

OUR VILLAGE



Higher Kinnerton
Community Council

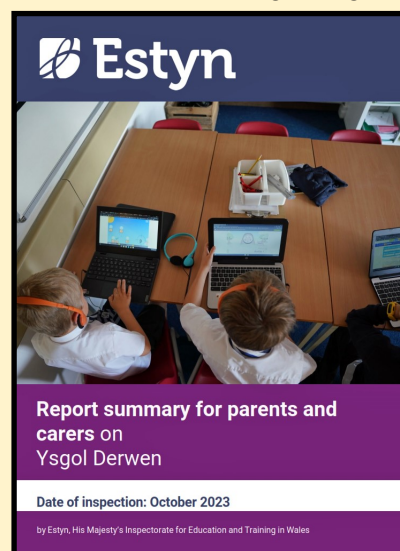
Your Monthly Higher Kinnerton Community Newsletter



Ysgol Derwen praised in Estyn report

The Welsh Government's schools inspection watchdog Estyn was recently in Higher Kinnerton's Ysgol Derwen, at the beginning of October, and published their report on the school at the beginning of December. Estyn praised the school for its effective teaching, and were particularly impressed with the caring ethos of the school and the promotion of well-being for pupils and teachers alike which has created a positive learning environment for the children. Mr Jones, the headteacher, praised the staff for their role in the process in what was a rigorous and stressful week. The report highlights two areas where improvements to existing provision should be implemented and the school has already started to draw up plans to address these issues. Obviously the school is pleased with the findings of the Estyn team and Mr Jones expressed his thanks to the entire team of staff, governors, parents and, of course, pupils for their roles in assisting the Estyn inspection team and showing the school in such a good light.

You can read and download a copy of the Estyn report via the Estyn website at [Ysgol Derwen Estyn Report](#)



Random Start at the Village Hall



Higher Kinnerton Village Hall was buzzing on Saturday night, the 9th of December to the sound of Random Start. It was great to see a bustling, happy hall with plenty of listening, chatting and dancing as Random Start worked through their set.

A huge thank you is due to everyone who made the evening at the Village Hall such a fabulous and enjoyable time for all who were there. We could not have wished for a better audience or audience participation. The transformation in the hall from start of the evening to the finish was magical. The night seemed to be buzzing from the moment you all came through the doors. Probably all relieved to get out of the strong winds of Storm Elin. So a big thank you from Random Start and Bunny Jenks (aka Glenys - apparently I talk a lot, hence my nickname Bunny from an ex friend!)

Village Hall news

Jason from the Village Hall Committee has been in touch to remind everyone in the village of all the amazing activities going on in the hall into the New Year. There's so much going on at our Village Hall, including...

- **Monday** - Popcats! A brand new parents and toddler group...Turn up, Pay & Play! 9am - 12pm. <https://www.popcats.co.uk/>
- **Monday** - Bowls Club 6pm - 9pm...Come along for a great night. geoffhaffenden@yahoo.com
- **Tuesday** - Pizza for tea?...Bonnis Pizza Van 4pm to 7.30pm. hello@bonnispizza.com
- **Wednesday** - Art Classes 10am to 12pm learn a new skill or perfect your art techniques. carol.udale@hotmail.co.uk
- **Thursday** - Pilates 9am to 12pm develop your flexibility with a controlled & relaxed approach to exercise. Lucy Palmer [07816 776230](tel:07816776230)
- **Thursday** - Kinnerton Walking Group, meet at the hall 1pm, finish about 4pm, all welcome. brianogara@sky.com
- **Friday** - Kinnerton Baby & Toddler Group 9am to 11.30am. Turn up...Pay & Play. ku5share@gmail.com or Jane [07401369062](tel:07401369062)
- **Friday** - Craft Group 1.30pm to 4pm. An afternoon of enjoyable craft work. Margie [01244 661090](tel:01244661090)
- **Saturday** - 9am to 11am Taekwon-Do. Keep fit learning self defence. (3-5 years 9am to 9.45am & 5 years + & Adults 9.45am to 10.45am). Philipstarr1@hotmail.co.uk



The Village Hall is great for parties too, with plug in & play for music and super fast broadband for gaming parties! You can book online at - <https://hallbookingonline.com/kinnerton/>

All Saints Church gets a makeover

The front hedge of All Saints Church has been reduced in height and width to give much improved sight lines of the church and the LED lighting and also the signage. It will also reduce the time spent cutting the hedge by the volunteers and make the task more safe.

Most villagers think that the churchyard is maintained by Flintshire County Council whereas in fact the work is done by a small volunteer group set up and managed brilliantly by Paul Elson. This group cut the hedges and grass and strim between the graves and weed and maintain the flower beds. Many of the older graves are for numerous reasons not cared for any more and it is intended in 2024 to spent some time restoring them. To do this will be time consuming and consequently more help is needed. If you would like to get involved and give 2/3 hours per month to help out you would be very welcome. Paul organises the group via WhatsApp and there is no pressure to attend on any given evening. If you can't come you can't come and no reasons are required. Just stroll around the churchyard and look at all the possibilities for improvement and what could be done with more help. If interested in joining the volunteer group contact Paul on 07912 963539 or Mike 07977 119179



Before...



After...

1st Kinnerton Scout Group

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE. You may have noticed that the Headquarters building is now sporting new, larger windows and new gateway signs. We were awarded a grant to upgrade the building by the Landfill Disposal Tax Community Scheme. A lot of work has been done inside the building, including a new ceiling in the main hall, energy efficient lighting, a new fire alarm system, and outside very necessary repairs to the roof and guttering. We are completing the update of the Gents toilets and completely revamping the Ladies toilet, fitting it so it is a disabled facility as well. There are still some jobs, like painting, needed to complete our aim at ensuring that this 40year old building is updated to current standards, and will serve the Community for another 40 years, or more. We would like to thank the Kinnerton Volunteer Group for their magnificent help in trimming the hedging around the building and in painting. Your help is greatly appreciated.

The building is available for hire during the day, at weekends and on some evenings. Sorry, no children's parties because the Hall is carpeted. For further details, email kinnertonscouts@gmail.com

RACE NIGHT. Unfortunately we had to cancel our Race Night in November as there was no newsletter to advertise it to everyone. However, we are planning to have A Night at the Races at the end of February/ beginning of March. (Date to be confirmed) Look out for Facebook notices, posters and the next newsletter for exact details.

BEAVERS and CUBS. Our Beaver/ Cub Leaders left us at Christmas after 5 years. Initially they were helping with Cubs, but then re-started our Beaver Colony, eventually taking over the Cub Pack as well, when the Cub Leader left due to work pressures.

We are left with a large hole to fill. The Group are actively seeking 2 new Leaders, one for each section. Can you help, do you know anyone who can help us? You don't have to have been in Scouting or Guiding, and there is lots of support available. Scouting is all inclusive- it does not matter your background, identity or ability, there's a place with your name on it.

Volunteering can be a brilliant way to boost your wellbeing. It's a great feeling knowing you're helping young people get skills for life, and you might even learn a lot about yourself along the way.

Scouts can make you feel good in other ways too. You can

- Make friends and meet people
- Try new things and challenge yourself
- Get outdoors and get stuck in
- Positively impact your community
- Create vital opportunities for young people
- Make memories that'll last a lifetime

If you think this might be for you, and would like to find out more; are not sure and would like to visit and talk to Leader; or have any questions, please email kinnertonscouts@gmail.com

We also extend a big welcome to anyone who can be a helper in any of the sections, or who has an interest the youngsters could learn about, or can just help out occasionally, whether at meetings or in fundraising. Just email kinnertonscouts@gmail.com.

Higher Kinnerton Walking Group

October was not conducive to walking other than on hard surfaces. Consequently our out of village walk was around Chester, starting and finishing in Westminster Park. We stopped for a photo on the suspension bridge which had its centenary a few months back. We then headed to Revolution Cocktail Bar in Foregate Street where we had fish, chips, mushy peas and a pint of Amstel for an unbelievable £4.99 - by far the highlight of the day before heading back in pouring rain.

In December we headed to Liverpool on the train from Penyffordd. After lunch at the North Western Hotel we headed down to the waterfront to see the Christmas lights and decorations. We then popped to the Christmas market before taking the train home. Photo shows some of the group's fallen angels.

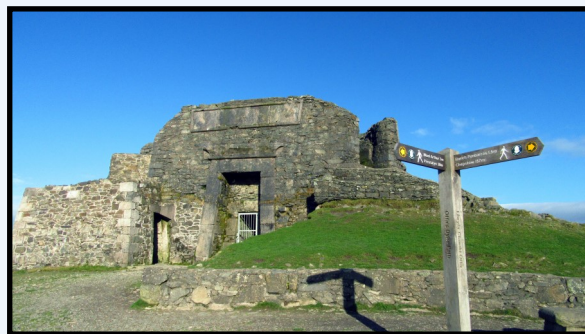


Walking in the Clwyds

An occasional series exploring the hills on our doorstep, by Martin King

7. Moel Famau

No series about walks in the Bryniau Clwyd (Clwydian range) would be complete without a walk to the summit of Moel Famau, the highest peak along the ridge between Prestatyn and Llandegla. Famed for its Jubilee Tower (more of which later) and extensive 360 degree views, it is justifiably popular. Its status as the loftiest summit means it attracts visitors from all over and can be very busy at times, especially at weekends. Most people choose the relatively



straightforward path from the car park on Bwlch Penbarras and if you are short of time that is by far the quickest route. If you have the time there is a much nicer, if longer, approach from the Vale of Clwyd to the south, and this route starts and finishes in the small village of Llangynhafal a few miles north of Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd and where there is limited parking in a layby just south of the village (OS Grid Ref **SJ 13014 63190**). The walk is about 10km in length and features around 500m of ascent, and should take between 3 and 4 hours to complete. The climb is moderately strenuous but once on the main ridge it eases considerably. The walk is on a mix of minor roads, farm tracks and well used footpaths which are generally good, although in wet weather it may be muddy in a few places. For navigation, as usual OS Explorer map 256 is recommended. The walk can be tackled at any time of year, but pick a clear day to make the most of the amazing views across to Liverpool and to the distant mountains of Eryri to the west. In winter, if there is snow on the ground, it is a truly magical walk.

From the lay-by we head north a few hundred metres to the crossroads where we turn right, heading for the parish church. On the corner is a village noticeboard alongside a set of stocks, rebuilt in 2000 and a reminder of Victorian times. The road up is narrow and winding and soon brings us to the lovely church of St Cynhafal, a double nave church which dates back to the 15th century and possibly earlier. From here the road continues upwards, steeper now for a while until the tarmac runs out at a gate which opens out onto the open moorland



of the Bryniau Clwyd which forms part of the Moel Famau Country Park here. The track which continues to the ridge is a broad farm track and continues all the way over the hills and down to the village of Cilcain. As we climb the views behind us open out across the lovely Vale of Clwyd to the Denbigh Moors (with all the wind turbines) and on a clear day, further distant, the magnificent Carneddau and the mountains of Eryri (Snowdonia). Eventually, after some 2.5km we crest the ridge at a double gate. Here we cross the Offa's Dyke path which stretches all the way from Prestatyn to the north down to Chepstow in the south, on the banks of the River Severn.



Our path now continues through the gate and as we round a bend we can now see the view east out towards Cheshire. Below is one of the Cilcain reservoirs, originally supplying drinking water to the locality (this is now supplied by Llyn Alwen high on the Denbigh Moors) and is primarily given over to fishing. A few hundred metres from the gate there are a couple of footpaths which head off to the right, following the Clwyd ridge towards Moel Famau which is now in view for the first time. On a clear day navigation is straightforward



and it is possible to take either of these paths, our route uses the lower of the two and takes us gently down through heather and bracken before taking a sharp turn south and heading up a shallow valley below Moel Dywyll which towers above us to the right. The path winds and climbs to meet the other path



and we continue east to meet a drystone wall and a well sited wooden bench, a perfect place to stop for a drink and a good look at the view north to Moel Dywyll and Moel Llys-y-coed. All that remains is a short, sharp climb east up a footpath through heather (and over a gate) to reach the summit dome of Moel Famau (5.5km).

The summit is dominated by the aforementioned Jubilee Tower, designed to be an Egyptian obelisk and built back in 1810 to commemorate the golden jubilee of King George III.

Sadly it was never completed and in 1862 the tower was blown down in a storm. The remnants were made safe and are essentially what you see today. Steps in each corner lead to a small viewing platform where a series of panels describe the view in each direction. Even in ruin it is an evocative place and attracts visitors from all over the region, especially at weekends. Nearby is an OS Trig Point which has been repainted on a number of occasions (its current guise is the white, green and red of Mr Urdd, the symbol of a national voluntary Youth organisation in Wales, providing opportunities for youngsters to take part in a range of experiences in the medium of Welsh). On a good day the views from this summit area are simply magnificent. North is the Bryniau Clwyd ridge and the Irish Sea, east looks out over Halkyn Mountain to the Wirral, Mersey and Dee



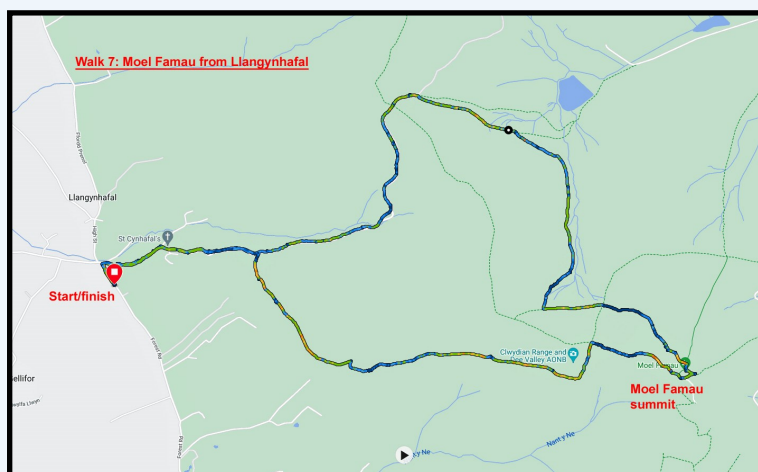
estuaries and Liverpool, south is to the southern half of the Clwyd ridge and the Berwyn mountains, whilst to the west the lovely Vale of Clwyd with Denbigh and Ruthin nestles below the Denbigh Moors and beyond the Eryri mountains from the Arans in the south to Yr Wyddfa and the Carneddau in the north. It is simply magnificent. A walk up here at sunrise or sunset can offer fantastic reward, and in the winter with snow underfoot the whole of the range is transformed. It is safe to say that you will almost certainly

encounter other visitors, but the summit area is large and it is easy to find a bit of space to sit and take it all in.

All that remains now is getting back down. From the Jubilee Tower and the Offa's Dyke signpost head north-west on a clear path which soon drops steeply before levelling out. The main path continues to follow a drystone wall on the right towards Moel Dywyll but we take a left turn here and head south-west, gently down for a short while before the path turns west and crosses more heather and then starts to drop more steeply down until meeting a path above the out-take wall. A



magnificent rowan tree guards the junction. Here the path fords a stream (7.7km) and we can now enjoy a relatively easy stroll north following the stone wall and farm fields left below, the flanks of the Clwyd ridge above us to our right. Here the sounds of the valley are clearer with livestock and birds carrying on the breeze. After another kilometre we reach a stile and clamber over and out onto the road we walked up a few hours earlier. It is now just a kilometre or so back down, past the church and the stocks to the village where we started our walk.



2024 Big Garden Birdwatch

The last weekend in January sees the return of the annual RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch, a chance to help provide an invaluable snapshot of the state of our garden bird population in the UK. It has been running every year now since 1979 and last year hundreds of thousands took part across the country, helping to provide information about the welfare of our resident garden birds. For those who haven't done it before the idea is to spend an single hour at any time during the weekend January 26 to January 28 and count the birds which visit your garden. A good time to do it is while you are having breakfast, or maybe over a morning coffee break.



Help is on hand if you aren't sure about which birds you are seeing. There are plenty of online bird id websites and phone apps which can help. For example, the **Birdfact** website lists the 23 most common garden birds in the UK, with description and colour photos (<https://birdfact.com/articles/garden-birds-in-the-uk>), whilst the **Birds of Britain** android app is also a good source (available via your usual app provider). Last year's top three birds spotted during the Big Garden Birdwatch were the House Sparrow, the Blue Tit and the Starling. But there are plenty more birds around – for example, here in the village we get Goldfinches, Greenfinches, Great Tits, Collared Doves, Jackdaws, and a Great Spotted Woodpecker is also a regular visitor. We even saw a sparrowhawk during last year's count. The great thing is you never know what you might see.

So please do get involved, every contribution is valuable to the RSPB, even if you don't see any (although that is highly unlikely). Visit the RSPB website (<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>) for more information and come the weekend of January 26th settle down with a sheet of paper and a pen, put the kettle on and enjoy a wonderful hour with the birds in your garden.

All Saints Church News

A Happy new year to you all. A big thank you to all who have supported our Christmas Raffle and attended our Christmas Services and other events. Also for donations to the Foodbank Collection.

Services for January

Sunday 7th January at 9.30am. All Age Service
 Sunday 14th January at 9.30am. Holy Communion
 Sunday 21st January at 9.30am. Holy Communion
 Sunday 28th January at 9.30am. Holy Communion

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 17th January at 10.30am, Coffee morning
 Thursday 18th January, Seniors' lunch. Invitations will be sent out.

Higher Kinnerton Craft Group

The first craft group meeting in 2024 will be on Friday 5th January at 1pm in the Blue Room in the Village Hall. We usually start the year with a very relaxed session, just chatting and colouring in, either just for fun or to turn into cards. It is an opportunity to welcome new members to our friendly group.

We have a few ideas which we hope to try this year. Iris folding is a new technique to most of us, used to enhance cards. A couple of items in the Flint and Denbigh W.I. schedule for craft are interesting. Weaving is a new craft to us and hopefully we can achieve a wall hanging ! We hope to invite the crafty sisters back to demonstrate wirework jewellery which is also an entry.

If you have thought about coming to craft.....no better time than New Year, you'll be made very welcome. We have a lot of fun , you don't have to be very crafty ,just have a go , you'll be surprised what you can do. The 2024 timetable will be on the notice boards in the New Year. For further information contact Margie 07929369259 or 01244 661090.

Flintshire's Waste/Recycling Strategy

Many of you will already be aware that the Welsh Government is committed to reducing waste and increasing our recycling, and Flintshire are playing their part. They are currently consulting on a new strategy with the aim of being net zero carbon and meeting Government recycling waste targets by 2030. This will impact both business and households alike. Failure to meet targets will leave Flintshire liable to fairly stringent fines which will affect us all. In turn they are considering fines for households who do not recycle their waste properly. As part of all this Flintshire are hosting a series of drop-in sessions where members of the public can go along and learn more about the strategy and ask any questions they may have. There are a number of these in early January. A full list of events can be found at

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Bins-Recycling-and-Waste/Resource-and-Waste-Strategy-for-Flintshire.aspx>

Consultation Questionnaire

We would encourage ALL residents in the village to respond to the short consultation questionnaire (via the above link) on the subject of recycling and waste as it will serve as a steer for how Flintshire proceed. The issue of kerbside recycling (ie the blue box and recycling bags we all put out every week) is important and they are looking at ways of improving this and increasing what can be recycled, thereby reducing what we put into our black bins. For example, currently soft plastics are NOT part of this weekly collection. Anyone wishing to recycle the horrendous amounts of soft plastic packaging that we accumulate has to take it somewhere which will process it (eg nearby supermarkets such as Tesco's, Morrisons and the Co-op).

The questionnaire provides an opportunity for residents to make suggestions in question 6 and we would urge all residents to encourage Flintshire to provide recycling opportunities for waste like this, either kerbside or via a central collection point in the village.

Please take the time to think about this, it affects us ALL. The consultation window is short, all responses must be in by January 12th next year, When you have a moment put the kettle on, sit down with a brew and spend 10 minutes of your time. Thanks!

You can ready the Draft Strategy via the following link

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Bins--Recycling/Flintshire-Resource-and-Waste-Strategy-2024-2030.pdf>



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Entries to the newsletter can be made by emailing newsletter@higherkinnerton.org.uk by the **third Friday 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.

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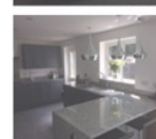
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