



St. Asaph & District ^{new} City Times



Issue No 8

February 2021

FAREWELL TO PONT LLANNERCH



Covid-19 and
Vaccine news
on pages
8-10

PHOTO BY LIAHLL BRUCE

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Please note: all letters must be accompanied by name and address, although these can be withheld from publication on request.

Editorial

After a desperately difficult year for so many, it seems that the vaccine is going to be the light at the end of the long and very dark pandemic tunnel, although as this issue goes to press, our local hospital in Glan Clwyd is facing the utmost pressure from Covid-19.

Our front page in April 2020, just after the beginning of the pandemic, showed Rita rolling up her sleeves ready for action. At the start of February 2021, we will also keep our sleeves rolled up, but this time for vaccination, with hope for the future.

But it is most definitely not a time to relax vigilance, or to become even the slightest bit complacent. This is still a time when our actions lead to consequences not just for ourselves, but potentially for all in our community. We should keep sticking to the regulations. So far, cases have been mercifully few in the St. Asaph locality. This is no doubt largely due to the care that we have all taken, but also to a degree of good fortune. There are many vulnerable people in our area, and there are many cases of Covid-19 in our local hospitals. We must persevere.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Life-threatening emergencies

999 Police, Fire Brigade or Ambulance.

Gas leak

0800 111 999 Only use a mobile phone outside

Flooding

0345 988 1188 Natural Resources Wales 24 hour line

Non-life-threatening emergencies

101 police (eg stolen car, break in, damage to property etc)

Coronavirus advice

www.111.nhs.uk/covid-19 - Check this before ringing 111.

NHS 24hr helpline

111 for medical advice when you're not sure what to do.

Police Community Support Officer

07989 162033 PCSO Dave Jones or email david.jones3@nthwales.pnn.police.uk

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Grŵp Cynefin Housing Assoc	0300 111 2122
North Wales Housing Assoc	01492 572727
RSPCA	0300 1234 999

Samaritans	116123
Alcoholics Anonymous	0800 9177 650
Al Anon (for families & friends)	0800 008 6811
Wales Dementia Helpline	0808 808 2235
Age Cymru Adviceline	08000 223 444
Cruse Bereavement Care	0800 808 1677
Childline	0800 1111
North Wales Victim Support	0300 30 30 159
Environment Agency	03708 506506
Electricity Power Cut (any provider)	105

CITY COUNCIL notes on meeting in January 2021*Barbara Rust*

Police Report: PCSO Dave Jones reported a quiet Christmas and New Year. There have been several parking issues raised and a few people have shown somewhat less adherence to the Covid rules than earlier on in the pandemic.

Planning: Council discussed the consultation prior to planning of an application for a Hybrid industrial development at St. Asaph Business Park, *(on the old Pilkingtons site)*. Several issues were raised and put forward for clarification. The proposed plans are online at www.cadnantplanning.co.uk/vista —some brief details from the application are listed below.

Flood matters: The Council still awaits the Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Flood Investigation Report relating to the flooding during storms Ciara and Dennis. This should be ready in February. The Flood and Community Emergency Working Group has made a Freedom of Information request from NRW regarding several issues relating to the completion of the St Asaph Flood Defences project.

A full copy of the minutes will be available at www.stasaphcitycouncil.gov.uk after approval at the next City Council meeting.

The Hybrid Industrial Development: CVAM Ltd is one of the UK's largest dealerships in commercial vehicles and trailers. They set up in 2000, and their main base is on Rhyl Road Denbigh, but they have outgrown their site. They have commissioned Cadnant Planning of Conwy & Chester to undertake a pre-application consultation on their proposal to establish a storage and distribution facility on the Vista site on Glascoed Road.



Currently CVAM sells around 350 assets (HGVs and LGVs) per year. The company tends to move the vehicles outside the busiest times of traffic in morning and evening. The company anticipates holding around 150 assets on the site at any one time, possibly rising to 200. However, the number of HGV and LGV movements per day is anticipated to only be around 16. Traffic from the site would be routed through the Business Park to junction 26 of the A55. Currently the trucks usually arrive in the Denbigh depot from the A55; this would therefore lead to a reduction of traffic of HGVs and LGVs through St. Asaph. Further and very detailed descriptions can be found on the www.cadnantplanning.co.uk/vista website.

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Llys y Felin flooded...again!

Storm Christoph on Jan 20th brought torrential rain to North Wales, and severe flood warnings were issued. Thankfully the river stayed within the flood defences for St. Asaph, but the storm drains were unable to cope with the volume of water coming down. That evening, water was cascading out of the drains, leading once again to a massive lake which poured through the ground floor inundating the ground floor flats. Word spread rapidly, and soon a “small army of volunteers” arrived at Llys Y Felin to try to clear the water. Two Fire Service tenders pumped water back into the river, but residents had to leave their flats. Once again, Denbighshire CC opened the leisure centre as a rest base, but residents were able to find other accommodation. Clearly, this was a very distressing event for all the residents, particularly in the middle of the pandemic.

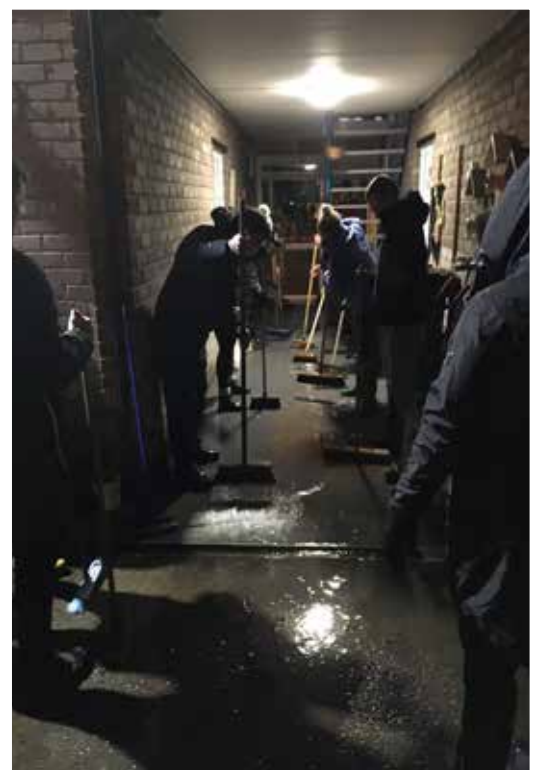


Water gushing up from drains by the play area



Flooding of Llys y Felin, which is a Denbighshire County Council sheltered accommodation property, has been a recurrent problem, and was the focus of the recent Flood and Community Emergency Action group meeting. In the first instance, it seems necessary to take immediate steps to prevent further flooding episodes. The simplest action to take would be to have sandbags available on site to be laid out when flood warnings are given. Special airbrick flaps could be fitted to stop water coming in through them, and door shields could be installed. A further option would be to build a low but robust wall in place of the current fence.

However, it is arguably much more important to address the root of the problem—why the water comes out of the drain. The Flood Awareness group has had initial discussions with Welsh Water, and a possible explanation has been identified. Further investigation of this will be taking place.



Masked volunteers sweep water from Llys y Felin as the fire tenders pumped the water into the river.

Some online comments from the excellent St. Asaph Flood Awareness Facebook page:

“Just want to say thank you to the small army of volunteers that turned out to help at Llys y Felin this evening. Even though we weren't able to save all the flats I know the residents and Fire Service appreciated everyone's efforts”
Steve Morris (moderator of the page)

“My mum lives in Llys Y Felin. Water went right through every room in the house but she has been luckier than others. It's mostly just the carpets and some furniture. She has insurance that will hopefully sort that. I'd like to say thank you to everyone that came down to help out last night and to be fair, Denbighshire CC are here in force this morning helping me cut carpets out and move furniture. They have given us a dehumidifier too and it's working well. Working towards getting my mum back in her flat tonight but just without carpets. We will see how it goes. This is the third time since she has lived here. Think she is a little gutted she didn't get a ride in a lifeboat this time though!”
Dave Williams



Photo by Chris Wynne



Photo by Paul Meacock

Llannerch bridge washed away by Storm Christoph

The beautiful old river bridge at Llannerch was completely washed away during the night of 20th January. Unable to withstand the enormous amounts of water pouring down the Clwyd river in the wake of storm Christoph, it appears to have given way at last, having survived many floods over its long history. Fortunately, no-one was injured during the incident.

It was a grade II listed building, described as follows in the CADW records: *Vernacular single-span road bridge of the late C18 or early C19; of limestone rubble construction. Segmental arch with rough-dressed voussoirs recessed beneath an arch-ring of narrow stones. Modern stone buttressing to the S. The carriageway is humped and has rubble parapets, splayed at the approaches and with square terminating piers; cement coping with plain C20 railings. Later buttressing to SE (upstream) side with adjacent flight of stone steps descending to the field on the SE river-bank.*

The key word in the description is not “*voussoirs**” but “humped” Online comments were full of recollections of people recalling being driven fast over the “humpy bridge” and having their stomachs in their mouths...! Initial estimates suggest that it will take at least 18 months to rebuild a crossing there.

**a wedged shaped stone used to construct an arch.*



Drone photo of Pont Llannerch by Richard Wynne, showing Llannerch Hall in the background

Flood and Community Emergency Working Group

Shortly before Christmas members of the Flood Action Group met with representatives from Natural Resources Wales and walked the riverbank to discuss points of concern. NRW will be starting a programme of work in early 2021 to carry out maintenance of river banks and remove branches deemed to be a risk. They will also replace fencing by the Spring Gardens bridge washed away in February 2020. NRW confirmed that they carry out weekly inspections of the culvert by the New Inn to ensure that it functions properly. It is a flap valve which shuts when the Elwy is in flood to prevent backflow of the river water up the stream in front of the Goodfish factory. The chance to meet on site and discuss issues directly was very helpful.

A further Flood Action Group meeting was held on 25th January following Storm Christoph, when the flood gauge at Pont y Gwyddel measured the maximum water level as 3.9 metres, compared with 4.8 during Storm Dennis in February 2020. The group noted that the culvert on the Lower Denbigh Road appeared to work as designed, with no overtopping of the Glascoed stream. The flood defences on the river performed well with no overtopping and a good amount of capacity remaining, although the river levels were of course comparatively low compared to February 2020.

The two areas discussed in detail were the flooding of Llys y Felin (see page 4) and of Heol Esgob (see below).

Short term measures for Llys y Felin: Cllr Peter Scott agreed on behalf of the City Council to arrange provision of a pallet of sandbags to be kept in a safe dry location nearby. DCC are measuring up for removable flood gates/shutters to be fitted to flat doors, and will be fitting airbrick flap covers. DCC have also ordered a supply of "Floodsax" which are light and easily deployed.

Longer term measures for Llys y Felin: Clarifying why the problem arises in the first place is fundamental. The water in these drains goes into the river, where there is a flap valve that will prevent backflow. This valve is regularly inspected, and is not thought to be the source of the water. Steve Morris has already met with Martin Williams from Welsh Water to discuss this, and a possible cause has been identified. Further investigation is taking place.

The Flood Action Group was pleased that Dr James Davies MP had sent a representative to the virtual meeting, and she will facilitate a further virtual meeting of the key players. This will probably be after the publication of the NRW Flood Investigation Report. The Group once again discussed the possibility of upstream preventative measures, which would lessen the pressure on flood defences around St. Asaph. This would be a longer term project, but nevertheless could be the way ahead.



The sluice gate from the former Millrace—not guilty!

City Times contacted Natural Resources Wales to ask about the long awaited **Flood Investigation Report**, and received this response: *"Following the Storm Ciara event in February 2020 that affected Elwy/St Asaph communities, NRW has been carrying out its own Flood Investigation Report in order to investigate and document the flood events and impacts resulting from the Afon Elwy. The report will be published on NRW's website in February."*

Sandbag City

Surface water running down the bankside and higher portions of Heol Esgob once again proved too much for the drainage system in Ashly Court, leading to temporary road closure. Weary residents once more



laid out sandbags across their drives to protect their properties. There was also flooding of the road outside the Post Office. Cllr Peter Scott received the following response from Judith Greenhalgh CEO at DCC

"We know that there is a long standing issue here with what we suspect is a blockage / collapse on the pipe. This is already on our list of issues we aim to address, but we will require a contractor who can undertake deep excavation work. The location of the suspected collapse is also in a tricky location, i.e. we think it is almost opposite the Plough on The Roe. We will be prioritising trying to resolve this as soon as we are able to appoint a competent contractor and can get the road space to set up traffic control."





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Glan Clwyd Hospital: a snapshot on 27/1/2021

Dr Emma Hosking, Medical Director

On the day when the UK reached 100,000 Covid deaths, City Times asked Dr Hosking for a hospital snapshot.

Raw numbers: We have about 70 Covid positive patients at the moment, out of almost 400 beds in the hospital.

Intensive Care Unit: We had 13 funded critical care beds before Covid. We have increased this to 20 but this has only been possible by redeploying staff from other areas. We learned a lot during the first wave, and are better off in terms of experience, understanding, equipment and treatments available. The average ITU length of stay is much longer for Covid than other illnesses; nursing staff have become very experienced. The critical care consultants used to spread work between ITU and doing anaesthetic lists. They are now full-time and full-on in ITU and really miss the relative tranquillity of a routine theatre list.

Covid wards: We have two Covid wards. One is for the sicker patients who need expert respiratory support including the non-invasive breathing support and nasal high flow oxygen. The other ward is for patients who are less ill, or recovering from their acute illness. Many staff are really tired; some have been very stressed by the nature of the work. They describe their work as 'duty' now with limited 'joy'. Surgeons who have been unable to run planned theatre lists will be supporting ward nurses from next week with patient care and escorting patients to radiology.

A&E: Attendances are similar to this time of year but we are seeing a bit more self-harm than usual and many patients need longer in hospital to get better. Ambulance waits still occur, but I think this is possibly better than last winter; we don't crowd ED like we used to.

Waiting lists: Unfortunately, it seems likely that they will get longer. Some activity will be outsourced/insourced and some patients have moved to Ysbyty Gwynedd for care because they have more capacity. We are constantly reviewing the waiting lists and re-triaging patients following Royal College and National guidelines.

The BBC programme: Starts on Tuesday 2nd February covering lots of different aspects of what it means to work in YGC, to live here and keep the hospital running....

Thanks to Emma, and to all the staff at Glan Clwyd hospital working so hard for us all.



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Vaccination: Light at the end of the tunnel?

Hayley Scott, GP partner in Beech House surgery

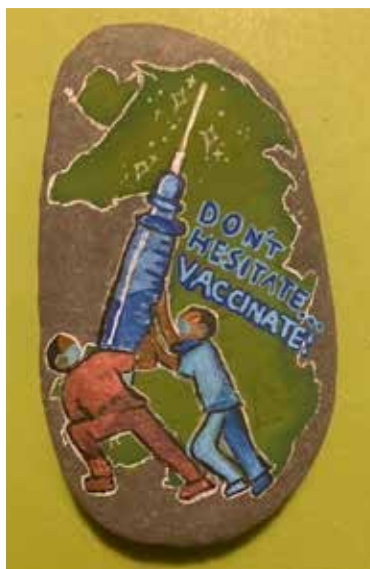
The start of 2021 for many people has been quite bleak. With lockdown restrictions, the closures of schools, business closures, rising corona virus cases and the discovery of the new, more transmissible strain it can be hard to feel positive. However, there is hope on the horizon. With the approval of the Pfizer and the Oxford vaccines we now have more weapons to deal with the

corona virus. There are difficulties with storing and delivering the Pfizer vaccine which make it less practical to be used in the community setting, so it is being used in the mass vaccination centres. However, like the flu vaccine, the Oxford Astra-Zeneca vaccine can be stored at fridge temperature, and GP surgeries have begun Covid vaccination using the Oxford vaccine. It is a 'virus-vector vaccine' which means a vector (in this case a modified part of an adenovirus) is used to deliver part of the Covid 19 spike protein into the host or humans' cells. This triggers the body to produce antibodies and mount an immune response. Neither the modified adenovirus or the spike of the corona virus are 'live' or 'active' so receiving the vaccine cannot cause you to get corona virus.

The Covid clinics have been organised like last autumn's flu clinics, which were undertaken in the climate of the Covid pandemic, so all social distancing measures are observed and all staff wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). At Beech House, like other surgeries in the area, we have been able to take advantages of venues in the community that would otherwise remain unused at the moment due to the lockdown. We are hugely grateful to be able to use the Plas Pigot Country Club in Denbigh to run our clinics — a more adaptable space than our main surgery building. Many of our staff are gladly giving up weekends to run the clinics. The vaccination is being delivered according to government guidance with the elderly and most vulnerable first. This will ultimately save more lives and prevent hospital admissions.



The vaccination team at Plas Pigot



Stone by Jasmine Jones

Please visit the Public Health Wales website for full details of the priority list for vaccination. Individuals will be contacted by their own GP practice in due course. Please try to attend your appointment on time and bring somebody with you only if necessary; if you are no longer able to attend please let your GP surgery know so they can offer the appointment to someone else. The vaccination programme will take some time and the main limitation on roll-out is how much vaccine we receive. Remember that even after vaccination, it is more important than ever to follow social distancing rules and the lockdown restrictions.

In the meantime, we can make sure we look after ourselves, both mentally and physically, and also offer help to those who need it, particularly those living alone or who have lost loved ones in the last year. Give them a call, write that e-mail or letter, or set up that Whatsapp group! We have some lovely walks and open spaces on our doorsteps, and it is a great opportunity to explore the area. There have been some inspiring examples of community spirit and camaraderie which I hope continue through the next few months, as they may be the hardest yet. I remain hopeful and optimistic that things will get better and perhaps we will come through this pandemic more resilient than before...or at the very least most of us should have mastered how to make a video call without being on mute for the first few minutes!

Key Messages from the St. Asaph surgeries:

Remember: it's a good 2-3 weeks after either the Oxford or Pfizer vaccine before you get any useful protection, and you don't get good lasting protection without the second dose.

Remember: after getting the full vaccine course, it would be very unlikely for you to get very sick with Covid; but it may still be possible to get a mild dose, and also transmit Covid. So, if you get symptoms, get tested. Especially if it's the first week or so after the vaccine.

Remember: immunisation doesn't mean all precautions can be done away with - it's still hand washing, social distancing, limiting contact where practical, and using masks or face coverings as required.

The Big Vaccine Roll-out:

Welsh Government have stated that, subject to supply, their aim is to offer vaccination by mid-February to all care home residents and staff; frontline health and social care staff; those 70 years of age and over; and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals. These make up vaccination priority groups 1-4.

Glan Clwyd hospital health care staff at are receiving their first dose of vaccine in what used to be the A&E Department at the front of the hospital.

Venue Cymru in Llandudno is the local mass vaccination centre. Social care staff, ambulance staff and elderly mobile people are being vaccinated there. Members of the armed forces, (including some musicians from the RAF, sadly without their instruments) have joined the vaccination team. Between 1100 and 1300 people are being vaccinated daily, six days a week.

GP surgeries have been given supplies of the Oxford vaccine, and are contacting patients by priority groups to attend for vaccination, either in surgeries or in local venues. Vaccinators have also been sent to local care homes. We are asked not to contact surgeries to enquire about when we will be asked to attend. They are constrained by the amount of vaccine supplied,



Venue Cymru transformed for vaccinations

Some comments from Venue Cymru vaccinators:

"One ambulance worker described how on her previous shift, she had spent 4 hours outside A&E in the back of an ambulance with an ill Covid positive patient, waiting for a bed to become available in the hospital. "I'm so ready for this vaccine", she said."

"A social worker, with many vulnerable clients to care for at work, was also helping look after children of a close friend whose husband had died recently from Covid. She had tears of relief in her eyes"

"an elderly widow, who had hardly been out of her house for 9 months, was completely delighted to have the vaccine, and longing for an end to lockdown. She was excited to be out, and very chatty indeed!"

"one old lady, when asked if she had any questions, eyed up a nearby serviceman, and asked if she would be allowed to take him home with her...!"

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Light 'em up!

Some of St. Asaph's most spectacular displays of Christmas lights were to be found on Bro Havard. It seems that lockdown has brought extra enthusiasm to decorating our homes and towns in the absence of the opportunity for us to gather together!



A VERY DIFFERENT CHRISTMAS FOR ROTARY Tom Yuille

The Rotary Club has continued with its weekly meetings on Zoom. We made plans for a very different Christmas for all of us. It became clear we could not meet and greet the community with Santa this year, but we felt that we should continue to do our usual tours with the Christmas Float to remind us all that it is still Christmas.

We are extremely grateful for the support that we received from the St. Asaph Community with a grand total of £1000 being donated to the Club to be used to support local charities. In spite of Santa being unable to accompany the Float, and our need to social distance, we received a total of £630 in our collection buckets. We also received several personal donations in other ways, including our JustGiving page, and also donations from the Co-op in St. Asaph and Rhuddlan Town Council. We thank all those who gave this support to our community. In addition we were very fortunate to receive a substantial donation from Rhyl Sainsburys in the form of food vouchers which went to the primary schools for their Christmas raffles.

During December the Club made substantial donations to two charities that support families particularly badly affected by the pandemic. We were pleased to donate £1000 to the Domestic Abuse Safety Unit in Rhyl and St. Asaph who have been supporting increased numbers of families in this area. Rhyl Food Bank has also seen much increased demand in recent months and we were pleased to make a donation of £600, part of which we are aware was used to support needy families in St. Asaph. We very much hope for a resumption of normal service next Christmas!

NEUADD OWEN VILLAGE HALL, CEFN

Claire Vickers

As the usual Christmas & New Year community activities could not go ahead in December, the Trustees of the Neuadd Owen Village Hall in Cefn, Karin Jones & Clare Vickers, decided to try to bring the community together in a different way. In early December, every house in the parish of Cefn Meiriadog & Marli was given a wooden Christmas tree decoration. Households were asked to decorate it and include a short festive message. The completed decoration was then to be taken and hung on one of the two Christmas trees in the parish, one outside the Neuadd Owen and one outside All Saints Church, Sinan, Marli. Over fifty decorations were hung on the trees, and many residents later enjoyed visiting the trees and reading the various messages.

At the same time, residents were asked to consider donating something to local food banks. The Trustees set up a collection centre in the Neuadd Owen. The response was overwhelming and many hundreds of items were donated over six days. These were then taken to the Food banks in Denbigh & Rhyl, where they were gratefully received. Karin & Clare both agreed that the scheme had been so successful, that they will repeat it next Christmas. "We still wanted to bring the community together over Christmas, as we usually do with various indoor events, and we struggled to think what to do, until we came up with the idea of decorations and donations", they said.



Santa inspects the Christmas tree outside Neuadd Owen Hall in Cefn



The cathedral lit up in pink



The service of Carols and Readings



Church news

The Cathedral was lit up in pink for some weeks before Christmas as part of a Denbighshire CC program of illuminating public buildings during the run-up to Christmas—providing the opportunity for many photos.

Church services took place both virtually and in person over Christmas. A virtual **Christingle and Crib service** was held on Christmas Eve, for which well over 50 Christingle oranges were distributed. The service included recordings of children from Year 2 in the VP school singing.



A socially distanced service of **Carols and Readings** took place later that evening in the Cathedral—very different from the usual Christmas Eve service; although the congregation were unable to sing, the choir performed with appropriate precautions. A **Christmas Day service** was enjoyed by a joint congregation from the Cathedral and Parish Church and was also streamed online.

Since just after Christmas, the Cathedral has been closed, with Sunday services held online at 11.00, streamed on the Cathedral website www.stasaphcathedral.wales and followed a little later by Zoom coffee gatherings.

Messy Church continues every second Sunday, and is open to all. To join in with this, go to the St. Asaph Messy Church Facebook page, and text Marion Hughes to get a link to the activities.

The Parish Church internal renovations are now all complete, and the potentially dangerous masonry by the west door has been made safe; at the time of writing, the necessary certification from the Building Regulations Inspector is awaited. Services there will be re-starting after lockdown ends. Meanwhile, the Church has been offered as a vaccination centre to Public Health Wales, and a response is awaited. The churchyard gates are now open again, with the new lighting to the path provided from the Denbighshire Commuted Sums Fund.

Christianity Explored A 7 week course looking at the basics of the Christian Faith will begin on Tuesday 16th February at 7.30pm on Zoom. If you would like further information or would like to register for the course, please **contact Fr Rex by email: rexmatthias61@gmail.com**

New minister at Llanelwy Community Church

Alan Jones

We're delighted to welcome our new minister, Paul Asbridge, who started with us on January 1st. Paul, who comes to us from Sussex Street church in Rhyl, has previously worked in industry, as a teacher, as a pilot and last year driving for the Welsh Ambulance Service transporting vulnerable patients. He and his wife love walking, and live locally.

Like most organisations 2020 was a difficult year for us with no meetings (church services, Stay and Play toddler group or RAK) able to be held since March. We have kept going and have had 'Zoom' church services most weeks, but we would be the first to admit that it has not been the same. John Thompson, our minister since January 2017 was appointed to a new post in Bangor just before lock down started. He took up his new post on July 1st, but kindly agreed to help us out and continued to work for LICC one day per week till the end of the year.

It's a difficult time to start in post, but Paul is keen to get going and to get to know people. His contact number is 07760 333930 and his email is minister@llcc.org.uk. I know that he would be pleased to hear from you whether you are a church goer or not! Please feel free to contact Paul or myself about any aspect of life at LICC including our work in the community through Stay and Play or RAK. My number is 583148.



Paul Asbridge

We will remember them.

Martin Barlow writes with further details of his uncle

Owen Hugh Barlow, my father Robert's elder brother, was born in 1914 and grew up in the Bull Inn (now the Bridge) on Lower Street where their parents were the proprietors. He attended St Asaph Grammar School, later trained as a teacher, and with the war joined the RAF and was trained as a rear gunner on Wellington bombers.

On the night of August 30th 1941, on his first mission, his Wellington took off from Oakington air base in Cambridgeshire for a bombing raid on Hamburg, but the starboard engine caught fire and the plane came down a few minutes later outside the village of Rampton just 2-3 miles away, with the loss of all crew.

In 2010 I received a call out of the blue from a Mr Graham Rose of Rampton. He had called St Asaph Post Office and asked if anyone knew of a Barlow family. Ken Houlston happened to be there at the time and told him to contact me. Mr Rose explained that his father had gone to the crashed plane but the crew were all dead or dying. Subsequently, as was the local custom apparently, his family had 'adopted' the deceased crew and put up a memorial to them in the local churchyard. Over the years they had tried to contact family members of the crew members but I was the only one they had been able to find.

In 2016 my daughter and her family moved to Bedfordshire. Visiting her in 2019, I made the hour's drive to Rampton, passing Oakington on the way, where no sign whatever remained of the airfield. In Rampton, I found the memorial in the churchyard of All Saints Church. In fact the memorial was inscribed on the back of the headstone of the family grave of Mr Rose senior, who had gone to the aid of the stricken crew. The inscription listed brief details of the plane and the mission, and listed the crew, including my uncle. I tried to telephone Mr Rose and went to his house, leaving a note there to say I had been, and also leaving a note in the church visitors' book. However he was not to be found and I never heard back from him. Owen Hugh Barlow's name appears on memorials in the cathedral, the former St. Asaph Grammar School (now Ysgol Glan Clwyd), the war memorial at the bottom of St. Asaph, St Clement Danes Church in the Strand, London, which is the Central Church of the Royal Air Force, and of course in Rampton churchyard in Cambridgeshire.



The rear gunner "tail end Charlie" was a very vulnerable airman; the average life expectancy was just five sorties



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Fifth Wheel Company

You may have driven past it on your way to a drink or meal out at the White House in Rhualt, and wondered what the *Fifth Wheel* sign refers to, or quite what happens in the buildings there. In fact, the Fifth Wheel Company, which was established in 2002, is now the foremost UK producer of luxury trailers, or “fifth wheels” as they are known in the US. And which one is the fifth wheel? The first four wheels are on the trailer, and the fifth wheel - of course - is the coupling mechanism that links your truck to the trailer!



The Celtic Rambler, flagship of the fleet



The head of the company, Mervyn Parry-Jones, was brought up on a farm in Nannerch, and went on to set up a successful agricultural engineering firm and tractor dealership in Trefnant. His hobby was caravans, and he eventually purchased a pre-owned fifth wheel trailer from the US. A friend asked him whether he could get one for him as well, and the

idea was born to start making them locally. The family purchased Llwyn Derw, a former poultry and dairy farm in Rhualt, and began building the trailers in the old milking parlour. Gwyn Jones, who formerly worked on the farm, is now in charge of maintenance at the company.

“Nelly” was the prototype fifth wheel, swiftly followed by others, and within a short time the company was hailed as “the biggest thing to hit the UK caravan market in 20 years”, winning design awards, taking the NEC caravan show by storm, and gaining an unprecedented 10/10 score from the Caravan Club Magazine. Further award winning models were launched, and the range now includes the Celtic Rambler 4 berth luxury trailer, the Dreamseeker 5 berth, and the Inos, which is a luxury caravan. The company will also arrange provision of a suitable truck to pull the trailer. For caravanning enthusiasts, the photos, descriptions and details on the company’s website are completely irresistible!



Chassis by Dylan Roberts of Llansannan

Up to 36 units are built each year, with three quarters being sold within the UK, and the company has dealers in Germany, France, Poland and most recently Norway. Fifth Wheel employs around 30 staff, and plans to take on five new apprentices in March. Multiple skills are required for building each unit, including joinery, plumbing, electrical and technical/IT skills. The company resources many of the components for building the trailers from local suppliers. Dylan Roberts in Llansannan fabricates the steel chassis for each trailer and caravan. Other components come from across the UK. Gethin Whiteley, technical director at Fifth Wheel, says that they are pleased that a trade deal has been signed to make for tariff free sales in Europe; stocks of items required from Europe have been built up to avoid hold-ups in production.



Phil Cerie working on the underfloor heating

The Celtic Rambler, with its streamlined fibreglass nose cone, is the flagship of the fleet, and has automatic levelling and electric brakes, as well as the automatic slide-out side. It is 8.5m long and 2900kg in weight. So how easy is it to tow, and what is it like driving down Rhualt hill with a fifth wheel attached to your 4WD? Gethin reports that the units are in fact more stable than caravans to tow, as the weight of the coupling is directly above the rear axle of the truck, and this avoids any tendency for snaking. And in fact the overall length of the unit and truck may well be less than with a comparable grade caravan. Mindful of the need to be confident about

manoeuvring the truck and trailer, the company will arrange trials and test drives on their adjacent caravan park and further afield as required. You would need a more powerful car to pull it than a Ford Fiesta, but the company will advise on 4WDs and will fit the coupling mechanism for you. Learn more at www.fifthwheelco.com



Thanks to Gethin Whiteley, technical director. for the tour and background information



The luxurious interior

Lockdown Garden Tips no 2.*Christine Jones*

Although we are still in the depths of winter and you may think gardening is a summer hobby, it is a great way of using your time indoors to start preparing for the coming gardening year. Here are a few more tips to help:

1. Keep old yogurt pots, margarine cartons or small containers which could be used to germinate seeds on you window sills, don't forget to make drainage holes in them before filling them with multipurpose compost. You can also cut some of them up and use them as plant labels.
2. A cardboard toilet roll or kitchen paper tube coated in peanut butter and rolled in birdseed makes a good re-cycled bird feeder that can be slipped over the branch of a tree.
3. For cheap plant supports, pull a wire coat hanger into a square and straighten the hook, turn it at right angles and push it into the top of a cane.
4. Canes can cause nasty injuries in the garden so if you collect some empty snail shells, paint them with bright acrylic paint colours and place them over the ends of the canes so you don't blind yourself! Ping pong balls can also be used.
5. Terracotta pots are very attractive but lose moisture quickly in hot weather. Line the pot with several thick layers of newspaper before adding compost. The paper conserves moisture.
6. Pinecones make great lightweight drainage material in pots and troughs.
7. Small seeds can stick to your moist, warm hands when you're trying to sow them. Keep your hands cool by running cold water over your wrists and then drying them thoroughly before you handle the seeds.
8. To remove rust from garden tools, mix two tablespoons of salt with two tablespoons of lemon juice, apply the mixture to the rust and rub hard.
9. Buy healthy seed potatoes for chitting and sprout them before planting; this gives them a better chance and makes them less susceptible to disease and help the foliage to develop faster. Use an empty egg carton resting on a tray.



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桜 Cherry Blossom—the Sakura project.

The cherry blossom trees planted in St. Asaph are some of the 6,500 planted across the UK as a legacy of the Japanese-UK Season of Culture 2019—2020, which aimed to showcase Japan's multifaceted attractions in the UK. They have been funded by many Japanese corporations to celebrate a long friendship between our nations. The Cherry trees (known as Sakura in Japan) have been distributed to over 400 schools and 160 sites throughout the UK, including all cities. They have been grown and grafted at Frank P Matthews nursery in Worcestershire, and there are at least three varieties, chosen for their varied

colour, timing and historical significance. One of them, "Taihaku" has a large white single blossom, and had become extinct in Japan until re-introduced there by Britain's Collingwood Ingram in 1932.

The Japanese ambassador said "....just like our relationship, these trees will grow stronger as they mature and, each year when they blossom, I hope they will bring joy to people across the UK and remind them of the deep friendship between our two nations and peoples"

The blossoming of the cherry trees this spring will remind us about the Olympics to be held in Japan from Friday 23rd July this summer, Covid permitting, and will be a wonderful sight for years to come.



The Common in years to come?



Mayor Peter Scott doing his planting duties!

"It is hard to imagine where we will be in 30 years' time or what each of us will be doing. The only thing we know is that we want the friendship between the UK and Japan to continue strong into the future"
From the Sakura Cherry Tree Project website

友

Gardening Club? Apparently there used to be an active gardening club in St. Asaph before the days of Netflix and box sets. There were regular meetings to share advice, and to visit each other's gardens. Perhaps we could invite Radio 4's Gardeners Question Time to come to the newly refurbished Parish Church in due course? Any volunteers?

Plant based crime wave strikes St. Asaph...

In an extraordinary act of selfishness, plants have been taken from the planters in St. Asaph. Several small shrubs, hebes, and many bedding plants, winter pansies and primulae have been taken over a period of a couple of weeks before Christmas. This is a recurrence of previous similar episodes of plant theft in the City. The planters are distributed around St. Asaph and are planted and cared for by the Afon Elwy Environmental Group and others.

This crime wave has been treated with the utmost seriousness by North Wales police. Forensic analysis of the crime scenes took place immediately, and police frogmen have been searching the river for garden trowels. Patrols have been stepped up in the City centre, and a new stop and search order is in force, allowing officers to question and search anyone with muddy hands. CCTV cameras are now trained on all planters, and residents are encouraged to report any suspicious behaviour. Police however have warned against approaching anyone seen taking plants, as they may be armed with trowels and forks. If you are offered plants or shrubs for sale by strangers in a pub, or at your door, report it immediately to the police.



The paragraph immediately above this one was pure fiction. But unfortunately the plants were indeed taken, and it has been deeply frustrating for those who work so hard for our city.

In addition, and no doubt by a different hand, one of the newly planted cherry trees has been broken in half soon after it was planted on the common. In a further despicable act, a wreath was stolen from the cemetery. Come on folks, we are better than that....



Three cheers for our Co-op!

Along with Premier, Londis and the City Newsagent, our thanks go to all those local shops that look after us so well. It's been an extraordinary year for all of us, and we have all come to realise how fortunate we are to have these shops on our doorstep.

Pictured: Sian Jones, team manager at the Co-op, presenting the raffled Christmas hamper to the lucky winner, and a cheque for St. Asaph Rotary to Rob Cotton.

Hats off to Scottish Power

I would like to commend Scottish Power following the recent power cut. I contacted them during that period and they had noted that I had been registered as a vulnerable person. During that conversation they asked how best they could help people like me as a result of such an event. I said that maybe if they could have provided a torch, blanket and other items that would keep you warm it may help. To my total surprise a Scottish Power gentleman called with a bag of items which included these items. Most welcome and carefully stored away ready for the next one. I just wondered if any other vulnerable person was contacted?

Ed Winter



The St. Asaph branch of the **Humane Research Trust** would like to thank all its loyal supporters. You helped us raise £416 in sales and the raffle for the limited edition Stieff bear raised a further £620! You can keep up to date with our news and events via our website: www.humaneresearch.org.uk, Facebook, Twitter, and . until we can all meet again, keep well and stay safe.

Meriel, Rosanne and Pearl.

Sheila Leaning: the family of the late Sheila Leaning, of The Old Deanery and formerly of Ffordd Siarl, would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and wishes at this time. Donations of over £200 have been forwarded to Diabetes UK in Sheila's memory.

Denise Bach



LLANELWY W.I.

Judith Isherwood

Despite the fact that we have not been able to hold any face to face meetings for most of last year, we have held monthly Zoom meetings. We have had much variety from our Speakers. Brenda Cameron spoke about "Fashionable Fashionistas". This was a follow on from a Channel 4 documentary about ladies from the age of 60 up to 80 years who defied the ageing process by having fun and having a passion for fashion. Another excellent Speaker was Sarah Slater, a Guide/Lecturer at Hampton Court Palace, London. Her talk was entitled "Secrets, Scandal and Salacious Gossip of the Royal Court from 1660 to 1830". What a good time they all had! We had another talk from Lorna and Sarah, entitled "Keystone Heritage". They told us all about "Christmas through the Ages" and this was so interesting. We also had a demonstration of flower arranging and the making of Xmas biscuits from one of our own very able Members. This is only a small example of our meetings. In addition to our Zoom meetings we also hold our monthly Book Club on Zoom. If any ladies would like to join us, please get in touch with either Judith on 07910094852 or Anwen on 07592029091. We would love to speak to you!

Building a company.....

City Times took the opportunity to interview Chris Wynne, managing director of Wynne Construction who have kindly sponsored this issue.

In 1926 Charles Wynne, a bricklayer in Rhuddlan, set up Chas. Wynne & Sons, builders and contractors. The original building in Princes Park still stands, and is currently leased by *Goodsigns*.

Chas. Wynne & Sons built many properties locally, including much of Harding Avenue, Wynne Close and Princes Park in Rhuddlan, and later, houses in St. Asaph on Mount Road, Llwyn Elwy and Bro Havard. The firm prospered and Charles' sons took over, keeping the local focus, and steadily built not just houses, but also trust and a reputation for quality as years went by.

In 2005, the firm relocated to a new purpose built head office in Bodelwyddan. Trading now as Wynne Construction and under the leadership of Chris Wynne as Managing Director and his father Maldwyn Wynne, the company has continued to grow, maintaining the core principles of quality, reliability, client focus, communication, teamwork and

co-operation. Maldwyn sadly died in 2015 at the age of 87, handing over the baton to Chris. In recent years, the focus has increasingly been on construction of public buildings, particularly in the education sector. A striking example of their work can be seen at the Glasdir site in Ruthin, which combines Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School on a shared site, a project with a budget of over £10m. This month Wynne Construction complete their largest project to date, the design and build of the £21m Yale Campus redevelopment in Wrexham for Coleg Cambria. More locally, Wynne Construction built the science block at Ysgol Glan Clwyd, provided the recent extension and redevelopment of St Kentigern Hospice, and the prominent Costa Drive Thru and Spar store at Bodelwyddan, already extremely popular with hospital staff and relatives visiting patients.



The Glasdir site in Ruthin

Chris' two sons David and Richard both now work for the family firm, and are the fourth generation of Wynnes in the company. Both joined the firm after taking degrees in Quantity Surveying and Construction management respectively and after a period of working in other companies. David worked in project management for Vextrix in Liverpool, and Richard for ISG in London; this experience stood them in good stead to join the family firm. So how does it feel for Chris having his sons working in the firm? *"For now, they just have to listen to me"* says Chris....!

Wynne Construction has won many awards for its work, perhaps the most impressive of which was winning the UK-wide SME (Small and Medium Enterprise) award for Excellence in Construction in 2018. The firm is keen to use local suppliers, and to bring employment locally wherever they work. They also have an impressive commitment to the local community and provision of knowledge, skills and training for those embarking on a career in construction—see www.wynnefutures.co.uk

The pandemic has severely disrupted the construction industry, with new ways of working set in place to protect the workforce, decreased numbers on site, segregation of teams and the need for PPE. Nevertheless, the forward order book is reassuringly busy despite the current circumstances, which must surely be a measure of the confidence in the firm. Wynne Construction aims to take on more projects throughout Wales, and into the North West. From small beginnings to a nationally recognised company — clearly the Wynne family know how to build a company!



A worryingly young workforce? No, just excited children at their new school!

Andrew Williams of St. Asaph joined Wynne as an apprentice joiner in 1988. He is now one of the firm's longest serving employees. He was site manager of the £21m scheme for Coleg Cambria; the photo is taken from another £9m scheme he managed in Holyhead – Ysgol Cybi.



From the Archives



Hard graft on the river bridge

A gang of workers barrow concrete from a massive Stothert and Pitt mixer onto the river bridge. Not a hi-vis jacket, hard hat or traffic cone in sight. The picture is not dated, but it appears to have been taken before the building of the LNS garage. Just a length of rope keeping the traffic (an old Riley?) away.

The photo comes from a collection of old photos of St Asaph and district available in the library, and often featured in St. Asaph Memories Past and Present Facebook page.

Twenty Years ago



Special delivery. This was the front page photo of the City Times twenty years ago this month. During a spell of icy and snowy weather, this Asda articulated lorry plunged early one morning from the A55 onto the roundabout below. Remarkably, the driver opened his cab door and emerged unhurt, though badly shaken. It took many months to repair the A55 flyover.

Rubber Bands can cause problems!

Vets and Wildlife organisations are alerting the public to the danger that rubber bands cause when dropped on the street or in the countryside. Cats, dogs, small animals such as hedgehogs and birds can mistake the elastic/rubber band for a worm and try to eat it. The rubber does not dissolve in the stomach and can cause sickness and death. When you go out walking around St. Asaph, look out for them (and hair bobbles) left on the ground, often around letter boxes. Pick them up and put them in a bin.



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All in a day's work - farriery! *City Times interviewed Dave Meadows of Mount Road, St. Asaph about his work as a farrier looking after horses' feet.*

1. How do you become a farrier? You do a year in college (Hereford for me), where you learn the basics of the craft. If you pass your forging exam, you start a four year apprenticeship. Mine was in Sennybridge near Brecon, and I began when I was sixteen. Some people start with no idea how to even put a head collar on a horse, but it helps if you are used to handling horses. I was taught to ride as a child so was used to being around horses. But you get taught all the basics in college.

2. What are the big challenges? Working in all weather conditions, sometimes pouring rain, or even snow. Working on a horse for the first time, especially if they have had a bad time before or are difficult to control. Oh, and organising my busy diary!

3. It sounds dangerous too – is it? Being a farrier can definitely be dangerous. You're working with a large live animal which can be unpredictable. I know farriers who have been seriously injured and can no longer work in farriery. I've been fortunate and have only had a few stitches, cuts and bruises.

4. New shoes – how often? The average is around six weeks, but some need to be done sooner. Many things affect this: how much they get ridden, how much their shoes get worn, and the season, as in summer the feet grow faster. Horses tend to have either front shoes or a full set (ie front and back). It takes roughly an hour to fit a set of shoes but sometimes longer, depending on the size of the horse and its temperament.

5. Doesn't it hurt them? It's not painful because the hoof is a non-sensitive structure, like our nails, and most horses enjoy having their "nails done". But you can certainly do damage if you cut the hoof too short. Precision is key as the incorrect placement of a nail by even a few millimetres can be detrimental to the horse. This can be tricky if you have a misbehaving horse. I wouldn't be doing this job if it inflicted pain to the animal.

6. So what do you actually do? There are two different types of shoeing: hot and cold. For hot shoeing you use a forge which is like a big oven, and it's easier as you can shape the shoe more readily when it's hot. The only reason you would cold shoe is if the horse doesn't like the smoke when you burn onto the hoof. For cold shoeing you don't need a forge, just a hammer and anvil. We get taught how to weld in college during our apprenticeship as sometimes you need to fabricate a horseshoe to make it wider than the standard shoe to give the horse more support.

7. Big shoes for Shires, and small ones for Shetland ponies? Yes - every horse's foot is different. The horseshoes come in a range of sizes (from as small as a 2inch to as big as a 20inch width) and my job is to mould the shoes to fit the horse's hoof perfectly. The shape of the front feet is different to the back ones, and sometimes they are different sizes too.

8. Do all horses need shoes? No, some horses don't need shoes. A thoroughbred (ie a race horse) typically has poor feet and will need shoes for riding on the road, whereas cobs are renowned for having strong feet and can be ridden on the road without shoes. Some horses have special shoes if they are competing (eg jumping), with special grips in the shoes to stop them from slipping on the grass. And some horses need remedial shoes if they have foot problems.



9. Do you keep a book with each horse's shoe size? No, I don't, it's somehow ingrained in my head! I know by looking at the horse and their hoof which size they need. This is something you get better at as time goes by. After shoeing the horse a few times, I remember what size shoe they are for next time.

10. Can you get carbon fibre shoes, or aluminium ones?

Mostly they are made of mild steel and have been for a very long time. The mild steel allows for good mobility unlike other materials such as tungsten which is stronger but could affect the joints and would not allow for the slide when they place their foot down. But some racehorses do have lightweight go-faster aluminium shoes!

Thanks very much Dave, and stay safe!



Dave hot-shoeing a horse

Gofal Dydd / Waen Day Care and Support

In 2010, a small group met to discuss how we could use the facilities of our small Chapel to support people living with serious illness. After lots of discussion with local groups and individuals, **Gofal Dydd Day Care** opened in June 2011. Our remit is to care for the most vulnerable, of all ages, of all faiths and none, giving priority to those who live with their family to allow 5-6 hours of essential respite each week. We started with lots of enthusiasm and hard work but no resources, and were excellent customers at local charity shops buying items we needed!

We are privileged to have helped over 250 people and families during the last 10 years and proud that we are entirely voluntary, caring for and supported by our community.

We are open two days a week and have 10-15 people attending each day from aged 40 to 90+. Those attending have a variety of illnesses and conditions and the care is provided by trained volunteers. After lockdown we re-opened in September for 6 people at a time on a rota basis. Referrals are via professionals, although families can also refer for a place.

We provide door to door transport paying Dial a Ride for this. We provide practical help and a range of activities including gardening, art, Tai Chi, concerts, crafts, bread-making, baking, complementary therapies and hairdressing - along with love, care and support. There is no charge for attending but most donate £10 towards the costs which are £40 per person per day. Since 2018 a free crèche for toddlers runs alongside Day Care in the afternoons allowing wonderful friendships to develop.



Helpu'n Gilydd is a practical respite service where trained volunteers visit for 2-3 hours every week to provide companionship and support. It costs £30,000 per year to run Day Care and Helpu'n Gilydd and we constantly have to raise money. We are grateful for the support we receive locally especially from Sian and the wonderful staff from the Co-op. We are always looking for help so if you can help us in any way, or

would like our help please contact us helpugilydd@gmail.com



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Living with dementia

Sue Last

My husband John was formally diagnosed with mixed dementia (Alzheimers and vascular) about six years ago. As anyone who is familiar with people living with dementia, it can be a long and wearing time for carers. But we have been so fortunate, in spite of the Covid restrictions, and have been able to access some wonderful respite care that has been invaluable to both of us.

Safe Hands is an independently run day care facility operating from Trefnant Village Hall. Ellen Newcombe was a speech and language therapist and she provides a stimulating and caring environment where her clients enjoy many varied activities. John attends twice a week and absolutely loves going, and the break it gives me each week has been invaluable.

And then in November John was offered a week's respite at St. Kentigern Hospice. This is a new service being offered by the hospice as part of the new build and restructuring of services. In partnership with the Health Board the hospice has employed an Admiral Nurse, a dementia nurse specialist. Due to Covid the new service wasn't able to be implemented when the hospice reopened, but fortunately for us they needed to test the new service so John was their first patient to be admitted to the dementia respite bed.

I know the hospice well as I had been chaplain there for 15 years, so I knew the care would be good, but it exceeded all my expectations. John received the most amazing individualised care. The staff really understood the importance of knowing who John was as a person before he had dementia. They were able to engage him in things that interested him and to fully support him when he became agitated in any way. I had been a little anxious that he might not settle but he was so happy and settled that I was able to have a week off and totally recharge my batteries. My thanks to all!



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- St. Kentigern Hospice www.stkentigernhospice.org

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Snowy St. Asaph

A snowman, Francesca meets snow, and St. Asaph



Photo—Steve Morris



Goodfish in St. Asaph

City Times contacted Greg McDonald, chief exec of Goodfish for comment after seeing the To Let sign outside the factory. He replied:

"Yes, it has been a tough year. We have seen our way through it, though. We had to shut the plant for three weeks in June, as our customers stopped accepting deliveries! For the most part, we have a very understanding workforce up there, so we're content to keep investing in it. We moved most of the moulding work for our 'Stique brand (of cycling

accessories) up to St Asaph from our Cannock plant during the year. We bought some more moulding machines and robots at an auction late summer, and shipped the kit up to St. Asaph, plus we closed our Loughborough plant end March and shipped most of the production equipment up to St Asaph as well. Some of it is still waiting to be installed. The factory remains busy with strong order input. And we're still hiring up there! The Fisher German sign is for letting the offices and the office building, which we don't use or need. The factory is definitely not up for let. So, after nearly a year, we're very pleased we bought the business!



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Mayor Peter Scott presents the annual shield to Suzie

The Flowerpot Cafe wins the shield!

The Christmas Window Competition was won by Suzie at the Flowerpot Cafe. Congratulations go to Suzie from all the City Councillors who judged the windows. Commiserations to all the other competitors who took part. All the entries were of a very high standard and the result was a close call.

The entry list included Scissor Trix, Daniel Jones, City Barbers, Creaseless & Clean, City Sandwich Bar, Jacob's Ladder, The Chippery, Farm Shop, Kebab House, City News, Antonio's, Chiropractic, Ruby Tuesdays, City Glam, Bon Ami and the winner – the Flowerpot Cafe. Thanks to all those that took part in the competition!

Our cafes and takeaway locations in St. Asaph have done a fantastic job this year. Despite having to adapt their working patterns, they have continued to give excellent service, to give a cheerful welcome, and to keep morale high when times have been hard. Thanks to you all!

Rainbows and Brownies

Julie Shaw

Just prior to Christmas, St. Asaph Rainbows and Brownies collected toys for "North Wales Superkids" and also dried goods for "Souper Sunday" which is a project for the street homeless in Rhyl. They also made Christmas Cards which were delivered to the Old Deanery and Bryn Derwen care homes in St. Asaph, Richmond House care home in Rhyl and also gave some to "Denbigh Forget Me Not" project who were handing them out to anyone who was lonely or isolated over Christmas. We're longing to get back to meeting in person again, but until then, even though we are continuing meetings virtually, unfortunately we don't currently have spaces for any new members.



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Welsh Blood Service
Gwasanaeth Gwaed Cymru

Are you aged between 17 and 66 years old?

Sue Scott

Do you have a giving nature? Then why not give blood? **Go to www.welsh-blood.co.uk to register or telephone 0800 252226.** Covid rules do apply but all your questions will be answered on the website. There is a quick eligibility questionnaire on-line to make sure you can give blood e.g. you must weigh at least 50 Kg, be healthy and not subject to any medical exclusions, are aged between 17 and 66 years old although there are exceptions for some

donors over 66 years so do check the website. Female donors between 17 and 19 years please see the website for further information.

Due to Covid the Welsh Blood Service has created hubs where you go to donate your blood. The hubs can be 5, 10 or 15 miles from where you live. When you register, if eligible to give blood, you can make an appointment so make sure you check that your appointment is at a hub most convenient for you.

What to expect?

- Register on-line, complete a donor health questionnaire to confirm your blood is safe. Make an appointment on-line.
- At your appointment blood will be taken from your fingertip to check you are not anaemic.
- Your donation will be taken, which is likely to be just under a pint.
- Then you rest, have a drink and a biscuit.

The whole process takes between 45 and 60 minutes. Throughout your appointment you will be looked after and any questions you have will be answered. Check out the website for more details about blood donations and the eight different types of blood. The Welsh Blood Service relies entirely on voluntary donors to maintain its supplies. Just one donation can save up to three lives. How often you can donate depends on your gender. If you can donate check out the website www.welsh-blood.co.uk or telephone 0800 252226 today.



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Details of how we will conduct a sweep under Covid restrictions can be found on our website.

2021 ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL EXCITING NEW PROJECTS, ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL CREATIVITY SERIES

HOW TO WRITE POETRY WITH FOLKY AND MR INKWELL

At St Asaph Cathedral, with the help of our wonderful heritage volunteers, we have been creating free family activities for you to use at home. Our first free activity which is part of our new creativity series is "How to write poetry with Folkly". These poems will be inspired by your hopes and dreams for the future. You will receive a pdf of the booklet to print out/view at home. We have also made a 'how to video' you can find on our **YOUTUBE** page "**St Asaph Cathedral Heritage**". Here you can meet poet Mr Inkwell and his cat Folkly and learn how to write your poem with their help.

Once you have written your poems we would love for you to send them to us and Folkly will read them out and put them on our YouTube page.

Our free family craft bags will return when the lockdown ends. In the meantime, keep an eye out for our February email craft 'Doodle Bells' and short film inspired by our historic Cathedral bells.

For further information and to receive your Folkly booklet please email lornakernahan@stasaphcathedral.wales



ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL HERITAGE GARDENS

GARDENS GIVEN THE GO AHEAD!



Inspired by the rich medieval history of St Asaph Cathedral and monastic gardens, Lorna Kernahan, National Lottery Heritage Fund Activities Co-ordinator is looking for more volunteers to help support a new heritage garden in the grounds of the Cathedral. The garden will be situated on the grass by the West door and split into two areas. One as a 'meditation' garden with plants which help this and one a 'Physic' area which will include the types of herbs used for medicinal purposes.



Volunteers have already begun to research medieval gardens and the plants that were used and to draw up plans for the layout of the garden. Volunteers are needed to help develop and maintain the garden. Ray Bailey, Volunteer garden consultant will also run a series of talks about historic gardens in the spring (in the Cathedral or on Zoom restrictions depending).



For further information please contact lornakernahan@stasaphcathedral.wales
ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL PHONE NUMBER: 01745 582245



ENGLISH AND MATHS TUITION

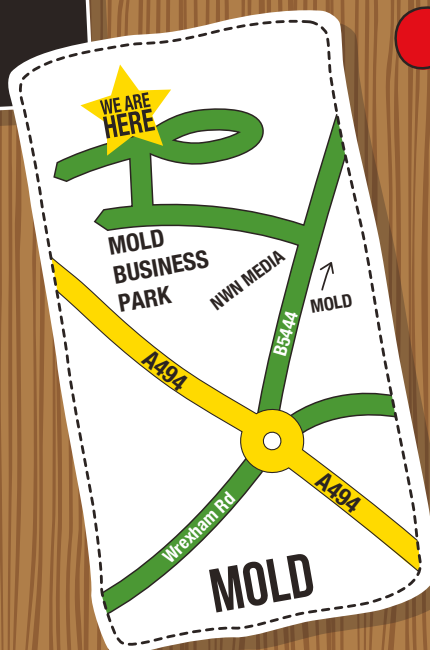
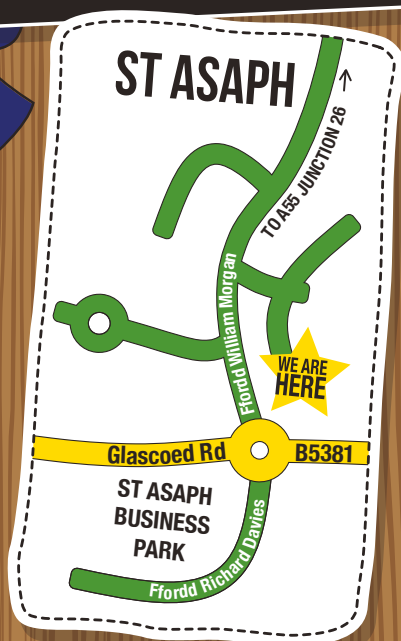
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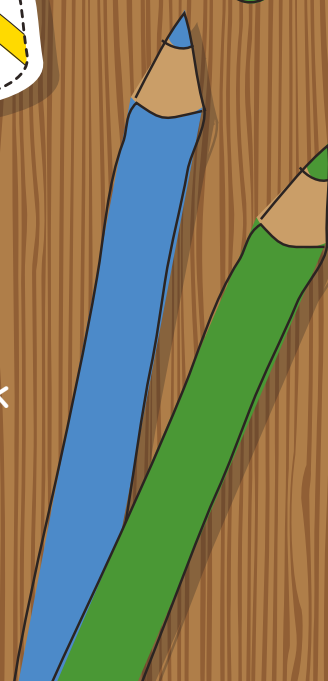
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Christmas at the VP school

Lynn Pepper

Friday 11th December was Christmas Jumper day. The children had a visit from a virtual Elf and took home a gift (book) . They found this a truly magical experience as Mary Twinkletoes told them she had been visiting our school regularly, and thankfully everyone was on the nice list - even Mrs Pepper!

We also raised £87 for Save the Children from parents' kind donations. Staff also kindly donated to St. Kentigern Hospice instead of taking part in secret Santa.

Monday 14th December was our Winter Wonderland Walk day, when children and staff wrapped up in warm clothing and enjoyed a stroll around our local environment. This ended with story time back at school, accompanied with a cup of hot chocolate with cream and marshmallows.

Tuesday 15th December was a Christmas crafts day where all children were able to partake in activities, with different provision being made for those of other faiths.

Wednesday 16th December gave every child the opportunity to enjoy Cinderella, a virtual panto. The children had snacks as they would at the usual panto trip while they watched. Everyone had the chance to join in with some dancing and this was a lovely end to our term.

Year 2 children made Christingles with Marion Hughes from the Parish Church via a video link. This was filmed and included in the virtual St Asaph Cathedral service on Christmas Eve. Unfortunately, the parties planned for Thursday 17th December were unable to go ahead due to face to face learning ending early on 16th December. But it was still Christmas!



Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog

Laura Martin



Happy New Year/ Blwyddyn Newydd Dda from us all here!

The run up to Christmas wasn't quite the same as normal but the children still took part in a variety of Christmas craft activities and went home well prepared for Santa's visit with reindeer food*, Christingles, decorations, cards and calendars. We all enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner and Christmas parties in our classes so all in all the run up to Christmas was festive and lots of fun!

We practised and performed our Christmas concerts virtually. Although this wasn't the ideal scenario, and we definitely missed performing to our parents, we still enjoyed learning songs, poems and our lines and performed them with as much enthusiasm as we would normally! We prepared a carol service for Denbighshire County Council's Virtual Christmas which we thoroughly enjoyed doing and we hope it brought a smile to lots of faces.

As an end of year treat we watched Rhyl Pavilion's 'Once Upon A Panto' virtually which the whole school thoroughly enjoyed and it definitely ensured we were in the festive spirit!

This term hasn't started as we had hoped but the children are still working hard on a variety of tasks whether that be at home or in school. At the time of writing we remain open for the children of Key Workers only and are using Seesaw and Microsoft Teams to keep in touch with everyone. We have our fingers crossed that it won't be long before we are all back together again!

**(Ed: Reindeer eat grass, sedge, willows, mushrooms and reindeer moss usually. But at Christmas they like carrots, and also mince pies...)*

St. Kentigern Hospice appeals for help!

Laura Ellis-Bartlett, fund-raising manager

During the COVID 19 pandemic, St. Kentigern Hospice has been forced to shut all ten of our shops and stop face to face fundraising activity including events, lottery cash collections and our Café. As a result we have lost **60%** of our fundraising income. So the 2021 lockdown has hit us hard and we need your help now more than ever.

We're asking you to help us during the difficult times ahead, so that we can continue to provide nursing and essential care to the patients and families we support. Your donations will enable us to continue our vital work. Here's how you can help:

Donate

£5 – your gift will pay for a patient's food for the day

£20.00 - your gift will pay for an hour of vital nursing care

£240.00 - your gift will pay for 12 hours of vital nursing care in St Kentigern Hospice in-patient unit.

£445.00 – your gift will pay for a bed in our inpatient unit for the night

Other – whatever your gift, your kind donation means people living with a terminal illness and their families will receive expert care and support

Hold a fundraising event

Set yourself a challenge and raise funds. Encourage your friends, family and co-workers to sponsor you, join our Lockdown Champions and receive a medal and certificate at the end of your challenge.

Order Afternoon tea from Caffi Cariad or join the Hospice Lottery for the chance to win each week.

Thank you from all of us!

Laura



Library Services

Mathew Baker

As per the image below, we are primarily providing an Order and Collect service to our customers- they can telephone the library/browse online to request either specific titles, or a selection based on their interests that is chosen by a member of staff. Orders are then collected by appointment 'contact free' from the Library foyer. For more vulnerable customers staff members can load books directly into a car boot, and for customers unable to get to us the home library service can offer delivery right to the doorstep!

Enjoy a daily newspaper? Save yourself some money, as Library members can access all major local and national newspapers online, free of charge! In addition, Library members continue to receive free access to thousands of the latest eBooks and eAudiobooks through Borrowbox.

To access any of our digital services register for a library account online at www.denbighshire.gov.uk/libraries or telephone your local branch.

Library One Stop Shop

Customers can still make card payments by telephoning the Library. If a customer is unable to pay by card we can accept a cheque payment by appointment only. Below is a list of the most common One Stop Shop payments:

Council Tax	Rent
Fines	Parking Permits
Denbighshire Invoices	Bulky Waste Collections
Blue Badge	Bus Pass Replacements
Trade Waste Sacks	Other DCC related payments

Blue Badges

We are able to assist customers with Blue Badge applications - please telephone the library for an appointment. Please get in touch if library service can further assist the community in any way.

Phone: 01745 590719 or 07825 921790

E-bost/E-mail: mathew.baker@sirddinbych.gov.uk www.sirddinbych.gov.uk / www.denbighshire.gov.uk





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We welcome visitors and taster days are always available.

**For further information contact the Principals, Mr and Mrs Perkins on
01745 583 505 or email admin@fairholmeschool.com**

www.fairholmeschool.com

Mount Road, St. Asaph, Denbighshire, LL17 0DH





Set yourself a marathon challenge for June! Well, it's early February. How are your New Year exercise resolutions going? This is your chance to set yourself a target for the summer, to support the Ross family of St. Asaph in the memory of their 17 year old son Ethan, who tragically died in a road accident last September. The family and friends are encouraging us to "**Move a Marathon**" over the weekend of 18th-20th June this summer, and raise funds for two very special charities: Wales Air Ambulance and Young Minds. Here are just a few of the extraordinary things people will be doing:

- Paul, Helen and Callum are all running 26.2 miles together on the Sunday
- A group of friends will be pushing a friend in their wheelchair for 26 miles
- A team of 10 cyclists will be cycling up and down Rhualt hill 27 times
- A group of friends will be kayaking 26.6 miles
- Another group is doing a 26 hour workout at Paragon Gym
- A team from the police are cycling from Chelsea FC in London to St Asaph that weekend
- A group will be walking the Welsh 3000s (26 + miles)
- Ethan's St. Asaph friends will be playing a football match against his Denbigh friends in Belle Vue in Rhyl
- And **all** primary schools in Denbigh, St Asaph, Rhuddlan and Rhyl will be taking part on the Friday!



If you are thinking about a 26.2 mile cycle ride, the best traffic free route from St. Asaph is to Rhuddlan on the cycle path, along the river to Marine lake, over the H-bridge, and then along the promenade coast path to Colwyn Bay—and back!

If you plan a team exercise, you can divide the distance up. So, for example, a team of six dog walkers could each cover just over 4 miles. What kind of marathon do you plan to do in June? Let's all do what we can to get behind the family and support them in this completely remarkable event!

Visit denbighshireleisure.co.uk/moveamarathonforethan for more details.

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/moveamarathonforethan?utm_term=YMwXaEBmp

The family extend their thanks to Jamie Groves and his team at Denbighshire Leisure Ltd for their continuing support for the event.



Our beautiful Vale of Clwyd. There are many worse places to spend lockdown.

Photo—Steve Morris