

Town & Around O Gwmpas y Dre

Summer 2024



News, Comment & Features from the Ruthin & District Civic Association since 2003

Valuing Rhos Street

An unusual planning application in May 2024 has resulted in calls from the Civic Association for an extension to the Ruthin conservation area

The applicant wishes to convert a 'canteen' said to be within the front projection of Capel y Rhos (Rhos Street) into a 30-cover café.

Capel y Rhos is one of Ruthin's most historic buildings. It was probably Ruthin's first non-conformist chapel and is said to have resulted in the establishment of no fewer than eight others in the area. Till 2022, it was the home of Royal Mail's Ruthin delivery fleet (Town and Around, Spring 2023).

While it would be encouraging to welcome this building back into use, there is again an uncertainty over another significant building in Rhos Street. The former Rhos Street school remains unoccupied and as yet there is no decision as to its future.

Together with the quality of the stone cottages on Rhos Street and the thatched Rose Cottage, there is something cohesive about the integrity of the architecture and streetscape in this corner of Ruthin that the Civic Association argues now needs proper

protection. There's no suggestion within the current planning application but the possibility in the future of flues projecting from the front of Capel y Rhos would be unthinkable.

But the application itself is odd. First, it relies on there being a 'canteen' in that part of the building. Former and current postmen confirm that the area has never been a 'canteen'. A retired postman remembers this area used to add sorting capacity at Christmas. Alteration to a café would require a change of use.

Then there are parking issues. That part of Haulfryn is already crowded with parked cars and there are double yellow lines outside the premises. There's limited frontal space for parking (which is currently used by neighbours who otherwise struggle to park).

Chair of the Civic Association Anne Roberts MBE said, 'Rhos Street is just as aesthetically pleasing as, for example, the upper Mwrog Street conservation area.

'Given the fragility of two key buildings on this section and the contribution they make to a pleasing the streetscene, the Civic Association has asked the County Council whether it would be feasible to extend the town's conservation area to help protect the heritage setting of the area'.



Rhos Street School

One of the University of the West of England architectural & planning students working with the Town Council on the next phase of 'Ruthin Future' may consider design concepts as to how the empty Rhos Street school building might find a use while retaining as much of the historic building as possible.

Recently, all has gone quiet on the site but there had been widespread concern at previous proposals there (Town and Around, September 2022).

The site was vacated in 2018.

Castle Street: worthy of attention

To the Civic Association and many others, the most obvious street overlooked under the Levelling Up proposals was Castle Street. Our special April/May online edition of Town and Around featured what we felt was a missed opportunity.

We were delighted to partner with the Friends of Nantclwyd y Dre and The Ruthin Castle Hotel & Spa in campaigning for Castle Street's inclusion.

The Town Council strongly supports the inclusion of Castle Street. We also



know of multiple individual responses mentioning Castle Street.

It all suggests that the case for Castle Street is a strong one. We don't believe that the offer of a simple resurfacing with black top would be satisfactory at all.

There were a number of reasons for the campaign. First was on grounds of safety, with inadequate or in some places no footways.

Continued on p2

From the Chair

Two issues over a number of years which have been a constant source of frustration for me have suddenly come to notice once more.

The Cunning Green is one where I have—and still am—concerned about the length of time it is taking to reopen the path. This is not the first time we've been here.

This priceless walk has been well used by residents and visitors alike and it does offer a unique aspect of the town as you walk along it. No one has been able to use the Cunning Green for quite some time and that is such a shame. The path is also a natural progression down into our lovely park, Cae Ddol. Cae Ddol will shortly benefit from significant Levelling Up funding but access to it will not.

I appreciate that the most recent collapse was on a huge scale and Denbighshire County Council has done a wonderful job in restoring the wall at the rear of The Lord's Garden at Nantclwyd y Dre. The section bordering Ruthin castle still needs to be reconstructed and I fear we will have to wait for quite some time yet before the

path is reopened.

It is so difficult trying to get a current update on the Cuning Green's situation. And frustrating, too. I seem to have been highlighting this problem forever. The most recent collapse (on the Castle side opposite The Lord's Garden) is not the first in that general area and it makes me question how much of an effort decision makers are making to try to resolve this.

May I ask Denbighshire for a concerted effort to address this long-standing issue.

Old Gaol and Archive

Meanwhile, the second issue which is now a fait accompli will see the relocation of the Archives at Ruthin Gaol to new premises in Mold in another county. Sad news indeed for our town.

Apparently, we shall still see an 'archive presence' in Ruthin and we have contacted the Archives as to what exactly this scaled down facility would be. They are not yet ready to share this emerging project.

It also remains to be seen how the

Old Gaol will be used after the Archives leave. We're told that 70 per cent of the building houses the current Denbighshire archive stock.



I believe Denbighshire should keep residents updated more regularly from now on as some see the decisions so far made to be clouded in secrecy. Finding out via social media about plans to move out are certainly not the best way of engaging stakeholders. I believe the County Council needs to keep people informed more regularly as to what will happen at The Old Gaol, a site of fundamental importance to the town, its residents and visitors.

Anne Roberts MBE
Chair of the Civic Association

Time to Refine our Signs?

Amid much talk of Levelling Up improvements for residents and pedestrians in the town centre, we shouldn't neglect roads running through other residential areas, writes PETER DANIELS

We used to call it the 'by-pass' or the 'northern link road'. These days, it's Ffordd Glasdir. It's the road extending from Lôn Parcwr to the new primary schools. It was built in 2006 and the road signage still hasn't kept up with it.

It was never a 'by-pass' but it could act as such, diverting as much traffic away from the residential main roads of

Park Road, Borthyn and Denbigh Road. Doing that would make life on these streets a little more bearable.

Through traffic entering Ruthin from the south along Llanfair Road upon approaching the Bric roundabout is currently signed along Park Road. This is fair enough for Bala-bound movements but the heavier traffic flow for Denbigh could easily be signed via Ffordd Glasdir.

Similarly, Denbigh through traffic approaching from Mold along Rhos Street and Wernfechan upon approaching to the same roundabout is also directed via Park Road.

The position from Denbigh is similar. Wrexham- and Mold-bound traffic could be signed via Ffordd Glasdir. In fact, the only signage upon approach to the roundabout near Aldi gives you a choice of the agricultural mart or Ruthin. Unknowing through traffic are left in the dark and, given this choice, will needlessly use Denbigh Road and Borthyn. The only through traffic along this stretch should be for Bala.

We suspect that satnavs already make the most appropriate decision for you. Given that road signs are still maintained at public expense we assume that they continue to have a role. The current signage is quite old now and some has faded. Now seems a good opportunity to press for improvements for the benefit of through motorists but especially for those who live on Denbigh Road, Borthyn and Park Road.

Castle Street from P1



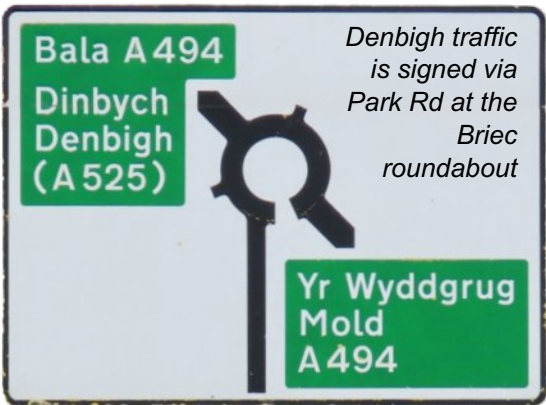
Secondly, other than St Peter's Square, it's our main heritage street and among many fine houses of different periods is Nantclwyd y Dre itself.

Thirdly, it is a gateway to and from our most significant visitor accommodation, Ruthin Castle. Ruthin Castle generates a huge number of visitors and their first (and last) impression of Ruthin rests with Castle Street.

We all nevertheless need to be realistic in that

funding is finite but we feel cautiously optimistic as things stand.

Further details regarding Castle Street in the April/May special online edition of Town and Around at v.gd/radca.



Steady As She Goes

It occurs to us that for nearly 20 years mandatory child seats have aimed to keep children safe in vehicles. Yet, there's very little to protect vulnerable children as pedestrians.

We can all be a little frustrated by 20 mph in urban areas. We hope that any resentment is outweighed by the road safety benefits and the improvement for those living in the vicinity of main roads and those walking along them.

Was it a coincidence that almost overnight motorists reverted to 30 mph-plus following the 20 mph review ordered by the new Cabinet Secretary for Transport. Traffic speeds seem to have rocketed and the gains we saw from the September 2023 introduction date have all but evaporated.

We're not suggesting there are no changes required. The approach to Ruthin at Galltefga and Llanfwrog on the B5105 to Llanfwrog Church when compared to trunk roads at Llanbedr and Gwyddelwern seems very slow.

But we support the principle of a universal speed of 20 mph as a civilising and as a safety feature. Your Committee, all bar one of which are

drivers as well as 'active travellers' on foot or by bicycle, has recently written to the new Cabinet Secretary to ask him to remember that the motoring lobby though strident is but one voice. We suggested that we would prefer not to see the gains for residents and active travellers forsaken because some motorists cannot take their foot off the accelerator.

The lack of a response to date is perhaps as a result of a reduced speed limit between Cardiff Bay and Ruthin. As regards the mail coach, don't spare the horses... unless in an urban area.



O'r Tŷ Hwn

Well known local artist Bethan M Hughes has partnered with the Civic Association for her O'r Tŷ Hwn/From This House Project (Town and Around, Spring 2024).

This commemorates the local women who one hundred years ago stood up and signed an all-Wales petition to present to the women of the USA to help them try to influence their federal government to join the League of Nations.

The Civic Association was successful for the total requested in a grant application under Denbighshire Leisure's Community Grant Scheme (Cultural Element).

To date, Bethan has undertaken work to identify potential house windows of those who signed the peace petition to display information as part of September's Open Doors.

There have been and will be further events & talks in the Craft Centre and elsewhere. Meanwhile, Bethan is often in one of the Craft Centre studios

The Civic Association is assisting with a bilingual website for the duration of the project.

On the Home Front: maintaining a façade?

It's rather sad to note that a number of recent shop fronts are incompatible with the town's character and conservation area.

Their proprietors seem to have ignored freely available published guidance. Such guidance is both constructive and sensible, and relates specifically to historic and conservation settings such as Ruthin's. It is published by the County Council.

The Civic Association understands that as a result there is some planning enforcement in Ruthin at the moment.

For the businesses involved, remedying poorly executed shop fronts costs them money and time that traders could have so easily avoid.

It is particularly galling where a trader has followed the guidance with a suitable frontage, only to find a near neighbours has ignored it.

It is also ironic that the front page of

the guidance shows a well-executed Ruthin shop front that is now actually changed for the worse.

The 'Supplementary Planning Guidance Note on Shopfronts in Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas' document is available by searching on the Denbighshire County Council website.

The document does not unduly constrain businesses and its use helps to maintain the



integrity of the conservation area to the benefit of all.

'Mixed' Reaction to 'Penny' Pinching

The public reaction to June's **waste collection changes** has been very mixed. It's disappointing that there has not been universal acceptance of a system designed to increase recycling rates.

Complaints seem to revolve around the disappearance of the simple system we have in mixing everything into one large blue bin. That households now have to do some work ourselves seems to be beyond some. Surely, this isn't too difficult.

And we shall enjoy weekly collections of recyclables.

The real cause of the problem is our reliance on a system that generates so much waste in the first place.

The change has been a long time coming and dates back to the previous County Council, before the pandemic.

On the other hand, news of the **potential closure of Denbighshire's public lavatories** has resulted in unequivocal condemnation. It turns out that lavatories are a discretionary

service and we all know the budgetary problems Denbighshire faces.

What isn't so discretionary, though, is the essential and urgent need to use one when nature calls. 42 per cent of Ruthin's population are in the categories of people who most often have a sudden 'urge': under nines and over 60s.

What sort of a town welcoming visitors each summer in the hope that they may spend a few pounds also expects them not to spend a penny?

Lone Voice for Lôn Fawr?

In February 2024, the then First Minister Mark Drakeford visited Ruthin to consider a plea from Efenechtyd Community Council about safety concerns on the trunk road at Lôn Fawr.

The Lôn Fawr stretch of the A494 between Mwrog Street and Corwen Road narrows considerably. Once upon a time there were plans to widen it but that was over 40 years ago. The junction with Corwen Road is difficult for traffic turning from the Ruthin direction towards Pwllglas and Corwen.

Subject to the views of his officials, the then First Minister was minded to realign the junction to give priority from Lôn Fawr to Pwllglas rather than the current Corwen Road to Pwllglas. This must be welcomed as a quick, sensible and cost-effective measure. It may even help divert through traffic away from Castle Street and the town centre.

Nearly everyone pressed the then First Minister for a road widening scheme along Lôn Fawr. Two heavy vehicles struggle to pass each other.

But is such a widening really necessary? The current pinch point slows traffic down. Widening and

straightening the road would increase traffic speeds alarmingly. The last thing we want is a 0.8 mile racetrack approaching Y Canolfan at Llanfwrog with its large number of weekend young people milling around for sports and leisure.

And what of pedestrians on Lôn Fawr? There's a limited number over this section but there are walkers who certainly do use it. It isn't the safest road for pedestrians. A footway alongside a widened Lôn Fawr would result in a pretty uncomfortable and unpleasant walk, with cars now able to whip past at 60.

Why not, then, consider a totally separate footpath or combined cycle path behind hedges, away from the road altogether? This would take land but not as much as a full widening



Traffic speeds on Lôn Fawr are high enough without any widening: here a motor cyclist overtakes injudiciously at speed

scheme. The pinch point would still slow traffic. It would provide a suitable walking environment for those who wish to use it.

At this suggestion, the then First Minister's expression and body language suggested approval but this was still very much a lone voice.

Of National Importance

Week beginning April 22nd and the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley area of outstanding natural beauty was officially rebranded as a 'national landscape'.

This follows a formal redesignation in November 2023. If nothing else, it reduces by a third the number of syllables in the AONB's full title.

It will take time for everyone to use the new designation and to see tangible evidence of the rebranding. It nevertheless reflects the special 'nature' of this and all AONBs that they have a renewed and truly national significance.

We may yet see a further name change if the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley is subsumed into the new North East Wales national park, of course.

Meanwhile, the work of the national landscape continues to focus as before on enhancing and

conserving the landscape's natural beauty. Since 2022, Denbighshire's Countryside Service has in addition begun to concentrate on a very different project: dark skies.

That project has significance far beyond providing a vista of stars otherwise little seen in our light-polluted urban areas, including from Ruthin town. However important that is, the dark skies project also tries to mitigate the worst affects of light pollution on our fauna and Insecta. 60 per cent of our biodiversity, that which is active at night, is said to rely on darkness to survive. Darkness influences nourishment, sleep patterns, reproduction, migration and protection from predators.

Before the electric light, there were limited public illuminations by gas. It was only since the invention 150 years ago of the electric light bulb that we see mass light pollution. There has been a 400 per cent increase in light pollution the last 25 years alone and it continues at 10 per cent per annum.

Practical lighting guidance as to what we can each do outside our homes and businesses, whether within or outside the national landscape, is available from the Clwydian Range website. Just search 'clwydian range good lighting guide' via your favourite search engine or even Google.

The tennis courts at Llanfwrog are apparently an exemplar.

They're Back

And not in a good way.

It's sad to report that the predatory *Receptaculum rubrum* is back. And with a vengeance.

During the last outbreak (March 2022) we asked whether *Receptaculum rubrum* would at some point simply fizzle out and whether they might one day return.

Vanish they did—till now. This spring, after a two-year gap, there now appear to be multiple examples of *Receptaculum rubrum* in various locations in town.

Worse, the 2024 epidemic may now become a permanent feature.

One reason for this could be the Waste Separation Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2023 that came into force for businesses from April 6th, 2024. This compels organisations to separate their commercial waste for recycling.

An unintended consequence appears therefore to result in new rash of *Receptaculum rubrum*.

Our conservation area deserves better than to have a flare up of stark red blotches in town.



New name, revised logo

'Food to Feel Good About'

2023 was Ruthin's year at the top of the Sunday Times' best places to live in Wales. Our Monmouthshire correspondent reports on the 2024 successor and compares it with Ruthin

There's no doubt that Abergavenny punches well above its weight. Its population of about three times Ruthin's can sustain a larger town centre and more facilities, including a theatre and a cinema. It's slightly unfair competition. For example, whereas Ruthin now sprouts electric vehicle charging points, Abergavenny has a hydrogen refuelling bay for private cars. Both towns support an Aldi and a Tesco but only one is wealthy enough and big enough to offer that marker of middle class success—a Waitrose.

On the other hand, both towns enjoy a splendid backdrop of hills. On this, Ruthin has the edge.

The main Abergavenny streets are fully- and in one case newly-pedestrianised. Post-covid, those same streets have been energised by a vibrant and colourful outdoor café and bar culture complete with the occasional busker. Under levelling up, could this have happened in Ruthin? It seems Ruthin is more timid, fearful of the car lobby. Yet, Abergavenny shows how it can work.

Like Ruthin, Abergavenny is a tidy town. You won't find even one empty crisp packet eddying on the breeze. Its shopfronts are all in very good order: sadly, this isn't always the case in Ruthin.

What do people in Abergavenny think of their new status as Wales' No. 1? 'There are better places to live' said the proprietor of one of the two Abergavenny crafting shops. (Two? Not because there's a shortage of things to do surely.) It turns out she commutes in.

One of the staff in the tourist information office initially showed a little surprise before the corporate spiel kicked in to point out the many town and district assets.

A worker in the surprisingly large Nicholl's independent department store was concerned about Facebook. The Sunday Times cited the large 'Abergavenny Voice' page as an indication of community spirit but it turns out it is no different from any other similar group: 'It's full of grumbles. You name it, they complain about it.'

A Londoner who'd moved to Abergavenny over 30 years ago mentioned the quality of education locally. Ruthin can stand shoulder-to-shoulder on that point. He also said with some pride that one of four town dentists was actually taking on NHS patients. He put Waitrose firmly down to the number of London expatriots.



Hydrogen for cars

Ruthin may not have a Waitrose but, if captivated by Waitrose's 2022 'Food to Feel Good About' advertising campaign, these days at least we in Ruthin have the ability to order a home delivery.

And shouldn't that be 'Food about which to feel good'?



Pedestrian priority to good effect on Abergavenny

Levelling Update

In its response to the May 2024 consultation on the public realm elements of the Levelling Up projects, the Civic Association's primary concern was the missed opportunity at Castle Street (see p1). We were heartened at the response this received from other parties and news that members had included this in their own responses.

Not surprisingly, we welcomed the prospect of the removal of the roundabout and the additional pedestrian space this would permit.

We liked the treatment of Market Street but not with the red stripe that was a potential cycle path.

The Square itself would continue to be dominated by cars, parked or moving. There appeared little within the proposals to prevent through traffic in the



Consulting: puzzling over the red cycle path in Market Street

town (those motorists passing through and making no economic impact by actually stopping). Similarly, we were concerned about traffic speeds generally and on one way streets in particular.

Parking if allowed at all on the Square should first be for disabled motorists. There should be no parking allowed outside the Myddelton, Castle Hotel, HSBC and The Old Courthouse. We were concerned that motorists might simply litter the new Square by the wanton abandonment of their cars, exacerbating the problem we already see.

We suggested up to an hour's worth of off-street free parking to compensate for any loss on the Square.

We wondered whether plans for the Square might be more imaginative.

We wished to see the fine carboniferous fossiliferous kerbstones on the Square retained and reused elsewhere.

Through Traffic

In recent years, the proliferation of tractors through town is a case in point about through traffic using inappropriate streets.

It just demonstrates that traffic, like water, will take the easiest course. The route through the town centre is the most direct. And, in the era of 20 mph, motorists actually have an advantage travelling through town.

This is particularly felt on Castle Street, where heavy vehicles cause vibration to some premises.

There is currently no means of stopping such heavy vehicles using the town centre.

As part of the Levelling Up consultation, the Civic Association is calling for an environmental weight restriction on Castle Street and measures elsewhere to prevent through traffic.

Traffic parking in town for business or leisure purposes should always be welcomed.

Taking Time to Explore Joyce Clocks

In only a few moments,
HEATHER WILLIAMS
considers the
background to Joyce
Clocks and links locally
and farther afield

Joseph Peers had given 50 years as service as Denbighshire's Clerk to the Peace (the legal advisor to the magistrates) (Town and Around March 2021 and March 2024 at both at v.gd/radca).

As a commemoration, the decision was to build a monument with a fountain in St Peter's Square. In order to increase its practical utility, Joseph Peers kindly gave a clock which was made by J B Joyce & Co of Whitchurch. I was keen to discover why Whitchurch was called the 'home of tower clocks', so I thought that a visit to Whitchurch would be well worthwhile to find out more.

In 1690, William Joyce began making longcase (grandfather) and turret clocks in the North Shropshire village of Cockshutt, having learnt his trade as an apprentice in Wrexham. It flourished as a family business and William's grandson, James Joyce, built a factory in the High Street, Whitchurch in 1790. This building, which accommodated workshops and stables, can still be seen. One of the first duties of one of the engineers was to exercise the owner's horse at 6.00am each morning before starting work!

By 1830, under the ownership of James's son Thomas, the firm started making the first of its tower/turret clocks. In 1861 his son John Barnett Joyce, who established the company J B Joyce, was employing 13 men and nine

boys. Joyce then started to gain a reputation as a maker of the highest quality large clocks in public places throughout the world.

On a clock trail in Whitchurch various Joyce clocks can be seen. The parish church of St Alkmund boasts two of the most prominent clocks in the town. The original clocks were erected in 1849, with the dials made of oak boards. These were later replaced in 1977, and in 2011 the mechanism was changed from manual winding to electric.

One example of Joyce's most recent work is the electrically powered traditional style pillar clock which was installed in 1994 in the Bullring, which lies in the heart of the town. Each of the Roman numerals is finished in 23¼ carat gold leaf.

On the edge of the main town centre on Station Road an iconic red brick building can be seen, which is the purpose built factory opened in 1904 which Arthur Joyce built soon after taking over the family business. The front gable proudly states in gilded lettering 'JOYCE – TURRET CLOCK MANUFACTURERS' with one of the company's clocks above it. The move here from the High Street was to enable the company to use the railway to distribute its clocks more easily. The company used to pack the clocks into wicker baskets and employees would take them down the road to be dispatched.

One of Arthur's sons, known as Norman, took over the Clockworks and moved to live in a house opposite the factory gates. Time keeping, presumably, was something of an obsession for an horologist, so maybe it was so that he could keep an eye on the punctuality of his employees!

When Norman Joyce called time on his working life, in

1965 he sold the company to Smith of Derby. However J B Joyce & Co continued to operate as a separate company, with mainly restoration heritage work being carried out in the factory up until 2012. The building now houses Trevanion Auctioneers, which holds its sales in the building.

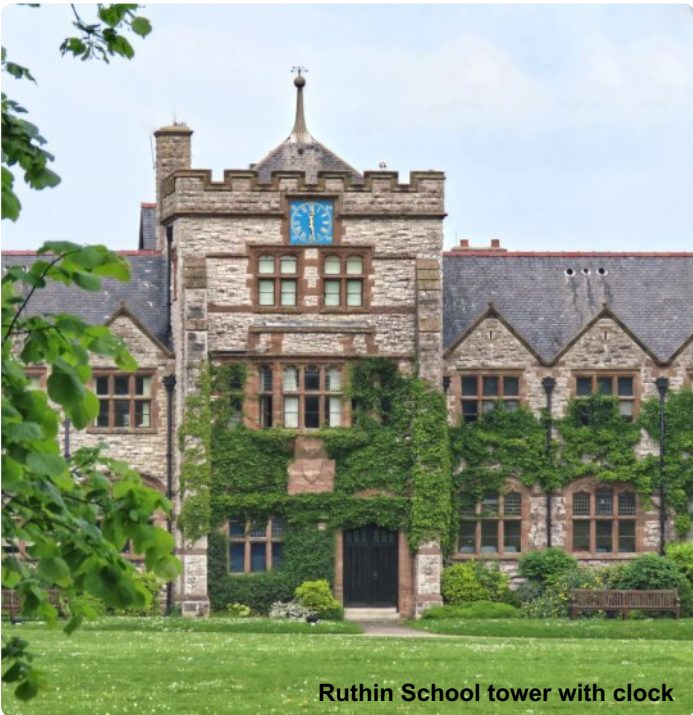
Apart from the Peers Memorial clock in Ruthin and the clocks in Whitchurch, you may be wondering where some other J B Joyce & Co clocks can be seen. There are some



Former premises, Whitchurch

other Joyce clocks close to home. The clock on the tower at Ruthin Castle, which was an experimental design, was made in 1852/3 by Thomas Joyce. More recently, in 1984, the late Queen Elizabeth II 'unveiled' a Joyce clock at Ruthin School to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the original founding of the school. It had been discovered that 1892 drawings showed that a clock was originally planned for the tower, but in the end was omitted (probably a cost cutting exercise). The Old Ruthinian Association (old boys) suggested installing a clock would be an appropriate way to mark the occasion and found the money. In addition, probably the electric clock installed in 1949 as a memorial to the fallen of World War II on the tower section of St Peter's spire is a Joyce clock, but I have not been able to confirm this so far.

Some of the clocks made throughout Wales and England were for owners of large country houses, such as Henry Robertson of Palé Hall, near Bala where there is an 1871 clock. Other clocks were prominently erected in towns and cities, such as the



Ruthin School tower with clock



Ruthin Castle turret clock (and peacock)

Changing Face of Chapels?

Eastgate clock, Chester (1897), the former Royal Exchange, Manchester, Christchurch College in Oxford (1888) and the Joseph Chamberlain Memorial Clock ('Big Joe') at the University of Birmingham, the tallest free-standing clock tower in the world, completed in 1908.

Railway stations were places of great importance for knowing the time (and still are, when the trains are running!) Notable Joyce clocks can be seen at Aberystwyth railway station, Holyhead railway station and harbour (1880), Lime Street station in Liverpool and Carnforth railway station (1895), the latter immortalised in the 1945 film 'Brief Encounter'.

However it was churches for which J B Joyce & Co clocks were most in demand for. In Wales nearby examples include St Deiniol's, Hawarden (1854), St Mary & St David, Flint (1869), Overton on Dee and Menai Bridge. In England examples are St Peter's, Farndon in Cheshire (1974) and St Mary's, Nantwich (1892). In addition clocks were made for cathedrals, which included Chester (1873), Worcester (1869), Salisbury (1883) and Lichfield (1891).

Outside Britain, commissions were as far away as the City Hall in Cape Town, the General Post Office in Sydney, the Custom House in Shanghai and the Post Office clock, Heritage Hall, Vancouver.

So when you next look at a clock when you are out to check the time, take time to consider whether you are looking at one of the clocks of the prolific clockmaker, J B Joyce.

■ For an explanation of what turret clocks are, try ccabr.org.uk. There's even a turret clock group which had a visit to various locations in South Wales in 2023. Turret Clock Group (ahsoc.org)

■ For information/downloadable clock trail see whitchurchheritage.wordpress.com/trails/clock-trail/

■ For more information on some of Joyce's clocks see link An A to Z of Joyce clocks 1862-1965 at yumpu.com

'Joyce' Wall Clocks

There are at least two wall or cabinet clocks in Ruthin marked as 'Joyce', though they are unlikely to have been manufactured by Joyce of Whitchurch. These might be relatives but the name 'Joyce' on the face of the clocks may be the retailer, not manufacturer.

One is in St Peter's Church bell-ringing room, marked 'H E Joyce, Ruthin'.

The second marked 'R G Joyce' is more accessible, in The Old Courthouse, with a fine pendulum system. (Another wall clock in The Old Courthouse is marked 'W D Rigby, Ruthin & Bala'.)

It took several centuries in what we used to call the 'Dark Ages' to convert Britain to a Christian country. Thereafter, there's been periods of change and even turmoil but always progress: the reformation, non-conformists, and in the early 20th century the disestablishment of the Church in Wales.

Yet, it's taken only about 40 years to see the virtual loss of the nation's core faith identity.

This in itself gives pause for thought and most would say concern. But what of the indirect consequences on our heritage and our built environment?

Ruthin still has all its remaining chapels intact (even Capel y Rhos, just about, externally [p.1]). Depending upon where you draw the boundaries, there are nine other chapels in the district. They add presence to the streetscene. At least two in town see solid congregations. But that is far from universal.

Each has its own internal and external features. Pendref has an imposing convex front set back from Well Street at an unusual angle. Y Tabernacl's architecture has been likened to a cathedral's. The plainer Capel Rhuthun ('Capel Cwrw') is as important as much for its connections and how it was established.

We heard during the autumn that one of Ruthin's most important chapels had closed. This is Capel Bathafarn (Maket Street). It was said that congregants were down to just three. For those involved, the decision would have been traumatic.

This spring, the red brick and sandstone ashlar dressed chapel is on the market. What might we expect?

Some chapels have found uses in somewhat secular and sometimes even profane uses. Some have been hacked around. This may yet be the fate of Bathafarn. The fact that there is protection as a grade II listed building is of comfort.

Perhaps the best we can hope for is that this two-storey structure terminates as a dwelling. This probably gives the best chance of protecting its key features. Given its two-storey interior and horseshoe gallery, it is ideally suited as a residence.

But there is a wider question: what might happen to other chapels as their congregants decline. It's very difficult and almost irreverent even to consider this prospect. But we may have reached a point where pastors, elders and members now need to think ahead. Is it better to plan now, to prevent any injudicious changes that have a negative impact?

If all this is rather demoralising, we need to remember that a decline in faith isn't universal, certainly not outside Europe. At home, at least two local chapels have solid congregations. The Church in Wales has seen an upswing in younger ordinands of the highest intellectual calibre and energy who are prepared to make a lifetime's vocation in Christian ministry.

St Peter's Ruthin is a case in point, with steadily growing congregations at both traditional services and informal settings. The shake-up in the mission area has proven to introduce a resurgence.

Such confidence has resulted in confidence to begin the Levelling Up-funded transformation at St Peter's, expected to start in September 2024.



Capel Bathafarn

Pool of Talent at Special Civic Association Event

The Ruthin and District Civic Association will be holding a special event at the end of June 2024 about the history of Pool Park, writes Rob Price.

The speakers will include local historian Arnold Hughes, Denbighshire's Conservation Officer Chris Evans and also Andrew and Louisa Godfrey from Godfrey Group, the new owners of the Pool Park property.

As mentioned in the spring 2024 Town and Around, the new owners are very keen to engage with the local community. This was again shown during May, when an article in the Denbighshire Free Press described a visit by pupils from Ysgol Gellifor to the house and grounds, and they have been invited to make regular trips to the Pool Park Estate to explore its exciting past and to watch its

transformation as it is carefully restored. Pool Park Estate, which has a history dating back centuries, is owned by Godfrey Group, who are restoring a number of properties on the estate for leisure and hospitality purposes. The



Read about Pool Park in the Spring 2024 issue at v.gd/radca

26-acre grounds contain a manor house dating back to 1824 with links to famous 17th century architect Inigo Jones, a coaching house still with the original ornate oak stalls carved for the estate's horses, and an unusual thermally-heated walled kitchen garden, popular in the 18th century.

The estate was once a deer park for Ruthin Castle, and the current site was originally built for the Bagot family, who to this day still have their principal residence at Blithfield in Staffordshire.

At the event on the 30th, Andrew

and Louisa Godfrey will be giving a presentation with their plans for the Pool Park buildings and grounds, with a short question and answer session to follow.

Hustings

We hope to hold hustings provisionally on June 20th ahead the General Election. Confirmation for Civic Association members will be by email. Otherwise, please check social media.

Last Chance to see...

... the Peers Memorial (town clock) before work starts in July 2024 after Festival Week.

Fiona Gale is offering a 'guided tour' of the memorial and introduction to the project on Sunday June 30th at 1.30p.m. She will provide details about the structure's history, as well as the planned conservation work.

No pre-booking is required. Meet at the memorial itself.

River Health

KATHY DANIELS reports on a recent Natural Resources Wales assessment of the Clwyd river catchment given in February to the U3A

Relatively recent new legislation has given Natural Resources Wales (NRW) more powers to monitor the chemical composition of river catchments and where appropriate to intervene. One key catchment is that for the River Clwyd.

The Clwyd catchment covers a part of Flintshire and a significant slice of Denbighshire, from the Clwyd's source in Clocaenog Forest to the coast at Rhyl. It is separated into two sub-catchments, one confusingly also called the Clwyd. The second, the Elwy sub-catchment, extends the overall catchment into Conwy county borough.



Within the top-level catchment are over 30 bodies of water: principally 30 rivers and a lake. There are five drinking water protected sites.

Within the catchment, about 52 per cent of surface waters enjoy 'good' status. About 42 per cent are 'moderate' and six per cent 'poor'. There are no surface water bodies at 'high' (the best) or 'bad' (the worst) overall status.

The Elwy Valley sub-catchment is largely wooded and is 'good' but there are issues where storm run-off in its more urban areas which has included sewerage.

The Clwyd sub-catchment, however, is more of a problem. 21 bodies of water are 'less than good'. This is a result of agricultural activity. The more intensive that activity, the worse the status. Cattle in sheds increase the opportunity for slurry tank run off, for example. There are question marks as to whether some stretches of the sub-catchment is compliant. It has affected fish stocks which, in terms, impact on bird life.

Quite recently, for example, the area around Pont y Plant and north towards the treatment station supported egret, heron and kingfisher. There have been no birds in the previous four years.

NRW is rising to the challenge. It is funding some river bank re-profiling, hedge-laying and stock fencing, to deter livestock from wading in. The more accessible for livestock, the greater the risk of animals entering the river and defecating. There is money for mitigations 2024/25 but but the challenge will be to secure sufficient funds in future years.

Seen in Passing...



Note the Llandeilo phone number

There may have been a few raised eyebrows at the appearance in Ruthin this April of an unusual shop front but unlike some new ones in Ruthin (p.3) you can't fault the façade and its attractive script.



Vehicles are growing in size and the bigger they are the more space we may arguably need to park them. This has an impact on The Square. The Civic

Continued on back page

Ruthin Exercises its Positivity

Roy Nassé sees more to be happy about

I felt particularly inspired by previous quarter's cover article, "Old Retail Dead? Not Yet it isn't".

I consider myself very much an optimist but, just like yawning can be infectious, so can giving a nod to the negative media narrative.

I admit to having ambled around Ruthin on an overcast, grey day, deliberating about what the town does 'not' have to offer. Thankfully, I have not fallen down this rabbit hole too often and appreciated the way the 'Not Yet it Isn't' article redressed the balance.

To list what is present in the town was quite a thought-provoking statement. It made me reflect on other benefits living here has to offer, which we can often take for granted.

I particularly enjoy sports and recreation, especially the group activities that are accessible here. The

following is no way an exhaustive list of available pursuits but ones with which I am familiar, which include: Ruthin Cycling Club, Ruthin Football Club, Ruthin Rugby Club, Ruthin Tennis Club, Outfit Outdoor Training, Golf Range, Foot Golf, Circuits Fitness Group, Ruthin Leisure Centre which has group classes, a swimming club, a triathlon club, six-a-side football etc., local Ramblers' Association, at least four local pilates & yoga groups, plus a number of outdoor activities care of the U3A.

We are also fortunate to have a Park Run event in Ruthin, every Saturday at 9.00 am. Involvement is totally free and run entirely by local volunteers. We meet prior at Ruthin Football Club in preparation to walk, run, jog or some combination of all

three, to complete the 3.1 miles (5 km). There is no upper age limit but at the opposite end children need to be at least 11 to run independently. You can also participate in the event with your dog on a lead or your child in a buggy.

If this is not your cup of tea, you can watch and encourage the participants or volunteer, then go for a 'paned' in town. The 'Ruthin Memorial Playing Fields Park Run' attracts 'Park Run tourists' every week who frequently comment on the friendliness of the people and the beauty of the area.

The Park Run is truly an 'inclusive' event which was established here in May 2022 and celebrated its 100th event in May 2024. Surely something worth celebrating in a town which has plenty of thriving recreational groups full of people with positive local narratives.



In Plain Sight

FIONA GALE continues her search

In the earlier days of post, letters were sent from one main centre (e.g. Ruthin) to another (e.g. Machynlleth) and then had to be collected from an office or shop where they had been left.

This left me wondering about post boxes and when they were first used. Post boxes always have the cypher of the monarch on them, so depending on the monarch the initials on post boxes will be different. In Ruthin we have a couple of Victorian postboxes, which have VR on them, so people must have been posting letters in these and letters being collected from them by the late nineteenth century.

A quick search online let me know that there is a postal museum in London and their useful website is a great source of information about the history of post boxes.

Reform of postal services in Britain took place in the 1840s under the influence of Rowland Hill and in the early 1850s the author Anthony Trollope, who at that time was working for the post office, visited France and Belgium where he saw roadside postboxes. Following his visits, the first trial of four postboxes took place in 1852 on Jersey, followed the following year by extending the trial to Guernsey. This was deemed a success and in 1853 postboxes started appearing on the mainland.

Initially the designs were not standard, nor was the colour. In 1859 the colour was set at green, but people complained that this was too subtle and boxes were not easily seen, and in 1874 a programme began to paint all the boxes red, although this took 10 years to complete. The bright red post boxes have become iconic.

But what about our post boxes in Ruthin? There is certainly no shortage of places to post your letters hereabouts. If you live in the centre of town you do not

have to walk far to find one and most of our villages have at least one boxes. Ruthin's oldest boxes date I think from the latter part of Victoria's reign and both that I

know of are wall mounted. One, pictured, is set into the wall of a house at the end of Mwrog Street, near the junction with Lôn Fawr. Another Victorian one is opposite you if you follow through red rocks, Llanrhydd Street, and come out on the Graigfechan Road (at the Old Smithy). So far, I have not found any boxes with either the cypher of Edward VII or Edward VIII. Needless to say, very few boxes were produced during the very short reign of Edward VIII, who abdicated after 326 days. Apparently there were only 200 across the whole of Britain.

We do have boxes dating from both George V and George VI, though. The cypher of George V was very simple and appears on a box set into the wall at the bottom of Market Street. Would this have been the nearest box to the rail station (which stood where the Bric roundabout now is)? There are also boxes dating to the time of George VI in Ruthin and apparently these are relatively rare. He was only monarch for 16 years and for five of those Britain was in the midst of World War Two and the required iron was all going towards the war effort, not replacing post boxes! The box nearest Ruthin Castle, set into the wall of Colomendy on Castle Street dates to George VI and was perhaps used a lot by



patients at the hospital at one time at Ruthin Castle.

Needless to say, the majority of post boxes in Ruthin date to Elizabeth II's reign, largely because she was on the throne for 70 years. The example pictured here is a fairly modern box at Hiraethog, near Cyffylliog.

Some of the earlier boxes also have cast into them the name of the manufacturer, but this has become increasingly difficult to read with the layers and layers of red paint obscuring some of the detail.

In recent years, it has become popular to find knitted (or crocheted) post box toppers and Ruthin is no exception. Fantastic creations regularly appear on the box outside the Post Office itself as well as the box opposite the Park Place. We are all posting things much less but do keep sending those Birthday and Christmas cards and therefore using our lovely post boxes. Look at them more closely as you do, to see when they were made and what type of box they are!

Images L to R: Victoria, Mwrog St; George V, Market Street; George VI, Castle Street; and Elizabeth II at Hiraethog, nr Cyffylliog

A link broken for good? Or is a fresh approach needed?

Brieg still has an appetite for its Welsh 'twin' Ruthin. That isn't necessarily the case here. ROB PRICE considers the options open and hopes for continued good relations with our important counterpart in Brittany

Between June 26th and 30th this year, there will be a group of special visitors here in the Ruthin area.

A trip has been organised from Ruthin's twin town in Brittany: Briec. We can expect around 40 people coming over to Ruthin for the four nights. Among the Bretons will be the town's bagpipe band, the Bagad, who will perform at the Ruthin Festival's Top Dre event on Saturday June 29th. The Bagad have been in Ruthin several times, most recently in 2018, and have been invited over to visit and perform by the Ruthin Festival Committee on the occasion of the Festival's 30th anniversary.

There will, however, be a significant change this time in comparison with trips from Brittany to Ruthin in the past. Sad is the fact that there is no longer a twinning committee here in Ruthin, for the first time since the link between Briec and Ruthin was established in 1993.

While the twinning committee has weakened over the years, the coronavirus period resulted in the remaining members making the decision to end the committee. The feeling was that interest in the link was waning, and the group that maintained the link and organised activities was getting smaller and smaller.

That, however, raises some the questions. What about the link between Ruthin and Brieg? If the link is to be maintained, who will do so from now on? Indeed, is there a future for such a link?

It was the Town Council here in Ruthin who signed the twinning agreement with its equivalent in Briec in 1993, and the Council has provided a lot of support for the link over the years.

The Mayor at the time was Emrys Wynne and his mayoral year was extended slightly so that he remained in office to see the formal signing.

The impact of Briec on Ruthin can be found in many places. Ruthin has named its main roundabout after Briec to commemorate the link, and a number of Ruthin's groups and organisations have been over for visits including Côr Rhuthun and Ruthin Rugby Club.

Also Ruthin's annual festival: Briec had a similar festival on its town square which inspired some, such as the late

Gruff Hughes and others to start this festival here in Ruthin.

The appetite for the twinning likely came from a desire to build links with other countries, at a time when going abroad and jet setting to faraway places was not as common as it is now. But possibly the ability to travel to all sorts of places abroad then weakened people's appetite to go to the same place on a regular basis. The trips from Ruthin to Brieg were biennial at one stage. Anyone from Ruthin who has been to Briec with the twinning can attest to the warmth of the welcome as well as the best opportunity they will have in a while to brush up their French! People did have different experiences with the twinning over time.

The Future of our Twinning

Now, what of the future? The link is still there and could be taken up but by whom? What can be done?

The Festival Committee will be making the arrangements in terms of accommodation and an itinerary of activities for the guests this year, but cannot do this on a regular basis. The fact is that a number of the twinning committee members from Brieg are coming over, which will feel strange with no equivalent here in Ruthin and possibly makes Ruthin look poor by comparison.

In any case, I think the days of bi-annual visits are now gone. But possibly a small group of people meeting on a semi-regular basis (such as quarterly) could keep the link going.

Such a group could almost spring into action if there is an appetite by people from Ruthin to visit Briec, and to make the arrangements this end if the Bretons want to come over, and organise some activities from time to time to raise awareness and funds etc.

Then again, it's possible the the appetite for twinning has passed.

Perhaps this year's trip will once again raise awareness and interest in Ruthin about the town's link with a small town in Brittany. We shall see.

If anyone is interested in the trip from Brittany or Ruthin's link with Brieg, get in touch by sending a message to info@gwylrhuthunfest.cymru.



The Festival at 30

by GWION TOMOS JONES, Chair of the Festival Association

The town's annual festival is marking a special anniversary this year. It's 30 years since the first event was held.

The festival was started in 1994, as the Ruthin Twinning Festival, but within a couple of years had dropped the word 'twinning' from the event name. That held in 1994 was successful as well as being the first time apparently since VE Day 1945 that the Square had been officially closed to road traffic.

Interestingly, there wasn't an event held in 1995, possibly to make changes and plan them for the next event held, but an event was again held in 1996, and has been annual ever since. In the early 2000s, the festival was moved from late August to late June/early July, with possibly the Faenol Festival near Bangor and so many other events being held in August as a factor.

The festival week will be running from June 21st to 30th, with the popular Top of Town event scheduled for Saturday 29th. Performers that day are Bwncath, Band Pres Llaeggub and

Fleur de Lys but also local artists Shambolix, Tocsidos Bler, Meibion Marchan, Côr Nantclwyd and local schools. The festival week programme is full once again of varied and diverse events.

This year, we shall be joined by the piping band from Ruthin's twin town in Brittany, Breig, to perform at the Top of Town event, after their previous visit to the festival in 2018. Also, this year there will an evening gig on the night of the Top of Town event at Ruthin Castle from 8.30pm onwards with a number of folk artists and choirs.

There are only around 14 of us on the festival committee, so organising and managing such an event is a big task.

Cllr Jabez Oakes: New Ruthin Mayor Speaks Out

Over the past few weeks, the committee has been using social media mainly to dispel myths about the festival. The main one being that it is an event organised by Denbighshire County Council. This has never been true. The festival has always been organised by a committee of local volunteers since the very beginning. The local authority is involved in terms of granting applications for road closures, licensing and street cleaning etc. but nothing beyond that.

The other myths are things like glass is allowed on the Square at the Top Dre event: it is not and is in fact prohibited. Another is that the festival is just the event on the square: the truth is that it is a week-long series of events ranging from concerts and recitals, to plays and workshops, to art and craft sessions and literary events. The festival committee organise the Top of Town event, but the rest of the week's are organised by local organisations and societies to raise funds and/or awareness, as well as simply to have a good time!

For us as a committee, however, the Top of Town event alone this year will cost in the region of £18,000— a significant increase on previous years, and highlights the importance of every adult attending the event giving at least £5 to gain entry. If everyone does this, then we can make every effort to avoid a price increase and, besides, it's not too bad for seven hours of entertainment!

The festival committee is also looking to the future. This year we have started a project with the Denbighshire Music Co-operative and Ysgol Brynhyfryd to develop new bands in the local area, and have sponsored a new football kit at Ruthin Town Football Club in Breton colours.

We are stepping up our efforts in terms of securing volunteers for the Top of Town event, and the Bretons being over at the time of the festival, which the festival committee is leading on in terms of organisation.

Also, the festival this year will be independently evaluated with a development plan created for the next few years (2025-30) and an assessment made of the festival's economic impact in terms of the local economy. We are looking to engage more with local businesses and have an even more varied programme of events in future years, with more opportunities for children and young people to perform. There are also plans to modernise the festival's branding.

The festival has already completed a number of different development projects including improved electrical facilities in the Peers Memorial (clock tower) and The Old Courthouse, a sustainability project funded by the Clocaenog Windfarm Fund, and reviewing and updating the festival's health and safety documentation.

But the focus for now is the event in 2024 in a few weeks time – and we hope everyone joins in!

As I find myself at the beginning of my mayoral year, it is apparent that Ruthin faces many challenges both old and new, part of the national picture and of the locality. There is a feeling that some of these problems 'just are' or seem to be on a continuous cycle of disappointment without answers. I feel it is important that the mayor and the Town Council, as they have recently done provide focus and leadership.

It is often remarked that local government in general cannot change much or people do not always know exactly what it does. This is especially so when it comes to town or community councils. I would argue that this is because there is very little this tier *have* to do, as opposed to being able to do. Because of this, among other things, there is also a scope of 'voluntarism', as opposed to county councils and higher. Another reason for this is county councillors and county officers are paid, whereas only the small staff of town and community councils are, while the rest of the machinery is voluntary. This is not just councillors *per se*, but also the vast array of different groups, people and ideas through which volunteers contribute. Ruthin in particular, in terms of its harmony and well-being, relies extensively on its volunteers. This, I would argue, does not lead to respect from other forms of local government, but often to an unfounded perception of 'amateurism' cast upon us.

Local government has been under an uncompromising weight of cost-saving and doing more with less. County council duties remain but the money to do so is dramatically less. Town and community councils, because of a lack of such duties, are in quite an envious position. As a consequence, however, we may begin to see county councils retreating from what they are required to do and seeking financial help from town and community councils. We may be asked for a 'cash injection' or such like, to ensure these services continue at the level we wish. I would suggest this is the wrong approach.

Say the library in Ruthin were to be part-funded by the Town Council. This could invoke a sense of responsibility in town councillors that they are part of ensuring the maintenance of the essential service of knowledge that libraries provide. I would submit that being asked to provide funds is not the same as a town/community council taking on a duty or service. We would be seen as a bank and feel as such, rather than a part of local government. It would be a section of our funds, which are meant for the specific powers that we possess, being used for services over which we may not necessarily have control. This would be unacceptable.

A role Ruthin Town Council has always undertaken seriously is a formal consultee on planning matters. This is not only to the extent of commenting on every planning application which is made in Ruthin. It also

includes developing a local strategic outlook on how planning, town design, and development should proceed into the future. 'Ruthin Future' is a strategic process which the Town Council has prepared, consulted on, and used in various ways over the last decade or so.

By contrast, the County Council perhaps understandably has still not progressed with a new Local Development Plan, due in 2018. Planning matters are still being considered using the LDP first published in 2013, eleven years ago. This demonstrates the issue I speak of above: there is not necessarily an equivalency between how different aspects of local government works based on its function and to view one as less capable than the other because of its size or the nature of its membership, simply isn't based on the evidence of the last few years.

This begs the question, how much of a role should the Town Council have in both a financial and civic manner? This is not simply an argument for decisions being made locally but also for proper and more efficient resource management. It is to frame the service-cutting problems as, 'Can this be run more efficiently at a local level', rather than 'Keep running it the same, but with money from other local pots'.

Recent changes to library services are a stark example. The original proposal was for the library to be closed some days in Ruthin but that was okay because Denbigh's would then be open. The obvious objection to this is that Ruthin and Denbigh libraries separate with separate users who often would not use them if they weren't very local. But the other objection is the assumption that Ruthin library's users want it to be closed on these days. Town councillors, who had visited the library, were quick to say that one of the days it would be closed was easily the library's busiest.

I am not advocating for the Town Council to fund the local library or indeed to take it over; nor to fund or secure anything else. But I am arguing against the *status quo*, that it is assumed that we are left as consultees while massive service changes are happening in our town. The apparent arrogance of assuming those at the local level know less than those elsewhere leads to silly decisions like closing a library when busy or not completing an LDP or messing up a capital project handed to them on a platter.

I would argue that the residents of Ruthin are let down because a crucial forum of discussion, funds, and decision-making continually being treated like a budding volunteer group rather than a cornerstone of local government. Each mayor has sought to change this and give Ruthin, its residents & town councillors the respect it deserves. I intend to do the same.



Seen in Passing... from p8

Association has come up with a simple solution. Buy smaller cars! Cheaper to run and better for emissions, too. Seem dwarfed by a monster truck is this diminutive 1960s Austin Mini van.



This vehicle on The Square appeared to have everything but the proverbial kitchen sink. We were particularly please, however, to note a copy of Town and Around on top of the pile.



It took the authorities several months to fix a water leak on Rhos Street,



prompting our Treasurer to comment that this might actually be the source of the River Clwyd.

Given news that we might have to sacrifice our public lavatories (p.3), our Treasurer also wondered about the fate of the road sign on the A494 near Llanferres directing motorists to Ruthin's nearest conveniences. We assume that the letter 'P' refers to 'parking'.



To those who succeed at their GCSEs and who aspire to join the sixth form, we wonder why Ysgol Brynhyfryd has introduced this note of caution.



Ahead of the arrival of our friends from Brieg this month (June) (p10), we wonder whether the Trunk Road agency could clean the signage.



Cymdeithas Ddinesig Rhuthun a'r Cylch
Ruthin and District Civic Association

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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

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

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Ruthin & District Civic Association

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Annual subscription rates are £10 (individual) or £15 (joint/family). If you are not sure if you are a paid up member, please check with the Treasurer.

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.

(1) Name _____

(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)