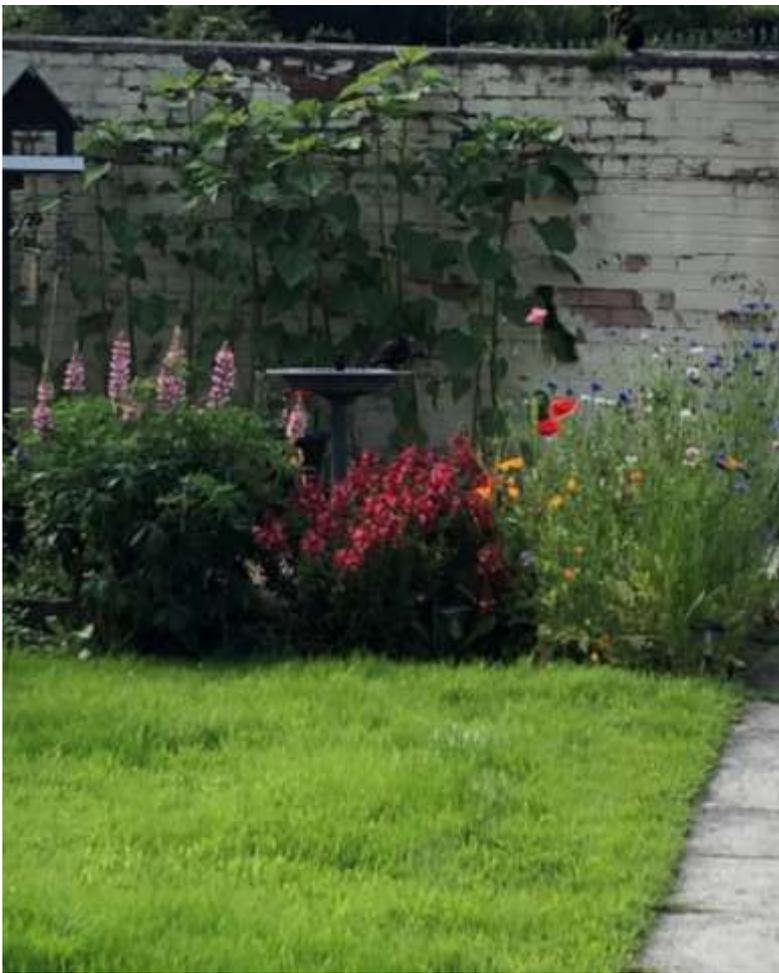


RUABON NEWS LETTER 332

The Almshouses on Church Street

The residents of the bungalows have surpassed themselves this year, not only with the wonderful display of the brightly coloured flowers, but also with the grass that has been carefully tended to show off the blooms to their best advantage.



Zinnia's front entrance
opposite St Mary's Church.



Every year, without fail, Zinnia produces her wonderful displays in Spring and Summer for this small space.

Face masks to become mandatory on Public Transport in Wales

Face masks will become mandatory on public transport in Wales under a new rule, it has been announced.

The First Minister, Mark Drakeford, said a face covering must be worn while travelling on buses, trains or in taxis from 27th July..

Corona Virus Up-date on Restrictions:

The following information has been copied from Ken Skate's weekly News Letter:

Mark Drakeford has announced that from Saturday, 11th July self- contained accommodation was opened.

From today (Monday 13th July), the following are allowed to open: subject to following the guidance about coronavirus safe ways to operate.

- Hairdressing salons and barbershops, including mobile hairdressers.
- Pubs, bars, restaurants and cafes outdoors.
- Outdoor cinemas.
- Indoor visitor attractions, but a small number of underground visitor attractions will remain closed for the time being because of the higher risks associated with these environments.

The Welsh Government will continue to work with the following attractions towards safe re-opening:

Places of Worship. Faith leaders can begin to gradually resume services when they are ready to do so safely.

The Welsh Government is also making changes to the regulations to allow larger gatherings of up to 30 people outdoors, only where these are organised and supervised by a responsible person for sports and other leisure activities and classes.

This will allow sports and leisure activities, such as fitness and dance classes to take place outdoors, as well as collective worship.

NHS Wales Organisations.

£470m Debt written-off to help prepare for COVID-19 Recovery

Since 2014 the Welsh Government has provided strategic cash support of £470m for historic debt and this will now not have to be repaid.

Mr Gething said:

It is now six years since the NHS Finance Act 2014 introduced the duty to break even over a three-year period. This year's accounts show four health boards haven't been able to operate within their budgets since 2014 and together have amassed deficits of more than £600m. We have provided strategic cash support of almost £470m to these health boards over this period.

This level of historic deficit is clearly a barrier to the NHS as it starts to plan for the long-term recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and it holds these health boards back from achieving financial balance.

Until now, there has been an expectation NHS organisations would repay this deficit and the cash support. To do this, they would need to generate underspends. I have decided the £470m of cash support will not need to be repaid and when an organisation achieves its three-year break-even duty, it will not be required to repay any historic deficits. This will provide certainty to these organisations, helping them to focus on the immediate recovery from coronavirus, while also planning for the future and striving for financial balance.

A summarised account of the Health Boards, NHS Trusts and Health Education and Improvement Wales, will be published in August following sign-off by the Auditor General for Wales.

Coronavirus: Education and Childcare:

Extra funding to support children over the summer holidays in Wales

The funding will help local authorities provide childcare and play provision over the summer and enable children aged 5 to 16 to take part in activities they may have missed out on while they couldn't go to school during the lockdown.

The extra funding will come from two sources - £1.6m will be made available from the local authority emergency hardship fund to support local authorities to provide childcare and play provision. And £1m will be provided from the education budget to help children and young people re-engage with education over the summer, giving them the

o

opportunity to take part in activities they might have missed out on while not at school such as socialising with their peers and physical activity.

Julie Morgan, Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services, said:

Our schools and childcare providers have played an important role in ensuring children have safe care, particularly children of critical workers and vulnerable children.

As the summer holidays approach, it is really important that children continue to have safe care and an opportunity to play safely.

This extra funding will help to provide that extra support over the summer.

The Welsh Government will work with the Welsh Local Government Association to determine how this funding will be allocated - it will be targeted at those children who have missed out the most while they have not been able to attend school and particularly towards the needs of vulnerable children in deprived communities.

Free school meals will continue to be available for all eligible children over the summer holidays - Wales was the first UK country to make this commitment.

Education Minister Kirsty Williams said:

"We have recently seen high-profile campaigns to make free school meals available during the holidays - I was very proud to be able to confirm our commitment, which was made in



April, that children in Wales would continue to have free school meals during the summer.

The Coronavirus Childcare Assistance Scheme, which provides the children of critical workers and vulnerable children under five with funded childcare, will continue until the end of August. Its future will be reviewed over the summer.

The equivalent of 600 extra teachers and 300 teaching assistants will be recruited throughout the next school year, targeting extra support at Years 11, 12 and 13, as well as disadvantaged and vulnerable learners of all ages.

This will support learners taking their A level and GCSEs in 2021 and those known to have been affected most while many schools have been closed since March.

Professional learning resources will be provided to support the new and existing teachers, in preparation for September. Staff will be recruited on a one-year fixed term contract and are expected to move into educational roles in the following school year.

The support package, provided at a school level, could include extra coaching support, personalised learning programmes and additional time and resources for exam year pupils. A range of teaching approaches will be relevant, including blended learning.

Since most schools closed to pupils in March, the Welsh Government has targeted support to ensure continuity of learning, including providing 10,000 digital learning devices, ensuring eligible children continue to receive free school

meals and increasing mental and emotional health and wellbeing support.

The Education Minister, Kirsty Williams, will host the Welsh Government's daily press conference at 12:30 today, where she will announce plans for schools in September.

Kirsty Williams said:

Our education family in Wales has met the challenge of the pandemic together, ensuring that our young people are supported with their well-being and learning.

I now want to ensure schools and pupils have the support they need by recruiting extra staff, to support the recovery phase and continue to raise standards as part of our national mission of education reform.

We must never lower our expectations for any of our young people, no matter their background. That is why thousands and thousands more learners in Wales now enter and gain a science GCSE, it is why we now outperform other nations for A Level results, and it is why thousands more are studying and succeeding at higher levels.

I know that teachers and parents across the country share my determination not to lose that momentum. This extra investment and targeted support will ensure that the impact of time away from school over recent months is minimised.

This is not a short-term fix. I am guaranteeing this money, extra staff and support for the whole of next year.

Alongside the new curriculum, we are moving purposefully into a new era for education. One where each learner benefits from a broad and balanced education.

Together, we will continue to raise standards for all, reduce the attainment gap and ensure we have a system that is a source of pride and public confidence.



Issue 17
Wrexham Community support response to Coronavirus
Briefing Sheet update 12th July 2020

**R number 0.7 -
0.9 across
Wales- Locally**

We are back for the first of the fortnightly editions-

We have taken note of the information gained from the survey around the Briefings that many of you have completed and have tried to reflect the areas that were being asked to be prioritised. We hope that the contact meets the support needs that you may have either personally or within a work setting.

There are many things that have happened in the past two weeks and new changes coming up weekly and in some instances daily!! – depending on your views there will be some eager to get out and about to try and resume a pre Covid life whilst others will still be anxious and very cautious about going out and about.

Our communities are continuing to respond to the support needs of residents – although the number of requests to the AVOW Covid19 Team have reduced there are still very many people who are reliant on family, friends and volunteers to help them with their daily needs. Shopping and Pharmacy pickups are still top of the list but others such as transport and pet walking.

A significant increase in help requests have been for befrienders. As lockdown continues for those who are shielding until August 16th. The need for befrienders is a reflection on the increased levels of anxieties

across all age groups in our communities not helped by the recent significant Outbreak at Rowan Foods.

Dates to watch out for:

From **July 13**, pubs, cafes and restaurants will be allowed to reopen with outdoor-only service - while hairdressers, mobile hairdressers, and barbers will be able to resume by appointment only. Outdoor cinemas will also be allowed to reopen, as will indoor visitor attractions - except for underground attractions like coal museums.

From **July 20**, restrictions on playgrounds and community centres will be lifted ahead of the summer holidays, as well as restrictions on outdoor gyms.

First Minister Mark Drakeford is also expected to signal to businesses like nail and beauty salons and tattoo parlours to begin preparing to reopen from **27th July**, depending on the state of Covid-19 in Wales at that time.

September - Schools opening with planning to have all children returning to classes with possible phasing over the first two weeks. Larger bubbles will be permitted for children and young people across all school years. Each school will be contacting parents with all details.

Many volunteers and staff have been asking about how things will work for their children and family members. These two links provide the current guidance for preparations but not school specific.

<https://gov.wales/education-minister-announces-back-school-plans-september>

<https://gov.wales/technical-advisory-group-advice-return-school>

Many parents are reporting on the anxiety of their children due to them being confirmed so long in lockdown- a range of support services are available from <http://youngwrexham.co.uk/>



Before the end of July- Registering Birth-

Registration of new births was suspended at the beginning of lockdown, but this service will be reopened by the Council shortly with a staggered system to deal with the 800 births that have occurred during the past three months-
Congratulations to all parents and their lockdown babies!!



Faith communities have been put on notice by the First Minister that they may be able to open for services soon. Details are likely in the next three-week briefing.

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.

Wedding will be permitted with a limited number of guests that can still maintain social distancing. <https://gov.wales/guidance-members-public-marriage-and-civil-partnership-ceremonies-coronavirus>

Public Transport-

There has been revised guidance made available to the public for the use of public transport and around the use of face coverings when travelling.

- [Travel and transport: advice \(Guidance\) \(6 July - update\)](#)
Information for key workers and all other essential travel
- [How to make a 3-layer face covering \(Guidance\) \(1 July - update\)](#)
Step by step guide to making a non-medical, 3-layer face covering at home

SHOPMOBILITY - Reopening.

The AVOW run service operating from the bus station will be reopening this Thursday 16th July.



Initial opening will be Thursday and Fridays 10.00am - 4.00pm for access to a wide range of Mobility Scooters and wheelchairs also booty scooters for easy transport in the boot of a car. Tel - 312556 or info@avow.org

Welsh Government Update:

A full comprehensive list of the various updates for Wales are available on the Welsh Government site

<https://gov.wales/announcements/search>

Opening your community building: FREE resources



As **community centres** start to open from 20th July many committees will be working hard to make sure they have everything in place to make buildings safe for all users.

AVOW in partnership with other County Voluntary Councils have produced a comprehensive guide on how to open your building. There are practical examples of what needs to be undertaken and risk assessment templates to be completed before the key is put in the door to open.

A **free** copy of the guide will be available for anyone who signs up to join our zoom meeting - "**Opening up your building**" - this free event will be an opportunity to share experiences and help to understand what has to be undertaken. **9.30am Wednesday 15th July**

Spaces are limited - booking required today --

<https://bit.ly/38HuVKy>

Visually impaired awareness:

It is important that as businesses and community facilities adapt their premises everyone should consider the potential increase in risks for those who are blind or partially sighted with more barriers, tables, chairs and general street furniture being in places that had been clear before. RNIB have launch a campaign World Upside Down

to raise awareness of how these changes can impact. **RNIB Cymru #WorldUpsideDown campaign:** From 6th July, a week of activity to raise awareness of the unique challenges that social distancing poses for blind and partially sighted people.

Shielding - if you or someone you know is 'Shielding' currently this is to the 16th August. There will be important announcements of changes to this scheme from the Chief Medical Officer on Wednesday. It is important for now that all people in this category remain shielding at home and if necessary, create an extended family bubble and follow all advice.

- [Extended households: frequently asked questions \(Guidance\) \(3 July\)](#) What an extended household is and what you can and cannot do when part of an extended household

Community worries continuing:



There are many people from organisations and individuals in Wrexham who are still raising concerns with AVOW about the Covid Outbreak at Rowan Foods and the risk to the broader community. The concerns centre

around the number of confirmed cases and the workers who went missing and not tested. The latest figures show another 3 cases have been detected (Saturday 11th July) but no details if these are new or just delayed results. There have been new reports from PHW again this weekend about how results are being added to the daily figures that are 'historic- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-53368687>

The various concerns that people have raised with AVOW have been shared with the Council and Public Health Wales.

Key issues that have been worrying families are around the delays in people who are tested either connected with Rowan or in other community settings including care homes- often these are 10 days or

more. It is hoped that the systems will now be improving and results and subsequent Test, Trace and Protect (TTP) will identify more quickly contacts of anyone who is tested positive.

Test Trace Protect - TTP:

The Wales response to testing is Test Trace and Protect which is regularly called TTP. The system is only going to be effective if anyone who is contacted by a Tracer follows the instructions and if appropriate isolate for 14 days- people will only be contacted if someone who has tested positive has provided details of those they have been in contact with and locations that they have visited with someone identified as being in close proximity and at risk of the transmission of Covid. You will not be told who the person is that has proved positive.

<https://gov.wales/contact-tracing-if-you-are-confirmed-contact>

People who are contacted will be advised of what support is available for anyone having to isolate or direct contact can be made to the AVOW Covid Helpdesk. If anyone finds themselves in this position without any support they are able to contact covid19@avow.org or tel 312556

- [Written statement: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - Update on Outbreaks and Incident at meat and food processing sites in Wales \(Health Minister\) \(3 July\)](#)

Community Food banks and other provision: ACTION REQUIRED



Organisers please note action required-

To help understand the scale of help being provided through community-based food provision AVOW are conducting a survey to assess the current demand and look at ways of providing support in the future. Many of the 'pop up' food banks have been started from scratch and may find it difficult to sustain the

level of support once many of the Covid response funding streams start to stop.

We are particularly interested in what additional support individuals and families are obtaining to ensure there is holistic support for those who may need these types of initiatives for a longer period.

We are also aware that there are already issues for people who are losing their jobs and the impact that this is having on how families are coping day to day.

Please pass this link to anyone in your community or organisation who are involved with 'food bank' type of support

<https://bit.ly/2W6fC99>

If you provide or know someone that provides pre packed ready meals or hot food please use this link <https://bit.ly/38NRLQF>

Please reply by 22nd July.

TWO NEW AVOW FUNDS LAUNCHED



Comic Relief Voluntary Sector Emergency Fund

AVOW have received a £26,000 share of the

funding from the Comic Relief 'A Big Night In'- the fund is being launched on the 13th July and full application is available now from -

<https://avow.org/2020/07/08/comic-relief-grant-fund/> - the criteria are that each project must meet at least one of these themes-

Children survive and thrive - Actions to give children the best start in life and access to opportunities to achieve their potential

Gender justice - Actions to improve equality for women and girls

A safe place to be - Actions to help vulnerable people improve their circumstances and safety

Mental health matters - Actions to enable access to support and increase awareness.



AVOW and Hydro Aluminium Deeside

We are pleased to announce a new partnership to support community organisations in Wrexham

Wrexham based Hydro Aluminium Deeside is the largest recycler of aluminium in Wales and is leading the low carbon agenda with their low carbon brand Hydro CIRCAL® 75R.

Throughout the coronavirus crisis, they have maintained their focus on employees' health & safety and, at the same time, have managed to retain all jobs and keep the wheels turning. However, as part of a global organization, Hydro is operating in many different local communities who are experiencing different challenges because of the pandemic.

Managing Director, Wayne Clifton, said "we strongly believe it is important to support our local communities and so are offering four £500 grants to local sports or cultural organisations who need to adapt to the new situations we are faced with as a result of the pandemic".

Email: info@avow.org for an application form- Closing date 31st July 2020

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

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. Closing date 31st July 2020

Good News Stories:



Good News Stories from Friends of Ruabon

The group has been working with Ruabon Community Council to identify and contact those who have had to isolate during this crisis.

Our members continue to collect prescriptions and do shopping for members of the community. We have also been busy putting together and delivering 297 activity packs for children, older people and key workers and the latest bags to go out to residents were 123 cream teas.

Members have also been tidying, weeding and planting flowers in areas which had begun to look a little tired and neglected and some residents in these areas have been happy to join in whilst 'social distancing'. Another project which has been successfully managed by the group is the purchasing of various vegetable seeds with a donation from well-wisher. These plants have been advertised on social media and delivered to those who requested them. Some of these plants have been put to grow in one of the planters at Ruabon station so that passengers can pick them as they alight from the train.

Friends of Ruabon also took up a suggestion from a resident to grow sunflowers. The group purchased a large amount of different sunflower seeds and these were delivered in small packets to people around the village. We should have a bright and cheerful village ready to celebrate the end of this crisis.

We are always happy to welcome new members and to help us keep our environment clean and tidy. For the immediate future we would

appreciate extra volunteers for Litter Picks and maintenance of our overgrown green areas.

The photo's below are of our activity packs for key workers and of Nia (a member of Friends of Ruabon) with Lily a young resident of Wynnstay Gardens who came out to volunteer with us.

The group have received funding from landfill fund administered by AVOW and are currently making improvements to the Ruabon Heritage Trail - something for people to look forward to when lockdown is fully lifted.

Special thanks to the volunteers from Friends of Ruabon who have been helping distribute the food parcels provided by the Council Children's Services



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 once again to Danan Davies for supplying this information from AVOW](#)

A Short Quiz sent in by Margaret Williams.

Bird Puzzle (Answers below)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Found on a chess board. | 5. Small move left or right. |
| 2. Invoice for an item of cutlery. | 6. Brightly coloured tool. |
| 3. When a cat wakes up. | 7. Eating action. |
| 4. Could mean a death sentence. | |

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.



**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@friendsof ruabon.co.uk

Facebook: Friends of Ruabon Viral Kindness

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





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

Dear Mrs Bremner



I'm really shocked to say the BBC have announced they will go ahead with their plans to make people over 75 who aren't on Pension Credit pay for their TV licences from 1st August.

I'm bitterly disappointed that they've decided to go ahead with this in the midst of the difficulties Covid-19 has brought us. I can imagine you are too. The last thing older people need to be worrying about is how to scrape together the money to pay for their licence or lose their TV altogether.

We won't stop fighting to save free TV licences. Together over 630,000 of us signed our petition, wrote in our thousands to the Prime Minister and kept this issue in the headlines for well over a year.

We believe the Government should never have handed this welfare payment to the BBC in the first place and it's time for the Government to step in and work with the BBC to save it.

The BBC has said no one will be expected to pay for a new licence until they have been contacted by a letter from TV Licensing and either claimed a free licence or agreed a payment plan. We will let you know when the BBC send out their official letters and tell you what they look like.

For now, if you are over 75 please ignore any emails or letters you receive asking you to pay your TV licence as they may be a scam.



Rosie
Age UK Campaigns Team

Dear Rosie

Thank you for your communication with regard to the latest news from the BBC. It is a totally unfeeling action for elderly residents who struggle at the best of times, and yet have to suffer further indignity and isolation without TV. I have sent a copy of your email to Simon Baynes our MP for Clwyd South, in the hope that he will take a stand on this issue. I will also include a copy in the Ruabon News Letter.

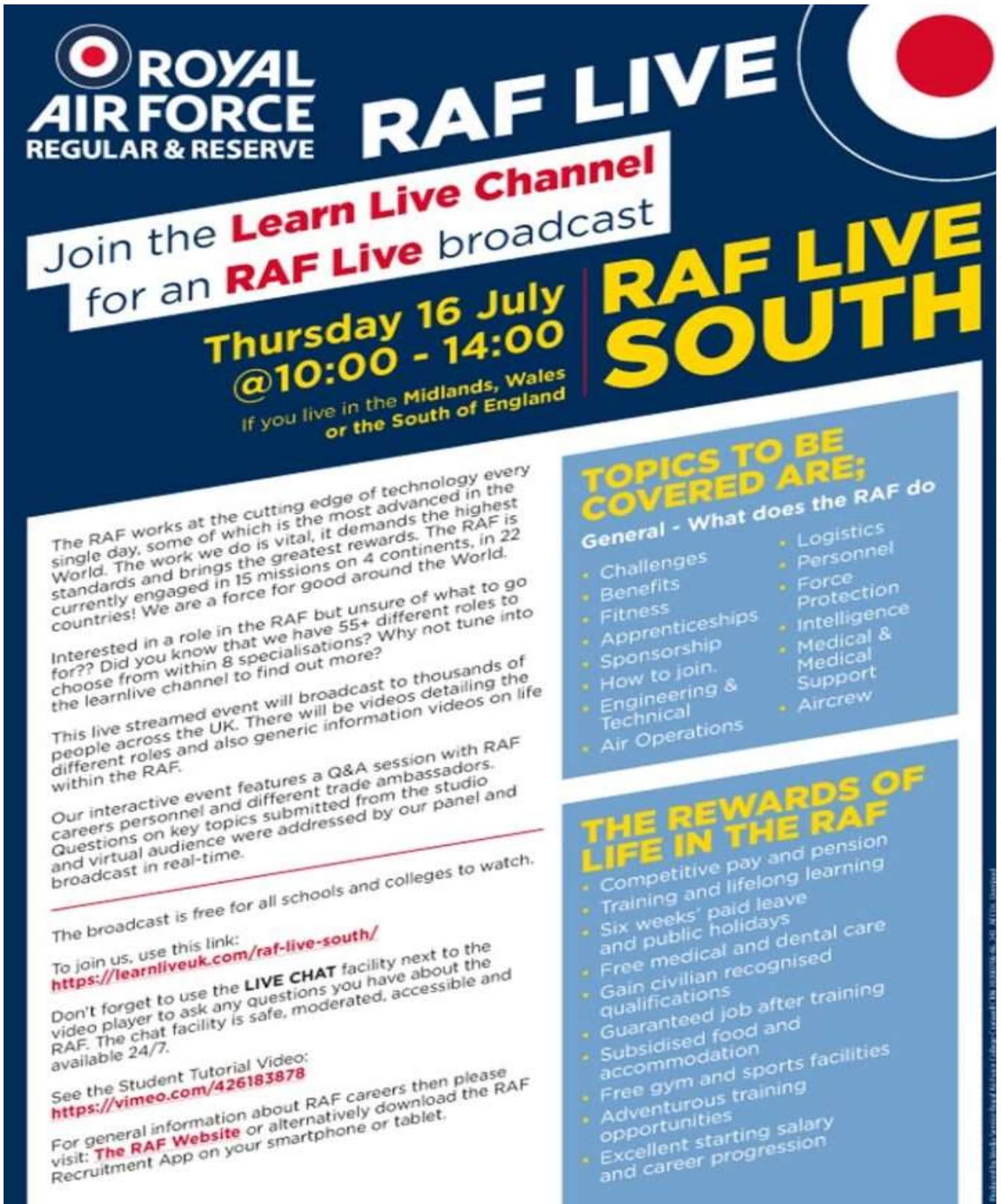
Many thanks for your dedication on behalf of all those who are unable to speak out for themselves.

Sybil Bremner.

RAF Learn Live Event – Thurs 16th July

Thursday, 9th July 2020

The RAF invite everyone to their RAF Learn Live event taking place next Thursday, 16 July from 10am – 2pm. It is necessary to register for the event prior to the start time, using the link <https://learnliveuk.com/raf-live-south/> For more information download the [flyer](#), or contact: AFCOGLoucester-Outreach@mod.gov.uk.



The flyer features the Royal Air Force logo and the text 'ROYAL AIR FORCE REGULAR & RESERVE' in white on a dark blue background. The main title 'RAF LIVE' is in large white letters, with 'SOUTH' in large yellow letters below it. A white banner contains the text 'Join the Learn Live Channel for an RAF Live broadcast'. The event date and time 'Thursday 16 July @ 10:00 - 14:00' are in yellow, with a note 'If you live in the Midlands, Wales or the South of England' below it. The flyer is divided into several sections: 'TOPICS TO BE COVERED ARE;' with a list of subjects, 'THE REWARDS OF LIFE IN THE RAF' with a list of benefits, and a bottom section with registration and chat information. A red circle is visible in the top right corner.

ROYAL AIR FORCE
REGULAR & RESERVE

RAF LIVE

Join the **Learn Live Channel**
for an **RAF Live** broadcast

Thursday 16 July
@ 10:00 - 14:00

If you live in the **Midlands, Wales**
or the **South of England**

RAF LIVE SOUTH

The RAF works at the cutting edge of technology every single day, some of which is the most advanced in the World. The work we do is vital, it demands the highest standards and brings the greatest rewards. The RAF is currently engaged in 15 missions on 4 continents, in 22 countries! We are a force for good around the World.

Interested in a role in the RAF but unsure of what to go for?? Did you know that we have 55+ different roles to choose from within 8 specialisations? Why not tune into the learnlive channel to find out more?

This live streamed event will broadcast to thousands of people across the UK. There will be videos detailing the different roles and also generic information videos on life within the RAF.

Our interactive event features a Q&A session with RAF careers personnel and different trade ambassadors. Questions on key topics submitted from the studio and virtual audience were addressed by our panel and broadcast in real-time.

The broadcast is free for all schools and colleges to watch.

To join us, use this link:
<https://learnliveuk.com/raf-live-south/>

Don't forget to use the **LIVE CHAT** facility next to the video player to ask any questions you have about the RAF. The chat facility is safe, moderated, accessible and available 24/7.

See the Student Tutorial Video:
<https://vimeo.com/426183878>

For general information about RAF careers then please visit: **The RAF Website** or alternatively download the RAF Recruitment App on your smartphone or tablet.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED ARE;

General - What does the RAF do

- Challenges
- Benefits
- Fitness
- Apprenticeships
- Sponsorship
- How to join.
- Engineering & Technical
- Air Operations
- Logistics
- Personnel
- Force Protection
- Intelligence
- Medical & Support
- Aircrew

THE REWARDS OF LIFE IN THE RAF

- Competitive pay and pension
- Training and lifelong learning
- Six weeks' paid leave and public holidays
- Free medical and dental care
- Gain civilian recognised qualifications
- Guaranteed job after training
- Subsidised food and accommodation
- Free gym and sports facilities
- Adventurous training opportunities
- Excellent starting salary and career progression

BIRD Quiz:

Answers to questions

1. Rook
2. Spoonbill
3. Kittiwake
4. Blackcap
5. Little Tern
6. Yellow Hammer
7. Swallow

Thank you to Margaret Williams for the following:

RUABON **WI** NEWS LETTER NO. 10

The Emperor Napoleon.....

Hello members,

I think this is the tenth letter I've written to you during the lockdown. I might have miscounted, who knows?

The weeks stretch endlessly on and some of us are still confined to our homes, waiting for permission to get out again. What have you all found to do during this time?

I know that some have been making masks and washbags for the NHS and that others have made wonderful fundraising efforts. Good women, all. Not me, I'm sorry to say. My skills are not in the realms of sewing, knitting or crafty works. 'Twere ever thus, but I hope these WI letters give you a smile. The intention from the beginning has been to keep in touch with you all. We haven't met since March, a long time ago, and while I think we are mostly well and

untouched by the virus, yet our lives and families will have changed to some extent. I suppose we all will have had time to think about our friends and companions and the value we place upon their friendship. Those of us who are unable to go out to buy our necessities have been helped by neighbours and our community is stronger for it. 'No man is an island.'

"The Emperor Napoleon

He sent his ships of war

With spreading sails

To conquer WALES

And land on Fishguard shore……

The year was 1797, Britain and France were at war and this incident is often referred to as the 'last invasion of mainland Britain.'

The French had devised a three-pronged attack on Britain. Two of the forces would land in Britain as diversionary tactics but the main body of soldiers would land in Ireland. Bad weather and ill-discipline halted two of the forces, but the third, aimed at landing in Wales and marching on to Bristol, this was agreed.

They landed in Fishguard on 22nd February, 1797. Hastily assembled British forces, together with the local civilian populace, clashed with the invading forces, and on 24th February, 1797 Colonel William Tate, the Irish-American commander of the French forces was forced into an

unconditional surrender. Among the many observers of the conflict were local women, dressed in Welsh costume and probably armed with pitchforks, broomsticks and other implements. Their red flannel cloaks and tall, black hats caused the invaders to mistake them for British soldiers and in the face of so much opposition they capitulated. Jemima Nicholas is credited with rounding up 12 of the French and leading them off to Fishguard jail. A Welsh heroine, indeed!

.....**But Jemima she was waiting**

With broomstick in her hand,

And all the other women too

To guard their native land.

For the Russians and the Prussians

He did not give a damn

But he took on more than he bargained for

When he tried it on with MAM.

Their cloaks were good red flannel,

Their hats were black and tall

They looked just like brave soldiers

And were braver than them all.

The Frenchmen took one look at them

And in panic they did flee,

Cried ooh-la-la, and then ta-ta
And jumped into the sea,
And said to one another
As back to France they swam
We'd have stayed at home if we'd only known
That we'd have to take on MAM.

The Emperor Napoleon
He was a man of note,
His hat was sideways on his head,
His hand inside his coat.
When he heard the news from Fishguard
His sorrow was complete,
Oh Josephine, What can it mean?
My soldiers are all beat!
I'll make this proclamation,
Though a conqueror I am
You can conquer all creation
But you'll never conquer MAM!

This is the account that has come down to us from 200 years ago.. It fills us with pride and our hearts swell to read of the plucky resistance of those doughty Welsh

women. The Welsh Mam is not to be trifled with, she is the guardian of the family, the household and the community. Cross her at your peril!

But is this account true? It is disputed by many historians and you will find differing versions in learned texts.

You might like to do your own research into the various accounts and come to a different conclusion, but one thing is certain, this poem is an amusing and colourful re-telling of the Last and Unsuccessful Invasion of Britain.

Why have I chosen to write on this subject? Because while rummaging in my relics of past WI frivolities I came across the cardboard hat I made - worn sideways, of course, and adorned with a British Legion Poppy Day poppy - and which transformed me into an approximation of Napoleon Bonaparte. I then recited the poem.

And besides, it makes me laugh!

This poem, 'Women of Fishguard', was written by Harri Webb.

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.