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St. Asaph & District City Times

Issue No 30

October 2024



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City Times Team

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

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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 December issue is Friday 15th November – but **please** submit well before to ensure publication as the paper fills quickly. Thank you.

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Cllr Gareth Roberts	01745 583363	Co-opted	
Cllr James Grove	jamesgrove.stasaph@yahoo.com	Co-opted	

New Editor needed!

John Oliver

After 5 years Duncan Cameron will be stepping down as editor of the St Asaph and District City Times after the next issue in December. As the driving force behind this community newspaper, he has devoted a lot of time to produce this publication. As well as coordinating contributors and articles, he's liaised with sponsors, advertisers, printers and attended council meetings. Laying out of the paper is a significant task.

So who's going to take his place? What's the plan? The current team that support him are happy to stay on, but none are planning on taking up this role. That means we're on the lookout for a new editor! If you are interested, and want to have an informal chat about what it entails, you can contact us via editorsact@gmail.com. Clearly if we don't find the right person then sadly it's likely that the Christmas edition of the City Times will be the last one until the next reincarnation. So pass the word around to anyone you know that might have the skills and experience to run what's been a successful and informative community newspaper for many years.



Some notes on the September Council meeting.

PCSO Dave Jones report. The wet weather appears to have led to a decreased incidence of anti-social behaviour in the last two months.

It was noted that placing traffic cones outside your house, though understandable, is illegal. Recently, residents attempted to move a car parked outside a house, and in so doing, caused some damage—they are liable for the damage.

A fight was arranged between two teenage girls on the Common, with onlookers videoing. This constituted a public order offence.

A man took all his clothes off and was walking along the riverbank; this was a repeat of previous episodes. He incautiously returned to his car by the at the Council meeting rooms, and the number plate was seen on CCTV. The man, who is not from St Asaph, was arrested and charged.

Mayor's report. Although these are supposed to be quiet months, Mayor Colin Hardie has been busy with numerous different functions to attend, including his Civic Service at the parish church. He praised the work of the Community Fridge in saving very significant amounts of food each month from landfill.

County Councillor's report: Peter Scott reported on the recent vote of no confidence in the Council Leader and the cabinet. Grounds included the dire state of the county's finances, problematic roll-out of the new bin collection system, threats of closure of public toilets, and cut backs in library hours. An internal scrutiny panel is examining the bin issue. Electric bin lorries are on hire until new ones arrive. Meanwhile, the bin project is currently £50k over budget weekly.

The DCC leader blamed the previous Conservative government for failing to fund the Welsh Government adequately. Labour were backed by the Green party and Plaid Cymru, and the motion was defeated by 25 votes to 17. One St Asaph councillor reported watching the debate online as "two and a half hours of my life lost for ever, to no purpose".

Planning: Kentigern Hall: The proposal was to remove previous condition restricting the use of the home, to allow the provision of supported semi-independent living for five young citizens. It was discussed at some length, but ultimately no objections were raised other than to advise against any increase in numbers of clients, and that clients should all be local.

Greengates farm: The proposal was for a change of use of land from agricultural to become a new nature reserve and habitat, with ponds, a wetland area, woodland and grassland habitat area. No objections were raised.



The headless dipper—was this mindless violence, or just old glue? And where is the head now?

Riverside wood carvings. A councillor voiced concern about the erosion of the bank near the salmon, and was reassured that it was on the list for review. The dipper has apparently lost his head, but it is hoped to take expert advice from St Beuno and stick it back on.

20mph: The Council had requested feedback about speed limit of 20mph on the Upper Denbigh Road. The great majority of responses submitted agreed with keeping it, and DCC will be informed accordingly.

Audit report: A recent full external audit report was only able to pick up a couple of relatively minor issues. The clerk was thanked by all for her excellent work.

Dogs on leads: A resident had written requesting that all dogs should be on leads. This is a requirement only on the Mill race meadow, where there are sheep. The policing team visit there occasionally.

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



Gwenda and Colin Hardie, and the Mayor of Chester Razia Daniels

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Denise D'Albertson

At our August meeting we had an interesting and informative talk from Clive Hughes about the Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue team, which responds to incidents in the mountains surrounding the Ogwen Valley. Clive has 37 years of experience as a volunteer and was able to speak about training, equipment, the probationary period, and then took us through some real call outs.

The volunteers are all mountaineers first before they can become part of the team. They are experienced in first aid, casualty care and able to rescue in a white water scenario, as well as having the ability to carry out a rescue from a cave. They also rescue animals. This is a charity that relies on donations as they are not given any funding for this extraordinary work - it is all carried out by volunteers.

Clive's presentation received very positive feedback, particularly as we didn't realise just how much they did to assist those lost or injured in the Ogwen Valley. We were pleased to donate £116 to the Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue team.



We were given an insight into the world of framing from Chanel Jones of Cathedral Frames at our September meeting. Chanel started her presentation by informing us that she and her business partner, Tim, began the business in 1997 and their first week's takings came to £36.19. They make bespoke, made to measure frames and mounts, which are all acid free to protect the photos, pictures, etc. Chanel also frames items of needlework, which require steaming, stretching and then hand stitching into place over a board before framing. We didn't realise just how much work was involved in the framing process, but we do now! A very informative talk. *Llanelwy WI meets on the first Tuesday evening of each month. If you wish to learn more, please email stasaphwi@gmail.com*



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Gresford—up from underground *Chris Southern*

There was a prolonged standing ovation for the world premiere of an opera which opened the North Wales International Music Festival 2024 at St Asaph Cathedral. The hour-long opera was commissioned to mark the 90th anniversary of the Gresford mining disaster in Wrexham.

The audience was mesmerised by the new work which was composed by Jon Guy and Welsh poet Graham Davies. The opera was performed by the NEW Sinfonia choir and orchestra conducted by Robert Guy and directed by Ruth Evans. Soloists were James Holt, Kath Macauley, Khrystyna Makar, Morgana Warren-Jones, Rhys Meilyr and Sam Snowden.



Clever lighting of the arches and colonnades of the cathedral created the illusion of the disaster's underground setting in which 262 men died, supported by projected images of the mine workings, the victims and the scenes of mourning. Staging included a replica of the wheel from the headstock - part of a memorial which remains today at the site in Wrexham.

The men were killed in an explosion and its aftermath at the colliery on 22 September 1934. Conditions caused by the explosion – fires that raged for days afterwards, further explosions and the release of deadly gases - were so dangerous that rescue was deemed impossible at the time. Only eleven bodies were recovered – eight miners and three of the rescue team. A later attempt the following year to reach the area was abandoned as being unsafe and the remaining men were sealed underground forever.



It was an intensely moving piece, and of particular significance for many present. Val Nuttall, whose grandfather John Davies and great-grandfather John Ralph Davies were amongst those killed at Gresford, was present at the premiere. Ivor Bellis would have been underground on the night of the tragedy but for an injury he had sustained the previous day—his daughter Gillian Davies, a member of the NEW Voices choir performing the piece, remembers him telling the story of his escape. Robert and Jon Guy's father had been a fitter at the Llay Main and Bersham colliery.

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster Robert Saint, a miner from Tyneside, wrote the song 'Gresford' which is now known as 'The Miners' Hymn'. This was sung as a fitting conclusion to the new opera. The audience was able to follow the libretto in the programmes; the powerful words, stirring music and visual effects made for a wholly unforgettable evening.

Thanks to Stephen Cain for permission to use his NWIMF photos



15 world premieres in one concert!

In a project that has been running for almost 18 months, 15 young composers from Hawarden High School and Ysgol Bryn Alyn has their works played by a string trio from the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Each piece had its own unique character, with some haunting melodies, and some complex pieces that demonstrated the expertise of the musicians. The composer Cameron Biles-Liddell, who masterminded the project and presented the concert, has clearly unleashed some wonderful talent from the young people. A great concert.

Pendine Young Musician of the Year 2024

The three judges at the Pendine Young Musician of the year had the almost impossible task choosing a winner from the electrifying talent performing in the final. Announcing the decision, Lisa Tregale said that her heart filled with joy to hear the performers. Harpist Heledd Wynn Newton emerged as the winner after providing a dazzling and dramatic brief programme of contemporary harp music.





North Wales International Music Festival.

It's impossible to convey the breadth, the energy and the sheer brilliance of this year's NWIMF under new artistic director Paul Mealar. Music on offer ranged from mighty choral and orchestral works, through brass band, folk, doo-wop, contemporary composition to RnB, soul, and more. Along with tots concerts, masterclasses and printmaking, the addition of the fringe events at the New Inn and Jacob's Ladder opened up the festival to new audiences. A truly memorable festival!



Foxons on the move to Llangollen

Foxons Fishing Tackle will be closing its doors in St Asaph for the last time on Nov 30th, and will be moving to new premises in Llangollen to open in early 2025. It all began in 1967 when Arthur Foxon started selling fishing gear from within the Post Office and Newsagents ran by his parents (see *article in City Times Issue no 10 online*).

Arthur and Roz still live above the shop, but feel the need to downsize to a bungalow in the St Asaph area, and it will be easier to sell the building with vacant possession

Renee Foxon has worked in Foxons for 30 years and with her parents and alongside colleagues Nick and Shaun, has helped Foxons achieve legendary status in the world of fishing tackle shops. It is in fact listed as one of the top ten tackle shops in the UK, and online reviews are full of praise for the advice and expertise given there—and the huge range of equipment for sale.

Although it might sound strange, for Renee, the biggest disaster in fact brought with it some of the most memorable times. She describes the sense of community spirit, help and support from customers, friends and neighbours after the 2012 floods as being really heartwarming. During Covid, Foxons managed to carry on doing online sales and offering a click and collect service. The Government furlough scheme and the council grants enabled them to survive, as well as the valued support of their loyal customers.

You might imagine that a large amount of trade is now online—but in fact only 10-20% of sales are online. “We still have plenty of traditional shoppers who love to come into the shop to browse, and to see and handle rods and tackle” says Renee. She confirms that many of Foxons’ customers come from afar—right across North Wales and beyond. The move to Llangollen will favour some and not others, but many of the most faithful customers travel to the Dee to fish anyway, and will be able to call by in the new shop there very easily.

For Renee, one of her special skills is repairing rods. She offers a full rod building, restoration and repair service from her workshop in Deiniolen. She mostly works on carbon fibre rods, but also enjoys repairing older split cane rods from time to time. www.reneesrodrepairs.com



“After making it through floods and through Covid, the move to new premises in Llangollen should be easy!” says Renee. “We’re very excited at the prospect of the move, and the challenges to be faced in our new premises there”.

St Asaph’s loss is Llangollen’s gain—and we wish Foxons every success there.



Fishing the Dee: photo Llangollen Maelor angling.



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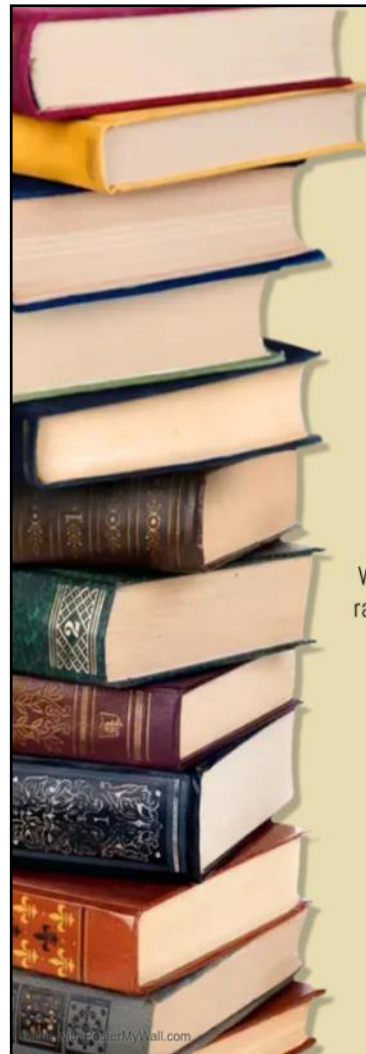
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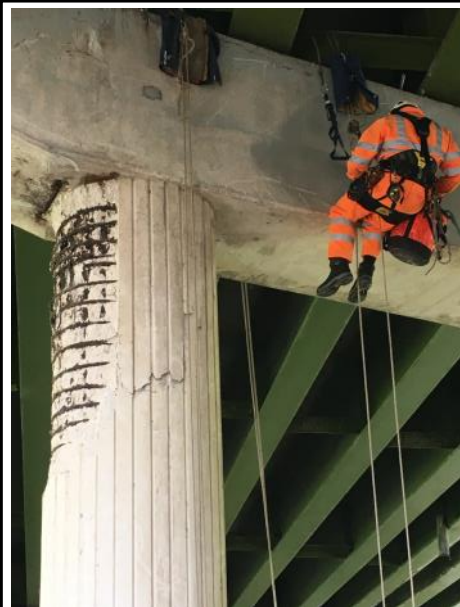
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Summit Rope Access climber checking the concrete at the river bridge

A55 river bridge and flyover—time for repairs

For some time locals have been concerned about the appearance of the upper portions of some of the pillars of the A55 bridge across the river Elwy, with sections falling away to reveal rusted steelwork below. The exposed rusted pieces are hoops, which are used to correctly position the upright load-bearing steel reinforcements at construction.

The bridge was constructed in 1970. Over time concrete suffers from a reduction in alkalinity due to carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. This process is referred to as carbonation, and it eventually results in the steel reinforcement within the concrete being exposed to moisture and oxygen. This then causes the steel to rust. The corrosion process involves an expansion of the rusted steel which causes the concrete around it to crack and spall.

Jones Bros of Ruthin have been contracted by the Trunk Road Agent for Wales to assess and make the necessary repairs to the piers (pillars) and crossheads supporting both slip roads and the main A55 carriageway. Works to date have focussed on understanding the full extent of the issues through visual inspection and laboratory testing of concrete samples taken from site. This stage is now complete and work is

ongoing to produce a design to rectify the issues identified. It is anticipated that repair works will commence to the Elwy structure early in 2025. Water ingress – particularly water contaminated with de-icing salts – is thought to be the primary issue, however it is common for structures of this age to require some remedial work to prolong their serviceable life as much as possible. Repair works are also required on all piers and crossheads supporting the A55 main carriageway and slip roads. Corroded steel reinforcement will be removed and replaced and this will require removal of some concrete from the surface of the piers.

First subcontractors on the scene have been Summit Rope Access Ltd, scaling the pillars and tapping with hammers to find out areas of damaged concrete. It is not clear why some areas have been more affected than others; it may be due to different combination of water ingress and carbonation. The work will entail removal of affected concrete, coating of the exposed steelwork, and re-concreting, possibly with specialist coating to slow down carbonation. Access is likely to be via scaffolding particularly at the river bridge.

Welsh Government through their transport department have a detailed inspection and assessment regime for all such bridges. A spokesperson has given reassurances that the work is effectively routine maintenance of concrete structures of a certain age and will be able to be completed without disruption to traffic flow on the A55



Taking samples of dust and concrete for lab analysis—at the roundabout

From the City Times Ten Years Ago—October 2014

Stuck in a baby swing: “Fire service were called out at 6.45pm to release a 15 year old youth from the baby swing (age up to 4 years) at the Lower Street Children’s Play area. He had to be cut out, and the baby swing was removed by the Fire Service. The cost to the Fire Service is unknown, but the cost to the City Council to replace the swing and chains was £190 plus VAT. This report is to inform the community of some of the incidents which frustrate the Council in its attempts to provide play equipment for young children.” *Cllr Peter Scott*

There is a surprising number of such incidents pictured online. One from Scotland shown opposite came with the dry comment: “His friends were of course on hand to film the proceedings, like all good friends should at moments of extreme pain and humiliation.”

Let’s stop the block St Asaph. Dŵr Cymru launched a major campaign to reduce sewer blockages with their consequent risks of pollution and sewage flooding of homes. St Asaph was identified as a blockage hotspot, with 71 blockages reported in one year. “Flushing everyday items like cotton buds and wet wipes down the toilet, and rinsing things like fat, oil and grease down your sink can cause big blockages” said Dŵr Cymru. The same advice still holds true today...



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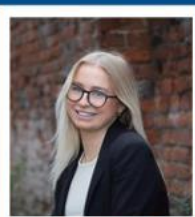
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Tu Cefn i'r Giat — Behind the gate

Dave Nuttall

A unique and spectacular event took place at Pengwern Farm recently. Organised by John Davies from Rhuddlan, it was a day celebrating agricultural equipment old and new, and a day to talk about personal health. John is a fencing contractor who has recently been diagnosed with bowel cancer. The choice of **Behind the Gate** as a title for the event referred to his wish for people to "open the gate" and talk more about personal health. His experience of cancer has been a gruelling one, and his aim is to encourage people to seek help when symptoms occur, rather than putting things off.



A tractor pulling the massive sled



A 1950s Ferguson potato planter. The lads drop a seed potato down the chute in time with a bell.

John's original plans for an agricultural charity event met with enthusiastic support from friends and colleagues across the farming community and snowballed rapidly. Huw and Helen Jones provided the location at Pengwern Farm, and events included a tractor run passing Glan Clwyd hospital, a sled pull challenge, ploughing demonstrations, old machinery and exhibitions. The tractor sled pull was the headline event, and involves a tractor pulling an immensely heavy sled for 100 yards, with the load increasing yard by yard as a weight slid forward on the sled, increasing the resistance to being towed.

The event was a great success, with a good turn-out and some impressive items of farming machinery being put through their paces. An astonishing £16,500 was raised towards a variety of cancer and farming charities, and John hopes to make this an annual event.



Mr John Roberts of Wern farm Ruthin pulling the sled with his Perkins V8 powered Massey Ferguson 1155.

Front cover photo of John Davies by Paul Greenwood



Dementia event in the cathedral

A meeting held in the cathedral by **Dementia Friendly St Asaph** provided a great opportunity for those living with dementia and their carers to meet and share experiences over coffee and cake.

Olivia Brown from the St Asaph office of Swayne Johnson and her colleague were on hand to discuss and advise about the benefits of setting up Power of Attorney arrangements, and to advise about other legal aspects.

Afon Elwy at Spring Gardens gauge

Steve Morris

Please note that the river level gauge under the A55 bridge known as 'Elwy at St. Asaph' is now faulty and will no longer be used by NRW. The gauge to keep an eye on is now **'Afon Elwy at Spring Gardens Bridge'**. To complicate things, the old gauge read in metres and we always used to view the 4m mark as our 'level of greatest concern'. The new gauge reads in mAOD (ordnance datum) which is taken from a sea level reference point at Newlyn Cornwall for the whole UK. A quick look back through the data shows that our most recent highest level was at 22.45 on the 20th October 2023. At this time the readings on the two gauges were : Elwy at St. Asaph - 4.31m Afon Elwy at Spring Gardens Bridge - 12.754mAOD .

My estimate is that our new 'level of greatest concern' will be around the 12.5mAOD mark on the new gauge.

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St. Asaph Royal British Legion

Charles Leach

Just over a century ago the founding of the St. Asaph Branch of the British Legion took place in the form of themed fund-raising events organised by local gentry and senior military personnel at Bryn Asaph, with a 3 day **"Olde Welch Fayre"**. From the poster, it looks to have been a great weekend, with top brass in attendance, Osborne's Renowned Jesters and Clowns, wireless concerts and Maypole dancing.

Later the first general meeting of the St. Asaph Branch took place after a meal at the Plough, St. Asaph on Monday, November 12th 1923 for veterans of WW1. Records of the event are stored in the Public Records Office in Hawarden, although other details about the activities and history of the RBL cannot be found; presumably paperwork and minute books were discarded when the club closed.

The British Legion flourished in the City and in latter years, an active social Club became an integral part of the scene in Lower Street for some years. In time, the Legion was opened to all members of the public including those who had not served in HM Forces, and the different levels of membership were scrapped. The British Legion gained royal status in 1971 as a gift from Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II by Royal Charter to mark its fiftieth anniversary. In addition to supporting veterans and organising the Poppy Appeal and Remembrance events, the RBL was a popular social venue.

The RBL Club, on the site of what is now Llys Llengoed, closed many years ago because of financial problems and reduced support; this was no doubt partly related to the end of UK National Service in 1960. The local branch of the RBL survived for some time in different venues after the club closed, but with a falling-off in numbers, it also eventually closed.

Mike Parry-Jones provided the two photos below from archives. The first one shows members of the St Asaph British Legion and their families about to set off on a 7 mile walk raising funds for local senior citizens. Hairstyles and clothing seem to place this some time in the late 1960s Interestingly, old photos show that prior to the RBL clubhouse being built, the site was that of the cinema in St Asaph; with eagle eyes, Mike notes that the film advertised on the right is "The Three Musketeers", which seems likely to be the version that came out in 1921, starring Douglas Fairbanks.



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Chairman - Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. COOKE, O.B.E.

Opening Ceremony at 2-0 p.m. June 27th, by
Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. W. WILLIAMS, D.S.O.

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League of Friends celebrates 50 years—and £7 million donated!

The League of Friends at Glan Clwyd hospital is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Over that time, it has donated £7,000,000 to the hospital for the purchase of equipment to benefit the patients and staff there. This last year alone the League raised £300,000, and amongst other items, provided funding for a £70k Trident Faxitron radiography system. We rely entirely on volunteers who run the tearbar, the shop and the sales table. As part of our celebrations we are holding a **Grand Christmas Fayre on Saturday November 30th at Bodelwyddan Community Centre** from 10am until 2pm. There will be a huge raffle and many Christmas themed stalls.

Primary school children are invited to compete for 3 prizes in a **Fancy Dress competition**. Please come to support your hospital on this special day celebrating our 50 years!





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The US Presidential elections

from our Washington DC correspondent Teleri Griffiths

With the build up to the upcoming US presidential election, the atmosphere in the district and amongst my peers is dynamic. As an exchange student from St Asaph attending George Washington University in Washington DC, it is completely eye-opening to witness the passion and excitement that both my university colleagues and the citizens of DC have for their political system. With the recent presidential debate watched by a record of 67.1 million viewers, conversations around campus regarding topics such as the economy, the environment and immigration are rife, with many debating the legitimacy of claims made during the debate.

There has been both apprehension and eagerness to witness how the debate will influence voting intentions, especially with Harris' weak stance on the economy, and Trump's wild claims on topics such as immigration and reproductive rights. The debate is seen by many as a critical event which could sway the outcome in swing states such as Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Georgia. Regardless of the polarising opinions that characterise American politics, there is consensus among its citizens that the debate is crucial for both candidates to clarify their stance on key issues that concern the American public whether that be economic issues, foreign policy, immigration or welfare.



Having spent a month in DC, the heart of American politics, I have come to gain a deeper understanding of the complexity of issues that drive the American political process. With other exchange students, we often find ourselves comparing the American political landscapes to our own countries, and there is a general agreement amongst us that the scale and intensity of American political discourse is like no other. As we near Election Day I look forward to seeing how further dialogue influences the outcome and how the energy in the city shifts as we begin to see American democracy in full swing!

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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 DCC 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 6-7pm	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 Stride to 5 running programme for beginners. Julie Roberts 07900188222
Wednesday	9.30-5 10-12 6pm	Warm Space welcome in the Library: WiFi, free internet access, papers, refreshments Friends of the Allotment : Try some planting, meet friends over 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
Thursday	1.30pm	Cash bingo at Llys y Felin
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 stevetootell@gmail.com See page 15
1 st Tuesday	10am	Litter pick : Start at Council Meeting Rooms. Afon Elwy Environmental Group
1st Tuesday	2-4pm	Book Club in the Library—see page 13
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

<i>October</i>		
Sunday 6th	3.30	Harvest Festival at St Mary's church Cefn
Sunday 13th	9.30	Harvest Festival, St Asaph parish church
Wed 16th	7pm	Llandyrnog History Society : Landed estates in the Vales of Clwyd Gareth Evans llangwyfanhistory@hotmail.com Llandyrnog Village hall.
Friday 18th		Silent disco in the cathedral with music 80s v 00s. Ticketsource.co.uk
<i>November</i>		
Wed 6th	2.30	"A Cathedral Choirmaster's Lot" Paul Booth at the Kentigern Guild in the parish church
Sat 30th	10am-2	Grand Christmas Fayre Glan Clwyd hospital League of Friends Bodelwyddan Community Centre

Dear Editor,

I am writing in support of our much beleaguered County Council following the recently imposed system of recycling. Having excitedly received my brand new trolley with its attendant containers, I assiduously sorted my waste products as instructed in the excellent guidelines. Unfortunately, however, the designated collection recycler rejected my initial attempts, stating that the paper I had selected was of the wrong thickness, qualifying only as cardboard. Mortified, I immediately ordered vernier callipers for future thickness measurement. Also, having been told in no uncertain terms what I should do with my cardboard, I sought the 'blue bag' which had been referenced for this purpose. Unfortunately, this had blown on to the roof of the conservatory of a particularly garrulous neighbour whose ire I decided not to risk by requesting its return.

Undaunted, and with said cardboard strapped to my back-pack, I set out by bicycle for my local recycling centre. Unfortunately, however, within 20 metres (a record for this particular road) I encountered a pot-hole of biblical proportions which proceeded to swallow and disgorge me with gleeful intensity. Nursing a cracked helmet, a severely bent rear sprocket, a distended medulla oblongata and a bruised ego I returned home.

Arriving subsequently at my recycling centre, I was confronted by four attendant employees guarding the entrance. I explained my purpose only to be told that I had to have an appointment or two proofs of identity such as a measles vaccination certificate or passport. A fifth cheerful tabarded official emerged from his small, cosy enclave, cup of tea in hand, to offer me solace and to provide me with an up-to-date cricket score.

I could see that the immaculately clean, three acre site was buzzing with one other sole female resident (an I.T. specialist who had successfully mastered the internet booking system) who was being instructed remotely on the best way she could manhandle a broken fridge from her van. Forlornly, I set off home, marvelling to myself about the thoughtfulness of such a large number of employees who were intent on saving the planet, thereby making our lives so much easier and meaningful.

I am now so impressed with our council that I am considering launching a crowd-funding page to provide more amenities for those unfortunate officers who have to work from home, necessitating additional chocolate hob-nobs and daytime 'onesies'. Unfortunately, I cannot contribute to this myself as I have had to give up my daytime job to concentrate on the recycling. It is rumoured that other such helpful initiatives are in the pipeline - such as coating our lollipop personnel in fairy lights to make them more visible on dark mornings (though some problems are anticipated at Christmas time) and issuing our valiant bobbies with rotating cameras atop their helmets to guard against assailants from the rear.

So my message is for us all to be grateful and to get behind our local County Council and their trail-blazing initiatives. After all, it couldn't happen anywhere else.....could it?

Alan Duke

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Challenges facing our high street

Ben Ross

St. Asaph is home to many thriving businesses, much to the credit of their owners... but in recent years we've also seen traders come and go, the last of the banks disband, and a handful of shops now remain vacant.

But, of course, we're all part of the problem. The marketplace first moved out of town, and now it's largely online, presenting an increasingly competitive and amazingly convenient way to browse, shop and bank. The question is, how much longer can our high street compete?

Most articles on the topic mourn the diminishing variety and charm of the British high street as more independents shut shop. But they also cite many other issues:

Business rates – some business types are exempt, and you can apply for relief from the Welsh Government if you meet specific criteria, but business rates undoubtedly add pressure to retailer revenues.

Parking – compared with out-of-town retail parks where free parking is usually in abundance, limited parking close to high-street shops can discourage visitors, whilst prices in the car park have recently escalated significantly.

Accessibility – large retail parks are purpose built to serve shoppers of all abilities. Our high street may be charming, but a hill with narrow footpaths won't be easy for everyone to traverse.

Public transport – naturally, consumers are less inclined to travel and shop if public transport options are either inefficient or unavailable.

Although they recognise there 'may be no one blueprint for success', the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) Wales have set out a vision for more vibrant town centres, including:

Celebrating diversity – what's unique/historically significant about your town, and what could be done to make the best of it?

Creating multi-purpose spaces – these can help to bring people together in new ways. The evolution of our Parish church is a brilliant example.

Supporting emerging needs – with more people working in an isolated way from home, is there potential to create social co-working hubs, like site10 in Rhyl, where the by-product is increased town centre footfall.

Stronger leadership – local authority, business and community groups all need to work together to co-ordinate activities and tackle live issues, e.g. availability of parking, anti-social behaviour, litter etc.

Growing digital capabilities – helping businesses to build an online presence so they can reach new consumers, or simply drive more awareness and footfall to physical outlets.

The challenges are very real, but with sustained collaborative effort, they needn't be insurmountable. Our town centres may not be what they were, but neither are the needs of the consumers who frequent them. Perhaps this isn't a time of decline... just an era of evolution. All we can ask, is for the growing population of St. Asaph to support our local businesses, stay industrious and keep the fires of ambition burning.

Until Amazon figures out how to cut your hair, do your nails, or rustle up a banging bag of chips, they won't have a monopoly on everything!



Scam alert The County Council is warning about a scam circulating whereby vehicle owners receive texts to say that they have received a fine for parking illegally. This message goes on to provide a link for the recipient to pay the parking fine. Please be aware that this is a scam as Denbighshire County Council does not issue parking Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) by text message or e-mail. The Authority's Civil Enforcement Officers **only** issue Penalty Charge Notice by attaching them to the vehicles.

Also be cautious about using QR codes to make payments at parking meters. It appears that some are fake labels stuck over the originals, and the QR leads to a realistic looking but false webpage which collects your bank details. Whatever next!

High Street landmark closes

Corbetts the bookmakers on the High Street has recently closed, with staff being re-deployed to other branches in neighbouring towns. It appears that with betting moving increasingly online, fewer customers visit the bookies. The St Asaph branch, with its familiar half-timbered façade, had a name for being a welcoming and friendly branch to visit for punters.





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Winter colour for your garden

Chris Jones

Autumn days are shortening and although we have had a poor summer the temperature of the ground is still warm and thus it is a great time for planting shrubs and hardy plants to settle them in before any frosty weather. It is also a time when the colours of certain plants begin to change and can enhance the garden and extend its appeal. Bright days and cold nights make for the best colour, this is because the green leaf pigment chlorophyll becomes less dominant as growth slows and thus the other pigment colours shine.

Colourful foliage, berries and scents can combine in all sorts of combinations large or small for us all to enjoy and also help our wildlife. Years ago, gardeners would traditionally pull out summer bedding plants and replant as soon as September arrived so that plants were established before any frost. Nowadays this task has shifted later to October, and this has led to plants such as dahlias and fuchsias retaining their appeal.



Rudbeckia



Viburnum mariesii plicatum

Salvias are increasingly popular plants with a huge range of colour, although some need a little more protection. They hate to be waterlogged and as with any tender plant it is good insurance to take cuttings in case one chilly night finishes them off. Many shrubs and late flowering perennials will peak at this time of year. One of my favourites is the **Viburnums** family. They are such good value shrubs, providing flowers and fresh foliage in spring and then going on to develop striking leaf colour and often berries in the autumn.

Viburnum mariesii plicatum has striking tiered structure with dense white spring flowers. It is often referred to as

the wedding cake shrub, but in the autumn its leaf colour turns a rich golden red. **Viburnum Jacqueline Postill** is renowned for its knockout scented flowers in winter, whilst **Viburnum Davidii** has striking metallic blue berries amongst its red, gold and russet foliage.



Helianthus Lemon Queen

Ceratostigma (hardy plumbago) is an unremarkable small shrub in spring but goes on to develop electric blue flowers and colourful foliage in late summer /early autumn. **Rudbeckias** and **heleniums** are golden blooms with dark centres and **Helianthus lemon Queen** (perennial and not annual sunflower) will also form a substantial clump of soft yellow daisy flowers which flower for a long period and will stand out amongst the autumn foliage.



Symphyotrichum

Flowers formerly known as asters but now renamed **Symphyotrichum** will come up like clockwork each autumn with masses of individual blue daisies with yellow centres. Their strong stems will survive windy weather without any staking, and they can spread by runners to form a substantial clump. They are a great source of nectar for the autumn butterflies as they hatch.

If you wish to plant pots for winter colour consider grasses in conjunction with small shrubs and flowers to which you could underplant with bulbs for spring flowering.

Ophiopogon planiscapus is a striking purple/

black grass which grows in a low clump. it has pale mauve flowers in summer followed by dark purple berries and is a great contrast for violas or pansies as winter bedding, **Carex oshimensis Evergold** is a sedge type grass variegated looks good planted with polyanthus and underplanted with daffodils for spring flowering. or a steely blue fescue grass – **Festuca Glauca** is also an option and combines well with hellebores, underplanted with Muscari (grape hyacinth). These can all be replanted in your garden in the spring when you might need the pots for new ideas.



Ophiopogon planiscapus



Ceratostigma



Walking the Camino for St Kentigern Hospice

As you read this, a 14 strong group will be walking 67km of the Camino de Santiago in northern Spain, having starting on October 3rd. All experienced walkers, they have none the less been training hard for this trek.

Amongst them is Sue Last, who was formerly chaplain to St Kentigern hospice; she has a very special affection for St Kentigern as they gave respite care to her husband John, who died recently with dementia. Sue reports that the care given to John was outstanding, and a great blessing to her and her family during difficult times. John and Sue had always been keen walkers and were key members of the



North Wales Pilgrim's Way group, having walked it together on many occasions.

The Camino group also includes St Kentigern nurse Kate Seddon, walking group leader Mike Costello, Chris and Rowena Wynne, Ruth Tulley and Ann Johnson. Each of the walkers has set up their own JustGiving page, and it is still possible to support the adventure by searching their individual names on the Just Giving website, or by going direct to www.justgiving.com/campaign/stkentigerncamino24. Better now than during the blazing summer heat, but the walking is not always easy, and daily distances are definitely challenging. We wish them a great adventure, and safe walking!



Volunteering for St Kentigern hospice

Could this be you? We are recruiting for a variety of volunteer roles: Garden Volunteers, Cafe Cariat volunteers, van driver mates, Meet & Greet receptionist, Fundraising ad hoc support, charity shop sales assistants and sorters - Rhyl, Prestatyn, Ruthin and Flint. Head to our website for more details by following Supporting us and then volunteering.or please. We encourage young volunteers wanting to complete their Welsh Bacalaureate, Duke of Edinburgh or as part of a college course.



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Bikers needed!

Phil Hackney from the Wrexham group of Blood Bike Wales gave a compelling presentation to **Denbigh and District Probus Club** in their September meeting at the Oriel hotel.

The Blood Bikers provide a 24 hour emergency courier service taking blood, blood products, tests, donor milk for preterm infants and other medical items needing rapid delivery across North Wales and beyond. They are all volunteers and experienced riders, and prior to becoming a team member, will have acquired advanced motorbike riding qualifications, and training in handling blood products.

The service entails quite complex logistics, all co-ordinated by the team controller, and with such a crucial cargo, there is careful and detailed documentation of all transfers. Impressively, there is no charge or cost implication to the NHS—in fact, they save the Health Boards a huge amount of money. Their bikes are purchased with funds donated to the charity—either at fund-raising events or through individual donations. The bikers have to purchase all their own kit for riding, whilst the charity pays for their fuel. During the Covid pandemic, their workload went up by 300%. There are three bikes, two stationed at Wrexham, and one at Glan Clwyd hospital, which are used by the team. They are powerful and reliable bikes, much beloved by their riders. Should you feel the call of the road, and want to join the team, simply call 0845 646 0800 or search Blood Bike Wales online.

Denbigh and District Probus Club meets monthly in the Oriel Hotel. Contact stevetootell@gmail.com for further details.



Phil Hackney and the BMW R1250RT blood bike with its day-glo livery.

Scarecrows in Tremeirchion—and the dog Olympics!



Congratulations to Tremeirchion for holding yet another excellent Scarecrow competition—and also a sometimes chaotic but greatly enjoyable dog Olympics at the Salisbury Arms. The Tremeirchion 2000 events organising group clearly has a great ability to come up with great ideas! Facebook Tremeirchion and Bodfari Community Chat. *Photos kindly provided by Deborah Albrow and Bettrev Kirwan*

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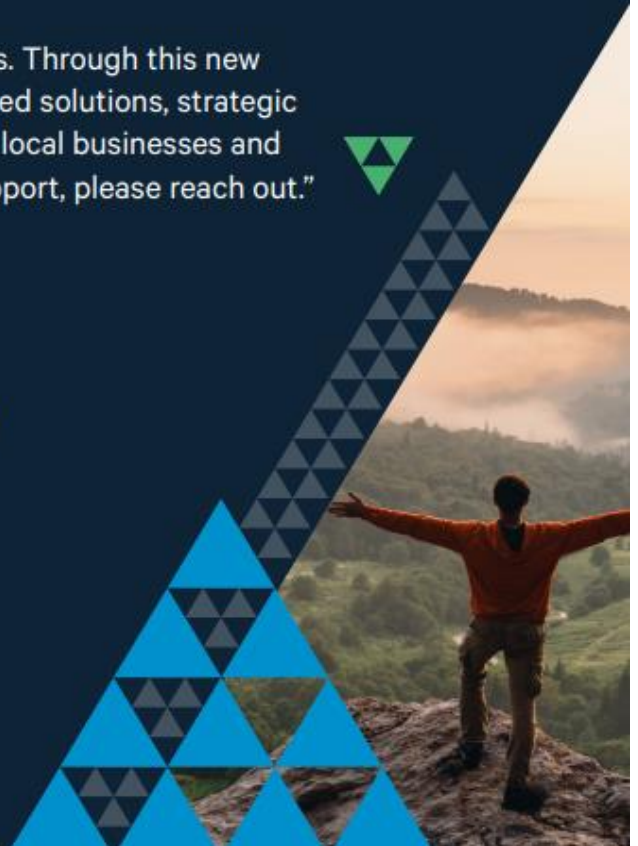
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RHUDDLAN CASTLE *Chris Southern*

One might wonder why Rhuddlan Castle is featured in the St Asaph City Times – and it's a story that goes back a long way.

In that bygone age there was a complex interplay of religion, politics and warfare and Rhuddlan's history influenced the development of St Asaph as we know it today.

The known story of St Asaph began in 576AD when St Kentigern fled from the shores of the Clyde to Wales, presumably due to political or religious persecution. Following a long journey during which he started a number of churches in Cumbria, Kentigern settled and founded a monastery on the banks of the River Elwy. Coincidentally, a young man called Asaph (originally known as Asa) and son of King Sawyl Penuchel, fled from the Pennines to North Wales with his father and became a disciple to his distant cousin Kentigern. Asaph was one of the 965 disciples of Kentigern's Celtic monastery where 300 (unlettered) monks farmed the land, a further 300 worked in the monastery offices and 365 monks (one for every day of the year) attended to divine services while three choirs sang round the clock.

The story goes that Kentigern would frequently pray while standing in the icy cold waters of the River Elwy and on one occasion he was so cold he sent Asaph to bring a brand of blazing wood to warm him. Asaph carried back 'live coals in the skirts of his robe with not a sign of burning'. This miracle revealed the sanctity of Kentigern's disciple, so when Kentigern returned to Strathclyde, Asaph was unanimously voted to succeed him and became the first Welsh Bishop of the area.

The monastery, its cathedral and its monks worked the land quietly and diligently in the coming years, marked only by the racial struggles which raged to and fro across the Welsh and English borders for some 500 years (c700 - c1300).

Records of the time are sparse and Rhuddlan first appears in recorded history in the last years of the 8th century. Situated in a vast area of marshland close to the sea, with the St Asaph monastery possibly its nearest neighbour, Rhuddlan was the lowest fording place on the River Clwyd.



In 921, King Alfred's son (Edward the Elder) presumably spotted the defensive potential of Rhuddlan and built a basic earth and timber fort on what is known today as Twthill. Situated at the mouth of the River Clwyd, it was part of his defence of North Wales and the Cheshire coasts against a common foreign enemy who plagued our shores – raids by Scandinavian pirates.

By 1063 Rhuddlan had become the royal seat of Gruffudd ap Llewelyn - a powerful prince who plundered English lands as far east as Oswestry and Wrexham. But in that year Gruffudd was driven from Rhuddlan by the English and his palace was burned to the ground

Twthill—now a favourite spot for trysts

Three years later, as battles raged throughout Europe, a new motte and bailey castle was 'thrown up' by William the Conqueror at Rhuddlan. The Domesday Book (1086) shows that for an annual rent of £40, Robert of Rhuddlan was given power over the whole of North Wales. He made Rhuddlan his base at Twthill and consolidated the area with earthworks and a small borough beside the castle which included a church and a mint where silver pennies were produced.

For the next two centuries the timber-built castle and its adjoining town changed hands several times between the Welsh and English in the tide of border struggles. It is clear that the people who lived in and around Rhuddlan suffered, fought and died as the battle for land raged on.

During the reign of Henry 111, political disunity in England gave Llewelyn ap Gruffudd the opportunity to establish his authority and he was given the title of 'Prince of Wales' by King Henry himself.

It seemed that peace between the English and Welsh might continue – but history shows otherwise.

In the next edition: War reaches St Asaph monastery and Rhuddlan Castle is built.



The battle of Twthill, Rhuddlan, between the Normans/Saxons and the Welsh with their Dublin Viking mercenaries in 1075.

Photo Les Auld

Preventing Aliens taking hold—EIPG at work!

Margaret Cummings

Himalayan balsam is an invasive non-native plant species which is spreading through the UK. There's a lot of it in the St Asaph area, mainly up and down the riverbanks. It crowds out native plants, and its abundant nectar attracts pollinating insects to the detriment of other flowering plants. It dies back in winter leaving the bare banks prone to erosion. It spreads by propelling hundreds of seeds up to 8m; some seeds are washed down river to create new "stands". Welsh government estimate that it costs the UK around £1 million to control Himalayan balsam.

It's the target plant for the **Elwy Invasive Plant Group (EIPG)**, and through the summer we have been running regular sessions pulling up Himalayan balsam. Volunteer hours have increased again this year to a total of 86 hours, and so big thanks to all the fantastic volunteers, and also to the army of informal Hb pullers who work whilst walking. It couldn't be done without you! Pulling the balsam finishes in August, as otherwise we would risk spreading the 'ready to pop' seeds. There's also a risk of carrying seeds on our boots or clothes to river paths and our gardens.

Early next year, after training in safe use of strimmers, we're planning to strim the young plants. We did this on a 60m stretch this year, with good results. Two new

massive 'stands' in 2024 grew between the children's play area and the otter, and we were grateful to the City Council for arranging a contractor to strim this.

Other options for dealing with Hb are in the offing, particularly with **rust fungus**. This fungus weakens Hb leaves and stems, and the leaves lie as litter on river banks, ready for the fungus to infect emerging Hb plants next spring. One drawback is that on flooded banks, a lot of the leaf litter may wash away, taking the rust fungus with it. At present the fungus is one of the most hopeful control forms being used. Extensive testing has been carried out in the UK and the fungus is currently being used on the river Dee in the PATH (Preventing Aliens Taking Hold) project. We'll be putting our feet up till next spring, but will let you know when we start again.

Why not join us then for an hour on Thursday evenings?

Contact: margelwy@gmail.com or via our Facebook page




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Children's page—for children of any age!

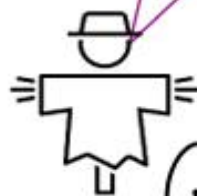
Lian Crierie

As well as 'back to school!', did you know that last month, a tradition dating back to 1267 took place - the World Gurning Championships. Held in the Lake District, England, the Gurning competition is all about who can 'distort the face' (who can pull the funniest face!) Why not hold your own funny gurning competition with your family and friends and see who wins, we'd love to see your pictures!



Why did the scarecrow skip dinner?

What did the pumpkin say when asked if it wanted a haircut?



He was already so stuffed.

No thanks, it's vine.



INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL MONTH

October is international walk to school month so why not get your warm coats on and enjoy the crisp autumn mornings. See if you can spot these things on your way.

A dog	Fountain	Envelope	Post box	Robin
Street light	Traffic cone	Feather	Gate	Bench
Pedestrian crossing	Telephone box	Butterfly	Twig	Pebble
Brown Leaf	Flower	Duck	Something smooth	Puddle
Litter	Footsteps	Squirrel	Something yellow	Ladybird

Can you spot the 9 differences between these two pictures?





VP School

Kate Langford

A warm welcome to our new families We have had a wonderful and exciting start to the 2024-25 School Year at the VP. The school has grown from 75 to 92 and we are delighted with our new additions to the VP family. We also welcomed our new Nursery children this September and they have settled in exceptionally well - we are so proud of how independent they are! Applications for next year's Nursery are now open – you can apply via the Denbighshire website. Our Nursery is extremely popular and

we recommend that families submit their applications on time to avoid disappointment. If you are interested in learning more about our excellent school, please come along to our Spring Stay and Play session which will be taking place on 29th January 2025.

Autumn Stay and Play session Thank you to all the St Asaph families who attended the September 'Stay and Play' session for children due to start Nursery in September 2025. It was lovely to meet the children and to see them making new friends. We look forward to the next 'Stay and Play' session on 29th January 2025-please see the poster for more information.

Fundraising for Macmillan Cancer charity We've also hosted the Macmillan cake morning for our children. Learners enjoyed cakes, drinks and delicious treats whilst raising money for Macmillan Cancer charity. Fundraising opportunities help our children to understand that there are ways that we can help others in need and we would like to thank our parents, carers and families for their generous cake donations.

Overall, another fantastic return to school for the VP children – da iawn pawb!



Ysgol Esgob Morgan

Jodie Martin

Croeso! We've loved welcoming our new Y3 children and their families to Ysgol Esgob Morgan, not only have we had new faces in Y3 but in Y4 too! As always the pupils have welcomed everyone and there is a lovely buzz around the school.

Technocamps! 2 days into term and we're already having coding workshops! Thanks to Alex from Technocamps, all year groups enjoyed coding Microbits.

William Morgan work: Year 4s ventured up to the cathedral this week where they took part in a workshop with Tim Pugh to celebrate the 420th anniversary of William Morgan's death. Thank you to the diocese for inviting us.

Make some noise! We were lucky enough to be one of very few schools in Denbighshire to have the Make Some Noise Show in this week. Pupils enjoyed listening to lots of different instruments whilst dancing and singing along.



Amazing News! : We were very proud to read over the summer that Oliver, Y5, had been announced as 2wish's first North Wales Young Ambassador! 2wish is a charity providing immediate and ongoing support to anyone affected by the sudden and unexpected loss of a child or young person. Oliver and his family have been supported by 2wish since 2021, and they have been the most wonderful volunteers in North Wales. Oliver is always eager to participate in any 2wish event, and he does so with a smile on his face. He has also walked Snowdon to fundraise for 2wish Cymru and has more recently held a bake sale, raising over £250. 2Wish is a charity close to our hearts here at Esgob Morgan and we're excited to see what ideas Oliver has for us as a school. We're so proud of you Oliver. Da iawn!

School Ambassadors: This week our school ambassador candidates from Y6 presented to their class on why they should vote for them to be our Esgob Morgan school representatives. Y6 voted and we're pleased to present our 2024 School Ambassadors; Rosie, Hannah, Will & Isaac. Longyfarchiadau!



ENGLISH AND MATHS TUITION

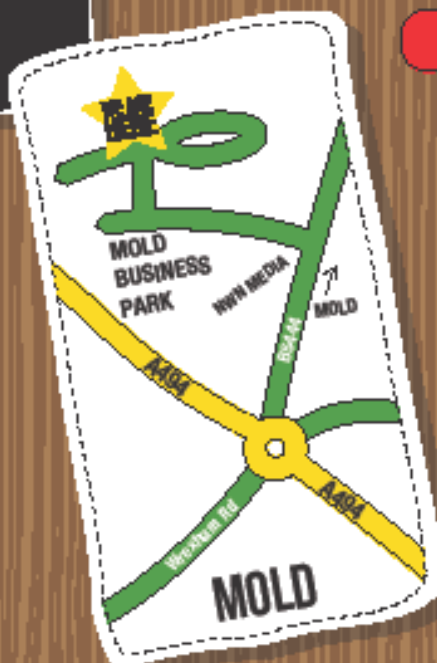
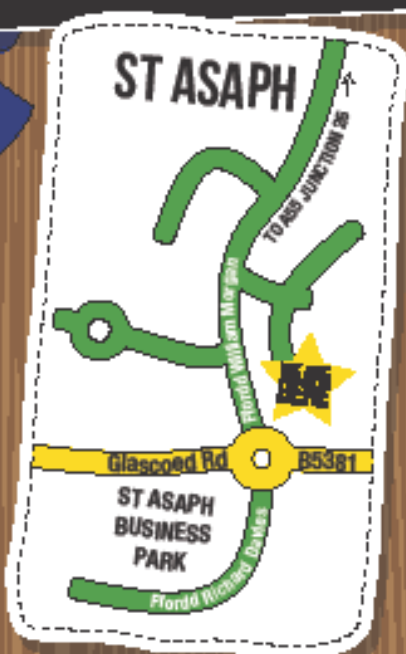
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Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog

Laura Martin

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

This term our whole school topic is 'Express Yourself!' with all classes working on different themes linked to the Expressive Arts. We can't wait to share all of our amazing work in dance, drama, music, art and film with you all.

We have plenty planned this term already including swimming lessons, a Macmillan coffee morning, a trip to the Jambori, our Harvest Service and the pantomime. It promises to be a jam packed term full of visitors, trips and plenty of fun – we can't wait!

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



Cylch Meithrin Tremeirchion

Yr Hen Ysgol, Tremeirchion, LL17 0UN



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Peter Donohoe – piano



16 OCTOBER / 16 HYDREF

Robert Cohen – cello

Dina Duisen – piano



30 OCTOBER / 30 HYDREF

Alicja Kjoder – piano

and Friends from the
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13 NOVEMBER / 13 TACHWEDD

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Harry Rylance – piano



27 NOVEMBER / 27 TACHWEDD

Mary Hofman – violin

Rebecca Knight – cello

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Ysgol Glan Clwyd Medi 2024

Meryl Pierce

Gair gan y Pennaeth Siân Alwen ar ddechrau blwyddyn Ysgol: “Braf yw cael edrych ymlaen at flwyddyn ysgol newydd bob mis Medi a chael agor y drysau i'n holl ddisgyblion. Cyn cau yn llwyr ar y flwyddyn sydd wedi bod rhaid yw dathlu llwyddiant ein myfyrwyr chweched dosbarth ar ol iddyn nhw dderbyn canlyniadau arbennig ym mis Awst. Dymunwn yn dda iddynt ar eu dewis llwybrau a phob llwyddiant yn y bennod newydd sydd o'u blaen. Yn naturiol, mae fy niolch yn sicr i'r myfyrwyr am eu cyfraniad i fywyd a chymuned Ysgol Glan Clwyd dros y saith mlynedd ddiwethaf ond hefyd gwn fod staff ymroddgar a gweithgar wedi sicrhau ffyniant pob un ohonynt ar y daith honno”.

“Pleser oedd gweld wynebau disgyblion blwyddyn 11 ar fore'r canlyniadau TGAU a does dim dwy waith roedd gweld y rhes o ddisgyblion a ddisgwyliai yn eiddgar i ymuno efo'n chweched dosbarth ym mis Medi yn fraint. Gyda hyder mae'r disgyblion hyn yn parhau gyda'u haddysg drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ac mae hyn yn galondid ac yn anrhydedd i ni gael eu gweld yn ffynnu ymhellach”.

“Cyffrous hefyd yw agor y drysau i ddisgyblion blwyddyn 7 ar eu hantur newydd nhw yn yr ysgol uwchradd gan gadarnhau y bydd cefnogaeth, gofal a phrofiadau arbennig yn eu haros. Yn llawn cyffro edrychwn ymlaen fel cymuned at weld beth a ddaw yn 2024-2025 gan obeithio rhannu tameidiau o'r bwrllwm a'n llwyddiannau ni fel ysgol gyda chi.”



Prif ddisgyblion

Prif ddisgyblion

Llongyfarchiadau calonnog i'r chwe disgybl gafodd eu hethol cyn yr haf gan eu cyd-ddisgyblion a staff yr ysgol i fod yn arweinyddion ac yn brif ddisgyblion ar gyfer y flwyddyn academiaidd nesaf. Y ddau brif ddisgybl yw Dion Jones ac Oliver Baines, a'r chwe dirprwy yw Jacob Mars Jones, Hana Davies, Lleucu Williams, Ana-Beth Chan Gizzi, Millie Cannon-Twyford a Reuben Brown. Pob dymuniad da ichi ar waith y flwyddyn.



Chweched a'r daith gerdded

Dychwelyd i'r Chweched

Ymfalchiwn fel ysgol yn y nifer uchel o ddisgyblion sydd wedi dewis dychwelyd i astudio Lefel A. Croeso arbennig i'r 96 ohonyn nhw! Cawson nhw dridau o anwytho ar ddechrau'r tymor gan fwynhau taith gerdded ym mro'r ysgol a phicnic ganol dydd.

Tîm Marchogaeth yn llwyddo. Llwyddodd tîm o ferched yr ysgol i ennill y trydydd safle mewn cystadleuaeth neidio ceffylau yn Southview Swydd Gaer. Llongyfarchiadau i Martha Williams a Freya



Tîm Marchogaeth

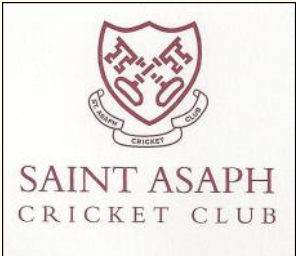
Evans bl12, ac Alaw Davies a Lena Pierce bl11 ar eu camp.

St Asaph Cricket Club—another great season!

SACC First XI took second place in the North Wales Premier League on their final match of the season, beating 5th placed Northop in some style. Batting first, SACC accumulated 230 runs with Nat Scott on 81, Duncan Midgely 49, Dan Evans 45 and Will Ryan 30 not out. Northop were then skittled out for 89, with William Norman taking 4/29, and Ryan Dunning 3/17. It's an extraordinary record for the team—in the last four years they have been North Wales champions twice and runners-up twice.

The Second XI finished in 4th place with a comfortable win over Carmel, who were all out for 89 in 27 overs; a total surpassed readily by St Asaph. With a good sprinkling of youngsters in the team, the future looks bright for next season and beyond. The women's teams (Llanelwy Saints and St Asaph Spinners) have had an impressive opening season, with Saints finishing 6th and Spinners 5th in the North Wales Women's Cricket west and east leagues respectively. From all accounts, the sheer enjoyment of the games has been a major feature! There have been 6 junior teams playing this season as well—with coaches drawn from among the senior players. The club has also hosted a number of county matches

It was a particularly memorable season for First XI captain Will Ryan, who in addition to his cricketing achievements, rounded off the season by marrying Ffion Roberts in the parish church. The Guard of Honour as they left the church was perhaps inevitably one of an arch of cricket bats raised by teammates in salute to the happy couple!





St Asaph City FC

John Roberts

A Saints free kick in the recent Cup game against Llangollen

After what appeared to have been a very short break since the end of the previous season the new season kicked off at the end of July. It got off to a positive start with the team winning their first home League fixture 1-0 against Llanefydd and following that with a goalless away draw at Pwllheli. There was also some early success in the first two preliminary rounds of the Welsh Cup which saw the team progress to the first round proper of the Welsh Cup after wins against Cefni Utd and Rhosyllen. Unfortunately a run of five defeats in the League led to the Club parting company with first team Manager Steve Gimble.

The Club have brought a familiar face back as first team Manager. Matty Roberts had led the team to the treble in season 2022-23 and promotion back to tier 3. When he left the Club in January 2024 to manage tier 2 side Prestatyn Town the team were in third place in the League. Matty had recently stepped down from his role at Prestatyn Town and welcomed the opportunity to take over at St Asaph. Hopefully our form will improve in the coming weeks and we'll start moving up the League again.

The Club took the decision at the end of season 2023-24 to amalgamate our Reserves and Under 19s team with the emphasis on younger players who would develop into potential first team players. They play in the FAW Reserve League



North East and are playing the reserves teams of Clubs in tiers 1, 2 and 3. They got off to an excellent start to the season winning their first three fixtures but have lost their last three against very strong tier 1 and 2 reserve teams.

Our Junior teams have started their League fixtures in the Rhyl & District Junior League and are looking forward to a successful season. Our Under 15s have progressed to the second round of the NWCFA Llandudno Kia U15s Cup with a home fixture against Segontium Rovers from Caernarfon after a 3-0 away win against Ogwen Tigers.



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