

Snow Joke for Angry Residents

VILLAGERS WERE LEFT FURIOUS after hordes invaded Cadole in the wake of the storm that left the fields covered in snow.



FAMILIES took to the field that slopes down to Ruthin Road causing major traffic issues due to indiscriminate parking, damage to fencing and leaving behind a mountain of broken plastic sledges on what is private land.

Cadole resident Vicky Hinstridge, who chairs the community council, says for two days the village resembled a war zone.

She said: "We had people parking all over the verges despite the road signs clearly stating it was prohibited. The other issue is the damage to the field. The fence was broken down and the amount of plastic left from broken sledges was horrendous."

She added: "We have had drives blocked so residents can't get out and when people are challenged they just resort to threats and insults. Hopefully we have seen the last of the snow but we need to get things sorted so we can put a stop to this madness."

Denbighshire county councillor Martyn Holland, who represents Llanarmon-yn-Ial and Llandegla said: "We had a productive meeting before the snow arrived involving the police, countryside services, highways, community and county councils.

"People seem to become possessed when snow arrives and they will stop at nothing to go sledding. That includes abusive behaviour, criminal damage, littering and civil trespass.

"Although both counties have traffic enforcement officers it has been difficult for them to get to Loggerheads in the bad weather, especially with other incidents going on. We now have an agreement from Denbighshire County Council that next time we have snow they will allocate two traffic enforcement officers to attend."

Gwernymynydd county councillor Kevin Hughes said: "I went down to Cadole on the Sunday and it was appalling. The road was almost blocked with parked cars over the verges and the damage to the field, which is private property, was horrendous.

"We will work to deal with this issue before next winter so we can hopefully prevent a repeat of what we have witnessed this winter. Cllr Holland has already done a great deal of work in trying to find a solution and I fully intend to support his efforts."



SEE INSIDE...

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Could Do Better Says School

Parents, governors and friends were left wishing they had done their homework after taking part in a fundraising quiz which raised a satchel full of cash for a new school federation.

The Hafod Federation, which has seen Gwernaffield's Ysgol Y Waun and Gwernymynydd CP School federate under the leadership of head teacher Louise Ankers, came into being on February 1st. And to celebrate a fun quiz night at the Plas Hafod Hotel had mums, dads, teachers and governors scratching their heads at an event which raised more than £750 which will be split between the two schools. Head teacher Louise Ankers says the quiz night was a fantastic and fun event which showed the strong community spirit of both villages.

She said: "To raise more than £750 is amazing and will benefit the pupils of both schools. "There were some tough questions but it was lovely bringing both school communities together. I couldn't be more pleased with the way the federation has started and how both governing bodies have come together as one."

Emma Williams, the former chair of Gwernymynydd CP School governing body and now a Hafod Federation parent governor, says she was thrilled with the turn-out and support for the quiz night. She said: "To raise so much money was amazing. We actually ran out of raffle tickets and one parent dashed home to get some more."

"The Plas Hafod Hotel once again proved the perfect venue and supplied a hot-pot supper, free of charge, for what was a real community event. ASH Waste Management's John Dennan, who is also a Hafod Federation governor, donated prize money along with former county councillor Nancy Matthews and Gwernymynydd Pantomime Group.

"We also had amazing support from the Crown Inn, Pantymwyn, Mold Motors, the Owain Glyndwr pub Gwernymynydd, Pen-Y-Bont, Ultimate Hair and Nails, Spavens, Tesco, Mococo and Starbucks who all supplied raffle prizes."



Trying to work out their quiz answers are, from left, Hafod Federation head teacher Louise Ankers, deputy chair of governors James Appleton, question master Emma Williams, chair of governors Trevor Payne and Gwernymynydd CP deputy head teacher Dafydd Johnson.



Winners of the warm up quiz, from left, Fiona and Nigel Dodd and Heidi Jackson of Gwernymynydd.



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Six Decades of Wedded Bliss

A village couple have celebrated their DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY. Keith and Glenda Taylor tied the knot at St Thomas Church, Walton-on-the-Hill, Staffordshire in February 1958 on Glenda's 21st birthday.

And according to Glenda her husband of 60 years literally fell for her. Glenda, 81, said: "We met at a roller skating rink in Staffordshire where I was born and brought up. I had been roller skating a long time and was better than Keith. He fell over and I stopped and helped him get back up.

"We ended up on a date back at the roller skating rink and then we went to the cinema and it took off from there. He proposed to me in my mum's front room. We met when I was 18 and were married on my 21st birthday."

Keith, 82, who hails from Bradford, West Yorkshire, was serving in the RAF at the time he met Glenda and was based at Bridgnorth, Staffordshire.

He said: "We eventually moved to Gwernymynydd in 1986 as I needed to move through work. After the RAF, where I worked in supplies, I landed a job selling books, retail and wholesale.

"Glenda also worked in the book trade. Eventually I moved into printing and still work two mornings a week even now."

Keith and Glenda have one son, Simon, who lives in Norwich and works as a NHS theatre technician and a grandson, Dale, 23, who also lives in Norwich. For many years Keith served as Chair of the Community Council. He also chaired the Village Centre Management Committee.

Asked what the secret was of a long and happy marriage, Glenda, whose maiden name was Harrison, said: "Get on with things and take what life throws at you and if you fall out then make up quickly."

Keith said: "Marry a good woman, that's what I did. Glenda has been a fantastic wife."



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Pupils Dress to Impress for World Book Day

Little Red Riding Hood, Alice in Wonderland, several Harry Potters and even Captain Underpants made an appearance at the village school during **WORLD BOOK DAY**.

Deputy head teacher Dafydd Johnson says children braved the snow to attend school in some fabulous costumes.

He said: "Children always enjoy dressing up and we wanted them to celebrate their favourite books. Anything that gets children engaged with reading and books is a good thing and very worthwhile.

"We also spent time reading and listening to stories. Everyone, including staff, had a great time and really enjoyed the day."



Matilda Wilson enjoyed dressing up as Matilda Wormwood from the film based on Roald Dahl's book.



Alicia Basnett, left, dressed as Thing Two and Molly Brocklehurst as Thing One while Finley Brocklehurst is dressed as the Cat in the Hat.



Emily Hughes, dressed as Alice in Wonderland, centre, reads to Lola Freeman, dressed as Little Red Riding Hood and Secoya Grey, who is dressed as Ariel the Mermaid.



Sophie Lloyd, left, dressed as the witch Ethel Hallow, Dexter Grey, dressed as Harry Potter and teacher Amber Prosser, dressed as Alice in Wonderland get to grips with George Hurley who is dressed as Captain Underpants.



4 Henry Foxley, Charlie Barron, Finlay Rogers, Matthew Maguire & Harrison Ridge dressed to impress for World Book Day.

Out for a Birthday Stroll!

A village thrill seeker will take to the roads for a 192 mile hike to raise a back-pack full of cash for the **CYSTIC FIBROSIS TRUST AND ALDER HEY HOSPITAL**.

Richard Smyth is tackling the coast to coast walk from St Bees Head in Cumbria to Robin Hood Bay on the north Yorkshire coast to raise funds as his granddaughter, Leif, eight, has suffered cystic fibrosis since birth.

And to make his marathon walk even more memorable Richie plans to dip his feet in the North Sea when he arrives at Robin Hood Bay on Sunday, June 3rd on what will be his 70th birthday.

Richie, who a decade ago took part in two legs of the Round the World Race on board the Cardiff Clipper, says tackling the coast to coast walk is a birthday present to himself.

He said: "I'll start at St Bees Head and I'll be walking across three national parks, The Lake District, Yorkshire Dales and the Yorkshire Moors.

"I've booked hotels, guest houses and hostels on route. It's going to be important to be able to have a good soak in a bath each night! I've planned on an average of 12 miles a day with odd days being 16 or 17 miles.

"I've been training by walking from Gwernymyndd to the top of Moel Famau and back and I'm going to do Gwernymynydd to Cilcain, Moel Famau and back when the weather improves."



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Richie, the former licensee of the Owain Glyndwr Inn, said: I wanted to raise some money to help The Cystic Fibrosis Trust as Leif, my granddaughter, has been having treatment since birth, the estimated cost of which is £85,000 a year.

"She has to take two tablets a day and has a six week and a longer yearly assessment that takes all day.

"She's a wonderful child and has a sister Bella, they fight like cat and dog but are really very close. I want to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust and Alder Hey Hospital as a way of showing my appreciation for all the care she has received."

He added: "I've set a target of £5,000 and if I raise that then I'll do the whole walk again next year for another worthy cause."

Richie's wife Maureen, says she will be at Robin Hood Bay waiting for her husband to arrive on his birthday.

She said: "I'll be with our daughter, Maxine, we are going to put a ribbon across the road for him to walk through."

To find Richie's Justgiving page log onto www.justgiving.com/fundraising/richard-smyth2

He's Behind You!

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THE VILLAGE PANTOMIME GROUP took to the stage for their latest show and claimed it was their best yet - Oh yes it was!

Performers put on a brand new version of the traditional and magical family pantomime *Babes in the Wood*. And according to the group's chair, Karen Jones, the cast comprised of 12 children aged eight upwards and 10 adults.

She said: "As ever this year's show was a real community project which had village children working alongside adults to put together a real family show."

"But it isn't just about those out on stage we had an army of people working behind the scenes including hair stylists, make-up, scene changers, prompters, costume designers, front of house programme and ice cream sellers and chaperones."

"We started the pantomime group nine years ago thanks to the late Elwyn Owens who came up with the original idea. This was our eighth show and without doubt the best."

"The cast have worked hard since September polishing their performance under the direction of professional entertainer Barrie Matkin and his assistant Cameron Williams. In fact Barrie wrote the script which had lots of local references and topical jokes."

Karen added: "And for the first time this year we introduced a Youth Committee thanks to support from Flintshire Local Voluntary Council."

Writer and director Barrie Matkin said: "All 22 members of our cast live in the village community but they are only part of our team. We are so fortunate to have so many people happy to work hard behind the scenes to make the project the success it is."

"I'm so proud of the whole team. But it's more than just a show it really is a tremendous community project which has led to many friendships both young and old. Everyone is treated equally and we support each other and genuinely care for each other. If only the whole world was like that!"



Fern the Fairy played by Bethan Williams.



Friar Tuck played by Karen Hughes.



Kerry Stroud, who played Man lands a knock out blow on the head of Van played by Will Asford.



Chloe Szyplinski, left, who played Thomas and Lola Roberts who played Tilly in Babes in the Wood.



Above left: Nanny, played by Sharon Godwin and Maid Marion played by Seren Hughes belt out a number.

Above: The evil Sheriff played by Jayne Borthwick and the aide played by Paul Maguire.

From left, Will Scarlet, played by Hannah Mason, Tilly played by Lola Roberts, Thomas played by Chloe Szyplinski and King Richard played by Vicky Davies who also played the old woman.

Our Man in Westminster

RAINBOW INN I have continued to write to Flintshire County Council about the Rainbow Inn to see what action is being taken. It may have come to the attention of many of you that an application has been made to the council to demolish the building.

Constituents have been in contact with me over their concerns about certain aspects of the building being of historical importance – such as the fireplace and bay windows. I know understand planning officers have refused the application to demolish the building I will await developments.

COUNCIL TAX The unanimous decision by all political parties and independents on Flintshire County Council at the end of February to endorse the leadership's financial plans for 2018/19 was a tough decision, but one that had to be taken.

Many people wrote to me worried about the future funding settlement for their schools and that is why the council have decided to increase the funding for education – supported by an increase in Council Tax.

Our councillors have been doing their utmost in the past eight years to protect our services from the cuts imposed in Westminster by the UK Government. For many years the council has attempted to protect school budgets and have had to cut other services to ensure our children and young people have the best possible start in life.

These are desperate times for our local authorities and I will be pressing for any public sector pay rise, which could be announced in the coming weeks, to be funded by central government and not local council budgets so residents are not further burdened.

BABES IN THE WOOD PANTOMIME

I want to congratulate the Village Pantomime Group for their excellent performance. Local arts groups are the lifeblood of our communities:

bringing people together to enjoy the talents of their friends and neighbours. Well done!

You can get in touch with me by phone (01352) 763159), email at david.hansonmp@parliament.uk or by post at 4 Trelawny Square, Flint. CH6 5NN.

David Hanson MP



Sad Loss

John Edwards, the former chair of Gwernymyndd School Governors, has sadly passed away.

John, who was just a week off his 90th birthday, could be seen out running until just a few years ago and he took part in a number of marathons over the years.

He was a great servant to the village and will be sadly missed. The community council and school governors send their condolences to John's widow, Patricia and their son.

There will be a tribute to John Edwards in the next village newsletter.

The funeral service will be held at Wrexham Crematorium on Thursday March 22nd at 2.30pm



John Edwards.

Step Out for Breast Cancer

The annual **FLINTSHIRE BREAST CANCER NOW GROUP** is holding its 11th annual sponsored Moel Famau walk supported by Walkabout Flintshire on Saturday, April 28th.

There will be a choice of two walks: a short 2.5 mile stroll and a longer walk to the Jubilee Tower of 4.5.miles taking approximately 3 hours.

Donation of £5 accepted on the day or sponsorship forms are available – call (01352) 753807.

Meet at the lower car park at Moel Famau Country Park at 9.30am for 10am start (car park is £2 to open barrier).

Funds raised will help the Charity achieve its aim that the last person will have died from Breast Cancer by 2050.

BIG THANK YOU Ben Gerrard deserves a huge pat on the back for clearing all the snow from the village centre car park after the recent bad weather. It meant booked sessions and classes could go ahead so thanks Ben for all your help.

LITTER PICK The annual village litter pick is scheduled to take place on Sunday, April 15th.

Village school pupils will be given leaflets about the event in due course but everyone is welcome to join in.

Meet at the village centre at 10am – lots of prizes and chocolate to be won!

DOGGIE EXERCISE AREA The Village Centre Management Committee and the Community Council are working together to provide a dog exercise area within the grounds of the village centre. It will be a fenced off area where dogs will be able to run around off their leads – at their owners' own risk.

Dog bins will be provided and hopefully this will help reduce dog mess being left on the streets.

The area should be in operation within the month.

NEW YOGA CLASS FOR HEALTHY LOWER BACKS

A new evidence-based quality yoga 12 week course that's simple, gentle and effective will get underway at the village centre from Wednesday April 18th and run until July 11th.

The sessions will run between noon and 1:30pm and will be all about re-educating posture and movement, strengthening muscles that support the back, increasing flexibility and gaining pain relief through rehabilitative exercise.

Learn powerful, effective stress management and relaxation techniques to improve your health.

To register or enquire contact **Kate Surry (BWYdip): 07858587565 / kate.surry@gmail.com** or **www.yogaroots.co.uk** or **www.facebook.com/yogapresent** or **www.yogaforbacks.co.uk**

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A Heartfelt Message of Thanks

I MOVED INTO BLAEN WERN in September 2012. I didn't expect to stay long. I saw it was a close knit community and was pretty certain I wouldn't fit in.

My home is my sanctuary. It is where I go to be me, have down time and switch off to the outside world, not to socialise. My aim was to only be visible when I went from house to car and car to house. I would be polite, of course, but I wasn't up for conversation; definitely if it revolved around me.

I didn't want the world to know my secret because I didn't want them to think me weird. I still wanted to fit in but become inconspicuous and just get on with my life without anyone noticing me. This is because I have Asperger's. I'm not high up on the spectrum, but enough for it to impact on my life.

Some people, not all, when they see this term think of perhaps a recluse with weird obsessions that can't manage eye contact and lives in their separate world. I'm not like that, but I still keep it a secret as I have had many negative reactions that have taught me to do that. I have also spent many, many years camouflaging it to the outside world, and still do, so I can just get on in life.

I wanted to drive, own a car, study to post grad level, get a good job & live independently. I have managed these things but there was still this cloud that hung over my head when dealing with the outside world. When I moved into Blaen Wern, what I expected to happen happened; people said hello, asked me how I was and how I was settling in. I was polite; went back into my house and carried on. It is not that I didn't want to be sociable; but I just don't want them to know about me.

Months and years went by and suddenly, I realised these people weren't going away, and I loved that. They accepted my declines to go out socialising and realised I enjoyed a cup of coffee and a chat more; they didn't push me to

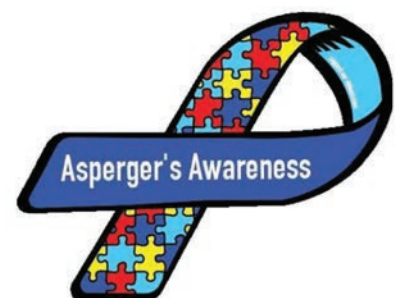
do things, impose on my life but continued to accept me for me.

In fact, I started to make friends, friends that even witnessed when I was struggling with a situation and drew closer and more supportive, people who weren't judging me and asked me only about the things I wanted them to ask about; my job, my sisters and nephews who often visited, when my birthday was. I never wanted to rely on people but my aim was always to be independent because I can rely on myself most of all.

Two particular neighbours, who live across the road from me, I realised had amazing perception, they knew when I was struggling, they knew when I needed support, but they also still wanted to still be my friend. They let me in, accepted who I was and never judged me - and still continued to befriend me! It took more than five years to spill the secret of my diagnosis to them and, funnily enough, they are still my friends. I don't think they realise how much they have helped me to feel accepted in this community.

I now want to make friends, find out about people and carefully let people in. I still need my down time, I still need my own space, the ability to meltdown when I'm struggling and not be judged, but I think I also need my friends in Blaen Wern. Take them away today and I would be lost.

Thank you for accepting me for me and helping me to become part of the community.



Council Matters

It's been a tough couple of months at COUNTY HALL especially when it came to setting a balanced budget

Trying to fund the vital services we all rely upon with much less money coming in from Cardiff who in turn received much less money from Westminster has been extremely difficult.

It did seem that schools across Flintshire would have to make do with a 'cash flat' budget which in real terms, due to inflation and small pay increases, would mean a reduction of income of around 3% in real terms.

Add to that the pressures brought about by social care, waste management, roads, and everything else the council has a duty to provide and protect while trying to balance the books was an almost impossible task.

I know many people were upset at the £30 a year charge levied on garden waste collections. However, I'm not sure many people know that Flintshire was one, if not the only, council providing that service for free and we got to a point where we couldn't carry on doing so.

Equally upsetting will be the 6.7% rise in council tax. Somehow the council had to fill a £5million funding gap and if we wanted extra to try and help schools we were left with no choice.

It does sound uncomfortable – about £74 a year on a band D property – but I think it worth pointing out that even after the increase our council tax bills will still be considerably lower than in Chester and on a par, or cheaper, than Wrexham.

I do believe the difficulties we faced in setting a balanced budget, something we are legally obliged to do, is solely down to the lack of funds we receive from Cardiff and Westminster.



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Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss budgets or any other matter via e-mail at kevin.hughes@flintshire.gov.uk or call me on **07711 951909**.

Kevin Hughes

The Walrus and Tadpole!

I'm taking to the waters of Lake Windermere on June 9th as I'm taking part in the **GREAT NORTH SWIM** and it's going to be extra special this year as my granddaughter is joining me.

This will be my fifth great swim as I've done Manchester several times and last year completed the Great London event

I have entered the mile swim while Imogen, who is eight, is tackling the 250 meter event with me swimming alongside her as we raise money for Hope House Children's Hospices.

Imogen, who lives in Connah's Quay with our son, Andy, his wife Leah and her sister Brooke and brothers, Jacob and Alfie, is a member of Connah's Quay Swimming Club and is working towards the development and competition squads.

She actually does around a mile each training session and trains three times a week so she would undoubtedly swim a mile in about half the time it will take me.

However, she is only allowed to enter the 25meter event because of her young age and

she must have an adult alongside her. Imogen has already made it plain I better keep up as she's not waiting for me!

Hopefully, working together, we will raise a good amount of cash for Hope House and once I've set up a Justgiving page I will be asking for support – you have been warned!

Kevin Hughes



Granddaughter and granddad, Imogen and Kevin Hughes.

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