



St. Asaph & District City Times



Issue No 29

August 2024



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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 October issue is Monday 16th September – 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 We now have an increased print run of 2200 so you can be assured of a wide readership!



Gill on the terrace of the Houses of Parliament

Gill German MP

Congratulations to our new MP Gill German! We wish her all the best as she takes up her new responsibilities on our behalf. Gill was formerly a teacher and more recently a County Councillor with special responsibility for education, children and families.

Her first posting on X early in the morning on 5th July: “An incredible 24 hours. Honoured beyond words to have been elected MP for Clwyd North. Thank you so much to everyone who voted for me, and to my amazing campaign team. Can’t wait to get started—but first, sleep! Diolch o galon bawb”.

Full election results:

Gill German (Labour)	14,794
Martyn Hogg (Green Party)	1,391
Darren Millar (Conservatives)	13,598
Jamie Orange (Reform UK)	7,000
Paul Rowlinson (Plaid Cymru)	3,159

Former St Asaph Rotarians make their mark at new club

Alan Duke

When the Rotary Club of St Asaph disbanded, five former long-serving members decided to continue their community service work by joining the Rotary Club of Rhyl. Chris Smith, John Dicks, John Carson, David Mellor and Alan Duke were warmly welcomed by the then Presidents Helen and Tony Thomas and before long all were making a strong contribution to the club and joining in the fund-raising activities for which the club is renowned.

For the 2024/25 Rotary year, St Asaph resident John Dicks has now taken over as President of the club while Chris Smith has become Treasurer and John Carson secretary.

Fortnightly meetings are held at the Bod Erw restaurant.

To learn about the Club, please contact John Carson on 07713342655 or by email johncarson21@gmail.com



Chris Smith, John Carson, John Dicks and David Mellor

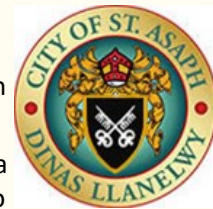
School Essentials Grant

Martyn Hogg

If your child attends a school in Denbighshire and you receive a qualifying benefit, you may be entitled to a grant towards the cost of the following: school uniform, sports kit, sports outside of school, uniforms for wider activities e.g. scouts and guides, equipment for activities to support the curriculum, e.g. design and technology, computers, laptops and printers etc, equipment for out of school hours trips, including outdoor learning such as the Duke of Edinburgh scheme.

Search for **Schools Essentials Grant** on the Denbighshire County Council website for more information

Some items from the July City Council meeting



Football martyrs: Mayor Colin Hardie thanked those present for attending despite the semi-final match between England and the Netherlands!

Dementia: Sue Last, chair of Dementia Friendly St Asaph and Rebecca Bocott from DVSC gave a presentation to the Council, noting that the incidence of dementia is rising nationwide. Their aim is to ensure that people with dementia and their carers are supported and cared for as well as possible locally. Sue reminded us that the condition affects different people differently : *"If you've met one person with dementia, you've met one person with dementia"*.

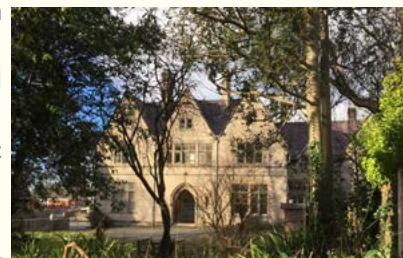
Police report: Dave Jones PCSO reported some episodes of abusive behaviour on buses. He advised anyone experiencing this to speak to the driver immediately. Buses have CCTV. He described a few episodes of neighbour disputes, some involving criminal damage. There have also been problems with aggressive dogs, and a number of drive-offs at Applegreen service station. If people wish to report criminal activity, they should ring 101; if they wish to discuss a problem, they should ring PCSO Dave Jones on 07989 162033.



High Street Closure 5th-8th August: Simon Williams from Wales and West Utilities joined via Zoom to discuss the forthcoming closure of part of the High Street between Lower Street and the Gemig for replacement of the gas main. He apologised for the significant disruption this will cause. It will still be possible to access the Gemig from the upper High street, and exit Lower street over the bridge. After extensive pre-work communications to local people and businesses, signage will go up, including diversion arrangements. Excavation will then take place; some of the old pipes will be replaced; for others it will be possible to insert new plastic gas main pipes through the old pipes. The excavations will then be filled, and tarmac laid. This latter part is crucially important to keep a good road surface. Diversions will be signed for traffic. Pedestrians will still be able to use the High Street.

Over the next few years, the gas mains will be replaced in the rest of St Asaph. It is hoped that W&WU will be able to replace the old gas main across the river bridge by the insertion method with a new plastic pipe through it; this should be possible to do without closing the bridge, and with two way traffic light controls. Timing to be announced.

Kentigern Hall: Rhian Morlle, head of Denbighshire Children's services gave a presentation to Council about their plans for Kentigern Hall, along with colleagues from DCC. DCC have not yet purchased Kentigern Hall. However, they plan to do so and will put in a proposal to remove the current restrictions on use of the building for children and young people. Their planning application would then be subject to the usual public consultation. No major renovations will be required in the building.



Their overall plan is to accommodate 5 young people (aged 16 and above) currently in the care of DCC but having to be accommodated elsewhere, including in England. They will have semi-independent supported living, with at least one member of social services staff on the premises day and night. There will be rules and guidance for the young people including a curfew. The scheme will allow the young people to maintain schooling, friendship groups and be near families. They will be learning how to look after themselves, how to budget, and how to be responsible citizens.



Bus shelter mural: gifted local artist Chloé Dymond Bowe has proposed painting a mural on the bus shelter opposite the cathedral. This was felt to be a great idea. Chloe has invited suggestions for the theme of the mural on social media

Facebook: Chloé Dymond Design

www.chloedymonddesign.co.uk

Daffodils: The Council agreed to give Afon Elwy Environmental Group £100 for purchase and planting of daffodil bulbs around the city.

A grilling for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor: Pupils from Ysgol Esgob Morgan recently exercised their democratic rights by writing a total of 25 letters to the council suggesting ideas for the city. Cllrs. Colin Hardie and Peter Scott therefore visited the school to thank them and discuss points raised. Amongst some tough questions, Mayor Hardie was asked if his chain of office was heavy, and if it was real gold. He was also asked if he needed a bodyguard, but pointed out he had a deputy mayor who would take on that role if necessary. Pupils in year 3 had also written thoughtful letters of thanks for the birdboxes recently provided. The letters were wonderful, with each envelope beautifully decorated!

Minutes of the meeting will be available online at www.stasaphcitycouncil.gov.uk after the draft minutes are signed off at the next meeting. E-mails to the Council should be addressed to clerk@stasaphcitycouncil.gov.uk

Open Farm Day at Berth Bach, Trefnant.

There was a huge turnout of over 1400 visitors for the **Berth Bach** Open farm day on Sunday 9th June, particularly of families with young children. With a substantial crew of cheery and helpful volunteers on hand, it was a very well organised event, with lots to see and learn about farming. Highlights for the youngsters were the impressive display of farm machinery, rides in the trailer through the farm, watching the milking, and petting the pygmy goats and Valais lambs. And of course the food stalls!



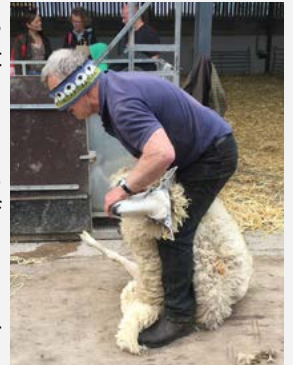
The estate is owned by Antony and Clare Griffith and Berth Bach is farmed by Rhodri and Angharad Ellis. As part of Ty Newydd farms (with neighbouring Ty Newydd farm), there are 950 crossbred cows, 10 bulls and 450 youngstock of calves and heifers. The total acreage is just shy of 2000 acres, with 130 acres of woodlands, and 40 acres of environmental habitat including 23 ponds. The farms are managed by 8 full-time staff, with a number of part-time workers also.

For those not familiar with farms and farming, it was a hands on opportunity to learn more, particularly about the running of a large dairy farm. The farm produces organic milk for Arla which is processed in Aylesbury. Creameries have tended to centralise to provide economies of scale—previously the milk would have gone to Llandyrnog creamery.

There was some impressive technology on show as well. For example, the Sensehub monitors round the necks of the cows (described as *Fitbits* for cattle) transmit crucial information about activity levels, behaviour patterns indicating when a cow is unwell or distressed or when it is in heat. This alerts staff to problems early on, and enables planning of bulling or AI.

One of the more impressive sights was the blindfold shearing of a sheep. The sheep was comfortable, handled expertly, and emerged without a nick or unshorn area. A big round of applause followed!

Proceeds of over £2000 from the raffle and sales were shared between St Kentigern hospice and Capel y Waen day care. Thanks are due to the organisers and the team of 58 volunteer helpers for putting on such an excellent event!



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St Kentigern Twilight Trek

The **Enchanted Midsummer Twilight Trek** was arranged as a replacement fund-raising event for the annual Dawn Walk, with the aim of drawing in families and also perhaps those who find it difficult to get up early. Participants were encouraged to dress up in outfits to reflect their favourite enchanted creatures, and immerse themselves in a midsummer's night, with "the air alive with anticipation and mystery".



Unfortunately, the main component of the air was rain—ranging from mist, to drizzle, to showers and to downpours. Despite that, there was a big turnout for the trek, and a great atmosphere at the pre-party and the trek itself. The costumes and face paints were impressive, with many people sprouting wings and wearing colourful costumes, cloaks, masks and tiaras. There were ghouls and goblins, fairies, elves, magicians and wizards. There were also elegant fire-eating dancing fairies, and a 15 foot high ethereal apparition on stilts. Some of the dogs that were joining the walk were clearly a little confused by the latter.



The walk leaders led us on a merry dance through St Asaph and up towards the business park. A troll beneath a bridge failed to materialise, no doubt preferring to stay dry. We then turned down through the magical forest (a fairly overgrown and atmospheric footpath, with fairies peeping out here and there) to cross the A55 and walk through fields towards Gwernigrn, past Plas Coch and briefly along the A525 with passing cars sounding their horns in support, or in sympathy for the now somewhat bedraggled walkers.

Walkers returned along the riverbank, and were greeted with cheers, hot drinks and medals at the football clubhouse, which had provided much needed shelter for the St Kentigern team and their cheerful volunteers. All credit to the stoic trek marshals standing in the rain and keeping us on the right paths.

Full marks to the organisers for dreaming up such an imaginative event, and then preparing it so effectively. Tough that it was such a wet evening; it'll be better weather next year. All in all, it was a great community event.



Photos by Dave Jones and Barry Griffiths.



Ordination service

Six new priests and one new deacon were ordained by the Bishop of St Asaph in a special service on the 29th June. The new priests are Emma Dale, Ana Evans, Wendy Gardner, Kathryn Hall, Hugh Richardson and Cass Meurig Thomas. They will be based in parishes throughout the diocese.

Beci Daley was ordained as deacon and will be based in the Denbigh Mission Area. We wish them all the best in their new roles.

NWIMF Fringe at the New Inn and Jacob's Ladder! 13th-21st September



Manon James



Iwan Llewelyn-Jones



Aisha Kigs



Angharad Jenkins and Patrick Rimes:

Royal Honour for Paul Mealor

Congratulations to composer Paul Mealor, artistic director of the North Wales International Music Festival, who was made **Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order** by His Majesty the King during an investiture ceremony in July. Paul composed the Kyrie for King Charles’ coronation, and also the motet *Ubi caritas* performed at Westminster Abbey at the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton



Photo : Classic FM



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Simon Roberts, Office Managing Partner

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North Wales International Music Festival 11th-21st September

Paul Mealor

"I am honoured and excited to welcome you to the **North Wales International Music Festival 2024**. My first as Artistic Director! Our festival theme for 2024 is 'transformations' and everything that it encompasses from the physical and 'natural' world to the poetic, the spiritual and the metaphysical, and everything in between. We aim to explore how the arts can transform us and our communities and, through various art forms, styles and genres how we are, in turn, transformed by them.



NEW Sinfonia and NEW Voices

We are marking the 90th anniversary of the *Gresford Mining Disaster* and have co-commissioned a new work from Welsh composer, Jon Guy and Welsh poet, Grahame Davies, for **NEW Sinfonia** and **NEW Voices**, which will explore themes of loss, identity and the environment. Also, we mark the 150th anniversary of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* which we will use as a starting point to explore, in art workshops and a new composition project with pianist **Iwan Llewelyn-Jones**, themes of the war in Ukraine and music's role within community and national conflict.

We welcome the world's No 1 brass band, **Foden's Band** to the festival for the first time in a concert that is sure to raise the roof, and we also

host the amazing, **Ar Log** - perhaps one of Wales's greatest folk bands - in an evening of their popular classics and some new songs written especially for them. Baritone, **Jeremy Huw Williams** explores the music of our founder William Mathias in what would have been his 90th birthday year and the world famous **King's Singers** make a welcome return with their dazzling vocal artistry.

The **BBC National Orchestra of Wales** bring us perhaps one of the most famous pieces of British music, Elgar's Enigma Variations with its famous hymn, Nimrod at its centre, and Rhyl-born young pianist, **Ellis Thomas** makes his BBC NOW debut in Mathias's youthful Piano Concerto No1, written when Mathias was the same age Ellis is today. The combined choirs of **Trystan Lewis's North Wales Choral Union** make their festival debut too, with a performance of one of the giants of the choral repertoire, Elijah! Sure to be a highlight of the week.



Foden's Band

Our **Festival Fringe** is a new departure for us. Come and join us at hostelrys in St Asaph and enjoy music in a more relaxed atmosphere in a late-night setting over a glass of your favourite drink. We have an RnB/ Hip-hop fringe concert with **Aisha Kigs**, Welsh folk music with **Angharad Jenkins & Patrick Rimes**, a poetry and literary evening with one of Wales's leading writers, **Grahame Davies** and the festival ends with a celebration of comedy in our first ever '**North Wales Comedy Club**' night.

We are delighted that **BBC Radio Cymru** is our broadcast partner this year and will be broadcasting events from the festival including our brand-new competition for young Welsh Musicians – the **Pendine Young Musician of Wales**. With the ongoing support of our headline sponsors, the Pendine Arts and Community Trust and the wonderful Mario and Gill Kreft, we are able to bring you this new competition which we hope will become a major event in the musical life of Wales.



Ellis Thomas

Our community outreach work remains of vital importance to us. Professional musicians from **Live Music Now Cymru** and visual artists will deliver events within schools, care homes and St Kentigern Hospice, and we host a specific dementia friendly concert as well as our ever-popular tots concert.

Taking over from the wonderful Ann Atkinson was always going to be a tough challenge. She has guided the festival faultlessly for twenty years with an inspired vision, artistic integrity and always full of warmth and kindness. I hope I can live up to the challenge she has set me. And, I hope you join with me in thanking Ann for her outstanding service to the festival, our community and to all of the arts in North Wales".

Full programme details for the main festival and the fringe are online at **nwimf.com** Ticket sales online and in Cathedral Frames on the High Street



Swayne Johnson Solicitors

Olivia Brown

Lasting Powers of Attorney – Preparing for the Worst

In an increasingly complex world, planning for your future is essential and it's no surprise that over 1.1 million Lasting Powers of Attorney ('LPAs') were registered in 2023 alone.

An LPA ensures that your personal interests are safeguarded in the event you are no longer able to make decisions for yourself. For Health and Welfare LPAs, this includes decisions about your personal care, daily routine, and living arrangements. You can have peace of mind knowing that your wishes will be respected.

A Property and Financial Affairs LPA allows your attorney(s) to manage your finances and property. This includes paying bills, managing bank accounts, and making decisions about investments or selling property. Should you become incapacitated without an LPA in place, your loved ones would need to go through a lengthy and potentially costly court process to gain the authority to access and manage your affairs.

In situations where immediate decisions are required, having an LPA in place can be crucial. For instance, your attorney(s) can make decisions quickly without waiting for court approvals. Decisions can be made and addressed swiftly by your attorney(s), ensuring that all of your affairs are managed effectively without unnecessary delays.

It's no surprise that television personal finance expert Martin Lewis urges people to set up Lasting Powers of Attorney emphasising the crucial protection that they provide, not just for the elderly but for the young as well.

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.

Swayne Johnson Solicitors will be attending a **Coffee Morning** organised by **Dementia Friendly St Asaph** at St Asaph Cathedral on Wednesday 28th August 2024 to discuss all things LPA. Please come along for some cakes, coffee and a raffle!



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Bored of chatting rubbish?

Ben Ross

When I met some friends for drinks recently, I didn't expect bin collections to be the dominant topic of conversation. However, it's clear that the June roll-out of the Trolibocs recycling system was less than smooth, igniting spicy discussions across the county and on social media.

So what went wrong?

Based on the various comments from council representatives, recorded by other press outlets, the main issues were due to an underestimate of the time it would take to complete some collection rounds, and the capacity of waste each new refuse lorry could accommodate.

Denbighshire chief executive, Graham Boase, confessed that these issues had affected a 'sizeable minority' of households, but remained steadfast that the new system is 'exactly the right thing to do'.

Nevertheless, many households across Denbighshire experienced collection delays of up to 3 weeks, including general, dry recycling, and food or sanitary waste. At a recent cabinet meeting, even Mr Boase admitted that this was 'unacceptable'. Growing concerns about hygiene, vermin and public safety were widely reported, resulting in a petition being raised by Meliden resident, Jacob Riddle. To date, this has received over 1,200 signatures.

What did the council do?

As well as issuing a 'sincere and heartfelt' apology, various actions have been taken to tackle the trash:

- Drafting in more vehicles and staff from other departments to support collections.
- Saturday collections, focussed on routes which have been missed.
- Arranging additional shifts so crews can stay out for longer.
- Relaxing the rules around recycling centre visits.

To alert council operational teams, impacted residents can also complete an online missed collections form: shorturl.at/qqbpo

A spokesperson from the council said:

'Unfortunately, with any operational change of this scale, there will always be a number of unexpected issues at the outset. We remain confident that this will settle down over time, and that services will return to the level of reliability that we are used to in Denbighshire'.

Has it all been worth it?

Allegedly, your hard work in sorting through each category of waste has 'greatly improved the quality of the recycling materials collected'. This means that the council can generate more income from our waste... but more importantly, also that more of it can be effectively reused. A small win for the planet, at least.

Hopefully normal service has resumed for most of us, and we can stop playing the 'will the bin be collected this week' guessing game. It's really not a vibe. Reports suggest that the council aren't off the hook quite yet though, with Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs deliberating an inquiry into the roll-out of the new system. Apparently, they will be considering draft terms when they meet in September. We'll keep you posted.



A message from our Council re fly-tipping: this has included household and business waste left both in the public litter bins and in containers dumped to the side of them. A children's slide was dumped at Roe Plas. We have CCTV footage, which will be passed on to the relevant authorities.

Just a reminder that this is really anti-social and that the costs are paid by all households in St Asaph.



Progress?

Sandra Smith

As the sun shines off the handle,
of my brand new trolibocs,
I too reflect on days of yore
and once more turn back the clocks

To days when bins of rustproof steel
Were hoisted aloft on backs
of diehard, diligent dustbin men
like galvanised backpacks

As alien though it seems to some
there was very little waste
And daily shopping was the norm -
no supermarket graced.

Refrigerators, well they were few,
so seasonal food was best
no plastic wrap or polythene
no recycling to keep abreast.

Make do and mend the rule of the day
socks darned and collars turned,
newspapers used in various guise
bottles emptied, washed, returned.

So simple it seemed way back then
as progress takes a faltering hand
and leads us on to life anew
in our ever changing land.





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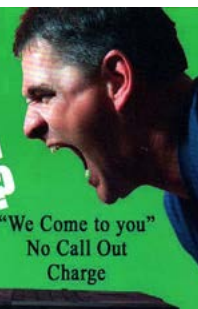
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Driving Matters

Jill Ellison



At the June meeting of the City Council, the Councillors discussed matters affecting drivers in St Asaph. They would like the help of residents with two particular issues:

20 mph

Following the introduction of 20 mph speed limits in residential areas, Wales Government has asked City, Town and Community Councils to give their views about any roads or streets where they feel the speed limit has not been correctly applied. The City Council is well aware that those who will be affected most by any changes in speed limit, will be those living on the road concerned, so before responding, we would like to seek the opinion of those living on Upper Denbigh Road regarding the appropriate speed limit.

If you are a resident of Upper Denbigh Road, and live between the 20 mph sign by the Oriel House sign and the Cathedral roundabout, please contact the Clerk to give your views as to whether the speed limit should increase to 30 mph, or remain at 20 mph. Contact clerk@stasaphcitycouncil.gov.uk Please quote your name and post code.

Unadopted Road behind the Surgeries

The condition of the road behind the Doctors' Surgeries has long been a cause for concern. As the road is unadopted, its maintenance is not the responsibility of Denbighshire Highways. Last year, the City Council asked Denbighshire to consider the road for adoption so that residents can safely access the Doctors' surgeries and the pharmacy. However, a major stumbling block is the requirement to bring the road up to the standard for highways before the road can be adopted. The cost of these works would likely run to tens of thousands and this would place a disproportionate financial burden on the property owners which back onto the road, particularly as much of the traffic is for access to the surgeries.



Wales Government has funding available to bring roads up to standard for adoption and every year it allows each County Council to nominate one unadopted road for the scheme. Unfortunately, this year Denbighshire have selected a road in another community for this funding. At the City Plan meeting in June, Councillors met with an officer from Highways and expressed their disappointment that the road behind the surgeries had not been selected. Unfortunately, it had been assessed as serving just the twelve houses which back onto the road. The Councillors stressed that this road is vital infrastructure which serves the whole community. We would like to put the case to Denbighshire for the next round of funding.

What can you do to help?

If you would like to see the road regularly maintained and would like to help, please send an e-mail to highways@denbighshire.gov.uk including "St Asaph Unadopted Road from The Roe" in the subject line, to confirm that you regularly use the road and that it is used by the whole community and gives vital access to GP services, and therefore you would like the road to be prioritised for funding next year.



Deep enough to damage your car's wheel, to throw you off your bike, or to break an ankle, the two potholes hide themselves just round a corner, and disguise themselves as mere puddles when filled with water.

A local contractor suggests that it might cost a thousand or so to repair just these two properly. It would involve working at the weekend, digging out the raised central areas, filling them with road planings and then rolling them to compact them. Just filling them with chippings is not a long term solution. A crowdfunder opportunity?



Photo: Charles Leach

Sue and Andrew Thomas, Sandra and John Smith

Andrew Thomas' memorial service was held recently, with moving tributes from family members. Andrew was a civil engineer, and moved with Sue to St Asaph in 1976, becoming known to almost all in our city. He was a County and City Councillor here for many years, and our Mayor for three of them. He worked tirelessly for the community, especially during the floods of 2012, and was behind many initiatives, including the tennis club, the successful City status bid, and the City Times. He was an active Rotarian, a member of the Archaeological Society, and helped regularly with the North Wales International Music Festival.

Sue died in 2019, and after a brief period living in Milton Keynes, Andrew returned to North Wales. A kind, energetic witty and courteous man, he will be much missed.



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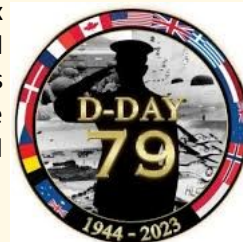
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D-Day Commemorative event

At the D-Day Commemorative event, Father Rex Mathias led prayers, while the Mayor and councillors read moving tributes. A minute's silence was held in memory of those who gave their lives, and all those who fought and suffered in the Normandy landings.



Bill Taylor

Bill Taylor is 87, and is one of the oldest former servicemen in St Asaph. He represented the armed forces and the British Legion at the commemorative event for D-Day held on June 6th at the City Cenotaph.

Bill was born in Dartford in Kent in 1936 and although he was a child when the second World War broke out, he still remembers the bombing of East London in the Blitz. His memories are of multiple terrifying air raids, and of his family helping local people put their houses and lives back together again where possible.

At the age of 18, he joined the Royal Artillery and was trained to drive the ten-tonners towing the guns and the limbers full of ammunition. He served overseas in post-war Germany for 2 years, and remembers his parents' delight when he returned home safe and sound. Based later at Kimmel camp, he caught the eye of a local girl, who boldly asked him to walk her home. Romance blossomed and Bill and Betty subsequently married and settled in North Wales. They had four daughters, and thirteen grandchildren, and a happy family life together. Sadly, Betty died four years ago. Bill worked as a lorry driver for many years, and was always a supporter of the British Legion. Later, he worked behind the bar at the Legion here in St Asaph, and collected for the Poppy Fund for many years.

Bill Taylor (seated), Major Brad Percival, Mayor Colin Hardie, Cllr Peter Scott, Father Rex Mathias and Dewi Owen at the commemorative event for D-Day.

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CEFN MEIRIADOG VILLAGE FETE

Clare Vickers

It was sunshine & smiles all day long for the Cefn Village Fete on 22nd June. On what was the sunniest Saturday of the year so far, the Very Rev. Nigel Williams opened the Fete, stressing the importance of such events in bringing people together, especially in rural communities, and thanked the organisers for all their many months of planning and hard work.

Children then enjoyed various sports competitions, organised by Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog before being totally spell bound by Professor Llusern and his magical tricks. There was a variety of craft stalls, and a stall full of delicious homemade cakes & scones. Much interest was shown from both the young and old in the display of classic cars and tractors, and a vintage campsite, complete with a full washing line!

Cefn Meiriadog Community Council had a display informing people about the Council and its responsibilities and who the local Councillors are. The Flint & Denbigh Hounds delighted the children with their antics, including one hound paying several visits to the cake stall! The Fun Dog Show proved most entertaining, with a large entry in most classes. Exhibits from the art & photography competition were on display in the main hall. Afternoon tea was available and in the evening there was a hog roast, bar and fantastic live entertainment by The Quaynotes Swing Band, who had people up on their feet dancing. The event was well attended both in the afternoon and evening, and certainly enjoyed by all. Grateful thanks go to the organisers and to Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog, The Neuadd Owen Village Hall and Cefn Meiriadog Community Council for their help and support.



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Llanelwy WI

Denise D'Albertson

In June we enjoyed an interesting meeting with Carol Allen from Llanvalley Natural Products, who spoke about her organic, sustainable skin care products made from goats milk. Carol started her business with three goats called Lilly, Milly and Billy and over the years has increased the herd. Carol had a selection of skin care products including soap and a selection of skin balms, which we were able to purchase. We then were treated to a bonus talk about the Rural Education Project by North Wales Horse Watch. The program offers talks and interactive sessions encouraging preservation and conservation of the natural environment.



Carol Allen



Mary Steel with two WI members

We were pleased to welcome back Mary Steel with her talk about the evacuation of the girls from the Guernsey Ladies College to Howell's School during WWII. In 1940, children aged 6 - 17 years, were evacuated from Guernsey, with only 24 hours notice, and boarded a boat to Weymouth. On arrival they were sent to various locations across Britain including Howell's School. Thirty years ago they held a reunion at Howell's and 19 of the former evacuees arrived to share their stories, which were very moving. Even after all this time Mary was clearly moved by the stories she heard from the Guernsey Girls when they were evacuated to Denbigh as were our members. A brilliant yet heart-breaking talk.

Llanelwy WI meets on the first Tuesday evening of each month in the parish church. If you would like to join or find out more, please email stasaphwi@gmail.com

Denbigh and District Probus Club

Julia Hughes

HM Stanley and the Napier Expedition. The guest speaker in the June meeting of Probus was Helen Papworth, who has extensive experience of working in Ethiopia. She gave a fascinating presentation about the role of HM Stanley in the "Scramble for Africa" period when European nations vied with each other to establish colonies in Africa. Stanley had been trying to establish himself as a journalist, and offered to cover the Napier expedition for the New York Times. The Napier expedition had been mounted to rescue the British Consul and other Europeans who had been taken hostage by Emperor



Helen Papworth



The burning of Magdala fortress

Theodros in his mountain fortress of Magdala. The expedition was a massively complex operation involving 13,000 British and Indian soldiers, 26,000 camp followers and over 40,000 animals, including 44 elephants to transport the heavy artillery and mortars. Stanley was embedded in the expedition, and following the eventual rescue of the hostages and burning of Magdala, he outwitted his fellow journalists by bribing the telegraph officials in Alexandria and got the scoop he wanted. The international reaction was immense and Helen made a convincing argument that Stanley's reports were instrumental in triggering the "Scramble for Africa"

We've got you framed. Chanel Jones from Cathedral Frames on the High Street gave a presentation to the Probus club at their May meeting, describing her personal journey to the framing business, and outlining the nature of the varied work undertaken there with her partner Tim. The Cathedral Frames shop has been a long-standing and highly valued presence on our High Street.



Chanel Jones



Wendy Grey-Lloyd

Thomas Howell—the legend and legacy. At the July meeting, Wendy Grey-Lloyd, former head of speech and drama at Howell's school, told the remarkable story of Thomas Howell. He had been born in the late 1400s in Monmouthshire, and became an apprentice draper in Bristol, later moving to London to become a merchant draper. He was extremely successful, and made his fortune selling cloth to Spain, and importing diverse luxuries such as wine, dye, soap, satins, damask, oils, and sultanias to England. Thomas kept immaculate financial records in ledgers and his records illustrate the first use of double entry recording, a system which is still used today. He subsequently lived in Seville, learning Castilian. He was a great philanthropist, and having no children himself, he left his fortune to be used for education and care of young girls—and the funds accumulated to enable the establishing of Howell's Schools in Cardiff and Denbigh.

New members always welcome. For further information visit the club website: denbighprobus.com

One of a kind!

Casey Dickson

The former RAK shop at the bottom of the High Street is now under new management and has become the **One of a Kind** charity shop. Now run by Layla Gascoyne and her daughter, Holly, the shop is friendly and inclusive. All the items are modestly priced and proceeds go towards helping people in need. Layla wants to make **One of a Kind** a safe space for people to chat and share a cup of tea; for anyone lonely or in need of advice, the staff there are always happy to talk. It's clear that this shop has a team of wonderful and caring volunteers!

A lot of changes have been made to the shop; Layla has made it more spacious and is installing more clothing racks. She plans to change the flooring and make the shop more accessible for wheelchair users. **One of a Kind** is also dog friendly and staff love to give treats to any furry friends accompanying shoppers. The shop accepts donated clothing and other items, however, they cannot take electrical items, furniture or DVDs. They have a TikTok account called **Oneofakind338** and a Facebook page (**One of a Kind**) where they advertise clothes on sale— for anyone who doesn't live in St Asaph, this is a great way to look at what they have to offer.

The shop is looking for volunteers to increase opening hours. **One of a Kind** is open 10am Monday to Friday, closing at 3 on Monday, Thursday and Friday, at 4 on Tuesdays, and 1 on Wednesdays. So, if you ever find yourself in St Asaph, visit the **One of a Kind** charity shop, where "All are welcome."



Epilepsy night at the New Inn—and the Fringe

The final total raised for the epilepsy event earlier this year at the New Inn was an impressive £700. Mark and Elaine would like to thank all those that took part, and all those local businesses and individuals who provided such a huge range of prizes for the event. It was a memorable evening.

Mark and Elaine at the New Inn, well known for their ability to host special events including bonfire nights, classic car shows and fund-raisers will also be a venue for three events in the Music Festival Fringe. The Fringe will feature RnB, Hip-hop, folk music, poetry and comedy—see pages 6&7 for more details.



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

Regular weekly events

Day	Time	Details
Monday	6-8pm 7.30-9.30	Youth Club run by DCCI at St Asaph Library (Note: term-time only). St Asaph Choral Society in the Parish Church. New members welcome. For further details please contact choralsocietystasaph@gmail.com
Tuesday	9.30-11.30 2-3pm 3-4pm	Aros a Chwarae . Free toddler group for preschool children and their parents/carers. Meet at Llanelwy Community Church. See www.facebook.com/stayandplayllanelwy/ Tai Chi at the Parish Church. Contact Ann Sim on 07852 321502 Qigong at the Parish Church. Contact Ann Sim on 07852 321502
Wednesday	9.30-5 10-12 6pm 6-7pm	Warm Space welcome in the Library: WiFi, free internet access, papers, refreshments Friends of the Allotment : have a go at planting, meet new friends over a a cuppa. Accessible venue 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 Exercise with Liz in Parish Church. Facebook: Rhuddlan Clubbercise and Fitness with Liz
Thursday	1.30pm 4.45-6pm	Cash bingo at Llys y Felin Himalayan Balsam bashing . Meet at Pont Begard. Stout boots, garden gloves needed
Friday	9.30-5 2.30pm	Social Mornings in the Library: WiFi, free internet access, papers, refreshments Cash Bingo at The Old Palace.
Sunday	9.30 11.00 4-5.30pm	Eucharist in the Parish Church . All welcome Choral Eucharist in the cathedral Community Fridge in the Parish Church. All welcome. Stay after for coffee and a chat.

Regular monthly events

1 st Sunday	11am	Messy Church in the Parish Church. All ages welcome, lunch provided.
1 st Monday	12-3pm	PROBUS club in Oriel Hotel. Contact Andrew: afaulkner@btinternet.com or 07542 022391
1 st Tuesday	10am	Litter pick : Start at Council Meeting Rooms. Afon Elwy Environmental Group
1 st Tuesday	7pm	WI meet at St Asaph Parish Church, info at stasaphwi@gmail.com
4 th Friday	7.30pm	Songwriter Sessions at The Barrow discuss songwriting, share original songs/music. Contact Elaine at thelightedstagemusicevents@gmail.com or 07919 250990
4 th Saturday	10am	Litter pick : Start at Council Meeting Rooms. Afon Elwy Environmental Group
1 st , 3 rd Sunday	9.30 am	Eucharist, St. Mary's Church, Cefn . All welcome.

One-off events

August		
Saturday 10th	10	Sioe Eglwysbach show
Mon-Fri 12th - 16th	9.30-1pm	Messy Church Holiday Club at the Parish church. Free family fun, includes lunch. Children must be accompanied. Booking helpful. Tel/text 07841 160430
Thursday 15th	10	Denbigh and Flint show : see www.denbighandflintshow.com
Saturday 24th	10	Denbigh show (includes the Denbigh Flower show)
Wed 28th		Coffee morning in the cathedral organised by Dementia Friendly St Asaph
September		
Tuesday 3rd	6pm	New programme of Stride to 5k introduction to running. Meet at Cathedral carpark.
Wed 4th	2-5	Table top sale at the Old Palace on the High Street
11th—21st	varied	North Wales International Music Festival . See pages 6,7 and www.nwimf.com for details

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Ffrindiau'r Rhandir (Friends of the Allotments)

A new venture on the allotment - menter newydd ar y rhandir!

A fantastic success for the launch of the new growing group – **Ffrindiau'r Rhandir** down at the St Asaph allotments on Wednesday 10th July. The plant and cake stall raised an incredible £273 to help with running costs of the group and to run new events.

Although it was a rather overcast start, and even though there were no instructions for the new pop-up gazebo, there was no stopping the team of volunteers who came down to help set up the stands for our first plant sale. With the help of an Acorn grant from DVSC, we were able to provide tea, coffee and cakes to everyone who ventured down to see us, including some of the regular dog walkers.

The sale of plants was made possible thanks to the hard work the guys from the



Grange put in every week. With a bit of help from Heledd and Marion they have spent weeks planting seeds, potting them on and rescuing sad-looking plants from some of the supermarket discounted stock producing a fabulous section of flowers and vegetable plants, including some magnificent hanging baskets which were snapped up in the first half an hour!

We were also really grateful to other allotment members, and friends who donated their time and produce, including some delicious jam. Many of the plot holders bought plants themselves. We hope that Jo's new herb garden is growing well, and that the mice don't eat Dave's sweetcorn. Mayor Colin Hardie joined us, and opened the committee rooms so we could access the facilities - and make the tea!

So who are we?

Ffrindiau'r Rhandir is a new venture that runs under the umbrella of the St Asaph Allotment Association. We plan to meet on two of the allotment plots at the St Asaph Allotments every Wednesday morning for a cup of tea and a chat, and to do a bit of gardening! Our aim is to encourage those of you in the community to come alongside and join us in sharing ideas,

developing the site, and learn from one another. If you have no garden of your own, this might be the perfect opportunity to take on one of our raised beds which is also suitable for those with mobility issues, or just to come along for a cup of tea, some fresh air, to make new friends and enjoy growing fruit and vegetables.

Grwp newydd, cyfle newydd! Yma ar randir Llanelwy, cewch cyfle i gael paned a sgwrs, i fod yn rhan o gwmmi bychan sydd yn ddiwyd, yn plannu, cynllunio, tyfu a garrdio yn ein dwy rhandir fechan.

Join us at the St Asaph Allotments, Wednesdays 10am – 12noon. ffrindiau'rhandir@gmail.com



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Veterinary Challenges - part 2

Tim Mainland

Tim reflects on the emergence of new diseases and veterinary challenges during his working lifetime as a vet.

Mad Cow Disease... what a name for a disease! Otherwise known as **Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy**, or BSE, it hit the headlines in the late 1980s. Affected cattle began to stagger and fall; post-mortems showed spongy changes in their brains.

The disease was believed to be caused by a prion. Not a virus, not a bacteria nor a cancer but a *prion*. A miniscule misfolded protein that would trigger normal proteins in the brain to fold abnormally, and a theory rapidly evolved based on the hypothesis that cattle had acquired the prion by eating their own offal. Cattle feed, beyond grass and hay, comes in the form of pellets, and this "hard feed" is aimed at increasing production, whether that be for milk or beef. The pellets

have very specific nutritional contents, and in order to provide enough cheap protein, the cattle feed manufacturers had

taken to using beef and lamb by-products as a source - and this included brains. The result was that if any of it contained potentially dangerous prions, they would be spread to vast numbers of cattle via the mixing process in the manufacture of the pellets. And so they rapidly banned using ruminant protein in animal foodstuffs. And quite right too... it was pure and simple forced cannibalism! And the victims of it were the ultimate vegetarians.

But why the big furore? I mean, they hadn't made nearly the same fuss about so many other animal diseases. Well in this case, the big worry was that BSE might later turn out to cause prion disease in humans. **Creutzfeldt Jakob disease** (CJD) was a recognised, very rare but nasty and fatal human prion brain disease. And the doom merchants came out in force. It was hypothesised that the prion MIGHT occur in meat as well as in brain tissue. So humans might catch prion disease (entitled *variant*

CJD) from eating beef. The move to vegetarianism has never been so rapid! And the media went into overdrive.

Yours truly had done the odd bit in the local media, from a weekly column in "The Visitor" to Q&As with Roy Norrie on Coast FM in Colwyn Bay. But this was the "big league". No sooner had the story hit the headlines than "The Merc" arrived outside the surgery door in Prestatyn for ITV to whisk me to Birmingham for a spot on an early evening news programme, in which I battled "on air" with a Northumbrian beef farmer. I pitched "the science" and he pitched... well I'm really not sure what he pitched! Because neither of us had a clue how this was going to pan out. But it was a load of fun trying to find out live and on air! The media hype was suggesting a massive death toll decades into the future if you had eaten any beef in recent times. Realism said that this was based on a quite tenuous hypothesis.

Nevertheless the cattle deaths continued at a fairly high level for some years, and the beef industry suffered as a consequence. And tragically, around 200 vCJD deaths did occur. But never in anything like some of the crazy numbers hypothesised.



A cow with BSE staggering (Veterinary Practice)



Not a party streamer, but a model of the misfolded prion protein (Wikipedia)



The notorious picture of John Gummer, his daughter and the burgers Jim James/PA



We're now 30 years on. Is BSE still occurring? Yes. "Mad cows" still happen. The most recent case was in Scotland this May. But it was a single and sporadic case. Ruminant protein in feed has long gone. But, as my Uni cattle medicine lecturer said way back in the late 80s.."there were always those odd mad cows that were complete b*****s and would kick the hell out of you". And I'm sure there still are.

vCJD in humans?... well my understanding of this disease (humans - the one species that I'm not supposed to know about) is that although other forms of CJD (sporadic, genetic) still occur occasionally, around the world the predicted massive vCJD epidemic never happened. Is there a moral? Beware eating carnivorous plants.

The survey and valuation process

Chris Armstrong

The house buying and selling process has moved on in recent years. One of the most striking and possibly misunderstood, developments is the Survey and Valuation process. Traditionally many buyers have relied upon (incorrectly) the mortgage valuation report. This valuation is for the lender only and today will often be prepared upon a desktop basis. This means a Chartered Surveyor may never physically inspect the property, and won't pick up on areas of concern. Similarly cash buyers will not have a Surveyor inspecting unless they commission an RICS Home Condition Report.

From the Sellers / Vendors point of view when a Chartered Surveyor is instructed to carry out a Level 2 or Level 3 Survey inspection, here are a few do's and don'ts in preparation for the inspection.

Do...

1. Have information / guarantees / certificates available for any works carried out.
2. Love your Property – show this by presenting your home in the best possible light, clear away any clutter; this includes gardens and outbuildings.
3. Liaise with the Surveyors before hand with directions if necessary, confirm length of inspection and practical matters, such as are they ok with dogs?

Don't...

1. Rush the Surveyor.
2. Book the appointment at a time when you are rushed or stressed.
3. Forget to offer them a cup of tea!

We would recommend you heed advice from your Estate Agents when it comes to presenting your property for viewings, wherever possible presenting clutter free, well maintained / decorated homely space.

Good luck!

Why get a survey when you're buying?

In a RICS Home Condition Report, the surveyor inspects the property to identify anything from minor defects to significant structural problems. This helps ensure the property is worth what you are paying. You will get detailed advice on any repairs or maintenance needed. Findings may enable you to negotiate the house's price with the vendor.

Common major problems discovered during such a survey could include

- structural movement,
- damp,
- faulty wiring,
- leaking roofs,
- drainage problems,
- boundary issues,
- woodworm,
- asbestos and
- Japanese knotweed.



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Summer Stalwarts in the Late Summer Garden Border

Chris Jones

I love to visit gardens and frequently admire the designs, colour schemes and planning of those beautiful areas and although our garden is my happy place, it falls short of being an organised and colour co-ordinated place of perfection. The reasons for this are numerous as it is full of sentimental additions, anniversary or birthday gifts, a treasured cutting from a colleague, rescued casualties from the bargain corner of the garden centre and mystery plants germinated from seeds sown that have thrived. This has led to a garden generously filled with a multitude of colour which admittedly has provided monthly variation throughout the year.

The late summer border is my interest today, as, once the first flush of roses has gone even with regular deadheading; the summer can extend to late autumn in the garden with the right choice of plants. Here are some of my personal favourites as they are trouble free, will return year on year and thicken up to fill the space with fresh growth after a gentle trim in spring.

Penstemons- these are shrubby perennials with a large variety of colours to blend with any colour scheme, they like a sunny well drained spot and will continue to flower till late autumn. Blackbird and Sour Grapes are good examples; they can be mulched in winter to protect them from frost and trimmed in spring to stimulate fresh growth.

Alstroemeria—another perennial with a wide variety of mixed colours, makes nice cut flowers for the home or a friend. If they are happy they will form a lovely large clump but need to be in well- drained soil in sun or part shade, they also tolerate drought very well.

Salvia- from the sage family, another drought tolerant plant, needs a sunny well drained spot and has a wide range of flower size and colour. Deadhead regularly to maintain flower spikes. Caradonna and Hot Lips are two widely different varieties.

Heuchera – these are small undemanding plants with vividly coloured attractive leaf shapes that can provide interest at the front of the border or underneath a shrub. . They are evergreen with a great variation in leaf colour which ranges from deep plum (Dark Secret) to a coral colour and a lime green (Tokyo). They also thrive in pots and make a great impression with the bonus of slight sprays of reddish pink flowers often called coral bells. The leaves look particularly pretty sparkling with dew on an autumn morning they like well drained soil in light shade or sun, but beware in hot sun as pale leaves may scorch.

Eryngium – sea holly is an unusual shape giving height in the border and striking spiky metallic blue flowers, they have deep roots which are very drought resistant so great for a hot dry area. The most famous variety is Miss Willmott's Ghost – named after a famous plants woman who reputedly scattered the seeds in her friends' gardens to surprise them.

Try it and see, or swap seeds of another plant, it is a great way to add variety and make new friends.

The above plants are herbaceous perennials, i.e. they have soft green growth which can be cut back after flowering and will regrow the following year, and this is much more economic than annual bedding plants which only last a season. In addition to these it is useful to have a few shrubby plants to provide a structure and design for the garden- these I will cover in a later article.



Alstroemeria



Salvia



Penstemon



Eryngium



Heuchera

Letter: A time for cutting back For those of you with shrubs and trees growing out over the pavements of St Asaph, would you mind trimming them back a little? They can obstruct the pavement, poke you in the eye, shower you with raindrops, and restrict the width of the pavement, especially when cars are parked on pavements as well. They can also limit visibility for drivers. The fledgelings have all flown their nests by now, so that won't be an issue. Thanks very much. *Name and Address supplied*



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Summer Fun in St. Asaph and nearby

Fiona Shand

Hopefully families won't be hearing the words, 'I'm bored...' this summer, as there are several activities offered not only by Denbighshire County Council, but also various other privately owned venues, to keep children and teenagers occupied during the summer break.

On Tuesdays during August (13th, 20th and 27th) between 2.00 and 3.30pm, **'Let's Play Out'** sessions are held in Lower Street Park LL17 0SG. These sessions are 'Open Access' and child-led, so the participants can choose what they want to do or select by themselves the equipment that they use. Children are free to come and go as they wish. Under 6's are welcome but must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

If you are searching for activities for children and young people up to the age of 25 with a learning disability, Conwy and Denbighshire are jointly supporting 'Children and Young People's Summer Activities' venture. There are several activities in which to participate, for example Wet Felting, Bowls Club, Baking, a visit to the Welsh Mountain Zoo, a puppet workshop, an under 18's disco, a Photo Quest at Bodnant Gardens amongst many others. For more information, see: www.conwy-connect.org.uk/children-and-young-people-conwy-denbighshire

Financial support is offered to youngsters by the Welsh Sports Foundation. Many families are affected by the cost-of-living crisis and finding money for sport is difficult. This means many children are not able to pay for training fees to join in with their friends in teams and activities. This could be any sport, team or individual e.g. football, netball, swimming, boxing, rugby. A grant is offered by the Welsh Sports Foundation to cover lessons, membership fees, weekly subs etc. Applying is easy, contact Y Bont and they will explain the process. The grant is in the form of vouchers. Help can be had to apply, then the Welsh Sports Foundation will send the club or sports organisation a voucher to cover the cost. Please contact **post@bont.org.uk** or phone **01286 881620** for more information.

The 'Top Attractions in St. Asaph' which can be found online are readily accessible to St. Asaph children and young people and further ideas for outings and activities can be gleaned from 'Things to do Near St. Asaph'. More information can be found online about water attractions, cinemas and theatres, beaches, arts and crafts, swimming pools, leisure centres, golf courses, walks, horse riding and other activities. '20 Best Things To Do Near Me' has information on various activities. There should be something mentioned there to appeal to everyone! Happy holidays!



Sealion tricks at the Mountain Zoo

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56
The Reading Agency

READING
CREATE!



A colorful illustration of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a yellow and blue outfit, smiling and waving. She is positioned behind a large, multi-colored rainbow. The background is a light blue sky with white clouds and yellow stars. The text 'Amser Stori gyda' is written in a small, black, sans-serif font above the word 'Mama', which is in a large, blue, cursive font. Below 'Mama' is the word 'Story Time' in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. A yellow book with an open cover and yellow stars on its pages is positioned below the text. A yellow rectangular box with the text 'A40 00100 | 01654' is located to the right of the book.

Amser Stori gyda
Mama &
Story Time

A40 00100 | 01654

Dydd Mercher, 14eg Awst
Wednesday, 14th August

10:30am Llyfrgell Dinbych | Denbigh Library
1:00pm Llyfrgell V Rhyll | Rhyll Library
3:00pm Llyfrgell Llanellwy | St Asaph Library

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Facebook: Nant Clwyd Hall Open Gardens 2024



Cylch Meithrin Tremeirchion

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Hen Ysgol, Tremeirchion, LL17 0UN



Manylion Cyswllt / Contact Details



cylchmeithrintremeirchion@gmail.com



07752 226034

Cylch Ti a Fi Dydd Gwener / Fridays
9:00-11:00yb/am





Photos courtesy of Eglwysbach show, Denbigh and Flint show and Denbigh show

Great Family Days out

Eglwysbach show: Saturday 10th August One day agricultural and horticultural show - with classes for cattle, sheep, heavy and light horses, flowers, vegetables, handicrafts, children's classes, speed shearing competition, fun dog show, tractors and classic machinery, trade stands, fairground. A great day out for all the family. Adults £10, Children £5, families £25 (2 adults, two children)

Denbigh & Flint Show Thursday 15th August. Our big County Show, with multiple attractions, competitions and displays in the countryside arena. Food stalls, vintage cars, horse-jumping, Save on entry prices by buying online before 1st August

Denbigh Show Saturday 24th August The Denbigh Show is an outdoor traditional family event offering a great variety of entertainment and brings together a whole host of local organisations in celebration of the best of the town. Attractions include: Pedal vs Parkour, sheepdog displays, live music, magic displays, falconry, food hall, Denbigh Flower show, classic cars, fun dog show, ferret racing and much more.



Ysgol Esgob Morgan

Jodie Martin

What a busy summer term it has been at Ysgol Esgob Morgan. We've had sports teams representing the school in beach rugby and cricket. A special mention to Issac year 5 who has been selected to play in the Denbighshire Schools Under 11's Squad, da iawn! As part of our financial education work this term we held a careers week where pupils were exposed to many different careers in our local community. We had a vet, a nurse, a sports psychologist, crime scene investigation workshops, a civil servant, a police officer and many more to tell the pupils about what their job entails. Thank you to everyone who gave their time to speak and answer lots of brilliant questions.



CSI YEM!



Speedsters Isla and Charlie

Year 6 learners have been enterprising creative contributors, giving up their lunch and break times to make and sell personalised water bottles, pencil cases and bookmarks. They're currently training up year 5 ready for the next academic year.

Pupils in year 4 enjoyed a StopMotion workshop delivered by INTO Film to help develop their film making skills. Staff also received training and we look forward the INTO Film festival in Autumn term and developing this part of the curriculum next year.

The summer Sports week proved to be a great success. Congratulations to Isla year 5 and Charlie Year 6 who won the fastest girl and fastest boy awards during sports day. Thank you to all the

local clubs who came to deliver sessions to the pupils; table tennis and hockey were very popular. Even the teachers showed their competitive sides!

It was great to welcome our Patron of Reading Steve Skidmore back this term. Steve presented several pupils with awards for their efforts in reading. Da iawn Elsie, Zach, Isaac, Alex, Hannah, Dom, Lilly and Mollie!



Reading awards

City Times notes that **Jodie Martin**, a former pupil of the school, and who has been working as a TA and then HLTA at Esgob Morgan, has been studying for a teaching degree and has recently passed with flying colours. She will be bringing her rich knowledge of the school to her new appointment as Year 5 teacher. Many congratulations!

ENGLISH AND MATHS TUITION

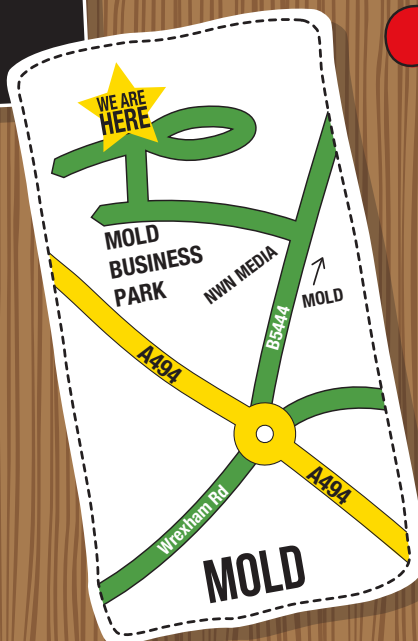
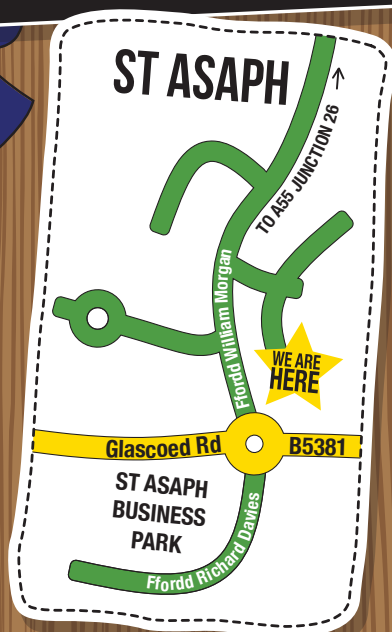
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Ysgol Glan Clwyd

Meryl Pierce

Moel Famau (Ilun)- Cerddodd bron i 400 o ddisgyblion bl7 ac 8 i ben Moel Famau ar gylchdaith o fwllch Pen Barras draw yn ôl i Barc Loggerheads, gan fwynhau picnic amser cinio wrth y Tŵr Jiwibili. Roedd y tywydd yn garedig a phawb wedi mwynhau'r cerdded yng nghwmni ei gilydd. Cyn y diwrnod, fe gerddodd nifer helaeth o staff ar ôl ysgol er mwyn ymgyswrtio gyda'r daith a sicrhau diogelwch o'r radd flaenaf ar gyfer y diwrnod.

Taith Normandy (Ilun) - Tro blwyddyn 8 oedd hi i gael mynd ar y daith i Normandy gan deithio ar y fferi dros nos yno. Bu'n gyfle i weld llawer o ryfeddodau yno megis marchnad Honfleur, Festyland, Amgueddfa Pégasus ac Arromanches.

CFFI Ymfalchiwn fod cynifer o'n disgyblion wedi bod yn cymryd rhan yn y rali CFFI yn Ninbych gan gynrychioli nifer o glybiau gwahanol yr ardal sef Nantglyn, Llansannan, Llanefydd, Chwitfordd a Betws yn Rhos. Gwych oedd clywed am yr amrywiol gystadlaethau y buon nhw'n cystadlu ynddynt, a'r holl sgiliau oedd ar waith.

Criw Craff bl7 - Bu diwrnod o amserlen cylchdro ar waith er mwyn i bl7 gael cyfle i dderbyn gwybodaeth bwysig gan y gwasanaethau brys ar sut i achub bywyd a chadw'n ddiogel. Roedd sawl asiantaeth yn rhan o'r diwrnod megis RNLI, Sbectrwm, Rheilffordd, Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub, Wales and West Utilities a St John.

Y cam nesaf? Er mwyn rhoi blas i'n disgyblion o'r hyn sydd i ddod i'w rhan wrth symud mlaen drwy'r ysgol, trefnwyd cyfleoedd i bl9 gael sesiynau blasu o gyrsiau TGAU yn ystod y tymor. Hefyd, am y tro cyntaf eleni, da oedd gallu ehangu hyn i bl10 wrth iddynt Daro Deuddeg sef cael blas o'r arlwy a'r dewisiadau fel cyrsiau Safon Uwch.



Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog

Laura Martin

We have all thoroughly enjoyed the last half term of this academic year with plenty of visitors and trips to be had. Children have enjoyed trips to Glan Llyn, the Welsh Mountain Zoo and Talacre Beach and we have been visited by Denbighshire Music Cooperative, Maisie our Therapy Dog, our Patron of Reading Damian Harvey, Barclays Bank and Ginny from St Mary's church, to name but a few.

This term our topic has been 'Ein Byd Rhyfeddol' with all classes working on different aspects linked to our amazing world. The Discoverers have been busy in the garden growing lots of different fruits and vegetables for their families, the Investigators have created a David Attenborough style video and the Innovators have created their own Eco Village. It has been a very busy term full of wonderful learning opportunities and experiences.

We were thrilled this month to receive our Bronze SSCE Award, recognising the hard work we do to support the service children and their families in our school. This award has ensured that our whole school community understands the difficulties facing service families and what we can do to support them.

Sadly this term we have to say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 learners who are moving on to pastures new. Year 6 you will be missed by us all, we are so proud of each of you and everything you have achieved in your time with us and have no doubt that you will continue to shine brightly as you progress through secondary school.

We are very much looking forward to our Food and Fun Holiday Club and look forward to seeing lots of children there for a summer of sports, games, craft and plenty of fun!

Wishing you all a lovely summer!





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

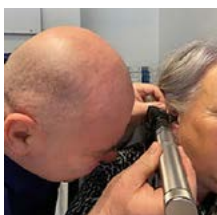
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What St Asaph means to me

Following an open letter to the editor, the City Times team decided to capture a couple more of views of 'What St. Asaph means to me...' If you want to add to this theme, email editorsact@gmail.com



Dear Editor,

I've recently been reflecting on what St. Asaph means to me. For me it is home and other than a few years living across the border, it always has been. So, what does 'home' mean to me? It means, walking past familiar faces, saying hello and maybe stopping for a chat. It's that pleasant balance between a supportive community who care enough to ask after friends and family but without living in each other's pockets. It's knowing that if and when you need a helping hand, there are people there willing to help. It's the shared community values. In addition to that it's the strong presence of the buildings, the well-kept Cathedral grounds, colourfully lit at night, the busy schools of which I have fond memories of attending. It's knowing something of the history of the buildings and the people. People have often asked how I know certain people but often it is those soft connection; they are siblings or parents of friends, old neighbours, or people with whom I've shared experiences, attending various clubs as a child, Brownies and Sunday school leaders, leisure centre staff or people who have worked in the local shops. I find comfort in all the familiarity those things bring. A relative of mine used to say that where he was from, if one was injured everyone limped – and I believe that is true of St. Asaph too. People of St. Asaph are brilliant at supporting each other when times are tough and really rallying together, times of flooding are especially evidence of that! As the population of St. Asaph grows my hope is that, in time, new residents and their families reflect on what St. Asaph means to them and realise they, like me, are fortunate to live in a supportive community. I would encourage people to say hello as you pass in the street, learn the names of your neighbours, and carry forward the shared community values of St. Asaph past and present.

Another view: When you ask 'What St. Asaph means to me' I instantly feel glad - I feel glad to have moved here, a decision I've never regretted – I've now lived here longer than anywhere else! Although it's taken time to settle and feel as a 'local', I do feel like I belong here now. We've always been so lucky with our neighbours, they've always been lovely and people who have been willing to lend a hand when needed. The church community has a welcoming fellowship too which has meant I have made many friends who share common interests and values.

Another view: I feel proud to be from St. Asaph. If I was to move away I would miss the countryside and the community. It's nice to be able to go out for a walk and within a few steps you're surrounded by fields and open spaces. I really like the views.

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National Youth Choir of Wales comes to St Asaph!

Saturday 24th August at 7.30 pm

Conducted by Tim Rhys Evans (founder & MD of **Only Men Aloud** & **Only Boys Aloud**), the National Youth Choir of Wales celebrates its 40th Anniversary, based in Carmarthen for its summer course, culminating in a tour across Wales, with concerts in St. David's Cathedral, St Asaph and the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea.

With nearly 100 of Wales's most talented young singers, NYCW bring their youthful energy to a programme of choral favourites and celebratory anthems – including music by Bach, Stanford, Eric Whitacre, Geraint Lewis & a new work by Claire Victoria Roberts.

Tickets £13, £11 Concessions, £5 under 26s online from National Youth Arts Wales website (or at the door)

The National Youth Brass Band will be performing at the Prichard-Jones Hall, Bangor on 26th July, and the National Youth Orchestra of Wales at the same venue on 29th August, both concerts commencing at 7.30 p.m.





St Asaph seconds playing Bersham

St Asaph Cricket Club

St Asaph cricket club is fairly buzzing with activity, with three senior men's teams, two women's teams and four youth teams— U15s, U13s, U11s and U9s. It's hard to know how they fit them all in! Full marks to all those who run the teams, and to the volunteers that make the club such a success—not just in results, but in caring for the impressive facilities and providing a welcome to all. The club website is excellent and for those that enjoy trawling through the numbers, it links readily to match results and reports, league tables and a multitude of statistics and highlights.

The weather has been difficult for most North Wales teams this year; those with fewer cancellations have generally fared better. "Rain stopped play" gives each team just 3 points in the league table, whereas games completed lead to 15 points to be shared. A torrential downpour led to the first XI's recent match against Denbigh being abandoned just when St Asaph, batting second, were itching to take on what seemed to be a reachable target of 233 set by Denbigh.

Overall in the **Premier league**, St Asaph firsts have been finding this season somewhat more heavy going than last season, but at the time of writing are well-placed in fourth position having won 5 of their 10 matches; they have lost 3 and had 2 abandoned. The second XI and third XI are in mid-table position and have had some notable wins along the way.

St Asaph first team have had an impressive but frustrating run in the **North Wales T20 league**. Three matches have been cancelled, but they have won the other two – most striking of these was a decisive home win over Menai Bridge. Menai managed 131-7 in 20 overs, and in response the Saints rattled along to 135-1 from just 15 overs, with captain Will Ryan scoring 87 not out from 46 balls and brother Matty 42 from 41. St Asaph are third in the T20 league.

The cricket clubhouse itself has been busy with Euro 2024, and other major sports events.

State of the art new three-lane practice nets have been installed by Dura-Sport on the site of the old nets. They were not simply replacements—the old nets had become soft and gave irregular and occasionally dangerous bounces too often. They were not able to replicate pitch conditions, whereas the new nets have a substantial foundation and are much more like a real pitch with respect to how the ball bounces. They have proved very popular and are already being used heavily. A great investment for the future.



Dave Tudor and Elen Jones' riotous pre-nuptial Park Run with the City Striders!

