

RUABON NEWS LETTER 379

21.06.2021

HMRC CAN HELP TOWARDS THE COST OF CHILDREN'S SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

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Guest Article - HMRC

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is reminding working families in Wales that they can use Tax-Free Childcare to help pay for their childcare costs over the summer.

Tax-Free Childcare - a childcare top-up for working parents - can be used to help pay for accredited holiday clubs, childminders or sports activities - giving parents and carers that extra peace of mind that their child is having fun during the school summer holidays and it can save them money.

Tax-Free Childcare is available for children aged up to 11, or 17 if the child has a disability. And for every £8 deposited into an account, families will receive an additional

£2 in government top-up, capped at £500 every three months, or £1,000 if the child is disabled.

Parents and carers can check their eligibility and [register for Tax-Free Childcare via GOV.UK](#). They can apply for an account at any time and start using it straight away. By depositing money into their accounts, families can benefit from the 20% top-up and use the money to pay for childcare costs when they need to, for example, during the summer holidays.

Myrtle Lloyd, HMRC's Director General for Customer Services, said:

"We want to help kids stay active this summer, whether they are going to summer holiday clubs or a childminder. A childcare top-up will go a long way towards helping parents plan and pay for summer activities to keep their kids happy and healthy.

"To find out more search 'tax-free childcare' on GOV.UK." 9,530 working families used their account in March 2021 in Wales. And in the same month, HMRC paid out more than £33 million in top-up payments, which was shared between more than 282,000 families across the UK.

Tax-Free Childcare is also available for pre-school aged children attending nurseries, childminders or other childcare providers. Families with younger children will often have higher childcare costs than families with older children, so the tax-free savings can really make a difference.

Childcare providers can also sign up for a [childcare provider account via GOV.UK](#) to receive payments from parents and carers via the scheme.

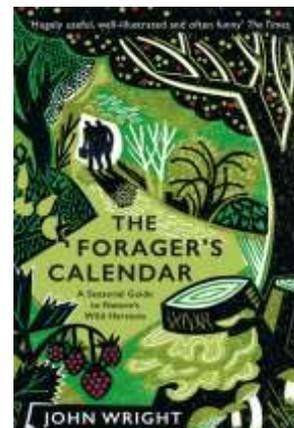
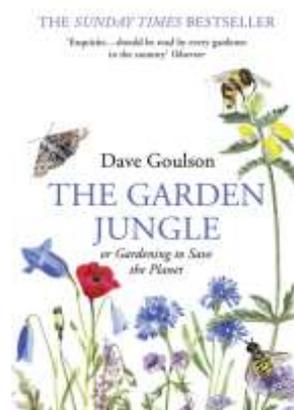
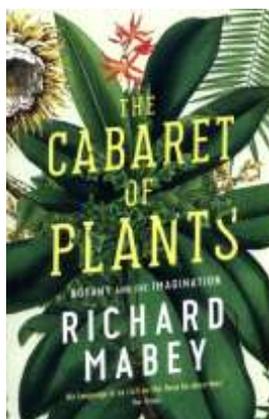
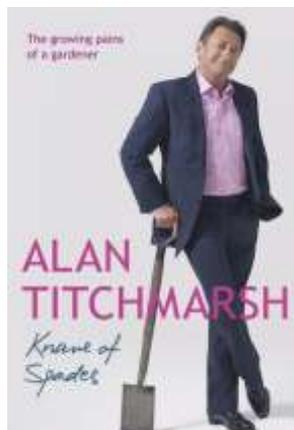
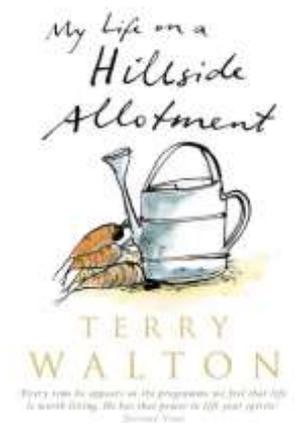
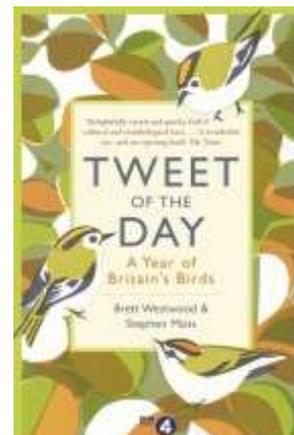
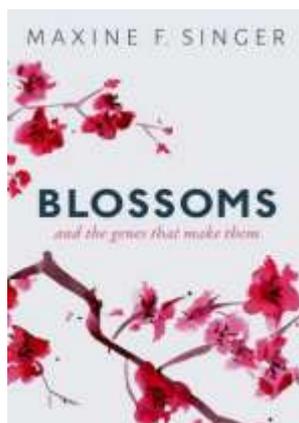


Ruabon Library

On the bookshelf this week...



To make an appointment to browse or order and collect
Telephone 01978 822002
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 12.15 - 4.45
Thursday 9.15 - 1.00
Email ruabon.library@wrexham.gov.uk.



Member of the Senedd Ken Skates has welcomed news of further Welsh Government investment in local schools.

The Clwyd South MS raised the issue in the Senedd last week and was told there were several "exciting developments" in the pipeline in his constituency by Education Minister Jeremy Miles.

Schools including Ysgol Penycae and Ysgol Bro Dyfrdwy, Cynwyd, have already benefited from the first phase of the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools programme, and there is more to come for Clwyd South - including plans for a brand new primary school in Brymbo.

On Wednesday (June 16), the Education Minister told Mr Skates: "Clwyd South benefited from a total investment of over £20m during the first wave of funding. A second wave began in 2019, involving significant further investment for the school and colleges estate in the Clwyd South area."

He added: "There are proposed projects, including Ysgol yr Hafod (Johnstown), Brymbo and Ysgol ID Hooson (Rhos), which are exciting developments, I think. It amounts to about £12m-worth of investment, with an intervention rate from the Welsh Government of around 65%, generally speaking. So, I think there are very exciting opportunities in his part of the world, and we both share a sense of opportunity and excitement about the investment."

The Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools is the biggest school modernisation programme in Wales since the 1960s. The long-term infrastructure investment project aims to improve the quality of school buildings, ensure places are available to serve local demand, reduce surplus capacity and running costs and promote sustainability. Welcoming the news, Mr Skates said: "I'm grateful to the Minister for the information he provided and his confirmation that our area is in line for further, very significant Welsh Government investment in our schools, which will deliver tangible benefits for pupils.

"I visited Ysgol Penycae after the refurbishment in 2018, which created new classrooms, a new school hall, improved kitchen facilities and a new play area. It looked fantastic. It was especially

pleasing as the work was carried out by local company Read Construction, based in Brymbo."

Mr Skates added: "I look forward to further updates on the plans and to hearing more about how this additional Welsh Government funding in our schools will benefit pupils."

The Education Minister said he saw an opportunity in the years ahead to expand the number of carbon-zero schools in Wales, adding: "There's an exciting pilot under way at the moment, and the more we can do to contribute to meeting our climate change goals the better."

"Young Person's Guarantee will help ensure there's no lost generation in Wales" - Vaughan Gething

The Welsh Government's plans to provide everyone under 25 with the offer of work, education, training, or self-employment through its new Young Person's Guarantee will help ensure there is no lost generation in Wales following the Covid pandemic, Economy Minister, Vaughan Gething, said today.

The Minister is today unveiling details of how the Welsh Government will develop a Young Person's Guarantee that delivers for young people in Wales.

The Minister is calling on businesses and public sector organisations to consider how they can play their part in supporting the Young Person's Guarantee.

Ministers will also look at ways to help young entrepreneurs to create their own businesses. This will include working with the business community to explore both employability opportunities and support for young entrepreneurs.

Economy Minister, Vaughan Gething said: "The Welsh Government is determined that there will be no lost generation in Wales as a result of the pandemic. That's why our Programme for Government commits us to delivering our Young Person's Guarantee - an ambitious

programme that will aim to provide everyone under 25 in Wales with the offer of work, education, training, or self-employment.

"The Young Person's Guarantee is at the core of our efforts to help young people get the best possible start in the world of work. We want to give young people the support they need for a brighter future when leaving school, college, university or even facing redundancy.

"We need to ensure young people have the skills and experience they need for the jobs of today and the future. This is a key element of our strategy to prevent youth unemployment and ensure young people are not held back nor left behind."

Working Wales will become the gateway into the Guarantee, building on its already strong and successful model of delivering careers guidance and signposting support. They will also trial a new Job Matching service, to assist young people with securing employment and help employers to fill vacancies.

The Young People's Guarantee will be developed to meets the needs of young people, including those at risk of long-term unemployment. It will not discriminate in relation to socio-economic factors, the promotion and use of the Welsh language or on the grounds of protected characteristics.

In addition, the dialogue and collaboration between the Welsh Government, education, the training sector, employers and public authorities will be strengthened through the expansion of our Regional Skills Partnerships. National and regional employment and skills providers across Wales will be invited to connect with Working Wales so projects can form part of the offer.

The Minister added: "Our young people hold the key to Wales's future success. Their talents, skills and creativity are essential to ensuring our country's economic success. As a nation, we are facing huge challenges - but I am determined we do all we can as a government to help deliver the long-term economic benefits our young people deserve." ENDS

New actions to 'create space' for schools announced. Jeremy Miles today set out a series of measures we will take to create more capacity and ease potential pressures within the Welsh education system, providing further clarity on what the next year academic year will look like.

Since taking up post as Minister for Education and Welsh Language, Jeremy Miles has been speaking to people within the school system across the country to hear directly from them about the challenges they face in supporting learners during the pandemic, and what help they need.

The measures announced today will help reduce administrative burdens on schools and enable a more individualised approach to supporting young people in Wales.

They include:

- the suspension of Estyn's core inspection programme for schools and pupil referral units (PRUs) to be extended to include the autumn term 2021 and to pilot a new approach to inspections with schools' agreement in the spring term.
- the suspension of school performance measures will be extended to 2021/22.
- school categorisation will not take place in the next academic year.
- new regulations that relax a range of school reporting requirements for 2020/21, supporting the assurances previously provided around the use of school data affected by the coronavirus pandemic

The Minister said, "My priorities for the coming year are to renew and reform, putting learners' progression and wellbeing at the heart of everything we do. As we recover from the pandemic, working towards delivery of the new curriculum, I want to build on the innovation, flexibility and focus on wellbeing that have helped us through this period of disruption.

"The clear message I've received from the education workforce is that they are determined to do all they can to help learners progress, but there are pressures that are affecting their ability to do this. I have listened and am taking action to support them.

"The action announced today build on the range of measures we've already taken this year to ease pressure and provide flexibility. This is being backed by over £150m of funding to support wellbeing, learning and teaching this year.

"I will continue to work with schools, leaders and learners on what other steps we can take to create space in the system in order to support our collective efforts to renew and reform." ENDS.

IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK" - FREEDOM LEISURE **BOUNCING BACK AFTER LOCKDOWN**

June 14, 2021



Freedom Leisure, who operate all our leisure and activity centres, has reported that business is almost back to usual following the strict lockdown that saw them close their doors in December.

- 45,000 people attended a Wrexham facility during May
- Both centre Memberships and the Learn to Swim programme are approaching 90% of pre-Covid March 2020 membership levels
- Primary School swimming, over 60's programmes and the National Exercise Referral Programme - have all restarted this week within safety return guidelines

Andy Harris, Freedom Leisure Area Manager, said: "It's great to be back and open for business.

By the very positive response we've received from our customers it's clear that they missed us and we've been really pleased by the numbers we are now able to accommodate safely at all our centres.

NORTH WALES POLICE LAUNCHES VOICE AGAINST VIOLENCE SURVEY



North Wales Police has launched a survey to listen to the experiences and views of women on personal safety in North Wales.

The Voice Against Violence Survey aims to

understand the concerns of women across the region which is why they're asking as many women as possible to get involved. The responses can then be used to address issues and target specific areas to help women feel safer at home, in their community, at work and when out and about.

Feeling unsafe is not exclusive to women, of course, however sexual violence and harassment offences are overwhelmingly committed by males against females. Nevertheless, we would like to reassure male victims that we take all reports of crime seriously, regardless of gender or any other characteristic, and still urge you to contact us if you are a victim.

The survey, which is completely anonymous, is available now until 2nd July. It can be completed now in **English** or **Welsh**.

Superintendent Jason Devonport said: "Following the tragic event of the death of Sarah Everard earlier this year, we have seen women across the UK coming forward with their own stories of feeling unsafe or harassment.

The fact that this has become so commonplace in our society is unacceptable and it must be challenged.

"We have created this survey to really listen to what women and girls in our community have to say on their personal experiences and how safe they feel living in North Wales in current times.

We encourage as many women as possible to complete the survey so that we can work together to tackle these concerns and make North Wales the safest place in the UK.

"We want to ensure that everyone who needs help, knows where to find it, and feels confident that we will listen, and they will be taken seriously."



The information collected from the survey will lead to the formation of our 'Voice Against Violence' campaign. It will give us an insight of what needs to be tackled and shape our future plans and approach to improve safety in North Wales.

Jane Ruthe, CEO from the Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre North Wales, said: "We welcome and support this survey giving the people of North Wales an opportunity to express their concerns and to have their voice heard - to talk about the things that make them feel unsafe both for themselves and their children. Sexual violence can be and is inflicted on anyone of any gender, but the reality is that it is a crime that disproportionately affects women.

RASASCNW works in all counties of North Wales, and provides specialist support and counselling to anyone of any gender in each county, whether the sexual violence has happened recently or a long time ago, in childhood or adulthood. We also have a specialist children and young people's service."

If you have been a victim of crime, please report it to us via our live chat or by calling 101 or 999 in an emergency.

We have services that can support you regardless of whether you have reported the crime to the police or not.

If you've been affected by crime, call your local victim care team in North Wales. Lines are open 8am-8pm Monday to Friday and 9am- 5pm on Saturdays. Phone: [0300 30 30 159](tel:03003030159).

If you need support outside of our open hours, call our support-line for free on [08 08 16 89 111](tel:08081689111) or request support via our website.

ANNWN: Discussion on Welsh Futurism



Simultaneous translation will be available for non-

Welsh speakers.

Featuring presentations and discussions with Rhodri ap Dyfrig, Miriam Elin Jones, Ani Saunders and Bedwyr Williams.

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Calling all traditional and contemporary printmaking artists.

Submit: Up to three prints to be considered for exhibition at Tŷ Pawb, Wrexham.

Exhibition dates: 4th December 2021 – 26th February 2022

Submission dates: Tuesday 1st June until Midnight, Saturday 31st July

Market, Food Court and Gallery now open!



Our Food Court and Gallery have now reopened.

Enjoy eat-in food and drink from our fantastic local traders and explore our brand new exhibition, Annwn, curated by our Youth Advisory Board. Shop, eat, explore - all under one roof!

We can't wait to see you all again

[View full details and opening hours](#)

Want to be a volunteer at Tŷ Pawb?



We're looking for warm, friendly and enthusiastic volunteers to welcome members of the public to our galleries, give tours and answer questions. It's a great way to get involved with your local arts scene, while building experience for your CV. Training is provided and transport costs from within Wrexham

County can be reimbursed

Email teampawb@wrexham.gov.uk for an application form.

Wrexham Homeless Night Shelter to be replaced by New Accommodation

Published 8th June 2021



The current night shelter will be replaced by more "aesthetically pleasing" buildings, a councillor said:

Plans to demolish a night shelter in Wrexham to make way for 19 apartments for homeless people have been backed unanimously by councillors.

Self-contained accommodation and a homeless support centre will replace the Tŷ Nos shelter on Holt Road.

The Welsh government is giving £2.2m to fund the project.

Wrexham councillors heard the scheme would provide more modern facilities for homeless people to help their integration into the local community.

Clwyd Alyn Housing Association's plans for the development on the edge of the town centre will include five buildings, each measuring two storeys in height, according to the

Local Democracy Reporting Service.

- **café boss gives out 7,000 meals during pandemic**
- **Shipping container plans for homeless**
- **Homeless turned away from night shelter**

Local councillor Becca Martin told colleagues it would provide "much-needed modern and high quality residential units, which in turn is going to support rehabilitation and integration into the wider community".

Homeless people will be offered self-contained accommodation under the plans.

She said it would benefit the town as a whole, as well as the homeless people being supported, by making the site more "aesthetically pleasing".

The former Grove Guest House on Chester Road will also be converted into temporary homeless accommodation.

IT'S SCAMS AWARENESS FORTNIGHT...YOU DON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH SCAMS ALONE

June 15, 2021

Citizens Advice's Scams Awareness Fortnight 2021 kicked off on Monday, June 14, which looks to give people the skills and confidence to identify scams, share their experiences, and take action by reporting any suspicious activities.

So, here's some info to help you be [#ScamAware](#)

Identifying scams

Citizens Advice wants to give you the knowledge you'll need to recognise different scams, and show you how, if you think you're being targeted, to stop and seek advice on what to do next.

Remember the scam warning signs to look out for:

- If it seems too good to be true
- If it's unexpected
- If you're being urged to respond or pay for something urgently or in an unusual way
- If you've been asked to give away personal info

You can [find more about this on their website](#).

How scam aware are you?

A short quiz has been put together so you can test your ability to identify a scam...

[have a go and see how you get on](#).

General scam advice



Consumer advice can be obtained from the Citizens Advice Consumer Service. They can be contacted on 0808 223 1144 (Welsh) or 0808 223 1133 (English). **Report a cyber crime**

If you think you may have been the victim of fraud or cyber-crime, you should **report this to Action Fraud via their website** or by calling 0300 123 2040.

Action Fraud is the UK's National Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting Centre.



Mindfulness Matters



Wonderful news from Paul Tincello

(Ruabon's Community Agent) that Friends of Ruabon have secured the funding for some mindfulness based, well-being activities to go ahead (for free), in Ruabon:-

- **Tuesday June 22nd at 3pm -
Mindfulness walk (meet at Ruabon Village Hall)**

3 Mindfulness workshops at Ruabon Village Hall

- **Wednesday 21st July.....@ 6.30pm**
- **Wednesday 4th August @ 6.30pm**
- **Wednesday 18th August @ 6.30pm**

(places will be limited)

If you are a client of Paul in his role of Community Agent for Ruabon and feel you would benefit from these sessions, please contact him either by telephone : **07947 530140** or by Email: **communityagentruabon@gmail.com**

RUABON CROWN GREEN BOWLING HAS 4 TEAMS



Wrexham Pairs League

Ruabon A won 5 to 3 at home to Llay A on 21st June

Wrexham Veterans League

Ruabon A won 8-2 home to Penyffordd D on 21st June

Oswestry League (Tuesdays)

Ruabon A lost 2-8 away to Chirk AAA'A on 15th June

Wrexham Saturday League

Ruabon A won 9-5 home to Llay C on 19th June

(Next game is at home to Llay C on 19th June)

.....
Vets Social Group meets up for friendlies and general chat on Monday, Thursday and Friday mornings. Members are always looking for new members with the only criteria being: 'you must be over 60'.

However, Crown Green Bowls is for everyone and is indeed a family sport with all ages able to play together, so if you are looking for something new to do as the pandemic restrictions reduce why not try something new and bring the family to have a go.

If you want to know more or a chat about it then please contact:

Paul Tincello on 07841 688820.

Message from the Rev'd. Kate Tiltman:



"We will continue to hold a service each Sunday at 9.30am for a service of Holy Communion.

All are welcome, but please follow the one way system, wear a mask and observe social distancing. Thank you"

Mass is still taking place every Sunday at 11am.
