



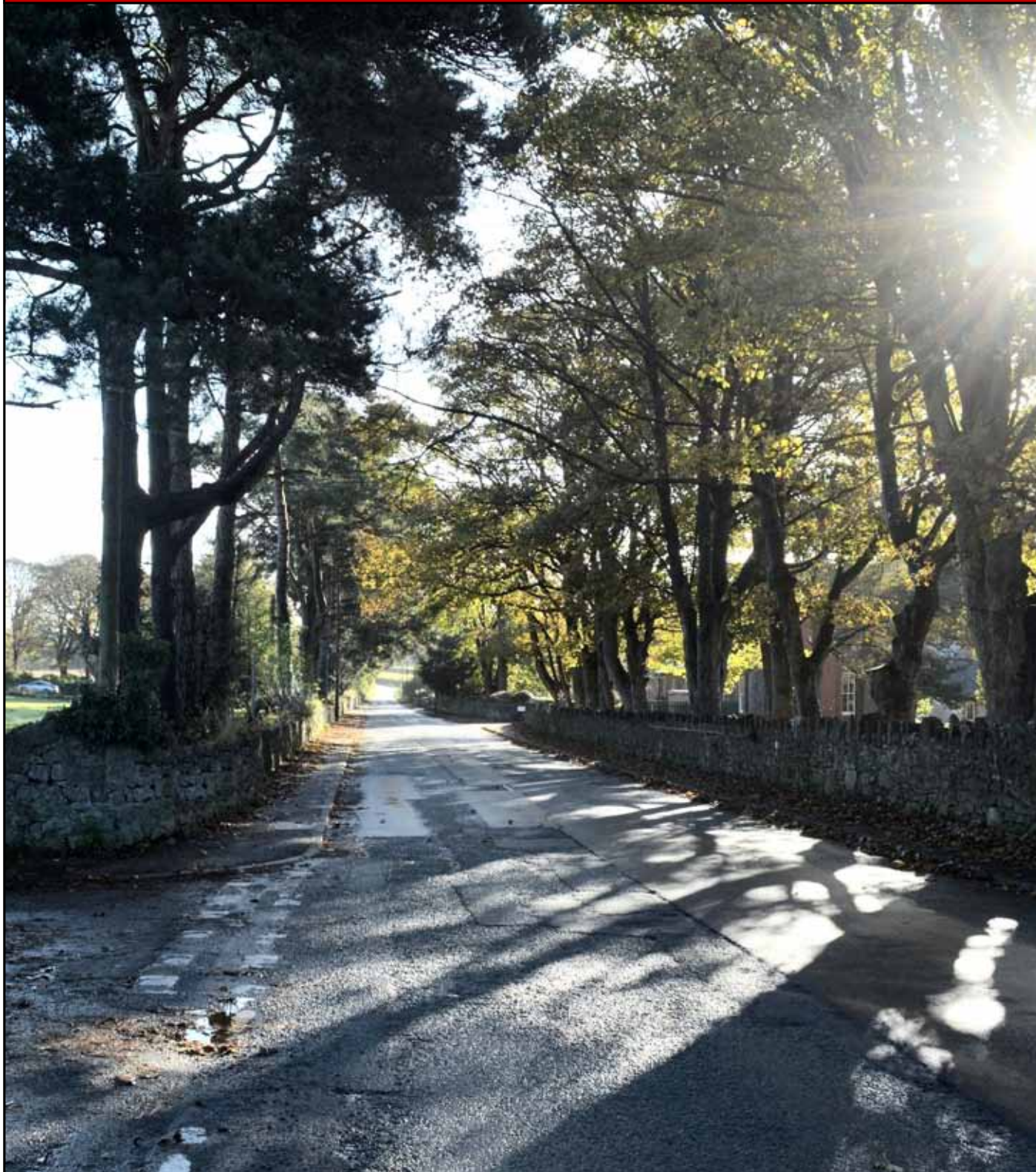
THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE

CRONICL Y PUM PENTREF

ISSUE NO. 155
RHIFYN 155

AUTUMN (SEPTEMBER) 2025
HYDREF (MEDI) 2025

PRICELESS
AMHRISIADWY



WE NEED MORE HELP!



Welcome to the Autumn 2025 issue of your Five Villages Chronicle.

As you will know, we are a community magazine and it is for you all to use to announce weddings, anniversaries and other family occasions. We welcome news from the clubs and other organisations within the Five Villages area and any articles which you may think of interest to our readers.

The Five Villages Chronicle is delivered to you and to every house in the Whitford community by a team of some 40 volunteers, but it is produced by a committee of just 8, some of whom have been involved since issue 1, some 37 years ago, when the Five Villages Chronicle started. The ravages of time mean that we are occasionally in urgent need of further help and that is particularly so at present.

Do you have some time to spare? The committee meets just four times a year to review the previous issue and to plan for the next one so it need not be too onerous a task as nearly everything else (reminders to regular contributors and advertisers, proof reading and cross checking) is done on line. If you think you would be interested in joining the 5VC team please contact the committee Chair, Peter Erasmus, on 01352 746896 or drop an mail to editor@5villages.org.uk or secretary@5villages.org.uk. We really look forward to hearing from you.

! Help please, deliverers !

As you will know, this magazine relies on nearly 40 volunteer deliverers.

We now need to ask for a few more volunteers to stand in to help out to cover holidays etc. If you are interested in offering your help, please use the contact details above. We will be delighted to hear from you.

LOCAL DEFIBRILLATORS

Biomass Building, Lloyds Crescent/Edward Road, **Tre-Mostyn**, Holywell, CH8 9AY

Brynford Primary School, **Brynford**, Holywell, CH8 8AD

Carmel Cricket Club, Pen y Gelli Ground, St Asaph Rd, **Lloc**, Holywell CH8 8RF

St Paul's Church, **Gorsedd**, Holywell, CH8 8QZ

Carmel Village Hall, Carmel Hill, **Carmel**, 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 if there are any we have missed!

CARMEL VILLAGE HALL



(Gareth Sharp)

It is time for the hall to replace the railings around the building, so we are going to be raising funds to do that. The community council have promised to release funds to help once we show we have raised the rest.

The hall had a charity night for the NSPCC this month with Cariad Gin, which helped raise money for a terrific charity. They were very complimentary of the old building and are planning on returning for possibly a quiz night in the Autumn.

Baby brews have temporarily returned to the hall over the summer holidays on a Tuesday morning

I have been asked to mention certain groups, such as Tai chi, which we have classes in the hall on a Friday, 2 pm – 3.30 pm. Beginners are welcome and can just turn up for £6, no need to book.

Also, we have a Craft group that meets on a Tuesday, 2-4 pm, where they discuss hobbies, etc and have a cup of tea and a natter. They knit, talk, sew, talk, crochet, talk, decorate glass or wood and talk some more.



There are also a group of pensioners who meet at the Church in Gorsedd from 2-3 pm on a Wednesday. Here, pensioners keep fit, work on mobility, balance and muscle strength. Their oldest member is 95, which leads me on to the Community councils' campaign to get a healthy five villages. We will be letting them host a first aid session at the hall and defibrillator training.

We do have plenty more groups at the hall, and you can find out all about what we offer on our Facebook page or contact our secretary, Chris Dolphin. 07849 459568. chris_dolphin@hotmail.co.uk

COVER PICTURE

Autumn in Monastery Road in Pantasaph. Many thanks to Steven Jones.

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

BECKY GITTINS MP



I continue to push for better access to banking services in Holywell and am still making representations to LINK, who have responsibility for the facilities. In the meantime, in the wake of their closure, I have been made aware that Santander is introducing a Community Banker locally to provide face-to-face support for customers. The Community Banker will be available on Tuesdays between 10:00-17:00 from Tuesday 19 August at the Holywell Area Community Museum.

Before schools broke for summer, I was inundated with letters from students at Ysgol Bro Carmel in which Year Five students, very eloquently, set out why they felt it was important for people to look after their environment.

One of the great joys of being your local MP is the opportunity I get to visit local schools, meet our young people and listen to their concerns. And whilst 16 and 17 year olds can already vote in Senedd elections, a series of new democratic measures announced will see them able to vote in next general election. This is an exciting advancement for our young people and I have felt the increased interest in politics and how decisions are made since the announcement.

In addition, voter ID is to be extended to include bank cards to help more people exercise their democratic right and tougher new rules to guard against foreign political interference and abuse of campaigners will be introduced. I look forward to my visit to both Ysgol Bro Carmel and Ysgol Bryn Garth in September!

Since the start of Parliamentary recess, I have been running transport drop-ins around the constituency. The new Network North Wales initiative will mean a 50 per cent increase in services on the North Welsh mainline in the next year, alongside more frequent buses and the potential for new train stations in Greenfield and Mostyn. In addition, ahead of a new bus

franchise in 2028, I am keen that people in the Five Villages have an opportunity to feed their views and help to shape the system that will serve them in the future. If you would like to know more, or feed in your views, please get in touch before I make my submission to Transport for Wales in the autumn.

In Westminster, new measures to protect children online have come into force. Ofcom's Protection of Children Codes will protect under 18s from accessing harmful content and demand that the most popular apps and sites protect children from dangerous stunts or challenges, misogynistic, violent, hateful or abusive material, and online bullying.

It's clear in Ofcom's codes that the Government expects platforms to ensure that strangers have no way of messaging children. This includes preventing children from receiving DMs from strangers and children should not be recommended any accounts to connect with.

Since my last column to the Five Villages, I am pleased that the Government made the decision to extend eligibility on winter fuel payments. The new threshold is significantly above the income of pensioners in poverty, and it will be paid to more than three-quarters of all pensioners. Means-testing the payment will save £450 million per year, compared to a universal approach, and have no effect whatsoever on pensioner poverty.

I can assure you that helping low-income pensioners in Wales is a top

priority. Everyone in society deserves a comfortable and dignified retirement, which is why I support maintaining the triple lock policy alongside a £21 billion settlement for Wales, which includes vital funding for our public services including the NHS here in Clwyd East.

The UK Government has set out an unprecedented ambition to halve violence against women and girls within a decade and is committed to using all of the levers available to deliver it. In July, a landmark package was announced that will protect thousands more women and children from domestic abuse through direct targeting of the most dangerous offenders. £53 million will be invested over the next 4 years to rollout the Drive Project, which forces domestic abuse perpetrators who pose the highest risk to change their behaviour and stop their offending. A further £230,000 will be used to expand Project Vigilant, which deploys specially trained officers to tackle predatory behaviour in public spaces and nightlife hotspots.

Finally, congratulations to Holywell Town Council for another successful Party in Fron Park. It was lovely to see so many people there from the Five Villages and surrounding area.

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



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1ST CARMEL BROWNIES (Sharon Jones)

It's been a whirlwind of a year since Toni-Ann and I took over the running of Carmel Brownies.

Having previously run Carmel Rainbows on my own followed by Nannerch Brownies with Toni-Ann, we were asked to run Carmel Brownies in September 2024. By the end of July we had grown from 6 girls to 20, with 4 more joining us in September.

There is a big development curve between the ages of 7 and 10 years old, we are lucky to get to see this throughout their Girlguiding journey. The quietest of girls blossoms into the liveliest (and often noisiest) Brownie. The shyest girl will bloom and become a natural leader. The girl who is bossy learns to mix better with others, usually because they come up against another girl just as determined and then they have to learn to compromise!

It's hectic, crazy and doesn't always go to plan but we have lots of fun. The girls come from a mix of schools and have made new friends and have learnt new skills.

Our end of year trip was a full day at the Bodfari Woodland Skills Centre. A fantastic day run by Rod. The sun was shining and lots of creatures were found including beautiful dragon flies. Much to their excitement, the one that had the most impact was a grass snake. The girls were both fascinated and shocked at the compost loo, especially with it having no door and having to use the sawdust after use. After much protesting 'we're not using that' there was then a queue to sit on it and enjoy the view!

After exploring the woods, discussing the ages of trees and learning about how they (and plants) can be damaged by

people without them realising, we then came back to base and after lunch we did traditional craft, willow basket weaving. Amelia and Gioia were amazing creating theirs. They then made necklaces out of wooden discs, ending our day with the traditional camp fire making smores. All the girls left happy, tired and smelling of smoke.



As well as fun, the girls also put a lot of work and effort into working towards

various badges and awards. We try and mix it so that we do some whilst in the Brownie session and they do some at home, trying to find the balance between them enjoying it whilst understanding the purpose behind what they are doing. All girls had earned badges by the end of term, even our newest Brownies.

The main presentation of the night



was presenting nine of our girls with their Bronze award (unfortunately Liv had chicken pox so isn't in the photo). Some of the girls had earned extra interest badges at home. Sienna has earned the most out of the whole unit. The ideas she has and the presentations she makes to earn her badges are impressive, better than most adults I've worked with! Alaw gained her performing badge, when she competed in the Cylch Urdd Eisteddfod getting through to the County/Sir stage, Ardderchog Alaw.

And last but not least we awarded a special badge to Eva. Eva is a naturally kind and caring Brownie, she always puts others before herself and if she spots someone distressed, she speaks to them, looks after them and never leaves their side until one of the leaders comes over. This isn't a skill that can be learned, young people like Eva make a lasting powerful impact and leave the world a better place.

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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.

HOCKEY SUCCESS



Donna in action in the game against Ireland

Many congratulations to Donna Richards (previously Jones) from Holywell who played for Wales recently in the Masters Hockey European Championships in Valencia, Spain. The Welsh team enjoyed an excellent run in the tournament, managing to beat the Czech Republic, Germany, Scotland and Ireland to reach the final of the competition. The team narrowly lost 1-0 to England in the final but were delighted and extremely proud to receive their silver medals at the end of the game.



Donna receiving her player of the match award after the game against Germany

Donna made a significant contribution to the team's successful run in the

tournament. She scored two goals for the team and was named player of the match at the end of the game against Germany.

Next up for Donna and the Wales squad is a trip to Glasgow to represent their country in the Home Nations Tournament in August. Donna will be aiming to help the Welsh team enjoy a successful tournament and will also be hoping to secure her place in the squad for the World Cup in Rotterdam next year.

Donna lives in Chester now but was raised in Holywell and has strong links with the village of Carmel. Her Nain, Ceridwen, was born and bred in the village, and her father, Mike, grew up there. Her Nana and Grandad, Betty and Des, also lived in the village for most of their adult lives.

Good luck to Donna and the Welsh squad for their forthcoming fixtures.

WELL DONE!



Luca presenting the money raised to members of the Children's Ward

HOSPITAL CHILDREN'S WARD FUND RAISER (Colin Henney)

This year once again, Luca Thomas aged 10 of Gorsedd raised funds for the Children's Ward of Glan Clwyd hospital. This year he raised £74.05 by selling garden plants, which he grew himself from seeds and cuttings.

Luca often has to attend the children's outpatients at the hospital for an ongoing medical condition. By raising funds he considers this some way of thanking the staff for their kindness looking after him.

Thank you to all who purchased plants this year, hopefully next year he will raise more funds (weather permitting).



AUTUMN EXHIBITION AFONWEN CRAFT CENTRE OCTOBER 4TH - 5TH

The members of Holywell art club will be exhibiting their work over the weekend 4th and 5th October.

There will be a selection of framed and unframed work. As usual, all paintings will be of a high standard and available to purchase. Members will be happy to offer any art tips and answer any queries regarding the Art Club.

Why not call in to see us, we would love to meet you!

Lynda Wilson

HELP WANTED

During the 1960s I was teaching biology at the Grammar School in Holywell. Some of the boys carried out a bird survey of the area, recording the birds seen every week during 1965.

That survey has come to light and we are anxious to use it as the basis of a booklet to be published next year as part of the Thomas Pennant 300th Anniversary.

Can you help me to contact any of the pupils who were in this school during the 1960s? I am keen to discover the whereabouts of anyone who was in the school Natural History Society at the time and particularly Richard and Michael Duckett and David Harpham, who assisted with the survey.

I would be very grateful for any information. Thank you.

Goronwy Wynne, g.wynne276@btinternet.com

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THE FOLLOWING CRIMES HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO THE NORTH WALES POLICE OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS, THAT HAVE OCCURRED WITHIN THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL AREA:

Carmel - 1 x Anti-social behaviour / 1 x other theft / 1 Vehicle crime
Gorsedd - 1 x Anti-social behaviour
Lloc - 1 x Public Order / 1 x Violence
Lloc (Services) - 1 x Shoplifting / 1 x Theft / 2 x Violence
Pantasaph - No crimes reported
Whitford - 1 x Violence

NEW COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR:

Following the display of Public Notices Councillor Richard Newsome, a Carmel resident, was co-opted as a Whitford Community Councillor. Councillor Newsome will take the Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the September Council meeting.

COMMUNITY AWARD:

Following the display of Public Notices Ruth Davies was awarded the 2025 Community Award - for services to the Guide movement for over 40 years - both as a guide and as a leader in the 1st Carmel Guides. A presentation will take place in September, with a photograph and report featured in the next edition of the Five Villages Chronicle.

REPORTING FAULTY STREET LIGHTS:

The street lighting in the Whitford Council area are jointly administered between the Whitford Community Council and Flintshire County Council. The street lights administered by the Community Council are generally the ones on the roadsides, which are spaced quite far apart. Whilst the street lights on housing estates are

generally administered and repaired by the Flintshire County Council. However, there are a number of street lights on the following estates in Carmel, that the Community Council are responsible for, namely: Park Avenue, Park Crescent and Park Road.

Please report street lighting faults, as follows:

Whitford Community Council: To the Clerk to the Council, or any Community Councillor (contact details on Council web site - Councillors and Clerk contact page and e-mail address as below)

Flintshire County Council: Please call 01352 701234, or visit the County web site to report - www.flintshire.gov.uk

BRITISH RED CROSS TRAINING:

Councillor Sandra Roberts on behalf of the Whitford Community Council has arranged with the British Red Cross to facilitate two Emergency First Aid & Defibrillator training courses which will be held, as follows:

Thursday 25th September at 6.30pm in St Paul's Church, Gorsedd

Thursday 13th November at 1.30pm in Carmel Village Hall

The courses will last 1½ hours and will be cost free to attend (Full details are contained in a public notice in this edition of the Five Villages Chronicle).

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

(1) Potholes: From area of One-Way Street in Lloc and travelling towards Gorsedd. (Some have been repaired previously but require further repair) (2) Potholes: At junction opposite MacDonald's (Middle of carriageway) (3) Potholes: Travelling from Gorsedd towards Babel - and opposite the

first house (4) High hedge and obstructing pavement: Carmel Road, Carmel. The hedge is impeding pedestrian access (photograph provided)

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

The Community Council Members provide their observations to the Flintshire Planning Authority on all planning applications received within their community. Full details of the observations made can be viewed in the Minutes of each Council meeting, which are displayed on the Council web site, or from the Clerk - as per contact details below: (1) Application number: FUL/000331/25 - for proposed siting of 11 holiday lodges (Static Caravans) including the relocation of 1 static caravan and 6 Shepherds Huts with substantial internal and external structural landscaping and amenity / attention pond, at Pennant Park Golf Club, Mertyn Downing Lane, Whitford (2) Planning application number: FUL/000215/25 - for proposed demolition of existing detached garage, erection of wooden shed on the opposite side of the driveway to allow for alternative garden storage, easier vehicle access and parking, at Halfway Cottage, Mertyn Lane, Carmel (3) Application number: FUL/000432/25 - for proposed creation of driveway, change of use of land from agricultural to residential, erection of wall and outbuilding, at land adj to Tarth y Dwr, Lloc.

PLANNING DECISIONS:

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

(1) Application number: Application number: FUL/001114/24 - for proposed new silage clamp, at Ty Newydd Farm, Whitford. Approved (2) Application number: FUL/000750/24 - for temporary permission to site a caravan, at Land adj. to 4, Brynhyfryd Cottages, Lloc. Approved.

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APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND DONATIONS:

The Community Council have granted the following financial assistance since the last edition of the Five Villages Chronicle: £250.00 – Caerwys Agricultural Show (Annual grant) / £320.00 - Carmel Playgroup (Towards equipment purchase)

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

PANTASAPH MONASTERY



General view of the church and retreat centre

Loving regards from the Pantasaph Monastery. We would like to introduce the Monastery and its ministries.

Divine Television Foundation Ltd, which is a registered charity formed by the Vincentian priests owns the Monastery at Pantasaph along with Divine Retreat Centre, Ramsgate in Kent. Both these centres conduct retreats for the local catholic population but is open to people of all faiths. All the retreats aim at enriching the spiritual health of family and also at their personal spiritual growth. The retreats are being attended by a good number of people from the UK and many who visit from overseas as well.

Divine Television Foundation Ltd bought Pantasaph Monastery in Holywell from the Franciscan Friars in 2022, naming it Divine Retreat Centre. It is an apt place to conduct spiritual retreats in a soothing and welcoming environment far away from the bustle of the city. The listed buildings add

to the charm and grace of the retreats held here and it is one of the reasons why people come to visit the centre. The retreat centre also takes care of the local parishioners at the attached St. David's Parish. Besides this, the premises also welcome everyone to the Calvary Stations of the Cross up the hill, Blessed Mother Mary's grotto, Padre Pio Garden, which all are places of quiet and healing. The Monastery is also a national shrine of Padre Pio which holds the first class relics of Padre Pio and many other saints including the relics of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ.



Mass of the Solemnity of Mother Mary on 15th August

August 15th: The Solemnity of Mother Mary was celebrated on August 15th at the serene grotto of the Blessed Mother Mary. Around 300 people gathered together to honour and venerate The Mother.

Upcoming Events

September 21st: One day convention and Celebration of the Feast of St Padre Pio and St Vincent De Paul (From 10am to 3pm)

October 5th: Special prayers and blessings for your loving pets on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Patron of all animals. This will be after the Holy Mass (10am H. Mass, 11am Pet Blessing)

First Saturdays of every month: Healing prayers with divine worship starts from 10 am and concludes at 3 pm with the Eucharistic Procession and blessing at the calvary Hill.

Holy Mass: Daily Holy Mass is celebrated every day at the monastery.

Residential retreats: Every month a residential retreat is conducted at the centre.

(Father Denny and Father Michael)

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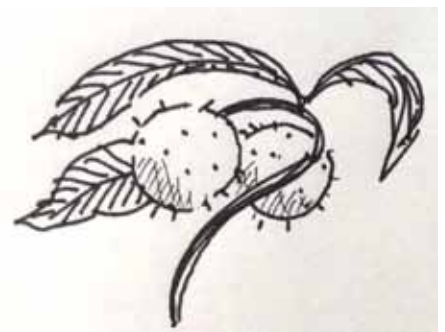
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Community First Aid Training Workshop

The Whitford Community Council have arranged two community first aid training workshops with the British Red Cross. This practical first aid training workshop, helps adults learn basic lifesaving skills using everyday objects. The workshop is not accredited, but is a free and simple way to improve first aid knowledge and build confidence.

During the workshop, participants will have the opportunity to practice hands-on techniques for administering CPR, treating wounds, and stabilising injuries.

The instructor will provide step-by-step guidance on how to assess a situation, prioritise care, and effectively communicate with emergency services.

By the end of the workshop, attendees will feel more confident in their ability to respond to medical emergencies and provide crucial assistance until professional help arrives.

This interactive first aid workshop run by experienced British Red Cross educators will help you to:

- * perform essential first aid skills using everyday objects
- * build confidence and willingness to help in a first aid emergency
- * assess and manage risks to make informed choices when helping others

The training courses will be held on

Thursday 25th September, at 6.30pm in St. Paul's Church, Gorsedd

Thursday 13th November, at 1.30pm in Carmel Village Hall


Please register to attend these training sessions with the Clerk to Whitford Community Council by e-mailing: clerk@whitford-council.wales by Thursday 18th September (for the 25th September course) or Thursday 6th November (for the 13th November course) - with your name and contact details. The course will last 1 ½ hours and will be cost free to attend.

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GORSEDD CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

The writing group had a brief holiday and there were no meetings in August. However, we're now back to our regular twice monthly meetings at St Paul's Church, Gorsedd (opposite the Druid Inn). For any of you interested in coming along and giving us a try, we meet from 7.00 – 9.00 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of the month. You can contact me for further details – sandy@thenevilles.net or phone: 01352 961597 - or simply come along to a meeting. All new members are made very welcome and we are a friendly, fun and supportive group. We'd love to see you.

Here are a few pieces, which we hope you'll enjoy.

CONFUSION

by Kathleen Winn

I remember when I was a child
I was extremely anxious and riled,
Because I couldn't understand the use of 'there.'
So confusing that I was pulling out my hair.
I can recall:-
"There" is a word, a curious thing
It moves and dances, like birds on the wing.
Go over there! But where is there?
Far away, or just the next chair?
There was a time, I do declare
When I wondered what was over there.
Anxious thoughts bounced in my head.
Would I leap or sink like lead?
Take it from there - but what should I take?
This word is causing quite the ache!
I took the leap, arms spread wide
Braced myself for quite a ride.
Expanding my knowledge and understanding.
And at last, I made a soft landing.
Yet there I stood, dazed but free,
Not as graceful as I'd hoped to be.
Anxious no more, I fixed my stare
And thought - what else is waiting there?
I hear, when you're there, stay right there
And learn that word over there?
I take my time to look and gasp,
"Oh no another 'their'.
OMG I think I'll need aftercare!"

RAMBO

by Sandy Neville

A wicked gleam flashed in his eyes
His coal-black curls did glow
His muscled body rippled
As he scanned the fields below.

The older ewes remembered him
How could they forget?
His looks, his charm, his passion
Made this year's tups look wet.

As darkness fell, he picked his way
Down pathways oh so steep
He did his deeds at dead of night
When the village was asleep

Eunice was first on his list.
She pricked her ears and said,
"Well, hello hunky fellow.
Do come and share my bed."

The white rams took one look at him
And hid themselves away
He made his visits nightly
Slept soundly through the day

Next spring, the fields were full of lambs
What a lovely sight
But the farmers they were puzzled
'cos not one of them was white!

An Ode to Joy

by Louise Fury

With the dull ache of a hangover waiting in the wings, Cathy stared into the distance. She'd been trying for over 15 minutes now and it was no use.

Remnants of a rainbow hung over the steely sea. The waves rushed towards the shore. She tried imagining Jen was there with her. What did she call it?

"Be present, Cath," she'd say. A beatific smile on her face as she led them through a guided meditation after yoga class. "Let your thoughts drift away and be in the moment."

Well, she'd tried but she just kept thinking: did I turn the hair straighteners off?; How much Prosecco did I actually get through at last night's hen do?

She sighed and gave the horizon one last glance as she turned around and trudged back up the beach to join the others, wellies crunching on the shale. Then it happened when she was least expecting it.

A black Labrador with a too-big stick hurtling towards her. Ears flapping in the wind, the dog carried on past her and threw himself and the stick into the sea. For a few moments all she could feel was happiness bubbling up inside her. She thought of nothing else as she watched the dog running in and out the foam, people laughing as they jumped out of the way of the swinging stick.

She heard the others calling her from their table outside the cafe. Her stomach rumbled as she remembered why they were there in the first place. Breakfast! She smiled to herself as she continued back up the beach, folding up the memory of the exuberant dog and storing it away to be taken out again at a later date when she needed it.

A moment of pure joy.

1ST CARMEL SCOUT GROUP

Beavers (6-8 yrs.) Thursday

6.30 to 7.30

Cubs (8-11 yrs.) Monday 6.30 to 8.00

Scouts (11-14 yrs.) Tuesday

7.00 to 8.30

It's now August and in the middle of the summer holidays when I'm writing this.

All 3 sections have had a busy summer term taking part in a lot of different activities either locally or further afield.

The Beavers have been planning for camp, designing their ideal camp, outdoor cooking, going on walks, visiting the Abbey at Greenfield, played games and had toasted marshmallows. Whilst earning an array of badges, hiking, cooking, first aid, healthy eating.



Where possible we have been outdoors with the Cubs taking part in several walks, exploring the woods and fire lighting at the woodskills centre, and taking part in a wheel's night at the hall. Where they have had to be indoors, they have been mini-pioneering, creating a marble run, and trying their hand at cooking.

The Scouts have also been busy with



several taking part in a rock climbing and abseiling day in Snowdonia. They have also done an evening hike, been practising their fire lighting skills, Mountain biking, Target shooting, and Fishing.



The scouts also took part in an overnight camp in Rhualt. This gave us an opportunity to get our camping equipment out to make sure everything was ok for the Area camp that was to take place in July.



Area Camp (Camp Clwyd)

Area camps only come round every 5 or 6 years. The last one was in 2016. There was one planned for 2021, but this had to be cancelled.

The camp was supposed to take place at Bangor-on-Dee racecourse, but due

Hair and nail
By Sam



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to circumstance beyond the organisers control they had to find a new venue at short notice. Thankfully the people at 'Park in the past' near Hope, stepped in to offer their venue.

The camp took place on the weekend 11th to 13th July, and involved Scouts from all sections, from the Clwyd Area. Altogether there would be nearly 1000 people on site all weekend including leaders event staff and 700 plus scouts.

As a group we had 28 young people from the Beaver, Cub and Scout sections plus 9 leaders, which all had to be catered for.

A small team arrived at the campsite early afternoon and were shown to our designated site. Once we decided where the tents were going, we set about the task of pitching them (2 mess tents and approx. 10 sleeping tents) and setting up the kitchen and dining areas ready for the arrival of the scouts at 6.00.

The camp opening ceremony took place at the Roman Fort at 8.00, with everyone gathered to hear the official welcome from the camp leaders.

The main activities were scheduled to take place on the Saturday (all day) and the Sunday (morning).

As is usual with camp, very little sleep was had Friday night, with everyone up early and breakfasted well before the start of the activities.

There were 2 main activity fields, with something to cover all the age groups.

The activities included the following: -

- Tomahawks
- Aerial runway
- Archery
- Crossbow
- Inflatables
- Shooting – air rifle
- Shooting – laser pistol
- Shooting – laser shotgun
- Youth zone
- Climbing walls
- DIY area
- Blood bikes
- [Camp Chronicle](#)
- Radio Clwyd
- Glitter & shizzle
- Relaxation zone
- Odd balls
- Bushcraft
- Go-karts
- Pioneering
- Da Vinci bridge
- Knot challenge
- Silent disco
- 100 years celebration
- Xplore
- Garden Party

We were hoping for dry weather over

the weekend, but it was a lot dryer and hotter than everyone was expecting. The heat did prove to be challenging with extra water containers and boxes of ice



packs, brought in to ensure everyone was hydrated and kept cool, and some planned events had to be cancelled or altered to suit the conditions.

Overall, Despite the heat, everyone had a good weekend.

What do Scouts do?

Scouts is where young people make new friends, have amazing adventures, and learn new skills.

It's where adult volunteer team members can do the same.

We need more adult volunteers to enable the group to continue flourishing. why not come and join the team. You can learn some skills and have some fun at the same time.

It anyone would like to get involved, or wants more information, please get in touch, or go to the Scouts website (www.scouts.org.uk)

Russell Williams

Group Trustee

07936197962

SPICY APPLE AND RAISIN COBBLER

Apple and raisin layer

2 ¼ lbs Bramley cooking apples – peeled, cored and sliced
2 oz raisins
3 tbsps. caster sugar to taste

Cinnamon cobbler

2 oz butter
4 oz plain flour
2 oz caster sugar
½ tsp. ground cinnamon
1 tsp. baking powder
1 x 150g tub of natural yoghurt (or use cream till a stiff consistency – not doughy)
Demerara or caster sugar for sprinkling

Chantilly cream

1 x 142 ml double cream

1 tbsp. caster sugar
½ tsp. vanilla essence

Method: -

1 Preheat oven to 220C/425F/gas 7. Put the apples into a saucepan with the raisins, sugar and 3 tablespoons water. Cover with a lid and cook over a gentle heat for 10 mins, stirring occasionally till soft and pulpy.

2 Meanwhile rub the butter into the flour, cinnamon, baking powder and sugar, then mix with the yoghurt to form a stiff dough.

3 Taste the apples for sweetness and add more sugar if necessary, then tip into an ovenproof dish. Drop 8 spoonfuls of dough around the edge of the dish, sprinkle with some sugar and bake for 20 mins until the dough is firm to touch.

4 To make Chantilly Cream, whip the double cream with the sugar and vanilla and serve with the cobbler.

This is a very tasty pudding and makes a change from Apple Crumble.

SAVOURY BREAD AND BUTTER PUDDING

Ingredients: -

4 slices of bread, buttered and cut into squares or triangles
4 oz cheese, grated
2 medium/large tomatoes, sliced
1 medium sized onion, chopped
2 eggs
8 fluid ounces milk
Salt and black pepper

Method: -

Place about 1/3rd of the bread in the bottom of an ovenproof dish.

Top with 1 of the sliced tomatoes, half of the onion and 1 oz of cheese.

Cover with another 1/3rd of the bread, the remaining tomato, onion and 1 oz of cheese.

Cover with the last 1/3rd of the bread. Beat the eggs, add the milk and season to taste.

Pour over the dish, then sprinkle the remaining cheese on the top.

Bake in the oven for 30 - 35 minutes at 180C/350F/Gas Mark 4.

Tip: -

I soften the onions for about 2 minutes in the microwave.

Very good served cold with a salad. Try adding ham or crispy bacon. Also try smoked salmon with creamed cheese.

Many thanks to Sandy Neville for these recipes. 😊

ACROSS THE SOUND (Geraint Roberts)

Gaelic mythology maintains there is an island somewhere in the western seas that is the land of eternal youth. It may be Afallon where King Arthur was taken to heal following his final battle at Camlan. It



Merlin's Cave

may also be Tir na Nog from whence the Irish warrior Osian made the fatal mistake of returning to the Emerald Isle. And like the ebb and flow of the seas around it, tales and legends relating to this magical isle are constantly changing a little with every telling. In its most abstract version, it has become a symbol of that which we all should strive for.

Scholars have conjectured that this island could in fact be Ynys Enlli (Bardsey Island) which lies off the very tip of the Llyn Peninsula and has, over the years been well and truly absorbed into Welsh folklore. After all there are 20,000 saints reputedly buried there!



Ynys Enlli (Bardsey)

I have had the privilege to have visited Enlli four times, twice by kayak and twice by boat. The first time was over half a century ago when I was a young inexperienced student accompanying three very experienced paddlers. We set off from the distant beach in Aberdaron; it was a long trip. My main memory is one of fatigue and a particularly nasty section of disturbed sea where we lost sight of each other several times in sand dune size waves somewhere in the sound.

We stayed ashore perhaps two hours before embarking on the long paddle back. I remembered very little of the island itself other than it is slightly bigger than Holywell, has about a dozen houses, a ruined abbey and a lighthouse. I was left however, with a strong impression of peace and tranquillity, and a determination to go back to see it properly. I was also slightly disappointed not to have found one of the 20,000 skulls. It would have looked good adorning the

deck of my kayak.

Some three years later I had become a competent paddler myself and along with three friends arranged my second visit to Enlli. I was now the leader and had assiduously planned the expedition with due regard to both weather and tide. We were in fibreglass river kayaks and anyone who has ever paddled one of these will know of their natural propensity to not go straight! Mine was also leaking slightly, ever so slightly but, patched as it was, it did fall into my bracket of affordability.

I had decided against setting off from Aberdaron; it was too far! I also swerved the much nearer Porth Meudwy option because of potential parking and access issues (it would have been a long way to drive to be turned back and have all the tidal planning go to pot). I decided instead on an unusual and somewhat dramatic entry into the Irish Sea, straight down some steep rocks at the nearest point to the island.

The very nose of the Llyn Peninsula plunges into the sea in a series of cliffs. In one section however there is an amazing gully in an inlet called Ogof y Gath (Cat's Cave) which cuts down through the rocks. In addition, part-way down is a well called Ffynnon Mair (St. Mary's Well) and this is a true phenomenon! The well was visited by pilgrims before they made the treacherous crossing to Enlli and can be reached by a series of steps cut into the rock. However, and here is the thing, the well is covered by high water twice a day, but such is the

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Ogof y Gath inlet

strength of the spring that the moment the tide drops below its lip the water is pure, fresh and instantly drinkable.



St. Mary's Well

And it was down this gully that we lowered our kayaks with ropes that August morning in 1978. The swell was about two foot and we 'seal launched' down a conveniently sloping slab of rock into the Swnt (Sound) and started our two-mile paddle towards Enlli with whoops of exhilarated joy!



Embarking on my second visit

It was a lively passage, it usually is. Aeons ago Enlli and the mainland were one and post-glacial sea levels can only hide the relatively shallow sea-bed in-between. The constant ebb and flow of the tides over this shallow bed creates agitated seas much like rapids in a river. These are called overfalls and if the wind is against the flow, it can exacerbate the conditions considerably. Even in the most benign of weather there is invariably some agitated water in the Swnt.



The ruined abbey

We made it across without incident and enjoyed our three-hour sojourn. We ate our lunch up on the mountain, explored the ruined abbey, visited the lighthouse etc and returned to our kayaks well within my calculated tidal schedule to get back across. We were actually sitting in our kayaks ready to go when a Coastguard boat arrived at the slip.



A WWII mine

"You'll have to delay your trip lads until we give you the All Clear. They're detonating a World War II mine out in the Sound and we can't have you anywhere near!"

"But we need to catch the tide to get back across!" I said lamely.

"Can't risk having a rogue piece of shrapnel hitting you, sorry but you have no choice. I'll come back to let you know when it's safe!"

He'd done his job of delaying us and was probably looking forward to finishing his shift. Four hours later it became obvious he had lied about coming back; we were angry. We hadn't heard the tell-tale crump of an exploding mine (I'm sure most readers are familiar with the sound!!) and a decision had to be made. We had no food, dry clothing or sleeping bags and I knew the Swnt would now be in full flow; we had to go then or risk a nocturnal crossing.

We tentatively edged our way along the island until we could see most of the Swnt;

there didn't seem to be any mines or boats, coastguard or otherwise and we decided to assume the job had been done and would go for the crossing. It turned out to be quite an adventure.

Despite pointing our bows almost due east and paddling hard mostly on the left we inevitably found ourselves being carried north-west by a strong flood. It was like walking up a descending escalator in M&S. The water was angry and rough and several times we had to brace against breaking haystack shaped waves which were close together and threatening to topple us. There were times when we had to gather together as we risked losing sight of each other in large roller coaster rapids. Waves sneezed and broke on our decks, up-welling mushroom-like waves beneath threatened to capsize us and each time we stopped paddling forward to deal with these hazards we were inexorably being carried north-west.



The Sant

There were times when I had to remind my companions to hang on to both their kayaks and their paddles should they capsize. Two were seasick and one even wanted to die, but we wouldn't let him.

Gallows humour about being swept to Ireland was but a thin veil from reality as I grimly smiled thinking about a particularly malevolent area of sea called the Tripods

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which awaited us at the north-western end of the Swnt. These were bungalow sized waves with white hissing summits and were to be avoided at all cost. I decided not to mention them.

Well over an hour later the frowning precipice of Braich y Pwll actually did seem to be getting nearer even in the gloom between the dying day and dusk and the worst of the ordeal was behind us. Fresh vigour and boosted morales gave us strength to paddle back along the foot of the interminable rocks to the Maen Melyn cliffs and a further four-hundred-yard paddle brought us to the safety of Ogof y Gath inlet. We were shattered!

One definition of adventure is uncertainty of outcome; it had certainly been an adventure.

Carrying our gear back up to the cars involved many rests, and we all probably slept that night in a memory haze of a greeny-grey world constantly trying to swallow us. We also disingenuously hoped Mr. Coastguard for his part, had a sleepless night with a painful conscience migraine!

My third visit to Enlli is also worth a couple of paragraphs. It was a school trip I organised in 2001 in a chartered boat from Porth Meudwy.



View from Mynydd Enlli

The whole class had climbed to the summit of Mynydd Enlli and we were sitting enjoying our picnic lunch in warm sunshine. I reminded my young scholars about one of the books we had been studying by the author Malachy Doyle. Suddenly a figure emerged from behind some rocks nearby;

it was Malachy Doyle himself!

As part of the Artists in Residence initiative I had arranged that Malachy would meet us and surprise the children on the summit. He read a couple of passages from one of his books and signed a few autographs, and then, he was gone, as enigmatic as his arrival! I hope that experience will stay with those children all their lives.

My fourth visit was also by boat looking for a cave I was writing an article about in 2022.

There is no hiding the fact that it is a logistical exercise getting to Ynys Enlli because the capricious weather on the Llyn doesn't always follow Derek Brockway's offerings! The trip however, is well worth the effort, and remember – three pilgrimages to Enlli was always considered the equivalent of one to Rome!



Malachi Doyle

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without a by your leave or last goodbye
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their sure return - the proof - to parent street,
their zip to the last light of ruddy robe-
the May remembered date - the dreamt for treat!
Now, that impetuous power - time built pull
again deprives me of my sublime delight,
the void, that leaves the sorry now, mindful
of tempestuous journeys, Creator Might-
and the most questing moment of them all,
the here, and now, then gone, - the last Recall!

Norman Closs - Parry

Nature Notes on Sonnet...

The bird - the swift, Y Wennol Ddu, Apus apus. The last
'swallow' here, the first to go
....The poet Ted Hughes - the
late poet Laureate - The poem
Swifts - the line - "The Globe is
still working. Swifts are always
airborne, covering thousands of
miles above the earth - sleeping
and mating, gulping food, only
building contact - old build -
old walls - old roofs. It's only
'swallow like' not of the swallow



family of birds.


Now there is more to fix new swifts boxes on new builds. It is
now August and fewer every day in known 'homes'. They came
in May - their stay - just twelve weeks!


Norman Closs - Parry


HANNAH BLYTHYN ^{MS}


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HANNAH BLYTHYN MS



Since my last Chronicle column, the Welsh Government unveiled ambitious plans for Network North Wales, a 'metro'-style transport system linking the Dee and Mersey hubs and bringing together trains and buses into one timetable – the plan is a cross-border approach to transforming public transport in North Wales, including metro-style services on the North Wales mainline and a new, direct rail link between Wrexham and Liverpool.

Network North Wales is a hugely ambitious and transformative programme of work to better connect communities, with more rail and bus services, new stations, new transport routes, new trains, new buses and new technology. Transport is such an important issue for our communities so I'll be keeping a close eye on developments – the plan is that from next year, pay-as-you-go 'metro' services will start in North East Wales, much like they have in the south. Coupled with that, the Chancellor's Spending Review back in

June gave Wales a £5bn boost over the Spending Review period, including extra investment in rail infrastructure and £118m to improve coal tip safety.

And from September, if you're aged between 16 and 21, bus travel across Wales will cost just £1 a journey or £3 for unlimited daily travel – helping young people get to work, school or travel into town to catch up with friends without breaking the bank. Our bus network is vital for travelling around our community and I have been calling on the Welsh Government to help with accessibility on public transport, making sure more young people have the means and the option to travel by bus, so this is great news. To take advantage of this new scheme, you'll need a MyTravelPass if you haven't already got one – applications open now and you can apply at <https://mytravelpass.tfw.wales>. Plus, from November, the £1 bus fare will be expanded to include five to 15-year-olds too!

Earlier in the summer, it was good to mark the anniversary of the free prescriptions for everyone policy in Wales – for 18 years, our nation has led the UK in ensuring access to essential medication is based on need, not ability to pay. This Welsh Government policy is vital for individuals living with chronic illnesses or long-term health conditions, many of whom require multiple prescriptions each month. By removing financial barriers, free prescriptions support better health outcomes, reduce anxiety during times of economic pressure and help to prevent conditions from worsening, ultimately easing demand on NHS services.

It's worth remembering that prescriptions over the border in England are nearly £10 per prescription, which can be a heavy burden on people suffering from chronic illnesses, especially during times of cost-of-living pressures – so we in Wales should be proud that we've removed that barrier to treatment.



Closer to home, it was great to attend the colourful community celebration at Theatr Clwyd just before the school holidays. The carnival-inspired performance featured a number of the community groups and ensembles that make up our theatre community and it was a fitting way to recognise the significance of Theatr Clwyd to our corner of the country. Like many in our area, I've grown up with the theatre on my doorstep, it was where I went as a child and what helped me on my journey to university. The £50m development includes £26.5m of funding from the Welsh Government, something which I am proud to have played a part in securing for our theatre for generations to come.

Regular readers of this column will know that the Welsh Government will be banning plastic in wet wipes next year – the legislation is set to come into force in December 2026 and is part of a wider, integrated approach to address the problems created by excess plastic and litter, banning all sorts of single-use and unnecessary plastics in products we all use regularly, something which I kick-started when I was Minister for Environment back in 2016.



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On July 4, 1952, six men tragically lost their lives during the sinking of the No.3 shaft at the Point of Ayr colliery. 73 years later it was a privilege to be part of a moving event at the Ffynnonogroyw Mining Memorial, as a new commemoration plaque was unveiled in memory of the six men. Retired members from the Point of Ayr were joined by comrades from other collieries, alongside community representatives and relatives, including the daughters of one of the men who died.

There is now, rightly, public recognition and a platform for reflection after more than seven decades – thanks in large part to the work of John Wiltshire, a former Point of Ayr miner who has been instrumental in ensuring that our heritage is recognised and remembered. Like many in our area, I have family who worked at the colliery – including my Taid and my uncle – and following the unveiling I made a statement in the Senedd to mark the poignant addition to the memorial. You can see many of my contributions in the Senedd on my Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HannahBlythyn.

Finally, the School Essentials Grant is now open for applications – a really helpful way to get hold of uniform, school equipment, books and laptops as well as paying for school trips for families on low incomes. Grants of up to £125 per child are available, going up to £200 for Year 7 students to reflect the extra cost of going to secondary school. To qualify, families need to be on certain benefits and children need to qualify for Free School Meals – grants are administered by Flintshire County Council, so to find out more and apply, go to www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/Education-Benefits.aspx.

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

CARMEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH (GARETH ROBERTS)

Slightly Ungrateful!

A man met an old friend who looked really down and he asked him what was the matter?

The friend replied that three weeks ago my uncle died leaving me £20000, two weeks ago my cousin died leaving me £30000 and last week my grandma died leaving me £100000.

"Oh I see but you seem well off financially" said the man.

"Yes", replied his friend, "but nothing

this week!"

How often are we looking at things we haven't got instead of being thankful for the basic things in life which we take for granted.

Are you ever thankful for clean running water from the tap, food in the cupboard, a roof over your head? Are you pain free, in your right mind, able to see and hear and dress yourself?

When we have so much, we can take everything for granted and be not thankful for anything, which makes us generally miserable.

As a secular society we do not, 'count our blessings', like the old hymn reminds us



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to. No wonder there is a general decline in everything in our secular society. We want God's blessings but not the God who gives us everything.

The greatest blessing being salvation which only comes through believing in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Come and hear the good news about Jesus in our church services every Sunday in the Carmel Village Hall at 5 pm. Or why not join us for a good news charity quiz at 6pm in the Carmel Village Hall on 13th September?

Jesus can give you real meaning and thankfulness in your life.

Everyone will be made welcome.



SENIOR TEAMS

Men's First XI

The team is enjoying a memorable summer of cricket and is currently in fifth place in Division 2 of the North Wales Cricket League. There have been some outstanding individual batting and bowling performances throughout the season, along with a real sense of team spirit and unity thanks to the excellent captaincy of Ben Sim.

Recent highlights include the 12 points to 3 victory against Ruthin First XI on 2nd August, where Maneesha Nissanka excelled for Carmel with the bat and ball. He scored an impressive 68 runs in a partnership of 99 with Gwion Dafydd, before taking 5 wickets for 14 runs. In the game against Menai Bridge Second XI on 21st June, a number of Carmel players contributed to the team's high total of 231 for 4, including Ben Sim (45), Supun Eranga (92), Maneesha Nissanka (33) and Danny Owens (48). Nilanka De Silva went on to take 4 wickets for 6 runs and Amer Jamil took 3 wickets for 4 runs to secure the victory for Carmel.

At the time of writing, Carmel Firsts are still on course for a top five finish and might even end up in a higher position if they can ensure a positive end to the season.

Men's Second XI

The team is currently in eighth place in Division 4 of the North Wales Cricket League and is enjoying one of its most successful seasons for a number of years. The Second XI has been involved in some really exciting matches this season, and one of the highlights was the 12 points to 3 victory against Ruthin Seconds on 28th June. Jonathan Fisher scored 46 runs for Carmel in this game and was ably assisted by captain Cameron Ackroyd who scored 25. Noah Murray-Jones and Harry Nash took three wickets each to secure the points for Carmel.

The team has made real progress this season and will be aiming to finish as high as possible in the league table.

Women's and Girls Team

Carmel Women and Girls are currently in fourth place in the Softball Division 1 East and have played fewer games than their competitors. All the players have made important contributions on the field this year, and the strong team spirit and togetherness have once again been very apparent. One of this year's highlights was the 17 points

to 3 victory against Pontblyddyn on 3rd August where Gabija Appuhamy scored 14 runs and Haf Morgan-Read scored 24. Haf then went on to take 3 wickets and Carol Owen took 2 wickets.

The success of the club's Women's and Girls team since its establishment four years ago remains a real source of pride for the club and it is great to see the team continuing to develop and progress.

Dafydd Timothy

Carmel bowler Dafydd Timothy has been in the news recently for his incredible achievement in reaching the milestone of 2,000 wickets. Dafydd has been a club stalwart for over 50 years and continues to bowl regularly for the Second XI. On Saturday 21st June he made club history when he took his 2,000th wicket in the away game against Ruthin Seconds. Dafydd first joined the club as a youngster when it was based at its original Golch Farm home and has since gone on to make over 900 appearances, showing great commitment to the club. His enthusiasm for the game is as strong as ever and he has been a real



Dafydd Timothy (on the right) with his son, Gwion, who also plays for Carmel

asset to Carmel Cricket Club over many years, helping to nurture young cricketers as well as performing consistently well himself. Many congratulations to Dafydd on reaching this fantastic milestone. Llongyfarchiadau mawr, Dafydd.



Autumn Falls

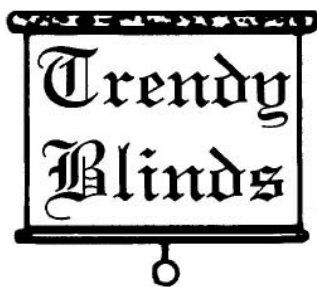


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HOLYWELL AREA COMMUNITY MUSEUM (Mike Jones)

We have had a really busy few weeks at The Museum here in Holywell.

During July we unveiled an interpretation panel at the Mining Memorial outside Ffynnongroew which remembers the sacrifice made by the men who died during the sinking of number three shaft at Point of Ayr Colliery in 1952. A wonderful afternoon which ensures their endeavours will never be forgotten.

We took part in Party in the Park, held at Holywell Leisure centre. A great day in the sun ensured fantastic attendance and our stall manned by volunteers raised much needed funds.

On the 2nd July Holywell welcomed the Wales in Bloom judge. The Museum was busy brightening up the top end of the High Street, filling up four planters with a variety of colourful blooms. We also planted up the pony trough from Point of Ayr Colliery and placed a St Winefride's display at the Museum entrance.

The BBC Television Repair Shop programme took the large-scale model coal mine which was built in the 1900's which was on display in the Museum, albeit looking a little the worse for wear. They have now finished their repairs and have invited John from The Museum to go down to Chichester for filming the finished result. We are all looking forward to seeing the finished programme later in the year.

The Museum sewing repair and alteration service continues to grow in popularity with more people taking advantage of this local and professional resource. Prices are very reasonable, call in for more details.

The annual Well Inn Music Festival takes place on the 6th September. As usual we will be having a presence and look forward to seeing everyone there.

Thanks go to all the volunteers, Holywell Town Council and Wales & West for all their help.

Finally thank you to everyone who visits The Museum, we are so grateful for your help and support. For information, please phone the museum on 01352217170 Jodie Bennett (Manager).



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HELP!

Chris Dolphin asks, "Can you help with names?"



Carmel School 1947 - now Carmel Village Hall - Part of Eisteddfod celebrations. Mr Parry, headmaster, front right, with teachers, Mrs Evans, Mrs Matthews (Caerwys), Mrs Edwards (Holywell).

David Jones (Holway)

David Bellis (Lloc)

Gareth Davies (father was gardener at Saithaelwyd Hall (now Ocean View Estate) Ioury Williams Celyn Villa, Carmel

Lily Jones

Maureen Windsor

Photo from David Jones age 86



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Recently we visited Stori Brymbo, meaning 'the story of mud hill' in Welsh, near Wrexham. It used to be a huge iron mine and smelting plant, employing many local people until 1990. Outside it is cool, stormy, wet. But we are sheltered under a huge industrial galvanised roof with the wind rattling it and the rain tapping. Sitting or kneeling on a continuous, buff, sandy, crumbling layer of rock. This was the great thickness of mud and silt that settled in a vast river delta system 300 million years ago. Imagine a vast stifling, stuffy, steaming jungle, no grass or flowers, just green tall trunks with ferns all over the ground, and many insects flying around. In the Carboniferous era, long before any dinosaurs or other land animals, this was in the tropics, and the first 'trees' - club mosses, giant horsetails (Calamites and other Lycopods) were growing thirty feet fast, in a few months, dying and falling into swamps to eventually form our coal at what is now Point of Ayr. In this very watery site the fluctuating water levels caused Siderite, an iron mineral, was also precipitating out from the chemical conditions created by organisms digesting the decaying plants. The plants' photosynthesis made such an oxygen rich atmosphere and were sucking carbon out of it so much that, like we are now, they were a species that were causing their own extinction. Our guide, Dr. Tom



Hughes (Walter's grandson), who grew up locally, has just written his PhD thesis on all this. He experimented with modern horsetail plants to see how their chemical content compared to their fossil counterparts here. He found evidence of water stress in both. This showed how the plants were able to react to periods of drought, a finding novel to this field and one that helps us to put these coal forming "swamps" into a better context. The silt swallowed up the Calamites and other Lycopods, as well as their tall canopy keeping out the light. Now Tom and his coworker, Dr. Tim Astrop, are helping different ordinary people, every weekend, to gently dig, lever, brush away the dust to reveal this ancient strange forest in situ for visitors to see. All Heritage Lottery funded; this is what your lottery tickets buy us; fascinating community involvement in heritage sites.

I find a long trunk, as thick as a man's arm but divided into sections, like giant bamboo. Sometimes they have cross



sections of curving leaves up both sides, a bit like giant centipedes. My husband finds a lovely black fern leaf and a bit of a beetle wing case. It is not often you find insects, they were too delicate, but there have been dragonflies in other similar sites, with one-metre wingspans (I am secretly hoping I find one). A few weeks later another volunteer did! Well part of a wing about the size of a 50p coin from a creature that was part of a dragonfly-like family called palaeodictyoptera.

You have to get your eye in for the marks you are looking for. I did this so thoroughly once as a student that I kept seeing them in the wallpaper of the fish and chip shop we all went to at the end of the day. There are patches of what look like dark, shiny snakeskin, these are the diamond patterns of fallen leaf stems from the trunks of Lepidodendron. Long black mountain bike tracks are really narrow stems of other tall club mosses.

Dusty hours pass quickly, until we find our old hips and knees have locked up. We stumble out into the sun to have a drink and look at other treasure seekers' finds.



A week or so later Tom also led a geology walk on Halkyn Mountain (see "thelwelshgeologist" on Eventbrite or Instagram for future tours). Slightly older than Brymbo, Carboniferous, 330 million years ago, when that was a flowing delta system at the edge of a warm, shallow sea where Halkyn is now, there was a reef here. Not so many corals then, but heaps of Brachiopoda (effectively giant cockles) and

Crinoids - looked like giant tall lilies made of calcium carbonate shells, but which had



an animal in the top like corals do. So, in the Carboniferous our continent was much closer to the Equator. At Point of Ayr there was a vast swampy area where the giant horsetails were falling and rotting and when compressed later formed coal that used to be mined there. Across to Halkyn mountain, limestone was forming under a shallow tropical sea. Where Brymbo now is was another edge of that sea with big rivers flowing into it and giant Calamites growing amongst the shifting silt that periodically slumped and flowed, killing the plants and

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insects that got trapped in the silt and mud. Radiolarians, microscopic plankton that made their shells out of Silica, settled from the water in layers to later form the flint-like chert that is found in the old disused quarry at Pen yr Henblas. And waving around in the nearby reef were Fenestella species, a type of sea fan. Halkyn seems particularly famous for these. They were made of a perforated tube work of calcite that strained the water for plankton to eat.

After many years of learning about the local geology in separate bits, Tom has helped me to piece the ancient landscape and its inhabitants together in my mind. So satisfying! © Jan Miller 2025.



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Visitors welcome £3 per meeting.

Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 16th September

'Fuchsias for the Garden' by Keith McManus

Keith is a member of the British Fuchsia Society and a fuchsia expert. The BFS is the UK national society for all those with a fascination of the fuchsia genus. It was formed in 1938 and is a registered charity. Keith's talk is about how to succeed with fuchsias; tips on overwintering, growing standards, compost to use, pests & diseases.

Tuesday 14th October

'Confessions of a Plantaholic, Plants I couldn't do without' by Razvan Chisu

Razvan grew up in Transylvania surrounded by woodlands and species-rich meadows. As a professional horticulturalist he has worked in garden design, lead garden tours and gives lectures. He says that collecting, propagating and growing plants can sometime be an obsession if not a true addiction! While making light fun of himself and the things he does for plants, he will also talk about some of his favourites and must haves.

Tuesday 11th November

'A Shady Garden' by Diane Clement

Diane has been an active member of the Alpine Garden Society (AGS) for over 25 years and was Director of the Seed Exchange for many years. She is a keen exhibitor and judge at National Shows. Half of Diane's Garden in the West Midlands does not get any sun at all for six months of the year. She has adapted what she grows in her garden to suit the situation. Diane's lectures always contain lots of first-hand practical advice.

Information: 01352 781458 (leave a message)

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YSGOL BRO CARMEL

(Michael Martell, Headteacher)

There is rarely a quiet week at Carmel, and as we enter the latter stages of the summer term, the days just seem to get busier and busier!

Firstly, a huge thank you to Carmel Christian Church, who have donated £100 from their Good News Charity Quiz to the school. Their donation will be used to support the development of our new sensory room. Thank you to everyone at the church, and all the attendees of the quiz.

We are delighted that we have been accepted as one of the Tesco Stronger Starts candidates for our Sensory Room redevelopment – blue tokens spent at Tesco can be used to vote for our new sensory room, which will support a safe space for our most vulnerable and in-need pupils. Furthermore, our allotment redevelopment is underway following a successful grant application with Keep Wales Tidy! Our new friend Huw has been in school redeveloping the area, helped out by our gardening club and eco-team too. Additionally, we've had a grant from the Thomas Howell Educational Fund, which was given to us to use on reading books. Consequently, we've been able to purchase new phonics books for our youngest children, as well as set aside an amount for an updated reading spine for our older pupils, too. Lastly, our Summer Prom was a huge success, raising an incredible £1465 for school! Diolch i pawb a breswyliai ac a brynnodd docynnau raffl ar gyfer y digwyddiad! Thank you to everyone who attended and bought raffle tickets for the event, and especially to the wonderful community companies, businesses and organisations who donated a huge number of prizes for our raffle! We also had a brilliant afternoon with Carmel Bowling Club – our Y5 and Y6 pupils had the chance to meet the club members and learn a new sport! Da iawn!

The last half-term of the year was non-stop - the biggest event was definitely the KS2 performance of Star Wars, which took place across one afternoon and two nights. The Year 6 children were fantastic in the main parts, ably supported by our super Year 5 pupils, and our Year 4 and Year 3 pupils provided songs, dancing and entertainment which really made the show come alive—we are incredibly proud of all of them! A huge thank you to the community who were able to come and see the shows, a thank you to the staff who stayed late to run the performance, and of course a thank you to the children for being incredible, as always!

In amongst the rehearsals, KS2 have somehow managed to fit in a visit to Drayton Manor, as well as Year 4 and Year 5 spending two days working with Bigfoot Arts Education on a stop-motion workshop! The children learned a huge amount about animation and have made some very interesting stop-motion videos. Not to be

outdone, the Foundation stage have been to Blue Planet Aquarium, following their topics on the oceans, recycling and the environment. It was a super trip and really helped bring their learning to life. Along the same theme, we have had the RNLI in to ensure we all remain safe during the summer months, especially important for coastal communities such as ours. Year 1 and 2 have also been at the Jambori, celebrating and singing in both Welsh and English! Our usual busy-ness in school has continued, with KS2 having pond-dipping workshops, Year 5 learning all about lifesaving and sign language, and Theatr Clwyd 's string ensemble visiting us too!

Some other exciting news coming from Year 4—Mr Richardson and Dosbarth Dinas entered the Climate Challenge Cymru Competition Out of the hundreds of entrants that took part from across Wales, one of our Year 4 submissions has been shortlisted in the top three! The children who submitted the winning primary-school-aged video headed down to Cardiff for the Climate Challenge Cymru Award Ceremony. Credit to Year 4 for all their hard work on the importance of looking after the environment - well done everyone!

This part of the school year is always centred around looking to the future. Our Year 6 pupils finished their time at primary school, and will begin a whole new, exciting chapter at secondary school. In school, we've marked this special time by giving the children their fantastic leavers hoodies and having a really lovely leavers service on Monday afternoon. They have been exemplary pupils, and a credit to the school and their families – we will miss them very much!



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COUNCILLOR CHRIS DOLPHIN

Hello everyone, Sut mae pethau?

I have been writing the county council article continuously in the last 84 issues of this Chronicle, 21 years, and have taken a look back to the start...the lead item was speed. Local roads were under review for speed restrictions and eventually some years later, the main A5026 in Carmel, and leading up to and into Lloc and Gorsedd village had their present speed limits introduced. Planning matters concerned new development in Whitford and possible housing on the Golch Field, Carmel. Pant y Wacco wanted its name preserved, and a brown sign was eventually agreed to and sited. Road Repairs and Bridleways were also mentioned. Looking to the near future, after a few years of grant applying it will be great to have the dull faded brown name signs such as in Pant y Wacco and our villages replaced with new black on white signs and in colour with the Community Council logo depicting local history.

TWO VISITS:

Recently I have been invited to visit Parc Adfer and Airbus in Broughton. Parc Adfer is the waste site in Deeside serving all North Wales apart from Wrexham and has been operational now for over 5 years. It's interesting to note through the Recycling Incinerator Bottom Ash which includes metals for the year 2024/25, the overall recycling level achieved at this waste site

was 22.4%. These figures contribute about 7% to the partner authorities recycling levels. The new official Council recycling rates may be available in September, which will have given some time for the introduction of three weekly black bin collections to have reliable figures. The rates are expected to be much higher than earlier and as was calculated may be possible.

The Carbon Capture Project associated with Enfinium is on track and well supported by Welsh Government (WG) who during May 2025 released its fourth Carbon Budget. The timetable includes applying for an Environmental Permit in August 2025. And for Planning permission this October. Carbon Capture at Parc Adfer could support WG policy goals on energy, environment and climate change removing 235,000 tonnes of CO2 from the atmosphere annually and becoming the first facility to deliver carbon negative waste treatment in Wales.

I accompanied the Leader of the Council and two Economy and Regeneration senior council officers to Airbus, to discuss an Aviation Park promotion event and to view the construction site at the west factory, which used to be the A380 wing facility. This was a real "eye opener". All the jigs have gone and construction workers with heavy plant vehicles, diggers and massive drills are preparing the site for single aisle work, which will be at record breaking levels next year.

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE:

I have been a member of the National Landscape for some time, (local resident, Karen works for the NL, and thanks to you). During the summer meetings have taken place in Llanfair DC and Wrexham Guildhall. Locally in Flintshire, Gop Hill near Trelawnyd and agricultural land close to Gwaenysgor are featured in the Limestone Links Project which received a grant of £872,626 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Denbighshire County Council gained the grant, and it's all about supporting Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Five SSSI sites are featured in the project with an aim of improving habitat condition and ensure species are protected. This includes Fulmars, Yellow Hammer, Lesser Horseshoe bats, and plant species too. Perhaps the Chough, the bird featured in quarters on the Flintshire Flag (see the Carmel Village Hall banner) may return one day to our Flintshire coast.

NATIONAL PARK:

During the summer Natural Resource Wales (NRW) Board has agreed that NRW should proceed to a Statutory Consultation on the proposal to designate a new National Park for Northeast Wales. The consultation will take place during the Autumn/Winter of this year. Full details including the boundary map will then be available.

SCHOOLS:

The school holidays, well, have come and gone now, our two local schools, Ysgol Bro Carmel and Ysgol y Llan are of the utmost importance to not just the community but to the country. I know many



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of you who attended Whitford as children and parents. Rosetta (my boss) and her brothers and sister all attended what was Carmel Primary in the 1960's and 70's, I have served in the past as a Governor and Chair of Governors some years ago. Now with such brilliant Wrap around preschool facilities at both schools, I regularly visit Ysgol Bro Carmel to pick up Beatrix and Florence the grandchildren. School is not just about learning at any age, I really do appreciate the social value provided to our children, from the age of just three.

PLAY AREA:

For many years now the County Council have provided local Town and Community councils with gradings, required work and future requirements for Play Areas and during the last 20 years all Play Areas in Flintshire have improved substantially. Whitford and Carmel play areas have usually taken turns in being provided with improvements. The Whitford play area is really first class, particularly as it has the huge advantage of green space available, and soft surface area for tennis and ball games. Carmel Play Area is on the Ocean View estate built in the early 70's and is steep and tight for any open space at all. This year the Carmel Play area is to have the Toddlers Multi play with a narrow slide removed and replaced with a newer better version with a new surface. To create more space for the new multi play the Springy and Seesaw are to be placed in another part of the play area. The cost is shared between the County Council and Community Council and is £22,000.

MISSED COLLECTIONS:

As you all know there can be continuous collection problems with Black Bins, Brown Bins, Recycling and Pink Bags, plus occasionally anything else. The Council always want the missed collections reported to them (online is quickest) and I do receive many reports personally. I know the system can and has failed at times. The latest example is Pink Bags being missed, I do notice missed collections and do involve myself normally without you the resident even knowing. I know certain properties in Alt y Golch, Carmel Road, and the estates in Carmel plus Babell Road, Pantasaph, had persistent missed Pink Bag collections, and I do chase them up with Area Supervisors and Managers. I never just drive past, without at least a mental note being taken.

GREENFIELD DOCK:

Our local Dock has been awarded £99,000 after the County Council applied for Marine and Fisheries funding from Welsh Government. All funding needs to be spent in this financial year, and the works include the old security building, engineering structural report and design for slipway, concrete core testing/topographical survey, marine licensing for cockling operations, signage and interpretation boards. A further successful bid to the Heritage lottery for £20,000 to remove derelict boats abandoned by owners will result in another 20 boats being removed from Greenfield Dock, Bagillt and Connahs Quay Dock.

The boat removal also involves legal procedures and Natural Resource Wales.

OPEN SPACE FIELD:

This is the northern end of the Ysgol Bro Carmel school fields. Have you noticed the planting of over 120 plants on this open greenspace? Foxgloves, Yarrow, Hebe, Thyme, Geranium, Rosemary, Mint, Bugle, Verbena, Scabious, Echinops, and Salvia. All the species chosen are pollinator friendly, perennial and relatively easy to manage.

CONTACT:

If you need to contact your 5 Villages

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

CYNGOR CYNGHORYDD:

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

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

Medi / September:

21ain I'w drefnu

28ain Y Parch Huw Powell-Davies (Gweinidog)

Hydref / October:

5ed Uno yn y Berthen - Dafydd Iwan - Joint service Berthen Chapel, Licswm.

12fed Y Parch Huw Powell-Davies (Gweinidog)

19eg Diolchgarwch / Harvest Thanksgiving.

26ain Y Parch Huw Powell-Davies (Gweinidog)

Tachwedd / November:

2ail Arwel Roberts

9fed Y Parch Huw Powell-Davies (Gweinidog)

16eg Rhys Dafis

23ain Y Parch Huw Powell-Davies (Gweinidog)

30ain I'w drefnu

Rhagfyr / December:

7fed Hedd ap Emlyn

14eg Y Parch Huw Powell-Davies (Gweinidog)

21ain Gwasanaeth Nadolig

28ain Maryl Rees

Y gwasanaethau i gyd am 10 o'r gloch. Croeso cynnes i bawb.

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HOLYWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS (Andrea Dakin)

Following on from the resounding success of the first History Fair in June we are proposing to host another one around Eastertime next year. We are sure that as we have proved our worth we will attract even more local history groups to take part. We had twelve groups at the June Fair and we know there are many more out there who we're sure will be happy to show what they are doing to preserve the history of their area.

Representatives of our Reminiscing Group visited Llys Gwenffrwyd residential home in Holywell recently and had a great time sharing some of our archives and publications. According to the feedback from the activities organiser, the residents haven't stopped asking when we'll be visiting again. We are hoping to organise another visit to them before the end of August. We have also been contacted by Rhuwlas, a care home in Flint. The mother of one of our members lives there and has recommended that we come along and share our Flintshire archives with the residents. As we've said before, we truly appreciate the value of reminiscence, especially for those living with dementia or Alzheimer's. Familiar images and memories can often prompt conversation, recognition, and connection — and it's always a privilege to be part of that process.

On the other end of the age scale we have forged links with the Head of Humanities at Holywell High School, Siobhan Henry, who is as passionate as we are about local history and keen to bring her students on our history walks around the town. She has for some time wanted to form a history club at the school - she said that we have now inspired her to go forward with that venture and hopes that we would be able to come into the school to give talks to the students on the history of the town. Siobhan was kind enough to gift us some of the log books from the school - handwritten by the headmaster at the time, the late Mr Richards. Sadly, some of the log books have been lost in the transition of the old school to the new but she thankfully managed to salvage others and was glad to find a permanent home for them.

As the summer is coming to a close, we are now turning our thoughts to putting together our next Olde Holywell calendar. This year our theme is old and new, and we hope to find a selection of photographs of areas of Holywell from years gone by and pair them with a recent photograph of the same area. This is a popular historical theme for calendars, and we hope it will sell as well as last year's calendar. As we get into the autumn we will also be thinking of signing up to attend local Christmas Fairs, the perfect event to promote our calendars and Christmas cards, which also sold very well last year.

We are pleased to report that our new relationship with Greenfield Valley has got off to a promising start with regards to sales of our 3 books, the children's book on the history of Holywell and the 2 books on Growing up in Greenfield Valley and Bryn Celyn, written by our member Cynthia Roberts. We also have a stall in Nexus Creative Spaces, a pop-up shop in Holywell town centre that promotes art and craftwork made by local people, run by Martin Evans, who is working hard to help local businesses in the town. All of our merchandise, and details of where to purchase, can be found on our website. <https://hollywellreminiscing.wixsite.com/historical-society>

The Holywell Reminiscing Group continues to meet every Tuesday morning at Holywell Leisure Centre (10:00-12:00). If you would like to come along and browse our archives and join us for a cuppa and a biscuit, we would love to see you. For those who are not available to come to the meetings, we have our Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2256532077884382>. We now have over 1500 members, and the page is regularly updated with members' stories and photographs.

Our archives are available to view on appointment, and we're always grateful for any donations of memorabilia in connection with Holywell and the surrounding areas. Please contact us for more information.

hollywellreminiscinggroup@gmail.com

Following on from the success of the Family History for Beginners course, we are now thinking of setting up a Family History group in Holywell library, possibly one evening a month. A place to meet other family historians in the area, to share stories and to help each other with research. If you'd like further information on this, or have any other enquiries about family history, contact Donna Coulson dcfamilyhistoryhub@gmail.com

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SUMMER TERM ROUND-UP AT YSGOL Y LLAN (Mr. Tomos Williams, Pennaeth / Headteacher)

It's been a vibrant and exciting end to the school year at Ysgol y Llan, with pupils across all classes taking part in a wide range of creative, sporting, and celebratory activities.

The school garden has been a hive of activity as pupils proudly harvested the vegetables they have been growing over the term. Potatoes, carrots, radishes – and even towering sunflowers – were picked with great excitement, connecting the children to nature and healthy eating.

Class activities have been as diverse as they have been engaging. Class 1 welcomed their families for a delightful 'Animal Safari' themed class service, and also enjoyed hatching butterflies, closely following their magical transformation from caterpillars. Class 2 put their culinary skills to the test by making and cooking their own pizzas. Meanwhile, Class 3 took part in an exhilarating end-of-term water fight and have been developing digital skills through stop-motion animation to create their own Lego movies.

Year 6 pupils were treated to a leavers' trip to Inflate-a-bubble in Shotton and joined Class 3 in delivering a moving Leavers Service. Many families gathered to celebrate their journey through primary school – a fitting tribute to a wonderful

group of pupils. The whole school lined the yard in a touching guard of honour as Year 6 left for the last time. We wish them the very best of luck in their new schools.

Across the school, pupils enjoyed a transition day, moving up into their new year groups and taking part in fun-filled activities. We were also thrilled to welcome our new Nursery pupils for September – with 14 children joining us, our school family continues to grow.

We would also like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported and donated to our sponsored walk to Mostyn Hall. With your generosity, we raised over £700, which will go towards developing our outdoor area – a space that benefits all pupils and supports outdoor learning across the school.

Other highlights of the term included a whole-school inflatable day, kindly supported by Tiny Tots Inflatables, and a highly successful Summer Fair. Glorious sunshine and strong community support made for a perfect afternoon, with a wide variety of stalls and activities on offer. Sports Day was also a great success, with excellent participation and a warm community spirit throughout.

Special congratulations go to Mrs Edwards, who successfully completed a 5-week Welsh Sabbatical in St Asaph. Her commitment to developing Welsh within our school is truly inspiring – da iawn chi!

We are also incredibly proud of Noah,

who was nominated to perform a harp recital at St Mary's Church in Mold as part of a Theatr Clwyd event. A fantastic achievement!

The school joined in the spirit of the Women's Euro football celebrations by participating in the Euro Jambori singalong, raising their voices in support of the national team with Welsh songs.

Finally, a huge well done to our hardworking Eco Council and Mr Thomas. They have secured our third Eco-Schools Award and now have their sights set on the Platinum Award – a real testament to how much our pupils care about their environment.

As we close the chapter on another fantastic school year, we would like to thank our staff, pupils, and families for their continued support and positivity. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September – especially our new starters!



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MARK ISHERWOOD MS



Dementia is an umbrella term for a range of progressive conditions that affect the brain.

Each type of dementia stops a person's brain cells (neurones) working properly in specific areas, affecting their ability to remember, think and speak.

Doctors typically use the word "dementia" to describe common symptoms – such as memory loss, confusion, and problems with speech and understanding – that get worse over time.

Dementia can affect a person at any age but it's more common in people over the age of 65.

There are many different types, subtypes and causes of dementia. The most common are Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, Lewy body dementia,

frontotemporal dementia and mixed dementia.

Here in Wales there are 51,000 people living with dementia, and this figure is set to rise by 37% to almost 70,000 people by 2040.

Back in June, I was pleased to visit the Wrexham Dementia Hub with Alzheimer's Society Cymru, and to meet and talk with a support group for people living with dementia and carers which was running during my visit.

The Dementia Hub is a one-stop information centre anchored in the heart of the community for all things dementia related.

Whether it be carers, individuals with a diagnosis, professional health workers, or those who want to educate themselves on the topic, the Hub can signpost to information and services to support each visitor.

What was clear from speaking to people at the Hub is that Wales desperately needs a new Dementia Action Plan with a bold commitment to meet the needs of people who are living with dementia.

Questioning the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care before the Summer recess, two weeks after my visit to the Dementia Hub, I spoke of the postcode lottery for dementia services in North Wales and asked how the new Dementia Action Plan will meet the needs

of those living with dementia and their carers.

I said: "With a new Dementia Plan for Wales in the works, new treatments in the pipeline and the prevalence of dementia continuing to increase, it's vital that you get this right."

I stressed that whilst I was told during my visit that the North Wales Memory Support Pathway is doing what it can to bring services providers and third sector together to provide a pathway for people living with dementia across North Wales, there is a postcode lottery, and services, including access to specialist support nurses, are still not available to everyone who needs them.

It is therefore vital that the new Dementia Action Plan has a bold commitment to meet the needs of people who are living with dementia and their carers, such as those they identified to me.

I was pleased that the Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing, Sarah Murphy MS, agreed "that we absolutely have to get it right, and that feedback in itself is incredibly helpful and useful."

Let's hope that words are put into action and those with dementia, and their loved ones, are soon able to access the support and services they need, which sadly are currently lacking here in Wales.

On July 16th, I formally introduced my Member Proposed Bill, 'The British

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Sign Language (BSL) (Wales) Bill', to the Senedd.

As I said "Too often, deaf people are unable to access vital public services because they cannot communicate in their first language. This denies them their rights, and places them at a significant disadvantage - whether in healthcare, education, employment, transport, or otherwise. The Bill aims to address this by introducing a legal requirement to promote and facilitate the use of BSL in Wales".

I also stressed that without a standalone BSL Bill, Wales risks falling behind the rest of the UK - Scotland passed its BSL Act in 2015, the UK followed in 2022, and Northern Ireland is progressing its own Bill.

I said: "If we don't act now, Wales will be the only UK nation without this legislation."

This Bill not only ensures that the legislative framework for BSL in Wales keeps pace with developments elsewhere in the UK, it also goes further. For example, the Bill includes the statutory appointment of a BSL Adviser - something not found in England or Scotland.

This Adviser will be fluent in BSL and bring lived experience to the role. While the Scottish and UK Parliaments have appointed advisory panels, this Bill places a statutory duty on Welsh Ministers to appoint an assisting panel.

If passed, this will be the most progressive BSL law in the UK.

THE FIVE VILLAGES POPULATION (Professor Robert Moore)

Supposing we lined up the population of the five villages in a single line, with the youngest at the left and the oldest at the right. What would be the age of the person in the middle of the line? The answer is fifty-two. If we were to take over the A55 and repeat the exercise for Flintshire, the middle person would be 45 years old. So, half the population of Whitford ward are over 52 while half of Flintshire are under 45 years of age. The average age of residents in the Whitford ward is 47 and the average age of Flintshire is 43, so we can say that Whitford is older than Flintshire because our population is concentrated at the elder end of the age distribution. This much is obvious to residents in the five villages. What may be less obvious is the extent to which the population has aged; in 1991 the average age of the Whitford population was about 38 and the person in the middle of the historical line-up would have been 37 years old.

The people of the five villages comprise only a microscopic proportion of the world population but they follow a worldwide trend as the world's population ages. What is the reason for aging populations? Firstly, people are living longer. In 1960 life expectancy in the UK was just over 70 years, by 2020 it was around 82, with men expecting about four fewer years of

life than women. These are averages, life expectancy varies by social class and, most interestingly, varies by the level of inequality – greater overall inequality lowers the life expectancy for the whole population. The reasons for this have been well-researched and widely commented upon. But in general terms, we may say aging is to be welcomed. Advances in public health and in medicine, better housing, fewer industrial deaths, clean air and water have extended our lives.

A second factor behind the aging of the population is the reduction in the number of younger people. Women are starting their families later and having fewer children. One half of women born in 1946 had a child by the age of twenty-four, but for women born in 1997 only just over a quarter had a child by the age of twenty-seven. This may be due to the time spent in education, followed by establishing paid employment or a career, the cost of acquiring a home and - of course- the anticipated cost of raising children. It may also be a simple question of choice, more women are deciding not to have larger families. A recent survey suggested that economic concerns were the most important reason for having fewer children and one in five people were so concerned about the future that they were hesitant about having children. To sustain our population, women need to have 2.1 children (or every ten women need to have twenty-one children). We dropped below this threshold in 1973. The fertility rate for Wales is now 1.77 and 1.85 for north Wales.

These trends take time to show their impact, but already the 'dependency ratio' is increasing as fewer taxpayers support pensions and health care for an aging population, while fewer young people are available for work in the caring professions. Since the second world war the UK has partially addressed these issues through immigration, with younger, economically active migrants both paying taxes and contributing to the staffing of health and social care. This brings us back to the five villages. Whitford, like much of north Wales, may be less able to retain its younger population. This will especially be the case for young people with higher education for whom there are fewer employment opportunities in north Wales compared with the cities. Furthermore, the social and cultural life of the cities, once tasted at university, may be irresistible for younger people. Every resident in the five villages will know of young people who have moved away – their own children perhaps. If these young people return to the five villages, maybe to retire, they will be older and their children (or child) will have left home. So, the five villages will not get any younger and will continue to have an older population unless there is a (very) radical change in the economy of the region.

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(Paula Jones)

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Lego Club	Saturday	10.00-12.00

Holywell Library: Adult 'Make and Meet' Workshop

Held every fortnight on a Wednesday 'Make and Meet' sessions in Holywell Library are open to all, come along and create a craft item and meet fellow crafters. All sessions are £3.00 per adult with refreshments included. *Contact Holywell Library 01352 703850 to book your seat at the crafty table.*

Learn more this Autumn


Gwella libraries and Adult Community learning invite you to attend the following Free courses. You have to be over 19 and live in Flintshire or Wrexham.


<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Venue</u>
18/09/2025	10.00am - 12.00pm	Interviews Made Easy	Flint Library - CH6 5AP
18/09/2025	12.30pm - 2.30pm	Interview Practice	Flint Library - CH6 5AP
01/10/2025	10.00am - 12.00pm	Introduction to Social Media	Mold Library - CH7 1AP
01/10/2025	12.30pm - 2.30pm	Selling on Vinted	Mold Library - CH7 1AP
06/10/2025	9.30am - 2.30pm	L2 Food Safety	Connah's Quay Lib - CH5 4HA
13/10/2025	9.30am - 3.30pm	L3 Emergency First Aid	Flint Library - CH6 5AP
16/10/2025	10.00am - 12.00pm	Writing for Wellbeing	Flint Library - CH6 5AP
06/11/2025	10.00am - 2.30pm	Customer Service	Flint Library - CH6 5AP
19/11/2025	10.00am - 12.00pm	CV Skills	Mold Library - CH7 1AP
19/11/2025	12.30pm - 2.30pm	Conduct in the Workplace	Mold Library - CH7 1AP



To book on any of the above FREE courses email ACL@gwella.wales or contact the library direct.






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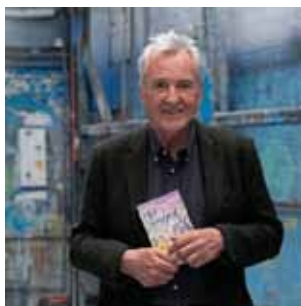
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Are you learning Welsh? Or want to join a conversational Welsh group?

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

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

For more information, contact Holywell Library 01352 703850.

Citizen Advice Bureau at Holywell

Looking for help or guidance a representative from Citizen's Advice is available at Holywell Library every Wednesday morning 9.00 – 12.00noon.

FFLECSIBUS **(Sandy Neville)**

A few weeks ago we were without a car after it developed a serious fault... a fault which eventually turned out to be terminal. We live in Gorsedd and were suddenly without any means of transport for the first time in years. A helpful neighbour mentioned Fflecsibus and we looked into that. Well, what a service it turned out to be! We simply rang them and booked the bus. We were then offered a twenty minute slot around the time we requested, we walked to the spot we were catching the bus, more or less outside our gate, and it turned up on time. The drivers were great and very helpful and we were able to use our bus passes, so the journey cost us nothing.

We'd known nothing about the Fflecsibus prior to being in this difficult situation and I'm sure there will be others who would find this efficient, friendly and easy to use service invaluable so here are a few details:

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Fflecsi provides connections to other local bus services, including those towards Chester.

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ST WINEFRIDE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL (Helen Allsopp)

LIVE SIMPLY AWARD

Pupils and staff from St Winefride's Catholic Primary School Holywell, have achieved the Live Simply Award, confirming that they are living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with communities around the world experiencing poverty. The previous issue of The Five Villages Chronicle showed just how hard the children and staff have been working within the community, making them the first school within the Wrexham Diocese to receive this recognition.

The award, championed by the international aid charity CAFOD, was presented to the Catholic school after they successfully planned and implemented faith inspired actions that highlighted the importance of caring for people and the planet. Their actions have had a positive impact throughout the school, in their local community, and globally too, as they reached out to make a difference.



DOSBARTH GLAS AND MELYN

Reception and Year 1 children enjoyed an end of year trip to Delamere forest, searching for the Gruffalo. Lots of fun and happy faces!



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Dosbarth Coch have been learning all about the rainforests, why they are important and how to look after them.

DOSBARTH DYFI



Dosbarth Dyfi have been taking part in forest school and learning how to whittle wood. They managed to create their very own wooden elves.

DOSBARTH CLYWEDOG



Well done to Dosbarth Clywedog who completed The Play pals project! Thankyou to Tom and the rest of the Flintshire Play Development team for guiding the children and showing them how to thrive, learn and grow through the power of play.

DOSBARTH MENAI

We wish all our amazing year 6 children good luck on the next part of their learning journey. We know you will all be fantastic in Secondary school and we cannot wait for you to come and visit to tell us all about it.



SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS

HUGE congratulations to Annabelle who was presented with the 'Angelo Feliciello Outstanding Achievement' award. Annabelle has contributed fully and positively to all aspects of school life and is so deserving of this very special award. She is a credit to her family & our school!

A huge achievement for Charlotte and Jac. They had 100% attendance for the whole academic year! Not a single day off and never late for class. Well done.



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ST. WINEFRIDE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL 50 YEAR CELEBRATIONS!

On Tuesday 16th September, we will be holding our first Mass of the school year. This will be a special Mass as we will be celebrating 50 years of our current St Winefride's Catholic Primary School. The current school building officially opened on the 17th September 1975. Doors open at 1:50pm, the Mass will take place in the school hall at 2.00pm.

On Friday 19th September during the afternoon, we will also be holding a celebration of St Winefride's Catholic Primary School through a visit down memory lane.

Photographs will be on display and refreshments served. There will be an opportunity to view some of our current children's work and the school choir will be performing. Times are to be confirmed closer to the event via social media or please call the school for further information on 01352 713182.

All family, friends, past pupils, past parents and past staff are very welcome to attend the Mass and/or celebration afternoon. We look forward to celebrating this very special occasion.



FIVE VILLAGES GARDENING CLUB

(Janet Tattum)

JUNE

There was a good turnout for our plant sale and everyone had really well stocked tables to pick from. We raised over £120.00 for club funds. Many thanks to everyone who supported us.

JULY 3RD

This was a repeat visit to Gwaenynog gardens in Denbigh, which Beatrice Potter visited many times. We wandered around beautiful informal gardens, and the weather was glorious. A perfect afternoon was rounded off with tea and lovely cakes.

JULY 5TH

Our coach trip this year was to Harlow Carr, Harrogate. The journey was excellent, and the gardens were a delight round every turn and easy to walk

around with very colourful and unusual mixed beds.

AUGUST 7TH

Annual Garden Show

Our judge, Mrs Carole Madden, congratulated all members on presenting so many entries despite a challenging year of weather.

The winner of the shield was Pauline Williams. The cup for best fuschia was won by Ann Brown and the rose bowl was won by Maureen Burgin. Buddug Neale welcomed and thanked our judge.

Our talk in October is entitled "The Crafty Gardener" by Dawn Gough.

All meetings are held in Carmel Village Hall on the first Thursday of the month at 2.00 p.m. Any new members are always made very welcome. For further information please contact:

Christine Hamer 01352 716273
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A SUMMER OF RECORDS IN THE FIVE VILLAGES (Robert Moore)

Weather in the Five Villages Summer 2025 (2024 in brackets)				
	Temperatures ° C			Total rainfall Mm
	Average	Maximum	Minimum	
June	17.9 (15.6)	30.0 (28.0)	6.0 (3.1)	124.1 (114.2)
July	18.6 (17.3)	36.0 (26.7)	10.0 (2.5)	75.4 (154.1)
August	18.9 (17.5)	28.3 (26.9)	10.0 (6.7)	20.7 (53.1)

The UK has had the hottest Summer on record since 1884 when records began. We have experienced high pressure this summer, the Carmel station pressure did not fall below 1000mb until the 28th of August. This combined with very dry ground, which was the result of both low Spring rainfall, and warmer sea temperature (mentioned in the Spring report) contributed to the unusually high air temperatures. In July and August, the air temperature never fell below 10 degrees Celsius, day or night. Above average temperatures were accompanied by above-average sunshine. If, however you looked at the sky in the first week of July, you may have noted that there no clouds, but the sky was not blue. The grey, milky colour of the sky was caused by smoke from Canadian forest fires passing over us at high altitude. Europe had its own fires in Greece, Spain and France, some raging almost out of control, while the UK had, by contrast, relatively minor moorland

Summer 2025 compared with Summer 2001 – 2020				
Air temperature at 1800 UTC	Average	Maximum	Minimum	Rainfall (mm)
2001 to 2020	17.0	26.8	8.4	76.5
2025	18.4	31.4	8.7	73.4

Tables for 2001 to 2020 are available at Holywell library and the county archives.

fires - but these were bad enough for land and wildlife. In north Wales there was fire on Cwm Mountain near Llandudno where 21 acres of rough moorland was burnt on 26th August – though fire officers were standing by for a further two days. There was no loss of human life in the worst UK fire in Fylingdales, lasting over three weeks. The whole of Europe appeared to be a tinder box in Summer 2025.

The UK had four heatwaves during the Summer. A heatwave is defined as a period in which the maximum temperature exceeds a certain threshold for three or more consecutive days. The threshold is set by counties, the Flintshire threshold is 25 degrees C. On this basis, we had three heatwaves, June 19th to 22nd, July 9th to 13th and August 11th to 13th.

One additional problem is that with hard, dried-out soil the much-needed rain, when it arrives, will run off the hard ground, with a risk of local flooding. Damp ground is much better at absorbing rainfall. In June we had a little rain at the beginning and end of the month and 47.5 mm on the 14th. In July we had sporadic minor rainfalls, only exceeding one millimetre on three days. August was even drier with no rain at all from the 12th until the 26th (when we had less than 1 mm of rain) and then 14.8mm in the last four days of the month. We finished close to the station 20-year average. The ground temperature, measured 300mm below the (grass) surface, was also very close to the station 20-year average.

The tables at the head of this report shows how much warmer than average the Five Villages were in Summer 2025. Most striking, perhaps, are the high minimum temperatures. In July and August the air temperature never fell below 10 degrees. These high minimums can make for very uncomfortable nights which can be stressful for some people. Even if you are one hundred percent fit and healthy, going to work after a disturbed or sleepless night can be challenging, however bright the morning may be.



This quarter's satellite image shows part of the midday pass of the METOP polar orbiting satellite on June 4th. Although the skies are cloudless over the whole UK except Orkney and the Scilly Isles, they were not entirely clear; there were some very thin layers of high-altitude cloud that might not have been visible from ground level. Aircraft contrails are just visible over the southern North Sea, off the Dutch coast. This image will feature in the introductory page of the weather station website. NOAA-19 which featured there for many years has now been decommissioned and will soon be on its way to a celestial junk yard.

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

“...WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE SHOW SO FAR??” (Merfyn Roberts)

I am sure many readers will recall the late Eric Morecambe's predictable response to this question - “...rubbish!!” However, as we are all only too well aware rubbish is no laughing matter.

Our realisation to the full extent of the littering problem here in the UK came during a recent visit to New Zealand. Very early on during our stay in that wonderful country we awoke to the fact of rarely encountering any litter anywhere.

The pride of the population in their country was evident, which we witnessed on a daily basis by way of the cleanliness and tidiness of the environment.



As seen on a campervan

There is a clear and continuous campaign in New Zealand which goes under the Maori title of “Tiaki” (www.tiakinewzealand.com). Wherever we went on our extensive travels across the country there were posters and publicity material alerting us to the campaign. Reminders were placed in every hotel room and on every table in cafés and restaurants that served to underline the important national obligation that is Tiaki.



A typical window sticker

In essence Tiaki is the responsibility that falls to each and every person without exception to cherish and safeguard the population, history, culture and the breathtaking environment of New Zealand. And as visitors playing our part in achieving this ambition was made clear.

Based on what we saw it appears the campaign is successful and has informed the mindset and, more importantly, the

behaviour of the population.

Whilst on our way to do some whale watching - a very special experience and also an important element of environmental protection - we had a chat with a young lady called Lucy. We met Lucy in a restaurant where she worked on the shore of the “Bay of Plenty” (where we enjoyed the tastiest fish ever which had come out of the Pacific Ocean only a few hours earlier!).

Lucy told us her grandmother is Welsh and lives in Llanelli; she had visited her grandmother a year or so ago. However, the main thing that stayed with Lucy's memories of her visit was how untidy she found the country with litter evident in all directions. This had been quite a surprise but also a source of disappointment to her.

Sadly, we could not offer any counter argument and upon our eventual return home to the UK it was a genuine shock to see litter in all directions and to realise the full extent of the problem.

Litter is nothing less than a plague on our communities and there is seemingly no escape from its reach.

I live in a quiet rural spot about a mile or so from a site well known to residents of the Five Villages where visitors are attracted to buy fast food under the shadow of a huge letter “M”!

I despair when I regularly find fast food remains having been thrown away in a thoroughly careless fashion.

But as unacceptable as this habit is I am particularly saddened to see children's fast food fun boxes also thrown out which

means children will have been witness to adults throwing this litter out of the car without any thought or concern for the consequences. What an example!

Given the extent of the problem I have been issued with some simple equipment by the local authority that enables me to play a small part in litter collection from nearby verges!

There is a national environmental charity called “Keep Wales Tidy” which has as its noble vision the achievement of “...a beautiful Wales cared for and enjoyed by everyone”. Their website is well worth a visit - <https://keepwalestidy.cymru>

However, I had no prior awareness of this organisation and its vision was news to me ... this then led me to wonder how many readers of the Five Villages are aware of this body and its important ambition?

Perhaps we should emulate the energy and dogged persistence of the authorities in New Zealand if we are serious our intent to get to grips with littering?

In the meantime we all have a responsibility to play our part in safeguarding and caring for our own breathtaking environment here in this wonderful corner of Wales!

But regardless of the campaign's title - be it Keep Wales Tidy or Tiaki - we underestimate the vital importance of protecting the environment at our peril. We have but one chance to safeguard the single element that is the foundation for every aspect of life.

SUE WILCOX MCFHP MAFHP

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will be 7th November 2025.

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THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE ASSOCIATION

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

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Editor - Jonathan Duggan-Keen (01352 720477); Terry Ireland; Nadine King; Robert Moore.

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

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

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