

Town & Around O Gwmpas y Dre

June 2023



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

Masters of Regeneration

Clwyd Street has been through difficult times but is it now on the up?

It's official. Ruthin is the best place to live in Wales. One reason is the town's ability to regenerate itself and this never ceases to amaze.

As a country, we're more-or-less in recession and the winter's been tough for us all. But, once again, we see green shoots on Ruthin's streets—just when other towns struggle.

And not for the first time. Ruthin has long risen to the challenge of recycling and reusing its town centre.

There are many reasons why Ruthin is the best place to live in Wales (see p3). Surely one of them is the vibrancy of our town centre 'offer'. Another is our collective willingness and optimism to open and trade.

As we enter summer, there's new hope. On Clwyd Street, in May 2023 Bijou moved to larger premises (to the mews on Well Street). Bijou's former premises was the first Quayle Award recipient. What would've been a glaring gap in a heritage building is now re-purposed as a nail bar, having moved from a

cramped basement farther up Clwyd Street. The new unit is ideal and almost perfect in its size.

Nail bars are somewhat specialist but next to it we shall soon celebrate a new bakery. Jazz shoes and accessories closed in April and the pessimists among us (ourselves included) feared the worst: would the

pandemic never to reopen, owing to ill health.

To have a new food offer on Clwyd Street is exciting. There's little this side of town. It can act as an anchor for other stores and bring people down the hill. That this is almost opposite one of our last two remaining butchers is also good news.

There are other positive signs on Clwyd Street. The Old Gaol has reopened after what has effectively been four years, with the health emergency and flooding.

We welcome fashion retailer Ruby Joe of Wrexham and Whitchurch (Shropshire), which opened in early April where previously the Kaffehaus coffee shop once was (which itself moved to The Square).

Once a town renowned for its ladies' fashions, we now see no fewer than five such shops, including Bijou now just off Well Street sharing with the gallery previously opposite. Back to Clwyd Street, recently Lovingly Made by Lynne moved to the closed Threads, combining both. In the former Threads unit

is Rachel's Eco Store, now open six days (previously about three in former premises now occupied by Ruby Joe).

Lads & Dads barbers has just moved

Continued on p4



gap ever be filled? An enterprising couple from Melin y Wig are opening as bakers and to sell food.

Of course, many will remember the Eagles Stores on this site and latterly the Eagles Bakery, closed initially at the

Commendable Community Action

There are now so many people doing valuable voluntary work within our community that the outgoing 2022/23 Town Mayor on April 29th opened an exhibition on volunteers and volunteering.

Covered were a dozen organisation reliant upon volunteers, including the Civic Association.

Here, though, we'd like to mention two individuals who have undertaken volunteering without any prompting from others, without being asked and certainly not as part of any voluntary organisation.

One has cleared the rubbish accumulated on the bank of the River Clwyd, by Pont Howkin, under Bridge Services' wall. We featured the state of

this area 'in passing' in the previous edition of Town & Around.

A second, a parishioner of St Peter's Church and his son, cleared Church Walks of debris that has been mouldering since the autumn leaf fall.

There are no doubt many more who help in this way, including those who on their walks regularly pick up other people's rubbish.

Church Walks is the footpath to the rear of the church from the almshouses to School Lane. The ownership of the land is disputed. Some say it's the church's; others that it is a County Council-maintained path. Whichever it is, its importance will only increase as the development on the Awelon site concludes in the next 12 months.



While some public organisations seem to want to shift or reassign responsibility, we find that we rely more and more on warm-hearted members of the community to do their bit and we thank them for that.



View from the Chair



On looking through the original background relating to Levelling Up, I came across proposals under consideration to force landlords of empty retail premises to act, if the premises had been empty for 12 months

or more.

It's reported that as many as one in seven shops stand empty in some areas across England. This certainly does not help our high streets in times of duress for business owners.

I would go so far as to suggest that landlords should be compelled to ensure that any empty retail premises are maintained to a decent standard. That standard would be such that it is not detrimental to other surrounding businesses or which has the potential to reduce footfall even further, putting shoppers off from visiting their local town.

It is not acceptable just to 'whitewash' the window and leave! I can only imagine how galling it must be for other

businesses to be located next to an eyesore, on the same street, when no effort is being made to address the situation, and, as time goes by, the situation becomes worse.

I didn't come across anything similar proposals by the Welsh Government. I fear this means that situation in Wales will continue I fear.

Ruthin, in particular, is affected to some extent. Having just been voted 'the best place to live in Wales', it's sad to see St. Peter's Square looking like it does at present. It is unsightly to both locals and visitors, with a number of empty shops, three of which are undergoing refurbishment, two for a very long time!

Builders' vans litter the Square, parked on pavements in front of other businesses, and taking up valuable parking spaces. One other shop just looks abandoned, empty, but not cleared, and an eyesore to people passing by.

In Clwyd Street, a small shop, formerly Candy Shack, has been empty for years,

again, an eyesore which is detrimental to the look of the street with that 'cloudy' window. Well Street too suffers in the same way, so it is obvious that the National trend has reached Ruthin, which is a pity.

I appreciate that we are living in difficult times but in my view making an effort to show some pride in our lovely historic town is not a lot to ask. Improvements would go a long way to help our beleaguered shopping areas.

As far as existing retail businesses are concerned, unfortunately the funding pot from Denbighshire County Council to assist shops to keep their premises looking well-maintained by regular re-painting the outside has dried up. I would urge DCC to re-visit this initiative, to try to help keep our retail streets looking inviting, in good order, to attract shoppers once again.

Anne Roberts MBE
Chair of the Civic Association

● New town mayor's innovation and aspirations, p11

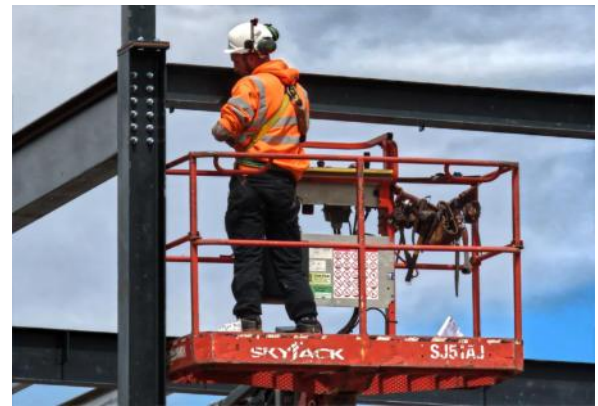
Crane Carries Cargo to Construct Care Centre

Take any walk around Ruthin this spring and you cannot have failed to have noticed the bright yellow crane hovering above Llys Awelon. Peter Daniels reports

There was uproar when plans about the redevelopment of Awelon were first proposed. Awelon was a council-run care home much loved by people in the town and surrounding area. There was a feeling that the County Council had somehow

betrayed its older residents. Or perhaps it was its older residents in waiting, those who were approaching a time when they might need care.

Now, however, as the replacement building begins to take shape, there is new hope. Alongside the phoenix-like construction also comes a realisation that, actually, it was the right thing to do. And, most of those who strongly disapproved now realise that the decision to extend neighbouring Llys Awelon was actually A Good Thing. Extra care housing provides dignified care and support for older people in their own private



apartments with 24 hour care when needed. There is a real community spirit in extra care facilities such as these while at the same time retaining residents' independence.

Awelon's steel skeleton is now complete (thanks to that crane). It will take around a further year to finish it. When ready, it will be an extension to Grŵp Cynefin's Llys Awelon, the extra care facility opened in 2012 previously sharing the site with the former Awelon. The County Council has donated land to the third party provider.

When complete, the complex will contain 56 one to two bed apartments, plus communal recreation and dining areas. The number of people in the extended Llys Awelon will outnumber those at the former Awelon by about a dozen residents. And all this will be in the heart of the town, with easy access to facilities.

Llys Awelon will offer residents the highest possible standards and provide support when they need it. It seems a more fitting solution for people who are living longer, with different outlooks and better matches residents' 21st century aspirations. The plan includes the updating of the current apartments at Llys Awelon.



Celebrating Ruthin's Success

The re-use of heritage buildings, a positive attitude & culture and even an active Civic Association all contribute to Ruthin's success, writes Darren Millar AS

It's official: the ancient and beautiful market town of Ruthin is the best place to live in Wales.

Ruthin was ranked ninth of 72 places in the UK, but took the Welsh title. It snatched it from rivals Abergavenny in Monmouthshire, Barmouth in Gwynedd and Gower in Swansea after it was visited by judges from *The Sunday Times*, who praised a 'handsome, historic town' for using period properties in a modern manner.

Having represented the town since being elected as a Senedd member in 2007, the accolade came as no surprise to me.

I have long championed the town and the treasures it has to offer, from its wonderful buildings and heritage to its warm and friendly atmosphere and culture.

With its mediæval castle, historic timber framed buildings (such as The Old Courthouse and Nantclwyd y Dre), a

unique 17th century gaol, beautiful St Peter's Church, heritage trails, a modern craft centre, independent shops and

streets to those working in the local shops, cafés and restaurants, there is always a friendly smile.

The advent of the designation of the Clwydian Range & the Dee Valley as Wales' newest national park provides a wonderful opportunity to introduce more people to Ruthin and its treasures, and will help to keep shops and businesses on St Peter's Square & elsewhere in the town thriving, as more visitors explore North East Wales & what's it has to offer.

Even in successful towns like Ruthin, though, there is always room for improvement, and I was therefore delighted when it was announced earlier this year that the town has been awarded £11m in UK government Levelling Up funding to restore local historic monuments and improve the town's St Peter's Square.

After a challenging few years owing to the pandemic, this is just the boost the area needs and I very much look forward to seeing the improvements.

Ruthin is a town full of charm and it's clear why it's so popular as both a place to live and a destination to visit. But the truth is that familiarity with a place can result in our taking it for granted. That's why I am so grateful to organisations like the Ruthin and District Civic Association and others who help to remind us about what makes Ruthin so special and unique.



Ruthin's Emrys Wynne, DCC lead member for heritage & culture; Sam Williams, Darren Millar AS and Phillipa Jones on the steps of the re-opened Gaol (see p6)

wonderful places to eat and stay, what's not to like?

It's not just the buildings and attractions which make Ruthin great. The people of the town play an instrumental role in its success.

You won't receive a warmer welcome than in Ruthin. From the people on the

Best Place to Live: a Grudging Acceptance

We issue a challenge to the Daily Post, as it appears to take a slightly jaundiced view of the Sunday Times' best place to live in Wales—Ruthin

Perhaps it was just jealousy. The Daily Post felt that 'whittling down a whole country to a short list of just seven locations is a bit absurd and there's always going to be an element of arbitrariness to it'.

The fact that Ruthin is consistent in such lists at least 'shows that it does have something about it, at least in the eyes of the expert judges'. (And these judges are experts.)

The paper conceded that Ruthin's location is special and that the backdrop on both sides has become synonymous with the town. There's no need to travel to see countryside and hills directly from the town centre.

Then there's the architecture. It described St Peter's Square as 'not the grandest in the world' but more of a 'distinct charm that makes Ruthin such a

recognisable picture postcard location'. (The Civic Association believes that the Castle Hotel side is actually world class.)

The paper also conceded there was plenty going on. It would 'normally be an indictment to say that one of the best pubs in town is a Wetherspoon's' but, in Ruthin's case, 'this is nothing to be ashamed of'. The Daily Post in June 2022 had previously asked whether Ruthin had the 'poshest Wetherspoon's in Wales'.

While all the positive facets of the town are many, this in the Post's opinion 'doesn't necessarily make Ruthin the best place to live in Wales... picking one place above all others would naturally involve a great deal of subjectivity'. But if nothing else the Daily Post does at least grudgingly concede that Ruthin 'definitely deserves to be in the conversation'.

How so jolly kind of it.



Our challenge to the Daily Post would be to take a closer look at all the places to live in North Wales and decide for itself whether Ruthin ranks higher than the region's competition. We cannot think of many places that come close. Beaumaris, Beddgelert, Conwy, Harlech or Llangollen may be in with a chance but, as for the remainder, Ruthin is so obviously head and shoulders ahead. And it is they who should be jealous of us.

Master of Regeneration from p1

to to take on the much more noticeable former Ty Celf.

Pen y Lôn remains empty, however, though you may not realise it. The new age shop in the former La Piazza courtyard has closed but you can still smell it. These days, tends to be out of sight out of mind. And, right at the bottom on Clwyd Street, the CBD Centre has closed (though, interestingly, this site isn't considered by Denbighshire County Council as in the town centre.



A Moment of Joy Events has taken the small unit as a joyous shop window adjacent to Harris Toys.

When Pen y Bryn Café moved out of Upper Clwyd Street to occupy their Candy Shack premises, we wondered what might happen but almost straight away we saw Teacups come in.

Well Street

The aforementioned mews off Well Street is now looking healthy again. Envy has reopened a salon next to the Manorhaus. Farther down, the Coin Laundry looks a mess, though alongside, we welcome a computer shop, Birchall Reality in an otherwise empty unit. The chaotic Tedi's Beds and Corwen Carpets have consolidated into two rather than three Well Street units. redundant unit has enjoyed an optimistic paint-up.

Mystery continues to surround the closure of Vale Carpets.

The Square

The exterior (and interior) of the Myddelton has undergone a paint up. Monecito is should be next. That leaves A State of Distress in a state of distress.

How fortunate, then, are we to live in such a town. Should we really be that amazed, though?

- View from the Chair, p2
- No. 46 Clwyd Street, p6
- Old Gaol, p6



Update on Market Hall and Town Hall

In the Spring 2023 issue, we featured the Market Hall and Town Hall.

Neither was successful in its bid to make improvements but that isn't a cause for pessimism. Although missing out of the prospect of Shared Prosperity funding, we understand that the community interest company has been asked to resubmit. It would seem that the application is on 'standby'.

Town Hall rear



The venture has nevertheless been awarded funding for a business plan and to fund assessments by quantity surveyors and architects.

One-off Opportunity Missed?

Talking of the best place in Wales to live, Ruthin doesn't yet seem to have capitalised on its new celebrity status. It's a one-year honour and, next March, we can expect to pass this to another location and even disappear altogether. The window is tight and limited.

So, as summer approaches, there's little evidence of anyone promoting Ruthin's standing, other than in the window of Castle Bell.

The County Council doesn't mention it. Neither does the Town Council. The tourist-related 'Visit Ruthin' website hasn't been updated since 2019. (We're aware of plans to remedy the last two but, for now, Ruthin may as well not exist.)

Shouldn't we be singing this from the rooftops while we can?



Poles Apart? Times versus Telegraph

At the same time as the Sunday Times pronounced Ruthin as the best place to live in Wales, the Daily Telegraph placed Rhyl at the bottom of its table of 20 seaside towns.

The Telegraph studied how 20 'classic resorts' had adapted (or not) over the past three decades, looking at factors such as housing & high streets, and renovations & conservation. Recognising that all elements of society are now more discerning, the Telegraph looked at how and whether resorts had become 'gentrified'.

The Telegraph believes that efforts to improve Rhyl have failed. It said, 'No past, no arts or entertainment, no fun: gentrification is not suited to all seaside towns but Rhyl... is how not to do things.'

With significant investment along Rhyl's prom, was the Daily Telegraph just a little too harsh about Rhyl?



Levelling Up in Numbers

We were naturally disappointed that our approach to be involved in the Levelling Up process was declined by the County Council. After all, as the district's premier heritage organisation, the Civic Association has an interest in (and has on-and-off been been campaigning for over 30 years for) improvements to The Square in particular.

It's sometimes felt that during these years we have inhabited a wilderness. That space is now in the mainstream and we are thankful for that. There is much optimism.

But we still have concerns that the process isn't and won't be as open as we'd hoped. Given the £11m spend involved, and given the impact this will have on Ruthin for a generation or more, we continue to appeal for more openness and information. This so far is proving hard to come by. Our concern is that a small number of people will be making decisions in the town's name and that these may not always be the right ones.

In the meantime, we continue to lobby. One key area linked to Levelling Up important to us is the volume and speed of unnecessary traffic in town. And the haphazard way in which, once parked, motor vehicles are an eyesore.

Here is a summary of some of our own research, plus something from the County Council's own '2022 Town Centre Health Check'.

In September 2021, we determined that 57 per cent of traffic crossing The Square was passing through. In other words, the drivers and passengers weren't parking to deliver, to shop, to attend to personal business, etc. They were using the town centre as a proverbial rat run.

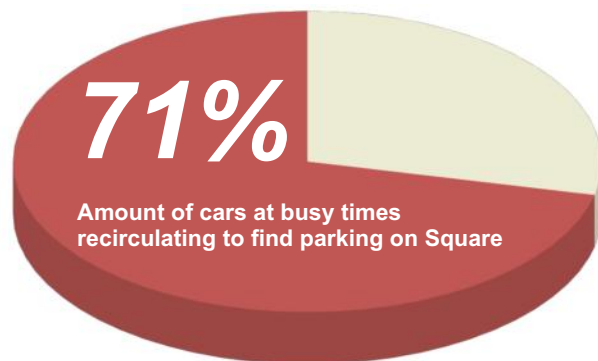
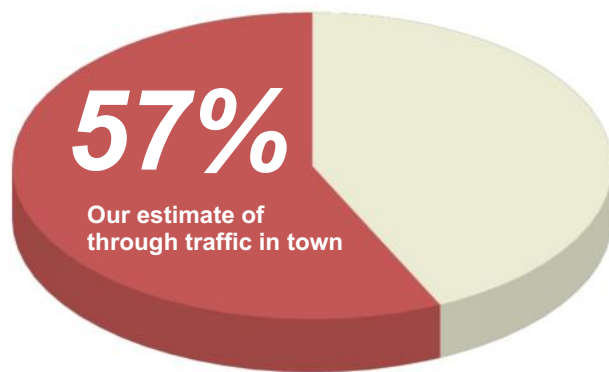
We now estimate *at busy times* that for every one car parking lawfully on The Square, five recirculate without a parking space and one parks unlawfully.

This adds to the volume of traffic on The Square and to unpleasantness for pedestrians, including those who have already parked and are walking.

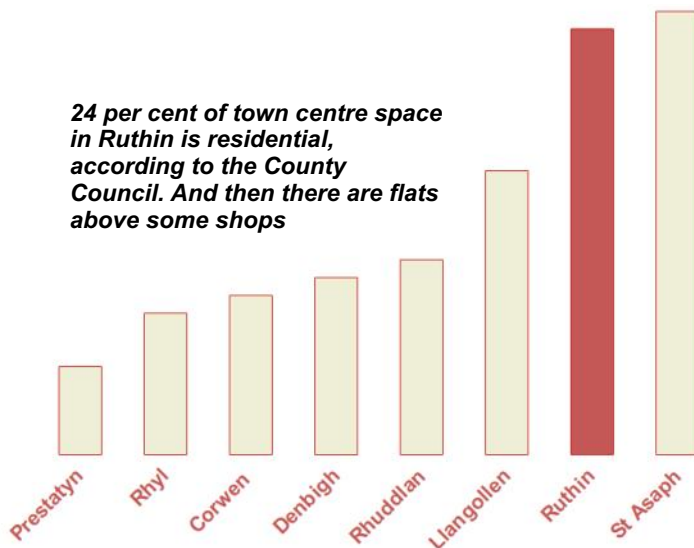
The Square can never accommodate all who wish to park there. The fact that there is parking on The Square will naturally attract motorists ever hopeful of finding such a space when, actually, they should be deflected to car parks that are all within easy reach (for those who are ambulant). Less able people will need parking there.

Ruthin (also St Asaph) is a town where a higher proportion of units are residential rather than commercial. One full quarter of Ruthin's town centre properties are dwellings.

We are often rightly concerned about the health of our town centre businesses but we also need to be considerate towards those who live in the heart of things. They more than any are best placed to contribute to the vibrancy of our town. And they suffer from excess traffic, too.



24 per cent of town centre space in Ruthin is residential, according to the County Council. And then there are flats above some shops



10Years Ago

In a sad day for Ruthin, Lewis Electrics ceased trading on August 2nd, 2013. In an advert in the Free Press, directors Peter & Jane Lewis said that 'Unfortunately, competition from the internet and supermarkets has finally taken its toll'.

Its predecessors were in business in Ruthin for over 40 years. Originally on Castle Street as Butland's, the business moved to Well Street as Lewis Electricals (sic). In 1989, it expanded to Lôn Parcwr, while retaining for a period its Well Street premises. In 2006, one of their daughters opened Nelson's as a café & shop there. This closed in May 2010, to be followed five months later by the short-lived Cherry Bomb café. Mystery surrounds the current occupant, Vale Carpets, closed all spring.

In November 2007, the Lewises stopped selling small electrical items, blaming Tesco. Ruthin Décor bought Lewis's entire light bulb stock. In 2023, Ruthin Décor has sold to Rightway/Bevan's but still trades. And they still sell loads of light bulbs.



How We Covered...

Clwyd Street is on p1 of this edition.

In 2008, we reported that the bottom of Clwyd Street was 'in need of care'.

The high quality housing to the rear of The Star served to highlight 'the run-down nature of the historic properties which surround it', we said.

We were concerned that this quarter of Ruthin's conservation area was being allowed to slip.

How are things 15 years later? The Star with its 'chequered business life' had in 2008 recently re-opened but, these days, remains stubbornly closed. The owner is concerned about the impact of the so-called tourism tax. There's better news, of course, for Porth y Dŵr. Empty in 2008, 2021 flooding notwithstanding, it's been extensively restored as visitor accommodation. And the Castle Park Café is undergoing refurbishment, inevitably by G Parry. In 2008, we felt it 'looked stylish' in the 1970s 'but tastes change'.

Edwards Enquires

Five more questions on Ruthin by Roger Edwards. No prizes other than the satisfaction of getting them right. The answers are on p12.

1. Which star of the silver screen starred in the first film to be shown at Ruthin's cinema, in 1924?
2. The 12th century Battle of Maesmaen Cymro was fought on the outskirts of which village neighbouring Ruthin?
3. In which decade was Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau first [printed by Isaac Clarke on Well Street?
4. To which saint is Llanrydd Church dedicated?
5. Which village neighbouring Ruthin has a name which, if translated from Welsh, is the same as a state capital of the USA?

Previous questions (and answers!) were published in the Spring (March) 2023 issue: see link v.gd/radca



A New Start for Ruthin Gaol

by Peter Daniels

We all recall the flood of February 2021 that closed The Old Gaol. We also recall the skip loads following the clear up. And two years later, this spring, we have celebrated the better news that the attraction's reopened at last.

But, actually, it's not been two years since the Gaol closed. It's been over four-and-a-half. The Old Gaol never reopened to the public after the 2019 season, because of the March 2020 coronavirus health emergency. (The archive which shares the building closed to the public on March 19th, 2020.) In March, a film crew managed to shoot scenes at The Old Gaol for what was then a forthcoming Netflix series but that wasn't public access.

Denbighshire's Phillipa Hughes had commented that it was difficult for staff to keep their spirits up during this hiatus.

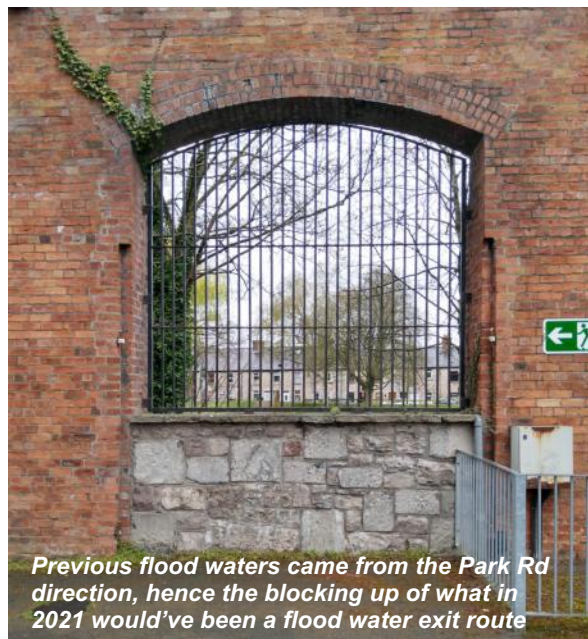
Now, though, following the flood-caused refurbishment, The Old Gaol is better than ever. It again offers an opportunity to learn about and understand the impact of the gaol on our town. As Denbighshire's Graham Boase put it, this and the prospect of levelling up funding offers a new start for The Old

Gaol.

Indeed, levelling up could see investment in 46 Clwyd Street, the frontage of the gaol closed as County Council offices in and empty since 2015.

The extent of post-flooding work on the current building cannot be under-estimated. The flood reached the top step just beneath the current shop. Work began by spraying the basement walls to remove deposited sludge. The already wet walls were therefore now even wetter. Then began the drying out process. A lack of ventilation in the basement resulted in a slow process. Given this was a prison, there were no opening windows! Even at the point of reopening, the drying gout process continues and there was still salt seeping out of the walls in one cell. In order to facilitate the drying and treatment process, contractors had to sandblast the usually white basement walls, removing the usual whitewash camouflage. Prisoners in their time had to whitewash these walls repeatedly (as an antiseptic measure).

The Old Gaol has taken a view that



the exposed brick walls need not be repainted till such time as The Old Gaol's flood defences are complete.

A number of artefacts including the famous Ruthin Gaol-marked grandfather clock have been sent for conservation. The old range in the kitchen is now in a better condition than previously. All electrics have been replaced and of necessity there's a new lift.

Margaret Barr: my day as a guide at Ruthin Gaol

I have been a guide at Ruthin Gaol for fifteen years now. I joke with the customers that this is longer than most of the prisoners who were there in Victorian times.

We know that there was a gaol on the site in 1654 but the Victorian building that dominates the bottom end of Ruthin town was built about 1866 and by 1916 it had closed.

I am contracted to work during the season: from April 1st till the end of September. But I also do quite a few days out of season when the need arises.

My day begins with an important set of keys, just like the warders in Victorian times. The locks are old & quirky and no set of keys is the same. So I open the studded grey door. There is a modern security alarm though: the problem these days is keeping people out of the gaol when it is shut, not stopping prisoners escaping.

I set up the till in the shop, put on lights and open all the doors in the

building and put on the electronic devices, such as the multi-media player and the film of Ruthin Gaol when it was a munitions factory in World War II. The temperature of the freezer is checked three times a day. No ice cream for the prisoners back then. In fact, there was nothing sweet at all, just gruel, bread, potatoes and scouse.

The customers come in at 10.30. We now have the audio guides back up and running. These had to be altered after the flood of February 2021, as many artefacts are not in their original positions. Visitors are able to take these guides and make their own way round the building.

We also do tours with guides taking groups around. These are not at any specific times, just when there are enough people who would like to enjoy the experience. There are two heritage assistants on duty at a time and we have walkie-talkies to communicate as it is a big building and of course the shop needs someone there at all times.

In the shop, we sell gifts for adults and children and drinks and local ice cream. And guess what our best seller is? The handcuffs of course!

During the day we walk around, answering customers' questions and tidying up the colouring sheets, games and dressing up-clothes—and checking the condition of the lavatories.

At the end of the day our duties are

reversed. We close the till, turn off the lights, close the doors, switch off the electronic devices and turn the key on the grey studded door which has witnessed so many comings and goings over the years.

Do I enjoy my job? Of course I do, otherwise I wouldn't be still here after 15 years.



What levelling up could mean for no. 46

Empty since 2015, subject to sufficient Levelling Up funding, the front of The Old Gaol could be transformed:

- Display artefacts for which otherwise there is insufficient space in the current Old Gaol
- Provide a café, an introduction to The Old Gaol and an introduction to other local history
- Refurbish the tin shed which was part of the World War II munitions hut
- Provide a year-round attraction on the ground floor.



Son of Ruthin's Important Role in Transport Future



Established one year ago, the North Wales Transport Commission is considering short, medium and long term interventions, opportunities and challenges in a quest to shift to more sustainable travel, such as public transport and active travel.

One of three advisory commissioners is Ruthin's own Glyn Evans, a friend of the Civic Association and someone who addressed members in June 2019 when working for Sustrans.

The Commission is still sitting but it has already concluded that 'current arrangements will not achieve any significant change'.

The way the Commission looks at travel has to be broad in nature. So, it considers Ruthin within one of three sub-regions, that for Denbighshire & Conwy.

Here, the Commission states that 96 per cent of journeys in the Denbighshire & Conwy sub-region are within North Wales, with four per cent crossing the English border. The sub-region has the largest proportion of journeys under both three and 10 miles.

Yet, for Ruthin and district, these figures are likely to be skewed by the tight arc of urban population from Conwy to Prestatyn. In particular, four per cent crossing the English border is likely to be a significant under-representation for Ruthin, with the importance of commuting eastwards.

The Denbighshire-Conwy sub-region has good access to rail services—but only, of course, if you live on the coast. Half-a-mile is considered the usual metric to measure accessibility to the rail

network. Huge areas of the sub-region are excluded altogether, including since 1962 Ruthin. To suggest that in the Vale rail can make a difference is, shall we say, fanciful. Not surprisingly, the Commission isn't saying this.

Ruthin town fares better regarding daytime bus services but even much of the coast is denied what the Commission thinks an acceptable frequency. In Ruthin, there remains a paucity in evening services and nothing on Sundays, times of the day or week which are currently demand-led. With the media talking throughout the first six months of 2023 of potential Welsh Government cuts to bus services, there appears a disconnect between the Commission's aspirations and the short term.

Ruthin does better on active travel routes. These are walking and cycling for everyday journeys. Networks to facilitate this are still incomplete and disjointed, and cannot be said to reach every ultimate destination. It is also hyper-local in nature and cannot influence longer-distance travel.

How, then, can we make the leap from the unsustainable to sustainable travel?

This is difficult enough where there are high population densities. For Ruthin and district, such options are fewer and the challenges greater. Car ownership is higher than average in Ruthin: here, the car dominates. This, the Commission comments, is exacerbated by low-cost and on occasion free car parking and not just at out-of-town locations. There are no opportunities to use rail. Active travel beyond the town boundary is currently limiting.

Bus services will therefore need to be more competitive in terms of frequency and price. Given more funding, this is certainly possible.

But, given Ruthin's location, relative speed and distances will always be a challenge. Given distances to Ysbytai Glan Clwyd or Maelor; to major employment at Deeside or Wrexham; to the coast for leisure; or Wrexham, Chester or Broughton for major shops, it is often expecting too much of the bus to be competitive in terms of time. Expectations are beyond the bus service's means and the bus was never

able to cater successfully for such long-distance markets.

Where public transport can have an impact is in taking local car journeys off the road. The Commission wants a 'proof of concept' for rural areas in terms of connecting to towns. In a sense, the demand-responsive flexible Ruthin Fflecsi is already doing this. Usage on Fflecsi in town and local villages has doubled in a year.

The Commission considers a requirement to tackle free or modest car parking charges as an 'important determiner' in modal choice. This alone will be a sore point in Ruthin and will be something of a litmus test for the Commission's work.

An Impressive CV

When the Commission was set up in the spring of 2022 Evans was the Active Travel Lead for North Wales with Transport for Wales (TfW), co-ordinating active travel programmes across the region as well as supporting the six north Wales local authorities to enable them to achieve their active travel ambitions and manage a range of projects within the Welsh Government's ambitious North Wales 'Metro' programme. He also contributed to the planning and development of wider transport projects across the area that includes improvements to the rail network and associated stations & infrastructure.

In September last year Evans changed roles and became the Active Travel Fund Programme Manager for TfW, managing the Welsh Government's £50M active travel fund grant programme across Wales. The grant programme provides the 22 local authorities across Wales with funding opportunities to enhance existing active travel routes as well as develop and construct new walking and cycling routes that connect key destinations and provides alternative transport modes. Evans joined TfW in 2020 after over 20 years with the transport charity Sustrans.

Seen in Passing...

One of few celebration parties held in May for the new king was at Abbeyfields. Its invitation notice seemed to skip several generations of Charleses, stating that the coronation was for Charles 111 (one hundred and eleventh, not third). Did they know something we didn't?

Heard in passing... a number of businesses are now playing music, sometimes at quite a volume. When we were last there, Café R was belting out Nessun Dorma presumably by Pavarotti. The Market Hall plays more contemporary music. The problem



with both is that not everyone appreciates every music genre. Sometimes, in our busy world it would just be nice to have a little silence.

Hats off to the Town Council for pressure jetting the area around the Price Memorial. Not only was this becoming unsightly, the patina of green algae-like substance was making the approach slippery.

We've been consistent supporters of

Continued on p12

Where Mountains Meet the Sea

Only one North Wales town alongside Ruthin made it to the Sunday Times best places to live guide. Peter Daniels contrasts Barmouth with Ruthin

My previous visit to Barmouth was in 1989 on a chilly pre-Easter weekday. The place seemed deserted, half-shut and uninviting. At least there was a Woolies. But I abruptly returned on the next available Crosville Wales D94 bus and wrote off the day.

34 years later and things were immeasurably different. A cool, cloudy mid-May Ruthin contrasted with temperatures in Barmouth topping 20°C. With the sunshine came low-season visitors—older people, and parents with pre-school children: there's no doubt Barmouth trades on its expanse of beach.

The Sunday Times confirmed Ruthin as the best place to live in Wales. Above all, this was because of our setting. Barmouth's is beyond impressive, as its surrounding hills seem to hover over the sea. The Sunday Times called the backdrop 'majestic'. The best views to sea and inland are from the elevated position immediately above the town. Yet, few climb the charming cluster of narrow streets of the old town, much less to the tops. The old town is smothered with double yellow lines on lanes hardly widen enough for a motorbike and side car.

Our history contributed to the Sunday Times' verdict. Here, Ruthin wins hands down. Barmouth's grey green is largely rebuilt 18th or 19th century. Though none the worse for that, Barmouth lacks the sense of history, time and place we find in Ruthin. No mediæval timber here. Neither castle, courthouse nor carchar. No Owain Glyndŵr. Like Ruthin, there was once a Romano-British settlement (at Bryn Oleu). Also like Ruthin, there's now nothing tangible other than Ruthin's reburial.

The third strand of the Sunday Times' assessment was living & activities. If Ruthin seems like an idyllic bolt-hole far from a northern version of Hardy's madding crowd then Barmouth really is at the ends of the earth. Next stop, Newfoundland. Barmouth's Co-op is Ruthin-sized and there's a tiny Iceland no doubt aimed at caravanners. As for the



Tesco or Aldi we take for granted, that'll be a 20 mile round trip to Porthmadog. Remember pre-Tesco Kwik Save & Lo-cost Ruthin and how we, too, had to travel?

In fact, locals admit to adding at least 30 minutes to their day before they can do anything useful. This also applies to secondary schooling, at Harlech, Tywyn or Dolgellau. Or, they are at the mercy of trades people in these locations or Porthmadog. Contrast this with a Ruthin view expressed in the newspaper: 'Everyone could live their life in Ruthin and want for nothing'.

Barmouth's high street is nevertheless lively, with a bias towards holiday makers and an idiosyncratic juxtaposition of kiss-

Red Barrel. Speaking to a number of shopkeepers and it was evident that there was little Welsh in the town. Only one owner was pleased to engage yn Gymraeg.

And what of the gulls? Parts of Ruthin are plagued by them. Once, so was Barmouth but, I was told, a concerted community effort including swingeing penalties for gull feeding result in fewer in seaside Barmouth than inland Ruthin. Often, there was nary a gull to be seen or heard.

But there are other flying menaces. The so-called 'Mach Loop' sees regular military aircraft on low level training similar to those we suffered in the Vale 30 years ago. During my five hours in Barmouth, four RAF or USAF jets each made double uncomfortably piercing passes overhead.

The conclusion is that Barmouth has much to recommend it and the Sunday Times is fully justified in including it. It seems to have maintained the look and feel of a traditional seaside resort but without the problems oft associated with the post-continental holiday world. The hills paint a world-beating canvas.

Yet, Barmouth cannot match Ruthin's sense of history. And the distances necessary to partake in 21st century living are an encumbrance. The high street is healthy and, in today's Britain, that's a positive, though I found no banks or bookshops. The successor to Woolies was a discount fashion outlet, majoring on cheap brands and cheaper 'althleisure wear' but the staff areas were still in Woolworth red & there's even the old Woolworth staff clocking machine.

Some things haven't changed since that chilly day in 1989.



me-quicks alongside upmarket boutiques. The town looked both lived in and comfortable. There were only eight empties, mostly small or on the fringes. A general lack of charity shops, as Ruthin, and less (admittedly low-season) traffic than Ruthin town centre added to a feeling of prosperity. The beach area seemed to be a sea of car parks, though, and any pocket or scrap of private land was an expectant Joni Mitchell-style parking lot, charging up to £10 all day, standing by for the high summer invasion. We could do with a piece of that onslaught: at present, Ruthin's visitors actually dip in August.

What about less clement weather? Cardigan Bay winter storms over-top up to three sea walls. The potential for flooding is real. The winds whip up pebbles and pelt them against beach-side parked cars & properties. Few visitors will experience such a spectacle, of course.

The culture is very English-oriented but without the Costa Del Sol or Watney's



One up for Barmouth: its railway



An Allegory for Wales

The Tale of Siriol Squirrel

by Carol Smith

The sad story of Siriol Squirrel is an allegory of our time, a warning to be wary of the raft of measures the Welsh Government is unleashing against the tourism industry in Wales which it fervently hopes (with little real confidence, it has to be said) will resolve some of the worst effects of over-tourism while at the same time finding a solution to the housing crisis. Determination to press ahead, as Caradoc Crow finds, isn't always the true path to success.

Siriol Squirrel was cautious and prudent. All through the autumn she scoured Big Hazel Wood for hazel nuts and stored them in caches and hidey-holes around the wood, ready for winter. As she worked, she saw the other squirrels playing among the falling leaves where hazel nuts were lying, ripe for the taking, and she knew there would be plenty for everyone—if only the other squirrels would collect them as she was doing. Some of the other squirrels knew this would be wise, and squirrelled a few nuts away, but they soon returned to playing in the leaves, forgetting where they had hidden their stores. No matter: Siriol knew that there would be enough for everyone, and any forgotten store would sprout in the spring to grow new hazel trees to regenerate Big Hazel Wood.

When the chill winds of winter approached, Siriol Squirrel went from one cache to another hidey-hole, eating a nut

here, a nut there, all the while making sure the rest were safe and ready for the coldest days of winter. But the other squirrels had not been as shrewd, and had no reserves to rely on. They found a few hazel nuts under the leaf litter below the trees, searched out their own meagre stores, and finally begged Siriol Squirrel to share her nuts with them. After all, they too lived in Big Hazel Wood and weren't they entitled to a share of its bounty?

Siriol knew she had collected more nuts than she would need, even if winter hung on into April, so she agreed. But, being prudent, she only showed them where one cache was hidden; she could always open another later if needed.

Old Caradoc Crow, the leader of Big Hazel Wood, spent his days looking down on everything below him from the treetops. He had seen the way Siriol Squirrel had saved her nuts, and he had seen that the other squirrels had not. He knew that squirrels needed nuts to see them through the winter, but if some didn't survive, well, squirrels were very tasty! Caradoc also knew that squirrels squabble, so he decided to intervene.

The hazel nuts from Siriol's cache were carried to the clearing where Caradoc would share them out equally between everyone, but in order to be fair, he insisted that no nuts should be squirrelled away. He would divide them up, crack them and take out the kernels, and they would have to be eaten there and then.

Caradoc Crow was clever, but he was also a carnivore; he understood more about carrion than he did about kernels. All he knew was that hazel nuts have hard shells, so he chose a big stone with

which to crack them. When he raised the big stone and brought it down hard on the first nut, it was smashed into tiny pieces, crushing the kernel. He took the second nut, but being heavy-handed, he smashed the shell again, wasting another nut.

Determined to succeed, he tried the third nut, but the result was the same. Time and again he crushed the nuts into tiny pieces that the squirrels could only squabble over, and that provided little sustenance. Of course, they were soon clamouring for more. So little by little, Siriol's caches and hidey-holes were raided, the nuts were crushed by Caradoc Crow's stone, and eventually all of the nut harvest was gone.

The snows came and snapped tree branches as if they were twigs. Then gales blew and whole trees came down in the strong winds. Some squirrels survived the winter, some did not.

In the spring, Big Hazel Wood was a shadow of its former self. Now without the nuts that would have lain undiscovered under the leaf litter all winter, and the caches of nuts that would have been lost or forgotten in a normal year, there would be little new growth, too few saplings, and Big Hazel Wood would be slow to regenerate.

Caradoc Crow's ham-fisted attempts to deal fairly with everyone, without understanding the problem or thinking of the long-term consequences, had failed miserably. From now on, life in Big Hazel Wood would be much poorer not only for sensible Siriol Squirrel who had been so astute, but for all the other squirrels too.

Maybe next year...

Memorial Project Imminent

Anne Roberts offers us the facts

The work on the town's war memorial is now confirmed as starting in August and will last for approximately two to three weeks.

The work which has secured £40,000 funding from Cadw's historic buildings grant programme 2023/24, the Clocaenog Windfarm Fund and Ruthin Town Council. It involves some structural work to the Memorial but all the work is like-for-like to ensure the Memorial's longevity. The project will be carried out under the supervision of John Pugh, whose recent work includes the magnificent restored memorial at Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd to name only one locally.

The Memorial standing on Wynnstay Road between County Hall and the Presbyterian Church is one of the gems of the town, with its column, exquisite sculpture and the names of the town's fallen in past conflicts. The memorial is a listed structure by Cadw (reference number 87355) and is owned and

maintained by Ruthin Town Council.

The work will resolve the various issues with the reclining wall (behind the bench) which will be rectified by being taken down and then rebuilt with the same stone.

The green growth on the back of the memorial which could damage the structure will be removed, as well as the stones underneath the railings, which have cracked apart (owing to water ingress and freeze-thaw effect) being replaced with stone of the exact type and colour.

Also, the slate style paving on the floor of the memorial which is only unsuitable for indoor not outdoor use will be replaced with paving the same colour as the stones underneath the railings.

The railings themselves will be taken down, treated to remove the paint with some repairs and then re-fixed in place once the works on site have been carried out. Some of the names on the memorial itself will be re-linked, because some was running which could cause them to become very faint.

The conservation officer at Denbighshire County Council has already confirmed that no listed building consent process is required, because

the works are replicative and the local branch of the Royal British Legion has also voiced their wholehearted support for the project.

The plans for the War Memorial were put out to consultation as part of the Remembrance display in The Old Courthouse during the winter of 2021, and may now also be seen as part of the current exhibition there about the town's various voluntary groups. People are very welcome to contact the Town Council if they have any questions regarding the proposed works.

The preparatory work was started by a working group of town councillors and local people who have taken the project forward on behalf of the Town Council.

The war memorial will be fully fenced off and out of view for the duration of the work and will not be available for viewing. The work, however, will be completed by September at the very latest, in good time before the town's remembrance event in November.

It is hoped that the project will future-proof the memorial for several decades, and give a proper restoration to this treasured landmark which commemorates the town's fallen in conflict.

King Charles III

Following last month's coronation, Colin Edwards recalls Charles's visits to Ruthin as the prince of Wales

On August 5th, 1969, king Charles III as prince of Wales (as he then was) visited Ruthin during his tour of Denbighshire & Flintshire, a few weeks after his investiture at Caernarfon Castle.

With my late parents, we were among a huge crowd of local people in Record Street cheering his approach to what is now the Lending Library.

At the reception, the mayor and mayor's consort, Cllr Helen Adams and her husband both of 15, Well Street, and

other members of the 16-strong borough council were presented to his royal highness. Following the reception, he was driven the short distance to Ruthin Castle for lunch.

Prince Charles was obviously so impressed with our town that he returned in 1999 to visit the Old Gaol during its refurbishment prior to opening as an attraction.

Three years later, in 2002, the year of the late queen's golden jubilee, Charles visited Ruthin again and was welcomed on the Square by the town mayor, Cllr Morfudd Jones.

Charles delighted the large crowd, including myself, by carrying out a walkabout. I gave him a framed photograph of his mother that I had taken the previous month in Bangor.

I very much hope that the king and queen consort will visit Ruthin in the near

future and I'm sure that they would receive a 'croeso cynnes iawn' as Charles as prince has in the past.

It's well known that Charles is passionate about architecture and I'm quite sure he would be fascinated by Nantclwyd y Dre, its beautiful garden and The Old Courthouse. And, perhaps a return visit to the Castle for lunch.

Morfudd & Menna: Sisters in Pivotal Royal Roles

How many towns can boast such a coincidence?

When in jubilee year 2002 Cllr Morfudd Jones welcomed Prince Charles, her Mayoress was her sister, Menna.

20 years later, Cllr Menna Jones was town major and her sister Morfudd the Mayoress. During Menna's mayoral year, she has had to mark a jubilee, face a royal death, be present at a proclamation and, of course, observe a coronation.

An Eventful Year

During 2022/23, it was the turn of Civic Association committee member Cllr Menna Jones to be Town Mayor. Here, Menna reports on an eventful year

During my mayoral year, I have represented the Town Council at over 140 events.

The Urdd National Eisteddfod was held in Denbigh. My fellow councillors and I enjoyed representing Ruthin Town Council as sponsors of the Art and Craft Pavilion at the Eisteddfod.

I also visited care establishments in town to present them each with a rose bush to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. It was a sad occasion a few months after when she passed away and I set up a book of condolences in The Old Courthouse for people to sign.

As the mayor representing all the people of Ruthin, I also attended the King's Proclamations in Mold and Ruthin, and a choral evensong at St Asaph Cathedral to celebrate the coronation of TM King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

During the year, I had the privilege of hosting a number of events for my chosen charities. One was Cymorth Rhuthun/Ruthin Support, which receives applications from the following charities: Ruthin and Corwen Community Nurses; St. Kentigern Hospice; Nightingale House Hospice; Tŷ Gobaith; Gofal Dydd y Waen and The Cancer Unit at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd. Ruthin residents receive services and support from all of the above.

My other chosen Charity was The Vale of Clwyd First Responders. These volunteers work hard in our community and the money they receive will be used

to purchase new equipment.

During Gŵyl Rhuthun, I held a very enjoyable cheese and wine evening at Ruthin Castle. In December, I held a cymanfa garolau, with the proceeds being given to local young people. May I thank local businesses in town who sponsored different months in the mayor's calendar with the theme 'The Railway in Ruthin'. The concert held in Theatr John Ambrose by Côr Godre'r Aran proved to be very successful and raised a great deal of money for my charities. I also enjoyed organising an afternoon tea for the Food Bank volunteers and another afternoon for the Ruthin Hospital League of Friends. I also hosted the first bore coffi this year at The Old Courthouse showcasing my two chosen charities.

Civic Sunday was a special occasion and additionally to the service held at Capel Tabernacl with lunch at The Old Courthouse, bell ringers completed a full peel in recognition of the mayor. Previous full peels were undertaken successfully only in 1951 and 1879! What an honour.

Ruthin was chosen as one of the venues to commemorate the Falklands 40th Anniversary and a moving service was held at the war memorial, followed by a reception at The Old Courthouse.

I was also faced with the departure of the Town Clerk, Siân Clarke, who was responsible for the day to day running of the Town Council's business. We were very fortunate to be able to appoint Iolo Williams who took up the post on January 16th.

At the end of the month, there was great excitement when it was announced at long last that Ruthin's bid had been successful with The Levelling Up Fund for £11m. We look forward to seeing this developing during the next few months.

During the year I've met interesting people, including the two ladies who celebrated their 100th birthday. Lots of people work hard in our community and that's why I was keen to organise the exhibition at The Old Courthouse focusing on the work being carried out by our volunteers and to show our appreciation. I do believe that Ruthin is the best place to live and this is achieved by working together.

Yes, I am looking forward to getting back to be a 'back bencher'. Morfudd and I will continue to be involved with many organisations in town. Life goes on...



What a Privilege

Civic Association Chair Cllr Anne Roberts MBE is the 2023/24 town mayor

I really didn't know how I would feel about being elected mayor of Ruthin for a second time in seven years, but I have to say the feeling is still very special, and is still a huge privilege, writes Civic Association Chair Anne Roberts MBE.

As many of you will know, I have lived in Ruthin all my life, am passionate about all things 'Ruthin' and I always try to promote the town at every given opportunity. I therefore intend to make this a priority once again, in the coming year.

In one of my innovations this year, I have appointed a 'Mayor's Cadet' to accompany me to certain civic events. The air cadet, chosen by her peers at 1918 (Ruthin) Squadron, is Corporal Ffion Jones, and I am really looking

forward to having Ffion alongside me during this mayoral year.

In another departure from the norm, and involving a subject that I feel very strongly about, I will set up a fund to try to help young people in the town. Therefore, my Mayor's Fund will create a number of bursaries for local young people, for any training required, be it university, college, apprenticeship or any form of necessary training, which I hope will assist them in their chosen careers. This will of course depend on the amount of money raised and I am asking for your help in creating as many awards as I can. I will set up a small panel to judge any applications received.

I feel very humbled to be given the opportunity to be your mayor for 2023/24 and would like to reassure you all that Ruthin will always be my priority.

Local businesses need our support, now more than ever, and this will be at the top of my agenda, seeking ways to assist where I can.

Please don't hesitate to contact me

with any issues you might have, or wish to discuss. My details are on Ruthin Town Council website or, alternatively, get in touch via social media or whichever method is best for you.

Let's work together to make things happen in our lovely town!



A Town with Connections to Ruthin

Heather Williams visits Ludlow to discover its delights and some connections with Ruthin

We enjoyed a trip to Ludlow recently, which we hadn't visited for some time. It's always interesting to revisit places as there is always change. One of the first things we did was to visit the Visitor Information Centre, where we picked up a self-guided booklet and made our way around the town.

Outside the Visitor Information Centre, which is based in the Assembly Rooms (where we later had a lovely lunch), we first of all browsed in the award winning open air market where there were lots of local produce and arts/crafts stalls to tempt both locals and visitors: a bit like the indoor market we now have in the Market Hall in Ruthin.

We then visited St Lawrence's Church, known as the 'cathedral of the marches', one of only 18 churches given a 5-star rating by Simon Jenkins in England's Thousand Best Churches. The rating is because of its ornate carvings and marvellous stained glass windows. (You may know that Simon Jenkins considers Ruthin to be 'the most charming town in Wales'.) We also decided to climb up the tower to get a wonderful bird's eye view over the town and beyond.

Next to the church, beside the iconic Reader's House, is now the Jubilee Garden. In 2003, a developer tried to gain permission to build five large houses on the site. After a nine year battle, the developer was finally defeated and the land was saved from this insensitive

heresy. Eventually, a new alms house, with a design which was in keeping with the historic setting, was built on part of the plot and the Ludlow Civic Society managed to raise funds to purchase the rest of the plot to create a publicly accessible garden which was opened in 2018 by Sir Roy Strong.

A little gem that we had not been into before was Ludlow Museum, located in the old Buttercross at the top of one of the most iconic streets, Broad Street. Inside the Museum, which is owned by the Town Council, there are various exhibits which include the geology, archaeology and history of the area. One of the books which was available to read was 'Ovington's Bank', a book written by Stanley Weyman, who lived at Plas Llanrhydd on the outskirts of Ruthin (which I recently mentioned in an September 2022 article on the railway in T & A).

Weyman was once as popular as Charles Dickens! So why was the book there? The connection was explained and is clearly evident on one of Blue Plaques that the Ludlow Civic Society had installed in 2020. Weyman lived at 54 Broad Street in

Ludlow from where he wrote his novels. His desk where he wrote his novels was in what is today JHQ Hair Salon in Broad Street, part of Ludlow's Conservative office, which was then Weyman's family home. Merlin Unwin Books, a Ludlow book publisher, was persuaded to reissue his rather forgotten novel, Ovington's Bank, by the very enthusiastic local Weyman fan Jim Lawley, with the action taking place in various parts of the county.

Walking around Ludlow there are a significant number of blue plaques and the Ludlow Civic Society has even set a challenge (quiz), on its website so you can test yourself at the end of a walk!

ludlowcivicsociety.org



Ludlow's Buttercross



the new wildflower meadows and verges around and about. The commitment of the biodiversity section is unquestioned but is it just us or is the amount set aside in Ruthin actually shrinking? Suggestions as to improvements haven't been taken forward. This freshly exposed and delightful large clump of early flowering dead nettles, above, not previously seen before by bees or indeed anyone, was sadly mowed over.

The wildflower patch on the A494 by the Smithy supported by Llanbedr Community Council has this year greatly expanded. Both current and ruined Llanbedr churches also support wild flowers. But the most interesting was a lengthy verge at Bryn Eryl where a resident installed this 'Feeding the Bees' sign.



Cae Ddol will get a much-needed makeover with Levelling Up funding.

This case is in need of some attention. As we approach Ruthin's annual carnival (this time on a Sunday, to avoid overlapping with Denbigh's), within are posters for the that in 2018.



It's been exactly 10 years since the first collapse caused the Cuning Green to close. It's been open-closed-open-closed ever since. After work on the Castle-side wall, there came the collapse of The Lord's Garden wall. From the vantage point of the Castle, subject to the now thickening vegetation, it's possible to see the progress of the works to reinstate the wall—and hopefully reopen the footpath. No date's been set, though.



Edwards Enquires answers (p5)
1. Harold Lloyd 2. Rhewl 3. 1860 4. St
Meugan 5. Graigfechan (Little Rock).



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 Brython, Ruthin, LL15 1JA

The deadline for the next edition is August 15th, 2023

Thanks are due to this quarter's contributors: Margaret Barr, Peter Daniels, Kathy Daniels, Colin Edwards, Roger Edwards, Glyn Evans, Menna Jones, Darren Millar AS, Anne Roberts, Carol Smith & Heather Williams; and with the help of Bobby Feeley, Dorinda Kostravenglis & Rob Price

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

© June 2023
Ruthin & District Civic Association

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

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

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

(1) Name _____

(2) Name _____

Address _____

Telephone: _____ Email _____

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)