



Halkyn Mountain News

Issue 160 - Spring 2015

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Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema

Firstly, may we offer a hearty thank you to those who came to our inaugural screening on Saturday 31st January. The event was a complete success and we were thrilled to see the amount of people who bought tickets and came along to support this new community venture. We would also like to thank Pentre Halkyn Post Office, The Blue Bell Inn, The Red Lion Inn, Halkyn Sports Association and Cricket Club and in particular Halkyn Community Council for their help in supporting the event.



The inaugural film was "The Grand Budapest Hotel", a film that received 9 Oscar and 11 BAFTA nominations after we chose it. The film features cakes by a pâtisserie called "Mendl's" and we therefore created our own "Mendl's" style cakes to give away and patrons will have noticed our plucky doorman wearing their "Lobby Boy" hats! We also played some balalaika music and we hope these extras added a little fun to the event and made it a memorable night out. Tea and coffee was also served and of course the Cricket Club offers a licensed bar.

We'll now get ready for the next one! Please, please, please do sign up to our mailing list via the website and follow us on Facebook or Twitter in order to ensure you are kept informed about the next and subsequent screenings.

www.mountaincinema.org.uk

www.facebook.com/halkynmountaincinema

www.twitter.com/mountaincinema

We can confirm the next screening will be held once again at Halkyn Cricket Club and will be on **Saturday 21st March**, so put the date in your diary and follow us on the web for more info and to see what the next film will be.

The fun and individuality of community cinema is the opportunity to enrich the movie going experience as much as possible, beyond just projecting a film. Related food, drink, fancy dress, discussion, music, short films (the possibilities are endless!) or just having a post-film chat with friends can all play a part in creating a magical evening of unforgettable cinema and we hope you'll stay in touch and come and join us.

There are more pictures on page 2

Mountain Cinema Working Group, email: mountaincinema@yahoo.co.uk

Issue161 will be distributed in June

The deadline for items to be submitted will be 1st May, 2015.

You can submit items by email to - hmneditors@hotmail.com or hand them in to the Blue Bell Inn or the Britannia Inn.

Editorial

We knew it was never going to be easy to fill Pat and Eirwen McDermott's shoes in producing the Halkyn Mountain News, but the December edition presented us with quite a few challenges. We are therefore all the more grateful for the positive responses and encouragement we have received. In this edition we have included an "Oops" column as we thought it right to acknowledge where we fell short in the last edition. We hope that we will get more right as we gain experience.

While there are many contributors to HMN, we always welcome more, whether it is on a regular basis or a one-off. If you would like to write an article, contribute a story or poem or share news of an event, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

In the December edition we published an interview with Steve Blakesley about his new book *Fidget the Heron*. In this edition, Steve has interviewed Kevin and Delyth McIntyre about their amazing journey from Kenya to the Khyber in a VW Beetle in 1973. Part two of this interview will appear in the next edition. We would like to continue to include interviews with local people in future editions, so if you have a story to tell or know someone who has, please let us know.

As well as the 1,800 copies of HMN distributed across the mountain communities, we also have readers further afield who have been able to access copies online via the Halkyn Community Council's website. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the website has not been available for several weeks. However, Mr Philip Parry, Clerk to Halkyn Community Council has informed us that the new website at www.halkyn.org.uk should be up and running by the time this edition is published. If you have friends or relatives who normally access HMN online, please let them know about the new website.

We hope you enjoy this edition.

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

Community Cinema Pictures



Set up and ready to go



Seated and ready to enjoy

Oops!

We won't always get everything right but we managed to miss quite a few items from the December edition.

Somehow the schedule for the visits of Father Christmas's Float to the mountain communities was left out. We are relieved that despite this, news of his visits spread and Father Christmas was once again welcomed as he toured the villages.

We announced the drawing competition on our new Children's Page but we forgot to include a closing date and collection point. We have therefore kept the competition open for this edition. Please see the Children's Page for details.

News of the new Mountain Cinema at the Halkyn Cricket Club was also omitted. Thankfully the event was a great success. See the report for details.

While the news item for Ysgol Brynffordd was included, the photographs were not. We are sorry for the disappointment this will have caused.

Finally, we had planned to hold an event for people to share their memories and stories so that these could be included in future editions of Halkyn Mountain News. We had initial thoughts of holding this on 18th January and then thought it would be better held later in the year. Despite our change of mind the event was still announced in the last edition. Thank you to Liz Gray for spreading the news of the change of plan.

We offer our sincere apologies to all affected by the above and hope that Oops items are fewer as the new Editorial Team finds its feet. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

Celebrating Halkyn's Heritage

If you're interested in Halkyn's rich heritage, there's a lot happening this spring. Flintshire Countryside Service was awarded grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Cadwyn Clwyd, partly to restore the double limekilns beside the Rhes-y-Cae to Halkyn road, the single kiln at Rhosemor and a double kiln on the outskirts of Brynford, but also to develop some digital interpretation and run a series of community heritage events. Some of the heritage work is already well underway and the kiln restoration will take place in the spring and summer.

A new bilingual website has been launched: <http://www.halkynmountain.co.uk>

Fresh content is being added regularly so please keep visiting the site. Several short films have been created and can be viewed on the website. The most popular so far is the slow motion footage of a blast at Pant y Pwll Dŵr Quarry (<http://www.halkynmountain.co.uk/limestone/>) but there are also computer generated films showing the working of a limekiln and a timeline of lead mining.

At the end of the summer holidays over 40 members of the local community volunteered to help make a short film interpreting the lives of the Victorian mining community on Halkyn Mountain. Younger children, teenagers, and adults worked together, under the direction of Polly Snape, to try and capture the feel of Victorian Halkyn and evoke the mining era. We are delighted with the finished film and congratulate Polly, the film company, Minimal Media, and everyone who took part. Heritage Lottery Fund like it so much that they have asked if they can show it at their funding workshops as an example of a good community heritage project! It will soon be posted on the website along with more photographs about the making of the film.

In April we hope many of you will take part in **Halkyn Heritage Week**. It will run from Saturday 25th April until Friday 1st May. A varied programme including guided walks, talks and archaeology taster sessions will be taking place all week. On Saturday evening we will be showing the Victorian Halkyn film in Halkyn Village Hall, along with others made during the project. You will be able to find out about how the limekilns are being restored or try your hand at archaeological surveying. You may meet Iron Age characters on Moel y Gaer, lead miners returning home from their shift, lime burners and quarrymen, or you could listen to a Medieval traveller regaling you with myths and legends of the area, including tales of King Arthur! The programme is still being finalised but we think there will be something for all ages.

A Good Samaritan

On Boxing Day the snow came down with a vengeance and my husband and I, returning home from a lovely day at our sons home in Liverpool with all the family, became completely bogged down on the Springfield Hill, as did many others. My husband, clad only in his shirt sleeves as he had not taken a coat with him, set off bravely in the blizzard to walk all the way to Moel-y-Crio, to return with the 4x4 to take me home, as I had just had a knee replacement operation a couple of months ago.

The full programme will be posted on the website and flyers distributed to the local pubs, community centres and libraries. We are looking for volunteers to help us run the activities. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Lorna Jenner on 01352 741676 or lorna.jenner@btinternet.com



The Duke and Duchess of Westminster in Halkyn Church are portrayed by Tim Clisby and Sue Nicholls of the Nannerch Players, the children being filmed by Minimal Media are Evie Capstick and Matthew John.



Filming the Pit Inspectors, Mine inspector is John Whittaker, clerk is Alex Hay and the young mine worker is Joe Elliott.

I was very worried about him, as the snow was coming down really heavily, but when he returned he said a good Samaritan - a lady in a 4x4 - had stopped and given him a lift all the way to the front door, despite the fact that she was actually going in completely the opposite direction.

If that lady reads this article, and I hope she does, I would like to say a really big THANK YOU to her from the bottom of my heart.

Also, a thank you to the Springfield Hotel for the use of their car park overnight.

Halkyn County Councillor

It is becoming increasingly difficult to write for the Halkyn Mountain News as your local County Councillor when there is a dearth of good news to encourage one's readers. The news broadcasts on TV and radio are already so depressing that I am loathe to add to people's disillusionment and anxieties. As far as the County Council is concerned I can only say that things can only become worse for a while yet before they improve. As everyone knows, shortage of money is the crux of the problem. There have been cuts in services, redundancies and a drastic reduction in departmental budgets. In particular, education and social services this year are facing almost impossible challenges. I long for the day when it will be possible to cheer people up with some really good news.

One little success story is the removal of several poles erected by B.T. beside the road leading up to Moel y Crio from Rhes y Cae. Fortunately, Councillor Nicola Richardson was on the scene as soon as they started to go up and prevented further installation whilst I alerted the Grosvenor Estate and Natural Resources Wales. Neither of these bodies had given permission for this work; nor had the County Council. Consequently, in the last week of January, the offending poles were removed. Would that every problem was so successfully solved.

It is now over six months since an application was made for the siting and erection, just above Hendre, of a very tall wind turbine (86 metres ie 282 ft, nearly as tall as Big Ben's tower). Now August is a tricky month as far as planning is concerned. The elected members of the County Council are in recess. Therefore, planning applications can be decided, and approved, if seen fit, by the paid staff of the council. There have been some dubious results in the past and as soon as I was aware of this planning application, and impressed by the large number of objectors, I hastened down to the Planning Department in order to secure a postponement until the summer recess was over. However, owing to the public outcry (circa 150 objections by post), the senior planning officer in charge of the application had already decided that this was a matter for the Planning Committee. Since then the matter has dragged on. (If the application comes before committee in February the result will be too late for this edition of Halkyn Mountain News). One of the reasons for the delay is that the planning department has referred the case to a private firm to investigate what I believe is called a "landscape environment impact"; though surely the local people are best able to do that.

Many people were very sad to witness the closure of the Miner's Arms again at the end of November. A public house is an integral part of any village and the Miner's Arms has served the village and surrounding areas very well over the years. It is hoped that it will reopen as soon as possible, when some minor building alterations have been completed. This public house has a serious disadvantage in that it is part of a larger building complex with several flats attached. It is easy to be wise with hindsight but the planners seem to have made a serious mistake in allowing the previous dance floor/restaurant area to be converted to accommodation.

The Council's Environment Pollution (Noise) department believe a certain amount of noise is permissible for a tavern. At the same time, the local residents can rightly expect an acceptable limit to disturbance. When the pub reopens it is up to people to support it in order for it to be a commercial success but at the same time it is important for people to curb any excesses. This applies to all the public houses in the area and whilst I urge folk to patronise them all, may I put in a special plea for the Red Lion, Rhosesmor, which is anxious to be a viable business concern.

In the previous issue of this journal I have to admit that I underestimated the number of dog walkers who do not keep their animals under control, nor bother to clear up their animals' mess. This problem is more rife that I realized, though I still believe the majority of offenders are not local residents but come from further afield, and regrettably, will not see this article. We are now coming to that time of year when it is imperative to keep dogs under control on the mountain. Ewes will be in lamb and should not be disturbed or, if they have lambled the defenceless lambs have enough dangers from external causes without having to contend with dogs.

Although it is well past Christmas this is the first occasion in which I can say a most heartfelt and sincere "thank you" to all those good folk in all our mountain villages who each year play host to the pensioners in the area and provide sumptuous Christmas dinners and entertainment. We are indeed very lucky to benefit from the goodwill and thoughtfulness of these public spirited people.

Finally, there will be more activity in the area from April onwards when everyone will be able to enjoy and experience the heritage of a mountain. Please support the various activities in the area and discover the fascinating history and life which surrounds us.

May I wish you all a very happy Easter and a healthy and rewarding spring.

Colin Legg (C.C. for Halkyn Ward)



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

**Rhosesmor Rd
Halkyn**

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

Halkyn Community Council

Street Lighting

There are a number of street lights out of order due to underground faults, one on the B5123 in Rhosesmor, two in Northop Road, Rhosesmor and one in Wern Road, The Wern. The Council's Electrical Contractor has requested Scottish Power on numerous occasions to trace and rectify the faults - but to no avail. The Council have requested Scottish Power to rectify the faults within a period of time, and failure will result in the matter being reported to the Energy Ombudsman.

Reporting street light faults: If a street light is faulty, please contact the Clerk (details as below), or one of the Community Councillors. **Please note;** the street lights on all housing estates are the responsibility of the Flintshire County Council, and should be reported to them, via their web site or by telephoning 01352 752121. The Community Council street lights, are generally sited on the road sides, and spaced further apart than lights on the housing estates.

Community Charge (Precept) 2015/2016

The Community Council Members agreed to increase the precept from £41,000 to £45,000 - an increase to a Band D property within the community of £2.67 a year (22p a month). The lower property bands would pay less per month. The Halkyn Community Council Band D property charge will now be £33.13. When increasing the precept the Councillors considered the devolvement of services from the Flintshire County Council to Town & Community Councils in Flintshire. And to ensure that the area retains the facilities and services, the Halkyn Councillors wished to ensure that balances were sufficiently held. Apart from the normal financial obligations the Council, during the end of this financial year and the following year, will spend £10,000 upgrading the Halkyn and Rhes Y Cae Children's Play Areas; with future projects to upgrade the street lighting and the Cemetery.

Halkyn Parish Hall Library - Further Funding Agreed

The Community Council signed an agreement with the Flintshire County Library Service, three years ago, to retain the library services at the Halkyn Parish Hall. The library was due to be closed by the County Council in their then cost cutting exercise of libraries across the County. The Halkyn Community Council Members, agreed to further finance the library to the end of March, 2016 - at a cost of almost £4,000. The library is for the use of the Community area, and the residents are encouraged to support the facility.

New Council Web Site

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Council & Community Web Site is no longer in existence. However, the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013, requires Community and Town Councils to have websites; to publish notices and papers electronically; and to publish their register of member's interests, including Council Members and Clerk contact details. In the near future the Council will have its own web site under the name of www.halkyn.org.uk. The web site will feature all the above referred to information, including the history of the Community. The site will also be available for the Halkyn Mountain News to be published, and also for any posters advertising fundraising or other activities in the area. Please send any items to be displayed to the Clerk to the Council - details as below.

Speeding Traffic in Brynford Road, Pentre Halkyn

Following on from the previous report in relation to speeding traffic on the Brynford Road area of Pentre Halkyn, the North Wales Police have advised the Council, of the results from a recent survey - which indicated that the average speed of vehicles was 36.7mph in a 30mph area. The Go Safe Team are presently waiting for Flintshire County Council to complete works, and when finalised the Go Safe Speed Enforcement vehicle will be deployed to the area.

New Salt Bins in Rhes Y Cae

Following a request by Councillor Mrs. Nicola Richardson for new salt bins in the Rhys Y Cae area, bins have been placed near to the entrance of the Trem Y Foel Estate and near to the T junction by the Old Primary School.

Overhanging Branches from Tree Causing Concern

Councillor Colin Barker advised the Members of complaints he had received in relation to the branches of a sycamore tree that was growing close to the bungalows at Och'r Y Bryn, on The Catch side of the estate. The large branches were also taking the sun away from the pensioners' gardens. The Grosvenor Estate Head Forester has been asked to visit with a view to pruning the tree.

Donations and Financial Support

The Community Council have provided the following financial donations since the last issue of the HM News: towards the cost of grass cutting at the following Church Cemeteries: St. Mary's Church, Halkyn; St. Paul's Church, Rhosesmor and Christchurch, Rhes y Cae - £270 to each Church.

Urdd Gobaith Cymru – Flint Eisteddfod - £500.

Halkyn Bowling Club £300 - towards a new fence.

Pentre Halkyn Over 50's Club £100 - towards Christmas Dinner.

Welsh Border Transport £154 - cost of taxi service for residents attending hospital appointments.

National Eisteddfod of Wales - £100.

Llangollen Eisteddfod - £100.00.

Phillip Parry,

Clerk to Halkyn Community Council

Tel; 01352 720547

E-mail; halkyn.council@btinternet.com

www.halkyn.org.uk

**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**



Brynford Community Council

Best Kept Communities Competition 2014

Brynford Village was again entered into the competition for 2014 and members of the Council are very grateful for those within the community who participated.

The Competition co-ordinator had written to the Council with the final judges' report. The observation of the judges were that there had been a definite improvement in the appearance of the area. However the entry was not one of the prize winners for 2014.

The Council will be entering the competition again this year and are very keen to develop a community interest group to lead on improving the environment of the village. Should any members of the community wish to become involved in this group please advise any of your local members or leave your contact details with Councillor Jean Davies at Brynford Stores.

Community Policing

P.C.S.O. Carol Richards holds regular community policing surgeries at Brynford Village Stores. Local residents can meet Carol and share any concerns regarding policing issues on a very informal bases. The dates of the surgeries are displayed in the village store.

Retirement of Councillor G. Roberts

At the January meeting of the Council it was reported that following Councillor Gwyn Roberts recent move to live in Holywell he had decided that he would retire from the Council. Gwyn had advised that he would no longer be able to represent his constituents due to him not living in the community. All members paid tribute to the 15 years of service Gwyn had provided and wished him well in his retirement.

Setting of Financial Budget and Precept for The Year 2015/16

At the Council meeting held in January members considered the Council's financial statements and budgets for the above year. The Council set its budget at £23,135 for the year and the precept for a band "D" property would remain as last years at £35.00 per year.

*Alan Roberts,,
Clerk to the Council
Crecas Cottage,
Carmel Hill,
Holywell,,
CH8 8NZ*

Tel. No: 01352 349849

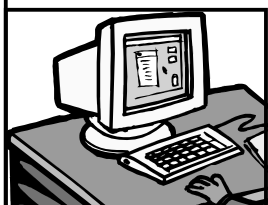
Halkyn Library

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



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

Library Online Services via
www.flintshire.gov.uk



Grosvenor Estate Update

January may seem a distant memory, but given that this is the first issue of 2015 may we wish you all a belated Happy New Year!

In our last update for Halkyn Mountain News, we reported that we had held a session for stakeholders who have an interest in how we manage the environment and health and safety on Halkyn Common. Since then, we have had further discussions with the emergency services and are hoping to hold another workshop with them during the summer. The purpose of this will be to make sure that we are fully prepared to deal efficiently and quickly with any emergency incident in the unlikely event that one should occur.

Our ongoing work to review how the Common is managed will hopefully serve to reassure local residents and visitors to the area that they can continue to enjoy the Common - and to do so safely.

As bitterly cold as it has been of late, the weather will hopefully get better as the spring and summer approach us. This will no doubt attract more people to make use of Halkyn mountain for recreational purposes. We would like to remind everyone that spring is lambing season, and there will also be ground nesting birds raising their young. We ask you kindly therefore to keep to the footpaths and to keep dogs on a lead at all times.

We will be very sad to see Bill Leck leave the Grosvenor Estate team when he retires in April. Bill has been an invaluable part of our team for over 20 years and has worked tirelessly to help us with the day to day management of Halkyn Common. His knowledge and contribution will be greatly missed. We are sure that readers will join us in wishing him a very long and enjoyable retirement and hope that he will come back to visit us from time to time.

Halkyn W.I.

Halkyn WI continues to enjoy a varied programme of interesting speakers and social events. Since the summer we have sampled the joys of Iceland, the adventure of Mountain Rescue and a festive sing along of popular songs and carols before learning about bats. Some members visited The Tweedmill for some Christmas shopping and we all enjoyed our lunch at The Stamford Inn.

We meet in the Village Hall at 2.00pm on the first Thursday of the month, until April when we will resume at 7.15pm (the May meeting will be May14th). So if you are interested or new to the area come and pay us a visit and enjoy talks on Flintshire War Memorials, Patagonia and Descanu, plus our Craft Classes every Thursday at 2.00 until April.

We are in the progress of organizing future excursions and will be celebrating our Birthday in May with lunch at a local hostelry.

Contact Number - Eleri Wilson 01352 712573

Graziers News

Some good news for a change. We have been able to secure funding from the Conservation Section of Chester Zoo; initially for a period of three years and, if they are happy with what we are doing, will consider further funding after this initial period.

It was a surprise to find that they carried out this type of funding but we now learn that they fund a lot of these types of projects in many countries across the world. Any work we intend to do will require the consent of Grosvenor Estates and Natural Resources Wales and will also be monitored by staff from Chester Zoo. If you are out on the mountain and you see gorse being cut by machinery please keep your distance as some of these flails and other types of machinery can throw rocks and debris some distance.

We are still trying to raise funds to install the remaining cattle grids that are required to complete the full circuit of the mountain. We came close with one of the Welsh Government funds but failed to get any allocated to us. If at first you do not succeed!

There have been a number of instances of people carrying out work on the common, for example widening the access to their properties or constructing hard standing to park their cars etc. Please remember that although designated common land it is owned by somebody. The vast majority is owned by Grosvenor Estates, and large areas are 'Sites of Special Scientific Interest' or 'Special Areas of Conservation'. In the last two instances you can be taken to court by NRW and could be fined up to £20,000.

We are coming up to lambing time again and it is very important that if you are walking a dog that the dog is kept under control. Every year we lose some sheep/lambs to dog attacks. It would be nice to have a year free of such losses!

Halkyn Graziers and Commoners Association

Halkyn and District Over 50's Group.

At the January meeting, held at the Blue Bell Inn in Halkyn, the group enjoyed a fun quiz, followed by welcome refreshments and a discussion was held about future outings.

It was agreed to have a visit to R.A.F. Cosford in February and, in March to enjoy a performance of 'Dreamboats and Mini-Skirts' (the musical era has moved on from 'Dreamboats and Petticoats!') at the theatre in Rhyl, followed by a meal at a restaurant. This year we are also looking forward to having some very interesting speakers at our monthly meetings. This is a lively, friendly group, meeting from 2 - 4 p.m. on the first Monday of every month(excluding Bank Holidays) at the Blue Bell Inn in Halkyn.

If you would be interested in joining us and would like further information, please contact:
Eileen Tunnicliffe (Secretary) on 01352 781184

Ranger Update

This Spring should see work starting on restoration of more limekilns on the Common. We have received money from the Heritage Lottery Fund to carry out works to the Rhes y Cae, Rhosesmor and Brynford limekilns.

Also, as part of the same project, the film I mentioned in last Autumn's edition has been made, edited and hopefully, by the time you read this, may be on general release on the two Halkyn websites. I had fun watching each edit of the film, spotting familiar faces in Victorian garb and the final cut is fantastic. A big congratulations and well done to all those who took part.

Spring will also see Halkyn Heritage Week take place at numerous venues across the Common. Starting on Saturday 25th April an activity packed week is planned. There will be numerous walks with themes such as Victorian history, geology and myths and legends to name just a few. Specialists will be giving talks in the Common's village halls, plus there will be an opportunity to get involved in an archaeological survey. We will be involving local schools, offering them tailor-made events during the week which will teach them, the next generation, about Halkyn Mountain's rich heritage. The programme of events is still being put together, so keep a look out on notice boards, your local pub and on the websites for more information. We look forward to seeing you during this exciting week.

There are also plans afoot to create a monument or structure to commemorate Halkyn's lead mining heritage in association with Halkyn Community Council. This is still very much in its infancy in terms of planning, so watch this space for more news on that.

Rachael Watson

Halkyn Mountain Ranger

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Halkyn Quarry Tours – Pant y Pwll Dwr Quarry

Wednesday 27th May 2015. 5.30pm – 7pm

Wednesday 10th June 2015. 5.30pm – 7pm

Wednesday 24th June 2015. 5.30pm – 7pm

A fantastic opportunity to visit the heart of a limestone quarry courtesy of Cemex.

Wear sturdy footwear or wellies if it's wet.

Very popular so book early.

Children's Pond Dip

Wednesday 29th July 2015. 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Wednesday 5th August 2015. 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Wednesday 12th August 2015. 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Join the ranger to see what creatures live in one of the mountains' ponds. Wear wellies and old clothes. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Please let us know in advance if you would like to attend

any of these events by ringing Wepre Park Visitor Centre

on 01352 703900

Interview with Kevin and Delyth McIntyre of Halkyn

PART 1. From Kenya to the Khyber

I met with Kevin and Delyth at their home at Pant y Go, in Halkyn. They are both retired teachers from local schools, St Richard Gwyn and Holywell High. They met through their mutual interest in learning about new cultures - especially in Africa, specifically Kenya and Uganda. I asked them about their journey of a lifetime in 1973 when they set out from Kenya to return to Wales ... driving a VW Beetle!

Q. Why didn't you just fly back- or even come by ship?

K & D: We realised we would need time to adjust. It would have been hard to adjust to Wales straight after living for 5 years in Kenya. Crossing the Sahara was not an option and we ruled out travelling on a ship from South Africa so we thought we would do something more....intrepid.

Q. What was your starting point?

K: We had taught in a place called Embu, at the foot of Mount Kenya from 1968 to 1973. In March of 1973, we set out on *SS State of Haryana* from Mombasa to Mumbai, a voyage which took 10 days. We were one of only two European families aboard. Our son Owen was just 6 months old. We took out the back seat of the VW to make room for his carry cot and then the bucket of Napisan fitted in the rear foot well. Most of our possessions had been shipped ahead in a hand crafted wooden crate. On board we met an Indian doctor who was enchanted with little Owen and insisted on holding him when we docked in Mumbai so that she could see her husband's face. She gave Owen a handmade doll for luck and a safe journey. It must have worked.

Q. Was it wise to take your baby home through India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and all points west?

D: A lovely doctor in Mombasa, one Patience Davies, provided me with a medical pack for every eventuality -



medicines, thermometer and full instructions. I asked her if she thought we were being sensible. She just shrugged, unsure what to say. We often stopped to cool Owen down with water. Local people would gather around Owen in his blue plastic bath - captivated by the sight of such a tiny white baby splashing happily. We boiled water every evening and let it cool overnight. I was feeding Owen myself but had a reserve of powdered baby milk and some baby foods which he usually refused. But having our baby with us was really useful too because queues at border crossings parted to let us through; British passports AND a baby!

K: It's incredible to think we didn't have a single puncture all that way. True, the cylinder head blew in Pakistan but we were lucky to have a team of 11 competent engineers who worked through the night to fix it. They charged £26. The whole journey home took us 3 months, taking us through Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Agra and Delhi. We took to driving at night because it was too hot during daylight. The heat was increasing as the monsoon season neared - so many people travelled at night, some of them by camel cart. Owen seemed to take it all in his stride though, not even walking at this point. In Jaipur, I bought Delyth a jasmine garland to wear - but once back in the car, Owen stuffed some of it into his mouth! But he stayed pretty healthy - only Del went down with Delhi belly.

D: The Palace of Winds (Hawa Mahal) in Jaipur is an intricate latticework of wooden carving, behind which the princesses would look at everyday life and good looking men. They themselves could not be seen but remained in purdah. Although the Palace of Winds was magnificent and delicate, the Taj Mahal was so, so beautiful - a shrine to love. Shah Jahan created this wonderful building as a memorial to his late wife, Mumtaz. Most poignant was that his tomb was placed alongside hers making it the only non - symmetrical feature in this inspired design. This beautiful creation was always for her and never for him.



K: The Golden Temple at Amritsar, the holy shrine for Sikhs, was also very impressive. Everyone was so friendly and insisted on putting sweets into Owen's mouth. It was tricky to show appreciation whilst scooping sweetmeats from his mouth. When we got to

Lahore, a hotel owner was so kind and friendly. He housed and fed us lavishly and would not allow us to pay. He had worked at Heathrow Airport and said that English people had always treated him well. This was his chance to return the hospitality.

D: Nappies took a lot of water for washing, so river crossings were always a boon. But as the weather got hotter, rivers dried up and local women dug down in the riverbed to find water. In Pakistan and later in Afghanistan, we never felt we were at risk. Christians were advised not to show openly their faith nor attempt to speak about it. Apart from that, everyone was happy to live and let live. But that was then. It is very different now.



K: And so we ascended the Khyber Pass, leaving the Sub Continent of Asia behind but there were many more adventures to follow.

Read PART TWO of the journey of a lifetime in the next issue of Halkyn Mountain News.

Steve Blakesley (Interviewer)

Can You Help with Information?

Twenty one years ago, my husband and I purchased Bryn Awel in Moel-y-Crio and, upon completion, the solicitor handling the sale told us that he had a file full of old papers relating to the property.

Amongst these is the original Bill of Sale dated 1860, written on parchment paper, and with a quill pen - a very large sheet of paper indeed, but sadly much in need of restoration. Also in this bundle were Bills of Sale throughout the years, Wills and Testaments, Land Registry documents etc., from which we gleaned that the cottage, in those days single storey and with a barn in the yard fronting the road, was originally built as a wood-cutters cottage, and belonged to the Bryn Ffynnon Estate in Cilcain.

We have a picture taken around the mid 1950's, which shows part of the barn, and as it had very ornate twisted chimneys, we wondered if it could possibly have been used as a smokehouse, as we know previous owners kept pigs. Sadly, the partly-buried foundations of these proved very detrimental to our lawnmower blades! I have researched some of the history through my Ancestry membership, and from people with local knowledge, but would love to be in touch with anybody who could give me some more information surrounding its history, particularly in the early to mid 1900's, when my records are particularly sparse.

*Jean Walker, Tel: 01352 781277
E-mail: moelycrio@hotmail.co.uk*

How Things Were

According to today's regulations and bureaucracies, those of us who were kids in the, 50s, 60s and 70s probably shouldn't have survived because ...

Our baby cots were covered with bright coloured, lead-based paint, which was promptly chewed and licked.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, or latches on doors or cupboards and it was fine to play with pans. When we rode our bikes, we had no helmets, just flip-flops and fluorescent 'clackers' on our wheels.

As children, we would ride in cars with no seatbelts or air bags.

We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle. But it tasted the same.

We beef-dripping sandwiches and sugar 'butties' and drank fizzy pop with loads of sugar in it, but were never overweight because we were always outside playing.

We shared one drink with four friends, from one bottle or can - and no one actually died from this.

We would spend hours building go-carts out of old scraps and went top speed down the hill, only to find we forgot the brakes.

We would leave home in the morning and play out all day, as long as we were back before it got dark. No one was able to reach us all day and no-one minded. We did not have Playstations, X-Boxes or video games. We did not have scores of channels on TV, no surround sound, no mobile phones, no iPads, no computers, no internet chat rooms.

We had friends! We went outside and found them.

We fell out of trees, got cut and broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits. They were accidents. We learned not to do the same thing again. We had fights, punched each other hard and got black and blue - we learned to get over it.

We walked miles to friends' homes.

We made up games with sticks and tennis balls and ate live stuff, and, although we were told it would happen, we did not lose our eyes, nor did the live stuff live inside us forever.

We rode bikes in packs of seven and wore our coats only by the hood.

Our actions were our own. Consequences were expected.

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law or got into trouble was unheard of. They actually sided with the authority. Imagine that!

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers and problem solvers and inventors, ever. The past 50 years have seen an explosion of innovation and new ideas. We had freedom to experience failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all.

And if you're one of them ...

Congratulations!

Living Landscape Brought Back to Life

In November 2014 a new project joined in to help wildlife conservation in North East Wales. This project is called the Alun and Chwiler living landscape project and is funded by WREN and Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water along with generous donations from members of the public. WREN is a not-for-profit business that awards grants through the Landfill Communities Fund from funds generated by FCC Environment, delivering community, environmental and heritage projects countrywide.

The two rivers that have been targeted for this project have long been known as important wildlife conservation hotspots and support otters, water voles, dormice, great crested newts, barn owls, lesser horseshoe bats and many notable plant species, to name just a few of the species which call this area home.



Watervole © NorthEastWildlife

The area also supports Ancient woodland, unimproved grassland, heathland and wetland habitats many of which are designated and protected due to their importance. However, changes in management have created less than ideal conditions in the rivers and their surrounding environment for supporting all of this creating a need for some help! The Alun and Chwiler living landscape project aims to change this and create more ideal habitat as well as restoring some of the existing habitat to an improved status. The result will be that an even better ecologically functioning network will be created in the two river corridors and surrounding landscape.

Kristian Dales, Sales & Marketing Director at FCC Environment, said: "FCC Environment and WREN are together committed to supporting projects which protect, maintain and expand some of the country's most unique ecosystems. We're looking forward to seeing how the Alun and Chwiler Living Landscape Project progresses and are delighted that the North Wales Wildlife Trust is able to continue its fantastic work making a huge difference to UK conservation. This project will also help the UK meet government targets to improve and increase biodiversity".

The project is focussed on habitat enhancement through creation and improvement on public and private land, for example, installing nest boxes for birds, bats

and dormice, creating ponds, planting hedgerows and more. Some of these habitat enhancements will need volunteers' help, for example, Himalayan balsam control, wildlife surveys, and habitat management. Everyone is welcome to be involved with the project and other wildlife activities in the area, and be they individuals or groups there is something for everyone.



Coed Trellyniau © Lin Cummins

The project will encourage and support sustainable land-management practices amongst local landholders as well as increasing recreational opportunities for people to engage with nature which will increase the availability of the health and quality of life benefits. Cllr Carolyn Thomas, said "This project has a vision to create a landscape within which wildlife thrives and people prosper together in a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The project aims to involve local communities, including individuals, local groups, schools and businesses to share knowledge about the area and come up with ideas to improve it for wildlife and people as well as encourage a greater appreciation for this wonderful landscape in which we live."



Dormouse © Amy Green

If you would like to be involved with the project as a volunteer or if you own land on the banks of the Alun/ Alyn or Chwiler/Wheeler please contact Amy at amygreen@wildlifetrustswales.org or on 07961698437. You can also follow the project's progress on twitter @ACLLproject.

To help create a Living Landscape in the Alun & Chwiler Valleys, you can either become a member of North Wales Wildlife Trust or donate to our fundraising efforts via www.justgiving.com/alun-chwiler

THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR ANOTHER ...

1st HALKYN MOUNTAIN CUBS & SCOUTS OPEN NIGHTS

Every Friday Night

CUBS 6:15pm - 7:15pm SCOUTS 7:15pm - 9:15pm

This year 1st Halkyn Mountain Cubs & Scouts are aiming to achieve their **CHIEF SCOUTS SILVER AWARD & CHIEF SCOUT'S GOLD AWARD BADGES**. For this mammoth task the Cubs & Scouts intend to complete all of their 6 Challenge Badges including the Promise Challenge, Creative Challenge, Community Challenge, Global Challenge, Fitness Challenge along with their Outdoor Challenge. As part of their Outdoor Challenge they will be spending two nights away at camp, sleeping under the stars, lighting camp fires, learning how to cook, as well as learning new skills such as Knots and Tracking.

Other badges they intend to complete along the way include their **AVIATION BADGE** combined with a visit to **RAF COSFORD MUSEUM** and their **LOCAL KNOWLEDGE BADGE** with a talk from Holywell Historical Society combined with a local knowledge Treasure Hunt around Holywell and its surrounding local areas of interest.

ALL WELCOME INCLUDING GIRLS

**1ST HALKYN MOUNTAIN CUBS & SCOUTS
RHOESMOR VILLAGE HALL
RHOESMOR, NR. HOLYWELL**

Call Jocelyn Peers Group Scout Leader on 07788278884



Rhosesmor Village Hall

On Friday, 12th January 2015, the Village Hall AGM took place. The meeting heard that the hall continued to provide a good service the local community, and financially is in a strong position with no need to increase the hire fees. These fees were first established in 2006 after the hall was refurbished.

One contributory element to our good finances is that, over the years, the hall has held several jumble sales that have progressively increased in size and interest. Consequently, the takings have risen to a level previously thought impossible; the last one, in November 2014, realising £947. Unfortunately, our main source of jumble has completely dried up, and consequently our future sales will depend on contributions from the local community when clearing

sheds, attics and any house clearances.

The AGM members agreed to set a date of Saturday, 30th May 2015 for the next jumble sale, on the basis that the Hall's reputation for good jumble sales will encourage people to donate items during the "spring cleaning" period. If you have items to contribute, please phone Geoff North on 01352 780660. We have a storage space in the hall cellars for most items.

Finally, if you want to book for hall in 2015, Jon Tarry on 01352 780842 is your man. We have several rooms for hire, all at very competitive rates. Phone early to give yourself the best chance of a confirmed booking.

*Geoff North, Secretary
Rhosesmor Village Hall committee*

Children's Pages

A Few Words From Ginnie

I have received a few nice comments about my first few words in the last edition of Halkyn Mountain News and with the help of a human friend; I have decided to write a few more.

The weather has been colder since I last wrote and I have taken to wearing my new coat on the coldest of days. I am not known for keeping up with fashions but this coat fits in all the right places and I am happy to be warm and cosy.

It has been lovely to see so many children enjoying themselves on the mountain, especially sledging in the snow over the Christmas holiday. I appreciate the kindness of those of you who have brought me tasty carrots and apples, which I find very hard to resist. Snow makes it more difficult to find the tastiest things to eat in our field and my nose gets quite chilly when I try and seek them out. I am very lucky that my human friends who look after me bring me the most delicious food in a bucket.

Despite the cold, I still enjoy Christmas and although my son Danny is now a grown up donkey, he still likes me to tell him the story of how a donkey played a part in the Christmas story so many years ago. I have also heard that to this day, some nativity plays like to have a real donkey taking part. I don't know of any local donkey who has done this but I've always quite liked the idea of trying my acting skills. Although I guess that if I was offered the chance I would actually be too shy and nervous to appear. My excuse is that I don't like to

venture away from my home these days and I am probably a little old to cope with the fame that it would bring me.

I am looking forward to seeing the spring lambs. It is always a joy to hear their bleating and it is always nice to have someone new to talk to. The ewes can be a little tiresome with their constant conversations about their children and motherhood, and there is always some boasting about what their lambs can do or who's wool is the softest. I do find the lambs very entertaining and their outlook on life is so positive. They set a good example, as we should all be more positive in our daily lives. I have always been the type of donkey who sees a bucket half full rather than half empty, although buckets don't stay full for long when I'm around.

I have seen quite a few of those odd birds flying overhead recently. It is strange how they always fly in a straight line and make such a funny noise. I always think it strange that I have never seen one land on the mountain or stop by for anything to eat. Most of them have orange markings on them which makes me think that they might come from far away and probably don't like things like berries and seeds. Danny is fascinated by them and he thinks they roost in the land over the water. I don't know where he has that idea from.

I think I will end here as I can no longer resist the carrot I have been saving for my elevenses.



Spot the Difference

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





Goodbye for now my dear friends.

Ginnie

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

This competition has been held over from the last issue as we did not tell you where to submit your drawings.

Children up to 12 years old
win £20 book voucher
Draw a picture of Ginnie the Donkey.

Pictures are to be submitted to
the Blue Bell Inn by April 17th
Winner to be judged by the Editing Team
and the winning picture published
in the Summer Edition.

Prize sponsored by Halkyn Castle Wood
Caravan site & Storage 01352 781908

Spring Wordsearch

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

BEES	LAMBS	BUTTERFLY
SNOWDROPS	EGGS	DAFFODIL
BUDS	SUNSHINE	FAMILY
RABBIT	LEAVES	WALKS
EASTER	GREEN	TREES
BOWS	PICNICS	NEW



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

The cost per session is £7.

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

First session free!



Contact
Leanne on
01352
780265

HALKYN MOUNTAIN DVD

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

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

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

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

HALKYN MOUNTAIN KIDS CLUB

SPACES AVAILABLE NOW!

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

Holiday club

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

Opening times for holiday club only

8am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri

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

Prices for holiday club only

£21 per child for a full day

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

Opening times for after school club only

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

We have a large hall area where we enjoy,

(For after school /holiday club)

Snack time

Playing games

Arts and crafts

Parties

Arranged theme nights



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

A Trim Trail where we enjoy climbing, balancing and swinging

A park with slides, bridges and balancing frames

A large field and playground where we also have lots of fun with scooters and football matches etc.

A nature reserve with a round house, yurt and pond area.

Prices for after school club only

First hour for one child £4.00

Second hour for one child £7.00

First hour for 2 siblings £7.60

Second hour for 2 siblings £13.30

Every child thereafter there's a 5% discount

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

Six Years and Still Going Strong!

Yes it is six years since we began our Village Coffee Mornings in Rhosesmor Village Hall,. During this time we have been able to donate over £2,300 to various charities including MacMillan Cancer Care, Marie Curie Nurses, St Pauls Church Rhosesmor and Mold Hospital X-Ray Appeal to name but a few.

We would like to thank our regulars from Rhosesmor and the surrounding villages of Berth Ddu, Halkyn, Windmill, Pentre Halkyn and Northop for their continued support. We would also like to take this opportunity to say thank-you to Mary, Geoff and John for all that they do for the village hall.

The Coffee Mornings are held every other Monday, 10-30 until 12-00. Why not come along for a cuppa and a chat? Everyone welcome!

Connie, Sue and Lynne.

Rhosesmor Over 60s Christmas Party

Once again we held the annual Christmas Party at Holywell Golf Club, Brynford, where 59 of us enjoyed a lovely 3 course traditional Christmas lunch, followed by tea/coffee and mince pies.



Unfortunately, this year Roger Hampson was unable to entertain us as he has done so splendidly for the last 9 years, but a good friend of his, Allan Murray, a very talented singer/keyboard player, along with his lovely wife, Babs (who soon got the line dancing enthusiasts up on the dance floor), stepped in as a very able replacement. A good time was had by all!

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who donated the 19 prizes for our free raffle, and to two local businessmen, Graham from A. D. Williams & Sons, and John, from Global Lift Equipment, for their generous donations. Also to the sponsored walkers for their efforts, and to all the staff of the Golf Club, who did an excellent job as usual.

The next sponsored walk to raise funds for the 2015 party will take place in August.

The Committee

Pentre Halkyn Community Centre

Bingo

Every Monday at 1.45pm for the over 50s
New members welcome

Holywell Art Club

Wednesdays 10am - 2pm

Bingo

Thursdays 7:30pm

Line Dancing

Fridays 8 - 10pm

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

Halkyn Parish Hall

Private Functions and Meetings

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

For more information ring:

Sharon Davies 01352 781350.

Weekly Diary

Mondays

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

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

Tuesdays

Baby & Toddler Group 9:30 to 11:00 am
Snooker Club 7:30 pm

(New members welcome Andy Wood 780159)

**The Snooker Table is also available for Hire
Contact Sharon Davies on 781350**

Wednesdays

Modern Line Dancing 12:45 - 14:45 pm
Contact Julie 07712149439

Bingo (every other Wednesday) 7.30 pm
(For more information on the Bingo call:
Carolyn on 01352 781765)

Thursdays

Halkyn W.I. 2:00 pm

Fridays

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

Saturday

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

Heartfelt Art and Craft

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

The events held between April and December last year supported fundraising for 9 different charities; as a result £2,600 was raised and donated between the charities. The fundraising is complemented by the sale of delicious homemade cakes, cream teas and other refreshments, a raffle, tombola and other donations. The events are a family run, non-profit making initiative. As well as benefiting the charities in attendance, other donations have been made to support local groups and crafters. Furthermore, the booking diary for use of the Parish Hall has seen increased entries.

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

Heartfelt Art and Craft fairs recommence on Saturday 14th March, between 10am and 3pm at Halkyn Parish Hall, with free admission.

Fundraising at this event will be for **Flintshire Deaf Children's Society**.

Susan Thomas, the event organiser, said "We launched Heartfelt Craft fairs last year motivated to increase community engagement, with an aim to raise funds for many charities, whilst at the same time enabling very talented local people to sell their work. The standard and range of art and craft available to purchase at the events was and will continue to be outstanding. We were overwhelmed by the public support shown and to the attendance at our events. We hope for the same support this year and look forward to offering a warm welcome to lots of visitors".

Whilst event booking is now limited, if you would like more information regarding the events, please contact Susan on 01352 781088 or email:

heartfelt.mountainstudio@aol.co.uk

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

Rhosesmor W.I.

We meet in Rhosesmor village hall on the second Monday of each month at 7.15 pm and would warmly welcome any ladies who would like to join us as a guest or potential member.

Our meeting on March 9th will be with Mrs. Fiona Gale from Rhosesmor, who will give us an insight into local archaeology.

Our guest night and 58th birthday will be on April 13th when we will be line dancing with Julie.

On May 11th "Who is going to care for us?" with Mrs. Roberta Hayes, from Halkyn. Over the summer we have an interesting programme and your contact is Mrs. Mary North on 01352 780660.

Halkyn Mountain Churches

Parish Holiday - Iona 2015

Friday 10th July – Friday 17th July

This is an all-inclusive holiday which includes all travel costs, an overnight hotel stay in Oban, ferry trips to Mull and Iona and then 7 days full board in Bishop's House, close to the fascinating Abbey and situated on the water's edge, with fantastic views of the Scottish Landscape and Seas.



This is a peaceful and idyllic haven, brightened by lively evenings. Because of recent withdrawals from this holiday (due to participants health issues) there is one twin room still available in Bishops House and one double in the Argyll Hotel close by.



There are wonderful walks around the island, a visit to Tobermory - or perhaps to the Ardslandish Isle of Mull Wool Weavers -this is the centre which weaves wool in the old traditional way - well worth a visit and also the opportunity of boat trips, especially to Fingal's Cave, on Staffa. The attractions are varied to suit varied tastes.

You do not have to be a churchgoer to enjoy this holiday which is open to all Halkyn Mountain-ites. If you want a leaflet giving more information - please ask.

COST IS IN THE REGION OF £500 - to be finalised when ferry cost is confirmed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

– ring 01352 780292/07780706726

Or email: helentaubman@hotmail.com.

From The Rev'd Hugh Burgess

Dear Friends



I may be stepping over some line here and if so, I apologise.

However, someone reminded me the other evening that there are fewer than 100 days to the General Election.

Why is the Vicar raising this? Surely this is politics rather than religion!

A number of the books in the Old Testament – the Hebrew Bible, if you like – tell stories about various Prophets. The Prophets were not, as we may like to think, people who told the future like reading your palm or some sort of crystal-ball gazer. These were people, often loners, whose job it was to stand up to the rich and powerful, those who otherwise felt they could simply take what they wanted just because they could. The prophets' primary role was to hold these powerful people to account and to fight for justice for those who otherwise would have no voice – the sick, the poor, the homeless, the foreigner. Jewish history is unique in the role the Prophets played but many of our modern views about social justice come out of the tradition.

Today we don't have prophets although individuals, or the press, may occasionally take on that role. I believe that the church should also have that role but also that everyone, as a voter should also have a responsibility in this respect.

I have to admit, however, that on the question of politics I am very much torn!

On the one hand I find a lot of the posturing and mud-slinging rather sad, irrelevant and childish especially when it's so often around important issues like health, education and social justice. I suspect that many people may feel the same way, that party politics is a big turn-off. This is not helped, I think, by the press which often seems more interested in a good story rather than understanding and working through the issues. My father, who was a senior civil servant, often said that it had become almost impossible to govern. This was because he felt that the press was so intrusive that those in government could not have a private debate and work through the issues to produce a sensible policy without a leak or the press coming out with some half-baked story

which ministers were forced to deny. Freedom of the press is undoubtedly a good thing. It is one of the tensions that keeps government in order. However, with freedom comes responsibility and the press need to use their freedom responsibly – which brings me to the other hand!

Many people suffered for the freedoms we now enjoy but having gained those freedoms it is very easy for us to sit back and simply let the politicians get on with it. Equally, it is very easy to criticise and to pull down our politicians but if we keep doing that then the end result will only be fewer competent people offering themselves for election.

It was the former French President, Charles de Gaulle, who said that: "I have come to the conclusion that politics are too serious a matter to be left to the politicians".

I think there is a lot of truth in this and that come the election, each of us uses our vote, reflecting carefully on the choices available to us and considering not only who will represent "my" interests but also the interests of those in our society who are perhaps less able to stand up for themselves? This is not a party plea in any way – I would just like to see us each using our hard-won vote, however we feel about politicians and their policies and then both supporting and holding our MPs to account, not just in the ballot box but in regular engagement with them.

So whatever your views about politicians, their party or their politics, I encourage you to be engaged.

With every blessing

The Chimneys, Leete Park,
Rhydymwyn, Mold, CH7 5JJ

Tel: 01352 741 646

Email - hugh@halkynparish.wanadoo.co.uk

Rhes y Cae Village Hall

A Coffee morning

was held on Tuesday,
February 15th, 10.30 - 12.00

It is hoped that there is enough interest to make this a monthly event.

Entry is £1 and there is a raffle.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Over 60s Christmas Party

was well attended with over 30 people enjoying the hospitality and the singing of leun ap Siôn.

Scratch cards were also given out.

Thanks go to all the helpers.



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	11.15 am Communion	11.15 am Communion 5pm Evensong	11.15 am Communion	11.15 am Morning Prayer	10.30 Combined Service – This rotates between churches.
Rhosesmor	3.00 pm Evening Prayer ²	10.00 ¹ am All Age Service	10.00 am Communion	10.00 am Communion	
Rhes y Cae	8.45 am Communion	8.45 am Bilingual Communion	6pm Evening Prayer	8.45 am Communion	

¹ During school holidays the Family Service may be replaced by an alternative service

² When the clocks go forwards in the Spring, Evening Prayer at Rhosesmor will revert to 6pm

YOU ARE VERY WELCOME AT ALL OUR SERVICES

COMBINED AND SPECIAL SERVICES: This year Easter Day falls on the 5th April and there will be a communion service in each church on that day. Mothering Sunday is on the 15th March and there will be a special service in each church on that day.

OPEN CHURCH: Halkyn Church is open regularly on Saturday mornings between April and September. The church may be opened at other times by arrangement. Rhosesmor church is open daily, normally from about 8.30am to 7.30pm (although the opening and closing times may vary slightly). Please do feel free just to drop in and enjoy the atmosphere.

LENT AND EASTER SERVICES:

Ash Wednesday (15 th February) 7.30am Rhosesmor and 11.00 Halkyn Communion with imposition of ashes	30 th March – 7.30pm Halkyn Compline
	31 st March – 7.30pm Rhesycae Compline
	1 st April – 7.30pm Rhosesmor Compline
20th February: 7pm Halkyn - Compline	2 nd April – 7.30pm Halkyn Maundy Thursday Communion
27 th February 7pm Rhesycae – Compline	3 rd April GOOD FRIDAY – Walk and services beginning at 10am – Rhesycae - 12 noon - Rhosesmor 2pm – Halkyn – The Final Hour Please feel free to join any or all these events
6 th March 7pm Rhosesmor – Compline	
13 th March 7pm Halkyn – Compline	
15 th March MOTHERING SUNDAY – service in each parish (at the times shown above for the 3 rd Sunday)	
20 th March 7pm Rhesycae – Compline –	5 th April – EASTER SUNDAY 8.45am Rhesycae - Communion 10.00 Rhosesmor - Communion 11.15 Halkyn - Communion
27 th March - 7pm Rhosesmor – Compline	

If you would like a visit or wish to raise any matter with the church or the Priest in Charge personally, please contact Hugh Burgess and include your name and address or phone number. Thank you

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

You can also get details of events and find
out more about us on our web-site
www.halkynparishes.org.uk

Cynfaen Memorial Chapel, Calcoed

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

(C) Denotes Communion Service

March 1 st	(E)	Rev. Eirlys Gruffydd
March 8 th	(W)	Parch Marc Morgan (C)
March 15 th	(E)	Rev John Barnett (C)
March 22 nd	(W)	Parch.J. Bryn Jones
March 29 th	(E)	Rev. Keith Jones
April 5 th	(W)	Mr Tegwyn Williams
April 12 th	(E)	Rev. Marc Morgan (C)
April 19 th	(W)	Mr Dafydd Barker Jones
April 26 th	(E)	Rev. Marc Morgan
May 3 rd	(W)	Mr Arwel Roberts
May 10 th	(E)	Mr Bryan Jones
May 17 th	(W)	Rev Marc Morgan (C)
May 24 th	(E)	Rev. J Bryn Jones (C)
May 31 st	(W)	Parch Eirlys Gruffydd

A very warm welcome to all 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 Alwena Thomas
01352 780688

W.R.V.S. Rural Transport

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

Mileage allowance given.

Please contact
Mrs J Roberts on 01352 780087

Capel Salem, Pentre Halkyn

Services at 2.00p.m.

(C) = Communion

March	1 st	Rev. Marc Morgan (W)
	8 th	Rev. Eirlys Gruffydd (W) (C)
	15 th	Rev. Keith Jones (E)
	22 nd	Mr David Barker Jones (W)
	29 th	Mrs. Delyth McIntyre (E)
April	5 th	Rev. Thomas Evans Williams (W)
	12 th	Mr Peter Sinclair (E)
	19 th	Mr Tegwyn Williams (W)
	26 th	Rev. Hugh Burgess (E)
May	3 rd	Rev. J Bryn Jones (W)
	10 th	Miss Angela Bebbington (E)
	17 th	Rev. Eirlys Gruffydd (W)
	24 th	Rev. Marc Morgan (W)
	31 st	Mr Bryan Jones (W)

Croeso Cynnes I Bawb!
A Warm Welcome To Everyone!

Capel Bethel Y Nant

Pob Sul 2.30 Every Sunday
Do join us

Mawrth	1af	Cyfarfod Gweddi
	8ed	Glyn Thomas
	15ed	Shân Morris
	22ain	Robert Parry
	29ain	Maryl Rees
Ebrill	5ed	Bryan Jones
	12ed	Noel K Owens
	19eg	Eirlys Gruffydd
	26ain	Goronwy Ellis
Mai	3ydd	Shân Morris
	10ed	Cymanfa Ganu Flint a Threffynnon
		Yn Capel y Berthen, Licswm - 6.00
	17eg	Huw Powell-Davies
	24ain	Cyfarfod Gweddi
	31ain	Glyn Thomas

Croeso Cynnes I Bawb!
A Warm Welcome To Everyone!

St Michael's Church, Brynford

Due to the retirement of
Rev Graham Beckett,
The new Curate, Rev. Sue Moriarty can
be contacted on 01352 720874

Cuttings From the Past

Rhosesmor National School, Opening of a New Wing, Cheshire Observer 9 January 1892

A very enjoyable gathering was held at the above school on Monday, on the occasion of the opening of the new wing, which has been recently added to the school by the kindness of His Grace the Duke of Westminster. As one of the existing class-rooms had been condemned by Her Majesty's Inspector, and the erection of a new one suggested. Mr. L. T. Henry, on the part of the managers, brought the matter before the Duke of Westminster. His Grace visited the school and decided that an entirely new wing should be added. When the work was completed the parishioners rightly felt that they had been happily released from an embarrassing difficulty, and wishing to testify their gratitude to his Grace for securing to them the benefit of the school buildings, which had done such good service to the neighbourhood for upwards of thirty years, they resolved to make the opening of the new wing an occasion of general rejoicing. Accordingly, a committee, consisting of the vicar, churchwardens, and a representative number of the parishioners, was appointed, under the direction of which a subscription list was opened and arrangements carried out. On Monday afternoon - the day appointed for the opening - the children were assembled in the school at three o'clock, under the care of Mr Llewelyn P. Jones, the headmaster, and the assistant teachers. The chair was taken by Mr J. Scott Bankes, Chairman of the Board of Management. After distributing a number of prizes, which he annually presented as rewards for diligence and regularity of attendance, the Chairman explained that the object of the gathering was to celebrate the completion of the handsome new wing which had just been added to the school. The managers and parishioners generally must feel indebted to the Duke of Westminster for so generous a gift, and he proposed that the expression of their acknowledgements be duly conveyed to his Grace. The Duke of Westminster was always ready to devote a portion of his great wealth to a cause that was really deserving of such support. He would wish to impress upon the parents - now that they were released from the payment of fees - the duty of training up the children in the habits of thrift and economy by giving them that amount to be paid into a penny bank. The resolution was seconded by Mr Edward Jones, Pen yr Orsedd, churchwarden, who spoke with much feeling of the continued kindness which the church and school of Rhosesmor received from his Grace. The Duke had recently given the handsome donation of one hundred pounds towards the restoration of the church, and had now completed their school with this splendid addition capable of accommodating sixty-nine children, and erected at a cost of nearly two hundred and fifty pounds. The vicar, the Rev. Clement Davies, in supporting the resolution, said he felt they could never sufficiently thank his Grace for his kindness and generosity on this and many other occasions. He trusted that all would lay to heart the good advice which had been given to them upon the vital questions of thrift and regularity of attendance. He felt sure that if parent showed their gratitude to the Duke in the way their chairman advised, they could not fail to realise the object for which the handsome building had been

provided.

The children were then regaled with a bountiful feast of tea and currant bread, which they thoroughly appreciated. Among the company present, in addition to those already named, were Miss Bankes, Mrs. Clement Davies, Mrs. And Miss Hughes (The Groes), Mrs. Jones (Plas-y-Rhos), Mr. and Mrs. Webster (Gwern-y-marl), Miss Clarke, Miss Hughes (Post-office), Miss Katie Edwards (Penpark), Mr. Joseph Jones (Moel Crio), Miss Annie Shone, Misses Mary and Catherine Martin, and a number of willing helpers. A most enjoyable entertainment was held in the evening, under the able presidency of Mr. Webster (Gwern-y-marl), who had taken an active and energetic part in promoting the proceedings. He was assisted by Mr. Llewelyn Jones, Mr. Jones (Moel Crio), Mr Shem Jones (Bryn Glas), Mr T W Edwards (Penpark), Mr Edward Hughes (Bryn Eithin), and others. Much credit is due to Mr. Llewelyn Jones for the admirable way in which the children acquitted themselves.

Note: Mr. Llewelyn Philip Jones is recorded on the 1891 census as headmaster living in the School House, Rhosesmor. He was aged 25 and was born in Pontyberem, Llanelli. By the 1901 census, he was headmaster at Whitford school.

Robin Smith

Rhos Helyg PTA

The PTA would like to say a Big Thank you to all previous committee members for all their hard work over the years and to Margaret Evans, our previous chairperson, who stepped down from her role recently. Margaret gave many years of hard work, time and dedication to help raise vital additional funds for school. A new Committee was formed in October. We are always looking for people to help and be involved, so please come along to any of our meetings. The more support we receive the more this benefits the children in school.

As soon as the children returned to school, after the half term break, we held our film nights for the Infants and Juniors. Both nights were well attended and all children seemed to enjoy this, raising over £250. It brought a few memories back for some of us when we went around with the popcorn for the children. Just like the days when they sold the ice creams in the cinemas, in the intervals! Once again we held our Christmas Fayre which was again well supported, raising over £700. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and Father Christmas was very busy.

We have several events lined up for the rest of the school year which we hope will be enjoyed by all. Please see the school newsletter and additional information sent out for confirmation of dates eg. Valentine disco, Toss the pancake, Film Nights, Bingo night, Cheese and wine night, Own clothes day and then our annual Summer Fayre.

Since September nearly £2,000 has been raised, so thank you to everyone for your continued support and hope this will continue. Just over £3,000 has been donated to school for additional resources. Our new information page on the school website should be up and ready to go in the next few weeks, so please take time to have a look.

PTA Committee

Britannia Inn

A Little Bit About Us

Hi my name is Rhiannon and I've been the landlady at the Britannia Inn now for over 4 years, with the help of my head chef, Craig. We've worked together now for many years and no two days are ever the same and we love it. We try making it a very welcoming place and always try our best to make sure everyone has a great time when they come to visit us. You are always welcome in the main bar, with 2 roaring fires and plenty of happy locals to say hi. We have a stunning view over the Dee estuary from the restaurant and there's always plenty going on here. We serve real cask ale and put on seasonal guest ales too.

A Little Bit About The Brit

The Britannia Inn is a 17th century inn. In the 1820s, before the building of the A55, it was situated on the main Chester to Holyhead mail coach road. The Britannia's outbuildings served as the local abattoir and the publicans were often described as "publican & butcher". (See the article about the 'Sudden Death of Mr. Alfred Vickers' in issue 159 of the Halkyn Mountain News. Ed) From 1870, it was owned by the Duke of Westminster, and he had it virtually rebuilt in the 1890s. The longest serving tenants from 1886 were members of the Vickers family and they bought the premises in 1911 when the Westminster estate sold its properties in Halkyn. If anyone has any more facts about the Britannia we would love to hear them.

We have tried to keep as many features here as we can, with a few modern touches. We converted the barn last year into a unit with two very cosy and country, double en-suite bedrooms. They have their own little garden, quietly overlooking the beautiful view. We have a small caravan park here too, which is part of the Caravan Club, and every October we host a caravan rally with a great group of people who have come to be great friends.

We now show BT SPORTS here and have WIFI. Our new website is almost finished and now you can find the Brit on FACE BOOK, which will let you know all our upcoming events.

Theme Nights

We host many theme nights and events here as we think they are great fun and have become very popular. We hold 'Burns night' every year as well as many other traditional nights.

Our big event of the year is our BRIT AWARDS. We

started it to celebrate our first year here. It was such a successful and great evening that the locals insisted on doing it every year. With an exclusive guest list, a red carpet entrance (where the paparazzi are waiting to take your picture) and the waiters are holding a glass of complimentary champagne on your arrival. Then an actual award ceremony takes place, topped with an evening of music & dancing. It truly is a night not to be missed.

Halkyn is a great place to go for walks over the mountain, and we often have ramblers here for lunch. They use the facilities in the morning (car park) then order lunch, which is waiting for them when they return. First Friday of every month we also hold a folk night. A group of friends come together and play a selection of folk and blue grass music and we always welcome people who come to listen and even encourage you, if you play an instrument, to join in.

Restaurant

We serve traditional home cooked food 7 days a week, and have many offers on every day.

Lunch time & main menu also being served Monday - Saturday 12-3pm then 6-9pm, Sunday 12-6pm

Special Offers

MONDAY - sausage & mash £5.50 per person including a selected drink.

TUESDAY - cheese & onion pie £7.25 per person including a selected drink (delicious homemade pie wrapped in a puff pastry made to order).

WEDNESDAY - fish £7.25 per person including a selected drink.

THURSDAY - curry & a pint £7.50 per person (choose from a selection of meats or veg option, then choose from a selection of sauces mild-hot served with rice, hand cut chips or ½ & ½ then simply choose your pint.

FRIDAY - grill night (a selection of grilled meats at lower prices).

SATURDAY - 2 steaks & a bottle of wine £22.50 (8oz rump or sirloin, or gammon, cooked to your liking, served with mushrooms, homemade beer battered onion rings, tomatoes & hand cut chips.

SUNDAY - Sunday lunch, a selection of home roasted meats (or vegetarian option), served with all the trimmings.

1 course - £5.00

2 courses - £7.95

3 courses - £9.95

Brit feast - £6.50

Child's main course - £2.95

We also hold functions in the restaurant for any occasion with a selection of buffet menus available.

The Britannia Inn is a dog friendly pub, we allow them in the main bar area and always have a little treat on hand for them. In fact the Brit is very animal friendly, as we have helped re-home a few different animals here. You will see on our little animal farm our Shetland pony, Princess, who came to us a few years ago. We also have some chickens running around and our newest friend is Hatty, the micro pig, who's only been with us a few weeks but has settled in very nicely and loves a good fuss. We look forward to some ducks joining us very soon. All the animals are quite friendly, and like a fuss over the gates.



Red Lion, Rhosesmor

The role of any pub is to provide a friendly meeting place for locals and visitors alike and, wherever possible, offer a range of events that bring the community together. This spring, the Red Lion will host lively parties to relaxed coffee mornings and practically everything in-between. In addition to this, customers can expect some exciting food and drinks promotions including discounts for senior citizens that dine with us every Thursday. As some events are yet to be finalised, or weather permitting, the team urge customers old, new and undecided to follow us on Facebook and look out for our posters on community notice boards.



Confirmed Events:

Sat 28th March Retro Disco

Our resident DJ will be playing music from the swinging 60s through to the naughty 90s. Fancy dress is optional but encouraged.

Sat 25th April Flintshire Real Ale Trail.

We are delighted to again be a host pub for this huge event. Tickets will be available from all participating venues from 1st April.

Mon 4th May Coffee Morning (Bank Holiday Monday)

We'll be opening the doors early (11am onwards) and serving hot and cold non-alcoholic drinks alongside homemade cakes and biscuits.

Flintshire Real Ale Trail

The Real Ale Trail was created by the Flintshire Tourism Association to showcase great pubs and the range of real ales brewed locally.

The bus-based trail visits a number of rural pubs which could otherwise be overlooked by people visiting the area and because the ticket price includes travel between pubs it means that there's no need to draw straws to choose the designated driver.

There will be two ale trails this year, the first of which will be on Saturday 25th April.

Our guest pubs put on fantastic guest ales (a minimum of 2 per venue) plus some provide food and entertainment.

The pubs on April's trail have been confirmed as:

Golden Cape, Mold
Y Dderwen The Oak, Hendre
Piccadilly Inn, Caerwys
Royal Oak, Caerwys
Black Lion Inn, Babell
Crooked Horn, Brynford
Britannia Inn, Halkyn
Red Lion Inn, Rhosesmor

Tickets are just £10 each and go on sale on 1st April. You can get your tickets from any of the participating pubs. For more information please visit www.realaletrailflintshire.co.uk

Weds 10th June Quiz and Music Bingo.

Join us at the Red for an exciting games night starting at 8pm with a fun quiz then onto bingo. This is bingo with bells on. Music bingo is an exciting format that brings bingo into the 21st century. Our live DJ will play clips of iconic music from the 60s through to the current day which is marked off your book. You can sing, dance or clap along just remember to get up and give us a nice loud shout if you have a claim!

Sat 4th July Wild West

Our last wild-west themed night was great fun so we thought we'd do it again. Fancy dress optional but encouraged.

6 Nations Rugby

We will be showing all terrestrial 6 nations matches and running drinks promotions during play.

We welcome suggestions from community groups and individuals. Is there an event you would like to see at the Red Lion? If so, pop in and chat to us.

Easter Competition

If you dine with us in March, children can join our place mat colouring competition. The child that designs the best Easter egg will win a chocolate egg themselves and 25% off their next family meal with us (up to 4 people excluding drinks).

We also have a great competition for the adults.

Throughout March we'll be selling raffle tickets to win a beautiful Easter hamper.

Opening Times

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

Rhes y Cae News

Annual remembrance service, Sun. 9th Nov 10.15am.

This year, the main service was held at Rhosesmor church at 10.15 am, followed by a short service at the cenotaph. Then, on to Rhes y Cae and Halkyn churches. Many thanks to Rev. Hugh Burgess for conducting all the services with the support of the British Legion and the young people. At Rhes y Cae cenotaph we remembered all who lost their lives and in particular Alan Cochrane (a former pupil of Ysgol Rhes y Cae) who died in Afghanistan aged 23 years.

Bilingual service, Sun 16th Nov. 6.00pm

A joint service with the Church was held at Rhes y Cae Chapel. Our sincere thanks to Rev. Tom Williams of Henllan, near Denbigh, for taking the service. The theme of the sermon was to go through life with confidence, hope and to be prepared. There was a good turnout, and our thanks to Eva for the refreshments.

Christmas coffee morning, Tues 25th Nov. 10.30am

It was very pleasant to see such a good crowd of people on a nice crisp and sunny morning at Rhes y Cae village hall. Our grateful thanks to all who contributed to the sale tables and raffle, especially those women who had been baking cakes. Also, to Joyce Parry who had been very busy knitting small toys (poodles and Teddy bears) they were all sold! Also, to Peter, Doreen and Brenda for their preparation after some renovation work was completed in the village hall. Also to Homebase (Mold) for their contribution and to Glasdir farm shop for offering a three course Sunday lunch for two at their café - congratulations to Colin for winning this raffle prize! Total monies raised was £289.

Over 60's Christmas party, Sat. 13th Dec. 2.00 pm

Once again our very sincere thanks to Rhes y Cae Village Hall Committee for providing such a splendid meal! A three course Christmas lunch of vegetable soup with crusty bread, turkey with all the trimmings, followed by Christmas pudding with a delicious brandy flavoured sauce, accompanied by a choice of white or red wines. Then tea or coffee with mince pies and mints was served. Colin gave a vote of thanks at the end of the meal. Also, thanks to everyone who donated raffle prizes - enough for everyone! Our entertainer for the afternoon was Ieuan ap Siôn, who sang many Welsh carols. One carol was over 400 years old and he remembers his grandfather singing it. We all enjoyed singing many carols. Finally on behalf of the committee, Jill presented Alwena Thomas with the surprise of a lovely bouquet of flowers to celebrate her 80th birthday, which was the following day. We all sang heartily "Happy Birthday"! Alwena was a very loyal member of the committee for many years. Finally, she wishes to thank all her family and friends for the many cards received.



The ladies who made the Christmas meal so enjoyable. The men also contributed greatly.

Carol Service, Wed. 17th Dec. 7.30pm

The church was beautifully decorated - many thanks to all who were involved. In particular, the various candles on the window sills behind the altar looked wonderful. Our thanks to Rev. Hugh Burgess for planning the service and to Colin, our organist, and the readers. Afterwards, everyone was invited to a glass of sherry or a fruit drink with a mince pie or gingerbread. Many thanks to the ladies who provided the mince pies and to Nicola for the delicious gingerbread. Thanks to everyone who supported this service.

Joint Service, Sun. 21st Dec 6.00pm

Many thanks to everyone from the chapel who came to our Evensong at church, and to Hugh for taking the service. Afterwards we had a get together at the Village Hall to celebrate Alwena's 80th birthday. We presented her with a lovely birthday cake made by Sandra Blackwell, and we all enjoyed singing



"Penblwydd Hapus" (Happy Birthday).

Noson o garolau (an evening of carols) Mon. 22nd December 7.00pm

Ebeneser chapel was filled to capacity, with people from Halkyn Mountain and beyond! It was amazing to see Rhes y Cae so busy with the cars. This was indeed a real celebration of Christmas. Many thanks to Ieuan ap Siôn for organising the Carol Service and to Gron Ellis for conducting the singing with Colin Legg at the organ. Also, our sincere thanks to Côr Maes Garmon (girls from Maes Garmon school, Mold), Côr Ysceifiog (mixed choir) and Côr y Mynydd (mixed choir from Halkyn Mountain and outlying villages). Some young people came from the Vale of Clwyd, namely, Ceri, a soprano from Henllan, and a trio of young girls, Siriol, Celyn and Ruth - their singing was delightful. Thanks to all the readers and everyone who helped with the refreshments and decorating of the chapel. Diolch o gallon I bawb.

Around the crib - Wednesday 24th December 4.00pm

Many of us look forward to coming to this Christmas Service each year - it is such a happy occasion. It was very well attended and our thanks to the Biscuits Group for entertaining us with a wonderful puppet show, telling the Christmas story through the eyes of the shepherds. Then Hugh told the Christmas story with the help of many children, who searched eagerly for the various characters, including sheep, who were hidden somewhere in the church! We sang many familiar carols with Colin at the organ. Many, many thanks to all the young people who took part. Everyone was treated to chocolates on the way out by Peter. Eighty-seven people came and everyone seemed so relaxed and to be enjoying themselves.

FUTURE DATES

Tues. 24th March, 10.30am - Easter Coffee

Morning at Rhes y Cae Village Hall

Sat. 23rd May, 10.30am - Annual Sponsored Walk - Watch out for posters.

A warm welcome to both events.

Gwyneth Hughes

Blue Bell Inn

When last we wrote we were just taking part in our third Movember. It's a sponsored moustache growing to raise general awareness of men's health and prostate & testicular cancer in particular. We were so inspired with the fantastic total last year (just over £2,000) we decided to try and match it again this year and increased it by an amazing £1,000 bringing the total to £3,083. Our Movember national ranking among all the big companies was 177th which I think is quite something when you consider all the large multinationals out there!

The 16 strong team was recruited from across the bar and our far flung internet community and set about raising awareness. The team was made up of Steve, Pete Corker, Huw Davies, Fred Lester, Gwydion Williams, Tim Hulme, Peter Roach, Pete Marquis, Warren Sandell, Stefan Parkhurst, Philip Handley, Andy Mills, Geoff Titterton, the Rev Hugh Burgess, Ian Powell, Marc Carney, John Thomas, John Williams and Steve's grandson, seven-year-old Alfie Baistow. Geoff Titterton was named champion fundraiser after collecting £1,100 by getting people to vote with their cash for a different colour tash each day!

We're really happy to say our ever popular Big Carol Night raised £171.36 for Age Concern NE Wales with the Rev'd Hugh Burgess providing his usual strong vocal and fund raising support for the carol singing night that really starts off Christmas for us, very many thanks there too.

Festive events were rounded off by an early evening visit from the Mari Lwyd to set us up for 2015.

Free Guided Walks

Well our 10th anniversary year of walking in 2014 went really well and now we march on into 2015 with John & Vicky Thomas and even more events planned for the

year. You'll read elsewhere about Halkyn Heritage week which includes a variety of special walks and we also hope to include at least one walking festival during the year too.



And in case you forgot, here's a cheap/free way to get fit without expensive club memberships - you know walking is good for you and if you would like to get fit and would like to do it for free, then get down for some fun with like minded company every Thursday at 2pm, Saturday at 10:30am and (from April) Wednesdays at 7pm. We walk in any weather, you just need the right gear and we're always happy to advise.

Vicky Thomas also holds free weekly Nordic walking sessions every Saturday at 1pm. Nordic walking is tremendous exercise and we'll teach you for free and provide some Nordic walking sticks too!

Music

Our music here at the Blue is of exceptional quality with the majority of musicians and singers making a living from their music. It's of a session quality and we provide it to you for free! We've had some tremendous special events with Rose Price (Beatles, Simon & Garfunkel and other nights), the Ronstadt Generations (Linda's brother) distributed across our equally fantastic



regular events. Rose has two special nights lined up this quarter, we've got a Pure 60s Night with Rose and friends on Friday 20th March and Ian Jones will join Rose to repeat last years great night of song on Friday 10th April.

We've started a new night here which will be of particular interest to the singers amongst you who like joining in with the choruses, Shanty Nights are repeated every month on the 4th Thursday (Feb 26th, Mar 28th etc) and are hosted by local four-part harmony singers Ar Y Gweill who sing sea and working songs in English, Welsh and occasionally Zulu! I hope you can get down to our folkish type music every Thursday from a variety of regular singer songwriters. Ooh, nearly forgot, The Cheesecutters will be here on Thursday March 12th too!

We're now joined by an excellent musician and singer Phil Hotchkiss who runs a great new singing night every Friday with a growing range of songs from the shows, the likes of David Alexander and then right up through the decades to the current day - he'll have a go at anything!

We've smooth Jazz on Saturday evenings once a month, Trad Jazz every Sunday afternoon with Mad Ed's Hot Five and the Rantin' Dogs monthly on the 2nd Monday.

Roger Hampson continues to improve but he will not be back for regular Friday nights - but we haven't given up and our fingers are crossed for perhaps another night if it becomes possible.

Just in case...

Anticipating some challenges with the weather again we've instituted our usual weather planning ideas given to us during one of our Friday night tea-time discussions. The road is always clear here as we are lucky to have the gritting depot at the bottom of the mountain, so...

PARKING: if you can park considerably (*which also means not parking on obvious pedestrian pathways*) please do use our car park if you can't park at home (leave your phone number so we can contact you if the need arises) and please don't park in front of the cellar as the delivery drivers may have problems with heavy barrels.

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). Note that your parcels can be from any delivery company and not just the Royal Mail/Parcel Force. If you've any other ideas like this, let us know and we'll endeavour to help.

Post Office Local at The Blue Bell Inn

As we write this we're just about to celebrate our 1st birthday as a Post Office Local and it's been something of a roller-coaster ride of learning, meeting new customers and experiencing our first Post Office Christmas - it's had its moments! We've been given two years to trial the service here and after one year we're doing reasonably at being just over halfway from the planned figures that make it viable - we've got a way to go together in 2015!

Before running down to Mold or Holywell to get a bank withdrawal (or deposit) remember you can do it here for

free, you can get your holiday money (or travel money cards), make many bill payments, electricity and phone top-ups and do many other things apart from the obvious post and parcels. You don't need to burn up your lunch hour when you can pop in and do your Post Office business on the way home after work in a nice warm and cosy atmosphere, without the long queues and some safe parking.

Other bits...

May we wish the Halkyn Community Cinema project much success, judged by the number of tickets that we've sold they should do well. We'll endeavour to keep you posted with what's on and provide tickets as they are made available.

We'll sign off now by saying that if you didn't get to our cheese night on Feb 7th the next Cheese & Pickled Night is at 8:30pm on Saturday 6th June. We are open 6 days a week with safe off-road parking, the 126 bus stops right beside us. We've open fires and a comfortable place to catch up with friends over a cuppa too. Our new extended opening hours are Mondays 11:00 - 13:00 and 15:00 - 23:00, Wednesdays 17:00 - 23:00, Thursdays 11:00 - 13:00 and 15:00 - 23:00, Fridays 17:00 - 00:00, Saturdays 12:00 - 00:00 and Sundays 12:00 - 23:00. The Post office will operate until 8pm each night with the exception of the free banking where you can withdraw/deposit money at any time we're open for free (no more card charges!). We will endeavour to extend all of the Post Office services we can beyond 8pm where it is practical, in any event we'll do our best to help you. The log fire is lit, the kettle is boiling and our real ales, ciders & whiskies are just asking for your company.

If you've an accommodation business we would love to hear from you as we get many holiday/short-stay requests that we find difficult to fulfil. For more information come and pick up a flyer from the bar or call 01352 780309. All our event dates are on-line at www.BlueBell.uk.eu.org where you can share our Google Calendar and get much more detail.

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MARCH 4th & 11th & SO ON WITH ME
SO COME ALONG, EYES DOWN, A FUN NIGHT YOU'LL SEE

Ysgol Brynffordd School

We would like to welcome you all back to school after Christmas and wish you all a Happy New Year! We would also like to welcome the new children and parents who have joined us this term. The children have all settled in extremely well and are keen to work.

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 having started on a weekly basis. It's hard to believe that a year has already gone by since the last Eisteddfod yr Urdd.

Ysgol Brynffordd Football

Well done to all who competed in the football tournament which was held here at Ysgol Brynffordd between Ysgol Mornant, Ysgol Glan Aber and Ysgol Trelogan on the afternoon of Monday 10th November.

Children in Need

Both children and staff came into school dressed as their heroes on the 14th November giving a donation to Children in Need helping to raise £92.50. Thank you.

Ysgol Brynffordd Christmas Fayre

A whopping £1520.00 was raised at the Christmas Fayre which was held on the evening of Thursday 27th November 2014. 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. 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 the afternoon of Thursday 4th December 2014. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

New Kit

We are proud to announce that Ysgol Brynffordd are now the proud owners of new sports kits. The long awaited kit includes new netball kit and bibs, football kit and waterproof jackets. A HUGE thank you to all who sponsored the new kits last term. There are too many to name but they include parents, grandparents and local businesses. It is very much appreciated and our children will look extremely smart next time we participate in a sporting event.

School Show

Well done to all the children and staff who helped make this years show 'Tinsel and Tea Towels' an outstanding success. The show took place on the evening of Wednesday December 10th and the afternoon of Thursday December 11th and was a sell out!

Singing in the Community

The junior children visited Llys Gwenffrwd on Monday 15th December to sing carols to the residents with the infant children visiting Allerton Lodge on Thursday 18th December. Both the children and the residents thoroughly enjoyed singing along to the carols. The children were given a warm welcome at both homes. Thank you!

On Tuesday 16th December the Junior children also visited the local Tesco store to sing carols to the shoppers and raised £116.44 for school funds. Well done!

Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs

The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the pantomime to see Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs at Rhyl Pavillion on Tuesday 16th December 2014. The children's behaviour was exemplary.

Christmas Dinner

Thank you to Mrs. Oare, school cook, who made a very tasty Christmas Dinner on the 17th December 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 19th 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 19th December, which included a buffet lunch before finishing for their Christmas break.

Film night

Friends of Brynford held a film night in the school hall on Thursday 12th February to help raise money for the school with cup cakes and drinks being served.

Christmas Show 'Tinsel and Tea Towels'



Ysgol Rhos Helyg



The infants Christmas production this year was The Hoity Toity Angel. It was an excellent show as usual, and very well attended.



The Juniors Christmas performance this year was a lovely carol service at the school which was also well attended.

Mrs Aimee Davies and pupils from The Choir were invited to sing carols to the patients at Holywell Community Hospital.

Christmas dinner is a big highlight of the school year and once again it was a fabulous occasion.



The Christmas party is another anticipated event. The children play traditional party games. Dancing to loud music is another big favourite pastime.



No party would be complete without a visit from Father Christmas.

The PTA worked very hard to produce an excellent Christmas Fair. It was well supported and it was nice to see so many members of the community supporting this event.

Christmas Craft

The children in all classes are busy with their craft work at Christmas.

Every classroom is looks fantastic. The children are naturally proud of their wonderful work.



Snow

As usual the snow brings much excitement for the pupils...
...and staff.



Football

Congratulations to the football team for winning the Mountain League for the second year running. Well done.

Forest School

Pupils in reception have been learning how to use tools safely with Mrs Griffiths in our Forest area.



People that help us was a theme for Reception pupils recently. As part of this topic they were



visited by PC Chris Davies and our Crossing Patrol Officer, Mrs Clews. Both talked about their work in helping others.

Visit to Police Headquarters

Pupils from Year 6 recently visited St Asaph to participate in various Forensic workshops by the Police. What a fabulous experience.



Comic Relief

Pupils and Staff raised money for this worthwhile Charity by wearing their pyjamas to school.



Halkyn Mountain Sports Club News

Halkyn Sports Association

We welcome Halkyn Mountain community cinema group who are showing current box office films at the club. Their next spring showing is Saturday 21st March, doors open 7.00pm, tickets will be on sale at the club and local post offices.

Saturday 11th April Charity night at the club in aid of SCBU, all welcome.

Quiz night every Wednesday starting at 8.30, cash prizes on offer with light buffet.

Halkyn radio group meet every Wednesday from 7.00pm newcomers welcome.

You can contact Deb Paul at the club on 01352 780756 for booking rooms and 'What's On' information.

Halkyn Cricket Club

Tribute to Keith Affleck

(Former Halkyn CC our who passed away Dec 2014 aged 74) by John I Roberts, Halkyn Cricket Club President:

One or two of you will remember Keith in his prime. A Halkyn native, he was a small man but a big talent - surely one of the best bats we have produced and certainly one of the most stylish. It was a shame that his involvement with the club was curtailed partly because of work commitments at home and in Zambia. When I captained the 2nds in the 1990's I persuaded him to make a comeback. He would have been well in his fifties by then but was still seeing the ball so early that he made batting look easy. He kept wicket well too, a dodgy knee meant that we couldn't find anywhere else for him to field. Best of all he was a lovely bloke to have around - in the finest Halkyn tradition.

The curtain comes up on the new season on Saturday 18th April when Halkyn 1st XI entertain Mochdre 2nd XI and Halkyn 2nd XI make the short trip to Castell Alun. Senior and Junior nets are currently being held at Mold Leisure Centre on Sundays from 1st March to 22nd March inclusive from 11am till 1pm.

We are currently looking for junior players between 7 yrs and 15yrs for the coming season, if anyone is interested please contact Jane Williams on 01352 781523/07732325033 or janewilliams29810@gmail.com.

2014 Presentation Night photos on the right:

- 1 Alex North who won both the Batting and Bowling Awards for the 1st XI
- 2 Mike Briscoe who won 2nd XI Batting Award
- 3 Dave Odgers who won 2nd XI Bowling Award
- 4 Kieran McLeod and Daniel Williams who shared Young Player of the Year
- 5 Some of our Junior Players

Keith Williams
Secretary



Holywell Golf Club

At the time of writing (last week of January), winter is giving us some slight problems with intermittent snow falls. When the thaw begins we are very lucky in that the course drains very well, particularly on the back nine where the substrate is mainly limestone.

The tees are a little muddy but no winter greens which is a huge bonus. For visitors, we offer a 'rain ticket', which means if they are rained off, we give them a voucher to return another day, free of charge!

We now look forward to the spring and the season officially starting the last Saturday in March when the first monthly medal takes place. The Annual General Meeting takes place on Thursday, March 19th when our new officials are elected, in particular the Captain when HMN's former editor, Pat McDermott will be elected. Sunday, 22nd March, Pat officially drives into office. Everyone is very welcome to come up to club and it would be very pleasing to see some of Pat's old HMN friends cheering him off.

We will have a full programme of social events planned for the year, visitors are welcome at these events and social membership is encouraged, £25 for the year and this gets 15% discount off the already reasonable price for drinks. For a couple from the same address this is just £30.

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doesn't matter how old you are. At Holywell Golf Club we have just the opportunity for you. We run a starter group that does exactly this. It doesn't cost much, guarantees you are well looked after and will enable you to meet like minded people who start from never having played to going as far as they want. We meet twice a

week, Sunday and Wednesday morning during the winter and Monday evenings and Wednesday mornings during the summer. You don't need any equipment; we'll supply you with it at the start.

Is this sounding good to you? In addition we have a top class professional and access to state of the art technology to help you get going. Oh, did I forget to mention that we have bags of fun, and don't forget the 19th hole. Give it a go; we will make you feel very welcome. Call at the club anytime, or give a ring on 01352 710040, leave your details and we will contact you.

Membership - Membership subscriptions are currently being taken. A very modest rise this year of 1.6% means we are still the least expensive 18 hole course in north Wales and still below £500! We continue to offer 'two for one' on new members from the same household that means a couple can join for just £498 and also a special rate of £200 is available for new members in the 18-30 age group.

One of the great advantages of being a member at Holywell is that we are twinned with West End Golf Club



in Halifax and Athy Golf Club in Ireland. Both of these clubs offer courtesy of the course, i.e. free golf to Holywell members. Added to that we have a list of clubs who are members of the 1906 Club who also offer free golf to Holywell members.

Contact the secretary now on 01352 710040 (Option 2) and as usual, keep up to date with golf matters at www.holywellgc.co.uk.

Junior Golf – Our annual Junior Christmas golf event was held this year in quite good weather for the middle of December and the club's junior members enjoyed a fun round of golf followed by food and drinks in the clubhouse. The junior golfers, of all abilities, were joined by their parents and grandparents (often acting as their caddies).



Pictured here are Holywell Golf Club Juniors aged 6-18 years after their Christmas fun golf competition. Included with the youngsters are Junior Captain, Junior Organisers, Parents and Grandparents.

Our Juniors start their New Year Winter/Spring schedule with Junior Golf on Tuesday in half-term at 1pm.

The Junior Annual Presentation for the 2014 season will be on Sunday 8th March where trophies and prizes will be presented to the girls and boys for their season's achievements. The new Junior Captain will be announced and will take part in the Captains' drive-in on Sunday 22nd March.

Calling all Juniors in the Halkyn area. 'Give it a try for free' invitation to all youngsters aged 6-17 years, Wednesday 1st April, 1-2.30pm at Holywell Golf Club, Brynford, Parents and Grandparents welcome as well.

Come along for a pre-season taster session and meet our Pro, Matt Parsley and the Junior Organisers, see the club and course, and have a go in the Easter holidays. For enquiries please contact Matt Parsley - 01352 710040(option 2).

Brynford Pensioners Christmas Dinner - One event which always proves very popular is our annual entertainment of pensioners local to our golf club. We have run this for many years now at our own cost and we see it as a way of showing how pleased we are to be situated in this area of Brynford. This year it was slightly delayed due to our appointment of a new Catering team but I'm sure the enjoyment was the same.

Halkyn Bowls Club

It's very cold, a bit snowy and wet. So what am I doing talking about bowling. Well we can't let you forget about us. Put all the bowls dates in your diary. See, it's not that far off is it.

We haven't been idle this winter. We had a few more recruits so we managed to have two teams in the indoor bowls at Flint Leisure Centre. The original players are the Halkyn team, the rest are, of course, the Leftover team. It had to happen, of course, the Leftovers keep beating the Halkyn team. Must tell you though, the Halkyn team are quite near the top of the Wednesday league.

In November we had our presentation night. That was a very good night at the golf club, excellent food, good music and some dancing.

Our 100 club winners were P. Worrall, M. Gittings and the £50 Christmas prize went to M. Davies.

The opening date for the green will be Saturday 28th March at 1.00pm. We are looking forward to a new exciting season.

Contact numbers are
B. Worrall 710702,
L. Kirkham 740454



Halkyn United FC

The season has taken a frustrating turn at the moment with the weather disrupting the schedule of fixtures, home and away. The pitch has been unplayable for a few weeks with the rain, snow and sleet waterlogging the ground.

Work continues to create new amenities at the club with the new tea-room fitted out and ready to roll and a new toilet, for spectators. Thanks are due to Don Barker and Steve Johnson who have given of their time to make sure the amenities have been completed. Further work is planned for the close season with the replacement of the away dressing room being the final piece of the renovation.

Work also continues to build a strong squad of players. Graham Duffield and Rob Thelwell are doing a sterling job focusing on strengthening the squad and building a strong team spirit. There is also emphasis on fitness with all the players attending a Saltney Gym to build strength and stamina.

Over the next few months the committee is being reformed to continue the plans to build a strong club and ensure funds are available to support the first, reserve and youth teams. A new chairman and secretary need to be appointed and we are actively looking to fill those roles before the end of this season. Let's hope that we can get back to playing and that the rest of the season brings us success.

Blue Bell Walks

In December a number of the Halkyn walkers enjoyed the "Walking With the Wounded" charity walk from Cilcain, in spite of the inclement weather.

The last walk of 2014 ended with a Bring and Share lunch at the Blue Bell Inn. Thanks to Steve and Ness for their hospitality and for their helpfulness throughout the year. The Halkyn walks have been blessed with good weather this winter, although it has started to snow as I write. It has been good to see new faces on Saturday mornings and a number joining the Nordic Walking instruction sessions as a result of the New Year's Resolution Walk and the varied walking activities and information stalls at the Open Day held at the Loggerheads Country Park. We hope they and all our walkers continue to feel the difference to their health and fitness. The sense of wellbeing comes from the camaraderie on the walks and the social get together afterwards. We work off the calories only to regain them with the many celebratory birthday cakes. Thank you all - we appreciate your kind gestures and admire the fact that you look as young as ever.

Our annual walk in aid of Kidney Research will be on Saturday 25th April. John McVey will once again climb the three peaks - Snowdon, Scafell and Ben Nevis - on the first weekend in May in aid of Cancer Research.

The summer evening walks will begin on Wednesday 1st April at 7pm.

Other evening walks will be held on Mondays from the Upper Ship Inn, Bagillt and Fridays from the Crooked Horn, Brynford.

Halkyn's Kidney Wales Charity Walk Saturday 25th April

It is ten years since Kidney Wales Foundation asked Halkyn Community Council to organise a walk to support their work in kidney research, transplants and dialysis. Kidney Research Wales thank everyone for their support and inform us that this year will see a change to the donor legislation. On 1st December 2015 Wales will lead the way in introducing a donor opt-out programme which will not only give help to hundreds of people but will save lives.

There were fifty walks throughout Wales last year and it is their main fundraising event. (I am yet to come across a Kidney Wales charity shop).

This year the walk from the Blue Bell car park on Saturday 25th April will start at 10.30am and will last 90 minutes. There will be two walks, one being slower with no stiles. Many people donate on the day but let me know if you wish to have a sponsor form and let me know your size for the free T shirt available to you for your efforts.

Councillor John Thomas



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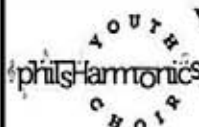
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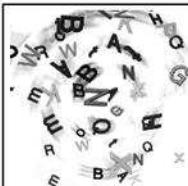
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