

# Gwernymynydd & Cadole

NEWYDDION Y PENTREFI / COMMUNITY NEWS

[Gwernymynydd.org.uk](http://Gwernymynydd.org.uk)

Chwefror / February 2026

## Charity climb for life-giving water

Chris Hughes, son of the former Gwernymynydd and Nercwys councillor (and longstanding editor of this newsletter) Kevin Hughes, is taking on the challenge of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, the world's highest free-standing mountain, to raise funds for the charity Dig Deep.



Dig Deep aims to help provide clean water, good hygiene and sanitation for over a million people living in Bomet County, in the Rift Valley region of Kenya, by 2035.

Waterborne diseases remain one of the main killers of children under five in this part of Kenya and time lost to sickness or long walks to fetch water mean that children often miss school and communities lose vital income. Dig Deep's vision is to ensure that every child and their family within Bomet county benefit from lasting access to clean water and safe toilet facilities by 2035.

Standing 5,895 metres (19,340 feet) above sea level, Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest point in Africa and is located in Tanzania near the border with Kenya in East Africa.

In August this year, Chris and 22 other Dig Deep fundraisers will attempt to reach the summit and return to their starting point in seven days, walking at a pace which allows them to acclimatise to the altitude.

"I know that the climb will be a huge physical and mental challenge for me," says Chris, "but it's worth it to raise much needed funds for the amazing work that Dig Deep are doing in Africa."

To support Chris in his fundraising effort and donate to Dig Deep, just scan the QR code opposite or visit [digdeep.org.uk](http://digdeep.org.uk).



**We believe everyone has a fundamental right to access clean water, safe toilets and good hygiene.**

In support of



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Find out more at  
[www.digdeep.org.uk](http://www.digdeep.org.uk)

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**WHAT'S ON AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE?**

**Find out at [gwernymynydd.org.uk](http://gwernymynydd.org.uk)**

**FOR VILLAGE CENTRE BOOKINGS, PLEASE CONTACT:  
[bookings@gwernymynydd.org.uk](mailto: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

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION

Gwernymynydd Community Council organised a Best Decorated House or Garden at Christmas competition in the villages of Gwernymynydd and Cadole. Three judges took an hour and a half to tour the many wonderful displays of Christmas lights in the community and, after much debate, decided on three prize-winners:



1st - Fron Hall Lodge, Ruthin Road



2nd - 10 Godre'r Coed



3rd - Top Farm, Hafod Road

## 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



### Sensory room at Gwernymynydd

Many schools are seeing more children struggling with emotions due to the complexity of the world and sensory overload. Research shows that creating calm, low-stimulation spaces helps children regulate effectively.

With support from THE THOMAS HOWELL'S EDUCATION FUND FOR NORTH WALES, we have developed a bespoke sensory room to provide a safe retreat when classrooms feel overwhelming. The new space exceeds expectations, offering sensory-rich experiences that promote emotional regulation, focus and well-being.

Pupils engage in fine and gross motor activities using tactile resources, balance tools, and sensory equipment, building their coordination and physical awareness. The room fosters curiosity about light, sound and texture, encouraging exploration and understanding of sensory interactions. Integrated activities support maths through sequencing, patterns and spatial awareness, and literacy through storytelling and expressive language. This provision reflects our vision of an inclusive learning environment, enabling all children to succeed.

Quotes from the children include: **'The room is awesome and it is like my magic room'**, **'I just love the sounds I can hear in there, they calm me down'** and **'The lights let me relax and take away my worries'**.



### Developing independence and creativity

When we returned to school in January, all our children were given the opportunity to explore a topic of personal interest rather than following the usual pre-planned class or school themes. To support this, staff reminded pupils of the skills they had developed during the previous term. Children then selected their own topic and completed tasks using their prior learning. This approach, introduced by a teacher who trialled it last year, is called 'Over To You Time' - a time when teachers hand the learning over to the children. For example, pupils created timelines, designed leaflets, wrote songs, built 3D models, and measured areas for their plans. Every classroom was buzzing with activity, with children applying taught skills to study an area that truly interested them. At the end of the week, pupils shared what they had learned, inspiring others in the process. We plan to repeat this throughout the year as it provides a wonderful opportunity for children to work independently, think creatively and take ownership of their learning. In just one week, topics included space, animals, football, bees, flowers, horses, Disney and many more!

## VILLAGE CENTRE UPDATE



In the December issue of this newsletter, we appealed for people to fill the posts of caretaker and treasurer for the Village Centre.

Without those roles being filled, it was almost inevitable that the Centre would not continue to exist.

Thankfully, our appeal resulted in both posts being filled and so the future of the Village Centre is, for now, assured.

That said, we face considerable financial challenges. Utility costs have risen; numerous repair and maintenance jobs have been – and still need to be – undertaken; and the Panto group has relocated to larger premises, leaving us with a considerable hole in our annual income.

Bookings for the main hall, the playing field and – to a lesser extent - the meeting room generate a significant part of our income.

To help bolster our finances, the Village Centre committee has therefore decided to actively promote the Centre to the wider community in Mold and the surrounding area.

The campaign starts with an advertisement in the Mold Connection (initially for three months) highlighting the facilities available and encouraging individuals and groups who are not aware of the Centre to visit the new website [gvc.wales](http://gvc.wales) to learn more about what it can offer.

The impact on bookings will, of course, be monitored.

A second, medium-term initiative is to turn a room previously used for storage by the Panto group into a 'digital hub'. External funding is now being sought to convert the room into a fully accessible, digitally equipped, virtual meeting room to meet the growing need for inclusive digital spaces in our rural community.

This will allow the Centre to host hybrid meetings, virtual learning sessions and digital skills training. The space will also be available for local organisations and small businesses to use for remote working, webinars and networking events.

Charges will be decided once the hub is ready to use.





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PARTS & SUPPLIES – FENCING SUPPLIES**



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## “Our top 5 tax-saving tips for 2026!”

The New Year is the perfect time for a refresh. I like to use the first couple of months of the year to add to and reassess my goals and make sure I'm on track to reach them. Here are our top 5 tax-saving tips that can help you reassess your financial goals and make the most of your money:

1. Check you're using all tax allowances and reliefs. Using what's available to you now could help you reduce your tax liability in other areas, such as Inheritance Tax.
2. Check the current balances and interest rates of all your assets – do you know where everything is and will it still cover you in an emergency?
3. Review all of your ongoing subscriptions and memberships, and make a call as to whether they are worth keeping or not.
4. Set up a regular contribution into some form of medium- to long-term savings pot.
5. Arrange regular financial 'health checks' with your adviser, to help keep you on track.

If you are interested in finding out which tax allowances and reliefs are available to you, please feel free to contact me on [adam.tilston@sjpg.co.uk](mailto:adam.tilston@sjpg.co.uk) or feel free to say hello if you spot me around the village!”

*Adam*

The levels and bases of taxation, and reliefs from taxation, can change at any time and are generally dependent on individual circumstances.

Savings accounts are not available through St. James's Place.



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