

'Snow' joke For Villagers as Winter Bites Back

THE wintry storm that dumped more than two foot of snow on Gwernymynydd and Cadole left many residents stranded.

However, community spirit saved the day with residents taking to their snow shovels and looking out for elderly neighbours and two brothers even digging out not one, but two, ambulances stuck in a snow drift.

Anita Thomas, licensee of the swan Inn, says Ben and Joe Robinson took to their shovels after an ambulance, called to a Hoel-Y-Wern woman with chest pains, got stuck in a drift.

She said: "Apparently the lady was OK after treatment at hospital but Ben and Joe had to dig out the ambulance and then a second one that got stuck after it was sent to help.

"It's typical of Ben and Joe that they would think of others and just goes to show the public spirit that exists in the village."

Cllr Nancy Mathews says she too was impressed by the way villagers responded to the weather crisis.

She said: "I arrived home from London on the Friday to find 2ft of snow blocking the drive. I had to climb over the garden wall desperately hoping no one was watching!

"Everyone has had similar problems and while the council and their contractors have done their best it is neighbours who have come up trumps.

"All over the village people have been out with their snow shovels clearing snow and helping people on their way. What a great village we live in!"



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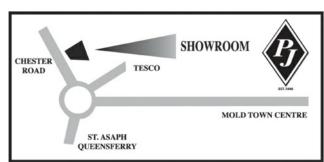
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Maureen Milvy, of Minfordd Fields also wants to highlight the public spiritedness of neighbours.

She said: "I've never seen snow like it and we would have really struggled to clear it and dig our way out. However, we didn't have to worry as a group of neighbours worked together clearing everyone's drives and pathways.

"They did a brilliant job and I like to publicly thank them, we rally appreciate their hard work."





SNOW SCENE: The snow caused major problems for residents of Blaen Wern.

She added: "I'd also like to thank Mike and Vicky White, our intrepid milk people. How they managed to continue delivering supplies I'll never know.

"They provide a wonderful service and kept us supplied through the worst of the snow."

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Out working together to clear the snow and ice from the junction of Uwch-Y-Dre and Hoel-Y-Wern are left Alex Griffith of Godre'r Coed and Nicholas Blandford of Godre'r Mynydd.

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Village's Reds Stroll Down Wembley Way!

WREXHAM became the first Welsh club to lift the FA Trophy with the Dragons roared to victory by a 35,000 plus Wembley crowd including a big Gwernymynydd contingent.

But just getting to Wembley proved no easy task for the more than a dozen villagers who made the trip to see their heroes beat Grimsby 4-1 in a penalty shoot-out following a 1-1 draw after extra-time.

The heavy and unexpected snowfall meant some supporters unsure whether they'd make their big day out.



And Maldwyn Evans, 82, (above) who has followed the Reds, home and away, for 69 years, had to be dug out of his snowbound Blaen Wern bungalow so he could make the 6am coach trip.

Maldwyn said: "My first Wrexham game was in 1944 when my dad took me to see them play Gateshead in the old Division 3 North. I've been going ever since.

"It was the first time they've ever got to Wembley so I was desperate to go but it was touch and go. Gary Williams dug me a path out and got me to the coach along with his daughter Nicole and her boyfriend.

"It was a bit cold but fantastic, especially to win the cup. We now just need to get back into the Football League where we belong."

Jonathon Layfield and son, Steven, Dave Griffiths, Vinny Jones, Dave Francis and son Paul, Brian Jones, Rick and Mary Davies and Mold and District Reds Supporter's Club Committee Member, Glyn Hayes, were just some of the villagers to enjoy a Wembley day out.

Glyn Hayes said: "We all had an absolutely brilliant day even with the early start and the snow. And if Wrexham don't get automatic promotion then we hope to be going back down Wembley Way for the play off final too!"

To find out more about Mold and District Reds visit www.moldreds.co.uk/

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GET COOKING WITH CAFFI FLORENCE CHEFS

We have just finished our 2012/13 cookery workshop programme with our Sous Chef Cathy leave amazing session on 'Adventurous Puddings'. This chocolate fondant was one of our favourites from this workshop. It's really not too difficult and is a big WOW!!

Chocolate fondants

50g melted butter, for brushing 200g butter, in small pieces 4 eggs and 4 yolks

cocoa powder, for dusting 200a golden caster sugar

200g plain flour

200g good-quality dark chocolate, chopped into small pieces

Heat oven to 200C/fan 180C/gas 6. Brush the melted butter all over the inside of the pudding mould. Place the mould in the fridge or freezer. Brush more melted butter over the chilled butter and add a good spoonful of cocoa powder into the mould. Tip the mould so the powder completely coats the butter. Shake out any excess cocoa

Place a bowl over a pan of barely simmering water, then slowly melt the chocolate and butter together. Remove bowl from the heat and stir until smooth. Leave to cool for about 10 mins.

In a separate bowl whisk the eggs and yolks together with the sugar until thick and pale and the whisk leaves a trail.

Sift the flour into the eggs and beat together.

Pour the melted chocolate into the egg mixture in thirds, beating well between each addition until all the chocolate is added.

Tip the fondant batter into a jug, then evenly divide between the moulds.

Place the fondants on a baking tray. Cook for 10-12 mins until the tops have formed a crust and they are starting to come away from the sides of the moulds.

Remove from the oven and leave to sit for 1 min before turning out.

Loosen the fondants by moving the tops very gently so they come away from the sides, easing them out of the moulds.

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A Word Or Two From Nancy

After waiting for more than two years we finally have double yellow lines on the A494 at Loggerheads accompanied by signs explaining the new parking restrictions.

Unfortunately, snow obscured the lines and once again we had indiscriminate parking opposite the Pioneer Stores with children leaping out of cars on the traffic side of vehicles - what a nightmare!

Lets hope that when the weather returns to normal these parking restrictions will be enforced by Denbighshire's officers.



GLASTIR has replaced the existing agri-environment schemes.

The new scheme aims to combat climate change, improve water management and maintain and enhance bio-diversity.

It is a whole farm land management scheme lasting for five years and encompasses woodlands, common land, hedgerow and crop management under careful supervision of the Government.

There will be improvements to a range of habitats, species, soils and water and the scheme may require changes to current agricultural practices.

I am pleased that Farmer, Eifion Jones, of Glyndwr Road, has been accepted on this scheme and he is looking forward to seeing his land improved.

.....

The Annual General Meeting of the Village Centre takes place on Tuesday April 20th. We have made some excellent progress over the last 12 months in developing the facilities and making the most of this valuable community asset. Please try to attend to offer your support to the hard working volunteers on the committee and hear our plans for the future - tea and biscuits afterwards.



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Red Nose Day Fun

CHILDREN at the village school dressed in red, donned red noses and had a cake sale to raise a bucket full of cash for Red Nose Day.

Here, #doing something funny for money, are pupils, Ryan, Ivy, Luke, Jenny, Josh and Lily.



Plans for Rainbow Inn Remain a Mystery

The current tenants of the Rainbow Inn are set to leave the village pub in the middle of the month and the future of the once thriving landmark watering hole is in serious doubt.

Barry and Linda Donaldson only took over the reins at the Rainbow in October last year but were left devastated after Punch Taverns informed them the building had been sold and they would have to leave.

Now Former taxi driver Barry and professional chef Linda are set to leave the village they wanted to make their home.

Barry said: "We have been left with no choice. Punch won't tell us what the plans are for the building claiming they can't break a confidentiality agreement.

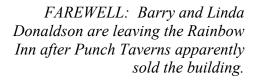
"It's a huge shame as we have seen both the food and wet side of the business increase month on month and I have no doubt the Rainbow could be a thriving pub the village could be proud of.

"Punch offered us the chance to apply for three pubs but there was no guarantees we'd be accepted. So we applied to Marston's and after three interviews we have been accepted and we take over the Miner's Arms at Meliden later this month."

He added: "We are so sorry to be leaving Gwernymynydd as the people here are lovely and we have been made very welcome. We have had a party to thank our many regulars.

"It's such a huge shame as I we have absolutely no doubt just what the Rainbow could be. It was once so busy and a very profitable business and with the increase we have seen in trade since October there's no doubt it could be a thriving business for many years to come."

For more on this story see MP David Hanson's report on Page 10.





Literary Characters Invade Village School!

HARRY Potter, Tin Tin and Alice in Wonderland all sat quietly in Gwernymynydd Primary School's morning assembly - although true to character Horrid Henry simply wouldn't behave.

Staff and pupils of the village school dressed up as characters from their favourite books to celebrate World Book Day.

Head teacher, Louise Williams, who spent the day dressed as the fairy Tinker Bell from J M Barrie's Peter Pan, says World Book Day is an opportunity to promote and celebrate reading.

She said: "We enjoyed getting dressed up as a character from a favourite reading book. We want to inspire children to read and enjoy books.

"We also organised a whole day of activities based around the story of Little Red Riding Hood, with the children from Nursery up to Year 6 taking part,

listening to the story, re-writing their own versions, acting out their own short plays and creating some super art work."

READING STAR: (above) Alicia, five, dressed as the main character from Alice in Wonderland to celebrate World Book Day.

HOGWARTS: (right) Molly, 10, dressed as Harry Potter character, Hermione Granger, helps twins Ben and Ross, seven, dressed as young Harry's, read a story about their hero.





Step Out For Breast Cancer.

FLINTSHIRE Breakthrough Breast cancer Group is inviting walkers to join them in raising funds through a sponsored walk on Saturday, April 20th.

The event offers an easy 2.5 mile walk or a more strenuous 4.5 mile hike taking in the Jubilee Tower at the summit of Moel Famau.

Gwen Kime, of Uwch-Y-Dre, is one of the small group of volunteers raising funds for the group.

She said: "The Flintshire Breakthrough Breast Cancer Group started up in 1995 and to date have raised in excess of £78,000. Our aim is to raise a minimum of £1,000 per year for this worthy cause.

"Our main fundraiser this year is the charity walk but we also do collections in local shops, hold afternoon teas, sell quiz sheets and so forth...

"The Moel Famau walk started in 2008 in memory of Doreen Toogood who both lived on and loved Moel

Famau, she was one of the Groups original members and a very loyal supporter right up to the end of her life.

"The walk has proved so popular it's become an annual event held early in the year in line with the National "Step out for Breakthrough" walks. The walks have so far raised £6,331 - a tremendous figure thanks to our wonderful loyal supporters and friends.

We are a small group and would welcome anyone wishing to join us."

Walkers need to be at Moel Famau's lower car park by 9.30am for a 10am start on Saturday, April 20th. For further information contact Elizabeth on (01244) 341382 or Gwen on (01352) 753 807."



Moel Famau Photo Jan Wynn Jones

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Cast Changes For Pantomime Group.

THE secretary and treasurer of Gwernymynydd pantomime Group are stepping down after three years and three successful productions.

Treasurer Bev Alexander and secretary, Elwyn Owens, says they have enjoyed the time helping the group but feel they should now hand over to younger people to take on the challenge.



The new secretary is Bethan Williams while Donna Worthington will be taking over as treasurer, although Bev has promised to lend a hand until Donna learns the ropes. Bethan has been on the committee since the pantomime started in 2010 and in February of this year she was in the cast of Aladdin.

Chair of the committee, Karen Jones (above), said: "We have enjoyed working with Bev and Elwyn very much and they will both be missed. But it's great that Bethan is the new secretary and Donna has agreed to become treasurer which is no easy task. We are all look forward to working with them both."



Get Rocking At Swan Inn's Fundraising Night!

LOCAL band No Stamp Required are appearing at the Swan on Saturday, April 27th in a fundraising gig in aid of the Gwernfest 2014.

The aim is to raise enough cash to put on a musical event to showcase local talent on a, hopefully, warm sunny day on a date to be confirmed next year.

Neil Worthington, of No Stamp Required, who lives in Blaen Wern, said: "We did a gig at The Swan last year and it really went with a swing. It was brilliant. For Gwernfest 2014 We need to raise £2,000 to hire staging, a PA system and to put in place the necessary arrangements to have the event properly and safely organised."

Tickets for the Swan Inn April 27th event are just £5 and are available from the Swan.



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Weather Wipes Out Sporting Events

GWERNYMYNYDD Swan's fixtures have all been postponed for the last month other than a 4-1 league win against Red Lion Holywell.

A hat-trick of goals from Terry Pughe and a single strike from Matty Hughes saw off the Holywell side in what was a dominant performance in a match played in atrocious weather conditions.

The village side are hoping their cup semi-final game which is scheduled for Sunday, April 7th and on the village pitch gets then go ahead although that will depend on the snow having melted.

Summer Fayrefor Christmas

THE Village Lunch Club is organising a Summer Fayre on Saturday, June 8.

It will be held in Gwernymynydd Village Centre and, weather permitting, the adjoining playing field.

There will be displays by local businesses, games, homemade cakes and items made by Club members for sale.

Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be available all day and the intention is to make it a fun day out for the whole family.

In addition to the Summer Fayre the Club is raising funds by publishing a Cook Book with recipes from Club Members, local businesses and celebrities. It should be available for sale at the end of August and anyone wishing to contribute a recipe should contact Shirley Hughes.

Further details about the Summer Fayre and the Cook Book will be published in next month's newsletter.

For further information contact Elwyn Owens 755157 or e-mail elwynowens@bwthyngwyn.com.



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6pm to 9pm

Saturday: noon to 3pm and 6pm to 9pm Sunday: 12 noon to 4pm

Our Man In Westminster Reports

I know a number of people in Gwernymynydd are concerned about the sale of the Rainbow Inn in by Punch Taverns.

Local pubs are vital hubs for our community and important local businesses but unfortunately many are under threat.

In fact the number of weekly pub closures across the country has recently risen to 18.

I was, therefore, particularly disappointed to learn about the sale of the Rainbow Inn and I share people's concerns that, if the pub has been sold with redevelopment in mind, it may be demolished.



I've been in touch with Punch Taverns to understand what their plans are for the pub and to get some reassurance about the buildings future.

I'm still awaiting their response but I will keep fighting for a future for this important building and seeking listed building status could be one possible option.

.....

I also know a number of residents have been increasingly concerned about the potential for a serious incident occurring on the A494.

I know yellow lines have now been introduced near to Loggerheads Country Park and I hope this will help solve some of the problems residents have been experiencing but I will continue to monitor the situation.

.....

Please feel free to come to my next surgery which is on Friday, April 26th at Gwernymynydd Village Hall between 5-6pm.

Gwernymynydd Village Centre

Notice of Annual General Meeting

To be held on Tuesday April 30th 2013 in the main hall 7.30pm

Meeting includes the election of up to 6 residents to the Village Centre Management Committee. Anyone wishing to stand for election should submit their name to the Secretary before the start of the meeting. John Seddon, Tyn y wern, Heol y wern CH7 4AH email village.centre@gwernymynydd.org.uk

All residents of Gwernymynydd and Cadole are very welcome to attend. Presentations also from Gwernfest and other village groups.