



Halkyn Mountain News

Issue 159 - Winter 2014

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Picture taken at Loggerheads by Vanessa Warrington

*The Editors and
our Local Volunteers wish
all our readers the very best for
Christmas and the New Year*

This is your magazine, if you have any news, forthcoming events, reports on activities which have taken place, old pictures or memories of the history of the Mountain, or anything which you think might interest others on the Mountain we would like to include them in the next issue.

Issue 160 will be distributed in March.

Deadline for items will be February 1st, 2015.

Submit items by email to - hmneditors@hotmail.com

or hand them in to the Blue Bell Inn or the Britannia Inn.

Editorial

As the new editorial group, over the last few months we have been busy learning the ropes from Pat and Eirwen McDermott, the retiring editors, for the ongoing production of the Halkyn Mountain News. As we have begun to digest the timescales, lists, contacts, publication processes, and distribution routes, the scale of the achievement of Pat and Eirwen over a period of 14 years has become apparent. They have worked tirelessly in the background while many of us have given little thought to what it takes to produce each edition of HMN. Also working in the background on the publishing side, supporting the Editors has been Jack McIntyre and we are pleased that he is happy to continue to support our new team.

While HMN is truly a community effort, with many contributors, advertisers and a small army of individuals who deliver the 1,800 copies in all weathers, Pat and Eirwen have been very much at the helm. Their enthusiasm has been infectious and we are very appreciative of the encouragement they have given us.

On behalf of the Halkyn mountain communities and also of some former residents now further afield, we would like to express our sincere and special thanks to Pat and Eirwen for all their hard work, determination and for 14 years of voluntary and dedicated service. We certainly have some rather large shoes to fill!

To all the contributors, deliverers, and advertisers, we look forward to working with you and appreciate your continued support. To all readers, we hope you will continue to enjoy HMN and we would welcome new contributions and ideas.

Best wishes for the festive season!

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

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

Grosvenor Estate Update

During what seems to have been a particularly long summer and mild autumn this year, many local people and visitors have been enjoying the Common. Making sure that they can do so safely is a priority for us. We take much pride in managing the area carefully to enhance the safety of everyone who uses the land for leisure or work, as well as to protect the environment.

With this in mind, we have - as many of you will be aware, put in place an extensive programme to fence potentially hazardous mineshafts. This programme is nearly complete, but we will continue to upgrade or replace fencing as required.

On the matter of fencing, we are still in discussions with external consultees about erecting a fence around part of the Pen-yr-Henblas quarry for safety purposes. Community and county councillors, and the graziers have been also consulted. We will keep you posted on progress in future editions.

We recently held a session for stakeholders who have an interest in how we manage the environment and health and safety on Halkyn Common. This was attended by representatives from a number of organisations including North Wales Police, Natural Resources Wales and The Coal Authority. The session was very successful and we had positive feedback about our ongoing management programme for the area.

We have produced a short video which gives an overview of how we approach health and safety and general management issues on the Common. You may indeed have seen our cameraman out and about over the summer and we thank everyone who helped with the filming. We will be making the film available online very soon, so please do watch this space.

As the Festive Season is upon us, may we end by wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Apologies

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, not all of our contributors received a reminder of the deadline for sending in their articles and, although we tried to recover the situation, there are some items you would normally expect to see which we have had to do without this time round.

However, we are sure you will find enough of interest inside and you might be inspired to contribute something yourself to a future edition.

The Editorial Team

Halkyn County Councillor

It is a great pleasure to thank publicly a group of very public spirited youngsters from the Mountain who, under the guidance of Mrs. Lynne Fernhead, painted the roadside marker stones beside the road leading from Rhes y Cae to the T-junction near the Pant y Pwll Dwr quarry last August. They gave up their free time during the school holidays to do this essential service. Not until one is driving in thick fog along this road (and other roads on the Mountain) is the value of these marker stones realised. I had made two abortive efforts to persuade the Highways department to perform this vital service but to no avail (reason - no money).

In addition to this invaluable service these youngsters, associated with saint Paul's church, Rhosesmor, also organized a superb evening with entertainment and refreshments for local residents in Rhosesmor Village Hall. We must congratulate them on their initiative and we thank them heartily for their kind thoughtfulness. It seems to be a fact of life that only bad news attracts the readers of newspapers but many selfless acts of kindness are performed by our young people without receiving any mention. We should be very proud of all the young people in our area, both as individuals and those who are members of organisations like the Guides and Scouts and related groups.

More recently, a special function was held in Rhes y Cae village hall. When I arrived at this event I thought I was dreaming, there were three tables running the length of the room set for refreshments for about 70 people. They were attending the fascinating composite film called "Times Past" which Mr Graham Wright had put together. Various activities and many local folk appeared on the screen. It was interesting and caused many a good laugh. It was wonderful to see so many people gathered together for an evening of good entertainment and the reminder of many long forgotten friends and neighbours. There are not that many people living on or near the mountain, in fact there is a good possibility that, after the present review of local government, Halkyn Mountain ward will be combined with another adjoining ward. For its small size, in population, the area is full of action as is seen by all the activities which are held in the village halls. Long may this state survive any future reorganisation.

Mention was made earlier of the Highways department, and it would be very remiss of me not to thank our area manager/team leader Mr. John Williams. With a limited workforce and an increasingly tight budget he makes every effort to attend to an enormous number of problems connected with our roads. All too often all that can be done is a 'patching up' exercise but patches are only a temporary and not very satisfactory solution.

The cattle grid at the top of Martin's Hill and the manhole cover and structure in the middle of the T-junction in the centre of Pentre Halkyn have been completely renovated and hopefully will endure the stress and strains of heavily laden lorries passing over them daily in great numbers.

The problem of the common-land is always with us. In previous times the commoners and graziers managed the Common quite efficiently. Any small problem could be dealt with locally and competently as and when required. Unfortunately, the number of graziers using their rights on the Common have reduced drastically. The consequence is that some areas are seriously under-grazed with the result that gorse and other invasive flora are taking over. In times past graziers would burn the gorse in the right season, when there was less danger of harming wildlife. Today, there are so many regulations emanating from the European Union, Natural Resources Wales and other bodies that graziers, and indeed any one with a genuine interest and concern for the Common, is too scared of infringing rules and bye-laws to take remedial action themselves. Sadly, Halkyn Mountain Common has become an area of conflict of ideas; as a result the Common suffers. Yet again it is necessary to remind ourselves that the Common is really a working farm, concentrating on sheep. Recently there have been cases of sheep-worrying, with the resulting injury and even the loss of an animal. It is vital to remember that sheep belong to somebody; the loss of a ewe could mean the loss of £100, the loss of a lamb could cost the farmer anything from £50 to £70. That is why it is so important, in fact mandatory, that dogs are kept under strict control, on a leash. Probably 99 per cent of dog owners act responsibly, there are just one or two people, probably from outside the area, who do not observe the rules. We must remember that rearing sheep and other animals is a livelihood for some people. The other problem is the increase in the number of cars, quad bikes and motorcycles, which are definitely not allowed on the Common - again, probably outsiders who wrongly assume that the Common is anybody's land to use as any individual wishes.

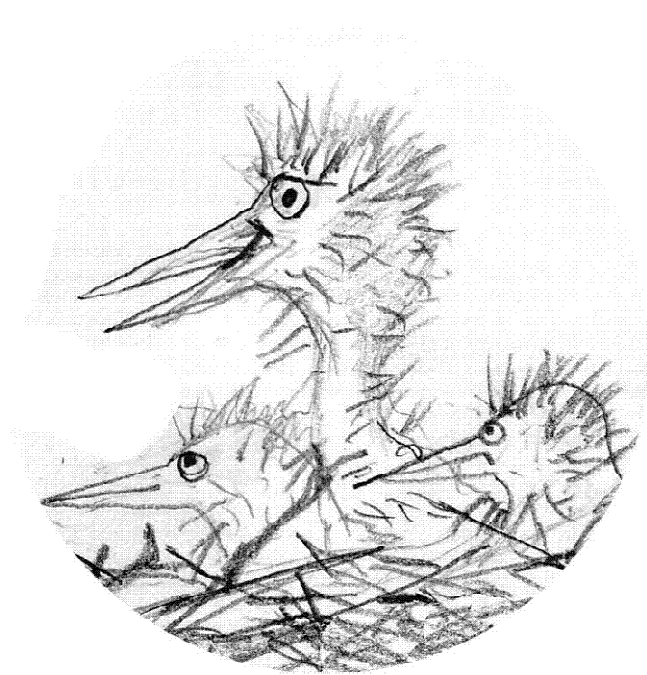
May I again urge everyone to be a good neighbour, especially to the elderly and the infirm, when the really bad weather arrives. One cannot assume that everyone prepares for a 'cold snap' or to be snowed in and lays in a small stock of food and other essentials for such an emergency to last a few days at least.

May I wish everyone a pleasant and peaceful Christmas and all good fortune in the New Year.

Your's cordially,
Colin Legg (County Councillor)

Interview with Steve Blakesley

Author & Illustrator of "Fidget The Heron"



I met with Steve Blakesley at his home at Rock Cottage, Rhosesmor. Steve is both Author and Illustrator of 'Fidget the Heron', his first book for children. I asked Steve, who is better known as a writer of comical poetry, what had inspired him to write this book. He explained:

"Our wonderful grandson, Theodore was born in May 2012. My son and his wife live in London close to Epping Forest which has many stretches of open water. On our first visit to meet Theodore, we walked by the still waters of the mere. At first I missed it because it was so still that I took this prehistoric bird to be part of a dead tree. But that's where I saw Fidget.

The thought hatched in my mind that a hyperactive heron would probably go hungry unless he learnt the trade- so to speak! So I sat down and wrote the poem, *Fidget The Heron*. The poem became a story; the story grew pictures in charcoal and watercolours and it became a book.

The book tells the story of a young heron who thinks he knows better than his mum. She tries to tell him that herons hunt by keeping very still. Fidget finds that hard, so by turns, he tries to copy kingfishers, ospreys and gannets. He fails each time. Having to admit failure, he returns home but things go from bad to worse as he gets trapped in the river. Luckily, Fidget finds that every cloud has a silver lining."

I asked Steve about his poetry:

"I have always written poetry, but had previously thought it kinder not to inflict it on anyone. In recent years, after a stressful day at work I used it as a release of tension - and thus, therapy too.

In fact, I found the more stressed work made me, the funnier my poems became. So now I go around schools and share my story with children from ages 5 to 8. I help them write their own poetry and they also draw pictures of *Fidget*. Some even buy my book which I happily sign for them. I have also set up a website where some of pictures drawn by the children can be seen and where the children can visit to learn more about herons. I hope children can relate to Fidget as a book character - either because they have seen herons at local ponds on Halkyn Mountain - or because they are fidgets themselves!

Heron are endemic to Britain and the world - in fact the only continent without herons is Antarctica."

Has Steve any plans to write further books?

"Fidget the Heron was originally intended as a book for Theodore and is dedicated to him. The success of the book is an added bonus and, inspired by the arrival of his little brother Darwin, I am already working on a second book of Fidget's adventures. I also have a seagull at the back of my mind with an eating disorder.

Caroline at Mold Book Shop has been very kind in selling copies for me. Supporting local businesses like hers and those who advertise in HMN is good for our community."

Steve's website is at: www.fidgettheheron.co.uk

Robin Smith

Sharing Memories

There are so many people living on the mountain with wonderful memories and stories to share; many that are probably not heard very often. We thought it would be a wonderful idea for people to come together and share their stories; they can be written into articles that would be published in the Mountain News. This would be part of the community history of the Mountain for everyone to enjoy for many years to come.

If you have a story or memory you would like to share, or if you would like to hear from others, then why not come along on Sunday 18th January 2015 for our first get together? We will be meeting from 2.00pm until 4.30pm at Halkyn Village Hall.

If you would like to come but struggle with transport we may be able to help; please call Jay on 01352 780120.

Halkyn and District Over 50's Group

This group was originally formed in September 2009 by a number of people living in the Ochry-Bryn housing complex in Halkyn. It is presently looking to attract new members, both male and female, from the whole of the Halkyn Mountain area and beyond.

Thanks to the hard work done by some members of the group, generous funding has made it possible to attract many lively and interesting speakers to its meetings.

As well as a monthly meeting, this friendly and enthusiastic group arranges regular outings throughout the year, and in the past, members have enjoyed great days out in places like Keswick, York, Portmeirion, Holmfirth and Cardiff.

As well as these enjoyable trips, either by coach or train, the group has visited various theatres to enjoy productions such as 'The Mousetrap' and 'Dreamboats and Petticoats'. Children, friends and members of the family are also welcome to enjoy these activities, school holidays permitting.

This is a friendly and lively group which will be delighted to welcome new members.

The old venue used to be the village hall in Halkyn but, from October onwards, they will meet in a new – and very welcoming – venue, The Bluebell in Halkyn.

The group meets on the first Monday of every month at 2 p.m. The highlight of the meeting is usually a talk by various speakers covering a variety of interesting, informative and lively topics. This is followed by a cup of tea or coffee and a friendly and fun chin-wag!

So, don't miss the opportunity to get out of the rut and meet old friends and new on the first Monday of the month at 2 p.m. at the Bluebell in Halkyn.

For further information, please contact Ron Thomas on 01352 781038.

Halkyn W.I.

Our last three meetings have been very enjoyable, giving us a look at papercraft, the wonders of Iceland, and Mountain Rescue.

Our next meeting, in November, will be our AGM, followed in December with a Christmas evening of music and singing.

A trip to Tweedmill will also be in November and we begin our Christmas countdown by visiting Bethesda Chapel in Mold for our well-attended Carol Festival in the beginning of December.

We meet on the first Thursday in the month and enjoy our Craft and Chat class on the remaining Thursdays, the times change with the season.

All are welcome to visit us as a guest before committing to a membership.
Contact Averil Woodfine on 01352 780918 if you are interested.

Blue Bell Walks

The Walks for Health over the last three months have been blessed with good weather and they continue to flourish. It was with great sadness that after just celebrating our 10th Anniversary of the Blue Bell Walks we experienced our first accident which happened 10 minutes into our last summer evening walk. We wish Peter Thomas a speedy recovery. Unfortunately he missed a lovely Hot-Pot Supper.

For the third year running, the great Welsh novelist Daniel Owen was remembered during a Daniel Owen Festival walk on Halkyn Mountain. His parents lived in Wern-y-Gaer before moving to Mold.

The Thursday afternoon and Saturday morning walks continue whatever the weather. Walkers now come prepared for the worst and keep smiling.
An easy 60-80minute New Year's Resolution Walk will take place on Tuesday 2nd January at 11am.
Season's Greetings to all and we hope to see many new faces in 2015.

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



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

The Red Lion

The Red Lion, Rhosesmor has been refurbished. "The beige box is gone" says manager, Natalie "the beams have been painted darker to reinstate the character of the pub"



In addition to this, a new commercial kitchen has been installed. "We are really excited about starting food. We are hoping to have bar food available shortly" says Luan. The games room has been transformed into a stylish, intimate dining area for restaurant food. "Our aim is to source the best local produce wherever possible, for example, the cheese board will sample a variety of very different tasting welsh cheddars, including a delicious black cheddar" says Luan "a great emphasis will also be placed on the food being homemade; homemade burgers, coleslaw, pies and soups. It's a really exciting time for us."

The management of the Red Lion advise people to check their Facebook page (search RedLion Rhosesmor) for more information regarding the launch of food at the pub including special offers.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR HALKYN MOUNTAIN NEWS READERS!

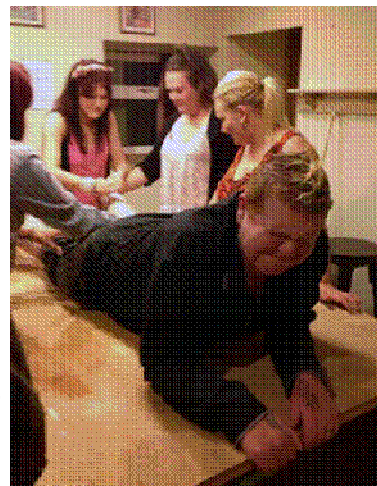
If you bring your copy of Halkyn Mountain News to the Red Lion in January 2015 we will knock 10% off your food bill. Booking advised.

Charity

This year our patrons have raised HUNDREDS of pounds for a number of charities. The majority of cash raised has been donated to MacMillan Cancer Care, a fantastic charity that offers support to cancer patients and their families.

The first event was a charity leg/chest wax. It was a fun event that a few of our locals got involved with.

Qualified beautician, Tasha Southern, volunteered her time and resources for the cause and we are very grateful. DJ Russ had 'The Red Lion' waxed off his chest. "Yes, he made a big thing of it jumping around and shouting..." laughs Natalie "...but hey, we can't get him a staff t-shirt big enough!"



The Red also held a coffee morning for MacMillan. Locals and staff made cakes to be sold. Coffee mornings always have a lovely atmosphere and are a great way to keep in touch with friends in the local community.



Winter Opening Times

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

Xmas/New Year Opening Times

Xmas Eve 2pm-1am. We'll be having a party!

Xmas Day 12pm-3pm free mulled wine and mince pies whilst stocks last.
6pm-12am

Boxing Day 4pm-1am

New Years Eve 4pm-late.
New Years Eve Party. Free entry, disco-karaoke

New Years Day 4pm-12am

Natalie Edwards

Blue Bell Inn

This time a year ago I was making excuses for the lack of a Post Office and embarking on a trip to find some new coffee. Well here we are again but no excuses this time, some great 100% arabica coffee unique to us, plenty of teapigs tea and a Post Office that is being visited on a regular basis by many on and off the mountain and from as far away as Liverpool! If you fancy a natter while visiting the Post Office you'll be able to do it in front of the fire with a nice warm cuppa! Getting here is easy enough, the bus stops right by the door, or you can park off-road in safety and of course we're a short walk or ride for many over the mountain.

Our last quarter was a bundle of fun, plenty of stunning music, walking, conker championships, South African barbecues and cider making thrown in for good measure all sprinkled with glitter from Glitterbugz! The music was raised beyond our usual top quality by the welcome annual visit from our American friends the Ronstadt Generations (Linda's brother & his sons) with special guest Alex Flores (a fantastic saxophonist from Tucson Arizona) and three wonderful musicians drawn from our regular music evenings (Graham Bellinger, Adrian Dear and Mick Green known collectively as The Deportees) who together gave us a fantastic night to remember. Once again we heard comments from more than one source saying 'that was the best music I've ever heard in a pub!'

Christmas, Big Carol & All

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

The main event is our annual **Big Carol** event which is always on the last Sunday before Christmas Day (**8pm on Sunday 21st Dec**) and raises much needed funds for Age Concern NE Wales and we set about raising it by passing the bucket while we sing from a wide repertoire of carols and festive songs. Big Carol seems to be growing and not just due to the mince pies, the two bars are usually bursting with singers. The Rev'd Hugh Burgess typically conducting operations in one bar while I (Steve) conduct operations in the other. It usually starts well with all singing the same songs in the same time and key but usually ends up with much laughter and competition to see which bar can out-sing the other. It's the event for me that says it's Christmas!

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

New Year's Eve will be celebrated in our usual fancy dress style with the theme this year being drawn from the Waddington's Monopoly game!

Halkyn Christmas Pensioners Party

The Christmas Pensioner's Party is run by a group of regulars at the Blue Bell Inn for Halkyn's senior citizens. We provide the premises for free and, through kindly donations through various events like our conker competition and a hamper raffle, the regulars collect enough funds to gather the ingredients to cook a full Christmas meal and provide a little something for folk to take home. The team cook various parts of the meal themselves, bring it up to the Blue Bell Inn to plate up and present it to the happy throng. They just do one sitting and that obviously doesn't cater for all the pensioners on the mountain so we alternate those who are invited each year so everyone eventually gets a turn. If you are receiving state pension and you haven't been contacted about the party, do ring us on 01352 780309 and we'll pass on your details to the team and get you on the list as soon as we can.

Music

Our music here at the Blue is of a superb quality with the majority of musicians and singers making a living from their session quality music and we provide it for free (although you do get the chance to contribute to and even win the raffle)! We've had some tremendous special events from Tish Hinojosa and Anny Celsi from the USA along with the Ronstadt Generations and Alex Flores from Tucson Arizona, Four Rose Price events with Adrian Dear, Ian Jones, John Warburton, a Beatles Night and Welcomme, Finnan & Chrimes, Al Tunstall, The Cheesecutters, Helen Maher and Morris Dancing, distributed across our equally fantastic regular events. I hope you can get down to our folkish type music every Thursday from a variety of regular singer songwriters, Allan Murray's singing nights every other Saturday, Trad Jazz every Sunday afternoon and the Rantin' Dogs monthly on the 2nd Monday.

Roger Hampson update: well I'm pleased to be able to say that Roger's operation was a success and the tumour benign but we're still no nearer hearing Roger's fine music at the Blue. His great friend Allan Murray has been visiting him and as he plays the same keyboard he has been helping him find his way around the machine in the dark so we're hopeful. We are also hoping we might see him before too long and hope you can make the special benefit night planned for him on the evening of Saturday 6th December, where Allan will be at the keys and we'll be singing out loud for Roger while raising some funds to help his Christmas be a little brighter. Our warmest thanks to Al Tunstall, a master of the keyboard, coming all the way from Betws y Coed for the monthly injection of song to keep us going.

Wednesday Quiz

The hour has moved on and the nights are drawing in so our Wednesday night walkers have turned to our Wednesday evening quiz for their fun and you should come and join them, they are a friendly lot and like our teachers teams they would enjoy the challenge.

Free Guided Walks

You know walking is good for you, it keeps you fit and active and best of all, here at the Blue Bell Inn, it's free! We held a special walking festival to celebrate a decade of free walking and keeping fit and had the wonderful surprise of actually seeing the mid-summer sunset this year which was later topped off by a visit from the Green Goddess! (Picture below)



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

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

The first week in January will also see us on our **New Years Resolution Walk**. If you would like to **get fit** and would like to do it **for free**, then get down for a taster on **Friday 2nd at 11am**.

2015 should bring some fun walks with a special Halkyn Heritage Project which will hopefully see some walks to at least interest the geologists, archaeologists and ecologists among you!

New stuff

On the subject of new events, we're anticipating a new creative writing course early in the year, a monthly philosophical discussion night (let me know if you are interested in restarting this thought provoking night), the possibility of a backgammon club and/or a bridge club and/or games club. Of course we've already started with the Halkyn & District Over 50s Club meeting here on the first Monday of the month at 2pm with some very good speakers.

What Nice Weather

Anticipating some changes with the unseasonably warm weather this year 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 please do use our car park if you can't park at home (please leave your phone number so we can contact you if the need arises - our delivery wagons are large and you park at your own risk).

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

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

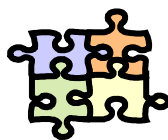
Not having the room to open a shop here we're doing our best to provide some new services. Mostyn Kitchen Garden's Philip Handley delivers some wonderful fresh seasonal veg, all grown on organic principles, he delivers to order for folks to pick up from the Blue on Friday evenings (or at home if you're enroute and available), pop in for a copy of the latest veg list. Let us know if you have any other ideas.

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

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

See you at the bar.

Steve Marquis



Rhes-y-Cae Playgroup

Our playgroup is open from 12:45pm until 3pm daily during term time for children aged from 2½.

Please contact Carolyn on
01352 780473

for further information. Everybody is
welcome!



Children's Pages

A Few Words From Ginnie

A passing walker told me about Halkyn Mountain News and suggested I contribute. I expect he thought a donkey of my age would be able to provide a few wise words. So with the help of a human friend, I thought I would have a go.

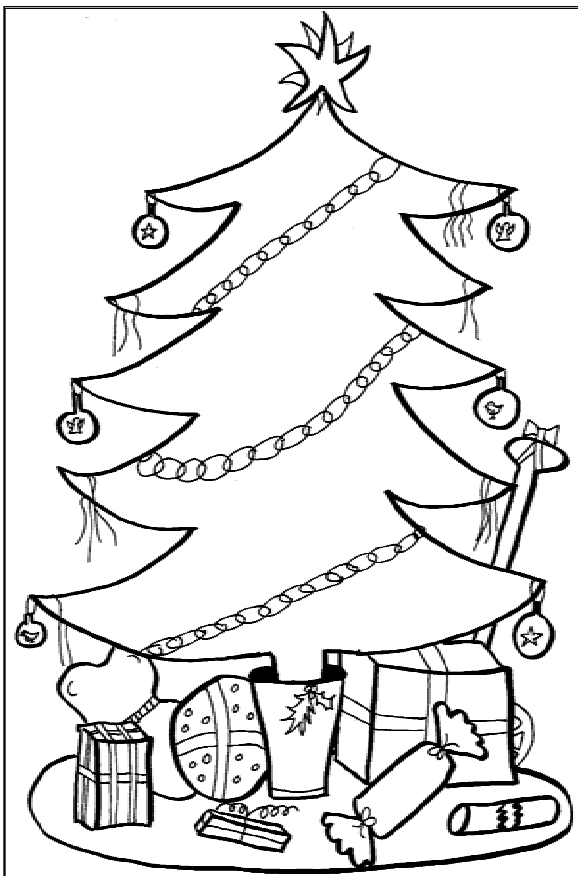
As an elderly donkey, I have seen many coming and goings on the mountain over the years. I am always happy to greet children who visit me, especially as many bring me tasty carrots and apples. I have been on the mountain so long that some of the children who used to visit me, now bring their own children. My sight isn't what it used to be, but my sense of smell is as sharp as it was when I was just a little donkey. The smell of fresh hay has the magical effect of making me forget any aches and pains and I can scurry back to my stable almost as fast as my son, Danny.

On a clear day, and if I squint, I can see a place they call the village and a place they call a church. Apparently, villagers meet there on Sundays to bray together. Danny and I bray together every day but mainly outside rather than in. I haven't been to the village very often and certainly not for many years, but I can see

donkey-less carts travelling fast through the village making a lot of noise. In my grandmother's day, we donkeys pulled carts and travelled from village to village, but I was raised in this leisure age and have been able to be a stay-in-field Mum. Although Danny is now in his twenties, I still have to keep him in check with an occasional nip on the ankle.

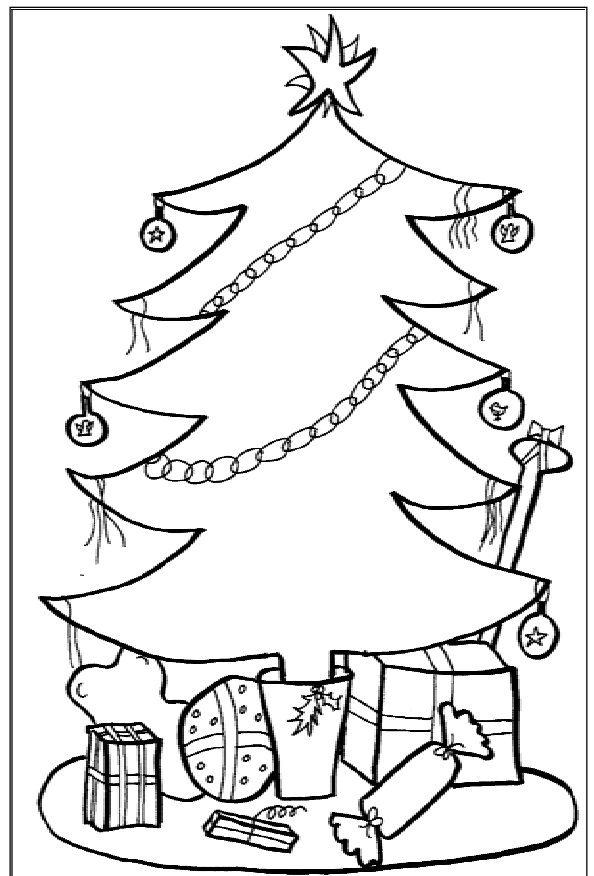
I spend my days in the field and always have time to greet passing humans, although being a little hard of hearing, they sometimes have to shout to catch my attention. We also get many birds and rabbits visiting us. They keep up to date with all the local news although the Magpies are dreadful for gossiping and I really don't believe half they tell me.

We donkeys do a great job in keeping fields tidy by eating the long grass and thistles. My recommendation for a long, happy and healthy life is to eat as many carrots and apples as possible, to take plenty of fresh air, even when it is raining or snowing and to be charming to all you meet. It is good to remember that it is neither polite to kick or bite or to chew the hats of your visitors, even when they have bobbles on them that look delicious.



Spot the Difference

There are 10 differences between the two pictures - can you find them all



I don't spend much time on my appearance these days, but have my own teeth which enables me to smile in our donkey way. To smile is always good for the soul. If you visit me, remember to smile too as it always makes my day.

I'm tired of thinking of more wise things to say at the moment and I have my eye on a rather juicy looking thistle which is very distracting. I'll think of some more for another occasion.

Goodbye for now dear friends.

Ginnie



Ginnie and her son Danny

Win £20 book voucher - Draw a picture of Ginnie the Donkey.

Winner to be judged by the Editing Team and winning picture published in the Spring Edition.

Prize sponsored by Halkyn Castle Wood caravan site & storage 01352 781908

Christmas Wordsearch.

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

SANTA	NATIVITY	SACK	ANGEL	STOCKING
RUDOLF	STAR	ADVENT	DECORATIONS	SLEIGH
TURKEY	WRAP	LIGHTS	FAIRY	PORT
CHILDREN	CRACKER	CHRISTMAS	DONKEY	ROBIN
SNOW	SNOWFLAKE	HOLLY	PRESENTS	GIFTS
BOWS	PARTIES	FAMILY	MISTLETOE	PUDDING

Biscuits News

Diolch yn Fawr Pawb!

Ar ran Pwyllgor codi arian Ardal Mynydd Helygain tuag at Eisteddfod Y Fflint 2016 dymunaf ddiolch ichi a pawb a drefnodd, rhedodd a fynychodd y noson o ddifyrwrch i'r teulu a gynhaliwyd yn ddiweddar. Mae ymdrech enfawr Biscedi – Grwp Ieuenctid Plwyf Mynydd Helygain i godi £337.50 wedi bod yn hwb mawr inni yn ein ymdrech i godi ymwybyddiaeth a cael momentwm tuag at cyraedd ein targed o godi £15,000. Hyd at hyn, 'rydych wedi ein helpu i godi cyfanswm o £1,600. Diolch yn fawr!

On behalf of the Halkyn Mountain area fundraising committee for the Fflint Eisteddfod in 2016, please pass on our thanks to all those who organised, ran and attended the recent family evening of entertainment.

The tremendous effort of the Biscuits group, Halkyn Mountain Parishes Youth Group, in raising £337.50, has been a fantastic boost to our efforts as we try to raise awareness and build momentum towards reaching our target of £15,000.

So far you have helped us achieve a total of £1,600. Thank you very much!



Halkyn Mountain Parishes Youth Group/Biscuits represent the diocese on Youth Forum.

Five members of the group recently represented half of the newly formed St Asaph Diocese Youth Forum on a team building weekend of outward bound activities. The weekend was led by Mr Tim Feake, the Under 25s Officer for the diocese. Here are Tim's comments after the week-end -

"We had our first St Asaph Youth Forum last weekend. It was fantastic. I was stunned by the faith, commitment and creativity of the young people involved. Their role in 20/20 vision and the future of the Church in Wales will hopefully be a significant one". Tim Feake.

The group then set out their plans in the Time is Now Conference in Venue Cymru in Llandudno, a unique and exciting event in the history of the Church in Wales as it steps into the realms of its 20/20 Vision plans.



Bright Stars Harvest Display

Pictured here are two Bright Stars in front of their colourful display at St Paul's Church, Rhosesmor. Donations for the produce reached over £70 which has been given as a donation to the Foodbank, to add to our weekly contributions of food. Thank you so much for your support here, particularly as we lead up to the expensive weeks before Christmas.



Halkyn Parishes

Children and Youth Meetings

Bright Stars

is the children's Sunday Group of St Paul's Church, Rhosesmor serving all the Halkyn Mountain Parishes. Every third Sunday in the month we take part in an All Age service in St Paul's Church Rhosesmor. There is plenty for everyone to do, so come along and spend an hour with us. Fruit and drink provided. Children who attend are aged from 4 upwards.

Dec 7 th	Rhosesmor Village Hall 10:00
Dec 14 th	All Age Service St. Paul's Church 10:00
Dec 21 st	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Dec 28 th	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Jan 4 th	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Jan 11 th	All Age Service St. Paul's Church 10:00
Jan 18 th	Rhosesmor Village Hall 10:00
Jan 25 th	Rhosesmor Village Hall 10:00
Feb 1 st	Rhosesmor Village Hall 10:00
Feb 8 th	All Age Service St. Paul's Church 10:00
Feb 15 th	HALF TERM
Feb 22 nd	HALF TERM
Mar 1 st	Rhosesmor Village Hall 10:00

Biscuits' – fun club

Age 10 and upwards meet Thursdays, 6-7pm during term time in Rhes-y-Cae village hall. All are welcome.

Dec 4 th	Rhes-y-Cae Village Hall
Dec 11 th	Rhes-y-Cae Village Hall
Dec 18 th	BISCUITS OUTING
Dec 25 th	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Jan 1 st	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Jan 8 th	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Jan 15 th	Rhes-y-Cae Village Hall
Jan 22 nd	Rhes-y-Cae Village Hall
Jan 29 th	Rhes-y-Cae Village Hall
Feb 5 th	Rhes-y-Cae Village Hall
Feb 12 th	Rhes-y-Cae Village Hall
Feb 19 th	HALF TERM
Feb 26 th	Rhes-y-Cae Village Hall
Mar 5 th	Rhes-y-Cae Village Hall

For more information contact Lynn Fearnhead on 01352 780740 or email lfearnhead@hotmail.co.uk

From The Rev'd Hugh Burgess

Dear Friends



2014 is, as we all know, the Centenary of the beginning of the First World War and on the 4th August in two of the churches we held a very moving commemoration service to mark this event, as part of the Royal British Legion "Lights Out" event.

The marking of past historical events, and particularly those that are beyond the memory of the vast majority of people alive today, always carries some risk. In particular there is the risk that we somehow romanticise or over-simplify the historical realities. I recognise this risk and also understand the view that perhaps events of 100 years ago are no more important than, say, 150 or 200 years ago. However, I believe that it is important to recognise and to commemorate the events of The First World War and the significance that these have for many people in this country.

The First World War, apart from sowing the seeds of later conflicts which affected many people who are alive today, was the first truly industrial war in which civilian populations were significantly affected beyond the areas of immediate conflict. In this way we should be reminded that the nature of war changed in 1914 and that war affects all of us, however distant we may be from the actual conflict. Above all, however, our remembrance commemorations continue to remind us of the sacrifice of individual men and women who do their duty and pay the ultimate price. This is not to glorify war but to pay due respect and to remind ourselves that the impact of war reaches far beyond those alive at the time.

Today, the 1st November, marks the centenary of the Battle of Coronel, the first battle of the First World War. This is not a battle that most people will have heard of and it was fought in the Pacific, off the coast of Chile, resulting in the loss of two capital ships, HMS Good Hope and HMS Monmouth. Serving on HMS Monmouth was a young Royal Marine Bandsman, Ralph Perrett, who had joined the Marines Band as a boy in 1909. He played the violin, the clarinet

and the bassoon. Ralph went to sea on the Monmouth on 9th August, 1914 and died with all 734 of his comrades when the Monmouth was sunk on this night 100 years ago. Good Hope also sank with all hands. Ralph was my grandmother's brother and she lost both her brothers during the war as my other grandmother also lost her brother.

I think it is fair to say that the events of 100 years ago touched our family, as with many, many others, very deeply. In consequence, our "memory" also goes very deep and, while we want neither to wallow in that memory nor to glorify it in any way, we do want to commemorate those who died and to recognise that, somehow, we are here today partly because of and partly despite those events of 100 years ago. This is why remembrance of the events of 100 years ago is so important for us as well as for many others.

On a different, but actually not unrelated subject, we are moving quickly towards Christmas, which is another time for remembrance and reflection, as we look back at a much older event. Today we see, in the way that Christmas is largely celebrated, the impact that time has on historical events. For those who were in the stable on that first Christmas there was pain, dirt and fear as the baby came into the world. With the sanitising and distorting effect of time, these aspects of the Christmas story are largely forgotten today. However, we might remind ourselves that the true miracle of Christmas is that God chose to come into the world to share our humanity in all its ups and downs. Christmas is a reminder to us that God understands the pain of the world as well as the things that drive and motivate us and he chooses to walk alongside us on our human journey. Very often we lose sight of this in the complexity of our daily living. Christmas reminds us that God does not forget us.

I wish you every blessing this Christmas and a very good New Year

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

01352 741 646

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



Halkyn Mountain Parishes Service Times

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

Every Month ►	First Sunday	Second Sunday	Third Sunday	Fourth Sunday	Fifth Sunday
Halkyn	11.15 am Communion	11.15 am Communion	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 am Communion	10.00 am All Age Service ¹	10.00 am Communion	
Rhesycae	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: The next combined services for the three parishes will be on Sunday, 28th December, 2014 at Christchurch, Rhesycae at 10.30am and on Sunday, 31st January, 2015 in Rhosesmor to which you will be very welcome. This is normally a communion service but in a modern form and is open to everyone, of all ages.

OPEN CHURCH: Rhosesmor Church is open daily. Hot drinks are available as well as a FairTrade stall and a collection point for the Flintshire Foodbank.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

Saturday evenings in Advent (13 th & 20 th December only) the end of day service of Compline in Rhesycae at 6pm	21st December (Sunday) 3pm Halkyn Carol Service 8pm Carols in the Bluebell
7th December (Sunday) 08.45 Rhesycae Communion and Toy Service 11.15am Halkyn Communion and Toy Service 3pm Rhosesmor Evening Prayer	24th December (Wednesday - Christmas Eve) 4pm Rhesycae Crib Service 11.15pm Rhosesmor Midnight Communion
14th December (Sunday) 3pm Rhosesmor Carol Service	25th December (Thursday - Christmas Day) 9.30 am Rhesycae Communion 11am Halkyn Communion
17th December (Wednesday) 7.30pm Rhesycae Carol Service	28th December, 2013 (Sunday) 10.30am Rhesycae Combined Parish Communion
	Please note that there will only be one service in the parishes on the Sunday after Christmas

If you 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

Capel Salem, Pentre Halkyn Services at 2.00p.m.

(C) = Communion

December 2014

7th Mr Goronwy Ellis (W) (C)
14th Rev Hugh Burgess (E)
21st Bi-lingual Children's Service
- Rev. Marc Morgan

28th No Service

January 2015

4th Rev. Marc Morgan (W) (C)
11th No Service
18th Mr Goronwy Ellis (W)
25th No Service

February 2015

1st Mrs. Delyth McIntyre (E)
8th No Service
19th Mrs Maryl Rees (W)
22nd No Service

Croeso Cynnes I Bawb!
A Warm Welcome To Everyone!

St Michael's Church, Brynford

The Vicar, Rev Graham Beckett,
can be contacted via the
vicarage on 01352 711675

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



BLUE BELL INN



Glass & Paper Recycling

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

**Rhosesmor Rd
Halkyn**

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

Capel Bethel y Nant

We meet every Sunday at 2.30 - Do Join Us!

Dec 7th R. Glyn Jones
Dec 14th Goronwy Ellis
Dec 21st Carol Service 2.00pm
Dec 28th No Service

We are closed in January

Feb 1st Bryn Jones
Feb 8th Eirlys Gruffydd
Feb 15th Arwel Roberts
Feb 22nd Delyth McIntyre

Croeso Cynnes i Bawb! A warm welcome to all!

**Gwasanaeth Carolau - Carol Service
Bi-lingual**

**Dydd Sul Rhag. Yr 21 Dec.
Am 2.00 o'r gloch**

Paned a Mins pei!

**Croeso Cynnes y Bawb!
A Warm Welcome to All!**

**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**



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.



Tiny Tots Playgroup, Rhos Helyg School, Rhosesmor.

We are open Monday to Friday from 8.50am until 11.45am, during term time only.

We currently have limited places available.

Your child does not have to attend/apply to attend Rhos Helyg to enable them to attend the playgroup - EVERYONE is welcome.

All staff are qualified and we are registered with the Wales PPA and Care Standards Inspectorate of Wales.

We provide a welcoming and caring environment for all children. If you have a child with a special need, however great or small, we can request additional assistance through the Wales PPA referral scheme for a one to one helper, if necessary.

If your child is eligible for three year funding this can be applied for. Also, if you receive tax credits or benefit credits there is funding available which can be applied for.

THE FIRST SESSION IS FREE. Why not pop along to one of our sessions and have a look around and a chat with one of our staff.

For Further Information or an Information Booklet please contact Leanne on 01352 780265

We would like to thank Wendy for all the hard work that she has done over the last few years and wish her well in her new career and we would also like to welcome Leanne Lefley as our new supervisor at playgroup.

Tiny Tots Committee

HALKYN PARISH HALL BINGO
DOORS OPEN AT 7.10 PM

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



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



HALKYN PARISH HALL IS WHERE ITS AT
ON A WENESDAY NIGHT AND EVERY OTHER AFTER THAT





DEC.3RD & 10TH & SO ON WITH ME
SO COME ALONG, EYES DOWN, A FUN NIGHT YOU'LL SEE

Pentre Halkyn Community Centre

Bingo organised by Nia Bache.

Every Monday at 1.45pm for the over 50s

Karate Club

Tuesdays & Fridays 7:15 - 8:45pm

NIA (Non Impact Aerobics)

Tuesdays 9:15 - 10:15am

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 Mary 01352 781412

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

5th April and from May 2nd Saturday of the month

(For more info contact Sue Thomas on 01352 781088)

Snippet from the Past

The **Flintshire Observer & News** recorded a sad event in the edition dated 14 May 1914:

Died on the Way to Market

- Sudden Death of Mr. Alfred Vickers, Halkyn.

On Friday morning the neighbourhoods of Holywell and Halkyn were stirred to an unwanted extent by the sudden death of Mr Alfred Vickers, of the Britannia Inn, Halkyn, while on his way to Holywell market. Mr. Vickers, in addition to being owner and licensee of the Britannia, carried on an extensive business as a butcher, attending Holywell Market Hall on a Friday, where he was the oldest stallholder, and Flint market on a Saturday.

About half-past eight on Friday morning he and his son left the Britannia with a load of meat. Everything went well until they came in sight of Holywell. Mr. Vickers, being apparently in good health. When passing Stamford Mr. Vickers' son, who sat alongside, noticed his father drooping. He stopped the horse and called assistance. Mrs. Davies, of Smalley's Cottages, opposite the Union Workhouse, went to his assistance. Then aid was obtained from the Workhouse, Mr. A. Roberts, the master, Mr. Hughes, the porter, and one of the nurses giving assistance. Mr. Vickers, it was seen, was quite unconscious. He was carried into the house, but death took place immediately. Dr. J. Owen Jones arrived, but Mr. Vickers was beyond human help. The deceased, who was 64 years of age, leaves a widow and thirteen children. He was twice married, and had five children by the first wife and eight by the second. Much sympathy is felt with the widow and family in the sudden bereavement they have sustained. Mr. Vickers was well-known throughout this part of the county, and much respected and esteemed by all. He was of a genial disposition and obliging in his manner. His death removes one of the most popular men and is a distinct loss for Halkyn.



Alfred Vickers, pictured above, was not alone in having the combined occupations of publican and butcher as his parents Thomas & Anne Vickers ran the George & Dragon Inn, Pentre Halkyn and previously the Bull Inn, with Thomas also being a butcher.

Robin Smith



An early photograph of the Britannia Inn

Rhes y Cae News

Village Hall

Many events were organised by the Rhes y Cae Village Hall Committee during the Summer and Autumn seasons; our grateful thanks to them all for their hard work in keeping our village hall alive with activity!

Coffee Morning – Tuesday 12th August

There was an excellent turn out from people who live on Halkyn Mountain, bringing the mountain community closer together.

Coffee Morning – Tuesday 16th September

Another enjoyable morning to raise funds for the Rhes y Cae Pensioners Christmas Party in December. Jill brought some lovely sweetpeas and they looked lovely on the tables.

Harvest Supper – Wednesday 1st October at 8pm

It was held in the Village Hall after the service in Rhes y Cae Church. A nice treat to sit down and have an enjoyable hotpot followed by an auction of plants, fruit and vegetables from the displays in the Church.

Times Past – Friday 17th October at 7:30pm

A Cheese and Wine Evening with a film show organised by Graham and Leila Wright – the place was packed! Everyone came early to make sure that there was enough room! It was a wonderful evening, which we will all remember for many years to come. Memories of times past at Rhes y Cae Shows, including the produce stalls, sheepdog trials, gymkhana and tug-o-war. Also, the school's Sports Days and Cyman fa Ganu (Singing Festival) at the Chapel. Sincere thanks to the Committee – especially to Leila & Graham.

Lights Out – Monday 4th August at 10pm

Everyone was invited to bring their candles to a special candlelit vigil to mark the 100th Anniversary of the beginning of World War 1. All lights out by 11pm leaving a single candle lit for a shared moment of reflection to mark the occasion; many thanks to all who attended the service.

It was a very moving service with hymns and readings. Ieuan Ap Sion sang a song about Hedd Wyn from Trawsfynydd, a Welsh soldier who died during the First World War. Before going off to war, Hedd Wyn had entered a poetry competition at the National Eisteddfod held at Birkenhead. He was killed before he knew that he had won the Bardic Chair. The Chair was draped in a black cloth in his memory.

Many thanks to all who took part.

A special Visit from America – 1st September

The relatives (three sister and their husbands) of Elinor Davidson (Bryn Rhedyn, Windmill), came to visit Rhes y Cae to remember their Great, Great, Great Grandfather – William Pierce, who unfortunately died in Bryn Gwiog Mine, Moel y Crio. They visited Ebenezer Chapel with Ieuan Ap Sion and he sang a lovely Welsh hymn; they also visited

the Church in Rhes y Cae and were able to see the interior of the Church and went on to see the gravestone of William Pierce. They walked along Church Terrace where the family lived and then on to visit Moel y Crio.

Following the accident that claimed William's life, two of his sons emigrated to America. Elinor's Great, Great, Great Grandfather and the Great, Great, Great Grandfather of the visiting sisters were brothers. Many thanks to Arthur (Elinor's first cousin) for his research in tracing the family history, which brought about this very special visit.

Harvest Service on Wednesday 1st October 7pm

Many thanks to all who supported this service at Rhes y Cae Church. Our sincere thanks to Rev'd Hugh Burgess for conducting the service and to Colin for playing the organ and taking part in the readings with Peter.

The Church was beautifully decorated, especially the altar, font and windowsills – many thanks. Our grateful thanks to the management of Homebase (Mold) for their contribution of plants and tinned goods and to Glasdir Farm Shop for the fruit and vegetables. Finally, to David Hughes of Pen yr Orsedd Farm, Rhosesmor for providing the maize to decorate the pews.

Gwasanaeth o Ddiolchgarwch on Monday 20th October

(Service of Thanksgiving at Rhes y Cae Chapel) All the lovely produce on display below the pulpit in the Chapel were from the local gardens of the Chapel members. The service was well attended and our sincere thanks to Rev'd David Owen of Rhosllanerchrugog, nr Wrexham, for taking the service.

FUTURE DATES

Pensioner's Christmas Party: Saturday 13th December at 2pm

Carol Service at Rhes y Cae Church: Wednesday 17th December at 7pm

Noson o Garolau at Rhes y Cae Chapel: Monday 22nd December at 7pm

(an Evening of Carols with John Pierce – well known opera singer from Glasdir Farm, living in London. Cor y Mynydd (the Mountain Choir (and other artistes) will be taking part.

PS:

FREE Welsh lessons in Chapel on Thursday evenings at 7pm are well attended. All donations go toward the Urdd Eisteddfod 2016.

Salsa Dancing Continues on Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the Village Hall

Biscuits – fun group with Cupcake Puppets on Thursdays from 6pm until 7pm in the Village Hall.

You are all very welcome to all events – they are great fun!

Gwyneth Hughes

Ysgol Brynffordd School

We would like to welcome Halkyn Mountain News readers back to the new school year, hopefully after a restful summer break. We welcome the new parents who have joined us this year. We look forward to working with all in the forthcoming year. The children have all settled in extremely well and are keen to work. This term the infants class topic is 'Food' and the juniors is learning all about the Romans and Celts.

Jeans for Genes Day

All staff and pupils came into school wearing their jeans on Friday 19th September, donating £1 towards the Jeans for Genes Day charity. This is a charity we have supported for a number of years and it is a good way to help children less fortunate than ourselves. We raised £71.20 for this worthy cause.

Taste of Flintshire themed lunch

Ten schools (of which we were one) in Flintshire were chosen to participate in the Taste of Flintshire themed lunch which was held on Thursday 18th September. The meal provided on the day was all made of food produced locally, within a 20 mile radius of the school. The menu was Pork Meatballs in home made tomato sauce with herby diced potatoes, followed by fruit compote and yogurt. Members of the school Governing Body were invited to come into school and sample the tasty food Mrs. Oare, school cook, had prepared.

Police Visit

PC Gail Sinclair our Police Liaison Officer came into school on the 18th September to talk to the children about anti social behaviour and communication.

MacMillans Biggest Coffee Morning

This event was greatly supported by parents and Brynford residents who came along on the morning of Friday 27th September to enjoy coffee and cake in the school hall. Thank you to all who helped by donating cakes! We raised an enormous £262.65 for this worthwhile cause, an all time record for our school.

Parents Open Evening

A Parents open evening was held on Tuesday 30th September. Parents were invited into school to discuss how their child had settled into the new term with the class teacher. During the evening an exciting display of books was available from Scholastic for parent to purchase in the hall. Following the book fair Ysgol Brynffordd is able to purchase £190 of free books for school!

Busy Bee Day

A huge thank you to all the parents and staff who donated their time on Saturday 4th October to come into school and take part in our Busy Bee Day. The school grounds look lovely as a result of all your hard work!

Welcome

A warm welcome to Mr. Simon Smith, a Bangor University student, who will be working in the Juniors until Christmas as part of his training.

Harvest

The children took part in our annual Harvest service in Calcoed chapel on the morning of Monday 14th October. The service was well attended with the service led by the Reverend Stuart Elliott. Thank you to all who kindly donated tinned/packet foods which were given to Flintshire's Foodbank who distribute food packages to

the people within our community who have a low income.

Junior School Trip to Dewa Roman Experience

As part of this terms topic 'Celts and Romans' the children in the juniors visited Chester to take part in the Dewa Roman Experience on Thursday 16th October.

50 Year Celebration

The school held an open day on Saturday 18th October to mark 50 years of education in our current school building and 161 years of schooling in Brynford. Current and former pupils, staff, governors and anyone associated with the school attended with the building packed to capacity. Photographs were on display throughout the school for visitors to view and refreshments were available. Mr. Arfon Haines Davies, HTV presenter came along to join in with the celebrations and gave an opening speech where he fondly remembered his time at Ysgol Brynffordd. Mrs. Lorna Jenner, local historian helped produce a commemorative booklet which was given to each child presently attending Ysgol Brynffordd along with commemorative mugs which were kindly donated by the Community Council. The children performed a pageant on the day re-enacting the timeline of Ysgol Brynffordd history from 1853 to present day. If you would like to purchase a copy of the commemorative booklet they are available for sale at the school office for £4 – A lovely Christmas present.

Infant School Trip to Dangerpoint

The children from reception through to year 2 had the opportunity to visit Dangerpoint to learn about safety in the home and in their environment on Tuesday 21st October. Both children and staff found the trip a worthwhile educational visit which was very informative. This coincided with one of our Eco targets on safety.

Scary Disco

Thank you to FOBS who organised yet another successful Scary Disco for the children on the evening of Thursday 23rd October. The children attended dressed in an array of costumes and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. A huge thank you to Terry (an ex pupil) and Jude, mobile disco, who helped make the evening a success!

Urdd

Children and staff came into school dressed in something red, white and/or green (Urdd colours) on Friday 24th October to help raise money for the Urdd Eisteddfod which is to be held in Flint in 2016. The children raised £70 which will go towards the £15,000 target the Halkyn Mountain area alone needs to raise for the Eisteddfod.

Children in Need – Friday 14th November

The children will be able to come into school dressed as a 'hero' which falls in with this years Children in Need theme 'it's time to be a hero'.

Christmas Fayre

Our annual Christmas Fayre will be held on the evening of Thursday 27th November at 6pm. There will be a selection of stalls along with a special visit from Father Christmas.

Please come along to support your local school.

Ysgol Rhos Helyg

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

Nursery Class

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



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



PC Jones

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

Literacy in the Outdoors



Pupils in Year 6 have been doing lots of work on the novel Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo. They have

particularly enjoyed doing bush craft activities with Jo Parkinson in the outdoor area of the school. It has been a fabulous project with three outdoor sessions being the highlight of the term so far.



Tasting Fruit

Pupils in early years have been tasting fruit as part of their topic work.

They have also been baking cakes.

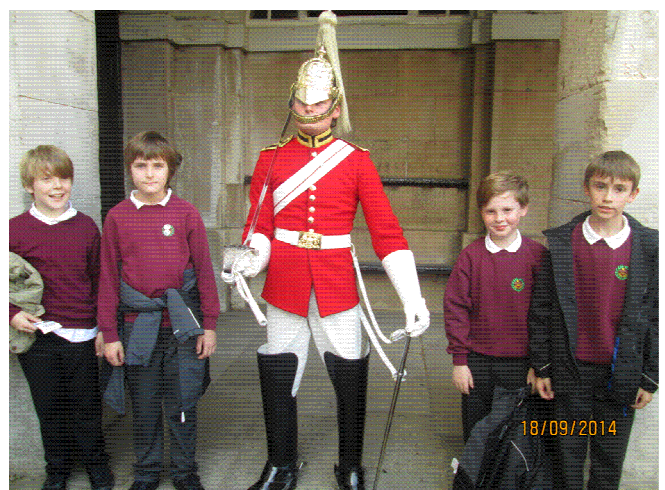


London Trip

The annual trip to London by year 6 pupils took place in September this year. As usual they visited The Houses of Parliament, where they were given a very interesting guided tour before undertaking an educational workshop.



Afterwards they took in some of the sights before finishing off with a West End Show. This year they watched Matilda, which was great.



Looking after our Chickens

Pupils in Early years have enjoyed their visits to help look after our chickens. As part of their duties they have been making sure that the chickens have enough food and water.



Squash Road Show

Once again we have been working closely with Flintshire to introduce sports taster sessions to school. This year the children had the opportunity to have a squash taster session which they thoroughly enjoyed.



Cooking

Pupils in Year 2 have been making French bread pizza as part of their topic work on France.



Outdoor Learning

Pupils in Year 4/5 have spent the day at Presthaven sands with the Flintshire Outdoor Learning Team. The coastal session was wonderful and the



children learned a great deal by doing various activities. There is nothing like a trip to the beach to stimulate children – no matter what the weather!



Harvest Service

We finished this half term with our Harvest service, it was well attended and pupils brought in items for our Harvest display. The food items were donated to Save The Family. A collection for Barnardo's raised just over £100.

PTA Events

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

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



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

Pentre Halkyn Over 50s club

Members of the club were invited to the Traveller's Inn at pen y Cefn for a meal at on September 22nd.

They enjoyed the food and much appreciated the generous gesture of the landlord

Halkyn Mountain Sports Club News

Halkyn and District Bowls Club

We couldn't have had a better hot summer season for bowls if we had ordered it. Unfortunately, now it's finished but we certainly enjoyed it

The three teams just about held their own.

There were some very close games when only 1 point made the difference between winning and losing. I can only think that our opponents are getting better quicker than we are. Our Merit winners were: Mick Carpenter, Linda Kirkham and Neil Barnett. Linda did extremely well in the league playoffs.

Our club competitions are always popular especially when the sun shines. The mixed singles cup was won by Andrew Jones. The consolation cup was won by Neil Barnett and the overall winners' cup by Gladys Bunnell. The last tournament of the season is anticipated especially by the men. The ladies pull out all the stops to try to beat them but they tell us we lost. Look out men - one day we will win.

The ladies were invited to Prestatyn to play. The weather and food couldn't have been better, the

bowling was pretty good too. The club also travelled to Middlewich. This was another glorious day but unfortunately Halkyn didn't have a glorious win.

Halkyn have entered tournaments in Bagillt, Flint and Oakenholt and did well. Halkyn can be proud to say we got to the final of one of the league cups.

The 100 club winners were: Barlow, M. Mazuer, B. Evans and P. Worrall.

We have to thank Halkyn Community Council and Kingspan for their generous donations.

It seems a long time to the next season but time does fly - see you then.

Contacts are W. Worrall - 01352 710702
and L. Kirkham - 01352 740454 of

J. Woodruff - 01352 781276



Halkyn and District Bowls Club the Ladies versus the Men's Tournament

Halkyn Sports Association

What's on November - December 2014

- Quiz night every Wednesday from 8.30 with light buffet.
- Charity fete for RNLI - 30th November.
- Young farmers Christmas party - 5th December.
- Radio hams Christmas party - 17th December.

The Halloween Children's party was a great success, loads of fun and well attended; the next event is the Children's Christmas party Sunday 14th December from 1pm. Father Christmas will be visiting the club and a selection box for all those who attend.

The auction of promise at the club raised £1245 for Halkyn's St Mary's parish church, next charity night for the church is 13th February 2015 with buffet.

If anyone is holding a charity event the club will donate the hall free of charge, for further information please contact Deb Paul at the club.

Colin D'Arcy, chair Halkyn Sports Association



Picture shows the Vice Captain with Div. 3 winner Luke Bagshaw.



The Scratch team consisted of (left to right): Alistair Ross, Chris Pierce, Tim Saunders, Chris Cummins, Jake Massey.



Holywell Golf Club

Vice Captain's Day

On Saturday 9th August Club Vice Captain, Pat McDermott, greeted 165 members and guests to the first tee starting from 6:40 in the morning for the Vice Captain's Day competition. The last of the gents went out at 4 o'clock in the afternoon followed by the ladies for a 9 hole ladies competition.

The day was completed with the Prize Presentation and BBQ. Following the excellent BBQ the Vice Captain spoke briefly on the day's event and thanked all those involved for organising the day and making it such a success. This was followed by the presentation of prizes to the winners and runners up. Finally the prize for the Overall Winner of the Vice Captain's Day Competition was presented to Peter Davies, who won with a score of 40 points.

Each year the Club Captain chooses a charity that the club supports for his year in office. Pat, as Vice Captain for 2014, has chosen Macmillan Cancer Support to be the charity for his Captain's year of 2015. Thanks to the donations from all the competitors and the proceeds of the raffle at the presentation a total of £605.30 was raised on the day.

Scratch Team Make it to Welsh Finals

Holywell Golf Club's Scratch Team made it through to the Welsh Team Championship Finals held at Pwllheli Golf Club Friday 15th - Sunday 17th August. You have to go back to 2003 to find the last time a Holywell Scratch Team qualified for the Welsh Team Championship Finals.

The team beat the host club in the 1st round 3-2 to make it through to the last 16 but then came up against a very strong Pennard Golf Club team, who beat them 4-1. Congratulations to this year's team on a superb effort.

A big thank you must go to JENKAR Shipping who provided shirts & sweaters for all the team members to wear.

Pro-Captain Challenge Winners

Captain Don Fergusson and PGA Professional Matt Parsley led the way for the North Wales club at Dunham Forest Golf Club near Altrincham on Friday 22nd August.

They carded a 10-under-par round of 62 to win by two shots ahead of Simon Williamson and Vince Donohoe, of Lytham (Green Drive) Golf Club; Craig Phillips and Alan Gummery, from Nuneaton Golf Club (a finalist last year); and Freddy Valenti and Jeff Perkin, of Poulton Park Golf Club, who all tied for second spot.

The pair will now go to the £25,000 grand final, supported by Canopus, at the PGA Sultan course at Antalya Golf Club, Turkey, from November 26-27. They produced an impressively consistent round in

which they did not drop a shot and they claimed a vital nett eagle at the 14th hole.

"Matt played extremely well and made seven birdies," said Don, 61, who plays off a handicap of 15 and has been a member at Hollywell since 1990. "I'm just pleased to be able to play a supporting role when you've made a score as good as 10-under-par. "It was a great day for the club which has been established since 1906; but we went there with no real hope of winning!" added the chartered engineer from Lixwm.

Matt Parsley is also the club secretary after being appointed head professional in 2000. "We went back to the club on the Friday night where we had a presentation night," he said. "And we turned up as winners which is good for the profile of the club. There's a lot of tradition associated with Hollywell but I've certainly never reached a PGA final before so it meant a lot."

Matt admitted that there was tension before and after finishing their round. "When you start to get towards double figures under par, you start to think about winning," he said. "So we wanted to get as many birdies as possible to try and get there. And the captain made some excellent shots to keep us out in front. After we'd finished, we had to wait two hours for the rest of the field to come in and we could see some of them getting to eight-under-par. Finally though we knew we'd won it."



(Pictured is Matt Parsley, right, and Don Fergusson congratulating each other on a job well done.)

Annual PGA PRO-AM – Took place on Friday 19th September. This was the 9th year of our Hollywell Pro-Am and this year 21 teams competed. The best Team score on the day was 22 under par by Hollywell's own 'Midweek Comp' team with Professional Ian Keenan. Runners up on 17 under were 'George Williams Insurance' with their Professional Andy Barnett. (Picture shows Ian Keenan, left, with the Midweek Comp Team of Tim Saunders, Peter Saunders and Ben Thomas and Club Captain Don Fergusson, right.)

The Professional's individual event was won by Ian Keenan from International Sports Management with a 6 under par 64.



We would like to thank all competitors, sponsors and staff who made this year's event possible. A special thanks to event Sponsors: The Springfield Hotel, Pentre Halkyn, Under Armour Clothing and Lexus Chester.

Halkyn Cricket Club

Halkyn's 1st XI season drew to a close in fine, late summer weather at Pant Newydd against local rivals Carmel on Saturday 13th September. Carmel eventually edged to victory by seven wickets with only four balls remaining in the innings.

Halkyn's early and mid-season form eventually deserted them and six consecutive defeats left the side in a mid-table SEVENTH position. Halkyn's 2nd XI also had a similar set of results and finished in FIFTH position.

Presentation Evening 2014

Halkyn CC staged their presentation evening at the clubhouse on Saturday 4th October. Awards were presented by club treasurer Roger Bellis and former captain Owen Davies.

Award winners were as follows:

1st XI Batting Alex North
 1st XI Bowling Alex North
 2nd XI Batting Mike Briscoe
 2nd XI Bowling David Odgers
 Young Player of the Year Under 18 yrs - Joint award shared between Kieran McLeod and Daniel Williams.

Medallions were also presented to all junior players. Gifts were also presented to Gail Jones, Jane Williams and Andrew Bellis in appreciation of all their work throughout 2014.

Keith Williams, Secretary

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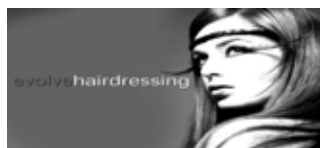
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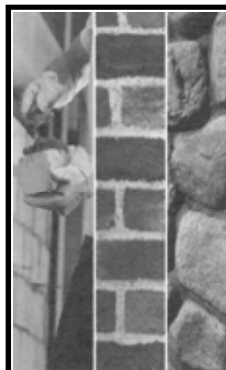


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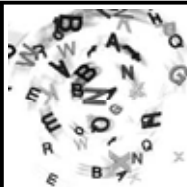
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