

# *Halkyn Mountain News Newyddion Mynydd Helygain*

**Issue/Rhifyn 190 – Spring/Gwanwyn 2024**

The year is galloping by. The snowdrops, crocus and daffodils have done their bit for us. Trees are showing their leaves and some are starting to threaten flowers. Daylight hours are getting longer by the minute and temperatures are tempting us to take off our thermal clothing!

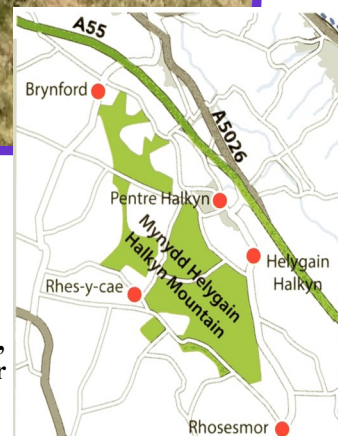


**The Pen y Ball Monument - on page 23 find out about it and where it is.**

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

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

Map/text: Halkyn Mountain Nature Conservation Group & FCC



**The Summer Edition - Issue 191 - will be distributed in June 2024**

Please submit News and Advertising items by 1st May

We look forward to receiving your calendar of events going into the Summer and Autumn months

**Please send articles and advertising to the email addresses listed on page 2**

**Dear Readers**

Welcome to the Spring 2024 issue of Halkyn Mountain News. There are many changes on the horizon and much to talk about.

As you may know - immediately before our collection of the Winter 2023 edition, our printer (Printcentre Wales) went into voluntary liquidation, leaving us with nothing to show for the almost £1,100 we had paid them. This is a huge loss and, having followed leads at Companies House & London Gazette, we are still no nearer to finding out who the liquidators are. If any of our readers has any knowledge of such a situation we would be very pleased to hear from them. We genuinely need some help.

Our new printer is GwasgPrint and the good news is that we now have the opportunity of far more colour in the newsletter. We hope you like our colourful Spring issue. We can now offer some advertisements in colour - see adverts section.

We are very dependent on our advertising income for the newsletter's survival and hope this exciting opportunity will attract current advertisers and new advertisers alike.

A special thank you goes to one of our readers for her generous donation when she heard of our recent financial loss.

There is a significant change due to occur in our team of volunteers. After many years as the key person coordinating the distribution of HMN, we have to say a sad goodbye to Jane Loudon who is standing down from the role after the distribution of this issue. Wendy Whitmore, a current member of the HMN team, will become the Distribution Coordinator and will work alongside Jane this time. All the team send thanks to Jane for all her hard work and for helping us to establish ourselves as the new HMN Production team. We could not have done it without her.

**The Halkyn Mountain News Team**

**PS.** Please note new email address for contributed material which we hope will be easier to use:

**hmnarticles@gmail.com**

**\* The Editorial Team reserves the right to edit submitted material.**

**\* Fees advertised within articles unless for a registered charity 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.**

**\* All advertisements created for publication in Halkyn Mountain News are protected by copyright and may only be reproduced by express permission.**

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A copy of this issue will be available at the Halkyn Community Council website: [www.halkyn.org.uk](http://www.halkyn.org.uk)

**Our Production Team**

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Advertising: Gayle Hughes

Contributions: Jenny Butters

Lorna Doyle

Anita Mawson

Wendy Sigsworth

Wendy Whitmore

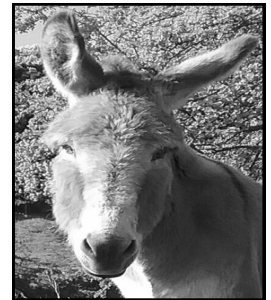
Distribution: Wendy Whitmore

Treasurer: Samantha Martin

**A few words from Danny the Donkey**

*Sub-editor and carrot quality assurance executive assessor.*

When I wake each morning in my cosy stable, I wonder what will face me when I poke my head out of the door to look outside. It's like having a surprise every day but it can be a shock to move my head from the warmth into a sudden blast of wind, rain or snow. During winter, I never know what I will get but, in summer, it's far more predictable. I think I prefer the excitement of a surprise.



It has been a particularly windy winter. One morning I put my head outside and could hardly breathe such was the strength of the wind blowing back at me. It was a good thing I wasn't braying at the time as I could have swallowed my own bray. I have no idea what the consequences would have been. Would it have echoed in my stomach for weeks? Would it have kept me awake at night?

I count myself lucky to have my human friends. They don't realise how much I understand when they discuss things within earshot. I overheard them planning to buy me a new coat. I thought, at first, they were planning to surprise me. However, then I thought it might be for someone else as they were talking about it needing to be for the "larger

donkey". I couldn't think who the larger donkey might be. I certainly don't know one. Then I realised that they must be planning to buy me a coat to grow into.

There is nothing particularly wrong with my current coat, although I had noticed that this year it had begun to shrink gradually as it was now fitting too snugly in places. It must have shrunk in all this wet weather.

I wondered what type of coat the new one might be. I have seen humans climbing the mountain in coats with pockets. Pockets would be very handy for storing carrots. Some humans wear coats that glow in the dark. I quite liked that idea but I'm not sure that a glowing donkey might frighten other animals at night and I wouldn't be able to go anywhere unnoticed.

Having overheard a passing walker saying he favoured "green and ethycull clothing" I did think a green coat might be nice but, living in a green field, that might result in my being almost invisible. I don't think I want to risk people visiting me and bringing carrots and not being able to see me. The thought of people returning home with my carrots is too much to think about. I'm not sure what colour "ethycull" is so it was difficult to imagine.

I have seen human coats with hoods. I think I would quite like a coat with a hood but it might bend my ears and it would also be difficult to scratch on impulse. There is nothing worse than wanting to scratch and not being able to reach the spot.

What I am about to say next must be said in confidence - I have seen humans wearing sheepskin coats! What horror! I know they are probably lovely and warm as the sheep I know have never grumbled about being cold. However, it would be awful to meet another sheep on the mountain and for them to recognise that someone was wearing their relative. Can you imagine, just grazing, minding your own business and a sheep suddenly bleating out - "just look, he's wearing Auntie Blodwen!". I would have to hide my head in a bucket for a week. I'm not sure how humans obtain the sheepskin coats and don't really want to spend any time thinking of the possibilities but, somehow, I don't think there is a field of shivering sheep anywhere.

I think it would be safer to have a sensible and conventional coat. I'm far from being a sensible and conventional donkey but a sensible coat would probably be best suited to shield me from the wildest of weather. Yes, a new coat is something to look forward to. I DO like surprises!

Goodbye for now and may you always have a warm coat and plenty of carrots.

Bye for now, *Danny*

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



## Concert St Paul's Church, Rhosesmor – April 20th

The performers at this concert will be talented young people from the Halkyn Mountain area. So far we have a guitarist, a pianist, a drummer and a soloist booked. We would still like more youngsters to come forward so if you or you know of anyone who would like to take part please contact me. We welcome any instrument or anyone who would like to compère the evening. Teenagers are the age group we are targeting but we will be a little flexible on that. I'm sure it will be an entertaining and relaxing evening as are all the concerts held in the church.



Wendy Sigsworth - wendysigsworth@gmail.com - 01352780394

## Rhosesmor Village Hall Diary

### Weekly

- Monday 14:00 Art Group (WI)
- Tuesday 10:30 Yoga 1400 Art Group 1830 Pilates
- Wednesday 11:00 Tai Chi 19:00 Dungeons & Dragons
- Thursday 09:00 Mums and Tots
- Friday 15:15 Mobile Post office 18:30 Cubs and Scouts (Term time)

### Fortnightly

- Monday 10:30 Coffee Morning

### Monthly

- 2nd Sunday 11:00 Bead and Jewellery making
- 2nd Monday 14:00 WI meeting
- 2nd Tuesday 14:30 Material Girls - Sewing group
- 3rd Saturday 10:00 Jewellery making/Crafting workshops

### Six Weekly

- Saturday 12:00 Board Gaming group
- We have availability for regular bookings Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday afternoons/evenings, Thursday afternoons/evenings, Friday mornings/afternoons
- Some Saturdays/Sundays are available for Parties/Workshops/Group Meetings
- To enquire/book - contact Jon Tarry 01352 780842

## Pentre Halkyn Community Centre

To book the community centre please contact Megan Davies 01352 780026

- Monday
- Over 50s Club and Bingo 1.00pm
- Tuesday
- Tuesday Night Painters 7.00 - 9.00 pm
- Wednesday
- Holywell Art club 10.30 am - 1.30 pm
- Art group information supplied by Lynda Wilson



## Halkyn Cricket Club

The senior men's season starts on Saturday 20th April with the 1st X1 playing at home against Abergele and the 2nd X1 travelling to Bethesda. A 14 week indoor winter nets programme has now commenced at Holywell Leisure Centre on Sundays between 2pm and 4pm with the last session being 7th April. Current and new players are welcome to join us as we continue to strengthen the squad for the 2024 season. For further information please contact our 1st X1 captain Alex North on 07795 833393.

The ladies at Halkyn Women's Softball Cricket Team have had a fantastic start to their indoor winter training. With last year's players returning to brush up their cricket skills and lots of new faces joining them, they've been very busy in their Monday evening training. There's always room for more so if you are interested in trying out softball cricket with a bunch of lovely ladies then pop along to Holywell High School on Mondays 6.30 – 7.30. There's plenty going on outside of training too - with socials being arranged for the coming weeks and fundraising ideas floating around, they always have something to keep them busy. They are really looking forward to a successful and fun summer season ahead and hopefully some good weather too.



The junior section is also currently in the midst of a 12 week indoor winter nets programme at Holywell Leisure Centre on Sunday between 12 noon and 1pm with the last session being on 31st March. This coming season we are hoping to be able to run U9s, U11s and U13s teams and will once again be running the ECB Allstars and Dynamos Programme. The junior season starts around the beginning of May and the Allstars and Dynamos start around 10th May. If your child might be interested, please contact Jane on the numbers below. No experience necessary; we have both male and female ECB coaches at each session.

Reminder that the clubhouse is available at a competitive rate and we offer the clubhouse free of charge to any local schools or non profit groups. We also offer a reduced hire charge for children's parties.

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

## Flintshire Local Voluntary Council

As part of Third Sector Support Wales, FLVC provides support and guidance for citizens, local communities, groups and third sector organisations across Flintshire to identify and address what matters to them. FLVC is here to support, promote, develop and represent the Voluntary and Community Sector and will help wherever it can.



We aid individuals in looking for voluntary opportunities to set up groups of their own or those who need support with improving their mental health or overcoming isolation through our social prescription service which is about finding services or support that will benefit the individual and help improve their health and wellbeing.

Our Volunteer Centre can assist you with all your volunteering related needs such as helping you or your organisation find volunteering opportunities and keeping you up to date with the latest in volunteer management.

We also provide governance services for groups and non-profit organisations who need expert advice regarding setting up and running non-profit organisations including how to deal with best practices such as constitutions, charity registration and other policies. Signposting to funding and grants and support with the applications and other funding expertise is also available.

For third sector organisations, we are a membership-based organisation that helps to ensure that we work with you and for you. The membership allows you to be informed with necessary up-to-date information, receive invitations to events and meetings and to have your say on the issues that matter.

To learn more about what we do, visit our website at [www.flvc.org.uk](http://www.flvc.org.uk) and sign up for our fortnightly e-bulletin to stay informed about current third sector news, information on funding, legislation, new initiatives and local voluntary sector activities. Or email us at [info@flvc.org.uk](mailto:info@flvc.org.uk)

Also follow us on social media: @FLVCpage @FlintshireVolunteerCentre @flvcflintshire @flvcvolcentre @FLVCFlintshire @FLVCVolCentre #FLVC #FlintshireVolCentre #flintshirelocalvoluntarycouncil #FlintshireVolunteerCentre #FlintshireSocialPrescription

# National Military Working Dogs Memorial

at the Pet Cemetery, Brynford, Holywell

I recently visited John Ward, the founder of the Pet Cemetery, now in its 34<sup>th</sup> year. He is the chairman of the trustees for the registered charity NMWDM (UK) whose sole purpose is to raise money for a permanent memorial to all the tirelessly brave and loyal working dogs from all the Armed Forces of the UK who worked from WW1 to the present day and beyond. David Hanson (former MP for Delyn) has been very involved in furthering the project and John even received a letter full of encouragement from the Queen in 2021.

A great deal of work has been done already but money is still needed for this to continue, including the completion of four bronze statues of working dogs to be placed on the corner plinths around the central structure. The first plinth faces north and represents the British Army and the tip of a spear to honour those who led others, including many working dogs and their handlers. Currently on the veranda is the statue of **Theo**, said to have died of a broken heart after her handler, Liam Tasker, was killed by a sniper. Theo will take her place at the memorial once all four statues are complete.



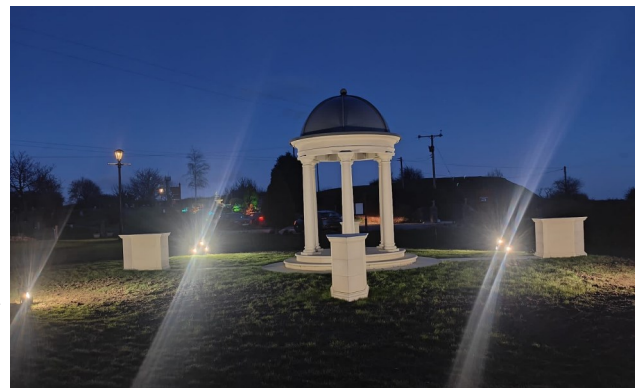
The second, east facing plinth, will represent the nose cone of an aircraft and will show **Lucky**, a Royal Air Force Police dog. Lucky was sent east to help track terrorist groups in the jungles during the Malayan emergency. This statue is now complete and awaiting delivery from the foundry.



When **Judy's** statue is finished and in place on the third, south facing plinth, it will represent the bow of a ship and the Royal Navy. Many threats to the UK have come from the south and traditionally Royal Navy bases have been on the south coast of the UK. Judy worked in WW2 and there is a book written about her called 'Judy: A Dog in a Million'.

The fourth plinth faces west and represents the military working dogs who served as mascots in all the armed services. **Buster** was in the

Royal Air Force Police and served in Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. Money still has to be raised for the statue of Buster. 'The Dog who Saved 1000 Lives' is a book about this heroic dog.



## Fundraising Must Go On:

This unique project has been a labour of love and, as with most things, costs have gone up. Money is still badly needed to complete the statues and for further development of the site. There are plans for a museum and a shop on the site eventually but the first priority is completion of the statues. John Ward and his family have done much to further this goal. John regularly gives talks about the memorial. They have a wishing well and lots of information to read at the Tea Rooms. Also, collection boxes in many local businesses as well as further afield. In 2024 they plan to have a stand at Crufts, for the fifth year running, with collection boxes and items on sale. John has a great deal of information to share about this project and gives freely of his time to raise awareness of these magnificent dogs to whom we owe so much.

Donations can be made via the website at [www.nmwdm.org.uk](http://www.nmwdm.org.uk) There are donation boxes around the country, in local shops and at the Tea Rooms. You can also give by joining Easyfunding via Facebook, by cheque or in person at the Pet Cemetery. All donations will be gratefully received. You can contact the charity yourself at their email address: [info@nmwdm.org.uk](mailto:info@nmwdm.org.uk)

Good luck to John and his family with this ongoing venture! We'll look forward to seeing the next development at this unique site.

With many thanks to John Ward

Author Lorna Doyle

# GROUND NESTING BIRDS



Skylark / Ehedydd

**DID YOU KNOW BIRDS DON'T  
JUST NEST IN TREES?  
They also nest on the ground!**

**WYDDOCH CHI NAD DIM ON YN UCHEL  
YN Y COED MAE ADAR YN NYTHU?  
Maen nhw hefyd yn nythu ar y llawr!**

During the breeding season (April - July), please keep your dog on a short lead in areas of long grass and heathland to avoid disturbing the birds that are nesting on the ground.

Yn ystod y tymor bridio (mis Ebrill - mis Gorffennaf), cadwch eich ci ar dennyn byr mewn ardaloedd fel glaswelltir a rhostiroedd i osgoi amharu ar adar sy'n nythu ar y llawr, os gwellwch yn dda.



Meadow Pipit/Corhedydd

**DIOLCH / THANKYOU**

## Blue Bell Walks 2024

The walks from the Blue Bell have continued through the winter on Thursday afternoons at 2pm and Saturday mornings at 10.30am.



Two Christmas Charity Donation Walks were held with walkers taking a break at Wern y Gaer Farm for mince pies and mulled wine.

Walkers raised £233 for North East Wales Search and Rescue.

Thanks to those walkers who turned up for the Carol Singing at the Blue Bell when £200 was raised for Air Ambulance.



The good weather encouraged a good turn out for the two New Year's Resolution Walks on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of January.

Dogs were well reported at the beginning of this, the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Blue Bell Walks.



Information supplied by Victoria Thomas

# Farmer's Diary

## John Sigsworth



As I write this on 17th January, it is bitterly cold but the nights are drawing out and it is still light at 5pm; Spring is on the way perhaps.

Since October it seems to have rained every day with its damaging impact on the roads, fields and gardens. Here on Midlist Farm we have had water standing where I've never seen water stand before and until last week all the fields were saturated.

Cattle have been housed since early October and I'm sure they've been grateful for that but the poor sheep have looked thoroughly miserable.

Unusually, most of the time they have been literally soaked to the skin and seeking out drier patches to lie getting high in the hedgerows lying in the shelter of the hedge. Despite that, the earlier lambers scanned at nearly two lambs per ewe and will start to lamb indoors on 6th February. We scan the next bunch tomorrow, 18th January.

We are currently half-way through our annual TB test. On Tuesday, all the cattle had two small injections of two types of killed tuberculosis into the outer layer of skin on the animal's neck. On Friday, the vet will return to check each animal for any reaction (lumps on the neck) to the injections. We now have everything crossed for no abnormalities on Friday morning.

The wet weather has meant that in most cases only roadside hedges have been cut. Time is running out to get the fields dry enough to cut the internal field hedges. Although the gardens of domestic properties can be cut all year around, farmers are restricted to cutting hedges between 1st September (1st August in England) and 1st March. We do not cut all the hedges every year to enable more food and better cover for nesting birds the following year.



The lawn mower is still fuelled up ready to do the last cut of the season though it now looks as if the first cut of the year will be a big one.

P.S. Good news and bad news. All the cattle passed the TB test without a problem. The ewes however didn't scan as well as we'd hoped - blame the weather again.

## FLINTSHIRE VINTAGE AND CLASSIC TRACTOR SOCIETY

# Charity Open Day in aid of St Kentigerns Hospice



Date:  
13TH JULY 2024



Time:  
SHOW OPENS 10:00AM

Join us for an unforgettable day at Mertyn Abbott Farm, where you will be part of celebrating mechanisation in farming in Wales.

The Watts family invite you to support us with this fundraising event to make a difference in the lives of those who need it most. Your support is very much appreciated. Thank you.

Steve & Debbie Watts



Mertyn Abbott Farm, Whitford, North Wales.

## Charity Tractor Open Day

As chairman for FVCTS, I together with my wife Debbie and son Luke have decided to have an open day for the general public to view farming history spanning 100 years in Wales. On display for viewing will be the introduction of tractors in the 1920s by Henry Ford, through into the 30s with Massey Harris, then we see the partnerships of David Brown and Harry Ferguson, then Henry Ford and Harry Ferguson. Following World War 2 in 1945, we have Harry Ferguson with the help of Standard Motor Company introducing the Ferguson TE20 range built at Banner Lane Coventry and then the purchase of the Ferguson brand by Massey Harris which takes us into the 1950s and 60s as Massey Ferguson.

The 1970s saw the creation of our classic tractors which are the favourites of the younger generation today and primarily are Massey Ferguson, Ford, Nuffield and John Deere.

Agricultural and Industrial Tractors with their associated implements will be on display.

Plenty of car parking space.

Food and drinks will be available

Venue will be open at 10.00am

Entry costs: - Adults £5 and Children £2.

## Rhes y Cae Village Hall

The Hall is available to hire for events, children's parties etc. To enquire or book the hall, please contact Wendy Hughes phone 07922181313 or email rhesycaevillagehall@gmail.com

### Recent Events:

**Annual Over 60's Christmas Lunch:** This event was held on Saturday 2nd December and was well attended as usual. The Village Hall Committee



served a traditional Christmas dinner followed by Christmas pudding and mince pies. Entertainment was provided by the very talented Mali Sigsworth

who sang a great selection of popular songs and carols. There was also a Christmas Quiz, won by Beryl Greer. Thanks to

everyone who came along, all who donated raffle prizes and to the committee for all their hard work.

**Church Coffee Morning:** Held on Tuesday 12th December in aid of Christchurch, Rhes y Cae.

Another successful fundraising event. Thanks to everyone who came to support and to Brenda for her wonderful home-made mince pies.

### Weekly Diary

**Tuesday 7pm – 9pm Social Needlecraft Group.**

Contact Susan Nuttall 07557965441

**Wednesday, fortnightly (from 17<sup>th</sup> January) 7pm – 9pm Ewe Can Craft Social Crafting Group**

Contact Rosie on 07563372440

**Thursday 7pm – 9pm Yoga with Jane Lloyd**  
07977048469

### A new activity for a New Year?

Have you been thinking about starting a new activity lately? Something creative maybe? Why not join us at Holywell Art Club?

Your first thought might be, but my paintings are not good enough for me to join an art club, they will all be much better than me or, I've always wanted to paint or draw but I don't know where to start. Let me put your mind at ease. Our members vary in their abilities, using watercolour, pencils, pastels, acrylics, oils and mixed media, so we have enough experience between us to start you on the right track and we have a selection of art materials available for new members to try their hand at painting or drawing before buying their own materials.

We are a friendly, welcoming club and our aim is to offer a relaxed, pleasant atmosphere to paint and



create at your own pace.

Between now and July, members will enjoy a regular programme with demonstrations and workshops led by visiting artists. For example, some of the workshops include painting a seascape using pastels, figure drawing and using watercolour with pen and ink. These sessions are a great opportunity for beginners and those with a little more experience to learn and to develop their own style with the help of experienced artists. On other weeks we carry on with our own work or, occasionally, there will be a themed week or a still life may be set up for those who wish to give it a try.

We meet on a Wednesday (10.30 – 1.30) from September – July at Pentre Halkyn Community Centre. During August we arrange sketching trips in the local area. New members are welcome to join at any time during the year. There is an annual membership fee & a small fee per week to cover daily costs and refreshments.

So, if you fancy starting to learn to draw, sketch or paint, rekindle your old talent or improve your technique, then you will be welcome to come and join us. You can get more information and make contact with the club through our website or just turn up any Wednesday to meet us in person and have a chat. Social interaction makes us a very friendly group. Website: [www.holywellartclub.com](http://www.holywellartclub.com)

## Halkyn WI

Halkyn WI meets at the Village Hall on the first Thursday of each month at 2.00pm. As part of the largest women's organisation in the UK, we are a trusted place for all women of all generations to meet socially, share experiences and learn from each other.

As well as an interesting programme of guest speakers and outings, we also have crafts sessions, quizzes and other fun activities and frequently engage in social activities with other WIs in the area. In November, we had our Annual General Meeting to organise the events for the coming year and to elect members to the committee before relaxing with tea and biscuits and a game of Bingo.

In December, we enjoyed a Christmas Quiz and a party to celebrate the birthdays of three of our members, two of whom are in their nineties and are long standing members of the group. Our outing that month consisted of a delicious meal at the Pen y Bont in Mold to celebrate Christmas. In January we discussed, then voted on, one of the WIs national campaigns. Our guest speaker unfortunately cancelled but undeterred we all joined in with an impromptu Beetle Drive.

We are a small, friendly group and would welcome new members. Anyone interested should contact Fiona Jones (President) on 01352 780462 or Hazel Hughes on 01352 781354 or drop into our next meeting.





# 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: [Halkynmountainkidsclub@gmail.com](mailto:Halkynmountainkidsclub@gmail.com) or [www.ysgolrhoshelyg.com/holkyn-mountain-afterschool-club/](http://www.ysgolrhoshelyg.com/holkyn-mountain-afterschool-club/)



**HPS**  
HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

## Hardy Plant Society Clwyd Group

We are a friendly gardening group.

We enjoy talks and garden visits.

Meetings are held at the **Halkyn Cricket Club**, Holywell CH8 8BS once a month on a Tuesday.

Talks start at 7.30pm. Doors open from 7pm for plant sales, raffle tickets and free refreshments.

Visitors welcome £3 per meeting.

### Tuesday 19th March

#### Wine from the Vale of Clwyd, Gwen Davies.

Vale Vineyard stands tall on the lower slopes of the Clwydian Range. The unique microclimate here provides a superb location for the vines to produce quality grapes which make their award winning wines. Gwen will talk about how the vineyard was established and bring us samples to try.

### Tuesday 16th April

#### Low-maintenance Gardening, Richard Rallings.

Richard and Jill run Mynd Hardy Plants nursery

within the Victorian Walled Garden of Delbury Hall in Diddlebury, Shropshire. The nursery has an extensive range of hardy perennials including collections of Aster, hardy geraniums, Hemerocallis and Penstemon. This talk examines ways in which you can continue to enjoy your garden whilst reducing the workload. Nursery plants for sale.

### Tuesday 14th May

#### Garden Features and Plant Combinations, Gordon Malt.

Gordon trained at Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh and has 45 years' experience in Horticulture and Arboriculture. He has opened his garden in Shropshire for the NGS. Gordon describes his gardening style as 'controlled relaxation'.

### Sunday 19th May

**PLANT FAIR 10.30am to 1.30pm at the Stamford Gate Hotel. HPS Clwyd and invited nurseries plant stalls. Members of the public are very welcome. Free admission, free parking.**

Information: 01352 781458 (leave a message)

email: [clwydgroup@hardy-plant.org.uk](mailto:clwydgroup@hardy-plant.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/HPSClwyd](http://www.facebook.com/HPSClwyd)

[www.hardy-plant.org.uk/clwyd](http://www.hardy-plant.org.uk/clwyd)

Registered Charity No 208080



# HALKYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Quarterly Report



### Halkyn Parish Hall – Wall Mounted Large Screen Display Televisions

The Community Council have installed two large wall mounted television sets in Halkyn Parish Hall. One is in the Committee Meeting room and the other in the main Hall.

Both sets have wall mounted HDMI sockets which can be utilised to connect to laptops and other IT equipment. Whilst paperwork is sent to Councillors by e-mailed attachments prior to meetings, this has resulted in actual Council meetings being paperless, as all details are shown on screen during the meeting. The television in the main Hall is also proving popular for use by the Women's Institute meetings and others who hire the Hall for presentations.

### Review of Polling Stations

Every few years the County Council is required to review the polling districts and polling places in the County of Flintshire under the Representation of the People Act 1983. The last review took place in 2019. Halkyn Council was pleased to support the retention of Polling Stations in its Council area, namely: Halkyn Parish Hall, Pentre Halkyn Community Centre, Rhes Y Cae Village Hall, Rhosesmor Village Hall.

### Flintshire County Council (Street Scene)

The following concerns have been reported to Street Scene: (1) Cattle grid in Berth Ddu: Metal tubs appear to be loose (2) Church Lane, Rhosesmor: Pot holes that have been filled-in require further attention (3) Junction 32B off A55 to Britannia Inn: 30mph sign is not visible and has been tumbled (4) Further request made to Council for a pavement from the bottom of Rhosesmor Hill – B5123 at junction with A541 in Rhydymwyn – travelling towards Mold to meet up with existing pavement (5) B5123 Road in Rhosesmor: Pothole – North of Church and near slow sign (6) Rhosesmor: Tarmac eroding on Church Lane (7) Rhosesmor: Tarmac eroding at the junction of Church Lane – following building work at the Church (8) Halkyn: Pot holes on road from area of Blue Bell to double bends – travelling down Middle Mill Lane (9) Halkyn: Pot holes on road leading to the Barracks area (10) Rhosesmor Play area: The rubbish bin is always full due to the usage of the play area; request for an additional bin in this area (11) Berth Ddu Bus shelter: Could the graffiti please be removed.

### Summer Play Scheme – 2024

Due to the decrease in numbers attending the County Council Summer Play Scheme held in Pentre Halkyn, the 2024 play scheme will only be held in the Rhosesmor Children's area for a six

week period. The County Council will provide further information nearer the scheme's commencement in late July.

### Request for Arrow Lane Markings on A5026 Road, The Nant

Following complaints, the Council Members discussed the increasing number of vehicles travelling on the incorrect side of the road – which occurs on the A5026 road travelling from Hillcrest Garage towards the Nant cross roads junction to turn right to the Springfield Hotel.

The concern appears to be from traffic who have exited from the A55 junction, whereby two lanes can be used to turn right or left. Drivers who turn right appear to consider the A5026 road to be one way, in particular, when they reach the chevron road markings. This has caused many near misses as vehicles cannot see each other due to the slight brow on the hill. The Community Council has



Google Street Maps – indicating arrow markings to show two-way traffic.

asked the County Council to place white arrow markings on the road. This would ensure that vehicles keep to the correct side of the road.

County Highways has confirmed the following: “Street Scene will arrange for arrows to be painted on the carriageway to show direction of travel”.

### Speed Indicator Devices

The speed indicator signage in Pentre Halkyn have been covered up. This is due to the implementation of the 20mph speed limit whereby the units have to be reconfigured on roads where the speed limit has been reduced from 30mph to 20mph. Under the Welsh Government guidelines, the County has to await a period of six months whereafter the units will be either recalibrated or replaced by the County.

### Precept (Community Charge)

At the annual precept setting Council meeting held in January, the Community Council Members agreed not to increase the current precept of £50,000.00 for the next financial year – 1st April 2024 to 31st March, 2025. However, due to a reduction in Band D properties in the Council area from 1,363.63 to 1,353.13, to maintain the current budget level, the Band D property charge will be £36.95, an increase of £0.28p a year (0.76% - 2 / 3p

extra per month).

### Planning Applications and Decisions

The Community Council makes comment on all planning applications that are received from Flintshire County Council. Details can be found in the monthly Council Minutes which are available on the Council web site – details as below. Planning decisions can be perused on the County Council planning portal at: <https://planning.agileapplications.co.uk/flintshire>

### Criminal Offences Reported Within the Community

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

- Halkyn: 1 x Anti social behaviour
- Pentre Halkyn: 3 x Anti Social behaviour / 1 x Criminal damage / 1 x Other crime / 1 x Theft / 4 x Violence
- Rhes-Y-Cae: 2 x Criminal damage / 1 x Violence
- Rhosesmor: 1 x Violence
- The Nant: 1 x Public order / 1 x Vehicle crime / 1 x Violence
- The Wern: 1 x Anti social behaviour / 1 x Criminal damage / 1 x Public order

### Donations and Financial Support

The Community Council has provided the following financial assistance: £162.00 - Halkyn Mountain Cinema Group (advertising banners) / £89.99 - Community Outpost Shop & Café, Rhosesmor (‘A’ frame advertising sign).

**Phillip Parry,**  
Clerk to Halkyn Community Council  
Tel: 01352 720547 E-mail: [clerk@halkyn.org.uk](mailto:clerk@halkyn.org.uk)  
Web Site: [www.halkyn.org.uk](http://www.halkyn.org.uk)

### Thanks for the memories in Memory Lane

Thank you for printing the article Megan Taylor wrote about walking from Gwern y Marl to school in Rhosesmor. Tom Davies got in touch with Megan and they met up and had a wonderful couple of hours chatting about the times and people in Rhosesmor school.



### Message from Rosie & Neil Robertson

Neil and I would like to announce that we will no longer be running Heartfelt Art and Craft fairs. We have enjoyed 2 fabulous years of putting on this heart warming community fundraising event and could not have done it without you. Together we have raised £5,729

We would like to offer a huge thanks to all our customers, fabulous artisans and of course our hard working, loyal, generous and supportive team of volunteers.

Sue and John Parry Hardwood, the founders of Heartfelt, will be returning to Heartfelt.

## Memory Lane



Halkyn lad and Holywell Town player **Owen Davies Scores Goal for Wales**  
As told to Wendy Sigsworth

We were the first family to have a television in our road. On the morning of the 11th February 1956 there was a knock on our door. The gentleman living across the road wanted to know if he could come around to watch the television in the afternoon.

My mother enquired as to what he wanted to watch, “Well the football of course” he said. “Football” she said “what do you want to watch that for?” “Well Wales are playing England – it’s a big match” he answered. “Yes but it is only a game of football” mother replied. “But your Owen is playing” he said with amazement. “Yes” she said “but it’s still only a game of football.”

A further 6 from our road came to watch that afternoon. The living room was packed as we had a large family watching as well. The spectators in our lounge were so excited they commented to mother “you must be very proud of your Owen.” Not surprisingly mother calmly said “it’s only a game of football.”



Tea and cake were served to everyone. There was so much excitement when Owen scored the goal - tea and cake went everywhere.

It was nearly 70 years ago and I remember it so clearly. I’m not sure if my mother ever understood the importance of that day but secretly I think she was very proud of Owen. More next time about the actual football match!

## Halkyn United Juniors

The juniors continue to go from strength to strength with numbers but due to poor weather not many games have been played since the Christmas period. The club currently has under 6s, 8s, 10s, 14s and 16s and we are still looking for volunteers to help the club grow.

There are various roles we need help with including pitch maintenance and helping in the tea hut.

Any one interested please contact The Chairman: Gareth Thomas 07879402144

## CORNEL DYSGWYR CYMRAEG DYSGU CYMRAEG

Dan ni wedi bod yn dysgu sut i ddefnyddio 'dw i'n meddwl bod' yn ein dosbarth. Yn ddiweddar, fy ngwaith cartref gan fy nhwtor Cymraeg oedd ysgrifennu paragraff yn defnyddio 'bod' ar y pwnc:

"Be sy'n gallu gwneud eich ardal chi yn well?"

Dyma'r hyn ysgrifennais:

"Dw i'n meddwl bod fy ardal yn iawn ond dw i'n credu byddai un peth yn ei wneud yn well sef gwelliant o ganol tref Treffynnon. Amser maith yn ôl, roedd o'n lle dymunol efo siopa prysur a banciau mawr. Dw i'n gwybod roedd o'n boblogaidd efo twristiaid yn y gorffennol oherwydd Ffynnon Gwenffrewi a'r arfordir cyfagos. Mae'na lawer o hen adeiladau hyfryd a lawer o hanes yn y dref.

Yn anffodus, erbyn hyn dw i'n ofni ei fod wedi dirywio. Mae llawer o siopau a banciau wedi cau a dw i'n meddwl bod y dref yn edrych fel ei fod wedi cael ei hesgeuluso ac yn edrych yn drist iawn.

Dw i'n gwybod fod y Cyngor Tref yn ceisio gwella'r dref. Rwân, mae'na barcio am ddim ar y stryd fawr a sawl digwyddiadau yn dathlu gwyliau a dyddiau arbennig. Mae'na farchnad eto bob wythnos ond mae llawer llai nag yr arferai fod.

I ddweud y gwir dw i'n meddwl mai'r unig beth fydd yn helpu i wella'r sefyllfa fydd mwy o arian yn cael ei wario ar y dref a mwy o syniadau creadigol ar sut i'w ddefnyddio."

Hoffech chi ysgrifennu erthygl am ddysgu neu siarad Cymraeg yn y rhifyn nesaf?

Anfonwch ei trwy e-bost at:

[hmnarticles@gmail.com](mailto:hmnarticles@gmail.com)



## WELSH LEARNERS' CORNER LEARNING WELSH

We have been learning to use 'I think that' in our class. Recently, my homework from my Welsh tutor was to write a paragraph using 'bod' on the subject:

"What would make your area better?"

Here is what I wrote:

"I think that my area is fine but I believe one thing would make it better. This is an improvement of Holywell Town Centre. Years ago, it was a pleasant place with busy shops and large banks. I know it was popular with tourists because of St Winifrede's Well and the coast nearby. There are many old, lovely buildings and lots of history in the town.

Unfortunately, now I fear it has declined. Lots of shops and banks have closed and I think the town looks like it has been neglected and looks very sad. I know that the Town Council is trying to improve the town. Now, there is free parking on the high street and several events to celebrate festivals and special days. There is a market again every week but it is smaller than it used to be.

To tell the truth, I think that the only thing that will help to improve the situation is more money being spent on the town and more creative ideas on its use."

Sylvia Mitchell-Wright

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

[hmnarticles@gmail.com](mailto:hmnarticles@gmail.com)



## Rhosesmor WI

We all enjoyed our Christmas celebrations. Our party in the hall and dinner in the Crown went down well. Tony and his staff in the Crown put on the usual excellent service and good fayre.

At our meeting in November we made Christingle oranges under the supervision of Fiona Walker. We proudly went home with our oranges and had an attractive scented decoration displayed all over the Christmas period.

We are so lucky to have very talented people living in our locality, no more than Alison Tarry from Rhosesmor. Alison came and gave us a demonstration on beading - making things from beads. We all had hands-on experience of doing some beading ourselves. Her story about working on the TV Jewellery Channel was very interesting and enjoyable.



In February, we'll enjoy a games evening. This always brings out the competitive spirit in our members.

In March, we welcome Mellt, an amazing storyteller, who some of you may have seen at St Paul's Church last year.

April is our annual Guest evening when we invite neighbouring WIs to join us. We put on a buffet and our speaker will be Maxine Grundy, an expert on self-help for well-being.

May will bring Dr Ray Manning who will be talking about Perinatal Mental Health.

In June, we will be holding our Annual Picnic. In addition to our monthly meetings we have our monthly lunches out, generally at local hostelrys.

Contact any member if you want more details.

Wendy Sigsworth 01352780394

[wendysigsworth@gmail.com](mailto:wendysigsworth@gmail.com)

**Message from Hannah Blythyn MS**

Since my last HMN column, members have returned to the Senedd after the Christmas break and made a start on the year ahead and all the challenges and opportunities it brings. Recently, the focus has been largely on the draft budget, announced just before Christmas, and it's a very challenging situation for Wales. The Welsh Government has had to take some really difficult decisions to radically reshape the budget in order to focus funding on the services that matter most to people and have the biggest impact on our lives.



The start of 2024 saw Tata Steel announce the devastating news that they plan to close both blast furnaces at its Port Talbot plant, putting 2,800 skilled jobs at risk and threatening even more in the supply chain. Steelmaking is a sovereign industry and this hammer blow would leave the UK as the only G20 nation with no ability to create steel.

Sadly, this news of mass job losses in steelmaking will very much have resonance here in Flintshire. While it may now be more than four decades since that devastating day in 1980 when more than 6,000 jobs were axed in a single day at Shotton Steelworks, the memories are still raw for many and the impact long-lasting. It remains to this day western Europe's largest single mass redundancy and so many families, including my own, lost their livelihoods in the 1980s as an axe was taken to the industry.

Like many of my generation, I was politicised by the decimation of our industries and it led to me working in the trade union moment. I stand with our steelworkers and trade unions and was able to convey my ongoing support at a recent meeting in the Senedd. The UK Government needs to step up, step in and save steelmaking in a way that provides a sustainable way forward for the sector and those who work in it. There is a credible, alternative for the business that does not require the planned loss of both blast furnaces and job losses on this scale - the UK Government and Tata Steel have the tools between them to secure a longer, fairer transition for a sector that is good for green growth and essential to our collective security.



As the winter weather persists and we all look to the Spring, it's worth remembering that Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board is offering drop-in vaccinations for Covid and flu, so if you're eligible you can drop in to one of the clinics available on their website at [www.bcuhb.nhs.wales/covid-19/drop-in-for-your-covid-19-autumn-booster-and-flu-vaccine-now/flintshire](http://www.bcuhb.nhs.wales/covid-19/drop-in-for-your-covid-19-autumn-booster-and-flu-vaccine-now/flintshire)

I also want to make sure local residents are aware that BCUHB has extended the hours of the Minor Injury Units in both Mold and Holywell. This is something I have raised previously in meetings and offers positive news for many Flintshire residents. The unit at Mold Community Hospital is now open Monday to Saturday from 8am to 6pm, while the unit at Holywell Hospital is open from 8am to 8pm seven days a week. Don't forget, you can always get non-emergency help in Wales by dialling 111 or 999 if there is an emergency – and these updated hours don't affect A&E services.

The Welsh Government recently launched a consultation in which people in Wales can help to shape proposals to modernise and improve animal welfare. It is the first step in a process to create a national model for Wales, which would regulate standards and strengthen animal welfare across the nation. The consultation explores how animal activities – such as pet day care, pet groomers and dog play parks – are currently regulated and licensed in Wales and how these processes could be made better. You can find further information at [www.gov.wales/licensing-animal-welfare-establishments-activities-and-exhibits](http://www.gov.wales/licensing-animal-welfare-establishments-activities-and-exhibits)

Are you looking to transform an unloved area into a beautiful garden or do you want to create a community hub or help people to grow their own fruit and veg? Keep Wales Tidy has a scheme called Local Places for Nature and they give away free garden packages to community groups, schools and other community-based organisations. The packages contain everything you need to set up your community garden, from native plants to tools, resources and other materials. To find out more or apply for a pack, go to [www.keepwalestidy.cymru/our-work/conservation/nature](http://www.keepwalestidy.cymru/our-work/conservation/nature)

While a new year often brings with it many changes, what remains constant is my commitment to continue to serve constituents and our communities as your local Member of the Senedd and my team and I are always on hand should you need our help. It's worth noting that my website [www.hannahblythyn.cymru](http://www.hannahblythyn.cymru) has a lot of helpful information for residents as well as updates on what I've been up to and the issues which matter to you. If you're struggling with the cost of living, there's a helpful guide which details all the help available for food, fuel and energy - take a look at [www.hannahblythyn.cymru/help-with-the-cost-of-living](http://www.hannahblythyn.cymru/help-with-the-cost-of-living) for advice.

As always, if you would like advice and/or support, please don't hesitate to get in touch on any of the following contact details – 52 High Street, Mold, Flintshire, on 01352 753464 or by email [hannah.blythyn@senedd.wales](mailto:hannah.blythyn@senedd.wales). You can also keep up to date via my Facebook page [www.facebook.com/HannahBlythynForDelyn](http://www.facebook.com/HannahBlythynForDelyn). Constituents are, of course, welcome to contact my office to arrange an appointment to see me, you don't need to wait until an advice surgery.

# Cyngor Cymuned Brynffordd - Brynford Community Council

## Community Policing

At the December meeting of the Council, the chairman welcomed to the meeting Sergeant Kerry Nash, North Wales Police. Kerry provided an update on ongoing policing activity and priorities in the area.

Members reported that issues relating to off-road motorcycles riding on the common had been reported on many occasions. However, it appeared that no response had been made by the police. Kerry advised that she had checked the police reporting database and only three such reports had been found on the system over the past six months. The response provided by North Wales Police is always risk assessed and prioritised against existing resource.

The Chairman encouraged members and the general public to ensure that all such incidents are reported and that they obtain an incident reference number from North Wales Police.

## Summer Playscheme 2024

Following extensive evaluation and consideration the Council has decided not to fund the three-week summer playscheme for 2024 at a cost of nearly £2,000. The average attendance for the 2023 scheme was one child per day for fifteen days. The Council has had discussions with the Summer Playscheme Services Manager requesting that a re-modelling of the scheme and delivery be undertaken to meet the needs of young children of today.

## Christmas Tree Illumination Event December 2023

The annual event was held on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> December and, despite the appalling weather, many residents braved the conditions to support the event. The Council is very grateful for the support of J. R. Roberts (Slurry Sealing Ltd) who sponsored the tree, Holywell Army Cadets and Whitford Young Farmers who marshalled the event and a special thankyou to Hawarden Singers for providing the festive entertainment at St. Michael's Church.

## Appointment of New Member to the Council

At the meeting of the Council held the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024, the Chairman and members welcomed Mr Aled Davies of Brynsannan Cottage, Brynsannan Road, Brynford to the Council. Aled advised that he was looking forward to becoming involved and supporting the Council and the community of Brynford. Aled can be contacted at [aled.davies@brynford.wales](mailto:aled.davies@brynford.wales)

## Setting of Precept for Fiscal Year 2024/25

By January of each year all Councils are required to consider and advise the County Council of the precept requirements for the fiscal year 2024/25. The Council always tries to keep its budget requirements to a minimum. However, as with many current households, the Council is unable to avoid unprecedented increasing cost to its service delivery. At the Council meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024, the

Council set its precept at £35,851.00. making the Property Band D charge for 2024/25 £74.44 per year.

## King Charles Coronation Commemorative Tree Planting Project

As previously reported the planting of the commemorative trees has been completed. There are two Rowan trees, one at Calcoed Amenity area and one at Brynford Recreation Ground and two Prunus trees, one at St. Michael's Church and one at Brynford C. P. School.

## Provision of Commemorative Bench at Brynford Recreation Ground

The Council has approved a request for the provision of a bench in remembrance of the late Mr Joseph Hughes, a former resident, and pupil of Brynford C. P. School. Mr Hughes honed his footballing skills at the recreation ground and went on to play football at a very high amateur level for most of his life.

## Alan Roberts

Clerk to Brynford Community Council

[clerk@brynford.wales](mailto:clerk@brynford.wales)

01352 349849

## The Rural Education Project

This is an initiative delivered by the charity North Wales Horse Watch across North Wales. The charity aims to inspire positive action to enhance and protect nature and the local environment using educational workshops for all ages and abilities.

A mobile education vehicle provides Interactive games for the education and enjoyment of the public delivering awareness for the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the countryside.

The initiative has been established to prevent and tackle rural and wildlife crime, as well as teaching problem solving and proactive crime prevention strategies. North Wales Horse Watch collaborates closely with North Wales Police to manage and reduce risks, share information and recognise early signs of danger. The project also incorporates road safety lessons covering personal risks, hazard perception and responsibilities towards other road users.

In appreciation of her services to North Wales Police, the charity's founder, Helen Lacey, was awarded the Lord Ferrers Award from the Home Office.

Consequently, the rural education project has been recognised for raising awareness in the rural community.

Volunteers offer interactive workshops to any group of any age and capability, some of whom tend to book further sessions to increase their knowledge.

A new workshop, 'Rural Craft Sessions', has been developed introducing the importance of wool, its many uses and benefits allowing participants to make items from wool and the land while discussing the countryside code.

For information: [www.ruraleducationproject.co.uk](http://www.ruraleducationproject.co.uk)

# SESIWN COGINIO - COOKING SESSION

## Cacennau Cri

### Cynhwysion

1 pwys/450g o Flawd Plaen  
4 owns/110g o Siwgr  
1 llwy de o Soda Pobi  
4owns/110g o Lard  
4 owns/110g o Fargarine  
8 owns/225g o Gyrens  
2 wy  
2 lwy fwrdd o ddwr  
Siwgr man ar gyfer ysgeintio



### Dull

1. Hidlwch y blawd I fowlen ac ychwanegwch y siwgr a'r soda pobi
- 2 Rhwbiwch y lard a'r margarin I'r gymysgedd nes fydd yn debyg I friwsion bara
3. Cymysgwch y Cyrens I mewn i'r gymysgedd
4. Cyrwch y wyau y ysgafn a'u ychwanegu at y cynhwysion sych. Ychwanegwch y dwr a chymysgu'r cyfan yn dda. Gadewch iddo sefyll am hanner awr
5. Rhowch ychydig o flawd ar fwrdd a roliwch y gymysgedd a'i dorri yn gylchoedd
6. Irwch a chynheswch blat-poeth neu badell ffrio drom. Coginiwch y Cacennau Cri ar y ddwy ochr nes fyddant yn liw brown golau
7. Ysgeintiwch ddiupyn o siwgr man dros y Cacennau Cri a'u gadael I oeri cyn gweini Mwynhewch

## Welsh Cakes

### Ingredients

1lb/450g plain flour  
4oz/110g sugar  
1 tsp. Bicarbonate of soda  
4oz/110g lard  
4oz/110g margarine  
8oz/225g currants  
2 eggs  
2 tsp. Water  
Caster sugar for dusting



### Method

1. Sift the flour into a bowl add the bicarbonate of soda and the sugar
  2. Rub in the lard and margarine until it resembles fine breadcrumbs
  3. Stir in the currants
  4. Lightly whisk the eggs and add to the dry mixture add the water and mix well. Let the mixture stand for half an hour
  5. Roll out the mixture on a floured surface and cut into circles
  6. Grease and heat a hotplate or heavy frying pan. Cook the Welsh cakes on both sides until they are a light brown colour
  7. Dust with a little caster sugar and leave to cool before serving
- Enjoy

Recipe supplied by Menna Coleclough

## Dogs Are Family



A man and his dog were walking along a road. The man was enjoying the scenery when it suddenly occurred to him that he was dead. He remembered dying and that the dog walking beside him had been dead for years. He wondered where the road was leading them. After a while, they came to a high, white stone wall

along one side of the road. It looked like fine marble. At the top of a long hill, it was broken by a tall arch that glowed in the sunlight.

When he was standing before it he saw a magnificent gate in the arch that looked like mother-of-pearl and the street that led to the gate looked like pure gold. He and the dog walked toward the gate and, as he got closer, he saw a man at a desk to one side. When he was close enough, he called out "Excuse me, where are we?" "This is Heaven, sir" the man answered. "Would you happen to have some water?" the man asked. "Of course, sir."

"Come right in and I'll have some ice water brought right up". The man gestured and the gate opened. "Can my friend come in, too?" the traveller asked. "I'm sorry, sir but we don't accept pets". The man

thought a moment and then turned back toward the road and continued the way he had been going with his dog. After another long walk and, at the top of another long hill, he came to a dirt road leading to a farm gate that looked as if it had never been closed.

As he approached the gate, he saw a man inside leaning against a tree and reading a book. "Excuse me!" he called. "Do you have any water?" "Yeah, sure, there's a pump over there, come on in." "How about my friend here?" the traveller gestured to the dog. "There should be a bowl by the pump." They went through the gate and, sure enough, there was an old-fashioned hand pump with a bowl beside it.

The traveller filled the water bowl and took a long drink himself, then he gave some to the dog. When they were full, he and the dog walked back toward the man who was standing by the tree. "What do you call this place?" the traveller asked. "This is Heaven" he answered. "Well, that's confusing" the traveller said. "The man down the road said that was Heaven, too." "Oh, you mean the place with the gold street and pearly gates? Nope. That's hell." "Doesn't it make you mad for them to use your name like that?" "No, we're just happy that they screen out the folks who would leave their best friends behind."

~Anonymous Author and Artwork

# Rhosesmor Village Community Group

## The Outpost and St Paul's Church

With a flurry of pre-Christmas activity, November and December saw the key elements of life in this special village working together perfectly to provide a colourful and rich tapestry of school, church, village hall and community young and not so young all working together..

### Rhosesmor Village Christmas Fair held in Ysgol Rhos Helyg



With the success of previous years going before it, the Rhosesmor Christmas Fair had outgrown the accommodation offered in the village hall and we were delighted to accept the hospitality offered by Ysgol Rhos Helyg. The fee we would have paid Rhosesmor Village Hall was given as a donation in payment for the use of the chairs and tables to set up the stalls in the school hall. The fair was the most successful yet and special thanks are owed to Ann Denman Roberts and Iain Costall who brought together a large team of helpers to make the event possible. With delicious

burgers and hot dogs from Mile Kennedy butcher, afternoon teas from the WI, another visitation from Santa and his faithful elf and a record number of community stalls, games and competitions made for an uplifting start to the festive season. A donation from the takings of £500 was given to Ysgol Rhos Helyg.

### Rhosesmor Village Advent Windows '23

As the nights grew darker the roads and paths throughout the village grew more colourful, lit up on the Rhosesmor Village Advent Windows Trail. Three French Hens, The Grinch and cheerful gingerbreads led us to the final window of the Nativity, all traceable by a nightly insert from Google Maps as provided by Kath Royles. Thanks to Kathy Baron for her enthusiasm and energy in leading and coordinating this beautiful, festive, community activity.



### Rhosesmor Tots Christmas Party

Rhosesmor Tots for parents and pre-school children and babies has met in the village hall for 9 years thanks to the dedication of Sharon and Alison who have turned up every week for the nine years. This year brought us a splendid Christmas party with gifts and cakes and a welcome break for our young families. Father Christmas is pictured here with Sharon and Alison giving out the gifts. Rhosesmor Tots meet in Rhosesmor Village hall on Thursdays in term time 9.15 to 11 am. Refreshments for parents and children.

### Rhosesmor Village Children's Party

With the new energy found post Covid in the revitalised village community group came the commitment to provide a fun evening for the older children of the village. Special thanks here to Teresa Johnson for her drive and conviction in pursuing this new idea. Teresa joined forces with Christine Cowley of Halkyn Mountain Cubs and Scouts and Philippa Kitchen and PhilsHarmonics youth choir to provide an evening of festive games, music, food and fun. Thanks to the Rhosesmor Village Community Group for funding this event and for providing refreshments and fun activities to start December off with a sparkle. Thanks also to Asda Queensferry and Tesco Mold and Holywell for their support. We look forward to further ideas on how to support our young people.

### Mellt the Storyteller – Tales by Candlelight

After the festive singing and the hustle and bustle of the children's tug of war it was time to settle down in St Paul's church with a blanket on your knee and a glass of warm, mulled wine and be transported to the mysteries of the Brecon Beacons and the story of the lady of Llyn y Fan Fach and others. Julie Hinchcliffe held us in the palm of her hand as she took us through the tales of Welsh folklore and local traditions. Storytelling of the old tradition, no notes, but a living and total immersion in the story.



Mellt the Storyteller, Tales from Wales...and Other Places. 07498 856591. kitecreate@gmail.com  
Registered Performer with Little Night Out

**What does the Spring have in store for the Rhosesmor Community?**

**1st Saturday in March** will see the 1st meeting of the Rhosesmor Community Garden Group in the church grounds at 2 pm. Cake and drinks supplied.

**Bob Hemming Walks** will start again in April, meeting at the park at 10.30 on a Thursday morning and finishing with refreshments in church.

**April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the church** - we are treated to a show of the musical talents of the youth of our mountain. All young musicians are invited to take part in this concert. Please contact Wendy Sigsworth or send details to 07947046695

Following the youth concert the folk band '93<sup>rd</sup> Minute' will treat us to an evening of folk medley.

The summer will bring back **Côr Cilcain** and **Mighty Mojo Kings R & B group**

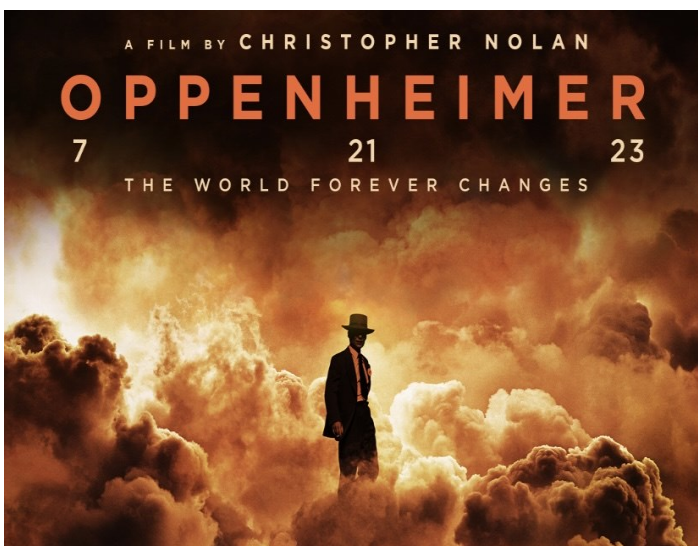
If you would like to know more about our village events please keep your eye on the notice board in the Outpost shop in St Paul's, or the Facebook page Rhosesmor Village or best of all join us in the Bluebell, Halkyn on the first Tuesday in the month at 7.30 pm



.....  
**Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema Update 2024**

Spring is just around the corner and it's time to start planning your next cinema visit. January's film went down a treat - Mission Impossible was an exciting adventure to start the new year. We introduced a short intermission half way through owing to the length of the film. It worked well and we plan to do that again for some of the longer films.

On **March 2nd** we will be showing:  
**The Great Escaper** starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson. It is based on the true tale of pensioner Brendan Jordan who absconded from his care home to attend an event in France marking the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings.



On **May 25th** we are planning to show the Oscar-nominated **Oppenheimer**  
This biographical thriller chronicles the career of the American physicist credited with being the father of the atomic bomb. This screening may be subject to change depending on which films become available to us.

If you have any ideas for future films you'd like to see at the cinema, please let us know. Tickets are available from our website ([www.mountaincinema.org.uk](http://www.mountaincinema.org.uk)) two to three weeks beforehand. Light refreshments (including tea, coffee and popcorn) are available on the night. For more information please go to our website and sign up for the mailing list or follow us on Facebook. [www.mountaincinema.org.uk](http://www.mountaincinema.org.uk) [www.facebook.com/halkynmountaincinema](https://www.facebook.com/halkynmountaincinema)

We look forward to seeing you soon.  
Jean Kendrick. Secretary, Halkyn Mountain Cinema Committee.

# SHEE SPINNER

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

Hello all. Thank you for your company. Isn't it good to see that we are slowly spinning into a new season on The Mountain. We will soon be ready to welcome Spring.

Talking of spinning - today, I will eventually write about the art and science of the craft of spinning wool to make yarn. ('Bout time I hear you shout!)

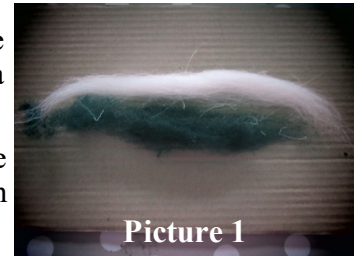
I will start at the beginning. Take some clean and scoured and freshly combed fleece gleaned from The Mountain as described in previous issues of HMN. Using your wool, you are ready to enter the magical world that is spinning. But just before we do, I want to share a little secret with you - making yarn from wool is all about TWIST. In our case, adding twist to straight combed wool.

Please allow me to explain. In picture 1, I have 2 strands of combed wool. The white wool is from a White Welsh Mountain ewe. The black wool is from a Black Welsh Mountain ewe.



The wool strands are laid together as shown in picture 1

Each end is held in each hand separately and, gently pulled, the wool fibres pull apart easily and separate if pulled



Picture 1



Picture 2

too quickly or too much as shown in picture 2.



Picture 3

Obviously, this is not yarn and of no use to make textiles. What we need to do is add twist into the wool fibres. To do this we need to gently pull the wool strands to make them thinner. This is called drafting.

Whilst drafting we add twist by twirling the newly drafted wool strands between our fingers as shown in picture 3.



Picture 4

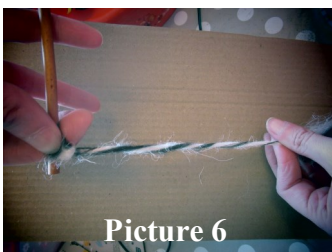
Once you have added twist into the length of wool as seen in picture 4 below, you have created a single ply of humbug coloured yarn. Us spinners call this a single. If you try and pull your yarn apart like you did in picture 1 you will find it is difficult to pull apart. It is strong, it's now yarn and it could be used to make textiles.

An easy way to make yarn is to use a piece of stick or pencil. Hold a length of combed wool in your hand as in picture 5 and wrap one end of the wool around the end of your stick or pencil.



Picture 5

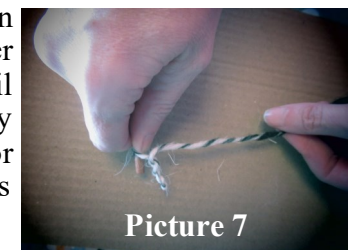
Whilst holding the wool wound around the stick firmly twist the stick or pencil. That will introduce twist into the wool. As shown in picture 6



Picture 6

When the yarn you have made twists back on itself in a loop as in picture 7, you have added enough twist for the wool to be strong and called yarn.

When you get to that stage you can wind your yarn around the stick or pencil then begin twisting another section of wool. Then draft, twist, wind and repeat until you have twisted all your combed wool into a single ply of yarn. You must be careful when adding twist. Too much twist is not good for yarn making. If a yarn has too much twist, it is said to have too much energy. This makes it difficult to use the yarn as it twists around on itself!



Picture 7

Please join me in the Summer issue where I will expand on this introduction to the craft of spinning by adding twist to make yarn. We will continue our journey into the world of spinning by looking at spinning wool with spindles. I cannot wait! Until then Happy Easter to all.

**Shee spinner spins sheeps soft sumptuous shearings so sheep stay smiling**

## Halkyn and District Bowling Club

In the winter months our thoughts turn to green maintenance in preparation for the upcoming season. Work on the green started with the green's team giving a cut and spreading autumn feed followed later by professional scarification. With the new year upon us there came more work, a winter level cut and more fertiliser spread. Then came the rain and more rain and work stopped. Then came the cold and the team had trouble finding the 'green' under the frost. We are very thankful to our greenkeeping team, who are made up of volunteers from the club, for all the hard work they do all year round.



We would like to thank Tony at the Crown Inn, Lixwm for his continued support of the club. It is with the continued support of the businesses in the local community that we can undertake maintenance projects around the green.

To keep our eye in over the winter months, several club members have been meeting up at the Jade Jones Leisure Centre in Flint every Sunday to use their indoor bowling facility. This has been most enjoyable with several members trying the flat green version of bowling for the first time.

The date for our green opening for the 2024 season is Sunday 31st March at 1pm. Everyone is welcome to come and join us. We will follow the opening with a meet and greet where you can meet club members, have a chat, find out about our game and even try your hand. We have bowls you can use so come and have a go.

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](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/HalkynBowls)

Happy bowling!

### Talking Rubbish in Pentre Halkyn

In a lovely village such as Pentre Halkyn, why do we see so much litter spoiling the appearance of our roadsides, grass verges and footpaths? Summer foliage hides it to a certain extent but winter leaflessness reveals it. And worse, is that litter and untidiness encourages more. If anywhere appears untidy and



uncared for, there's no incentive for people to responsibly dispose of fast food waste and sometimes even household waste gets...dumped!

Here in Pentre Halkyn, drivers and people passing through our village or stopping on the Mountain itself to 'admire the scenery' - those who should know better - become *Litter Louts*.



In fact, they are Law Breakers; they could and should be fined! But then, catching them...



Do we care? Yes, some residents do! A few public spirited souls take time to pick up the passers-by's mess and dispose of it in a responsible way. They should be thanked but rarely are. The Council's own litter picker does his best on his monthly round in the village centre.



There are of course other reasons why we see roadside mess/litter, one being that the public recycling system can actually cause it. Sadly the recycling bags and refuse bins provided cannot be sealed effectively and especially on windy days (of which we seem to have a lot) the contents can spill out whilst awaiting, or even during, collection. Result: contents then get blown around and become... litter. This creates more mess for concerned residents to pick up and, if left, encourages passing 'out-of-village'...Litter Louts!



Such problems are, of course, difficult to solve but litter does not disappear by itself. So wouldn't it be great if more Pentre Halkyn residents (*those who are able to*) could help remove the unsightly mess and make our village as litter free and attractive as possible?

YES? If so, there's now a chance to show you care During "Spring Clean Cymru 2024" 15 - 31 March you're invited to join in

"The Great Pentre Halkyn Litter Pick"

Saturday 23 March, 10am to 12noon

Starting point Pentre Halkyn Community Hall (off Martins Hill)

Litter picking equipment will be provided on loan courtesy of

'Keep Wales Tidy' - 'Cadwch Gymru'n Daclus'

For more information contact:

Mavis- [mavis\\_midgley@hotmail.com](mailto:mavis_midgley@hotmail.com)

Maureen- [maureen.efforescence@gmail.com](mailto:maureen.efforescence@gmail.com)



## HOLYWELL AREA COMMUNITY MUSEUM NEWS

With Christmas and The New Year becoming a distant memory, the Museum is now looking forward towards spring. The Point of Ayr Colliery room, which is crammed full of mining memories, continues to expand with new acquisitions appearing weekly. John, the former miner who worked at Point of Ayr Colliery, is generally on hand to explain the exhibits and tell tales of a life spent underground. He

recently did an interview for television to commemorate 40 years since the miners' strike. The knit and Natter Craft group which meets weekly on a Wednesday continues to thrive producing hand crafted items which can be purchased in the museum shop. At Christmas they had a stall at the Betty Birkins Fayre which was very successful, despite the cold. The Museum is really pleased to announce that it has been successful in securing funding to upgrade the Museum Cafe. We look forward to the work starting.



Donations for display in the Museum still continue which will allow rooms to be updated providing an enhanced visitor experience. Coming soon is a display focusing on Courtaulds where many local people worked.

During the week in the Museum at the moment, there is the ever popular prize bingo on a Monday, the Knit & Natter Craft group on Wednesday and the Welsh learning group on Friday. We are organising a Friendship Group to meet on a Thursday and will soon be starting a Warm Hub on a Friday.

As ever, we are extremely grateful for all the support we receive and especially thank Holywell Town Council and Wales & West for their support and encouragement.

Finally, don't forget that the museum has a small retail area selling local history books together with gifts. Please pop in; it will be lovely to see you.

If you want any information on anything which is happening please phone the museum on 01352 217170  
Jodie Bennett (Manager)



### **Halkyn Parish Hall and Library**

The hall is available for private functions including weddings, christenings, birthday parties, (children's birthday parties up to 12 years old), a committee room for meetings, etc.

The Hall now has facilities for presentations and promotions with a wide screen TV available in the hall and committee room.

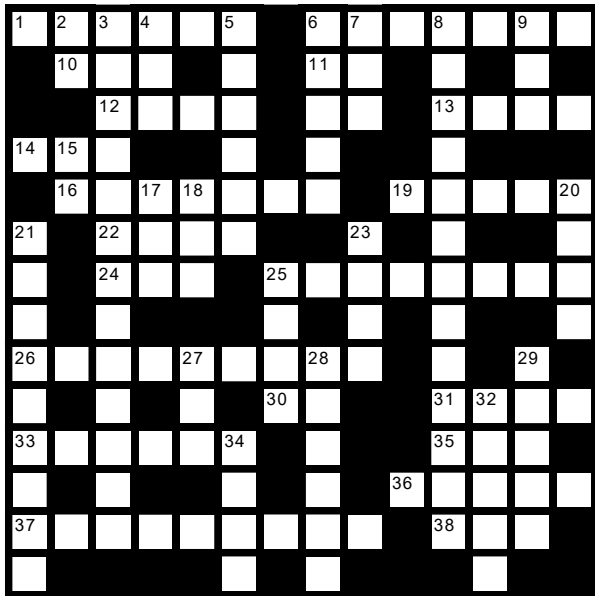
For bookings and enquiries phone Colin Roberts 07934 669794 Monday – Friday between 9am and 5pm

#### **Weekly Diary**

- Monday** Over 50s club - 1st Monday in the month: also monthly outings - contact Ron 01352715723
- Tuesday** Zumba 6.00 - 7.00pm email zumbawithvix@gmail.com  
Snooker Club 7:00pm - new members welcome - contact Andy Wood 01352 780159  
The Snooker Table is also available for hire - contact Colin Roberts 07934 669794
- Wednesday** Charities Coffee Morning 10.30 - 12.00pm - 1st Wednesday in the month
- Thursday** Halkyn W.I. 2.00 - 4.00pm  
Clerical Error Border Morris Dancers 8.00 - 10.00pm - contact Colin 07934 669794
- Friday** Post Office 4.00 - 4.30pm (new times)  
Library 1:30 - 7:00pm
- Saturday** Halkyn Mountain Quilters, - contact Elaine 07871 586942  
Sound Therapy sessions with Rachel - for dates & times contact her on 07951740112

All above information as supplied by Caretaker Colin Roberts - 07934 669794

# CROSSWORD NO. 3



## ACROSS

- 1 STICKY SWEET
- 6 WALL TREATMENT
- 10 GOOD DISTANCE
- 11 NOT OFF
- 12 APPEAR
- 13 CANINE FRIENDS
- 14 EG: NITROGEN
- 16 TIME PORTIONS
- 19 TASMAIAN FOR ONE
- 22 WILD ANGER
- 24 PUB WITH ROOMS
- 25 PREPARING
- 26 UNREAL
- 30 ENGAGE IN
- 31 EXAMINE
- 33 ALTERS SLIGHTLY
- 35 HEAT GRADE
- 36 SHAPE
- 37 VERSION
- 38 CHINA, ROSES

## DOWN

- 2 BELONGING TO
- 3 WILFUL PERVERSION
- 4 AND BACK AGAIN
- 5 ILL WILL
- 6 FEES
- 7 WHICHEVER
- 8 WORCESTERSHIRE TOWN
- 9 REPEATEDLY MOIDER
- 15 TO BE
- 17 CONVENT GIRL
- 18 JUG
- 20 CONVICTS
- 21 TENDS TO
- 23 PURE
- 25 HAPPY
- 27 WRITING FLUID
- 28 HORSE SHOWS
- 29 ENCLOSED
- 32 GROUP OF WITCHES
- 34 BE IN SESSION

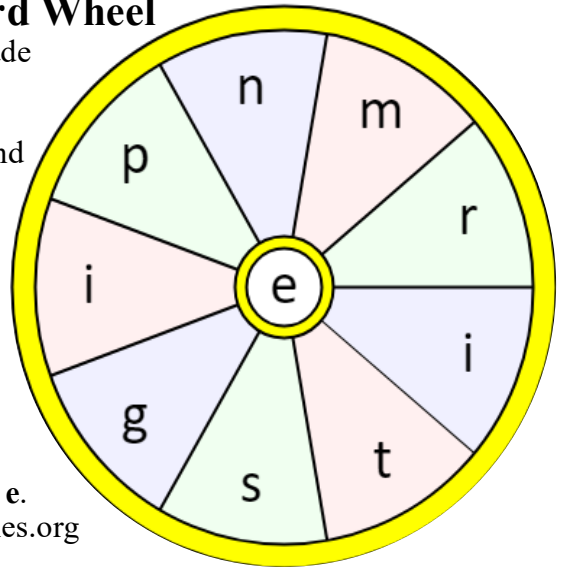
Crossword & Word Search kindly supplied by geoffdenm.co.uk

# WORDSEARCH PUZZLE NO: 5



## Spring Word Wheel

This wheel is made from a 10 letter Spring themed word. Try and find the word and 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 e.



Design: edu-games.org

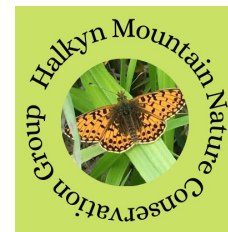


A Spring Gift  
Please colour me in!

Artist: Julia Nascimento

# Halkyn Mountain Nature Conservation Group

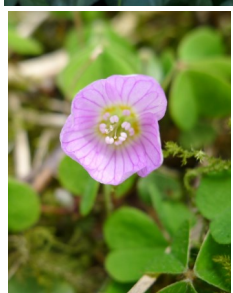
## The Wonders of Springtime: Early Wildflowers



By now nature will be renewing itself and signs of spring will be appearing, be it flowers flowering, birds nesting, bees bumbling and butterflies fluttering. We take it for granted that this happens every year but we do not always appreciate that we rely on these events for our very existence. The natural world is not only important for our well-being but it enables the production of the food we eat.



Wrap up warm and take a walk down Buxton Lane, Pentre Halkyn and be amazed at the number of early spring flowers to be found there (be alert to danger of vehicles using the narrowest part of the lane!). Many of the wild flowers on Halkyn Mountain appear later than elsewhere so look for flowers in more sheltered places such as hedgerows. These are often the remnants of what would have been woodland hundreds of years ago; most woodland plants flower in spring and complete their life cycles before the tree canopy restricts sunlight.



The following flowers and more can be seen in Buxton Lane, some as early as March.

1. Moschatel (or Town-hall Clock), Mysglys, is unusual. It has five tiny green flowers in the form of the four faces of a clock tower with the fifth flower on top.



2. Lesser Celandine, Llygad Ebrill, has glossy yellow-petalled flowers which provide a good nectar source for many insects. It was thought that this plant could cure haemorrhoids, hence its other name of Pilewort.



3. Wood Sorrel, Suran-y-Coed, has Shamrock-type leaves, pretty flowers with pink or white petals and is edible.

4. Common Dog-violet, Gwioillyd Cyffredin, has purple flowers and is an important food plant for the caterpillars of the rare Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterfly.

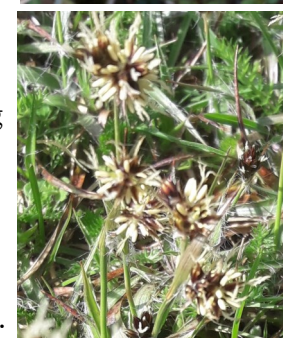


5. Barren Strawberry, Coegfufusan, is similar to Wild Strawberry but without the delicious red fruits. However it does provide food for caterpillars of the Grizzled Skipper butterfly.



6. Crosswort, Briwydden Groes, has whorls of tiny yellow flowers. It was used medicinally and for food in former days. The following two plants provide food for the caterpillars of the Orange Tip butterfly.

7. Jack-by-the-Hedge (or Garlic Mustard), Garlleg y Berth, is a tallish plant with white flowers. Its crushed leaves smell of garlic and are edible.



8. Cuckooflower (or Lady's Smock), Blodyn y Gog, is also edible. It has pale lilac or white flowers and is supposed to herald the arrival of Cuckoos from Africa to their Summer breeding sites in Britain.



9. Greater Stitchwort, Serenllys Mawr (Botwm Crys), has white flowers and provides nectar for bees, butterflies and hoverflies as well as being a food plant for a number of moth species.

10. Good-Friday Grass (or Field Wood-rush), Coedfrwynen y Maes, is not actually a grass but a small member of the Wood-rush family. It has small brown flowers, grows in short grass and can be seen flowering around Easter time, hence its common name of Good-Friday Grass.

### Happy Hunting!

Halkyn Mountain Nature Conservation Group will again this year be offering guided walks on the Mountain for anyone wishing to participate. Check out our Facebook page for details:

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

Mavis Midgley. Halkyn Mountain Nature Conservation Group.

**Halkyn Mountain is a magical place.**

## Message from Cllr Simon Jones

As your County Councillor, I'm writing to you today to address the issue of council tax increases for the upcoming year. I understand this is a concern for many and I want to provide transparency and context around the reasons behind these decisions. The council has a legal obligation to ensure that we present a balanced budget. At the time of writing, we are regularly meeting to achieve this with as little cost to residents of Flintshire as possible. By the time the Halkyn Mountain News goes to print, a final figure will have been agreed.

### Rising Costs and Decreasing Funds:

Local authorities across the UK, including our own county council, are facing significant financial pressures. On the one hand, we're experiencing rising costs in key areas like:

- Adult Social Care: Demand for essential care services for our most vulnerable residents continues to grow, putting a strain on our budget.
- Inflation: Rising costs of goods and services impact our operations from waste collection to maintaining local infrastructure.
- National Living Wage: Increasing employee wages is positive but it adds to our budgetary challenges.

On the other hand, funding from central UK Government has seen a real term decrease in recent years. This, coupled with increasing demands, creates a significant funding gap that we need to address. You may have read that many councils in England from both side of the political divide have had to declare bankruptcy. Rest assured, this is not something that will happen in Flintshire.

### Difficult Choices and Council Tax Increase:

Given these circumstances, the council has faced difficult choices. We've explored various options including efficiency measures and service reviews. However, due to the severity of the funding gap, a council tax increase is unavoidable.

It's important to note that our proposed increase will be below many other councils in North Wales as Flintshire CC has taken great fiscal care over the last few years to ensure we have a reserve to draw from. We understand an increase is not ideal but it is necessary to maintain essential services like:

- Waste collection and recycling
- Public transportation
- Libraries and leisure facilities
- Children's and adult social care
- Road maintenance and infrastructure

### Investing in Our Community:

The council remains committed to responsible fiscal management and delivering value for every pound of council tax you pay. We're prioritizing essential services and using the additional revenue to:

- Invest in social care, ensuring quality care for our most vulnerable residents, including services to support our older and vulnerable residents.
- Improve infrastructure and local amenities; this will help to keep running and repair costs to a minimum in the future.
- Support vital community services and programmes.

### Engaging with You:

I understand your concerns and value your feedback. I encourage you to contact me via email [simon.jones@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:simon.jones@flintshire.gov.uk) if you have any specific concerns about the proposed budget.

## Spell Check

I have a spelling chequer,  
It came with my pee sea.  
It plainly marques for my revue  
Miss steaks eye cannot sea.  
Eye strike a quay and right a word.  
And weight for it two say  
Weather eye am wrong oar wright,  
It shows me strait away.  
As soon as a mist ache is maid,  
It nose bee fore two late,  
And eye can put the error rite.  
its rarely, rarely grate,  
I've run this poem threw it,  
I'm shore your pleased to no  
Its letter perfect in it's weigh,  
My chequer tolled me sew !  
(Sauce unknown)

Unknown copyright owner but we will by happy to credit the author if we are contacted.

## Pen y Ball Monument



This monument at the top of Pen y Ball Hill, 820ft above sea level and made of Halkyn stone, was erected in 1893 to commemorate the marriage of the Duke of York heir to the English throne. Inscriptions on the stone also commemorate him being proclaimed King George V in 1910 and his silver jubilee in 1935.

From the monument, there are extensive views over Brynford Common and towards the Clwydian hills and Snowdonia. The Pen y Ball monument can be accessed by car or on foot via a steep hill leading off the A5026, named Fron Park Road, where it passes through Holywell.

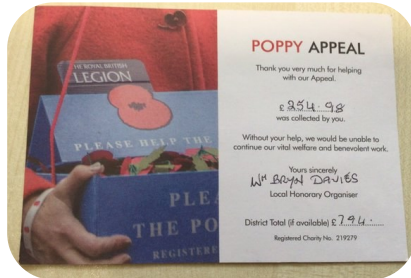
The grid reference for the monument is: SJ177755

# Ysgol Rhos Helyg News Report Spring 2024

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 would like to share with you a flavour of the things that have happened since our last article.

## Remembrance Day

We have been busy raising money for the Poppy Appeal and we have created Poppy Wreaths for the memorial at Rhosesmor.



## Pentrellyncymer Outdoor Education Centre

Pupils from Years 5 and 6 went on their annual visit to participate in lots of outdoor activities where they learnt lots of worthwhile skills....the key word of the week was resilience.



## Classroom Based Activities

Children in the Early Years have been busy learning lots of different things.



Learning about Diwali.



As part of their work on learning about people who help us, they have been painting pictures of Fire engines.



## Christmas Events



Practising letter formation.



Christmas Dinner is a highlight and the children enjoy wearing the party hats and pulling the crackers.



The school fair is a time to bring the Community together and it is lovely to welcome everyone back to the school.

The classes have been busy producing items to sell at the Fair. This introduces concepts such as profit and costings to the children



## The School Celebrating its 70 birthday

In November, we had a fabulous time learning about the history of the school. Past pupils, staff and former headteachers visited the school to share their memories of times past. The school was opened to the local Community to look at photographs and to chat over a coffee and a cake with old friends. A truly memorable week of events.





Children in the Juniors have also been doing lots of interesting learning.

They have been learning about Internet safety and safe passwords with Pc Mark.

The Juniors have enjoyed their cricket sessions from Cricket Wales.



## Christmas Concerts

These are always very well attended and it is another event that brings the local Community together. The children gain a lot of confidence by being on stage performing to an appreciative audience.



## International School Link

Two members of staff have been to visit Le Crotoy in France. This is a link school that will hopefully grow from strength to strength. We will firstly be taking part in a project that focuses on sustainability.



13th century Welsh poem in the original Welsh:

## Tristwch yn y Gwanwyn

Cyntefin ceinaf amser,  
Dyar adar, glas calledd,  
Ereidr yn Rhych, ych yng ngwedd,  
Gwyrdd mor, brithotor tiredd.

Ban ganont gogau ar flaen gwydd gwiw,  
Handid mwy fy llawfrydedd,  
Tost mwg, amlwg anhunedd,  
Can ethynt fy ngheraint yn adwedd.

Ym mryn, yn nhyno, yn ynysedd mor,  
Ymhob ffordd ydd eler  
Rhag Crist gwyn nid oes ynialedd.

English translation:

## Sadness in Spring

Maytime, loveliest season,  
Loud bird-parley, new growth green,  
Ploughs in furrow, oxen yoked,  
Emerald sea, land-hues dappled.

When cuckoos call from fair tree-tops  
Greater grows my sorrow;  
Stinging smoke, grief awake  
For my kinsfolk's passing.

On hill, in vale, in ocean's isles,  
Whichever way man goes,  
Blest Christ there's no evading.

© by owner. provided at no charge for educational purposes



## Fake emails claiming to be from TV Licensing



Watch out for fake emails claiming to be from TV Licensing. Action Fraud have received over 6,000 reports in two weeks!

The emails state that the recipient's TV Licence is about to expire, or that there was an issue with their latest payment.



Report suspicious emails by forwarding them to: [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)



Your reports have led to the removal of 268,000 scam sites so far.

#NWPCyberSafe



## E-byst ffug yn honni i fod gan Trwyddedu Teledu



Gwylwch allan am e-byst ffug yn honni i fod gan Drwyddedu Teledu. Mae Action Fraud wedi derbyn dros 6,000 o adroddiadau am y rhain mewn pythefnos!



Mae'r e-byst yn nodi bod Trwydded Teledu'r derbynydd ar fin dod i ben, neu fod problem gyda'u taliad diweddaraf.

Riportiwch e-byst amheus trwy eu hanfon ymlaen at: [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)



Mae eich adroddiadau wedi arwain at ddileu 268,000 o wefannau sgam hyd yn hyn.

#SeiberDdiogelHGC



Message Sent By Dewi Owen  
Cyber Crime Officer, North Wales Police

# Local Business Advertising

Please support the companies advertising here  
and say that you saw them in HMN

We can now offer adverts in full colour as well as black & white. If any of our advertisers would like to transfer to a colour advert please contact us for details

**HALKYN MOUNTAIN NEWS**  
*Now offering colour advertising*

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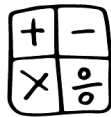
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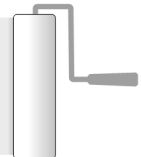
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Halkyn Mountain News is published quarterly and distributed in March, June, September and December. Copies are circulated free of charge to households in the Halkyn Mountain and Brynford areas with an estimated readership of 4000 people. Feedback suggests 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 used to pay for printing, production & minor administrative expenses.

Adverts are: **Width = 90mm, Height = 50mm** - produced in black and white only.

**Payment:** Adverts must be paid for before the printing deadline usually the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month **before** publication.

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**The Woodland Skills Centre** is a not-for-profit Social Enterprise that rests on a 50 acre site in the Wheeler Valley amid the Clwydian Range Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We have woodlands, a woodland walks, wildflower meadows, ponds, an arboretum, vineyard, heritage orchard, apiary, allotments and a tree nursery. Not to mention four Forest School sites.

The site has earned awards from the likes of the Royal Forestry Society, Living Woods and the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society. We have been given the Green Flag Award for the last five years running.



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As we look forward to 2024, let us begin with a quick round up of what has been happening at the Centre throughout 2023. The year just gone brought a few changes here. Amongst these, we welcomed Lina Patel as the newish Centre Manager for all our Social Prescribing work and the Traditional Craft courses - of which we ran over 80 in 2023 alone.

Do not worry - Rod is not going anywhere and continues much of the pioneering work and collaboration with organisations such as the North Wales Wildlife Trust, Prestatyn Hedgehog Rescue and Horticulture Wales amongst many others.

Throughout last year we also continued our ongoing survey work showing that we have healthy populations of all the 9 Reptiles and Amphibians that are native to this area. Our Moth and butterfly survey identified 245 species present.

Up in the woodland, we have a new timber-framed building, not only built by one of our courses but also available for use by others as well as the local community as a whole. Our woodlands has permissive public access for all to enjoy.

On the main site there have been several changes. A new woodwork machine shop has been installed and our Community Support group now use this to make Bird boxes and Bat boxes for North Wales Wildlife Trust and Hedgehog boxes for Prestatyn Hedgehog Rescue, all of which will be available for order in the coming year.

Just before the close of the year, we graded all of the roads and paths around the site adding wheelchair access to much of the outdoor areas. We also added another hard-standing pitch to the camp site to allow an extra space for another motorhome.



As 2024 opens, we are continuing to build on the work of last year. In addition to the bees which we already have on site, we are developing a small holding of chicken and pigs and a market garden which is being developed in association with Horticultural Wales. They have also helped us to construct a new polytunnel and shall be further collaborating with us on our vineyard. The intention is that our Social Support Group will use the market garden and polytunnel to grow produce to use to create and sell a vegetable box



(which may also include eggs, honey and foraged berry jam). The Veg-box will be available, on site, from later on in 2024.

This coming year will also see no let up in the provision of courses. Along with our extensive current list of courses we shall be launching some new ones such as Birchbark crafts and Traditional wool crafts; in fact, three different types of felting courses will be available.

To close, we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved in the Woodland Skills Centre in 2023. A thank you to all our staff, volunteers, coaches and teachers and a massive, and genuinely heartfelt thanks to all our participants and visitors. We hope to see you all in 2024.

If you wish to keep up with what's going on please visit our website or join our Facebook Group.

