

Town & Around O Gwmpas y Dre

Spring 2023



The 'Eyes of Ruthin' since 2003 from the Ruthin & District Civic Association

On a Whole New Level

January's Levelling Up Fund success represents an opportunity and a challenge

It's not everyday that Ruthin and two nearby villages can celebrate a potential windfall of £11m. But celebrate we did, upon the news in mid-January 2023 of the success of the Levelling Up bid.

Since then, with sleeves rolled up, there is a realisation that this represents an opportunity and also a challenge. Llangollen's earlier success with Levelling Up has met with some local opposition. What of Ruthin and district?

Central to the bid is the re-purposing of St Peter's Square. We should at last see the back of that roundabout. This

has been an aspiration of the Civic Association since its foundation 35 years ago. It is an impediment to pedestrian movement across the Square. (We are all pedestrians when we park our cars.)

On 'Square' matters away from the roundabout, the changes are called 'public realm and traffic works upgrade around the Square'. At first sight, this sounds like a road scheme. There will be consultations but inevitably there will also be compromise. How much will the car continue to dominate? Will the historic backdrop particularly on the Myddelton Arms side be properly set off to full advantage? Or will the resultant changes to the rectangle between the Peers memorial and post office building largely mirror what we already have? Will it simply be a redecoration rather than a full-scale remodelling?

Of note is the closure in mid-January of the Royal Mail delivery office that allows for opportunities that would otherwise be difficult (see page 2).

There is perhaps a lesson from Rhyl and Denbigh. In the late 1990s, Denbigh benefited from some significant funding to enhance its townscape and environment. This was thanks to the economic impact of the closure of the North Wales Hospital. 25 years later, did the regeneration project really enhance the town centre? Has it long been forgotten? Did and does it have any impact at all? We'll leave you to judge.



Exclusive: David Jones MP writes on Levelling Up: back page ➔

And, more recently, Rhyl has benefited from a public realm upgrade of its lower High Street but, only a few years later, once the initial shine had worn off, the cosmetics offer only limited benefit.

✓ The Recipients

- ✓ Bryneglwys: re-purposing of community centre and school.
- ✓ Gwyddelwern: community hub.
- ✓ Loggerheads, Loggerheads building and Moel Famau: new cycle paths, some new & some improved visitor facilities and flood management.
- ✓ Cae Ddol: 'public realm' upgrade and connection to the town's heritage theme.
- ✓ Nantclwyd y Dre: refurbishment plus conversion of current redundant or underused areas.
- ✓ The Old Gaol: restoration, better public facilities & new access.
- ✓ Peers Memorial: renovation of exterior.
- ✓ St Peter's and cloisters: accessibility improvements.
- ✓ St Peter's Square: 'public realm and traffic works upgrade around the Square'

Rhos Street Risk Returns

As if the threat to the former Rhos Street school building were not enough. There's another question mark over a second heritage building in the Rhos Street area.

As the developer at the school is now looking to try to incorporate just the façade, towards the end of January Royal Mail vacated its premises on Rhos Street, on the opposite corner to Rose Cottage. This was upon the closure at the same time of the Ruthin delivery office on The Square.

Royal Mail had used the former Capel y Rhos to keep its vans. It was opened as a chapel in 1789. The last service was reported as held in 1891, upon the completion of Y Tabernacl, Well Street. The chapel remained in use

for faith purposes, however, till 1944, as a Sunday school.

Capel y Rhos contributes to the unique streetscape on Rhos Street, which includes similarly stone terrace dwellings and, of course, the abandoned Rhos Street school. All the buildings of this part of Ruthin combine to give a unique and unified character to the area, with each element contributing to the whole.

Neither Capel y Rhos nor Rhos Street school are listed with Cadw and the area is outside the conservation

Capel y Rhos, Rhos St



area, hence the problem. The uncertain

Continued on page 5

View from the Chair



The headline shouted, 'BROWN TOURIST SIGNS FOR A55'.

It was heartening to read this in the local press regarding the installation of brown tourist signs recently on the A55 and farther south. Until, that is, further into the article came the disappointment that there was no mention of Ruthin on any of them.

I recall attending meetings some years ago, on this subject, when brown tourist signs, or the lack of them, for our area, was discussed, and Ruthin didn't feature then either, as I was told that we did not meet the criteria set out by Welsh Government and it seems that this is still unfortunately the case.

Again, on reading the article, it states that Rhuddlan, St Asaph and Denbigh did not originally meet the said criteria viz 10 miles from a Trunk Road, and with visitor

numbers in excess of 60,000, but somehow these rules have now been either ignored or overturned or broken, and the A55 now sports two brown tourist signs indicating these towns to passing motorists. And there are locations in the above-named towns with brown signs.

Disappointment then for those of us who have campaigned for Ruthin to be included, on a regular basis, over the years.

While I am not aware of any evidence to support the fact that these signs actually do attract visitors in the numbers set out, I do know that it would be good if Ruthin were to be included and that we were given the opportunity to judge for ourselves.

Ruthin lies within easy distance of two trunk Roads, the A55 near Altarnock and A5 at Corwen, and it would be good if both

these routes had signage which would direct passing traffic our way, to see what we have to offer and let them know where we are. Too often, during the tourist season, I have met visitors to the town, who were delighted with what they saw, but when asked how they found out about Ruthin, the answer invariably was 'we happened to come across it'!

This is not good enough. In my view, we deserve the same opportunities to boost our flagging tourist trade as other towns within Denbighshire.

I will keep on campaigning on this issue, and, hopefully, with the assistance of Darren Millar AS, who is raising the issue in the Senedd, we can make the Welsh Government listen and address the matter.

Anne Roberts MBE
Chair of the Civic Association

Denbigh Delivers after Ruthin Finish

Royal Mail has moved both its Ruthin and Denbigh town centre delivery offices to the Colomendy industrial estate, Denbigh.

With it comes an impressive and significant investment in a fleet of over 30 battery powered Peugeot e-Partner vans and charging points. This was part of the deal and it represents an investment of over £1m, before any UK Government plug-in van grant is deducted.

All standard postal deliveries in and around Ruthin and district are now by battery powered vehicles from Denbigh. With a



Electric fleet at Denbigh Industrial Estate

maximum range of over 160 miles, Peugeot designed the vans primarily for urban use and those operating in the town of Ruthin tend to require charging every three days or so. Rural deliveries require the charging of vehicles daily.

There had previously been 14 diesel vehicles shedded at Ruthin's Capel y Rhos. These vehicles were steadily getting larger, with the emphasis changing from the delivery of letters more towards packets and

parcels. Each of the new electric non-car derived fleet is in fact either the same size or larger than the previous fleet. Denbigh retains fewer than half a dozen diesel-powered vehicles.

Neither Ruthin's nor Denbigh's delivery offices were especially fit for purpose in an age of parcels and packets taking precedent over letters and cards. Denbigh's on Bull Lane off the High Street was closed for safety reasons, thanks to a postal wagon from the Deeside regional sorting office having to reverse up a narrow and steep street to bring in Denbigh's post; and because of the awkward steps to gain access to the building.



Every Cloud...?

The closure of the Royal Mail delivery office on St Peter's Square potentially removes an impediment to the Levelling Up Fund plans.

While general shop deliveries will always need to be retained, the Royal Mail no longer requires the use of a significant part of the Square each weekday morning for the arrival of its wagon from

Deeside. And neither does it require the parking of up to 14 vans there in the morning and in smaller number at various other times of the day.

The space freed up by the closure of the delivery office can potentially allow for more ambitious plans for the Square, without the constraints imposed by Royal Mail.



Town Hall Renaissance on Cards?

Under-used for years and now almost out-of-use, could we be on the verge of a Town Hall renaissance?

Ruthin Artisan Markets CIC has ambitions to reopen the Town Hall. If successful, it will protect and bring back into use one of our most important heritage buildings, one that otherwise would have remained empty.

The plans are subject to a grant bid submitted at the end of February 2023 under the Shared Prosperity Fund. Much rides on that.

If successful, the community interest company intends to facilitate a community hub which, they hope, will in part replace the much-missed Canolfan Awelon.

Those who remember dances, exhibitions, a travelling cinema, am-dram, children's entertainment and much else besides at the Town Hall will know of its potential. This could include a weekly after school club with hot meal provided, other facilities for teenagers such as an air hockey table and multi-player computer gaming with a big screen. All well beyond the dreams of the Town Hall's 19th century designers but very much within the spirit of use for such a public building.

The Town Hall has been mostly empty for 20 years. Then in 2011, the County Council shrunk its estate. Closed at that time, for example, was 46 Clwyd Street (the Clwyd Street frontage of The Old Gaol). There was talk in 2017 of the closure of the public library and the possibility this would move to County Hall. Meanwhile, by this time, the Town Hall was already under-used. The Town

Council maintained a small presence in the Town Hall till 2020. The registrars moved out during the summer of 2022. Unison (a trade union) has an office but its small staff now tend to work from home and, in any case, this is also expected to move to County Hall this year. That leaves the Food Bank as sole occasional users.

But there's more to the plan than safeguarding a heritage building.

In addition to the hub, there are plans to incorporate a 'changing place'. Changing places is a campaign to improve accessible lavatories especially for people of all ages with more limited mobility or incontinence. Families plan days out around such facilities. Ruthin's will include self-contained and fully accessible shower facilities with hoists.

If changing places isn't widely known, the inclusion of Shopmobility (the hire of wheelchairs, power scooters and power-chairs) is better understood. Ruthin, after all, is hardly flat. Shopmobility will be something of a first in rural North Wales. It will be adjacent to the bus terminus (as it is in Wrexham).

There will also be some space for rent, for Dementia Ruthin and Plastic Free Ruthin; for Period Angels (for those in period poverty); storage for market stall holders; and offices, two of which are already pre-let even before the project gets under way. We can expect the outdoor market to move from The Old



Gaol courtyard to within the Town Hall.

It's possible that the plans will see punching through from the Market Hall into the Town Hall. This will enable people to move from one site to the other and to allow access to the lavatories and changing place.

While the Old Courthouse is an important, central and above all characterful venue for hire, it's constrained by space. The Town Hall on the other hand will be too big for some functions. The two therefore should complement each other, alongside space at Llys Goodman and the Naylor Leyland Centre.

● Town & Around at 20, p5

An Unlooked For Anniversary

We're becoming used to shortages. At the time of writing, there are problems with salad vegetables. There's also apparently a scarcity of seagulls in Rhyl.

Well, if that's the case, we wonder why some enterprising Rhylite (if that's the demonym) hasn't come to Ruthin to restock.

For we continue to have an over-supply down here.

In the 1960s, my coast-living aunts would say that gulls only ventured inland when there was a storm on the shore. That may well have been the case but, like so many visitors, so impressed were they with Ruthin (the gulls, not my aunts) that they seem to have liked it here. They chose to stay. The rest, as they say, is a sad history that has become a screaming, raucous din that may be part and parcel of a seaside holiday but which is as alien here as a kiss-me-quick hat or a knotted handkerchief.

2023 is now the 20th anniversary of the noticeable rise in Ruthin's herring gull population. Who knows exactly why they

took root. Some say it was as a result of uncovered bins at the time at the Co-op that resulted in seagulls picking out unwanted, discarded food. Others refer to the completion of County Hall as a roosting ground. Yet others probably more accurately suggest that it was as a result of the expansion of the area by the tip and sewerage works at Lôn Parcwr at that time, in 2003. Locally, someone, somewhere seems to be feeding them.

Whatever the cause, the 20th anniversary is definitely not one to celebrate. If you venture out almost anywhere in the suburbs on a summer's morn even as late as 8am you will find gulls angrily circling above you. And even dive-bombing you, as well. Not that the blighters actually seem to sleep during the summer. They laugh at insomniacs throughout the night.

No pest control business will touch them as, unbelievably, they're protected (the gulls, not the pest controllers). That's



like safeguarding Japanese knotweed or the Spanish bluebell.

So it seems we're stuck with our gull population and problem. But 'shorely' there's now a simple solution. Catch 'em, cage 'em and deport 'em to Rhyl whence their forbears came, where they'd be more at home and where executives have already invested millions of pounds in new and appropriate cliff-like buildings such as the Travelodge upon which they can with roost in their natural habitat (the gulls, not the investors).

Crane & Rail Project Concludes

With the unveiling of two interpretation panels on March 1st, 2023 came the conclusion of the Civic Association's year-long railway and crane project.

The project has seen the restoration of the railway crane on Lôn Parcwr, a collection of railway-associated photos & memorabilia, several talks, a 'Book of You' of railway memories, the Mayor's calendar, engagement with school children, and exhibitions at both The Old Courthouse and Craft Centre.

The new information panels about the railway's history in Ruthin were unveiled adjacent to the old railway crane in the grounds of Ruthin Craft

Centre. They give an illustrated history of both the crane itself and the railway in general in Ruthin.

The unveiling of the panels included Vernon and Arnold Hughes (both pictured, right, examining one of the panels), who are sons of the last substantive stationmaster of Ruthin station and the last surviving occupants of the stationmaster's house.

The crane was used for decades to load and unload goods and machinery at Ruthin and till the 1960s was located on the town side of the current Craft Centre. Abandoned for some

years and then stored, it was re-installed in 1982 at its current location and apart from the addition of a prop has seen little maintenance till the 2022 complete refurbishment.

The station itself was on what is now the Old Station Yard Roundabout at the foot of Market Street.

The project was funded by the Heritage Fund 15-Minute Heritage Scheme provided by Cadw and the Welsh



Government, as well as by local engineering firm Jones Bros, the Clocaenog Windfarm Fund, Ruthin Town Council and Denbighshire Leisure.

Anne Robers MBE, Chair of the Ruthin and District Civic Association said, 'We are very glad to have been involved in the project to restore the railway crane here in Ruthin in co-operation with Philip Hughes and the team at Ruthin Craft Centre who have been fantastic to work alongside during the project'.

The project was co-ordinated by Fiona Gale.



Cultural & Language Role on Council

by Emrys Wynne

Following the local elections in May 2022, I was offered a seat on Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet with responsibility for the Welsh Language, Culture and Heritage. In addition, Rural Economy and Digital Connectivity are also in my portfolio. We are fortunate in Ruthin that the Welsh language is widely used within the town & neighbouring communities and this helps to sustain Welsh culture in the area. Ruthin also has a number of important heritage sites that residents & visitors are able to visit. These must be protected and enhanced sensitively for the enjoyment of future generations.

The Top Dre event in Gŵyl Rhuthun/Rhuthun Festival is now a well established annual event which attracts thousands of visitors to the town. This event is proof of how both Welsh and English language events may be enjoyed by everyone and it's my view that the Welsh language belongs to us all. Within the County Council, staff are encouraged to use their knowledge of the Welsh language confidently and without the fear of making an occasional error. We all take 'short cuts' when communicating, be it in Welsh or in any other language. It's the successful communication that's important. If I ask for 'selsig, sgldion a ffa, os gwelwch yn dda' in a local café, the person taking my order may or may not understand my

culinary request. However, I see nothing wrong in asking for 'Sosej, chips a bîns, plis', as it will sound just as Welsh and I will still be able to enjoy my favoured dish!

I could write extensively about the merits of using the Welsh language and on how every language evolves by borrowing and re-purposing. However, this is not what this article is about. I want to encourage everyone to use the Welsh language confidently and as best as they can.

April 1st will see the opening of Carchar Rhuthun/Ruthin Gaol, following the devastating floods in January 2021. Nantclwyd y Dre will also be re-opening its doors and both locations will be welcoming visitors not just to see the buildings but also to appreciate their historic status. The doors of many of Ruthin's other interesting buildings will be open for residents and visitors to enjoy the Civic Association's Septembers Open Doors event.

Moel Famau attracts almost 300,000 walkers every year, some of whom will visit Ruthin. Unfortunately, most vehicles will travel east from the car parks and will miss the opportunity to spend some time in Ruthin. Future plans will not only improve the facilities for visitors to the Country Park, but will also enable Ruthin and nearby communities to promote their own places of interest. Ruthin needs to be prepared for the potential increase in the number of visitors to the town. A

balanced approach would make Ruthin an even greater gem for residents and visitors alike.

The Levelling Up Fund that has been awarded to Clwyd West will be used to Protect Ruthin's Unique Heritage, Wellbeing and Rural Communities. Denbighshire County Council officers are developing plans that will improve the experiences of residents and tourists alike. Gwyddelwern and Bryneglwys will have improved local community facilities; Moel Famau Country park will have enhanced facilities for visitors and nearby residents; development in Ruthin will focus on St Peter's Square and Clock, The Cloisters, Cae Ddôl, No.46 Clwyd Street and Gaol and Nantclwyd y Dre. The developments will help to up-lift the local economy, to enhance the facilities that are already in place and help improve the well-being of all. Progress of Clwyd West's projects will be assessed and monitored regularly in meetings that will have representatives from DCC, Ruthin Town Council and David Jones MP Clwyd-West.

■ The Civic Association has written to the County Council requesting representation concerning Levelling Up.



Rhos Street from p1

future of two key buildings could potentially have an adverse impact on the area.

It is understood that Royal Mail has put their property on the commercial market.

Royal Mail was contacted but chose not to respond.



■ Readers will recall that the plans to demolish Rhos Street school met with considerable public ire (T & A, September 2022).

Planning was not granted, because of the impact the development would have as regards access to the public highway. Planners are nevertheless understood to be keen to retain the school building. The developer is believed to have modified plans to retain Rhos Street's façade. If so, the Civic Association's view is that the whole historic part of the school needs to be retained, not just its frontage and that there should be no permitted development anywhere in front of the school opposite the listed Rose Cottage. There is no problem in demolishing the 1980s rear extension.

● Royal Mail delivery office closure, p2

Twenty Years Ago

The Civic Association published the first edition of Town & Around 20 years ago. Since then, it has become a valued and usually eagerly-awaited organ within the local community.

The initial product was more of a newsletter, to keep members up-to-date. With a staple in the top left corner, it was of variable length depending upon what was available.

It was the idea of former Chair Derek Jones of Graigfechan, who edited it for eight years. It morphed into a regular quarterly publication.

In 2011, the editorship passed to Miles Anderson of Llanfair. It was during his tenure that it was more widely available.

Well into the age of less-reliable social media and major changes to the way local newspapers deliver their news, Town and Around continues with the concept of longer-form articles of heritage and community interest.

The editor from 2017 is Peter Daniels and there followed a make-over and expansion. Two reader surveys since show that T&A is still seen as interesting, varied & above all trustworthy.



How We Covered...

Under the headline 'Town Hall Virtually Mothballed', the spring 2009 edition of Town and Around led on the near-empty Town Hall.

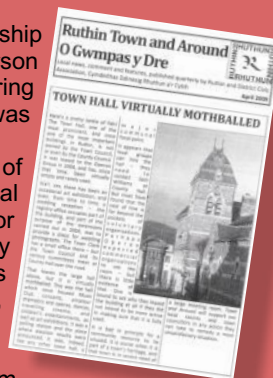
Of course, on p3 of the current edition, we can offer something more optimistic as regards this valuable heritage asset.

Then (as now) we described the Town Hall as 'one of the most prominent and once one of the most important buildings in Ruthin' and 'Like any other town hall [it was] a major communal focal point'.

In spite of an extension in 2003/04, it has remained virtually unused for 20 years.

'It is a bad principle for a community resource to lie unused. It is worse when it is part of the town's heritage'.

■ Also reported in spring 2009 was the state of The Star Inn. We called it 'forlorn'. Since then, it has reopened, had five managers and closed again... and is as forlorn as ever. But in 2009 we actually suggested that if there were no buyers or use for it then it should be demolished! That is not something the Committee would recommend today. As part of the dendrochronology project, it's been dated to 1491. It's probably Ruthin's oldest inn, however forlorn it seems.



Shutter Clutter Causes Collective Shudder

New arrivals in early January 2023 were these shutters affixed to The Machine, well street.

Some say that they are temporary while the empty shop undergoes refurbishment. Others fear that the shutters will in fact become permanent. What does appear to be the case is that there's no planning permission for them.

We would urge the County Council's planning committee to require the removal of the shutters. We understand that there may be the possibility of a timber frontage to encase the shutters. Any such design needs scrutiny.

Tesco has shutters, as does Bridge Services. Neither of these can be said to be in the town centre proper. Shutters at The Machine are therefore a first for Ruthin. They are just outside the conservation area.

Several members of the Civic Association have commented upon how the roller shutters have a negative impact on their surroundings.

The shutters are clearly visible to drivers of visiting traffic arriving in Ruthin from the Llangollen & Wrexham direction.

They send a negative signal of neglect and crime, of closure and decline, something we're pleased to say that we do not recognise here in Ruthin. Yet, here we

are with something akin to a deprived town's badge of dishonour. Take a walk around Wrexham, for example, to see what we mean.

We understand the Machine is under conversion to an off-licence or convenience store or both. That in itself should be welcomed, not least because it fills an empty unit. In spite of the nearness of both Co-op and Tesco, the Llanfair Road side of Ruthin does not have such a facility as you can find across town at Dyffryn Services and Morrison's Borthyn Stores. Convenience shopping is apparently booming. We're not sure about off-licences, though.

If the store's hours are as long as at, say, Dyffryn Services, then we should rarely see the shutters down—if they are indeed permanent.



The convenience store is located on zigzags at an already busy junction on an S-bend, with five accesses off

Foul Play on Increase

Back in the day when reading the Denbighshire Free Press was *de rigueur*, there were periodic headlines about dog dirt in town. It's not new but it continues to be a nuisance.

There's rightly some concern about dogs being allowed off the lead to foul areas of Cae Ddol. The whole park is a pleasurable experience and importantly is popular with children. There's no doubt that Cae Ddol needs to be treated in the same way as the path alongside Ysgol Brynhyfryd's playing fields and on approach to the Glasdir primaries & football pitches. Here, there were specific protection orders introduced in 2021. Other areas that should be considered are the entrance off Mold Road and the Wern Uchaf cut to Ruthin School (all of which are public paths).

But this winter, especially since January 2023, there's been a noticeable and alarming upsurge in general dog fouling in the town centre.

It could be that as the mornings and evenings get lighter then irresponsible dog owners can no longer hide under cover of darkness. We can only hope, for the chance of an environmental enforcement officer actually witnessing the deed (as they must to penalise) is remote.

Wynnstay Road, Well Street and Market Street appear to be the worst affected areas. We would appeal to all dog owners to be responsible.

Going 20. It's Elementary

We need to prepare both our streets & our thinking for September's new urban default speed limit that should civilise traffic

Very little is yet understood about the momentous changes afoot this September to reduce the default urban speed limit.

But change there will be, with the reduction in towns and villages by a third from 30 to 20 mph. All roads in our communities with street lights will become 20 mph. The only current exceptions in Ruthin will be at Galltegefa on the B5104 and between Dyffryn Services & Aldi on the A525.

A blanket 20 mph is likely to be divisive. There will be businesses and commuters who fear longer journeys and higher costs. The car lobby is nothing if not powerful. Yet, we'd estimate that a high proportion of correspondence with highways authorities is about concerns over traffic speeds where people walk and live.

And in the town centre, too. Current average speeds in town will be lower but we have all experienced 'nutters' who care little for other road users, usually pedestrians. They can and do exceed the average. Even responsible motorists have the upper hand. Ruthin Town Council has recognised this: one of the principal objectives of levelling up funding is to redress the town centre balance more in favour of pedestrians rather than motorists and deter traffic from unnecessarily



travelling through the town. (Ironically, 20 mph along Park Road, Wernfechan and Station Road may actually result in more through traffic in town but sometimes there will be negatives alongside the positives.)

On the occasions that the Civic Association has campaigned for speed enforcement in the town centre itself, the police have refused. It is not a priority for them. But it clearly is for those who park their car to visit, shop or conduct business in town. Inappropriate speeds make the environment unpleasant as well as more dangerous.

The change is going to need a huge cultural shift and achieving the desired reduction will not come overnight. It may even take a generation. But it is the right thing to do in making our residential and town centre streets safer, more pleasant and in encouraging people to enjoy the town... and spend money in it.

The \$64,000 question is, how will people react? A number of Denbighshire's



councillors appear less keen on the idea and if they represent us then 20 mph will not have majority support. Yet, on average, we use our cars for just two hours in every 24.

We all leave our cars parked somewhere. And when we do, we become vulnerable road users again.

20 mph Facts

What are the changes?

From September 17th, 2023, unless there's an exception, all urban streets with lighting will become 20 mph. Qualifying streets will have schools, hospitals or park areas nearby; or, crucially, five or more properties in a length of about 270 yards.

Will this apply to main roads?

Yes, if they meet one more of the criteria above. In Ruthin, it's estimated that 90 per cent of collisions are on A, B or distributor roads (i.e. just 10 per cent on residential streets). Speed reductions are expected to encourage walking and cycling as well as reducing casualties.

What will need changing?

Unless there are more exceptions, Denbighshire will change 460 road signs plus vehicle activated signs and road markings such as roundels.

Will the reduction result in fewer casualties?

RoSPA suggests that for every one per cent reduction in traffic speeds we can expect a two to four per cent reduction in collisions. There aren't many collisions: in Ruthin over a five year period there have been 27 (on average fewer than six per annum). So, is it worth it? You might not think so, unless it is you or your loved ones involved...

Seen in Passing...

We may be on the cusp of great things but more recently what has happened to St Peter's Square? In addition to the cramming in of as many cars as possible



whether parked lawfully or not comes the repeated number of vans & lorries, with up to four in number at a time. This gives the Square an appearance of being a perpetual building site. This year the Square has therefore been cluttered by the indiscriminate dumping of vehicles. We understand that there's been modifications to a few buildings on the Square but the random deposit of vans, usually up the kerb, conspired with the season to give a very unsatisfactory appearance to North Wales' most impressive streetscape.

Not seen in passing... the Cuning Green. It's now 10 years since the first wall collapse and, this time, we have a major slippage at The Lord's Garden to deal with. Over the 10 years, there's tended to be some



impatience about opening the path but now the Civic Association completely understands the current predicament. The calls from some quarters to remove the castle-side wall and replace it with fencing

Continued opposite...

Dendrochronology Project: 'Shaped by Timber'



The 2022 town dendrochronology project is important historically for Ruthin.

The output is a well-produced and opulent heritage trail-cum-explanation leaflet 'Ruthin: shaped by timber'.

Designed by Headland Design of Chester, the fully bilingual leaflet reflects the results and tries to uncover the story, previously obscure, of 10 selected town centre buildings.

The 10 are the greater part of the 15 sampled buildings from which specimens were taken. (The leaflet also includes at least one of five previously privately dated.)

The trail is only ½ mile and should last no more than 30 minutes. Leaflets are available, when open, from The Old Courthouse, itself featured within, and the library (all while stocks last).

A number of important buildings are missing. Wynnstay House (former Wynnstay Arms) couldn't date. Plas Coch was for sale at the time and permissions were unavailable for what is possibly a mediæval building. Owners of some potential sites didn't respond. There's

nevertheless enough data to interpolate by matching local buildings with others.

In fact, the project has given the first broad chronology of the scale of building in town:

- Post Owain Glydŵr rebuilding, especially in what was the most affluent part of town, Castle Street;
- Late 15th century (Square, wider part of Clwyd Street);
- Tudor, when merchants benefited from enfranchisement;
- Post civil war, an investment in property, possibly in those areas affected by the war (e.g. Castle and Clwyd Streets, perhaps replacing some damages of the time).

Not included in the leaflet is no. 21 Well Street. Now officially dated to 1535, we featured it in September 2022's edition.

Also not included is the upset that confirms Nantclwyd y Dre (1421) can no longer hold the title of the oldest dated house in Wales. That accolade falls instead to nearby Gorphwysfa (1414), a house with a much more modern façade.

■ September's T & A for 21 Well Street: ruthincivic.org/publications/town-and-around/archive/

On another trail... this time of the Green Plaques

There are now several trails around Ruthin for residents and visitors to enjoy. These are the art trail, the town trail and, now, the timber trail.

But let us not forget our green plaques or the 'Slow Walks' booklet.

Now available on the Civic Association website is a basic downloadable single sheet showing the location of our 20 green plaques. These support some

of our interesting buildings, with brief details of the building or some previous occupants.

This was a project initiated by this Civic Association and inspired by blue plaques you might find elsewhere in the country.

In 2005, members of the Civic Association with financial support from Ruthin Town Council and Cadwyn Clwyd researched and installed 14 plaques in Ruthin. The aim was to provide both residents and visitors to Ruthin an interesting fact or two about the various historic

buildings in the town. In the following year, five additional plaques were put up, which included Rose Cottage and Crown House. The last plaque was installed in 2014, which brought the current

Edward Pugh
1763-1813
Ganwyd yn Rhuthun -
'Native Artist' o Gymru
mân-ddarluniwr, artist tirluniau ag
awdwr Cambria Depicta
bu'n byw gerllaw yn Stryd y Ffynnon
Ruthin-born 'A Native Artist' of Wales
miniaturist, landscape artist and
author of Cambria Depicta
lived nearby in Well Street

total to 20, was the plaque to commemorate the native artist Edward Pugh.

'Slow Walks' is also available.

■ ruthincivic.org/publications/

Seen in Passing... continued

would, if enacted, deal a blow to a major historic feature in town.

The bank of the Clwyd under Bridge Services is attracting more and more litter. Some will have been deposited during higher river levels. Some will have been blown there, only to stay put among the brambles, exposed without spring foliage. We aren't sure who owns the stretch and access is difficult but we appeal for the land owner to give it a spring clean.

The recent and ever-changing trend for some shops to display window art has reached new heights recently, on the Square and, here, at its junction with Clwyd Street, showing a delightful spring-like display of what we take to be a Dutch field of tulips.



We mention dog fouling on p5. Now it's the turn of cats. In spite of the serious subject, we chuckled at the handwritten sign in a Park Road house window, which read, 'I'm fine for cat muck in my back garden, thanks. Got more than needed'.

There are a couple of indicators in Ruthin of climate change. One is the number of windflowers flowering in

February. Another was the spotting of the "season's" first groups of motor bikers in decent weather seeking their thrills in North Wales, in late January this year.



Energy has been in the news this winter like no other since the early 1970s. Locally, the County Council has installed vehicle charging points at Crispin Yard and the Craft Centre, to support localised carbon reduction; and opened the library as a 'Croeso Cynnes' warm space for those struggling with bills.

Good Timing for Town Clock

More Levelling Up good news, writes Rob Price

The successful Levelling Up Fund bid for Ruthin & district is such a large investment in Ruthin and we hope will transform the town for a generation and hopefully provide a much needed boost to the town centre and its businesses.

The Peers memorial & town clock restoration project was part of this wider bid, which was submitted by Denbighshire County Council in July 2022 and the successful outcome made known in January 2023.

As a bit of background, the town clock was built in 1883 as a memorial to Joseph Peers, a local man who in the mid-19th century was Clerk of the Peace in Denbighshire for over 50 years. The memorial was designed by the prominent Chester architect John Douglas and is a grade 2 listed structure. The owner of the memorial is Denbighshire County Council.

The plans for the restoration of the clock have the guiding principle to restore the clock as close as possible to its original condition without altering any of its features. With no recorded works to the clock since at least 1972, such a prominent structure in such a prominent public place needs some attention and the restoration project will ensure this happens. The restoration project was started in early 2021 and a committee formed to look at different methods and sources of funding. A conservation architect and quantity surveyor were then appointed and plans and cost projections drafted and then the plans displayed to the

public in an exhibition in The Old Courthouse in September 2021 with the feedback overwhelmingly positive.

The plans include the clock's stonework being meticulously treated and repaired. The memorial's water features will not be restored, since there is no source of mains water inside the clock and there are issues concerning the structure and safety that influenced the decision e.g. legionnaires' disease, owing to standing water. The decision has therefore been taken to place a wooden bench on the front water trough of the clock. In any case, many people sit on the trough all year round. Except for this one small alteration, every other element of the work is like-for-like i.e. no changes, only repairing areas that have eroded or decayed over time. Stone replacement will be an absolute last resort (and then only with an identically coloured stone), with a variety of methods deployed before then. Owing to this approach, the restoration work will not require listed building consent. The period since the completion of the plans has been spent attempting to secure funds for the restoration project, which has now been secured.

The memorial and clock project, however, is not an individual standalone project. It's part of a collective of projects within a short distance of it, prepared by different stakeholders e.g. the Town Council has helped developed initial plans

for the Square and Cae Ddol; St Peter's Church; and Friends of Nantclwyd y Dre.

Communication and co-operation between the various stakeholders will be crucial to the success of all the projects, as well as the county council engaging and using the knowledge and expertise of the various stakeholders, without whose work the bid could not have been put together, to ensure the wider scheme's success.

With regard to the clock project, in spite the community exhibition in September 2021, the clock restoration committee intends to display its plans again. The more people that know about the plans and their details, the better and the exhibition will be accompanied by a range of community activities including with local schools to celebrate the clock and its heritage.

With all these projects now set for consultation (we trust) and then delivery by the end of 2025 by Denbighshire County Council (who prepared the combined bid document), the clock is well and truly ticking.



Raising the Bar at Star Park

The Civic Association should not just be about concerns over the heritage townscape, however important that is. In its wider sense, civic societies must also promote the needs to the whole community, including those for younger people.

A community group in west Ruthin is therefore to be congratulated for taking it upon themselves to refurbish a children's play area. The group of parents have sought funding and replaced in its entirety

all the equipment at the Star Park at the Memorial Playing Fields next to the football club. They have also re-lain the flooring.

The park was established in 1976. The equipment within had reached the end of its useful life. The group raised funding locally and began work in November 2022 for four weeks. The park remains shut, however, as the bill was about £15,000 beyond the expected £76,000.

It's rather sad to note that while they try to sort out this problem, some on the group have experienced abuse on Facebook. This has obviously taken its toll on the volunteers and when you meet them this is actually most evident. It's particularly difficult to stomach for them, as the group has no official backing and has taken the bold decision on its own as an act of faith.



Refurbished Star Park

Edwards Enquires

Five questions on Ruthin by Roger Edwards. No prizes other than the satisfaction of getting them right. The answers are page 10.

1. What is currently located on the site of what was to have been intended for the original Ruthin rail station (i.e. not at the Craft Centre)?
2. What was the first street or road in Ruthin to be tarmaced?
3. What was the name of the stream that marked the boundary between the parishes of Llanrhydd and Ruthin?
4. Maen Huail on St Peter's Square is where, allegedly, King Arthur executed Huail but who was Huail's more famous brother?
5. From 1542 to 1918, Ruthin was part of the parliamentary constituency known as Denbigh Boroughs, along with Wrexham, Denbigh and which other borough?

Pioneering Approach for New Town Warden

Soon after Easter, Ruthin welcomes a new 'parish' priest. Peter Daniels finds out more

The one noticeable feature you immediately pick up on when you speak with Revd Luke Bristowe is his energy. Perhaps that's because he's in his early 30s. Maybe it's because he has five young children to keep him active. (The Cloisters where the family is to live hasn't seen children since 1986.) All these are certainly important but, actually, it's simply his passion for and service to the Church that shines.

Born near Portsmouth, Bristowe graduated from Canterbury while at the same time working as a church youth leader. It was in 2014 that he felt a wider calling within the Church. He moved to Bristol for his theological training and in 2020 to Wrexham where as curate he and his wife Bex felt called to help establish Hope Street, a town centre church plant under the authority of St Asaph diocese but with a very contemporary feel. The family felt an immediate connection with Wales. Bristowe then continued his curacy in a more traditional setting on Wrexham's huge Caia Park housing estate, where he found joy in the richness of the

traditional Anglican liturgy.

Bristowe will have both town and mission area-wide responsibilities. In terms of Ruthin itself, with the bishop's blessing, Bristowe retains the ancient designation of Warden of Ruthin. It's only a title but it's nevertheless an important (and unique) one for Ruthin. These days, we perhaps should think less about a vicar connected to a specific parish church and more about a shared resource across former parishes that enables people to find the expression of worship with which they can feel most comfortable, be that traditional or more modern. As such, there is potential in both the traditional and more contemporary Sunday services and this, he feels, sits within the remit of a caring 'warden'.

His full title will be Warden of Ruthin & Pioneer Priest for the Dyffryn Clwyd Mission Area. This reflects the other aspect of his work, which is both in Ruthin and the wider mission area. A 'pioneer priest' is a more difficult concept to understand but it allows for innovation and in particular the establishment of a modern monastic community based on a cycle of prayer (and not robed figures wandering around town). When you add the potential for this alongside the freedom to grow something fresh at St Peter's then this is the perfect fit for a passionate and enthusiastic priest. In

fact, it's greater than that. Alongside Bristowe will be his wife; Bex is herself a theology graduate and they believe in a strong team approach. Bex will begin training for ordained ministry in September.



Ruthin at 20 miles from Wrexham may seem a million miles away in terms of socio-economics and demography. How, then, will Bristowe translate all he's learnt and experienced, at Canterbury, Bristol, Hope Street and suburban Wrexham within the context of Ruthin? It means he can draw on a number of experiences. He is wise enough to understand that he will need to move alongside congregations and bring people with him. He quotes the Archbishop of Canterbury who is apparently a self-confessed 'spiritual magpie' collecting ideas, trying them and seeing what works. He felt that the challenges of a newly established church mission area of Dyffryn Clwyd was a good fit for him and Bristowe's calling to the area was strong.

This is potentially a very exciting time for St Peter's & the wider area. Abundant, obvious enthusiasm & energy propels Bristowe into what is the right place at the right time. And, surely, that's not a coincidence.

Jumping on the Bandwagon

January 23rd saw the introduction of hourly buses from Corwen, Ruthin and Mold to Chester. In a year-long pilot, the new T8 service becomes part of the emerging Traws Cymru network aimed at providing direct journeys between towns not on the country's rail system.

It links the heritage centres of Ruthin, Mold & Chester, the railway at Corwen and Loggerheads country park.

The T8 has greatly enhanced travel opportunities from Ruthin to both Mold and Chester. The new service is nevertheless as much about attracting people from England to Ruthin (and Corwen), though this reverse market will take time to crack. The printed leaflet intentionally has a picture of Ruthin on its front cover as a subliminal message to those in England that Ruthin is now in reach by public transport. It originally was to have had a shot of Chester on the front.

The T8 also serves Broughton retail park. More importantly, the T8 should appeal to those wishing to visit Loggerheads, from both west and east. It's specifically designed so

that at Corwen the T8 meets many journeys on the T3 (Wrexham - Corwen - Bala - Dolgellau - Barmouth) and journeys on the T10 (Corwen - Bangor). Leave Ruthin on the T8 going south and west and you can travel across rugged Uwch Aled (Cerrigydrudion/Pentrefoelas area) before arriving at Betws y Coed then Bangor.

The most you'll spend is for a day ticket on all of North Wales' bus services (except between Mold and Flint) at £6 or £13 for a family. There are also cheaper return fares available.

The T8 replaces the former twice-a-day X1. Journey times remain the same, at about 60 minutes town-to-city centre. This is competitive with the



Previous attempts at through bus services to Chester

Crosville introduced through buses from Ruthin to Chester in 1949. This offered one return journey twice a week only but was soon increased to five days a week.

Crosville withdrew the service in 1965, reinstating it after a couple of years. Crosville again withdrew what had by now become a decent service in 1986.

Through links were re-established in 1998 under GHA Coaches (albeit from Mold via a bit of a ramble through Nercwys and Treuddyn). It was in 2010 that the twice-daily X1 was introduced, reducing the journey time to the current approx one hour each way.

car and when you factor in parking at the park & ride sites the direct bus is probably quicker and certainly more attractive.

It will take several months to grow in popularity but within four weeks of launch there are encouraging signs of buses that simply did not exist before carrying good volumes. Time will tell but why not jump on board and see?

Info: tinyurl.com/t8bus or 01745 730700

Improving Outcomes for our Young People

After eight years, Geraint Parry, 57, will this Easter retire as head of Ysgol Brynhyfryd. Here, he shares his varied career with Peter Daniels

Brought up in Bodfari and educated at Mold's Ysgol Maes Garmon and Cardiff University, after a few years with Standard Chartered Bank, Geraint Parry retrained at Liverpool as a teacher of geology & geography. Although continuing to live in the Vale of Clwyd, his career till 2015 had been firmly in England, notably in secondary and further education. Parry's forte has been in turning around poorly performing educational institutions. At the beginning of the 21st century, England's publicly funded, though independent (city) academies were designed to reverse the fortunes of failing schools. Parry, as Principal of a new academy in Northampton then in special measures, did so in just two terms.

After Northampton, Parry worked in Birkenhead to lead one of the most challenging schools in England, both educationally and financially, with the same result. Yet, he knew one day he wanted to work locally and, more importantly, to give something back to his home community in the Vale. He wasn't specifically looking for a local headship when that at Brynhyfryd came up.

At the time, Brynhyfryd had recently been inspected. It was in need of improvement. While there was a clear need for recovery, this was not a daunting challenge and Parry could see a clear way forward using some of the proven approaches & strategies developed in the Academies sector.

Parry began to stabilise finances and improve educational outcomes in as little as eight months and, while he had inherited the school categorised 'red', within a year, Brynhyfryd had leapfrogged amber to yellow, and having been reinspected received a glowing

report.

The following year, Brynhyfryd turned green and since then, Brynhyfryd has consistently been one of the highest performing schools in North Wales and for Welsh, English, Maths & Sciences it is consistently within the region's top three schools.

As a result of this success, the school is now oversubscribed and attracts pupils from as far as Bala, Llangollen, Mold, Bwlchgwyn and St Asaph and this spread is an indication of how the school is perceived.

He has increased the number of learners who achieve five good GCSEs by 20 per cent. This results in more admissions to the sixth form and more achieving grades sufficient to get them to university (if they chose this). In the seven years since his recovery plan, Parry believes this equates to about 250 additional young people whose lives could now have changed for the better forever.

In spite of a consultation, there was a minor controversy when in 2017 Parry brought in a new uniform. Some parents railed at the cost and saw this as too prescriptive. That quickly blew over when the community saw a return to more formal attire that was clearly aspirational. Parry also ended the bilingual form group, concentrating instead on Welsh or English tuition. The bilingual form had been developed as a compromise but Mr Parry believes it had set back rather than improved Welsh speakers' chances.

Parry's biggest challenges were nevertheless after the teeth of the coronavirus health emergency. With systems in place, the school was well equipped to move quickly on line and the legacy has been an accelerated use of technology in teaching. The problems were associated to the period in 2020 and 2021 when schools reopened but the school never knew who from one day (or morning) to the next would Track & Trace would send home or which staff



had become ill. Covid was a particular problem among staff in the spring term 2022. Then there was the loss of pupil emotional development otherwise honed when young people meet inside and outside the classroom and in the playground, with a resultant increase in some pupil anxiety and mental health issues (now improved).

What, then, will the next chapter hold for him? A lifelong musician and rock & jazz bandsman, it will be unsurprising if Geraint Parry doesn't do more in this field. Taking a sixth form band to perform at the Cavern Club in Liverpool, a younger, black-haired Parry was once mistaken by Japanese tourist as Paul McCartney. It would've been rude of him not to sign autographs for them! When younger, he nearly left teaching for a career in music but wisely for Ruthin felt this was risky with a young family. Parry will also continue his work with GwE (the North Wales school improvement service), where he already works part-time in supporting other schools.

After a fulfilling career, more than anything, Geraint is proud to have been able to make a real difference to young people in his own community.

Can you spare the Civic Association some time?

Part of the Civic Association's brief is to

consider planning applications that from time to time affect our local area.

We currently scrutinise the major applications we see but we are still seeking someone who is able to do this for us, for all local applications large & small.

You will need access to the internet.

An interest in planning & development matters is an advantage but not essential. If you feel able to help or you

would like more information, please contact the Secretary (p12).

Congratulations

We offer our congratulations to Civic Association member Eva Hartshorn of Llanfawr, who on March 31st is 100 years old.

Edwards Equires answers (p8)
1. Drill Hall, Borthyn 2. Park Road 3.
The Foul Brook 4. Gildas the
Historian 5. Holt

A Segmented Market

With watchwords such as 'local' and 'community', what are the developments at the Market Hall so far, what's promised and how will this impact on Ruthin and district?

Ruthin's Market Hall is entering a new era this spring. Lessee DVSC has partnered with Ruthin Artisan Markets community interest company to improve the Market Hall's offer. We can already see some positive change and we can expect more to come.

There are four areas of interest here: market stalls, the community fridge, the café & food and the site as an entertainment venue.

The Venue

First, the venue. There's no doubt that for years the space has been underused. The aim now is to have one evening event per month. These, we're told, will be sufficiently varied to appeal to many or even all ages—a silent disco for young people, for example, in a safe and policed environment.

One of the first events, immediately before Christmas, was 'Hear and Now', a DJ-fronted dance party. In January, there followed a jazz evening. Both were ticket-only events and both sold out. Although there are few neighbours, there were nevertheless concerns about noise, something the new managers are keen to resolve, for example by triple-glazing the windows, subject to funding and planning permission.

Food has and will continue to be an evening ingredient: local suppliers Marina's Cakes and Patchwork were among those associated with the jazz night, for example, and other local businesses involved during evenings are Rosie's Cider, Cwrw Iâl and Cariad Gin.



Market assistant Emma Parry and manager Bernadette O'Maley

The Café & Food

The principal aim is to reduce food miles. The mugs are from Anvil Pottery and milk from Llwyn Bank, both at Llanrhaeadr; bread & cakes are from the Bakehouse in town; and the coffee is sourced from Rhyl roasting company Mug Run. (To date, all smaller cafés in town more-or-less offer different coffees, to the consumer's advantage.) Expect a pie warmer soon, to supply local hot pastry products and bagels.

This is good news for the local economy but, more than that, it's a narrative into which consumers readily buy: it tends to result in repeat business.

Ruthin Artisan Markets also sells healthy ready meals on rotation supplied through Cogog via Shotton's Well-fed and in conjunction with the South Denbighshire Community Partnership in Corwen. They're fresh weekly, with a short shelf life and cost £2 each. They're said to be healthier than shop-sourced ready meals and are already used widely in North East Wales for meals on wheels.

There is also now a supply of vegetables for sale. These come from Llandudno Food Renaissance who already deliver to local schools. All bar mushrooms and potatoes are plastic free, with potatoes expected to be free next month.

Previously called Eden Café, this had

opened up outside the premises and we can expect the Market Hall Café to capitalise on this by making further improvements to the outside seating area.

Community Fridge

This project begun under the previous management and has now expanded. Surplus stock now comes from the Co-op and is collected each night when the Market Hall is open and is available free of charge the following day.

The purpose is not to help those who suffer food poverty: after all, the Food Bank is next door to the Market Hall. Rather, it's about minimising waste. It's therefore available to all. Ready meals, fruit, veg, bread... it can be anything and will vary daily.

Market Stalls

The recent history surrounding the market hall has been inconsistent, with fewer than the capacity of 18 stall holders and irregular and erratic pricing. The policy now is a realistic and universal fee for a pitch and an attempt to vary the stalls so that there is often something new to see.

The Market Hall is open Thursdays to Saturdays, with Thursday the quietest day. With more marketing and the offer of a second but free table for paying stallholders that day, Ruthin Artisan Markets wishes to cement Thursdays and from there work backwards to towards the beginning of the week.

Sum of the Parts

The collection of Market Hall projects is more important than its individual components. Together, the Market Hall can encourage people into town to see what's changing and new, promote small businesses and even give people something to look forward to each month in the evening.

What's perhaps most surprising is that this isn't a project of the County Council or Town Council nor yet an established community group. It's a small collective of people who have largely taken it upon themselves to offer a community space within walking distance of most homes in Ruthin while promoting less waste and reduce food miles.



Top-down not the way to level things up

The Rt Hon David Jones MP writes

Back in January, after many months of huge local anticipation, the UK Government announced the awards under the latest round of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF). I was delighted to learn that the bid for Ruthin and its surrounding area would receive almost £11 million, the entire amount applied for.

The LUF, as its title implies, is designed to support infrastructure investment in areas where it can make the biggest positive impact on everyday life, both economically and in terms of increasing pride in local communities. The nature of such improvements will vary, depending on the individual community's circumstances.

In the case of Ruthin, tourism is of crucial importance to the local economy. The award will pay for improvements to two of the principal visitor attractions: Nantclwyd y Dre, reputedly the only house left standing after Glyndŵr set fire to the town, and the Victorian Gaol, which is the only Pentonville-type prison open to the public.

In addition, St Peter's Square will benefit from the removal of the unsightly 1960s roundabout that currently spoils the symmetry of the impressive open space, replacing it with modern traffic-calming arrangements and leaving the square unobstructed, available for use for public events. The area around St Peter's church will be refurbished. The Peers Memorial will be restored. Cae Ddol, on the banks of the River Clwyd, will be improved.

Outside the town, a new, much-needed visitor centre will be provided on Moel Famau, a significant outdoor attraction for holidaymakers and day trippers. Loggerheads Country Park will benefit from

river defence works. Finally, the villages of Bryneglwys and Gwyddelwern will receive upgraded community facilities.

All the improvements supported by the LUF will undoubtedly benefit the visitor economy of Ruthin and its surrounding area, and as such have been welcomed by local businesses. They will, however, also make what is already arguably the most attractive small town of North Wales an even pleasanter place for its residents. That, too, is a key component of LUF: delivering visible, tangible improvements for the people of the locality.

The LUF is a highly significant scheme whose strength is its sensitivity to the views of local people. Its interventions are designed not by remote, central Government, but by county councils, working closely with the Town Council, the local community and its MP. In the case of the Ruthin bid, I had several meetings with county and town councillors and spent one entire day walking the streets of the town with community leaders, visiting all the sites that were being put forward for consideration under the scheme.

In other words, the bid was a bottom-up, not a top-down exercise. Local people worked together, decided what they wanted and came up with a strong bid that ultimately proved successful. I have no doubt that, when the work is completed, the community will feel a great sense of ownership.

The LUF is an excellent initiative. I look forward to seeing the Ruthin improvements delivered and hope that other local communities will also benefit in future rounds.



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

The deadline for the next edition is May 19th, 2023

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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.

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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)

