**Ruabon News Letter 416**

**21.03.2021**

# City of Culture

# **WE’RE ON THE SHORTLIST #WRECSAM2025**

# March 19, 2022

We’re delighted to have made it onto the shortlist to become UK City of Culture in 2025!

DCMS (the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport) who run the competition have announced that Wrexham have made it onto the shortlist alongside Bradford, County Durham and Southampton.

**What happens next?**

As part of the bid process we have funded over 50 events and activities. Some of these events have already taken place and others are running up to the end of May. So make sure you keep an eye on socials and the #Wrecsam2025 #tag for more details.

At some point in early May we will be visited by a panel of City of Culture judges who will be comparing us to the other regions shortlisted prior to making a decision on who will host in 2025.

We are continuing to bang the drum for Wrexham and continue with the momentum. Keep talking to your friends, colleagues and family about the bid!

The overall winner will be announced towards the end of May.

# A picture containing text Description automatically generatedSpring Rollout of boosters

# begins in Wales this week

The latest phase of the vaccination programme will see the over-75s, older care home residents and individuals aged 12 years and over who are immunosuppressed being invited for their boosters.

Children aged 5 to 11 years will also begin being offered their first vaccination from today too. Parents and guardians will need to consent to them having the vaccine.

Health boards across Wales have been planning for the latest stage of the vaccination programme for a number of months.

All those eligible for spring boosters are being encouraged to wait for their invitations from their health board or GP.

It comes after Health Minister Eluned Morgan accepted the JCVI advice to give another boost to people who are at higher risk of severe COVID-19.

The spring dose is advised around 6 months after the last vaccine dose to maintain high levels of immunity for those deemed the most vulnerable.

Health boards are also offering children aged 5 to 11 their first vaccination appointments. This is a precautionary offer to increase their immunity against severe COVID-19 in advance of a potential future wave and to minimise disruption to their education.

Most 5 to 11 year old children will be offered 2 doses of the vaccine, 12 weeks apart.

Health Minister Eluned Morgan said:

“It is important we maintain high levels of protection from COVID-19 and everyone who is offered a spring booster vaccination takes up the invitation.

We are following the latest advice from the JCVI and would everyone who is eligible to wait for the offer of their spring booster”..

[](https://news.wrexham.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Ollie-and-Harvey-Visit-Pic.jpg)

**The Mayor of Wrexham**

recently visited a pair of young blacksmiths who are causing a stir around the UK with their creations.

Ollie and Harvey of O & H Metal Designs from Wrexham are cousins who took up their family tradition 18 months ago during the lockdown and became seventh generation blacksmiths.

Starting out making items such as small keyrings and bottle holders, they honed their craft under the guidance of their grandfather, Tony Roberts, to more complex designs such as metal roses, daffodils and daisies.

**A media sensation**

Due to their young age (Ollie-14yrs and Harvey-13yrs), the local press ran a story detailing the talent of the boys, which soon gained them recognition far and wide.

It was not long before television was calling with offers from ITV news and Channel 4. It was during their coverage on ITV Wales and National news that they were dubbed “Britain’s Youngest Blacksmiths”.

Their ongoing success and charity work led to two commission pieces from Acton Community Council. They first made a four-foot fish entirely out of spoons, which is situated in Acton Park Lake.

The second creation was a ten-foot horseshoe, which comprises of horseshoes. This is displayed in Acton Smithy where their family originate.

**High profile clients**

The boys have enjoyed a successful 18 months. They have expanded their business and are taking orders all over the UK and overseas.

The hard work and talent has been recognised by some high profile figures. Ollie and Harvey have received letters from Downing Street and the Queen praising their unique gift. This led to the boys sending a piece of their work to the Prime Minister himself.

Their proud grandfather, Tony, said: “At the age they’re at now and the interest and enthusiasm the boys are showing to the craft, when the time comes for them to leave school, I hope all this work and experience serves them well for a good start in life and puts them in good stead.”

“They’re still as enthusiastic now as they were when they first started this nearly two years ago. It helps to keep the enthusiasm going by just letting them be as creative as they want and trying new and different designs”.

## A civic visitor drops by

The Mayor of Wrexham, Councillor Ronnie Prince, was invited to pay Ollie and Harvey a visit. He dropped by at the workshop where the ideas come to life.

During his visit, he had a tour of the workshop and got to see some items that were in the making. He also got to see some finished pieces that were ready to be shipped to new homes.

After a chat with the boys, the Mayor said: “It is so wonderful to see such talent hailing from Wrexham. The recent recognition Ollie and Harvey have received is definitely well deserved.”

“It has been a real honour to come here today and see how the magic is made. I have to say that it is also very lovely to see such a traditional trade being continued by the young generation. I wish the boys all the best for their continued success in the future”.

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**Wrexham CBC have improved both areas**

**in Caia Park and Plac Madoc**

A field of flowers

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The two year project was launched in March 2020 and has seen green areas in the two project areas; Caia Park and Plas Madoc improved by planting wildflower meadows, trees and bulbs by over 250 volunteers and participants.

In all over 1.2 hectares of wildflower meadow has been sown (and harvested) throughout the project areas which provides valuable havens for our wildlife, especially bees and butterflies and brightens up the areas for everyone.

A massive total of 5000 bulbs have been planted along with 200 fruit trees creating orchards and 1500 native tree species such as oak, silver birch, ash, hazel, beech, blackthorn and hawthorn planted.

3 hectares of woodland management has also taken place within Caia Park to improve access and open up areas for recreation and play.

Green Infrastructure project lead, Jacinta Challinor, said, “It’s been a fantastic effort and there’s a real community spirit in Wrexham. It’s been a pleasure working with communities within Caia Park and Plas Madoc as well as our project partners, North Wales Wildlife Trust and Keep Wales Tidy.

“Not only will the areas involved be enhanced but the trees in particular will contribute to reducing our carbon footprint and contribute to help the impacts seen by climate change.”

Cllr David A Bithell, Lead Member for Environment and Transport, said, “The lasting benefits to our communities will be seen for many years to come and I’d like to thank Jacinta for all her hard and valued work over the past couple of years, even ensuring the project continued during lockdown by taking it online for a while.

“Credit must also go to the local communities for their tremendous support for the project.”

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## [National robotic assisted surgery programme to be established in Wales](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAzMTYuNTUwMDM5MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2dvdi53YWxlcy9uYXRpb25hbC1yb2JvdGljLWFzc2lzdGVkLXN1cmdlcnktcHJvZ3JhbW1lLWJlLWVzdGFibGlzaGVkLXdhbGVzIn0.OjBonCnfrwqbEautxiM0Yfw2QyioF5O3L1P3IQ1xAcE/s/522284045/br/128212098154-l)

A national robotic-assisted surgery programme allowing surgeons to perform complex procedures with more precision and control is being introduced in Wales

Multiple Versius systems are set to be installed in Wales as part of the world’s first National Robotic Assisted Surgery programme in

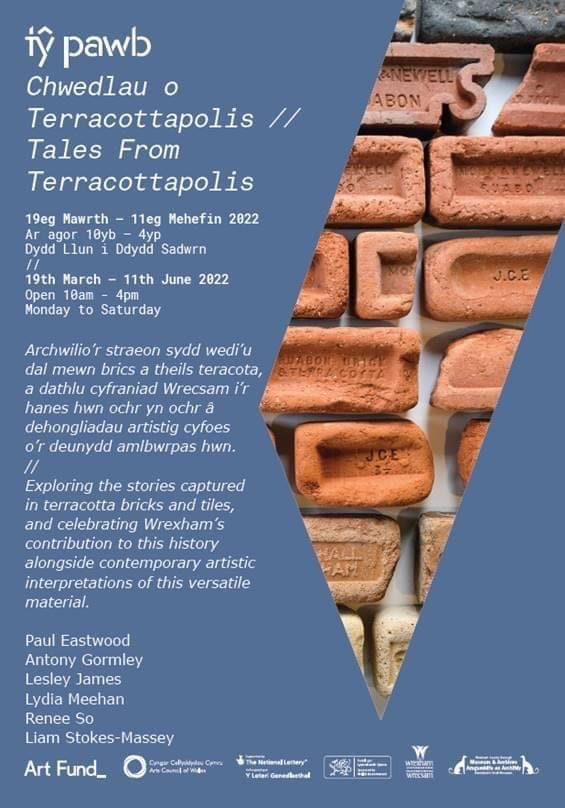
partnership with industry

~ Exclusive robotic surgery clinical partnership with NHS Wales to improve surgical outcomes and transform the experience of surgery for thousands of patients  
CMR Surgical (CMR) – a global surgical robotics business – today announced that it has been awarded a significant multi-year contract by NHS Wales for implementation of the Versius® Surgical Robotic System in a National Robotics Assisted Surgery Programme. Under the terms of the contract, four Versius systems will initially be installed across a number of hospitals in Wales, with over 1,300 patients expected to benefit from the programme annually.

Wales is the first country in the world to introduce a national surgical robotics programme, in partnership with industry, that aims to transform quality of care and outcomes for patients. As part of a national innovation drive to improve surgical outcomes for cancer patients, Versius will be used to perform procedures across Colorectal, Upper Gastrointestinal, Urological, and Gynaecology specialities. The service will be provided initially at **Betsi Cadwaladr and Cardiff and Vale Health Boards,** with further expansions to other health boards in the future.

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Exhibition in Ty Pawb

[](https://www.ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/FN4iIoKWYAIHYzK.jpg)An exhibition has been created at Ty Pawb, opened on Friday, and will run until the 11th of June.  The exhibition includes the history of JC Edwards, and Ruabon brickworks.

**Foodbank Collection point**

**at Rhos library**

The Foodbank is a store of non-perishable food donated by local people.  The food bank network helps people break free from poverty by providing additional support to help people resolve the crises they’re facing so that they don’t need to use a food bank again in the future. Food banks rely on the support of their local communities to support people in crisis.

If you would like to donate food items then please visit Rhos Library where there is now a Foodbank collection point.

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## ****Help your children to read****

Reading is one of the most important things your child will learn at school. The most important thing you can do is make the time to read with your child every day, whether a book sent home from school, borrowed from the library or from your own bookshelves.

All libraries have a selection of reading scheme books to help support your child’s learning.

A reading scheme is a series of books that have been carefully written to support the process of learning to read and to help children make progress as readers. These include Oxford Reading Tree, Usborne First Reading, Maverick Early Readers, Reading Champions, DK Readers, Bloomsbury Young Readers, and Ladybird Readers and many more, so you’re sure to find something that suits you and your child.

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**Darllenwyr Rhiwabon Clwb**

**Llyfrau**

**Llyfrgell Rhiwabon**

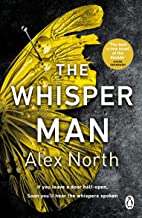
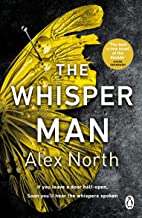
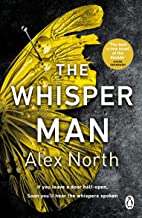
**Dydd Mercher 30 Mawrth 2022**

am **2.00 o’r gloch**

Bydd y grŵp yn darllen

**The Whisper Man**

gan Alex North

**Ruabon Readers Book Club**

**Ruabon Library**

on

**Wednesday 30th March 2022** at **2.00pm**

The Group will be reading

**The Whisper Man**

by

Alex North

**The Ruabon Readers reading group is starting again this month.**

**It will run on the last Wednesday of the month, from 2-3pm.**

**Old and new members will be warmly welcome!**

**LLyfrgrell Rhiwabon / Ruabon Library**

**High Street, Ruabon, LL14 6NH**

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Opening Hours

Monday 12.00pm – 5.00pm

Tuesday Closed

Wednesday 12.00pm – 5.00pm

Thursday 9.00am – 1.15pm

Friday 12.00pm – 5.00pm

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**1.Gwau a Sgwrs**

**2. Dydd Gwener 2pm–4pm**

**Knit and Natter**

**Fridays 2pm – 4pm**

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**Grwp Sgwrsio**

Dydd Llun 2pm – 3pm

**Welsh Second Language Conversational Group**

Mondays 2pm – 3pm

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**Stori a Chân**

**Dydd Llun** 1:15pm

**Story and Rhyme**

**Mondays** 1.15pm

**The following articles have been sent in by Paul Tincello**

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**FREE Ukrainian Translations of Trauma Resources**

We would like these resources to help as many people as possible. With your support we can reach a much wider network of people who have been affected by this crisis.  
 Please [share this article](https://flvc.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8a46a8b28bb94092e3b49979b&id=be5882897f&e=006862eff8) with colleagues, and anyone or anywhere you think the tools might be useful. You don’t need to be a member of Psychology Tools to download these resources in Ukrainian and they are completely free.

[How Trauma can affect you (Ukrainian version)>](https://flvc.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8a46a8b28bb94092e3b49979b&id=cffda5874c&e=006862eff8)  
[Reactions to Trauma (Ukrainian version)>](https://flvc.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8a46a8b28bb94092e3b49979b&id=6c4f095870&e=006862eff8)  
[Understanding PTSD (Ukrainian version)>](https://flvc.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8a46a8b28bb94092e3b49979b&id=15ebea758a&e=006862eff8)

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**Wales offers free rail travel for Ukrainian refugees**

**First Minister of Wales Mark Drakeford**,

has announced that from 17th of March, refugees fleeing the ongoing conflict in Ukraine can travel for free on Transport for Wales services.  The scheme will help refugees while they are settling in Wales, with the free travel scheme running for 6-months.   
 Ukrainian nationals can claim free travel by showing a Ukraine passport to conductors and station staff.  The scheme is an extension of an ongoing Welsh Government programme which provides free public transport for asylum seekers in Wales, as part of its ambition to become the world’s first Nation of Sanctuary as endorsed by the United Nations.

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**Young Wales is recruiting young people**

**to join its Boards and Groups**

 If you are a professional working with young people, please share this exciting opportunity.  
 Young Wales is recruiting young people to join its boards and groups.  We have a range of opportunities for young people to get involved in.  Young Wales is about listening to young people and hearing their voices.  We support young people to have a say on issues that might affect their lives.  Young Wales is committed to represent the diversity of young people in Wales and welcomes applications from all young people to get involved. You can read more by clicking here: **https://www.childreninwales.org.uk/news/young-wales-recruiting-young-people-join-our-boards-and-groups/**

**If you work with any young people who would like to register then please go to:** Young Wales Boards and Groups Membership Application on line. **Closing Date Friday 1st April 2022**. We will confirm board or group membership by Friday 8th April 2022.  
If you would like more information, please contact: [tegan.waites@childreninwales.org.uk](mailto:tegan.waites@childreninwales.org.uk)

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**Welsh Women’s Aid launches Meaningful Survivor  
Participation Engagement Toolkit**

 Survivor engagement is important. Decision makers can often be the furthest removed from survivors’ experiences. Without meaningful engagement, we run the risk of making assumptions about what survivors need and want from organisations and interventions, or not considering them at all.  
Created through co-production with survivors, the purpose of this toolkit is to identify good practice and support Welsh Women’s Aid’s member services and others to develop a framework of survivor and service user engagement that is:  
Empowering, trauma-informed, strengths- based, needs-led and dynamic. For more information go to:

<https://www.welshwomensaid.org.uk/2022/03/launch-of-the-survivor-engagement-toolkit/>

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**NEWCIS Spring Newsletter**

 NEWCIS support unpaid carers in North East Wales, covering Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham. Support includes information signposting, one-to-one support, financial support, counselling, events and training, carer support groups, respite and more.  
 The Spring issue includes exciting upcoming events and carer support groups in your local area.

Read more here:  
**https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TyPJcIujsSxnIJu6wv4n6pYbb7pOaB-b/view?fbclid=IwAR2GLS27qwMe-\_pDlkuIC3wYjq1LFrQ7lsDtUAvJea686lJ8njRtt6hsYwM**

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**News and Events from Groundwork North Wales**

 March sees the start of our events calendar at Venue in the Park, Alyn Waters Country Park.  
 Starting with a chance to celebrate the Mum in your life with a fantastic homemade afternoon tea from the talented staff at Caffi Cyfle.  
 We are hosting an Easter gift & craft fair on Saturday, April 9th from 10 am, free entry for browsers and shoppers, followed by a Food Fair on Saturday, June 25th. Read More on: https://mailout.glow-internet.com/t/ViewEmail/r/ED44DE5EC9AE25242540EF23F30FEDED/3EBF0ADDCBD75ED284F34D0509CE8B7E?alternativeLink

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**Would you like to improve your computer skills?**

Enrol onto our [FREE\* BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS COURSE](https://flvc.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8a46a8b28bb94092e3b49979b&id=a8b6626b19&e=006862eff8) and find out more.   
With a range of opportunities to progress, this could be just the course for you!  
All levels and abilities welcome. \*Subject to eligibility

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**NEWCIS Vacancy: Gateway Officer working with Unpaid Carers in Wrexham**

 The role will involve assisting wellbeing officers with various applications which will require speaking to carers, conducting low level assessments, and providing information, advice and assistance and working in the community facilitating community-based activity.  
 **Apply now**:[**https://www.newcis.org.uk/gateway-officer-vacancy/**](https://flvc.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8a46a8b28bb94092e3b49979b&id=78773e74e0&e=006862eff8)

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Thank you for all the positive articles you have sent in and for all those which determine a better future for those who have been denied.

Sybil (Bremner)