

Halkyn Mountain News Newyddion Mynydd Helygain

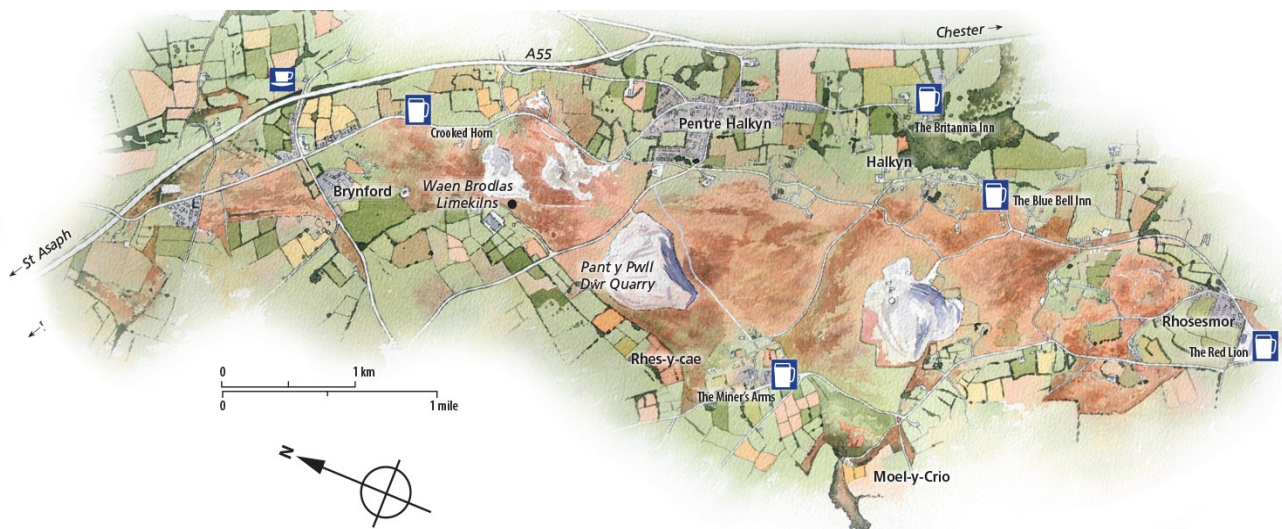
Issue/Rhifyn 197 – Winter/Gaeaf 2025

Winter has arrived. The days have grown shorter and the evenings longer. The moths have been shaken out of the woollies, and the annual scramble to find fresh torch batteries has well and truly begun!

With some fun times already behind us and the big festivities still to come, there's plenty to lift our spirits through the winter months and to keep us going until spring arrives.



Merry Christmas
and
HAPPY NEW YEAR



The Spring Edition - Issue 198 - will be distributed in March 2026.

Please submit News and Advertising items before 1st February to the email addresses listed on page 2.

We look forward to receiving your calendar of events going into Spring.

Dear Readers

A very warm welcome to the Winter 2025 issue of Halkyn Mountain News.

By the time this edition reaches you, Halloween will have come and gone with a bang, and thoughts will be turning to preparations for Christmas and the New Year. The winter issue spans an extended period, but with Christmas at its heart, it feels like the perfect time to express our thanks to everyone who has supported the magazine throughout the year.

We would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to all our contributors, advertisers, and the dedicated production team for helping ensure the continued success of Halkyn Mountain News.

We always welcome new contributions from across the community. If you're involved in a local group or activity, please let us know about it. If you have family news or achievements to share, we'll do our best to include your announcement. If you have stories about days gone by, traditional Welsh recipes, local folklore, or old wives' tales, we'd love to hear them.

In this edition, we're also inviting our young writers to take part in a special writing competition through their schools. Details will be sent to our three local primary schools, and we're asking children to write a short story or poem about Spring and what it means to them. There are prizes to be won — and it's a wonderful chance for some creative thinking!

We hope you enjoy this issue, and as always, we thank you — our readers and supporters — for helping to keep the magazine thriving.

Nadolig Llawen/ Happy Christmas

The Halkyn Mountain News Team



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



A Few Words from Blodwen the Sheep

Life on the mountain is always interesting. It is often assumed that life as a sheep must be boring with one day being much like another. However, nothing could be further from the truth as every day brings surprises.

A little while ago, I was strolling with some friends and casually grazing along Wern Road in Rhosesmor when we noticed that a gate which is normally firmly barred, was ajar and was just inviting us to enter. Clearly the owners had left it open for us. We couldn't resist the adventure of entering the garden. What a feast lay before us! There were plants we had never seen before and flowers which looked delicious. We knew that we could eat well and leave the garden neatly trimmed. There were so many different tastes and textures. One of my friends who is a real foodie ewe commented that it was a wonderful taster menu and a "smor gas board of delights". I have no idea what she was talking about, but it sounded exotic, so I just nodded.

I just had to try a little of everything. Time flew by but I was completely in my own world, savouring plants I had never tried before. My foodie friend said we had eaten the finest Hide Ranger, Rody Den Drums and Jar Rainy Mums she had ever come across. I did take a nibble of something my friend said was Roobarb, but it brought tears to my eyes and made my lips curl. As we left, we admired our handywork. We had successfully trimmed nearly all the plants and had tidied them by eating all the leaves and trimming all the stems. I was so full, and I fear I knocked over a plant pot as I left as I was now a little wider than when I arrived!

I settled down early for the night as in truth, I think I had eaten more than I should and was beginning to feel a little queasy. I must have slept for quite a while when I awoke to the sound of thunder. The problem was that the thunder was inside my belly and before long I think lightning had also started as well as there was certainly a lot of noise going on down there. The next day was not a pleasant one. I decided that exotic eating was not for me, and I should stick to a plain mountain diet in future. Perhaps the grazing isn't always better on the other side of the gate. There is something to be said for eating wholesome plain food. On a positive note, I'm sure the owners of the garden were delighted with our work, when they returned home.

The lambs are all growing up so quickly and soon find their independence, especially the young rams. They don't stay around long as it seems to be a tradition that they go on a lads' holiday. The problem is that once they have a taste of the high life they rarely return. I was born on Halkyn Mountain and have lived all my life here without straying from it, so geography is not my strong point. However, I do know of places where other sheep have once lived such as Northop, Cilcain and even Abergele. From what I know, the ram lambs go on holiday to Abertwa. Wherever that is it must be a great place given that they stay permanently. Only the other day I was chatting to Esme the oldest ewe in our flock, she confided that she had heard that Abertwa was only a stopping off place for the destinations of Iceland and Tesco. It was a little strange that she spoke to me in hushed tones but given my poor geographical knowledge, I didn't admit that while I had heard of Iceland, I have no idea where Tesco is. It doesn't sound local so perhaps it is near to Iceland or it could even be a remote Scottish island.

When you next see us grazing on the mountain, remember my words here and that our lives are rarely quiet and simple. We sheep experience so many different adventures (such as the above fine dining experience). With there being so many of us, at any given time there is always a sheep in need of help in some way or another. We also have plenty of fun activities, but these only take place when we are sure there are no humans in the vicinity.

You may have seen Barbara on the mountain. You can identify her by her pronounced limp. You might assume she had missed her footing or got her ankle caught in the gorse, but truthfully, it was the result of her defending her title as backflip champion. After holding the title for three summers, she landed badly and lost the title in the process. Poor Barbara, it was her pride that suffered most. Very few of us have the courage to attempt backflips as it is amazingly difficult to right yourself should you land on your back and find yourself up-

side down. I suspect that many of you humans have the same problem. If in the middle of the night recently you are awoken by loud bleating then I apologise on behalf of the flock, we were probably just cheering Barbara on.

There is talk on the mountain of an appetite from more daring activities. Walking the barbed wire tightrope has been mentioned as well as cattlegrid rolling. I don't like the sound of either. Even if a less adventurous sheep doesn't feel like taking part in activities, there is always much to watch. Personally, I am fascinated by humans walking up and down with noisy contraptions which nibble grass at an alarming speed. I suspect humans have poor teeth and are unable to tear the grass themselves, so use the machine to collect it for them to eat indoors.

As I prepare my thoughts for this edition of Halkyn Mountain News, I am sitting in the light of the full moon – the brightest for a while. It is always nice to gaze at the moon and wonder how many other sheep across the land are doing the same. Yes, life on the mountain is always interesting.

May you never get foot rot and always have clover.

Bye for now

Blodwen

Blodwen lives on Moel y Gaer

Saving Six Minutes

The expressway is closed, say the bold yellow signs
They are fixing, bewitching, the electricity lines
And now the AI Google map can give
It's algorithmic alternative

It sends 15 hundred cars per hour
Down single track lanes where drivers glower
At holiday traffic nose to tail
And it slowly dawns on them how systems fail

These quaint narrow lanes are required to provide
A work around route from either side
From west to east as well as east to west
Simultaneous alternatives jam in a mess

And while drivers turn or zig-zag reverse
The farmer lets out a frustrated curse
The usual traffic is stuck in the field
Unable to offload the milk that they yield

She has got thirty frustrating reasons
To get back her road - and all of them Friesians
The drivers with satnavs, in all innocence
Are trapped by artificial incompetence

Steve Blakesley © September 2025



HOLYWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Following on from the resounding success of the first History Fair in June, we are proposing to host another one around Easter next year. We are sure that, as we have proved our worth, we will attract even more local history groups to take part. We had twelve groups at the June Fair, and we know there are many more out there who we're sure will be happy to show what they are doing to preserve the history of their area.

Representatives of our Reminiscing Group visited Llys Gwenffrwyd residential home in Holywell recently and had a great time sharing some of our archives and publications. According to the feedback from the activities organiser, the residents haven't stopped asking when we'll be visiting again. We have also been contacted by Rhuwlas, a care home in Flint. The mother of one of our members lives there and has recommended that we come along and share our Flintshire archives with the residents. As we've said before, we truly appreciate the value of reminiscence, especially for those living with dementia or Alzheimer's. Familiar images and memories can often prompt conversation, recognition, and connection — and it's always a privilege to be part of that process.

On the other end of the age scale, we have forged links with the Head of Humanities at Holywell High School, Siobhan Henry, who is as passionate as we are about local history and keen to bring her students on our history walks around the town. She has, for some time, wanted to form a history club at the school - she said that we have now inspired her to go forward with that venture, and hopes that we would be able to come into the school to give talks to the students on the history of the town. Siobhan was kind enough to gift us some of the logbooks from the school - handwritten by the headmaster at the time, the late Mr Richards. Sadly, some of the logbooks have been lost in the transition from the old school to the new but she thankfully managed to salvage others and was glad to find a permanent home for them.

As the summer has come to a close, we are now turning our thoughts to putting together our next Olde Holywell calendar. This year our theme is old and new, and we hope to find a selection of photographs of areas of Holywell from years gone by and pair them with a recent photograph of the same area. This is a popular historical theme for calendars and we hope it will sell as well as last year's calendar. Throughout autumn we aspired to sign up to attend local Christmas Fairs, the perfect event to promote our calendars and Christmas cards, which also sold very well last year.

We are pleased to report that our new relationship with Greenfield Valley has got off to a promising start with regards to sales of our three books; the children's book on the history of Holywell and the two books on Growing up in Greenfield Valley and Bryn Celyn, written by our member Cynthia Roberts. We also have a stall in Nexus Creative Spaces, a pop-up shop in Holywell town centre that promotes art and craftwork made by local people, run by Martin Evans, who is working hard to help local businesses in the town. All of our merchandise, and details of where to purchase, can be found on our website <https://hollywellreminiscing.wixsite.com/historical-society>.

The Holywell Reminiscing Group continues to meet every Tuesday morning at Holywell Leisure Centre (10:00-12:00). If you would like to come along and browse our archives and join us for a cuppa and a biscuit, we would love to see you. For those who are not available to come to the meetings, we have our Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2256532077884382>. We now have over 1,500 members, and the page is regularly updated with members' stories and photographs.

Our archives are available to view on appointment, and we're always grateful for any donations of memorabilia in connection with Holywell and the surrounding areas. Please contact us for more information at hollywellreminiscinggroup@gmail.com.

Following on from the success of the Family History for Beginners course, we are now thinking of setting up a Family History group in Holywell library, possibly one evening a month. A place to meet other family historians in the area, to share stories and to help each other with research. If you'd like further information on this, or have any other enquiries about family history, contact Donna Coulson dcfamilyhistoryhub@gmail.com.



Coffee Mornings – Rhosesmor

It's seventeen years since someone suggested having Monday coffee mornings. I'm told that Lynne Banks, Connie Jones and Sue Laurence worked hard, serving drinks and biscuits to everyone, to get the fortnightly event off the ground. Lynne took the reins to co-ordinate volunteers and purchase everything necessary to hold a good coffee morning, including raffle prizes, tea, sugar, coffee and milk. I was still employed seventeen years ago and couldn't attend, but, when I was made redundant, I soon decided to join everyone at Rhosesmor Village Hall for the coffee mornings. On average about 25 to 30 people enjoy meeting and chatting with old and new friends, catching up with the news on the mountain, not to mention the refreshments.



Lynne continues to manage the project. Lana Edwards, Gill King, Penny Manning and Tracey McVey have all served their apprenticeships with Lynne and are regularly preparing and serving refreshments as well as selling raffle tickets. Although the original aim of the coffee morning was to offer something to members of the community, somewhere along the way it has been donating large amounts to charities as you can see below.

Macmillan and Marie Curie	£4,740
British Heart Foundation	£100
Cancer Research	£350
Papyrus	£75
St Kentigern	£70
Wales Air Ambulance	£90
Local Charities	£325
MND, MIND, RNLI, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Blind Veterans	£500
Total	£6,250

A wonderful achievement I'm sure you'll agree. The huge total donated to various charities would never have been achieved without the volunteers. Thank you so much Lynne for leading your team so effectively and serving the visitors. Thanks also to Connie, Sue, Lana, Gill, Penny and Tracey for all your hard work.

If you feel like a coffee or tea, good company, a chin wag on a Monday morning (look for the sign on the hall fence displayed during the previous week, to find out when the coffee morning is) come along at 10.30am, you'll be very welcome, only £1 entry.

Update on Rhys

After our feature in the last issue on Rhys Kelso doing his silver Duke of Edinburgh Award, we thought we would update you on the progress being made.

Rhys is still working towards his silver award but sometimes feels he is not getting as much support from the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme as he would like. He is thoroughly enjoying the voluntary work he is doing with Lynn Fernhead and Natalie Griffiths. He has completed the research in the graveyard and has made all amendments necessary to the paper records. Lynn is now inputting the information from the typed paper copy with the amendments onto computer. This will help enormously in the future when people are researching their family tree. Natalie is producing a pamphlet on the work done, and what they found out, to display in the church.

Rhys has now extended his volunteering and is doing more research into the war graves, especially of those who are mentioned on memorial stones in the graveyard, but not named on the war memorial.

He has found out about a local man, who served in the navy during the second world war. The ship he was on was torpedoed and a bomb that the ship was carrying was hit. The bomb exploded, the ship and crew were blown up.

He enjoys all the research, finding out about the different stories linked to the people named on the gravestones. He uses different websites and combines the information to get the complete story.

He thinks he will be doing it for a long time - the more he finds out the more there is to find out.

Wendy Sigsworth

Halkyn and District Bowling Club

As we reach Autumn, another bowling season draws to a close. It was another year enjoyed by the members of Halkyn Bowling Club.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate Wyn and his Veterans A team who followed up promotion last season with winning promotion again this season, and will next season be in Division 2. Their promotion battle went to the last game where they played their promotion rivals New Brighton B. They won the game 7-3 to take 2nd place in the league, by 1 point. It couldn't have been closer!

The Veterans B team continued to introduce new players to league bowling. The start of the season saw a number of players moving up from the B team to the A team, which is great to see. The team remained competitive and had lots of fun throughout the season.

The Midweek team had a steady season finishing in the middle of the table. Individually, Mick Carpenter finished top of the merit rankings (the player with the most wins) for both the Veterans A and the Midweek teams. Eirlys Edwards finished top for the Veterans B. As well as being the clubs merit winner, Mick was also overall top player in Division 3 of the Veterans league, only losing one game all season. Well done Mick!



2025 Singles

Throughout the season we met every other weekend at the green to play bowls. Alongside the fun games we play, this season saw the reintroduction of competitive competitions with both a singles and doubles event being competed for. In the singles event, Eirlys Edwards triumphed over Wayne Williams. In the doubles, Wayne Williams and Ian Bethel overcame Julie Lewis and Wyn Lewis.



2025 Doubles

In our traditional curtain call, the annual Ladies vs Gents match was held before we closed the green for the winter. The theme for this year's costumes was VJ day to mark the 80th anniversary. Soldiers, pilots, land girls, revellers and even Sir Winston Churchill attended. This year the Gentlemen will hold the bragging rights after winning a close match.

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 halkynbc@gmail.com or call either Pat (01352 781057) or Andy (07917 714379). The club also has a Facebook page and this can be found at www.facebook.com/HalkynBowls.

Happy bowling!



2025 Ladies v Gents



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 are welcome; £3 per meeting; Members free.

Forthcoming Events:-

Tuesday 24th February

Bugs and Slugs, Spots and Rots by John Scrace

John is a freelance plant pathologist from Shrewsbury. This talk examines some of the more common and damaging garden pests and diseases, along with their management strategies. Items covered include lily beetle, vine weevil, potato & tomato blight, horse chestnut tree problems, honey fungus, and slugs & snails. All John's talks are presented in a light-hearted way.

Tuesday 24th March

On the Shady Side by Jill Cawthray

Jill has a degree in environmental sciences and much experience in conservation and education, having worked for the Field Studies Council and Shropshire Wildlife Trust and through teaching geography and the environment in several schools and colleges. She also has a formal horticulture qualification with the RHS Advanced Certificate. She runs Chicken Street Plants Nursery with her husband Andy, in Oswestry. Plants for sale.

Tuesday 14th April

What Have Plants Done for Us? by Tracy Foster

Chelsea Gold Medal Winning Garden Designer Tracy Foster has a degree in plant biology and has worked as a mentor and director for the Society of Garden Designers. She has written a book on gardening in retirement and runs garden design workshops for the RHS as well as working as a botanical tour guide and running her garden design business in Leeds.

Information: 01352 781458 (leave a message)
email: clwydgroup@hardy-plant.org.uk
www.facebook.com/HPSClwyd
www.hardy-plant.org.uk/clwyd

Rhosesmor WI



This year marks the 110th birthday of the first WI to be established in the UK. The original WI was founded in Ontario Canada in 1897. It only took 18 years to cross the Atlantic, when Llanfair PG in Sir Mon was the first in the UK to start their own WI. There are approximately 6,300 WIs in the UK now with a membership of about 220,000 women. Over the years members have taken part in all sorts of activities including drama, craft, cooking, day coach trips, holidays, running food distribution centres, to name but a few. Campaigning is something they have thrown themselves into since its establishment supporting women's rights, environmental issues, support for carers and many more. There is really something for everyone in the WI.

Each member receives news magazines throughout the year. In a recent one a WI member was highlighted, as she too is celebrating her 110th birthday this year. She still lives independently, enjoys working in her garden, helping out in the community, including assisting with the local toddler group. Now I'm not saying that being a member of a WI keeps you active, but it's food for thought.

In September we held a Knit and Natter evening when everyone swapped patterns of small cuddly toys. Members are going to make some toys to be put in the Christmas shoe box scheme being run from St Paul's Church. Members have also donated lots of articles to help fill the boxes.

We had a very interesting demonstration from Matthew of Tigermuffin soaps in October.

The AGM and quiz will be in November as well as the first of our Christmas parties. We'll be making refreshments at the Rhosesmor Christmas Fair. Of course, in true WI style we'll have our Christmas parties with choir and carol singing.

We meet the second Monday afternoon of the month and new members will be very welcome.

Contact me or any member if you want more details, or just come along.

Wendy Sigsworth 01352 780394
wendysigsworth@gmail.com

Message from Hannah Blythyn MS

Recently in the Senedd I took part in a debate on the Draft Budget for 2026-27, which marks the start of the budget process for the next financial year – the Final Budget is due to be put before the Senedd in January and it's vitally important for Wales, not least because we're heading for a Senedd election in May and there is still a lot of work to do to tackle the lasting impact of more than a decade of cuts under previous UK governments. When it comes to the challenges we face and to inform the decisions we need to make, it's crucial that those who provide our services are front and centre. That's why I spoke about the importance of working together through social partnership, giving a real voice to those on the frontline of our public services. You can see many of my contributions in the Senedd on my Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HannahBlythyn.



When we returned to the Senedd following the summer, I raised the need to prioritise improvements and mitigating measures on the A55 in the Senedd, particularly around junction 32 where, sadly, a number of serious accidents have taken place this year. These incidents have a knock-on impact on our communities and for those visiting North Wales. A number of constituents have contacted me with their concerns, so it's welcome news that the Welsh Government has, among other things, allocated £30m of additional funding to ease congestion in North Wales – however, I will keep advocating for our area and pressing for improvements.

Since my last Halkyn Mountain News column, we have seen the introduction of the Bus (Services) Bill in the Senedd – this landmark legislation will help to bring about the transformation of bus travel so that it serves our people and places rather than profits. In practice, the Bus Bill will mean one joined-up network, with one timetable and tickets that can be used across the network on buses and trains and it will allow publicly-run bus companies to provide services that are shaped by our communities, allowing us all to have a greater say on which routes go where.

The introduction of the Bus Bill comes on the back of the Welsh Government's new MyTravelPass scheme, which allows 16 to 21-year-olds to pay just £1 for a single bus journey or travel all day for £3 – the latest figures show that 26,000 young people have applied for the pass since its launch in Sep-

tember. Schemes like this really do make a difference and help to open up opportunities for young people, as well as support routes which otherwise might be under threat, linking our communities across North Wales. I also raised with the Welsh Government the need for better digital displays at bus stations to make public transport even more accessible and attractive for everyone. If you would like to find out more or apply for your MyTravelPass, visit <https://mytravelpass.tfw.wales>.

In recent months I've been trying to get out and about as much as possible here at home including continuing my street surgeries, where I can talk to people about the issues they care about in the places they live.

It's so important to talk to local people in my job as your representative and these street surgeries are a good way to engage people who wouldn't normally come into my office. If you have an issue you would like to discuss with me, whether it's transport, education, health, housing or something else, then please get in touch and I will do all I can to help you. I also hold regular face-to-face, phone or online help and advice sessions – feel free to get in touch with my office to arrange an appointment using the contact details at the bottom of this column.



**Hannah Blythyn MS at
Mold Bus Station**

Earlier in the autumn I popped into the Holywell and Area Community Museum on the high street in Holywell to catch up with John Wiltshire and I was back there again recently to attend the unveiling of the model coal mine – the model mine featured in the new series of the BBC's *The Repair Shop* recently. My thanks to John for inviting me – the model was made by his grandfather in 1904 and he needed some help to get it working again so it could take up its place at the centre of the Point of Ayr Colliery exhibition. Like many in our area, I have family who worked at the Point of Ayr colliery – including my Taid and my Uncle – so I'd like to once again pay tribute to John who has been instrumental in ensuring that our heritage is recognised and remembered. You can see John on *The Repair Shop* at www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002kw0z.

Regular readers will know that I like to champion some of our excellent local food and drink producers – our corner of North East Wales has a lot to offer in terms of food and farming, and our great food and drink festivals and the Denbigh and Flint Show showcase some of our best local products.

In the autumn I had the chance to drop in to Cariad Gin at the Clwydian Range Distillery near Halkyn Mountain to sample some of their drinks. Run by Fiona and Simon Lewis, the distillery makes gin and other drinks using a traditional copper still and carefully-chosen and prepared botanicals and infusions. The family-run firm also do a delicious coffee liqueur which is well worth seeking out – it could be a good one for Christmas! I also had the chance to meet the tortoises roaming around in the gardens, the tortoise being the company's logo.

As a member of the Senedd's Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee, I often speak on the subject of animal welfare and during the summer I pressed on the next steps towards phasing out greyhound racing in Wales, so it was good to see the first draft of the legislation banning greyhound racing published in recent weeks. The Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill makes it an offence to use a stadium or similar venue for greyhound racing and also makes it an offence to be involved in organising greyhound racing in Wales. This Bill reflects growing recognition that greyhound racing is incompatible with modern animal welfare standards. I've long campaigned for legislation on greyhound racing, joining the RSPCA in their calls for the sport to be banned – according to the organisation, 2,700 greyhounds were killed and more than 26,500 were injured from greyhound racing in Britain between 2018 and 2023.

Finally, as we're truly in winter now, if you're struggling to keep up with your energy bills and are with British Gas, you might be interested in the company's Energy Support Fund. The fund offers support of up to £2,000 this winter if you have energy debt on your pre-payment meter or through your credit account. Even if you're not a British Gas customer, you might also find support from the British Gas Energy Trust, which provides those struggling with energy debt with up to £1,700 regardless of which supplier you are with. You can find information on both schemes at www.britishgas.co.uk/energy/help-with-bills/british-gas-energy-support-fund.html.

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, if you prefer, by email hannah.blythyn@senedd.wales. If you use social media, you can also keep up to date via my Facebook page – www.facebook.com/HannahBlythyn. 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.

Halkyn Mountain Cinema Update Winter 2025

Hello again.

We screened the excellent **A Complete Unknown** on Saturday 6th September. What a great film this is - superb acting and singing! When the audience left, they were still humming the tunes. We also had the help of some new volunteers who joined us for the first time for this screening - their assistance in equipment set-up/take-down, as well as in running the event, is invaluable!

Our November film is **Mr Burton (on 22nd November)**, telling the story of young Rich Jenkins, and his mentor and teacher Philip Burton, and how Rich becomes Richard Burton. It is, of course, filmed in South Wales, and stars Harry Lawtey as Richard, alongside Toby Jones (as Philip Burton) and Lesley Manville.



MR. BURTON

And what better way to welcome in the new year than with a full-on cinema blockbuster? **On 10th January 2026 we will be showing Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning.** This is the follow-on film to the Mission Impossible edition we showed in January 2024, and is meant to be the final act! Let's see if Tom Cruise can save the world again!



Check our Facebook page or look out for the posters popping up for more information.

As usual, refreshments will be available and tickets will go on sale two or three weeks prior to the screening from www.mountaincinema.org.uk or www.facebook.com/halkynmountaincinema

*Rob Hughes, Chair
Halkyn Mountain Community Cinema*



Remembrance Day Services



The main Remembrance Day Service on the mountain was held in Rhes-y-Cae Church this year. The service was followed by a short laying of wreaths services at Rhes-y-Cae, Rhosesmor and Halkyn War Memorials. The war memorials and church entrances have information displays about those named on the individual war memorials as well as a colourful show of poppies. The ladies from the craft group had been working extremely hard during the year making poppies to display on the wall next to the war memorial at Rhes-y-Cae Church. They had made hundreds of poppies and painstakingly fastened them onto garden netting. I hope everyone has seen the wonderful tribute. Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed.

Brynley Davies who has done so much to organise and collect for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal on the mountain is retiring from the role. I don't know how long Brynley has been running the appeal in this area for, but we are grateful to him for all the hard work he has put in and the dedication he has shown. Thank you, Brynley.

The Royal British Legion are still appealing for new members as the membership of the local legion is now down to five. You don't have to be ex-military to join, and the main task of the year would be selling poppies. If you would like to assist contact me and I shall give you more information, Wendy Sigsworth 01352 780394.



Christ Church, Rhes-y-Cae

Previous Events

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Summer Coffee Morning on Tuesday, 15th July and our Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday, 8th October.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, 2nd December - our annual Coffee and Mince Pies
To be held in the Village Hall, 10.30 am to noon

Friday, 12th December- Christmas Cocktails with Criad Gin
To be held in the Village Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm

The proceeds for this evening to go towards the roof repairs at Christ Church

Dorothy Reece, Treasurer, Christ Church

Rhosesmor Events

Into the late summer our social events in the village continued with gusto.

On the 26th September the customary display of cakes was on offer for Macmillan Coffee Morning, where £421.41 was raised. The following day Freda Rock and family had their customary Macmillan day and raised over £1,600.00. What a splendid turnout for Macmillan.



Spirits were raised by the cheerful talent of the Rock Choir inside the church. A short pause in the rush of time through our busy lives.

The Cottage Crafts afternoon reminded our sheep farming community of days gone by with strawberry teas, weaving and spinning wool, lavender bags and corn dollies, all bringing us together in a joyful and neighbourly get together, while the children created their bug hotels in the open area around the tree stumps, and their Christmas card competition was on display in the church.



Soon after, the church was again filled with the melodies of the 93rd Minute folk group which took us through events on our shores and beyond marking key happenings in social history. 93rd Minute are a small folk group of considerable talent and knowledge. A folk night with a difference. Money was raised for the Endometriosis Foundation.

Continuing the varied theme of our village entertainment we crept towards winter in November with an evening of Melt's haunting tales and now we await the celebration of our bonanza Christmas Fair.

Rhosesmor Events (Cont'd)

Such is the reputation of the warm, festive welcome in Rhosesmor, we have been inundated with demand for stalls and for the first time have branched out to the church where you will find Santa and his elf in the grotto. You can be refreshed by the Women's Institute cake and coffee corner and plenty of games for the children to play, plus a variety of items for sale and a raffle. Back in the hall shoppers will be treated to Mike Kennedy's award-winning burgers and sausages, teas and coffees and a record number of stalls with all the customary variety of Rhosesmor Christmas Fair.



To round off the year's programme of events, on 5th December, in St Paul's, Côr Cilcain are to lead us into the festive period with a lively menu of seasonal harmonies, 7pm for 7.30pm, again with raffle and refreshments and entry as usual by donation.

Thank you to all in the village who together enable us to bring together these events, and a special thank you goes to 'Nick's Cheese and Meat Stall' in Mold market, for his constant support by supplying us with such delicious cheese and bacon free of charge.



Rhosesmor Village Hall Diary

Weekly

- Monday** -14:00 Art Group (WI)
- 15:00-15.45 Mobile Post Office
Tuesday - 14:00 Art Group 18:30 Pilates
Wednesday - 11:00 Tai Chi 19:00 Dungeons & Dragons
Thursday - 09:00 Mums and Tots (Term time)
- 19:00 Yoga

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 Wednesday - 10:00 Craft Club
3rd Saturday - 10:00 Jewellery/Crafting Workshops

Six Weekly

- Saturday** - 12:00 Board Gaming Group

We have availability for regular bookings, both in the Main Hall and in the Committee Room. Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday afternoons/evenings, Thursday afternoons, Friday mornings/afternoons as well as some Saturdays/Sundays are available for Parties/Workshops/Group Meetings. Please contact Jon Tarry 01352 780842 to enquire/book.



Cofrestrwch eich lle heddiw
Register your place today.

Cylch Meithrin Plws Treffynnon

Dechrau deg
Cylch
Clwb Cinio
Meithrin Plws



Rydym yn agored/ We are open
Dydd Llun - Dydd Gwener
Monday - Friday
8.45yb/am - 2.45yb/pm
2 oed/year olds- 4 oed/year olds



Pam na allwch chi ddod hebio neu fyned o'r ffôn atom am ragor o wybodaeth. Gweler beth mae ein llyfdd cyfeillgar yn ei gynnig.

Why not pop in or phone us for more information. See what our friendly setting has to offer.

Ebost:

pwylgormudiadtreffynnon@gmail.com

Ffon: 07484905714



The most memorable days usually end with the dirtiest clothes.

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Potiau Siocled Pum Munud

Cynhwysion

200g (8 owns) ddarnau o Siocled tywyll
Hanner Llwy de o rin fanila a pinsiad o halen
Tua 300ml (hanner pint) hufen sengl
1 wy mawr
6-8 dysgl ramecin

Dull

1. Cymysgwch y Siocled, fanila a'r pinsiad halen a chwisg drydan.
 2. Rhowch yr hufen mewn sosban a'i gynhesu nes ei fod yn dechrau bewi.
 3. Tynnwch oddi ar y gwres a'i dywallt dros y siocled.
 4. Ychwanegwch yr wy, cymysgwch i'r cymysgedd a llwy a tywalltwch y cymysgedd i'r dysglau.
 5. Gadewch iddynt oeri yn yr oergell am 3 awr.
 6. Addurnwch gyda mefus neu fafon.
- Mwynhewch dros y Nadolig

Five Minute Chocolate Pots

Ingredients

200g (8ozs) pieces of dark chocolate
Half teaspoon vanilla essence, a pinch of salt
Approx 300ml (half pint) single cream
1 large egg
6-8 ramekin dishes

Method

1. Mix chocolate, vanilla and pinch of salt with an electric whisk.
 2. Put the cream in a saucepan and heat until it starts to boil.
 3. Remove from the heat and pour over the chocolate.
 4. Add the egg, mix into mixture with a spoon. Pour the mixture into the dishes.
 5. Leave to cool in fridge for 3 hours.
 6. Decorate with strawberries or raspberries.
- Enjoy as a Christmas treat!!

Menna Coleclough

Children's Spring Writing Competition

Open to pupils of Lixwm, Brynford & Rhos Helyg County Primary Schools

We are holding a Spring Writing Competition

Theme: *Spring – let your imagination bloom!*

Competition Details:

We are asking you to write a short story or poem inspired by the season of Spring. Your work could be about new life, flowers, Easter, sunny days, and anything else that reminds you of Spring! Pieces should be up to 500 words long. Details of prizes and how to enter appear below.

Prizes:

Winner: £50 Book Token/Voucher
Runners-up: £25 Book Token/Voucher each

Deadline for entries:

1st February 2026

How to enter:

Please submit your entry either direct to us on the email address below or via your local school – they have full details.

For entries or more information, please contact: newsforhmn@gmail.com



Ysgol Rhos Helyg News Report Winter 2025

Ysgol Rhos Helyg Find us on Facebook. Also please check out our website: ysgolrhoshelyg.com

We have once again been very busy at Rhos Helyg. We would like to share with you a flavour of the things that have happened since our last article.

Our Free Community Café is generally held on the third Friday of each month between 10am and 11.30am during term time and is well attended. Everyone is very welcome to attend for a cuppa and a cake and a chat!

Community Café

Our Community Café started in October last year and has recently celebrated its first birthday. It is proving to be very popular.

Community Café Dates

14th November

12th December



St Paul's Church

The pupils have been busy designing Christmas cards for the church competition. Viv kindly visited the school to bring prizes to the winners.

Their designs will be made into Christmas cards and sold at the church.



Cemex

We were grateful to Cemex for visiting the school recently. The pupils enjoyed 'driving' the lorry.



Cello

Pupils in Year 3, 4 and 5 receive weekly cello lessons. Here are some of the Year 3 pupils during their first lesson!

Macmillans Cake Sale



The children were really excited to be able to support this incredible charity whilst enjoying a lovely cake.

Sheep Visitor

We have had two frequent visitors to school this term. Everytime the school gate is left open the sheep are in.....enjoying our apples from our fruit trees and the grass.

They are even trying to come inside



Library Van

The children always look forward to their visit to the Library Van. Choosing a book is so much fun.

Play Flintshire

Pupils in Years 3 and 4 enjoyed a silent disco provided by Play Flintshire. The educational disco contained a music quiz. It was lots of fun.



Continued on the next page

Welsh Water

Welsh Water delivered an assembly to the pupils on water usage and how we could save water. The children liked participating in the demonstrations.



The assembly was followed by practical activities demonstrating how we can save water.

Science and Technology

Pupils in Years 5 and 6 have been investigating Cogs. They have successfully built toys that work using a cog system.



Garden Maintenance

Pupils in Years 3 and 4 have been tidying up their garden before winter.



Halloween Disco

The children had a fabulous time. They loved dressing up and their costumes were amazing and a little scary. Thank you to the PTA for organising.



The Churches of Halkyn and Rhosesmor

St Paul's Church, Rhosesmor was built in 1874 for the increasing mining population of Rhosesmor, Pant y Go, Berth Ddu and Wern y Gaer which had previously worshipped in Northop. Much of the stone came from a quarry on the side of Moel y Gaer.

St Mary's Church, Halkyn was built two years later mainly as a church where the Duke of Westminster and his house guests in the castle could worship. Large quantities of Halkyn marble were used in the erection of this building. It replaced the old church which was in the grounds of Halkyn Castle.

St Paul's church was built at a cost of £1,700 whilst St Mary's cost £23,000, a big difference in cost due to the fact one was built for miners whilst the other was built to impress the aristocracy.

Concert at St Paul's Church, Rhosesmor – Saturday, 28th March 2026 - 7pm

After the second successful Youth Concert earlier this year it seems to have become an annual event with the next concert to be held on the 28th March 2026. As usual we will be giving young musicians living in, or connected to the local area, the opportunity to perform in a warm and friendly environment. If you know any young musician, playing any instrument, or singers, solo or performing with others, we would like to hear from you as soon as possible. We are not expecting perfection, we are more interested in enthusiasm and commitment. We are also looking for anyone who would like to compere the evening or assist with the organisation and keep the show moving. Performers will be expected to attend a meeting in the church previous to the event.

If you would like to come along and enjoy the concert, it starts at 7pm and I know you won't be disappointed. There will be light refreshments and a raffle. Money raised during the evening will be divided between some local charities.

Wendy Sigsworth



Traddodiadau Teuluol dros y nadolig

Gyda phrysurddeb a bwrlwm y Nadolig yn nesâu, mae'n hynod o bwysig arddel hen draddodiadau Cymraeg megis 'Y Fari Lwyd' a chanu Plygain er mwyn cynnal a chadw ein hunaniaeth a sicrhau bod y traddodiadau pwysig, unigryw hyn yn parhau i'r dyfodol. Ond, teimlaf ei bod hi'n bwysig hefyd arddel traddodiadau teuluol yn ystod yr wyl. Un o traddodiadau ni, fel teulu yw cerdded hen lwybrau chwarel Dinorwig. Cafodd fy ngŵr, Gareth ei eni a'i fagu yng nghysgod y llechi duon mewn pentre' bach o'r enw Deiniolen, neu Llanbabo i rai! Ar Ddydd San Steffan, yn fuan yn bora, byddem yn gyrru ar hyd A55 distaw hyd at Ddinorwig - parcio wedyn yn Marchlyn cyn mynd ati i lenwi ein bolia gyda brechdana Twrci a mins peis - heb anghofio, wrth gwrs y fflasg o goffi drwy lefrith. Cychwyn arni wedyn gyda'r cŵn, Twm a Moi. Mae Dinorwig yn wirioneddol anhygoel ac yn fy ngadal, bob amser yn gegrwth. Tra'n llygadrythu ar yr Wyddfa yn ei gogoniant, byddaf wastad yn teimlo mor, mor fach! A bob tro, bydd Gar' yn gofyn - 'Ti'n ei gweld hi?' gan gyfeirio, wrth gwrs at Arglwyddes neu Ledi yr Wyddfa - sef creigiau sy'n ffurfio gwyneb dynol ar llethrau'r mynydd. Methodd Mam Gar ei gweld hi er iddo pwyntio ati - ond wedi meddwl tynnu ar Gar odd Marian Wyn. Wrth gwrs fe welodd hi yr Arglwyddes hardd - a hitha di cael ei mhagu mewn tyddyn bach yn y pentre'.

Tra'n cerdded yn dow-dow drwy'r chwarel, mae'n amhosib peidio meddwl am yr holl weithwyr yn gweithio o fore gwyn ta'n nos am nesa peth i ddim - a hynny dan amodau heriol dros ben. Mi roedd Taid Gareth, Lewis Lewis yn gweithio yn y chwarel. Bywyd caled, oer a thlawd odd bywyd chwarelwr. Mae gwastraff diwydiannol yno o hyd a'r tomeni llechi fel cewri hagr wedi eu plygu yn eu cryman yn dyst i'r caledi a fuodd.

Pen y daith inni bob tro yw Llyn Llanber! Coffi yn fano a sbio allan ar y dŵr sydd bob tro yn llonydd fel drych anferth. Does 'na nulle fel chwarel Dinorwig yn enwedig ar ôl holl brysurddeb y Dolig! Ond yn bwysicach na hynny, pwysig yw cadw traddodiadau teuluol yn fyw!! Mae'n dod â phawb at ei gilydd ac yn ein hatgoffa o le da ni'n dod.

Geirfa / Vocab

Bwrlwm - excitement
Traddodiadau - traditions
Chwarel - quarry
Llechi - Slates
Dydd San Steffan - Boxing Day
Anhygoel - amazing
Cegrwth - gobsmacked!!
Llygadrythu - stare
Tyddyn - smallholding
O fore gwyn tan nos - from morning until night
Cewri - giants
Pen y daith - the end of the journey
Drych anferth - a huge mirror

*(Chwarelwyr yn cael egwyl /
quarry men having a break)*



*(Chwarelwr wrth ei waith /
quarry man working)*



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 staff are DBS checked and qualified, all certificates are available to see. We welcome children from nursery age 2.5yrs up to year 8 in high school 14yrs.

Holiday club

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

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

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

Prices for Holiday Club only

£30 per child for a full day. £20 per child for half a day (until 1pm)

Opening times for After School Club only 3.10pm – 5.30pm Mon – Fri Term times only.

We have a large hall area where we enjoy; (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 Gemma Mcleod, Catherine Shine & Amanda Mcleod (Senior Playworkers) on 01352 780265 / 07591 239511

or check us out on Facebook [\(5\) Halkyn Mountain Kids After School Club/Holiday club | Facebook](#)

or email us on Halkynmountainkidsclub@gmail.com

or even visit our website at [Halkyn Mountain Kids Afterschool Club and Holiday Club | Ysgol Rhos Helyg](#)

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 Mon to Fri (between 9am and 5pm).

Weekly Diary

Monday **Over 50s club** - meet at the hall first Monday in the month: also monthly outings - contact Ron 01352 715723

Snooker Club 7pm (New members welcome - contact Andy Wood 01352 780159)

The Snooker Table is also available for hire - contact Colin Roberts 07934 669794

Post Office 4pm - 4.30pm

Tuesday **Zumba**

Wednesday **Charity Coffee Morning** 10.30am - 12pm - 1st Wednesday in the month

Ewe Can Craft - alternate Wednesday evenings 7pm-9pm - contact Rosie 07563 372440

Thursday **Halkyn WI** 2pm - 4pm

Clerical Error Border Morris Dancers 8pm - 10pm - contact Colin 07934 669794

Friday **Library** 1.30pm - 7pm

Saturday **Halkyn Mountain Quilters** - contact Elaine 07871 586942

Sound Therapy with Rachel - contact her on 07951 740112 for further information of dates & times

Heartfelt Craft Fairs 2026 Dates - Sat 21st March, Sat 20th June, Sat 21st November - 10am-3pm Free Admission



Holly and Ivy: Nature and Winter Traditions

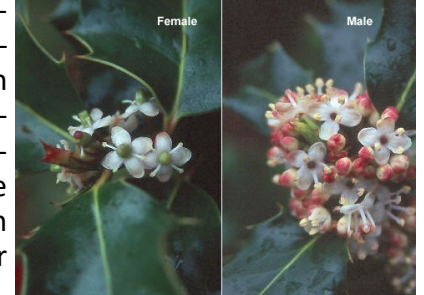


Holly, (Celyn, *Ilex aquifolium*) is an uncommon tree on Halkyn Mountain, unlike elsewhere. It is recognised by its evergreen glossy leaves which have sharp spines on the edges; these are thought to deter browsing animals. Higher up the tree you may notice that those leaves are often spineless. Have you ever wondered why some Holly trees never have berries? Holly trees



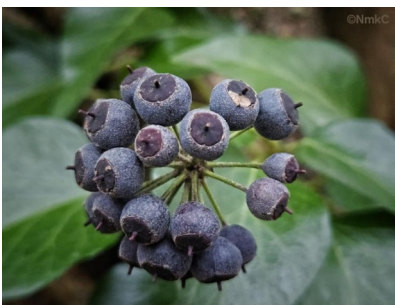
Holly Berries & Leaves

are dioecious, meaning that there are separate male and female trees. The sweet-smelling white flowers start to appear in May and are attractive to flying insects looking for pollen from the male trees, and nectar from the female ones. Only the female tree produces the red berries which are an important food for birds, especially winter visitors such as Fieldfares and Redwings.



Holly Female & Male

Ivy (Eiddew, *Hedera helix*) is naturally a woodland plant and is also uncommon on Halkyn Mountain. It has two growth forms; one sends shoots along the ground and the other is a woody climber, both forms have 3/5-lobed leaves. The climbing form grows fine roots which secrete 'glue', sticking them to support structures. Ivy uses its own roots in the soil for nutrition and does no harm to trees but its weight can



Ivy Berries

overwhelm weak trees. Climbing Ivy spirals upwards seeking light, only then will it produce flowers on stout shoots of oval leaves. The pungent-smelling yellow-green flowers appear in September and are a late food source for insects. In November, berries ripen to blue-black and are a nutritious winter food for birds such as Thrushes and Blackbirds. The tangled stems of Ivy offer shelter to bats, small mammals and birds.



Ivy Flowers

"The Holly and the Ivy" is a popular Christmas Carol, the lyrics of which have been known since medieval times but were not published until the early 19th century. The melody we know today was collected in Gloucestershire, in 1909 by Cecil Sharp, an English folk song collector. The words of the Carol are symbolic, more suitable as an Easter song, referring to the 'Crown of Thorns' worn by Jesus Christ at his Crucifixion; the spiny leaves and red berries represent his suffering and bloodshed to save the world. Clinging Ivy represents the Virgin Mary devoted to God and her son Jesus.

Before Christianity, Holly and Ivy were long associated with Pagan traditions, such as those celebrating the Winter Solstice. Being evergreen, they were also thought to symbolise rebirth, the return of the light and the greening of the landscape in spring. Howling winter winds were thought to be ghosts and demons, people decorated their houses with Holly and Ivy to ward off these evil spirits. Decorative carvings, depicting Holly and Ivy, are to be found in churches dating from medieval times, showing that some Pagan values had become incorporated into Christianity.

Have a Merry Midwinter Celebration and a Peaceful and Healthy 2026!

Mavis Midgley
Halkyn Mountain Nature Conservation Group

For details of guided wildflower walks see:

<http://www.facebook/Halkynmountainconserv>



Ivy Leaves

Halkyn WI

Halkyn W.I. meet on Thursdays at 2.00pm, in Halkyn village hall. The first Thursday of each month is our main meeting, consisting of an interesting programme of guest speakers and outings, quizzes and other fun activities. The other Thursdays are reserved for our weekly craft group, who bring their own projects to work on over a cup of tea and a chat.



In September our guest speaker was Gill Wheeler from Mertyn Downing Honey in Whitford. While Gill gave an informative talk about the differing life cycles of the Queen, drone and worker bees, her husband Graham passed around samples of honey. The taste varied considerably, depending on where the hives are located throughout the area, and the plants growing there. We were also able to browse their products

which included beeswax candles, royal jelly, furniture wax, as well as the delicious honey.

We are a small, friendly group, and would welcome new members.

Anyone interested should contact Hazel Hughes (hazelhughes99@gmail.com) or Fiona Jones (fidoej3@talktalk.net), or just pop in and meet us. The first three meetings are free.



Rhosesmor Church Community Garden

As we move into Autumn and Winter our garden is still an array of colour. This is due to lots of regular deadheading and monthly weeding and tidying with our brilliant regular volunteers Gill, Pat and John who turn up in all weathers.



Lots of people come to sit and enjoy the peace of the garden, or to sit in the summer house, 'Y Bwthyn'. 'Y Bwthyn' is never locked, always open and available to all, to shelter from the weather, maybe with a hot drink from the machine in the church, or a change of scenery for the children to play games or pin up their drawings or colouring.



Everyone is welcome.

If you want to join us to help look after the garden phone Viv 07740 553601 🌻 🐛

Shoebox Appeal

A sincere thank you once again to our community for supporting our Christmas appeal this year. At a time when we are all gearing up for the festive period and all that it brings, we're always blown away by the generosity our mountain community shows to the two charities we support. These charities, especially at this time of year, remind us that spreading a little bit of joy goes a long way. The shoeboxes that



Teams4U will deliver to children in Ukraine, Moldova, Bosnia and Romania will mean the world to those who receive them. The selection boxes will be given to young carers at the group's NEWCIS support, and will, no doubt, raise a smile!

Thank you, as always.



Farmer's Diary

I signed off last time with concerns about what state the farm would be in when my son Hayden returned home from a week's holiday, after I had a disastrous first morning and him still in Manchester Airport. Luckily the farm was still in one piece, you'll be pleased to know, I had no more disasters. August was hot and dry but the cattle and lambs continued to thrive and grow, but by the end of the month rain was desperately needed as the grass was disappearing fast.



Wendy and I had a week away in mid-August to visit friends in North Yorkshire and we also ventured across the Wolds to East Yorkshire. To my amazement the harvest was completed by the 10th August, another consequence of the dry warm summer. A huge downside of the drought conditions materialised itself a few days later with huge moor and woodland fires just a few miles south of Whitby. I have always been a strong believer that moorlands need to be managed, but by the people who live and work there and not by so called environmentalists who have just left university and are still wet behind the ears. Small areas need to be controlled every eight or nine years to maintain young green areas that will break the fire. Locally I can see bracken and scrub building up in Berth Ddu and other areas around the mountain.

Another environmental topic that touched a nerve was people complaining about the low level of water in the rivers. We were in a drought situation and if there is no rain, no water gets in the rivers. We can't spare any water from the reservoirs because public demand for tap water is growing all the time. It is therefore obvious that rivers run low and any pollution, whether it is domestic, agricultural or road and industrial run off isn't diluted.

In September your 'farmer and his wife' went on tour. Having been asked to be at Amsterdam airport at 10am on 9th September, we travelled a long way around and flew to Copenhagen on 2nd September. We saw the sights in Copenhagen and journeyed by bus across the Oresund Bridge and tunnel to Malmo in Sweden. What a fantastic piece of engineering the bridge is. After returning to Denmark, we ventured by train to Hamburg taking in scenery, farming practices and another engineering feat. As we left one station, our train started rising uphill and into a corkscrew type track until we were looking down on the rooftops, almost like taking off in an aeroplane. Next thing, we were on a bridge crossing the Kiel canal which ships use to cut miles off their journey to travel

from the Baltic to the North Sea.

In the fields we hardly saw any animals but plenty of maize about so we can only assume the cattle are kept inside all the time. Not a hill in sight was another constant observation we made.

From Hamburg having seen the sights, another train, this time to Amsterdam. Fields through the Netherlands are as flat as a bowling green, and I'm not exaggerating. A lot of land is reclaimed from the sea and is intersected by drainage canals at regular intervals. We saw quite a lot of vegetables and plants growing in the fields on that leg of the journey.

Two nights in Amsterdam, and then a half hour train ride to our rendezvous at Schiphol Airport to meet our daughter, her husband David with their two dogs in tow. They were starting a new phase of their lives moving from the Netherlands to East Virginia for three years. We helped get the dogs and the luggage through the airport. The dogs travelled in the hold of the aeroplane they were flying on and were reunited again in Washington when their dogs came out on the luggage carousel.

We then brought their car home via the overnight ferry from Rotterdam to Hull. I did the whole trip without one paper ticket, everything was on the phone. Not bad for an olden. When we unpacked for our first night our all singing, all dancing, multi-pronged adapter for our phone charger fell into several bits. Luckily, we soon bought a new one for a few euros.

Since we got back some rain has come and we've made a bit more silage to replace that we had to use in August. Most of the lambs have been sold and the tups are back with the ewes, hopefully making babies.

Now at the end of October the temperature has dropped and the nights are drawing in. There's still plenty of grass, and the cattle are still in the fields. As far as I'm concerned, the winter has already been shortened by a month.

John Sigsworth

The Dee Estuary

The Dee Estuary is one of the most important estuaries in the UK for wildlife. It is recognised across the world for the part it plays in wildlife habitat. Over 120,000 waterfowl visit the estuary in a year and is internationally important for seven species. Otters, mink and seals are seen in the waters. It has world-wide importance for Atlantic salmon, freshwater pearl mussels and the European otter.

Councillor's Update – Winter 2025

It's been encouraging to see road crews hard at work across the ward in recent months, repairing many of the potholes and fully resurfacing areas too damaged to patch. Most of our local roads are now in good condition and ready for the winter months ahead. However, I'm aware that the **Halkyn to Rhes-y-Cae road** remains in a particularly poor state. I want to reassure residents that I'm continuing to press for funding to have this stretch properly repaired as soon as possible.

On a different note, I'm very proud to share that I recently tabled and successfully passed a motion at Flintshire County Council calling for support of **automatic prostate cancer testing for men over 50**. Prostate cancer remains one of the biggest killers of men. Yet current testing is only offered when symptoms appear — often not until **stage 3**, when treatment options are more limited and outcomes are sadly much poorer.

If detected early, at **stage 1**, the survival rate is almost 100% over ten years. However, that figure drops to around **18%** when diagnosis doesn't occur until **stage 4**. Following the unanimous passing of this motion, Flintshire County Council has now written to the Health Minister urging that a national screening programme be introduced across Wales. This could quite literally save lives, and I'll continue to advocate for its implementation. If you are over 50 and haven't had a test, I would urge you to speak to your GP to arrange one. A simple blood test could save your life.

As a councillor, difficult and often emotive, issues, do cross my desk from time to time. One such case this summer was the application to convert a residential property in **Calcoed** into a children's home. I can honestly say it was one of the matters that generated the most contact from residents during my time in office.

While I fully recognise the importance of providing safe, supportive accommodation for children in need of care, after listening carefully to local voices and reviewing the circumstances, I came to the conclusion that this particular location was not ideal. Calcoed is primarily a retirement community, and many residents felt that the proposal was out of character with the area. I referred the matter to the planning committee so that residents could express their concerns directly, and I spoke at length about the correspondence I had received.

Ultimately, the committee decided to approve the application, despite the objections raised. Although this wasn't the outcome many hoped for, I am confident that our community will, in time, extend a warm welcome to the children and staff who will soon call Calcoed home.

Another key issue I'll be keeping a close eye on is the **Cemex quarry expansion**. My initial observations suggest that the extension will have minimal additional impact beyond the current level of disruption, but I remain alert to any potential concerns. If you live nearby and notice any issues, or have feedback regarding the new boundaries, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Your input helps ensure that local voices remain central in these discussions.

As we move into the festive season, I know many of us are looking forward to Christmas across the mountain. There's plenty to look forward to — from community church services to the ever-popular Brynford Christmas Tractor Run. If you've never seen it before, make sure to visit **Brynford Village Green on 5th December** for a real treat. Local farmers decorate their tractors with twinkling lights and drive through the village — a magical sight that delights both children and adults alike.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**. Whatever your beliefs or traditions, I hope this festive season brings you joy, rest, and time spent with loved ones.

As always, if you need to get in touch with me about any local issue, please don't hesitate to contact me:

Email: Simon.Jones@flintshire.gov.uk

Phone: 07780 035388

Warm regards

*Clr Simon Jones
Flintshire County Council
Brynford and Halkyn Ward*



CYNGOR CYMUNED HELYGAIN HALKYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL Quarterly Report

Criminal Offences Reported Within the Community:

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

Berth Ddu: 1 x Criminal damage

Halkyn: 1 x Anti social behaviour / 1 x Other theft / 1 x Public order

Halkyn (The Catch): 1 x Public order / 1 x Violence

Pentre Halkyn: 3 x Criminal damage / 1 x Other theft / 2 x Public order / 4 x Violence

Rhes-Y-Cae: 1 x Anti social behaviour

Rhosesmor: 2 x Anti social behaviour / 1 x Other crime / 1 x Other theft / 4 x Violence

The Nant (A55): 2 x Burglary / 1 x Public order / 3 x Violence

Community Award:

Following nominations received from residents within the Halkyn Community Council area, the Community Award winners for 2025 were agreed as: Menna Coleclough (Individual) and Rhosesmor Tots (Alison Leonard & Sharon Broughton) Group award.

The Chair of Council, Councillor Delyth Taylor welcomed to the meeting the above named, and stated the following: Menna Coleclough: 'You have been awarded the individual award and your nominations form stated: That you had been a Committee Member of the Rhes-Y-Cae and Moel-Y-Crio Sheepdog Trials and Horse Show for many, many years. Through the Halkyn Mountain News you have kept the community informed about the show, the advertising, recording results – the list is endless. Menna also supports the mountain in many other ways and is a credit to the community'.

Alison Leonard and Sharon Broughton: 'You have been awarded the joint Community Award for your work with the Rhosesmor Tots. The nomination includes the following: In 2014 Alison Leonard and Sharon Broughton supported by St Paul's church, were able to begin Rhosesmor Tots, providing a supportive baby and toddler group for families to socialise together at minimum personal cost. You both have professionally and tirelessly provided a weekly link of care from birth to entry into Ysgol Rhos Helyg and elsewhere. Their enthusiasm is now as it was eleven years ago. Alison and Sharon have shown a vital sense of commitment to the community. Their teamwork has provided a safe haven for parents (and grandparents) to take a rest from the demanding task of childminding'.

Councillor Taylor further stated: 'Menna, Alison and Sharon on behalf of the Halkyn Community Council, we all thank you for your voluntary contribution to this area over a substantial period of time. Please accept these engraved crystal vases, bouquets of flowers and framed certificates – as appreciation from this Council together with the residents of the Halkyn Mountain area'.

(Alison and Sharon wish to thank both Lynn Fernhead and Jackie Blain for their kind assistance with the Rhosesmor Tots).



Request for Yellow Parking Restrictions:

Following concerns with inconsiderate, and on occasions, dangerous parking in the area of The Nant, the Community Council have asked County Councillor Simon Jones to investigate the installation of a Traffic Regulation Order (Yellow Lines). Flintshire County Council Highways will complete a survey to ascertain if the area in The Nant reaches the criteria for yellow lines. The County have a lengthy list of areas to survey and this request will be placed on file at the present time.

Chair of Halkyn Council Delyth Taylor presenting Menna Coleclough, Alison Leonard and Sharon Broughton with engraved crystal vases, bouquets of flowers and framed certificates

Concerns with Number of Road Traffic Incidents & Injuries on A55:

Councillor Brian Coleclough expressed his concerns with the high number of accidents that are occurring on the A55 in the area of The Nant and Pentre Halkyn, in general. A number of the accidents have resulted in the attendance of the emergency services, including the air ambulance. Media reports state that there have been serious injuries. These accidents not only block the A55, with traffic being gridlocked in the immediate area, but also cause congestion in the surrounding lanes as traffic seek a detour. Councillor Coleclough wished Mr Ken Skates MS, the Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales, to attend a site meeting. County Councillor Simon Jones agreed to make the arrangements for a site meeting.

Children's Play Area in Rhes Y Cae:

The Community Council have provided the sum of £5,000.00 towards a scheme to upgrade the children's play area in Rhes-Y-Cae. The work on equipment and additional safety aspects, has been completed at a cost of £10,000.00, with Flintshire County Council providing the other £5,000.00.

Children's Summer Play Scheme in Rhosesmor:

The Halkyn Community Councillors were pleased to receive the 2025 Summer Play Scheme report, which highlighted that a total of 305 attendances had been recorded over the six week period of the play scheme. The cost of the scheme was £4,406.40, with the Community Council agreeing to a 2026 Summer Play Scheme at a cost of £5,067.36 - an increase of £660.96.

Flintshire County Council (Street Scene):

The following concerns have been reported to Street Scene: (1) Cattle grid on B5123 road in Berth Ddu – is again rattling (2) Invasive plant known as Himalayan balsam is growing on the roadside near to the Nant Chapel, The Nant.

Planning Applications and Decisions:

The Community Council 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>.

Donations and Financial Support:

Since the last edition of the Halkyn Mountain News, the Halkyn Community Council have provided the following financial assistance: £250.00 - Urdd Gobaith Cymru (annual grant) / £500.00 - Nightingale House (annual grant).

Phillip Parry, Clerk to Halkyn Community Council

Tel: 01352 720547, E-mail: clerk@halkyn.org.uk, Website: www.halkyn.org.uk



Cyngor Cymuned Helygain Halkyn Community Council Council Budget Financial Year 2026 / 2027

At the Halkyn Community Council meeting to be held on Monday, 19th January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Halkyn Parish Hall, the Council will discuss and agree their budget for the financial year 2026 to 2027, which commences from the 1st April 2026.

Residents of the Halkyn Community Council area are invited to either attend the meeting or provide direct to any Community Councillor, or the Clerk, any suggestions for consideration to be included in the budget. Whilst the Council have limited powers to spend money under the various Wales Measure Acts and the national Local Government Acts, details of the Council's current objectives and financial aspects can be found in their End of Year Report that was advertised in a previous edition of the Halkyn Mountain News. This document is also currently displayed on the Council's web site - as below link (Page named Public Notices & Financial) scroll down page to 'Halkyn Community Council - End of Year Report – 2024 / 2025'. A pdf copy can also be obtained from the Clerk.

R. Phillip Parry (Clerk to Halkyn Community Council)

Tel: 01352 720547

E-mail: clerk@halkyn.org.uk

Website: www.halkyn.org.uk



Halkyn Cricket Club

The 1st XI completed a great season by finishing as runners-up in Division 1. Unfortunately, at the moment, promotion to the Premier League is not permitted due to the stringent ECB/North Wales Cricket League (NWCL) junior team criteria.

The 2nd XI also had a tremendous season, finishing in third position. Their promotion to Division 3 is awaiting confirmation from the NWCL.

The 3rd XI completed the club's success story by finishing in fourth place.

The club presentation night was held at the clubhouse following the last games on Saturday, 13th September. The club chairperson, Gareth Thomas, and Roger Bellis then presented trophies to the respective winners.

1st XI Batting	Nathan Roett	3rd XI Batting	Callum Ferguson
1st XI Bowling	Hammad Bajwa	3rd XI Bowling	Aaron Thomas
1st XI Player of the Season	Nathan Roett	Young Player of the Season	Callum Ferguson
2nd XI Batting	Callum Ferguson	Club Person of the Season	Keith Williams
2nd XI Bowling	Sam Hamilton		

Jack Hawkins won the NWCL 3rd XI East Division wicket-keeping award.

Senior Nets will commence on Sunday, 18th January at Holywell Leisure Centre between 2pm & 4pm. New players are welcome to join us. Please contact Alex on 07795 833393.

The club, this season, ran Allstars Cricket alongside the under-9s training sessions. We also had under-11s and under-13s training at the club on Friday evenings. We took part in the North Wales Junior Cricket League (NWJCL) in under-9s and under-11s age groups, and the games were enjoyed by everyone. We still need a lot more children to join our ranks to enable us to move forward. Children between the ages of 5 and 14 are more than welcome to join us when we begin our indoor training at Holywell Leisure Centre on 18th January at 12 noon. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Jane, on 07732 325033.

As previously mentioned, we need to build numbers to enable our senior team to progress into the Premier League, but we have a real lack of children here at the moment. We offer full training from ECB accredited coaches for boys and girls from the ages of 5 and upwards, with junior matches guaranteed for all players who wish to play. We welcome all children, of any ability or age, who want to learn to play cricket in a fun way. It costs very little.

There is no better way to spend a few hours than playing or even watching cricket. Initially, people might think that it appears boring, but once you understand the basic rules, it can quickly become addictive, and unlike football, you are not out in the wet weather. It gets people out into the fresh air and children away from the television and games consoles for a few hours.

We believe that the first step should be enjoyment and an understanding of the game. For next season, we will once again enrol in the ECB's All Stars Cricket, which is targeted at children between 5 and 8 years of age. This is an introduction before they get to the under-9 age groups where they will then be able to play games, if they wish, against other clubs on a festival basis. Then, at under-11 age group, they switch to play hardball cricket in a league. We are also looking at building up our under-13 and under-15s age groups, to enable us to join the junior league, and for the seniors to stay at least in division 1. All protective equipment and playing kit is provided. We welcome children of all abilities, and they will be guaranteed a junior game at the weekend. Unlike some clubs it does not cost an arm and a leg, with free weekly training sessions, and next season we will be offering free membership to all juniors 15 years and under. We have junior outdoor nets sessions on Friday evenings at the club and indoor nets on a Sunday at Holywell Leisure Centre. All coaching sessions are free and run by fully ECB qualified coaches (we have both male and female) and all helpers are DBS checked and certified.

A reminder that the clubhouse is available to hire at a competitive rate. We have a fully licensed bar which is ideal for parties, christenings and wakes. We also offer the clubhouse free of charge to local schools and charities, and have a reduced rate for children's parties.

We have a Facebook Group – Halkyn Cricket Club-Clwb Criced Helygain (please like it!!!) and a website, so please keep your eyes open; all information will be posted there.

We would like to thank all our sponsors for the 2025 season. If you would like information on becoming a sponsor, please get in touch.

If you would like any further information on any of the above, please contact Jane or Keith on 01352 781523 / 07732 325033 or email mattyanddan@btinternet.com.

Holywell Golf Club

Well Summer went in the blink of an eye and we are now in the realms of wet, windy and cold weather, although as I write this article, the weather is quite mild and there is a lovely sunset forming over the golf course. For me, well, I'm in the season of PJ's, log burner roaring, lying on the sofa watching Strictly but for the hardened golfers it's woolly hats and waterproofs. I am a fair-weather golfer now and will only play on dry crisp winter days.

Despite the weather we have had, our course looks amazing. The fairways are nice and short, and the greens are in great condition for this time of the year. We are now on winter mats for the Men's tees to protect the ground on the grass tees and we are playing our winter shorter course which entails less holes than 18, depending on the course conditions for all competitions.

The Seniors (over 55s) are playing their Turkey Trot Competitions where vouchers for the Pro Shop or meat vouchers for Kennedy's butchers can be won. The Men are playing their winter comps, usually team ones in the winter. The Ladies are playing 12 holes every Wednesday in a rolling comp and our Juniors are out most Sundays in their competitions, so it is busy on the course. We are seeing an increase in visitors, which is great, all of whom compliment the 'quirkiness' of the course, especially regarding the sheep, our trademark!

Our catering team are gearing up for Christmas Meals and Parties, heads full of turkey and pigs in blankets. We have a Christmas Menu to offer to any parties over 12 people which has proved successful this year with many bookings. Two courses for £22 and three courses for £28.50, both include mince pies with tea and coffee. Thank you to all

the local groups who have chosen Holywell Golf Club as their venue for their Christmas parties.

We will be having Carols and mince pies at the Club one evening in December. A date is yet to be finalized. The carols will be sung by Owen Barton-Davies from Carmel who is part of the John's Boys Choir who performed on Britain's Got Talent back in 2023. The date will be advertised on our Facebook Page in the next week so please look out for this or contact secretary@holywellgc.co.uk for more information or 01352 710040 Opt 1.

We will also be offering membership packages, 15 months for the price of 12, starting from December. Again, for more information, please contact the secretary if you would like to become a member of Holywell Golf Club.



Unique Christmas Card Greetings from our own pupils

Following the success of Ysgol Rhos Helyg Pupils' art exhibition celebrating the 150th anniversary of St Paul's Church, the children this year have exhibited their Christmas card designs based on mountain sheep.

Exhibited in St Paul's Church during August and September, 41 votes were cast and a winning card for each year was chosen. Certificates of achievement were granted to all entries and the winners were presented with prizes in the school assembly, one receiving his prize when he returned to school.

The cards are on sale in St Paul's Church at £5 for a pack of six with all profits going to Ysgol Rhos Helyg. Be the first to send your unique cards to friends and relatives to celebrate our mountain sheep and to credit the outstanding creative talent of our children at Ysgol Rhos Helyg. Here are the winners.



Rhes-y-Cae Village Hall

Rhes-Y-Cae Village Hall is available to hire for events, meetings, parties etc. To enquire or to book the hall, please contact Wendy Hughes 07922181313 or email rhesycaevillagehall@gmail.com

Weekly Diary

Tuesday 7pm – 9pm **Social Needlecraft Group**. Contact Susan Nuttall 07557 965441

Thursday 5.45pm - 6.45pm **Chair Yoga**, with Jane.

7.00pm - 9.00pm **Yoga** with Jane Lloyd 07977 048469

Previous Events

Friday 29th August Cocktail Evening with Cariad Gin

This was a very popular event, and a really great evening! Fiona from Cariad Gin provided everyone with cocktail shakers plus all the ingredients and guided us all through the process to make two fabulous summer cocktails. Fiona also introduced her new coffee liqueur which is delicious and provided tasters of her locally produced gins. Everyone seemed to have a wonderful evening, and we can't wait to hold more events with Fiona in future!

Upcoming Events

Saturday 15th November

Christmas Coffee Morning and Craft Stalls

10.30am - 12.30pm

Entry £3 to include a hot drink and a mince pie. Craft stalls including needlecraft, felted items, plants, chutneys, home-made cakes, jewellery, cards, and books by a local author plus raffle, guess the weight of the Christmas cake, and how many sweets in the jar.



Tuesday 2nd December - Coffee Morning in aid of Christchurch 10.30 - 12.30

Saturday 6th December - Over 60s Christmas Lunch

A full two course Christmas lunch with wine, and entertainment from the local Oopa Duk Ukulele group, and all free of charge! Invitations will go out beforehand, but if you've recently turned 60, or have moved into the village and are 60 or over, please get in touch and we'll add you to our list.

If you have any suggestions for future events that we could hold in the hall, please let us via the email address above.

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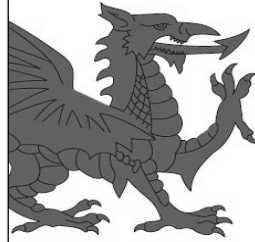
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