Gwernymynydd & Cadole

Newyddion y pentrefi / Village News

Chwefror/ February 2014

JACK'S ON HIS WAY SEE PAGE 6

Quarry Plans Approved

FLINTSHIRE County Council's Planning Committee has approved plans to fill in Cambrian Quarry.

The committee met on Wednesday, January 15th and agreed by 12 votes to 8 to give ASH Waste Management's plans the green light.

The Community Council, along with numerous residents, fought a vigorous campaign against the plans but have had to concede defeat

Former Community Council chair, Chris Bradshaw, made an impassioned plea to the committee in the Council chambers to think about the dangers of up to 60 HGV movements per day emerging from, and entering, Glyndwr Road onto the main Ruthin Road.

Community Councillor Kevin Hughes also highlighted the dangers of an increasingly busy A494 and pointed out the number of traffic collisions witnessed on that stretch of the village road in recent months.

County Councillor Nancy Mathews gave a speech in which she detailed a number of points concerning both her, and the Community Council, over fears for the environment should the plans be approved.

However, the committee, who carried out a site visit and were met by more than 40 angry and concerned villagers just a few days prior to the committee hearing, decided they should allow the plans to go ahead.

Kevin Hughes reflected on the outcome and said "We were all impressed by the number of villagers who turned out for the site visit and who went along to Planning Committee. We can take pride in the effort put in by everyone opposed to these plans.

"The job is now different and we have to change our outlook. We must now work with ASH and forge a relationship that ensures our concerns are addressed and their business runs smoothly while having as little impact on village life as possible."



PROTEST: Villagers turned out in force to greet the Planning Committee when they came to Cambrian Quarry on a site visit. Front is Cllr Nancy Mathews and resident Chris Bradshaw.

See Pages 2-3 for more on this story

A Word Or Two from Nancy

THE saga of the plans to restore Cambrian Quarry began over two years ago and during that time the Community Council and residents have had the opportunity to make their feelings known.

The first step was a 'Scoping Opinion' which was a request from the applicant in the form of a comprehensive document to see if there was a possibility of filling the quarry with inert material in order to restore it. We had the chance to comment at this stage and we did.



The Local Authority agreed to allow a planning application.

In May 2013 we held a public meeting in the Village Centre and two officers from the Minerals and Waste Planning Department. North Wales attended to listen to the points we made during what was an excellent and constructive meeting.



The officers went away having listened to the points raised and noting the comments from our letters of objection. They then went back to the applicants.

As a result, the applicants submitted alterations to their application which resulted in a second period of consultation with the Community Council and residents making further comments.

During January the Planning Committee came to Gwernymynydd for a site visit.

SITE VISIT: Cllr Nancy Mathews explains the planning process to villagers, from left, Alison Weston, Helen Roberts and Paula Morgan-Bursey



They inspected the concerns about the highway and then walked up to the quarry for a conducted tour. Village support at this visit was impressive and included two lorries meeting at the A494 junction to demonstrate our concerns over traffic.

The Planning Committee meeting followed on Wednesday, January 15th and I'm afraid we lost. The vote was 12 - 8 in favour of approval and therefore the infilling of the quarry will go ahead.

The next step is for the Council to draw up the conditions under which work will be allowed. The applicant has to obtain a series of permits and licences and also to submit detailed plans TRAFFIC CONCERNS: Resident Gwilym regarding a new internal road and the junctions with Glyndwr Road and the A494. They have six months to complete this.



Williams gets his point about traffic across to Cllr Nancy Mathews.

The important thing for the village now is the setting up of a liaison committee and making sure, for work in the quarry, the conditions are stringent and adequately policed.

Plans have now been drawn up by Flintshire County Council for improvements to the Village Centre.

A new front door and entrance ramp is to be constructed and some of the interior doorways and the disabled toilet are to be widened to improve access.

The Village Centre Management Committee have put a copy of the plan on the noticeboard in the Village Centre.



It is also available on www.gwernymynydd.org.uk.



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Siglen Uchaf Planning Hearing To Start All Over Again

THE planning hearing set up to discuss plans for 18 new dwelling houses on the Siglen Uchaf site will have to be re-run.

The original hearing was held in the Village Centre on October 29th last year and the Community Council has been waiting to hear the Planning Inspector's decision.

However, councillors learned at the end of January that the inspector had been taken gravely ill with a long-term illness before he could finish this piece of work. As a result the Planning Inspectorate has decided the best way forward is to reopen the Hearing on the 4th, 5th and 6th March, again in the Village Centre

The public will be welcome, as before, and any comments will be at the discretion of the Inspector. The Community Council is again objecting to the plans and intend to brings those objections to the planning inspector. See next month's newsletter for more on this story.

Festival Cancelled

PLANS for a festival to showcase local musicians and performers has been cancelled.

Gwernfest was due to be staged this June after almost three years of hard work and planning. However, organisers have had to take the tough decision to cancel the festival.

Spokesman Neil Worthington said: "The Gwernfest 2014 Group have been working hard towards the staging of the Gwernfest Music Festival in June. Unforeseen commitments have arisen that have affected the capacity of group members to continue with the organisation of what was shaping up to be a really great celebration of local musical talent.

"In the circumstances the group has made, what it feels is, the correct decision to cancel the event. The group would like to extend thanks for all those who have supported the idea. The money raised will be returned to sponsors in accordance with the group's wishes."





Villagers Enjoy a Festive Lift

STAFF of a Flintshire firm spread lots of Christmas cheer with an afternoon festive tea party for village pensioners.

Flint-based Global Lift Equipment took over the Village Centre for an afternoon and served up tea, sandwiches, cakes and of course a mountain of mince pies.

And the hard-working staff were joined by village volunteers who lent a hand preparing sandwiches and cakes as well as entertaining the 40 pensioners who braved gales and driving rain to attend the event.

Gwernymynydd's Helen Roberts, MD of the Flint-based company which employs 16 people, says the festive event was well worth organising.

She said: "The company foot the bill for everything including a present for everyone who attended. We had a chat with staff and decided we wanted to do something that would benefit the community.

"We had so much help, in particular from Anita Thomas, of the Swan, Silvia Vaughn and Dianne Jackson who helped make endless sandwiches and still found time to serve people."

CRACKER TIME: From left, Elena Simon, 10, a pupil of St Mary's School, Flint and Charlotte Roberts, 12, a pupil of St Richard Gwyn, Flint, serve up some festive fun to Patricia Edwards of Gwernymynydd.

CHRISTMAS CAKE: Helen Roberts, MD of Global Lift Equipment.

VOLUNTEERS: Dianne Jackson, Anita Thomas and Sylvia Vaughn, all of Gwernymynydd, made festive cakes and sandwiches.

Jack Ready To Thrill Panto Audience

FEE-FI-FO-FUM the Village Centre is set to be turned into a magic land in the sky as the village pantomime group rehearses their latest extravaganza.

This year's performance of Jack and the Beanstalk is the fourth show Gwernymynydd Pantomine Group will have performed since it was formed in 2009. Karen Jones, chair of the group, says this year's show, stars 12 village youngsters and 7 adults. She said: "As in previous years the community has come together and we are putting on a wonderful show.

"It isn't just about those on stage it's about all the other roles too such as costume designers, hair and make-up artists, sound and lighting technicians and we even bring in chaperones to ensure the children are looked after.

"Sian Williams is directing her first pantomime and is doing a great job, the youngsters have really responded to her. It's a wonderful family show and I'm sure everyone will really enjoy what is a fun packed pantomime."

Gwernymynydd Pantomime Group will perform Jack and the Beanstalk at the Village Centre on February 27th, 28th at 7.30 and March 1st at 2.00 and 7.30. Tickets are £5, no concessions, and are available from Karen Jones on (01352) 756954, The Swan Inn or Gwernymynydd School.

ONE DIRECTION: From left, director Sian Williams and technical director Barrie Matkin give actors, Jayne Borthwick, who plays Jack, Justin Mulleuish, who plays Black Head, Jane Homersley, who plays Side Kick and Jessica Wynne-Jones, who plays Ruby, some direction.



YOUNG STARS: Gwernymynydd young actors, back from left, Amba Rowley, Rowan Mason, Hanna Mason, Molly Wynne, Gabby Godwin, and front, Lola Roberts, Kendal Thomas and Ebony Rowley, who all have star roles in Jack and the Beanstalk.

TALK THROUGH: Director Sian Williams gives, from left, Lola Roberts, who plays Verity the milk maid, Rowan Mason, who plays Side Kick 2 and Kendal Thomas, who plays Mini Fairy, some script guidance.



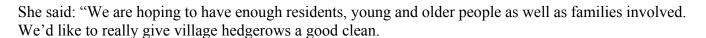
PERFORMERS: The cast of Gwernymynydd Pantomime Group's Jack and the Beanstalk show.

Village Set For Spring Clean

THE leafy lanes and quiet back roads around Gwernymnydd and Cadole are set to look spic and span before Easter thanks to a Community Council initiative.

Thursday, April 17th, the day before Good Friday, will see villagers taking to the lanes for a Spring Clean when plastic and glass bottles, tins and general rubbish will be collected from hedgerows.

The chair of the Community Council, Marjorie Thomson, says the idea is to get as many people as possible involved in what's a great community project.



"Cllr Nancy Mathews is approaching the county council to obtain fluorescent jackets and all the tools needed. And everything collected will be re-cycled.

"We are asking outside bodies and local firms for sponsorship and hopefully we will be able to present Easter eggs and possibly hold a party at the end of the event for everyone who attends."

Look out for more details in next month's newsletter or e-mail kevinhughes 348@live.com to volunteer or for further information.

The Gwernymynydd and Cadole newsletter is produced at the start of every month except for August and January. It is distributed to all houses along with local pubs and shops. To advertise please email villagecentre@gwernymynydd.org.uk

Village Lunch Club's Date For Festive Fun

THERE was plenty of Christmas cheer on offer at a lunch club celebration.

Gwernymynydd Village Lunch Club, which was formed almost two years ago, arranged the special lunch at the Plas Hafod Hotel which was attended by more than 60 residents, many of them pensioners.

And everyone took home a personal home-made Christmas cake courtesy of committee member and organiser, Shirley Hughes.

Shirley said: "The Village Lunch Club is going from strength to strength and we were thrilled so many attended what was a wonderful lunch."

"Plas Hafod proprietor Simon Buckley and general manager, Peter Snowden, provided a fantastic meal at a discounted price. The Plas Hafod, is one of our regular Lunch Club venues, along with Caffi Florence and The Druids at Llanferres.

"The idea of the Village Lunch Club is to offer a two course meal with tea and coffee for just £7. It gives many older people the chance to get out and enjoy good food while meeting old, and new, friends for a good chat."

"We'd love to welcome new members. For more information contact any member of the committee."

For more information contact Shirley Hughes (755243) Len Phillips (750311) Steve Glass (752449) June Perrin (219371) Jean Caddick (756654) or Elwyn Owen (755157). (All 01352 STD code.)



GIFTS: With their individual Christmas cake gifts are, from left, Ann Lamont, 90, of Gwernymynydd, Gwen Rogers, 93, of Llanferres, and Beryl Hughes, 85, of Maeshafn.



CHEERS: The Gwernymynydd Village Lunch Club organising committee, from left, Steve Glass, Jean Caddick, Len Phillips, June Perrin, Elwyn Owen, Shirley Hughes, and Karen Jones.

RECIPE

We haven't been able to include the Caffi Florence monthly recipe this month as we understand Jane has retired form the business.

We are endeavouring to sort out a recipe with the new owners. We would also consider publishing a monthly village resident's recipe. E-mail the recipe for your favourite dish, including list of ingredients, weights ect to kevinhughes348@live.com

Residents Demand Action Over Road Safety Fears

A COUPLE have challenged officials to spend an hour in a car outside their home - but say they would be so terrified they wouldn't last five minutes.

Jim and Carol Bond of Meas-y-Wern, recently had their car written off after it was struck from behind by a car travelling down the hill towards Mold.

Carol was about to get into their Suzuki SX4 vehicle and had her hand on the door handle, when the collision occurred sending the car shooting forward into railings.

Jim and Carol say the collision is the final straw and now TRAFFIC FEARS: Jim and Carol Bond outside want action before someone is killed. Jim said: "It's intolerable. We have press cutting going back to the 70's about accidents and our fight to get something done. Lorries

their home.

are one of the biggest problems with speed a big issue. Many people living in Maes-y-Wern use the disabled ramp outside our home to cross as do mums with pushchairs. We have to park outside to get shopping in but no one parks on the main road for long."

Carol said: "Our car was written off and no doubt we will lose out financially We pointed out all these problems before they built Minfordd Fields but no one listened. It really is only a matter of time before someone is killed."

County Councillor Nancy Matthews has met with Trunk Road Agency officials about the situation. She said: "They have listened and have gone away to decide what to do. They have suggested a reduction in the speed limit to 30mph might be one thing they could do. They have installed traffic measuring equipment to see just what the volume of traffic is. I totally agree with Jim and Carol, something needs to be done and soon. The situation for Maes-y-Wern residents is unacceptable. I have also contacted the police and relevant authorities asking for a speed camera and other enforcement activity but it seems my requests fall on deaf ears."



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In Brief

THANK YOU: Mrs Lavinia Smith, Blaen Wern wishes to thank all friends and neighbours for their cards and kind wishes over the festive season and wishes then all a happy new year.

FOUND Outside Tyn y Wern, Heol y Wern, a man's green beret made in Argentina. Contact Vicki Seddon 757600.

VILLAGE CENTRE: Cllr Shirley Hughes and Mr Alf Hollins have joined the Village Centre Management Committee.

THE VILLAGE BUS STOP close to the Swan Inn has received some TLC thanks to community councillor Carl Jackson. Windows have been fitted so people waiting for a bus can sit down on the bench, which was installed last year, and still see when a bus is approaching.

WARNING: Residents are being asked to be vigilant after a spate of burglaries and thefts in surrounding villages. A number of Maeshafn properties have been broken into and quad bikes stolen. And Nercwys has also seen a similar spate of shed break-ins. Keep doors locked and secure and report any suspicious behaviour.

REQUESTS for cash grants are invited from village organisations only and must be received by March 14th. Make any request in writing to: The Villate Trust Fund, c/o Mr Martin Richardson, 2 Church Hall, Northop Hall, CH7 6HY or John Milton Jones, Manderley, Ruthin Road, Mold. CH7 5LG.

PARKING on the grass verge in Cadole continues to cause problems despite the parking restrictions and newly erected signs. On January 19th no fewer than 32 cars were found to be parked on the grass verge all the way down to Loggerheads. Police have now said they will be issuing fixed penalty tickets to offenders.

POST BOX Royal Mail have apologised for the delay in replacing the ornate post box that was stolen from Cadole. They have promised a new post box which they say will be installed within six weeks.

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Our Man in Westminster

Quarry Traffic

I was disappointed to see the outcome of the decision on the planning application for Cambrian quarry.

I wrote to give my view which focused particularly on the traffic implications of any agreed approval. Traffic concerns on the main road through the village have been a real issue for local people and it seems a difficult decision to add to it through this proposal. It can only mean more heavy lorries on, what is an already busy road. I know concerns still exist and I'm happy to hear of any issues.



David Hanson MP.

Gwernymynydd Community Plan

I know how much effort local people put into the community plan and how many good ideas to improve the village were in the document. I've had a further brief discussion about the plan at my recent surgery in the village and I hope it can be a useful document for Flintshire County Council to judge the development of Gwernymynydd over the next few years

Pantomime

One of the true highlights of my time as your MP is getting a name check in the village panto a couple of years ago – who knows it may happen again! Good luck to all those who are, as we speak, preparing for Jack and the Beanstalk which will be performed later this month. It will be, as usual, a great effort and no doubt will be a sell out. Well done to all for this now annual event. It's wonderful to see young and more senior people working together.

Surgery

I've just had a surgery in the village but, as ever, I normally have one every week somewhere – contact my office on 01352 763159 for the list.

As this is the first newsletter of the new year I'd like to wish everyone all the best for 2014.

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David Hanson MP.

Charity Challenge For Michelle

VILLAGE resident Michelle Williams is gearing up to represent Gwernymynydd in the national finals of the Crown & Glory Beauty Pageant next month.

Michelle entered as a way of raising funds for the Dean Pulpett Appeal.



And, her fundraising for the appeal doesn't end there as, despite being scared of heights, she has agreed to tackle the longest and fastest zip wire in Europe, Snowdonia's Zipworld which is 500ft high and will see her travelling at 100mph.



Swans Grounded By Deluge

GWERNYMYNYDD Swan footballers have been left kicking their heels thanks to waterlogged pitches.

The Deeside Sunday League side haven't managed a game since the end of November due to sodden, waterlogged pitches.

Manager Glyn Jelley says it has been a frustrating season which shows no signs of improving.

He said: "Flooding of pitches has meant all games, both home and away, have been cancelled. It's been the worst I can remember since the club formed six years ago.

"I checked our pitch at the weekend and seagulls were swimming on it!"

He added: "When we do manage to get playing again, and with the forecast as it is I've no idea when that will be, we need one point from our remaining two games in the group phase of the 'champions league' style cup to win our group and move through to the knock-out stage.

"And we are hoping to finish the season strongly, the title looks beyond our grasp but we are hoping for 2nd and to try and push for silverware in the cup competitions."

Are You A Sporting Star?

DO you play sport regularly and have you a story to tell?

Perhaps you have won a golf competition or been picked for a county rugby or netball team. If so, why not get in touch with Kevin Hughes at kevinhughes 348@live.com and we can feature your sporting success in the village newsletter and on the village website.





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More details phone 752537

The editor of Gwernymynydd and Cadole News, Kevin Hughes, can be contacted at kevinhughes348@live.com