

RHIFON NEWS LETTER 475

29.05.2023

YSGOL RHIWABON

FREE
UNIFORM

SINCE 1575 ~

SWAP SHOP



**An opportunity for a School Community to tackle the cost -
of-living crisis together**

**In the current climate we are all feeling the pinch. Children grow out of
their clothing so quickly, leaving clothes and uniform that has plenty of
life still in them unused**

**Please donate; Blazers, jumpers,
trousers, skirts, PE Kits, football
boots, winter coats (all in
good, clean condition) to school
reception by Friday 9th June**

**Attend the Swap Shop event
at the front of School 3:15 –
5pm on Thursday 15th June
and collect any items your
children require for **FREE!****

Terms and conditions of grant funding for childcare settings:

1st April 2023- to 31st March 2024

We are changing the process for our Terms and Conditions for Rainbow Childcare Funding. Due to this change they will no longer be sent out with any funding confirmations via email, but will be posted through here for you to download (please see link below)

These are to be read, signed and returned to paneladmin@wrexham.gov.uk

Failure to return signed Terms and Conditions may prevent us from considering your setting for any childcare placements in the future.

Please note that this process **must** be undertaken annually, submission of signed Terms and Conditions will be for the period 1st April to 31st March.

**Terms and conditions of grant funding for childcare settings:
1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024**

RAINBOW FUNDING PANEL

Please note there is no Rainbow Funding Panels taking place over the Summer holidays.

If you have a child who's funding will need to be re-applied for, for September 2023 please put in their application as soon as possible to ensure funding is in place for September.

The last Rainbow Panel for this academic year is Monday 17th July and applications for Rainbow Funding must be submitted at least 10 days prior, with all required information.

Applications can be submitted now for September.

Funding is unable to be back-dated.

If you require an application for rainbow funding please email;
paneladmin@wrexham.gov.uk



Do you have parents wishing to receive childcare under the Childcare Offer during the School holidays? Are their online holiday hours Agreements in place for the Whitsun half term, week commencing 29 May? If not, they could miss out on funding.

Visit [Providers manage agreements for the Childcare Offer for Wales | GOV.WALES](#) to find out more. Or contact our national helpline on 03000 628 628

Please share the below message with your parents.

Are you a parent receiving funded childcare under the Childcare Offer for Wales? Is your online holiday hours Agreement in place for the Whitsun half term, week commencing 29 May? If not, you could miss out on funding if you wish to use the Offer during the holidays.

Visit [Parents manage agreements for the Childcare Offer for Wales | GOV.WALES](#) to find out more. Or contact our national helpline on 03000 628 628

- We would just like to make you aware that, due to the forthcoming Spring Bank Holiday and WG staff privilege day on 30th May, arrangements have been made for timesheets submitted between Friday 26th May and 10am on Wednesday 31st May to be paid into providers' accounts on Friday 2nd June, subject to their own bank's arrangements. However, providers may experience a slight delay in receiving remittance this week.
- **Elmer Day is celebrated each year during the last week in May**
 - <https://www.elmer.co.uk/elmer-day/>



In 2023 it is celebrated **from** Saturday 27th May.

Elmer Day is a celebration of reading, of elephants and of accepting yourself and others, just like Elmer the Patchwork Elephant, star of the Elmer books by David McKee.


Looking to change career? Want to work for an employer with great benefits? ☆

Then come along to our recruitment event between 11am and 2pm at Tŷ Pawb on 7 June, and learn how you can play your own special part in our journey.

We have a wide range of jobs which are ready and waiting for the right people!

At our event, you'll get to talk to our team about the different career opportunities on offer, plus they can fill you in on all the great employment benefits that working for us brings.

We've just achieved the Gold Corporate Health award again, and were commended for our health and wellbeing initiatives we provide for our employees.

Find out more on the day! Details below 

31 *Wrexham Council Recruitment Event - 7 June 2023, Tŷ Pawb from 11am - 2pm.*

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
Crefftau 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

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

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Crefftau 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 - 3.00pm



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.



Life in the unspoilt village that describes itself as the 'loveliest' in Snowdonia



Y Bistro Yn Yr Hebog in Beddgelert (Image: Tony Harnett)

Not one to undersell itself, Beddgelert describes itself as “undoubtedly the loveliest village in Eryri/[Snowdonia](#)”. It’s hard to argue: with its old stone cottages, quaint shops and floral blooms, the village

is picture postcard perfect.

Bisected by water and surrounded by mountains, like many once-isolated communities in [Eryri](#), Beddgelert has a distinct vibe of its own. The place has evolved without losing its sense of self or the knowledge that this was once a mining village, its old stone cottages embedded with the memories of hard men who worked at local slate quarries and the nearby [Sygun Fawr Copper Mine](#).

Since the late 18th century, artists and tourists have gravitated towards Beddgelert in search of the “picturesque”. Its appeal lies in its location: to the south is Aberglaslyn Pass, to the east is Nant Gwynant. And just 4.5 miles away, to the north, is the summit of Yr [Wyddfa \(Snowdon\)](#) itself.

“You can’t see out of the village as it’s surrounded by hills,” said local resident and businesswoman Bonnie Rowley. “I think that has always fostered a strong sense of community.”

This month Beddgelert was named [one of the 30 most unspoilt villages in Britain](#) by The Telegraph newspaper. It’s easy to see why: the place has a timeless appeal – not preserved in the past but conserved in deference to its heritage, culture and surroundings.



The Welsh Highland Railway station in Beddgelert (Image: Tony Harnett)

Everyone knows about Gelert’s Grave and [the legend of the faithful hound](#), the publicity stunt created to encourage local tourism. But there are plenty of stories that

are true, fashioned over 1,300 years since Beddgelert was founded by an early Christian missionary. Beddgelert has produced renowned bards, and still does. Luminaries include harpist “Marged ferch Ifan”, the fabled, “Queen of the Lakes” who could “out-wrestle any man”. Another was Alfred Bestall, the Rupert Bear illustrator and storyteller who [lived in the village for many years](#). As a stopping point on the Welsh Highland Railway, and the start of the Watkin Path up Yr Wyddfa, Beddgelert’s enduring popularity with visitors is assured. In summer, the crowds descend and like any place that relies on [tourism](#), there are tensions that simmer beneath.

“It is a beautiful village and we need to accept that people will want to share it,” said businesswoman Nicola Lloyd. “It’s a question of finding the right balance. Without the visitors, Beddgelert would be a very different place. It’s because of them that we still have three pubs, a village store, post office and primary school.”

Nicola runs two shops in the village, Beddgelert Woodcraft and Siop Pen Gwyn. The latter sells homemade fudge, old-school sweets and souvenirs. It’s based in a former [National Trust](#) shop that closed during the pandemic, and which was once run by Nicola’s mother. “When it became vacant, I knew it had my name on it,” she said.

“Beddgelert can get busy in the summer, when the locals go into hiding. But compared to somewhere like [Betws-y-Coed](#), the village is still relatively undiscovered. We are very lucky: it’s not full-on all the time, and in winter the locals can enjoy all the facilities that may have disappeared in other rural villages.”

Like so many rural communities, volunteers are Beddgelert's backbone. The old summer carnival may have gone but residents still provide spectacular spring and summer blooms. Every year, flower tubs and window boxes burst with colour. Between 1993 and 2000, they were unstoppable, winning the

Britain in Bloom village category on no fewer than five occasions.



Riverside buildings lit up at night

(Image: Tony Harnett)

Like many others of her generation in the village, Delyth Griffiths was raised in the wider area, moved away but yearned to return, in her case

from Cardiff. As her husband was born in Beddgelert, the pretty village and its close-knit community beckoned.

Delyth took on Emrys House, the village’s shop and Post Office. It remains Beddgelert’s beating heart.

“We had the hiraeth to come home,” she said, referring to the untranslatable Welsh word encapsulating a sense of nostalgia and longing for Wales, its culture and family roots. “It’s a village with an obvious centre that gives the place real heart, and that’s one reason why the community is so tight-knit. “There is a perception that Beddgelert hasn’t changed over the years but that’s not quite true. It’s still evolving. People are still buying properties and doing them up – we’re doing that ourselves at the moment – but they have to work within the restrictions of the National Park.”



St. Mary's Church, Beddgelert (Image: Tony Harnett)

In places, buildings crowd the streets and leave them too narrow for pavements, adding to the village’s sense of antiquity. Some structures predate the 13th century, mostly in St Mary’s Church, a major tourism attraction in its own right.

Originally a part of an Augustinian priory, it was rebuilt under the patronage of Prince Llywelyn Fawr (Llywelyn the Great), who is associated with the Gelert legend. The priory survived several fires but fell victim to King Henry VIII’s dissolution of the monasteries. As a church, its parish covered much of Eryri, including the summit of Yr Wyddfa.

Doffing a hat to its architectural roots has helped the village retain its charm and sense of timelessness. It’s an example that Eryri National Park Authority is keen for others to follow, especially when it comes to listed buildings.

With summer on the horizon, the authority is worried a frenzy of DIY and alterations could compromise the “special qualities” of Eryri’s culturally-important buildings. A new historic environment planning officer, Eleanor Carpenter, has been appointed to monitor the park’s listed buildings, and she is calling on owners to contact the authority to discuss their plans beforehand – and so avoid the potential for penalties.

Beddgelert has plenty of listed structures, the most prominent being the “sub-medieval” stone bridge over the Afon Colwyn in the village centre. Other listings pay tribute to Beddgelert’s working past - they include two entire terraces of quarry workers’ cottages.

Where the village has been altered, the work has been done sympathetically, said Delyth. “Everything fits in,” she said. “Even when the new riverside walk was built around the turn of the millennium, it seemed like a natural addition.

“The village is so compact that you can stay in Beddgelert and not have to use the car. From your door, there are lots of circular walks that are both interesting and beautiful.”



Glaslyn director Bonnie Rowley with sustainability consultant Stu Meades of Greener Edge, a company also based in Beddgelert

In the three decades since Bonnie Rowley began primary school in [Beddgelert](#), there have been social shifts in the village. Pupil numbers slipped, she said, but they now appear to be stabilising. Young families have moved in and, more importantly, moved back, helping to underpin [Welsh language](#) and culture.

One factor, believes Bonnie, was the rise in home working during the [Covid pandemic](#). It was a period that threatened her own business, the oldest ice cream parlour and pizzeria in Eryri.

“My husband used to commute to Leicester and if he wasn’t now able to work from home, I’m not sure how we’d be able to stay here,” she said. “I’m seeing more families coming here now because they can work from home and raise their children in beautiful surroundings.”

Bonnie owns the Glaslyn ice cream parlour and pizzeria, just around the corner from Beddgelert’s [much-photographed stone bridge](#). Having recovered from the pandemic, the business is noted not just for its products but also for its commitment to the environment.

Having achieved net-zero status, Glaslyn has a vision to work with farmers, suppliers and the community to make the entire Eryri National Park a carbon-free area. From solar panels to insulation, tree planting and nature-based solutions, Bonnie hopes to safeguard not just Beddgelert but all of Eryri and make it more sustainable for future generations.

“As trade in the village tends to be seasonal, as a community we need to look at ways to become more cost-effective and efficient,” she said. Among her innovations is an air-cooled display freezer for ice creams.



Merlin's Pool near Beddgelert

(Image: Tony Harnett)

Visitors don’t come here just for scenery and serenity. Part of Beddgelert’s lure is its quaint independent shops and cafes: there’s not a retail chain in sight.

For some, artisan ice creams are a key reason for their annual pilgrimages. “Sometimes I can’t believe how far people

have travelled just to get an ice cream,” smiled Bonnie, whose grandparents Joan and Bert founded the company in 1970.

“For some people, it’s about memories. They came here with their parents, wandered around the village with an ice cream, and now they want to do the same with their children. We do get a lot of returnees. Visitors come back year after year - this village holds a special place in people’s hearts.”

In September 1949, a “strange happening” in Beddgelert was reported in the Caernarvon & [Denbigh](#) Herald. A meteorite had struck the Prince Llewelyn Hotel, damaging the roof and a bedroom.

The “Beddgelert incident” remains only one of two verified meteorite falls in Wales; the other was in 1931, some 14 miles away in Pontllyfni at the other end of the Nantlle Ridge. The Prince Llewelyn soon recovered and it remains an iconic feature in the village. The community of less than 500 people has been equally indomitable.

Postmistress Delyth Griffiths said: “Beddgelert is one of the most beautiful places in the whole of Britain, thanks partly to the way its building heritage is protected by being in the national park. But as beautiful as it is, and despite the importance of its visitor economy, Beddgelert is a place with a genuine community.

**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.

[friends-and-family/](#)

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

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



Ruabon Coffee Morning

WEDNESDAYS • 10:30AM - 12:30PM

**Bowling Club Pavilion,
Maes Y Llan Lane, Ruabon**

Come and enjoy some tea, coffee, biscuits a chat each week in a warm and welcoming environment

There is **no charge** and **no need to book**, just drop by.



charity number: 1100479



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



John Short ([May 23 at 2:45 PM](#))

Vaonis Vespera: NGC 6995 The Bat Nebula

Do you see the bat? It haunts this cosmic close-up of the eastern Veil Nebula.

Vaonis Vespera
 The Bat Nebula
 John Short



· [South Shields](#) ·

The adventures of Mr Brodie
Our favourite stop off for a bacon sandwich “ Smith Sea View Cafe “. The most dog friendly cafe in town !



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Thank you all for sending in these articles for the News Letter.

Sybil (Bremner)