

The Back Page

Amba Going Clear And Aiming For The Top

A Village teenager's dream has come true after she qualified for the Royal International Horse Show at Hickstead.

Amba Star Rowley, 15, will ride Waxwing Macavity, a Section B Welsh Cob, on behalf of the pony's owner. But competing at Hickstead means Amba will have to miss out on the Royal Welsh Show but luckily she's secured the services of a friend, Ellie Lamont, who will step in and ride her ponies for her.

Amba said: "We are at the Royal Welsh all week but on the Wednesday mum and I are off to the Royal International Horse Show (RI). I was lucky enough to be asked to ride the gorgeous Waxwing Macavity in some RI qualifiers. The first attempt we placed 4th, which I was so happy about, but the second attempt I won! I couldn't believe it and I am so happy to compete at Hickstead, it's a dream come true.

"The trouble is it's just typical it's on the same day as my Hoys classes at the Royal Welsh, but my friend Ellie is stepping in to ride my ponies for me so I can go to the RI as I wouldn't want to miss that!"

Amba's mum, Lucia, says Amba and her other two daughters, Ebony, 14, and Lola, 10, are equine loopy and spend all their time looking after and competing on their ponies.

She said: "Amba, having the chance to compete at Hickstead, is amazing. Of course the really big one is the Horse of the Year Show at the NEC Birmingham in October and she is trying hard to qualify for that too.

"All three girls are doing really well with their riding. Ebony is county class like Amba and Lola is competing at local level and doing very well too. Mold Alun High School has been brilliant in supporting Amba and Ebony allowing them time off on occasions so they can compete. We have four ponies, George, Neymar, Queenie and Bentley and it's hard but rewarding work. The girls really do live for their ponies."

Amba added: "Mum sat me on a pony when I was six weeks old apparently! She's always been horse mad and still is. She told me when she found out she was pregnant with me she got me a pony so I think I was always going to ride whether I liked it or not. Thankfully I've always loved it and want to be a show producer if I can. Whatever career I follow will involve horses and ponies for sure!"



Amba Rowley is off to Hickstead to compete at Royal International Horse Show.

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Gwernymynydd & Cadole

Newyddion y Pentrefi - Community June - July 2017

Air Ambulance's Village Centre Landing



Air Ambulance on the Village Centre field – picture courtesy of Pat Thornton

A Wales Air Ambulance used the village centre field as a landing site after a Ruthin Road collision left a cyclist with serious injuries.

The collision occurred at around 2:30pm on Wednesday, July 5th at Maes y Wern close to the junction of Ruthin Road and Hafod Road.

The cyclist, who has not been named, was left with serious injuries and was eventually taken to Wrexham Maelor Hospital by road

ambulance. However, the Wales Air Ambulance was also called but the pilot couldn't find a suitable landing site close to the scene of the collision and eventually landed at the village centre.

A Big Thank You!

An Afternoon Tea Party raised more than £450 for Nightingale House Hospice and the organisers, Jane Owens and June Perrin, want to thank everyone who made the event such a success.

Jane Owens says the event which was held in the garden of her Swan Lane Home was really well attended.

She said: "We had an amazing team of helpers, Tina Boswell, Jean Craddick and Sue Elsley. The event was in response to the hospice's appeal to 'bake, brew, pour and share' by organising a tea party.

"Nightingale House is a cause close to the hearts of many people locally.

"My late husband, Elwyn, died in Nightingale House almost exactly two years ago. The event was not planned to coincide with this anniversary, but it added poignancy to the occasion.

"Although Elwyn was only in the Hospice for a very short time the support he and his family received had a very positive impact on their experience of his last few days."

She added: "A number of people were unable to come to the tea party because of other commitments but many did come to enjoy tea, coffee, scones, cakes and good company and as a bonus the sun shone to add warmth to the occasion."



The late Elwyn Owens

Quarry Open Day A Success

Around 15 villagers turned out for a Cambrian Quarry open day hosted by ASH.

There was a chance to see the on-going work to in-fill the quarry, the walls of which are unstable and dangerous, as well as the wagon wheel washing system. Visitors also saw how wildlife is being protected in particular newts and bats.

Gwernymynydd resident Gareth Lloyd-Roberts attended the open day with his two sons, Wil and Tom and said: "It's fascinating to see all the work that has been done around the mysterious hidden corner of that new road.

"And it's fantastic to see the results of the combined efforts of local people and councillors who have worked with ASH to produce something that had been so potentially obtrusive and problematic on both an environmental and community level and turning it into a real joint working success that benefits both parties.

He added: "It's also reassuring to see all the effort put in to lorry cleaning as well as the bat and newt conservation work."

Wil said: "It was a lot smaller hole than I thought it would be and I was surprised at how much had been filled in already."

Tom added: "It was great to see the newts in the newt ponds, especially as no one had apparently seen them before today."



ASH director John Dennan talks to Gareth Lloyd-Hughes and his sons Wil and Tom about the ongoing work to in-fill Cambrian Quarry.



Villagers check out the newt ponds.

Slow Sponsored Swim

Kevin Hughes would like to thank everyone who sponsored him for his latest swimming challenge – The Great London Swim.

Having successfully managed to slowly float around the previous three Great Manchester Swims he thought he'd try London for a change.

And while London's Victoria Dock was marginally more exciting than Salford Quays the time it took to swim a mile didn't improve through a combination of poor diet and a total lack of fitness.

The good news is Kevin was supported to the tune of more than £700 through a JustGiving page and cash donations which has now all gone to Hope House Children's Hospice – thanks to everyone that helped.



Kevin speeds up having just spotted a burger van near the finish line.

Village Garden Centre

Most people will have noticed the willow trees at the front of the village centre have been pruned right back.

The trees are not dead and will grow back over the next few years but will be managed properly and pruned regularly.

The work is all part of a garden improvement plan, sponsored by both Ash and Hanson's, which will see the hard standing area in front of the war memorial enlarged and improved, a new feature rockery, paths, and fencing.

And the war memorial will be illuminated for a few hours each night thanks to solar lighting floodlights making it a feature the community can be proud of.

Watch out for further announcements and a grand opening of the new community garden later in the summer.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Any parent who wishes to have electronic copies of images of their children receiving awards or certificates at the school's leavers and award assembly or from this newsletter edition please contact kevinhughes348@live.com and I will forward them.

New Teacher Takes Up Post

A new teacher will take charge of her own classroom at the village school from September.

Amber Prosser (*right*) was appointed after coming out tops following a rigorous selection process and lengthy interview.

Amber has teaching experience and has been getting used to the school, ahead of taking up her new full-time position in September, after working with children at the village school in the run-up to the summer holidays.

Assistant head teacher Dafydd Johnson says he's looking forward to welcoming Amber to the school in September.

He said: "I have no doubt she will be an asset to the school and is already proving popular with children after working at the school some mornings.

"And I'm also delighted that teacher Molly Parry will remain at the school and has seen her contracted hours increased from September."



Show Stopper Summer School

Ages 6 - 11 years Monday 14th to Friday 18th August 9am to 5pm Only £80.00 (discount for siblings). Come and join us at Gwernymynydd Village Centre for five fun-filled days of drama, dance, crafts and games.

Families are invited to watch our Show Stopper at the end of the week.

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Family Fun Day Boosts Hospital Funds

A Llanarmon mum has raised a treasure chest full of cash for the Merseyside hospital that's treating her son.

Stephanie Moulton, a self employed saleswoman and mum, and her partner, furniture salesman Daniel Gray's five-year-old son Ellis was diagnosed with a kidney tumour and has undergone major surgery at Alder Hey Children's Hospital.

But Stephanie and her family, who say they are forever indebted to the amazing medical staff that have been treating her son, wanted to do something to help the hospital's oncology department and came up with the idea of a fun day at the Village Centre.

And Gwernymynydd villagers turned out in big numbers to support the day which raised more than £4,000.

Bikers rode to the rescue too thanks to members of Region 29 of the Harley Davidson Riders' Club of Great Britain who agreed to put on a display of their gleaming dream machines while an auction of promises and a mammoth raffle also boosted the family's fundraising efforts.

Stephanie said: "Our son Ellis faced major surgery to remove one of his kidneys. Fortunately his other kidney is working fine and he should be able to live a relatively normal life with just one kidney. The tumour was discovered in March and he began treatment at Alder Hey then. All the staff there are incredible. We have had so much support from Ellis' consultant right down to the nursing staff.

"Unfortunately they have found a different mass in Ellis, a tumour called a ganlionuroblastoma and

Ellis now has to go through more procedures. He is due to go into Alder Hey to have bone marrow taken and tissue and nerve tests."

She added: "I wanted to do something to support the hospital and the idea for the fun day started from that. Everyone has been incredible and really got behind the idea. Local companies came to the rescue and offered some amazing auction lots and raffle prizes."

"Kevin, the licensee of The Swan, has been a massive help and really supported us. I'm so grateful to him and everyone else that helped make the day such a success."

Richard Moulton of Llanferres a security sales manager and the grandfather of Ellis Gray and his brother, Bailee, four, says his daughter, Stephanie, had done an incredible job organising the family fun day.

He said: "She came to me and said she wanted to raise some money for Alder Hey. She's done incredibly well and had so much support locally from people attending as well as local firms.

"I'm a member of the Harley Davidson Riders' Club of Great Britain and asked members to support the event. Riders came from as far afield as Leicester and Atherstone in Warwickshire."

He added: "The team at Alder Hey have been incredible and I know how much it meant to Stephanie and her partner Daniel to raise as much as they could in support of Alder Hey. The truth is they have worked their socks off and I'm really proud of them."



Stephanie Moulton, her partner Daniel Gray with Ellis, five, and Bailee, four.



Ellis Gray's granddad, Richard Moulton of Llanferres shows off his Harley Davidson Sportster 1,200 Conversion.

Actors Take Centre Stage at Village School

A trio of top actors took time out from appearing in a major stage production to read stories written by the village school's budding young authors.

Hilary Maclean, Matt Jessop and Emma Denly, who were all appearing at Mold's Theatr Clwyd in Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest, enthralled children by reading their stories as part of a school writing competition.

It was all part of a contest for pupils sponsored by ASH Group Limited who are filling in and restoring the village's Cambrian Quarry.

John Dennan, an ASH Group director and governor of the school, put up three prizes of family tickets to this summer's world premiere of 'How to be a Kid', a new play for children which ran until July 22 at Theatr Clwyd, as prizes for the competition.

Head teacher Louise Williams says pupils enjoyed writing their stories and were thrilled to have professional actors read them in front of the three judges.

She said: "We always knew our children were excellent writers but their stories were absolutely superb and we could easily have had 20 or even 30 winners.

"The actors were absolutely fantastic and delivered the stories adding plenty of drama, it's an experience our children will always remember.

"It wasn't a case of just reading the stories out loud. The written work was delivered to the actors in advance and they had clearly worked hard rehearsing the stories adding lots of drama to their performance."

She added: "To make it absolutely fair the stories were read anonymously so our three judges had no idea who had written each story."

Assistant head teacher Dafydd Johnson says the judges, ASH environmental manager Steve Rymill,



ASH environmental manager Steve Rymill, actors Hilary Maclean and Emma Denly with winning story writers, from left, Harry Hughes, Bryn Parry, both nine, and Sophie Williams, 10.

retired Gwernymynydd county councillor Nancy Matthews and Jane Owens, who volunteers as a reading buddy at the school, had a very tough task.

He said: "The judges thought Year 5 pupil Sophie Williams' story, The World's Worst Pets which was all about some very naughty animals and Year 4 pupil Bryn Parry's tale, Missing in the Mist, which was based on the true story of a German war plane which crashed near Nercwys in World War Two, were the top two stories.

"They awarded a third prize for best effort to Harry Hughes, also of Year 4, for his very funny story of a conflict between Batman and Spiderman which saw them battle it out for superhero supremacy across the world."

Steve Rymill said: "As a company engaged in the restoration of Cambrian Quarry it's important we engage with the community. And there is no better way than working with the village school to inspire and encourage children.

"The stories they wrote were quite simply stunning, full of imagination, funny, charming and in some cases quite poignant.

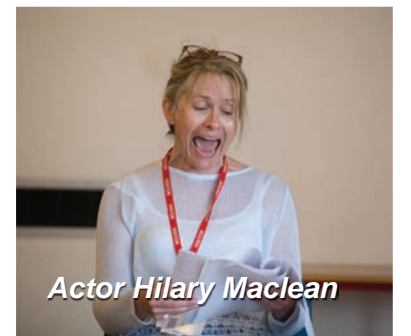
"As judges we had a very tough task. I wish we could have given prizes to every child and I hope this writing competition becomes an annual event."

Theatr Clwyd's Director of Creative Engagement, Gwennan Mair, said: "Hilary, Matt and Emma had an amazing time and, like myself, were amazed at just how accomplished the stories were. It's very clear there are some very talented budding writers in Gwernymynydd!"



Actor Matt Jessop

Actor Emma Denly



Actor Hilary Maclean

Poetry Corner

Nancy Matthews was busy emptying her father's house as he has now moved into a residential home when she came across the following poem. She is unsure if her dad or mum actually wrote the poem but Nancy says it certainly made her laugh.

I'M FINE THANK YOU

There is nothing the matter with me,
I'm as healthy as I can be
I have arthritis in both my knees and when I talk
I have a wheeze

My pulse is weak and my blood is thin,
but I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in
Arch supports I have for my feet or I wouldn't be
able to be on the street.
Sleep is denied me night after night but every
morning I find I'm alright

My memory's failing my head's in a spin
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in
The moral is this, as my tale I unfold
That for you and for me who are growing old
It's better to say that I'm fine with a grin
Than to let folks know the state that we're in
How do I know that my youth is all spent?
Well, my get up and go has got up and went
But I really don't mind when I think with a grin
Of all the grand places my get up has been.

Old age is golden, I've heard it said
But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed
My ears in a drawer, and my teeth in a cup
My eyes on the table until I wake up
As sleep overtakes me, I say to myself
Is there anything else I could lay on the shelf
When I was young my slippers were red
I could kick my heels over my head
When I was older my slippers were blue

But still, I could dance the whole night through
Now I am old my slippers are black
I walk to the store and puff my way back
I get up each morning and dust off my wits
And pick up the paper and read the obits
If my name is still missing, I know I'm not dead
So, I have a good breakfast and go back to bed!



Diary Dates

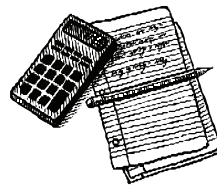
If you haven't tried the all new indoor bowling club at the village centre why not give it a go?

It's a great place to meet up for a friendly chat and a game and no one is going to judge how you play. The club meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month between 2pm and 4pm. So, the next dates are August 10th and 24th, September 14th and 28th, October 12th and 26th and November 9th and 23rd. Just go along and join in!



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Our Man in Westminster



Before I start my next instalment for the Gwernymynydd Newsletter, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all those who supported, and voted for, me in the recent election. If you voted for other candidates I hope I can still earn your trust and I'm pleased you took part in the election.

It was a hard fought campaign but one that was fought fairly by all those involved and ensured we saw a huge increase in voter turnout in Delyn. This was Delyn's highest turnout since 1997 – up from 69.8% to 72.8%. I believe this shows we are enthusing the young to vote but also those who felt left behind were invigorated by this election campaign. What we can tell from this, however, is that people are interested in politics once more and this can only be good for our democracy. I promise to you, whether you voted for me or not or if you didn't vote at all, that I will stand up for everyone in Delyn.

If anyone needs advice or assistance please do not hesitate to contact me and I will try my best to help you. I will continue to hold weekly advice surgeries, but if you are unable to attend then please either drop by my office in Flint or call and email – not forgetting the good old fashioned letter!

You can get in touch via:

Telephone: 01352 763159

Email: david.hanson.mp@parliament.uk

Post: 4 Trelawny Square, Flint. CH6 5NN

Following the election, I held my first set of surgeries, including Gwernymynydd, on Friday, July 21st. These surgeries are your opportunity to tell me what you think of policies being taken by the Government or what problem you need help with. It is also appropriate to congratulate Kevin Hughes on his election to Flintshire County Council. I wish him every success in the future and hope he is able to help all his residents to the best of his ability.

An issue that I have been eager to press ahead with, since my re-election, was the state of the Rainbow Inn. I have discovered it is now under new ownership and I have written to these new owners in the hope we can get the old pub cleaned up and some idea of what is happening with its future use; this has run on for far too long.

I will keep you all updated as to what the outcome of this is. But if anyone wants to raise any other concerns, about the Inn or any other matter, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

As you know, recently Parliament debated the Queen's Speech. The Gracious Speech, as it is otherwise known, is when the newly elected government sets out its legislative programme for the coming year – in this case it was two years.

Every MP gets a chance to respond to the Speech and I did so a week after it was delivered; each day after the Speech is focused on a specific subject and the day I spoke was on security.

My speech concentrated on law and order, as this was an issue that came up frequently on the doorstep. I discussed how we have seen a loss of 21,000 police officers off our streets and how this is impacting the efforts of our local constabularies to tackle and prevent crime.

I argued we need to see greater investment into our police and security services to ensure neighbourhood policing can be strengthened. Neighbourhood policing ensures we have Bobbies on the beat mingling with residents and showing that they are present. It is the greatest weapon we have against crime, but losing police officers undermines our ability to use it.

At the end of the Queen's Speech there is a vote on whether Parliament has confidence in the Government's business. This passed, but I did vote against the Speech as I believe it was not in the best interests of Delyn.

Going forward there will be many more votes, and many more debates I will get involved with. Each time I will be arguing for more and better paid jobs for the towns and villages that make up Delyn and for our public services to receive the decent funding they deserve.

David Hanson MP

Community News - 9

Council Matters



My first few months as county councillor have been quite eventful although I've also spent a great deal of time training at County Hall.

I'm now a member of the Planning Committee, the Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Social and Health Care Overview and Scrutiny

Committee which is giving me a lot to think about and get involved in.

I'm pleased to say we enjoyed some success at the first Planning Committee I attended after plans for the installation of a 17.5m monopole (mobile phone mast) and associated development at the site of the old chapel opposite the former Rainbow Inn were rejected.

I say 'we' as I was supported by Vicky Hintridge, chair of Gwernymynydd and Cadole Community Council and resident Theresa Norton. Both spoke passionately and eloquently in putting the case against this development and although the vote was tight, I'm so pleased that we won.

Of course we may yet face an appeal but we will cross that bridge as and when it happens.

I'm currently working with the North Wales Trunk Road Agency and the Welsh Assembly Government in trying to organise a traffic survey so we can look at the average speed of vehicles travelling down Gwernymynydd Hill (Ruthin Road) toward Mold. If I can get this organised and it shows, as I suspect it will, that vehicles are consistently travelling at more than 40mph then I want to see if we can get a vehicle operated speed warning sign that would flash '40mph' or 'Slow Down'.

I have been surprised by how long these things seem to take but I won't give in until I get an answer.

Another planning issue causing some concern is a new plan for a housing development at Siglen Ucha. The last plan was thrown out on appeal by a Welsh Government appointed inspector.

It was stated at the time that there is no objection, in principle, to this site being developed but there remains some real concerns. The biggest worry is the access and egress to and from the A494 Ruthin Road and the lack of clear vision looking up the hill toward Cadole from the proposed junction.

Other issues include drainage, particularly water that drains down from Hafod Moor, lead contamination and the need for a thorough investigation into the site of old mines.

This application is for outline planning application and we are some way off a full application. Residents can rest assured I'm watching developments and studying the submitted plans carefully.

I have also had a site meeting with Flintshire County Council officers with regard to the council owned garages in the village.

It's clear some garages haven't been used for a long time and we need to know what is been stored in them on health and safety grounds.

I will be contacting residents who rent council garages in the coming weeks to see what they are using garages for and how many are actually used for storing cars or motor bikes as per rental agreements.

The plan is, hopefully, to smarten up the garages by removing the asbestos roofs, replacing rotten wooden fittings and fitting new or painting existing up-and-over doors.

We are also looking at increasing the hard standing so we can get some cars off Blaen Wern so ambulances or other emergency vehicles can gain access.

However, it is important anyone parking near the garages does not impede or hinder those residents that rent garages from gaining access.

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Village School Federation Plans Backed

The governors of Gwernymynydd CP School and Ysgol Y Waun, Gwernaffield have agreed the two schools should formally federate under the leadership of one executive head teacher.

The move toward federation began after Gwernymynydd head teacher Louise Williams announced she was taking up a new head teacher position at a larger Wrexham primary school.

Governors of both Gwernymynydd and Ysgol Y Waun have been meeting and looking at options over several months and a recent consultation with parents, governors, stakeholders and the staff of both schools revealed 97% of those who responded to the consultation were in favour of proceeding with the federation plan.

Current Gwernymynydd assistant head teacher Dafydd Johnson will now take up the position of acting head teacher from September 1st and remain in that post until the federation formally begins on February 1st, 2018.

Louise Williams said: "I'm delighted I'm leaving Gwernymynydd School knowing its future is secure. Importantly, both schools will keep their own identity, budgets and staff.

"I know Dafydd Johnson will be a popular choice to take over as acting head teacher from September

until Louise Ankers, the head teacher of Ysgol Y Waun, is confirmed as the executive head teacher after the school's formally federate in February.

"The governing body of each school will be dissolved as of February 1st and a new single governing body will be formed."

She added: "Of the adult stakeholders across both schools who responded to the federation survey 97% were in favour of proceeding with federation. The 3% relates to one response which did not indicate a preference either for or against federation.

"And the majority of pupils consulted were in favour of federation with the suggestion of joint sporting activities and visits being amongst the positive benefits identified."

Emma Williams, chair of governors of Gwernymynydd Primary School says governors are grateful for the responses and comments received.

She said: "All the comments and ideas that came out of the survey will be taken into consideration as the process moves forward.

"The governors of both schools would like to thank everyone who responded to the consultation. Details of the next steps in the process will be communicated in the new academic year."

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Runners and Fallers at School Sports Day



Parents and grandparents turned out in big numbers to enjoy the village school's annual sports day.

Head teacher Louise Williams, who took charge of her final sports day at the school, says she was delighted with the turn-out.

She said: "We enjoyed a really good afternoon and the children had a wonderful time. I was delighted with the support we had from those parents and grandparents who were able to attend.

"We had three teams of pupils, Alwyn, Brenning and Celyn, with points awarded after each race. Team Brenning came out on top with Matthew Ross taking the award for the best performance by a boy and Lola Roberts and Massie Hayes sharing the prize as best performing girls."

One or two pupils fell without injury during their races as did a few mums in their race – names have been withheld from this report to protect their bruised dignity and the editor's skin!



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