

# RUABON NEWS LETTER 517



April 10<sup>th</sup> 2024

## Bank of America

Recently, Bank of America attended Ysgol Rhiwabon, where students from Year 8 and 9 took part in fun organised computer programming activities.

As a relaxer the students started by building a tower made out of spaghetti, masking tape and string and who could create the highest. This set the scene and students were relaxed and ready for more fun.

There were three activities set out from Scratch, Python and Raspberry Pi.

Students were placed into groups and were challenged to beat the time allocated to achieve the result required. It was challenging and most students did very well and enjoyed the activities.

Prizes were given for the best teams from water bottles to piggy banks.

Mr P Slater, ICT Teacher said,

“ It was a fun few hours and students really enjoyed themselves in a relaxed but challenging atmosphere.

Bank of America were great and really made IT programming come alive for the students”



**Here are some pictures from the event:**



## **Ysgol Rhiwabon**

Media enquiries about Ysgol Rhiwabon should be directed to Giles Evans, Business Manager at: [Evansg341@hwbmail.net](mailto:Evansg341@hwbmail.net)

Ysgol Rhiwabon, is an open entry secondary school, on the *Shropshire / Wrexham* border, with just over 550 students. Set in 17 acres of grounds with significant playing fields, tennis courts and a multi-use games area.

The school recently gained the prestigious Princes Teaching Institute Leadership Programme Mark and is the only secondary school in North Wales in the PTi.

## **The PTI**

Media enquiries should be directed to Madeleine Mann at [madeleinem@blj.co.uk](mailto:madeleinem@blj.co.uk)

The Subject Leadership Programme recognises and facilitates the achievement of excellence in schools and is an expansion of the annual Subject Enrichment Residential run by the PTI.

The PTI was constituted in 2006 as a registered charity (1116224) to provide more systematic support for teachers. It works in strategic partnership with the University of Cambridge.

## Pontcysyllte Aqueduct has Re-opened!

The work has taken about two-and-a-half months. A spokesperson from Canal & River Trust said: “Pontcysyllte Aqueduct reopened to the public as scheduled on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>” after our winter inspection and conservation work.

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct was begun in 1795 to carry a navigable canal across the Dee Valley in north Wales, and is still in operation over 200 years later.

It is the first great masterpiece of civil engineer Thomas Telford (1757–1834) and formed the basis of his outstanding international reputation.

It is a spectacular example of canal engineering in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, encompassing an architectural masterpiece in a dramatic landscape setting. Its nineteen cast-iron spans carry the waterway 126 feet / 38.4 metres above the river, and for two centuries it remained the tallest navigable aqueduct in the world.

It exemplifies improvements in transport during the Industrial Revolution, which initiated the process of industrialisation that spread to Europe.

The World Heritage site includes the canal, and its engineering features; remains associated with its construction and historical operation, such as engineer’s houses, wharves and length man’s cottages; and the immediate surroundings of Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, Horseshoe Falls and Chirk Aqueduct.

There is more information about the inscription of Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal on the [UNESCO website](#), including the statement of Outstanding Universal Value.



## **“Get the most out of your local Reuse Shop by Decluttering this Spring Clean!”**



Residents in Wrexham are encouraged to take full advantage of their nearby reuse shop as part of their spring clean – a sustainable way to clear out unwanted items and give them a new lease of life!

In collaboration with [Nightingale House Hospice](#) and Wrexham Council, [FCC Environment](#) – a leading recycling and waste management company in the UK – is urging local residents to make the most of their local reuse shop when spring cleaning their home this year, by donating any unwanted items.

In doing so, residents are helping to reduce waste, support Nightingale House Hospice and give their home a cleaner and calmer feel, whilst giving you an opportunity to check out any Easter bargains that other local residents have donated.

The Nightingale House Hospice reuse shop, based in [Bryn Lane Recycling Centre](#), is open between 9am and 5pm, seven days a week. You can donate to the re-use shop at any of the three recycling centres in Wrexham; just speak to one of the attendants who'll point you to where you can make your donation.

Decluttering your home has been shown to have a significant impact on your mental health, as having a more ordered home provides a 'dopamine hit', with experts saying that living in a more ordered home creates a sense of 'calm in the mind'.

More than nine out of every 10 households undertake a spring clean. While many dread doing so, it provides a great opportunity to get rid of any unused items and give them a new home rather than putting it in the bin.

By donating unwanted items, or picking up a new one, residents will be supporting the services that Nightingale House Hospice provide in the Wrexham, Flintshire and East Denbighshire to Barmouth and the border towns. From books and bikes to children's toys and homeware, anything that you no longer use, but that could come in handy to someone else, is more than welcome at the Reuse Shop on Bryn Lane.

Gemma Green, Reuse Manager at FCC Environment, highlighted the importance of this initiative: "With spring cleaning in people's minds, and the Easter Holidays around the corner, your local Reuse shop is a great opportunity to clear out clutter or even pick up a new source of entertainment for the kids!

"If you have any unwanted items that are not being used, a reuse shop is a great way to give them a new lease of life. Despite the shuddering that the thought of a spring clean can often bring, doing so is not only good for the planet, but for your mind, as a decluttered house brings a calming sense of order.

"By granting items a second chance, we reduce waste and promote a more sustainable circular economy – one person's trash can be another person's treasure!

"Why not show your support for the local Nightingale House Hospice and the planet by snagging a fantastic deal or making a donation?"

Cllr Terry Evans, Lead Member for Environment, said: "You can find the reuse shop within Bryn Lane recycling centre and it's somewhere you can purchase really good quality items that have been recycled. It always has a wide range of stock at extremely good value and we'd encourage everyone to go there and see for themselves.

"You can donate items with resale value at any of our three recycling centres and they'll be passed on to the reuse shop. Whether you're

buying or donating, you'll be helping a great local cause in Nightingale House Hospice who do truly wonderful work in the local area.”

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## Child Benefits

Millions of families who claim Child Benefit will automatically receive increased payments from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has confirmed.

Families with one child will now receive up to £1,331 a year – an annual increase of £83.20, and up to £881 a year per additional child – an annual increase of £54.60. There is no limit to how many children families can claim for.

Parents will receive £102.40 every 4 weeks (£25.60 per week) for the first or only child and £67.80 every 4 weeks (£16.95 per week) for each additional child.

Families with ongoing claims do not need to contact HMRC, as the increased benefit payment will continue to be paid directly into their bank accounts. Anyone who needs to update their personal details, such as a change of bank account or address, can do so using the HMRC app or online at GOV.UK.

Parents with a newborn baby are encouraged to make a claim online as soon as possible and could receive their first payment in as little as three days. Child Benefit claims can be backdated by a maximum of three months.

Angela MacDonald, HMRC's Deputy Chief Executive and Second Permanent Secretary, said, “The increase in Child Benefit rates for existing claimants is automatic and families do not need to contact us. New claimants should apply online or using HMRC's app. Search ‘child benefit’ on GOV.UK for more information.”

HMRC is reminding parents yet to benefit from Child Benefit that it is quick and easy to [claim on GOV.UK](#) or via the [HMRC app](#), which can be used to:

- apply online
- backdate claims for up to 3 months

- add a new baby to a claim
- tell HMRC about a change in circumstances
- update details i.e. change of address/bank details
- view or print proof of entitlement to Child Benefit

From 6 April 2024, families where the highest earner has a salary of up to £60,000 a year will not be subject to the [High Income Child Benefit Charge](#) (HICBC). Previously, a person who had an annual income of £50,000 or more would be liable to pay the charge if they or their partner were receiving Child Benefit.

For those earning between £60,000 and £80,000, the amount of Child Benefit they are entitled to receive reduces as income increases within this range. If an individual's income exceeds £80,000 the HICBC will be equal to the Child Benefit payment. Parents who make a claim and then choose to opt-out of receiving Child Benefit payments can still receive National Insurance credits if one parent is not working.

Parents with an income above £50,000, who reinstate their Child Benefit before 6 April 2024, may be subject to HICBC charges if they choose to start payments in the 2023 to 2024 tax year. For new claimants who claim Child Benefit on or after 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024, any HICBC liability will be based on the new 2024 to 2025 threshold of £60,000 to £80,000.

**[More information can be found on GOV.UK.](#)**

**[Search 'High Income Child Benefit Charge.'](#)**

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## **Important information:**

### **[Busnes Cymru | Business Wales](#)**

We know that escalating costs are a major challenge for businesses and can have an impact on our mental health and wellbeing. Whether you are self-employed or a business owner, we should take steps to take care of our mental health and those of our employees.

There is a wealth of support available to you online:



## NHS Five Ways to Wellbeing

The **Five Ways to Wellbeing** are a set of evidence-based messages aimed at improving the mental health and wellbeing of the whole population. They were developed by the New Economics Foundation from evidence gathered in the Foresight Mental Capital and Wellbeing project (2008).

The five ways are:

- **take notice**
- **connect**
- **be active**
- **keep learning**
- **give**

The NHS lists five simple things on their website which we can all do to give our wellbeing a boost. For further information please follow this link: **5 steps to mental wellbeing - NHS (www.nhs.uk)**

C.A.L.L Helpline

C.A.L.L offers emotional support and information/literature on Mental Health and related matters to the people of Wales. Anyone concerned about their own mental health or that of a relative or friend can access the service. **C.A.L.L. Helpline** offers a confidential listening and support service.

Telephone: 0800 132 737

Website: **C.A.L.L. Mental Health Helpline - Community Advice and Listening Line (callhelpline.org.uk)**

The Samaritans

**Samaritans** offer a *plethora* of help and support via their call centre and email provisions.

Telephone: 116 123

Telephone Welsh Language service: 0808 164 0123

E-mail: [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

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GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Betsi Cadwaladr  
University Health Board

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- If you or your children are not up-to-date with your vaccines in accordance with the above schedule, contact your GP and they will arrange for you to receive the MMR
- For more information about MMR, speak to your GP or Nurse or visit this link to access a briefing document for schools, nurseries and childcare settings <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/vaccine-resources-for-health-and-social-care-professionals/measles-and-mmr-vaccination-programme-briefing-document-2024-pdf/>

We are asking parents to be alert for symptoms of measles and to not send their children to childcare settings if they are unvaccinated (i.e. when a vaccine was due in accordance with the above schedule but has not been received) and have any of the symptoms below:

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- cold-like symptoms like a runny nose, sneezing and cough
- red, sore, watery eyes
- high temperature (fever)
- rash that usually starts on the head/neck before spreading down the body
- small white spots inside cheeks and the back of lips

It's very unlikely to be measles if you've had 2 doses of the MMR vaccine or you've had measles before. If you or your child develops these symptoms and is unvaccinated, please call your GP or NHS 111. The person with suspected measles should not go to any health setting (GP, hospital or pharmacy) without ringing ahead first and advising of any symptoms that might suggest measles.

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For further information please visit [Measles, Mumps and Rubella \(MMR\) - Public Health Wales \(nhs.wales\)](#) and [Measles - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

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Yours Faithfully

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Dr Jane Moore  
Executive Director of Public Health  
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

Name:  
Director of Children's Services  
Local Authority:

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Gwasanaeth Gwybodaeth i Deuluoedd Wrecsam  
Wrexham Family Information Service

### RHAGLEN GRANT CYFALAF GOFAL PLANT A'R BLYNYDDOEDD CYNNAR

Mae'r broses ymgeisio ar gyfer Grant Cyfalaf Bach y Blynyddoedd Cynnar a Gofal Plant ar agor bellach



Gall lleoliadau ofyn am gefnogaeth gan eu Swyddog Gofal Plant i'w cynorthwyo i wneud cais priodol. I gael cefnogaeth gyda'ch cais, ffoniwch y Tîm Gofal Plant ar 01978 292094 neu anfonwch e-bost at [childcareteam@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:childcareteam@wrexham.gov.uk)

Bydd y dyddiad cau ar gyfer ceisiadau am 11 24/05/24.

Anfonwch e-bost at y Tîm Gofal Plant am becyn cais

[childcareteam@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:childcareteam@wrexham.gov.uk)

Darllenwch y canllawiau'n drylwyr cyn cyflwyno cais.

Bydd ein panel nesaf yn cael ei gynnal ar 27/06/24



EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE FUNDING APPLICATION PACK



The Early Years and Childcare Small Capital Grant application process is now open.

Settings may request support from their Childcare Officer to help them to make an appropriate application. For support with your application, please call the Childcare Team on 01978 292094 or email on [childcareteam@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:childcareteam@wrexham.gov.uk)

Please email the childcare team for an application pack [childcareteam@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:childcareteam@wrexham.gov.uk)

The closing date for applications will be 11 am on 24/05/24. Please read all guidance thoroughly prior to making an application. Our next panel will be held on the 27/06/24

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All Wales Continuous Improvement Community



**New exhibitions launch this Friday**



**Join us this Friday from 5.30pm as we launch two new exhibitions celebrating the stunning landscapes of Wales.**

***Bom Dia Cymru*** is an exhibition of work by renowned photographer Mohamed Hassan. This will include some iconic scenery from around Wales, alongside a selection of photographs taken in Egypt.

This exhibition will also feature photographs co-created with members of the Bom Dia Cymru group (part of Comunidade de Lingua Portuguesa CLPW CIC), made up of Portuguese diaspora community members living in Wrexham.

## **Uplandscapes Clyde Holmes**

is an exhibition of works by landscape painter, Clyde Holmes (1940-2008).

In 1970 Clyde moved with his family to a remote shepherd's cottage in Capel Celyn, Frongoch, near Bala in Snowdonia National Park, where he lived for over 30 years, painting and writing poetry about the landscape around him.

[Find out more about our new exhibitions](#)



## **Open Mic Night returns!**



**Music, poetry, comedy and more!**

The stage, hosted by a different artist each month, is open to new and experienced performers. Remember to arrive early to register to perform on the night.

Friday 12th April  
7pm

## **How to Grow by Chris Ingram**



**A script-in-hand performance of a new play in development featuring live music and DJ, with new short plays by Wrexham's creative talent.**

In partnership with DIRTY PROTEST and Ty Pawb with support from Incredible Edible Wreccsam and Grow Llangollen - Community Supported Agriculture

Pay what you can (reserve your place in advance as spaces are limited)  
Friday 19 April, 6:30pm – 8:30pm (Doors 6pm)

## **Theatre & Music 101 Workshop**

**Short plays written by the attendees of our Introduction to Gig Theatre Workshop will also be performed before HOW TO GROW.**

### **Mr Jones**



**A New Drama exploring the fallout of the Aberfan disaster, 1966.**

Written by Liam Holmes.

Stephen Jones, the self-proclaimed rugby prodigy of the small Welsh village Aberfan, has just made the kick of his life. As he boasts to local nurse Angharad, 150,000 tonnes of coal are careening down the hillside, towards Pantglas Junior School.

Weaving between Welsh and English, Mr Jones is a brand new piece of drama which incorporates poetry, verbatim and first-hand accounts as Stephen and Angharad navigate the infamous 1966 disaster and its irreversible aftermath.

[Tickets: £10 / £8 \(concessions\) via Ticket Source.](#)

## **Calling all makers!**





**We're now accepting applications for the fifth Wrexham Makers Market on Saturday 8th June at Ty Pawb's Art and Market Space and it's set to be blooming marvellous!**

We are looking for a diverse range of makers from apparel, ceramics, textiles, woodwork, homewares, jewellery, glass and printmaking and affordable

art.

## Family Art Club



**Family Art Club returns this Saturday!**



Creative making for the whole family!

Sessions are 'pay what you can' and include breakfast cereal for children.

## Matinée: Free lunchtime concerts return for 2024!



**Our Winter/Spring 2024 programme of classical and contemporary concerts features live music performance from a diverse range of musicians and**

**genres, from classical piano to Arabic music, classical guitar and folk music.**



Performances every other Wednesday between 1-2pm in our Useful Art Space. Entry via donations.

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Library News for the week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> April



**New book: Helen Lederer**



“Helen Lederer is the third funniest woman in the world”

– Dawn French.

Helen's autobiography: “Not That I'm Bitter” is a compelling mix of the sweet, the sour and the genuine laugh-out-loud, from the Ab Fab actress and comedian”.

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**C.W. COMPUTER SERVICES**

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- Home User Support
- Networking Solutions
- PC Repair
- IT Consultancy

Based in Rhos. Wrexham

If EVER you need a person who is Extremely Clever at finding out what is wrong with your computer, then I can honestly recommend:

**Mr Chris Williams.**

**(He is also a VERY kind and considerate Gentleman)**

01978 846 967 or 07815 478 664  
chris@cw-cs.co.uk www.cw-cs.co.uk

Thank you to Dawn Hughes Lloyd



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At last most of the trees are showing greenery,  
in spite of the constant rain, so spring is finally here!  
Very best wishes everyone.  
Sybil (Bremner)