

RUABON NEWS LETTER 318

06.04.2020

A PIECE OF HISTORY FROM 1629 TRANSFERRED TO RUABON



by

Resident (sleuth) Ennys Hughes
(in her own words)

"Telamonius Plenus of Rhosymedre"

Some years ago (1994 I think), I noticed some unusual daffodils on a bank at the front of one of the Bodylltyn Row cottages on Park Road, Rhosymedre. The centre of the flowers looked like carnations.



Not long afterwards I saw that the bank was being cleared and I asked if I could have the bulbs which were going to be thrown away. I planted the bulbs, and in 1996, I saw an article in the Daily Telegraph about an ancient and rare variety of daffodil which had reappeared after many years of being hidden by undergrowth at the National Trust,

Gibside Estate in Durham. I thought from the photo that they looked like my daffodils, so in the spring of 1997 I sent a daffodil to the Daffodil Registrar at the RHS. A reply came in August, (the newspaper article had generated a lot of interest), but unfortunately my daffodil arrived in a poor condition and could not be identified. The following spring I sent a bud in a padded envelope. To my delight, the Registrar: Sally Kington confirmed that my daffodil was indeed the seventeenth century daffodil 'Telamonius Plenus' (1629).

How did it come to be at the front of the cottage in Rhosymedre? The cottage was owned by Mr Brynley Jones who had lived there all his life, but the question was answered by Mr Arthur Nicholas who had lived in one of the cottages as a child. The six cottages were built in the 1840s and each one had a bank at the front known as the rockeries where residents grew flowers, the gardens at the back were for vegetables, geese and pigs.

The cottages are near the Wynnstay Park, where there was a feature known as the Daffy Bank which was a spectacular show in the spring. The bank was well visited so flowers were picked and it is likely that bulbs were taken as well. Arthur Nicholas sent me a copy of a photo of the cottages taken in about 1903, where the rockeries can be seen. One of the little boys in the photo is the uncle of the late Arthur Nicholas who so kindly gave me the information which I then sent to the Daffodil Registrar, and it is now in the archives at the RHS.

The Telamonius Plenus Daffodils are in flower now,
in my garden!"

Many thanks to Ennys who sent in this piece on Wednesday of last week

FRIENDS OF RUABON

HELLO!

If you are self-isolating,
we can help

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 we can help with:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Picking up shopping | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collecting Prescriptions |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A friendly phone call | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urgent supplies |



Friends of Ruabon are a group of likeminded volunteers who are here to help
We want you to know that no-one is in this by themselves.

Just contact us via any of the below and we will do our best to help you (for free):

Call or text: 07741 596 812	email: info@friendsofruabon.co.uk
01978 824 087	Facebook: Friends of Ruabon Viral Kindness

Check phw.nhs.wales for the latest advise

Coronavirus is contagious.

Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance).
Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep.

#ViralKindnessRuabon

Friends of Ruabon; St Mary's Church and Ruabon Community Council are working together with volunteers for Ruabon's many residents who cannot leave their homes. The contact information above from last week still stands, with any updates added to Friends of Ruabon facebook page as the week progresses and recorded in next week's Ruabon News Letter.

Neil, one thoughtful volunteer, has put his name forward to re-start cars with a flat batteries due to non-use during this crisis.

The Following Information has been sent it by
Jo Smith who has put a bear in her window.

BORED? START A BEAR HUNT!!!

My friend just informed me that our neighborhood is doing an awesome thing for kids and families going on walks: everyone who wants to participate will put teddy bears in their windows so families can go on a "bear hunt." My toddlers adore the Going on a Bear Hunt book, so we are all thrilled and eager to participate. Just wanted to share this idea in case others want to start Bear Hunts in their neighborhoods! Also, this would be a great way to do Easter Egg Hunts too.

We're Going on a Bear Hunt

Michael Rosen

Helen Oxenbury





"The Welsh Blood Service is still collecting lifesaving blood donations during the COVID-19 pandemic and are asking those who are well and able, to book an appointment at a local donation clinic.

We may be asking you to travel further than normal to donate, but this is a necessary measure.

Please visit www.welshblood.org.uk for the latest clinic information.

Thank You"

From Debbie Day

07795 332 720

debbie.day@wales.nhs.uk Llun-Iau/Mon-Thurs 08:30-16:30

Gwasanaeth Gwaed Cymru / Welsh Blood Service

Ty Penfro, Ffordd Ellice, Parc Technoleg Wrexham, LL13 7YT
Pembroke House, Ellice Way, Wrexham Technology Park, LL13 7YT
03000 859 391

www.gwaedcymru.org.uk / www.welshblood.org.uk

WREXHAM Council have urged residents to continue to donate blood despite the coronavirus outbreak.

We still need
donors to
save lives



They have been asked by the Welsh Blood Service in Wrexham, to appeal for any individuals who are fit and healthy to keep giving blood.

The Welsh Blood Service are holding sessions at their premises at Pembroke House on Wrexham's Technology Park on April 6, 7 and 8.

Donations will be by appointment only and public health guidelines regarding social distancing will be in place.

There will also be fewer appointments than the usual number of donation sessions.

Blood donation is classed as an essential journey. At present blood stocks are healthy but due to these unprecedented times, demand for blood and platelet donations are still great in order to help those in need.

RUABON MEDICAL CENTRE

Please note that the practice is working at considerably reduced capacity at present. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we have had to make a number of changes to the way we previously operated. As all patient contact with the practice is now by telephone, please be aware when calling that our telephone lines are exceptionally busy, so please be patient.

To help us help you, please use our services carefully and adhere to the following:

- Please DO NOT visit the practice unless you've been asked by a clinician to attend. General enquiries cannot be dealt with if you turn up at the practice.
- All 'routine' appointments have been suspended until further notice.
- Repeat prescriptions should be placed into the wall mounted post box beside the wooden door (at the end of the building on the left).
- Did you know that you can organise your repeat prescription online? Please call the practice to arrange for the registration form to be posted to you. For more information please visit: <https://www.myhealthonline-emisweb.wales.nhs.uk/languages?returnurl=/>
- It is advisable to check the opening times of your preferred pharmacy when your prescription is ready to collect, as their opening times MAY have been adjusted to help them cope during this time.

We would like to thank you in advance for your patience and understanding. Please look after yourself and others by following the latest government advice. Thank you.



UPDATE 4 Community support response to Coronavirus- Wrexham:

WWW.avow.org

Briefing Sheet update 4th April 2020

To everyone providing support at Street Level, Community Organisations and Public Services across Wrexham:

At the end of this week AVOW as well as Street Level volunteering has started seeing a significant increase in the number of people seeking help and assistance. It is anticipated that this will be the pattern for at least the next three weeks until volunteer matching has taken place and more support is developed for the longer term

AVOW is continuing to be a conduit to the Council on issues that are arising and there is a strong working relationship across many Departments both operationally and at senior management level. We have now developed several information resources that we are jointly sharing to avoid duplicating requests.

It is hoped by this week most of the operational procedures will be in place to respond to the needs of people in our communities who are vulnerable or self-isolating.

Again, huge thanks to everyone who has stepped in to volunteer or adapted ways of working to deal with the crisis we are all in.

AVOW is also a member of the North Wales Covid 19 Community Resilience Group and able to take strategic issues to move them forward.

NHS: Volunteering



Colleagues from across the Health Service are facing daily challenges as they deal with unprecedented demand on their services.

The Health Board have now established a new portal for people to sign up to volunteer - <https://awyrlas.org.uk/bcuhb-volunteers>

Community Volunteering:



Despite the AVOW Bank of volunteers now nearly 400 we are still seeking new people to register – over the next 2/ 3 weeks with the expected demand increasing and the risk of 30%+ on our register and at Street Level having to self-isolate there is a need to keep

the momentum up and running - sign up on <https://bit.ly/2QgCtfd> . A number of people have been in touch to say that they have registered but not been allocated a role – there has been such an influx of Street Level volunteers that many people are using local support – that however is not consistent over the County and this is when the Bank will

be stepping in as well as in care homes, community care and other public services.

Obtaining Help with food, prescriptions and other needs

Food:

A key role for volunteers has been the collection of food on behalf of those who are isolating and can't get out. One of the problems has been around the payment of shopping and people rightly being reluctant to hand over their bank cards to people they may not know- guidance attached.

To assist with shopping needs, AVOW have produced an extensive list of shops and business that are providing either doorstep delivery or over the phone payments. (www.avow.org) This should help many people who have been unable to get online delivery slots with the major supermarkets.



The Foodbank in Wrexham is still operational and has started a number of doorstep deliveries – the Foodbank is a last resort provision and is not for people's ongoing food needs – to obtain food from the Foodbank someone

needs to have the necessary voucher issued by a support agency.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Food Parcel: Confusion

There has been a considerable amount of confusion over the eligibility of a Free Food Parcels from the Welsh Government. These are only available to

people who have received a letter from the Welsh Government advising they need to stay at home for a 12-week period to 'Shield' themselves.

The letters have gone to approximately 85,000 across Wales to a

specific group of people who have defined medical conditions

<https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/how-to-protect-extremely-vulnerable-people-shielding/>

The process to obtain a parcel is that anyone with a letter must first identify if they have family, friends or community support that are able to do their shopping. If no support is available, then they need to contact the Council on the number in the letter 292000 and the details will be put onto a Welsh Government database. Once on this database the person will receive a weekly food parcel that contains basic requirement- all parcels are the same at present so special dietary requests are not possible. The Food Parcel will be delivered direct to a person's door by a commercial contractor and not by the Council or AVOW Bank Volunteers.

If someone thinks they fall into the category but have not received a letter they should contact their GP and NOT the Council. This process and criteria are potentially subject to change as things develop.

This service is not based on financial need and everyone should be doing their best to use all existing support for their food needs before contacting the Council.



Free School Meals: A Grab and Go bag scheme has been developed as an initial response for children who are entitled to Free School Meals – these are now being distributed in a variety of Council and

Community locations across the County. Locations are on this link:

https://news.wrexham.gov.uk/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-public-briefing-note-3-4-20/?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=SocialSignIn

It is hoped that a Voucher Scheme like the one set up in England will be launched soon in Wales.

Good neighbour cooking:

Don't forget that making an extra meal for someone who is isolating is a really good way to help people living close to you.

Delivered Hot Food:

A number of business have started delivering hot food and they can be found on www.avow.org



Prescription Delivery: Many people have found obtaining their medication an issue – again they should first use any existing community support if there is nothing suitable then the information can be emailed to covid19@avow.org or tel 01978 312556 and one of the AVOW Covid19 Team will assist.

Hospital appointments: Requests have been coming in this week for transport for people to non Covid19 appointments. These have been undertaken by AVOW Bank volunteers but if someone is requiring transport please give 48 hours' notice. There may be some restrictions applied to this service as a risk assessment will be undertaken on each occasion.

Response time from volunteers: Neither the AVOW Bank volunteers or those from the community should be seen as an emergency response. AVOW were possible would try to identify a volunteer on the day of request in most instances but it may be the next day. If anyone has emergency needs, they should phone the appropriate numbers.

Wellbeing:

It is becoming apparent that the anxiety level with people is increasing and those seeking assistance have started to increase this week and anyone offering support at Street Level needs to be mindful when offering to help. When people contact AVOW seeking assistance, we will

do our best to ascertain of there are any additional emotional health needs.

The wellbeing of volunteers and staff is crucial, and every organisation should have support identified that they can call upon or recommend. There are several online resources that are available but here are two (no endorsement given)

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/looking-after-your-mental-health-while-self-isolating/>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

Street Level Data gathering:

Wrexham Council and AVOW have been working jointly to gather data from across our communities to identify the extent of the support that is available within all our communities. There is a very varied pattern and we are particularly interested in identifying black spots that have limited organised support to ensure that no vulnerable people slip through the safety net that is now there for most.

To ensure this is kept UpToDate please email covid19@avow.org if any changes occur- the resource will be available at www.avow.org .

Insurance information:

Buildings: If you are an organisation or business that have offices or premises you should check your insurance policy as many have clauses in relation to buildings being left unoccupied for 30 days or more. You may need to contact your insurance.

Working from home: Home insurance should cover working from home - but not any stock/kit. If you're working from home when you don't normally, provided it's office/clerical work, most insurers are taking a relaxed approach (one key is that no biz visitors come to your home, but that's not likely right now). But if you've brought expensive kit or stock home, it's worth informing them.

Recognising and reporting scams

- Coronavirus has led to an increase in scams and false offers of help. Common scams include:
 - cold calling homes and offering to help those self-isolating with shopping
 - fundraising, door to door or online, for donations to develop a covid-19 vaccine
 - scam emails offering fake products such as anti-bacterial gels or a cure for coronavirus.
- Make all your volunteers aware of current scams.

- Tell volunteers to remind those they are helping not to give out credit or debit card details, personal identification numbers or passwords.
- Help your volunteer show who they are by providing them with an email or text message with your group or organisation's details, and a contact telephone number.
- Tell your volunteers to report anything suspicious regarding fraudulent activity to your organisation or the person leading volunteers.
- You or your volunteers should report any concerns to Action Fraud [0300 123 2040](tel:03001232040).
If your charity or organisation is currently under cyber-attack and data is potentially at risk call the above number.
Further help & advise can be found at the Action Fraud Website www.actionfraud.police.uk
- For more information to safeguard against scams, [visit the National Trading Standards website](http://www.nationaltradingstandards.gov.uk).
Their campaign Friends Against Scams will help your volunteers to recognise scams and help those they are helping to be aware of them. They also offer a free [eLearning course](http://www.nationaltradingstandards.gov.uk).

Help us to safeguard our communities from abuse and neglect

The North Wales Safeguarding Board are asking everyone within the region to look out for one another in order to help those who may be at risk of abuse and neglect. This is a message which applies at all times, but now more than ever, people at all ages need protection.

"We are currently experiencing unprecedented times as a result of Coronavirus, with social distancing and self-isolation being one of the key messages and advice being provided by Government. [Read more](#).

REMEMBER STAY SAFE – SOCIAL DISTANCING -Help Save the NHS

Key web sites for resources and up to date information



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Betsi Cadwaladr
University Health Board

<https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/>



The Council is maintaining an information site where lots of local and national information can be found.
<https://beta.wrexham.gov.uk/service/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information>



Welsh Government advice for Voluntary Organisations

[https://gov.wales/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-the-third-sector-html -](https://gov.wales/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-the-third-sector-html-)

 There are two points where most of the information you will need to support the volunteering in your community. There is a vast amount of information available but be selective or you will spend more time reading rather than providing the resource. <https://wcva.cymru/coronavirus-statement/>



www.avow.org

NEW Funding: Email AVOW funding Officer

nigel.davies@avow.org

 There are various new funding opportunities that have been launched that may assist with the support you are providing either individually or as an organisation. Details still not been published on access to Welsh Government funding.

<https://gov.wales/multi-million-pound-boost-to-support-volunteers-and-wales-most-vulnerable>

Information disclaimer:

AVOW hope to keep this as a weekly briefing to share with our community's support information and guidance- if there are particular issues you want information on email john.gallanders@avow.org

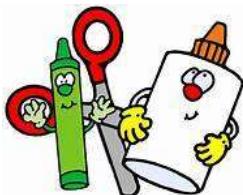
The content of this briefing is provided for information only. It is not intended to amount to advice on which you should rely. You must obtain professional or specialist advice before taking, or refraining from, any action on the basis of the content. We do not accept responsibility for any errors, omissions, misleading statements or the consequences thereof.

<https://avow.org/terms-and-conditions/>

THANK YOU TO CLLR DANA DAVIES FOR SENDING IN THE INFORMATION ABOVE FOR US ALL TO UNDERSTAND EXACTLY HOW EVERYONE IS COMING TOGETHER IN THIS CRISIS



The Wrexham Intranet Health & Wellbeing Hwb page has a variety of documents relating to Covid-19 and coping techniques.



Family Art Club While Tŷ Pawb is closed, we will continue to deliver an adapted version of Family Art Club each Saturday morning as part of our 'Arts at Home' programme.

Our Family Art Club artists will create downloadable activities, which will be made available via our website and [facebook page](#), each Saturday.



This short book workbook has been produced to support and reassure children, under the age of 7, regarding the COVID-19. This book is an invitation for families to discuss the full range of emotions arising from the current situation. It is important to point out that this resource does not seek to be a source of scientific information, but rather a tool based on fantasy. Print this material so children can draw on it. Remember that emotions are processed through repetitive play and stories read multiple times.

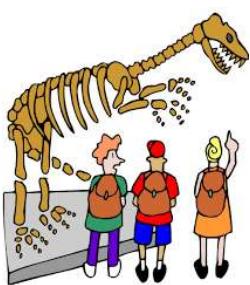
The resource is available in over several languages and a great tool for EAL pupils



Looking for some drama in your life?

Andrew Lloyd Webber will be streaming his musicals for free online in a new series for West End and Broadway fans. Entitled "The Shows Must Go On", the series will start with the 2000 adaptation of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* starring Donny Osmond, Maria Friedman, Richard Attenborough and Joan Collins.

The show will be available for 48 hours from Friday 3 April 7pm BST on "The Shows Must Go On"



Who are you calling old?...

Why not get comfy this weekend and go on a virtual tour of some famous galleries and museums from around the world, all from the comfort of your own place.....

And finally.....Well no one said we're not allowed to dream.....

A Tale of Two Garden Parties!

As you can see, life with a hot tub is way more fun. Throw in some cocktails and a barbecue and you have yourself a party! Can you spot the differences between the two images below?

There are eight differences in total - how long will it take you to spot them all?

Thank you to Giles Evans for pointing me towards the article above

Julie James AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

03 April 2020

Letter to all social housing tenants in Wales

The coronavirus pandemic is having an impact on all our lives.

The Welsh Government is taking action to make sure help and support is available when you need it, right across Wales. Local authorities and registered social landlords have agreed everyone should be treated fairly. They will:

- ***Keep you safe and secure in your home.***
- ***Help you get the financial support you need.***
- ***Support you and find solutions if you have difficulty paying your rent.***
- ***Do everything they can to support your wellbeing.***

If you have received notice from your landlord that your rent is increasing from April, we don't want this to add to your worries.

All social landlords have agreed not to take eviction action against any tenants experiencing financial hardship as a result of coronavirus. I have asked them to go further and ensure every tenant can get support when they need it and that no tenants are left with unmanageable debts when the coronavirus crisis is over.

Everyone's circumstances will be different. It is important you can access advice and support, which is right for you. Please make sure if you are or think you might, suffer from financial hardship, that you talk to your landlord as soon as possible. They will be able to help and advise you.

Our housing guidance is here: www.gov.wales/coronavirus. More information about financial support will be available on the same link shortly.

Please keep safe and well

Yours sincerely

Julie James AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government

Cadolan Cywiliol Cymru / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 9AA

E-mail: julie.james@gov.wales
Correspondence: julie.james@gov.wales

Rydyn yn credu i ddarparu gofynnau i Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gofynnau a dderbynni'r yn Gymraeg i'n Gymraeg ac mae fydd gofynnau yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and responding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Thank you to Councillor Dana Davies for recommending
the following article for the Ruabon News Letter



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information

Monday 30 Mar 2020

The government has issued a series of measures intended to slow the spread of COVID-19 across the United Kingdom. Please follow this advice.

Stay at home

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home
Do not meet others, even friends or family.
You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.
For the latest information relating to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) from the Government, please click on the following link to the Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Links and resources

- <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- [Welsh Government](#)
- [NHS Advice](#)
- [Public Health Wales](#)

Resources for Children

- [Activity Book](#)
- [Rainbow colouring sheet](#)
- [Snuffle station poster | Colouring sheet](#)

Latest Updates:

- COVID-19: [Responding to complaints against the police service from the public](#)
- COVID-19: [Please use our services wisely](#)

- COVID-19: [New police powers come into effect to protect the public](#)
- COVID-19: [People who claim Covid 19 to threaten emergency workers face prosecution](#)
- COVID-19: [Changes to MOT legislation](#) (links to external website)
- COVID-19: [Are you looking to volunteer?](#)

Chief Constable Carl Foulkes update 24/03/2020:

Frequently Asked Questions:

Can I go outside at all during the lockdown?

Yes, but only if it's for one of the following four reasons:

- Shopping for basic necessities such as food. People should use delivery services where they can.
- One form of exercise a day (this includes walking your dog, but please stay as far away from other people and their pets as possible).
- If you have a genuine medical need or are caring for a vulnerable person (e.g picking up medicine for an elderly neighbour)
- Travelling to and from work, only if absolutely necessary. These measures must be followed by **everyone**. Separate advice is available for [individuals or households who are isolating](#), and for the [most vulnerable who need to be shielded](#). Full details on these new measures can be found at [gov.uk/Coronavirus](#).

Am I allowed to drive somewhere to get my exercise?

The current guidelines mean only **essential** travel is permitted. This means a day down the beach is not appropriate right now, no matter how sunny it is. We would urge people to make the most of nearby areas instead, and to avoid going outside during busy periods. Running or cycling as part of a group is not permitted, and neither is meeting up with friends for non-contact sports such as golf or skateboarding.

Full Details on these new measures can be found at:
[gov.uk/Coronavirus](#)

Can I take my car or motorbike out and meet up with friends?

No, not for the next few weeks at least. The government has stopped all public gatherings of more than two people, with only these exceptions:

- Where the gathering is of a group of people who live together - this means that a parent can, for example, take their children to the shops if there is no option to leave them at home.
- Where the gathering is essential for work purposes - but workers should try to minimise all meetings and other gatherings in the workplace.

All social events, including weddings, baptisms and other religious ceremonies, have also been stopped for the meantime. This excludes funerals, which can be attended by immediate family.

Full details on these new measures can be found at [gov.uk/Coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus).

My partner and I share custody of our children. We are all practicing social distancing and no-one has symptoms.

Am I allowed to take them to see my partner?

According to current guidelines, children under 18 can be moved between two households when parents live separately.

Full details on these new measures can be found at :

[gov.uk/Coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus).

My MOT has expired, can I arrange it to be tested?

Please see the latest advice in relation to MOT on the gov.uk website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-mots-for-cars-vans-and-motorcycles-due-from-30-march-2020>

Can I still contact the police?

Yes. The safety and welfare of local communities remains our top priority.

Members of the public should continue to call 999 in an emergency where a crime is in progress or there is a threat to life. We are urging members of the public to use their services wisely and help keep the 999 line free for emergencies only.

We are currently experiencing a high call demand to both our 999 and 101 numbers. We have seen a significant increase in

the amount of calls received over the last week, in particular calls regarding matters unrelated to police and non-urgent matters being reported via 999.

Please consider contacting us via [email](#) or [live web chat](#) for non-urgent enquiries. For advice around COVID-19 and what it means for you, please refer to the [UK Government](#), [Welsh Government](#) and [Public Health Wales](#) websites for information and guidance.

What do I do if I think I have the virus?

Members of the public should **not** call police to report cases of COVID-19 coronavirus. If you think you have the virus you should use the [NHS Symptom Checker](#) or call the NHS on 111. A British Sign Language video version is available on the [Welsh Ambulance](#) YouTube channel

SGT 1842 Luke HUGHES; PCSO 3612 Purdy JONES; PCSO 3920 Abi LAND
PCSO 3969 Jess LLOYD and PCSO Rhys YAXLEY

**

WHY WE ARE CLOSING OUR RECYCLING CENTRES

Ian Bancroft - Chief Executive

Mark Pritchard - Leader of the Council:

"Earlier this week, we announced that we're closing all three of our household waste recycling centres.



The Plas Madoc site closed on Tuesday, and Bryn Lane and Brymbo will close by 4pm this Friday (April 3).

We've been getting lots of queries about why we're closing the sites, and what you should do with any waste you'd normally take there.

Why we're closing the sites:

In light of the current Government guidelines on essential travel for the public, we have no choice but to close them.

While these guidelines do enable residents to travel to supermarkets to shop for food, they don't include enabling residents to travel to recycling sites.

We've kept our recycling centres open longer than any other council in North Wales. But in the current situation, if we kept the sites open, we would be encouraging residents to break the Government guidelines on essential travel.

This is why we're closing the sites.

We do understand people's frustration, and we're continuing to provide a full kerbside collection service at the moment. However, we're dealing with a situation that nobody has experienced before, and will have to continue to review the services we provide on a daily basis - trying to balance the needs of residents with UK Government guidelines, and the health and safety of our communities and staff.

What you should do while the sites are closed:

While the sites remain closed, we're asking you to:

- Try to minimise the waste you create - please don't have any 'clear outs' at home, or do anything else that creates extra rubbish (e.g. certain DIY projects etc). We know it's not easy, but please try to keep your waste to a minimum.
- Put any gardening waste in your green bin as normal (we'll keep emptying green bins for as long as we can), and store any extra gardening waste - that you can't fit in your bin - in your garden for now. For example, if you've been pruning bushes, you might have to put the cuttings in a pile for now.
- Keep any other items you would normally take to the tip (old furniture, timber, electrical goods etc) at

home for now - unless they're suitable for placing in your black bin.

Please don't be tempted to fly-tip; please don't leave waste at the gate or on the side of the road, or anywhere else where it shouldn't be left.

This is an incredibly challenging time for everyone in the UK, and our daily lives are being affected in all kinds of ways. Please don't think we don't care about how this is affecting you. We do, and we're working as hard as we can to keep critical services going in Wrexham."

Ken Skates AM, Minister for Economy and Transport

First published: 31 March 2020. Last updated: 31 March 2020

Written Statement: COVID-19 impact on Rail, Bus and Air services and our response

The ambition of Welsh Government remains to create a sustainable integrated public transport network, including community transport, across Wales. We therefore must act now to ensure that when we reach the other side of the current COVID-19 pandemic we will have a viable public transport network to allow us to achieve this.

Our rail franchise provider, together with bus companies and community transport operators, many of whom are SMEs or charities, are facing a significant and unprecedented challenge. Travel demand has reduced significantly following the advice for everyone to stay at home unless in specific circumstances, the need for social distancing, widespread working from home, and the closure of schools and colleges.

The public transport network in Wales should now only be used by key workers, such as health professionals, in providing essential support for our communities, and those without a car to get to shops for essential food and medical supplies.

As a result of this evolving COVID-19 response and ours and the UK Government's advice for the public to confine itself to all but essential travel, I have made a series of decisions to help safeguard public transport across Wales.

Firstly, the coronavirus pandemic has already had a profound impact on the railway in Wales. Passenger numbers have plummeted as a result of our advice to socially distance or self-isolate and not travel unless journeys are essential.

We therefore must act now to safeguard the future of services. I have agreed a package of support, worth up to £40m over the next few months to allow us to give certainty to passengers. This funding will assure the skeleton service we are now operating, and will safeguard the future of rail service operations in Wales and the Borders.

We are working closely with our partners in Transport for Wales (TfW) and TfW Rail Services on the details of the mechanism, which I expect to evolve further over the coming weeks. I intend to provide more details to members on the specifics of the package in further announcements.

Secondly, the coronavirus pandemic has created uncertainty and challenge across all industries and sectors and the bus industry is no exception.

Following discussions with businesses and stakeholders to understand the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including a 90% reduction in the usual patronage on some TrawsCymru routes, it is clear that the industry needs immediate support in order to remain viable even for the next few months, while longer-term measures are developed.

My recent letter with the Welsh Local Government Association recommending that local authorities continue to pay a minimum of 75% of the contract value for school and other contracted local passenger services was the start of the process for stabilising the industry.

The next step will help bus operators through the inevitable uncertainty of the next 3 months, through an injection of £29m. Our on-going financial support to the bus industry, delivered through grants administered by local authorities, will be paid monthly up-front until we are able to put a more sustainable solution in place or the end of the first quarter of the financial year, whichever is the earlier. During this time, payments will be based on the value of previous payments of the Bus Services Support Grant, Mandatory Concessionary Fare reimbursement and payments under the "MyTravelPass" scheme which were determined by number of passengers and route distances in normal times. All operators, including community transport operators, who have qualified for these payments in the previous two quarters will be eligible.

In return for this support, all operators who receive it will commit to the following for the next three months:

- Scheduled services will operate a foundation timetable (contracts to be agreed with local authorities), sufficient to allow key workers to get to work and those without a car to get to shops for essential food and medical supplies
- No bus will carry more than 50% of its maximum capacity
- To match the offer announced on our train services, all NHS workers who use a scheduled bus service will travel free of charge
- Each operator will provide us and our partners in the local authorities with a weekly report showing how every bus in its fleet has met its obligations. Setting out what routes have been run, what times it arrived at each stop, how many passengers alighted, what the fare each passenger paid, etc.

We have made clear that as well as these commitments, we expect the bus operators to minimise running costs, for example using the UK Government's Job Retention Scheme for staff who are not needed to run the reduced service.

I hope that this will give operators some short-term resilience to continue to deliver services, pay employees and sub-contractors, while we work with them to develop the comprehensive package of measures, called for by the scale of the crisis, to secure an efficient, sustainable, and robust bus network.

In addition, during this period when we are asking people to travel only for essential purposes, we will be temporarily withdrawing the offer of free weekend travel on the Traws Cymru network, and allowing all NHS staff to travel from free on the TrawsCymru network throughout the week from Monday. I will update members on when free weekend travel may be able to return.

This announcement, together with the specialist support for bus operators available through [Business Wales](#), the Welsh Government's business rates relief, and the [wage subsidy offer available from the UK Government](#), will go some way towards helping the industry.

These are difficult times and we need to work together to ensure bus companies are able to deliver these vital services. We will continue to work closely with the industry to develop further support measures and I hope to be able to make additional announcements very soon.

Finally, looking to the aviation sector. The pandemic and ongoing adaptions to the way we need to live our lives for the foreseeable future, means the aviation market has been significantly hit with many passengers rightly choosing not to fly. Many airlines have already suspended a number of their commercial services, and for services that are still operating, the majority of passengers are simply not turning up to travel. As a result of this, after discussions with Eastern Airways, I have suspended the Cardiff - Anglesey Public Service Obligation (PSO) air service for an initial period of up to three months.

The suspension of the Cardiff-Anglesey air service will be reviewed in line with the ongoing and unpredictable development of the COVID-19 pandemic. My officials will work with the relevant authorities and the airline operator to determine the best approach to re-starting services in the safest way possible, but only when the time is right.

The impact of COVID-19 on airports and the aviation industry has been hugely significant. The industry has already seen the failure of Thomas Cook and Flybe, and is

now facing a reduction in flying of virtually 100% across all UK airports. The whole sector is affected as airlines and passengers follow our and UK Government advice not to travel. I will say more about Cardiff Airport in the next few days.

In all cases we will require any public transport operators seeking our support to explore and exhaust all other options for financial support available from the UK Government.

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Aged 18-30 and self-employed / or running your own business?

The Prince's Trust and NatWest are offering a £5 million Enterprise Relief Fund providing grants to business owners aged 18 to 30, who have set up their business in the last four years and don't have any other source of income during the crisis. For further information and to apply:

<https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/about-the-trust/coronavirus-response/enterprise-relief-fund>

As a reminder, the following support has also been announced to support businesses affected by COVID-19 to date:

If you have premises with a rateable value

Status: Live

If you run your business from premises which have a rateable value, business grants (available to qualifying businesses that were registered for rates on their premises on 20 March 2020) and rates relief are currently available (**however eligibility criteria does apply**), please follow the link below for further information and to apply for a grant (**if eligible**):

<https://beta.wrexham.gov.uk/service/covid-19-support-businesses>

If you are unsure whether your premises have a rateable value, or what this is, one way to tell would be that you would receive an annual demand notice, even if no business rates are payable as a

result of the Small Business Rates Relief scheme being applied for instance. Alternatively you should be able to check this via:
<https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/business-rates-find/search>

When you complete the form you will need to have your business rates demand notice to hand as you will need your business rates reference number along with the rateable value of the premises, which can be found on this document.

Please note, with regards to the £10,000 grant, the multiple property restriction which applies to Small Business Rates Relief also applies to this grant. Therefore, the same ratepayer may only receive the grant for a maximum of two properties in each local authority area.

Childcare businesses with a rateable value up to £100,000 qualify for the £10,000 grant (rather than this being capped at a rateable value of £12,000 for this sector). Childcare businesses with a rateable value up to £100,000 are to complete the application form to apply for the £10,000 grant.

If you have a rateable value under £500,000 and are unsure whether your business falls within the retail, leisure or hospitality sector in order to qualify for the 100% rates relief, a list of the properties which will benefit from this relief can be found via:

Existing business rates relief schemes will continue to be applied during the 2020/21 tax year. For further information on these please follow: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/business-rates-relief-in-wales>. **If you're self-employed (with or without premises) Status: In progress**

If you are self-employed the Self-employment Income Support Scheme may be of interest. This provides a taxable grant worth 80% of your trading profits, up to a maximum of £2,500 for three months, although this could be extended. To be eligible you will need to have submitted an income tax self-assessment tax return for 2018-19, traded in the 2019-20 tax year, are trading (or would have been if not for the COVID-19 outbreak) when you apply, intend to continue to trade in the 2020-21 tax year and have lost profits due to the COVID-19 outbreak. A maximum trading profit also applies

and more than half of your income needs to be generated through self-employment to qualify. Further information can be found via:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme>

Further information on Universal Credit for the self-employed, which may also be of interest, can be found via the following link:
<https://www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk/new-to-universal-credit/self-employment/>

Economic Resilience Fund: Status: In progress

Details of a new Economic Resilience Fund have been announced by the Welsh Government. Full eligibility criteria is yet to be published, however the fund will provide:

- Grants of £10,000 for micro-businesses employing up to nine people. This includes sole traders employing staff. Qualifying businesses will be able to apply by mid-April.
- Grants of up to £100,000 for small and medium sized firms with between 10 and 249 employees. Qualifying businesses will be able to apply by mid-April.
- Support for larger Welsh companies, which are of critical social or economic importance to Wales. This element will be open to qualifying businesses within the next two weeks.

Information on full eligibility criteria together with details on how to apply will be added to the following page as they become available:
<https://businesswales.gov.wales/financial-support-and-grants>

If you employ people or are paid via PAYE Status: In progress (this can include company directors):

Open to all UK employers that had created and started a PAYE payroll scheme on 28th February 2020 the Job Retention scheme will reimburse 80% of furloughed workers wage costs, up to a cap of £2,500 per month. Please see the following pages for further information.

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/financial-support-and-grants>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>

Support to businesses paying sick pay to employees: Status: In progress.

Small and medium-sized businesses and employers will be able to reclaim Statutory Sick Pay paid for sickness absence due to COVID-19. For further information on the eligibility criteria please follow the links below:

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/financial-support-and-grants>

Delivered by the British Business Bank, the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme looks to support small and medium sized businesses and provides access to a variety of different products such as loans, overdraft, invoice finance and asset finance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>

Support for businesses paying tax: Status: Live

If you're in temporary financial distress because of COVID-19 help is available from HMRC's Time to Pay scheme. For example; VAT payments due before 30th June 2020 and self-assessment payments on account due on 31st July can be deferred to 2021. No application is required but direct debit mandates need to be cancelled. For further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>

For further information please call: 0800 024 1222

Ban on evictions for commercial tenants: Status: Live

Commercial tenants who cannot pay their rent because of coronavirus will be protected from eviction, the UK government has announced. These measures will mean no business will be forced out of their premises if they miss a payment in the next 3 months. Please visit the following website for further information:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-protection-for-businesses-with-ban-on-evictions-for-commercial-tenants-who-miss-rent-payments>

Organisations in the culture, creative or sports sector: Status:

In progress

A number of funding schemes are to be made available by the Welsh Government, the Arts Council for Wales and Sports Wales aimed at safeguarding businesses and jobs. The schemes will look to support artists, arts organisations, sports clubs, music venues, the TV and publishing sector, museums, collections, conservation services, archives, community and public libraries and heritage organisations etc. Limited information has been provided at present, which can be found via:

<https://gov.wales/18m-support-culture-creative-and-sport-sector-wales>

New loans launched to support businesses affected by COVID-19:

COVID 19 Wales Business Loan Scheme: Status Live

The loan is open to all SMEs based in Wales who have been trading 2 years or longer including sole traders and partnerships:

Key features:

- Loans between £5,000 to £250,000, maximum loan levels apply
- 12-month capital and interest repayment holiday
- No arrangement or monitoring fees
- 2% interest fixed for 6 years (includes the 12 month holiday)
- Partially secured lending depending on the size of the loan, see below for details

For Further information and to apply:

<https://developmentbank.wales/covid-19-wales-business-loan-scheme>

Business Interruption Loan Scheme :Status: Live

The government will provide lenders with a guarantee of 80% on each loan (subject to a per-lender cap on claims), no charge to businesses or banks will be applied for this guarantee. The first 12 months will be provided on an interest free basis, with the government covering these payments. For further information:

<https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartners/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme-cbils-2/>

Additional support:

It would be worthwhile speaking to anyone you have to pay money to i.e. rent, utilities, etc and see if they can help in any way via payment holidays etc.

We've provided below key contact details and information links which may also be helpful, information is changing and being updated on a regular basis. The links would therefore be worth checking fairly regularly for details of new support and guidance for businesses:

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice>

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-covid-19-support-businesses>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-guidance-for-employees>

Business Wales helpline

Get help with your business online, or by calling the Business Wales Helpline. Telephone: 0300 060 3000

HMRC employees' enquiry line Textphone: 0300 200 3212

Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm

ACAS: Telephone: 0300 123 1100

Please don't hesitate to get in touch should you have any queries or believe we may be able to help you further in any way.

Website: www.wrexham.gov.uk/businessline

Businessline,

Wrexham Library

Rhosddu Road

Wrexham

LL11 1AU

Telephone: 01978 292092





The Wrexham Symphony Orchestra

In response to the closure of so many entertainment and socialising places and the continuing impact of the Virus, we have set up a public Facebook page called '**The Virtual Concert Hall**' and each day we are uploading a range of entertainment for you to enjoy.

Generally the daily schedule will work like this:

In the Morning (8am): Morning Thoughts and Music

Lunchtime (12 noon): Classic Comedy

Kids Time (3pm): Fun and Films

Evening Concert (7pm): Music right across the genres

After Hours: (10pm): Late Night Jazz Blues and Soul

Here is the link to the page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1106805319668553/>

It is a FREE page and people can upload their own favourite piece of music or performance.

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My two 16year old granddaughters: Anabelle and Bethan sent me this photo showing their artwork which they had put on their school shirts before the inevitable 'shirt signing' for their last day at Darland School.

Takeaway pizzas and celebrations with staff and fellow students replaced their long awaited prom, but they both insisted that they

had thoroughly enjoyed their final day.

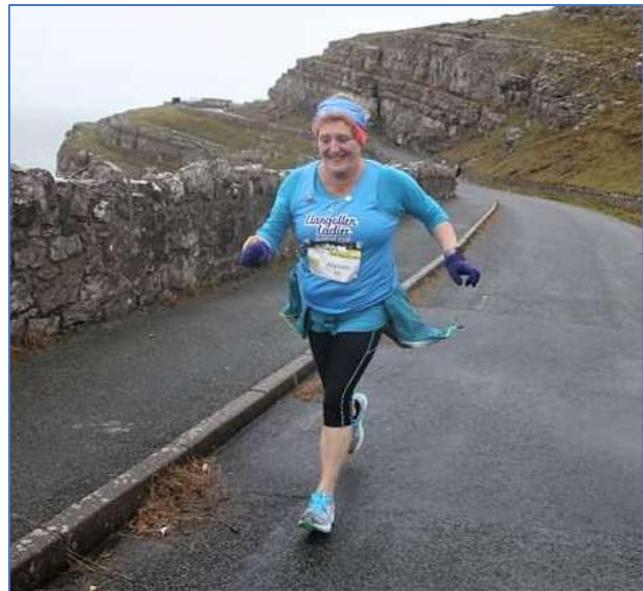
Alyson Winn March 28 .

"Joining all my running buddies around the world with this one.

Asking the people who are running lovers to join the challenge of posting a photo of a run. Just one photo, no description. The goal is to flood Face Book with positive race photos. Copy the text to your status, post a photo of your run and check out some beautiful photos".

(Alison is a lady who campaigns tirelessly for Wales Air Ambulance throughout the year not only by running, but also by Fire Walking -she is also a member of Friends of Ruabon.

**



Finally, here is a '**FIRST**' in Wales:
Reverend Heather Shotton became the first priest to be licensed remotely during a service via the internet. There was no packed Church, but instead six vicars used 'Zoom' to celebrate the ceremony.

Heather used to be a Royal Navy Nurse but now moves to the parish which covers:

Ruabon, Chirk and Penycae.

(Thanks again to Giles Evans who pointed out this occasion, for all of you to enjoy.)

A Huge Thank you to **everyone** who helps to keep the Ruabon News Letter alive and the positive pieces which also help to keep us all connected during this very trying period.

Sybil Bremner.