



# THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE

*CRONICL Y PUM PENTREF*

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SPRING (MARCH) 2024  
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PRICELESS  
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## EDITORIAL

We are today at issue 149 so the next one will be huge, we hope. If you have any announcements, congratulations, up and coming events, club news or items of interest, please get them to [editor@5villages.org.uk](mailto:editor@5villages.org.uk) at the latest by 17th May. This is your magazine so don't be shy about using it. Please also remember our advertisers pay to be included here so do try to support them when you can. It also helps us and them if you can tell them that you saw their advertisement in the Five Villages Chronicle.

## FIVE VILLAGES GARDEN CLUB (Janet Tattum)

We finished 2023 with our Christmas lunch at The Crown Inn, Lixwm, a well-attended meal enjoyed by all.

Our first meeting of 2024 was a repeat of 2023, when we once again welcomed Ray Bailey to chair our Gardeners' Question Time, and he didn't let us down. It was a really informative and enjoyable meeting. Tea and a nice selection of cakes followed. The competition for a seasonable table decoration produced three winners: Terry Jones, Isobel Burnage and Christine Hamer – each will hold the Rose Bowl for four months.

Ray was welcomed and thanked by Isobel Burnage. We meet in Carmel Village Hall on the first Thursday of the month at 2.00 p.m. New members are always very welcome.

Our programme for the next few months is as follows:

March 7th 2.00 p.m. An illustrated talk by Howard Drury

May 2nd 2.00p.m. A visit to Dolhyfryd, Lawnt, Denbigh, LL16 4SU

June 4th 2.00 p.m. Plant sale at Carmel Village Hall

# NEIL SHILL

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## COVER PICTURE

A Waxwing by local photographer Andy Perkin. See nature (p30) for more details.

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## LOCAL DEFIBRILLATORS

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



## COUNCILLOR CHRIS DOLPHIN

### Hello everyone, Sut mae pethau:

Great news to start, the Active Travel bid from Richard Dolphin and myself on behalf of the Community Council is successful and the work to continue the Babell Road footway to the field gateway near the houses will begin anytime now. A much safer road for pedestrians, dare I say, a much-needed safer walk to Church and Druid pub to/from Pantasaph. All trees where possible are to be kept, and new road narrow signs will be erected. The road will not be narrowed; however, the telegraph pole will remain and the footway itself will be slightly narrowed, however legal and wide enough for double buggies. The work will take about three weeks and traffic lights will be in use. The funding gained will also pay for replacement village signs and furniture such as benches and cycle racks within the Five Villages. The Whitford Community Council will gain massively financially, thus enabling it to keep its council tax rise very low and provide new services and facilities.

#### BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX:

Early in every new year local Town and Community councils set their individual council tax precepts and this in turn is collected and distributed by the County Council. The County Council will set a budget and council tax increase soon, we will all have to pay more and for less. The last 16 years has been particularly concerning to Flintshire. In that time Flintshire County Council has reduced its spending by £110million, less to spend, due to less funding from UK and WG governments.

Planning for a new financial year and beyond, if possible, starts immediately after a new one is set, and in 2023 the funding gap identified for Flintshire was a massive £32million. Funding gaps come from things like; increasing demand for services such as homelessness, and social care; new unfunded responsibilities from WG; workforce pay increases which are negotiated and agreed nationally, but councils are given no extra funding to pay for them. Increasing costs from other authorities such as North Wales Fire and Rescue, Coroners Service, and providers of social services.

Last September 2023 solutions had been found to reduce the funding gap to £18million. This was based on a forecasted 3.1% settlement from WG funding and a planning assumption of a 5% council tax rise. The gap was now £14million. Sadly, and hugely disappointing again, Flintshire received a poor deal from WG. The average increase in funding for all local councils in Wales was 3.1%, Flintshire received only 2.2%. This means Flintshire will receive £1.725million less than we had planned for

adding another £1.8million to our funding gap. Further funding reductions also impacted on Non-Domestic Rates, Social Care Workforce Grant, and Homelessness grants.

All Councils are struggling to balance the books, there is an overspend across the 22 Welsh councils in this financial year of £220million, and an estimated cost pressure of £809million for 2024/25.

A budget for Flintshire comes from WG via a Local Government Funding Formula. The formula basis its individual funding on geographical size of a council, how rural a council is, the population size, and its economy in terms of wealth and poverty. Now, Flintshire has the sixth largest population in Wales, however under the Funding Formula we are 20th out of 22 Councils for money it receives per head of population. This is £159 lower per person than the Welsh average. **If Flintshire received the Welsh average, we would be around £24.7million better off financially.**

The funding formula used, has seen Flintshire repeatedly in the bottom three of funding allocations, Flintshire has been failed badly by the formula. In the last 15 years the reduction of £110 in cutbacks have seen – a massive reduction in workforce, particularly senior management (50%), admin and clerical posts (40%). Service budget reductions of 30% - 45% (not schools or social care). County Hall demolition so far of half, (and at present planning for demolition of the rest). Six depots merged into one at Alltarni. Sharing buildings, such as in Holywell with the Connects Centre and Police. Providing services in a different way such as Aura Leisure and Libraries and Newydd, the Council owned catering and cleaning service. Volunteers are running local services, such as Holywell Leisure Centre and Carmel Village Hall. New Homes – a council owned trading company providing homes for local people. SHARP – building new Council and affordable homes. Plus, much more.

The County Council do not have

large Reserves of finance available. The Councils current base level of reserves is £5.769million which is only 1.6% of the Council Revenue Budget. This is the Councils "last line of defence" in the event of unforeseen circumstances and is very low compared to other Welsh councils. A contingency reserve of £3million has been built up from previous years underspends, however, this does not give the Council any resilience in the current financial climate.

The County Council pays annually into a combined fire service fund which meets the costs required for the Fire and Rescue service. This is also part of the Council Tax we all pay.

All portfolios in Flintshire must make efficiencies, however after so many years of having to make efficiencies, the real meaning is CUTS. Today I have been debating Streetscene cuts, such as Black Bin collections being less regular, Household Recycling Centres having different opening times, closing public toilets and much more.

#### FACEBOOK:

Check out and comment on the local Facebook pages. Did you know Whitford Village, Pantasaph Village, Carmel, and Carmel Village Hall all have good up to date Facebook pages. It's a great way to read what's happening or may happen in our area. They thrive when people contribute in a positive manner.

Lets all have some good cheer, Good Luck to The Druids in Gorsedd, lets all celebrate at some time in a proper village pub.

#### CONTACT:

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

#### CYNGOR CYNGHORYDD:

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

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

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

Tim Barks - 01352 720375  
Richard Dolphin - 07526 515873  
Billy Glynn - 01352 712418  
Sharon James - 01352 716822  
Caradoc W. Jones - 01352 712079  
Matt Marshall - 07763 975531  
Gareth Sharp - 01352 715614  
Paul Urquhart - 01745 563133  
Melanie Wallis - 01352 712369  
Emma Warbrick - 01352 712356  
Joseph Williams - 07850 924805

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

**Carmel**

1 x Anti-social behaviour / 1 x Burglary  
/ 3 x Violence

**Gorsedd**

No offences reported.

**Lloc**

1 x Other theft

**Lloc A55 Services**

1 x Anti-social behaviour / 2 x Public  
Order / 2 x Theft / 1 x Violence

**Pantasaph**

1 x Drugs

**Whitford**

1 x Anti-social behaviour / 1 x Violence

**PRECEPT (COMMUNITY CHARGE)**

At the annual precept setting Council meeting held in January, the Community Council Members agreed to increase the current precept of £59,000.00 by £1,500.00 to £60,500.00 - for the next financial year: 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025. The current Band D property charge will be £51.16, an increase of £1.08 a year (2.16% - 9p extra per month).

**REVIEW OF POLLING STATIONS:**

Every few years the County Council are

required to review the polling districts and polling places in the County of Flintshire under the Representation of the People Act 1983. The last review took place in 2019. Whitford Council were pleased to support the retention of Polling Stations in their Council area, namely: Carmel Village Hall and Ysgol Y Llan in Whitford.

**SUMMER PLAYScheme – 2023 &  
2024**

The Community Council received the attendance figures following the Summer Play Scheme held in both Carmel and Whitford during the summer of 2023, as below:

Carmel: Total attendance over a five week period: 511 children / Average daily attendances: 20

Whitford: Total attendance during first few days: Zero children. At the request of the County Council the Whitford Council agreed to move the Whitford afternoon sessions to Carmel. Carmel thereafter for the remainder of the scheme had bilingual both morning and afternoon sessions.

The Community Council have agreed for the 2024 Summer Play Scheme will only be held in Carmel. This will entail both morning and afternoon sessions for a period of six weeks and will be bilingual. The Community Council have further agreed with the County Council that should circumstances change, both Councils would be amicable to swap a number of the Play Sessions back to Whitford.

**FOOTPATH CONTINUATION IN  
GORSIEDD & NEW VILLAGE NAME  
SIGNS / BENCH SEATS / CYCLE  
RACK:**

Phase three of the footpath continuation on the Gorsedd side will commence in early April of this year. This will continue the current footpath which commenced initially from Monastery Road to the junction with Babell Road and thereafter towards Gorsedd. This phase will extend the footpath to the top of the brow and will enhance pedestrian safety.

Readers will recollect an Active Travel exercise that the Community Council completed, whereafter a bid for funding was included in an application made to the Welsh Government by Flintshire County Council – which was successful.

Whilst the funding includes the cost for the above referred to footpath, additional funding was included to provide wooden bench seats and a cycle rack within the Community, together with monies for all Village Name signs to be replaced.

**PEN Y GELLI NATURE RESERVE:**

**SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES:**

The speed indicator signage in the County and in particular, the Whitford Council area have been covered up. This is due to the implementation of the 20mph

speed limit, whereby the units have to be reconfigured on roads where the speed limit has been reduced from 30mph to 20mph. Under the Welsh Government guidelines, the County have to await a period of six months, whereafter the units will be either recalibrated or replaced by the County.

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

(1) Sink hole following heavy rain – on road travelling past Mertyn Uchaf Farm, Whitford – towards the T junction (2) Two large pot holes – travelling along Whitford Village Road towards Mostyn – in the area near the first lodge (3) Faulty Give Way signage lighting. At junction of Monastery Road and Babell Road, Pantasaph (4) Monastery Road, Pantasaph: Faulty light on Give Way sign at junction of Monastery Road and Babell Road (5) Pot Holes: Road travelling from Whitford to the Sarn area (6) Blocked Gullies: In area of Ty Newydd Farm, Sarn (7) Broken Gate: Entrance to public rights of way footpath – between Maen Y Gol and Ty Newydd, Sarn (Public Rights of Way Officer also notified)

**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: FUL/000556/23 – for removal of agricultural occupancy condition (condition 1 of application ref: y494), at Dwyndant, Whitford (2) Application number: FUL/001011/23 – for steel storage shed for animal holding and equipment & new access, at Sarn Farm, Whitford (3) Application number: FUL/001056/23 – for proposed 2 storey rear extension and roof alterations to existing elements with internal alterations, at St Philomena's, Monastery Road, Pantasaph.

**PLANNING DECISIONS:**

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

(1) Application number: ADV/000631/23 – for Sponsorship signs at Pen Ffordd Llan Roundabout, Lloc. Approved (2) Application number: FUL/000854/23 - for single storey rear extension including new decking, at Marwyn, 5, Park Avenue, Carmel. Approved (3) Application number: FUL/000692/23 - for construction of a 40m x 20m manège for private use only, at Ty Maen, Gorsedd. Approved (4) Application number: COU/000600/23 for change of use of former commercial land to domestic

and the erection of a timber, at Holliberry House, Babell Road, Gorsedd. Approved (5) Application number: NMA/000684/23 - NMA to 063088 - to amend description to erection of restaurant unit and drive-thru Land East of McDonalds, St Asaph Road, Lloc. Approved (6) Application number: FUL/000683/23 - for removal or variation of condition 2 following grant of planning, at Land East of McDonalds, St Asaph Road, Lloc, Holywell. Approved

#### RED K6 TELEPHONE BOX IN WHITFORD:

One option would be to install a defibrillator, however, as there is a defibrillator sited in the grounds of the nearby Ysgol Y Llan Primary School – which is accessible for public usage, other options will also be considered.

#### APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND DONATIONS:

The Community Council have granted the following financial assistance since the last edition of the Five Villages Chronicle: £150.00 - Urdd National Eisteddfod (Application for grant towards Eisteddfod in Maldwyn (Montgomery) / £300.00 - Carmel Bowling Club (for funding towards replacement machinery) / £400.00 - 1st Carmel Scout group – Beavers / £400.00 - 1st Carmel Scout group – Cubs / £400.00 - 1st Carmel Scout group – Scouts (towards running costs) / £1,500.00 - Five Villages Chronicle (towards running costs) / £300.00 - Carmel Papercraft Group (towards running costs).

R. Phillip Parry  
Clerk & Financial Officer to Whitford Community Council  
Tel: 01352 720547  
E-mail: [clerk@whitford-council.wales](mailto:clerk@whitford-council.wales)  
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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

## CONGRATULATIONS



Elfed Hughes of Pen y Bryn Farm Gorsedd celebrated his 90th birthday on 14th January 2024 with a meal out with family.

Elfed was originally from Foel Fawr in Llanefydd, Denbigh and moved to Pen y Bryn in 1961 when he married Marjorie Hone.



They celebrated 60 years of marriage on 26th April 2021 during the 2nd lockdown and were delighted to receive a congratulations card from Queen Elizabeth II.

Elfed and Marjorie have a daughter, a son, six grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Wishing them many more happy years together.

## CONGRATULATIONS

It has been a busy year for the Hughes family of Pen y Cae Gorsedd. Congratulations to Michael Hughes, son of Edwyn and Angela who graduated from John Moores University, Liverpool with a BSc degree in Computer Security with First Class Honours in July 2023.



Congratulations to Sophie & Matthew who got married on 26th August 2023 at Gorsedd church. Sophie is our second eldest daughter and Matthew is the son of Graham and Heather Evans originally from Manchester. Sophie & Matthew moved to New Zealand in 2020 and have now returned there to begin their married life together.



## CONGRATULATIONS

Chris and Mary Bell of Garreg Cottages Pen yr Allt are pleased to announce the birth of their third grandchild on December 6th.



This is a sister to Albie and a daughter to proud mum and dad Sarah and Steve Potter of Christleton Chester.

## LLEWELYN EDWARDS



On behalf of my family and I, we would like to express our grateful thanks for moving my Taid's memorial plaque from the front of the now recently closed Carmel Chapel into the foyer of Carmel Village Hall.

My Taid lived in Carmel all his life and shared his home with his wife Harriet Ann Edwards at Number 7, Hafod Y Coed for many years along with my mother, Dilys.

My Taid was an active member of the community, local Cllr, School governor and Deacon at Carmel Chapel.

Llewelyn was also a choirmaster for "Carmel Young Ladies Choir" in his younger years.



I lived in various addresses in Carmel from childhood and for most of my life and many of my family still reside there. His great-grandchildren, Steven, Daniel and Ruth attended Carmel School, and indeed his great-grandson Gethin has continued that tradition moving to high school, just this year.

The fact that his memory lives on within the village hall is something that makes us all very proud.

Attached are a few historical pictures and memories from years gone by which I am more than happy to share. Some real pieces of Carmel history!

Our thanks once again  
Susan Hughes and family



## CONGRATULATIONS



### Gorsedd

There was cause for much joy and celebration when family and friends gathered together on the occasion of the marriage of Gwynfor Griffiths and Sheila Lyons. The wedding, on November 29th, was held at St Paul's church in Gorsedd under the care of the Reverend Kathryn Evans. We wish the happy couple every happiness in their future together.

Merfyn Roberts

## WHAT'S YOUR NAME?



This is me, Gareth, and my Shar-pei Cross, Ted. I am the Pastor of Carmel Christian Church, and we meet in the Village Hall every Sunday.

Most dog owners I meet tend to know the names of peoples' dogs but not the name of the owners. I have made a conscious effort to try to ask people their names'. Jesus said "Love God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength and love your neighbour as yourself". (Luke 10:27)

What does that mean? It means, for anyone who calls themselves a Christian, firstly to try and put God first in everything. Secondly, my neighbour is everyone I meet, so to love them is to put them before myself.

I suppose by asking peoples' names, it's the first step in getting to know people.

I like dogs but I am called to love people and every person is precious in the sight of God so much that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

Come to our Easter Service at 6pm in the Carmel Village Hall on Sunday 31st March and find out why Jesus died and how he can make a difference to your life. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be provided after the service.

## ALUN'S CHARITY RUN



### Alun (on the right) at the end of the Funchal Half Marathon

Alun Davies of Parc Gorsedd recently completed the Funchal (Madeira) Half Marathon and coupled the run with raising money for the charity 'Make 2nds Count', whose aim is to support people with secondary breast cancer.

Alun said, 'It was an extremely enjoyable day with a super atmosphere. The last two miles were particularly tough as it was very warm with the blazing sun taking the temperature into the 70s. My time of 2 hours and 7 minutes for just over 13 miles was a bit slower than I'd hoped for, but overall I'm happy to have just taken part. I was a bit unsure about running in Funchal again as I was there in January 2023 and went for an individual run which led to a visit to the hospital after I fell and dislocated my shoulder.' Alun's time was sufficient to gain third place in the over 70 age category.

Alun chose the charity 'Make 2nds Count' following the loss of a friend's wife whose cancer had unfortunately reoccurred. Alun said, 'It was difficult to witness the struggles the family were facing over many months, and the charity provided excellent support for them. It is beyond my expectation to have raised £790 (including Gift Aid) so far, and I am grateful for every contribution.'

Alun has been running for over 45 years and aims to be out in any weather at least three times a week. 'My dear wife, Andrea, will certainly confirm that not being able to run, for whatever reason, makes me a bit of a misery, although some might say that's my natural demeanour!' Alun said.

One weekly event that Alun never misses is the parkrun which takes place at 9am each Saturday morning down the Greenfield Valley (and back up), with a total distance of 3.15 miles. It's free to join in, and it's not necessary to run the distance as some people choose to walk instead. There are currently 1,243 parkruns held each Saturday morning throughout the

UK. The events are well organised, and the stewards do a fantastic job.

There is still time to sponsor Alun's half marathon run and support the excellent 'Make 2nds Count' charity. Full details are available on Alun's Just Giving web page here: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/alun-davies-2023run?utm>

## NEW WRITING GROUP IN GORSEDD

The first meetings of the new Gorsedd Writing Group were held in St Paul's Church and I hope those who came along enjoyed the experience.

The idea of the group is to offer fun, inspiration, advice and encouragement to anybody interested in writing, whether it is simply for themselves or with the ambition seeing their work published.

This is a group, not a class. Although I have run writing groups in Dorset and in mid-Wales for over twenty years, I am not a teacher and I absolutely cannot turn any wannabe writer into the next J K Rowling. However, I love to encourage and inspire... it helps not only the novice writer but also those of us who are more experienced.

Meetings are held on the first and third Thursday evening of each month, from 7.00 – 9.00 p.m.

Want to know more? Then get in touch with me either by email: [sandy@thenevilles.net](mailto:sandy@thenevilles.net) or phone 01352 961597.

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## Who is Carmel Cricket Club?

Carmel Cricket Club is a friendly, sociable and inclusive club based at the Pen-y-Gelli Cricket Ground, St Asaph Road in Lloc. We are proud to field men's and women's senior teams, and girl's and boy's junior teams, all supported by an experienced group of coaches who help players develop.

### Women's cricket

Our senior women's team had a very enjoyable and successful season last year with one of the league's highest run scorers and a top 3 wicket taker. We play in the North Wales Women's Cricket League with a soft ball which makes it great for people who are new to the game and also provides a route into senior cricket for girls who are 13 or over.

Matches are short format, lasting about 2 ½ hours and we had a few matches last season where mums and daughters played together which was fantastic. The women's team is relatively new and we are always on the lookout for new members, no matter whether they are novices or experienced players. Our newer members describe the team as friendly and supportive, no matter how 'sporty' you are!

Women's coach Carol says 'We are now in our fourth year as a team and are really enjoying developing as a group and being part of the club. We always welcome new players, no experience necessary and support will be available from us, our club coaches and other senior players'

We have just begun our winter nets training, which gives us the opportunity to get some practice in before the season starts. We also have good relationships with the other local ladies teams and try to support each other when we can, with sessions or friendlies. As well as the league, we had the opportunity to play in the Flintshire Ladies knockout Competition last season which was great fun, just narrowly missing out on a slot in the final.

### Men's cricket

We have two senior men's teams, a 1st and 2nd Eleven. Both teams play on a Saturday in the summer and this season we are entering a midweek league which is a shorter format, 20 overs per innings rather than the 40 overs on a Saturday. We welcomed some new players last season and, like the women's team, some of these had not played before, while some had played previously and then recently returned to the game.

Cameron, 2nd team captain tells us that 'Carmel are a club that have players with multiple levels of experience, knowledge and competitiveness across the different formats. As a result, given our different standards and types of matches, we are able to give a lot of opportunities regardless of whether someone is new to the game or perhaps hasn't played in 30 years! Plus - Carmel are well known for the good food that is put on at socials - so even if you're interested in volunteering to help the club in some other way, we're keen to welcome more people to our family'

We love to see juniors moving up to the senior teams and we were excited to see some of our Under 15s play with the seniors last season. A standout moment last season was when one of the juniors hit a four to win the match in a senior midweek game - cue big celebrations! If you looked closely there may even have been a happy tear in the eye for a few of us. In fact, we are very proud that both our senior men's captains were juniors at the club.

### Juniors

The club has a mixed boys and girls under 9's team, and then separate boys' and girls' teams up to Under 15s. In the summer, Carmel is proud to deliver the national ECB 'All Stars and Dynamos' programme which is a great introduction into cricket for 5 to 11 year olds for children in the local area. Some people worry that they'll have to buy a lot of kit so their child can play cricket but once you sign up to the 8 week programme everything children need to get started is provided.

All Stars Cricket provides a fantastic first experience for children aged 5-8 years old guaranteeing 8 weeks of jam-packed fun. The programme is designed to teach kids new skills which help them in all sports such as throwing and catching, learning how to play with other members

of a team, make new friendships and enjoy themselves while learning the foundations of cricket.

Dynamos Cricket provides a fantastic next step for all those graduating from All Stars Cricket, but you don't have to have done All Stars to play Dynamos as it is a perfect introduction for all 8-11 year-olds new to the sport! These sessions are all about fun. They provide children with a more social offer, focusing on developing more of the fundamental skills required to play cricket and many of our All Stars and Dynamos go on to play junior and senior level cricket in the future.

We always look forward to the All Stars and Dynamos summer lessons and, as a bonus, it is sociable for the people who bring the children along as we provide a cash bar and bar-b-q for everyone at each Friday session. Adults and children often stay beyond the training sessions to enjoy a relaxed and informal evening in a beautiful setting.

### How do I get involved?

You can register children for Dynamos and All Stars at <https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars> - just choose Carmel and District Cricket Club as the club for them to join.

Club training until Easter is on Sundays in Holywell, in either the High School or the Leisure Centre (depending on the age group). After Easter we move back outdoors, weather permitting and training is at the Club ground.

Alternatively, if you or your children would like to try a new sport (or return to an old one) do get in touch or come along to one of our training sessions. You can contact us through Facebook, Instagram or Twitter—we'd be happy to talk to you and welcome you to the club!

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## HANNAH BLYTHYN MS



Since my last Five Villages Chronicle column, the early part of the year has largely focused on the Welsh Government's draft budget in the Senedd, announced just before Christmas, and it's a very challenging situation for Wales. The Welsh Government has had to take some really difficult decisions to radically reshape the budget in order to focus funding on the services that matter most to people and have the biggest impact on our lives.

I've also been out and about in the constituency in recent weeks, including a visit organised by the Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW) and John Worthington to Maes y Groes Farm in Cilcain, where I had the chance to hear from a number of local farmers and representatives of the union. We talked about the future of farming and it was a welcome opportunity for me to hear first-hand about some of the challenges and opportunities they face. I'm looking forward to some further visits and hopefully working together to spread awareness about where our food comes from and the value of supporting local and sustainable food supply chains.

The Welsh Government recently launched a consultation in which people in Wales can help to shape proposals to modernise and improve animal welfare. The consultation is the first step in a process to create a national model for Wales, which would regulate standards and strengthen animal welfare across the nation. The consultation explores how animal activities – such as pet day care, pet groomers and dog play parks – are currently regulated and licensed in Wales and how these processes could be made better. The consultation closes on March 1st – you can find further information at [www.gov.wales/licensing-animal-welfare-establishments-activities-and-exhibits](http://www.gov.wales/licensing-animal-welfare-establishments-activities-and-exhibits).

It was also recently announced that the 3G mobile network is changing in our area. EE – part of BT Group – announced last year that it's retiring its 3G network in early 2024 and, as part of the phased closure of this network, they will begin withdrawing 3G services across Flintshire. It sounds like a big step, but actually more than 95% of EE and BT customers don't use the

3G network, using the 4G or 5G network instead, and 3G itself is more than 20 years old and is now considerably less efficient. EE has contacted my office to inform me that they are offering all vulnerable customers a free 4G-ready mobile phone or a big discount on a pay monthly plan for those who want to choose their own handset – you can find more details on my website at [www.hannahblythyn.cymru/the-3g-mobile-network-is-changing-in-our-area](http://www.hannahblythyn.cymru/the-3g-mobile-network-is-changing-in-our-area) or drop me a line if you have any concerns and would like some help.

I know that the closure of banks in our towns and on our high streets is something many readers will be concerned about and it is an issue I have campaigned on in the past. So recently it was good to have the chance to go and find out more about the new Banking Hub in Prestatyn. The first of its kind in Wales and a partnership between the Post Office and Cash Access UK, it offers access to cash and a number of over-the-counter services as well as hosting Community Bankers on rotation with a different bank or building society available on each day of the week. While it is still early days for the new initiative on the high street, it certainly sets out a possibility for what the future of some of these services could look like elsewhere in a way that means both residents and businesses have direct access to support and services.

As the winter weather persists and we all look to the spring, it's worth remembering that Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board is offering drop-in vaccinations for Covid as well as for flu, as they are both circulating at the same time, so if you're eligible and haven't received a vaccination yet, you can drop in to one of the clinics available on their website at [www.bcuhb](http://www.bcuhb).

[nhs.wales/covid-19/drop-in-for-your-covid-19-autumn-booster-and-flu-vaccine-now-flintshire](http://nhs.wales/covid-19/drop-in-for-your-covid-19-autumn-booster-and-flu-vaccine-now-flintshire).

I also want to make sure local residents are aware that BCUHB has extended the hours of the Minor Injury Units in both Holywell and Mold. This is something I have raised previously in meetings and offers positive news for many Flintshire residents. The unit at Holywell Hospital is open from 8am to 8pm seven days a week, while the unit at Mold Community Hospital is now open Monday to Saturday from 8am to 6pm. Don't forget, you can always get non-emergency help in Wales by dialling 111 or 999 if there is an emergency – and these updated hours don't affect A&E services.

Are you looking to transform an unloved area into a beautiful garden or do you want to create a community hub or help people to grow their own fruit and veg? Keep Wales Tidy has a scheme called Local Places for Nature and they give away free garden packages to community groups, schools and other community-based organisations. The packages contain everything you need to set up your community garden, from native plants to tools, resources and other materials. The find out more or to apply for a pack, go to [www.keepwalestidy.cymru/our-work/conservation/nature](http://www.keepwalestidy.cymru/our-work/conservation/nature).

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](http://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.



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## THE 'WILD DISTRICT' (Geraint Roberts)

I first ventured into the 'wild district' back in 1986 when I went to look for an island where legend said an old chieftain's treasure was hidden somewhere upon it. In those days, on such trips, I carried the eternal optimistic and naïve notion that I may perhaps find such treasure. Needless to say, the treasure still awaits discovery!

The label 'wild district' was actually coined by one of the locals and later used as a book title chronicling the autobiographical reminiscences of the Cemmaes minister Emlyn Richards; however, I digress.

The area I am referring to is the top northwestern tip of Ynys Mon; Trwyn y Gader, commonly anglicised as Carmel Head. It is pre-dominantly a blunt, rocky peninsula protruding boldly into the Irish Sea and is composed of pre-cambrian rock, the oldest on the planet, it also happens to be my favourite walk on Ynys Mon. The nearest village is Llanfairynghornwy and the nearest well-known place is probably Porth Swtan or Church Bay.

The A55 will take us conveniently to the north of Ynys Mon and then a myriad of narrow lanes, many with the quintessential strip of grass in the middle offer themselves as entry into the 'wild district'. Much of Trwyn y Gader is owned by the National Trust and a small NT car park is an obvious starting point for this round walk around the dramatic headland. The car park is perched amongst a series of meadows handsomely adorned with clumps of gorse and orange bracken on the slopes of Mynydd y Garn (the local mountain) as they dip gently for a mile down to the sea.



*Mynydd y Garn*

On my first visit I was impressed by the vast number of pheasants strutting about without a care in the world; it was like a scene from Roald Dahl's 'Danny, Champion of the World'. The walk down to the sea is through an open pasture, one of many used by the 700 strong herd of milking cows belonging to Mynachdy farm. On the right a conifer forest where the pheasants are bred, fed and then startled out to be shot.

Ahead, to the left, atop a small knoll is an incongruous square brick building. This once served as a shelter for RAF personnel who managed a series of fighter plane targets on the seaward slope for the budding Hurricane and Spitfire pilots of the second world war.



*Wartime shelter*

An old ruin 200 yards south of the old shelter, Bryn Rhwydd was once the home of three brothers whose reputation as physically strong mischief makers has seeped into local folklore. They were known to regularly carry their heavy fishing boat on their shoulders all the way up from the beach. As well as farming and fishing they would often row out to sell potatoes, vegetables and fish to passing ships. On one occasion one of the brothers naughtily decided he would fill a barrel with manure and put a layer of potatoes on top. The ruse worked and the ship sailed away thinking they had a full barrel of potatoes. The following year when he went out to sell his wares, he didn't realize it was the same ship and he was caught and dragged aboard. His punishment was being taken to Liverpool from where he had to walk all the way home!



*Ynys y Fydlyn*

Back on the path leading down to the pebbly beach of Traeth Fydlyn just before the way steepens there used to be an old tavern which was frequented by fishermen and indeed smugglers, but there is very little to see of its location today. As the island of Ynys y Fydlyn comes into view the marshy little lake of Llyn Fydlyn appears below on the right. This would once have been a small estuary, but aeons of high tide storm driven waves have built the beach into an effective dam to hold back the little Fydlyn stream to form the lake.

The island only becomes an island at high tide, but it is an impressive spectacle rearing up out of the surf as it does. Not everyone would wish to clamber up its rocky flank (treasure or no) especially if the waves are lively. As well as the double entranced cave tucked around the corner at the far end of the beach, the island itself boasts five which are well worth exploring. One of them is a huge natural arch which when viewed from the northern edge of the



*'Elephant Rock'*

beach explains one of the tourist names given to Ynys y Fydlyn; 'elephant rock'. The longest cave is 80 feet long and requires some rock climbing, all the caves are best tackled at low water. I remember a kayaking trip from Porth Swtan many years ago with my eldest son and a college friend when we landed on Traeth y Fydlyn and climbed, scrambled and swum all the way around the island and explored all the caves.

It is thought that the Vikings used the beach as a base for some of their raids on Ynys Mon, most notably the attack on Penmon priory in 971AD. A local legend tells of a young couple who were chased to the beach on one such raid, they clambered onto the island seeking a hiding place but, alas, were seen. As the Vikings closed in upon them a tremendous explosion occurred, and a huge rift split the island in two thus preventing the Vikings from reaching the young lovers. The tremendously deep rift or gully does actually create two separate islets with very steep walls on either side. It is conjectured that a small iron age fort once stood on the larger isle; the remains of a crude reservoir can still be seen, whilst it is thought quite likely the separating chasm would have had an elementary bridge that could be removed in times of conflict.

It was from this beach that the farmer of Orsedd Goch found and carried a heavy wooden bench on his back all the way up to his house a couple of generations ago; the bench, probably off a ship is still used in the kitchen!



*The bench carried up from Traeth Fydlyn*

Here too, according to legend, in 1740 a local smuggler called Dannie Luke found a drifting boat with a young boy aboard. The boy who had neither Welsh or English was adopted by a Dr. Francis Lloyd and given the name of Evan. As he grew and matured



his natural talent for bone setting came to the fore as, following several successful mending of broken animal limbs many of the locals began to place their trust in him to be treated. When he re-set Lady Bulkley's broken finger, his reputation was complete. A plaque to his memory was placed in Llanfairyrghornwy church by the Bulkley family. He died in 1814. This orthopaedic ability seemingly stayed in the family as several generations were known as capable bone setters. One, a Huw Owen Thomas invented the 'Thomas Splint' which saved many lives in the first world war. His nephew, Sir Robert Jones was responsible for co-founding the hospital at Gobowen with Agnes Hunt. The family lives on and I have had the pleasure of co-working, kayaking and rock climbing over many years with one of them.



*Cave and dangerous path*

Even in August at the height of the holiday season this corner of Mon is quiet; between September and March it is even quieter due to the permissive path being closed so all those 'pesky pheasants' can be murdered. This permissive path continues up from the beach in a dramatic zig zag perched over the very edge of the cliff. In windy conditions it can be dangerous but refreshingly no attempt has ever been made to erect any sort of safety barrier or fence. Our way then continues along an obvious path between the conifers and the cliff edge with stunning views. Look out for the huge white boulder carried here by the ice over twelve thousand years ago. Below are four or five barely accessible mini beaches, clambering down takes a lot of care as a slip or a trip could be fatal.



*Ogo'r Arian*

One of them has a cave called 'Ogo'r Arian' (Cave of the money or silver) which has the inevitable legend of containing treasure. Many locals are still convinced that pirate treasure is still hidden inside

whilst others adhere to a more credible version that artefacts from a little church called Trefoesau on the hill above were hidden at the time of Henry VIII's purge on Catholics. Many of these Cistercian run places of worship are known to have hidden their 'artefacts' in the mid 1530s. There are in fact three or four caves in the area and one local belief is that the cave has been closed up whilst another version has a curse on whoever seeks the treasure. According to this curse any part of the seeker's body which touches sea water whilst near the cave will immediately become paralysed!



*Penbrynyreglwys*

Eventually the path reaches the rocky summit of Penbrynyreglwys in whose vicinity the old church referred to once stood. It is also now thought that the Romans had a look out post here where they were able to monitor the northern approaches to Caergybi (Holyhead). Three hundred yards east a little lake called Llyn Ynfyd nestles in a shallow saucer of land. According to local tradition drinking water from this lake will help someone remember something which they have forgotten!



*The Skerries*

At 250 feet above the sea the summit is an excellent viewpoint to gaze across at Ynysoedd y Moelrhoniaid (The Skerries) and contemplate a little about their history. I say they, because there are fifteen small islands in total crowned by the lighthouse. It was just after the civil war that one William Trench who then owned the island and lived in Mynachdy farm was asked by the government to provide a warning light so ships could avoid the rocks. Maintaining the coal fire and collecting 'light duties' from the passing ships proved too onerous a task, he even lost his son whilst rowing coal across; in 1725 Trench died with very little to show for his endeavours. In 1730 an act of parliament was passed to force

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ships to pay the duty and by the end of the eighteenth century Trench's descendants were raking in £10,000 per year. The islands were eventually bought by Trinity House in 1841 for almost half a million pounds and the present lighthouse was built in 1865.

Despite the lighthouse there have been several wrecks on the islands and in the restless sound. The very first royal yacht, the 'Mary' which had belonged to Charles II was one victim in 1675 with a loss of 33, although at the time had been re-commissioned to the Royal Navy. Another notable wreck was the Castilian which foundered in 1943 whilst carrying several tons of ordnance, some of which occasionally wash up on local beaches. One of the saddest chapters occurred when nine of the Mynachdy family rowed across for a picnic lunch one summer's day; on the way back, in worsening weather the boat overturned and not a single body was found. The broken boat was washed ashore in Whitehaven a few days later. It was this tragedy which forced the sale of Mynachdy and saw Doctor Lloyd who was to adopt Evan (the bone setter) begin his tenure there.

Without doubt the sound between the islands and the mainland can indeed be dangerous especially when the wind is blowing against the moving tide but in calm conditions and with tidal knowledge a kayak trip across to the Skerries can be a pleasurable adventure. I remember such a day some ten years ago setting off from Cemlyn with my son Eifion. Our aim was to visit the island Maen y Bugail and then proceed to Porth Swtan on the ebb. When we reached the little island with comparative ease, we decided to carry on to the Skerries. We did encounter a few acres of rough water in a couple of places but were able to stay on the island for some twenty minutes, exploring and saying hello to the dozens of seals, before catching the last of the ebb to Porth Swtan, it was an excellent trip.

It is worth loitering a while to enjoy the panoramic vista from the summit of Penyreglwyys and contemplate perhaps on the draughty tour of duty many a roman soldier would have served here watching for ships sailing towards Caergybi clearly seen to the south. One can imagine too the panicking monks from the little church of Trefoesau feverishly looking for somewhere to hide their 'treasures' as I'm sure they would have received little warning that their world as they knew it was about to end.

Our way now descends to the north to a series of interesting little inlets with steep rocky walls. One has a resident seal, whilst another has an ancient raven's nest used by many generations dramatically perched below an overhang. It is interesting to reflect that one of the old customs in this particular district was to burn a raven's nest on a chosen day of the year by lowering a



*The seals' cove*

burning bundle of straw on a rope. Such barbarism came to an end following a series of sermons against this cruel custom



*Raven's nest by Porth y Craen*

by the famous preacher John Elias who lived locally.

With a blue sky, a restless sea (which it almost always is) and the yellow lichen on the rocks there is scope for some beautiful photographs. Nearby the remains of some ancient digging may represent the remains of an old asbestos mine. A handkerchief made from the material was actually presented to George III! I can imagine such a gift to Charles III would go down a bundle! It was popular with the Roman upper class as a cremation shroud ensuring the ash left within was untainted by any wood ash! Also



*The old chimney with the 'white ladies' in the background*

nearby is the remains of a small copper mine including the still erect smelting chimney. Opened in the eighteenth century the works were abandoned in 1865. One of the dramatic rocky inlets was known as Porth y Craen (Crane Dock) where, presumably the copper ore was lowered onto waiting ships. Also in the vicinity is a small quarry where marble was obtained, one of at least four on the island. By 1806 one George Bullock, furniture maker, had taken control of these small marble quarries under the company name of 'Mona



*Porth y Craen*

Marble'. He was commissioned by many of Britain's richest people and examples of 'Mona Marble' can still be seen in Bristol, Peterborough and Worcester cathedrals. One of the polished tables made of this marble was used to adorn the final prison home of Napoleon Bonaparte on St. Helena out in the Pacific.

This is such a beautiful and seldom visited quiet corner where I often tarry to eat my lunch gazing at the troubled sea, the odd passing boat, remembering past kayak and sailing trips; it is a venue where one can thoroughly relax sitting on one of the first pieces on earth to solidify. One shouldn't hurry this luncheon sojourn in so divine a spot.



*The 'white ladies'*

Most will want to look up through the interior of the old chimney at the sky before continuing a couple of hundred yards to see the 'White Ladies'. These two constructed triangles reaching 45 feet into the sky were built in 1860 as a navigational aid for ships. The two 'ladies', when lined up with a third beacon on the Maen Bugail island would allow ships to locate and avoid a particularly nasty submerged reef called 'Coal Rock'.

I can never remember which of the two I climbed that day in 1986 utilising the supporting buttress to its rear.

Here we have a choice; either drop



*Photogenic view of the Skerries*



down to the shore to walk east along the coastal path to Cemlyn (recommended) or continue along an upper path past the higher of the two 'ladies' in a south easterly direction which is the way we will go in this article. Above, on the right, and photogenic against the sky is an old ruin which tells you are on the right path. Soon the path is absorbed by one of a series of cattle tracks contained by several electric fences. A 'gate' consists of an electrified wire with an insulated handled hook which one can lift in order to pass through! Soon, an almost dried up reservoir is reached on the right, an excellent place to view an assortment of dragonflies in the summer months. The path continues through Mynachdy farm where another choice of ways presents itself. One can either carry straight on through the farmyard across meadows to meet up with the coastal path at Hen Borth or, as we shall do, turn right to follow the farm track to the south. Although it is thought that no religious building of any significance ever stood at Mynachdy the name (Monk's House) implies a link perhaps with the erstwhile mentioned church. Several other local place names have religious connotations; Penbrynreglwys (Top of the hill of the church) Pant yr Eglwys (Hollow of the Church), to name two. A legend tells of a tunnel leading from the house down to the sea which was once used by smugglers. I was actually shown a bricked-up arch at the back of the house by the current occupier, but when we discussed it, we agreed it was most likely an old potato storing facility. There can be little doubt however that Mynachdy did play a major role in smuggling in years gone past.



*The 'aerodrome'*

Once some height is gained and the farm track morphs into tarmac it is worth pausing and glancing back at the fields away to the northeast. One of these fields has been known as the 'aerodrome' since 1910. In those early days of 'aeroplaning' as it was then known, the flight across the Irish Sea to Ireland had yet to be accomplished. In August 1910 an actor named Robert Loraine had flown from Blackpool intending to land in Caergybi from where he would make the attempt. Unfortunately, because of a heavy sea mist he had to land on Llandrillo yn Rhos golf course to get his bearings and the green keeper came out in his pyjamas to send him on his way before



*Robert Loraine*

he could re-fuel. As a result he had to land here on Mynachdy farm with a very low fuel tank. It was then that a series of mishaps occurred; twice in the ensuing weeks he tried to take off only to damage the plane both times. Meanwhile the enterprising farmer of Mynachdy had been charging curious visitors threepence for a glass of water and a shilling for a glass of milk! He also billed Loraine for £56 for damage to his field and fences! Eventually the plane was carted to Caergybi and prepared for the flight. In September he finally set off across the Irish Sea and he very nearly made it. Three hundred yards short of the Baily lighthouse one of the controlling wires snapped on his flimsy bi-plane and he was forced to ditch into the sea. Loraine managed to swim the final leg to Ireland to survive his brave attempt. Ironically, the following week he was appearing in a play in London called 'The man from the sea'! Because of his 300-yard swim his claim to be the first man to fly across the Irish Sea was not accepted. It wasn't until 1912 that the feat was finally accomplished by Vivian Hewitt, who coincidentally came to live in a house a mere mile and a half away from Mynachdy.

The house on the left is called Bryn y Coelcerth (Beacon or Bonfire House); a link perhaps to the system adopted to spread important news a few centuries ago. The imminent invasion of the Spanish Armada in 1588 saw several beacons ready to be lit across the country as was the uncertain period of the Napoleonic wars. Less important events like the visit of a ruling monarch would also have adopted signal beacons.

The way back to the car is along the narrow tarmac road almost swallowed by the tall hedges so typical of Ynys Mon, hedges sometimes flaming yellow with vanilla scented gorse flowers or laden with blackberries in late August. We arrive back at the car where the striding pheasants still strut their stuff innocently unaware of why the coastal path from Ynys y Fydlyn closes between September and February!

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## MARK ISHERWOOD MS



As Chair of the Senedd Cross-Party Group on Hospice and Palliative Care, I have long been championing the vital work our Hospices carry out and calling for them to receive increased funding.

Back in 2006, I hosted an event in the Senedd, highlighting the essential role played by Hospices in providing palliative care services in Wales and calling on the Welsh Government to address the growing funding crisis they were facing then, which was attended by every Hospice in Wales.

I Chaired the 2018 Cross-Party Group on Hospice and Palliative Care's Inquiry into 'Inequalities in Access to Hospice and Palliative Care in Wales', which found that 'there is significant unmet need and under-met need', that Statutory Hospice funding had flatlined for a decade and therefore fallen in real terms each year, that statutory funding of Children's Hospices

in Wales was significantly lower than in England and Scotland, and that statutory funding for adult hospices in Wales as a percentage of expenditure was lower than in other UK Nations.

I also Chaired the Cross-Party Group on Hospices and Palliative Care's Inquiry into "Experiences of palliative and end of life care in the community during the COVID-19 pandemic". Our report, published last January, found that the number of people requiring palliative care is forecast to grow by over 40 per cent by 2040, with much of this growth in community settings.

Speaking in last month's Senedd Debate on 'Charitable Hospice Funding' I called on the Welsh Government to work with the Hospice sector to address the immediate funding challenges they are facing and to develop a long-term sustainable funding solution.

I said: "Every Hospice in Wales is projecting a deficit for this financial year, drawing on their very limited reserves to make up for the shortfall and protect services."

"The harsh reality is that Welsh Hospices are already making cuts to services, with 80 per cent of Hospices Cymru members telling us that pressures are highly likely to result in them having to further reduce the volume of certain services delivered. This will result in reduced support being available to the wider system, such as hospitals and care homes, placing greater end-of-life

pressure on an already overstretched NHS Wales. Over 80 per cent of Hospices with in-patient units believe cost-of-living pressures are highly likely to result in one or more in-patient beds being temporarily or permanently unavailable."

I emphasised that the majority of their care is delivered in the community through their own charitable fundraising efforts, significantly reducing numbers of hospital admissions and enabling patients to stay at home. However, rising staff and energy costs, workforce pressures and increasing demand for complex care pose a serious threat to Welsh Hospices continuing to be able to do this, and to their ability to be key partners in helping transform palliative care services for the future.

I highlighted that NHS pay increases over the last two years have pushed total hospice staffing costs up by approximately £5.4 million. Both Adult and Children's Hospices in Wales are committed to paying a fair and competitive wage to their brilliant staff, but can't keep pace with either NHS pay rises or significant inflation on all areas of their provision.

At the Cross-Party Group, Children's hospices Tŷ Hafan and Tŷ Gobaith described the serious challenges they face delivering services to meet local need across large areas of Wales, where Hospices are often the only source of support for children and their families. The cost of travel continues to be a real issue



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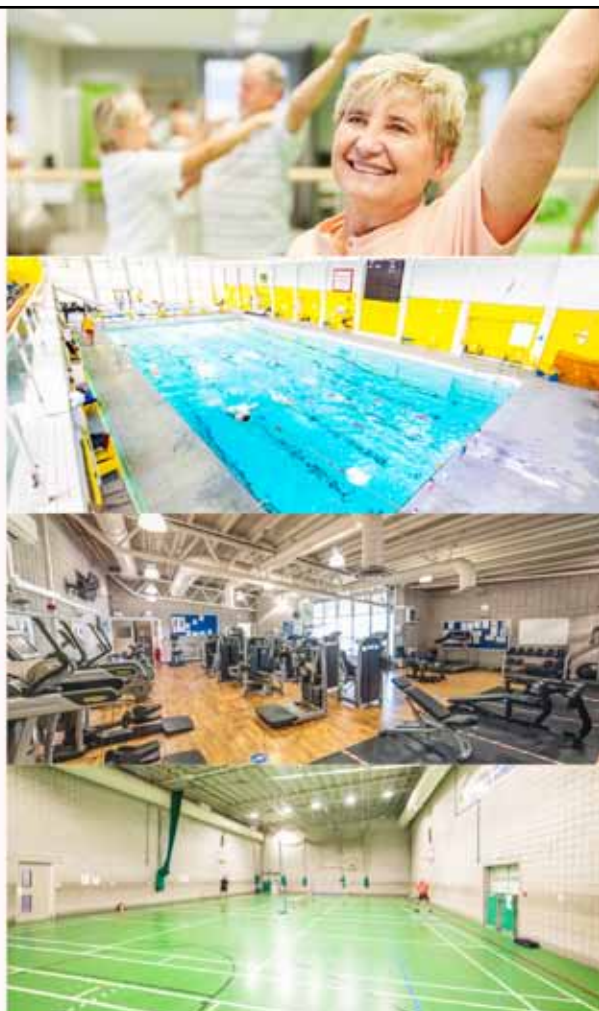
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for families, alongside out-of-hours support and partnership work with increasingly overstretched Children's Community Nursing Teams.

St. David's Hospice in Llandudno described how Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board was cutting their funding at a time when the Health Board had closed its own specialist palliative care beds. The Hospice currently delivers three quarters of its services through its own charitable fundraising efforts. They said the funding review should address these immediate pressures and the postcode lottery of Hospice funding in Wales, alongside building a more sustainable model for the future.

I stressed that Hospices "bring expertise, innovation and capacity in improving person-centred care, addressing equity of access, enhancing advanced and future care planning, and developing national outcomes and experience measures".

I said that cuts to their services mean that there is a shrinking Hospice partnership capacity to work with Welsh Government and Health Boards to transform services and address increasing demand for palliative and end-of-life care.

It is important to remember that Hospices save NHS Wales millions and can help them save millions more with smart funding and services that are jointly designed and delivered. Alternatively, the negative impact on patients and their

families, when Hospices have to cut services, means people in Wales with a palliative care diagnosis not receiving the care and support they need, to live their best life and to have a good death.

As I emphasised in the Senedd Debate, "The Welsh Government would be failing in their duty if they did not work with the Hospice sector to address the immediate funding challenges and develop a long-term sustainable funding solution".

Unless this Welsh Government closes the funding gap for our Hospices, it will continue to miss the open opportunity provided by our community Hospices and to spend elsewhere delivering less.

### **A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE (Maureen Burgin)**

Six years ago, when my granddaughters were fifteen and thirteen years old the family emigrated to New Zealand. To say that we, as parents, were devastated is an understatement, but we wished them well and hoped that they would settle. In time they did with the exception of Emilie (15) who was really unhappy.

That first Christmas she asked for, and received a baby tortoise which she named Roy. Roy became Emilie's world. She fed him and cared for him and even took him for walks on a lead. At Emilie's request I found myself knitting jumpers for Roy which I dutifully brought to New Zealand on my first visit. Together we took Roy on walks

to the beach and on outings by bus. Their bond was visible for all to see.

Emilie saw that I too had bonded with Roy and asked if I would christen him on a day when were on our own. In my lifetime I have been sad to do many things but christening a tortoise would be a first! As I could see that this was important to Emilie, I obliged wearing a long white scarf for the ceremony with Roy resplendent in a robe of white tissue paper. He did not cry when blessed but rewarded us with a little plop of tortoise droppings! His consent no doubt. Nevertheless, to Emilie, Roy was now a Christian, and as such was special.

Roy lived, as befits his regal name, contentedly for five years until last year when I heard the heartbreaking news that Roy had escaped. HE WAS GONE! - his house empty, all his vegetarian banquet left uneaten. The family despaired of ever seeing him again, their beautiful garden is high above sea level and only a few hundred yards from a sheer drop into the ocean.

Then on Christmas Eve morning an extremely excited Emilie phoned me from New Zealand - ROY WAS BACK! I could not believe what I was hearing. After ten months Roy had been found on a bush track almost two miles from his garden. He had plodded not out to sea but upward into the mountains where he was found by hikers who advertised his presence on Facebook.

A Christmas miracle indeed.

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## OBITUARY - ANN PARRY (NEE GLYNN)



Ann passed away on the 11th November 2023 in Holywell Community Hospital after a period of illness which she bore with great stoicism and dignity. She was 76 years old and had recently returned to the area after spending her married life in Rhyl.

Ann was the second child born to Christopher and Mary Glynn and grew up with the family at The Chalet in Pantasaph. Educated at both St. Francis school in Pantasaph and St. Richard Gwyn School in Flint, she left school aged 15 and began to pursue, what was ultimately a long and successful career with the Civil Service, beginning firstly at the Department of Work and Pensions in Walton, Liverpool, before transferring 'home' to Holywell in 1967. Stints in the Flint offices interspersed before Ann was promoted and went onto manage, as professionally and efficiently as was

her way in all matters of work, the offices based in Rhyl until her retirement.

Ann met David Messham Parry at the Rhyl offices and, being kindred spirits from day one, went on to marry him in 1978. They lived together as a married couple and the best of friends for the next 37 years at their home in Rhyl. Their time was spent variously with family and friends, both at home and abroad and both loved nothing more than family Christmases and their frequent trips to the continent where, unsurprisingly, they become firm friends with the vast majority of people they met.

Family was the touchstone of Ann's life and in addition to being a cherished sister to her brother and sister; a loving step-mother to her two stepsons, she was also a beloved aunt and great aunt to her nephews and great niece and great nephew. Her position in the family was characterised by continuing the wonderfully warm, close and grounded ways that her parents had taught the whole family.

Ann was grounded in the Church and the community she loved. She served the community in its widest sense through her career with a professionalism, laced with her unique sense of humour and great sense of fun. Those who knew Ann will recall fondly her ability to re-enact Julie Walters 'Two Soups' routine. She worked tirelessly in the church community, most notably with her sister and brother, in raising funds for the repair of the stained glass windows at St. David's Church in Pantasaph.

After her husband's passing in 2015, and the lockdowns of the COVID pandemic, Ann realised she was too distant from her family and so returned home to live in Gorsedd, living the last year of her life at Greystones. She passed away and was buried in St. David's in Pantasaph on the 24th November 2023. She is survived and lovingly remembered by her brother, Billy Glynn, sister, Carmel Jones and the rest of the family.

## CARMEL BOWLING CLUB (Brenda Taylor)

Carmel bowling club has been in existence for over 25 years. Over those years membership greatly increased, and we were able to have a team in the Midweek league, and two teams, A and B, in the Veterans' league. Unfortunately, over the past few years the number of members has decreased, certainly since covid, and now we are reduced to entering only one team in the Veterans' league.

If anyone is looking for a new hobby, then I can truly recommend crown green bowling. Our bowling club is situated in the grounds of Ysgol Bro Carmel. Many of the visiting teams are impressed with the size and condition of the green and the views across the Wirral are superb.

2024 season begins on 1st April and if anyone would like to come along and try their hand at bowling, they would be very welcome. Members of the club are

very friendly and would happily show newcomers the various skills.

From April on most Monday and Tuesday afternoons from 4.30 pm, is when we have practice sessions at the green, so please come and join us, bowls can be provided.,



Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact one of the following members.

Brenda Taylor - Secretary - 01352 712465  
Alan Roberts - Chairman - 01352 349849



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## LOCAL SCHOOLBOY BECOMES PROFESSOR OF OBOE AT ROYAL ACADEMY (Jan Miller)



Tom Blomfield, youngest son of John and Carole Blomfield, has become a celebrated professional musician at the age of 28. He grew up in Lloc and attended Ysgol y Lan Whitford, the Argoed and Mold Alun schools. Back in 2009, aged 14, Tom Blomfield won the Cor Meibion Caerwys, Young Musicians competition. Fourteen years on, in April 2023 he was appointed Principal Oboe of the BBC Symphony Orchestra. In the meantime he spent four years studying at the Royal Academy of Music and five years as Principal Oboe of the Philharmonia Orchestra, playing in regular concerts at the Festival Hall on London's South Bank and touring extensively in the UK, Europe and America. Highlights of his first year at the BBC include the Proms and, on Feb. 1st. this year, playing the Richard Strauss oboe concerto in a concert broadcast live on Radio 3 from the Barbican Centre. Strauss wrote the concerto just after the second world war, in his eightieth year. It contains much music that is warmly reflective but also virtuosic passages of sunny, good humour. As the BBC publicity said, it made a 'Ravishing showcase' for Tom and was received with whole hearted applause by audience and orchestra alike. The concert is available on BBC Sounds until March 1st. (7.30pm, Feb 1st, Radio 3) Tom has also played with most UK professional orchestras including London Symphony, BBC Philharmonic, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields. He is a professor of oboe at the Royal Academy of Music can be heard on half a dozen CDs, made over the last couple of years with the Sinfonia of London and Philharmonia orchestras. It was a wonderful concert on February 1st. but by the time this newsletter comes out it may not be still on BBC Sounds. But if you search for the Sinfonia of London discs, the latest one which has only just come out (Ravel, Berkeley, Pounds) Tom has a more solo part and gets a credit for the Ravel 'Tombeau de Couperin'.

## SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL RHYL & DISTRICT (Doreen Jones, Secretary) OUR WORK

Clubs choose projects to work on that tackle one of the five Programme Areas identified by Soroptimist International:

- Economic Empowerment
- Education
- Environmental Sustainability
- Food Security and Healthcare
- Violence and Conflict Resolution

All our work is linked to the Sustainable Development Goals whether it's local, national or international. We celebrate international Women's Day each year on 8th March.

All projects work towards ending poverty, eradicating hunger, providing education for all and preserving the environment.

### SALVATION ARMY, RHYL



During President Shirley's year 2023-2024, several events have been organised in aid of the President's charity the Salvation Army, Rhyl, which have collectively raised £4,000. Joyce hosted a Summer Garden Party and in December 2023 we organised a musical evening with the Trelawnyd Male Voice Choir and The Salvation Army, at the Marble Church, Bodelwyddan. Presentation of a cheque to the Salvation Army, Rhyl

### MASAKA SCHOOL, UGANDA— GIRLS' DORMITORY PROJECT



We have completed our long term project to help build a girls' dormitory to enable girls to go to school and receive an education. Over 7 years we have raised £10,506.50 towards this venture. The plaque reads: Thanks to SI Rhyl & District UK. Built with assistance of Rhyl Club Members Opened 2023.

### NORTH WALES WOMEN'S CENTRE, RHYL

Since October 2022 we have hosted a monthly programme of events. During the summer school holidays we provided themed picnics based on Super Heroes, Pirates and a Teddy Bear's Picnic for

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60 children. During 16 Days of Activism (Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls) 25th November—10th December, we delivered “One-pot Workshops”, cooking with a slow cooker. At the end of the course participants were given a slow cooker as some live in one room or units with minimal facilities.

#### **COURTYARD GARDEN, YSBYTY GLAN CLWYD**

Working in partnership with staff at the hospital and with students studying horticulture at Coleg Cambria we



undertook a project to re-develop the courtyard area outside of the café in 2021/2022 for the wellbeing of patients, staff and visitors. Members still continue to maintain the “Courtyard Garden”. Both the Voluntary Services Councils, Conwy and Denbighshire were able to provide funding for this project.

We collect used bottle tops, which are recycled and created into plastic garden furniture. Additionally, we reuse and wash crisp packets which are made into life-saving sleeping bags for the homeless.

International Night was celebrated with a Jamaican themed evening in the presence of Region President Susan and were entertained by a live steel band.

In November we enjoyed a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament organised by Dr. James Davies MP.

We welcome prospective members:



Have you got time to spare, are you looking to get involved and helping with local, national and international projects? Would you like to form new friendships? Then why not join Soroptimist International Rhyl & District, come along to one of our social evenings and enjoy a meal with us. You can contact us via our website: [www.sigbi.org/rhyl-and-district](http://www.sigbi.org/rhyl-and-district)



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## STEP INTO SPRING WITH AURA LIBRARIES

(Paula Jones)

### 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
- Wednesday Craft and Chat (last Wednesday of the month) 2.00pm
- Thursday Rhymetime 2.00pm
- Friday Welsh Conversation 2pm (1st & 3rd Friday of the month)
- Saturday Lego Club 10.00am

Adult Craft and Chat

Join us on the last Wednesday of the month for our craft and chat session in Holywell Library learn and participate in various crafts, chat with fellow crafters. All sessions are £3.00 per adult with refreshments included, places are limited so you will need to book. Contact Holywell Library 01352 703850 to book your seat at the crafty table.

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.

### Baby Babble Sessions at Holywell Library

Baby Babble is aimed at babies 0-18months 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.

The 4-Weekly sessions take place from 28th February to 20th March in Holywell and are led by a member of the Speech and Language Therapy team.

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



### North Wales Integrated Autism Service

Do you support an Autistic Adult or Child?  
Are you Autistic? Do you need advice?  
Come along to chat to one of our link workers  
Come along for a cuppa and chat to our drop in  
at Holywell Library 10.00 – 12.00noon on  
Tuesday 5 March; Tuesday 2 April and Tuesday 7  
May, 2024.

*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.*

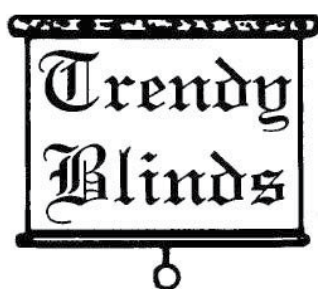
## CARMEL & HOLYWELL WOODCRAFT ASSOCIATION (Geoff Hill, Chairman)

Ex pupils of St. Richard Gwyn Roman Catholic High School, Flint will remember their sports master Glyn Owen who also taught Welsh and assisted pupils with their career choice from 1967 – 1995. At the Woodcraft Association AGM, the members were proud to present Glyn with the honour of becoming their first Life Member.

Glyn was a founder member of the Carmel & Holywell Woodcraft Association when it first opened at the Carmel Village Hall in 1997. He held the position of Treasurer from that first meeting overseeing the Associations finances and assisting with its move to the present location at the Old Mill Craft Centre, Greenfield Road, Holywell. Following his retirement as Treasurer in 2023, Glyn remains a very active member of the Association combining his woodworking skills with his other interest Holywell F.C.



As the Association enters a new year, the Craft Centre continues to expand its activities within the local community with woodcraft members taking part in demonstrations and lectures to outside organisations such as the W.I and Care Homes to name but a few. For people wishing to try a new hobby, we have now introduced a voucher which can be purchased as a gift for use by individuals, a relative or friend to try the woodworking experience. The session will be held over a 2-day period. Should anyone be interested in purchasing a voucher, they can telephone 07973 691522 for further information.



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Another resident of the Craft Mill is Lulu's Cabinet and Art & Craft Studio with the owner Lucy teaching her first group of ladies into the art of picture making working with felts. With the success achieved, it will be an experience for people that will be repeated throughout the year. Further information, please contact [HELLO@LULUSCABINET.COM](mailto:HELLO@LULUSCABINET.COM)

Following the success of last year's Open Weekend, the Craft Centre will be repeating the event again in August 2024. Details of this event will be announced in the next Five Village Magazine and advertised locally throughout the county.

## Cranefield Decorators

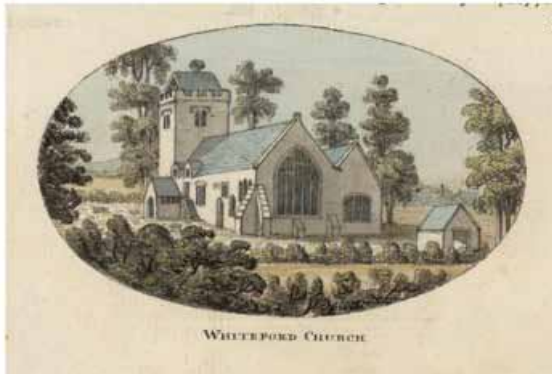
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WHITFORD CHURCH

**An afternoon with Thomas Pennant and the Hawarden Singers**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May, 4pm-6pm**

**St Mary's and St Beuno's Church,  
Whitford, CH8 9AJ**

Join us to explore the life and work of the distinguished C18th naturalist and antiquarian, Thomas Pennant of Downing, with a musical concert by the renowned Hawarden Singers.

With Professor Mary-Ann Constantine and members of the Curious Travellers project and conductor Mal Williams and the Hawarden Singers.

Admission free, tea and cakes.

To reserve a place please contact: [psutch30@gmail.com](mailto:psutch30@gmail.com) (07787 174788)

*Everyone welcome! This is a fund-raising event to help us improve the facilities at Whitford Church.*



WHITFORD CHURCH

**Prynhawn gyda Thomas Pennant a'r 'Hawarden Singers'**

**Dydd Sul 19 Mai, 4pm-6pm**

**Eglwys Santes Mair a Sant Beuno  
Chwittfordd, CH8 9AJ**

Ymunwch â ni i ddangosfod bywyd a gwaith yr hynafiaethydd a naturiaethwr, Thomas Pennant, Downing, gyda cherddoriaeth gan y Hawarden Singers. Yng nghwmni yr Athro Mary-Ann Constantine ac aelodau prosiect y Teithwyr Chwiltfrydig, ac arweinydd Mal Williams a'r Hawarden Singers.

Mynediad am ddim, paned a chacen

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The costs of this publication have been met by the Senedd Commission from public funds

## RECIPES FOR SPRING

### (Isabel Burnage)

Potatoes are and have been a very versatile ingredient in day to day cooking. The following recipe is one which the family has enjoyed in the past:

#### POTATOES A LA BOULANGÈRE

400gm potatoes thinly sliced  
1 medium onion peeled and sliced  
50ml vegetable stock  
50ml milk  
knob of butter and seasoning

#### Method

1. layer potatoes and onions in a shallow oven proof dish, and season
2. mix stock and milk together and pour over the potatoes. Dot with the butter
3. cover with foil and bake in centre of oven at 200c/gas6 for about 30mins.
4. remove the foil and cook for another 20 mins for the top to brown. Check potatoes are tender.

Serve with grilled ham or cooked salmon fillets.

#### APPLE AND ALMOND FLAN

6 oz shortcrust pastry  
1½ tablespoons jam  
1 medium baking apple, peeled, cored and chopped or sliced  
2 oz sugar  
1 egg  
1½ tsp almond essence  
1½ oz ground almonds  
1½ oz flour + 1 oz breadcrumbs  
half teacup of milk or milk and water

#### Method

1. line a shallow dish or tin with the pastry
2. spread the jam over the pastry base
3. add the chopped/sliced apples
4. mix together the remaining ingredients and spread evenly over the apple
5. bake on centre shelf at 190c/gas5 for about 30-35 mins until lightly brown
6. serve hot or cold with custard or cream

## EGLWYS GYMRAEG BRO TREFFYNNON.

### HOLYWELL & DISTRICT WELSH CHAPEL.

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

#### Mawrth / March:

17eg Dafydd Timothy  
24ain Y Parchedig Huw Powell-Davies  
31ain Sul y Pasg/ Easter Sunday -  
Y Parchedig Huw Powell-Davies (Cymun)

#### Ebrill / April:

7fed Uno yn y Berthen - Y Parchedig Aneurin Owen  
14eg Dilwyn Jones  
21ain Y Parchedig Huw Powell-Davies  
28ain Arwel Roberts

#### Mai / May:

5ed Y Parchedig Ifor ap Gwilym  
12fed Y Parchedig Huw Powell-Davies (Cymun)  
19eg Uno yn y Berthen - Dathlu 200 mlwyddiant.  
26ain Y Parch Huw Powell-Davies

#### Mehefin / June:

2ail Y Parchedig Brian Wright  
9fed Corey Hampton  
16eg Marion Simkin  
23ain Y Parchedig Huw Powell-Davies  
30ain Maryl Rees

#### Gorffennaf / July:

7fed Y Parchedig Ifor Jones  
14eg Y Parchedig Huw Powell-Davies (Cymun)

*Anfonwn ein cofion at bawb sydd heb fod yn dda'n ddiweddar. Mae Gruff Edwards adref ar ôl bod yn Ysbyty Glan Clwyd a Deanna Williams yng Nghartref Gofal Preswylfa yn y Rhyl.*

Our greetings go out to members who have not been well lately. Gruff Edwards is now home after being in Glan Clwyd Hospital and Deanna Williams is at Preswylfa Care Home in Rhyl.

## NEWS FROM GORSEDD AND WHITFORD CHURCHES



### (Rev Kathryn Evans)

Happy New Year, it may seem strange to say that as Spring approaches, but our paths might not have crossed yet as I have been on holiday! I almost wrote this whilst away (as I was thinking of you all in the awful weather), but thankfully, the deadline for submission was after my trip. Many of you know that we have been visiting family in New Zealand, an absolute blessing, but a very long journey each way! Not long after we arrived, we got the chance to support our eldest son as he attempted to re-run the long-distance endurance event called The Revenant (you may remember he completed this 200km orienteering race 3 years ago). Being there enabled us to put all the different venues into place from the Ski Hut (at the top of a very long, dusty, uphill dirt track) to the Woolshed down in the valley. Seeing somewhere isn't essential to understanding, but it really helps 'connect the dots' for me. I have been fortunate to visit the Holy Land during my training and in my curacy, and being able to visualise the places we read of in the Bible helped my understanding of the geography of Israel and Palestine, the key places in the life of Jesus and the early disciples and given a glimpse into the issues that continue to cause conflict and division today, with devastating consequences.

Both the long journey, and Ian's adventure over the hills in Garston reminded me of the verse in Hebrews about running the race that set before us. We are called to persevere through all the ups and downs of life, the joys and the hardships, but we do not do this alone, as we are reminded that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses (Hebrews 12:1). We are in Lent now, so Christians recall the journey that Jesus made to the cross, and the trials, pain and suffering he endured. Many people choose to join in this journey and 'give something up' for Lent as a discipline and to create more time for prayer, others choose to do take something up. There are charities which suggest the 'donate an item each day' and then, at Easter, those unwanted items can be used to raise money for various charities and local



causes. For me, I feel it is most important to try and align ourselves with God more, to think of others and to show God's love wherever we can, remembering we are part of something bigger than ourselves. This year, Easter is very early (31st March) and we look forward to celebrating the resurrection with joy. At Gorsedd, we will celebrate Easter Communion at 9:30am, and at Whitford at 11am. Both will have refreshments afterwards so we can gather in community, and at Whitford we will have our famous Easter Egg Roll races – do look out for opportunities to buy your eggs to roll – we had such fun last year!

Later in the Spring on May 19th, Whitford church is hosting a Thomas Pennant event with the Hawarden Singers (advert elsewhere in magazine) and Gorsedd will host a Summer Fayre. Do join us for any of our services and events, as we grow in community and fellowship together

As usual, any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me (Kathryn).

Have a blessed and happy Easter from us all.



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

We've had a busy term already. The older pupils have received weekly swimming lessons, have taken part in the rural dodgeball tournament hosted here in Whitford, celebrated Welsh Language Music Day at Trelawnyd Memorial Hall and they came second in the Dragon Sport

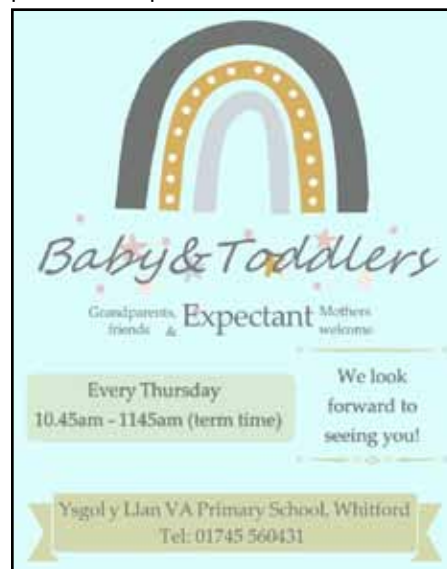


Netball Tournament for small schools. We welcomed parents into school once again for a parental engagement craft session all about Santes Dwynwen, and have continued to host week Parent/

Grandparent & Baby/Toddler sessions every Thursday morning. The children have recently been busy preparing for our school Eisteddfod during Wythnos Cymraeg, and the work they have produced has been delightful. I can't wait to see the final piece during our Eisteddfod.



Our Criw Cymraeg shared the story of Santes Dwynwen before grandparents and parents took part in craft activities.



We were thrilled to welcome our Parent & Toddlers back after the Christmas break. This continues to run free of charge. Please note that the day has now changed to every Thursday morning between 10.45am and 11.45am, but is still open to all local villages and is not limited to our own families. Some of our children produced a lovely welcome

sign for any visitors to our school.

The construction of our Childcare building is ahead of schedule and will be



up and running after the Easter break. We know that this facility will give our pre-school children a purpose-built area for their developing physical, emotional, social and educational needs.

**Class 1 teacher – Mrs Hughes**



Nursery and Reception have really enjoyed lots of activities during our Wythnos Cymraeg and have been very busy creating things for our school Eisteddfod. We have painted the Ddraig Goch and a Cennin Pedr, made our own Welsh game outside with the chalks and created beautiful salads using lots of healthy ingredients. Once they had been judged, the children then enjoyed them at Amser Snac. Some children have



also been busy creating their own Ddraig Goch at home.

### **Class 1 teacher – Mrs Duffy**

Dosbarth 1 have also enjoyed a picnic this term. The children prepared shape sandwiches and repeating pattern fruit kebabs. The children have also been learning about food from around the world by joining in with the Chinese New Year celebrations - they played in the 'Chinese restaurant', practised using chopsticks, and tasted Chinese foods.



### **Class 2 teacher – Miss Wiggins**

The children have all enjoyed salad making as part of their Eisteddfod competition this year. They also enjoyed creating Welsh games during our Wythnos Cymraeg and have been busy writing and posting letters to their Year 2 pen pals in Roath Park Primary school in Cardiff.

### **Class 3 teacher – Miss Roberts**

Dosbarth 3 have really enjoyed the different competition this year. Who knew





making a salad was so much fun? The children have also produced some amazing dragon models as part of the Eisteddfod design and technology competition.

#### **Class 4 teacher – Mr Thomas**

Dosbarth 4 have been working hard in their topic 'Living in a diverse country'. We have been learning about the geography of Wales and how places in Wales have changed over time. We are now looking at how the human aspects of the country has changed e.g. race, religion, population, etc. We are starting to find out whether Wales is becoming more diverse and will go on to find out information about the slave trade and modern human migration. This week, we have been preparing for our Eisteddfod. The class loved preparing their healthy salads!

#### **CARMEL BOOK CLUB** (Sally Brighton and Kath Williams)



One of the books read by our group during the Christmas period fell into the 'please some, but incur the dislike' of the majority, category.

The writers of this week's report were definite fans. The book, by popular American author, Colleen Hoover, writer of multiple novels, has been displayed also in bookshops over here. It falls to Kath Williams to tell us below as to why this book appealed to her.

**"Verity"** - a psychological thriller by *Colleen Hoover*.

This book shocked, surprised, horrified, frightened, tantalised and spooked me and if a good book is one you find difficult to put down, then this novel is a winner. The story begins with a horrific road accident, and the chance meeting of Lowen, a moderately successful author and Jeremy, a prestigious individual who stops to assist. They later discover that they're both on their ways to the same meeting at a publisher's office. To her amazement Lowen is invited to be co-author to the literary sensation, Verity Crawford who is paralysed after a road accident, leaving a series of her work unfinished. Surprised but flattered, Lowen agrees. Jeremy, who turns out to be Verity's husband, invites her to stay at the family house so that she can research all relevant information for her new project. This turns out to be an unbelievably tragic family with the loss of twin girls, a tragic and bereft little boy and a paralysed mother. Jeremy seems to cope so well with it all, it raises questions as to whether all is as it seems. Whilst searching for clues to help Lowen with her daunting task, she finds an autobiography written by Verity, full of lurid detail and cruel revelations.... almost a book within a book, on one hand we are witnessing the day to day life of a very sad depleted family, whilst also of obsessions, cruelty and trauma that may have led to it. At the same time, Lowen has cause to wonder how authentic the characters portrayed, really are. Lowen, growing closer to Jeremy, begins to confide in him revealing the contents of the diary. His decisive and swift actions leave many questions unanswered as well as many questions still to be asked as, chillingly, the story within a story begins to emerge.

An intriguing read, which I found

challenging but enthralling which I would recommend as a surprising and thought provoking read, although not one for the faint-hearted! *Kath Williams*

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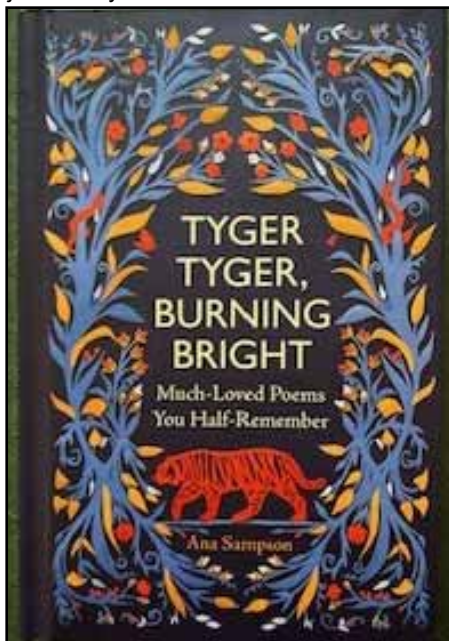
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## THE GIFT

(Norman Closs - Parry)

Heulwen smiles when she peeped at a "book gift" parcel that had its corner ripped. She checked first that it was not Faber and Faber Poetry Diary 2024 which had already been bought for me!

"What's Up?" I said (Seeing the silly smile) "You'll find out on Christmas Day in the morning!" was her reply! I did. I laughed and am going to share the family joke with you!



The very much appreciated anthology 'Tyger, Tyger, Burning Bright. Much loved Poems you shall Remember' was this lovely gift from my old teaching colleague at Bagillt we all loved - Kath Mostyn! She never forgets! The laugh was really on me, once there I had a "William Blake" period in aesthetics and poetry. The BBC ran a few programmes about the metaphysical poet at the time. The title of one of them was "Tyger Tyger Burning Bright" his marvellous spiritual poem! Even my Year 6 that year knew it (And understood'-)

..."What immortal hand or eye,

Could frame thy fearful symmetry?"...

Try and recite it - try and get a copy - what poetry!

I commandeered the tv for the hour of viewing! Each time falling asleep after the first 5 minutes into it! Then came the evening "Tyger Tyger..." I want the telly then! By my command! Girls, well led by Beti, looked and shut up. The hour came - I sat, the music started and that marvellous bass voice recited "Tyger, Tyger burning bright!...I jumped awake - the room was in giggles! The set was draped in a striped tea towel (silent) and...true to form - I had slept! Do you know - whenever there is a Blake on telly I tend to drop off - hence the laugh, hence the mirth, hence the gift on the Good Lord's Birth!!

The volume is as good as its cover promise - it's full of 'old' favourites that make students of the 1940's very old and forgetful...I have started to forget the second and third verse...Suffice is to tell you that the gift is by my bed, and it's very comforting to choose a poem a night and remember...At one time I wished to live my life by Horace, sometimes I wish I had now! I will not bore you with historical facts but Horace (Quintus Horatius Flaccus, 65 BC - 8 BC) was a son of a freed slave - but - read on...

Happy the Man

Happy the man, and happy he alone,  
he who can call today his own;  
he who, secure within, can say,

Tomorrow do thy worst, for I have lived today.

Be fair or foul, on rain or shine  
the joys I have possessed, in spite of  
fate, are mine.

Not Heaven, itself, upon the past has  
power,

but what has been, has been, and I  
have had my hour.

I would be an insult all around to  
analyse and realise - just digest and enjoy!

I have had my W.B Yeats (1865 - 1939)  
period too. I have trod and traced the great  
man from the tower to the Lake Isle of

Innisfree - and I have been to feel his final  
resting place in Sligo...

Aedh Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven  
Had I the heavens 'embroidered cloths,  
Enwrought with golden and silver light,  
The blue and the dark cloths  
Of night and light and the half light,  
I would spend the cloths under your feet  
But I, being poor, have only my dreams;  
I have spread my dreams under your  
feet;

Tread softly because you tread on my  
dreams.

What is writ is writ - on his grave -  
mysterious

Cast a cold eye  
On life, on death  
Horseman, pass by!

Sept 4, 1938

Tread softly - we never know whose  
dreams are here.

I have never been a Byron fan - but,  
since I too had lost and missed, his (Byron  
1788-1824) lyric does talk to me...So We'll  
Go No More - A - Roving

So, we'll go no more - a- roving  
So late with the night,  
Through the heart be still a loving,  
And the moon, be still as bright.

For the sword outwears the sheath,  
And the soul wears out the breast,  
And the heart must power the breath  
And love itself have rest.

Though the night was made for loving  
And the day returns too soon,  
Yet we'll go no more - a - roving  
By the light of the moon.

The dearly remembered poems are  
short and pithy, we, in Wales have our short  
poems - we call englynion. A short verse of  
four lines - 30 syllables in strict metre. In  
order to master the method you must have  
an Athro Barddol (Poetry Teacher) - mine  
for years was the chief poet from the  
Parlwr Du - Einion Evans...I will forever  
be in his debt...its not the rules of strict  
metre - cynganedd - its not too difficult

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You all know how important the life and works of Thomas Pennant (1726-1798) has been in my life - indeed since I came to read and understand - he was there - the literary squire of Downing.

I have written an englyn about the great Welshman:

*Gwyddon-sgweiar Oes-cyn Darwin ydoedd*

*yn cofnodi gwerin  
a'i rhawd, y tirwedd, a'r hirn,  
a nefoedd bro'i gynefin.*

I give to you a loosely translated (metric metre attempted-) version:

Noble kin of Pre-Darwin Days - who wrote

reams on peasants always,  
He delved through their land and ways  
being his own youth's byways.

Four telling words, keeping to the testun (title), showing craft [cynganedd and rhyme] - and although for now and personal, it leaves a message...

'Einion Evans' favourite past/poetry book...A Shropshire Lad, A.E.Housman - who was a self taught Oxford don - Latin Greek!! He wrote, in this particular volume, the most poignant poetry in the English language - simple, short, understandable straight away...

Here Dead We Lie  
Here dead we lie  
Because we did not choose  
To live and share the land  
From which we spring.

Life, to be sure,  
I nothing much to love,  
But young men think it is  
And we were young.

I started with Blake, I'll end with him -  
To see the world in a grain of sand,  
And heaven in a wild flower,  
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand  
And eternity in an hour...

Peaceful Easter!



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The next meetings are:-

### **Tuesday 16th April, Low-maintenance Gardening, Richard Rallings.**

Richard and Jill run Mynd Hardy Plants nursery within the Victorian Walled Garden of Delbury Hall in Diddlebury, Shropshire. The nursery has an extensive range of hardy perennials including collections of Aster, hardy geraniums, Hemerocallis and Penstemon. This talk examines ways in which you can continue to enjoy your garden whilst reducing the workload. Nursery plants for sale.

### **Tuesday 14th May, Garden Features and Plant Combinations, Gordon Malt.**

Gordon trained at Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh and has 45 years' experience in Horticulture and Arboriculture. He has opened his garden in Shropshire for the NGS. Gordon describes his gardening style as 'controlled relaxation'.

### **Sunday 19th May**

**PLANT FAIR** 10.30am to 1.30pm at the Stamford Gate Hotel. HPS Clwyd and invited nurseries plant stalls. Members of the public are very welcome. Free admission, free parking.

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## NATURE COLUMN (Jan Miller)

We had a great influx of Waxwings in January. Beautiful birds that suddenly appear in crowds, often on native fruit trees like hawthorn where they are planted en masse around municipal car parks like supermarkets and Ruthin craft centre. They were seen this year in Brynford, Halkyn and other local places in the Five Villages and beyond. They fly in from the north and Siberia when they have finished all the fruit they could find there. Their Welsh name is Cynffonau Sidan, meaning 'silk tail' and it gets its English name 'Waxwing' from the red patch below the wing that looks like red sealing wax that was used to seal letters. But there are more beautiful features to these treasures, like a headdress of curled feathers, a yellow and black eye stripe and the silkiest grey back with and a black and white striped wing edges, so exotic you'd think they were tropical. But these are hardy birds from the Boreal forest of the far north. They do not seem to breed here but just fly through briefly for a 'takeaway' meal.

Waxwings tend to prefer eating red berries to orange berries; but they will choose the latter over yellow and white ones. This pattern is seen in many other berry-eating birds. One downside of eating so many berries is that the birds sometimes become a bit intoxicated by the fermenting fruit juice!

Boreal forests are only found in the northern hemisphere of Earth, mainly between latitudes 50° and 60° N. With short, cool summers and long, cold winters, these forests form an almost contiguous belt around the Earth, sandwiched between temperate deciduous forests to the south and tundra to the north. Due to the short growing season in these regions, deciduous trees don't have enough time to regrow their leaves, and very few of them are able to survive. Instead, coniferous trees dominate because they don't have to regrow their leaves and are better adapted for a colder climate. South of the boreal forest, the growing season is longer, warmer, and better suited for deciduous trees, so temperate deciduous forests dominate. North of the boreal forest, temperatures stay cold enough to keep any trees from growing, and we call this region the tundra.

What do Boreal Birds Eat? These songbirds are perfectly comfortable in frigid temperatures. If they have enough seeds and berries to eat, they stay in the snowy north. But when northern crops of conifer seeds and mountain ash berries are in short supply – as they are this winter – the south beckons. So if you plant a lot of red and yellow berry trees in your garden you may get your own flock arriving one day!

*Andy Perkin allowed me to share his beautiful photographs with you.*

*(Jan Miller is a Country Diary writer for the Guardian Newspaper.)*





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## FLINTSHIRE VINTAGE AND CLASSIC TRACTOR SOCIETY

# Charity Open Day

in aid of  
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Date: 13TH JULY 2024  
 Time: SHOW OPENS 10:00AM

Join us for an unforgettable day at Mertyn Abbott Farm, where you will be part of celebrating mechanisation in farming in Wales.

The Watts family invite you to support us with this fundraising event to make a difference in the lives of those who need it most. Your support is very much appreciated. Thank you.

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## CARMEL VILLAGE HALL



### (Richard Dolphin)

At the Christmas Coffee Morning (14/12/2023), retiring fundraising volunteers Richard & Josie Polden were presented a beautiful watercolour painting of Carmel



Village Hall'.

As you can see, the painting proudly captivates our 1862 'Old Love Hall', and for some no doubt it evokes an emotive response, so it is with great thanks and gratitude to local artist, Tracey Davies of Greenfield, for this true masterpiece.

So what now? As many will know and appreciate, the Hall has a limited number of Trustees and active volunteers to support and secure the longevity of our community-meeting place. We need your help! In previous articles, I have identified the Hall as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and being reliant upon grants and fundraising in order to afford general running costs, maintenance, and planned refurbishment projects. We are seeking fundraising volunteers who are passionate, reliable, and those with a willingness to be actively involved at Hall events. The Monthly Coffee Morning is the main fundraising event at present, however new fundraising volunteers can offer and develop new opportunities.

If you are interested and would like to discuss further, please contact Hall Secretary, Chris Dolphin, on 01352 713415 or email [chris\\_dolphin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chris_dolphin@hotmail.co.uk). Also, 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 on the details above.

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	Brownies & 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

## FLINTSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### (Celia Drew, Secretary)

The Flintshire Historical Society was created in 1911 and is still going strong. It still covers the area of the pre 1974 county of Flintshire.

We now alternate our lecture meetings between the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Mold, and St Peter's Church, Holywell, on the 4th Saturday of the month at 2.30pm.

Our last meeting for the spring programme will be:

'The Mortimers, Lords of the Welsh Marches and (nearly) Kings of England!' by Philip Hume, Mortimer History Society at 2.30 pm Saturday 27th April at St Peter's Church, Rosehill, Holywell, CH8 7TL.

Watch this space for news of our Autumn programme, starting in October 2024.

Non-members are welcome and booking is not necessary. For further information contact: [secretaryfhs21@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryfhs21@gmail.com) or [www.flintshirehistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.flintshirehistoricalsociety.org.uk)

Or find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/FlintshireHistory](http://www.facebook.com/FlintshireHistory)

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## WINTER 2023/2024 IN THE FIVE VILLAGES (Robert Moore)

<b>Weather in the Five Villages Winter 2023/24 (2022/23 in brackets)</b>				
	Temperatures °C			Total rainfall mm
	Average	Maximum	Minimum	
November	7.0 (8.1)	14.0 (15.3)	-4.8 (0.5)	149.4 (143.8)
December	6.6 (4.0)	12.0 (10.0)	-5.2 (-3.9)	158.2 (16.8)
January	5.2 (5.8)	13.8 (12.8)	-5.3 (-0.5)	143.6 (79.2)
February	7.5 (6.8)	15.9 (12.7)	-2.9 (1.5)	126.4 (10.7)

<b>Winter averages (December to February)</b>		
	2000 - 2020	2023-2024
Air Temperature at 1800	5.1	6.4
Maximum Temperature	12.0	13.9
Minimum Temperature	-2.2	4.5
Days air frost	6	9
Days ground frost	16	6

Because the full November data are not available for the Autumn edition of the *Five Villages*, they are included in the winter table above. The Met Office has published its data for the year 2023. Readers will not be surprised to hear that it was a year of broken records. The annual mean temperature was 0.8 degrees above the average for 1991 to 2020 and the second warmest year since 1884, Wales had the warmest year on record. Locally we were between 0.2 and 0.5 degrees above the 1991 - 2020 average. UK rainfall was 11 percent above the 1991 -2020 average. Locally we had four times last year's rainfall and five times the 2001 – 2020 average. We enjoyed an average number of hours sunshine (south Wales had below average sunshine).

This winter has been warmer than last year with February being the warmest on record. The table shows that not only were our maximum temperatures higher than last year but that the minimum temperatures were significantly lower. The air temperature fell below zero (the definition of air frost) on two days in December, thirteen in January and seven consecutive days in February (7th to 13th). Ground frost occurred on 3 days in December, ten in January and six days in February.

It has been an extremely wet winter with each month exceeding the total winter rainfall for last year. We had six 'named' storms this winter (Elin, Fergus, Gerrit, Henk, Isha, Jocelyn). All of these storms brought high winds and rain to parts of the UK and western Europe, with damage and flooding. The highest wind speeds at the weather station were 43 knots on 9th December (storm Elin) and 44 knots on 23rd January (storm Jocelyn). The station is poorly located for measuring wind speeds accurately.

Why so many storms? The sea is warming in the Caribbean and there have been exceptionally low temperatures in the Canadian arctic. Arctic air flowed down across the USA toward the Gulf of Mexico. Cold air met the warm air rising over the sea, leading to unstable atmospheric conditions, the formation of fronts and depressions. The warmed water travelling northward in the Gulf Stream also meets cold air moving down across north-eastern Canada, so more depressions are formed. The bigger the temperature difference the more active the system. This activity is then picked up by the Jet Stream and carried across the Atlantic to northern Europe. This year we also had some 'blocking highs' over eastern Europe that held the depressions over us. Some of our increased storm activity can also be traced back to fluctuations in sea temperature in the Pacific. I have simplified my account, there are many online sources that will tell you the full story. We live in one world, and there is an awful lot of energy in its atmosphere!

New satellite data are now being received at the weather station, but I must admit I am struggling with the software needed to visualise it. So, watch this space. Meanwhile a picture from the basic system: In between the storms we sometimes had clear weather, especially with clean arctic air over the British Isles. This quarter's satellite image (opposite) shows a clear winter sky on 18th January. The large cities and conurbations are easy to see, but so are smaller towns and cities (including Chester). See how many you can identify and name.

*I receive images from geostationary and polar orbiting satellites right around the globe. These are available strictly for educational purposes only. Images are normally kept for seven days, so students and teachers should email to ask about them sooner rather than later and book images in advance ([rsmoore@liv.ac.uk](mailto:rsmoore@liv.ac.uk)). Geostationary satellite images can be used to produce spectacular animated displays of the weather.*

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## 2024 IN CLWYD EAST



**(Becky Gittins)**

2023 was a big year for me, I got married, moved house, and became Labour's candidate to be the next MP for Clwyd East. I am hopeful that 2024 will be just as seismic, not just for me but for our community and our country.

Whatever the election result, 2024 will be a year of significant change. The Electoral Commission have been busy amending parliamentary constituency boundaries across the UK. The old constituency of Delyn – the constituency which the five villages of Whitford, Pantasaph, Lloc, Carmel and Gorsedd have been part of since 1983 – is no more.

The towns and villages of Delyn are instead now divided across two parliamentary constituencies. Flint and Bagillt have joined the Alyn and Deeside constituency to the east, while the rest of Delyn – Holywell, Mold, Caerwys and the surrounding villages, including the five villages – have been joined with areas to the west and south to create the new Clwyd East seat. This constituency extends westwards to Prestatyn and Ruthin, and southwards as far as Llangollen. At the general election later this year, Clwyd East will elect its first MP.

Since being selected as Labour's candidate for Clwyd East back in April 2023, I have been out knocking on doors across the constituency including in Whitford, attending events and visiting local organisations and businesses, to better understand the community I seek to serve.

I am always keen to hear from local people. If you haven't managed to speak to me yet and would like to share issues of importance to you, please email me at [team@beckygittins.co.uk](mailto:team@beckygittins.co.uk), or complete my survey at <https://survey.labour.org.uk/clwyd-east>.

My hope for 2024 is that people can find some semblance of hope and possibility for the future – for both ourselves and our community. When things at home and

abroad are feeling fraught, it's easy to fall into thinking that it can't be any different. But that's not true, there is an opportunity to change things for the better in 2024. I will be out in Clwyd East, asking you about

the issues which matter to you and talking to you about how we get our future back, week in, week out, between now and the general election.



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## ST. WINEFRIDE'S

Dosbarth Glas enjoyed all of the Christmas preparations and activities that took place in class throughout the month of December. We spent a lot of time in our outdoor stable, where the children listened to, and re-enacted the very special story of Jesus' birth.



As well as this, we decorated stars which included a prayer to someone special for over Christmas.

Our Autumn Term key text was 'Saving Mr Hoot' by Helen Stephens.

The children loved engaging with the story and making 'Stop' signs to help protect the tree where Mr Hoot and lots of other creatures live; designing and writing Welcome cards for Mr Hoot; collecting sticks and using the painting techniques of Helen Stephens to paint pictures of Mr Hoot; and making bird feeders.

Dosbarth Coch were visited by Holywell Police for Entrepreneurship week. We learnt about the job of a Police Officer and look at different equipment they used. We even sat in the police car!



We were also joined by lots of other local businesses who showed us some of the many opportunities available to us when we get older.

Dosbarth Dyfi and Dosbarth Menai worked with the environmental artist Tim



Pugh. They created beach art using pieces of plastic found on the beach.

Well done to our Athletics team who came 3rd place in the Dragon Sport competition.



St Winefride's netball team have been celebrating some amazing achievements. They got to the semi-finals in the Urdd netball competition. They also won the Holywell Area netball and the Holywell, Connah's Quay and Flint tournament. Well done girls!



We all loved our visit from Barney the Therapy dog. He has now become a regular visitor and a familiar face around school.

Our fantastic school choir had a trip to Pla Yr Ywen to sing for the residents!

Key stage 2 enjoyed a Christmas movie evening at school.

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## FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE AGM

Wednesday 27th March

2024

at 4.00 pm

in

St Paul's, Gorsedd

If you manage a local business and would like to advertise in the Five Villages Chronicle, please contact our Advertisements Manager, Paulene Ellis or email [5villagesadverts@gmail.com](mailto:5villagesadverts@gmail.com)

## NEXT EDITION

Our next edition will be published on 22nd June 2024 and the submission deadline for that edition will be 17th May 2024.

## FACEBOOK - LIKE US? LET US KNOW!

We have a new Facebook page that you can use to submit comments, feedback, short articles and any other snippets of information. Visit [www.facebook.com/5villageschronicle/](https://www.facebook.com/5villageschronicle/) or search '5Villages Chronicle'.

If you enjoy this edition, please click the 'like' button to let us know!

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## THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE ASSOCIATION

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

Chairman - Peter Erasmus (01352 746896); Secretary - 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)

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

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

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

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## Flintshire Vintage and Classic Tractor Society



### Programme of Events 2024

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### FLINTSHIRE VINTAGE AND CLASSIC TRACTOR SOCIETY (Steve Watts, Chairman)

As chairman for FVCTS, I together with my Wife Debbie and Son Luke have decided to have an open day for the general public to view farming history spanning 100 years in Wales. On display for viewing will be the introduction of tractors in the 1920's by Henry Ford, through into the 30's with Massey Harris, then we see the partnerships of David Brown and Harry Ferguson, then Henry Ford and Harry Ferguson. Following World War 2 in 1945 we have Harry Ferguson with the help of Standard Motor Company introducing the Ferguson TE20 range built at Banner Lane Coventry, and then the purchase of the Ferguson brand by Massey Harris which takes us into the 1950's and 60's as Massey Ferguson.

The 1970's saw the creation of our classic tractors which are the favourites of the younger generation today and primarily are Massey Ferguson, Ford, Nuffield, and John Deere.

Agricultural and industrial Tractors with their associated implements will be on display.

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#### MAY

15th

25th

Welsh Highland Railway Trip - Portmeirion Village

#### JUNE

8th

16th

Caerwys Agricultural Show

FVCTS Road Run

#### JULY

13th

22nd-25th

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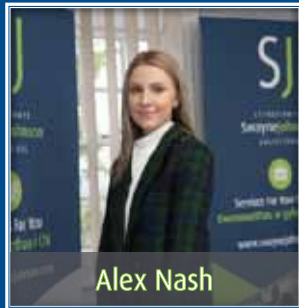
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