

RUABON NEWS LETTER 365

15.03.2021



Spring along the River Dee, photos taken by Aron Jones while out walking.



Some areas are still in flood and it seems as though a photo taken at some distance also captured a bird in the reeds.



Stay local-Wales takes first steps out of lockdown

The stay-at-home restrictions will be replaced by a new interim stay local rule in Wales from tomorrow (Saturday 13 March) as part of a package of measures, beginning the process of unlocking the strict coronavirus regulations, First Minister Mark Drakeford has announced.

The return of children to face-to-face learning in school will continue to be prioritised but there will also be a gradual and phased approach to relaxing restrictions in other parts of society.

The new stay local rule will mean people can leave their homes and travel within their local area - usually within five miles. Local outdoor sports facilities will also be opened.

The five-mile rule of thumb will be set out in guidance - people living in some parts of Wales, especially rural areas, may need to travel further than five miles to access shops and other public services.

First Minister Mark Drakeford said:

"Thanks to the fantastic efforts everyone has made, we can make some changes to the current restrictions, which will be phased in over the coming weeks.

"The number of cases of coronavirus continues to fall overall; the pressure on our NHS is easing and our vaccine programme continues to go from strength to strength.

"But the very clear advice we have is that the virus has not gone away - the highly infectious Kent variant is the dominant strain in Wales and as soon as we start to mix again, the virus will come too.

"With every step we take to return to a more normal life, we are responsible for what happens next. While we will welcome more freedom to move around locally and meet with family and friends, we cannot afford to let down our guard."

From Saturday 13 March:

- No more than four people from two households will be able to meet in their local area outdoors, including in gardens. Children under 11 and carers do not count towards this limit. There must be no indoors mixing and social distancing should be followed.

- Outdoor sports facilities can reopen, including tennis courts, golf courses and bowling greens. A maximum of four people from two households can take part in activities using local sports facilities.
- Indoor care home visits can resume for one designated visitor, with the permission of the care home.

From Monday 15 March:

- All primary pupils and those in qualifications years will return. Schools will have the flexibility to bring in year 10 and 12 pupils, to support them to progress to the next stage of their learning, and more learners will return to colleges. There will also be flexibility for in-school check-ins for all other pupils. All learners will return after the Easter break.
- Hairdressers and barbers can reopen by appointment only to cut hair.

From Monday 22 March:

- The first steps to re-open non-essential retail will begin. Restrictions on the sale of non-essential items will be lifted for those shops, which are currently open.
- Garden centres will also reopen.

An additional £150m will be available to support businesses to the end of March, which are not yet able to open.

The extra funding will see businesses in the hospitality, tourism, leisure and non-essential retail sectors that pay non-domestic rates qualify for an additional payment of up to £5,000.

During the third week of the review period, we will take stock of the latest evidence before confirming changes for the Easter holidays. If the public health conditions continue to be favourable,

from 27th March:

- The stay local restrictions will be lifted to allow people to travel within Wales.
- Self-contained holiday accommodation will re-open for one household.
- Organised children's activities outdoors will restart.
- Libraries will reopen.

The review on 1st April will consider whether all remaining shops and close contact services can reopen on the 12th April. This is in line with planned re-opening in England.

First Minister Mark Drakeford added:

"We need everyone's help as we start to unlock these restrictions. We all need to follow the rules, maintain social distancing, good hand hygiene and to wear face coverings in indoor public places.

"We all want to see Wales re-open and the return of a more normal life. This is within sight - but only if we can keep the virus under control. No one wants us to have to reintroduce strict restrictions, to retreat from the progress we have made. Only by working together, can we help keep Wales safe."

The changes follow the regular statutory review of the coronavirus regulations by Welsh Ministers, using the latest scientific and medical evidence from the UK Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE), the Welsh Government's Technical Advisory Cell (TAC) and the advice from the Chief Medical Officer for Wales.

"North Wales working together on future recovery" **- Ken Skates-**

The Welsh Government, local authorities and partners are working together on the future recovery of North Wales to ensure the region is greener, fairer and more prosperous Economy and North Wales Minister Ken Skates said today.

The Minister was speaking following the latest meeting of the Cabinet Committee on North Wales which brought together government ministers and the region's local authority leaders.

The committee focussed on key areas for the region including supporting low carbon energy opportunities and ensuring developments also had a positive impact on supply chains.

The group also reaffirmed its commitment to the North Wales Metro Programme, which is supporting sustainable ways of travelling, improving safety and reducing carbon emissions.

The future of the region's town centres was also discussed with Welsh towns facing huge challenges in light of the coronavirus pandemic. The Welsh Government's Transforming Towns Programme is currently supporting projects worth over £70m across North Wales, offering a mix of interventions to build on local economic opportunities and create sustainable places.

Ken Skates said: "We are facing very challenging times and the past year has been difficult for everyone. One of the strengths of the North Wales region is partnership working and I'm pleased that once again government and local authorities have come together to address the key issues and look at ways of working together for the future.

"We focussed on key areas such as low carbon energy opportunities, the progress of the North Wales Metro and the future of our town centres. Transforming our towns isn't just about new buildings, it's about opening up new opportunities and creating vibrant and sustainable town centres for living, working, learning and leisure.

"While the situation remains challenging we can aim at having a better future in the region. There are positive developments such as the North Wales Growth deal and continued investment in our transport infrastructure. It is important that we continue to work together as a region towards our shared aims of a greener, fairer and more prosperous future."

Leader of Gwynedd Council and Chair of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board Dyfrig Siencyn said: "We welcome the opportunity to meet with the Cabinet Committee for what has been an important and focused discussion dedicated to our economic priorities in North Wales. With the Growth Deal secured, we now have to look ahead optimistically at the year ahead, start driving forward delivery of the Growth Deal but also work together to define a prospectus of interventions to help our communities and our people to bounce back"

(Published in the News Letter on 01.03.2021 (with some wording emphasised on 15.03.2021) Just asking the question: “Will the UK Government NOW also be contributing to the costs?” This is not made clear in Simon’s statement.)

The following is from a factual briefing provided to the office staff of Ken Skates MS by Welsh Government officials for the purposes of updating constituents on the progress of:

STEP-FREE ACCESS AT RUABON STATION

Briefing Note-Ruabon Station-Step-Free Access

- Welsh Government, following detailed discussions with the rail industry on investment priorities, has twice submitted Ruabon Station as a priority nomination for UK Government investment in step-free access under the “non-devolved Access for All” programme.
- The first was a request for a new replacement bridge with lifts, the second for a reduced cost alternative whereby lifts could be fitted to the existing structure.
- On both occasions, the strong case made for Ruabon was not accepted by the UK Government. The Minister has expressed disappointment at this and has asked Transport for Wales (TfW) and rail industry partners to report to him on the potential for those priorities not funded by UK Government to progress the improvements directly. The report from TfW is awaited.
- Recently, the Minister has written to the Secretary of State for Transport (UK Government) to request - given the major and lengthy programme selected for

the integration of the Shotton stations - deferring the committed Access for All expenditure for Shotton to a later date, in which case it would be Welsh Government's highest priority.

- The letter also requested additional UK Government funding for Access for All to maintain a level of commitment to investment in Wales and Borders. This additional programme comprised priorities first submitted to the UK Government in 2019. This included step-free access at Ruabon.
- The inclusion of Ruabon was referred to the First Minister for a decision so as to avoid any constituency conflict for the Minister, and which the First Minister approved.
- The UK Government Secretary of State for Transport's decision is awaited.

A campaigner is demanding the UK Government steps up and helps deliver long-awaited access improvements at Ruabon Station.

The Welsh Government wants to install lifts to help people with mobility issues move between platforms, **“but the UK Government has twice refused to contribute to the costs even though the work comes under Westminster's remit.”**

Welsh Ministers have now once again asked the UK Government's Department for Transport to urgently agree to prioritise work at Ruabon.

Simon Baynes MP welcomes major progress by UK government on step free access at Ruabon Station

The following information has been sent in by Simon Baynes, MP on: 08.03.2021

Member of Parliament for Clwyd South, Simon Baynes MP, has welcomed major progress by the UK Government on step-free disability access at Ruabon Railway Station. Secretary of State for Transport, Grant Shapps MP, has said today that Ruabon Station will be progressing to the next stage of the 'Access for All' programme. This next stage of design will allow the Department for Transport to establish any risks and the anticipated final costs associated with the project.

Since becoming the MP for Clwyd South, Simon Baynes has been very active in making the case for step-free access to the UK Government (which is responsible for the infrastructure of the railways in Wales) during Questions in the Chamber of the House of Commons and in meetings with Ministers in the Department for Transport, the Treasury and the Office of the Secretary of State for Wales. He has also worked closely with the stakeholders involved in Ruabon Station including Wrexham Council, Network Rail, the Welsh government, Ruabon Community Council, Friends of Ruabon and the Chester Shrewsbury Rail Partnership.

Ruabon is a busy station with two flights of stairs that passengers need to use in order to access the Chester platform and it is the only station on the Chester to Shrewsbury route that fails to meet passengers' step-free access needs. From 2002 to 2017, footfall increased by 220% among those entering and exiting the station and the addition of a new development 360 houses and a hotel in Ruabon is also expected to bring additional footfall and demand for the station. Ruabon Station is also the rail and bus gateway access for Llangollen and the World Heritage site at Pontcysyllte.

Transport Secretary, Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, said:

"Simon Baynes has been championing the cause of constituents who need step-free access at Ruabon station, and I'm delighted we can

now progress work to the next stage. This shows the value of having strong Conservative voices in North Wales.

"Our railway should be easily available to all, not just the able-bodied, and we must press ahead with projects to make stations accessible."

Commenting, Simon Baynes MP said: "It is very good news for residents in Ruabon and the wider community in Clwyd South and Wrexham that the UK Government has said today that Ruabon Station will be progressing to the next stage of the 'Access for All' programme. This is something I've been campaigning for both locally in Clwyd South and in Parliament since day one of becoming an MP, **and before that as a candidate, and it shows the commitment of the UK government to Clwyd South and North Wales.**

"Many representatives, organisations and residents in Ruabon have been campaigning for step-free access at Ruabon Station for several years and I am very pleased to see this important progress to the next stage of design. This would not have been possible without the help and support of County Cllr David Bithell (Environment and Transport Lead at Wrexham Council), Darren Williams (Chief Environment and Technical Officer at Wrexham Council), County Cllr Joan Lowe (the local County Councillor for Penycae and Ruabon South), Sheila Dee (Community Rail Officer of the Chester Shrewsbury Rail Partnership), the team at Network Rail, the Welsh government, Ruabon Community Council and the Friends of Ruabon who have all worked so hard to get to this crucial stage.



"This project is needed to make sure all passengers can access the jobs and leisure opportunities that will make our community an even greater place to live and work." ENDS

Simon Baynes MP/AS Member of Parliament for Clwyd South / A

The following information was sent in by Ken Skates and posted in the Ruabon News Letter on 22nd February

Extra £150m to support businesses in Wales

A further £150 million has been made available to support Welsh businesses in dealing with the continued impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Last week, the Welsh Government said the funding would be confirmed pending today's regulations review.

The additional support will help businesses in the hospitality, tourism, leisure and non-essential retail sectors that pay non-domestic rates and will operate as a top up to the Restrictions Business Fund.

This will see an eligible business with a rateable value of £12,000 or less receive an extra £4,000 grant payment.

Firms with a rateable value of between £12,001 and £500,000 will receive £5,000.

The funding, which will help businesses with their costs up to 31 March, will be available to firms regardless of the number of employees and ensures micro businesses benefit from the support.

Local authorities, who have been crucial throughout the pandemic in getting money to businesses quickly, will again be administering and distributing these payments.

Businesses that pay non-domestic rates and have already received a payment since the firebreak in October do not need to take action. However, businesses that have not registered with their local authority, should take action now to ensure they receive the financial support they are entitled to.

Today's announcement builds on the rates holiday for eligible businesses in the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors in Wales which has been extended for a further 12 months.

In combination with the Welsh Government's existing Small Business Rates Relief scheme, this ensures that more than 70,000 businesses will continue to pay no rates at all in 2021-22.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, more than £1.9bn of Welsh Government support has reached businesses throughout Wales. This has been vital in protecting firms through this incredibly difficult time and safeguarding more than 160,000 jobs.

Welsh Government support is in addition to that available from the UK Government.

Economy Minister Ken Skates said: "Today's announcement of £150m in additional support is crucial to our continued efforts to help businesses right across Wales through what remains a very challenging period of time."

“As a Government, we have responded at pace to protect Welsh firms and jobs through our package of support which is worth more than £2 billion. In addition, we have also announced we are extending the 100% rates relief package for the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors for a further 12 months.

“As a result of our direct action, we have been able to dedicate more funding to support businesses than we have received from the UK Government.

“I also want to thank local authorities once again for their commitment to get funds out to businesses as quickly as possible. Their dedication has been absolutely crucial over this past year in ensuring businesses receive what they are entitled to.

“We will continue to do all that it can, to safeguard firms and livelihoods as incredible work and commitment to combat the virus continues across Wales

£18.7m to extend business incentives to recruit more apprentices

The Welsh Government has invested a further £18.7m to extend incentives to support businesses in recruiting apprentices in Wales. The Employer Incentive Scheme, which will now run until 30 September, is a key part of the Welsh Government's Covid commitment to support businesses and workers in recovering from the impacts of coronavirus.

Launched in autumn 2020, the incentives have already seen more than 1,300 new apprentices recruited.

Today's news means businesses will be able to claim up to £4,000 for each new apprentice they hire under the age of 25. This is an uplift from the previous £3,000 grant that was on offer.

The £4,000 incentive will be available to businesses that are employing a young apprentice for at least 30 hours per week.

Welsh businesses could also receive £2,000 for each new under 25 year old apprentice they employ for less than 30 hours a week, which is an increase of £500.

The improved incentives for employers recognises the particular economic impact of Covid-19 on people aged under 25. For workers aged 25 and over, businesses can access £2,000 for

each new apprentice they hire on a 30 hour or more contract, and a £1,000 incentive for apprentices working less than 30 hours.

Payments are restricted to ten learners per business.

Dedicated funding is also available to recruit disabled people and for workers who lost a previous apprenticeship position because of coronavirus.

The Welsh Government has already reached its target of creating 100,000 apprenticeships in this Senedd term, and the incentives are ensuring more crucial employment opportunities for apprentices.

Economy Minister Ken Skates said: *"Apprenticeships make a big contribution to our economy and the extension and increased offer of our incentives will provide important opportunities for people of all ages as well as our business community.*

"We are already seeing the positive impact the scheme is having and I want to see that continue.

"The Welsh Government has provided crucial support to businesses and workers throughout the pandemic and today's announcement builds on that.

"Our Covid commitment is a key part of our Economic Resilience and Reconstruction Mission and will be vital as we rebuild our economy so that it is more prosperous but also fairer and greener than ever before."

Finance Minister Rebecca Evans added: "Apprenticeships help people gain high-quality vocational skills, and provide opportunities for businesses and the economy to thrive.

"The additional funding we're announcing today, which includes £8.7m to support the extension of the Employer Incentives Scheme, will continue to support employers to recruit apprentices and young people who have been hardest hit by the pandemic."

The Welsh Government's new 'We're in Your Corner' campaign, which launched last week, also encourages firms the length and breadth of Wales to take advantage of recruitment and skills support for new and existing employees available via the Skills Gateway for Business.

For more information

visit: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/skillsgateway>

The Apprenticeship Programme in Wales is funded by the Welsh Government with support from the European Social Fund.

Extra £72m to support learners as they return to school

Education Minister Kirsty Williams has today announced a further £72 million to support learners as part of the response towards recovery and progression since the pandemic.

The funding will include the continuation of the Recruit, Recover and Raise Standards programme into the next academic year, extra learning resources and support for foundation phase learners in schools and childcare settings that provide early education.

Support will also be targeted at learners in years 11, 12 and 13, to provide additional help with their transition into the next stage.

Since last July, the equivalent of 1,800 extra full-time school staff have been recruited in schools across Wales to provide extra support during the pandemic, double the original target of 900.

Funding will also be used to support 1,400 trainee teachers currently in Initial Teacher Education, enabling them to complete their practical experience in the autumn, complete their qualifications and move into full-time teaching.

In a comparison of UK nations in February, the Education Policy Institute (EPI) found that Wales' *"catch up programmes are far better targeted at their most disadvantaged pupils"*. The announcement today is expected to increase the spend-per-pupil equivalent to £239 - the highest in the UK.

Kirsty Williams, the Education Minister, said:

"We all know it's been a difficult period for learners and staff. Schools and colleges have done terrific work in ensuring learning has continued, while putting preparations in place so the return of learners is as smooth as possible.

"I know that extra help is needed, especially for learners at key stages in their academic careers and in their lives. As learners continue to go back to face-to-face learning, we are providing this additional funding to ensure support is in place when our young people return to the classroom."

In a big week for education reform in Wales, the Minister also looked ahead to Tuesday's final Senedd stage of the Curriculum and Assessment Bill and the introduction of the first ever 'made in Wales' national curriculum:

"It is a significant milestone in our national mission as the Curriculum and Assessment Bill reaches its final stage before being passed into law.

"I call it a 'national mission' as it has involved everyone working together - teachers, parents, academics, businesses, national organisations, and my department of course - to raise standards, tackle the attainment gap and have an education system that is a source of pride to us all.

"Diolch yn fawr to everyone who has played their part in this historic journey for education in Wales." **ENDS**

Wales is your home, FM tells EU nationals

First Minister Mark Drakeford has written an open letter to all EU nationals living in Wales urging those who have yet to apply for settled status to do so before the deadline in June.

Since 2019, EU citizens living in the UK have been able to apply for settled or pre-settled status via the Home Office's EU Settlement Scheme, to enable them to maintain the same rights as British citizens, after June this year.

Latest Home Office figures suggest the majority of those who need to apply have done so, but believe there are still groups, potentially including vulnerable or elderly citizens or those who have been here for many years, who may be unaware they need to apply or have concerns about doing so.

In his letter, published today in eleven languages, Mark Drakeford said:

"I am writing this open letter to you and your families to tell you that you are, and will always be, welcome in Wales.

"The contribution you make to our communities, our public services and our businesses is invaluable. I understand how hard the last few years have been for you, with all the uncertainty that Brexit has brought, and now, an ongoing pandemic which has made a difficult situation much harder to deal with.

"I want you to know that we want you to stay here, and continue to enjoy the freedom and rights that Wales, as a welcoming nation, can offer you.

"All EU, EEA or Swiss citizens who were resident in the UK by 31 December 2020 are required by the UK Government to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme, to secure their status to continue to live and work here. This does not apply to Irish citizens.

"The deadline for applying is 30 June 2021. This date is approaching fast.

"We know there are people who haven't applied to the scheme yet. There could be many reasons for this. You may have come to live in the UK many years ago and not realise that you need to apply. You may have had children whilst living here and not know that you need to apply for yourselves and your children. You may have problems accessing a smartphone or computer. Or you may simply be overwhelmed by the process or worried that you don't have the correct paperwork.

"Whatever your situation, the Welsh Government would like to help. We have secured specialist, independent and free support to help you through the application process. We are working with a network of legal specialists, Citizens' Advice, and charities to make sure that there is someone you can turn to help you make your application and stay here in Wales.

"I'm urging all EU citizens who have not applied to visit our [Preparing Wales website](#) where you will find all the information you need.

"We want you stay in Wales, where you will always be welcome. ENDS

£60m to extend Contact Tracing over Summer

Health Minister Vaughan Gething has announced an extra £50m to allow health boards to extend contact tracing over the summer.

The additional funding, on top of £10m previously agreed, will keep the current contact tracing workforce until the end of September 2021. It will also support and enable continued improvements of the contact tracing digital system.

The Health Minister has also announced today that people who are close contacts of someone who has tested positive and have been asked to isolate by contact tracers will now be offered a coronavirus test.

Close contacts will be asked to take a test as they start their self-isolation period and again on day eight. If you are identified as a contact you will still need to isolate for the full 10 days even if the test comes back negative as it can take up to 10 days or more for symptoms to develop, or for the virus to appear in your system.

As of the end of February, contact tracers in Wales have reached 167,226 (99.6 per cent) positive cases who were eligible for follow-up, together with 382,494 (95 per cent) of their close contacts and advised people whether or not they need to self-isolate.

Mr Gething said:

"Although new case numbers have responded well to the current lockdown restrictions, there are significant uncertainties around the trajectory of the pandemic which means it is highly likely we will need to maintain a substantial contact tracing operation for the foreseeable future.

"Even with the roll-out of the vaccination programme, testing and tracing will remain a vital part of our approach as lockdown restrictions ease and to tackle any new variants as people arrive from overseas."

Testing programmes continue to be developed and are being rolled out in schools, workplaces, care homes, hospitals and by emergency services.

This week we have published a framework for testing for hospital patients in Wales to prevent coronavirus from entering hospitals

undetected, to prevent its spread within hospitals and to ensure the safe discharge of patients to their home or to community care.

Under our workplace testing framework we are working with a number of public and private organisations including the police and fire and rescue services on plans to regularly test their workforces to find asymptomatic cases and break chains of transmission.

The model for contact tracing will continue to be reviewed over the course of 2021.

WELSH GOVERNMENT EXTENDS MEASURES TO PROTECT BUSINESSES FROM EVICTION UNTIL END OF JUNE 2021

Retail, hospitality, tourism and other businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic will now be protected from eviction until the end of June 2021, Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales Ken Skates has announced.

As part of the action Welsh Government is taking to support the business community the moratorium against forfeiture for the non-payment of rent, which was due to end on 31 March, will now be extended until 30 June, 2021.

While businesses should continue to pay rent wherever possible, the latest measure will ensure no business is forced out of its premises if it misses a payment between now and the end of June this year. The move will help ease the burden on a range of sectors, including retail and hospitality, at what continues to be an incredibly challenging period of time.

The Welsh Government's package of business support is in addition to that available from the UK Government and is the most generous in the UK. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Welsh Government has ensured that more than £1.9bn has reached businesses across Wales with more money reaching firms every day.

Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales Ken Skates, said: "The past year has placed untold pressures on our firms and our people as we deal with coronavirus and that is why we have moved at

pace to support the business community through the pandemic with a package worth in excess of £2 billion.

"Today's announcement of the extension of measures to prevent forfeiture for the non-payment of rent builds on that and is crucial in protecting businesses from eviction and securing jobs and livelihoods over the coming months.

"We will continue to do all that we can to help them through these incredibly challenging times."

The Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government, Hannah Blythyn said:

"During these difficult times, it's vitally important that we continue to protect our Welsh businesses. We know and understand the strain that this virus has had on businesses across Wales, with those in the retail, hospitality and tourism sectors being particularly hard hit. The decision to extend the moratorium against forfeiture for the non-payment of rent to the end of June will hopefully go some way to ensuring that we're continuing to help support our town centres and building back better as they safely continue to trade during this pandemic.

"Giving our towns a sense of place is more important than ever, and in line with our Transforming Towns agenda we will continue to work collaboratively with partners to build sustainable town centres for the future where businesses can thrive."



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**Rhannwch y gwahoddiad cyfarfod os
gwelwch yn dda-Agenda-i ddilyn/Please
share the meeting invite-Agenda to follow...**

- **Fel rhan o'r sesiwn yma, mi fyddwn yn trafod eich anghenion o'r Fforwm; rhowch eich sylwadau ar y Padlet Adborth (ar y linc isod) - Diolch**
- **As part of this session, we will be discussing your needs from the Forum; please put your suggestions on the Feedback Padlet (link below) - Thank you**

Padlet Adborth-be da ni angen/eisiau gan ein Fforwm Ymarferwyr Ymgysylltu? -Feedback Padlet-what do we need /want from our Engagement Practitioners Forum?

Nod y Fforwm:

- *Mae'r fforwm yma ar gyfer 'Ymarferwyr Ymgysylltu' sy'n gweithio ar draws Sir y Fflint a Wrecsam.*
- *Rhwydwaith o weithwyr proffesiynol ymgysylltu a all rannu gwybodaeth ac arferion da, nodi cyfleoedd ar gyfer cydweithio, lleihau dyblygu a rhannu adnoddau.*
- *Mae hefyd yn fforwm ar gyfer rhannu heriau cyffredin, gan amlygu pryderon a chefnogi ein gilydd!*
- *Os hoffech chi fod yn rhan o rwydwaith lleol sy'n ymroddedig i ymgysylltu â'r gymuned a rhannu arfer gorau, dewch draw at ein cyfarfod rhithwir.*

Aim of the Forum:

- This forum is for 'Engagement Practitioners' who are working across Flintshire and Wrexham.
- A network of engagement professionals who can share information and good practice, identify opportunities for collaboration, reduce duplication and pool resources.
- It is also a forum for sharing common challenges, highlighting concerns and supporting each other!
- If you would like to be part of a local network dedicated to community engagement and sharing best practice, please come along to our virtual meeting.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app > [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Join with a video conferencing device teams@nhs.wales.onpexip.com

Video Conference ID:127 541 373 6 [Alternate VTC dialling instructions](#)

[Learn More/Meeting options](#)

Cymraeg Rhybudd Ebst(2010)-Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr

Fe'ch cynghorir i ddarllen rhybydd ebost Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr (a'i argraffu er mwyn cyfeirio ato yn y dyfodol). Gellir dod o hyd iddo yn y lleoliad canlynol

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/861/tudalen/47230>

English Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board - Email Notice (2010) You are advised to read (and print for future reference) the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board e-mail notice which can be found at this location.

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/861/page/47229>

Thank you to my amazing team at:

[Ruabon Medical Centre Support Page](#)

for delivering another wonderful and organised covid vaccination clinic today. I am so proud of each and every one of you. We are continuing to work late and weekends to ensure our patients are vaccinated and safe. Please don't contact the surgery as we are phoning and texting to book you all in accordance with the tier groups under Welsh Government and Health Board guidance. Thank you to the staff and volunteers and what a beautiful atmosphere. Thank you to the wonderful volunteers Tim, Ruth, Robin, Rohan, Ben and also Saskia. From: Dawn Hughes-Lloyd 13.03.2021

[Voluntary Work Skills Course starting Tuesday 13th April 2021](#)

- **Adults and young people aged 14 and over.**
- **WANT TO VOLUNTEER BUT DON'T FEEL READY?**
- **WE'RE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU.**

[FLVC's supported volunteering programme](#) brings participants closer to the opportunity that's right for them, combining work towards a Level 1 qualification, with volunteer taster sessions.

Please see the flyers below for further information:

Level 1 Voluntary Work Skills Course
Cwrs Achredelig Sgiliau Gwaith Gwirfoddol Lefel 1



Flintshire Local Voluntary Council
Cyngor Gwirfoddol Lleol Sir y Fflint



Adults & young people aged 14 & over

**WANT TO VOLUNTEER BUT DON'T
FEEL READY?**

WE'RE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU.

**Level 1 Voluntary Work Skills Course starting
Tuesday 2nd February 2021.**

**Delivered online via
Microsoft Teams.**

**Includes two sessions
per week for 5 weeks,
on Tuesdays &
Thursdays.**

**Participants complete
assessment booklet
via Moodle.**

Focusing on:

**Volunteering - roles,
responsibilities, benefits**

Communication skills

**Positive & assertive
behaviours**

Group working skills

Equality

**Participants will be
supported to
undertake practical
volunteer taster
sessions.**

**On successful completion, participants aged 16+ will receive an accreditation.
Those aged below 16 will receive a certificate of participation.**

**To find out more about this FREE course,
or to enrol, please contact a
Volunteering Development Officer:**

**Debbie.Long@flvc.org.uk
07388 379234**

**Claire.Worrall@flvc.org.uk
07388 379233**

Flintshire Local Voluntary Council. Supporting, promoting & developing voluntary & community action.
Corlan, Unit 5 Mold Business Park, Wrexham Road, Mold. CH7 1XP.
Registered Charity Number: 1062644

**Ruabon Community Agent: Paul Tincello has sent in the following
three items for the News Letter.**

Digital Storytelling - 21st April 2021

Wales Neurological Alliance in partnership with Digital Communities Wales welcomes you to a training session to help people living with a neurological condition to use digital technology. There are many incredible uses for digital technology and a favourite of ours at Digital Communities Wales is the wonderful and wholesome Digital Storytelling capabilities that we are able to achieve by simply using our smartphones.

During this session, we will demonstrate how you may utilise these apps to upload images from your home or the web and combine them with narration or written text and music to create powerful, short video clips. This free webinar will last approximately 1 hour, as we guide you on your journey to tell a story through the application of Digital Technology.

Join us on the 21st April 2pm-3pm

To book click here: [http://bit.ly/DCW Digital Stories](http://bit.ly/DCW_Digital_Stories)

A message from the Rev'd. Kate Tiltman:



The Church is closed for Anglican worship until we are advised by our bishop that it is safe to open again on a Sunday.

HOWEVER if the covid number stays low then 'normal' services might be allowed to take place on EASTER SUNDAY!

Roman Catholic Mass is still taking place every Sunday at 11am.

FREE MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS COURSE FOR ANYONE LIVING IN WREXHAM

Mental Health Awareness is an interactive online course designed to provide participants with a foundation of knowledge to begin their journey in understanding mental health. The course enables participants to:

- **Develop** an understanding and awareness of what mental health is, what mental illness is and the difference between the two.
- **Recognise** the signs and symptoms of poor mental health.
- **Understand** the effects of stigma on individuals experiencing poor mental health.
- **Understand** what depression and anxiety are and the effects they can have on a person.
- **Understand** the impact of suicide in the UK and Republic of Ireland.
- **Learn** basic tips for supporting someone.
- **Understand** more about self-care and implement self-care strategies.

The course is delivered through 4 e-modules followed by a live session on Zoom. Participants need to allow approximately 2 hours to complete the individual e-learning and be able to access equipment to participate in an interactive webinar via Zoom that recaps and reinforces learning.

Friday 19th March 2021, 9:30am - 12:30pm

Access online via Zoom video conferencing software (*link will be provided*)

Free to attend for anyone living in Wrexham

Book here: <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/event/MHA-19Mar2021>

Llyfrgell Rhiwabon Library



Spring is on its way at Ruabon Library!

Check out our latest spring titles. Plenty to choose from - top titles in hardback, paperback and audiobook!



March's author of the Month

Catherine Isaac

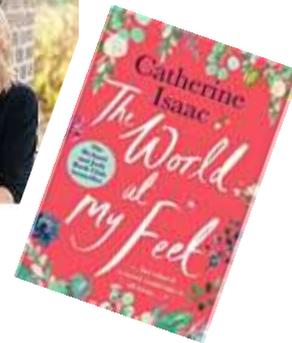
Author of "life-affirming stories of self-discovery and family secrets."

Oriau agor dros dro	Temporary Opening
Llun	12.00 yp – 5.00yp
Mawrth	Ar gau
Mercher	12.00yp - 5.00yp
Iau	9.00yb – 1.15yp
Gwener	12.00yp – 5.00yp

Monday	12.00pm – 5.00pm
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	12.00pm – 5.00pm
Thursday	9.00pm – 1.15pm
Friday	12.00pm – 5.00pm

Gwasanaeth Archebu a Chasglu Apwyntiad Order & Collect Service by Appointment

Call on 01978 822002 or email ruabon.library@wrexham.gov.uk



writers on a global stage. They encourage and empower all women to raise their voice and own their story, shining a spotlight on outstanding and ambitious fiction by women from anywhere in the world, regardless of their age, race, nationality or background. You can read any of these books by adding them to your next Order and Collect list from your local library. To find out more visit www.womensprizeforfiction.co.uk

Teddy Bear Recommendations at Gwersyllt Library

It Can't be True! Pool! by Andrea Mills and Ben Morgan, The Dinosaur That Pooped a Pirate by Garry Parsons, Cinderella's Bottom by Nicholas Allan and I've Broken my Bum by Dawn McMillan, are just a few of the titles the Teddy Bears from Gwersyllt library are recommending parents read to help their children understand potty training. If you would like to read any of these then please call the library on 01978 722890.



Book Boxes for Schools

We often see stories in the press about declining reading frequency and concerns that parents are not reading to their children often enough. But why does it matter? There is strong evidence linking reading for pleasure and educational outcomes. We know that academic attainment is of vital importance, but the benefits of reading for pleasure go beyond this and stretch throughout a person's life. During this pandemic school visits to libraries have stopped but that doesn't mean that your children can't continue to use the library or choose their own reading books. All libraries are now offering Book Boxes to replace the visits to the library. To apply for a Book Box, please contact your local library and discuss with library staff what books your class would like to read. Contact details can be found on our website www.wrexham.gov.uk/libraries

Website: www.wrexham.gov.uk/libraries

Online catalogue: <http://bit.ly/2btclRt>

Tel: Wrexham Library 01978 292090

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Rydyn ni'n ôl ac rydyn ni ar-lein!
Yn gweithredu ers saith blynedd

We're back and we're online!
Now in its seventh year

GŴYL GEIRIAU WRECSAM

WREXHAM CARNIVAL OF WORDS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 2021 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

EBRILL 17-24 APRIL

SIR MICHAEL MORPURGO & VICKI BERWICK

CLARE MACKINTOSH ★ ANTHONY RICHES ★ JASPER FFORDE

NEIL SPRING ★ MATT HILTON ★ MARTY JOPSON

MATTHEW HARFFY ★ ELIZABETH BUCHAN ★ BARBARA ERSKINE

AMANDA PROWSE & JOSIAH HARTLEY ★ PETER DOYLE

PETER EVANS ★ ANDREW GREEN ★ LUKE GALLAGHER

HAYLEY LONG ★ ELEN CALDECOTT ★ JOHNNY TUDOR ★ NELL GREY

DEBBIE YOUNG ★ PAIGE TYNAN ★ JUDE LENNON ★ SUE MILLER

JULIA FORSTER ★ DEBORAH SWIFT ★ CATHRYN SUMMERHAYES

MICHELLE & CHRISTIAN EWEN ★ GWYNETH LEWIS ★ VIVA VOCE

Gweithdai Ysgrifennu | Writing Workshops ★ Music and song | Cerddoriaeth a chân
Diwrnod o Gerdded i'r teulu gyda Bill Stephens | Family walking day with Bill Stephens

I gael manylion yr holl ddigwyddiadau a sut i brynu'ch tocy, ewch i:
For details of all of the events and how to buy your ticket visit

www.wrexhamcarnivalofwords.com

Cost un Tocyn Gŵyl i bob un o'n digwyddiadau yw £15.00 yn unig
The cost of a single Festival Ticket for all our events is only £15.00



WXMCARNIVALOFWORDS



@WrexCarnival #WrexCarnival

Nid unrhyw ŵyl llenyddol! Not just any literary festival!

Just two members of Friends of Ruabon:
Sarah Giles (pictured) and Beth James (photographer)
collected this amazing amount of litter from
Rocky Woods on 9th February.



If you know of anyone new to the area who would like to
receive a copy of the Ruabon News Letter, free of
charge, my email address for contact is:
bremner.millhouse@btinternet.com,
