



Halkyn Mountain News

Issue 180 - Spring 2020

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Rhosesmor Over 60's Christmas Party

A good time was had by all when 59 of us got together for our Christmas Party at Holywell Golf Club in Brynford. A very big thank you to Jane and the team who laid on an excellent 3 course traditional Christmas lunch followed by tea/ coffee and mince pies.

Once again we were entertained by accomplished singer/keyboard player Allan Murray who performed a mixture of Christmas songs and popular music to get people on the dance floor. A free Raffle was held and 20 lucky people won prizes ranging from a luxury hamper to chocolate. We also had a free bar this year.

And now for the bad news, as many of you will know by now this was our last party as unfortunately we have run out of funds. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped and/or supported us over the many years that we have organised the party.

Diolch yn fawr!

The Committee.



Please submit items by May 1st for issue 181, which should be out in June 2020.

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 780 377

Editorial

Following our appeal for new volunteers in our Winter edition, we are very pleased to report that we have received a response from a small number of people who are willing to join our Team. We are currently in discussion with them and all being well, will have the help we need to continue. If you are still considering volunteering, we would still be pleased to hear from you. Please telephone either Robin Smith on 01352 781856 or Jack McIntyre on 01352 780377 or alternatively email hmnews@btinternet.com

In our Autumn edition we referred to the installation of new cattle grids and to a BBC report that sheep on the Yorkshire moors had taught themselves to roll across hoof-proof metal cattle grids. A resident had reported that "They lie down on their side, or sometimes their back, and just roll over and over the grids until they are clear. I've seen them doing it. It is quite clever". With "tongue in cheek" we suggested that perhaps our local sheep may develop similar skills and invited any reader witnessing the same on Halkyn Mountain to provide a photograph for inclusion in HMN.

Two readers have witnessed sheep skilfully negotiating the grids at Rhosesmor, at both the grids near the Wern y Gaer sign and the lime kiln. Unfortunately, neither witness had their phones with them to take photographs.

Sheep aside, if you have taken a photograph that reflects mountain life that you are particularly pleased with, why not share it and submit it for potential inclusion in a future edition?

As always, this edition is available at the Halkyn Community Council website www.halkyn.org.uk where photographs can be viewed in colour.

With best wishes,

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.

Brynford Community Council

Christmas Tree and Illumination Event

On Friday 6th December 2019 the illuminations of the Christmas Tree took place. The Chairman of the Council, Councillor Jean Davies, had the honour of turning on the first illumination event in Brynford. An estimated 200 residents attended the event along with pupils and staff of Brynford C.P. School who lead the carol singing.

Refreshments provided by Mr. John Ward and his staff were served at St. Michael's Church. The Council wishes to thank all the volunteers and supporters of the event.

At the January meeting of the Council it was agreed that the event will continue again this year with an illumination event taking place on Friday 4th December 2020.

If any residents wish to become involved, have any ideas on how to improve or build on this community event please come along to our Community Project Team meeting at Brynford Pet Cemetery on Tuesday 25th February 2020 for 6.00pm.

Brynford Village Stores

After some 20 years in business it has come as a great shock to some of our local residents that Jean Davies has decided to retire from trading and has closed Brynford Village Stores from Sunday 12th January 2020. This must have been no easy decision for Jean as she has provided a most valued service to the community, 7 days a week starting at 5.00am to deal with early morning deliveries, for so long. Her friendly service will be missed by many and on behalf of the Council Members and many local residents we wish Jean a long and happy retirement. (And a morning cup of tea in bed).

Setting of Council Budget and Precept 2020/21

At the Council meeting held the 14th January 2020 the Council set its annual budget for 2020/21 at £35,032. The precept to the Local Authority was set at £29,000. The impact of this on a band D property will be an increase of 5.90% raising the precept to £60.18 per year.

Brynford Village Green Bus Shelter Paving Improvements

Work to remove the uneven paths and installation of new paths has been completed by Jamie Roberts of Slurry Seal Company based in Calcoed. Members of the Council reported that workmanship had been undertaken to a very high standard. A letter of thanks on behalf of the Council has been sent to Mr. J. Roberts.

A. Roberts, Clerk to the Council
Clerk@brynfordcommunitycouncil.gov.uk
Crecas Cottage, Carmel Hill,
Pantasaph, Nr. Holywell, CH8 8NZ
Tel: 01352 349849

Halkyn Community Council

Criminal Offences Reported Within the Community

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

Halkyn - 1 x Suspicious Circumstances – Caller, whilst running with her dog, reported seeing a suspicious looking man, wearing navy.

Pentre Halkyn - 1 x Robbery – IP (Injured Party) has been walking from the Windmill area back to Pentre Halkyn and has been approached by a male from a sun-faded blue Nissan panel van who stated he would like the IP's dog as a 'bait dog'. Male has then stolen IP's watch from his wrist and returned to the van / 1 x Suspicious Circumstances – Cold callers in the area of Lon Y Fron knocking on doors and trying to sell cheap windows and leaving no card or leaflets. Vehicle used - old silver BMW on trade plates / 1 x ASB Environment – Pant Y Pwll Dwr Quarry - 6 off road bikes, all riders with helmets on riding near the quarry / 1 x Suspicious Circumstances – Two males wearing tracksuits with no ID claiming to be from Scottish Power in the Allt Y Plas area. Scottish Power confirmed that the persons were employees of the company / 1 x Anti-Social Behavior – Report of fires and ASB in Henblas Quarry. Evidence of parties being held, and the firing of a pellet gun / 1 x Suspicious Circumstances – 4/5 persons hanging around the Community Centre at Allt Y Plas.

Rhosesmor - 1 x Suspicious Circumstances – Caller reporting suspicious vehicle parked outside an address / 1 x Anti-Social Behavior Environment – Reports of 3 off-road bikers with two bikes and a quad on the moor/quarry area. PCSO caught up with the riders, took details, spoke to guardians and advised that the common land could not be used for sport / 1 x Road Related Offence – Two males with no helmets on riding a motorbike travelling through the village – motorbike had L plates.

Street Scene

The following items of concern have been reported to Flintshire County Council: **(1)** grass cutting concerns in the Allt Y Plas area, Pentre Halkyn, **(2)** Hedge in the area of Mariah Chapel in Halkyn – had not been cut by the County contractors, **(3)** The Give Way white lines have not been re-instated following the tarmacing of the road – from opposite the Blue Bell Inn, Halkyn to the Siglan 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: 060635 – for first floor extension to provide third bedroom and a bathroom, at Ivy House, Halkyn. **(2)** Application number: 060634 – for first floor side extension over garage and internal alterations, at Wayside, Wern Road, Rhosesmor. **(3)** Application number: 060547 – for amendment to planning approval 051487 – to allow the re-alignment of Plot 2, at Land side of The Bungalow, Rhosesmor.



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 received from Flintshire County Council

(a) Application number: 059866, for demolition of existing timber framed bungalow and associated garage/outbuildings. Proposed erection of a dormer bungalow with associated ramps/retaining walls etc., and temporary permission for siting of a static caravan during construction, at Silvermore, Pentre Halkyn. Approved. **(b)** Application number: 060140 – for approval of details reserved by conditions no 14 (five year development scheme) attached to permission number: 054768, at Pant Y Pwll Dwr Quarry, Pentre Halkyn. Partially Discharged. **(c)** Application numbers: 058118 & 158819 – for conversion of redundant outbuildings to a single 4 bed holiday accommodation, at Gerddidun Farm, Rhosesmor. Approved. **(d)** Application number: 060422 – for approval of details reserved by a number of conditions – attached to planning application number: 051668, at Brookside Works, The Nant, Rhydymwyn. Approved. **(e)** Application number: 060423 – for approval of details reserved by a number of conditions – attached to planning application number: 052397, at Brookside Works, The Nant, Rhydymwyn. Approved. **(f)** Application number: 060370 – installation of wind turbine, at Dafarn Dywyll, Brynford Road, Pentre Halkyn. Approved.

Donations and Financial Support

£200 - Halkyn Pensioners Club Christmas Party / £750 - Halkyn Parish Hall Management Committee towards games equipment.

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

Rhosesmor Community Garden

Our Garden has hibernated through the winter. But snowdrops are flowering now and lots of bulbs can be seen pushing through.

John has also prepared the wild flower area ready for sowing. So looking forward to the spring, and the garden and wild flower area exploding into colour again this year for everyone to enjoy.

If you wish to be involved in looking after the garden or wish to plant something in memory of a loved one,

Contact Viv at:

viviennebarlow@gmail.com 07740 553 601



Your County Councillor

Dear Constituents,

May I offer my commiseration to all those people, like myself, who feel that they are caught in a labyrinth or maze because of the confusion and uncertainty which has developed over the past few years and especially in the last few months? Roget's "Thesaurus of English words and phrases" (rather like a dictionary but which lists together words with similar meanings) has 77 words which could be used as alternatives to labyrinth - very fitting for describing the uncertainty which has developed in Britain during the past few months. Our uncertainty and disillusionment is exacerbated by the increasing lack of probity, integrity and honesty in 'high places'. For everyone's sake let us hope that the black cloud of anxiety and uncertainty will have been dissipated by the date of this edition of the 'News'.

There are still serious problems affecting us locally. Recently it has been brought to my attention that an increasing number of dogs have been observed running around off their leads. It is assumed that owners of these dogs live beyond the boundaries of the Mountain but it is most important that everyone who exercises their dogs on the Common keep their dogs on a lead. It is illegal to do otherwise. There have been cases recently where dogs have been seen worrying sheep and one sheep has been killed by a dog.

Another problem is that the Common is regularly used by riders of mountain bikes and quad bikes - again illegally. It is difficult for the police to tackle this behaviour without the active help of residents. Do NOT tackle these offenders yourself. Ring the police on 101 and try to give precise locations. One or two calls are not usually effective. If several people ring the police, especially relating to the one incident, the police have a much better chance of taking action.

Speeding cars which ignore the speed limits are a constant danger, especially along the straight stretches of road past Ysgol Rhos Helyg. As has been pointed out before, whilst it may appear to be safe to exceed the speed limit, the result of just one accident could cause the death of a child or adult; that is a FINAL result and a family is left with sad memories for decades afterwards. There is no recovery from DEATH. A little, simple arithmetic will show that the amount of time saved by speeding over a short distance is infinitesimal. Travelling at speed can be both exhilarating and legitimate in the right place and favourable conditions. It is also nearly as bad to drive too slowly (enjoying the scenery?) and can cause long queues of traffic, and frustration and annoyance to people who wish to drive at an acceptable speed.

Climate change has become a very prominent topic in our lives during the last few decades. It is very important to realise that climate change, whilst a feature of global warming at the moment, can also bring substantial lowering of temperature as well as affecting rainfall, wind direction and force and other weather features. Actually, there have been at least

three periods in the past 25,000 years when the earth's temperature has been higher than it is now, including a period within the last glacial event though the ice did return for a short period (the 'Windermere' inter-glacial was much warmer, followed by the 'Lomond' re-advance of ice). Moreover, during the previous millennium (1,000 to 2,000 AD) nearly every century has experienced at least two cataclysmic events, examples of climate change; e.g. terrible floods, horrendous storms (the misfortune of the 'Spanish Armada') and massive snowfalls e.g. the avalanche above Lewes in Sussex. Weather forecasting is now more accurate. However, it seems unlikely that we shall have a severe winter this year, but the unexpected can still happen. Nature is full of surprises, this includes earth quakes and volcano eruptions e.g. Krakatoa in 1883. It took several years for before the planet was rid of the dust the volcano sent into the upper atmosphere, which caused severe weather conditions, farmers being particularly affected.

I nearly forgot to mention a possible change in our local democracy. The Boundary Commission has been reviewing the Council boundaries and the number of voters in each. They are proposing to transform the Halkyn and Brynford constituencies into a single constituency, but with two councillors. It will be known as the Brynford and Halkyn constituency. The reason is to do with the number of councillors; as ideally each constituency should have roughly an equal number of voters. It is doubtful you will notice any difference.

I have officially objected to the change: it really seems to be an example of unnecessary bureaucracy. Life will go on practically the same, one person taking responsibility for Brynford and another doing the same for Halkyn. The revision terminated on 19th November 2019.

It has recently been agreed that the Council Tax increase will be limited to 5% this year

It is encouraging to finish on a more positive note. It is always a real tonic to hear of the various activities that take place throughout the year on the 'Mountain'. The Rhes y Cae show is an excellent example but over Christmas many kind and caring people provided the annual Christmas dinners for the pensioners of the area. For this we give heartfelt thanks. However, there are all sorts of activities taking place in the four village/parish halls on the mountain throughout the year, which is a good example of the vibrant society we have the privilege to live in. In conclusion I would like to thank the parents who organised events for Halloween. The children were able to enjoy this annual festivity in safety and without causing other people trouble.

I hope you had a contented and peaceful Christmas and wish you a bright and healthy New Year.

Colin Legg (C.C.)

Grosvenor Estate Update

As it is the first Halkyn Mountain News of 2020, we'd like to wish you all a belated Happy New Year. At the start of the festive period (which seems a while ago now), our forestry team helped source and erect a Christmas tree on the Village Green in Brynford. We were delighted to see the tree lit up during the community carol event in early December, and very glad that the evening was such a success.

We were also happy to have been able to assist the local community in securing fire curtains for Rhes y Cae Village Hall. Funding was given jointly by Eaton Estate and the Westminster Foundation towards purchasing and installing this important safety equipment at the Hall. We commend the Committee members and others in the community for co-ordinating the work and taking measures to make the Hall safer for all who use it.

We at Grosvenor Estate have a very important role in managing the Halkyn Common landscape responsibly, and partnership working is a very important aspect of what we do. We regularly liaise with others to look after the local environment, heritage and safety of all who use the Common as well as to minimise any potential risks.

Last year, we were approached by the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service to help develop a Wildlife Response Plan for the area. The work is now nearing completion and Halkyn Mountain will be used as a pilot to gauge the Plan's effectiveness in responding to potential wildfire sites across North Wales. This kind of strategic collaboration to deal with wildfires is a first in Wales, and we are proud to have played our part in what we believe will undoubtedly further protect the safety of local residents and visitors, as well as the natural landscape.

We always encourage Halkyn Common users to report any incidents or changes to the landscape either directly to us or to the appropriate authorities. Some of you may have heard of a relatively new mobile app called 'What 3 Words' which is increasingly being used by the emergency services as an alternative to lengthy grid references to find exact locations. The 'What 3 Words' app allows users to precisely locate - and report - where they are using simple 3 word addresses which are just as accurate as GPS coordinates. Should you ever need to report anything to our Eaton Estate Office, this is a very helpful tool to let us know exactly the area in question.

And, as always, if you do spot anything that should be drawn to our attention, please contact the Eaton Estate Office on 01244 684400.

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 780 297

Graziers and Commoners News

Biggest police funding boost 'in a decade'

- Western Mail, Thursday January 23, 2020

The UK government has promised the biggest cash boost for police in a decade, as it announced its funding plans for the coming financial year.

Funding for police forces will increase by more than £1.1bn in 2020/21 the Home Office said.

The total amount of funding available could reach £15.2bn if police and crime commissioners ask council tax-payers again to stump up extra cash to pay for services.

According to the announcement the money includes:

£700m to recruit 6,000 officers, the first phase of the 20,000 pledged over the next three years.

£150m made available to fight organised crime and crack down on online child abuse.

£39m allocated to tackling serious violence – including £20m to target county lines drug dealing.

The Home Secretary, Priti Patel, said "This government is delivering on the people's priorities by giving policing the biggest funding increase in a decade. It will mean more officers tackling the crime blighting our streets (and countryside) so people can feel safe."

Some would say "what has this got to do with Halkyn Mountain Common?"

Everything! All of these bullet points highlighted impinge on our local environment to such an extent that our forefathers would not recognise the area as the one they knew. Inhabitants of Halkyn Mountain are aware that current manpower and resources are far too limited in order to pursue the miscreants in this area.

With this change in attitude and priority in Westminster let us hope for a more rapid and efficient rural service.

Cattle Grids

Three cattle grids are now in place at Waen-y-Gaer, Ochr-y-Foel, Plas-yr-Ddol/Old Vicarage, Rhosesmor and we await the completion of the installations this year.

**Next Graziers meeting –
Thursday 26th March 2020
All commoners welcome.**

Pentre Halkyn Community Centre

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

Holywell Art Club - Wednesdays 10am - 2pm

Line Dancing - Fridays 8pm - 10pm

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

Capel Salem, Pentre Halkyn

Gwasanaethau/Services at 2pm.

C = Communion, W = Welsh, E = English

March	1st	Rev. Maureen Roberts	C	E
	8th	Miss Angela Bebbington		E
	15th	Mrs Delyth Davies		W
	22nd	Rev Hugh BURGESS		E
	29th	Mrs Maryl Rees		W
April	5th	No Service		
	12th	Rev. Marc Morgan		W
	19th	No Service		
	26th	Mr David Barber Jones		W
May	3rd	Rev. Marc Morgan		W
	10th	Mrs Delyth McIntyre		E
	17th	Mr Peter Sinclair		E
	24th	Rev Hugh Burgess	C	E
	31st	No Service		

A warm welcome to all.

Capel Bethel y Nant

Do join us at 2.30pm every Sunday

March	1st	Own arrangement
	8th	Huw Powell Davies
	15th	Maryl Rees
	22nd	Delyth McIntyre
	29th	Own arrangement
April	5th	Eric Greene
	12th	Own arrangement
	19th	Shân Morris
	26th	Aled Llewellyn Evans
May	3rd	Maureen Roberts
	10th	Cynanfa ganu 6.00pm Flint a Treffynon Berthen Licswm
	17th	Angela Bebbington
	24th	Own arrangement
	31st	Marion Simkin

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

Hardy Plant Society Clwyd Group

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, members free.
Membership is available.

Information on 01352 375385
or clwydgroup@hardy-plant.org.uk
or www.hardy-plant.org.uk/clwyd

The spring programme is:

Tuesday 17 March

Tulips in Holland, Mary Jones.

Tuesday 21 April -

at the **Springfield Hotel**, Pentre Halkyn

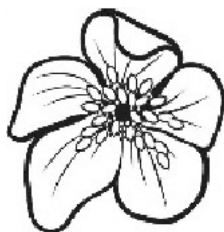
Tales from the Plant Hunters,
Bledwyn & Sue Wynn-Jones

Visitor tickets £5 in advance, £8 at door. Free raffle.

Sunday 17 May PLANT SALE 10.30am -1.30pm

FREE ADMISSION, public welcome, many stalls.

Programme can be subject to change.



Halkyn W.I.

April is our guest night when members of other local W.I.s join us for an evening of entertainment and food.

We look forward to seeing old friends and hearing Cameron sing.

Laughter will abound as Brian Harvey tells us about his time in radio at the May meeting.

We look forward to hearing about the work of Save the Children at the March meeting, as well as the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf charity at the June meeting.

We invite any local women to join us, for a taster of what we offer as our guest, just come to one of our meetings.

We meet at Halkyn Parish Hall [Library]. You can reach me Fiona Jones on 01352 780462 if you have any questions.

Meetings

March 5th at 2.15pm.

Speaker: John Roberts from Save the Children.

April 2nd at 7.15pm.

Speaker: Singer; Cameron Williams.

May 14th at 7.15pm.

Speaker: Rev. Brian Harvey 'My Radio Years'.

June 4th at 7.15pm.

Speaker: Fiona Whitelaw from Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.

Halkyn Parish Hall

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 07934 669 794**

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

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

From January 15th
Ukulele Tuition 6.00 - 7.00pm
Ukulele Club evening 7.00 - 9.00pm
Church Coffee Morning 10.30 - 12.00 noon
1st Wednesday in the month

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

Last Friday in the month - Games Night

Weekend

Halkyn Mountain Cinema
**Saturday 14th March
"Yesterday" (12A)**
See item in HMN for contact details.

Heartfelt Art & Craft 2020 10 am - 3:00 pm.
Return on Saturday 7th March & 2nd May
(Contact: Sue Parry-Harwood on 01352 781088)
or email: heartfelt.mountainstudio@aol.co.uk

Rhosesmor Village Hall

Weekly Diary

For room booking ring Jon Tarry 780842

HALL

Monday

Coffee Morning 10.30 - 12.00
Fortnightly
Contact: Lynn Banks 781714
RETROBICS-keep fit 6.00-7.00pm Weekly
Contact: Lynn Fearnhead 780740

Tuesday

Yoga - Morning Weekly
Yoga - Evening Weekly
Contact: Karen 01352 759333

Wednesday

Tai Chi 11.00-12.00 Weekly
Contact: 07563 985945
PhilsHarmonics Age 3-6 4.00-4.45pm
Choir (Weekly) Age 7+ 6.00-7.00pm
Adults 7.00-9.00pm
Contact: Phillipa 07660 833981

Thursday

Rhosesmor Tots 9.15-11.15
Weekly in Term time
Contact: Facebook Page/Lynn 780740
French Language 10.00-12.00 Fortnightly
Silver Movers Afternoon Weekly
Contact: Ann Williams 780735

Friday

Cubs & Scouts Evening
Weekly in Term time
Contact: Graham Fredericks 780732

Saturday

Jewellery making Daytime every 4 weeks
Contact: Alison Tarry 780842
Board Games Daytime every 6 weeks
Contact: John Tarry 780842

COMMITTEE ROOM

Monday

Exploring Faith 7.30-9.00pm Weekly
Contact: Rev'd Hugh Burgess 01352 741646

Tuesday

Rhosesmor Artists' Club 2.00-4.00 Weekly
Contact: Brian Fearnhead 780740

Thursday

W.I. Painting Group Evening Weekly
Contact: Win Garoch 780824

Halkyn Over Fifties Club - Activities for 2020

We are a friendly group of mature people. Everyone is welcome at our monthly meetings. These are held on the first Monday of each month at the Blue Bell in at 2 pm. We usually have a speaker on a subject of local, national or international interest.

We also organise a programme of visits. For these we usually use the Estuary Cars Minibus. Bookings for these trips take place at the regular monthly meetings. Our trips usually include stops for refreshment in the morning and afternoon. Note that dates and full details are subject to confirmation.

Mon Jan 6th World War 1 Nurses

This presentation is by Celia Drew who has spoken to the Group on previous occasions on local history topics.

Mon Feb 3rd Musical Entertainment

Mike Faulkner will entertain the Group with music and songs.

Mon Mar 2nd Old Postcards and Photos

Brian Bennett is a Deltiologist (a collector of postcards). He has many of the local area and his presentations always provoke interest and comment.

Tues Mar 24th Mersey Ferry, Liverpool and U Boat Experience

We travel from Halkyn to Birkenhead and take the ferry to Liverpool. This service now has commentary on the river and ports. We then have free time in Liverpool – members have a wide choice of activities available to them including an open top bus tour, the museums at and near the Albert Dock, BT Tower, shopping, simply strolling on the promenade, etc.

Mon April 6th Talk on Gwydr Castle

Tues April 21st British Ironwork Centre

As well as this fascinating Centre we will visit Whittington Castle and either Oswestry or Ellesmere.

Mon May 4th Down Memory Lane

Dennis Rosser is a local historian whose talks promote discussion on times gone past.

Tues May 19th Cold War Bunker at Nantwich

The Bunker was constructed during the Cold War to provide a Regional Control Centre in the event of a Nuclear War. Lunch will be taken in a local pub or restaurant.

Mon June 1st Liverpool Dairy Farm

Dave Joy's family ran a dairy business in Liverpool.

Tues June 6th Tour of North Wales

This tour will take us to Llanystumdwy where we visit the David Lloyd George Museum. We then continue to Crickieth before returning via a different route.

Mon Jul 6th The Story of Neston Collieries

Birthplace of Wirral's Industrial Revolution. The story of the early collieries at Neston, including underground canals, the area's first steam engines and tales of sabotage!

Tues Jul 21st Acton Scott Museum

This museum has featured in many TV programmes. It is a reconstruction of a Victorian Farm.

Mon Aug 3rd To be confirmed

Tues Aug 18th Ellesmere Port National Waterways Museum

This museum is situated at the Northern end of the Shropshire Union Canal. It is hoped that a trip on a Canal Barge will be included.

Mon Sept 7th Welsh Water

Tracey will give a talk on the activities of Welsh Water and how to save on your water bills.

Weds Sep 16th East Lancs Railway and Bury Market

We travel to Heywood to catch the train to Bury. There will be time for lunch and a possible visit to the market before catching the train for the return journey.

Mon Oct 5th To be confirmed

October date TBC Gwydir Castle

As well as visiting this house with a fascinating history we will explore more of the Conwy Valley.

Mon Nov 2nd To be confirmed

Tues Nov 10th Autumn Tints

Tour of North Wales Bala, Barmouth, Ty Gwyn Museum, Harlech and return via Crimea Pass and Betws y Coed.

Mon Dec 7th Entertainment Plus

Nov/Dec Great Days and Panto dates TBA

Local Post Office Service

Available at Rhosesmor, Pentre Halkyn and Halkyn. The opening days and times are:

Halkyn

Parish Hall CH8 8BU - Fridays 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Pentre Halkyn

The General Store, CH8 8HD - Tuesdays 9.30am - 11.30am

Rhosesmor

Village Hall CH7 6WF - Wednesdays 2.00pm – 4.00pm

If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Helen Bailey – Post Office
01352 733213

The Post Office range of services includes:

- Post letters and parcels
- Travel money
- Travel insurance
- Travel money card
- Bill payments
- Cash withdrawals from bank accounts
- Personal and business banking deposits
- Change service for businesses
- Savings accounts
- Vehicle tax
- Homephone and broadband
- One4All gift cards
- Health Lottery
- Mobile phone top ups
- Gas and electric top up

Halkyn Mountain Parish Holiday

There may be a few places left for this, so if anyone is interested in coming on a very enjoyable holiday please do get in touch to find out more about it and obtain the brochure and application form. You do not have to be a church goer to access this holiday.

Shallowford House Parish Holiday 2020

Monday 20th to Friday 24th July 2020

Shallowford, Stone, Staffs, ST15 0NZ

Tel: 01785 760233

COST £65 per person per night HALF BOARD

This stunning 19th century building is set in beautiful gardens and its central location makes it the ideal base for trips to a wide variety of local places yet is only one and a half hours drive away from Halkyn.

Beautifully situated in tiny Shallowford Village, set within nine acres of beautifully maintained gardens and meadow which offer the ideal place to relax and unwind. There are different areas of the garden that add interest – a croquet lawn, formal lawns, a Friends' garden, herb and fruit gardens and a wildlife area. In the meadows you will find a labyrinth and a wander path, an archery shelter, several ponds with informal seating around, one



with resident ducks. The gardens are also home to chickens and a family of peacocks! There are several retreat buildings for reflection and solitude, if that is your 'thing'. Indoors includes a chapel, meeting rooms, social spaces and a licensed bar. There are also two alpacas.

The 25 bedrooms are comfortably furnished to include a wardrobe and desk, tea and coffee making facilities, and the provision of towels. All but one bedroom have ensuite bathrooms and the remaining room has a private bathroom opposite. There is a mixture of double, twin and single rooms. Bedrooms are available from 4pm on the day of arrival, checkout time is 10am on the day of departure.

Social spaces, as well as two of the ground floor bedrooms are wheelchair accessible. There is a lift which means that there is easy access to any floor.

There is a spacious car park and disabled parking at the front of the House. Free Wi-Fi is available, but please note that the signal strength may vary around the building. For a wide variety of photographs and lots more information, please access the website on: www.shallowfordhouse.org/shallowford-house

For somewhere so close to home it is unbelievable how many varied and interesting activities can be accessed nearby. Of course this is pottery and mining territory so many things of interest relate to the area/s industrial history. However, it is not only limited to this. This will be a holiday that does not depend upon good weather for a perfectly enjoyable few days –and that's a promise.

Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema

We started the new year with a well attended mid January screening of 'Rocketman', the big screen story about the early life of pop superstar Elton John. The music theme continues with our next film, but from a somewhat different viewpoint.

On **Saturday 14th March** we will be showing 'Yesterday' (12A), written by Richard Curtis and directed by Danny Boyle. This romantic comedy tells the story of a struggling musician, Jack, who, after a global blackout, realises he is the only person in the world who remembers the Beatles! Performing songs by the greatest band in history to a world that has never heard them, Jack becomes an overnight sensation.



After March, our remaining community cinema dates for 2020 are:

Saturday 16th May

Saturday 18th July

Saturday 12th September

Saturday 21st November

If you're one of our regular supporters then we look forward to seeing you there, and if you haven't been before then why not come along and enjoy watching some great films on the big screen, with surround sound music, right here on your doorstep.

Tickets for 'Yesterday' (12A) go on general sale at the end of February and will be available for purchase from the Blue Bell Inn, Halkyn or online via the cinema website - www.mountaincinema.org.uk - still at the great low price of £4 per ticket.

You can keep up to date with all the news about what's showing at the mountain cinema by looking at our website, by following us on social media or be the first to hear about when tickets go on general sale by signing up to the email mailing list.

www.mountaincinema.org.uk

www.facebook.com/mountaincinema

www.twitter.com/mountaincinema

Clare Madders

Chair - Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema

Blue Bell Walks

We are blessed with a wonderful variety of outstanding, beautiful scenery which makes walking a delightful activity. We wish all our walkers and walk leaders a healthy 2020.

The January weather was kind to us and the New Year's Resolution Walks were well attended with new faces and dog walkers joining us.

The two 90 minute walks on Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings cater for all abilities. The slower walk generally keeps to the common with no stiles whilst the more adventurous walk might venture through fields and woodland to places like Middle Mill, Ruby Brickworks, Coed y Felin Nature Reserve, Ffagnallt Farm (with the skull), the limestone pavement, the Pentre Halkyn Lake District and the limekilns which were famous for helping to build the Menai Bridge and Mersey Docks.

On the third Saturday of the month, Bob Mossop leads a longer nine mile walk visiting places like Gwsaney Hall, Nanerch Mill, Ysceifiog Fisheries and Holywell Racecourse.

The annual donation Walk in aid of Kidney Wales Research, Transplants and Dialysis will take place on Saturday 25th April 2020.

Evening Walks begin in April – all walks start at 7pm

- Wednesday 1st April at the Blue Bell Inn, Halkyn – a 90 minute and a 60 minute walk.
- Friday 3rd April at the Crown, Lixwm – one 90 minute walk.
- Monday 6th April at the Upper Ship, Bagillt – one 90 minute walk.

During the summer, the six weekly walks are kept going with the help of our team of volunteer walk leaders. Some of our more experienced walkers have also stepped in at the last minute due to illness or other commitments. We hope that some of these willing helpers (or anyone who is interested) will take the opportunity of attending a half day (morning) Walk Leaders Training Course at the Valley Works, Rhydymwyn on 23rd April 2020.

John and Vicky Thomas

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
www.flintshire.gov.uk

A few words from Danny the Donkey



I have never doubted that I am a fortunate donkey. I live in a very pleasant location; have a comfy stable and a plentiful supply of food. There is always something interesting happening and I very much enjoy receiving visitors. Although the weather is constantly changing, in general my life is fairly consistent. If

however, anything changes, I tend to notice it and sometimes changes are not for the better.

I was pottering around my stable recently when I became aware of someone who was being very industrious only a short distance away. Sometime later, he had put up a fence and a shiny gate. I just can't imagine why, because afterwards he went away and hasn't returned since. Not once have I seen him use his new gate. It all seems very strange to me.

Later that evening I noticed the change – every time someone passes through the gate there is a clang when it closes. Just as I am resting my eyes, CLANG! The shock makes me jump each time.

The sheep are also unhappy about it. Some of the smaller sheep are able to roll under it but one of the larger ewes tried and then got stuck. It took quite a while for her to wriggle free and her language was rather colourful not befitting of a ewe of her years. If it had been physically possible, I would have politely covered my ears.

Not only do I have to suffer the clanging of the gate, but also the complaining of the sheep. Then there was the man who was running down the mountain. He wasn't expecting to find the gate and had to stop suddenly to avoid crashing into it. He opened it and shut it with – yes another CLANG!. I didn't understand the words he said but I guess he wasn't delighted. You would never imagine that a gate would upset some many.

Yesterday I found out the name of the man who put up the gate and fence. Two ladies were passing by and one said to the other "It looks like Donald Trump has visited - he's put up a wall. He'll probably want to make the sheep pay for it!"

Now I know a wall when I see one and this is definitely a fence, but that aside, by the tone of her voice, I don't think Donald is very popular and the lady went on to speak rather rudely about his hair. I can't be sure that her comments were true or not as he was wearing a woolly hat when I saw him.

I wonder whether Mr Trump has been putting up fences near other people's stables?

Bye for now,

Danny

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

Rhes y Cae News

Refurbishment of Rhes y Cae Village Hall

The latest tasks in the Village Hall refurbishment have now been completed and the Hall Committee is delighted with the results. The new heating boiler has been installed, and lovely new curtains are now in place, beautifully made by local resident Lyn Day. This work marks the final stage in the recent improvement of the hall, including having the floor sanded and sealed, a new hot water system for the kitchen and painting the inside and outside of the hall.



The committee wishes to thank everyone who has been involved in the work in any way, or supported with fundraising.

Village Hall Christmassy Coffee Morning – Saturday 16th November

A very well attended event again this year. The craft stalls were a very interesting mix, with Christmas decorations and cards, felt and fabric gifts, and a wonderful cake for the 'Guess the weight' competition made by Lyn. Many thanks to all who came along, everyone who donated raffle prizes, and to all the craft stallholders for making this event such a success.

Church Christmas Coffee Morning – Tuesday 26th November

Another popular event in the village hall! It was great to



see so many people enjoying a chat and a mince pie. Sincere thanks to all who donated raffle and other prizes, and to all who came to support the event.

Over 60's Christmas Party - Saturday 14th December

As ever, the village hall looked lovely, and the food was wonderful. The Village Hall committee worked so hard to give everyone a warm welcome and an afternoon to



remember.

Entertainment was provided by Matthew and Evie, who gave the guests a great mix of old and new songs, accompanied by guitar and keyboard, with some lovely familiar carols for everyone to join in with! Many thanks to everyone on the committee for their hard work, and to all who donated raffle prizes.



Around the Crib' service – Tuesday 24th December

This service is always popular, with families from across the mountain gathering in Rhes y Cae church on Christmas Eve. Even families with grown-up children come along, as this service has become part of their family Christmas tradition. As ever, Rev Hugh Burgess told the Christmas story and encouraged plenty of participation from the children, who enjoyed searching the church for the figures from the Nativity and bringing them to the crib. Colin Legg played the organ to accompany the traditional carols, and everyone left (with a little treat!) feeling ready for Christmas.

New Year's Eve Party – Tuesday 31st December

This event was new last year, but it was such a success that it was decided that it should be held again! Lots of people came together, bringing with them food and drinks, to see in the New Year at the Village Hall. There was music and dancing, and some very inventive games, which all added to the atmosphere of friendship and fun. Many thanks to everyone who helped with organisation, games, music etc, and to all who came to support the event.

Future Dates

Village Hall Coffee Morning

Tuesday 18th February 10.30am. Regular coffee mornings will continue be held, usually (but not always!) on the third Tuesday of the month.

Rhes y Cae Church Easter Coffee Morning

Tuesday March 31st 10.30 – 12.00, at Rhes y Cae Village Hall. A warm welcome to everybody!

Church Coffee Morning

Tuesday 28th April 10.30 – 12.00 noon.

Big Breakfast

Sunday 29th March, 10am - 1pm.

Rhes y Cae Village hall, In aid of North East Wales MIND and Cystic Fibrosis Trust

Annual Church Walk

Date and venue to be arranged.

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

Please let us know if you have any information to put in the next edition by the last week in April 2020.

Many thanks

Gwyneth Hughes 01352 780371

Wendy Hughes - wendy.hughes@mytegfarn.com

Rhosesmor Christmas Fair - Dec 14th 2019



While the hall was buzzing with villagers exploring the local crafts, wares and games offered in the fifth Rhosesmor Christmas Fair,



savouring the Women's Institute's cakes or Jane's unique recipe of non-alcoholic mulled wine, Santa's golden phone was busy all afternoon, sending orders to Lapland for the constant stream of children who had come ready with their lists.



Once again the community took a couple of hours



away from the hustle and bustle of the shopping precinct to catch up with each other and have fun together. As usual there was something for everyone, appreciating the local talent. This is a very successful event and



remember to book early for your stall next year.

Keep up with events in Rhosesmor on the Rhosesmor Village Facebook page. Keep in touch. Watch out for

our meetings in the Red Lion.

There's always a warm welcome for newcomers and their ideas!



Rhosesmor Tots say 'Thank You' to Rhosesmor Village Community



For over four years now, Rhosesmor Tots has met every Thursday in term time to greet young families from the surrounding area. Toddlers are greeted with an ever changing array of toys and organised activities and craft under the tireless and professional leadership of Sharon Broughton and Alison Leonard and the two helping 'aunties' in the kitchen. Parents and carers are greeted



with a cuppa and a piece of cake, hand made by Alison, who has inherited the skills of her father, the former village baker. What's not to like?

Generally self-funding, the Tots has benefited from the support of village groups such as the Coffee Morning Group, St Paul's Church and Rhosesmor Village Hall Committee.

This year they would like to thank the Rhosesmor Village Community Group for their gift of £100. The money was used to buy the play house (seen as Santa's hut, behind him in photo) to fund the Tots Christmas Party and to support the hire of Red Dragon Ventures, first aid trainers and outdoor activity providers (see advert in the back of the magazine or e-mail dave@reddragonventures.co.uk).



Pictured is Dave Jones of Red Dragon Ventures demonstrating on models how to give CPR to babies and toddlers. Parents were then invited to practise on the numerous models that Dave brought with him while their children played happily with the other Tots. Also pictured are the raffle prizes which raised £145 for future activities in Rhosesmor Tots. Thank you to everyone for their support this year and we look forward to seeing you at Rhosesmor Tots in the future.



Treating Running-Related Injuries

Running-related injuries are common for avid runners. Without proper care and technique, running can result in a variety of problems including Achilles tendonitis, plantar fasciitis, hip bursitis, iliotibial band (ITB) syndrome, stress fractures, ankle sprains, and lower extremity muscle strains.



There are 4 steps to treating running related injuries:

1. Realign the spine and pelvis.
2. Work on the damaged tissue with massage and/or electrotherapy.
3. Work with therapeutic exercise.
4. Deal with the causes of the problem such as poor running technique, running on uneven terrains and worn footwear.
- 5.

The most common mistake that runners make is not stretching or warming up properly before going for a run. When you sit in one position all day, the muscles tend to tighten on one side and lengthen on the other, and your pelvis tends to shift out of line. This will lead to distorted movement while running, putting extra strain

on the tissues already mentioned. Running right after sitting all day at work without stretching out the back can be a cause of injury. Poor running technique can lead to misalignment of the spine and misalignment can make your running technique worse.... This can be a vicious circle and you need to make sure that you are addressing all the factors that lead to injury.



Here are some more tips to help prevent injury:

1. If you are running on the beach, make sure you run close to the water, as the sand is flatter.
2. Use shoes that are especially designed for running. If you have overpronated feet, it is recommended that you use motion-control or high-stability shoes. Buying two pairs of shoes of the same type and changing between pairs every few hundred miles is also suggested.
3. You may benefit from running on different running surfaces. Try different running surfaces a few times a week.

Stephen Massey, Back Doctor Chiropractic Clinic, St Asaph Tel: 01745 535 854

Hannah Blythyn A.M.

As this is my first contribution to Halkyn Mountain News of this year, it's fitting to open by outlining my '20 for 2020' - twenty commitments to my constituents and constituency alongside some personal and practical resolutions for the next twelve months. From holding more 'pop up' offices in towns and communities across Delyn, to continuing to work hard to drive investment to our area and building on my work showcasing the best of our corner of the country. As part of my '20 for 2020' I'll also be organising a series of events and activity that focuses on the future of our health in Flintshire, bringing together the public, practitioners and groups to talk about our experiences and also to help create change where needed.

The NHS touches all of our lives and many of us are indebted to the care and support either ourselves or those close to us have received at a time of need. But we know that our health and social care services are under increasing pressure. Over the coming months, I will be getting out and about in the community to talk to people about our experiences, the challenges and seeking solutions where needed. If you want to be part of 'Our home, Our health' then please get in touch with my office for further details by emailing

Kirsty.Douglas@assembly.wales

You can find a full list of my commitments on social media via my Facebook page - @hannahblythynAM and Twitter - @hannahblythyn and you can, of course keep up with me working to fulfil these pledges throughout the year.

Transport links, services and infrastructure is something that many residents raise with me, so I know constituents will welcome the news that the



Minister for Economy and Transport, Ken Skates, has confirmed plans to increase services to and from Flint train station. I know people were worried that there may be a reduction in services but under the terms of the Transport for Wales contract, there should not be a reduction. From December 2022, the number of services Transport for Wales runs each day will increase from 29 to 44, with an additional six services running on a Saturday and a further six running in each direction from December 2023. Flint station is also earmarked to benefit from part of a Welsh Government £194m station improvements programme and new trains. Readers will know that I have long been a supporter of an additional train station in Delyn in the Holywell/Greenfield area, having previously undertaken a site visit with representatives of Network Rail and the Minister for Economy and Transport, as well as working closely with the Holywell and Greenfield Station Steering Group. I will continue to press the case for this and update constituents accordingly.

However, rail infrastructure remains the responsibility of the UK Government and over the years, there has been a chronic underfunding of infrastructure here in Wales – Welsh Government has stepped in where UK Government should have invested. But, had UK Government spent what should have been expected, then we would have seen £1 billion of improvements. Per capita, it could have resulted in £1/4 billion for rail infrastructure here in the North. With this in mind, I wholeheartedly support calls for the devolution of rail infrastructure to Wales and would encourage others to do the same.



With just one train station in Delyn, our public transport system is heavily dependent on buses so I'm pleased that the Welsh Government recently confirmed that the upcoming Buses (Wales) Bill will retain free bus travel for people aged 60 and over. The Bill will also look to take steps to address the impact that decades of deregulation has had on bus services, so that buses are better able to serve our communities where needed, rather than simply where it is most profitable. In 2002, Wales became the first country in the UK to introduce free bus travel for older people - the flagship policy has been a huge success and will continue to benefit many more people.

The health of our high streets and town centres is something that many people care and talk about, both here in this constituency and right across the country. Over the years, our town centres have changed as the way we work, live and shop has changed. Our towns have a proud past but it's important to all of us that they have a future in which they don't simply survive but thrive.

That's why I was pleased to lead on the announcement of new Welsh Government support for town centres worth nearly £90m. This funding is part of the Transforming Towns agenda and builds on the projected £800m of Welsh Government investment in our towns as a result of regeneration programmes since 2014. But the new Transforming Towns approach goes much further than before – including, bringing in a £13.6 million fighting fund to support councils tackle and bring back into use those empty properties that have too often and for too long been a blight on our communities and the adoption of the Town Centre First Principle, aimed at helping breathe new life into town centres by placing an emphasis on town centre locations for future public sector buildings and services.

It's good to see Welsh Government investment making

a difference in Delyn, often in partnership with Flintshire County Council, whether that be the recently refurbished Flint Library, creating a new community hub in the heart of the town, or enhanced Holywell High Street and active travel routes linking the town with the tourism of Greenfield Valley.

At the end of last year, I launched the Welsh Government 'Beyond Recycling' consultation here in North East Wales – in Llangollen – with a range of community groups and representatives, including Plastic Reduction Mold. This consultation is intended to be more of a conversation, with headline actions such as phasing out single use plastic, enabling collective community action and creating business opportunities. In addition, the Welsh Government is working to bring in bans or

restrictions on the most commonly littered single use plastic items, such as plastic stirrers, cutlery and straws.

I know

there is growing action to tackle plastic pollution, locally, nationally and internationally and I'm always happy to do my bit at home too, whether that's taking part in the annual Great British Beach Clean in Talacre or supporting Plastic Reduction Mold with their activities, campaigns and litter picks.

The Welsh Government wants to not only hear views on the consultation's proposals, but welcomes other ideas too. More information is available at <https://gov.wales/circular-economy-strategy> and the consultation closes on April 3rd.



And finally, it was fabulous to pay a pre-Christmas visit to the excellent Heartfelt Art and Craft Christmas fair, in Halkyn Parish Hall, chatting to organisers and stall holders and managing to pick up a few handcrafted decorations for myself.

This regular event has raised and donated over £25,000 to over 24 different charities – a tremendous effort that deserves thanks and congratulations to all involved, especially Susan Parry-Harwood.



Mark Isherwood A.M.



Monday January 27th was Holocaust Memorial Day, the international day to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of other people killed under Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Holocaust Memorial Day 2020, marked 75 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration and Extermination Camp in Poland as well as the 25th anniversary of the

Genocide in Bosnia. The Holocaust (The Shoah in Hebrew) was the attempt by the Nazis and their collaborators to murder all the Jews in Europe.

With the outbreak of World War Two in 1939 Germany invaded Poland, subjecting around two million Polish Jews to violence and forced labour. Thousands of Jews were murdered in the first months of the occupation. Shortly after the occupation Polish Jews were confined to particular neighbourhoods that came to be known as 'ghettos'. Living conditions in these ghettos were appalling – a deliberate attempt by the Nazis to cause the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Jews. This approach was repeated across Eastern Europe in other countries occupied by the Nazis.

In 1941, the systematic murder of Europe's Jews began – a plan known by the Nazis as 'The Final Solution to the Jewish Problem'. Death squads called *Einsatzgruppen* swept Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, killing Jews by firing squad. By the end of 1941 the first extermination camp, Chelmno in Poland, had been established, giving the Nazis their method to continue murdering on a giant scale between 1941 and 1945.

After the Holocaust, the international community adopted a legal definition of the crime of 'genocide'. They wanted to make sure that never again would the crimes of the Holocaust be allowed to happen. However, in the years following the Holocaust, genocide has continued to be carried out, which is why on Holocaust Memorial Day we also remember all those who were murdered or affected by the genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Subsequent genocides represent a failure of humanity to learn from the Holocaust and are a reminder for all of us that we

must be prepared to guard against genocide happening again in the future. Speaking at Wrexham's Holocaust Memorial Day Event, I spoke at length about the atrocities of the Holocaust and welcomed all the events that are held each year to commemorate all those that were affected.

No single wartime document created by Nazi officials spells out how many people were killed and calculating the numbers of individuals who were killed as the result of Nazi policies is a difficult task. However, according to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the estimated total number of people murdered during the Holocaust stands at 17 million: 6 million Jews and 11 million others. During the era of the Holocaust, German authorities also targeted and killed other groups, including children, because of their perceived racial and biological inferiority: Roma and Sinti Gypsies, Disabled Germans, LGBT people and some of the Slavic peoples (especially Poles and Russians). In fact, an estimated 500,000 European Roma and Sinti were murdered during the Holocaust - victims of racist persecution by the Nazis, but this genocide is still largely unknown. Meanwhile, it is estimated that close to 250,000 disabled people were murdered under the Nazi regime.

The theme for this year's Holocaust Memorial Day was Stand Together. 'Stand Together' explores how genocidal regimes throughout history have deliberately fractured societies by marginalising certain groups, and how these tactics can be challenged by individuals standing together with their neighbours, and speaking out against oppression.

As the Chief Executive of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, Olivia Marks-Woldman said "With increasing division in communities across the world and here in the UK, now more than ever we need to stand together with others in our communities to challenge the spread of identity-based hostility. Holocaust Memorial Day is an important opportunity for us all to learn from genocide, for a better future".

Thankfully, awareness and education about the Holocaust has improved in the UK and elsewhere. As many survivors of the Holocaust have got older, having retired from work and brought up their families, they have begun to share their stories and many survivors now work tirelessly volunteering in schools and museums to speak about their experiences. In the Senedd, I attended a Holocaust Memorial Event and heard from Jewish Holocaust survivor Mala Tribich, whose story as a Jew in Nazi occupied Poland was a sad but powerful reminder of why it is crucial for us to remember the Holocaust and challenge hate, prejudice and anti-Semitism in the world today. I also signed the 'Book of Commitment', provided by the Holocaust Educational Trust, which provided Assembly Members the opportunity to reflect on and sign a 7 point commitment to remember and educate future generations about the atrocities committed during the Second World.

As I wrote "The past informs the future. If we do not learn the lessons of the past, we will be doomed to repeat them. Let us never forget".

Tinytots Playgroup
Wales Preschool Playgroup Association

Tinytots Playgroup
Learning Through Play

Tinytots Playgroup
C/o Ysgol Rhos Helyg,
Rhosesmor
CH7 6PJ
01352 780265



Rhosesmor Tots
Play & Chat

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

HALKYN MOUNTAIN DVD

The DVD is available from Rachael Watson at
Wepre Park Visitor Centre, Wepre Drive,
Connah's Quay, CH5 4HL.

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

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.

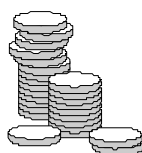
HALKYN PARISH HALL BINGO

Doors Open at 7.10pm

Come along and have some fun

A night of Bingo for everyone

Light refreshments served to you
Cash pay outs and a raffle too



Halkyn Parish Hall is where it's at

On Wednesday night and every other after that

March 4th and 11th and so on with me.

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

HALKYN MOUNTAIN KIDS CLUB & HOLIDAY CLUB

We are situated in Ysgol Rhos Helyg Primary School. The club is registered with CIW (Care Inspectorate Wales);
all staff are DBS checked and qualified, all certificates are available to see.

We welcome children from nursery age 3yrs up to year 8 in high school 14yrs.

We have a large hall area where we enjoy: (For after school/holiday club)

Snack time	Playing games	Arts and crafts
Parties	Arranged theme nights	

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

A Trim Trail where we enjoy climbing, balancing and swinging

A park with slides, bridges and balancing frames

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

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

Holiday club

To book your child/ren in please see the details below. (You do not have to attend the school to register at the club)

Opening times for holiday club only 8am – 5.30pm Mon – Fri

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

Prices for Holiday Club only £25 per child for a full day; £16 per child for half a day (till 1pm)

After school club

Opening times for After School Club only

3.10pm – 5.20pm Mon – Fri Term times only.

Prices for After School Club only

1 child for half a session (3.10pm till 4.20pm) costs £5.50

1 child for full session (3.10pm till 5.20pm) costs £8.50

2 siblings for half a session (3.10pm-4.20pm) fees are an extra £4.95 making a total for 2 children £10.45

2 siblings for full session (3.10pm-5.20pm) fees are an extra £7.65 making a total for 2 children £16.15

A 5% discount will be given to any other siblings thereafter.

For more information contact Sian Davies or Sarah Rowland (Senior Playworkers) on 01352 780 265 or
07591 239 511 or Email us on Halkynmountainkidsclub@gmail.com
or even visit our website at: www.ysgolrhoshelyg.com/holkyn-mountain-afterschool-club/



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**. We have had a busy end to 2019 and a busy start to 2020.

Father Christmas

The pupils in the Foundation Phase received a visit from Father Christmas. The children all told him what was on their wish list from him.



Father Christmas kindly gave each child a small gift before he visited them again.

Christmas Concerts

The Foundation Phase Christmas concert this year was 'The Hoity Toity Angel'. It was a lovely Christmas story and the children were fabulous in both their singing and acting.



Visiting the Panto

The Juniors visited Theatre Clwyd to see 'Jack and The Beanstalk', whilst the Foundation pupils went to Rhyl to see 'Snow White'.



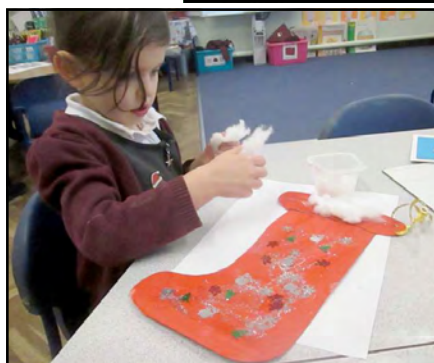
School Choir

The Choir have been busy entertaining the patients at Holywell Community Hospital. They also sang at The Charity evening at the Springfield Hotel.



Christmas Craft

The pupils in Year 3/4 made some Snowmen out of wooden discs. They look great.



Lovely Christmas Art and Craft in the Early Years



Defibrillator

Thanks to SADS charity we now have a defibrillator at the school. It is for use by everyone in the community. It is located **outside the building by the main entrance**.



Football

The girls football team recently attended a football festival at Deeside. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



PHSE

PC Mark has recently been to school for his termly visit. He discussed people who help us with Year 2. He encouraged Year 4 to Stay Smart and he discussed Cyber Safety with Year 6.



Fire Safety

The Fire Service visited school to talk about how to stay safe in an emergency.



The children were thrilled to wear fire fighting equipment.

Making Muffins

Pupils in Year 2 have been following instructions in order to bake cheese muffins. The tasting was the best part ... lovely.



French Lessons

Pupils from Year 2 upwards are now having weekly French lessons with Madame Tonner. The children are very keen to learn French and are enjoying the lessons very much.



Eco Club

Eco Club are knitting squares that are 24cm by 12cm. Knitting is a challenge but we are trying our best! If you willing to donate squares we would happily send them with ours to Australia where they will be made into pouches for the hurt animals.



Music Lessons

We now have a music teacher that visits the school every week to work with each class in turn. This is music with a difference ... the pupils are playing electronic instruments, the Beanz and the Scube.



Forest School

The children have been painting the northern lights using natural materials found in the woods instead of paintbrushes.





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Or contact

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Secretary: Julie Lewis - 01352 781 212

Treasurer: Jo Woodruff - 01352 781 276

NEW SEASON STARTS SOON

Green Opening Sunday 5th April 2pm

COME AND JOIN US - ALL WELCOME

Holywell Rambling Club Spring Programme 2020 – Summary

Day/Date	Walk Title	Grade/Distance	Leader Tel. No.	Car share location & time
March				
Sunday 1st**	The Sandstone Ridge	Moderate/Mountain 9 miles	George 01352 840 809	Holywell 9.15/Northop* 9.30
Wednesday 4th	Ffrith y Garreg Wen	Easy 4.5 miles	Ron 01352 715 723	Caerwys 10.00
Sunday 8th	Around Cilcain	Easy/Moderate 6.5 miles	Eric 01352 711 648	Holywell 10.00
Saturday 14th	Glan yr Afon circular	Easy/Moderate 6 miles	Alison 01352 331 064	The Stag Inn car park, Bagillt 9.25
Sunday 22nd**	Humps & Bumps on the border	Moderate/Mountain 6 miles	John 01352 737 366	Holywell 9.00/Northop* 9.15
Saturday 28th**	Snowdon via Cynghorion	Strenuous 12 miles	Margaret 01352 720 477	Junction 29* 9.00
April				
Thursday 2nd	Babell - Ysgeifiog - Licswm	Easy 5 miles	Maureen 01352 761 018	Blend 92, Babell 10.00
Sunday 5th	Hills around Llanfair Talhaiarn	Moderate 8 miles	Janet 01745 890 453	N'thop/H'well 9.00, Junc29 9.20
Sunday 12th**	Teggs Nose & Macclesfield forest	Moderate 7.5 miles	Ron 01352 715 723	Holywell 9.00, Northop* 9.15
Sunday 19th	Mere Meanders	Easy/Moderate 7 miles	Flo 01244 534 445	Northop 9.15
Saturday 25th	Eaton, Cotebrook & Little Budworth	Easy/Moderate 8 miles	Sandra 01352 741 750	Northop 9.30
Wednesday 29th**	Nantlle Ridge circular	Strenuous 10 miles	Vaughan 01745 857 365	N'thop 8.30, H'well 8.45, Junc29* 9.00
May walks are yet to be confirmed.				

Further information on the club and our walks programme, including a description of each of the above walks plus others which will be added, can be obtained from our website www.holywellramblers.org.uk

* Walk Leader at these meet points

** Dogs are welcome on these walks.

Meeting Points for car share are:

(1) Car park adjacent to Holywell Community Hospital (2) Northop Village car park (3) Junction 29 on the A55.

Holywell Golf Club

Finals Day September 22nd 2020

Finals Day at Holywell was once again a great success. The knockout competitions were completed with all but one of the finals being played. It was a damp and dreary day but that didn't stop some fantastic golf being played.

Westminster Cup – Tim Saunders beat Sion Johnson

Scratch Knockout – Alastair Ross beat Rob Jones

Gents Foursomes – Alastair Ross and Chris Pierce beat Kevin Leech and Dave Bithell

Sullivan Trophy – Geoff Evans and Bernie Welsh beat Don Fergusson and Mike Burton

Arnold Williams Trophy – Steve Booth beat Mike Brassey

Cope Cup – Janice Cain beat Helena Rowley

The Angie Evans Trophy was played at a later date and Lady Captain and Helena Rowley beat Jan Cain and Stephanie Jones

Holywell Seniors Section Christmas Dinner & Presentation

On Tuesday 10th December 70 members of the senior section and their guests sat down for their annual Christmas dinner excellently prepared and served by Elias, Jane and the team in the kitchen and bar, ably assisted by Sarah and Mahalah. After an excellent meal and suitable liquid accompaniment Chairman Kevin Leech welcomed everyone to the presentation. He gave a brief resumé of the season and then presented the winners of this year's major competitions.



Picture shows the winners who were able to be at the presentation, from L - R: Cliff Edwards – Ye Olde Bell, Bernie Welsh – The Sullivan Trophy, Steve Booth – The Arnold Williams Trophy and Barry Window – The Auld Memento. A very enjoyable afternoon was completed with Howard Fisher entertaining us on the organ and leading everyone in the annual session of Christmas songs and carols.

Picture on right shows all of the Trophies



Christmas Golf Day including Best Christmas Jumper – took place on Fri 20th December with 54 members playing on a clear but cold day which suited those in thick Christmas jumpers. The golf competition was won by Richard Sim with 29 points, with Tim Costidell coming second with 27 points. Members gathered in the clubhouse after the golf enjoying a few drinks and the usual banter. The judging of the Christmas jumpers completed the day and a brightly illuminated Pat McDermott was happy to be judged “best Christmas jumper” on the day.

Holywell Ladies Section

In December the Holywell Ladies held their annual Christmas Lunch and Christmas Draw at Holywell Golf Club. This was followed by a presentation of all outstanding competitions and birdie balls. The Lady Captain thanked all the Ladies for all the support they had given her throughout the Year and she also thanked our new Chef, Alias, and his helpers for an excellent lunch.

Children's Christmas Party



Over fifty children, along with their family and friends, attended the annual children's Christmas party. They were entertained by Dazzle the clown: then they enjoyed refreshments. This was later followed by more entertainment and games. The main event was the arrival of Father Christmas on the Rotary Club float. Thank you to Mr President, Alan Williams, who helped Father Christmas to make sure all the children got their presents.



Thank you also to Lady Captain, Nerys Jones, and Lady Vice Captain, Sue Collingwood, who helped Jane to prepare the refreshments and stayed to make sure all the children were fed and watered. These events would not take place without the support of volunteers and we thank them all.

Continued overleaf

Holywell Golf Club - continued

Flintshire Captains and Past Captains

Flintshire Golf Captains & Past Captains Association held their AGM at Holywell Golf Club on Monday 27th January. As part of the AGM the association elects its Captain for the coming year and this year Ray Lewis, a past captain and president of Holywell Golf Club, was elected for 2020.

Picture shows Ray left receiving the Captain's Putter from the outgoing Captain, Tony Godden of Northop Golf Club. Ray has been a member at Holywell for forty three years.

He was Captain in 1995 and President in 2010 and 2013/2014. He has shown great commitment to the club over the years and at the moment he is a member of the Management Committee and chairman of the house committee.

Along with his volunteers they have done a brilliant job of keeping the club house in excellent order and we wish him all the best for his coming year.



Juniors

Special congratulations to the juniors, who represented our club at qualifying events. Georgia Payne qualified for the Welsh Mini Masters final at Celtic Manor. Georgia played well and impressed some of the local coaches with her ability, which is even more impressive considering she has only been playing a year. Harrison Prior qualified for the Ping Welsh junior tour and represented the club at Newport. Sian Jones won the Denbighshire & Flintshire girl's trophy for having the best net round in their season. Sian will be Junior Captain this year and we wish her all the best for the coming year.

Junior Family Christmas Golf

Well done to all the juniors and family who took part on what started as a sunny, still day but ended with some cold rain. The winning team was Sian, Harrison, Darren and Howard.

The winner of the Bamford Trophy was George Parker and second was Harry Parker. The silver tees winner was Bryony Elliot-Jones and second was Joe Rees.

The juniors competed for the Cyril Jones trophy and the winner was Tom Comber and second was Caiden Morris. Silver tees winner was Harry Parker and second was Ashton Moore.

Halkyn Cricket Club

Cricket

Preparations are well underway for the new season which starts on Saturday 18th April. Fixtures are not as yet finished by the league.

Indoor net sessions are also currently taking place on Sundays between 1 & 2pm at Holywell Leisure Centre and will continue until 22nd March. For further details please contact Rana Dey on 07815 134363. New players of any ability are always welcome to attend.

Events

Halkyn CC will be staging their AGM at the Clubhouse on Thursday 5th March at 7.30pm.

Halkyn CC and Halkyn Junior FC are also jointly staging an evening of entertainment at the Clubhouse on Friday 20th March starting at 7.30pm featuring former Lancashire and England player Mike Watkinson and a comedian, as well as auctions, raffle and memorabilia. Tickets are £15 which also includes food. Tickets are available from Gareth on 07879 402144 or Keith on 07376 828491

Clubhouse

A reminder that the clubhouse is available for hire. We have a fully licensed bar which is ideal for parties, christenings, wakes and weddings. We offer a competitive rate of hire but offer the clubhouse free to any community groups or schools and can offer a reduced rate for under 13 children's parties. For further information regarding booking, or to view the premises prior to booking, please contact Jane Williams on 01352 781523 or 077323 250333.

Juniors

Following our senior's successful season last year in gaining promotion both on a Saturday and midweek we have decided the time is right to get our junior section running again. We can provide the opportunities for young people between the ages of 6 and 16 to receive coaching and competition in the North East Wales Junior League. All coaching is by qualified coaches who are trained and have been screened for their suitability for working with young people.

The Club has achieved ECB Clubmark, which is the England and Wales Cricket Board's club accreditation scheme for cricket clubs with a junior section. Clubs are required to meet minimum standards across four areas: Duty of Care and Safeguarding Children, the Cricket Programme the Club offers, Sports Equity and Ethics and Club Management. ECB Clubmark is an acknowledgement that we take these issues seriously and that we are striving to provide a high quality and welcoming environment for young participants in cricket. Training sessions take place on Friday evenings at 6.00pm late April to mid-August at the Club. Training sessions cost £1.00 per session.

If you would like to talk to someone about your child's possible involvement with the Club at any time, please do not hesitate to contact the Child Welfare Officer, Jane Williams on 01352 781523 or 07732325033.

Halkyn & District Bowls Club

The Annual Dinner and Presentation

After a very enjoyable season's bowls the club brought the season to a close with the annual dinner and presentation at the Crown Inn, Lixwm on Saturday 23rd November. Most members were able to be there and after a welcome from Club Chairman Patrick McDermott we were treated to an excellent meal by Tony and his team in the kitchen.

The presentation followed the meal and the season's trophies were presented by our President, Muriel Jones. The winners of the club competitions have been pictured in the HMN through the season so are not included. The end of season trophies for the League Merit Winners (the players with the highest aggregate scores for each club league team over the whole season) are pictured.

The presentation was followed by all of us being entertained by, and dancing to, the local DJ who provided a great show and catered for all our tastes, which covering a span of the best part of 90 years was no mean feat. Thanks to the DJ and all the staff at the Crown, led by Tony, for a great evening.



Midweek Merit
Andrew Jones



Vets 'A' Merit
Mick Carpenter

Indoor Bowls at Flint Leisure Centre

We continue to enjoy our indoor bowls but unfortunately after a great start we were top of the Wednesday league for only a short while. Somehow, and we are blaming Christmas and the New Year revelry what else, we are bottom. Of course, we will be doing our best over the coming weeks to change that and maybe you could help. We have a team bowling on Wednesdays and Fridays so why not join us. It's gentle exercise indoors and less strenuous than going to the gym, come and give it a try. You will enjoy it.

2020 Bowls Season

The season will start with the opening of the green on Sunday 5th April at 2pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us for the opening. We will

be only too happy to speak with you and tell you about our club and what you can enjoy being a member. Young in body or just young at heart everyone can join in; you are never too young to start and never too old, so please come to our opening and meet us at our green at Cae Helyg, Pentre Halkyn.

To anyone interested please come along to see what goes on.

For more information see our website www.halkynbowls.wales or contact Patrick McDermott 781057, Julie Lewis 781212 or Jo Woodruff 781276



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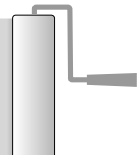
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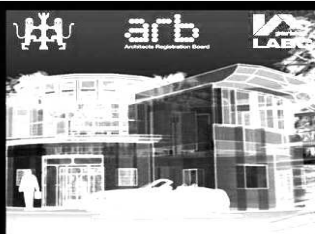
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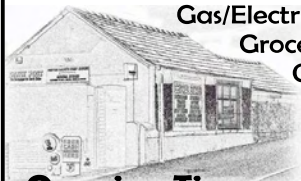
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