



# St. Asaph & District City Times



Issue No 28

June 2024

## ST ASAPH CHORAL SOCIETY 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONCERT PAGE 21



Photo Tony Griffiths



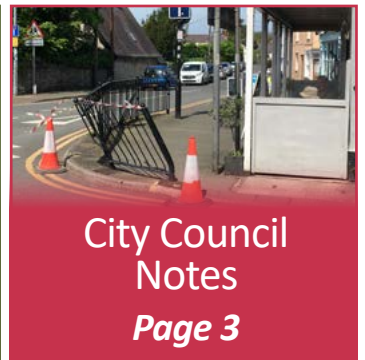
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**Submit all items to [editorsact@gmail.com](mailto:editorsact@gmail.com) For more details please contact: 01745 583770 / 07808 878842**

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We're always looking out for letters, items, reports or features relating to St Asaph. Or that special photo! The deadline for the June issue is Monday 15th July – but **please** submit well before to ensure publication as the paper fills quickly. Thank you.

We are also fully reliant on and very grateful for sponsorship and advertising—if you would like to sponsor or advertise, please get in contact with us via [editorsact@gmail.com](mailto:editorsact@gmail.com) We now have an increased print run of 2200 so you can be assured of a wide readership!



## Increased print run

The St Asaph and District City Times is grateful for a grant of £500 from **Denbighshire Leisure Active Communities** to increase our print run from 2000 to 2200 in 2024. We have now been able to distribute the paper in the Clwydian Park area, and also increase the numbers left at pick-up points in the Co-op, Trefnant shop and the Salusbury Arms.



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## In memory of Chris Smith



Neal Smith undertook an epic 63 mile trek from Denbigh to Old Trafford in wintry January weather to raise funds in memory of his brother Chris, who died in December last year. All in all, the final amount raised was the amazing sum of *Chris Smith* £7,542 for Mind UK and Vale of Clwyd Mind - the initial fund raising target had been £1,000. This support is clear testimony to the high regard in which the family is held both locally and further afield. Neal and his family would like to thank all those who gave so generously.

**THE VISION SUPPORT BUS** will be at Tweedmill on Wednesday 5th June and Wednesday 3rd July from 10am until 3pm

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## Some notes from the May St Asaph City Council meeting.

**Police report:** PCSO Dave Jones reported several separate episodes of criminal damage, verbal harassment, and threatening behaviour.



**Playground dramas:** The rubber matting at the Lower Street play area had developed large holes, posing a serious risk to children. The Council booked contractors to repair them, put up hazard tape and explanatory notices, and sealed off the play area with a chain and padlock. Shortly afterwards, a person or persons unknown used bolt cutters to remove the padlock and chain, and the notices were also removed. Although in some ways it is encouraging that the play area is so popular, this was felt to be an irresponsible act. *(The matting has since been replaced)*

**Headless sheep:** A report had been made to the Council of a headless sheep carcass in the river. This has happened on a few occasions, with the head of the sheep being taken off presumably to remove identifying tags and ear marks, so that the owner could avoid having to pay the charge for removal of fallen stock. Council felt that this was a matter for Natural Resources Wales, but before further action could be taken, the carcass was washed downstream—to become a problem for Rhuddlan instead. One councillor wondered whether getting the Fire Service to remove any further carcasses might be a useful training exercise for them. Others felt this was unlikely.

**Tight corners:** Railings at the top of Chester Street by Jacob's Ladder and by the Bryn Dinas have been seriously damaged by a vehicle, allegedly by a trailer. The vehicle's driver has not come forward; possibly unaware of the trail of destruction in his/her wake.



**Public toilets:** As a cost-saving measure, Denbighshire County Council has been considering proposals to hand over care of the public toilets by the Bowling Green to the City Council and local community. These proposals (and similar ones elsewhere in Denbighshire) had triggered a considerable outcry. Costings for running the toilets are awaited; whether a charge should apply to use them is also being considered.

*Damaged railings, swiftly repaired*

**Cemetery space:** Mayor Colin Hardie reported on a meeting he had attended concerning cemeteries locally. Whilst there is space in the St Asaph cemetery, Rhyl have no space, and Rhuddlan is hampered badly by ground water. There is room in Prestatyn, but it is poorly served by public transport. Discussions are under way to explore the possibility of preparing a new site for a cemetery, possibly near Rhuddlan.



**A water butt solution?** Cllr Hogg had attended the Clwyd Forum meeting. Amongst other topics, the flooding of Llys Y Felin was discussed. The problem is caused by heavy downpours and rapid run-off of water from Upper St Asaph overwhelming the storm tank in the car park. Cllr Hogg is exploring the possibility of arranging for properties in Upper St Asaph to use their old wheelie bins as water butts to limit the sudden run-off. Welsh Water could provide a conversion kit, and will model the proposal to see how many bins would need to be used. DCC have a contractual obligation to return at least 30,000 of the 40,000 wheelie bins in the county to the company providing the new ones. They will be recycled.

*Can also be used for ice baths...*

**Slow and steady:** Cllr Scott reported that a decision had been made to keep the Upper Denbigh Road in St Asaph at 20mph. This makes it safer for the schoolchildren, and is helpful to traffic emerging from and turning into the estates.

**Councillors:** A number of people have put their names forward to serve as councillors. This is a welcome development.

*Official and full minutes of the meeting will be available online at [www.stasaphcitycouncil.gov.uk](http://www.stasaphcitycouncil.gov.uk) after the draft minutes are signed off at the June full council meeting.*

## Support for families: contact the Family Information Service

Denbighshire **Flying Start** is a Welsh Government funded programme for children aged from 0 years up until their 4th birthday and their parents/carers, who live in certain post coded areas. The aim of the programme is to help children to have the best possible start in life for their future growth and development.

Unfortunately St Asaph postcodes are **not** on the Flying Start List.

However, parents are advised to discuss any support needs with their health visitor, or to contact the **Family Information Service** Denbighshire on 01745 815891 or via email on [fis@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:fis@denbighshire.gov.uk) They will offer advice or signpost to the correct support service.



**Austin Savage** 1940 – 2024*Fiona Shand*

Olympic hockey player, teacher, Justice of the Peace, golfer, gardener and Welsh to the very core. An impressive man, generous and likeable. That's quite a list, but Austin was very more than just a list.

Born in St Asaph, and brought up in Trelogan, he had a hard start to life, losing both parents whilst still at school. He began to play hockey whilst at Holywell Grammar school, and continued to play at Bangor University as goal keeper. He was selected for the Welsh team in 1962, and went on to win a remarkable 101 caps for Wales and 20 for Great Britain. He represented GB at the Munich Olympics in 1972, and witnessed the attack on the Israeli team by the "Black September" Palestinian terrorist group. He reported on these terrible events for the BBC, and in time became a regular and respected contributor to the BBC, particularly in sport and with respect to his work as a magistrate.

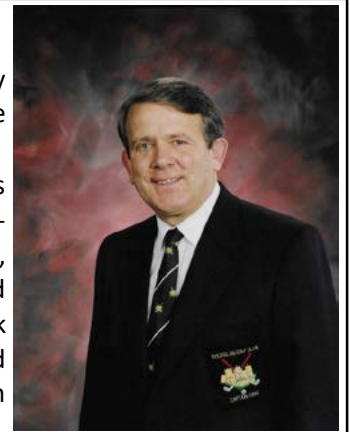
Austin taught Biology for 32 years at Ysgol Glan Clwyd, becoming head of department there and later head of the sixth form. He was a highly respected teacher, and an inspiration to many of his pupils. Austin believed strongly in education beyond the classroom, and along with his wife Vera, head of music at Ysgol Glan Clwyd, he organised trips for the school choir to Austria, Norway, Zimbabwe, Canada and the USA.

He worked tirelessly to encourage and promote the use of Welsh, whether as manager of the pop group Sidan (former pupils at YGC), through his involvement with setting up the Urdd in Rhyl, or within the community of St Asaph.



He was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1972, one of the youngest appointees to the bench at the time, and served an extraordinary 38 years in that role. He was amongst those who refused to pay for their TV licences until a Welsh channel was established—a powerful statement as a JP! Along with Vera, he played a key role in the Twinning Association that linked St Asaph with Begard in Brittany.

After retiring in 1995, he had more time to devote to his many interests. A keen golfer, he was a member of the "Hogia Dydd Mawrth" who raised funds for worthy causes. With Vera, he developed a delightful garden for passers-by to enjoy on Mount Road. Competitive and ambitious, Austin gave of his best in every endeavour. He was a kind man, a caring father and a proud grandfather. He leaves his wife Vera, their three sons Dewi, Huw and Gwyn, and six grandchildren.



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## The Enchanted Midsummer Twilight Trek! *Sian Golding*

Join St Kentigern Hospice on Saturday, June 29th, for an unforgettable evening filled with enchantment and community spirit. As the sun begins to set, embark on a 10km sponsored walk starting at St. Asaph Football Club. With every step, immerse yourself in the enchanting atmosphere of a midsummer's night, where the air is alive with anticipation and mystery.

At the pre-trek party prepare to be captivated by a host of magical performers and enchanted acts, and why not join in the theme of this twilight trek by dressing up as your favourite enchanted creature. Fairies, pixies, elves, butterflies, flowers and mystical beings all welcome!

*'Following the conclusion of our Dawn Walk after 13 incredible years we are so excited to be launching this brand new event. With the addition of our pre-party along with a new venue, a new time and a new route we hope to make this our biggest sponsored walk to date.'*

This event is a 10km circular walk beginning and ending at St Asaph Football Club, Roe Plas Meadow, St Asaph LL17 OSU. Entry is open to all over the age of 10, and dogs on leads are welcome. Entry is £15 or £10 for under 18s, for which you will receive entry to the walk and a medal on completion.

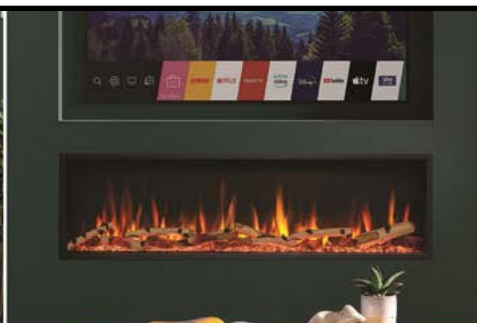
Entry forms are available online by visiting [bit.ly/StKentigernTwilightTrek](https://bit.ly/StKentigernTwilightTrek) or by calling the fundraising team on 01745 536020. Check in will open at 5:30pm for the walk to commence at 7pm.

St Kentigern Hospice, based in St. Asaph, provides specialist palliative care services, completely free of charge, for adults across North East Wales. In 2023, the annual Hospice running costs will exceed £2.6 million, which equates to more than £7,252.37 per day. Just 28% of this will come from the Local Health Board; it is only enough funding to support the hospice for 93 days of the year.

Fundraising events like the Twilight Trek are vital in allowing the services available at St Kentigern Hospice to continue being accessible to individuals and their families in their time of need. This event is kindly supported by St Asaph Football Club and St Asaph City Council.



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## Rotary: welcome back to St Asaph!

The Rotary Club of Rhyl has decided to hold its regular meetings at the Bod Erw Restaurant, the venue where the now disbanded St Asaph Rotary Club met for many years. Five former St Asaph members decided to join the Rhyl Club, maintaining a healthy connection between the activities of St Asaph and Rhyl. In fact, St Asaph resident John Dicks is now President-Elect for the 2024/25 Rotary year.

Current President Tony Thomas commented: *"We are absolutely delighted to be here in St Asaph and we look forward to working with our new neighbours on many projects which will provide benefit locally, at home and abroad."*



John Dicks and Tony Thomas

The Very Reverend Nigel Williams, Dean of St Asaph Cathedral welcomed the club, commenting: *"It is a great pleasure to welcome Rhyl Rotary Club to St Asaph. Over the years, St Asaph Rotary Club has served our community with distinction, always ready to lend a hand to other organisations and raising money for many good causes. We look forward to working alongside and with the Rhyl Rotary club members and thank them for the wonderful work that they do in the community."*

City Mayor Councillor Colin Hardie added: *"St Asaph City Council is delighted to hear that you now hold your meetings at the Bod Erw, St Asaph. We sincerely hope that your move to this venue proves fruitful and I hope that we can develop a successful relationship for the benefit of our community."*

The two clubs already have very strong links from the past. Many residents and organisations have benefitted from the past fund-raising activities of the St Asaph club and it is estimated that a quarter of a million pounds was raised over the years for charitable purposes, locally and abroad. Most residents will remember the spectacular 'Summer Fayre' which provided so much enjoyment to the thousands of visitors who attended annually.

Alan Duke who was a member of the St Asaph Club and who has now joined Rhyl Rotary commented: *"My first impression of Rhyl Rotary Club was how friendly and welcoming everybody set out to be. I continue to be amazed to learn how many activities the club is involved in, both socially and, of course, concerning the fund-raising events for which the club is renowned. I would encourage anybody who wants to 'make a difference', meet new friends and also enjoy themselves to get in touch to learn more about what it means to be a Rotarian."*

To learn more about The Rotary Club of Rhyl and its many activities contact: Pete McKenzie on 07775 553688 or [pete\\_mckenzie@sky.com](mailto:pete_mckenzie@sky.com)

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## Art, music, writing and sailing... a roving life.

Duncan Cameron

Miles McGrevy worked hard to convert the former stables at the back of his house on Lower Street into a studio suitable for art classes. It is a bright and modern space, with room for up to 10 students at a time, and his recently restarted twice weekly art classes have proved very popular both with beginners and those who have some experience. He encourages them to loosen up their hand and arm muscles at the outset by scribbling with charcoal before starting on different exercises with shapes and objects; classes are instructive and informal, and an enjoyable social gathering.

Miles himself began drawing as a young child, and has never stopped. He is mostly self taught, but also spent three seasons at the Royal Drawing School in Shoreditch; he has exhibited in the UK, Johannesburg, Cape Town and galleries through the Caribbean. But there are other strings to his bow. He is an accomplished musician, having taken up the saxophone at 21 and subsequently working as a session musician for various artists, and for radio and TV. He worked as a backing musician for Bill Haley on a tour of South Africa, but was blacklisted by Equity on his return for breaking union sanctions on the apartheid regime there.



He was born in Leigh on Sea in Essex, and went to college to learn building and construction, skills that have stood him in good stead ever since. Multiple projects followed, including four years spent living on and restoring a 50ft Norfolk wherry, originally built to take ice out to the fishing fleets. He supported himself with his music and drawing, and when he sold the boat, he returned to South Africa using the proceeds to buy a dilapidated former police station near Johannesburg, which he proceeded to restore with his partner Pippa. There was a sizeable garden, and they used it to build a 52ft sailing boat from scratch. Neighbours were reminded of the story of Noah... Eventually they set off from South Africa, and sailed to the Caribbean, where they lived for several years in their ketch, home-schooling their daughter on board.

Miles and Pippa came to St Asaph 4 years ago, and set up the popular Myrtle House gallery, also running live art classes. Sadly Pippa, his inspiration and companion through countless adventures over many years, died of cancer in 2022. For Miles and his daughter, it has been a long and hard road to travel through their loss. Restarting the drawing classes has been restorative for him.

Miles is also a published author, and has a second novel in progress, with an imaginative story line from December 1944 involving Glen Miller's rescue at sea by a gang of Nazis escaping Europe for South America. Miles is a natural storyteller, but it may well be that his autobiography would match any novel for variety, adventure and excitement!

*Thanks to Miles for allowing City Times to interview him for this article. His art classes are advertised below.*



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## Kentigern Guild—Adventures with the media...

Duncan Cameron

The guest speaker at the April meeting of the Kentigern Guild was former headmistress Mary Steel, who spoke on the topic "Adventures with the media". Mary had a long career in teaching, including some years working in West Africa, seven years at Howell's school in Denbigh and a further seven years at Abbots Bromley girls' school near Lichfield.

Through contacts in the media, she was asked to present episodes of Radio 2's *Pause for Thought* and described the challenge of preparing a talk lasting just 2½ minutes – with an introduction, a message, and a neat wrap-up. Taking school assemblies, with a need to engage a sometimes indifferent audience, is a key role of teachers, and one where she had learned skills that were immediately transferable to be used in *Pause for Thought*.

Mary played us some of the episodes, starting with one on attitudes to death, where she described trying to deal with the tragic death in a road accident of a sister from the convent school in Nigeria, and the cultural differences in how local people reacted. It was a quietly moving and powerful reflection.

Another talk was about the end of the summer term. For the upper sixth pupils, it was much more than a summer holiday, as they were leaving school. Teachers would worry that they had not prepared these pupils for all the circumstances they might encounter, but Mary's attitude was that if they had helped the pupils to develop principles, values and discernment sufficient for them to navigate most challenges, that was a job well done. This triggered appreciative reactions from her Radio 2 listeners. On one memorable occasion, she was asked to present live on *Thought for the Day* – at short notice. No room for slipups; but she recommends us all to be ready to move out of our comfort zones. It was an enjoyable challenge, and a chance to meet some of her favourite Radio 4 journalists.

Mary has a gift for public speaking, with an engaging and reflective style that was much enjoyed by the Kentigern Guild members. Her final observation was that the happiest people don't always have everything, but they make the most of what they have. True indeed.

*The Kentigern Guild meetings consist of an invited speaker followed by refreshments, and are open to all. The programme will restart in October, on the first Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the parish church. Details of speakers tbc*



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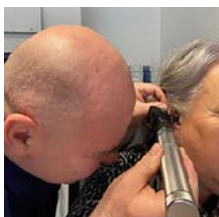
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## The Parish Church—a community hub

The modernisation of the parish church three years ago was aimed specifically to make the building available for community activities as well as continuing in its role as the parish church. The building is now used very extensively for community activities including the **Community Fridge, St Asaph Choral Society, Women’s Institute, Food 4 Thought lunches, exercise classes, Tai Chi, Mothers Union, Kentigern Guild, music rehearsals, Merched Y Wawr’s** recent anniversary concert etc. It is used for a **Young Carer’s group**, and also hosted mother and toddler groups, though not currently. It was the venue for the Jubilee and Coronation celebrations and will be one of the fringe venues for the music festival in the autumn. Open meetings (eg for the Mona Morgan windfarm) have also been held. In fact the amount of usage of the building for church services is now significantly less than the time spent on community activities – although of course members of the congregation are part of the community as well!



Some of the Community Fridge team



Choral society—ready to stand and sing!

The work of looking after the church and the church grounds, catering for events, opening and closing for activities, maintenance and generally ensuring this remarkable building has a sustainable future for generations to come is all undertaken by volunteers, both from the church and from non-members.

If you have not yet visited the church to see the renovations, it’s open every day from just after 9 to late afternoon. If you would like to organise dance classes, poetry events, debates, history lectures, election hustings or other activities or functions there, contact the booking co-ordinator on 07772912431, or contact via the website [www.stasaphparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.stasaphparishchurch.org.uk) There is more information available on the drop down menu under **Venue hire**.

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Smartly dressed lads outside the Plough about to get up on the charabanc  
Photo by Dafydd Hughe1900s, with thanks to Simon Herman for providing the print.



Welcome back!

## Dic Aberdaron

Fiona Shand

Richard Robert Jones 1780 – 1843 was a traveller who, it was reputed, was able speak 14 or 15 languages. He was also known as 'Dic Aberdaron', having been born in the village of that name at the western tip of the Llŷn Peninsula in Gwynedd. (The North Wales Pilgrim's Way for walkers ends at this point for walkers who do not cross the water to Bardsey – as happened to the pilgrims on the recent BBC programme!)

Dic had not benefitted from a formal education but was expected to follow in his father's footsteps as a carpenter. As a boy, he preferred to spend his time reading books, rather than learning a trade. Before reaching his teens, he was learning Latin and he was still a youth when he commenced his nomadic lifestyle.

Not much is documented about his life, but it is known that he took a cat with him on his travels as well as several books. To support himself, he would undertake various work and often be paid in books, which he would then sell, if necessary, to obtain food.

He happened to be in St Asaph when he died in 1843. His gravestone can be seen in the churchyard of St Asaph parish church. It lies a short distance from the other tombstones. This englyn (a traditional Welsh short poem, having definite meters) by Ellis Owen, is carved upon his tombstone:

*leithydd uwch ieithwyr wythwaith  
gwir ydoedd Geiriadur pob talaith.  
Aeth angau a'i bymthegiaith,  
Obry'n awr mae heb 'r un iaith.*

Translation:

*A linguist eight times above other linguists  
truly he was a dictionary of every province.  
Death took away his fifteen languages,  
Below he is without a language at all.*



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## Library opening hours changes

From 1st June the opening hours of Denbighshire's Libraries and One Stop Shops will be changing. The new hours have been informed and tweaked by Library staff, Library users and the numerous responses to the public consultation to fit each individual Library's needs on a case-by-case basis.

The full array of Library services are being maintained, and a full programme of activities will be available to users throughout Denbighshire. The extremely popular **Bookstart rhymetime** sessions are continuing, and people will still be able to drop into their local **Talking Point** to find out what help and support is available in their local area, but there may be some changes to specific times. The **Digital Library** offering will continue to be available 24/7, giving Library members free access to eBooks, audiobooks and ePress via the Borrowbox app, and digital magazines via the Libby app.

### St Asaph Library

Monday 10-1, 2-5pm

Wednesday 10-1, 2-5pm

Saturday 9.30-12.30



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## Probus—the industrial revolution

Julia Hughes



Brian Gresty

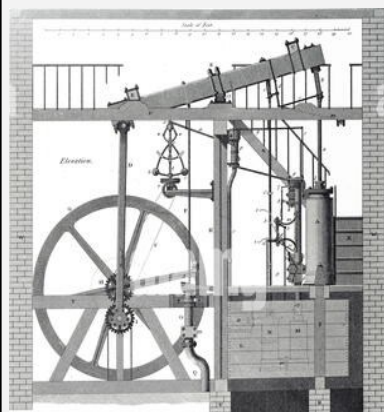
Brian Gresty, guide at the Bersham Ironworks museum, was the invited speaker at the April Probus Club meeting, and he gave a fascinating and detailed account of an industrialist who has been neglected by history. **John "Iron mad" Wilkinson**, born on the back of a farm cart in Westmorland in 1728, was without doubt a massive figure in the Industrial Revolution.

He was apprenticed in ironworking in Liverpool, following which he went to Bersham, where his father had joined the foundry. With funds from his wife's family, John then set up his own company, and pioneered a remarkable number of processes. Foremost of these was a device for boring out cannons from solid castings; this was a great improvement on the previous practice of casting two halves of the cannon and binding them together with iron hoops. The old method made cannons prone to exploding themselves; Wilkinson's method allowed for bigger charges to fire the cannon, and consequently a greater range. Brian put the case that this innovation was a crucial part of the success of the Royal Navy, and hence the expansion of British interests around the globe.

It was John Wilkinson's idea with the architect Thomas Farnolls Pritchard, to build the 'Ironbridge' across the River Severn in Shropshire, wholly out of iron and he persuaded investors and the government to support it. He turned the building work on the bridge over to Abraham Darby. He also used his boring technique to produce highly accurate cylinders for the Boulton and Watt rotative beam engine, significantly improving their efficiency, and became the third partner with Boulton and Watt.

Brian described many other achievements of his hero John Wilkinson, and gave the audience an informative and entertaining lecture.

*Denbigh and District Probus Club welcomes new members for monthly meetings held at the Oriel Hotel where they enjoy lunch, friendship and a talk from a guest speaker. Further details available at [www.denbighprobus.com](http://www.denbighprobus.com)*



The Boulton & Watt beam engine



## A lifeline for local badger colonies

*Ben Ross*

Since 1983, the Clwyd Badger Group has been working to promote the study and conservation of badgers and their natural habitat. They record and monitor local populations, rescue injured badgers and orphaned cubs, and work with local authorities/organisations to stamp out unlawful persecution.

In life, badgers are often maligned. They are sometimes responsible for minor foraging-related destruction in gardens, and their link with the more serious spread of bovine tuberculosis (bTB) is contested by many. Badgers often pay a high price for these associations.

There are populations all around us, but as nocturnal creatures, many of us will only have seen a badger when it's dead by the side of the road. Accidents are most common during mating season in late winter/early spring, and in the autumn with badgers busy preparing for leaner times over winter. But even in the height of summer, badgers regularly get caught out on our roads.

**How you can help:** Whether you happen across a badger in need of assistance, or one which is beyond mortal help, the best thing you can do is report it to Clwyd Badger Group.

In happier circumstances, they can provide a caring sanctuary to badgers in need. But even if it's too late for one badger, data is vital to understanding and protecting our ecosystem and agroecosystem in future.

In addition to keeping detailed records and working with local authorities, the Group are partnered with the Badger Found Dead project, who complete important tests (including bTB diagnosis) on suitable subjects.

In terms of road traffic incidents involving badgers, Daniel Rose from the Group informs us that St Asaph forms part of a significant issue in their ward heatmap. Your reports could help to identify accident hot-spots and inform future mitigating efforts, such as tunnels enabling badgers to cross the road safely. If a local badger needs immediate assistance, call: **01352 740 787**. To report a badger-related road traffic accident, use Facebook messenger: [m.me/northwalesbadgers](https://www.facebook.com/northwalesbadgers), or email [badgercta@gmail.com](mailto:badgercta@gmail.com)

**Offer your support:** You can join Clwyd Badger Group and support their work for an annual subscription of just £5. They host monthly meetings which you can attend in person, or virtually if you prefer. To learn more, visit: [clwydbadgergroup.org.uk](http://clwydbadgergroup.org.uk)



## It's Volunteering Week!

National Volunteer's Week runs from Monday 3rd June to Sunday 9th, celebrating and encouraging the vast army of volunteers across the UK. It highlights the benefits of volunteering, not just to the person or organisation being helped, but also to the volunteers themselves. For those with busy family and work commitments, it may not be easy to find time for volunteering but there are many opportunities in the Vale of Clwyd. Here are just a few:

**St Kentigern Hospice:** welcomers, helpers in the café, shop work etc.  
[stkentigernhospice.org.uk](http://stkentigernhospice.org.uk)

**North Wales International Music Festival:** parking attendants, bar staff, raffle ticket sellers in September: [nwimf.com](http://nwimf.com)

**Cathedral Welcomers and Translators' Cafe**—call by at the cathedral to find out more

**Mount Road Cemetery Group** join the occasional work parties to help keep this special place peaceful. 01745 583770

**Afon Elwy Environmental Group:** see page 16

**Elwy Invasive Plant Group:** trying to control the spread of Himalayan Balsam. Check the Facebook page.

**Medieval Garden Group:** meet on a Wednesday morning in the cathedral's medieval garden

**Parish church:** churchyard maintenance and mowing team—regular work parties

**Salisbury Arms Community Pub** call by for a beer or a meal and ask how you can help. Check the Facebook page.

**Glascoed Nature Reserve** is a small haven for biodiversity, and we need your help to keep it thriving! Whether you're a nature lover, a conservation enthusiast, or just looking to make a positive impact, your contribution can make a real difference. Wednesdays from 10am, Glascoed Nature Reserve, St Asaph, LL17 0JA. Email [info@wild-ground.org.uk](mailto:info@wild-ground.org.uk) or call 01978 757524 to get involved or find out more about our volunteering opportunities.

**Sports Clubs**—always in need of volunteers!



## Welsh Politics—the last 25 years.

Lian Crierie

**A Voice for Wales** was published in July 1997, and the **Welsh Referendum** was held on the 18th of September 1997. The majority vote of 50.3%, (with a turnout of 51.3%), changed the course of Welsh history. Ron Davies, then Secretary of State for Wales, described devolution as “a process not an event”, a quote which remains true to this day.

In 1998, the UK parliament passed the **Government of Wales Act** providing the legal basis for the **National Assembly for Wales**. The legislation included a number of core values including a commitment to equality, sustainable development, partnership working and parity of treatment for both the Welsh and English languages.



The **National Assembly for Wales** met for the first time on 12th of May 1999. There were 60 newly elected members, 24 of whom were women, representing a significant change in the previously male-dominated Welsh politics.

The **Government of Wales Act 2006** formally separated the Welsh government and the National Assembly. The **National Assembly** made laws and represented the people, and the **Welsh Government**, held to account by the National Assembly, became responsible for making and implementing policies and subordinate legislation.

In 2014 the UK government introduced the **Wales Act 2014** which bestowed a number of new financial powers on Wales including taxation and borrowing powers.

In 2017, the **Wales Act 2017** made the National Assembly a permanent part of the UK constitution.

In 2018 the first two devolved Welsh taxes were introduced: the **Land Transaction tax** (replacing stamp duty) and the **Landfill Disposals tax**. These were followed in April 2019 by the devolution of control over £2 billion of income tax, subject to the agreement of the Senedd.

In 2019, the **Welsh Youth Parliament** met for the first time in the Senate chamber, mirroring the election of members of the Senate. 40 members of the youth parliament are elected from every constituency in Wales with another twenty elected to ensure wider diversity and inclusivity.

The **Senedd and Elections (Wales) Act 2020** became law. In May 2022 the name of the Assembly was formally changed to **Senedd Cymru** or Welsh Parliament to fully reflect its constitutional status as a law making and tax setting parliament. This Act also gave 16 and 17 year olds, and qualified foreign nationals, the right to vote in Senate elections— the largest extension to the right to vote in 50 years.

If you are interested in finding out more about the work of the Senedd, you can watch the debates live on [Senedd.tv](https://www.senedd.tv). Plenary meetings take place in the Siambr, the Senedd's debating chamber, on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Plenary meetings usually begin at 13.30 and are always open for the public to observe. Alternatively, if you are in Cardiff, why not pop in and have a guided tour of the Senedd? All are very welcome.



## Devolution, so what's that?

Lian Crierie

Some of you may recently have had a knock on the door from one of our political parties, hoping to share with you their parties' candidate name, views, and their proposed political manifesto. But what is a manifesto and why are they doing this? A manifesto is issued by each of the political parties before a General Election. It contains the proposed policies and principles the party would wish to implement if they were elected to govern. Whilst the date for the next General Election is yet to be confirmed it is likely to be later this year. Your vote at the General Election is the vote for the party who will lead the UK Parliament and make decisions for the UK as a whole.

Within Wales we have devolved powers, meaning that legal responsibility, control and governance of some aspects of everyday life have been transferred from the UK Government to a regional administration and for us this is the Senedd Cymru (Welsh Parliament). The distribution of powers to Wales has evolved over time. The Senedd elections are separate to the General Elections and so it's important to outline here the difference between the responsibilities each have.

### Senedd Cymru

Senedd Cymru (The Senedd) has the responsibility for passing Primary legislation (or Acts) which apply to Wales. It can pass laws in any area which has not been explicitly reserved by the UK Government in Westminster. *contd. opposite page*

## Senedd Cymru *contd.*

The Senedd pass laws related to, Health, Education and Culture in Wales. The Senedd can also approve changes to taxes which are devolved to Wales – at present these are landfill tax and land transaction tax, council tax and non-domestic rates. Income tax is a UK tax however, although part of this is set in Wales by the Senedd. All other taxes are the responsibility of UK Parliament. The Senedd also, through several cross-party committees, hold the Welsh Government and their policies to account.

Senedd members are referred to as Members of Senedd (MS); these members represent different constituencies (areas) across Wales and through a democratic process have been voted in by the local people in that area. In Wales there has been an “additional member system” to introduce a degree of proportional representation, but this will be changing - see the item below about more members for the Senedd.

In the constituencies covering St. Asaph and the surrounding areas the MSs are:

- Vale of Clwyd – Gareth Davies MS – Welsh Conservatives
- Clwyd West – Darren Millar MS – Welsh Conservatives

Voting in a Senedd election is your chance to influence who will represent you and your community at the Senedd when they are making decisions which will shape life in Wales. The next Senedd elections will be in, or before, May 2026

## UK Parliament

UK Parliament members (MPs) represent constituencies across Wales at Westminster and are voted in through a “first past the post” democratic process such that the candidate with the most votes wins the constituency. In the constituencies covering St. Asaph and the surrounding areas the MPs are:

- Vale of Clwyd – Dr James Davies MP – Conservative
- Clwyd West – David Jones - Conservative
- Clwyd South – Simon Baynes – Conservative

Voting in a General election is your chance to influence who will represent you and your community in Westminster when they are making decisions which will affect all people in the UK.

So, to re-cap, the Senedd elections and the General elections, two elections, two different governments with two different purposes. If you're undecided who to vote for in the coming General elections, this website may be handy, it allows you to consider your personal values, what matters to you and your community and recommends a party to which best aligns to your views: [voteforpolicies.org.uk/](https://voteforpolicies.org.uk/)

**People! the most important thing you can do is vote. Your voice matters! In the 2019 General Election, 33% of over 40 million eligible voters didn't vote – that's 13.3 million people. Make your vote count!**

**More Members of the Senedd** On 8th May, the 25th anniversary of the first Welsh election, the Senedd voted by the required “super-majority” (two-thirds) to increase the number of members of Senedd from the current 60 to a total of 96. Labour and Plaid Cymru co-operated to pass the bill by 46 votes in favour to 16 against. Described as “a chance to strengthen Welsh democracy”, the increase in numbers had been proposed to deal with an increasing workload.

The Welsh Government estimates the cost of implementing this bill over the next 8 years to be around £120 million—to pay the salaries of the new members and their supporting staff, to re-design the Siambr to accommodate them all, and to make the necessary changes to the constituencies. The system will be in place by the next Senedd Election in 2026. By way of comparison, the Northern Ireland Assembly has 90 members, and the Scottish Parliament has 125.

In Wales, the current system of 40 local and 20 regional members will be changed. There will be 16 large constituencies, each represented by 6 members. Parties will prepare a closed list of ranked candidates to be appointed according to the constituency vote share. The electorate will not be able to vote for individual members.

**Lesley V Wyke 1945-2024** Sadly we must report the death of Lesley Wyke, who lived with her husband David in the Chantry on the Upper Denbigh Road. Lesley was Mayoress when David was elected Mayor in 1997 and was active in a number of local organisations including the Twinning Association and the League of Friends of Ysbyty Glan Clwyd. She was also a founder member of the team that launched the City Times. Lesley and David relocated to Penmaenmawr in 1999 and Lesley maintained her links with St Asaph through her daughter, Rebecca, and her grandchildren Oliver and Noah. Lesley died in St David's Hospice, Llandudno, on May 11<sup>th</sup> 2024 after a long illness.



## Afon Elwy Environment Group

Chris Smith

A hard winter of committed volunteering is now showing its rewards. The AEEG has been heavily involved in a number of different projects over the winter. Now the better weather is arriving the fruits of these labours are there to be seen.

One significant project was the maintenance, pruning and management of the community orchard in the Roe fields beyond the Council Meeting rooms. It is a couple of years since the last fruit trees were added to the orchard. The older plantings were ready to be pruned and shaped, an activity which will be repeated each autumn/winter. The effects of the pruning can now be seen as the orchard trees are beginning to flower and hopefully will be bearing fruit this year.

A second important project was the laying of the hedge between the allotments and the football fields. When hedges become overgrown and in need of attention one good practice is to lay the hedge which lowers the height, thickens the bottom and improves the habitat for birds and small animals. To the inexperienced eye the hedge immediately after the laying event looks as though it has been devastated, with trees laid on their side and woven into each other, branches broken and the height gone. Now the results are becoming visible. The laid stems have begun sprout new growth and the tops are starting to flower. The finished result is very attractive and now forms a substantial barrier. Less obvious, approximately 50 roosting balls, nest boxes and bat boxes have been mounted around the Common, Meadow and fields. Look out for fledgelings coming from these boxes.

Finally, the group and friends have carried out regular litter picks and are delighted to report that less litter is being collected than in previous years. So well done everyone for respecting our environment. Thank you to all the members of the Group and friends, to members of the Allotment Group and to Denbighshire Countryside Services who helped with these projects.



### AEEG activities have included:

- monthly litter picks
- planting of flower boxes on the High Street
- hedge laying
- planting trees
- pruning of fruit trees
- visit to the local tree nursery
- bat walk
- bat and bird boxes
- community walks

Contact: [christopher.smith@btinternet.com](mailto:christopher.smith@btinternet.com)

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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 August issue, please submit items to [editorsact@gmail.com](mailto:editorsact@gmail.com) before the deadline shown on page 2.

### Regular weekly events

| Day       | Time                         | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday    | 6-8pm<br>7.30-9.30           | <b>Youth Club</b> run by DCCI at St Asaph Library (term-time only).<br><b>St Asaph Choral Society</b> in the Parish Church. New members welcome. For further details please contact <a href="mailto:choralsocietystasaph@gmail.com">choralsocietystasaph@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                              |
| Tuesday   | 9.30-11.30<br>2-3pm<br>3-4pm | <b>Aros a Chwarae</b> . Free toddler group for preschool children and their parents/carers. Meet at Llanelwy Community Church. See <a href="https://www.facebook.com/stayandplayllanelwy/">www.facebook.com/stayandplayllanelwy/</a><br><b>Tai Chi</b> at the Parish Church. Contact Ann Sim on 07852 321502<br><b>Qigong</b> at the Parish Church. Contact Ann Sim on 07852 321502 |
| Wednesday | 9.30-5pm<br>6pm<br>6-7pm     | <b>Warm Space</b> welcome in the Library: WiFi, free internet access, papers, refreshments<br><b>Informal running group</b> ; meet at the Cathedral car park. 5k run, wear high viz gear. Contact Ian Jones on 07775 684171 or Julie Roberts on 07900 188222<br><b>Exercise with Liz</b> in Parish Church. Facebook: Rhuddlan Clubbercise and Fitness with Liz                      |
| Thursday  | 1.30pm<br>4.45-6pm           | <b>Cash bingo</b> at Llys y Felin<br><b>Himalayan Balsam bashing</b> . Meet at Pont Begard. Stout boots needed, gloves, water.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Friday    | 9.30-5pm<br>2.30pm           | <b>Social Mornings</b> in the Library: WiFi, free internet access, papers, refreshments<br><b>Cash Bingo</b> at The Old Palace.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Sunday    | 9.30<br>11.00<br>4-5.30pm    | <b>Eucharist in the Parish Church</b> . All welcome<br><b>Choral Eucharist</b> in the cathedral<br><b>Community Fridge</b> in the Parish Church. All welcome. Stay after for coffee and a chat.                                                                                                                                                                                     |

### Regular monthly events

|                                          |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday                   | 11am    | <b>Messy Church</b> in the Parish Church. All ages welcome, lunch provided.                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday                   | 12-3pm  | <b>PROBUS club</b> in Oriel Hotel. Contact Andrew: <a href="mailto:afaulkner@btinternet.com">afaulkner@btinternet.com</a> or 07542 022391                                                                                    |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday                  | 10am    | <b>Litter pick</b> : Start at Council Meeting Rooms. Afon Elwy Environmental Group                                                                                                                                           |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday                  | 7pm     | <b>WI</b> meet at St Asaph Parish Church, info at <a href="mailto:stasaphwi@gmail.com">stasaphwi@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                               |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday                   | 7.30pm  | <b>Songwriter Sessions</b> at The Barrow discuss songwriting, share original songs/music. Contact Elaine at <a href="mailto:thelightedstagemusiccevents@gmail.com">thelightedstagemusiccevents@gmail.com</a> or 07919 250990 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday                 | 10am    | <b>Litter pick</b> : Start at Council Meeting Rooms. Afon Elwy Environmental Group                                                                                                                                           |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday                   | 3-5pm   | <b>T Club</b> at the Parish Church. Details on church website. Contact Marion on 01745 590960                                                                                                                                |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday | 9.30 am | <b>Eucharist, St. Mary's Church, Cefn</b> . All welcome.                                                                                                                                                                     |

### One-off events

|             |                    |                                                                                                                                |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>June</b> |                    |                                                                                                                                |
| Friday 7th  | 6.15-8.45          | <b>Macramè for Mindfulness</b> in Ysgol Esgob Morgan. All welcome! (PTFA)                                                      |
| Wed 12th    | evening            | <b>Open mic night</b> at the Salusbury Arms Tremeirchion                                                                       |
| Wed 19th    | evening            | <b>Quiz night</b> at the Salusbury Arms Tremeirchion                                                                           |
| Sat 22nd    | All day<br>evening | <b>Cefn Village Fair</b> —see page 28<br><b>The Neil Martin Band</b> at the Salusbury Arms Tremeirchion. Folk, country & rock! |
| Friday 28th | 6.15-8.30          | <b>Paint and Sip paint-along class</b> at Ysgol Esgob Morgan All welcome!                                                      |
| <b>July</b> |                    |                                                                                                                                |
| Sat 20th    |                    | <b>Trelawnyd Male Voice Choir</b> in St Mary's church, Cefn                                                                    |

**Llannerch Bridge** The Llannerch Bridge Newsletter for Spring 2024 is available at [countyconversation.denbighshire.gov.uk/project/620](http://countyconversation.denbighshire.gov.uk/project/620) - or Google "Llannerch Bridge newsletter Spring 2024"

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## Celebrity pilgrims leapfrog Vale of Clwyd

The BBC2 programme **Pilgrimage** screened in three episodes from Easter, and featured seven celebrities “walking” the **North Wales Pilgrims Way**, a long distance walk which passes through some of the most beautiful parts of North Wales, including of course Tremeirchion and St Asaph.

However, producing such reality programmes requires concentrating on just a few of the key locations and interactions on the route that tell the story. It was just a pity that the first episode involved a massive leapfrog from St Winifred’s Well in Holywell to Llansannan, missing out the Vale of Clwyd entirely! Whilst the programmes sometimes strayed a little too much into emoting, the characters were all engaging and the programmes, filmed in September 2023, showed North Wales at its best. The narrator had occasional major difficulties with pronouncing place-names. Within a fortnight of the screening, there had been 500,000 hits on the NWPW website, and the official guide book was temporarily sold out.

Mike Costello from the NWPW committee was the guide for the walkers and the production team, and was interviewed by Carole Green after a special showing of the first episode at the Salusbury Arms. Mike provided a reflective and entertaining background to the production. A total of 120 hours of filming took place, pared down to 3 hours for the actual programme; maybe somewhere on the clipping room floor are sections filmed locally, lost forever...



## Veterinary challenges

*Tim Mainland*

I came into the wonderful veterinary profession way back in 1979. I thought it may be interesting to look back at the kingdom of domestic animals in the years since then and consider the question “what were our Covid 19s?”. Or put another way, what completely new diseases of animals did I see in my career?



First up, almost immediately after I qualified, was **Canine Parvovirus**, now usually called **Parvo**. I learned absolutely nothing about it at Uni as it was then unknown. Yet within a year we were treating and vaccinating against it. Its symptoms are now widely known: persistent vomiting, raging bloody diarrhoea, dehydration and death in a day or two without massive fluid and supportive treatment. Trouble was, it was so highly infectious we dared not bring the cases into our hospital areas. So all manner of “Heath Robinson” parvo quarantine arrangements had to be set up. Costs of such intensive treatment were high; deaths were still frequent despite all, and it was a thoroughly depressing situation for everyone.

Vaccines? Well there was a ray of sunlight. We had no covid type labs at the cutting edge of mRNA research, but nevertheless the big pharmas were on the job. In 3 or 4 years they cracked it and we had new parvo vaccines incorporated into the annual regime. But in the meantime??? Well although we had no dog parvo vaccines, we did have a cat one. A parvovirus vaccine against feline panleucopenia, a nasty and fatal cat disease. It turned out that the cat parvo vaccine gave dogs a very reasonable immunity against canine parvo! A stroke of luck indeed. So orders for the cat vaccine went through the roof, production into overdrive, and we had special clinics to give dogs the cat vaccine with owners queuing down the road, and sitting on all the neighbours’ garden walls. It was quite a time.

Next up? Well this was a strange one. In cats. Adults. The situation arose in around 1981. Cats would appear in consultations suffering from vomiting, right off food, thoroughly miserable, dilated pupils and passing no faeces. They looked like they had a bowel blockage. In many of the early cases, we would do an exploratory operation. We would find nothing to block the bowel, but instead it would have simply stopped working. A normal bowel is a nice pink colour and moves slowly with movements of contraction, or peristalsis. In these poor cats the bowel was pale and completely motionless.

Sadly we didn’t save a single one of them. They all slowly passed away despite our best endeavours. Much work was done at academic level to understand the disease and its causes. It became known as **Key-Gaskell syndrome**, named after two eminent vets from Glasgow University. Later it was renamed **Feline Dysautonomia**, as it was a disease of the autonomic nervous system, and it resembled a similar horse condition known as “Grass sickness”. But it had yet one more twist in its sad tale... after 5 or 6 years, it disappeared completely. What had caused it? We don’t know! We suspect some short lived constituent of commercial cat food, or an equally short lived environment product. We will perhaps never know.

More, yes many more! BSE in cattle, Bluetongue and and Schmallenberg viruses in cattle and sheep (not brand new, but new to the UK and spread by midges), and more recently the awful Alabama Rot in dogs. But that’s all for another day.



*A cat with big pupils due to Feline Dysautonomia*

## Swayne Johnson Solicitors

Olivia Brown

### Three Common Misconceptions about Wills and Probate

In this edition of the City Times, I shall discuss some of the common misconceptions about Wills and Probate, and why it is so important to seek professional legal advice when planning for your future.

**“My spouse will inherit everything if I die having not made a Will”.** If you die without making a Will, then your estate is said to be *intestate*. The Rules of Intestacy will govern who inherits your estate. If you have children, your surviving spouse will only receive a certain amount of your estate (currently all personal possessions and the first £322,000 of your net estate). The remainder (if any) is split into two, with your spouse receiving one half, and your children receiving the other half (in equal shares). Spouses may also inherit if you have not legally ended your marriage or civil partnership.

**“Getting married will not affect the provisions made in my Will”.** If you marry, your Will automatically becomes invalid (unless you have made a Will in contemplation of marriage), and your estate will pass under the Rules of Intestacy.

**“My home will pass to my spouse”.** What happens to your home on your death and whether your spouse will inherit depends on how you own it. Should you die owning as Joint Tenants, then your home will automatically pass to the surviving owner which could be your spouse. If you die owning as Tenants in Common, then your share of the home will pass in accordance with any valid Will you have prepared, or the Rules of Intestacy (if no Will). If your home is owned by someone other than your spouse, your spouse may be forced to vacate.

If you need to start preparing for your future, or you have a question and think that I could help, then please let me know by calling 01745 586834 or by emailing me at: [brown@swaynejohnson.com](mailto:brown@swaynejohnson.com).



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### The Big Arch—an apology

City Times would like to apologise for any unnecessary rise in blood pressure of readers who were justifiably aghast at the item about the proposed Big Arch in our last issue. It was an April Fool item, marred to an extent by the fact that the paper only hit the streets on the 4th April.

Full marks for civic concern to those who wrote in to express their opposition to such a proposal. Aprille Ffoulkes is a regular contributor to our April Fool articles, this time as a marketing advisor, previously as an archaeologist etc. No doubt she will be back again next year...



**Aurora Borealis** Rob Jones' stunning photo of the Aurora Borealis over St Asaph on 10th May—one of many photos of the Northern lights appearing on Facebook posted by photographers across North Wales. The phenomenon is caused by a rare solar storm, when charged particles from the sun hit gases in the earth's atmosphere. Oxygen atoms glow green as a result, whilst nitrogen atoms appear purple, blue and pink (BBC).

## LLANELWY WI

Denise D'Albertson

Our March speaker was Wendy Grey-Lloyd who gave a humorous and entertaining talk entitled **The Seven Ages of Hats** through amusing poems and stories. We were shown an Edwardian Nanny's hat complete with black feathers, a May Day floral ringlet, an 18th century mop hat, very flattering and a 19th Century Town Clerk's wig. The talk concluded with a red hat and the poem, *When I Grow Old I Shall Wear Purple* by Jenny Joseph about the Red Hats Society. A very well received and enjoyable talk.



Wendy Grey-Lloyd

We had a wonderful and informative April meeting with Gerrie Bailey, who spoke at length about all of the good work being done by the charity, **The Helping Hand for Ukraine**. They specifically support children and their families in the Ukraine and have been doing so for over 20 years. It was both uplifting and heartbreaking. We have a book table at our meetings and the donations are given to the charity and the money goes towards buying chickens for the families in Ukraine.

If you would like to join us or find out more about Llanelwy WI, please email [stasaphwi@gmail.com](mailto:stasaphwi@gmail.com)



Gerrie Bailey

### CCLL The Helping Hand for Ukraine—projects delivered in Ukraine 2023

- Welfare Centre for children and community stress relief at Myrcha, Borodyanka district - £69,046 sponsored by CCLL branches and individual donors jointly.
- School and kindergarten bomb shelter upgrade and fitting - £35,000.
- "Safer Ukraine Classrooms" . Equipment and facilities for schools teaching and training children how to stay safe, avoid explosives, put out fires, provide first aid - £4,500.
- Christmas Project, 39 children from Ukraine plus 46 children with single mothers from refugee families in Poland. - £16,000 (including benefits in kind).

## St. Asaph Choral Society—60 amazing years!

Katie Jones

The St. Asaph Choral Society recently marked its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a quintessentially Elgarian performance of Edward Elgar's Oratorio 'The Apostles' which is a narrative work, telling the story of Jesus' calling of the apostles, their experiences with Jesus' preaching, His miracles, followed by His crucifixion, resurrection and finally His ascension.

Under Trystan Lewis' expert baton, complemented on the organ by the choral society's principal accompanist, Graham Eccles, together with the North Wales Orchestra, soloists and choir, the audience was captivated by a magnificent performance.

The six soloists' stellar performances were much appreciated by the audience. The tenor was Dafydd Allen, originally from Bodelwyddan and a former pupil of Ysgol Glan Clwyd. The other soloists were Elen Lloyd Roberts (*soprano*), Leah Marian Jones, (*mezzo – soprano*) Harrison Gratton, (*bass*), Adam Jarman (*bass*) and John Ieuan Jones (*bass*). It was a taxing piece to accomplish but the hard work and industry through the winter's practice sessions made for a polished performance.

If such rewarding results are something that you'd like to enjoy, through the medium of uniting in song, the choral society is always eager to welcome new members. The choral society's next concert will be at St. Asaph Cathedral on December 14<sup>th</sup>, with a performance of Berlioz' 'The Childhood of Christ'.



On April 5<sup>th</sup> 2025, three of Trystan Lewis's choirs - Mold and District Choral Society, St. Asaph Choral Society, and Cor Cymysg Dyffryn Conwy (Dyffryn Conwy Mixed Choir, who are celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary) will be uniting to perform **Verdi's Requiem**.

For further enquiries, contact Katie - by **text only** please, on 07484 120123.

Photo opposite by Peter Lucas



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## Summer garden visits

Chris Jones

Garden-visiting season is now upon us and although we are fortunate in North Wales to have some famous gardens e.g. Bodnant or Erddig to visit, they can become very congested at peak times. This however can be remedied by looking closer to home in the Vale of Clwyd. Here are some suggestions about excellent gardens which are inspiring to visit and provide the all important "garden fix" for gardeners old and new.

I have a love of walled gardens and the following are a few I have visited over the years that have stayed in the memory. They may not always be open or available as they are all private gardens and visits are governed by the families. The first one is the **Laundry Garden at Llanrhaeadr** near Denbigh, which I have visited several times over the years since it was first developed by Tom and Jenny Williams. The walled garden area at that time was virtually derelict but over the last ten years it has evolved into a stunningly pretty garden with a wealth of flowering plants, shrubs and trees. This garden was recently open via the Yellow Garden book for charity and in addition to the walled area, the courtyard and the house garden area are inspiring. The sight and perfume of the David Austin roses in June are a complete delight. Private visits of a minimum of twenty people can be arranged with the owners by prior arrangement.



*The Laundry*



*Nantclwyd y Dre*

**Nantclwyd Y Dre** is one of Wales's oldest listed timber framed houses. It is located in Ruthin off the main square and has a garden which was linked historically to Ruthin Castle as its kitchen garden. It has a part walled garden with a mixture of perennials, herbs and vegetables and wild flower meadows. It is the responsibility of Denbighshire County Council and as such, it has open workshops with different themes, child friendly information trails and also a small tea room.

**Nantclwyd Hall** lies just on the outskirts of Pwllgas; it is a private house which opens occasionally for charities. It again has a walled garden with Italianate echoes, and Clough Williams-

Ellis (of Portmeirion fame) was involved in its design. It lies in a beautiful valley and is the summer residence of the Naylor-Leyland family. It is linked with Nantclwyd y Dre which was the town house of the estate.

Another lovely garden closer to St. Asaph is **Bodrhyddan Hall Rhuddlan**. It is the family home of Lord Langford and it is possible to arrange a tour of the house in addition to the gardens. The garden is a mix of woodland and formal areas and includes a parterre, a beautiful summer house overlooking the lake, and specimen trees and topiary. It opens regularly through the summer on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is the setting for the



*Bodrhyddan*

wonderful **Pots Plants and Food fair** on 15th and 16th June.

**Bryn Bella Tremeirchion** is an extensively designed garden, laid out in a series of "rooms" through which the visitor passes. They eventually lead through to the original walled garden of the house and also to open parkland separated by a ha-ha wall. There is a stunning shrubbery border with sculptures and statues providing a wonderful "journey", with fine views out to the west over the Vale of Clwyd. It is listed under the Historic Houses Association and as such only members can visit by arrangement, although it is occasionally open for charitable events.

There are many others equally worthy of mention. The Yellow Book opposite which lists garden open for charity in North East Wales is a very useful leaflet to have and can be obtained from garden centres or online at [ngs.org.uk](http://ngs.org.uk).

Visiting gardens large or small is always a great source of ideas and, of course, the occasional plant that you cannot do without!



*Bryn Bella*



## Caffi Cariad at St Kentigern hospice

Due to its popularity and incredible support by the local community, we are in need of **extra volunteer help**, especially at weekends, as we are now open 7 days a week from 10am to 4pm. Duties vary according to experience and choice.

We have just launched our new "summer mini internships" for students. On completion of a successful placement each student will be awarded with an official written work reference by our Head of Income Generation Mandy O'Hara.



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Children’s page

It’s been no mow May!



Lian Crierie

[This Photo](#) by [This Photo](#) by  
During the month of May Denbighshire County Council asked residents not to cut their grass, but why? Long grass and wild-flowers can benefit wildlife and help us to tackle pollution, so before the lawn gets cut why not try seeing how many insects you can spot. There are some more fun activities on this website:

[https://www.plantlife.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/A4\\_Spotter\\_Sheet-2.pdf](https://www.plantlife.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/A4_Spotter_Sheet-2.pdf)



How do bees get to school?



What did the dog say when he sat on sandpaper?



What do ants eat for breakfast?

Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 9x9 box contains all the numbers 1-9

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |   | 8 |   | 2 | 5 |   |
|   |   |   | 2 | 1 | 4 | 8 |   |   |
|   |   | 8 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 |
|   |   | 5 | 2 | 3 | 6 |   |   | 4 |
|   | 4 |   | 7 |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3 |   | 6 |   | 4 |   |   | 5 |   |
| 4 |   | 9 |   |   | 7 |   | 6 |   |
|   | 2 |   | 4 |   | 3 |   | 9 |   |
| 5 |   |   | 9 |   |   | 3 | 4 | 7 |

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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|   |   |   | 9 |   |   |   |   | 2 |
| 8 | 4 |   | 2 | 6 | 5 | 1 |   | 7 |
| 5 |   | 1 |   | 3 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 4 |
|   |   | 4 |   | 5 |   | 7 | 2 |   |
|   | 8 |   |   |   | 4 |   |   |   |
| 1 | 5 | 7 | 6 |   |   | 3 |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | 8 |   | 1 | 2 | 9 |   | 5 |
|   |   |   |   | 8 | 3 |   |   |   |

Join the Great British Bee Count

Bee Quiz

Try our fun quiz to learn more about bees!

Circle the right answer!

1

How many species of bee do you think have been seen in Britain?

a) around 10  
b) around 100  
c) around 270

2

Bees tongues are different lengths to drink nectar from different flowers. How long is the UK's longest bee tongue?

a) as long as its head  
b) half as long as its body  
c) as long as its body

3

When do bees need flowers to feed from?

a) summer  
b) spring  
c) spring and summer  
d) every season

4

When a honeybee finds nectar, how does she tell the other bees where it is? Does she...

a) do a dance,  
b) draw a map  
c) sing a song

Answers: 1 – C, 2 – C, 3 – D, 4 – A



On the buzz!



Ruff!



Croiss-ants!



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Colour me in, cut me out and put me in your window to let your neighbours know why your lawn hasn't been cut this May.



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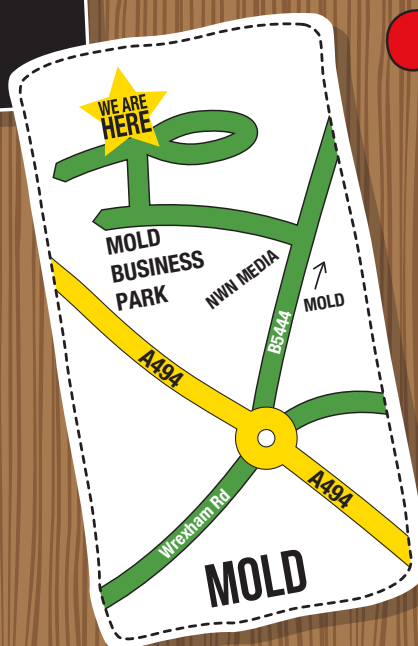
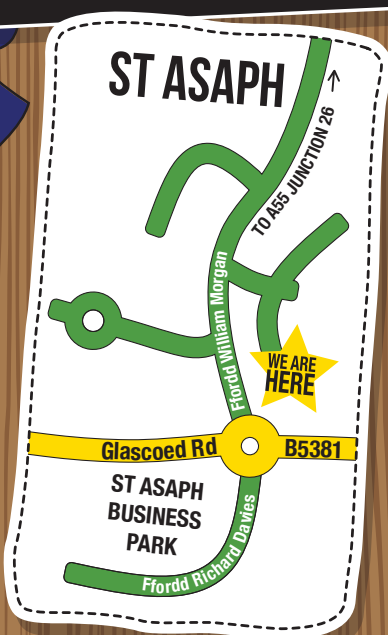
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## Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog

Laura Martin

This term our whole school topic is 'Ein Byd Rhyfeddol' 'Our Amazing World' which has meant we are all spending even more time outdoors. By the end of the term the Discoverers will have grown a range of fruit and vegetables to share with our community, the Investigators will have shared their work in a Cop28 style event and the Innovators will have designed their own sustainable village following a request from Darren Miller MS.



In April we celebrated Wales Outdoor Learning Week with all classes spending time outside. The garden was cleared, prepped and planted, minibeasts were discovered and identified, trees were identified and measured and a whole host of other lovely activities took place.

We celebrated the Month of the Military Child in April with the whole school wearing purple, a colour that symbolizes all branches of the military. We all enjoyed spending time with a member of the military asking questions and learning more about the kit and food they eat. We listened to the dandelion poem during assembly and found out more about military life for service children.

The remainder of the summer term promises to be full of fun with a residential trip for our older learners, a whole school trip to the zoo, Sports Days and plenty more fabulous activities!



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Cefn Meiriadog

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Saturday 22nd June 2024  
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**Magician Various Craft Stalls**  
**Fun Dog Show Classic Car Display**  
**Art & Photography Competition**  
**Refreshments**

Open from 2pm

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Organised by Neuadd Owen Village Hall, Cefn Meiriadog  
Community Council & Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog

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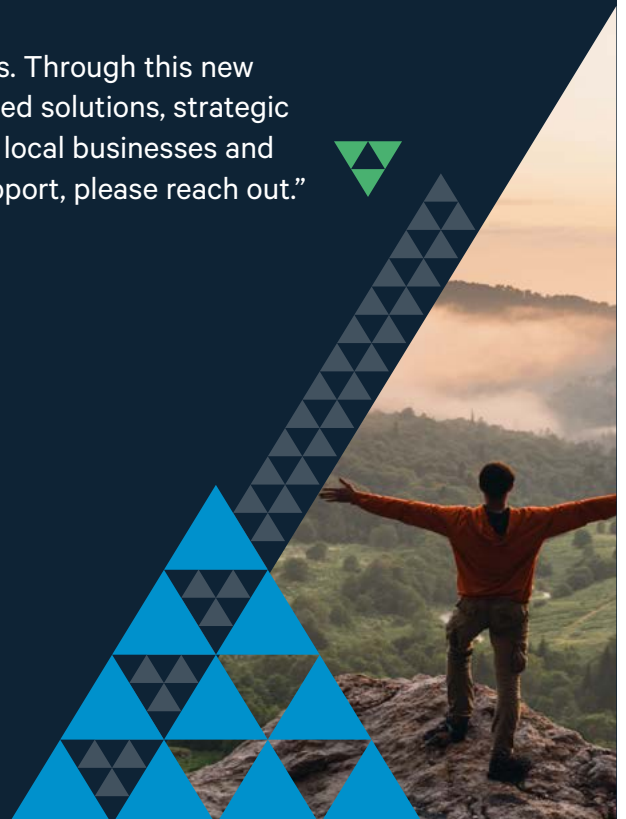
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## Ysgol Glan Clwyd

### Penodi Pennaeth Parhaol

Llongyfarchiadau i Mrs Sian Alwen ar gael ei phenodi yn bennaeth ar yr ysgol. Bu'n cyflawni'r swydd fel Pennaeth Mewn Gofal ers Medi 2022 ac ymfalchiwn oll fel cymuned yr ysgol yn ei phenodiad parhaol.



### Taith I Wylïo Buddugoliaeth Fawr Wrecsam

Cafodd grwp o ddisgyblion bl9 daith wobrwyo i wylïo tîm pêldroed Wrecsam a bod yn dystion iddynt yn ennill y gêm 6-0 ac yn ennill dyrchafiad i'r gynghrair gyntaf am yr ail flwyddyn yn olynol! Profiad bythgofiadawy.



### Tîm rygbi hŷn

Fe roddwyd gwobr arbennig i bum disgybl o bl13 am eu hymdrech diflino dros y tîm sef Luke Molmon, Sion Fitzgerald, Rhydian Jones, Hari Jones ac Osian Luke Jones. Go dda chi bois!

## Ysgol Esgob Morgan

*Tim Redgrave and Jodie Martin*



Years 4&5 had a fabulous trip down to Cardiff, visiting the Big Pit on the way down, and then the Principality Stadium, Cardiff Castle, the Senedd and St Fagans before heading home. Phew!

Our entrepreneur group has been making good use of our new kitchen facilities, and have been coming up with innovative ideas to liven up our fruit tuck. They work out how much the healthy snacks will cost, judge what profit they will make, and decide how they will invest this. Here is Sam enjoying some sugar free jelly and water melon!



Another 5 hedgehogs have been released on our school premises after being nursed and cared for by Hedgehog Help Prestatyn. We love helping our local community and doing what we can for local wildlife. Thank you Tracey for donating our hedgehog book. Available from Hedgehog Help Prestatyn for £7 if you want one.

It was a pleasure to welcome Gareth Williams, Welsh Advisory Teacher, to Esgob Morgan to present us with the certificate for achieving the Campus Cymraeg Silver Award from last year. We had an enjoyable service with learners who are going to compete in the Eisteddfod yr Urdd having an opportunity to perform their group poem to the school, and also a sing-along to Sosban Fach!



## St Asaph Cycling Club (SACC)

*Ruben Crierie*

Back in June 2019, Gwyn Parry and James Alcock decided to embark on a 'Height of Everest' cycle challenge for **Move a Marathon for Ethan** – a charity event in memory of St. Asaph lad Ethan Ross. Putting the idea to a few friends, they soon had a pack of eager cyclists keen to join them on the challenge. With newly formed friendships and a shared sense of achievement, cyclist Dylan Kerfoot-Robson suggested the group meet up again for a social ride out together. Dylan, who said he had been surprised at just how many people in St. Asaph were keen cyclists, decided to make their social cycles a regular event and the group started meeting each Thursday at 6:15 pm at the Cathedral car park. Since then, the group of cyclists have been going from strength to strength, increasing in numbers and in the distances covered!

Following one of their regular weekly rides we met up with some of the cyclists. The camaraderie and relaxed chatter amongst the group was great to hear. The group range in experience, age, and attendance with some being weekly dedicated cyclists and others dipping in and out as their work and family schedules allow. As a social cycling group, their aim is simply to meet up for a ride with people with similar interests, enjoy the cycle route and improve their fitness.

All are welcome and whilst you don't have to be a pro to come along, a decent amount of stamina may be beneficial as the group cycle for an hour on a Thursday evening covering around 20 miles! The group have extended their meets to include even longer Sunday cycles, on occasion cycling to where St. Asaph cricket club are playing to show the team their support!



The group get on so well they have recently returned from a SACC week tour of Majorca with many hill climbs, miles covered, and refreshments drunk. Keep up the good work lads. I for one, will be joining you in spirit on Strava!



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## London Marathon success!

Many congratulations to Holly Williams of St. Asaph who recently ran the TCS 2024 London Marathon in aid of Parkinson's UK.

Holly absolutely smashed her very first London Marathon completing it in a time of 4 hours 11 minutes! Holly, who owns Denbigh Foot Clinic, also exceeded her £2,000 fund raising target – brilliant! Well done Holly – we're all very proud of you! You can use the QR code below to donate.



**Parkinson's disease** is caused by a loss of nerve cells in the brain which reduces dopamine, a chemical vital to regulating body movements. Exactly what causes the loss of nerve cells remains unclear. Most people with Parkinson's symptoms will develop these over the age of 50 however some people first experience symptoms when they are under 40. Men are slightly more likely to get Parkinson's disease than women although it does affect both genders.

Although there is currently no cure for Parkinson's disease, treatments are available to reduce symptoms and maintain quality of life for as long as possible. (Source – [nhs.uk](http://nhs.uk))





## St Asaph City FC

John Roberts

As what has been a long season draws to an end the first team have been on a good run of form losing only one of their last eight fixtures. The highlights have been a 2-1 win over second placed Llay Welfare and a 4-1 win away at Saltney. The negative side is that five of the fixtures have been draws with the Saints in the lead in three of those matches before conceding a goal in the last few minutes in each of the matches. After taking a 2-0 lead away at Rhyl before half time they conceded an equaliser in the 94th minute. With two league matches still to go they have secured sixth place in the league and cannot be overtaken by the teams nearest to them. This has been an excellent return to Tier 3 and the players and coaches deserve to be congratulated on their hard work during the season.



*Firsts vs Llay Welfare*



*Firsts vs Llay Welfare*

After a challenging first year for our new U9s the players have worked hard and finished the season strongly. They have taken part in three tournaments lately and put in some excellent team performances and wins. It's an exciting time for this group of players with lots to build on for next season as they continue to develop their skills.

As this is the last report for the season the Club would like to thank everyone who has supported the club by sponsoring kits, matches and attending matches to support the players. All our coaches at all levels are volunteers who give up their time in all weathers to coach and attend matches for the benefit of the players. They are the backbone of the club and deserve a massive vote of thanks. Also we would like to thank the City Council for their continuing support as the club continues to flourish and grow.

Diolch yn fawr i chi i gyd!

In the Reserves league with so many fixtures being postponed due to the weather it's unlikely that all matches will be played before the end of May. At present they are 5th in their league and are likely to retain that position when the season finishes.

Our U19s are top of their league at the moment and with only one fixture left they are likely to finish first or second in the league. This would round off what has been an excellent season with so many of the players only 17 years of age.

Our Junior teams have completed their league fixtures and are enjoying taking part in various tournaments. The U11 Lightning team went through a recent festival at Kinmel Bay unbeaten and only conceding one goal whilst playing some excellent football.



*Under 11 Lightnings*



*St Asaph Spartans under 9s*

**TAXI**

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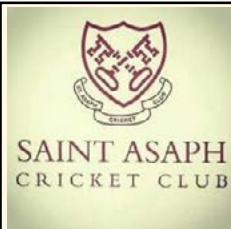
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## A great start to the new season!

Last year's North Wales champions St Asaph CC first XI have made a flying start with three wins out of three so far, beating Brymbo, Gresford and Llandudno, and are sitting comfortably in second position in the league at the time of going to press. Although the stats below highlight familiar names making the match headlines, there is no doubt that this is a team working well together. In the recent match against Llandudno, Dan Evans and Duncan Midgley clearly wished to let their team mates enjoy an extended tea break and carried their bats whilst they cruised past the required 156. Impressive stuff.

The second XI are currently top of their league, with a striking recent win over Pontblyddyn. Dominic Haynes carried his bat to reach 112 off 127 balls, ably supported by Richard Aram who scored 84 off just 72 balls to take St Asaph to 239/2. Pontblyddyn were bowled out for 76.

The third XI are second in their league, with a tidy win against Colwyn Bay (Roger Cloete 61; Iwan Roberts 3/37) and another against Bangor.

The junior section of the club is thriving, with under 15s, under 13s, under 11s and under 9s teams. New players (boys and girls) are always welcome; contact Jack Griffiths on 07580 022105 or jackgriff68@hotmail.com

### Number crunching—St Asaph First XI stats

**4th May: St Asaph** 165/7 (35 overs, Nat Scott 51),

**Brymbo** 144 all out (33 overs)

**11th May: St Asaph** 225/8 (50 overs, Dan Evans 58, Will Norman 44, Robbie Prior 60, Will Norman 4/37)

**Gresford** 110 all out (31 overs)

**18th May: Llandudno** 156 all out (32 overs)

**St Asaph** 159/0 (23 overs, Dan Evans 51, Duncan Midgley 86)



*St Asaph Thirds vs Colwyn Bay. St Asaph scoring briskly from the outset.*



*...and a well-judged cut to square leg leaves the Colwyn Bay fielder no option but to take a seat.*



*Llanellwy Saints*



*St Asaph Spinners*

## Women's cricket "Saints and Spinners"

*Julie Roberts*

On a sunny Sunday morning on the 12th May the newly formed St Asaph women's cricket teams made history by playing their first matches. The **Llanellwy Saints** played at Llandudno oval and were delighted that the winter training had paid off as they won both matches. Meanwhile, **St Asaph Spinners** played at the picturesque Alder Meadow ground at Pontblyddin where they lost to the highly experienced Buckley in their first match and beat Pontblyddin in a thrilling second match. Overall, a fantastic day for St Asaph women's cricket!

If anyone is interested in joining us, please email us at: [stasaphwomenscricket@gmail.com](mailto:stasaphwomenscricket@gmail.com)

### Upcoming matches at St Asaph Cricket Club:

*Come and support our girls!*

St Asaph Spinners: Sunday 7th July, 11am and 3pm

Llanellwy Saints: Sunday 28th July 11am & 3pm

Llanellwy Saints: 11th August 11am and 3pm