



What a sad day for Gwernymynydd, Cadole and Nercwys.

Our villages' have been deeply saddened by the news of the passing of popular County Councillor, Kevin Hughes, who died on 8th January 2021, following a lengthy battle with COVID-19.

Here in the Gwernymynydd ward of Flintshire, we benefitted from all of his talents when he was editor of our newsletter.

Kevin had been our County Councillor since 2016. He was also a talented photo journalist, a former member of the Police Force and an underwater diver! In recent years, Kevin became a huge advocate for our beautiful village and also a talented newspaper Editor. He swam to raise cash for Hope House, he lobbied the Council to introduce skills to schools and he was an active Governor for Gwernymynydd School.

However, Kevin wasn't just a Councillor, he was a friend to many. He and his wife Sally moved to Gwernymynydd 30 years ago with their 3 sons Steve, Chris and Andy, when Sally became Manager of The Swan. Who will ever forget the T-Bone Steaks and the Sunday night quiz? Kevin and Sally started to build on the community spirit then, and it's never left them. There are hundreds of messages on the village Facebook page, below are sentences from just a few of them:

'.....He was a great guy, both as a friend and colleague and he will be missed by many, many people'

'.....Your Dad was such a good friend to all of us at Hope House and Ty Gobaith and will be greatly missed - his sense of humour was just wonderful.'

'.....We would attend many jobs together and have a giggle. Your Dad was truly amazing, a big friendly giant and a great man.'

'.....I remember your Dad always putting a smile on my face when he would come into the pub'

'.....Your Dad was so kind to us when we needed help, a true gent'

'.....Always remember the awesome football trip your Dad organised to Holland. Great man.'

Kevin's funeral will take place on Friday 22nd January 2021 at 12pm. He will be leaving his beloved Village from his home at 11.15am. If you wish to pay your respects, the Family have suggested we line the road, on his final journey from the village, clapping him out, with happy memories and utter respect for a man who loved to get things done!



On the weekend of 9th & 10th January 2021, dozens of people from the village, turned out to walk 5k in the snow to remember Kevin and shared some beautiful photographs along the way. Thank you all.

(Photos from Dave Jowitt, Gwernymynydd).



Decorate and Celebrate Christmas



Gwernymynydd & Cadole held the first 'Decorate and Celebrate Christmas' Event in December 2020. The aim of the event was to put a smile on people's faces and create a bit of fun in the village, after such a difficult year for us all. Residents were asked to join in by decorating either their windows, doors or gardens with the brightest and best Christmas decorations they could find!

Thank you so much to each and every single one of you, whether you entered or not, for making the village look amazing and bringing smiles to lots of faces. Over 30 houses took part in the event and judging took place on 12th & 13th December 2020. The winners were announced on 21st December 2020 and were:



- **Brightest lights: Rach Layfield, Heol y Wern**
- **Best tree: Sam Forde, Swan Lane**
- **Best window: Chris & Tec Griffiths, Heol y Wern**
- **Best garden: Ailsa Snow, Uwch y Dre**

A special thanks to John Homersley, Mark Lewis at Mold Motor Services and Kevin Thomas at the Swan for helping to distribute the flyers.

Also, a very special mention and thanks to Katie & Stephen Roberts for the 'Santa stop Here' flag and for arranging for the 'Big Man' himself to visit all the kids in the village.



We want to make 'Decorate and Celebrate Christmas' an annual event, so if you have any ideas or want to help, please let the Community Council know!

Village Coffee Club



You may remember at our last Coffee Morning, we advised that the £300 we had raised for a training resuscitation manikin was no longer required and as such, I asked for ideas of how this money could be of benefit to the village. There were suggestions that flowers and plants would give the village a more natural and cared for look. Armed with this information, I made enquiries with the Community Council and they agreed that we could use the money to purchase a large planter outside the Village Centre.

It is almost a year since we last met in the Village Centre and what a year it has been!! We have all missed socialising with friends and relatives in the village, however, we can assure you that as soon as all restrictions are lifted and it is safe to return, we'll have the best Coffee Morning to celebrate! As soon as we can get back in business, I'm sure we'll have ideas of what we should aim for next, and I can't wait for that to happen. In the meantime 'Keep Safe' and we look forward to seeing you all soon. *June Perrin and Jane Owens*

Gwernymynydd Fruit & Veg Co Op



The Gwernymynydd Fruit & Veg Co Op is still running despite the Coronavirus restrictions. The Co Op has proudly been in service for the last seven years and was set up under a scheme organised by the Welsh Government to promote healthy eating. The team are at the Village Centre between 9am and 10am every Thursday morning to receive veg, fruit and salad from Lester's farm shop in Drury.

If you would take part, please place your written order, including your name, address, phone number and payment in the post box at the Village Centre by 5pm every Sunday (the post box is situated next to the defibrillator at the Village Centre). Please request one or more of the following, stating what size bag is required:

Fruit - available in bags of either £3 / £5 / £7 each

Veg - available in bags of either £3 / £5 / £7 each

Salad - available in bags of either £3 / £5 / £7 each

*** Please note that like most similar schemes there is no choice of goods ***

We would normally ask buyers to collect, however, at the moment we are delivering, so please ensure you include your address and phone number with your order. Thank you.

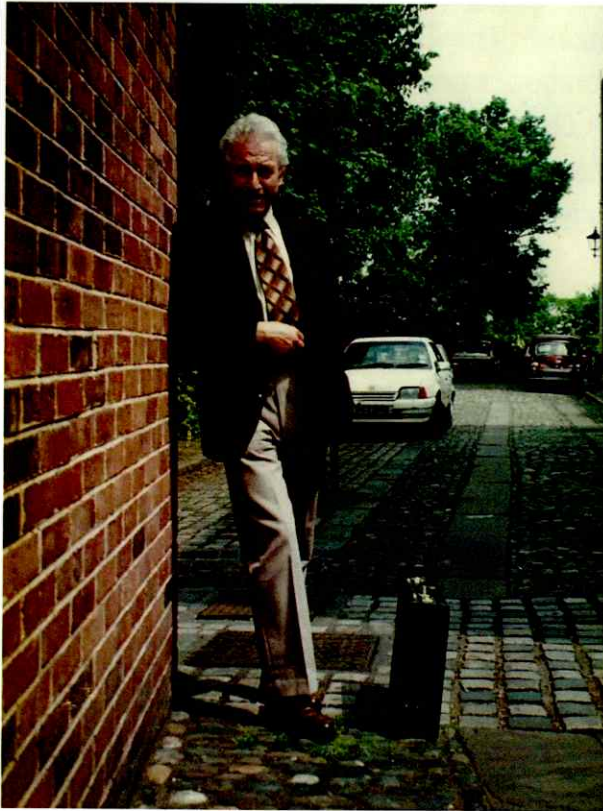
Village Lunch Club

The Village Lunch Club enables retired people in the Community to meet socially over a reasonably priced meal at local venues where they can keep in touch with old friends and make new ones. This brief update is to confirm that the Village Lunch Club is still quietly ticking over and keen to spring back into action once the current Covid-19 restrictions are fully eased and it is safe for people to join in community activities. As such there is no prospect that it can start up in the immediate future. Even when restrictions have eased sufficiently and people feel safe to socialise again, we do not know how the venues that we use have been affected, and whether and when they will be in a position to reopen. We will make sure that news of a resumption of our activities is circulated when appropriate.

However, Village Lunch Club members continue to keep in contact and support each other. In September 2020 letters were sent from the organising group to each member to maintain contact and to canvas views on the resumption of activities when safe and possible. The overwhelming response was that members wanted to meet again whilst being understandably anxious only to do so when they felt safe enough. In December, Christmas greetings and a gift of a small plant to each member were personally delivered by group members which provided opportunities for brief, socially distanced conversations that were welcomed by all Club members. It was heartening to hear, that members (for the most part) coped well with the restrictions, however all agreed that they have missed socialising and meeting up with friends.

If you have any enquiries about the Village Lunch Club you can contact June Perrin 01352 219371 or Jane Owens 01352 755157.

Keith Taylor



Keith, who died in the late autumn of 2020, was a recognisable figure in the village as he regularly exercised his dog.

To many of us, he was more familiar as a Community Councillor and also a member of the Community Centre Management Committee and he fulfilled both these roles for a number of years.

When the village took over the running of the old junior school on Ruthin Road, Keith ensured that the rules laid down were adhered to exactly. He took huge pride in looking after the Community Centre and also filled the role of a very conscientious part time caretaker, keeping the building in pristine condition.

Consequently, when the village committee took over complete control of the Centre and confirmed a long lease in 2016, everything was in place for an easy transition. We thank Keith and his fellow committee members for this, which will long be remembered.

Also remembering

In 2020, Gwernymynydd also said Goodbye to some very much loved members of our village,
Don Latham, Ken Williams and Lilian Roberts.

Much loved and very much missed members of our lovely community.

May Don, Ken, Lilian, Keith and Kevin be resting in peace.

