



St. Asaph & District City Times



Issue No 24

October 2023

CEFN MERIADOG — PROJECTS QUEUING UP TO JOIN THE NATIONAL GRID PAGES 6 & 7



Photo by Phil Wenlock



St Asaph cricket
team crowned
North Wales
Champions—again!

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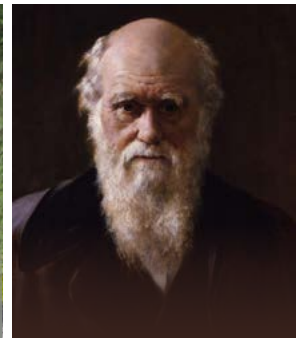
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City Times Team

John Oliver, Chris Southern, Duncan Cameron, Jo Cotton, Chris Jones, Will Evers-Swindell, Fiona Shand, Ben Ross, Lian Crierie and Janet Cameron.

Submit all items to editorsact@gmail.com For more details please contact: 01745 583770 / 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 absolute deadline for the December issue is Monday 13th November – 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



The well-concealed "Bodelwyddan" substation

In this issue we cover in some detail the likely impact of the Mona Offshore Windfarm Project on both the people and the land around St Asaph. However this is just one of several major energy projects which we also summarise so residents can be fully aware of the changes that may be coming our way coming soon.

The government have just announced the result of the review of the Awel Y Môr Wind Farm application - an even bigger project. The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero has granted development consent. We urge all residents to be involved in the forthcoming consultation processes to ensure disruption to our community is minimised, and that we work together to preserve as much of our natural habitat and resources as possible.

We are very grateful for funding support received from the Gwynt Y Môr Community Fund

www.cvsc.org.uk/en/funding/gwynt-y-mor-community-fund



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Dorothy Ceinwen Ross

The family of Mrs Dorothy Ceinwen Ross would like to pass on their deep gratitude to all those who have spoken to them and sent messages of condolences upon the passing of their mum on the 11th of August.

Dorothy, or Kay as many in St Asaph would remember her, moved to St Asaph shortly after her marriage to Joe in 1963 and remained here for the rest of her life. In recent times due to her illness she was rarely able to leave the house but she always remained positive, she loved receiving the City Times and would read it avidly to keep in touch with community news. We'd like to take this opportunity to send our thanks to the staff at St Kentigern Hospice and the district nurse team based at Denbigh community hospital both of whom were just amazing with mum.

From her children Helen, Julie and Gary

Sue Scott

All of us on the team at the City Times would like to offer our sincere condolences to Peter, Elaine, Lewis and Gavin and the whole Scott family following the untimely death of Sue after a short illness.

Sue was on the editorial team right from the start of the re-launch of the City Times in autumn 2019. She was a wise, knowledgeable, positive and enthusiastic colleague, full of ideas and suggestions, with a ready smile and a great sense of humour. She would sometimes apply the brakes when we got carried away, and at other times would stir us up to action. For many of us, her most significant article was a remarkably encouraging and positive piece written during the height of the Covid pandemic, when she reflected on a poem *"What is this life, if full of care, we have no time to stop and stare."*

The massive attendance at her funeral was testimony to the impact she had on so many lives. She will be greatly missed.



Peter and Sue Scott

Ysbyty Glan Clwyd League of Friends

The league runs a sales table on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at the hospital. We are always pleased to have items to sell, although we cannot take electrical items and clothing. Many kind people knit/crochet for the sales table too and these items sell really well. At present we are looking for two volunteers to work every other Tuesday. Can you help? You would be welcome to come and join us to try your hand!

Contact Heulwen Caldecott on 01745 590468 or eluned.caldecott@gmail.com

Some notes on the September City Council Meeting

The meeting opened with a tribute to Sue Scott, whose passing occurred at the preceding weekend. Sincere condolences were offered by Mayor Colin Hardie and fellow councillors to Peter Scott and family. Council members and guests stood in silence for two minutes in respect.

- The first item discussed related to the painting of benches in the City. Jackie Jones and five colleagues were in attendance for the discussion. Two benches have been painted with flowers (poppies on one, and forget-me-nots on the second) by Chloe Dymond, a local artist, with funding kindly provided by Goodfish. In addition, eight other benches have been painted in bright colours and designated as Friendship benches where people are invited to chat with each other. These Friendship benches were the idea of Jackie Jones, who sourced funding for the painting and signs. Jackie and her colleagues were congratulated on the brightening up of the benches, and reported very positive feedback on social media. Some disappointment had been expressed that the signs were not bilingual, and the Council will consider their response to this concern. One councillor pointed out that some people might feel hesitant about sitting on a friendship bench when they just needed a rest rather than a chat. Jackie Jones stated that there were no plans to provide more Friendship benches (ones with signs on them) but that they could paint four more benches. This was agreed by the Council, and Jackie and colleagues were thanked for their work.
- PCSO Dave Jones' report was read in his absence, and the main point was that it had been a fairly quiet summer possibly as a result of the poor weather.
- County Cllr Martyn Hogg reported on plans to increase the premium on Council Tax on second homes and long-term empty homes.
- The City Council has written to DCC asking that the unadopted road behind the doctors' surgery should be adopted as it meets the relevant criteria. A response is awaited.
- A decision was taken not to hold a Christmas Fair in the cathedral this winter. This was because of a significant increase in costs.
- It was agreed that the Council would fund new shower heads in the football club.



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

Unlock your dream home with Help to Buy—Wales

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These days it's harder than ever for people to get on the property ladder – especially in the current economic climate. But help is at hand thanks to an extension of the Help to Buy - Wales scheme. This provides a shared equity loan to buyers of new-build homes built by a registered Help to Buy—Wales builder. The Government lends you up to 20% of the cost of your newly built home, so you'll only need a 5% cash deposit and a 75% mortgage to make up the rest. You won't be charged loan fees on the 20% loan for the first five years of owning your home.

Castle Green Homes is offering the scheme at Maes yr Haul, where two and three-bedroom homes are available within the new £300,000 price cap. Sales and Marketing Director Caryl Russell said: 'The extension of Help to Buy – Wales with an increased price cap has the power to make a real difference to homeowners. It offers an affordable route to home ownership with the offer of an equity loan for up to 20% of the price. Those who buy this way should find they are able to access more favourable interest rates which are usually reserved for those with more than a 5% deposit. The scheme is only available on new homes with an EPC B rating, meaning buyers should also enjoy lower energy bills too.'

Currently being sold 'off plan' with show homes coming soon, prices at Maes yr Haul start from £186,995 for a two-bedroom Oakley design. The development will include a central area of public open space with an equipped play area and footpaths, mature trees and ecological features to encourage wildlife. The sales centre at the development is open daily from 10am to 5pm. For more information search '**Castle Green Homes**'



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Chloe on the poppy bench by the cathedral roundabout

Sandra from Goodfish, Jackie Jones, Colin Hardie and Chloe.

Chloe's artistic transformation: poppies and forget-me-nots.

Two unremarkable and increasingly shabby benches on our high street have been transformed into practical and beautiful works of art by local artist and designer Chloe Dymond, generously funded by Goodfish. The benches were sanded down, sealed and then painted with the beautiful floral designs chosen very democratically by a poll on social media. Poppies at the cathedral for remembrance, and forget-me-nots for remembering lost loved ones at the foot of the High Street.

Chloe has previously wrought similar miracles on benches in Denbigh to universal acclaim, and has an impressive portfolio of murals and artwork, which can be viewed at www.chloedymonddesign.co.uk

Friendship benches

Subsequently, Jackie Jones has led an energetic campaign to brighten up other benches in St Asaph.

With the Council's permission, she arranged for local painter Dean to get to work on some of the rather tired looking benches in St Asaph with dramatic effect.

Following an initiative to combat loneliness and social isolation, the benches have been designated as Friendship benches where people are encouraged to greet each other and chat.

There has been enthusiastic and almost universal support on social media for the benches, although it has been pointed out that they perhaps should have bilingual signage. As an interim measure, some of the speech bubbles on the signs have been replaced by ones in Welsh. The Council is considering this issue.

It should be added that it is of course still entirely acceptable to sit on the benches just to rest weary legs, without the need to chat!

Four more benches have been earmarked for painting—but without the signage attached.



It's ok to greet people...

Check out BBC 2's Mash Report video on YouTube: *Northerner terrifies Londoners by saying "Hello!"* It's good to greet...!

Responses to the proposed location of the Mona Windfarm substation John Oliver

The Community Update Newsletter issued recently by Morgan and Mona indicated their preferred site for their substation, which will go to the planning inspectorate in 2024. *City Times* sought views of those most likely to be affected.



Part of the Bodelwyddan substation

Karin Jones, Chair of Cefn Meiriadog Community Council explained the issues confronting local residents:

"The Mona project substation is something of a monster: no less than 20 metres (65 feet) in height - and a massive 12.5 hectares (31 acres) in area. It will be in the very heart of Cefn on what is now farmland. Huge as it is, it is only one of several major projects currently in development which, taken together, will change forever the landscape and character of the community of Cefn Meiriadog. One, Awel y Môr, is another 20-metre high substation beside Glascoed Road on a site of 33 hectares (81

acres). The doubling in size of the National Grid substation means two high-voltage overhead lines where currently there is one, and a project linking the UK and Ireland will involve a large converter station. The St Asaph Solar Farm project plans 32 hectares (80 acres) of solar panels on either side of the road from St Asaph to Cefn."

She continued: "Even on its own the scale of the Mona substation is completely inappropriate to the small size and population of Cefn Meiriadog, but the combined effects of all the above projects (plus the existing three substations) are simply out of all proportion. And with projects like these come 75-100 metre cable corridors, work compounds, haul roads, uprooted hedges, felled trees, compulsory purchase, and massive disruption over a long period of time. The construction of these projects in the coming 3-5 years will coincide."

Karin concluded: "Cefn Meiriadog Community Council naturally supports net zero objectives. However the disproportionate impact on a single small rural community, one where the surrounding landscape has always been so important to those who live here, highlights the lack of a strategic long-term approach to the practical effects of the provision of renewable energy, and the unwillingness of individual corporate developers to coordinate major plans where they all affect the same small community. The Community Council continues to do what it can to fight for the interests of the residents of Cefn Meiriadog."

A local farmer also gave *City Times* his views: "For 2 years I will lose 60 acres of land and have to reduce my dairy herd by 100 cows, causing a financial impact on the farm's income. Compensation is always debatable, as all schemes regarding Natural Energy are government backed, and therefore land can be compulsorily purchased. Farmers and landowners will have some payment towards disruption to the land but as previously experienced, with projects of this kind, it has taken far too long for them to receive their compensation. Residents were given the opportunity to attend an information day at the Neuadd Owen in May but publicity for this was unimpressive. Thanks to Martin and Margaret Hussey, flyers were made and distributed through the community. The morning was well attended and did provide residents with useful information."



In response to our request for further details of the proposed cable route, the Mona Offshore Wind Project team said: "*The aim of our recent newsletter was to communicate the refined indicative onshore cable corridor search area and the location of our proposed onshore substation, following the feedback we've received during our three phases of community and stakeholder consultation. The onshore search area is continuously being refined, as we discuss with landowners and carry out more studies. We cannot, therefore, provide you with a more detailed map at present as these conversations are ongoing. Detailed maps on the onshore cable route and all other aspects will be part of our application for development consent. We expect to submit our application in 2024*"

What are these major new projects?

John Oliver

Many households have received notification about the Mona offshore wind development and its onshore decisions relating to St Asaph and Cefn Meiriadog in particular. However this is not the only energy scheme planned or proposed that is likely to have an impact locally over the next 5 or 6 years with major construction works:

Awel y Mor offshore Wind www.awelymor.cymru Proposal for an 83 acre substation site located off Glascoed Road – recently approved by the new Secretary of State, Claire Coutinho.

Mona offshore Wind www.monaandmorgan.com Proposal for a 60+ acre substation to be located in Cefn Meiriadog to the south of the National Grid substation. Formal application to planning inspectorate to be submitted in 2024.

MaresConnect www.maresconnect.ie This is a proposed 750MW subsea and underground electricity interconnector system linking the electricity grids in Ireland and the UK. It would need a 15+ acre converter station and would then join the Bodelwyddan substation. Options for converter station location currently being assessed. Formal application to DCC in 2024.

continued on opposite page

What are these major new projects? *contd.*

National Grid "Bodelwyddan" Substation (*behind Qioptiq—closer to St Asaph than Bodelwyddan*).

Extension and modifications to the current substation will be required to accommodate the new schemes. Plans include a new 108 x 40m building, 4 new pylons and the redirection of a main gas line. Formal application to County Council expected later this year or early 2024 nationalgrid@NGBodelwyddan.co.uk or 0800 915 3596

Elwy Solar Farm www.statkraft.co.uk This proposed 290 acre solar farm around Gwernigron farm was originally rejected mainly due to involving some prime agricultural land. The decision has been appealed and is awaiting judicial review.

St Asaph Solar www.anesco.com A proposed 80 acre solar farm site in Cefn Meiriadog, by Ty'n y Ffordd Bach. Initial application has been made to planning casework for Wales (www.planningcasework.service.gov.wales, search CAS-01392-D2T3F3), listed as a development of national significance.



SSE Solar and Battery Storage A 600MW scheme which has recently received a generating licence from Ofgen and agreement to connect to the Bodelwyddan substation.

Moelfre Energy Park Plans for an Onshore windfarm have now been scrapped but as a National Grid connection agreement is already in place then it is understood that alternatives such as battery storage are being investigated

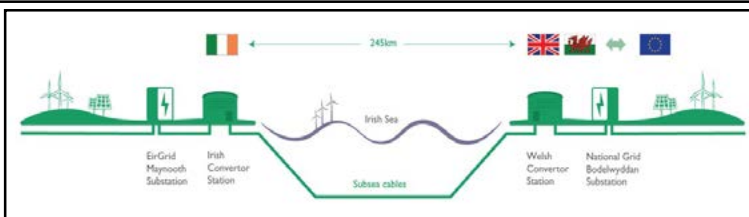
Most of these schemes are aiming to be operational by 2028/2030 and will require underground cabling works along with any substation or convertor station infrastructures. These infrastructures are likely to be larger in scale to those previously built due to the industry move away from using gas insulated switchgear. All the substations plan to build within a 3 to 5Km radius of the National Grid connection due to cost and operational efficiency which to date has been on agricultural lands in and around Cefn Meiriadog.

Thanks to Martyn Hussey for compiling this information

The Mares Interconnector

City Times contacted MaresConnect to learn more about this project. **Tom Brinicombe**, MaresConnect Planning and Permitting Manager, provided some details:

"MaresConnect is a proposed 750MW electricity interconnector linking the UK National Grid to the Irish Transmission Network. The aim of the project is to facilitate electricity flows between the two countries to improve energy security, put downward pressure on consumer electricity prices and support the smooth adoption of renewable energy technologies in Ireland and the UK.



"MaresConnect will consist of two converter stations, one in Ireland and one in Wales, near the Bodelwyddan substation. The converter stations will be connected by underground and subsea high voltage DC (HVDC) cables, which is the most efficient means to transmit electricity over long distances. The subsea cables alone will be around 190km. The converter stations will convert the HVDC electricity, used to transmit the electricity the long distance between Ireland and Wales, into high voltage AC (HVAC) electricity which can be used within the domestic transmission networks. The converter stations will then be connected via underground HVAC cables to the relevant substation, which for the UK will be the Bodelwyddan substation.

"The Bodelwyddan substation was selected by the National Grid as the most suitable connection point for MaresConnect following a technical assessment of all potential connection points. The assessment considered a number of issues including the strength of the local transmission network and requirements for any additional reinforcement works that could arise from the connection."

"We are at the early stage of development work investigating suitable locations for the cables to come ashore and also potential locations to site the converter station near the Bodelwyddan substation. We will be seeking to consult the local community in November to discuss our current plans. It is important to be clear that no design decisions have been made at this time and we are keen to incorporate the feedback we receive from consultations into the final planning submission which will be determined by Denbighshire County Council."

"We will be commencing environmental and technical assessment work in the coming months to ensure that the final planning submission is technically deliverable and designed sympathetically to the local environment. The converter station design will be accompanied by proposals for planting and landscaping to minimise the visual impact on the local area and we will discuss this with the local community as the design materialises.

"We are aware that there are a number of projects currently proposed to connect at Bodelwyddan substation and we will ensure that our proposal fully considers these projects as we move forward.

"Following the consultation events in November we will remain available to the local community throughout the development process to answer questions and listen to concerns.

"We will start our design work using a maximum design envelope for the converter station and will work to minimise this as the development progresses. Our initial footprint of the fenced off Converter station compound will be 265 metres by 150 metres."

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Probus Club welcomes Meirick

At the August meeting of the Denbigh and District Probus Club, members welcomed club member Meirick Lloyd Davies who gave a talk about the history and work of Denbighshire County Council and his involvement. Meirick has served as a councillor for Denbighshire CC for 27 years.

Prior to his longstanding service on various councils, he began his working life as a skilled joiner and went on to be an occupational therapist in the North Wales Hospital helping people learn and practice woodworking skills to aid their recovery.

Following the talk, members quizzed him on many topics including the new 20 miles per hour speed limit, conversions and new builds, arm's length companies and cross county working.

For further information have a look at the club website www.denbighprobus.com or contact Gareth Williams on julmwilliams1974@gmail.com or 07881 783735

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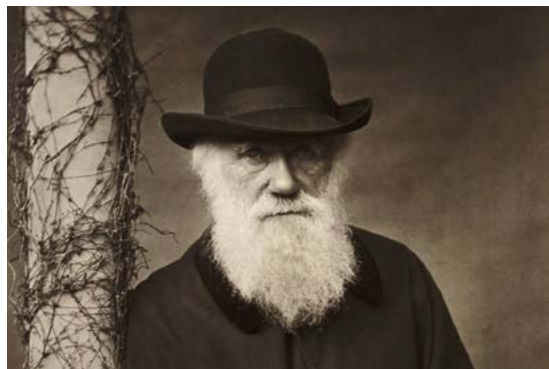
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Darwin and the caves at Cefn

Chris Southern

Ever wondered where Darwin's Theory of Evolution began? The theory which made Charles Darwin famous might well have begun following his visit in 1831 to Cefn Meiriadog – just two miles from St Asaph.

Darwin is best known for his 1859 book 'Origin of the Species' - but where did his interest in the subject begin? He had enjoyed nature, bird watching and other outdoor pursuits as a boy – but today he would best have been described as a school dropout! His father Robert – a doctor – despaired of Charles' lack of interest in 'boring' school and insisted the disaffected teenager spend a summer visiting patients with him.

Charles was packed off to Edinburgh University in 1825 to study medicine. This too was a failure and by 1828 he was studying at Christ's College Cambridge and destined to take Holy Orders. In his second year he joined the Plinian Society which introduced him to natural history. You could say 'the rest is history' but strangely Darwin visited Cefn in 1831 – and by December that same year sailed on The Beagle as a naturalist to study the South American coastline.

Darwin visited Cefn during a geological tour with Professor Adam Sedgwick (a noted British geologist and Anglican priest) and at just 22 years of age noted in his diary rhinoceros bones in the mud of the cave floor – and a rhinoceros tooth with paleontological significance. And then he was off on his life changing adventure on the Beagle. Coincidence? Maybe not.



Neanderthal man—an early resident of Cefn

Many others followed in Darwin's footsteps to visit the Cefn Caves. Just a year after Darwin's visit, geologist Rev. Edward Stanley noted that landscaping had left 'bones in the mud' for the taking and that bones had been spread as fertilizer in the fields below. Stanley excavated Cefn Cave in 1832 and found bones of straight tusked elephant, rhinoceros and hippopotamus of the last interglacial age (125,000 years old) and this interested a stream of geologists and scientists who followed in his footsteps.

In the glittering career that followed, Darwin wrote a series of books. By 1842 he had written a 35-page sketch outline of his ideas on evolution and by 1859 his 'Origin of the Species' was published as a book – causing uproar that still rages today. His mentor Adam Sedgwick wrote to Darwin *"I have read your book with more pain than pleasure. Parts of it I admired greatly; parts I laughed at till my sides were almost sore; other parts I read with absolute sorrow; because I think them utterly false & grievously mischievous."*



The caves have since been visited by countless scientists, writers, artists and poets and antiquarians – but none quite as famous as Charles Darwin.

Blossom and Bloom!

Alan Duke

When Helen Thomas of Rhyl Rotary Club heard about Finland's government scheme to provide free 'baby boxes' to all expectant mothers, her first thought was how the scheme could be adapted to help deserving mums closer to home. Working closely with Vicky Welsman-Millard who founded the charity 'Blossom and Bloom' in Rhyl's busiest shopping centre, they compiled a list of all the items which an expectant mum might need, such as bottles, bibs, baby grows, nappies, blankets, toiletries etc and set to work with the staff based at their well-being hub, packing 20 self-contained boxes for distribution to local disadvantaged mums.

Helen, who was the first female President (2022/23) of the 97 year old Rotary club added: ***"As a club we are very concerned about social deprivation in our area and we are delighted that the initiative has come to fruition. The first few boxes have been distributed from the Blossom and Bloom well-being hub and are also available through the recommendation of the mums' midwives who know best the circumstances of each mum to be. We are hoping to be able to continue the initiative year-on-year"***. Blossom and Bloom is situated in the White Rose Centre well-being hub (tel 01745 314050) and offers a bright, attractive 'hub' where mums can meet socially and also take advantage of the many facilities available, including a 'baby essentials swap shop' where baby items, including cots, prams etc can be picked up for an affordable donation or a swap of other baby items no longer need. Why not call in?



Vicky Welsman-Millard, charity founder, with Helen Thomas (Rhyl Rotary club)

Many members of the former St Asaph Rotary Club are now members of the Rhyl Rotary Club.



SWAYNE JOHNSON Solicitors Present: Ask the Expert

My name is Sarah Pierce, and I am an Associate Solicitor specialising in Private Client Law. This includes Wills, Inheritance Tax, Succession Planning & Asset Preservation, Lasting Powers of Attorney, Trusts, Probate & Estate Administration and Court of Protection matters. I am based at the firm's St Asaph office full time, and I really enjoy working in North Wales, having lived in Prestatyn all my life.

I have recently obtained my STEP (Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners) diploma having completed four advanced certificates and gaining distinctions in Will Preparation and the Administration of Estates, and merits in the Taxation of Trusts and Estates and Trust Administration. I am very proud to have achieved full TEP status after a very busy two years of study and four very gruelling exams! My qualification has allowed me to extend my specialist knowledge of these areas of the law and enhance my ability to provide top quality and expert advice to all my clients.

One of the things I enjoy most about my career is being able to meet a wide variety of people from all walks of life by getting out in the community. I am a Dementia Friend and I often attend local carer groups and charities to provide free legal advice on various topics. I have recently organised a group litter pick for our St Asaph team and we are eager to plan another soon!

I will be hosting a seminar on Thursday 9th November between 10am and 12 at the White House, Rhualt for Let's Talk Money week in partnership with Swayne Johnson Wealth Management & RPG. We will provide advice on Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney, pensions and investments. Please call either myself or Beth on 01745 586830 to reserve your place free of charge. Refreshments will be provided.

If you have a question and think that I could help, then please call me on 01745 586830 or email me at sarahp@swaynejohnson.com I will be addressing a different legal topic during each City Times issue.



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Have your say about Denbighshire County Council's work

This September sees the launch of Denbighshire County Council's Stakeholder Survey for 2023 to 2024.

The Council wants to hear the opinion of residents, businesses, staff, elected members, and partners about its work.

Julie Matthews, Cabinet Lead Member for Corporate Strategy, Policy and Equalities said, "The annual survey is a great opportunity for the council to learn and improve so we really hope to get good engagement from the public. It's also a good way for people to understand more about the themes that make up our current Corporate Plan."

The survey should take around 10–15 minutes to complete and will be open until 29 February 2024. To take part in the survey and to have your say, please visit countyconversation.denbighshire.gov.uk.



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Rallying

There's a long and impressive list of Welsh rally drivers, perhaps most memorably Gwyndaf Evans and now also his son Elfyn Evans from Dolgellau. Elfyn is currently competing at the highest level in World rallying and inspiring a huge following. Amongst those can be found St Asaph's very own Jack Morris, 22, who as an amateur rally co-driver is beginning to make a name for himself in the high-octane world of rallying. City Times got some details from him:

Where did it all start? I've been watching events for many years with my Dad and Taid, starting with the Cambrian Rally back in 2008, and learning to take good photos of them. In 2019, my friend Rob Smith approached me about competing in a Targa rally as a navigator - which I jumped at. Things went quiet during Covid, but after watching the 2021 Neil Howard rally in Oulton Park, I applied that night for a Motorsport UK co-driving licence, and put out a Facebook post asking if anyone would take me on as a totally novice co-driver. Kevin Gilchrist messaged me with an offer to be his co-driver and my first event was in July 2021 at the Anglesey circuit. From then on I was hooked!

Where do you race? Single venue events are usually either an airfield or a racing circuit. Competitors use route description notes issued by the organisers. Multi venue rallies take place in various locations, often on forestry roads linking stages with closed road sections. We get "pace-notes" provided, and then on a practice run add our own notes, which describe stages in detail including corner severity, jumps/dips and distances. The co-driver relays these notes to the driver during the race.

What car are you in? I've been in a number of cars, starting in a Ford Fiesta ST with Kevin. In 2022 I was invited by VrD Motorsport to compete in the Mini Rally Challenge, a single make rally with all cars built to strict regulations. Matt Chapman was the driver, and we had some great events including Rally North Wales on a gravel course using pacenotes. With other drivers I have raced in a Ford SportKA, a Vauxhall Corsa, a Ford Escort Mk1 (wheel fell off...!), a Mazda MX5 and a Ford Escort Millington MK2.

Any major incidents? Gordon and I had one in the Greystoke Stages in the Lake District, when we had a total brake failure mid-stage. We couldn't slow down for a corner and went into a multiple barrel roll and totally destroyed the car in the process. Luckily due to the amazing race helmets, suits, race seats, harnesses and roll cages we got out completely ok apart from a few aches and bruises!

JCCB Rally photography



Do you have any plans to become a driver? Unfortunately rallying is a very expensive sport! The fee to enter rallies alone range from £300 up to £1000+ depending on the event! Then you need to factor in the price of the car, tyres, fuel, service crew, accommodation as we normally get to the event the day before for scrutineering (pre rally checks done by rally organisers), as well as factoring in the price should something break! However, I would love to give the driving a go one day, it's on my bucket list and you never know in this sport the opportunities which may arise!

Facebook: look for Jack Morris and a smoking red Corsa. **Instagram:** jackmorris_31



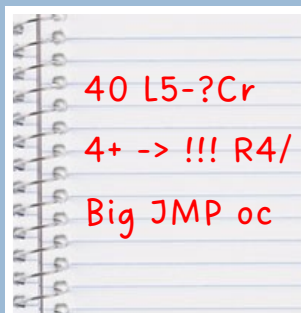
Take-off in the Vauxhall Corsa



Jack and his Taid, Ellis Morris



After the multiple barrel roll....



Pacenotes translated: Forty, left five minus over crest opens over 40, tightens four plus, into triple caution right four over big jump off camber!

"Rally pace notes sound and look complicated, and they are. They're designed to help a rally driver pilot his or her car slightly ahead of his or her own eyes, see around the next corner, and come out unscathed. A rally navigator reads his or her chicken scratch aloud from a racing seat, complete with a chest-crushing five-point harness, as an overzealous guy or gal in the driver's seat slides a rally car down a thin, dirt road lined with tall, thick trees. Folks say that, in rallying, the navigator is just as important as the driver. We say they're more important and, as hard as it is to believe, crazier." text: **Chris Nelson, Motortrend**

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52nd North Wales International Music Festival

As the City Times goes to press, the music festival is in full swing. The theme for this year's festival has been "Horizons", with a breadth of different musical traditions, and an eye to the future for many fine young musicians, and indeed for the festival itself as Ann Atkinson steps down after over 20 years as Artistic Director. Hers will be hard shoes to fill, and no announcement has been made so far as to her successor. Nigel Williams, Dean of the cathedral and Chairman of the festival pays tribute to her in the programme "Ann is nothing short of a legend for the members of the festival community....she has given unselfishly of herself to every single festival, and our debt of gratitude to her is huge. We are going to miss her terribly."

Ann said: "I have enjoyed the challenge immensely—and there have been many of those along the way. The Covid-19 pandemic forced us to produce a virtual festival in 2020 and curtailed the 2021 festival for instance, but being invited to become the Artistic Director all those years ago was a special opportunity. It was a privilege and an honour that I grasped eagerly with both hands when it was offered to me but now I feel I have served my time and it's time to hand over to someone else."



One of the opening concerts was given by the extraordinary vocal ensemble Tenebrae, who have an international reputation. Their plainsong hymns were exquisite, spine tingling and soared through the cathedral. It felt to be exactly the most appropriate music to hear in a cathedral. They were joined by the St Asaph choir during some pieces during the first half, with the young choristers combining impressively with the professionals. The audience were left entranced. Such music on our doorstep—if you have not yet been to a NWIMF concert, promise to do so!

A packed and joyous night at the cathedral!

Lian Crierie



In a manner unknown in its 1,450-year history, August 12th saw the cathedral transformed. As disco fog billowed across the nave roof, and laser lights darted the width of the pillars, the west door welcomed hundreds of revellers from across North Wales to party the night away at a silent 90's music disco.

Greeted with wireless headphones, we were instructed how to select from three channels, red, green, or blue, with the colours corresponding to the music played by one of the three on-stage DJs. The atmosphere was energetic and exciting, unmistakably upbeat. However, initial amazement as the three DJs began offering up various tunes dissolved into a slightly strange feeling as we realised that all this was taking place within the historic building and sacred setting of the Cathedral. However, as another partygoer noted, good fun and great music bringing people together, with some revenue for the cathedral can only be a positive. Reflecting on this whilst looking at the crowd, there was certainly lots of fun being had as people danced, laughed and pointed enthusiastically at their ears when a good song came on their channel. Positive vibes and enthusiasm for the event were the keynotes of the evening.

Whilst the music was silent due to the headphones, the revellers singing certainly was not! When we all reverted to the same music channel for the final number, the magnificent acoustics of the Cathedral were apparent as

Oasis' *Wonderwall* was hollered out at the top of each partygoer's lungs. All in all it was a fantastic evening, with not only the cathedral benefitting but also the local economy too - the local pubs, takeaways and taxis being busier than I've witnessed for years!

The Dean of St Asaph Cathedral, the Very Reverend Nigel Williams said: "We're looking forward to hosting a series of new events which we hope will appeal to a broad range of people. Like many organisations our costs have increased over the last year, and we need to find new ways to generate income. St Asaph is known as a city of music and the cathedral is home to an expanding choir and the annual North Wales International Music Festival. We want to build on our musical heritage and offer a more diverse range of performances and events."





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LLANELWY WI

Denise D'Albertson

Our guest speaker in August was PCSO Dave Jones who gave an excellent and informative talk on personal safety and security advice for our homes and vehicles. During the lively Q&A session, cybercrime and vandalism were also discussed.

We had a trip to Green Gates Farm to see how it had changed since we were last there 18 months ago. Neil from DCC explained to us the varieties of trees and wildflowers that they were growing and that all the seeds and acorns had been collected within Denbighshire.

In September, our guest speaker was Steve Blakesley, a poet with a difference. Steve writes all his own poetry and has even illustrated two poetry books for children. It was an enjoyable evening with plenty of laughs.

We also had an excellent guided tour of St Margaret's Church in Bodelwyddan and our guide, Lyn, gave us the history of the church and the different varieties of marble used in its construction.

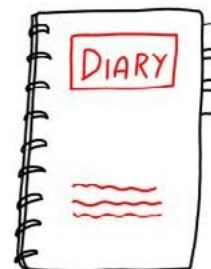
Harvest Thanksgiving Service

You are warmly invited to St Asaph Parish Church to join us for a Harvest Thanksgiving service on Sunday 8th October at 9.30am. Tea and coffee are served after the service.



In addition, should you wish to join us for a Harvest Lunch that same day, please contact Esther on 539993. Tickets are going fast!

DIARY OF EVENTS Activities listed are correct at time of going to press. For listing in the Diary of Events in the December issue, please submit items to editorsact@gmail.com before the deadline shown on page 2. If you don't send it in, we can't put it in the diary...!



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)
	7.30-9.30	St Asaph Choral Society in the Parish Church. New members welcome. For further information please contact choralsocietystasaph@gmail.com
Tuesday	9.30-11.30	Aros a Chwarae . Free toddler group for preschool children and their parents/carers. Meet at Llanelwy Community Church, High Street. See www.facebook.com/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 or Julie Roberts on 07900 188222
	6-7pm 7-8pm	Exercise with Liz in Parish Church: Facebook Rhuddlan Clubbercise and Fitness with Liz 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	Social Mornings in the Library: WiFi, free internet access, papers, refreshments
	2.30pm	Cash Bingo at The Old Palace.
Sunday	9.30	Eucharist in the Parish Church . All welcome
	11.00	Choral Eucharist in the cathedral
	4.30-6pm	Community Fridge in the Parish Church. All welcome. Stay after for coffee and a chat.

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

October		
Thurs 5th	7pm	Merched y Wawr Llanelwy. "O Wyddelwern i Ypres". Sgwrs gan Gwilym Luke Jones. Ystafell y Cyngor
November		
Wed 1st	10-1	Messy Church Holiday Club—with a scavenger hunt. At the Parish Church.
Thursday 2nd	7pm	Merched y Wawr Llanelwy. "Fi a fy Nynion" Sgwrs am ei gwaith llaw gan Angharad Rees. Ystafell y Cyngor
Sat 4th	5.30	Family bonfire and firework display by Neuadd Owen Hall, Cefn. LL17 0EY. Licensed bar and food. Details on Neuadd Owen Facebook

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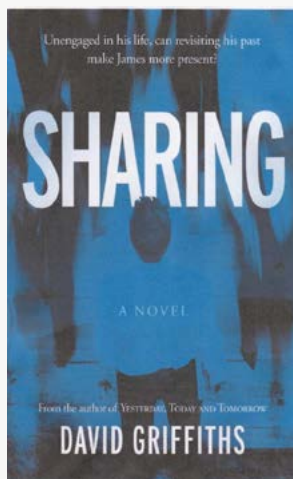
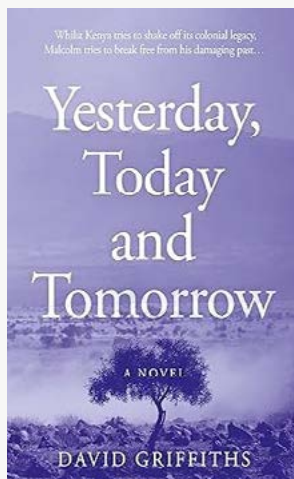
Walk on Fire for St Kentigern!

St Kentigern Hospice is organising a sponsored firewalk on Friday 27th October at Ruthin Rugby Club with refreshments and entertainment on site. How on earth can they do it?

Entry is open for all over 16 (ages 16-18 require parental consent) with a £20 registration fee and a recommended minimum sponsorship of £100.

Registration is available by calling the fundraising team on 01745 536020 or online at

www.stkentigernhospice.org.uk



Meet the Author - David Griffiths

David writes: "Although not a resident now I was born in St Asaph and know a lot of its life in the decades after the war. I attended local schools and my father was very much involved in local affairs. He was clerk to the Parish Council for many years and he has a local road named after him (Llys Idris). Late in life I have written two novels and have a third due for publication."

Sharing: "In his late twenties, James finds his financial security and career as a photographer have conspired to shelter him from becoming close to his fellow human beings. He feels he should share more, but isn't sure how. Others would provide the catalyst. His salvation begins when he examines his late father's effects and these arouse memories of a childhood in Kenya where sharing was common place."

There will be a Meet the Author event with David in the library in the near future.

Buried in Baghdad

Chris Southern

A story featured in the last issue of the City Times about the St Asaph brothers George and Felix Powell, who wrote the iconic song 'Pack up your Troubles', evoked an instant reaction. Les Broad, who now lives in St Asaph, is a Trustee and part of the writing team at Rhyl Little Theatre. Coincidentally the theatre team have written and are due to stage later this year a play about the First World War which features the song.

The play – entitled 'Buried in Baghdad' – is based on the little-known experiences of a regiment (2nd Battalion, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment) in which Les' grandfather served and died in 1916.

Les knew little about his grandfather – Lance Corporal Charles Cook – other than that he is buried in Baghdad. Les did not become aware of the military connection until later. Charles' death was a massive blow to the family as he and his wife Lizzie already had five children and news of his fate arrived just weeks after she gave birth to twins – one of whom is Les's mother, Eva. The family, like thousands of others at the time, had to carry on with no breadwinner – and with no information on when, where and how their loved ones had died in combat.

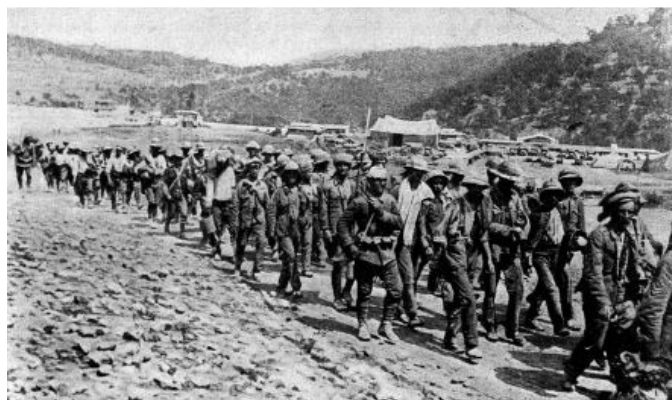
With little information but a strong sense of curiosity, Les started a 19-year long campaign to find out more about his grandfather and the forgotten men of his regiment who died in terrible circumstances while soldiers everywhere sang the wartime song written by the Powell brothers.

Les said: 'I spent years researching snippets of information about the circumstances in which my grandfather died and the play 'Buried in Baghdad' is one of the results. So I was astounded when your newsletter made the link between this area, the song written in St Asaph to recruit troops – the very one we had chosen to use in the play!'

The story of Charles Cook, which is the theme of the locally written play, and the conflicting lives led by the Powell brothers underline the futility of war in all its forms. Les says: 'The play is well worth seeing. It's a real tear-jerker; I can assure you there will not be a dry eye in the house.' The only memorial to the men who fought in this campaign can be found at Maidstone County Hall and it reads as follows:

Memorial to the men who died.

In December 1915 men of the 2nd Battalion, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment were among 14,586 British and Indian troops besieged in the town of Kut-el-Amara, Mesopotamia. The Garrison surrendered on 29 April, 1916. 1,025 men had died in the siege from enemy action and 721 from disease or starvation. In captivity, the survivors were force marched northward, starved and beaten. That exodus became known as 'The Death March', now long forgotten. In memory of the besieged.



Allied troops being led away by their Turkish captors after the surrender at Kut-el-Amara in 1916

Due to building work at Rhyl Little Theatre the play will not be staged there until early next year.

Trekking to end homelessness

Ben Ross

As previously featured in the City Times, I've now completed my charity trek in support of Crisis, the UK national charity for people experiencing homelessness. It was a spectacular experience, traversing 58km of the most actively volcanic and alien landscapes in Iceland, along with a team of work colleagues from Lloyds Bank Group.

We walked across mountain ranges vibrantly striped with mineral deposits, held out noses as we passed steaming sulphurous fissures in the earth, and marvelled at the stark but beautiful vistas all around us. I'd even go as far to say that I enjoyed our 3 nights of camping, despite the weather being less than favourable at times. The thing I'll carry forwards, however, is the camaraderie we shared as colleagues. Most of us had never met before, but we all forged new friendships, built on our shared experiences in the wilds of Iceland.

To everyone in St Asaph who generously sponsored me, or offered words of encouragement, I'd just like to extend my sincere thanks. My fundraising total is now over £4,300, which will make a huge difference to Crisis and the people they support. If you'd like to donate, you still can. Simply use the link or QR code below. justgiving.com/fundraising/ben-ross-01



Together we can end homelessness. Thank you!



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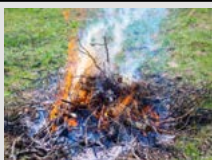
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Autumn Bonfires

- Let the Fire service you're having a bonfire by ringing 01931 522006.
- Build your bonfire well clear of buildings, garden sheds, fences and hedges.
- Never use flammable liquids to start a bonfire, and never burn dangerous items such as aerosol cans, paint tins, foam furniture, or batteries.
- Don't leave bonfires unattended.
- An adult should supervise it until it has burnt out. Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose nearby
- *And check it's not washing day for your neighbours!*



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Autumn Retail Therapy and Preparations.

Chris Jones

This is the time of year when the garden centres are awash with a huge variety of flowering bulbs. There are so many locations in which to plant them whatever size your garden or outside area may be, and once planted you can look forward to a colourful display when Spring arrives.

A few points about bulbs will hopefully lead to a successful show. You'll find a greater selection to choose from if you buy early. You can often get cheaper bulbs if you buy in large quantities – perhaps share with a garden pal or simply opt for a spectacular display. Check when you are buying, and avoid any that appear damaged or are soft, shrinking or mouldy. Hold them in your hand to check – they should be firm and as fresh as possible. Try to plant as soon as you can as bulbs are best in the ground, particularly daffodils where a long cold period benefits their root system. Plant about three times the depth of the bulb. Try and plant the right way up but if you can't be sure then plant them on their side and they will find their own way. Firm them in gently, so there are no air gaps and water well. If you have neighbouring squirrels, it might be an idea to protect the surface with chicken wire as they are very partial to bulbs.



So as a general rule, try and plant spring flowering daffodils, hyacinths and crocus by late September, summer flowering alliums and lilies by October. The exception to this rule is tulips, which are better to be planted in November. Wait until the temperature has dropped before planting as this reduces the risk of fungal disease. Mid October through November is optimum but you can plant up to Christmas.

If all else fails then they will flower whenever planted but best results will occur if the above advice is followed. Most bulbs grow well in containers, especially tulips and lilies. It is best to use John Innes No 2 compost for long term planting and multipurpose compost with added grit for short term containers.

Tulips tend not to flower as well in pots for a second year. They can be planted out in borders after flowering (especially Darwin or Triumph types) and will flower annually if planted 10-15 cm deep. They can be deadheaded but you must allow the foliage to die back naturally after which they can be lifted, dried and replanted in the autumn once more.



Crocus, daffodils and even irises can be planted in lawns in large groups for naturalising. To achieve a natural effect, scatter the bulbs randomly across the lawn and then plant them where they fall. In a garden border aim to plant bulbs in groups of at least six, as the more bulbs grouped together the better will be the display. Remember to label them so that they are not damaged by accidentally digging around them after they have died down. Don't leave dead heads on the flowers as they waste the plant's energy on seed production and, most importantly, don't cut back foliage until at least six weeks after flowering (they tend to turn yellow by then). In a container, you can plant closer together and in layers, the so called "lasagne effect". The larger bulbs are planted deepest, followed by medium size ones above this layer and finally the smallest at the shallowest part. This will provide colour, variety and length of display.



Another popular bulb for sale at this time of year is the Hippeastrum (or Amaryllis) which is a winter or spring flowering house or conservatory plant. They like a sunny position, a south facing window in winter. They can even be placed outside in summer where they can benefit from the extra light and humidity, but take care to protect the foliage against slugs and snails. To buy one of these bulbs, look for the largest, cleanest example to ensure the best flower. Some bulbs with a circumference of 32-35 cm 12-14 inches will produce a large single or double flower or even 4 blooms simultaneously. They need free draining compost e.g. equal parts of peat free compost and perlite or grit.

They are better planted singly, leaving two third of the bulb above the compost in a deep pot with drainage holes which is only slightly larger in diameter than the bulb itself. The stems will need support to hold up the weight of the flower. Water very sparingly until growth begins. Never allow the pot to stand in water or the bulb will rot. Keep it warm until growth begins (around 21 degrees C) until the bud opens and then expect flowers six to ten weeks after planting and then keep cooler, about 15 degrees C. It is worth adding some liquid feed at half strength whilst the stem and flower are forming, and then switch to full strength tomato food fortnightly after flowering if you want to prolong the flower. But take care if you have a pet, as all parts are toxic to cats.

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Autumn's whisper

Some embrace the end of summer
and look forward to the fall
Now summer's door is still half open
Perhaps more sunshine after all?



As autumn peeps its head around
and nights are drawing in
It prepares us all for cooler times
when wintry chills creep in



September made its debut
and August took a bow
We saw the signs that autumn brings
that paved the way somehow

Lush foliage turns to golden brown
and branches shed their leaves
Carpeting the ground below
and floating from the trees



The clues laid bare in swallows' flight
The chilly starts and nippy nights
Hedgerow boasts its luscious fruits
Winter beckons, as autumn bites...!

Sandra Smith



Ysgol Esgob Morgan

Jodie Martin

Welcome Year 3! It has been lovely welcoming the new Year 3 cohort into our Esgob Morgan family and helping them settle into the school. They have been busy with art work creating self-portraits, working in groups to discuss different topics and using different apps on iPads to share their learning. One of the stand-out points so far though has been going to the forest school where learners had the chance to take (sensible, safe) risks, have hot chocolate and also to challenge themselves in new surroundings. All in all, it has been a busy, but exciting start to their journey at Esgob Morgan.

Denbighshire Football representatives: Congratulations to Mitchell and Frankie who this year have been chosen to represent Denbighshire in the Under 11's schoolboys team. The boys had a great first game winning 9-0 and are soon to play Chester. Pob Lwc!

Buddy Bench : You may have seen new benches appearing in St Asaph. Thank you to Jackie and Dean from our local community who over the summer gave one of our benches a makeover. We now have a lovely friendship bench on our yard. Diolch!



Hedgehog Help: Tracy from Hedgehog help Prestatyn came to release another 4 hedgehogs into our lovely forest school area. Year 3 & 4 enjoyed a talk about caring for hedgehogs and pupils in the upper school take their roles as 'hedgehog champions' very seriously and ensure that they have food and water daily.

Reading volunteers needed!

Do you enjoy reading and listening to stories? Can you give up an hour a week to support reading skills? For more details contact Mrs Subacchi at esgob.morgan@denbighshire.gov.uk



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Girlguiding Clwyd county

Rainbows
For ages 4 to 7

Rainbows welcomes all girls to come together to laugh, learn and have fun in a creative, safe space. It's a wonderful world of adventure, week after week, just for her.

Brownies
For ages 7 to 10

Brownies is full of firsts: she can explore her creative side, get out into the great outdoors, learn how to look after herself, others and the world we live in.

Guides
For ages 10 to 14

Guides is a fun-filled space, she'll have one big adventure with friends, learn how to be herself, explore the things she loves and do stuff she's never done before!

Rangers
For ages 14 to 18

Rangers is an open and relaxed space, where you can regularly meet up, go on trips at home and abroad, to help make a difference to the things you care about.

Find a group near you girlguiding.org.uk
 Registered charity number: 521209

City Times 10 years ago: On Route for Rio!

A back-page spread featured Chris Grube's preparations for the Rio Olympics, in which he sailed a 470. With many years of sailing behind him, Chris and teammate Luke Patience took an impressive 5th place in Rio, and went on to take 5th place again in the Tokyo Olympics as well. Chris had good results at a number of world series races in 49er skiff and 470 class.



Azzaam stars in S4C's Byd Tad-cu

Azzaam Muhammad of St Asaph doesn't come from a family with a long history in the performing arts. But his name was put forward by Mrs Lynne Jones, head of Ysgol Gymraeg Henllan, when she was invited to talent-spot in the school for an S4C show.

Following auditions, Azzaam joined the team of youngsters in "Byd Tad-cu", a popular children's programme in which children ask grandad questions—such as "why do monkeys live in trees?", and grandad (like all grandads) comes up with a string of ridiculous answers. The child quizzes him with follow-up questions, expresses incredulity, and eventually the puppet rabbit comes up with the proper, and of course very educational, answer. It sounds a riot!



For Azzaam (pictured leaning casually at the end of the sofa) and his mother Bethan, it involved a very enjoyable trip down to Cardiff in February half-term for filming. Azzaam is modest about his new-found stardom, but has been applying for roles in other programmes since then, and is grateful for the push given to him by Mrs Jones. Who knows what the future might hold! (If you seriously want to know why monkeys live in trees, you'll obviously have to watch the programme....)



VP infants school

Kate Langford

A warm welcome to our new Nursery... We have had an amazing start to the new School Year at the VP. We welcomed our new Nursery children and they have settled in exceptionally well - we are so proud of how independent they are! Applications for next year's Nursery are now open – you can apply via the Denbighshire website. Our Nursery is extremely popular and we recommend that families submit their applications on time to avoid disappointment.

Modernisation work We have been enjoying our new learning environments including our four new classrooms and two outdoor area canopies! It is lovely to see VP continue to modernise and develop whilst maintaining its features as a CADW Grade 2 listed school.

CADW Award – llongyfarchiadau VP! We are immensely proud of the children and staff at the VP and are delighted to share that we have won an award from the Welsh Heritage Schools Initiative. We have won £650 for our school and the CADW Trophy! Representatives from the Welsh Heritage Schools Initiative visited the VP to present the children with their award. We are very excited to receive the award and are pleased that the children's development of Welsh language and heritage has been so highly commended. Ardderchog plant!

Autumn Stay and Play session Thank you to all the St Asaph families who attended the September 'Stay and Play' session for children due to start Nursery in September 2024. It was lovely to meet the children and to see them making new friends. We look forward to the next 'Stay and Play' session on 31st January 2024 - please save the date.



VP infants school, early 1950s. David Griffiths, a former resident seeks help with identification:

Teacher: Ian Jones.

Back row from left to right: Victor Hogg, not sure, Mike Gauge, not sure, Ian Parry, David Foulkes (?), David Griffiths, Hughie Edwards

Front row L to R: Pat Davies, Sylvia Roberts, Denise Price, Sylvia Williams, Olwen Hughes (?), Ann Evans (?), Ann Jones (?),





Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog

Laura Martin

What a lovely start we have had to the new academic year! It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school and to welcome all of our new pupils into Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog.



We started off the term with a wellbeing fortnight which ended with a visit from Dotty the miniature pony. We have never seen a pony so covered in ribbons and bows, and still so happy!

This term our whole school topic is 'Leaving an Impression' with all classes working on different themes. The **Innovators** are working towards creating their own museum to share their findings about different people who have left their own impressions on the world. The **Investigators** will be holding a 'This is Your Life' event where they can

share all of their findings about different important people and the **Discoverers** are spending the term finding out about lots of different people who help us in lots of different ways. It promises to be a jam packed term full of visitors, trips and plenty of fun – we can't wait!

Finally, a huge thank you to all those children who attended our Food and Fun Holiday Club, it was a big success with all children taking part in lots of different activities. Our thanks to all the clubs and individuals who gave up their time to deliver sessions.



Ysgol Glan Clwyd

Meryl Pierce

Croesawu Blwyddyn 7 Mae hi wedi bod yn braf croesawu disgyblion blwyddyn 7 i deulu Ysgol Glan Clwyd. Fel rhan o'r trefniadau anwytho, cafodd y disgyblion sesiynau amrywiol yn yr ysgol yn eu hwythnos gyntaf. Cafwyd cryn fwrlwm yn y theatr ar ddiwedd yr wythnos pan ddaeth pawb at ei gilydd i gyd-ganu ein hanthem ysgol. Maen nhw hefyd wedi mynychu taith 'Fy Mro' pryd cafwyd y cyfle i ymweld â Rhyl, Prestatyn a Dinbych. Dros yr wythnosau nesaf, mae cynlluniau pellach i sicrhau bod y disgyblion yn anwytho'n llawn i'r teulu a rydym yn dymuno pob llwyddiant ar eu taith arbennig yma yng Nglan Clwyd.

Technoleg: Llongyfarchwn dri o'n dysgwyr sydd wedi eu dewis i fod yn rhan o arddangosfa arloesedd Cymru ym Mangor a Chaerdydd sef Isaac Lloyd efo'i brosiect drôn, Jake Chow efo prosiect ailddefnyddio poteli plastic i argraffu 3d, a Lleucu Williams efo prosiect daliwr esgidiau ymarfer oedd yn clampio i wresogydd. Creadigrwyd ar ei orau! Dewiswyd pencampwyr digidol newydd ar ddechrau'r flwyddyn i gynrychioli'r adran Digidol am y flwyddyn. Da gweld eu paroddrwyd i fod yn arweinwyr.

Celfyddydau Mynegiannol: Diolch arbennig i Nansi Jones, Hawys Owen-Casey, Owain Davies-Williams Abi Filmer, Martha Williams a Nel Jones am fynd draw i Abergele i ddiddannu criw Merched y Wawr Lleol. Cafwyd noson i'w chofio!

Cafodd nifer o fechgyn yr ysgol gyfle i gymryd rhan mewn Gweithdy 'Only Boys Aloud' yn ddiweddar a rhoi blas iddynt ar berfformio yng nghwmni Aled Evans. Profiad arbennig iddynt.

Gwyddoniaeth: Llongyfarchiadau i ddisgyblion bl.13 Bioleg ddaeth yn ail mewn cystadleuaeth meddygol cwmni fferyllol 'Astra Zeneca'. Roedd hi'n gystadleuaeth gref yn erbyn 6 ysgol arall ac ymfalchiwn yn eu camp. Daeth llwyddiant tebyg i griw o ddisgyblion blwyddyn 11 hefyd sef Sonny Baxter, Elijah Lloyd, Sophia Griffiths ac Eryn Williams yn ail trwy Gymru yng nghwis Her Feddygol Prifysgol Caerdydd. Fe weithion nhw yn galed iawn gan ddangos eu doniau a'u gwybodaeth gwyddonol. Trwch blewyn oedd rhyngddynt â thîm Ysgol Bro Morgannwg. Llongyfarchiadau enfawr!

Bwrlwm y Chweched : Rydym yn falch iawn eleni o groesawu 65 o ddysgwyr yn ôl i flwyddyn 12 a dymunwn y gorau iddynt gyda'u hastudiaethau. I'w croesawu'n ôl i'r Chweched dosbarth, trefnwyd gweithgareddau anwytho ac adeiladu tîm ar gyfer bl12 / 13 ac mae ein diolch yn fawr i'r Urdd am eu harwain ar hyn. Daeth cwmni *Positively You* i gynnal sesiynau Cau'r Bwlch gyda blwyddyn 12 a gweithgaredd Gosod Nod a Tharged gyda blwyddyn 13. Diolch i Matt o'r cwmni am ysgogi ein dysgwyr i anelu yn uchel a'u paratoi ar gyfer bywyd yn y Chweched.



ENGLISH AND MATHS TUITION

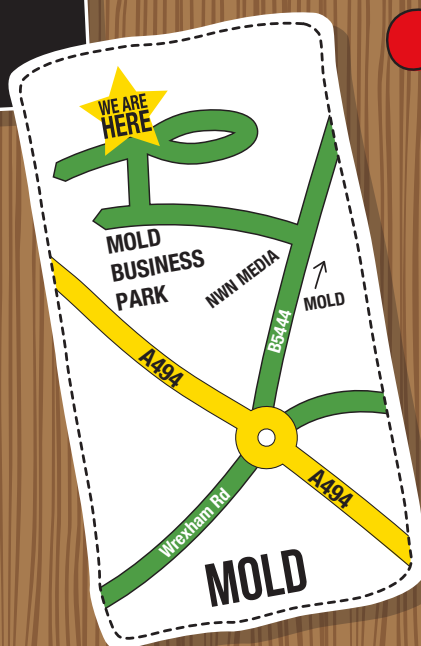
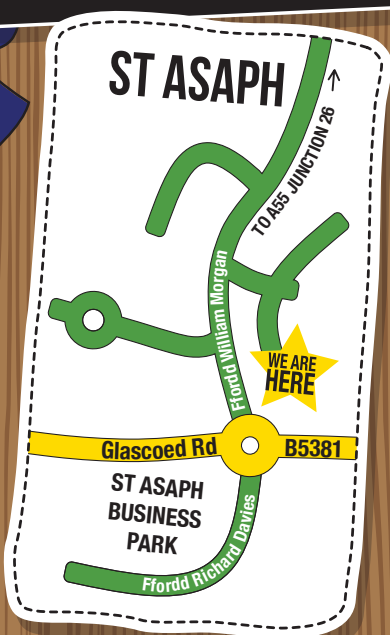
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ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

HOWEVER BIG OR SMALL

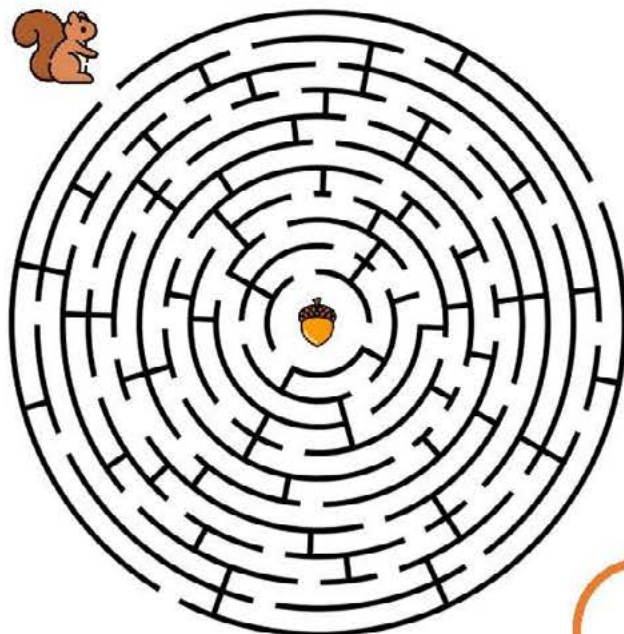
SCARILY BAD JOKES

How do you fix a broken pumpkin?
A pumpkin patch.

Where do ghosts go
on holiday?
Mali-BOO!



REUNITE MR SQUIRREL WITH HIS ACORN



TEST YOUR NATURE KNOWLEDGE

Leaves come in lots of shapes and sizes.
Match each leaf with the right type of tree.



HORSE CHESTNUT



OAK



SYCAMORE



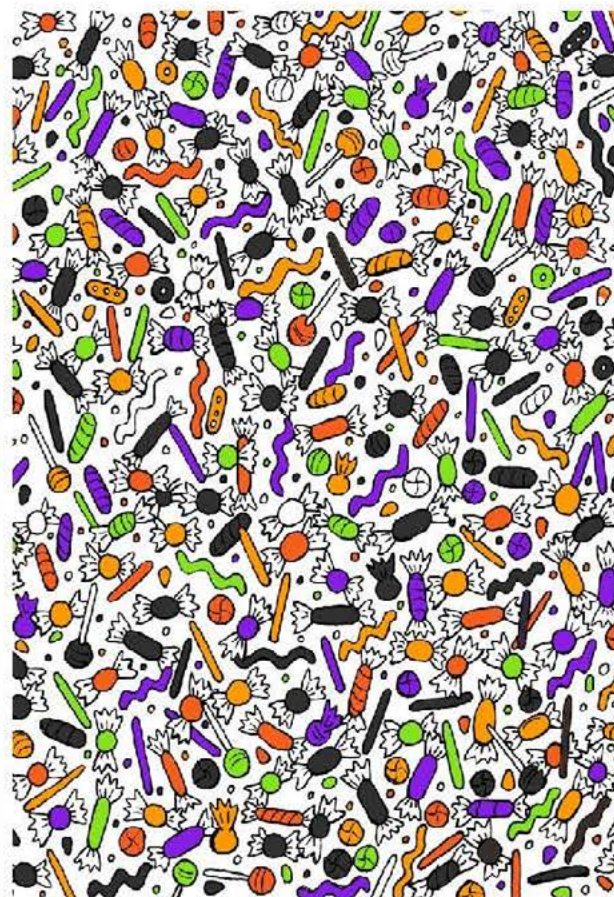
ASH



BLACK POPLAR

HOW SHARP ARE YOUR EYES?

A little spider is hiding amongst these
Halloween sweets... can you find her?



DID YOU KNOW?



The Black Poplar is Britain's most
endangered tree, with as few as 7,000
remaining in the wild. We're very lucky to
have a rare few growing by the river at Roe
Plas, St Asaph. Why not plan a visit?

Letters: St Asaph—our City of Sport

Organised sport has a very long history in St. Asaph, certainly well over 100 years as far as football, cricket, and possibly Crown Green bowls, which takes us back into Victorian times. In their current manifestations we are in a golden period for football and cricket. They have recently been champions in their leagues, and cup winners. Crown Green Bowling is also thriving. However, tennis has disappeared.

Both the cricket and football clubs run teams from juniors right up to senior players, and between them, as can be seen most weekends, they have a very large number of players in action, and attract significant support to their endeavours. In addition other clubs, some recently established, are clearly thriving in our city. This includes the netball club, the running club, the walking football club, cycling groups, and now also women's cricket and football. These developments have happened as a result of the enthusiasm and commitment of countless volunteers, the generosity of local sponsors and support from the national organisations of football, cricket etc. Clubs have also benefitted from the facilities at our Leisure Centre, and the whole-hearted participation of our excellent schools in St. Asaph.

Amongst all this development has been another very vital thread and that is the support and encouragement of what was the Town Council and is now the City Council. Members of the Council, stretching back through the whole history of sport in St. Asaph, have been unstinting in their continuing support of all these activities.

The benefits of all this activity are in the well-being of the participants, and generally on the social fabric of the city. Without being complacent about these issues, it seems to me that sport has done a vital job in contributing to a good social atmosphere in the City, and taking the philosophy that success breeds success, I hope that this golden period we are in now continues long into the future, and that we continue to support the volunteers who have enabled this progress to occur.

Trefor Jones, CVO, CBE



St Asaph Netball Club — training every Wednesday evening from 8 to 9.30. New players always welcome! Follow us on Facebook.



St Asaph Bowling Club win the B Division Cup



St Asaph Cricket Club — Women's cricket session attendees; a big squad ready to launch a women's team next season



St Asaph Running Club, with newly arrived club shirts



St Asaph Cricket Club—All Stars sessions for youngsters

St Asaph crowned North Wales Champions—again!

Congratulations to the St Asaph first XI for once again winning the North Wales Premier league, having done so in 2021, and come within a gnat's whisker of winning again in 2022.



But the final league positions this season went to the wire, with everything hanging on the last matches. Having lost points early on in the season with rained off matches and a couple of unfortunate losses, the Saints had steadily clawed their way back to the top of the table with a 3 point lead over Northop going in to Saturday's match. St Asaph were away from home facing their nemesis team Menai Bridge (who pipped them to the post in last year's league) and a tough match seemed on the cards. Northop were facing Bangor, so could readily have jumped ahead of St Asaph if the Saints slipped up.



St Asaph won the toss and chose to bat. Duncan Midgely was in the groove, and carried his bat through the innings with an extraordinary 144 off 159 balls, including 7 mighty sixes and 9 fours. He was ably supported by Nat Scott, Rohit Kamal and David Lloyd, and St Asaph closed at an impressive 212 for 5 from 50 overs. What could Menai Bridge offer in return? Not much, as it turned out. Dan Evans (5 for 8) and Danny Ryan (4 for 18) tore their hosts' batting line-up apart. Menai Bridge were bowled out for just 79 in 27 overs, with 5 wickets falling for the last four runs. Cue

delirious rejoicing from the faithful fans who had travelled to Menai Bridge with the Saints. Maximum points of 15 meant that Northop could not catch them. A completely sensational result, a fitting tribute to the hard graft of the team this season, an inspiration to all the club's players, and a match to remember!

Captain Will Ryan commented: "We knew it could be a tough game. Having won the toss, Duncan steadied the ship and stayed the course whilst others came and went. Tension was high as we were aware of Northop's progress at Bangor. And then Duncan, having started his innings in a composed manner, took off, and was smashing sixes and fours everywhere. So we had a tidy sum. It still could have gone against us, but Dan Evans and Danny Ryan took key wickets and things swung in our favour. It's been another great season, with great depth in the team, and everyone ready to step up to the plate when the occasion demanded. And some great new talent coming up through the club for the future"



Will Ryan Photo: Roger Byrne



Harrison Jones

Wales Honours

Two local cricketers have been playing regularly for Wales this season. Will Ryan and Harrison Jones, who captain St Asaph and Denbigh respectively, have both been playing three day matches for Wales against minor counties opponents to good effect, along with Jason Foulkes, former St Asaph player. "It's been a big step up playing against ex-county players and strong teams" says Will, "but we've not felt out of place." He paid tribute to Russell Penrhyn-Jones who has set up the structures allowing players from North Wales to get selected for Wales. Harrison has had a successful season with both bat and ball for Denbigh and for Wales.



Limbering up for the Cardiff half-marathon!

Nine intrepid members of the Running Club will fly the flag for St Asaph at the Cardiff half-marathon on October 1st. However, there is no need to compete at this level to run with the club! The club meets on Wednesday evenings at 6 in the cathedral for a social run, and welcomes runners of all abilities—fast, medium, chilled and beginners! No fee to join—just turn up. For further details call Ian Jones on 07775 684171 or Julie Roberts on 07900 188222



Saints off to good start in Tier 3

John Roberts

After gaining promotion to Tier 3 the **Saints** have settled well to life at a higher tier. To date they have played five league fixtures and are in fifth place in the Ardal North West League.

They travelled to Holyhead for their first fixture and lost a closely contested game 1-0. This was followed by a goalless home draw to Llanefydd who had also been promoted. The next fixtures saw them gain three straight wins, a 4-3 home win against Conwy Borough, a 2-0 away win under floodlights against Flint Mountain (who have been seen as the favourites to gain promotion to tier 2) and a 3-2 away win at Brickfield Rangers.

They have also reached the First Round of the Welsh Cup following an 18-0 win over Rhyl Dragons in the first preliminary round and a 7-0 win against Y Glannau in the second preliminary round.

The Club would like to thank Spring Gardens for their generous support and everyone who has sponsored our players, matches and kits at both junior and senior level. We also thank the Cricket Club and The Barrow for their excellent post match hospitality. For a second season St Kentigern's Hospice have sponsored our first team kit and as last season we will continue our fund raising activities to support them.



Saints first team



St Asaph Reserves vs Saltney

The **Reserves** have got off to an excellent start in the Tier 3 Reserves League and are top of the league after three straight wins. A 2-0 home win over Saltney Town Reserves was followed by a 3-1 win over Cefn Albion Reserves and a 10-0 away win at Saltney Town Reserves.

Our newly established **Under 19** team have started life in their Youth League with a 9-1 win

away to Buckley Town's Under 19s team.

In the Junior section our **Under 14s** are looking forward to playing 11-a-side football on a full size pitch. All of the teams have had a successful season in various tournaments and are looking forward to the new season.

Over the summer the **U10s Dreigiau** have taken part in four tournaments. They lost narrowly in the Rhydymwyn Tournament, topped their group in the Buckley tournament but lost in the semi final of the NFA tournament. They finished their tournaments by winning in the Brymbo one by beating some very good teams from the Wrexham area. Following that they have had two excellent wins in their pre-season friendlies.

Our newly established **Under 9s team** would like to thank John from WPH for sponsoring their new kit. It's been great to see such commitment from all members of the team and their parents. Their enthusiasm is reflected in the way they have developed as a team in pre season under their coach Sam Hammons.

St Asaph **U8s Flame** have had a busy summer. They won the Greater Manchester Cup and were finalists in the Brymbo Tournament. They rounded off their pre season preparations with a friendly against Crewe Academy.

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