

Farewell to Mike and Bridget



Mike and Bridget Meadway, Village Centre Caretaker and Treasurer respectively, were given a warm send-off at their last Committee meeting in March.

In recognition of the outstanding service they've each provided over the last three years, Members of the Village Centre Committee presented them with a one-off print of the painting *Clwydian Range in Winter*, by local artist Helen Taylor.

Mike has been an excellent Caretaker, ever willing to go above and beyond in order to

help users of the Centre and to keep the management Committee informed about work that's been done or needs doing. His successor in the role is Meg Parry, who's already had a number of inductions to help her get off to a smooth start.

Over the past six months or so, Bridget has not only been looking after the Centre's financial affairs but has also taken on responsibility for managing bookings and for providing secretarial support to the Committee. Without her energy, enthusiasm, dedication and attention to detail it's hard to see how the Centre could have continued to function effectively.

Going forward, her official role and the additional duties she took on will mostly be shared between Rachel Doward (Treasurer) and Jacqui Maung (Bookings Secretary). Like Mike, Bridget has put an extraordinary amount of effort over recent weeks into inducting her successors and also into providing copious documentation to make life easier for remaining Committee members.

We wish both Mike and Bridget a long and happy 'retirement'.

VILLAGE CENTRE COMMITTEE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on 20 April in the Centre, starting at 19.00. The meeting is open to all; if you plan to attend, please notify Eric Davies by mailing eric@doodlydog.wales.

WHAT'S ON AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE?

Find out at gwernymynydd.org.uk

FOR VILLAGE CENTRE BOOKINGS, PLEASE CONTACT:
bookings@gwernymynydd.org.uk

COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING



Join us on the last Friday of each month in the Village Centre, 10.00-11.30, for tea or coffee & homemade cake (gluten-free & dairy-free options available).



Images by Gavin J Priest Photography

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL DOG RESCUE!

The Almost Home Dog Rescue is coming to Gwernymynydd Village Centre!



Having recently relocated from Nercwys to Loggerheads, the charity is holding a Summer Fair & Dog Show on **Sunday 26 July** and a Christmas Fair on **Sunday 29 November**.

Almost Home Dog Rescue started in 2016 from a rented property in Nercwys and in June 2025 bought a property in Loggerheads, where kennels will be built this summer.

The charity aims to provide a safe haven for dogs that have been abandoned through no fault of their own, to rehome them, and to educate the next generation of dog owners.

“Most of our dogs come from the pound, where they have between 7-10 days for their owners to reclaim them before they are, sadly and unacceptably, put to sleep,” explains Alex Nilan who chairs the charity.

“We’ve saved over 1700 dogs since we formed,” she adds, “helping them to live good lives, free from cruelty, abuse, neglect or fear.”

Alex and her colleagues visit schools, colleges and clubs in the local area to help dog owners understand their dogs better and to avoid situations where owners give up their dogs because they don’t understand their behaviour. A qualified volunteer behaviourist works with the animals that the charity rescues, while experienced dog walkers provide exercise and stimulation until the right forever home is found.

Fundraising is crucial for the charity and it’s hoped that many of our dog-loving residents will turn out to show their support for the great work that Almost Home does at the events in July and November.

More details of both fairs will be shared nearer the time. Meanwhile, further information about AHDR and its work is available on its website: almosthome.dog.

Flintshire Carelink and Telecare Services will be at the monthly Coffee Morning on Friday 29 May. Carelink is a personal Telecare Service alarm system to support people at home, “offering independence, reassurance and peace of mind.”

Pop along to find out more.

NEWS FROM GWERNYMYNYDD CP SCHOOL

Godre'r Coed, Gwernymynydd, CH7 4DT; tel: 01352 756756; email: gmmail@hwbmail.net. Part of the Hafod Federation with Ysgol y Waun, Gwernaffield



What a Busy Time at Gwernymynydd CP!

Recent weeks at our school have been full of creativity, learning and celebration.

Welsh Week Celebrations

We returned after half term and immediately immersed ourselves in *Welsh Week*. Over the holiday, children showed incredible imagination and effort at home, producing beautifully baked cakes, impressive models, and detailed sketches. Back in school, the creativity continued as learners took part in a wide variety of Welsh-themed activities. These included traditional and modern Welsh crafts, folk dancing, geographical research into Welsh places, practicing and performing Welsh songs, and producing handwritten pieces of Welsh poetry. At the end of the week, pupils proudly wore Welsh costumes, kits and colours and shared their work with parents and carers. Our Criw Cymraeg took on the important role of judges, carefully reviewing entries and voting for the best pieces in each category before awarding prizes.

Science Week Adventures

The following week was dedicated to *Science* and the school buzzed with excitement as children explored a huge range of STEM-based activities. Throughout the week, pupils enjoyed hands-on workshops, presentations, and practical investigations. We welcomed visitors from our local community who shared how STEM plays a part in their day-to-day work — including audiology, scaffolding design, and computer technology. Children tackled problem-solving challenges, designed and tested gliders, made radios, explored plant biology, investigated recycling, and learned about camouflage in nature. It was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to develop curiosity, teamwork, and scientific thinking.



World Book Day Magic

Of course, no early-March calendar would be complete without *World Book Day*. The school was transformed with an array of incredible book characters brought to life by our children. We spotted Mary Poppins, the Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark, Stickman, Thing 1 and Thing 2, Harry Potter, Dogman, Funnybones, Willy Wonka, Oompa Loompas, the Gruffalo, Pip ... and many more!

Throughout the day, children took part in a book-themed treasure hunt and created their own cosy reading dens — the perfect way to celebrate the joy of stories and imagination.

NANCY'S KNICKERS



Well-known village resident and one-time editor of this newsletter, Nancy Matthews, is urging people to support the charity Smalls for All, which collects pants to be distributed to girls in Africa - and sometimes to those here in the UK as well.

“I’ve been looking for smaller charities to support,” says Nancy, “and when a friend mentioned Smalls for All it occurred to me that as a village we could quite easily help them by tossing a pack of pants in with the weekly shop and that could make a huge difference to someone’s life.”

“Thanks to Smalls for All, I understand that wearing knickers can have a dramatic effect on the incidence of rape in communities on the African continent,” she added.

Donations of pants (sizes 8-14 only, please) can be left with Nancy at The Croft, Ffordd Bryn Gwyn, CH75JW (behind the Owain Glyndwr pub) or with Jean Droog at 3 Godre'r Mynydd, CH7 4AD. The deadline for contributions is 31 May.

Information about the charity and the great work it does in promoting the safety and dignity of girls and young women is available at smallsforall.org.

YOUR CHANCE TO TRY CROWN GREEN BOWLS

People of all ages are being encouraged to try their hand at crown green bowls.

Village resident Brian Jones, who is the Secretary of Nercwys Bowling Club, is on a mission to recruit new members and is offering a number of taster sessions in the coming weeks to show how the game is played.

Bowls is a great family activity, offering fun, fitness and friendship and is suitable for anyone from the age of 11 to 80-plus. Younger people are particularly encouraged to give the game a try; it’s easy to play and all equipment is supplied.

To see the game in action just search ‘crown green bowls’ on Youtube. Further information about the Club and the taster sessions is available from Brian on 07834 638908.



COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

In its latest annual update, Gwernymynydd Community Council (GCC) highlights the best decorated house and garden competition it organised last Christmas (something that it hopes could become an annual event) and states its intention to launch an autumn Scarecrow Harvest competition this year.

To be judged at the beginning of November, after the school half term, the Scarecrow Harvest will span Halloween, Bonfire Night and Harvest Festival. Details will be announced nearer the time.

The Council also intends to support the monthly coffee morning and luncheon club by organising a summer day trip for members to enjoy.

Before then, there will be a spring tidy of the Chapel wildflower garden (opposite the old Rainbow Inn) on Saturday 11 April at 10.00.

CAMBRIAN QUARRY NEWS

John Dennan, Director at Ash Aggregates which manages the quarry at the bottom of Ffordd Glyndwr, has confirmed that the company has completed over 80% of the infilling process and that the site is now nearing the point at which soil placing and planting can take place.



In order to source the correct final restoration materials and give ASH the time it needs to complete the site properly, the company has been granted a four-year extension period by Flintshire County Council. The company envisages that activities over this period will be of a low intensity with the maximum amount of vehicle movement in and out of the quarry reduced by up to 50% per day.

Ecologically the quarry is blossoming, says Mr Dennan, with the bat population living in the old mine workings and caves continuing to flourish, especially the Lesser Horse-shoe bat. Invasive weeds such as Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam have now been eradicated and ASH aims to complete the eradication of a small amount of giant hogweed this year. The badger population does not seem to have suffered and the artificial sett which ASH built 10 years ago is now frequently used.

NB This is an edited version of a report that is available on the Community Council website at gwernymynydd.org.uk/cambrian-quarry-update-february-2026

This newsletter is published every other month. The deadline for the June issue is 2 May.

QUIZ BOOK RAISES MONEY FOR HOMELESS

Lunch Club Quiz Book



Sue Elsley and John and Vicki Seddon would like to thank everyone who has bought a copy of the Lunch Club Quiz Book.

Sales have so far raised £425 for the homelessness charity Shelter Cymru.

Five copies have been donated to the charity to sell and Mikey Jones, Shelter Cymru's local manager, used the book at a pre-Christmas quiz night at his local pub where he raised a further £380.

There are still a few copies left, priced at £4.99, so if anyone else would like one please ring Sue on 01352 750489.



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