



St. Asaph & District ^{new} City Times



Issue No 21

April 2023

Photo by Michael Ellis



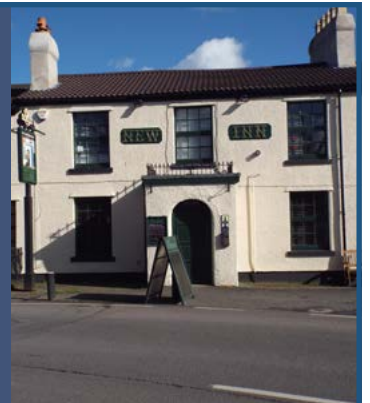
From Kharkiv to St Asaph Page 5

City of St Asaph destroyed by fire Page 13

Llannerch Bridge update Page 3



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**Mark and Elaine
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City Times Team

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Submit all items to editorsact@gmail.com

For more information please contact on: 01745 583770 or 07808 878842

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We're always looking out for letters, items, reports or features relating to St Asaph. Or that special photo! The deadline for the June issue is Monday 15th May – but **please** submit well before to ensure publication as the paper fills quickly. All letters must be accompanied by name and address, although these can be withheld from publication on request.

We are also fully reliant on and very grateful for sponsorship and advertising—if you would like to sponsor or advertise, please contact via editorsact@gmail.com



Coronation Weekend May 6th-8th

Amongst other activities:

Saturday May 6th: Live screening of the Coronation in the Parish Church, with refreshments, all welcome to share the event together. Exact timings to follow!

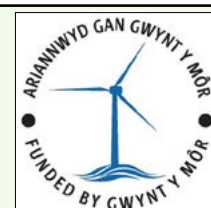
Sunday May 7th: Coronation Big Lunch—share a meal with others, hold your street party etc.

Monday May 8th: the Big Help-Out. Volunteer to help with a project in the community. At least two options locally:

- Mount Road Cemetery work party 10-12, with refreshments; bring stout shoes, and gardening tools
- Afon Elwy Group litter pick and group walk, at the Council meeting rooms 10-12

Check for further details on social media

Greening the City Times? Readers will notice a change to the City Times, as we are now printing on 130gsm paper instead of 150gsm. We have discussed with our printers about using 100% recycled paper—but learned that this is approximately twice the cost, and uses significant amounts of bleach to prepare paper for use. The inks are now all eco-friendly, and of course, the paper can be recycled. We could, of course, go fully online—and dispense with the print version. But feedback is very clear that the majority of readers prefer a hard copy version. Let us know your thoughts on this. We are also keen to keep it a free paper—thanks to our sponsors, advertisers and donors we can manage this.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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999 Police, Fire Brigade or Ambulance.

Gas leak

0800 111 999 Only use a mobile phone **outside**

Flooding

0345 988 1188 Natural Resources Wales 24 hour line

Non-life-threatening emergencies

101 police (eg stolen car, break in, damage to property etc)

Coronavirus advice

www.111.nhs.uk/covid-19 - Check this website before ringing 111.

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Police Community Support Officer

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Denbighshire County Council: **01824 706000**

Citizens Advice Bureau: **01745 334568**

Clwyd Alyn Housing Assoc **0800 1835757**

Grŵp Cynefin Housing Assoc **0300 111 2122**

Samaritans **116123**

Alcoholics Anonymous **0800 9177 650**

Al Anon (for families & friends) **0800 008 6811**

Wales Dementia Helpline **0808 808 2235**

Age Cymru Adviceline **08000 223 444**

Cruse Bereavement Care **0800 808 1677**

Childline **0800 1111**

North Wales Victim Support **0300 30 30 159**

Llannerch Bridge: over £8 million to rebuild, not finished until 2026! *

John Oliver

It's now two years since the bridge collapsed, and residents have been told by Denbighshire County Council (DCC) that the cost to replace Llannerch bridge is estimated at £8.22million and that the earliest it would reopen is 2026 - 5 years after it was destroyed by flooding. At a recent meeting for local residents held at the White House in Rhualt, Jim Hall, Senior Engineer of Network Management explained the cause of the collapse (a tree and its roots were swept away, leading to the arch going out of compression) and described what DCC were doing. An option for a temporary bridge has been discounted as it would mean building foundations twice. DCC have given a three stage "framework contract" to Balfour Beattie as follows:

Stage 1 - using Denbighshire's optioneering budget of £350,000 they will look at different options and build a plausible programme for planning permission. They are considering a single span design using the old stone from the old bridge to clad the new structure which will be wider and at least two or three times longer than the previous bridge to accommodate any scouring of the structure by the river.

Stage 2 - the structure design will be completed and planning permission applied for. This will require additional funding which DCC does not yet have.

Stage 3 - the construction phase which will take place in the river during the summer months.

The timeframe to complete this was explained as follows... "programmed Autumn 2024 and will be up and finished early 2026 and road will be open Christmas 2025. The current estimate is £8.22million".

So at least residents now know with a bit more certainty what type of bridge is being considered, although the timeframe of 5 years is actually longer than it took to build the Britannia bridge over the Menai Straits back in 1850.....

As for the cost of £8million that's the same as 160 tractors, 32 Ferraris etc.

** This is not an April Fool article...*

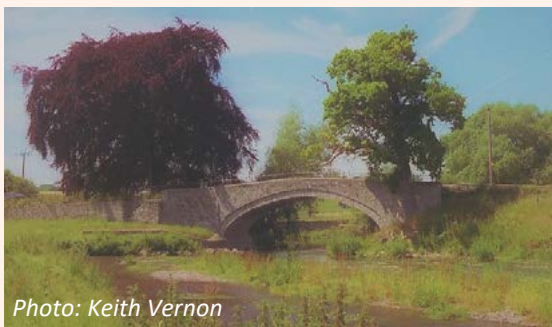


Photo: Keith Vernon



The Afon Elwy Group

The river Elwy has always been one of the jewels in the crown of our city, and the riverside walks are deservedly very popular both for locals and for visitors. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the Afon Elwy Group for the enormous amount of work they have done the last 21 years in looking after not only the riverbanks, but also caring for such disparate items as the planters up the High Street, the butterfly garden and the community orchard. They have achieved recognition of their efforts through the award of the prestigious Green Flags. At a meeting on 21st March, the current leadership of the group (DI Jones, Colin Hardie and Barbara Rust) announced their intention to step back from their formal roles in the group, and new leaders will be taking over. We plan a fuller article in the next issue, to record the achievements, to enlist volunteers, and to lay out an action plan for the future.



It's springtime! Thanks to Christelle Sheer for these beautiful photos from Glan Llyn farm



Vehicle fire at Applegreen service station

Prompt and courageous action from the Rhyl fire team dealt with a dramatic fire in a vehicle on the Applegreen Service station forecourt on the morning of Sunday 12th February.

City Times understands that the driver of the Mercedes people carrier had just filled the tank and had got out of the vehicle by the air hose to check the tyres when the fire started. The forecourt attendant immediately called the fire brigade and over the Tannoy instructed another (apparently slightly hesitant) vehicle at the pumps to leave without delay.



The fire is thought to have been caused by an electrical fault. Local residents report hearing a loud noise, and then seeing a fireball engulf the car, with a huge black plume of smoke. They noted that the fire brigade arrived within minutes and showed great courage in approaching the blazing vehicle and rapidly extinguishing the conflagration with foam pumps. Fortunately no-one was injured in what was potentially a very dangerous fire, and it is just as well that the driver had moved on to the air hose area rather than still being beside the pumps when the fire started.

All credit to the firefighters for a swift resolution of the situation.

Photos from social media

Spirit of Ukraine event in the cathedral

An intensely moving event in support of the people of Ukraine took place in a packed St Asaph cathedral at the beginning of February. It was organised by locally based Ukrainian refugees to tell us about the history and culture of their country, and of course to give personal testimonies about the terrible and ongoing brutality of the war and the illegal invasion of their homeland by Russia.

The event included presentations about the rich history and culture of Ukraine, dancing and gymnastics by children, the singing of Ukrainian folk songs and some haunting melodies played on violin and piano. As well as hearing personal accounts, we were shown pictures of the devastation wrought by the Russians on countless cities, towns and villages throughout Ukraine. The event was not just to inform us, but also to raise funds to help defence forces and emergency medical teams in Ukraine, and to this end refreshments, cakes and a multitude of crafts were on sale. The singing of the Welsh and Ukrainian national anthems brought many people to tears.



Galyna Sokha (*see opposite page*) is a volunteer with the 'Spirit of Ukraine' group which has held four events in aid of Ukraine to date, and plan more across North Wales. Galyna thanks everyone who helped at the St Asaph event (the most successful so far) including the community of St Asaph, the Mayor and Mayoress Colin and Gwenda Hardie, the Cathedral staff, Janine Ferguson, and local companies. The money raised (£4431.26) has already been sent to the Defenders of Bakhmut and Kharkiv to buy anti drone shields, medical equipment and night vision devices.

Ukraine one year on—From Kharkiv to St Asaph

Galyna Sokha and Susan Scott

The Russian invasion of Ukraine began at dawn on 24th February 2022. Russia attacked many major cities in Ukraine including its capital Kyiv. Thousands of innocent Ukrainians have been killed and millions forced from their homes since the invasion. Many have been displaced internally and over eight million have fled across the border to other countries. The highest number of people fled to Poland. Mother and daughter Galyna and Alisa from Kharkiv in Ukraine were two of those who fled to Poland. Galyna tells us how they made their escape through Poland to the UK, and to St Asaph.



Ukrainian defenders in the yard

"The story begins in Kharkiv when the Ukrainian Defenders are in our yard while Russian tanks were making their way into our city. We hid in the bathroom for 24 hours. We were very frightened. Alisa draws a picture. Alisa knows there is a war because she can hear the soldiers in the street. On 1st March the Russians destroyed the Kharkiv Government building. People are being killed in the street and in their flats. The escape for us begins. I take a backpack, laptop and our documents. Everything else I leave in the flat."

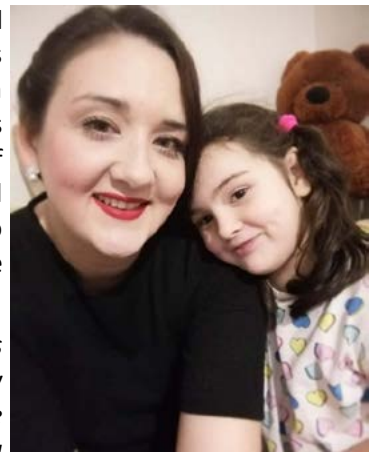
"We spend 28 hours on a train with no lights, food, water and almost no air but we were alive. We are very frightened because we can hear shelling and explosions during our journey. We arrive in Lviv and spend one night with friends. The next day we take a bus and after 15 hours we arrive in Warsaw. The Polish people are very kind, and my friend Dasha helps us to find a flat in Warsaw. We stay in Warsaw for two months, but I am thinking are we far enough away from the war. I can hear sounds of war in my head. I keep working remotely as a Logistics Officer for a Ukrainian company that I have been employed with for over 6 years. We walk a lot. I am constantly thinking what to do next. Then I hear about different programmes for refugees, and I liked 'UK Homes for Ukrainians' so I decided we should fly to the UK."

"We arrive in Wales. In May 2022 we were able to move to St Asaph and stay with the beautiful family of Heledd Williams. Heledd is one of the most kind, understanding and supportive people I have ever met. Heledd helped me and my daughter integrate into local society, to feel less stressed and have hope for better days. My daughter is attending Ysgol Esgob Morgan. Alisa has new friends, and speaks English and Welsh. I have no words to thank our host family for everything they have done for me and Alisa. They are angels."

"Now we have a home, we are safe, we have food, education for Alisa and I can still work remotely for my Ukrainian company. I can also raise money to help Ukrainians back at home. Every time I see Ukrainian symbols I start to cry. Thank you, St Asaph, Glory to Ukraine!"

Galyna would like to thank her amazing Polish friends, Grazyna Skibicka, Olga and her family, her Ukrainian friends Dasha Yefremenko, Sasha Udintsova and her family and big thanks to Victoria Vorobyova. *"These people basically saved our lives and my sanity."*

Galyna says *'I believe Ukrainians should share their stories to let people know how strong and united we are'* because she says, *'I have no doubt we are going to win the war.'*



Galyna Sokha and Alisa Hiunai



Alisa's drawing



Kharkiv station, 2/3/22



Heledd and Elin Williams



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Misbehaviour at City Council Meeting

The March City Council meeting was held on a cold and snowy evening in the Council meeting rooms. Graham Jones was formally welcomed as a new councillor by Mayor Colin Hardie.

There were seven Councillors present in person, and four more attending via Zoom; but problems began at the outset with the technology. The so-called **Meeting Owl** device, serving as a microphone and 360° camera to relay events, was in a difficult mood. Despite the best efforts of the City Clerk to cajole it to work, the Owl continued to lark about, sometimes relaying and sometimes not; this led to a degree of frustration for some councillors, ably and patiently managed by our Mayor. Even the presence of PCSO Dave Jones at the outset was insufficient to settle the mischievous Owl, which began to utter occasional bleeps and hoots. But eventually order prevailed, and whilst it was suggested that the meeting be postponed, a motion to continue the meeting was passed by a majority vote. The Owl was now in a more tractable frame of mind, and thereafter complied with instructions.



The mischievous owl

The next excitement was a growing awareness that a noisy conversation was taking place in the dark of the car park outside. This transpired to be two gentlemen who, it was suggested, had possibly been “on the pop”. Their discussions carried on for some time, distracting councillors. Eventually progress was made.

PCSO Jones’ report detailed a number of incidents, including a theft of timber from Cefn Meriadog, and of diesel oil from a property in Rhualt, no doubt reflecting the increased value of these items.

Cllr Peter Scott’s report included an account of a meeting with members of the BCU Health Board and Welsh Government to confirm the commitment to progress plans to convert the Royal Alexandra hospital in Rhyl into a community hospital.

The County Councillors’ reports also noted the relatively low rates of increase of Council Tax for Denbighshire (3.8%) compared with Conwy (9.9%). Cllr Scott requested that cutting of the riverbanks should not take place in the growing season.

City Clerk Jill Ellison presented a finance report, and was thanked for her very organised approach to finance, such that external audit found no matters to resolve.

It was noted that the majority of councillors do not claim the remuneration for which they are eligible.

Cllr Gedd presented a raft of updated H&S policies which were all accepted, including the re-tooled *Dignity at Work* policy. The Owl listened carefully to the latter with an expression of injured innocence.

A more informative record of the meeting will be available online after review of the minutes at the next meeting in April.



Rowe & Bear—new designs for the future Ben Ross

In 2014 and aged just 25, Nathan Rowe started his own marketing studio at home. Fast forward to 2023, and his business is taking big strides, opening a new office in the Central Buildings on St Asaph High Street.

You can expect to see the old Farm Shop frontage to come alive once again. Nathan plans to set up his office on the ground floor, with renovated apartments above, revitalising a building with a longstanding history in the heart of our community.

Rowe & Bear provide expertise in branding, graphic design, content creation and all facets of website development. They pride themselves on providing a personal service to their clients, aiming to grow while maintaining the quality of their offering... the signature of a small independent.

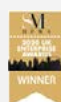
After speaking to Nathan, it’s clear he’s passionate about working with local businesses and helping them to thrive in an ever more digital world. Rowe & Bear also employ a mindful approach, minimising the carbon footprint of everything they create, from recycled print materials and wind-powered website hosting, to branded t-shirts made from organic cotton.

Rowe is Nathan’s surname, but who is the infamous ‘Bear’? Well, that’s the business’ spirit animal, representing strength, leadership, and thoughtful independence... also reflecting Nathan’s love for the natural world. The business offers support to several charities, including Bear Wood at Wild Place Project here in the UK, and Animals Asia who work to improve the welfare of animals in the far east... especially bears.

As well as bringing new vibrancy to our high street, and supporting businesses with award-winning creative services, Rowe and Bear hope to offer opportunities to other budding creatives in the future. They’re currently training up a Junior Web Designer, passing on valuable digital skills and experience.

We wish them every success!

For more information, visit www.roweandbear.co.uk



Formal CADW recognition of St Asaph sewage plant.

Most of us walk past the St Asaph sewage plant without really taking much notice of it. Now true recognition has come with the award to the sewage station of Grade II* listing by **Cadw**, on the grounds of it being one of the best examples in the UK of the so-called *Ripolafol* rotational settlement system sewage treatment plant pioneered by Professor Aprille Ffoulkes of Warwick University. The recognition takes into account not only the revolutionary technology that she developed, but also the striking architectural features unique to the St Asaph station, described by **Cadw** as being very much in the "Brutalist" tradition—ie using concrete without concern for aesthetics. A brief listing ceremony with refreshments is planned by **Cadw** for Saturday April 1st at 12am, on the river path alongside the plant, to which all are invited. Make a note of the date in your diaries.



The robotic conductor



The robotic conductor

Grade II* listing brings with it legal protection for the treatment plant, and also a requirement on Welsh Water to erect explanatory panels detailing the key features of it. Whilst the technological details may not be hugely gripping, the slowly rotating arms are of particular note as they trickle water onto the settling tanks, providing bird-sized hurdling practice for the dippers that hop and scamper across the crust.

A more recent addition at the plant is the robotic sludge conductor (not part of the **Cadw** listing), attired in what looks like natty red hat and visible only with a long lens camera. From his vantage point on the concrete platform, he monitors the mechanical work-rate of each settling tank, adjusting as necessary during sudden increases of wastewater input. It's good to know that each of us, in our own way, has contributed to the functioning and success of what will surely become a key visitor attraction.



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The OpTIC Centre—open for business

Many of us entered OpTIC for the first time during the pandemic to have our Covid boosters in the vaccination centre set up there, and most will have wondered what else goes on in the rest of this extraordinary space-age building, covered in sleek black photo-voltaic solar panels. Rumours that it houses a gene-editing horticultural institution dedicated to producing those remarkable square trees have been discounted.

Two of the *City Times* team engineered invitations to OpTIC to learn more. It was set up as OpTIC Technium in 2005, Drawing on local experience gained from Pilkingtons, the aim was to create a critical mass of technology, expertise, laboratory space and business know-how to encourage start-ups related to photonics and related fields, as well as fostering ground-breaking research and development. This now comes under the umbrella of Glyndŵr Innovations.

We nod sagely as we are told about the wizardry of the kit they have there, such as the Fisba μ Phase 2 HR compact Interferometer — what a great name! In the Precision Optical Systems department, we watch a large glass lens being ground and polished. It's strangely hypnotic to watch the machine, whirling and surfing across the face of the lens on a wave of finest abrasive slurry. The grinding apparatus is suspended on a tower and is electronically controlled by what must clearly be very sophisticated software. It hums happily as it goes about its work, and is introduced to us as a Zeeko IRP 1600, preparing the lens to a 5 micron tolerance, which apparently equates to the thickness of a smart phone compared with the height of Snowdon. That makes for a very smooth lens. The lenses and mirrors designed and produced here are used for satellites, space telescopes, observatories and as components for a myriad of other highly specialised items. For satellites, reducing the weight wherever possible is crucial, and the engineers use sophisticated lightweighting calculation techniques to achieve this. It's impressive, and in fact, *is indeed* rocket science.



The big lens grinding machine

The Centre for Photonics Expertise develops industrial and academic partnerships, and the combination of precision optics, opto-electronics, photonics and metrology (the study of measurement) have propelled OpTIC to be at the forefront of these super-specialised technologies. Let's say you have dreamed up a new optical-electronic gizmo, and you want to explore the feasibility of, and develop, your product. You can locate your start-up at OpTIC in custom built units, at a very competitive rent, with the ability to network with engineers, researchers and academics working in your field, and you can avail yourself of the highly specialised equipment. This is a path that has been followed by a considerable number of now well-established companies in opto-electronics and related disciplines, many of them now located in St Asaph Business Park.

But you don't have to be in opto-electronics to work here*. For example ADC Bio, an innovative biotechnology company started life here. ADC Bio have been developing new technology to speed, simplify and lower the production costs of novel anti-cancer blockbuster drugs (Antibody Drug Conjugates (ADCs)). Formed in 2010, the Company commercialised and expanded its facilities at the OpTIC Technology Centre into an international centre of expertise in the process development and laboratory scale manufacture of ADCs.



And in a particularly timely development, Wrexham Glyndwr University has recently opened their Nursing Faculty at the OpTIC centre, where students can study Adult nursing, Children's nursing and Mental Health Nursing, whilst gaining clinical experience at the three BCUHB hospitals in North Wales.

So if you are considering your career options, you might want to visit the OpTIC centre to learn about some exciting and challenging opportunities!

**although it clearly helps...*



Commonwealth Day flag-raising

The Commonwealth flag was hoisted on a blustery March morning outside the cathedral, and there was no question of the flag hanging limply by the side of the pole. Mayor Colin Hardie read the Commonwealth Proclamation and Bishop Gregory Cameron said a prayer for the Commonwealth and its values. Ethan Gordon and Lukas Plunge gave a bugle fanfare, and Linda Byrne played *Highland Cathedral* on the bagpipes, following which the flag was hoisted. Civic leaders and elected members were in attendance.

Commonwealth Day takes place on the second Monday in March, marking the beginning of a week-long series of events and activities happening around the globe – including faith and civic gatherings, debates, school assemblies, flag-raising ceremonies and cultural events. Commonwealth Day 2023 marks the tenth anniversary of the signing of the [Commonwealth Charter](#) by Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 11 March 2013

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The postnatal ward in HM Stanley in 1966

A final farewell to the Maternity Unit and Special Care Baby Unit at HM Stanley

It was back in 1992 that the Maternity Unit and Special Care Baby Unit moved from the HM Stanley site to Glan Clwyd hospital, but many local mothers will remember giving birth there.

A smaller number of parents will no doubt recall their newborn baby being looked after in the SCBU there; an inevitably anxious time. And a good number of people will remember working there as well.

The building served as the ambulance headquarters for many years, before that too moved to the Business Park; since then the building has remained unoccupied. The site has been

bought by Castle Green and the company plan to demolish the buildings and build houses there, connecting with the Maes Yr Haul site currently under construction. The site is immediately adjacent to St Kentigern Hospice.

The picture below shows a set of triplets born in HM Stanley in February 1965 who made it into the Guinness Book of Records for the greatest combined weight of triplets in the UK at the time. Sisters Mostyn, Lloyd and Lyn are holding the babies, with Mr Edward Parry-Jones, consultant obstetrician, looking on. The triplets' mother looks impressively well!



Proposals for the estate by St Kentigern Hospice. Is there going to be a playground anywhere for children on Livingstone Place or Maes Y Haul?

Llanelwy WI

Denise D'Albertson

At Llanelwy WI's February meeting we had an interesting and informative talk from Margi and Lyn from Y Ty Gwyrdd in Denbigh, which is a community shop. Customers are encouraged to re-use their containers to become more sustainable in the way they purchase items, such as spices, tea, coffee, etc., to only buy what is required rather than having to buy full containers of a product that may not be required or goes out of date before it is used and therefore, thrown away and going to landfill.

February was the Climate Coalition's "Show the Love" campaign and Suzy Hicks from The Flowerpot allowed us to put a green heart display in the cafe. Gareth Davies MS was invited to join members at the café to see our display and support us in raising awareness of climate change. We had an interesting talk about various aspects of climate change and we were



Margi and Lyn from Ty Gwyrdd



also able to tell him about Llanelwy WI's involvement within the local community and what we offer to our members.

Our speaker for March was Mr Dai Thomas who gave an informative and very knowledgeable presentation on the history of Rhuddlan. We were informed of the early years of Rhuddlan through to the first world war and the munitions factory, where the workers were women. There were photos from the 60s and 70s showing various shops and buildings, which many of the members remembered. We enjoyed the talk and also Mr Thomas' great sense of humour!

Our meetings are held at 7pm on the first Tuesday of the month in the Parish Church—email stasaphwi@gmail.com for more details

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The Loss of the City of St Asaph

In 1866, the three masted brigantine "*City of St Asaph*" built by Robert Jones was the largest vessel ever constructed at the Foryd harbour in Rhyl. It had a laden weight of 400 tons, and the principal owner was Mr Williams, dentist of Rhyl. There must have been some money to be made pulling teeth. Records of the ship are scarce, but a few facts are known.

In May 1869 she sailed from Glasgow to Port Adelaide, Australia, taking 106 days, and in November that year, she sailed from Newcastle NSW back to Adelaide.

On August 6th, 1874, she was bound for Stettin with a cargo of slates from Porthmadoc when she had to be towed into Holyhead making water. It appears that she "struck on the bar" whilst leaving Porthmadoc. The sand bar at this port was notorious for causing damage to vessels as it regularly shifted position. Holyhead would have been the closest port that offered a graving dock for repairs of this type. Her weight was recorded as 229 tons (unladen) which implies that she was capable of carrying a significant weight of cargo. She was listed then as a three masted schooner, so presumably her rigging had been changed.

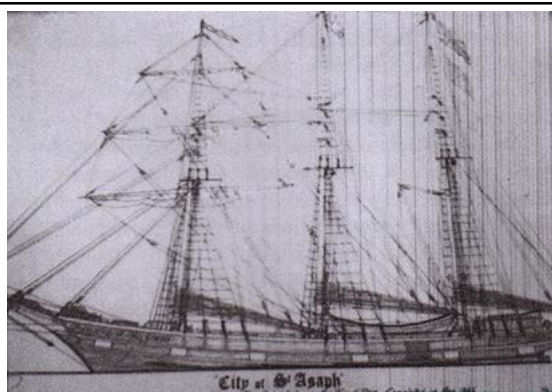
Her final voyage in 1884 took her round the Cape of Good Hope with a cargo of Swansea steam coal, *en route* to Port Natal. She was by then rigged as a barquentine, and was recorded as being abandoned on fire 69 miles south west of Mossel Bay by Cape Town on November 10th 1884. A maritime inquiry was held at Cape Town 8 days later.

David Davies, chief officer, described the vessel as being well found, and during fine weather at the start, the crew removed hatch covers to allow gases to escape. However, on November 8th, the crew noticed heat coming from below deck, and smoke issuing from alongside the foremast.

Inside the hold the heat was intense, with sulphurous fumes. On Captain Nicholas' orders they knocked two wedges out of the foremast, and began pouring sea water down into the hold with buckets. They changed course to reach port, but at 4am explosions occurred beneath the fore and aft hatches, and flames and smoke burst from them. The boats were cleared away ready to abandon ship, but at 5am, a vessel was sighted to windward, so the *City of St Asaph* bore down towards her, hoisting signals of distress. The *True Blue*, bound for Cape Town, lay to, and the crew took the longboat to her, having been unable to salvage any possessions. They reached Cape Town the following day, having watched the *City of St Asaph* drift away into the distance with columns of smoke arising. David Davies, a sailor of 32 years standing, had never encountered spontaneous combustion of a cargo of coal before, but admitted being unaware that the best course was to batten down the hatches to starve the fire of air; however, when this was done, a build up of gases occurred leading to the explosions.

It is difficult to imagine how terrifying the event must have been for the eight man crew almost 70 miles from shore with the cargo of coal on fire. To take the longboat to safety would have been a great challenge, and their relief on being rescued by the *True Blue* must have been immense.

Details from Mike Parry-Jones, Barry Hillier of the Holyhead Maritime Museum, and Lungi Banca of the National Library of South Africa in Cape Town who provided transcripts of the inquiry from the 1884 City Times.



RHYL.

SHIP LAUNCH.—On Tuesday last, at eleven a.m., a fine three-masted brigantine, 400 tons burthen, was launched at Voryd, in the presence of several hundreds of spectators. She was built by Mr. Robert Jones, and is the largest ever constructed at Rhyl. She was named The City of St. Asaph, the ceremony of christening being gracefully performed in the usual way by Mrs. Williams (wife of Mr. Williams, dentist, Rhyl, the principal owner.) The event passed off with every possible success. At two p.m. the owners (Messrs. E. Williams, William Morris, E. Lewis, Mostyn Quay, D. E. Davies, Liverpool, the builder) and friends partook of a celebration dinner at the Belvoir Hotel. Mr. Lewis occupied the chair, filled in the vice by Mr. Davies. "Success to The City of St. Asaph" was, of course, the prominent toast, and right heartily was it drunk. We are informed the vessel is to be rigged at Liverpool, whither she was towed by a tug-boat on Friday (yesterday.) The command will be taken by Captain Lewis, of Amlwch.

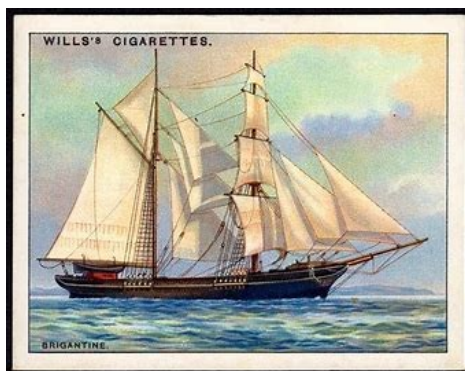
The toast was "Success to the City of Asaph, ..and right heartily was it drunk



Schooner: sailing ship with two or more masts, typically with the foremast smaller than the mainmast, rigged with fore-and-aft sails on its two masts.



Barquentine: sailing ship of three or more masts having fore-and-aft sails on all but the front mast (foremast), which is square rigged.



Brigantine: two-masted sailing ship with square rigging on the foremast and fore-and-aft rigging on the mainmast

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Some members of the team at JM Renewables

Wales wide award for local renewable firm

St Asaph firm JM Renewable (JMR) Solutions Ltd won **'Best Solar PV Installer/Contractor of the year'** at the Wales-wide Energy Efficiency Awards (EEA) 2023, held in the St David's Hotel in Cardiff in February. This award recognises the efforts of fully qualified solar photovoltaic installers and contractors to provide excellent customer service, and who demonstrate a high standard of quality workmanship or best practice within their local community. JMR have undertaken over 524 solar PV panel jobs in 2022 and the award recognises this outstanding achievement.

JMR was established in 2014 by two brothers and a friend. James Musgrave has been an electrician for over 24 years and Martin Jones has been a heating engineer for 24 years. The company came together when Ben Musgrave gained a Masters in Renewable Energy and Resource management at Cardiff University; they decided to unite to create JMR. The business is expanding, now with 22 members of staff, and has recently moved to new 5,871 sq. ft. premises at Tir Llwyd Industrial Estate, near Rhyl, to meet growing demand for renewable energy.

2022 was a busy year, with the firm completing a wide range of projects including fitting solar PV panels and batteries to 100 local authority properties, and fitting panels to Llandrillo College, schools and industrial and commercial buildings. JMR also fitted 206 solar PV panels on Chester cathedral, which were subsequently blessed by the Bishop of Chester!



Photo: Monica Esgobedo

The Dean and Bishop of Chester on the cathedral roof

Now some key questions for Ben Musgrave:

Are you mainly doing local authority, commercial and industrial work– or do you do domestic installations?

Yes, we install around 20 private domestics a month alongside all our social housing, council and commercial projects.

What is the average cost of fitting 4kW system to a standard three bedroom semi-detached house?

Prices start at £5,000 for a 4kW but it depends on various factors including amount of scaffolding /type of roofs and complexity of electrical install.

If you are out all day at work, and not using the electricity your panels are generating, should you get a battery as well?

With the current high rate of electricity, storing energy for night use is advisable. You are storing electricity worth 0.35pence per kWh for free rather than sending it back to the grid during sunlight hours.

A further benefit of having a battery is if you were at home and you utilised all the free electricity created from the solar panels that day meaning the battery didn't charge you can also utilise Octopus Energy's cheap night tariff which means you can charge your battery between 11:30-4am for only 7pence per kWh and release it the following day, saving yourself 0.28 pence per kWh. You can also sell electricity back to the grid now for upwards of 0.20pence per kWh, which has become very profitable.

And if a mid-range quality battery is fitted as well, what would that cost?

Around £4500 installed.

For such a system, what would be the approximate payback time to recover the cost of installing PV panels and battery?

On average, it's a 4-5 year payback.

There seem to be many online contractors trying to persuade us to fit them – how do we know who is reliable?

Search for a well established award-winning contractor with a good local track record, and ask around in the community. If they come on horseback wearing a Stetson, best avoid.



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The Rotary chains of office and certificate are passed to the City Council for safe keeping hopefully until such time as a new Rotary Club emerges. Pictured left to right: Dafydd Davies, Gareth Rowlands, Mayor Colin Hardie, John Carson and Alex Wilson

No-Mow-May! In his current television series about the British Isles, David Attenborough encourages us to leave grass cutting until mid-July to allow time for wildflowers to blossom and flourish, providing crucial nectar for our bees, butterflies and other pollinators to get to work. With the sharp decline in available wildflower meadows in the last 50 years, our lawns are now increasingly important in this process. This practice is followed by the County Council in their wildflower areas (in fact, no cutting between March and August), and Renee Foxon's letter below should stir us all to inaction in May! Let's give our mowers a month off. Visit: www.nomowmay.plantlife.co.uk

Official Participant

Join our community for
NO MOW MAY
Help our bees and pollinators survive!



On behalf of Mother Earth
and Heart of the City
Thank you!

For more information contact:
nomowmay@gmail.com

Letters: Unnecessary cutting of wild flowers and grasses

Dear Editor, Over the last few years the unnecessary cutting of large areas of wild flowers/grasses along the St Asaph parks and river banks has become a growing concern for me. As a life long resident and business owner in St Asaph our local environment has special meaning to me, in particular the river Elwy. I'm quite sure that in this day and age I do not have to stress the importance of looking after precious micro habitats and re-wilding. I have enclosed a few photos to stress what is happening every year at inappropriate times (mid May) when birds and small mammals are feeding their young and depend on the cover and invertebrates that would thrive in these areas where they left alone. And don't forget our pollinators. Not to mention the wild brown trout in the river, a neglected species close to my heart. I'm sure I'm not alone in thinking that not only do these areas look so much nicer when left but the environmental impact to our immediate area could be huge. The money that is being spent on cutting these areas would be better spent on wildflower seeds to enhance what we already have. I have written to the City Council and Natural Resources Wales to express my concerns and urge them to rethink the way they manage this land. If anyone else out there would like to back me up with these concerns please feel free to write to clerk@stasaphcitycouncil.gov.uk and let them know what the people of St Asaph would prefer. It would be a huge disappointment to see this happen again this coming spring.

Kindest regards, Renee Foxon



DIARY OF EVENTS Activities listed are correct at time of going to press. For listing in the Diary of Events in the June issue please submit items to editorsact@gmail.com before the deadline shown on page 2.

Regular weekly events

Day	Time	Details
Monday	7.30pm	St Asaph Choral Society rehearsing Vaughan Williams' Sea Symphony in Parish Church. Contact Kath Mitchell-Dawson 07711 675076 or e-mail kath-b@btconnect.com
	6-8pm	Open Access Youth Club at the St Asaph Community Church, High Street. (term-time only) run by Denbighshire County Council
Tuesday	10am	Aros a Chwarae . Free toddler group for preschool children and their parents/carers. Meet at Llanelwy Community Church on the High Street. See Facebook page @stayandplayllanelwy.
	2-3pm	Tai Chi at the Parish Church. Contact Ann Sim on 07852 321502
	3-4pm	Qigong at the Parish Church. Contact Ann Sim on 07852 321502
Wednesday	9.30-5pm	Warm Space welcome in the Library: WiFi, free internet access, papers, refreshments
	6pm	Informal running group ; meet at the Cathedral car park. 5k run, wear high viz gear. Contact Ian Jones on 07775 684171.
	6-7pm	Exercise with Liz in Parish Church: Facebook Rhuddlan Clubbercise and Fitness with Liz
	7-8pm	Pilates with Liz in Parish Church: Facebook Rhuddlan Clubbercise and Fitness with Liz
Thursday	1.30pm	Cash bingo at Llys y Felin
Friday	9.30-5pm	Warm Space welcome in the Library: WiFi, free internet access, papers, refreshments
	2.30pm	Cash Bingo at The Old Palace. No parking in the grounds due to building works.
Sunday	5-7pm	Community Fridge in the Parish Church

Regular monthly events

1st Sunday	11am	Messy Church in the Parish Church. All ages welcome, lunch provided.
1 st Monday	12-3pm	PROBUS club in the Oriel Hotel. See page 20 for details
3 rd Sunday	3-5pm	T Club at the Parish Church. Details on church website. Contact Marion on 01745 590960

One-off events

April		
Saturday 1st	tbc	Fundraiser for Anthony Nolan charity at the Conservative Club.
Sunday 2nd	2pm	Palm Sunday Procession —walk from St Mary's church Cefn to the cathedral, led by a donkey
	11-3	Walking football tournament at St Asaph Leisure Centre—cheer on your local team
Monday 3rd	10-12.30	Messy Church Holy Week Club at the Parish Church (<i>runs Monday-Thursday</i>)
Thursday 6th	7pm	Merched Y Wawr . Dathlu'r Aur, lleoliad i'w drefnu.
Friday 7th	8pm	Bach's St Matthew Passion Tremeirchion Bach Choir in the Cathedral. Tickets available from Cathedral Frames or at the door
Saturday 8th	6pm	Easter Mass at the Catholic church.
Sunday 9th		EASTER SUNDAY! Services Parish Church & St Mary's Cefn (9.30am) and Cathedral (11am)
Monday 10th	2pm	Easter Egg Hunt at Ty Gwyn Farm, Tremeirchion. Fun for all the family! £1 per entry
Wed 12th	7.30	Organ Recital by Christopher Enston, organist at St Asaph cathedral
Saturday 15th	10am	Coffee Morning in Parish church for the Trussell Trust and Church funds
May		
Wed 3rd	7.30	Organ Recital by Graham Eccles (freelance organist) at St Asaph Cathedral
Monday 8th	12	Big Lunch Picnic outside the Salusbury Arms, Tremeirchion. Bring food, drink & chairs. Activities for all.
Saturday 13th	7.30	A Sea Symphony by Ralph Vaughan Williams. St Asaph, Dyffryn Conwy and Mold Choral Societies joining together in St Asaph Cathedral. Tickets at Cathedral Frames or at the door.

The St Asaph Bridge

Mike Parry-Jones

The current bridge was built in 1770 on a design by the Chester architect Joseph Turner. It consists of five arches of which only two currently have water flowing through. The reason for the five arches is to allow for times when the river is in flood of which we have had our recent experiences.



John Speed's map detail

Before the bridge there was a wooden structure further downstream and this is shown in the John Speed map of Flintshire printed in c1610.

On both sides of the bridge there are pavements separated by the roadway. The pavements were a source of complaint around 100 years ago, for being too narrow and for being difficult to walk on as they were made from river stones and gravel. The stones were too rounded and the gravel too sharp on people's footwear. The solution requested at that time was the use of fire bricks but whether they were deployed isn't clear although postcards of the 1920s suggest they were.

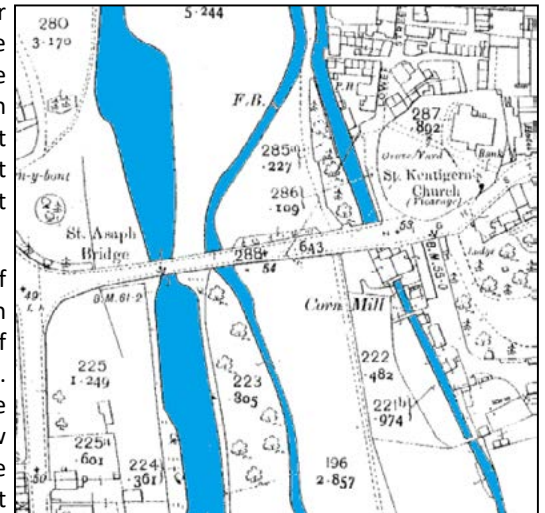


View from upstream circa 1975

In more recent times the volume of traffic has demanded a different solution and in 1968 we gained the addition of the footbridge alongside the road bridge. Although this follows the shape of the older bridge, it also obscures the view from the upstream side. The downstream side has been floodlit, but I'm not sure if many see the benefit of this unless the aim was other than aesthetic.



Circa 1900



OS Map 1912 with added colour

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Opening of RAK charity shop on High Street

Sandwiched comfortably between Rachel the Barber and Bill & Ben, the RAK charity shop opened with a cheerful ceremony on 17th March. RAK stands for "Random Acts of Kindness" and the RAK team is led by Alan Jones who commented:

'I would like to thank all who came to the opening and the many people who have worked hard to bring the idea to fruition since the preparations began in earnest in January. The day itself went excellently with good weather, lots of sales, many good contacts made and conversations had. RAK recognised four 'Community Champions' (Barbara Rust, Barbra Davies, Mair Dowell and Margaret Wainwright, *pictured opposite*, and one other in her absence) and presented them with flowers and certificates.

The shop will now be open from 10 till 4 every day except for Sunday so please visit when you can. You are assured of a warm welcome.'

To highlight the plight of earthquake survivors in Turkey and Syria, Alan Jones had valiantly slept out by the shop on the Thursday before the RAK opening. He didn't get much sleep...!



Raffle for Earthquake victims

Customers at the Bengal Village restaurant contributed generously to the raffle organised by Abdul Noor to raise funds for the victims of the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey. In addition to sending £1,150, Abdul also bought a full rack of new warm clothes from Primark in response to requests for clothing in the aftermath of the quake. A really commendable response from Abdul and his team, and from Bengal Village customers.

Ysgol Glan Clwyd flooding

Fiona Shand

Ysgol Glan Clwyd pupils had an unexpected holiday at the end of January. However, it was not a break to be celebrated, as the school had no option but to close to most pupils for three days because of severe flooding in the Technology Department.

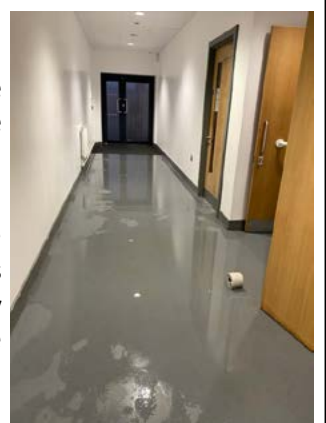
CCTV showed water flowing under the Food Technology door at 8.45am on Saturday 28th January. The boiling water had escaped from a burst pipe and had been flowing overnight in the cookery classroom, creating a 'steam room' effect. The steam had been absorbed into the walls and ceiling, causing much damage including the collapse of the ceiling in parts. The boiling water flowed under doors to all areas of the Technology Department and most of the Hafan (Main hall) area.

It was fortunate that a member of staff discovered the damage on Sunday morning, or the area affected could have been much larger.

Six classrooms have been badly affected for an unspecified period. It will not be possible to see what the exact nature of the damage is until after 4 weeks of drying the affected areas. The technology department will not be available for lessons until September 2023. The entire Hafan flooring will have to be replaced which will be done during the summer.

The flooding means that the use of the building will be impacted for the remainder of the academic year. Food Technology lessons will not be possible until September 2023. Discussions have been held with the examining board (WJEC) in order to ensure that pupils will be fairly assessed, as they will not be able to complete the practical requirements of their courses in the following subjects – Food and nutrition, Engineering, Product Design and Digital Competence.

Parents have been kept informed throughout and pupils will be fully supported.





Fraud and Scam Awareness *Julia Hughes*

Denbigh and District Probus Club welcomed Mark Wilson, Manager of the Principality Building Society in Denbigh to speak on Fraud and Scam Awareness at their March meeting. He explained how he and his staff have a duty of care to their customers to initiate discussions to encourage them to think about payments and withdrawals carefully to help them

avoid being defrauded.

He explained about authorised push payment fraud (where a payer is deceived into authorising a payment to a criminal) and went into detail on investment, romance, impersonation, invoice, CEO* and advance fee scams.

The signs of a potential scams were also discussed such as unsolicited contact, urgency of transaction, sounding too good or too bad to be true, keeping the payment(s) secret, they cannot meet you in person and unconventional payment method.

Mark also gave advice on how to protect yourself i.e., stop and think, challenge and protect – contact your bank immediately and Action Fraud. <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> or 0300 123 2040. Members found the talk and information really useful and a timely reminder to be on guard against all types of fraud on a daily basis.

Denbigh and District Probus Club welcomes new members to join their group for monthly meetings (held at the Oriel Hotel, St Asaph) where they enjoy lunch, friendship, and a talk from a guest speaker. For further information have a look at the club website denbighprobus.com or contact membership officer Gareth Williams on julmwilliams1974@gmail.com or 07881 783735.

The speaker at the next club meeting on Monday 3rd April will be Mrs Mary Steel who will talk about WW2 Guernsey Girls evacuation to Denbigh.



Mark Wilson

**How to spot a CEO scam:*

1. You're asked to urgently process an out of the ordinary payment by your CEO, a boss or a senior manager
2. The language used in the email isn't consistent with that of the genuine sender
3. You're asked to change the bank details of an existing supplier on your system

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Violet Charlesworth and the Bod Erw *Dee La Vardera and Fiona Shand*

Most people have heard of John Stonehouse, the MP who faked his own death. St. Asaph can boast a similar tale, the protagonist being a female who for some time lived at the Bod Erw.

Violet Charlesworth was born as May Charlesworth in Stafford in 1884. She was the youngest of at least four children. Her father, David, was an insurance agent and her mother was Miriam Davies. In the early 1900s, the family moved from Derby to Rhyl, where they lived opulently, eventually moving from Rhyl to live at the Bod Erw manor house in St Asaph.



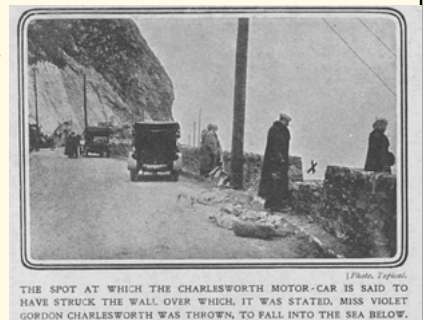
Violet and her car outside the Bod Erw

Violet was often to be seen wearing expensive clothes and travelling in luxurious cars. Her lavish lifestyle even captured the attention of the press. It was puzzling how Violet managed to rent three mansions - in Wales, Scotland and Wiltshire. She had four motor cars and several dogs, expensive jewellery and fur coats, and all this with no visible means of support. How could she afford such a lifestyle? In fact, she had borrowed significant sums of money from friends,

suitors, banks and businesses. When her family opened a shop in Rhyl in 1907, they had told people that Violet was the goddaughter of the late General Gordon of Khartoum, who had been killed in action in 1885 whilst heroically defending Khartoum from rebel Muslims. Violet's family claimed that she was set to inherit a fortune of £15 million on her 26th birthday from her godfather's estate.

In one instance, she obtained £5,000 from Edward Hughes Jones, a doctor in Rhyl, who she had promised to marry, having told him that she would receive £100,000 when she was 25. Other young men were persuaded to give demure Violet expensive gifts and money, and businesses readily gave her credit. Word got around that she was a wealthy young woman, resulting in more suitors and perpetuating the lie that she was an heiress. She used her ill-gotten gains to invest in the London stock exchange as well as acquiring expensive possessions. However, her false wealth was about to be investigated by creditors, the threat of which made her fake her own death.

On January 9th 1909, just before her 25th birthday, Violet, her sister Lillian and their chauffeur, Watts, were returning home from Bangor in her Belgian Minerva car. Violet was the driver, and just beyond Penmaenmawr, the car swerved and crashed into a wall. It was reported that Violet was thrown out of the car, smashing the windscreen, falling down the cliffside and into the sea. Her sister and Watts raised the alarm, but were apparently incoherent with distress. No body was found and she was presumed dead. The car was taken to a local garage, where they were surprised to find no blood on the shattered windscreen nor on the bonnet. Furthermore, if Violet was driving, why was the hole in the windscreen on the passenger's side?



The story of the accident made headlines all over the world. It was a mystery that no corpse was washed up, and further suspicion arose when it was revealed that she had taken out several life insurances a few days before her disappearance. Rumours of Violet faking her death to escape creditors prompted a nationwide manhunt for the heiress. Police visited the Bod Erw and seized some of her belongings, including her pedigree dogs.

In fact, this was another of Violet's schemes; she had not been killed but was on the run. With her mother and sister's aid, she had spent nine years defrauding wealthy men, but now her fraudulent lifestyle had caught up with her. The story of Violet's disappearance became known as "The Welsh Cliff Mystery". Photos of her were shared in newspapers; she was referred to as 'The Lady in the Crimson Cloak'. Sightings of women in red cloaks were reported far and wide all over the country. The Daily Chronicle offered a reward of £50 for information regarding Violet's whereabouts. Her story made the front pages of the national British newspapers and was reported as far as The New York Times.

Violet was eventually tracked down in hiding in a hotel in Oban, Scotland, where she had been using a false name – Margaret Cameron McLeod. She confessed her true identity upon her arrest, reportedly exclaiming - 'It is no use my denying it any longer. I am Miss Violet Charlesworth'.

In March 1910 Violet and her mother were convicted of four counts of conspiracy to obtain money by false pretences and two counts of obtaining money by false pretences. The two women were sentenced to five years of hard labour in Aylesbury Women's Prison. Their sentence was later reduced and, on their release, mother and daughter returned to Scotland in February 1912. Little is known about what happened subsequently, although there is a death record for a May Charlesworth in Stoke-on-Trent in 1957.

Please contact Dee La Vardera if you have any Violet information you can share, particularly any relating to St Asaph, and Rhyl, where the family lived before moving to Bod Erw.

email: dina.lavardera@btinternet.com text: 07971354547
website: <https://dewfall-hawk.com>

Who knows what escapades she got up to in later life?

Additional sources: Branwen Jones (Wales Online), Geoff Brookes, the Bod Erw



Violet, her hat and furs

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Delyth Edwards-Roberts, manager of Caffi Cariad

Caffi Cariad @ St Kentigern Hospice

It was all set to open in March 2020, which of course turned out to be bad timing. The pandemic disrupted plans, and Caffi Cariad was only able to open sporadically according to lockdown requirements. Despite that, it has opened for three fully booked Christmas runs, with the chefs serving up popular seasonal fare.

However, it has been open fully since last November, with the team of chefs, Ian, Ken and James led by manager and chef Delyth Edwards-Roberts. Delyth was previously chef and then manager at the Boderw; she has also worked in Liverpool, Llandudno, and also more locally at the Pilkington Chance canteen. She and her team are immensely proud of Caffi Cariad and the service they provide there—not just the excellent menu, but also the warmth of the welcome provided, and the ambience. And she is at pains to point out

that all proceeds from Caffi Cariad go straight to the running of the hospice, and this provides an important and regular income stream for St Kentigern.

It's a sizeable venue, with 28 seats inside, and a further 16 seats outside open in the summer. It's open every weekday 10-4, but you would be well advised to book for lunch there—it's getting very busy. Morning coffee and afternoon teas there are also increasingly popular opportunities for people to catch up with friends.

But it's not just café-goers that they look after; the team there also cater for a very special clientele at the hospice, the in-patients. They take pride in providing individualised menus when necessary, and of course they cater for staff at the hospice. And when business or community groups use the fully equipped meeting room in the Hospice, they provide catering as required. The future looks bright for Caffi Cariad, and we wish it every success.

If you wish to volunteer to help at Caffi Cariad, please ring Joyce Bellingham at the Hospice on 01745 585221 or visit www.stkentigernhospice.org.uk



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Fillers, thrillers and spillers

Chris Jones

The days are lengthening, the earth is warming and now is the perfect time to look to enjoy pots of colour throughout the long summer to come. However large or small our outside space is, we can all (with a little preparation) enjoy ourselves with them, as well benefit the bees and butterflies. The garden centres are overflowing with all sorts of tempting plants and a little guidance may help to get the best value and display.

The container is the first thing to consider. It could be a hanging basket or a pretty pot (remember a large one is easier to water than lots of small pots) think about its position, particularly whether it is sunny or shaded.



A good bag of peat free compost is ideal for summer bedding. If you want to plant something more permanent like an ornamental shrub then a soil based compost is best. A colour theme can be dramatic and effective, but is not essential, and as gardening is very personal there is no right or wrong. Some may like a kaleidoscope of colour, others a single minimalist pot that has variation of foliage or a single plant type (such as fuchsia) in different shapes and colours. Some gardeners (never forget if you have a pot or trough that is growing, then you are one) may opt to grow fruit or vegetables in their pots. Strawberries and blackberries will fruit in pots, and I have grown strawberries very successfully in hanging baskets without the need to protect them from

slugs. As we have mostly alkaline soil in this area, blueberries can grow in peat free ericaceous compost in containers. You would need two different types to ensure cross-pollination to guarantee some fruit. You could try planting runner beans and sweet peas together in a deep pot, and this would allow you to place canes or an obelisk in the pot for them to grow. The insects would not only pollinate attracted by the scent of flowers, but you would be provided with vegetables as well.

A general rule of thumb for containers is to have one of each of the following - a thriller (a striking centrepiece of a plant), a filler (smaller plants that will fill around the side of the container), and a spiller (plants that will grow over the side of the container creating a softening waterfall effect).

Don't overfill your container; allow growth room for the plants and bear in mind that they will need to be watered regularly. After six weeks or so they will probably need a feed to keep them in good condition. You can help this by adding slow release fertiliser when planting. If you find that you feel it is a little bare, you can always pop in a few annual seeds (e.g. *Cosmos* or *marigolds*) which will germinate quite quickly.



Pelargoniums, *lobelia*, *snapdragons*, *begonias*, *verbena*, *nicotiana* - the list is endless for colour. Texture can also provide variety. Silvery plants will tolerate sunnier, drier positions eg *Senecio angel wings* which is a striking thriller and could be surrounded by *nemesia* or *gazania* to provide a zing of colour. *Osteospermum* (thriller) has beautifully shaped daisy flowers which would contrast well with *nigella* (love-in-a-mist, a filler) which has fine feathery foliage and trailing *lobelia* (spiller). If a container is needed for a shady spot then a mixture of *hostas* can provide a striking effect.

Don't forget that a pot full of herbs as well as being decorative can provide a handy supply for the kitchen. Everyone should have a little greenery in their life!

The city is also blooming, the cherry blossom trees on the common are filling out and in time will create a wonderful spectacle which we can enjoy for years, so a huge thanks to those with the foresight and vision to plant them. In many parts of our city flowers are bringing colour—from the daffodils and purple crocuses we enjoyed in the early spring through to the rose beds and planters which will flower later. We are provided with a wonderful continuity of colour and scent thanks to the hard work of the few.



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Izzi off to the National Championships!



Readers might like an update on Izzi and Lucy as featured in the December City Times. Izzi and Lucy went to Aintree for the Pet Plan British Dressage Area Festival in February.

They were 7th in the Elementary (bronze section) and 2nd in the Novice (silver section) and highest placed under 21 rider so they have qualified for the national championships in

April—she was very happy!



Izzi and Lucy at Aintree

Saint Asaph Cricket club invites you to

ALL STARS CRICKET

When Friday, 12th May, 6pm start

Where Saint Asaph Cricket club

Age group 5-7 year olds

St Asaph Rainbows and Brownies Awards

Katie Jones

We would like to share with you these Rainbows and Brownies from St Asaph Brownies and Rainbows who over the past year have achieved their Gold awards. This is the highest achievement a Rainbow or Brownie can reach and involves a huge amount of work and unit hours. Huge well done to all the girls—we are all so proud of you!

And what do the Brownies say:

"I like Brownies because

- I get to see all my friends and make new ones !
- We go on trips !
- We do craft !
- We get to see everyone and it's really fun !
- We get to do fun activities!
- We get to collect lots of badges!
- I earn my badges and I feel proud of myself !
- I get to see Brown Owl!
- We get to do different things every week !
- We get to do creative stuff!
- I get to make new friends !



ENGLISH AND MATHS TUITION

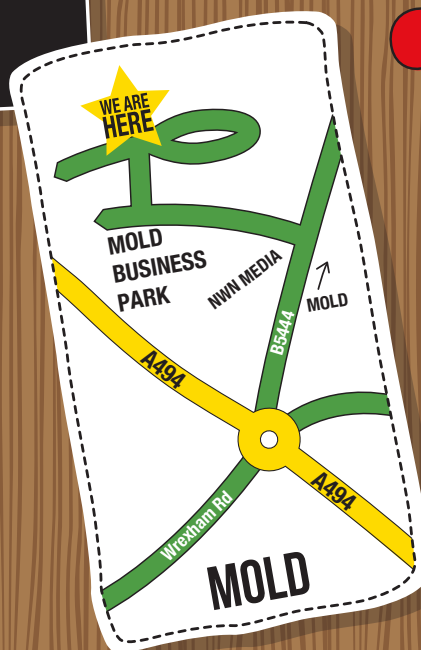
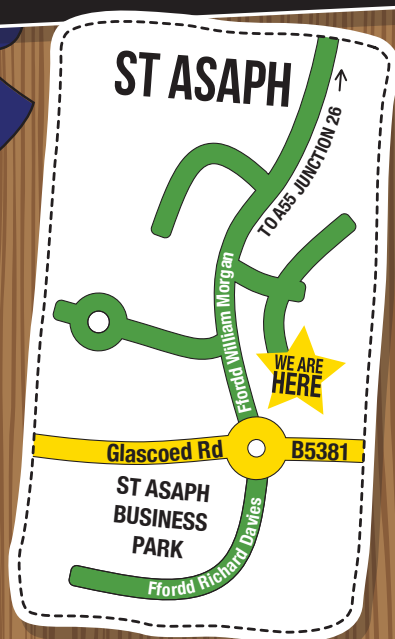
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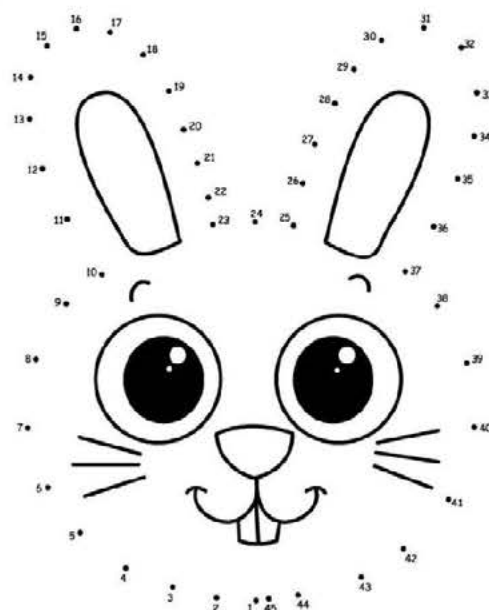
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BUNNY
LAMB

BLOSSOM
PUDDLE
CHOCOLATE
PICNIC
SUNSHINE

EGGS
RAINBOW
BEES
SEEDS
BUDS

JOIN THE DOTS



LOVE TO LAUGH?



I have a pen that can write underwater.
It can write other words too.



A wizard asked me to proofread one of
his scrolls last week. Actually, it was
more of a spell check.

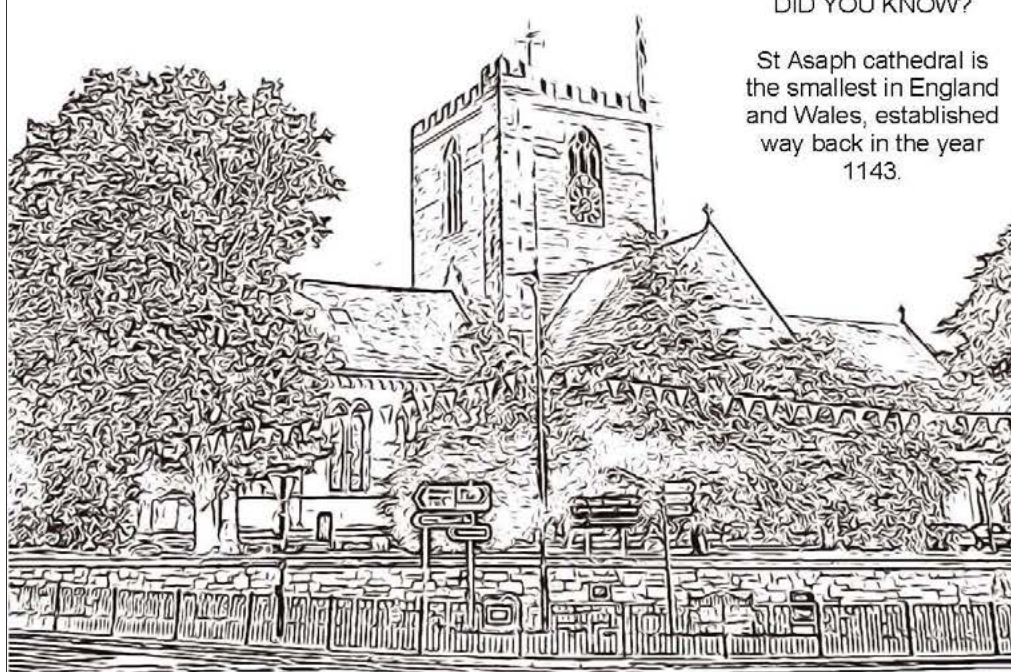
MAKE A JOURNEY STICK

If you're planning a family walk along the river Elwy, or in the fields around the river Clwyd, keep your eyes peeled!

As you go, collect natural items you find lying around, like feathers, leaves, flowers, pine cones and small stones. Remember to pick up a stick too – you'll need that later! To protect our environment, please only collect fallen items.

When you get home, glue, or tie your collected items to your stick, perhaps in the order that you found them. Use your stick as a reminder of your walk, and to tell a friend all about your lovely adventure outdoors.

ADD SOME COLOUR TO OUR CATHEDRAL



DID YOU KNOW?

St Asaph cathedral is the smallest in England and Wales, established way back in the year 1143.

FEELING CRAFTY?

You could make a model of our cathedral using building blocks, old cardboard and plastic bottles, or stuff from your crafting box.

When you've finished, send us a picture. We'd love to see your creations!

SEND US A SNAP



We'd love to share your work on our Instagram page.

Ben Ross and Ness Pritchard-Jones

Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog

Laura Martin

It has been an extremely busy Spring term in Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog with the children taking part in lots of lovely activities. This term our topic is 'The Future is Digital' and each class has been given a brief linked to our local area. The **Discoverers** have been busy making a video about our school for a time capsule that they will bury on the field. They have explored our local area and have interviewed people who used to come to our school.

The **Investigators** have created an app all about Cefn Meiriadog. They have thoroughly enjoyed finding out about the village and interviewing people to find out more. They particularly enjoyed a speed learning session where members of the local community were invited in to answer the children's questions.

The **Innovators** have produced a website all about Denbighshire. They have been on trips around the county and have had a workshop from a local website designer to help them create the best website possible. The children have shared their final products with our governors and each other, and we are all very proud of the work they have produced.



This term we have also celebrated Saint David's Day with a lovely service in Capel Cefn. The children have been working hard towards the Urdd Eisteddfod competitions with two of our learners succeeding in the first round of the recitation competitions – da iawn girls!

Our Well-being Champions organised a Well-being day for the whole school which was a lovely chance to enjoy lots of different activities, finished off with a parent partner session which was enjoyed by all.

As we come to the end of the Spring term can we wish you all a Happy Easter, enjoy the break (and the chocolate!)



VP Infants School

Kate Langford

Cynefin - 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 took part in a joint St David's Day celebration with Ysgol Esgob Morgan in the beautiful St Asaph Cathedral. During the celebration service the children retold the

story of Santes Dwynwen, recited Dau Gi Bach and sang Sosban Fach! The whole school dressed in red, white and green to celebrate Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant and some children wore traditional Welsh clothes. The children have loved celebrating living in Wales and learning about its history and culture.

New Classroom Learning Resources

As always, the children have spent lots of time learning through the serious business of play! The children have had some brand new resources in their classrooms including new play



kitchens, wooden blocks and new cosy reading areas for quiet and calm times. The children have enjoyed playing with their new resources and have amazed us with their oracy, role play and cooperative play skills.

Wellbeing and keeping safe

The VP is a school that priorities the safety of its children. During the Spring Term PC Manus of North Wales Police visited the children to teach them about people who help us. The children learned about adults who can help keep us safe and how to use 999 in an emergency. The children also took part in Safer Internet Day and have the skills and knowledge to continue keeping safe when online.





Ysgol Glan Clwyd

Meryl Pierce

A visit from a radio presenter

Marci G, a Radio Cymru (Radio Wales) presenter, met Year 7 for a day's workshop, in order to create a radio programme. The programme was broadcast on Cymru FM and it was a pleasure to hear the pupils presenting and taking leading roles throughout.

In the world of music

Year 7 spent a pleasant morning in the company of two accomplished pianists – Glain Llwyd and Teleri Siân. It was a pleasure to see the pupils' faces as they enjoyed a special rendition of Carnival of the Animals by Saint-Saëns. It was certainly an unique experience in presenting the new curriculum!

We were also fortunate as a school to celebrate Welsh Language Music Day, as the staff displayed a poster on their classroom door of their favourite Welsh song. The pupils were also given the opportunity to vote for their preferred song in Welsh. The overall winner and current No1 in Ysgol Glan Clwyd is Dau Fyd (Two Worlds) by Yws Gwynedd.



Yws Gwynedd



French Department - Visit to Paris for pupils Years 10 - 13

Pupils who study French to GCSE and A level standard were given an opportunity to practice their French on a recent trip to Paris. The group visited the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, the Latin Quarter, Montparnasse Tower and Montmartre. Much merriment was had also, whilst participating in ten pin bowling. The sun shone and the baguettes were tasty! Thank you to the staff for their hard work and the pupils for their enthusiasm and excellent behaviour.

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Saints back on winning ways! *John Roberts*

After a dip in performance in January which saw the **Saints** lose their undefeated record, February and March have seen the team return to winning ways. They have had six straight wins scoring 27 goals and conceding only two. Their biggest win was a 9-0 mauling of Blaenau Amateurs. At present they

St Asaph first team in the North Wales Coast East Premier Division

28/1	vs Bro Cernyw	Won 5-0
4/2	vs Llandyrnog	Won 4-0
11/2	vs Mochdre Sports	Won 2-0
18/2	vs Glan Conwy	Won 5-0
25/2	vs Llanfairfechan	Won 4-1
18/3	vs Blaenau Amat.	Won 9-0

are top of the league, eleven points ahead of the second placed team. One of the wins was in the semi final of the NWCFA Intermediate Challenge Cup to gain a place in the final against Menai Bridge Tigers on May 20th that will be played on Penmaenmawr Phoenix's pitch with a 2.00pm kick off.



SAFC Junior team

Continuing on the theme of cup success our **Reserves** have reached the League Cup final with a win over Prestatyn based Bow FC.

Our **Under 10s** have had several very competitive matches lately and are showing an improvement week on week. It's been very pleasing to see a variety of the team picking up the weekly Player of the Match award, as a number of the players hit top form. The team are also looking forward to taking part in their first tournament next month.



SAFC Under 10s team

Our **Under 7s** continue to have an excellent season and are improving in all aspects as they play some very competitive fixtures. They were narrowly beaten by the two Denbigh sides recently but went on to win their next fixture against Rhyl Commandoes. The two main goal scorers recently have been Sam and Sophie.

Dreigiau under 9s have been on an excellent run of form lately and have won all their league games recently. They've beaten both Prestatyn teams and had a notable 4-2 away win against Rhyl Hearts who had been undefeated prior to the match. Following that they gained another away win beating Kinmel Bay 8-1.



SAFC Dreigiau under 9s team

Our club continues to grow and we are pleased to welcome Dean Cotton back to the club. Dean has been associated with the club previously when he previously coached our Reserves team. He has established a new **Under 8s team** who will start playing officially in the league for the club at the start of next season. Until then they will be taking part in tournaments as a St Asaph team.

We would like to thank **LRI Property Maintenance** for sponsoring their kit and **The Plough** for sponsoring their rain tops.



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