



new City Times



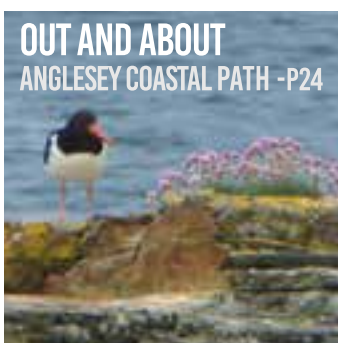
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TICKETS AT THE DOOR
COLLECTION FOR UKRAINE**



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We're always looking out for letters, items, reports or features. Or that special photo! Deadline for copy for the June issue is Monday May 16th – 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 reliant on sponsorship and advertising—if you would like to help by sponsoring or advertising, please get in contact. A big thank you to all those who support the City Times in this way!

Bring on Spring!

Ben Ross

It seems we've been inundated with bad news lately, whether it's controversy about parliamentary parties, Coronavirus, storms ripping across the country, and most recently the horrendous events in Ukraine. But there's plenty ahead to distract us from increasing living costs and the possibility of escalation of war... so let's focus on that.

Very soon it will be Easter - a celebration of new life, a merry period of scoffing chocolate, bank holidays and basking in brighter days. The Vale of Clwyd is once again bursting into life, with daffodils nodding happily in banks, birds singing and lambs skipping through sun-dappled (if muddy) fields. It's a great time to escape our screens, turn down that expensive heating and get outside on foot.

Plans are underway for local celebrations in recognition of the Queen's jubilee celebrations, and we promise this issue of the City Times has lots of features which highlight the past, present and a bright future for our corner of Wales. Look ahead with hope, everyone...!

"May every sunrise hold more promise and every sunset hold more peace." Umair Siddiqui



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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North Wales Victim Support	0300 30 30 159

St Asaph and Ukraine

Individuals throughout St Asaph and the Vale of Clwyd have been digging deep in their pockets to send funds to the Disasters Emergency Committee charities (DEC) Ukraine appeal. Many have taken goods and items such as toiletries and blankets to the collection centres in Rhyl and Denbigh, ready for onward transport.

Kev Price of Junction 27 Motors and two colleagues Graham Tyson and Dominic Matthews drove two vanloads of such supplies for women and children to Eastern Poland, an epic 4000 mile round trip. **Suzie Hicks** of the Flowerpot Café on the High Street raised an astonishing £340 by selling cupcakes in Ukrainian colours. **Rotary** have been collecting for Ukraine outside the Co-op.

The **Vale of Clwyd Singers** concert on Saturday 2nd April (front cover) will be an opportunity to donate to support Ukraine—tickets available at the door. The Good Friday **Bach St Matthew Passion** (p 11) will also be a fund-raiser.

A fund-raising **Coffee Morning** will be held in the Parish Church on Saturday 9th April.

The cathedral is offering to host a fund-raising concert free of charge for any individuals or groups wishing to make use of its space. Contact Dean Nigel Williams at the cathedral for further details.

It seems likely that there will be a long-term need for funds for Ukraine, and it is hoped that the whole of the **Jubilee Celebrations** in St Asaph will be an opportunity for our community to fund-raise for Ukraine. Beyond that, other fund-raising events are being planned.

City Times understands that a number of local families have applied to host Ukrainian refugees. Against the background of over 150,000 offers of hosting throughout the UK, it may be that some time will pass before refugees are allocated locally. However, the City Council and other groups are already planning what facilities could be made available to families that have been through such terrible circumstances.



Ukrainian flags at the cathedral, Graham, Kevin and Dom following their trip, and those special cupcakes!



Protests against the Russian invasion of Ukraine were held in Rhyl, Denbigh and Ruthin on March 5th

Working with refugees

Phylip Hughes

This article was commissioned well before the Ukrainian crisis began...but is now very timely. Visitors to the cathedral in summer 2021 may have been puzzled to see a large collection of outdoor wear, coats and sleeping bags piled in the southwest corner. They were destined for refugees in Calais, and were taken there by Phylip Hughes, a member of the cathedral choir. As well as teaching English to refugees, Phylip has spent time working for Care 4 Calais on four occasions. City Times asked Phylip to describe his experiences.



"Care 4 Calais is a non-governmental organisation situated on the perimeter of Calais and housed in three huge warehouses where donations from all over Europe are received and sorted. In 2016, the so-called "Jungle", an immense camp of about 10,000 refugees, was thriving. Every morning our work consisted mainly of unloading, inspecting, and sorting clothes and footwear. Everything had to be clean and in good condition. Team members visited their clients weekly to record their needs; in the warehouse we prepared the packs for distribution.

Walking the gravel path to the camp was intimidating, with vanloads of police dressed as if going into battle barring the way. They insisted on some form of identification. I never carried my passport and the only other thing I had was a Flintshire County Council old people's bus pass, but it always worked.

The first building to appear was the church, built like most dwellings in the camp from remnants of wood, plastic, canvas and anything else at hand. The church was the creation of Christians from Eritrea most of whom were women and young girls. I can still recall working near the church one Sunday, and listening to the joyful singing of the Eritrean refugees. Many refugees lived in tents provided by aid agencies. The teaching was done in the open air on a canvas cover spread on the sandy ground: the "students" would come to us to learn.

A well-equipped kitchen manned by volunteers provided meals. Vanloads of ready-made meals would also arrive from time to time. Groups of refugees living together would have access to a stove, bottle gas and donated food. Schools were set up throughout the camp, staffed by refugees themselves and volunteer teachers. It is estimated that at that time there were 800 children, many of them unaccompanied. Sanitation could be a problem. Rows of portable latrines laid on by aid agencies were installed here and there. These were emptied regularly, but the smell on these occasions was truly awful. Piped water had been made available by the authorities. Men washed in the open air from partly covered troughs while the ladies enjoyed a private covered building. The great majorities of refugees wish to learn or improve their English, and to seek asylum in the UK. Why the UK?

Simply because many already have some knowledge of English, have friends or relatives already here, and also because of historic links with their own country.

While walking one of the many sandy and stony pathways a boy of about 14 years of age, seeing my Care 4 Calais bib, stopped me and asked, "Where from, you?" Slowly I asked if he had heard of Wales. "Yes" he replied excitedly, "Gareth Bale!" and went on his way. This young boy could speak and understand my language, but I could not speak a word of his. Shame on me!

There was little entertainment in the camp but one or two of the makeshift restaurants had a TV. Every now and then a shoe distribution was held. It was our task to visit every dwelling in our own patch to find those who needed footwear. I came across Mayan, a young man in his early 20s, a new arrival. He had travelled mostly on foot from Afghanistan. His shoes were quite literally falling apart. He had been brutally assaulted by the police. A rubber bullet wound in his leg festered. Thankfully the volunteer doctors and nurses in the camp had taken care of him.

Families were housed in small caravans and shipping containers. I recall a fortnight of teaching a group of six young men and women; we had begun to know each other quite well. I was to leave for home the following day. As the lesson came to its end, I was invited for a meal of massala and rice in one of their tents. *Contd. opp.*



Picture with permission: www.josefarinha.com

Contd

A large plastic tablecloth was laid on the floor and the massala and rice poured onto it and stirred. After a short prayer, in Arabic I believe, a plastic spoon was handed out. They then signalled to me that as their guest I was to have the first spoonful. Here was six young people who had nothing, feeding someone who had everything. This moment will stay with me.



The camp was soon to be demolished, and its people and children dispersed to other areas of France. Friends and even family members were separated in callous fashion as they were loaded onto waiting buses. Visits to Calais in the following years were different in that the refugees were no longer in one place. The need for tents and sleeping bags was greater than ever as the refugees hid in deep shrubland around Calais. Food and clothing were provided by Care 4 Calais and others at certain meeting places. However the police would arrive regularly to search and destroy their possessions. Tents and sleeping bags were therefore in constant demand.



There are many reasons why people seek to rebuild their lives in a different country. Millions flee from armed conflict. Some leave to get a job or an education. Others are forced to flee persecution or human rights violations. Some have been targeted just because of who they are or what they do or believe – ethnicity, religion, sexuality, or political opinions

These journeys starting with the hope of a better life can be full of danger and fear - falling prey to human trafficking and other forms of exploitation. Once settled in a new country, many faced daily racism, xenophobia, and discrimination. They often feel alone because they've left the support of communities, colleagues, relatives, and friends. As volunteers we all had

enormous admiration for the refugees in the camp - their resilience, ingenuity, and strength in the face of adversity. Their kindness and warmth towards me is something I shall never forget.



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#moveamarathonforethan

Helen and Paul Ross

We would like to send a huge thank you to everyone who took part and supported Move a Marathon for Ethan 2021 in memory of our son Ethan and in aid of our chosen charities. It was an honour to present the Wales Air Ambulance with a cheque for £50,000 from everyone who took part in move a marathon for Ethan 2021 in Ethan's memory. The service relies on donations. It cost over £2,000 every time the air ambulance is called to an emergency. Getting the medics there within that golden hour is vital and can be the difference between life and death. They could not save Ethan, but with our support and Ethan's legacy they can continue to save many others. And we were delighted to support Young Minds, a remarkable mental health charity, with a cheque for £46,841.

And we are doing all again! Are you up for the challenge? [#moveamarathonforethan22](#) is coming.... June 17/19th fundraising for Wales Air Ambulance charity and 2wish, a wonderful charity supporting those affected by sudden death in the family.

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An extraordinary discovery in the churchyard!

Parish church lawn-mowers have long been aware of a grassy depression on the main lawn, and have learned to cut round it. Recently, the dip has become more apparent, and a plan was made to lift the turf and fill it in with topsoil.

In the event, once the turf was lifted, a small hole became apparent, which rapidly enlarged. Lowering our intrepid churchwarden, a former member of the Ogwen Mountain Rescue Team, into the hole to take photos seemed a good idea. Following the best tradition of Health and Safety, his ankles were held by the church secretary. On inspection, he found a partially collapsed vaulted space, and photos were taken.

On the advice of the Church in Wales, the diocesan archaeologist Dr Aprille Ffoulkes was called in to inspect. Losing no time, she arrived, and her immediate conclusion, was that this was part of the long rumoured tunnel from the Cathedral to the Parish Church.

This was supposed to have been constructed by priests during the Cromwellian Protectorate. It is well known that Cromwellian soldiers desecrated the cathedral by removing religious icons, stabling their horses there, and sharpening their halberds on the masonry. However they failed to apprehend any members of the cathedral staff, who had apparently barricaded themselves in the cathedral, but were nowhere to be found when the soldiers beat the doors down. A tunnel was suspected but never found.

The area on the churchyard lawn has been cordoned off, and will be the subject of a formal archaeological dig by a team from Aberystwyth University, assisted by Openreach engineers with tunnel imaging equipment. Exploration is scheduled to start on the morning of April 1st, and depending upon the length of tunnel able to be explored, there may need to be some further disruption of traffic on the High Street, and of sewage fall. Whether or not there will be light at the end of this ancient tunnel remains to be seen.



Afon Elwy Environmental Group took part in the Grand Welsh Litter Pick on St David's Day, amassing many bags of litter from in and around St Asaph. Particular frustration was caused by a few people who appear to "forget" to pick up their dog poo bags. For more information about the AEEG, contact di.r@icloud.com



Mayor Peter Scott plants a cherry tree in the Jubilee copse, just beyond the allotments. There was no real need to water the tree in, as the event appeared to trigger a sudden deluge which sent onlookers scurrying. The tree is now registered on the Queen's Canopy website.



A local hero, I presume.

Ben Ross

Many of us know the story of Henry Morton Stanley – brought up in and around St Asaph – who went on to become a soldier, journalist and explorer. By 1899, not only did he own an estate in Surrey, but he'd been bestowed with a knighthood. Is it any wonder then, that there are monuments dedicated to him in his home region?

Installed in 2011, the silver obelisk has been the subject of controversy over its form, modern relevance and connotations with 19th century exploitation in the Congo. In 2020 a petition with over 1100 signatures was presented to the Council by Elen Lewis, who commented about the 'romanticised Victorian' version of events, and the masked brutality behind a European campaign to exert power and extract resources from other countries. She highlighted that, in 1871, there were even parliamentary investigations into Stanley's treatment of Congolese and other African people. The City Council took the decision to keep the monument, but to provide a new explanatory text to be agreed and written by a working group of four councillors and Elen Lewis. The text of the new sign has now been released:

"Henry Morton Stanley was a Welsh-American journalist and explorer. He was born John Rowlands on January 28th 1841 in Denbigh and was brought up in the workhouse in St Asaph. He ran away from the harsh regime of the workhouse and in 1859 arrived in New Orleans. He was befriended by a merchant, Henry Stanley whose name he took as his own. He served on both sides in the American Civil War and then worked as a journalist.

He is best known for the expedition he led to search for and find the Scottish missionary and explorer David Livingstone. In the past his expeditions have tended to be romanticised but we should be aware that some historians have been critical of his links with King Leopold II of Belgium who colonised the Congo.

The obelisk charts his life from his birth at the base of the column to his death at the top as listed below and is interpreted with interspersed images provided by local St Asaph pupils from Ysgol Esgob Morgan, Fairholme School and Ysgol Glan Clwyd"



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Storm damage Storms Dudley Eunice and Franklin roared through St Asaph in mid February, causing significant damage to trees, and in the picture on the right, to property in Roe Parc. Following the damage to the garage roof, it was decided to fell other trees immediately adjacent to the public footpath. A difficult decision when we are all being encouraged to plant trees for the future, but entirely understandable.



A bright but very chilly morning

A tree for the Queen

John Solbe

On 17th February a group assembled in the grounds of St Asaph Parish Church to witness the Lord Lieutenant of Clwyd, Mr Harry Fetherstonhaugh, plant a small tree in celebration of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Bishop, the Mayor and Mayoress, Canon Precentor and Cathedral Chaplain were also in attendance with the Master of the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales, Dr Kathy Seddon and other Liverymen and guests. The tree, blessed by Bishop Gregory, is a winter-flowering cherry and should provide a pleasant pink blossom through the dark days of November to March for many years to come. The Parish Church kindly provided coffee and cakes after the ceremony before lunch was taken at the Bod Erw. We were so lucky to find a calm day in the middle of such a stormy period.

The Welsh Livery Guild was formed in 1993 to promote education, the arts, science and technology in Wales. In 2013, the Guild was presented with a Royal Charter and became the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales (Cwmni Anrhydeddus Lifrai Cymru). Unlike the ancient Livery Guilds of London, the Welsh Livery Company is not associated with one particular craft, trade or profession but is dedicated to helping young

people throughout Wales to develop their talents and skills by means of an annual awards programme of scholarships and bursaries. These are funded principally through the generosity of the Liverymen themselves. It also makes prestigious awards to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Wales such as Michael Sheen and Dr. Sabrina Cohen-Hatton. As well as fund-raising, the Livery Company holds a variety of social events which encourage its members and promotes good fellowship.



Land below the Paddock sold

John Oliver

The undeveloped plot of land accessed at the end of the Paddock on Elwy Parc has been sold. City Times has not yet been able to identify the buyer as the sale is subject to contract.

The land was submitted and approved for allocation as residential development to Denbighshire County Council when putting together their Local Development Plan 2006 - 2021. Although it extends to 2.2 acres, about 1.2 acres of this was allocated for building up to 16 houses. However

any development would be subject to planning permission from Denbighshire County Council.

Presently we're unaware of the intentions of the new buyer, but although it has been private land it's been used as an informal footpath and shortcut for residents living on Elwy Parc down to the riverside for probably over 30 years. Will this affect you? City Times wants to hear your views—email us at editorsact@gmail.com



Mill Race Meadow vote— it's still open.

As reported in the last issue of the City Times, the Football Club has requested to have a 25 year lease on a section of the Mill Race Meadow. This is to provide a football pitch for the increasing numbers of junior players that the Club coaches. The Meadow is owned by the City Council and they wish to gather residents' views about this proposal. You can see the full details on the Council website www.stasaphcitycouncil.gov.uk as well as your voting slip. Also please note John Robert's comment (back page) that existing footpaths will not be affected by the plan. Votes need to be submitted before 30th April.

Castle Green proposed development—name needed

There is no further planning update on the proposed residential development on the Upper Denbigh Road at the time of going to press. However Castle Green would be interested to hear any suggestions for a name for the development. It would need to be a Welsh name, and should link if possible to the location or history of the site. If you have an idea for a name, please e-mail marketing@castlegreenhomes.uk



Support Day for Ukraine
Saturday 9th April 2022 11am-6pm Free Entry
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Announcements Page to re-start

We would like to re-instate the announcements page of the City Times in our next issue—but can only do this with your support.

Notices of births, baptisms, school awards, exam successes, weddings, special milestones, and obituaries are all welcome, with photos where possible. And you may wish to use the Announcement page to thank someone publicly for what they have done. Send all items to editorsact@gmail.com



Send in your letters as well!

Whatever happened to the regular postbag of letters that the former City Times used to receive? Put finger to keyboard and send to editorsact@gmail.com

Bach's St Matthew Passion Fundraiser

Mair Dowell

The tradition of singing Bach's St. Matthew Passion in Corpus Christi Church Tremeirchion every Good Friday started in 1964 and continued without a break until 2020 when, of course, Covid put a stop to it. It was started by Michael Lewis (a bank clerk from Rhyl), Alun Vaughan Jones (a local builder) and Dr Jean Green, and in the early years the choir was the Church Choir with a few friends from Rhyl Music Club. The four soloists were also local, Enid Lloyd, Olive Macdonald (who still lives in Prestatyn) Clwyd Hughes and 16 year old Stephen Roberts from Rhyl. This was the start of a distinguished musical career for Stephen who later became the regular bass soloist in the Bach Choir's Easter performance of the St Matthew Passion in the Festival Hall in London for 22 years. For a small village to perform such a glorious work as the St Matthew Passion is no mean feat and everyone involved is very proud of this tradition.

Concerns about social distancing measures led to uncertainty about this year's performance in our small church, but on hearing of our predicament Nigel Williams, Dean of St Asaph Cathedral came to our rescue and offered us the use of the Cathedral on Good Friday evening. We have availed ourselves of this wonderful opportunity and the **Tremeirchion Bach St Matthew Passion will take place there on Good Friday April 15th**.

The soloists are: Stephen Newlove, Dominic Rose, Eleanor Parsons, Benjamin Williamson, Ben Ridler and Dafydd Allen. The conductor will be Trystan Lewis. The performance starts at 8pm, tickets £10 available from Cathedral Frames, members of the choir or phone 01745 583543.



Good Friday 2007 in Corpus Christi



Our High Street

Mike Parry-Jones

The High Street has always been the centre of activities for St Asaph. The Cathedral at the top and the Parish Church at the bottom provide us with ecclesiastical "bookends". The hill provides it with some character, but makes for more difficult shopping than a flat street! This is probably why there was once Turner's Stores (now Jacob's Ladder) at the top and EB Jones (now the Mandarin takeaway) at the bottom.

Old pictures show how relatively traffic free it seems to have been which would have made the shopping trip that much easier to accomplish, especially when this might well have been an almost daily event in a time without fridges or freezers, or indeed without a car.

The High Street had then the previously mentioned grocers, but also the banks, bakers and newsagents. The photo shows the barber's pole on the building that also housed the library and at this time a few doors down, was the Central Café. St Asaph also had two chemists. This variety of retail shops is indicative of the importance of the High Street to the community which is largely lost today. We are lucky to have the Co-op although it's not on the High Street. But we've lost more than just the local shops, as they also provided a proper social centre where people would meet their neighbours and family.

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Bethlehem Unedig Chapel

The end of an era

Tegwyn Williams

Over 200 years of St Asaph history came to an end on Sunday 27th February, when Bethlehem Unedig Chapel closed its doors for the last time. There has been a non-conformist Welsh language Chapel in St Asaph since 1807 when the Methodists first established Ebenezer Chapel in the Gemig. For many years prior to that prayer meetings and Sunday schools had been taking place in private homes by the Methodists, who were the evangelical wing of the Church of England. A chapel had already been established in 1796 in Cefn Meiriadog which members from St Asaph attended, but there was great hostility from the established church to any similar move in St Asaph. This led finally to a split in 1811, with the Calvinistic Methodists forming a non-conformist church on their own. Non-conformity thrived in St Asaph over many years.

By 1968 the condition of Ebenezer Chapel on the Gemig had deteriorated and members moved to Bethlehem Independent Chapel in Bronwylfa which had recently closed. Mr John Roberts, Perthi, the trustee was so pleased to offer the Chapel and the opportunity to reopen again. Between April and November 1968 the chapel was made ready to reopen, but unfortunately Mr John Roberts died suddenly, and the first meeting held there was his funeral.

By 2003 Rhualt Chapel closed and joined Bethlehem to become Bethlehem Unedig. In spite of Covid the Chapel reopened and continued to have regular Sunday Services, however several members had passed away and numbers declined. Following a vote it was decided unanimously to close and to join Rhuddlan Chapel.

The final service was held 27th February with our minister the Rev. Brian Huw Jones and Rev. Rhodri Glyn Moderator Vale of Clwyd Presbytery officiating. For the first time in over 200 years there will not be any Welsh Language Sunday Service held in St Asaph. However there is still a Welsh communion service every Friday morning at 9.30am in the Cathedral which is attended by churchgoers of all denominations, and perhaps at long last Christians have realized the importance of worshipping together and being part of Christian fellowship.



The Reverend Brian Huw Jones, minister of Bethlehem, with the deacons of the chapel Tegwyn Williams, Glenys Morris and Idris Hughes.



The congregation at the final service

Virtual Dementia Tour Bus

Sue Last

On Friday 4th March the Virtual Dementia Tour bus visited St Asaph. Thirty people had booked to take the opportunity to experience this unique training. The training has been scientifically and medically proven to give an experience to people who have healthy brains, of what dementia might be like. It allows them to enter the world of the person with dementia and the opportunity to understand which simple changes need to be made to their care and environment to really improve the lives of people living with dementia. The feedback from those who undertook the training has been very positive, and Dementia Friendly St Asaph is extremely grateful to Rebecca Bowcott of DVSC for arranging this on our behalf.

There will be a Dementia Friends training session on Thursday 5th May at 10.30am in the Diocesan Office. If you would like to attend please email me at suelast47@gmail.com To find out what else might be going on in Dementia Friendly St Asaph do visit our FaceBook page



2-5th June: Provisional arrangements for Jubilee and City Status Celebrations

Plans are shaping up for the celebrations to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, and also the 10th celebration of City Status for St Asaph. The Events Committee of the City Council is led by Cllr. Colin Hardie, and has had several meetings already, including open ones to encourage individuals, organisations and businesses to contribute. The provisional programme is as follows:

Thursday 2nd June

Flower Festival in the Parish Church (Thursday to Sunday) - offers of help to gwenda.hardie10@btinternet.com

Photographic Exhibition in the Parish Church (Thursday to Sunday) - see details page 15

Cathedral Jubilee service in the evening

Lighting of a beacon at nightfall

Friday 3rd June

Afternoon Tea Dance in the Parish Church

History walk round St Asaph led by Cllr. John Roberts

Outdoor Cinema if weather permits

Saturday 4th June

Summer Fair on the Roe Plas with a variety of stalls and activities for all

Evening Concert in the cathedral—North Wales International Music Festival 50th anniversary

Sunday 5th June

Street Parties and Street Meets

Community Picnic on the common for areas not amenable to Street Parties



The Events Committee have guaranteed warm and sunny weather for the whole of the Jubilee celebrations, with a ban on wasps, excessively loud drum & bass music, chainsaw use, and overindulgence in alcohol. Thanks team!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! to help with planning, marshalling, stewarding, welcoming, putting up and taking down marquees etc. No qualifications needed. This will be your big chance to wear your **Day-Glo tabard!** To offer help, contact Mrs Jill Ellison on clerk@stasaphcitycouncil.gov.uk or on 07521 641756

Street Parties, Street Meets, and the Community Picnic on the Common

Residents are being asked to arrange their own street parties on Sunday 5th June. This will be a great way not just to celebrate the Jubilee, but also to catch up with our neighbours and to welcome newcomers to St Asaph. It will also be an ideal opportunity to get together again after the hardships of the pandemic. The kids will love it!

There is very helpful advice on how to set up a street party on www.streetparty.org.uk, covering everything from all age activities, street quizzes, games and music, to risk assessments, alcohol, notifying the Council and other authorities etc. Also check out www.stasaphcitycouncil.gov.uk Some of the key elements are:

- **Start now!** Talk to your neighbours now about the possibility of having a street party—have planning meetings with everyone invited. Set up a small group of people to take it forward.
- If you live in a quiet cul de sac, that is often ideal for a street party.
- If you live on a residential road where traffic has to get through, are there spaces where you could have a **Street Meet** instead—maybe large grassed areas, a row of open gardens in front of houses, someone with a large garden?
- If you live on a busy road with no place for a street meet, why not encourage everyone to join the **Community Picnic** on the Common
- Get going with the bunting! Share resources—tables, chairs, games etc. Find gazebos and event shelters for adverse weather in case the events committee guarantee of fine weather proves fallible!

Jubilee plans for Cefn Meiriadog/Marli/Glascoed

Clare Vickers

A variety of community events are being planned to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2nd – 5th June and there will be something for everyone to take part in and enjoy.

Celebrations will commence with the lighting of a beacon on Thursday 2nd June at 10.00 pm.

On Saturday the 4th June from 3.00 pm there will be a family fun afternoon. Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog are planning a huge collage and are organising children's games. Amongst many other activities there will be face-painting and a magician. In the evening join us for a "Night at the Races". The regular pop up bar will be open, and there will also be a hog roast and live music. (Tickets essential for the evening event).

On Sunday morning, 5th June, there will be a service of Thanksgiving, conducted by the Very Revd. Dean Nigel Williams. From 1.30 pm there will be a 1950s Big Picnic Lunch. Bring your own picnic and dress for the occasion! Strawberries & cream and tea/coffee will be provided for you to enjoy. On display will be a fantastic display of classic cars & tractors.



Jubilee Plans for Tremeirchion

Jill Mort

We will be holding a Picnic and Fun Day as part of the Big Lunch event on Sunday 5th June from 1pm at Cae Tanc (field opposite the Phone Box in the village). Parking available. Bring your own picnics and chairs. Games, stalls and activities are being planned and there'll be a bar. Lots of fun for all the family - so come and join us for a great afternoon to celebrate this memorable occasion!!

Enter your pictures for the Jubilee Photography Exhibition!

During the four day Jubilee celebrations on Thursday to Sunday 2-5th June, there will be a photography exhibition in the parish church. The theme is "**St Asaph, gateway to the Vale of Clwyd**" - so can include *anything* in this area! Doesn't have to be a landscape—just a photo taken somewhere in the Vale of Clwyd, eg interesting buildings, wildlife, people at work, landscape etc.

How to enter:

- Contributors (who can be of any age) send in up to 4 digital photographs by e-mail to **janet.cameron2@btinternet.com**, labelled Photo Exhibition Entry, to be received by **30th April**.
- A panel will select the best 40 photos, and arrange for them to be printed professionally
- The photos will be displayed in the parish church. At the end of the bank holiday, the printed photos will be available to be taken home by their owners. This is not a competition, and there are no prizes, but there will be a people's vote for the best photo!
- More display boards needed!**—please contact above e-mail if you have some that you can lend.



Denbighshire Tourism Forum returns to Oriel House—6th April.

With a strong line-up of guest speakers, the Denbighshire Tourism Forum promises to be a key event for everyone involved in the tourism sector. It will take place on **Wednesday, 6th April** at the Oriel House, 10.30am-1.30pm.

After 2 years of being held virtually, it returns to a face-to-face event. The Forum provides a great opportunity for delegates to hear about the latest developments and meet other like-minded businesses and share experiences.

A variety of information stands will be present including Clwydian Range & Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Business Wales, Denbighshire Leisure Ltd, Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod and Clwydian Range & Llangollen Food Groups.

Book your free Tourism Forum place here <https://denbighshiretourismforum2022.eventbrite.co.uk>



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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 (late May), submit items to editorsact@gmail.com before the deadline date shown on page 2.

Regular weekly events

Day	Time	Details
Tuesday	10-11:30 am	Aros a Chwarae at the Parish Church. Ring Viv on 07503 216346 or Facebook page: @stayandplaylanelwy
Tuesday	2-3pm 3-4pm	Tai Chi at the Parish Church. Contact Ann Sim on 07852 321502 Qigong at the Parish Church. Contact Ann Sim on 07852 321502
Tuesday	7-8pm	Over 50s Walking Football in Leisure Centre. Contact John on 07753 968549
Wednesday	6pm	Informal running group; meet at the Cathedral car park. 5k run, wear high viz gear. Contact Ian Jones on 07775 684171.
Thursday	2-4pm	Forget-me-not afternoons for those living with dementia. Held at the Parish Church. Contact Janet Cameron on 01745 583770
Friday	10:30	Sens8: Baby and Toddler music classes in the Parish Church. Contact Charlotte on 07377322837

Regular monthly events

Day	Time	Details
1 st Sunday	11:00 -12:00	Messy Church at the Parish Church
1 st Monday	11:00 -12:00	PROBUS club in the Oriel Hotel. Contact Keith on 07388084361 or kl@6fl.net
3 rd Sunday	3-5pm	T Club at the Parish Church. Details on church website. Contact Marion on 01745 590960

Other events

APRIL		
Sat April 2nd	7:30pm	Vale of Clwyd Singers concert "Music for Peace and Passion" at the Cathedral. Tickets £14 from Cathedral Frames or £15 at the door.
Tues 5th April	7pm	WI at the Parish Church. Contact stasaphwi@gmail.com—or just turn up!
Sat April 9th	10am	Coffee Morning for Ukraine in the Parish Church
Sun April 10th		Palm Sunday—for Cathedral services in Holy Week, see website www.stasaphcathedral.wales
April 11th-14th	10-12.30	Messy Church Holy Week Club
Friday April 15th	12 noon	The First Hour at the Cross, in the Parish Church
	1.30	Good Friday liturgy at the Cathedral
Friday April 15th	evening	Bach's St Matthew Passion in the cathedral—see page 11
Sat April 16th	7pm	Easter Vigil Mass at the Catholic Church
Sun 17th April	9.30am 11am 3.30pm	Easter Eucharist at the Parish Church Choral Easter Eucharist at the Cathedral Choral Evensong at the Cathedral
Mon 18th April	1.30-4pm	Flower demonstration in the Parish Church in aid of St Kentigern Hospice. Contact Michaela Brannan on 07423631388
MAY		
Thurs 5th May	10:30	Dementia Friendly Training session in the Diocesan office, High St. Contact suelast47@gmail.com
Thurs 19th May	pm	"All things dementia" in Diocesan Office—details tbc.
JUNE		
Wed 1st June	10-12.30	Messy Church Holiday Club at the Parish Church
2nd—5th June		Jubilee celebrations—see pages 12 & 13

Denbigh hosts the Urdd centenary Eisteddfod

Fiona Shand

The Urdd is a national voluntary youth organisation which provides opportunities through the medium of Welsh to children and young people under the age of 25. It has some 55,000 members in over 1,500 branches throughout Wales.

The Urdd was founded in 1922 by Sir Ifan ab Owen Edwards in order to promote the Welsh language. Children and young people across Wales have opportunities to participate in a variety of activities ranging from singing to abseiling. They are encouraged to develop their personal and social skills, both in their own communities and on a national level.

The Urdd's logo is a tri-coloured triangle, the colour green representing Wales, the red symbolising fellow man and the white symbolising Christ. 'Byddaf ffyddlon i Gymru, i Gyd-ddyn ac Grist' - 'I will be faithful to Wales, fellow man and to Christ', is the basis of the Urdd's motto. On May 18th every year, the youth of Wales issue a 'Peace and Goodwill Message' to the youth of the world, a custom which commenced in 1925.

Urdd Gobaith Cymru has five residential centres across Wales. The nearest to us is **Glanllyn** near Bala, which offers its young residents mainly outdoor activities, especially water sports on Llyn Tegid. The latest centre to be opened is **Glan Llyn Isa**. It is a stone's throw from Glan Llyn and not only offers the same activities, but can be utilised as a conference centre and also offers courses to school pupils.

Gwersyll Llangrannog (Llangrannog Camp) is on the Ceredigion coast. It was the Urdd's first permanent site, opening in 1932. Amongst activities offered are a climbing centre, skiing, bushcraft and of course, enjoying the beach.

Pentre Ifan in Pembrokeshire opened in 1992 as an education centre. A rural retreat, it is a stark contrast to the Urdd's **Cardiff Residential Centre**, which gives children a taste of city life. Located in Cardiff Bay, opposite the Senedd Building, it can be found under the roof of the iconic Millennium Centre.

A major event in the Urdd's calendar is the Eisteddfod, which in this, the Urdd's centenary year, is being held in Denbighshire. An annual Welsh language youth festival of literature, music and performing arts, this is the largest youth festival in Europe. Usually held during the last week in May (during the schools' half term holiday) there are nearly 500 competitions to choose from, ranging from singing, reciting, dancing, cookery and art amongst many others. There are also competitions for Welsh learners. One very popular event is one of the evening concerts,



namely the Children's Pageant (Passiant y plant). Local primary school children enjoy participating in this memorable musical.

In order to attract people who would not usually visit the Eisteddfod, this year's admission fee has been waived and the Eisteddfod is free for all who attend. The dates for your diary are May 30th to June 4th at Denbigh.

Dawn Walk for Open Doors

An intrepid group from Tremeirchion organised a challenging Dawn walk on February 26th, in aid of Open Doors, an organisation that supports persecuted Christians in North Korea.

The team somehow managed to arrange crisp, cold weather with a brisk breeze, but none of the ferocious winds or rain of storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin. The twelve walkers met at Crafnant

car park at 5.30am, made their way in pitch darkness along the lakeside and then up and over Bwlch Crimpiau, where they were rewarded with stunning views at the dawning of the day. They then hiked down the new path to Capel Curig to enjoy a breakfast at Siabod Café. Suitably refuelled, the return journey, equally beautiful, was undertaken with the wind at their backs. A great morning.





25 years and going strong!

When Tim and Chanel Humphreys-Jones opened Cathedral Frames in the High Street on April 7th 1997, they were told it would be difficult to survive as a business. Helped initially by the Enterprise Allowance Scheme, they gutted what had been Llanelwy Bakers, bought the framing tools, and fitted it out themselves.

They started with no experience of framing—but Tim, a practical person, took on the framing and Chanel took on the front-of-house role. Customers were attracted by the shop window display, and the footfall in the High Street was buoyant in those days. Chanel's interpersonal skills and Tim's craftsmanship made a great team. They have framed pictures from all over the world—from Canada, to Peru, New Zealand and even South Georgia! They have a wide range of pictures, cards and prints for sale as well.

Closure of the three banks has had a profound effect on the High Street, with many businesses closing, or surviving only a short while. Tim and Chanel



feel that there is definitely a

future for the High Street, but that it will be with niche shops and businesses. Maybe a regular farmer's market would help to bring people in.

Taking on ticket sales has been a new departure—but a useful one for local residents. They had 32 weeks of lost trade during the pandemic, but trade has picked up well since them. Chanel and Tim would like to thank all their customers for their loyal support over 25 years!

Llanelwy WI

Denise D'Albertson



February is the time when we make, wear and share green hearts in support of the Climate Coalition's "Show the Love" campaign. We sent a green heart to Dr James Davies MP, asking him to keep up the momentum of climate change after COP26.

At our February meeting we discussed hard-to-recycle plastic items to stop them going into landfill or being incinerated. There are various local schemes that accept these particular plastics, including blister tablet packs, to be recycled.

Members had a lovely walk along the lanes to Green Gates Farm to meet Katie Piercy, Biodiversity Officer, DCC. She told us about the wildflower field that had been sown, the SUD ponds, biodiversity of the plants in that area, the young native trees and their plans for the future. SUD ponds (**Sustainable Drainage**) are retention systems that hold water in a series of ponds to slow the water joining rivers. SUD ponds encourage wildlife such as great crested newts. We visited the polytunnels where young trees, including native Black Poplar, were growing and also young Juniper bushes starting off in an outside enclosure. We all agreed that this was wonderful project to have right on our door step.

International Women's Day on March 8th provided us with an opportunity to support the WI's Campaign, "No More Violence against women". Members donated many items to the Women's Centre in Rhyl. It is estimated that 1 in 4 UK women will experience some form of domestic violence in their lifetime.

Julie Slater and Lorraine Lister gave a fascinating talk at our March meeting. We were shown many clothes from the late 1800s to the 1920s which were lovely and so elegant. The embroidery on the children's clothes was stunning with beautiful detail. Their tales included the tragic story of Mattie Garrett, the governess to the girls at Bodelwyddan Castle. Mattie died trying to rescue the girls when they fell into a lake and all three drowned.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 5th April, 7pm at the Parish Church. For further details please email stasaphwi@gmail.com or just turn up on the evening.



Julie Slater and Lorraine Lister

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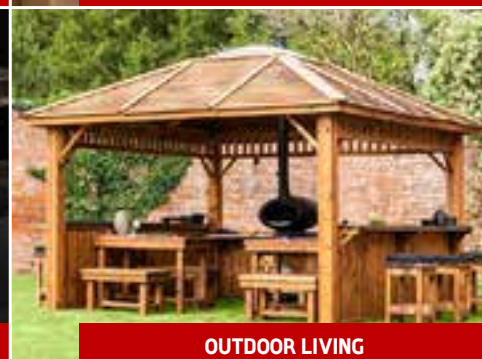
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Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Llanelwy Merched y Wawr produced some wonderful window displays in Jacob's Ladder café for St David's Day, including the beautiful piece of embroidery shown.



Can't stay long.... It's pretty unusual to see anyone sitting in the shelter, a structure originally designed to be a gathering point for young people. This may be because it is really quite uncomfortable to sit on, rather than any reluctance of youngsters to use it on principle! What about putting some more comfortable seating on it ?

Capel Ebeneser transformation

The former Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Chapel on Gemig Street (*Crooked Street*) is undergoing renovation and conversion into residential units. The chapel was built in 1807, and rebuilt in 1843. It closed as a chapel in 1968, and served as an auction house for several years, although it has been unoccupied for some time.

The tall west-facing arched windows with voussoirs (semi-circular arches) and fan traceried heads are striking, and will be preserved. It will be quite a challenging conversion; due to difficult access, the contractors have had to barrow in 21 cubic metres of concrete!

It is good to see an old building restored to an active role.



Our City

Sandra Smith

The winding river Elwy meanders on its way through poplar-bearing riverbanks, a picturesque display! Meadow walks transport you through untamed woodland splendour beneath a leafy canopy from January to December

The multitude of daffodils that grace the Roe in spring unleash a certain "inner pride", our city's "Bow to bling!" while standing midst this rural wealth, our cathedral, tall and proud! The majestic guardian of its realm like the city's reigning crown

The Vale of Clwyd appears beyond, sun-bright or snowy white, or shrouded in a misty veil, a rolling rambling sight. Do we take for granted the beauty at our door? Maybe that could be true, some say. Saint Asaph! steeped in history, and we live it every day!



Picture: Giovanna Hays

St Asaph Crematorium*advertorial**Frank Meillach*

The Memoria Crematorium and memorial grounds at St Asaph has brought a very modern and comforting aspect to the area and has provided the local community with one of the smartest, prettiest yet most peaceful of facilities in North Wales.

Memoria pride themselves on the quality of their representatives and with a very high level of staff training consider high levels of customer service to be paramount in comforting families when they are most in need.

Nan Wynne-Evans, Sue Jones, David Hockney and Aled Cottle have excelled in delivering customer service, from the first moment they meet families, to taking them through the most difficult of days with real care and compassion, to assisting them laying their loved ones to rest in the beautifully tended memorial gardens.

The facility offers a wide range of both traditional and modern-day options, such as plasma display screens for a celebration of life presentation, which can include personalised poems or family memories. The lighting can be set at varying levels of mood and colour, or just left neutral. The surround sound system can provision a high quality of sound tailored to a family's wishes, or the traditional organ can be utilised with a local organist. Many families have embraced the 5g streaming options to enable them to share the occasion with their wider family, whether unwell and unable to attend or elsewhere in the world and wishing to watch remotely.

On Saturday June 11th between noon and 2pm, Memoria at St Asaph is again open to the public for their annual summer event, and this year Mr Henry (Harry) Fetherstonhaugh, the new Lord Lieutenant of Clwyd will be unveiling the Platinum Jubilee Garden to honour Her Majesty the Queen in her 70th year as our monarch. There will be a wonderful afternoon tea and some beautiful live contemporary music in the gardens with the Sullivan's sounds.

For more information about the facilities at Memoria Denbighshire please visit their website

www.denbighshirememorial.co.uk or give Nan and the team a call (01745) 530810



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Gardener's Corner -Spring in the Garden

Chris Jones

As the days begin to gradually lengthen and the ground warms up slowly, it is time to get out and about in the garden once more. Spring is always a good time to take stock, make plans and aim to be as green as possible if we can. I hope these timely tips will help:-

- To avoid a build up of plastic waste, try to reuse pots as much as possible, making sure that they are thoroughly cleaned before planting seeds to minimise germination failure.
- Black plastic cannot be recycled because the recycling equipment cannot recognise the black pigment in the plastic and rejects it as unusable, so choose taupe plastic pots when buying new plants.
- Try to reuse plastic fruit containers as seed trays; some have a lid that can be used as a mini propagator and are small enough for single sowing at a time.
- If you buy living potted herbs from the supermarket, you can often divide them up and grow in additional pots for new plants.
- I always find that even though I label seeds they often fade and make it difficult to remember what was where. Now I just number the trays and write in a little notebook with the date of sowing—much better.
- A packet of seeds goes a very long way, so don't think you need to sow them all at once. Keep the seed packets stored in their paper in a tin to protect from damp.



- Seeds can be expensive, so why not swap seeds, seedlings or even plants with friends and neighbours.
- The smaller the seed the less depth the planting should be. Some can be sprinkled on top of compost rather than too deeply and then covered lightly with a little compost.
- More seedling plants are ruined through incorrect watering than from any other cause. If overwatered the "damping off" disease attacks them and they decay at soil level. Seedlings can be watered with watering can with a fine rose but the safest way is to immerse the pot or tray of seedlings to the rim in a vessel of water, if it is kept there for a minute or two, and the rising moisture will spread over the surface of the soil.

- When daffodils, tulips and crocuses have finished flowering, deadhead them but leave the foliage for a minimum of six weeks or until the foliage turns yellow. This will feed the bulbs in readiness for flowering next year.
- Annual weeds will be growing at a rate of knots this time of the year, so keep them down by regular hoeing which prevents them seeding and taking nutrients from your wanted plants.
- Simple flowers such as Cosmos, Calendula, Ammi majus and Nicotinia are a great source of pollen and nectar through the summer and autumn for butterflies and moths and their presence is always a good indication that your garden is in a good state.
- Plant comfrey in your garden. When established you can collect the leaves which you can then use to make a high potash feed for tomatoes.
- Encourage birds by hanging up nest boxes; fix them high up on walls to deter cats. Bee and bug hotels also benefit the garden by providing shelter and a safe place to hide during the winter. The reward is a healthy garden, filled with birdsong through the spring and buzzing with insects and butterflies through summer.



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If you fancy a walking challenge this year, here are a couple

Anglesey Coastal Path

Carole Green & Jeremy Grange

A mile into our first leg of the Anglesey Coastal Path we met John Jones and his friend Huw standing in the sunshine by the lychgate of Llanbadrig Church just above Cemaes Bay. We stopped for a *sgwrs bach* and they told us that they'd come to do some mowing in the churchyard, helping out a friend. When John revealed that he was 93 and that Huw was a comparative youngster at 88 we realised that they are made of strong stuff on Ynys Môn and the 130 miles ahead of us seemed somehow more manageable. It was an encouraging start, exchanging stories in true Welsh fashion about where we were all from and where we were headed.

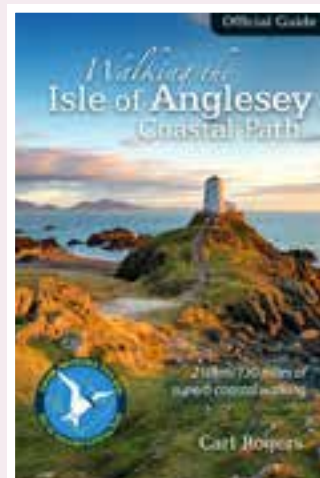
We broke the 130 miles down into twelve legs, ticking them off across six months, walking a day here and a day there. Occasionally we managed two or three days back-to-back. If you imagine Anglesey as a clockface we walked some clockwise and some anticlockwise, depending on the best

Oystercatcher and thrift

place to leave the car or pick up a bus or taxi at the end of the day. Apparently this isn't walking "in style" but it suited our relaxed approach. It even extended to thumbing the odd lift back to the car when Carole grew impatient with bus timetables which seemed at times like a work of literary fiction!

Having a focus like the Anglesey Coastal Path got us out for a walk on those marginal days when it would have been easy to stay put and attend to life's admin. But it was always worth it. As we walked we were rewarded with so many memorable sights: wild flowers framed against blue sea and blue sky; a peregrine falcon regarding us warily from a rock; beautiful hidden coves and beaches; the bubbling call of curlews; and, on our final leg, the sight of a hare so close that we could almost touch him. A cider at the end of a day's walking always tasted good and, after one unrelentingly wet stretch, fish and chips in Moelfre was particularly welcome. After a stop-start year of lockdowns, the Path gave us time to think, time to talk and time just to be together.

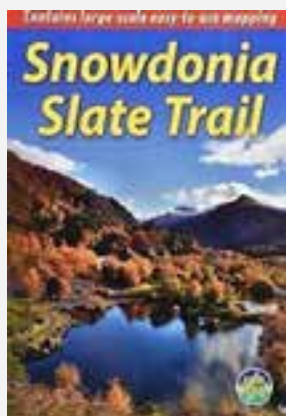
Now we've completed the route we're going back to seek out those coves and beaches again. But this time we'll only be taking a picnic and our swimming kit.



Snowdonia Slate Trail

Geraint Roberts

This superb trail is an 83 mile walk through varied and spectacular scenery, and visits key sites in the once massive slate industry. It passes through Llanberis, Bethesda, Blaenau Ffestiniog and other smaller places such as Cwm Penmachno, but is mostly through open countryside on well marked paths. It is extraordinary to walk through the old workings high up in the hills, long deserted and try to imagine how busy they would have been when the industry was at its height. To see nature reclaiming these ruins is very poignant. It must have been a tough life, with the quarrymen often walking miles to and from work—in fact some sites were sufficiently remote for small villages to spring up round the workings. A dangerous life too, when injuries were common, and being off work meant no pay.



The trail is well designed, and waymarked, and accommodation is available for each day's walking, but from St Asaph it is possible to walk it in day-long sections when the opportunity arises. The website is very impressive, and Aled Owen's guidebook is excellent, with good mapping and route descriptions, as well as lots of information about the history of the slate industry. The creation of the Slate Trail no doubt contributed to the decision to award the area UNESCO World Heritage Status, a great honour. Worth walking it now, before it gets too busy!



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Himalayan Balsam

Himalayan Challenge

Margaret Cummings

It's pretty, it's pink, but it is bad news! Himalayan Balsam, a foreign invasive species, is present in increasing numbers along UK rivers, including our own Elwy and Clwyd, and is causing problems.

Himalayan Balsam threatens the survival of our native wild plants by crowding them out. It affects animal and insect life. British bees are becoming reliant on it for nectar, and honey samples show a decline in nectar from native wildflowers. It may be harmful to bees because it causes them to work longer into the Autumn than normal.

In St Asaph, where there were previously snowdrops and wild garlic on riverbanks, now there is balsam. Balsam grows every year from seeds, is tall, and grows faster than native plants. When it dies, it leaves a bare river bank, with the result that the soil washes into the river.

The **Elwy Invasive Plant Group** has been formed to help address this problem. Currently, the Council arrange for it to be cleared on the East bank of the Elwy, and Afon Elwy Environmental Group have done sterling work controlling this pest in the past. Although it looks pretty, we do need to control it. The easiest way to remove it is to simply pull it up, shaking soil off its shallow roots, and leaving it in the sun to die. It does not need clearing away, as, once dead, the seeds will die, as long as the plants are pulled before mid August. Do not pull after this date; you're likely to release seeds, which is how it spreads - off down the river to a new site.

Whilst anyone can pull balsam, be careful not to take risks by the river, and don't get into the river to reach them! We plan some group sessions, and would love you to join us. All that's required is to be reasonably fit, and to wear sturdy shoes and gloves. Dates of our Himalayan Challenges are: **Sat 30th April 10am, Weds 11th May 6pm, Sat 18th June 10am**. All meet by Pont Begard at above times, then we'll walk to where we're pulling—usually within 1/4 mile. There will be refreshments on Saturday mornings; pulling will last about 2 hours, or when you've had enough! We aim to be present at the Jubilee Fair—so catch up with us then. For further details contact Margaret Cummings on margelwy@email.com

Find worth and beauty in yourself*Ben Ross*

Whether through television, social media, or in real life, every day we're immersed in material culture and the aspirational lifestyle of others... but it is said that *'comparison is the thief of joy'*. Being thankful for what we have, and practicing a little self-care is a small step towards feeling more positive overall.



"You must understand that there is more than one path to the top of the mountain."

Miyamoto Musashi, 17th century Japanese philosopher and rōnin

"The eyes of others our prisons; their thoughts our cages."

Virginia Woolf, 20th century English writer



"On the highest throne in the world, we still only sit on our own bottom."

Michel de Montaigne, 16th century French philosopher

"You are not required to perform like them, you are required to perform like you."

Bangambiki Habyarimana, Rwandan writer

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**St Asaph Bowling Club**

The bowling club will be opening at the beginning of April. A lot of hard work has been done on the green and it looks really good. The fee for joining the bowling club is £25.00 for the year and you can come and play any time you want to but you must have your own bowls. In April we are going to open the green to the public, you don't have to be a member, you can play for an hour and for a couple of pounds the bowls will be provided. There will also be tea, coffee and ice creams and cold drinks available throughout the summer.

We have 6 teams spread over 4 leagues playing Tuesday afternoons (over 60s) Wednesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoon.

For the Queen's platinum jubilee on Sunday June 5th the club will be holding the Council cup where anybody in St. Asaph can enter this prestigious event to win the cup presented by the Mayor.

For more information call 07474 974028

Nick Thomson club secretary



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Ysgol Glan Clwyd

Sian Alwen

Science: Congratulations to pupils in Year 13 Chemistry who took part in a competition for the Chemistry Olympiad organized by the Royal Society of Chemistry. The competition is open to all A-level students across Britain. Particular congratulations to Elliot Maitland-Davies for his gold award, and to Julia Bugelli for her bronze award.

Geography: At the beginning of March, Years 12 & 13 undertook fieldwork in Talacre and Llandudno as part of their higher level studies. They had a successful day studying the urban environment in Llandudno, town regeneration, and the effects of Covid on the High Street. In Talacre, the weather was fine for the team to study the sand-dunes and the gradual changes of form and vegetation driven by the wind. The students are now keen to analyse their data further in class. It's great to be out doing fieldwork once more!



Physical Education: On March 5th and 6th Gwenllian and Llio attended the national conference 'Fel Merch' in Cardiff. #Fel Merch is a new project launched by the Urdd sports section, supported by Sport Wales, that has been set up to inspire, support and empower young girls to keep active and overcome the obstacles that prevent girls from taking part in sports. They had the opportunity to network with other girls from across Wales along with role-models in women's sport such as Gemma Grainger (Wales women's football manager), Lowri Morgan (Welsh TV presenter and ultra-endurance runner) and Hollie Arnold MBE (Welsh javelin paralympian).

Special congratulations to Matthew Senior for being chosen to join the Welsh Schools football squad, and the Welsh U17 Squad. He has already won a scholarship to join Crewe Alexandra.

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Ysgol Cefn Meriadog

Laura Martin

At Ysgol Cefn Meriadog we are as busy as always this half term! Our current topics include Fairy Tales, Australia and Space and we have already been to the woods to discover more about Goldilocks and the Three Bears, have arranged to visit the Welsh Mountain Zoo to meet their Australian animals and have coded a message and measured humidity for the International Space Station. We follow a "Mantle of the Expert" approach with our topic work—this uses imaginary contexts to generate engaging activities for the children. Teachers plan a fictional context and the children take on the responsibilities of an expert team to solve problems, develop knowledge and skills and present their findings.



All of our staff have completed their Makaton Level 2 training so we can now apply to be a Makaton Friendly School which we are very proud of. The staff and children continue to use Makaton daily and are all learning new signs and symbols every day.

The whole school celebrated Saint David's Day on 1st March with some of our younger pupils representing the school at the parade in Denbigh. We also shared a whole school service via our parent communication app, Seesaw.

We celebrated World Book Day on 3rd March with the focus of the day being on books and only books – we read to each other, on our own and in groups and

spent time enjoying books and finding out more about stories we hadn't heard before. As a finale we welcomed Scottish author Stuart Reid to school. Stuart entertained the children with an assembly and workshops and really ignited enthusiasm for reading and writing amongst our children.

Although wellbeing is always a priority for us we chose to organise 'Wellbeing Wednesday' recently. This gave the children the opportunity to spend the day outdoors, dancing, doing yoga, and taking part in mindfulness activities. We also welcomed local artist Chloe Dymond, who delivered two excellent and enjoyable Mandala sessions for the children.



Ysgol Esgob Morgan

Jodie Martin

Learning performances for the URDD at Esgob Morgan is always a really exciting time and we're lucky to be welcoming the Eisteddfod to Denbighshire this year. Children throughout the school have been learning pieces to compete in individual and group recitals, piano, and group singing and dancing. A special mention to Rosie in year 3 who won the first round and goes on to compete in Denbigh and also to Esme, Thomas and Sophie who took 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the year 5 & 6 category. Good luck to our singers and dancers who compete in their first round next week!



Our year 6 have had a trip of a lifetime to London this week. Enjoying a tour around parliament, question time with our MP Dr. James Davies, watching changing of the guard, visiting Downing street and Trafalgar Square, experiencing a West End show 'WICKED', using the tube, and all finished off with a visit to Harry Potter Studios. The children were AMAZING and teachers received so many comments from the public about how well behaved and polite they were. Well Done Year 6!

(and well done to all the staff involved!...Ed)



ENGLISH AND MATHS TUITION

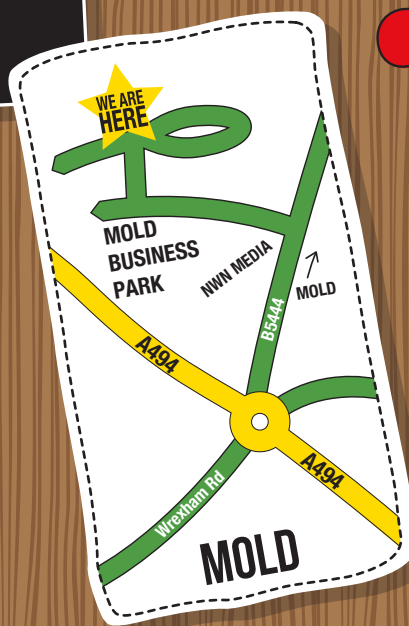
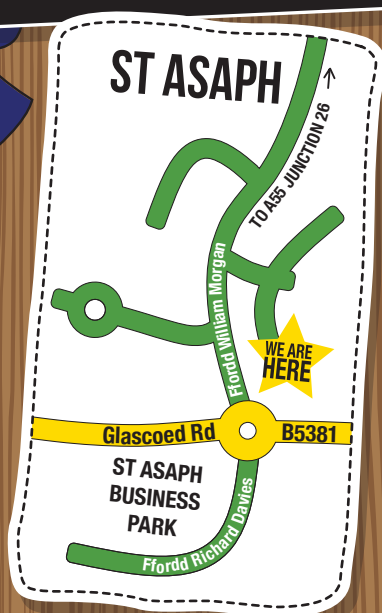
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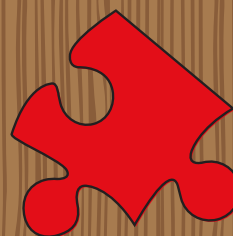
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VP Infant School

Kate Langford

Developing our Welsh identity and heritage

We have had a brilliant Spring Term at the VP and enjoyed lots of opportunities to celebrate being Welsh. We wished a Happy 100th Birthday - Penblwydd Hapus to Mr Urdd, and took part in the Guinness World Record title for uploading the most videos of people singing the same song (*Hei Mistar Urdd*) on Facebook and Twitter. The children also enjoyed celebrating Welsh Music Day - Diwrnod Miwsig Cymraeg and had the opportunity to listen to Welsh artists and songs. The children celebrated Dydd Santes Dwynwen by listening to the story of Dwynwen, role playing what happened, making cards and biscuits for loved ones and Reception even made their own love spoons. The whole school

dressed in red, white and green on Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant and some children wore traditional Welsh clothes. We were fortunate enough to work with two local Welsh artists. We produced some AMAZING pieces of work which will be shown as part of an exhibition in the National Eisteddfod so please look out for our work if you decide to visit. The children have loved celebrating living in Wales and learning about its history and culture.



Row your boat (might need to face the other way...)



The two-stepper

stepper! The children have been playing cooperatively together outside which has been delightful to watch. We need to say thank you to our parents who provided us with lots of donations of pots, pans and jugs for our new mud kitchens – diolch pawb.

Wellbeing and keeping safe

PC Manus of North Wales Police visited our Year 1 and 2 children to help us understand why there are rules to keep us safe! We focussed on areas in the community that may or may not be safe for us to play in. The children also took part in Safer Internet Day and have the skills and knowledge to continue keeping safe when online.

We also enjoyed the RSPB Big Bird Watch, we made binoculars and recorded the birds we found in our school grounds. To look after the birds in our local environment we made bird feeders and hung them around our school field. The children are becoming increasingly responsible for looking after the nature of St Asaph which is pleasing to see. Reading is a priority at the VP this year and we had a fabulous time promoting a love of reading by taking part in World Book Day!

Values

This term we have been looking at what courage is, when we might need to use our courage, how we feel and what activities would take more courage. We even made 'courage monsters' each one friendly, colourful & unique! We would like to say a huge thank you to the St Asaph Coop who provided the whole school with pancakes on Shrove Tuesday – diolch yn fawr!

Outdoor Learning Environment

As always, the children have spent lots of time outdoors ... wellies are becoming essential school uniform here at the VP! The children have had brand new mud kitchens, outdoor wooden blocks, water trays, large loose parts for open ended play and large play equipment including bikes, trikes, row-carts, scooters and a fantastic two



Budding water engineers plan a new system

St Asaph City FC

John Roberts

The good run of form that earned the Club the Club of the Month award in December continued into January with a stunning 5-0 away win at Brymbo in the first match of the new year. This was followed with a home win over CPD Felinheli. They then lost 1-0 to Llay Welfare in a very competitive fixture, drew 1-1 with high flying Llanrwst and with a squad missing a number of players through injury lost 3-0 away to Nantlle Vale.

There are a number of tough fixtures in the coming weeks until the end of the season and it would be good to see you there supporting the team.

March 26 St Asaph FC V Brickfield Rangers ko 2.30

April 2 Rhostyllen v St Asaph ko 2.30

April 6 Denbigh v St Asaph ko 7.30

April 13 St Asaph v Mold Alex ko 6.30

April 16 Porthmadog v St Asaph

April 30 St Asaph v Rhostyllen ko 2.30

The Reserves and our junior teams have also been busy since Covid restrictions were lifted and Roe Plas is always a hive of activity on a Sunday morning when the juniors have home fixtures.

I would like to take this opportunity to correct one misunderstanding regarding the club's request to have an additional pitch for our juniors on Mill Race Meadow. If permission is granted whichever location is selected will have no effect on the path across the field from the Paddock down to Roe Plas or on the existing footpath that is on Mill Race Meadow.

As a small gesture of the Club's support for the people of the Ukraine a donation of £100 was made to the Red Cross Ukraine appeal.



The cover of our programme will also display the Ukrainian flag on all our home fixture programmes for the rest of the season.

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