

Gwernymynydd & Cadole

Newyddion y Pentrefi - Community News - March/April 2015

School Pupils Dressed To Impress

ST DAVID'S Day celebrations came two days early for children of the village school.

Special Day

With the special day falling on a Sunday this year pupils dressed up in national costume and invited parents and grandparents into school for morning tea and specially baked Welsh cakes.

Head teacher Louise Williams says she was delighted with the support shown by parents and grandparents who were treated to performances of Welsh songs and traditional dances by pupils.

Wonderful Morning

Mrs Williams said: "It has been a wonderful morning and the children really enjoyed putting on a show. We are always grateful for the support we receive from parents and families.

"We hold the event just after 9am as we know many parents have to work and it's not always possible to get here. However, by holding our St David's Day event early many parents manage to get here before going onto work."

Worked Hard

She added: "Our pupils have worked hard perfecting their traditional folk dancing and making sure their songs, which they sang beautifully in Welsh, were word perfect."



SPECIAL DAY: Gwernymynydd Primary School children dressed in traditional Welsh costumes to celebrate St David's Day



Year 1 pupils from left, Mari Sampson-Shaw, Max Williams and Eleri Thomas celebrate St David's Day.

Newsletter Gets Makeover

WELCOME to the new look Gwernymynydd and Cadole Village news.

The Community Council and Village Centre Management Committee believe the newsletter is an important village asset and over the years the newsletter has evolved as we tried to improve content and make it essential reading for the whole community.

If you have any ideas on how the newsletter can be further improved then contact the editor, Kevin Hughes, via e-mail or telephone.

It's your newsletter so let the editor know your news and views and lets produce a newsletter we

can all be proud of.

We'd also love to include some Welsh language content so again, if you can help, you know what to do.

And if you have a business or work for a company that might benefit from advertising in the newsletter just get in touch.

Copies of any photographs can be purchased for £2.50 by contacting the editor Kevin Hughes at:

kevinhughes348@live.com

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Step Out For Breast Cancer

FLINTSHIRE Breakthrough Breast Cancer Group is organising their annual sponsored walk.

The walk is once again being led by Troedio Clwyd Walks and will get under-way from Moel Famau Country Park's lower car park at 10am on Saturday, April 25th.

Gwen Kime, who lives in the village, is one of the organisers and says, as usual, there will be a choice of two walks.

Gentle Walk

She said: "There will be a short 2.5 mile gentle walk and a more strenuous 4.5 mile one which will take in the Jubilee Tower on the summit of Moel Famau and takes around three hours to complete.

"We can accept donations on the day of £5 for those wanting to take part or sponsorship forms are available on request.

Worthy Cause

"If you would like to support this worthy cause, please meet at the Lower Car Park at 9.30am for registration and ready for a prompt 10am start. Please remember there is a £2 fee to open the car park barrier to park."

For further information or to request a sponsor form ring (01352) 753807 or (01244) 341382.

New Planning Application

COMMUNITY councillors have received a new planning application for 10 new houses on Siglen Ucha.

The application is different from the one which would have included the building of a huge retaining wall which the planning inspector rejected on appeal.

It is early days in the planning process and community councillors and county councillor Nancy Matthews will be examining the application carefully.

However, the application has only just been submitted and nothing has yet been agreed.

Pooch Problems Persist

DOG fouling remains a massive issue within the village. Recently a child in the nursery class at the village school got out of her mum's car outside school and stepped into a pile of dog excrement.

This is an issue the community council receives the most complaints about and offenders are being targeted.

There is a statutory fine should anyone be caught not cleaning up after their pets and some offenders, from the village, already have a hole in the bank balances as a result.

Please be considerate and clean up after your pets and that includes lanes around the village not just estate roads

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Top Guitarist Parachutes In With Auction Lot Gift

A TOP rock guitarist has backed a fundraising night in support of the North Wales Emergency Doctor Service (NWEDS) by donating an incredible must-have piece of music memorabilia as an auction lot.

Coldplay

The parents of Coldplay guitarist Jonny Buckland, who live in Pantymwyn, have, on behalf of their son, donated a framed disc that was presented to him to celebrate a million sales of the band's debut album, Parachutes, in 2001.

The charity event, which will be held at the Plas Hafod Hotel, Gwernymynydd on Friday, May 22, is being organised by Jaqueline Jepson whose daughter, Sarah, who was 16, passed away following a November 2013 car crash.

Last year Jacqui, who lives in Cadole, along with Sarah's friends raised more than £7,500 for NWEDS through an auction of promises and a sponsored fancy dress walk to the summit of Moel Famau.

Generous Gesture

Jacqui says she is absolutely thrilled to accept what she describes as an incredibly generous gesture which



Jonny Buckland of Coldplay

was made after Jonny Buckland's mum and dad saw an appeal for auction lots in a local newspaper.

She said: "We are hoping to raise even more in May than we did last year. Tickets, which are £15, will be on sale shortly. The evening will include a buffet, live music and of course the auction of promises.

Incredible Charity

"NWEDS is an incredible charity that needs as much support as possible if they are to continue helping to save lives. We already have some great auction lots including weekend breaks and even guys putting

themselves up as work slaves for a day.

"If any business or individual can help by donating further items or lots for the auction of promises we would be delighted to hear from them."

Launched in July 2010 by Mr Aruni Sen FRCS FCEM, a Wrexham Maelor Hospital emergency medical consultant and Anglesey GP Doctor Mike Bloom NWEDS began working in conjunction with the Welsh Ambulance Service with volunteer doctors alerted to major incidents as and when they occurred.

Mr Sen says setting up the charity fulfilled a long-term aspiration of his and initially the charity had four volunteer doctors.

He said: "Paramedics are highly trained but they are not doctors and there are some procedures, such as putting a chest drain in a patient for example, that they simply are not qualified to do.

Huge Difference

"So having a doctor able to turn out to an accident scene and work with paramedics can make a huge difference. It means we can save more lives, lives that may be lost if patients have to wait until they arrive at hospital and a doctor can intervene."

Incredibly Brave

He said: "Mrs Jepson is incredibly brave and has been enormously dedicated, while coming to terms with her loss, when it comes to fundraising for NWEDS. The money raised last year meant we could buy and equip even more medical bags so additional doctors could be signed up to the scheme."

Anyone who would like to offer an auction lot or would like further information about the auction of promises event can e-mail kevinhughes348@live.com



Mr Aruni Sen FRCS FCEM, a Wrexham Maelor Hospital emergency medical consultant.

Book Characters Fun Day



Head teacher Louise Williams and her Year 5 and Year 6, pupils on World Book Day.



Back from left, Matthew Ross, aka Willy Wonka, Benjamin Ross, aka Charlie Bucket, Alfie Oliver, aka Wally, front from left, Sophie Lloyd, aka Matilda, Zoe Percival, aka Little Red Riding Hood and teacher Daffyd Johnson enjoy World Book Day at Gwernymynydd Primary School.

CINDERELLA, Batman and quite a few Elsa's from Disney's Frozen were all on show at Gwernymynydd Primary School for World Book Day.

Children and staff dressed up as characters from their favourite books for the special day with head teacher Louise Williams looking menacing as the witch from her favourite book, Room on the Broom, while deputy head Dafydd Johnson impressed pupils by donning his

“Reading is such an important skill and we are delighted at the standards of literacy our pupils are achieving.”

Wally outfit from the series of books, Where's Wally?

Mrs Williams says pupils really enjoyed dressing up as their favourite characters.

She said: “It's a fun day and helps us keep pupils interested and engaged when it comes to books.

“Reading is such an important skill and we are delighted at the standards of literacy our pupils are achieving.

“We encourage parents to read with their children at home. After all there's nothing better than losing yourself in a good book, no matter how young, or for that matter, old you are!”

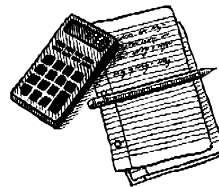
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Rocky Ruffles Classroom Feathers



KO'KO, Rocky, Emma and Ziggy ruffled a few feathers when they dropped in on pupils of two primary schools.

Year 5 and 6 pupils of Gwernymynydd and Nercwys Primary Schools are reading author Gill Lewis' Skyhawk which tells the heart-warming but sad story of children living in the wilds of Scotland who get to look after a rescued Osprey.

And to teach children more about birds of prey Steve and Margaret Dewsnap, who run Flintshire-based Rockcliffe Raptors brought along a number of different birds of prey species to show children and give them an insight into their natural history.

The impressive specimens Steve and Margaret took along to Gwernymynydd Primary School included barn owl, KO'KO, which means Watcher of the Dark in the language of Native American Hopi Indians, Eurasian eagle owl, Rocky, Emma the kestrel and Ziggy, a European buzzard.

Gwernymynydd Primary School head teacher Louise Williams says children of both schools have been captivated by Skyhawk and were keen to learn more about birds of prey in general.

She said: "It was lovely to welcome children from Nercwys to our school and for pupils to share the experience of a close up encounter with such amazing birds of prey.

"Skyhawk is a beautiful and thought-provoking tale which tells of Callum and Iona, their friendship and loss. Children have been engrossed in the story and have loved every minute. It really is a page-turner."

Steve Dewsnap, proprietor of Rockcliffe Raptors, added: "It has been a great educational visit and the children were clearly fascinated and keen to know a lot more about birds of prey and the natural world in general."

Lily Allen

Those who knew her will be sorry to learn of the recent death of Lily Allen.

Lily had been a regular visitor to Gwernymynydd since 1980 after her daughter and son in law (Liz and Gareth Parry) moved to the village.

During this time she was school secretary at Cornist Park Infants in Flint. She retired to Prestayn.

After the death of her husband Lily moved to Gwernymynydd to be near her family.

She enjoyed attending village activities such as WI, the Lunch club and LIFT exercise class.

Sadly her health deteriorated further and by 2013 she had to be admitted to full time care.

Donations at Lily's funeral were gifted to Alzheimer's Research UK



Panto Hailed a



PROPS TEAM: Roisin Davies and Tom Barley looked after the props and scene changes.



YOUNG CAST: Back from left, Kayla Forde, Rowley, Hannah Mason, Gabby Godwin, J Parry, Jenny Wilde, Lola Roberts, An

Oh Yes

THE village centre was turned into a magical kingdom as young Thespians performed a brand new pantomime.

Gwernymynydd Pantomime Group sold out every one of the four performances they staged, including a Saturday matinee, of the Legend of Loggerheads.

The new work, penned by professional entertainer Barrie Matkin, who lives in the village, was packed

full of laughs and top songs.

And in true panto style, a couple of unsavoury characters got their comeuppance in a fast-moving show performed by a cast made up of more than 30 adults and children, all residents of the village.

Gwernymynydd Pantomime Group chairwoman Karen Jones said: "This was our fourth production and something really different. We decided to go with a brand new show rather than a traditional



MINERS; From left, Kendal Thomas, lead miner, Marlene Matkin, copper miner, Jayne Borthwick, who played the fairy and Mystic Meg and Kerry Stroud, who played Roger the Rat.



IN CHARACTER: Pantomime dame, Sharon Godwin and fairy and Mystic Meg, Jayne Borthwick act their roles.



'ELLO 'ELLO: arm of the la Teese, who p

Huge Success



Rowan Mason, Jane Hommersley, Ebony Jessica Wyn-Jones, front from left, Bryn ngharad Parry and Seren Hughes



MAKE UP: Pantomime dame, Sharon Godwin is tended to by make-up artist, Lucia Roberts and hairdresser Mary Davies.

It was!

story. And Barrie did a wonderful job writing such a great family show.

"In the past we have done Jack and the Beanstalk, Cinderella and Snow White so something completely new was a real challenge.

"The cast were fantastic and worked so hard over many long weeks of rehearsals. And of course we could never put on a show without the army of helpers who volunteer their time to make scenery,

props and costumes.

Then there are hair stylists and make-up artists. It really is a lot of hard work and a fantastic team and community effort.

The annual February pantomime is fast becoming a tradition within the village and we are already planning next year's show."



From left, Bethan Williams, the long law, Paul Maguire, the mayor, Sarah played Gareth and Molly Wynne, the town crier.



PRINCIPAL ROLES: From left, Sarah Teese, who played the role of Gareth, Lily Stevens, who played Florence, the mayor's daughter and the mayor himself, Paul Maguire.



DIRECTORS: Assistant artistic director Cameron Williams, left, and writer and executive director Barrie Matkin oversee the production.

Tree Planting Helps Wildlife and Pupils

THE grounds of a village school are being turned into a wildlife haven thanks to a programme of native tree and shrub planting alongside other environmental improvements.

Gwernymynydd Primary School pupils swapped pens for spades as they tackled the second phase of a major planting programme which will see more than 400 saplings planted in the school grounds.

The tree and shrub planting is part of a wider scheme which has already seen a new pathway built which runs right around the school grounds and the development of a growing area so pupils can enjoy outdoor nature lessons and grow vegetables.

Headteacher Louise Williams says the idea is to develop the school grounds which will mean children will be able to enjoy outdoor play in a much nicer and healthier environment.



TAKING A BREAK: Catrin Price, Year 6, Jack Mathieson, Year 5 and Sam Powell, Year 6.

She said: "We have been fortunate to have been awarded a grant through Cadwyn Clwyd and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the Woodland Trust donated native tree and shrub saplings which we are planting.

"Gill Dobson, a Woodland Trust volunteer, has designed the layout of the grounds and it is starting to take shape. We planted quite a few trees prior to the Christmas break and have now started the second phase which includes planting trees and shrubs to shield the school staff car park."

She added: "It will take a few years to mature but the school grounds will look amazing once everything becomes established.

"And of course the tree and shrub planting sessions are a nature lesson in themselves."

Gill Dobson, of Pantymwyn, a former community forest officer with the Woodland Trust added: "The children have been wonderful and are very interested in seeing how the trees and shrubs we have planted develop as they become established.

"The school grounds will look amazing and be a far better teaching resource than the bare grass that would quickly become waterlogged following periods of heavy rain."



TREE PLANTING: From left, Louise Bonner, Natasha Ince and Callum Norman, all Year 5 and Freya Williams, Year 6.

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Spring Clean For Village

FOLLOWING the success of last year's event the Community Council is organising a second village spring clean for Thursday, April 2nd.

And every child – and no doubt a few adults – that takes part will be getting a delicious Easter egg as a thank you.

Those wanting to get involved should meet at the village centre at 10am.

But please remember, children cannot attend alone. We need to ensure there is at least one adult for every four participating children.

And please ensure children wear suitable clothing and footwear.

There will be a short safety briefing and everyone will be supplied with fluorescent jackets, litter pickers and bags and then it's off around the lanes to collect discarded plastic and glass bottles, tins and paper all of which will be recycled.

And pensioners and anyone else that would like to pop along to the village centre for around noon for tea, coffee and a slice of cake will be made welcome.

It's a chance to get together as a community for a chat and perhaps make new friends.



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A Word Or Two From Nancy

Registering to vote

There has been a major change in the way people register to vote.

Everyone now has to be verified against government records before they are allowed to be added to the electoral register. This applies to people registering to vote for the first time

It is now necessary to supply your National Insurance Number and date of birth - this is then verified with the Department of Work and Pensions.

If this information matches then the applicant can be added to the register.

If it does not then you will be asked for proof of ID ie passport, photo driving licence and so forth.

The easiest way to register is online; it's simpler, cleaner and faster.

Visit www.gov.uk/register or phone (01352)702412.

For further information visit:

www.gov.uk/yourvotematters

All currently registered electors have been checked against Government records and have been automatically transferred to the new register.

Planning applications

I have recently been asked about the process of planning applications.

Anyone can comment on an application.

You can write to the Planning Department at Flintshire County Council or go online quoting the address and the number of the application if possible.

Only the immediate neighbours will receive a letter asking for their comments so it is important to keep an eye open for the little green notices which appear next to the property in question.

It will tell you what is proposed and the number of the application. I hope this helps.

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Road Safety in Focus

COMMUNITY councillors are concerned about road safety especially on the A494 Ruthin Road through the village.

There has been a spate of crashes at the junction with Heol y Wern and Hafod Road in recent weeks while some parents have expressed concern about the speed of cars on housing estate roads.

Could villagers please respect the 20mph signs on Godre'r Coed near to the school and maybe even bring that down by another 10mph to be on the safe side.

And please be careful when emerging from village housing estates onto Ruthin Road.

Our Man in Westminster



Rainbow Inn

Following continued concern on the state of the old Rainbow Inn site I raised the issue again with Flintshire last month.

Officers from the council visited the pub on February 25th with the developer and had what is described as a constructive meeting.

I have been informed that there was no visible evidence of a rodent infestation on the site. There is quite a lot of timber stored and the developer agreed to move this in the days following the meeting.

He also agreed to put some temporary felt over a hole in the roof and brick up any openings in the brickwork to the rear of the building and he agreed to make the site more secure. The developer hopes to start work on the site in April so long as final agreements are in place.

I hope this is of some help to residents who I know have been left angry at the state of the building and site in general.

Fruit & Veg at Rock Bottom Prices

EVERY Thursday morning at 9am you can find Carl and Alf and their ladies in waiting getting ready for the delivery of fruit, veg and salad to the Village Centre.

All being well by 9.30am everything is bagged and ready to be collected

Customers then order for the following week and hand over their money - painless and excellent value.

You can order separate bags of fruit, veg or salad in varying sizes for just £2, £4 or £6.

If you can't make the Village Centre on a Thursday morning you can nip into the Swan to collect and leave your order for the following week.

Why not give it a try?



Auction of Promises

I'd like to offer my very best wishes to Mrs Jacqui Jepson and her friends who are organising an Auction of Promises in May at the Plas Hafod Hotel.

The event will raise money for the North Wales Emergency Doctors Service in memory of Sarah Jepson who died in a car crash. I wish them every success in raising money for what is a great cause.

Parliament

This is my last article before the May 7th General Election – it's a little known fact that there are no MP's from the dissolution of parliament on March 30th until after the General Election takes places - so no surgeries or other activity to give notice of this month.

Please use your vote on the day – and someone will be elected as the MP after May 7th.

I'll try my best to see as many of you as I can prior to the election but have sympathy for all the candidates as we have more than 30,000 doors to knock!

For information on closing dates for postal votes or registering to vote see the Flintshire County Council website.

Children's Parties

At Gwernymynydd Village Centre

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Sporting Superstars!

Lily of the Valley's – and Hills!

A YOUNG village athlete has represented North East Wales in the Welsh School's National Cross Country Championships – despite never having raced before.

Lily Ruffer, 11, left the village school last year and is currently in her first year at Mold Alun High School.

Despite never having trained for cross-country or being a member of an athletics club Lily represented the Alun School in the Flintshire schools cross country event and finished a very creditable 3rd.

She was then selected to represent Flintshire in the regional competition and yet again she excelled coming home 6th which qualified her for the national finals held in Brecon.

Lily managed to finish 44th in her age group for the whole of Wales, which, considering her lack of experience, training and coaching is a superb result.

Lily's mum and dad, Ian and Christina, say they are extremely proud of their daughter.

And although Lily would enjoy training and perhaps joining an athletics club she might struggle to fit it in as she is already committed to piano and violin lessons on top of all her homework.

WELL DONE!



Lily Ruffer at the National Cross Country Championships in Brecon.

On Your Bike!

CADOLE Community Councillor Vicky Hinstridge (*right*) is pounding the roads both in her running shoes and on her bike as she prepares for a gruelling couple of months.

First up for the super-fit athlete is the Mold Triathlon, on Sunday, April 26th, which takes in a 400m swim at Mold leisure Centre before a 24km bike ride, which will pass through the village. The event ends with a 5km run.

Then on Sunday, June 21st Vicky will be running the Pretty Muddy 5k race in Tatton Park in aid of Cancer Research.

After that, on Sunday, July 26th she will be in Chester for the women only Deva Divas triathlon involving a 750m River Dee swim, a 25km bike ride and ending with a 5km run.

And then, if she has got her breath back, she will be taking part in the Rise Above Sportive, riding a tough course through North Wales – including Gwernymynydd – with 25 times Tour De France stage winner Mark Cavendish.

The route will take riders up through Cadole from Moel Famau before turning toward Nercwys on route back to Chester where the event starts and finishes.



Good luck Vicky!