

Ruthin Community Update

Week 8 Saturday 16th May

Welcome to the eighth Ruthin weekly community update on **SATURDAY 16h May** from Yr Hen Lys in Ruthin. The update will be streamed live and recorded each Saturday at 5.30pm in Welsh and 6.00pm in English, with transcript and recordings then posted online at **www.rhuthun.com**

As the lockdown continues into its 9th week with at least another 2 weeks after that is important to re-emphasise the key reasons and look forward to some slight easing of restrictions next week.

As noted previously advice please make use of the various websites from our governmental, public health and public protection agencies.

UK Government www.gov.uk

Welsh Government www.gov.wales.

This week, there have been some changes to the guidance about staying at home and when you can go out to exercise etc.,. Unfortunately with some differences between the guidelines between the UK nations, the National media has focussed on the changes impacting England more than other countries, so it is important to stress that Guidance from Welsh Government remains to stay at home, and only venture out to obtain essential supplies / food etc; to go out to exercise **LOCALLY** with household or carer, to visit health services, to use a bank or post office, to assist a vulnerable person, travelling to and from work (where its not practical for you to work from home), visit a cemetery or memorial to pay respects, to attend a funeral if you are an invited member, or to make use of recycling or waste disposal facilities, visiting a library or garden centre.

We understand Denbighshire will be announcing some changes to their library services in response to this weeks relaxation.

phw.nhs.wales

Denbighshire County Council

General enquiries - 01824 706000

Concerns about welfare of residents (SPOA) on 0300 456 1000

Out of Hours emergencies 0345 053 3116 **www.denbighshire.gov.uk**

IN partnershipo with DVSC Denbighshiure are promoting a month of inspiration and support for the community through their 'Be Mindful in May' campaign, with different

themes each week. This week has been Love your Local Area week, including interesting and accessible information about our area that you can read about and learn whilst sheltering at home. Next week will be Love Reading Week, followed on the 24th by Your Community Week. Information on these is available at the DVSC website.

and also **DVSC - Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council**. .
www.dvsc.co.uk

Many people have been using the lockdown to carry out home improvements or gardening, and some easing of restrictions are allowing local companies such as Richard Williams Builders merchants, and Sevenoaks Garden Centre etc to open in a limited 'socially distant safe way. Other retailers in the home and Diy sector have also been operating either via online ordering and collect, or with safe distant service at the shop - including Ruthin Decor and Kings Ironmongers.

As mentioned last week Denbighshires garden Waste collection service will re-start, and local skip company I T Williams have also resumed their services.

At our own business, we have been carrying out some improvements and redecoration whilst isolating, and it is good that we can now make use of some local businesses for materials and waste collection.

I am pleased also to provide additional information on Yr Hen Lys initiative to host an exhibition when lockdown easing allows, of the communities stories and contributions about the lockdown 2020. A call out has been made for the Ruthin community to submit their experience through whatever media they deem appropriate, be it poetry, or written stories; songs, music, artworks such as collage, textile or painting, or through photography, videos or comedy. Submissions can be made through May, June and July by sending via email to kate.harcus@theoldcourthouse.wales. The exhibition will take place later in the year subject to social distancing measures and guidelines.

As car and vehicular road traffic has dramatically reduced during lockdown, many more families and individuals have been taking up cycling and walking around the town for their exercise during the wonderful weather we have been having. It has been great to see so many of the relatively new 'active travel' pedestrian and cycle paths that have been installed by DCC being used by so many people. Ruthin Town Council have been supportive of ambitions to improve safer routes for cycling and pedestrians - those with buggies / mobility supports etc so that the town is safe, pleasant and easy to cross and access by everyone without having to resort to getting in a car. Numerous towns and cities are taking advantage of the once in a lifetime changes that have affected road use, and I was pleased to see Welsh Government offer funding for communities to help build in this increase in active travel, and I hope the community can support all initiatives that can

help us all enjoy walking and cycling more. If you are on Facebook and support the development of improved cycle / active travel paths in the County, please join a new facebook Group called Denbighshire Cycle Path Support Group - who in just a couple of weeks have grown to around 1500 members. Their aims especially to see a dedicated cycle path as part of the Sustrans National Cycle network be extended from St Asaph south towards Denbigh and Ruthin would be fantastic for the town and is a key opportunity identified in Ruthin Town Council's winning bid for Ruthin to be the preferred home of a new North Wales outdoor velodrome. This exciting project is currently being progressed in a Feasibility stage, and it is becoming even more timely as more and more people choose to cycle. For those choosing to cycle more, Welsh Cycling who are our partners on the Velodrome project have published specific guidance about cycling responsibly during this period.

RTC are also continuing to progress the Old Courthouse project, with the working group meeting online every fortnight to continue to develop aspects of our interpretation exhibition, websites etc that we can do whilst in lockdown. I am pleased also that Ruthin Town Council will be meeting for the first time again since March via an online Full Council meeting on Monday evening at 7.00pm. The meeting will be held via an online platform with the meeting live streamed for the public via the Yr Hen Lys _ The Old Courthouse Facebook page. Meeting Agenda and papers are available as normal to view or download from Ruthin Town Council's website:

www.ruthintowncouncil.gov.uk

On the website you will also find forms to download for Ruthin Citizen and Group of the year. This was to have concluded and have been awarded at our AGM, but due to lockdown has been extended. Originally last Monday would have been my final day as Mayor of Ruthin, as pre-lockdown our AGM and Mayor making was to take place on May 11th. We should know more after Monday's meeting when the AGM will be able to take place and will be able to advise of any revised timetable for the Citizen of the Year award after that meeting.

Thank you all once again and stay safe.

finally I last week I mentioned the story about Pam Evans and Nesta Kaye making the Daily Post with her morning workouts, well its great to see her story featured by the BBC this week, which you can find on the BBC News website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-wales-52667001/coronavirus-ruthin-street-classes-good-for-morale>

Gavin