

RUABON NEWS LETTER 331

06.07.2020

The Japanese Knotweed on the railway bank near the Alms-houses on Church Street has now all been sprayed by a Network Rail team with a weed killer specially developed for this invasive growth. Jake (in the photo) together with Andrew and Lee came last Thursday 2nd July to do the work.



As it was for years, before spraying started.



As it is at present after last years' spraying- now with new growth. This area was re-sprayed on Thursday



Jake spraying the area that was not treated Last year.

[Thanks to Frances Jones who took all the photos above](#)

St. Mary's Church is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the almshouses and the Rev'd Kate Tiltman had this to say:

"The almshouses in Ruabon are adjacent to the railway line through the village. For some time now the Japanese knotweed has grown and spread along the railway line and has been in danger of spreading into the gardens of the almshouses. This has been an ongoing problem for the last few years.



We are very grateful to Network Rail for spraying the railway bank and removing what has been a significant problem for many years, and we look forward to seeing them again as we know that knotweed is so difficult to eradicate completely".

Kate Tiltman (Vicar of Ruabon)

Wonderful news for Residents:

Bus Emergency Scheme to Secure Future of Industry

Bus Operators across Wales will be rescued by a further funding package from Welsh Government.

Wales' bus industry will be funded through a new Bus Emergency Scheme, providing financial support for revenue lost during the coronavirus pandemic in return for greater public control over our buses.

The Welsh Government has announced the scheme as its previous short-term support scheme – **the Bus Hardship Fund** – comes to an end.

Revenue is expected to remain low for the foreseeable future and this emergency funding provides an operating subsidy in lieu of lost revenue, maintained at historic levels for an initial period of three months. Its aim is to deliver an integrated and flexible network to match supply to demand, flex services, and allocate any additional funding.

Additional expectations will be added to the requirements for funding that were put in place under the Bus Hardship Fund scheme. These include:

- **Working with local authorities and Transport for Wales to flex routes and capacity to match evolving supply and demand**
- **Use reasonable endeavours to comply with Welsh Government guidance on the safe use of public transport**
- **Seeking financial support through all other grants available to them**
- **Not increasing commercial bus fares**
- **Providing information to help improve services for passengers**

Operators must work with local authorities and Transport for Wales to determine service levels. To do this it will be

necessary to consider how best to serve key workers and support economic growth, while considering capacity issues and potential staff shortages. This is the first stage of a wider plan which will see the public sector funders of the bus industry begin to regain control of buses for the first time since de-regulation in the 1980s.

In the longer-term the Welsh Government, supported by Transport for Wales and in collaboration with local authorities and bus operators, will develop the BES to form the basis of a new funding scheme which will allow the £100m+ public contribution to bus operations to better put the needs of passengers ahead of the needs of shareholders. This will include a fairer and more consistent approach to fares, building patronage, and agreement to the principles of an Economic Contract and a Social Charter.

Lee Waters, Deputy Transport Minister, said:

“The coronavirus pandemic has led to passenger numbers falling by around 90%. It has therefore been necessary to take action and provide funding to secure the industry’s future.

“This has meant buses have been able to help key workers get to work during the pandemic, and will mean the industry can continue to be an essential part of our transport network as we are hopefully in a position to ease restrictions and restart the economy.

“As well as providing short-term funding with conditions that secure public value, I want the Bus Emergency Scheme to be the start of a pathway to a greater say for public sector funders and users reshaping our bus network in the interests of passengers across Wales.”

ENDS



Final Lego Challenge

Tuesday, 30th June 2020

The last Lego challenge was to build a robot to help with a household chore.

This week's winner is...Sam Joseph 7DRT.

Thank you for all your entries, they have been really interesting and fun to see.

Mrs Wright-Davies



Years 8 & 9 HPV Vaccines

Wednesday, 1st July 2020

Year 8 Boys & Girls & Year 9 Girls HPV Vaccines – Information for Parents

HPV Vaccines will be held at school on Thursday 23rd July in the Library at the front of school

If you have returned a consent form to School you will receive a letter from the Immunisation Team asking you to contact them for an appointment time.

Thank You to

PPE Hwb Wreccsam

For the 25 face visors sent to Friends of Ruabon. These have been shared with St Mary's Church; which were needed for a required 'deep clean' before opening to residents, and also to Ruabon Pharmacy.



Issue 16

Wrexham Community support response to Coronavirus

Briefing Sheet update 26th June 2020

Wrexham is OPEN!!!! Non-essential retail opened:



The long-awaited opening of non-essential retail shops has taken place this week for Wrexham with a wide range of views from the public and traders.



The Council were congratulated at this week's Town Centre Forum on the work they have undertaken to make the town centre as safe as possible. Retailers have also changed their layouts created space with wider aisles and using space outside of their shop if possible.

All these changes and new ways of working will not be effective unless individuals take responsibility for their own safety and abide by distancing rules. This is something everyone needs to be responsible for and need to be respectful of everyone's space no matter what that happens to be at any given time. With people's ongoing anxiety levels for everyone needs to be respectful for people wanting to keep their distance from others. The licenced traders in town are now awaiting a date for when the green light will go on for them to open their establishments. <https://gov.wales/retailers-coronavirus-guidance>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-53116542>

Wrexham is open – Use it or lose it has never been so relevant

Charities opening:

R number 0.7 - 0.9
across Wales Locally
and Anglesey R =??



Although many charities have closed their various public facing services most have been operating during the whole period of lockdown providing online and video support to the many 1000's of people who normally rely on them being around. The demand for support particularly around people wanting to access befriending support is now expanding as many become more and more anxious about their own situation and that of their family members. Anyone who needs this type of assistance can call 312556 or email Covid19@avow.org and one of the team will assist in finding the right organisation to be able to offer support.

Several Charity shops in the town are still to make decisions on how or when they may reopen to accept donations and welcome customers back. Many people rely heavily on these shops and will have missed browsing for 'their bargain'.



Community worries:

There are many reports around about the current outbreak of Covid in Rowan Foods and the potential impact on the area. There is a full multi agency response that is operating on the site and in our communities conducting tests and referral to the Test, Trace and Protect service for those who are positive. It is clearly important that anyone who is contacted through TTP and advised to isolate should follow the guidance for their health and everyone in our communities. The reduction of community spreading is crucial to ensure when possible containment is operated around every positive case. If anyone finds themselves in this position without any support they are able to contact AVOW Team Covid – covid19@avow.org or tel 312556

If the level of spread is confined to a relatively small number of workers and their contacts the likelihood of community spread will be reduced, It is crucial that everyone remains supportive of people within the Health Service dealing with more new cases as the level of testing increases. <https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/stark-graph-shows-scale-north-18495157>

UPDATE: 27th June <http://www.wrexham.com/news/no-change-in-confirmed-cases-figure-but-urgent-work-taking-place-to-contact-300-workers-that-have-not-yet-presented-for-testing-188639.html>

School opening:



For many families with children and young people Monday is the big day when they will be able to attend school for "check in, catch up, prepare for summer and September" for a three-week period. The few days that they will have over the next three weeks will give them the opportunity to catch up with teachers and check out the new way in which classrooms and schools generally will be laid out to enable social distancing. Some children (and parents!) may welcome collecting 'homework' to help them catch up on work they have missed over the past few months.

During lockdown there have been significant issues with the mental health of our children and young people and sadly an increase in the level of suicide across Wales- it is so important that help and support is readily available for those that need it - <https://bit.ly/2ZaN3bg>

Childcare and nurseries:



Childcare settings will be able to open from the 22nd June, but many will not be ready until at least the 29th as they have significant alterations to prepare the enhanced safety of staff and children. Childcare settings should be contacted directly to know what their local arrangements will be.

<https://gov.wales/protecting-staff-and-children-coronavirus-childcare>

Travelling and gatherings:



There has not been any lifting of travel arrangements in Wales and the 5-mile distance is still applicable unless there are compassionate reasons to travel further. It is hoped that this may change in the next few weeks to align with England. STAY LOCAL is still the current message here in Wales.

Gathering are still not permitted and only two households should be coming together (still maintaining social distancing). The very warm weather recently is a real temptation for some people to have get together, but the potential infection risk levels increase dramatically when this occurs.

The message for everyone is stay small and local and avoid any locations where a mass gathering may be going on.



Private prayer can take place in places of worship:

St. Giles Church has reopened for private prayer between 10am and noon Monday to Saturday. Other faith communities will be opening, and information can be found outside of their buildings or online.

Welsh Government Update:

A full list of the various updates for Wales are available on the Welsh Government site <https://gov.wales/written-statement-covid-19-update>

BAME:



There are particular concerns within the BAME community about the impact of Covid and various research projects have been developed to identify key indicators – details available <https://gov.wales/complex-and-long-standing-disadvantages-exposed-coronavirus-pandemic-report-finds> If you would like

any help with BAME issues contact Anna who has recently started work with AVOW
Anna.szymanska@avow.org

Shielding:

Whilst there are a number of changes occurring for many people those that are Shielding are still advised to isolate until 16th August due to their increased risk – AVOW are still providing links to volunteers and other support for those unable to identify their own support structures.

<https://gov.wales/guidance-shielding-and-protecting-people-defined-medical-grounds-extremely-vulnerable-coronavirus-0>

Funding:



48 hours to go for Community organisations with buildings and for businesses

Business (and charities) grants- this is a quick process and something that every organisation with a building that has a rateable value – even if you are obtaining 100% charitable rate relief.

A £10,000 grant to all ratepayers eligible for charitable relief and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC) relief, operating in the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors occupying properties with a rateable value of £12,000 or less.

A grant of £25,000 for occupied businesses in the retail, leisure, and hospitality sector with a rateable value of between £12,001 and £51,000, or A grant of £10,000 to businesses eligible for Small Business Rates Relief with a rateable value of £12,000 or less.

Further details on these **schemes and additional financial assistance for businesses (external link) Direct link to council application page**

https://myaccount.wrexham.gov.uk/en/service/Application_for_NDR_Grant

Comic Relief:



We are pleased to announce that the funding has eventually come through from The Big Night run by Comic Relief and Children in Need- Our existing Voluntary Sector Emergency Fund (VSEF) will now be topped up with another £26,000 with applications now open.

This week we have given grants to:

Dynamic,

Fairhaven Church

Street Pastors

Equus

FDF

Apply this week and your organisation could be listed here in the next Briefing

Funds will be used to support their work to operate and prepare for returning: The local grant scheme remains open and applications are welcome by the weekly panel

for assessment up to £1000. <https://bit.ly/2JZ274K> - for larger projects funding up to £100,000 is administered by WCVA <https://bit.ly/34vdxX3>

**Survey on the future of the weekly bulletin:
Many thanks to this readers who have completed**

1. During the past 13 weeks have you found items in the Weekly Briefing useful - please indicate which sections have been useful?

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More Details

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3. Overall how useful would you rate the Weekly Briefing?

Very Useful

51

Responses



4.25 Average Rating

I love the bulletin and have found it really useful in this time. It is particularly good to know what is available locally, but your summaries of national information are also useful. I haven't found any of it not useful but had to put 'funding' above as although I think that is very useful for a lot of people and should remain in it is

Just to let you know the briefing has been excellent - more so than ever now the nuances between England and Wales bring a further level of complexity we could all do without! I just want to thank everyone involved in producing it - excellent product!

From a personal point of view putting pressure on Welsh Government to put Household Bubbles in line with other nations especially in relation to single person households

An audio link that allows the text to be read would be helpful. i.e. Like the disability news website

Briefing 14 is awesome! Such a well written piece, perfectly outlining differences between Welsh and English legislation. The briefings are always well written, to the point, and USEFUL.

the survey on the future of this briefing- there is still time <https://bit.ly/2YqYdvY> but here are some preliminary results. *Many thanks to everyone who has added words of encouragement to the AVOW Team*

Briefings could move to every fortnight as things stabilise

New Feature:



Good News Stories: Rainbow Centre – Penley

Supporting vulnerable people in South Wrexham The Rainbow Centre, which serves the communities of Wrexham and North Shropshire by providing community services, social prescribing projects and community outreach services, has joined forces with nine local Community Councils across South Wrexham to co-ordinate a community response to help support vulnerable people during COVID-19. The Rainbow Centre manages a team of Community Agents who operate from a wellbeing hub and work across South Wrexham. They are trained to offer advice and support on a range of issues. Linking in with local volunteers has enabled Community Agents to focus on assessing people's needs and arranging appropriate support (including arranging

home care, living aids, meals and nutrition, wellbeing support and benefit advice). In addition, the Centre has been signposting people in need of support to local volunteers who can provide direct assistance with shopping, prescriptions, dog walking and other day-to-day tasks. On 16th March, the Centre joined forces with Overton Community Council to agree an approach which could be replicated swiftly across the Community Council areas and support the COVID-19 response. Marchwiel and Bangor on Dee were already offering local level support, so the Centre was keen to join with them whilst supporting more Community Councils to join the response. The shared response ensures residents have access to the support, advice, and practical help they need, whilst ensuring vulnerable people and those volunteering are protected and stay safe. **Article from Welsh NHS Confederation** <https://www.nhsconfed.org/resources/2020/06/cross-sector-partnership-working-to-support-the-response-to-covid-19-in-wales>

We want your stories and Photo's for Wrexham Lockdown:

Share your good news stories – has your organisation or community been doing something special, have you been going over and above with your response. Let us know and we will over the next few weeks feature these to encourage others to think of new ways they could be working and supporting communities.

Or Photo/s:

If you have any photos of what has been going on in your community- whether it be individuals running errands to support people or showing how your organisation has adapted.

We would like to create a mural on our web site depicting how we have all been coping with the Covid Lockdown and the mood of people.

If you have any photos or stories email info@avow.org

Please make sure if you are sending a photo of someone else you have their permission.

There is a limit of 3 photos from individuals and 5 from organisations or businesses.

Change from weekly to fortnightly:

As we now move into the Recovery Phase and the urgency for some information has reduced, we will be moving into a two-weekly cycle from this edition unless urgent matters arise and a shortened version is produced on specific issues. Next edition will be 11th July.

Key web sites for resources and up to date information



<https://avow.org/category/covid-19/>

<https://twitter.com/AvowWrexham>

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=owain%20avow%20wrexham>



The Council is maintaining an information site where 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> -

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/>

Information disclaimer:

AVOW hopes to keep this as a weekly briefing to share with our community's support information and guidance- if there are 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 based on 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 Wrexham Cllr. Dana Davies for sending in the piece above

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The following piece was sent in by Marion who has been receiving the News Letter for some years now.

"I liked the sunflower article and must tell you about my little 'growing' success.

For my birthday, this year (in April and in lockdown) my daughter bought me an avocado grower, it was just 2 plastic pots, 1 large which had to be filled with water and one small into which you place a cracked and peeled stone from an avocado. You just had to change the water and move the stone about every 2/3 days after 3/4 weeks a bud began to grow out of the stone. Once it has a couple of leaves you plant in a pot of soil. I put it on the window sill and kept watering it and it is now about 4.5 inches tall. I am so pleased as this is the first thing I have grown since I grew mustard and cress in school.



Marion



St Mary's Church

St. Mary's Church will be open for private prayer from Wednesday 1st July.

There will be 2 occasions to come and pray:
Wednesday mornings between 10am and 12noon
and Sunday afternoons between 2pm and 4pm.

All are welcome to come and spend some time in prayer or just remembering those they love but have not seen since the lockdown started.

PPE Hwb Wreccsam

PPE Hwb Wreccsam, a local 3D printing hub was, until recently, based at Ysgol Clywedog, producing protective visors for staff in Health and Care settings and supported by AVOW

On May 8th 2020 volunteers began production at a new location in Gresford after setting up PPE Hwb Wreccsam as a Community Interest Company, entirely non-profit making. The volunteers are concerned that, as more and more people start a phased return to work, they are appropriately protected to try and prevent a further spread of Coronavirus.



Their mission is simple:-
the production of protective equipment, and the equipping of front line staff, key workers and community based workers.

Volunteers in general are VERY welcome but any that have experience in fundraising, logistics, admin, marketing or social media would be especially welcome!

Currently there is a team of two and they would definitely welcome more hands on deck!

THANK YOU TO ALISON HAMLINGTON FOR FORWARDING THIS INFORMATION.



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Ruabon Community Council

**Do you or somebody you know need any help
at this challenging time?**

If you are affected by the current COVID 19 crisis
we are now able to help with

Emergency Food Packs - Available in different sizes
Family Activity Packs

*

We are all learning to adapt but if you need some extra support

Call or text: 07741 596 812 or 01978 824087

email: info@friendsofruabon.co.uk

Facebook: Friends of Ruabon Viral Kindness

VOLUNTEERS FROM
FRIENDS OF RUABON &
RUABON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
ARE HERE TO HELP FOR FREE

HERE TO HELP





Grow a Sunflower and make
our Village Shine



Get your Free Sunflower Seeds
tel 07985568627



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

RUABON

COMMUNITY

COUNCIL



HERE TO HELP

**Do you or somebody you know need any help
at this challenging time?**

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

Picking up shopping

Collecting Prescriptions

A friendly phone call

Urgent supplies

**Volunteers from Friends of Ruabon and
Ruabon Community Council are here to help**

We want you to know that you are not alone

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 01978 824087

email: info@friendsofruabon.co.uk

Facebook: Friends of Ruabon Viral Kindness

Check phw.nhs.wales for the latest advice

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

[A Message from Simon Baynes MP](#)

On Wednesday 1 July I had a virtual meeting with Wales



Office Minister, David TC Davies MP, to discuss the introduction of step-free access at Ruabon station.

In Wales Office Questions on 3 June, I raised this important issue on the floor of the House of Commons and the resulting meeting today proved to be very constructive. There's more work to be done and I'm liaising closely with all local representatives and organisations in Ruabon.

The following piece was sent as an attachment last week from Mike Snodgrass, as a part of his 'In Touch' magazine, which many could not open:

A.A.A.D.D.- KNOW THE SYMPTOMS!

Thank goodness there's a name for this disorder.

Age-Activated Attention Deficit Disorder.

This is how it manifests: I decide to water my garden. As I turn on the hose in the driveway, I look over at my car and decide it needs washing.

As I start toward the garage, I notice mail on the porch table that I brought up from the mail box earlier.

I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car.

I lay my car keys on the table, put the junk mail in the litter bin under the table, and notice that the bin is full.

So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the rubbish first...

But then I think, since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the rubbish anyway, I may as well pay the bills first.

I take my cheque book off the table, and see that there is only one cheque left. My extra cheques are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I find the can of Coke I'd been drinking .

I'm going to look for my checks, but first I need to push the Coke aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over.

The Coke is getting warm, and I decide to put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold.

As I head toward the kitchen with the Coke, a vase of flowers on the work surface catches my eye--they need water.

I put the Coke on the work surface and discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning. I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers.

I set the glasses back down on the work surface, fill a container with water and suddenly spot the TV remote. Someone left it on the kitchen table.

I realise that tonight when we go to watch TV, I'll be looking for the remote, but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table, so I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers.

I pour some water in the flowers, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor. so, I set the remote back on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill.

Then, I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day: _

The car isn't washed,

The bills aren't paid,

There is a warm can of

Coke sitting on the counter,

The flowers don't have enough water,

There is still only 1 check in my check book,

I can't find the remote,

I can't find my glasses,

And I don't remember what I did with the car keys.

Then, when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day, and I'm really tired.

I realize this is a serious problem, and I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail....

Do me a favour.

Forward this message to everyone you know, because I don't remember who I've sent it to.

Don't laugh -- if this isn't you yet, your day is coming!

P.S. I don't remember who sent it to me, so if it was you, I'm sorry.

A piece sent in by Mark Jones, below, who responded to my remark last week that there was no news yet of when the libraries would open:

It was "announced on twitter that there will be an order and collection service opening at Wrexham library from 1st July. From what I can see it's an appointment type service. Also all books returned will be quarantined for 72 hours. This is only at Wrexham library at the moment".

Ruabon WI was founded in October 1946.

It was very popular and by December 1946 there were over a hundred members. and also seven ladies from the Polish Camp.

Members soon became involved in the County Federation



activities and attended a meeting at St Mary's Institute in Wrexham in November. The members were very keen to buy WI badges and nine dozen were ordered.

The shortages of food caused by the war still continued and at the November meeting Miss Blythe of the Food Advice Centre Wrexham " gave an instructive and interesting demonstration - Making the Fat Ration go further. This was much appreciated by the members". I wonder what dish Miss Blythe prepared? A great deal of information on food and rationing was given throughout the war, and this talk was enjoyed as it was more personal than government advice.

During the war and until November 1946 , more than two hundred Ministry of Food short "Food Flash" films were shown in British cinemas. With each film reaching an estimated 20 million people the "Food Flash" series was a way for the British Government to help people better understand rationing as well as providing tips on food such as keeping milk fresh and how to cook with dried eggs.

Food rationing continued until 1954, and in 1946 food was still in short supply. By then butter and cooking fat had been rationed for over six years, so Miss Blythe's talk was most appropriate. The weekly tea ration per person was two ounces, this was enough to make about three cups a day, and it had been rationed since 1940. Tea drinking was symbolically important during the war, and the British Government had managed to buy very large quantities. We can understand how important the cup of tea was to WI members at their meetings (as it still is to us today!) The November meeting was rounded off with community singing, and "a much needed practice of 'Jerusalem' and the two National Anthems".

On 11th December 1946 Ruabon WI held their first Christmas Party at the Council Schools. Together with WI County Officials and friends there were 122 present.

The Secretary announced that Ruabon WI had pledged "to contribute £10 spread over the next three years towards the new WI College" (Denman).

The tables in the Hall had been decorated and the committee and several members contributed to the refreshments which, the secretary commented, "eased a rather difficult situation in this time of rationing".

"After tea all trooped into the schoolroom for the excellent programme" of entertainment which consisted of instrumental and vocal music, elocution, a musical quiz, carol singing, and a One Act Play, the very popular comedy: "OHMS", by Ronald Gow, (1897-1997).

It was performed with an all-female cast, set in a village post office. Robert Gow was born in Stockport, became a teacher in Altrincham and a dramatist in his spare time. He

was married to the actress Wendy Hiller. There were six in the cast and it was thoroughly appreciated by the audience. The raffle raised £2/19/00 and the tea making £1/16/4. The very happy evening ended at 11 o'clock with the singing of the National Anthems. The party had gone "without a hitch, and all concerned should feel very proud of our first effort in difficult times".

Ennys Hughes has carried out all the research and written this piece especially for the Ruabon News Letter.

Additional information can be found from:
The Imperial War Museum and Wikipedia.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive the Ruabon News Letter each week by email (free of charge) please contact:

bremner.millhouse@btinternet.com

This News Letter is only as good as the items received for publication.

Please do keep sending in your news and 'thank you.'

Sybil Bremner.