



Halkyn Mountain News

Issue 168 - Spring 2017

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Halkyn Pensioners' Christmas Meal



I'd like to start by saying Thank You to all who joined us for the Christmas meal held on 14th December. The organisers enjoy all that we do to ensure that the Christmas event is offered to as many of you as we can seat and that you have the opportunity to have a mince pie and a mingle after your Christmas meal.

Each year we continue to receive fabulous feedback from you. We know

that you all look forward to your invitation and always try to make a space in your busy social calendars to attend.

Our aim is to ensure you have an enjoyable day and something to look forward to each and every year and hope that you gain new friends along the way. The chatter and laughter amongst the tables whilst we keep you refreshed with plenty of food and drinks is priceless, not to mention the smiles as you watch the "Santa's little helpers, or not so little now" go about the rooms wishing you a Merry Christmas whilst tidying away the Christmas crackers and toys/jokes that have been left behind.



We have been very fortunate to have received some donations from the Unite Union - Airbus branch, Morrison's, Co-operative, raffle donations and of course the donations made on the day, which all go towards the costs to provide this yearly event. We would very much like to say a very big THANK YOU to all for these very kind donations towards this community event. Also to Steve, Ness and Tom who allow us to use the Blue Bell Inn and give their time before, during and after the event to support all that we do to prepare, plan and set up in time for you all to arrive.

Halkyn and Rhosesmor village halls very kindly support us with the loan of chairs and crockery which we collect and return and we appreciate the help we receive. This year we will be planning another Big Quiz to help raise funds for the pensioners' party. We held our first fundraising quiz in June 2016 and this was very well attended and a great success. Clare and Mike did an exceptional job of planning this and making it fun and exciting for all. Please keep a lookout on the Halkyn Mountain Events' facebook page or the posters around the Halkyn area for details of the quiz to be held later this year.

Just one last thing, we look forward to seeing you all again soon and please let us know if you would like to join us in December 2017. If you have not been contacted in previous years, we would like to hear from you. We are limited on the number of places we can offer but we would like to open this event to as many pensioners in the Halkyn Village area as possible. Please pick up the telephone and let us know your address so we can pop you on the list this year.

Jane Carney - Mayfield, Halkyn - 01352 780088

Roger & Pam McIntee - Ivy Cottage, The Catch - 01352 781802

Jeannette & Phil Brookes - Ffordd Faen Cottage, Halkyn - 01352 780712

Issue 169 will be out in June 2017; **please submit items by May 1st.**

You can send items to hmnews@btinternet.com

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

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

Editorial

Halkyn Mountain News provides a reminder of the vast range of community activities and fund raising that takes place in our mountain villages. There are so many people who work tirelessly supporting their communities, often in the background making this happen, which many of us take for granted. There are those who are key holders to community buildings which magically open up, are heated and lit, those who organise, collect and deliver, those who make and bake and of course those who contribute financially. There are also those who hold regular fund raising events which take considerable effort to arrange but again this work is all done in the background. There are also those who you can rely upon to turn up to every event in support of the cause.

We are fortunate to live in an area where so many people are willing to give up their time to make things happen. While it is always nice to show appreciation and be appreciated, those who do this work are often embarrassed by any attention. Please feel free to write to us if you have enjoyed any event or would like to bring any planned events to the attention of HMN readers. If there are any "unsung heroes" please tell us about them.

It is also heart-warming to see how much fund-raising and charity work is being done. It is always good to see new and unique ideas for raising money for good causes. Perhaps a good example of this would be the abseiling event held at Halkyn Church. There are also the regular events such as the Heartfelt Art & Craft Fairs. One of the most unusual titled reports we have seen in Halkyn Mountain News was in our last edition, "*Witches Knickers to Aid Cancer Charity*". The author of the charity book of poems, Steve Blakesley, has reported that the book is selling well. We hope that the article in the Winter edition contributed to this.

Please do let us know about your events and charity fund raising. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Editorial Team

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

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

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

Grosvenor Estate Update

We regularly remind users of Halkyn Common to alert us at the Estate of any noticeable changes to the landscape, particularly relating to mineshaft features. We were very grateful to one local resident who got in touch with us in January to report suspected movement at a shaft at Moel y Crio. This enabled us to further inspect the shaft, which had already been reviewed as part of our mineshaft surveying programme, to establish any potential risk. Our consultants have concluded that it does not pose any immediate danger, but the area has been fenced and will be monitored closely for 12 months.

You may also have noticed that the fence at the Rhes-y-Cae mineshaft has been removed, and the area tidied. The shaft was remediated in 2013 following its collapse and has been closely observed ever since. The ground has remained unchanged for a post remediation period of 3 years, and there is no evidence of instability that would require continued fencing of the feature at this point.

Other news about Rhes-y-Cae is that the former primary school building is now for sale. The building was originally gifted by the Duke of Westminster to the local diocese in the early 1900, but was transferred back to the ownership of Grosvenor Estate in 2014 following its closure. Before it was put on the market, we discussed potential community uses with local representatives, but no suitable use was identified. We will be ring-fencing proceeds from the sale to support community activity.

We're soon to embark on a programme to restore some of the Clwyd Caps which are in a state of disrepair. The Caps are a prominent and historic feature on the Mountain and, crucially, are important safety measures covering potentially dangerous holes. We are nearing the end of a survey of all existing Caps and will be carrying out restoration works over the coming months, subject to the granting of an ecology licence by NRW.

We recognise that the vast majority of people who use Halkyn Common do so respectfully and responsibly. We've had reports, however, of 4x4 vehicles misusing parts of the Common and accessing areas which they should not. This is both dangerous to people and also to the local environment which is protected by Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designation. Please let us know if you witness any vehicles trespassing, or any other disrespectful or illegal activity - particularly as we get in to lambing season.

Last but not least, may we wish Edwin Christmas - who left his role as Estate Director and Agent before Christmas - all the best in his future career. During his 8 years with Grosvenor Estate he has led many positive changes, including the introduction of an improved safety management system for Halkyn Common. This work will continue under the leadership of our Eaton Estate office team.

Ranger Update

It's the time of year when we will start to see lambs appearing across the common and unfortunately this will mean there will be instances of dogs off their leads and worrying sheep again. So I thought I'd look at what constitutes 'worrying' as there seems to be a bit of confusion? A dog doesn't have to be actively chasing the sheep or attacking them to 'worry' them. A sheep does not know that a dog 'only wants to make friends' or 'play with them' or 'that they are fine with sheep they won't chase them'. Just walking or running through a herd chasing the ball you've just thrown can cause a ewe to abort its lamb, or for ewe and lamb to become separated.

If at all possible please avoid walking through a herd of sheep. The law states that on open access land dogs should be kept on a maximum of 2m lead between the 1st March and 31st July due to ground nesting bird breeding season and ALL YEAR ROUND in the presence of livestock. So please be considerate to the other users of the common, especially those whose livelihood is dependent on it.

Another antisocial problem is residents dumping their garden waste onto the common outside the confines of their property, to either rot down or to be burned at a later date. Please don't, the common is not your own personal compost heap or fire site. Use your brown wheelie bin for garden waste, take it to the recycle centre at Greenfield, compost or burn it yourself on your own land, but do not dump it on the common. There have been a number of cases where thoughtless people have put hedge cuttings; ie leylandii, rhododendron and laurel, on the common only for sheep to eat them. These plants are poisonous to sheep and if they don't kill them (which it generally does), can cause permanent liver damage. Dumping even green waste on the common constitutes fly tipping and can be prosecuted as such. The green waste can also affect the SSSI's (Site of Special Scientific Interest) special features by enriching the soil in the vicinity encouraging undesirable species to establish themselves, such as nettles and thistles or even in some cases the plant that has been thrown out will start to grow. So please keep your waste within the boundary of your own property. On a more positive note the ranger service has been working on the schedule of events for the year. I've included mine for Halkyn in this issue, but should you be interested in getting involved in some activities further afield the Events Programme will be printed shortly. I'll leave copies in Halkyn Village Hall and the Blue Bell and I'll always have some in my van should you see me out and about. Alternatively I'm sure it will be available electronically on Flintshire County Council's website. I'd also like to pass on a big thank you to Andy and Gareth at Cemex, who came to our rescue on a cold foggy day at the end of January while I was out on the mountain with some staff members from the Grosvenor Estate. Our minibus got stuck while being turned around, stranding us, so Andy and Gareth came out and picked us up and took us back to the quarry office for a warm and a brew while the minibus was being extricated.

Rachael Watson
Halkyn Mountain Common Ranger

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Family Fossil Hunt

Wednesday 19th April at 1pm

Have a look at Halkyn's true beginnings and the creatures that once called the mountain their home.

Meet at Rhes y Cae Village Hall, CH8 8JR.

Booking essential – Wepre Park 01352 703900

Reptile Walk

Tuesday 30th May at 1pm

Join the Rangers for a walk across the common to learn about and have a look for some reptiles.

Meet at Rhes y Cae Village Hall CH8 8JR

Booking essential – Wepre Park 01352 703900

Wildflower Guided Walk

Thursday 1st June at 1pm

Join the Ranger and Flintshire's County Ecologist for a walk, where you will learn about the mountain's ecology.

Meet at Rhes y Cae Village Hall, CH8 8JR

Booking essential – Wepre Park 01352 703900

Halkyn Quarry Tour

Wednesday 5th & 19th July at 5.30pm

A fantastic opportunity to visit the heart of a working limestone quarry - Courtesy of Cemex.

Wear sturdy footwear or wellies if wet.

A very popular event so book early!

Booking essential – Wepre Park 01352 703900

Children's Pond Dip

Wednesday 2nd & 9th August at 1.30pm

Join the ranger to see what creatures live in one of the mountain ponds.

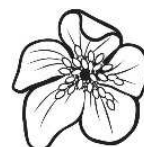
Wear wellies. Dipping equipment will be provided.

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Booking essential – Wepre Park 01352 703900

Hardy Plant Society - Clwyd Group

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



The spring programme is:

Tues 21 March

AGM and talk on the HPS Clwyd Group "Our First 10 Years" by Chris Price-Morris, Chairperson.

Tues 18 April

Talk on "Photographing Your Garden" by Joe Wainwright, a local photographer with over 30 years' experience; award winner in the International Garden Photographer of the Year competitions.

Sunday 21 May

PLANT SALE 10.30am – 1.30pm

FREE admission and FREE parking, public welcome.

Programme can be subject to change.

Visitors £3 admission. Find us on facebook & twitter @HPSClwyd

Information: 07768 423965

or www.hardy-plant.org.uk/clwyd

Halkyn Community Council

Visit to Meeting by Halkyn Ranger

The Council Members welcomed Rachel Watson – Halkyn Mountain Ranger to a Council meeting. Matters discussed with Rachael related to a number of issues on the Mountain, but in particular, to the allowing of dogs by their owners to foul in areas which are frequented by residents and visitors. The area around Bellis Pond, was a concern – which now attracts people – where a platform/jetty has been erected. The depositing of general rubbish was also a concern. Concern had also been expressed when shrubbery and branches are cut, they are not removed. Rachel advised that she would have to consult with Flintshire County Council, to ascertain if they were prepared to place red, dog-bins on the mountain. Litter bins on the mountain tend to cause problems. The wind will blow the items held from the bin around the mountain – but this matter should also be discussed with Flintshire County Council. A survey had been carried out to identify dead and dying trees – which had covered the majority of the mountain. Some work had been commenced but large branches are left on site.

Rachel advised that the biggest concern is fly tipping on the mountain. Recently deposited was a microwave, bed mattress, grass cuttings and six bags of soil and rubble – which have occurred over the past few weeks. Rachel further advised that the Grosvenor Estate have a sustainable management expert for the common. There are a number of cattle grids that require renewing. The Graziers have been awarded funding for bio-diversity. The clearing of ponds is up to date, with more project work to be undertaken. The capping of the shaft in Windmill has been completed and the lime kilns are all completed.

Council Members advised Rachel in relation to the following:

- (a) a large tree to the side of Och'r Y Bryn was in need of remedial work. Rachel advised that she was aware of the large Oak, which had been discussed with the Grosvenor Estate.
- (b) cutting of gorse
- (c) signage indicating dropping of litter and dog fouling is an offence. Rachel advised that the area was too large to place signage, but possibly warning signs on the main roads could be erected.
- (d) Other concerns advised to Rachel were – a caravan parked opposite the Blue Bell Inn, a motor home and builders rubble near to the pensioners bungalows.
- (e) Rachel was advised in relation to the deposit of rubble in the area of the entrance to Fron Farm, Windmill – that had been reported to the Grosvenor Estate some months ago.

Criminal Damage in Halkyn & Anti-Social Behaviour in Pentre Halkyn

The area has a newly appointed PCSO - named Laura Williams - who attended a Community Council meeting recently. Criminal damage to the Red K6

Giles Scott telephone kiosk sited on Halkyn Village Green was discussed with the PCSO. The glass to the telephone box had been smashed. Also the gate to the bus shelter opposite the Parish Hall, had been deliberately pulled off its hinges and broken away from the posts. Following an inspection, it was agreed that a lot of pressure must have been used to cause the damage. Reports of anti-social behaviour in Pentre Halkyn were discussed – with the PCSO advising that patrols in the area will be increased.

Community Charge (Precept) 2017/2018

The Community Council Members' agreed to increase the precept from £47,000, to £49,000 - an increase to a Band D property within the Community of £1.66p a year (13p a month). The lower property bands would pay less per month. The Halkyn Community Council Band D property charge will now be £35.98 a year.

The Council Members agreed to increase the precept by a modest amount for the next financial year. However, the Members are aware that Flintshire County Council are considering further devolvement of services, and the Community Council have to ensure that there are sufficient balances held in reserve - and to also retain the facilities and services they presently provide. During this new financial year the Council have agreed to continue funding the Summer Play Scheme in Pentre Halkyn and Rhosesmor – which has increased from £1,800 last year to £2,618 this year – together with retaining the Halkyn Library at a cost of just over £4,000.00.

IT Training in Halkyn Library

Following requests from a number of Senior Citizens who attend the Friday Library in Halkyn Parish Hall, the Community Council have provided 'IT and Computer training' over a number of weeks with a qualified trainer. The feedback received from the attendees was favourable.

Speed Indication Flashing Lights:

In the last edition of the HMN the non-working of the speed restriction lights on the B5123 road in Rhosesmor was reported. The County Council have advised that the flashing signage will be removed following the decrease in speed limit. The Council has written back to the County Highways, advising that, following complaints from local residents including Councillors, to the many 'Instances of aggressive tailgating and overtaking in dangerous places' which has occurred since the speed reduction. The Community Council have asked the County Council, not to remove the flashing signage, but to alter the flashing image to a more appropriate deterrent aspect.

Phillip Parry,
Clerk to Halkyn Community Council
Tel: 01352 720547
E-mail: halkyn.council@btinternet.com
www.halkyn.org.uk

Brynford Community Council

Community Transportation Consultation and Review.

As reported in the last addition of Halkyn Mountain News, Flintshire County Council is undertaking a consultation on how public transportation may be provided in the future. The current service is under review and officers have requested that Brynford Community Council helps with the collection of information on how, when and why bus services are required for our community.

Information and questionnaires were provided to parents and guardians attending Brynford C.P. School before Christmas. An informal drop in meeting is being arranged by Councillors Jean Davies and Linda O'Hare at St. Michael's Church meeting room in February, 2017 (the date is to be confirmed) but information and questionnaires are available at Brynford Village Stores.

It is of the utmost importance that any persons who use the existing bus services and wishes to do so in the future complete the short questionnaire or attends the above drop-in meeting to ensure your travel needs are considered as part of this process. Councillor Jean Davies can be contacted on 01352 711339 and Councillor Linda O'Hare on 01352 710081.

Control of Dogs and Dog Fouling on Brynford Common

The Council has been advised that a further two dog waste bins will be provided by Flintshire County Council to be located on the Ffrith Lane area of the common.

Flintshire County Council is in the process of finalizing the provision of new By-laws. The Manager of this service, Mrs. Ruth Cartwright, will be attending the April meeting of the Council to advise members on the details of the By-laws and how enforcement action may be taken in the future.

Best Kept Communities Competition 2017

The Council has been advised that this year's competition will be taking place in June 2017. In past years a number of local residents have helped support the event which has had a big impact on improving the appearance of the community. Should any residents wish to become involved in any way with this year's event please contact Councillor Dave Jones on 01352712364 for an informal chat.

Setting of Council Precept 2017-18

At the Council meeting held 10th January, 2017 the Council set its precept for 2017-18 at £16,650, being the same level as 2016-17, making the band D property charge £34.91 per annum.

Provision of External Lighting – St. Michael's Church, Brynford

At the January meeting of the Council it was reported that all the formal consents for the next phase of the external lighting project had been granted. Formal instruction has been issued to the Lighting Contractor to complete the works by the end of March 2017.

ibeacon Network Project

The Council has agreed to participate in the above scheme being promoted by Cadwyn Clwyd. The scheme can provide information on the history, heritage or places of interest, walking or cycling routes which can be downloaded via an App. A working group is being formulated to develop the project being led by Lorna Jenna and the pupils of Brynford C.P. School. Any persons who may wish to become involved in the project or wish to receive further information please give me a call.

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

Graziers News

We have, for the third year, been allocated funds from Chester Zoo to continue work on the mountain. In addition to cutting gorse we will look at revisiting areas we have previously cut in order to remove the thistles and briars etc. This can be done during the summer months.

We should shortly be hearing some news about the application to the Rural Development Plan Sustainable Management Scheme for funds for further cattle grids. Unfortunately the Aggregates Levy Fund is being stopped from 31st March this year. We did not apply in 2016 as they only had £350,000 to distribute and they wanted to spread it across as many projects as possible, so even if we had applied and been successful it would not have been enough to complete one cattle grid. It is a great shame that this is being stopped as it has been a great asset to communities that have quarries in their areas. Apparently this money was never ring-fenced for this purpose so the Welsh Government can use the money in any way that they wish.

It is still annoying that, after various efforts, people think the common is their playground and think they can do as they like, being seemingly totally ignorant of the laws governing the land and completely ignoring the needs of the people who work on and look after the common. They should know that ignorance of the law is not a defence and if doing anything on the common they have a responsibility to ensure they are complying with the laws and rules applying to the land.

The only rights people have, other than common right holders, is to walk on the common for fresh air and exercise and are allowed to take a dog but the dog must be under control. This means that at any time of year the dog must be on a lead when in the vicinity of farm animals and between March and the end of July must be on a lead at all times. This is not just for the sheep, but also to prevent the disturbance of nesting birds and any other breeding animals. For any other activity written consent must be obtained from Natural Resources Wales and/or Grosvenor Estates.

Halkyn Graziers and Commoners Association

Halkyn Rocks and Minerals

I am a former resident of Halkyn and a trustee with Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales. I was recently asking about any ongoing work within the museum that relates to the local area. In response I was sent these two fascinating documents by our head of Natural Sciences. Having read them it occurred to me that they would be lovely additions to Halkyn Mountain News – I hope you agree.

Rachel M Hughes, BA Hons, MBA, FlinstLM

Rocks from the Halkyn area

Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales (AC-NMW) holds an extensive collection of rocks from northeast Wales including the county of Flintshire. The local geology of the area, including the constituency of Delyn, is dominated by limestones of Carboniferous age and sedimentary rocks forming the North Wales Coalfield. Samples from these rock formations are held in the collections of Amgueddfa Cymru. The local geology made the region extremely important during the 19th century with industries thriving as a result of the local availability of coal, ironstone, limestone, silica and mudstone (for clay and brickmaking).

Amgueddfa Cymru has recently started a project to enhance its collection of building and ornamental stones from the area. Many historic buildings have made use of the good quality local sandstones (such as the Gwespyr Sandstone), as well as importing stone from further afield. Our building stone studies and resultant collection enables stone used in the past to be better matched to that available today to meet current conservation and construction needs. When restoring historic buildings, the sensitive selection of stone can make the resulting work less obtrusive and help restoration merge into the local environment.

A small research project has also been initiated to document the use of Halkyn Marble, a very distinct crinoid-rich limestone of Carboniferous age from Halkyn Mountain. Capable of taking a high polish, it was worked as an ornamental stone for church fountains, steps, mantelpieces and pillars etc. from the 19th to mid-20th century. It has been used to great effect at St Mary's Church, Halkyn in the font, pulpit footing and pillars. The stone has been used for decorative work much further afield than Halkyn, and continued research will look at identifying such works.



The 'Halkyn Marble' ornamental stone: font (above) and pillar (above right) at St Mary's Church, Halkyn.

Photos: A. Haycock © National Museum of Wales.

Andrew Haycock, Curator: Mineralogy & Petrology
Department of Natural Sciences

Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales

Minerals from the Halkyn area

Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales (AC-NMW) holds the David Pennant collection (pre-1820) which was formerly housed at Downing Hall, near Whitford. David, son of the famous Welsh naturalist Thomas Pennant, collected predominantly continental minerals, but some of the



specimens in his collection are from the Halkyn area. AC-NMW holds an extensive suite of minerals from the lead mines at Halkyn. A large proportion of these were collected when the mines were operating during the early 20th century by Griffith John Williams (Assistant Mine Inspector for North Wales and Ireland Division). Included amongst these are purple fluorite cubes from the Bryn-gwiog Lode on Halkyn Mountain, calcite, fluorite, sphalerite and galena from Rhosesmor Mine, and a large suite of calcite crystals from Halkyn Mine. A large collection of fluorite from the Bryn-gwiog Lode was donated by Trevor M. Thomas who published a book on mining in Wales during the 1950 to 1960s. Other acquisitions include 'ruby' sphalerite crystals from Halkyn Mine and fine calcite and fluorite specimens (in the renowned Bob King collection acquired in 1983) are also from Halkyn Mine.

In more recent times suites of mineral specimens have been collected from working quarries (including Pant and Pant-y-pwll Dwr) on Halkyn Mountain as part of the Museum's MINESCAN project in 1999. This work resulted in the discovery of some of the best azurite (copper carbonate) crystals found in Wales.



Purple fluorite from Halkyn Mountain, Flintshire. National Museum of Wales Collection (NMW 83.41G.M.4131), ex R.J. King Collection. Photo D.I. Green, © National Museum of Wales.

Tom Cotterell

Senior Curator: Mineralogy

Department of Natural Sciences

Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales

Readers are reminded that if they are ever in Cardiff, they can get into the museum FREE and hunt out the local specimens. - Rachel M Hughes

Blue Bell Walks

Photographs taken during the Blue Bell Walks may be viewed on the internet at thomapg.piwigo.com with thanks to Peter Thomas.

Two walks now take place on Thursdays at 2pm, catering for all abilities and the Saturday morning walks at 10.30am continue to run two different graded walks. We welcome Gabi Husbands to our team of Walk Leaders.

Thanks to Steve, Ness and Tom for their continued hospitality and for enabling our end of year Bring and Share Lunch which was enjoyed by all. It was pleasing to see new faces joining the New Year's Resolution Walk and even more pleasing to see them turn up on subsequent walks, keeping their New Year's Resolution.

The Winter weather has been kind for the Halkyn Walks and numbers have been up with over 50 walkers turning out on a Saturday morning on several occasions.

On the third Saturday of the month, Bob Mossop's three hour walk has become very popular.

The Summer Evening Walks will begin on Wednesday April 5th with a walk of 90mins duration and one of 60mins, hoping to cater for all abilities. The Halkyn, Holywell and District Walking Festival will be held on the last week of June (19th - 25th) and programmes will be available later. During this week, there will be the annual Summer Solstice Walk to view the sunset from the top of Moel-y-Gaer.

Best wishes for 2017 to all readers, keep happy, keep healthy and keep walking.

John and Vicky Thomas

Can You Help?

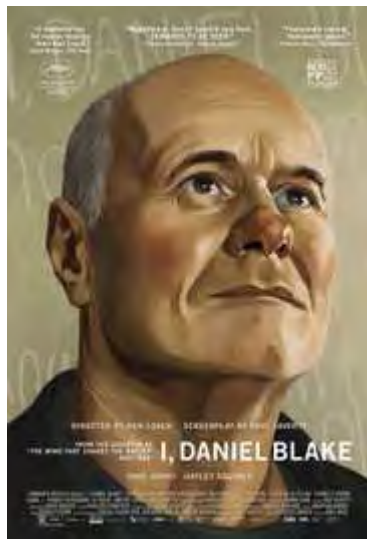
This is a very long shot but my sister Wendy and I are hoping someone can help us. Our father Harold Porter, (he lived in Carmel) had a daughter out of wedlock in the late 1940's. All we know is that her mother probably came from Halkyn/Pentre Halkyn. I have a notion from my childhood that the baby was named Christine, Susan or Linda (I could be wrong). She may have been born in a nursing home out of the area and Wendy and I haven't a clue where to start looking. Our sister would now be in her late 60's and we'd dearly love to find her before we get any older. We don't know the mother's Christian or maiden name. Not much at all to go on but someone, somewhere might know who she is. Chances are she that knows our father's name. If anyone has any ideas please would you let us know? There can't have been many female babies born out of wedlock between 1946 and 1949. Thank you.

Dianne Hughes

(If any of our readers can shed any light on this they can email me at the hmnews@btinternet.com address or leave a message at The Blue Bell Inn for HMNews and I will pass it on. Ed)

Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema

The community cinema has got off to a great start in 2017 with our first film, Florence Foster Jenkins, being sold out! We're sorry if you wanted to come and couldn't get tickets this time, but we hope you can make it next time. There are a few less seats than our previous venue, but the screen is much higher up making it easier for everyone to see and we've received some great positive feedback on this.



Our next film in 2017 will be the Bafta nominated and Palme d'Or winner **I, Daniel Blake (15)** on Saturday 11th March (as usual, doors open 7pm and film starts 7.30pm).

Tickets will be on general sale from the 18th February at just £4 each from our usual outlets - Pentre Halkyn Shop/Post Office, the Blue Bell Inn or via the mountain cinema website. Thanks again to the shop and pub for supporting us with the selling of tickets, it is very much appreciated.

We'd also like to say thanks to Sharon and all at Halkyn Parish Hall for being so helpful and accommodating to the community cinema. Again it is much appreciated. As usual, if you haven't done so already, please do join our Facebook page, follow us on Twitter or sign up to our newsletter via the 'contact us' form on our website, to be kept up to date with all the latest Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema news. Also keep a look out for posters, flyers and banners advertising upcoming screenings.

I'd also just like to put in a little plug for the 'Halkyn Mountain Events' Facebook page! I set this page up to help promote any and all events or activities taking place anywhere across Halkyn Mountain, in and around any of the villages, hamlets, etc. So if you have an event you want to promote please just send a message to the page and we'll add it. And if you want to know what's happening across the mountain please do 'like' and 'share' the page - Halkyn Mountain Events.

Next Screening: I, Daniel Blake (15), Saturday 11th March at Halkyn Parish Hall.

www.mountaincinema.org.uk
www.facebook.com/halkynmountaincinema
www.twitter.com/mountaincinema

We look forward to welcoming you to Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema soon!
Clare Madders
Chair - Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema Committee

Blue Bell Inn

What a lovely time we had over the Christmas period we hope you had much fun too. Those who joined us for our annual Big Carol event will be pleased to know we managed to raise £120 for Age Connects North East Wales with many thanks to the Rev'd Hugh Burgess for helping us romp through the carol & Christmas song repertoire with much gusto!

The Mari Lwyd also made a very welcome appearance this year and again we thoroughly enjoyed the fun.



Music

Our music here at the Blue is of a superb quality with the majority of musicians and singers making a living from their session quality music and we provide it for free (although you do get the chance to contribute to and even win the raffle with proceeds to the musicians!) I hope you can get down to our varied acoustic music every Thursday and Friday from a variety of regular singer songwriters where there's usually many a song or two to join in with. We've added new music (e.g. Got Rhythm with eclectic goldies and latin music and the Flat Irons doing The Levellers, Eagles, and other covers) with more to add. We also have The Rantin' Dogs every month on the 2nd Monday and now, well into its 10th year, there's also Trad Jazz every Sunday afternoon with Mad Ed's Hot Five. We've had some tremendous deps (*deputies for those of you, like me, who are ignorant of musician's jargon. Editor*) in with the Hot Five and Ed has had the world renowned guitarist Gary Potter here twice since the New Year so it's always worth popping in to see what surprises are in store.

Wednesday Quiz

Our Wednesday night walkers are waiting for April to lighten up for our walks but in the meantime have turned to our Wednesday evening quiz for their fun and you are

very welcome to come and join them. They are a friendly lot and they would enjoy being challenged. The quiz is wide ranging, played for fun and with a modest prize of drinks for the winners, held every Wednesday at 8pm until the end of March.

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 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!

As I implied above, Wednesday evening summer walks start on the first Wednesday in April (the 5th) at 7pm, bring a torch for the first few so you can watch the sunset while you are out.

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

Other stuff

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

We're also running a series of talks through this quarter and if they prove as popular as the Red Squirrel talk last month we'll look to do more and add some story telling too. Check out the last paragraph, for ways to keep in touch with events.

What Nice Weather

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

PARKING: If you can park considerably 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've celebrated our 3rd birthday as a Post Office Local and had been given two years to trial the service

here. The demand for Post Office Local services is not as good as we would hope to make it viable for the Post Office and it really does need your continued help to keep it open! We are running with about half the business it needs to make it viable, I do not want to lose it but by the support it gets I suspect the Post Office may take a different view. Please do your best to use your Post Offices on the mountain.

Has your bank closed or is it closing soon? We've a full range of free and safe banking services with close, safe parking. Did you know you can withdraw cash or deposit cash and cheques into your bank account here at our branch in the Blue Bell? Come in and see us! Think about your local Post Office before running down to Mold or Holywell for a bank or your holiday money (or travel money cards), doing bill payments, electricity and phone top-ups and do many other things apart from the obvious post and parcels. You don't need to burn up your lunch hour when you can pop in and do your Post Office business on the way home after work or on Sunday night prior to starting your working week. We've a nice warm and cosy atmosphere, without the long queues and some safe parking and we're also open for later hours than many Post Offices, where else could you use your Post Office after 9pm on a Sunday or any other night we're open?

Poorly publican/crazy son (part two)

Thank you again to everyone for their understanding and support during Ness's continuing illness. Those of you who know Tom will know he completed his fundraising for Crohn's and Colitis UK for his Mum by undertaking a 24hr obstacle course race on the edge of the Nevada Desert outside Las Vegas. With your help

and his extreme effort, he raised £1,909.50 which is an enormous amount and way more than he/we had anticipated and for which we are all very grateful. He personally funded his kit, travel and accommodation so all of the sponsorship he raised went to Crohn's & Colitis UK. Tom completed the World's Toughest Mudder (WTM) which is an extreme 24-hour obstacle course challenge and did so by running over 50 miles and doing over 200 obstacles. We still think he's crazy as he's doing it again this year (after he's washed out all of the sand and mud) but we're quite proud too!

In closing

By now you will have noticed that Celt Rowlands has put up a sign for us. As many of you know, Ness's condition is chronic and she is not and will not be fit enough to run the pub with Steve. So the plan is for Steve to spend time getting Ness up to a level of fitness to be in a better position to handle her condition and also allow Tom to pursue the career he has put on hold for his Mum.

We'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 news is to come 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.

See you at the bar.

Steve, Ness & Tom Marquis

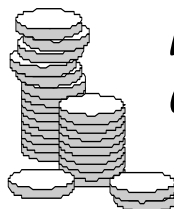


HALKYN PARISH HALL BINGO

Doors Open at 7.10pm

Come along and have some fun

A night of Bingo for everyone



Light refreshments served to you

Cash pay outs and a raffle too

Halkyn Parish Hall is where it's at

On Wednesday night and every other after that



March 1st & 8th and so on with me.

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

Snippets from Old Newspapers

Flintshire Observer – 25 March 1881

HALKYN SOCIAL ENTERTAINMENT

A very pleasant gathering was held at the schoolroom, Halkyn on Tuesday, the 22nd. The entertainment, which was highly appreciated by the audience, consisted of a magic lantern exhibition kindly provided by Mr. G. Maelor Evans. The main subject was the life and adventures of Robinson Crusoe and as the several pictures appeared, the Rector gave a brief account of them. Mrs A.U.S. Cooper of Springfield, very kindly sang a pretty Scottish song which was encored, and Miss Mansbridge sang one Welsh and two English songs in her usual pleasant manner. Mr Mansbridge also contributed much to the mirth and harmony of the evening, and Miss Astbury of Northop, presided at the pianoforte, and played several pretty pieces as well as the accompaniments of the different singers. The entertainment was altogether so successful, that a general wish was expressed for an early repetition of it.

Rhyl Record & Advertiser – 8 March 1890

CAERFALLWCH

THE DUKE AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH

St. Paul's Church, Caerfallwch, which was built some fifteen years ago, is reported to be in a dangerous condition, the foundations having given way. The Duke of Westminster, during his recent visit to Halkyn Castle, went over and inspected the Church and we hear that he has taken steps to immediately ensure the safety of the building, and place it in secure repair. Mr Douglas, architect of Chester has been over the Church, and it is expected that restorative operations will at once begin. The Vicar, the Rev. Clement Davies, is gradually recovering from his recent dangerous illness.

From Grandma Foster's Recipe Book

Chocolate Biscuits

Put ½ lb flour in a basin with ½ teaspoon of baking powder and rub in 4 ozs margarine, then add 3 ozs cocoa, 4 oz sugar, ½ teaspoon vanilla essence and mix to a stiff paste with beaten egg and a little milk.

Roll paste onto a floured board to about ¼ inch thickness, and stamp out with a fluted cutter into little biscuits. Bake in a moderate oven and when set, but not quite baked, brush over the top with a little milk and sprinkle with desiccated coconut and let them finish baking.

Tomato Sauce

Boil two sliced onions in just enough water to cover them and when they are nearly done, cut up ½ doz fine ripe tomatoes and put into a stew pan with an oz of butter, a dessert spoon of salt, and shake of pepper. If tomatoes are scarce, a sharp apple, cut into quarters and seeds taken out, may be added. Let tomatoes simmer for ¾ hour then rub them through a sieve, the puree, if properly managed, will be as thick as any good apple sauce. Return to the stew pan, with a small piece of butter and let it get thoroughly hot.

Great Great Grandma Ann Elizabeth Foster was born in 1840 and came to live at Rhyd y Crogwydd Farm, Nannerch in the 1880s. Her handwritten recipe book is filled with a wide variety of recipes from fine dining to nourishing food for the farm hands.

Heartfelt Art & Craft Fairs

The fairs continued to be held for a third year throughout 2016. Held at Halkyn Parish Hall & Library, the fairs supported local charities, and other worthy causes.

The events continued to receive fantastic public support and superb attendance, thanks to our Heartfelt helpers and fantastic community support and engagement. Throughout the year the fairs showcased wonderful bespoke, handmade arts and crafts, exquisitely designed and created to a high standard by very talented local artisans. Delicious home baked cakes and refreshments were made and served each month by volunteers and were much enjoyed.

Throughout the three years we have held the fairs, we have been hugely supported by local people, small businesses, local press and media. Undoubtedly, this helped us to raise awareness of the fairs and maintain excellent footfall. Good attendance is very important to ensure the fairs are a success.

I am delighted to inform you that as a result of our art and craft fairs held throughout 2016, a total of £4,490 was raised and donated to local registered charities. In addition, a further £250 was donated to other worthy causes. Since commencement of the fairs in April 2014, Heartfelt Art & Craft have raised and donated locally, a total of **£12,030 and over 20 registered charities have benefited from the donations.**

We look forward to fundraising for additional charities this year and to supporting local, very talented artists and crafters. Our dates for this year are: **Saturday 25th March, Saturday 27th May, Saturday 9th September and Saturday 18th November**. The fairs will continue to be held between **10.00-3.00pm** at Halkyn Parish Hall & Library with Free admission. With your support, we hope to enjoy a very successful fourth year.

A big thank you once again to everyone who has shown support in one way or another and to all the Heartfelt helpers, without whom the fairs would not be possible.

Finally, we look forward to offering you a warm welcome at the first fair of the year - to be held on **Saturday 25th March 2017**, when we will be supporting fundraising for the wonderful charity, North Wales Air Ambulance. Please help us to maintain good attendance by sharing news of our fairs and the 2017 dates with your friends and family. Local support has proved to be invaluable. Many thanks.

For more information regarding Heartfelt Art & Craft fairs, please contact event organiser:
Susan Thomas at
heartfelt.mountainstudio@aol.co.uk or telephone
01352 781088



Knit a square for share

Supporting Homeless
Assisting Refugees Everywhere

We are JoY – the Estuary and Mountain Mission Area ‘Journey of Youth.’ We support SHARE, Supporting Homeless and Assisting Refugees Everywhere

We are running a ‘knit for refugees’ youth project. Can you help?

Knit as many 6 inch squares as you can of darkish colours, or leave a donation in your church so we can buy materials for schools to join in.

We plan to hold a ‘knit, sew and worship session’ where everyone can bring their squares and sew them into blankets for **SHARE** in Greenfield Holy Trinity Church on March 19th at 6pm.



Pattern: Cast on approx. 20 stitches onto size 6mm. needles with darkish chunky wool. Knit until your square is 6 inches in size then cast off.

Bring your square to the ‘Stitch Up’:
Greenfield Holy Trinity, March 19th 6.00pm

Pizza for tea!

Halkyn W.I.

Held first Thursday of the month at Halkyn Library, our friendly meetings give you a chance to meet other women from the village; we are especially looking for younger women to join us, bringing their points of view with them. In return you will enjoy a lot of laughter, friendship and support.

In March our speaker is from the Rhymymwyn conservancy, for April’s guest night, when members of the other mountain W.I.s join us, the author Jan Miller-Klein speaks on ‘Gardening for Butterflies, Bees and other beneficial insects’.

May is our Birthday month so as well as our meeting [2nd Thursday of May] we will also be going out to lunch.

Last year we organised a day trip to Lyme Park, with members of our group W.I. joining us, a great day was enjoyed by all. We are in the early stages of organising another day trip this year.



Meeting times:

March 2nd at 2:15pm

April 6th at 7:15pm

May 11th at 7:15pm

For more information please contact Fiona Jones on; 01352 780462

Join the Flintshire Marie Curie Fundraising Group

The Flintshire Marie Curie Fundraising Group is appealing for people to join them at their monthly meetings as they fundraise for Marie Curie in the local area.

Lorraine Seville, Chair of the Group said, “We are extremely grateful to everyone in the Community who support us each year. We really enjoy our fundraising and it’s a great way of meeting new people all while raising money for such a great cause. We’re busy planning lots of events throughout the year. We’re looking for more people to join us and help us with our fundraising.

Since forming in 2011, the Fundraising Group has been involved in a variety of fundraising events in the area including the annual Great Daffodil Appeal collections, supporting local coffee mornings, head shaves and giving talks to groups in the Community about the work of the Marie Curie nurses thereby raising over £100,000 for Marie Curie. The money raised by the Fundraising Group helps to support the Marie Curie nurses and services in the local area.

Marie Curie provides free hands-on Nursing Care to patients diagnosed with terminal illnesses in their own homes as well as vital emotional support for their family and carers.

The Flintshire Marie Curie Fundraising Group meets once a month at the Beaufort Park Hotel and is looking for new volunteers to join them as they continue their fundraising. For more information about how you can be involved in fundraising for Marie Curie please call Laura on 01745 352 910, email nwalesfundraising@mariecurie.org.uk or you can visit the Marie Curie website www.mariecurie.org.uk for more information.



Halkyn Mountain Parishes Service Times

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

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

¹ 3.00 pm until the clocks go forward on 26th March 2017, when this service will revert to 6.00 pm.

YOU ARE VERY WELCOME AT ALL OUR SERVICES

COMBINED AND SPECIAL SERVICES:

The next combined service for the three parishes will be at 10.30 on Sunday, 30th April, 2017 at St. Mary's, Halkyn. We would be delighted to see you at any of our services.

On the last Friday of each month there is a time of prayer for those who are sick and in need. These will be held in Rhes y Cae until the clocks change and then in Halkyn. Please pass any requests for prayer to Hugh Burgess or to the Church Wardens.

MOTHERING SUNDAY:

Is on the 26th March and the service times are those for the FOURTH SUNDAY, shown above.

EASTER SERVICES:

Throughout LENT there will be a service of Compline each Friday evening at 7.30pm: 3 rd and 24 th March – Halkyn 10 th and 31 st March – Rhes y Cae 17 th March and 7 th April - Rhosesmor	GOOD FRIDAY (14 th April) 09.00 Rhes y Cae 10.45 Rhosesmor 12.00 Lunch at the Red Lion 2pm Halkyn – The Last Hour	There will also be a walk between the churches starting at Rhes y Cae following the 9am service
HOLY WEEK – Compline with Meditation at 7pm Monday 10 th April – Halkyn Tuesday 11 th April – Rhes y Cae Wednesday 12 th April - Rhosesmor	EASTER SUNDAY (16 th April) 08.45 Rhes y Cae – Communion 10.00 Rhosesmor – Communion 11.15 Halkyn - Communion	
MAUNDY THURSDAY (13 th April) 11am Cathedral – Chrism Mass 7pm Halkyn – Communion and stripping of the altar	EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT ALL OUR SERVICES AND COMMUNION IS OPEN TO ALL WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTISED	

BELL RINGING:

Practice Night is Thursday from 7pm until 9pm at Halkyn – come along and visit us and if you are interested you are also welcome to come and learn.

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

Cynfaen Memorial Chapel Calcoed

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

(C) Denotes Communion Service.

March	5 th	(W)	Mr. Bryan Jones	
	12 th	(E)	Rev. Eirlys Gruffydd Evans	(C)
	19 th	(W)	Parch Marc Morgan	(C)
	26 th	(E)	Own arrangement	
April	2 nd	(W)	Trefniant Lleol	
	9 th	(E)	Own arrangement	
	16 th	(W)	Mr Tegwyn Williams	
	23 rd	(E)	Rev. Marc Morgan	(C)
	30 th	(W)	Parch Marc Morgan	(C)
May	7 th	(E)	Rev. Marc Morgan	(C)
	14 th	(W)	Mrs. Maryl Rees	(C)
	21 st	(E)	Rev. John Barnett	
	26 th	(W)	Rev. Maureen Roberts	

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

Rhes-y-Cae Village Hall

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

Children's parties for 11 year old and under.

Reasonable Rates

Contact Kevin Lewis
01352 780297

Coffee Morning

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

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



Capel Salem, Pentre Halkyn

Services at 2pm.

C = Communion, W = Welsh, E = English

March	5 th	Rev. Eirlys Gruffydd Evans	W	C
	12 th	Mr. Tegwyn Williams	W	
	19 th	No Service		
	26 th	Rev. Marc Morgan	W	
April	2 nd	Mrs. Maryl Rees	W	
	9 th	Rev. Maureen Roberts	E	
	16 th	Rev. Marc Morgan	W	
	23 rd	No Service		
	30 th	Mr. David B Jones	W	
May	7 th	Mr. Goronwy Ellis	W	
	14 th	Rev. Eirlys Gruffydd Evans	W	
	21 st	Rev. Marc Morgan	W	C
	28 th	Mr. Peter Sinclair	E	

Capel Bethel y Nant

Services every Sunday at 2.30pm.

Croeso Do join us!

March	5 th	Eric Greene
	12 th	Goronwy Ellis
	19 th	Maryl Rees
	26 th	Own arrangement
April	2 nd	Eirlys Gruffydd
	9 th	Shân Morris
	23 rd	Bryan Jones
	30 th	Own arrangement
May	7 th	Arwel Roberts
	14 th	Cymanfa Ganu - Fflint a Treffynnon 6.00
	21 st	Huw Powell Davies
	28 th	Own arrangement

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

The Rector of St Michael's Church, Brynford

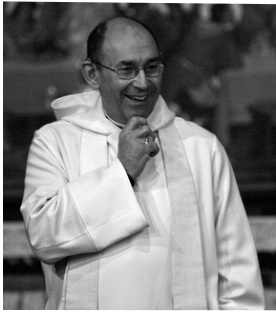
The Reverend Lorraine Badger-Watts
can be contacted on:

Tel. No. 01745 403453

Mobile 07402429991

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

From the Rev'd Hugh Burgess



Dear Friends

Late last year I was surprised to see that Professor Brian Cox had been invited to address the clergy conference of the Diocese of Leeds, one of the largest in the Church of England. During that conference, he was asked why he had agreed to come given the difference of opinion. His

answer was instructive and challenging. In essence, his position is that, while he may profoundly disagree with other people on various topics, we are all human beings occupying the same tiny planet and that, unless we listen to one another with respect we create an increasingly polarised society and this is not healthy for any of us. He speaks of the toxic ghettoization of society (see below*).

Increasingly in society, in the media and particularly on social media we see an intolerance to the views of others. People are demonised because of their different views. In a democratic society, it is entirely right that we challenge those who have different views but we also need to learn to listen to them. Without listening there is no understanding, and without understanding there is only mistrust, fear and eventually hate. Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds, has written recently on the same subject in a blog that is well worth reading (see below**).

What alarms me is that so often the challenge is not to the argument but is a personal attack on the person. To demonise someone who has a different point of view (or even a radically different view of the world) does not strengthen our society and make it a safer place. The "trolling" and vilification of people who stand up and speak for what they believe is an obscenity that should have no place in our society.

As Nick Baines points out, whilst 52% of people voted to leave the EU, 48% did not. The decision of the 52% must be respected in a democratic decision. Equally, however, the views of the 48% cannot simply be ignored and nor should they be vilified when they express their views. By all means, challenge the argument, but respect for the person seems to me to be very important for the future of our society.

In the same vein, it is certainly true that Mr Trump won the election in the USA and whatever we think of him, I think we need to respect that decision. We must also acknowledge that the decisions made since taking office are in line with what he said he would do. However, simply because a politician is able to make a decision, or even that he's been elected on a particular platform, does not mean that those who disagree should simply roll over and accept whatever is done. No one denies the right of the US to control its borders. What is at issue, what has incensed so many people around the world is the way that decision has been implemented. It is not a decision that is based in respect and celebration of difference, or recognising the weak and vulnerable,

but appears to be founded in mistrust, hatred and fear. It is certainly not based in evidence. I understand that since 9/11 more than ¾ million people have moved into the United States and not one of them has been involved in any act of terrorism. Compare that to deaths from US domestic gun crime. In 2015, for example, more than 13,000 people died in firearms incidents in the US - and that was a pretty typical year. You can make your own judgement!

One of the shocking things about the story of the Good Samaritan for those listening to Jesus was that the man who had been mugged was ignored by those of his own people (the priest and the Levite) who should have known better. The man who came to his aid was a Samaritan, a man who would have been considered his mortal enemy. The lesson of this story is, and always has been, that our future depends on extending the hand of love and compassion to those who are different and in need. This is not some namby-pamby liberalism but simply common humanity. While it's much easier to attack those with whom we disagree, I think we need to relearn how to disagree respectfully with others. I believe that this is critical if we are to avoid the further polarisation of our society.

As I have said in previous letters, please do feel free to contact me with any issues or situations that you'd like discuss, you feel I ought to know about or where you would perhaps like some support or encouragement. Please do not assume that I will hear about a situation. I often don't hear until it's too late but I am very keen to help where I possibly can, so please do get in touch. I wish you a good spring and would be delighted to hear from you.

01352 741 646

e-mail hugh@halkynparish.wanadoo.co.uk

* Brian Cox - www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-eG-xDPXS8

** Nick Baines - nickbaines.wordpress.com/2017/02/01/language-and-reality/

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**

County Councillor

It is a pleasant change to be able to start with some reassuring news: that Ysgol Rhos Helyg has been taken off the list of possible school closures or other changes such as the federation. Actually, closure was unlikely but other changes were possible considerations. The fact that the school is a listed building was a potent factor. At the more westerly end of Halkyn Mountain, Brynford school is likely to experience change: various projects are under consideration but closure is most unlikely. Ysgol Licswm's future is uncertain, which naturally concerns parents and teachers.

One tries hard to avoid contentious issues but the question that is bound to arise is "how did these village schools, many decades ago, manage to educate their pupils without the vast resources and huge amounts of money spent on schools today, and yet achieve good standards?

After almost endless requests, paperwork and other frustration (and some temporary anomalies) all the villages on the Mountain, with the exception of Rhes y Cae, have safer and appropriate speed limits. Hopefully, the flashing speed limit signs at Rhosesmor will be restored. Both Halkyn Community Council and your County Councillor have made the strongest representations to have this done. There is surely a logical need for their restoration. If it was necessary to have a flashing 40 mph speed sign before, one would assume that at 30 mph sign is even more necessary. While speeds of 70 mph are acceptable on motorways and clearways restrictions are essential in even lightly built up areas. Generally, the time saved by excessive speed on short stretches of road is surprisingly small. The County Council highways department did monitor traffic flow in Rhes y Cae towards the end of 2016. So far, no speed limits have materialised. Perhaps there are not sufficient ticks in the 'right' boxes, whereas, commonsense cries out for restrictions on the extended S-bend in the middle of the village with a building jutting out into the highway at the end of lengthy straight stretch.

People will have noticed that there have been welcome improvements to road surfaces in some places and considerable attention to filling in pot-holes and roadside repairs, which is all very commendable. Rather perversely, as fast as retailers are made in one place problems seem to appear elsewhere. With severe financial restrictions it is almost impossible for the council to do all that it would like to do, or even needs to do.

As we approach Spring, may I remind dog owners to be especially careful when walking on the Common. Even well behaved dogs have their moments and it is vital that ewes and lambs are not frightened or harassed. All animals have a value (including dogs) but, to farmers, animals are a source of valuable income. Motorists and cyclists should also take care on the roads. Also, it is also not realised that the attractive vegetation of the Common is largely a result of sheep grazing. There are parts of the Common which have turned into scrubland owing to so many graziers having gone out of business.

This trend is likely to continue if more, cheaper meat is imported.

It has come to my notice that some people have experienced difficulty making contact with specific departments at County Hall. I can sympathise with them having had the same problem, but Councillors have one advantage in that they can go into County Hall and can make some kind of contact (provided the person they seek is not in a 'meeting'). The best thing to do is to ring 01352 701235; they will then be put through to the desired department. This number was published in H.M.News a couple of years ago and is still active today - unless the operator has gone to a meeting! Readers will realise that I am suspicious of 'meetings'.

There is little to report from County Hall at the moment, except to say that quite a number of important meetings have been cancelled recently. Perhaps there is little significance in this, but it is a phenomenon which has seldom occurred previously. What is remarkable is that the number of staff has been cut quite severely (mainly the more experienced staff) but parking has become far more of a problem. Curious!

Very recently I had a very unpleasant experience, from which some of you might benefit. A phone call, purporting to come from a Government department, with plausible and cogent facts and details, turned out to be a fraud. The supposedly confidential 3 digit number on the reverse of my debit card was quoted to me, which immediately aroused my suspicions. I raced to the bank. The staff were most helpful and cancelled my current card and confirmed that no money had been fraudulently taken from my account. They advised me to report the matter to the police, which I did at once. They said they did not initially look into all reports of fraud but gave me the following telephone number to report the matter, 0300 123 2040, or to contact actionfraud.police.uk online.

I had written down various details from the original phone call and gave these to the above number, for which they were most grateful. Fortunately, I was lucky and lost nothing but I feel this information may help others in a similar situation.

May I wish everyone a happy and enjoyable Easter and indeed a pleasant and satisfying year.

Colin Legg (C.C.)

Halkyn Library

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



Library Online
Services via
www.flintshire.gov.uk

Rhosesmor Heritage Group

RHOESMOR MEMORIES DAY

Come along to Rhosesmor Village Hall

**Saturday 11th March
2017 from 1.00pm**

**An opportunity to reminisce and
share fond memories of the
good old days in Rhosesmor.**

**Please bring all your old
photographs or any village
memorabilia that might be of
interest.**

Free refreshments provided

**Buy a raffle ticket for a chance to
win some lovely prizes.**



On this particular day 11th March we will be looking at the extensive information we have gathered since we began and look forward to our plans for a Rhosesmor Heritage Week in the summer.

If you would like to know more or would like to be part of the mailing list please contact:

Lynn Fearnhead 780740
lfearnhead@hotmail.co.uk

COFIO CAERFALLWCH

Rhosesmor Village Hall

The AGM. On Wednesday 18th January heard that in the past year the hall has continued to prosper. However, a number of issues raised at the meeting indicated that this may not be so in the coming year.

Unfortunately, due to other commitments the Jumble Sale is deferred until Saturday 10th June. Any contributions are very welcome

Finally, Jon Tarry on 780842 continues to be your contact for booking the hall.

Geoff North 780660
Secretary, Rhosesmor Village Hall committee

Rhosesmor W.I.

We meet in Rhosesmor Village Hall at 7.15pm on the second Monday of every month, except August. We would be delighted to welcome any new members.

On March 13th we have George Hughes, who was a private investigator, to tell us of his experiences. Our guest night, on April 10th, will be our 60th birthday and we hope to have someone from Chester Zoo to give us an update on the zoo. On May 8th we will welcome Graham A Thomas who will tell us about antique silver, its fakes, forgeries or things which are just not right.

Over the summer we will have a varied programme, details of which will be in the summer edition of the Halkyn Mountain News.

For further details contact
Mrs Mary North on 01352 780660

Rhosesmor Over 60's Christmas Party and Sponsored Walk 2016



A good time was had by all when 60 of us got together for our Christmas Party at Holywell Golf Club. A big thank-you to Andi, Nick and the girls who laid on an excellent three course traditional lunch followed by tea/coffee and mince pies. Once again we were entertained by accomplished singer/keyboard player Allan Murray, who soon got people on the dance floor.



Thanks to everyone who kindly donated one of the twenty raffle prizes which included bottles of Scotch, Wine, Port, Sherry and Malt Whisky (is there a theme here?) There were also non-alcoholic prizes such as Chocolates, Biscuits and a Cuddly Teddy Bear!

The money for the party is raised by a sponsored walk which usually takes place in August. This year thirteen hardy folk took part, on what turned out to be a very warm day, and raised over £1,000. Well done to you all!

A few thank-yous now: to Jean for driving the back-up car again, Steve and Ness, Blue Bell, for their support, every sponsor and donator, John McVey, Global Lifts, for his very generous donation and finally to John and Saffron Hulson for once again supplying us with their fantastic Pork Pies and Sausage Rolls, the only reason some do the walk we think!

The Committee

Rhes y Cae Chapel Carol Service

On 21st December 2016 was held the annual Carol Service in Rhes y Cae Chapel. The Chapel was packed out with no spare seats. As the Chapel holds over 300 people we were so pleased to have it full and especially pleased to see so many young people present. The congregational singing, under the leadership of Mr Goronwy Ellis, Gorsedd, was truly wonderful; with Mr Colin Legg at the organ. Nine short Bible readings were interspersed with musical items.. Ieuan and Aron sang a modern song to guitar accompaniment and Ceri Roberts, from Hanllan, sang beautifully (she is studying to be a solicitor at Cardiff University).

National winner Cai Fôn, from Ynys Môn, performed two carols, as did Halkyn Mountain Party under the leadership of Dr. Goronwy Wynne.

This year we welcomed, for the first time, Hogiau'r Berfeddwlad from Llandudno - they were great! The Maes Garmon School choir, under the leadership of their music teacher Nia Wyn Jones, sang two beautiful carols. This choir recently won the title of 'Best Choir in North Wales'.

This annual event is held with the help and support of Capel y Berthen, Llicswm and lasts for about an hour and a half with applause only once, at the end of the service. Many people stay behind after the service for a paned and mince pie - and a chat. Many thanks to all of you who helped and supported this service.

Ieuan ap Sion

Rhes Y Cae News

**Christmas Coffee Morning
Tuesday 29th November 10.30am.**

It was a sunny and crisp morning and our thanks to all who attended at Rhes y Cae Village Hall. We were very pleased to welcome so many people who are always willing to support us. Rhes y Cae Hall was beautifully decorated by the village hall committee – it was a lovely surprise!



Continued on Page 18 over

Rhes y Cae News - continued

Many thanks to everyone who helped us – cute hand knitted toys and Christmas wreaths from Joyce Parry (Halkyn) and some attractive Christmas tree hangings from Audrey Hughes (Nannerch).

We wish to thank Nicola and Doreen for their freshly cooked gingerbread and Christmas cakes, which went very quickly! Also thanks to Homebase for their generous support – Peter was very busy on the stall! Also thanks go to Peter (Warden) and Doreen for their generous support for the last 20 years. They do hope to come back occasionally – it will be good to see them! Finally to thank Brenda who baked delicious mince pies, which we all had with a cup of tea or coffee.



Many thanks to everyone who helped on the day and thanks for the raffle prizes and donations from those who were unable to attend. The final total was £450 for church funds – which was greatly appreciated. Hope to see you when we have the Easter Coffee Morning on April 25th. Please remember the coffee mornings help to keep our Village Hall open.

Over 60's Annual Christmas Party Saturday 10th December at 2pm

Our sincere thanks to Rhes y Cae Hall Committee,



namely Jill, Nerys, daughter Sara (Pandy Tudur), Wendy, Eirwen, and also to Kevin, Bryn and Matthew. They created such a lovely atmosphere – the place was buzzing! The decorations were very attractive and the Christmas dinner was very tasty, with Matthew contributing with some lovely homemade stuffing. But oh, the Christmas pudding with delicious brandy sauce was absolutely scrumptious! Bryn and Kevin were going around with the wine and raffle tickets.

After the meal, our well-known guitarist and singer Ieuan Ap Sion entertained us with a rendering of some lovely English songs, followed by all the guests singing carols with Ieuan. Finally all the raffle tickets were



drawn – and I think that most of us were able to take a prize home.

Diolch yn fawr iawn i bawb am helpu gwneud y Cinio Nadolig mor llwyddiannus!

Christmas Carol Service 2016

Wednesday 14th December at 7 pm

Many thanks to Rev'd Hugh Burgess for kindly organising this service, also to Colin Legg our organist, and our readers. Also our thanks to Sarah Westerman who has recently come to live in Rhes y Cae. Sarah has a beautiful voice, and it was lovely to hear her sing "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (H. Walford Davies version) and "Jesus Christ The Apple Tree".

Afterwards, everyone was able to enjoy sherry or Schloer with mince pies or gingerbread – many thanks to all the ladies with their efforts.

"Salsa" Christmas Party

Wednesday 14th December at 8.30pm

This was held after the dancing and everyone who attended brought some "Bring and Share". Trevor, our tutor, had made a delicious trifle.

The Salsa classes are going very well! There are now quite a few men attending the classes, which gives the right balance! Classes are every Wednesday at 7pm in Rhes y Cae Village Hall, except on school holidays. You will have a warm welcome, and it's great fun!

Carols Around The Crib – Christmas Eve at 4pm

The church looked very welcoming and attractively decorated, and the service was very well attended – hardly an empty seat in the church! Rev'd Hugh Burgess told the traditional Christmas Nativity story, assisted very enthusiastically by the many children who loved finding the characters from the story hidden around the church, and placing them in the crib.

At the end of the service, Peter and Doreen were presented with a gift to express our gratitude for all that they have done to support the church. We wish them well in their new home.

Future Dates

Easter Coffee Morning – Tuesday 25th April at 10.30am in Rhes y Cae Village Hall.
All are very warmly welcomed.

The Big Breakfast - Sunday 9th April, 10.00am - 1.00pm in Rhes y Cae Village Hall.
Proceeds to go to 'Cystic Fibrosis Research'.

Please let me know if you have any information to put in the next edition by May 1st.
Gwyneth Hughes 01352 780371



Tinytots Playgroup Ysgol Rhos Helyg Rhosesmor

We are a well established playgroup based in
Ysgol Rhos Helyg in Rhosesmor.

We are open during term time each morning,
8.50-11.45am.

We welcome all children from age 2½!

We give your child the opportunity to
make friends, develop new skills and
have fun learning through play.

All staff hold childcare qualifications
and have a valid CRB check.

The cost per session is £7.50

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

First session free!

Contact Leanne on
01352 780265



BLUE BELL INN

Glass & Paper Recycling

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

Rhosesmor Rd
Halkyn

BlueBell.uk.eu.org
01352 780309

HALKYN MOUNTAIN KIDS CLUB & HOLIDAY CLUB

SPACES AVAILABLE NOW!

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

Holiday club

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

Opening times for holiday club only

8am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri

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

Prices for holiday club only

£22 per child for a full day

£16 per child for half a day (till 1pm)

Opening times for after school club only

3.10pm - 5.20pm 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 £4.50

Second hour for one child £7.50

First hour for 2 siblings £8.10

Second hour for 2 siblings £13.80

Every child thereafter there's a 5% discount

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



Children's Pages

A Few Words from Danny the Donkey

It seems that my first attempt at contributing to Halkyn Mountain News was well received as I seem to have had more visitors since. I do enjoy visitors and am always pleased to see everyone. Sometimes when I see them coming with gifts of carrots and apples I can't contain my excitement and start running to greet them. I know I may look as if I won't be able to stop before I reach the fence but I have it down to a fine art and can always stop in time.

Although I miss my Mum, Ginnie, I don't get much time to feel lonely as the sheep appear to have adopted me. They are forever calling by to chat and gossip. I find that with the rain, mist, fog and snow in winter I often can't see much beyond my field and stable so I don't get to know so much about what is happening in the world. I have to rely on the sheep and the occasional bird to tell me. I cannot always believe what they say and sometimes they do have an outlook on life that is peculiar to me. They recently spun a tale about a new leader of a herd with strange hair in a distant land who had decided he would stop birds migrating. I can only think one of the sheep must have had a bad dream!

Now that lambs are arriving, there is much



Ginnie and her son, Danny

competition amongst the ewes. All the lambs look the same to me but obviously not to their mothers. It is funny when lambs come up to the fence and look at me for the first time. From experience, I know that it's best at first to keep my head down and carry on grazing as, if I look up and smile, the sight of my toothy grin can come as a shock and send the lamb running away bleating. In the past I have been scolded by ewes for scaring their offspring. Perhaps that's why you don't often see sheep smiling. I thought I did see a ewe smile once but I think it was a reaction to what she was doing at the time rather than her smiling at me. Perhaps I am too self-conscious but I always think that sheep naturally look as if they are about to scold me.

Many of the human visitors who come and see me do smile at me. Their teeth are rarely scary and I like it when they smile. They also say nice things, and even if they have only met me a few moments before, tell me what a good donkey I am. I can only assume they must read Halkyn Mountain News otherwise how else would they know?

Visitors often ask me to pose for a photo. I have never known what this meant, but my Mum used to tell me that it meant to stand still for a moment so that they could memorise the beauty of a donkey. I do my best to stand still but it is very difficult especially when they have carrots or apples in their hands. I must be doing it right as they always seem pleased.

Bye for now,

Danny

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

Spring Bird Wordsearch







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

WHEATEAR
CHIFFCHAFF
SWALLOW
BLACKCAP
REDSTART
WHITETHROAT
WHINCHAT
CUCKOO
SWIFT
NEST
EGGS
YOUNG

Here are some of the birds mentioned in the Wordsearch.

If you are lucky you might see them when you are out for a walk.

To see them in colour you can look at the Halkyn Mountain News online at halkyn.org.uk

<p>Blackcap</p> 	<p>Chiffchaff</p> 	<p>Whitethroat</p> 
<p>Cuckoo</p> 	<p>Wheatear</p> 	<p>Redstart (Male)</p> 

Ysgol Brynffordd School

After welcoming them back to school after Christmas the children all settled in extremely well and were keen to work. Our Autumn term had many highlights and we continue to be exceptionally proud of the children's efforts and the enthusiasm they have, for all aspects of school life.

Eisteddfod yr Urdd

We have had a lot of interest amongst the children who want to compete in the Urdd this year with school clubs for reciting, dance and art clubs having started on a weekly basis.

Ysgol Brynffordd Football and Netball

Well done to all who competed in the football friendly match which was held here at Ysgol Brynffordd between Ysgol Lixwm and Ysgol y Foel on the afternoon of Tuesday 31st January. Some excellent football was played in inclement weather. Many thanks to all who participated or supported their teams.

The netball team played a friendly match against Ysgol Lixwm on Thursday 26th January. It was a great match, under very cold conditions, with Ysgol Brynffordd winning 2-0. Well done to all of the children and the supporters who braved the elements!

Ysgol Brynffordd Christmas Fayre

A whopping £1624 was raised at the Christmas Fayre which was held on the evening of Thursday 1st December. There were a selection of stalls ranging from 'bric-a-brac' to games for both parents and children to enjoy. The children enjoyed visiting Father Christmas in his splendid grotto which the Friends of Brynford decorated. Our raffle and auction were particularly well received. Many thanks to both parents and staff for their help and donations.

Maths Enrichment Workshop

A few of Year 6 children were chosen to attend a More Able and Talented Maths Enrichment workshop at Holywell High School on Monday 23rd January. The children worked exceptionally hard and had a thoroughly enjoyable day. Thank you Holywell High School!

Urdd Radio Project at Ysgol Maes Garmon

A group of our Year 5 and 6 children visited Maes Garmon on Monday 30th January to take part in a Welsh Radio Project. They worked very hard, speaking welsh throughout the day and were complimented on their enthusiasm and effort levels. Many thanks to the staff of Maes Garmon for this fantastic opportunity.

Lead Creative Schools

Our Foundation Phase children are currently involved in a Lead Creative Schools Project, working with 'Lead Practioners' Wren and Elaine to produce creative work in both dance and story

writing. This is an exciting opportunity for the children to work with experts in their field and the work that they are producing is an inspiration to us all.

School Show

Well done to all the children and staff who helped make this year's show of 'Dick Whittington' an outstanding success. The show took place on Wednesday 7th December and Thursday 8th December and was a sell out!

Singing in the Community

The junior children went Carol Singing in the foyer of Tesco's in Holywell. They sang beautifully and were complimented by many members of the local community who thoroughly enjoyed their shopping that day!

Peter Pan

The children were very positive about their trip to the pantomime to see Peter Pan at Rhyl Pavilion on Tuesday 13th December. The children's behaviour was exemplary.

Christmas Dinner

Thank you to Mrs. Oare, school cook, who made a very tasty Christmas Dinner on the 30th November for all the children and staff. We all thoroughly enjoyed it!

Carol Service

Parent, grandparents, aunties and uncles and members of the local community were all invited to join the children at St. Michael's church for our annual Carol Service on the morning of Friday 16th December. Everyone was then invited back to school for mince pies and coffee or tea. There was once again a very good turn out.

Christmas Party

The children had a Christmas Party on the afternoon of the 15th December, which included a buffet lunch before finishing for their Christmas break.

Film night

Friends of Brynford will be holding a Children's Film Night in the school hall on Thursday 16th February to help raise money for the school, with ice lollies and drinks being served.

Note from the acting Headteacher

One of our school targets for writing this year, is for the older children to 'write for a real life purpose' and I would be interested in developing this opportunity in your newspaper.

*Rachel Critchell, Acting Headteacher
Brynford School
01352 713184*

(So, I have included, on the next page, three pieces produced by the pupils - Ed):

The latest news of Ysgol Brynffordd

Ysgol Brynffordd have had a very busy term doing our Christmas show [Dick Whittington], going to Techniquet for our school trip, and Bramall Hall for our topic on the Tudors.

The new topic for this term at Key Stage Two is 'Out of this World'. Key stage two are currently also looking at QR codes. They are using the QR codes to help find information for their topic, so they can find information more quickly.

Ysgol Brynffordd have also started our termly swimming lessons and Urdd competitions including Dance and Arts and Crafts. In addition to that, they have entered football, netball and rugby competitions.

At Bramall Hall they experienced how the Tudors

actually lived their lives and some of the children got to use some of the musical instruments like the crumhorn.

The Fantastic Peter Pan Trip

All of Ysgol Brynffordd went to the pantomime at 12:30 in Rhyl Pavilion on the date of the 13th of December 2016. They were really excited to see the magical performance with all the stars. Here are some of the comments from pupils;

"It was really fun"

"It was very exciting when Peter Pan flew".

We would recommend a trip to Rhyl Pantomime for all schools in the area.

By Kai, Jasmine and Evie

Back to the Tudors at Bramall Hall

On the 17th November 2016 Key Stage Two set off to Bramall Hall for a Tudor trip. When the pupils arrived at Bramall Hall, they were asked to take off their coats and hang them up along with their bags. They were then sent 'back in time,' from the moment they stepped into the building.

Firstly, they went to the dinner hall and learned the manners of the London court. Their next activity was to make 'nose gates' to keep away all bad smells. After that, they were taken to a music room, where they played all the Tudor instruments. Finally, Lady Dorothy took them to their last activity, where they were told to act out a story. This story had four actors and the rest doing the voices. After their fantastic trip they had some dinner and went back to their school.

This is what we thought of our trip:

Student 1- "It was unexpected that it would be a role play."

Student 2- "It was really good and exciting."

Student 3- "It was very good and fun."

Student 4 - "I loved it."

Student 5- "It was an amazing experience."

They all thought it was 'five star' education and would recommend a visit to Bramall Hall to anyone who loves history.

Cerys Anne, Cerys, Caelan

Brynford's Got Sports Talent !

Netball

On Thursday 26th January, Brynford School had a netball friendly match against Lixwm. The final score was 2-0 to Lixwm but before the match they had a training session with Ysgol Brynffordd as Mrs Roberts was referee and the coach. She did an excellent job at it! The children heard the parents cheering for them, but the cold weather hit Brynford and everyone was freezing. However, this did not stop the mighty Brynford warriors from trying hard!

Swimming

Every week Ysgol Brynffordd have lessons at Holywell Leisure centre. They enter at 1:30pm and

learn how to do different strokes like front crawl, back stroke, breast stroke and even 'treading water'. Some of the comments from the pupils were;

"It is really fun learning all the swimming strokes".

"We have the teacher to teach us swimming".

Dancing

On Tuesday 24th of January a new dance coach called Laura started to teach us a new dance for the urdd competition. Our theme is 'dolls and robots'. There are many children coming to dance club. It is very popular.

By Brooke, Ellie and Eleri

Ysgol Rhos Helyg

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

Area Review

The whole community were extremely pleased to receive the fantastic news that Ysgol Rhos Helyg was no longer under threat of closure. Future generations can now look forward to coming to Rhos Helyg.

Mrs Rosa Baker

Firstly, I would like to pay tribute to Mrs Baker who sadly passed away in late November.

Mrs Baker was a parent at Ysgol Rhos Helyg and during this time, which was over 40 years ago she volunteered to listen to children read. Even after her children left Rhos Helyg she came every week, usually twice a week on a Tuesday and Thursday mornings to listen to pupils read. The pupils looked forward to these sessions with Mrs Baker and asked when their turn would be.

Mrs Baker became a school Governor around this time and she served on the Governing Body until very recently when she stood down for health reasons. The staff enjoyed her anecdotes and dry wit, and were grateful for her patience when organizing the readers for her.

The role that Mrs Baker fulfilled over the decades had a huge impact on the reading standards of generations of pupils at Rhos Helyg. She will be greatly missed by the whole school and local community.

Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre was once again very well supported. This annual event brings the local community together.



The climbing wall was used at the event for the first time and was a good money spinner!

Christmas Dinner

This was a highlight of last term. The children wear their party jumpers and hats and the festive meal is enjoyed by all.



Infant party

Pupils enjoying the traditional party game of Pass the Parcel.



Macmillan's

Tea party

Thank you for your support in raising £566.40



School Choir

The School choir visited Holywell Community Hospital at the request of The Good Companions to sing to the patients. This annual visit is always

well received by both patients and staff at the Hospital. The Choir also visited Halkyn Community Centre to perform for local residents.



Entrepreneurial Club



The Super Thinkers have been busy making Snowman soup and reindeer food to sell at the Christmas Fayre.

Eco Club

The club had a festive craft session using nature's own gifts.



Making play dough

Pupils In Early Years have been having lots of fun making play dough using non standard units. The mess was very minimal!



Climbing club

The Club has re-started at the school and pupils from years 4 and 5 are enjoying their sessions on the climbing wall.



As part of Topic work

Year 1 interviewed a local farmer about his work. They were very intrigued and learnt an awful lot. The farmer was very patient in answering the children's questions!



Forest School

Pupils in Year 1 have had great fun exploring in the woods for signs of the Gruffalo and other creatures.

The children are having a well deserved break and are enjoying some hot chocolate by the camp fire.



Welsh Project

Year 5 pupils were invited to Ysgol Maes Garmon recently as part of a Welsh Language project. The pupils worked together in order to prepare an item for the Radio. Their Welsh skills were very impressive. Da iawn.



Maths Eyes

A new Maths initiative has been launched at the school. All the children have created their own Maths glasses in order to look at Maths in a different way-through their Maths Eyes!



Young Voices

The Choir visited the MEN Arena in Manchester in order to perform as part of a very large choir of children. It is a fabulous experience for the children to sing on stage in front of such a huge audience.



Halkyn Mountain Sports & Other Clubs

Halkyn Sports Association

Due to the termination of the tenant lease by the Management and Trustees of the Halkyn Cricket Club as of 31st March 2017, Halkyn Sports Association will cease as a community facility and the committee will be resigning.

Halkyn Sports Association committee would sincerely like to thank everyone for the support and commitment, given by the local community and those community groups who have used the facility over the last 17 years of Halkyn Sports Association occupation.

Halkyn Radio Group

(Your local Club for Amateur Radio Enthusiasts)

We have moved our Headquarters to:

The Britannia Inn, Halkyn

Where we meet every Wednesday from about 8pm.

We had met for some years at the **Halkyn Sports Association**. but, following Halkyn Cricket Club's decision not to renew the lease to the Halkyn Sports Association, we have been forced, with other clubs who used the premises, to move to an alternative location.

We are sorry to have had to move – but we've had no option.

New Members and visitors, young and old, are always welcome on Wednesday evenings at the Britannia Inn.

You never know, you may find a new and captivating hobby.

Holywell Rambling Club Programme

Our walks take place in all weathers, so appropriate clothing and footwear is essential.

If you intend joining us for the first time please phone the leader a few days before. They will give more details of the walks, what to wear and what to bring with you. Many of our walks are within the capabilities of most averagely fit people.

Please note that the walks marked * require a reasonably high level of fitness.

The Club operates Car-Sharing, the Meeting Places listed below are for usually for this purpose.

Day/Date	Title/Location	Distance	Leader	Meeting Place
Wed 1 st Mar	Circular around Northop + Pub Lunch	Easy, 6 miles	Barry: 01352 756355	Glasfryn Pub Mold. 9.50
Sat 4 th Mar	Alwen Trail	Easy, 7 miles	Gill: 01352 713972	Holywell. Hospital 9.15
Sat 11 th Mar	Nant Ffrancon *	Moderate Mountain, 8 miles	Ron: 01352 715723	Holywell Hospital 09 00
Sat 18 th Mar	Primrosehill Wood	Easy, 8 miles	George: 01352 840809	Northop Car Park 9.30
Sun 26 th Mar	Cadair Ifan Goch	Moderate, 9 miles	Toni: 01352 715580	Holywell Hospital 9.00
Sat 1 st April	Elidir Fawr *	Strenuous, 7 miles	Margaret: 01352 720477	Junction 29. 9.00
Wed 5 th April	Around Cefn Mawr + Pub Lunch	Easy, 6 miles	Arthur: 01352 711022	Plas Hafod Hotel 9.50
Sun 9 th April	Afon y Maes Valley	Moderate, 7 miles	Sandra: 01352 741750	Northop. Car Park 9.15
Sat 15 th April	Moel Hebog*	Strenuous, 7.5 miles	Vaughan: 01745 857365	Holywell Hospital 8.45
Sun 23 rd April	Foel Goch *	Mod Mountain, 7.5 m	Ron: 01352 715723	Holywell Hospital 09.00
Sun 30 th April	The Dragon's Back*	Strenuous, 10.25 miles	John: 01352 757366	Northop Car Park 8.30

Halkyn Bowling Club



Halkyn Bowling Club is great. It is said to be the friendliest club in the county. But, we do need some help. We are desperate for some more players. Maybe you have played in the past or you have never played. It doesn't matter. It's certainly worth a try. We have players who put off joining but now say they wish they had learned to play a lot sooner.

We have two teams and we are desperate to maintain both of them, but we are struggling.

So, I hope this cry for help reaches a few of you. You will get lots of help and encouragement, so give it a try. Our bowling green is getting some extra maintenance. It's one of the best anywhere. So good for bowling and wonderful views.

We have two teams playing indoor bowls at Flint. We are getting mixed results but we do enjoy playing and enjoy the social time.

The 100 Club winners have been Norman Barlow - £15, Elaine Roberts - £30 and Averil Woodfine - £15.

Here are three phone numbers if you need any information about when to play and equipment:

Bill Worrall - 710702
Julie Lewis - 781212
Jo Woodruff - 781276

Halkyn Cricket Club



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At Mold Sports Centre

12th & 26th February, 12th & 26th March

Starting at 11am - £1 per session.

For further information please contact:

Jane Williams: 01352 781523 or 07732325033

mattyanddan@btinternet.com

We are a small village club that was established over 150 years. Once a thriving club with a plentiful membership the club, like so many other village clubs, over the years has lost both senior and junior members. Our long-term aim is to build up the club membership to where it should be and keep cricket alive on Halkyn mountain. This is not going to be an overnight job but many years of hard work.

We have always played in the North Wales Cricket League and have for a number of years now had teams in the North East Wales Cricket League and have in the past produced players who have played for Wales and North East Wales.

We are an ECB accredited club, which means that we have passed all the necessary criteria set out by the ECB. At present, we have two senior teams and last year had two junior teams but this season numbers are low so we have decided that we need to go back to basics. We need to try and build on the players we have whilst trying to encourage new players.

There is no better way to spend a few hours than

playing or even watching cricket. Initially you might think that it appears boring but once you understand the basic rules it can quickly become addictive and, unlike football, you are not out in the wet weather. It gets people out into the fresh air and children away from the television and game consoles for a few hours.

We run weekly nets sessions for both the senior players and the junior players at the club ground.

Where the junior section is concerned, we are not a win at all costs club and believe that the first step should be enjoyment and an understanding of the game. For this coming season, we have enrolled in the ECB's All Stars Cricket which is targeted at the 5-8 year olds as an introduction before they get to the under 9 age groups where they will then enter the league and play soft ball cricket against other clubs on a friendly basis. Then, at under 11 age groups, they will play hard ball cricket in a league. All protective equipment is provided.

We have indoor nets sessions on 12th & 26th February and 12th & 26th March at Mold Sports Centre 11am til 12pm. All coaching sessions are run by fully ECB qualified coaches and all helpers have undertaken a DBS certificate.

We are hoping to hold a taster session day in early Spring. We also have a Facebook Group (please like it) and a website so please keep your eyes open, all information will be posted on there.

If you would like any further information on either the seniors or the juniors, then either pop into one of the sessions or contact:

Jane on 01352 781523 or 07732 325 033
or email mattyanddan@btinternet.com or
Jane@Halkyn CC Juniors

Preparations are now well underway for the 2017 season. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the 1st game played at Pant Newydd. A reunion event is planned for mid-summer when former players/ members can catch up on old times.

This season both sides will commence the new season on Saturday 22nd April, all fixtures are to be confirmed very shortly by the North Wales Cricket League. The 1st round of the National Village Cup will take place on Sunday 30th April.

For further information please contact:

Keith Williams on 01352 781523

Keith Williams
Secretary

IF ANYONE WISHES TO BOOK THE USE OF THE CLUBHOUSE FOR A FUNCTION THEN PLEASE CONTACT KEITH ON 01352 781523

Holywell Golf Club

Holywell Juniors Celebrate Christmas 2016

There was a great turn out of juniors for the Christmas golf at Holywell. Many of the juniors displayed their Christmas spirit with a good display of Christmas jumpers and hats. The juniors played the Silver course and later joined their parents, grandparents and members in the clubhouse where refreshments were provided for all the juniors. Well done to all who played.



Our Junior Captain, Jack Parry, had a great round setting a new course record of 34, as well as winning the putting competition and longest drive. Rhys Roberts won nearest the pin on the 6th hole. Daiawn, Cameron Francis for winning division 2. Callum Owens-Jones and Harrison Prior were runners up in their division. The juniors first outing of the year was a nine hole competition and cousins Callum and Hannah were winners in their divisions. Callum Owens-Jones won 44 net 25 and Jordan Haddaway was runner up 49 net 32. The winner of the Academy Silver tees course was Hannah Wade-Jones 50 net 31. Holywell juniors are thriving under the watchful eye of Michael O'Boyle, Moi Parry and Mal Reed and we all hope they have a successful year in 2017. If you are between 6-18 years old why not join our junior section please contact: Matt Parsley on 01352 710040 option 2.

Children Enjoy Christmas At Holywell Golf Club

The children and grandchildren of members of Holywell Golf Club were invited once again to the



Christmas party at Holywell golf Club. They enjoyed fantastic entertainment from Dazzle the Clown and it was hard to see who enjoyed it more the children or the grownups.

While they awaited the arrival of Father Christmas they enjoyed refreshments provided by the Club. As darkness fell Father Christmas arrived in style thanks to the Flint and Holywell Rotary Club float.



A Great Start For The New Year For Lady Members

The clubs programme of refurbishment has now included the refurbishment of the Ladies locker room. The ladies were handed back their completed locker room at the end of January, what a wonderful start to 2017. It is an excellent time to join Holywell Ladies as they are now enjoying a reduction in their fees.

Brynford Senior Citizens Enjoy Belated Christmas Lunch

The retired people of Brynford were invited to a belated Christmas lunch at Holywell Golf Club on Friday.

They were welcomed by the Lady Captain who thanked Andi and Nick the Steward and Stewardess who had kindly donated the lunch and also members of the Golf Club who donated bingo and raffle prizes. The guests then sat down to an excellent lunch which was enjoyed by all.



Holywell is a great venue and is available for non-members as well as members who can enjoy a meal.

Halkyn Parish Hall

Private Functions and Meetings

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

For more information ring:

Sharon Davies **07546 688 552**

Weekly Diary

Mondays

Nia Dance Class 10:30 - 11:30 am

Contact Julia 781941

Yoga 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Contact Jenny 01352 780681

Tuesdays

Baby & Toddler Group 9:30 to 11:00 am

Zumba Contact: zumbawithvix@gmail.com

Snooker Club 7:30 pm

(New members welcome Andy Wood 780159)

The Snooker Table is also available for Hire

Contact Sharon Davies on 07546 688

552

Wednesdays

Modern Line Dancing 12:45 - 14:45 pm

Contact Julie on 07712149439

Bingo (every other Wednesday) 7.30 pm

(For more information on the Bingo call:

Carolyn on 01352

781765)

Thursdays

Halkyn W.I. 2:00 pm

Fridays

Library 1:30 - 7:00 pm

Halkyn Brownies 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Contact Karen 716027

Saturday

Heartfelt Art & Craft 10 am - 3:00 pm

From 14th March every 2nd Saturday of the month (Contact: Sue Thomas on 01352 781088)

or email: heartfelt.mountainstudio@aol.co.uk

Saturday 28th January

Halkyn Mountain Cinema

Please follow us on Facebook for further information

Heartfelt Art & Craft Fairs

Will be held on the following dates in 2016:

Saturday 25th March

" 27th May

" 22nd July

" 9th September

" 18th November



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