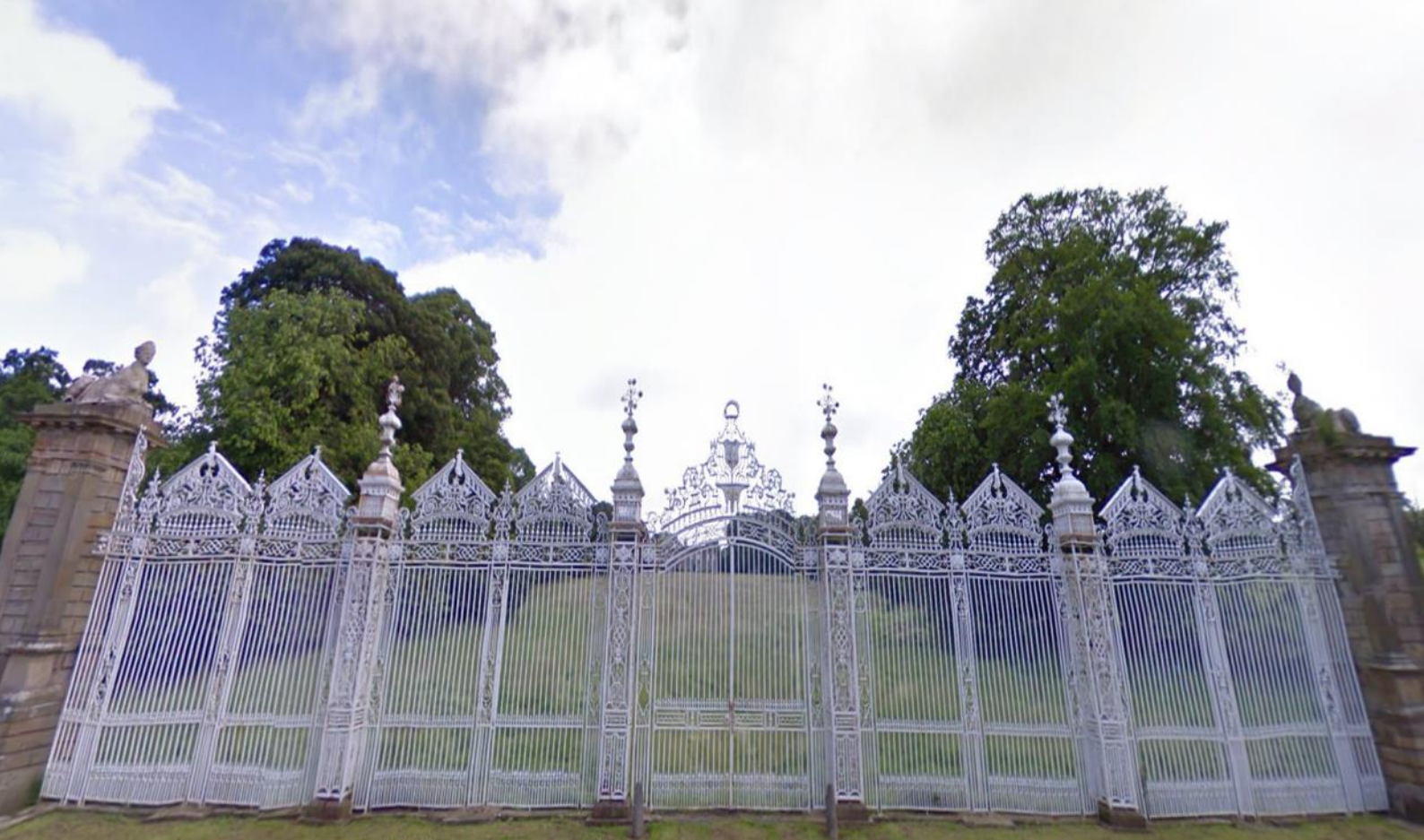


# Leeswood & District News

October 2021



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## LEESWOOD & DISTRICT NEWS

Well my first solo attempt at publishing this edition, huge thanks to June for her patience and also my grandson Harry aged 10 ,who was able to help with technical advice, he maybe my new sub editor!

As ever any ideas for articles or local events please email to [Leeswoodanddistrictnews@gmail.com](mailto:Leeswoodanddistrictnews@gmail.com)

**DEADLINE DATES - October 18th**

**Come along to the Sunshine Cafe**

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October. 9-12am.**

**Be prepared to be scared, very scared.**

**Ysgol Derwenfa will be displaying the results of their Halloween Art competition for your horror and for you to vote for the best entry.**

**The two winners chosen will receive art materials, the finalist all get goody bags of Halloween delights such as skeletons and spiders. If you don't usually attend it would be helpful if you can come between 11-12am so we can cater for you.**

## September Time

September is here, and the nights are drawing in  
The evening light are put on earlier in both the tavern and the inn

Hedges are being cut and shaped to suit  
The orchards are being picked from all the fruit

To cope with, we have covid and all the rest  
A situation about which we have to do our best  
We have to be resilient and succeed  
Because resourceful we are indeed

What a summer it has been  
For a better one next year we are so keen  
Let us hope that soon things will return to normal  
Let us hope that these restrictions will not be so formal.

Joseph Caruana.

## Technical Corner by Joseph Caruana.

How many times have we done something and as soon as we finish the final touches, we realize that we could have done it in a different possibly better way. This could be the result that not enough preparation was done or could have simply be the result that something has changed in due course.

There are a lot of different ways of thinking, and for an activity to be successful, a comprehensive approach might be best suited. These days, due to the internet, a lot of people have become experts in a lot of subjects. The problem is that you might find conflicting information and confusion might develop. These days it is common practice that while you are having a conversation with someone, they start fiddling with their mobile phone, then all-of-a-sudden, after a few moments of silence they come out with some sort of explanation. Obviously, the explanation they came out with is what they read on the internet.

Let us stick to the issue of pre-thinking, and how important it is to apply proper vision of the whole activity. This also applies to the environment, and at face value we can all be experts in this field. Nevertheless, we should look further than our shores, and a little bit back in time. When I say a bit back in time, I mean late 1970s early 1980s which is when chine became market economy. It is not the fact that China became a free-market economy that has impacted on the environment, but the rate at which it changed is what caused the damage to the environment. Prior to the 1970s, most Chinese travelled around using bicycles, and I remember that whenever China came on the news, we always saw a sea of people riding bicycles. Then all-of-a-sudden as China became a market economy, cars replaced bicycles. Today there are in the region of about 281 million motor vehicles in China, all spewing exhaust at an alarming rate. Therefore, here we have a sudden increase of pollutants released into the atmosphere causing a sudden shock to the wellbeing and health of the environment. This sudden attack of pollution onto the environment might have severely damaged the environment, and like a wounded animal it started to behave erratically with sporadic dangerous behavior, with catastrophic results. Until recently, we have never experienced so many fluctuations and extremes in temperatures. The seasons have lost their sharp contrast between one and another, and at times we have experienced short spells of weather within a season which characteristically belonged to another season.

Life on earth survives on a fine balance, and if that fine balance is disturbed it could create a domino effect. We must respect nature, because when it goes wrong it is a strong and mighty power. The might of mother nature has been felt on many occasions and frequency at which hurricanes or storms have been occurring in recent years is something to be taken very seriously. When these hurricanes arrive, all humans do is leave the areas which lay in the path of the storm, because humans feel so small compared the forces of nature.

Sometimes we do not anticipate the effect that certain actions can have on the environment until it is too late. We must keep in mind that the environment is a living function of our daily life, and as it is something which is alive, it is affected by its surroundings. It can also get ill, if the things that it survives on, are not kept healthy and in good condition.



We live in a village and the field next to our house is too rocky for cattle but, depending on the season, there are sheep, lambs or young rams grazing there. We sometimes take our 3-year-old granddaughter for a walk to see the sheep and she always wants to feed them with a handful of grass that she has ripped from the ground. Of course, she can never get anywhere near them because sheep are afraid of strangers.

The other day she came up with an idea. She said this to my wife. *“Nan, if I wore my princess lamb onesie and went and lay down in the field very quietly, the sheep wouldn’t be scared, and they would come up to me and I could feed them.”*

This brought to my mind the way the book of Philippians in the bible describes Jesus. It reads that *“He [Christ] had equal status with God but didn’t think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! ... He didn’t claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.”*

Perhaps my granddaughter’s idea is similar to God’s thinking. What a friend we have in Jesus – willing to lay aside everything and become one of us in order to meet us wherever we are at and then to die in our place on the cross.

John Mainwaring



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**CHRIST CHURCH, PONTBLYDDYN**  
**SERVICES DURING OCTOBER WILL**  
**PROBABLY BE**  
**AS FOLLOWS:**

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup> – TRINITY 18**

11.15 A.M. MORNING PRAYER  
OFFICIANT: MS MEL MORGAN

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup> – TRINITY 19**

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION (TBC)  
CELEBRANT: REV CAROLE POOLMAN

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup> – TRINITY 20**

11.15 A.M. MORNING PRAYER  
OFFICIANT: MS MEL MORGAN

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup> – TRINITY 21**

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION  
CELEBRANT: REV CAROLE POOLMAN

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup> – ALL SOULS**

4.00 P.M. HOLY COMMUNION  
CELEBRANT: REV CAROLE POOLMAN

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> – KINGDOM 2**

11.15 A.M. MORNING PRAYER  
OFFICIANT: MS MEL MORGAN

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>**

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE (TIME TBC)

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>**

**CHRIST THE KING**

11.15 A.M. MORNING PRAYER

**NOVEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup> – ADVENT SUNDAY**

NO SERVICE IN PONTBLYDDYN CHURCH

LICENSING IN MOLD CHURCH

FOR REV'D CANON MARTIN BATCHELOR

EVERYONE IS WELCOME IN OUR SERVICES  
MASKS MUST BE WORN, SANITISER IS AVAILABLE  
AND ALL COVID REGULATIONS WILL BE FOLLOWED.

*PLEASE NOTE THESE SERVICES ARRANGEMENTS  
MAY CHANGE IF COVID RULES CHANGE*

**CHRIST CHURCH, PONTBLYDDYN** is open daily from 10.30 a.m. to 4.00p.m. Sanitiser is available in the porch, please remember to wear a face mask and maintain social distancing.

ALL SOULS SERVICE – 4.00 P.M.

SUNDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2021

IN CHRIST CHURCH, PONTBLYDDYN

Once again we've reached the time of year when we remember, with thanksgiving, all our friends and loved ones who have died.

At our special service we will remember by name those we've known and loved, including all those whose funeral services have taken place at Christ Church during the past 2 years.

If you would like a friend or loved one to be remembered during that service, we invite you to contact the Rev'd Carole Poolman by phone or email (see below), or add their name to the list which will be available at the back of Christ Church from mid-October.

Our next Messy Church  
will be on  
**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October**  
at 4 pm on zoom.



We will be telling a story and have lots of activities for you to do at home.

If you would like us to deliver a free bag of goodies and the zoom code so that you can join in with the fun please contact Rev'd Kathy Stewart on [kathy12oct@sky.com](mailto:kathy12oct@sky.com)  
By Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October

(If anyone has any special dietary requirements please let us know as bags contain homemade biscuits and sweets)

**CONTACT DETAILS:** Rev'd Carole Poolman,  
The Rectory, Llanfynydd, Wrexham. LL11 5HH.

**Phone:** 01978 762304

**Email:** [carolepoolman@cinw.org.uk](mailto:carolepoolman@cinw.org.uk)

**Cedron Congregational Church** is located in Pontybodkin on Corwen road at the junction opposite the main road up into Leeswood. We are a friendly, welcoming group of Christians who meet every Sunday morning at **10:30am**. Our service normally lasts an hour. If you find yourself in the locality, we would love for you to join in with us as we meet to worship God, sing, pray and study the Bible in a friendly and informal atmosphere.

**SPEAKERS for September 2021**

Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> Clive Davies  
Oct 10<sup>th</sup> Clive Davies  
Oct 17<sup>th</sup> Clive Davies  
Oct 24<sup>th</sup> Clive Davies  
Oct 31<sup>st</sup> Clive Davies

**Message from Cedron's Minister - Clive Davies writes:**

God's changing seasons. As the evenings draw in we see the beautiful autumn colours and again marvel at our Lord's work. He is in control of our world. We just watch in astonishment at His awesome power, to create, to change, to beautify. Rest assured, to trust Him at all times, to speak with Him, to tell Him we love Him, is all heard, and known by our precious Father. Enjoy the changing seasons, embrace the coloured landscape, and refresh yourself in God's love for us each day. Jesus tells us that He gives us life, and life to the full. Fill yourself with the beauty of His Words to us, absorb His teaching, and always look for the beauty He created and gives us every day. Enjoy Autumn!

Work at Cedron is progressing well, and it is our prayer to soon be able to conduct weddings and Christening services at our Chapel. If anyone has plans for marriage, please get in touch. God bless.

For anyone wishing to contact Clive, please call **01244 536988** (Mob: **07811 807446**)

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**Matthew 6:25-34. Do Not Be Anxious**

<sup>25</sup>“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And which of you by taking care is able to add one cubit unto his stature? <sup>28</sup>And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup>For the unbelievers seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. <sup>33</sup>But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. <sup>34</sup>“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

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nyone can message us at [Cedron.congregational@gmail.com](mailto:Cedron.congregational@gmail.com) or via Clive's facebook: **#Cedron Chapel**





## THE LDN BIBLE BLOG : October 2021

**"Ain't no mountain high enough. Ain't no valley low enough..."\***

**Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (Psalm 23:4)**

This could be a very picturesque scene or a frightening one. The shepherd is leading the sheep back home. As they go down through a valley, the long shadows stretch across the path. The deeper the valley, the longer and darker are the shadows. In the Hebrew this valley has deep shadows. The sheep, because they are so timid and defenceless, are frightened by their experience. But they trust their shepherd, and therefore they are comforted. They will fear no evil because the shepherd is with them. We are reminded of the Lord's words quoted in the book of Hebrews: "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5) and so we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man [or beast if you are a sheep] do to me?" (Hebrews 13:6). I don't know what your experience has been, but whenever I'm in a pressured situation, I begin to wonder if the Lord has abandoned me. But He says He never leaves us, never forsakes us. He is always there. Therefore, we have no reason to fear because our eternal destiny is assured. That is and has been a great comfort to many people over the centuries.

David writes, "Your rod and your staff, they comfort me." The rod was a club that was used to scare off wild animals after a cheap meal ticket. It was a heavy instrument used to protect the sheep from predators. The staff though was a slender pole with a crook on the end that was used to help or correct the sheep. The crook could be hooked around the leg, body or neck to pull it from harm. It could be used to direct, and occasionally to discipline with taps on the side of the body.

Understanding how shepherds tend their sheep can help us in understanding the character of God. When we stray He doesn't think 'There goes that stupid sheep', and --WHACK!-- down comes the club! His approach is more like, 'How can I help them? How can I move in to bring him back into line? How can I comfort him and supply what he needs?' God may have to discipline us, but He always does it in love. He underlines, corrects, encourages, and instructs in righteousness, dealing with us firmly and gently.

The rod and staff are also used against the two greatest enemies we have to face. The rod is for the enemy without, Satan, who is working to destroy us and our faith. Jesus said, He is a liar and a murderer. He's out to devour us, and so the Lord uses the club on him. The shepherd's staff is also used to discipline and subdue the enemy within. Our thoughts, attitudes and feelings which often lead to our actions. But the confidence and assurance He gives is that we are not alone, He is with us, He is on our side and we have nothing to fear, neither from enemies out there or within. We will know that ultimately, regardless of what we feel and experience here on Earth, we will be home, with Him.

So yes, "there ain't no mountain high enough, ain't no valley low enough..."\* that can throw a shadow of fear and darkness to blot out the love and light of Christ's presence.

Simon F  
TheLDNBibleBlog@gmail.com

\* - "Aint no mountain high enough" sung by Marvin Gaye & Tammi Terrell. Written by Nickolas Ashford & Valerie Simpson in 1966 and released as a single (T-54149) on the Tamla label on 20 Apr 1967. The song has been covered many times since!

# Recipe of the month



**Ann at the Sunshine Café with her fab cake !**

I recently visited the Sunshine Café after hearing good reports about it especially Ann's homemade cakes.

I found the Café to be friendly local people and children of all ages attending, well run and having and enjoying a range of drinks and lovely snacks all freshly made and at low prices, what's not to like!!

I was after some ideas for the Leeswood and District News, one of the customers suggested having recipe each month as home baking has become so popular in recent years.

As Ann's homemade cakes were there on the table and looked so delicious, I thought Ann was an excellent first person to ask. I returned a week later to take a photo of the cake she had baked for that day, and by 10 o'clock it had nearly all gone as it was so popular. So here it is Ann's recipe for her very popular raspberry and white chocolate cake

# Raspberry and White Chocolate cake.

## Ingredients.

### For the cake-

8ozs/200gms margarine or butter,

8ozs/200gms caster sugar,

4 eggs, beaten,

8ozs/200gms self-raising flour, sifted,

4ozs/ 100gms white chocolate, melted and cooled.

Approx. a cup of fresh/frozen raspberries.

2 x7 inch cake tins , greased and floured.

Preheat oven to Gas no4 /electric 180C, 160C fan (ovens may vary).

### For the Buttercream

9ozs /250gms margarine/butter,

5ozs/ 140gms sifted icing sugar,

4ozs100gms melted and cooled white chocolate.

## Method

1. Cream margarine or butter with the sugar by hand with a wooden spoon or in a mixer until the mixture turns a lighter creamy colour.
2. Add in the cooled melted chocolate and stir until mixed in.
3. Add the eggs a bit at the time beating in thoroughly adding a bit of flour each time after the first egg to prevent curdling.
4. Gently fold in the sifted flour with a metal spoon, you can use a mixer if yours has a pulse button on it otherwise use metal spoon to keep the lightness of the cake.
5. Add in the raspberries gently stir to avoid breaking them up as this will make the cake soggy.
6. Divide the mixture evenly into the two cake tins and bake for approx. 25 minutes until it is firm in the middle or a skewer comes out clean of mixture when inserted into cake. Cool on a cake tray.
7. For the buttercream mix the margarine or butter until light and fluffy and add the melted cooled chocolate and stir until mixed in.
8. When the cake is cooled properly sandwich the two cakes with half the buttercream and put the rest on the top of the cake and sides if liked. You can add white chocolate curls if liked, raspberries tend to bleed onto the buttercream but can be added if liked.

I hope you enjoy Ann's cake and are looking forward to next months recipe.

Moya Hughes Editor.

# Ysgol Derwenfa

## Early Years and Year 1

We are doing a topic all about Ourselves.

Sammy the Skeleton has written a letter to us. He wants us to be his friend. We are learning all about our bodies from Sammy.

We have painted pictures of our faces. We have also read the story of 'Funnybones' and created skeletons using paint and chalk



## Year 2 and 3

Year 2 and 3 have had an interesting start to the new school year.

At the beginning of September, we received a parcel. It was some Roman artefacts!

We decided to learn about Romans and how they lived. We have watched videos and powerpoints to find out about life in Roman times. Did you know that the Romans sat next to each other when going to the toilet and then cleaned themselves with the same sponge on a stick? EWWWWW!

We are finding out this week about the Roman army. Next week we are going to make Roman shields.



We have also been enjoying our Outdoor Learning sessions. We have been looking for hazards and making collections of interesting natural items. It is great fun learning about our environment.



# Ysgol Derwenfa

## Year 5 & 6 Mrs Cartwright's class

This term we are learning about 'The Victorians'. We completed a QR code hunt to reveal our topic, which was great fun. We're also embracing the outdoors and taking our lessons outside into the forest. Together we have identified the hazards and risks, played Top Trumps and used our 'Go find it' cards to learn more about our surroundings. We're really excited to welcome Polly & Carolyn from North Wales Outdoor learning this week, who will be hosting an Autumnal workshop with each class. We've also been focusing on our wellbeing, creating a collaborative mindful colouring masterpiece and using our new Check in wall display. What a busy start to a new school year!



## It's All Lies

I am a little blackbird, I came out of a pie  
With three and twenty others, I cannot tell a lie  
Rumour has it that we sang, but that was just absurd  
It was so hot in the oven we couldn't sing a word  
The King was in his counting house, no, that's not strictly true  
He had no money left to count, the same as me and you  
The Queen was eating bread and honey, or so the story goes  
But we cannot say for certain, for no-one really knows  
They say that I am just a thief, I pinched a maiden's nose  
For heaven's sake  
I don't eat meat, and she wasn't hanging clothes

*My Dad Arthur Williams wrote a series of poems over 20 years from early 1907's to 1990's.*

*Beryl Fazal.*



## Honey tasting Time!

The time arrived to draw off the season's honey from the hives; the second week in August. The bees were very calm and Leeswood has proved to be a very fertile area for them all. Lots of lovely honey in the frames for both myself and Adrian who took over 60 pounds of the treasured liquid from just 2 Leeswood hives, and mine had 45 across three. In making the decision of what proportion of the 'nectar' to take, the choice was between removing most of the stores and feeding the bees over the Winter or taking some and leaving some for the 'girls' that way. It also gave us the opportunity to settle the way the hives were set up, which would take them through the oncoming Winter season nicely.

Wasps too were hungry and so we reduced the sizes of hive entrances to improve the ability of the bees to defend their valuable food-stores. Another way to reinforce this would be to set up some wasp traps. These use any jam put into the bottom of a plastic pop bottle, with funnel shaped entrances made from the upper half of the bottle (inverted). This cunning system lures the wasps through the funnel entrance and then prevents them from getting out. The funnel leads them in but the small mouthpiece is hard to get back through.

The local Bee Clubs usually share a large honey extractor around the Members, but with over 20 hives around the area, Adrian needs his own ready to hand. So, I was kindly able to use that to do my first significant honey extraction. Uncapping the gorgeous frames made the thick liquid ooze out, so the frames were quickly inserted into the stainless metal drum. It didn't take many minutes to spin the honey out of the wax frames and collect it at the base of the large extractor. The exit tap then allows you to run the honey through a large filter/ strainer, to clean it up prior to settling it for a few days somewhere safe. There can be a lot of beeswax that gets in the way.

The settling ensured that any bubbles of air could escape, and the thick viscous liquid could then be poured into a range of jars 8 oz., 12 oz. or a full 16 ounces. Screwing the lids on tightly meant that once the extractor had been cleaned down, all you needed was some clear labels for a description. Funny though, how your very first jar manages to read 'empty' so quickly, as you feel the need to just check the quality and then check the flavour as the rich light-brown richness slides over the hot buttered toast!

Cheers for now - Marc Brown (with the big help of Adrian Doward too).







# Responsible dog walking

Going out for a walk is an important part of your dog's day, and the countryside can be a good place to do this. To keep you, your dog and other animals safe, follow our simple top tips for a safe countryside dog walk.

## **Crops**

Follow the marked footpaths, close gates behind you and don't stray into fields. Crops that are in early and later stages of growth are easily damaged by dogs and people walking on them.

## **Litter and dog poo**

Poo bags and litter can seriously harm wildlife and farm animals as they may try to eat it, thinking it's food. Always make sure you dispose of all your rubbish and dog poo in a bin. If there aren't any public waste bins nearby, you should take the litter home with you and use your own bin.

Dog walkers can play an important role in keeping the countryside safe for everyone by picking up any litter you see, even if it's not yours, and safely disposing of it in a bin.

## **Livestock**

Many dogs will show interest in livestock and even if you think your dog wouldn't harm another animal, accidents can happen. Dogs can easily frighten animals, ewes and lambs, in particular. Ewes can abort their unborn lambs, be separated from the herd and be seriously injured if they come into contact with dogs. Give livestock plenty of space, and don't try to feed them as it might cause them harm.

# Wildlife

Wherever you go in the countryside there will be wildlife nearby, and even though you might not be able to see them if they're hidden away in bushes or hedgerows, dogs can still sniff them out thanks to their fantastic sense of smell. These could be young wild animals waiting for their parents, or adults trying to keep their young safe such as **ground-nesting birds sitting on eggs**. Be aware of areas where wildlife might be hiding and ensure your dog doesn't disturb them, as this could cause parents to abandon their young or be chased and seriously injured by a dog. It's the best way to keep your dog safe too, as some wild animals can be aggressive if they're attacked and need to defend themselves or their young.

This is important all year round but be especially careful in the spring and summer as this is when many wild animals will be breeding and have vulnerable offspring. If you are walking your dog in an area with **deer** between early May and late June, watch out for newborn deer who are especially vulnerable at this time and many are killed or injured by dogs. And if you're walking on beaches or near areas where seals will come out of the water to rest, make sure your dog is on a lead and keep at least 50 metres distance and as far away from the seals as possible to avoid disturbing them.

## How to help your dog

If you're concerned about your dog's behaviour around wildlife or livestock, **contact a dog behaviourist**.

Depending on the situation and circumstances you could be held legally responsible if your dog is involved in an incident which harms an animal.

Wherever possible we advise that you avoid areas where livestock and wildlife are nearby or likely to be present. If unavoidable then please keep your dog on a lead even if you can't see them and obey any signs asking you to keep away from wildlife and livestock.

In some areas or at certain times of the year, you may be legally required to keep your dog on a lead - watch out for signs that will tell you about any local restrictions.

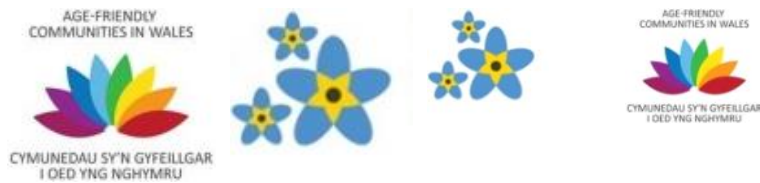
For more advice about visiting the countryside, **read the Countryside Code**.

Taken from RSPCA.org 30.09.2021.

# Gardening in October.

- Plan and plant new borders
- Plant shrubs, trees and herbaceous perennials
- Ensure bird table and feeders are out and cleaned
- Tidy up ponds
- Prune tall roses to prevent damage from winter winds
- Plan a vegetable patch and start digging before the first frosts
- Leave fallen leaves to provide shelter and protection for wildlife
- Plant spring bulbs
- Sow hardy peas and broad beans
- Leave seedheads to overwinter to provide food for birds





## Age-Friendly/Dementia-Friendly Community update

The Age & Dementia-Friendly group has continued to meet over Zoom during the last 18 months with face-to-face meetings resuming in November.

The focus of the group over the coming months will be around re-starting activities. Café Heulwen weekly community café cautiously re-opened on 10<sup>th</sup> June, but as Welsh Government restrictions have gradually been lifted we are now back to 'almost normal' with a few additional measures in place to keep both volunteers and our customers safe. If you've never paid us a visit, or are yet to return, why not come early when we are quieter – we open at 9am every Thursday and are here until 12:00pm.



Plans to relaunch the lunch club remain on hold. This has been an excellent partnership with Ysgol Derwenfa, and had been taking place every month from October 2019 until lockdown. When schools are able to open safely to parents and visitors, we will look at how we can restart the lunch club.



We are also looking at ways to increase awareness of dementia and how we can better support people with dementia and their carers to live well in our communities. With increased awareness, understanding and support from the local community, people affected by dementia can continue to live full and active lives. We are planning to hold a community litter pick in November, encouraging everyone to play their part making our environment clean and attractive for us all, and we will be inviting all participants to attend a dementia awareness session and become a Dementia Friend. We will include the details of the litter pick and dementia awareness session in the next issue. We hope you will join us.

If you would like to help us make our community more age-friendly, or have ideas for activities you would like to start and need some support, join us at our next meeting on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 6:00pm, in the Community Centre (Café). You can also join our email group by emailing [gjsheer@live.com](mailto:gjsheer@live.com)

*If you've never been up to see Caergwrle Castle, why not go now? There are regular buses between Leeswood and Caergwrle. If you travel by car there's a handy and free Car Park, just off the main road in the centre of the village. The simplest way of reaching the castle is to cross over the road on the sharp bend just past the Car Park, with a starting point by the side of the War Memorial. Here there is a good path winding uphill, rather steep in parts, with one bench for a rest, before you come to Caergwrle Castle [at least the remains of a castle] on the top of the hill.*

*\* A short [but steep] walk. \* Dog-friendly \* Allow ½ hour for the walk, longer to explore the castle remains.*

Caergwrle Castle is not so much demolished as unfinished. In 1277 English King Edward I invaded Wales to overcome the rebel prince Llywelyn ap Gruffydd. Due to a family dispute Llywelyn's brother, Dafydd, supported the English campaign and he was rewarded with the Lordship of Hopedale and a grant of 100 marks towards the cost of building a castle at Caergwrle.

However, in 1282 Dafydd himself rebelled against English rule, and Llywelyn joined forces with him, both brothers perishing in the attempt. The defeated and retreating Welsh had started to demolish the castle. King Edward set about repairing it, and in 1283 granted the castle [and the town] to his queen, Eleanor. Not for long.

Within months, while the king and queen were in residence, the castle was severely damaged by fire and this time Caergwrle was abandoned for good.

**Read: *Caergwrle: An Enigmatic Castle by Charles L. Harston* \* Ceiriog Press**

*You might enjoy an extended walk, taking in an additional historical feature, BRYN YORKIN MANOR. Allow up to 2 hours for this. Not quite so dog friendly. Stiles. Steep terrain in parts*

1. Start from the Car Park at the centre of the village, as above, and walk straight up Bryn Yorkin Road, crossing a road and continuing as far as you can. At the top you will reach a stile [not needed] by the LX sub-station. Go through here into woodland and turn right. You are walking away from your objective at first, but don't worry.
2. Follow the steep, narrow path, ignoring a stile on the left [you will see why], keeping a wall to your right, pass a partially renovated "cottage", climbing more sharply to reach a better, well-defined path crossing the one you are on. Turn left.
3. Continue through woodland. The path levels out more. Carry on walking for some distance until you reach a fork. The left-hand path takes you back into Caergwrle, so it is the right-hand path you need.

- 4 This is a steep [and I mean steep] path which climbs for a considerable distance through undergrowth, mostly holly. You may find this muddy and slippery in wet weather. You pass some rather unspectacular waymarks on posts, perhaps as many as three, so you can be assured you are doing the right thing. Your next objective is to gain a path which appears to be coming in from the right. As woodland opens out here, you will see fields and buildings over to the left, and even a gate to Bryn Yorkin Manor, which tells you, quite rightly, that this is private land. What it doesn't tell you is where the Public Right of Way is. This is what you must do. Carry on upwards from the forbidden gate until you reach a well-informed field gate on your left. Here there are waymarks a-plenty. Go through the gate or over the adjacent stile and take the downward path to your left.
5. After a short distance you reach a gate into the Manor. This all looks very private, but there are clear waymarks on the gate, so proceed. There used to be a duck pond here, when I came the last time, but no sign of it today [September 2021]. Negotiate your way between buildings to a drive, left here and you pass Bryn Yorkin Manor, now a private house.

#### **BRYN YORKIN/ BRYN IORCYN**

Details are given in Hubbard's "The Buildings of Wales – Clwyd". The manor is "encased in stone", 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Mullioned windows and tall chimney stacks are visible. Unseen is "three crucks – partition trusses of an earlier timber-framed house" Bryn Iorcyn is not public.

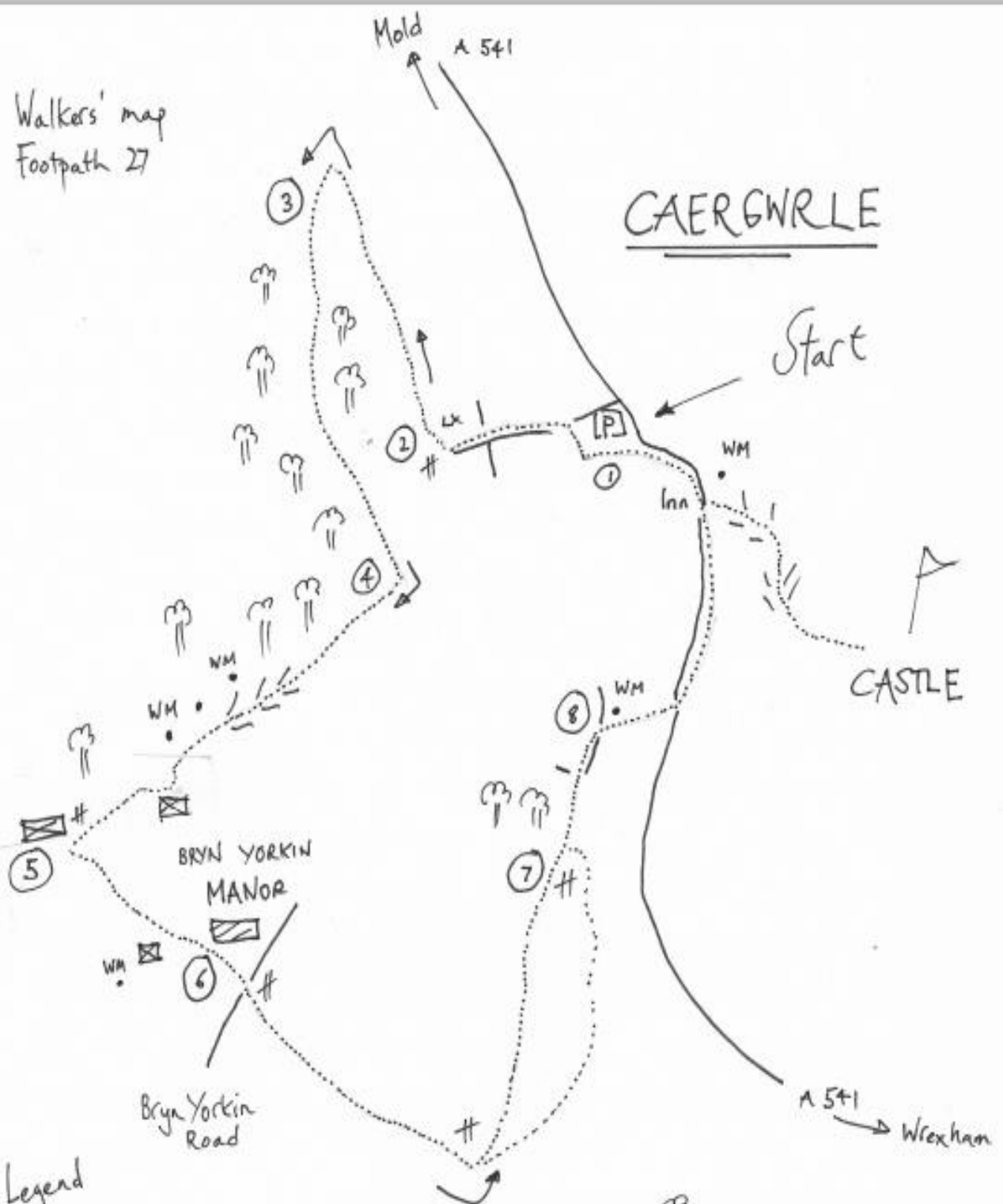
Continue down the drive to the road, which you need to cross to reach a stile into a field. Downhill the path veers to the right before ending in a walled field corner. Go through a gateway and look for an ancient stone stile\* to your left. Cross here into another field and walk on, maintaining height, through bracken. With an electricity pole on your left, you will eventually reach a wall and a stile leading into woodland.

Descend steeply through the holly wood, past a mysterious high pipe and out into a housing estate. *If you miss the stile\* earlier, which I did once, all is not lost. Continue downhill, through a gateway and bear left and upwards in the next field to a field corner and over a stepless stile to rejoin the main walkway by the said mysterious high pipe.*

8. Once you reach the housing estate descend sharply left on the road [there is a pavement]. As you reach level ground look out for a waymark on a pole indicating a cunning path between houses to the right. This will bring you to the pavement alongside the busy road between Mold and Wrexham. Continue past the pub on the left to regain the security of your car, or to wait for the hourly bus back to Leeswood. If you have the stomach for it, still, cross the main road [before the bend which is lethal] to the War Memorial and the stiff walk up to Caergwrle Castle [see above]

Mike Stevens

Walkers' map  
Footpath 27



Legend

- ..... path
- road
- # stile
- X gate
- ☁ wood
- ◀◀◀ gradient

Map not to scale

WM Waymark

MS

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