pillars of Islam. We have carried out an enquiry into what we think is the best way for Muslims to show their commitment to God.

I have been really impressed with the

class' attitude and engagement throughout this first half term. They have helped lead the Harvest festival, carried out a class assembly for parents and next half term will be practising for their Christmas production. Da iawn dosbarth 4.

### **GORSEDD CHURCH LADIES GUILD**

**Elvis lives! - in Gorsedd**



The Guild meeting in October was unlike any other. The speaker was to be Rev Wynne Roberts, also known as 'The Welsh Elvis' and at his suggestion the Guild decided to hold an 'Elvis Concert' on Wednesday evening 18th October with the proceeds in support St Paul's Church in Gorsedd.



Posters and tickets were printed and the 100 tickets available quickly sold out. The evening started with a typical Elvis fanfare and dramatic entrance which set the scene for a great night of Elvis's pop and gospel songs.

The audience of Elvis fans ranged from teenagers to 90-somethings though was the younger fans who took up the challenge to join Elvis with the actions!

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**Hello Five Villages!** I thought I would tell you all a little about us here at Celtic Law in this edition.

We feel it's important for you to get to know us, and for us to get to know you and your family so that we develop our working relationship. This is what we love most about our job, and why we have such a loyal and friendly client base.

The firm was set up in 2017 by me, Emily. I never envisaged setting up a business. Managing my own firm means I can be a little more creative in how we deliver our legal services – I am keen to be less 'solicitor-like'. Our values are to be approachable, transparent, ethical and accessible.

The team consists of Frankie and I (and Roxie – the office pug!) We work closely for our clients and we are lucky that we get on as friends as well as work colleagues. This makes for a nice working environment, but also a jolly place for you to come! We promise that making a Will won't be morbid for you.

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## **COUNCILLOR CHRIS DOLPHIN**

**Hello everyone, Sut mae pethau:  
WINTER MAINTENANCE:**

At this time of year winter service operations play a fundamental role in ensuring highway networks are safe and available during adverse weather conditions. Maintaining access to the network is crucial for emergency services, business, social services, education, and the public. Flintshire reviews its winter policies every two years.

A quick summary of last winter service operations were: - 43,495 miles covered by gritters; 7,012 tonnes of salt spread; 510 tonnes of salt used from salt bins; 84,373 hours used in response to weather conditions.

Flintshire responds to localised weather forecasting provided by MetDesk, our weather stations are in Hendre and Brynford, and adverse weather also includes forecasting for high winds and heavy rain. Forecasts are received at 06.00hrs 12.00hrs and 18.00hrs everyday October 1st – April 30th. Flintshire has 26 operational staff rostered to be on-call plus highway response teams if required. If high winds are forecast the closure of the Flintshire bridge is taken by the Duty Officer, who will follow the criteria of: - wind of 50-55mph no restriction, monitor wind speed; 55mph close bridge or close downwind lane; 60mph close bridge.

All roadside salt bins are filled at the

start of winter, further refills will be carried out as time and resources permit. The council's winter maintenance fleet consists of 12 frontline gritting vehicles, 2 spare gritting vehicles and if required 3 trailer type gritters operated by contractors. The 14 gritting vehicles all have an innovative GPS tracking system. A total of 2200 tonnes of coated rock salt is currently stored in the storage dome at Alltami. Due to previous shortages of rock salt 7000 tonnes is also stored under sheeting at the Greenfield recycling depot. Most of the road de-icing salt used in the UK is derived from a non-renewable source through mining a natural salt bed stretching from Northwest England to Ireland. Flintshire uses a coated rock salt grain size of 6.3mm known as Safecote.

Even with the weather forecasting provided, the heavy rain of Storm Babet in October created flooding in many parts of the UK. Properties in Flintshire were flooded, over 20 roads were closed, schools were shut, thus bus, rail and car use were affected. Many rivers in Wales and the UK burst their banks including the Dee, and in many areas, homes were evacuated. Even with storms predicted, the natural power of nature cannot always be stopped.

### **FOOTWAYS:**

Following successful trials of alternative de-icing materials heavily used footways in town centres, car parks and sheltered accommodation will be treated with a product called "Safethaw". This product is a brine solution mixed with an agricultural by-

product. It will be applied where applicable in periods of heavy snow and prolonged icy conditions.

### **ASH TREES:**

Since 2019 Ash Dieback disease has been confronted, firstly by a series of surveys identifying where infected trees are and what danger they posed to the public. A programme of tree removal is ongoing for Flintshire owned trees and with many landowners contacted regarding to highlight the presence of Ash Dieback with an expectation of tree removal.

Ash dieback is now endemic, and an annual cycle and inspection to identify, monitor and classify infected Ash trees growing adjacent the highways. To date, survey data shows that most of the infected trees are on private land. Three prominent areas of the disease continue in Hendre, the Ffrwd valley Llanfynydd, and the Cegidog valley near Wrexham. 291 owners have been identified and contacted regarding a total of 5,427 trees. Action has been taken on 2,770 trees to date, which is just over 50%.

Survey data has shown there are still 1238 Highway ash trees recorded on Flintshire land, the actual amount will be more. It is accepted Flintshire will take responsibility for trees on unregistered land. In 2022/23; 1083 trees were felled at a cost of £146,177; 50 Open space trees were felled at a cost of £18,675; 45 other Ash trees were felled at a cost of £5,170.

Work on "recovery" to re plant the felled trees lost to dieback will begin after the

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predominant risk has been mitigated.

#### **BUDGET:**

All local authorities need to "balance the books". Just like a household, there is income and expenditure. During the Autumn it was known the funding gap was £32.386 million. So where is the extra income? And where are the cuts to be made? The UK and Welsh Government settlement figures to local authorities is vital, Council tax is bound to be raised, it must, where can savings be made? Lots of questions/soul searching again. Most of the Council's money is spent on Education including pay awards and pensions, and Social Services.

With council efficiencies and council tax considered for 2023/24 the funding gap is estimated to now be about £14.042million; this must be achieved. Will black bins collections be changed? Reduce grass cutting/weed spraying, charge for food bags, up the Planning fees, sort out a Homelessness black hole of a £2million overspend, put Recycling Centres on part time opening hours. Lots of "bad stuff", the UK Budget announcement in November is important for us, and then we need to see what the actions of Welsh Government are toward its own local authorities. Remember Flintshire gets a bad deal, near the bottom of the list, as we are classified as a wealthy county.

#### **UPDATE:**

As I write, it is expected the completion of the footway in Gorsedd is scheduled for January or soon after, great news, and paid for by Active Travel and earned by hard and thoughtful work from Richard. the present Chair of the Community Council, and myself. The brown village name signs will also be changed and upgraded.

#### **CONTACT:**

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

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Meetings are held at the **Halkyn Cricket Club**, Holywell CH8 8BS on the third Tuesday of the month. Talks start at 7.30pm. Doors open from 7pm for plant sales and raffle tickets. Visitors welcome £3 per meeting.

The next meetings are:-

**Tuesday 27th February - Gordon Baillie**

**'Arley Hall Gardens and the Plants that cope with Weather Extremes'**

Gordon is the Head Gardener at Arley Hall the home of Lord and Lady Ashbrook. Originally from Glasgow, he has spent time at a number of nurseries and estates before tending to the gardens at this beautiful estate, which have been created over the past 250 years by successive generations of the same family.

**Tuesday 19th March - Gwen Davies**

**'Wine from the Vale of Clwyd'**

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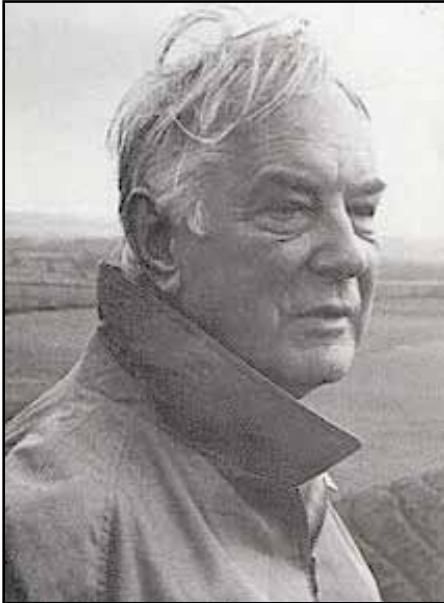
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**'THE END IS IN THE  
BEGINNING' T.S.ELIOT  
(Norman Closs – Parry)**



Geoffrey Grigson has been one of my literary idols for a long time. Geoffrey Edward Harvey Grigson was a British poet, writer, editor, critic, exhibition curator, anthologist! He was born in Pelyost, Cornwall in 1905 and died 25th November 1985 in Broad Town...a polymath if anybody deserved the title. He edited several "Century" books which appealed to me - one of the most famous, "Shell Guide to the Countryside"...

always at my elbow. He compiled a volume, 'The English Year' which is worthy of the British environmental/cultural scene! His CV is mind blowing - so we'll skip it out of shame/jealousy! But how one head can be so covenant with the literary and cultural and natural historical part of our land leaves me beside myself with admiration. Just look at the list of Writers which he has read and drawn upon their works for the English Year!

William Allingham (1834-89) Jane Austen (1775-1817), William Blake (1757-1827), John Clare (1743-1964), William Cowper (1731-1800), John Fisher (1788-1832), Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-64), Richard Hawks (1725-90), Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-89), Richard Jeffries (1848-87),

Francis Kilnest (1840-79), D.H. Lawrence (1885-1930), Katherine Mansfield (1888-1923), John Everett Millaio (1829-96), Samuel Palmer (1805-81), Samuel Pepys (1633-1703), Ann Radcliffe (1764-1823), John Ruskin (1819-1900), James Sometham (1821-89), George Sturt (1863-1927), Alfred Tennyson (1809-92), Horace Walpole (1717-97), Gilbert White (1720-93), James Woodforde (1740-1803), Dorothy Wordsworth (1771-1855), William Wordsworth (1770-1850).

I have included the names of authors/scholars/ poets/naturalists so that:

- The reader can see how influential the 18th and 19th century was.
- The reader can wonder at Grigson's

own reading.

- The reader can have a December glimpse at life in Britain through eye and pen of geniuses.

At the end of this volume Grigson has penpicted every one of the above - an education in itself, plus the fact that most of the extracts are from their diaries/ journals and /or letters - which to me, can be 'fresher' than the long-considered sentence!

What I like about the Grigson Volume is that he has selected 'bits' from the aforementioned as was appropriate to day, week, month (quoting the place and the year) What I have learnt by comparing and contrasting information like that is that - for example - Britain has had cold winters, it has had mild Decembers - it is not just in our time it's happening. Of course, our time is far more technologically equipped to decipher climate readings - but the Blue Planet is the Blue Planet. In another Grigson anthology - Rainbows, Fleas and Flowers, he says in his introduction.

"It is cheerful to learn, I think, that from space our world is an exquisite blue. Red Mars, White Venus, Blue Earth. Poets of all the past would be delighted with the news."

I've wanted to share Grigson with people - and also the insight and talent of the writers he so admired. At the cusp of another year, I thought it would be novel to select a few of his (Grigson's) December authors, who in turn might encourage us to stand and stare and write a thought and

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CARRYING A HEAVY LOAD AND I WILL GIVE  
YOU REST. MATT 11:28**

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keep a record. I know what happens. The road to hell is paved with good intentions... it's all right for week one, week two, three and four could be a struggle...but as one who has done it since 1970, it's worth the effort - for its own sake:

## DECEMBER

**December 1**...this fine first of December, under an unclouded sky, and in a room full of sunshine... (William Cowper (1789 Bucks)

**December 7**...Winter. The landscape has turned from a painting to an engraving - the birds that love worms fall back upon berries: the back parts of homesteads assume, in the general nakedness of the trees, a humiliating squalidness as to their details that has not been contemplated by their occupiers. (Thomas Hardy 1886 (Dorset)

**December 9**...Honeysuckle out and catkins hanging in the thickets... Gerard Manley Hopkins 1868 (Surrey)

**December 14**...Dark and mild, spitting rain, great rain. Earthworms are alert, and throw up their casts this mild weather.... Gilbert White (1774 - Hampshire)

**December 19**...as mild a day as I can remember. We all set out to walk...There were flowers of various kinds - the topmost bell of a foxglove, geraniums, daisies, a buttercup in the water...small yellow flowers (I do not know their name) on the turf, a large bunch of strawberry blossoms.

Dorothy Wordsworth (1802 Westmorland) (She is the most frequently

quoted writer by Grigson - for the earthy spark and honesty of her looking and seeing!) - Here she is again.

**Christmas Eve**...William is now sitting with me at half past ten o'clock. I have been beside him ever since tea, running the heel of a stocking, repeating some of his sonnets to him, listening to his own repeating, reading some of Milton's and the Allegro and Penserose. It is a quiet, keen frost.

**December 25**...Vast rime, strong frost, bright and still, fog. The hanging woods when covered with a copious rime appears most beautiful and grotesque...Gilbert White (1799 - Hampshire)

**December 28**...Snow has fallen and everything is white. It is very cold...I love to close my eyes a moment and think of the land outside, white under the mingled snow and moonlight - white trees, white fields - the heaps of stone by the roadside white - snow in the furrows...if he were to come I could not even hear his footsteps.... Katherine Mansfield (1914 - Bucks)

**December 30**... Papilio IO [peacock butterfly] appears within doors and is very brisk. Gilbert White (1767- Hampshire)

'We ate some potted beef on horseback and sweet cakes. We stopped our horse close to the bridge opposite a tuft of primroses, three flowers in full blossom and a bud. They reared themselves up among the green moss. We debated long whether we should pluck them, and at last left them to live out their day, which I was right glad of at my return the Sunday

following; for there they remain uninjured either by cold or wet...Dorothy Wordsworth (1802 Cumberland)

If you have read thus far, then I call upon Francis Kilvert the cleric of Clyro to listen to the bells of '24!

'At five minutes to midnight the bells of Chippenham church pealed out loud and clear in the frosty air. We opened a shutter and stood around listening. It was a glorious night.'

True diary and journal is putting down sensations in a direct simple way - all of the above show that!

**BLWYDDYN NEWYDD DDA - HAPPY NEW YEAR**



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## Flintshire Historical Society

### Lecture programme

**"Twentieth century military remains in mid- and north-east Wales"**

Jeff Spencer, Field Monument Warden, CADW.  
2.30pm Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Mold, CH7 1PA

**"North Wales Castles"**

Dr Erin Lloyd Jones, Archaeologist and TV/radio presenter  
2.30pm Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024, St Peter's Church, Holywell, CH8 7TL

**"Wrecks of the Dee Estuary"**

Christopher Michael, Emeritus Professor, Liverpool University.  
2.30pm Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Mold, CH7 1PA.

**"The Mortimers, Lords of the Welsh Marches  
and (nearly) Kings of England!"**

Philip Hume, Mortimer History Society.  
2.30pm Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024, St Peter's Church, Holywell, CH8 7TL.

Non-members welcome. Booking not required.

For further information:  
[secretaryfhs21@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryfhs21@gmail.com) 07778 659648  
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## CARMVEL VILLAGE HALL (Richard Dolphin)



As mentioned previously, the Hall is a Charity Incorporate Organisation with all monies raised through groups, parties and fundraising going towards maintenance to secure the longevity of the 'Old Loved Hall' as a meeting place for all. The Trustees also attempt grant funding where applicable and available. The Hall is proud to announce a successful bid for £600 provided by Flintshire Local Voluntary Council, Community Chest Grant. This money will be used towards new tables for the main hall.

A spooktacular Halloween Bingo took place on Sunday, 29th October 2023. This was a well-attended event attended by children, adults, and a large German Shepherd as pictured below. For regular updates about the groups, hall availability and upcoming events then check out the Carmel Village Hall Facebook page – [www.facebook.com/carmelvillagehall](http://www.facebook.com/carmelvillagehall) or contact Chris Dolphin, Secretary, on 01352 713415 or [chris\\_dolphin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chris_dolphin@hotmail.co.uk).



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Mondays		
10am – 12:30pm	Papercraft Group	Weekly
6:15 – 7:45pm	Cubs	Weekly – Term Time
Tuesdays		
1:30 – 4pm	Craft Group	Weekly
7:30 – 9pm	Scouts	Weekly – Term Time
Wednesdays		
2 – 4pm	FCC Meeting	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday
4:45 – 5:45pm	Rainbows	Weekly – Term Time
6 – 7:15pm	Girl Guides	Weekly – Term Time
7:45 – 8:45pm	Yoga with Julie	Weekly
Thursdays		
1 – 4pm	Gardening Club	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday
10am – 12pm	Coffee Morning	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday
1 – 3pm	Yoga with Julie	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday
6:30 – 7:30pm	Beavers	Weekly – Term Time
7 – 9:30pm	Carmel WI	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday
Fridays		
2 – 4pm	Tai Chi & Qi Gong	Weekly
5 – 7:30pm	Irish Dancing	Weekly
Sundays		
5:30 – 7:30pm	Carmel Christian Church	Weekly

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

*Dyma restr o'r gwasanaethau ar gyfer yr wythnosau nesaf.*

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

*Rhagfyr/* December:

17eg Arwel Roberts, Rhuddlan.  
24ain Gwasanaeth Nadolig/ Christmas Service: Parch. Huw Powell-Davies.  
31ain Maryl Rees.

2024.

*Ionawr/* January:

7fed I'w drefnu  
14eg I'w drefnu  
21ain Hedd ap Emllyn  
28ain Parch. Huw Powell-Davies (CYMUN)

*Chwefror/* February:

4ydd Siân Morris  
11eg. Parch. Huw Powell-Davies  
18fed Dennis Davies  
25ain Parch. Huw Powell-Davies

*Mawrth/* March:

10fed Parch. Huw Powell-Davies  
17eg Dafydd Timothy  
24ain Sul y Blodau (Palm Sunday) Parch. Huw Powell-Davies  
31ain Sul y Pasg (Easter Sunday) Parch. Huw Powell-Davies (CYMUN)

*Yn ystod ein Gwasanaeth Diolchgarwch gwnaed apêl am fwydydd i'r Banc Bwyd Lleol. Cafwyd llond 4 bocs mawr o wahanol fwydydd yn ogystal â £85 mewn arian. Yna ar nos Wener 13eg Hydref cynhaliwyd Swper Diolchgarwch. Croesawyd yr Athro Mari Lloyd Williams sy'n gofalu am Ganolfan Dydd Waungoleugoed. Cyflwynwyd £500 iddi at waith y Ganolfan.*

*Edrychwn ymlaen at ddathlu Gwyl y Geni. Er hyn cofiwn am yr aelodau sy'n wael - Mrs Deanna Williams yn Ysbyty Treffynnon ac eraill yn eu cartrefi. Dymunwn fendithion y Nadolig i'n haelodau a'n cyfeillion a'n dymuniadau gorau a heddwch i bawb yn y flwyddyn newydd.*

During our Thanksgiving Service an appeal was made for donations of food towards the local Food Bank. We received 4 large boxes filled with food and £85 in money. On Friday 13th October our Thanksgiving Supper was held and Dr. Mari Lloyd Williams (who is responsible for the Waungoleugoed Day Centre, near St Asaph) gave a short talk regarding the Centre. £500 was donated towards the work at the day centre.

We all look forward for our Christmas Celebrations. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mrs. Deanna Williams, a patient at Holywell Hospital, and all our other members who are unwell. A Christmas blessing to all, with peace and joy for the year to come.



## REMEMBERING GARFIELD THOMAS OF BRYN AELWYD UCHA, CARMEL

16th July 1947 - 27th August 2023

For everything there is a season,  
and a time for every matter under heaven:  
a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

*Verses from Ecclesiastes 3*



The life of anyone who spent so many hours in the garden like Garfield did is intimately tied up with all the seasons of the year. We lost dad after a long, brave battle with oesophageal cancer. He gave us everything in this life: love, family & values. He slipped away from us in the early morning hours of August 27th, 2023.

Garfield was born on 16th July 1947 in Neath, the second child of Lesley and Ivy Thomas, with his brother Malcolm who was ten years his senior. As a child he was an active member of sports clubs and spent most of his childhood playing cricket and football.

Garfield loved learning and continued his education whilst working, earning him the nickname of the 'Eternal Student'. After school, he went on to study Metallurgy at Neath and Swansea Colleges of Further Education and finally achieved a Licentiate of the Institute of Metallurgists. Whilst working at the Research Centre of Margam Steelworks in Port Talbot he took the opportunity to complete his PGCE teaching qualification at Cardiff University.

The next chapter of his working life involved the big move to North Wales where Garfield began his 25 years as an Engineering Lecturer at Kelsterton (Deeside) College in 1979.

Outside of work, Garfield had many hobbies - from gardening, golf and watching Wales play rugby. Garfield was a brilliant speechwriter and wrote several poems for the family over the years.

His life changed forever when he met Sian on New Year's Eve in 1965. They married a few years later in 1971 and had just celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary.

Their family grew to include Gerwyn and Bethan, who were born in Neath and then, after the big move to Holywell, North Wales, Rhiannon was born.

Garfield and Sian moved to their home in Bryn Aelwyd Ucha, Carmel in 1981 where they have lived for 42 years.

After retirement, Garfield was kept busy with his 10 grandchildren, Huw, Elin, Ffion, Susie, Rhys, Anwen, Cerys, Ioan, Dafydd & Siôn.

In 2021, Garfield was diagnosed with oesophageal cancer. He fought hard with chemotherapy and radiotherapy and had a major operation during the Covid lockdown on his own.

The last two and half years have been extremely difficult for us all as a family.

Garfield, Dad, Grandpa - we are all better for knowing you - we miss you desperately.

It's hard to forget someone who gave us so much to remember.

Nos Da x

Cysga'n Dawel

Kind, caring, full of fun.

We never thought this day would come.

You were our world, you were our Sun,

What will we do without you?

Your gentle smile, your twinkly eyes,

They told us all we needed.

Few words were used, because we knew.

Your love was never ending.

To say goodbye will break our hearts,

But please know this is true.

We're better people all of us,

Because of knowing you.

Donations to Cancer Research in Garfield Thomas' name can be made via his memorial tribute page <https://funeral-notices.co.uk/notice/THOMAS/5143072>

Diolch yn Fawr

Sian, Gerwyn, Bethan & Rhiannon

## AUTUMN IN THE FIVE VILLAGES (Robert Moore)

<b>Weather in the Five Villages Autumn 2023</b> <b>(2022 in brackets)</b>				
	Temperatures °C			Total rainfall mm
	Average	Maximum	Minimum	
September	16.7 (14.7)	28.1 (24.5)	4.5 (5.3)	165.0 (84.5)
October	11.0 (11.9)	22.0 (17.0)	1.0 (4.0)	227.1 (55.5)
November	7.6 (10.1)	12.2 (15.3)	0.0 (4.4)	113.6 (56.7)
November data until 14 November only (2022 to 14th also)				

This year is likely to be the warmest ever recorded. If there are no very drastic changes in the weather in the next few weeks, this will indeed be the case.

In the five villages it has been a very wet season, with more than two and a half times last year's rain. Like last year, most plants had stopped blooming by the early days of November, although some of my Fuchsias actually started blooming extremely late. There was some interesting discussion on the Whitford Neighbours network with contributors noting the unusually late blooming of their gardens. So far, we have had two nights when the grass temperature touched zero. So, no ground frosts yet. Readers can see the tables above and match them to their own recollection, but rather than dwelling on the temperature and rain details for the quarter we will look at some spectacular weather towards the quarter's end.

Storm Ciaran was named when it was on the east coast of north America. It says much about the power of modern weather forecasting methods that virtually everything about its career was accurately predicted. Ciaran raced cross the north Atlantic at great speed, driven by a strong jet stream. We had red warnings for wind in Ireland and south Wales and elsewhere there were orange and yellow warnings for wind and rain. Red warnings are rarely issued and only when weather conditions present a threat to human life. The full brunt of Ciaran was felt in Ireland and along the English Channel and south Wales coasts. Trees were uprooted, communications disrupted and sadly but thankfully there were only a few fatalities. On the second of November this year there were 1.9 metre waves south off the Isle of Man and 4.5 metres off the coast of Northern Ireland (7.3 metres in the Atlantic west of Ireland). The Irish Sea is shallow and easily whipped up, as I well remember from an alarming 12 hours in 1960 when my patrol boat was caught in dangerously high seas in St George's Channel.

Ciaran slowed as it encountered high pressure to the east and this meant we received rain that would otherwise have fallen as Ciaran passed over the North Sea and western mainland Europe. At the weather station the barometric pressure fell to 971 millibars on the 2nd. UK average pressure is 1013 mb. Those readers with barographs will have seen the trace plunge almost to bottom of the chart.

This quarter's satellite images from the weather station (opposite) show Ciaran just over East Anglia at noon on the 2nd of November and the second image, also at noon, shows it in the North Sea on the 3rd. But note another storm barrelling in from the west. This was a pussy cat compared to Ciaran, but it brought lots more rain nonetheless.

As Ciaran approached, I was a little concerned about local conditions because the southward passage of the storm seemed likely to bring north or north easterly winds to the north of Wales. North-west Wales is protected from most bad weather by the Snowdonian range, much of Flintshire is additionally protected by the Clwydian hills and our locality by the western end of the Halkyn mountain. We experienced strong winds on the 2nd and 3rd, starting from the south-east and moving around to north-west. The wind certainly shook the trees locally and trees still in leaf swayed quite wildly. The highest wind speed recorded at the weather station was 28 knots, which most storm-watchers would rate as 'pathetic'. But this was a high wind speed for such a sheltered spot.

As the table shows we had heavy rain, this was a result of the storm moving so slowly. There was local flooding, notably in the Chester-Flint area and the usual fields were flooded along the A55.

At the time of writing (14th of November) storm Debi arrived bringing disruption to Northern Ireland and Scotland. Storm Elin was close behind, both storms may feature in the next report.

Stormy weather can be exciting. This probably doesn't need to be said for most readers but let me urge people who might be tempted otherwise, to stay indoors when stormy weather hits. Definitely do not go to the seaside to look at the waves, it's not worth it, even for a good photo and you put others at risk by courting danger.

By way of compensation, I hope readers saw the aurora, the north lights, after storm Ciaran. This was a rare treat – which I missed.



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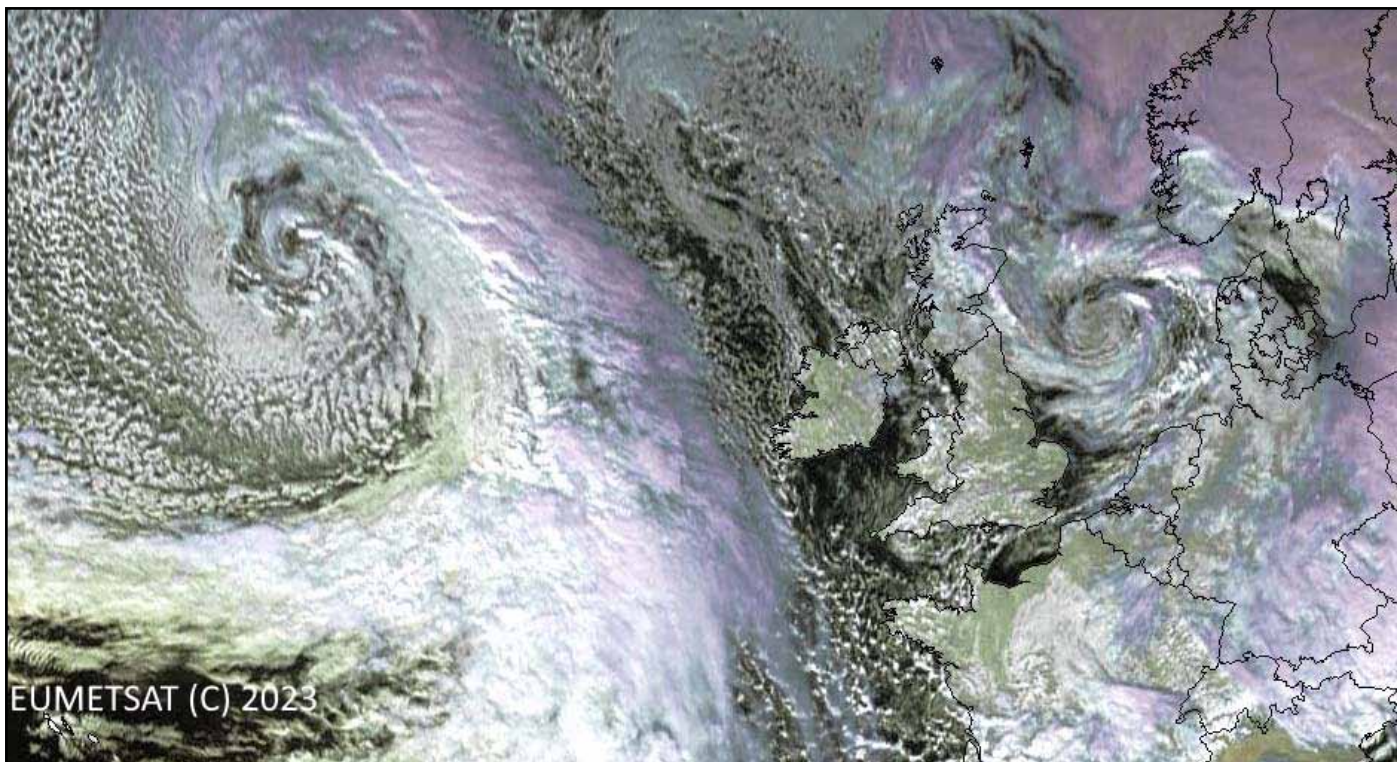
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*If you would like weather information for any particular day or a longer period, please contact me at [rsmoore@liv.ac.uk](mailto:rsmoore@liv.ac.uk) (email only). Students or teachers who would like weather data or satellite images for projects or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





*Ciaran noon 3/11/23*



*Ciaran noon 2/11/23*

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## RECIPES FOR WINTER 2023 (Isabel Burnage)

### TURKEY LEG BAKE (SERVES 4)

This recipe is a tasty alternative to roast turkey and gives off a lovely aroma when cooking.

#### Ingredients:

- 2 good-sized turkey legs
- 1 medium onion, peeled and finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons sage & onion stuffing mix
- 2 sticks celery, chopped
- 1 large carrot, peeled and sliced
- Seasoning, oil or soft butter

#### Method:

1. In a large casserole dish place all the prepared vegetables and stuffing mix and mix together
2. Place turkey legs on top and grease with oil or butter
3. Add enough water to half cover the vegetables
4. Cover and bake at 180°C/gas mark 5 for 1.5 hours. Serve with either roast or jacket potatoes

### FESTIVE CRUMBLE (SERVES 4 - 6)

#### Ingredients:

- 2 baking apples: peeled, cored and sliced
- 2-3 tablespoons mincemeat
- 4oz self-raising flour
- 3oz soft butter
- 2oz sugar
- 1-2 teaspoons cinnamon or mixed spice

#### Method:

1. Place apples in a good-sized baking dish with a sprinkle of water
2. Add and mix in the mincemeat
3. Rub butter into flour and add sugar and spices
4. Cover the fruit with the flour mix
5. Bake on centre shelf at 180°C/gas mark 5 for about 45 minutes
6. Serve with custard or cream

## A bit more background to the Druid Inn and Jerry Brunning



Let's start with why I'm a publican, something I've often wondered myself. I think it's all to do with a series of early life influences. I had an Auntie Elalline, my father's sister, who ran a small hotel in Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog called the West Arms Hotel. It was old fashioned, it had a dining room, a public bar, a lounge bar and a resident's lounge but it was run like a large private home. Auntie Elalline was always bustling about fussing over the customers and making them feel at home, the food was excellent and the whole place was eclectic and cosy. I loved it and loved going there. As I grew older I started going to pubs myself. It was by far and away my favourite way of socialising, a small crowd of people huddled into a bar drinking beer and putting the world to rights. I couldn't help but notice that most pubs were not well thought out. Keg beer, fruit machines, bad furniture, poor food and horrible wine. They needed to be an updated version of The West Arms with the same bonhomie and good things to eat and drink. I clearly needed to run my own pub.

And so I founded Brunning and Price in 1981 and bought my first pub, the Bell Inn at Outwood. Outwood is in Surrey and you might think it strange that a boy from Wales, living in Chester should suddenly skit off to the other end of the country to open his first pub. The short explanation is that my brother Bruce was already down there. He had built a Squash Club in the grounds of The Copthorne Hotel near Gatwick and it was a roaring success. My wise Mum thought it would be sensible to buy my first pub near Bruce for moral and material support, the most attractive part being Bruce's supportive bank manager. So there we have it – I ended up in the small village of Outwood in Surrey the proud owner of the Bell Inn.

At first I thought I'd only ever have one pub. I remember someone asking me "what's the plan, Jerry?" Plan, plan – I've bought a pub and now I'm a publican, I'll run it until I retire and then sell, surely you don't need any more of a plan than that. I ran The Bell for three years, loving

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every minute of it and it provided me with everything I needed on a day to day basis even though I wasn't making much money. The bank were making a lot more than I was. I'd also become business savvy. I'd discovered spreadsheets and developed philosophies on business. I surmised that a small pub company was the best way forward, so I decided to sell the Bell, pay off the debt and take on some brewery tenancies. I'd have some capital to invest, rent would be considerably less than the interest I was paying and I now had a strong house style which I knew would go down well with customers in other areas.

I was able to secure the first tenancy, the Fox Revived at Norwood Hill, before I sold the Bell. That gave me some time to set it up and get it contributing before the income stream from the Bell was cut off. The following year I took another tenancy, the tiny Great Eastern in Brighton and the following year another one, The Black Jug in Horsham. I also had an exciting project in the pipeline that had been brewing for a few years, The Old Harker's Arms in Chester. It was an empty basement in a canal side warehouse owned by Martin Taylor, a local antiques dealer who I had bought furniture from. Martin had been very patient in allowing me to get planning permission to convert it to a pub and then to go through a rare and difficult process to obtain a new alcohol license. I eventually got both and was all ready to go except – no money.

At the same time as all this was happening, I took on Graham Price. He started in late 1988, part time to begin with, while he was in the process of selling a hotel he and his father owned. Graham had worked for me in 1981 as a barman during holidays while he was a student and I'd kept in touch with him over the years. I was and am a great admirer of Graham – he has an excellent work ethic, picks things up quickly, pays great attention to detail and can make things work. He's also good fun to be with and loves pubs. I was sure we'd make a good team and this was indeed the case. In 1989 I sold him 20% of the company and that was it, I had my first partner and

we were a team.

At about the same time I was introduced to Jonathan Russel at 3i plc. He had a peppercorn fund to invest, that is to say small amounts of money for small companies. Jonathan really liked our pubs and realised that our problem was security. The high street banks would not lend to us as the tenancies we owned were not assignable, so they couldn't sell them if the worst happened. JR offered to lend us the money we needed unsecured in exchange for an option on 20% of the company. We had a deal.

So things were looking up: I had three tenancies, a lease on a new pub in Chester with planning and a license, I had a top quality partner and we now had the money to make it all work. By the end of June 1992 we were up to 5 pubs.

We did what I think is our best work in the next 10 years while we had youth, enthusiasm, experience, sound finances and, perhaps above all, an economy that wanted us to do well.

We built The Grosvenor Arms in Aldford in October '92, Pant-yr-Ochain in Gresford in August '94, The Armoury in Shrewsbury in March '96, The Dysart Arms in Bunbury in May '97, The Cross Foxes in Erbstock in June '98, Glasfryn in Mold in June '99, The Corn Mill in Llangollen in June 2000 and Pen-y-Bryn in Colwyn Bay in July 2001.

Then we had a little break for a few years, a consolidation, before starting again with The Combermere Arms in Burleydam in July 2004, The Fox in Chetwynd Aston in November 2004 and the Hand and Trumpet in Wrinehill in February 2006.

In 2007 Graham and I discussed selling. The reasons behind this decision are for another day but sell we did. Then I sat at home for 10 years, watching Midsomer Murders. I missed the pubs terribly and so when the beautiful Swan at Marbury came on to the market I couldn't resist, and this little company, Pubs Limited, was born. Shortly after I bought the Black Bear in Whitchurch, then the Hare in Farndon, then the Henry Potts in Chester and now the Druid Inn, making five in all. Why I don't

know, I can only assume it's because I still love pubs.

So the Druid is making good progress. We have completely stripped out the pub, all the wiring and electrics have gone, all the fixtures and fittings, soft furnishings and furniture. In effect we have a lovely clean building to start again. The truth is we are hardly changing the layout at all. We've moved the Ladies and Gents upstairs but will keep a single loo downstairs for those who find stairs tricky. We will completely redo the back of the pub, creating more of a courtyard with plants than the garden that was there before. It'll be a smaller version of what's behind The Black Bear in Whitchurch.

We have bought some lovely turn of the century (1900 that is) floorboards of close grained pine and also some pitch pine board for the floor. We also have reclaimed quarry tiles for around the bar. We have bought, mounted and framed nearly 300 interesting images. We have all the furniture, my usual brown furniture, despised by many but loved by me. Apart from that I think old customers will be surprised at how much is the same – it'll just all be in good nick.

Watch the website ([pubs.co.uk](http://pubs.co.uk) or [druidinnngorsedd.co.uk](http://druidinnngorsedd.co.uk)) for more information. Or maybe that Facebook thing.

Cheers,  
Jerry.

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

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

Tim Barks - 01352 720375  
Richard Dolphin - 01352 710764  
Billy Glynn - 01352 712418  
Sharon James - 01352 716822  
Caradoc W. Jones - 01352 712079  
Matt Marshall - 077639 75531  
Gareth Sharp - 01352 715614  
Paul Urquhart - 01745 563133  
Melanie Wallis - 01352 712369  
Emma Warbrick - 01352 712356  
Joseph Williams - 07850 924805

**COUNCILLOR MATT FOSTER  
(MINUTE'S SILENCE)**

The Chair of Council, Councillor Richard Dolphin, addressed Members on the recent passing of Councillor Matt Foster. Councillor Foster was elected to the Council in May 2022, and had provided valuable information and assistance to the Council, in particular, with his legal knowledge. The Council send their sincere condolences to his family at this sad time. Members stood and held a minute's silence.

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

**Carmel**

2 x Anti social behaviour / 1 x Other theft  
/ 1 x Vehicle crime / 3 x Violence

**Gorsedd**

2 x Criminal damage

**Lloc - A55 Services**

1 x Anti social behaviour / 1 x Violence

**Pantasaph**

No offences reported

**Whitford**

No offences reported

**PUBLIC NOTICES:**

The following Public Notices appear in this edition of the Five Villages Chronicle:

(1) Councillor Vacancy: Co-option

**Notice**

(2) Applications for financial assistance

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

(1) Monastery Road, Pantasaph: Faulty light on Give Way sign at junction of Monastery Road and Babell Road (2) Pen Y Gelli Woods: Entrance nearest to Carmel Cricket Club. A black bin was requested a few years ago, whereafter a concrete base has been installed but no actual bin placed (3) Pavement adjacent to Pen Y Gelli: The undergrowth is covering almost 50% of the pavement in areas (4) Trees from Mostyn Estate woodland (adjacent to Pen Y Gelli): Hanging low over pavement and knocking pedestrians heads (5) Carmel Hill: Travelling past the bungalows hedges require cutting back (cars are being scratched) (6) Above Carmel Village Hall: Property hedge requires cutting back (cars are being scratched) (7) Llwyn Ifor Lane: Hedge requires cutting on both sides along entire length (8) A5026 Road – Holway Road. Bulb flashing at junction of Heddyr Aber Drive / Saeth Aelwyd. The bulb was replaced a few months ago but is again faulty (9) A5026 Carmel – Wildflower Bank (Post Code CH8 8SR). The area flowered for only one week. The area is overgrown.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

The Community Council Members provide their observations to the Flintshire Planning Authority, on all planning applications within their community. Full details of the observations made, can be viewed in the Minutes of each Council meeting, which are displayed on the Council web site, or from the Clerk – as per details below: (1) Application number: COU/000808/23 – for change of use of existing vacant chapel into new dwelling, at Carmel Chapel, Carmel Road, Carmel (2) FUL/000854/23 – for proposed single storey rear extension including new decking, at Marwyn, 5, Park Avenue, Carmel (3) Application number: FUL/000659/23 – for application for variation of condition no. 1, ref: 058502 change of use of land to site three tourist accommodation lodges, at Ocho-Rios, Lloc (4) Application number: FUL/000683/23 – for application for removal or variation of condition no. 2, planning permission ref: 063088, at Land east of McDonald's, Lloc (5) Application number: COU/000600/23 – for change of use of former commercial land to domestic and the erection of a timber framed barn for the storage of cars, at Holliberry House, Gorsedd (6) Application number: FUL/000692/23 – for construction of a 40m x 20m menage for private use only, at Ty Maen, Gorsedd (7) Application number: COU/000696/23 – for conversion of redundant chapel to single dwelling, at

The Seion Chapel, Allt y Golch, Carmel (8) Application number: DET/000781/23 – for approval of details reserved by conditions numbers: 3, 4, 5, 12 & 13 – planning reference number: 000064/22 – at Halfway House, Allt Y Golch, Carmel

**PLANNING DECISIONS:**

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

(1) Application number: FUL/000597/23 - for single storey rear extension, at 6 Saithaelwyd Park, Carmel. Approved (2) Application number: FUL/000256/23 - for demolition of existing kitchen / utility and construction of improved kitchen, at Bryn Eos, Gorsedd. Approved (3) Application number: FUL/000144/23 - change of use from existing annexe to holiday let Glan Llyn, Tan Y Lloc Lane, Lloc. Approved

**APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL  
SUPPORT AND DONATIONS:**

The Community Council have granted the following financial assistance since the last edition of the Five Villages Chronicle: No applications received.

R. Phillip Parry  
Clerk & Financial Officer to Whitford  
Community Council  
Tel: 01352 720547  
E-mail: [clerk@whitford-council.wales](mailto:clerk@whitford-council.wales)  
Web site: [www.whitford-council.wales](http://www.whitford-council.wales)



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WHITFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**VACANCY FOR ONE COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR**

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

Closing date for applications (Expressions of Interest) is 12 Noon on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

**R. Phillip Parry,**  
Clerk to Whitford Community Council  
E-mail: [clerk@whitford-council.wales](mailto:clerk@whitford-council.wales)  
Tel: 01352 720547



**CYNGOR CYMUNED CHWITFFORDD  
WHITFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

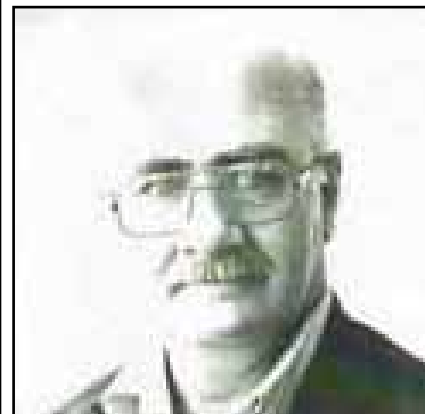
**Applications for Financial Assistance**

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

The Council have adopted a Financial Assistance Policy and Application Form, which can be either downloaded from the Council web site (Public Notices & Financial – page) or obtained from the Clerk – details as below. Councillors look forward to receiving financial assistance applications for consideration, whereby further information can be obtained from the Clerk to the Council.

**R. Phillip Parry – Clerk & Financial Officer to Whitford Community Council**  
01352 720547 / [clerk@whitford-council.wales](mailto:clerk@whitford-council.wales) / Web site: [www.whitford-council.wales](http://www.whitford-council.wales)

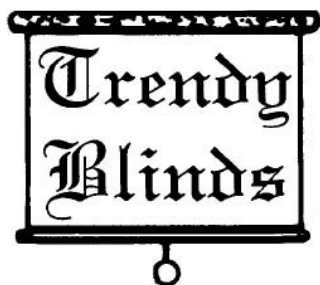
**JOHN HUMPHREYS**



John was born on 12th April 1934 in Duddleston, Birmingham the only child of Amos and Beryl Humphreys. He started school in Birmingham, but the family relocated to Mostyn and Whitford around the time of the Second World War, eventually settling in Kinsale Hall, Llanerch-y-mor, where John would live until he met and married Joan. They settled into their first and only home – Metz in Carmel, where Kenneth was born and completed the family.

John was in the ATC and wanted to join the Royal Air Force, but he got TB, and so went to Technical College to train as a draughtsman, and then later as a Mechanical Engineer. He ended up working at Courtaulds in both Flint and Greenfield until the closure of Greenfield meant that an early retirement was enforced.

In 1977 John became a magistrate, a Justice of the Peace, eventually becoming Chairman of the Board of Magistrates for Flintshire, before stepping down in 2004. He was very involved in the Five Villages Chronicle magazine. He was also a school Governor at Ysgol y Llan. It's probably safe to say that being a JP and his life with the church kept him busy throughout retirement. Church life had initially begun at St Beuno's church in the Holway before settling at Gorsedd and was Church Warden for John Somerville. When Rev Somerville retired, John came here to Whitford and was a key member of the congregation, and often led Morning Prayer services.



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## HANNAH BLYTHYN MS



I wanted to start this winter edition of the Chronicle by wishing all readers a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year! This winter I will once again be running my Christmas Card competition for primary schools and organising the Christmas Cheer box initiative. Last year, with the kind support of local businesses and generous donations I was able to help make the festive season a little bit brighter for over 200 families across Delyn. Building in this, my office and volunteers will again be in touch with schools to help families that would benefit from having a box. With winter well and truly here, Age Cymru, alongside the Welsh Government, have published their 'Winter Wrapped Up'

guide, which explains what you can do to get yourself and your home ready for winter and how to stay warm, safe and well through cold weather. You can read more about staying warm this winter via my website and can read the 'Winter Wrapped Up' guide.

Since my last Chronicle column, I've been busy out and about, both here in Delyn and in the Senedd. From work to support the sustainability of the retail sector and its workforce in Wales, to help it thrive not just survive into the future, recognising the role it plays in the heart of our communities, to speaking out with a statement as part of Hate Crime Awareness Week. I was also able to visit the Ramblers Cymru network, to learn about the work being done to restore our footpaths and encourage people to experience our countryside. In my role as Deputy Minister for Social Partnerships I was honoured to have launched the Living Wage Week and led the debate on Remembrance for those who have served and sacrificed.

At the end of September my Democracy in Action Day returned for secondary schools from across Flintshire, this time hosted alongside my constituency neighbour Jack Sargeant MS at the Deeside Sixth centre in Connah's Quay. It was good to see so many schools take part this year and to have the chance to hear from the students about the things that matter to them and the



change they want to see. We were grateful to the young people for their contributions, from their probing questions to their superb suggestions on what they would like to see us taking up on their behalf. Providing a platform for young people to have their voices heard is something very important and I look forward to following up from the Democracy in Action Day.

Wales made history by becoming the first part of the UK to legislate against a list of single-use plastics. This ban came into effect on the 30th October and includes single-use plastic plates and cutlery, food and drink containers made from foam or polystyrene, plastic balloon sticks and single-use plastic straws. I was also proud to launch the consultation (whilst on a beach clean) on Ynys Mon that this legislation has now built upon and am pleased to see it finally coming into place. Taking this action to tackle plastic pollution is not only key to rising to the challenge of the climate crisis but also to preventing plastic from blighting our beaches, streets,



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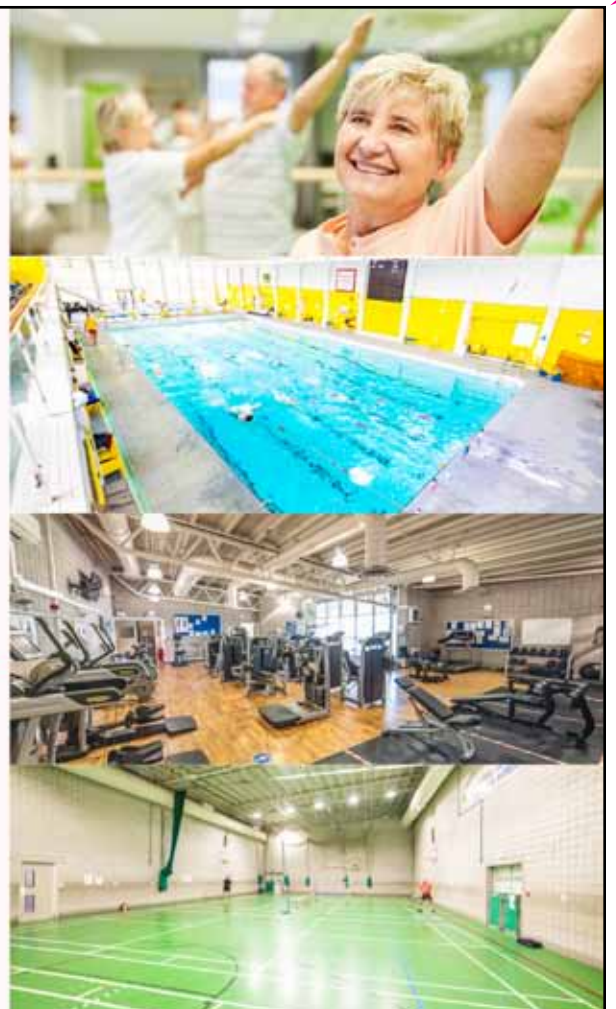
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and green spaces. From my conversations with residents and community groups, I know this is something that people are passionate about. There will be exemptions for those who need them to eat and drink safely and independently – more information on these bans can be found at [www.gov.wales/single-use-plastics-draft-guidance](http://www.gov.wales/single-use-plastics-draft-guidance).

In October I visited the Table at St Peter's Church in Rosehill, Holywell, an initiative led by Father Dominic Cawdell which offers hot meals prepared by volunteers, to present them with my October Community Champion Award. It was good to see such a great community-led scheme go from strength to strength – it started as a £2 food club during the pandemic and can now have as many as 200 people to cater for. For many, the Table offers a lifeline and a chance to connect with others as well as stock up on some essentials through



the foodbank that's been running there. There are also other support services at the centre, including mental health charity Kim Inspire and Flintshire Citizen's Advice.

October also saw snares and glue traps banned in Wales as part of the Welsh Government's Agriculture (Wales) Act, which was passed in the summer. Both snares, sometimes referred to as cable restraints, and glue traps cause a great deal of suffering to animals and are indiscriminate as they can harm species they are not intended for, such as otters and domestic dogs and cats. An animal caught in a snare or glue trap can endure acute pain and suffering and Wales is the first UK nation to ban the practice of trapping unwanted animals using this method – this is a real win in terms of ending unnecessary suffering and demonstrates the Welsh Government's commitment to animal welfare.

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

## CARMEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH FOUNDING MEMBERS



*Left to right, Phil Roberts, Vicky Burke, Pat Roberts, Lyn Huxley, Elizabeth Longworth, Anne Jones, Clare Williams, Anne Taylor, Helen Audley, Gareth Roberts.*

On Saturday 9th September an Induction and Ordination service was held in the Village Hall with approximately 90 guests. The 10 people above were inducted as members in the newly formed Carmel Christian Church and Gareth Roberts was also ordained as the pastor.

We have met in the village hall for the last 15 years under the name of Carmel Christian Fellowship but have now formally constituted as a Church.

With so many churches closing down or being converted into houses most people are pleasantly surprised to hear of a church starting up.

We will be affiliated to the Associated Evangelical Churches of Wales (AECW) and hold to their statement of faith which can be found on our YouTube channel. (Carmel Christian Church Flintshire).

We believe that it is only the Good News of Jesus Christ that can give people a true and real hope for this life and the one to come.

We welcome everyone and teach the biblical truth and how to apply it in this confusing and complex world.

We want everyone to have salvation that comes through Jesus Christ alone, so if you are interested, why not join us 6pm every Sunday in the Village Hall or listen to our service on Facebook live at Carmel Christian Church Flintshire or just drop us a line at [Carmelchristianchurch23@gmail.com](mailto:Carmelchristianchurch23@gmail.com).

We would love to hear from you!

We will be holding our Christmas service on Sunday 17th December starting at 6pm in the Village Hall. There will be a free family buffet after the service. Everyone welcome!

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#### NEXT EDITION

Our next edition will be published  
on 16th March 2024 and the  
submission deadline for that edition  
will be 16th February 2024.

#### FACEBOOK - LIKE US? LET US KNOW!

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**Please note our email address:**  
**[editor@5villages.org.uk](mailto: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 - Melanie Wallis (01352 712369); Treasurer - Bob Brown (01352 710967); Advertisements - Paulene Ellis (01352 710853); Distribution - Chris Dolphin (01352 713415); Jonathan Duggan-Keen, Terry Ireland, Robert Moore. At present there is an editorial committee.

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

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## CYMDEITHAS THOMAS PENNANT SOCIETY (Glyn Jones)

We are well and truly into Autumn and all that implies, be it the Season of Mellow Fruitfulness or the days having got a lot shorter and the weather more questionable! What we can do as a Society is to reflect, in comfort on how we have progressed over the Summer and particularly since the last issue of the *Five Villages Chronicle*.

In that issue we were eagerly anticipating our Annual Lecture being held in the library on the 28th of September and being delivered by an Advanced Research Fellow from Cambridge University. We are so pleased that this event was such a success insofar as we had an excellent turnout. Dr Edwin Rose's talk on Thomas Pennant and the Practice of Natural History was of the highest quality as to be expected of an academic from one of our leading universities. Everyone who attended fully appreciated that they had participated in a rather special occasion and we, as a Society were delighted to have "put on such a show".

As an aside, we mention that Dr Rose thoroughly enjoyed his two-day visit and took the opportunity to view many of the "sites" relating to Thomas Pennant Country which of course he knew from his studies

but had not previously had occasion to visit.

In October, Celia Drew was invited to speak to us at Penbryn Chapel and her topic was the Poor Law and its impact on the Holywell Workhouse. This was a very interesting address and very well researched and our thanks and appreciation go to Celia.

Celia's talk was followed by our Annual General Meeting which in effect is the start point for a new year of activity. This brings to mind that subscriptions are again due, and contact is being made with all our members to encourage their support of a local and active organisation.

Our next occasion to come together will be the Christmas Lunch to be held once again in Penbryn Chapel on the 14th of December. The caterers will be "Ar y Gornel" from Caerwys who looked after us so well last year. This will be another opportunity for us to enjoy socialising "at leisure" and arrangements have already been put in place to share with members.

Looking forward, our committee have planned an interesting and varied Programme of Events for 2024 which have now been incorporated into a membership card to be issued as and when subscriptions are received from our members.

Our Cymdeithas has had a close working relationship with Aberystwyth

University for many years and Professor Mary-Ann Constantine is indeed one of our Vice Presidents. We are delighted to say that we have formally renewed our association with what is known as the Curious Traveller Project, run from Aberystwyth and Glasgow, a project which entails fresh ideas and a number of objectives to further promote and reinforce the Thomas Pennant story within his locality.

We very much look forward to further developing this relationship during 2024 as our own objective of course is to continue to foster and promote the memory of Thomas Pennant in Pennant Country.

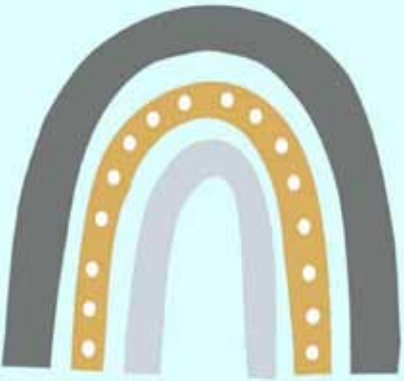
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