



**Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn
Community Council Newsletter
Spring/Gwanwyn 2021**



Image by Dave Jowitt

If you would like your photograph of the local area or group included in the newsletter, please contact Kate Johnson or Karen Armstrong.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS – NEWYDDION Y CYNGOR CYMUNED

Monthly meetings of the Community Council were postponed back in April and continue to be postponed. However, the Community Council did meet virtually over the winter period and these arrangements will continue for the foreseeable future.

Our meetings are still open to members of the public and if you want to attend please email the clerk at gwernaffieldclerk@outlook.com for details.

During recent meetings the following items were highlighted:

WELCOME - CROESO



After saying “goodbye and thank you” to Jackie Roberts and Rod Morgan for their valuable service to the villages, we have welcomed a newly co-opted Councillor, Sue Coles. Sue will serve the Pantymwyn ward and will make an excellent addition to the team. Welcome Sue!

ROAD SAFETY – DIOGELWCH AR Y FFYRDD

One of the issues that is regularly raised by residents in both Gwernaffield & Pantymwyn is road safety. With this in mind the Community Council decided to set up a sub-committee, consisting of three councillors, Adrian Barsby, Dave Bolton and George Tattum, to look at all aspects of road safety in the two villages. To identify the problems and to put forward ways by which, if possible, they could be addressed.

The primary concerns of residents appear to be speed and, in winter, the conditions of the local roads.

Unfortunately, Flintshire County Council have in recent years reduced the level of their Winter maintenance for rural areas. However, to help alleviate the problem they have increased the number of salt bins and are

endeavouring to ensure they are regularly filled. The subcommittee looked at the possibility of funding additional services but unfortunately the cost was excessive and would have more than doubled the community charge. So, without a change in policy by FCC there appears to be no complete solution.

With regard to speeding the subcommittee obtained the results of the last two speed surveys carried out in the villages by Flintshire county council in 2018 and the Community Speed Watch of Buckley in 2019. The results of both were interesting and unexpected. FCC found in a seven-day survey that the average speed in the villages was 32mph. While the Community Speed Watch results of 2019 varied between 24.6mph, when the camera was visible, to 32.1mph when obscured. Further information was obtained from FCC road safety, who stated that up to November 2020 they were aware of one traffic accident in the area within the past three years.

In conclusion an analysis of this information led the sub group to speculate that speeding at the present time is not as serious an issue as it appears, and the excess use of speed is probably the action of a small number of drivers. However, it was also felt that in future traffic will only increase & that if the proposed housing development on Gwernaffield road in Mold goes ahead it would have a serious adverse effect on our roads. In consequence avenues by which both traffic and speed could be reduced should be explored sooner rather than later.



As a result, information and or costs for the following systems are being obtained. Speed cameras, speed bumps, chicanes, and speed restrictions. While the Community Council has also taken action & presented objections to FCC with regard to the proposed housing development in Mold. Particularly as the developers in their application had listed the "shortcut", for traffic, between Rhuthin Rd and Denbigh Rd via Gwernaffield as a benefit irrespective of the effect on our local community.

At the present time the subcommittee is looking at the pros and cons of all these methods. Putting together a range of costs to be presented to the Community Council and ascertaining the feasibility of funding. It is hoped that this should be finalised sometime in 2021.

YOUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL AND LOCAL PLANNING MATTERS



What part does your Community Council play in the planning system? Community and town councils are notified of planning applications in the area as a consultee and can comment on the merits of planning applications (there is usually a period of 21 days for the Community Council to do so.) Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn Community Council takes time at meetings, deciding what recommendations to make. While Flintshire County Council, (the planning authority) does not have to agree, it must consider the community view. *The Planning System controls the future development of your community and provides your Community Council and you with the opportunity to have a voice in this process.*

RESPONDING TO PLANNING APPLICATIONS - Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn CC's observations on a planning application should conform to the local planning authority's adopted development plan, otherwise they may be ignored. The planning authority must, by law, be guided by its plan.

HOW CAN I HAVE MY SAY AS A RESIDENT? You can contact the relevant planning officer at the local authority, being mindful of the material considerations (outlined below) when making your points. (NB. Details of all applications can be found on Flintshire County Council website and Planning Portal at Planning (flintshire.gov.uk), if you have a Planning Application Reference Number this can be inserted into the portal and the application

and associated documents should be available) comments can also be submitted in writing to the planning officer, whose name will be stated on the planning application.

UNDERSTANDING MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS - Some decisions are made by the authority's planning committee, while other decisions are delegated to their officers. Central to the decision-making process are material considerations – issues that are, in law, material or relevant to a planning application. Such as Policies in the planning authority's development plan; National Planning Policy, Suitability of the site, visual appearance of the proposed development in relation to its surroundings which can cover; building materials, height, mass scale density and layout particularly in relation to other buildings; privacy, over-shadowing, over development, impact on nature conservation, needs of the area, creation of an undesirable precedent making it difficult to resist similar properties elsewhere.

DECISIONS - Flintshire County Council can decide to recommend approval or refusal, or approval subject to conditions. The planning authority is responsible for development control, where development is managed through planning applications. We acknowledge the Community Council's local knowledge, combined with a sound understanding of the planning process, means that its views are more likely to be heard by the planning authority or by the Welsh Government.

REPRESENTING THE COMMUNITY VIEW - Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn Community Council are committed to representing the views of the community with this in mind some community councillors have recently attending training with Planning Aid Wales on planning decisions and planning enforcement to enhance and refresh their knowledge when responding to planning applications on behalf of the community.



Mrs Kay Roberts – Clerk to the Council

Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn Planning Sub Committee

Councillor Dave Bolton, Councillor Richard Hughes, and Councillor George Tattum.

VILLAGE NEWS – NEWYDDION Y PENTREF

CHRISTMAS TREES – COED NADOLIG

2020 was a challenging year for us all that brought about a lot of changes. Sadly, we missed out on village events like the summer fair and the Christmas lunch, however we pulled together in other ways and kept community spirit alive. We saw an extraordinary number of volunteers supporting our Good



Neighbour Scheme, making deliveries for villagers and helping out wherever they were needed. We've already said a big thank you to the volunteers, however we're aware that some of you are still supporting and helping out as the restrictions continue. So

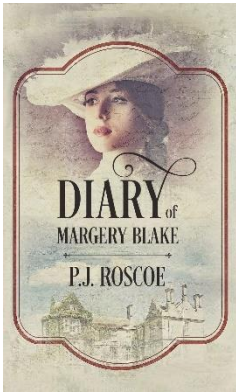
once again, thank you. A big thanks also goes to our local County Councillor Adele Davies-Cooke who has gone that extra mile time and again for many of us in the villages.



Throughout the last year many homes displayed teddies and rainbows to bring smiles to us all, and we've engaged in small community competitions that have brought us together. We've had the scarecrow competition, Christmas tree and Christmas display competitions and other small independent events like the Christmas parade and online Christmas fair. We also enjoyed 2 village Christmas trees this year. The tree in the conservation garden was lit up thanks to the Community Council, and the small green on the corner of Pen Y Fron Road had a tree donated by the quarry on Cadole Road. This was installed by councillors Dave Bolton and Adrian Barsby. The

trees brought some joy and light into the villages at the end of the year and we want to thank Dave and Adrian for taking the time to make sure the Pantymwyn tree was put in place and lit up.

FIREBIRD BOOK AWARD – GWOBR LLYFR FIREBIRD



Congratulations to Paula Roscoe, one of our Gwernaffield residents, who submitted her book, “The Diary of Margery Blake” into the Firebird Book Awards contest. The awards are judged quarterly and announced via Speak Up Talk Radio. Categories for the January 2021 contest included Action Adventure, Biographical Fiction, Children’s Fiction and many more. Out of the 87 book categories for this quarter’s contest, Paula’s book won the award for “Women’s Fiction”. Paula is, quite rightly, thrilled that her submission won this award and is currently being made into an “audio drama”.

TRINITY FAMMAU SCOUT GROUP – GRWP SGOWTIAID TRINITY FAMMAU

Trinity Fammau Scout Group have had their home in Gwernaffield for 40 years now, but as for everyone 2020 was a challenging year for us. Due to the Covid situation, we have only managed to have a few face-to-face meetings, but the Scouts motto is "Be Prepared", and we have followed this by going online!

Whilst there is a lot, we haven't been able to do online, we've found a lot we can too. We have had online camps, online cooking, online campfires, lots of quizzes and a virtual escape room amongst many others. Last



Spring, we ran a 7-day photo challenge for Scouts and Cubs where every day for a week they were challenged to share a photo with a different theme - and some of the results were spectacular!

When restrictions eased a bit, we were able to do a few face-to-face



meetings, but under very strict conditions and only meeting outside. Cold, dark evenings don't make ideal conditions for Scout meetings, but night hikes are always fun.

In 2021, we have started off our online meetings again, but as soon as it is safe to do so we

are looking forward to getting back to some of our favourite activities. We had an online forum with the Scouts in the autumn to get their feedback about what they missed most - and it looks like the first thing we will do together when we can might be a real campfire - complete with toasted marshmallows.

At Trinity Fammau, we have Beavers (age 6-8) Cubs (age 8-10.5) and Scouts (age 10.5-14). The Group is run entirely by volunteers, from the leaders who run a programme every week to occasional helpers and the back-room committee who keep the group running. We are always looking for help in all roles - no experience needed! If you think you could be able to spare us some time, however little, to keep the group running and keep providing the scouting experience to the young people of our villages, please get in touch. Also, if you have a particular skill or interest which you think the Young People might be interested in, we are always keen to make the programme as diverse as possible.

If you want to know anything about the Trinity Fammau Scout Group, please get in touch with us at tfscoutleaders@gmail.com.

COMPETITION – CYSTADLEUAETH

Can you find the chickens hidden in the newsletter? The first 10 children to email the_pixiecat@hotmail.co.uk with how many chickens they find, will win some sweets.

LITTER PICK – CASGLU SBWRIEL

Throughout the lockdown period local villagers have continued to pickup litter from within the villages, and we wish to say thank you for their continued dedication to keeping our villages litter free. **GWERNAFFIELD CONSERVATION GARDEN** - 25th March, 27th May, 29th July, 23rd September, 25th November.

PANTYMWYN VILLAGE HALL – 25th February, 29th April, 24th June, 26th August, 28th October, 30th December.

DA IAWN KATIE ANDERSON

It's so nice to see the younger generation showing concern for the environment and wanting to do something practical to make a difference. Separately to Ruth's monthly litter pick, Katie Anderson, of Pantymwyn, wanted to actively help our local environment and went on her very own litter pick, with her mum Tessa. Thank you, Katie, for helping our villages and local wildlife by keeping the area tidy. It looks like you managed to pick up quite a bit of litter. Da iawn Katie.



BEREAVEMENT ADVICE – CYNGOR PROFEDIGAETH

The Community Council wishes to extend their condolences to all families who have lost someone throughout this difficult period and want to let you all know that local resident Jill Thompson is able to offer free, impartial bereavement advice. Should you wish to contact Jill, you may do so via email at jill.thompson74@outlook.com. Thank you for your kind and generous offer Jill.

RECIPE FROM THE ARCHIVES - PANCAKES/CREMPOGAU

PANCAKE DAY IS UPON US ONCE AGAIN SO WHY NOT TRY THIS TRADITIONAL PANCAKE RECIPE FROM THE TOPIC ARCHIVES.

2 EGGS/WYAU, 300ML MILK/LLAETH, 100G FLOUR/BLAWD.

WHISK INGREDIENTS TOGETHER IN A BOWL AND POUR A LADEL FULL INTO A PREHEATED NON-STICK FRYING PAN AND COOK ON A MEDIUM HEAT FOR AROUND 90 SECONDS UNTIL THIS SIDE LOOKS GOLDEN. FLIP GENTLY WITH A SPATULA, OR TOSS IT IN THE AIR IF YOU FEEL BRAVE.

WHEN BOTH SIDES ARE GOLDEN, SERVE WITH A SQUEEZE OF LEMON AND A SPRINKLE OF SUGAR. ENJOY!



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Not enough time? Too much to do?

Could you do with some assistance?



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Smoke free home, Public Liability Insurance in place*

Regular slot or one-off arrangement

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Charges: £5.00 per kg of clothing

Price list available on request - Bedding, Shirts etc.

Free collection and delivery (within 6 miles of Gwernaffield)

Delivery charge of 45p per mile over the 6 miles zone

48 hours turnaround from collection to return

Turnaround within 24 hours on special request - £10 surcharge

For more information /T&Cs /or to book: please contact-

Hannah on 0780 3399 339

Email: boredstiffironingfairy@gmail.com

You can find me on facebook too!



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If you would like to advertise in the newsletter or submit an article, photograph, poem etc, please contact Kate Johnson or Karen Armstrong (Contact details are above)