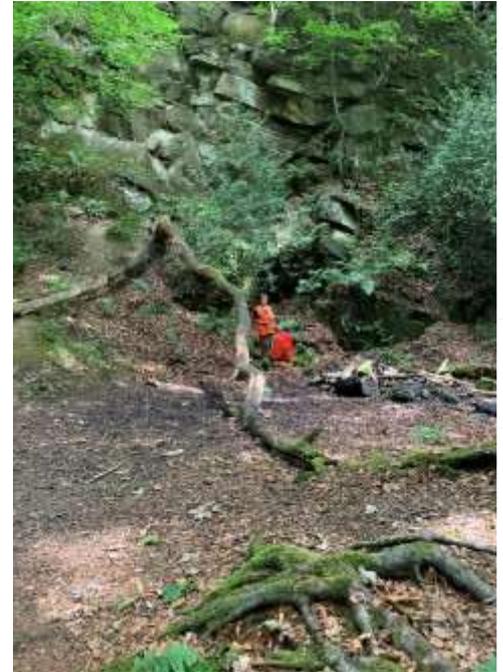


RUABON NEWS LETTER 334

27.07.2020



Friends of Ruabon members: Jo, Alison, Mary and Bill, who hope that walks through Rocky Woods will now be more pleasurable since their litter picking on Friday.



It would be marvellous if it stayed this way; but litter picking equipment is available both for adults and children if the area starts to deteriorate.

Please contact: info@friendsofruabon.co.uk to collect the equipment you need to help to keep our lovely village tidy.

Do 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:

["Message on Facebook Friends of Ruabon page"](#). These photos will be

for publication (any format that is easy to copy and paste.)





"Autumn Clean Cymru/Keep Wales Tidy

<https://www.keepwalestidy.cymru/Pages/Category/autumn-clean-cymru>

Be part of the pick. 11-27 September

After taking the difficult decision to postpone Spring Clean Cymru in March, we're excited to announce Autumn Clean Cymru will be taking place from 11-27 September!

Autumn Clean Cymru will be a bit different from our usual clean-up campaigns. To make sure everyone stays safe and well, we're encouraging individuals and households to clean-up the streets, parks or beaches on their doorstep.

It's part of the Great British September Clean which will be happening across the UK at the same time.

We've been overwhelmed by the support for our work over the past few months. It seems that, more than ever, people are recognising just how important a clean and safe environment is to their health and well-being.

Unfortunately there's also been a real sense of frustration at the increase in litter since restrictions have eased.

Autumn Spring Clean is a chance for us all to take a stand and declare that litter is not acceptable."

As you will see from the information above, Friends of Ruabon have started already keeping their distance from each other when litter picking!!

However, Friends of Ruabon will DEFINITELY be supporting this 'Autumn Clean Cymru' and have the equipment for you all to join in this drive to show how much we ALL care for the health and well-being of OUR village.

Coronavirus restrictions relaxed further in Wales

Cinemas, museums and beauty salons can reopen from Monday, as Wales' coronavirus restrictions continue to be

relaxed, First Minister Mark Drakeford announced today.



Tourist accommodation with shared facilities, such as camping sites and all hotels will be able to re-open from Saturday (25 July) as will underground attractions, marking the full re-opening of Wales' visitor attractions.

New rules making it compulsory to wear a face covering on public transport, including taxis, will also come into effect on Monday (27 July).

This is the latest in the phased re-opening of Wales' hospitality, leisure and retail sectors.

In addition to beauty salons, nail parlours, tattoo shops, cinemas, amusement arcades, museums and galleries, the coronavirus regulations will also be amended to enable the housing market to re-open fully.

But while the removal of restrictions enables all these businesses to reopen, it does not require them to do so.

First Minister, Mark Drakeford said:

"Thanks to the efforts we have all made to reduce the spread of the virus, we are taking further steps to re-open more of Wales.

More of our retail, leisure, hospitality and tourism sectors, which play such an important part in our economy, will start to welcome back customers and guests from today.

As more places start to reopen, we must get used to some changes to help protect ourselves and the people working in these businesses. This may mean having to book ahead or giving our details to the places we are visiting, to help our Test Trace Protect service, in the event there's an outbreak of coronavirus.

It's the responsibility of all of us to follow these new rules so we can keep ourselves and our loved ones safe.

Coronavirus has not gone away, but if we all work together, we can keep Wales safe.

The next formal review of the regulations will be carried out by 30 July. The Welsh Government will consider a range of options, including the options for the opening of pubs, bars, cafes and restaurants indoors.

- **Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

First published	Last updated
24 July 2020	27 July 2020

Face coverings must be worn on public transport from today

From Monday 27th July people travelling on public transport must wear face coverings in Wales. The law will also apply to taxis.

The change was announced by the First Minister on 13th July as part of ongoing efforts to protect people from coronavirus.

Under the new law, people aged 11 and over will be required to wear face coverings on public transport. There will be exemptions for people with certain health conditions, including respiratory diseases.

People are advised to wear a face covering made up of three layers of the same close knit, or close woven material.

Drivers, guards and other operators of public transport may ask people not to board if they are not wearing face coverings. If necessary fixed penalty notices may be issued by the police, with a fine of £60 in the first instance subsequently doubling in the event of repeated offences.

Ken Skates, Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales, said:

"From today the vast majority of our public transport users in Wales will be required to wear a face covering while travelling on our buses, our trains and in taxis. The law has been introduced to help reduce the risk of public transmission of coronavirus and to protect the health of our public transport users.

"We know it may not always be possible to maintain a 2m physical distance on public transport and the requirement to wear a face covering is in addition to other guidance we have issued to our transport providers in order to encourage safe travel."

The move to make face coverings on public transport compulsory will help operators to increase capacity on trains and buses as demand rises following the ongoing process of gradually easing the coronavirus restrictions in Wales.

At the moment the Welsh Government is still asking people to consider their reasons for using public transport in order to ensure capacity for critical workers and those with no alternative transport.

ENDS

Face coverings: frequently asked questions

What is a face covering?

A face covering principally acts to protect others by reducing airborne transmission of COVID-19. It does not protect the wearer from infection from others.

What is a face mask?

Well-fitted [medical masks](#) are designed to protect the wearer from infection, and are vital for frontline staff who are at risk from close contact with patients who are, or may be, infected with COVID-19.

What is your policy on face masks and face coverings for the general public?

The evidence remains clear that the most effective way to protect yourself and others from infection is to follow social distancing rules, avoid touching surfaces and your face, and wash your hands regularly.

Face coverings are not a substitute for these measures, but in some circumstances where it might be difficult to stay 2 metre away from others, we are advising the use of three-layer, non-medical face coverings.

This is in line with the [World Health Organisation's latest technical advice](#).

Face coverings should be made up of three layers as set out by the World Health Organisation but do not need to be medical-grade face masks.

This advice applies only to people who are not symptomatic. If you experience any of the symptoms of COVID-19, you must self-isolate for seven days and get a test, as set out in existing guidance. Unless your test shows a negative result, you must not go out during this time, even with a face covering.

What is the science behind this advice?

At the present time, the widespread use of masks by healthy people in the community is not supported by high quality scientific evidence. Social distancing and hygiene

measures remain the most effective measures for reducing transmission of COVID-19.

The WHO is recommending, though, that as part of the wider range of measures to prevent transmission, three-layer face coverings should be encouraged in situations where social distancing and hygiene measures are difficult to maintain.

There is evidence to suggest that the wearing of face coverings gives people a false sense of security which makes them less careful about social distancing and handwashing. We know that these measures are the most effective way to reduce transmission of the virus, and don't want to do anything that might lead to a reduction of those measures being observed.

What kind of face covering should people wear?

To provide any protection to others, face coverings need to be made, worn, handled and disposed of in a certain way. Unfortunately, many of the home made masks being worn offer little protection to the wearer or those around them. The WHO recommends a minimum of three layers in a face covering.

First published

9 June 2020

Last updated

27 July 2020

News from WCBC

"Mobile testing units are being introduced this week to make it easier for people living in communities on the edge of Wrexham town centre to get a Covid-19 test.

The easy-access testing facilities will be based in Hightown and Caia Park for several days starting from Wednesday (July 29).

As well as making it easier to get a test, the move will help public health experts get a better understanding of the situation in Wrexham.

Residents living in these areas are being encouraged to get a test if they think they have symptoms...no matter how mild.

The work is being co-ordinated by Public Health Wales, Wrexham Council and other partners, with support from local voluntary sector organisation AVOW and community groups.

Just like in other parts of the country, the testing stations will be managed by the army.

Making it easier for people to get tested

Councillor Hugh Jones, Wrexham Council's Lead Member for Communities, Partnerships, Public Protection and Community Safety, says:

"We're working with our partners to provide easy-access testing in edge-of-town communities in Wrexham.

"As well as making it easier for people to get a test, it will also help Public Health Wales gain further insight into the local situation.

"The mobile testing units will be based in Hightown and Caia Park over the next few days, and you can go to either testing station if you live in and around these areas. The process is quick and easy."

However, if you feel really unwell, you should still contact your GP as normal (or call 999 if you think there's something seriously wrong).

For example, don't try to walk to a testing centre if you're struggling to catch your breath.

Even if you have mild symptoms, you should get a test

Dr Chris Williams of Public Health Wales says:

"Providing easy-access testing will help us further understand the situation in Wrexham.

"We're encouraging anyone who thinks they may have symptoms - even very mild ones - to take advantage of the mobile testing units while they're in the area, and go and get a test.

"Testing is a really important part of the strategy for managing Covid-19 in Wales, so it's important people step forward if they think they have symptoms.

"Covid-19 can spread in community settings, not just in workplaces.

"If you do test positive, you'll be given advice by contact tracers at Wrexham Council.

"They'll advise you on how long to isolate for and what support you can get to help you through the isolation period.

"They'll also ask for your help in tracing people you've been in close contact with recently."

If you're worried about work

A lot of people might be worried about getting a test in case it means they have to isolate and can't go to work.

Councillor Hugh Jones says:

"People need to pay bills and put food on the table, and it's understandable that many will worry about testing positive and having to miss work.

"However, a lot of people may be able to get financial support and the council and its partners will help people access this information."

Let's keep Wrexham safe and well

Councillor Jones adds:

"If you think you have symptoms - no matter how mild - please take advantage of the easy access testing in Hightown and Caia Park later this week.

"Public Health Wales, the council and our partners are here to support you. Let's help keep Wrexham, our families and communities safe and well.

"It's also important to remember that coronavirus hasn't gone away, and we all still have a vital role to play in preventing its spread by sticking to social distancing guidelines and staying two metres away from others, as well as washing our hands regularly."

Where and when you can get a test

The mobile testing centres will be at Caia Park Health Centre on Prince Charles Road, and at a location in Hightown yet to be finalised, from Wednesday, July 29.

We'll confirm the location in Hightown as soon as possible.

You can just turn-up between 8am and 7pm from Wednesday onward. It's safe, simple and easy.

Other ways to get a test

You can also apply for a test online or by phone.

Take a look at the Welsh Government website for more info.

Remember...if you feel really unwell, you should still contact your GP as normal (or call 999 if you think there's something seriously wrong)."



THE SENEDD YR IFANC- WREXHAM YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Tricia Jones is a participation worker for Wrexham Youth Service and is asking the following questions of young people aged from 11 to 25 years old on behalf of

The Senedd yr Ifanc/ Wrexham Youth Parliament.

Do you think knife crime is an issue in Wrexham?

Are you 11-25 and worried about knife crime in Wrexham?

The Senedd yr Ifanc - Wrexham Youth Parliament would like to hear from you.

Please follow the link and complete the short questionnaire to have your say.

The closing date for the consultations is: Friday 31st July.

<http://www.yourvoicewrexham.net/survey/1101>

Tricia Jones

Participation Worker

Wrexham Youth Service., Gwasanaeth Ieuenctid Wreccsam.

The Vic Young People's Centre 11-13 Hill Street, Wrexham LL11 1SN.

Wreccsam Canolfan Pobl Ifanc Fictoria 13 Stryt yr Allt

Wreccsam LL11 1SN

07800688985 ctricia.jones@wrexham.gov.uk

Twitter @wrexhamsenedd @wreccsamsenedd

Facebook: Senedd yr Ifanc wreccsam - Wrexham Youth Parliament

Library News

Library News for the week
beginning 26 July



Order and Collect Service – Branch Libraries

Wrexham Libraries are taking the next step towards the phased re-opening of the service. The new Order and

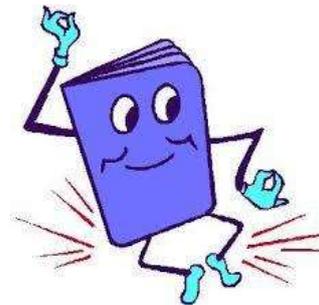
Collect service is being rolled out to:

Coedpoeth, Llay, Cefn Mawr, Ruabon and Overton Libraries from Wednesday 29 July. You will only be able to return, order and collect stock from your local library. We will do our best to get the books you want to you as quickly as we can. The safety of our staff and customers is our priority and we are following Welsh Government guidance on how to handle library books. Please note all books returned to the library will be quarantined for 72 hours. When your books are ready, we will contact you to arrange an appointment for you to come and collect them. You can return books at the same appointment if you are collecting books. If you only want to return books, you will need to contact us by email and telephone to arrange an appointment. All books you currently have on loan and any you borrow via Order and Collect Service

will be automatically renewed so you do not need to worry about returning them on time and you will not incur any fines. For contact details and to access the order and collect form please visit www.wrexham.gov.uk/libraries. We look forward to seeing you again!

New books added to stock

Did you know we are still receiving new books on a weekly basis? If you would like to read any of them please add them to your order and collect list. Titles include A Long Petal of the Sea by Isabel Allende, Silent Death by Peter May, Agency by William Gibson, Maker's Curse by Trudi Canaven, Knife by Jo Nesbo and much more.



Summer Reading Challenge – Silly Squad

Have you signed up for this year's Summer Reading Challenge? Join the Silly Squad, an adventurous team of animals who love to have a laugh and get stuck into all sorts of funny books! The Challenge will run from 5 June to mid-September. The Summer Reading Challenge website is free to access and features games, quizzes and downloadable activities that incentivise and encourage children to take part in reading related activities. For more details go to www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Temporary Online Membership

Did you know that you can get a temporary online membership that will give you access to all of our online ebooks free of charge?

Go to www.wrexham.gov.uk/libraries and select Online Services then select Online Catalogue and then Join the Library.





Live Fear Free Helpline

For confidential information, advice or support around domestic abuse, sexual violence or violence against women anyone can contact the Live Fear Free Helpline in any language 24 hours a day 7 days a week by...

Phone **0808 80 10 800**
 Text **07860 077333**
 Email **info@livefearfreehelpline.wales**
 Webchat **<https://gov.wales/live-fear-free/contact-live-fear-free>**

For more information, please visit
<https://gov.wales/live-fear-free/contact-live-fear-free>



Cymorth i Ferched Cymru



Llinell Gymorth Byw Heb Ofn

I gael gwybodaeth cyfrinachol, cyngor neu gymorth ynglŷn â cham-drin domestig, trais rhywiol neu drais yn erbyn menywod, gall unrhyw un gysylltu â'r llinell gymorth Byw Heb Ofn mewn unrhyw iaith, 24 awr y dydd, 7 diwrnod yr wythnos drwy...

Ffôn **0808 80 10 800**
 Testun **07860 077333**
 E-bost **info@livefearfreehelpline.wales**
 Gwe-sgwrs **<https://llyw.cymru/byw-heb-ofn/cysylltwch-byw-heb-ofn>**

Am fwy o wybodaeth ewch i
<https://llyw.cymru/byw-heb-ofn/cysylltwch-byw-heb-ofn>



Llywodraeth Cymru
 Welsh Government



Cymorth i Ferched Cymru
 Welsh Women's Aid

FACEBOOK

COMMUNITIES FOR WORK ARE HERE AND READY TO HELP



Make sure you check out our Facebook page with daily updates on job opportunities, online training, hints and tips for you and the family for getting through this challenging time.



**Cymunedau am waith
Communities for Work**



Look out for

- ONLINE TRAINING
- TIPS OF STUFF TO DO WITH THE KIDS
- ONLINE CRAFT/COOKING/GARDENING WORKSHOPS
- JOB OPPORTUNITIES
- LINKS TO USEFUL WEBSITES AND THE LATEST EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION



For general enquiries

contact us on:

07976200413/07976200414

Or email; cfw@wrexham.gov.uk



Cymunedau am waith

Communities for Work



FACEBOOK

MAE CYMUNEDAU AM WAITH YMA AC YN BAROD I HELPU



Gwnewch yn siŵr eich bod yn cael golwg ar ein tudalen Facebook gyda diweddariadau dyddiol ar gyfleoedd am swyddi, hyfforddiant ar-lein a chyngor i chi a'r teulu ymdopi drwy'r cyfnod heriol hwn.



Cymunedau am waith Communities for Work

Edrychwch allan am

- HYFFORDDIANT AR-LEIN
- CYNGOR AR BETHAU I WNEUD GYDA'R PLANT
- GWEITHDAI CREFFT AR-LEIN/COGINIO/GARDDIO
- CYFLEOEDD GWAITH
- DOLENNI I WEFANAU DEFNYDDIOL A'R WYBODAETH CYFLOGAETH DDIWEDDARAF



For general enquiries

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Or email; cfw@wrexham.gov.uk



Cymunedau am waith
Communities for Work





**Press Release / Datganiad i'r Wasg - Simon Baynes MP/AS
Member of Parliament for Clwyd South / Aelod Seneddol dros Dde Clwyd**

Monday 27 July 2020

**SIMON BAYNES MP VISITS BROTHER INDUSTRIES IN
RUABON AND THANKS COMPANY FOR PPE DONATIONS TO
FRONTLINE WORKERS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Member of Parliament for Clwyd South, Simon Baynes MP, made a socially distanced visit to Brother Industries in Ruabon on Thursday 23 July to thank the company for their generosity in donating and delivering personal protective equipment (PPE) to local NHS workers, care home staff, schools, vulnerable individuals and local businesses.

Brother Industries, which is based on the Vauxhall Industrial Estate, produces a range of products, including toner cartridges, ink blister, moulding for customers like Sharp, and franking machines for Pitney Bowes. They are a multi-award winning factory which is at the forefront of environmental production, given that many of their products are made from recycled material, and they send zero waste to landfill.

During the Coronavirus crisis they have used part of their production facilities to manufacture overshoe protectors, face visors and splash shields which they have donated to facilities such as Chirk Hospital, Chirk Pharmacy, Wrexham Maelor A&E and local nursing homes.

During the visit, Simon Baynes MP was given a tour of the factory and production lines by the Managing Director, Craig McCubbin, and OEM and Production Manager, Tony Lock. He also met Lindsey Kenney, Visor Assembly Operative, and Sharon Riley, Area Supervisor. Mr Baynes praised the company for taking measures to keep employees safe, such as temperature testing workers every

day, while continuing to produce high-quality products and recruiting a further 4 to 5 staff at the site in Ruabon. Mr Baynes was also joined by Chirk Town Councillor, Gareth Baines, who has helped coordinate and deliver PPE to local health facilities in Chirk and the wider area.

OEM and Production Manager, Tony Lock, said: "It was a pleasure for Brother Industries Ruabon to host Simon Baynes MP and Cllr Gareth Baines' visit to the factory. This gave us the opportunity to explain the work we do out at Brother Industries UK, including donations of face visors and splash shields. So far, we've manufactured 4,500 on site for donation to the local and wider community with the full support of all Brother staff during these unprecedented times. We'll continue to do this for as long as required and would also like to thank Cllr Gareth Baines for his continued support in distributing the PPE."

Cllr Gareth Baines said: "Brother's support in donations of PPE has been unwavering, helping contribute to the near 50,000 pieces of PPE I've distributed to hospitals, schools, care homes, individuals and businesses throughout Wrexham County, Denbighshire and Shropshire. The company and its staff are an asset to the whole community."

Simon Baynes MP said: "Brother Industries is an excellent example of an environmentally friendly and successful local business doing their very best to support the community in tough times. And I think it's right that we thank firms like them for having gone above and beyond in helping our frontline NHS workers stay safe during the pandemic.

"I've previously written to workers at the firm, thanking them for their hard work and their generosity. So it's great to be able to follow up and say thank you in person while social distancing. I enjoyed meeting everyone and I look forward to seeing the firm continue to grow. ENDS

Cofiwch Jemima! - Remember Jemima!

BY MARGARET WILLIAMS

Hello Ruabon WI Members,
 In my last article in Ruabon News, I introduced you to Jemima Nicholas. Do you remember? She, of course, was the Welsh heroine of the Last Invasion of Britain, confronting and helping defeat the French soldiers who had landed at Fishguard. At that time, Britain and France were at war, France being convulsed by the French Revolution from 1789 until 1799 by which time Napoleon Bonaparte had made himself leader of a new government. But in 1797, the time of Jemima's brave



Jemima Nicholas, Heroine of Fishguard
janeausten.co.uk

exploits, other things were happening, too! Naval battles against France were taking place and at the Battle of Cape St. Vincent, Horatio Nelson was wounded and lost his right arm. And did you know that in the January a London haberdasher named John Hetherington was fined £50? Why, you ask? Because he wore the first top hat in public and attracted a large crowd of onlookers, causing a riot and four ladies to faint. I can now tell you a bit more about the splendid Jemima, Jemima Fawr, or Jemima the Great as she is sometimes known: Born in 1750, she was a cobbler or a cobbler's wife. In 1797, armed with a pitchfork, she led a group of women and rounded up 12 French soldiers, then held them captive in a locked church overnight. The French

surrendered shortly afterwards and Jemima was awarded a lifetime pension for her efforts. She died at the age of 82 in 1832 and a memorial stone was dedicated to her memory in 1879. It stands outside the church. Then, in 1997, two hundred years after the event, a 100ft. long tapestry was unveiled. This tapestry had taken 4 years to make by local women and follows the form of the Bayeux Tapestry.

Re-enactments of the Invasion take place from time to time and the part of Jemima has been played

most vigorously by local resident Yvonne Fox. I did hear that her costume was designed by the Welsh designer, David Emmanuel. Sadly, Yvonne died in 2010.

A new lady now holds the position.

Having looked into the history of the Invasion, one thing is certain- that if I ever find myself in that part of

Pembrokeshire I will be sure to visit the Exhibition and tapestry in Fishguard library.

I've just told you that Jemima died in 1832. What else was happening in 1832? It was the year of the Second Cholera pandemic. It was thought that the First Cholera pandemic, which originated in India and spread throughout the world, had been defeated, but there was a resurgence in 1831, spreading from Russia this time, and again killing hundreds of thousands of people. In fact, there have been many outbreaks of cholera throughout history caused by unsanitary conditions and dirty water. It is quite rare now in developed countries but still occurs in war-torn countries such as the Yemen quite recently. The current corona-virus pandemic is not alone in laying siege to our lives.



But enough of serious matters. It's now time for a little levity and as it's nearly lunchtime my thoughts are preoccupied with food. Breakfast is a distant memory and the early morning fare can sometimes pall:-

ON NEVSKI BRIDGE A RUSSIAN STOOD
CHEWING HIS BEARD FOR LACK OF FOOD.
SAID HE, "IT'S TOUGH THIS STUFF TO EAT
BUT A DARN SIGHT BETTER THAN SHREDDED WHEAT!"

Others might complain
I'VE NEVER HAD A PIECE OF TOAST
PARTICULARLY LONG AND WIDE,
BUT FELL UPON THE SANDED FLOOR,
AND ALWAYS ON THE BUTTERED SIDE.

Finally, a few more 'BIRD QUIZ' questions:-

1. Black and white dog shows pleasure
2. Call 15 21 26 05 12
3. Royal angler
4. Shell seizer
5. Shave William

Visits To My Great Aunt, Hannah Bowen

by Rod Bowen



My memories of Ruabon date from the early 1950's when I used to accompany my father, Howell Bowen, on his frequent visits to meet his aunt, Hannah Bowen.

The trips always followed the same pattern. Alight from the bus, close to St Mary's then walk up Church Street with a stop to be lifted up on to the bridge parapet in the expectation of seeing a train. I always hoped it would be a Castle Class locomotive heading the express to

London. An impressive sight with its dark green paintwork lined orange and black, copper rimmed funnel and brass fittings. More



often it was a freight with a plain black engine. We never had to wait more than 10 minutes, how times have changed.



Pellitory-of-the-wall

Then the nature lessons began. At Mount Pleasant on the yellow sandstone: “That’s pellitory-of-the-wall”. Today the wall remains but the pellitory is replaced by ivy-leafed toadflax.

Over the stream at Pont Adam and was told it was built to keep Abbott Adam’s feet dry when he walked from Valle Crucis to St Mary’s. Clearly he was an important man although I can’t find a record of him. A few more yards before stopping to talk to Bill and May Davies at Bridge End Cottage. They had an extensive, well-tended garden and we always left with a gift of seasonal vegetables.

Past the Grammar School and, in the autumn, a stop to look for nuts under the two sweet chestnut trees. The species was introduced by the Romans and is recorded as living for up to 700 years. My guess is that the Ruabon trees, which are still there today, are more likely to be 150 – 250.

Turn right down Tatham Road and the nature notes continued; sycamore, elm, thrush, bullfinch, red admiral, cabbage white, pied wagtail, celandine.

Over the Afon Eitha bridge and an immediate right turn down the path to the four two-storied terraced houses that made up Offa Cottages. We had arrived.

Hannah (Nan) Bowen lived in Number 4, the lowest of the four adjoining houses. Two of the others were occupied by Nip Tibbett and his wife, and Miss Rogers, I can’t recall who lived in the fourth.

Nan was born in Liverpool shortly after her parents moved there from Tredegar and had come to join her brother D J Bowen and his family in 1913 when they were living in Gardden. After her brother’s death in 1938 she moved to Offa Cottage. In the village she was known as an enthusiastic member of the Ruabon Amateur Dramatic Society and of the Field Club. I remember her as a regular church goer and was told that she regularly took a Sunday School class.

The cottage was basic; a living room and a kitchen downstairs and a single bedroom above. Water came from a communal outdoor hand pump and there was no electricity. The place was lit by candles and Tilley lamps, and heated by a coal fired range which also provided hot water for the tin bath that hung on the wall. Ty-bach was at the bottom of the garden and discharged straight into the river.

Getting to the toilet was an adventure in itself. Nan was diabetic and seemingly lived on a diet of boiled white fish accompanied by coarse spinach and woody carrots both of which grew in abundance in her garden. The slugs and snails that also feasted on the vegetables crunched or slipped underfoot at every step. Thrushes and hedgehogs considered it paradise and I remember happily watching a mother and her four prickly babies while they hunted their bountiful prey.

Family news was exchanged, tea was drunk and plain biscuits eaten. It was then time for Nan to inject herself with insulin. I used to watch with a mixture of fascination and horror. To me the syringe was enormous as insulin was drawn from its vial and the needle terrifying as it was plunged in to her thigh.

Visit over it was back up the steep path to the road and over the stone stile towards Tyn-yr-Aggie. I've never found out who Agnes or Margaret was, or indeed, where she lived.) *

In a recent email from my cousin she recalls, 'In the late 40s and early 50s there was a real gypsy caravan with a dark green base, parked in the field near the bridge. It was daubed with slogans and inhabited by a weird and wonderful lady. There was no horse and it never moved.'

Fifty yards on and to the left of the footbridge, wooden in those days, with the water going down a slide into a pool where on summer days my cousin used to swim with two of her friends.

To the left of the bridge the sluice gate that controlled the leat to Mill House was, as today, always closed but then sufficient water seeped

round or under to keep the feed trickling and clearly defined. Today it can barely be discerned.

The field beyond the footbridge is now coarse grass, bracken, bramble and young sloe bushes. Then it was grazed by a few calves and colourful with boggy areas of purple loosestrife and yellow flag. Occasionally my father would stop at the far end of the field, break off a hazel rod and tie on a string and hook stored in his pocket. He would then prod the ground to bring up small worms and I was invited to try and catch the brown trout that lived in one of the deeper pools. Catches over nine inches were kept for dinner, smaller fish were returned, 'For next time'. At least those we ate were taken above the discharge from the toilets!

It was then up through Rocky Woods and back to Tatham Road with the nature lesson continuing; green woodpecker, sycamore, oak, ash, speckled wood, elm, red squirrel. What a shame that the last two can no longer become memories for today's youngsters.

Now on the last leg of our walk down the dyke to Ruabon Brick and Terracotta Company at Afon Goch. The boss was Reuben Haigh (or son of Reuben?) and I think that he and my father had been at school together. While they chatted I would wander around closely supervised by the factory workers who showed me the clay being hauled up in wheeled iron trucks under the main road on an endless wire. I was then taken to see the bricks being moulded by hand and stacked, with geometric accuracy to ensure an even air and heat flow, in one of three or four kilns. The heat was intense. The iron trolley that stands beside the road today is a happy reminder of my childhood and the inheritance of the village.

Exploration over a few remaining yards under the railway bridge, even then disused and now long since demolished, to the main Ruabon – Wrexham road to catch the green Crosville bus and arrive home exhausted.

Notes:

1. *My father claimed that the Empire State Building, New York, is lined with Ruabon brick. I've searched www but can find no mention. Confirmation or denial would be welcome.*
 2. *There is another picture of Hannah (Nan) Bowen with the Church Players in 'Remembering Ruabon' by The Rev'd Pritchard. It is at the foot of page 185. Taken in 1930, she is the lady with the dark hat standing at the back in the photo.*
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Mike Snodgrass has been kind enough to allow us all to view his excellent communications with his local history group through his 'In Touch' letters - always closing with a 'slice' of humour (I think I have something to learn about that!)

In Touch

Edition 10 22nd July 2020

It is said that it is easier for a government to impose restrictions on its people than it is to remove those restrictions and give back peoples' liberty.

As we now come out of lock down that is proving to be the case. Kathy and I have found that it is quite scary to go back into a very changed world, not the one that we were used to before lockdown in March.

It was quite surprising to find that when we went up the lane to the main road that everything was still there as before. The post box on the corner and the main road was still there. That you did not drop off the edge of the world at any point. Everything was just as we had left it some weeks earlier.

There were some exceptions, very few cars, a bit like back in the 1950`s, when by the way my mother would not let me have a two wheeled bike, as the roads were too busy, too many cars, too dangerous. And so I never progressed from my blue three wheeler, to a two wheeler.

It was noticeable that there was a lot less litter on the roadside probably because the takeaway shops were not open.

Kathy and I have been going into England, Oswestry since the markets have been open, with not many people around until this last week.

Now that the cafes and pubs are open again it was noticeable how many more people are about and more cars on the road. It is very handy being on the border, only five miles exactly, so within the Welsh Government rules. We have the best of both worlds.

We have had a day out to Bodnant Gardens, and yesterday went to Shrewsbury and to Attingham Park, both National Trust. You have to get a timed ticket on line booked a week in advanced, to limit the numbers, and they have a one way system around the grounds. The house is not open to visitors at the present, and so it was fine with not so many people about.

We have this week heard of the collapse of a small cruise line, Cruise and Maritime. We had two cruises booked with this company, and having paid the initial deposits was due to pay the balance on the day after it went into administration. We were wondering what to do about paying the money as we really did not want to go in October as we felt that it is rather soon to be travelling in close proximity with other passengers. That problem has now been solved for us and now we have started to reclaim our deposits from ABTA.

However I am very upset by the demise of Cruise and Maritime as it was a small British six ship cruise company with very lovely friendly staff from all over the world, many from the poorer countries who depended on their jobs to support families and children back home. Besides the ships officers and other crew many people are involved including entertainers who are very talented, beyond excellence, who do several jobs to ensure that the passengers enjoy their holiday, to all the other support on shore at the destinations all around the world that make a living from the cruise industry. They are all being hit by the Corona Virus, which could not have been foreseen, and the devastation it has caused in such a short time.

We are so lucky that all we are being asked to do is keep our distance and wear a face covering, in England at present.

As you will realise there does not seem to be any sign of the possible commencement of our meetings in the near future. At present, particularly with the social distancing rules in place, there is no possibility of us using the church hall at All Saints to seat about sixty people safely. I am currently cancelling our booked Speakers until the end of the year and will keep monitoring the situation.

**SHORTLY AFTER TAKE OF THE PILOT
SAID**

"Thank you for flying with us this morning.

The weather is....."

Then suddenly he starts screaming while he is still on the mic, "OH MY GOD! OH MY GOD! IT'S BURNING!!!"

A ghostly silence reigned.

He gets back on the microphone and says, "I sincerely apologize for the incident, but I just dropped a very hot cup of coffee on my lap.. you should see my pants!"

One passenger shouts back, "WHY DON'T YOU COME HERE AND SEE OURS!!!"

Read more stories @ thehomemadehumour.com

Today, I saw a man fall into a display of 300 golf clubs at a Golf Club Pro shop earlier ...

Doctors have said that he should be ok but he's not out of the woods yet !

Take care when out and about. It`s a whole new and different world waiting for you to enjoy.

Mike Snodgrass.

I have saved two of Mike's items for next week's Ruabon News Letter

ANSWERS to BIRD QUIZ:

1. Pied Wagtail
 2. Ring Ouzel
 3. Kingfisher
 4. Oystercatcher
 5. Razorbill
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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.