

RUABON NEWS LETTER 474

22.05.2023

PRESS RELEASE

Ken Skates MS | Clwyd South

16/05/23 *for immediate publication*



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

MS blasts car park company as 'parasites' over raft of unfair fines

An MS has branded an under-fire car park company 'parasites' which treats its customers with contempt.

Ken Skates says he's already begun boycotting the car park at Island Green, which has become a hotspot for 'grossly unfair' fines.

And he wants nearby stores to raise their concerns with owners' Euro Car Parks.

Wrexham MS Lesley Griffiths has been leading the fightback against the company, and Mr Skates – who represents Clwyd South – has also taken up cases for numerous constituents.

He said: "Many of the fines are being attributed to 'keying errors', despite anyone who parks at Island Green being only too familiar with its erratic pay and display machines. You'd think they'd have enough money to fix them with all the grossly unfair charges they're squeezing out of people.

"The company has been extremely dismissive of the representations I've made on behalf of my constituents, so it's not just shoppers – their customers – who they treat with contempt.

"The last case I took up, it took more than three weeks to get an extremely short reply which said they wouldn't accept my correspondence as the fine had been passed to a debt collection agency. They are not interested in common sense or any sense of fairness, only profits. They're parasites."

Mr Skates has now written to the company to request an urgent meeting.

He continued: “I won’t park at Island Green any more, and I’d like to see the stores take action too. It’s their customers who are being exploited, and the more this happens the less likely they are to return and spend their money in-store.”

He added: “What does Euro Car Parks contribute to Wrexham? The city is on the up, and these vultures are preying on local people. We want to see new businesses moving and setting up here – but this is one company I’m sure plenty of people would be glad to see the back of.”

-Ends-



Creative Transformation

from 5 Perspectives.

This eBook brings together the experience of a wide range of industry experts, offering a clear and workable guide for decision-makers in the creative teams of small and medium-sized enterprises.

It's filled with plenty of tips and inspiration for addressing day-to-day challenges. The topics explored include:

1. Creative transformation: Where does it lead?
2. Administrative challenges of creative work
3. Teamwork in hybrid and remote working models
4. Promoting creativity – providing structures and space for ideas
5. Future ready: keeping an eye on new developments, harnessing potential at an early stage.

Snowdonia's hidden 'Little Italy' reveals more of its
astonishing secrets



Scores more replica buildings and structures have been discovered as the overgrown site is cleared

A mini Portmeirion hidden in vegetation has yielded more of its secrets as the site is cleared. Volunteers have been left bewildered by the sheer number of replica buildings scattered across a small woodland known as the “Little Italy” of southern [Eryri \(Snowdonia\)](#).

“Every time I pulled away more ivy, I thought, bloody hell, there’s another one,” said Jonathan Fell, the site’s flamboyant curator. At the last count, around 200 “objects” had been unearthed – not just buildings but statues, plaques and curios as well. Before conservation work began, a few years ago, [only around 30 structures were known](#).

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The vast complex of replica buildings and curios took a quarter of a century to build

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Everywhere there are iconic Italian buildings, from Florence’s Duomo to Venice’s Rialto Bridge. Among the new discoveries, there were a few surprises: a miniature English village, a cat cemetery and a Venetian canal, possibly once filled with running water.

Idyllic 'unspoilt' North Wales villages named in the UK's best for avoiding the crowds

Each new find has heightened the awe Jonathan has for the site’s creator, Mark Bourne and wife Muriel. He said their shrine to Italian architecture, on the outskirts of Corris, between [Dolgellau](#) and [Machynlleth](#), is a monument to obsession, endurance and ingenuity.

He sniffs at people who call it a model village. Neither does he have time for comparisons with [Portmeirion](#), the Italianate village in [Porthmadog](#).

“I absolutely love this place,” said Jonathan. “I don’t like to call it folk art because it’s much more than that. It’s such an important site, one of the most important in Wales – far more so than Portmeirion, which had all that money thrown at it.”

Before he retired, Mr Bourne owned a caravan site and poultry unit. Often he would disappear off to Italy for weeks at a time, returning home with sketchbooks full of architectural drawings.

In his trademark baggy corduroys, he would then set to work on his recreations, sometimes helped by local volunteers. Old materials, from wash boilers to hub caps, were recycled to provide structure, then encased in moulded chicken wire ready for concreting.

Should government step in to ensure the site is properly safeguarded? Have your say in the comments below.

Over 25 years, Mr Bourne carted thousands of buckets of water and ballast from the Afon Deri in the valley below, to be mixed with concrete to make mortar. An underpowered Datsun 4x4 and trailer did some of the heavy lifting but, for the final stretch, up though the garden, muscle and brawn was needed.

Jonathan still struggles to comprehend the enormity of the task. “This guy spent 25 years carrying hundreds of tonnes of concrete, water and ballast up a hillside with a slope that ranges from 30 to 45 degrees,” he said.

“At its steepest, it’s hard to walk up, and he had to build paths up there before erecting a workshop, laying foundations and starting on the objects.

“With a job like this, I would have used winches and flywheel to lift everything up the slope. I certainly couldn’t have carried all those buckets up there. It was a huge amount of work just building the steps.

“Probably his wife helped him. I remember Muriel still walking up the track from Corris, carrying two shopping bags, at the age of 84.

“Maybe he had a mixer for the concrete rather than doing it by hand. But if I was taking a mixer up there, I’d need six people – two for lifting, two for braking and two on drag lines. How he did it I’ve no idea.”





DARGANFOD/DISCOVER Science Festival to return for Summer 2023

DARGANFOD//DISCOVER Science and Arts Festival is exploding into Wrexham once again!

DARGANFOD//DISCOVER is once again coming to Chester Street, on the 5th and 6th of August 2023. Xplore! Science Discovery Centre and Tŷ Pawb are working together for the 3rd year to put on a fantastic festival of science and art for the city.

Thanks to funding from Wrexham County Borough Council, local business Aparito and grants awarded to Xplore!, this year has a bigger programme than ever before. The two-day festival will include workshops and shows highlighting the science of Roald Dahl, the incredible world of chemistry, dinosaurs and much more.

Festival set to be ‘the most varied and exciting’ yet

Cllr Nigel Williams, Lead Member for Economy and Regeneration said “We are thrilled to be working with Xplore! Science Discovery Centre once again to bring this fantastic event to Wrexham city centre. Last year’s festival was a

truly joyful experience and it was wonderful seeing so many families exploring both our venues and enjoying the discovery of all things science and art. We are delighted to be continuing our partnership with Xplore! and we are looking forward to welcoming this festival back to the streets of Wrexham as it continues to grow.”

Dawn Pavey, Project Officer at Xplore! said “DARGANFOD//DISCOVER returning to Wrexham for the third year is a fantastic statement of ongoing investment in events within Wrexham city centre.

“The festival is providing a platform to allow more people to engage with Wrexham, not only as a tourist destination but to experience first-hand, the exciting interaction between science, technology, engineering, maths and the arts. We can’t wait to welcome everyone for the most varied and exciting festival we have ever put on!”

A great value family day out

A timetable for the event will be available in the coming weeks. Visitors are able to drop-in for whichever part of the festival best suits them, with each day ticket providing access to every event that takes place that day, providing a great value family day out. Activities will take place at various sites within Xplore! and Tŷ Pawb as well as spilling out onto the Hippodrome site on Henblas Street.

With the spotlight firmly on Wrexham this year, this 2-day event will shine a light on two of Wrexham’s visitor attractions, not only providing activities for locals who already enjoy coming to Xplore! and Tŷ Pawb but it will provide a focal point for tourists new to Wrexham who are keen to see what more the city has to offer.

For media enquiries or for activity stallholders wishing to be part of the event contact info@darganfod-discover.com.

Tickets are available to purchase now

at: <https://www.typawb.wales/darganfod-discover-science-festival-to-return-for-summer-2023/#>

Sicrwydd Ansawdd
Quality Assured



Work on Wrexham AFC's new Kop stand to start in 2 weeks

A management plan has been submitted by developers and the new 5,500-seater end could be ready for the start of the 2024/25 season

- rk

Contractors working on the construction of Wrexham AFC's new Kop stand at the Racecourse Ground have submitted their management plan for the development. Work is expected to begin on June 1 with hopes the new 5,500-seater Kop will be ready for the start of the 2024-25 football season.

The proposals, lodged with [Wrexham](#) Council's planning department by Morgan Sindall, set out how the site will be managed from taking deliveries to minimising disruption on the roads around the stadium during construction.

"The vehicle entrance gates on [Mold](#) Road will be recessed off the highway to prevent the delivery vehicles from obstructing the highway", the construction method statement says.

"To prevent deliveries from trafficking through the town centre and residential areas, route cards will be issued to all supply chain partners and will provide a clear route from the A483 (from Chester and Oswestry direction) and the A534. Route cards will direct traffic on main roads only and will avoid the town centre and residential areas.

"The site will close at 2pm on matchdays during the week and there will be no working on Saturday matchdays. There will be no deliveries when the site is closed."

Working hours will be 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday, and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays. Heavy and abnormal sized deliveries will be planned to ensure that vehicles do not cause congestion on the roads around the perimeter of site.

Contractors working on the construction of Wrexham AFC's new Kop stand at the Racecourse Ground have submitted

their management plan (below) for the development (Image: PA)



The statement adds: "The existing 2.4m high timber hoarding that currently surrounds the site will remain in place for the duration of the construction works. From its current condition, the hoarding will be upgraded with measures to ensure that it meets the requirements of a temporary works design.

"Damaged boards will be replaced, the external face of the boards will be re-painted and graphics will be installed to a portion of the hoarding, along Mold Road. A biometric turnstile and two sets of vehicle gates will control pedestrian and vehicle access in and out of the site.

"Vehicles will enter the site through manned gates off Mold Road, the site compound will provide a one-way system for vehicles to travel through and exit out of another set of manned vehicle gates on to Crispin Lane.

"For a limited period, the site will extend to include The Turf Pub car park. Plant will be sited in this area to complete cladding works to the gable end of the stand. A secure fence line with gates will be erected to secure this area. There will also be a responsible person put in place to control the gates."

The statement also explains that the contractors are in discussion with Glyndwr University about the possible use of a section of their large carpark adjacent to the stadium. They will encourage shared transport, crew buses and public transport to limit vehicles arriving to site.

Talks are also being held with Network Rail about entering in to a BAPA (basic asset protection) agreement, with the work taking place near to the rail line.

And the neighbouring community will also be kept in the loop. The contractors say: "Morgan Sindall is aware of the need to promote and maintain relations with the local residents, businesses and university.

"Neighbours will be made aware of site telephone numbers, key contacts, construction activities taking place and working hours. This information will be updated and communicated to the neighbours along with regular newsletter drops to ensure all those in close vicinity of the project are made aware of the site progress and any factors which affect them."

Renovating the Racecourse Ground was one of five pledges made by Hollywood duo Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney when they took ownership of the football club in 2021.

New floodlights have already been installed at the Racecourse Ground in the last few weeks after separate planning permission was secured for them last year.

Ruabon Library

Dydd Mercher cyntaf y mis - 1st Wednesday of the month –

Gemau/Games/Scrabble Group 2.15
Clwb Plant/Children's Club (5-10) 3.30

Ail ddydd Mercher y mis - 2nd Wednesday of the month –

Grŵp Darllen Cymraeg 2.00
Crefftiau Creadigol/Creative Crafts 1.15

Trydydd dydd Mercher y mis - 3rd Wednesday of the month

Amser i Gofio/Time to Remember
2.00

Dydd Mercher olaf y mis - Last Wednesday of the month –

Ruabon Readers
2.00 - 3.00

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Dydd Mercher olaf y mis - Last Wednesday of the month –

Ruabon Readers

2.00 - 3.00pm



Amser Tawel

Quiet Time

9.15 - 10.15am

Pob dydd Iau

Every Thursday



At Ruabon Library

This exhibition of vintage postcards by local enthusiast and collector, Ennys Hughes is a fascinating collection of what is sadly becoming a dying tradition in these days of digital technology.

Ennys says that “sending a p.c. (postcard) in the early part of 20th Century was just like sending a text today. It was the quickest way to make contact and pass on messages, greetings or information.”

The first (plain) postcards were published by the Post Office in the UK in 1870 and included a pre-printed stamp, with the introduction of picture postcards in 1894. Between 1902 and 1914 was the ‘Golden Age’ of postcards with huge

amounts issued and sent all over the world, often leading to substantial personal collections many of which are found in house clearances today. With a decline during the war years, postcards enjoyed a revival in the late 1940's and 50's, often capturing much sought after images of lost urban landscapes that provide a fascinating glimpse into the past.

The hobby of deltiology (postcard collecting) is the second most popular hobby in the world (after stamp collecting). Together, these postcards help to tell a rich and vivid story of a bygone era, with a snapshot of people's lives, special moments and memories: sometimes funny, sometimes sad, and sometimes mysterious. With a thoughtful display of both the picture postcard with its attached message, this is an interesting and remarkable exhibition. On now at



Ruabon Library until the end of June.

**How to support
someone with
depression**

Mind

Looking for advice on how to support someone with depression?

We're here to help.

For tips, advice and support, visit our website:
If you're struggling yourself, reach out to us.

<https://www.mind.org.uk/.../depre.../for-friends-and-family/>



CHOIRS FOR GOOD
PRESENTS



DOWNTOWN

A MUSICAL EVENING IN AID OF

WALES AIR AMBULANCE

FEATURING



THE LITTLE BIG BAND



JOHN DURHAM
SINGER



BOBBIE-JO PRITCHARD
SINGER



CHOIRS FOR GOOD
WREXHAM

FRIDAY 26 MAY
WREXHAM MEMORIAL HALL
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Tickets £7

Starts 7:30pm

BOOK YOUR TICKETS AT
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CALL GAYNOR ON 07855 330632
OR CASH ON THE DOOR

FIND OUT MORE



ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE PERFORMANCE WILL BE DONATED TO
OUR CHARITY OF THE YEAR "WALES AIR AMBULANCE"

WWW.CHOIRSFORGOD.COM

SUPPORTED BY



Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod

Tuesday 4th July 2023 — Sunday 9th July 2023

Wanted

New volunteer Stewards

Are you aged 16 or over? Why not become a member of our volunteer Stewarding team and enjoy working in the wonderful atmosphere of music, dance and colour at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod.

For more information contact:

stewards@llangollen.net

or

visit the Eisteddfod website

<https://international-eisteddfod.co.uk>

or telephone 01978 862000



Friends of Ruabon What's On 2023

Friends of Ruabon Litter Pick Saturdays

Saturday February 18th
 Saturday March 18th
 Saturday April 15th
 Saturday May 20th
 Saturday June 17th

Saturday July 15th
 Saturday August 19th
 Saturday September 16th
 Saturday October 21st
 Saturday November 18th

For litter pick equipment and to meet up with other Litterpickers please meet at Ruabon Village Hall on the above dates at 10am

Saturday Meetings

The Bridge End Inn
 Ruabon

Wednesday Meetings

St Mary's Church Hall
 Ruabon

Friends of Ruabon Monthly Meetings 2023

- Saturday March 4th 10am
- Wednesday April 5th 7pm
- Saturday May 13th 10am
- Wednesday June 7th 7pm
- Saturday July 1st 10am
- Wednesday August 2nd 7pm
- Saturday September 2nd 10am
- Wednesday October 4th 7pm
- Saturday November 4th 10am
- Wednesday November 29th 7pm

Friends of Ruabon Community Events 2023

- Bunny Hunt Saturday April 8th 1pm – 3pm
- Ruabon Summer Fete Saturday June 10th 1pm – 4pm
- Friends of Ruabon Santa Sleigh Ruabon Saturday December 2nd 5pm
- Frost Fayre Sunday December 3rd 1pm – 4pm
- Friends of Ruabon Santa Sleigh Christmas Tour
 Week commencing Monday December 4th Details TBC



Do you know anyone who is suffering with Dementia?

Jubilee Beau Unicorn Equine Project CIC has some free sessions available which are funded by Wrexham Council.

The "Tea with a Pony" sessions are at Overleigh Equestrian Centre, Acrefair.

These sessions are for anyone suffering with dementia and their families/carers, to include, meet & greet a small pony. stroking, feeding treats and grooming followed by a fresh cup of tea or coffee and cake/biscuits.

Booking essential, contact:

Jo 07776313335 or email: jo_overleigh@yahoo.co.uk

YOUR RUABON COMMUNITY AGENT



Supporting over 50's in our local communities with:



improving your
health and wellbeing
applications and claims
to access services



reconnecting you with
your local community



income maximisation
(benefit & debt support)



connecting with others
using digital technology



signposting to
appropriate services



establishing local
clubs & activities

I am here to help you, so please do not struggle in silence.

Angie Cunningham

Hi, I'm Angie, the new Community Agent for Ruabon. I am really excited to start supporting the people in and around our local community.

If you think I can support you, your family, friends or your neighbours then please contact me today at:



01948 830730



angie.cunningham@therainbowfoundation.org.uk

The Rainbow Foundation, Rainbow Centre, Whitchurch Road, Penley, Wrexham, LL130GB
Tel: 01948 830730 | www.therainbowfoundation.org.uk

Charity number: 1100479



There are several blood donation sessions in the Wrexham area with appointments available to book.

Please help if you can

✚ St Margaret's Church

✚ Chirk

✚ Rhosllanerchrugog

<https://wbs.wales/RuabonNews>

Mae sawl sesiwn rhoi gwaed yn ardal Wreccsam gydag apwyntiadau ar gael i archebu.

Helpwch os gallwch

✚ Eglwys St Margaret

✚ Yr Waun

✚ Rhosllanerchrugog

<https://wbs.wales/RuabonNews>

Ruabon W.I.

Annual Quiz Night

WHERE : Ysgol Rhiwabon

WHEN: Friday 26th May

TIME: Doors open at 6:30pm
Start at 7:00pm

ENTRY: £3 each (includes refreshment)

Raffle tickets: for sale at £1 each.

John Short

May 21 at 5:07 PM ·

Dolphins passing Souter Lighthouse this morning



John Short added a
post.msg

Just in case you are not able to download the above emails, from John Short



I have included another:
The adventures of Mr Brodie

“The nerve of some guys ! Wanders over here with his little ball and thinks I'll share mine with him.....I told him, look dad bought this one for me specially and I've promised not to puncture it so sorry you'll have to play with your own ball!

Please do keep your items coming in for the News Letter – they are always most welcome.

Sybil (Bremner)