

Town & Around O Gwmpas y Dre

Autumn 2024



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

Circular Argument

It's disappointing to note that since July there has been a petition against the levelling of our hated St Peter's Square roundabout (under Levelling Up) and the one way system in support of such a change.

Those opposed had a perfectly legitimate opportunity to say so during the two months of consultation in February to March 2024. The results of the consultation show a majority in favour of the roundabout's removal. Earlier consultations under the Town Council's 'Ruthin Future' have also emphatically favoured the removal of the roundabout.

We trust our County Councillors will respect the results of the 2024 consultation.

Let us reiterate the outcome of the 2024 exercise for what was a through

consultation event during which every household in Ruthin received an invitation to contribute and there was door-knocking for those more immediately affected.

Two thirds of those responding strongly or somewhat agreed with the removal of the roundabout. In fact, nearly half of all respondents *strongly agreed*.

Overall, about 70 per cent felt that the proposals would make St Peter's Square more attractive to shoppers and visitors. All the better, then, to welcome people into town, who then spend money and contribute to its sustainability in an otherwise increasingly challenging retail environment.

It's as if those who disagreed feel



that they can have a second bite, something denied the rest of us, the majority who wish to see positive

Continued on p2

Open Doors 2024: dates for your diaries

The Civic Association's Open Doors in Ruthin takes place over the weekend of September 7th and 8th. Read on for some bonuses...

This year, there is an extra session, a talk on the Friday evening, September 6th.

As in previous years, a number of buildings within the town are open. You will be able to get a taste of the architecture of Ruthin from the early Castle and timber framed buildings through to several of the 19th century Chapels and also 20th century buildings.

Also as in previous years, several of the chapels will be open, including Pendref and Tabernacl, and several of the timber framed buildings including once again the popular Gorphwysfa on Saturday 7th, as well as more modern buildings such as the Naylor Leyland Centre.

We anticipate St Peter's Church being open but this will depend on the start of its 'Levelling Up' works.

Linking in with other projects going on in the town, there will be talks and walks about the works of renowned Victorian architect John Douglas who designed the Peers Memorial Clock Tower, Ruthin School and two houses in the town.

This is as well as a focus on the Women's Peace Petition of 1923.

In 1923 nearly 400,000 women across Wales signed a petition asking the women of America to try to persuade their government to join the League of Nations, a precursor to the United Nations. Local textile artist Bethan M. Hughes has been inspired to produce work based on the petition and particularly those women in Ruthin who signed, over 600 of them at a time when women could not sign in their own name a mortgage, some legal documents and many other things.

There will be a talk on the Friday evening in the English Presbyterian Church, Wynnstay Road. This was the church of the organiser of the Petition in

Ruthin, Edith Evans.

On the Saturday morning Bethan M. Hughes will be leading a walk and when she is not giving a talk or leading a walk she will be at her studio in the Craft Centre hosting drop in sessions linked to the Petition and her work.

On the Saturday afternoon (7th) there will be a fascinating talk in The Old Courthouse about the architect John Douglas and the many buildings he designed and, on the Sunday morning, a walk to look at his buildings in Ruthin. See opendoorsruthin.org.uk for details via the QR code.

Once again, we have produced a leaflet which has been available throughout the town.

■ **The Civic Association acknowledges with gratitude the grant from Ruthin Town Council**

■ Stop Press, p11



From the Chair

I was born in Ruthin and have lived here all my life, a considerable number of years, I might add. I have always been passionate about the town and proud of what we are blessed with. I still am,. However, walking through town today, on the main streets, is not a particularly pleasant experience at present.

Well Street, despoiled by several empty premises, obviously a sign of the times unfortunately, but nevertheless a less than welcoming sight, is also marred by the ghastly signage on the Turkish Off-licence, Turkish Barbers and Vape shop, all on listed buildings, certainly unsuitable, in my view.

Walk up on to St Peter's Square, an iconic square, and you are met with a building site, in the main. Our lovely Square looks awful and I feel sorry for the businesses still trading there. Builders' vans occupy most of the available parking on the Square, showing little regard for disabled people, parents with buggies, or indeed shoppers in general. There is absolutely no thought for residents or visitors whatsoever. The former Barclays Bank

building looks dreadful from the outside, with goods being piled up the windows inside, old furniture and other items placed outside, and the most dreadful industrial looking ramp placed outside. This building deserves better than this. Surely something can be done to at least tidy up the building, which again is iconic to the Square.

Walking down Clwyd Street, your eyes alight on the former barbers and Candy Shack building, where whitewash adorns the windows, a real eyesore, and it has been like this for some years now. Again, I ask can landlords be made to do something about this?

Further down you reach Ocean Pearl, another work in progress, where a hole has been punched through the gable end and boarded up! It has been like this for a while now and that, coupled with the awful appearance of the public toilets nearby, hardly gives a good impression for those entering our lovely park.

At the top end of Mwrog Street, the Duke Stores is no longer trading and looks abandoned.



I apologise if you find this sorry reading but I really feel Ruthin is being let down badly. There doesn't appear to be much by the way of pride in our town any longer and this saddens me.

I hope Denbighshire County Council takes note and tries to see this through the eyes of Ruthin residents. We deserve better and so do visitors who come to see our lovely town.

Anne Roberts
Chair of the Civic Association

Conversion Therapy

It's a little ironic that during the day cars travelling through town outnumber pedestrians shopping or enjoying our town. We think that there are five times the number of moving cars to moving pedestrians.



How can we convert through traffic into parked cars whose occupants contribute to our economy?

The most obvious way is to ensure our town centre has something to offer them. Gone are the days when we can rely on retail as an attractor. Take Rhyl. Retail and service industries were seen as the saviour of its High Street. Stores like Marks & Spencer then vacated. The strategy subsequently focussed on independent traders as you might find on Bodfor Street. Bodfor Street traders say they are on their knees. The new Queen's Market development off the promenade was designed with

independents in mind but the conditions do not seem right for them. It's empty.

Town centres need to evolve. We see this in Ruthin. A number of admittedly unfinished developments have or are expected to feature eateries. New in town are Nest (Clwyd Street), and Caffé Grande and No. 11 (both on The Square). We expect to see the Myddelton and Carniboar brought back into use at some point. Meanwhile, at the other end of the market, Wetherspoon's goes from strength to strength.

But even this sector is struggling a little. Costa has closed, for example. The silver lining is that family-run traders now benefit, including those in the heritage building Siop Nain, with its growing reputation for lunchtime food.

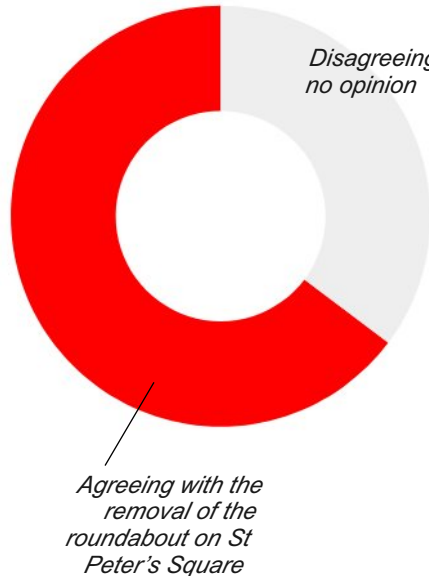
In spite of its short-term disruption, Levelling Up may yet help. It's certainly designed to do so. It can and should provide the right atmosphere to encourage people to park up rather than drive through, to convert them into visitors to wander around and take therapeutic advantage of what could be cafés and watering holes that can spill out onto the public realm.

Roundabout from P1

change. This is no doubt fuelled by social media.

The roundabout can only ever benefit motorists. It certainly does nothing to assist those who actually wander round our town, spending time and money there. This includes motorists who park and walk.

There are no plans to pedestrianise the Square. Traffic will continue to use it via a revised carriageway and one-way approach in via Well Street and out via Market Street (or Clwyd Street, two-way). This enables a greater pedestrian priority and more pedestrian reservoir space.



Beyond the Ruthin fringe areas already proposed, it's disappointing to see that Natural Resources Wales has discounted Ruthin and district as candidates for the proposed north east Wales national park. Ruthin has therefore been 'parked'.

Part of the Castle grounds are 'in' the proposed national park boundary but other than that there's nothing for Ruthin or the landscape to its west.

The Civic Association had argued that the whole town, and the area to the west towards Clocaenog Forest and Llyn Brenig should be included within the new national park. This was because of the landscape and its recreational opportunities. As regards the town, we reasoned that buildings of notable heritage and character met the criteria.

NRW concluded, however, that 'only a small area of the town is of built conservation value and character'.

We do not understand what they mean by this. The whole town centre is a conservation area and it is one of very few towns in the North East that can claim this honour. Obviously the suburbs are just that, modern dormitory settlements. But isn't that true of Brecon, deliberately included in the current Bannau Brycheiniog national park.

The selection criteria was said to include an area's environmental significance, cultural heritage, scenic beauty and potential for recreational use. On most if not all these criteria, in our opinion Ruthin's case remains strong.

NRW has stated that it has tried to balance conservation needs with the interests of local residents and businesses. Inclusion would nevertheless have resulted in the potential for increased funding and infrastructure improvements, not to mention visitor numbers.

Further consultations and assessments are expected as part of the decision-making process, which will determine whether the whole region will ultimately be selected for national park status.

■ Included are the current national landscape (AONB) area, which is extended to form a new buffer area towards the east of but not touching Ruthin.

Levelling Update

We have received positive responses to our appeal to Denbighshire County Council to include part of Castle Street within the public realm 'Levelling Up' project.

It's final inclusion will now depend on costs. The County Council is undertaking survey work to establish what this might be.

We live in hope.

Readers will recall that the Civic Association joined with the Friends of Nantclwyd and the Ruthin Castle Hotel & Spa to appeal for Castle Street's inclusion, at least from St Peter's Square to Nantclwyd y Dre (*Town and Around, June 2024*). The Town Council has added its weight.

This was because of the merit of the street in heritage terms alongside safety concerns where footways are inadequate or in parts non-existent.

Meanwhile, there was a good level of interest from the public to the consultation held between February and March 2024, with more than 700 individual responses or direct engagements. We also understand that the majority were very positive: at least two-thirds.

Of the two proposals for Market Street, that without the bright red cycleway was favoured.

It would appear that the majority of respondents shared the views of the Civic Association.

We thank responding members who used our special Levelling Up April online edition as a briefing.

One area of disappointment is likely to

be the surface of the shrunken carriageway across St Peter's Square. For pragmatic reasons associated with the amount of 'utilities' under it (power, water, telecoms), the finish cannot be to a heritage design as previously anticipated. The County Council will nevertheless try to blend the colour to make it as in-keeping as possible. This, then, we trust will still give the necessary pedestrian priority.

✓ Nearly 70 per cent of respondents preferred the 'informal street' for Market Street. Cyclists may still use Market Street as a contraflow without a red stripe of a cycleway.

✓ The majority felt that the proposals would not impact them in how they use and access the town centre.

✓ 40% thought it would encourage them to visit more for a range of activities.

✓ Even more positively, two thirds expected the proposals to change how they travel into the town centre, citing an expectation that they would walk or cycle more.

✓ There were considerable comments from those who wished for 'blue badge' parking on St Peter's Square. (There is currently none.)

Following the consultation, the County Council's Cabinet at its last session before the summer recess approved unanimously that the scheme now goes forward to detailed design.

Mothballed

Amid much to commend the County Council for its wildlife re-meadowing, was late July just too early to crop its urban set-aside wild flower grasslands?

Yes. And here's why. As late as mid-August, our two fronds of garden ragwort were still smithed with cinnabar caterpillars. In the bad old days, we would've pulled up our own ragwort, or nuked it within 1/16th of an inch of its life with herbicide. We know better now.

With the mowing, similar cinnabars residing on the wildflower meadows now have no food. This means fewer will pupate to emerge as vibrantly coloured black and red moths. This is a potential reduction of a species that the Council's biodiversity is attempting to protect.

Moths have a bad name but they are pollinators and they're a significant food source for bats and owls—even if the cinnabar itself is likely to be toxic thanks to its ragwort food.

And not just moths. Other insect

pollinators such as bees were still about and they need a source of food. Gone are the thistles and late-flowering knapweed beloved of bees. The thistles seem to attract a variety of bee not so evident in numbers.

It's been a poor year for moths and butterflies. Garden buddleia has almost been devoid of them. Indeed, butterflies are a key indicator species: problems with them and we can expect problems within the wider environment.



A Disappointing Response

We were a little disappointed in the response we received following our correspondence to the Minister responsible *inter alia* for 20 mph.

We had suggested that his promised review should largely keep the civilising 20 mph intact, requesting that there should be changes in policy to allow for an increase only in very limited circumstances. These might be on the fringe of the current 20 mph limits where there is limited housing or through industrial estates where there are no or very few dwellings. This is the pragmatic approach adopted in September 2023 by the Welsh Government on the roads it manages (in Ruthin, the A494, notably at



Few keep to 20 mph on Lôn Parcwr industrial estate but just here is 20 necessary?

Planning

The request to convert the former Subaru car dealership to A1 retail is not something upon which the Civic Association would wish to comment. Yes, the land is probably zoned for industrial use but there are precedents locally in terms of retail, not least the sale of cars on the site.

The application is on the part of a well known name: Gregg's. Will Gregg's have an impact on the town? It's difficult to object on this basis. This was nevertheless an argument used during the planning process ahead of Tesco's. In fact, Tesco applied for permission to expand (before opening) and Denbighshire's Planning Committee considered this (after Tesco opened) and refused permission for the additional square footage on grounds of its impact on Ruthin. Nearly 20 years later and those councillors were proven right.

Chatwin's offers a similar service and has invested in the town. Chatwin's business these days is less bakery and more hot & cold food takeaway. This mirrors Gregg's. Gregg's might also adversely affect Becws Islyn, the bakery that has breathed new life into Clwyd Street. Becws Islyn has recently taken over Lôn Parcwr's Bakehouse (another example of retail on the industrial estate) and a stone's throw from Gregg's.

We do wonder whether there is room for all these daylight hours hot & cold food retailers. Gregg's is a strong brand and no matter what happens will most likely endure.

Gwyddelwern and Llanbedr).

We were concerned that there may be an increase in speeds on main A and B roads in urban areas, even though people live on them and they walk alongside them.

We pointed out that traffic speeds on Rhos Street and Mold Road were particularly high. In spite of two schools, speeds even at school opening times were often at or above 30 and even some parents were noted doing this.

We asked for enforcement in Ruthin, especially on Mold Road.

The generic response from an official suggested that the Minister was in 'listening mode'. It appeared that the official had not actually 'listened' to the specific concerns raised and there was no evidence that our concerns would be fed into the policy review. This included taking into account the point that children walking to school did so on roads other than actually outside the schools themselves.

Subsequently, the Welsh Government published in July 2024 new guidance for local authorities. This principally examines place and movement criteria.

According to the guidance for highways authorities, in terms of the 'place' criteria, 30mph limits *could* be used where:

- A main or strategic road is outside town or village centres or high streets.
- Roads outside other high-density areas and away from other places that attract frequent pedestrian and or cyclist trips.
- Roads with 'very low density' of housing and or very few houses altogether (fewer than 32 properties per mile).
- Roads with residential and retail premises only on one side with no need to cross the road to access services or facilities.

In terms of the 'movement' criteria, 30mph limits could be used on:

- Strategic roads, such as those for freight or important bus corridors
- Minor roads in industrial areas with low demand for pedestrian or cyclist traffic, or areas surrounded by open land (excluding playing fields).

Positives Emerge from Bin Backlog

We were perhaps a little premature in defending the County Council's new waste collection scheme ('Mixed' Reaction to 'Penny' Pinching, Summer 2024). Things soon got out of hand and readers will be all too aware of the difficulties (and apologies) that ensued.

There are nevertheless at least two positives the came of out the mayhem that need recording.

The first is the flexibility of County Council staff to 'muck in' (pun intended). We saw a superlative effort on the part of a range of staff outside their day jobs. Amidst the opprobrium on social media, we owe them and the regular crews our thanks for sorting missed collections.

One thing we have noticed from residents is that not all boxes are full every week. It would help speed collections for everyone if households didn't put out trolley boxes that were virtually empty. There is no

requirement to do so weekly, unless needed.

Allied to this, people remark that it's the plastics that fill the quickest. Separating recyclables as we now do, we realise and can easily see just how much plastic we consume.

This isn't the County Council's fault. They just have to clear it up. Maybe the second positive in all this, now we recognise it, is to try to reduce plastics, something that has been creeping up without our even realising it, thanks to supermarkets.



Redundant: bin graveyard at Lôn Parcwr

Making a Statement

Fiona Gale looks forward to the completion of work on the Peers Memorial

You cannot help but notice that the St Peter's Square Peers Memorial (clock tower) is now smothered in scaffolding. The conservation work has started. All the funding is now in place to complete the work and to enhance the community activities which run alongside the practical work.

Recently there has been an exhibition in The Old Courthouse which has given more information about the memorial, the clock, its architect and Joseph Peers for whom it was built.

The work proposed will be a delicate cleaning of the structure with some repointing and the occasional bit of stone replacement. The contractor is R Moore Building Conservation Ltd.

We hope to organise a time when the contractor can talk through their approach and the detail of what is taking place.

The end result will be a monument that looks brighter and cleaner and is set for the next 50 years or so, a fitting centre to a revamped St Peter's

Square.

The community work has included work in the Record Office to find out more about Joseph Peers; a group of quilters developing mini quilts inspired by the memorial which will be displayed in Nantclwyd y Dre during September; and talks and of course the exhibition.

Still to come in the autumn will be some craft days in the Craft Centre, work in the local primary schools to talk about the history of the building and the role of Clerk to the Justices of the Peace, a role held in the nineteenth century by Joseph Peers for 50 years.

The project will also play a central role in this year's Open Doors activities. During the Open Doors weekend (September 7th and 8th) there will be a talk about the architect John Douglas and a tour of his buildings in Ruthin which include Ruthin School and two domestic buildings at the lower end of Bryn Goodman. One of these, Dedwyddfa, will have a limited number of tours to see some of the interior features over the weekend.

It is anticipated that the conservation work to the monument will take around two to three months to complete, which means all work will

be complete before the cold weather sets in and lime mortars cannot be used. Let's hope that all is complete by the time the next edition of Town and Around is produced and we can report a successful piece of work with pictures of the refreshed structure!



An Item of Peers Memorabilia

As we look forward to the conclusion of the Levelling Up public works at the Peers Memorial, the document displayed by Fiona Gale at her April 2024 talk on the Peers Memorial has always fascinated me, writes Kathy Daniels

It commemorates the 1849 celebration of the coming of age (21) of Joseph Peers Jnr, when his father, the Clerk of the Peace for Denbighshire, gathered through public subscription £202 11/6 towards the 'Poor's Fund'. Added to this was 'hides and fat of two oxen', giving a total of £205 1/6 (about £22,000 today).

The secretary for the public subscription, one William Davis, whose name appears at the bottom right of the account, was my great-great uncle and his roles in Ruthin were as the schoolmaster at Jesus Chapel, Llanfair; as writer of the 'Handbook to the Vale of Clwyd'; and reporter for the Denbigh & Caernarfon Herald.

Mr William Davis contributed 10/6 (about £100 today) but his brother

Benjamin (my great-great grandfather) gave a guinea, outdoing William by 10/6. (Benjamin was Clerk to the Board of Guardians at the workhouse and was Superintendent Registrar. He also briefly worked for Joseph Peers Snr).

Guineas or in a few cases multiples thereof were a popular donation. Understandably, Joseph Peers Snr, Esq gave the most (£25). The next most generous was Williams Jones, Esq, of Record Street (£10).

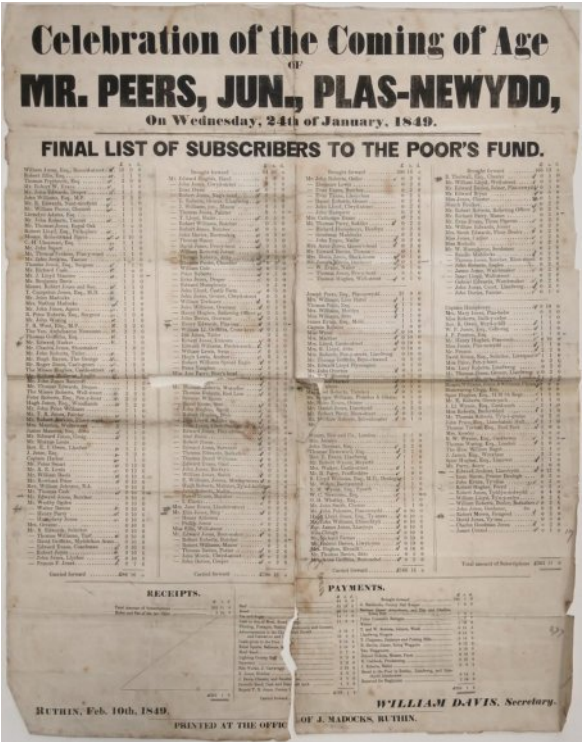
There were a number of generous publicans whose premises no longer exist today as taverns: The Cross Keys (probably Well Street's), The Unicorn, The Swan, The Anchor, The Spread Eagle, The Waterloo, The Red Lion, The Star, The Nag's Head, The Hand, The Turf, The Royal Oak, The Queen's Head and The Eagles.

Most of the contributing artisans and tradespeople held professions that also no longer exist, including a tinman, watchmaker, seedsman, carrier, flour dealer, relieving officer (associated with the Poor Laws, determining the amount of 'relief' required), turnkey (prison officer), boot-maker, shoemaker, nailor, flax-dresser (linen worker), saddler, draper and

coachman.

The Hon. William Bagot managed a whole guinea, as did Spier Hughes, Esq, H M 84th Regiment.

Donating 5/- was one 'Edward Evans, Gaol'. Presumably he wasn't an inmate.



Swimming with the Tide at Pool Park

The June Civic Association event on Pool Park saw contributions from owners the Godfreys, Conservation Surveyor Chris Evans and local historian Arnold Hughes. About 150 people gathered to hear of the plans for the site

In November 2023, the Godfreys bought Pool Park. Under the previous owners Roberts Homes, there had been considerable deterioration of the site. Roofs had collapses, the interior had been gutted and trees fallen. Pool Park had spent more than 15 years on a risk register and was the focus for ‘urban explorers’, theft and arson. The intention remains to ensure the house has a future as part of a successful business. Roberts Homes had few conditions but one was clear: the Godfreys could not emulate the original (and defunct) plans for a residential

care facility as proposed 30 years ago by Roberts.

A RICS evaluation estimated that rebuilding the house would cost £11m just for the shell and with other work this is said to double. It was therefore imperative to ensure that the site worked as a business to afford redevelopment and reconstruction. Plans, which are not expected to be approved or to start till 2025 include:

- The reconstruction and extension of the boiler house as the Godfrey Group’s head office.
- The lodge (‘twixt house and boiler room’) would become a holiday let.
- There would be a further 10-bed holiday let.
- Rebuilding of the walled garden.
- There are to be glass lodges taking advantage of the views.
- Tree houses were planned as holiday accommodation.

All the above are classed as ‘enabling development’ for the full renovation of the manor house. This would be restored as near to its original condition as possible. It would become a 20-bed property for hire for corporate events,

weddings and functions. It would be private from the rest of the retreat.

The Godfreys were keen to stress that the site would not be a hostel for migrants (as was rumoured).

You could tell Louisa Godfrey, a former head teacher now part of the family business, would very much like to live there herself. With costs of £22m involved she had to concede that this would be somewhat optimistic.

Denbighshire planners welcomed the proposals (subject to formal planning permissions). Provided they can convince locals, the Godfreys seem to be swimming with the tide.



Parking

It was perhaps inevitable that the Levelling Up consultation summary report should mention the public’s view on parking. After all, the County Council had only just put up its charges during that consultation.

It was clear that ‘a vocal minority’ as the report put it was concerned that Mold was seen as the local competition with considerably cheaper parking.

The report dismissed the concerns: ‘There is little evidence that this [a migration to Mold] will happen’.

Yet, if you ask traders, they will cite high parking charges as a reason for the recent collapse in footfall. When on the very day of the town centre Levelling Up consultation the butcher still known as Wyn and Glyn closed, an emotional proprietor blamed footfall-related parking charges.

We need to separate out the resident from the visitor. Visitors accept a charge as part of their ‘package’. Neither are we convinced that the difference between Mold and Ruthin is enough in itself for

people to migrate east. Locals nevertheless feel aggrieved at the hike in parking charges and the new extension to 11p.m. We’re unsure whether that aggravation will result in fewer parked cars. After all, footfall had already reached its nadir before the increases. Even in Wrexham, with three hours worth after 11a.m. for just £2, it seems unable to attract more footfall.

The County Council is not for turning. Nevertheless, is this something with which the Town Council might be able to help? Is it possible for the Town Council to fund a parking experiment to determine once and for all whether lower charges has an impact on trade? Denbigh, Rhuddlan and Prestatyn town councils currently do something innovative. Why not in Ruthin?

③ Should car park charges be reduced



generally?

② Should there be an increase of the current free spaces in our car parks?

② Could there be half-an-hour or an hour’s free parking?

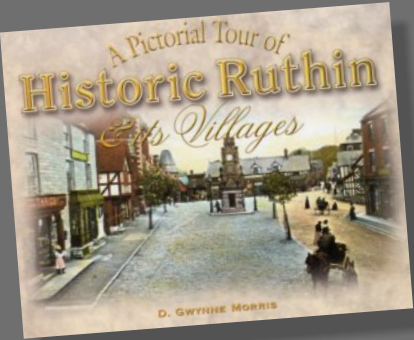
② Could car parking be free after 3 pm all year (not just in December)?

② Should only the most peripheral and less popular car parks (Crispin Yard and Park Road, for example) be targetted?

Ruthin Town Centre*	Mold Town Centre*	Wrexham Town Centre*
Long Stay £2.50 for 3 hours	£1.20 for 3 hours	£3 for 3 hours
Long stay all day £4.00	Max £1.70 for seven hours (to 3p.m.)	£2 for 3 hours after 11a.m.
Charges applicable to 11p.m.	Charges applicable to 3p.m.	Some all day £3 to midnight (£2 after 11 a.m.)

*Municipal car parks only. Sample only. Not all car parks are consistent and differing rules may apply within towns

Pioneer Local Historian of Ruthin



It's sad to report that several Civic Association stalwarts have recently died. First, Arnold Hughes pays tribute to David Gwynne Morris

Gwynne Morris died recently at the age of 93. During his long and productive life he contributed greatly to local society as a teacher and ultimately deputy headmaster at Ysgol Brynhyfryd, and through involvement in a number of local societies. One of these was his passion for local history, this despite graduating in science at Bangor University and teaching in this field.

Gwynne was the last survivor of a handful of recently retired 'Ruthinians', virtually all of them non-historians, who came together to form the Ruthin Local History Group to research local history and meet monthly on Monday afternoons at the Ambulance Hall in Prior Street.

While the late David Williams and Alan Fletcher were the most prominent, Gwynne and several other members also played an important part in giving talks and contributing articles to the invaluable Ruthin Local History Bulletin, which appeared from March 1985 to June 2003. Gwynne also contributed to

Town & Around. Gwynne served as a committee member of the research group and of its successor, the present Ruthin Local History Society. He was also a trustee of the Coelion Trust, which published a series of valuable monographs on local history.

His own interest in local history resulted in several original publications on local history and these ensure he will be long-remembered. These were Coleg Llysfasi 1921-1996; Ysgol Brynhyfryd 1899-1999; Ruthin and District: a Portrait in Old Postcards; A Pictorial Tour of Historic Ruthin and its Villages; and part-author of the final chapter of Hanes Rhuthun, the History of Ruthin. He became the authority on Ruthin's postal history and of the town's war memorial and wrote on both subjects for Town & Around.

When I retired to Ruthin and started researching the town's history myself, I and all other researchers gained immensely from the scholarship of Gwynne and these other pioneers.

A Local and Colourful Character

Peter Daniels remembers fondly Town and Around contributor Colin Edwards

Ruthin born, after working in local government here, Colin Edwards left at 25 to further his career in England but, upon early retirement, came back in 2001 where he lived till his death in April this year, aged 83.

Colin joined the pantheon of royal authors with the spring 2014 publication of his book, 'A Personal Portrait of the Royal Family'.

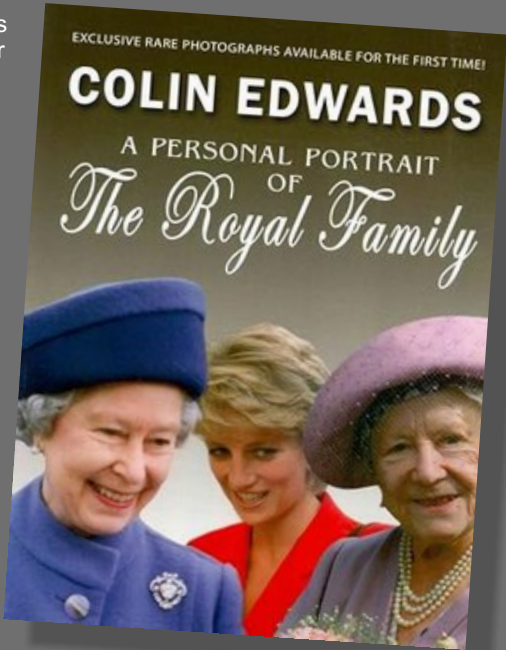
Largely pictorial, the book included within some of his memories when he met the royal family. The photographs were all his own and were of a very high standard. His early arrival at royal walkabouts gave him good views and his shots are as good as those who through their profession or connections managed

to secure preferential access. Even in his 70s, Colin would travel all over Britain for his hobby.

Several anecdotes in the book indicate that Colin was well known to senior royals.

For royal occasions, celebrations of deaths, etc. Colin was in demand by the national media. More locally, Colin over the years prepared several exhibitions featuring his favourite royals, the queen mother, the late queen Elizabeth and the late Diana Spencer.

Colin was a great supporter of Town and Around. He would send copies far and wide. He also wrote for us, the most recent in the Spring 2024 edition, published only shortly before his death, on the royal visit to commemorate Ruthin School's 700th anniversary. He also wrote in Summer 2023; twice in 2022, on the Cornwallis-Wests; in December 2021 on his memories of growing up in Ruthin; and in June 2021 on his memories of Ruthin Castle.



Paul Edgar

It is sad to report the death of a third gentle-man. Paul, a staunch supporter of the Civic Association, will be remembered for his faithful attendance at all our events, alongside wife Karlina. He would only miss them if away on holiday.

Even a fortnight before his death after a relatively short illness, Paul was still taking an interest in the heritage aspects of the town. His optimism and good humour shone through to the end.

Paul was also passionate about precisely where he lived. His foresight ahead of general interest in trying to see

Rhos Street School as a listed building was a launchpad for calls for the entire area to form part of the Ruthin conservation area, still a possibility in spite of the length of time this might take and resources required.

Paul, a prolific amateur painter, once a keen sailor and even dog breeder, was also a supporter of other town organisations. Notably, again alongside Karlina, he was one of the original volunteers to staff The Old Courthouse, to the benefit of both residents and visitors alike. This he did faithfully.

He was a founder member of Ruthin U3A and again a long-standing supporter of that group.

■ We send our sympathies to the families of other long-standing Ruthin and District Civic Association members who have died this year: Ann Jones ('Beechings', Well Street); Capt. Peter Howland; Valerie Wright; and Barbara Major. It is understood that Barbara had been one of the founding members of the Civic Association.

Experimental Planning Project Fit for a King

by Heather Williams

As I started my working life as a chartered planning officer, I have always been interested in seeing different types of development. I was particularly intrigued in what Charles, then the Prince of Wales, proposed for his vision for a new community on the edge of the Dorchester, the county town of Dorset.

In 1988, Charles appointed a well-known architect and planner, Leon Krier, to work on an overall concept for 400 acres of land that would become known as Poundbury. Krier's challenge was to create a new extension to the town incorporating elements of traditional Dorset architecture, using the urban design principles described in Charles's book 'A Vision of Britain'. This meant that it was to be built in a traditional high-density urban pattern rather than a suburban one.

A masterplan was produced the following year, when local residents and interested parties were invited to share their opinions. Feedback was reflected in the scheme designs before planning consent was sought.

The masterplan divided Poundbury into distinctive quarters, with the design being implemented by selected architects. In addition, Poundbury had four principles in mind:

- The architecture of place: creating beauty and reflecting local character and identity.
- Integrated affordable housing (35 per cent of the build): indistinguishable from market housing and offering a variety of options.
- A walkable community: designed to be welcoming and useable for pedestrians and other user in addition to the car.
- A mix of uses: integrating homes with retail, other employment uses and public areas.

The first phase of the development was begun in 1993 so, when I first visited the area in 1995, the development was in its infancy. With housing in a mixture of styles, it already

looked like it had been there for at least a century or more. One of the main buildings developed in this phase was Brownsword Hall, designed like a traditional West Country market hall, available for community, private and commercial events. It also had a pub, village stores, a café and clinic. This phase was completed in 2001.

I next drove through Poundbury on a 'Tourism Learning Journey' in 2011, by which time it was totally unrecognisable from my first visit. A new internal road system had been

Queen Mother Square



Square taken around Poundbury revealed a wide variety of styles of architecture used which capture the past. The mews-style homes are traditional in appearance, with period features such as wrought iron fences, porticos, gravelled public squares, and 'bricked-up' or blind windows.

So after 30 years and nearly completed, has Poundbury been a successful vision?

King Charles recently said that when he set out on this venture, he was determined that Poundbury would break the mould of conventional housing development in this country. He added that many people said that it could never succeed, but he was happy to say that the sceptics were wrong. So King Charles considers that it has been successful.

But what do the residents think? One local resident, Fran Leaper, the editor of the local Poundbury magazine, said that she thought it was a very happy place and that the community had 'evolved brilliantly and transcends the architecture, through all sorts of social groups'. However the attempt to integrate work space and housing has not been a success. Two of the three factories built before housing construction began are half empty, she said. The other failure has been the car-parking. The garages built with properties were too small, so there are a lot of cars on the streets. This is so true of 'ordinary' estates elsewhere built over the previous 30 years.

The overall success of Poundbury, however, is recognised far beyond Dorset and some of the founding principles have been incorporated into planning policies. It is proving to be increasingly influential beyond the UK, generating many organised tours every year from architects, town planners, academics and developers from across the globe. Perhaps even in Ruthin we might hope to see some of the notable features used in future developments. I think the architecture at the entrance to the Glasdir estate may even have been influenced by Poundbury. We haven't much that can directly be attributed to a royal. Maybe this can be.

■ poundbury.co.uk for more information



developed in the second phase with tall three and four storey buildings containing offices. This was quite a sharp contrast to the smaller scale of buildings I had seen before.

Then, last year, I had time to have quite an extensive look around Poundbury, which is in the last phase of completion. The end of the construction work is anticipated to be in 2028, by which time there will be over 2,700 homes with a population of about 5,800. So, about the size of Ruthin.

Queen Mother Square now forms the heart and centre hub of Poundbury, with a statue of the Queen Mother located in the centre of one of the main roads going through the community. The statue faces into the three-sided square. Along one side is a classical

style building with a colonnade that you then realise is a Waitrose supermarket! Other retail and restaurant space as well as offices and flats surround the square, including the Duchess of Cornwall Inn, a large public house with boutique hotel accommodation above. A nice place for a drink in a place which looks as though it is at least 200 years old! Next door a visit to the Dorset Wine Company was also inviting which, this year, picked up the regional award for the 'Best Wine and Beer Specialist'.

A walk starting from the



Mix of housing with shop under columns

Ambling among the Ancients: area 51

Last month, Fiona Gale led a walk around Brenig on behalf of the Cambria Archaeological Association. Peter Daniels was fortunate to attend and reports that the associated archaeological trail is well worth a self-guided visit on a clear autumnal day

The Brenig Archaeological Trail is a scenic three-mile walk around the north-eastern side of Llyn Brenig reservoir, offering views of prehistoric and mediæval sites. Here you will find natural beauty alongside a landscape rich in historical significance.

Before the flooding of the Brenig Reservoir, there were major archaeological digs in the early 1970s along land that was initially to be submerged but in reality was not. Over 50 sites were explored. Among its gems, the archaeological trail includes several funerary sites. The highlights are:

- Boncyn Arian, a bronze age burial mound dating from 2,100 to 1,500 BC, with cremated remains found during excavations. This important burial site featured a large central grave. Excavations in the 1970s revealed six sets of cremated remains, two of which were housed in pottery urns.
- A bronze age ring cairn, a ceremonial site from 2,000 to -1,500 BC, a further significant burial site featuring a large central grave. This ceremonial monument was initially constructed with a circle of posts. Later, three cremations were discovered here.
- The important Hen Ddinbych settlement, a 13th-century sheep overwintering site. Hen Ddinbych is not to Denbigh as Old Sarum is to Salisbury: it is not a predecessor settlement of the town eight miles north of Ruthin.
- From its shape, a possible 14th or 15th century monastic site whose origins are as mysterious as the site itself.
- A dozen hafodydd (summer dwellings) from the 15th to 16th century, used for seasonal farming. These served as summer dwellings for farmers who brought their livestock to graze in the high pastures during warmer months, allowing the planting of arable crops on lower pastures as part of a mixed

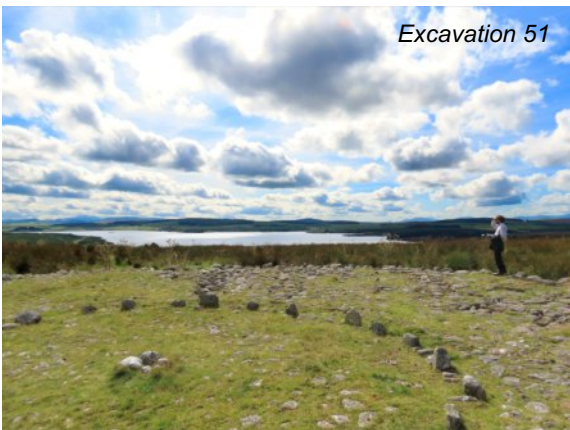
farming regime. The remains of the houses are on either side of the Nant Criafolen stream.

■ Excavation 51, an important platform cairn dating from 1,950 to 1,650 BC. Beneath the cairn, the burial remains of an adult and a child were found. It is believed this site began as a ring cairn with an open centre. It was later filled with stones to create a flat platform. Because we were blessed with a very clear day, it was from this amazing structure that we could see Moel Siabod, Cader Idris and Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon) itself, from the pinnacle of the trail.

■ Hafoty Siôn Llywd is a now derelict farmhouse believed to originate from the 18th century. The house was rebuilt in 1881, with the date inscribed on one of its window lintels. It was the focus of the archaeological digs of the 1970s and occupies a sheltered and peaceful location that if a little more accessible and with modern utilities and power might prove a sought-after holiday residence.

■ Near Hafoty Siôn Llywd are a suite of impressively large and long earthwork banks. The origins are unknown but they are probably too significant to be boundary markers for the hafod itself. They may be connected to the hunting ground associated with the area or, more likely, are much earlier. Pollen samples at the dig sites suggested that there was an ancient agrarian economy in the area.

Denbighshire Countryside Service established the trail in 2011. Since then, parts are a little overgrown and as a result the route can be a bit challenging, with some rough terrain and in parts without tracks. The waymarking signs are not now always easy to see but there are several informative interpretation boards. If you are not fortunate to have an archaeologist with you, it would be advantageous to have a map and a downloaded copy of the official leaflet. More information at <http://www.cpat.org.uk/walks/brenig.pdf>. Access is NOT via the Llyn Brenig visitor centre but here: SH 98325741.



Exposed: Glass Houses

Previously living in Paris and now London, once local Francesca Reece (of Clawddnewydd) has this June secured major publishing house Tinder for her second novel, Glass Houses.

Francesca has talent and not just as an impressive writer of Lit Fic. She is also a singer-songwriter (or was, when at Ysgol Brynhyfryd). While still at primary school, she was mentored by then librarian Bethan M. Hughes.

Unlike her début novel 'Voyeur', Glass Houses is based in North Wales. It looks at the life of school leaver and subsequently young adult Gethin. It fast-forwards when the absentee owners sell the long-empty Tŷ

Gwydr that Gethin loves. Gethin is faced with a new owner who turns out to be an ex-pat old flame. But even in Gethin's youth that former lover inhabited a more sophisticated world. She had 'lived in Llanelgan all her life but had lived like a drop of oil skimming the surface of water'.

References give the location of Llanelgan as Ruthin and its villages: under-age drinking at The Vaults, 'buying pills in the Kwik Save car park', the 'Glanny' (Clawdd), summer league football, even the MacCarters (local builders). 'Down where the [railway] track used to be, there's just a squalid little footpath'. There's Ty'n y Parc, New Year's Eve on The Square, Red Rocks, Texaco (as it was then and, amazingly, is again). 'Max Factor was widely known in town to be a hooker'. 'You knew you were in the middle of nowhere when the pubs had car parks'.

Gethin is a well drawn character. He is the sort who owns a '1996 [Toyota] Hi Lux Mark 3' and that tells you much that you need to know. 'He liked reading but sixth form had taught him that he didn't like it when it was prescribed'.

Books take years to write so I doubt she had in mind some contemporary issues when Geth says, 'He's never going to pull over, so you're gonna have to pass him at some point or we'll be doing 20 all the way'; and 'I imagine the bin men saw her' to which the retort was, 'The bin men don't come on the weekend'. Well, they did this year!

A complex and well written piece of fiction combining class issues and historical references (flashbacks to the 1970s and 1980s when alongside the book Ruthin actually had special branch officers) in a package that combines style and a well thought out figurative narrative. My only criticism is that there is too much bad language but, alas! the young people of today sprinkle swear words into their conversation like salt on sglods.



Seen in Passing...



Many locals took advantage of August's Nantclwyd Hall gardens being opened. Your Editor was immediately drawn to inspection covers and made a beeline for the those near the lake. There were four, to two designs, all stamped 'R Beech & Sons, Ruthin'. Meanwhile, your Editor's wife headed directly to the kitchen garden. There she noted that the amount of produce though significantly reduced since 2015 when last the gardens were opened was still active and in good heart.

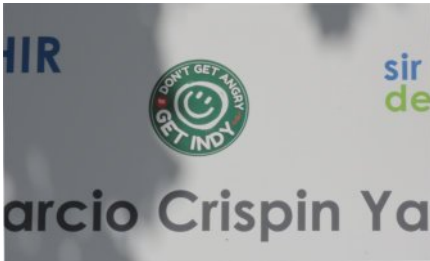


No one entering or leaving Ruthin on Mold Road can have failed to see the giant pink man on Ruthin School's rugby field. Though local opinions were divided, one thing is sure: it put Ruthin and June-July's international arts festival on the map. For once, Ruthin had a global reach, with CNN reflecting that the the students loved it. As for the arts festival itself, we trust this will be an annual event and please may we have something equally bizarre next time. Meanwhile, for ordinary Ruthinites like me, we suspect that the festival was just too esoteric. At least the pink man brought us down to earth.



Any man wishing to win a bottle of

whisky in the men's competition during the August Ruthin Flower Show's baking category may have looked twice. According to the programme, required of them were '5 cwci choc-chip' which in the English had been translated as '5 chop chip cookies'. A slip of the pen, no doubt (and T&A's not immune to that!) but it must've left men wondering whether the Flower Show wanted pork or lamb in their biscuits.



Nid ydym yn gymdeithas wleidyddol. Nid ydym yn dymuno cymryd ochr ar y ddadl annibyniaeth. Yr hyn nad ydym yn ei hoffi, fodd bynnag, yw pupur sticers 'Yes Cymru' ar ein seilwaith cyhoeddus: arwyddion ffyrdd, blychau piler, ac ati. Mae wedi bod yn digwydd ers blynnyddoedd. Yn waeth byth yw'r ymdrechion dybryd i'w chwistrellu allan gyda peint du. Mae ymgyrchu yn iawn, wrth gwrs, ond a gawn ni ofyn na ddefnyddir stricwyr.



Clogau has cleared out its Well Street premises and removed the vinyls covering its windows. We aren't sure whether a blank and empty window is better or worse than the previous covering.



It's actually nothing to do with Levelling Up but it's nevertheless good to see investment in new and expanded children's play equipment at Cae Ddol this summer. A notice directing young people and their parents to an alternative site might've been useful, though.

No one really seems to have noticed

that the new Caffé Grande when opened appeared in a shade of purple. Readers will recall the 2011 'purple shop' furore at the same site. At least Grande's purple was a more in-keeping eggplant colour. Subsequently, its owners have overpainted it black.

Talking of coffee, not only did the Costa closure notice incorrectly direct us to the 'nearest' alternative believe it or not in Rhyl (it's actually Mold), we had to chuckle at the spell checker suggesting the address was Wellington Toad. There was also a sign up informing patrons that Costa was unable to process any loyalty points... till the Monday after its closure.

And talking of paint-ups, it was pleasing over the summer to see several buildings of heritage worth being treated or painted up.



Annual Report 2023/24

The year has been one of anniversaries for the Civic Association.

At the very start of the Civic Association year, September 2023's **Open Doors** was the 20th anniversary of this event. It has become established within Ruthin's calendar. It proved to be another success for the annual Civic Association-run event, with more than 4,000 individual visits in 28 open venues. Not that all venues were able to count numbers because of the volume of visits. Gorphwysfa, the oldest dated residence in Wales, never before open proved popular. May I thank the property owners who took part, Fiona Gale who co-ordinated the event and Heather Williams and Kathy Daniels who joined me on the organising sub-committee. May I again thank the Town Council for its support and generous grant towards the event. The Town Council really sees the value of Open Doors in bringing in much needed footfall into the town. As I write this, preparations are almost now complete for 2023's event (see page 1).

During the year we saw the 35th anniversary of the Civic Association's **Quayle Awards**. We occasionally receive feedback that we are more Ruthin- than village-focused. On that subject, we do rely on help as regards covering our villages. It was nevertheless pleasing that the two most recent awards were conferred on projects outside Ruthin. That awarded during the Civic Association year for 2022 went to the restoration of Llanrhaeadr's well and associated areas behind St Dyfnog's Church. The most recent (for 2023) is for the restoration and reordering of St Peter's Church, Llanbedr.

It was the 20th anniversary of **Town & Around**. Looking back, we have seen three editors: Derek Jones, Miles Anderson and from December 2017 our Secretary, Peter Daniels. The March 2024 issue benefited from a minor refresh, most evident via the online edition, where we are able to exploit the use of colour. In the 2023/24 Civic Year's four regular editions, we wrote 43,600 words. It continued to be the

most tangible part of the Civic Association's work, with its usual mix of interesting & relevant articles and news items. This is now generally accepted by those who read it as an important part of the local community, with much praise from members and non-members alike. One is worth noting, from a Civic Association member: 'Your publication is probably the only one that I actually read cover to cover' and this sums it up and the care with which the editor and contributors take in choosing topics and in writing them. May I express my gratitude to the 15 contributors this Civic Association year.

We should never assume that the current officers are the best people to do what they do. In spite of the increasing standing of the publication, the editor is more than willing to stand aside if there are those within the community who can develop and build upon Town and Around's recent success. This does guard against the publication being seen as 'samey'. There remains a continued plea for material or ideas for publication.

In 2023/24, we actually produced a fifth edition, a two-page **'Consultation Edition'** to brief members during the Levelling Up consultation process. Feedback was again positive and we know from conversations that our members and other readers used it to help their consultation responses.

Work on Levelling Up was an important part of our year. It featured throughout in Town and Around. We were concerned at the **omission of Castle Street**. We joined with the Friends of Nantclwyd y Dre and the Ruthin Castle Hotel & Spa to produce a case for Castle Street on the grounds of pedestrian safety and in enhancing the heritage of our most prominent street. It was particularly pleasing to note that the County Council has taken our views on board though the inclusion of Castle Street remains subject to funding. Again from conversations and communications, we know that members also supported the inclusion of Castel Street and we thank them for that.

In addition to Levelling Up, our campaigning during the year is on-going and has included the **retention of 20 mph**, the extension of the **conservation area to Rhos Street**, and **'local lists'** to try to see the retention of the quiddities of Ruthin so often overlooked. Progress on some is dependent upon scarce County Council officer time and even scarier funds but we do feel we are on the cusp of some progress especially regarding local lists and the one-hundred-year-old unique blue street name plates in town.

We were pleased to work with local artist Bethan M. Hughes in applying for grant funding and in supporting her valuable and innovative **O'r Tŷ Hwn (From This House)** project. This traces the contribution of Ruthin women in 2023 who were bold enough to sign the national petition to try to persuade American women in turn to persuade their federal government to join the League of Nations. Robert Williams has administered the grant application and subsequent processes, and several members have assisted in research.

Notable events during the year were two well-attended presentations. One was by the County Council's Conservation Surveyor and friend of the Civic Association, Chris Evans. His topic was **how we can all help secure our heritage**. A second proved so popular that we switched the venue to Theatr John Ambrose. It was on the **history and proposed restoration of Pool Park**.

We again held well-attended **hustings** before the recent Westminster elections. I should like to thank organiser and MC Rob Price.

Last but certainly not least, may I thank the 2023/24 Committee for their help, support and contributions during the year. They were Anne Roberts (Chair), Heather Williams (Vice-chair), Robert Williams (Hon. Treasurer), Steve Beach, Kay Culhane, Kathy Daniels, Menna Jones, Rob Price and Peter Daniels (Secretary).

Anne Roberts MBE
Chair, 2023/24

Notice of AGM 2024

The Civic Association 2024 Annual General Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on October 10th, 2024 at The Old Courthouse. We shall send the minutes of the 2023 AGM as usual by email.

2024 AGM Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on October 12th, 2023
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Annual Report (above)
5. Treasurer's Report and Accounts
6. Election of Officers & Committee for 2023/24
7. Any Other Business
8. Guest speaker

Corrigendum

In the Summer 2024 edition of Town and Around, we referred to the important heritage of our chapels. We considered the closure and sale of the Grade II-listed Capel Bathafarn on Market Street. In that article on page 7, we may inadvertently have given the impression that along with the building there had been a dissolution of the congregation. That was not so. Congregants now worship at Llys Awelon and, as a result, the number has increased. We apologise for this misunderstanding and for any concern or disquiet this may have caused.

Stop Press

The Archives at The Old Gaol has an Open Doors event '1920s North East Wales' which is aimed to coincide with O'r Tŷ Hwn. It's from 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday 7th September.

The Old Courthouse has a special RADCA exhibition Saturday & Sunday 7th and 8th on John Douglas architect, as well the town's green plaques. **We urgently need volunteers for sessions both days (10.30a.m. to 1p.m. and 1 to 3.30p.m.). Please contact Heather Williams to volunteer: Ruthin 704998 or htnw@btinternet.com**

Lavinia puts her ‘Stamp’ on Plas Coch

Other than scaffolding on the front, there is little outward sign of progress as you pass one of Ruthin's most overlooked heritage buildings.

We refer to Plas Coch (the former Conservative Club building).

Owner Lavinia Stamps (Lôn Parcwr) has nevertheless released details of its transformation of the building into what Lavinia claims ‘evokes a sense creativity’, aligned with the artistic nature of the Lavinia Stamps business.

The owners have been able to uncover some of the rich past of Plas Coch, delving into its origins and the identity of some of its occupants. This was not purely for curiosity's sake but it was said to inform the renovation process in an



attempt to respect Plas Coch's legacy. Much nevertheless is speculative. They have yet to identify with any certainty who built Plas Coch and why though, of course, Ruthinians believe it was for the Castle constable. Some previous

occupants have, however, been uncovered to the 19th century.

They have discovered some hidden artefacts within Plas Coch, including old documents and objects, which added a layer of mystery and historical significance to the project. These discoveries were carefully preserved. For example, there was a newspaper remnant from 1974 and one

from 1910.

Even though this passed us by, Lavinia Stamps has stated that it has ‘actively engaged with the community’ (presumably via social media).

The renovation process itself covers structural changes to aesthetic enhancements. As you might expect with a building such as this, there were hidden structural issues.

The end product is expected to create dedicated spaces for artists, workshops and events.

This, we trust, will give an important reason for people to visit town, to the benefit our local economy.

■ We covered the importance of Lavinia Stamps two years ago in September 2022, when their Plas Coch project was about to take off. It's available at v.gd/radca

Civic Association Subs Unchanged for 11th Consecutive Year

Subscriptions to the Civic Association for the year September 2024 to August 2025 fall due on September 1st and we are pleased to announce that despite rising costs and general inflationary pressures they are being held at the same level in the coming year: £10 for individuals and £15 for joint/family membership. This will mean that they have remained at the same level for eleven consecutive years.

We know from public feedback that the activities of the Civic Association are greatly appreciated, including the annual Open Doors event and our eagerly anticipated quarterly newsletter, Town & Around, which is delivered free to all our members whether they live in Ruthin or further afield. However, in order to prevent membership decline, we would welcome new members with new ideas in order to ensure that the Civic Association is able to continue its primary role in securing the preservation, protection, development and

improvement of features of historic or public interest in Ruthin and the surrounding area.

If therefore you are reading Town & Around and are not yet a member please consider joining the Association to support its activities.

In common with many other small charitable organisations our bank HSBC have in the past two years introduced a £5 per month charge on our account in order, in their words, to ‘provide a better service’! Despite representations made to HSBC they refused to alter their decision. In addition, any subscriptions paid to us by cheque now cost the Association a flat rate of 80 pence per cheque. If therefore you are able to pay your subscription either by standing order or direct bank transfer then that would be helpful. However we do understand that not all members would wish to do this and therefore we still welcome subscriptions by cheque. Many existing members do of course already pay by standing order.

With this edition of Town & Around is a membership form for both prospective new members and also existing members who do not yet pay by standing order. When completed, this should be returned to the Honorary Treasurer, RADCA, Lenton House, Mold Road, Ruthin LL15 1SL. If you wish to pay by bank transfer just return the completed form alone and make the bank transfer to our account with your surname and post code as the reference. No action is required for members already paying by standing order.

Bank Details for anyone wishing to pay by bank transfer are as follows:

Bank: HSBC Ruthin

Sort Code: 40-39-16

Account No: 81137514

Account Name: Ruthin & District Civic Association

Reference: Please put your surname and postcode.



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

Town & Around is published quarterly by the Ruthin & District Civic Association. It is available from Ruthin Library and on townandaround.org.uk. It is delivered free to Civic Association members

Editor: Peter Daniels

Layout & Design: Peter Daniels

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 Brythyn, Ruthin, LL15 1JA

The deadline for the next edition is November 16th, 2024

Thanks are due to this quarter's contributors: Kathy Daniels, Peter Daniels, Fiona Gale, Arnold Hughes, Dorinda Kostravenglis, Anne Roberts and Heather Williams

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

New to T & A?

For the second time, copies of Town and Around are available free at most of this year's Open Doors venues.

If having picked up a copy of Town and Around for the first time you like what you see, please consider supporting the Ruthin and District Civic Association in its work by becoming a member.

We are always looking for help and support from people with an interest in heritage and related issues. And for Open Doors, too.

If you feel you can help in this or any way, why not get in touch with the Secretary (contact details opposite).

We look forward to welcoming you.