



Halkyn Mountain News

Issue 167 - Winter 2016

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A misty day on Moel y Gaer. One of the advantages of living where we do is that you can always find somewhere for a good walk, whatever the weather.

Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema

Many thanks to everyone, from all across the mountain, who has attended a screening (or all screenings!) of Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema during 2016. Your support is really appreciated and the community cinema only exists for your benefit, so we hope everyone who has come along has enjoyed the experience.

During 2016 we showed: The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, The Lady in the Van, Bridge of Spies, Brooklyn, Eddie the Eagle and Star Wars - The Force Awakens. We also had a special screening in November of The Jungle Book. This screening was for local Cub Scout groups, to help them celebrate 100 years of cub scouts.

New Venue for 2017!

As some of you may know, we will be moving venue in 2017 due to Halkyn Cricket Club's decision to no longer allow community use of their venue. We hope you will continue to support us at our new venue and we hope to see some new faces too!

Please do join our facebook page, follow us on twitter or sign up to our newsletter via the 'contact us' form on our website, to be kept up to date with all the latest Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema news – including details of our January film! Look out too for the usual posters flyers and banners advertising the community cinema screenings.

Next Screening:

Saturday 28th January 2017 at Halkyn Parish Hall. Film – tbc.

www.mountaincinema.org.uk

www.facebook.com/halkynmountaincinema

www.twitter.com/mountaincinema

We look forward to welcoming you to the community cinema soon!

Clare Madders, Chair,

Issue 168 will be out in March 2017; **please submit items by February 1st.**

You can send items to **hmnews@btinternet.com**

or hand them in to the Blue Bell Inn, Halkyn.

If you have any questions you can call Jack McIntyre on 01352 780377

Holywell & District Twinning

I am publicity member for the Twinning Association. Now in it's 12th successful year, we are always looking for new members. We are a diverse group of people, from many backgrounds and interests, who enjoy French and 'Celtic' culture.

We are 'twinned' with a small town in Brittany, St. Gregoire - near to Rennes in north western France. Twinning is the exchange of friendship and culture with another country.

We enjoy a bi-annual trip to France (usually by a local coach company) as a group ,and also receive our French friends in our homes. The association enjoys many social events throughout the year - individuals, families, clubs, schools. We always enjoy fantastic hospitality when we travel to France, and we have made many friends.

Language is never a barrier either, it's about friendship!

Please contact Robert Gale on 01745857535

Age Connects

Age Connects North East Wales is an entirely independent local charity working across Flintshire and Wrexham. Our role is to help maintain the independence and quality of life of older people. Our services include information and advice, housing support, specialist advocacy, telephone befriending, social activities, toenail cutting and a cleaning/support service.

We offer a range of activities in our centre on Swan Street in Flint from coffee afternoons, Tai Chi, Computers, Men's Group and a Toenail cutting clinic.

We are always looking for volunteers to support our work from holding fundraisers to telephone befrienders and internet shoppers.

If you would like to support our work please sponsor Natasha our Admin Officer who will be running in the Mold Santa Dash on the 11th December, to sponsor please go to:

www.totalgiving.co.uk/mypage/natashadavies

or text **RUNS04 £1** to 70070

For more information about our services or to discuss volunteering please phone 08450 549969

Sarah Kennedy-Ratcliffe
Age Connects North East Wales

Halkyn Library

Well, was a busy time it's been. The changeover from Flintshire to Halkyn Community Library went quite smoothly and for that I have to thank the following people:

Win, Delyth, Lana, Colin,, Andy, Judy, Josie, Richard,, Colette, Hazel, Sophie, Tash, Becks, Jenny, Julia and her Mum, also Bob and Pam for printing Date labels and leaflets and running around generally. A big thank you goes to the Community Council for giving the library a chance. It sounds a bit like the BAFTAs. I hope I haven't left anyone out, apologies and thanks to you if I have. Many thanks for all the book donations we've had, very kind of you.

The children have enjoyed the stickers, bookmarks and pencils that change colour when held and the bags during the reading challenge.

The computer drop-in seemed to go quite well on Friday, 28 October. People can still order books online to be picked up from Holywell and I bring them to Halkyn for them.

Coffee and mince pies will hopefully be served on Friday 16th December and I hope Win will be around to give me a hand, please.

The library will close on Friday 23rd of December at 7.00pm and reopen on Friday 6th January 2017.

I would like to wish all the borrowers a very Happy Christmas and a great New Year.

Marilyn

HALKYN PARISH HALL BINGO

Doors Open at 7.10pm

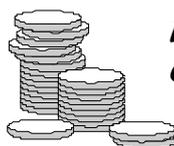
Come along and have some fun

A night of Bingo for everyone



Light refreshments served to you

Cash pay outs and a raffle too



Halkyn Parish Hall is where it's at

On Wednesday night and every other after that



December 7th & 14th and so on with me.

So come along. Eyes down. A fun night you'll see.

The Halkyn Mountain News does not accept responsibility for, nor necessarily agree with, any of the views expressed, statements or claims made in articles or advertisements produced.

The Halkyn Mountain News will be available to read or download from the Halkyn Council & Community Website - halkyn.org.uk

The sender of any article and/or pictures that they do not want to appear on the website must tell the editors when submitting the article and it will be removed from the website version.

Halkyn Councillor

It is necessary for me to begin with a correction and an apology. Owing to my appalling hand-writing, which the editors valiantly try to decipher, a couple of mistakes occurred in the last edition of 'Halkyn Mountain News' concerning the village halls.

The village hall in Rhes y Cae was given to the parish of Christ Church by the Yates family who lived in Cilcain Hall, which lies just off the road leading from Moel y Crio to Star Crossing on the Mold-Denbigh road. The extraordinary fact is that Cilcain Hall actually lies in the parish of Rhes y Cae, owing to historical arrangements. The village hall in Rhosesmor was given to the people of Rhosesmor by the Bankes family of Northop. The parish of Saint Paul's, Rhosesmor stretches almost to the village of Northop.

The local history of this area has produced some interesting results which can be quite confusing. Even the county ward of Halkyn is unusual in its extent, reaching to within several hundred yards of County Hall, Mold to the east; crossing the Mold-Denbigh road at Gwysanney; and bounded on the west by the wards of Caerwys and Brynford.

Pentre Halkyn is not in Halkyn ward but in a that of Brynford and Halkyn is one of the largest wards in Flintshire, approximately twenty square miles.

All this may change in the next few years when the Welsh Assembly creates bigger wards, by numbers, to save money. At least the present counties will retain their individuality, though they will join forces with neighbouring counties for services such as recycling and some aspects of Social Services. People will have noticed that there have been large cuts in various services provided by the County Council. I am afraid there are still more cuts to come. By a mysterious paradox the more redundancies are made the harder it becomes to park in County Hall car park. Indirectly, our editors have to suffer as I can no longer ask the secretaries in Member's Services to type a neat draft of my newsletter item. Ten years ago there were five secretaries now there are only 1.2! Another effect of cutting staff is that it is taking longer and longer to obtain a response from any department at County Hall.

Awards were given, at the October session of the full Council, to staff responsible for the environment (based at Wepre Park), for the restoration work accomplished on several lime kilns on Halkyn Mountain. Proud though I am to see such restoration work, privately I wonder if the money could have been put to better use in this time of austerity and financial stringency.

A couple of months ago I experienced a rather painful muscular infirmity, from which I have now recovered thankfully, and feel better than I have for quite a while. This temporary illness meant that two working parties dealing with dog fouling, amongst other environmental matters were missed. Naturally, I was stunned and bitterly frustrated when I attended the most recent meeting to discover that there had been no effective progress. Hopefully, at the next meeting in January there will be some good news, though it is unlikely that 2017 will see the completion and initiation of dog DNA and other issues.

This paragraph concerns the elderly particularly. At the time of writing (at the beginning of November), for the past few weeks the weather has been unusually mild and clement for this time of year. In my garden gladioli are flowering, alpine strawberries can still be picked and spring flowering Forsythia has been blooming. Because our weather can be very fickle, I urge people to take sensible steps to prepare for possibly colder and longer cold/very cold spells. Climate statistics do show that our climate at the moment is slowly warming. BUT, there have been four warmer periods than now since the melting of the last Ice Age, approximately 10,000 years before ago. Air pollution is a powerful factor in global warming and we should do all we can to prevent it, if possible. But, there are other factors like 'modulation of the obliquity', 'precessional pacing' and 'Milankovitch Cycles' to name a few which affect our climate over a period of time. 'Weather' can take us by surprise, in spite of all our modern techniques and more reliable forecasts. So, like good Scouts and Guides, we should "be prepared".

Recently, there have been problems with refuse collection and recycling. Please let me know if you have any problems. Yet again cuts in budget lead to re-organisation creating unexpected hitches and difficulties, but they can usually be rectified.

Understandably, concern has been expressed about the future of Ysgol Rhos Helyg. I can sympathise with folk in their anxiety. As far as I can make out (and naturally I will support parents 100%) I think it is unlikely that Rhos Helyg will close. The most likely option, as far as I can gauge, is for the school to be extended. This is the most sensible option; but then common sense does not always prevail. As people in Rhes y Cae know I am a great believer in maintaining the smaller schools - savings can be made elsewhere. The final decision is made by 'The Cabinet' at County Hall, advised by the Director of Education.

May I wish everone a pleasant, peaceful and healthy Christmas and all good fortune in 2017.

Colin Legge
County Councillor Halkyn Ward

Police Community Support Officer

I have been asked to provide a bit of information about myself for the newsletter.

My name is Laura Williams and I am the new PCSO for Flintshire South, based in Mold Police Station. I will be covering Caerwys, Brynford, Halkyn and Pentre Halkyn. I am looking forward to getting to know the community as I am not from this area.

Prior to this I worked within the Licensing Trade as a Pub Manager for the chain; Wetherspoons, specifically the pubs in Llandudno, Colwyn Bay and Rhyl areas. I have a Foundation Business Management Degree and an interest in keeping fit.

Laura Williams, PCSO 3660 – SCCH 3660
Mold Police Station
Heddlu Gorsaf Yr Wyddgrug
Laura.Williams@nthwales.pnn.police.uk

Halkyn Community Council

Abandoned Car in Rhosesmor

Following many complaints received by the Community Council in relation to an abandoned car on land just off the B5123 in Rhosesmor (as per photograph). Flintshire County Council initially took enforcement action, seeking the owner to remove the vehicle – by placing public notices on the windscreen. The vehicle was allegedly removed but was returned at a later stage. Following further complaints, the County Council again took legal action seeking the owner to remove the vehicle. The public notices were not adhered to – which unfortunately, resulted in a legal process over many, many months. The vehicle was eventually removed by the investigating officers team – whereby it was placed into storage in September. If not claimed, the car will be disposed of by being placed in a car auction.



Community Street Lighting - Reporting Faults

As winter and possible adverse weather approaches, it is the time when many of the street lights become faulty. I take this opportunity to remind residents as to which street lights belong to Halkyn Community Council, and which belong to Flintshire County Council. The Community Council owned street lights, are generally the ones on the main roadsides, which are spaced quite far apart. Please report any faults to a Community Councillor, or myself - contact details as below. The street lights situated on the roads of the various housing estates, are administered and repaired by the Flintshire County Council. To report a fault of one of these street lights, please call 01352 752121, or complete an enquiry form on the www.flintshire.gov.uk web site.

Summer Play Schemes

During the last two weeks of July and August of this year, the Community Council provided funding towards the Flintshire County Council Summer Play Scheme Programme. The Scheme was held in Rhosesmor and Pentre Halkyn. The sessions were staffed by trained playworkers, who facilitated children's play – with a wide variety of ideas and equipment. Full use was made of the natural elements and the environment. The attendance figures were as follows over the three-week period: Pentre Halkyn – 214 attendances and Rhosesmor 316 attendances. The cost of each area was £900.

Review of Subsidised Bus Services

Following the report in the last edition of the Halkyn Mountain News, in relation to Community Transport, during October a drop-in event was held in Halkyn Parish Hall for local residents to get involved and find out more about the scheme. The event was very well attended and a lot of positive feedback was received from residents. Whilst the area does have a frequent bus service, the County Council are required to assess the public support for both the bus service, including the provision of other Community based transport that meets the needs of the community, bridge any gaps in the network and enable residents to access key services such as employment, shopping, education, training and health.

Pot Holes

The Community Council have informed Flintshire County Council Highways in relation to many pot holes across the Council area, and on the road from Pentre Halkyn to Rhys Y Cae. One area which is affected by numerous pot holes is the A5026 road in The Nant area. The Flintshire County Council had advised the following: 'the location is due to be inspected next month. The area will be prioritised as a matter of urgency'. Hopefully, by the time this article is in circulation the 'general pot holes' will have been repaired.

Overgrown hedges

The Community Council have received several complaints in relation to overgrown hedges – more lately in Rhosesmor and Halkyn. Whilst the Flintshire County Council are responsible for the cutting of certain hedges along the highway, but most overgrown hedges are from private properties. These hedges tend to overgrow into the pavement areas, which are a cause of concern and inconvenience to pedestrians, and restrict the view of drivers. The County Council have contacted residents seeking that the hedges are kept to their side of the property.

Speed Restrict Indication Flashing Lights

Councillor Mrs. Wendy Sigsworth advised the Members that the speed limit indication flashing lights, sited at either end of the B5123 road, in Rhosesmor Village – were not working. It was assumed that as the speed limit has been reduced in this area, the flashing signs have been switched off – hopefully, to be adjusted to reflect the new speed limit. Flintshire County Council have been asked to ensure that the units are in working order and displaying the correct speed limit – especially in the area of Ysgol Rhos Helyg.

Phillip Parry, Clerk to Halkyn Community Council

Tel: 01352 720547

E-mail: halkyn.council@btinternet.com

www.halkyn.org.uk

Brynford Community Council

Community Transport Consultation and Review

The current public bus services operating across Flintshire are under review by Officers of Flintshire County Council, due to a reduction of core funding grants received by Welsh Government. County Officers, in partnership with members of Brynford Community Council, will be holding drop-in events and providing questionnaires for users of the local bus services. It is very important that residents engage in this process as the information provided will be used to shape the level and type of transport services that may be provided in the future.

As the Council receives further information on these events the details will be circulated to households who have children attending Brynford C.P. School and with Councillor Jean Davies at Brynford Village Stores.

Travellers on Brynford Common

Following the recent visit by a number of travellers on Brynford Village Green and Ffrith Lane, members of the Council were invited to a site meeting with Mr. T. Birtles of Grosvenor Estates. The purpose of the meeting was to look at ways of discouraging overnight parking along Ffrith Lane, which is also used by day time visitors and the congregation of St. Michael's Church.

It was agreed at the meeting that rock armour and a hinged barrier together with appropriate signage would be erected advising that no overnight parking was permitted and that the barrier would be locked at night time.

This deterrent would only be used when travellers would be known to be visiting the area.

The Council has written to Mr. Birtles confirming its support for the initiative which will be undertaken by Grosvenor Estates Department in the near future.

Control of Dogs and Fouling On Brynford Common

The number of complaints members are receiving regarding the above matter have increased over the past months. The Council has requested Flintshire County Council to provide further dog waste bins on the common and has invited the Manager of the Dog Warden Services to attend a future meeting of the Council to discuss by-laws, the provision of signs and patrols by the dog warden services.

Best Kept Communities Competition 2016

Councillor David Jones, Chairman of the Council, reported that he had received a report of the judge's comments and feedback on this year's competition. Even though Brynford was not a prize winner of this year's event the standard of entry was very high and especially noted the efforts of Brynford Pet Cemetery, The Village Green, St. Michael's Church Yard and Brynford C.P. School. It is not too early to start planning for next year's competition and should you wish to become involved with this small band of enthusiasts please contact Mrs. Jean Davies at Brynford Village Stores.

Flintshire County Summer Playscheme Programme 2016 – Brynford C.P. School.

Every year, working in partnership with the Leisure Services Department, the above scheme is provided 5

days a week for 3 weeks of the year, located at Brynford C.P. School recreation field. The Scheme provides outdoor activities for children aged 5-12 years of age and is supervised by 2 play workers.

The Council has been advised that this year's scheme was well supported with a total of 188 recorded attendances over the 15 day programme.

Co-Option of New Member Onto The Council

Following the retirement of Councillor E. Griffiths at the October meeting the Chairman welcomed Councillor Graham Legg who had been co-opted onto the Council. Following the retirement of Councillor K. Brown the Council will be advertising Notice of a further vacancy. Should any member of the public be interested in becoming involved in serving the needs of the local community please contact me or any Community Councillor for an informal chat.

Street lighting Faults

May I remind you that the Council maintains the majority of street lighting in the community and your assistance in reporting any faults directly to me is very much appreciated.

*Alan Roberts, Clerk to the Council,
Crecas Cottage, Carmel Hill,
Pantasaph, Nr. Holywell,
Flintshire, CH8 8NZ
clerk@brynfordcommunitycouncil.gov.uk
Tel. No. 01352 349849*

Halkyn W.I.

We hold our Annual General Meeting on November 3rd at 2pm, to review the previous year and vote our committee and president in for the next year. At this time the committee is busily seeking and booking speakers for 2017. The subscription for 2017 is £39 due in January.

Our December 1st meeting will be held at 7:15pm this year as we welcome the singing group Descanu to entertain us. Refreshments of mince pies and cake will also be served.

On December 8th we are going to the Springfield Hotel for our Christmas Luncheon, which we are all looking forward to.

January 5th 2017 meeting is at 2pm, in Halkyn Community Hall.

For further information:
please call, Fiona Jones, 01352 780462

Any Spare Wool?

I knit and crochet children's and baby clothes, as well as blankets, for Save the Family, and other charitable institutions. If anybody has any odd balls of wool, I would be only too glad to make use of these to keep me going through the long winter evenings. Just give me a ring on 01352 781277, and I will be only too happy to pick them up from you.

Jean Walker



Grosvenor Estate Update

We dedicated our column in the autumn edition of Halkyn Mountain News to remembering the Duke of Westminster, who sadly passed away suddenly at the end of the summer. The Grosvenor family wish to thank everyone who sent messages of condolence during this difficult time.

Local residents may have been aware of remediation works that were carried out over the past few months to secure the mine shaft in Windmill. Planning permission was granted by Flintshire County Council in September, and the work was undertaken by specialist contractor CPUK. During the work, we had to temporarily close part of Windmill Road for through traffic. The closure was kept to the shortest period possible, but we appreciate that it may have caused inconvenience for some residents and would like to thank road users for their patience during this time. The remediation works have now been successfully completed, and the road is back in full use.

Back in the spring, we mentioned that we'd be kicking off the summer with a friendly cricket match between Halkyn Cricket Club and a team of Estate staff. Unfortunately, the weather got the better of us and due to a heavy downpour of rain, the match had to be cancelled at short notice. We hope to re-schedule the event in the near future, and look forward to welcoming the Club to Eaton Estate.

The Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema continues to go from strength to strength and we were very happy to be able to sponsor two film screenings this year. 'Eddie the Eagle' was shown in September and 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens' was screened in November. The volunteers behind the community cinema do a great job in bringing popular film nights to communities across Halkyn Common - or as they put it 'Bringing the big screen to the small mountain'. We hope that local people will continue to support this great venture, and we're proud to get involved. More information can be found on www.mountaincinema.org.uk

We are extremely pleased to report that there have been no major incidents on the Common again this year, including over the busy summer period. As always, we are grateful to all who use the area safely and respectfully. We advise everyone to take extra care when venturing out during the cold and frosty winter months.

And finally, may we wish all the readers a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Ranger Update

With the summer months coming to an end, so do my events. It seems such a long time since our second successful Halkyn Heritage Week earlier this year. That was a busy week, full of activities which were really well received by locals and visitors alike. Since then we've had a couple of quarry tours and some specially arranged guided walks for specific interest groups such as an Open University geological society group. The completion of the limekiln restoration project has boosted the interest of the industrial heritage on the common, by making it more accessible and hopefully more enjoyable.

Over the course of three weeks during October, one of the foresters from the Grosvenor Estate and I carried out a full tree inspection on the common. We looked at trees that, should they fall, would impact on roads, tracks, boundaries and properties. The trees were checked for any signs of disease, fungus and damage. I'm pleased to say that very few require work and anything that does is being scheduled into the foresters' work programme.

On a slightly negative note, I have been noticing an increase in fly tipping incidents on the common. Through the summer months there was an average of two a month, a variety of garden waste, building rubble and household rubbish. However, in September I cleared five incidents, a sharp increase. A total of 36 tyres were scattered alongside the road in one occasion, more garden waste and some asbestos roofing sheets. Contrary to popular belief, the Council Recycling Centre at Greenfield *will* take asbestos waste, so long as you double-bag it.

Finishing on a positive, I recently had the pleasure of being presented with an award from the Aggregate Levy Fund for Wales by the Chair of Flintshire County Council acknowledging the work carried out on the Waen y Brodglas limekilns.

Rachael Watson
Halkyn Mountain Common Ranger

Flint & Holywell Rotary Club

Santa Stops in the Halkyn Mountain Area

Each year the Rotary Club Santa Float Travels around the Flint and Holywell area. Do come out and meet Santa at the planned stops. There will be street collections for charitable organisations in the vicinity of the float. The times and locations when they have planned to stop in the Halkyn Mountain area as follows:

Tuesday 13th December

6.50pm Pentre Halkyn Post Office
7.10pm Brynford School
7.25pm Brynford Cross

Thursday 15th December

6.00pm Halkyn Post Office
6.20pm Rhosesmor Park
6.40pm Rhes y Cae Miners Arms



More information can be found on Facebook or online at www.flintandholywellrotary.org

Works to Maintain Fen-Meadow



The work done here will help to maintain this delicate fen-meadow, and allow the beautiful rare plants to be seen in springs and summers to come, such as the vivid purple flowers and bright lime green starfish shaped leaves of butterwort; and the intricately patterned white star shaped flowers of grass of Parnassus which grow in this special place.

Plants such as *Pinguicula vulgaris* - common butterwort, *Parnassia palustris* - grass of Parnassus, *Succisa pratensis* - devil's bit scabious grow in this habitat, and will benefit from the fen-meadow being opened up by scrub removal.

On the 11th October, an event was led by the Halkyn Ranger to maintain an important area of Fen-Meadow on Halkyn Common site of special scientific interest. The practical work was carried out in collaboration with volunteers from the Horticulture and Conservation departments from Chester Zoo and volunteers from The Halkyn Grazing Association, and Natural Resources Wales. This one day hands-on effort specifically focussed on the removal of scrub from an area of 0.5 hectares of fen-meadow which has become encroached by saplings and brambles. Management was required here as too much scrub growth in the fen-meadow harms the habitat through drying out the delicate wet vegetation; shading out of the delicate plants that grow here; and by encouraging the growth of ranker non-desirable plants to grow and out-complete the more delicate plants through the addition of nutrients as the courser material breaks down.

Halkyn Common is a large and complex site covering a range of important habitats across its 699.3 hectares and a lot of work goes into the common at a great expense. Managing the whole area is a complex mix of land management and community engagement and as landowners, the Grosvenor Estate is the main driver of habitat management at Halkyn and many other organisations also contribute significantly.



Parnassia palustris - grass of Parnassus in flower back in August



Walking the Llyn Coastal Path

Five years ago, when I first became aware of the Llyn coastal walk, I thought it would be an exciting and scenic walk to do and Oh what a challenge. I mentioned it to John who reacted to my suggestion with indifference. Two years later we decided to take our caravan for the season on a site near Pwllheli and we've now done this for three years.

Each time we stayed in the caravan John would suggest a walk generally on the coast. I eagerly went along with his suggestions whilst mentally calculating how much of the Llyn coastal path we had done. After completing a number of walks John had a wonderful idea, let's walk all of the Llyn coastal path. What a good idea! Why didn't I think of that!

We didn't walk the path systematically, it was very much "Where can we get the bus to today?" "Which way is the wind blowing?" "Will the pub be open when we get there?"

We had completed a number of sections in year one. During one of these walks John had another good idea – rather than walk as directed from the beach up to a busy main road and down to the beach again we would just continue along the beach. What he failed to spot was whilst walking along the road you crossed over a river bridge. The river was quite deep as it ran down the beach and after wading through it not only were my boots wet but my knees as well. October was wet, being fine weather walkers we needed a new challenge. John this time came up with a wonderful idea – let's see if we can drink in every rural pub on the Llyn peninsula. It was amazing how quickly we achieved that goal. During year two I bought the Wales Coast Path book which clearly described the Llyn walks – even I could understand the instructions. The daily walks were between twelve and twenty miles long, I hasten to add we generally took three days to walk their day walk. We walked to link some of the previous year's walks and used the buses more to do more linear walks rather than circular. John had another good idea – we should try to drink as much as we can of the locally brewed beer to support the rural communities. Whilst staying on the peninsula we endeavour to do this. We feel it's our duty.

We started year three with confidence, not many more sections to do and by now experienced bus users. According to the Wales Coastal Walk book the Llyn section is about 15 miles longer than we originally thought. In fact it starts in Menai Bridge and ends in Penrhyndeudraeth. We were not deterred. With just a month to go before bringing our caravan home we had completed over a hundred miles of the 112 mile long walk. The 12 miles remaining was mainly along a busy main road, John was reluctant to walk all that way along a busy road. I could tell another good idea was coming up. We will walk along the beach. Doing it in the autumn would not disrupt any nesting birdlife. When I asked he assured me there were no rivers running down the beach, he'd looked it up on the map. I didn't get my boots or trousers wet; I took my boots, socks and zippable trouser legs off, but the water in the river running down the beach was very cold around my knees! We completed the final five miles just two days before we had to bring our caravan home. This was the second attempt. We had to abort the first attempt

before we started due to the high tide. It was a wonderful walk listening to and spotting the wading birds – much better than listening to and spotting cars. We had on a number of occasions visited by car many of the well-known places in the area such as:

The majestic Telford's Suspension Bridge
Historic Caernarfon with its fine castle, swing bridge, modern sea front and magnificent buildings.

Aberdaron's sleepy village, beautiful beach and relaxing balcony overlooking the sea courtesy of Ty Newydd Hotel.

Quaint Abersoch with its inflated prices and yuppy image.

The market town of Pwllheli, its sand dunes, sandy beach and large marina.

Criccieth's dominant castle looking down on the historic village and wonderful ice cream parlour.

The busy town of Port Madog, the start and end of many journeys.

Travelling by car is a wonderful way to see an amazing amount of scenery in a short time but it doesn't compare to the excitement and awesome views you get whilst walking. The amazing sights we saw and discoveries we made include:

A very natural Botanic garden on the edge of the Menai Straits between Telford's suspension bridge and the Britannia bridge.

Port Dinorwic's busy, modern marina and dock at Felinheli.

South of Caernarvon known as Y Foryd where the sea laps up on the road at high tide.

The sad pier and harbour at Trevor.

The refurbished quarry village at Nant Gywrtheyrn with its beautiful stone and slate cottages, its amazing views, steep sided valley and the winding entrance road.

Pistyll's tiny church on the Pilgrims Route (Holywell to Bardsey Island) with a rush and lavender floor covering (freshly cut twice a year to replace the previous covering) continues to hold services even though it has no electricity.

A small caravan site at Bwlch Tocyn – on small plateau on the cliffs, no electric or mod cons there. The same families have had the pitches for generations.

Walking along the beach at Hells Mouth witnessing the erosion as a result of recent high tides.

The beauty of the former harbour village of Borth-Y-Gest

Spectacular views all along the north Llyn coast with clean tumbling water falls, dramatic rock formations including archways stretching out to sea together with secluded coves all with a back drop of Anglesey.

From the cliffs on the western point there's superb views of Bardsey Island and on a clear day the Wicklow hills in Ireland are visible.

Equally spectacular is the south coast looking out onto Cardigan Bay. It has miles of sandy beaches with unspoiled sea side villages, and as a contrast looking inland to the rugged mountain ranges.

Wonderful cafes with fantastic views like the ones at Nant Gywrtheyrn whose staff opened up and served us coffee even though we arrived an hour early, the beach café at Whistling Sands where I felt like Shirley Valentine and the café at Borth y Gest with fabulous views over the estuary to Harlech.

The Highlights – There's so many not least seeing so much beautiful scenery.

Seeing such an array of birds, witnessing Turnstones moving pebbles to find food and Crows who have also learned the technique.

Almost falling over a fox just inches away from me.

Watching many, many seals basking on the rocks.

Seeing dolphins give us a wonderful display.

Sedate way of living.

The Low spots -- On a very hot day and walking eleven miles arriving in Tudweiliog, ten minutes after the pub had closed! We sat on the pub wall for an hour waiting for the next bus.

Walking down a green lane just twenty five yards from our day's finishing point and seeing our bus rapidly passing by at the end of the lane. Oh well we still had enough energy to walk another mile and a half to one of those rural pubs and YES it was open (that part was probably a highlight).

The things we may never understand -- Why a man should get on a bus with a ruck sack in one hand and a carrier bag in the other, ask the bus driver to stop at a bus stop eight miles down the road and exchange the bags for a jacket that a man waiting at the stop took off.

How you get served in a café in a square in Pwllheli. The neat tables both outside and in have menus, the door is open, the open sign is up. There is no counter in the café, no food on show, nothing but tables and chairs and two doors, one is a toilet the other is labelled Staff Only. On opening that door there is a concrete block wall.

How the buses run on schedule when they call for fuel chatting to everyone on the forecourt as they do so.

Drivers seem to know everyone and when passing oncoming vehicles on narrow roads they stop and pass the time of day.

Conclusion

It certainly was a good idea to walk the Llyn Coastal walk – We enjoyed all one hundred and twelve miles of it. As I said previously we have the Wales Coastal walk book now – the walk is eight hundred and seventy miles. We have done a couple of walks down the west coast already. I've calculated that if we walk the rest of the Wales coastal walk at the same rate as we've done the Llyn section John will be 90 when we complete it and me a mere 86!

Wendy Sigsworth



Graziers News

Another bid for funding for cattle grids is being put together by a team from NRW, FCC Countryside Services, Cadwyn Clwyd and ourselves. Having looked at our previous bids we are trying to put a more comprehensive bid together.

Areas for cutting have been identified and by now should be well on the way. We have also done some manual cutting in the Kennel area which was organized by Rachael Watson and carried out by volunteers from NRW and Chester Zoo. About 20 volunteers turned up and we were able to clear quite a large area at no cost to the association.

There is concern that in some cases people are applying for planning where common land is included. People should be aware that they cannot build or construct driveways across common land without a section 194 (which is a land exchange) or permission from the relevant Welsh Government minister.

Garden waste is becoming more of a problem. Last spring we lost 10 sheep due to yew tree cuttings being dumped on the mountain which the sheep ate and were poisoned. There are a number of garden plants that can cause problems for sheep and as we have bins for garden waste there is no need to put it on the common. It is illegal to dump waste of any description on the common or store any materials. The common is designated SSSI, SAC because of the plant life present on the common and anything which may damage or change the nature of the habitat is illegal and the offender can be fined.

Christmas will soon be here and I would like to wish you all you wish yourselves for Christmas and the New Year.

Halkyn Graziers and Commoners Association

Dementia Friends *Helping to create dementia friendly communities*



There are 45,000 people living with dementia in Wales and one in 14 of us will develop the disease after the age of 65. To tackle the fear and lack of understanding about dementia which can lead to loneliness and social exclusion for people living with the condition, the Alzheimer's Society is encouraging everyone to become a Dementia Friend.

A Dementia Friend is someone who has attended an Information Session and has committed to an action that will help people affected by dementia. Anyone of any age can be a Dementia Friend and every action counts - from helping someone to find the right bus to spreading the word about dementia on social media.

The free Information Sessions are engaging and interactive and don't require any specialist equipment. Each hour-long session aims to increase understanding of dementia and the small things that could make a difference to people living with dementia and to the people who care for them.

As Dementia Friends Information Workers, we want to spread the Dementia Friends message to any society, group, school or business of any size in North Wales – from local cricket clubs and colleges to magistrates courts and community councils. If you belong to a group and want to learn more about dementia and how to work towards creating dementia friendly communities, we want to hear from you!

Contact:

*Cheryl Williams on 01492 543946
cheryl.williams@alzheimers.org.uk
Estelle Nock on 01352 700724
estelle.nock@alzheimers.org.uk*



Halkyn Mountain Parishes Service Times

The table below shows the normal service times in each church during term time.
But please see the notes below the table.

Every Month	First Sunday	Second Sunday	Third Sunday	Fourth Sunday	Fifth Sunday
Halkyn	10.30 am Morning Prayer 11.15 am Communion	11.15 am Communion 5 pm Evensong	11.15 am Communion	11.15 am Morning Prayer	10.30 am Combined Service – This rotates between churches
Rhosesmor	3 pm ¹ Evening Prayer	10.00 am Service for the Community	10.00 am Communion	10.00 am Communion	
Rhes y Cae	8.45 am Communion	8.45 am Bilingual Communion	3 pm or 6 pm ¹ Evening Prayer	8.45 am Communion	

¹ 3.00 pm until the clocks go back on 26th March 2017, after which this service will be at 6.00 pm.

YOU ARE VERY WELCOME AT ALL OUR SERVICES

ADVENT - DURING Advent there will be a short service each Friday evening

2nd December 7.30pm Halkyn

16th December 7.30pm Rhosesmor

9th December 7.30pm Rhes y Cae

23rd December 7.30pm Halkyn

CHRISTMAS - Please check times of Carol Services with local notices

11th Dec. 6pm Rhosesmor Carol Service

24th Dec. 4pm Rhes y Cae Crib Service

14th Dec. 7pm Rhes y Cae Carol Service

24th Dec. 11.15pm Rhosesmor Midnight

18th Dec. 3pm Halkyn Carol Service

25th Dec. 9.30am Rhes y Cae Communion

18th Dec. 8.30pm Blue Bell Carols

25th Dec. 11am Halkyn Communion

COMBINED AND SPECIAL SERVICES:

The next combined service for the three parishes will be at 10.30 on Sunday, 1st January, 2017 at Christchurch, Rhes y Cae. There will be only one service in the Parishes on this Sunday.

On the last Friday of each month there is a time of prayer for those who are sick and in need. These will be held in Rhes y Cae through the winter months. Please pass any requests to the Church Wardens.

OPEN CHURCH:

Rhosesmor Church is open every day for quiet reflection.

In the event of illness or a request for a visit, please contact Hugh Burgess.

For further details of any of these events please contact:

The Rev'd Hugh Burgess on

01352 741 646

hugh@halkynparish.wanadoo.co.uk

Cynfaen Memorial Chapel Calcoed

Afternoon services only at 2.30 pm
in Welsh (W) and English (E) alternately.

(C) Denotes Communion Service.

December	4 th	(E)	Rev Marc Morgan	(C)
	11 th	(W)	Trefniant Lleol	
	18 th	(E&W)	Carol Service at 5.00pm	
	25 th		No Service	
January	1 st	(E)	Rev Marc Morgan	(C)
	8 th	(W)	Mr N Closs Parry	
	15 th	(E)	Mr Gron Ellis	
	22 nd	(W)	Rev Marc Morgan	(C)
	29 th	(E)	Mrs Delyth McIntyre	
February	5 th	(W)	Parch. Eirlys Gruffydd-Evans	
	12 th	(E)	Mr Gron Ellis	(C)
	20 th	(W)	Parch Marc Morgan	(C)
	26 th	(E)	Rev. Maureen Roberts	

*A very warm welcome to all of our services.
Croeso cynnes i bawb.*

Rhes-y-Cae Village Hall

Rhes-y-Cae village hall is available for
PUBLIC or PRIVATE functions.

Children's parties for 11 year old and under.

Reasonable Rates

Contact Kevin Lewis
01352 780297

Coffee Morning

**Book Swap & Raffle
At Rhosesmor Village Hall
Every Other Monday Morning
10:30 - 12:00**

**Please come along
and meet your
neighbours for a
cuppa and a chat**



Capel Salem, Pentre Halkyn

Services at 2pm.

C = Communion

December	4th	Mrs Delyth McIntyre	E	
	11th	Mr Bryan Jones	W	
	18th	Rev. Marc Morgan		
		Bilingual Christmas Service		
January	1st	No Service		
	8th	Rev. Marc Morgan	W	C
	15th	No Service		
	22nd	Mrs Delyth McIntyre	E	
	19th	No Service		
February	5th	No Service		
	13th	Rev Hugh Burgess	E	
	20th	No Service		
	27th	Rev. Marc Morgan	W	

Capel Bethel y Nant

Do come and join us at 2.30 every Sunday!

December	4th	Own arrangement
	11th	Shân Morris
	18th	Carol Service 2.00pm
	25th	No Service

Closed for January owing to cold weather

February	5th	Shân Morris
	12th	Delyth McIntyre
	19th	Own arrangement
	26th	Robert Parry

**CROESO CYNNES I BAWB!
A WARM WELCOME TO ALL!**

**Gwasanaeth Carolau - Carol Service
2.00pm**

**December 18th
Paned a mince pei**

**CROESO CYNNES I BAWB!
A WARM WELCOME TO ALL!
Do join us!**

The Rector of
St Michael's Church, Brynford

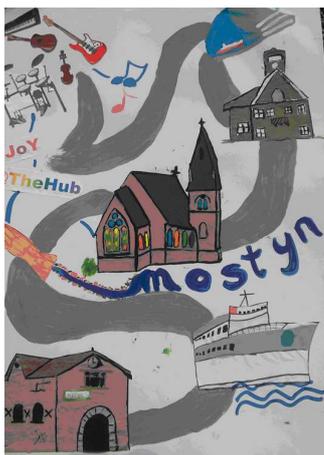
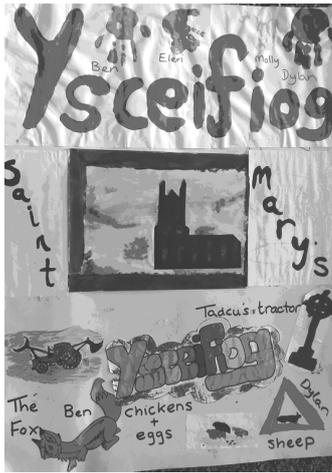
The Reverend Lorraine Badger-Watts
can be contacted on:

Tel. No. 01745 403453

Mobile 07402429991

e-mail: revbadger.watts@hotmail.co.uk

Estuary + Mountain



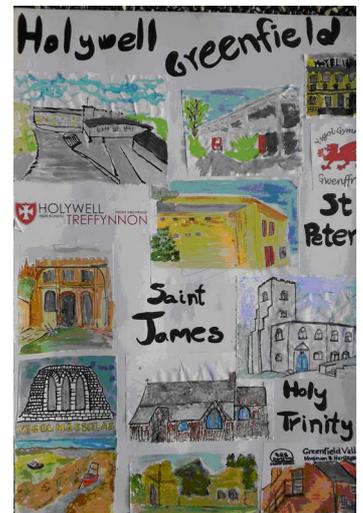
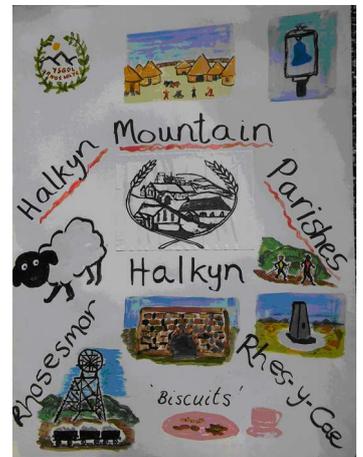
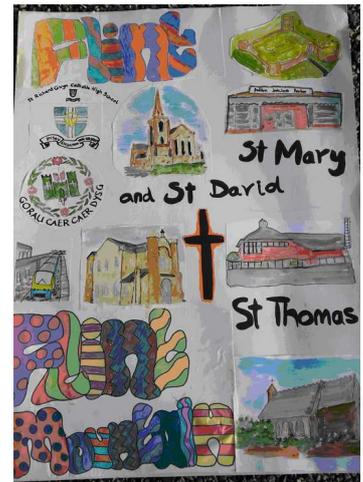
The Commissioning Service of the Estuary and Mountain Mission Area, fondly known as EMMA, was held on 17th October 2016 in the church of St Mary the Virgin, Halkyn, supported by the worship band from St Peter's Church Parish Church, Holywell. A meaningful moment in this service of thanksgiving for the past, and prayers of hope for the future, was when churchwardens exchanged their wands for a framed picture of the new mission area motif as designed by local artist Natalie Griffiths of Rhosesmor. All churches in the mission area will now be able to display the joint Estuary and Mountain Mission Area motif.

The pictorial expression of the life of the community in each parish began in August when fun art and craft workshops of young people and children were held in every parish to tell the story of life in that community. Their work is seen here. Symbols of the future, the colourful art work played a characteristic role on prayer cards, praying for each individual parish, written by the members of the church and read out by members of the congregation along with displays by youth representatives. Inspiration and hope was indeed evident at this point where we prayed for each other in our communities and parishes. On the back of the prayer card can be found the Five Marks of Mission.

With energetic hope for the future, JoY@TheHub, the newly formed youth worship group who meet in Christ Church, Mostyn, got us all up and dancing to He is the Hope of Glory, while waving the statements on their banners that they pray for a future of Care, Good News, Love, Justice and Renewal, the Five Marks of Mission.

Such an enthusiastic, joyful service of sisters and brothers in the Estuary and Mountain Mission Area can only herald a future of hope and true mission.

JoY
@
TheHub



Airbnb at Delfryn, Water Street, Caerwys

We are Jayne and Chris and have lived in Delfryn, Water Street for just over two years. Having previously owned and run a successful holiday cottage in Conwy we were keen to try and develop our home into guest accommodation and found Airbnb, which seems to fit the bill. We were interested to see the feature in last month's Caerwys Chronicle on Airbnb and thought we'd share our news. We have only been part of Airbnb since the end of August this year and have currently had eight guests stay with us from far and wide; South Africa, London and Stoke. Guests access information on where they want to stay and book via the Airbnb website, it is quite a straightforward process.

It can feel a bit odd having strangers stay in your home, but so far they have been really nice people and have kept themselves to themselves, they have keys for the front door and their own room. We have three double guest rooms with tea and coffee facilities. All our rooms are offered on a bed and breakfast basis with free wi-fi and cost from £43 per room per night.

Although a little daunting to make breakfast for people we don't know, we have received very good comments; this is down to excellent local produce from Pori Gwych and Will's Shop. All guests have said how central Caerwys is and what a lot there is on offer here. Our guests have visited the pubs and cafe and have said they will return in the future.

We feel that it is important to be a part of the local community and by bringing guests to Caerwys it benefits the town and local businesses in the area, 'the circle of trust'. We look forward to meeting more guests, so if you have additional guests coming to stay and no spare bedrooms give us a call on: 01352 721331 after 6pm or 07836747620. Alternatively email: delfryn6472@gmail.com

Thank you,
Jayne and Chris.

Halkyn Library

The library is a facility for all local residents, young and old, and is open **Friday afternoons**
1:30 - 7:00 p.m.



Library Online
Services via
www.flintshire.gov.uk

Witches Knickers to Aid Cancer Charity

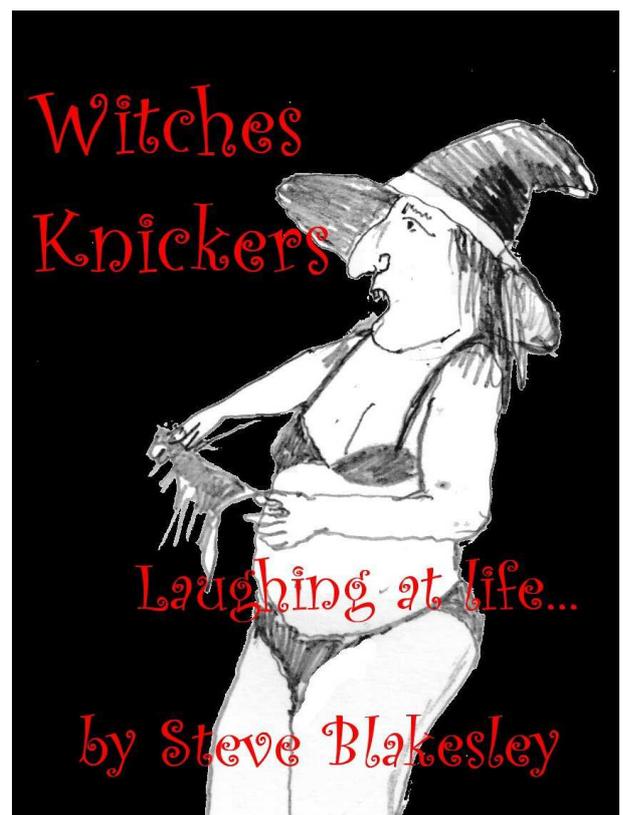
This is probably one of the most unusual article titles ever published in Halkyn Mountain News. "Witches Knickers" is a term used for plastic bags snagged in trees and bushes. Steve Blakesley from Rhosesmor explains:

Some of you may already know of my children's books, *Fidget the Heron* and *Picky the Seagull* which are on sale in Mold Book Shop. This year has been a huge trial for the family as our daughter, Pascha, has been fighting cancer. The prognosis has always been good - and indeed she has every chance of making a full recovery. The treatment - as I expect many of you would know - has been grim at times. However, we have been unbelievably impressed by the chemotherapy nurses and all the support staff - and even more, with the incredible skill and knowledge of the oncologists. This would not happen without the fantastic work of Cancer Research UK - and our branch here in the North West.

So I am doing my bit to raise money for Cancer Research North West so that more families can have hope when their loved ones are diagnosed with cancer. Laughter is a great medicine - so a book of my poems entitled *Witches Knickers* which has 23 of my most popular comic poems has been published - thanks to my friends in the Rotary Club of Flint and Holywell. Copies will be on sale at £5 from the Blue Bell Inn, Halkyn and from Helen at the Welsh gift shop in Tower Gardens.

All profits will go to Cancer Research North West. Please buy copies for Christmas.

Steve Blakesley (Rotarian and Poet)



Rhes Y Cae News



Wonderful News on 2nd September

Received the news that my Granddaughter, Megan, had successfully climbed to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa, in about 6 days. She took part with about 30 students from Cardiff University. This was no easy task, as the weather was very changeable, from hot during the early stages of the climb to extremely cold as they approached the summit – it was a tremendous achievement! She has received her certificate from Worldwide Cancer Research Fund, with a total of £2,437.18p raised. The Big Breakfast on Sunday 3rd April was very successful and the total monies raised was £830. Megan received many donations online and also she and some friends held numerous cake sales and a street collection in Cardiff. Many thanks to all those people who kindly donated so generously – the Hughes family, especially Megan, are very grateful to you all. As a family, we would like to organise another Big Breakfast, next spring 2017 – date to be confirmed. We hope to see you then!

Coffee Morning – Tuesday 20th September

There was an excellent turnout from Pentre Halkyn, Halkyn, Rhosesmor, Berth Ddu, Moel y Crio and of course Rhes y Cae. There is always such a welcome – it was warm and cosy too! It is becoming very popular – long may it continue! Many thanks for all the raffle prizes and especially our thanks to Jill, Wendy and Eirwen who gave a helping hand. The total monies raised was over £70 to help towards the Over 60's Christmas party in December.

Thanksgiving Service – Weds 28th September

Rhes y Cae church looked absolutely splendid – many thanks to everyone who helped to make the church



look so colourful and interesting. Near the front, there is a Bardic chair. On the chair there was an array of lovely woolly garments such as small blankets, scarves and hats and also many toiletries donated to SHARE to help the people of Syria who are suffering from great hardship. Also, there was a very large collection of tinned food which will help the Food bank in the UK and also SHARE.



Many thanks to all who took part in the service, Rev'd Hugh Burgess who conducted the service, Colin Legg who was the organist and reader, and our other Churchwarden Peter Jamieson who was also a reader. Many thanks to all who donated goods. It was very much appreciated. Fresh fruit and vegetables were taken to Rhes y Cae village hall to be distributed and all the donations were given to the church and village hall funds. It was a very enjoyable evening with a lovely buffet. Thanks to all who brought some tasty 'Bring and Share' goodies!

Gwasanaeth Diolchgarwch – Weds 12th October

(Thanksgiving Service)

This special service was held in Ebenezer Chapel, Rhes y Cae at 7pm and the visiting minister was Rev'd Tom Williams of Henllan near Denbigh. The sermon was interesting and enjoyable, and our sincere thanks to him. Also thanks to Glenys Lightfoot the organist, and to Ieuan Ap Sion for organising the service and everyone who attended – about 33 in all – who came from far and wide. Also the table under the pulpit was attractively decorated. Thanks to all who contributed.



Rhes y Cae News - continued

Coffee Morning – Tuesday 25th October

Another enjoyable coffee morning, and again it was very well attended. Many thanks to all who donated such interesting raffle prizes. Our sincere thanks to Jill, Wendy, Eirwen and Nerys - who was back again after her operation – we were pleased to see her! Rhes y Cae village hall committee will hold their next coffee morning in February 2017. Total monies raised was over £90, towards the Over 60's Christmas party.

Future Dates

- Church Christmas Coffee Morning – Tuesday 29th November, Rhes y Cae Village Hall 10.30am
- Over 60's Christmas Party – Saturday 10th December, 2pm. Village Hall.
- Rhes y Cae Church Toy service – Sunday 4th December 8.45am
Any donations kindly received.
- Rhes y Cae Church carol service - TBA
- Noson o Garolau – Ebenezer Chapel - TBA
- “Around the crib” – Rhes y Cae Church -- Saturday 24th December 4pm.
- Rhes Y Cae Church Christmas Day service – Sunday 25th December 9.30am

All are very warmly welcomed to the above events.

Please let me know if you have any information to put in the next edition by the last week in January.

Gwyneth Hughes 01352 780371

Pentre Halkyn

Community Centre

Bingo

Every Monday at 1.30pm for the over 50s
New members welcome

Holywell Art Club

Wednesdays 10am - 2pm

Bingo

Thursdays 7:30pm

Line Dancing

Fridays 8 - 10pm

**The hall is available for parties, etc.
contact Megan on 780026**

Rhosesmor W.I.

We all meet in Rhosesmor Village Hall at 7.15pm on the second Monday of each month.

On December 12th we will be having our usual Christmas celebrations, with a secret Santa and various refreshments.

The arrangements for 2017 have still to be finalised but we hope to have a varied and interesting programme.

Any lady who would like to join us would be made very welcome and your contact would be Mrs Mary North on 01352 780660

Rhosesmor Village Hall

By popular request we have booked Saturday, 27th May 2017 for our next Jumble Sale. Any contributions are very welcome. The cellars are relatively empty, so phone me on 780660 and I will collect any items for storage in there.

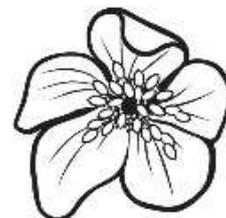
Over the past year it is noticeable that the tea-towels provided in the kitchen have reduced in quantity. Again, any contributions to overcome the shortfall would be very much appreciated.

Finally, bookings continue to mount, so early contact with Jon Tarry (780842) is essential to give the best fit for all the users of the hall.

G R North

Hardy Plant Society Clwyd Group

Meetings are held at 7.30pm in
Holywell Community Centre
(by the Leisure Centre)



The winter programme is:

Tues 17 Jan talk on Garden Design by Jeff Bates, full time horticultural lecturer for over 20 years, now self-employed horticulturist, garden designer and lecturer from Derby.

Tues 21 Feb talk

“A Passion for Heucheras” by Vicky Fox who runs Plantagogo in Crewe, Cheshire and has won many RHS medals. She also holds the National Plant Collections of Heuchera and Heucherella.

Tues 21 Mar AGM and talk on the HPS Clwyd Group - Our First 10 Years by Chris Price-Morris, Chairperson. Programme can be subject to change.

Visitors £3 admission.

Find us on facebook & twitter @HPSClwyd
Information: 07768 423965
or www.hardy-plant.org.uk/clwyd



Tinytots Playgroup
Ysgol Rhos Helyg
Rhosesmor

We are a well established playgroup based in Ysgol Rhos Helyg in Rhosesmor.
 We are open during term time each morning, 8.50-11.45am.

We welcome all children from age 2½!

We give your child the opportunity to make friends, develop new skills and have fun learning through play.
 All staff hold childcare qualifications and have a valid CRB check.

The cost per session is £7.50

Early Entitlement (funding for three year old children) and Assisted places available.



First session free!

Contact Leanne on
01352 780265

**HALKYN MOUNTAIN
 KIDS CLUB
 & HOLIDAY CLUB**
SPACES AVAILABLE NOW!

We are situated in Ysgol Rhos Helyg Primary School. The club is registered with CSSIW (Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales). All staff are CRB checked and qualified and all certificates are available to see. We welcome children from nursery age up to year 8 in high school.

Holiday club

If you would like to book your child/ren in please follow the details below. (You do not have to attend the school to register at the club)

Opening times for holiday club only

8am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri

(Breakfast will be provided and a healthy snack in the afternoon, packed lunch to be provided by the parents/guardians)

Prices for holiday club only

£21 per child for a full day

£15 per child for half a day (till 1pm)

Opening times for after school club only

3.10pm - 5.30pm Mon - Fri Term times only.

We have a large hall area where we enjoy,

(For after school /holiday club)

- Snack time
- Playing games
- Arts and crafts
- Parties
- Arranged theme nights

We also have outside, (For after school/holiday club)

- A Trim Trail where we enjoy climbing, balancing and swinging
- A park with slides, bridges and balancing frames
- A large field and playground where we also have lots of fun with scooters and football matches etc.
- A nature reserve with a round house, yurt and pond area.

Prices for after school club only.

Open 3.10pm till 5.20pm Monday to Friday.

First hour for one child £4.00

Second hour for one child £7.00

First hour for 2 siblings £7.60

Second hour for 2 siblings £13.30

Every child thereafter there's a 5% discount

For more information contact Sian Davies (Senior Playworker) on 01352 780265 / 07873769473 or Email us on Halkynmountainkidsclub@gmail.com or even visit our website at www.ysgolrhoshelyg.com/holkyn.asp



BLUE BELL INN

Glass & Paper Recycling

Steve & Ness Marquis want all to know that they have glass and paper recycling facilities for everyone's use in the car park at the rear of the inn. This will save the longer journey to Mold, Holywell, etc as we try to help the environment through recycling.

Rhosesmor Rd
 Halkyn

BlueBell.uk.eu.org
01352 780309

Halkyn Parish Hall

Private Functions and Meetings

A reminder that the hall is available for private functions including weddings, christenings, birthday parties, etc. Bar and catering facilities can be arranged.

For more information ring:

Sharon Davies **07546 688 552**

Weekly Diary

Mondays

Nia Dance Class 10:30 - 11:30 am
Contact Julia 781941

Yoga 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Contact Jenny 01352 780681

Tuesdays

Baby & Toddler Group 9:30 to 11:00 am
Zumba Contact: zumbawithvix@gmail.com
Snooker Club 7:30 pm
(New members welcome Andy Wood 780159)

**The Snooker Table is also available for Hire
Contact Sharon Davies on 07546 688
552**

Wednesdays

Modern Line Dancing 12:45 - 14:45 pm
Contact Julie on 07712149439
Bingo (every other Wednesday) 7.30 pm
(For more information on the Bingo call:
Carolyn on 01352
781765)

Thursdays

Halkyn W.I. 2:00 pm

Fridays

Library 1:30 - 7:00 pm
Halkyn Brownies 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Contact Karen 716027

Saturday

Heartfelt Art & Craft 10 am - 3:00 pm
From 14th March every 2nd Saturday of the
month(Contact: Sue Thomas on 01352 781088)
or email: heartfelt.mountainstudio@aol.co.uk

Saturday 28th January

Halkyn Mountain Cinema

Please follow us on Facebook for further information

Heartfelt Art & Craft Fairs

Will be held on the following dates in 2016:

Saturday 25th March

“ 27th May

“ 22nd July

“ 9th September

“ 18th November

Obituary

It is with much sadness that we report the death of a much loved elderly resident of Rhosesmor who received frequent visits from so many adults and children alike. She had reached a grand old age and despite suffering from deafness and cataracts, still enjoyed life, the mountain, and her food. She lived together with her son and they had never been apart since the day he was born. Despite her advancing years, she remained feisty, determined and vocal, while also being known for being friendly and for taking an interest in all who took an interest in her.

She occupied a small property on the mountain but enjoyed the outdoors, where she was happy to spend the majority of her time in all but the most inclement of weathers. However, in later life she tended to avoid the coldest and wettest days remaining in the comfort of her home. She was a true character and was always happy to get to know strangers and visitors. She had spent the last 28 years of her life in Rhosesmor, where she had quickly become well known and accepted as a local. During that time, she had never once left the village, but nevertheless was a close observer of her surroundings.

Although she had become understandably frail as befitted her advancing years, she continued to be active and passed away suddenly but very peacefully on the evening of Friday 12 August, while outside her property. Her son immediately attracted the attention of neighbours who summoned medical help which arrived quickly but it was already too late. A private burial has taken place. Her long life has been attributed to a good diet of organic produce supplemented by an occasional polo mint, clean mountain air and attentive friends.

We are sure that readers will be saddened to learn of the passing of Ginnie the Donkey, whose column had appeared as part of the children's section of Halkyn Mountain News which from feedback we know was being read by more adults than children. Ginnie's actual age was uncertain but is known to be at least 34 years (the average lifespan for a donkey is 27). The veterinary practice which regularly visited Ginne said she was the oldest donkey they had ever attended. Ginnie is believed to have been bought at a market by her previous owners who did not know that she was already expecting a foal. Sometime later, the foal was advertised for sale and Ann and Steve Blakesley from Rhosesmor responded to the advert but returned home with both Danny the foal and his mother Ginnie. Since that day 27 years ago, Ginnie and Danny enjoyed life on the mountain and visitors soon started to arrive bringing treats of carrots and apples. In recent years, the visitors have included those who are second generation.

Ginnie will be much missed by all who knew her and leaves a gap in many lives.

In this edition, the resulting gap in the Children's pages is filled by "A Few Words from Danny".

Children's Pages

A Few Words from Danny the Donkey

I am sure you will have heard that my Mum, Ginnie, has passed away and it is left to me to take her place and pass on my thoughts in the Halkyn Mountain News. I hesitate to say "wise words" as I have never considered myself wise.

It has been very quiet without my Mum, but she taught me to be a positive donkey and I am doing my very best to be so. I find a few extra carrots can be an encouragement as well as a comfort.

Mum and I often had long discussions especially during the winter months when we spent more time in our stable. One discussion was what happens to donkeys when they die. Mum said that humans say things like "they've gone to a better place" but we couldn't imagine there could be a better place than our mountain, so we decided that "a better place" would be our mountain, with ever-sunny days and never ending thistles and buttercups.

We once heard that some humans believe they become angels. I'm not sure if the same applies to donkeys, but the thought terrifies me. My Mum rarely walked in a straight line at the best of times, and the thought of her flying around with wings is very scary indeed.



Ginnie and her son, Danny

She would have no navigational skills and if she saw a juicy thistle, would be easily distracted and could come crashing down to earth. So if you should find your flowerbeds have been mysteriously flattened, your garden shed has hoof marks on the roof, or your cat has suddenly developed a look of terror on its face, then it may be because there is a learner donkey angel in the area. I'll keep my eye on the sky just in case.

Mum would often be deep in thought for days when she was planning this page. I'm not a deep thinking donkey but I do like to think I am more up-to-date than my Mum. Living high up on this mountain you get to see what is going on and unlike Mum's, my eyesight is very sharp, so I do know what is going on around me. Also, the sheep still call to chat. They would confide in Mum, and they seem to be doing the same with me. Mum was very good at giving advice to Ewes with their problems, but to be honest, I haven't a clue, so I just make it up as I go along. The sheep either think I'm giving good advice or are just being polite. One Ewe said she was worried that she wasn't as good looking as the other ewes. Mum taught me not to lie, so I wondered what she would have done. Now, Mum's eyesight was very poor, so I pretended I was her and squinted and when I did, the sheep did indeed look very attractive. So I told her that she was far better looking than any other sheep and she bleated with delight and skipped away happily. So, I didn't lie and it is always nice to make to make someone's day.

Danny

Danny lives on the side of Moel y Gaer in Rhosesmor and receives many visitors

Christmas Wordsearch

B	O	C	A	N	G	C	M	I	L	P	E
C	M	D	P	O	M	A	N	G	E	R	N
C	R	A	C	K	E	R	S	V	I	E	A
H	I	O	R	B	S	O	L	V	R	S	D
L	B	M	S	L	D	L	Y	C	A	E	B
O	B	E	T	I	N	S	E	L	K	N	S
A	O	P	A	T	U	R	K	E	Y	T	D
C	N	C	R	N	G	T	N	B	N	S	T
P	E	G	L	E	E	B	O	G	O	P	C
A	K	D	E	H	R	S	D	D	A	H	T
S	G	H	O	L	L	Y	V	M	D	M	H
K	B	S	N	E	L	K	C	K	N	E	T

CAROLS
TURKEY
IVY
HOLLY
ANGEL
DONKEY
MANGER
STAR
RIBBON
CRACKERS
PRESENTS
TINSEL

Spot the Difference

There are 10 differences between these two pictures. Can you find them all?



Blue Bell Inn

Movember

Now in our 5th year, started on the 1st November, the plan... Move or Mo, Save a Bro, Grow a Mo or make a commitment to get active and MOVE for the 30 days of Movember to help men live longer, healthier and happier lives. Our modest team of lads and lasses really got their teeth into this project last year and went to town (and elsewhere) fund-raising. As the boys facial fluff developed from wisp to wondertash the team's progress was tracked by the regulars and among the jokes and laughter the very welcome donations came in. Over the years and with your help we've raised a staggering £8,995 for Movember! Our national team ranking among all the major companies was 177th which I think is quite something when you consider all the large multinationals out there! We'll update you next edition on the progress we've made.



Christmas, Big Carol & All

You will be aware that we run many regular community events throughout each month but this time of year brings us some special extras. A new one and two regular events in our festive calendar will once again take place, as you know we like a bit of singing!

Our annual **Big Carol** event, which is always on the last Sunday before Christmas Day (**8pm on Sunday 18th Dec**), raises much needed funds for Age Concern NE Wales and we set about raising it by passing the bucket while we sing from a wide repertoire of carols and festive songs. Big Carol is always popular and the two bars are usually bursting with singers. The Rev'd Hugh Burgess typically conducting operations in one bar while Steve conducts operations in the other. It usually starts well with all singing the same songs in the same time and key but usually ends up with much laughter and competition to see which bar can out-sing the other.

We are hoping to sneak in another event, as we are hoping the Mari Lwyd will make an appearance again this year. We'll keep you posted about them in the usual way (see below).

New Year's Eve will be celebrated in our usual style with the theme this year yet to be announced.

Music

Our music here at the Blue is of a superb quality with

the majority of musicians and singers making a living from their session quality music and we provide it for free (although you do get the chance to contribute to and even win the raffle with proceeds to the musicians!) I hope you can get down to our varied acoustic music every Thursday and Friday from a variety of regular singer songwriters where there's usually many a song or two to join in with. The Rantin' Dogs every month on the 2nd Monday and now in its 10th year there's also Trad Jazz every Sunday afternoon with Mad Ed's Hot Five.

Wednesday Quiz

The hour has moved on and the nights are drawing in so our Wednesday night walkers have turned to our Wednesday evening quiz for their fun and you are very welcome to come and join them. They are a friendly lot and they would enjoy being challenged.

Free Guided Walks

You know walking is good for you, it keeps you fit and active and best of all here at the Blue Bell Inn, it's free! We must thank very much all our stalwart walk leaders who continue to give their time for free giving you some free exercise. I'll not name them for fear of missing some out but John & Vicky Thomas continue to inspire many to get fit and then go on to take the free training to become walk leaders themselves. We continue to walk every Thursday afternoon at 2pm and Saturday morning at 10:30am with two walks each day, one demanding, the other demanding enough!

Vicky also holds **free Nordic walking sessions every Saturday at 1pm**. Nordic walking is tremendous exercise and we'll teach you for free and lend you some Nordic walking poles too!

The first week in January will also see us on our **New Years Resolution Walk**. If you would like to **get fit** and would like to do it **for free**, then get down for a taster session on Bank Holiday Monday 2nd Jan.

Other stuff...

We also have the popular Halkyn & District Over 50s Club meeting here on the first Monday of the month at 2pm with some very good speakers and we're always on the lookout for new ideas/projects. There is also (during term time) a Welsh Language class here at 7pm every Monday evening which would suit those of you who learned it at school, forgotten it and would like to get talking again. Pop down on a Monday to have a chat with Moi Parry who is our tutor. Oh, nearly forgot, the next cheese night is planned for Saturday 4th Feb at 8:30pm.

What Nice Weather

Anticipating some winter experiences brought about by warming of the arctic (sends cold air further South to us), we've instituted our usual weather planning ideas. The road is always clear



here, so...

PARKING: If you can park considerately please do use our car park if you can't park at home (please leave your phone number so we can contact you if the need arises - our delivery wagons are large and you park at your own risk).

PARCELS: If we're in (and we usually are) have your parcels delivered here and come and get them during opening hours (or ring on 01352 780309 if it's urgent). It doesn't have to be limited to Royal Mail or Parcel Force either!

If you've any other ideas like this, let us know and we'll endeavour to help.

Mostyn Kitchen Garden's Philip Handley delivers some wonderful fresh seasonal veg, all grown on organic principles. He delivers to order for folks to pick up from the Blue on Friday evenings (or at home if you're enroute and available), pop in for a copy of the latest veg list or email Philip on p.handley@tiscali.co.uk

Post Office at the Blue

We'll be celebrating our 3rd birthday as a Post Office Local in the new year. We had been given two years to trial the service here and the demand for Post Office Local services is not as good as we would hope to make it viable for the Post Office and it really does need your continued help to keep it open! We are running with about half the business it needs to make it viable, I do not want to lose it but by the support it gets I suspect the Post Office may take a different view. Please do your best to use your Post Offices on the mountain.

Before running down to Mold or Holywell to get a bank withdrawal (or deposit) remember you can do it here for free, you can get your holiday money (or travel money cards), make many bill payments, electricity and phone top-ups and do many other things apart from the obvious post and parcels. You don't need to burn up your lunch hour when you can pop in and do your Post Office business on the way home after work or on Sunday night prior to starting your working week. We've a nice warm and cosy atmosphere, without the long queues and some safe parking and we're also open for later hours than many Post Offices, where else could you use your Post Office after 9pm on a Sunday or any other night we're open?

Poorly publican/Crazy son

Thank you again to everyone for their understanding and support during Ness's continuing illness. Those of you who know Tom will know (at the time of writing this) he is fundraising for Crohn's and Colitis UK for his Mum by undertaking a 24hr obstacle course race on the edge



of the Nevada Desert outside Las Vegas.

Crazy as he is, he's entered the World's Toughest Mudder (WTM) which is an extreme 24-hour obstacle course challenge. While the man, woman and team who completes the most 5-mile course laps and 20 obstacles per lap in 24 hours will be crowned champion, those who complete 25, 50, 75 or 100 miles will be honored for their efforts. **Tom has personally funded kit, travel and accommodation so all sponsorship will go to Crohn's & Colitis UK.**

As an ultra-distance runner the furthest distance he's run before (without obstacles) is 53 miles from here at the Blue Bell Inn, Halkyn to Bangor! The most he's done in Tough Mudder (TM) is 3 laps of an 11 mile course on a Saturday (33miles/81 obstacles) followed by two more on the next day, Sunday (22 miles/54 obstacles). Neither of those are near the 24hr challenge he's embarking on. The WTM world record is 100 miles (20 laps), he's nowhere near that level but he would like at least 50 miles (10 laps) if he can - you could still sponsor him online (or at the bar) at tiny.cc/TomJustGiving if so moved. We still think he's crazy but we're quite proud too!

Tarra a bit...

I'll sign off now by saying that we're open every day except Tuesday, the log fire is lit, the Post Office is open, the kettle is boiling and our real ales & ciders and other quality fayre are just asking for your company. The best way to keep up to date with our many events (and festive opening hours) is to come and pick up and take away an events sheet from a table here or go online to Google for *Blue Bell Halkyn* for our calendar. You can of course always give us a ring on 01352 780309.

Can we (the team at the Blue, including Chores Galore who add the glitter) wish you a warm and friendly Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda. Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Diolch i chi am eich cefnogaeth yn ystod y flwyddyn. Thank you for all your support throughout the year.



Can we also send a big thank you out to all those who went to the local CAMRA meeting to vote for us, we came in only one vote behind a worthy winner for Pub of The Year (the Colomendy) but we did manage to get the award for **Cider Pub of the Year 2016**, and very proud of it we are too!

See you at the bar.

Steve, Ness & Tom Marquis

Ysgol Rhos Helyg

It has once again been a very busy time here at Rhos Helyg. You can find out all about the school through our Twitter feed @Rhos Helyg School.

Firstly I would like to pay tribute to our wonderful friend and colleague Mrs Debbie Williams, or Debbs as she was known. Her recent passing away was a great shock to us all. Her association with Rhos Helyg goes back many years as a parent and in her working life. She filled many roles here at Rhos Helyg: at the Playgroup, After School Club and as a Teaching Assistant. She will be greatly missed by us all at the school.



Pentrellyncymer

Once again Years 5 and 6 have been on their annual pilgrimage to Pentrellyncymer Outdoor Education Centre. They spent two nights and three days of outdoor challenges. Here is a taster of their fun time.



There are many more pictures on Twitter.

The Children enjoyed firstly traversing then climbing in the old chapel. There were a few nervous looks at first then they were right up to the top of the climbing wall.



Canoeing on the Brenig is another highlight. The children wrapped up warmly before paddling across the lake.

Shelter building and roasting marshmallows over a camp fire was another much loved activity.



Last week the GB rally was on the track that we walked to this forest area.

Chatterbox

Once again we have a full Family Learning Programme. Many parents come to these sessions and they are just fab for both parents and their children.

It's all about money!

Please contact the school if you want to join these sessions.



It's all about parents and their children spending quality time working on interesting and fun challenges!



Macmillan's Tea Party

Our annual tea party for Macmillan Cancer Support proved to be another hit.

Many thanks to all for making this such a tremendous family event. A fabulous sum of £556 was raised, thank you.





Jade Jones' Visit
 We were honoured by the visit of the double Olympic Champion Jade Jones to school recently. She came to our presentation

assembly to hand out certificates to our pupils. She also had a brief question and answer session with the pupils.



Presenting Certificates

Year 1 Trip
 The pupils from year 1 went to Mold to visit the Library. Here they are with the statue of Daniel Owen.



My Maths
 We recently held a session after school to launch a very exciting online addition to our approach to Mathematics, a programme called 'My Maths'.

The session was well attended and it gave staff and parents opportunities to look at other approaches to Maths, such as Numicon and strategies used every day by the pupils.



Halloween disco
 The PTA disco was really well supported. Many thanks to the PTA for organising this great event.



London Trip
 Year 6 have been to London to visit the Houses of Parliament. We had a guided tour of the Lords and the House of Commons, before doing an education workshop on making laws. We then had tea at Macdonald's before taking in a show - Wicked! What a fab day out.

Outside Buckingham Palace



Horse Guard Cavalry

The Great Hall of Westminster



Education Workshop in Parliament.

Remembrance
 We have been selling various stationary items on behalf of the British Legion Poppy Appeal.



Horse Guards Parade In London.

Halkyn Mountain Sports Clubs

Halkyn Bowling Club

This is our quiet season, such a change from the full on bowls to nothing. We feel a bit lost. However here are some results.

The last club tournament of the season was the Consolation Cup for players who haven't won a tournament. This was won by Andrew Jones. The second half of the day was the Herbert Blackshaw Cup for the winners. Bill Worrall won that.

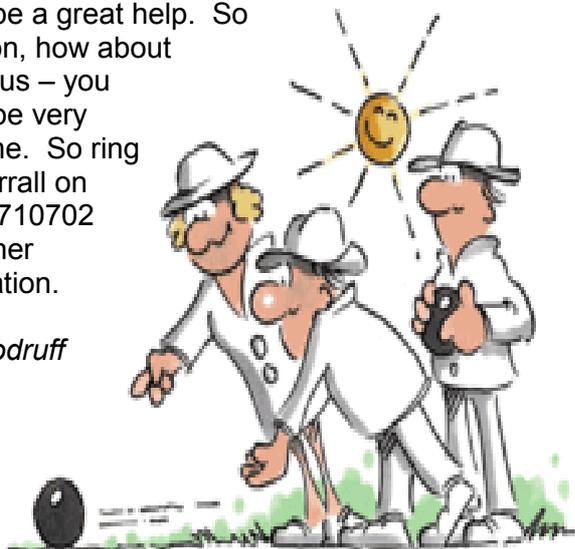
We have three merit winners. These are the players with the best results of their team. The B team merit winner was Gladys Bunnell. The A team winner was Mick Carpenter and the Midweek winner was Mick Carpenter also. The merit winners go through to the league finals. Our players did quite well and got through a couple of rounds but didn't win the ultimate prize. Picture shows all the seasons winners with their trophies.

Several members play indoor bowls at Flint Leisure Centre. It's not as good as playing in the fresh air but at least it's bowls and it's quite competitive. It's too early in the season to know how well we are doing, watch out for the next report.

On Saturday 22nd October we had awards night at the Stamford Gate. It was a great night with good food and entertainment. Later the winners and guests joined together for a knees up. The 100 club winners were Nir Allanso, Norman Bates and Jean Roberts.

The next season is going to be a challenge due to council cutbacks. The bowls club is an important local facility providing healthy exercise, fun and social bonding. We cannot lose it. We will keep going but new members would be a great help. So come on, how about joining us – you would be very welcome. So ring Bill Worrall on 01352 710702 for further information.

Jo Woodruff



Halkyn Cricket Club

On Saturday 1st October the club held a presentation evening. Club president, John Ivor Roberts, presented the trophies to the respective winners.

1st XI Batting Alex North, 1st XI Bowling Graeme Settle.

2nd XI Batting Keith Williams, 2nd XI Bowling John Gaskell.

Young Player of the Year Daniel Williams.

Andrew Bellis and Jane Williams also received gifts for their sterling work with the junior section.



Graeme Settle



Keith Williams



John Gaskell



Daniel Williams

Keith Williams
Secretary

Holywell Golf Club

'New to Golf' Event

On Sunday 18th September 2016, nine members of Holywell Golf Club New2Golf Scheme entered the New2Golf Summer Swing event at Maesdu Golf Club at Llandudno. This event was organised by Golf Development Wales and was specifically for all those who had started golf through the scheme in the last 3 years.

It involved a 7 hole competition with each golfer having 36 shots to complete the course. When they had played their 36th shot they placed a marker with their name on the course. The winners being those who went the furthest before their 36th shot ran out. To calm the nerves Amy Boulden, the New2Golf Ambassador, Ladies European Tour star and Rookie of the year in 2014, played each entrant's first shot at the Par 3, 1st hole with a prize for the lucky one whose ball finished nearest the hole.

A great day was had by all, new friends were made and Holywell Golf Club was very successful. Peter Forsyth won nearest the pin and Paul Harrison came second in the overall competition with Gerald Bromilow third.



So what were the prizes? Peter has the use of a Mercedes Car for a weekend sponsored by the Mercedes Benz Car Garage in Llandudno Junction and both Paul and Gerald received gold cufflinks provided by Clogau Gold who make the Royal rings. Fantastic prizes and something to treasure, our picture shows the lucky prize winners.

You can start golf at any age and Holywell Golf Club has a fantastic support scheme for all New2Golf participants. So call in at the Club and see Matt Parsley the Professional. We can guarantee you a lot of fun and

friendship and maybe you will be having a go in the Summer Swing 2017. The picture in the



clubhouse is of a group of our members who started through this scheme. They still regularly play each week and will always look after new people who want to have a taste of golf

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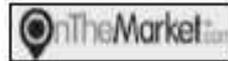
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