



St. Asaph & District ^{new} City Times



Issue No 14

February 2022



PICTURE COMPETITION WINNER: HARRISON RIDLEY

MILL RACE MEADOW YOUR VOTE NEEDED

See Page 31



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We're always looking out for letters, items, reports or features. Or that special photo! Deadline for copy for the April issue is Monday March 14th – 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. A big thank you to all those that support the City Times in this way!

Uncertainty

As the City Times goes to press on the last weekend of January, the general mood seems to be of uncertainty. The report from Sue Gray is about to be published, and the Metropolitan Police "Partygate" investigation is under way—will either of them prove the downfall of our Prime Minister?

Meanwhile the rhetoric is being cranked up between the West and Russia over the possibility of an imminent invasion of Ukraine by the 100,000 Soviet troops poised at its borders? Will it happen? Will this be the beginning to another major European conflict?

And all the while, we sense that we are gradually emerging from the shadow of Covid. Perhaps it feels somewhat more certain that things in this respect are improving.

We remain certain of one thing at least—the privilege of living in the beautiful Vale of Clwyd. Thanks for all the photos sent in to be considered for the front page of this issue; some of the runners up are also published inside. As community activities gradually take off again, we hope there will be many events to advertise and report on locally, so please consider how you can join in with the Jubilee and City Status celebrations in June. Why not head along to the open meeting about them on the 6th Feb? —see page 5.

And finally, cast your vote about the proposed lease of the Mill Race Meadow to the Football Club—see page 31.



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Samaritans **116123**

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Vaccination rates by 25.1.22

Health care workers:	98%
Social care workers:	100%
Over 65s:	95%
Age 40-49	80%
Age 30-39:	75%
<i>In Conwy & Denbighshire</i>	

OpTIC vaccination team flat out in attempt to outrun Omicron

For many local residents, it will have been the first time they will have seen inside OpTIC, but it was for reasons that will be long remembered. Most will have come for vaccination, but many local people have also worked and volunteered there as vaccinators, vaccinator assistants, clerks, marshals, pharmacists and managers. We owe the whole vaccination team a great vote of thanks.

Reports of a new Covid “variant of concern” entitled **Omicron** only emerged from South Africa at the end of November. Initial attempts to limit its spread both to and then within the UK soon failed in the face of its very high infectivity ($R > 3$), and major restrictions were re-introduced in December along with urgent calls for the population to get vaccinated and boosted. The OpTIC centre had been running as a vaccination centre since August 2021, as one of 7 such sites in Conwy and Denbighshire. Boosters for the most vulnerable had started in September, but on 29th November, the eligibility criteria were widened and the time gap between vaccinations reduced. Vaccination staff pulled out all the stops.



Some members of the OpTIC vaccination team

On 13th December, it suddenly became even more intense. Welsh Government announced the need for BCU Health Board to vaccinate, or at least offer vaccination to, 215,000 people by 31st December. Non-urgent operations, procedures and outpatients were cancelled, and staff re-deployed to help the vaccination surge. The military were called in. Vaccination “lanes” within centres were doubled, and centres stayed open until midnight for a fortnight, with some GP surgeries also joining in. In the weekend before Christmas, the Health Board vaccinated 24,000 people, in the fortnight before Christmas

over 105,000 people, and in total the Health Board has given over 1.5 million doses of Covid vaccine.

Our vaccination team in Conwy and Denbighshire has continued to achieve very high rates of vaccination in all age groups. This has taken immense organisation and initiative, as well as flexibility and speed of response to new demands from WG. The team have engaged with hard-to-reach groups such as the homeless, and refugees. They have vaccinated people in their own homes, in care homes, and in their cars outside vaccination centres for people reluctant to come in. They have driven a vaccine van to rural areas, to busy town centres, and to the Tom Jones concert in Rhyl. They have shown particular care for those apprehensive about vaccination or with needle phobias.

They have understanding of the many and varied reasons that people refuse vaccination; they will not brow beat them, but will offer information and encouragement. The Health Board has had a high profile on social media, providing facts and dispelling myths, with real people giving their own stories. On a very few occasions, staff have had to deal with vocal protestors, and in one well publicised incident in mid-December, 17 windows at the centre were broken (*pictured*). A man was later arrested and charged. He has denied causing criminal damage.



It has been an extraordinary time, and no doubt we will look back at it in amazement. The Health Board have re-started their routine work, and are working to address the huge backlog. Quite what the future holds with Covid remains unknown, though we are told that it is likely that the virus will become less dangerous over time. The vaccine programme has been strikingly effective in reducing death rates, hospitalisations and illness severity.

As many of us will testify, some of the most impressive aspects of the whole vaccination programme have been the organisation, the cheerfulness and the kindness of all those involved. And even those volunteer marshals sitting outside the OpTIC centre wrapped in coats and blankets against the biting wind offered a cheery welcome!

City Times is very grateful to Central Area vaccination lead Jo Dolan, nurse manager Teleri Roberts and communications lead Patrick Roberts for the interview—and for their evident enthusiasm and energy in the whole vaccination effort!



St Asaph Annual Christmas Window Competition

Twenty-one businesses in St Asaph lit up the City with their Christmas window displays for the Annual competition. The Mayor and City Councillors could be seen, one evening, a week before Christmas, walking in Chester St, High St, Lower St, Lower Denbigh Rd and The Roe, viewing and judging the entries.

Commendation certificates were awarded to **Samco Pet Spa**, the Roe, **The City Barbers**, Chester St and **Ruby Tuesday's Beauty Salon**, High St with the overall winner the **Claire Michelle Salon**, The



Roe taking first prize and the shield (picture opposite). Every business viewed was given a certificate thanking them for their participation and for bringing Christmas cheer to St Asaph and its residents.

Claire Michelle commented: "We have been open for 9 months in unprecedented times after COVID-19. It was a risk but one that has really paid off. We were delighted to win the Christmas Window competition! We offer not just hair care, but all aspects of beauty, specialised and luxury massage, sunbed and aesthetics all under one roof. Why not call by?"

Vale Of Clwyd Tourist Signs

The long-awaited Vale of Clwyd tourist signs are to be installed on the A55 late February/early March 2022. The A55 sign will include St Asaph Cathedral, Denbigh Castle and Rhuddlan Castle under the heading of 'Vale of Clwyd'. Signs will be bilingual with Welsh above English. Additional brown signage will also be erected in St Asaph, Denbigh and Rhuddlan directing tourists to the appropriate attractions.

Cadw works to protect historic buildings, structures, landscapes and heritage sites within Wales so that we can visit, enjoy and understand their significance. It will have its new logo on the Vale of Clwyd tourist signs, as one of the funders of the signage along with St Asaph City Council, the Town Councils of Denbigh and Rhuddlan, St Asaph Cathedral and Denbighshire County Council.



Some items of note from the City Council Meeting 12/1/2022

- Dave Jones PCSO reported on a high-value shoplifting incident, and theft of a wallet, both in the Co-op.
- A display case in the cathedral to show the letters patent relating to City status is planned
- Contractors have repaired potholes in the Roe Plas Meadows drive, and also the parking area behind the library.
- Glascoed Timber have supplied and fitted 6 litter bins on the Roe. 3 new benches have been installed on the Roe.
- The Council has applied for funding for 6 more wooden sculptures for the river bank.
- The **Meet the Councillors** event in the Parish Church on 16th December was postponed due to Covid but will be re-scheduled for February. Its aim will be to gather views about the next City Plan. Picnic benches, an information board and wheelchair access are planned for the wildflower meadow.
- Following discussions about a revised information board to accompany the HM Stanley memorial column, a draft rewording was presented and accepted by the Council.
- The Council are keen to support the flood prevention project proposed by Sam Kenyon (see December City Times article), and are supporting the crowdfunding appeal.
- The Council has supported work to help St Asaph achieve Dementia Friendly status
- The Football Club has asked to lease part of the Mill Race Meadow to cater for the increasing number of youth teams. It was decided to consult with local residents—see voting slip in this paper on page 31.



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

Jubilee and City Status Celebrations

Jill Ellison

The City Council's Events Committee, led by Cllr. Colin Hardie, has been working hard with representatives from community groups in St Asaph to organise a programme of events over the long Bank Holiday weekend (Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June), to celebrate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and also the tenth anniversary of St Asaph receiving city status.

The Council would like this to be a celebration organised by the community and for the community and so we invite St Asaph businesses and local organisations to get involved by:

- Sending a representative to attend the next Events Committee meeting to see how you can be involved;
- Sponsoring one of the long weekend's events; or
- Organising an event or attraction over the long weekend.

Events Committee Open meeting Wednesday 23rd February 6 for 6.30 in the Parish Church

We are a small team of volunteers and will be really grateful for any assistance you can offer. Please contact the Clerk to see how you can help: Mrs Jill Ellison, City Clerk, e-mail: clerk@stasaphcitycouncil.gov.uk or telephone 07521 641756.



Flower Festival As part of the Jubilee celebrations, a small team is arranging a Flower Festival in the parish church. It is open to all local individuals, organisations and schools in St Asaph and district, and the team would be delighted for each organisation to contribute their own themed display.

The aim is to have the flower arrangements in place in the Parish Church before Thursday the 2nd June.

To take part in this please contact gwenda.hardie10@btinternet.com



Photography Exhibition Also as part of the celebrations, a photo exhibition of St Asaph and the Vale of Clwyd is planned, again to be held in the Parish Church over the Jubilee Celebrations. Local residents will be encouraged to submit their photos. If plans work out, it



will be possible to submit entries electronically, and the organisers will arrange printing of the photos.

More details to follow, so keep your cameras primed and ready for that special shot!

Becoming Dementia Friendly

Sue Last

St Asaph has been officially recognised by the Alzheimer's Society as a community working to become Dementia Friendly.

A dementia friendly community is one where people affected by dementia are understood and supported. It is a community where people will be aware of and have an understanding of dementia so that people living with dementia can continue to live within their community as independently as possible for as long as possible.

Our steering group includes representation from the City Council, cathedral, parish church, community church, St Kentigern Hospice, & police and has committed to work in partnership with Alzheimer's Society to improve the lives of people affected by dementia. To that end we encourage all the businesses, GPs, faith communities, library and dentist to work with us and pledge to become dementia friendly

Our first business to formally agree to this is Jacob's Ladder and we were delighted to be able to present Lowri with a Dementia Friendly door mat, shown opposite. These mats are available to any of the businesses who wish to support us and have been kindly donated by the City Council

For further information please contact Sue Last at suelast47@gmail.com

Some crucial facts about Dementia:

- Dementia is not a natural part of Ageing
- Dementia is caused by a disease of the brain
- Dementia is not just about memory loss
- It is possible to live well with dementia
- No two people will present with dementia in the same way
- There is more to the person than dementia

AND people living with dementia still have rights:

- The right to make life choices
- The right to be included
- The right to an early and accurate diagnosis
- The right to appropriate care that is equitably funded





A masked Messiah.....

Mair Dowell

The planned **Come and sing Messiah** did go ahead on 20th December, and we had an excellent and enjoyable evening. Unfortunately Omicron had reared its head and that resulted in quite a few people who had planned on coming being understandably cautious about venturing out. On the night, there were just 23 people in the audience, although we had sold far more tickets. It didn't dampen the choir's enthusiasm - there were 42 in the choir and all the performers thoroughly enjoyed the evening. To us Christmas is not Christmas without singing Messiah!

The soloists were: Kate Griffiths *soprano*, Kathryn Nash *contralto*, Alwyn Evans *tenor* and Trystan Lewis *bass*; Trystan also conducted the performance. Graham Eccles was the organist - we are so fortunate to have such a wonderful organist living locally. We are very grateful to the Dean of St. Asaph for making it possible for the evening to go ahead in the ancient Cathedral with its outstanding acoustics. The performance was in aid of this year's (hopefully) performance of Bach St. Matthew Passion in Tremeirchion Church on Good Friday.



The service of Nine Lessons and Carols was held on Christmas Eve in the cathedral, with a wonderful blend of familiar and new carols, and the choir, led by Director of Music Paul Booth, on excellent form.



A delightful pre-Christmas concert from Cantata in the Parish Church on 19th December. Peter Crook, one of the Cathedral Lay Clerks, directs the choir which is based around the Llandudno/Colwyn Bay area.

Rotary Christmas Float After a year off Santa was able to join the Rotary Club Christmas Float once again this year. We toured the streets of St. Asaph and beyond, and visited the Coop and Sainsburys. We were very well received everywhere. The Club is delighted to report that through the great generosity of the people of St. Asaph and surrounding area we raised a total of £2258 this year. This includes much appreciated donations from the Coop and Rhuddlan Town Council. We are also grateful to Londis stores for donations of lollipops for all the children that came to greet Santa. All these funds will go to worthy and needy causes in the community. Thanks to all in our great community for the welcome and support that we received this Christmas!





City of Music

HMS Morris—steaming through strange seas....

HMS Morris, the eclectic Cardiff-based Art-Rock band, launched itself down the slipway in 2015, with *Y Mae'r Mor Mawr yn Ddu/Shipping Forecast*. The bilingual band originally comprised former St Asaphites Sam and Wil Roberts, along with Heledd Watkins from Llandovery, Carmarthenshire. Whilst still at Ysgol Glan Clwyd, Sam had already had significant Eisteddfod success, and with Wil had been part of the band **Mwsog**, which had good local and Wales-wide recognition.

HMS Morris' crew has changed from the original trio to a four person group made up of Sam (keyboards, vocals), Heledd (guitar, vocals), Iestyn Jones (drums) and Billy Morley (guitar). Along with early appearances at Green Man, Glastonbury and venues across South Wales, the band has called at festivals in a number of foreign ports including Toronto, Montreal, Tokyo and Kyoto, the latter forming the video backdrop to their most well-known track *Babanod*.

Both of the bands full-length albums *Interior Design* (2016) and *Inspirational Talks* (2018) were nominated for the prestigious Welsh Music Prize, and gained airplay within and beyond Wales. *Inspirational Talks* has a compelling collection of unpredictable and beautiful tracks, some with driving rhythms, and all with Heledd's ethereal vocals, and unexpected backing harmonies. Check out *Phenomenal Impossible* for irresistible rhythms and an intriguing video with superhero advice about fixing household leaks. The album was released with Bubblewrap Collective, an indie record company in Cardiff. Undeterred by the significant limitations of the pandemic, the band have continued to play gigs (*Clwb Ifor Bach*, *Porters*) and produce new work. One of their most striking lockdown performances was in August 2020 at **Cultvr Lab** - an organisation which staged a number of gigs by Welsh bands during lockdown, using a dome to multi-project videos (surreal in this case) as a backdrop to the music. It's an extraordinarily captivating set, available on www.hmsmorris.com



Sam and Heledd are just beginning a collaboration with a Wales-based theatre company, '*Familia de la Noche*' to produce both music and script for a touring piece, incorporating live music, dance, puppetry and projections. It promises to be a family piece and plans are afoot for visits to Theatr Clwyd and Pontio in Bangor. It's likely to be an unusual and entertaining evening.

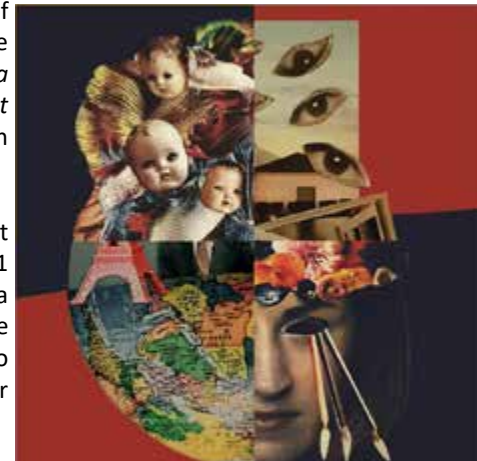
So you think you've never heard them....? But maybe you watched the final episode of '*I'm a Celebrity*' - if you did, you would have seen Clogau Gold's 2021 Christmas advert during the intervals. Sam and Heledd won the contract to produce the music for the 30 second



advert, and it's a masterpiece of powerful messaging, conveying the Clogau strapline: '*everyone has a gift to give; it's who you share it with!*' It's available to watch on Youtube...

And finally, why HMS Morris? Not named after the WW1 dreadnought, but using both a family name for Heledd, and the nautical image of venturing onto the high seas to face whatever their creative journey brings.

Bon Voyage!





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Gypsy and Traveller sites in Denbighshire

Denbighshire County Council (DCC) recently submitted a draft Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment to the Welsh Government. This concluded that there is still a need for 8 residential pitches to meet the identified needs of 3 households/extended family groups in the county. However it also concluded that there is no evidence of need for a permanent transit site.

This was part of DCC's legal duty to undertake a new Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment every five years and for the replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) the Council is currently working on.

Councillor Mark Young, Denbighshire County Council's Lead Member for Planning, Public Protection and Safer Communities, said: "This work has been conducted in line with the Welsh Government methodology and we have established a Task and Finish group made up of elected members from across Denbighshire to ensure it has been carried out correctly. The Council has taken on board concerns raised during previous work and both senior officers and Cabinet members are involved in this project and we are keeping key stakeholders and members of the community updated. This work does not seek to identify locations to meet this need, as that would be a future piece of work and necessary for the LDP."

The perceived need for a permanent site somewhere in Denbighshire is still there. If you want to read more details about this they can be found in Agenda item 6 in the [minutes from the Cabinet meeting at this link](https://moderngov.denbighshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=281&Mid=6276&LLL=0) <https://moderngov.denbighshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=281&Mid=6276&LLL=0>

PENGUIN BOOKS

The Thirty-One Steps

Jo Cotton



Who is responsible for the maintenance and clearing of the 31 steps on Red Hill? Enquiries have been made with both DCC and the City Council without success. If anyone knows please contact the CT with information! editorsact@gmail.com

It's a complete mystery!

COMPLETE  UNABRIDGED

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Heavy Traffic: High Street or S-bends?

One of the key issues highlighted in the recent City Council questionnaire was heavy traffic on the High Street

There is an advisory notice at the mini-roundabout at the bottom of the High Street advising heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) coming through St Asaph to take the Lower Denbigh road and head up the S-bends. It seems that many HGV drivers are unaware of this recommendation, choose to ignore it, or are advised by their Sat Nav to use the High Street. The sight, exhaust fumes and gear-grinding of HGVs heading up the High Street is all too familiar to residents.

Parents are encouraged to walk their children to and from school, but for parents using the High Street it means they have to negotiate the narrow pavement, often with vehicles parked on the pavement, at the busiest times of the day for traffic. No wonder many opt to drive their children to school.



Advisory sign to the Lower Denbigh Road

There are other factors:

- Traffic that previously headed up and down the Vale of Clwyd via Llannerch bridge and junction 28 of the A55 at Waen is now likely to come up the High Street or Chester Street since the bridge was washed away.
- The increase in online purchasing has led to a corresponding increase in delivery vehicle traffic across the UK, particularly during the pandemic.
- The work on sea defences in Rhyl involved placing enormous boulders in situ; many of these were brought in trucks from quarries further down the Vale of Clwyd, and came down our High Street. A larger sea defence scheme is planned for central Rhyl beach, so it is entirely possible that there will be more trucks.



Not very pretty, and not very little either...

In 2010, a **"Multi-modal Route Management Strategy Study"*** was undertaken by Mott MacDonald for Denbighshire County Council. Its remit was to look at the Rhyl-Denbigh corridor considering its function and performance, to identify problems and to make recommendations. They considered previous work looking at the options of an Eastern bypass (between an *all-movement* J27a of the A55 and the A525), a new link between the Upper and Lower Denbigh Roads near HM Stanley hospital, and a Western bypass (involving a major upgrade of the Lower Denbigh Road and an improved Glascoed Road to take traffic to and from Junction 26). At that time, a traffic survey showed that 30-40% of traffic using the High Street was through traffic. However, the environmental impact and cost of a bypass either to the East or West of St Asaph was not felt likely to justify the potential benefits, and more recently, Welsh Government has put a halt to all major road plans throughout Wales.

Amongst the short term recommendations from Mott MacDonald in 2010 was to implement and monitor the effectiveness of advisory notices directing HGVs to use the Lower Denbigh Road. The signs have been in place for some time, but City Times is not aware that monitoring has ever been done. Improvements have been undertaken to the alignment of the S-bends such that they are now more manageable for HGVs. Local residents by the S-bends report that overall, there has

been an increase in heavy traffic heading up and down the S-bends. This includes the rumbling night time traffic of heavy vehicles.

Our City Council has been considering this issue, and the possibility of putting a weight limit on the High Street, or having set time periods when heavy traffic may not use the High Street other than for access. Clearly it would presumably be a good idea to get an accurate assessment on the current traffic volumes.

Could such a monitoring exercise be undertaken by community volunteers with appropriate guidance?





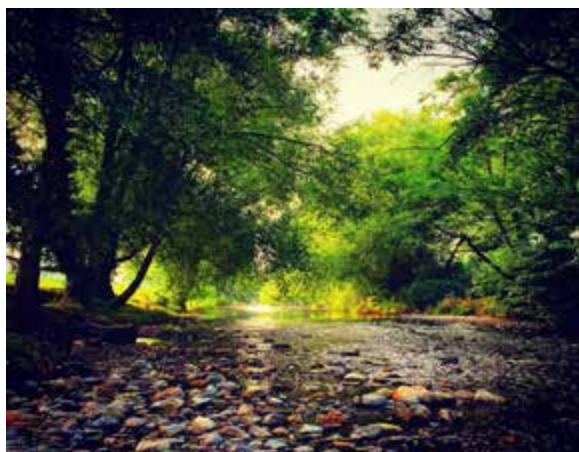
Craftsman at work...

In a remarkably beautiful piece of cabinet making, a new “kitchen in a cupboard” has been created for the cathedral by craftsman Andrew John Lloyd of Ruthin. It will be used for serving coffee and refreshments after services, concerts and other events in the cathedral.

The piece has been constructed of oak, and has impressive detailing; it takes its place alongside the other beautiful examples of woodwork in the cathedral. Andrew has also recently completed some new choir benches for the cathedral.



Some of the many excellent photos sent in for the competition



Kara Roberts



Mair Dowell



Paul Steen



Dan Norman



All in a day's work—being a ship's pilot.

Martin Baxter of Tremeirchion is a ship's pilot on the Mersey. *City Times* went to find out more.

Like his father and grandfather before him, Martin went to sea straight after leaving school. He started as an 18 year old Merchant Navy cadet deck officer, staying with his first employers, Ocean Fleets, for 6 years, learning hard and getting qualifications up to 3rd mate. He subsequently worked for an American tanker company, on North Sea offshore ships, and on oil rigs, followed by working on the Stena line ferries out of Fishguard, ending up as Captain of a Norwegian seismic survey vessel charting sites for undersea cables and oil exploration. There were long spells away from home at sea, but every post brought new skills and experience.

Since 2001, Martin has been a Liverpool Pilot navigating vessels in and out of the River Mersey and adjoining locks and docks, as a member of a cooperative of 56 Liverpool pilots. A pilot is an experienced seafarer who has detailed knowledge of a port approach or dangerous navigational area, expertise in ship manoeuvring and who uses that knowledge to ensure the safe passage of a vessel within the pilotage district (*UKMPA definition*). Not many can become pilots—only ship Captains with a full foreign-going master's ticket, the necessary training qualifications, and years of experience.

Liverpool has always handled an immense amount of shipping, coming from across the Atlantic, from the Iberian Peninsula, and from the far East. Around 20 ships will come in every tide for Liverpool, Birkenhead, Tranmere, Garston, Bromborough, Eastham and the Manchester Ship Canal. Tankers carrying crude oil come into the Tranmere oil terminal, which has a 15 mile pipeline direct to the Stanlow refinery. Container ships for Liverpool 2 and the Royal Seaforth terminals bring a huge range of different products, and bulk carriers bring cargoes such as grain, timber, biomass, and stone into other areas of the docks.



The pilot has the conduct of the ship in the pilotage district and upon boarding a vessel provides a passage plan for the transit and directs the course and speed of the vessel to execute the passage plan (*UKMPA*). Most of the large ships are brought in just before or at high tide, and so Martin will head off from Tremeirchion at different times of the day and night to the Pilot's Base at Birkenhead and be taken by fast pilot launch out to the ships. The ships are usually boarded at Liverpool Bar.

The pilot boat approaches the ship on her lee side with the ship steaming at about 7 knots; once steadily alongside the pilot steps from the launch onto the ship's pilot rope ladder. Surprisingly, this traditional method of boarding the ship still applies, often with the ship still rolling in heavier seas. In bad weather the pilots often have to board at Point Lynas on Anglesey (or even Douglas Isle of Man in northerly gales). Pilots wear coats fitted with self-inflating lifejackets. Once safely on deck the pilot makes his way to the ship's bridge several decks above where he discusses the passage plan with the Captain, ascertains the ship's dimensions and manoeuvring characteristics and then assumes control of navigation. Although assisted by GPS, radar and sophisticated electronic charts, Martin and his colleagues still tend to rely on experience and visual marks or transits as they get into the narrower parts. With vessels of up to 300,000 tonnes, the pilot has to plan the inward and outward voyage very carefully. He needs to calculate his time, position, speed and under-keel clearance accurately and then be ready to adjust it all as traffic, weather and tidal variations affect his ship and the others on the tide.

Martin will conduct the navigation of the ship up to her berth, using tugs to assist if required, and then coordinate the mooring operation. On small ships the pilot will often operate the controls for engines, steering and thrusters himself but on larger ships it's more practicable to give orders to ship's crew members stationed on the controls. Fortunately English is the operating language of seagoing ships and everyone (usually) understands the standard marine vocabulary. Martin works rostered shifts with his colleagues and enjoys the challenge of his work. It is clearly not a job for an indecisive or anxious person...



It is a source of great pride to Martin and Wendy that their son Huw is progressing up through the ranks of the Merchant Navy as well—the fourth generation of Baxters to take to the sea!



Meridian Stained Glass

Fiona Shand

Meridian Stained Glass was established in 1992 by Barry and Nia Brady. The busy workshop is situated in the former St. Asaph Station, where Barry works on both the restoration and conservation of beautiful stained glass works.

Barry grew up in Ireland, coming to Wales to study Fine Arts at University, then moving on to study Architectural Glass. After graduating, he worked freelance in studios all over the country before securing a post as Studio Manager for a stained glass company where he stayed for two and a half years.

Barry has conducted conservation work all over the UK.

The work involved in the conservation of stained glass is very specialised. All lead, glass and paint styles should match the original. A rubbing of the original work is taken to pinpoint the exact position of the glass and to indicate the profile of the lead used when it is to be replaced. When all conservation work is completed, it should be difficult to discern the difference between the conserved glass and the original. Most windows carry a stained glass studio's 'Maker's Mark' as diverse as the works themselves; it is normally situated like the signature on a painting.

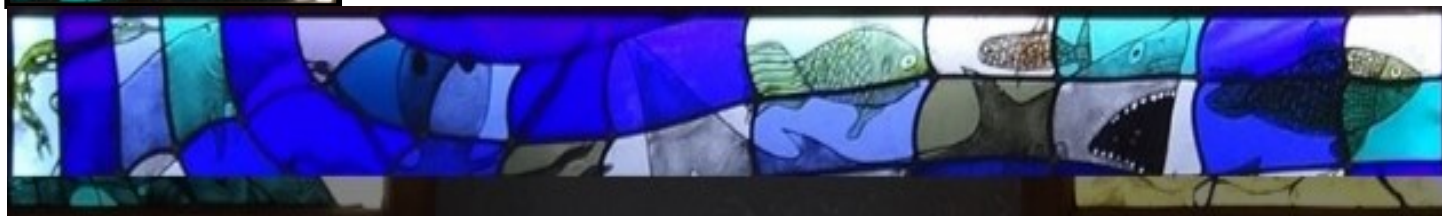
The work on display in the studio and the website is exquisite. Recent commissions completed by Barry include a 20 foot high window for the Carmelite Monastery in Allerton, Liverpool (top left). This monastery was the first to be built in Europe for 105 years. The window extends above and below the view in this photograph. The iridescent colours sweeping in a circular pattern shimmer as the light passes through the glass.

When commissioned to work at Oswestry School to celebrate its 150th anniversary, Barry conducted workshops with the pupils, including their artwork in the designs. Along with the relevant dates in the commemorative windows are depictions of when the school gained a swimming pool, the importance of music in its curriculum, the Triangle Race and other notable events in the school's history. Interestingly, spoonerisms are included in many panes, as the Rev. W. A. Spooner was a past pupil of Oswestry School.

More children's work is included in another of Barry's commissions which can be seen at St. Andrew's Church in Shotton. The aesthetic work shows Jesus calling two of his disciples, the fishermen Simon and Peter. Their net contains fish, depicted to scale, which were designed by local children.

More of Barry's work can be seen on his website. (Meridian Stained Glass). It's certainly not just churches and chapels; look up above the bar in the Kinmel Arms in St George to see a delightful series of panels of his work. He also undertakes smaller private residential commissions, incorporating family stories or locations.

Every pane tells a story....



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St Asaph Co-op Charities

Sian Jones

In December we had a celebration week to mark how much our members have raised in the last 12 months for our 3 local causes. We are partnered with the Bodelwyddan store. When members buy Co-op branded items, 2% goes to local causes; carrier bag sales also go to the charities. The totals received by the charities were:

- St Kentigern Hospice £2,354.83
- St Asaph Football Club £1,668.83
- Ty Croeso Dawn Elizabeth House £1,688.40

The local causes for the next 12 months are Greenfield riding group for the disabled (RDA), Ysgol Tremeirchion and St Kentigern Hospice. To choose a local cause to support members can log in to their membership account or download the Co-op app.



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#moveamarathon4ethan—2022

On Facebook Helen Ross says: "Over the weekend of 17th/19th June 2022, you can once again help raise funds for two fantastic charities **Wales Air Ambulance** and **2wish** (@2wishcharity) by completing 26.2 miles of any activity you enjoy. You can get friends and family to join you in as many activities as you want and break your 'marathon' into as many sessions as you need. Once your 26.2 miles is complete, you've moved your own marathon! Ethan's dad Paul, his brother Callum will take the tougher route again by running a full marathon on Sunday 19th June and we would like to invite as many people as possible to join in and support us along the way just like last year"



In memory of Ethan Ross



Denbighshire County Council Budget announce increase in Council Tax.

Denbighshire County Council approved its budget for the 2022/23 financial year on Jan 25th, including a rise in Council Tax of 2.95%. As part of the budget process the Council's draft settlement announced by Welsh Government suggests Denbighshire's budget will increase by 9.2% for the 2022/23, with increases of 3.3% and 2.2% the following two years.

The increase in funding comes with a number of new responsibilities that the Council will be required to fund, including pay increases for teaching and non-teaching staff, ensuring the Real Living Wage for social care workers and mitigation for the end of the Covid Hardship Fund.

The Council therefore has a funding gap of £2.623million to fill for the coming financial year. Proposals to fill this gap include operational efficiencies amounting to £634,000 and an increase in Council Tax of 2.95%.

Sheep Chic

John Barr

Could this be a piece of agricultural rubbish left lying around as a hazard for wildlife or the farmer's own animals?



Why no! It's the latest in **Sheep Chic** – as seen here paraded before the entire enthralled flock. And yes, the fashionista sheep did manage to remove the couture headgear before casually sauntering off through the admiring crowd, apparently none the worse for the experience ... this time.

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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 April), 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 at the parish church. Ring Viv on 07503 216346 or Facebook page: @stayandplaylanelwy
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. Contact John on 07753 968549
Wednesday	6pm	Informal running group at the cathedral car park—a 5k run. Contact Ian Jones on 07775 684171. Wear High viz gear.
Thursday	2-4 pm	Forget-me-not afternoons for those living with dementia. Held in the parish church . Contact Janet Cameron on 01745 583770
Friday	10.30am	Sens8: Baby and Toddler Music Classes in the Parish Church. Starting from March 4th. See advert on page 28 or check out sens8music.com
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

FEBRUARY — monthly or one off events

Day	Time	Details
Sunday 6th	11: 00 –12:00	Messy Church at the Parish Church
Monday 7th	12.00-15.00	PROBUS club . Talk by Russell Booth of Tweedmill in the Oriel Hotel . Contact Keith on 07388 084361 or kl@6fl.net
Sunday 20th	3-5pm	T club at the Parish Church. Details on the Parish Church website
Wed 23rd	6.30pm	Open Events Committee meeting to plan for the Jubilee Celebrations
Friday 25th	10-12.30	Holiday club at the Parish Church, cost £1.50 including lunch

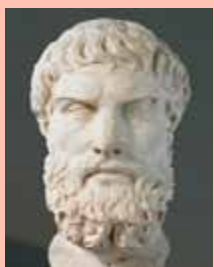
MARCH — monthly or one off events

Day	Time	Details
Sunday 6th	11: 00 –12:00	Messy Church at the Parish Church (also on Sunday April 3rd)
Monday 7th	12.00-15.00	Probus Club . Talk by Lorna Hicks, podiatrist, in the Oriel Hotel. Contact Keith on 07388 084361 or kl@6fl.net
Sunday 20th	3-5pm	T club at the Parish Church
Wednesday 31st	6.30pm	NOW ladies club in the Bod Erw. Contact Margaret on 01745 582468 or Jeanette on 01745 582250

A moment of calm for a troubled world

Ben Ross

Living through recent times has made self-care more important... even for those of us who don't usually subscribe to that kind of thing. Grounding your thoughts in the here and now, or looking to the near future with hope, may be aided by a few wise words, and an anchor of perspective:



"Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not; remember that what you have now was once among the things you only hoped for."

Epicurus, ancient Greek philosopher



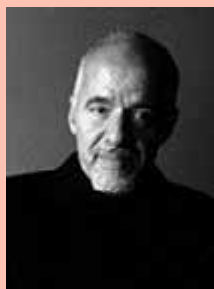
"Every day is a fresh beginning; listen, my soul, to the glad refrain, And, spite of old sorrow and older sinning, And puzzles forecasted and possible pain, Take heart with the day, and begin again."

Susan Coolidge, 19th century American novelist



"In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer."

Albert Camus, 20th century French philosopher



"One day you will wake up and there won't be any more time to do the things you've always wanted to do. Do it now!"

Paulo Coelho, Brazilian lyricist and novelist.



"You are made for perfection, but you are not yet perfect. You are a masterpiece in the making."

Desmond Tutu, South African bishop and theologian

Allotment MIND volunteers required!

Gardening is generally accepted as a real benefit to mental wellbeing. **Vale of Clwyd Mind** supports several projects including two allotments in St Asaph (one of which is wheelchair accessible), an allotment, a community woodland area and a large allotment/woodland area in Ruthin. All of these are promoting mental wellbeing in the community, by growing fruit, flowers and vegetables in supported four hour sessions.

You will learn gardening skills, but there is also the opportunity to learn about bottling fruit, making jam, and how to make meals from the vegetables grown. Activities also include barbecues, cream teas, willow weaving and art and craft sessions.

This opportunity is for you if you are physically active, enjoy being out of doors and have an interest (not necessarily expertise) in growing organically. You need good communication skills and a commitment to inclusion and treating people from all backgrounds with dignity and respect.

For further details, contact **Vale of Clwyd Mind** on 01745 336787



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Llanelwyl WI

Denise D'Albertson

What a great evening we had in December when we went to The Barrow for an organic wine tasting!

Alun Jones was extremely knowledgeable and passionate about organic wines which he conveyed with a great sense of humour. We tasted wines from the foothills of the Andes, the hillsides of Italy, Almansa and La Mancha in Spain through to Western Cape, South Africa. We were offered a large variety of wines including a velvety smooth Rioja Tempranillo, a luscious Sauvignon Blanc full of citrus flavours, a rich Chardonnay with hints of pineapple and a delightful Prosecco Frizzante full of upbeat and lively lemon sherbet flavours with medium size bubbles! Who knew that bubbles came in different sizes?!

We learnt that organic wines do not contain added sulphates, which are used to kill off unwanted moulds and as an antioxidant; sulphates can have an adverse effect on some people. These wines also have a much lower carbon footprint. The grapes are grown without synthetic pesticides, herbicides, fungicides or chemical fertilisers and therefore, free from man-made toxins.



Vegetarian and vegan wines are free from fining

agents which can contain animal gelatine or fish based products eg sturgeons' air bladders! We all enjoyed this lively evening and came away with invaluable facts about making the right choice when buying wine.

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



Alun Jones of the Barrow

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The Liverpool House fire The feature on the 50th anniversary of the fire station in our last issue sparked some memories from readers—and above is shown a photo of the fire at Liverpool House in 1962. It was a TV and electrical business owned by Edwin and Mair Evans, who lived above the shop. That night, they had taken their four young sons to the pictures, and when they returned, the fire had destroyed the shop. The cause of the fire was never discovered. The St Asaph fire brigade were at their weekly practice drill when it happened and came promptly, assisted by the Rhyl crew. Ann and Ellis Morris of Mount Road, who both worked at the shop, were given the task of sorting through the stock in the aftermath—and a little while after that, they started going out together! Edwin and Mair emigrated to Australia, but they kept in touch, and when Edwin died recently, Ann and Ellis watched the funeral service online, which was when they first saw this photo. Ann reports that both she and Ellis are in the photo, which she recently posted on Facebook. The building, which was by the lower gate of the parish churchyard, was subsequently demolished.

The two other fires items featured below and right were provided by Michael Parry-Jones from his collection of old photos and stories about St Asaph. The article is from the Denbighshire Free Press in 1899.



BURNING OF FFENGWEAN HALL, NEAR ST. ASAPH, THE SEAT OF LORD MOSTYN.

ALARMING FIRE AT ST. ASAPH. TWO HOUSES BURNED DOWN. NARROW ESCAPE OF A CRIMEAN HERO.

About ten o'clock on Wednesday night a fire broke out in a straw thatched cottage in Luke street, St Asaph, and in a few minutes the block of two cottages were in flames, and were subsequently burned to the ground. It is not known how the fire originated, but it is assumed that some clothes which were placed before the kitchen fire so dry first caught fire. The Bodrhyddan fire brigade, under the command of Capt Conwy Bell, rendered splendid service in preventing the fire from spreading, only twenty minutes elapsed from the time the alarm was given at Rhuddlan till the brigade were in action at St Asaph. Fortunately the inhabitants all escaped unharmed. William Burrows, an old army pensioner, who was lying in bed suffering from inflammation of the lungs, narrowly escaped being burned to death. It was with the greatest difficulty that he was removed to the house of a neighbour, the old soldier being most reluctant to leave the burning house without his medals. He served in the 1st Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and was the proud possessor of the Crimean medal, 1864, and clasp of Alma and Sebastopol; also the Turkish medal, 1855, and the Indian Mutiny medal, 1857, as well as the Lucknow clasp. He has been a pensioner since 1860, and was amongst the battalion that were shipwrecked on their way to Canada. The medals were however saved by Sergt. Pearson, who has been the means of starting a subscription list for the old soldier, which Col Howard, with his usual generosity, has headed with a substantial donation. The Rev D W Davies also very kindly provided the inhabitants with beds in the place of their own which had been burnt.



Expensive Fish Supper *from the Rhyl Journal*

Colin Griffiths, aged 56, of Colwyn Bay, was found to be fishing without the correct rod licence at a junction of the Rivers Clwyd and Elwy, near St Asaph, on June 30, 2021.

On January 6, Cardiff Magistrates' Court ordered Mr Griffiths to pay a fine of £440 for the offence. In addition, Mr Griffiths was told to pay a victim surcharge of £44, and court costs of £127.30.

This amounted to a total of £611.30, for which Mr Griffiths was given until February 3 to pay.

(does the victim surcharge refer to the seatrout?)



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Allotment life

Jo Cotton

St Asaph allotment holders all have an interest in growing a great variety of healthy produce to enjoy eating and cooking with. Here is an article from one of our members which gives readers an idea of 'life on the allotment' and of the challenges and benefits from a productive growing season. Every season is different and the pictures show some of the produce grown on this members plot:

"Whilst I cannot claim to be self-sufficient in vegetables throughout the year, I do try to have something fresh to pick at all times. For instance, from about January to April, often referred to as "The Hungry Gap", I'll have two or three varieties of Purple Sprouting Broccoli producing in succession.



Overwintered Broad beans are a virtual bulletproof staple, as are various French and Runner beans. Peas are not difficult to grow, but they take up a lot of space, for not much return.

Parsnips are easy to grow, provided you can get them to germinate! Beetroots are also easy. On the other hand I haven't yet mastered Carrots, having problems with germination, and then attacks by carrot fly. This is my big challenge for the future!

New Potatoes are of course a "must", but as our soil is alkaline, care should be taken in selecting varieties that are not susceptible to scab.

I grow most of my plants from seed, at home in my small greenhouse, but now we have a poly-tunnel on site, all plot-holders will be able to do the same, so making it much cheaper than buying plants. Growing from seed also gives far more choice of varieties.

One of the secrets of success is to maintain a healthy soil and to improve it year by year, by adding as much manure and compost as possible. As I've dug in tons of both, every year since we started in 2010, most crops, with a few exceptions, grow very well on my plot. However, you should remember where you apply manure, because root crops, such as carrots and parsnips, have a tendency to fork if grown in freshly manured soil.

I have a number of soft fruit bushes; two gooseberries which produced more than 20lbs in 2020, and slightly less in 2021 after hard pruning. Also red, pink and black currants. These produced so much fruit in 2020, that we still have a lot in our freezer, and plenty of jam! I pruned them hard and left them uncovered last spring and was then content to see all the reds and pinks enjoyed by a family of blackbirds, leaving me with another good crop of blackcurrants."

We have allotments available for rent this year and if you would like to pick up an old hobby or enjoy learning a new skill - with considerable benefits for you and the family - please contact the Membership Secretary, Jo Cotton by email: jo.stasaph@gmail.com or on 07801431001



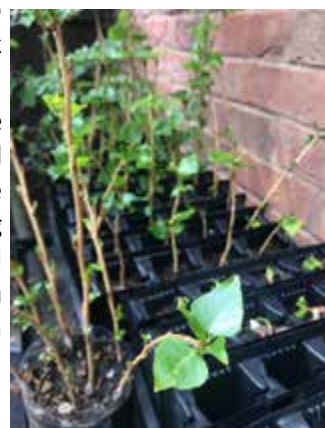
Tree Nursery

Denbighshire County Council has set up a local provenance tree nursery at Green Gates farm on the edge of St Asaph. This new site aims to produce 5,000 trees and 5,000 native wildflower plants a year, with the hope to expand in the future. This project is part of an ongoing commitment to enhancing biodiversity across the county. Currently the nursery is growing juniper, wild service and black poplar trees, all of which have declined massively over the last century. Cllr Tony Thomas said: "St Asaph is fortunate to have a group of black poplars already, but in many areas there are few remaining, and in particular very few females, as these are often removed due to the quantities of fluffy seed they produce. If you are a local landowner who has a black poplar on their land we would be keen to come and take cuttings to grow on. Alternatively, if you would be interested in planting black poplar on your land please get in touch."



As the work at the tree nursery increases the Council is also keen to get local people involved as volunteers. Volunteer work would include potting and maintaining the plants, surveying the surrounding fields as they develop and potentially assisting in planting activities. If you would like to get involved please get in touch using this email address:

biodiversity@denbighshire.gov.uk



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A tree for your garden

Chris Jones

In 2022, each household in Wales will be able to receive a tree to plant to help our environment. Trees are vitally important to our planet, storing carbon and producing oxygen. They provide shelter, shade, colour and movement. They enable us to observe nature; they support our birds, insects, fungal and plant life. They soften landscapes and protect the soil from erosion.

Such a huge variety of species makes it difficult to shortlist and each person will no doubt have a favourite. To select the most appropriate one for your own location, consider the following:-

- The size of the tree and where you plan to site it. It is wise to consider what space you have as once the tree is planted if it matures at 70ft it may overshadow all else and would be very difficult to move! Is it exposed to windy conditions? It may need protection or strong staking.
- What do you hope to gain from the tree? Is it colour or produce? Fruit trees have lovely blossom followed by fruit which you can enjoy. Some fruit trees may require more than one for pollination to produce edible fruit.
- The type of soil in your garden may determine what species will thrive and thus it is best to do your homework before selecting your tree. Ask your garden centre for advice.

If you could choose but one tree which would it be? It would have to earn its keep, have blossom and /or fruit, beautiful foliage or bark, be disease resistant and resilient in all weathers. These are some of my favourites-

The **ornamental cherry** (*Prunus sargentii*) has beautiful pale pink blossom in the spring with red foliage which turns green and then, in the autumn a beautiful deep red orange.

The **silver birch** (*Betula utilis jacquemontii*) which is a tall slim tree which has a striking pure white bark which is at its best in winter when colour is reduced.

The **rowan, mountain ash and whitebeam** all belong to the *Sorbus* family and all have lovely leaf form and colourful berries beloved by the birds.

The **snowy mespilus** (*Amelanchier Canadensis*) has dainty white flowers in the spring followed by bronze coloured foliage which turns bright crimson in the autumn before they fall.

The **weeping willow leaved pear** (*Pyrus salcifolia*) provides a different shape and colour in the garden, although its fruit is only edible to birds.

These are just a few examples, but whichever tree you finally decide to plant will give years of enjoyment and help to green our world.



ornamental cherry



silver birch



mountain ash



snowy mespilus



weeping willow leaved pear

Llannerch Bridge—DCC give update

Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet resolved to support in principle the replacement of Llannerch Bridge, subject to the securing of necessary funding.

The Council is funding the initial cost of ground surveys and other specialist work which will then enable the Council to build a business case and bid for external funding to design and construct a replacement bridge.

Residents will see signs of activity at the Llannerch Bridge site in the near future as the specialist surveying and mapping work commences.



The Council will be publishing quarterly newsletters to keep residents informed of the latest activity, with the first newsletter being published in the coming weeks.

It is hoped that, subject to Covid restrictions, public meetings will be held later in the spring, giving residents the chance to discuss any questions or concerns.

ENGLISH AND MATHS TUITION

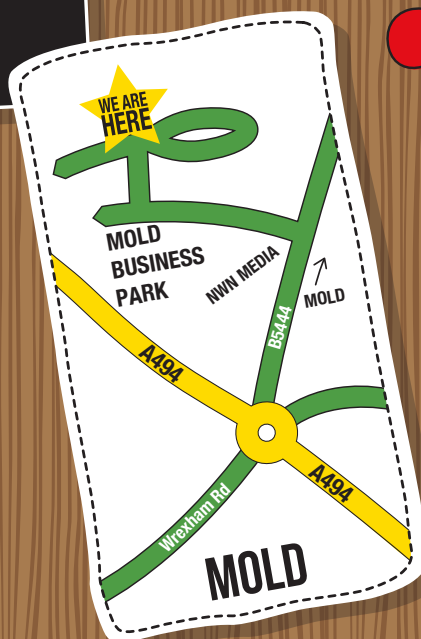
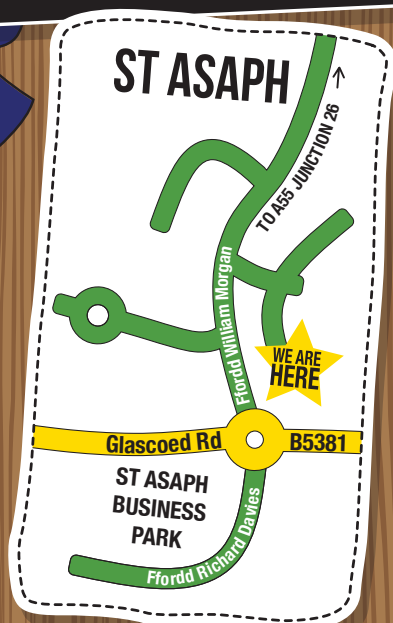
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Cymraeg

English

A wartime evacuee remembers *Kevin Roberts of Pen Isa'r Waen sent in this account written by his godfather Brian Inglis, now 88, who was evacuated to the farm in 1939:*

"At this time the farmhouse did not have electricity, or a piped water supply. Bottled Calor gas gave light in the dairy, kitchen, and dining room. Cooking was a grate oven which was heated from a coal fire in the kitchen, this was the room where we all spent most of our time. Breakfast was between 7.30 and 8.0 am. Usually there was porridge being kept warm by the fireplace with the oven and hob to make hot food. There was a Welsh dresser with small cupboards under the plate shelves which contained the condiments and also it was where our ration of sugar was kept. Each person had their own screw top jar which into which our sugar ration was poured, and that was all you got.

The water was pumped from a hydraulic pump at the side of the stream at the bottom of the meadow behind the farm. This was the only water until mains water and electricity were connected in the early 50's. To supplement the ration Uncle Cecil taught me how to lay a snare on a rabbit run. I would go round the snares in the early morning but in the summer the foxes would often beat me to it as it would be daylight at 4am.

We churned our own butter regularly to supplement the ration. The dairy was unheated and always cool even in summer. The butter was taken from the churn, patted onto a board, wrapped in greaseproof paper and stored in a stoneware dish to be taken out as needed. Permission to kill a pig was granted once a year from the Ministry of Food. The carcass was cut up and the sections were treated with saltpeter to cure it. The pieces were laid into a wooden box about the size of a bath and then salted, this was stored in the dairy. After several months a section would be taken out and hung in the dairy and used as required.

As the farm had hens and ducks the egg ration did not affect us. One of my jobs was to feed the hens and to collect eggs from the hen coop and the stack yard. As the hens were free range they would lay anywhere they took a liking to and finding the nests was a long job. The hen coop was at the back of the house in the field and as soon as it started to go dark I had to close the entrance up and make it secure. One night I forgot to lock the hen coop, a fox got in and killed a lot of the hens. Whilst I was told off it wasn't a very bad telling off!

My mother sent a parcel for Xmas 1939 and it was sent early so I opened it and was delighted to see chocolate and presents and it was only afterwards that the parcel said 'do not open until Xmas'. Clogs did not require the clothing coupons needed for shoes and boots which were also difficult to get hold of, so my mother bought me some clogs from a Manchester clog maker. She sent them to the farm for me to wear. They had a wooden sole onto which iron protectors were fitted and these were very good for skating on ice. When I went to school in them everyone commented on them as they were not seen in Wales very often. They were painted with Neat's foot oil to make them weather proof."



Brian back at the farm as a teenager after the war—he would often cycle from Manchester and back to visit his wartime home.



Cylch Meithrin Llanelwy - St Asaph

Do you want to give your child the best possible start to their bilingual education? Here at Cylch Meithrin Llanelwy, we give a warm welcome to all children, no matter what language they speak at home.

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Merched y Wawr Llanellwyr

Eleri Jones

Wedi gorfod rhoi'r gorau i'n cyfarfodydd misol yn ddisymwyth yn 2020 oherwydd y Pandemig a ninnau newydd ddathlu Gŵyl Ddewi yn y Clwb Criced, Llanellwyr, mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r aelodau wedi llwyddo i gyfarfod yn rheolaidd yn ystod y ddwy flynedd ddiwethaf a hynny gan ddilyn rheolau Cofid 19 Llywodraeth Cymru. Buom yn cyfarfod yn fisol ar Zoom a chawsom ambell i banded a sgwrs yn y parc ac yng ngerddi rhai o'r aelodau. Cawsom hefyd ginio Nadolig blasus iawn yn y Bod Erw ym mis Rhagfyr.

Dathliad Gŵyl Ddewi fydd ar ein meddwl eto. Ein bwriad yw pwytho, gwau a chrosio nwyddau sy'n ymwennu â Dewi Sant hon gan obeithio eu harddangos mewn ffenestri siopau yn y Ddinas yn ystod wythnos gyntaf mis Mawrth. Croeso i aelodau newydd!

After having to cancel our monthly meetings abruptly in 2020 due to the Pandemic, straight after our St David's Day celebrations at St Asaph Cricket Club most of the members have been able to meet up during the past two years whilst adhering to the Welsh Government Covid 19 regulations. We have met monthly on Zoom and have had numerous cups of tea and a chat in St Asaph park and in members' gardens. We also had an excellent Christmas Lunch at the Bod Erw in December 2021.

St David's Day celebrations will be on our minds again soon. We intend to create handmade items related to our Patron Saint which we hope to display in shop windows in the City during the first week in March. New members always welcome



VP Infant School

Kate Langford

Intruder at the VP! On December 1st we arrived at school to find 'intruders' had been in our classrooms overnight - it was up to the children to be detectives and solve the case. Luckily, North Wales Police were on hand to help. The children found lots of clues around the school, from carrots up the drive to Santa's driving licence in the corridor! One child suggested looking at the CCTV and that's when we saw footage that the elves had been in our school. The children had a great time immersed in their Christmas crime scene and were delighted

when their excellent problem solving skills cracked the case.

Children in Need The children enjoyed learning about why we support Children in Need. They had fun with Pudsey phonics and counting, and made Pudsey masks and magical wands to spread our Pudsey wishes. They dressed up in fancy dress or own clothes for the day. We raised lots of money for Children in Need and helped children less fortunate than ourselves.

Makaton The staff have undertaken their Makaton training and have been practising using signs and symbols with the children. Today over 100,000 children and adults use Makaton, either as their main communication or as a way to support speech. We are proud to be a school in a Makaton friendly city.

Wild Wednesdays We had a wonderful end to the Autumn term with all classes completing the **RSPB Bronze Wild Challenge** through their weekly "Wild Wednesday" activities. The Challenge teaches curriculum knowledge and skills, develops children's resilience and sense of agency by outdoor learning. The children have really enjoyed the challenge and are looking forward to the silver challenge!



Nursery applications for September 2022 A polite reminder to families with children born between 1/9/18 and 31/8/19. Your child is eligible to attend Nursery class from September 2022. Apply for a place at our Nursery using the Denbighshire website. The closing date is 18th February.





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



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Miss K Langford

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Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog

Laura Martin

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. The new year has started with a lot of excitement here at Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog! Our Foundation Phase children discovered some very large footprints outside and have since gone on to discover what they believe is dinosaur poo! The children are now very busy researching dinosaurs including their diets, their size and when they lived. The children are very excited about this topic and have given Mrs Evans a big list of questions that they want to find the answers to!

We have already made some improvements to the school since returning with a new road, complete with tractor and bus, painted on the Foundation Phase yard for the children to enjoy when they are on the bikes, cars and scooters! Our next project involves creating a whole school library, and we look forward to sharing that with you when it is complete.

The Lower Juniors this half term are finding out about inventors and inventions and have already had a taste of what life was like when their teachers were younger when they used cassette and video players and phones that were definitely not mobile!



The Upper Juniors have become Museum Curators as part of their topic 'Dragons' and have been tasked with putting on an exhibition called 'Dragons across the globe'. We can't wait to explore their exhibition to see what they have discovered!

As well as all of the above we are introducing the children to Makaton following whole staff training. Makaton is a language programme that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate. All of the children are busy learning new signs and are confidently signing to staff and each other on a daily basis.

As always, we will share lots of what we are doing on our social media pages so please follow us on Facebook and Twitter to find out more.



Ysgol Esgob Morgan

Jodie Martin

Special Celebration: Mr Redgrave and Mrs Estlick celebrated working at Esgob Morgan for 20 years this January. Congratulations and a huge thank you to Mr Redgrave and Mrs Estlick for all their hard work and dedication to Ysgol Esgob Morgan over these last 20 years! What an achievement—here's to many more!

LEGO Technocamps: All classes enjoyed Lego workshops delivered by Technocamps, inspiring the next generation of computer scientists through STEM workshops.

Artists: Well done to Sophie year 5 who won the MP's Christmas card competition for Esgob Morgan. Three pupils from years 5 & 6 have also been successful in securing a place in the Cwriw Celf workshops with Denbighshire County Council. They will attend 6 workshops with professional artists to enhance and encourage their creative flair. Da iawn genod!



Mill Race Meadow—your vote needed!

St Asaph City Council owns and manages its land in the City for the recreation and leisure of the people of St Asaph. The City Council purchased Mill Race Meadow, a field adjoining Roe Plas Meadow in 2008 to preserve it as a green space. Since 2008 the field has been leased for grazing.

A representative of St Asaph Football Club attended the City Council meeting in December to request that the Council considers leasing part of Mill Race Meadow to the Club so that it can be laid out as a football pitch for the junior players. The Football Club has worked hard to encourage players as young as five, so that they can continue to enjoy football and possibly progress through to the more senior teams. The junior section is growing so successfully, that the Club envisage that they will need to provide another pitch to secure the future development of the sport in St Asaph for primary school age children.

The Football Club have requested consideration of a 25-year lease over this land. The pitch area would be fenced off, so that animals are kept off the pitch for the safety of the children. They have confirmed that there would be no cost to the City Council.

The Council discussed this proposal in depth and were keen to encourage the young players whilst also considering the needs of the many residents and visitors who enjoy the use of these green spaces. The Council was very keen to consider the views of the residents of St Asaph and we are asking that you give your views as to how you would like this area of Mill Race Meadow to be used.

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Who can vote?

If you live in St Asaph East or St Asaph West electoral wards and are aged over 16 years, you are eligible to vote. Please complete the form below and return it to the City Clerk, Jill Ellison before the deadline of 30th April 2022.

The results will be announced in the June edition of the City Times.



Your Vote Needed!

Mill Race Meadow: Do you agree with the proposal that the City Council should lease part of Mill Race Meadow to St Asaph F.C? Tick **One** box below

I agree that St Asaph City Council should lease part of Mill Race Meadow to St Asaph Football Club for a period of 25 years so that it can be laid out as a football pitch.	
I disagree – St Asaph City Council should retain the land at Mill Race Meadow as a green space/ grazing field.	

Name	
Address and postcode	

You can return this form to the Clerk by:

- **Posting in the free City Times collection boxes located at the Library, Londis (Heol Esgob), the Co-op and Premier Stores (Chester Street).**
- **Returning to the City Clerk: Mrs Jill Ellison, either by mail to PO Box 224, Llanfairfechan, LL57 9EQ, or by e-mail to clerk@stasaphcitycouncil.gov.uk**
- **Alternatively, the form can be found on our website – www.stasaphcitycouncil.gov.uk and you can e-mail this to the clerk.**

Data Protection Act 2018

St Asaph City Council is collecting these details to confirm your eligibility to take part in this poll. Your information will be retained until after the results have been verified and announced, after which your details will be securely disposed of.



Nantlle Vale's keeper saves a penalty in the shoot-out ;
Nantlle won 4-2 overall on the shoot-out after the
teams were level at 1-1 at full-time in the cup match.

St Asaph Football Club

John Roberts

The first team had a very successful December winning all their matches leading up to Christmas when Covid brought a halt to fixtures at the end of the month. As a result of the team's success, **Daniel Brewerton**, our first team coach was the Ardal League North West Manager of the Month and the Club was awarded Club of the Month. The Club has also been active during the transfer window with three former players returning to strengthen the squad. **Jack Davies** returned to his home town club after a spell with Llanefydd, **Matty Morris** returned from Denbigh Town FC and **Simon Fawcett** from Prestatyn Sports.

The Junior teams also stopped playing over the Christmas period but were able to enjoy futsal sessions in the Leisure Centre until their league fixtures started again. They also had a very successful Christmas party under Covid guidelines at Spring Gardens with an opportunity to have individual and team photos taken, play some games and receive a party bag from the Club. Our Junior team coaches work hard throughout the year to help our players improve their football skills but equally as important to have fun doing it in a safe environment.

The Club's aim is to continue to establish a new Under 6 team every season for girls and boys of all abilities. The success of the Junior section has led to the Club's request to lease an area the size of a pitch for the Junior teams in the adjoining field where the sheep graze. This would not affect the public footpath in that field or the path used from the Paddock. All the work of preparing the area as a pitch would be undertaken by the football Club and it would be fenced off to keep the sheep off. It would enable the club to meet the growing demand for activities linked to the well being of children and young people as the population of St Asaph grows.



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