



GWERNMYNYDD & CADOLE

Newyddion y Pentrefi - Community News

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DECEMBER / JANUARY 2018/19



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Merry Christmas

Children at the village school have been preparing for Christmas by thrilling mums, dads and grandparents with their Christmas plays.

Nursery and Reception children played out a nativity play while Year 1 and 2 pupils performed A Little Robin Told Me. Budding Thespians in Year's 3 to 6 performed Bah Humbug, a Christmas tale about Scrooge.

And community leaders are also taking the opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Chair of the Community Council, Vicky Hinstridge said: "On behalf of all community councillors I'd like to wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas. It is a great time to get together with family and friends.

"However, there are some in the community who may be spending Christmas day alone. Perhaps we should all think of any neighbour who may be on their own and perhaps invite them around for a sherry, a glass of mulled wine or even just for a coffee."

County Councillor Kevin Hughes said: "I endorse Vicky's sentiments and hope everyone has a great time.

"I'd also remind everyone that North Wales Police are again running a drink and drug driving campaign this year. If you have a drink, even one, please don't drive and remember many people are caught over the limit the next day.

"If you have a few drinks in the evening it may well be you are still considerably over the drink drive limit the next morning.

"Think before you pick up your car keys and lets all have a safe and peaceful Christmas and New Year without any families suffering the pain of losing a loved one or seeing someone seriously hurt due to someone driving under the influence of drink or drugs."

He added: "It's been a busy but enjoyable year and I look forward to an even busier 2019.

"It's been a privilege to represent Guernmynydd, Nercwys and Cadole on the County Council and I promise to continue working hard for every resident in 2019 and beyond."



School Poets Work Rewarded



Prize winners: from left, Tom Hurley, Maggie-Beau Stacey and Sophia Liddell with judges, back from left, Carl Jackson, Steve Rymill and Norman Smith.

“The standard was amazing and some really did bring a lump to the throat.”

“As judges we listened to the poems being read and had no idea who the author was. The standard was amazing and some really did bring a lump to the throat. Well done to every child, I wish we could have given everyone a prize.”

War veteran Norman Smith, who was in the navy in World War Two and escorted convoys across the Atlantic as well as hunting out German U-boats, said: “It was fantastic, the children did a wonderful job. I’ve been given copies of all the poems and will read them all again at home.

“It was a lovely afternoon and I was pleased to spend a bit of time after we had judged the competition answering questions the children asked me about

my experiences during the war. “

The winners, Maggie-Beau Stacey of Year 5, Sophia Liddell of Year 4 and best effort winner Tom Hurley of Year 3 all said they were pleased to have won their prizes and how they all enjoyed writing their poems.

Village school pupils wrote poems on the subject of the First World War as part of a competition set by community councillors.

And three of the young wordsmiths had a big surprise after ASH Group, who sponsored the event, handed over prizes of family cinema tickets to the poets who came up with what were judged to be the best work.

Steve Rymill, ASH Group environmental manager, community councillor and former soldier Carl Jackson and World War Two veteran and village resident Norman Smith, 94, acted as judges for the competition.

Deputy head teacher Daffyd Johnson says the work produced by all pupils was of a very high standard and he didn’t envy the judges’ task.

“To me every pupil was a winner, they all worked incredibly hard and the poems they produced were simply amazing. They clearly have an understanding of the horrors of war and what soldiers and their families back at home had to go through.

“Some children chose to write poems from a soldier’s perspective others from a child at home waiting for their dad to return and others simply about the war itself. A great deal of the work was touching and full of emotion. I’m really proud of what the children produced.”

Steve Rymill said: “We had an incredibly hard job choosing two winners, one from Years 3 & 4 and one from Years 5 & 6. We also gave an additional prize for best effort.

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He's Behind You!



and determination I'm sure they will do just that!
"The traditional tale of Snow White has been brought up-to-date to appeal to a wide audience. I come from a television production background where I work with professionals in this field on a regular basis and I'm amazed by the level of talent in the village.'

Chair of the Pantomime committee Karen Jones added: "I'm very pleased with the progress of the show this year and I'm over the moon with the team effort.

"This year we have had a change in directors and Cameron has stepped up into the role. It's been a pleasure to work with him. He's not just been a director but a great friend to the whole production team."

Snow White will be showcasing from February 28th to March 2nd. There will be four performances including a Saturday matinee.

Tickets will be on sale from New Year's Day and are just £6 and can be collected from Karen Jones, The Swan Pub or any of the committee members.

The village pantomime is back for its ninth year – Oh yes it is!

For the past eight years talented performers from the community have graced the stage to put on some fantastic productions and this year is no different.

A strong cast of 19 have been working hard since September to create this year's pantomime, the traditional tale of Snow White.

Written by director Cameron Williams, the tale has a few twists and turns and a wide range of singing, dancing and of course more than a few laughs too!

This is a show you do not want to miss!

Writer and director Cameron Williams said: "The cast have been working super hard to make this year's pantomime another success and with all their hard work

The committee is also appealing for anyone who would like to join the team back stage to lend a hand during the week of the show.

Help is needed with costumes and looking after children. Contact Karen Jones on (01352) 752514 if you can help or have ticket enquiries.

Quiz Night

Get your thinking caps on for a special quiz night!

The Plas Hafod will be the venue for the Friday, February 1st school's quiz night and hot pot super which will get underway at 7:30pm.

ASH have kindly donated £100 cash prize which will be split between winning teams and the Plas Hafod are donating the hotpot supper. Tickets are £5 per person and can be obtained from each school.

All proceeds will go to the Hafod Federation and will equally benefit both schools.



Fruit Trees

The community centre now boasts the start of a village orchard.

Apple, pear and plum trees have been planted and it's hoped people may want to add to the 10 fruit trees already planted as time goes on.

If you would like to buy and dedicate a tree in memory of a loved one please speak to any village centre committee member.

Lest We Forget



Scenes from this year's Remembrance Day service at the village centre



The Village Remembrance Day service was really well attended this year.

It's lovely to see the numbers of villagers coming along to pay their respects going up year on year.

This year we had the Last Post played by John Perrin of the village on his cornet while Nial Borthwick, as ever, played the bagpipes as the vicar prepared to lead the service.

The event had added poignancy as we now have a RBL silent soldier tribute, courtesy of the Community Council, permanently displayed alongside the Village war memorial.

This year Norman Smith, 94, who served in the Royal Navy during World War Two, laid the wreath on behalf of the village flanked by cadets from Mold Squadron 1378 Air Cadets.

Many thanks to everyone who helped organise the service and of course the Stephenson family who once again rang the old school bell at their home 11 times as the clock struck 11am.

Lest We Forget



Community Councillors Mike Meadway and Carl Jackson install the village's 'Tommy' tribute in the village centre memorial garden.

Celebration Time



The Golden Couple

Huge congratulations to Pat and Dave Thornton who have recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Pat and Dave would like to thank friends and neighbours for helping them celebrate 50 golden years together and for making the day so memorable.

And they would also say a big thanks for all the cards, gifts and donations which totalled £255, money that has been donated to Cancer Research UK.

As you can see from the picture taken on their wedding day and the more recent image they haven't changed a bit!



New Arrival

Congratulations to Dave and Jan Francis on the new arrival to their family.

Their daughter Lyndsey and husband Tom have had a baby boy, Jack Thomas Jervis, who arrived into the world on September 26th weighing in at 6lb 12 oz.

Huge Congratulations to the whole family!

Local Government

Our Man in Westminster

Another year is coming to a close and as we get ready for Christmas day it is a perfect time to reflect and give thanks for the year that has passed.

It has been an extremely eventful year, both nationally and locally, and it has been an absolute privilege to continue to work with community groups in and around Gwernymynydd.

The spirit that is shown by our little part of Wales never ceases to amaze me.

I want to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I hope that everyone gets to spend time with their loved ones, enjoy a bit too much food and ring in 2019 with optimism for the next year to outdo the last.

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



Our Woman in Cardiff

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in Gwernymynydd and Cadole a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year/Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda.

It has been another busy year, working hard for the community that shaped me. Serving as the Assembly Member for Delyn remains a huge privilege and I will always stand up for our area.

Constituents and residents who may require advice and guidance on any matters can get in touch with me or are always more than welcome to pop into my constituency office in Flint.

You can also get in contact with me by writing to the following address: Hannah Blythyn AM, 38 Church Street, Flint, Flintshire, CH6 5AE, by emailing us at hannah.blythyn@assembly.wales or by calling 01352 762102. You can also find me on Facebook and Instagram at Hannah-4Delyn or on Twitter @HannahBlythyn.



Please be advised that during the festive period, my constituency office will be closed from Friday December 21 until Thursday January 3.

Children's Parties

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Christmas Party Time



Christmas Party TIME



Members of the Village Lunch Club enjoyed their annual Christmas party at the Plas Hafod Hotel.

Everyone enjoyed a lovely meal and entertainment and as ever the Plas Hafod team pulled out all the stops to ensure everyone had a great time.

Here's a few images of what was a lovely day.

Christmas Party Time



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Coffee, Cream and Cake



A community coffee morning is proving a big hit and monies raised during the monthly event is going toward the purchase of a 'Resuscitation Annie' which can be used to help train residents in CPR techniques.

The event, held on the last Friday of each month at the Village Centre, is the brainchild of community councillor June Perrin.

She said: "It's a great way to get people out of the house and socialising over a cup of coffee and a slice of cake. We are holding a raffle at each event with the money going toward the purchase of a resuscitation teaching aid.

"The monthly coffee mornings, held on the last Friday of the month, are being supported by the community council who have paid for the cost of hiring the village centre.

"We have a banner which we are putting up on the fence outside the village centre the week before coffee mornings as a reminder to local people.

"I'm delighted with the success of the first two coffee mornings and I'm looking forward to welcoming even more villagers of all ages in the future."

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Community News

A Big, Big Thank You!

On November 13 I was walking my dogs over Hafod Moor. I stopped and knelt down to stroke one of them and in the process my wedding ring came off.

I looked around for it for 20 minutes or so but to no avail. I marked the spot and returned the following three days to search but again to no avail. I was becoming despondent as, although the ring didn't have any great monetary value, it was of considerable sentimental value representing 50 years of marriage.

In my desperation I made enquiries about hiring a metal detector but on November 19th, while walking the dogs on the same trail, there in front of me, at practically eye level, was my ring, you can't begin to imagine how elated I was.

Some kind and honest person had found my ring and placed it on a stile post in an ingenious way. A small twig of a Hawthorn branch had been inserted into a crack on the top of the timber stile post and my ring slid over it.

I'm hoping the person who found my ring might read this in the newsletter as I want to thank him or her for their honesty. I will be taking precautions to ensure it doesn't happen again.

Owen Jones.



Great Night Out!

Well done to the village's professional entertainer Martin Barry and his team who put on a great night out at the Village Centre called a Time to Remember 1914-1918 The Centenary.

The event, in association with the Arts Council for Wales, took a nostalgic look back to the story, music and comedy of the times.

The audience, as you can see, was encouraged to dress in early 1900's costume.

Children in Need Appeal



Village school pupils helped raise a bucketful of cash by wearing their pyjamas to school.

It was all part of the BBC's annual Children in Need Day fundraiser.

Children, or rather their mums and dads, paid a small sum to allow pupils to wear their jim-jams for the day and head teacher Louise Ankers and staff all joined in too.

Mrs Ankers said: "It was a fun day and we managed to raise more than £120 which was fantastic. Children enjoy dressing up and we had lots of fun throughout the day too.

"It's fabulous that schools in the Hafod Federation, Gwernymynydd and Ysgol Y Waun, Gwernaffield play their part. It helps our pupils learn important lessons about citizenship and caring for others."



#BacktheAsk

The County Council is working to set the budget for next year and it's proving a huge challenge.

A funding gap of some £15.3 million - which would have seen council tax rise by as much as 15% has been reduced thanks to some extra cash from Welsh government.

However, we still face a gap of more than £3.5 million and that still means asking council tax payers to stump up a rise of around 6%.

This is despite the fact Flintshire has cut costs and made efficiencies of many millions of pounds over recent years.

There is nothing else we can cut without stopping essential services that we all rely on.

The situation has been made worse by the fact the Westminster Government increased teachers' pay but left local authorities to pay the increase along with pension contributions.

So, as a council, we have been developing a campaign strategy to encourage Welsh Government to increase the amount of money Flintshire will receive through the funding settlement.

We have launched a #BackTheAsk campaign.

The campaign is designed to keep the pressure on Welsh Government to pass all the additional funding they received from the UK government through to councils, as they promised that local government would be 'first in the queue' for this money to support vital services.

We are all clear critical services for children, young people and the elderly/vulnerable are at serious risk if additional funding is not given to the Council to protect them.



We know how much stress this ongoing austerity is causing communities and the frustrating thing is Welsh Government does have the funding available to relieve some of the pressure.

We need to encourage them to improve the settlement before the final budget is announced on December 19th.

Please use the #BackTheAsk campaign and e-mail your Assembly Member, MP and anyone else that might listen. The more we can get that will pledge their support the better.

I would also ask people to sign up to support the campaign via the Flintshire County Council website.

Time is running out for a fairer funding for Flintshire and all Welsh councils. Help us keep the pressure on Welsh Government to give us more funding for our schools and core services.

Please pledge your support for #BackTheAsk and anyone who wants more information or details please feel free to contact me at any time by email or phone.

Kevin Hughes

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