

Community News

Issue number 40

Winter 2015



For free distribution in Fron, Garth & Trevor.

The Aqueduct Community Association

**Extends a very warm and festive welcome
to all Pensioners within the villages of
TREVOR, GARTH and FRON**

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MONDAY 7th DECEMBER 2015**

Contact

Alyson Winn 01691 770 912

Sue Kempster 01978 810 302



Llangollen Rural Community Council would like to thank all who have contributed in 2015 to this newsletter with articles and adverts. We would like to wish all our readers and advertisers a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.



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Chairman's Corner

By Cllr. Elfed Mrrus

During the last month I have attended a 'Difficult Decisions' meeting at the Guildhall in Wrexham to be advised of the imminent cutbacks in services by Wrexham County Borough Council. Despite having to make these savings, no-one could tell us where the cuts will be made.

I also attended a training course in Mold telling us how we as a Council would have to cope with the 'cutbacks'. It would appear that we are already helping in this way with the wonderful volunteers that we have in our villages, - litter picking, grass cutting, planting flowers and many other jobs. Other Councillors' attending were amazed to hear that this was being done in our area, so a massive thank you to you all.

With the dark nights now here, I am very disappointed and frankly annoyed with Wrexham County Borough Council that the light at Cromwell Terrace in Garth has still not been installed. It will be two years in February since this light was first reported, despite several site meetings, dozens of emails and phone calls the work has not yet been done. I can assure you that everything is being done to ensure that this light will be in place soon. It is at times very frustrating!

We are now in the process of taking over the five playgrounds in our villages. This has been a very complex issue, but this is now moving forward very nicely thanks to our solicitor.

I would also like to thank our very hard working County Councillor Pat Jeffares and our Clerk Sue Jones for all their constant hard work.

As the festive season is fast approaching, can I take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

LLANGOLLEN RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The above Council will consider applications for financial assistance, from organisations in Froncysyllte, Garth and Trevor. All applications must be forwarded to the Clerk – Mrs.S.A.Jones, 1 Ael y Bryn, Llangollen Road, Trevor, Llangollen, LL20 7TF. Applications will be considered at the February meeting of the Council. The closing date for applications is Monday 18th January 2016.

Towers Day Nursery

By Ruth Roberts

The children at The Towers Day Nursery have been busy with lots of Autumn art and craft. They have been making leaf print pictures and collages of owls. They also made Poppies to commemorate Armistice Sunday and have been carving pumpkins and making pumpkin soup. For Halloween, many of the children came to nursery in fancy dress and had an enjoyable time dancing and singing and enjoying Halloween cakes and treats.

Last month, Tempest Photography came to nursery and took some lovely pictures of the children, all ready for Christmas gifts.

The "Smile" campaign that is to encourage young children to clean their teeth is still running successfully and The Towers has just been awarded a Gold Award for participating in the scheme. For Children in Need we held a cake sale and had a Super Hero day - the theme of Children in Need this year. Money donations are still coming in, so we do not as yet have a final figure of money raised for the cause.

We are now busy preparing for Christmas and are hoping that Father Christmas will pay us a visit on party day!.

Trevor & Garth WI

By Jean Roberts - Secretary

At the October Annual General Meeting Sue Kempster was re-elected as President.

Diary Dates:

In November meeting Christmas decorations.

In December the WI are going on a Christmas mystery trip and lunch is included.

January prize bingo

February a book sculpture demonstration.

March Easter flower demonstration

Please note that the January, February and March meetings will be held in the afternoon.

Bird List Fron

By Julie Williams

Blackbird, Blue Tit, Buzzard, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff. Collared Dove, Coal Tit, Goldfinch, Great Tit, Greenfinch, House Martin, Hedge Sparrow, Heron, Jay, Jackdaw, Long tailed Tit, Magpie, Rook, Robin, Swift, Tawny Owl, Willow Tit, Wood Pigeon.

1st Trevor Scout Group

By Elaine Anderson Group Scout Leader

Beavers.

Our new Beavers will have the opportunity to achieve their Faith Badge, when they visit Chester Cathedral in November. A great scary, fun party was held for both sections in October, spider's nests were involved?? In December both sections will be having a sleepover at our HQ then visiting the panto the next day.

Cubs

They are working on the Our World Badge, this is quite complex, so will take until Christmas to complete. They are also, going to attend the Senior Citizens Christmas party and perform a carol or two!

Both sections will be Carol singing in Tesco Cefn again, we thank everyone there for giving us this opportunity. We will finish the term with our Christmas party, fun for all ages.

Both Beavers and Cubs are full at the moment, and we have a waiting list. If there is anyone out there, who could spare a few hours a week to help, you would enjoy it, and we would be very grateful.

Our Xmas Bingo is December 2nd, eyes down at 7.30pm. Some of our Leaders and helpers will be going around selling tickets for our very popular Christmas raffle.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their generous support, throughout the year.

MERRY XMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all.

Homelink Library Service

If you are disabled or have difficulty getting to your local library a Homelink library service is provided by Wrexham County Borough Council. This offers a home visit every four weeks and provides access to the whole range of library and reference services, including books, Audios, CDs and DVDs.

For further details contact Wrexham Library 01978 292090 and ask for Ellen Edwards who looks after the Homelink Service.

The dates of visits to your area for the next three months are as follows:

Wednesday's 9th December, 6th January, 3rd February, 2nd & 30th March.

How a donation left in 1699 to help the poor grew into a helping hand is still going strong today.

The charity started on the 11th August 1699 by Evan ap Edwards from Llangollen who bequeathed the sum of £50 in his will to benefit the poor of the parish. Others followed with voluntary contributions from their own estates to be invested with a similar purpose. It would be the start of a fascinating local charity that is still going strong today.

Although the legacies of the likes of Evan ap Edwards were the catalyst for the charity, they were not the only source of funding. In olden days land owners (including the Chirk Castle & Ruthin Castle Estates) would have to pay a charge towards the charity, it could be something like a shilling a year. There are still two fields in Glyn Ceiriog on which the charge still applies - something like 50 shillings. The money is collected each year by the Glyntraian representative.

The organisation was originally named St. Thomas's Charity, which many people refer to it today. In the early 20th century it became the 'Llangollen Urban, Llangollen Rural and Glyntraian Welfare Charities.'

The charity has close ties with the church and the set-up of the charity's board has remained the same for hundreds of years with the vicar at the time the chairman. The old parish was split into three areas, known as 'traians'. There are three representatives from the parish church; one representative from Froncysyllte and one from Trevor and these will be Community Councillors. There are two representatives from Glyntraian (which is Glyn Ceiriog) and two from Llangollen town council. Llantysilio isn't included as it wasn't part of the old parish.

In the early years the fund paid for loaves of bread, which were distributed by the font at the back of St. Collen's Church. They were given out after the service on a Sunday, so that they couldn't just collect the bread and leave. When our forefathers said that the church was always full, there was usually a reason!

Today things are a lot different but the ethos of St Thomas' remains the same as it did in 1699. The poor of the parish no longer queue for a small loaf of bread each week but the initial investment to help people who died hungry hundreds of years ago is still making a difference. The trustees of the old charity meet each year, in November, to discuss how to distribute the funds.

As today we don't have poor people in the sense that we did in the past, vouchers are distributed to around 280 people each year, which the representatives feel are deserving of them. These are usually widows or the elderly. How much is available depends on the interest on the charities assets which are ever changeable.

This is continued at the top of the following page.

Throughout the year the trustees keep an eye out for people who they feel should be given the vouchers and they are distributed in time for Christmas. The vouchers are for provisions, coal or clothing to the value of ten pounds and are redeemable only in shops in Llangollen.

St. Thomas's is a fascinating little charity. It has had to change with the times but, thanks to the work of the trustees and the various benefactors who have contributed to it over the past few hundred years. It continues to spread a little goodwill into the 21st century.

The trustees for Llangollen Rural are: Cllr Mrs Joyce Evans who has been involved for over 25 years and Cllr Geraint Roberts who has been a trustee for about 4 years.

A Burglary

A burglar broke into a house one night. He shone his flashlight around, looking for valuables when a voice in the dark said 'Jesus knows you're here.' He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flashlight off, and froze. When he heard nothing more, he shook his head and continued. Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard 'Jesus is watching you.'

Startled, he shone his light around frantically looking for the source of the voice. Finally, in the corner of the room, his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot.

'Did you say that?' He hissed at the parrot.

'Yes', the parrot confessed, then squawked. 'I'm just trying to warn you that he's watching you.'

The burglar relaxed 'Warn me huh? Who in the world are you?' 'Moses' replied the bird.

'Moses?' the burglar laughed. 'What kind of people would name a bird Moses'?

'The kind of people who would name a Rottweiler Jesus.'

Bird Watch – Trevor

By Anne Arnold

House Sparrows, Tree Sparrows, Blue Tit, Robins, Crows, Pigeon, Owls, Collared Doves, Nuthatch, Blackbirds (very few about), Jays, Great Tit, Sparrow Hawk, Heron, Magpies, Woodpeckers, Thrush, Bats at dusk, Long Tail Tit, Pheasant (in Wood), Coal Tit, Male & Female Bull Finches flights (20 – 30), Gold Finches on feeders (2 -3 times a day), Ducks, Chaffinches, Buzzards & Geese (overhead).

Bowls Update . . .

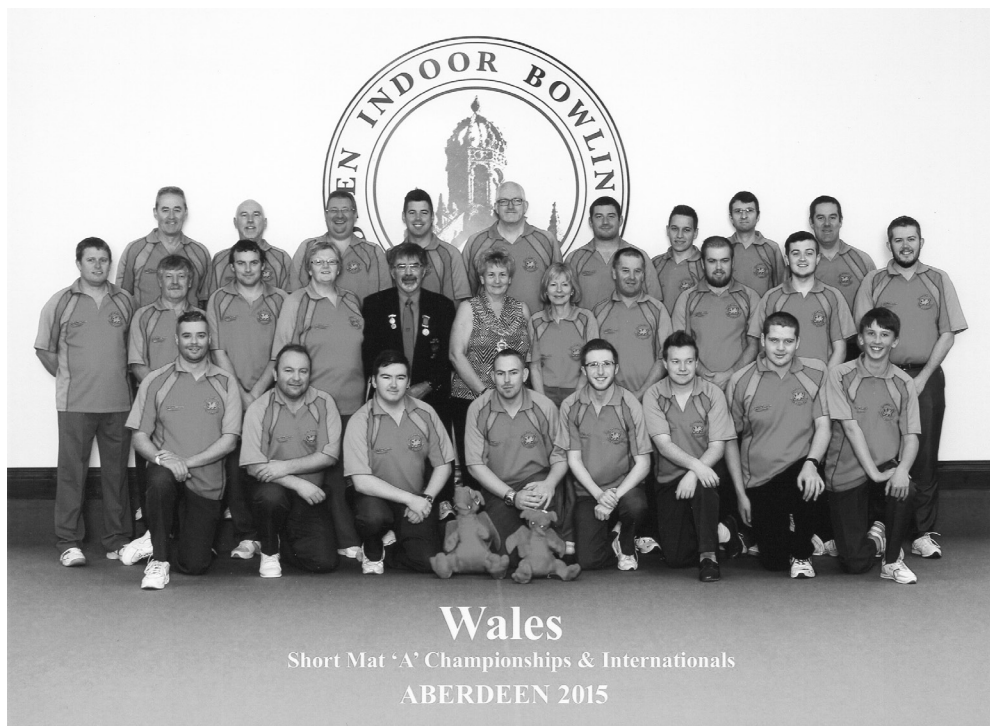
By Moira Griffiths

The indoor season has started again and is looking positive for the Trevor afternoon league. So far we have played three games and have won all three with a superb aggregate in each. This has put us in second place in the league table and is a positive start to the season.

Our Monday night league games at Johnstown have had a mixed start and we are currently in second place. The format is very straightforward with us playing four singles games and one pairs and we play in a 'round robin' league against six other teams, which will bring us up to Christmas. The return matches will start in the New Year.

I have just returned from Aberdeen after playing for Wales in the British Isles/'A' Series Championships.

We started travelling up on Thursday 12th and met the second coach of players at Carlisle. After staying overnight we continued our journey onto Aberdeen. We started playing on Saturday morning and our squad had fantastic results winning the singles and pairs with our triples and fours taking second place in their respective disciplines. My group of four played a very tight game against the Irish fours team and finally managed to beat them by 12 points to 7. I was told later that we have made history as this was the first time that any Welsh team has beaten the Irish in a fours match since the 'A' Series Championships started many years ago! A result indeed! I was so proud!





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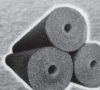
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The deadline for the the Spring issue will be noon on **Monday 8th February 2016** Please mark your copy "Community News" and include a name, address and contact telephone number, items will not be accepted without these details.

Although we make every effort to ensure that the facts contained in this publication are correct, we cannot take responsibility for "typing" errors or statements made by a third party. If you find something needing correcting, please contact the Clerk, details above.

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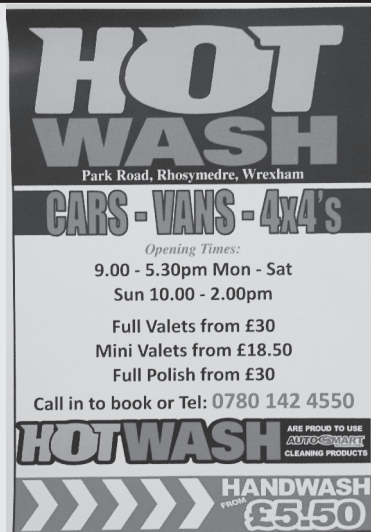
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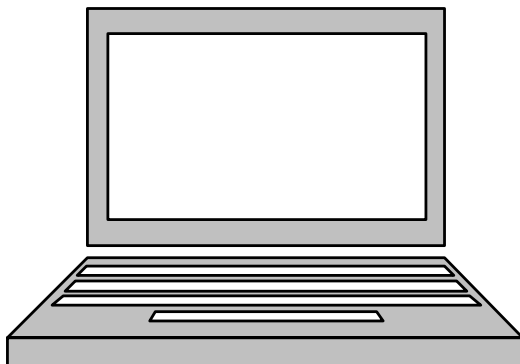
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Windows 10 is here, but if you are offered a free upgrade, to download it, on a normal speed broadband can take a few hours. We have super fast optical fibre broadband in the Telecottage, why not call in on a Monday or Thursday. For more info call 01978810119.

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 ***Merry Christmas from all our advertisers*** 

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Fron Community Centre

By Julie Williams

History Talk

Another interesting talk by Mr Emrys Roberts was held in October, sharing memories of old Froncysyllte and the history of Walter Eddy.

A large collection of old photographs were also on display courtesy of Geoff Alcock.

Fron Walking Group enjoyed their weekend in Cardiff in September. Visiting Llandaff and walking through Bute Park back to the Angel Hotel where we were treated to wonderful entertainment in the evening by the Pontardulais Male Voice Choir, who were in Cardiff for the rugby. On the Sunday our good friends from Valeways Walking Group lead us on a scenic walk around Porthkerry Country Park and coastline near Barry.

On the way home we enjoyed a carvery meal at the White Lion in Leominster.

A quiz was held in the Community Centre in early October in aid of Fron Walkers and the Community Garden. £70 was raised on the evening and Julie and Vaughan wish to thank everyone for their support.

By popular demand, another walk was arranged for thirty of the walkers to Snowdonia in early October, and once again we had lovely weather.

Saturday 5th December – Fron School Christmas Fayre at the Community Centre – all welcome. Stalls, refreshments, raffle, gifts etc.



Cakes and Company has enjoyed another busy season, and have donated £1,000 each to six worthy causes in the village. St David's Church, Seion Chapel, Friends of Froncysyllte School, Derby and Joan, Fron Pensioners and Fron Community Centre.

The Community Cafe will reopen on Saturday 26th March (Easter weekend) 2016. We wish to thank our volunteer staff and customers for all their loyal support.



Bingo

Eira Davies and Marjorie Crosbie presenting a cheque for £400 to Dawn Chatfield of Derwen College Oswestry, following a Bingo at the Community Centre. Eira and Marjorie would like to thank everyone for their support on the evening.



Halloween

Matilda Hayward, Connie Richardson, Delilah Hayward and Emily Davies 'trick or treating' in their spooky costumes.

Mobile Library

The mobile library will still be calling every three weeks on a Tuesday:

Garth Rockman's Arms	9.30 to 10.10
Garth Primary School	10.15 to 11.00
Pentre Village School	11.20 to 12.00
Trevor Community Centre	1.15 to 2.15
Rhosymedre Community Centre	2.30 to 3.45
Fron Lay-by by Cliff's Cafe	4.00 to 4.40

2015: 8th & 29th December.

2016: 19th January, 9th February, 1st & 22nd March.

Any queries regarding the operating of this route should be referred to Rhos Library 01978 840328.

Festive mince pies

200g / plain flour, plus extra for dusting
300g / 10½ oz mincemeat
100g / 3½ oz butter
1 egg beaten, for sealing and glazing
25g / 1 oz icing sugar
icing sugar for dusting
2 – 3 tbsp. milk

Preheat the oven to 180°C / 350°F/Gas Mark 4. Sift the flour into a mixing bowl. Using your fingertips, rub in the butter until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Mix in the sugar and egg yolk. Stir in enough milk to make soft dough, turn out onto a lightly floured work surface and knead lightly until smooth.

Shape the dough into a ball and roll out to a thickness of 1cm / ½inch. Use fluted cutters to cut around 12 rounds of 7cm / 2¾ inches diameter and 12 rounds of 5cm / 2 inches diameter. Dust 12 tartlet tins with flour and line with the larger dough rounds. Prick the basis with a fork, then half- fill each pie with mincemeat. Brush beaten egg around the rims, then press the smaller dough rounds on top to seal. Make a small hole in the top of each one. Decorate the pies with Christmas trees made from dough trimmings. Brush all over with beaten egg, and then bake for 15 minutes. Remove from the oven and cool on a wire rack. Dust with icing sugar and serve.

A Dog Lover's Story

The two humorous articles are with kind permission of Mrs Sandra Baker.

An old, tired looking dog wandered into my yard. I could tell from his collar and well-fed belly that he had a home and was well taken care of. He calmly came over to me and I gave him a few pats on the head. He followed me into my house, slowly walked down the hall, and then curled up in a corner and fell asleep. An hour later he went to the door and I let him out.

The next day he came back, greeted me in my yard, walked inside and resumed his spot in the hall corner and again slept for about an hour. His visits continued off and on for several weeks. Curious, I pinned a note to his collar. 'I would like to find out who the owner of this wonderful sweet dog is and ask if you are aware that almost every afternoon he comes to my house for a nap.'

The next day he arrived again for his nap with a different note pinned to his collar. 'He lives in a home with six children, two under the age of three. He is trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?'

TIDDLYWINKS TODDLER GROUP



By Lynne Nash

Tiddlywinks Toddler group had fun at their Halloween party. They did arts and crafts and danced to Halloween music and enjoyed dressing up in their scary outfits. They finished off with party food and a play.

We are now looking forward to the countdown to Christmas. Our last session of the year will be on Wednesday 16th December and we have invited Ryan from Rhythm Time to come along and take a Christmas session. Rhythm Time is a really enjoyable experience for children from new-born to preschool. Please come along and experience this fantastic session.

Tiddlywinks Toddler Group meets every Wednesday 9.30-11.30am. It's £2.00 a session which includes tea, coffee, toast, biscuits and juice.

WISHING YOU A HAPPY & PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS

From St. David's Church, Froncysyllte.

SUNDAY 20th December 2015

9.30 am Family Communion

6.00 pm Nine Lessons and Carols

CHRISTMAS EVE

24th December 7.00 pm

Christmas Eucharist

SUNDAY 27th December

9.30 am Family Service with Carols.

St. David's Christmas Fair

is on Saturday 12th December from
12-4pm at Fron Community Centre.

For Weddings, Baptisms, Christenings
and all church enquiries please contact
Rev Matt Wilkinson 01691 778519
vicarofchirk@hotmail.com

Trevor Church Services

Sunday 6 Dec 9-30am Holy
Communion

Saturday 12 Dec at 7pm.
Carols with Mince Pies and Mulled
Wine

Tickets £5 from Wardens -
Malcolm 822157 or Mary 822312

Sunday 13 Dec 9-30am
Morning Prayer

Sunday 20 Dec 9-30am
Holy Communion

Christmas Day 9-30am
Holy Communion

Sunday 27 Dec 9-30am
Family Service

Police Matters

By PCSO David Jenkins

Dark nights, Christmas looming on the horizon! The usual seasonal crime prevention advice is still relevant:-

Ensure your property is locked and secured at all times. Leave a light on when you are out, or use a time switch on an indoor light. Put a time switch on a radio that has been tuned in to a chat station, this will give the impression that the house is occupied. Fit security lighting, either dusk to dawn energy efficient lighting that will come on automatically as dusk sets in, or brighter passive infrared activated lighting drawing attention to movement. Ensure that gates or access to the rear of the house are locked and secure. Don't forget to lock your shed as tools can be used to break in.

Secure windows, paying particular attention to those on the ground floor and above flat roof areas. Use locks and bolts and keep your keys out of sight and out of reach. Property mark your valuables by using your postcode and your house number or name. Some items are unsuitable for marking so photograph them, with a ruler in view to show the scale.

We are urging drivers to keep an eye out for vulnerable road users and to watch their speed as the clocks go back. Cyclists and pedestrians are also being advised to "be seen and be safe" as the end of British Summer Time approaches. Out and about during darkness for longer periods, the reduced visibility can make them harder to see. Cyclists should wear brightly-coloured or fluorescent clothing in daylight and reflective clothing or accessories in the dark. By law, cycles must have front and rear lights switched on in the dark and be fitted with reflectors.

Pedestrians, including joggers, are being reminded that it is hard for motorists to see them if they are wearing dark clothing.

A year round problem that is still being brought to my attention is the amount of litter on the Ward even in the vicinity of litter bins. A clean environment deters further littering and negative behaviour. Appropriate action will be taken in regard to any such offences identified.

Please feel free to contact me about any information regarding these or any other community issues in person

E-mail david.jenkins@nthwales.pnn.police.uk

Tel 07854 332425 (if I am not on duty the call will forward to the control room who will pass a message)

If reporting incidents requiring Police response please calls 999 in emergencies or 101 for non-emergency matters.

County Councillors Diary

By Pat Jeffares

We are coming to the end of another year. I'm pleased to say that all our salt bins have been refilled. With all the Councils cutbacks in the budget, it is likely to affect all front line services, so make sure your cupboards are well stocked in case we get a heavy snowfall after a decent summer.

Litter Picking I'm asking Parents & Children to take their litter home. I recently litter picked from the Trevor sign by Trevor Hall Road, right down to the Bryn Howel Hotel on both sides. I filled Three Black bags to the brim, all of this litter will be thrown from vehicles. I also filled a bag on Trevor estate, and bearing in mind we have our local volunteers who litter pick regularly in the ward, I dread to think what the state of the place would be without these very good people. Please take your litter home, and keep our ward clean and tidy. Thank You.

Ward Up Grade Resurfacing/Drainage/Pot holes all are ongoing. The Ward did quite well this year. We will make sure that we get our share, and that is down to our New Supervisor Dave Pugh, who works very hard for us. Thanks Dave.

Boxing I had the pleasure of presenting the trophy's at a Boxing Tournament held In Flexsys Community Hall on Saturday 7th November. It was nice to see one or two boys from our ward in action, it was a great show. Any boys in the ward, who would like to become future world champions, why not go along and speak to Butch and his team at Maelor Boxing Club, Cefn Mawr.

Overall I feel we have had another extremely busy year. We are now looking forward to the Christmas events that will be taking place throughout the ward.

Thanks to all the Community Councillors, the Clerk Mrs Sue Jones, Ceri Postle and her team, Ken Skates AM, and Dave the PCSO for their help and support this past year. Also a big thank you goes to all our volunteers in the ward, for the grass cutting, planting, watering, weeding and litter picking. I have never seen the place look so clean and tidy.

I would like to wish everybody in the Ward a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Thanking you all for your support during the past year.

To speak to repairs during office hours, or for out of hours Emergency Repairs, please phone **01978 298993**

Any problems don't hesitate to contact me.

Pat Jeffares Phone: 01978 820570 E-mail: pat.jeffares@wrexham.gov.uk

If you can't contact me, it has now proved that if you contact the call centre on any issue that this is the quickest way to get issues resolved. As it is logged and has to be dealt with in a time limit. Phone number 01978 298989

Father Christmas is coming to ...

GARTH & TREVOR

Friday 4th December, 5.30-7.30pm*: Garth hill, Cae Bryn, Oakfield, Garth Road, The Oaks, Maes Telford, Station Road, George Avenue, Rhos-y-coed, Tref-y-nant park

LLANGOLLEN

Saturday 5th December 5-7pm*: Maes Mawr, Pengwern, Maes Collen, Town centre, Bishops walk

FRON, PENTRE & CEFN-MAWR

Sunday 6th December 5-7pm*: Fron Community centre (5pm), Pentre, Cae Gwilym Lane

Follow us on Facebook to get route details, updates and track the sleigh's progress on the night! www.facebook.com/llangollendeevalleyrotary



Rotary

Llangollen Dee Valley



*Approximate timings subject to change