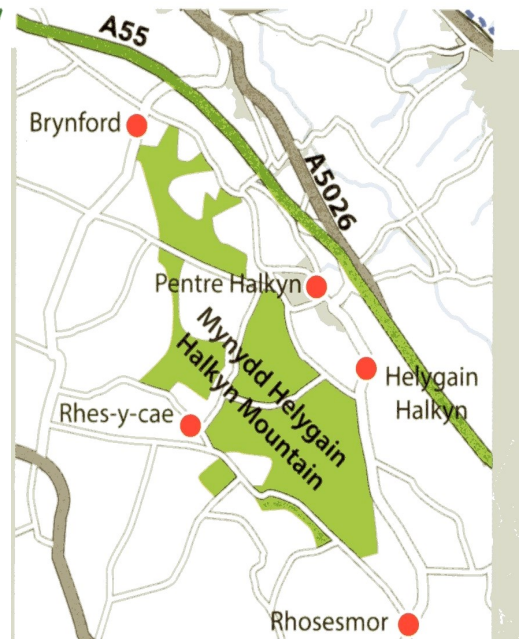


Halkyn Mountain News Newyddion Mynydd Helygain

Issue/Rhifyn 185 – Winter/Gaeaf 2022

The leaves have left the trees and we are battening down the hatches, stopping up the draughts around the windows and putting on those thicker clothes - winter is here!



Map yn dangos y Pump Pentref ar Fynydd Helygain:
Helygain, Brynffordd, Pentre Helygain,
Rhes y Cae, Rhosesmor

Map showing the Five Villages of Halkyn Mountain:
Halkyn, Brynford, Pentre Halkyn,
Rhes y Cae, Rhosesmor

Credit for this map and text goes to Halkyn Mountain Nature Conservation group and Countryside and Flintshire County Council

The Spring Edition - Issue 186 - will be distributed in March 2023
Please submit News and Advertising items by 1st February
We look forward to receiving your calendar of events going into the Spring
You can send items to the email addresses listed on page 2
If you have any questions you can call David Wright on 01352 712721 - please leave a message

Dear Readers

Welcome to this Winter 2022 edition of Halkyn Mountain News.

We hope you continue to enjoy our new production. As we get closer to the end of 2022 and move toward another New Year in 2023 we believe there is much to hope for and look forward to especially the thought that once January arrives then spring is on the way - keep an eye open for those snowdrops and daffodils.

The whole Team has been grateful for the support provided by a wealth of contributed material from individuals and organisations.

We are on the look out for assistance in the delivery of the Newsletter especially in the Brynford area and for contributions of news and activities there.

We must also offer grateful thanks for a generous grant of funds from Halkyn Community Council which will go toward the payment of further issues of The News.

We intend to seek funding support from other Councils and organisations.

We will continue to require and will be asking for material, photographs, puzzles and crosswords, written articles and suggestions for future content from you, our readers.

Please remember we cannot guarantee material will be printed but we will make every effort to include all contributions.

Time for us to wish you all a happy Christmas and an enjoyable New Year and let you get on with reading this quarter's newsletter.

Best wishes from the Halkyn Mountain News Team

Our contact email addresses are:

News, Articles and Contributions:

HalkynMountainNewsContribution@gmail.com

Advertising Enquiries:

HalkynMountainNewsAdvertising@gmail.com

Distribution Co-ordinator:

Jane.loudon@yahoo.co.uk

Payments and Financial Matters:

HalkynMountainNewsFinance@gmail.com

General Enquiries and Comment:

HalkynMountainNews@gmail.com

A copy of this issue will be available at the Halkyn Community Council website: www.halkyn.org.uk

The Editorial Team reserves the right to edit submitted material.

Fees advertised within articles unless for charitable benefit will not be published.

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 placed in this production.

Introducing the Production Team

Editor: David Wright

Secretary: Sylvia Mitchell-Wright

Advertising: Gayle Hughes

Contributions: Jenny Butters

Anita Mawson

Wendy Whitmore

Distribution: Jane Loudon

Treasurer: Samantha Martin

As we move into the winter months special thanks has to go to the army of volunteers who tirelessly distribute each edition of the magazine.

We need from our readers contributions of articles, news and reviews so that we can continue to produce a high quality Community magazine now and into the future.

We hope we can look forward to receiving the continued support of the local business advertising which is so important to the financial future of Halkyn Mountain News.

A Few Words From Danny The Donkey

I often write about the things that I overhear humans talking about, some of which I understand, some of which are a complete mystery and some just sets my mind racing.

I know from overhearing several conversations that there is something happening in the human world called "political unrest". I not quite sure what this is although it sounds very tiring. However, I overheard a couple of humans talking about the Pry Minister which must be a person in charge of humans as apparently they run the country. They said that the Pry Minister had "changed yet again". Changed what? I wish I knew. Anyhow, the overheard comment that I haven't been able to stop thinking about was "All my life the country has been run by donkeys of various political colours".

I remember my mother saying "You don't know what you don't know". I think I understand her now as I had no idea that my fellow donkeys had such important roles nor did I realise that we donkeys come in multiple colours. Here am I in my field and stable, with little more to think about than carrots, when there are clearly other donkeys in powerful positions making important decisions. I have always relied in my human friends who provide me with food, clean my stable and look after me very well. I had always assumed that humans were in charge and that was the way it had always been. Since I overheard the conversation my mind has been all over the place. I do hope the donkeys who run the



country do so by choice and are not forced to take on the responsibility. It would be very scary to think of someone arriving at my field and telling me I was now the Pry Minister and had to leave my field and be destined to herd all the humans. Even if the Pry Minister has a lovely stable to live in and is served the very best carrots, I prefer life in my field on the mountain.

I don't think I would like making lots of decisions and trying to herd everyone. I have observed humans over the years and they go in all directions and are quite unpredictable. They also have strange behaviours which don't make much sense to me. But I guess you as my readers already know this. I had always assumed that the visitors who bring me carrots and apples did so out of kindness but since I have learned that donkeys run the country it has crossed my mind that they might be given out of respect, due to my donkey status. Usually I settle down in my stable in the evening and drift off to sleep nicely. However, since learning that we donkeys take a much different role in the world than I had imagined, my mind is full of so many thoughts. I wonder whether I should have taken life more seriously and whether it might have been assumed that I was in charge of the Mountain, but only I didn't know it. Have I unknowingly been neglecting my responsibilities over the years? I have so many questions such as did the sheep already know? I think of all the times I have been a little dismissive of the sheep, when I should have offered counsel, as a true leader would have done.

Given what I now know, I wonder whether I should behave with slightly more dignity and not gobble my carrots or bray continuously when I want something. Although, perhaps it might be easier if I forget that I ever overheard the conversation and pretend that I don't know that donkeys lead the country. I can then continue to live my life as I have always done and not worry about unexpected responsibility. Perhaps I should try and avoid overhearing conversations. I'm naturally inquisitive so it's very difficult, but it's not good when they cause me to have sleepless nights. I realise now that my late Mother was a really wise old donkey. One of her sayings was "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing". I think I now know what she meant!

Goodbye for now and may you always have a warm stable and plenty of carrots. **Danny**

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

*As we promised for this edition of
Halkyn Mountain News...
The report and photos of the
Halkyn Mountain Scarecrow Festival*

Please go straight to our back page special report complete with pictures of winners!

Holywell Art Club

The Club was founded in 1974 with a few local artists meeting once a week at one of their homes to paint and discuss art. At that time it was run informally with just five artists, including our founder Kenneth Radcliffe who is still our Life President and as they became better known other people wished to join. At this time the Club was known as Holywell Artists. Eventually the name was changed to Holywell Art Club.



One of our demonstrators

We are a friendly and welcoming club and our aim is to encourage and support our members in their painting, drawing and related activities.

Our members vary in expertise from beginners to experienced and

everything in between. We welcome new members who would like to practise, develop and grow their skills and confidence

We now have some 15 members meeting on Wednesday mornings at Pentre Halkyn Community Centre CH8 8JE, from 10-00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. We meet weekly for most of the year and work to a programme which includes demonstration/workshops in various media approximately every 5 – 6 weeks.

As well as time to pursue our own work, we show DVDs about various techniques and genres and in between these days we work on still life. August is a free



A weekly meeting

month when some of us go to sketch in the surrounding countryside (weather permitting). Members develop at their own rate and range from beginners to competent painters, with some well known local artists producing work to a very high standard.

We work on a self-help basis with members encouraging and learning from each other.

We try to put on two exhibitions each year and usually organise visits to art galleries.

There is an annual subscription and we pay a small amount each week for the cost of the hall, tea/coffee and biscuits; unfortunately we are going to have to increase the fees slightly in the new year.



Exhibition at Colwyn Bay Library

On demonstration/workshop days the weekly subscription is more due to the fee for the demonstrators.

I hope this gives you a little information about our club. Should you wish to get in

touch with us you can do so through the 'contact' page of our website www.holywellartclub.com or why not just pop along and meet us in person.

Cyngerdd Arbennig - Special Concert

Cyngerdd Arbennig

Ers degawdau, bu Capel Rhes y Cae yn enwog am ei gyngherddau rhyfeddol. Yn wir, bu'r tenor byd enwog Stuart Burrows yn canu yma. Mae'r capel yn le rhagorol i ganu cherwydd mae'r sain yn cario i bob cornel. Mae'r acwsteg wedi profi yn atyniad i rai o gantorion gorau Cymru. Mae tu fewn i'r capel yn hardd dros ben ac mae gweithgareddau yn y sêr fawr yn gwbl weladwy o bob sêr yn y capel. Ar 28 ain o Ionawr mae Rhes y Cae yn croesawu Côr y Flwyddyn y BBC – Côr CF1 o Gaerdydd. Dyma gôr hollol wych, gyda'u lleisiau ardderchog. Bydd y ddau unawdydd yn sicr, yn rhoi perfformiadau bendigedig. Mae ymweliad y côr hwn, i Fynydd Helygain yn ddigwyddiad anarferol a chyffroes. Mae lle i ryw 300 o bobl yn y capel, a disgwyliem gapel llawn.

Bydd tocynnau ar gael gan

Ann Davies 01352 741337, Nesta Davies 01352

741597, Siôp y Siswrn, Yr Wyddgrug

Cyngerdd Ardennig

Capel Ebeneser, Rhes y Cae

Nos Sadwrn 28 Ionawr 2023 7pm

Côr CF1 (Caerdydd)

Arweinydd : Eilir Owen Griffiths

2014 BBC Côr y Flwyddyn

Côr Cymru - Tair gwaith

Eisteddfod Genedlaethol - Dwy waith

Perfformiwyd yn rhyngwladol

Unawdwyr

Steffan Lloyd Owen - Bariton

Erin Gwyn Rossington - Soprano

Special Concert

For decades, Rhes y Cae Chapel has been famous for its wonderful concerts. Former artists include the world famous tenor Stuart Burrows. Indeed the chapel's excellent acoustics have attracted Wales' greatest singers. The attractive interior of the Victorian chapel affords perfect views of any activity in the front of the chapel. On the 28th January, Rhes y Cae welcomes the BBC choir of the year from Cardiff – Côr CF1. This is a highly trained choir of fabulous voices. Two professional soloists will undoubtedly give thrilling performances. It's a great scoop to have been able to attract Wales' best choir to Halkyn Mountain. Rhes y Cae chapel will seat over 300 people and a full chapel is expected.

Tickets will be available from Ann Davies 01352

741337, Nesta Davies 01352 741597, Siôp y Siswrn,

Mold

(Special credit goes to Samantha for her bilingual typing skill.)

Special Concert

Ebenezer Chapel, Rhes y Cae

Saturday 28 January 2023 7pm

Côr CF1 (Cardiff)

Conductor: Eilir Owen Griffiths

2014 BBC Choir of the Year

Côr Cymru - Three Times

National Eisteddfod - Twice

Performed internationally

Soloists

Steffan Lloyd Owen - Baritone

Erin Gwyn Rossington - Soprano

Heartfelt Art and Craft Fair

We would like to thank everyone that came along to support our October fair and helped us to raise £502 for our prickly little friends, the hedgehogs. There was a lovely busy atmosphere all day. In true Heartfelt style much cake was consumed and hot chocolates enjoyed. Thank you to our Heartfelt bakers and



Simply Vegan cakes who donated some delicious hedgehog themed cup cakes. We were thrilled to welcome Julie from Hedgehog Help Prestatyn who left with a boot full of donated food, newspapers and more. A huge thank you to you if you were able to donate. It was quite a magical day all round and we enjoyed listening to people eager to share stories of their visiting hedgehogs.

As always we were blown away by the high standard of artisans that attended. Thank you.

Another event was fundraising for Wales Air Ambulance which took place in November.



Mobile post office services near us.

Location	Day and time
Rhydymwyn – Service Station, Denbigh Road, CH7 5HE	Tuesday 16:00 – 16:30
Lixwm – The Crown Inn, The Greenways, CH8 8NQ	Friday 11:50 – 12:35
Rhydymwyn – Service Station, Denbigh Road, CH7 5HE	Friday 12:45 – 13:30
Rhosesmor – Village Hall, CH7 6WF	Friday 13:45 – 14:30
Halkyn – Village Hall, CH8 8BU	Friday 14:40 – 15:10
Pentre Halkyn – Community Centre, Martins Hill, CH8 8HP	Friday 15:15 – 15:45
Information provided from https://www.royalmail.com/services-near-you#/ and is subject to change	



Halkyn & District Bowling Club

Our 2022 season is now over and I would like to take this opportunity to look back on the year.

The new season, for the first time, saw both of our veteran teams playing in the same division. This led to two encounters with the A team coming out on top. At the end of the season the A team finished 3rd in the league and now face a wait to see if they gain promotion, whilst the B team finished a respectable 7th. Congratulations to Mick Carpenter (A Team) and Eirwen McDermott (B Team) who led the individual averages for each team.

The midweek team also had a good season which saw them finish 6th in a very competitive division (we were only a few points from finishing 3rd). Mick Carpenter again led the way in the averages.

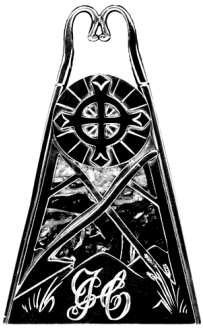
Our final event of this season was the annual Ladies vs Gents match in which 24 bowlers took part with a 'Christmas comes early' theme (see picture). The gents "loaned" the ladies 4 willing volunteer gents to make up their numbers and a great competition took place throughout the afternoon. There was a lot of banter and laughs and some very keen competition with the final result not known until the last point on the last game with the gents finally winning 7 games to 5 to reclaim the trophy the ladies won last year.



It has been great to see so many new faces at the green this year and we hope to see more in the future. We are all looking forward to catching up with each other at our Christmas party which will be held in the Crown Inn.

If you would like more information about becoming a member or just having a game to see if you enjoy it, you can email us at halkynbowls@gmail.com or call either Pat (01352 781057) or Andy (07917 714379). The club also has a Facebook page and this can be found at www.facebook.com/HalkynBowls.

Happy bowling!



HALKYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

To Commemorate the Life of HM Queen Elizabeth II

Councillor Wendy Sigsworth has asked that the Community Council considers ways to commemorate the life of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The request will be further discussed in the January 2023 Council meeting. In the meantime, the Community Council would be pleased to receive suggestions from the residents of the Council area such as commemorative bench seating in the various villages, planting of trees. Please contact the Clerk – details at the end of this report.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Mugs

The Community Council is grateful for the assistance of Marilyn, the Librarian, at the Friday Parish Hall library service for kindly facilitating the sale of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee mugs – which will be available for purchase until the end of the year at a cost of £5.00 each.

Concerns of Dust Particles Emanating from a Quarry in the area

The Community Council has been made aware of complaints in relation to an excessive amount of dust emanating from a local Quarry. Whilst the concerns have been reported to the Quarry Head Office, the matter will be raised at the next Liaison meeting.

Council Community Cemetery (Adjacent to St. Mary's Church in Halkyn)

The Community Council has completed its annual inspection of the Council's Community Cemetery which is adjacent to St. Mary's Parish Church in Halkyn. Whilst no safety concerns were identified, the Council is seeking a quotation for the cutting of the hedge near to the ashes plots and also a reduction of tree branches which are currently overhanging in the general area of the cemetery.

Flintshire County Council (Street Scene)

The Chair of Council, Councillor Colin D'Arcy, welcomed Neil Hickie (Flintshire Street Scene) to the meeting. The following was discussed:

(1) Request for dog bin in Shone's Lane, Berth Ddu (2) Damaged road sign in Rhosesmor (3) Road markings in the area of the Cenotaph in Rhosesmor (4) Leylandii concerns in Hafod Drive (5) Finger post signage in Maes Alyn area (6) Buxton Lane: Landowner spoken to in relation to canopy bushes on roadway (7) Gully in Halkyn Village at Junction with B5123 (8) Slurry sealing on a number of roads (9) Work being completed on a property adjacent to the Football field in Pentre Halkyn (10) Parking bays in Pentre Halkyn being re-hatched (11) Fencing being replaced in Rhes y Cae (12) Horses on the slip road travelling towards the A55. Neil advised that the area is the responsibility of the Wales Trunk Road Agency (13) Buxton Lane: Poplars name sign has disappeared (14) A number of signs in the area are obliterated by hedge / tree branches overgrowth (15) The Windmill name signage has disappeared from two locations

Planning Applications

Halkyn Community Council passes comment on planning applications received from Flintshire County Council. These responses can be found in the Halkyn Community Council minutes which can be viewed on the website www.halkyn.org.uk

Planning decisions made by Flintshire County Council can be viewed on its website: www.flintshire.gov.uk/planning

Criminal Offences Reported Within the Community

The following offences were reported to the Community Council by North Wales Police – within the last three months:

Halkyn: 3 x Anti social behaviour

Pentre Halkyn: 4 x Anti social behaviour / 1 x Burglary / 1 x Drugs / 1 x Theft / 1 x Theft from a person

Pentre Halkyn (A55 Road area): 4 x Violence

Rhes-Y-Cae: 1 x Other crime / 1 x Violence

Rhosesmor: 2 x Violence

Donations and Financial Support:

The Community Council have provided the following financial assistance: £250.00 - Samaritans (Rhyl) – towards helpline / £2,000 - Halkyn Mountain News – towards printing costs.

Phillip Parry, Clerk to Halkyn Community Council

Tel: 01352 720547

E-mail: clerk@halkyn.org.uk

Web Site: www.halkyn.org.uk

City girl turned country bumpkin.

My husband and I moved onto Halkyn mountain just before Christmas in December, 1993 and have loved the place ever since. This is the best move we've ever made - only sorry we didn't do it sooner!

The cottage we bought in Moel y Crio was very run down when we first arrived but having magnificent views along the Clwydian hills and being able to see Snowdon from the upstairs windows was worth all the work we had to put into it. It was at first only two up, two down and built around 1840 but with a very large garden to two sides. The work we undertook lasted nearly two years and included a large extension to the rear.

Since then we've installed a good-sized bird feeding station on a patio at the back and have been visited by 54 species of birds at the last count including Redstart, Yellow Hammer, Gold Finch, Gold Crest, Greater Spotted Woodpecker and we have our own resident Tawny Owls who sit on the telegraph post outside the bedroom window most nights.

The latest sightings we had just recently have been Red Kite, a Hen Harrier and, only last week, a Merlin flew over, its very individual cry alerting me to find out what it was. We also have nesting boxes on the walls of the house with cameras inside connected to the television and the baby birds can be watched growing up. The same birds seem to come back every year but sadly we've never had anything more exotic than sparrows. There are also wildlife cameras in the garden from which we've watched badgers, foxes and the local cats prowling around at night and even have footage of the tawny owls taking a bath in the pond. Since retiring in 2008, I've indulged a passion of mine that I never had time for before - that of writing books. My little table and my laptop are under the bedroom window and I can look out at the view where I get quite a bit of my inspiration. All my books are mystery and suspense stand alone novels and all are based in North Wales and all about local places that most people from around here might recognise. I now have ten books for sale at Amazon.co.uk and try to use my local knowledge and observations of countryside life to inspire me. They can also be bought directly from me.

Jean Walker - city girl turned country bumpkin 01352 780392

Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema - Nov 2022 Update

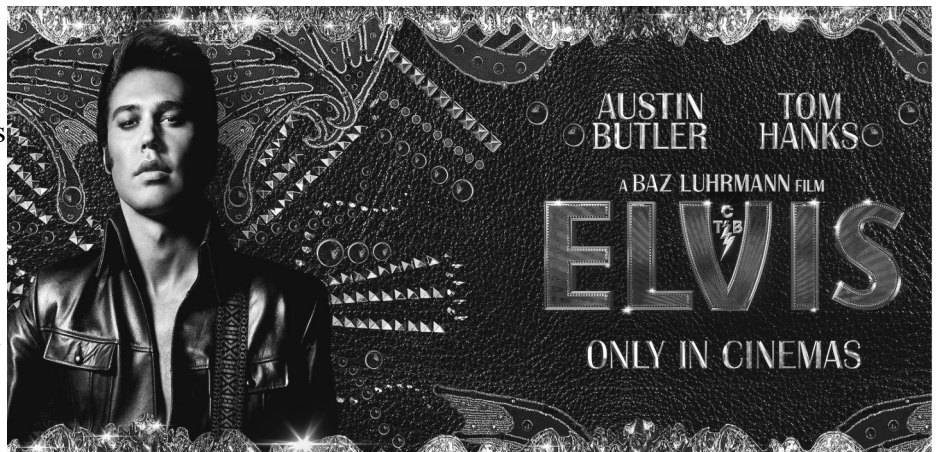
As the nights draw in, what better way to spend the evening than by watching a good film on the big screen amongst friends? Well, you can do that right here on Halkyn Mountain!

We recently showed Belfast, Kenneth Branagh's story of growing up during the troubles in the city in the late 60's: heart-warming performances and great music!

In November, we screened **TOP GUN: MAVERICK (12A)** - no introduction needed for this film and it looked good and sounded great on our huge screen and full surround sound system.

Also looking good and sounding great will be the king himself: we're showing **ELVIS (12)** on January 14th. Baz Luhrmann's new film tells the story of Elvis's rise to fame, seen through the prism of his relationship with his manager Colonel Tom Parker.

Please keep an eye out for details on our website, on social media and on our banners that'll be dotted around the mountain.



Film tickets go on general sale 2-3 weeks before each screening and can be purchased online via the secure community cinema website. Light refreshments (including tea, coffee and popcorn!) are available at each screening.

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

www.facebook.com/halkynmountaincinema

www.twitter.com/mountaincinema

We hope to see you at Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema soon!

Rob Hughes Chair - Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema Committee

CORNEL DYSGWYR CYMRAEG DYSGU CYMRAEG

Roedd yn amser maith yn ôl pan ddechreuais i ddysgu “iaith y nefoedd!” Roedden ni'n byw yng Nghaerwys ar y pryd ac roedd ein merch hynaf Bethan wedi dechrau mynychu Ysgol Gwenffrwd. Ro'n i adre tryw'r dydd efo'r plant iau (Carys ac Elen) ac yn barod i fabwysiadu hobi newydd. Cefais gyfle i ymuno â dosbarth nos yn Ysgol Gwenffrwd, felly es i amdani 'n frwdfryddig, yn gwrando ar radio Cymru tra roeddwn yn coginio, yn gwyllo Pobl y Cwm tra roeddwn yn smwddio ayyb! I ddechrau ro'n i'n hapus i ddeall gair neu ddau yma ac acw, ond dipyn o ddipyn dechreuodd y geiriau ffitio efo'u gilydd i ffurfio brawddegau, ac mewn amser (ac ar ôl cryn dipyn o waed, chwys a dagrau!) ro'n i'n barod i “groesi'r bont”.

Syrthiais mewn cariad â'r iaith a mwynheais y profiad o ddysgu siarad Cymraeg yn fawr, er mae rhaid i mi gyfaddu - wnes i ffeindio'r flwyddyn gyntaf yn eithaf anodd!

Cafodd y dosbarthiadau nos yn Ysgol Gwenffrwd (a wedyn yn Yr Wyddgrug) dylanwad enfawr arna i. Bu ffrindiau a thrigolion Caerwys hefyd yn andros o help yn y dyddiau cynnar hynny, yn fodlon siarad i mi'n ara' deg ac yn esbonio pethau newydd - mae mor pwysig defnyddio'r iaith tu allan o'r gwers wythnosol!

Hedfanodd y blynyddoedd heibio, tyfodd y plant, symudon ni o Gaerwys i fyw yn Wern y Gaer - “ar y mynydd”, ac yn sydyn, mewn chwinciad llygad, ro'n i wedi ymddeol. Efo mwy o amser i'w sbario, ro'n i wrth fy modd i ddarganfod grwp newydd yn cyfarfod yng Nghaerwys - Siawns am Sgwrs. Os dach chi eisiau ymarfer eich Cymraeg mae croeso cynnes i chi i gyd!

WELSH LEARNERS' CORNER LEARNING WELSH

It was many years ago when I first started to learn Welsh – “the language of heaven!” We were living in Caerwys at the time and our eldest daughter had started to attend the nursery class in Ysgol Gwenffrwd. I joined an evening class which had been arranged for parents who didn't speak Welsh – and I was hooked straight away! I found the first year was the hardest (but it did get easier!) and I'm very grateful to everyone who taught me along the way – their patience and hard work was very much appreciated.

It's so important to practise in between the weekly lessons and I was blessed to have friends and neighbours who helped me on my journey and persevered even when I'm certain it must have been difficult for them to make sense of the conversations we had.

The years flew by, the children grew up and we moved to live “on the mountain” in Wern y Gaer. Having retired and with more time on my hands, I was delighted to find out that a new group for Welsh learners had started up in Caerwys - “Siawns am Sgwrs” (Chance for a Chat) so I decided it was time to brush up on my Welsh and joined the small friendly group. If you want to practise your Welsh you are warmly welcome there.

Kath Royles

Would you like to write an article about learning or speaking Welsh in the next edition? Send it by email to: halkynmountainnewscontribution@gmail.com

Hoffech chi ysgrifennu erthygl am ddysgu neu siarad Cymraeg yn y rhifyn nesaf? Anfonwch ei trwy e-bost at:

halkynmountainnewscontribution@gmail.com

Volunteering in Flintshire

FLVC - Flintshire Local Voluntary Council

Our Supported Volunteering Project has kicked off to a great start thanks to the help of our fantastic participants. Our volunteers will gain a Level 1 accreditation by learning group working skills, communication and essential volunteer and employability skills. They contribute an enormous part in creating a wonderful environment at Cae Rhug Holistic Farm.

Already they have cleared out almost 40 old tomato plant pots from the greenhouse and helped to lay down pathways for the farm's Therapy Garden to make it accessible for wheelchair use. One of the participants quoted “I have never volunteered before, and I have really enjoyed learning new skills and being a part of the development of the farm”.

If you would like to join us in January, we would love to hear from you!

Contact us at Volunteers@flvc.org.uk or 01352 744000.





HALKYN MOUNTAIN PARISHES – SERVICE TIMES

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

Every Month	First Sunday	Second Sunday	Third Sunday	Fourth Sunday	Fifth Sunday
Halkyn	11.15 am Communion	11.15 am Communion	11.15 am Communion	11.15 am Communion	10.30 am Combined Service – This rotates between churches
Rhosesmor (Village Institute)	10am Morning Prayer	10.00 am Communion	10.00 am Morning Prayer	10.00 am Communion	
Rhes y Cae	8.45 am Communion	8.45 am Morning Prayer	6pm Communion	8.45 am Morning Prayer	

YOU ARE VERY WELCOME AT ALL OUR SERVICES

Services for Advent and Christmas

Please note: Due to building work in the church, services in Rhosesmor will be held in the Village Institute until March, 2023. **The Christmas midnight service will be held at Rhes y Cae this year.**

CHRISTMAS

24 th December	4pm Rhes y Cae Crib Service 11.15pm Rhes y Cae – Midnight (C)
25 th December	9.30am Rhosesmor (C) 11.00am Halkyn (C)
31 st December	9.30pm Watchnight Service (to about 11.30)
1 st January	10.30am Rhes y Cae (C)

CAROL SERVICES

11 th December	6pm Rhosesmor
14 th December	7pm Rhes y Cae
18 th December	3pm Halkyn

17 th December	7.30pm Carols in the Bluebell at Halkyn
---------------------------	---

(C) = Communion

COMBINED SERVICE

The next combined service for the three parishes will be on Sunday, 29th January, 2023 at The Village Institute, Rhosesmor and you will be very welcome.

TY CROESO – at Pentre Halkyn Community Centre

Ty Croeso is a welcoming meeting place where people can share in friendship and fellowship. We have a weekly 'open house' Come for a Cuppa morning providing an opportunity for people to call in for a hot drink and have a chat in a warm and safe space. We also have a short service of worship. December marks our 1st Anniversary, why not come along and see for yourself. Drop in anytime for as long or short a time as you like.

Everyone is welcome, Ty Croeso is open to those of all faiths and of none.

Monday 10:00am - Start the week service
Monday 10:30am - 12:30am Drop in for a Cuppa

First Monday Soup and a Roll at 11:45am
Saturday 3rd December – A Celebration of Christmas at 1.30pm – Carols and poems followed by mince pies and coffee or tea

For further details of any of these events please contact:

The Rev'd Hugh Burgess on
01352 741 646
hughburgess@cinw.org.uk

HALKYN MOUNTAIN KIDS CLUB & HOLIDAY CLUB

Charity No: 1197828

SPACES AVAILABLE NOW!

We are situated in Ysgol Rhos Helyg Primary School. The club is registered with CIW (Care Inspectorate Wales); all staffs 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.

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

Opening times for holiday club only

8am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri

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

Prices for Holiday Club only

£25 per child for a full day

£16 per child for half a day (until 1pm)

Opening times for After School Club only

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

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

- Snack time
- Playing games
- Arts and crafts
- Parties
- Arranged theme nights

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

- A Trim Trail where we enjoy climbing, balancing and swinging
- A park with slides, bridges and balancing frames
- A large field and playground where we also have lots of fun with scooters and football matches etc.
- A nature reserve with a round house, yurt and pond area.

Prices for After School Club only. Open 3.10pm till 5.20pm Monday to Friday Term time 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 (Senior Playworker) on 01352 780265 / 07591239511 or Email us on

Halkynmountainkidsclub@gmail.com or even visit our website at www.ysgolrhoshelyg.com/holkyn-mountain-afterschool-club/



Rhes y Cae Village Hall News

Weekly Diary

Tuesday 7pm – 9pm Social Needlecraft Group.

Contact Susan Nuttall 07557965441

Wednesday (fortnightly) 7pm – 9pm Ewe Can Craft Social Crafting Group. Contact Rosie Robertson or see our Facebook page

Thursday 7pm – 9pm Yoga with Jane Lloyd
07977048469

Upcoming Events

Saturday 3rd December - Over 60s Christmas Lunch.

Doors open 1pm for lunch at 1.30pm.

If you are new to Rhes y Cae and Moel y Crio and eligible or if you've recently turned 60 and you'd like to come along, please let us know and we'll add you to the invitation list!

rhesycaevillagehall@gmail.com

Tuesday 6th December - Coffee morning in aid of Christchurch Rhes y Cae 10.30am – 12.30pm

Rhes y Cae Village Hall is available to hire for events, children's parties etc.

To enquire or book the hall, please contact:

Wendy Hughes rhesycaevillagehall@gmail.com



Hardy Plant Society Clwyd Group

We are a friendly gardening group.
We enjoy talks and garden visits.

Meetings are now held at the Stamford Gate Hotel, Holywell (opposite the Shell Garage), on the third Tuesday evening of the month at 7.30pm start of talk. Doors open from 7pm for plant sales and raffle tickets. Visitors welcome for a small admission fee.

The next meetings in 2023 are:-

Tuesday 28 February Woody Plants that Merit Attention - Kevin Pratt, Village Plants Nursery.

Tuesday 21 March Holland and its Tulip Story - Mary Jones.

Tuesday 18 April Hardworking Plants for the Small Garden - Maureen Sawyer.

Programme can be subject to change.

Information: 01352 781458 (please leave a message)

email: clwydgroup@hardy-plant.org.uk

www.facebook.com/HPSClwyd

www.hardy-plant.org.uk/clwyd

The Outpost – Rhosesmor Siop y Pentref National recognition



It was an absolute honour on the 24th of October for the Rhosesmor Outpost team to be presented as the Wales winner and the overall national UK winner of the Church and Community Volunteer Awards in the historic Mercers' Company Livery Hall in the City of London.

It was most encouraging to hear about the volunteers across the country who are working to unite communities, such as our own Team Outpost. Two members of the team, Lynn Fearnhead and Natalie Griffiths, went to London to collect the award and the rest of us gathered to watch the ceremony via the live stream.

Many of us were struggling to hold back tears when we were announced as the overall winner in our category. In selecting The Outpost as the overall winner the judges identified “the way that volunteers had responded to the specific needs of the area and their generosity of spirit of a large number people in a small village”.

The Outpost opened in October 2021. It stocks everyday basics such as bread, milk, butter and eggs much of which is locally sourced as well as handmade treats such as cakes, fudge and chocolates. Almost 40 volunteers keep the shop open and have become a mutually supportive community. The shop has grown into a lively village centre which runs a book club, a jigsaw swap, a veg and plant swap and an annual scarecrow competition. A centre where information is shared and visitors are welcomed, it is linked to the local Foodclub and has also helped Ukrainian refugees, a local hospice, the British Legion Poppy appeal and many others.

If we were to put how much our volunteers mean to us then we'd need a bigger word count limit so we'll keep it simple. They are our lifeblood. Without them, we wouldn't be the same and just wouldn't work. It was amazing to hear the judges talk about the friendships and warmth that came through our application. They got it. They got that it's not about profits or sales but the friendly faces and open door if anyone needs a pint of milk or just a chat. Our whole ethos is community; the community we serve and the community of volunteers we've built. This little Welsh village, nestled in the mountains, is as mighty as any. Diolch o galon! Cymuned am byth. Special thanks to The National Churches Trust, The Marsh Charitable Trust for the award and £1500 towards Outpost development.



Thanks also to St Paul's church Rhosesmor for their support from day one. In a coincidence of timing, building work started at St Paul's the same day to create a larger café space for The Outpost and add a small kitchen and toilet. Special thanks are due for the grants we have received for this community building project from the Welsh government, Community Facilities Programme, Community Foundation Wales, St Asaph Diocese and other local benefactors. The National Churches Trust judges acknowledged that the building was not ideal but nonetheless The Outpost didn't let this stop them starting their journey. The Outpost has temporarily moved to Rhosesmor Village Hall for the next few months and will re-open at St Paul's once the building work is complete in the Spring.



At the end of this celebratory week we welcomed Rob Shelley and Mark Doleman of ITV Wales at 6 who really understood that The Outpost is at the heart of the village. You can see the programme on:

<https://www.itv.com/news/wales/2022-07-13/catch-up-with-wales-at-six>

If you would like to join our Outpost team and volunteer an hour or two a fortnight, or whenever you can, then pop into the shop in the village hall Rhosesmor, message the Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheOutpostRhosesmor>

or text 07947046695.

You'll be made very welcome.

CYMUNED BRYNFFORDD - BRYNFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ILLUMINATION OF CHRISTMAS TREE FRIDAY 9th DECEMBER 2022 (Please note new date)

On Friday 9th December the official illumination of the Christmas tree at Brynford Village Green will take place at 5.30pm. The supply of the Christmas tree is being sponsored by J. R. Roberts Slurry Sealing Ltd, Calcoed Lane, Brynford for which the Council is incredibly grateful.

Brynford County Primary pupils and staff will be providing festive singing for us all to enjoy and join in with. Following the switching on of the tree lights, refreshments are being served at St. Michael's Church, with catering being kindly provided by the Restaurant Staff from Brynford Pet Cemetery.

Marshals will be on duty assisting with traffic management to aid the crossing of pedestrians to the Village Green. Residents are being requested not to park vehicles adjacent to the village green to help with traffic management and pedestrian safety.

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO STREETSCENE SERVICE

Provision of an additional dog faeces bin at Naid y March, Bridleway.

Highway Verge cutting – Milwr Road.

Brynford Hill – in need of de-littering.

Brynford Hill Restricted Parking Zone – vehicles being parked during restricted car parking times causing highway traffic congestion.

PLANNING APPLICATION CONSULTATIONS RECEIVED BY THE COUNCIL

These can be viewed on the Community Council website www.brynfordcommunitycouncil.gov.uk

Planning decisions made by Flintshire County Council can be viewed on its website www.flintshire.gov.uk

THE FOLLOWING MATTERS WERE REPORTED TO THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

Paradise Pride, West of the A5026, Northop Road, Milwr, Holywell CH8 8BE Members reported that further fly tipping and building construction was ongoing.

Delfryn, Brynford Hill, Holywell CH8 8AD Members reported that a static caravan had been sited at the site. No planning consultation notice for this had been received by the council.

Henblas Farm, Milwr, Holywell CH8 8BB Members again raised the condition of the building falling into disrepair and requested that a further letter be sent to Planning Services, Flintshire County Council seeking an intervention.

Racecourse Farm, Babell, Holywell CH8 8PR Members reported that the burning of imported waste material was being undertaken at weekends on land adjacent to the above property and requested that this matter be brought to the attention of Natural Resources Wales.

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

An application was received from Whitford Young Farmers.

The Council approved a grant of £100.00.

DISTRIBUTION OF HALKYN MOUNTAIN NEWSLETTER

Should any members of the community wish to provide an article or promote an event please contact the editorial team who will provide further guidance.

The council receives up to four hundred copies of each production for distribution within the community.

Should you wish to assist with the distribution within your community please contact the Clerk to the Council.

A. Roberts Clerk to Brynford Community Council

clerk@brynford.wales

01352 349849

Editor's Note

The team feels that Brynford is under-represented in the Halkyn Mountain News magazine and would greatly welcome articles, news items and advertisements from the Brynford area.

Please see page 2 for relevant email addresses.

Also, if you are willing to be involved in distribution, you can email our

Distribution Co-ordinator: Jane Loudon - jane.loudon@yahoo.co.uk

or contact Alan Roberts - clerk@brynford.wales

**Halkyn
Mountain
News**



Message from Hannah Blythyn MS

The impact of the cost-of living crisis continues to be felt in communities across the country – sadly too many people are finding themselves in increasingly challenging circumstances, from simply struggling to make ends meet, being able to heat homes, putting food on the table and covering the cost of things like school uniforms and the various kit learners need.

I know that the cost of school uniform, particularly the need to buy branded school clothing is something that has been of concern locally, as we have seen the – much welcome – growth of school uniform exchanges. In response to this, the Welsh Government has launched a new consultation aimed at parents, guardians, and learners and asks if school logos on uniforms are necessary or if there are ways it can be done that cut down on expense.

Options set out in the consultation include the use of school branding and whether schools should have no logo at all, or use 'iron on logos' to be made available free of charge. This could give families the option to buy uniform at cheaper costs and from a retailer of their choice. The consultation also asks whether schools should enter into single supplier contracts, as well as views on the role of schools in uniform recycling and exchange schemes. Links to the consultation can be found online:

www.gov.wales/changes-statutory-guidance-school-uniform-and-appearance-policies

Flintshire County Council also has a really useful project for unwanted or unused school uniform School Uniform Exchange (flintshire.gov.uk). The School Uniform Exchange aims to encourage the people of Flintshire to recycle and donate unwanted or unused school uniform items rather than putting them in the bin. All donated school uniform will be available for sale in Nightingale House Hospice shops throughout Flintshire at a fraction of high street prices. Likewise, I know there have been voluntary initiatives in both Holywell and Mold. The Welsh Government is stepping in to support people in these difficult financial times but there is much more the UK Government should and could do. With domestic fuel prices on the rise many people will struggle to keep their homes at a healthy temperature this winter; that's why the Welsh Government has recently announced plans to support the establishment of Warm Hubs across the country.

Warm Hubs are intended as places where people can find a safe, accessible and warm environment during the day to help reduce the cost of heating their own homes and to help those facing extreme fuel poverty this winter. Many organisations including local authorities, community councils, faith groups, sports clubs, community centres are already setting up, or looking to set up, Warm Hubs within local communities. For more information on the local arrangements for Warm Hubs and local funding, I

would encourage people/organisations to contact Flintshire County Council to register their interest.

There is also another Welsh Government scheme that could be useful which is 'Claim What's Yours' <https://gov.wales/claim-whats-yours>

Thousands of people in Wales are entitled to more benefits. Families across Wales are feeling the strain on their household budgets due to the rising cost of living, making that extra bit of help more important than ever. Many people are unaware they may be entitled to benefits that could offer them the support they need. If you are unsure about what benefits you can claim, Advicelink Cymru can help you check and claim what's yours. Get in touch with one of their advisors by calling their free helpline on 0800 250 5700.

It's come to that time of year again when we start to think about Christmas. Last year, with the kind support of local businesses and generous donations, I was able to help make the festive season a little bit brighter for nearly 200 families with Christmas Cheer boxes. This is something I'm planning on doing once again this year and will be in touch with primary schools across Delyn to help identify families that would benefit from a box.

If you have any questions about my work as your Member of the Senedd or would like to ask for advice and support, please don't hesitate to get in touch at my constituency office - 52 High Street, Mold, Flintshire, on 01352 753464 or by email Hannah.blythyn@senedd.wales You can also keep up to date via my Facebook page www.facebook.com/hannahblythynMS

CHRIST CHURCH
RHES-Y-CAE

CHRISTMAS
COFFEE &
MINCE PIES

10:30am
Tuesday 6th December
Rhes-y-cae Village Hall

The Rev. Hugh Burgess
The Chimneys
Leete Park
Rhydymwyn
Mold
CH7 5JJ
Dear Friends



The Mountain Churches
of Halkyn, Rhosesmor
and Rhes y Cae

It's been a long time since I wrote a piece for the Halkyn Mountain News but I'd like to thank the previous team for the amazing job they did and to welcome the new team. It is a great resource for the whole community on Halkyn Mountain.

One of the things that has struck me over the last very challenging two years is just how important community actually is. During Covid people came together in response to that challenge and they did this in many creative ways. The church too has started a range of initiatives, not simply as a response to Covid but rather because we want to help to build our communities and to bring people together.

In Rhosesmor, we opened a shop in the church in late 2021. This was an idea that came out of work done by Lynn Fearnhead and Jackie Blain and they were joined by Natalie Griffiths to make a long-term aspiration into a reality. They have brought together a team of about 40 volunteers of various denominations and faiths as well as of none. This team staffs the shop and they have formed a wonderful, welcoming community as it were, within the community. Please feel free to drop in and have a chat at anytime – they'll always make you welcome and provide a hot drink as well!

The Outpost has just won The National Churches Trust Volunteer Award for the whole of the UK against very strong opposition and we are very proud of the team and all they continue to do. The Outpost has temporarily moved to the Village Institute in Rhosesmor while building work is taking place in the church. Some years ago we began thinking about the future of St Paul's, Rhosesmor and how it could, as the saying goes, be future-proofed. As a result of grants from a variety of sources, we have been able to begin work. This involves putting in a toilet and meeting room/kitchen as well as making changes to the front of the church to improve accessibility and to create a flexible space. When The Outpost returns to the church in the New Year, we hope to run a regular café and to develop other community resources as well as having a quiet space where people can find peace.

But things are happening elsewhere, too. We have opened Ty Croeso – the Church in Pentre Halkyn which meets in the Community Centre. There is a community coffee morning every Monday at 10.30am. Everyone is welcome to come along for a biscuit and a chat and there is a free book-swap. On the first Monday of the month, we also provide a light lunch and, again, everyone is welcome.

At 10am each Monday there is also a short and very informal service for those who wish to come. Other events are also planned including a Carol and Cake afternoon on the 3rd December.

In Rhes y Cae, we are planning a monthly Taizé service on the evening of the third Wednesday of the month (starting in January). This will be a reflective service and rather different to normal church services.

All these developments are exciting but we continue also to offer support to people in the community in many different ways and particularly to those who find themselves facing hard times. If you find yourself in need or just need someone to talk to, please do call me. I wish you a very happy Christmas and peaceful

New Year

With every blessing

01352 741646
07938908378
hughburgess@cinw.org.uk

Way back when and now...

Rhosesmor - a Village Pathway

In 2008 Halkyn Community Council received a request for a path to be created on the reclaimed lead mining spoil opposite the Tiger Tim works. Following a health scare, Mr Hemming, a keen walker all his life, was advised to take less strenuous exercise.

His vision was for a footpath in the village suitable for all ages and abilities to be able to take regular exercise to improve and maintain health and fitness.

There being no objection from the Countryside Council for Wales, the first phase was established in 2009 and officially opened by Councillor Colin Legg.

This Community facility is well used and much appreciated. Thank you for this much valued asset.

A Senior Citizen

Pwy sy'n dwad drosg y brgn,
yn ddistaw ddistaw bach;
ei farf yn llaes
a'i wallt yn wgn,
a rhywbeth yn ei sach?

A phwy sy'n eistedd ar y to
ar bwys y simne fawr?
Sion Corn, Sion Corn
tyrd yma, tyrd i lawr!



Credit for this image goes to the welshgiftshop.com

Halkyn Cricket Club

Halkyn CC enjoyed a hugely successful 2022 campaign. The 1st X1 finished the season as Division 1 runners up. Along with Denbigh CC they proved to be by far the most consistent sides in the division losing just 2 games.

A dry hot summer meant that all 22 league games were played. Halkyn CC 1st X1 now look forward to again competing at the highest level, the NWCL Premier League in 2023.

The 2nd X1 also enjoyed a successful season finishing in a very creditable 3rd place in Division 4.

The Midweek Team also won the Chester Midweek League Division 2 trophy.

PRESENTATION EVENING

The presentation evening was held on Friday 28th October at the clubhouse. The club chair Simon Penney and Roger Bellis presented the trophies to the respective winners.

1st X1 Batting was awarded to Jamie Griffiths

1st X1 Bowling was awarded to Andrew Watkin

2nd X1 Batting was awarded to Shaun Gibson

2nd X1 Bowling was awarded to Gareth Thomas

Young Player of the Year was awarded to Aaron Thomas

The Keith Affleck Trophy for 1st X1 Player of the Year as voted for by the opposition was awarded to Andrew Watkin

The Joe Bellis Award for Club Person of the Year was awarded to Tony Green



Shaun Gibson



Tony Green



Andrew Watkin

JUNIORS

Following on from a successful 2022 season, the U15's finished a very creditable 3rd position. The junior presentation took place on Sunday 28th August and was well attended. All the Allstars and Dynamos were presented with medals by Gareth Thomas. Looking ahead to 2023, we will be starting winter nets after Christmas and we will be running Under 9's, Under 11's and Under 11 girls' teams. If anyone you know may be interested then please get in touch and we can let you know once we confirm a date for winter nets.



LADIES SOFTBALL CRICKET

Halkyn's brand new Women's Softball Cricket team had a fantastic summer of taster sessions, a friendly match and taking part in a mini festival. They will be training indoors in the New Year and new players are always welcome. No experience or equipment necessary – just a willingness to try something new! In the meantime, they are having fun raising money for the team and arranging social events. Get in touch if you would like to know more.



CLUB HOUSE HIRE

A reminder that the Clubhouse is available to hire at a competitive rate. We have a fully licensed bar which is ideal for parties, christenings, wakes, etc. Accommodating up to 60 people.

We offer the clubhouse free of charge to any local nonprofit groups and to schools. We have a reduced hire charge for children's parties (U13).



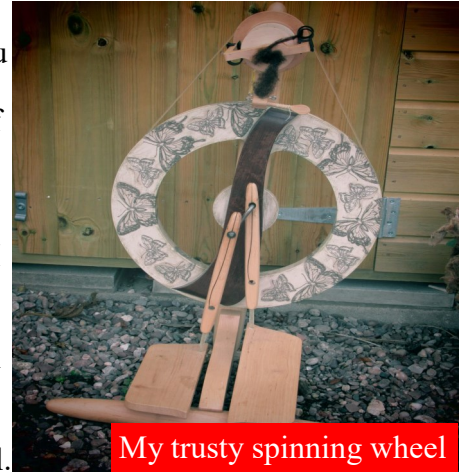
For further information on any of the above please contact Keith or Jane on 01352 781523 or 07732 325033

SHEE SPINNER

(The ramblings of a dog daft hand spinner and dyer on the mountain)

Hey y'all, pardon the intrusion, but the good folks at Halkyn Mountain News have asked me to write a few lines about the woolly four legged critters we all share the mountain with. Ewe know who I mean? Yep, you guessed right; today we are going to talk about sheep. Or more specifically about their fleece that keeps the woolly four legged ladies of the mountain warm.

As a hand spinner and dyer I am crackers about sheep and their wool. I have a fair few fleece from a number of breeds of sheep at home which I slowly process, dye and spin into yarn using my trusty spinning wheel. Sheep's fleece comprises 3 different fibres; they are known as wool, kemp and hair. Hand spinners are only interested in the wool fibres from a fleece. These wool fibres can vary in thickness from breed to breed. They range from 15-45microns (a micron is one thousandth of a millimetre). The smaller the micron number the finer and softer the wool.



My trusty spinning wheel



Magnificent Mountain Mules

Humans have bred sheep over the years to suit the environment in which they live. I am especially fond of the fleece and wool from our native sheep breeds. The UK has an astonishing 60 native breeds of sheep, of which Wales can boast 18 breeds as its own. On my daily rambles around the mountain with my trusted canine companions I have seen a fair few sheep breeds. I have spotted Black Welsh, Texel, Zwartables and Swaledale ewes. But I mostly spot mules. A mule is a medium sized cross-bred sheep. The ewes are known for their good mothering abilities, showing kindness and concern for their lambs. Mules are also known for their hardiness, thriftiness and longevity. If you ask me, these are ideal attributes for the sheep to survive the harsh cold, wet and windy winter conditions

on the mountain.

Wool is a natural product. It degrades naturally in the environment over time. It is a renewable product, as the sheep continue to grow their fleece throughout their lives. Every summer a sheep's fleece is shorn to keep the sheep cool and healthy. Wool is therefore considered to be a sustainable product. Wool is an incredibly good insulator. If you own a wool pullover you will know this; you will be toasty warm wearing it compared to a pullover made from a synthetic material such as acrylic. Wool is fire resistant and can be used as insulation in the home.

As a hand spinner if I cannot use all of a fleece to make yarn, the left overs are used to line plant pots and hanging baskets. This is better than plastic and fleece moderates the plant's water uptake whilst providing the plant with nutrients. I also use unsuitable fleece for spinning as a plant mulch which keeps moisture in the soil and stops the slugs and snails from feasting on my home grown veggies.

So I think we all need to say YAY to wool and the sheep that share the mountain with us for all the benefits that their wool gives to us.

Thank you for staying with me during my sheepy ramblings. I hope many of you will join me next time where I hope to walk you through the next stage of processing wool from a sheep's fleece to make yarn.



A selection of naturally and synthetically dyed fleece with some undyed washed fleece in the background with my solar dye pots full of yummy native breed sheep's wool.

Keep cosy and warm all. Please allow me to wish ye all Mountain residents a happy 'fleeceful' oops.. err.. I mean 'peaceful' festive season and a happy and healthy 2023.

Shee spinner spins sheep's soft sumptuous shearings so sheep stay smiling

Halkyn Mountain - Thistles for Wildlife

Creeping Thistle



Whilst on Halkyn Mountain you cannot fail to notice thistle plants. They provide welcome splashes of colour scattered almost everywhere across the heath. There are 6 different species of these spiny plants and all are important for wildlife.

Thistles are members of the Daisy family and have flower heads composed of a group of individual tightly-packed tubular flowers surrounded by spiny leaf-like bracts. The flowers are purple-coloured with some exceptions. They provide nectar to feed pollinators such as butterflies and bees who in turn pollinate many of our food plants. The seeds provide food for birds such as Goldfinches and Linnets and their spiny leaves and stems offer shelter especially in winter to invertebrates such as spiders and beetles; all of this is necessary for a healthy ecosystem.

The two best known thistles are Creeping Thistle and Spear Thistle known especially to gardeners and farmers as troublesome weeds because they spread easily and are difficult to control in pastures and meadows. Another thistle abundant on the Mountain is the tall Marsh Thistle. As its name suggests it is usually found in wet areas but on Halkyn it grows everywhere. The Halkyn plants are quite pale-coloured compared with Marsh Thistles elsewhere and often have white flowers instead of purple ones. This could be because of contaminants in the spoil which was left behind following mining activities. These three thistles, common throughout the British Isles, are rated within the top ten plants which feed pollinating insects.



Marsh Thistle

The next two thistles of the Mountain are not so common; they are Nodding Thistle (also called Musk Thistle) and Carline Thistle. Nodding Thistle has an attractive large flower which bends to one side and has a crown of fearsome spines. It can be found in scattered places on the Mountain and in North and East Wales but in many areas of Britain it is uncommon or rare. Carline Thistle is a small plant and the only one of our thistles that has a centre of minute purple disk florets so tiny that they are hardly noticeable; it is the outer florets that give the flowers their yellowish colour and even after flowering and throughout winter the appearance of the flowers is little changed.

Carline Thistle



The last of our thistles is a speciality of Halkyn Mountain (and written about in the last issue by Ieuan ap Sion). Stemless Thistle (also called Dwarf Thistle) grows mainly in one area of Halkyn Mountain and this is the only place in North Wales where it can be found. Flintshire is the North-west limit of the plant's range in Britain and indeed Europe. This thistle grows from a rosette of leaves close to the ground and the large purple flower is stemless or has a very short stem. It would be easy to think that it is just a thistle that has failed to grow tall.

Dwarf and Carline Thistles are small plants that require surrounding vegetation to be short. Their numbers would decline on the Mountain were it not for sheep grazing; fortunate for the thistles, the sheep are not inclined to eat them; contrast that with other rare plants on the Mountain that are eaten by grazing sheep.

Creeping and Dwarf Thistles are perennial plants flowering every year and spreading by an underground rootstock. The other four thistles are biennials, having a two-year cycle, flowering in their second year and spreading only by seeds. When you walk on Halkyn Mountain in future and curse these prickly plants, just console yourself with the thought that thistles are contributing to biodiversity by supporting many insects that pollinate our food plants, thereby helping us and our well-being.

Halkyn Mountain Nature Conservation Group Text & photos: Mavis Midgley

Spear Thistle



Nodding Thistle



Stemless Thistle



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 start for the school year. We would like to share with you a flavour of the things that have happened this half term.

PC Marc Jones

Our Police Liaison Officer visited the school to discuss issues relating to friendships and bullying. These interactive workshops are enjoyed by the pupils.

Once again important messages are conveyed to the children.

Reception

The children have enjoyed listening to the story about The Leaf Man and then they decided to go on a leaf hunt. The children sorted the leaves according to colours.

The children then took turns to match and identify the leaves.

Eco Club

Eco club have been litter picking, analysing the litter and then creating an assembly to help to improve the issue of litter in school. The children report much of the litter blows in from the mountain.

Year 5

Children created their own magical potions with a variety of spooky ingredients. Using their Welsh language to ask for ingredients from the witch's shop, the children created their potion recipes and acted them out, all through the Welsh language.

Exploring stories through drama ready to become newspaper reporters. Children were playing the role of Reporters of the Daily Prophet Newspaper. They collected information about the story as well as interviewing those involved before creating their own magical report.

Year 5 have done a mini topic on India and as part of that they have had the opportunity to do some Bollywood dancing.

They have also enjoyed trying Indian food such as pakoras, samosas and bhajis. Some pupils were able to create coconut barfi an Indian sweet that is enjoyed in India and given to neighbours during Diwali.

They used their creative skills creating Diya lamps. Diya lamps are lit during Diwali.

Playground Buddies

Playground buddies have started their training. Volunteers from our juniors are to play games with everyone to encourage co-operation and fair play.

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

A big thank you to Mrs Wendy Griffiths for organising this fabulous event once again.

Thank you to everyone in the local community that came to support this event. A fantastic £650 was raised.

PTA Halloween Disco

Traditionally the pupils come dressed to impress in their scary costumes for the Halloween disco. The children love this event and enjoy the hot dogs and other refreshments provided by the PTA.

It was our first disco since Autumn 2019 and it was lovely to see the children enjoying themselves.

Harvest

Thanks to everyone for their food donations. We have distributed the donations to the local food bank.

Year 1 and 2

As part of their topic work they have had lots of fun making tasty ice cream.

They have also been busy making Pizzas.

The children have been harvesting seeds in order to plant them next year.

Year 3 and 4

As part of their Science Topic the children have been looking at the human skeleton and have recreated it out of natural materials.

The children have also carried out an investigation to measure their breathing rate before and after exercising.

To celebrate Harvest the pupils have been celebrating Foods of the World and have made the Brazilian dessert called 'Brigadeiro'.



Message from Cllr Simon Jones

With the rising cost of energy bills, we have been very lucky that the warm weather has continued through October. However, looking forward to the winter months, I have been working with other members of Flintshire County Council to set up a warm hub scheme. This will start in November and run through until March. At the time of writing this, we are currently awaiting confirmation as to where these hubs will be. The idea is to provide warm rooms, with tea & biscuits, where residents of the ward can spend a few hours rather than having to struggle to pay to heat their own properties. As there are no Council owned care homes within the Brynford & Halkyn ward, we are looking to work with local businesses and community centres to provide this facility. A Council grant will be available to cover the running costs. The grant application form will soon be available on the Flintshire County Council website should you wish to offer your premises.

If you need any help with the cost of living crisis, Flintshire County Council has created an online cost of living hub which contains information on how to reduce your bills and handy telephone numbers of various services which may be able to assist anyone struggling this winter. You can access the hub by visiting www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Cost-of-Living-Hub/Home.aspx

As in recent years, I will once again be organising a collection for the Flintshire Food Bank in the run up to Christmas. Before becoming Councillor for the ward, I organized these collections mainly in Brynford, but this year I will obviously be collecting throughout the ward. I will post collection dates and locations on my Facebook page and on the various mountain Facebook pages towards the end of November.

There seems to have been a local issue with some recycling collections in the ward, so I have been working with Street Scene to resolve these problems. For anyone not aware, there is a Flintshire County Council app that you can use to report any issues directly to the Street Scene team.

However do feel free to contact me via email simon.jones@flintshire.gov.uk with any problems that you are unable to resolve. You can also use the app to report any blocked drains in the area which I would encourage anyone to do before the winter weather sets in.

I understand that a lot of people are frustrated with the new permit system at our local recycling centres and have been reporting people's issues to the relevant officers. There was a workshop of Councillors and officers held in September regarding the ongoing issues with trailer access to the recycling centres. The Councillors accepted that further changes were needed, in particular relating to the type of vehicles requiring permits and the type of trailers that are acceptable. The next step is that Council officers will review the feedback, identify the changes needed and report to the relevant scrutiny committee. The new plans will then be presented to Cabinet in November for consideration. I will keep everyone updated with the results of this meeting as soon as I have further information.

On a final note, it has been good to see the pavements in Pentre Halkyn being resurfaced as some of them had become quite uneven and, as winter approaches, this will make pedestrian access through the village a lot safer.

If anyone would like to contact me regarding local issues, my email address is simon.jones@flintshire.gov.uk and my phone number is 07780 035388. If I am not able to answer your call immediately, please do leave a message so that I can call you back as soon as possible. I also have a Facebook page www.facebook.com/SimonBrynford

I look forward to hearing from you.

Rhosesmor Village Hall activities

Women's Institute 2nd Monday Monthly 1900

Coffee Morning Mondays Fortnightly 1100

Material Girls (Sewing club) 2nd Tuesday monthly 1330

Jewellery making/Bead Group 2nd Sunday monthly 1100

Mondays 1900 Band practice

Tuesdays 1030 Yoga

1400 Art Club

1830 Pilates

Wednesdays 1100 Tai Chi

1230 Line Dancing

1800 Kids Choir

1900 Roleplaying Group

1900 Band practice

Thursdays 900 Mums & Tots

1345 Silver Movers

1900 Meditation

1900 WI painting group

Fridays 1830 Cubs/Scouts

1345 Post Office

Sundays 1900 Band practice

The hall is available to hire and if you are interested in doing so, please contact Jon Tarry on 01352 780 842

Blue Bell Walks - Walkabout Flintshire Halkyn

- The evening walks have proved popular throughout the
- Summer and will recommence the first Wednesday in
- April 2023.
- Seasons Greetings to all walkers and especially those who
- have led walks over the last twelve months.
- The new year brings new hope and new aspirations
- especially regarding fitness and good health.
- We look forward to seeing new faces on our weekly
- guided walks on Thursdays and Saturdays starting with
- two New Year's Resolution Walks.
- The first will take place on New Year's Day starting at
- 10.30am and the second walk suiting all abilities will start
- at 2pm on January 2nd.
- The first step is the hardest but do make the effort and
- come and join us.
- In October walkers took part in donation walks in aid of
- MacMillan Nurses. Gill Harrison led a walk in Shotton on
- the Friday followed by a walk from the Blue Bell on the
- Saturday. Another group led by Phi Knowles took up the
- invitation to visit Tyddyn Bach Farm where Mrs Freda
- Rock and family were holding a Coffee Morning for the
- MacMillan Nurses. The group were given a warm
- welcome and were served with a glorious selection of
- cakes in the colourful farmhouse garden. There was also a
- large selection of raffle prizes.
- Thank you to all who supported this worthy cause and help
- raise the sum of £770.
- John and Vicky Thomas - Walk Leaders

HOLYWELL COMMUNITY MUSEUM NEWS

We have once again been very busy over the past weeks taking down some and rearranging others of the exhibits to make room for our POACH displays to move. John, our resident mining expert, has now moved into what was the old community room. Who knew how much memorabilia he had in the far room – it must have been like a Tardis! He has now (just about) sorted everything. So John is ready to welcome interested visitors to hear their stories of their mining days and regale them with his memories of Point of Ayr.

The room which John has vacated will eventually house our NHS display and our 'Education in the Area' exhibition and we are waiting for carpeting for the new community room so that our three weekly groups can move in.

If only we didn't have to put our exhibits into storage to show different displays. When I win the lottery I would love to buy a bigger premises for us – my dream is of housing the museum in the old Midland Bank building – there is so much history attached there – especially the visit of (the then) Princess Victoria before she became Queen.

The Tuesday reminiscence group is still thriving and we have, over the sixteen months in which we have been running, become more than a reminiscence group. We also have developed into an archive group as the members bring in so much of their memorabilia and ephemera to copy and share and we now have folders on most aspects of the area.

The latest 'Every Memory Matters' booklet (the fourth) – deriving from the group's memories is now ready for sale – read our shared memories and tributes to local people who have recently passed – all proceeds to the museum.

We still hold bingo sessions – now EVERY week on Mondays at noon.

Tuesday is the reminiscence group – free of charge.

Wednesday is the Knit and Natter/Craft group – free of charge and open at 10am until when you want to leave – some days less knit and more natter as we have become such a close knit group (pardon the pun) sharing our joys and worries.

The Thursday 1pm prize quiz is now also thriving. You don't have to come as a team – just come on your own and the teams form naturally. You can win chocolate, Sudoku books or scented candles – it is great fun and we have an entertaining and experienced quiz host – you may remember Bob Parry from the Mill Tavern in Flint. He is also a regular and contributing member of our Tuesday group and kindly offered to run our quiz with no reward for himself. He has also contributed much to the chapel room which is now open to view and will soon have a blessing by local clergy.

During October we had a visit from a group of local Brownies who were working towards their Local History badge. They really enjoyed their evening visit and a goody bag given to each one of them as well as the picture quiz which Sue and Paul devised for them to hunt the object on the displays.

If you are looking for a stocking filler for Christmas for children or adults – what better than "This is Your Town" a forty page book of drawings, poems and prose by a local author telling interesting stories of old Holywell. For sale at the museum – all proceeds to the museum. Talking about Christmas – it doesn't seem long since we were taking down the grotto last year and now Santa will be visiting once more in December. Just a small fee for a gift and a chat with Santa to tell him what's on your list this year.

For any more details of any of the above – please phone the museum on 01352 217170.

I run three of the groups – so if you want more details on any of them please feel free to phone me at home on 01352 711240 or email me – andreadakin112@btinternet.com

We would love to see you as a visitor, member of one of our groups or as a volunteer – we always need more help so if you have a few hours to spare...

And to misquote Strictly Come Dancing – KEEEEP coming to see us – there is always a warm welcome to all in our friendly little cafe.

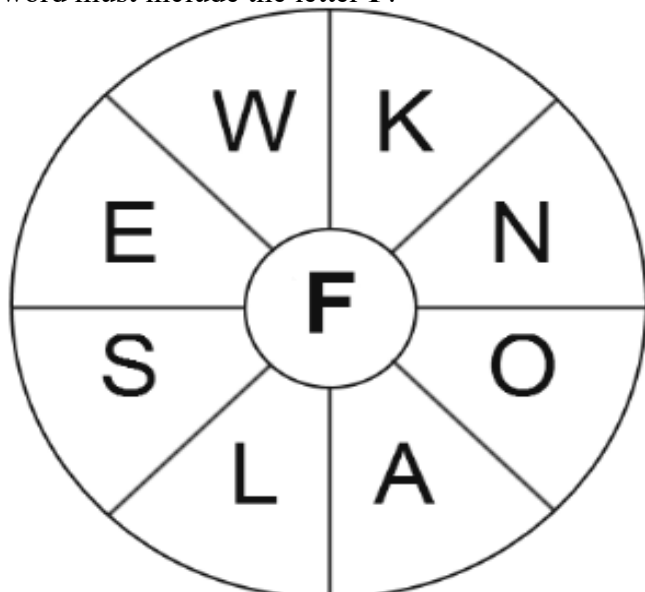
Hope you all have a happy and blessed Christmas – see you in 2023.

Andrea Yarnell Dakin



Winter Word Wheel

This word wheel is made from a 9 letter Winter themed word. Try and find that word, then make as many words of any length as you can from these letters. You can only use each letter once and each word must include the letter F.



Word Wheel kindly supplied by Michelle Woodall
fre printablepuzzles.co.uk

The Ultimate Word Search

Editor Note: I have managed to find 52 words - who can beat that? I don't count plurals!

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

Word Search Puzzle kindly supplied by geoffclem.uk



*A Christmas gift is on the way - colour
 me do.*
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The Rotary Club of Flint & Holywell Christmas Float

It is coming to that time of year again when the nights are drawing in, the leaves are falling off the trees, we are starting to see the shops selling Christmas decorations and Rotarians can be heard hard at work, preparing the Christmas Float for another year of touring the towns and villages to bring the wonder of our Father Christmas with his brightly illuminated sleigh and the sounds of Christmas hymns and songs to the children of North East Wales.

Behind the scenes there's an awful lot of work required to ensure the Float looks at its best and everything works!

For the best part of a month each year the Float with its various teams of volunteers suffers the vagaries of Welsh December weather from hail and snow to driving rain and all this takes its toll on not only the Float but also the specialist four wheel drive dedicated towing vehicle - not to mention the Rotarians themselves! Rotary President Malcolm Mellor commented that each year, after the float finishes its touring just before Christmas Day, it languishes unloved in outbuildings kindly provided by local farmer Edwin Hughes at Cornist



Farm, just one of the many generous sponsors without whose support the Christmas Float would not be possible.

Then October comes round and both Float and towing vehicle are inspected and a schedule of repair, refurbishment and replacement works is prepared.

Rotarian John Williams who has a well known motor engineering business in Rhosesmor ensures the ageing Daihatsu towing vehicle is serviced and MOT'd, an increasingly onerous duty in view of the age of the vehicle, whilst other Rotarians with specialist skills or simply the ability to wield a paint brush give up many weekends to ensure the Float looks at its best. Malcolm commented, "all the members' time is undertaken on an entirely voluntary basis; however the additional costs of renewals and repair are significant and the Club are this year asking for donations from the general public to ensure the future of this much loved tradition".

This year's touring schedule, like last year, is somewhat reduced from previous years, due not only to the reduced number of volunteers, but also ever increasing health and safety obligations, although all the ever popular Static Town Centre events will remain.

Float organiser, Gordon Cook, stated that he has arranged the touring schedule in such a way that the Float can be seen by as many people as possible although this does mean that "Santa Stops" are limited to fixed points only as advertised on the touring schedule. This can be seen on a page nearby and can also be found on the Rotary Club's website.

If you wish to donate the details are provided below:

A/C Name: Rotary Club of Flint & Holywell Sort Code: 40 24 27 Account Number: 51159666

For further information contact:

David W. Pearce, Press & Publicity Officer E: davidpearse@icloud.com Tel: 01352 758922





FLINT & HOLYWELL ROTARY CLUB

SANTA STOPS. We will not be touring the streets

CHRISTMAS FLOAT PROGRAMME 2022



STATICS

24 Nov 2022 Thursday

4.00pm till 7.30pm Flint Christmas Lights Switch On

2 Dec 2022 Friday

4.30pm for 4.50pm to 7.00pm Holywell Christmas Lights Switch On ~ Static ~ Lights on 5.00pm

11 Dec 2022 Sunday

11am - 1.00pm Holywell Town Sunday Christmas Market & Santa Run 10am

17 Dec 2022 Saturday

10.00am till 12.00am Flint ~ Church Street Static

18 Dec 2022 Sunday

11.00am till 3.00pm Flint ~ Retail Park Static

*There will be collection drop buckets in the vicinity of the Float on statics only.
Full directional barrier Father Christmas with sweets. Photo opportunity in front of float.
Father Christmas must stay near cabin / against float.*

NO DRIVING TOURS ~ STATIC STOPS ONLY

PLEASE NOTE: TIMES MAY BE SUBJECT TO VARIANCE DEPENDING ON NUMBERS & WEATHER

	Time	
15 Dec 2022 Thursday	6.00pm	Oaken Holt ~ New roundabout Fford Dewi/Park
	6.25pm	Princess of Wales Avenue ~ The Welsh Harp
	6.50pm	Roskell Square ~ Kings Church
	7.10pm	Cornist ~ Windsor Drive Bottom of Cornist Park
	7.35pm	Cornist ~ Bryn Glas/Elwy Crescent Junction
16 Dec 2022 Friday	6.00pm	Rhosesmor ~ Playing Field
	6.15pm	Halkyn ~ Blue Bell Inn
	6.30pm	Pentre Halkyn ~ Post Office
	6.50pm	Brynford ~ School
	7.05pm	Lixym ~ Crown Inn
	7.30pm	Cearwys ~ Square
	7.50pm	Gorsedd ~ Druids Inn
19 Dec 2022 Monday		19 Dec 2022 pre run 5.30pm Morfa Newydd Care Home, Greenfield
	5.50pm	Greenfield ~ School Lane / Youth Club
	6.15pm	Boot End Bagillt ~ Riverbank
	6.35pm	Bagillt ~ The Stag Inn
	6.50pm	Bagillt ~ Bryntirion Road/Vicarage Road Junction
	7.10pm	Pen y Meas, Holywell ~ Abbots Arms
	7.25pm	The Strand, Holywell ~ Strand Walk/Wat's Dyke Ave junction
	7.40pm	Carmel ~ Bottom of Ocean Heights
	7.55pm	Holway ~ Holway Community House
	8.10pm	Stamford Gate
20 Dec 2022 Tuesday	6.15pm	Ffynnongroew ~ Railway Inn/Riverside Takeaway
	6.40pm	Pen Y Ffordd ~ Shop
	7.10pm	Maes Pennant ~ Shops
21 Dec 2022 Wednesday	6.00pm	Coed Onn Rd/ Alltr Goch junction
	6.25pm	Coed Onn Rd/ Bryn Onnen junction
	6.55pm	Fifth Ave / Tudor Ave / Min Awel Junction
	7.30pm	Northop ~ Boot Inn, High St

Bank Details for donations ~ Rotary Club of Flint & Holywell Sort Code 40-24-27 Acc No 51159666

Nightjar in Wern y Gaer

We've lived in Rhosesmor since 1999 and the first thing we loved about moving to the area was the free roaming sheep across the mountain. It really made you feel part of the farmed environment and a great place to learn about wilder landscapes. However, it took us a while to learn how important it is to have well maintained fences and gates; our rose bushes disappeared one by one! Over the years we noticed that sheep numbers were decreasing on the mountain and we learnt from the Halkyn Mountain Ranger that there were fewer farmers utilising their grazing rights on the mountain common and that this was actually having an impact on the fauna and flora of the Halkyn Mountain Special Area of Conservation (SAC). I recommend that anyone with an interest in the biodiversity of the local area read up on the designated features of the SAC as it gives a very useful insight into the management of protected areas especially on common land.

Since reading the management requirements of the Halkyn Mountain SAC, I have taken the time to visit other commons around the country and the one major difference I noticed, in the New Forest for example, was the prevalence of grazing cattle as opposed to sheep. Cattle graze in a very different way to sheep. They use their tongues to tear the grassland sward, being very selective in what herbs and grasses they eat and some flowers and shrubs are always left to grow. The cattle's size and weight mean they are able to push through scrubland creating areas of light and shade. Their hooves scarify the soil allowing seeds to germinate and their manure is



more nutrient rich and feeds a greater diversity of insects, which in turn supports a wider diversity of birds and small mammals. Sheep on the other hand, browse with their teeth and prefer to keep vegetation very short and will generally eat any herbs or grasses; no vegetation will be left to grow tall. Cattle grazing is actively supported by all sectors of the community in the New Forest and has created thriving farm businesses and a popular tourism destination because of its diversity of animals and plants.

It is now quite obvious to me that the reduction in sheep grazing has allowed areas of mountain common to regenerate naturally with ash, hawthorn, elder, rowan, bramble and gorse, creating a diverse mosaic of woodland, scrubland, grassland and wetland that did not exist on Halkyn Mountain 20 years ago.

A wonderful sign that biodiversity might be heading in the right direction on Halkyn Mountain is the arrival of a Nightjar! For the first time in 20 years, we have seen and heard a Nightjar calling and hunting in Wern y Gaer! The Nightjar is a nationally scarce breeding bird that arrives in May from its wintering grounds in Africa and is associated with woodland clearings, scrubland and heathland. They are superbly camouflaged with bark-like plumage that helps them blend into the shrubby undergrowth. Being nocturnal, you are likely to hear the male's call at dusk, which is a very distinctive churring sound (Troellwr in Welsh), but it can also be seen hunting moths and beetles over rough pastures, similar in flight to a kestrel or cuckoo. It's a wonderful bird to see and we are very lucky to have one as a summer resident on Halkyn Mountain! We will have to wait and see whether it will return in 2023 to hopefully find a female and raise chicks but we should consider protecting these amazing habitats that are regenerating naturally on Halkyn Mountain. For Nightjars this includes keeping dogs under close control as they will easily flush birds off their nests, avoiding mechanised bracken control wherever Nightjars might be known to nest and maintaining a good amount of heather and a sparse scattering of trees.

Jonathan Hulson
North Wales Wildlife Trust

Sesiwn Ceginio - Cooking Session

MYFFINS PWDIN DOLIG

Cynhwysion

100g o flawd plaen
25g o bowdr coco
1 llwy dê o bowdr codi
½ llwy dê o soda pobi
75g o siwgr mân
25g o resins
25g o naddion siocled
100ml o lefrith
3 llwy fwrdd o olew llysiau
1 ŵy

I addurno

75g o siocled gwyn ac ychydig bach o eisin coch a gwyrdd (wedi ei rolïo'n barod)

Dull

1. Cynheswch y popty ymlaen llaw - nwy 6/200°C/ffan 180°C. Leiniwch y tun myffins â chasynau papur.
 2. Mewn powlen fawr, hidlwch y blawd, coco, powdr codi, soda pobi a'r siwgr efo'i gilydd. Ychwanegwch y resins a hanner y naddion siocled.
 3. Cymysgwch y llefrith, olew a'r ŵy efo'i gilydd gan ddefnyddio fforch a'i dywallt ar ben y cynhwysion sych a chymysgu'r cyfan i ffurfio cyteu rhedegog.
 4. Rhannwch y gymysgedd rhwng y casynau papur ac yna taenwch weddill y naddion siocled drostynt.
 5. Coginiwch am 15 munud neu tan fyddant yn gadarn wrth eu cyffwrdd. Rhowch y myffins ar resel weiar i oeri.
 6. Toddwch y siocled gwyn mewn powlen dros sosban o ddŵr poeth. Taenwch y siocled dros y myffins i ymdebygu i bwdin Dolig a thorrwch siapiau celyn ac aeron allan o'r eisin i addurno.
- MWYNHEWCH!

CHRISTMAS PUDDING MUFFINS

Ingredients

100g plain flour
25g cocoa powder
1 tsp baking powder
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
75g caster sugar
25g raisins
25g chocolate chips
100ml milk
3tbsp vegetable oil
1 egg

To Decorate

75g white chocolate
Small amount of green and red ready rolled icing

Method

1. Preheat oven to gas 6/200°C/180°C fan. Line muffin tins with paper cases.
2. In a large bowl, sift together the flour, cocoa, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda and sugar. Stir in the raisins and half the chocolate chips.
3. Mix the milk, oil and egg together, then pour it onto the dry ingredients and mix together to form a runny batter.
4. Divide the mixture between the paper cases and scatter over the remaining chocolate chips.
5. Bake for 15 minutes or until risen and firm to touch. Cool on wire rack.
6. Melt the white chocolate in a bowl over a pan of hot water. Spoon over the muffins to resemble Christmas puddings. Roll out the icing and cut into holly and berry shapes, then decorate the puddings.

ENJOY!

Note - thanks to Menna Coleclough for this recipe. More recipes in Welsh and English will be welcome. Please send to the contribution email address page 2

Halkyn WI

Our meetings are on the first Thursday of the month at 2 pm, at Halkyn Community Hall and Library. In December we will also go out for lunch.

On the other Thursdays of the month we have a craft group at 2pm. Most come to craft but some come for the welcoming company, tea and biscuits.

Any questions contact Fiona Jones on 01352 780462

Pentre Halkyn Community Centre

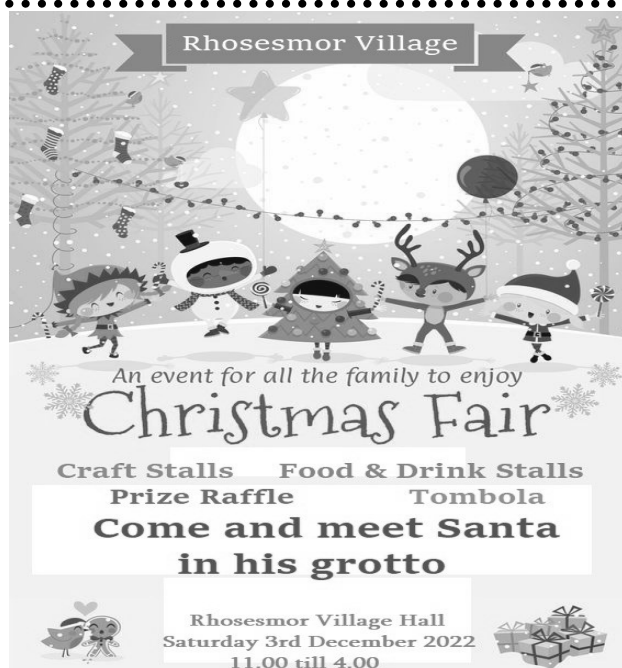
Over 50's Club

Meets Mondays at 1.15pm

Holywell Art Club

Meets Wednesdays - full information on page 3.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Saving Our Grasslands

Save our limestone grasslands from the threat of cotoneaster by signing up to the North Wales' Wildlife Trust's Plant Swap Scheme and receive a £10 National Garden Gift Voucher.

Sadly, 90% of Wales' semi natural grasslands have declined since the 20th century. Remaining areas are now often small in size and highly fragmented, having devastating effects on local wildlife. The invasion of cotoneaster has contributed to this loss of habitat and is now recognised as one of the top ten species to negatively impact protected sites in Wales.

Cotoneaster is a Schedule 9 species and it is illegal to plant or cause it to grow in the wild. Typically, this invasive plant is spread by birds eating cotoneaster berries from gardens and consequently spreading the seed across threatened landscapes.

Most gardens contain plants that are not native to the UK - they originally came from another part of the world. While non-native plants can help create beautiful ornamental displays to enjoy, if they escape into the wild some can become invasive, including cotoneaster.

The North Wales Wildlife Trust's Plant Swap Scheme aims to restore limestone grasslands by reducing the cotoneaster seed source. The scheme offers a £10 National Garden Gift Voucher in exchange for removing cotoneaster found in your garden. If you live between Conwy and Mold you may be eligible to take part. Your support will help to protect threatened species such as the hoary rock rose and the silver studded blue butterfly.

Although cotoneaster can be seen as a beneficial plant for bees, its nectar source is short-term as the flowers open for only a couple of weeks in the year. By reducing the cotoneaster seed source it enables nectar rich flowers to bloom throughout the spring and summer months including small scabious, kidney vetch, carline thistle, rock rose and salad burnet. Delicate bee and pyramidal orchids can thrive accompanied by thyme, stemless thistle and knapweed. This helps support an abundance of species including the marbled white and brown argus butterfly.

Hannah Everett, North Wales Wildlife Trust Cotoneaster Project Officer, said: "Limestone grasslands disappearing from our landscapes would be a huge loss and getting people involved in conserving them locally can have real benefits – for individuals, communities as well as our wildlife!"

Christina Sheehan, Natural Resources Wales Conservation Officer, said: "Cotoneaster is in so many of our gardens which is largely why it's spreading onto our protected sites. Therefore, every effort we can make to remove it is a huge help."

To find out more please visit our website:

www.northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk/take-action/plant-swap-scheme



Mountain and Heath

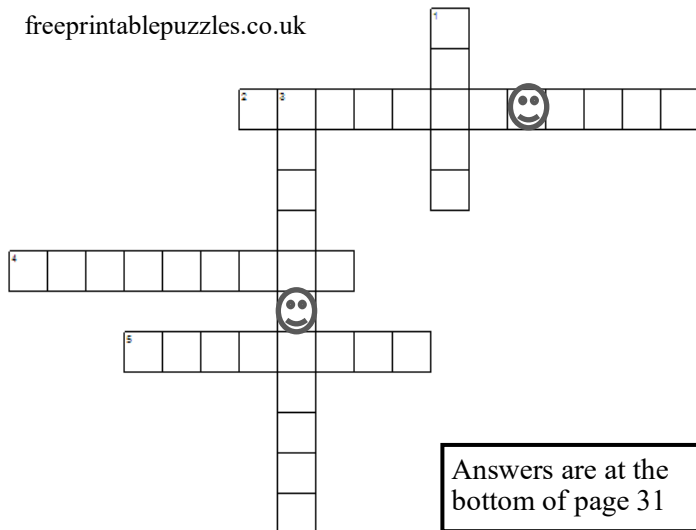
Across

2. Rare and protected amphibian in our ponds
4. Major estate and land owner of many acres
5. A hamlet named after a grinding machine with sails

Down

1. Those hefted on our mountain and heath
3. Twins up a hill transmitting information

freeprintablepuzzles.co.uk



Answers are at the bottom of page 31



For those who dislike crosswords

- A. Barriers to prevent animals from straying off the common
- B. Old buildings designed to process stone into fertiliser
- C. Non-native garden plant now invasive on the mountain
- D. Name of equidae contributing to Halkyn Mountain News
- E. Mined until the 1960s and historically used in plumbing

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Watercolour, Acrylics & Pastels



I am an artist based near Holywell producing paintings in watercolour, acrylic and pastel from photographs of pets, houses, boats, views etc.

If you would like a commission (eg pet portrait) please contact me on the mobile number below or via my website. I'd love to hear from you!

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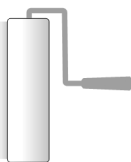
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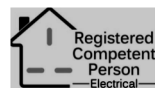


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Halkyn Mountain News is published quarterly and distributed in March, June, September and December. We circulate and distribute copies free of charge to households in the Halkyn Mountain and Brynford areas – with a print run of approximately 1800 copies and an estimated readership of about 4000 people. Feedback suggests that residents keep editions as a handy directory of local businesses and services and often pass copies on to new residents. The publication is ‘not for profit’ and is run totally by volunteers. Advertising revenue is simply used to pay for the printing of each issue and for minor expenses involved in the administration of production and distribution.

All adverts appear in a section at the back of each edition. Standard adverts are: **Width = 90mm, Height = 50mm.** Advertisements are produced in black and white only. Example below:
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Answers Crossword

1. Sheep
2. Crested newt
3. Radio masts
4. Grosvenor
5. Windmill

Questions

- A. Cattle grids
- B. Lime kilns
- C. Cotoneaster
- D. Danny
- E. Lead

Halkyn Mountain Scarecrow Festival 2022

This year we had 29 entries for the Halkyn Mountain Scarecrow Festival. The standard was amazing and gave the judges a very difficult job deciding on the winners.

The prizes were: 1st £30 and a trophy, 2nd £20 and 3rd £10.

All prizes are donated by our sponsors which this year were Mr David Pierce (Crooked Horn) and an anonymous donor.

It is so nice seeing all the scarecrows appearing all over the mountain. We currently have 284 members of the Facebook group (Halkyn Mountain Scarecrow Festival).

We would like to thank our judges - Mrs Ruth Aldridge and Mr Philip Parry - for giving their time to judge this year's festival.

Thanks also to the coordinators for collecting the entries, in particular Wendy Sigsworth, Kathy Baron, Georgina Hodges and Andy Hughes.

We have sent £238 to Wales Air Ambulance.

We look forward to another great festival next year. Let's cover the mountain in scarecrows!

Thank you all

Glyn Coleclough

First / Cyntaf



Child 1st

Second / Ail



Child 2nd

Third / Trydydd



Child 3rd



Adult 1st



Adult 2nd



Adult 3rd