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St. Asaph & District ^{new} City Times



Issue No 13

December 2021



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**NORTH WALES INTERNATIONAL
MUSIC FESTIVAL**
concerts available online free.



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HOUSING PROPOSAL
The view from St Kentigern Hospice
garden—at the moment.



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**HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY
ST. ASAPH FIRE STATION**

This issue kindly sponsored by St Asaph City Council, who wish all readers a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year

St Asaph City Council Christmas Window Competition!

for all local shops and businesses
Judging will take place on Thursday
16th December. The trophy will be
presented by the Mayor, Councillor
Peter Scott

St. Asaph City Council Cyngor Dinas Llanelwy

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Nadolig Llawn a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda

St Asaph City Council Meet your councillors!

Come and meet your City
Councillors in the Parish Church on
Tuesday 16th December from 6.30
to 9pm to discuss and contribute
to the St. Asaph City plan.
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City Times Team

John Oliver, Duncan Cameron, Sue Scott, Will Evers-Swindell, Fiona Shand, Jo Cotton, Dave Nuttall, Vanessa Pritchard-Jones, Janet Cameron,

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We're always looking out for letters, items, reports or features. Or that special photo! Deadline for copy for the February issue is Monday January 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.

Editorial

John Oliver

The proposed new development by Castle Green seems to have divided opinions in St Asaph. The city has remained more or less the same size for the past 20 years. The recent Livingstone Place site on the former HM Stanley hospital site when completed will have added 157 flats, new builds and units of assisted living. The Castle Green site will bring a further 124 new builds on land potentially set aside for housing in the Denbighshire's Local Development Plan

With possibly an additional 300-350 new residents the Castle Green site will increase the size of St Asaph significantly. Will this place additional pressure on existing healthcare services and further increase traffic congestion? Or will this help reinvigorate the city and increase trade for our shops, cafes, pubs and local businesses, as well as bringing more participants to join local organisations and clubs?

No matter what your opinion, we must do everything we can to revitalise the High Street and help prevent the eyesore of closed shopfronts and businesses. This just may be the kickstart the city needs.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Gas leak

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Flooding

0345 988 1188 Natural Resources Wales 24 hour line

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Childline **0800 1111**

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Electricity Power Cut (any provider) **105**



Christmas message from Mayor Peter Scott

"This year has brought its challenges, but it has shown us the power of communities. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate everybody living and working in St Asaph for sticking together and being kind and careful to each other throughout this very hard year.

Residents in all our communities have been truly amazing; and I have been inspired by how the people in our City have come together to support one another. I want to say a huge thank you to everyone, but especially to the NHS, all our key workers and to all our wonderful volunteers.

So as we approach Christmas let us all do so with a sense of optimism and hope that we will soon return to a world where we can laugh, love and live life to the fullest once again.

On behalf of all the Councillors and staff at St Asaph City Council, my wife and I wish you all a happy, healthy and safe Christmas and a brighter, positive and prosperous year ahead."

Jubilee Trees The City Council is arranging for a small copse of native deciduous trees to be planted as an extension to the community orchard on Roe Plas Meadow. The trees have been ordered and will be planted early in the New Year. A contractor has been appointed and he will construct fencing around the area to keep the sheep away. This is to commemorate the Queen's jubilee and a plaque will be fitted to inform the public.

Charge points: DCC plans to install two charge points for electric cars in the Bowling Green carpark

New Inn Bonfire night!

In what may well have been the largest gathering of people in St Asaph since the pandemic, an estimated 500 people turned out on a chilly November night for the New Inn bonfire night celebrations. The New Inn provided the fireworks, and the bonfire was held in the adjoining field. Mark and family members were in charge of setting off the fireworks, and the New Inn sold hot dogs, burgers and chips as well as tea, coffee and hot chocolate with cream and marshmallows.

"We would like to thank the community of St Asaph for supporting our annual event. Join us again next year for a guaranteed brilliant firework display, refreshments, food and community spirit. A huge thank you to our locals, family and friends for helping out on the night." Mark and Elaine Morris.



Castle Green housing proposal on the Upper Denbigh Road

A major new 12 acre housing development in St Asaph has been proposed by local firm Castle Green. The land has been allocated for housing as part of the Denbighshire County Council Local Development Plan. City Times went through the proposals online and corresponded with Castle Green

Scale: The development comprises a total of 124 houses to be built on the Upper Denbigh Road, adjacent to the hospice and just beyond the Livingstone Place site. There would be a mixture of housing types ranging from one bedroom apartments to four bedroom detached houses. Within the site, land has been set aside as public open space, and trees along the hedge line and road verge are largely being preserved. A play area for young children is included.



Information: Detailed information has been provided by Castle Green and is available online at www.planning.castlegreenhomes.uk and also at the library. Castle Green, whose local office is on the Business Park, have invited comments through an online consultation process through their website. They will be submitting a planning application after this, and with construction to start within six months if approved. Completion of the development would take around 3 years.

Traffic: DCC assessed this when initially allocating the site as part of the LDP, but felt that it would be manageable. Subsequently a formal traffic assessment commissioned by Castle Green using established methods has indicated that the additional traffic will have minimal extra impact on the existing levels (details on website). *Some have suggested that adjusting the route of the public footpath to the east of the site so that it is accessible to the Castle Green site, and upgrading the old railway track into a footpath/cycleway would be a helpful measure.*

Schools and surgery capacity: neither of these issues are the responsibility of the builder. There is capacity in the infants and junior school. *A statement from one of the surgeries noted that "there are significant existing issues with GP capacity locally which will not be improved by the various proposed local developments", but this is an issue for the Health Board.*

St Kentigern Hospice: a green space adjacent to the hospice has been provided. *Unfortunately there are currently no plans for a connection through to Livingstone Place, which would have allowed Caffi Cariad to be a focal point for local residents in both developments. Castle Green informed City Times that they have no jurisdiction over such issues.*

Ecology: The majority of trees on the site are being preserved, with new tree plantings to offset those removed.

Drainage: A detailed Drainage Strategy which takes account of the existing hydrology of the site and the capacity of the local drainage network is on the website, and is reportedly satisfactory.

Density of housing: DCC require a certain density of housing to make the best use of available land, and this site will be close to the *lower* limit.

Castle Green are currently completing other housing developments in Cae Felin (Denbigh), in Dyserth and Old Colwyn.



A Castle Green development elsewhere, with similar houses.

City Council response to the Castle Green proposal



St Asaph City Council wrote to Castle Green on 19th October listing a number of objections that have been raised to the proposal. However, the ultimate decision with respect to the development will be taken by Denbighshire County Council Planning Committee. These are the issues mentioned in the City Council letter:

- “The land is entirely unsuitable for development. Further development at this site constitutes overdevelopment and intensification at the site;
- Priority should be given to developing brown field sites, in line with this Government’s Levelling Up agenda. Note there are already plans to redevelop the Denbigh North Wales Hospital (which will put further pressure on the A525 and local services, schools and infrastructure);
- It will deny the patients in St Kentigern Hospice, with life-limiting conditions, the amenity afforded by views across the Clwydian Range. The hospice will be left boxed in, thus reducing privacy/openness and the peaceful setting. This is not the environment hospice residents deserve;
- The proposed entrance/exit location onto the A525 is dangerous. It is on a dip and bend, prone to flooding, and remains wet for long periods during winter months due to foliage;
- The proposed development is unsustainable. The A525 through St Asaph from Upper Denbigh Road to the A55 junction already suffers from chronic congestion heightened at peak times. The High Street is a bottleneck and does not allow large vehicles (buses, vans and HGVs) to pass both ways. At times the traffic stretches onto the A55 roundabout. Building more houses will only exacerbate the problem and impair the quality of life and safety for those who live along this route;



The former Welsh Ambulance Service HQ, now empty

exacerbate the problem and impair the quality of life and safety for those who live along this route;

- There has already been significant development in St Asaph (HM Stanley) and Denbigh (Cae Topyn and Cae Felin), which is adding pressure on local services and infrastructure. The national media has reported on long delays waiting for GP surgeries, ambulances and receiving hospital treatment, including A&E, at local hospitals;
- **Pure Housing** have yet to finish developing the HM Stanley site. There remains doubt over whether a partner will be found for the assisted living site at the centre of the development. If a partner cannot be found, then alternative housing should be built on this brown field site. There are still former hospital buildings (including the former Welsh Ambulance HQ) standing empty, and unsold dwellings on the site;

- St Asaph has already provided new additional housing at HM Stanley;
- The proposed development threatens to change forever the character of St Asaph. “

Planning permission now granted for care home on St Asaph Business Park

Following initial rejection of a planning application for a 198 bed residential care home on the Business Park back in March 2020, a revised application was submitted in April 2021 and planning permission has now been granted.

The proposal had featured in City Times (issue 10) and the care home, named Ty Seren, is the brainchild of Dylan Southern and Dr Simon Dobson, a local GP. Dylan has extensive experience of the care home sector, and also worked in health service management. Ty Seren will provide spacious, modern and purpose built facilities for residents.

Dylan commented: “We are impressed at the rigour with which the planning committee have gone through every



aspect of the application, and are delighted at this decision. We feel that it will be a “Welsh problem-solver” for the BCU Health Board and North Wales residents. We are hoping for funding from the Welsh Development Bank, and already in discussions with local construction companies. Given a fair wind, we could even open the doors as soon as 18 months time “



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Our new flagpoles The rules are quite strict. The Union Flag must always be flown in the *superior* position which is "either the highest flagpole, the centre flagpole where there is an odd number of poles of the same height, or the left centre flagpole viewed from the front of the building, where there is an even number of poles of the same height."

But it really depends where you take your picture from....

City Council Questionnaire

The results of the recent questionnaire have now been announced. The key recurrent themes were as follows:

- **What makes you happy about St Asaph?** The people, the riverside and scenery, and the community spirit
- **What makes you sad about St Asaph?** The decline of the High St., traffic and pollution on the High St. and litter.
- **What makes you mad about St Asaph?** Litter & plastic pollution, heavy traffic, pollution, pedestrian safety, dog mess, inconsiderate parking, vandalism to the cherry trees
- **How would you make St Asaph better?** Bypass, restrict traffic on High St, improve High St shops and appearance, more events, community centre
- **How would you spend £10,000 on St Asaph?** Events, tidy/paint High St, support for charities, sports clubs, community groups, tourism signs.

Unfortunately there was a low response rate of only 2.6%; in more normal times, the Council would perhaps have used the opportunity to get people to fill questionnaires at community events. Nevertheless, the Council will be considering the responses carefully and discussing what action can be taken.

November City Council meeting

Heavy Goods Traffic – Lengthy discussions regarding the increasing problem of heavy goods vehicles using the High Street. Although the construction of a relief road was extremely unlikely, requests will be made to DCC to change the advisory alternative route to mandatory.

Flood Mitigation - The Mayor presented details of discussions he had with our local MP and Chief Executive of NRW regarding the need for future improvements to the city's flood defences following the "near miss" last February. The Mayor hopes that the identified improvements will be attended to.

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

Robbery at Applegreen service station

A robbery took place at Applegreen service station late in the evening of Friday 15th October, when the cashier was assaulted and £215 was taken. A local man was arrested promptly and pleaded guilty. He has subsequently received a jail sentence of two years and four months.

Such outrageous events are thankfully extremely rare in our city, and our thoughts are with the ever helpful staff at the service station in what must have been a very frightening and distressing episode. We are grateful for prompt and effective action from our police and justice system.



Elizabeth Williams Charities—applications invited

The trustees of Elizabeth Williams Charities welcome applications from people who are experiencing difficult circumstances. This may be because of low income, poor health, hardship or distress caused by a change in circumstances. It is a local charity dating back to 1791 at the time of the Alms Houses.

To be able to apply for a grant you must live within St. Asaph, Bodelwyddan, Cefn Meriadog or Waen.

Request for an application form can be sent to the Clerk via e-mail to alison.alexander@btinternet.com or by post to 19 Roe Parc, St. Asaph, Denbighshire. LL17 0LD.

Trustee Vacancy

The Charity are looking to appoint a co-optative Trustee to assist in identifying those in need in the areas of St. Asaph, Bodelwyddan, Cefn Meriadog and Waen. Requests for an application form and details of the Charity are available from the Clerk, contact details above. Closing date for applications 31.12.2021.





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Sam's river Elwy proposal features in COP 26 video

With the increasing frequency of extreme weather events due to climate change, and against the background of recent floods experienced in the Vale of Clwyd, one local couple are considering natural ways of decreasing flood risk for themselves and downstream for St Asaph. **Sam Kenyon** of Glanllyn farm and her husband Alex farm near the S-bends. Their land is subject to significant flooding from the river Elwy, as shown opposite. *City Times* interviewed Sam to find out more:

How has it affected your farm? "Floods can be devastating. They wash away our hard work and the investment in our small business. The worst of the floods wash away things like our access track and so much of our fields and soil. The floods can cause landslides, wash away trees, fencing and worst of all they put our livestock in danger."

What measures have you had to take? "We have scraped field edges away to create a shallow slope to riverbanks, allowing flood water to rise up into an area it couldn't fill before, giving the river more room to flood. The slope also means less soil is washed away to pollute the river. We've had to fence off some of the field edge from being grazed—worth it to save the river bank. We coppiced alder and willow trees and buried the coppiced trunks into the newly profiled slope, where they act as a root ball giving nutrients for fresh growth and as an anchor against floods. We've filled gaps in the river bank with pollarded alder and willow brush to trap sediment. We've planted alder and hazel, and over 200m of hedgerow to help stem the flow of flood water, with plans to plant another 220m this winter"

"We can't stay put if the house is flooded so we also took the weighty decision to build a bund to protect our house. The most important thing is to stay on our farm to keep our livestock safe, and keep this small farm business going."



The field of 26 acres across the river

What do you now propose? "We've a field of around 26 acres where I would like to create a large **flood water basin**. We would re-profile the river bank to be more shallow and allow flood water to enter the field. This would help hold back a great a volume of flood water. It would drain out of the small ditch at the woodland edge slower than it drains in. We would plant part of the basin up as wet woodland to help hold back water further. The rest can be sown as floodplain meadow species rich grassland to support a whole range of wildlife. I could graze it over the summer when the river level is low enough for stock to get across. The basin could be used for studying by students, just like our riverbanks and woodland are used now for studies by Bangor Uni students "

How might the riparian woodland planting help? "Wet woodland has mostly been removed as a habitat to create more farmable land. That was understandable when we had food shortages but that's not the world we live in today. With 1 in 6 species in Wales threatened with extinction (State of Nature report 2019) we face different crises now – namely climate, biodiversity and health. The wet woodland would become part of the mosaic of the right trees in the right place, helping to slow river flow. And healthy land within healthy landscapes will grow healthy nutrient dense food, either for us and/or for nature. These types of woodland are known to filter out pollutants and catch sediment and litter too. The water travelling through this proposed basin would leave cleaner than when it went in."



Riparian woodland slows the flow during flooding

What are the next steps? We've been told that no government grants are available for the next 2-3 years, so we aim to use crowdfunding so that individuals and big business alike can help us deliver a solution for the community. We'll work with water engineers to map the levels of the site and draw up a scheme of works. Once we have that, we'll set to work on the bank and the tree and meadow planting. **Contact sam@glanllynfarm.co.uk for the crowdfunding link.**

Sam's proposal features in an extraordinary YouTube video shown at the COP 26 Climate Change conference by Conservation without Borders. You can view this at <https://www.conservation-without-borders.org/cop26-exhibition>



Flooding of the Elwy at Glanllyn

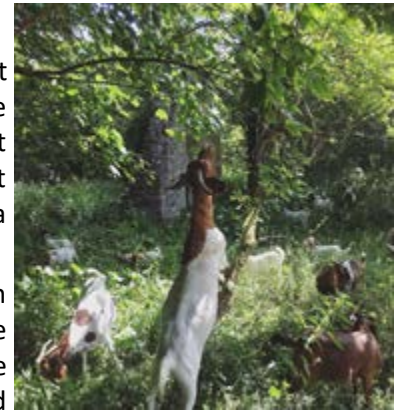
Sam Kenyon contd.

Tell us about your latest business initiatives "I produce pasture fed lamb and goat meat boxes which I sell direct to our amazingly supportive customers. I think more people want to know where and how their food is grown nowadays, and the impact or solutions that growing their food delivers to the planet. Pasture is the most resilient crop I can grow alongside the river, so it makes sense to farm it in a regenerative way."

"I also rear a small number of turkeys and process them myself. I manage the farm treating nature as a stakeholder in our small business and each year we see positive



outcomes in biodiversity. We've one small 3 acre field that has over 40 species of plant, grass and meadow flowers which has thrived from a conservation approach to grazing it. Those species in turn then support a range of species themselves. One of the best natural fertilisers I can feed the soils with is chicken poop. So we've started with pasture fed hens too who also get a little organic feed so I can be sure they're getting all the nutrients needed - I'm hoping to start up a local egg club next year! We've plenty of tree planting planned for this winter, which our customers have volunteered to help us with, including planting a small orchard. And then I'm hoping to be able to turn my hand to growing veggies....."



Llanerch bridge photo Dave Nuttall

Massive response to Llanerch Bridge consultation

During a meeting on November 23, the DCC Cabinet agreed to support the principle of replacing the bridge, subject to securing the necessary funding, as well as approaching Welsh Government to request external funding. The Council will now commission further ground investigation and flood modelling work to ensure a design can be developed which will meet the planning requirements.

Cllr. Brian Jones, the Council's lead member for Waste, Transport and the Environment, said: "The importance of the route has been emphasised by the level of interest shown in the recent public engagement held by the Council which attracted around 750 responses. I would like to thank the public for the fantastic response which will help the Council build a business case for funding. The responses were also really useful to help us decide any new bridge should look. However, there is

still much work to be done. Unfortunately, replacing Llanerch Bridge will not be a quick or easy process, and it will not be possible to provide an accurate timescale for it until we have secured funding."

So there is good news and bad news. At last - after almost 10 months - the council are formally committed to replace the bridge. However they still need to come up with a design and also need to secure funding. And we don't know how long this will take...

Goodfish industrial dispute resolved.

Workers at Goodfish (on the former Honeywell site) voted overwhelmingly to accept the pay offer made by the company following discussions at ACAS. The revised offer was for a 1.5% rise backdated to July, and a 2.05% rise from the beginning of 2022.

In 2020, in the early stages of the lockdown, workers had agreed to set aside the annual pay negotiations given the uncertainty of the outlook for industry. However, there had been an expectation that their restraint then would be acknowledged with a fair settlement in 2021. When no pay increase was offered by Goodfish in 2021, nor any bonus, a decision was taken to proceed to industrial action, and workers came out on strike with two 24 hour stoppages on 13th and 20th October. Supported by GMB union and Unite the Union, negotiations then took place at ACAS with the successful outcome noted above.

City Times understands that the order book is reasonably healthy at Goodfish. During the COVID-19 crisis, Goodfish Northwest received significant orders for extruded and moulded products for the NHS Nightingale hospitals in London, Birmingham, Bristol, Harrogate and Manchester. These orders were fulfilled despite the challenges of working during the pandemic. Having transferred equipment to St Asaph from their Loughborough plant last year, as well as installing new moulding machines and robots and taking on new workers, it is clear that the future remains positive for the St Asaph factory.



Fifty years old—our fire station.

St Asaph Fire Station was formally opened on November 22nd, 1971, 50 years ago. Over the years, many local residents and many further afield have been hugely grateful for the service offered by the crews that have served there. St Asaph is a On-Call station, and the crew comprises 6 firefighters, including the watch manager Mike Dymock. In addition, there is a new recruit, who is currently going through the rigorous training programme.

Our On-Call Firefighters have regular daytime jobs; they must all live and work in the vicinity to be ready to respond immediately to a call, and they have to be fit. There is a periodic medical and a 6-month fitness check—although they are not expected to carry casualties in the test, they have to score well on the notorious Chester Step test! There are weekly three hour training sessions on Tuesday evenings, where every



FF Harry Sweetman, FF Rebekah Uden, T/Cm Derfel Roberts, Wm Mike Dymock, FF Adam Frobisher, FF Mike Howie—the St Asaph crew.



Fire practice back in the 1970s

aspect of firefighting and rescue is covered, including training on the wide range of increasingly sophisticated equipment they have to use.

As watch manager, Mike follows in the footsteps of other locals, including Robbie Houlston and Mark Fishwick. When Mike joined the service back in 1992, there was usually a call-out every day. Now, improvements in fire safety, use of smoke alarms, and better vehicle safety features mean that the call-out rate has fallen to around 10-15 per month. The Wales Fire and Rescue statistics confirm this trend, and demonstrate that fires and special

service incidents (ie road accidents, other rescues etc) are roughly equal in numbers; fire false alarms also account for a good number of call outs. Fire call-outs range from grassland fires, bonfires that have got out of control to domestic fires and fires in commercial premises. There are still regular calls to road traffic accidents on the A55, where the special skills and equipment required to release trapped people are put to use. Happily, the numbers injured and killed in road traffic accidents have fallen due to airbags and other safety features.



Working with the RNLI during the St Asaph floods in 2012



This aspect of their work underlines the fact that they are not just a fire service, but a fire and rescue service. Their most dramatic rescue role locally was of course during the floods of 2012, and to a lesser extent in 2020. Working alongside the other emergency services, they rescued many people trapped by the floods, and in the aftermath were visited and congratulated by Prince Charles for their extraordinary efforts.

It is hoped to have a celebration of the 50th birthday when Covid restrictions are eased. They are a steady, dependable and highly trained team, with a cheerful and positive approach. Most importantly, they clearly know exactly what to do in emergencies. We are fortunate to have courageous people like them to rely on when we need them most.

Mike Dymock, Watch Manager said: "Our work as On-Call Firefighters can be unpredictable and challenging - but more than anything it's really rewarding. It feels good to know that you are providing a crucial service—I'd recommend it to anyone. We're a close knit team, and we're looking for more people to help us protect the local community."

"Why not come and join us!"




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www.northwalesfire.gov.wales

Announcements

send your announcements to editorsact@gmail.com

Congratulations to Kara Valentine Morris on her graduation from University College London (UCL), where she achieved MSci first class honours in Natural Sciences, specialising in Astrophysics and Molecular Cell Biology. Kara was a pupil at St Asaph VP School under Ms Williams, and from there she went to St Bridget's School in Denbigh, where she is still an active member of the CCF. Kara is now studying for her PGCE in Physics and Mathematics at Kings College London.



Denys Owen

Many tributes have been paid to a much-loved local character and Rotarian who was a founder member of St Asaph Rotary Club, raising funds and supporting local good causes and projects.

Reginald Denys Owen, known as Denys, died peacefully at Southern House Care Home, Abergelge on 21st August 2021. He was 94 years old.

Although his mother was Welsh, Denys was born and raised in Liverpool. He and his sister Margaret were evacuated to St Asaph during the war and eventually the family moved to St Asaph permanently after the war. Too young to join the army during the war, Denys was called up to National Service as a 'Bevin boy' and worked down in the coal pits in Gresford and Bersham. He would often regale listeners with stories of his experiences.

Denys became a well-known and respected member of the St Asaph community and ran a business here as an accountant with many local clients. He had a great passion for trams and railways, and was a member of several societies such as the Welsh Mountain Railway. He enjoyed his retirement to the full and always seemed to know more people in North Wales than the electoral roll! He loved trad jazz and would frequently be spotted at local gigs organised by the North Wales Jazz Society of which he was, of course, a member. Bob Cotton of St Asaph Rotary club said "Denys was a great character. He never lost the cheeky twinkle in his eye, or his infectious sense of humour, and he will be sorely missed by many, many people"

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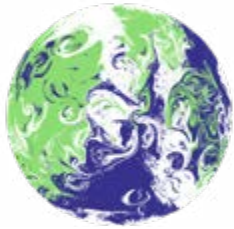
Based locally in St Asaph, I work closely with my clients and their families to fully understand their financial aspirations, hopes and concerns.

Our business has quality and service at its core and I would like to invite readers to find out for themselves my personal approach to financial planning.



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**UN CLIMATE
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UK 2021**

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E-bike Loan Scheme: This is a pilot project involving electric bike loans in a partnership between Welsh Government and Sustrans. The bikes will be available free for a 4 week period. They are intended for residents who may find the cost of e-bikes a barrier to using them and/or who live in a hilly location near a loan scheme centre. You will be shown how to use them, and they will be maintained by Sustrans.

Our local scheme will be in Rhyl, and you can find out more by contacting Jonny Eldridge on 07922 875131 or on Jonny.Eldridge@sustrans.org.uk



Elwy Solar Farm. The planning application has now been submitted for construction of the solar farm and energy storage hybrid park behind the Talardy. It is classed as a "Development of National Significance" and as such is submitted to Welsh Government. A decision is expected in mid-2022.

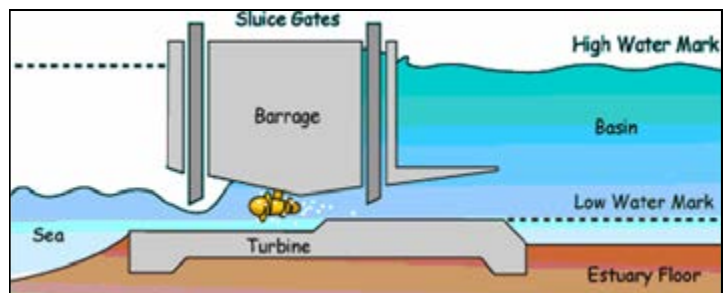
The Stadtkraft website says *"Elwy solar energy farm will produce enough clean, renewable electricity for over 16,500 homes. The project intends to deliver other benefits too – a community benefit fund, business rates contribution to the local economy, local jobs and supply contracts, as well as improvements to wildlife, with long term habitat management being a big part of the plans".*

Details of all aspects of the application, including frequently asked questions (drainage, glare, noise, construction, public rights of way and a non-technical environmental assessment) are all available at the Stadtkraft website. Stadtkraft

is a Norwegian state-owned hydropower company with many similar projects in the UK.

www.statkraft.co.uk/about-statkraft-uk/where-we-operate/Locations/elwysolar/

Tidal Power update In December 2020, City Times featured a proposal for an energy creating tidal lagoon off the North Wales coast between Llandudno and Prestatyn. At that time, the challenge was to attract finance to develop detailed plans, and this still appears to be the case. However, the announcement of £1.6bn private finance for the Blue Eden tidal lagoon project in Swansea, the progress made by Mersey Tidal, set against the recent COP26 conference, may mean that means that prospects for such schemes improve. Tidal lagoons involve major infrastructure, and a relatively long lead in before energy generation brings in revenue for the investors, but on the other hand would have an operating lifetime of over 100 years—as against 25 years for a new nuclear power station. Interestingly, the lagoon wall in North Wales would be 3 times longer than the Swansea scheme, but the tidal range would generate 10 times the amount of electricity. Watch this space! www.northwalestidalenergy.com



Awel Y Mor offshore windfarm

The public consultation period for the proposed Awel Y Mor offshore windfarm ran from August 31st to October 11th and attracted a lot of attention, with 900 people attending open sessions held across North Wales, and 300 written submissions by letter or online.

Decisions will now be taken on the number and types of turbines, the offshore substations, the cable landfall site and the onshore substation; these will be made in preparation for the submission for planning permission in 2022. As its capacity

would exceed 100MW, it is listed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project which requires review by the relevant Secretary of State. The indicative timeline suggests that if permission is granted, construction would start in 2024, and it would be fully operational by 2030.

More details at www.awelymor.cymru

North Wales International Music Festival – Virtual Festival 2021



Free online concerts available until 21 December at www.nwimf.com



*NEW Sinfonia Opus 50 Chamber Group
Bethan Allmand, Leanne Cody and Lowri Preston*

This year's 50th NWIMF is being staged as a hybrid event. Six live concerts were filmed in the festival's traditional home, St Asaph Cathedral, and others have been recorded elsewhere.

Concerts include harp virtuosa Catrin Finch with kora player Seckou Keita, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, London Tango Quintet, resident orchestra NEW Sinfonia with pianist John Frederick Hudson, Ensemble Cymru, UK Gospel Choir, pianist Iwan Llewelyn Jones, Family Affair with Brian Hughes and tenor Dafydd Jones, composer Paul Meallor, folk musician Gwenan Gibbard, violinist Tai Murray with pianist Martin Roscoe, Canolfan Gerdd William Mathias students and St Asaph Cathedral Choir.

Concert goers were enthralled by the Welsh premiere of a brand-new piano concerto by royal composer Paul Meallor, who also wrote the music for the 'Wonders of the Celtic Deep' series recently shown on BBC One Wales. The music for the series is performed by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, who also recorded a concert especially for NWIMF's virtual festival from Wales Millennium Centre.

The critically acclaimed duo of Catrin Finch and Seckou Keita wowed the audience with a joyous fusion of Welsh and African music. Their performance at the Royal Albert Hall in August was one of the highlights of this year's Proms.

The London Tango Quintet, featuring guitarist Craig Ogden, opened this year's festival and the second opportunity to tune in from home to their truly magical performance will allow for more than foot-tapping and dancing shoulders!

Caroline Thomas



Catrin Finch and Seckou Keita



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TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS



*"Warmest wishes from the Duchess of Cornwall to all
at the Humane Research Trust"*

Merry Christmas!

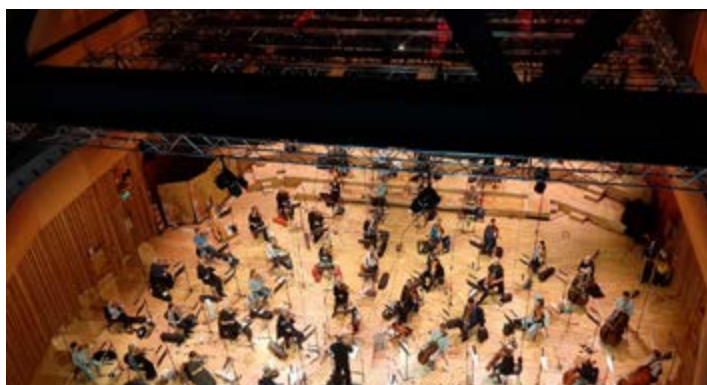
Happy New Year!

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BBC National Orchestra of Wales ©BBCNOW



Catrin Finch & Seckou Keita. Photo: Andy Morgan

BBC National Orchestra of Wales

London Tango Quintet

Pianist **John Frederick Hudson**

UK Gospel Choir

Family Affair & Tenor Dafydd Jones

Violinist **Tai Murray & Martin Roscoe**

Folk musician **Gwenan Gibbard**

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Ensemble Cymru

Pianist **Iwan Llewelyn Jones**

Canolfan Gerdd William Mathias

St Asaph Cathedral Choir



UK Gospel Choir



London Tango Quintet. Photo: John Liston

nwimf.com



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ROTARY CLUB OF ST. ASAPH

As usual at this time of year Santa is getting the Christmas Float ready to take around St. Asaph with the help of the Rotary Club of St. Asaph. Last year was a difficult year for us all, including Santa. Santa hopes that it will be much better this year and that we will be able to move around more freely. Santa and the Christmas Float will tour the streets of St. Asaph and neighbouring areas this year. In addition we plan to be present at the Coop and Sainsburys. Below you will find the itinerary so that you can be sure not to miss Santa and the Float when they visit your area.

Rotary Christmas Float Itinerary

Sunday 12th	10 am to 4 pm	Sainsburys Rhyl
Monday 13th	6 pm to 7.30pm	Tai Cochion Waen; Holywell Rd and Dyffryn Teg Rhualt
Tuesday 14th	6 pm to 8 pm	Bryn Elwy; Livingstone Place; Clwydian Park; Rhodfa Clwyd; Cae Shon (Triangle)
Wednesday 15th	6 pm to 8 pm	Cathedral Car park, Fron Haul; Bishops Walk; Llys y Dyffryn; The Paddock; Llys Idris;
Friday 17th	2 pm to 6 pm	Coop St Asaph
Saturday 18th	10 am to 4 pm	Coop St Asaph
Sunday 19th	6 pm to 8 pm	Lower St; Llys y Felin; Red Hill; Bryn Coed; Lon Derw; Mount Road; Rhodfa Glenys; Bryn Gobaith
Monday 20 th	6 pm to 8pm	St Asaph Library; Heol Esgob; Tan y Bryn; Ffordd Siarl; Roe Park
Tuesday 21st	6 pm to 8pm	Dean’s Walk; Llwyn Elwy; Bro Harvard; Heol Afon; Ashley Court
Wednesday 22 nd	12 pm to 6 pm	Coop St Asaph



Santa and the Float at the Coop 2 years ago with Rotary Club Friends Colin and Gwenda Hardie.

Remembrance Day



Mayor Peter Scott lays a wreath on behalf of the City Council
Photo Haydn Illman/North Wales Live



Cllr Colin Hardie, choir and representatives Photo Dave Nuttall



Poppies made by children of the VP school



Major Brad Percival leads the parade
Photo Dave Nuttall

DIARY OF EVENTS

Activities listed are correct at time of going to press. For listing in the Diary of Events in the next issue (early February), submit items to editorsact@gmail.com before the deadline date shown on page 2.

Weekly Events

Day	Time	Details
Tuesday	10-12 am	#Aros a Chwarae. Ring Viv on 07503 216346 or Facebook page: @stayandplayllanelwy Every Tuesday except December 21st, 28th and January 4th
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 Except Dec 21st, 28th and January 4th.
Tuesday	7-8pm	Over 50s Walking Football at The Leisure Centre. Contact John on 07753 968549
Thursday	2-4 pm	Forget-me-not afternoons for those living with dementia. Held in the parish church except December 16th, 23rd or 30th
Friday	9.30am	Cymun Bendigaid in the cathedral
Friday	9.30pm	Live music at The Plough —details on www.ploughsa.com
Saturday	2–4pm	St Asaph Football Club matches First/Reserves team. <i>See back page</i>
Saturday	9.30pm	Live music at The Plough —details on www.ploughsa.com
Sunday	9.30 11.00	Morning service at the Parish Church Cathedral Eucharist Details on www.stasaphcathedral.wales

December — one off events

Day	Time	Details
Sunday 5th	11: 00 –12:00	Messy Church at the Parish Church
Friday 10th	6pm	Light up a Life St Kentigern service in the Cathedral. Details 01745 585221 or visit www.stkentigernhospice.co.uk
Tuesday 16th	6.30-9pm	Meet your councillors in the Parish Church to discuss and contribute to the St Asaph City Plan
Sunday 19th	3-5pm	T club at the Parish Church

January — one off events

Day	Time	Details
Sunday 3rd	11:00 -12:00	Messy Church at the Parish Church
Sunday 16th	3-5pm	T Club at the Parish church,





Church Services over Christmas

12th December **Choral Evensong by Candlelight**, 6pm (Cathedral)

15th December **Christmas Lantern Trail**, 3-5pm (Cathedral)

19th December **A Celebration of Christmas**, 6.30pm (Parish Church)

Christmas Eve

Christingle & Crib Service, 4pm (Parish Church)

Tickets available from the Parish Church

Vigil Mass in St Winifred's 4pm (RC church)

Carol Service with refreshments 6-7pm (Llanelwy Community Church, book via minister@llcc.org)

Nine Lessons & Carols, 7pm (Cathedral) ~

Tickets available from the Translators Tearoom

Midnight Mass 11.30pm (Cathedral)

Christmas Day

Eucharist & Carols, 9.30am (Parish Church)

Christmas Day Choral Eucharist, 11am (Cathedral)



ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL
FREE CHRISTMAS EVENT



History of
Christmas
LANTERN TRAIL



**FREE
FAMILY
EVENT**

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 15TH 2021
3PM - 5PM
DROP IN



Follow our lantern trail outside the Cathedral and find out all about the History of Christmas and what our time travelling Christmas elves have hidden. Find all the answers and receive a Christmas prize. Bring a torch and wrap up warm!



EMAIL: LORNAKERNAHAN@STASAPHCATHEDRAL.WALES

Do You Have Questions?

Alpha is where you can explore the Christian faith in an open-minded and welcoming environment. No cost, no pressure. Just lots of great conversation.

Starting on Tuesday 18th January at 7:30pm at Jacob's Ladder Café, St Asaph. To book a place and to find out more, please visit www.festival.church/alpha



Scavenging...!

St Asaph Messy Church Holiday Club during autumn half-term was blessed with lovely sunny weather for our sponsored walk along the river bank, made more exciting with a scavenger hunt! We realised on Climate Sunday that though we can't directly help people affected by climate change, we can raise money to give to people who can help them for us. An enormous thank you to everyone as we have so far raised £140. All money raised will be sent to Christian Aid for work in Africa. Follow us on Facebook.



The Nativity Play in Peniel chapel in 1964. Clearly a major production, with everyone looking happy apart from a very apprehensive Angel Gabriel and a worried looking pirate in the front row. *Picture submitted by Bronwen Lowrie.*

"I want to support people in my community!"

Make a difference... Come and volunteer with us!

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If you would like to get involved and make a difference in your local community, please contact Julie:



07775 917 825



julie.pierce@dcab.co.uk



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LLANELWY WI*Denise D'Albertson*

What a lovely day trip members of Llanelwy WI had in September when we visited Plas Newydd in Llangollen. From seeing the bikers on the Horseshoe Pass to the glorious and spectacular scenery all the way to Llangollen in the sunshine, what a delight!

We were so lucky to have an informative and friendly guide at Plas Newydd, she really was so knowledgeable and gave us the history of the house, grounds and of course the "Ladies".

The interior of the house was quite extraordinary, a gothic fantasy with oak wood carvings throughout, apparently some carvings older than the house. The history of the 'Ladies of Llangollen' was fascinating and quite remarkable. Eleanor Butler and Sarah Ponsonby ran away from Ireland in 1780 to escape the social expectations and conventions of the time and set up home together in Llangollen. They were visited by many famous people including Shelley and Byron.

There is a pretty garden at the back of the house which leads down to a summer house and river.

It was wonderful to be able to sit down with members that we hadn't seen for some time, have lunch and catch up.

For further information about Llanelwy WI please contact Heulwen Davis, President at stasaph1@gmail.com

December meeting: Llanelwy WI members only.

January: no meeting.

February meeting (Tuesday 1st) : Climate change & Resolutions discussion at St Asaph Parish Church at 7pm



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TREE-CYCLING for St Kentigern!

Hospice volunteers will be out collecting real Christmas trees from 9am on Friday 7th January to Sunday 9th January 2022 in return for a donation towards patient care and family support services. Save yourself time and make a valuable difference!

* £10 will pay for 1 session of Art Therapy in the Day Care Unit

* £15 will pay for 1 hour of bereavement support with our specialist team

* £20 will pay for 1 hour of vital nursing care in our In-patient Unit

Collections will be from the following post codes: LL15, LL16, LL17, LL18, LL19, LL22

To register your collection and make a donation visit:
www.charityxmastreecollection.com



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The great outdoors

Jo Cotton

Did you know that we have an Outdoor Pursuits Centre on our doorstep, based at Dolben Hall in the beautiful Elwy valley at Bont Newydd? **Open Door Adventure** is run by Dave Orange and his team. Readers may remember Dave when he provided the equipment and support for everyone who abseiled down the City Cathedral Tower for charity a few years ago. *City Times* interviewed Dave to find out more.

Dave joined the army in 1970 and his whole career involved working in outdoor pursuits, so his experience is extensive. He has travelled all over the world, and has worked in diverse conditions, from extreme heat to snow and ice and everything in between. Initially Dave took regiments out on activities and then in 1979 he transferred to the Royal Army Physical



Training Corp (RAPTC), a hybrid training corp for all Services. The ethos is 'healthy in body, mind and spirit' and Dave's role was to help develop personnel through activities. He was based in the British Outward Bound Centre (Army), and became a specialist in PT for all the armed forces. Dave became a mountaineering instructor and taught, coached or refereed a huge variety of activities including ski-ing, rock climbing, canoeing, football, rugby, cricket, fencing, boxing, athletics, gymnastics, swimming and life saving. He has worked with people from all walks of life, including Chris Akabusi, the athlete and Simon Weston from the Falklands conflict. Dave has experience in developing changes that were needed in training when women joined the forces, recognising that

women are 'as tough' as men, but maybe in different ways! Dave has been on ten Himalayan expeditions and was part of the first British team to climb Everest without oxygen.

After retiring, Dave knew he wanted to carry on helping young people to enhance the quality of their lives by building life skills, confidence and resilience. He firmly believes that outdoor education should be part of all children's education as he has a lifetime's experience of the benefits this brings.

Open Door Adventure started at Bont Newydd when Dave leased the property and 25 acres of land including forest, caves and a mine, from the Cefn Estate. The caves have protected bat species and it is reputed that Charles Darwin visited these caves before going to the Galapagos Islands. Open Door Adventure runs residential and day courses and offers water based activities and a wide range of other activities including rope courses, a zip line, archery, rifle shooting and axe throwing, mountain biking and quad biking. Dave has a core team of 14 staff, including qualified instructors and staff who look after the residential accommodation. The facilities are comfortable and welcoming and in the summer months there is the option to sleep in tents.



Dave does not get any direct government funding, but he has contracts with local authorities and other agencies around the UK, including the Prince's Trust and National Citizens programme. Open Door Adventure is licenced to work with children aged 8-18 years and there are procedures in place to work safely with both children and adults. Following the Covid lockdown Dave has had many enquiries for courses to help young people whose mental health and confidence has been affected and he already has significant bookings for 2022/23.



Open Door Adventure also arranges management training and leadership courses, tailor made to the requirements of the company. They involve ice breaker activities, team building and a blend of water and land based activities. Open Door Adventure can also provide activity breaks for families or groups of people, including hen and stag parties—where participants have all behaved impeccably! Dave is very keen to support the local community and believes there are many of us who, after the Covid experience, would benefit from some adventure and confidence building that he has the facilities to offer.

Dave would be happy to organise day courses for small groups so if you fancy arranging an unusual birthday or Christmas present or just to experience the benefits of some local adventure do have a look at the website: www.opendooradventureuk.co.uk or phone Dave on 01745 585535



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Going for green...the eco-interview

Dave Jones drives an electric car. He knows it would send completely the wrong message if he turned up to visit a client in a diesel car, and he looks forward to a time when technology will make it possible for the vans driven by his team to be electric as well. He hesitates briefly when asked if he is an *eco-warrior*, and probably would not describe himself as such, but as company director of multiple award-winning **Hafod Renewables** in the Waen, he is clearly extremely knowledgeable and very focused on renewable sources for heating and electricity. And it is not just a business; he feels that it is a good thing to do.

Business has been booming recently, with 40-50 enquiries coming in each week from both domestic and commercial sources asking about solar panels, air and ground source heat pumps, and other aspects of renewables. COP26 has made more and more people realise that we need to move to renewables, and the recent huge hike in gas prices has underlined this. The government want almost 2 million houses to have heat pumps installed in the next decade, so Dave and his team of 14, along with associated contractors, are unlikely to be short of work! It surprises him that houses are being built on estates across North Wales without installation of solar panels and heat pumps from the outset – they would make the houses more expensive, but on the other hand, the long-term energy benefits to the home owner would be very substantial, and with a much smaller carbon footprint.



Dave Jones of Hafod Renewables



David and his late father Richard on Holywell High School roof with the solar panels they fitted.

Dave was brought up in Caerwys, and attended Holywell High school. Leaving school at 16, he went to Yale College to study business and IT. His father Richard was an electrician and plumber, and it seemed sensible to follow him in this trade, but Dave also enrolled for a course in renewable energy technology at Llandrillo, one of the first courses of this kind in the country. At that time, the government had just introduced incentive schemes for installation of solar panels, and so Dave and his father set up **Hafod Renewables** to surf on the wave of demand for renewable technology. The first couple of years were amazingly busy says Dave, but then the withdrawal of the feed-in tariffs led to settling down of demand. Initially renewables were seen as an investment opportunity by clients, but now, renewables are seen almost as a responsibility. One of the larger projects undertaken

recently was the installation of 300 solar panels on the new Holywell High “super-school”.

Hafod Renewables works across the whole of North Wales, and the location for the business is ideal, with many communities not supplied by gas, but relying on oil or electric heating. The advantages of heat pumps in terms of lowering carbon footprint and the long term savings make them increasingly attractive, particularly if the pumps themselves use electricity generated by solar panels.

So what does the future hold? Hafod Renewables is likely to expand, and the pace of demand will depend on the incentives provided by the government. The supply chain of items can be problematic for all the same reasons that affect the construction industry. And on a more local level, speedy repair of the Llanerch bridge would make a great difference to life at Hafod Renewables!

Visit: www.hafodrenewables.co.uk or call on 01745 814369 for more information.



An air source heat pump

The Government Renewable Heat Initiative (RHI) Scheme

Dave Jones

The RHI scheme currently pays eligible homeowners to install an air or ground source heat pump, and in some cases covers the whole cost. The RHI pays to generate renewable heat (similar to the previous solar feed-in tariff scheme), with the idea being that the government buys renewable heat from homeowners who displace their fossil fuel heating systems with a renewable one. The scheme is not means tested and is based on the property rather than individual. Each property is assessed via an energy performance certificate (EPC) and you are paid for the heating and hot water for your house needs. This favours older/un-insulated houses as they require more heat than modern houses. The scheme pays homeowners tax free cash over a 7 year period (quarterly payments). Typical payments are £1500 per year for air source and £4000 per year for ground source. The scheme is only available until March 2022 so it is currently a good time to make the most of the grant.

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We can help with the latest Covid advice and will assist with all necessary forms. We have been busy in recent months helping clients with tests, forms & appointments, and dealing with changes in regulations and the traffic light scheme for destinations. Booking a holiday should not be stressful and we will do our very best to make sure you look forward to your adventure just as it should be!

Can you believeCruises are busier than ever, so booking early is strongly advised! We can advise on the huge range of cruises and deals available - whether fairly local, or further afield.

And thinking ahead, how exciting it would be to visit Lapland in 2023! It's also on sale—another destination that is selling fast. Reindeer sleigh rides, cross-country skiing, snowmobiles, ice-fishing, seeing the Northern lights, and of course meeting Santa and his busy elves—how exciting does that sound?



Book now for summer 2022 and Summer 2023 - and take advantage of some very low deposits. Over the last eighteen months, so many people have missed out, and we all have a lots of making up to do! As always my advice is to book this side of Christmas, but now more than ever I can see January & February looking particularly busy .

What ever you have planned we are here to help!
Karin, Jackie and Lesley

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www.rwrobertsandson.co.uk



Electrifying merger!

Paul Anderson writes: From January 2022, there are some exciting developments with your local electrician, PSA Electrical. **PSA Electrical and JH Electrical NW** are joining forces.

PSA Electrical has been a local electrical company serving St Asaph and the surrounding areas for the past 4 years. Over these years the business has grown and has employed staff providing electrical services to both domestic and commercial customers.

JH Electrical is also a local company based from Kinmel Bay and has grown equally, specialising in Industrial and Commercial customers from the local area.

Both PSA Electrical and JH Electrical NW have secured extensive contracts through 2022, and due to these large projects we have decided to merge and expand. The new company name is **Intellec Electrical Services Ltd**; despite the growing business, rest assured that we will still be your local 'go to' electricians.

Intellec Electrical Services Ltd from January 2022 will be providing services from small domestic repairs to large industrial installations. The combination of knowledge from both Directors Paul Anderson and Jamie Harris allows expertise to be shared and developed, ensuring that all projects despite size are expertly managed.



In addition to the merge of existing employees, the new company will be looking to recruit from the local area to meet the demands of the new projects. Look out for job advertisements in the New Year!

PSA Electrical

24 HR EMERGENCY CALL OUT SERVICE

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Sights and Scents in the Winter Garden

Chris Jones

The morning is cold but dry and clear as I look out of my window watching our resident blackbird performing acrobatics on the rowan tree to eat his berry breakfast. I am mindful of how the seasons change and look forward to this each year. The cosmos, the dahlias and pelargoniums that brought such colour throughout the summer are safely stored either as seeds, tubers or trimmed plants to protect them from the frost. Now the winter plants take to the stage.



Rowan berry breakfast



Garriya elliptica

One of my favourites is *Garriya Elliptica*, an evergreen shrub which develops long pale green tassels which are very decorative. The bright, garish purple berries of *Callicarpa Pearl* are a complete contrast to them and, it seems, have no appeal to our greedy bird folk. They prefer the *pyracantha*. The glossy leaves of the *camellias* shine in the sun; the *magnolias* are developing their buds now in readiness for spring.

The Silver Birch (*Betula jacquemontii*) has shed its leaves but the trunk glows white in the winter sun. Tiny *cyclamens* grow in the shade, their heart shaped leaves and shuttlecock flowers thrive on the competition from the trees roots. Indeed they were the staple diet for wild boars in the woodland.

The Silver Hedgehog holly (*Ilex Ferox aurea*) with its dainty leaves but sadly no berries grows near to one of my favourites, *Helleborus Niger*, better known as the Christmas Rose. Legend has it that Madelon, a shepherdess, was outside the stable when newborn Christ was visited by the three Wise Men. On seeing them present their gifts, she wept as she had nothing to offer. An angel, hearing her cry, brushed aside the snow to reveal the petals of the Christmas rose which Madelon presented to Christ as a floral tribute.



Helleborus niger



Sweet Box

A small barely noticeable little shrub is the Sweet Box (*Sarcococca humilis*) but its little cream flowers have a delightful scent at this time of the year. *Daphne odora aureomarginata* is a special favourite having been given to us as a gift when we moved here and its perfume fills the air on still days. As I read this back I see that it is almost impossible to have one clear favourite and I resolve to enjoy each and every one of them!

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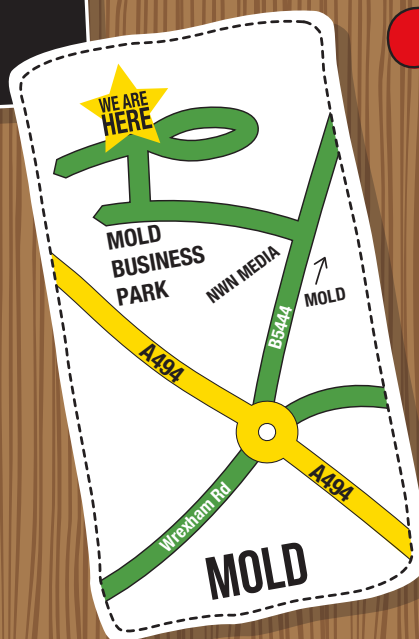
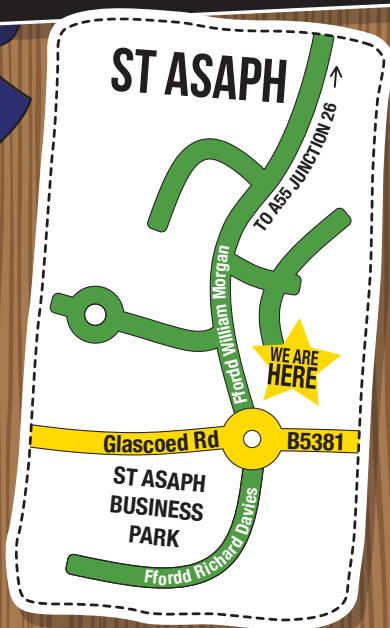
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Cymraeg

English

Cefn Meiriadog/Groesffordd Marli/Glascoed

Clare Vickers

Christmas Food Bank Collection

Neuadd Owen Village Hall, St. Mary's Church Cefn & All Saints Church, Sinan, (opposite Cefn Meiriadog school) will all be open for contributions to the Denbigh Food Bank on Friday 17th Dec., Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th Dec. 9.00 am - 4.00 pm daily.

Whilst the Food Bank are very grateful to receive all non-perishable contributions, a list of items urgently required can be found by visiting: <https://valeofclwyd.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food> Toiletries are also urgently requested. Last year a huge amount of goods were donated, and the volunteers at the Food Bank were overwhelmed by the generosity of people in Cefn/Marli/Glascoed.

Christmas Trees

Once again there will be Christmas trees outside Neuadd Owen & All Saints, Sinan from mid-December and everyone living locally, and further afield, is asked to bring along a Christmas tree decoration and hang it on the tree. Wooden decorations are best and a seasonal message on the decoration would be most welcome!

For further information, visit the Facebook page for Neuadd Owen

City Times will be in the phone box



Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog - off to Africa?

Laura Martin

Christmas preparations are in full swing in Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog. We have plenty to look forward to in the build up to the Festive season and look forward to sharing them with you on our Facebook (@ysgolcefnmeiriadog) and Twitter (@YsgolCefnM) pages.

As always the children are working really hard in all areas of the curriculum, and this half term the Foundation Phase have been to Africa in their imaginations to find out all about Handa. They have tasted the different fruits from the story 'Handa's Surprise', they have designed new baskets to help Handa keep her fruit safe and have planned and costed a visit to Kenya to find out more!

Our Key Stage 2 learners spent the beginning of the half term immersed in all things Climate Change. They attended different workshops and found out all about COP26 before making their own 'Promises to the Planet'. Class 3 have continued on this theme with their topic 'looking after our world'. They have become Sir David Attenborough, reporting on everything they have found out about rainforests and endangered animals. Class 4 moved on to become museum curators linked to their topic 'Dragons' with the end of their topic seeing them put on an exhibition about dragons around the world.

Alongside class topics we have also celebrated Harvest, with our families donating very generously to the local food bank. We have learnt about Road Safety Week and Anti-Bullying with all children wearing their odd socks on Odd Socks Day and the Foundation Phase taking part in a Kindness Day. Our Junior children have enjoyed weekly PE and swimming sessions in Denbigh Leisure Centre. The Foundation Phase have celebrated Diwali and Bonfire Night and Key Stage 2 have welcomed PC Gareth in for a variety of sessions. Outdoor Learning sessions continue to take place weekly - the children are enjoying wearing our new waterproof suits and have been busy planting a variety of bulbs, creating a Remembrance garden and enjoying a treat on the campfire.

Following a British Sign Language workshop for the whole school we are trying hard to learn lots of new signs and have introduced a 'sign of the week'. The children signed a song as part of our Harvest Service and will do the same at Christmas time. Everybody is trying so hard to use the signs during the day and we look forward to learning many more!





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St. Asaph

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

www.fairholmeschool.com

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



St Asaph VP Infant School

NURSERY OPEN AFTERNOON

Wednesday 16th February 2022 1:30pm – 2:30pm



Stay and Play

Winter themed Stay and Play session
for children born between
Sep 1st 2018 and Aug 31st 2019



Scan the QR code using your
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Miss K Langford

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stasaph.infants@denbighshire.gov.uk

Building work now complete

Kate Langford

I am delighted to share the fantastic news that our school's refurbishment building project is now complete! I'm sure the St Asaph community have been wondering what's been going on behind the builder's fencing and scaffolding and I'm proud to announce that we have a brand new School Hall, Nursery Classroom, and toilet facilities for the children. The school is extremely grateful to Denbighshire County Council for this investment that will have a positive impact on the learning experiences of our children.

Movie night! The children loved attending a Movie Night where we watched a film, ate snacks, enjoyed popcorn and fundraised for our school. We would like to thank St Asaph Co-op for their kind donation of popcorn for the children.

Compassion We have been teaching the children about compassion as part of our Christian Values and the whole school took part in a recycled art project where each pupil created and then planted a Remembrance Poppy at the Parish Church.

Tennis At the VP School we prioritise the learners' health and wellbeing by encouraging them to stay fit and healthy by taking part in exercise. This Term Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children have taken part in a weekly tennis lesson, we are so proud of the children and their positive attitude towards sport with many children winning 'the golden tennis racket'.

Odd socks The children recently took part in Anti-Bullying Week – the theme this year was 'One Kind Word' and the children came to school wearing odd socks. Our children are always ambassadors for kindness, care and love and as a Church School these are an important part of the character of our school. We are now looking forward to Christmas celebrations, virtual Nativities and watching Aladdin the Pantomime.



Odd socks and a giant heart



Scan this QR code to see the new nursery facilities!

Ysgol Esgob Morgan

Jodie Martin

Forest School has been a massive hit this term. Tami Groves, who has successfully trained as a forest school practitioner, has been working with Year 3 since September. The children have enjoyed being outside in all weathers and getting wrapped up and cosy near a fire. Plenty of fun-filled activities have been completed such as; making nettle soup, weaving, making dream catchers, toasting marshmallows and making leaf necklaces. Working on the children's creative habits of mind has been a focus whilst being outdoors.



Henllan Bakery Trip Year 5 loved getting back out in the community with a trip to Henllan Bakery as part of their topic this term "Food". The children were shown around the bakery following the process of a lemon drizzle from picking the ingredients to baking to cutting and packaging. Each child was able to make a Victoria sandwich and package and wrap their individual cake to take home. A huge thank you to Tom Moore and Jess Duff at Henllan Bakery for allowing us to be your first trip. The children thoroughly enjoyed the trip, Tom Moore, director at the bakery said "it was great to have the children and get them involved in the brand".

The Queen's Canopy Ysgol Esgob Morgan were delighted to be chosen to receive a very special tree as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. *The Queen's Green Canopy* (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum

Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "**Plant a Tree for the Jubilee**". The school was contacted by Mr Henry George Fetherstonhaugh OBE, Lord Lieutenant for Clwyd, who asked if they would be happy to plant the tree on his behalf. Naturally, the school was honoured to be asked. Mr Redgrave, Head teacher at the school, said, "We are immensely proud of the work we do at the school regarding the environment. We encourage a greener lifestyle, growing our own produce and have recently begun a forest school project. To have such a prestigious tree growing on our school grounds is the cherry on top!". The tree has a prominent position in the school grounds and has a decorative surround with a plaque commemorating its planting.



AROS A CHWARAE STAY & PLAY



**A free group for
pre-school children &
their parents/carers**

Venue: St Asaph
Parish Church

Tuesdays 10 – 11.30 am

With toys, crafts, stories and songs. Please bring your own blanket or mat for story time and a drink & snack for your child – drinks for adults will be provided.



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For more info contact:

Viv: 07503216346

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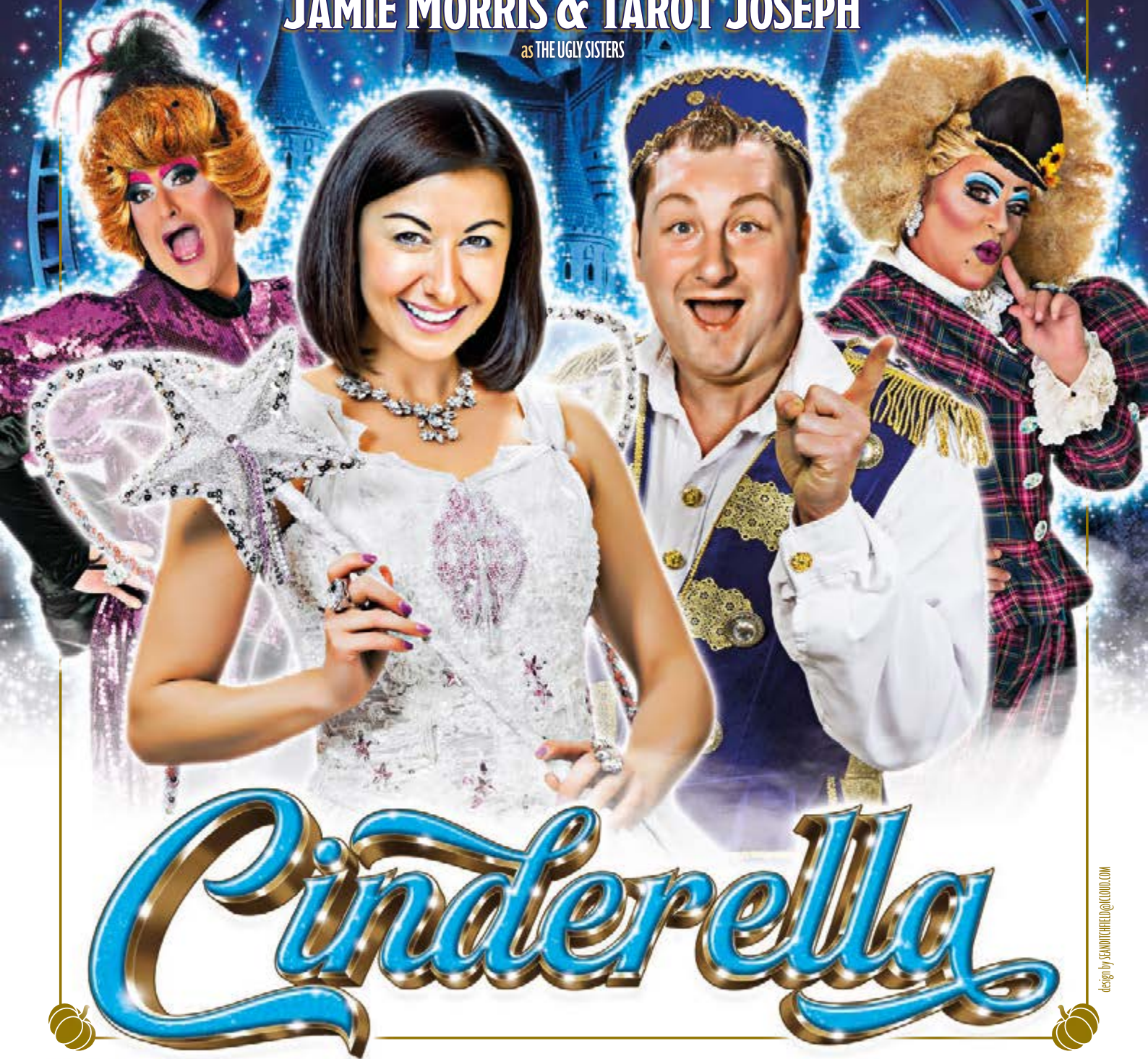
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St Asaph City Football Club *John Roberts*

As we approach the mid point of the season our first team are finding life difficult in the newly established tier 3 Ardal North West League. Injuries have meant that team manager Dan Brewerton has been frustrated in his attempts to get a settled squad from week to week. A positive consequence of this is that a number of younger players have been given an opportunity to play for the first team and have shown the great potential they have for the future.

Our junior section continues to go from strength to strength and Roe Plas is a vibrant place to be on a Sunday morning when the various age groups have home fixtures. One consequence of the success of the junior section is that we require more storage space to keep their equipment. The present container hasn't got a floor and is full of holes. In order to buy a new rain proof and wind proof container we have launched a Localgiving page (localgiving.org/appeal/newstoragecontainer/) to raise funds towards the purchase of a new container. The club would like to thank everyone who has donated to the fund which will remain active until January 1st. We would also like to thank the Co-op who allowed us to be one of the local causes they supported and raised £1688 in the twelve months ending last October as we continue to improve access pathways to the pitch and stand.

December Fixtures at Roe Plas.

Dec 4th St Asaph u12s v Rhyl Commandoes u12s - ko 9.30

Dec 4th St Asaph Reserves v Conwy Borough FC Reserves - ko 2.00

Dec 11th St Asaph Reserves v Denbigh Town Reserves - ko 2.00

Dec 18th St Asaph FC v CPD Llanuwchllyn - ko 2.00



St Asaph Reserves successfully defend a free kick in a tough match against Llanrwst



New container needed!—see link in text



Wyn Williams with the U6s/U7s

Fixtures for the age groups below 12 are published weekly but you will always find a junior match in progress every Sunday morning. The training sessions of the Junior teams are as follows:

Under 6: Tuesday 5.30—6.30

Under 7: Wednesday 5.30—6.30

Under 8: Tuesday—6.30

Under 9: Wednesday 5.30—6.30

Under 12: Wednesday 6.30—7.30

All sessions take place at St Asaph Football Grounds. Our groups tend to be very busy, so please contact us first to check availability before attending.

Flying high!

Local lad Tomos Doran competed in the British National BMX Championships this year over 6 rounds in Kent, Hampshire and Glasgow racing in 13-14 cruiser category. After a hard fought series competing against riders a year older he finished 10th overall and will hold a 10 plate British ranking for 2022. Alongside this series he finished 1st in the North of England Region in both Male 13 and Male 13-14 Cruiser categories, 2nd in both the Scottish and Midlands Open Championships and 11th in the British Championships.



As a result of his efforts in the national championships this year Tomos has qualified to represent Great Britain in the BMX World Championships in Nantes, France in July 2022!

City Times says "Allez-y Tomos"!