

# Ruabon News Letter 382

12.07.2021

## YSGOL RHIWABON



Chloë Aston and Vivien Hughes of year 7 designed and built a working model of a trebuchet as an

extended homework project after learning about medieval

weapons of attack as part of their studies. The class are seen here with the machine - thoroughly enjoyed testing it out.

<https://www.ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk/>





# Community Bank plans welcomed by North Wales politicians

Two North Wales Members of the Senedd have welcomed the Welsh Government's plans to create a Community Bank of Wales after a raft of high street branch closures in their areas.

Ken Skates (Clwyd South) and Jack Sargeant (Alyn and Deeside) raised the issue of bank closures in the Senedd this week after recently published data showed their constituencies have been the two worst-hit in North Wales.

Mr Sargeant is working with Welsh Government and Banc Cambria to open the first Community Bank in Buckley, Flintshire. His constituency has seen 67% of its branches closed since January 2015, with just four surviving. In Mr Skates' constituency, 80% of branches have been closed over the same period - and it now has just one bank.

Both Members have previously pointed to the UK Government abandoning an agreement with the banking sector that the last branch in every community should be kept open as the catalyst for the swathe of closures over the past six years. Mr Skates said recently that the coronavirus pandemic had "highlighted the serious concerns many had over whether the UK's retail banking sector is fit for social purpose".

During questions to the Minister for Social Justice, Jane Hutt, on Wednesday (June 30), both Members of the Senedd asked for an update on the Welsh Government's plans to establish the Community Bank of Wales, which began during Mr Skates' tenure as Economy Minister.

Mr Skates praised Mr Sargeant's campaigning on the issue and asked the Minister to outline how people in both constituents will benefit from the creation of a community bank.

The Minister responded: "It's going to be a mutual owned by, and run for the benefit of, its members. It will improve access to banking services and access to cash, multi-channel bilingual banking services for people and businesses and also collaborating with the Welsh financial ecosystem, for example credit unions, and creating direct jobs as well.

"No community banks operate in the UK, but we will be the first. Banc Cambria aims to provide everyday retail banking across the whole of Wales."

Mr Sargeant said: "Could I just start by thanking the Member for Clwyd South for his work as a Minister, to date, on the community bank, and the Minister who is responsible now, Jane Hutt, for her commitment to date.

"Minister, as you have known, I've long championed for a community bank in Buckley, in my constituency. Can you update the Chamber on the progress being made to open Wales's first community bank branch in Buckley?"

The Minister described Mr Sargeant as "another champion and pioneer for the community bank bid, alongside Ken Skates, who got this initiative under way". She added: "It is so good that we are taking this forward. The roll-out and timing of branches are under development by Banc Cambria, and I'm also meeting high street banks shortly to discuss social justice issues because of the closure of bank branches across the whole of Wales."

The Minister said that operational delivery plans continue to develop in parallel with regulatory assessments and wider Welsh Government evaluation "in order that Banc Cambria can be established at the earliest opportunity post regulatory approval and investment decisions".

# Ruabon Library



For your Wild Wood Heroes Reading Challenge choices, check out these great reads available this week!

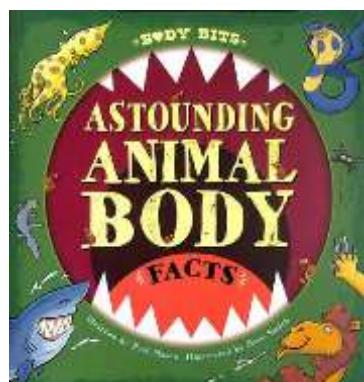
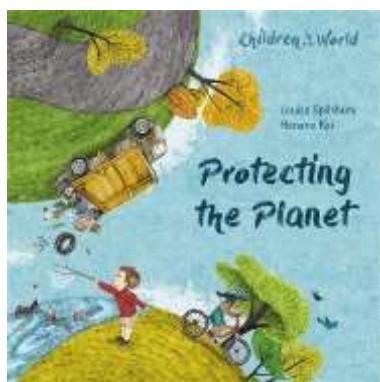
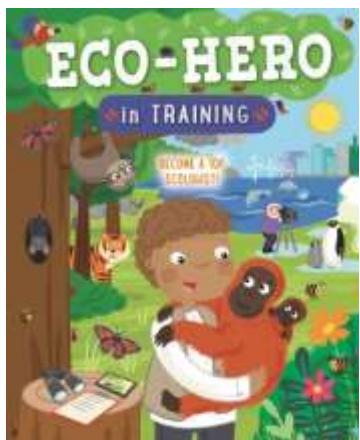
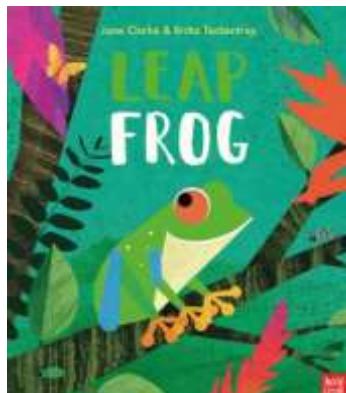
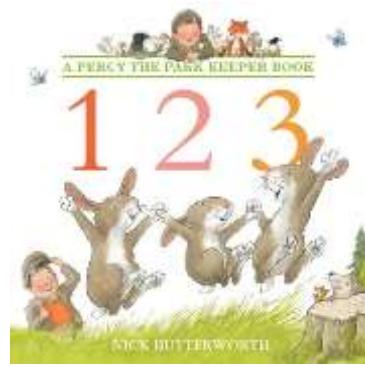
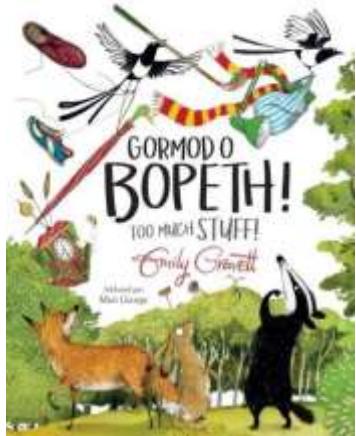
To make an appointment to browse or order and collect

Telephone 01978 822002

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 12.15 - 4.45

Thursday 9.15 - 1.00

Email [ruabon.library@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:ruabon.library@wrexham.gov.uk).



# Ruabon Bowling Club



The Ruabon Vets Team formed this year

## Wrexham Pairs League (Mondays)

Ruabon A won 6-2 at home to Johnstown A on 5<sup>th</sup> July

## Vets League (Tuesdays)

Ruabon won 9-1 at home to Bersham B on 6<sup>th</sup> July

## Oswestry League (Tuesdays)

Ruabon A lost 2-8 at home to Church Lions on 6<sup>th</sup> July

## Wrexham Saturday League (No score listed for this match)

Ruabon A xxxxxxx away to Chirk AAA A on 10<sup>th</sup> July

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.

## SAFER STREETS SAVES LIVES

**Plans to reduce the national default speed limit in Wales from 30mph to 20mph on residential roads and busy pedestrian streets will form part of the Welsh Government's legislative priorities for this year, Deputy Minister for Climate Change, Lee Waters has confirmed:**

If passed, Wales will be the first country in the UK to introduce the change which will play an instrumental role in helping to save lives, protect our communities and improve quality of life for everyone. The first phase of this change is being rolled out in eight communities across Wales this year in order to gather data and develop a best practice approach before the proposed full rollout in 2023. As part of this approach the Welsh Government has today launched a consultation for people to have their say on the change before the necessary legislation is laid. The consultation will run for 12 weeks and will come to an end on 30 September.

Deputy Minister for Climate Change, Lee Waters said:

*"Making 20mph the default speed limit on busy pedestrian streets and in residential areas across Wales is a bold step that brings about significant benefits.*

*"Not only does it save lives, but it also helps to make our streets a safer and more welcoming place for cyclists and pedestrians, has a positive outcome for our physical and mental wellbeing and with fewer vehicles on the road helps create a positive impact on the environment.*

*"We know this move won't be easy - it's as much about changing hearts and minds as it is about hard enforcement - but over time 20mph will become the norm, just like the restrictions we've introduced before on carrier bag change, smoking inside businesses and organ donation."* ENDS

All three of the following articles have been recommended by Paul Tincello



### New Today

#### Non Clinical Volunteers for Surge Testing needed in Flintshire

- [Health experts warn of dangers of buying ‘prescription’ sedatives as substitutions continue to rise](#)
- [Survey reveals the need for long-term focus on mental health support in Wales](#)
- [Complete a short survey on how the pandemic has impacted you](#)
- [Have your say on how North Wales is policed](#)
- [Are you looking for work in the hospitality sector and need some help and advice?](#)
- [New college courses for jobs in the green economy](#)
- [September 2021 Health Improvement Programmes](#)
- [Media Trust’s Digital Summer School 2021](#)

#### Non Clinical Volunteers for Surge Testing needed in Flintshire

Flintshire County Council mobilisation of Volunteers to support Testing Centres and door-to-door delivery and collection of PCR tests. Surge testing is the roll-out of additional community testing of people who do not have any Coronavirus symptoms. It will also help reduce the spread of infection by finding asymptomatic cases and prompting people to self-isolate.

To find out more about this opportunity,

#### Health experts warn of dangers of buying ‘prescription’ sedatives as substitutions continue to rise

The [WEDINOS project](#) has seen a substantial increase in non-prescribed ‘prescription’ medications being submitted to the drug testing service in Wales. The purchase of non-prescribed and non-controlled benzodiazepines, generally obtained through an online market, is a growing concern.

The WEDINOS Annual Report for 2020-21, published by Public Health Wales, also identifies a decrease in the submission of substances including cocaine and other stimulants, due to the closure of night time economy venues (NTE) due to the pandemic restrictions, say experts. Although, increases in stimulant submissions were observed at times when lockdowns were relaxed over the year.

#### Survey reveals the need for long-term focus on mental health support in Wales

**With lockdowns easing, families reuniting and people beginning to move**

**towards a 'new normal', the long-lasting impact of the coronavirus pandemic on people's mental health has come into focus once again.**

Initial new figures from Mind Cymru's 'Coronavirus: One Year On' [survey](#) revealed that nearly two in three (63 per cent) adults believe that their mental health and wellbeing has got worse since the first national lockdown in March 2020. Moreover, just over a quarter of people (26 per cent) said they had developed a mental health problem during the pandemic. Not being able to see friends, family or a partner and being worried about the virus were the main contributing factors, with 60% of respondents being worried about seeing or being near other people once restrictions ease.

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**Complete a short survey on how the pandemic has impacted you**



**TCC Wales (Trefnu Cymunedol Cymru / Together Creating Communities)** is working with the [Bevan Foundation](#) to gather information from people living in North East Wales (Flintshire, Denbighshire and Wrexham) about how they have been impacted by the pandemic over the past year.

We are interested in your views so that we can work together to improve things, and we have created a short survey which asks about your financial situation and how that might have changed since the beginning of the year. **All surveys submitted by Saturday 31st July which agree to it will be entered into a prize draw for a £20 gift voucher.** The prize draw will be held on Monday 2nd August 2021.

You can complete the short survey [here](#). We want to hear from as many people in North East Wales as possible so please share the link with your networks. All submissions are anonymous and you do not have to answer every question if you do not want to.

TCC works to tackle social injustice by supporting diverse communities to gain the power they need to enact change. We do this through community organising: bringing together local groups, so they can set their own agenda, take action, and improve their communities. The Bevan Foundation aims to develop lasting solutions to poverty and inequality to improve people's lives.

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**[Have your say on how North Wales is policed](#)**

**People across North Wales** are being urged to help draw up a new blueprint for the way the region is policed and help decide where 20 extra PCSOs should work. North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner Andy Dunbobbin and Chief Constable Carl Foulkes are asking local communities, groups and representative bodies to tell them what they think is most important and what they are most worried about.

The survey covers all aspects of policing, from tackling serious and organised crime and protecting children and young people from sexual exploitation and abuse, to dealing with social media trolling and responding to non-emergency calls.

The survey is now available at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SMDKY8R> for people to complete until **Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021**. Papers copies are available by contacting [opcc@nthwales.pnn.police.uk](mailto:opcc@nthwales.pnn.police.uk) or 01492 805 486. There will also be an easy read version available.

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### Are you looking for work in the hospitality sector and need some help and advice?

Sign-up for a “meet and greet” event at the Village St David’s Hotel in Ewloe on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July** where Communities For Work Flintshire, Jobcentre Plus and Careers Wales will be there to support you in finding your next role in the hospitality sector. **Booking is essential!**

Slots are available between the following times:

10am – 11am

11:30am – 12:30pm

1:00pm – 2:00pm

To book your place, please email [Sharon.jones@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:Sharon.jones@flintshire.gov.uk) or [nia.parry@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:nia.parry@flintshire.gov.uk).

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### New college courses for jobs in the green economy

**The Welsh Government** has awarded £2 million to further education colleges to provide training for jobs in the green economy. The funding is part of the Welsh Government's Personal Learning Accounts programme, which supports people in lower-income jobs to retrain and move into longer-term, skilled jobs with higher earnings.

Six colleges have been awarded funding to deliver the courses, which will include areas such as electric and hybrid cars, environmentally-friendly heating systems and e-bikes. The courses will be available from level 2 to level 5, with most courses at level 3. The courses are part-time and flexible, designed for study around other commitments.

The courses will be open to:

- Adults over 19 who earn under £26,000 a year, including employees currently on furlough, or on a zero hours contract, or whose job is at risk.
- Employees of companies who have identified specific training needs in these sectors.

### September 2021 Health Improvement Programmes

Please find the attached [referral info letter](#) and [referral form](#) for BCUHB Health Improvement Programmes, available for free in Wrexham and Flint.

The next wave of programmes will be starting in September, so please send us any completed referral forms for people you are working with who would like to book a place.

For more information, please [email us](#), call us in the office (03000 859 625), and find us on [Facebook](#).



## Media Trust's Digital Summer School is a free, three-week online programme where you'll learn how to inspire, engage and mobilise your audience.

As the changes in our rapidly evolving digital world gain pace, it's vital that charities get ahead and embrace the opportunities that come with digital. This programme aims to help your charity tell its story well, grow and engage its audience online and mobilise them to take action and support your cause.

You'll be joined by digital and charity experts who will provide specialist training and mentoring – helping you take your comms to the next level.

**Well organised and facilitated. The trainers and content were excellent - best training I've attended this year.**

*Gina Aston, Advocacy Now, Digital Spring School participant*

### **Programme outline**

#### **Live virtual training**

Every Tuesday and Thursday morning throughout the programme, there will be a 90-minute workshop, each on a different theme and delivered by a digital expert.

#### **Digital mentoring**

Once confirmed on the programme, you'll be invited to join group mentoring sessions on a Thursday afternoon for 60-90 minutes. These will be led by a volunteer from the creative/media industry who can offer advice on your chosen topic area. This is also a unique opportunity to network and share ideas with other charity professionals working within the same area. Places will be limited.

#### **Learning resources**

All participants will have access to free guides, pre-recorded webinars, toolkits and other resources to build your learning throughout, and beyond, Digital Spring School. Please note that for some of the training sessions you will be set a homework task. This is to be completed in your own time and will help you process and apply your learning in the context of your own organisation.

#### **Wellbeing activities**

Each week, you will gain exclusive access to live virtual wellbeing activities, such as desk-based yoga and breathwork classes to help you feel refreshed and energised.

#### **Week by week themes**

The programme will run across three weeks with each week covering a different theme

## **Week 1: Inspire (2 - 6 August)**

This week focuses on the art of storytelling. Learn creative ways to tell your story, through video content and writing compelling copy.

## **Week 2: Engage (9 - 13 August)**

This week will teach you how to use data and platform analytics to understand your audience. We'll also uncover powerful social media tools to grow your audience.

## **Week 3: Mobilise (16 – 20 August)**

The final week is about mobilising your audience to take action. Whether that's donating to your cause, fundraising or campaigning on important issues.

### **Programme schedule**

#### **Monday**

Resources relating to the week's learning topics sent for home study

#### **Tuesday**

Live virtual training 10-11.30am

#### **Wednesday**

Virtual wellness activity 12:30-1pm

#### **Thursday**

Live virtual training 10-11.30am and group digital mentoring 2-3:30pm (if applicable)

**This programme is designed for charity professionals, volunteers or trustees who:**

- Have responsibility for the day-to-day management of their charity's digital communications.
- Have a good understanding of how social media platforms including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and websites work (this is not a beginner course).
- Have the support of senior leadership to innovate the way your charity uses digital to engage your audience.
- Are passionate about learning new strategies and ideas to strengthen your digital communications and help your charity stand out online.
- Can dedicate 3-5 hours a week over three weeks between 2-20 August 2021
- Did not attend Digital Spring School in April 2021

Each week of the programme is designed to build on the previous week. Participants will gain from the continuity of working with the same group members for peer-to-peer learning and support in their small group mentoring sessions. Therefore, individual participants need to commit to attending the full three-week programme. Where this isn't possible because of holidays, caring responsibilities and/or heavy workloads because of reduced teams, you can nominate another colleague from your organisation to attend in your place.

**Applications close on 16 July 2021.** Successful charities will be notified by 22 July. Unfortunately, due to the high volume of applications, individual feedback cannot be provided.

Email: [hello@mediatrust.org](mailto:hello@mediatrust.org)

# BRONZE AWARD QUALITY MARK FOR YOUTH WORKERS

The high standards of youth work across Wrexham has been recognised by the Education Workforce Council and Welsh Government who have awarded it the Bronze Award Quality Mark.



The award shows a fantastic team effort including:

- Community Youth Work
- Play and Youth Support Team
- Inspire Hospital Project
- Homeless Prevention
- Youth Work in Education
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Info and in2change drug and alcohol scheme

who were all central to achieving the award.

It follows a week of intense scrutiny and meetings with staff, management and of course our fantastic people involved in Inspire, Brymbo and the Senedd yr Ifanc.

The Quality Mark supports youth work organisations to challenge their practices. It drives up quality youth work provision and supports the development of a more consistent youth work offer across Wrexham and Wales.

Lead Member for Youth Services and Anti Poverty, Cllr John Pritchard, said, "This is a fantastic achievement by all those involved and is testament to the excellent services offered to our young people.

"It also shows the excellent partnership work taking place here in Wrexham to ensure our young people are able to grow with confidence into young adults.

"Well done to everyone involved and good luck in working towards achieving the Silver Award which I know you are already actively doing".

# MORE TRADITIONAL BUILDING SKILLS TRAINING FOR YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE OF

08.07.2021



We're pleased to be able to offer more traditional building skills training as part of our programme to enable local employers and employees take a huge part in preserving and restoring the heritage of our town centre conservation area.

The courses on offer are free and will be held at Coleg Cambria's Bersham Road site.

## Timber course and decay - 9th July 2021

Dealing with timber decay and causes; identification between dry and wet rot; the importance of ventilation; associated repairs; how repairs work with conservation & historic carpentry; timber types and properties; and the importance of timber moisture content with timber replacement.

### 1. Accredited Level 3: Award in Energy and efficiency - 29th and 30 July 2021

This two-day accredited course has been designed to raise awareness of the energy efficiency of pre 1919 properties.

### 2. Timber Sash Windows - 6th August 2021

To provide a basic understanding of pre 1919 timber windows; from their design; how they function and repair; giving a clear explanation of the window components, ironmongery and how the windows were installed in the building.

If you are interested in attending any of the above course's please contact the Traditional Building Skills Team [TBS@Wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:TBS@Wrexham.gov.uk) Cllr Terry Evans, Lead Member for Economic Development and Regeneration, said: "The buildings in the Town Centre Conservation Area are very prominent and valuable assets in our town. We want to make sure that the methods used to regenerate these buildings are

in line with the traditional skills that helped build them in the first place.



"The courses have always been very well received and have been particularly welcomed by employers and employees who wish to have a part in restoring our heritage in the town centre."

Take a look below at some of the historic and beautiful buildings we have in the town centre conservation area, to look after for generations to come.

The courses are provided free through the Wrexham Traditional Building Skills Programme.

This training is made available thanks to funding from the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government.

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## Neco Williams: Charting the rise of the Wrexham-born Wales star

By Joe Robinson @joerob\_leader Reporter



Then and now: Neco (left) upon signing for Liverpool, aged 6 and 14 years later as a full Wales international.



AHEAD of Wales's crunch Round of 16 tie against Denmark, The Leader looked back at one of the local stars on show.

Neco Williams, from Cefn Mawr, Wrexham, started his footballing journey

aged just five when his talent was spotted by a Liverpool scout at a tournament where he was representing Cefn United's junior team. Since then, the rise of the now 20-year-old has been a meteoric one.

Last week, the Liverpool full-back made his first start in a major tournament for Wales in the 1-0 defeat to Italy.

But how did he get there?

Neco previously told the Leader: "I was playing for my local team Cefn United at the time and I was at a tournament when three or four scouts came up to my dad asking about me and wanting me to go on trial.

"I was a striker then but then I became a right winger and then changed to right back when I was 16."

With about 12,000 boys currently housed in football club academies across the UK, and 99 per cent not making it as pros, Neco's achievement at making it through to professional level is rare indeed.

But even rarer is two siblings making it as pros - which could soon be the case with Neco's 17-year-old brother, Keelan, currently completing a scholarship at Burnley FC after leaving Liverpool.

"Both of them are doing well - they've got good footballing genes, considering I only played for Cefn United," Dad Lee said.



Back then: Keelan Williams (right), pictured above and below at age of eight, was signed up by Liverpool FC, following in his big brother Neco's (left) footsteps

A former student at Ysgol Rhiwabon, Neco moved to Merseyside aged 15 to be closer to the academy set up.

"I don't know many lads who've signed, so this is a big thing for me and the family," he said.

"When I was 14 I moved to Liverpool and I had to leave my school in Ruabon to attend school in Rainhill.

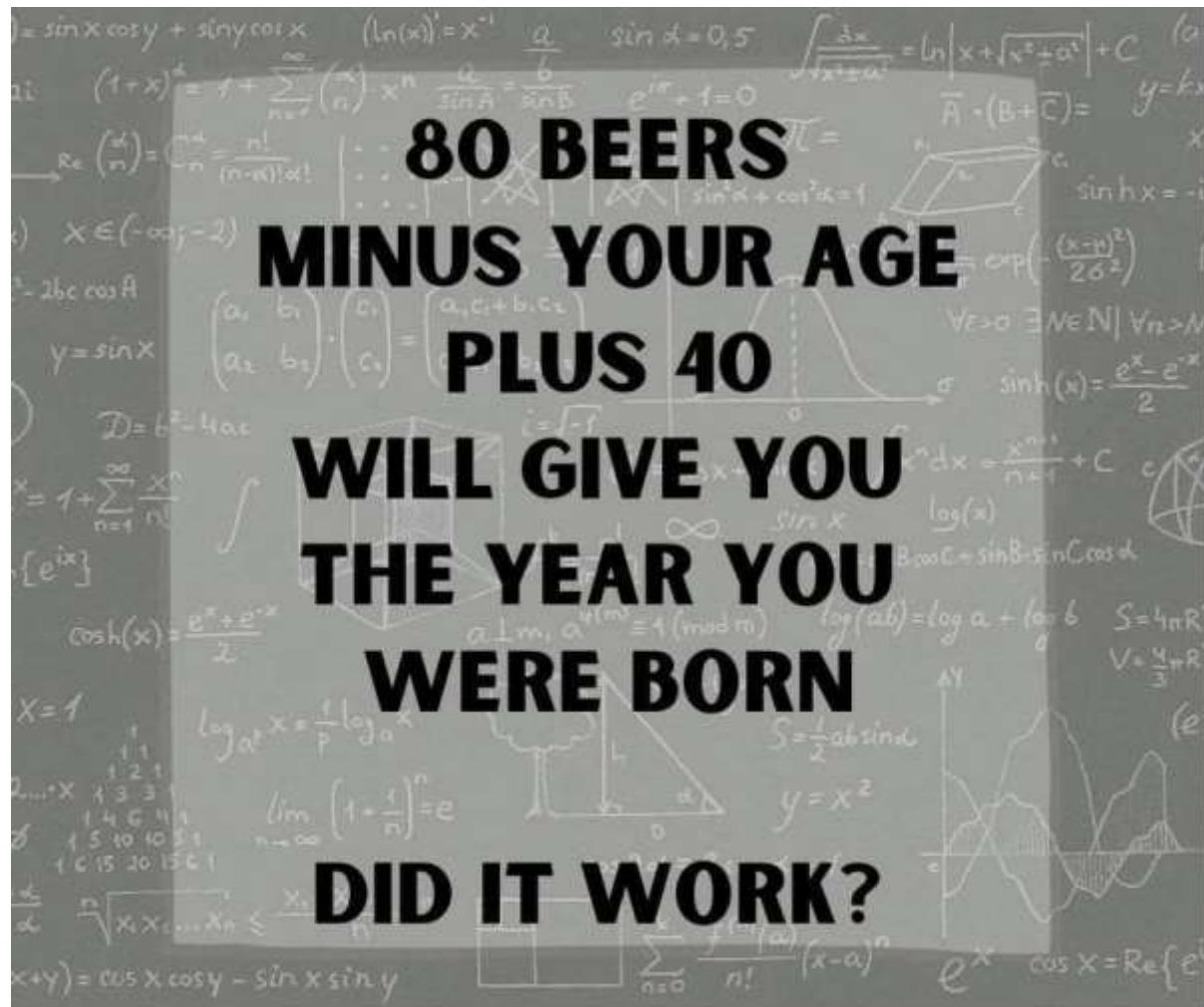
"I took my GCSEs there and it was hard at the start but I had to just get used to it. I lived with house parents there with one other lad who is on the same team."

Neco made his first senior appearance for Liverpool in the dramatic 5-5 League Cup tie at home to Arsenal which the Reds won on penalties in October 2019.

This article was recommended by Giles Evans as both these young footballers attended Ysgol Rhiwabon.

<https://www.ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk/>

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Thank you to Julian Davies for locating this piece

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