

RUABON NEWS LETTER 344

05.10.2020



On Tuesday 29th September, Bill Smith volunteered to join with the North Wales Wildlife Trust team of volunteers to spray the Japanese Knotweed along the Afon Eitha between Tatham Road bridge and Pont Adam Bridge. Volunteers also continued this work at the weekend

focussing on the area from the Tatham Road bridge up towards

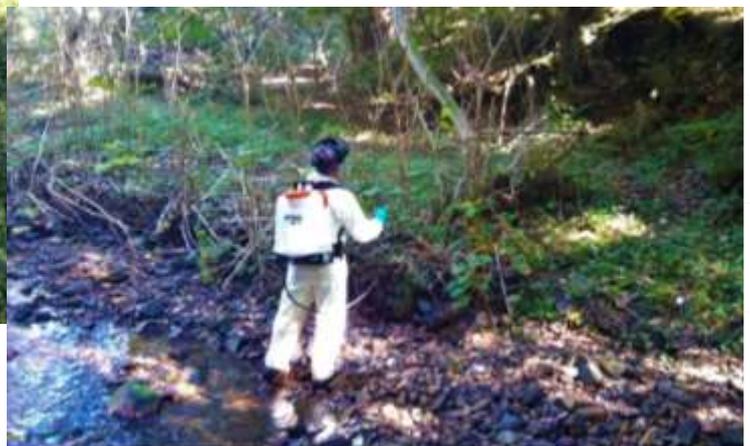
Penycae.

Bill has also sent in these fascinating photos which show the extent of the coverage of this invasive plant.

Gemma from North



Wales Wildlife Trust has also indicated that she would like to engage in a Friends of Ruabon zoom meeting to explain more about her work in our area.





Dear Crafters

Exciting News about Friends of Ruabon Frost Fayre 2020

Friends of Ruabon are planning a Virtual Frost Fayre during November.

Due to the current situation we are not able to have the planned event on Sunday December 6th at The Wynnstay Arms Ruabon.

The virtual event will run in the following way:

- 1 Stall holders will need to register interest and a day in November will then be allocated.
- 2 Stall holders will need to provide either a short video of stall items or a series of photographs of items and prices then email the information to me.
- 3 The video or photographs will then be posted on the Friends of Ruabon Facebook page and circulated to as many people as possible.
- 4 You may wish to show a video of how you made your items. This can be posted too.
- 5 If you already have a website/Facebook page, please send the link.
- 6 All videos/photos/links would need to be sent in to sarahmather13@btinternet.com by October 31st
- 7 Friends of Ruabon are asking for a donation of £5 for your stall to be part of the virtual event. This can be either sent electronically by BACS transfer/ PayPal or by cheque (made payable to Friends of Ruabon) and sent to Sarah Giles at 1 The Villas, New High Street, Ruabon, Wrexham LL14 6NW.
- 8 We can assist with technical support in getting you up and running.
- 9 We hope to be able to have a 'Click and Collect' morning at The Wynnstay Arms on December 6th for customers to collect purchases. This would be by appointment and more details concerning this will be circulated in November. Alternatively, you may wish to post out purchases direct to your customers.

2020 has been such a challenging year and I know that you will have been busy with all your creative ventures. Following the success of last year's Frost Fayre, Friends of Ruabon wanted to try and do something festive for the local community. Please do take part in this exciting virtual event and don't worry about the technical aspect as we will be able to offer you some support.

Please call me on 07789 727413 if you need any further information about the Virtual Frost Fayre.

Look forward to hearing from you

Sarah Giles (Friends of Ruabon)

KEN SKATES MS WELCOMES ALDI ACTION AFTER COMPLAINTS ABOUT 'BOY RACERS'

Barriers will be installed to stop drivers entering a supermarket car park late at night after noise complaints from nearby residents. Local Member of the Senedd Ken Skates raised the issue with Aldi after being contacted by people living on the Parklands Estate in Ruabon who were 'at the end of their tether' with noise at anti-social hours.

Residents said the 'boy racers' have regularly used the car park as their playground in the middle of the night since the store opened last year and had contacted Wrexham Council and police.

Mr Skates said: "I know from talking to residents that this has been going on for a while and driving people mad. People have been unable to sleep because of the racket being made on the car park in the middle of the night, so something needed to be done."

Mr Skates contacted Aldi and held an 'extremely productive' meeting with senior representatives last week.

He said: "Aldi has since confirmed that barriers will be installed in the next few weeks which will restrict access to the car park when the store is closed. I'm hugely grateful to the company for being so responsive when I took this up for residents and for their promise to take action so quickly.

"I hope this resolves the issue once and for all and reassures the residents of the Parklands Estate. This kind of inconsiderate, anti-social behaviour can have a major effect on people's quality of life, so I'm really pleased we've managed to find a solution. I'd also like to thank Cllr Dana Davies for raising this with me and for helping keep residents up to date."

WCB Councillor Dana Davies said: "Residents were at the end of their tether with all the noise and hadn't been able to get anywhere. After being contacted by people on the estate, I spoke with Ken and he took this up immediately. I'm sure the residents will be relieved and grateful to Ken and Aldi that things have happened so quickly. This should make a real difference."

THE KICKSTART SCHEME

- The Kickstart scheme is creating thousands of new jobs for young people across Wales and the rest of the UK
- Youngsters on Universal Credit aged between 16-24 will be offered six-month work placements – with wages paid by the UK Government

Businesses are now able to sign up to be part of the landmark £2bn Kickstart Scheme, giving unemployed young people a future of opportunity and hope by creating high-quality, UK Government-subsidised jobs across the UK.

'Kickstart' jobs must be new and of good quality. Government will pay 100% of the age-relevant National Minimum Wage, National Insurance and pension contributions for 25 hours a week.

Employers will be able to top up this wage, while the Government will also pay employers £1500 to set up support and training for people on a Kickstart placement, as well as helping pay for uniforms and other set up costs

The jobs will give young people – who are more likely to have been furloughed, with many working in sectors disproportionately hit by the pandemic - the opportunity to build their skills in the workplace and to gain experience to improve their chances of finding long-term work.

Secretary of State for Wales: Simon Hart said:

We have taken unprecedented action to secure Wales's economic recovery from the pandemic. More than 500,000 Welsh jobs have been protected through the Job Retention and Self Employed schemes while over 40,000 businesses in Wales have received more than £1.4 billion in loans.

Protecting, supporting and creating jobs is at the heart of our plan for recovery. Aimed at young people, the Kickstart scheme will make sure no-one is left behind as we get the Welsh economy moving again.

Businesses of all sizes looking to create quality jobs for young people can apply and there is no cap on the number of places. Household names including Tesco and the Prince's Trust, have already pledged to offer Kickstart jobs.

Young people will be referred into the new roles through their Jobcentre Plus work coach with the first Kickstarts expected to begin at the start of November.

The scheme, which will be delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions, will initially be open until December 2021, with the option of being extended.

Young people taking part will receive on-the-job training, skills development and mentoring, as they reach that first rung of the jobs' ladder, on their way to successful careers.

To help smaller businesses, employers offering fewer than 30 placements will be asked to make a bid through an intermediary, such as a Local Authority or chamber of commerce, who will then bid for 30 or more placements as a combined bid from several businesses. This will make the process easier and less labour intensive to apply for these smaller companies, who only want to hire one or two Kickstarters.

Young people are usually among the worst hit by financial crises, and unemployment can have longstanding implications for their future jobs and wages. We know people are leaving education into an extremely difficult jobs market, we know that young people are more likely to have been furloughed, so we are stepping in to provide more help.

The Kickstart scheme was announced in July as part of the 'Governments Plan for Jobs', which set out the biggest package of support for youth unemployment in decades – including tripling the number of traineeships, incentivising employers to hire more apprentices through a £2,000 payment to employers for every apprentice they hire under the age of 25 and investing in our National Careers Service, so people can receive bespoke advice on training and work.

Universal Skills: Universal Credit and Job Match

Wrexham Library Service

has a resource which takes you through making a claim for universal credit and also through the jobs match portal. In addition to this it can also teach you basic computer skills such as using a mouse. The site has some detail about preparing for an interview, CV writing tips and more. Each section is broken down into modules and you can check to see which modules you have completed. This invaluable resource is available from the library's webpages www.wrexham.gov.uk/libraries (follow the online services link) and can be accessed at home or in the library; **BUT**, you will need a valid library card



ST MARY'S CHURCH is now holding a service of Holy



Communion every Sunday at 9.30am. We will be delighted to welcome you, please wear a face mask and observe social distancing when you come.

We can now hold weddings, baptisms and funerals in church. Numbers are limited to 30 people at the moment. Wedding bookings are being taken for 2021 onwards.

Up to date information and online services can be found on our website: <https://stmaryschurchruabon.co.uk/>

The Vicar's phone number is: 01978 824087



Welcome to the September edition of the Nest Partner Bulletin

In this edition, we're delighted to share with you our latest annual report and there's also a catch-up with to one of our closest partners, **Warm Wales**. We also have our usual update from our Partnership Development Managers, Pete and Dylan, on their latest outreach activity and how they're helping homes across Wales become warmer and more energy efficient.

We want your stories!

The Nest Partner Bulletin is sent to over 900 organisations across Wales. We'd love to share your stories on how you're helping the most vulnerable people in Wales. If you have a story you'd like us to feature, we'd love to hear from you. Email ieuan-rhys.beal@est.org.uk on how you can get involved. We look forward to hearing from you.



We've recently published our annual report for 2019-20 and we're so proud of what our team has achieved during the last financial year. Below is a snapshot of some of the highlights:

- 15,823 households received free and impartial energy saving advice
- 4,544 households received a home energy improvement package, with a modelled average energy bill saving of £282 per year
- Average modelled increase in energy efficiency rating of 43 SAP points
- Average modelled reduction in energy units of 17,934 per household
- Benefit Entitlement Checks resulted in a household average £2,202 potential increase in benefit take-up
- 100% of installations were completed by Wales-based installers
- The scheme directly supported 28 new jobs and apprenticeship



Partner profile



Warm Wales deliver a wide range of partnership-based regeneration and sustainable energy measures in the fight against fuel poverty. Established in 2004 by the National Grid, Warm Wales was the first Community Interest Company in Wales.

Kathy Harris, a Community Worker for Warm Wales' 'Healthy Homes Healthy People Team', provides a range of advice and support to householders across Wales to help them stay safe and warm at home. Here, Kathy takes us through a recent case.

Warm Wales Case Study

I called on the householder in March 2020, just before lockdown. The customer was elderly, partially sighted and recently bereaved so particularly vulnerable. The house was not connected to the gas supply and the house was heated with storage heaters which had developed some concerning faults. The householder was paying over £2000 in electricity bills per year for her three- bedroom, semi-detached house.

We helped the householder make contact with our Gas Grants Team and following a successful application, she received a grant of £960 to fund her connection to mains gas.

Once the gas was connected, we helped the householder apply for a new gas central heating system with Nest under the health criteria. The customers application was successful and although the work was delayed due to COVID-19, she was delighted to receive a full central heating system in August 2020. It is estimated that the householder will save around about £1000 per year following the gas connection, Nest install and tariff switches. The customer had this to say about the Nest Team:

"It was absolutely brilliant! The Nest staff were lovely; the people on the phones and the engineer. I can't fault the boys who did the work. They didn't stop and were ever so nice. Thank you!"

Working to keep Welsh homes warm



As winter swiftly approaches, households across Wales will begin to feel the impact of the colder weather. If you know of any households in need of advice or home improvements to help keep their home warm during this time, don't forget you can refer them to Nest for help.



If you're looking to contact Nest on someone else's behalf, why not sign up to the Nest Partner Portal? Once you have signed up to the portal, you will be provided with unique login details and free training on how to use it. Ongoing support is available, and our Partnership Development Managers Pete and Dylan are on hand to answer any queries you may have. More information on how to sign up to the Nest Partner Portal can be found [here](#).

You can also use our Nest smartphone app to refer people to the scheme. The app transfers encrypted data to the Nest team and does not store data on your phone. The app is available on both the **Apple** and **Android** app stores. Our advice team are available to take calls and guide you through the process on Freephone 0800 808 2244 or visit our [website](#) for more information.



News from our Partnership Development Managers

Dylan Mclellan, Partnership Development Manager for north Wales:

It continues to be a busy time for me in North Wales, getting used to working in the virtual world full time and supporting partners as much as I can. I met with Citizens Advice Ynys Môn, to discuss how Nest can support with the most vulnerable people within the local authority. I also gave a presentation on the Nest scheme to volunteer advisers from Citizens Advice.

I also attended [Dementia Aware Denbighshire Community Led Network](#) meeting where I spoke about the health eligibility associated with Nest and how to access the Priority Service Register.

Pete Hughes, Partnership Development Manager for mid, south and west Wales

As the cold weather approaches, I've been contacting my list of health professional contacts to remind them of Nest's health-based criteria and to promote this with their networks.

I and caught up with Public Health Wales' Policy team to discuss opportunities for Nest to align with Public Health Wales' winter campaigns. This builds on our recent work with Public Health Wales on their "[How are you doing?](#)" COVID-19 support campaign.



Contact us:

T 0808 808 2244

W nest.gov.wales

Follow us:

 [NestWales](#)



Karen Owen

Swyddog Ymgysylltu / Engagement Officer

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

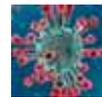
p: 07557312177

a: Preswylfa Wyddgrug / Mold CH71PZ

e: Karen.owen5@wales.nhs.uk



cymryd rhan  get involved



<https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/>

**RUABON WI NEWSLETTER NO. 16, by Margaret Williams
'Palaces of dreams'.**

Greetings, members, and other friends and readers.

Today, I offer you something different, sent to me by a friend who has allowed me to share this with you. You might find that it stirs some memories of our younger days when 'going to the pictures' was our main excitement. Living in a town, as we did, offered us plenty of cinema choices and we certainly made use of them.

I now give you his recollections of **'Going to the Pictures'**. 'Ta-rall!

The advent of the post-lockdown Anthony Hopkins Cinema at Theatr Clwyd has stirred my memories of a lifetime of **'going to the pictures'**. It all began with a special performance for children of the unemployed at Garnant Working Men's Hall in the Amman Valley. The film was "Roman Scandals" starring Eddie Cantor, who dreams that he's back in Ancient Rome as a food taster for the wicked Emperor Valerius but in the unforgettable climax finds himself as a reluctant chariot driver in a frantic race, his sandals nailed to the floor but slowly working loose as the race gathers speed.

Not long afterwards my family moved to Port Talbot which boasted six cinemas, two of which changed their programmes twice a week, offering boundless escapism for my friends and myself in these **'palaces of dreams'**.

The lights dimmed, the huge curtains swished open, revealing another curtain, satin and frilled, which startled by rising instead of parting. The screen, illuminated in colour, was revealed to show the Certificate of the British Board of Film Censors signed by John Trevelyan, the Secretary, a former Education Officer who was bringing a more liberal approach to his role than his predecessors and who, on his retirement, wrote a best-selling autobiography entitled "What the Censor Saw".

Then, The Lion roared, displaying a Latin motto, *Ars Gratia Artis*'.

(1)

OR many searchlights flashed across the screen (2)

OR a shield engraved WB (3)

OR a mountain loomed, encircled by stars (4)

OR 'the Statue of Liberty' held her torch aloft (5)

OR the globe revolved with staccato radio signals (6)

OR Bombardier Billy Wells striking a huge gong (7)

OR an 18th Century lady in a cameo painting (8)

OR a cockerel crowing (9)

OR 'squared' letters GB in a circle (10)

Can you name the companies in this 'mini-quiz'?

And so, - at least once a week - we entered the dream world which hovered somewhere over the mid-Atlantic. The men, usually private-eyes, were quite at home sitting at marble-topped tables drinking John Collins'. They made their living as private eyes, and were always accompanied by blonde women (usually fashion designers). The glittering mountain of Manhattan by night was visible from the plate glass windows of their luxury apartments on the sixtieth floor.

It was a vision of affluence which all of our generation saw many times over. We were more familiar with downtown New York and upstate New Jersey than with the fleshpots of Swansea and Neath. Only one of our six cinemas had a cinema organ which added a special dimension to our visits, and in the first two stanzas of his poem "Welsh Valley Cinema 1930s" the Cardiff poet Dannie Abse brilliantly captures the uniqueness of a cinema organ's contribution to a complete night "at the pictures".

ANSWERS TO KEITH'S MINI-QUIZ.

Did you recognise the film distributors by their 'trademark insignia'?

1. MGM, Metro Goldwyn Mayer 2. 20th Century Fox

3. Warner Brothers 4. Paramount 5. Columbia Pictures

6. RKO Radio 7. J. Arthur Rank Organisation

8 Gainsborough films (subsidiary of No. 10) 9. Pathé News
 10. Gaumont British (Both Pathé and Gaumont (the oldest company in the world) were French, created by Pathé Freres.

Welsh Valley Cinemas 1930s

In the Palace of the slums
 From the Saturday night pit
 From an unseen shaft of darkness
 I remember it: how, first, a sound
 Took wing grandly; then the thrill
 Of a fairground sight - it rose
 Lordly stout thing, boasting
 A carnival of gaudy-bright
 Changing colours while wheezing out
 Swelling bronchi of musical asthma.

I hear it still, played with panache
 By renowned gent Cathedral Jones,
 'When the Broadway's Baby says Goodnight
 It's early in the Morning' then he and it
 Sank to disappear, a dream underground.
 Later, those downstairs, gobbing silicosis
 (shoeless feet on the mecca carpet),
 Observed a miracle - the girl next door,
 A poor ragged Goldilocks,
 Dab away her glycerine tears
 To kiss cuff-linked Cary Grant
 Under an elegance of chandeliers.
 (No flies on Cary. No holes in *his* socks).

And still the Woodbine smoke swirled on
 In the opium beam of the operator's box
 Till THE END - of course, upbeat
 Then from the Palace, the damned all,
 The glum, too silent trooping out
 Into the trauma of paradox;

The familiar malice of the dreary,
 Unemployed, gas-lamped street
 And the striking of the small Town's clocks. **Dannie Abse**
*If you wish to look more closely into this poem, try flipsnack.com
 - annotation by Sasskia Simm - it explains every reference.*

A BIT OF FUN

People say "nothing is impossible", but I do nothing every day - A.A. Milne.

Before you judge a man, walk a mile in his shoes. After that, who cares? He's a mile away and you have his shoes! - Billy Connolly.
 Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt. - Abraham Lincoln.

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:
 07976206413/07976206414
 Or email: cfw@wrexham.gov.uk



**Cymunedau am waith
Communities for Work**



'MY SHOW' by Dave Williams

Hi everyone, I hope you have all been keeping well and safe during this horrible time.

For those of you who regularly listen to:

Calon Fm: Wrexham's Community Radio Station, it's time for me to be the bearer of some good news.

After just over 6 months off-air, I'm delighted to say that my Community and Charity focus programme has returned to the airwaves.

All the usual features are still here, so, a mix of wonderful guests and music old and new, in fact something to suit all tastes.

For now, the shows are 1 hour long and can be heard on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday morning 9-10am and at lunchtime on Mondays and Tuesdays 12-1pm.

At the moment, to comply with Covid guidelines, each show has only 1 guest and you and I for the time being will be in separate studios.

If you would like to be a guest, could you arrive at ten minutes before each hour but no sooner please?

So, if you fancy being a guest on the show and want to raise the profile of your community group or charity or just promote an event, you can get in touch with me by emailing info@calonfm.com, and Amy

Hughes who is our station manager will forward your emails on to me.

For those of you on facebook, you can find me @dave williams calon fm and message me. I am also on twitter @davecacf.

I very much look forward to chatting to you all in the coming months. In the meantime, stay safe and look after each other.

The Holroyd Community Theatre, near Oswestry, is a theatre for everyone: a community theatre for North Shropshire and the Welsh borders at Moreton Hall.

The Holroyd Community Theatre exists to advance education in the Arts and to provide facilities in the interests of social and cultural welfare to promote drama, music, dance and the arts (generally for the benefit of the North Shropshire and Welsh border communities), and for Moreton Hall.

UPSKILLING THROUGH ONLINE TRAINING

Here at '**Communities for Work Plus**' we have been utilising online training for our clients to upskill and put them in a better position to gain employment in a competitive market. Since the present working conditions nearly 50 people have accessed online training with about half of those already achieving a qualification.

These range from qualifications supporting building and factory work such as:

Asbestos Awareness, Warehouse Safety training and Manual Handling to teaching support and care jobs, with Child Mental Health Training, Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults (SOVA) Training and Managing Challenging Behaviour.

Our clients and mentors have found online training to be a quick and effective way to gain a qualification. This has helped clients to build their confidence and boost their CV.

As well as helping individuals, we have used online training to support community groups. Two groups in Llay have had members enrol on a Food Hygiene course which has enabled them to assist in preparing food in their community.

For general enquiries contact us on:

07976200413/ 07976200414 . Or email;cfw@wrexham.gov.uk



Cymunedau am waith; Communities for Work

"Just do it, you can achieve so much.

It opens so many doors"

from Damian



On quite another subject, I feel I have to commend Chris Williams to you for the kindness he has shown during the last couple of years, when my computer has failed to work. His charges are minimal (in my opinion) and he is patient and understanding of those of us who haven't a clue about computers!



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Tidying up and Clearing Away is too weak a title & Deep Clean - wishful thinking By Sybil Bremner

Anyway I did start something in between, but have not yet finished!

I am so easily distracted by items I would never throw away, whenever carrying out these 'clean sweeps'.

This time I was halted once again, by a patchwork quilt. However, I will start at the beginning.....

I was offered a post working at the RAE (Royal Aircraft Establishment) hostel in Farnborough, Hampshire (there are two Farnboroughs, in England).

This particular hostel was being run by the YMCA and not very well it seemed, as very distant relatives of mine, experts in running different types of YMCAs had been promoted and persuaded to take on the task of sorting everything out, I supposed: to keep the RAE happy.

However, my sister in law and her husband were very new to the area, and explained that they needed someone they knew to run a couple of the areas of this huge enterprise, to ease them into the huge task of taking over and improving every aspect of this hitherto neglected site.

They were very clever in persuading me - realising that I would only need to pop over the border by car from Surrey and had worked out my hours to perfection, so that I could drop off the children for school and be home in time for their tea.

It was an interesting phase in my life, meeting people of all ages, the majority working at the RAE; from an intake each year of 60 newly recruited apprentices at 16 years old, some staying on until qualification at 21; Student engineers at 18 years old and contractors, called in for their expertise, then the odd person who didn't seem to fit any category whatsoever.

One person I remember, with some affection, was a lecturer at the RAE, who had a small ensuite at the hostel, but never attended any meals; she did seem to be rather absent-minded, but was renowned and revered by the student engineers at work, for her brilliance at maths.

Then of course later, as fewer apprentices were being taken on, year by year by the RAE, large numbers of students took their

places, coming in from different countries, to study at Farnborough College, an easy step from the hostel.

One of these students was David Teo, who I think came from Singapore, he was a well-educated, quietly spoken and a very pleasant young man, who seemed to get on well with everyone. However, during the holidays from college, his parents were unable to fund his journeys home, so work was found for him at the hostel during these times, helping in the huge kitchen or with the maintenance crew. He obviously felt at home and was easily accepted by all the staff.

David stayed for two years, so we all got to know him very well.

He even came to our house whenever he needed to 'get away'.

Then the sad day, when having passed all his exams, he was leaving for home. I was rather overwhelmed when he presented me with a quilt, made for him by his Mother, but I was also very surprised that he could bare to part with it. I unfolded it with care, BUT was then unable to speak as an icy feeling of shock took any words from me:

The quilt was covered in swastikas! (This was way back in the 1970s).

My facial expression must have said it all, but David was quick to reassure me that in his country, the symbol represented the sun and that his Mother, realising how very cold it was going to be for him in England, had made the cover with these symbols to keep him warm.

David was then mature enough to explain to me that it was Hitler who had taken this symbol, reversed the 'rays' and adopted it as his own.

There were no personal computers in those days, of course, so no 'Google' to be able to find out just how many faiths have adopted this symbol through the centuries, and there are very many.

I was at the RAE/YMCA Hostel for 12 years before taking up a post at YMCA Walthamstow in the East End of London, a concrete building 8 storeys high and a different world altogether.

My grandson Aron, took the following photo of the quilt a couple of weeks ago when he came to see me.

I had spread the quilt out to look at it once again and he was curious enough to want to hear about it (hence the tale).

He has called it 'The Sun Blanket' (clever chap).



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 articles and **'thank you.'**
Sybil Bremner.