

GWERNYMYNYDD & CADOLE

Newyddion y Pentrefi - Community News

July/August 2018



Community Celebration

The official opening of the new Memorial Garden at the Village Centre.

The Village Centre's new Garden of Remembrance has been officially declared open.

Clwyd South AM and Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport, Ken Skates, joined Delyn MP David Hanson and AM Hannah Blythin at the celebration event. Flintshire County Council's Armed Forces Champion Andrew Dunbobbin and Chief Officer Ian Bancroft also attended.

County Cllr Kevin Hughes said: "I'm really proud of the work that's been done and the support we have had from ASH Waste Management and Hanson Cement who have worked with the Village Centre Management Committee to improve the garden for everyone.

"We have seen an increase in the number of people that attend the service on Remembrance Sunday each November but we had no where for people to stand in front of the village war memorial.

"We asked John Dennan, of ASH Waste Management and Jason Parry, the Hanson Cement Cefn Mawr quarry manager, for help and Jason arranged for all the trees to be cropped

and sorted by a tree surgeon and provided us with boulders and rocks for the rockery.

"ASH came in and cleared the ground laying a new hard surface giving us much more room. We didn't have to pay for anything as ASH paid all the labour costs and provided all materials free of charge as did Jason from Hanson Cement. Both companies were fantastic and their community spirit is to be applauded."

He added: "It means we now have a Garden of Remembrance to be proud of and a team of village gardeners have added a number of bushes, shrubs and flowers to improve the garden.

"I'm also grateful to the village school choir as pupils came along to the celebration and performed a number of songs while the licensee of the Swan Inn, Kevin Thomas, kindly provided a buffet and refreshments.

"This was a lovely community celebration which I'm sure everyone enjoyed. We asked Sylvia Vaughan, who lives in the village, to cut the ribbon and declare the garden open as her great uncle is one of eight names from the village that appear on the memorial."

School Summer Fair Fun



Pupils of the village school had the chance to throw wet sponges at their teacher without fear of landing in detention.

The school held its annual summer fair and raised an amazing £740 which will be spent on helping pupils.

Deputy head teacher, Dafydd Johnson, who spent most of the evening in the stocks being pelted with wet sponges by eager pupils, said: "The school summer fair is an annual event organised by the school's PTA and staff. The community really gets behind the event and supports the school which is really appreciated.

"The money raised will be spent on equipment and go toward paying for school trips. It's an event our pupils always look forward to and we have to thank all the parents and governors who baked cakes, ran stalls and generally got behind what was a brilliant community event that will, in the long run, benefit pupils."

**Are you celebrating an event or do you want to promote your club or society in the Village News?
Email kevinhughes348@live.com.**

Vital Equipment Ready to Save Lives



Haf Denham, nine, gets to work on her CPR skills with, from left, Cllr Jacqui Jepson, Cllr Vicky Hinstridge and Keith Foster of CHT.

A defibrillator has now been installed on the exterior wall of the Village Centre and is available for anyone to use.

The equipment was purchased by the Community Council from the Community HeartBeat Trust (CHT) and a first CPR training session has been held for villagers at the village centre.

Community councillor Jacqui Jepson, who herself works within the health service, has led on the initiative and should hopefully soon be an accredited CHT trainer.

She said: “There is actually no need to be trained to use a defibrillator and if someone is in cardiac arrest you are not going to do anything that will make the situation worse. In fact what you will be doing by using the device is giving someone a chance.

“The machine gives out audible easy to follow instructions and won’t give a shock unless one is needed.

“What is important is that as many people as possible within the community knows how to give basic first aid and knows how to give CPR.”

She added: “I was pleased so many villagers attended the first training session which was provided by Keith Foster of CHT.

“I will be running more training in due course and hope to get as many people as possible trained up in how to give CPR and have an understanding of how the defibrillator works and how it can save lives.”

Community Council chair Vicky Hinstridge said: “The fact we have a defibrillator available for the whole community to use if needed is a start. It can be accessed at the village centre and be used by anyone.

“Jacqui Jepson has really pushed for the community council to get this first defib machine and I hope we will eventually have more than one and at different locations around the village.”

Federation Sports

Pupils of the new school federation enjoyed a special sports day before their individual school's broke-up for the summer break.

The Hafod Federation, Gwernymynydd CP School and Ysgol y Waun, Gwernaffield, event saw pupils of both schools come together to try out a range of new and exciting sports.

Head teacher Louise Ankers, says all pupils from nursery up to Year 6, enjoyed the event which was held across both school sites.

She said: "The morning session saw all Foundation pupils from both schools tackle cricket, golf, tennis, hockey, obstacle races and athletics events while parents and Key Stage 2 (KS2) pupils watched and cheered them on.

"In the afternoon, KS2 pupils from both schools had chance to take part in the activities with dodge ball, basket ball and badminton included. The two events were well supported by parents from the federation.

"I organised the event using the skills and expertise of Michelle Thomas and her team as part of Aura - school sport services. Refreshing fruit salad was provided in the morning and flapjacks in the afternoon along with refreshments for parents by Newydd Catering.

"The event was a first and certainly one we will hope to repeat. During the initial consultation for our Federation, pupils were all very keen to have additional opportunities for enhanced sport activities - this was a way of answering their request.

"When we federated we had access to some funds through a Small and Rural Schools Grant. This has been invaluable in allowing us to use coaches to transport pupils between sites for various events and for entering county competitions such as cross country, indoor athletics and the Welsh Jamboree."



Isabelle Roberts has a go at hockey.



Adam Webb plays tennis.



4 Eve Williams under the obstacle course net.



Reuben Morgan tries his hand at cricket.



Osian Stacey clears the obstacle course net.

Superman!



A village pensioner has taken to the skies to tackle a parachute jump to raise funds for the Blind Veterans - at the age of 94.

Norman Smith, a retired engineer and former community councillor, has lived in the village for more than 35 years and says he felt he had a duty to raise funds for the charity.

He said: "When my dear wife, Audrey, was alive we supported about five charities through direct debits but I can't do it anymore. I couldn't get it out of my mind to do something for the Blind Veterans, a charity Audrey was keen on.

"We were married for more than 60 years having got married in 1948; she passed away last year on what was our wedding anniversary."

He added: "I went with my two daughters, Jill and Carol, to the air base near Whitchurch and signed up for the tandem jump. I had to prove I could learn and do the manoeuvres. They hung me up from the ceiling on hooks!

"And I had to get a special medical certificate due to my age. But it was all fine and I got to do the tandem jump with an expert which was amazing and one of the most exciting things I think I've ever done.

"I've raised close on £1,000 which makes me feel really good. I'm now planning to do the zip wire challenge in North Wales to raise more money for Blind Veterans."

Norman served on board on Royal Navy frigate HMS Ascension in World War Two as a gunnery engineer. He was involved in escorting North Atlantic convoys as well as hunting and destroying German U-Boats. He later served in the Far East and was awarded a number of service medals including the Atlantic Star. **You can donate to Norman's fundraising by visiting: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/norman-smith-skydive.**

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End of Year Party

Pupils of the newly formed school federation enjoyed a leavers' party at a top hotel as they prepare to move up to secondary school.

The Hafod Federation, Gwernymynydd CP School and Ysgol y Waun, Gwernaffield, has enjoyed a busy first six months according to head teacher Louise Ankers.

She said: "There have been so many positive experiences for pupils and parents from both schools have been very supportive. I look forward to building on this successful start.

"The Federation's first Year 6 leavers have had an action packed transition from their individual primary schools as they prepare to move on to secondary school.

"The 27 leavers all took part in a team-building day at Colomendy where pupils pushed themselves to their limits."

"Then a group of parents worked with pupils to organise a leavers' party which was held at the Plas Hafod Hotel.

"All pupils were very well behaved and it was hard to tell they were from two different schools - they all get along so well."

Mum, Sian Parry, of Gwernymynydd, who organised the party says she was delighted the event was so successful and hopes it will become an annual event.

She said: "We had amazing support. The Plas Hafod Hotel donated the venue for free and gave us a massively reduced price for the buffet. The hotel team was fantastic and allowed children to choose the food, decorations and their own song list for the disco.

"The PTA's of both schools paid for the disco and the DJ was perfect. The party was well supported by staff, governors and parents."

She added: "Parents from both schools offered lots of help and support on the night to chaperone at the event. It was lovely to see the pupils of both schools mixing and getting to know each other before going to Mold Alun High School."

Any parent who has not yet downloaded any of these images and would like one please email kevinhughes348@live.com.





Our Man in Westminster



It was a great privilege to attend the celebration of the refurbishment of Gwernymynydd War Memorial Garden at the village centre recently.

Along with pupils from Gwernymynydd Primary School, local community councillors, representatives of local businesses and Hannah Blythyn AM, we shared a very special day.

It never fails to surprise me that even in what would have been a very small village at the time of World War One, before the new developments of the 60's, 70's and 80's had taken place, that eight men from the village gave their lives in the Great War.

It is also important to remember the village resident who died in World War Two.

I just want to pay tribute to all those who helped plan the garden of remembrance and worked to deliver something for which we can all be proud.

And congratulations on the new dog walking area that is now up and running in the grounds of the village centre.

What a great idea this is to allow dogs to run free, but under control. Well done to all involved!

I have had the opportunity to meet with John Dennan of Ash Group, to visit the Cambrian Quarry in the village.

It gave me a chance to learn more about the work undertaken and the efforts the company are taking to comply with the regulations concerning their operations.

Those residents who have raised issues with me have had them raised with the company. However, from feedback I have received, I have also been pleased to see many people are content with the way in which the company is operating in the village.

You can keep in touch with David Hanson MP by phone on (01352) 764159. By e-mail at david.hansonmp@parliament.uk or by post at 4 Trelawny Square, Flint, CH6 5NN.



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Our Lady in Cardiff

It was a pleasure to take part in the official opening of the village's Garden of Remembrance earlier this summer. The sun shone on a wonderful day and thanks go to all involved in organising such an excellent tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

The community now has a garden of remembrance to be proud of and it was pleasing to see so many people at the celebration, featuring a brilliant singing performance from the children at Gwernymynydd CP. Diolch!

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The Welsh Government's Superfast Cymru project has enabled access to fast fibre based broadband to almost 733,000 homes and businesses across Wales. Of these, more than 717,000 locations are able to achieve speeds of at least 30Mbps with the remaining achieving speeds of over 24 Mbps.

This means that more than half of the homes and businesses across Wales can now access fast fibre-based broadband that simply wouldn't have been able to before.

Deploying broadband on this scale and at such pace, particularly in areas like Gwernymynydd and Cadole, has proved challenging and there is more work to be done to ensure all our communities are connected.

A successor programme to Superfast Cymru is expected in the autumn and constituents who have any issues surrounding broadband access can get in touch with me or my team.

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Looking ahead, I'll continue to be accessible and visible across our constituency, reaching out to all areas. Residents who may be seeking advice or wish to raise local issues are always welcome to pop into my constituency office in Flint. The best times to visit are between 9am and noon and 2pm-5pm, Monday to Friday.

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Leaders Leave Youth Club



Vicky Hunt, left, and Lydia Drury.

The village youth club will have new leaders from September after Lydia Drury stood down while Vicky Hunt is heading off on maternity leave.

To celebrate youth club members had a barbecue before the summer recess.

Vicky is returning after having her baby and says the young people who attend the club are great kids.

She said: "They really are the most helpful and nicest kids you could wish to meet. They are a credit to the village."

Lydia, who works as a HR admin assistant with a Flintshire County Council owned catering and cleaning company, added: "I have been a youth leader for three years and knew some of the members from when I was in high school. They really are great kids."

From Small Seeds


In addition to the new dog exercise area that is proving such a hit the Village Centre Management Committee's plans for a village orchard is beginning to bear fruit.

Apple, plum and pear trees are to be planted by youth club members under the guidance of Cadole landscaper and Community Councillor Mike Medway.

Chair of the Management Committee Nancy Mathews said: "We have managed to buy 10 fruit trees so far and hope we can add to that number as time goes by.


"The trees are being planted within the grounds of the village centre providing food for bees and other insects and fresh fruit for villagers.

"It's hoped we can encourage people to sponsors new trees as time goes by so we can see the orchard grow in size and importance."



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Alicia on the West End Stage!



The village's Alicia Rose Basnett turned 11 in June just as she made her debut on the West End stage at Her Majesty Theatre.

The budding star is a member of part of the Pauline Quirke Academy of Performing Arts.

The show, Troubles a' Brewin was performed on Her Majesty's Theatre stage by a group of aspiring professional actors from the Chester-based academy.

Alicia's mum, Imogen Rosedale, said: "It's a huge achievement for the PQA students and many months of hard work, dedication and commitment went into the show.

"Alicia played the part of a pop star Justine Beaver, she was amazing and blew us away with her performance taking centre stage to say her lines in a western American accent."

Get your tickets for a great night out!



The village's professional entertainer Martin Barry has put a wonderful show together called a Time to Remember 1914-1918 The Centenary.

In association with the Community Council and the Arts Council for Wales the show will run for two nights, Friday 28th and Saturday 29th of September, at the village centre at 7:30pm and tickets are just £7.50.

Barrie says it's a nostalgic look back to the story, the music and the comedy of the times.

The audience is encouraged to dress in early 1900's costume and bring your own drinks as there is no bar.

Tickets, which are selling fast, are available at The Swan Inn or contact Barrie on (01352) 754074.

Richard's Long Walk Ends



Village adventurer Richard Smyth has celebrated his 70th birthday in style after handing over a cheque for £1,682.50 to Alder Hey Children's Hospital.

Richard completed the Coast to Coast walk from St Bees Head in Cumbria to Robin Hood Bay in North Yorkshire to celebrate his big birthday.

And he wanted to raise funds for the hospital



as his granddaughter, Leif, eight, has been treated at Alder Hey Hospital for cystic fibrosis since birth.

Before the trek started Richard said he just wanted to put a bit back and show his appreciation for all the wonderful care his granddaughter has received.

Well done Richard on your amazing achievement!

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