



Issue No 12

St. Asaph & District

City^{new} Times



October 2021



Photo courtesy of Stephen Morris

LLANERCH BRIDGE BLUES

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CHAMPIONS OF NORTH WALES!

Cricket news page 32



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We're always looking out for letters, items, reports or features. Or that special photo! Deadline for copy for December issue is Monday November 15th – 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.

We are also fully reliant on sponsorship and advertising—if you would like to sponsor or advertise, please get in contact.

We are involved....

On the 11th of September, we were reminded of events taking place 20 years ago in New York, when the twin towers were destroyed in that appalling act of terrorism. Most of us remember where we were at the time of hearing the news. It was hard then to imagine what the consequences would be, and whether they would have relevance here in St Asaph. But then came Afghanistan, and subsequently Iraq, with all the tragic and far-reaching consequences of war. Servicemen and women from across the UK fought these conflicts, including our own local young people, and we salute their courage and endeavour.

In a different way the initial news reports coming out of Wuhan in China at the beginning of 2020 about a new form of viral pneumonia seemed reassuringly remote. But over the last 18 months the pandemic has come right to our door. It has of course had a huge impact on our lives locally.

And a further challenge facing us all, even in St Asaph, is that of the climate emergency. The floods that have swept through St Asaph and the Vale of Clwyd tell us that we are all involved. It is tempting to engage in "whataboutery" such as asking *what about* China still building coal fired power stations, or *what about* America and its gas-guzzling consumer culture? - but we sometimes do this to avoid that nagging feeling that we each have responsibility to take some action ourselves to address the climate emergency! Sue Scott reminds us of this in her article on climate change on page 5.

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.

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Rowlands Pharmacy **01745 583200**

Denbighshire County Council: **01824 706000**

Citizens Advice Bureau: **01745 334568**

Clwyd Alyn Housing Assoc **0800 1835757**

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**

No replacement bridge until Summer 2024?

City Times has endeavoured to find out the latest situation regarding plans for replacing Llanerch bridge, washed away in mid-January during Storm Christoph. We were unable to interview Tony Ward, Head of Highways & Transport at Denbighshire County Council (DCC), but received the following statement from his office:

"A project like this is very complex. The construction period may take up to twelve months but critical elements need to be done in the summer months so this will crucially affect the programming. There are many elements of work involved in getting to the point where construction can begin which include feasibility, design, planning, procurement and acquiring funding via a business case. With these stages in mind we do not expect the pre-construction phase to be completed by Summer 2022. Therefore the soonest that construction could begin is very likely to be summer 2023".



The remains of Llanerch bridge after Storm Christoph.
Paul Meacock

That means a new bridge may well not be available until summer 2024....

DCC has launched an **engagement exercise** to consult on the rebuilding of the bridge. Starting September 20th the four-week long engagement period seeks the views of residents regarding the replacement. Workshops have been held with consultants and the Council has met with other partners such as Natural Resources Wales to look at suitable replacement structures and materials for the crossing.

As part of the engagement exercise residents can share their views on a replacement structure online at

<https://countyconversation.denbighshire.gov.uk/projectcy/620> (Welsh)

<https://countyconversation.denbighshire.gov.uk/project/620> (English)

Paper copies will also be distributed for collection and drop off to Trefnant Village Stores, Trefnant Chip Shop, the Salusbury Arms, and St Asaph and Denbigh libraries. The information will be used to help develop a business case so that the council can seek funding for the project.

Councillor Brian Jones said: *"It would be prudent to note the funding stream to cover the cost of replacement bridge is not an easy obstacle to overcome. The initial response from WG on this subject was not good but we continue to communicate on the matter with them and also potential other finance routes"*

There is already growing frustration and concern amongst residents over the length of time it will take to come up with a replacement. The disruption and inconvenience in particular to residents of Trefnant and Tremerechion is significant. For example the owners of Greenbank farm now have to make a 7.5 mile journey through St Asaph to access their fields on the other side of the river.



Anyone fancy a temporary Bailey Bridge?

One local resident who lives very close to the bridge said *"Like other local residents we are extremely disappointed at the lack of progress and the seemingly endless bureaucracy between the various bodies . Over 9 months has been wasted before any kind of engagement or consultation with the local community has begun and there is still a myriad of bodies failing to work together for the good of the two communities split by this collapse . It took the Italian authorities less than 2 years to rebuild the Modena Bridge, this is going to take 3 years of bureaucracy before construction work starts"*



Gareth Davies MS at the ruined bridge

Local views seem to be very strong that not enough progress is being made and already a petition is being coordinated by Gareth Davies Vale of Clwyd MS with a call for action:

<https://www.garethd Davies.wales/campaigns/call-action-repair-llannerch-bridge>

There are also rumours of more direct action or protests should it become evident that progress remains so slow - watch this space!

John Oliver

Notes from the City Council meeting in September

Colin Hardie

The meeting was held on 8th Sept 2021 at St Asaph Parish Church/community hub and also by remote attendance.

North Wales Police Report – There have been several incidents of anti-social behaviour, and numerous incidents along the riverside including problems of dogs off leads.

Minutes – the minutes to last month's meeting were discussed and agreed as accurate.

Financial report – the clerk presented a schedule of payments which was formally agreed.

Planning Applications – 4 applications have been received and no objections were raised.

Events Committee – the minutes of the recent meeting were approved – proposals for next year's celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee and the city's 10th anniversary are ongoing.

Policy, Resources & Finance Committee – The minutes of the latest meeting were approved.

Flood Defence Scheme – the Mayor reported on meetings held with NRW discussing further modifications to the City's flood defences.

Venue for future Council meetings – due to difficulties in holding a combined meeting, it was resolved to hold future meetings wholly via Zoom until technical problems have been resolved.

Rewilding meadow – the meadow will be cut and cuttings collected during the next month.

Library Car Park – a quote for repair works to the surface of the car park behind the library was approved.

Correspondence – several items of correspondence received by the clerk were discussed.

Official and full minutes of all the City Council's 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 also on the website. You can contact the Council via the City Clerk, Mrs Jill Ellison, PO Box 224, Llanfairfechan, Conwy LL57 9EQ. Email: clerk@stasaphcitycouncil.gov.uk or tel 07521 641756

Don't forget to complete your City questionnaire—see website below

Queen's Platinum Jubilee and St Asaph's 10th anniversary of city status: 2022



The City Council organised a meeting in the parish church in September for many varied local organisations to plan St Asaph's celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee and the 10th anniversary of City status, on the 2nd-5th June 2022. More details next issue!



Roe Plas vehicle access restricted: Openreach are planning to do some excavation work at Roe Plas Meadow to lay underground cables to provide fibre broadband to the Council & Community Meeting Room. The work will take place over two weeks and will necessitate the driveway being closed to vehicle traffic between the hours of 8am and 5pm. The driveway will be opened overnight and at weekends. Everyone will be able to access Roe Plas Meadow on foot as usual. The dates for the work are as follows:

- Week commencing Monday 11th October 2021 - between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday
- Week commencing Monday 18th October 2021 - between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday

A future for the past!

Jones Bros of Ruthin have been granted planning approval by Denbighshire County Council for their ambitious scheme to develop the 50 acre former North Wales Hospital site at Denbigh. The multi-million pound project will take 10 years, and create an estimated 1200 jobs. The magnificent main building, which has fallen into a state of disrepair since the hospital closed in 1995, will be converted into apartments, whilst high quality mixed housing will be built in the grounds. There is talk of restaurants, gyms and facilities for residents there, along with a possible new home for Denbigh Cricket Club.



Helen Morgan of Jones Bros will lead the project, and commented "We believe this scheme can be a landmark development for Wales and as well as providing a real community of high-quality housing for Denbigh it will also deliver skilled jobs and apprenticeships, help develop local supply chains and provide a multi-million pound boost to the Denbighshire economy."

Climate change and COP26

Susan Scott

Who's responsible? No single person or group of people is to blame for climate change, but overall, rich and developed countries directly and indirectly cause more global warming than poor countries.



What are the main causes of climate change? Burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas to generate energy and heat our houses releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. This creates a greenhouse effect, causing the planet to heat up. Petrol and diesel vehicles, aviation and shipping add to the problem. Global beef and dairy consumption is on the rise and livestock farming apparently generates more greenhouse gas emissions than all the world's cars. Deforestation to grow crops for cattle feed removes trees which otherwise absorb CO₂.

What are some of the effects of climate change?

- Higher average global temperatures, warming of oceans and melting of polar ice-caps
- Rising sea levels, threatening low-lying countries
- Increases in extreme weather events, eg flooding, droughts and wildfires
- Drought making areas of the world less able to sustain populations
- Disrupted global food production, causing famines and increased migration



What does carbon net zero mean? Often, we read that countries, councils, and businesses have set targets to address climate change and that they aim to be *carbon net zero* by a particular date. This means balancing carbon emissions from burning coal, oil and gas against activities that absorb CO₂, eg reforestation. In practice this balance is more easily achieved by decreasing carbon emissions—eg insulating buildings, and using renewable energy sources.



What is COP 26? The 2021 United Nations Climate Change conference is called **COP 26** and is the 26th such conference. It will bring together heads of state, climate experts and campaigners to take a co-ordinated approach to tackle climate change. The conference will take place in Glasgow from 1st to 12th November, under the presidency of the UK, and it seems essential that effective plans and targets are made to limit climate change.

What is happening locally? The County Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency in July 2019 and have developed plans to be net carbon zero and ecologically positive by 2030. They will reduce emissions by maximising energy efficiency in all council buildings, council vehicles, and from all goods and services they buy in. They will make more use of renewable energy, use virtual business meetings and reduce business travel. They are developing numerous projects to improve species richness in grassland habitats and converting existing and new land into carbon sinks and improving wildlife environments. Trees are being planted in uplands of river catchments to reduce the risk of flooding.

St Asaph City Council have a variety of projects to absorb carbon which have either been completed or are in progress. These include wildflower planting, tree planting and allowing some grassland trails to remain uncut.

What can I do to help?

- Walk more, use public transport where possible, cycle, switch to electric vehicles and fly less.
- Insulate your house, wear an extra layer instead of turning up the heating. Switch to renewable energy sources.
- Use energy efficient appliances.
- Reduce water waste, harvest rainwater
- Make your garden a wildflower haven, plant trees and take care of our woodlands and parks
- Eat food that is in season and locally grown. Don't waste food.
- Eat less meat and dairy products.



As we become more aware of the potentially devastating effects of climate change, we should look at our own individual lifestyles and play our part in rising to the challenge. The problem is here today and cannot be left for future generations to sort out.





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St Asaph (*and some residents*) captured on video.

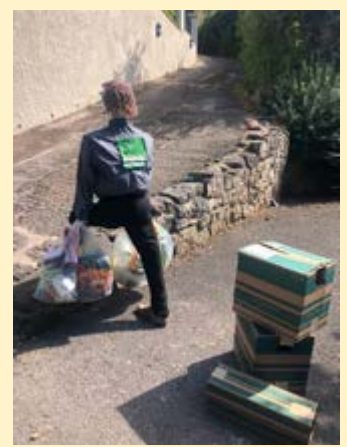
Ayman Ilman is a PhD researcher in transport at Manchester University, having previously gained an MSc in transport engineering and planning. His hobby is travelling on public transport, and he set himself the challenge of visiting every city in the UK by public transport. St Asaph was one of the closest cities for him to visit, and he was surprised to find that there was not much online about St Asaph for tourists. As a result he has produced and posted his own whistle-stop tour video of St Asaph. A particular highlight for him, as indeed for many, was coffee and cake at the Flowerpot café, pictured right! You can view the video, and review it, on www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8XshIY7tTI&t=21s



Scarecrow Mania strikes Tremeirchion

photos by Ness Pritchard Jones

An outstanding display of “Hero” scarecrows was on show in Tremeirchion over the August bank holiday. Stars from Hollywood and Memphis mixed with Waitrose delivery drivers, huntswomen, and people precariously balanced up ladders trimming hedges (Ness was *fairly* sure that the latter was indeed a scarecrow....). Well done all!



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Carbon Monoxide Poisoning— or just a big night out?

You can't smell it or taste carbon monoxide (CO). The symptoms it produces are usually mistaken for milder problems, and unfortunately CO poisoning still causes around 60 deaths a year in the UK.

Initially you feel a headache. It may not be too bad. You may gradually develop dizziness, tiredness, nausea, stomach pains or shortness of breath. Typically, others in the household are affected similarly; this often leads to it being mistaken for food poisoning or a viral illness, but there is no fever to go with it. When you leave the house, symptoms



seem to settle a little. If there are high levels of CO in the house, you can lose consciousness within as little as 2 hours, and unexpected loss of consciousness should always trigger consideration of CO poisoning. With lower levels, the symptoms can still gradually accumulate, and be accompanied by concentration difficulties, emotional disturbance and vertigo.

CO is produced by incomplete combustion of fuels - gas, coal, wood and charcoal. Your boiler may not be working properly, and it has not been serviced recently. Your cooker may be damaged. You haven't had your chimney swept for some time, and birds may have nested there. The exhaust pipe in your car may be faulty. You are checking your lawnmower and running it in the garage, with no ventilation. You may not have bought a CO monitor for your house, or maybe you have let the battery go flat.

Campers are sometimes tempted to cook inside the tent on a wet day, or even more dangerously, to use a disposable barbecue in the tent. The flue from the heater in your caravan or boat may be partially blocked, particularly when you open it up after a period of absence.



Some years ago, a local family were alerted to the possibility of CO when first one, and then the second of their pet love-birds died unexpectedly. The family had been feeling under the weather for a few days, but when they looked up causes of sudden death of love-birds, they found CO poisoning as a possible cause, put two and two together, and made the diagnosis. The gas cooker was faulty, but the love-birds did not die in vain.



You don't have to buy a canary or love-birds—but make sure you have a CO monitor (remember—it's not the same as a smoke detector), get your chimney swept, and get your boiler serviced.

Pier support needed

You may have looked up at the doves billing and cooing under the river bridge—but what caught your eye instead was what appeared to be a major crack in one of the A55 river bridge supports, or piers.

City Times contacted the NWTRA (North Wales Trunk Road Authority) and received this prompt and helpful reply: *"NMWTRA have been tasked with refurbishing the underside of the Junction 27 structures in 22/23 and are currently in the process of employing consultants to do detailed investigations and design. The imminent investigations will include inspection of the Elwy pier tops so I am assured that any potentially serious issues with structural stability will be closely examined in the very near future. The photo shows spalling of perimeter concrete caused by corrosion of the pier reinforcement which in turn was caused by a leaking bridge deck waterproof membrane (renewed during the extensive topside works in 2010). Whilst it makes for a dramatic photo it is not a cause for immediate concern as the main core of the pier which provides support to the bridge is still fully contained within the cage of perimeter reinforcement. The spalling and reinforcement corrosion will be dealt with during the forthcoming refurbishment works."*



It's spalling...

Speed limit imposed in sewage works

Dog walkers on the riverside path have noticed the appearance of new signs in the sewage works indicating imposition of a 5mph speed limit. Whilst there have been no actual sightings of workmen ragging it round the site, cornering on two wheels and executing handbrake turns in their wagons, it seems a sensible precaution to avoid any inadvertent and potentially messy accidents or immersions.





Elysia Gilman of St Asaph

Artistic Talent on our doorstep

Elysia Gilman can't remember quite when she started painting. "I can't really remember *not* painting!", she says. Her grandfather Tony was a keen watercolorist, and she recalls as a young child sitting at his kitchen table in Yorkshire listening to him explain all the different colours and watching him paint. These proved to be formative experiences.

She attended Ysgol Glan Gele and then Rydal Penrhos school, where her favourite haunt became the art department. It was spacious and well equipped, and most importantly had a couple of inspirational teachers who encouraged her. In her A-level year, she was persuaded by them to submit a portrait of her sister Lydia to a national competition organized by MOMA, the Museum of Modern Art in Machynlleth, and she won first prize in her age group. But she had already been undertaking commissions from the age of around 16, with people sending photos in for her to paint anything from portraits to memorable moments. At Loughborough University, she took a foundation course in Fine Art, and although exposed to other media and methods, she was clear in her mind that painting was for her, and that she wanted to start up her own art business.

And then came Covid. Elysia says that the lockdown was in some ways a very fruitful time for her – unable to go out, she could spend "massive amounts of time" painting, usually at the kitchen table, completing commissions as well as setting up her art business full time. She has appeared twice in the SkyArts *Portrait Artist of the Week*, often completing the portrait in just a few hours.

Besides portraiture, other subjects that inspire her include sport and particularly cricket, perhaps triggered by watching her brother James play cricket for Mochdre. She captures the fluid movements of cricketers uncannily well, and her painting of Ben Stokes ended up on his Instagram story. She has completed a series of very striking paintings of the Savoy Hotel in London, a subject matter triggered by a TV documentary of the hotel, using stills requested from the Savoy Hotel. The painting shown here displays a remarkable ability to capture images reflected on the shining entrance arch, and the Savoy Hotel were impressed by her series of paintings as Elysia was able to "capture moments they missed dearly" when the hotel was in



Elysia's painting of the Savoy

lockdown.

Elysia is particularly fond of the work of local artist Rob Pointon, and of Sherree Valentine Daines, citing beach scenes as an area of painting that she would like to develop.

In January of this year, she set up business with the launch of her website www.elysiagilman.com which showcases some stunning works from her portfolio. But don't just take our word for it—visit her website to judge for yourself. Consider requesting a commission. We may well have a future leading artist right in our midst....



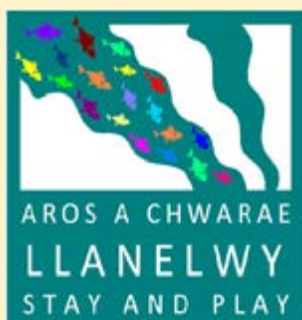
Aros a Chwarae/Stay and Play

Penny Adey

Aros a Chwarae is a free toddler group who are currently meeting outside for as long as the weather allows. We meet at 10am every Tuesday by the tennis courts in St Asaph.

Each session starts with a short walk (buggy friendly) with an activity/treasure hunt. We then return to the tennis courts for a story, songs and a simple craft. Bring your own blanket, snack and drink. If you are a mum, dad, grandparent or carer of a pre-school age child, you are very welcome to join us.

Please look at our Facebook page for more information (Aros a Chwarae/Stay and Play @stayandplayllanewy) or ring Viv on 07503 216346. We look forward to meeting you!



#MoveamarathonforEthan—the football match

Helen Ross would like to thank everyone that has supported their family and taken part in all the moveamarathon4Ethan events. The total raised for the **Welsh Air Ambulance** and for **Young Minds** now stands at over £96,000 with funds still coming in. The auction has had to be postponed to next year for various reasons, but it seems likely that the final total will exceed £100,000, which is quite staggering given the original modest target.

Pictured below are the Denbigh and St Asaph teams of friends and contemporaries of Ethan who held a fundraising football match in his memory, won by Denbigh.



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Watercolours, fine art, and Mandalas (& camper vans!)

Walk down Mount Road in St Asaph and you will often see striking water-colour paintings mounted on a display easel in a bay window, with a different painting every week or so. These are the work of Chloe Dymond, yet another talented local artist.

Chloe Dymond grew up in St. Asaph, and attended Denbigh High School, where amongst other qualifications, she gained an A* in Art. In Llandrillo College, she studied Art and Design gaining a triple distinction. Of the many elements in the course, she particularly enjoyed ceramics, and this inspired her to study design at Staffordshire University, Stoke on Trent, the home of ceramics. There she specialised in ceramics, but also undertook woodwork, lathe turning, fine arts, metal work (jewellery) and other disciplines.

She went on to work for an international ceramic manufacturers in Stoke for five years, and describes her time there as “completely fantastic”. Then COVID 19 hit. The ceramics industry slumped, and after working through her options, she applied for voluntary redundancy. Following this, she returned home to St Asaph at Christmas 2020, and since then has been focusing on her own artwork and starting her business. And also converting a van, kitting it out as a camper van, which she uses to as a mobile studio, travelling to new sites to inspire her work.

“I adore painting watercolours, from florals to landscapes to pet portraits, creating art in many different mediums and styles, acrylic, resin, fine art, murals and mandalas to mention but a few.” Mandalas are geometric arrangements often used in spiritual traditions. Chloe ran some Mindful Mandala Workshops in Stafford, and hopes to set some up locally now. “Feedback from the workshops was that everyone left feeling calmer, more relaxed and extremely satisfied with the creative outcome” said Chloe.

We could all do with a little more calm in our lives...

Check out Chloe's work on her new website:

www.chloedymonddesign.co.uk

Or on social media @chloedymonddesign

Chloe also accepts commissions



An Advent Book of Days Gregory Cameron, Bishop of

St Asaph, whose wide interests include calligraphy, illustration, icons and coin design, has written a book in the style of *visio divina*, the medieval tradition of the illuminated book of hours. Over the 25 days leading up to Christmas, the reader will meet and learn more about the characters caught up in the story of the Nativity. With intriguing insights drawn from Scripture, history, tradition, legend and personal reflection, each chapter will bring new background and substance to the story with which we are sometimes almost too familiar. Visit www.hive.co.uk, search Gregory Cameron

Knitting outbreak!

An anonymous and remarkably creative knitting artist(s) has been targeting postboxes in St Asaph, the Waen, Dyserth and other locations. The items now comprise a very substantial body of work that **City Times** feels should be submitted for an **Arts Council award**—not just for the skill and imagination, but also for the delight the works have brought to us all, young and old. Pictured here is a delightful farmyard scene by Elwy Crescent, and a cheeky seagull next to the chip shop in Trefnant.



The League of Friends, a family's key involvement, and Betty's Coffee Morning!

The League of Friends in Glan Clwyd Hospital started in 1982 when the hospital first opened. **Eluned Jones** was one of the founding members of the League of Friends and played a key role for some 10 years earning her a "**Salt of the Earth**" award from S4C. Sadly, Eluned passed away in 1995 - but that was not the end of the family support for the League of Friends.

Mr Davey Jones, Eluned's husband, continued the charitable work from 1991, covering many different roles within the League of Friends from recruiting new members, running the stall and working behind the tea bar until he retired in 2016 at the tender age of 90 years young. During this time, he was invited to a garden party at Buckingham Palace and the Lord Mayor's Mansion in London in recognition for his contribution to the League of Friends.

Eluned's sister, **Mair Elizabeth Williams**, known as **Betty**, started with the League of Friends in 2000 and having now reached the age of 85, has had to give up due to poor health. However, she did not want to just give up and so decided to have a coffee morning to raise funds. She began planning this without the support of her daughter and family, not quite realising how much work goes into organising such an event! She persuaded members of her family to produce posters, bake cakes and set up shelters and tables for the event to take place. It's worth mentioning at this point that Betty had fallen a couple of weeks before and had broken her arm in 3 places - but this didn't stop her going ahead! Despite her injuries, she was determined to run her stall— *see picture*.

We would like to say a huge thank you to friends and family for all their support and to the members of the League of Friends who rallied round to help make Betty's Coffee Morning such a huge success, also to Henllan Bakeries for their very generous donation of cakes to support the event. And finally, to everyone who gave donations in aid of the League of Friends. On the day some 70 people passed through the gates and the event raised over £600. Betty had a wonderful day and is very grateful to everyone who came to support the event!

The Percival Family



Betty at her stall, complete with arm sling



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Photo by Rachel Sian of Rhyl. www.rachelsianphotography.com

Cathedral Wedding! Bethan Jones, daughter of Mel and Joanne Jones of Mount Road St. Asaph was married on 31st July to Andy Wood of Chester. The wedding took place in St Asaph cathedral, and the reception was held in a marquee in the garden of the family home. The outside of the family home was beautifully decorated with a wonderful floral display. Bethan, who is currently studying to be a nurse and Andy, head chef in Con Amici, Denbigh will continue to live in St Asaph with their three children Alys, Magi and Zach. *"We had the most wonderful wedding, with everything organised and put together by family and friends. It was an honour to be married in the Cathedral and we will cherish the memories of that day for the rest of our lives!"* said Bethan.

Pam's long service recognised

Julie Donovan

"On the first of July 2021, my sister Pam Davies celebrated 40 years as a Pharmacy Technician. Currently working at Rowlands pharmacy of St Asaph, she originally started in the High Street pharmacy run by Geraint Parry and his wife Mickie, where Corbett's the bookmakers is now. She was born in St Asaph as one of many generations of the Davies family. As her sister, I am extremely proud to have worked with her at the beginning of her service in Mr Parry's pharmacy 40 years ago and so very proud of her continued service. With her colleagues in the pharmacy, her dedication to the St Asaph community particularly during this last COVID year should not go unrecorded, as they are all front line workers. They all go beyond to ensure everyone who attends the pharmacy gets the medication they need. Our family members abroad in France are so proud of St Asaph and our family connection, and would be delighted to see Pam's service, dedication and love for the community of St Asaph and its residents recognised.



Lowri Layfield (Pharmacist Manager) , Sam Arnold (Regional Leader) , Pam Davies (ACPT) and Rhys Martin (Head of Field Operations South) at a special presentation to Pam in recognition of her long and dedicated service.

Mayor Peter Scott and his wife Sue would like to thank Pam for all her hard work over the past 40 years. *"Pam has been a great servant to the Pharmacy and community especially over these last few years",* said Peter.

You never miss your water till the well runs dry...

Residents of Tremeirchion are planning a community purchase of their much loved and ancient pub, the Salusbury Arms. For the last two years, the owner has been leasing the pub to Richard and Sue Green, owners of the Dovecot Brewery in Denbigh as well as a number of local micropubs. Prior to this the Salusbury Arms had been closed, and very much missed, for around 18 months, but shortly after they opened up again, they had to face the pandemic. It was a great challenge for the pub, which however ran a very successful takeaway service during the first lockdown.



The Salusbury Arms, parts of which date back to the time of Magna Carta

The owner now wishes to sell, and approached Richard and Sue, who were aware of previous interest in a community buy-out. An informal community group, led by Stuart Irvine, took up the challenge and obtained useful advice from **The Pub is the Hub** and **The Plunkett Foundation**, both of which champion the merits of community ownership of local assets. A community survey over the summer and an open meeting drew a very positive response. A good number of locals have expressed willingness to invest in the project, and a steering committee has been formed to take it forward. Stuart Irvine feels that the period of closure made locals realise how much the community need the Salusbury Arms. *"You never miss your water..."*

Tremeirchion has always been well-known for its community spirit, and its readiness to hold community events, and we wish them well in this venture.



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Pumas and Big Cats

With recent local news items about this issue, City Times went on the prowl, and spoke to a couple of local witnesses:

- Earlier this year **Chris** was driving east along the A55 with his daughter. It was late afternoon and approaching the bottom of Rhualt Hill they both suddenly saw a large black animal running fast across a field to their left, about 100 yards away. It was larger than a dog and running in a different way to a dog; much more like a big cat. They saw it for around 30 seconds when it disappeared into the treeline. There was snow on the tops at the time; Chris guesses that it must have come down to feed. He looked online and reported it to Puma Watch North Wales.
- **Stephanie** was on the balcony of the OpTic Centre looking out over the car park to a field of longish grass beyond. She saw what appeared to be a jet black animal prancing and leaping in the grass. Stephanie has two cats of her own, and immediately realised this was much bigger than a domestic cat, and yet the way it moved was definitely feline. She watched it for a short while, also calling to a colleague to witness it. It moved off to the treeline. She reported it to Puma Watch.
- In late August, **Martin** was walking down Chester Street, and almost at the fields. According to Puma Watch, he described a "very scary experience" when "we spotted a large cat, about the size of a Border Collie, watching us walk past; it began following us as we walked down the road towards the river. We got very concerned, so we crossed the road and walked back up Chester Street towards the shops".



Puma watch: sightings in N Wales

Who knows exactly what these animals were? They are not likely to be fully grown adult pumas, as these are big animals, reaching almost 8 feet long from nose to the tip of the tail, and weigh up to 100kg. Could they be juvenile pumas, or another type of "big cat" such as a lynx? No doubt a few of the many sightings are of large dogs, but the sheer volume of sightings suggests that there are some big cats out there living in the wild. They are reclusive, hunt just as effectively by night, and are said to cover very large areas in so doing. They mostly feed on rodents, birds, fish and rabbits, although full grown pumas may take sheep, deer and goats. Their adaptability allows them to survive and thrive in a variety of habitats, and there are certainly plenty of places to hide up in North Wales.



Puma



Lurcher



Fat Cat



Very big mouse

Martin Jones of Puma Watch North Wales said: "Big cats such as pumas are solitary with a hunting range of dozens of miles. They're mostly spotted in Snowdonia and the Clwydian hills but reports of sightings in urban locations some distance from these areas are becoming more frequent.

"Earlier this year, the Welsh Government responded to the recent spate of sightings and confirmed the steps they take to investigate any reported to them, including taking casts of paw prints."

"When big cats were banned as pets in the 1970s, it was legal to release them into the countryside to avoid expensive rehoming costs. Owners from across the UK travelled to areas like Wales to release their cats in the remote environment, where small but significant populations have thrived ever since." info from www.pumawatch.org.uk



Puma footprint; note the claws are usually retracted, distinguishing them from dogs.

Twenty years ago in the City Times...

Over 100 protestors gathered outside the gates of Plas Coch to protest against plans proposed by the Mental Health Group to change the use of the building from a residential home to a unit caring for people with significant mental health problems, including clients with forensic psychiatric problems.

Today Plas Coch, a grade II listed property with parts dating back into the 1600s, is under different ownership, has been extensively renovated and is available as a well-equipped and furnished holiday let for groups of up to 26 people.





The 1985 rally —support for Cllr Barry's plans!

Cllr. Barry Townsend's proposal for St Asaph to host a car show in 2022 has triggered fond memories for Hefin Lloyd Jones. Hefin organised a Vintage Machinery and Rural Crafts Rally on May Day Bank holiday 1985 as a member of the local Appeal Committee who were raising funds towards the National Eisteddfod at Rhyl. After a strikingly formal to-and-fro of written correspondence with the Council, permission was granted, and then Hefin managed to gather together an extraordinary number of vintage tractors, old farm machinery, vintage cars, commercial vehicles, stationary engines, models, and craft displays, along with a model traction engine to give children rides, and a full size threshing machine and baler. Catering was provided by Committee members, and the rally was opened by Mayor Trevor Roberts and Mrs Roberts. A programme was prepared with support from local businesses. There was a good turnout, and a great day was had by all, raising a very impressive total of £1200 for the Eisteddfod. So Hefin feels that it's high time for another show like that, and is sure it would be a runaway success!



Hefin and his Fordson



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Big Turnout for Dawn Walk (*and bacon sandwiches....*)

Michaela Brannan

St Kentigern's 2021 Dawn Walk saw over 150 participants, exceeding the last 3 years of attendance! The weather was fine, and the walkers in their distinctive orange T-shirts (*limited edition* designed by Nanw Hampson) enjoyed their early morning exercise and refreshments afterwards. At the moment, we're on target to hit £5,000. We couldn't have held this event without our amazing volunteers who gave their time to make sure the event ran smoothly! Thanks also to those suppliers that donated food, drinks and kit for the event.

Upcoming events include **Gaby's Wing Walk** (8-10th Oct), and **Lunch with Jules Peters** in the Oriel Hotel (29th Nov) - for further details see www.stkentigernhospice.co.uk



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Forget-me-not Afternoons

An afternoon of various activities for those living with dementia. If you enjoy music, singing, games, craft-making, a walk round the park or just a chat over a cup of tea, come and join us.

**2- 4pm every Thursday afternoon
at St Asaph Parish Church**

Carers and those personally affected by dementia are most welcome.

For further information, contact
Janet Cameron on 01745 583770.



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DIARY OF EVENTS

As pandemic restrictions are gradually eased, activities are re-starting, and a number are listed here, and are correct at time of going to press. For listing in the diary of events in the next issue (early December, please submit items to editorsact@gmail.com before the deadline date advertised on page 2

Regular Events

Day	Time	Details
Monday		<i>(St Asaph Choral Society hope to re-start rehearsals in January 2022)</i>
Tuesday	10-12 am	#Aros a Chwarae . Ring Viv on 07503 216346 or Facebook page: @stayandplayllanelwy <i>(see page 9)</i>
Tuesday	2-3 pm 3-4 pm	Tai Chi at the parish church. Contact Ann Sim 07852321502 Qigong at the parish church. Contact Ann Sim 07852321502
Tuesday	7-8pm	Over 50s Walking Football at The Leisure Centre—turn up and play!
Thursday	2-4 pm	Forget-me-not afternoons for those living with dementia. Held in the parish church <i>(see page 17)</i>
Friday	9.30	Cymun Bendigaid in the cathedral
Saturday	2–4pm	St Asaph Football Club matches First/Reserves team
Sunday	9.30 11.00	Communion service at the Parish Church Cathedral Eucharist Details on www.stasaphcathedral.wales

October

Day	Time	Details
Sunday 3rd	9:30 -10:30	Harvest Thanksgiving at the parish church
Sunday 3rd	11:00 -12:00	Messy Church harvest celebrations parish church
Monday 4th	7.30pm	Catrin Finch & Seckou Keita concert <i>(see page 22)</i>
Tuesday 5th	7:30pm	Llanelwy WI at the Parish Church “Travels without a suitcase” talk by Colin Horton. Contact Anwen Hughes 01745 583287
Saturday 9th	10-12 am	Mount Rd Cemetery work party . All volunteers welcome!
Sunday 17th	3-5pm	T club at the parish church <i>(see page 25)</i>

November

Day	Time	Details
Sunday 3rd	11:00 -12:00	Messy Church at the parish church
Tuesday 2nd	7:30pm	Llanelwy WI at the Parish Church AGM followed by Bingo

Cherry tree emergency surgery



The morning after England's defeat on penalties by Italy at the Euros, some of the newly planted cherry trees on the common had been broken, no doubt in intense frustration at the result.

They were strapped upright again and bandaged carefully by an unidentified Good Samaritan—and at least one has survived the attack. Good work!



City Travel and Tours

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Travel being in my blood, and being desperate to travel again, I took the plunge and booked a week in Greece for myself and my family for our annual summer holiday and also to discover for myself and my many clients who are due to depart in the next few weeks as to how the new systems of rules, regulations and testing requirements work in practice.

Happy in my research and being a fully ABTA bonded travel agent I know that if I did have to amend or cancel any time before departure due to a change in the Government's guidance on the Red/Amber/Green List, I would be able to seek a refund or change the holiday date. Take my advice, it is always best to use a fully protected Travel Agent and Tour Operator offering the full package of protection during these uncertain times. Protection is as important at the moment as ensuring I secure the right holiday for a client!



There's a lot to consider. The recent changes in requirements mean that going on holiday is becoming a little more straightforward—but it is still essential to plan carefully. Here in City Travel, we can advise not just on choice of holiday, but also on the latest Government guidance, testing requirements and all aspects of staying safe whilst on holiday.

If you require any assistance with any aspect of travel then please don't hesitate to give me a call!

Karin Roberts

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#WeKnowWhereYouLive

Walk like a Norwegian! *Llanelwy WI*

Denise D'Alberson

Head up, shoulders back and swing those arms ladies!

What an invigorating evening we had when David Baugh from British Nordic Walking came to our August meeting. David started the evening with the history of Nordic walking, which started in Finland as training for winter cross-country skiing by walking in the summer with just ski poles. Nordic walking has many health benefits including releasing tension in the neck, shoulders, improves posture and cardiovascular fitness. He then went on to discuss the different types of poles (not sticks!) and how they should be measured to ensure that they are the correct height for each individual.

It was then off to the playing field for a practice and to put us through our Nordic walking paces! We started practising the technique, which at first took a bit of concentration to get into the rhythm and to make sure that we went heel first, drag the pole, push through and swing the arms. We eventually got the idea!

It was great fun and a thoroughly enjoyable experience and one that some would like to try again. We enjoyed it so much that we forgot to take any photos.....!

If you would like to join Llanelwy WI or find out more about us, please contact our President, Anwen Hughes, 01745 583287.



Flood defences Work will shortly be complete to improve the flood defences behind Roe Parc and on the other side of the Elwy river where there had been overtopping leading to flooding of Spring Gardens earlier this year and in 2020. The NRW report had confirmed that the bank was lower than it should have been there.



Sandbags in 2020



Defences now in place

Changes

Sandra Smith

We welcomed the summer

But now change is nigh

With crisp chilly mornings

And dappled grey sky

Embrace seasons' changes

Be hopeful and strong

Prepared for those challenges

Life's path takes us on...

No dogs on sports pitches Denbighshire County Council launched their **Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)** in August to deal more effectively with those that allow their dogs to cause nuisances. As always, the great majority of dog owners are responsible and caring—but the PSPO will give extra and immediate power to enforce dog control (eg letting a dog off a lead in an area where it is not allowed) and to prevent dog fouling. Included within this is a ban on dogs being walked on sports pitches.

The Translators

A wonderful short video about the translators of the Bible into Welsh has been produced by a local group of strolling players, some of whose identities may be apparent despite the wide selection of beards on show. It has been produced as part of various heritage initiatives promoted by the cathedral. Some very droll asides, and definitely not to be missed. Search "St Asaph Cathedral Heritage" on Youtube



Medieval Garden at the cathedral

Chris Jones and Lorna Kernahan

The work on the development of the medieval garden (part of St Asaph Cathedral's National Lottery Heritage Fund project) is taking shape thanks to the amazing work of the heritage garden volunteers. It is creating a large amount of interest to visitors and passers-by. The garden is divided into specific areas according to their purpose.

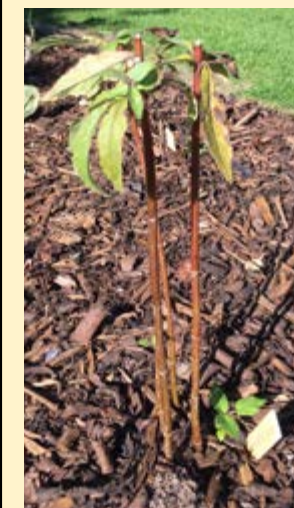
The Physic Garden's four beds are devoted to medicinal herbs and plants. Healing diverse ailments was the responsibility of the monks tending the garden. Vervain (*Verbena officinalis*) was believed to protect against the plague

and was prescribed for jaundice, sore throats, and headaches and also as a poultice for healing wounds.

The Paradise Garden has four beds which were used in a monastery garden as a place for relaxation, meditation, prayer or reading and where flowers to decorate the church were grown. An example of plants grown are sweet violets, roses and carnations. Other beds include plants used in Tudor times for dyeing or strewing. Strewing plants were used to scatter on the floors of dwellings to help deter insects, whilst irises created a good blue colour for making ink. The herb rosemary was much needed for strewing to combat insanitary smells, and was also used for seasoning of stale meats.

A comfrey bed, an important plant with a long history of use in medicine was grown for its power to heal wounds and inflammation and as a help to set broken bones (it is commonly known as Boneset).

The whole garden area is bounded by a low lavender hedge, an important herb which was used for many conditions internally and externally.



Hemp Agrimony



Lady's mantle

The garden is evolving slowly and continues to teach us and we welcome the interest it has generated. We plan to run events focussing on the plants in the garden.

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- Learn about how the monks used these plants for medicine and cooking
- Make your own Harry the herb buddy or Medieval tuzzie muzzie filled with lavender

OUTSIDE EVENT WITH COVER!



The 2021 North Wales International Music Festival—it's going hybrid!

The live element of the NWIMF will be taking place just as this issue of City Times hits the streets, but you may still be able to get a ticket through the NWIMF website or Cathedral Frames for a couple of the opening concerts. Seating is unreserved and all tickets are £15. All concerts start at 7.30pm.

Friday 1st October: **Ensemble Cymru**

Saturday 2nd October: **NEW Sinfonia** playing, amongst other works, the Welsh Premiere of Paul Mealor's piano concerto

Sunday 3rd October: **Family Affair** (Brian, Daniel & Miriam Hughes) with **Dafydd Jones**, tenor.

Monday 4th October: **Catrin Finch and Seckou Keita**



Tickets available online at www.nwimf.org.uk and at Cathedral Frames on the High Street, St Asaph.

A free-to-watch virtual festival will then be held online from November 15th and will include recordings from the St Asaph Cathedral concerts above, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales recorded in Hoddinott Hall in Cardiff, pianist Iwan Llewelyn-Jones, the UK Gospel Choir, folk musician Gwennan Gibbard and St Asaph Cathedral Choir.

Other events will include free instrumental projects, education sessions, podcasts, and NWIMF's annual community tour with Live Music Now musicians.



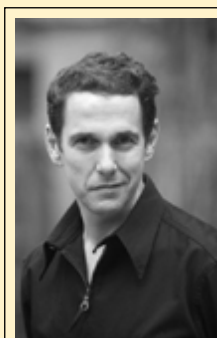
Gwennan Gibbard will be taking part in the online virtual festival in November



Catrin Finch and Seckou Keita on Monday 4th October— if you're quick, you might still get a ticket!



Dafydd Jones with "Family Affair" on Sunday 3rd October



Iwan Llewelyn Jones—online concert



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The Barrow—a long history, and a warm welcome!

Ness Pritchard-Jones

The Barrow on the High Street, St. Asaph was once an almshouse and home to eight poor widows. It had been built with money donated by the then Bishop of St Asaph, Isaac Barrow, in c.1680. The Bishop would allocate the homes in consultation with the Dean and local families: four chosen from the parish of Llanerch and four from the parish of Cefn Meiriadog. The original homes fell into disrepair and were rebuilt in 1795 by Bishop Bagot. After the last occupant died, the building became the Barrow Arms public house. The current owners Alun Jones and his partner, Mannon Thomas, are rightfully proud of the renovations. The Grade 2 listed building has been respectfully restored and updated to house the friendly gin bar **Junipers** and various seating areas that occupy many of the previous eight houses. The original fire places have been recreated using original materials where available, and the exposed original brick, rendered with lime wash, and the interior gives the visitor a clear idea of the space each of the widows would have called home. The Barrow's pleasant courtyard area was where the widows would congregate to chat and use their shared toilet, now an outside storage area. Alun describes the Barrow as: 'a 300-year-old building with a modern twist.' The respectful way the past has been honoured sits well with the owners' commitment to sustainability; using reusable stirrers, biodegradable straws, waterless urinals and renewable energy for instance. A vast range of organic wines, rums, locally brewed gins and craft beers are just a few other reasons you might pay this interesting historical building a visit and perhaps raise a glass to the original occupants! You will be given a warm welcome.



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afternoon,

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us for a covid
safe tea and
chat



at St Asaph Parish Church
On 17th October 2021 from 3-5pm
If you need transport, please ring 01745
590960



Eryl Hall School. Mike Gage sent through this photo, which apparently was taken in 1947, when there was a school at Eryl Hall, now of course a sizeable holiday park. Some very smiley faces, so perhaps the photographer had just cracked a good joke! Do you recognise anyone?

Ysgol Glan Clwyd News October 2021

Annwen Roberts

Congratulations to all our students and pupils on their successes in A-level, UG and TGAU examinations over the summer.

The new term has started, and we welcomed 192 new students to Year 7. 72 students have returned for the sixth form also. We welcomed a large number of new members of staff: Mr Arwel Davies (Deputy Head), Llio Meleri Davies, Siriol Ellis, Gethin Morgan and Ffion Gwen Williams (Welsh), Beth Mars-Lloyd (Science), Iwan Evans (Technology), Tomos Williams (Drama), Niamh Cole (French), Robin Powell Davies (Mathematics), Oliver Bradley-Hughes (English), Iolo James (Academic Mentor,) and Alys Roberts, Mari Roberts and Llinos Hughes (Learning Support Assistants). We hope they will all be very happy here in Glan Clwyd.



Julia and Mali are our head pupils for 2021/2, with Ellis and Taliesin as deputies.

Congratulations to Erin Baxter, Gwenllian Emmet, Gwion Williams and Jake Chow on their excellent result in the Quiz Challenge run by Cardiff University Medical Science Department – coming third throughout Wales is testimony to their ability and their hard work. Well done!

Congratulations to Toby Devenport, Ellis Jones, Ela Watkins and Efa Fitzgerald from Year 13 on being named Champion Orators following the **talkthetalkUK** oracy workshop. Well done all!

On July 12th, Tegan Coles cut her hair in support of the Little Princess Trust. www.littleprincesses.org.uk This charity creates wigs for children and young people who lose their hair through cancer treatments and other medical conditions. Other fund-raising activities were held that

day and an impressive total of £997.58 was raised for the charity.

Congratulations to Bethan Thomas, Erin Baxter and Lily Mair Roberts on winning the literature category for years 7-11 at the Llansannan Eisteddfod back in July. Bethan came first, winning a special prize for the best work in the senior age group.

A crew from Year 9 had an extraordinary experience when they had the opportunity before summer to interview former pupils who are now starring in the West End. Thanks for this opportunity! They interviewed Celyn Llwyd Cartwright, Steffan Hughes, Mared Williams and Jade Davies, and it can be seen online at ClwydTiFi – don't miss it!



Tegan Coles

Ysgol Esgob Morgan

Tim Redgrave



Tie-Dye T-shirts!

ever before. I think we managed that".

During the summer we led a really successful **Food and Fitness course** in the first 3 weeks of the holidays. Over 50 children from Ysgol Esgob Morgan, along with other children from the area, came to enjoy a range of fun fitness activities and delicious healthy food served by James, one of Denbighshire County Council's finest cooks. The scheme, run by Jodie Martin from the school, is growing year on year. She said "We couldn't run it last year so we were determined to make it bigger and better than



The Food and Fitness course



The Girls Football team

Year 6, as part of their studies on World War 2, wanted to explore food around the time of the war. With the help of The Fun Food Chef Year 6 made a variety of dishes to enjoy—including meatballs as shown opposite.

Our Girls Football team had their first match this week. They played really well considering they have had no real training time. Ben, Sports development trainee at the school said "The girls came up against a really talented team but they stuck to it and played with passion and, most importantly, with a smile".

Well done girls!



Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog

Laura Martin

We have been thrilled to welcome back our learners after a wonderful summer break along with some new faces too, including our new Nursery pupils who have settled in beautifully. Many of our children attended our free 'Food and Fun' holiday club over the summer where they were involved in a number of excellent workshops and activities including visits from Denbigh Rugby Club, the National Dance Company Wales, Wrexham Football Club and two beautiful birds of prey.

The children have immersed themselves in their new chosen topics with great enthusiasm, these include 'The Titanic', where the children will become marine archaeologists helping to find answers about the sinking of the Titanic, 'Vicious Vikings' where the children will discover who The Vikings were and what made them so successful and 'Bones' where the children will become archaeologists to help Mrs Evans find out what was discovered in her garden.

In other news, we have seen the old toilet block demolished over the summer and look forward to the arrival of our new Polytunnel. The children can't wait to get planting and growing – watch this space for news of our crop! We are also looking forward to having new playground markings painted this month, we can't wait to have even more fun at playtimes!

This half term already promises to be a busy one with the children taking part in sign language workshops, Harvest activities, visits from PC Gareth and so much to do both indoors and out!

We look forward to a busy, but safe, few weeks!





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For further information contact the Principals, Mr and Mrs Perkins on
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Mount Road, St. Asaph, Denbighshire, LL17 0DH



Enormous crocodile at the VP school!

We have had a wonderful start to the new School Year at the VP. Our New Nursery and Reception children have settled in well and we are so proud of how independent they are. We have been promoting a love of reading by celebrating Roald Dahl Day. It was lovely to see the children dressed up as book characters or wearing yellow to raise money for poorly children in hospital. We enjoyed listening to the **Enormous Crocodile** Story and experienced lots of fun reading activities with our friends and teachers.



All classes are busy practising for our Harvest Festival celebration. we've got lots of cheerful songs to learn as we thank God for the food he provides us with. We've also hosted the Macmillan cake morning for our children. Learners enjoyed cakes, drinks and delicious treats whilst raising money for Macmillan Cancer charity. Fundraising opportunities help our children to understand that there are ways that we can help others in need and we would like to thank our parents, carers and families for their generous cake donations.



New Nursery class members



Thank you to all the St Asaph families who attended the September 'Stay and Play' session for children due to start Nursery in September 2022. It was lovely to meet the children and to see them making new friends. We look forward to the next 'Stay and Play' session in January.

Overall, a fantastic return to school for the VP children – da iawn chi pawb!

Kate Langford

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children who
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For enquiries or private tours of the school please contact Headteacher Miss Kate Langford
 St Asaph VP Infant School: 01745 583 416 stasaph.infants@denbighshire.gov.uk

ENGLISH AND MATHS TUITION

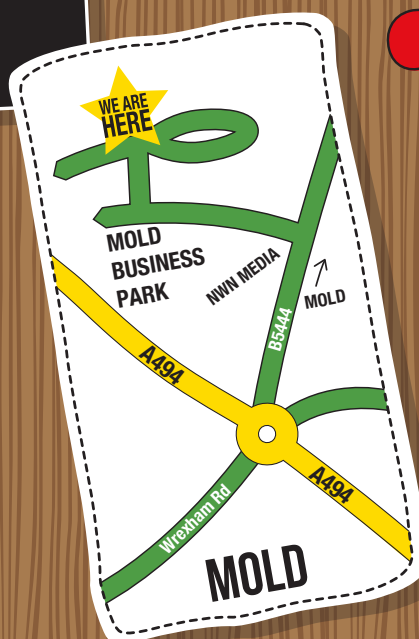
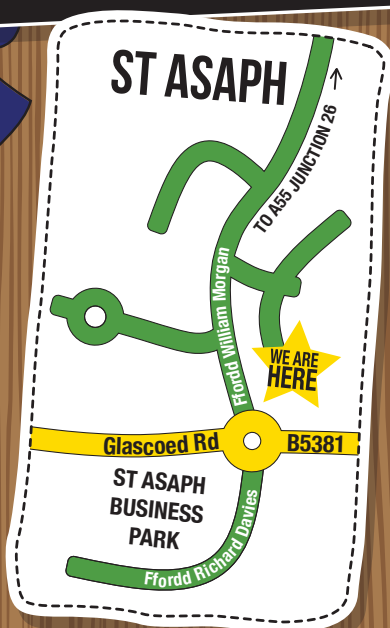
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St Asaph Firsts defending a free kick in their 1-0 home win over Rhydymwyn



Dan Williams holds off a robust challenge

St Asaph Football Club

John Roberts

Family Fun Morning: Despite the inclement weather, St Asaph's junior football teams had a very successful Family Fun event on Sunday, September 12th. All the teams played intra-club matches in front of a packed stand. Following the matches the teams were presented with trophies to mark the end of one season and the start of the new season, which hopefully will not be interrupted by Covid as the previous season was. Burgers, hot dogs and hot and cold drinks were prepared by committee members and consumed in large amounts. The Club would like to thank all the coaches for their work during the season which included turning out on cold, wet winter evenings to ensure that the players improve their skills and have fun doing so.

Junior Section: The Junior section has continued to grow. For the coming season the club will have teams at U6, U7, U8, U9 and U12 playing in the Rhyl & District Junior League.



Under 9s team at the Family Fun Event

Senior Section: The season has already started for the two senior teams. The first team have started their first season in the newly established tier 3 Ardal North West League and the Reserves in the newly established Reserves league. While the first team have progressed to round 2 of the League Cup they are still looking for their first win in the League. The Reserves have had a notable win over Bala Reserves, whose first team play in the Welsh Premier League.



Under 8s team and coaches at the Family Fun Event

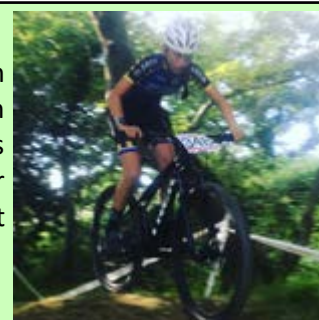


It was wet at the Fun Morning—but here's Wyn Williams, under 9s coach, getting even wetter!

Mountain Bike success for Faye

Faye Williams of St Brigid's School is following her brothers Scott and Luke in her passion for mountain biking. She is on the Welsh Mountain Biking squad, and recently came third in the National Mountain Bike Championships for her age group held in Peebles. Faye is pictured opposite flying through the air at great speed on a mountain trail! Rhualt Hill near St Asaph is clearly not steep enough for Faye and her brothers, as the cycle-enthusiast family are moving to Cilcain so that they can get to the trails direct from their back door.

Best wishes in your cycling exploits Scott Luke and Faye!



A long 46 year wait—but St Asaph finish champions of North Wales!

In our last issue, St Asaph CC First XI were balanced a little precariously at the top of the North Wales League Premier division, after a season of some really excellent results reflecting both individual and team determination. Hopefully unrelated to the City Times write up, they then suffered a home crash against Menai Bridge, losing by 141 runs, which narrowed their lead to just a few points. Things were getting tense. Could they hold on?



Matches on 7th August were abandoned after heavy rain hit mid-afternoon. The following weekend, the team beat **Gresford** by 63 runs, after scoring a tidy 162 in 37 overs (Will Ryan 56; Liam Moores 3 for 24). Against **Llay Welfare**, they won by 8 wickets (Danny Ryan 4 for 28) and against **Northop** they again won by 8 wickets.

On August 30th, against **Conwy**, St Asaph's opening stand of a massive 215 (Matty Ryan 101, Will Ryan 100) must have completely demoralised their opponents. Facing a target of 294, Conwy could only manage 76 all out.

Against **Denbigh**, St Asaph once again earned a maximum 15 points, winning by 9 wickets (Nat Scott 52, Matty Ryan 49, David North 4-45)

On the final and deciding match of the season, St Asaph finally secured the league title by beating **Brymbo** and claiming the maximum 15 points, leaving runners-up **Menai Bridge** trailing in their wake. Batting first against Brymbo, St. Asaph scored 208 for 7 (Duncan Midgely 84) and then skittled Brymbo out for 49 in 16 overs, with Jason Ffoulkes taking an extraordinary career-best 8-17!

This is the first time that St Asaph CC have won the North Wales Premier League since it was established in 2001, and before then, St Asaph had not finished top of North Wales since 1975. It is an immense achievement, and we all salute the team, captained so ably by Will Ryan, and packed with talent throughout. We have a very successful club here in St Asaph, not just in the First XI, but in the Second XI who came an impressive 4th in their division, and in the many teams in the flourishing junior section. The late and great Ken Hodgkinson, life member and president of the club, would have been completely and utterly delighted! Well done St. Asaph Cricket Club!

....and a sensational World Cup win for Wales!

Jo Cotton

Wales Walking Football team claimed victory in the over-65's category at the World Cup tournament in Copenhagen earlier this month. Seven of the squad were from North Wales, covering St Asaph, Amlwch, Connah's Quay and Coedpoeth. The 5-a-side team trained for the tournament at X20 St Asaph Leisure Centre and comprised players from North and South Wales, who faced strong competition from many countries including Finland, Sweden, USA, Canada, Germany, Denmark and previous winner Gibraltar.

Spurred on by their big win, the Wales team went on the next day to compete in the running 5-a-side football World Cup—where they emerged as champions again!

Speaking of the 4G pitch at X20 St Asaph, local resident **John Oliver**, member of the victorious team and winner of the Golden Boot trophy for the greatest number of goals scored, explained that their performance was significantly helped by the Denbighshire Leisure Ltd facilities in St Asaph.



John "golden boot" Oliver!

Chair of Wales Walking Football Federation and team member **Hedley Austin** said "Although Covid restrictions meant that there was a limited number of teams taking part in this delayed annual tournament, we nevertheless faced some spirited competition, including from the defending champions Gibraltar. Our travelling squad was proud to represent Wales in the international tournament, and proud to finish as winners of the walking football tournament; winning the regular 5-a-side competition was a bonus"



Managing Director of Denbighshire Leisure Ltd, Jamie Groves said "X20 St Asaph is now one of our flagship facilities, with investments in both the indoor and out offer in recent years. I'm thrilled to hear we have helped this team develop and cannot wait to see how they progress! On behalf of everyone at Denbighshire Leisure, I'd like to congratulate the whole team for their fantastic success and look forward to welcoming them back to train for their next tournament!"