



St. Asaph & District ^{new} City Times

Issue No 10



June 2021

ST ASAPH LOCKDOWN BABY GROUP IN THE PARISH CHURCH



First ever mention of Brexit in the new City Times—we hung on as long as we could!
See Page 15



National Volunteers Week is our theme
see centre pages

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Deadline for copy for August issue is Monday July 17th – but please submit well before to ensure publication as the paper fills quickly

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

Walking and Cycling Routes—have your say!

Denbighshire are asking for feedback on the draft plans they have produced for walking and cycling routes. The plans show existing routes that already meet active travel standards, routes which require upgrading to meet the standards and new routes they would like to see built over the next 15 years. There appear to be some interesting suggestions, including a dead straight path from St Asaph to Denbigh! Definitely getting feedback on that one....

They are now asking if the proposed walking and cycling routes will help you get around your local area more as a pedestrian and a cyclist, and if not what other improvements are needed. For information on how to provide feedback go to <https://denbighshire2.commonplace.is/>

Correction

In the April 2021 issue of the City Times, we included a profile of Dr David Lee of the Willows Dental and Implant Practice. In this article, we described his colleagues as being *specialist dental practitioners* whereas in fact they are *general dental practitioners* with special expertise in certain areas. This distinction in terminology is of importance, particularly with regard to the General Dental Council. We regret any confusion or misunderstanding caused by this error, and are grateful to Dr Lee for drawing it to our attention.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Life-threatening emergencies	999 Police, Fire Brigade or Ambulance.
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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

Pen Y Bont surgery	01745 583208	Samaritans	116123
Beech House surgery	01745 582251	Alcoholics Anonymous	0800 9177 650
GP Out of Hours	0300 123 5566	Al Anon (for families & friends)	0800 008 6811
Rowlands Pharmacy	01745 583200	Wales Dementia Helpline	0808 808 2235
Denbighshire County Council:	01824 706000	Age Cymru Adviceline	08000 223 444
Citizens Advice Bureau:	01745 334568	Cruse Bereavement Care	0800 808 1677
Clwyd Alyn Housing Assoc	0800 1835757	Childline	0800 1111
Grŵp Cynefin Housing Assoc	0300 111 2122	North Wales Victim Support	0300 30 30 159
North Wales Housing Assoc	01492 572727	Environment Agency	03708 506506
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Planning application for 198 bed care home on the Business Park

The pandemic has shone a spotlight on the provision of care of the elderly and vulnerable in our communities. We have clapped for the care workers, paid and unpaid, in recognition of their dedication and service during the darkest days of Covid. In too many instances, they have worked in settings that have not been easy for management of challenges of this magnitude.

Against this background, a proposal has been submitted for planning approval for a purpose-built care home for 198 residents on the St Asaph Business Park. Preparation of this proposal of course began well before Covid struck, but the last year has emphasised many key issues for delivery of care. *City Times* caught up with Dylan Southern, a former general and psychiatric nurse, who rose into health service management at St Thomas' Hospital in London and in Jersey, and who subsequently moved into development of care homes. Dylan was born in St Asaph, but grew up in Lancashire; his partner in the planning application is Dr Simon Dobson, senior partner at Clarence House Medical Centre in Rhyl.



Dylan describes the reasoning behind the proposal, and argues that it has clear logic. Every winter, hospital bed space is under great pressure, even without a pandemic, and patients who are ready to be discharged, but not quite well enough to return home, have often had to wait some time before their own home is adapted or a nursing home space becomes available. He argues that care homes in North Wales are often in older buildings less well suited for adaptation to the needs of long stay clients, or for delivery of the services required to quickly “re-able” those that could manage at home; also adding that many care homes are in buildings that that can make control of infection challenging.

Ty Seren, which would be built on the St Asaph Business Park, would provide the kind of facilities now required. All rooms would be 20m², and would have en-suite toilets and showers (crucial for infection control), and there would be comfortable spaces for communal life, as well as extensive protective gardens. Ty Seren will also be adapted for those living with dementia, and therapy rooms and consulting rooms for doctors and specialist nurses would be provided. There will be great emphasis on swift re-ablement of those potentially able to return to their homes. Dylan envisages that Ty Seren would work closely with Glan Clwyd hospital and social services, as well as having significant medical input from GPs, including regular medical rounds for those in need. Dylan and Simon envisage Ty Seren to be a “beacon unit”, with PhD research students attached to the unit to study delivery of care and determine best practice. Overall, they estimate that Ty Seren would employ around 230 staff, in “new, well paid and highly skilled jobs”.

Details of the planning application (no: 40/2021/0309) and responses can be found on Denbighshire County Council planning pages. A previous application was turned down in March 2020, with one of the reasons stated being that “*the land is allocated and safeguarded for high quality employment uses only in the Denbighshire LDP*” Dylan comments that the proposal provides exactly that—high quality employment. The Health Board disputes the need for a facility of this capacity, although the applicants anticipate that new regulatory requirements introduced in the wake of the pandemic may in fact limit local capacity significantly.

It is possible that a decision will have been made by the time the June issue of the *City Times* is distributed, but it is also possible that the decision will be delayed for further consideration.



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Harrison, Saffron and Tia in the Plough



The beer garden at the New Inn

Back in business! With the step-wise and gradual lifting of Covid restrictions, cafes, pubs and restaurants have been gradually re-opening, to the relief of many thirsty customers. Staff at the Plough report rapidly getting back to pre-lockdown levels of custom both at the bar and with restaurant numbers. As caravan parks re-open, and holiday makers returning to Wales, the local hospitality sector hopes to recoup some of the losses incurred during the “lost year”. Innovative transformation of outside facilities came first, with the garden at the New Inn becoming a popular destination, even with the rain and cold in May. Sales of garden sheds, large parasols, outside heaters and even greenhouses have been massive this year as enterprising venues sought to maintain trade whilst keeping customers safe. Hopefully, we will look back at this last twelve months with disbelief in years to come!



Cil Owen in 1962—photo E Parry-Jones



Cil Owen in 2021—photo Mike Costello

Cil Owen

During the lockdown, many of us have been walking more locally. If you take the public footpath down through the fields behind Glan Clwyd school, over the footbridge and up the hillside beyond, you will reach a ruined house, of soft red brick, in a lovely site looking out across the valley. As can be seen from the pictures above (taken in 1962 and 2019), it is in a perilous condition, with leaning walls and crumbling brickwork, but it must once have been a significant house. It is a place full of atmosphere.

Mike Parry-Jones notes that it is a listed building, and that it would have been the main house for the “township” of Cil Owen. Mike’s father recorded the following in his *New Companion to St Asaph*: “Various spellings of the name are as follows: *Chilven* (Domes. Book 1083), *Kyloen* (Survey of Denbigh 1344), *Kylwen* (Orig. documents 1380) and *Kil Owen* (Parochialia 1699). The first recorded use of brick in Clwyd was at *Bach y Graig* (1567), and *Cil Owen* is felt to have been built in the late 16th or early 17th century. According to William Davies “on the invasion of North Wales by Henry II in 1157, Owen Gwynedd, the reigning sovereign camped his forces for some time at a hamlet in this parish, which was subsequently called *Cil Owen*, or *Owen’s Retreat*, and afterwards, at the nearer approach of the enemy, moved his forces to *Bryn-y-Pin*, five miles to the west of the city, from which post he frequently descended to skirmish with the English”. If the ruins could speak, they would surely tell a story or two.

New North Wales Police Commissioner

Labour's candidate Andy Dunbobbin, 46, has been elected as the new North Wales Police Commissioner. He lives in Connah's Quay, and has been a Flintshire County Councillor for 8 years, serving on the North Wales Police and Crime Panel amongst other responsibilities. He previously worked as a Social Innovation Outreach worker which involved organising and supporting community groups and developing them as social enterprises. He also worked in a telecoms/datacoms and network company.

His stated top priority is "improving visibility of the police in our communities so that we can all feel more safe and secure". He welcomes the plan to increase recruitment of police officers. In an informative Q&A session on www.north.wales/pcc2021 Mr Dunbobbin sets out his credentials and priorities in taking up this role. As a current member of the Police and Crime Panel, he is content with the current police and crime plan. Other than drugs, he feels that modern day slavery and rural crime are some of the most problematic crimes in North Wales. He is critical of the UK governments over the budget of the new Emergency Services Communications Platform, and disagrees with many aspects of the recent Police bill. His responsibilities as PCC are:

- to secure the maintenance of the police force, by setting the budget;
- to secure that the police force is efficient and effective;
- to hold the chief constable to account for the exercise of his/her functions and the functions of the persons under his/her direction and control, namely the police force of which he/she is chief constable; and
- to establish a police and crime plan, to which the chief constable must have regard.

We wish him well in this enormously important role, and look forward to welcoming him to St Asaph and district before too long.



Andy Dunbobbin

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Our new MS

Congratulations to Gareth Davies, who won the constituency seat for the Conservatives in the Vale of Clwyd on 6th May. It was a close-run result, with a recount being required. The winning margin was 366 votes against Jason Mclellan (Labour). All best wishes in taking on this post.

Vale of Clwyd Election Results	
Gareth Davies (Welsh Conservative)	10,792
Jason Mclellan (Welsh Labour)	10,426
Glenn Swingler (Plaid Cymru)	2972
Lisa Davies (Welsh Liberal Democrats)	782
Peter Dain (Reform UK)	552
David Thomas (Independent)	529
Turn out	46.3%
Electorate:	56,622

Contact details: You can message Gareth Davies on Facebook, or call on 0300 200 7173. His e-mail address is Gareth.I.davies@senedd.wales and his website is www.garethdavies.wales Surgery details—to be confirmed.



New Chair of DCC Cllr. Alan James who represents the Rhyl West ward has been elected as the new Chair of Denbighshire County Council. His chosen charities are Macmillan Cancer support and the Rhyl RNLI. To his great credit, he plans to cycle from Lands End to John O’Groats to support these causes next month, no doubt taking a small diversion through Denbighshire. Cllr. Christine Marston of Tremeirchion (with Alan in the picture above) has been elected as vice chair. We wish them well.

Peter Scott re-elected as mayor

Cllr. Peter Scott has been re-elected by the City Council to be Mayor for 2021/2022, and looks forward to representing the people and the City for a further twelve months. It has been an extraordinary year to be Mayor, and we appreciate his commitment, and that of all the City Council members, through the challenges of the pandemic. Cllr. John Roberts was re-elected to be Deputy Mayor.



Political heavy-hitters visit North Wales!



Peter White, MD at Qioptic discusses night-vision goggles with Sir Keir Starmer. Vitally important items for our armed forces, but perhaps also for politicians? Depending on your politics, they are either crucial to see through the dark mists of government shenanigans, or a useful adjunct to an ability to use hindsight.
Photo: Qioptic



Great photo of our PM in Llandudno. Is he putting the Welsh flag on the boy’s castle in a salute to a nation, or is he discreetly removing it to swap for an ice-cream? Again, it would depends on your politics.
Photo: Conservative Party website



Spring Gardens bridge, Feb 2020

NRW's Flood Investigation Report

The long awaited Flood Investigation Report examining the impact of Storm Ciara in February 2020 has now been released by Natural Resources Wales. It focusses primarily on flooding from "main rivers", and describes events on the Elwy right up to Llanfair Talhaiarn and Llangernyw. It is a detailed and comprehensive document, with professional analysis supplemented by input from local residents, and with their photos also. It confirms that by the sewage works there is an area of the defence dyke with insufficient freeboard of 30cm—this allowed the flooding of Spring Gardens. It also confirmed the overflow of the path behind Roe Park which was managed by flood wardens with sandbags. There is a detailed description of the flooding along the Lower Denbigh Road, although many factors contributed to this, and addressing these issues has been passed on to the "appropriate authorities".

The conclusion states: *"Considering the observed river levels on the Afon Elwy at Pont Y Gwyddel gauging station were significantly higher than those observed during the 2012 event, the flood risk management scheme at St Asaph performed well providing benefit to over 370 properties. However, many residential properties, commercial premises and caravan parks did flood, many of which were outside the defended area for the St Asaph scheme. NRW have initiated a formal review of scheme performance, are continuing to work with professional partners to manage flood risk and will continue to work with communities to understand the mechanisms of flooding. The pattern of weather observed across Wales highlights the continual risk which flooding poses.....The recommendations contained within this report go some way to capturing the lessons learnt but require positive action by all stakeholders to continually manage flood risk on the Afon Elwy"*

James Davies MP has called for the flood prevention measures to be implemented before next winter. The report is not on NRW's website at the time of going to press but is available on St Asaph Flood Awareness Facebook page.

New Sheriff in town!

Former Airbus UK executive Steve Thomas, from St Asaph, has been appointed "High Sheriff of Clwyd". For those of you unfamiliar with the role, the origins date back to Saxon times when the 'Shire Reeve' was responsible to the king for the maintenance of law and order within the shire, or county, and for the collection and return of taxes due to the Crown.

Steve has taken over in the role as the Queen's representative in North East Wales from David Wynne-Finch. His duties also include supporting the Lord-Lieutenant for any Royal visits to the area and attending on High Court judges.

Steve joined Airbus 40 years ago as a commercial apprentice before qualifying as a chartered accountant and rose to be the Government Affairs Executive at Broughton.

He said: "I have always felt public-spirited and want to make a positive contribution as High Sheriff of Clwyd and in terms of a theme for the year I have chosen to support MIND, the mental health charity. I also want to recognise and promote the wider work of the third sector and the many voluntary activities that go on across the county which has been of particular importance this year.

He recently became a trustee of St Kentigern Hospice and is also vice-chair of North Wales Police and Community Trust (PACT), and backs the National Crimebeat charity which promotes law and order and safe environments.

"The work of the High Sheriff is also important in liaising with the police and the judiciary and as a facilitator in bringing together people in the community in which they serve."

Steve and his wife, Sally, have five children, and as well as enjoying gardening and the theatre, he is also an avid sports fan, following Wales and regional side RGC in rugby, cricket at Colwyn Bay Cricket Club and the fortunes of Wrexham FC.



Some notes from the City Council Meeting in May

Colin Hardie

1. Annual meeting.

Councillors Peter Scott and John Roberts were re-elected to serve as Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively. Mayor's and Councillors' allowances were approved.

Committee memberships and meeting calendar were approved.

Standing Orders and Policies and Procedures were approved and adopted.

Representatives of the City Council on Outside Bodies were approved.

Signatories to Bank Accounts were approved.

2. Monthly meeting

There were no members of the public present.

North Wales Police report: There had been problems relating to animal welfare when dog walkers allowed their pets to harass sheep whilst walking without leads on Roe Plas Meadow – the City Council would remind dog owners that all dogs should be on leads when walking in the sheep field, no matter how well behaved they believe the dog to be.

Police had to respond to several neighbourhood disputes, instances of verbal abuse, and minor assaults.

There had been several instances of parties and fires along the river banks. People are reminded that fires/camping along the river bank are not permitted.

Minutes of last month's meeting were received and approved.

Planning: An application to fell a diseased ash tree at 14 Bryn Coed was discussed- no objections were raised.

Approval was given for the City Clerk to purchase a replacement laptop.

Memorial Bench: Approval was given for a member of the public to install a memorial bench near the football pitch. The exact siting and installation will be discussed with the applicant.

Official minutes of all City Council monthly meetings are posted on the City Council website (www.stasaphcitycouncil.gov.uk) following approval at the subsequent meeting. Contact details for individual councillors are on the website. You can also contact the Council via: The City Clerk, Mrs Jill Ellison, 26 Maes Dolfor, Llanfairfechan, Conwy, LL33 0RP Tel: 07521 641756



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At the Memorial service for the Duke of Edinburgh held in the cathedral in April



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Brad Percival

This award, particularly at the Gold level, is regarded highly by universities and colleges, and by prospective employers as the course demands a high level of motivation and ongoing commitment. The course is accessible to individuals via schools and higher education institutions, as well as through the Denbighshire DoE "hub". Interested individuals can get further information from the DoW website.

Alternatively individuals can contact me via St. Brigid's school—I'm happy to take

enquiries. There is an award ceremony for each level of award, Bronze, Silver and Gold, and the Gold award is usually presented by a member of the royal family at one of six locations.

During Covid 19 restrictions, candidates have been working towards their awards in their "bubbles" e.g. school years but camping has not been a viable option. Instead, groups have been dropped off at various locations for daily activities and tent erection and outdoor cookery and living skills are then assessed.

Current pass rates are as follows:

Bronze award - 100%

Silver award - 75%

Gold award - 50%

The higher the award, then the greater autonomy is placed on candidates in planning the activities they wish to undertake for their award. Course organisers are always seeking volunteers to help, particularly with specific skills - details are available on the DoE award website.

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Sentiments

"If only I were rich", they say
 "my worries would be over,
 never wanting for a thing,
 spend all my days in clover"

Money makes the world go round
 Of that there is no doubt
 But surely it's life's values
 That we cannot do without.

Feelings and emotions
 Delve deeper than we know.
 We take for granted all these things
 That in friendships we sow

What of happiness, peace and trust
 Companionship and time?
 Understanding's all it takes
 To let that person shine

A listening ear is all we need
 Allaying someone's fear
 A gentle touch, an outstretched hand
 A smile for someone dear

And what about enduring love?
 The finest love of all
 Patience, hope and honesty
 Thoughts, however small

A phone call or a special note
 To show that you are there
 For those who live with loneliness
 To show how much you care

Sandra Smith

Letters

Blimey old Riley!

"I recently received a copy of the City Times Feb 2021. In the archive photo, I believe the old Riley belonged to my mother, Mrs DC Williams of Wigfair Isa. She sold it to Mr Crop, an electrician in St. Asaph for £5 after it failed its MOT at Pierce's garage in around 1964. If you have any other photos, I would love to see them—it was the car in which I learned to drive!"

Susan Glasgow (nee Williams), Saffron Walden



Thank you!

"I would like to say thank you to all those volunteers involved in planting trees and flowers around the City. It is such a joy to walk around in such beautiful surroundings. We are so fortunate to have such a place in which to live and to have people who care enough to make it look even more beautiful. Thank you!" *Beryl Trimby*

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Unregistered domestic extension

Concerned residents have noted what appear to be major extensions to a hillside property just outside St Asaph. There is no record of planning permission being granted on Denbighshire CC planning pages. The work appears to have been carried out at night to avoid scrutiny, although the spill from excavations is immediately apparent. Rumours have been circulating as to the nature of the work, with some suggesting that the underground extension has been created to house a swimming pool and home cinema complex. We understand such basement developments are popular in high value properties in central London. Others have suggested that it represents illicit quarrying/mining operations.

City Times identified the property as belonging to a Mr and Mrs Badger, who have moved there recently, and who are believed to have a number of youngsters. Neighbours report that the family are reclusive and rarely seen in daylight hours. When asked for further details, a spokesman for the family commented: "It's not a black and white matter. There are shades of brown."

A most beloved child...

This beautiful brass memorial has been polished by generations of volunteers cleaning the parish church. In this time of pandemic, we have been reminded of our own mortality only too clearly, and are grateful for vaccination. Thomas Lloyd died of pox (likely to have been smallpox), a terrifyingly infectious condition now thankfully eradicated worldwide through vaccination. The plaque reads as follows:

"To Thomas Lloyd, third son of Thomas and Anna Lloyd of Cefn, a five-year-old, his uncle R M of Ruthin (by whom it was greatly owed) has placed this final duty ---- Who has buried beneath this stone, together with so dear a boy, all his efforts, hopes and cares ---- Go, reader, and learn that whatever you hold of highest value is due* to death ---- The most beloved boy died of pox on the 26th January A.D. 1696." **

(Translated by Henry Howard, Johnby Hall, Penrith)

* in the sense of 'an account that has to be paid'

** the plaque records the year in both the Julian Calendar (new year begins 25 March) and the Gregorian Calendar (new year begins 1 January). England was still using the Julian Calendar in 1696, though many countries had long moved over to the Gregorian.

Thanks to Professor John Harper and Henry Howard.



Photo: Bob Derry



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Llanelwy WI

Denise Dalbertson

An excellent Zoom meeting at Llanelwy WI this month with our guest speaker Janet Shell, on the history of Port Sunlight and the four generations of her family who worked and lived there from 1912.

The talk started with an overview of Port Sunlight, which was founded by William Hesketh Lever to house the workers at his soap factory. Building started at the end of the 19th century and there were 30 architects involved in creating this iconic village, including Edwin Lutyens.

We were shown many wonderful black and white photos of her relatives and it was fascinating to see the fashions of the day from the 1910s through to the

1970s and also an insight into village life at that time. Some of us could even reminisce about the 1950s and 60s!

Janet grew up in Port Sunlight in the 1960s and 70s and through her photos and stories manages to capture and bring to life her childhood in the village. She has since gone on to write a book about her family's history called 'The Sunlight Girl'. The members enjoyed the talk and found it very interesting and are looking forward to visiting Port Sunlight again in the future.



Janet Shell



Up hill and down dale, with his new knee, for Cancer Research



Dave Nuttall took up the challenge to cycle 300 miles in March, as part of a national March 300 fund-raising drive for Cancer Research UK. He reflects on the experience:

"I follow CRUK on social media, because I have been involved professionally with the charity, which routinely supports several initiatives related to population disease screening. The pandemic had severely affected their income generation, so I decided to take part.

I set myself a challenge of 75 miles a week for 4 weeks, and got a big boost when I managed to exceed 90 miles in the first week which gave me a few extra miles in the back pocket to offset any challenges along the way - bad weather, injury, illness or work commitments and I managed to maintain that "cushion" in the weeks ahead which, in hindsight was a good thing. I have recently undergone a total knee replacement procedure and that was sore after the hilly days so, being ahead of schedule meant I could rest when I needed to. Fitting cycling around work was challenging, with most long rides taking place on Thursdays, my day off or at the weekend. To maintain progress I cycled in the early morning or in the evening - doing short rides of 8-10 miles.

I managed 35 miles on one day, cycling to Rhos on Sea and back and my hilliest cycle ride was St. Asaph to Bontnewydd, on to Llanefydd

then down to Llanfair Talhaiarn and back to St. Asaph via Moelfre and Glascoed. I think that was my hardest ride, climbing over 1700 feet in under 4 hours and also the most varied, in terms of the different scenery and weather - from bright warm sunshine to hail and high winds in an afternoon. In fact, wind direction (one day I experienced gusts of 40-50 mph) was a consideration with most of my rides heading east to west, so that I would have the prevailing wind on my back for my return journey, when I would be tired and needing all the help I could get!

Worst moment - climbing up Gwaenysgor hill - and I admit I walked most of it! Best moment was cycling around the Great Orme and seeing the coastal cliffs and the goats on the crags above. And of course, finally getting to the top of Gwaenysgor hill, admiring the view from the viewpoint in the car park!"

Good work Dave!

Handy Gardening Tips for Summer.

Chris Jones

Hopefully by now the sun is shining, the weather is much warmer and everyone is raring to get out into the garden and grow and hoe and sow! Here are a few tips which you may find to be of use:

1. Can't bend down to sow seeds? Use a plastic pipe or hose and drop the seeds down through it.
2. Always label and date your seeds; some last ages (tomatoes) while others only last for about a year (parsnips).
3. Protect young clematis by planting several inches deeper than it was in its container (this helps to avoid clematis wilt). Surround the plant with a cylinder of plastic (an old plastic bottle with the base removed) to prevent slugs from devouring it. Put Vaseline around the top edge to stop slugs and snails from climbing over it.
4. Don't feed a plant if it's been suffering from lack of water. It won't be able to absorb the fertilizer properly.
5. Add annual climbers to cover a bare trellis while slower growing plants get established.
6. When adding layers to your compost heap, don't add more than 15cm (6 ins) per layer. Make sure you put some cardboard in the compost; use cereal packets, egg boxes and so on. These will give your compost bulk.
7. New water plants often contain tiny duckweed plants which, once in situ, can multiply at an alarming rate. Always rinse all new pond plants under the tap before you put them in. Always bury pond duckweed in a hole or put it in the dustbin or on the compost heap. it's a tough little thing and can spread easily.
8. Remove flowers and large leaves from a perennial when planting; this helps to give it a good start in life and prevents moisture loss.
9. Make your own bird scarers by sticking feathers in the ground amongst the vegetables. Being territorial creatures they'll keep off another bird's patch.
10. Get rid of wire worms which can attack root vegetables. Cut potatoes into pieces and put them on a wooden skewer. Bury the chunks in the ground, leaving the skewer sticking out. Check them once a week, and burn or bin any that have worms.



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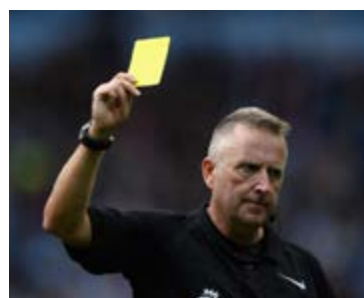


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Flea beetles attack cabbage, sprouts, calabrese, cauliflowers, Chinese cabbage, kale, swedes and turnips. Smear a piece of yellow card (flea beetles love yellow) with grease and leave it beside threatened plants.



"Thistles cut in May return the next day, thistles cut in June come up too soon, but cut them in July and they're sure to die."

Gardening Competition: Due no doubt to the modesty of many local gardeners, there were no applicants for the gardening competition, so the competition rules have been changed. The prize of vouchers for Jackson's Boutique Nursery will be awarded to the best photo in a garden, or the best photo of a garden.

The winning photo and runners-up will be published in the August issue.

Submit your garden photos to
editorsact@gmail.com

Trade buoyant in the livestock mart.

In the run-up to the Brexit vote, there were dire warnings about the potential collapse of the sheep industry, as around 40% of UK lamb is exported to the continent, and tariffs were expected to have a significant impact on the ability of farmers to compete in Europe. And following the EU trade agreement, the bureaucracy of border controls was anticipated to cause major headaches.

*But prices have more than held up in livestock markets throughout Wales. City Times caught up with **John Brereton** of Jones Peckover, who run the livestock mart in St Asaph, for comment.*

"Accepting that a trade agreement was negotiated, nevertheless Project Fear with respect to the sheep industry has been shown to be nonsense, and predictions of collapse in the trade have proved completely wrong. The demand for Welsh lamb has remained extremely high, with farmers continuing to get excellent prices. This is not limited to lamb sales; cull ewes, hoggets, breeding ewes and beef sales have also been very buoyant. Our buyers are reporting strong demand for lamb, with export of lamb carcasses to the continent as busy as ever. Perhaps because people have been unable to eat out, they have been buying and eating more at home? Trade is always good as Ramadan comes to an end, but prices have been good throughout the year. The general feeling is that Welsh lamb is, and will continue to be, a premium brand both in the UK and throughout Europe."

"Following the EU trade agreement, there was a period of border hold-ups to exporters, but enterprise can usually navigate a way through bureaucracy, and this has proved to be the case."

"The pandemic has been a massive challenge, but we have all adapted and fortunately St Asaph market has been able to continue sales throughout. This has been crucial, as shutting of livestock markets during the foot and mouth outbreak proved catastrophic for farmers. With the pandemic, farmers were dropping off their stock and leaving, letting the auctioneers look after their interests. With loosening of restrictions, and maintaining social distancing, farmers are now able to stay during sales, and this is important for them—not just as a chance to catch up with the news, but also to view the trade. It's just a great shame that the Royal Welsh will not be happening this year—it's the highpoint of the year for farmers. St Asaph livestock market has always valued the tremendous support of the local community, both from farming and within the city, and we look forward to a return to full normal operations."



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Volunteering—you won't regret it!

Many of our local sports clubs, organisations, charities and societies rely very heavily, if not wholly, on the enthusiastic contribution of volunteers. As this issue comes out right in the middle of **National Volunteers Week**, we thought we should thank all those volunteers in our community, and highlight some other local opportunities for volunteering. Some involve a regular commitment, some are just occasional. But in addition to helping a wide range of community projects and activities, volunteering is good for all of us, and is a great way to socialise as well! **City Times** asked local groups if they needed volunteers—and here are some of the opportunities:

Meet & Greet volunteers required to guide patients and members of the public at the front desk of Ysbyty Glan Clwyd. Check details with Denbighshire Volunteers at www.dvsc.co.uk WRVS will also be in need of volunteers for the tea bar in Ysbyty Glan Clwyd etc when Covid regulations permit.

St Asaph Football Club is a community focussed club run by volunteers and we're primarily looking for help to support our junior section which we feel is vitally important following the pandemic when many children have been stuck indoors. Most importantly it's fun, but we also aim to develop the children not only in a football sense, but to improve their teamwork, build confidence and stay fit. There are plenty of opportunities to help out:



Coaches - Whether you're just starting coaching or wanting to give something back, we'd love to have you on board. No experience necessary; you'd work alongside current coaches; it may take just 1-2 hours a week.

Groundspeople - If you have a few hours to spare a week, we're looking for help cutting and marking the pitch.

Committee Members - We're looking to add members who can bring a diverse range of experience to our committee. If you want to know more or have a child keen to join the club, contact Wyn 07884 340323 or John 07867 640398.

St Asaph Cricket Club We would welcome people to help with scoring or umpiring for our 2nd team at the club or help on the upkeep of the outside of the clubhouse. Contact : Gareth Ryan on 07996 683082, or call by at the club.

Afon Elwy Environmental Group: often featured in the City Times for the excellent work they do with litter-picks in St Asaph, the group also plant trees and look after the planters on the High Street and elsewhere. To join their occasional work parties, or find out more, contact DI at di.r@talktalk.net



Be a Robin! Robin volunteers are renowned for their friendly nature and willingness to help others. In fact they have proved such a hit that more are needed in our local community hospitals and in our North Wales Acute Hospitals. Robins are befrienders based on our hospital wards and prepare hot and cold drinks for patients, check water jugs, spend time chatting, read to patients, go on errands to the hospital shop, assist nursing staff with bed making, help with storage of supplies and tidying patients' lockers etc etc. If you are over 17 years and have a few hours to spare each week, the Robins could be for you. For further information please email BCU.Volunteers@wales.nhs.uk.

Cathedral Welcomers: As well as for services, the cathedral is now open again for visiting from 10am to 4pm, and volunteers are needed to be welcomers for 2 hour slots. Contact the Diocesan Office on 01745 582245

Becoming a Dementia Friendly Community: volunteers wanted

Living with dementia can be one of the most difficult times for both those who have a diagnosis of dementia as well as for those caring for them. Many of our neighbouring communities now have Dementia Friendly status through the Alzheimer's Society and after researching this I thought it would be wonderful if St Asaph could also become a Dementia Friendly Community. The parish church already has Dementia Friendly status as does the diocese. Following a successful grant application a steering group was formed to begin the work towards St Asaph also becoming an Alzheimer's Society accredited Dementia Friendly Community. Sadly due to the pandemic and the restrictions of lockdown our work came to an abrupt halt last year. But we are now meeting again via Zoom and would really like to expand the group. If you are interested, contact me at suelast47@gmail.com

Abergele Hospital League of Friends As you are all aware the virus has caused a great deal of disruption to all we do. The tea bar in Abergele Hospital has been closed since March 2020. In hope that we open during the Summer, we will be needing new volunteers to add to already happy team here in the tea bar. If, when reading this, you would like to put your name down as a potential volunteer please phone Jan on 01492 535774 for more details. We will make you very welcome! Jan Cawley, Vice Chairperson



Mount Road Community Cemetery Group

We meet on about three Saturday mornings (10-12) each year to hold a work party in the closed cemetery on Mount Road. A variety of tasks are available, from trimming ivy off the walls, tidying overgrown graves, strimming etc. Please bring stout shoes, gardening gloves and any gardening implement that you wish to use. Tea, coffee and cake provided! Ring 01745 583770 to add your name to the list of helpers, and we'll contact you when the next work party takes place. Janet Cameron janet.cameron2@btinternet.com

Charity Shops Most charities are in need of more volunteers to help in shops, as some older volunteers stopped working since the pandemic. This could be for sorting and pricing, window dressing, cleaning or as shop assistants. Here are just a few that we have spoken to:

- Hope House shop, Denbigh (Debbie 01745 812782)
- St Kentigern Hospice depot & local shops (Val Corner, 01745 583170)
- Mind shop, Bodfor St, Rhyl (Wendy 01745 331428)
- British Heart Foundation, Rhyl (Jo, 01745 356336)
- RSPB Conwy (www.rspb.org.uk 01492 584091)
- Barnardo's Shop Rhyl (01745 369502)



British Red Cross

The Red Cross has a great variety of ways in which you can help as a volunteer, ranging from helping in shops, driving patients, helping in emergency situations, supporting people to live independently, being an interpreter etc. The Red Cross also provides good training for these roles. Visit: www.redcross.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer

Parish Churchyard Group This is a new group being set up to help look after the churchyard, particularly with the increasing use of the parish church for community activities. We will hold occasional work parties during summer months, with drinks and refreshments provided. Mowing, weeding, hedge clipping and general gardening—and we would particularly value expert gardening advice to guide us! Contact 07808 878842 or pdcameron@btopenworld.com



Thanks to the faithful team of volunteer distributors of the City Times, taking round the 2000 copies. It is impressive that many members of the younger generation are also helping out with the task!



JOIN US!

We are looking for volunteers to volunteer from home.

If you would like to help people in your community and would like a chat about volunteering opportunities contact Julie:

Tele - 07775 917825

Email - Julie.pierce@dcab.co.uk





Horsebox? No, it's the Foodbox

Showing impressive enterprise, Zach and Alex Goddard of St Asaph have set up a mobile catering service run from a spick and span horsebox. Zach learned his trade through working in a major hotel in York, and subsequently in the Faenol Fawr, Porth Eirias and the Kinmel Arms. With the devastation of the hospitality sector caused by the pandemic, Zach and his brother decided to take the initiative and set up on their own, and the pizzas are selling, well, like hot cakes!

The Foodbox can be found at the Cricket club on Fridays and Saturdays. Contact Zach on 07498918499

Katrina's Otter video gets big response

A family of otters making their way upstream near St Asaph bridge was filmed by Katrina Jones on a clip now posted on the **ST ASAPH CITY.NORTH WALES** Facebook page. The posting attracted huge interest, overwhelmingly positive, although there was reluctance to celebrate the otters' appearance by a few members of the fishing community, who described otters as apex predators for river life, and raised concern about the effect on fish stocks.

The Wildlife Trust states: *"The elusive otter is one of our top predators, feeding mainly on fish (particularly eels and salmonids), waterbirds, amphibians and crustaceans. Otters have their cubs in underground burrows, known as 'holts'. Excellent and lithe swimmers, the young are in the water by 10 weeks of age. Otters are well suited to a life on the water as they have webbed feet, dense fur to keep them warm, and can close their ears and nose when underwater."*

If anyone manages to catch a good picture of the otters, we'd love to feature it—send to editorsact@gmail.com The picture here is, of course, our wooden otter!



Photo: Peter Scott



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Foxons—a great local success story!

City Times interviewed Renee Foxon

At the modest age of 16, Arthur Foxon (above) decided to start selling fishing tackle from a shelf in his parents' combined newsagents and Post Office on the Lower Denbigh road. His parents were not particularly enthusiastic. "People will always buy newspapers, people will always need Post Offices—stick with that" they advised. But with perseverance and a growing understanding of the needs of fellow fishermen, Arthur steadily increased the range of items for sale. The fishing tackle business grew. The Post Office counter closed, and they stopped selling papers. Foxons fishing tackle shop has taken over neighbouring properties, and is an extraordinary Aladdin's Cave of everything to do with fishing. If you love fishing, and many people do, you can spend happy hours browsing here.

In 2017 it celebrated its 50th anniversary as a fishing tackle shop, and is undoubtedly the premier game fishing tackle shop in North Wales - as evidenced by the enthusiastic reviews and threads on its Facebook page. Arthur and Roz have retired, but still live above the shop, and help Renee and her colleagues Shaun and Mike regularly.



During the first lockdown, Foxons closed completely, but during the second lockdown, they took advantage of the flexi-furlough system, and began developing online sales, which proved increasingly popular. But there must be something very special about actually being in the shop itself, as regulars from across North Wales returned in droves after the shop was allowed to open once more. A customer in there who works in Corwen but lives in Blaenau found himself keen to just "pop by" the shop; his car seemed to know the way....

Renee clearly has an encyclopaedic knowledge of fishing—game, coarse and sea, and during the interview, she breaks off to discuss aspects of sea fishing with a newly arrived inhabitant keen to return to the sport. Best tackle, best spots to fish from, best bait.

My biggest worry is that when I'm dead and gone, my wife will sell my fishing gear for what I said I paid for it.

Over the years the local rivers seem to have changed, partly as a result of climate change—longer periods of relative drought and more frequent floods. Foxons itself was badly affected in the 2012 floods, with the stockroom below the shop and the shop itself flooded. And other changes have followed; as mentioned elsewhere in the City Times, otters have been seen on both the Elwy and Clwyd; they are shy creatures, and seen more often by those fishing at night for sea trout. Renee feels that most of the fishing community are delighted to see them return, even though they are in competition; whereas the cormorants, goosanders, and mergansers are less popular as they allegedly Hoover up the hatchlings and small fish rather too efficiently.

There has been a gradual decline in salmon catches. Some 20 years ago, local angling associations combined to buy out the netsmen who would set nets for migratory fish at the river mouth, but there was not a huge rebound of fish numbers. Inshore trawlers will catch returning salmon and sea-trout, and may also have played a part. But the local rivers and lakes are still healthy, and the catches are still good. If you want to take up fishing, Foxons is a good place to start—you'll get good advice, and tackle to suit any budget. The local angling clubs (Rhyl and St Asaph Angling Association, and the Vale of Clwyd Angling Club) are active and offer a warm welcome to beginners and long term fishing addicts. Tight lines!



Grey Duster and Black Gnat—Renee's recommendation for the best fly for the Elwy in summer.

Scooping up the salmon: *Susan Glasgow writes with memories of Wigfair Isa* ".....during the Second world war, a previous owner of Wigfair Isa would open the sluice gates of the stream which would confuse the salmon, who would then come up the leat. The sluice gates would then be shut and the salmon scooped out and stored in the dairy overnight before being packed in ice in milk churns and then sent down to the Savoy in London. Many years later, the owner was dining at the Savoy and asked the chef there for his recipe for cooking salmon, - we still use it to this day"



Sea-trout fishing

Chris Porteous

Because sea trout are very shy, and the river you are fishing may be low and gin clear, it's important to wait until it is really dark. Stealth is the watch word. No stray headlamp lights or stomping around the bank here. Moonless nights and warm nights with cloud cover are best, and your eyes gradually adjust to the low light levels.



In the quiet of a river valley at midnight, senses are heightened - every rustle in the undergrowth, the plop of a water vole entering the water, the call of an owl or fox - all these sounds at night seem to be amplified. This can take some getting used to, but once you feel at home on a familiar river bank at night, daytime fishing could seem tame! You cast out to where you hope the fish will be, waiting to continue their upstream migration. Your team of two flies swings around in the current, nothing takes, so you retrieve, and re-cast, trying to reach as near to the other bank as possible without snagging. Four casts later and tawny owls are calling to each other and you're gazing up trying to find the North Star when something tries to snatch the rod from your grasp!

There is nothing quite like the sensation of your fly line suddenly tightening as a fresh run sea trout rips line from your reel, and, as often happens, performs a vertical leap out of the water, stopping your heart for a brief moment, adrenalin now pumping, before your fly is ejected leaving you a quivering wreck staring in disbelief as the surface of the pool settles down!

Picture and text from www.rhylandstasaphanglers.co.uk

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Bee Questions for John Wynne-Jones

What do your neighbours think of all your hives? My neighbours like watching the bees fly over their gardens and are aware of the importance of bees as pollinators. Many people in St. Asaph are planting for bees, although the bees tend to fly over the immediate area and go and forage up to 3-4 miles away.



Tell us about the waggle: Worker bee scouts will fly out in all directions to search for forage and will come back to the hive and give directions by performing a waggle dance, and those that waggle most excitingly get the biggest following (*so true in all aspects of life....Ed*). The bees know from the moves the scouts make which way to go for the nectar and pollen themselves. (*In 1973, Austrian scientist **Karl von Frisch** was awarded the Nobel Prize for his research on the honey bee waggle dance. He recognized how this unique form of communication allowed bees to share information on the location of food sources with nest-mates*)

Swarms—what are they all about? All colonies swarm naturally, as that is how they increase in number. There have been a few times when my bees have swarmed and landed in a neighbour's tree; fortunately they alert me to them and they will be *skepped* (put in a straw basket) and returned to be put in a new hive. My swarms are not to be feared as they are mild tempered bees and before swarming they fill their stomachs with honey— three days supply to last them while they search for a new home. This then means they can't turn their abdomens to sting, along with that they are not then defending a hive. Unfortunately bees will no longer survive in the wild due to pests and diseases that have been introduced to the UK, so it really is essential to inform a beekeeper if you find one.



Who's who in the hive?

Queen bee - female, in charge of the hive, lives 120 days, lays up to 2000 eggs a day most of which turn into female worker bees. **Worker bees** are small, mostly sterile. They gather nectar and pollen in baskets on their hind legs, care for the young, defend the hive and build the colony. They live for 22 days. A small number of the queen's eggs turn into **Drones**, which are male, have no sting, and their only job is to mate with queens from other hives. And drone on about stuff. (*this is all beginning to sound uncomfortably familiar...*)

What about getting stung? If you're in your beesuit and gloves you are unlikely to get stung, but it's a good thing to keep good tempered bees. Sometimes you get a problem hive that turns nasty, which can be caused by the queen dying. Bees know they cannot survive for long without a queen and they get stressed. They feed larvae with royal jelly to produce a new queen, which would then need to go out and be mated with several drones before returning to the hive to lay. But this break in having brood to rear upsets the bees. She can then produce as many as two thousand eggs a day if all goes well. Often a beekeeper will need to intervene and add a queen from elsewhere or unite them all with another hive.



I have been stung many times, usually it's due to not wearing suits and gloves and perhaps squashing a bee while doing inspections. This then triggers a defence message sent around the hives by pheromones and once stung the scent of the sting attracts more to sting and this can increase quickly. I have been called to problem bees and been caught out in not getting suited up in time, twice this ended up with me hospitalised due to amount of stings and having an allergic reaction. I seem to have overcome that now by getting stung on a daily basis, which builds up my resistance to bees. You still feel the stings but they are manageable!



One third of everything we eat in our diet depends on bees pollinating



Community Orchard—a fruit free-for-all

Natural Resources Wales had to take down many riverbank trees as part of their work to prevent further flooding in St. Asaph, but were required to plant replacements. A number of deciduous trees and shrubs were planted around the city as a result – for example by the sewage works, and shrubs on the bank behind the telephone exchange. In addition, a community orchard was planned, and a patch of land behind the allotments was set aside for this. Around 30 heritage variety apple, pear and plum trees were planted in 2018, and are looking very happy and well established there. In due course, when they reach maturity, the railings around then will be removed for the community to access the fruit. A further development might be to plant fruit bushes there.

As well as being a great resource for the community, such traditional orchards are designated as a priority habitat in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan because of the wildlife, both flora and fauna, that can be supported in this environment – insects, birds, bees, bats, foxes and small mammals as well as wild flowers. Indeed, some community groups choose to keep bees on their orchard to pollinate the fruit trees. Well done to the instigators of this project, and no doubt many will enjoy the fruits of their labours.



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Jacob's ladder, and the Zerowaste initiative

Lowri Williams, who runs Jacob's Ladder, was delighted to re-open after lockdown and welcome back regulars and newcomers. Running a coffee shop has always been her dream job, and following reflection during the enforced break from work, she now wishes to embark on a further development of Jacob's Ladder by joining the zerowaste initiative, and offering a range of local, Fairtrade and zerowaste products. Refills for long-life products such as rice, pasta and porridge will be supplemented by refills for soap liquid and detergent. Lowri also wants to develop the role of Jacob's Ladder as a community hub, signposting local events and activities, and making the back room available as a meeting place for local groups. If you're interested why not call by or e-mail her on lowrijacob@hotmail.co.uk - more details to follow.

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Parish Church re-opens The first formal Sunday morning service back in the newly renovated parish church took place on Sunday 25th April, with social distancing and no singing. Back in October 2019, when the last service was held, it was anticipated that the church would be closed for possibly as long as 6 months for the building work. But as we all know, things got somewhat more complicated!

A number of groups have expressed interest in using the building in its new role as a community venue, and if you wish to view the church, it is now open on Thursday afternoons for visiting. Alternatively, contact Clive Hughes on 07974 269689 or Janet Cameron on 01745 583770



St Asaph Lockdown Baby Group *Julie Parry*

Last spring after we were put into lockdown, Catrin Jones posted a message on one of the St Asaph Facebook pages asking if any other pregnant ladies would be interested in joining a Facebook group so that mums-to-be could support each other during their pregnancies. At that time, there were no antenatal classes being held as a result of the pandemic. Quite a few people responded to Catrin and the group has been running ever since. The group have supported each other throughout pregnancy and also through the first year of our babies' lives. Messages have been sent back and forth at

all times of the day and night and the support and reassurance provided has been invaluable.

The group have met up a few times since it was established, by the river and in group members gardens, but we have always been constrained by the latest Covid rules and of course the weather, so the gatherings have been few and far between. It has been a very difficult time for Mums and Dads who have had babies in lockdown and they have often felt isolated and very lonely at times.

Now that Covid guidelines allow organised activities for up to 30 people to meet indoors, we have been lucky enough to have been able to book the recently renovated Parish church as a venue for our group to meet on a monthly basis. The picture shows our first official St Asaph Lockdown Baby Group, and it was the first time that some of the babies had ever interacted with other children due to lockdown and Covid rules. Everyone enjoyed it - Mums, babies and also older brothers and sisters who were all keen to help look after the babies. Everyone said that it made them feel like things were finally getting back to normal!

With plenty of space to spread out in and baby changing facilities available, the church is a perfect venue for our group to meet. Numbers are limited by Covid regs, but if you are a lockdown mum and you want to learn more, e-mail salockdownbabies@gmail.com.



Medieval garden takes shape

Work has begun on St Asaph Cathedral's Heritage Garden! We were joined by 9/11 wonderful, enthusiastic volunteers who planted over 200 lavender plants in record time to create the lavender hedge surrounding the garden. Bishop Gregory blessed the garden marking the start of the project and tea, cake and a chance to have a chat was enjoyed by all.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Lorna Kernahan:

lornakernahan@stasaphcathedral.wales



NWIMF Spring concerts—online until 7th June

Performances by Tenebrae and the NEW Sinfonia are available to enjoy until June 7th on the North Wales International Music Festival website (www.nwimf.com) free of charge, though please consider making a donation to support the NWIMF. It's lovely background music while you're working. The pandemic has disrupted planning for the 2021 autumn programme, but further information will be posted online in due course.



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Ysgol Glan Clwyd news

Our pupils have now returned to school, but following the various lockdown rules. Ysgol Glan Clwyd was open for the children of key workers throughout the latest lockdown and up to 50 pupils attended daily. When schools reopened on March 22nd, Years 11 – 13 were present for nearly a fortnight before the Easter break, whilst the younger years attended during various 'contact days' in preparation for full time schooling commencing on April 12th.

At present, the Lateral Flow Test is offered to staff members and the older pupils in Years 10 – 13. The staff test themselves on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. Swabs are taken from the back of the throat and up a nostril. The swab is then placed in liquid for 15 seconds. Two drops of the liquid are then placed on a special strip for half an hour, before the results can be seen. One line by the letter C (see illustration) indicates a negative result. Two lines, one by C and the other by T means a positive result, where the individual must then self-isolate and inform the school immediately of their condition.



School buses

Pupils from the Rhyl and Prestatyn areas who travel on the school buses must now do so according to their school year. Years are divided into three age groups, Years 7 – 8, Years 9 – 10 and the older pupils of Years 11,12 and 13. Should a pupil test positive for Covid, this means that only a section of a few school years is affected, rather than a cross section of the whole school.



Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog

Laura Martin

We have been very busy here at Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog since we welcomed all of our pupils back to school. We finished off the Spring Term with an Easter Bonnet parade, an Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Bingo, all events were a big success and we thank all of our families for their wonderful support.

This term all classes have thrown themselves into their new topics and they are currently exploring life in the past via a magic door, turtles and their habitats in Costa Rica and the life and potions of The Alchemist – a wide variety of topics and learning, I am sure you will agree!

The whole school celebrated Wales Outdoor Learning Week during April and were involved in a wide variety of tasks including den building, tree measuring, nature walks, planting, exploring the local area and lots more!

We have been very lucky here in school as we were recently awarded a National Lottery Grant to develop our Outdoor Area. With the grant we have been able to purchase a wide variety of items including a large gazebo, a sand table, a mud kitchen, a role play shelter and lots more. The children all love their new equipment and it is getting plenty of use already!

During the Summer Term we plan on utilising the outdoors as much as possible and have already begun planting a variety of fruit and vegetables as well as developing a wild flower meadow which we can't wait to see grow!

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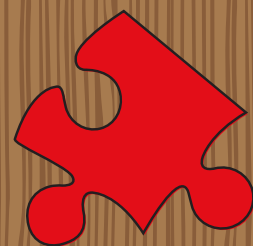
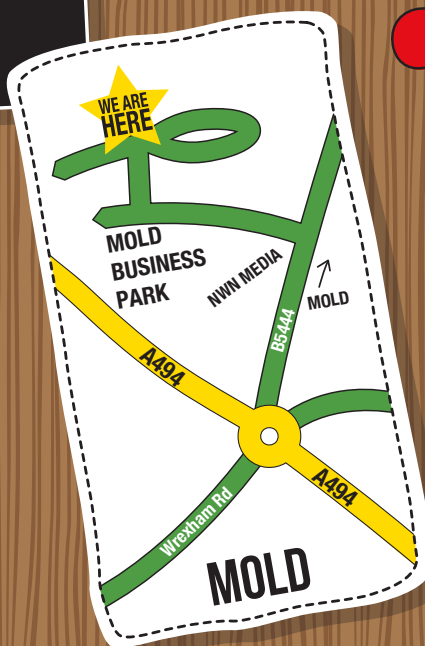
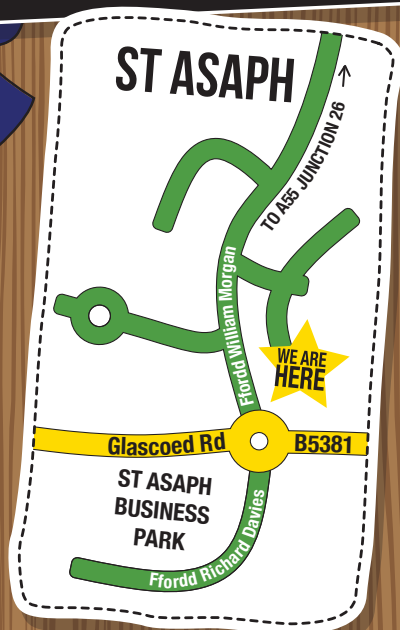
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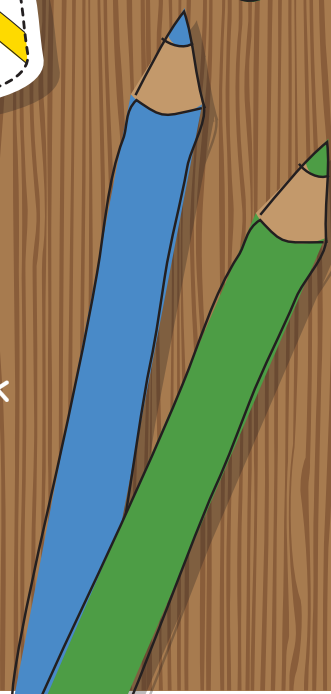
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VP school

Kate Langford

We have had such a busy start to the Summer Term at St. Asaph VP Infant School. In April we celebrated the Queen's 94th Birthday. We wrote invitations to the Queen and she even came to our school (Miss Langford dressed up) to have a big party. We enjoyed learning all about the Monarchy, London and the Union Jack flag. We've also been showing our commitment to the sustainability of the planet by joining in with the Sustrans Big Pedal event where we walked, cycled or scooted to school. We were so proud of everyone's efforts.

We all took part in Earth Day 2021 and considered the impact of our actions, we made promises to look after our planet and some classes even worked with the lights off for the day!



The Queen visits Y2 at the VP school in an unannounced surprise



May has been just as action packed for our learners as we have also taken part in Fair Trade Day, Mental Health Awareness Week and World Meditation Day. Our favourite activity has been running our Community Caterpillars event to encourage our children, their families and the St. Asaph Community to take part in National Walking Month which takes place in May. Each of our children have made a caterpillar and placed it somewhere in St. Asaph for others to enjoy when out walking. We have set our children the challenge of counting the caterpillars on their walks... we wonder who will find the most! Please follow us on **Twitter @stasaphvp** for more photographs and videos sharing the ethos and life at our happy school.

Esgob Morgan School

Tim Redgrave

Ysgol Esgob Morgan school council have been thinking of ways to raise money for the school and in line with class topics in year 4 & 5 they decided on a clothes bank on site to be able to not only raise money for the school but recycle their unwanted clothes and raise money for a great charity. The clothes bank is emptied regularly and available for anyone to drop off a bin bag. We would really appreciate the community's support in filling it.



Our new worship garden is complete. Thank you to RN Williams and Jewsons Denbigh who donated materials for this project and also to any parents and families who donated bulbs and plants. Blwyddyn 5 have been busy being creative, using recycled plastic bottles to enhance the positive feeling in the eco area and reflection garden. We asked the children to bring in a plastic bottle. We then cut out the centre of the bottle and filled them with compost. We chose bright colourful bulbs to place inside, fingers crossed for a beautiful display of flowers for the summer. We are excited to see how this will brighten up our eco garden where children can reflect and take time to enjoy the outside, as wellbeing is so important to us here at our school.

We have successfully incubated 5 eggs after receiving a lovely donation of eggs from former Esgob pupils Megan and Max. The pupils are very EGGcited to have chickens in the garden again.



A staff member writes: We are delighted to share that our very own Head Teacher has successfully become a certified trainer for Mental Health First Aid. Working with Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board, Mr Redgrave saw the value of learning how to administer First Aid for mental health in a school setting—so he wanted to train others. He has successfully delivered 3 courses to date and is thoroughly enjoying helping people understand the issues facing young people when they are in poor mental health, how to spot signs and what to do. Good work Tim!



Matthew's aiming high!

Matthew Stubbins, 15, from St Asaph has had extensive write-ups in local papers after winning the prestigious **Independent Schools Association Sports Award** for the autumn term. A member of Llandudno sailing club, he began sailing at the age of nine after introduction to the sport at Porth Eirias. The award was in recognition not just of his sailing prowess, but also his rugby and all round sporting ability. He has sailed for the Welsh National Topper squad for three years and latterly the GB squad. Matthew has now moved up to sailing Lasers, and hopes to emulate his hero Sir Ben Ainslie in years to come—not so much following his footsteps, but more in his wake, and perhaps even closing fast!

Walking Football back in St Asaph

John Oliver

Denbighshire Walkers F.C. are now back playing every Tuesday evening at 7pm in St Asaph Leisure Centre, and they are also proud to show off their new shirts which have been provided and sponsored by St Asaph Rotary.

The new and growing sport of Walking Football is open to anyone over 50 - male or female - and is for previous or new players who want to keep fit and have fun. The new season starts in September, but in addition to the weekly sessions on Tuesdays, Denbighshire Walkers will also be competing in one-off tournaments and against other local clubs in a series of friendlies before then. The club welcomes new players and asks anyone interested to contact John Oliver at johnedwardoliver@hotmail.com



John Dickson, John Oliver and Martin Jones

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Howzaaaaat!! Cricket's back....

After the enforced inactivity of the lockdown, May has been the wettest on record, but not enough to dampen the spirits of the St. Asaph cricketers who made a cracking start to the season, always supported by a lively and cheerful crowd at the club.

First XI Back row standing: Matt Ryan, David Lloyd, Charlie Williams, David North, Liam Moores, Danny Ryan.

Front row seated: Jason Foulkes, Gareth Jones, Will Ryan (skipper), Nat Scott, Dan Williams
Photos: Ray Hibbs

First XI

Match reports from Thelma Eden

May 1st: Pwllheli 279-4 (Taylor 116, M-Williams 113); St Asaph 250-9 (Will Ryan 44, Nat Scott 79, Matty Ryan 77)

May 8th: Llandudno 66 all out (Liam Moores 3-22, Matty Ryan 4-14); St Asaph 1st XI 67-5 (Dan Williams 29)

May 15th: St Asaph 128-8 vs Menai Bridge—match abandoned due to heavy rain.

May 22nd: Another rain affected match day, but that didn't stop play at Elwy Grove Park as the 1st XI hosted Mochdre. Losing the toss, the Saints were put into bat and progressed steadily to a very respectable total of 192 – 8 off their allocated 46 overs. Contributions all round, top scorers being skipper Will Ryan 36 and Jason Foulkes 31. A very creditable bowling performance from Mochdre's young bowler Owen Davies who claimed 3 wickets for 36.

The Saints got off to an absolute flyer in the second innings with Jason Foulkes steaming in and clean bowling the opener Williams with his first ball. Four balls later he had Matt Humphreys trapped LBW and in the 2nd over, Liam Moores claimed the wicket of Goodson – Mochdre 0 for 3 off 2 overs! What a start! Mochdre were under pressure all along, with wickets falling at regular intervals and little or no runs being added to the total. Only French offered any resistance (43) and Jason Foulkes finished with great figures of 11 overs, 4 maidens, 5 wickets for 31. St Asaph won by 71 runs, claiming 13 points to Mochdre's 2. This leaves St Asaph in joint top spot with Pwllheli in the Premier Division.

Second XI

May 1st St Asaph 2nd XI 207-7 (Ben Murphy 48, Elliot Morris 51no); Carmel 174 all out, (Amer Jamil 3-30)

May 15th St Asaph 165-8 (Ben Murphy 60); Menai Bridge 166-3



Bowls restarts

St Asaph Bowls Club played their first match after lockdown on 18th May, winning 9-3, in a local derby against Rhuddlan A.

Pictured here are St Asaph City Senior Citizens team shortly before their match against Mochdre on May 25th when St Asaph beat Mochdre 10 games to 2, with Derek Davies winning 21-5.

The club welcomes new players, and runs several teams. It's a friendly and sociable club, and if you are interested in joining, please contact Nick Thomson on 07474974028 or call by anytime the club is open.

Move A Marathon for Ethan: 18th-20th June

There's still time to register to take part in this special event in memory of Ethan Ross, raising funds for the Wales Air Ambulance and Young Minds. You can help support these really worthwhile causes by completing 26.2 miles of any activity you enjoy. Visit www.denbighshireleisure.co.uk/moveamarathonforethan for further details.