



St. Asaph & District ^{new} City Times



Issue No 23

August 2023



Photo by Steve Morris

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We're always looking out for letters, items, reports or features relating to St Asaph. Or that special photo! The absolute deadline for the October issue is Monday 11th September – but **please** submit well before to ensure publication as the paper fills quickly.

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



Green Flag flies again at Roe Plas!

Congratulations to the Afon Elwy Environmental Group (AEEG) whose sterling work in looking after our city's green spaces and riverside has been recognised once again with the coveted **Green Flag Community Award**.

This is the international mark of a quality park or green space, and once again AEEG hit the mark. The group's work was noted for high environmental standards, cleanliness, safety, and community involvement.

For two decades the group has been instrumental in practical activities including the creation of the Community Orchard and Millennium Queen's Canopy Wood, funding and placing the various wooden sculptures around the area, establishing the Butterfly Garden on the Common, positioning bird and bat boxes, planting bulbs and wild flowers, as well as carrying routine maintenance activities such as hedge cutting and laying, and routine litter picking sessions. The AEEG volunteers are a community group which anyone can join. If you are interested contact Chris at Christopher.smith53@btinternet.com.



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T.G. Williams

Lian Crierie

Our sponsors this issue are local building firm T.G. Williams. For many, this company name means Trevor and Paula Williams, long-standing residents of St Asaph. Many people have worked for them, had work done by them, been to school with their four boys or celebrated a New Year's Eve with them in the Bryn Dinas in fancy dress!

T.G. Williams has always been a firm rooted in family values and, whilst in more recent years, Gary, Martin and Ste have increasingly taken the reins, the original work of establishing the business, and developing the trust and quality the company is known for, is the achievement of one man, Trev. Back in 1971, he set out on his own, with a trailer and mixer pulled by his Austin Allegro. His determination and hard work allowed him to provide for his family, including building the family home. Mike Ellis was a key fellow member of the early team, and is still a valued member of T.G. Williams to this date. Over the years, T.G. Williams have built many homes across North Wales, and have recently been undertaking a major project at St Beuno's.

Trevor is enjoying a much deserved retirement. He has always been a keen supporter of local charities and sports groups, giving back to the local community, a focus his boys strive to continue. The future of T.G. Williams is looking bright, and we know that Trevor is extremely proud of what he and his sons have achieved.



Some notes on the July City Council meeting

Tudur Parry, a team leader for Denbighshire Youth Services, reported on the youth club in St Asaph, currently held in the Llanelwy Community Church on the High Street. It is open from 6-8pm every Monday evening, with no charge. Activities include cooking, arts and crafts, discussions about online safety, vaping etc. There is usually a good turn-out of young people but the Youth Service is always keen to welcome new faces at the youth club.



PCSO Dave Jones' report began by congratulating Colin, Jill and all those involved in the Freedom of the City event. The planning was excellent and apart from a couple of medical events (fainting in the heat) things went very smoothly. In other news, there had been a couple of episodes of shop-lifting, and an incident when a window was broken in the Old Palace by a person climbing the scaffolding, which has now been dismantled. Some suspicious vehicles had been seen in Tremeirchion and Trefnant cruising with the drivers possibly looking for items to take; he advised vigilance, recording number plates, and reporting.

Mayor Colin Hardie and Jill Ellison were thanked by Council colleagues for all the work put in during preparation for the Freedom of the City event, and congratulated on the outcome.

The Mayor also described events he had attended in the previous month, including an eventful visit to the RNLI station in Rhyl, where he witnessed RNLI management of a family of 8 being cut off by the incoming tide on a sand bar without realising—this is apparently a fairly frequent event. The family waded waist deep to safety and commented that they didn't have tides like that in Birmingham!

County Councillor Martyn Hogg reported that Denbighshire County Council noted that Prestatyn was the only beach in North Wales to have Blue Flag status for cleanliness; DCC are determined to achieve Blue Flags for Rhyl and Towyn. It is hoped that this concern will spur action to improve the state of the rivers Elwy and Clwyd. There was also discussion about the unfortunate appearance of some of the properties on the High Street, some of which look dilapidated. The City Council has limited powers to help with this issue.

Martyn Hogg reported that DCC will be siting air quality monitors opposite the VP school in January, and readings will be taken as an average across 12 months. The mayor suggested that a more relevant site would be the High Street, where traffic volume with school coaches and lorries is such that parents are understandably reluctant to walk children to school.

Potholes in the unadopted road behind the doctors' surgery were discussed; some are frankly dangerous. The City Council has no responsibility for sorting them, but it was agreed to contact DCC to request that the road be adopted.

Cllr. Ros Williams was thanked for her careful work in making sure that new road names in St Asaph should reflect historical associations rather than be bland and generic.

Full minutes will be available online at www.stasaphcitycouncil.gov.uk once signed off at the next meeting.



St Asaph honours the Royal Welsh

Ben Ross



On July 8, the Royal Welsh regiment was welcomed by the people of St Asaph for the bestowal upon them of the city's highest honour – Freedom of the City. This was granted in recognition of the regiment's eminent services rendered both at home and overseas on behalf of our city and nation, and for the courage and bravery of the troops in the execution of their duties.

Led by the company sergeant major, C Company of the 1st Battalion formed up in the grounds of St Asaph cathedral where the official ceremony took place, with Mayor Colin Hardie making the proclamation. The regimental response was given by Lt Col Nick Lock OBE, and the troops were inspected with accompanying and stirring music from the band of the Royal Welsh.

Spectators lined the streets as troops dressed in their regalia marched in parade, led by Lance Corporal Shenkin, the regimental mascot. All keeping time with spirited music played by the regimental band, including "Hearts of Oak", "Men of Harlech" and of course "Pack up your troubles in your old kitbag". It's a rare sight for the bustle of high street traffic to be replaced, if only for a short time, by such a historic spectacle.



Following the parade, a moving Drumhead service took place in the cathedral, with a powerful sermon from Dean Nigel Williams. The Drumhead service is a tradition established during the Napoleonic wars, when drums were used to make an temporary altar for a service prior to joining battle.

Chris Kilmister, Regimental Secretary of The Royal Welsh, said: *"It is a particular pleasure for the parade to be held in the historic city of St Asaph, with which the regiment has so many links. A memorial plaque in St Asaph Cathedral lists 48 men from the town who died during the Great War, many from the Royal Welsh's antecedent regiments, and this list includes at least 12 from the Royal Welch Fusiliers."*

The Royal Welch Fusiliers and Royal Regiment of Wales joined under one banner back in 2006, continuing to serve in operations to this day. Currently at Tidworth barracks, recent duties have involved a tour in Estonia, and training of Ukrainian recruits. The Regiment has earned no fewer than five Military Crosses, one Operational CBE, two Operational OBEs and 15 Mentions in Dispatches. So, well worthy of recognition and our gratitude.

You may be wondering, what's with the goat? The Royal Welsh adopted a goat as their mascot from as early as 1775, when it's said that a wild goat wandered onto the battlefield and led the soldiers to safety. Ever since, a mascot goat has played an important role in regimental life. Official mascots

assume a regimental number and rank, and even a salary to pay for food, lodgings, and uniform. In a tradition established by Queen Victoria, new recruits are selected from the royal herd which resides on the Great Orme in Llandudno. Shenkin, as a kid aged just 4 months, was chosen by Goat Major Sergeant Mark Jackson, but reportedly took some catching!

If you missed the parade, don't worry. Local photographer Stephen Morris captured a unique perspective of the event using one of his camera drones. To watch the video, scan the QR code alongside. An excellent ground level video is also on Facebook courtesy of Mike Jones.



The door at The City Barbers got a Royal Welsh makeover – very creative!

North Wales International Music Festival 15th—30th September

How extraordinary it is that a small place like St Asaph can host such a prestigious and wonderful festival every year! The vision of William Matthias who started the festival back in 1972, and the energy and skill of those that have run the festival since then have been crucial to its success. Ann Atkinson, artistic director of the festival, will be stepping down after the final concert this year, having served 15 years at the helm. Difficult shoes to fill!

The theme this year is "Horizons" and full details of all the concerts and events are at www.nwimf.com There is indeed a horizon-wide range of concerts—something for everyone. See page 7





Mayor Colin Hardie inspects the troops



Mayor Colin Hardie formally gives the Freedom of the City of St Asaph to the Royal Welsh Regiment



Goat Major Mark Jackson and LCpl Shenkin lead the band of the Royal Welsh Regiment down the High Street



Royal Welsh Regiment cadets preparing before the parade



Les Williams of Connah's Quay and Colonel JC Williams



In the Royal Welch Fusiliers

The Royal Welsh Regiment was formed in 2006 by the amalgamation of the Royal Welch Fusiliers and the Royal Regiment of Wales. Mally Roberts, well known to many in St Asaph, served in the Royal Welch Fusiliers from 1974 to 1986, and would encourage anyone thinking of a spell in the forces to "go for it".

Mally joined the Army quite impulsively as a teenager. He was heading back from the fair in Rhyl with Dean Martin, Graham Hunter and Stephen Williams, and was aware that they already had good jobs. As they walked past the recruiting office in John Street, he called in and asked to join up. Later that day, having tea with his parents, he casually mentioned that he was joining up. Mally's father had been in the Welsh Guards, and was chuffed, and his mother was surprised and impressed.

Mally had to learn quickly in the Royal Welch Fusiliers. Training was hard, and discipline was strict, but he enjoyed the camaraderie and made lifelong friends. After initial basic training in South Wales, he joined his battalion in September 1976 in Northern Ireland. Mally comments: *"I wasn't allowed to go on the streets until I was 18, so on the 2nd of November at 00.30hrs I was sent out on my first foot patrol. My platoon commander said this is your happy birthday from the regiment, and thankfully it was an uneventful patrol. The problem in Ireland was you never had any idea who your enemy was, we had a good idea of who the players (suspects) were but you always had your doubts and had to be constantly alert"*. He had two challenging tours in Northern Ireland.



He had several postings to Germany, when the Cold War was still in play. Mally completed driver training for the APCs (Armoured Personnel Carriers) in preparation for going to Germany to join 5 Brigade as a mechanised battalion. He had a spell in Australia on a company exchange with Australian forces—a memorable time. He was there when the Falklands war broke out, and remembers trying to work out with his mates where the Falklands were! As they were on active service in Germany at the time, his battalion was not posted to Falklands during the conflict, but were subsequently. He spent some time attached to the Infantry Demonstration Battalion in Warminster, training officers and other ranks in the use of mortars, a specialist area for him.

After leaving the forces, Mally's career eventually led him to become a paramedic in the Welsh Ambulance service, where many skills learned in the Army stood him in good stead. No doubt many local readers will have been reassured by his cheerful and competent presence at their medical emergencies. Mally has many fond memories of serving in the Royal Welch Fusiliers, and has no regrets for time spent in the forces, particularly in such an illustrious and historic regiment. He is proud that the Royal Welsh Regiment is being given the Freedom of the City of St Asaph.

Thanks to Mally for allowing the City Times to quiz him on his time in the Royal Welch Fusiliers.



Photo: Lian Crierie

LCpl Shenkin - almost certainly the most photographed goat in the UK....

North Wales International Music Festival

check nwimf.com for full details

Tickets

- Book online 24/7 at nwimf.com
- Theatr Clwyd 01352 344101 (10-6)
- Cathedral Frames, 01745 582929 (Wed-Fri)



Programme:

Friday 15th Sept

1930 Tenebrae (Choral)

Saturday 16th Sept

1700 Taiko drum taster workshop

1930 Mugyenko Taiko Drummers

Thursday 21st Sept

1130 Jonathan Richards (guitar)

1330 Dementia Friendly workshop

1930 Kabantu acoustic quartet

Friday 22nd Sept

1000 Schools concert

1130 Tots concert

1930 The Horizon of Words (choirs, poetry)

Saturday 23rd Sept

1000 Musical Steps

1930 NEW Sinfonia

Thursday 28th Sept

1130 Ensemble Cymru

1930 Janina Fialkowska (piano)

Friday 29th Sept

1100 Janina Fialkowska (master class)

1930 Catrin Finch and Aoife ní Bhriain

Saturday Sept 30th

1930 NEW Sinfonia, NEW voices with Ann Atkinson, Kevin Sharp, Lisa Dafydd and Dafydd Jones



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Trying out an e-bike for the first time

If you pick up an e-bike to try in St Asaph (*see advert opposite*) there is a great marked cycle route to Rhyl, starting at the car park by the bowling club, crossing Pont Begard, running alongside the river on the tarmac path and then passing through Roe Parc, and onto the cycle path alongside the A525. Approaching Rhuddlan through the nature reserve, you then cross the river bridge and head down the east bank of the Clwyd. It's very beautiful and a great ride for spotting birds. Crossing the H bridge and then passing round the Marine Lake, you can cross the Millennium bridge to the Hub café for a little refreshment. Then you can head east or west on the coast on the traffic- free cycle and walking paths. You'll get all the details from Llan E-bikes.



20mph limit in restricted roads starts on 17th September.

The Welsh Government 20mph limit will come into force shortly. 20mph restricted roads are usually located in residential and built-up areas with street lights on them, placed no more than 200 yards apart. This would include all St Asaph, and likewise Trefnant, Tremeirchion and Rhualt. The quoted reasons for the change are:

- To reduce collisions and severe injuries (will also help emergency services and NHS)
- To encourage more people to walk and cycle, to improve our health and well-being
- To make our streets safer and safeguard the environment for future generations.

Not all roads currently with a 30mph limit will be suitable to change to 20mph. These roads will be known as exceptions. Local Authorities will consider with their communities which roads should remain signed as 30mph; currently the only local road on the list is between Cwttr Lane and the Business Park roundabout to the west of Ffordd William Morgan.

STOP PRESS: Discussions are ongoing in the Senedd about the implementation date....



Dr James Davies MP has started a petition against the measures, stating that the evidence for benefit is limited, and that there was a clear majority against the proposals in the Welsh Government consultations. He states “I am strongly against these proposals, which I think would be unworkable, unenforceable, costly and deeply unpopular. I don’t dispute that there is a place for defined and realistically enforceable 20mph zones. However, I believe that these should be at specific locations where drivers might otherwise routinely travel at 30mph but pose unacceptable risks of collision – for instance, outside schools and hospitals.” He notes that Welsh Government suggest that the implementation cost of the 20mph policy will be £32.5m.

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The Humane Research Trust

The St Asaph group of the Humane Research Trust would like to thank all of our supporters old and new for their continued support.

The recent cheese and wine evening raised £342 for the Trust, which is a human health charity working with doctors and scientists to find the cures we all want.

Best regards to all, and to absent friends

Roseanne and Pearl Davies



JB Dairies offer delivery of fresh locally produced milk in bottles on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in St Asaph. Bottles are collected, washed and re-used. If you are concerned about overuse of plastic, and supermarkets pressurising our dairy farmers, call them on 01745 350100 to set up delivery.

St Asaph—City of Music

Duncan Cameron

NWIMF festival launch concert

There was a great turnout on the 22nd June for the launch concert of the North Wales International Music Festival, with a varied and enjoyable programme. The evening started with two beautifully sung pieces by the Urdd Eisteddfod winning choir from Ysgol Glanrafon, Mold. Teleri Sian (piano) then played three Argentinian dances, unpredictable and complex. Next came Jonathan Richards who played two haunting guitar pieces, followed by a flute trio from the William Mathias Centre.



The cathedral choir sang two pieces by John Rutter, and after the interval, Jon Guy (clarinet) and Teleri Sian played two cheerfully upbeat Gershwin items.

When Bethan Gulver, a member of the cathedral choir, sang two pieces



Bethan Gulver

(Faure's *Pie Jesu* and a Schubert lieder), you could have heard a pin drop, such is her electrifying voice. An extraordinarily lively contribution from

Ysgol Glanrafon came next, with a full costume and full gusto *Can Acto*, transforming the transept somewhat surprisingly into a zoo. After a lovely contribution on the harp by Morwen Blythin, the evening came to a close with the cathedral choir singing Handel's mighty *Zadok the Priest*, conducted by Director of Music Paul Booth and accompanied by Christopher Enston on the cathedral organ. A fittingly powerful finale to a great concert.

Bishop Gregory Cameron thanked all the musicians, and then paid fulsome tribute to Ann Atkinson, musical director of the Festival, who will be stepping down from this role after this year's festival. She has been musical director of the festival for 15 years. This year's festival runs from 15th-30th September; details at www.nwimf.com

Rocking in the aisles—ABBA in the cathedral!

What would life be? Without a song or a dance, what are we? It was a great evening; something good in everything we saw; smiling, having fun. How could we resist them, the SOS ABBA tribute band?

Lead singers Hanna and Fran work in North Wales Police and Welsh Government respectively. They could very easily give up their day jobs. They dressed the part in glitter jumpsuits and stack heels, moved the moves, connected with the audience straight away and hit the harmonies impeccably and powerfully. The boys in the band were spot on and clearly having a ball.



ABBA stalwarts dug out their silver wigs

The audience sang along to those well-known lyrics (or at least what we could recall), and gradually more and more were up and dancing. Initially it felt odd to be dancing in the cathedral, but there was something in the air that night. Thanks to the Dean and cathedral staff, to Mark Hughes of Black Box events in Denbigh, and to the band.

If we had to do it all again, we would, my friends.....





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Balwen Welsh Mountain Sheep *Hanna Cae Cogau*

"I'm the only granddaughter of Brynle and Ann, Cae Cogau, and the only grandchild who eats, sleeps and breathes farming! Our "days off" were going to local shows, but now these days are also working days as I take pride in showing my Balwen Welsh Mountain Sheep." I first saw the Balwens at a show and they intrigued me. After seeing a starter flock for sale and sending the advert to mum, little did I know these were to be my 21st birthday present!

If you're already following my Facebook page - Balwens Marli and my Instagram - Hanna Cae Cogau, you'll know that it was in this small flock (one ram and four ewes) that the famous Billy Balwen came into my life and the Balwens Marli Flock was created.

The name Balwen comes from the Welsh *bal* "blaze" and *wen* "white. They originated from the Tywi Valley in South Wales where they were nearly wiped out in the disastrous winter of 1947, when only one ram and a handful of ewes survived. Interest in the breed grew in the 1970s and the society was formed in 1985. They have become increasingly popular on hill farms, and with smallholders, as in addition to their distinctive appearance, they are noted for ease of care, hardiness and excellent meat, with the ewes being very caring mothers.



Hanna, her father Rhys and three of the Balwens

We experienced their hardiness when the first set of twins were born in my flock; both escaped less than an hour old through a gap in the shed gate. It was torrential rain that night, and Taid noticed that a ewe had lambd but that no lambs were in sight. He walked the yard, shone the flashlamp into the pony's stable and there was one teeny tiny Balwen lamb. Realising he was too small for a single, he kept searching and found the second lamb by the Texels' lambing shed.

Lambing the Balwens to me is the same feeling as a child on Christmas morning, particularly with the excitement of seeing the markings. For successful registration, both ram and ewe lambs must be black, with an unbroken blaze from the poll of the head to the nose, a black nose and the lower two thirds of the tail white. Ram lambs must have horns and four distinct white socks, and the ewe lambs will pass registration on a

point system with only two white socks.

The annual show and sale is at the end of the showing season in September. I love receiving lambing updates from those who have bought lambs privately from me over the last five years, and I'm proud to see my breeding on the showing field. Gruff, a ram lamb I sold in 2021 took home reserve champion at the RWAS Smallholding Fair in 2022. Some of this year's lambs will be looking for pastures new (July/August); a number of them will be sons/daughters to Billy although I'll be reluctant to let them go especially as Billy is no longer with me. I'm keeping Hari (a son of Billy) as a ram within my flock, continuing Billy's legacy and bloodlines. My eldest ram now, Euros, has also been successful in the show ring. Unless I find a home prior the sale, he will be entered because I need new bloodlines. If you've managed to stay with me until now and like the sound of the Balwen breed, please feel free to send me a message or visit the annual sale in September.

Market news

Lamb sales at St Asaph livestock mart are as busy as ever, with the numbers of lambs sold remaining steady. Prices have generally held up, particularly at Easter and Eid.

Inflation and the cost of living crisis have affected retail sales of lamb, and increased feed costs have increased the pressures on sheep farmers. So far the impact of the Government's



trade deal with New Zealand and Australia, which will gradually increase the volume of A/NZ lamb able to be imported, has yet to be seen. Having said that, NZ already has tariff free access through the WTO agreement, but uses less than half of their current quota. This may be because of an increasing appetite for A/NZ lamb in China with their increasing prosperity and the effect of a bad outbreak of swine fever on China's pork production. Currently around 20% of lambs sold in St Asaph will be exported to the continent as carcasses. One thing is certain—the future is hard to predict for sheep farmers.

A Welsh mountain lamb born in February and selling in early autumn liveweight 26-30kg will fetch around £75, but lowland cross-bred lambs around 40kg will command prices of around £100-130.

Thanks to Stephen Morris of Jones Peckover, AHDB and Hybu Cig Cymru for information.



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Rainbow Golds

Katie Jones

Here are our very clever little Rainbows from St Asaph Brownies and Rainbows who have achieved their Rainbow Gold award. This is the highest award they can achieve at Rainbows, which they have to work very hard for. They have completed at least 6 interest badges, 6 skills builders and 6 theme awards. Well done girls!



Llannerch Bridge update

Sue Scott

An open meeting took place at the Whitehouse, Rhallt on Thursday 15th June 2023 at 7pm. The purpose was to review the progress made with the rebuilding of Llannerch Bridge after the extensive damage caused by Storm Christoph in January 2021. Local county councillors, representatives from Denbighshire County Council and residents from surrounding villages were present.

Various options had been presented at the February open meeting, but these have been updated. It was suggested that the design could be a two or three arched integral steel and concrete bridge constructed from concrete piles going down into the riverbed. The new bridge would be clad in stone with a single carriageway. It would be wider and longer than the original bridge with a safety verge to provide a safe crossing for pedestrians and cyclists.

There is no budget at present with a predicted cost of £9.3 million to rebuild. There are several phases to access funding including timeline, options, design, build etc which must be met before Welsh Government release funds for each phase. It was suggested it could be February 2026 before the bridge is replaced.

DCC informed the meeting that across Denbighshire there had been 21 highway structures damaged by Storm Christoph, one of which was Llannerch bridge which is the only one still out of commission. This project to rebuild Llannerch bridge is very complex and time consuming. DCC pledged to move the project forward as swiftly as possible and to continue to provide residents with regular updates on how the project was progressing.



Inspecting the bridge before the collapse; note the asymmetrical arch

Borrow Bus—borrowing instead of buying...

Lian Crierie

Have you ever wanted to complete a project but the cost of having to buy all the tools you'll need has put you off? Well, here might be your solution! The Borrow Bus, which has recently featured in two television programmes, is the first of its kind in Wales and it's here on our doorsteps in Denbighshire! For a small fee you can join the borrow bus scheme and select from a wide range of items available on the Borrow Bus website. There are not just tools though, but all sorts from popcorn makers to bike carriers! You save yourself the expense of buying everything individually and at the same time reduce the waste eventually going to landfill. It's a win, win situation! <https://borrowbus.wales>



Full marks to Brownies and Rainbows who went on a litter pick to keep our wonderful city tidy, and also to their tireless and committed leaders!

Turning used nappies into road surfacing?

Denbighshire County Council

Denbighshire's new Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP) collections will be launched in a pilot scheme in LL16 and LL17 postcodes from September 2023, and rolled out to the rest of the county later.

This free weekly service has been launched to reduce the amount of waste in residents' black bins, as currently, 20% of this is AHP waste. It is part of wider work the Council is undertaking to improve recycling rates in the county.

Barry Mellor, Lead Member for Environment and Transport said, "We're starting by collecting this waste separately now so that when a contract is in place with a recycling facility, we'll be ready to recycle it straight away. In future, this waste could be used to produce a variety of new products, which might include fibreboards and acoustic panels for floors and walls, and as an engineering material used in road surfaces."

He went on to say, "While it's great that we're looking at even more things we can recycle, we also encourage residents to consider other ways of reducing their waste. One way of doing this is using reusable nappies which is a cheaper alternative to disposable nappies. The Council offers a reusable nappy voucher scheme to help residents by providing £25 worth of vouchers to buy reusable nappies."

The new AHP collection service will be available to households with babies or children in nappies, and adults who use incontinence products. You can find out more and register for this on www.denbighshire.gov.uk/recycling and collections will start on Monday, 11 September.



A 1.4-mile stretch of road between Cardigan and Aberystwyth has been re-paved using 107,000 recycled disposable nappies. Fibre from the nappies is added to the bitumen that glues together asphalt road surfaces. (images: Pura)



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CUT SHORT

Chris Madoc Jones

Many years ago I went to have my hair cut in Ruthin. "John the Barber's" establishment was in a cellar in a back street. I sat down next to a wiry, ruddy cheeked old man who struck up a conversation with me. That was not typical behaviour in these parts unless you knew each other. Barber's shops were usually quiet except for the snip of the scissors and the buzz of the electric hair clippers. He was obviously a countryman, but not from these parts.

In rural Wales the first thing we want to know about strangers is where they come from. Starting from there we can usually establish some sort of connection through family, friends, work or travel. He was a cheerful old soul and happy to talk about himself and satisfy my curiosity. He explained that he had only recently moved to Wales after spending most of his life on the family farm deep in the Cheshire countryside between Whitchurch and Chester.

He was born in 1918 and he talked at first about life in the age of horses and how he remembered going the 17 miles into Chester once a month with his parents in a pony and trap, with them sitting in the front and he and his brothers and sisters in the back, under a blanket, if it was cold, and huddling under the seat if it rained. He remembered the exhilaration of the ride on a fine summer's morning and arriving in Chester and his father leaving the pony with an ostler who would tether it and give it water and a feed of oats. He said he had heard that coach drivers in earlier times used to keep hot potatoes in their coat pockets to keep their hands warm on cold days.



Until the Second World War their farm was horse powered. His father kept six mares and used them for breeding. A Mr Vaughan would take his stallion around Cheshire from farm to farm to service the mares. He used a set of horse shoes every week and would keep supplies at intervals along his route for re-shoeing the stallion.

The horses were replaced by tractors during the Second World War (1939-1945) when many farm labourers were conscripted into the armed forces. The owners of farms were exempt from the "call up" which included him as the only son. A tractor could plough six times as much land in the same time as a horse and plough. He remembered how nervous he felt when his dad first gave him a field to plough and left him there on his own to get on with it. The first thing he did was to go over the plough tightening all the nuts and bolts with a spanner before starting, in case something came loose or fell off!



Farms close to prisoner of war camps often had German or Italian prisoners working for them, while others employed "land girls" who had chosen farm work instead of working in munitions factories or joining the armed forces. There was a land girl on the neighbouring farm who caught his eye and he would contrive to find work to do in a field adjoining her farm whenever he saw her. The friendship never got further than chaste talks over a hedge but this was enough to get him into trouble. The girl had a boyfriend away in the army and when his friends got wind of the young farmer's developing interest they called on him and warned him off.

He had had unwittingly broken the wartime code of honour that forbade other men to take advantage of the absence of servicemen. That was the end of that. He did not marry but remained on the farm and looked after his mother until she died aged 93.

He heard no more from the land girl but never forgot her. And, as it turned out, she never forgot him. Forty years later he was competing in sheepdog trials near Llangollen and this lady's son heard his name or the name of his farm and mentioned it to his mother, who was now a widow. She tracked him down, phoned him and they decided to meet and eventually married and moved to Wales.

At this point he had to take his turn in the barber's chair and I was left to wonder how it all worked out. He looked a contented old fellow so I think they were living happily ever after. Let's hope so.



Allotment Warfare!

Tecwyn Savage

In a previous issue, I wrote an article about my allotment, in the hope of encouraging more St Asaph folk to take up some of the vacant plots on our site. I intentionally didn't mention any problems they might encounter, as there can be nothing more depressing for a new plot-holder than to work hard, cultivating, sowing and planting, only to see the crop succumb to some pest or disease. However, this should not deter them from trying again, as there are always ways of overcoming the problems.

The first thing any plot-holder on our site should do is to ensure the plot is rabbit-proof. There is a warren just outside my plot, and despite my numerous efforts, which included burying wire netting to a depth of about two feet, the pesky critters (sorry children, I mean dear little bunnies) managed to get in a few times. They've even bitten through netting between the plot and the field, because the wire used was too thin.

For some years I've had small losses of beetroot, being chewed by rodents, voles maybe, but I've learnt to pull the beetroots up for use when they're quite small, rather than waiting for them to get to full size. In the last two seasons, many plot-holders suffered losses to rats, taking sweetcorn and broad beans, and the winter before last devastating my purple sprouting broccoli.



In the early years, I brought all our fruit and veg peelings from home, to add to my compost bin and also had three bird feeders nearby, including a ground feeder for a robin which almost became a pet. I was forced to give up this activity, when I discovered a rat's nest in the bin, obviously attracted by all the free food! I now compost all our kitchen waste at home in a "Hotbin". This is a fantastic piece of equipment, which I'd recommend to anyone, even if they haven't got an allotment.

I've never used slug bait or any other pesticide, so I occasionally find slugs in the base of a lettuce or cabbage. I simply remove them and any damaged leaves, before taking them home. A thorough wash is then all that's needed. This must surely be preferable to supermarket bought veg, which have been treated with an unknown cocktail of chemicals!

Whilst we are all happy to see butterflies, the two types of Cabbage White are enemy number one for Brassica growers.

Their caterpillars can strip a large plant in no time. The simple solution is to cover the plants with a fine mesh. Brassicas also need to be netted in winter, to protect them from pigeons.



My veg have suffered a few new problems this year, which might be attributable to climate change. Firstly, my over-wintered broad beans were completely destroyed during the very cold spell we had earlier in the year. This is the first time it's happened in thirteen years! Fortunately I was able to make a second sowing, which produced a very good crop, albeit about a month later than usual.

Secondly, whilst my early low growing peas produced a reasonable crop, my tall maincrop, a variety called Alderman, which normally grows to six feet and more, gave up the ghost at about four feet, despite regular watering. The growing tips, and the few pods that had formed shrivelled. This happened during the recent hot spell.

Whilst this area probably will not suffer any serious effects of climate change within my lifetime, I must consider some changes to what I grow and the methods I use to grow them. Perhaps sow maincrop peas much earlier; provide protection for my winter grown broad beans. Find crops that actually benefit from warmer weather.

All this might seem like gloom and doom, but there are solutions to most problems, and we can take satisfaction in growing our own healthy, chemical free, fruit and veg.



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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 October issue, please submit items to editorsact@gmail.com before the deadline shown on page 2.

Regular weekly events

Day	Time	Details
Monday	6-8pm	Open Access Youth Club run by Denbighshire County Council at the St Asaph Community Church, High Street. (term-time only)
Tuesday	10am	Aros a Chwarae. Free toddler group for preschool children and their parents/carers. Meet at Llanelwy Community Church, 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	9.30-5 6pm	Warm Space welcome in the Library: WiFi, free internet access, papers, refreshments 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
	5pm	Himalayan Balsam Pulls check Elwy Invasive Plant Group Facebook page
Friday	9.30-5 2.30pm	Social Mornings in the Library: WiFi, free internet access, papers, refreshments Cash Bingo at The Old Palace.
Sunday	4.30-6pm	Community Fridge in the Parish Church. All welcome. It's not a food bank! Stay for a coffee and a chat afterwards.

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. Contact Gareth at julmwilliams1974@gmail.com
1st Tuesday	10am	Litter pick: Start at Council Meeting Rooms. Afon Elwy Environmental Group
1st Tuesday	7pm	WI meet at St Asaph Parish Church, info at stasaphwi@gmail.com
4th Saturday	10am	Litter pick: Start at Council Meeting Rooms. Afon Elwy Environmental Group
3 rd Sunday	3-5pm	T Club at the Parish Church. Details on church website. Contact Marion on 01745 590960

One-off events

August		
Wed 16th	11 -1	Family crafts, St Asaph Cathedral. Free activity for children & families. No booking needed
Wed 16th	7.30pm	Organ recital by Ian Harrison (Gloucestershire). Tickets available at the door.
Saturday 12th	6.30 – 9 & 9.30 - 12	Silent Disco in St Asaph Cathedral. Bookings: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/90s-silent-disco-in-st-asaph-cathedral-tickets-608727298737 Contact/Enquiries: incrediblesilentdiscos@gmail.com
Thursday 17th		Denbigh and Flint show at the Showground, Denbigh Green LL16 4U
21st—25th	10-12.30	Messy church adventures at Parish church. Children must be accompanied. Free, lunch included. Booking helpful. Tel or text 07841160430
September		
Sunday 3rd	11-12.30	Messy Church in the Parish Church
Wed 6th	7.30	Organ recital in the cathedral by Jon Barton (from Shrewsbury) Tickets at the door.
Thursday 7th	7yp	Merched y Wawr Llanelwy. Noson o ganu hwyliog gyda'r Therapydd Cerdd Ceri Rawson. Ystafell y Cyngor. Croeso i aelodau newydd i ymuno â ni!
15th—30th		North Wales International Music Festival at St Asaph Cathedral www.nwimf.com
Saturday 23rd		Live music at the New Inn: 'The Remedies' playing from 6pm.

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Chartered Surveying

It's a great (if slightly threatening!) tagline for Chartered Surveyor Chris Armstrong of Validus Property Consultants but given his 30 plus years' experience of working in North Wales, Chester, and the Wirral, it is no doubt absolutely correct. Chris Armstrong (FRICS) and his colleagues at Validus Property provide survey and valuation services for both residential and commercial properties, the biggest part of that work being Home Buyer Surveys for house purchasers.

With characteristic enthusiasm, he says that his is the best job in the world! Chris enjoys the challenge of accurately assessing a property, producing a professional survey report and then taking the time to go through that report with his clients. "Buying a house is the biggest investment any of us are likely to make and the right survey will provide that peace of mind".

The Homebuyers/Level 2 survey is the most popular report format and suitable for over 90% of properties. For older, listed or nonstandard construction properties, the Full Building Survey/Level 3 report may be appropriate. Both reports will help a purchaser make an informed decision and renegotiate with the vendor where appropriate. Over the years, Chris has found the most common problems are not things such as movement, damp or woodworm but more often problems that arise following alterations to a property either due to poor workmanship or design restricting ventilation for example. Condensation has become a major issue.

Chris will also provide expert valuation advice on residential and commercial properties, for purposes including purchase, lease negotiations, probate and matrimonial matters. He will often act as a Single Joint Expert representing all parties and often reporting directly to the court as an expert witness. Commercial work includes Schedule of Dilapidations/Condition on a range of commercial property types.

Chris loves sport and is the Chaplain at Rhyl Rugby Club, for whom he previously played. He will have a crack at most sports including football, hockey and cycling. In years gone by, he was Chairman and Head Coach of Denbigh Swimming Club and helped establish the Denbighshire County Swimming team. Hailing from the Northeast, he is a keen supporter of Newcastle United. Validus are generous and serial sponsors of local clubs and organisations. In five-a-side football, he was famous for encouraging the team with the Geordie shout "Stay on wor feet, lads". That's a great motto for our times!



Llanelwy WI

Denise D'Albertson

Our guest speaker in June was Lindsey Thomas from St Kentigern Hospice. Lindsey reminded us that the Hospice was founded in 1995 providing free specialist end of life and palliative care, and that it is mostly reliant on donations and contributions. The hospice offers a range of services including in-patient care, day-care and complementary therapies. Since 2020 they have been able to increase the beds available from 8 to 12, update the hospice gardens and build the very popular Caffi Cariad.

St Kentigern hosts a number of fundraising events throughout the year, including the Dawn Walk. Lindsey's talk was interesting and informative and gave us an insight into the work and activities of the hospice. Denise presented Lindsey with over 40 hand made knee blankets, which had been either knitted, crocheted or sewn by the Llanelwy WI Craft Club members over the past few months. Some of the blankets were finished as "twiddle" blankets for people living with dementia.

This project was overseen and brought together by Tracy who leads our craft club.



Lindsey Thomas and the blankets



Martyn Hogg and WI members

In support of the **Great Big Green Week**, we joined the Afon Elwy Environment Group for a litter pick and also met with Martyn Hogg, Green Party Councillor to discuss the condition of our rivers, in particular the Elwy, as part of the WI Campaign, 'Clean Rivers for swimmers and wildlife'. We talked about the work being carried out by local organisations, including natural flood management, tackling invasive non-native species such as the Himalayan Balsam along our river banks and the sustainable farming scheme. All very encouraging!

We had a day trip to Port Sunlight for a guided tour of the village and visited the museum, explored an Edwardian worker's cottage and the soap works. After lunch we visited the Lady Lever Art Gallery. Our guide was excellent and we learnt so much about the founder, William Lever, and the lives of those who worked for him and the building of the village. There were 29 architectural practices employed to design Port

Sunlight with the most famous architect being Edward Lutyens.

Our July meeting started off with grapevines, shuffles and a hitch! We were taught three line dances by Alison, a professional dance teacher. It was exhausting but very enjoyable! If you would like to come along to one of our meetings please email stasaphwi@gmail.com for further information.

MERCHED Y WAWR Llanelwy

Ffion Davies

Ar brynhawn hyfryd o braf bu aelodau'r gangen yn ymweld â Phont y Tŵr yn Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd, sef yr ardd sy'n cael ei dangos ar y rhaglen Garddio a Mwy ar S4C. Cawsom ein tywys o gwmpas gwahanol ardaloedd o'r ardd gan Sioned Edwards, y perchennog, ac roeddem yn dotio at yr amrywiaeth o flodau a phlanhigion sy'n tyfu ynddynt gyda phob un yn amlwg yn cael yr amgylchiadau perffaith i ddatblygu ar ei orau. Mae Sioned yn paratoui trefniannau ar gyfer achlysuron fel priodasau ac angladdau gan roi pwyslais ar ofalu bod yr hyn y mae'n eu cynnwys ynddynt yn edrych mor naturiol ag sy'n bosib. Mae gardd Pont y Tŵr yn sicr yn werth ei gweld ac mae'n ei chadw hi ac Iwan, ei gŵr, yn brysur gan fod rhywbeth i'w wneud ynddi trwy'r flwyddyn.

Diolchodd Eirlys i Sioned am ei chroeso cynnes inni a hefyd i Eleri am wneud y trefniadau ar ein cyfer.

Wedi ymlacio tra'n eistedd yng ngwres yr haul ar y lawnt o flaen y tŷ yn mwynhau paned a darn blasus o gacen aethom yn ein blaenau i gael pryd o fwyd ardderchog yn Nant y Felin yn Llanrhaeadr.

Roedd cangen Llanelwy yn sicr ar y map yn yr Ŵyl Haf ym Machynlleth ganol mis Mai gan fod dwy wobwr wedi eu hennill gan ein haelodau. Llongyfarchiadau i Eirlys am ennill y wobwr gyntaf am wneud bowlen a hefyd dyfarnwyd un o'r prif wobrau llenyddol, sef Gwobr Patagonia am yr erthygl orau yn Y Wawr rhwng 2022 – 2023, i Ffion am ei herthygl am Sir Clwyd, sef y sir oedd yn noddi Sioe Llanelwedd yn 2022.



Aelodau yn ymlacio yng ngardd Pont y Tŵr

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New Inn celebrates 5th Anniversary

Elizabeth Williams

On the 6th August 2018, Mark and Elaine decided to take a huge financial, emotional and physical risk by taking over The New Inn in St Asaph. They had gained experience and knowledge from both sides of their families with Elaine's mum and dad previously running The Plough and Mark's mum and dad running the New Inn.

With sheer grit and determination they have brought this small city pub back to life, greeting new and old customers. They have made it a loving, warm and friendly environment for all to enjoy. With them both keeping their full time jobs, they have transformed The New Inn into a welcoming, safe and thriving community pub.



Under their management The New Inn has been renovated beyond the belief of the locals and themselves with the pub having a new roof, new heating system, chimney breast removal, decorated throughout, an outdoor fully operational bar, extended beer garden, a dedicated children's play area, additional seating and many more added features.

The list of awards that they have achieved over such a short time is phenomenal, the Pride of Wales Award 2022, Cellar Excellence 2019 & 2023, Best Newcomers 2019, CAMRA Most Improved Winner 2019 and many more. They have been invited to the annual JW Lees Pub of the Year Ceremony for the 3rd time (COVID affected 2 ceremonies) and have been nominated for Regional Pub of the Year and Beer Ambassador 2023. By the time this article goes to print they will know what they have won, so pop in for a drink and find out for yourselves.

Family is always key to the success of any business venture, and Mark and Elaine have the added bonus of Elizabeth managing the daily running of the pub with Faye and Mathew being fully trained to work during busy periods.



This local community pub has catered for all celebrations including weddings, special birthdays, christenings, annual bike shows, live singers/bands, rock and roll bingo, bonfire night display, Halloween children's party, quiz nights, stag/hen do parties, local sponsorships, annual Epilepsy fund-raising event, and also funerals for those special locals who can no longer be with us who quite fittingly named the New Inn their second home. The New Inn is now a charming and enjoyable home for all!

Mods and Rockers meet at the New Inn!

Sue Scott

On Saturday 10th June 2023 bikers from motorcycle clubs across the county and members of the Cloud Nine Scooter Club in the Wirral descended on the New Inn for an extravaganza of beautiful motorcycles and scooters. The event began at 11 am and was in full swing at 12.30pm. Local enthusiasts were thrilled with the array of scooters and bikes on show. Breakfast baps and lunch time snacks went down well too. There were prizes galore including Landlord's and Landlady's choice, loudest noise by a machine and Best in Show voted for by the customers. Prizes were presented by the Mayor Councillor Colin Hardie and the Mayoress Gwenda Hardie. Entertainment during the afternoon was provided by The Cellar Dwellers.

The bespoke outside bar and the extensive beer garden with bright yellow umbrellas and colourful gazebos for shade was the ideal backdrop for a splendid motorcycle and scooter show. So popular was the event with the locals and enthusiasts that Mark and Elaine promised to make to make it an annual event.





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Summer in the Cathedral Heritage Garden. Chris Jones

2023 is our second summer in the development of the garden located in the grounds of St. Asaph Cathedral, a National Lottery Heritage Fund project, and the garden continues to grow and develop.

I'm sitting on a sunny afternoon enjoying the peace and tranquillity and gaze around this lovely spot. The Hidcote lavender hedge surrounding the garden is in full flower and its scent lingers in the air on a still summer day and the hum of the bees busy at work provides a gentle background for the many visitors who enjoy sitting on the bench during their visit.

The physic beds are full of shape and colour. Calendula with its cheerful orange flowers (better known as Marigold) is a plant that ancient herbalists associated with courage and heart health. Its flowers are also believed to relieve wasp and bee stings. Betony is growing profusely now with its pretty purple flowers – a Welsh charm to prevent dreaming suggested drinking the juice of the leaves before going to bed. The foxgloves and the comfrey are flowering freely and each one has a good reason for being planted. A visitor to the garden can make use of a laminated guide available in the cathedral to learn of their uses and traditions.



The Paradise garden is also blooming, and although the traditional roses have now finished flowering, a variety of other historical flowers are providing colour and scent. Soapwort (*Saponaria*) was traditionally used for washing; the root produces lather on contact with water. Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium*), as well as having lovely blue flowers, was traditionally grown to reduce fever and inflammation.

Another part of the garden which has developed is the Victorian Potager; this is an area which traditional vegetables are being raised, and this year has seen a successful first harvest of a variety of greens as well as establishing fruit bushes and an organic

compost area. Good King Henry or poor man's asparagus and a liquorice plant are also being cultivated. We are very fortunate that we have two experienced vegetable growers in our midst who have taken this area under their wings.

Historically people believed that the taste of plants was of significance. A bitter taste was good for the liver and stimulated the digestive system. Examples of these were chicory, artichokes and even dandelions. A sour taste was good for emotions e.g. Sorrel, limes or lemons. Nettles were known as a Spring Tonic and are nutritious; they can be used in a bouquet garni or a soup. They make good for the compost and plant feed.

There are a variety of flowers which we hope will provide colour throughout the year.

We aim to collect seeds and propagate plants which we hope can be made available to visitors via a small donation to help with garden costs.



NOTE: On 16th August from 11-1 there will be a repeat of the popular Medieval Marvels family crafts event in the Cathedral heritage garden. It's a free activity for children & families; no booking is needed.

Church Services in St Asaph

Cathedral

Eucharist: Sundays 11am
Evensong Sundays 3.30 in term-time
Offeren: Friday 9.30

The Parish Church:

Eucharist: Sundays 9.30 and Thursday 10am
Messy Church 11.00* (1st Sun. of month)

Llanelwy Community Church

Sunday celebration 10.30

St Winefred's Catholic Church

Mass Saturdays 6pm

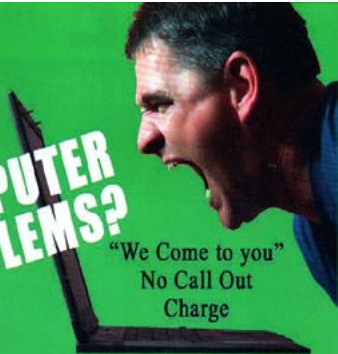


The cathedral and the parish church are open for visiting and prayer or quiet reflection every day.

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The Denbigh Plum

Philip Lunt

"In 2006 my wife and I took early retirement and moved from Bickerstaffe, a tiny rural village in West Lancashire to Trefnant, which, with its great community spirit, was an eye opener for us, a really pleasant surprise that has got even better over time. We quickly embraced Trefnant village life and I started showing my beloved fuchsias that I had brought with me at the hub of the community, the famous Trefnant Village Hall and its annual fruit and flower show. It was whilst in the village hall in summer 2008 talking to fellow exhibitors that I first became aware of the Denbigh Plum.

I have grown plums for many years and had actually brought some plum trees with me in tubs when I moved house, but I was quite impressed by this tasty new plum. I was told it was a local Welsh plum, grown only around Denbigh and Conwy Valley area. In the summer of 2010 I acquired my very own Denbigh plum tree, purchased from Ian Sturrock and Sons of Bangor, growers of Welsh heritage fruit trees.

I was intrigued by this mysterious local plum and started to research its heritage and origins, and yet the more I delved the more blind alleys of misinformation surfaced. In the meantime, in February 2019, the Denbigh Plum had gained heritage status with **Protected Designation of Origin** and **Protected Geographical Indication** status.

There was little factual information for this special tree, and I put together a simple booklet on the planting and initial care of the Denbigh plum entitled: *An Introduction To The Denbigh Plum*. Meanwhile I continued to research into the origins of the Denbigh plum and 12 years later, and after much intensive poring over old documents, newspapers, journals and old gardening books, I finally got to the facts and exploded a few myths about the mysterious Denbigh plum and its origins. My book, *The Definitive Book Of The Denbigh Plum*, was published in March 2023. It is now on sale either by contacting me on philcyn@btinternet.com or at Green Fingers Garden Centre in Denbigh, where genuine Denbigh plum trees are for sale."

Grafters required: Phil adds: "Over the past 5 or 6 years, I've been trying with several others to propagate by grafting the Denbigh Plum from registered plum trees as it should be, here in the Vale of Clwyd. This has been fraught with difficulty as we need to expand from just three part-time grafters. We're looking for keen and preferably younger local people with an interest in gardening, particularly in fruit growing, to teach them how to graft and prune fruit trees."



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"Pack up your Troubles"

Henllan Guides

Six girls from Henllan Guides contacted the St Asaph times for help as they wanted to work towards a communication badge. They have researched and written a St Asaph story which they hope readers will enjoy!

Have you heard the story of the two brothers George and Felix Powell who were born and brought up in St Asaph?

After travelling to London to make their fortune they wrote the song "Pack up your troubles". It was written by George Powell under the name George Asaf. They played it over and over but ultimately decided that it was rubbish and shoved it away in a drawer. Later, the Powell brothers entered the song into a competition to find a motivational song for the First World War and to their surprise it won! The song became so famous it was even sung in German on the opposing side in the war.

The bitter irony was that their the song about war made them famous - but it was also war that killed both brothers in different ways.

The song brought them instant fame. Just a week after they won the competition, they were already hearing thousands of troops chant their song on their way to the docks to fight which they found very amusing. Their song was also translated into a dozen languages worldwide. At the time "Pack up your troubles" was covered by many of the famous singers of the time including Judy Garland, Gene Kelly, Laurel and Hardy. Recently the song featured in Eliza Doolittle's pop hit "Pack up" and a global advertisement for a computer firm.

When it came time to war their differences separated them. Felix signed up and worked as a staff sergeant touring the trenches. He became haunted by their song, suffered a nervous breakdown in the trenches and left the war a broken man. George Powell was a life-long pacifist and when conscription was introduced in 1916, he became a conscientious objector which made him unpopular for the rest of his life.

Eventually the brothers were reunited in Sussex, but Felix found it difficult to keep writing after dealing with financial problems and he ended up taking his own life on the stage of the theatre they ran together in 1942. The song led to their rise and then inevitably led to their downfall. Even so, the two talented brothers from St Asaph will always be remembered as creative heroes who made the song of a lifetime.



Thanks to: Caitlin, Sioned, Ellen, Megan Olivia, Nicola (Leader), Eva

Ysgol Esgob Morgan — a School of Sanctuary

Ysgol Esgob Morgan is the first Church in Wales primary school in North Wales to be accredited as a "School of Sanctuary" following a rigorous process in which the staff and pupils demonstrated a culture of welcome across the school, the curriculum and the learning.

Headteacher Tim Redgrave said: "To be the first in North Wales is a wonderful achievement, but the best thing about being a School of Sanctuary is the fact that this is what we are, always have been and always will be. This is a special place for all. I am, once again, incredibly proud of this school." The theme of sanctuary was embedded through the school's Church in Wales values and involved projects on War and Conflict, work to analyse media headlines on asylum and activities for Refugee Week.



Tim Redgrave, headteacher

Among the comments from the panel who visited were:

- "A particular strength is how you extend your religious values across all religions, providing space for prayer, reflection and learning across religions such as facilitating a pupil to teach the rest of the school about Ramadan."
- "Your pupils are well-informed active citizens who fully understand the rights of all children and how to activate their voices. You have some great future leaders!"
- "Your school clearly demonstrates a culture of welcome in line with the Schools of Sanctuary criteria. Your pupils are a real credit to your hard work. It was a pleasure to be welcomed into your school and talk to members of your community."

The Director of Education for the Dioceses of St Asaph and Bangor, Dr Justine Baldwin said: "Congratulations to all the pupils and staff at Ysgol Esgob Morgan. We know it is a rigorous and tough appraisal process to achieve School of Sanctuary status. Well done to all the children who spoke during the panel visit and were so informed and knowledgeable! You were a real credit to yourself and your teachers"



ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

HOWEVER BIG OR SMALL

CAN YOU FIND ALL OF THE HIDDEN WORDS?

H S L E W A R H E R D W G B U D K
E G G O A T Y F E I A E A I J A
E H E A L L C L J W C P G O M L S
D B I L L Y V T O R T R B O I L H
T S A Q E N E E S S I E S P L A M
R O R D G A A N C H D C O R A T E N I
L E R M N D H S A A G A E F I Q A
S V F A P S H P E I H N H H Y T H
B M O U N T A I N C A D O N I J E A
T U D F O F O A D K O U R J L S A R
J R I G R U F F J D X U N I K A B
E E L K I H S C G R A S S L A M B
I A P I O P T H H A T H S A U B G
M A S C O T Z D A M A R A K I C K

BILLY
NANNY
GRUFF
TROLL
TROT

GRASS
BEARD
HORNS
MILK
RAM

HERD
MOUNTAIN
WELSH
KASHMIR
MASCOT

DID YOU KNOW?



Goats have been mascots for the Royal Welsh Regiment since 1775.



In 1884, Queen Victoria gifted a Kashmir goat from her royal herd to the regiment.



To this day, a large herd of these goats lives on the Great Orme above Llandudno.



The regimental goat is called Shenkin... did you spot him in the recent parade?

SO BAAAD, THEY'RE GOOD



Why is it so hard to have a good conversation with a goat? Because they're always butting in.

What do you call a mountain goat? A hillbilly.

COLOUR IN THIS SUNNY SCENE



ENGLISH AND MATHS TUITION

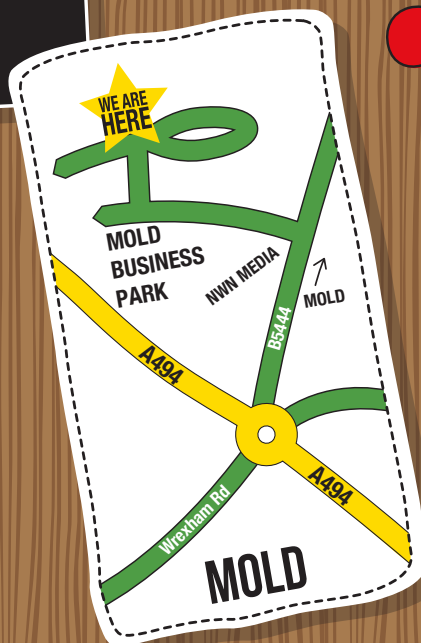
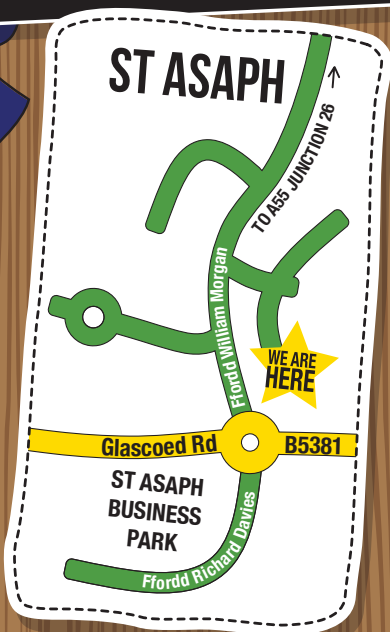
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Newyddion Ysgol Glan Clwyd

Summer Fun: Year 6 primary school pupils enjoyed two days of activities at Ysgol Glan Clwyd to help prepare for next term. In addition, the Music Department has been working with the cluster primary schools to prepare a performance of **Hwyl yr Haf** (Summer Fun) for parents and friends of the school. In addition to the much-enjoyed performance, there were various stalls and activities such as face painting and throwing a wet sponge at some long-suffering staff members! Refreshments were provided for those listening to a performance of pop songs by the pupils who have been studying GCSE Music. It was a memorable evening!



Mr Ian Roberts takes a hit



Online safety: Parents came to school to learn about online safety during an evening where key partners of the school, such as the Police, Barnardo's and the Cyber Crime Team were present. It was a successful evening of raising awareness regarding the misuse of computers, the importance of passwords, radicalization and cyber bullying.

Record of Achievement and Goodbye Year 11: Pupils, parents and some of the staff came together to wish Year 11 well at the end of June in a memorable ceremony at the Cathedral. The speaker was Kate Sutherland, a former pupil, who is now the Senior Coroner for North West Wales. Her address was very encouraging regarding values, the pupils' futures and the importance of bilingualism.



Goodbye to Year 11!

Head Pupils 2023 - 2024: Gwion Williams and Llio Davies were elected as next year's head pupils, with Elan Howatson, Erin Thomas, Rhydian Jones and Jake Chow as their deputies. Congratulations and best wishes to the six of them.

Nature Club: The hard-working crew have had a very busy year holding regular meetings to sustain several nature projects. Their latest venture this term has been to plant and grow vegetables and herbs in the school's quad. Thank you to all of the members for their enthusiasm and hard work.



The new Head Pupils

Pupils' successes: Congratulations to Sonny Baxter, Elijah Lloyd, Sophia Griffiths and Eryn Williams, all in Year 10, who have reached the final round of Cardiff University's medical quiz.

Well done Sasha Jones Year 7 who will be representing North Wales in gymnastics competition

We're also very proud of Jac Armstrong for representing Welsh Schools in a recent football game against England, receiving his first cap, and winning the game in the last seconds with his penalty kick! Many congratulations Jac!

Formula 1 success for local students!

John Oliver

St Asaph student Jasmin Jones has recently gained success in a global competition run by the Formula 1 racing organisation. Together with her friends Elin Wisby and Jess Frith from Denbigh High they were "Team Epoch" in the F1 in Schools competition. This is about designing and manufacturing a miniature car using computer design tools. The car is powered by CO2 cartridges and has to follow extensive regulations in a similar fashion to Formula 1. In addition they had to design and produce marketing materials and uniforms.

Having succeeded earlier in March in winning first place in regional championships held at Venue Cymru, Jasmin went recently to the national championships at Leeds University, where Team Epoch became Welsh Champions for 2023. A former pupil of Ysgol Esgob



Morgan, Jasmin said, "We're grateful to Ivor Williams, Crabb Engineering, 3Dprint UK, Fairway Graphics and Animated Technologies for all the help they have given us. We now go forward to the 2024 World Championships with competitors from 40 other countries which will be held in either Saudi Arabia or Singapore to coincide with the F1 race weekend - so we'll be starting to look for sponsorship and fundraising soon" Any local businesses who would be interested in sponsoring the team, please contact teamepochracing@gmail.com.





Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog

Laura Martin

We have all thoroughly enjoyed the last half term of this academic year with plenty of visitors and trips to be had. Children have enjoyed trips to Gypsy Wood, Xplore!, Tag Active and the beach and we have been visited by Denbighshire Music Cooperative, PC Gareth, Maisie our Therapy Dog, our Dance and Drama teacher and more!

Our Sports Day was a big success with the children showing so much support and encouragement towards each other, it was lovely to see our core values on display!



Sadly this term we have to say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 learners who are moving on to pastures new. As a small school these children have had so much responsibility and have been fully involved in the running of the school and some of the decisions we have made over the year. Year 6 you will be missed by us all, we are so proud of each of you and everything you have achieved in your time with us and have no doubt that you will continue to shine brightly as you progress through secondary school.

We are very much looking forward to our Food and Fun Holiday Club and look forward to seeing lots of children there for a summer of sports, games, craft and more! Wishing you all a lovely summer!



VP Infants school

Kate Langford

Sports Day Superstars!

A huge well done to our children for their recent sports day successes. We had a fabulous sports day with our families and were immensely proud of the children. It was delightful to hear the children cheering on their friends as they sprinted, balanced bean bags on their heads, ran through the obstacle courses and steadily held the egg and spoon. The sun shone, we smiled, we laughed and we made memories together.

Modernising VP

Some very exciting developments will be happening at VP over the Summer Holiday. We will be having the builders in to refurbish and modernise four of our classrooms. We can't wait to see what the new classrooms look like in September and look forward to getting back to school.

Goodbye and hello

It feels like this academic year has flown by! We wave goodbye to Year 2 and hand them over to Mr Redgrave at Ysgol Esgob Morgan. They are a talented, bright and able group of children who are full of character and good fun! We hope they bring their new school as much joy as they brought us and wish them all the best for their futures. As Year 2 leave us, a new Nursery join us – we are excited to get to know our new children. Welcome to the VP family!

We have had a lovely end to the year at St Asaph VP Infant School. I would like to thank the St Asaph Community for their support over the last year as without it so much that we achieve as a school would not be possible. I would also like to praise the VP staff. Their commitment to providing the best possible education for our pupils is commendable. I truly believe that we achieve the best possible outcomes for our children when we work in partnership - parents, pupils, the wider community and staff - we look forward to continuing to work with you in the year ahead.



Ear Wax Removal

If you are experiencing hearing problems, Micro Suction may be the answer. This is a procedure for removing ear wax with little or no discomfort.

I have worked in the Ear, Nose and Throat/Head and Neck Department for the National Health Service for over 35 years as a specialist nurse.

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Please make an appointment through BDM Podiatry, Abergele on **01745 826633** to arrange a consultation. Home visits can also be arranged. I look forward to being of service to you.

Mark Cooke. Specialist Nurse, RGN, BSc, Dip. Health Studies



Dean Martin nails RideLondon 100!

Dean took on the gruelling 102 mile RideLondon challenge for St Kentigern Hospice in May, and raised an extraordinary £6100 through sponsorship. “My feet at the end were hurting, but I really enjoyed the 102 miles—a beautiful day, and a great charity!” He thanks all his sponsors and his support team of Donna Martin, Ady Nixon & Sian Nixon. A great achievement, Dean!



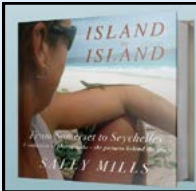
Final Dawn walk for St Kentigern

A hardy group of walkers braved the increasingly wet weather to complete what will be the final Dawn walk for St Kentigern. There was an impressive turnout, lots with dogs and some with silent disco headphones. A few unfortunates were deceived by dry conditions at the start and had insufficient rainwear. Great bacon sandwiches and hot drinks from the many volunteers.



Meet the Author and Book Signing event with Sally Mills, author of Island to Island

Saturday 19th August, 11am -1pm
Caffi Cariad, St Kentigern Hospice



St Asaph Football Club—1st team fixtures

August	Home side
Sat 5th	1 Holyhead Hotspur v St Asaph City
Midweek 8/9th	2 St Asaph City v CPD Llanefydd
Sat 12th	3 St Asaph City v Conwy Borough
Midweek 15/16th	4 Flint Mountain v St Asaph City
Sat 19th	WC WELSH CUP
Sat 26th	TR FAW TROPHY
September	
Sat 2nd	5 Brickfield Rangers v St Asaph City
Sat 9th	LC Conwy Borough v St Asaph City
Sat 16th	WC WELSH CUP
Sat 23rd	6 CPD Pwllheli v St Asaph City
Sat 30th	TR FAW TROPHY



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CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR 8



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A tidy partnership between captain Ben Murphy (29) and Andy Mearns (25) for the St Asaph 2nd XI was insufficient to beat table-toppers Brymbo 2nd XI on July 22nd. Brymbo 177/5 in 40 overs; St Asaph 103 all out in 35.

It's been weather enough to frustrate even a Saint....

A wet July has forced the cancellation or abandoning of many games, to the frustration of all players. In addition an odd situation has arisen whereby Mochdre (played 14, won 8, lost 5) have jumped above Saints 1st XI (played 14, won 9, lost 3) by virtue of more favourable weather allowing completion of games, and thereby pushing Saints into third position in the North Wales Premier division. But there is a determination in the St Asaph team to set this straight! In the T20 series, St Asaph 1st XI are in 5th position as we go to press.

In the Hall of Fame, Captain Will Ryan is the team's top run scorer (479) and holder of the highest individual score (104), whilst Ryan Dunning holds the fastest strike rate. For the bowlers, Dan Evans has the highest haul (29), Gareth Goodson best figures (5/6) and Elliot best economy (2).

The 2nd XI are currently in mid-table position in Division 2, with Ieuan Jones leading the team's batting averages, and also taking the greatest haul of wickets to date. The club fields a 3rd XI in the Sunday West division, with an impressive win against Denbigh 3rd XI one of the highlights.

Even more impressively, the club fields teams at under 15, under 13, and under 11 levels—which promises well for the future; and there are cricket "festivals" for the under 9s.

A further development is the introduction of women's cricket taster sessions, as advertised opposite, following the exploits of the national team.

The live feed scoring system software allows immediate upload of the game statistics for viewing online, and the Frogbox camera also allows remote watching of a game's progress. But the best place to see a game is sitting on the clubhouse verandah with a glass of beer!

WOMEN'S CRICKET

IS COMING TO ST. ASAPH



Women and girls (13+) of all abilities are welcome to come along and join our softball cricket taster sessions at St. Asaph Cricket Club.



WEDNESDAY

2ND AUGUST
6-7 PM

SUNDAY

13TH AUGUST
10.30-11.30 AM

WEDNESDAY

30TH AUGUST
6-7 PM

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