

Cinderella heads for Village Centre ball!

A CAST of 23 performers, all from the newly formed Gwernymynydd Pantomime Group, will take to the Village Centre stage for a three night run of Cinderella beginning Thursday, February 10th.

And according to the group's administrator, Cllr Elwyn Owens, the pantomime's undoubted success is the result of an amazing community effort.

He said: "It's been a fabulous experience. We began auditions way back in September and rehearsals have been going on twice weekly since the cast was chosen by our director, Maureen Rutherford.

"Tickets for the show are on sale and are selling like hot cakes. We have sold out the full 100 tickets for the Saturday night show and there are only limited tickets left for the Thursday and Friday evening performances."

He added: "It's amazing the amount of hard work that has gone into the production.

We have to remember only three members of the cast have ever performed on stage before and there are a few nerves as we get close to actually performing, but that's to be expected."

However, according to Cllr Owens, those working tirelessly behind the scenes deserve just as much credit as those who put themselves in the spotlight.

He said: "There are so many people who have put so much effort in that we couldn't possibly name them all. However, Barry Matkin, who is himself a professional performer, has been a massive help as lighting technician although he's not in the cast, while Jenny Johnson, Siobhan Lynch and Barbara Bowden have worked incredibly hard designing and making all the costumes.

"Dawn Spence, who is deputy head of the Argoed School and lives in the village, has been fantastic in finding us staging. While our director, Maureen Rutherford, who has 30 years' experience of drama and amateur dramatics, has been simply marvellous and a rock to us all.

"We are so pleased the cast all come from Gwernymynydd or Cadole. The youngest actor is just eight while the oldest is over 70. Ellie Tapworth makes a wonderful Cinderella while, dare I say it, Paul Maguire and Tom Barley make perfect ugly sisters!

"However, all the cast, have worked incredibly hard and I hope the last few tickets, which are available from The Swan, The Rainbow or from any committee member, are snapped up so we play to full houses each night. It's the least everyone connected with the show deserves for all their hard work."

On the beat with Gary Aldous

NORTH Wales Police is currently going through its biggest shake-up for decades mainly due to the challenging financial climate.

Our local community police officer, PC Gary Aldous, is hopeful this will not have too much of an impact on the way North Wales' villages are policed on a day-to-day basis.

He said: "Only time will tell. At the end of the month there is to be an internal announcement informing officers where they police for the next few years.

"I have put in a request to be allowed to continue in my current post and I remain confident that will be the case."

PC Aldous says he is reasonably pleased with the continued low crime rate within the village.

He said: "Last year Gwernymynydd saw 18 crimes within the village boundary of which 50% were detected. Unfortunately, the village also saw six road traffic collisions – one is too many.

"Your community council in partnership with the police and other agencies have been working towards improving the A494 Ruthin Road. This year's work has been productive as we now have plans that should see the issues in Cadole and in the Heol Y Wern area of the A494 resolved. However, as always, funding is the stumbling block, but improvements will be made in the future."

With the lambing season due to get underway Gary Aldous is keen to warn dog owners of the problems of dogs worrying sheep.

He said: "Dogs found worrying sheep may be lawfully shot by the farmer and the owners are liable for costs to the farmer as well as prosecution. Please be mindful when walking dogs and ensure you have adequate control of your pets at all times, particularly during the lambing season."

The theft of heating oil is currently a big concern. If you are worried about this, or any other type of crime, please contact Flintshire Neighbourhood Watch at Mold Police Station, who may be able to help. Call them on 01352 708118.

FINALLY, PC Aldous is asking residents with a computer to visit the North Wales Police web site and complete the Balance Your Bobby section. This will help him know just what it is you, as residents, want him concentrate on.

Classroom chat at Gwernymynydd school

WELL done Carrigan Morgan-Burseley who has been selected for the Flintshire Netball Team - a great honour for both Carrigan and the school.

THE PTA would like to thank everyone who helped raise almost £1,400 during the Christmas celebrations. This was a great Community effort and will enhance provision within the school.

CONGRATULATIONS to infants teacher Mrs Amy Adams who is expecting her first child which is due in the summer.

DIARY dates:

Children's Valentine Disco - 14th February 3.30-5pm,
St David's Day Service - 1st March 9.15am,
PTA Meeting - 8th March 7pm and
Easter Fayre - 7th April 5-7pm

Lifting the bin lid on food waste

EVER wondered what happens to all that food waste collected from outside our doors by Flintshire County Council?

Gwernymynydd and Nercwys Councillor, Nancy Matthews, who is also the county's Executive Member for Waste Management, says there are two ways food waste can be treated.

She said: "There is in-vessel composting, which is literally composting on a large scale to produce soil conditioner. The second method is anaerobic digestion, which produces gas which runs a turbine to produce electricity. This method also produces soil conditioner and a small amount of heat which can be harnessed.

"The Welsh Assembly Government favours anaerobic digestion and is supporting us with a considerable amount of money. Flintshire is working with Denbighshire and Conwy on a food waste project to build a facility which all three counties can use. This should be up and running in the next two years.

"However, currently in Gwernymynydd and Cadole, when food waste is collected it first goes to Buckley to join the bags collected that day from across the county. It's then taken to an anaerobic digester in Ludlow, which is the nearest."

But what about the cost of transporting all that waste food to Ludlow? Surely it would be cheaper to just dump it into landfill.

Not according to Cllr Matthews, who added: "The cost of putting one tonne of waste food into landfill, including haulage is £89.33. The cost of tonne of waste food to the anaerobic digester, including haulage, is £69.

"So it's a cheaper way of dealing with waste plus the purpose of collecting food is to remove organic matter from landfill where it produces a gas more harmful than carbon dioxide.

"I'm sure most people realise we have to dramatically reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. In fact, by 2025 we need to be recycling 70% of all our waste, leaving 30% to be treated. And only 5% of that 30% will be allowed to go to landfill. So my message to everyone is keep on recycling!"

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Our man in Westminster

DELYN MP David Hanson held a surgery in the Village Centre on January 21 and would like to thank everyone who attended.

He said: "The two biggest issues people in the village have raised with me recently remain traffic concerns and crime. With regard to village roads, I continue to press the Trunk Agency as well as Flintshire and Denbighshire County Councils.

"Last year two meetings were held with the Community Council and those agencies and proposals aimed at slowing down traffic through Gwernymynydd are in hand as well as plans to tackle parking problems at Loggerheads Country Park.

"On crime, I'm pleased that over the last year crime across South Flintshire has gone down by more than 14% and in Gwernymynydd crime remains very low indeed. I will continue to work closely with North Wales Police to ensure the concerns of local people are addressed.

"Finally good luck to everyone connected with the pantomime which I'm sure will be a massive success. I'm really looking forward to seeing the show."

Apply for funds

THE trustees of the Village Hall Trust Fund want to hear from any village organisations needing financial assistance.

Chair, John Jones, says the Trust was set up after the former village hall was sold just after the war.

He said: "The money went into a charitable trust fund and, although the capital is retained in trust, we are able to use the proceeds from investments to assist village organisations.

“Any organisation based in the village can apply for funds and, although the amounts available are not huge, we can and do make awards to village-based organisations when we can.”

To apply for funds apply in writing to

Mr J Jones, Manderley, Ruthin Road, Gwernymynydd. CH7 5LG.

Applications need to be made no later than February 24th.

Book worms get together to chat

Gwernymynydd Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of every month at the Swan at 7.30pm.

Organiser Jayne Borthwick said: “Anyone is welcome to drop in it certainly isn’t high-brow. We simply get together to chat about books we have read and would recommend, or not recommend, to others. It’s a good way to meet other book fans in a relaxed, fun way.”

Youth Club goes from strength to strength

At the youth club’s last meeting more than 25 young people attended. They were involved, at the start, in a discussion about some minor damage that occurred during the last meeting.

Then they moved on to a scavenger hunt and the usual games of table tennis and pool while some just enjoyed getting together to talk.

Cllr Elwyn Owens reminded members that there will be no meeting on Tuesday, February 8th as it’s the technical rehearsal for the Pantomime with several members of the club taking part.”

For sale

CLLR Nancy Matthews has a Roger Black exercise bike – hardly used – for sale. She is looking for offers with the cash to go to the pantomime fund.

The village on-line

In recent months, members of the Community Development Plan steering group have been working extremely hard putting together an amazing website for the village.

Now up and running www.gwernymynydd.org.uk has sections giving lots of information including, for example, the village plan.

We are now developing the website further adding photographs from the pantomime rehearsals and details of clubs and societies that meet in the village.

However, there is scope to do much more and we are looking at a for sale and wanted section, giving residents the opportunity to sell unwanted items or perhaps find someone with whom they can car share making it cheaper to get to and from work.

We are also keen to begin recording people stories from the village, particularly older people who remember aspects of village life in times gone by.

Please have a good look at the website, check it regularly for updates and new features and use the feedback form to offer any suggestions on how the site can be improved or what you would like to see included.

Don’t be shy, it’s your village website, use it, enjoy it and take pride in it.

Noticeboard.

I hope you will have noticed that the village newsletter has undergone some changes for this edition. In the coming months you will see many more new features, both in the newsletter and on the village website.

This is *your* newsletter and while we intend to continue keeping villagers up-to-date with what's happening in Gwernymynydd and Cadole we also want to encourage more community activities and involvement as well as drawing attention to the successes and the celebrations of residents.

Feel free to offer any suggestions as to how we can improve the newsletter to me, Kevin Hughes, via the e-mail address or phone number below.

And remember if you find a service you were looking for within these pages, please tell the advertisers you found what you were looking for here!

Items for the February issue please by Friday, February 25th to: Kevin Hughes 01352 758600 or e-mail: kevinhughes348@live.com.

Commercial adverts: Keith Taylor 01352 757339 or e-mail: keith@gwernymynydd.orangehome.co.uk

Residents wishing to contact our MP, David Hanson, should write to: David Hanson MP: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA or call the constituency office on 01352 76315 or e-mail hansond@parliament.uk