

Quarterly comment & features from the Ruthin & District Civic Association

Replacement LDP— Additional Candidate Sites

Ruthin seems set for even more housing, writes Harold Jones

That was our conclusion, following additional “candidate sites” as submitted to the County Council during its replacement local development plan (LDP) review.

In September, we highlighted that there could be as many as between 650 to 880 additional houses set for Ruthin under the replacement LDP.

That, we believed, equated to up to 2,000 extra people living in town.

A number of additional candidate sites have emerged and this could see a further 270 to 365 units. Based on UK average occupancy rates, this would equate to a further 620 to 840 people. With this and the first candidate sites together, the total new housing could be as high as 1,245 units or over 2,800 extra people.

Ruthin has a current population of 5,666, up from 5,461 at the 2011 census. Under the LDP, this could rise by 50 per cent.

We commented on Denbighshire’s replacement LDP in previous issues of Town and Around. The deadline for responses closed in August and we



New housing at Llanrhaeadr

What is a candidate site?

Anyone can put forward a site for consideration and a site can be proposed for any type of development. Most of the new candidate sites are for residential development but there are others submitted for industrial and employment use.

If a candidate site is included within the LDP then there will be a presumption that any subsequent plans for development will go ahead. It is therefore important to consider these candidate sites now. While we are aware that not all candidate sites will be approved, and also that the plan looks many years ahead, there is potential for a considerable increase in the population of Ruthin and the surrounding areas.

expressed concern about increasing the number of houses without the corresponding increase in employment.

There would also be a considerable effect on local services that are already stretched, together with the added pressures on local schools. We also felt that development in the surrounding villages should be in proportion to the size of the villages and only where there are adequate amenities.

These concerns have now been heightened by the fact that the County Council, during the consultation period, has received a further 36 candidate sites, half of which are within the Ruthin and District Civic Association’s area. These sites are now included in yet another consultation process, this time entitled Additional Candidate Sites.

It is essential that employment, health,

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education and all other services required to support a successful community are developed in parallel with the increase in residential schemes. We urge decision makers to give careful consideration to this when finalising the LDP.

The new sites in Ruthin and Llanfwrog account for 62 acres. These can be broken down into employment & industrial (20 compliant acres) and residential (22 acres). The new residential candidate sites are to the south of the Menllis and Bro Deg; a triangle of land behind Ysgol Borthyn & Mwrog Street; just north of Dyffryn Service Station; and on the fringe of Llanfwrog on the B5105 at Firgrove and Firegrove Cottage.

There are as many as 16 acres in the area’s villages.

Red Line?

Notable within the villages are the new candidate sites at Llanbedr. There are four, three of which are at Llanbedr Hall land. This is a controversial site in itself. None of the four comply.

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Yet More Housing?

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Regarding August's consultation, the absolute red line for the Civic Association was not to accept housing on the fields between Corwen Road and Wrexham Road.

This was the most controversial candidate site and it accounted for up to half of the acreage at the first consultation. We were concerned at the sheer size of the development, the drainage of the land, its proximity to the Castle conservation area and, in particular, its impact on the approach along Corwen Road, which is the only

remaining unspoilt access to town.

Overall Impact of all Candidate Sites

It's hard to see how an overall 50 per cent increase in Ruthin's population will have anything other than a negative impact on the town's uniqueness, charm, compactness and sense of scale. Ruthin remains a prosperous town and something of an oasis in North Wales and expansion of this

overall 50



magnitude may yet threaten the very reason why people wish to live here. Without employment, such an increase would continue to re-enforce Ruthin as a dormitory town. This at a time when we are even more conscious of our impact on the environment.

We would also encourage individuals to have their say and make their feelings known via denbighshire.gov.uk/ldp or planningpolicy@denbighshire.gov.uk.

The September 2019 edition looked at the initial candidate sites, available at: <http://www.ruthincivic.org/publications/town-and-around/archive/>

The Inspector Calls

Heather Williams considers the work of two important planning bodies in Wales often overlooked

I recently attended a planning event when the Head of the Planning Inspectorate in Wales and his staff outlined their work when dealing with planning appeals. I also report on the important role of Planning Aid Wales.

Planning Inspectorate Wales is funded by the Welsh Government and Tony Thickett and his 20 inspectors and 25 support staff make decisions based on policy made in Wales, for Wales.

Some key material considerations for planning appeals/applications are:

National Planning Policy; Supplementary Planning Guidance; proposals consistent with a Local Development Plan; effect on the character of the area e.g. listed buildings & conservation areas; design, appearance and materials (don't have to match); layout and density of building; overlooking/loss of privacy; loss of light/overshadowing; parking; highway safety; traffic; noise; and nature conservation/habitat.

On the other hand, the following are not material considerations: aspects controlled by other legislation e.g. licences; property value/loss of views; gambling; legal issues; or health issues.

The Inspectorate has to weigh up evidence to justify objectively why an appeal should be allowed and in doing so they try to consider the evidence, not assertions.

Who can help with planning problems?

Based in Cardiff, there's an organisation, Planning Aid Wales (PAW), which recently celebrated 40 years demystifying the planning system and helping people to deal with planning issues.

There are five staff and over 30 volunteers (all planners), led by James Davies, Chief Executive. PAW gets its core grant funding from the Wales Government. Originally the focus was on assisting the public with planning applications when they experienced difficulties. In recent years the focus has shifted to information, advice and training (over last 20 years); place plan support (last five years); and planning policy training.

In 2018/2019, 4,741 people looked at written guidance documents/news; 282 took part in planning training events; 368 projects/commissions were carried out e.g. engagement work for a local planning authority; and there were 221 helpline calls.

The benefits of engagement in planning are that this will improve quality of development. It is likely to reduce conflict and speeds up the process while promoting collaboration. It also increases civic pride/a sense of ownership. Above all, it gives local people a voice and builds up skills and confidence.

With PAW, there are opportunities to influence:

- Place Plans. In Ruthin, this could be "Ruthin Future" as led by Town Council, which should be Supplementary Planning Guidance to the adopted Local Development Plan
- Local Development Plan LDP (at consultation stage in Ruthin—possible new development sites under consideration)
- National Policy
- Planning applications

Place Plans such as "Ruthin Future" should be community led and need to be focused. They require evidence and to build community understanding of planning. Such evidence can identify

projects and be used for getting funds. And it potentially improves the relationship with a local authority.

Planning Aid Wales will be producing digital training which will be helpful for people to gain more understanding of the planning system. For more information www.planningaidwales.org.uk

Archive Latest

The merger of the Denbighshire and Flintshire archives into the North East Wales Archive (NEWA) will formally take place on April 1st. For now, at any rate, the service will be co-located in Ruthin and in Hawarden.



Staff began the process of integration in February, with exchanges between the two sites. Work also began on a new joint website. At the time of writing, the newa.wales site was showing only Denbighshire information.

Meanwhile, the collaborative venture appointed its first manager and this sees a Denbighshire employee in charge.

Also in early February, the project managers of the joint team made their promised high-level presentations before the National Heritage Lottery Fund for capital for a brand new site in Mold. They were one of 18 projects and they passed to the next stage as one of 10. After that, if successful again, it is whittled down to five...

This element remains controversial in Ruthin (see December 2019's Town & Around for alternative views on this part of the proposal).

If the funding is not available, NEWA will continue in collaboration from two sites, sharing staff, resources and expertise.

Some statistics for Wales

- ◆ Local planning authorities such as Denbighshire County Council refuse 9.5 per cent of applications.
- ◆ 25.7 per cent of refusals give rise to an appeal.
- ◆ At appeal, 33.5 per cent are allowed and the remainder are dismissed.

Have They got News for Us?*

Derek Jones suggests that the Civic Association should broaden its interests and appeal

I have always been uneasy with narrowing down of the word 'civic' to a focus, in the case of our own Civic Association, on heritage and the built environment. It is a

good word, which, in principle, covers everything that concerns us as citizens: politics, education, health, housing, leisure and recreation, as well as, quite properly, architecture, history, town- and village-scape.

Times change, and it is sometimes difficult for an organisation which has built itself up with one set of priorities to recognise that new horizons are beckoning. Surely, however, most thinking people would agree that there are now pressing questions for the whole world – climate change, biodiversity, poverty, not to mention racism, social and religious intolerance – which cannot be brushed aside.

Admittedly, it is hard to know where to begin. How can an individual person or small organisation hope to make much of a difference to these intractable problems? Yet surely we should all make an effort, and there is a saying which deserves to be dusted off and applied in Ruthin and District as well as everywhere else: think global, act local.

I guess that closest to home for us would be matters of the effects of climate change and the decline of biodiversity. There are already, of course, some local organisations which put these matters at the forefront of their concerns; the

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty comes to mind, and the Heather and

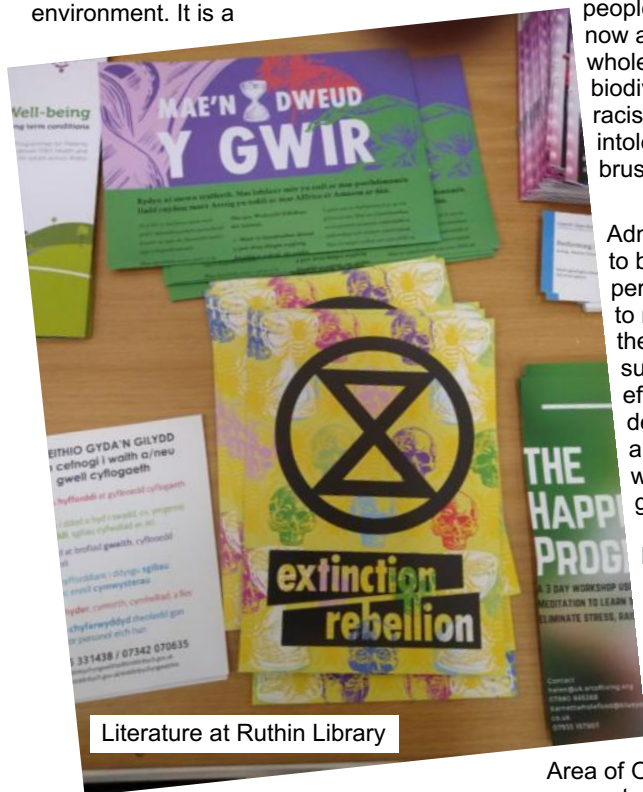
Hillforts Project was a model of its kind, bringing together most fruitfully, people interested in archæology, history and natural history to make a difference which still endures. We need more such projects, and the Civic Association needs to play its part in building them up.

More broadly, there are, of course, national and international organisations, which should be of interest to us—such as Greenpeace, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Council for the Protection of Rural Wales, and Denbighshire County Council which doubtless have individual members dotted about Ruthin and district. We need their enthusiasm and commitment. Do they have news for us? They certainly have.

You see what I am driving at (though perhaps 'driving' is not the most appropriate metaphor for a country which is encouraging the reduction of our carbon footprint). I am suggesting that the time has come for the Civic Association to broaden its agenda—even indeed to change its constitution to reflect the wider interest which is needed here as elsewhere.

I venture to suggest that such changes would also strengthen the Civic Association. They might well attract fresh blood and younger members to join us (I can say that as I reach the age of 83!), many of whom feel passionately about matters like these. There could even be a Greta Thunberg amongst them.

** With apologies to the popular and witty BBC TV series Have I got News for You?*



Saved for the Nation

Thanks to efforts by Ruthin's The Lord's Garden staff, Denbighshire County Council has successfully reintroduced the rare *Vicia bithynica*, the bithynian vetch, along a stretch of verge near Trefnant.

Trefnant was the only recorded place in Wales where you could find this rarity. Growing in a short stretch of verge were some 20 examples. Inadvertently, highways contractors wiped the colony out but thankfully biodiversity officers salvaged seeds from a solitary all-but-dead plant. In the care of the gardener at the Lord's Garden, the seeds were first sown on her Ruthin kitchen worktop and then transferred to the Lord's Garden well away from any traffic (and indeed contractors!). Finally, last year, they were reintroduced back to their original location.

Spring is obviously a good time to go and spot the bithynian vetch, with its two-tone purple flower but it is perhaps just as well that the site on the busy B5381. It isn't at all pedestrian friendly and this means, barring any future misfortune with contractors, that the vetches may again continue to thrive without interference.

The Ruthin connection will continue, with the Lord's Garden playing host to what is referred to as an ark population of the species (plants placed in a more protective environment).

In July last year, Denbighshire County Council declared a climate emergency and even went further by adding that there was an ecological emergency as well. Biodiversity is also one of Denbighshire's key corporate priorities and, as such, Denbighshire is unique in Wales. The saving of the bithynian vetch is but one small example of how these strands have come together.



LeTtErIng in Town

As part of the Craft Centre's exhibition exploring "Letters", Fiona Gale recently conducted an afternoon guided walk through part of Ruthin to discover examples of lettering in town

Where should I start? A quick look through back issues of Town and Around showed that this magazine has touched on this subject before. In March 2019, Mark Cleave & Peter Daniels looked at some of the old road signs in the town, including the lovely monolingual blue enamel street name signs like those at Borthyn, Record Street and Well Street which possibly date to the turn of the 19th/20th century.

The walk was to last a maximum of two hours, in November, so the weather could be unpredictable and I wanted the walk to reflect different types of lettering in the same way as the exhibition within the Craft Centre did, as well as a journey through time. An obvious candidate

to visit was St Peter's Church, partly because it would be undercover and partly because it has such a wealth of different techniques of lettering on show. On my recce visit I met the curate, who was able to show me names of past bell ringers carved into a heavy wooden door which led from the ringing level of the tower to the level where the bells themselves are located...I had been looking for names carved into the choir stalls but could find very little so this was a real bonus and something that would not normally be seen on a visit to St Peter's Church.

The planned walk was short, from the Craft Centre up Market Street, across St Peter's Square, into the church and back down Well Street to Railway Terrace and back to the Craft Centre, but it incorporated a large number of different techniques. John Neilson, letter engraver, joined with us and he was able to comment on the techniques of the lettering. No sooner than we had got to the bottom of Market Street there were examples of cast and engraved metalwork, in the form of a George V post box (identified as one relating to George V rather than George VI by a member of the group, by the design of the casting) and small metal 'labels' on

the tree guards put in as part of the Ruthin Art Trail. A little farther up Market Street, the brick built Bathafarn Chapel has carved sandstone foundation stones with details of a number of presumably important people associated with the Chapel, interestingly carved in English, and the gravestone of the Revd Edward Jones, born at Bathafarn in 1778, the first Wesleyan minister of the chapel. If you are attempting to follow this walk, look closely at the latch on the impressive cast iron gates at the chapel—they record the fact that they were made at the John Williams Phoenix Works at Rhuddlan.

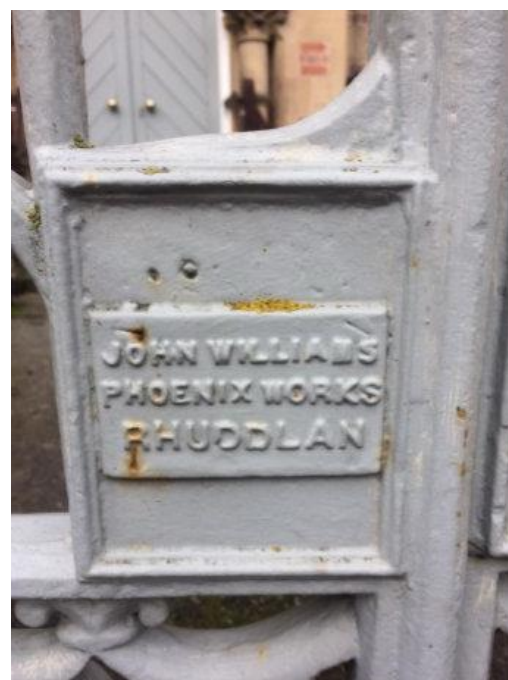
In Market Street, County Hall could not be ignored. It has hand carved granite stones, one in Welsh and one in English, commemorating when the building was erected in 1908/09 opened in 1909. Just around the corner from County Hall is Ruthin's impressive war memorial. This has examples of carved lettering into the granite cross but also applied metal lettering for the names of those who died.

The next stop on the journey was St Peter's Church and here there are examples of hand carved stone, cast brass, embroidered and painted letters in Welsh, English and Latin, with the earliest examples dating back to the 16th century. We

didn't have time to visit the graveyard behind the church but here we would have seen more examples, particularly of hand carved and applied metal lettering but also, in the more recent memorials, machine carved lettering.

Beginning the return towards the Craft Centre, the walk took in Well Street and the sign (possibly machine carved?) which commemorates the printing of the Welsh national anthem behind Siop Nain. Just in to Record Street, there is impressive hand carved lettering above the main door to the Police Station, which records the construction of the building in 1891 and next to this, at what was the late 18th century building to house the Great Sessions Records, is Ruthin Library. As you enter the building now, there is hand carving in the ashlar masonry which says, Library/Llyfrgell. This must have been carved onto the front of the building *in situ* as part of the refurbishment to turn it into a library in the 1990s—not the easiest task to complete.

The walk was nearly over but I couldn't ignore the lovely painted sign on the side of the building at the beginning of Railway Terrace. When built, this was immediately next door to the railway and the sign originally advertised Owen's



Railway Stores, Wholesale and Retail Grocer. These painted signs are known as 'ghost signs' as they have faded over the years since the businesses they were advertising have disappeared.

After just about two hours but barely half a mile in distance the group returned to the Craft Centre, having looked at just a fraction of the lettering in Ruthin. During the very short walk, we also saw a number of the Civic Associations cast metal plaques commemorating famous people, like George Borrow and Edward Pugh, or famous places in Ruthin like St Peter's Church, Y Tabernacwl and Capel Pendref, as well as a multitude of cast metal drain covers or other street furniture that records what goes on underneath the streets of the town.

Lessons I learnt through developing this very short walk are that we must keep our eyes open as we walk about town—there are hints about the past everywhere as well as signs about the present day. Everyone will have seen the 'ghost sign' painted on the side of the building at the beginning of Railway Terrace or walked past the bench mark just below it (there is also a benchmark on the entrance to the Castle near the Cunning Green) but do we really see these things? Occasionally, when walking and driving around town, really look around and up above the shops to see the clues about the history and modern day development of the town. Something I couldn't include in the walk, as it was too far to wander, was the alleyway down to Eagles Bakery, off Clwyd Street. Here you need to look at the metal 'manhole' covers by your feet. There is a lovely example supplied by 'Gittins and Beech Ironmongers Ruthin' which I am sure somebody who knows when the company operated in town, will be able to date.

We offer our congratulations to Fiona on the receipt in January of her MBE for her work preserving and promoting the heritage of Denbighshire and the surrounding area

Bell Ringing at St Peter's

After six months, the first volunteer bell ringers are graduating and volunteer Kathy Daniels looks at the project now aiming for sustainability

Notices in St Peter's bell room dated 1977 indicated that this was the last time that the bells of St Peter's were regularly

rung. Bell-ringing stopped simply because of concerns about the frames on which the bells hung and its effect on the stability of St Peter's spire. A structural survey in 2012 suggested that all was well but the installation was basically life-expired and that only experienced ringers could contemplate using them—Ruthin had none. Subject to ringer availability, the bells were then used half a dozen times a year on special occasions only. This, however, garnered interest within the church and throughout the town.

From June 2014, the newly formed bell restoration committee began to seek funding but also found several thousand pounds from a rather unexpected source. A part-restoration in the 1970s had resulted in a surplus of £4,000 that had been kept secure and out of reach even of St Peter's church council. With generous donations from organisations and individuals, it rose to £20,000. In November 2017, there came news of two successful bids, one from the Garfield Weston Foundation and the other from the National Heritage Lottery Fund, both of which resulted in well over £100,000 in additional funding. Meanwhile, the project had to wait till the "faculty", the Church in Wales' bureaucratic procedure in making alterations to church buildings, had caught up.

In October 2018, a single tenor bell rang for the last time before restoration. 101 tolls represented the known 101 men killed in the Great War (there were others, of course, including my great

uncle George: see T & A December 2018).

Work commenced in November 2018 and the cleaned, tuned, repaired bells were rehung on a new frame in August 2019. Electromagnetic chiming hammers additionally result in the ability to play hymns such as "Gwahoddiaid", which can now be heard regularly over Ruthin. This also allows the 2000hrs curfew bell to strike nightly again. The tower was rewired and ringing room refurbished and was actually completed two days before September 2019's Open Doors weekend. Many attending Open Doors commented on how the town's atmosphere was enhanced simply by hearing the bells pealing regularly again.

It was as a result of that occasion that a number of the dozen and a half volunteers came forward, mainly enthusiastic newbies. I was one. Volunteers were always part of the project

Two articles by Ruthin trainer Peter Furniss in The Ringing World gave additional info for this piece. For fun...

1. How often is The Ringing World published? (a) Weekly; (b) Fortnightly; (c) Monthly; or (d) annually.
2. What is its average size in pages per issue? (a) 8; (b) 12; (c) 16; or (d) 24.
3. How many subscribe to the Ringing World? (a) 1,100; (b) 2,200; (c) 3,300; or (d) 4,400. Answers: p12

plan. The volunteers represent a cross section of ages and of both sexes.

Bell ringing looks easy but is far from it but the volunteers receive one-to-one tuition. Other responsibilities mean I cannot attend practice sessions as often as some, but the point is that, in time, Ruthin will again have sufficient willing and able volunteers from which to be able to ensure that services, weddings and other occasions are marked in the time-honoured way with the reintroduction of full circle change ringing.

Six months after training commenced, some of the trainees are now able to ring themselves and this is also a notable landmark for the project. Trainers fully expect a skilled band under a local bell captain by the end of this year. After over 40 years of silence, the vast majority welcome the return of our bells, thanks to those who train us and those of us who hope to carry the torch onwards. Of the project, the co-ordinator, Jenny Trigger reported, "It has enabled the people of Ruthin to remember, or find afresh, the beauty of those bells".

But it goes well beyond the huge appreciation and sense of ownership within the town. It allows a wide circle of people the opportunity to engage with the heritage of the bells & the bell ringing tradition and I count myself privileged to be included.

Jenny Trigger

January 31st brought news that Jenny Trigger had died.

She had been the chair of the bell restoration committee and the project co-ordinator. Jenny had embarked upon the project in 2014 and over a period of many months had painstakingly put together what was to be a successful bid for the Heritage Lottery Fund, without which there'd be no bells. She shepherded the project throughout. It was Jenny who was responsible for the 32-page evaluation report used in part in the preparation of this article.

Jenny was also enthusiastically one of some 20 trainee ringers assembled to ensure the continuance of bell ringing in Ruthin after four decades of silence.

For her, the bell project was not just about fund-raising and form-filling: she lived it, too.



What Might've Been

Writing in The Ringing World Magazine, Peter Furniss reveals serious attempts between 1983 to 1985 at St Peter's to remove the bells and replace them with a chime set. This resulted in the intervention of the North Wales Bellringers' Association directly to the Diocesan Board of Faculty. There was some acrimony. St Peter's wrote to the Association, "We strongly object to the continual harassment of your Association and its attempts to stop the faculty being approved. We would deem it a great favour if you would kindly leave the running and management of St Peter's Church to those people who were democratically elected to do so". The Board nevertheless rejected St Peter's proposals. Had they not, there would be no peal to restore.

Open for Business

Six months in, the new General Manager of the Ruthin Castle talks to Peter Daniels

With snow dusting the Clwydian Range like a frosted lemon sponge and wintry easterlies searching chilled bones, what impressed me most about my February visit to meet the Castle Hotel's Linda Gregory was the amount of activity at the hotel. Staff, obviously, but also the number of guests milling about, absorbed by their surroundings. "This is actually a slow day", said new general manager Linda. You wouldn't know it, though. Keep this up as spring and summer arrive and we could yet see the so-often promised rejuvenation of the Castle.

From September 2019, the Castle Hotel is, of course, under new ownership. That comes with the promise of investment. Linda has spent a good deal of her first six months engaging with the local community. Head-hunted for the role, she brings to bear her 30 years' experience in the hospitality trade and her strong commercial & marketing background. She's met local businesses, politicians and council staff, all with the intention of ensuring that local people see the Castle as open for business. Since her September 2019 start, she has become acutely aware that the Castle has not always enjoyed the best of relationships with the town, that it can still be intimidating to venture within.

Indeed, the message she leaves everywhere is that the Castle is not just open for business, it's open to locals. For too long, locals have found it uncomfortable even to enter the grounds. Linda wants to see better use by locals of all the facilities, as well. After all, a healthy Castle and a healthy town go hand-in-hand and, for too long, it's been difficult for them to co-exist in harmony. Linda comments upon just how helpful everybody has been locally—a good start, no doubt.

Sceptics will say that we've heard it all before. From 2004, the Saint Claires invested over £4m after an ambitious upgrade to four-star standards and the addition in 2012 of the Moat Spa. It was in July 2014 that its new owners, which included the Saint Claires, promised more, including bringing 10 more rooms back into use.

What's changed? Linda has tried to address some of the shortcomings that previous owners have left untouched, some of which should've been tackled years ago. She's redecorated all the communal areas on the ground floor and reupholstered the existing communal furniture. Linda's begun work on other areas, including stripping back plasterwork on a lengthy corridor which will probably see exposed brick in future.

The biggest difference to date has been the spa and gym, previously introduced by the Saint Claires but something on which the Castle never truly

capitalised. Indeed, this was something of a drain. Re-opened during the first weekend of February, it's been enlarged and now uses the former gym reception for more space. Refurbished and refitted, it now features some new equipment. With membership at £29 per month, Linda feels that this is well positioned locally. The adjacent spa, too, has enjoyed a makeover.

Not only are both available to locals to use, there's a new lighted woodland walk from the car park. This re-enforces the idea that you don't need to go through the main hotel reception, something that continues to be seen as daunting or discouraging for locals. In time, expect a handful of hot tubs to be available.

Linda also wants to encourage local dining, including the anticipated launch this month of a new and informal, mid-range, walk-in food offering that can be accessed independently via the mediæval courtyard, again by-passing the hotel's main reception. The café bar will feature pizza and pasta nights and other similar treats. The venture is designed to sit alongside the castle's traditional restaurant but also to span the middle ground that is currently missing in town. It will also open on Mondays—this makes it just about unique locally. There'll be an all day Sunday lunch, too. Such changes are aimed at families—and even dogs: the Castle is now dog-friendly.

In parallel, Linda is addressing the amount of agency staff running the Castle's kitchen which, under the old regime, had resulted in complaints about a noticeable drop in quality. To address this, there's currently a seconded head chef and, by now, Linda will have appointed a permanent post-holder. She was concerned how difficult it was to source local senior staff locally, though.

The hotel currently offers 59 rooms. The next phase of the five-year plan is to open up a further 20 which, she feels, is the upper limit, without having to build or to convert the last remaining half-dozen rooms which would be uneconomic. Linda's new 20 had previously simply been abandoned. It will mark the beginning of what will be a complete destination venue in the middle of North Wales. As such, this has the potential to benefit the town greatly, of course.

Party nights and events will feature more, but, sadly for nostalgics, the once unique selling point, the mediæval banquets, will remain a thing of the past. They are simply not viable, said Linda. But there is now a revised range of beers, Castle gin and we can anticipate Castle honey from its own beehives.

That leaves the Castle walls. What to do with them remains the \$64,000 question. Linda is fresh on the conservation trust and expects to



contribute considerably to the walls project that to date has somewhat stalled. The Castle expects to contribute financially. The gatehouse at the Castle's entrance is unlikely to feature in any refurbishment any time soon, though. Netting still covers part of it, where the stonework is friable. More positively, the Castle is nevertheless seeking permission to fell trees on the Cunning Green boundary wall.

That, then, leaves the question of ownership of the Castle. These are private owners understood to be Sheffielders and that they have four unique hotels currently, a handful of pubs and even a factory. The Castle will continue to be branded and marketed separately and uniquely.

Linda admits that the Castle Hotel is like nothing she has been used to, compared to more urban hotel businesses. Yet, she confesses that it gets under your skin. As she gets to understand the venue more and more and its rich history—expect some interesting developments on this front—so it has developed into something of an obsession. The same, I am sure, must be said of Ruthin itself.

Housing Innovations at Llanbedr... and Ruthin?

Harold Jones looks at Clwyd Alyn's new housing—it's what we may expect next to Glasdir, Ruthin

Last summer, Welsh Government Finance Minister Rebecca Evans visited the innovative housing scheme, which is currently being built in Llanbedr, to see for herself the progress being made on site.

The project is being developed by Clwyd Alyn Housing Association, which manages over 6,000 homes locally and across North Wales & Powys.

It is developing the Llanbedr project in partnership with Denbighshire County Council, the Welsh Government, Woodknowledge Wales and Williams Homes Bala. The total cost of the development is in the region of £8m, with £5.6m being provided by the Welsh Government through its Innovative Housing Programme. This programme supports innovative building methods and techniques aimed at increasing the amount of affordable homes available in Wales.

The houses will be highly insulated and energy efficient. Williams Homes Ltd of Bala construct pre-fabricated timber panels off-site using locally sourced materials. Woodknowledge Wales has

given consultative advice and assistance. This is a not-for-profit organisation, which encourages the development of wood-based industries for increased prosperity and well-being in Wales.

There is great emphasis on low carbon and sustainability and the development incorporates as many natural materials as possible. The layout of the site seeks to take full advantage of solar gain and natural daylight. There will be a district heating scheme with a low-carbon ground source heat pump. Water butts will collect rainwater for garden use. In addition to being built to a high standard of insulation, the dwellings have also been designed to meet the Lifetime Homes Standards, which aim to make homes easily adaptable for the future. The standards incorporate sixteen criteria, including straight staircases to allow for the installation of stairlifts at need; doorways wide enough for wheelchairs; and the potential for through floor lifts.

The houses are also being built to Development Quality Requirements, which is a standard that all social housing must meet. The standard is higher than that for normal market housing. The standard states that homes should be:

- Flexible & responsive to changing needs
- Safe and secure
- Of sufficient size to meet the requirements of the occupants.

As an example, a three-bedroom house

will have a minimum area of 1,000 sq ft as opposed to 860 sq ft normal market housing.

When the scheme is finished there will be 38 homes:

- 16 x 3 bedroom houses
- 14 x 2 bedroom houses
- 6 x 2 bedroom bungalows
- 2 x 2 bedroom wheelchair accessible bungalows.

When complete the units will be available to rent from Clwyd Alyn. There will also be a low cost home ownership option. The local lettings policy will ensure that tenants have a local connection to the area. People wishing to register an interest can do so via the TaiTeg website – www.taiteg.org.uk

The Future of Housing?

The innovations we see at Llanbedr are likely to translate to the proposed Clwyd Alyn affordable housing development on land adjacent to the existing Glasdir estate.

The proposed layout of the Clwyd Alyn estate is already said to be better than the market housing offered by Taylor Wimpey, next door. We're promised energy efficient homes which dispense with gas in favour of friendlier air source heat technology that potentially shames the current market housing sector. Clwyd Alyn's Glasdir proposal is not overly dense in nature and appears well laid out.

Climate Change Conference

Denbighshire County Council held its first climate change & ecological emergency public meeting on February 25th and representing the Civic Association at the County Hall session was Kathy Daniels

Financial pressures are the usual news you tend to hear from the public sector. In July last year, Denbighshire made headlines for a different reason, by becoming the first Welsh council to declare both a climate *and* an ecological emergency. The February public meeting was an opportunity for groups and individuals—including some schoolchildren—to understand how the County Council internally is responding using its own resources to the global emergency and to hear work to date, from the Council's role in biodiversity to tree planting to the role of the replacement LDP. There were a raft of

projects. For example, the Council's new housing will be the most energy efficient homes in the county. Another was a reduction in the Council's estate and the likely "zoning" in future to reduce its building heating costs. Much of that work was in its infancy but the trajectory's good and the intent is there. Above all, this had garnered cross-party political support.

The thrust of the meeting, though, was to allow people not just to understand the Council's work but to raise questions, concerns, comments and suggestions. Some public comments were perhaps somewhat trivial but usually well-mannered. Councillors and officers handled them all well.

A Ruthin resident wondered how and whether the Council would share its own good practice regarding public housing. This was most likely to be via social media. As regards social media, the whole meeting had been available online and questions were invited via Twitter. This assuaged some criticism that people had to travel to attend.

A similar point was that, in general, few were talking of climate change and how could the Council improve this (no doubt using social media).



One key question was about the biggest internal barrier to progress. The reply was funding. The Welsh Government was paying for some of the Council's innovations. A contributor suggested increasing council tax by 10 per cent to fund a more ambitious programme but he was reminded that, actually, there were many people who already struggled with existing bills. Such was the dilemma the Council faced.

The meeting concluded with a short list of "big hits" over the next six months, which included business cases about efficient council buildings; renewable heating at schools; bids for green infrastructure at Rhyl; and introducing electric taxis. Some of these were dependent upon external grant applications so were not guaranteed—proving again that financial pressures are never far from the surface, even where the intention was most definitely there.

Table Talk

Derek Jones wonders whether Maen Huail is worth its plaque

The last time I walked past Maen Huail, I was greeted by a sorry sight. Moss was growing out of the top of it, and a full glass of beer was perched precariously on one side. At other times, beer glasses have been supplemented by cigarette ends. Are these comments on the existence of the rock, or on the presence or absence of the myth from which it took its name?

The one thing which is still bright and shiny was the plaque above it on the wall of the old Barclay's Bank: 'Ar y garref hon dywedir i'r Brebin Arthur ddlienyddio Huail et elyn marwol brawn Gildas yr hanesydd' or 'On this stone the legendary King Arthur is said to have beheaded Huail, brother of Gildas the historian, his rival in love and war'.

The plaque was installed, along with several others around the town, during my period as Chairman of the Civic Association. We reasoned that the existing plaques were virtually illegible, and that if Arthur and Huail were to be commemorated at all, we ought at least to be able to read the words!

On the other hand, I had to grit my teeth, in the first place, at the prospect of a plaque which recorded the presence in Ruthin of persons who, if they ever existed, would hardly have been very pleasant to know. Maen Huail (Huail's Stone) purports to commemorate an Arthur who was jealous to the point of committing murder and, if one account is to be believed, this happened because Huail had designs on Arthur's girlfriend!

I cannot resist repeating this story. The two had clashed when they encountered each other at Caerwys. Huail flirted with Arthur's mistress at the time and the two had a fight. Huail inflicted injuries on Arthur, which left him lame. Arthur agreed to make it up, so long as Huail never mentioned the incident—and Huail agreed. Sometime later, Huail spotted a man dressed in women's clothes at a dance in the middle of Ruthin. Huail recognised the 'woman' as Arthur, commended 'her' for 'his' dancing ability, but said that it was a pity about the limp! Arthur exploded, and killed Huail on the rock which was thereafter known as Maen Huail!

King Arthur as a cross-dresser! What a story, enough to convince us, surely, that



the many tales about him are just that—tales—embellished locally, much like Ulysses in Greek mythology. And there are, of course, many Arthur mythologies: in Gloucestershire, Somerset, Devon, Brittany, and, not least, Winchester, which keeps alive the so-called 'Knights of the Round Table'. (Thus my article is entitled 'Table Talk').

My conclusion? The Arthurian myths are worth keeping as part of Welsh and other literatures, just so long as they are not taken too literally.

But if so, somebody needs to take some responsibility for Maen Huail, give it a regular clean up—and, for the persons who left the beer glass and the fag-end, please don't do it again!

A Derwen Gem

by Isabel Stewart

A mediæval church, a 14 century preaching cross and an old church house built into the surrounding church wall is enough for any village, especially one as small as Derwen but we have much more for me to write about, such as a late mediæval minor Welsh hall house, probably built in the 16th century. It's named Coed y Foel but is known locally as the Thatched Cottage. It's been involved in a somewhat colourful recent history but, nevertheless, nowadays boasts cream-painted rubble outer stonework, a splendid thatched roof and is surrounded by well tended grounds. It's a beautiful building both outside and in.

Indeed, it's an old cruck manor house retaining many of its original features. When constructed, it was built just as one large room with perhaps a couple of small areas sectioned off. Five oak cruck beams support the roof, four of which still remain on show. It would have had a central open fire and an earthen floor, wooden shutters at the windows and wooden screens on the inner walls, two of which, like the cruck beams, have survived the ravages of time and are a delight to see. The smoke from the fire would have been drawn up into the high roof aided by draughts to escape through the thatched roof. The fire was the only source of heat for warmth & cooking, and

the large room referred to as the hall would have been very hot in summer and rather cold in winter (away from the fire). If the family could afford it, straw may have been spread on the earth floor.

Dendrochronological dating of core samples from the ancient oak beams have been dated to the trees being felled in the 1500s. The outer walls would have been wattle & daub but, around 1633, the open fire was replaced with an inglenook fireplace, a chimney constructed and the outer lower walls replaced with stone. At some much later date a first floor was built and upper rooms created.

If only walls could talk and tell us about all the families who have lived there. Records show that at one time it served as a barn and in the 19th century as two cottages. A generation of Griffith families lived for many years in the dwelling, with occupations recorded as agricultural labourer, laundress, railway plate layer and dressmaker but who the building was actually built for I don't know. It will be recorded somewhere, probably on the old church records.

I was invited down to visit this lovely cottage and expected it to be rather cramped, dark and perhaps a little



"spooky". I was made extremely welcome by the present owners and their two very friendly but somewhat large dogs. What a surprise. It was beautiful, light and airy with a and an attractive and desirable kitchen, without losing any of the centuries-old features, such as an ancient oak screen wall that had once sectioned off two small areas, rooms that may have been used as a pantry, a buttery or to store valuables. All four remaining cruck beams were proudly exposed, showing the structure of a house built hundreds of years ago. There were many other structures surviving like old doors and window frames.

This splendid 16th century Grade II cottage owes its survival to all the caring people who have lived there over the years, enjoying and protecting the special mediæval contents from days long gone by.

For Life, not just Christmas

What would our town and villages be like without public houses? In the light of continued pub uncertainty, Peter Daniels urges us all to consider more visits to our locals

In 2004, at the publication “Old and Present Pubs of Ruthin Town”, there were 12 pubs in Ruthin. Since then, the Wynnstay Arms, the Anchor and the Olde Cross Keys have all run dry. The “eye-catching” Myddelton—these days more of a restaurant—has had its recent difficulties. The Corporation, dubbed by some more a nightclub than pub, opens on Friday and Saturday evenings only—though this may change. Although not a traditional pub, rumours persist as to the state of the Conservative Club, occupying a significant heritage building, Plas Coch.



In the former Vanity Fayre, newcomer St Peter's Bar & Lounge, left, lasted a few months; and recently the connected Myddelton has not always been open

The situation is as worse in rural areas. After Christmas, the Crown, Llandegla, announced its closure (though it relaunched on February 28th). In 2016, the nearby Plough closed, eventually converted to accommodation. The Three Pigeons, Graigfechan, is for sale. The Clwyd Gate has had a very chequered recent history and has been closed since 2015. The Golden Lion, Llangynhafal, has now closed and is for sale. Worst of all, from a heritage perspective, the painstakingly restored Tŷ Mawr in Gwyddelwern opened in 1999, closed, re-opened in 2014 and closed again at Christmas 2015.

Yet, amid much change in our town centres and villages, pubs tend to offer stability. They often occupy heritage buildings that have outwardly changed little. Some have been pubs for centuries. This can only continue if we support them. Why are we now so loath to do so?

We're apparently drinking less. This is most significant among younger people. Speak to landlords in Ruthin and you'll

discover that evening footfall has fallen sharply. Some blame the Venue closing, others in the immediate town centre the recent poor health of The Castle (p.11), a source of custom from guests who wish to venture beyond the walls, looking for town centre atmosphere or cheaper ale.

And, the demographic and social situation has changed. Families tend to prefer eating to drinking out. Just look at the number of families dining in Wetherspoon's up to 8p.m. Yet, Ruthin isn't big in terms of so-called “gastro-pubs”. When these families or groups drift off after 8p.m., numbers can fall, even at Wetherspoon's, where the traditional time for pubs was once 8p.m. to 11p.m. Converting to a gastro-pub simply results in a mortgage or higher rents that cannot easily be serviced in the current market, though there does remain a gap between Wetherspoon's food and On the Hill's.

Camra states that tax—business rates, VAT and excise duty, all increasing—suppresses demand and favours ridiculously cheap alcohol from supermarkets. Even in Ruthin, the range of supermarket alcohol is considerable. I suppose we should add the fact that people these days also prefer to stay in and interact on social media rather than in “real life”, something that's certainly cheaper but less healthy for mental well-being.

There's plenty of talk about Wales' declining high street shops but less about the cornerstone of our town centres, the pub. The media tend to ignore this category. While there may be no shortage of bar-stool advice as to what we can do to stop

the trickle of pub closures, the most obvious way is simply for Ruthinians to support their landlords much more than they do now. Pubs cannot survive purely on summer visitors. Neither do pubs easily lend themselves to other uses and if you can't imagine our town or villages without these key buildings then now is the time to pop out and buy a round.

Signs of Optimism

There is nevertheless some hope. In 2014, the Glan Llyn, Clawddnewydd, joined the Raven, Llanarmon, saved as a community-run pub. The Griffin, closed in 2017, looks set to re-open this year. After many closed years, the Star re-opened in 2010 (but, here, the number of managers has been considerable and they no longer serve food). And, of course, the so-called category killer Wetherspoon invested in the Castle Hotel and re-opened it in 2012. It had previously been in a sad and run down state and the Civic Association had oft pressed the previous owner to do something with this key building.

Timely in 2020?

We had no space in the last edition for news in the autumn that Natural Resources Wales had planted an oak at Pincyn Lllys to commemorate the centenary of the Forestry Act 1919.



The Act was designed to replenish the country's trees, following the

depletion owing to the First World War, as much wood was required for props in both the trenches and to “support” accelerated coal production. The Act also established the Forestry Commission whose khaki-green vans in time would become ubiquitous in our area, serving offices at the former camp at Clawddnewydd. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Forestry Commission was a major employer, with over 100 directly working from this base. Mechanisation resulted a decline both in employees and also the vans themselves, all of which have all but disappeared but there's still an office in Clawddnewydd, though employees there are few.

It took about 10 years after the Act to see replanting at Clocaenog, during the 1930s. The original conifer forest, however, was laid in the 19th century by Lord Bagot (all but cut down during the Great War). We know the period because there is a monument at Pincyn Lllys to this effect, erected in 1830 by the second Lord Bagot, as a commemoration. Snag is, the monument needs a little TLC. The inscription is wearing thin and some of the words and letters have already disappeared. There's a crack across the 1830 lettered face. It would've been nice had this been freshened up for the centenary as well as the planting of the oak.

Nevertheless, 2020 is the 190th anniversary of the monument and this, too, offers a timely opportunity for a restoration, should Natural Resources Wales feel so inclined.

The monument at 1,358ft above sea level is at the highest point in the forest.

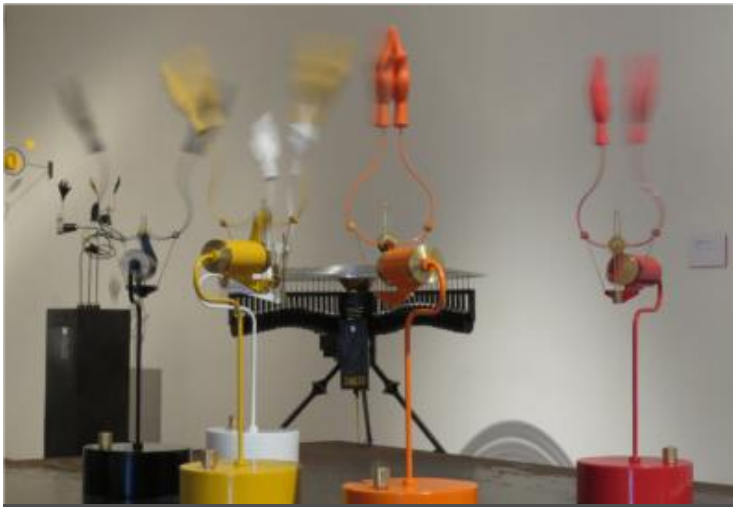


Ruthin Craft Centre

**Inspiring the next generation,
by Joss Duffy, Brynhyfryd Yr 9**

A place of learning, creativity and socialization: Ruthin Craft Centre. In 2008, on July 28th, we were reintroduced to the Ruthin craft centre as it reopened for business. The project cost a sum of £4.4 million, thanks to a grant from the Arts Council of Wales, but most will have found that it was more than worth it. Many have found the centre to be the centre of their attention, visiting time and time again to the centre's facilities. This is the article on the centre that has touched most of us in some brilliant way.

After the original centre's founding in the 1980s, it has undergone some changes, including the demolition of the original building to be replaced with a newer building with more facilities for the public, including three galleries, a studio for artists and workshops, as well as a café. All of this is set around a courtyard in the centre of the centre, a place of calm and relaxation. All in all, the establishment is an all round success for all who have visited the premises.



Martin Smith's hands-on 'Little Machines' is open till March 29th. Smith remarked, "I was one of those children who was always taking things apart and putting them back together again". Could his exhibition inspire a new generation?

The workshops they do for young aspiring artists (or just people there for a bit of fun) have attracted many over the years and continue to do so to today. They appear to be aspiring to all ages with their clay sculpture workshops to their painting ones too. Along with all their fantastic workshops, the atmosphere there is always welcoming.

The Ruthin craft centre has done many workshops in the past to inspire the next generation to get into art. This is important as it helps to build and continue culture. Art has also been scientifically proven to work as therapy and help reduce stress and anxiety. In the past, they have done ceramic dogs with Olivia Brown, creator of the 'Reggie's roller palace' exhibition and continue to stand out in the community. Many of their future exhibitions are aimed at younger people to encourage them into art. The centre continues to prove to us that it is worth all the money put into its construction and time and time again delights the people who go to it. Have you visited there? If not, visit soon for a wonderfully exceptional experience.

The café is a well known communal hub. Regulars visit each week to take a look at the new exhibits and have some of the café's excellent cake. The café continues to thrive despite minuscule amounts of bad reviews and continues to serve the people who visit. If you haven't yet visited the café, then do so. The lemon cake and the chocolate cake keep people returning to the centre.

Throughout the years, the Ruthin craft centre has done its best to make itself the best place for people to go and observe fine art, as well as have a nice cup of tea and a scone. We will continue to love the Centre and all it brings to society.

Music Opportunities for the Children of Ruthin

**Getting pupils into music,
by James Johnson, Brynhyfryd Yr 9**

With the Denbighshire Music Cooperative approaching its 5 year anniversary, it's time to look back, and see what new and exciting things have happened and what has maybe taken a turn for the worse.

Now, before we start, I do want to make it fully clear that I think the DMC has been an amazing benefit to the community. With it being more engaging than the previous operators William Mathias and if it was not for the DMC, I am not sure how the music lessons and opportunities for Ruthin's Younger Generations would have turned out.

But as with all new schemes the company had its ups and downs.

In 2017 the DMC moved its offices to Denbigh. One of the slight downsides of the DMC moving its office to Denbigh is that many of the Ensembles that were held in Ruthin have since moved. Before, many ensemble rehearsals were held in Ysgol Brynhyfryd and there was an Ysgol Brynhyfryd Brass Band that has since been renamed "DMC Brass Band". Also, the music facilities in Ysgol Brynhyfryd, while serving their purpose, are in dire need of repair and maintenance with leaks, thin walls and mould. These conditions could be deadly to a music instrument so the rooms in which lessons take place need to be fixed fast. This means Ruthin pupils can struggle to access such vital resources to help them develop their musical talents. This could easily be fixed by holding multiple rehearsals across the different towns (although I realise this can be hard with finding dates and tutors to hold them). This is shown by the DMC String Ensemble that have a group in Rhyl and a group in Ruthin and meet once a term to practise. This can make it a lot easier to get to the rehearsals and learn valuable techniques as well as meeting new friends and developing social skills.



One of the things the DMC has done superbly well is engaging with the local pupils and showing them the wonders of music. They have had multiple programs including the "Brighter Future Project" and the "Big Brass Project". These have focused on getting pupils into music and help them learn valuable skills. The most recent of the projects, which is the "Big Brass Project", has gone round to the local primary schools and given free Brass tutoring to the pupils. This helps teach them vital musical skills as well as having a fun opportunity to play an instrument with their friends. It also can give students an opportunity to see if they want to participate in music lessons.

The DMC has clearly enhanced dramatically the musical opportunities in Ruthin providing a quality experience for the local students. This has resulted in an increase in the musical talent of this area and sparked a love of music in the younger generation. I am thoroughly looking forward to seeing what the DMC has in store for us next!

Seen in Passing...



You still have till March 29th to see the latest exhibitions at the Craft Centre. We recommend that you do. Take some loose change with you to work some of Martin Smith's quizzical "Little Machines" and you'll be impressed by their whimsy, where art meets engineering. Then there's Pharmacopœia, described as huge suits of armour, with designs of apparel and artwork constructed of thousands of pill & tablet blister packs.



There have been several engagement events undertaken by DVSC in its newly managed Market Hall. Whether you think the DVSC's project is actually a good one or not, it gave people the opportunity to have a snoop around and once again admire some of the Ruthin memorabilia screwed to its walls which, since the markets stopped, have become invisible.



February half term saw Ysgol Brynhyfryd undertake work on its Lodge, at the entrance off Mold Road. This has been in a sorry state for some years and we drew this to the world's attention in June 2018. We can only hope that the work is a temporary fix pending the full restoration of this listed building.

An intriguing new road-sign has appeared on Hideaway's leather shop, Clwyd Street, warning motorists that the adjacent access to Ruthin Memorials is not particularly suited to motor vehicles. Perhaps someone managed to get themselves in a lather over the width of their car.



It seems that Ruthin's new Aldi will be under Aldi's Neston region, one of 11 areas with their own board of directors. Though larger, Neston is a characterful market town not unlike Ruthin. We didn't realise, though, Neston's true significance (but there is an Aldi regional distribution centre there). Enabling work started on at Aldi Ruthin on January 10th, followed a month later by the start of physical works. Meanwhile, you can pre-register your interest if you wish to try to get a job there.



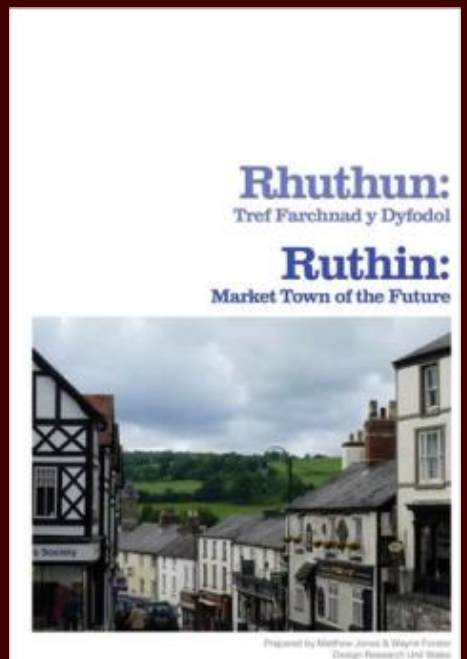
Take a stroll along Station Walk and marvel at the kaleidoscope of coloured doorways on Railway Terrace. At least two have recently been repainted.



We welcome new residents at Glasdir. An increasing number of the final phase of Taylor Wimpey homes are now occupied. It's possible some people there may have become concerned at the cumulative effect of Storms Ciara & Dennis but there was nothing to worry about, in spite of the significant flooding over the floodplain itself. In spite of warnings, the defences were hardly impacted at all.

10 Years Ago

April 2010 saw the launch of Ruthin Town Council's first exercise on its Market Town of the Future. It recognised that Ruthin's future was by no means certain and that small market towns such as ours were vulnerable to wider forces.



As a result, a team of architecture students from Cardiff University spent some time considering the merits of the town through fresh eyes. There followed a widespread consultation.

The whole process resulted in our then Editor, Derek Jones, writing an article as Vice-chair of the then Civic Trust Wales for the Institute of Welsh Affairs, which is still available online at iwa.wales/click/2010/04/ruthin-to-make-its-own-masterplan/

It resulted in a report which we thought was shelved. According to Jones, "Its progenitors will find it a particular challenge to maintain interest over, say, five years if there are not much to show for it on the ground". The Town Council dusted it down last year. It now seems to be an organic document again.



Meanwhile, listen closely and it was possible to hear the thrum of motor mowers in some Ruthin gardens—even in late December and early January. Such is the new world of climate change. Some dafs were fully open in January, well ahead of St David's Day.

Plas Coch

We're told that reports of social medium have urged people to make more use of the Conservative Club. There appear to be concerns over its sustainability.

RADCA is apolitical and therefore has no view either way on this.



It would nevertheless be a concern for the Civic Association and the whole town should a further heritage building such as the Conservative Club's Plas Coch fall vacant at any time.

Plas Coch is, in fact, a unique building. Its walls are constructed out of old red sandstone, which is mediæval in origin and it is probably in contention for Ruthin's oldest building.

From an article in a Ruthin Local History Society Broadsheet, we understand that it was converted into a restaurant 1960s.

It subsequently then became the Conservative Club, after which it was much modified and extended.

Ruthin & District Civic Association

Spring History Fair

RADCA will be represented at March's Spring History & Heritage Fair, at the Old Gaol:

Spring History and Heritage Fair

Saturday 14th March
Denbighshire Archives at Ruthin Gaol, 46 Clwyd Street,
Ruthin, Denbighshire, LL15 1HP
11am - 4pm

You are invited to come and see a wide range of displays and meet local history and heritage groups from across North East Wales at the annual North East Wales Heritage Forum History Fair which will be held at Denbighshire Archives at Ruthin Gaol.

Free entry - all ages are welcome



Masonic Hall

Members and friends are invited to a presentation at the Old Ruthinian Mason's Lodge Masons, Old Cloisters on Saturday April 18th 17 1030a.m.

This follows the interest in the site during 2019's Open Doors. Kindly inform the secretary if you are willing to attend (contact details right).

Quayle Award 2019

Members or others who have candidates for nominations for 2019's award should please contact the Secretary (details, right) by the end of March 2020.

Town & Around is published quarterly by the Ruthin & District Civic Association

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It is delivered free to Civic Association members

We welcome articles, contributions, suggestions and letters, in Welsh or English

Please send them to the Secretary at cymru@clwyd.org or

Coedlan, 25 Stryd y Brython, Ruthin, LL15 1JA (tel. 704256)

The deadline for the next edition is May 16th, 2020

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Views expressed by contributors are their own and neither necessarily reflect those of the Civic Association, those of their employer nor educator

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Answers to the Ringing Word Quiz (p5)
1 (a); 2 (d); 3 (b)

Join Ruthin & District Civic Association and help support our work and the production & distribution of Town & Around

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The Association tries to help protect & enhance the outstanding market town of Ruthin and the areas nearby. Our main aims are to promote "civic pride" in the town and surrounding villages. We also aim to promote high standards in planning and encourage architectural excellence. We organise the annual Open Doors heritage weekends and the Quayle Awards.

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(2) Name _____

Address _____

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I/We enclose a cheque for £10 or £15 (delete as appropriate) payable to Ruthin & District Civic Association. Please forward to Robert Williams, Hon. Treasurer, Lenton House, Mold Road, Ruthin LL15 1SL (tel 704998 / ruthincivic@btinternet.com)