

# Dog Exercise Area Open at Village Centre

A new facility just for pet pooches is up and running at the village centre.



**And the new dog exercise area is already proving a big hit with village pet owners who now have somewhere safe for their dogs to run and exercise off their leads.**

Thanks to a Gwernymynydd and Cadole Community Council grant plus some funding from the Village Centre Management Committee the dog exercise area is already proving its worth and is in regular use.

Dog owners are welcome to use the area to exercise their pets, free of charge, just so long as they clean up after their animals and use the dog bin at the entrance to the village centre.

Nancy Matthews, who chairs the Village Centre Management Committee, says the idea was to give dog owners somewhere safe to exercise their pets while making sure dog fouling is no longer an issue within the village.

She said: "It's a fantastic facility and one I'm sure dog owners will be thrilled with. We have to thank John Hommersley, his brother Eric and Carl Jackson for all their hard work. They really have done an amazing and professional job.

"We just hope people appreciate the facility and clean up after their pets. There is a dog bin at the entrance to the village centre. It is important to accept that dog owners using the facility do so at their own risk."

Vicky Hinstridge, chair of Gwernymynydd Community Council, says councillors were delighted to support the initiative.

She said: "It's a wonderful community asset and I'm sure dog owners will appreciate using it. The double gate giving access to the area means dogs can't run off and it saves owners exercising their dogs in areas where there may be livestock.

"The guys have done an amazing job and so far we have had only very positive feedback from pet owners. This is a really positive asset that will, I hope, see a reduction in dog fouling within the village."



John Hommersley and Carl Jackson check out their handiwork with dog owner Jayne Roberts and her pet Jack Russell Poppy

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# MARTIN BARRY PRESENTS

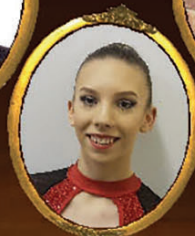
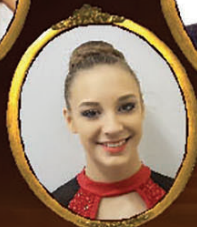


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# Back to School



Gwernymynydd CP School former pupil and teacher Morfudd Shawcross, 91, teacher Molly Parry and pupils Matthew Ross, Zoe Powell, Harry Hughes and Molly Brocklehurst.

Children of a village school quizzed a former pupil who attended their school more than eight decades ago.

**Gwernymynydd CP School pupils** have been working on a project all about their school and were thrilled to welcome former pupil Morfudd Shawcross, 91, to their classroom and quiz her on what school was like when she was a little girl.

Morfudd, who lives in Gwernaffield, told pupils she attended the school when it was located in the old school house on Ruthin Road and how she later returned to the school as a teacher.

She said: "It's been lovely visiting the school, it's not too much different just a lot more modern as you'd expect really. It's taken me back a few years, I feel like I'm back in school myself."

"I've always lived in the area and I returned to the school as a teacher. Education was different then and far stricter."

She added: "The children have been so nice and asked some lovely questions, it's been wonderful and I've really enjoyed visiting."

Teacher Molly Parry said: "It's been amazing having Mrs Shawcross visit and the children



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have clearly been enthralled listening to what she had to say about school life all those years ago.

"It has been a really interesting project and one the children have thoroughly enjoyed."

Pupil Maisie Hayes thanked Mrs Shawcross, who was presented with flowers, for visiting the school.

She said: "It's been amazing; I've loved talking to Mrs Shawcross and wish she could stay all day. It's so interesting to hear what school was like a long time ago."



Gwernymynydd CP School former pupil and teacher Morfudd Shawcross, 91, with current pupils Maisie Hayes and Kyle Boyd.

# Climb Every Mountain!

Dedicated fundraisers once again took to the hills for an annual sponsored walk to raise a mountain of cash for a breast cancer charity.

More than 50 walkers - and a few pet dogs - set off on either a 2.5 mile gentle walk around the base of Moel Famau or a more strenuous 4.5 mile hike taking in the Jubilee Tower at its summit.

The sponsored walk is one of the main fundraising events organised by the committee of the Flintshire group of the national charity **Breast Cancer NOW**.

The hard-working band of committee members have raised a huge amount of money, more than £85,000, since they began fundraising and aim to raise a minimum of £1,000 a year.

Committee member, Gwen Kime, of Gwernymynydd, says the Moel Famau sponsored walk began as an event in 1995 in memory of one of the groups' original members.

She said: "Doreen Toogood loved Moel Famau. As one of our founding members she was a very loyal and hard-working supporter right up to the end of her life.

"The walk, dedicated to Doreen's memory, has remained a popular event and we were delighted to see so many come out yet again to help us raise so much money.

"It's become a diary fixture enjoyed by people of all ages. There is no pressure to come up with huge amounts of sponsorship we are just thrilled that people support the event and pay a small entry fee."

She added; "Well done to everyone that took part. The atmosphere was, as usual, lovely and the weather was kind to us.

"Money raised so far is in excess of £650 which includes a whopping £150 raised by mum and daughter Suzanne and Seren Humphreys of Gwernymynydd which is a brilliant result.

"As a group we would like to thank everyone for taking part and helping us raise so much money. Every penny helps in the fight against this horrible condition."



The long walk Breast Cancer NOW fundraisers reach the top of Moel Famau. Bottom right: Fundraisers Seren, left, and her mum Suzanne Humphreys of Gwernymynydd.



# Celebration!

An event to officially open the village centre's improved garden and dog walking area is planned for **Friday, June 29th at 1pm** and everyone is welcome to attend.

**Thanks to ASH and Hanson Cement** the garden has undergone a real transformation with the willow trees cut back, the hard standing in front of the war memorial improved and extended and, thanks to some dedicated gardeners, new shrubs and bedding plants added.

Senior council officials and politicians will be invited and refreshments in the form of coffee, tea, sandwiches and cakes will be on offer.

It's also hope some of the clubs and societies that use the village centre and help make it the undoubted success it is will be on hand to show what they can offer.

Please add the date to your diary and join us for a real community celebration.

## Carpet Bowls

The **carpet bowls sessions** at the village centre have proved such a hit they have been extended to every Thursday afternoon between 2-4pm.

There around 16 players, both men and women of all abilities, enjoying playing on the club's two mats each week.

No experience is needed and there's a warm welcome for all with the £2 a week fee covering refreshments too.

Just turn up and join in what is a great afternoon in good company.

## Help needed

The **village pantomime group** is looking for a **treasurer**.

The hard-working team, who are already casting and working on next year's panto, need someone to look after the books and money.

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If you can help and want to get involved in what is an amazing community project please contact **Karen Jones** by phone on **(01352) 752514** or by email at [karenlesleyjones@hotmail.com](mailto:karenlesleyjones@hotmail.com)

## Yoga Classes

There has been a bit of confusion over yoga classes being run at the Village Centre.

**DRU Yoga**, is run by **Jill Blandford** and operates on Friday's between 4.30pm and 5.30pm. These classes are on-going, other than August.

Jill also runs the **FABS Move it or Lose it** classes on Wednesday mornings at the village centre. **Contact Jill** on **0744 9631836**

**Yoga for Healthy Backs**, was being run by **Kate Surry** on Wednesday's from noon until 1.30pm. These classes have now being cancelled.



# Spring Clean a Big Success

## Children's Parties

At Gwernymynydd Village Centre

Contact: Donna Worthington  
07900 938 850



From £35 including bouncy castle

The village is looking spic and span after villagers tackled the annual spring clean.

An army of youngsters, parents and youth club members donned fluorescent jackets and used litter grabbers to clear rubbish from hedgerows, pavements and open spaces.

Vicky Hinstridge, who chairs Gwernymynydd Community Council, says she was thrilled with the turn-out despite the overcast conditions and threat of rain.

She said: "It's been a very productive morning. The amount of litter and rubbish collected is simply amazing. It seems to be crisp packets, plastic drink bottles and fast food wrappings that people discard the most but we also collected everything from beer and spirit bottles, nappies and even the odd shoe!"

She added: "If people would just take their rubbish home it would make such a huge difference. As a rural community we don't want plastic and rubbish getting into fields where it could cause injury or illness to livestock.

"I'm really grateful to the young people and parents who turned out and spent several hours filling more than 40 bin bags full of waste that were collected by Flintshire County Council."

Flintshire County Councillor Kevin Hughes, who recruited his two granddaughters who live in Connah's Quay as litter pickers for the day, said: "This was once again a fabulous community effort. Well done to all those that took part and collected so much litter and rubbish.

"And a big thanks to Mold Town Council who loaned us the fluorescent jackets, litter pickers and gloves. The village looks so much better.

"If we can encourage and educate people to take their litter home and not throw it from car windows we could protect the environment for everyone."



Jacob, 6, and Dylan, 3, Appleton get stuck into the village litter pick.



From left, Jake Hughes, eight, Bryn Parry, 10, Angharad Parry, 11, Lola Roberts, 10, Elyse Gerrard, 11, Harry Hughes, 10, and Callum Norman, 13, ready for action.

Below: Sisters Ffion, 11, Ceridwen, 10 and Arwenna, 7, Griffiths of Gwernymynydd hard at work.



Halleah Hunt-Bartley, 6, and her mum, Gwernymynydd Youth Club leader Vicky Hunt of Mynydd Isa fill a bin bag of litter along with Suzanne Humphreys, Gwernymynydd Community Councillor Frances Rosedale, and youth club member Seren Humphreys.



## In at the Deep End

As reported in the last newsletter I am tackling the Great North Swim in June with my eight-year-old granddaughter Imogen.

I'll be swimming a mile of Lake Windermere and Imogen 250 metres. We have a target of raising more than £1,000 for Hope House Children's Hospices.

Please support us by going to our JustGiving page and making a donation, you will find it at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/walrus-tadpole](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/walrus-tadpole)

Many thanks,  
Kevin Hughes



Granddaughter and granddad, Imogen and Kevin Hughes.

# Our Man in Westminster

## BIG LOTTERY FUNDING IN DELYN

I recently received an update from the Big Lottery Fund on how much funding we have had from them in the past 12 months. It was a pleasure to see that we secured the investment of £679,679.

This demonstrates the huge effort of charities and organisations in our communities to secure funding to improve their services or facilities offered to residents. It is with great pride I can see that some of these projects got the funding after first getting in contact with me.

The news of this massive investment into our area coincides with the announcement of new funding being made available. This year the Big Lottery Fund is making £34m available with grants available between £300 and £500,000. This funding is to put people in the lead and support communities to identify what matters most to them.

To ensure people have a better chance of securing funding the Big Lottery Fund have created the National Lottery Awards for All scheme. This will make grants from £5,000 to £10,000 available.

As ever any group or charity who wants to apply for funding should contact me and I will be more than happy to write a letter of support.

## DEMENTIA FRIENDS

Dementia is a disease which is affecting more and more people as life expectancy grows. This is creating new challenges for society and means we must find solutions to make people's lives easier.

The Welsh Government is taking action to help people with the cost of care homes and on diagnosis, but locally there is something we can all do. That is to become a Dementia Friend.

Dementia Friends was a scheme established by

Alzheimer's UK and I recently took part in their training along with my team in the Flint office.

We are now trained as Dementia Friends and have a greater understanding of how to help people with dementia and their families.

It is a great scheme and you can all take part. Either by signing up for a face-to-face course or by completing the on-line training.

All you need to do is visit <https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/register-digital-friend> to learn more. I hope to see Delyn become the trailblazer for the number of people who are Dementia Friends.

You can keep in touch with me by phone on **(01352) 763159**. By email at [david.hansonmp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.hansonmp@parliament.uk) or by post at **4 Trelawny Square, Flint CH6 5NN**

*David Hanson MP for Delyn*

## A DATE FOR YOUR DAIRY

The village school has its summer fayre between 4:30pm and 6:30pm on Thursday, June 12th.

Please support this community event which raises money for the school's PTA.

The money raised goes toward supporting the school and buying equipment that helps children learn.

There's plenty going on from games for children to stalls selling cakes, books, toys and a host of other goodies. And of course there will be plenty of chance to meet up and have a chat over a brew!





# Our Lady in Cardiff

I'm pleased to be able to have the chance to share updates from my work both at home in the constituency and down in the National Assembly for Wales with the residents of Gwernymynydd and Cadole.

When I was elected two years ago, I pledged to be an accessible and visible AM for Delyn, and this is a great opportunity to be able to keep you up-to-date with what I'm doing to stand up for the community.

After just 18 months as your AM, I was privileged to be asked to serve as the Minister for the Environment, the first AM for Delyn to do so. However, it remains my priority to serve you as AM and I will continue to work hard on behalf of all our communities.

I was pleased to see the Welsh Government offer additional support to local authorities dealing with the costs in the aftermath of the extreme weather conditions earlier this year.

While councils are responsible for planning for weather events like the unseasonal spring snow and are expected to budget accordingly, the Welsh Government has provided additional investment in recognition of the significant costs incurred.

Here in Flintshire, council staff worked around the clock to support the travelling public and ensure our road network remained open as much as possible – especially in our rural areas - and this funding boost will help cover the costs for highway authorities' gritting and snow clearance operations and salt purchasing.

Ensuring access to superfast broadband is something that's vitally important to our rural communities and I'm keen to make sure constituents are aware of updates on progress.

Earlier this year, it was announced that the Welsh Government is to introduce a broadband outreach team to support those areas not currently covered by suppliers.

This approach will help rural communities and

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Residents who may be seeking advice or wish to raise local issues are always more than welcome to pop into my constituency office in Flint.

The best times to visit are between 9am-noon and 2-5pm, Monday to Friday. You can also write to me: **Hannah Blythyn AM, 38 Church Street, Flint, Flintshire, CH6 5AE**, or email me at [hannah.blythyn@assembly.wales](mailto:hannah.blythyn@assembly.wales) or call **01352 762102**.



# Computer Whizz-Kids Get Coding



Above: From left, Evie Parry of Ysgol Nercwys, teacher Alison Ready and Josh Goldborough of Gwernymynydd CP School.



From left, Thomas Mulloy of Ysgol Y Waun, Gwernaffield, Emma Wilson of Ysgol Nercwys, Rossie Duddon of Ysgol Nannerch, Issac Hobson of Ysgol Y Foel, Cilcain and Angharad Parry of Gwernymynydd CP school work together.

Pupils of five small rural primary schools have come together to learn computer coding techniques.

The event saw pupils of, Ysgol y Foel, Cilcain, Nannerch, Nercwys and Ysgol y Waun, Gwernaffield spend an afternoon at Gwernymynydd CP School to take part in a science project thanks to a Flintshire County Council Small and Rural Schools Grant.

Dafydd Johnson, deputy head teacher of the village school, says the £5,000 grant allowed the five schools to collaborate on improving ICT provision while also raising standards in literacy, numeracy and the digital competence framework.

He said: "Having been able to secure a grant I approached Ysgol Y Foel, Nannerch and Nercwys as we are federated with Ysgol Y Waun to get the collaboration underway. We set out an eight day action plan and invited all schools to come to Gwernymynydd to see what we do.

"We asked the company, MCC Digital, along to demonstrate the equipment we have bought

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from them. We are now looking at ordering more."

He added: "The Small and Rural Schools Grant shows the importance of schools collaborating and sharing good practice."

# Ritchie Makes Progress - Despite Blisters



**Village trekker Richard Smyth** is well on the way as he tackles a 192 mile hike raising funds for **Cystic Fibrosis Trust and Alder Hey Hospital**.

Richie set off from St Bees Head in Cumbria and is aiming to walk to Robin Hood Bay in North Yorkshire, a popular hike known as the Coast to Coast Walk.

He aims to arrive at Robin Hood Bay on June 3rd, his 70th birthday, and is pretty sure he'll make it on time.

Speaking from Reeth, in Swaledale, Yorkshire almost a 100 mile into his trek, Richie says the Lake District was a nightmare.

He said: "I never knew or expected it to be so hard. It was an absolute killer and the hardest thing I have ever done in my life. I ended up with badly blistered feet and had to take a two day rest, I had no option.

"But I'm now back on track and trying to catch up the time I lost. It's been amazing an amazing experience though and I have made lots of new friends. I'm currently walking with a Canadian guy, Ron, who is 73 and fit as a fiddle.

"I also bumped into George, who runs the auto electrical shop at Loggerheads Garage. He was doing the walk a different way and in any case was far too quick for me. But it's amazing who you meet on route."

He added: "I was thrilled to reach Shap and see the end of the Lake District but it's now the second leg, the Yorkshire Moors, and I'm not expecting it to get much easier. I'm still aiming for around 12 miles a day but it does take it's toll.

Richie, who a decade ago took part in two legs of the Round the World Race on board the Cardiff Clipper, is determined to raise all he can for Cystic Fibrosis Trust and Alder Hey Hospital.

His granddaughter, Leif, 8, has been treated at Alder Hey for the condition since birth and has to take daily medication and undergo rigorous all day tests every year.

He said: "I'm just trying to put a bit back to show my appreciation for all the care she has received.

"I'm now dreaming of reaching the finish line and seeing my wife Maureen and daughter Maxine waiting for me. This is without doubt the hardest thing I have ever done but I am determined to see it through to the end."

## Gymnast Strikes Bronze at Welsh Championships

The village can boast of a budding Commonwealth or Olympic gymnast in the making.

**Phoebe Basnett**, 7, a pupil at the village school attended the **Welsh Rhythmic Gymnastics championships** and came away with a bronze in the Under 10's Level 1 event.

Phoebe's proud mum, Imogen Rosedale, says she never expected her little star to come back from Cardiff, where the event was held, with a medal. She said: "Phoebe was competing against girls much older than her so we never really expected a medal. We went for the experience and to just have fun to be honest.

"She performed her free routine beautifully and had me in tears watching her. We are so very proud of Phoebe; she has trained so hard for this first competition and is looking forward to competing in many more events."

She added: "It's amazing to be involved in the Welsh Championships which were held at Cardiff's National Sports Centre.

"Phoebe is seven and only started Rhythmic



Phoebe Basnett gets to meet Laura Halford, Welsh 2018 Commonwealth Games Rhythmic Gymnastics silver medalist.

Deeside Rhythmic Gymnastics Club three times a week which equates to eight and a half hours.

"However, she does far more as she is always practicing at home! So long as she enjoys the sport and has fun that's all that matters. It's up to her how far she wants to go. I just couldn't be prouder."

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