



Halkyn Mountain News

Issue 161 - Summer 2015

Rhes-y-Cae and Moel-y-Crio Sheepdog Trials and Show 24th and 25th July



The big event in the Mountain's calendar takes place this year on the last full weekend of July. Last year's event was an outstanding success: the picture here was taken at the show.

The organizing committee have already put many hours into preparation for the event, and have given us the following encouragement:

Put the dates of this year's show in your diary: Friday 24th and Saturday 25th of July. Do you come along on the Friday! Get your sheepdogs working and enter them for the local class. Also start training your dogs for the Terrier racing at 6:30 p.m. This is a fun night and a chance to meet old friends!!

Saturday is a good day out for all the family!! Get your horses into shape and start to sow your seeds and get the plants in. We hope that the weather is kind to all the gardeners as this has a great effect on our garden section on the day of the show.

Find the knitting needles and get that sewing machine out. The items you need to make are listed below.

Cooks can start jamming and practicing their baking skills as soon as the schedules are out. We hope that they will be available from June onwards in the shops, garages, and pubs, or from any committee member.

The Secretary is Mr Keith Jones, Hill Cottage, Cornel y Cae, Rhosesmor, Mold.

Issue 162 will be distributed in September

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

You can submit items by email to - hmneditors@hotmail.com

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

What's where:

Page 2:	Editorial
Page 3:	Flintshire Flag. Flintshire War Memorials
Page 4:	Halkyn Councillor
Page 5:	Halkyn Community Council
Page 6:	Grosvenor Estate Graziers' News Halkyn W.I.
Page 7:	Halkyn Heritage Week
Page 8:	Under Halkyn
Page 9:	Mountain Soup
Page 10:	McIntyres Interview Pt2
Page 12:	Children's Pages
Page 14:	Blue Bell Inn
Page 15:	PH Community Centre Halkyn Parish Hall
Page 16:	Rev'd Hugh Burgess Parish Holiday
Page 17:	Church Services
Page 18:	Halkyn Church Children Rhosesmor WI & Hall
Page 19:	Chapel Services RhesyCae Village Hall
Page 20:	Rhes y Cae News
Page 21:	Rhes-y-Cae Show Scouts and Cubs
Page 22:	Red Lion Inn
Page 24:	Ysgol Rhos Helyg
Page 25:	Ysgol RH PTA
Page 26:	Ysgol Brynffordd
Page 28:	Back Advice Cricket Club
Page 29:	Holywell Golf Club
Page 30:	Halkyn United Football Halkyn Bowls
Page 31 onwards	Advertisements

Editorial

It is always nice to hear people asking when the next edition of Halkyn Mountain News is due. It is satisfying to know that there are people who look forward to reading it. It is clear to see from each edition of Halkyn Mountain News how much is going on in the area. However, we still hear of events that haven't featured in HMN, so if you feel like writing about a forthcoming event or reporting on one that has taken place, we would love to hear from you. We would also welcome contributions from our younger readers who may be making their first attempt at writing for publication. We are also happy to help first time reporters and writers. In this edition we have the second instalment of an interview with Kevin and Delyth McIntyre about their amazing journey in a VW Beetle in 1973. In this instalment we pick up their journey from the Khyber to home.

We were delighted to receive so many entries for the competition to draw Ginnie the Donkey. See the Children's pages for details of our winner. Also, Ginnie once again shares her thoughts with our younger readers.

After some months of website issues, we are pleased to report that HMN is once again available online at www.halkyn.org. If you are one of our ex-pat readers, we would love to hear from you as it would be interesting to list all those places across the country (and abroad?) where HMN is read.

We would like to make a special mention and say a big thank you to Roma Gray who has now retired as one of the volunteers who delivers Halkyn Mountain News. We are pleased that Rory Gray has kindly agreed to take over Roma's delivery area in Pentre Halkyn. We hope you enjoy this edition.



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 it and it will be removed from the website version. Please note we may need to abridge some articles to fit available space.

Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema

We hosted our second screening of the Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema on Saturday 21st March, which proved to be another complete success with all tickets being sold – thank you to all who came along to support this community venture. For our second screening we showed the Oscar nominated film 'The Imitation Game', which is based on a true story during World War II. Keeping to a theme of the era we sold some 1940's homemade Carrot Cookies and Gingerbread Men, along with Popcorn, in ration book style packaging which seemed to go down well.

Our 3rd screening was on Saturday 30th May, when we showed 'The Theory of Everything', another true story, on the life of Stephen Hawking. Unfortunately we can't provide you with an update as this screening took place after the deadline for this edition of the Halkyn Mountain News. We are sure however, this will have been another success.

We have started to sell hot drinks and yummy treats at our screenings, so we wanted to take this opportunity to make you aware that all proceeds from the sale of these drinks and treats helps towards the cinema running costs, as we are a not for profit, volunteer run, community venture. For each screening we have to pay a film licence fee (on average £100) as well as hire costs for the venue, screening equipment hire and purchase of the film. Income from the sale of these refreshments therefore helps towards these costs and also helps us to keep the costs of tickets down, at just £4 if purchased in advance or £6 on the door.

We would also like to take the opportunity to thank once again Pentre Halkyn Post Office, The Blue Bell Inn, Halkyn Sports Association and Cricket Club and Halkyn Community Council for their various help in supporting the community cinema, including providing outlets for tickets to be sold (you can purchase tickets, from about 3 weeks in advance of a screening, from Pentre Halkyn Post Office, The Blue Bell Inn or online via the mountain cinema website).

We are now getting ready for the next couple of screenings which are taking place on **Saturday 25th July** and **Saturday 26th September**, at Halkyn Sports Association / Cricket Club. Doors open at 7:00pm with the film starting at 7:30pm – plenty of time to catch up with friends and neighbours, maybe make some new friends, and have a chat before the film starts or even after. Please do therefore sign up to our mailing list via the website and follow us on Facebook or Twitter to ensure you are kept informed about details of the next and subsequent screenings...

www.mountaincinema.org.uk

www.facebook.com/halkynmountaincinema

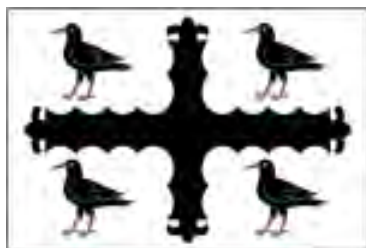
www.twitter.com/mountaincinema

On behalf of all the Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema volunteers, we hope you are enjoying the fun and individuality of the community cinema and that it is bringing our community even closer.

Mountain Cinema Working Group, email: mountain-cinema@yahoo.co.uk

A Flag for Flintshire

The historical county of Flintshire has been granted an official flag by the Flag Institute, the UK's national flag charity which has formal responsibilities for managing the National Registry of UK Flags.



From the beginning of 2015 a group of Flintshire residents came together to start campaigning for a county flag as symbolic means for people to express pride in coming from this wonderful part of Wales

we are so lucky to call home.

The design of the flag is steeped in local heritage and tradition, featuring a version of the coat-of-arms assigned to Edwin ap Gronwy, Lord or King of Tegeingl – an engrailed cross between four choughs (which once flourished along Flintshire's coast). Though Edwin's life is steeped in legend, it is believed that he lived in the 11th century and ruled over Tegeingl, a medieval region which formed the core of the county of Flint, created by the Statute of Rhuddlan in 1284. Often associated in pedigrees with the esteemed Welsh ruler Hywel Dda, Edwin himself was also celebrated as one of the founders of the 'Fifteen Noble Tribes of North Wales', and his descendants continued to play a major role in Flintshire society for centuries. His arms are displayed at historic houses and churches right across the county. More recently, his arms were adopted by the old Flintshire County Council and a host of Flintshire-based clubs, societies and organisations.



By the end of January the Flintshire Flag Supporters' Group on Facebook had received over 200 'likes' from residents keen to see the design adopted. Letters of support were submitted by a fantastic range of Flintshire community groups, historical societies, youth organisations, business organisations, sports clubs, bands and elected representatives. This support was key to the campaign's success, with the Flag Institute confirming the grant towards the end of February. The flag (and car stickers etc.) will soon be available to purchase and an official unveiling will be organised for later in the year. It would be wonderful to see the flag flying at landmarks, events and heritage sites across the historical county. The flag belongs to the people of Flintshire and local clubs, societies, organisations and businesses are free to incorporate it into their logos and display it on their websites. We hope that it will play a part in promoting a strong and vibrant Flintshire brand and instigate an interest in local history, culture and community – for resident and visitor alike. And just as the flag is steeped in heritage and tradition, so too it can play a part in celebrating and recognising our future achievements.

Shaun Evans

Flintshire Flag Supporters' Group / Grŵp Cefnogwyr Baner Sir Fflint (www.facebook.com/FlintshireFlag)

Flintshire War Memorials Project

Shirley Walls of Berth Ddu has asked us to highlight the Flintshire War Memorials Project and appeal for copies of any photographs, letters, family stories or any other information regarding those who died in The Great War 1914 -18 and are remembered on the war memorials of Flintshire.

The website is a virtual memorial and began in 2007 when Eifion and Viv Williams of Sychdyn began to research the names on their village memorial. It was always the stories of the men that seemed important to them, who they were, where they had lived and worked and who their families were. Others have told and are still telling the stories of the battles and the war itself, Eifion and Viv, however, wanted to tell the stories of the men so that they could become more than just names on stones.

The initial project was fairly quickly extended to include the other two villages in the parish of Northop (Northop Parish comprises Northop, Northop Hall and Sychdyn). The original notion of publishing a booklet became obsolete almost before they started to think about it as more and new information was coming in all the time. The idea of a website presented itself as an obvious solution and www.northopwm.com was born.



After the First World War, the people of Flintshire went to extraordinary lengths to record the contribution that each and every serviceman made to the war effort. The County Record Office in Hawarden holds this archive which consists of an index card for each serviceman. The cards belonging to the men who died had the top right hand corner snipped off. Eifion and Viv handled these cards many times

as they researched the memorials and it eventually dawned on them that there was a research job to be done on the whole of Flintshire. www.flintshirewarmemorials.com was created which incorporated the original website.

The task is an enormous one. To research and record the Great War Memorials in the whole of Flintshire is more than Eifion and Viv can manage on their own. They now have a group of volunteers and the website has been adapted so that other people can be given guidelines and passwords to enable them to publish directly on to the website under Eifion and Viv's editorial control.

If you have any information or memorabilia which may be of interest to the project, please contact them via the website. Halkyn Mountain News will also be happy to pass on any information.

Halkyn Mountain News would also be interested to receive any family stories for publication in future editions.

“JOTTINGS” FROM OUR HALKYN COUNTY COUNCILLOR

It is most encouraging to refer to some good news in his quarterly message for a change. The total rejection of the planning application for a very large and intrusive wind turbine in the area, near Hendre, was a remarkable achievement. Very rarely do the Planning Department, the Council Planning Committee, and a very large number of residents all agree. It is an almost unique occurrence, but it was the result of much hard work by a group of determined and very able people, actively supported by over 600 others. It was also a very long learning curve for many of us: for example few people realised that we, both as taxpayers and as payers of monthly electric bills, are actually subsidising wind turbines. Some pertinent arguments against this edifice were its great height (86.5 metres – it would have been the tallest wind turbine in Flintshire) and also it would have brought minimal benefit to Flintshire, which has already reached its target for on shore wind power for 2020. Wind turbines are acceptable in the right place, as are most projects to reduce air pollution.

Once again the much smaller wind turbine in the grounds of Ysgol Rhos Helyg is causing considerable distress to the residents of Berth Ddu and causing parents of pupils at the school much concern. In this case the objection of the Headteacher, of the Governors, and of Halkyn Community Council have been ignored (hardly a democratic situation). Moreover the comments and advice of a local, professional meteorologist, our sorely missed Len Walls, have been disregarded. In particular he pointed out clearly that the configuration of the area and in particular the effect of Moel y Gaer on the micro-climate of the locality was distorted out of proportion, making the site quite unsuitable. It is our earnest hope that common sense will prevail eventually and lead to the removal of this intimidating hazard.

It is good to know that Halkyn Library is well used, but it is essential for the ‘foot-fall’ to be maintained or even increased. Other, larger, libraries in the county are being closed, much to the inconvenience of their present users. This is the result of the Draconian cuts in funding which the County Council is having to accept from the Welsh government in Cardiff.

At the end of April 2015 there was considerable activity on the Mountain in connection with Halkyn Mountain Heritage Week. It has been most encouraging to witness the good attendance of local people and visitors and our hearty thanks go to the staff of the Council and other bodies for all the efforts and hard work in producing and managing this most worthwhile project.

One of the effects of this activity has been to make people more aware of all the many facets of interest that our area possesses, and most importantly to encourage us to try to maintain its unique qualities without becoming too parochial. I must warn people that there is a really vigorous plan by the Welsh Assembly government to link Halkyn with another constituency like Sychdyn or Northop. The sole object of this alarming development is to save money. The more subtle and frightening consequence is that local government will

effectively become less democratic. This process has been going on for some time already. Halkyn Community Council and similar councils have already lost some useful local powers. Here I would like to thank Halkyn Community Council for all its hard work, and to remind everyone that your community councillors are all unpaid volunteers. They work very hard and serve the community as best as they can, but sadly without receiving the appreciation they worthily deserve. In my opinion they are the most important part of our five-layer system of government. It is appropriate at this point to thank that band of volunteers who work tirelessly in producing the Halkyn Mountain News: we are the envy of other districts.

Like many others, I have been without street lighting for over two months. Naturally, I have taken the matter up with the powers-that-be, but with little effect so far. I am pleased to say that the problem for the whole area is being tackled and only waits for Halkyn County Council to choose the best of three statutory tenders at the next meeting so that all the outstanding malfunctioning lights will be corrected.

It has been brought to my notice that in spite of warnings, letters, and articles in this paper and elsewhere, both dog-fouling and attacks on sheep are more prevalent than previously. This is very saddening and it is totally unacceptable. It is illegal to leave dog mess in any public place, even in the country, and especially to the annoyance of other folk. Without going into biological chemical issues, ‘farmyard muck’ is quite different from that of domesticated dogs.

I know that it is good for dogs to be let off the leash, but this is not possible, especially when ewes are in lamb. It is a criminal offence to allow a dog to worry sheep, or to encourage a dog to chase sheep. Sheep can be an infernal nuisance, but they are not so stupid as people believe. Moreover they have very good memories, especially where their favourite food is concerned, e.g. strawberries and roses! They can be persistent, cunning and devious and some breeds are good climbers.

I was seriously delayed in handing this item into the editor because the day allotted for that work was spent following up a case of a tiny lamb, only recently born, which has been savaged by the dog on the loose. The dog had gone for the poorer creature’s jaw, which was in an awful mess. Happily, the farmer was highly skilled and managed to save the lamb. All too frequently other lambs are not so lucky. It is important to realise that the Common Land is, and has always been, a working farm.

Whilst it is good that we have the right to roam over the mountain, we also have quite demanding and specific responsibilities which include preserving the flora and fauna, but also farm animals. When a farmer loses the sheep that is a loss of on average £60, but with a prize animal that could be well be over £200 or more. The total value of sheep killed on our mountain roads can be as much as £500 per annum or even more.

I would like to finish on a happier note and wish everyone a very happy, satisfying, and healthy summer.

Councillor Colin Legg (County Councillor for Halkyn Ward)

Halkyn Community Council

Community Asset Transfer

The Flintshire County Council are consulting with Town & Community Councils in relation to the transfer of Community Assets. In the Halkyn Community Council area, the following assets are owned by the County Council: Community Centre, Pentre Halkyn; The Library, Halkyn; Bowling Club, Pentre Halkyn; Bryn Rodin Play Area, Halkyn; Cae Masarn Play Area, Pentre Halkyn; Village Road Play Area, Rhosesmor; Playing Field, Pentre Halkyn; Football Ground & Premises, Pentre Halkyn; Land at Deelands Park, Pentre Halkyn; the Rhes Y Cae play area was not included in the list of assets.

The County Council are seeking the views of Halkyn Council, as to which, if any, of the above assets the Community Council wish to express an interest, and being transferred, on a lease basis for a period of 27 years. The Community Council have expressed an interest in all of the assets, and are awaiting the financial details from the County. Once the information has been received, should the Community Council decide to consider any transfer of asset, they will consult with the residents of the community, to seek their views.

War Memorials - Additional Names to be Inscribed & Re-furbishment

There are War Memorial Plaques in Halkyn, Rhosesmor, and Rhes Y Cae, which honour those who fell in World War I and II. These Memorials were erected to honour those who had given their lives to secure peace, and also to act as a reminder to subsequent generations that we should never forget their ultimate sacrifice.

The Community Council are obtaining quotations for the re-furbishment of the war memorials within the community. The Council Members wish to ensure that any member of the community, who have lost their life in conflict since World War II, that their name is added to the appropriate Memorial Plaque. Please contact the Clerk to the Council (information below), if anyone is aware of a name that should be added to a Memorial Plaque.

Bus Shelter in The Windmill area

Councillor Howard Morris requested a bus shelter be provided in The Windmill area. He advised that there were a number of senior citizens who regularly use the bus service, and many school children. The Windmill area is open to the various elements of weather, and a bus shelter would be of benefit to the community. Following a request to Flintshire County Council for permission and a request towards the cost, the County Council advised that, due to the limited numbers of buses travelling through the Windmill, the area did not reach the criteria for a bus shelter. However, the Halkyn Council have agreed to take the matter forward. To date the Grosvenor Estate have confirmed that they will part fund the shelter. The Council are now awaiting the observations of Natural Resources Wales.

North Wales Police - PCSO's Visit to Council

PCSO Carol Richards attended a recent meeting of the Council, and advised the Members of the following reported criminal offences: burglaries on Pentre Road

and The Nant; criminal damage in The Catch area; various thefts, including heating oil; the taking of photographs of a property in Pentre Halkyn.

The Council Members enquired with PCSO Richards in relation to various concerns, two in particular, relating to vehicles parked on footpaths and night shooting in Rhes Y Cae. PCSO Richards advised that she will be attending a meeting with the Halkyn Ranger, to discuss parking on footpaths. PCSO Richards was not aware of any reported late night shooting instances in Rhes Y Cae, but would re-check the system.

Wind Turbine at Ysgol Rhos Helyg Primary School

The Community Councillors have received numerous complaints in relation to the unacceptable noise emanating from the wind turbine at the school. The Community Council have written to the County Council on a number of occasions, in respect of the residents' complaints, and advising of the Council's serious concerns in relation to the turbine, and in particular, the noise impact and general safety issues.

Councillor Robinson reiterated to the Community Council that the installation belongs to Flintshire County Council and was installed by them on their own property. Although the school benefits from some free electricity, Rhos Helyg has no control over the installation, *it cannot be stopped or slowed down manually at the school*. Neither the school, its governors nor Councillor Robinson have any responsibility for the installation of the turbine or the noise it creates; this lies with the Renewable Energy Department of FCC.

However, Councillor Robinson (as Chair of Governors at Rhos Helyg) in conjunction with the headmaster did work hard to have the turbine blades removed and replaced. These were also deliberately kept down during the worst of this winter's weather. Councillor Robinson also reminded members that he personally had opposed the scheme from its inception but added that, at the planning stage nobody could have imagined just how much noise would be generated.

Despite expressing dismay at the bad publicity and poor community relations created for the school and its staff, the school has been informed by Flintshire County Council that all possible measures have been put in place to ensure safety and considerable expenditure undertaken to remedy noise levels. Essentially, the school cannot simply ask for it to be removed without considerable pressure from the community supported by provable data regarding noise. It should also be emphasised that Halkyn Community Council have not contributed in any way to the cost of the turbine or any ancillary installations, nor has any expense been paid by the school. All costs are born by FCC.

Donations and Financial Support;

The Community Council have provided the following financial donations, since the last issue of the HM News; Marie Curie Cancer Care (Rhyl) - £100.00 / Halkyn Cricket Club - £1,000.00 (towards new equipment) / Christchurch, Rhes Y Cae - £700.00 (towards emergency tree felling) / Urdd Gobaith Cymru - Flint Eisteddfod - £500.00 / Rhes Y Cae Sheepdog Trials & Horse Show £250.00 / Rhes Y Cae Village Hall - £449 (towards running costs) / Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema (Payment of £184.61, from a donation of £300.00 - towards start-up costs).

Phillip Parry, Clerk to Halkyn Community Council
Tel; 01352 7205 E-mail; halkyn.council@btinternet.com
www.halkyn.org.uk

GROSVENOR ESTATE UPDATE

Since the last edition of Halkyn Mountain News, we have had to say goodbye to Bill Leck who retired after over 20 years of working with us at Grosvenor Estate. We would like to thank him again for his massive contribution towards the management of Halkyn Common.

We are delighted that Kirsty Walker is taking over from Bill and continuing with his good work. Kirsty has been at Eaton Estate for quite a few years. She now joins the Halkyn team overseen by Tom Birtles, and will be responsible for managing Halkyn Common on a day-to-day basis. She has already visited the Common several times and is grateful for the warm welcome that she has received from residents and businesses.

We were very happy to host a visit from the Chief Executive of Natural Resources Wales. During the site visit he met with Tom Birtles from the Estate, representatives of the graziers' community and Flintshire County Council. It was clear that he is keen for Natural Resources Wales to strengthen links at all levels and work concurrently with other parties. It is very encouraging to have such positive interest and commitment from the highest level of the organisation.

We would like to congratulate everyone involved with the recent Halkyn Heritage Week. This was a great event to celebrate the area's rich heritage and one that we were extremely proud to support. Let's hope that this is something that will be repeated in future years.

We hope that the summer brings a bit more in the way of sunshine, and that you'll all be able to enjoy the magnificent walking routes that the Common has to offer. It's worth checking out some of the guided walks organised by Bluebell Inn or through the Mountain Ranger, Rachael Watson. If you do decide to explore independently, please be mindful of the environment and wildlife, and keep dogs on a lead at all times. More importantly, please do stay safe and take note of the Halkyn Common Code, found on

www.halkynmountain.co.uk

FORTHCOMING MOUNTAIN 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 mountain's 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.

GRAZIERS NEWS

As far as I am concerned it is nice to see some parts of the mountain being cut back, which benefits both the sheep and wildlife, but in the process of carrying out this work we have found that there are a few people who are not happy with what we are doing and tell the people carrying out the work in no uncertain terms.

The area being worked on has been mapped by Natural Resources Wales and written consent issued detailing how the work should be carried out and we have also consent from Grosvenor Estates. If anyone has a problem they should contact Natural Resources Wales and not the person doing the work.

What is also annoying is the fact that some of the people complaining that we are destroying the common for wildlife have dogs with them which are running wild, disturbing the nesting birds and other wildlife that are trying to breed at this time of year.

We are still trying to get funding for the remaining cattle grids. The funding from the Aggregates Levy Board will only amount to some 75% of the cost, leaving us to find approximately £30,000 to fund just two cattle grids. We are currently looking at ways of reducing the cost and trying to source other funding.

The mountain is becoming more popular these days, people coming from further afield to walk dogs, ride horses, or just walk. If we want to preserve this brilliant amenity it should be our responsibility to ensure that these people are aware of the Countryside Code and the various laws and acts that apply. If we want to maintain/improve the area people need to get involved.



HALKYN WI

Now that spring is here our meetings are held in the evening at 7.15pm. The first was our April meeting which was also our Guest Night when we were entertained by Descanu, a recently formed trio who sing modern and traditional songs. This was followed by a buffet prepared by the members.

Our May meeting will be held on May 14th when our speaker will give an insight into the setting up of the first Intensive Care Unit. Future talks will be the story of a maid from Erddig and Australian Culture.

Future social events will be the Birthday Lunch at the Talardy Hotel St Asaph; a day of pampering at Kelsterton College; and a visit to Dunham Massey.

The Craft Classes continue to be held at the Village Hall every Thursday at 2.00pm

Halkyn Heritage Week

Halkyn Heritage Week was a great success. I was on tenterhooks the week before as, after days of glorious spring sunshine, the weather forecast was dire. However, the wintry weather predictions didn't materialize and, although there were some cold, grey days, the heavy rain held off for most of the week.



We were delighted by the interest and support the week generated. Over 250 people took part. In addition, seven classes of local schoolchildren from Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Ysgol Brynffordd, Ysgol Lixwm, Ysgol Nannerch and Ysgol y Foel in Cilcain came along during the week to meet Iron Age warriors, Victorian quarrymen or Medieval pilgrims, look at the limekilns, collect fossils and have a taste of archaeology.

Despite the grey weather, the week began well with over 50 people attending the lead mining walk on Saturday morning, led by archaeologist Fiona Gale and the Walkabout Flintshire leaders. Walkers were surprised to meet Victorian boys sorting the waste rock who answered their questions with confidence. Next they came across three miners having a break who talked about their lives, their work and their health. The graphic descriptions of bellan (lead poisoning) are something that many will remember! With thanks to the local children and adults who took on characters so well and entertained us all.

On other days re-enactors helped local historians bring other aspects of Halkyn's heritage to life. James Kendall and his partner Lea, were magnificent Iron Age warriors. They set up camp on the top of Moel y Gaer, and their presentations captured the imaginations of adults and children alike. Michael Roberts showed his versatility, becoming a Victorian quarryman one day and a Medieval pilgrim the next!

Local County Councillor Colin Legg, co-led an interesting geology walk with Mike Taylor of Flintshire Countryside Service. Colin's wonderful geological layer cake

was much appreciated at the end of the walk!



On Thursday and Friday, Clwyd and Powys Archaeological Trust took over the former Rhes-y-Cae school, running archaeological activities for the schools and a taster session for interested adults, which generated lots of interest. Many people commented how good it was to see the old school back in use.

The educational activities provided some of the most memorable moments - the enslaved and roped Rhos Helyg pupils walking up Moel y Gaer to be taken before Caradog the Iron Age chieftain; Ysgol Nannerch pupils scampering around the old quarry gathering rocks and fossils before walking back

laden with 'treasure', the excitement of Ysgol Lixwm and Ysgol y Foel pupils unearthing artefacts in the sand or trying to reconstruct pots with the archeologists.

Year 3 and 4 pupils from Ysgol Brynffordd were enthralled by the Medieval pilgrim they met on the common. It was lovely to watch them sitting in a grassy hollow in the sunshine, completely captivated by his stories and somewhat questionable 'holy relics'!

"My favourite part was when he showed us the dragon's claw (the one from the Welsh flag) and we found that dragons don't have blood."

Hannah

"We saw a medieval traveller who had a sword and a shield. He showed us a knife, a dragon's claw and a cloth to wipe his bottom on."

Caelan age 8

'It was cool seeing the pilgrim. I want to go again.'

Jacob, age 9

"He showed us a tooth from the donkey that Mary rode on."

Ellie Age 9



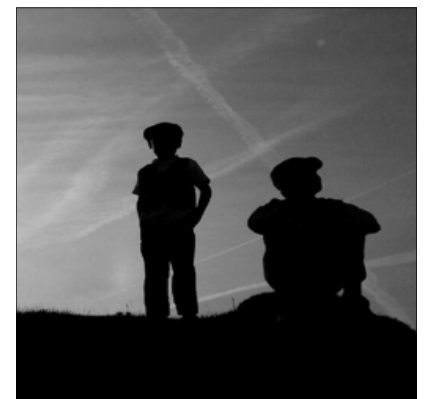
The week demonstrated that many local people are interested in finding out more about their local heritage. Many people asked us if there would be more events and we think there may be sufficient interest to establish a Halkyn Heritage Group. In addition to organizing more walks and talks, the week generated many other ideas including recording memories of grow-

ing up on the mountain, trawling through the census data at the Record Office to find the numbers of lime burners, lead miners and quarrymen to investigate when the different industries were most active and how many were involved in each.

If you would like to be involved, please e-mail Lorna Jenner on lorna.jenner@btinternet.com or leave your name with Steve at the Blue Bell.

Most of all the Halkyn Ranger, Rachael Watson, and I want to thank all those who helped make the week such a success: Fiona Gale who so willingly gave us her time and expertise, the Walkabout Flintshire Leaders who were so supportive and helpful, Steve and Ness from the Blue Bell for their promotion of the week and consistently warm welcome, Shirley and Mary who helped serve refreshments, the adults and children who took part in the costumed guided walks, Katya and Jonathan for their evocative photos and all who participated in many of the activities.

Lorna Jenner



UNDER HALKYN

The next time you are walking the byways of Halkyn, with the sun on your back or perhaps, more likely, the rain in your face, consider this: there are pathways in Halkyn where the weather virtually never changes, there is no sunshine, ever, and day and night barely exist, unless you define them by time alone, for the darkness is permanent and complete.



Old tunnelling equipment

I am talking, of course, of the three dimensional labyrinth of tunnels and passages under your feet, almost anywhere you go in the Halkyn area. Some of these passages are not far below the surface, representing the work of the earliest lead miners: some say the Romans constructed these early tunnels but evidence of Roman activity underground is difficult to find in the Halkyn area so it is more likely that they only worked the lead outcrops from the surface.

However, tunnels dating back several hundred years do exist, and can sometimes be accessed, but there are many problems getting into these old tunnels and exploring them, because the miners, understandably, did not give a high priority to leaving their mines in a safe and comfortable condition for future mine explorers. I suppose in fact that they would be flabbergasted to learn that anybody would want to go underground at all if there was no longer lead there.

But we do, and there are about thirty five miles of explored passages under Halkyn and district. Add to this the unexplored passages that we know about from old records and abandonment plans, and add in an estimate of the unrecorded, old mines and the unofficial mining that we know took place, and this goes up to well

over a hundred miles.

So, put simply there are far more thoroughfares under Halkyn than over it. The largest, longest and straightest of these is of course the one everyone has heard of, the Milwr tunnel, a magnificent mining achievement, constructed in the last century to drain many of the mines in the district down to sea level, thus allowing mining to continue hundreds of feet deeper than had been previously possible.

This tunnel is eight feet wide, eight feet high, and ten miles long, starting just below sea level in Bagillt and ending at Cadole near Loggerheads - that is to say under Cadole, as it never sees the light of day after the portal at Bagillt. In places the tunnel is over a thousand feet below ground and is not easily entered even from the portal, because from Pen y Bryn in Halkyn to the portal it is a canal. Several deep shafts connect the tunnel to the surface but those that are open are not for the faint-hearted.

In addition to Milwr tunnel of course there are many hundreds of years of mining history in the area and these smaller workings are of great interest, with some workings being so small that they could only have been worked by children, and indeed there can be found evidence of child labour in many of the very old workings.

We must also consider the natural passages; in the Halkyn area these are few, however that only includes the ones we know the locations of. What we do know is that there are many miles of natural passage that have not yet been found.

We know this because history tells us that when Powell's Lode Cavern was breached during mining operations in 1917 Saint Winifred's well in Holywell ran dry 11 hours later, causing problems for the miners and the town alike. Water in Powell's Lode Cavern is now down almost to sea level, but the lake which remains contin-

ues down to an unknown depth.



Weird Growth!

both claims were wide of the mark though eels can be seen in the water flowing from the lake. I imagine they have swum up the tunnel from the Dee estuary and wonder why the sun never rises any more.

The point is that Powell's Lode lake is situated directly below Rhosesmor church, and is now connected to the

..... Under Halkyn (continued)



Milwr tunnel by a branch tunnel known as the Rhosesmor branch, where the water flowing out of Powell's Lode lake now flows into the Milwr tunnel and out to the

River Dee at Bagillt. This very substantial water flow would once have issued from Saint Winifred's well, implying of course that there is a large, now dry, and as yet undiscovered water course connecting Saint Winifred's well with Powell's Lode cavern. So there are natural passages yet to be discovered, and when they are, they will take their place, together with caves in the Alyn valley, in the list of natural caves which have been opened up by the fact that the Milwr tunnel has lowered the water table by several hundred feet.

If any of this has whetted your appetite for things underground, UCET Caving Club is always happy to welcome you as a new member or just an interested party.

Have a look at our website: www.ucet.org.uk

Douglas Thompson

MOUNTAIN SOUP!

Thank you to Shirley Salisbury of Pentre Halkyn for sharing her recipes:



Cauliflower Cheese Soup

Ingredients:

- 1 Large cauliflower (leaves trimmed and cut into florets)
- 1 Large onion (chopped and cut into chunks)
- 1 Potato (peeled and cut into chunks)
- 100g Mature Cheddar cheese (diced)
- 700ml Vegetable stock
- 400ml Milk
- Knob of butter
- Seasoning

Method:

Heat the butter in a large pan. Add the onion and cook for about five minutes until softened, stirring frequently. Add the cauliflower, potato, stock, milk and seasoning. Bring to the boil then reduce the heat and leave to simmer for approximately 30 minutes until the cauliflower has softened and the potato is almost collapsing.

Blend the mixture in a food processor or crush with a potato masher until you have a creamy, thick soup.

Top up with a little more milk to thin a little if serving in mugs.

The soup may be made up to two days in advance.



Pumpkin Soup

Ingredients:

- 2kg Pumpkin (peeled and cut into chunks)
- 2 Medium onions (chopped)
- ½ Teaspoon of allspice
- 1 Teaspoon of butter

Method:

Heat the butter in a large pot.

Add the onions and cook for about five minutes over a medium heat until golden brown.

Add the pumpkin together with enough water so that the pumpkin is half covered.

Cover the pot and cook for twenty minutes. When it is cooked through, add the allspice and blend it into a soup using a liquidiser or hand blender.

Enjoy!

Interview with Kevin and Delyth McIntyre of Halkyn

This interview is the continuation of the article started in the last issue of the Halkyn Mountain News - we left them ascending the Kyber Pass with their 6 month-old son in their VW Beetle in their journey from Kenya to Halkyn via India and Pakistan.

PART 2. From the Khyber to Halkyn

I returned to Pant y Go to hear the conclusion to Kevin and Delyth McIntyre's story of their intrepid journey in 1973 with their baby son, Owen from the splendour and dangers of Afghanistan to a warm homecoming in Wales.

Q: The Khyber Pass has a long history. How did you feel about following in famous foot-steps?

D: Very small and insignificant really; Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan had led their armies along the



same road. And here we three were in our VW Beetle.

Q: What was your first view of the Khyber Pass?

K: We had been told to be careful but I swallowed hard when I saw the local bus bristling with tribesmen armed to the teeth. "Travel in convoy if you can", we had been told but it was easier said than done. The women in their burkas boarded the bus and it vanished in a cloud of diesel exhaust and dust. The homes in that region were heavily fortified. It made us wonder why!

D: But we set out anyway using the road route which ran above the ancient camel trail and soon forgot our worries as we saw the Hindu Kush to the north west in the dazzling sun. Kevin, being a geography teacher, was fascinated by the different rocks and frequently stopped to collect samples to take in our over-burdened Beetle. We still have them; never used! The views were stunning, blue lakes, blue sky and bright cumulus clouds.

Q: Obviously, you lived to tell the tale. What was the next point on your journey?

K: A very steep, tortuous and daunting road took us from Jalalabad and on to Kabul. KJJ 53 had a cheer from us as we reached the top of the pass before descending into Kabul - a fortified town of huge strategic importance. Here we applied for visas to get into Iran. We were careful at all times not to display anything that marked us out as Christians. But for all that, the locals were friendly. One man proudly showed us the rugs he was making by hand. The houses were

small rectangular boxes made from mud bricks. Many have since been destroyed by bombs and artillery. The Kabul River gushes through the city bringing clean water and flushing out the waste.

D: We managed to get visas and set out early next day, south west to Kandahar. If we had been driving a 4 x 4 our journey would have been halved but we had to take a long 300 mile journey south and then 400 miles north west to Herat. When we reached Kandahar (so well known recently as a British military base) it was still 38 degrees at 6pm. We paid 10 shillings for a room in what was the American Road camp. Kevin went to pay the bill because the extreme heat meant we had to leave very early the next morning. He did not come back for a good while. I was panicking!

K: Well, I bumped into a person who knew my dad and we got talking as you do! Del wasn't too pleased! We then drove along the 400 mile concrete road to Herat with the bonnet wide open to help keep the engine as cool as possible. Herat was an unusual town.

Q: In what way?

K: It had huge towers like factory chimneys but these were used in the past as places to commit the dead. Birds picked the corpses clean! We were invited to have a lovely cup of tea with a family who had a shop in the town - no strings attached -just friendship. The Herat Mosque was beautiful with its turquoise Minaret. We then crossed the border to Mashad in Iran and found a proper camp site with facilities.! Here we could wash the nappies in a sink and hang them on a good line and we bought bread of a type we had never seen before. I loved it. They called it "naan" In those days we thought Hovis was unusual. Mashad is an important place of pilgrimage for Muslims and has a wonderful Blue Mosque.

Our next stop was for a swim in the Caspian Sea but we were the only ones on the huge beach. Since then, sadly, the Caspian Sea has become much smaller.

D: We drove on through some spectacular mountain scenery and through a series of sixteen poorly lit tunnels which made the drive to Teheran rather difficult. Teheran, the capital, was very hectic and modern. An impressive Peace Tower dominated the skyline. We gazed up at it and hoped it meant what it stood for.

Crossing the next border brought us into Turkey where we saw Mount Ararat of Noah's Ark fame. Suddenly we noticed a change- the road signs were in roman script. We could actually read where we were going.

And numbers never looked friendlier- normal Arabic numbers. Shopping would be easier. It had been very hit and miss until now.

Q: And what of the people there?

K: Well we saw many groups of Romany people walk-



ing along the roads with their animals. Their bright costumes and brighter smiles were a welcome sight. The first stopping point in Turkey was Van. Sadly much of that place was destroyed in an earthquake. There were no campsites as such but there were camps of road menders who let us pitch the tent by them. They asked us what we were eating. We showed them our macaroni cheese. They looked disgusted and sent over some roast lamb. It was delicious. In the morning, they brought lovely tea to our tent.

Q: Did you sense you were getting to more familiar ground then?

D: We saw the Mediterranean. What a sight for sore eyes. We stopped in Tarsus where St. Paul had been 2000 years ago. Then went on to Antalya for a few days where we relaxed and swam. The Roman remains in that area were magnificent but sad to see how they were little cared for. Owen was now trying to take his



first steps, and teething on pebbles. Shortly after one swim in the Med we noticed that Owen had a red rash. Luckily we met a nurse from Australia who checked him over and declared he had German measles. Strange to look back now and think Owen worked for two years as a doctor in Australia diagnosing other peoples illnesses!

K: We crossed the Bosphorous on the ferry; no bridge in those days, and entered Europe, a much greener

land. We camped and noticed Owen was pulling himself upright on the tent pole. He said his first word, "Dadda". Ancient Istanbul must have inspired him.

D: As we headed north, the weather became cooler and wetter. In Austria, we stayed in a chalet and experienced duvets for the first time. In Munich, we camped by the Rhine and shivered. Our clothes were quite unsuitable. We also wondered at the orderliness of it all - Clipped grass, signs, and tidy people and buildings. The untamed nature of the Khyber seemed to be from a different world.

K: We crossed on the ferry to Dover and at the customs we were asked if we had anything to declare. "Yes", we said. "The car." When we arrived at Del's parents' home in Holywell, there were "Welcome Home" banners and a list of all the places we had visited since leaving Kenya. It had taken us 3 months, 10,000 miles by sea and road, a broken piston but no punctures.

Q: How can you sum it up?

K: Our whole journey had been an amazing adventure and privilege. An unforgettable journey.



Steve Blakesley (interviewer)



BLUE BELL INN



Glass & Paper Recycling

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


**Rhosesmor Rd
Halkyn**


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

Halkyn 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.**





Children's Pages

A few words from Ginnie the Donkey

One day recently, I was having a long think about what to say in this edition of the Halkyn Mountain News. It was around midday and it was just an ordinary sort of day. I had woken up at my usual time and poked my head out of my stable and having decided that it was warm enough had ventured out for a stroll. Yes, it was just an ordinary day, but quite suddenly the sky started to go dark. I know I am not a young donkey, and my memory can play tricks on me, but I was sure that I hadn't yet had my lunch and yet it was getting dark as if it were bed time.

I noticed the magpies had stopped chattering, which is very unusual for magpies as they love to gossip. I was getting a little concerned so I called my son Danny who scampered towards me full of excitement as he had noticed quite a large number of humans had gathered at the top of the mountain. He said he had heard them talking and they were going to watch an eclipse. Neither Danny nor I knew what an eclipse was but guessed it must be something special. It was getting darker and had it not been for the excitement I would have gone to my stable for a lie down.

It was then that I saw Barbara. Barbara is a ewe who I have known ever since she was a lamb. We met when she caught her wool on some gorse and became stuck. I had been able to nudge her free and we have been friends ever since. Barbara spends her days on the mountain and walks for miles in search of the best grass, so she gets to know much about what is going on. Barbara had heard some humans talking and was able to explain to me that an eclipse is when the moon passes in front of the sun. I guess the sun was too polite to ask it to get out of the way.

It seemed to me a simple explanation for why it had gone so dark, so I don't know what all the fuss was

about. Before long it became light again and I went and had some lunch.

Barbara is a lovely sheep, but she doesn't know when to stop talking. By the time she left, I had heard about every new born lamb on the mountain, and had become quite hungry waiting for her to finish telling me about them. She then started talking to me about someone called Wynne Turbine who lives near the school, but I'm afraid I had lost my concentration by then. She said something about him being noisy but then she's not very quiet herself. I once met her entire family, Barry, Bartholomew, Mark, Mary, and Martha. They all spoke at the same time. I quite enjoy a chat with one sheep but a whole flock is too many.

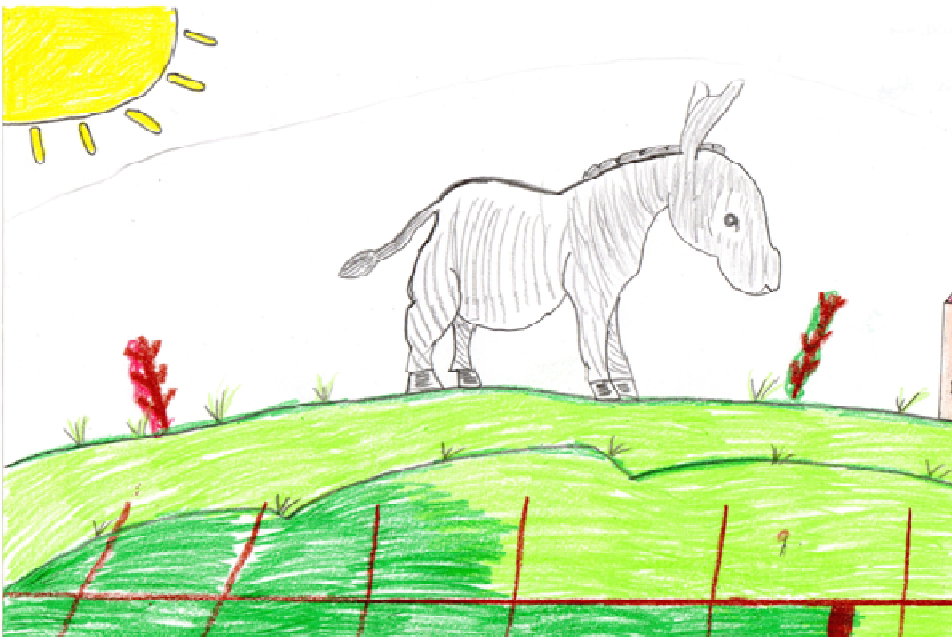
I am so pleased that so many children have drawn wonderful pictures of me for the competition. I no longer have my model donkey looks but some of the pictures are very flattering! Thank you everyone who has taken the time to draw and paint me.

I am looking forward to the warmer weather. I do love to feel the sun on my back. During the warmer weather more humans come and visit me. I do like these visits especially the very young children who are lower down for me to see and often bring me carrots. There is nothing quite so tasty as a nice fresh carrot.

Well, I think I have said enough for now. I shall retire to my stable for forty winks.

Goodbye for now my friends.
Ginnie

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



Prize - winning drawing of Ginnie by Riley from Ysgol Rhos Helyg.

Drawn when the sun wasn't hiding!

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 staffs are CRB checked and qualified and all certificates are available to see. We welcome children from nursery age up to year 8 in high school.

Holiday club

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

Opening times for holiday club only

8am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri

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

Prices for holiday club only

£21 per child for a full day; £15 per child for half a day (till 1pm)

Opening times for after school club only

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

We have a large hall area where we enjoy

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 www.ysgolrhoshelyg/holkyn.asp



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

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

We welcome all children from age 2½!

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

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

The cost per session is £7.

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

First session free!



**Contact
Leanne on
01352
780265**

Halkyn Mountain News Children's Drawing Competition

In the Spring edition, children were invited to submit their own drawing of Ginnie the donkey, as featured in the News.

There were many talented drawings, especially from children at Ysgol Rhos Helyg. After much debate, an overall winner was selected and two runners-up. The prize for the winner was a WH Smiths token for £20, donated by Halkyn Castle Wood Caravan Site (01352 781908).

The two runners-up were awarded tokens of £10 each, donated by the Mountain News in light of the high quality of their drawings.

All the winners were from Ysgol Rhos Helyg. In fact, children from Year 4 and 5 produced such good work that all entrants were given a small reward for their work and for making it so difficult for the judges!

Congratulations to Riley, the overall winner (see the picture opposite), while Tay and Meredith also thoroughly deserved their prizes.

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.

Blue Bell Inn,

Our last quarter has been a mountain of fun, plenty of stunning music, films, acting, geology, archaeology and walking! We featured in ITV's Coast & Country programme where Fiona Gale and Rachel Watson came across very well and we hope we raised Halkyn Mountain's profile further as a place to visit. If you put 'Catch up: Coast & Country - Series 3, Episode 3' in your web browser you can see it if you missed it.

To add a little more shine to the new year we were lucky enough to be voted as our local 2015 CAMRA branch Pub of the Year again, the next stage is to the regional Pub of the Year competition and much thanks should go to the team here who helped us get there. A few years back we were successful at winning the regional competition but the geography has since changed so now we're competing for the national Welsh CAMRA Pub of the Year title!

Enormous thanks should also go to Lorna Jenner, Fiona Gale, Rachael Watson, all our walk leaders and everyone else who made Halkyn Heritage Week such a success. We must have had over 80 walkers on the first day with the vast majority here for the first heritage walks and the surprise of meeting lead miners enroute.

Music...

We had some wonderful music in February with Frank Welcomme, John Finnan & Andy Chrimes who always make a special night for us, Booked nearly a year in advance Rose Price brought two fantastic Friday nights giving Phil Hotchkiss a well earned break. Phil continues to add to his Friday night repertoire with more than 100 songs on the ever growing list, you should get down if you like to sing, either up on the microphone, joining in with everyone else or listening to the fun. His range of music covers fifty years or more so you're bound to find something you like. We're also getting a growing audience (with participation) for Ar Y Gweill's shanty themed nights on the 4th Thursday in the month with shanties interspersed with many other lovely tunes and many you can join in with.

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 continue to provide it for free (although you do get the chance to contribute to and even win the raffle towards their expenses)! I hope you can get down to our folkish type music every Thursday from a variety of regular singer songwriters, Phil's Friday Singing Night, Trad Jazz every Sunday afternoon with Mad Ed's Hot Five and the Rantin' Dogs monthly on the 2nd Monday.

Free Guided Walks...

You know walking is good for you, it keeps you fit and active and best of all, unlike that expensive sports membership, here at the Blue Bell Inn, it's free! Like last year we're hoping to repeat actually seeing the mid-summer sunset again this year in June. Come for a Summer Solstice walk on Saturday 20th June at 9:15pm and back for a beer or hot drink! We're also planning Halkyn Walking Festival during the first week of July so if you haven't already, get those boots out and dust them off!

We continue to walk every Wednesday evening at 7pm in the summer, Thursday afternoon at 2pm and Saturday morning at 10:30am with two walks each day, one demanding, the other demanding enough!

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

New stuff...

On the subject of new events, we're contemplating 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 (or 2nd



Blue Bell continued ...

Mon after a bank holiday) at 2pm with some very good speakers.

Community support...

PARCELS/MAIL:

If we're in (and we usually are) have your parcels/mail 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! FRESH VEGETABLES:

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, leave a note for him here or drop him an email p.handley@tiscali.co.uk for a regular.

RECYCLING:

We have facilities for you to recycle glass and paper and you are very welcome to use them but please don't leave anything that isn't in either of those two categories.

We'll sign off now by saying that we're open weekdays (except Tuesday) & weekends where the espresso machine and kettle are on for organic and fairtrade hot drinks 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 is to come and pick up and take away an events sheet from a table here 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.

See you at the bar.

Steve & Ness Marquis

We hope that you find the articles in the

Halkyn Mountain News

interesting and informative.

Perhaps you are the member of a Club or Society that you would like others on the Mountain to know about, or to encourage new members.

Perhaps you remember people, places or events from the past that would intrigue others.

If so, let us know. If you want to give us an article it can be left at the Blue Bell Inn or the Britannia Inn or send it to the email address on the cover. If you would prefer, someone could interview you to create an article - just let us know.

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



From the Rev'd Hugh Burgess

Rhydymwyn 1 May 2015

Dear Friends

I may, in the fairly past have written about how, when under significant pressure at work, I came to dig up part of my garden and to plant vegetables. Early in the morning I would then lie on the grass and, as it were, watch the plants grow. My boss at the time pointed out how, when we are under pressure, it is natural to go "back to the soil". It is certainly enormously relaxing and distracting to be out in the garden, digging, planting and seeing new life spring from the soil.

It is even more of a joy to eat the things you produce, or at least it would be if it weren't for snails, carrot root fly and, this year, the mice. Those "pesky meeses" have cunningly gone down my nice neat rows of beans nipping of the new shoots at ground level before digging up and chewing the seeds. Having spent hours in the greenhouse raising the young plants, I thought I'd be really annoyed to find all that work being eaten by the mice. Perhaps because it's early enough in the season to recover the situation, it's actually been quite amusing, not least because they've been SO tidy in the way they've done it. The peas didn't even get a chance to come up: Each one has been neatly excavated and removed. It'll be interesting to see how I feel if they are still winning in a month or two. I may feel differently then!

I know that vicars like to draw obscure meaning out of stories and that we also like to moralise and so, in order to maintain that perception, here are two thoughts that come out of my providing the mice with food.

First, we spend a huge amount of our lives investing in things from which we often don't benefit directly. I remember being quite upset that when I left one distribution company in 1989 after 10 years, most of the businesses and operations that I'd helped set up had already closed because the business was changing so quickly. At the time it felt as though a huge amount of my life had been expended on stuff that was very tem-

porary. I suspect that many people probably feel like this, perhaps when they are coming towards retirement and look back at their life's work. The pace of change is so great that it's almost inevitable, I suppose.

The second thing that strikes me (and it's closely related to the first) is the unseen impact that things we do can have on others. Very often things we do seem small and insignificant to us but they can have a major impact on others, an impact of which we may never be aware. As someone who sometimes speaks before thinking, I'm aware that my words or motivations can sometimes be misunderstood and may even hurt, although this would never be my intention. However, it's the positive impacts that concern me more. A smile or a kind word or deed that perhaps costs us nothing can have a major effect on the person receiving it. I sometimes tell the story of the lady whose life was changed after she came to a church I was at following the death of her husband by suicide. After the service every single person in the congregation spent a few minutes with her. Few words were said but that act of kindness, which cost each of those people so little, changed the course of her life. Those who gave her a few minutes of their time, an act that cost them very little, to this day have no idea of the huge positive impact their actions had in helping her.

I'm a great fan of the television programme DIY SOS – The Big Build in which a team of builders enlist the help of local trades (plasterers, electricians and so on) to transform the house of a family who have fallen on hard times. (I always shed a tear or two during "the reveal" at the end of the programme!) At the end of the programme Nick Knowles usually says something along the lines of "perhaps there is someone near you who needs some help". It's a great sentiment and community is based on each of us looking out for the needs of others. I think that on Halkyn Mountain there is a pretty good sense of community but we can always do more. So my challenge in this letter is to encourage each reader to think about doing a little extra "good deed", offering a kind word, giving a smile to a stranger, offering help to a neighbour. Your small action could change someone else's life! (so long as in your offering of weeding their garden, you don't pull up their prize plants!)

I wish everyone a good summer.

The Chimneys, 01352 741 646
Leete Park, Rhydymwyn,
Mold CH7 5JJ

HALKYN MOUNTAIN PARISH CHURCHES ANNUAL HOLIDAY

Friday July 10th to Friday 17th July 2015

SCOTTISH ISLE OF IONA

At the time of going to press there is one vacancy for this holiday which is a shared room so would need to be female. This is due to someone having to drop out. This is an excellent last minute opportunity for someone to enjoy, and includes all travel and full board and costs just £500.00



If you are interested please contact helentaubman@hotmail.com or phone 01352780292 /07780706726 (or text)



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 à	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 ro- tates be- tween churches
Rhosesmor	6.00 pm Evening Prayer ²	10.00 am Communion	10.00 am Family Service ¹	10.00 am Communion	
Rhesycae	8.45 am Communion	8.45 am Bilingual Com- munion	6pm Evening Prayer	8.45 am Communion	

YOU ARE VERY WELCOME AT ALL OUR SERVICES

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

² When the clocks go back in the Autumn, Evening Prayer at Rhosesmor will revert to 3pm

COMBINED AND SPECIAL SERVICES: In months where there is a fifth Sunday we have a single service for the three parishes. The next combined service will be held in Rhesycae at 10.30am on Sunday, 30th August and the following one provisionally at Rhosesmor at 10.30 on the 29th November.

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 7.00pm (although the opening and closing times may vary slightly). There is a small Fairtrade stall with a selection of coffee, tea, biscuits, chocolate and various ingredients. In addition you are welcome to help yourself to a cup of tea or coffee or simply feel free just to drop in and spend a little time in the peace of the church.

EXPLORING FAITH: Our Exploring Faith group meets throughout the year at 7.30pm on a Monday evening in Rhosesmor Village Hall. The topics we look at are very wide-ranging and we have a broad spectrum of knowledge and experience but everyone fits and enjoys the sessions. If you are interested in finding out more, please give Hugh a call.

**For further details of any of these
events please contact:**

**The Rev'd Hugh Burgess on
01352 741 646**

hugh@halkynparish.wanadoo.co.uk

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 in any message you leave.
Thank you

You can also get details of events and

find out more about us on our web-site www.halkynparishes.org.uk

HALKYN PARISHES CHILDREN AND YOUTH MEETINGS

Please phone 01352 780740 or email lfearnhead@hotmail.co.uk for further info.

Bright Stars is the children's Sunday Group of St Paul's Church Rhosesmor, serving all the Halkyn Mountain Parishes. Children who attend are aged from 4 upwards. 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.

'Biscuits' – fun club - age 10 and upwards meet Thursdays 6-7pm during term time in Rhes-y-Cae village hall. All are welcome.

Sunday - Bright Stars 10am

May 24th HALF TERM
May 31st HALF TERM/JOINT SERVICE
Jun 7th Bright Stars Rhosesmor Village Hall 10:00
Jun 14th All Age Service St. Paul's Church 10:00
June 21st Bright Stars Rhosesmor Village Hall 10:00
Jun 28th Bright Stars Rhosesmor Village Hall 10:00
Jul 5th Bright Stars Rhosesmor Village Hall 10:00
Jul 12th All Age Service St. Paul's Church 10:00
Jul 18th Barbecue and Open Mic Greenfield Holy Trinity Church.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Sep 13th All Age Worship St Paul's Church 10:00

Thursday – Biscuits 6pm

Jun 11th Biscuits Rhes-y-Cae Hall
Jun 18th Biscuits
Jun 25th Biscuits
Jul 2nd Biscuits
Jul 9th Biscuits

Sep 17th Biscuits.

For more information contact Lynn Fearnhead 780740.

RHOESMOR VILLAGE HALL

As previously explained, due to the source of our jumble drying up, we are unable to support regular sales on the scale achieved in previous years. By the time you read this item we will already have held our only sale for 2015 (Saturday, May 30th). However if you have any jumble to donate the future sales please phone me on 780660, and we can collect and store items in the Village Hall sellers.

Jon Tarry on 780842 continues to be your contact for hiring rooms in the hall. The three areas for hire are:

Main Hall plus Kitchen – licensed for 100 people but a more comfortable number if all seated is 80.
Charges of £10 per hour for one-off booking, £8 per hour for a monthly booking, and £6 per hour for weekly/regular bookings.

Glynn Morris Room – for meetings or parties of up to 15/20 people. Charges are £5 per hour one-off, £4 pounds per hour monthly, and £3 per hour weekly/regular.

Band Room – ideal for groups of up to 5 or 6 members or a meeting for up to 12 people: charges as per Glynn Morris Room.

Geoff North,
Secretary, Rhosesmor Village Committee
01352 780660

RHOESMOR W I

We have moved our annual picnic to June 8th instead of July as this year is the centenary of the Women's Institute. We have not yet decided on a venue.

On July 13 one of our members Julie Moxley will give us an insight into her profession with "Life on a renal unit".

August is our holiday month as we have the Denbigh and Flint Show to look forward to on the 20th. Several members will be taking part in the show particularly in the WI section.

Our WI will have an outing sometime in July to Shrewsbury, travelling by train from Flint.

Rhosesmor WI meets in Rhosesmor Village Hall on the second Monday of each month at 7:15 p.m.

We would welcome any ladies who would like to join us. Contact is Mrs Mary North on 780660

Cynfaen Memorial Chapel, Calcoed

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

(C) Denotes Communion Service

June 7th Cyfarfod Pregethu Anniversary Services
Preacher Rev Meurig Dodd:
Welsh 2.30pm. English 6.00pm.

June 14th	(E)	Rev Marc Morgan (c)
June 21st	(W)	Parch J.Bryn Jones (c)
June 28th	(E)	Mr N.Closs Parry
July 5th	(W)	Dr Philip Davies
July 12th	(E)	Rev T.Evans Williams (c)
July 19th	(W)	Parch Marc Morgan (c)
July 26th	(E)	Rev David Harrison
August 2nd	(W)	Parch T.Evans Williams (c)
August 9th	(E)	Mr Dafydd Barker Jones
August 16th	(W)	Parch Marc Morgan
August 23rd	(E)	Rev Marc Morgan ©
August 30th	(W)	Mr Tudur Hughes

Do join us at our anniversary services on June 7th.

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 Kevin Lewis
01352 780297

Capel Salem, Pentre Halkyn

Services at 2.00p.m.

(C) = Communion

June

7th	Mr Peter Sinclair (E)
14 th	Rev. Thomas Evans Williams (W)
21 st	Miss Angela Bebbington (E)
28 th	Mrs Meryl Reece (E) (C)

July

5 th	Rev.Eirlys Williams (W)
12 th	Rev Marc Morgan (W)
19 th	Rev. Hugh Burgess (E)
26 th	Mr David Barker Jones (W)

August: No Services

Croeso Cynnes I Bawb!

Capel Bethel Y Nant

**Pob Sul 2.30 Every Sunday
Do join us!!**

June 7th	Maryl Rees
June 14th	Own arrangement
June 21st	Cymanfa Ganu 8.00 pm
July 5th	Maureen Roberts
July 12th	Shan Morris
July 19th	Eric Green
July 26th	Own arrangement

No service in August

***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

RHES-Y-CAE NEWS

Hel Straeon (Sharing Stories) – Friday 13th February

Many people went to Ieuan Ap Sion's House to hear humorous tales and poems to raise money for the National Urdd Eisteddfod to be held in Flint next May 2016. The local Urdd Committee need to raise £15,000 pounds for this Eisteddfod next year! Ieuan had cooked a tasty hotspot with vegetables (grown in his garden!), followed by delicious home-made cakes which the ladies had contributed. Everyone enjoyed a glass of wine and Ieuan sang with his guitar the song "O Walia, O Walia" and we joined the chorus. Many thanks to Ieuan for such an enjoyable evening. Doilch o gallon, Ieuan!

Coffee Morning – Tues. 17th Feb

About 30 people attended this event including Margaret's little granddaughter Leila – and it was lovely to see her! An excellent turnout from all the villages on Halkyn Mountain. Sincere thanks to the Village Hall committee for organizing this event. They are hoping that there is enough interest to make this a monthly event. The roses looked beautiful on the tables. There was a raffle and the total raised was £90.

Another coffee morning was held on Tuesday, 14 April: many thanks to all who were able to support this event. Brenda Calverley has been a member of Rhes-y-Cae Village Hall committee for many years and has now retired. We wish to thank her so very much for all her contributions.

Joint Service with Chapel – Sun 15th March at 6 p.m.

After the service we had a belated get-together in the church vestry to celebrate Hugh Burgess' 60th birthday. In February Hugh celebrated his special birthday with a few days in Scotland with his family and enjoyed himself immensely. He went to the rugby match at Murrayfield and he supported Wales playing Scotland. Wales won! I'm



sure he looked great in his red jumper! Many thanks to Doreen for producing a lovely birthday cake for this occasion. People from the chapel came to join us and we all enjoyed a glass of sherry or Schloer.

Easter Coffee Morning – 24th March

Many thanks to everyone for supporting us on a sunny but cold morning with some hailstones! Over 30 people came.

The stalls look lovely and colourful! Many thanks to Doreen and Brenda for baking such delicious cakes, especially the fairy cakes in their posh boxes! Thanks to Peter for providing beautiful spring plants in their interesting containers – e.g. miniature red watering cans with "La Maison" written on the front. Thanks also to



Rita for providing daffodils for the tables - they looked bright and cheerful. Finally many thanks to all who donated raffle prizes. Total monies raised was £313 pounds including donations of £40, which makes it all worthwhile. This helps us to keep our little church and churchyard in good condition.

50th Wedding Anniversary – Sun 19th April

Our warmest congratulations to Malcolm and Thelma Griffiths who celebrated this special occasion with family and friends at the Brynffordd Golf Club on the Saturday evening. They had a very enjoyable evening and they wish to thank everyone who kindly sent them many gifts and cards.



"Living Churchyards" (Mynwentydd Byw)

Early February, a noticeboard was placed by the vestry door of Rhes-y-Cae Church to inform everyone about this project - it makes interesting reading, go and have a look as you pass by.

Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema

Many thanks to the Halkyn Mountain Cinema working group who organized two events as the cricket club, namely "The Grand Budapest Hotel" and "The Imitation Game" films, which were a great success.

Halkyn Heritage Week – 25th April to 1st May

This was organized by the Flintshire Countryside Service with grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Cadwyn Clwyd. Our grateful thanks to the Coastal and Mountain Rangers, Rachel, Lorna, Karen and Mike and also Jo, Polly, Colin and John and others, for all their efforts in making the Halkyn Heritage Week so successful. We were very fortunate with the weather - we had some rain, but mainly sunny and windy conditions. Let's hope that we can have this festival again sometime in the future.



Photos were taken on the geology walk and guides were Colin Legg and Coastal Ranger Mike Taylor, explaining how it has influenced land use and industry. It was an enjoyable evening walk, returning to the school for some cake! Many thanks to Dorothy - the sponge cake was nice and moist. Colin explained the various layers of limestone with the use of the cake.

Future Dates

Rhes-y-Cae Show – Friday 24 and Saturday 25th July
Church Stall – Saturday 25th July

Please come and see us and join in the fun. If you have any news for Halkyn Mountain News concerning Rhes-y-Cae and surrounding area, please ring 01352 780371. Gwyneth Hughes

Rhes-y-Cae and Moel-y-Crio Show

(Continued from front cover.)

Handicrafts Sections

- A knitted item for a baby
- A knitted hat
- Small embroidered article
- A door stop - any material
- Small item in cross stitch
- Handmade jewellery
- A welcome sign - any material
- Snapshot with amusing caption
- Photograph of someone or something laughing
- Photograph of an outstanding landmark

- Computer graphic - a party invitation (under 16)
- Mobile phone cover - any material (under 16)
- Decorate a football (primary school age)
- Draw and colour monster (primary school age)
- Decorate a stone (under 7)
- Colour the picture in the schedule (under 5)

Please encourage children to compete this year as the number of entries were well down last year, but they could spend many a wet afternoon doing some craft!

THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR ANOTHER ...

1st HALKYN MOUNTAIN CUBS & SCOUTS

Every Friday Night

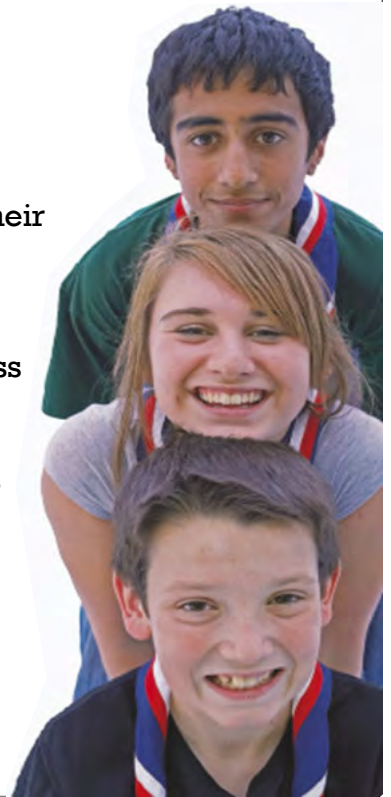
CUBS 6:15pm - 7:15pm SCOUTS 7:15pm - 9:15pm

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.

ALL WELCOME INCLUDING GIRLS

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

Call Jocelyn Peers Group Scout Leader on 07788278884



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 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 IT'S AT
ON A WEDNESDAY NIGHT AND EVERY OTHER AFTER THAT



JUNE 3rd & 10th & SO ON WITH ME
SO COME ALONG, EYES DOWN, A FUN NIGHT YOU'LL SEE

RED LION INN, RHODESMOR

We took over the Red Lion a mere 18 months ago but we feel like we have been here all our lives, this is such a special and surprising little place. 18 months on and the place has had an internal makeover to reinstate some of the character of the building and a brand new industrial kitchen installed to widen our services and appeal. It has been quite a journey so far but we still have a way to go....and as always, open to suggestions as to how to improve yet further and engage more of the community.

Food Served

Starting bar food was such a big step for us and so far we have received unanimous praise for the quality of the food. Our focus so far has been sandwiches, home-made soups, pies and burgers. As yet we have kept the food simple and allowed the freshness of locally sourced products to speak for themselves. Our beef-burgers for example are 6oz of sirloin/rib-eye steak mince from our farm butcher in Buckley just 6 miles away. Our chef then adds herbs, spices, beer (yes... beer!) and onions to the mix and creates the burgers fresh to order.



On the subject of burgers, we now run a man vs food style 'Lion Burger Challenge.' The Lion burger is a titan amongst beefy meals and not for the meek of stomach. 12oz of beef, bacon, onion rings, cheese, coleslaw in a tasty bun plus a side order of garlic bread, onion rings and chips all to be completed in 30 minutes (no leaving the table). Champions are announced on our facebook page and win a free drink and our eternal admiration and respect. So far, only one person has beaten this gargantuan feast, Sam Jones (22 mins, 20 secs).



Bar food is served daily until 9pm.

Every Thursday we offer 10% off for senior citizens. We recently started Sunday roasts here in our new dining room. We do 2 courses for £12 and our delicious deserts are homemade too! Due to the size of the dining area we run 2 sittings 12pm-3pm and 5pm-9pm and we do advise people to book in advance to avoid disappointment. Tel: 01352 331581.



Art for Sale

Hanging proudly in our dining room are various pieces by local artist Alwyn Dempster Jones. Alwyn is a local artist/painter/illustrator and has had his artwork reproduced by The Sunday Times, Times Educational Supplement and The Observer amongst others. His paintings are exhibited in major galleries throughout the country and public and private collections in the UK and throughout the world. We are delighted that he has decided to hang some pieces in our dining room. His artwork can be bought off the walls and reflect the natural world and surrounding, beautiful Welsh countryside.

Easter Competition Winners

We ran 2 competitions over Easter, one for kids and one for grown ups.

A little boy called Alfie (6 years) won our colouring competition and won an easter egg and a family meal discount with this beautiful artwork:



Jamie Griffiths won our hamper raffle in the adult Easter competition.

Weekly Events

Every night of the week has something a little different to offer here at the Red. As always, we are open to suggestions if you want to organise a weekly meet-up.

Monday (open 4pm – 11.30pm)

Food served 4pm until 9pm. We have just started a dog-walking group on a Monday evening from the pub (weather permitting). Leaving the pub at 6.30pm for an on-lead pack walk. Great way of meeting people, socialising our dogs and getting some exercise too.

Tuesday (open 4pm- 11.30pm)

Food served 4pm-9pm. Tuesdays tend to be very traditional with a consistent cohort of local, more mature people affectionately known as 'old farmers' or 'the last of the summer wine club.' No music, just good beer, good company and the crackle of the fire. Sometimes my ol' boys will burst into enthusiastic (and rather melodic) song in Welsh...so much better than a jukebox.

Wednesday (4pm-11.30pm)

Food served 4pm-9pm. NEW to a Wednesday, pie and a pint for £5. The 3rd Wednesday of every month we have a private event but locals are still welcome.

Thursday (4pm-11.30pm)

Food served 4pm-9pm. 10% off food bill for senior citizens. Drink Promotion: Any double for £3.50.

Friday (4pm-12.30pm)

Food served 4pm-9pm. Disco-karaoke from 9pm. Late bar.

Saturday (12pm-12.30pm)

Food served 12pm-9pm, Disco-karaoke from 9pm. Late bar.

Sunday (12pm-11pm)

2 course Sunday roasts served over two sittings: 12pm-3pm and 5pm-9pm, bar food also available. Booking advised: 01352 331581.

Other Events

A full list of events cannot be listed at this time, however if you are on Facebook please find and LIKE our page which is updated frequently keeping customers informed of events, food/drink promotions and much more: RedLion Rhosesmor

Here are a few of our upcoming events:

Sun 21st Jun (Fathers Day) : Steak dinner & pint for £10 (booking advised)

Sat 4th Jul: Wild West Theme fancy dress & rodeo competition.

Sat 5th Sept: Flintshire Real Ale Trail

Sat 19th Sept: Red Lion 2 year anniversary & international talk like a pirate day – pirate party!

Real Ale Trail

On the 25th April we were a host pub for the Ale Trail for the third time. Our focus was Welsh ales, highlighting the 'Big Hand' micro brewery in Wrexham. We always try to source our real ales locally from small breweries to support them and also to give customers a taste of the region.

A picture from April's Ale Trail.



Ysgol Rhos Helyg

Find us at Ysgol.rhoshelyg.com - visit our website to discover school life.

Once again we have had a very busy but very enjoyable term here at Ysgol Rhos Helyg.

Numeracy Project with Wrexham Football Club

Pupils in Mrs Thomas's class have been working on a fabulous numeracy project with Craig Knight from Wrexham football Club. This was a five week project that involved the children applying their numeracy skills to tackle football inspired problem solving activities.

The children visited Wrexham F.C as part of this project.



Lowry Visit

Pupils have been reading the novel The Boy in the striped Pyjamas by John Boyne this term as part of their project they visited The Lowry in Manchester to see the play. What a fabulous experience.

Ysgol Rhos Helyg Gazebo News

School council and eco council are trying to raise money for a gazebo so the children outside can have shade and also a great place to learn and have fun. We are going to have an activity one day a week for five weeks. So far we have raised about £30; we would like to raise £1900! The activities we will be doing are penalty shoot out, own clothes day, Rhos Helyg school children's art sale, car boot sale and a poem book and maybe even a book sale!

Eco-Warrior News by Eco-Club

At Ysgol Rhos Helyg we are very proud of our environment, so much so, we do everything possible to keep it safe and to take care of it.

Living things are especially important to us. We have our very own hens here and at the moment we are incubating chicks. They will come along in a few days' time.

We have been on an energy saving mission. The wind turbine helps to provide clean energy for our school. At the time of writing this article the turbine is creating 1620kw of energy. Harri Edwards States "It is amazing", Meghan Nelson added: "We are saving money so it is a brilliant thing for our school".



Some of our pupils are monitoring electricity by having a 'Switch off the lights' competition with their teacher. Mrs Thomas is losing by miles and when questioned she states; "Although I am losing,

I am extremely proud of the children who are working hard to save energy".

To save a little heating we have ensured that every heater has reflective material behind it. Caitlin Deffee suggested the rooms felt instantly warmer.

We spent an eco-club looking at a graph of our energy use, we found that we were very careful with our energy use although we thought we could improve afterschool and weekend energy use. The suggestion to turn off whiteboards, computers and lights if a teacher is ready to go home; as well as only charging i-pads if they are below 50% charge. We hope this makes a difference.

We are proud to report that every class has an opportunity to learn about fairtrade, the environment and another part of our planet. Millie Chadwick says "it is important to be Global Citizens as we share the planet together, we want our world to be a kind place."

Josie Waring believes that littering is 'disgusting', it can harm animals and it can take hundreds of years to disappear. To fight littering we have composters to re-use food and garden waste. Children in school have volunteered to litter pick at break to keep our school litter free. We feel that we have plenty of bins for non-recyclable waste and we recycle everything possible. We are even using plastic bottles to create a green house.

Please, people of our community take a leaf out of our book and become an eco-warrior. Isabel Kendrick advises try to re-use as much as possible. Take your clothes to charity shops, pass on books to family and friends. Jorja Christleow adds "remember to help the wildlife by not dropping litter".

Millie Botting happily describes our mountain as a "perfect picture". "We want it to stay this way adds Hannah Walker.

PLEASE EVERYONE RESPECT OUR MOUNTAIN!

Memorial Woodland Area

To commemorate the great war of 1914-18 we have planted a Woodland Area



World Book Day



We had a wonderful day at the school celebrating World Book day. Most of the children and staff dressed up as characters from their favourite books to make it a very special day.

Young Voices

Members of the school choir joined hundreds of other school children at the MEN arena in Manchester to perform a fabulous concert.



Year 6 Science Transition Project

Pupils in Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed creating and testing their own parachutes for their science Transition projects with Mold Alun High school.



Forest School

Pupils have been searching the school grounds in order to look at different kinds of habitats. The pupils then filmed the habitats on their ipads.



Traditional Swiss Party

Mrs Meier, a Swiss teacher who has been with us for three weeks treated the children in Mrs Owens' class to a traditional Swiss party. They all obviously enjoyed it.



Worm charming

Pupils in year 1 have been stamping and dancing on the ground in order to entice worms to the surface!



Planting



We have planted many seeds for our school garden over the last few weeks. We have also planted bulbs to brighten the school grounds.

YSGOL RHOS HELYG PTA

What's been happening?

Once again the children have enjoyed several events that have been held in the last term.

Valentines disco - all enjoyed dancing, face painting and coloured hair spraying

Film Nights - Paddington Bear was a great hit for both Infants and Juniors

Toss the Pancake – this was a fun activity for children in school

Easter - Children were encouraged to enter the Easter colouring competition this year – Fantastic entries

What's on over the forthcoming term

How time has flown already; this term is always a busy one for the children with school tests, sports day, summer trips, summer concerts, but we are still hoping to hold the following events

Bingo night, film night, own clothes day, Cheese and Wine evening and our School Summer Fayre.

Sports Day – Refreshments will be available on the day. Please come along and support our Summer Fayre.

This is an annual event that the children love to attend. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us this year!

Once again the PTA would like to thank teachers, parents and children for your continued support and look forward to seeing you at the forthcoming events.

Look out for dates from Newsletters from school.

Regards
Ysgol Rhos Helyg PTA

YSGOL BRYNFFORDD SCHOOL

We would 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.

Care to Share Project

The children in Year 2 have been involved in an exciting project known as the Care and Share Project held in Caerwys Woods in conjunction with Plas Derw. The project ran for 5 weeks and involved the children making puppets, writing scripts and writing invitations etc. They experienced a wealth of Numeracy and Literacy skills through working in the outdoors. As well as Forest School skills. The final session was performing to their parents back at school and teaching them new skills, for example, how to make a willow house.

Swimming

The children from Years 2 to 6 attended Holywell Leisure Centre for a 10 week session of swimming lessons. These lessons are an invaluable way of helping the children become confident swimmers in the water. It is part of the curriculum programme for schools.



Easter Bonnets

Holywell High School More Able and Talented days

Children from Key Stage 2 were invited to attend More Able and Talented session at Holywell High School on Thursday 29th January. The sessions were all day and involved French, Welsh and electronics. The children thoroughly enjoyed their day and the various skills they learnt.

P.C. Gail Sinclair

P.C. Gail Sinclair came into school on 10th February to talk to the children in Foundation Phase about 'Who? What?Where?Take Care!' P.C. Sinclair also spoke to the children in Key Stage 2 about 'What's the problem?' This was part of our Helathy Schools and Police Liaison Programme.

Internet Safety Day

Parents and staff were invited into school on Tuesday 10th February to listen to a presentation given by P.C.Sinclair (Ambassador for Child Exploitation and Online Protection) to discuss Internet safety in the home for both parents and children.

Friends of Brynford School (FOBS)

FOBS organised a film night for the reception to year 6 children on Thursday 12th February which was very well attended with each child receiving a cup cake and drink which was included in the admission price. On Thursday 26th March FOBS held a cake stall in the Octagon at the end of the school day. On the evening of the 26th March in the school hall Ysgol Brynffordd annual Easter Bingo took place and was once again full to capacity raising a whopping £309.54. Thank you to all who donated cakes, prizes and Easter eggs.

Thank you to the parents who continually help to raise money enabling the school to purchase much needed goods for school. Our latest purchase by FOBS is a Clervertouch screen for £3,200.00

Parents Evening

Parents evenings were held on Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th March enabling parents to come in to school to discuss their children's work. Representatives came from Holywell High School to advertise the facilities of the new school.

Maths Day

We had a brilliant day of Numeracy activities on Wednesday 25th February with mixed age groups working so well together. Thank you to Mrs. Ann Jones for ensuring its success. The children learnt several new mathematical skills and participated in workshops both indoors and outdoors.



Urdd

Huge congratulations to all the children who competed in the local Urdd Eisteddfod especially to Rachel who achieved 1st in the flute solo and Holly who achieved 2nd in the same competition and to the reciting party who were a triumphant 1st. Both Rachel and the reciting party will be going through to the National Eisteddfod in Caerphilly to represent Flint/Wrexham. They also performed to Flintshire parents in a 'Winners Concert' on April 28th at Ysgol Maes Garmon. Money raised on the evening went towards the Urdd National Eisteddfod that is to be held in Flint next year. Several Arts and Crafts items went through to the National too from our school. Unfortunately this year we were not placed nationally.



Cycling Proficiency

World Book Day

The children celebrated World Book Day by bringing in their favourite book and talking about it to their class on Thursday 2nd March.

Comic Relief

The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves making their faces funny for money and wearing their own clothes giving a donation towards Comic Relief and helping to raise £99.23 for this worthy cause.

Year 4 visit to Holywell Library

Year 4 pupils were invited to visit Holywell Library on Wednesday 18th March to meet and listen to author Damian Harvey. The library service introduced this service as a national initiative for all Year 4 pupils to join their local library with the intention of boosting children's reading. The children thoroughly enjoyed their morning.

Easter

Easter hat and egg decorating competition was held on Friday March 27th with many children coming into school with some very elaborately decorated hats. Da iawn!

Glan Llyn



The children in Year 6 had a fantastic time at Glan Llyn taking part in canoeing, orienteering to name but a few

activities. The children were able to practice their welsh language skills with staff and other children at Glan Llyn. The children were praised for their outstanding contribution and behaviour throughout their stay.

Bicycle training

The children in Years 5 and 6 received bicycle training on the 20th and 21st of April. The bicycle training was very extensive, teaching the children how to stay safe whilst using their bicycle on the road. Following the training the children were awarded with a certificate.

Netball

The junior children took part in a netball tournament on Tuesday 28th April which was held during the afternoon at Deeside leisure centre. Well done to all who took part! They won in their group – Won 4, drew 1.

Halkyn Heritage Week

Children from Years 3 and 4 took part in a story telling walk on Wednesday 29th April and children from Years 5 and 6 were invited to a taster archaeology session at Rhes y Cae on Thursday 30th April to celebrate Halkyn Heritage Week.

Urdd Football

Congratulations to the 5 a side football team who participated in the Urdd tournament at Holywell Leisure Centre. The team will now represent Flint-Wrexham at the National Finals at Aberystwyth on Saturday 9th May. Pob lwc fechgyn!



5 a Side Urdd Football Team

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.

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Please contact

Mrs J Roberts on 01352 780087

One of an occasional series of articles advising on avoiding problems from Stephen Massey, chiropractor in St Asaph:

Inclusion before the sports section is only coincidental !

Exercising Too Much Is Just As Bad As Not Exercising

"Avoid a sedentary lifestyle!" is some of the most common advice that practitioners give to patients with low back pain. If you are suffering from backache, you know that prolonged inactivity can delay your recovery and even worsen your symptoms.

Staying Active

According to a study published in the August 1st edition of *Spine*, giving workers, who are on medical leave due to low back pain, some counselling on how to stay active can increase their chances of returning to work. According to Peter Donceel, PhD, and Marc Du Bois, MD, researchers from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium, "Combined counselling and disability evaluation by a medical advisor results in a higher return to work rate due to a lower sick leave recurrence as compared to disability evaluation alone."

More than 500 blue-collar workers were recruited for the study. All of whom were on medical leave and were getting routine evaluation by a medical advisor. The workers were randomly split into two groups; one received standard disability evaluation and the other received both evaluation and counselling for low back pain (staying active, avoiding bed rest, and continuing normal activities of daily living). Findings revealed that the counselling group had a bigger chance of returning to work and coming off disability. Only 4% of the patients in this group did not return to work after a year while the evaluation-only group had 8%. The researchers concluded that advice on how to stay active using a rehabilitation-oriented approach is beneficial for patients, decreasing the rate of recurrent sick leave.

What is "Exercising Too Much"?

There are numerous things you can do to avoid being sedentary. You can exercise, do yoga or Pilates, do light jogging or walking. Staying active has been proven to help in decreasing your symptoms, but too much of anything can be harmful.

According to a report in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, "Training very hard may be as bad for you as not putting on your running shoes at all." In this report, it was stated that brisk walking is more beneficial.

This study shows that you don't have to run marathons to keep your heart healthy. Light and moderate jogging was found to be more beneficial than being inactive or undertaking strenuous jogging, possibly adding years to your life. National guidelines recommend we do 150 minutes of moderate-intensity activity a week. It may sound like a lot, but even brisk walking is good exercise. And if you're bit of a couch potato, this is a good place to start.

– Maureen Talbot, senior cardiac nurse at the British Heart Foundation.

When you push your own body limits too far, you are exercising too much. Over-exercising will not help you resolve your health issues. It can, in fact, be very harmful.

Here are some signs that you are over-exercising:

1. Muscle soreness all the time.
2. Dehydration.
3. Nausea.
4. Rapid heartbeat.

Chiropractic Care for Low Back Pain

Aside from doing manipulative therapy for your backache, chiropractors may provide an exercise programme after a careful evaluation to make sure your activities will not worsen your symptoms

By Stephen Massey BSc DC St. Asaph Chiropractic Clinic
01745 535854

Halkyn Cricket Club

The new season got underway on Saturday 18th April in glorious sunshine. Halkyn 1st X1 began the campaign with a convincing home win against Mochdre 2nd X1. In the following home game on 25th April the 1st X1 again recorded an impressive home win against Gresford 2nd X1, set a challenging 189 by the visitors Halkyn reached 190-5 with a career best 90 by Alex North being the highlight. Led by new captain Greame Settle the team are hoping to build on these two victories.

Halkyn 2nd X1 led by new captain Keith Williams faced a tough opening fixture away to newly relegated Castell Alun 1st X1. Despite a stubborn 19 by Tony Green Halkyn could only post 58 and Castell Alun reached the target for the loss of one wicket. With players returning after the football and rugby season the 2nd X1 will be in a stronger position.

JUNIOR CRICKET - This year we are hoping to run teams at under 9 and under 11 in the North East Wales Junior League coached once again by Andy Bellis and managed by Jane Williams. We are in need of more junior players. Training sessions take

place at the ground on Friday evening starting at 6pm, drinks provided and at a cost of £1 per session. NEW PLAYERS ARE MOST WELCOME. Please contact Jane Williams on 01352 781523/07732325033 or janewilliams2810@gmail.com

NEW FACILITIES - Work began on the new single lane net facility in late February. Club members then completed the net assembly at a well attended club work party day on Saturday 28th March, they are now up and members are making good use of them.

MATCH DAY SPONSORS - We would like to thank the following who have supported our match day fixture poster. For further information or to sponsor a game please contact Keith Williams on 01352 781523:

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UMPIRE - The Club are looking to recruit an umpire, no qualifications are required but the club will provide training through courses. Transport and teas will be provided. For further information contact Simon Penney on 07986046881 or Keith Williams on 07510296479



Holywell Golf Club

The club held its Annual General Meeting in the clubhouse on 19th March when Chairman, Mark Smale, was able to report a healthy set of accounts despite having carried out a considerable amount of replacement

and refurbishment work in the last year.

A special award was made to Danny Pierce for completing unbroken 50 years as a member: picture shows Danny receiving the award from outgoing Captain Don Fergusson.



The club's officials for 2015/16 were nominated and elected with Ian Smith taking over as Club President, Pat McDermott as Club Captain and Stephanie Jones as Ladies' Captain.

Captain v Professional Saturday 21st March saw the annual team match when the Club Captain's Team takes on the Club Professional's Team. There were 9 matches played in the morning with the Captain's Team taking a lead of 7½ - 1½ to the afternoon matches.

There were 13 matches in the afternoon when the Professional's Team fought back valiantly taking the afternoon matches 7½ - 5½ but this was not enough to top the Captain's Team taking overall victory 13 - 9. Picture shows Captain, Pat McDermott receiving the trophy from Professional, Matt Parsley.



Captains' Drive In and Fastest

Round The Clubs' Captains "drive into office" on the Sunday following the AGM and this took place this year in bright sunshine. There was a very good turnout of members and families to cheer the Captains on as first the Junior Captain then the Lady Captain sent their ball flying down the middle of the fairway. Finally the Club Captain took his place and with much heckling from the crowd surprised them by doing exactly the same sending the ball 232 yards down the fairway.

Picture shows L-R Club President Ian Smith, Ladies' Captain, Steph Jones, Club Captain, Pat McDermott, Junior Captain, Luciano Civicchoni together with Flintshire County Captain. Wynford Davies.



The Fastest Round Challenge, to get a golf ball round all 18 holes as quickly as possible, proved to be as eventful and as much fun as ever. Over 40 golfers, juniors, ladies and gents took their places around the course before the Club Captain teed off on the first hole. From then on the ball is hit from one player to the next until it ends up in the hole on the green. It is then grabbed and raced to the next tee, by a junior being the only ones fit enough to run fast enough, and this contin-

ues until the ball goes into the 18th hole. The whole round was completed in a creditable time of 27mins 20secs, with only one ball in the water, but this was not enough to beat the record of 23mins 9secs set in 2009.

All money raised by people guessing how far the Captain would hit his drive and the time for the fastest round was donated to this year's Captain's Charity, Macmillan Cancer Support.

Winter League Final Placing The 2014/15 winter league came to an end with the last Sunday giving us the weather we have come to expect with glorious sunshine and a light breeze greeting competitors for the final round of this year's league.

The latter weeks of the league saw the competition develop to a race between the pairings of G. Evans & C. Roscoe and P. Newton & D. Andrew, it was Paul and Dave who took second place on the final day with good score of 29 pts but it was not good enough to knock Geoff and Colin off the top of the league with their 27 pts good enough to win by 2 league pts.



Picture shows winners Geoff Evans and Colin Roscoe receiving the Tony Jolleyman trophy from the Club Captain.

Retired Gentlemen's Section - The Auld Memento

This trophy, played for annually by members of the RGS, was donated in 1985 by the then club steward, Mr. Sid Auld and his wife 'Van', the competition is medal format Sid and Van donating the prizes each year. All proceeds from the competition are donated to a charity of their choice. Originally named the Stewards trophy it was renamed the Auld Memento in 1986.

The competition was played this year in fine weather but fighting strong winds on Tue 27th April and was won by Club President Ian Smith. Pictured L-R are Sid, Ian and RGS Chairman Elwyn Robert. Sid and Van being great supporters of cancer charities donated the proceeds of £200 this year to the Club Captain's Charity, Macmillan Cancer Support. Elwyn and the Captain, Pat McDermott expressed the thanks of the RGS and Club for the support Sid and Van have continued to give to this competition for the past 30 years.



Membership - Membership fees at Holywell continue to be the best value in North Wales, with £498 for a full adult. Two new members joining from the same address get two for one in their first year and we still have a new members fee of £200 in the 18-30 age group.

If you just want to get into golf, then we have our New2Golf scheme where you can join a development group for only £110!

For more information on our facilities and restaurant, to play or join Holywell Golf Club please visit our website www.holywellgc.co.uk or email: secretary@holywellgc.co.uk or phone 01352 710040

Halkyn United Football Club Back on the Rise

Halkyn United have a strong history of both success and development of good young talent, and after a few years of struggle the football club are now starting to move forward with a passion to resurrect the past glories of the club.

Over the last few years there has been a lull in the progress of the club, however with the appointment of New Manager Graham Duffield, who has a strong background in the professional game, things are now starting to take shape.

Since joining the club Graham has brought into the club some very talented players to complement the very good players who were already at the club. When speaking to Graham recently it is very apparent the passion he has for bringing the youth into the club and building a strong Youth team and Reserve team to complement and support the progress of the First team. To do this he is busy working with present chairman Ray Roberts Vice Chairman Don Barker, Secretary Debbie Paul and newly appointed Commercial Manager Brian Kelly to structure the club correctly whilst moving the club forward both on and off the pitch.

Recently the club have confirmed two high profile pre-season friendlies prior to the up coming 2015 / 16 season against FA Cup giant-killers Warrington Town and against the Royal Air Force. The club are presently negotiating to bring another high profile Friendly to the pre season schedule.

Like any project, things are very much ongoing and there are a number of signings for the next season that we hope to be able to announce in the not too distant future.

With the good season the Halkyn Under 16s have just had, it is firmly in our plans to embrace this great bunch of

young players and bring them under the umbrella of the club to form a large part of the Youth team with a view to helping them through the pathway to senior Welsh Alliance Football. At any successful football club it is crucial the Youth team and Reserve team receive as much support as possible, for the growth of these players is the life blood of the 1st team.

The next stage of development for the club was the club's AGM on the 30th of April at the clubhouse and then to start to put in place the commercial development of the club to support its structural and technical growth. The club would like many new people around the club, volunteering to help us bring it to the community and the community into the club. If anyone would like to be involved in the growth and development of the club please could you contact Brian Kelly on 07787530916 or Graham Duffield on 07899698852.

The club are holding its annual presentation Night at Dukes Bar in Queensferry where the guest speaker will be Tony Bomber Bellew, and as many people as possible are welcome to this. For the entry of £25 there is a two course meal a comedian and after dinner speaker Bellew, along with the presentation of the players' Player Of The Year awards and club's Player Of The Year. We would love to see as many people as possible attending this and supporting the growth of this great club that is truly now 'on the up'.

We had one last home game for the 1st team this season on Bank Holiday Monday, 4th of May at 2.30pm against Bethesda a huge game for the club which we won 2—1 ! If you go on the Halkyn United website and Facebook page, the remaining Reserve team fixtures are on there as well. Come on Halkyn! Get behind your Local club and help us pull together with the community and help these young up and coming footballers to represent their local Club. Graham Duffield

Halkyn & District Bowls Club

It's cold wet and windy. So what are we doing? Why playing bowls of course. In spite of the weather we are so pleased to be outside again. We had our opening day on the 28th March when our chairman Mr Bill Worrall cut the ribbon and declared the green open after which we had a short friendly game to celebrate.

We are having quite a good start to the season. We have played 3 games in the midweek league, one win one draw and one loss. Our other two teams, in the Vets League have had a similar start. The beginning of the season is always very busy with cup matches as well as the league games.

Our first club tournament, The Britannia Cup, which was mixed triples game, was won by Wenna Worrall, Bill Worrall and Keith Roberts. The next tournament was the G Davis Round Robin and was won by Bill Worrall.

On the 26th April there was a tournament hosted by Flint Bowls Club. This was to raise funds for the Bagillt Bowls Club that had suffered badly after a break in at the club.



Several of our members took part, noticeably Mick Carpenter who reached the final. It was a great day with beautiful weather and great food as usual.

The 100club winners are V Marriot, Della Jones and J Jones. At £15 each it's worth winning, anyone can join for £5 a year. This earns valuable funds for our club!

On Sat 25th April at Halkyn cricket club Iris Thomas and Jo Woodruff hosted a party for all the bowls club members and friends. This was to celebrate their 80 birthday. It was a great party with excellent entertainment tasty food and lots of dancing. This party brought one thing into focus. It was an 80th party which shows up our need for some much younger players. In our midweek games we often face some very fit 18 year olds, we give it our best, but you can see our problem. So if you fancy that kind of excitement come and join us, it's a lot of fun.



Contact Bill Worrall 01352 710702 or Linda Kirkam 01352 740454.

See you on the green, Jo Woodruff



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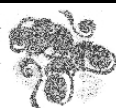
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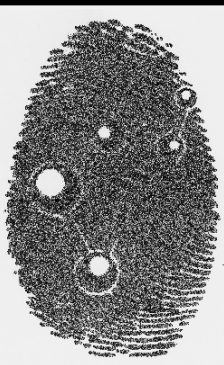
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