



Halkyn Mountain News

Issue 175 - Winter 2018

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Happy Birthday to Us

With the closure of Rhosesmor Post Office and with nowhere to meet and have a natter (OK. Gossip!) three of us thought it would be a good idea to have a Coffee Morning with a Book Swap and Raffle.

The first was held on Monday 20th. October 2008 at Rhosesmor Village Hall and was attended by twenty villagers. Fast forward, and on Monday 15th October we celebrated our 10th Birthday, joined by thirty one of our regulars.

We meet every other Monday between 10:30 and 12:00 but some do turn up quite a bit earlier. You know who you are, and of course you are very welcome, as is everyone.

Thanks to the wonderful support we've had over the years we have been able to donate over £4,500 to different charities including Cancer Research, Marie Curie Nurses, St Pauls Church, MacMillan Cancer Care and RNLI to name but a few.

Our regulars come from as far afield as Northop, Sychdyn, Flint and Mold as well as all the local villages.

So, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who comes along to join us for a cuppa and a chat. Also a big thank you to Sandra Blackwell (Sandra's Cakes and Buffets) for the delicious cake that was enjoyed by us all, and last but not least thanks to Mary, Geoff and John for all that they do at the Village Hall.

Connie, Sue and Lynne

Please submit items by February 1st for issue 176, which should be out in March 2019.

You can email items to hmnews@btinternet.com

or hand them in to the Blue Bell Inn, Halkyn, in an envelope marked 'For the attention of HMN'.

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

Editorial

Following our appeal in the last edition for new volunteers to deliver Halkyn Mountain News we have been delighted with the response.

At the time of going to press we are reviewing delivery routes to take advantage of as many of the offers of help as possible. as it is certainly the case of "Many hands make light work".

Christmas is traditionally a time when people give extra thought to those less fortunate than they are. There are many opportunities to contribute to charitable appeals across the county.

Looking back to years gone by, there was clearly a need close to home. An edition of the Flintshire Observer, 24 December 1885 records:

HALKYN SEASONABLE BENEVOLENCE

Mrs. Spencer Cooper, Springfield, has this Christmas, with her wonted liberality, given to twenty poor families in her immediate neighbourhood, a liberal supply of coal, tea, sugar, and flannel.

The edition dated 10 January 1885 records:

HALKYN.

On Friday the day scholars attending the National school and the members of the Sunday school received their usual Christmas gifts of buns and oranges from Mrs. Henry, Lygen y wern, who arrived at the school about half-past three accompanied by Mrs. Johnson Jones. Pistyll, and Miss Henry. The day scholars numbering nearly two hundred, sang one of Mason's Christmas anthems entitled Glory be to God in the Highest," after which they filed past Mrs and Miss Henry to receive their welcome gifts of buns and oranges, and afterwards showed their gratitude by giving Mm. Henry three ringing cheers.

The edition for 28 December 1899 reported:

HALKYN CHRISTMAS GIFT

The Duke of Westminster through his Agent, Mr H. Lester Smith, distributed at the Halkyn Castle Estate Office during Christmas week, a large quantity of Welsh flannel and petticoats, amongst the aged and deserving poor of Rhosesmor.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

The Editorial Team

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

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

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

Halkyn Community Council

Community Defibrillators

As reported in previous editions of the HMN, that four defibrillators were to be installed to the outside walls of the Halkyn Parish Hall, Pentre Halkyn Community Centre, Rhes y Cae Village Hall and Rhosesmor Village Hall. The defibrillators (Zoll AED Plus – Welsh Ambulance preferred models) housed in stainless steel cabinets, have now been installed in locations shown in photographs at the end of this article (The Community Council has sought assistance from local First Responders to provide training sessions in the near future.



Criminal Offences Reported Within the Community

The following offences were reported to the Community Council by North Wales Police:

Halkyn - ASB x 4, criminal damage x 1; Pentre Halkyn - ASB x 2, theft x 3, burglary x 1; Rhes y Cae - suspicious circumstances x 1; Rhosesmor - suspicious circumstances x 1, contact record x 1.

Street Scene Concerns

Mr. Neil Hickie (Flintshire County Council, Street Scene Officer) was welcomed to a meeting of the Community Council. Mr Hickey advised the Members that he had been transferred from another area in Flintshire, and was born and still resided in the Halkyn Council area. Mr. Hickie provided the Members with details in relation to his duties and responsibilities.

The following matters of concern were brought to Mr. Hickie's attention:

- (1) Litter picking in the area, in particular following grass cutting. A schedule for litter picking is in operation for the Halkyn Council area.
- (2) Dog fouling. This is a concern in all areas and should be reported to Flintshire Customer Services.
- (3) Environmental Audit. Mr. Hickie would be arranging with both County Councillors the audits across the Halkyn Council area.

Planning Applications

The Community Council passed comments in relation to the following planning applications, which had been received from Flintshire County Council:

- (1) Application number: 058510 – for single storey side extension to improve kitchen, dining and utility are at Kelven, 10 Bryn Eithin, Pentre Halkyn.
- (2) Application number: 058527 – for addition of stone cladding and fibre cement board cladding to the external walls, at Swallowdale, The Nant.
- (3) Application number: 058631 – for change of use of former School into two self-catering holiday cottages at the former Rhes y Cae Primary School.
- (4) Application number: 058659 - for the construction of agricultural workers dwelling at land adjacent to Tai Newydd, Rhosesmor.
- (5) Application number: 058738 - for the existing garage

to be demolished and bungalow to be extended to form lounge, kitchen diner/utility, also with associated car parking area etc. at 1 Uwch y Mor, Pentre Halkyn.

(6) Application number: 058119 - for the conversion of redundant outbuildings to a single 4 bed holiday accommodation, Gerddduon Farm, Rhosesmor.

(7) Application number: 058751 - for change of use from shooting range to holiday lodges, at Pen y Parc Farm, Pant y Gof, Halkyn

The Council response to the above applications can be found in the Council Minutes - which can be viewed - as per the below web site address.

Planning decisions from Flintshire County Council

(1) Application number: 057311 – for proposed single storey side extension, at Ty Celyn, Rhes Y Cae. Approved.

(2) Application number: 057312 – Listed building application – as per above application details at Ty Celyn. Approved.

(3) Application number: 058490 – for approval of details reserved by condition 4 – planning ref: 057191, at Plas Yn Graig, Halkyn. Approved.

(4) Application number: 057897 – for demolition of existing billiard and utility room/extension etc. at Maes Alyn, Rhosesmor. Approved.

(5) Application number: 058631 – change of use of former school into two self-catering cottages, at former Rhes y Cae School. Approved.

(6) Application number: 058823 – non material amendment following grant of planning permission: 056915, at Ty Isaf, Halkyn. Approved.

(7) Application number: 058411 – lawful development certificate for the existing use of residential property building works, at land side of 10 Willowdale Estate, Pentre Halkyn. Approved.

(8) Application number: 058272 – for proposed rear 2 storey extension and internal alterations, at Arfryn, Rhosesmor. Approved.

(9) Application number: 058510 – for single storey side extension to improve kitchen, dining and utility areas, at Kelven, 10, Bryn Eithin, Pentre Halkyn. Approved.

(10) Application number: 058527 – for the addition of stone cladding and fibre cement board cladding to the external wall, at Swallowdale, the Nant. Approved.

(11) Application number: 058255 – for change of use of paddock to house two camping pods for holiday lets, at Foel farm, Rhosesmor. Approved.

Community Council Cemetery – St. Mary's Church, Halkyn

The Community Council have accepted a quotation for an extension to the footpath leading to the Community Council Cemetery at St. Mary's Church in Halkyn. The existing pathway will be extended to the bottom area of the Cemetery.

Speeding Concerns – B5123 Road - Berth Ddu to Rhosesmor

Following requests from the Community Council, including a number of concerned residents, in relation to speeding traffic on the B5123 road. In particular in the area of Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Berth Ddu and travelling towards Rhosesmor. The Community Council were provided with results from a speed survey which was carried out a number of months ago whereby the results from this survey have been analysed incorrectly. A

further speed survey will be carried out in the near future.

The Community Council also sought from the Police (under the Freedom of Information Act) the number of speeding tickets issued since 1st January, 2018 to the present date. The Council were advised that no traffic offence reports had been issued so far this year on the B5123 between Halkyn and Rhosesmor in the 40mph area. The only tickets issued were 3 in Rhosesmor itself, for exceeding the speed limit.

Donations and Financial Support

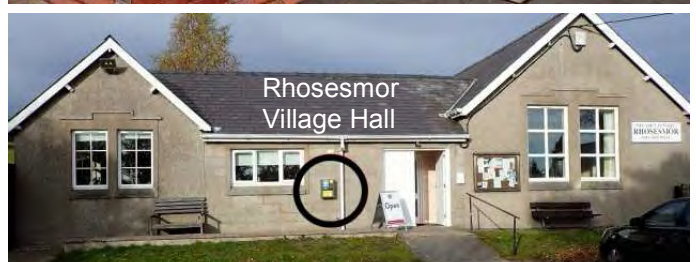
The Community Council have granted the following donations: Rhes y Cae Village Hall Committee £1,000, towards Hall refurbishment. Marie Curie (Cancer Care) Rhyl Branch £100. Christ Church, Rhes y Cae £1,000, towards Cemetery wall repairs.

Phillip Parry, Clerk to Halkyn Community Council

Tel: 01352 720 547

E-mail: halkyn.council@btinternet.com

www.halkyn.org.uk



Brynford Community Council

Brynford Recreation Ground

The Council have agreed to the hire of the recreation ground and facilities to Ysceifiog Senior and Holywell Juniors Football Clubs for the 2018/19 season. A condition survey of the football changing rooms has been undertaken. A number of issues have been identified, the electricity system was in need of upgrading which has been undertaken at a cost of £550.

The condition of the roof is very poor and the Council is currently obtaining estimations of costs to undertake repairs. Further improvements including the condition of the home and away dugouts and pedestrians' crowd barrier have been identified.

Co-Option of Council Member

Following the advertisement of the vacancy on the Council created by the retirement of Councillor M. Flynn, Mr. Leslie Rosedale was appointed as the co-opted member at the September meeting of the Council. Councillor Rosedale lives at: Garreg Wen, Brynford Hill, Brynford, Holywell, CH8 8AD and can be contacted on Telephone Number 01352 711 124.

Best Kept Community Competition 2018

Councillor D. Jones and Mr. John Ward, of Brynford Pet Cemetery, attended a presentation event hosted by Flintshire County Council.

At the event the Council was presented with a Certificate of Merit for the 2018 Competition. This will be displayed at Brynford Pet Cemetery and a copy will be mounted on Brynford Village Green bus shelter.

On the 9th October, 2018 a community meeting was held to discuss next year's entry, at which a number of local residents were in attendance.

Mr. J. Ward advised that daffodil bulbs had been planted at focal points within the village.

Future projects were also discussed including an area of St. Michael's Church Cemetery to be transformed into a natural habitat area and the creation of focal points at the gateways to the community boundary.

The next meeting of the working group meeting will be held on the 20th November, 2018 at 6.00pm at Brynford Pet Cemetery.

*A. Roberts, Clerk to the Council,
Crecas Cottage, Carmel Hill, Holywell, CH8 8NZ
Tel No. 01352 349849
e-mail Clerk@brynfordcommunitycouncil.gov.uk*

Pentre Halkyn Community Centre

Bingo - Every Monday for the over 50s 1.30pm
New members welcome

Holywell Art Club - Wednesdays 10am - 2pm

Bingo - Thursdays 7:30pm

Line Dancing - Fridays 8pm - 10pm

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

Grosvenor Estate Update

As local residents will know, a large part of Halkyn Common is owned by Grosvenor Estate and the area is managed by our team based at Eaton Park near Chester. We take responsibility for looking after the Common in a way that protects and promotes the local environment and heritage, as well as the enjoyment and safety of all who use the land.

Over the past six years, we have carried out an extensive survey of physical and environmental qualities of the Common – including mineshaft features. As a result of this work we have a more thorough understanding of the Common, and our Land Management Programme for Halkyn has been reviewed, improved and modernised.

There is an ongoing programme of remediation works in place to address any potential safety concerns, and a thorough Incident Management Plan has been established to deal effectively and quickly with all kinds of incidents, both small and large.

This Plan was rapidly put into action on Sunday, 14 October when we were notified that a mineshaft had collapsed on the Common. Whilst the scale of the collapse was significant, there were fortunately no injuries or damage to property. The incident reporting and response procedure set up by Grosvenor Estate was successfully and immediately followed to minimise all health and safety related risks.

The initial call came in around 12:30pm and we immediately attended the site to observe the extent of the collapse and met with our on call fencing contractor. By 3pm, action had been taken to install a wide perimeter of temporary fencing around the hole and signs were erected to warn people of the danger. Around 100m of steel fencing was installed the following morning to ensure that the angle of repose is covered, and to further secure the site. We are now working with our external specialist consultants, WSP, to establish a more permanent solution.

Meanwhile, we have also been planning the work schedule to secure the Moel y Crio shaft. Remediation works will be carried out in early November, and we thank you all in advance for your cooperation.

We hope that everyone feels reassured that we remain committed to the careful management of the area, and will continue to respond rapidly and effectively to any future incidents.

Please do get in touch with us to report any incidents, changes to mineshafts or indeed any other environmental or safety concerns relating to the Common by calling the Eaton Estate Office on 01244 684 400.

Dave the Haven



In the summer edition of Halkyn Mountain News, Halkyn Community Council commended the services of Councillor David A Hughes who passed away earlier in the year. I would like to add to their commendation by adding a mention of

the part he played in the community outside of his Council role and the impact he had on me and my family.

He was known to many by different names but was widely referred to as Dave the Haven, originating from his time owning and running the Haven Garage in Pentre Halkyn. He had many different interests and was always busy whether it was being councillor, mechanic, plumber, electrician, welder, ploughman, philosopher, boat builder and historian. His interests included the industrial revolution and local history (Jones Balers), mechanical engineering (especially steam and agricultural vehicles), photography, computers and narrowboats to name a few! You could describe him as our very own Fred Dibnah, even complete with engineer dustcoat and flat cap!

I knew him for over 40 years from accompanying my Dad to get his car repaired when Dave worked out of Pen y Parc Farm, then later at the Haven Garage when I too became a customer. He was always on hand to offer advice and help put right something I had 'fixed' which he would often accompany with self-appraising comments like 'pure skill'. I'm still not sure how he made any money from his time at the garage, as he was always helping people out.

Dave was an unofficial emergency service, called on by the many that knew him. If Dave didn't know how to fix something, he always knew somebody that did, and if you ever needed anything, he would have it in his shed, which was open all hours, proudly exclaiming that he "wasn't short of anything he didn't have".

Dave had a great interest in agricultural vehicles (of which he owned a few) and steam traction engines (which he would have liked to!). Every August bank holiday weekend Dave would make his annual pilgrimage to the Great Dorset Steam Fair to fulfil this interest. To finance this, he would take a van full of interesting stuff to sell on a stall conveniently located right in the middle of the auto-jumble section. Dave was in his element, wheeling and dealing whilst sat in the middle of a field surrounded by historic mechanical artefacts. From here he could go walkabout hunting for treasures to replenish his shed!

During the final years of owning the Haven Garage, Dave bought a project narrowboat to rebuild, and later went on to build narrowboats for a local company. Later

still he added another skill to his growing list, Boat Safety Inspector.

Dave was one of those busy people who had wide and varied interests, he was always actively doing something, and you would never endure an uncomfortable silence in his company as he had far too much to discuss. A visit to Dave's house would normally last for hours and anybody visiting the Haven Garage on a Saturday morning would rarely be seen until closing time. He had an excitement and enthusiasm for everything and was constantly on the search for knowledge. He liked to embrace new technology and couple it with practices of old, constantly trying to solve problems. He was making his own power-saving LED lights long before they were readily available.

Dave believed that there was nobody luckier in life than him and that he had everything in his life that he could possibly wish for, especially his wife, and best friend, Lyn, who he got to marry and share his life with.

Often in life people are referred to as talkers or doers. Dave was a very rare exception, the talker who did.

By Richard Wood

Rhosesmor Village Christmas Fair 2018

*The fourth annual village
Christmas fair is on
Saturday 15th December
2-5 pm at the village hall.*

*Come along and see the craft
and gift stalls, for those
last minute presents.*

*Fun and games
for all the family -
Father Christmas/Sion Corn
in his spectacular grotto,
shove ha'penny challenge,
tombola, raffle and more.*

*Come and catch up with
old friends.*

Refreshments.

Red Dragon Ventures Ltd in the Community

We are First Aid Trainers and Outdoor Pursuits providers based in Pentre Halkyn. Please like and follow us on Facebook <facebook.com/RedDragonVentures> to see the full extent of our events and activities.

Here are some of the activities we have run over the summer months.

Climbing Club at Ysgol Rhos Helyg

Following on from the taster session we did to raise money for the school PTA last year, we started a weekly climbing club, making use of the climbing and traverse walls at the school. This proved a popular club with the school children and culminated in a visit to the climbing wall at the Argoed High School.

Shooting Club In Holywell

We ran an Air Rifle Shooting Club in Holywell for young people from the local Scouting Association, Flint High School and Ysgol Maes Garmon students participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. This enabled them to complete their Skill Section.

Guided Mountain Walks

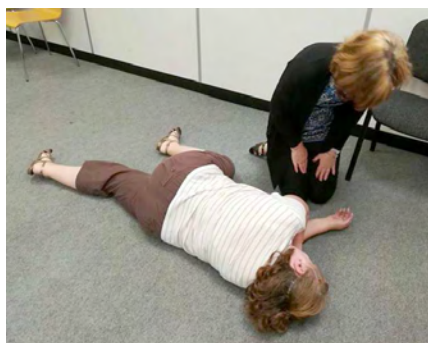
Our regular guided mountain walks saw us guiding local people on progressively more challenging walks throughout the year. Starting with Moel Fammau and progressing to the summits of Y Garn, Moel Siabod and then Snowdon via the Pyg track and again via the Watkin path. We culminated in an ascent of Tryfan via the North ridge.



Those who took part enjoyed some of the best scenery in North Wales, increased their level in fitness, improved their well-being and became technically more advanced in their mountain walking experience.

First Aid Training

We are First Aid Training Providers and deliver Emergency First Aid at Work and full First Aid at Work courses and certification. We also deliver First Aid training for young people to equip



them with skills for life. This year we have successfully trained staff at Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Explorer Scouts in Hawarden, school teachers in Wrexham and Rhyl and Scout Leaders across Flintshire.

Archery

Over the course of the summer we have run taster sessions in Archery on the school field at Ysgol Rhos Helyg.



Archery is returning as a

popular sport and helps well-being as it clears the mind, directing you to focus on the moment.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

We train, supervise and assess for the Duke of Edinburgh Award and Expedition Section up to, and including, the Gold Award. This year we have trained the Cross County Explorer Scouts in Holywell and young people from the Mold Open Award Centre.

Holiday Adventure Club

In the last two weeks of August we ran a Summer Adventure Holiday Club, encouraging kids to explore their sense of adventure in the great outdoors. Over the two weeks the kids experienced archery, climbing, traversing, fire-lighting, shelter building, backwoods cooking, nature studies, pond dipping, bug hunting, woodland art and crafts, team building games and pioneering amongst other activities. They certainly went home tired! The reactions were so positive from the kids and their parents that we are considering doing another one in the Easter school break as well as next summer. Thank you to Ysgol Rhos Helyg for letting us use their grounds and facilities as a base for our activities.



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



Avian Life on Halkyn Mountain

In the summer edition of HMN, an article by Menna stated that there appears to be a lack of wildlife, particularly wild birds, since her childhood on Halkyn Mountain. While I can only claim to have lived on the Mountain for a mere 25 years, I have not found this to be so.

I have a large pergola at the rear of my house in Moel y Crio, on which I have set up a bird feeding station, to which more than 54 species of birds have been attracted over the years. As well as the more common birds, the more unusual ones sighted have been redstart, tree creeper, nuthatch (a regular pair), yellow hammer and greater spotted woodpecker, the resident pair bringing a youngster every year. At the far side of the garden is an area of deciduous and coniferous trees, the largest two of which reach above the house, and are both like a block of flats for birds. The conifers have housed gold crests for some time now. The large pond near to them also attracts many goldfinches for their daily baths.

The area of common near to my house, which used to be the village green, also provides habitat for sky larks, whinchats and stonechats, which can be seen sitting on the tops of gorse bushes piping away their song, and I have once or twice seen yellow wagtail here, although the pied wagtails are always on hand round and about my home. We have also sighted common lizard here on occasion.

Some years ago, I was treated to a fantastic display, which lasted some 20 minutes and right above my garden, by the resident peregrines who were teaching a youngster to catch prey in mid-air by dropping it from a height, and encouraging the youngster to stoop and catch it. The noise of their screeching was deafening, and I feel privileged to have witnessed such a sight, possibly the only time in my life that I will do so.

A tawny owl lives in the wood belonging to my neighbour, and regularly sits on the electricity pole opposite my bedroom window, calling territorially, and being answered by at least 3 other similar calls from a distance. His place in daytime is taken up by the resident kestrel, which scans the field next door for his prey. Little owls are also seen occasionally, notably sitting on my shed roof to eat the overhanging holly berries.

A polecat also visited my garden a few years ago, to be discovered by my dog, who was hastily shepherded indoors before any damage could be done to either party, and to allow the polecat to go on his way. I also regularly see weasels and stoats scuttling across the road, and hares peering from the side of the road, or lolloping round the field next door.

Travelling down Rhosesmor hill, just past the Red Lion, some weeks ago, I saw a red kite sitting on a post, and had this sighting confirmed a week later by a friend in Rhosesmor who said that she had seen one two days previously overflying her house. All in all, I don't think the area is doing too badly for its wildlife.

To encourage birds into the garden - DO NOT put your feeding station in the middle of the lawn - you are unlikely to get many birds visiting at all. Choose a place where you can see it easily without creating any unnecessary movement - many birds are wary of movement, and will fly off immediately, particularly the woodpecker. Choose somewhere where there is plenty of thick and quickly accessible cover, such as near a hedge, bushes, or as can be seen in the picture, near some very overgrown and accessible ivy.

Without the necessary cover, birds are very vulnerable to predators, particularly the sparrow hawk, which can even pick them off in mid-flight, being a much faster bird - and they know it! It will fly along one side of a hedge, and then suddenly roll up and over the top of the hedge, and catch panicked birds flying out of the other side.

A tawny owl, of which we have several, can even pick off birds at dusk as they are returning to roost. And watch out for fish in your pond. Disappearing fish can be down to owls as often as herons!

We even sat and watched a buzzard devouring a rabbit on our hedge one evening - with us sitting inside our conservatory, less than fifteen feet away, and trying not to move a muscle.

My picture also shows that we use squirrel proof feeders, and cap them with plastic umbrella structures. You may think this is expensive, but believe me, when you've had to replace the ordinary, cheap plastic feeders, several times a month because squirrels have eaten right through them; it is a cheaper way in the long run. Our feeders have been in place, without damage, for several years now. They also forestall those pesky jackdaws and starlings from emptying them out all over the floor within a few minutes of the flock arriving.

Jean Walker, Moel y Crio.



County Councillor

Greetings to everyone in the Halkyn Mountain area. It is increasingly difficult to write for the Halkyn Mountain News in an encouraging and up lifting way. One has to avoid being a messenger of doom and gloom but there is so much depressing news there is a danger of becoming a total pessimist, like Victor Meldrew. Also, there is so much uncertainty and confusion that it is essential to restrict an article to pure fact.

There is one positive topic which deserves mention because it is strictly factual as well as being edifying. Over the past few years the response by so many people to Remembrance Day observation has been impressive and encouraging and especially the attendance by various children's organisations. They should be commended for supporting the tribute that their elders pay to the men and women who gave their lives many years ago so that we no longer enjoyed a freedom which was in danger of being lost.

The Royal British Legion exists to help the survivors of conflicts who were injured in some way. It must be stressed that supporting the British Legion is no way whatsoever glorifying wars. The very opposite is the case. In previous centuries rulers had to attract (or even force) men to form, what in many cases, were small armies. In the two World Wars everyone was involved whether or not they wanted to be. Even older children in the Guides or Scouts took part; not in fighting but in first aid, collecting waste paper or aluminium pots and pans and other vital jobs.

Nowadays, membership of the Royal British Legion is open to everyone, not only those in the armed services but also those in the auxiliary services. The Halkyn branch would warmly welcome anyone who wishes to keep the British Legion alive and active; it is always good to have new blood.

The most recent meeting of the Flintshire County Council, in October, went on for over three and a half hours. After the presentation of well deserved awards to certain members of the permanent staff the big "B" provoked intense discussion, without much positive progress. Milestones in our nation's history, such as the Magna Carta or the Act of Settlement are items of major importance. In the case of Brexit the ignorance, or absence of solid facts, plus the confusion and complexity are most alarming. Whilst the referendum was carried out democratically the fact that less than half of the electorate actually voted to leave the EU must surely be a matter of serious concern. The result was certainly not a resounding victory for the leavers (though of Flintshire people 56% voted to remain). Meanwhile, we must live in anxiety and apprehension for the final result.

In the last part of the council meeting councillors raised questions about the proposed new electoral areas for Wales. In these proposals Halkyn Ward

would become part of 'Rhuddlan & Flint while the southeast part of Flintshire would become Alun and Deeside. The object is to create a system of wards which would each have about 2000 voters. Though why there should be such an obsession with numerical size when so many people do not vote is a mystery. In answer to question that I raised about the effect on matters like education I was assured that the new system would not affect educational areas e.g. 6th form pupils in Holywell (Rhuddlan & Flint) would still travel to "the Hub", Connah's Quay (Alun & Deeside). And what about waste collection? This is something I find very puzzling. Surely most people would be happier if the money spent on what is almost a cosmetic matter was used for road repairs. In spite of diligent efforts by the Highway Department to repair potholes there are still plenty of these and parts of some roads are actually breaking up before the severe winter weather starts.

I do hope I have made a mistake with the next item. That is, that the whole of County (Shire) Hall is to be demolished and the site used for housing. Premises in Ewloe will be used instead. Apart from other vital factors the cost of demolition will be enormous. I can't believe it!

In spite of the foregoing negative writing, may I wish everyone who reads the Halkyn Mountain News a very pleasant Christmas and hopefully a more encouraging and better New Year.

Colin Legg, C.C.

Rhosesmor Village Hall

Bookings continue to be very satisfactory, and we will be able to refurbish the Glynn Morris room over the Christmas break. The refurbishment includes laying a new floor, decorating and fitting curtains, matching those in the main hall.

Unfortunately, our efforts to establish a Post office facility in the hall (on Wednesday afternoons) have proved to be very problematical. At the time of writing this report, we are still experiencing problems that could well result in us giving up the attempt.

As regards our plans for a jumble sale, we need help with donations. If you have any items to donate we have room in the cellars to store them. So, ring me on 780660. I will collect any suitable items that we can store in the cellars.

Finally, we wish to thank John Thomas and Jon Tarry for their support in keeping the hall running throughout the year.

Geoff North, Secretary, Rhosesmor Village Committee

Rhes Y Cae News

Coffee Morning

This event was held at Maes yr Haf, the home of Arfon, Angela and Oran Denman on Saturday 7th July, in memory of a dear mother and grandmother, Mona.

Angela had been very busy baking some delicious cakes, and she was also selling some lovely floral bouquets. Also, some tasty chutneys were produced by Gwyneth Jones (sister in law to Mona). Many thanks to Arfon, Angela and Oran for organising an enjoyable morning with family and friends. It was well attended, and total monies raised was £350 for the Alzheimers charity.

Village Hall Coffee Morning – Tuesday 18th September at 10.30am

A lovely sunny morning brought lots of people to the Village Hall for this fundraising coffee morning. Thanks to all who attended, and donated prizes for the raffle. Also many thanks to Alwena Sherratt for yet again donating the takings from sales of her wonderful hand-crafted cards to the Village Hall funds. Total monies raised was just over £110.



The hall has recently undergone some refurbishment, organised by the Village Hall Committee, and the newly sanded and polished floor along with the fresh paint inside has made a huge difference. The Committee are very grateful for help with funding the project from Halkyn Community Council. The floor treatment and painting was carried out to a very high standard by Eddie Hollingsworth. The committee are also very grateful to Cemex at Pant y Pwll Dwr Quarry for renewing the paintwork on the outside of the hall, and staining the fence.

Joint Harvest Service on 30th September

Harvest communion service for the three churches and an invitation to the Mission Area was held at Netta Rowlands's barn at Bryn Ffynnon at 10.30. Our thanks to Rev Hugh Burgess for conducting the service. After the service there were refreshments – our thanks to Netta and all who helped.

Rhes y Cae Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday 3rd October at 7pm

Our thanks to Hugh for organising this service, and also to Colin for playing the organ and a reading from

the Bible. Many thanks to Brenda, Dorothy, Margaret, Rita and Colin for helping with decorating the church for this special occasion – it looked splendid. This was followed by a Bring and Share supper at Rhes y Cae Village Hall at 8pm. It was well attended and an opportunity to have an enjoyable get-together.

Saturday October 6th at 2pm

“A Welsh Vet goes to Kyrgystan”

Our sincere thanks to Hannah Bishop for giving us a very interesting talk about meeting the farmers working in the shadows of Mount Lenin Peak. This was held at Netta Rowlands's comfortable barn, and was followed by light refreshments. Many thanks to Netta and all who supported this event.

Gwasanaeth Diolchgarwch (Thanksgiving Service)

This was held at Ebeneser Chapel, Rhes y Cae, on Tuesday 23rd October at 7pm. Ieuan ap Sion had invited Rev Robert Jones of Wrexham to take the service and the organist was Colin Legg. At the front

of the chapel there was a table with an interesting selection of flowers, vegetable and fruit. Many thanks to Ieuan and all who attended the service.

Future Dates

Over 60's Christmas Dinner

– Rhes y Cae Village Hall

Saturday 1st December, 2pm. Three course lunch, followed by entertainment.

Toy Service – Sunday 2nd December 8.45am

At Rhes y Cae Church, a toy service will be held at

8.45am. Gifts for teenagers as well as for younger children would be welcome.

Naw Llith a Carolau (Nine Lessons and Carols)

The service will be held at Ebeneser Chapel, Rhes y Cae on Monday 17th December at 7pm.

“Around The Crib”

To be held at Rhes y Cae Church on Monday 24th December at 4pm.

It will be an informal and very enjoyable event for family and friends.

Christmas Day Service

Tuesday 25th December at 9.30am.

Rhes y Cae Church Carol Service – date to be announced.

There is a warm welcome to everyone at the above events.

Please let me know if you have any information to put in the next edition by the last week in January 2019. Many thanks

Gwyneth Hughes 01352 780371

Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema

You may have missed our September showing of 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society' - another full house! And did you get to see 'Darkest Hour' in November? Well don't miss our next film! We'll be helping to allay the winter chill in the post-Christmas lull when we show 'Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again' (PG) on Saturday 5th January, 7.30pm (doors open 7pm).



It's a heart-warming story, with the return of the original cast plus Cher, and a host of great songs that had the critics and the public saying 'Gimme, Gimme, Gimme'. Five years since the events of Mamma Mia, Sophie (Amanda Seyfried) plans to re-open the renovated Hotel Bella Donna with a party reuniting her family and friends. Nearly 30 years earlier, a young Donna (Lily James) ventures on a life-changing summer holiday that will lead her to the three loves of her life, and the Greek island of Kalokairi.

Put the date in your diary for this big slice of fun coming to Halkyn Mountain! Tickets go on general sale about 2 weeks before each showing, and can be purchased from the Blue Bell Inn or online via the community cinema website.

Don't forget - tickets are only £4 in advance (or £5 on the door) and all income goes towards covering our costs (film licence fees, venue hire, insurance etc), as the community cinema is run by a small band of volunteers, who work hard to convert Halkyn Parish Hall into a cosy cinema every couple of months. They are also on hand to supply light refreshments on the night!

For more information, please go to our website and sign up to the mailing list, or follow us on facebook and twitter.

www.mountaincinema.org.uk
<http://www.facebook.com/halkynmountaincinema>
<http://www.twitter.com/mountaincinema>

We hope to see you at Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema soon. Thanks for supporting us!

Rob Hughes, Secretary
 Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema Committee

A Letter via Mr. Postie



A telephone message can be a surprise
 That voice, you might instantly recognise.
 "Hello, lovely to hear good news from you"
 Most times you listen to their tale of woe.
 Now a letter is very different in kind
 Dropped thru' my letterbox - moment in mind
 Who is it? Who is it from? I ponder
 Over the stamp mark & search & wonder!
 Is it a friend or foe or 'beyond'?
 I open the envelope with anticipation!
 Who is the writer? Maybe without invitation?
 Oh! It is my best friend, with her conversation
 Written on paper, I read in time with my attention.
 A letter is forever
 To read... as to my pleasure.
 That telephone call has now just passed
 In those few moments for which it lasts.
 My letter dropped thru' my letterbox I can keep
 Into my secret place, it can lie
 Forever to read, until I reply
 My letter now compelled to reply to you
 Words full of feeling, love and so true
 I can keep forever my dear friend.
 As I ponder your words or maybe defend
 Alone I may be, look forward to Mr Postie friend
 Watching him deliver to my street or the other end
 Maybe? Maybe? He has a letter for me?
 Oh! please Mr Postman, deliver to me
 He drops the letter.... or maybe two
 We speak and laugh, sharing a joke or two
 All weathers for me, you walk the street
 To deliver my letter, that I can forever keep.

Carol Arthur

HALKYN MOUNTAIN DVD

The **all new** Halkyn Mountain DVD is now available to buy.

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

The DVD's are priced at £5 each plus £1 P&P. Please make cheques payable to "Flintshire County Council".

Alternatively you can pop into the Visitor Centre at Wepre Park and pick up your copy and save on the postage.

The DVD contains all the films created as part of the Lead & Lime Heritage Lottery and Aggregates Levy projects. Including Victorian Halkyn – Life in a Lead-Mining Community, starring over 40 members of the local community.

Please note that these films are available to view for free at www.halkynmountain.co.uk or on the Halkyn Mountain channel on YouTube.

Halkyn W.I.

Winter is here but that will not stop our fun. On December 6th at the 2:15pm meeting, Beetle Drive mayhem will be had, with festive refreshments to follow.

Our Christmas lunch is on Dec 11th at Y Celstryn Restaurant, which we are all looking forward to.

At our last visit to Y Celstryn we enjoyed the spectacle and taste of a crepe suzette demonstration.



Our next meetings:

January 3rd at 2:15pm. 'A Woman's Voice' Paula Roscoe, award winning author of 'Diary of Margery Blake'.

February 7th @2:15pm. the university of the 3rd Age, Ukulele Band.

March 7th @ 2:15pm

Any questions, please call

Fiona Jones on 01352 780462

John Thomas

For very many years I have observed the outstanding service and dedication that Mr John Thomas of Wern y Gaer has given this Parish and area. I can name but a few of his activities; there are too many to record.

To start with, is the repair of the stone wall surrounding the Rhosesmor Church burial ground and the felling of two large trees and removing them from site. The maintenance and mowing of the grass on at least a quarter of a mile of path from the children's playground to the Red Lion Inn throughout the summer months. Also annually the trimming the adjacent hedges, using his own machine and fuel, and maintaining and cutting the hedge surrounding Rhosesmor Village Hall.

He has, together with his wife, Vicky, organised and run the Blue Bell walks for different age groups for the last fifteen years. He has served on the community council for the same number of years. He has also served and taken part in many musical performances with different choirs from the area.

I have endeavoured for the last three years without any success, through various people, for John's efforts to be acknowledged. Therefore, I think it is high time everyone in our area award and demonstrate our gratitude to John.
Yours faithfully

Gwyndaf Davies

Halkyn Parish Hall

Private Functions and Meetings

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

**For more information ring the caretaker
Colin Roberts 01352 781762**

Weekly Diary

Monday

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

Tuesday

Baby & Toddler Group 9:30 to 11:00 am
Zumba 6.00 - 7.00 pm.
Contact: zumbawithvix@gmail.com

Snooker Club 7:30 pm.
(New members welcome)
Contact Andy Wood 780159)

**The Snooker Table is also available for hire
Contact Colin Roberts 01352 781762**

Wednesday

1st Wednesday in the month
Church Coffee Morning 9.30 - 11.30am.
Modern Line Dancing 12:45 - 14:45 pm.
Contact Julie on 07712149439
Bingo (every other Wednesday) 7.30 pm.
(For more information on the Bingo call:
Carolyn on 01352 781765)

Thursday

Halkyn W.I. 7.15 pm April to Oct
2:15 pm Nov. to March

Friday

Post Office 2.30 - 4.30 pm
Library 1:30 - 7:00 pm.
Halkyn Brownies 6:00 - 7:00 pm.
(Term time only) Contact Karen 716027

Weekend

Pantomime - Saturday 1st January

Craft Fair - Sunday 2nd December

Heartfelt Art & Craft 2018 10 am - 3:00 pm.
Christmas Fair Saturday 8th December
(Contact: Sue Parry-Harwood on 01352 781088)
or email: heartfelt.mountainstudio@aol.co.uk

Halkyn Mountain Cinema
Saturday 5th January
"Mama Mia - Here we go again"
See item in HMN for contact details.

Hannah Blythyn AM

It is a pleasure to be updating residents in Halkyn Mountain with events and issues in the constituency and the Assembly once again. It has been a busy few months with engagements both at home in Delyn and in Cardiff Bay since my last correspondence. I pledged to be an accessible and visible Assembly Member and this summer got out across all corners delivering my newsletter, taking up issues on behalf of residents. I will continue to take the matters raised forward, with service providers and in the National Assembly for Wales. Should you wish to raise an issue on these or any other matters, please do not hesitate to get in touch – my contact details can be found at the end of this article.

Young people aged between 11 and 18 across Delyn and throughout Wales will have their chance to vote in the first ever Welsh Youth Parliament elections this November. I have visited high schools all across our constituency to talk about the new Youth Parliament with students, how they can have their say and the importance of casting a vote. The new Youth Parliament will provide a great opportunity for our young people to identify and debate the matters important to them and I want as many people from Delyn to be involved and make their voices heard. Voter registration is open until November 18 with the election taking place over three weeks from November 5-25. The results of the vote will be announced in December.

I was pleased to accept an award on behalf of my constituency team to mark one year since becoming Dementia Friendly. Delyn is home to two of three Dementia Friendly towns in Flintshire – Flint and Mold – with memory cafés providing a safe and supportive environment for people with dementia and their carers to socialise. I am proud to be a Dementia Friend and the National Assembly for Wales is committed to becoming Dementia Friendly. I'd encourage as many people as possible to become a Dementia Friend and for all of our communities to become Dementia friendly.

The Welsh Government has launched a national conversation on measures needed to combat loneliness and social isolation. It is believed one in five people experience loneliness and social isolation and can result in a number of physical and psychological problems. The Welsh Government's programme for government, Taking Wales Forward, includes a commitment to develop a nationwide and cross-government strategy to address these issues and the strategy will cover people of all ages and all backgrounds. The Welsh Government's proposed approach will focus on intervening early to prevent chronic loneliness, and ensuring that support is available for those who are, or who become, chronically lonely.

It was a pleasure to sponsor the third annual Royal British Legion Poppy Ride at the National Assembly for Wales. Members and support staff got on their bikes to take part in the thank you events being held by the RBL to mark 100 years since the end of the First World War. The Poppy Ride also highlights the important work of the Royal British Legion, a charity I'll be supporting throughout this year's Remembrance period both in Delyn and the National Assembly. In this centenary

year marking the end of the First World War, it is important we pay tribute and give our thanks to those who served and made the ultimate sacrifice.

Looking ahead, I'll continue to be accessible and visible across our constituency, reaching out to all corners of Delyn. I'm holding a community advice session at Gwernymynydd Village Hall on Friday November 9 from 3pm to 4pm, all are welcome to come along, raise an issue or just say hello – and as always, no appointment is necessary. Until our next update, keep an eye out for my weekly column in the Leader newspaper as well as my social media pages for future updates and when and where to meet with me to discuss what matters to you. In the meantime, residents who may be seeking advice or wish to raise local issues are always more than welcome to pop into my constituency office in Flint. We recommend the best times to visit are between 9am and noon and 2pm-5pm, Monday to Friday. You can also get in touch with me by writing to: Hannah Blythyn AM, 38 Church Street, Flint, Flintshire, CH6 5AE, by emailing me at hannah.blythyn@assembly.wales or by calling 01352 762102. You can also find me on Facebook at Hannah4Delyn or on Twitter @HannahBlythyn

Hardy Plant Society Clwyd Group

Who are we?

We are a friendly gardening club.

We enjoy talks and garden visits.

Meetings are held at 7.30pm at the Holywell Community Centre (by the Leisure Centre) on the third Tuesday of the month. There are also plant sales, a raffle and refreshments at meetings.

Visitors welcome - £3 admission.
Membership is available.
Information on 07768 423 965
or clwyd@hardy-plant.org.uk
or www.hardy-plant.org.uk/clwyd

The winter programme is:

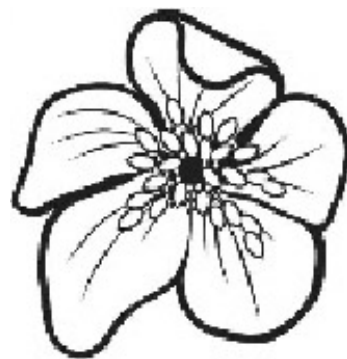
Tuesday 15 January talk,
Enjoy Growing Shadier Plants, Robert Barlow

Tuesday 19 February talk,
Finest Gardens in Wales, Tony Russell

Tuesday 19 March talk,
Herbs and Spices through the Ages, Jan Edington

Culinary surprises on the night. Short AGM.

Programme can be subject to change



The Hills Are Alive With the Sound Of Ukuleles

I feel we all need music in our lives. Music inspires, invigorates, excites and comforts. While there are as many songs, genres and styles as there are musical tastes to appreciate them, the fundamental kernel is that music speaks to, and indeed from, the soul.

For many of us a good set of headphones and a favourite CD fulfils this musical need but for others there's a need to play, a need to express oneself. This is why actually performing music has always been so popular from pre-school to the third age, the karaoke singer to the cathedral choir, the fulfilment and achievement of contributing to a musical whole is paramount to the experience.

In recent years one instrument has stepped up to allow anyone to join in the fun; the plucky ukulele.

A complex instrument in so many ways yet simple to

pick up and "have a go", the ukulele has

spawned a whole tribe of players across the world.

There are clubs, festivals, online

groups and offline clubs. This inoffensive Hawaiian export has captured the hearts of many people who want to throw themselves into musical expression. The common theory that the ukulele is easy to learn is in part true and surely largely responsible for its renaissance. Yes, one can learn a handful of basic chords and strumming patterns very quickly but you can progress as high up the skill tree as you're prepared to climb. No-one can do it all of course but some of the greatest players in the world are as nimble and inspiring as any other instrumentalist. The other popular trait is the togetherness it brings. The support one gets from the ukulele community whether you're a megastar or you've just learned your first chord is, in my experience, unparalleled. I have never heard another ukulele player criticise, only ever encourage. One thing is certain, that the instrument has made its mark and is here to stay and as a musician of 40+ years I welcomed it with open arms. Since I focused on the ukulele I have made friends all over the world, released a CD and performed in some amazing places including Munich, Prague and Liverpool's legendary Cavern Club.

With all this in mind I have run a number of local ukulele nights for many years mixing sing-a-longs, open mic segments and special, guest performers. The most common question I have been asked is if I give lessons. Sadly I've never had the time to do so. However, now I find I have and so I present the idea of "The Uke Planet Pack". I have been writing a ukulele music blog for many years called "Uke Planet" and events I run also fall under this moniker. It seemed sensible therefore to stick to the branding programme as it were and spin off



into a ukulele tuition class under this same umbrella. So in January 2019 I will be starting group lessons in Halkyn Parish Hall, an inclusive session aimed at all players of all abilities and ages.

There will be group instruction, a little one-on-one time plus group sing and strum-a-longs. Everyone from beginners to club strummers are welcome and indeed this first session will be **free** of charge so just grab a ukulele, come along and have a go. The ukulele forgives and includes and you'll never be "put on the spot". More than anything I want people to feel relaxed, have a good time and hopefully learn something along the way.

Now could be the perfect time to ask Santa for a ukulele as the first tuition session will begin in January.



Full details will appear on the website (www.ukeplanet.co.uk/pack) as they develop so keep an eye on that and then come along and let your musical side thrive in a fun, educational and supportive environment. A warm welcome awaits you so let your New Year's resolution be to put a little more music into your life. It's never a bad idea.

Mike Flaherty aka 'The Boy with the Greyhound Tattoo'

For further information about The Uke Planet Pack visit www.ukeplanet.co.uk/pack

And if you'd like to find out more about Mike and his music visit www.mikeflaherty.co.uk

HALKYN PARISH HALL BINGO

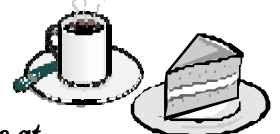
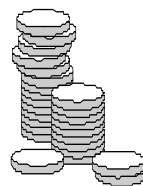
Doors Open at 7.10pm

Come along and have some fun

A night of Bingo for everyone

Light refreshments served to you

Cash pay outs and a raffle too



Halkyn Parish Hall is where it's at

On Wednesday night and every other after that

December 5th and 12th and so on with me.

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

Decoration of Halkyn Parish Hall

During the past months the Halkyn Parish Hall has been redecorated. The main hall has been done by a group of volunteers over many hours. Thanks to Karen Morgan Read, Colin Roberts, Judy & Andy Wood, Emrys Bellis, and Rob Tozer. The materials and paint were supplied at excellent prices by Hugh Davies of Decoright, Flint.

The remainder of the Hall is being done by decorator Graham Harrison and should be completed in about a week.

Halkyn Parish Hall Management Team



1st Halkyn Mountain Scout Group



We are a small group and meet in Rhosesmor Village Hall every Friday during term time and we would like to invite boys and girls to join us.

Cubs: Fridays 6:30 pm – 7:30pm.

Scouts: Fridays 7:30pm – 9pm.

Cubs can start at the age of 8yrs and Scouts from the age of 10yrs.

Come and make new friends, take part in indoor and outdoor activities and learn new skills.

For information or a chat contact Christine Cowley on 01352 780 192 or 07518 957 747 or joycowley@btinternet.com

Blue Bell Walks

The three hour longer walks on the third Saturday of the month were started 12 years ago by Bob and Trish Mossop and have proved very popular. In October we celebrated the 70th birthday of a very fit and youthful looking Bob and were appreciative of the refreshments he provided at the end of the walk. Best wishes Bob and we look forward to the walks continuing for many years to come.

Walkers' attention is drawn to points of historical interest as we venture over the common. Between Halkyn and Rhes y Cae there is a plaque showing the three feathers of the Prince of Wales and the date when some 320 mineshafts were capped. As I pass the one capped mineshaft in Rhosesmor at Pen yr Orsedd I point out that it is one of two capped mineshafts that I know which have access for bats. Unfortunately some mindless behaviour has resulted in unwanted damage to the cap.

John Thomas



Rhosesmor Parishioners' Memorial Garden

Some of the great variety of plants and shrubs in the garden continue to exhibit much colour and the poppies did survive until Remembrance Sunday. Many parishioners have expressed delight with the addition of a seat presented by Tiger Tim and its employees. Grateful thanks to all.

John Thomas



Santa Stops Around the Mountain

On **Tuesday 11th December** come out and meet Santa on his Christmas float, organised by the Flint and Holywell Rotary Club. There will be street collections in the vicinity of the float.

6.00pm - Pentre Halkyn Shop
6.20pm - Halkyn Village Hall
6.35pm - Rhosesmor Church
6.55pm - Rhes y Cae, Miners' Arms
7.15pm - Lixwm, Crown Inn
7.40pm - Brynford School



For the latest information see:

Facebook - Rotary Club of Flint and Holywell
or www.flintandhollywellrotary.co.uk

Gwasanaeth Carolau Capel Rhes y Cae Rhes y Cae Carol Concert

**December 17th, Monday night
at 7.00 o'clock in the Chapel.**

**Do join us for a wonderful
Christmas celebration
with excellent choirs and soloists.**

**Croeso y bawb
All are welcome**

A Foggy Encounter

I was returning from a midweek Board Meeting which had gone on far longer than anticipated mainly due to junior members trying to impress our Chairman with non-important items brought up under Any Other Business. This had delayed matters somewhat and I found myself driving home on Wednesday, 22nd December, 1972, in a thickening fog.

I had about a 3 hour drive ahead of me which wasn't too difficult through the towns but became tiring when I was on the country roads without the help of street lighting. I was concentrating as best I could and making good progress anticipating the first G&T in front of the fire at home.

I knew the roads quite well and was nearing the part of the A41 as it passed the old RAF Airfield at Prees Heath when I came to a quite dense patch of fog causing me to slow down. It was then that I saw a figure of a man crossing the road in front of me. I slammed on the brakes but was not quick enough and hit him squarely on. There was an awful bang as he hit the windscreen and his hat went flying to the left.

I screeched to a halt about 40 yards on and jumped out of the Jaguar leaving the hazard lights flashing. I hurried back to where I thought I had hit him, expecting to see him dead in the road but there was no sign of him anywhere. He may be in the roadside ditch, I thought, and cursed the loss of my torch a few weeks before. I searched and searched but this was hampered by the thick fog. I decided it was no use, I needed help. As no motorist had passed during the time this had all taken place, about 40 minutes, I made up my mind to press on to the Police Station in Whitchurch. As you can imagine, by the time I arrived 15 minutes later I was shaking like a leaf and feeling like death.

I rang the bell on the front desk and was surprised at the speed at which the Sergeant appeared.

"Good evening sir, what can we do for you?" said Sergeant Wilcox, who was in his mid 50's and had a portly figure of a police officer coming to the end of a long career in the force.

"I think I've just knocked someone down in my car and fear I have killed him" I replied.

"You certainly look shaken to me", said the Sergeant. "I think you had better sit down and tell me all about it".

With that he bellowed "PC Brownlea, get yourself in here", and a young officer, at most 20 years old, immediately appeared obviously trying his hardest to impress his Sergeant as he was buttoning up his tunic as he walked into the office and was then detailed to make two strong cups of tea. Whilst he was performing this task, Sergeant Wilcox started to question me, at the same writing out his report.

His first question was to ask me to identify the point at which the accident had taken place and he then instructed PC Brownlea to take a Panda car and a strong torch to search for the victim. I got the feeling that the Constable was pleased to be allowed to drive the Panda and get away from the office for a while. The Sergeant dated his report December 22nd, 1972 and, after checking with myself, noted the time of the accident as approximately 8.10pm. He then asked me to give him the full details of all I could remember of the incident with the unfortunate man.

As you can imagine, the details were very clear in my



mind and I explained that it had been an airman wearing an overcoat with, I thought, Corporal stripes on his sleeve. As I hit him, his hat had gone flying and I could, therefore, see him quite clearly and he had dark hair and a moustache.

Sergeant Wilcox wrote all of this down then asked me to tell him about the airman's hat.

"Was it the peaked 'going out' type the RAF seems to expect their airmen to use when out in public or was it the beret type they wear when on fatigues?"

"No", I replied. "It was the forage cap which I think they call a cheese cutter".

At this point Sergeant Wilcox got up to make another cup of tea whilst we waited for the young Constable to return but said, "I think you have just bumped into Corporal Baxter".

"Who is Corporal Baxter?", I asked and the Sergeant explained that the Corporal was an engine fitter at RAF Prees Heath during the war who had been given a 7 day leave pass as it was Christmas, which commenced at midnight on Wednesday 22nd December. He was looking forward to spending Christmas with his wife and two young daughters at their home up in Cumbria. His Warrant Officer had taken pity on him and told he could leave the Camp early as he had finished the work he was doing stripping down an engine from an Anson used by the Station Commander.

A happy Corporal Baxter left the Camp at 8pm and was crossing the foggy A41 when he was struck by a vehicle which did not stop and he was killed instantly. Sadly, he never did get to spend Christmas 1942 with his wife and daughters.

I was very shaken by this story and asked the Sergeant how he was so well informed.

"Well", he said, "In 1942 I was a young 20 year old Police Constable who was sent to the scene and witnessed the carnage outside the RAF Camp and you are not the first to see an apparition of the Corporal". Sergeant Baxter then went to a filing cabinet and produced a folder which contained two Reports pertaining to the accidents thought to have taken place outside the RAF Camp, each one dated 22nd December at 8.10pm, one in 1952 and another in 1962.

The Sergeant then said, "We will wait for the return of PC Brownlea but my guess he will not have found any sign of an accident".

The Constable duly returned and reported that although my skid marks had been plainly visible, there was no sign of a victim.

Sergeant Wilcox turned to me and said "Well, I think we can wish you a goodnight, Sir, and a pleasant journey home".

I might add that every Christmas I always spend the evening of 22nd December at home in front of a warm fire with my family, and nothing will induce me to venture out on that night!

This story and all the characters in it are fictitious

Capel Salem, Pentre Halkyn

Gwasanaethau/Services at 2pm.

C = Communion, W = Welsh, E = English

December	2nd	Rev. Maureen Roberts	E
	9th	No Service	
	16th	Mr Goronwy Ellis	W
	23rd	Rev. Marc Morgan	W
	30th	No Service	

January 6th Rev. Marc Morgan C W

	13th	No Service	
	20th	Mrs. Delyth McIntyre	E
	27th	No Service	

November	3rd	Rev. Marc Morgan	W
	11th	No Service	
	18th	Rev. Hugh Burgess	E
	25th	No Service	

Capel Bethel y Nant

Do join us every Sunday at 2.30

December	2nd	Own Arrangement
	9th	Mrs Maryl Rees
	16th	Carol Service 2.00pm

There will be no service in the Chapel until February, owing to the cold weather and heating costs.

February	3rd	Mrs Maryl Rees
	10th	Marion Simkin
	20th	Huw Powell Davies
	27nd	Cyfarfod Gweddi

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



**Every Thursday 9.15-11.15
at Rhosesmor Village Hall**

**£2 for parent & toddler(s)
50p for parent & baby**

Find us on Facebook
'Rhosesmor Tots' or 'Rhosesmor Village'

Multi sensory activities,
craft and a healthy snack
Tea/coffee and treat for mums & dads too

CAPEL BETHEL Y NANT

Bilingual

Gwasanaeth Carolau/Carol Service

Paned a Mins Pei

Am 2.00 Rhag 16 Dec at 2.00

Croeso Cynnes i Bawb
A Warm Welcome to All

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



A Few Words from Danny the Donkey

I have always taken the view that it is important to get on well with neighbours. It is so much easier to adapt, to accept and tolerate differences, rather than to live in conflict and animosity (I haven't used that word for a long while so I'm feeling quite pleased with myself). Sometimes, you find that it is possible to make friends with those who you never imagined forming a friendship with, and when you get to know them, they often turn out to be very nice.

I have often referred to the creatures and humans who I have contact with. I like to think I am tolerant and that others are equally tolerant of me. I have spent my life in the nearby company of sheep and have learned their ways and behaviours which often appear very strange to me. However, I know that it is easier to live alongside each other and if this means that sometimes I have to grit my teeth, then it is worthwhile. I hate to admit it, but despite our different outlook on life, I would miss the sheep very much if they weren't there.

My tolerance levels were recently tested when I realised that with Christmas approaching, the sheep had in their own strange wisdom, decided to form a choir. It has to be said that sheep do tend to have a high opinion of their voices, but a choir was not what I expected or wanted to hear. To make matters worse, they decided to meet and practice on the slope of the mountain near to my lovely peaceful stable. Somewhere in the region of 75 to 100 sheep (I can only count them accurately when settling down to sleep) gathered for the first meeting. It was quite unnerving to see so many white shapes in the darkness of the late autumn evening. An older ewe stamped her foot on a stone to keep time and the assembled sheep appeared to be divided by the tone of their bleats. They made a horrendous noise singing about lambs and Christmas, but nevertheless congratulated each other on their achievement.

Rhosesmor W.I.

We are hoping to have a new committee in place by the time this issue of the Halkyn Mountain News is published.

We are still working on our programme for 2019, which we will have in place by January '19.

At our Christmas meeting this year we will have a seasonal buffet, followed by entertainment.

The members of the W.I. meet in Rhosesmor Village Hall at 7.15pm on the second Monday of each month except August, which is a holiday month.

We would welcome any ladies who would like to join us.

The contact number is Mrs. Mary North on 01352 780660.

One sheep near to my stable was bleating about singing at some event she called SheepFactor and Ewes Got Talent. I had no idea what this was all about.

Maybe a donkey's ears work different to a sheep's but what I heard will stay engrained in my memory. Then the leading ewe shouted something like "Once more from the top then girls". At this point I expected them to run to the top of the mountain and back again but instead they all bleated in unison at the top of their voices. The crescendo was like nothing I have ever heard before or want to hear again. This caused my stable door to rattle and created a big wave in my water butt. The wave of water sloshed over me and still the sheep sang.

Then, with a massive jolt, I woke up! Phew, it had all been a nightmare and looking out of my stable door there was not one single sheep in sight and certainly no choir. It was then that I noticed a tiny drip of water from my stable roof which must have been dripping on me as I slept.

Yes, I'm tolerant of my neighbours – so long as they don't form a choir!

Note to self: Think twice about eating too many thistles just before bedtime.

Bye for now,

Danny

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



A Big Thank You

On behalf of the Pensioners at the Rhosesmor Bungalows, we would like to thank, all the Rhos Helyg school and all the Pupils at the School, for the Harvest Festival Hampers, which were delivered to all the Pensioners, by two young ladies at tea time, on Thursday 25th of October.

A Big Thank You to All

From Ann and Hefyn



Ysgol Rhos Helyg

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

Pre -Parliament visit by Mr David Hansen MP

Pupils in Years 5 and 6 visit The Houses of Parliament in London as part of their studies every year. Our local MP Mr David Hansen came to school to discuss his work as an MP and to take questions by the pupils.



Farmers Market

The Farmers Market held at the school was a great success. Each class had a stall where they sold goods. The Year 4/5 sold Bath Bombs. The pupils learnt about the principles of a small business venture and learnt about start up costs, profit and loss.



The Reception pupils baked and decorated their own cakes. They sold their complete stock of 72 cakes within the first 10 minutes.

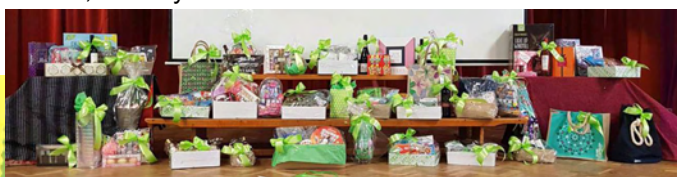
We had 10 seasoned Stallholders in addition to our own class stalls.

Mr David Hansen at the event.



Macmillan's Tea Party

Our annual tea party for Macmillan's proved to be another hit. Many thanks to all for making this such a tremendous family event. A fabulous sum of £750 was raised, thank you.



A big thank you to everyone who donated raffle prizes and cakes.



PC Mark Jones

Once again PC Jones has visited the school for his termly visit. This time he discussed behaviour and anti-social behaviour with the pupils.

Halloween disco

The PTA disco was really well supported. Many thanks to the PTA for organising this great event. The fancy dress as always was amazing.



Remembrance

We have once been selling various stationery items on behalf of the British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Forest School



Mrs Foxley and the children of Year1/2 have been doing Forest school this half term. They invited parents in to do some activities with them as the finale to their programme.



Football

The Year 3 and 4 football team had a successful time at a recent Festival at Deeside winning nearly all of their games.



Harvest

Our Harvest Concert was very well supported by parents. The donated food items were taken to the pensioners of Rhosesmor. The collection was in aid of The British Legion.



Trip to Liverpool

Two of our classes recently shared a bus to Liverpool. The Pupils in Mrs Foxley's class visited the Museum of the World whilst the pupils in Mrs Thomas' class visited the Maritime museum as part of their topic work.



Year1/2 Topic Work

Year 1/2 are learning about Australia and had an airport role-play in class. Recently, they had a visit from Flight Attendant Pippa, who told us all



about working on an aeroplane and showed us some special equipment used on board.



Archeology

The pupils have enjoyed looking at artefacts from the dig at Maes Ffynnon and learning about Roman life from the re-enactors and having the opportunity to create our own terracotta pottery.



Halkyn & District Bowling Club

President - Mr Stan Price (see Eulogy Page 24)

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of our President, Mr Stan Price. Stan has been involved with the Bowls Club for decades and has been our President for many years. Stan will be sorely missed by all of us and we offer our sincere condolences to his family.

Another season over, they go so quickly. It has been an interesting time. Our first game was played in the rain, fog and darkness. But then, how it changed. We had the longest, sunniest season ever. How we enjoyed it! But did it help?

The A and B teams both finished just below halfway down their respective leagues. The midweek team didn't do very well. It looks like we will go down to the next division. We hope the next season will be a bit easier. We had some difficulties this season, as we had lost two very good players. However, we have got some new players, bringing new life into the club and giving us a more positive attitude.

Apart from the actual league games our weekend club tournaments are well attended. These are more fun than the league games with some new types of games tried this year with much success.

The fabric of the club has needed some attention. We had a £500 donation from both the Cemex quarry and Halkyn Community Council. This enabled us to have a new floor covering in our conservatory. This was well overdue and has made a big difference to our main entrance. The very tall hedges around the green are being cut. The most important work to take place very soon is that the bowling green is to have a complete makeover. This is a big, expensive but a very necessary job. So we are looking forward to playing on a new, beautiful green next year.

The Competitions:

Flint Three Way Vets

Congratulations to Mick Carpenter on reaching the final of the Flint 3 way Vets competition. Unfortunately, Mick lost the final but it is a great achievement to reach the first place.



David Jones Trophy

Congratulations to Pat McDermott on winning his first singles title at the club. On Saturday 4th August Pat took home the David Jones Trophy, beating Mick Carpenter in



the final. The weather was kind to us again and held right to the climax of the competition at 7.30pm!

Consolation Cup

The Stan Price Consolation Cup was held on Saturday 18th August. The competition was for members who had yet to win a tournament this season. The final was competed for by Tony Henson and Noel Thomas, with Tony coming out the eventual victor.



Hubert Blackshaw Trophy

This was competed for on Saturday 18th August. The competition was competed for by the members who had previously won a trophy during the season. Jones who beat Mick



Ladies v Gents

The final club match of the season is the annual ladies v gents match and as is usual it is played in fancy dress. This year's theme was "cinema films" and there was a varied and somewhat unusual interpretation on what the stars of the films looked like. It is not surprising that many of us did not know who we were meant to be. Nevertheless a great day was had by all finishing with a good spread of impromptu snacks and lively debate on what next year would bring.



Picture shows everyone ready for the match which was won by the Gents. A great end to the playing season.

Annual Presentation Night

This was held in the Halkyn Cricket Club on Saturday 6th October. Our thanks to the Cricket Club for looking after us all evening; the guys behind the bar did a great job. The food supplied by Sue and Ann was excellent and served with wonderful sense of humour making the whole evening really enjoyable.

The main event of the evening was the

presentation of the trophies to the winners throughout the season. This year's winners were:

Competition	Winners
Granville Davies Cup	Mick Carpenter
Frank Cobb Trophy	Andrew Jones
Britania Shield	Mick Carpenter & Eirlys Edwards
Hale Trophy	Bill Worrall & Julie Lewis
Ivor Williams	Andrew Jones & Wyn Lewis
Sheila Statham Cup	Eirwen McDermott
Peter Anwyl Trophy	Mick Carpenter
Fred Evans Trophy	Arthur Jones & Jo Woodruff
David Jones Trophy	Patrick McDermott
Consolation Cup	Tony Henson
Hubert Blackshaw Cup	Andrew Jones
Ladies v Men Trophy	Men



The League Merit trophies

for the season were won by:

Midweek Merit Trophy Mick Carpenter
 Vets 'A' Team Merit Trophy Mick Carpenter
 Vets 'B' Team Merit Trophy Gladys Bunnell
All the winners with the trophies

The final presentation of the evening was to Bill Worrall who was retiring as Chairman of the Club Committee after 10 years. A 'To Bill' poem was read by Club Secretary Julie Lewis and an engraved glass was presented by 'A' Team Captain, Wyn Lewis.



We have had a busy but productive season. Our club goes on because we are a happy and popular club; so why not give us a try?

We have all you need, as well as a qualified coach.

Just contact:	Bill Worrall	710702
	Julie Lewis	781212
	Jo Woodruff	781276

Halkyn Cricket Club

On Saturday 8th September the club held its presentation evening. Club Chairman, Simon Penney, and 1st XI Captain, Rana Dey, presented the trophies to the respective winners.



1st XI Batting -
Graeme Settle



1st XI Bowling -
Ben Roberts



2nd XI Batting -
Shaun Gibson

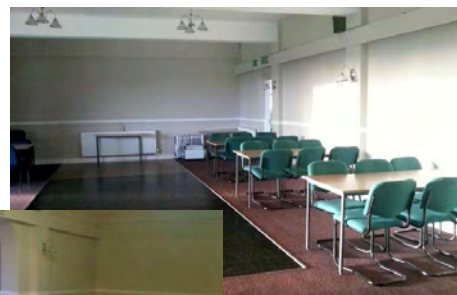


2nd XI Bowling &
Young Player of
the Year - Daniel
Williams

The club would like to thank MATCH BALL Sponsors for 2018 HILLCREST MOTORS, Holywell and BLUE BELL INN, Halkyn. Also, we would like to thank Kendley Steel for donating and fitting new gates for the top of the driveway, after ours were badly damaged by a construction vehicle during the resurfacing of Pentre Road.

Halkyn CC Clubhouse

A reminder that the clubhouse is available for hire.



A fully licensed bar, ideal for parties, christenings, wakes and weddings. We

offer the clubhouse FREE to any community groups or schools and have a reduced hire rate for children's parties (under 13).

For further details please contact Jane Williams on 01352 781 523 or 07732 325 033

Keith Williams, Secretary

Holywell Golf Club

Flintshire County Championship

A number of Holywell golfers played in the Flintshire County Championship at Mold Golf Club. This was a thirty six hole competition and the event was won by Holywell member Alistair Ross with a score of 70 and 72 to be crowned Flintshire County Champion. The runner up was Dave Rathbone. He was two shots behind and is also a member of Holywell.



Congratulations to them both. They did Holywell proud.

Holywell Golf Club Cancer Day

Holywell once again hosted its Cancer Charity day and as usual it was a huge success and around £1500 was raised for the charity. Around 50 pairs took part in the 4 Ball Better Ball competition open event but it was a Holywell pair that took the 1st prize. The winners were Mal and Charlie Payne, 2nd Danny Hughes and Jonathon Griffiths, 3rd Sam Scott and Don Norris. The Ladies prize went to our Lady Captain, Linda Leech and Lady Vice Captain, Nerys Jones. Nearest the pin on the 12th Ant Hitchin and on the 15th Ben Currie, nearest the pin in two shots on the 8th was Dave Bithell and longest drive Sion Johnson. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everybody who took part. A very big thank you to all the volunteers who made this day a great success. Without all their hard work this event could not have gone ahead and also a huge thank you to all the people who made donations for the prizes.

Holywell Seniors Tour 2018

Over thirty seniors travelled down to Whitchurch to play Hill Valley Golf Course. They had a fantastic time but apparently the hotel ran out of beer! There was some fantastic golf played and the overall winner was Dave Thomas with a fantastic score of 70 points over the two days. Thanks must go to Kevin Leech, Dave Thomas and Alyn Carroll who made the tour run smoothly.

Ladies' Section and the Seniors' Section

The ladies' section and the seniors' section joined forces to play a Mixed Texas Scramble. It is a format that has been going for a few years and everybody had a great day. Congratulations to the winning teams. First Janice Cain, Laurence Hughes and Bill Lawson and second was Gill Harrison, Cliff Edwards and Trevor Pye.

Club Outing – North Wales Golf Club

Josh Charnock, our club professional, joined thirty five members on their outing to the North Wales Golf Club.



There was a vicious wind blowing but everyone had a fantastic day. The wind made scoring difficult but the winner was Dave Bithell, pictured here with Don Ferguson.

The other winners were Division 1 Steve Edwards, runner up Luke Pilkington Jones, Division 2 Dave Bithell, runner up Scott Garner. Longest drive Tim Allison and nearest the pin Josh Charnock.

Vice Captain's Day

Mike Green our Vice Captain held a very successful day followed by a brilliant barbeque evening. The weather was good all day which helped create such a brilliant day. Mike welcomed all players on the first tee with a shot of their preferred tittle. It certainly helped with some fantastic scores.



Congratulations to Alan Williams who won with an overall score of 45 points.

Division 1, 1st Russ Gittins 2nd Geraint Jones, Division 2, Vic Roberts, 2nd Gron Hughes, Division 3, Daniel Hayes, 2nd Ian Taylor. Nearest the pin on the 12th Alastair Ross and on the 15th Ian Taylor

Holywell GC Pro-Am 2018

Holywell Golf Club hosted the Annual Pro-Am and 15 teams competed. It was a fantastic day and we had some beautiful weather which helped! The weather was matched by the golf. The leading Pro, Graham Cox, shot a course record equalling 61 (-9). Matt Parsley who would have won on any other day shot a superb round of 63 to come second with two other players tied for 3rd on 66. The outstanding scoring continued in the team event as 17 under was only good enough for 3rd place. The Lakeside Golf Centre team and the Midweek Comp team tied on 19 under but it was the Midweek Comp team who won on a back 9 count back. Congratulations to Tim Saunders, Sion Johnson and Peter Jones. Thank you to everybody who supported the event and made it a great day. The picture shows from left to right our professional Josh Charnock, Lady Captain Linda Leech, Mr President Alan Williams and Mr Captain Richie Allie.



Lady Vice Captain's Day August 2018

Once again the sun shone for the ladies when they celebrated their Vice Captain's Day. Their Vice Captain, Mrs Nerys Jones, was there to greet them all when they started their game of golf. The winner was Shirley Williams and second on a count back was Lorraine Redman and third Helena Rowley. The visitor's prize went to Christine Fergusson from Mold. Best front nine went to Ailsa Hughes best back nine Beryl Woods, longest drive Maureen Bibby. It was a double celebration for Nerys as she was celebrating her wedding anniversary. The picture shows from left to right Helena Rowley, Lady President Lorraine Redman, Lady Vice Captain Nerys Jones, Shirley Williams and Christine Ferguson.



Holywell Juniors

Sunday 5th August

The Kimberly Clark Trophy winner was Sian Jones; 12 holes red tees Haydn Jones, 2nd Callum Owen-Jones; 9 hole silver tees 1st Rhys Roberts, 2nd Amelia Jones.

September Medal

Sunshine was the order of the day for the juniors once again. This was shown in the fantastic scores that were recorded. Yellow tees 18 holes 1st Callum-Owen Jones, 2nd Harrison Prior; Red Tees 12 holes 1st Haydn Jones, 2nd Cameron Francis; Silver tees 1st Thomas Griffiths, 2nd Rhys Roberts. Congratulations to Lucy Parsley who played in the Mold Junior Open and was the winning girl also Harrison Prior who played the 18 holes well.

Junior Captain's Day

Although the day was cold there was a warm welcome for the juniors when they joined our Junior Captain, Callum Owen-Jones, when he celebrated his Junior Captain's Day.



The overall winner was Harrison Prior, 2nd Harri Orhan and 3rd Zac Elliot-Jones. Division 2 was won by Caiden Morris and 2nd Georgia Payne. Thanks to Junior Captain Callum and all those who helped on the course and supported the juniors at the presentation.

Junior Vice Captain's Day

Nine teams of juniors and their relatives braved the weather to compete in Haydn Jones Junior Vice-Captain's day. They played their own version of Texas scramble with the juniors teeing off and the rest of the family joining in. Team Griffiths won with William, Thomas, and Mum and Dad making up the team. The Vice Captains team came second. He was accompanied by his Mum, Dad and brother. Well done to everybody.



Holywell juniors' winter programme is about to start with coaching, meets and competitions. For info about joining in contact Josh on 01352710040 or email pro@holywellgc.co.uk

Finals Day 2018

Holywell held its annual finals day in September and the winners were:

The Westminster Cup was won by Charlie Chubb; Tweedle Trophy Alastair Ross and Chris Pierce; Gents Foursomes Alastair Ross and Chris Pierce; Newman Putter Mr President Alan Williams and Lady President Lorraine Redman; Sullivan Trophy Gareth Jones and Dave Hughes; the Cope Cup Helena Rowley; the Angie Evans, Sue Collingwood and Pauline Porter and finally the Arnold Williams Trophy, Les Terry.

Congratulations

Congratulations must go to Tim Saunders who had a fantastic round a couple of weeks ago when he shot a round of 65. He has had a great season on the course and this 65 saw his handicap reduce to +1, the lowest handicap in Holywell.

Halkyn Library

The library is a facility for all local residents, young and old, and is open

Friday afternoons

1:30 - 7:00 p.m.



Library Online

Services via

www.flintshire.gov.uk

Tender Spots

Patients often say things to me like, "How do you know exactly where the pain is" or "Your hands are like magnets they go right to the painful bit".

When patients talk about these painful spots, they mean that I find the tender spots; areas that they did not know were tender until I prodded them. At any one time there is a small percentage of people in pain, but there is a much larger percentage of people who have tender spots and do not know it. Many people are walking along the high street oblivious to the fact that they have tender spots in their backs.

Tender spots can come and go, and they are nothing to worry about. If you have a tender spot for a prolonged period it may be an indicator that there is something more significant going on under the surface; a tender spot may be a precursor to pain in the future.

The same goes for stiffness. We all get stiffer as we get older. We may also feel stiff after we have exerted ourselves, but long-term stiffness indicates muscle tension and joint restriction which may be a precursor to pain.

Most people who come to see me with an episode of severe back pain describe stiffness and low levels of pain leading up to it. Tenderness, low levels of pain and stiffness are signs that the body is not functioning as well as it might. If they persist, you should not ignore them. Go and get them checked out by a chiropractor. Not only are these symptoms precursors to more severe pain, they are also an emotional and energetic drain. You may feel down and become grumpy due to low level pain symptoms. With treatment you will feel better, not just physically but mentally and emotionally too.

After someone has recovered from a severe episode of back pain, they often still feel stiff and have tender spots, so, although they feel better, the problem has not gone altogether. If they stop having treatment it is likely that the pain will return in future. I can only be sure that someone is better when tender spots and stiffness have disappeared, so when my patient says, "You know how to find the painful spots", I am sure they mean it as a compliment!

Steve Massey
St Asaph Chiropractic Clinic, 01745 535854

Stan Price

Stan was born on April 23rd 1926, the fourth of 8 children, in Penllongley Cottage which lies midway between Pentre Halkyn and the Milwr. When Stan was still a child the family moved to Number 1 Maes Lygan in Pentre Halkyn. Little did Stan know at this time that he would spend the rest of his life living within 5 miles of this house.

Stan attended Halkyn School and with the rest of the family worshipped in Halkyn Church. He was to remain a loyal member of this church for the whole of his life. Around 1937, he attained a scholarship to the Grammar School in Holywell and, despite the lack of funds in the family, they made sure he was able to make the most of this opportunity.

When he was 18 years of age, in 1944. Stan left Pentre Halkyn for the first time. He was called up to the army and after basic training (including jungle warfare in Northumbria) he was posted to India and later in Burma. After the War he became a loyal member of the Burma Star Association attending the annual remembrance service in the Albert Hall.

On return to Britain in 1947 Stan was, for some time an insurance agent before joining a firm that were subcontracted to John Summers Steelworks. He later became employed by John Summers and remained there for the next 30 years or so. In the meantime he had met Bessie Jackson, a Halkyn girl, and they married in 1950 at Halkyn Church.

They briefly had homes in Rhosesmor and at Library View in Halkyn, but having become parents, following the birth of Pat, they needed something bigger and in 1955 were one of the first residents of the newly built Allt y Plas in Pentre Halkyn.

It was not long after this that Stan was given a job at the steelworks in Port Talbot. However neither he nor Bessie were inclined to leave Halkyn so Stan ended up working away from home for extended periods. He dearly missed his family and his home life around Halkyn and in 1959 secured a job back in Shotton. By this time his second child, Susan, had been born and Stan was resolved never to leave the Halkyn area again.

It was at this time that Stan became more involved with his father in reporting local events

for the Flintshire County Herald and the Flintshire Leader. Stan's father had lost most of his sight but was always able to find out exactly what was happening on Halkyn Mountain. This involved full coverage of weddings, funerals concerts and the like. When Stan's father died in 1969 Stan took over the role of correspondent and retained this for nearly 30 years. Alongside this he became a member of the Halkyn Parish Council, Halkyn Cricket Club, Halkyn Football Club and Halkyn British Legion. He also became a regular member of the Britannia Inn "Dominoes and Debating" society, meeting weekly on a Friday night. He was also the regular Master of ceremonies at local events, always ready with a joke or a monologue. His double act with the late Raymond Smith was a legend in its own time. At this time Stan was also the Leader at Halkyn Youth Club, and when the occasion arose the Presiding Officer for Local and General Elections. In short, if it happened in Halkyn Stan was part of it!

In the late 1970's he was central to the reformation of the Halkyn Bowling Club which, after a modest start on one of the member's large lawn, finally found a permanent home in Pentre Halkyn, a real legacy for future generations in the village. In later years the friendships he made in the bowling club would be very important to him, and right to the end he held the honorary title of President.

Although he enjoyed his home comforts he did enjoy travelling when he could. Accompanied by either his brother Douglas or his brother in law Vince he visited countries ranging from Australia to Iceland. In later years he continued to enjoy breaks away with his good friend Iris.

In the 1990s his sister Doreen was elected Mayor of Delyn and Stan had a very enjoyable year acting as her Consort. It involved lots of trips and meeting new friends, and this of course was right down his street.

It would be totally remiss not to mention Stan's passion for football. Although he played for Halkyn, he gained most enjoyment from following his beloved Everton FC. A true "Toffee", along with his brother Noel, he supported them through thick and thin. Although Stan only had 2 children, his family was to increase as he and Bessie decided, in 1970, to become foster parents. Initially they

would care for children in the infancy stage, but all that was to change in 1973 with the arrival of Lisa. A short term fostering led to them providing a loving upbringing for Lisa for the next 23 years. Lisa remains a part of the family although now living independently.

At about the same time Stan became a grandad for the first time with the birth of Andrew. Further grandchildren followed with Sarah, Ben and Dan. In 2010, to his great delight, his first great grandchild, Maisie arrived, followed a short while later by Finn.

Stan's life has not always been easy. Sadly he lost his beloved Bessie in 1996, and the new millennium saw him fighting and surviving a number of serious health issues. However he always remained positive and continued to lead his life to the full. He knew everything that was going on. His local knowledge was supplemented by avid reading of the Daily Post. The crossword had to be completed daily, and the highlight was reading (in his words) the section on Hatches, Matches and Despatches.

In 1998 Stan moved home for the last time to a bungalow in Rhosesmor. Here he renewed old friendships and made many new ones including his many friends at the Thursday Exercise Club.

It goes without saying that Stan was a popular man, known to everyone locally. However it was in the company of his family that he really revelled. This love and respect was fully reciprocated and this was clearly shown in 2016 on the occasion of his 90th birthday when over 80 members of his extended family travelled from all over Britain to share the evening with him.

So there we have it with Stan. A Father, Grandfather, Taid, Uncle and loyal friend to all who knew him.

As a final message we say "It is Goodbye from us to the "Life and Soul" of our parties and the "Love of our Lives"

This is the address given at Stan's funeral on Friday, 9th November.

It was written by Elfed Jones, Stan's son-in-law.



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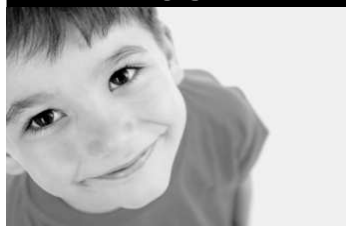
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