

Ruabon News Letter 358

(part one)

26..01.2021



YSGOL RHIWABON

PC Kim Jones and Mrs E Beveridge, can be seen here delivering a Year 9 Maths lesson live, to pupils. PC Kim will be supporting the school during the: '30 minute Live-on-line Form Tutor Well- being Sessions' initially and will eventually be offering her own sessions as part of the programme. For more information: <https://www.ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk/>



Active Wrexham - Virtual Delivery

WRECSAM / ACTIVE SCHOOL WREXHAM **Timetable** WRECSAM / ACTIVE SCHOOL WREXHAM

Day	Activity	Time	Location/ Links
Monday	PE Fitness with Ady Jones	10:30-11am	Meeting ID: 867 2116 0454 Passcode: 905913
Monday	Superhero HITT workout with Laura	1-2pm	Youtube https://youtu.be/w1Hon2W-y0
Monday	Introduction to Taekwondo	4.30-5pm	Meeting ID: 864 9476 0129 Passcode: 991025
Tuesday	Street Dance with Vicky from Urban Fusion	4-5pm	Meeting ID: 982 8188 7614 Passcode: 858766
Wednesday	PE Fitness with Ady Jones	10:30-11am	Meeting ID: 867 2116 0454 Passcode: 905913
Wednesday	Cricket with Chance to Shine	2-2.45pm	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cfr34y-Z7g&feature=youtu.be
Wednesday	Yoga with Eve	4-5pm	Meeting ID: 977 7590 5917 Passcode: 718997
Wednesday	Street Dance with Udoit Dance Foundation	3.30pm-4:30pm	https://en-gb.facebook.com/udoitdancefoundation/
Thursday	Gymnastics Mobility with Abbey Road Gymnastics Club	3pm	Video Link posted to: Active Wrexham Social Media
Thursday	Football Skills with The RCF	11am	Video Link posted to: Active Wrexham Social Media
Friday	PE Fitness with Ady Jones	10:30-11am	Meeting ID: 867 2116 0454 Passcode: 905913



The following articles from the Senedd have been sent in for the Ruabon News Letter by David Goodban, (Staff) Cymorth yr Aelod/Member Support Staff.

[Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers in Wales—please stay safe in Alert level 4.](#)

The Deputy Minister and Chief Whip, Jane Hutt, today gave thanks to the brilliant, kind people from all backgrounds throughout Wales who are volunteering to help communities face lockdown together.

“Wales has a strong tradition of people helping one another out, and we’ve really seen this in action over the last year. From picking up the phone, to delivering supplies to people who are self-isolating, to helping our public services, volunteers and community groups have found lots of creative ways to help. By volunteering safely, this helps local communities, and takes pressure off the NHS.

“I want to say thank you – you are fantastic.

“If you’d like to volunteer or offer support, it’s important that you keep yourself and others safe. In particular, Welsh Government guidance is that you should avoid sharing a car with another person outside your household, even if you’re trying to help someone get to a vaccination appointment.

“That’s because it would be difficult to keep to the rules and maintain physical distancing. If you come within 2 metres of others, you should avoid physical contact, try to face away from other and keep the time you spend within 2 metres of others as short as possible.

“Please follow the advice below, and stay safe.”

Ruth Marks, Chief Executive Officer of Wales Council for Voluntary Action, said:

“Volunteering efforts both formally and informally have made a huge difference to individuals and communities in Wales since the beginning of the pandemic. This type of support enables people to self-isolate where needed, and to stay connected. Now, with the infection rate at its highest, it has never been more important to ensure that support is carried out safely.

“If you are able to support others, it is important to check guidance on how to do this safely. It is also worth considering the many ways to volunteer from your own home, for example by checking in on others by phone or video call to reduce isolation and loneliness.

"To find out more on how to help others safely, and to register for volunteering opportunities, [visit Volunteering-Wales.net](http://Volunteering-Wales.net)."

Ann Woods, Chief Officer of Flintshire Local Voluntary Council, said:

"The County Voluntary Council Network, working with WCVA, plays a massive role in linking support offered by volunteers to those who are in need of a helping hand. We are here to advise voluntary and community groups regarding their governance, their fundraising and their volunteer management practice.

"In Flintshire we have provided training and support for many newly formed community groups who have helped with the Covid-19 response.

"Our message is that all volunteers should follow the current Welsh government guidelines. Community groups/volunteers who have any questions about how to volunteer safely within their local community can contact their local Voluntary Council via [Home - Third Sector Support Wales](http://Home-ThirdSectorSupportWales)."

The Carers Support Fund, which launched in October last year originally saw £1m allocated, today (Thursday 21st January) the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services, Julie Morgan has announced an additional quarter of a million pounds to the scheme.

Open to carers across Wales, the Carers Support Fund will see grants of up to £300 being made available for a range of essentials, including; food, household items such as furniture or white goods, or electronics such as a laptop for access to support and services.

There are around 55,300 people in Wales who receive a carer's allowance and recent research suggests that almost 40% of carers are worried about their financial situation.

Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services, Julie Morgan, said:

"The pandemic has added more challenges to unpaid carers across the country and I want to thank them for everything they are doing. I'm pleased to announce a further quarter of a million pounds to the fund to help more unpaid carers and their families.

"Working with Carers Trust Wales, who play such a pivotal role in delivering advice and support, the Carers Support Fund will be continued to be delivered via them."

The Carers Support Fund will be available up to 31 March 2021 and further information is available here carers.org/wales.

Recovery app launched in Wales. to help support people with long covid.

A covid recovery app has been launched today (20 January) as part of wider support on offer for people experiencing the longer term effects of coronavirus.

The bilingual, first of its kind, app has been developed by the NHS Wales respiratory health group on behalf of the Welsh Government and has been designed to offer people a bespoke tool and personal coach to help them on their road to recovery.

With more than 100 videos and links to advice, app users will be able to record their symptoms, track their progress and learn to manage their condition at home with support. It includes advice from therapists, psychologists, dietitians and consultants.

The app is part of a wider national approach to support people with post-covid syndrome which includes supporting health professionals to recognise the symptoms, signposting people to support and providing a clear pathway for people as they go through the healthcare system.

Post-Covid-19 syndrome, also known as long covid, has been defined as signs and symptoms that develop during or after an infection consistent with coronavirus that continue for more than 12 weeks and are not explained by an alternative diagnosis.

It is anticipated that people are able to access the majority of the support they need close to home, and people should only have to travel for more specialised services which have to be provided in an acute hospital setting.

Health minister Vaughan Gething said: *“We are still learning about the virus but it is estimated that around that around 1 in 10 people who have had coronavirus suffer some long term symptoms. The launch of this app, which is the first of its kind, is to reassure those people that there is support available to them and that they are not alone.*

“This app is part of a wider national approach which has been put into place to recognise those people who months later are still feeling a range of cardiac, neurological and psychological issues.

“Anyone can download the app but we’re also asking health professionals to recommend it to their patients so that their care can continue at home long after their appointment ends.

“GPs are still best placed to signpost their patients to appropriate support, carry out testing to look for any treatable symptoms and refer patients to specialist consultants if necessary, this will of course mean that support is still available for anyone without a smart phone.

“Always call 999 if you experience any life threatening symptoms or contact the [111 online coronavirus service](#) or your GP if you feel your symptoms aren’t improving or you need further advice.

Flood-hit homes to receive funding, following “devastating” scenes across Wales.

Homes in Wales hit by recent flooding will receive between £500 and £1000 in support following “devastating” scenes of damage across the country.

More than 150 properties across Wales were flooded earlier this week after the arrival of Storm Christoph – with some areas seeing more than 200mm of rain in 72 hours; more than an average months’ worth of rain in most parts of Wales.

More than 40 separate flood warnings and flood alerts were issued by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), including two severe flood warnings, with homes evacuated following severe incidents in Bangor on Dee and Rossett, Wrexham, and Skewen in Neath Port Talbot.

People continue to be advised to only travel if absolutely necessary, and to avoid travelling to flood-hit areas.

As well as the impact on homes and properties, local authorities have also reported impacts to highway networks, resulting in significant traffic disruption.

The support payments will be made by local authorities, paid for by Welsh Government.

This is the same level of support provided to households following flooding caused by storms Dennis and Ciara last year.

The support payments will also be available to households which have suffered significant internal flooding while coronavirus restrictions have been in place through the autumn.

First Minister Mark Drakeford said: “Major flooding incidents can be devastating for the communities affected and the devastating scenes we have seen across Wales merit a strong and quick response for those householders affected.

“This is all the more harrowing when we consider those who have had to temporarily leave their homes, or who have seen their homes and belongings damaged by floodwater, have done so during the difficulties posed by the coronavirus pandemic.

“We will support people who have suffered flooding in their homes with support payments of £500 and £1,000, similar to the support provided to households during storms Ciara and Dennis last year.”

Further details on how affected households can apply for funding will be available shortly.

Lesley Griffiths, Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, thanked local authorities, agencies, volunteers and emergency services which responded to Storm Christoph over the last few days.

She said: “We know major flooding incidents such as these can be devastating for communities, and I offer my sympathy and support to all those communities hit by flooding – especially where residents had to leave their homes due to flooding overnight.

“The collaborative efforts of organisations and services across the country, many of whom worked overnight to ensure members of the public were safe, have truly been remarkable.

The Minister also urged the public not to put extra pressure on emergency services and agencies during the response to flooding caused by Storm Christoph.

“I urge members of the public to please heed the advice being issued by the emergency services, and to not travel unless absolutely necessary, to avoid putting extra pressure on our response agencies,” she said.

The Minister added: “The sad reality is as we face the ongoing threat posed by drastic climate change, major flood and damaging weather events such as these are going to be more likely, not less.

“The Welsh Government will continue to pro-actively manage and respond to flood risk across Wales – in the autumn, we launched our new National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management, which outlined how we intend to work alongside partners to manage long-term flood risks across the country.

“We will work with risk management authorities to ensure defences across Wales remain robust.”

Between 2016 and 2021, Welsh Government invested more than £390m in helping manage flood risk. Following flooding in 2020, the Welsh Government also provided more than £4.6m for flood repairs to affected authorities and 100% grant funding for the preparation of new flood defence schemes.

More than £1.7 Billion **reaches businesses in Wales.**

Businesses in Wales have received in excess of £1.7bn from the Welsh Government since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic.

More than 178,000 grants totalling £1bn have been delivered through local authorities who have been administering schemes on behalf of the Welsh Government including the Non-Domestic Rates scheme, Start-Up Grant and the Discretionary Fund.

Economy Minister Ken Skates said this financial assistance has been crucial in helping thousands of businesses throughout Wales and protected many more jobs and livelihoods that might otherwise have been lost.

The funding includes over £520m provided through the Welsh Government's Economic Resilience Fund with more payments reaching firms daily.

The Welsh Government has provided in excess of £50m to organisations and individuals through its Culture Recovery Fund. The Minister also revealed that money is already reaching tourism, hospitality and leisure businesses from the £180m sector specific fund which opened on Wednesday, 13 January with applications being processed quickly.

The sector specific fund currently remains open and businesses can find out if they are eligible and make an application by visiting the Business Wales website.

It is estimated that under latest 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: "This past year has placed untold pressures and challenges on our economy and our businesses.

"As a Government we have had to make difficult, but necessary decisions to protect the health of our people and we know this has had an inevitable impact on our firms.

"That is why we have worked hard since the beginning of the pandemic to provide financial support to businesses who need it, as quickly as possible.

"To get more than £1.7 billion out to our firms has meant a huge effort, not least from our local authorities. I would like to thank each and everyone them for everything they have done and continue to do in supporting us to protect businesses.

"Our package of help, which is in addition to that available from the UK Government, continues to be the most comprehensive and generous package of support for businesses, anywhere in the United Kingdom.

"We will continue to engage closely with the business community through these difficult times and do all that we can to support them."

The following information has been taken from Ken Skates' News Letter *Many residents contacted me about the fire at Hafod Quarry in Johnstown last year, and I'm sure they will be disappointed with developments this week, considering the seriousness of the incident.*

I have made numerous representations to Natural Resources Wales regarding the site. NRW will be providing a more detailed report which will further explain what was concluded in the investigation, what further action will be taken and how this site will operate in the future. In the meantime, I will be seeking further assurances on behalf of local people.

Updated: NRW issues landfill owners with a warning after fire at Johnstown site



Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has issued landfill site owners Enovert North Ltd (Enovert) with a warning following a fire at their site in Johnstown in May last year.

It comes following an investigation into the incident at [Hafod Quarry Landfill on 27 May](#), which involved a multi-agency response with the local authority and emergency services.

Following this incident, North Wales Fire and Rescue service have concluded that the fire was “likely the result of spontaneous combustion following a prolonged period of dry weather.”

Since then, NRW as the landfill site’s regulator, has completed its own thorough investigation to establish whether the fire was a result of Enovert failing to comply with their environmental permit conditions. The investigation found no evidence to suggest that Enovert’s actions caused the fire, say NRW. However, it did identify improvements needed relating to the application of landfill cover materials which led to a non-compliance of the permit.

NRW has issued a warning letter to Enovert notifying them of this breach and has required them to complete a number of corrective actions to secure compliance with the permit.

Julia Frost, NRW’s Industry Regulation Team Leader, said: “This was a serious incident that was effectively managed due to the quick response from all partners.

“Enovert has already carried out a number of the improvements highlighted in the investigation and we await their corrective actions to ensure the work is correctly documented.

“As regulator of the site, we are committed to the owner’s compliance with the permit and will continue to work with them to ensure that the operator fulfils its permit requirements.”

In a statement, Mark Silvester, CEO of Enovert, said: “I confirm we have received a ‘Warning Letter’ issued by NRW following the fire that occurred at our Hafod Landfill Site last year.

“The findings of NRW’s investigation concur with those of our own completed in June 2020 following which the Company took immediate steps to implement a series of improvements ensuring continued compliance with its environmental permit.

“We again offer our apologies to the local community impacted at the time and thank the North Wales Fire Service for attending the incident.” Enovert will now formally respond in writing to NRW confirming the actions the Company has already taken and agreeing timescales for completion of the further actions required following issue of the warning.

Cllr David A Bithell Lead Member Environment and Transport for WCBC

met with NRW last week and was briefed on the outcome and conclusions of their investigation.

He said “I was disappointed that only a “warning letter“ was given, as the extent of the fire was significant.

“NRW confirmed to me that there had been some procedural and environmental permit breaches. The conclusions of the report make recommendations for further work to be carried out to comply with the permit this includes more compliance visits.”

To report an environmental incident contact NRW’s incident hotline on 0300 065 3000, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Picture: Hafod Quarry – Natural Resources Wales.

SO SORRY EVERYONE THAT THIS HAS TAKEN SO LONG TO SEND (and I am hoping it will send this time!)

Fingers crossed

Sybil