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A Note from the Newsletter Team:

Entries to the newsletter can be made by emailing newsletter@higherkinnerton.org.uk by the end of the month. The newsletter is produced by Higher Kinnerton Community Council (HKCC) on behalf of the community. HKCC reserves the right to amend submissions to ensure best fit. All content provided in this newsletter is for informational purposes only and HKCC makes no representations as to the accuracy of any information contained herein.

OUR VILLAGE

Your Monthly Higher Kinnerton Community Newsletter



Happy New Year!

Higher Kinnerton Community Council (HKCC) would like to take this opportunity to wish residents a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Like many residents, the Council has adapted to working remotely in 2020 and no doubt this will continue for some time to come for many in light of the implementation of further restrictions. Reflecting on 2020, the Council also developed a new website which you can visit at the following web address: www.higherkinnerton.org.uk. It was a great way to end the year by seeing so many photographs of residents Christmas trees adorned with the Higher Kinnerton bauble. The Council will continue to build on the achievements of 2020 and we hope residents enjoy the content of the monthly newsletters in 2021.



Bennett's Lane Corner – Improvements

As part of the Higher Kinnerton Village Plan initiative and following consultation with HKCC, Flintshire County Council (FCC) have agreed to undertake environmental works to renew and widen the uneven footpath in front of the bungalows at Bennetts Lane Corner. The works will also incorporate a new drop kerb outside the pedestrian entrance from Bennetts Lane where the existing concrete bollard is to be removed to provide through access for the new tarmac footpath. The works will improve access for emergency vehicles to the bungalows and the provision of a wider footpath with improved surfacing will allow greater passing space and enhance safety and the aesthetical look of the path. Flintshire County Council have advised that weather and COVID-19 restrictions permitting, the works will start on site during the week commencing Monday 18th January 2021.

The Community Council have also engaged extensively with FCC's Ecoglist and Tree Inspector regarding improvements to the hedging running along the Bennetts Lane Corner boundary. Following a site inspection and hedge survey, FCC advised the existing hedge is in poor condition and provided a replacement hedge planting specification. The Community Council has approved FCC's proposal for removal and replacement of the existing hedge with a diverse mix of native hedging. Subject to the available supply of the replacement hedging and weather and COVID-19 restrictions permitting, the works to replace the hedging will be completed prior to the bird nesting season.

Flintshire Foodbank Collection @ All Saints Church

All Saints Church held a foodbank collection on the 6th December 2020, with a total of **647.5 kilos** of foods/goods being donated to Flintshire Foodbank. A sincere thanks to All Saints Church for holding the collection and to the Higher Kinnerton community who have contributed so generously once again, supporting those most in need in our wider community.

Supported by the Trussell Trust, Flintshire Foodbank works to combat poverty and hunger across the county by providing three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are in crisis. Further information can be found at:

<https://flintshire.foodbank.org.uk>

Future village collections will be advertised on the Higher Kinnerton Community Council Facebook page and in upcoming newsletters when possible.

For year round donations, please see below for Flintshire Foodbanks collection point location:

LOCATION OF FOOD DONATION POINT	OPENING HOURS	COMMENTS
Former Library HQ, Raikes Lane, Mold, CH7 6NW	10:00 – 2.00	Tuesday
Former Library HQ, Raikes Lane, Mold, CH7 6NW	10:00 – 2:00	Friday



Obituary – John Lloyd

For those of you who have lived in Higher Kinnerton for a number of years you may know my dad - John Lloyd - he was a former chairman of HKCC for a number of years - who fell asleep on 10.12.2020. As his family we would like to thank the villagers who have sent their condolences and to those who stood outside for my father's hearse on 29.12.2020 as he made his final journey to his resting place. My dad would have been chuffed to bits to know so many people cared & this has meant a lot to my mum, my two brother's & myself along with the rest of the family. Thank you once again to everyone. Whilst he may not be with us any longer his memory will continue to live on and we miss and love him dearly.

Julie Lloyd



Higher Kinnerton Community Council—Councillor Vacancies

Do you care passionately about your local community or town?
Is there something you want to change or improve for residents?
Are you ready to take challenging decisions?
Why not stand for what you care about and become a member of Higher Kinnerton Community Council?
There are currently two vacancies with details set out in the following notice.

HIGHER KINNERTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, Section 116 Notice of Co - Option

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Higher Kinnerton Community Council intends to co-opt two members to fill the vacancies that exist in the office of Councillor for Higher Kinnerton Community.

Expressions of interest are being sought from members of the public who meet the following qualifications and are interested in representing their community on the aforementioned Community Council. You must be a British, Commonwealth, Irish or a European Union citizen and be 18 years of age or over; and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- registered as a local government elector for the community named above; **or**
- during the whole of the last 12 months occupied as owner or tenant land or other premises in the community named above; **or**
- your principal or only place of work during the last 12 months has been in the community named above; **or**
- you have during the whole of the last 12 months resided in the Community or with 4.8 kilometres of it.

If you wish to be considered for co-option for the vacant seats or want more information regarding the role of a Community Councillor please contact the Proper Officer, Liz Corner, Clerk to the Council on 01244 660277 or via email at liz@higherkinnerton.org.uk by 29th January 2021

Dated this 4th January 2021



Community Fibre Partnership – Watch This Space

openreach

Higher Kinnerton Community Council continue to be in dialogue with Flintshire County Council over the possibility of entering into a Community Fibre Partnership with Openreach in order to provide as many residents as possible with faster broadband speeds. Please keep your eyes on future newsletters for further information.

Walking in the Clwyds

An occasional series which explores the hills on our doorstep

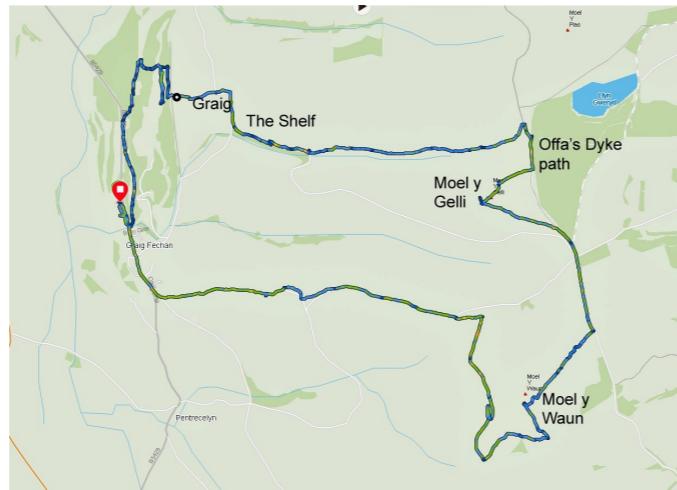
by Martin King

1. Moel y Waun

Living here in Higher Kinnerton we are blessed with a plethora of walking opportunities on our doorstep, particularly in the Clwydian range which stretches from Prestatyn in the north down to Llandegla in the south. The range is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and is criss-crossed by a network of country lanes and footpaths and bridleways. Perhaps the best known is Offa's Dyke Path, a long distance route of 285km which starts in Prestatyn and follows (roughly) the Welsh-English border all the way down to Chepstow. There are numerous hilltops along the range, the highest of which is Moel Famau at 554m. Some of these tops are also distinctive iron age hillforts, such as Moel Arthur and Foel Fenli.

Whilst the hills are undeniably popular, especially since the Covid pandemic, there are quieter reaches which are well worth exploring. This walk is one such, at the southern end of the range, starting and finishing in the village of Graig-fechan, south of Ruthin. It is just over 10km long with some 460m of ascent, and should be comfortable in about 4 hours, allowing plenty of time for taking in the views along the way. Paths are generally good, though there is some tricky route finding in a couple of places.

OS Explorer map 256 is recommended.



Garmin Route Map



We walked this route in early December of 2019 which gave us some wonderful late autumn vistas as well as encounters with some fascinating fungi!

Starting in the centre of Graig-fechan, just down from the Three Pigeons pub, we followed the signed footpath which leads north through woodland parallel to the main road for 1km. Here a path to the right winds up through trees and then drops down across fields before popping out onto a small road after another kilometre. This road is known locally as The Shelf and is a renowned and testing hill climb used by cyclists heading out of the Vale of Clwyd up onto the Llandegla moors. Our walk followed the road now, winding past the farm buildings at Graig and up through an avenue of trees where large dinner-plate sized fungi burst out through the carpet of leaves at the roadside before we reached a sharp right hand bend.

Here a signed footpath heads off left through bracken and up the valley to meet the Offa's Dyke path at the col south of Moel y Plas (4km). As we climbed we emerged from fog into bright sunshine and were treated to a glorious cloud inversion below us with amazing views over the Vale of Clwyd to the Denbigh Moors gradually becoming ever more extensive.



On the ridge the bulk of the climbing was now behind us, and to the right there is a communications tower and the unremarkable summit of Moel y Gelli, although it does give you a fine view of your walk up the valley and splendid views west for not much effort. From Moel y Gelli we headed back to Offa's Dyke path which shortly rejoins the Shelf road. After a short distance climbing on the road a footpath took us over a stile and south-west up across fields to the summit of Moel y Waun, marked by a trig point (6.5km). This is a wonderful viewpoint and well worth spending some time to take it all in. On our walk the whole of the Vale of Clwyd was in cloud below us, a lovely spectacle, and to the south cloud swirled on the Berwyn hills of Llantisilio Mountain west of the Horseshoe Pass. We could see north along the entire Clwyd range. It is a modest summit, only 411m, but as is often the case it more than makes up for this with these views.



From the summit we followed the fence south to a path which dropped down west through gorse fields before picking up a footpath which follows the contours north along a fenceline to a bridleway, where we turned west to head gradually downhill before emerging on a narrow road taking us back to the village, enjoying an atmospheric sunset over the moors to the south-west. A fitting end to a glorious outing.

North Wales Growth Deal

In 2020 there has not been much to celebrate in the news, but the North Wales Growth Deal is one item which is good news and will shape our lives for a generation.

In 2016 the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB) adopted A Growth Vision for the Economy of North Wales. Based on the Growth Vision Strategy, a Growth Deal was prepared and agreed by all the partners working with both the UK and Welsh Government and private sector in October 2018. In November 2019 the NWEAB and Welsh and UK Governments agreed the Heads of Terms, for a Final Deal Agreement which was completed in 2020.

The Growth Deal is seeking to deliver a total investment of up to £1.4 billion in the North Wales economy (£240m from the Growth Deal), to create 3,400 - 4,200 net additional jobs and generate £2.0 - £2.4 billion in net additional Gross Value Added.

The key areas for investment will be:-

Smart North Wales

Innovation in high value sectors to advance economic performance.

Resilient North Wales

Retaining young people, raising employment levels and improving skills to achieve inclusive growth.

Connected North Wales

Improving transport and digital infrastructure to improve connectivity to and within the region.

Cllr. Mike Allport

Local Development Plan (LDP) - Update

As part of the next stage of the plan, the pre-hearing meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th January 2021 at 2.30 pm. This will be a virtual meeting and anyone wishing to attend must inform the programme officer kerry.trueman@flintshire.gov.uk for instructions on how to join the meeting.

Also the Hearing Sessions will commence the week beginning 22nd February 2021. Further details will be published on the Hearing Sessions page on the FCC website, which can be found by entering the following address into your web browser: <https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Planning/LDP-Examination-Sub-Pages/Hearing-Sessions-Agendas-Statements-Action-Points.aspx>



Volunteer Group – Update

January 2020 was a normal month. Our daughter had returned home for Christmas and travelled to South Africa to meet friends who taught with her at a school in Shanghai. As her road trip was coming to an end, she texted us to say that her school in China had been closed due to a virus and everywhere had been locked down. Within a matter of weeks plans would be in place to initiate a lockdown in the UK.

In early March, seeing that things may become difficult for our residents, I met with a core group to formulate a plan to provide reassurance to the community that they need not be isolated and then asked for volunteers to provide support. The response was overwhelming, with over 50 people offering their services. Contact cards were delivered and very quickly every single household in the village had a phone contact.



Our village store made sure they were well stocked throughout and offered to deliver supplies to those who couldn't get out, we galvanised the village into getting into their gardens to celebrate VE day in May, a much-needed opportunity to socialise at a distance, and, most recently, we have delivered delicious Christmas dinners to the community which were gifted by The Swan and The Royal Oak.



As everybody has become used to this new way of life and almost daily changes in the rules, some of our community have found themselves without their usual support networks. Neighbours have helped neighbours and our volunteer contacts have quietly gone about the business of shopping, picking up prescriptions, providing meals, and being at the end of the phone.

It is a privilege to live in a village with so many good neighbours and to see people pulling together in difficult times. Remember, the Higher Kinnerton Coronavirus Volunteer Group is still there. If you need any support with shopping, medication or just a chat over the phone please don't hesitate to contact us. If you have mislaid your card call 07401 369062 and we'll be able to help.

Jane Liddle – Higher Kinnerton Coronavirus Volunteer Group

Newsletter Content

Have you got an announcement, story or event that you would like us to mention in the next newsletter? If so, please send any content to the Higher Kinnerton Community Council at newsletter@higherkinnerton.org.uk We will always welcome stories!