



# Halkyn Mountain News

Issue 163 - Winter 2015

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We have read in the news about the earliest ever arrival of the Bewick swans from Siberia which "experts" say is a sure sign of a long, hard winter for the UK. This picture, kindly sent in by Kevin McIntyre, shows us what we could be doing on fine winter days. Let's hope the "experts" and the swans have got it wrong. If they have not let's look out for each other so we all stay safe and warm this winter.

*The Editorial Team and our Local Volunteer Deliverers wish all our readers, contributors and advertisers the very best for Christmas and the New Year*

### **Halkyn Community Council - Notice of Public Meeting** **Halkyn Community Library**

The Community Council are holding a Public Meeting on Wednesday the 13th January, 2016, at 7.00pm, in the Halkyn Parish Hall. The meeting is to discuss the future of the Library Service that is presently held in the Parish Hall. The Flintshire County Council, are withdrawing the service from April, 2016. The Council Members would wish to seek the views of the residents, in retaining the Library, with assistance from volunteers, including financial assistance from the Community Council.

Please attend the meeting and let the Councillors' know your views

Issue164 will be distributed in March 2016. The deadline for items to be submitted will be 1st February. You can submit items to the new email address [hmnews@btinternet.com](mailto:hmnews@btinternet.com) or hand them in to the Blue Bell Inn. If you have any questions you can call Jack McIntyre on 01352 780377

## Editorial

As the dark evenings are upon us, perhaps now is the time for any budding writers to put pen to paper to contribute to Halkyn Mountain News. We very much appreciate the work of our regular contributors but would also welcome one-off submissions. Reports on events, articles, interviews, stories, reminiscences, poems are just a few possibilities. Members of our Editorial team would be pleased to provide guidance if required. Contributions from our junior readers are equally welcomed. Now is the time to make your new year's resolution be creative or to publicise your event!

The old saying "No news is good news" is not true where Halkyn Mountain News is concerned. We welcome your news and hope that this publication keeps everyone informed.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank past Editor Pat McDermott for kindly standing in for Jack McIntyre in the production of this edition in early November while Jack was away on an extended holiday in Australia.

We hope you enjoy this edition.

Best wishes for the festive season!

The Editorial Team

## 60 Years Together

**Len and Mattie Davies of Flaxfeild Close, Brynford**



celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on the 15th October 2015 with family at the Stamford Gate, Holywell. This was where they had their wedding reception and also where Mattie worked 65 years ago. They would like to thank family and friends for all their gifts and cards.

***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 - [www.halkyn.org.uk](http://www.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 Community Council



**Councillor Mrs. Delyth Jones-Taylor  
Chair of Halkyn Community Council  
wearing the Council Silver Chain and  
Pendant Regalia**

### **Halkyn Community Library:**

At the September meeting of the Community Council, the Members were addressed by Ms. Pennie Corbett (Principal Librarian – Community Libraries and Arts) of Flintshire County Council. Ms. Corbett referred to the present Service Level Agreement between the County Council and Community Council, which ensures the provision of a Library Service in Halkyn. The Flintshire County

Council are seeking 30% savings across the board, which will also reduce the library service. Ms. Corbett handed the Members copies of a typed briefing, which contained information in respect of the future of library services in Flintshire. Ms. Corbett referred to the Transfer of Community Assets, and in briefing was information in relation to the potential for Community Asset Transfer and a Community Library Model. The Library Model refers to a 'Community run library and a Community funded library'. The following financial information was provided: in relation to costs for a community library in Halkyn. For instance, the current value of book stock is £19,428, and should the book stock be fully replaced every five years, the cost would be  $\text{£}19,428 / 5 = \text{£}3,886$  per annum. The County would gift the present books and public IT to the Community Council, together with other assistance. I as Clerk advised that the Community Council presently pay 50% of the library staffing and IT costs per annum, at a cost of £3,932 for the year 2014/2015.

At the October Council meeting the Councillors were handed a petition signed by many users of the library asking that the library be retained in Halkyn. The Council Members agreed to hold a Public Meeting, to discuss the future of the Library. The meeting will be held in The Halkyn Parish Hall on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>

**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**



January, at 7.00pm (see Public Notice in this edition of the HMN).

### **Halkyn Council Regalia:**



In 1975 during a Civic Service in Rhos Y Cae Chapel, Councillor Mrs. Berys Jones donated to the Community Council a silver chain and pendant - as the Council's Civic Regalia. Councillor Mrs. Jones was well known for her creative skills, and had designed the pendant herself: which consists of two Shepherd's walking sticks placed together in a pyramid shape, a Cross symbol from St. Mary's Church, Halkyn. Inside the pendant is a small piece of coloured Halkyn

stone, with the initials HCC entwined underneath. The Regalia has been repaired and refurbished by a local jeweller Mr. David Wright of Berth Ddu, Rhosesmor. The Council Members thank Mr. Wright for the professional work carried out to the Regalia. (Photograph above of Councillor Delyth Jones-Taylor, Chair of Halkyn Community Council).

### **Community Street Lighting - Reporting Faulty Lights & Update on Faults:**

As winter and the 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 the Community Council, and which belong to the 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](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk) web site.

**Outstanding Faulty Lights:** Unfortunately, three street lights remain unlit. The lamp opposite the Village Green in Rhos Y Cae, and the lamp on the edge of Halkyn Village Green, both these lamps have underground faults. Following the demolition by a vehicle, a new lamp on Pentre Road, in Pentre Halkyn has been erected. However, all three lamps are awaiting the services of Scottish Power.

### **Complaints - Dust Particles Falling in Pentre Halkyn:**

The Council received complaints in relation to the falling of dust particles in Pentre Halkyn. The Council were provided with photographs, which showed the white dust on garden furniture, window ledges and motor cars. A complaint has been made to the Planning and Environmental Department, asking them to investigate. The Halkyn Council have been informed that the Quarry which the dust has been emanating from has been identified, and certain actions have been advised to the Quarry Management by the Environmental Department.

### **Dog Fouling in Rhosesmor:**

The Chair of the Community Council Mrs. Delyth Jones-Taylor, brought to the attention of the Council, a number of complaints received in relation to continuous dog

fouling on a pavement in Rhosesmor. The complaints from the area of Bryn Y Foel, including the thoroughfare to the Llys Enfys pensioners estate. The County Council Dog Warden had confirmed, that extra patrols and covert action will be taken.

### **Bus Shelter in The Windmill - On Order:**

In a previous report of the HMN, it was reported that the Council were awaiting the observations from Natural Resources Wales, in relation to the location of a new bus shelter in The Windmill. The permission has been received, together with confirmation from The Grosvenor Estate, that they will contribute £2,500.00, towards the bus shelter. The bus shelter is now on order from a Company in St. Asaph, and the groundworks will be carried out by Flintshire County Council.

### **Phillip Parry,**

Clerk to Halkyn Community Council

**Tel: 01352 720547**

**E-mail: [halkyn.council@btinternet.com](mailto:halkyn.council@btinternet.com)**

**[www.halkyn.org.uk](http://www.halkyn.org.uk)**

## **Grosvenor Estate Update**

We reported in the last issue of Halkyn Mountain News that fencing work was due to start at Pen-yr-Henblas quarry. We are very happy to say that this work has now been completed by specialist contractors Three Shires Ltd. We are very grateful to Natural Resources Wales and the Halkyn Mountain Ranger who worked closely with us to make sure that the work was carried out to a high standard. We would also like to thank everyone in the community, including the graziers, local residents and the Community Council for your support and cooperation.

We are glad to report that work on all mineshafts identified under our Halkyn Management Programme as needing remediation and improvement has been completed. All required mineshaft fencing has been done, and nearly all fenced mineshafts have reference tags to make them easily identifiable. If anyone notices any changes to these mineshafts, or in the case of an incident relating to mineshafts, please do note the ID tag reference when reporting to us at Grosvenor Estate.

It was a pleasure to see so many local people and visitors enjoying the Common over the summer and early autumn. We were particularly pleased to open up Halkyn Common for the charity horse ride in September, which raised over £1000 towards next year's Urdd Eisteddfod in Flint. This has helped the local fundraising group to exceed £13,000 of their £15,000 target.

We recently provided financial support for Halkyn Community Council towards the cost of building a new bus shelter in the Windmill. This will no doubt be good news for everyone that uses local buses and we shall look forward to seeing the new shelter being built in the next few months.

Given that this is the last Halkyn Mountain News of the year, we would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a good start to 2016.

## Graziers News

It's all change again at Grosvenor Estates, Kirsty Walker has left and our contact for the present will be Tom Birtles.

The Gorse cutting is going very well, given a bit of time some parts of the mountain will look a little more like they used to. We will shortly be seeing if Chester Zoo will continue to fund this for another year.

We have recently put in a bid for funding of two cattle grids to the Aggregates Levy Board. But, despite being promised £25,000 from NRW we will still be some £15,000 short, which we are at present trying to raise. Unfortunately, we did not qualify for the Welsh Government funding that we mentioned in the last issue of HMN.

A section 15 agreement is still on the cards but as yet we have no details.

There was an interesting article in the Daily Post a few weeks ago about some counties imposing a £100 fine on people walking dogs without plastic bags to pick up the dog droppings! I wonder if it will come here.

I would like to thank the people who took part in the charity horse ride across the mountain for the way they conducted themselves. We welcome anybody on the mountain as long as they abide by the laws and rules that apply.

*Halkyn Graziers and Commoners Association*

### Halkyn Pensioners Christmas Party Blue Bell Inn - 2015



#### We would like to hear from you

Each year we look forward to meeting up with our local pensioners from around Halkyn and the local area. We would like to ensure all who would like to join us have the opportunity to attend these events as often as we can accommodate you. If we have not had the pleasure of your company to one of our parties and you would like to join us this year, please contact with your details one of the organisers listed below.

Jane Carney – 01352 780088

Roger & Pam McIntee – 01352 781802

Jeannette & Phil Brookes – 01352 780712

## From Your County Councillor

Dear Friends,

It is a pleasant change to be able to write more positively than has been the case in previous issues of the Halkyn Mountain News.

Whilst driving from Rhes y Cae to Halkyn one foggy day in the October school holidays, I was both surprised and delighted to discover a group of youngsters from Rhosesmor painting the marker stones beside the road in fresh white paint. They have done a splendid job for which we are all most grateful. Our thanks go to Mrs Lynn Fernhead for organising and overseeing this essential piece of work, which unfortunately and unwisely has now ceased to be an essential responsibility of the County Council.

At the risk of sounding repetitive we should be very proud of our young people on the Mountain who give up a day or two of their school holiday, in unpleasant weather, to carry out this invaluable project to make our roads safe in foggy conditions. Fog can distort or confuse the features of even a road with which we are familiar. Many sincere thanks go to the "Biscuits" group from St Paul's, Rhosesmor.

There was total dismay at the beginning of October when people discovered that the mailbox near to the old Post Office, Rhes y Cae, had inexplicably disappeared. Even more disconcerting was the suggestion that the pillar box would not be replaced. The "Evening Leader" kindly published an article on the situation and to their great credit were able to ascertain that in fact the mailbox would be replaced. The Post Office apologised for the temporary hiatus, apparently caused by a Road Traffic Accident. Much sooner than anticipated a brand-new pillar box has already been put in position. Not only are we grateful for this benefit but people will discover that the aperture for posting mail is much larger and will accept larger envelopes.

Most people are aware that there is a chronic shortage of housing, and especially for younger people at affordable prices. About a year ago the Planning Department of the Council invited applications from the community who would be prepared to have any plots of land they possessed to be considered for future house-building. The response overwhelmed the Planning Department. Over 700 applications were received. Once this enormous number has been investigated and assessed the Council will publish its decision for each application. Fairly recently maps have been published indicating the location of possible sites. This has caused a very natural reaction, and consternation for many constituents in the Halkyn Ward. People have wrongly assumed that houses will be built on all the available areas.

There is no indication when the Planning Department will make its decision, but I want to allay the fears of all those who are fearful of unlimited house-building. Even if a Green Field site is accepted for possible development this does not mean that house-building will

follow automatically. Even if a site is accepted as a possible location for building, all the usual process of application will have to follow as previously, in exactly the same careful and often frustrating manner. The most important point to realise is that it is highly unlikely for all 700 applications to be successful: possibly only half may be accepted, perhaps only 10% will succeed: we really do not know.

By the time this edition is printed the Highways Department will have posted notices saying which roads in the county will no longer be gritted as previously during wintry weather. At the moment I am uncertain which roads in our area will not be gritted. The B5123 and roads used by the buses, both Service and School, will continue to be gritted, as will vital link roads. This is all part of the desperate efforts of the permanent Council staff to save money and cope with a deficit of £53 million.

The reassessment of speed limits on roads is still being reviewed. The maximum speed on many of the Halkyn roads, even single lane ones, remains at 60 mph. One important fact which is not fully understood, or observed by some motorists, is that when a vehicle approaches, for instance, a 30 mph sign, the vehicle should already have reduced speed to 30 mph maximum BEFORE entering the speed zone. Also the 30 mph maximum speed limit only applies if it is safe to do so. Frequently the speed should be no more than 20 mph or even 10 mph in a 30 mph zone. All too frequently some drivers exceed considerably the speed limits in the heart of Halkyn, and through the long straight routes through Rhosesmor and Rhes y Cae.

The only distasteful subject which I have to mention is the one of dog-fouling. In cases of clear and positive identification, prosecutions have occurred, but unfortunately this is only the "tip of the iceberg."

A special subcommittee, an offshoot of the Environment Scrutiny Committee, has been created to examine in detail this problem and hopefully to make this totally unacceptable public nuisance liable to more effective and legal control. The subcommittee has also been directed to consider the feasibility of introducing compulsory DNA identification for all dogs in the county. (Some municipalities in England have already taken this measure.)

As we approach Christmas and the challenges of snow and frost as well, we need to remember that for many folk, and indeed an increasing number, Christmas is not a happy time, especially for the recently bereaved and all those who are on low incomes through no fault of theirs. In helping others less fortunate than ourselves we can bring more real joy into our own lives.

May I wish all my constituents a contented and peaceful Christmas and hopefully a good New Year.

Colin Legg

## **Halkyn WI**

To celebrate the national centenary of the Women's Institute our group went to afternoon tea at Afonwen on September 17th, which we all enjoyed. September was also tinged with sadness for our group as our member, Deputy Treasurer and Press Officer, Eleri Wilson, passed away. Many of us attended her funeral and due to the two choirs Eleri belonged to, along with her many friends and family, the singing was lovely, as was the eulogy to this strong, intelligent, brave and energetic woman, who will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her.

Our October speaker, Lowri Williams, brightened our spirits with a fine and humorous performance of "The Ladies of Llangollen". November's meeting is our AGM. December's meeting is on the 3rd at 2pm. The speaker is the enthusiastic Helen Marsh, whose last talk on "The Wonders of Iceland" was greatly received. This time Helen is talking on "Australian Culture". Tea and mince pies will be served following the talk.

The group will also be going to Plas Hafod on December 10th for Christmas lunch. The committee is in the process of finalising speakers for the 2016 program. The WI welcomes all women: the membership fee is £37.50 for 2016.

We meet at the Village Hall first Thursday of the month at 2pm until April, when we change to 7:15pm. Our Craft group meets the other Thursdays of the month at 2:15 PM. If you are interested in joining our group please come and try us out - we welcome visitors.

Contact: Fiona E Jones 01352 780462

## **The Old Hall**

Just over twelve months ago my wife and I bought The Old Hall on Pentre Road. It was in a very dilapidated state and we have been working very hard ever since to try to restore it to the beautiful house it once was. We would love to get hold of any old photographs or drawings of the building to aid us in our task. To date we have found it very difficult to get hold of such material other than old site diagrams from the Flintshire archives and the Eaton estate. We would really appreciate any help you or your readers may offer.

*Ian Ross*  
The Old Hall, Pentre Rd., Halkyn, CH8 8BS  
01352 781579 Tel  
07919 367667 mobile



## **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**                      **BlueBell.uk.eu.org**  
**Halkyn**                                      **01352 780309**

## **Heartfelt Art and Craft**

Heartfelt Art and Craft fairs, held at Halkyn Parish Hall & Library, have become established as a professional community event, very well organised and attended by both local residents of the Halkyn mountain area and visitors travelling from across the wide area of Flintshire and border counties.

The events held between March and December support fundraising for 10 different charities. The events were launched last year and as a result £2,600 was raised and donated between the charities. So far this year, a total of £3,226.00 has been raised with, at the time of writing, another two events yet to be held. Fundraising is complimented by the sale of delicious homemade cakes, cream teas and other refreshments, a raffle, tombola and other donations.

Heartfelt Art & Craft is a family run, 'not for profit' community initiative. As well as benefiting the charities in attendance, other charitable donations are made to support other charities, local groups, and worthy causes.

Heartfelt craft fairs enable local talented artists and crafters to attend a regular event to showcase and exhibit for sale their creative, innovative and original work. The events remain the only established, monthly art and craft fair in Flintshire. A lot of effort and attention is given to the advertisement of the events to ensure public awareness, through News letters and magazines, local papers, radio and the distribution of advertising fliers, posters and banners ~ all in an effort to ensure continued good attendance.

The fairs were launched with an aim to increase community engagement, as well as raising funds for different charities. They enable very talented local people to exhibit and sell their work. The standard and range of art and craft available to purchase at the events continues to be outstanding.

The next Heartfelt Art & Craft fair will be held on 12th December 2015 at Halkyn Parish Hall & Library, between 10-3pm, when volunteers will be fundraising for the Women's Aid, with volunteers from the Holywell office. As always, Admission is FREE!

Events in 2016 will commence on 12th March, when it is anticipated that fundraising will be for the wonderful charity, RNLI, Flint branch. If you would like more information regarding the events, please contact Susan on 01352 781088 or email [heartfelt.mountainstudio@aol.co.uk](mailto:heartfelt.mountainstudio@aol.co.uk)

You can find more information and view the event gallery of images on Heartfelt's Facebook page via the Internet, searching Heartfelt Art and Craft.

## **Blue Bell Inn,**

**Movember** Now in our 4th year to start 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 and went to town (and elsewhere) fund-raising. As the boys facial fluff developed from wisp to wondertash the teams progress was tracked by the regulars and among the jokes and laughter the very welcome donations came in. We've even had a small junior team who expertly worked themselves through a series of demonstration moustaches so the bigger boys would get an idea of what they were to eventually achieve.

Over the years and with your help we've raised a staggering £5,992 for Movember. Our national team ranking among all the big companies was 177th which I think is quite something when you consider all the large multinationals out there! If so MO'ved, it's not too late to add to the pot and you can do that here at the Blue or online at [moteam.co/blue-bell-halkyn](http://moteam.co/blue-bell-halkyn). 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!

A new event from the talented Phil Hotchkiss who will be bringing a special night of song for Friday 18th December and it would be lovely to see you as we join in with some festive favourites from 9pm for Phil's Christmas Singing Night.

Our annual Big Carol event which is always on the last Sunday before Christmas Day (8pm on Sunday 20th Dec) and 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)! We've had some tremendous special events from Rose Price with Adrian Dear, Ian Jones, John Warburton, a Beatles Night and Welcomme, Finnan & Chrimes, Al Tunstall, Derek

Harrison, The Cheesecutters, The Bushwackers, Jim Bazley & guests distributed across our equally fantastic regular events. I hope you can get down to our folkish type music every Thursday from a variety of regular singer songwriters. The Rantin' Dogs monthly on the 2nd Monday and Now in its 9th year there's also Trad Jazz every Sunday afternoon with Mad Ed's Hot Five.

Friday music nights - Phil Hotchkiss and his team raised a staggering £770 towards Breast Cancer in October with a great night of song, raffles and prizes, we even got Tom to sing for a donation in the bucket of song! Phil has put in a sterling effort adding a couple of hundred songs to a growing list but unfortunately our regular audience has diminished through a variety of reasons and it's time to move on to something for a folks with different interests.

**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 the challenge.

**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 held a couple of special walking events to celebrate a more than a decade of free walking and keeping fit and had the wonderful surprise of actually seeing the mid-summer sunset this year which was later topped off by a visit from the Green Goddess!

I must thank very much all our stalwart walk leaders who continue to give their time for free to give 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 provide some Nordic walking sticks 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 Sat 3rd Jan.

**New stuff...** On the subject of new events: Tom will have reported elsewhere about the running group that starts here every Sunday morning at 11:30am. We're anticipating a monthly philosophical discussion night (let me know if you are interested in restarting this thought provoking night). 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.

**Vodafone...** Perhaps a strange title but exciting nonetheless! Vodafone have installed a metro and suresignal mobile phone cell here at the Blue so that vodafone coverage for voice, text and internet in the Post Office end of the pub and around the car park (and for neighbours) is considerably improved.

**What Nice Weather** Anticipating some winter experiences brought about by a major El Niño event from as far away as the Pacific, we've instituted our usual weather planning ideas. The road is always clear here as we are lucky to have the gritting depot at the bottom of the mountain, 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 2nd birthday as a Post Office Local in the new year and it's been an interesting time! We've been given two years to trial the service here and the demand for Post Office Local services is not as healthy as we would hope to make it viable for the Post Office and it really does need your continued help to keep it open!

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?

**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 on-line 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 sparkle) 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.

See you at the bar.  
Steve, Ness & Tom Marquis

## Halkyn's Heritage

Following the enthusiasm and support shown last year for the first Halkyn Heritage Week, Flintshire Countryside Service have decided to run another in 2016. The programme is yet to be confirmed but activities for all the family will run from 30th April to 9th May 2016.

Last year our focus was largely on the industrial heritage so next year we will look more at the natural environment and also take a closer look at Halkyn's prehistoric past as there was such a big turnout on the Iron Age walk last year. We hope to arrange for re-enactors to establish an Iron Age camp on Moel y Gaer for a day, including morning walks for adults and an afternoon of children's activities.

Having seen the fun and excitement that Ysgol Nannerch pupils got from hunting for fossils and minerals last year, we are planning to run a Family Fossil Hunt and also a Pond dip over the Bank Holiday weekend.

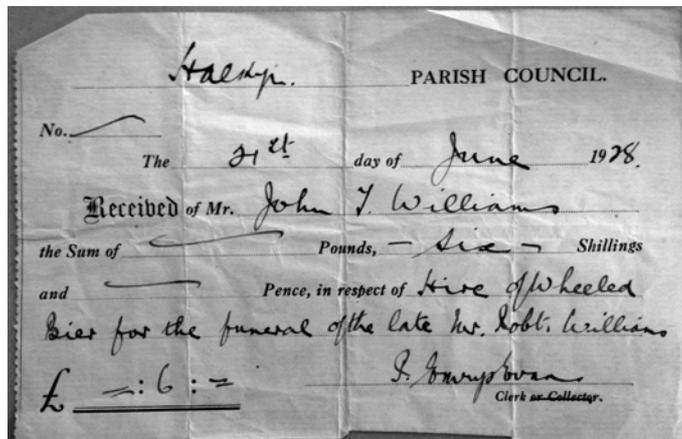
One thing that was very clear from last year was that many local people have a strong interest in their local heritage, whether looking at how the villages have evolved over time, finding out more about the lead mining that took place under their feet, or looking further back at the more ancient history of the area.



Several people expressed interest in forming a Halkyn Heritage Group to research, celebrate and educate about the diverse heritage of the Mountain. It would build on the work that has already been done by Halkyn's local historians over the years, most notably the late Bryn Ellis whose excellent book, 'The History of Halkyn Mountain', remains an invaluable starting point for any study of Halkyn. Local resident Shirley Walls is another excellent historian, who has researched extensively about the wells on the mountain, land girls during the Second World War and many other subjects, but there is plenty more that can still be done. A group of interested locals met in the Blue Bell a few weeks ago to discuss ideas.

The need to capture the memories of the older residents was considered particularly important. Recording these memories in a structured way would help to add to the existing body of research. There are bound to be lots of old photos, press cuttings and other memorabilia tucked away in people's houses that would help to build up a better picture of life on Halkyn Mountain over the past 100 or so years too.

During the Heritage Week, one gentleman brought along two fascinating old documents. One was a receipt for the use of the wheeled funeral bier in 1928. The Rev Burgess had kindly given us permission to use the bier in our Victorian Halkyn film (and even acted as one of the pall bearers!) and it was fascinating to see that Halkyn Parish Council charged 6 shillings for its use in 1928.



The other document was the programme of a fundraising concert organized in 1897 by the Halkyn Brass Band. Its chairman was Matthew Francis of Old Hall, a mining engineer who was Mine Manager or Chief Agent for many of the Halkyn mines. The final piece in the programme was a farce performed by students of the Royal School of Mines, which is based in London. The accompanist at the concert was from the Royal School of Mines too. This suggests that there was a close association between the Halkyn mines and the Royal School, perhaps reflecting the importance of Halkyn in the development of mining technology at that time? These documents illustrate how old papers such as these can help to piece together past history so please look carefully at what you have tucked away at home.

The embryonic Heritage Group plan to organize a Memories Day in the spring to encourage people to come along to share their stories, bring their old photos and any old documents or artefacts. They have agreed to help to run some events during the Heritage Week too including a walk round Rhes-y-cae, telling the story of the village through its buildings, and a second Memories Day.

However, to develop further the group needs more volunteers. If there is sufficient interest and volunteers come forward to sit on the committee and take a more active role, the Heritage Group could become a constituted group that is able to apply for grants and develop bigger projects.

If you would like to be involved, please leave your name with Steve at the Blue Bell, or e-mail Lorna Jenner: [lorna.jenner@btinternet.com](mailto:lorna.jenner@btinternet.com) or Rachael Watson: [RachaelWatson@wildlifetrustswales.org](mailto:RachaelWatson@wildlifetrustswales.org) or leave Rachael a message at Wepre Park on 01352 703900

Lorna Jenner and Rachael Watson

## Red Lion Inn, Rhosesmor.

It has been a busy few months at the Red Lion working the day to day activities around some very special events.



Ale Trail was a success for us, we've celebrated our 2nd anniversary at the pub with a pirate party, birthday parties galore, village meetings, hosted walking groups, enjoyed a few poker nights, quizzes and cooked many a family meal.

Another highlight was our fundraising for Alder Hey Children's Hospital. Our sincere thanks again to all those involved. You managed to raise £160 which is pretty good going for a raffle!



Our Murder Mystery Night was a huge success, it was another excuse to dress up! Players had to solve the crime whilst enjoying drinks and nibbles and authentic 1920's jazz by professional musician Anthony Mason. We anticipate another event like this in the future.



### General Information

Our opening times are:

- Monday 4pm – 12am
- Tuesday 4pm – 12am
- Wednesday Closed
- Thursday 4pm – 12am
- Friday 4pm – 1am
- Saturday 12pm-1am
- Sunday 12pm-11.30pm

We serve food until 9pm. Booking is advised. To contact us call : 01352 331581.

### Parties & Buffets

Planning a party? Consider us. From small, intimate family meals to parties and full buffet packages. We can even organise entertainment and a DJ for you. We can also create custom cakes for any event.

### Special Events

#### Sat 8th Nov: Remembrance Sunday

Senior Citizen Discount on Sunday Roast, 1 course £6 and main and a home-made dessert for £8.

#### Sat 29th November: Christmas Fete

Both the Village Hall and the Red Lion will play host to festive fun and frolics in preparation for the Christmas season. We hope to have a few stalls and a sing-along in the early evening. Rest assured, you'll be in the Christmas spirit by the time you get home. Children welcome until 9pm.



## Christmas and New Year Opening Times

### Christmas Eve

Open 4pm-1am. Party from 8pm.

### Christmas Day

12pm-3pm. Relaxing drinks with friends whilst the turkey is cooking

And  
6pm-12am

### Boxing Day

Open 4pm-1am

### New Year's Eve

Open 4pm-Late. Welcome in the New Year with music and merriment. Free entry & buffet.



## Ysgol Rhos Helyg

Once again it has been a very busy half term with lots of interesting things happening.

### Ysgol Rhos Helyg Nursery Class

A very warm welcome to the pupils of our Nursery class, I'm sure that they will be very happy during their time at the school. Also a very warm welcome to new parents at Rhos Helyg, I am sure that you will be welcomed warmly into our school community.

The Reception pupils are now coming to school for a full day and although a little tired towards the end of the afternoon are having a fabulous time here.

### Mr Urdd

Came to visit the children recently. The visit was part of raising awareness for the Flintshire Urdd Proclamation event that was recently held in Flint to welcome the Eisteddfod to Flintshire next Year.



Many of our families participated in the parade through Flint as part of the proclamation event.



### PC Jones

PC Jones came to talk to Pupils in Years 2, 4 and 6 as part of The National programme organised by the Welsh Assembly.

### Gateway to the World Cafe

We held a fabulous event after school one recent evening which was



organised by the school council. The school council provided the refreshments which were much appreciated. The school council were once again promoting fair trade goods.

As part of this event Pupils from each class showcased some of their work and displayed it around the hall for parents to view.



Pupils from year 2 made cakes especially for this event.



### Money Week

All the children had a fabulous week where they learnt all about money. Each class had a visitor to explain about their work and everything that the children did that week was linked to money. The older children even looked at salaries and deductions.



Whilst the younger children looked at spending small amounts of money in a shop.

### Respect fest

The School Council recently attended a conference about respecting others. The conference dealt with issues such as children's rights both here in Wales and abroad especially in Third World countries.

### Forest School

Children eagerly look forward to Thursdays and our Forest School programme. They get up to all sorts of fabulous learning experiences. Here are some year 6 pupils having a great time.



### Harvest Service

We finished this half term with our Harvest service, it was well attended and pupils brought in items for our Harvest display. The food items were donated to Save The Family and the local community.



### PTA Events

Our annual sponsored walk to The Blue Bell for the Infants and to Rhos Y Cae for the Juniors took place on the first Saturday in October. Everybody enjoyed the walk nearly as much as their hot dogs on completion of the walk back at Rhos Helyg.



We finished the half term off with a fancy dress disco. The evening was well supported and the quality of costumes was excellent.

Once again the school is extremely grateful to the PTA for their hard work which has raised well over a £500 since September.

## Ysgol Rhos Helyg PTA

It only seems 2 minutes since we held the Summer Fayre, outside this year and thankfully the weather held for the event to be a success raising over £800.00.

A new term dawned and we've started with a busy one. Sponsored walk, film night and not forgetting the Halloween disco that the children love to dress up for. Great costumes.

Finally for this term we have our Christmas Fayre on the 4th December 2015. Please come along and support this event, it's a lovely time of year for the children, lots of new and old stalls that we know the children and you parents love. Our 2016 School Calendars will be on sale, ideal Christmas presents or stocking fillers.

We are always looking for new ideas for events that we can hold, so if you have any please contact a member of the PTA

As always we would like to thank children, teachers and parents for your continued support and look forward to seeing you throughout the year.

PTA Committee

## RHOESMOR VILLAGE HALL

The past months have seen a number of new events taking place in the hall. These events are all very welcome and are a direct result of a group of people initiating ideas to help develop a stronger community spirit. The new events are taking place during the daylight hours as the hall is well booked in the evenings.

We have had a number of requests to hold further Jumble Sales on a regular basis. In order for this to happen we need help. If you have any items suitable for donation towards a jumble sale I will willingly collect and store the items in the hall cellars. Hopefully a yearly sale can be achieved.

Once again we wish to thank John Thomas for his continued support to the hall in cutting the grass and trimming the hedge. John does this completely voluntarily, as well as many other similar tasks around the community.

Finally early September saw maintenance work undertaken on the exterior of the hall. The interior also needs attention and the work deemed necessary will be undertaken during the Christmas / New Year break.

G R North  
Secretary, Rhosesmor Village Committee

01352 780660

### Rhosesmor Village Christmas Fayre

Sunday 29th November,  
3pm-6pm at Rhosesmor Village Hall

And then till late at The Red Lion Pub!

Come along to our family friendly Winter Wonderland - we'll have stalls selling local crafts and produce, fun games for children, face painting, raffles and tombolas for grown ups, mulled wine, mince pies and so much more!

Ring in the start of the festive season and make some merry memories with your community - entry is free!



## **RHOESMOR VILLAGE: NEW COMMUNITY GROUPS**



You may remember in the last edition of HMN we told you about a meeting for the Rhosesmor community to share their ideas and hopes for the village. The meeting was absolutely buzzing and there were ideas galore with volunteers signing up to take part in a wide range of activities and initiatives.

As a result a number of groups, like the Rhosesmor Tots group, are already well under way while others are getting together in the near future. Below you will find a list of the new with contact names alongside each one if you want to know more. You will also find a separate page on the village pub, The Red Lion and an additional information on the church St Paul's. A list of all current activities in Rhosesmor Village Hall (RVH) and contact numbers follows this article.

Most of the information can be found on the Facebook page: Rhosesmor Village

You can contact the Rhosesmor Village Groups at: [rhosesmorvillage@gmail.com](mailto:rhosesmorvillage@gmail.com)

Find us on Facebook - Rhosesmor Village Community Organisation - or phone:  
Nic on 01352 781992 (answerphone), Natalie on 01352 331581 at the Red Lion,  
Lynn on 01352 780740 or text 07947046695

Why not enter your photo of Rhosesmor life into our calendar competition for 2016? Just post your photo on the village Facebook page or e-mail it to [rhosesmorvillage@gmail.com](mailto:rhosesmorvillage@gmail.com)

If you don't have access to a computer you can leave your photo in the box labelled 'Rhosesmor Photos' on the coffee table in church. Make sure you put your name and address on the back so we can return it to you.

### **Rhosesmor Village Groups**

Pond Group - work underway helping Halkyn Mountain Ranger to restore pond at back of Red Lion – Tel: Brian 01352 780740

Village Fete group - currently planning Christmas Fayre. Tel: Nic 01352 781992

Rhosesmor Artists' Group - meet 2-4pm in RVH : Tel: Win Garroch 01352 780824

Bodease - low impact/aerobic exercise class Monday 5.30-6.30 RVH. Tel: Lynn 01352 780740

Rhosesmor Tots - every Thursday 9.30-11.30 RVH. Play, chat, snack and cuppa. Contact: [elliemayrock@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elliemayrock@yahoo.co.uk) Tel: 07979455672

Flower Arranging - regular meeting in Eira Boden's flower workshop on the The Wern.  
Tel: 07837962354 to book a place.

St Paul's Church - St Paul's Church, Rhosesmor is open to everyone all day every day. You are most welcome to come in and find peace and refreshment, light a candle, explore ways of praying in the prayer corner, leave a prayer on the prayer tree, read and consider the bible passage for the day, drop off food for the Foodbank, buy essentials from the Fairtrade stall or just pick up a book, make yourself a cuppa and rest your feet for a while. Contact: Rev'd Hugh Burgess 01352 741646, [hugh@halkynparish.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:hugh@halkynparish.wanadoo.co.uk), or Find us on Facebook: St Paul's Church Rhosesmor.

The following groups are under development and would welcome volunteers or leaders:

Green Spaces Group - a group interested in improving the appearance/historical information of the village, ranging from litter picking to historical signage, village in bloom etc. etc. Contact Lynn: 01352 780740 or [lfearnhead@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lfearnhead@hotmail.co.uk)

Kids' Club - early planning underway to hold youth group. Village hall availability means this has to be on a Thursday evening from 5.30 onwards. Meeting on Nov 4th in committee room RVH if interested. Tel: Lynn 01352 780740 or [lfearnhead@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lfearnhead@hotmail.co.uk)

Luncheon Club - interested in providing soup and sandwich for elderly in RVH. Awaiting health and hygiene certification. Contact [Jackie.blain@gmail.com](mailto:Jackie.blain@gmail.com)

Book Group - underway. Bookswop started in church. Further meetings to discuss books possible. Needs a leader.

Transport for elderly to hospital/church - awaiting co-ordination with WRVS. Contact Lynn 01352 780740 or [lfearnhead@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lfearnhead@hotmail.co.uk)

If you have any other ideas then please get in touch.

<b>HALL</b>		
	ACTIVITY	FREQUENCY
<b>Mon 10.30-12.00</b>	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	Fortnightly
<i>Contact:</i>	Lynn Banks 781714	
<b>Mon 5.30-6.30</b>	<b>BODEASE-keep fit</b>	Weekly
<i>Contact:</i>	Lynn Fearnhead 780740	
<b>Mon evening</b>	<b>Patchwork Quilting</b>	Twice monthly
	Elaine Humphries 781264	
	<b>Rhosesmor W.I.</b>	Monthly
	Mary North 780660	
<b>Tues evening</b>	<b>Yoga</b>	Weekly
<i>Contact:</i>	Karen 759333	
<b>Wed 11:00-12:00</b>	<b>Tai Chi</b>	Weekly
<i>Contact:</i>	07563985945	
<b>Wed pm/eve</b>	<b>PhilsHarmonics choir</b>	
	Age 3-6 4.00 to 4.45pm	Weekly
	Age 7+ 6.00 to 7.00pm	Weekly
	Adults 7.00 to 9.00pm	Weekly
<i>Contact:</i>	Phillipa 07660833981	
<b>Thurs 9.30 -11.30</b>	<b>Rhosesmor Tots</b>	
<i>Contact:</i>	Ellie Rock 07979455672	Weekly
<b>Thurs afternoon</b>	<b>Silver Movers</b>	
<i>Contact:</i>	Ann Williams 780735	Weekly
<b>Thurs 5.15 - 6.45</b>	<b>Rhosesmor Kids' Club</b>	Weekly
<i>Contact</i>	Lynn Fearnhead 780740	UNDER DEVELOPMENT
<b>Fri evening</b>	<b>Cubs and Scouts</b>	Weekly in term time
<i>Contact:</i>	Graham Fredericks 780732	
	Karl 780411	
<b>Sat daytime</b>	<b>Jewellery making</b>	Every 4 weeks
<i>Contact:</i>	Alison Tarry 780842	
	<b>Board games</b>	Every 6 weeks
<i>Contact:</i>	Jon Tarry 780842	
Sun 9.15-11:00 am	Bright Stars church	
<i>Contact:</i>	Lynn Fearnhead 780740	<i>suspended for moment</i>
<b>COMMITTEE ROOM</b>		
<b>Mon 7.30 -9.30 pm</b>	<b>Exploring Faith</b>	Weekly
<i>Contact:</i>	Lynn Fearnhead 780740	
<b>Tues 2:00-4:00pm</b>	<b>Rhosesmor Artists' Club</b>	Weekly
<i>Contact:</i>	Win Garrach 780824	
<b>Tues evening</b>	<b>Meditation</b>	Fortnightly
<i>Contact:</i>	Rosemary Jones 781756	
<b>Thurs 4:00-5:30</b>	<b>Confirmation Class</b>	Weekly
<i>Contact:</i>	Lynn Fearnhead	UNDER DEVELOPMENT
<b>Thurs evening</b>	<b>WI Painting Group</b>	Weekly
<i>Contact:</i>	Win Garrach 780824	
Precious Petal Workshop	Flower Arranging	
<i>Contact:</i>	Eira Boden 07837962354	.

## **RHOESMOR W.I.**

We have had an eventful summer, with one of our members, Mrs Sylvia Jones-Davies, attending the Royal Garden party in Buckingham Palace Gardens on the 2nd of June.

The County Federation had organized a coach trip to Dunham Massey on 29 July. Several members thoroughly enjoyed the visit since Dunham Massey was set up just as it had been as a WWI hospital, very eerie especially the bed just inside the ward door.

On 10 August we had a Hendre group outing to Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, so several of us enjoyed another house that had been a WW1 hospital.

Two members attended the Gala Dinner on August 12 at the Springfield Hotel. This was one of Clwyd/Flint's celebrations of 100 years of the Women's Institute.

Several of us went to the Centennial Fair in Harrogate on September 5 and had a very enjoyable day.

At our meeting on Monday, 14 December, we will be having our own celebration for Christmas.

In 2016 we start the new year with a meeting on Monday, 11 January, when we will hold a Swap Shop.

On 8 February Mrs Vicky Perfect from Flint will give us a history of Flint Castle. (Talk held over from 2015 because of illness).

We meet on the second Monday in each month except August at 7:15 pm in Rhosesmor Village Hall.

Any lady would be made very welcome at our meetings and the person to contact is Secretary, Mrs Mary North, on 01352 780660.

## **From The Rev'd Hugh Burgess**



### **Dear Friends**

Once upon a time there was a country that was occupied by a brutal and tyrannical dictator who tolerated very little in the way of free speech and who often persecuted those who had different views. This country had been occupied on and

off for hundreds of years and so the people were well used to doing what they were told, although they would mutter about it under their breath. Occasionally sections of the population would riot or even revolt, events that were violently repressed.

In that country there lived a young couple who fell in love and, as very often happens, they became engaged. She was probably only about thirteen years old. Because they were engaged he took her with him when he went on a journey and, as she was pregnant at the time, it was unfortunate that she had to give birth while they were away. In fact, it was doubly unfortunate because when they arrived at their destination there was a major event underway which meant that all the hotels and B&Bs were full and as they hadn't booked ahead they were in some difficulty. Fortunately one of the local hostelry owners took pity on them and allowed them to bed down in an outhouse. It wasn't very clean and it was probably quite cold and draughty but at least there was some shelter. Oh yes! It was a BOY!

Unfortunately things went from bad to worse because things in that country deteriorated and so the young family was forced to flee to another country and so they became migrants, even more dependent on the goodwill of strangers as they tried to make a living and to survive. Survive they did, although they had a tough life although they were able to return home eventually. The young boy was good with his hands and grew up learning his father's trade as a carpenter, which was ironic really when you think how he died on a tree at the age of 33.

Those early years almost certainly made their mark, because that young man grew up to become a wanderer, often among his own people but sometimes in the countries round about. He was often dependent on others for his housing and certainly for his food and other needs, but he made many friends over the years although after his trial pretty much everyone deserted him.

One of the problems I feel with so-called organised religion is that we often can't see beyond the rather stuffy formal worship, the candles, the funny clothes, out of date hymns and archaic language ... and so on. I entirely understand why people often feel that there's nothing in it for them, that it simply isn't relevant to their lives. On the surface that may well be true. However, underneath the Christian faith has a huge amount to offer. Even the life story of Jesus shows us a man who was born in difficult circumstances, who was a refugee, who had little in the way of worldly goods and who, like many today who suffer from illness that can't be controlled, died in a way that was not of his own choosing. In many ways this man was a revolutionary who turned the tables of accepted wisdom and showed us a way of living that was something very different to the way most of us live.

Jesus was not just a do-gooder, not just caring for other people or sometimes healing them: He was someone who loved them in a deeply attractive and intimate way. The example that he gave was of someone who put the needs of others before his own.

As we recognise the birth of the Christ-child in a stable in Bethlehem we are reminded of why families come together at Christmas. As we reflect on the gift of life and love that Jesus represents we are reminded of why we give gifts to others at Christmas. As we contemplate the refugee Jesus we are reminded of the millions of people migrating around the Mediterranean and into Europe. As we think of the loneliness of Jesus at time perhaps we may be reminded of those who are alone this Christmas and for whom this is a particularly difficult time. However, it doesn't need us to have a faith to recognise the challenge of extending our own hand of friendship to someone who is needy or lonely or hungry this Christmas and so our challenge is to offer love to someone in need this year.

I wish everyone a loving Christmas and a peaceful and joyful New Year.

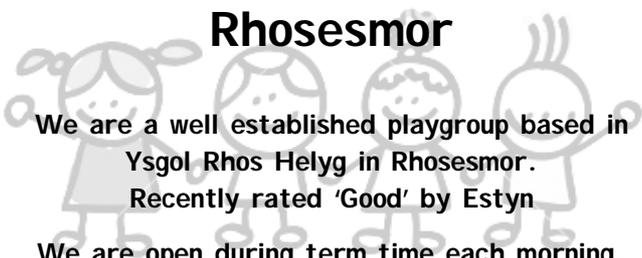
01352 741646  
The Chimneys, Leete Park,  
Rhydymwyn, Mold, CH7 5JJ -  
e-mail [hugh@halkynparish.wanandoo.co.uk](mailto:hugh@halkynparish.wanandoo.co.uk)



# TINYTOTS PLAYGROUP

## Ysgol Rhos Helyg

### Rhosesmor



We are a well established playgroup based in Ysgol Rhos Helyg in Rhosesmor. Recently rated 'Good' by Estyn  
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.

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



First session free!

Contact Leanne on  
**01352 780265**

## HALKYN MOUNTAIN DVD

There are still a number of the popular Halkyn Mountain DVDs available for sale.

You can order your copy from Rachael Watson at Wepre Park Visitor Centre, Wepre Drive, Connah's Quay, Flintshire, CH5 4HL.

The DVD's are reasonably priced at £3.00 each, plus £1.00 postage & packing.

So if you want to own your own copy of this fantastic DVD act quickly as stocks are limited. Please send your cheque payable to "Flintshire County Council" along with a letter including your name and address to the above address.

## 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**

## 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 01352 781350.

### 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  
Snooker Club 7:30 pm

(New members welcome Andy Wood 780159)

### The Snooker Table is also available for Hire

Contact Sharon Davies on 781350

#### Wednesdays

Modern Line Dancing 12:45 - 14:45 pm  
Contact Julie 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



# 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
<b>Halkyn</b>	10.30 am Morning Prayer 11.15 am Communion	11.15 am Communion 5pm Evensong	11.15 am Communion	11.15 am Morning Prayer	10.30 Combined Service – This rotates between churches
<b>Rhosesmor</b>	3.00 pm Evening Prayer <sup>1</sup>	10.00 am Communion	10.00 am All Age Worship	10.00 am Communion	
<b>Rhesycae</b>	8.45 am Communion	8.45 am Bilingual Communion	3pm Evening Prayer <sup>1</sup>	8.45 am Communion	

## YOU ARE VERY WELCOME AT ALL OUR SERVICES

<sup>1</sup> The clocks go forward on 27<sup>th</sup> March when this service will revert to 6pm.

**COMBINED AND SPECIAL SERVICES:** The next combined service for the three parishes will be at 10.30 on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 at Christchurch, Rhesycae. The joint service following will in St Mary's, Halkyn at 10.30 on the 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2016. These are communion services, open to all and in a modern form. We would be delighted to see you.

On the last Friday of each month there is a time of prayer for those who are sick and in need. Until the end of February these will be held in Rhesycae. Please contact Hugh Burgess with any requests for prayer.

### **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES:**

Friday evenings in Advent (4 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> December only) the end of day service of Compline will be held in Rhesycae at 7pm	<b>20<sup>th</sup> December (Sunday)</b> 3pm Halkyn Carol Service 8pm Carols in the Bluebell
<b>6<sup>th</sup> December (Sunday)</b> 08.45 Rhesycae Communion and Toy Service 11.15am Halkyn Communion and Toy Service 3pm Rhosesmor Evening Prayer	<b>24<sup>th</sup> December (Thursday - Christmas Eve)</b> 4pm Rhesycae Crib Service 11.15pm Rhosesmor Midnight Communion
<b>13<sup>th</sup> December (Sunday)</b> 3pm Rhosesmor Carol Service	<b>25<sup>th</sup> December (Friday - Christmas Day)</b> 9.30 am Rhesycae Communion 11am Halkyn Communion
<b>16<sup>th</sup> December (Wednesday)</b> 7.00pm Rhesycae Carol Service	<b>27<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 (Sunday)</b> 10.30am Rhesycae Combined Parish Communion

**OPEN CHURCH:** Rhosesmor Church is open every day for quiet reflection,

For further details of any of these events please contact:  
The Rev'd Hugh Burgess on  
01352 741 646  
hugh@halkynparish.wanadoo.co.uk

You can also get details of events and find out more about us on our web-site  
[www.halkynparishes.org.uk](http://www.halkynparishes.org.uk)

## **Cynfaen Memorial Chapel Calcoed**

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

(C) Denotes Communion Service.

December	6 <sup>th</sup> (W)	Mr Tegwyn Williams	
	13 <sup>th</sup> (E)	Rev. Marc Morgan (C)	
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Bi-lingual Carol Service 5.00pm	
	27 <sup>th</sup> (W)	Trefniant LI	
January	3 <sup>rd</sup> (E)	Rev. Maureen Roberts (C)	
	10 <sup>th</sup> (W)	Mr Gron Ellis	
	17 <sup>th</sup> (E)	Rev. Marc Morgan	
	24 <sup>th</sup> (W)	Parch Marc Morgan (C)	
	31 <sup>st</sup> (E)	Rev. Jenny Hurd	
February	7 <sup>th</sup> (W)	Parch Marc Morgan	
	14 <sup>th</sup> (E)	Rev. Marc Morgan (C)	
	21 <sup>st</sup> (W)	Mrs Maryl Rees(C)	
	28 <sup>th</sup> (E)	Mr Closs Parry	

Do join us for our Bi-lingual Carol Service  
to be held on the 20th December.

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

## **W.R.V.S. Rural Transport**

Can you help? Drivers are wanted in  
the Pentre/Halkyn/Rhosesmor area  
with time to spare, with cars suitable for  
transporting elderly or infirm people to  
appointments, etc.

Mileage allowance given.

Please contact  
Mrs J Roberts on 01352 780087

## **Capel Salem, Pentre Halkyn**

Services at 2pm.

C = Communion

December 6th	Rev. Marc Morgan	W, C
13th	Miss Angela Bebbington	E
20th	Rev. Bryn Jones	
	Bilingual Christmas Service	
27th	Rev. Dr Jennie Hurd	W
January 3rd	No Service	
10th	Rev. Marc Morgan	W, C
17th	No Service	
24th	Rev. Hugh Burgess	E
31st	No Service	
February 7th	Mrs Delyth McIntyre	E
14th	No Service	
21st	Rev. Marc Morgan	W
28th	No Service	

## **Capel Bethel y Nant**

Service 2.30 p.m. every Sunday  
Do come and join us!! Croeso Cynnes!!

Dec 6th	Own arrangement
Dec 13th	Maureen Roberts
Dec 20th	Carol Service 2.00 p.m.
Dec 27th	Own arrangement

January No Services

Feb 7th	Arwel Roberts
Feb 14th	Maryl Rees
Feb 21st	Own arrangement
Feb 24th	Glyn Thomas

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

## **CAPEL BETHEL Y NANT**

GWASANAETH CAROLAU  
CAROL SERVICE  
BILINGUAL

Dydd Sul yr 20ed o Ragfyr  
Sunday 20th of December  
Am 2 o'r Gloch  
Paned a Mins Pei !!

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

## **St Michael's Church, Brynford**

The Curate, Rev. Sue Moriarty

can be contacted on 01352 720874

**FLINT AND HOLYWELL ROTARY CLUB  
HALKYN MOUNTAIN AREA  
SANTA STOPS 2015**

\* = Santa Stops

**TUESDAY 15TH DECEMBER:**

5.30 Rhiwlas Care Home  
6.00 Flint Mountain School\*  
6.20 Northop Boot \*  
6.50 Pentre Halkyn P.O. \*  
7.10 Brynford School \*  
7.25 Brynford Cross \*  
7.40 St Claires Pant Asaph \*

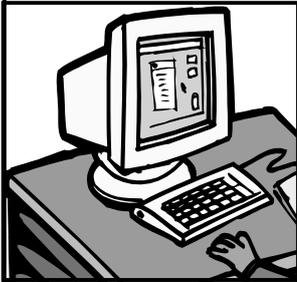
**THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER:**

6pm Halkyn - P.O. \*  
6.20 Rhosesmor – Park\*  
6.40 Rhes y Cae - Miners Arms\*  
7.00 Lixwm - Top layby Crown \*  
7.25 Ysceifiog - The Square \*  
7.40 Caerwys Tour

**SATURAY 19TH DECEMBER**

**HOLYWELL HIGH STREET\***  
10.00 am – 2.00 pm  
“Holywell Santa Stroll”

**Halkyn Library**



The library is a facility for all local residents, young and old, and is now open **once** a week



**Fridays**

**1:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

Library Online Services via

**www.flintshire.gov.uk**

**HALKYN MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY CINEMA PRESENT**

**The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel**

**Saturday 16th January**

**(tickets available from 19th December)**



**Venue: Halkyn Cricket Club, Pentre Road, Pentre Halkyn**

**Tickets are just £4 each (in advance) and will be available from Pentre Halkyn Post Office and The Blue Bell, Halkyn as well as online via the mountain cinema website.**

Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema is run by a small group of volunteers. Please support your local community cinema.

*Fully licenced bar, hot drinks and snacks!*

*Join us online to keep informed of our next film in March and all of our future screenings...*

**www.mountaincinema.org.uk**



**halkynmountaincinema**

**@mountaincinema**



# ***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 staffs 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](mailto:Halkynmountainkidsclub@gmail.com) or even visit our website at [www.ysgolrhoshelyg.com/holkyn.asp](http://www.ysgolrhoshelyg.com/holkyn.asp)



## ***Biscuits in Action!***

We are Biscuits, the Halkyn Mountain Parishes Youth Group and we meet in Rhes-y-Cae Village Hall on a Wednesday 5.45 to 6.45 in term time.



As you can see we don't spend all our time in Rhes-y-Cae Hall! Every holiday we do something different to socialise and have fun, giving us a break from our stressful timetables in school. This half term we went go-karting and then to Nandos for lunch.



# Children's Pages

## A Few Words from Ginnie the Donkey

I love the changing seasons, but wish that we had more daylight hours in winter. I feel fortunate to have a nice stable, but sometimes I can get so comfortable that it's an effort to venture outside, particularly on a frosty morning. During the winter months, my human friends provide me with a continuous supply of tasty hay. I never tire of hay, it always smells and tastes delicious. I don't understand why humans never eat it. I'm sure it would make an excellent sandwich. I understand that Halkyn Mountain News sometimes has recipes in it. I am sure that I could be creative and think of a few ideas for future editions. Only this morning I was thinking of a few names for recipes such as Hay and Carrot Surprise (the surprise would be a big juicy carrot completely hidden in the hay), Hay and Apple Surprise (the surprise would be an apple hidden in the hay) and Hay Shock (the shock would be not finding anything at all in the hay after the carrot and the apple).

Sometimes I will stand at my stable door and look at the moon and the stars in the sky. I wonder how many other

donkeys are doing the same. The sky is so interesting and sometimes the stars move very fast and some nights I can't see them at all. It is usually very quiet at night but in early November each year, the stars behave very strangely and make banging noises. They flash and change colour and light up the sky and then suddenly they go back to being normal again. The bangs sometimes make me jump but it's quite interesting to watch. My son Danny used to be very scared of the bangs and flashes but less so as he has grown up.

Owls can also be noisy at night. Occasionally one sits in a tree near my stable and hoots without giving any consideration to the time of night. I might have just fallen asleep and having a nice dream, and then the owl hoots and wakes me up. I have tried shouting but it makes no difference. Owls take little notice of donkeys and don't seem to want to have a chat. It would be nice to have a good chat with an owl because they must see a lot of interesting things when they fly at night.

I feel lucky to live in such a nice place. I know that other donkeys may not be as fortunate as Danny and I. We have a lovely green mountain and an interesting sky and despite the odd noisy owl, a fairly peaceful life. I wouldn't swap it for any number of sacks of carrots.

Goodbye for now my friends.  
Ginnie

Ginnie and her son Danny live on the side of Moel y Gaer in Rhosesmor and receive many visitors.

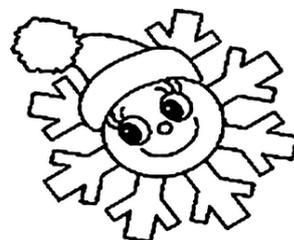
## Spot the Difference

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





# Winter Wordsearch



W	E	A	T	H	E	R	W	G	S	F	P	S	F	M
O	H	J	V	O	L	J	O	N	J	V	H	N	J	J
K	F	R	A	C	S	M	E	O	K	O	L	O	M	G
D	R	H	B	P	T	T	D	P	V	B	P	W	W	N
I	E	L	J	Q	T	O	I	E	L	J	Q	F	O	I
W	E	P	N	I	W	K	L	I	P	N	S	L	K	T
S	Z	Q	M	W	Q	D	S	D	Q	M	F	A	D	A
N	I	A	K	S	B	I	U	W	A	K	F	K	I	K
A	N	S	L	I	D	E	I	S	S	L	U	E	W	S
M	G	W	J	C	D	L	L	A	W	J	M	D	S	W
W	W	X	I	D	S	N	O	W	X	I	R	B	U	X
O	C	C	U	F	D	D	P	C	C	U	A	D	D	C
N	V	D	O	M	G	G	N	I	D	D	E	L	S	D
S	B	E	P	I	C	C	R	E	T	N	I	W	C	E
F	S	L	I	P	P	E	R	Y	R	T	A	H	H	R

<b>SNOW</b>	<b>SHOVEL</b>	<b>SLIPPERY</b>	<b>SCARF</b>
<b>SNOWMAN</b>	<b>COLD</b>	<b>SLIDE</b>	<b>HAT</b>
<b>WINTER</b>	<b>FREEZING</b>	<b>SLEDDING</b>	<b>EARMUFFS</b>
<b>WEATHER</b>	<b>SNOWFLAKE</b>	<b>SKATING</b>	<b>MITTENS</b>

## Ysgol Brynffordd School

We would like to welcome Halkyn Mountain News readers back to the new school year, hopefully after a restful summer break. We welcome the new parents who have joined us this year. We look forward to working with you all in the forthcoming year. The children have all settled in extremely well and are keen to work.

This term the infants' class topic is 'Senses' and the juniors' topic is learning all about the 'Swinging Sixties'.

### Jeans for Genes Day

All staff and pupils came into school wearing their jeans on Friday 18th September, donating money towards the Jeans for Genes Day charity. This is a charity we have supported for a number of years and it is a good way to help children less fortunate than ourselves. We raised £70.20p for this worthy cause.

### Coastal Explorers Project

The children in the Foundation Phase have been taking part in a coastal explorers project, run by Plas Derw Trust, which will run every Thursday for six weeks. The first session began on Thursday 24th September with the sessions being held on the beach at Presthaven Sands. The children have thoroughly enjoyed their time exploring!



### MacMillans Biggest Coffee Morning

This event was greatly supported by parents and Brynford residents who came along on the morning of Friday 25th September to enjoy coffee and cake in the school hall. Thank you to all who helped by donating cakes! We raised an enormous £339.14 for this worthwhile cause, an all time record for our school.

### Busy Bee Day

A huge thank you to all the parents and staff who donated their day on Saturday 26th September to come into school and take part in our Busy Bee Day. The school grounds look lovely as a result of all your hard work!

### PC Gail Sinclair

PC Sinclair, our Police Liaison Officer, came into school on the 28th September to talk to the children about 'Behaviour' – right vs wrong, bullying and diversity.

### Junior School Trip to 'The Beatles Story' Liverpool

As part of this term's topic 'The Swinging Sixties' the children in the juniors visited Liverpool to take part in 'The Beatles Story' on Tuesday 29th September. Both children and staff thoroughly enjoyed themselves learning about the history of the sixties.



### Respectfest

Miss Emma Owens took two children from Year 6 to the Respectfest at John Summers High School. Respectfest promotes anti-bullying and the importance of respecting each other.

### Parents Open Evening

A Parents open evening was held on Thursday 1st October. Parents were invited into school to discuss how their child had settled into the new term with the class teacher. Thank you to Mrs. Oare, school cook, who laid on a delicious selection of food samples for parents and children to sample.



Sample of School meals on display on the evening.

### Harvest

The children took part in our annual Harvest service in Calcoed chapel on the morning of Monday 12th October. The service was well attended. Thank you to all who kindly made a donation. Your donation will go towards Epilepsy and Calcoed chapel for allowing us to hold our Harvest service there.

# **Brynford Community Council**

## **Best kept Communities Competition 2015.**

Brynford Village was again entered into this year's competition, a number of local residents helped tidy the village including Mr. John Ward of Brynford Pet Cemetery who arranged for the grass cutting of the village green. Unfortunately Brynford did not receive an award following the judging but comments off the judges paid tribute to how well St. Michael's Church Yard was kept.

The Council has received an approach from residents living at Hafod-Y-Bryn who are willing to improve the garden area within the sheltered accommodation which the Council would support.

Brynford will be entered into next year's competition and should you have any suggestions on improving our community or wish to help, please contact Councillor Jean Davies, Brynford Village Stores who is one of our co-ordinators.

## **School Modernisation Programme Brynford C.P. School.**

Most residents will be aware of the above announcement to review the future delivery of education at Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor, Brynford C.P. and Lixwm C.P. School.

The Council has been engaged in the process having communication with Flintshire County Council Education Officers and Chairman of School Governors and Head teachers.

The Council's understanding is that the formal review will not start until formal Cabinet approval by Flintshire County Council sometime early 2016 and the review is likely to take a minimum of 2 years until completion.

## **Co-option of New Member to the Council.**

Following the retirement of Councillor Gwyn Roberts and Notice of Vacancy being served, Linda O'Hare has been co-opted onto the Council. Councillor O'Hare can be contacted on 01352 710081 and her address is:- Bro Dawel, Naid-Y-March, Brynford, CH8 8LG.

## **Resurfacing of Road – Hafod-Y-Bryn.**

Following representation being made to Flintshire County Council the Council has been advised that the re-surfacing of the estate road at Hafod-Y-Bryn will be undertaken this Autumn.

## **Children's Play Area, Brynford.**

The Council has received an invitation from Flintshire County Council to participate and this year's match funding programme for improving children's play areas. The Council had been advised that the existing children's play house and slide was over 15 years of age was in need of replacing. The Council has approved for up to £5,000.00 to be provided towards the match funding programme which will provide for a new structure of up to £10,000 being invested into the play area. The scheme will be completed by March, 2016.

## **Street Lighting Faults and Maintenance.**

It's the time of year again when we need all our street lights working effectively. Any defects can be reported to your local Councillor or myself in order that repairs can be undertaken by the Council's Street Lighting Contractor.

Alan Roberts  
Clerk to the Council  
Crecas Cottage, Carmel Hill, Pantasaph  
Nr. Holywell, Flintshire, CH8 8NZ

Tel: 01352 349849

## **Rhes-Y-Cae News**

### **On The Trot! Sunday 6th September**

As I was driving down the hill from Pant y Pwll Dwr Quarry towards Rhes y Cae, I became aware that there were a number of horse riders around Halkyn Mountain. I noticed a few people outside Ysgol Rhes y Cae and they said there were about 17 horse riders, raising money for the Urdd Eisteddfod in May 2016. What a lovely idea!

### **Annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Wednesday 30th September**

There was a service at Christchurch, Rhes y Cae at 7pm. Many thanks to all who helped to decorate the church so beautifully on the Monday. It was splendid to see!

Many thanks to Rev'd Hugh Burgess, our organist Colin Legg and the Readers.

It was followed by a tasty Hot-pot supper at Rhes y Cae village hall –

our grateful thanks to the committee members for providing the food. All the people who attended had enjoyed this special service and the meal afterwards.



### **Gwasanaeth O Ddiolchgarwch ( Harvest Thanksgiving) Monday 19th October at 7pm**

There was a good attendance at Ebenezer Chapel and the singing was wonderful! Rev'd Robert Parry of Wrexham (he also preaches at the Welsh Chapel in Chester) took the service and our sincere thanks to him. Also to Colin Legg and Ieuan Ap Sion .



At the beginning of the service, Rev'd Parry became aware that little Matilda aged 2 ¾ years with her father Matthew were in the congregation. They had been busy

*(Continued on page 24)*

*(Continued from page 23)*

making a harvest loaf, which was put with the other goods on the Harvest table, which looked very pleasing to the eye! It was lovely to see Matilda, and she was so well behaved for her age!

Matthew, Danielle and Matilda have come to live in The Stores, Rhes y Cae – we wish them every happiness in the future.

### **Wedding of Sara Roberts and Medwyn Thomas at Ebenezer Chapel Saturday 24th October at 1.30pm**

It was such a wonderful surprise to see the sun shining when the bride was leaving Tyddyn to walk to Ebenezer Chapel! Sara looked lovely as she was accompanied by her two bridesmaids, Gwenno (a friend from her workplace) and Glesni (an old school friend) who were dressed in beautiful red dresses.

After the marriage service, Sara and Med were taken back to the farm by tractor! The wedding reception was held in a marquee near Tyddyn Farm, and it looked amazing with twinkling lights! Wishing them all the best for their future lives together. Hwyl fawr!



### **Future Dates**

**Christmas Coffee Morning** – Tuesday 24th November  
10.30am – 12 noon at Rhes y Cae Village Hall.

**Pensioners Christmas Lunch** – Saturday 5th  
December, at 2pm, Rhes y Cae Village Hall

**Church Toy Service** – Sunday 6th December at  
8.45am

**Christmas Carol Service** – Wednesday 16th  
December at 7pm

**Noson o Garolau** - Ebenezer Chapel Monday 21st  
December at 7pm

**'Around The Crib'** - Rhes y Cae Church – Thursday  
24th December at 4pm

**Christmas Day Service** Rhes y Cae Church – Friday  
25th December at 9.30am

All are warmly welcomed to the above events.

If you have any news for the next edition concerning Rhes y Cae and surrounding area, please ring 01352780371

Gwyneth Hughes

## **Lament for the Rhes-y-Cae Conker Tree**

The beautiful horse-chestnut tree is not a British native but an introduction from Turkey in the late 16th century. A widely planted tree, it is fair to say that it is now naturalised in many places. The timber is of little value but the tree is held in high regard for its amenity value, and few trees can better fit it in this respect. It is called horse chestnut in its native Turkey too and given to horses for food and medicine.

Strangely enough when the leaves fall the stalk makes a horseshoe-shaped scar on the branch, which carry small nail-like marks!

In Springtime the horse-chestnut is greatly admired for its pyramidal spikes of creamy white flowers, which make the tree seem as if it's covered with white candles. Here on the mountain they are usually the first trees to break into leaf and provide welcome greenery in early April. In the summer the leaves provide shade and food for wildlife; then comes the bright, shiny, mahogany conkers which are loved by children. Playing conkers has flourished amongst girls and adults as well as boys and despite some regional variation in jargon, the rules and rights, as the archivist of children's games Iona and Peter Opie discovered, are pretty standard throughout Wales.

In autumn the leaves are first to begin to change colour to brown, red, and then yellow, and are a wonderful sight.

When I was in primary school the best conkers were always collected from the famous conker tree in Rhes-y-Cae Churchyard or from the Afonwen conker trees.

That was more than 50 years ago and, of course, generations of children have got their conkers from the Rhes-y-Cae tree since then. It was always satisfying to see the children still getting their conkers in September, still throwing sticks up into the branches, still gathering their bags of conkers and still arguing who had the best conkers.

People look forward to these simple pleasures. An amenity tree like the Rhes-y-Cae conker tree was part of one's life - always there – a much loved landmark providing food and shelter for wildlife and enjoyment and beauty for the local community.

Sadly, there were no conkers this autumn as the beautiful tree was cut down a few months ago leaving Rhes-y-Cae without its famous horse chestnut tree, thus depriving local people of seeing this wonderful tree year after year throughout the seasons.

I wrote a year or two ago about the threat of "Chalara" or "Ash-dieback" disease. This disease has killed 90 % to 100% of Ash trees in other European countries.

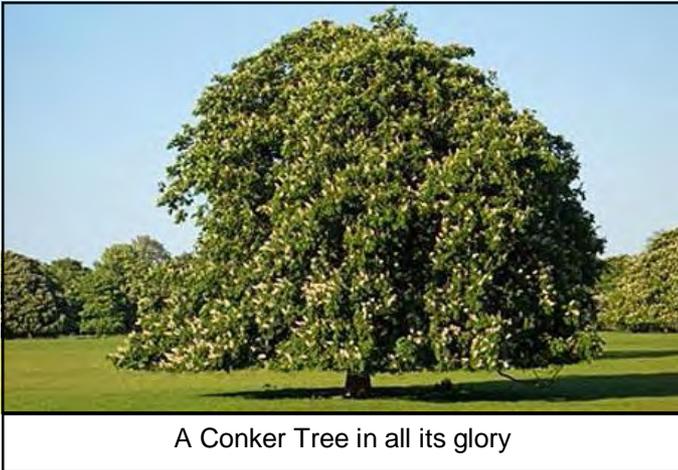
The powers that be are very worried about the impact this will have on our countryside. One in three of every tree in Britain is Ash. On Halkyn Mountain 90% of our

trees are Ash. The impact of this disease will have on our local environment will be very great. Ash die-back has reached Northop on the A55. So get planting trees for the future - we're going to need them!

We have a wonderful environment here on Halkyn Mountain and we need to look after it and enhance it.

Rhes-y-Cae conker tree was planted in Victorian times by an unselfish person. It lived for well over a century, giving enjoyment and pleasure to thousands of people over the years. "All things bright and beautiful, all creatures ...."

Ieuan ap Sion



## **Wales on a Bus Pass**

*A journey by Wendy Sigsworth*

It was with some trepidation that I set off in heavy rain to Lixwm bus shelter. John has never had much confidence in my organisational ability - surely he can't blame me for the weather though. Rain forecast for the week and I even heard talk of a hurricane, forecasters have been wrong in the past especially when hurricanes were mentioned. John's Geography and Navigational skills I have to agree are far superior to mine, though I did pass my 'O' level Geography. Despite my lack of skills and John's lack of enthusiasm I was determined to organise a trip around Wales using our bus passes. Our friends John and Beth were keen to join us on our challenge. There was just one proviso they would come if I organised everything - obviously they had more confidence in my skills than John. John soon began to like the idea and let me get on with arranging the trip. It took some hours of research, my laptop worked overtime and oh what a wonderful invention the internet was!

I soon established that our bus passes could be used on some train journeys during the six months from October 1st. A date to start was agreed 5th October. We could use some trains and the nights would still be a little bit light and the beginning of October's weather is often good.

Local knowledge made it easier to plan the first part of the trip. I looked up local authority web sites for bus and train time tables and soon had the first two days planned. Although I printed out bus time tables for days two and three I did not put any details down. I thought this would give us a little flexibility and everyone else

could contribute to our route - truth be known my Geography of South Wales wasn't too good and why should I do all the planning. The last day's planning proved to be the most difficult. Our train journey terminated across the border in England, no problem with the English, no hostility expected but the short journey between Shrewsbury and Wrexham is pretty much impossible on a bus pass. Not to be deterred I continued with the plan even with this minor hiccup. I hoped the problem of not getting home would work itself out.

A couple of weeks to go and all I had left to do was decide on what I was going to take with me in my small ruck sack. It was small quantities of everything. Clothes a few layers - 2 of everything things could be washed at night and dried on radiators.

Small containers for wash bag (just a polythene bag to save space), small towel, minimum medicines Camera, brolly, small torch, reflector (for evening walking), mobile, purse, First Aid kit waterproof Bus timetable, itinerary, map and of course most importantly our bus passes.

With routes planned and bag packed we were ready for the great expedition!

### **Day 1**

I don't know of anyone who started their holiday in Lixwm unless they actually live there but we arrived in Lixwm bus shelter on Monday morning for the 8 o'clock bus to Denbigh. Lixwm's bus shelter was probably the best built attractive bus shelter we had the pleasure of sheltering in, though I think it needs a gutter across the front (I'm quite an expert on bus shelters now). With only a five minute turn around in Denbigh the timing of this first bus was imperative, the only one on our journey that was so important. John's expression was not one of amusement when he turned around to tell me that the bus was already 5 minutes late and we had to wait another 3 minutes before it arrived. I was not unduly worried we and the 20 school children waiting the bus would soon be on and I was sure the driver would make the time up. Interesting to note for future reference school children buy their bus passes for the week on a Monday morning and the transaction takes some time for each pupil. Not to worry we were on our way, we couldn't see a thing through the steamed up windows but the driver was doing his best - there was still a chance. More youngsters getting on, more youngsters to pay. I don't know whether it was the steamed up windows or the fact that the road closed diversion sign was flat on the floor that resulted in the bus driver attempting to drive down the road that was closed. He however reversed the bus very skilfully a quarter of a mile along a narrow road with cars on one side and a large hedge on the other. More children to get on and buy bus passes. I'm now thinking doesn't anyone realise we have another 7 buses and 2 trains to catch today. The thought went through my mind 'was it a good idea to go around Wales on a bus pass, shall we just go home?' Not to be put off I figured that if our next bus left Denbigh on the same road we were going in on we could get off a few stops earlier and catch the next bus a few stops later than the main bus station. I had a chat with the driver to tell him of my plan. As we approached a bus stop, he shouted for us to get off as

*(Continued on page 26)*

*(Continued from page 25)*

the bus we wanted had not yet picked up the people from the stop across the road. Luckily our next bus for Bodelwyddan was a little late starting off so we managed to catch it and rendezvoused with our friends John and Beth.

Everything went well afterwards no more worries for the whole week! The rain had stopped confidence was growing and we alighted the bus at an earlier stop (the view of the Marble Church being preferable to the view of the hospital. After a few minutes wait at Bodelwyddan we were on the bus for Llandudno Junction. Travelling through Abergele, Old Colwyn, Colwyn Bay brought back memories for us all of when the route of the A55 passed through villages and towns and didn't bypass the townships. There's much better views of the buildings from the bus. The towns could never cope with the volume of traffic now!

Just time to buy a cup of coffee at Llandudno Junction station before boarding the Conwy Valley train (you can use your train pass all year around on this train).

Although it had Llandudno on the front and rear of the train we were assured it was going to Llanrwst and Ffestiniog. Comfortable, clean, and smooth is how we described the carriage, and yes it did go to Llanrwst, this was a little unfortunate for the gentleman who wanted to go to Llandudno. We were unsure why he didn't realise it was going in the wrong direction or why he wasn't surprised that the journey was taking 30 minutes instead of the ten minutes it would take to Llandudno. The views of the Conwy Valley were wonderful with many wading birds to see including egrets.

Half an hour in Llanrwst gave us time for a short town and river walk. It was in a bakers shop here that John glimpsed some large, soft, white baps, the like of which he failed to find for the rest of the week. A goosander was spotted on the river, a bird I'd never seen before, the trip was turning out to be quite educational. We watched the wildlife on the river until our bus came and we were quickly on our way to Betws y Coed.

The short bus ride to Betws Y Coed took us through woodland along the Conwy Valley. Betws Y Coed is a beautiful place to spend a couple of hours and this is what we did. A walk around the park to the bridge and watched the water as it fell over the large rocks. Time for lunch which was enjoyed in the Royal Oak before our short walk to the station to board the train again to Blaenau Ffestiniog.

River and woodland views, mountains, pretty cottages are some of the things we were delighted with on this trip as well as the long tunnel. Just ten minutes in Blaenau Ffestiniog and we were on the start of our beautiful bus journey down to Porth Madog. It's difficult to take in so much beauty in one day. The trees were just beginning to get their autumn colours. Wading birds galore were seen on the Glasfryn marsh as the bus drew into Porthmadog.

After a quick pint in Pen Cei one of the many hostellers in Porth Madog we started the 15 minute walk to Borth Y Gest. When the little bay comes into view over the hill it's quite breath taking. Afternoon tea and ice cream was enjoyed sitting outside the tea shop looking over the water and the land beyond. A 10 minute bus journey took us back via Morfa Buchan to Porth Madog. Another pint in the Australia just across the road from

the bus station. We drank up when we saw our bus come into the station and walked across to take out 7th bus journey of the day.

Passing through Criccieth and many other small pretty villages we arrived at Pwllheli where we had our evening meal at Wetherspoons, just around the corner from the bus station. Our last bus journey of the day took 10 minutes to reach our final destination of the day Y Ffor. We walked in the dark to reach our accommodation for the night - our seasonally pitched caravan.

A good day was had by all. My confidence as a tour guide was growing, may be I should buy myself an umbrella.

## **Day 2**

It may have been excitement or the fact that Beth got the giggles that got us up so early on Tuesday. We had a very leisurely sit down and a cup of tea or two before setting off to walk to catch the 8.07 bus to Pwllheli. The bus stop was just outside a charity shop with 2 large windows of interesting bric a brac to look at. We again shared the bus with school children no one buying passes today though. Like yesterday's youngsters they were very little conversation between them, were we that quiet on our bus to school, too long ago to remember. The one and a half hours before our train was due to leave gave us plenty of time to return to Wetherspoons for a relaxed breakfast, with free coffee and tea refills. We crossed the road to the station in bright sunshine and boarded the Cambrian Coast Train to Machynlleth – our mode of transport for the next two hours. A beautifully scenic journey overlooking the sea on one side and up to the mountains on the other, plenty of wild life including dolphins, swans, geese, ducks and oyster catchers. Why would anyone want to go any further than Wales?

Machynlleth is a small, interesting market town with many independent shops. Pantri Bach provided us with excellent refreshments, no large, soft, white baps though. A short walk around the centre gave us the opportunity to appreciate all the town has to offer including the dominant market cross. We managed the stairs to sit on the top deck of the only double decker bus of our journey, great sea and countryside views from the front seats we claimed. John as usual never fully satisfied wanted wipers on the window! It had now started to drizzle.

As we arrived in Aberystwyth so did the rain. Not to be deterred we walked down to the sea front and had a couple of pints in the Inn On The Pier watching the sea birds and the sea lapping the shore. John and Beth had previously seen starling displays at dusk around the pier at Aberystwyth, so we decide to stay for the twilight starling display. The rain spitting into the sea gave us a good indication of how heavy it was. When the rain stopped we had a good wander around the castle end of town and although it was October there were some lovely floral displays to be seen. We could not resist the pull of MGs café for afternoon tea, especially when we saw it was pensioner's day and we could get 10% discount! On calling at the Tourist Information Centre a very helpful lady informed us that it was later in the year that the starlings entertained in their thousands. So it was off for the bus again, just half an hour's ride to Aberaeron for our B&B for the night.

I quickly spotted the B&B as we drove in, a short walk found us in a double room overlooking the sea. It was

all we needed in a B&B. The landlady was helpful and advised us to eat in the restaurant behind the Fish and Chip shop at the harbour. Whilst it was still light we walked around the harbour village admiring this delightful place with its well-kept houses, each a different colour from its neighbour. We were not disappointed with the restaurant, we all chose fish which was fresh and tasty. A couple of pints in the Cadwgan Inn, just a small one bar pub where locals frequent. Only a 10 minute walk to our accommodation where we reflected on what another wonderful day we had had. I'm thinking I may need a red coat to go with my broly in my new career as a tourist guide. John promised he was saying nothing the next day as we three others in the party agreed he was interfering too much in my arrangements.

### Day 3

We awoke to clear blue skies and sunshine. After a hearty breakfast we had the opportunity for a short river walk and quick look in some of the shops before our first bus of the day. The rain we'd had on Tuesday and during the night had resulted in the river flowing very swiftly and at a high level. With our next stop at Cardigan we had an hour to enjoy the stunning scenery from the bus. It was on this bus that we became more aware of the different things people do to occupy their time on a bus – a lady knitting, gentlemen reading books and papers, youngsters listening to music and texting whilst others have a nap. Meandering through some of the coastal villages gave us the opportunity to see picturesque hamlets we would never have seen had we travelled by car along the main roads.

Cardigan was a bustling town with locals enjoying the social side of shopping. The river flows alongside the town just before it reaches the vast waters of Cardigan Bay. John again was disappointed with the lack of large, soft, white baps. The waitress where we had morning coffee promoted the virtues and pleasures of St David's (it was her home city). St David's was immediately put onto our itinerary. Off then for the bus to Fishguard.

The journey was just as good as all the others we'd had down the west coast. The bus worked hard to go up and down the steep hills, the small hamlet and harbour on the approach to Fishguard was quaint and pretty. My expectations of Fishguard were low and it turned out that I was quite impressed especially the where we enjoyed a couple of pints in The Old Coach House. The lure of St David's drew us in, although I'd been there before I didn't remember how pretty it was with a lovely view point over the abbey and cathedral where we enjoyed our ice creams. After a stroll around the smallest city in Wales we were ready to board our 4th bus of the day. This was a school bus and we couldn't help noticing the difference between youngsters on a morning bus ride and those on an afternoon bus, a few more decibels but good to have around. Although we stopped for an hour at Haverfordwest we felt it was quite a good town to pass through.

Our last bus of the day was to Pembroke – an interesting journey. When John made a derogatory remark we reminded him he promised 'to say nothing' a fellow passenger commented 'I like a man who knows his place especially when he will help to dig it'. Pembroke was the home to a large street fair that evening so we couldn't appreciate the beautiful

buildings and delights it had to offer. The B&B I booked earlier in the day was a good 10 minute walk from the centre. John and Beth had spent some time in Pembroke before so we went to the Old Kings Arms where they had enjoyed good food a few times before. We enjoyed the ambiance and the food was even better – all at a reasonable price. The walk back to B&B helped us to digest a lovely meal.

Another good day with many things to talk about and remember. Conclusion of the day – John finds it difficult to say nothing

### Day 4

After another good breakfast and comfortable room we just managed to catch our bus to Tenby. In glorious sunshine we travelled in land with just a few glimpses of the coast, very scenic all the same. Tenby seemed a very sleepy sea side resort, not surprisingly at this time of year. The sun warm. And there was time enough for a walk around the village, taking photos of the coast, castle and the flowers on the esplanade before our next bus – too early to stop for coffee. With no direct route to Swansea that we could use our bus passes on we had to go north to Narberth pick up a local bus east to Camarthen and then south via Llanelli to Swansea. I've always known that Wales is beautiful but I think it looks even better from a bus, everywhere we went was so picturesque.

Narberth was a market town with a Market Hall set in the middle of the main street. The market hall houses a cell where Rebecca was held (I must do some more research into this – Rebecca of Rebecca Riot fame I assume). It was a very busy little town with lots of little interesting shops. The coffee and teas were good. I bought my only souvenir of the trip here – some allium bulbs for the garden. We were reluctant to buy anything as whatever we bought we had to carry. I'm not sure if this was a plus or a minus for the tour. Time for the bus to move onto Camarthen.

We felt that the old coach that turned up may have been a replacement for the modern buses we were used to. However it got us to our destination in good time even if we struggled to see the beautiful rolling hills through the dirty windows. Camarthen is quite a large country town with some good shops, no large, soft, white baps to compare with those in the Llanrwst bakery. The Drovers proved to be a good watering hole, where we enjoyed a couple of pints. Just time for a walk around before catching the bus to Llanelli. Some good shops to browse in whilst we awaited the bus.

Llanelli looked to be quite big but we chose to have a quick turn around here – just time to have a quick 20p comfort break. We were then heading for our final stop of the day - Swansea. The good agricultural land we passed through was a pleasure to see. We saw the newest race course in the UK - Ffos Las. John is now planning a bus pass to go horse racing at Ffos Las (he's really getting into bus passes). We chose the Grand Hotel, Swansea for our last night's accommodation - just across the road from the train station – in a good place to start our final day. We had a good walk around by the city calling for a drink in a bar by the marina (most expensive drinks of the week). We found a pub to eat in whilst watching the European football games. Unfortunately Beth's choice was off the menu so she

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chose a combo platter for herself. The dustbin sized plate it arrived on was full and I admired Beth for eating so much. Back to the hotel for a night cap to discuss our day's adventure. Beth and I chuckled over the saying of the grandmother of the lady on the bus – if men were identical twins they wouldn't even make good book ends.

Every day we were away we appreciated how lucky we are to live in such a wonderful country

### Day 5

The Heart of Wales train was at the platform when we entered the station just a single carriage. We were told we would have to wait for the driver and guard before we could leave, makes sense I guess. The train was modern, clean, ran very smoothly and was so well named it truly did go through the heart of Wales. Mountain, river, moorland, forest, garden and field views were all there. Red Kites, a fox, farm animals, birds were in abundance a wonderful four hour journey to arrive in Shrewsbury on time.

Shrewsbury was busy, a walk around the town centre and through the square brought on a thirst, quenched by a few beers. We saw some of the beautiful black and white buildings of the town whilst we walked to a teashop for ice cream and cake. It was then time to walk out of town past the well maintained Abbey to our rendezvous The Dun Cow. After much research I couldn't find a way from Shrewsbury home using our bus passes – unless we returned back to mid Wales which would take another day. I conceded we would have to pay a fair from Shrewsbury to Wrexham. I was of course disappointed. Disappointment and relief when my son David offered to collect us from Shrewsbury as he would be passing through after a business trip. It wasn't really cheating was it? He picked us up off the side of the road as arranged. David agreed that the most picturesque part of his journey from London began when he entered Wales. We travelled through the Dee Valley, Llangollen, up the Horseshoe Pass, through Ruthin to drop John and Beth off in Rhewl. We were safely delivered home travelling down the Vale of Clwyd.

### Conclusions

In all we had 21 bus journeys, 4 train journeys, 2 car lifts, went in 15 pubs and 9 cafes

Excellent, clean and efficient transport

Comfortable and homely accommodation

Stunning Scenery, friendly fellow travellers, helpful staff, quaint shops, traditional pubs

Great company

Not bad in five wonderful days.

We all had a marvellous, fun time. Llanrwst bakers shop have the best large white baps. Lixwm has the nicest bus shelter. Wales is a fabulous place to tour around.

Buses and trains in Wales are easy to use, clean

comfortable and a pleasure to travel in. Everyone

who's eligible for a bus pass should get one and use it.

John has a slightly better opinion of my organisational skills, though he wouldn't admit it and he still finds it

very difficult to 'say nothing'

Would we recommend others do it, Definitely!

Would we do it again? Yes, What are you doing next week John?



## HARDY PLANT SOCIETY CLWYD GROUP

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

**The winter into spring programme is:**

- Tues 19 Jan** 'Bees and Plants' by Ted Brabin  
**Tues 16 Feb** 'Lost Sub-tropical Gardens of La  
Chaire in Jersey' by Tony Russell  
**Tues 15 Mar** AGM and 'An HPS Autumn  
Weekend' by Sue Morris.  
Visitors £2 a meeting.

Information: 01352 780697 or [www.hardy-plant.org.uk](http://www.hardy-plant.org.uk)

## Bodease Fitness

Low impact fitness class.  
Get fit, burn calories,  
stretch and tone.

STARTING BACK IN JANUARY.

Rhosesmor Village Hall 5.30-6.30  
Mondays £3.50

Contact Lynn 780740/Facebook Rhosesmor  
Village

## HALKYN PARISH HALL BINGO

**DOORS OPEN AT 7.10 PM**

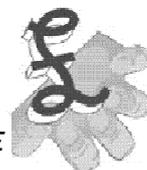
*COME ALONG AND HAVE SOME FUN  
A NIGHT OF BINGO FOR EVERYONE*



*LIGHT REFRESHMENTS SERVED TO YOU  
CASH PAY OUTS AND A RAFFLE TOO*

**HALKYN PARISH HALL IS WHERE ITS AT**

**ON A WENESDAY NIGHT AND EVERY OTHER AFTER THAT**



**DEC 2ND & 9TH & SO ON WITH ME**

**SO COME ALONG, EYES DOWN, A FUN NIGHT YOU'LL SEE**

# Halkyn Mountain Sports Club News

## Halkyn Cricket Club

Halkyn CC staged its presentation evening at the clubhouse recently. Chairman Simon Penney welcomed both Junior and Senior members present. Awards were presented by long serving Club treasurer, Roger Bellis.

1st XI Batting  
Timmy Davies



1st XI Bowling  
Graeme Settle



2nd XI Batting  
Keith Williams  
Also 2nd XI Bowling  
David Odgers  
(not pictured)



Young player  
of the year  
Kieran McLeod



Medallions were also presented to junior members by Jane Williams.

As a recognition of all their hard work throughout the season small gifts were presented to Andy Bellis, Gail Jones, Jane Williams and Nia and Ceri.

*Keith Williams*  
Secretary

## Halkyn Running Group

The Sunday Lunch Pack Running Group meets regularly each Sunday at 11:30am and generally sets off at 11:45am after a few stretches. The group is free and open to all and is steadily growing with a wide variety of people, from beginners to experienced runners.



We've had a number that competed in the Flintshire 10k in Mold all of whom did very well and we're looking forward to reporting on the growing list of events.

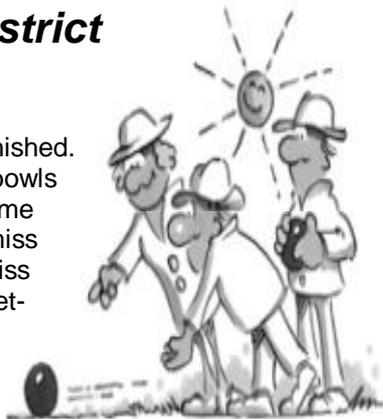
There is a Facebook group called Halkyn Mountain Running Community which is open to anyone who enjoys a run with others or is after tips and information that others may be able to provide.

If you fancy starting to run or you're already doing so then do think about coming to join us. We're all here to learn from each other, we've got the perfect area for running and at the end of the day were here to have a bit of fun.



## Halkyn and District Bowling Club

The 2015 season has finished. We have played lots of bowls which takes up a lot of time and energy, but we do miss it, most definitely - we miss the sun and the social get-togethers, but not the rain.



The season has been good: both the Vets teams have held their run and finished halfway up the league. The Midweek team did extremely well and were second from top for quite a while. We had visions of moving up to the next division, then we lost the last match. Such a disappointment, but there are rumours of reorganisation so we may just make it up.

Our club tournaments are always well attended. The D Jones singles trophy on the 8th August was won by Mick Carpenter. The 22nd August was the Herbert Blackshaw Trophy. This is in two halves, one for the winners and one for the non-winners. Neil Barnett won the non-winners match and Mick Carpenter won the winners trophy. Well done to everyone.

Our merit winners, Linda Kirkham, and Wynn Lewis, both did extremely well reaching the semifinals. On 9 August we entered the Help the Heroes tournament at Oakenholt. This was a very well supported event with people vying for places to play.

We have played in tournaments in Oakenholt, Flint and Bagillt. Halkyn players Mick Carpenter and Wynn Lewis won the Bagillt tournament.

This was a great win against some talented opponents. I'm sure Halkyn was the most supported and best represented team at these tournaments.

On Sunday, 6 September anyone visiting our green must have wondered what was going on: lots of ladies in strange attire. The men looked a bit odd too.



I will explain. It was our annual men versus ladies match. The ladies are a bit tired of always getting beaten, so to try to upset the main players we decided on a Vicars and Tarts Day. It was a great success - lots of laughs and some excellent bowling.



**One day the ladies will win, I'm sure.**



The indoor bowls at Flint Leisure Centre is in full swing: we have more players on our teams this year so we're hoping for more success - the standard is very high so hopefully we can just enjoy it.

The 100 Club wines are K Roberts, P A Worrall and E Coulter-Smith.

We have some new ideas for next season, so keep looking and get interested - you may find yourself with some new challenges.

On the 6th October Halkyn Bowling Club were shocked to hear of the death of Keith Roberts. He was a most respected and valued friend and player. As well as being one of our best players, his sense of humour was renowned.

He was well known in all the clubs in Flint: they looked forward to, and enjoyed playing against him as we all did. We miss him.

Jo Woodruff

Contact B Worrall 01352 710702: L Kirkham 01352 740457



## Holywell Golf Club

After a successful charity day on 31st July as reported in the last issue, the club was pleased to present the cheque to Mrs. Joan Davies, Chairman of the Holywell Committee seen here receiving it from Mr. Pat McDermott (Club Captain).



She thanked Holywell Golf Club for organising the event. This year the Holywell Branch had raised over £18,000 towards Cancer research in Bangor, Liverpool and Lancaster and were most grateful to Holywell Golf Club for their support.

### County Success, 9th August - Holywell Golf Club

were extremely well represented for the Flintshire v Anglesey match at Rhuddlan Golf Club last weekend with 4 members making up the 8 man team. They were: Tim Saunders, Chris Pierce, Jake Massey & Alistair Ross.



This is the first time in Club History that we have had 4 members represented in a County team before and we are very proud of them. Tim and Jake won their morning foursomes 5/4 as did Chris and Alastair. In the afternoon singles, Tim & Jake won their matches with Chris and Alistair narrowly losing theirs, but the overall match result was a Victory to Flintshire 8-4.

### County Captain's Day Success, 16th August -

Holywell GC team of Club Captain, Pat McDermott, Peter Bolwell, Don Fergusson and Jon Kendrick came out winners of the Union of Flintshire Golf Clubs County Captain's Day at Rhuddlan Golf Club. The team won with a score of 89 points ahead of runners up Prestatyn with 88 points and 3rd place Mountain Park also with 88 points. Pictured Holywell team with County Captain Wynford Davies centre.



**Holywell Golf Club - National Urdd Eisteddfod Golf Competition** A team led by Retired Gents Section Chairman Elwyn Roberts organised a golf competition at Holywell Golf Club on Friday 18th September to raise money towards the National Urdd Eisteddfod which is to be held in Flint in 2016. The event was supported by various Sponsors, teams competing in the AM-AM golf competition, a raffle after the presentation to the winner and runners up and many donations from supporters of the Urdd who could not attend on the day. The day was a great success and a total of £1,100 was raised towards the Halkyn Mountain Communities £15,000 share of the overall Flintshire target.

Pictured, Mrs Olwen Hooson, Secretary of the local fund raising committee, receiving a cheque for £1,100 by the Club Captain, Pat McDermott and Elwyn Roberts. Many thanks to the sponsors, participants and those who made a donation.



### Holywell Ladies have a great month playing in the final of the Australian Spoons and the Purves Cup.

On Saturday 19th September Holywell's Carlyne Jones and Helena Rowley represented Holywell Golf Club in the Australian Spoons All Wales final at Borth & Ynyslas Golf Club, Ceredigion. Carlyne and Helens had succeeded in qualifying for this final earlier in the year, being one of 6 pairs qualifying from the North Area final and were joined by the 6 pairs from the South area final playing a Stableford Foursomes and finished in a very credible 6th place.



On Sunday 20th September Carlyne Jones and Mo Bibby had successfully progressed to the Ladies Mixed Foursomes Final of the Purves Cup organised by the Welsh Northern Counties. Last year they were

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knocked out at the semi final stage and this year were determined to get to the final, which they did. They led from the start and maintained their lead until the 16th hole when they went All Square. A short tee shot on the 17th led to them going one down with one to play. Unfortunately Carolyne sent a wayward drive out of bounds on the 18th and it was more or less all over!

Carolyne said "We were honored to be only the second Ladies team from Holywell to reach the final and our mission is to have Holywell's name engraved on that trophy next year."

**10th Annual Holywell GC Pro-Am** - 19 teams competed in the 10th Annual Pro-Am on Friday 25th September. With the weather perfect and the course in the best of condition for a good days golf each team consisting of a PGA Professional from North Wales and the North West playing with three amateur golfers.

The results of the day, with the winners pictured are:-

Team winners -  
Griffiths & Hughes  
Parry Team 127 net  
Team runners Up -  
Robal Engineering  
Team 129 net  
Team third Place -  
Rab Electrical Team  
130 net



Professional Winner -  
Graham Cox -4 under par 66  
Professional Runners Up -  
Gary Houston & Matt Tottey  
- both 3 under par 67  
A big thank you to Lexus  
Chester and The Springfield  
Hotel for sponsoring the  
Nearest The Pin & Longest  
Drive prizes.



### Holywell Golf Club Finals Day

This is the culmination of all the club Knock Out competitions played throughout the season took place on Sunday 13th September, the results were as follows:

WESTMINSTER CUP (Gents Individual) 36 hole final won by Anthony Hitchin

ARNOLD WILLIAMS TROPHY (Seniors Individual) won by Gary Jones

NEWMAN PUTTER (Mixed Pairs)

Won by Huw & Veronica Wrench

GENTS FOURSOMES (Gents Pairs)

won by Russ Gittins & Kev Leech

SULLIVAN TROPHY (Seniors Pairs)

won by Moi Parri & Mike Brassey

COPE CUP (Ladies Individual)

won by Helena Rowley

ANGIE EVANS TROPHY (Ladies Pairs)

won by Gillian Jones & Brenda Williams

SCRATCH KO For the Tweedle Trophy (Gents Individual) won by Tim Saunders

**Dragon Sport Junior Golf Festival** Working with Dragon Sport, Club Pro Matt Parsley along with his Junior Volunteer Coaches (Mike O'Boyle, Moi Parri, Berwyn Parry & Peter Bolwell) have coached 3 Local Primary Schools in the build up to the Festival of golf that was to be held at the Club on Monday 26th October.



All the children experienced the course and clubhouse facilities with a hope that they will take part in the Junior Festival of Golf and move onto Junior Membership at the club.



During the Festival of Golf, we ran a Flag Competition for all the participants and you can see the winners pictured here with their volunteer coaches Mike O'Boyle (Holywell G.C) & Matt Hayes (Flintshire Sports Development)



**Membership** - Whether you are an avid golfer, a social golfer or you just want to get into golf as a great way to get into the fresh air and get fit we will welcome you to a very friendly and well run golf club.

The clubroom and restaurant are available for private parties and there is a Christmas Menu available throughout December.

**For more information on our facilities and restaurant, to play or join Holywell Golf Club please visit our website [www.holywellgc.co.uk](http://www.holywellgc.co.uk) or email: [secretary@holywellgc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@holywellgc.co.uk) or phone 01352 710040.**