

RUABON NEWS LETTER 497

Ruabon Field Club

Members will welcome **Jill Burton** to give a **talk** on Tuesday 21st November at 2pm in St Mary's Church Hall.

Jill's subject will be:
**Lord Howard de Walden
of Chirk Castle**





National Hug a Bear Day

It's National Hug a Bear Day on Tuesday 7th November. Why not celebrate the day by asking children to bring in their favourite bear?

Single Use Plastics

The move follows a Welsh Government commitment to 'embed our response to the climate and nature emergency in everything we do and.....

'This purpose of the new law is to reduce the flow of plastic pollution into our environment by prohibiting the supply of certain single-use plastic products.'

Climate Change Minister Julie James explained the Act forms part of the Welsh Government's response to the climate and nature emergencies and 'builds on momentum created by communities across Wales who have chosen to go plastic free, defy throwaway culture and tackle littering'

Public support for the ban has been positive with [more than 87 per cent of people backing the move.](#)

As of today, the following items are now banned from being sold across the country:

- Single-use plastic plates
- Single-use plastic cutlery
- Single-use plastic drinks stirrers

- Cups made of expanded or foamed extruded polystyrene
- Takeaway food containers made of expanded or foamed extruded polystyrene
- Single-use plastic balloon sticks
- Single-use plastic-stemmed cotton buds
- Single-use plastic drinking straws (exemptions for those who need them to eat and drink safely and independently)

Minister for Climate Change, Julie James said:

This is the first step in phasing out the need for unnecessary single-use plastic being used and sold in Wales.

We're committed to eradicating single-use plastic and our next phase will see the banning of plastic single-use carrier bags, polystyrene lids for cups and food containers and products made of oxo-degradable plastic, which will come into force before the end of the Senedd term.

Many businesses across Wales have already adopted the change prior to the ban by switching to reusable products or swapping out their plastic for cardboard or paper alternatives where reusables aren't suitable.

We're also looking at plastic based wet wipes which can block drains, contribute to flooding and add microplastic fibres to our environment.

If we all take a 'Team Wales' approach and look to reuse, recycle and repair more, it'll help create a greener future for generations to come.
[Have your say in a joint consultation on the banning of wet wipes containing plastic \(GOV.UK\).](#)

First published 30th October 2023 Last updated 30th October 2023

**Nestled in amongst the beautiful
countryside of Bro Aled, stands what
looks like an
unremarkable rural house but it has a quite
incredible history.**

On the side of the hill above the meandering River Aled is Dyffryn Aled - where once stood a magnificent mansion but is now a bungalow.



Dyffryn Aled is situated around halfway between the villages of Llansannan and Bryn Rhyd Yr Arian in Conwy.

During the First World War, when the 25-bedroom mansion was in its heyday, it was rented by the British Army who promptly turned it into "the Colditz of North Wales."

Almost 100 German naval officers were held there as it was used as a prisoner of war (POW) camp. And like Colditz – the site of a famous castle used as a camp to house Allied servicemen during both World War One and Two – it became famous for escapes.

"As far as I know there were two escapes," local historian Berwyn Evans said. On 4th April 1915, two men got out.

They were loose for seven days before being captured close to Llanbedr, in Merionnydd, [Gwynedd](#) on 11th April. Both were convicted of trying to escape and sentenced to 28 days in Chester Jail. "The locals were complaining because they were supposed to be POWs and they were having a far better time of it than anyone. They played cricket in the meadows below the park."

The huge property was built in 1777 by Joseph Turner while the wings and interior were by John Woolfe. Documents from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales say: "The house was sold shortly before the First World War broke out, to Countess Dundonald of Gwrych Castle.

Conwy restaurant named best in Wales at awards featuring world's top venues

The World Culinary Awards are held in Dubai each year and two restaurants in North Wales were recognised.

A Conwy restaurant has been named the best in the country in an event featuring the world's finest eating places. The World Culinary Awards are held in Dubai each year to celebrate and reward excellence in the industry across the globe.

There are overall global winners as well as winning restaurants for each nation represented. There is also a prize for the top hotel restaurant in each nation. The culinary community, industry experts and consumers are invited to vote online to select the winners.



Palé Hall Hotel in Llandderfel, Bala

“Signatures” is owned and run by Jimmy and Louise Williams. It is based at Aberconwy Resort & Spa and has an exceptional reputation locally.

As well as previously scooping numerous awards they hold two AA Rosettes and are featured on the Michelin Guide.

“Signatures Restaurant”, Conwy

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North Wales also came out on top in the **Hotel Restaurant** category with the Henry Robertson Dining Room at Pale Hall in **Bala AND WINNING!**



Wrexham Libraries



From 30th October, 2023, Wrexham Council will be offering a Warm Welcome in all of our public libraries amid the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

With many residents worried about heating their homes throughout the colder months, the council is utilising existing heated spaces where people are welcome to come to get

warm and enjoy a tea or coffee.

Top 10 Books!

Did you know that Wrexham's Libraries receive copies of the top 10 best-selling books for adults in hardback and paperback, plus the top 20 best-selling books for children? They also receive multiple copies of the adult hardback fiction books for their Rapid Reads collection (books you have to read within a week), meaning you have easy and quick access to the very



latest books by your favourite authors. Why not call in and discover your new favourite book?

Diwrnod y Cofio ar BorrowBox ac mewn Llyfrgelloedd

Mae Diwrnod y Cofio, a elwir hefyd yn Ddiwrnod y Cadoediad, yn disgyn ar 11 Tachwedd bob blwyddyn. Mae Diwrnod y Cofio yn ddiwrnod coffa a arsylwyd gan aelodau'r Gymanwlad ers diwedd y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf er mwyn cofio pawb sydd wedi ymladd a marw yn unol â dyletswydd. Gallwch chi hefyd gofio trwy lawrlwytho e-lyfrau a llyfrau e-sain o'n ap BorrowBox neu drwy fenthyg llyfrau o'n casgliadau arbennig sy'n cael eu harddangos. Ymhlith y teitlau mae Sisters Under the Rising Sun gan Heather Morris, The Secrets we Keep gan Theresa Howes, Code Name Sapphire gan Pam Jenoff, The English Further gan Rory Clements a llawer mwy.



Remembrance Day on BorrowBox and in Libraries

Remembrance Day, also known as Armistice Day, falls on 11th November every year.

Remembrance Day is a memorial day observed by members of the Commonwealth since the end of the First World War.

In order to remember all those who have fought and died in the line of duty you too can remember by downloading e-books and e-audio books from our BorrowBox app or by borrowing books from our special collections on display. Titles include Sisters Under the Rising Sun gan Heather Morris, The Secrets we Keep by Theresa Howes, Code Name Sapphire by Pam Jenoff, The English Further by Rory Clements and many more.



Stay Connected with North Wales Fire and Rescue Service:



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
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Emergency services to host annual Christmas Carol Service

Posted 06 November 2023 09:31

**Storm Babet –
protect
region during**



**working together to
residents across the
severe weather**

Storm Babet – working together to protect residents across the region during severe weather

Posted 27 October 2023 14:04



One week ago today the severe weather experienced during Storm Babet saw control room staff, crews and officers across the region working tirelessly to ensure that we were able to be of comfort to our communities during distressing scenes of flooding.

Following on from this, staff from the Service took part in Wales-wide exercises around the Cardiff area on Wednesday and Thursday as part of our preparedness work around flooding.

Justin Evans, Area Manager for North Wales Fire and Rescue Service was the strategic manager on duty during last week's floods. He explained:

“At the peak of activity we had flood warnings and alerts across the Service area including alerts from Natural Resources Wales for the River Alyn, Clwyd, Gele, Elwy, Upper Dee and Mawddach and Wnion Catchment.

“There was significant disruption on the road network, particularly in the Flintshire areas and we had pockets of residential properties that had been affected by the ingress of flood water.

“Additional staff resources were brought into our control room to assist with the management of the volume of calls - there were over 200 incident events logged on our incident management system with attendance of officers and appliance resources to 44 incidents and officer only attendance to a further 56 incidents. Many of these calls for assistance occurred simultaneously and were challenging to access with many roads and access routes impassable. Our special water incident

unit attended 19 incidents with approximately 60 people rescued or evacuated during this period.

“Calls peaked on Friday evening and dropped off as we moved to nightfall - this aligned with the anticipated movement of people, and despite repeated requests from ourselves and partner agencies, drivers were still entering flooded areas, even as conditions worsened. We responded to around 25 vehicles that were involved in flood water, assisting with various rescues and evacuations from areas affected.

“Many of these incidents involved the redeployment of the same specialist resources over a prolonged period of time - so it was quite a feat for those involved.

“The Control Room managed the flow of information and key decision making with a calm sense of urgency - it is quite timely that their work is being celebrated this week through International Control Room Week.

“Regular advice and reassurance messages were shared through our social media channels, as well as officers taking part in broadcast interviews for the BBC. We communicated regularly with partners through the Tactical Coordination Group, with clear and coherent messaging being issued and shared by partners involved.

“There were of course some occasions where people wished that we could do more. A key element in our response was the empathy demonstrated by our staff, and making sure that our resources were deployed where they would make a real difference.

“Our own premises were also affected by the flooding, with the impacts of flood water ingress at Colwyn Bay Fire Station. The impact of the flooding at the Station was mitigated by off duty staff members and we worked with the local authority to clear debris from a drainage gulley running alongside the station.

“In addition to the pressures from the weather impacts, we also responded to a number of other incidents.

“Well done and thank you to our staff and all our multi agency partners across North Wales who worked with us to safeguard our communities.”

The following (piece) has been passed

on to me by Elisabeth Fennel-Connel a Director of Customer Service and Experience of 'Moon Pig'.

This is not a piece I would usually agree to add into a Ruabon News Letter since it is not about local news, but I was very intrigued. SO if any of you would like to comment, please let me know what YOU think:

“TUNING IN

In the words of the sage Ronan Keating, sometimes you say it best when you say nothing at all and just listen, as In Your Area's editor Hannah Jones has discovered.

I've always wanted to be a woman of the world. The kind of someone who's as good in a crisis as she is in heels. That special person who just knows how to make a Victoria sponge on a whim, and always has the right ingredients in the top cupboard to do so; that type of grown-up who buys tofu out of choice and likes G&T in a can on a girls' night out; the go-to in an emergency World Book Day panic who knocks up Gaultier-standard costumes out of two manky tea towels and a used bin liner.

In truth, I'm none of those things. All my shoes are sensible, and I'm a homebody teetotaller who buys ready-made everything.

I was musing lately, as is my very Welsh nature, about what I am not, when a conversation with a lady who's simply gone through A LOT in recent years reminded me that I'm a dab hand at one thing: and that's not saying a word.

I won't go into details about what happened to her here, but what I can say is that she lost her daughter under tragic circumstances just before her 40th birthday.

It was two years ago, and the pink letter A on this grieving mother's bangle and the single photo screensaver on her phone of when her daughter was a little said, all there was to know about the grieving process.

Because while somebody may put on a cheery front, as she was doing on a night out on the razz with me and a few others, enjoying some wine and having a laugh, loss is the albatross that follows you to restaurants for the rest of your life and is the company you simply can't be bothered to give the best of welcome to.

Now I can talk nonsense with the best of them, but not saying anything at all may well be the superpower I didn't know I had until that night. I mean I like to chat away about nothing of any significance, like that time I asked Baby Spice where she got her coat from at the end of a dreary day of interviews with her spicey sisters. Or when I asked David Byrne from Talking Heads (showing my age there now!) if he wanted a shandy when he turned up at a gig I was at on his own.

"Would you like a shandy, Dave? Or can I call you Dai? Qu'est-ce que c'est?"

(Side note: He was wearing a canary yellow mac and I managed to segue that into my coat discussion with Baby. I'm nothing if not a name dropper with added bounce.)

Sorry, where was I?

Oh yes, in the restaurant and staying quiet which leads me to ask you this: When was the last time you really listened to somebody? Not having the kind of conversation where it's a two-way thing, to seek out an opportunity to tell your story, give your perspective, or sort something out in your mind, but actually listen to somebody else's troubles?

For an hour, I just took it all in - took HER all in.

She didn't cry, she didn't dramatise, she didn't complain, she didn't self-censor.

She didn't ask for anything from me.

She just talked.

And I just listened.

I mean, I had nothing to offer, did I? I've not got fancy papers in psychology and haven't experienced that kind of loss in my life, although I've known heartache and still struggle around a plate of warm broad beans slathered in butter because they were my late grandparents' favourite. And they were MY favourites. Still. Even now. Today. Thirty-

odd years later.

Anyway, as with all things when tiramisu is plonked in front of you, the conversation stopped at the undeniable pull of coffee-drenched sponge and morphed effortlessly into some nonsense about dog treats and stag dos. You know, when heart-breaking seriousness slithers into the invaluable banalities of life that keep us all connected in ways that may seem trivial but are the markers of shared connection.

(Bloody hell, I sound like I've been watching too many Oprah Winfrey repeats!)

For me, that's In Your Area's language too.

I mean that. And me being me, a cynical Valleys girl whose glass is usually half full, cracked a bit and has taken a chunk out of my lip, I don't say that sentimentally or with any hint of irony - usually my default setting.

What I know is that we're there to tell you if your train is running late, if you need a broly and who's adding an extension and a dormer.

Of course we are. It's what we do.

But In Your Area is way more than that - if you want it.

It may start with a click, [a Facebook spot](#), a share from a friend, a downloaded app.

Then it becomes about community too.

About [starting conversations](#).

About joining yours.

About respecting - even reluctantly! - differing opinions.

About YOU.

So let me ask you once again: When was the last time you really listened to somebody?

Try it. Go on. I did. You never know what you may learn about yourself.

I'll leave you with this final thought, a story A's mother told me about a tot who was late coming home, the kind of late where everybody worries.

When the little girl finally got in, she told her folks she'd stopped to be with a friend whose doll had broken.

"Oh, did you help her fix her dolly?" her father asked. "Talk to her to tell

her you understood? I don't know, try to make it better with a joke or something?"
"No," said the daughter, wise beyond her years, "I helped her cry."

PRESS RELEASE
Ken Skates MS | Clwyd South

07/11/23
for immediate publication



Investigations ongoing into cause of landfill site odours

Elected representatives are urging members of the public to keep reporting foul smells from a landfill site in Johnstown.

Clwyd South MS Ken Skates and local county councillor David Bithell both contacted regulator Natural Resources Wales (NRW) after numerous complaints from residents about the unpleasant odours from the Hafod Landfill facility.

Mr Skates said: "The community needs clarity on the source of the smell and assurances that action will be taken to both address it and ensure it doesn't recur. Residents also need an assurance that the site operator is complying with its permit conditions."

Cllr Bithell added: “They still haven’t been able to establish what is causing the smell, and local people are sick of it. Residents need to keep reporting it to NRW.”

This week NRW issued a response saying investigations into the cause were ongoing.

It said: “We have recently received a number of odour reports naming Hafod Landfill site as the source. Investigations into these incidents are still ongoing but we have visited the site, completed a number of offsite odour assessments since October 16 at different times during the day and are in regular contact with the landfill operator, Enovert (North) Ltd.

“Localised, and transient gas odours have been detected by our officers during offsite odour assessments. We do acknowledge that changes in atmospheric conditions may influence the intensity and location of these odours.

“Following these reports and our observations, we met with Enovert on Thursday November 2 to discuss these recent odour incidents. They are continuing to investigate but have not yet been able to identify a specific change in operations or incident that would have given rise to an increase in complaints.”

NRW said Enovert has brought forward work on the current operational landfill cell which had been scheduled for the end of the year. Between October 25 and 27, six new gas extraction wells were installed which, now connected, will increase the capacity to extract landfill gas from the site. Following this, the operator will begin capping works on the cell.

“Both of these measures are considered to reduce the potential for odours from the site and control emissions of greenhouse gases,” the regulator said.

NRW added: “We acknowledge that although site performance has been improved in recent years, we are doing our utmost to determine the cause of the recent increase in incident reports. We will continue our investigation into these incidents

and continue to regulate the site to ensure it is operating in line with the environmental permit.

“May we please ask that constituents continue to report incidents to us when they happen by contacting our 24/7 Incident Communication Centre on 03000 65 3000. This will allow us to make an assessment of how best to respond to the incident at the time it happens.”

-Ends-



**Crefftau'r Nadolig
Christmas Crafts**

Ymunwch â'n sesiwn Crefftau'r Nadolig am ddim.

Come and join us for free Christmas Crafts.

05/12/23 and 12/12/23 12.30pm – 2.30pm

**Neuadd Bentref Rhiwabon, Maes y Llan, Rhiwabon, LL14 6AD
Ruabon Village Hall, Maes Y Llan Lane, Ruabon, LL14 6AD**

**Rhaid archebu ymlaen llaw!
Booking is essential!**



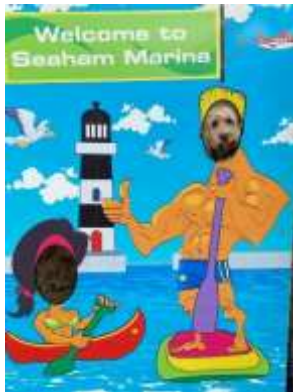
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www.groundworktraining.org.uk



The adventures of Mr Brodie



We've had a great time at
Seaham today, and
lots of dog friendly cafes .
Dad kept singing:
🎵 Oh I do like to be
beside the seaside 🎵







Thank you again to Dianne Williams who seems to always find the most appropriate items to show at just the right time.

BEST WISHES EVERYONE

Sybil (Bremner)