

Gwernymynydd & Cadole

Newyddion y Pentrefi - Community News - May/June 2015

In Sarah's Memory

Art students at a Mold school now have a quiet place to sit and reflect thanks to the family and friends of a teenager who passed away after a horrific car crash.

Sarah Jepson, of Cadole, was just 16 when she suffered head and chest injuries in the crash on November 1st, 2013 on the A5104 at Penymynydd.

The popular Mold Alun High School student loved art and to celebrate what would have been her 18th birthday, her mum, Jacqueline and close family and friends have presented the school's art department with a bench dedicated to Sarah's memory.

A plaque attached to the seat states that it is 'Sarah J's Space' and that she is 'Forever in our Hearts'.

Sarah's mum, Jacqueline Jepson, says the family wanted to remember what would have been her daughter's 18th birthday with a positive gesture.

She said: "Sarah loved art and enjoyed her time at Mold Alun High School. I wanted there to be a space where students could sit and remember Sarah or just have somewhere for quiet reflection.

"Sarah would have loved it and I'm sure students will enjoy having somewhere they can sit quietly and take time out. I'm delighted with the bench and plaque."

Gerald and Anne Hugo, Sarah's grandparents, went along to the presentation.

Mr Hugo said: "I'm really pleased with the bench and I'm sure students will see it as a place where they can sit and remember a beautiful and lovely young woman."

Mold Alun High School science teacher and head of Sarah's house when she a student at the school, Steph Hodby, says the bench is a fitting tribute to a wonderful student.

She said: "I know students will appreciate the bench. There are still many pupils at school who will have known Sarah.

"She was a superb and absolutely delightful student who loved art. She was a credit to her family and the school and is sorely missed."

Sarah's former boyfriend, Dan Tanton, 18, and one of her closest friends, Nadia Lahraoui, 17, also attended the presentation.

Dan, who now works as an operator at a Flintshire manufacturing firm, said: "I really like it it's definitely a fitting tribute to Sarah who was such a wonderful person."



TRIBUTE: From left, Mold Alun High School teacher, Steph Hodby, Gerald Hugo, family friend Ceri Morris, Jacqueline Jepson, Anne Hugo, Nadia Lahraoui and Dan Tanton.

PTA Needs Support and New Faces

PARENTS are being asked to get behind the school's PTA.

Headteacher Louise Williams says, although the school is holding the fundraising table top sale in aid of the Nepal Earthquake Appeal, the school summer fair has had to be cancelled.

She said: "The decision was not made easily. We value our fairs for a number of reasons, not only as a fun way to raise money for the school but also as a great way to get the community together. Monies raised from the PTA events goes towards many things.

"During the past year PTA funds have been used to:

- Pay for the bus to various places such as Erddig, Room on the Broom, Chester Zoo and our weekly swimming lessons (in excess of £1000).
- Purchase small play and gardening equipment.
- Purchase medals and trophies for sports day, sponsored run etc.
- Development of our school grounds.

"We are keen to continue to raise money for these important purchases in the future but cannot do this without help.

"We understand how busy everybody is but without attendance at our meetings or support in putting on events the PTA will simply cease to exist. We will review the situation in September.

"However, we will hold our annual sponsored run, continue holding cake and non-uniform days and collecting unwanted clothes for the Bags2School scheme for the duration of this academic year."

Village Shop Closes

Herbert Morris would like to thank each and every one of his customers for their support and friendship over the many years he has run his Pioneer store in Cadole.

40 Years

The business, which had been in Herb's family for more than 40 years, closed its doors for good on Good Friday after Herb decided it was time to move onto to other things.

He said: "I have been overwhelmed by the many kind messages I have had before closing down.

Ever Harder

"With the rise in supermarkets over the years making it ever harder for small village shops to continue I have been really lucky to have had such a loyal customer base and I'm really grateful to all of them for their support. Thank you."

Look out for July's edition for reports on Auction of Promises and other fundraising events

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School Aims to Help Children in Nepal

Pupils of the village school are reaching out to help the victims of the devastating earthquakes that struck Nepal.

The school is to hold a Table Top Sale on Thursday, June 11th with all proceeds being donated to the Nepal Earthquake Appeal.

Children and parents are being asked to sort out any unwanted items to help raise money for the Appeal.

Willing Support

And the event isn't just open to pupils and parents as anyone from the village willing to support the Appeal can book a table at the family fundraising event. Headteacher Louise Williams says the idea came about after she was approached by children, members of the community and school governors to see if something could be done to support the Appeal.

She said: "As a school we feel this is an excellent opportunity to raise money for a very needy cause as part of our Global Citizenship curriculum to teach the children in school about other parts of the world.

"I think it is important we fundraise to help our own school as much as we can but on occasions we need to look beyond our own needs.

"We know that in Nepal thousands of schools have been destroyed and that tens of thousands of classrooms need replacing.



GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP: Gwernymynydd Primary School pupils, Sophie Lloyd and Maisie Hayes, Year 3, and Reece Chambers, Year 5, check out where Nepal is located on the school's globe.

Devastating

"Almost one million children who were enrolled in school before the earthquake could now find they have no school building to return to. Prolonged interruption to education can be devastating for children's development and future prospects."

She added: "As a school we value how important going to school each day is and would like to help raise money so like our children they can return to school as soon as possible.

Good Cause

"This is an ideal opportunity for a good sort out of unwanted items while raising money for a good cause. We would suggest selling toys, books, bric a brac, dvds, games and unwanted household and garden items.

"Any unwanted clothes, bags, shoes can be donated to school via the bags2school scheme."

The Table Top Sale will take place between 3:15pm and 5:30pm on Thursday, June 11 although tables can be set up from 2pm.

For more information and to request a table e-mail the school secretary on nicky.telfer@flintshire.gov.uk or call 01352 756 756.

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Young Athletes Excel



TEAM B: The Brenning team.

Parents and grandparents cheered on young athletes at the village school's annual sports day.

Pupils were split into three teams, Alwyn, Brenning and Celyn for the event with the top team winning a trophy.

Fun Afternoon

Headteacher Louise Williams says she was delighted that so many mums, dads and grandparents came along to enjoy what was a fun afternoon for pupils.



TEAM C: The Celyn team.



SKIP: James Richards shows how it's done.

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MY BOY: Adam Webb shows off the badges he has won to his proud mum, Laura Webb.

at School Sports Day

Taking Part

She said: "It's not so much about winning as taking part and the children had a wonderful afternoon. Sports day is an event that's always eagerly looked forward to."

Keenly Contested

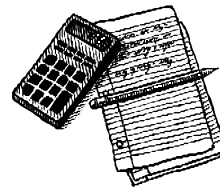
"We had some really good performances and some very keenly contested races. The weather was kind to us and I'm sure everyone who came along enjoyed the event."



CONCENTRATION: Phoebe Basnett shows good balance in the beanbag race.



PROUD: Cameron Smallwood, five, shows off her badges to her grandmother, Lorraine Smallwood and sister Kalli, two.



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Village Gets A



LITTER PICKERS: Gwernymynydd and Nercwys county councillor Nancy Matthews and her grandson, Oscar Matthews, three, get to work.



FAMILY AFFAIR: Hard at work are, from left, Stuart Perrin, LITTER: Ruth, who is carrying her three-week-old daughter, Erin, 13, S Gwen, three, and Richard Salisbury.



CLEAN UP: Mair Hughes with her grandson Jasper Stroud, five

An army of litter-pickers has been out in force giving the village its annual spring-clean.

50 Bin Bags

Gwernymynydd mums, dads, and grandparents joined children for the annual event and helped fill more than 50 bin-bags full of rubbish from hedgerows and open spaces within the village.

Warm Brew

The event was organised by the Community Council and, thanks to sponsorship from Allan Morris Transport and ASH Waste Management, every child that took part took home a delicious Easter Egg while, at the conclusion of the event, adults enjoyed a buffet and a chat over a warming brew.

Rubbish

Keith Taylor, Chair of Gwernymynydd Community Council, who donned a fluorescent jacket and joined in the clean-up, said: "It's amazing just how much litter and rubbish has been collected in such a short space of time. More than 40 people turned-out to help which is fantastic.



PICK IT UP: Amber Row Ebony Ro

Spring Clean



From left, Jane Hommersley, 15, Hannah Mason, Seren Humphreys, 10, Rowan Mason, 12, and Suzanne Humphreys.



COUNCIL WORK: Back, Gwernymynydd and Cadole Community Council chair, Keith Taylor, County Councillor, Nancy Matthews with front, Ebony, 11, and Amber Rowley, 12, and Kendal Thomas, 11



Rowley, 12, Kendal Thomas and Amber Rowley, both 11.

“Plastic and glass bottles, crisp packets and fast food packaging are the biggest problems.”

Wildlife

He added: “We would ask people to think about the damage they are doing to the environment and wildlife when they throw litter and waste from their cars or intentionally drop it while out walking.”

Gwernymynydd and Nercwys County Councillor, Nancy Matthews says the annual event is proving a wonderful way of bring the community together.

Good Weather

She said: “Luckily the weather held off and we had a really good turn-out. It’s a great way to meet up and have a chat while doing something really worthwhile for the community.

“It really is amazing the amount of litter and rubbish that is collected in such a short period of time. I hope the event will continue to grow and we see even more villagers joining in next year.”



TOP TEAM: From left, Phoebe Basnett, four, Imogen Rosedale, Alisia Basnett, seven, Amelie Painter, eight, community councillor Frances Rosedale and Zach Painter, six.



From left, food team, Bethan Williams, Karen Jones, Sylvia Vaughan, Dianne and Carl Jackson try to tempt mum Ruth Salisbury and her daughters, Gwen, three and three-week-old Erin with some delicious cakes.

Walkers Support Breast Cancer Charity

FUNDRAISERS have raised a mountain of cash for a breast cancer charity after stepping out in style for an annual sponsored walk.

More than 50 dedicated walkers - and a few well-behaved 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.



UMBRELLA TEAM: From left, sister-in-laws, Susan Ledsham, of Pantymwyn, Eirlys Ledsham, of Mold, Doreen Williams, of Sychdyn and Sybil and Harry Morton of Pantymwyn.



From left, Evelyn Murray, six, Ebony Guitton, 12, Mel Murray, Claire Guitton, Kath Edwards, Georgia Murray, eight, all of Llanferres and Afon Wen, and organising committee member Cerys Hughes.

The sponsored walk is one of the main fundraising events organised by the committee of Flintshire Breakthrough Breast Cancer Group which was set up in 1995.

The hard-working band of committee members have raised a huge amount of money, more than £80,000, 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 both lived on, and 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, despite the drizzling rain, to help us raise so much money. We already have more than £400 donated with other people still getting their sponsor money in.

"It's become a really popular event 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 to take part."

She added: "Well done to everyone that took part. It was a shame the weather turned a little bit wet but people still turned up in good numbers to take part which was brilliant."

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Bloomin' Lovely!

A FLOWER festival left a village church in full bloom.

Volunteers decorated St Mary's Church, Nercwys with thousands of delicate flowers with funds raised going toward the upkeep of the church.

The idea for the three day festival came from church warden Vincent Griffiths, who said: "A couple of years ago we had a Christmas tree festival and I suggested to the church council we try a flower festival as a way of generating funds toward the upkeep of the church.

"I'm thrilled everyone took the idea on board and the church looked fabulous. Each window depicted a country or language. The theme of the festival was The Trinity – joining three in one - and Pentecost.

"At Pentecost the disciples were given the gift of tongues so we suggested that arrangements depict languages or countries.



FLOWER GIRLS: Nancy Matthews and church treasurer, Mavis Bartlett, prepare their displays.



Vincent Griffiths works on a display.

"Some flowers were donated and parishioners and helpers supplied others. Pupils from the village school made ceramics which went on show in the church porch which the children decorated."

He added: "Hopefully, once all the money from donations, raffles and entry fees is in, we will have raised a good sum of money that can be used for repairs and the general upkeep of the church."

Gwernymynydd and Nercwys County Councillor, Nancy Matthews helped decorate St Mary's Church ahead of the festival.

She said: "The idea for a flower festival is an inspired one. It's was lovely to see so many people working together to produce such fabulous and colourful arrangements.

"The festival was a huge success and I'm certain it will become a regular feature on the Nercwys calendar."

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A Word Or Two From Nancy

Normally I would not mention politics in my short piece for the village newsletter but we have just had a momentous General Election.

It was pretty devastating for the party I represent, but that was the price we paid for going into a Coalition Government that was able to run for the whole five years.

Those of you I have met during the years I have been County Councillor here, will know I always ask you to make sure you use your vote - this is my over-riding passion.

I have been alarmed this year at the number of people who are not on the Electoral Roll and have never voted.

The comments I heard included: "I'm frightened of doing it wrong," "What's the point?" And "Nobody listens to us anyway."

Unfortunately politicians and members of political parties tell people they must vote but don't explain why it's important and that it's their right.

Before our next elections it is time, for everyone involved in politics, to work to help everyone to use their right to register their vote.

Visit www.gov.uk/your-vote-matters, you will need your National Insurance Number, or you can register by post.

THERE are still problems with pavements in the village being decorated by dog mess.

And, sadly, with bags of dog faeces being dropped anywhere and everywhere by owners when there are bins around to put those bags in.

I recently heard of a far more worrying consequence of owners failing to pick up after their dogs.

Many public footpaths run along the side of fields, and we are all delighted to be able to walk our dogs there.

However if we fail to pick up the faeces the grass in that field becomes infected with neosporosis.

When cows in calf eat that grass the calf is aborted and the cow never carries a calf to full term again.

Please, please, please pick up after your dog.

Rainbow Magic

Hâf Denham from Heol y Wern, Gwernymynydd, started 1st Gwernaffield Rainbows in January 2015 and made her promise on 21st April 2015. She really enjoys going and making new friends.

She has already gained her 'Roundabout All About Me' badge and is currently working towards her 'Underground Challenge' badge.



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Our Man in Westminster



As this is first newsletter since the General Election I just want to simply express my thanks to all who took part in that contest either as a voter or a candidates.

The turnout in the election increased and the number of candidates who took part was a record locally.

I was returned as the MP for Delyn with an increased vote and majority so I am obviously pleased to have been given another five year term representing the constituency.

I hope village residents will continue to keep in touch on issues locally and nationally as, no matter how you voted, now the election is over I remain an MP for everyone and want to hear all views.

At the time of writing, two key national issues coming up soon will be the Queen's Speech with new laws on a Europe referendum, English votes for English laws, immigration and many other issues.

And we will also have another budget no doubt to reduce spending and to confirm taxation - but we will see!

I'll be issuing a new surgery list soon commencing in June but residents can contact me now on 01352 763159 or email me at david.hanson.mp@parliament.uk

Dog Fouling - Yet Again!

THE cutting of grass verges along the A494 by the County Council is always welcome as it preserves and enhances the overall appearance of the village, but not so welcome is the irresponsible dog owner who allowed his or her animal to foul the verge area in front of School Terrace the very day after the grass was cut.

Given the amount of excrement deposited the person concerned must have been aware of his or her dog's actions and not to clear up the mess is a disgusting and selfish act on their part. I would challenge them to return and clean the area but I doubt they would have the nerve to do so.

But I'll say this, BEWARE, I shall be watching in future! - Vinnie Jones

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Lost Coat

Wendy Morris, who lives on Plas Hafod Lane, lost a black padded coat off her washing line last month. She says it may have been blown off the line by strong winds. But if anyone has found it please contact the editor on kevinhughes348@live.com

FOR SALE

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The Back Page

From Class Room To The Streets of London

A Bryn-y-Baal head teacher left the classroom miles behind as she tackled the London Marathon.

Dawn Spence, who lives in the village, is head of Argoed High School and pounded her way around the streets of London raising funds for the charity JDRF which aims to find a cure for Type 1 diabetes.



MARATHON EFFORT: Dawn Spence shows off her London Marathon running vest to, from left, Year 8 pupils Jessica Edwards, Ben Edwards, Ellie McHugh, Ciaran Lavelle, Jack Symms and Olivia Holdcroft.

And while the mum-of-two tackled the run alone she had plenty of help from her pupils who backed her fundraising efforts through a sponsored cake bake and sale, busking sessions in and around the school, a sponsored car wash and a fashion show.

Dawn, who chose to run for JDRF as one of her nephews who lives in her native Liverpool fell seriously ill before being diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes.

She said: "It's such a great charity which is helping lots of young people and their families. The charity is not that well known unless you have been directly affected by Type 1 diabetes. I know the charity is at the forefront of research and supports families' every day.

"I have trained hard for a few months to prepare for the marathon and I completed the Liverpool half

marathon and the Oulton Park 10k race in the last few months.

"I really started training hard after last December's Chester Santa Dash and I really enjoy running around Gwernymynydd, the countryside is beautiful even if the hills have been challenging. I've always enjoyed half-marathons and 10k's but this was my first full marathon.

"My time was 5 hours 46mins.

A little slower than planned but I hurt my foot at 20 miles! I did, however, finish smiling and still running.

She added: "I'm so proud that Argoed High School pupils have got right behind my fundraising efforts. I've had some fabulous support and it's given my fundraising a real boost.

"I'm aiming to raise £2,000 from family and friends and I'm already well on the way to that total but what the pupils are doing is amazing and it's really going to boost the total we can hand to the charity. So far, I've raised approx £1,200 with three events to go."

To donate to Dawn please visit <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/DAWNSPENCE1>

Like Running Half Way Up Everest

CLAIRE House Children's Hospice will benefit from the fundraising efforts of a veteran village athlete who is running three 'hilly' marathons in five weeks.

Eric Davies was due to run the local Excalibur Marathon in May 2013, but on the eve of the race his mum was diagnosed with cancer and died just 11 days later.

Eric said: "I felt bad about not running in 2013, as people had sponsored me. So this month I'll be running in the Howgill Fells, near where the ashes of my Mum and Dad are scattered; then doing Excalibur in the Clwydians; and in June - if my legs still work - I'll be racing round Coed y Brenin, near Dolgellau, where my parents did some of their courting."

So at 58 years of age, Eric will be running 78 miles and climbing 14-15,000 feet - the equivalent of running half way up Everest!

If you'd like to sponsor Eric - and help generate much-needed funds for Claire House - please donate at: www.justgiving.com/78at58.

