



It is several months since I sent a Focus Newsletter to you. The summer has slipped by more quickly than ever – is that something to do with getting older??? I do hope not!!

Goings on at County Hall

Things seem to happen when I go away! I came back from America to find that a takeover of the Leader's position was imminent (I was only away 9 days) but it was all a storm in a tea cup!

More important was what would our settlement be from the Welsh Assembly Government??

We now know that we are about 1.7% down on last year. Not as bad as we expected but pretty awful.

We need to save between £9 and £10 million in 2011/2012

This will involve lots of reorganisation to make us more streamlined and efficient

Our aim is to protect frontline services -

Roads, schools, social services, waste collection etc.

In Environmental services

We are already well advanced with our reorganisation as you will have seen from your County Newspaper.

In February we hope to begin our new service gradually and by August everyone in the county will have a food waste collection and a wheelie bin and a weekly recycling collection.

What about the wider picture in politics?

As I write this MPs are looking at voting about tuition fees for university students. Under the proposals students will no longer have to pay £1000+ up front for tuition each term as they do now. They would pay that charge after they start to earn over £21,000

There are also proposals for more help for part time and more mature students. This is a section of the student population who have always struggled with finance As always newspapers have not always looked at the detail.

Of greater concern is the reduction in funding for research and development. The work that goes on in this area is what takes us forward in every area whether it is stem cell research, engineering or business systems.

We don't want the rest of the world to leave us behind.

COLLECTIONS AT CHRISTMAS

Mon	Dec 20	No change
Tues	Dec 21	No change
Weds	Dec 22	No change
Thurs	Dec 23	No change
Fri	Dec 24	No change
Mon	Dec 27	No collection
Tues	Dec 28	No collection
Weds	Dec 29	Food waste only
Thurs	Dec 30	Food waste only
Fri	Dec 31	Food waste only
Mon	Jan 3	Normal service

There will be special skips on Recycling parks from Sun Dec 26 to Mon Jan 3 for households who are on the food waste pilot. You can take your food waste (in biodegradable bags) there if your normal collection is cancelled.

Brown bin/blue box etc

Please refer to your schedule

The ***Recycling parks*** are open every day except Christmas Day

Next Year 2011

There are elections for the National assembly of Wales next year. We can elect 2 people, one for the Delyn constituency by the original method of first past the post, the north Wales seats are decided by proportional representation i.e. percentage votes cast for each party. We hope to send Aled Roberts, Leader of Wrexham Council to represent us in Cardiff.

STOP PRESS

The Boundary Commission is, since yesterday (9 December) in the deep freeze.

Yes! Gwernymynydd and Nercwys are staying together. Thanks to a lot of hard work by Councillor Robin Baker LD and Chief Executive Colin Everett.

CHRISTMAS AT OUR HOUSE THIS YEAR

It will be business as usual;

Our eldest son is still in Australia and expecting an invasion from his Canadian in laws plus a small niece and 2 even smaller nephews – I think a wonderful excuse to play silly games!!

Our second son will be here with his Canadian girl friend (our entertainments organiser)

And another couple of friends plus Grandad

We are hoping for a peaceful holiday which is the same kind of holiday I would wish you all.

Happy Christmas

Nancy Matthews

Councillor for Gwernymynydd and Nercwys

