

RUABON NEWS LETTER 335

03.08.2020

Ken Skates MS is backing a campaign which calls on the UK Government not to break its promise over TV licences for over-75s.

The National Pensioners Convention Wales wants Prime Minister Boris Johnson to honour his pledge made in November that no elderly person would have to pay for their TV licence and is supporting Age Cymru's petition to Westminster.

Mr Skates said: "The UK Government said that it was crucial to retain the free TV licence for all over-75s and that it would sit down with the BBC to find a solution. All we have seen and heard is the BBC and the Conservative Government blaming each other.

"As the Government said on July 9, it was wrong to implement the BBC's decision to only give free TV licences to those on Pension Credit. The BBC has delayed the licence fee changes until next month, but all the Government has done is to describe it as 'the wrong decision' and refused to intervene.

"It's not the job of the BBC to administer means-tested benefits on behalf of the Conservative Government. Free TV licences were introduced by the Labour Party in 20 years ago and should be retained for over-75s as a universal entitlement."

NPC Wales says the UK Government has 'abdicated its responsibility and duty of care to the most vulnerable group in society'.

Mr Skates added: "The UK Government needs to engage with the BBC to work out how to support people whose only companion and lifeline might be their TV. Maintaining free TV licences for over-75s was a 2017 Conservative Party manifesto commitment and as it stands 3.7m older people in the UK are now going to be punished by this broken promise."



FRIENDS OF RUABON

MONTHLY REPORT

JULY 2020

Covid-19 Grant

Our most recent progress with the activity bags has been contact with David Lovett, Mobile Warden at St Michael's Close.

Working with David we have been able to provide Activity bags with Cream Teas to

7 Couple Households and 23 Single Households.

We will be launching a second phase as we have had more requests, for the bags. especially from elderly residents

It is a lovely experience giving out the cream teas and activity bags as they have been very much appreciated by everyone.

Litter Picking Around the Village

After reading comments on social media about the amount of litter in areas around the village, we have launched a scheme where residents can be supplied with litter picking equipment on loan from Friends Of Ruabon to enable us all to keep our village free of litter.

Loans out so far:

7 Sets Pont Adam area

4 Sets High Street

2 Sets Church View

1 Set Old School

6 Children's Sets to Jumping Jacks Holiday Club

Recent litter picks by Friends of Ruabon members:

1. Behind the Park Gates – this took place before it was mowed to maintain access for walkers: this produced 4 bags of rubbish and a broken bicycle.
2. Rocky Woods around the 2 makeshift campfire areas - 4 large bags of rubbish plus assorted debris and one more bag collected on the walk back home.

3. Lots of rubbish collected by the allotments to add to the general haul.

Photos were taken and published in last week's Ruabon News Letter. We have asked residents to take before and after photos of their litter picks.

Plant Swap

Members have set up a plant swap for the last 3 Sundays outside St Mary's Church these have been well attended and will continue while we have plants to swap.

Make our Village Shine

The Sunflower seeds given out at the start of the lockdown are growing well and the village should look bright and cheerful inspite of the doom and gloom of the virus attack. we should have quite a show when they flower.

Seeds collected from these flowers could be used for next year.

Station Planters

We have now put our signs on the station planters: the Friends of Ruabon Logo and the message "Maintained by Friends of Ruabon Volunteers". In English and the middle planter sign in Welsh. The middle planter has edible plants and there is a wooden sign to explain.





YSGOL RHIWABON

FORMER STUDENT LIFTS PREMIER LEAGUE TROPHY

Thursday, 23rd July 2020

Former Ysgol Rhiwabon student: Neco Williams from Cefn Mawr, lifted the Premier League trophy with Liverpool FC.

Congratulations to Neco from all at the school, and wishing you a wonderful career.



Year 11 Results Day, 20th Aug 2020

Please note

Year 7 can wear non-school uniform, suitable for outdoor activities, on Thurs 3rd and Fri 4th September – Full school uniform required from Mon 7th September.



DEFIBRILLATORS

IN
RUABON
WITH
24 HOUR
ACCESS

McColls
New High Street
Ruabon LL14 6NL

The Duke of
Wellington
Duke Street
Ruabon LL14 6DE

Ysgol Rhiwabon
Pont Adam
Ruabon LL14 6BT



The Welsh Government has pledged to support everyone to find work, education or training or help to start their own business as it launched a £40m skills and jobs fund.

This ambitious fund is part of a longer-term plan to help Wales recover from coronavirus; to build back better and ensure no one is left behind.

This announcement builds on a £50m package for skills and learning targeted towards higher and further education unveiled by Education Minister Kirsty Williams last week.

At the heart of the new funding is a pledge that everyone over 16 will receive the assistance they need to access advice and support to find work or to pursue self-employment or to find and take up a place in education or training.

More support for apprenticeships will be available, together with traineeships, redundancy assistance, retraining programmes and careers advice - all will be crucial in helping to address an expected rise in unemployment and the risk of deepening economic inequality caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Finance Minister and Trefnydd, Rebecca Evans
said:

“Coronavirus threatens to severely affect all the progress we’ve made in reducing unemployment and economic inactivity in Wales over the last decade.

“This £40m investment in jobs and skills will be vital in helping soften the impact of the pandemic and will be key to driving our economic recovery.

“As we work to recover from the impact of pandemic, we want to ensure our economy emerges stronger, fairer, greener, more agile and more productive than before. Ultimately we want to build back better – for this to happen, people and

businesses need support to face the challenges and pressures coronavirus has placed on them."

The Welsh Government's Employability and Skills

support will help employers to take on new workers, with incentives for recruiting apprentices and young people. It will also help adults overcome barriers in both maintaining and gaining work with a focus on Wales' growth sectors.

The plan includes an emphasis on achieving better outcomes for people who will be affected most by the economic downturn, including disabled people, people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, women, and those with low skills and on low wages.

The £40m package will provide:

- More than £20m to incentivise employers to recruit and retain 5,000 apprentices, increase the capacity of traineeship programmes and support more graduates to access work experience, work tasters and paid work placements.
- Almost £9m to help workers access retraining and find new employment, including in areas of skills demand, through ReACT and the Union Learning Fund. This includes the national roll-out of the personal learning accounts programme so an additional 2,000 people can learn new skills and gain new qualifications.
- Funding for traineeships, Working Wales and Communities for Work Plus will be increased to help match people to job opportunities and promote self-employment and new ways of working, as well as funding to support employer-led training through the Flexible Skills programme.
- There will be support for a new Barriers Fund, offering up to £2,000 to support people who may not have previously

considered self-employment, in particular women, young people, people from BAME communities and disabled people.

Economy Minister, Ken Skates said:

"We have already provided Welsh business with the most generous package of support in the UK, which has been crucial in helping them through the crisis.

"Today's announcement goes a step further and supports our workforce. This £40m package will help incentivise employers to take on and train new workers, including apprentices and young people. It will also help employers to retain and reskill the existing workforce and support individuals looking for work to secure employment or start up their own businesses.

"We are doing everything we can to drive our economic recovery. I now call on our employers to take advantage of the incentives we're putting in place and play their part in providing quality job and training opportunities right across Wales."

Education Minister, Kirsty Williams said:

"Adding to the £50m I announced last week to support our colleges and universities, this additional funding will create further opportunities for people to expand their knowledge and skills at one of our further or higher education institutions.

"More than £8m will be used to create new degree apprenticeships in digital and advanced manufacturing, help 250 graduates overcome barriers to access work experience placements and to increase the activities of employment bureaus in colleges across Wales.

"We will also expand our personal learning account programme to reskill or upskill more than 2,000 working people, helping them take a step up the employment ladder and expand the career options available to them.

"It is important that we invest now to support a workforce with the skills to drive forward our economic response to the coronavirus."

Below is the latest news from the Welsh Government received at 9.30pm on 03.08.2020:

Businesses in Wrexham have already received emergency coronavirus support totalling almost £30m from the Welsh Labour Government.

The most up-to-date information shows 2,374 businesses of all sizes across the county borough have been awarded crucial support since the pandemic struck - with more being awarded every day.

Wrexham's Member of the Senedd, Lesley Griffiths said:

"This extraordinary period has seen an unprecedented amount of support provided to local businesses. The comprehensive measures introduced in Wales are the most generous in the UK and it is pleasing the funding has made a tangible difference to our community and benefited the lives of local people.

"The Welsh Labour Government will continue to do all it can to support our region as we start to recover from the pandemic."

Welsh Government data shows 1,840 Wrexham businesses already in receipt of Small Business Rates Relief got grants of £10,000 and another 258 in the tourism and hospitality industry were awarded £25,000 each. In addition, more than 2,000 start-up grants of £2,500 are currently being processed.

The Welsh Government's Economic Resilience Fund (ERF), which was designed to fill the gaps left by the UK Government's support schemes, has so far awarded £4.69m to another 276 Wrexham firms.

The Fat Boar in Wrexham town centre benefited from the ERF. Owner Rich Watkin said: "Despite the incredibly uncertain and challenging times, the funding my business received from the Welsh Government enabled me to plan for the future with confidence.

"It acted as a safety net and really took the pressure off. I knew when we were allowed to reopen, we wouldn't be in a worse position and I was able to invest in the necessary PPE and re-employ people sooner than originally anticipated."

Based in Wrexham Bus Station, King Street Coffee qualified for a £10,000 grant. Owner Phil Gallanders said: "The funding I received was extremely helpful and timely. I was able to use the grant to pay all my fixed overheads for the three months I was closed and I was also able to ensure that any invoices with my local producers were paid off.

"I've also been able to invest in the necessary changes to the day-to-day operation needed due to Covid-19 and have made a small purchase in equipment that is going to help me build back better."

Plas Madoc Leisure Centre was awarded £55,000 through the ERF. Stella Matthews, chair of Splash Community Trust, which runs the centre, said: "The coronavirus outbreak and lockdown could have really set us back. This funding is so crucial for us and it's a tremendous boost. We have always had fantastic support from the Welsh Government and they've always realised the importance of Plas Madoc to our area. We are so grateful to them."

The Hand at Llanarmon was one of the first businesses to secure funding. Owner Jonathan Greateorex received an offer of £100,000 from the Development Bank of Wales, which was paid within a week of his application being submitted.

Clwyd South MS Ken Skates said: "I am proud that the Welsh Government has been able to help so many local businesses, from small and medium-sized enterprises to key local employers and hotels and pubs. The Welsh Government's support package for businesses is the most generous anywhere in the UK and more money reaching small businesses every day.

"Around 11% of all awards through the Economic Resilience Fund have been to businesses in North East Wales, and almost £28m has been awarded through it across North Wales.

Sadly, it is impossible to help every single business, but the vast majority of applications have been successful and I'm pleased there are many which we have helped stay afloat.

"I'm proud to be part of a Welsh Labour Government which is standing up for our region."

'INVITATION to join AVOW's Community Buildings Network'

If you are a committee member managing a community building or know of any other 'charity/not for profit' groups who are responsible for managing buildings, come

and join AVOW's 'Community Buildings Network' to share up to date information, news updates and good practise from your peers, this will help to ensure you are adhering to the ever changing climate post covid19.

By subscribing to this invitation AVOW have a wealth of information, contacts and expertise that could benefit you and your organisation, we look forward to hearing from you.

Contact: Rafat, Community Development Officer on:
rafat.arshad-roberts@avow.org Tel 01978 312 556

Wrexham Libraries

For the week beginning 3rd August 2020



Order and Collect Service - Ruabon Library and 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/or 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!



Summer Reading Challenge

Knock, knock! Whose there? It's the Silly Squad from the Summer Reading Challenge for children. Join the Silly Squad, an adventurous team of animals who love to have a laugh and get stuck into all sorts of funny books! This week the theme is Jokes and Magic, so why not share your best joke with us on our social media channels? The Challenge will run until mid-September. The 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

Dare you sign up for this year's Summer Reading Challenge?

Join us for National Playday...online

Playday is the national day for play in the UK, traditionally held on the first Wednesday in August. Playday 2020 will be celebrated on Wednesday 5 August. The theme this year is Everyday Freedoms Everyday Adventures, which aims to highlight the importance of giving children and teenagers the freedom to play and have everyday adventures. So join us online as we celebrate this special day. At 12.00pm we will have a special online story time with Liz from Chirk library. This will be followed at 1.00pm with a special edition of 'Countdown' the letters game. From 2.00pm you can join in the fun of scavenger hunts which will be followed at 3.00pm by a great activity where we will join forces with this year's Summer Reading Challenge. To access and be part of all of this fun you will need to follow us on social media channels visit <http://www.playday.org.uk/>



Polite Notice from Ruabon Medical Centre

All patients and visitors to the practice are required to wear their own face mask or face covering before entering the building, unless there is a medical reason which exempts them from doing so. Patients are kindly reminded to call the practice to cancel their appointments should they have suspected symptoms of COVID-19 or they've had a confirmed positive test. The practice telephone number is 01978 823717.

Anyone with suspected symptoms of COVID-19 infection - a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss of smell or taste (anosmia) - must self-isolate and seek an urgent test.

Please note that suspected and confirmed cases must now isolate for 10 days (previously 7 days), with members of their household isolating for 14 days until the risk of passing on further infection has gone. Combined, these simple but effective actions will ensure the virus does not spread.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Diolch / Thanks

Jo

Joanne Barlow

Dirprwy Reolwr Practis / Deputy Practice Manager

The Medical Centre

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol

Betsi Cadwaladr

University Health Board

High Street, Ruabon, Wrexham, LL14 6NH

Ffon / Tel: 01978 823717

Facs/Fax: 01978 824142

E-bost / E-mail: Joanne.Barlow2@wales.nhs.uk

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr yw enw gweithredol Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr.

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board is the operational name of Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board.

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

Wrexham Museum is now open again from 11am-4pm Mon-Sat The cafe and shop



are open too: A few changes have been introduced to help ensure that everyone feels safe so you can relax and enjoy your visit.

- The museum will be open between 11am-4 pm Monday to Saturday. This will allow time to ensure all public areas are properly cleaned.
- There will be regular cleaning of key touch points throughout the galleries during the day.
- There will be hand sanitiser at the entrance to the building. All visitors will be asked to clean their hands on arrival.
- All visitors will be asked for their contact details to support the government's 'Test, Trace and Protect' programme.
- We recommend that visitors wear face masks while in the galleries.
- There will be a limit on numbers in the galleries so that social distancing will be possible for all our visitors.
- We have introduced a one-way system throughout the galleries. Look out for the floor signs for directions.
- For families, there will be a new children's trail to help guide younger visitors (and their accompanying adults) during their visit.
- Admission to the museum and archives is free. Donations welcome.
- **Last admission is at 3.30 p.m.**

Courtyard Café

- There will be a new seating layout and menu in the Courtyard Café, but the same great service and location as ever!
- Let's hope for a sunny few months - you can dine outside if you wish.

Toilets

- Toilet facilities will be available for visitors to the museum, the archives and the cafe. Please ask for the key at the reception desk.

Shop

- The shop will be open so you can still purchase the usual range of great gifts, cards and books.
- We encourage the use of contactless payment and ask all shop customers to respect social distancing guidelines.

Archives

- We recommend visitors to the Archives book ahead owing to space restrictions.
- Email archives@wrexham.gov.uk or telephone 01978 297 480.
- Last admission is at 3.30 p.m.

Collections

- The Collections Centre will be open by appointment. Please email museumcollections@wrexham.gov.uk or telephone 01978 297 460.

What can I see?

The exhibitions and displays in the museum's three galleries tell the stories of Wrexham, Wales and the wider world for adults and children...

- **Gallery 1** is the space where you can explore the museum collections and the stories they reveal of Wrexham's past.. Meet 4,000 year old Brymbo Man; See the Bronze Age Rossett Hoard and watch two specially produced films that explain how the hoard was made nearly three thousand years ago; Sit back and relax in the Hippodrome as you watch films about Wrexham Lager, Wrexham FC and Wrexham's mining past.

In Gallery 2 you still have a chance to see our exhibition, **Forgotten Wars: The Royal Welch Fusiliers Around The World**. Meanwhile,

In Gallery 3 you can see **Back To School**: an exhibition chronicling how school locally, has changed over the past two centuries through memories, mementos, archives and old photographs.

Steve Greenter, Heritage Services Manager, said: "We are delighted to finally be able to welcome visitors back to Wrexham Museum. We've worked hard to ensure visitors can enjoy the museum safely, as well as the fantastic food available in the café and the unique gifts from the shop. "We hope to see regular visitors returning to the museum and this is also an ideal opportunity for newcomers to come and experience what's on offer and find out more about Wrexham's rich and colourful past."

For more information contact: Wrexham Museum: email: museumcollections@wrexham.gov.uk or telephone 01978 297460.

Rafat Arshad-Roberts

Community Development Officer
Swyddog Datblygu Cymunedol

AVOW | Tŷ Avow | 21 Egerton Street | Wrexham | LL11 1ND
 AVOW | Tŷ Avow | 21 Stryd Egerton | Wrecsam | LL11 1ND
Tel/ Ffôn: 01978 312556
info@avow.org | www.avow.org
Registered Charity 1043989
Company Limited by Guarantee 2993429

Please complete [this survey](#) and let AVOW know about the impact our services have on your organisation.

Llenwch yr [arolwg hwn](#), fydd yn para deng munud, i roi gwybod i AVOW am yr effaith mae ein gwasanaethau yn ei chael ar eich sefydliad chi.



BUDDSODDWR | INVESTORS
MEWN POBL | IN PEOPLE



Caerogl Tywodid
Sector Cymru
Third Sector
Support Wales



AVOW is taking donations to raise money for Voluntary and Community groups across Wrexham.

AVOW yn cymryd rhoddion i godi arian ar gyfer grwpiau gwirfoddol a chymunedol ledled Wrecsam.

We take your security and privacy seriously. Read our [Privacy Policy](#) for details of how we protect your personal information.

Opinions, advice, conclusions and other information in this message that do not relate to the official business of Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham shall be understood as neither given nor endorsed by it or on its behalf, and consequently Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham shall bear no responsibility whatsoever in respect therefore.

Deallir na fydd unrhyw safbwyntiau, na cynghorion, na chasgliadau nac unrhyw wybodaeth arall yn y neges hon, nad ydynt yn berthnasol i waith swyddogol Cymdeithas Mudiadau Gwirfoddol Wrecsam, yn cael eu cynnig na'u cadarnhau ganddo nac ar ei ran, as felly ni fydd Cymdeithas Mudiadau Gwirfoddol Wrecsam yn derbyn unrhyw gyfrifoldeb am y rhannau hynny o'r neges.

The following gem, written by Ennys Hughes. for our pleasure:

An evening visit to Gresford in May 1900.

A few years ago I bought a hand written diary at Wingetts . It's a small Boots household diary with lots of adverts and useful information, and not surprisingly is rather well worn. At the viewing I could see that the diary was written in pencil in very small neat handwriting. I wasn't able to attend the auction so I left a bid of £10 on it ,and didn't think any more about it. As it happened and luckily for me nobody else was interested in it so I bought it, and what a gem it turned out to be. I have had hours of pleasure finding out about the various people and places referred to in the diary.

It was written by nineteen year old Charles William Rogers of Chester, and he wrote in his diary every day of the first year of the new century. He was the son of a wealthy retired solicitor and lived with his parents and twin sister Kitty in a large town house in Watergate Street. Charles was an articled clerk and had attended Charterhouse School In London. The family had a pleasant lifestyle and a busy social life with lots of friends , visitors and visiting.

The family had servants of course, who get a brief mention now and again. They had two horse drawn vehicles , a pony trap and a landau. Mrs Rogers would take a drive in the landau frequently, sometimes visiting friends in Chester and vicinity, and Hibbert the groom would drive. Charles went riding on his horse Mick, and also did a lot of cycling.

To give you an idea of the life that Charles led way back in 1900 when Chester was so very different from what it is now, I have chosen an entry in the diary for Saturday 26th May .

"Mother went a drive with Father in aft [afternoon] with Mick in landau. Kit and I drove [in the pony trap] at 6.0 to Gresford for firing of salute, arrived about 7.15, salute fired at 8 o'clock, had supper afterwards, arrived home about 11.25pm. Miss Kings, Mr Mrs Miss Mules & friend, Mr Ronny Manister, Henry Harrison, Thomsons of the Bank, Guy and Hamilton Bardswell were there beside ourselves. Spotted with rain a little".

Just picture Charles and Kitty driving in their pony trap along the Chester road to Gresford on a May evening, a journey which took an hour and a quarter.

Whom did they visit and what was the firing of the salute at 8pm?

I found the answers in a book by Dr Colin Jones, "Gresford Village and Church" 1995. Charles and Kitty went to visit Mr and Mrs Thomas Henry Dixon of The Clappers, Gresford. Mr Dixon was a banker and an Alderman in Chester.

According to Grace's Guide to British Industrial History, in 1904 he had a 6hp Daimler and a 12hp Napier. His hobbies were Yachting, electricity and mechanics. He was a member of the Royal Thames Yacht Club, The Royal Mersey Yacht Club and the Automobile Club of Great Britain and Ireland. He had lived at The Clappers from about 1868, where there were "greenhouses, a conservatory, parkland, parterres, sundial and walled garden". (CH Nicholas). His father was also a banker in Chester and lived in Littleton Hall.

Dr Colin Jones says in his book that Mr Dixon arranged mortgages and loans for the gentry, and was known by everyone in Gresford as "a fearsome eccentric". He had four small cannon and from 1869 he would fire a cannon every Saturday evening at 8pm and because of his

enthusiasm for electricity and mechanics Mr Dixon would trigger the cannon "by an electric charge synchronised with the dining room clock". That's why Charles and Kitty went to Gresford on that Saturday evening in May. It must have been quite an event.

After an entertaining evening Charles and Kitty set off for Chester at about 10pm, along a dark and quiet Chester Road to arrive home at 11.25 pm. They were both competent pony trap drivers, and this was the normal mode of transport for them. I hope they didn't get wet on their journey home! I shall tell you more about Mr Dixon the Motorist next time.

Ennys.

To finish the Ruabon News Letter it is thanks to Mike Snodgrass and the second part of his 'In Touch' News Letter number 10. which he writes for his U3A history group and shares with us:

"Jill Burton was due in August to give us a talk "VJ Victory in Japan 75 Years" as August 15th will be the 75th anniversary, marking both the surrender of Japan and the end of the Second World War.

The talk is about her father during the war when he was in Japan. She has very kindly sent the details for us to read:

"My interest is because my Dad fought in Assam/India, at Kohima and Burma. He was CQMS, later RQMS in the 7th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment.

But the local interest for our U3A group was that he fought alongside the men of 1st Battalion, Royal Welch Fusiliers. And in his later years Dad was a member of Wrexham Burma Star Association, commemorated outside and in the foyer of the Wrexham Memorial Hall.

My job was made easier by the fact that as Quarter Master he kept "things", copies of the 'Naga News', menus, details of the ration packs dropped by the RAF, memos, maps, and most importantly lots of photos as he carried a camera with him in his portable office (a tin box). He had assembled all this in to 4 large albums many years ago plus stories that he told - of Vera Lynn, the only entertainer to travel in to the jungle to sing to the troops, of the leeches which they burned off their ankles with cigarettes, of the mules that were their only method of transport of food and ammunition in the steaming jungle where any road or track became a muddy quagmire.

In the New Year I began to examine **his collection** in more detail, in preparation for giving a talk; it had been put away 14 years ago when he died. And lockdown gave me even more time as I discovered much more than I expected. Because amongst the boxes stored after his death I found 2 closely written exercise books, his day by day accounts of the battle of Kohima, compared by General Stopford to be as horrific as the Somme but fought on steep muddy jungle covered mountain slopes.

These contained the true horror of battle, that he had kept to himself but presumably rationalised for his own sanity by writing it down.

They were to fight on to Mandalay and beyond for another year, till VJ day put an end to the horror - he was away from my Mum for just under 4 years. Before they left Kohima each regiment erected a memorial, that of the Royal Welch Fusiliers listing the names of 40 men of their Regiment that had died there. The Worcesters and the Royal Welsh were part of the 2nd Division of the XIVth Army "The Forgotten Army". In November 1944 they dedicated the 2 Div memorial at Kohima, a huge stone used by the Naga people for burial of their chiefs, and on it they had carved words with which you may be familiar:

'When you go home, tell them of us, and say:
For your tomorrow, we gave our today'.

Perhaps when we are able to resume our Local History meetings I will be able to do just that.

Jill Burton

Picture 1: Dad in his jungle 'office' 1944

Picture 2: The jungle bush hat on an original map, made of silk so as not to tear or rot



Thank you Jill for sharing that very interesting personal history. We thank God for all our brave generations who gave so much for us...

Now something to cheer you up and make you laugh.

Kids were asked questions about the old and new testaments. The following 25 statements about the bible were written by children. They have not been retouched or corrected. Incorrect spelling has been left in:-

1. In the first book of the bible, Guinness. god got tired of creating the world so he took the sabbath off.

2. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pairs.

3. Lot's wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.

4. The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic gentiles.

5. Samson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah. >

6. Samson slayed the Philistines with the jawbone of an ass.

7. Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.

8. The Egyptians were all drowned in the Red Sea. Afterwards, Moses went up to Mount Sinai to get the Ten Commandments.

9. The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.

10. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not commit adultery.

11. Moses died before he ever reached Canaan then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Jericho.

12. The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.

13. David was a Hebrew king who was skilled at playing the lyre. He fought the Goliaths, a race of people who lived in biblical times.

14. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 concubines.

15. When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the magna carta.
16. When the three wise guys from the east side arrived they found Jesus in the manager.
17. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
18. St. John the blacksmith dumped water on his head.
19. Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says to do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.
20. It was a miricle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.
21. The people who followed the lord were called the 12 decibels.
22. The epistels were the wives of the apostles.
23. One of the oppossums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.
24. St. Paul cavorted to christianity, he preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marraige.
25. Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony."
Thank you Mike.

Sybil Bremner.

bremner.millhouse@btinternet.com