

Ruabon News Letter 357

18.01.2021



Another walk and beautiful photos of a sunset taken by Alison Hamlington taken on a return from Rocky Woods.

Every household to receive vaccination information

Letters about the Welsh Government's COVID-19 vaccination plans will shortly begin to arrive at the front door of every household in Wales.

The Health Board letters will be sent to every household in Wales over the next couple of weeks and will be issued by Local Authorities, on behalf of the Welsh Government.

It will provide information on the roll-out of the coronavirus vaccines currently available in Wales, how the vaccines are being made available and in what way people will be invited to an appointment. People are being urged to wait their turn and not to contact NHS or health services to request a COVID-19 vaccine

When they are invited for their vaccination, which could be at a hospital, a vaccination centre or their GP surgery, people will be advised where their vaccination will take place.

Each letter will be tailored to provide relevant information to communities on the services specific to the area.

There are two phases of the vaccine roll-out and within the first phase, vaccines will be given according to age and risk of serious illness if someone catches coronavirus. The groups in this first phase - accounting for 1.5million people - represent around 99% of preventable deaths from coronavirus.

In the first five weeks since the first vaccines were administered in Wales, 91,239 people have now received their first dose. A second dose of the same brand is recommended within 12 weeks.

It is hoped that every eligible adult in Wales will be offered a vaccination by the autumn, as set out in the Welsh Government's Vaccination Strategy released earlier this week [Monday 11th January].

As well as the letters, Welsh Government is also reinforcing its warnings about scams which ask people for their bank details or payment to receive a vaccine; no one will be asked to pay for a vaccine

on the NHS. To help notice a scam, people should look out for misspellings and grammatical errors, as well as non-NHS web addresses asking for details.

They're also warning against 'vaccine calculators' which claims to give a predicted date for when someone can expect to be vaccinated. In reality, these calculators harness personal details to make an estimate and are not endorsed by official organisations.

Health Minister Vaughan Gething said:

"An enormous amount of work has gone into delivering what is the largest vaccination programme Wales has ever seen. Our plans are ambitious but together with the NHS, we are working incredibly hard to make sure people get their jabs as quickly and safely as possible.

"Vaccinations are life-saving and, in this pandemic, it could be life changing for all of us. However, as we speed up the roll out of vaccines across Wales, it's more important than ever that we follow the rules and keep ourselves safe. That means staying at home and working from home; keeping our distance from others; washing our hands often, and if we do have to go out, wearing a face mask when we're in public places."

**The information above was sent in by David Goodban
(Staff Cymorth yr Aelod, Member Support Staff <senedd.wales)**

I received the following information by email last week:



Block 5, Carlton Court, St Asaph Business Park, St Asaph, LL17 0JG

Our ref: JW/GH/DL/2784
Phone number: 01745 448788 ext 6364
Ask for: Dawn Lees
Email: Dawn.Lees@wales.nhs.uk
Date: 12th January 2021

Dear Occupier

Letter from the Health Board about coronavirus and the vaccine

2020 was a very difficult year for everyone. So many of us have lost family members and close friends to coronavirus and all of us have had our lives turned upside down by the pandemic.

We want to deeply thank you all; for your support to our front line staff and for the efforts you have all taken to help stop the spread of the virus.

Regrettably, the situation across North Wales is very serious at the moment. We have seen a very significant increase in cases of the virus and most of these are the new, very transmissible strain of coronavirus. Our hospitals and community health services are under extreme pressure as a result of this.

We all need to stay home again to stay safe, save lives and to protect our NHS from being overwhelmed.

But there is a glimmer of hope for us all. You will have heard that two new vaccines are now available, with a third available in spring. This is the good news we have been waiting for. It hopefully means we can begin to look forward to a return to normal life.

How the vaccination is being made available

We currently have two types of vaccine available – one made by Pfizer-BioNTech and one developed by Oxford-AstraZeneca, which is being manufactured here in North Wales.

A huge amount of work has gone into planning the massive effort needed to provide everyone eligible with a vaccination. So far we have been limited by the supply of the new vaccines but as more is delivered, the pace will now rapidly increase and more clinics will be set up during January. More than 95 GP practices across North Wales will be running special vaccination clinics this month in addition to vaccination centres at the Rainbow Hospitals and other local centres.

You will be invited to have the vaccine when it's your turn. More than 1.5 million people in Wales will get the vaccine in the first stage of roll out – but it will take time to protect everyone. The people who are at greatest risk of catching coronavirus and developing serious illnesses will get the vaccine first.

You can choose whether to have the vaccine or not and you will be given more information when you receive your appointment. We understand many people have concerns about the vaccine – the web site below provides a lot of detail on the safety of the vaccine and we encourage anyone with concerns to take time to read about the ways in which the vaccine has been tested and approved.

<https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/covid-19-vaccination-information/>

Who will get the vaccine first

The priority list to receive the vaccine has been agreed by the UK's independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) and is being followed by all four nations in the UK.

There are two phases:

In the first phase, we will vaccinate according to age and risk of serious illness if someone catches coronavirus.

This priority list is as follows:

1. People living in a care home for older adults and their staff carers
2. All those 80 years of age and older and frontline health and social care workers
3. All those 75 years of age and over
4. All those 70 years of age and over and people who are extremely clinically vulnerable (also known as the "shielding" group)
5. All those 65 years of age and over
6. All individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions* which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality
7. All those 60 years of age and over
8. All those 55 years of age and over
9. All those 50 years of age and over

These groups represent around 99% of preventable deaths from coronavirus.

* Underlying health conditions covers a range of illnesses including chronic respiratory disease, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), cystic fibrosis and severe asthma, chronic heart disease (and vascular disease), chronic kidney disease, chronic liver disease, chronic neurological disease including epilepsy, down's syndrome, severe and profound learning disability, diabetes, solid organ, bone marrow and stem cell transplant recipients, people with specific cancers, immunosuppression due to disease or treatment, asplenia and splenic dysfunction, morbid obesity and severe mental illness.

In the second phase, further recommendations are awaited from JCVI and we hope the rest of the population in North Wales will be vaccinated. The advice from the JCVI is that the focus for this first phase should be on preventing further hospital admissions and vaccinating those people who are at increased clinical risk first.

Getting your vaccination appointment

You will receive an invitation when you are due for your vaccination. It will include details of where to go to receive it.

c

You don't need to apply for an appointment – we will contact you. Please do not contact your GP or hospital about an appointment as they will not be able to arrange an appointment any quicker.

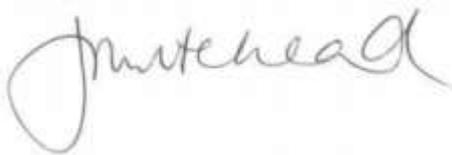
Everyone will get two doses of the vaccine but you will have a high level of protection after the first dose. You will be called back for your second dose within 12 weeks of the first.

When you have your Covid-19 vaccine, you will get a credit card-sized NHS Wales immunisation card. This will act as a reminder about your second dose and will also have information about how to report any side effects (side effects are very rare and any vaccine can cause them).

We all hope the vaccine will lead to a better and brighter 2021 and an end to this pandemic, but the roll out will take time and we ask for your continued support and adherence to the necessary safety measures; stay at home, maintain social distancing, wear a face covering where required and regularly wash your hands.

These precautions help stop the spread of the virus, which in turn directly reduces the number of seriously ill people in hospital and gives us more time to deliver the vaccine. Together, through these precautions and the vaccine, we can protect our community.

Yours sincerely



Jo Whitehead
Chief Executive

NEW MANDATORY CORONAVIRUS TESTING **FOR TRAVELLERS INTO WALES**

Health Minister, Vaughan Gething has confirmed:
Passengers arriving into Wales from all international destinations will be required to present a negative COVID-

19 test result before departing to help protect against new strains of coronavirus circulating internationally,

From 4am Monday 18th January 2021, inbound passengers arriving by boat, plane or train from countries outside the Common Travel Area (UK, Republic of Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands) will have to take a test up to 72 hours before departing the country they are in, to help protect against the new strains of coronavirus such as those seen in Brazil, Denmark and South Africa.

The introduction of the measures is in response to the changes seen in the transmission of the virus both in the UK and across the globe. Pre-departure testing will provide an additional layer of safety from imported cases of coronavirus on top of the mandatory 10 day quarantine for arrivals, helping identify people who may currently be infectious and preventing them from travelling to Wales.

A negative pre-departure test reduces the risk of someone travelling whilst infectious, acting as another safeguard to prevent imported infections.

Passengers arriving from countries not on the Welsh Government's Travel Corridor list must continue to self-isolate for 10 days, regardless of their pre-departure test result, to provide further robust protection from those travelling from high-risk countries.

Prior to departure, passengers will need to present proof of a negative COVID-19 test result to carriers, as well as their Passenger Locator Form.

The move further bolsters existing protective measures which helped to safely enable international travel last year, with self-isolation for new arrivals and Travel Corridors remaining critical in reducing the risk of imported cases from high-risk countries.

Health Minister, Vaughan Gething said:

"We are doing everything we can to slow down the spread of the virus.

"These new measures will help ensure we prevent new strains of the virus developing internationally from being imported into Wales.

"We are already asking passengers returning from high-risk countries to self-isolate for 10 days and these requirements remain in place.

o

"Added to the requirement to self-isolate, pre-departure tests will provide a further line of defence - helping us control the virus as we continue to roll-out the vaccine at pace."

Alert Level 4 lockdown restrictions, which came into force on 18 December 2020, remain in place meaning everyone must stay at home unless travelling for a very **limited** set of reasons, including for work. Travelling for a holiday is not permitted under alert level 4, whether that is in Wales, elsewhere in the UK or overseas.

HEALTH WORKFORCE 'TOGETHER AS ONE' TO VACCINATE WALES SAFELY AS PHARMACY PILOT BEGINS

Wales's healthcare workforce are coming "together as one" to ensure Wales' COVID-19 vaccination programme rolls out as quickly as is safe to do, the Health Minister has said.

It comes as the first pharmacies in Wales begin to administer COVID-19 vaccines, with a pilot starting in Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board today [Friday 15].

Vaughan Gething said:

"We are in the early stages of delivering the largest vaccination programme Wales has ever seen and the sheer scale of what has been achieved so far, and continues to happen, should not be underestimated."

"The roll-out of these vaccines to everyone eligible adult in Wales as quickly as is safe to do so is truly an example, once again, of our inspiring healthcare workforce coming together as one."

"A mix of vaccination sites and centres have been selected to ensure everyone across the country has equal access to a vaccination. People can be expected to be asked to attend either a mass or community centre, hospital, GP practice, pharmacy or mobile unit."

"Just because there isn't a type of service near to you, this does not mean any less is happening."

7

"Safety is of course at the fore of all that our Health Boards and staff do, but we have also worked to ensure our vaccination locations meet the needs of the characteristics of the vaccines and are as conveniently located as possible for the community it will serve.

"Your local pharmacist may not be offering the jab just yet, but they may very well be working all hands-on-deck at your local mass vaccination centre instead.

"Conversely, mass vaccination centres aren't suitable for every local authority so you may be asked to attend a community or mobile centre.

"We also want people to feel comfortable to be vaccinated and to do this as conveniently as possible too, especially for those most at risk from the harms of coronavirus. This means using GP practices for a lot of our national delivery and they will be a key focus as the roll-out progresses.

"I cannot stress enough; your local health care workforce are doing absolutely everything they can, and to them I am immensely thankful.

"When it is your turn, you will be notified of where to go. Please do not call your GP or health services to request a COVID-19 vaccine and add undue pressure to their workloads."

Pharmacy settings are being piloted - similar to how care homes were in the initial stages - to establish the quickest, safest way to deliver vaccinations in these specific settings as they are much different and varied compared to GP surgeries and the bigger vaccination centres.

Fferyllfa Llŷn Cyf in Llanbedrog, which falls under the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board area, is the first in Wales to offer the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine from a pharmacy setting.

Pharmacist Llyr Hughes of Fferyllwyr Llŷn Cyf said:

"We are incredibly proud to be the first pharmacy in Wales to roll out the COVID-19 vaccine and are keen to do all we can to support the Health Board and Welsh Government accelerate the roll out of the programme.

"Our aim is to work together with the Mass Vaccination Centres, GP practices and community pharmacies to deliver the largest vaccination programme the NHS has ever seen.

"Pharmacists play a huge role in vaccinating against flu on a yearly basis and have the skills and expertise to provide the new immunisations.

"I'm looking forward to seeing pharmacies across Wales play a big part in helping to protect our communities as the programme expands."

**£180M FUND FOR HOSPITALITY,
LEISURE AND TOURISM BUSINESSES
OPENED ON WEDNESDAY 13TH
JANUARY**

The Welsh Government's latest £180m Economic Resilience Fund package to support tourism, hospitality and leisure businesses affected by coronavirus restrictions IS NOW OPEN

The funding, announced in December, is part of a live £450m package of support that the, hospitality, leisure and tourism sectors as well as their supply chain can access and will provide vital support to thousands of firms impacted by alert level 3 and 4 restrictions. The £180m is in addition to a £270m support package for businesses that pay non domestic rates, which includes non-essential retail businesses, and is being delivered via Local Authorities.

The Welsh Government estimates that under the package of support a typical hospitality business in Wales with the equivalent of six full-time staff could be eligible to receive between £12,000 and £14,000 in total, making it the most generous offer in the UK.

Economy Minister Ken Skates said: "Accelerating coronavirus rates meant we have had to make difficult but necessary decisions to protect people's health and save lives. We know these decisions have a knock-on effect on our businesses and there is no doubt that latest restrictions mean very real challenges for firms who have already had to deal with so much.

"We are committed to doing all we can to protect our businesses during this very challenging time. Our package of support is the most generous in the UK and since the beginning of the pandemic more than £1.6bn of Welsh Government financial assistance has reached businesses.

"Many hospitality, tourism, leisure and non-essential retail businesses have already received payments of £3,000 or £5,000 in the last month and this additional funding will be absolutely crucial in supporting eligible businesses through the difficult weeks ahead."

The amount a company can claim from the £180m sector specific fund will be calculated based on staff count and turnover. The fund is expected to support up to 8,000 hospitality, tourism and leisure firms impacted by the restrictions and potentially a further 2,000 in related supply chains.

An eligibility checker and calculator has been live on Business Wales since December to help businesses work out what support they can expect to qualify for in total and the detail they will need to make an application. Further guidance was also issued last week.

Since the end of October alone, more than 69,000 offers of support worth in excess of £230m have been made to

businesses across Wales through the Welsh Government's Economic Resilience Fund.

Welsh Government support has already protected more than 125,000 jobs that might otherwise have been lost.

Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism, Lord Elis-Thomas, said: "We are fully aware, not least from our hospitality stakeholder group, of the impact of the restrictions that we have had to bring in. This was not the Christmas period that any of us had hoped for, but I would urge businesses to take advantage of the help available. "We will continue to do everything we can to support our firms and our people through to the other side of this dreadful pandemic."

Further information and details on how to make an application for the package of business support is available on the [Business Wales website](#). The fund will remain open for 2 weeks or until funds are fully committed.

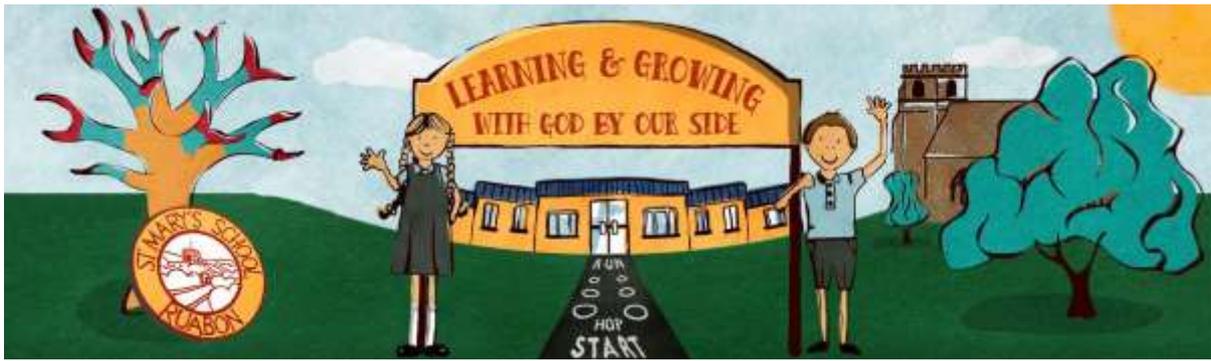


YSGOL RHIWABON

Latest Information on former pupil Scott Butler, received last week from Giles Evans:

Wrexham youth player: Scott Butler 18, who played for Swansea's under 23s at Millwall last week.





St Mary's School, Ruabon

APPLICATIONS FOR NURSERY PLACES

If you have, or know of, a child turning three before 31st August 2021 you can now apply online for a Nursery place at St Mary's Church in Wales School, Ruabon.

If you would like to speak to us for further information, please contact the school on 01978 820979.

Online admissions must be completed by **19th February 2021.**



St Mary's School, Ruabon

£40 MILLION EXTRA TO SUPPORT STUDENTS FACING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP.

The Welsh Government will today announce an additional £40m for universities to support students facing financial hardship, helping the students most affected by the pandemic with expenses such as accommodation costs.

Universities will be asked to prioritise funding towards the most vulnerable students, as well as strengthening advice and support services for students.

With most students currently being asked to study at home, the funding will also be used to address 'digital poverty' among students, to enable better access to online learning, and costs incurred due to the need to self-isolate.

The funding is in addition to over £40 million the Welsh Government has already provided to help universities this financial year, which has included £10m towards student hardship, mental health support and student unions.

The funding will come from the Welsh Government's Covid-19 Reserve, to support the national response to the pandemic, and will be distributed to universities by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW).

Kirsty Williams, the Education Minister, said:

"This year, due to reasons beyond their control, many thousands of students have not been able to return to campus yet. In some cases, this means some students might still be paying for their accommodation while they are unable to use it. We recognise how difficult this is, which is why we are announcing this additional funding.

"Our universities have worked tremendously hard to support their students, ensuring learning has continued, while putting measures in

place to protect their students, staff and their local communities. This funding will allow them to build on that good work."

Rebecca Evans, the Finance Minister and Trefnydd, said:

"In such difficult times, it is vital we continue to support people currently in education, who will be instrumental as we rebuild our economy in the wake of the pandemic.

"This funding will also help tackle inequality, by ensuring the most vulnerable students and those most affected by the pandemic can complete their studies.

"If you are a student here in Wales, your university or students' union will be able to provide you with further information about the support available." ENDS.

Thank you to Mike Jones who has sent in the following information.

LAST MONTH we asked our readers to tell us about how they deal with scammers and pesky cold callers ...

MY HUSBAND and I always try to think of funny responses when we get a scam call. When one cold caller asked to speak to my husband, he said he was a burglar who had broken into the house. Next time, if someone asks whether I've been in an accident, I'm going to tell them I fell off an elephant in India.

J.N., Crawley.

I HAVE a little fridge magnet shaped like a set of bagpipes which plays a stirring version of Scotland The Brave. If someone rings and I suspect they are not genuine, or they are being rude, I push the 'play' button and walk away from the phone. I feel it provides the caller with a little entertainment.

C.B., Cropwell Bishop, Nottingham.

How to turn tables on the cold callers

IF I receive a call from a scammer, I often tell them they have to go through security before I can speak to them. I ask for their date of birth and then their mother's maiden name. On other occasions I will simply tell them that I am a pensioner and that my children have told me not to speak to strangers.

C.M., Edinburgh.

MY TACTIC for scaring off scammers is to ask them 'What would Jesus do', before saying that I will need to pray to God before I make a decision. Most will end the call once I do this. Alternatively, I will set off a per-

sonal alarm next to the handset, which emits an eardrum-bursting screech.

N.K., Liverpool.

I HAVE a few ways of dealing with scammers, but I'd like to share two of my favourites. Sometimes I will answer the phone in Welsh and then carry on the conversation in that language. On other occasions, I will tell them that I have to ask 'Mr Tiddles' before I can agree to anything. After that, I start purring and meowing down the phone.

H.F., Hook, Hampshire.

AS A rule I try to ignore all cold calls, but I have a routine if I inadvertently answer one and end up speaking to an actual person. I always introduce myself as PC Jones and ask the scammer how they knew the deceased and where they are calling from. Funny enough, no one ever stays on long enough to answer me.

B.D., Wigan.

Sign up now – Tŷ Pawb arts masterclasses for young people aged 9-14

Wrexham County Borough Council sent this bulletin at 14-01-2021 11:45 AM GMT

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

tŷ pawb

Sign up now for Criw Celf – arts masterclasses for young people



Criw Celf offers young people (aged 9 to 14) who love art, an opportunity to take part in artist-led masterclasses during February half term over a consecutive 4 day period.

Our programme of special workshops are being delivered online via zoom with professional artists, and offer participants opportunities to develop new creative skills and understanding of visual art and craft.

Meet new friends who also enjoy art too!

[Looking for something different at Half term..?.](#)

well take a look at this in line/virtual live opportunity from Ty Pawb in Wrexham. Sign up now for Criw Celf - arts masterclasses for young people aged 9-14 - Tŷ Pawb (typawb.wales)

Join Neighbourhood Watch!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1

Visit www.ourwatch.org.uk/join and complete the online form

You will receive a email with a confirmation code, enter this code when prompted and continue completing the form

Once registered as a member, you need to join or start a scheme

To do this, log into your account by clicking on Login from our website or by entering <https://ourwatchmember.org.uk/> - Click on SCHEME ADMIN and you will be given the option to join a local scheme or if there isn't one which covers your road, then you can start a scheme by selecting the option at the bottom left of the screen.

2

3

Become an ACTIVE member/lead for your scheme and make your area safer

Talk with your neighbours about keeping your community safer and raise awareness of issues. Actively make differences in your community and work together to be more resilient.

Your Local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme:

Contact details:



Neighbourhood Watch Network is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered in England and Wales, no: 1173349

THIS IS THE LINK FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH PAGE WHERE YOU CAN REGISTER TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER. A GROUP OF PEOPLE IS NEEDED, PEOPLE TO ADMIN THE GROUP AS WELL AS PEOPLE TO ACTUALLY MONITOR THE AREA. PLEASE REGISTER IF YOU CAN HELP OUT.

www.ourwatch.org.uk/join. Please also email clerk@ruaboncommunitycouncil.gov.wales too so that we can get a group together.

Thank you everyone for your encouraging messages AND for your contributions which have continued to lighten the ever present doom surrounding the virus. I am looking forward to the lighter and warmer days ahead and I suspect I am not the only one!
Take care, Sybil.