

RUABON NEWS LETTER 333

20.07.2020



There has been a great deal of disappointment voiced on social media recently, about the amount of rubbish being left in Rocky Woods.

Because of social distancing, Friends of Ruabon cannot yet set-up a Village Litter Pick.

However the group has been investing in a range of equipment for litter picking and enough to lend out these items, which cater for both adults and children.

For those of you who wish to make a difference, as an individual, a couple or a family, please contact info@friendsofruabon.co.uk to collect the equipment you need.

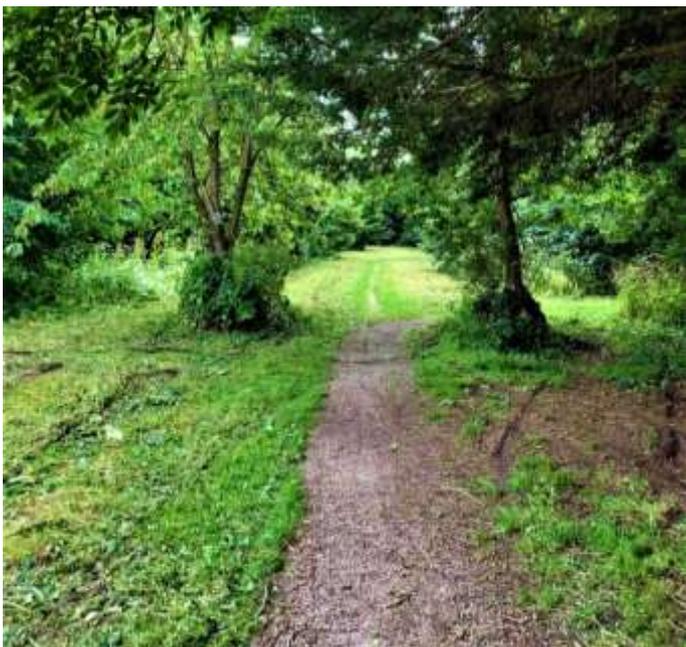
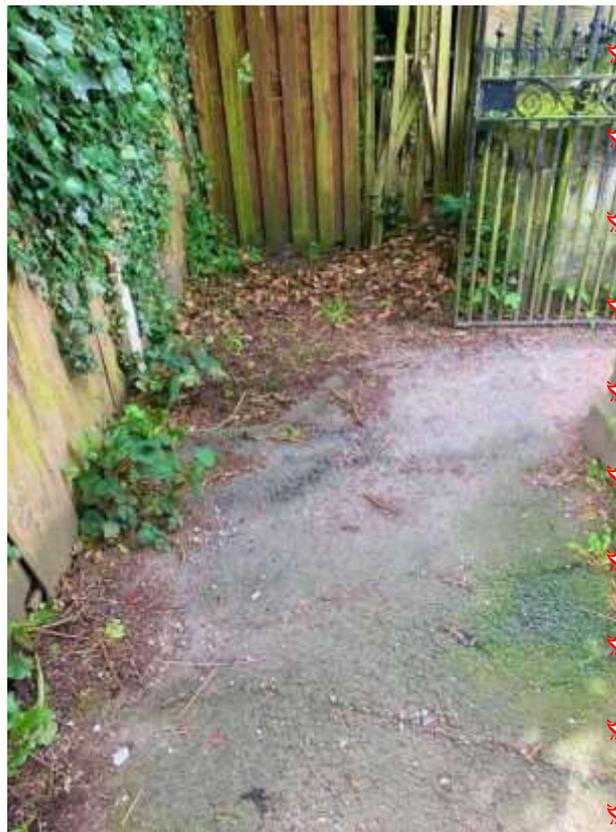
Please make sure you take photos of 'before' and 'after' your litter pick and of yourselves with the bag or bags of rubbish you have collected (each one counts) and send them to either: bremner.millhouse@btinternet.com and/or "Message on Facebook "Friends of Ruabon page ".

These photos will be for publication
(any format that is easy to copy and paste please)

**Behind the Park Gates two weeks ago
it was very overgrown**



Friends of Ruabon member Dave Green with the support of member Jo Smith (who took the photos) went to work and made the following changes, enabling residents to walk safely and enjoy these surroundings.





Confirmed by First Minister Mark Drakeford that playgrounds, funfairs and community centres in Wales can open on Monday 20th July, but are not required to do so.

Outdoor gyms will also be able to operate as part of the latest measures to lift Wales' coronavirus restrictions.

This is the second of a three-week package of measures to re-open large parts of Wales' tourism, hospitality and leisure sectors, which was announced as part of the latest 21-day review of the coronavirus regulations last week.

First Minister Mark Drakeford said:

^We continue to look carefully at the latest medical and scientific evidence and the current state of the virus as we make decisions to unlock our society and economy.

With rates of the virus in Wales continuing to fall, we are able to carry on with our gradual, step-by-step lifting of the restrictions. From Monday, playgrounds and outdoor gyms will be able to reopen. Community centres will be able to increase their activity, helping local authorities provide summer holiday play schemes and childcare. Funfairs will also be able to reopen as they have had time to consider how they can put appropriate measures in place before customers return. This follows the reopening of indoor and outdoor attractions in recent weeks.

"While the removal of these restrictions allows these places to reopen, it does not require them to. The specific timings for reopening may vary from place to place as owners take assessments and make any necessary changes.

As we take these cautious steps, no one should make the mistake of thinking the virus has gone away. We could find our hard work quickly undone unless we all go on playing our part, every day, and in every way we can, to keep Wales safe.

The Welsh Government has previously asked a number of businesses to begin preparing to reopen from 27 July, if the conditions allow.

These are: close contact services, including nail and beauty salons and businesses providing tanning services, massages, body piercings, tattooing, electrolysis or acupuncture door cinemas, museums, galleries and archive services tourist accommodation with shared facilities, such as camping sites. Opening would be from 25 July reopening the housing market fully.

Provided the reopening of these sectors goes well and conditions allow, indoor opening for pubs, bars, cafes and restaurants will resume from 3 August, following the outcome of the next review of the coronavirus regulations.

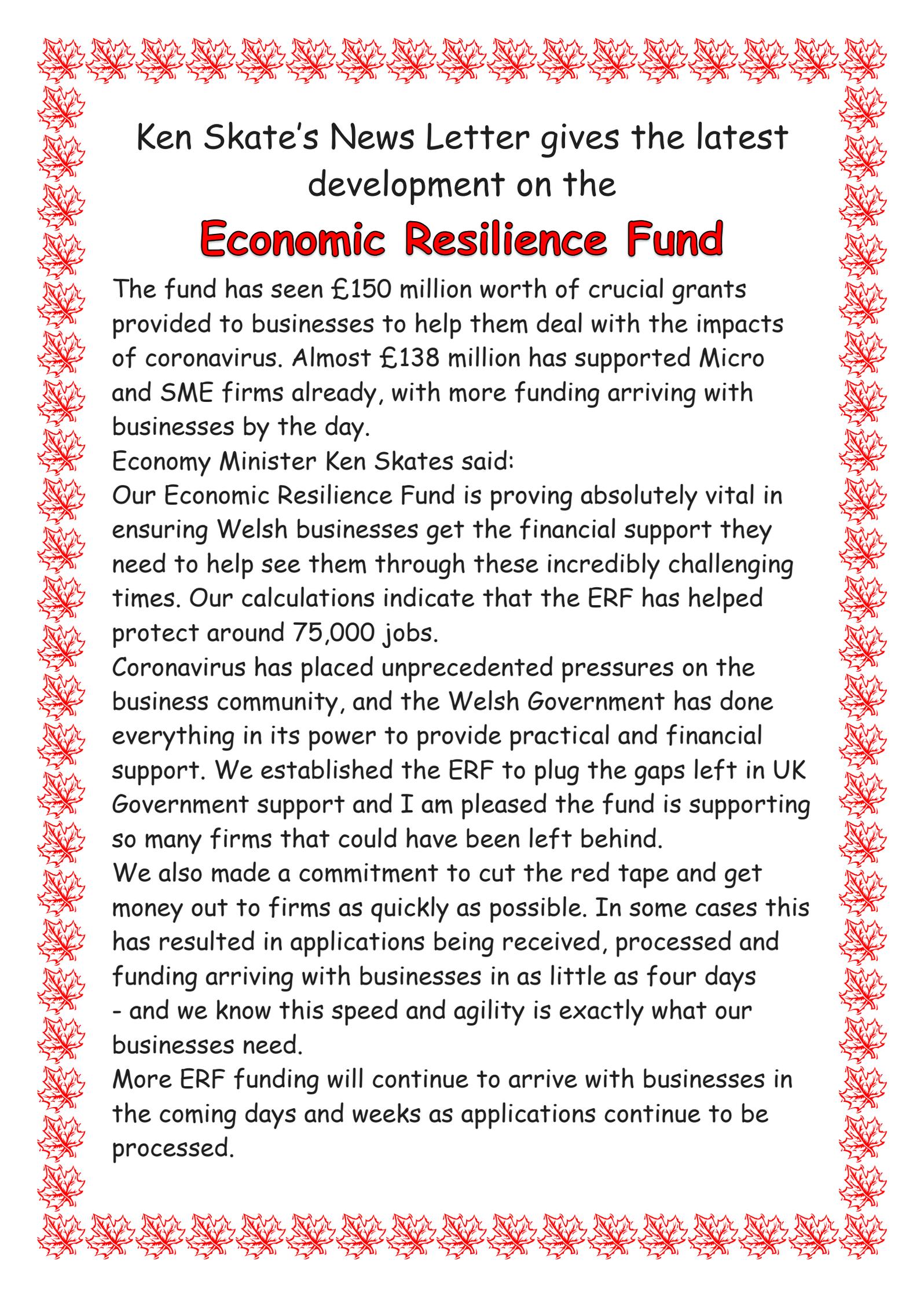
Ruabon Village Hall



Helen Belton, Clerk to Ruabon Community Council has attended training along with other managers of community buildings, who are making preparations.

Decorating is being completed, gel dispensers have been acquired, tea towels removed, certain changes will need to take place regarding toilets and all hirers will be consulted regarding numbers that can be allowed in the hall at one time.

There is still a lot to be done but the council and the Village Hall Management Group are working as quickly as they can with the information available to them. We look forward to welcoming hirers back as soon as safely possible.



Ken Skates's News Letter gives the latest
development on the

Economic Resilience Fund

The fund has seen £150 million worth of crucial grants provided to businesses to help them deal with the impacts of coronavirus. Almost £138 million has supported Micro and SME firms already, with more funding arriving with businesses by the day.

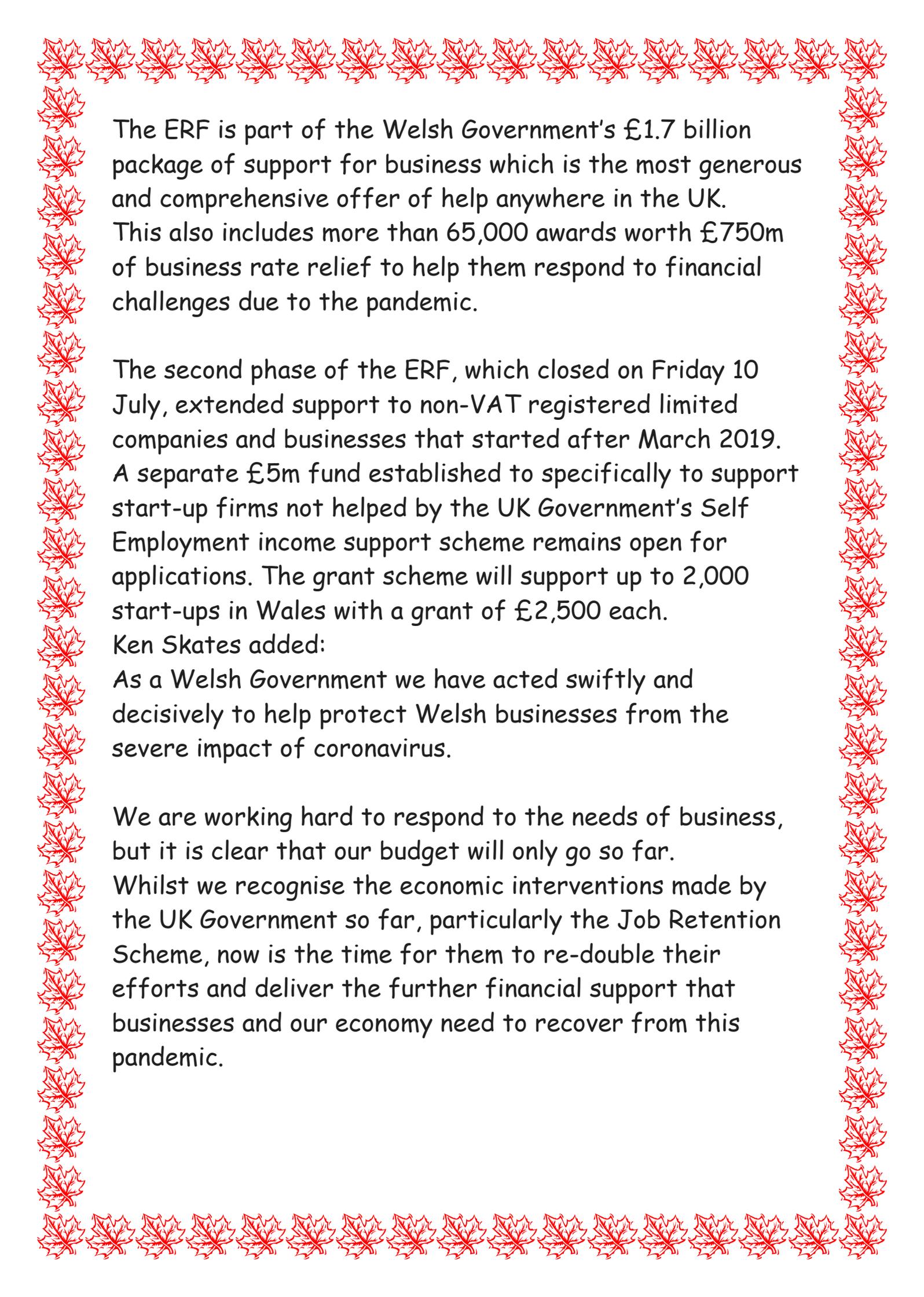
Economy Minister Ken Skates said:

Our Economic Resilience Fund is proving absolutely vital in ensuring Welsh businesses get the financial support they need to help see them through these incredibly challenging times. Our calculations indicate that the ERF has helped protect around 75,000 jobs.

Coronavirus has placed unprecedented pressures on the business community, and the Welsh Government has done everything in its power to provide practical and financial support. We established the ERF to plug the gaps left in UK Government support and I am pleased the fund is supporting so many firms that could have been left behind.

We also made a commitment to cut the red tape and get money out to firms as quickly as possible. In some cases this has resulted in applications being received, processed and funding arriving with businesses in as little as four days - and we know this speed and agility is exactly what our businesses need.

More ERF funding will continue to arrive with businesses in the coming days and weeks as applications continue to be processed.



The ERF is part of the Welsh Government's £1.7 billion package of support for business which is the most generous and comprehensive offer of help anywhere in the UK. This also includes more than 65,000 awards worth £750m of business rate relief to help them respond to financial challenges due to the pandemic.

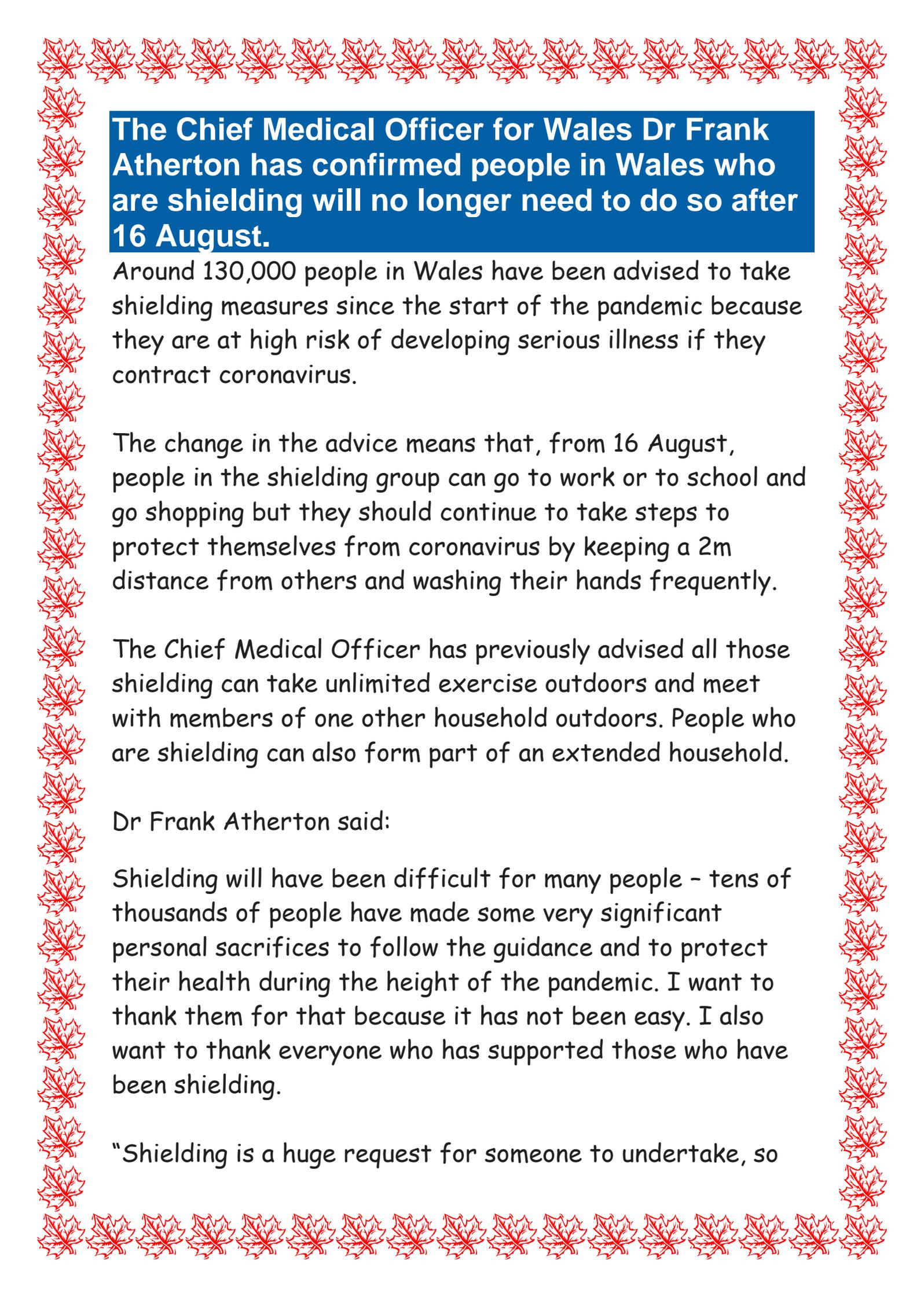
The second phase of the ERF, which closed on Friday 10 July, extended support to non-VAT registered limited companies and businesses that started after March 2019. A separate £5m fund established to specifically to support start-up firms not helped by the UK Government's Self Employment income support scheme remains open for applications. The grant scheme will support up to 2,000 start-ups in Wales with a grant of £2,500 each.

Ken Skates added:

As a Welsh Government we have acted swiftly and decisively to help protect Welsh businesses from the severe impact of coronavirus.

We are working hard to respond to the needs of business, but it is clear that our budget will only go so far.

Whilst we recognise the economic interventions made by the UK Government so far, particularly the Job Retention Scheme, now is the time for them to re-double their efforts and deliver the further financial support that businesses and our economy need to recover from this pandemic.



The Chief Medical Officer for Wales Dr Frank Atherton has confirmed people in Wales who are shielding will no longer need to do so after 16 August.

Around 130,000 people in Wales have been advised to take shielding measures since the start of the pandemic because they are at high risk of developing serious illness if they contract coronavirus.

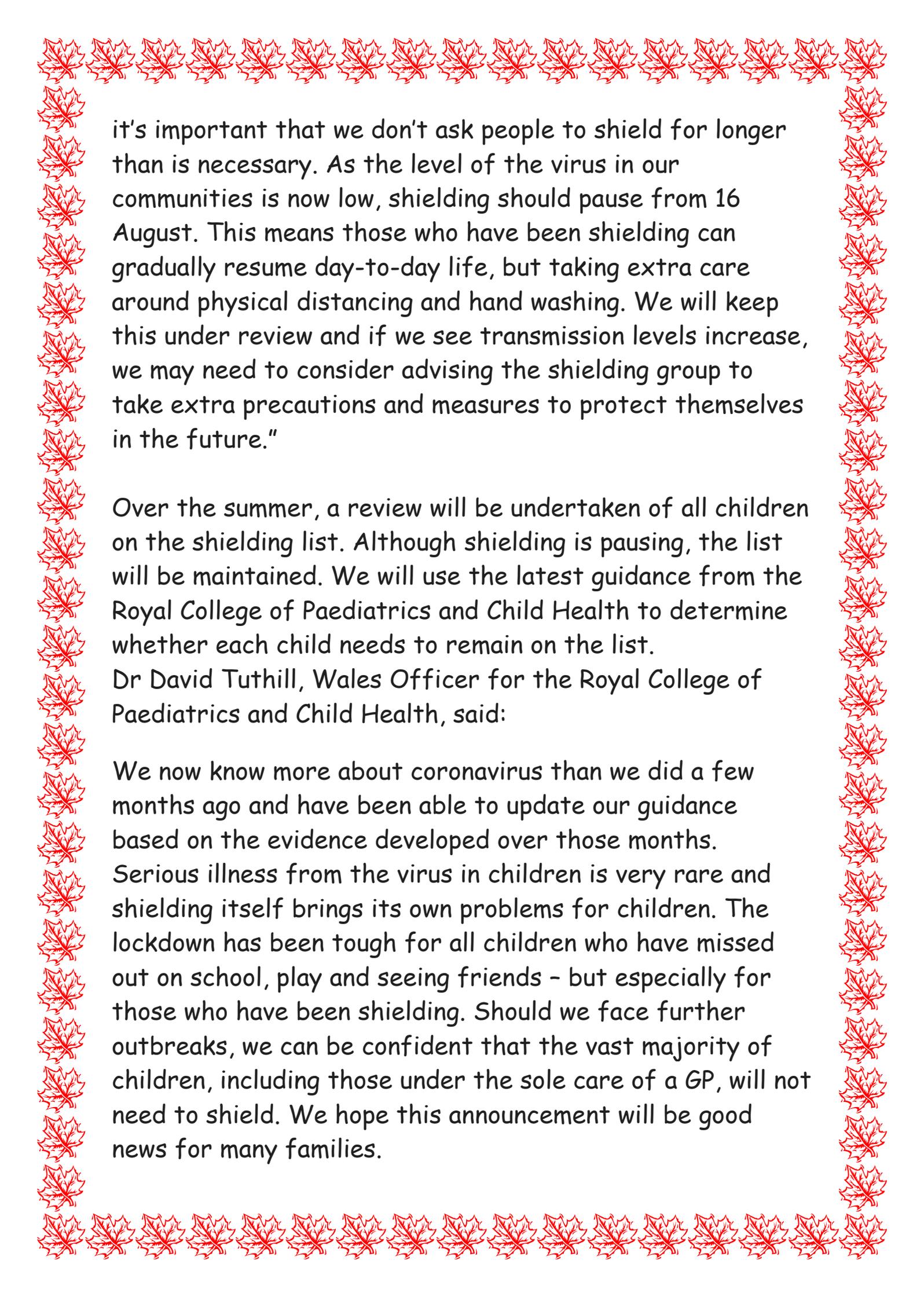
The change in the advice means that, from 16 August, people in the shielding group can go to work or to school and go shopping but they should continue to take steps to protect themselves from coronavirus by keeping a 2m distance from others and washing their hands frequently.

The Chief Medical Officer has previously advised all those shielding can take unlimited exercise outdoors and meet with members of one other household outdoors. People who are shielding can also form part of an extended household.

Dr Frank Atherton said:

Shielding will have been difficult for many people - tens of thousands of people have made some very significant personal sacrifices to follow the guidance and to protect their health during the height of the pandemic. I want to thank them for that because it has not been easy. I also want to thank everyone who has supported those who have been shielding.

"Shielding is a huge request for someone to undertake, so



it's important that we don't ask people to shield for longer than is necessary. As the level of the virus in our communities is now low, shielding should pause from 16 August. This means those who have been shielding can gradually resume day-to-day life, but taking extra care around physical distancing and hand washing. We will keep this under review and if we see transmission levels increase, we may need to consider advising the shielding group to take extra precautions and measures to protect themselves in the future."

Over the summer, a review will be undertaken of all children on the shielding list. Although shielding is pausing, the list will be maintained. We will use the latest guidance from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health to determine whether each child needs to remain on the list.

Dr David Tuthill, Wales Officer for the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, said:

We now know more about coronavirus than we did a few months ago and have been able to update our guidance based on the evidence developed over those months. Serious illness from the virus in children is very rare and shielding itself brings its own problems for children. The lockdown has been tough for all children who have missed out on school, play and seeing friends - but especially for those who have been shielding. Should we face further outbreaks, we can be confident that the vast majority of children, including those under the sole care of a GP, will not need to shield. We hope this announcement will be good news for many families.

The weekly food box deliveries, which have been coordinated by local authorities, will end after 16 August, but priority slots for online supermarket shopping will remain in place. As of 14 July, more than 152,000 food boxes have been delivered to shielding people across Wales. The prescription delivery service will continue until the end of September.



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

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@friendsof ruabon.co.uk

Facebook: Friends of Ruabon Viral Kindness

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



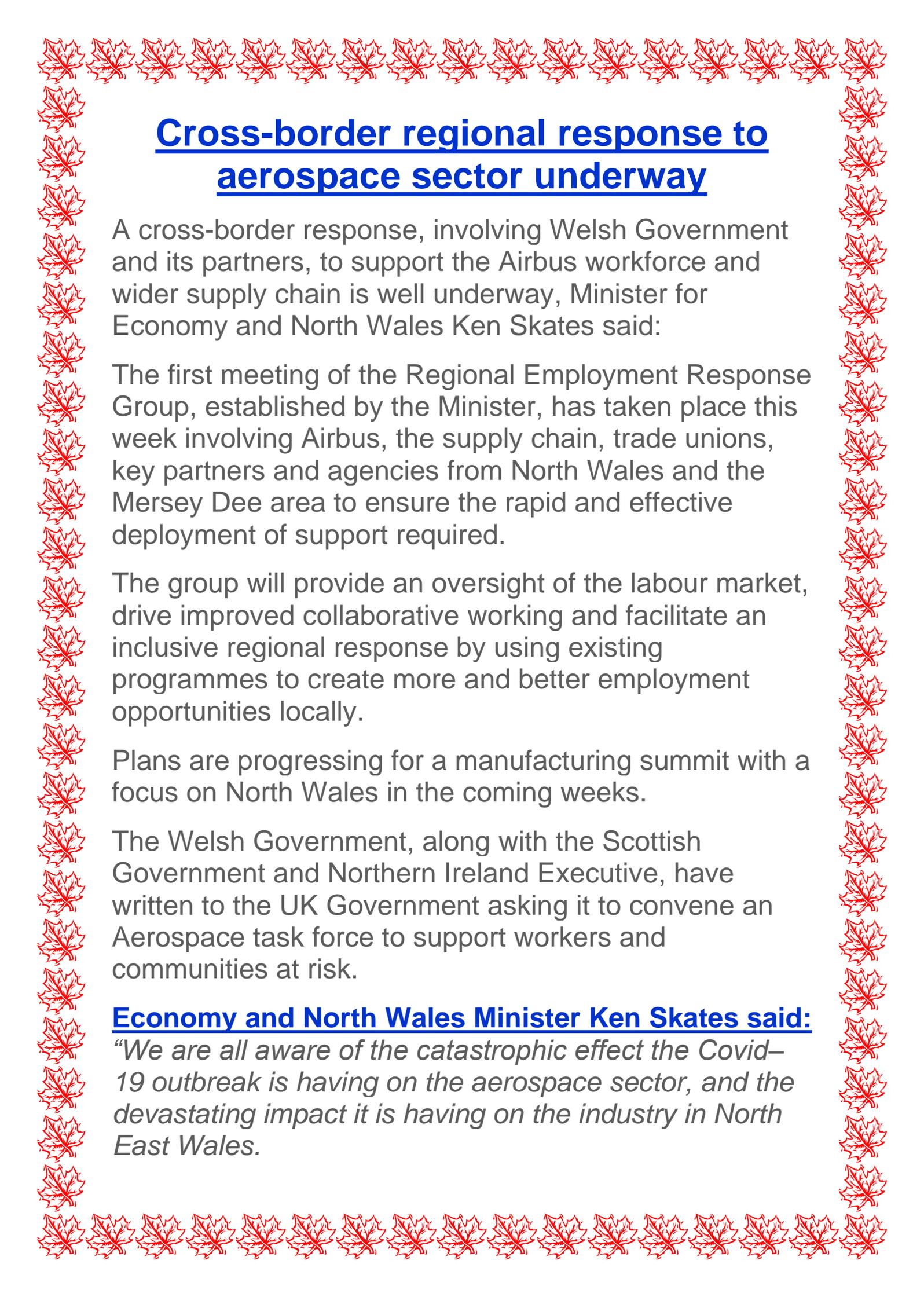


**Grow a Sunflower and make
our Village Shine**



Get your Free Sunflower Seeds

tel 07985568627

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Cross-border regional response to aerospace sector underway

A cross-border response, involving Welsh Government and its partners, to support the Airbus workforce and wider supply chain is well underway, Minister for Economy and North Wales Ken Skates said:

The first meeting of the Regional Employment Response Group, established by the Minister, has taken place this week involving Airbus, the supply chain, trade unions, key partners and agencies from North Wales and the Mersey Dee area to ensure the rapid and effective deployment of support required.

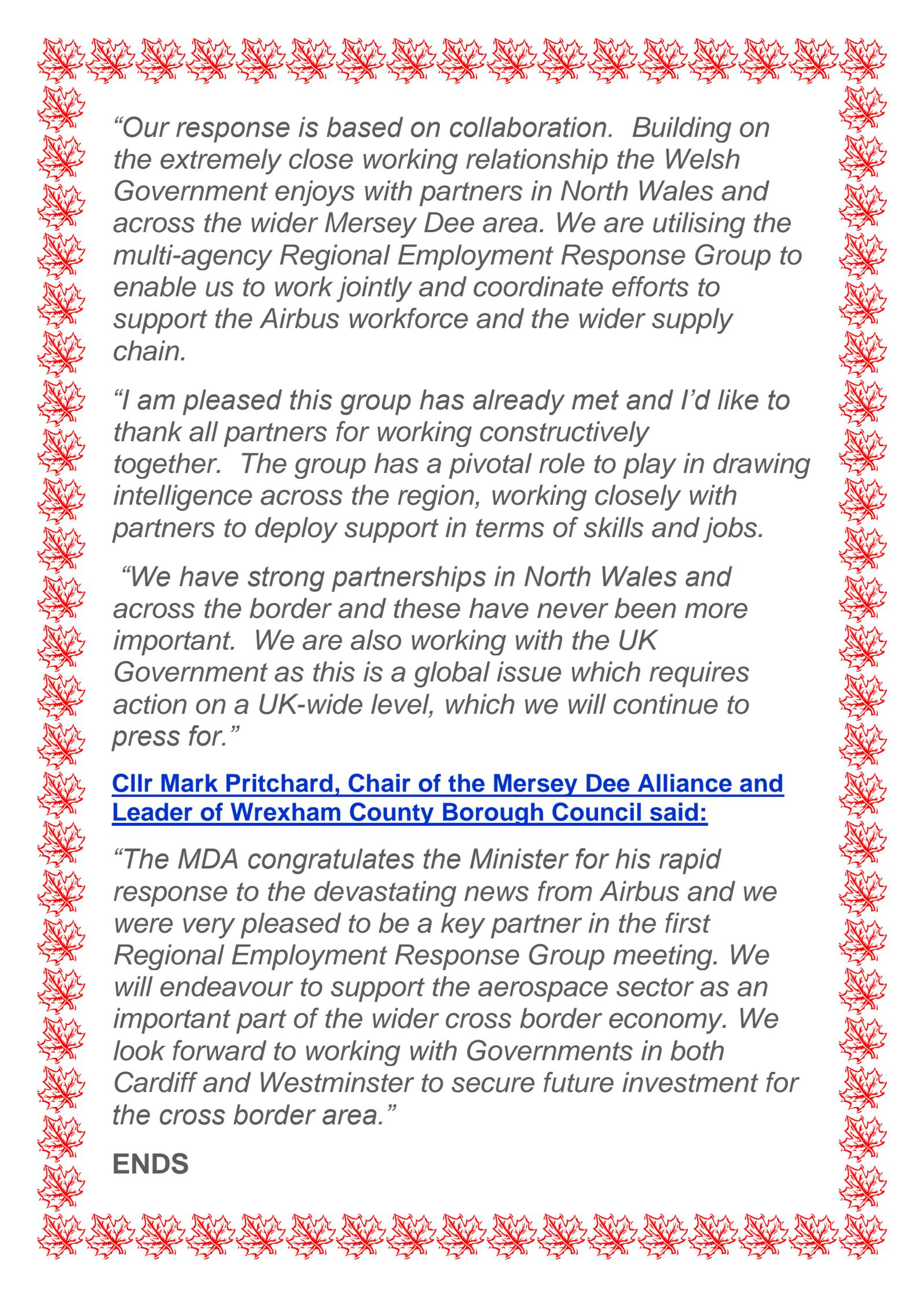
The group will provide an oversight of the labour market, drive improved collaborative working and facilitate an inclusive regional response by using existing programmes to create more and better employment opportunities locally.

Plans are progressing for a manufacturing summit with a focus on North Wales in the coming weeks.

The Welsh Government, along with the Scottish Government and Northern Ireland Executive, have written to the UK Government asking it to convene an Aerospace task force to support workers and communities at risk.

Economy and North Wales Minister Ken Skates said:

“We are all aware of the catastrophic effect the Covid-19 outbreak is having on the aerospace sector, and the devastating impact it is having on the industry in North East Wales.”



“Our response is based on collaboration. Building on the extremely close working relationship the Welsh Government enjoys with partners in North Wales and across the wider Mersey Dee area. We are utilising the multi-agency Regional Employment Response Group to enable us to work jointly and coordinate efforts to support the Airbus workforce and the wider supply chain.

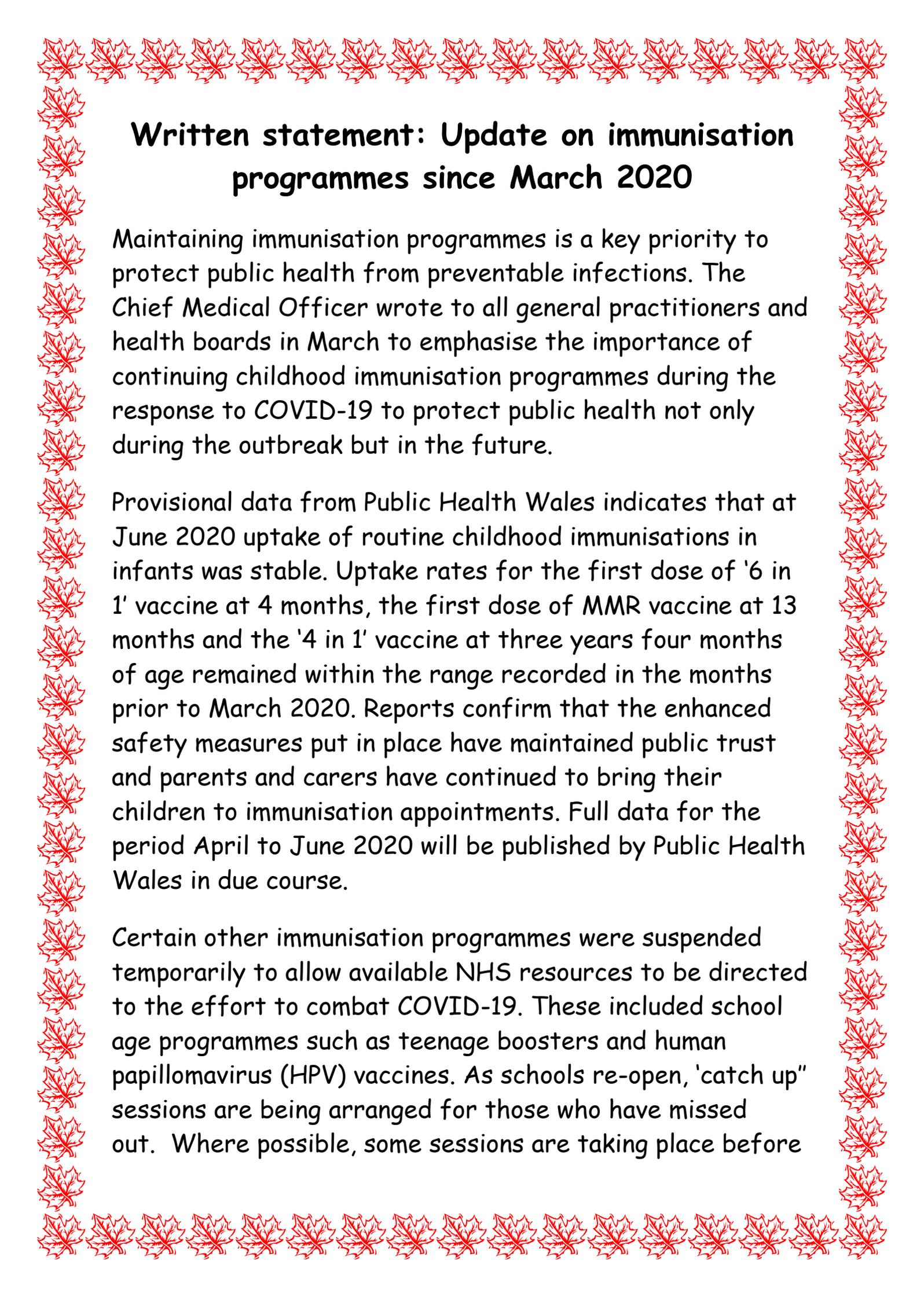
“I am pleased this group has already met and I’d like to thank all partners for working constructively together. The group has a pivotal role to play in drawing intelligence across the region, working closely with partners to deploy support in terms of skills and jobs.

“We have strong partnerships in North Wales and across the border and these have never been more important. We are also working with the UK Government as this is a global issue which requires action on a UK-wide level, which we will continue to press for.”

Cllr Mark Pritchard, Chair of the Mersey Dee Alliance and Leader of Wrexham County Borough Council said:

“The MDA congratulates the Minister for his rapid response to the devastating news from Airbus and we were very pleased to be a key partner in the first Regional Employment Response Group meeting. We will endeavour to support the aerospace sector as an important part of the wider cross border economy. We look forward to working with Governments in both Cardiff and Westminster to secure future investment for the cross border area.”

ENDS

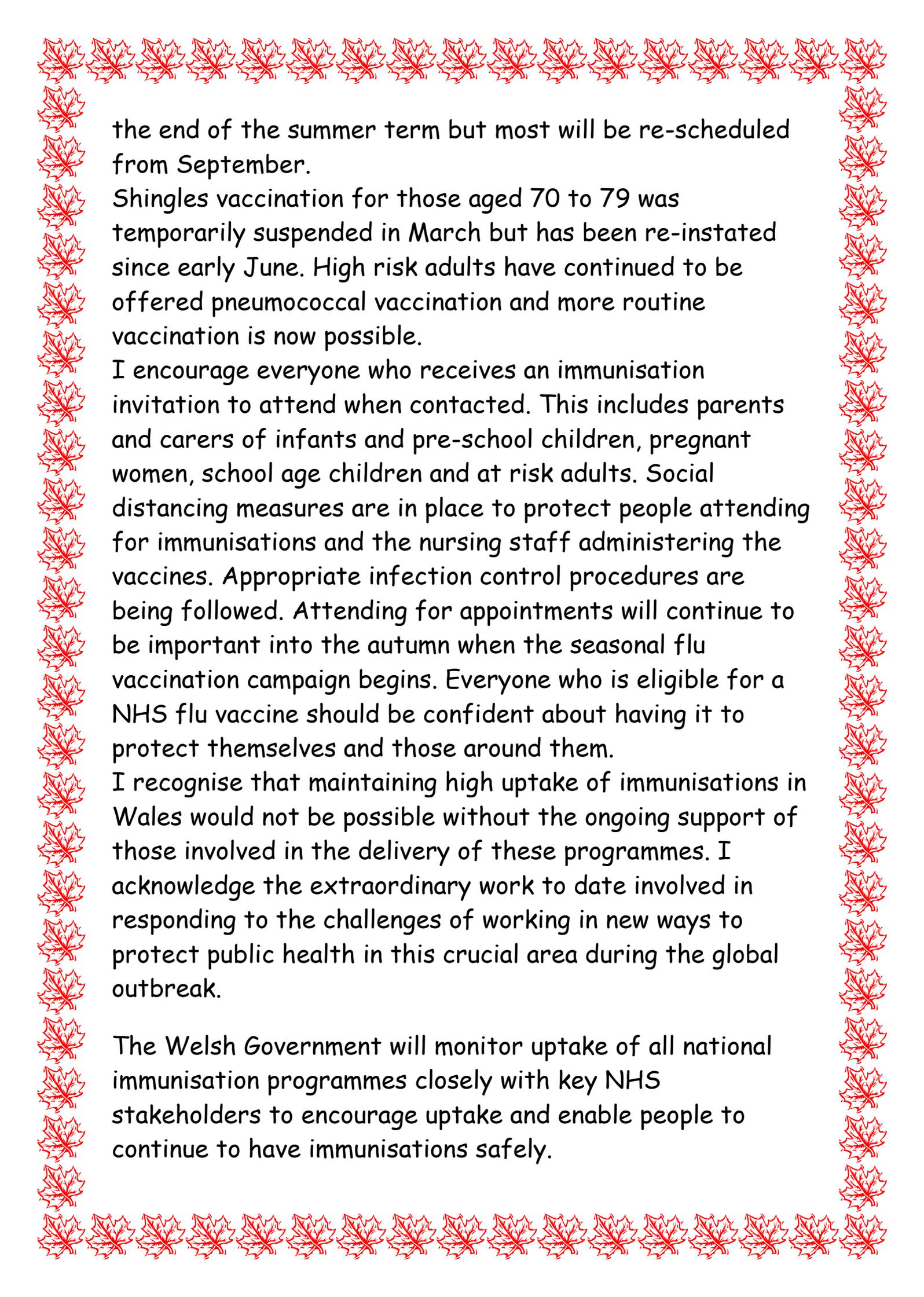
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Written statement: Update on immunisation programmes since March 2020

Maintaining immunisation programmes is a key priority to protect public health from preventable infections. The Chief Medical Officer wrote to all general practitioners and health boards in March to emphasise the importance of continuing childhood immunisation programmes during the response to COVID-19 to protect public health not only during the outbreak but in the future.

Provisional data from Public Health Wales indicates that at June 2020 uptake of routine childhood immunisations in infants was stable. Uptake rates for the first dose of '6 in 1' vaccine at 4 months, the first dose of MMR vaccine at 13 months and the '4 in 1' vaccine at three years four months of age remained within the range recorded in the months prior to March 2020. Reports confirm that the enhanced safety measures put in place have maintained public trust and parents and carers have continued to bring their children to immunisation appointments. Full data for the period April to June 2020 will be published by Public Health Wales in due course.

Certain other immunisation programmes were suspended temporarily to allow available NHS resources to be directed to the effort to combat COVID-19. These included school age programmes such as teenage boosters and human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines. As schools re-open, 'catch up' sessions are being arranged for those who have missed out. Where possible, some sessions are taking place before



the end of the summer term but most will be re-scheduled from September.

Shingles vaccination for those aged 70 to 79 was temporarily suspended in March but has been re-instated since early June. High risk adults have continued to be offered pneumococcal vaccination and more routine vaccination is now possible.

I encourage everyone who receives an immunisation invitation to attend when contacted. This includes parents and carers of infants and pre-school children, pregnant women, school age children and at risk adults. Social distancing measures are in place to protect people attending for immunisations and the nursing staff administering the vaccines. Appropriate infection control procedures are being followed. Attending for appointments will continue to be important into the autumn when the seasonal flu vaccination campaign begins. Everyone who is eligible for a NHS flu vaccine should be confident about having it to protect themselves and those around them.

I recognise that maintaining high uptake of immunisations in Wales would not be possible without the ongoing support of those involved in the delivery of these programmes. I acknowledge the extraordinary work to date involved in responding to the challenges of working in new ways to protect public health in this crucial area during the global outbreak.

The Welsh Government will monitor uptake of all national immunisation programmes closely with key NHS stakeholders to encourage uptake and enable people to continue to have immunisations safely.



**Press Release / Datganiad i'r Wasg - Simon Baynes
MP/AS**



**Member of Parliament for Clwyd South / Aelod
Seneddol dros Dde Clwyd**

Tuesday 14 July 2020

**CLWYD SOUTH MP WELCOMES EASING OF WELSH
TOURISM RESTRICTIONS**

Member of Parliament for Clwyd South, Simon Baynes MP, has welcomed the news that restrictions on hospitality and tourism businesses in Wales are being eased this week.

Bookings can be made for stays after 11 July. This will be at people's own risk and they should check with the accommodation provider before they book. This includes any accommodation that is entirely self-contained, e.g. holiday cottages, holiday caravans including touring caravans, motorhomes, boats and some glamping accommodation with their own kitchens and bathrooms that no other guests use.

The proposed guidance also allows hotels and other serviced accommodation (e.g. B&Bs, hostels, etc.) that do provide en-suite rooms and can provide room service meals to re-open.

Caravan parks where accommodation is entirely self-contained may be allowed to re-open - but shared facilities on the premises will remain closed, such as swimming pools,

leisure facilities, shared shower and toilets blocks, shared laundry, etc, and public areas in other accommodation types. This means any caravan or touring site where individual accommodation has its own supply of water for on board shower, WC and cooking with strict application of guidance on shared waste disposal and water points.

Simon Baynes MP, who is a Vice-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Hospitality and Tourism, said:

"Tourism and hospitality businesses are the lifeblood of many of our local economies in rural Wales, contributing around £509 million a year in Denbighshire alone. Many people locally are hugely reliant on the industry for income and jobs.

"Many Clwyd South businesses will have had a really hard time over the past few months. So it's right that as cases remain low, we look towards safely opening up to visitors to get our economy going again, providing the warm welcome our tourism and hospitality business are known for."

ENDS



Simon Baynes MP/AS

Maggie's Little Army

It all started by a verbal request from a friend to Mrs Maggie Jones - developing into a small group of ladies, mostly based in Ruabon, who are currently working on a voluntary basis, supplying knitted mask extenders for nurses, police and other frontline staff including hospices and care homes.

The team has been producing knitted mask extenders which provide relief from the pressure of the elastic on the ears; the making of scrub bags, by converting pillow cases, and knitting of hearts for the seriously ill patients; the families who cannot be with them and the nurses caring for them.

To date some 2750 extenders have been distributed both locally and further afield .

It is not clear how many scrub bags have been made as the donations of spare pillow cases have generally come from friends and neighbours. The making of hearts is the latest project and is very much ongoing. The team is working entirely voluntary and to date has had little in the way of monetary support, the team itself supplying the wool, buttons ,cotton, etc.

A spokes-person for Maggie's Little Army has asked if Ruabon C.C and Friends of Ruabon could make a donation to enable the team to purchase more materials.

It was agreed to at a meeting between Friends of Ruabon and Ruabon Community Council that a sum of £250 would be donated to Maggie's Little Army.



The following information was sent in by Mike Blackshaw:

Click this link to sign the petition:

Wearing of face masks/coverings to be mandatory in shops.

<https://petitions.senedd.wales/signatures/646423/verify?token=rRzhxIkJH55OUYWGz6cSo>

Thanks, The Petitions team.

Senedd

Cliciwch ar y linc i lofnodi'r ddeiseb:

Dylid gorfodi gwisgo mygydau/gorchuddion wyneb mewn siopau.

<https://deisebau.senedd.cymru/llofnodion/646423/gwirio?token=rRzhxIkJH55OUYWGz6cSo>

Diolch,

Tîm Deisebau

Y Senedd

These wonderful photos of an albino starling chick was taken by
Brian Hamlington



Brian's daughter-in law: Alison, who is a Ruabon resident, was kind enough to forward the photos and information for us all to enjoy.

This amazing looking bird had been frequenting the bird feeding stations in Brian's garden with its family.



I have received the following lovely letter from Bill Bennett. I have no idea who this gentleman is, but I have no doubt at all that his request is genuine. If anyone can help Bill, please do so directly. His contact details are below.

"Hello

I am contacting you in the hope that you may be able to help me. Would it be at all possible for you to post my appeal in your newsletter?

I was a miner in the Yorkshire pits for over 30 years and am now retired.

By way of a hobby I collect colliery checks or tokens, these are usually brass discs with the colliery name on.

The pits have now long gone, but I wonder if any fellow ex miners out there or anyone with mining connections could help me obtain any from around your area.

Please feel free to publish my details if permitted.

Thank you

W. Bennett

5 Edinburgh Avenue, Bolton on Dearne, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S63 8DS. email: billbennett01@btinternet.com"



An Etomological Dilemma.

I was wondering what to write about this week ,when last Friday something, or rather somethings turned up.

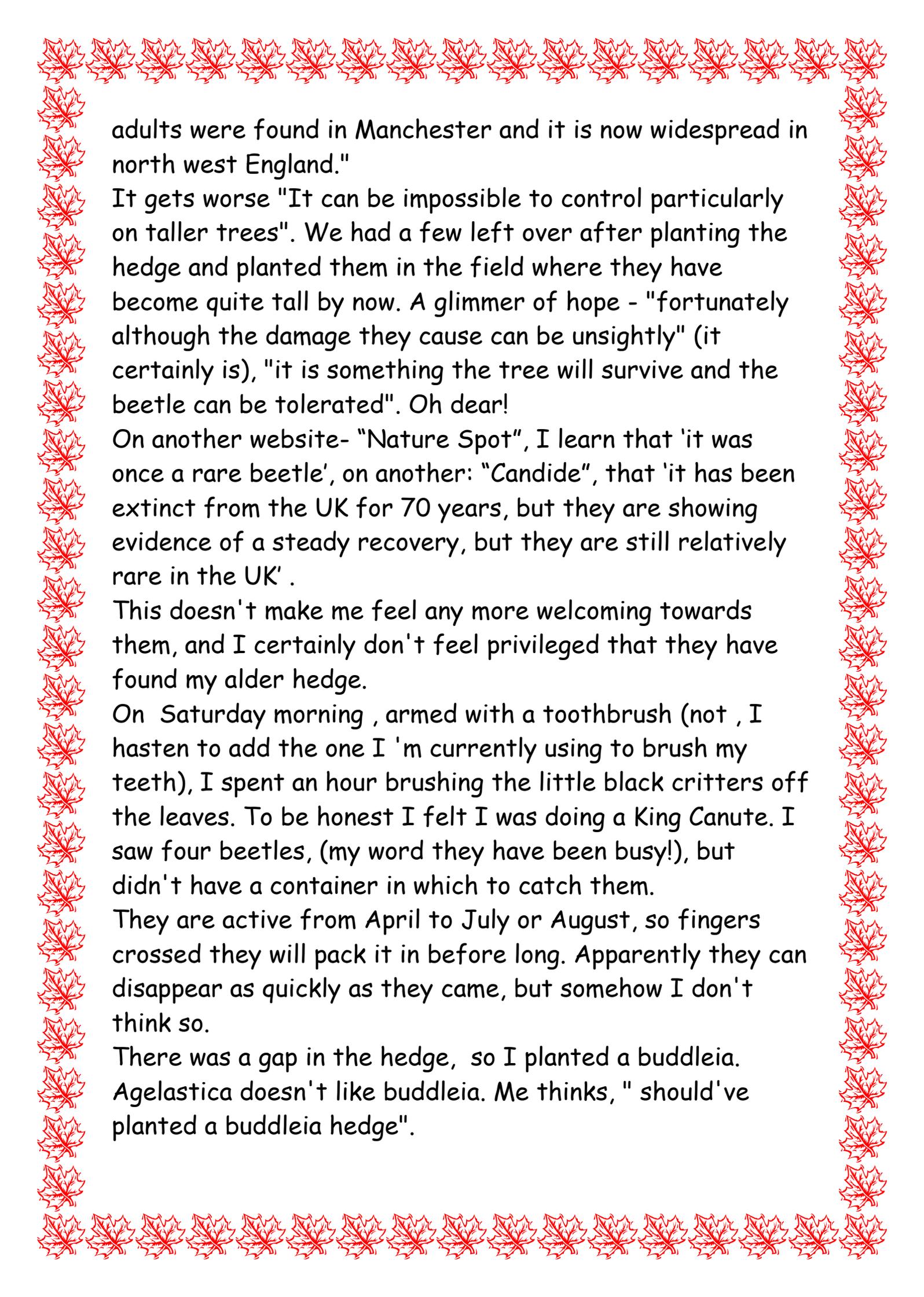
I was checking the courgettes in the vegetable garden when I noticed browning and shrivelling of leaves on the nearby alder hedge. We (H and I), had planted the hedge some years ago as a windbreak and it has been coming along well.

A close inspection of the shrivelled leaves revealed small black caterpillars (they are actually larvae). Not recognising them as any butterfly caterpillars, I enquired of Google- "black caterpillars on alder".



To my dismay I discovered that they were not caterpillars of a pretty butterfly but the larvae of the Alder Leaf Beetle, (*Agelastica alni*). It is deep metallic blue with a violet reflection.

Sounds pretty doesn't it? The RHS website says it feeds on the leaves of alder trees" (you can say that again) "It has recently become re-established in some parts of England" (and Wales unfortunately), "after an absence of more than sixty years. It was considered extinct in Britain with almost no records of it between 1946 and 2003. In 2004 larvae and



adults were found in Manchester and it is now widespread in north west England."

It gets worse "It can be impossible to control particularly on taller trees". We had a few left over after planting the hedge and planted them in the field where they have become quite tall by now. A glimmer of hope - "fortunately although the damage they cause can be unsightly" (it certainly is), "it is something the tree will survive and the beetle can be tolerated". Oh dear!

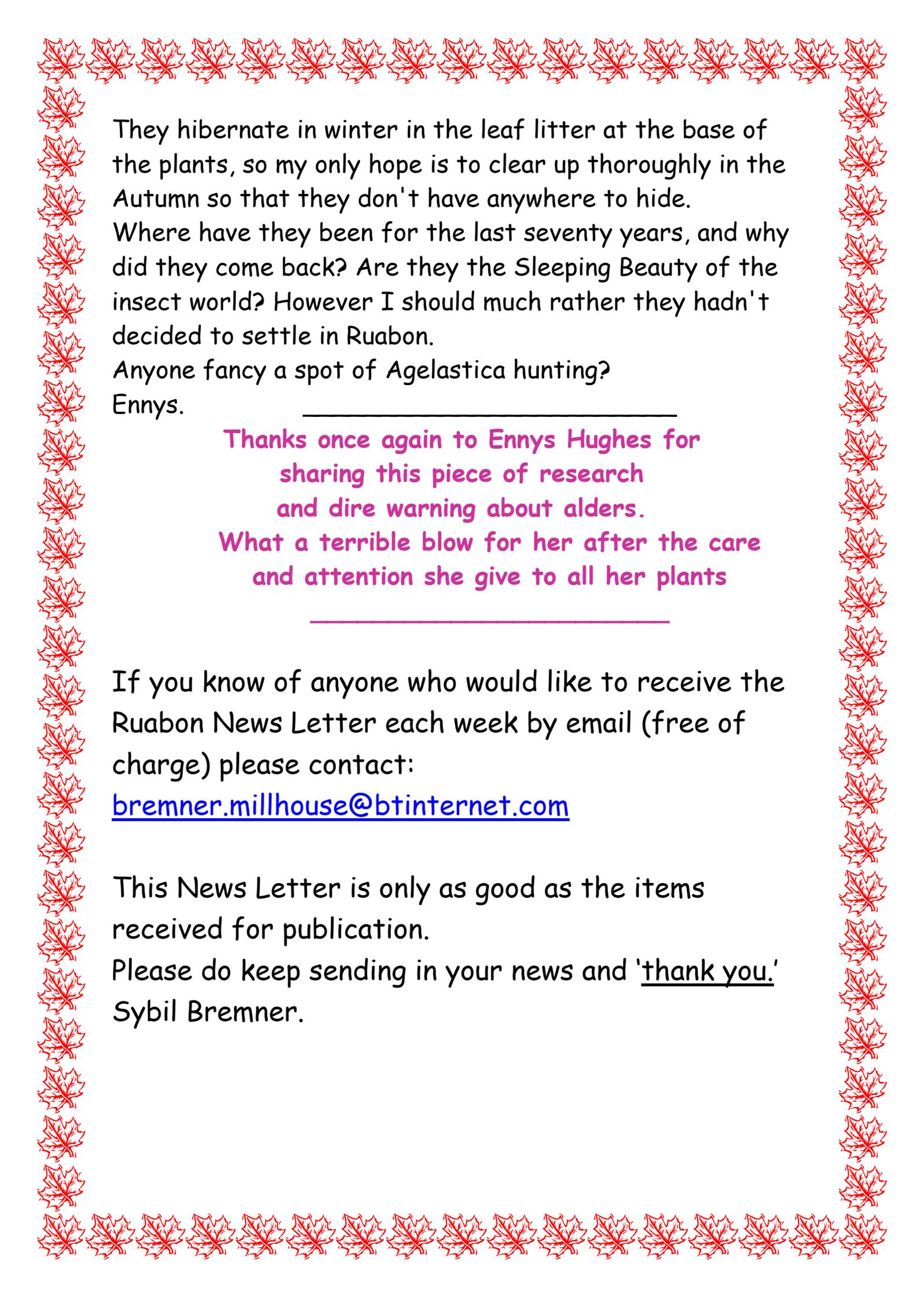
On another website- "Nature Spot", I learn that 'it was once a rare beetle', on another: "Candide", that 'it has been extinct from the UK for 70 years, but they are showing evidence of a steady recovery, but they are still relatively rare in the UK' .

This doesn't make me feel any more welcoming towards them, and I certainly don't feel privileged that they have found my alder hedge.

On Saturday morning , armed with a toothbrush (not , I hasten to add the one I 'm currently using to brush my teeth), I spent an hour brushing the little black critters off the leaves. To be honest I felt I was doing a King Canute. I saw four beetles, (my word they have been busy!), but didn't have a container in which to catch them.

They are active from April to July or August, so fingers crossed they will pack it in before long. Apparently they can disappear as quickly as they came, but somehow I don't think so.

There was a gap in the hedge, so I planted a buddleia. *Agelastica* doesn't like buddleia. Me thinks, " should've planted a buddleia hedge".



They hibernate in winter in the leaf litter at the base of the plants, so my only hope is to clear up thoroughly in the Autumn so that they don't have anywhere to hide. Where have they been for the last seventy years, and why did they come back? Are they the Sleeping Beauty of the insect world? However I should much rather they hadn't decided to settle in Ruabon. Anyone fancy a spot of *Agelastica* hunting? Ennys.

Thanks once again to Ennys Hughes for sharing this piece of research and dire warning about alders. What a terrible blow for her after the care and attention she give to all her plants

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.