

# Offa Community News

Newyddion Cymuned Offa



# Getting Your Goat Cael dy Gafr

As interest increases in Wrexham's new Royal Welch Fusilier statue of the Goat Major and Regimental Goat, it might be asked how, and from where, did the Royal Welch get their goat?

By DR DAVID R. JONES

**Goats have long been emblematic of Wales.** It is not known when the Royal Welch Fusiliers formally enlisted a goat into its ranks, but its association with the regiment dates back to at least the early eighteenth century – and on special occasions it was suitably decorated. In his Military Collection and Remarks published in 1777 Major Robert Donkin states: *“The royal regiment of Welch Fuzileers has a privilegeous honour of passing in review preceded by a Goat with gilded horns, and adorned with ringlets of flowers.”* and adds, *“The corps values itself much on the ancientness of the custom.”* So this implies a tradition that had existed for many years. But what kind of goat was it?

A colour painting of the 1st Battalion RWF at Manchester in c.1835 shows a brindled goat with no special regalia and it is elsewhere described as a *‘venerable Cambrian goat.’* So in all probability early goats were taken from the wild herds of Wales whose descendants still roam the more remote areas of Snowdonia. Today the RWF goats are of Kashmir stock – and that's quite a story.



In 1818 two French entrepreneurs, Messrs Ternaux and Jaubert, travelled to the nomadic Kirghiz tribes in search of *a species of goat which was almost always of a dazzling whiteness, and which bore every year, in the month of June, a remarkable fleece’.* It was the fine fleece that was the attraction. After an arduous and adventurous journey, a herd of Kashmir goats was secured and shipped to Marseilles.

Two years later, in the autumn of 1823, Christopher Thomas Tower (1775-1867), the squire of Weald Hall, near Brentwood, in Essex, was staying in Paris. He bought two bucks and two does from the French herd and settled them in Essex. Eventually, in 1828, a shawl was produced from their wool. It won that

year's Gold Medal of the Society of Arts, and Squire Tower then presented King George IV with a pair of the goats:

that was the beginning of the Royal Windsor herd. But it was not until the generosity of another monarch that they became associated with the RWF. As a member of the regiment the goat accompanied the men on their tours of duty. In 1843 they were posted to the West Indies where over 100 soldiers died from Yellow Fever, and in 1844 the Regimental Goat succumbed to heat stroke. It was in response to this loss that Queen Victoria offered a replacement (*and one for the Reserve Battalion of the 23rd*) chosen from the royal herd.

A persistent narrative is that these goats were part of a gift to the Queen from the then Shah of Persia, Mohammad Shah Qājār (1808-48), but no evidence has been found to confirm this in the Royal Archives. Any new arrivals would have supplemented the original 1828 herd. By 1848 this had increased to over 200 animals and from time to time new blood stock was introduced. Even so, they suffered from inbreeding, so in 1889 a fresh herd was sent from India.

By 1931 the herd in Windsor Great Park comprised a more manageable 37 goats – 23 billies and 14 nannies. In December 1936 seven goats were sent to London Zoo and the rest (*which were to supply the RWF*) moved from Windsor to the Paddock at Regent's Park. It seems that some time after the war the herd was moved to Whipsnade Zoo from where a number of RWF goats have been selected over the years.

Another famous source of RWF goats is the herd on the Great Orme, Llandudno. It is believed that two goats from the Windsor herd were introduced to the grounds of Gloddaeth Hall, Llandudno, by Maj-Gen Sir Savage Lloyd-Mostyn DL KCB (1835-1914) and later released onto the Orme. He was Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion RWF (1869-80), and of the Regimental Depot at Wrexham (1880-85), and Colonel of the Regiment (1910-1914). He lived at Maes-y-Nant, Marchwiell and is buried in Marchwiell Church. In 1990 a Great Orme goat was posted with the 1st Battalion RWF to Berlin (*under Allied Military Government 1945-1994*) and is immortalised in bronze in the city.

Today the Regimental Goats (*each a full billy*) are still decorated with gilded horns for special occasions. In 1904 the Mayor and citizens of Lichfield presented the goat of the 1st Battalion with a silver chain and shield which hangs around his neck, and every goat in the Regular and Territorial battalions wears a silver head-plate proclaiming him a gift of the Monarch.

The goat is indeed a very special member of the regiment.

*The author is grateful to staff at the Royal Archives, Windsor, for information in the preparation of this article. Readers may also be interested in:*

*Michael Glover and Jonathon Riley, 'That Astonishing Infantry'[:] The History of the Royal Welch Fusiliers 1689-2006 (Barnsley, 2008).*

# Cutting the Sod Tori y Sod

The **'Cutting the Sod'** ceremony took place in January and the task was performed by the Mayor of Wrexham Cllr Ronnie Prince and Colonel Nick Lock of the Royal Welch Fusiliers Regiment.

**Also in attendance were several members of the RWF Comrades Association who have been busy fund raising towards the project.**

The sculptor Nick Elphick travelled down from Llandudno for the event which was also attended by Offa Community Councillors and school children from Ysgol Bodhyfryd who recited a poem by the Welsh poet Hedd Wynn who famously served in the regiment.

This event starts the beginning of this exciting project to erect a life size sculpture in bronze of a Royal Welch Fusilier and regimental goat in a floodlit landscaped setting in front of the Barracks on Kingsmills Road. The regiment has strong links with the town of Wrexham going back over 300 years and contributions towards the project have come in from individuals, local businesses and community councils.

Since January the bus stop and street light have been relocated away from the site and dropped kerbs installed. In the next few months groundworks for the plinth and footpaths will commence. Preliminary works on the sculpture have taken place and featured on BBC Wales news. It is hoped, all going to plan, for a grand unveiling ceremony on St Davids Day next year which is a big day traditionally in the RWF calendar.

Anyone wanting to make a donation can contact the Clerk to the Council on **01978 291562** or by email: [clerk@offacommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@offacommunitycouncil.gov.uk)



# FREE Advice Service Gwasanaeth Cyngor am Ddim



## **FREE advice service available to all residents in Offa.**

Phone sessions, no appointment required.

We can give help, advice and support on welfare benefit issues, debt, housing including rent arrears, and consumer problems. Please note that the Advice Service is available via phone.

Dave	Monday to Friday	Tel: 07754 549564	E: <a href="mailto:advicemanager@caiapark.gov.uk">advicemanager@caiapark.gov.uk</a>
Jill	Monday to Thursday	Tel: 07754 549560	E: <a href="mailto:advice@caiapark.gov.uk">advice@caiapark.gov.uk</a>
Janet	Thursday to Friday	Tel: 07561 694748	E: <a href="mailto:janet@caiapark.gov.uk">janet@caiapark.gov.uk</a>

*Supported by Offa Community Council and Caia Park Advice Service*

# St. Giles Church Festival of Crowns Gwyl y Goronau Eglwys Sant Silyn

St Giles' is busy preparing to join in the celebrations of the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.



**Our Platinum Jubilee Festival of Crowns will be our major visual project.**

It will feature a very large replication of the St Edward's Coronation Crown which will be suspended inside the Church from the Bell Tower, and will be a focal point at the west end of the Church.

In addition to this we will be featuring at least 70 crowns, made to all kinds of designs and from many different materials. These will have been made by members of St Giles' and other community groups, all contributing to what we expect to be an impressive spectacle.

On **Sunday 5th June** after the Holy Eucharist we will celebrate Her Majesty's splendid anniversary with a Big Lunch amidst the Crowns.

St Giles' will continue to be open to visitors daily from 10am-4pm, welcoming people of faith and of no faith, as a place of prayer and contemplation, and to share in the wonder of its architecture and history.

If anyone would like to volunteer some time as a 'Welcomer', that would be great! Please contact the Parish Office on:

E: [office@wrexhamparish.org.uk](mailto:office@wrexhamparish.org.uk)

T: 01967 750134 or 07751 422594

# Picnic In The Park Picnic yn y Parc



The Friends of Bellevue would like to invite you to  
**"A Picnic In The Park"**  
to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

JUBILEE TREASURE HUNT ALSO PROVIDED FOR THE CHILDREN

**Join us in Bellevue Park, Sunday 5th June 2022, 2pm to 7pm.**

Refreshments will be available to purchase at Parciau Bowling Club in the Pavilion, including fish and chips, burgers and ice creams - or bring your own picnic!

There will be some great entertainment: a Brass Band, Dancing Groups, and more!

Veterans are invited as our special guests for the day

*Funding support from Offa Community Council*

# Ysgol Clywedog Eco-Warriors

## Ysgol Clywedog Rhyfelwyr Eco

Our young people in Offa are showing the rest of us what needs to be done to care for our environment and make sure it's a fit place for generations to come.

**Ysgol Clywedog Eco-Action Taskforce hasn't allowed the pandemic to stand in their way and has achieved so much since the taskforce was formed.** The group meets every week and has planned a myriad of actions that has already improved their environment.

### Planting

We all know how important trees are and the children have planted a field of native trees in the school grounds, some of which are rare species. The trees help the ground to drain, combating the flooding of the school grounds and neighbouring gardens.

They not only provide fruit for the children and their families and teachers but will feed the planned native bees that will be added to this ecosystem.



It's early in the planting season but the potatoes are going in. There'll be plenty of roasties and chips to be had before very long.

## Litter

It's not all about planting and growing of course and there is much more going on to ensure that the environment is cared for. Litter is a problem everywhere in Offa but the litter picking group make sure they're seen out and about setting a good example.

## Plastic

Reducing plastic waste is another project for the young eco-warriors, recycling and reusing and getting their message out to others is a priority.



## Our plans for the future

- Develop a bee colony
- Start a pond eco-system
- Build bug hotels
- Manage the allotment
- Contribute to the care of Little Vawnog Woodland
- Manage social media for 'Plastic Free Wrexham'

*Litter is a problem everywhere in Offa but the litter picking group make sure they're seen out and about setting a good example.*

You can follow all the fantastic things that the **Eco-Warriors** are doing on the Ysgol Clywedog Facebook page.

# Dog Fouling Problem

## Problem Baw Ci

In the last 12 months one of the most reported subjects to all Offa Councillors has been the amount of **'dog mess'** on the streets, roads, the playing fields and the children's play areas of Offa.

*Dog faeces can make children sick, and in some extreme cases, fatally ill.*

**Residents and parents of children walking their loved ones to school have been most vociferous in their reporting of this terrible, anti-social mess. And** Head teachers of all Offa Schools have raised this matter at Governors' meetings!

As a Council we have been working tirelessly in trying to encourage Wrexham's County Enforcement Officers and North Wales Police Community Support Officers to challenge offenders and where necessary issue fines and enact enforcement orders to stop those few uncaring and irresponsible dog owners from allowing their dogs to deposit this most unwelcome, disgusting and possibly disease spreading mess.

It may sound draconian and people reading this article may think that there are far more important matters which need dealing with. However when every Council Member has had upset and concerned constituents approaching them and telling them the following; then it really is time to act!



***'My child had to return from school and change his trousers because when playing on the grass they became covered in dog mess.'***

***'I was playing football and carried out a sliding tackle, only to find my entire leg was smeared in dog excrement'***

***'My children were digging in the play sand and their hands were covered in dog poo.'***

***'I was visiting my mum's house with my baby was in his pushchair; when I arrived there my dad had to wash the wheels as they were covered in dog mess.'***

These are just a few examples of the types of complaints Councillors have been having.

We all know that the majority of dog owners are caring and responsible people who go to great lengths to ensure their dogs' deposits are cleaned up and disposed of correctly. However there seems to be a growing number who are not. They don't care and/or are not aware that their dog has just gone about its normal function in a public area.

#### Here are some important facts about dog faeces:

- Dog faeces does not act as a fertilizer and does not improve the soil in any way.
- Using dog faeces as garden fertilizer can cause people to become ill if they consume the vegetables that have been contaminated with dog faeces.
- Dog faeces is ranked third on the list of factors that contribute to contaminated water.
- Dog faeces pollutes water supplies and kills aquatic life and wildlife.
- Dog faeces can make children sick, and in some extreme cases, fatally ill.

#### Safe community

**We all need to work together to keep our Offa community safe, clean and continue to ensure it is the wonderful place we all know it is.**

If you are one of these people who have not been cleaning up your dog mess then start now! You are not only committing an offence but you may also be risking the health of others.

If you see someone out with a dog and their dog make a mess and they have not noticed this or have chosen to ignore it then politely remind them of their duty as a responsible citizen. We know not everyone will be comfortable doing this but unless we all act on this then it will continue.

It will still be one of the most complained about topics and worse still, it will continue to pose a health threat to our children and anyone else who may come into contact with it on their skin.

**PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG!**



# Offa Community Halls for Hire

## Cyngor Cymuned Offa neuadd i'w llogi



### **PARCIAU COMMUNITY CENTRE (Bellevue Park)**

This centre is for hire for parties, meetings, classes and social gatherings. Fully equipped kitchen. Tables and chairs for 100 people. Perfect setting.

**4 hours for £45.00 on a Saturday or Sunday**

### **MAESGWYN COMMUNITY CENTRE (Lillac Way)**

This centre is for hire for parties, meetings, classes and social gatherings. Fully equipped kitchen. Tables and chairs available. Perfect Setting.

### **LUKE O'CONNOR RESOURCE CENTRE (Hightown)**

This centre is for hire for meetings and social gatherings. Fully Equipped kitchen. Tables and chairs available. Perfect setting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE RING: **07825 637813**  
or Email: **admin@offacommunitycouncil.gov.uk**



# Little Vawnog Conservation Area

## Ardal Cadwraeth Fawnog Fach

It has been a year since we first started work at Little Vawnog and, from feedback we have received, we are pleased to have been able to make a positive difference to the woodland.



**We have concentrated on improving safety by building hedges from dead branches near the steep drop to the river, which also make a great habitat for wildlife.** We have also planted trees in this area of the woodland to create a natural barrier to the river. These were grown and kindly donated by the students at **Tri Ffordd for Hft Flintshire**.

There will be a small amount of tree works taking place in April to deal with dead trees and reduce the risk of falling branches in the future. We continue to plant to improve the varieties of trees and we have also introduced more bluebells which we hope will provide additional colour in future years.

We have also held some wellbeing and community events. In February and March, we held “**relaxation in nature**” events with North Wales Wildlife Trust, one of which was for carers in conjunction with North East Wales Carers Information Service (NEWCIS). We hope to secure funding to enable us to hold further community and wellbeing events in the coming months.

We have some events planned in the summer to keep the invasive species Himalayan Balsam under control, the dates and times for these events will be on our social media and website ([www.woodworkcic.co.uk](http://www.woodworkcic.co.uk)), and we hope to work with schools and other community groups, as such activities have been difficult to arrange so far.

We continue to hold volunteer events where we carry out maintenance in the woodland, on the **2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month between 10am and 12pm**. Anybody is welcome, either to volunteer or just to enjoy the area, please do get in touch if you would like more information or just turn up and join us. E: [info@woodworkcic.co.uk](mailto:info@woodworkcic.co.uk)

*As always, if you have any suggestions or feedback regarding Little Vawnog please don't hesitate to get in touch.*

# Youth Work Update

## Diweddariad Gwaith Ieuenctid

After the difficulties of the pandemic, our youth provisions were able to reopen in a somewhat altered manner in October 2021.

*We have been able to make use of the firepit on warmer evenings and these sessions see those involved toasting marshmallows and cooking hotdogs over the open flame.*

**The reopening of clubs was a welcome return and offered a certain sense of normality as we remained under some limited restrictions.**

The young people were keen to get back into the clubs and over recent months we have held a range of sessions, in centres covering a range of activities including a session with North Wales Police and the Op Bang team. A Halloween party and more recently a visit from a range of giant creepy crawlies including 8 inch long grasshoppers and large tarantulas.

We now have a PS5 which has gone down extremely well with the young people and there is regular healthy competition amongst those using the centre. We have been able to make use of the firepit on warmer evenings and these sessions see those involved toasting marshmallows and cooking hotdogs over the open flame.

A number of trips have taken place, initially a Christmas bowling trip and more recently, a visit to Chester alongside a group from the Caia Youth Forum.

Our Luke O'Connor Youth Club is set to reopen after Easter, meaning we will have all three Offa clubs open after the final restrictions were removed including the Maesgwyn Community Centre and the Hightown Resource Centre. The groups have already developed programmes for the next 3 months and the whole team are really keen to expand on the good work we have done to re-engage young people to the new normal and we look forward to some exciting times ahead.

For further information on the youth clubs please contact Andy at : [youthteam@caiapark.org](mailto:youthteam@caiapark.org) or tel: 01978 310984 for the Caia Park Partnership Youth Team.



# Parciau Bowling Club Clwb Bowlïo Parciau



**Parciau Bowling Club in Bellevue park, is open all year round.  
Beginners welcome to try out.**

We have teams that play on a Saturday, and pairs play on a Monday night. The bowls can be supplied. Why not pop down and have a look, or contact the club. Covid rules are in place. We have a Facebook page, or contact: [mccarthy284@btinternet.com](mailto:mccarthy284@btinternet.com)



# We Have Moved! Rydym wedi symud



The Offa Community Council office has now moved  
from the Parciau Community Centre  
to:

**The Luke O Connor House Resource Centre, 21 Barter Court,  
Hightown, Wrexham, LL13 8QT.**

To contact the Clerk to the Council Mrs Karen Benfield  
please tel: **01978 291562**  
or email: **[clerk@offacommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@offacommunitycouncil.gov.uk)**

# Well Being Groups Grŵpiau Lles



Did you know there are two well being groups open to the over 50s in Offa?

**Every Tuesday, 1pm -3pm, Luke O'Connor House Resource Centre, Hightown  
Every Thursday, 1pm -3pm, Parciau community centre, Bellevue Park**

Come and meet new friends and join in the two games of bingo and a raffle!

**Both clubs are free admission with free refreshments tea/ coffee/ cake and fruit.**

This is an opportunity to make new friends and try new craft ideas.

Anyone wishing to contact the Offa community agent about these clubs please ring:  
**07803 244614** to discuss any dietary needs before attending.

We look forward to you joining us!

# Playschemes

## Clwb cynllun Chwarae



playschemes Offa Community Council run in partnership with the Play Team at WCBC

### HIGHTOWN

Year round  
3.30pm to 5.30pm  
**Tuesday** at Bryncabanau  
Playground

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### OFFA

Run during all school holidays excluding  
February and the Christmas holidays  
2pm to 4pm  
**Tuesday & Wednesday** at Bryncabanau  
**Thursday** at Bellevue  
**Friday** at 'Little Vownog'

### HIGHTOWN

Drwy gydol y flwyddyn  
3.30pm a 5.30pm  
**Dydd Mawrth** ym Maes Chwarae  
Bryncabanau

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### OFFA

Yn cael ei gynnal yn ystod pob gwyliau ysgol  
eithrio gwyliau mis Chwefror a'r Nadolig  
2pm a 4pm  
**Dydd Mawrth a Dydd Mercher** ym  
Maes Chwarae Bryncabanau  
**Dydd Iau** yn y Parciau Bellevue  
**Dydd Gwener** yn y 'Little Vownog'

For further information please contact **Wrexham Family Information Service**  
on **01978 292094** or visit: [www.wrexham.gov.uk/play](http://www.wrexham.gov.uk/play)

**FREE, OPEN ACCESS PLAYWORK PROVISION FOR AGES 5+**  
Open access playschemes should not be considered as childcare

*Supported by Offa Community Council*

# Bellevue Playgroup Meithrinfa Bellevue



Bellevue Playgroup is a Registered Charity and has been situated in Bellevue Park for over 50 years. We offer educational needs for children from 2 to 4 years old. CIW Inspected with fully qualified staff.

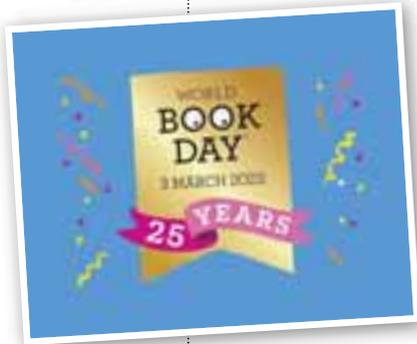


To register your child telephone 01978 367665 or email [mccarthy284@btinternet.com](mailto:mccarthy284@btinternet.com) for more information



Dyma griw o ddisgyblion yn mwynhau trnrament gyfeillgar pêl droed. Braf oedd gwisgo cit pêl droed unwaith eto!

Here are Year 5 and 6 pupils enjoying taking part in a recent friendly football tournament. After not being able to participate in sports events during Covid, it's lovely to be able to wear the school kit once again!



Roedd cymeriadau lliwgar iawn yn yr ysgol yn dathlu diwrnod y Llyfrau.

There were very colourful characters celebrating World Book day.



Dyma ychydig o luniau o'r disgyblion yn mwynhau dathlu Dydd Gŵyl Dewi.

Here are some pictures of the pupils enjoying St David's day. It was especially lovely to be able to take part in the parade after being unable to last year.

# McDonald's Fun Football Peldroed Hwyl MacDonaldd



Join us for free Fun Football sessions, perfect for an introductory to football for children between 5 - 11 years old

Brickfield Rangers football club based at Clywedog school have football sessions for all ages, from boys to girls only, senior men to walking football, special needs to veterans. Many sessions are free!

For more information, Text: 07718 049098

Follow us at Twitter: @BrickfieldRFC

Facebook: facebook.com/brickfield.rangers



# Bulgarian Folklore Club Clwb Gwerin Bulgarlen

## BULGARIAN FOLKLORE CLUB



Dancer and choreographer, Margarita Mihaylova and musician, Zhivko Videv, set up the Bulgarian Folklore Club in Oswestry in 2015, providing dance classes for adults and children. With popular events such as the annual 'Together in the Park' in Cae Glas Park, Oswestry, they have showcased the traditional music and dance of Bulgaria to the wider community. They now have groups in Telford and Manchester and have recently started in Wrecsam, practising every Sunday between 10:00 and 11.30 a.m. For more information please ring 07496415346.

Email [videvjivko@gmail.com](mailto:videvjivko@gmail.com)



# Offa Carnival Carnifal Offa

After a break of two years due to Covid restrictions our Offa Carnival is finally returning to Bellevue Park on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

**This event is funded and organised by Offa Community Council and a band of wonderful volunteers! The event runs from 12 noon till 4pm and is free to enter with plenty of attractions for the family.**

This year sees the return of Stokes Amusements with their fun rides and stalls, the Brickfield FC Football competition, Cheshire Falconry with displays in the arena, Punch and Judy, Donkey rides, the land train giving rides around the park and a circus skills workshop.

The dog show will be run by the Hack Horse Sanctuary this year so please come along and support them. Also this year we are having a display of vintage vehicles and performance cars. With craft stalls and plenty of refreshments its going to be a fun filled afternoon and we would love you to come along and join us!

For further information or to book a stall at the event please contact Mrs Karen Benfield, the Clerk to the Council, on **01978 291562** or email: **clerk@offacommunitycouncil.gov.uk**

*With craft stalls and plenty of refreshments its going to be a fun filled afternoon and we would love you to come along and join us!*



Offa Community Council, Luke O'Connor House Resource Centre,  
21 Barter Court, Hightown, Wrexham, LL13 8QT  
Tel 01978 291562



**CARNIVAL**

**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**

*Free Admission. Donkey rides & Amusements*

 **Saturday 16th July 12pm until 4pm** In Bellevue Park, Wrexham

**STALLS AND REFRESHMENTS BOTH INSIDE THE CENTRE, AND IN THE PARK**

**CHESHIRE FALCONRY, DOG SHOW, PINCH & JUDY, CARNIVAL RIDES, LAND TRAIN, CIRCUS SKILLS WORKSHOP, BRICKFIELD FC COMMUNITY FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS.**

For more information call Karen Benfield on 01978 291562 or email [clerk@offacommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@offacommunitycouncil.gov.uk)

This magazine is edited and published by Karen Benfield, Clerk to the Council.  
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Design and production by Essentials Mag Limited:  
[www.essentialsmag.co.uk](http://www.essentialsmag.co.uk) / [E.vicky@essentialsmag.co.uk](mailto:E.vicky@essentialsmag.co.uk)