

Offa Community News

Newyddion Cymuned Offa



Christmas at St. Giles' Parish Church Nadolig yn Eglwys Sant Silyn

Christmas at St Giles' involves, as for the whole of Christendom, the period of preparation known as Advent.

As always, all are welcome to all our services, and also to pray or simply sit in the calm of the Church.

The Clergy, Wardens and Staff of St Giles' wish everyone a most happy and blessed Christmas. The Cor Glyndwr will open this season for us on **Saturday 30th November** with its annual concert of Advent music and this will take

place at 2.30pm. Throughout the next few weeks, Schools and other organisation will hold their carol concerts in the daytime in this wonderful mediaeval building. There will be evening events as well. The Wrexham Scouts will be here on the 6th December at 6pm, and on Saturday 7th December Nightingale House will hold their annual concert at 7.30pm. The Tenovus Lovelight concert is on Thursday 12th December at 7pm, and the Citizens Carol Service will be on Sunday 15th December at 6pm. Cards for Good Causes are already up and running and will continue until Saturday 14th December. These stalls provide a great opportunity to support a range of Charities while exchanging greetings with family and friends. The Church is open as usual from 10am-4pm throughout the week.

The Victorian Market, which forms a bridge into a more recent past, is held in St Giles' and across the wide surrounding area of the churchyard and streets on **Thursday 5th December**. This is a significant point on the Wrexham Town Centre Calendar.

Our series of services to mark the Birth of Christ begins on **Sunday 22nd December** with the **Traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 3pm**, which ends in candlelight, enhancing the spirit of the season. On **Christmas Eve** we will be holding at 4pm the ever-popular Crib Service, when all are welcome to attend as angels, shepherds, and kings and even beasts of the field, and join in the atmosphere of excitement and joy, capturing for adults and children alike the true message of Christmas. Later, at **11.30pm**, we begin the great **Midnight Eucharist**, a service which includes the drama of darkness and light, of great readings and exultant carols, surrounding the celebration of this first Eucharist of Christmas.

There is a **Christmas Eucharist at 10am on Christmas Day** as well. All, as always, are welcome to all our services, and also to pray or simply sit in the calm of the Church. The Clergy, Wardens and Staff of St Giles' wish everyone a most happy and blessed Christmas.

Ysgol Clywedog Football Sessions Sesiwn pêl droed ysgol Clywedog



There are a number of community football sessions at Ysgol Clywedog for various groups organised by the Brickfield rangers FC. Something for everyone to get involved!

Sunday 10amClywedog Hall 2-4year Old'sSunday 11amClywedog Hall Girls Futsal u11 -16Monday 6pmClywedog Astro Girls U10,u12,u16

Monday 6pm Clywedog Astro Boys u13

Tuesday 6pm Clywedog Astro Girls u14

Tuesday 6pmClywedog Astro Boys U9, u10,u11Wednesday 6pmClywedog Astro Boys u13,u14,u15

Thursday 5pm Clywedog Hall Special Needs junior and seniors

Thursday 6pmClywedog Astro Fun Football u5,u6Thursdays 6pmClywedog Astro Boys u12,u14,u8Thursday 6pmClywedog Hall Boys Futsal U 9Thursday 7pmClywedog Hall Boys futsal u11Thursday 7pmClywedog Astro Seniors

Any information call: 07718 049098

Black Lane CP School Ysgol cynradd Black Lane

Our class, Cadair Iris, from Black Lane CP School, visited Bellevue Park to help us with our topic in school. We want to design a playground so used the play equipment, measured it and looked at the forces in action which is part of our science work. We all loved our morning at the park, learned a lot and best of all we had fun.



Victoria Christmas Market Marchnad Nadolig Fictoraidd



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Youth Clubs in Your Area Clwb Ieuenctid yn eich ardal

Continued funding from Offa Community Council has enabled Caia Park Partnership Youth Team, to consistently deliver services free-of-charge to local young people on a weekly basis throughout the year. This makes sure that local youths have somewhere to go and socialise, have fun and engage in positive activities in a safe and controlled

Caia Park Partnership Youth Team

Partneriaid clwb ieuenctid Parc Caia



TUESDAY - LOCH Youth Club

Every Tuesday Evening from 6:30 - 8:30pm Ages 10-15 year olds

Luke O'Connor House, Barter Court, Hightown, Wrexham, LL13 8QT

THURSDAY - Hightown Youth Club

Every Thursday Evening from 7:15 - 8:45pm

Ages 10+

Hightown Community Resource Centre, Fusilier Way, Hightown, Wrexham LL13 7YF

FRIDAY - Maesgwyn Youth Club

Every Friday Evening from 6:30 - 9pm

Ages 8-16 years olds Maesgwyn Community Center, Lilac Way, Wrexham, LL112BB

Our Detached Youth Workers are also out and about each MONDAY evening, so if you spot our high-vis jackets please come over and say hello!









Every week across the clubs the team offer generic activities such as table tennis, pool, arts and crafts, board games and games consoles with the new FIFA 20 in all clubs! In addition, they also offer issue-based sessions to those that want to participate in them. Such as Alcohol Awareness, Drugs Awareness, Smoking Education, Bullying, Healthy Living, Negatives of Anti-Social Behaviour, Internet Safety and many more. These sessions enable young people to deal with, and overcome any day-to-day issues they are faced with. Some of these sessions have been accredited, meaning young people get unit awards for taking part. As a long standing youth work team with 20 years of delivery experience

in Wrexham the team have extremely good links with other agencies and

environment with qualified, experienced, police checked youth workers.

If you attended the Offa Carnival in Bellevue Park recently, you may have met some of the youth team, along with their young volunteers helping on the day to run activities and games on the field.

can, if needed sign post young people for further support if

For six months between 1st June 2019 and 1st December 2019 Offa Community Council have commissioned an extra session of youth work per week. This is a detached youth work session on the streets, which is aimed at engaging with young people that don't generally access centre based activities. In addition to enabling the Youth Workers to promote already existing services, this session has also allowed the team to visit ASB hotspots to see if they can engage with any young people that may be engaging in negative behaviours.

Detached Youth Work

requested.

Every Monday evening until 1st December 2019. From 17.30 until 20.00 within the Offa Community Council Area. If anyone requires any more information about any of the services, please contact the Youth Team on 01978 310984 or email youthteam@caiapark.org



Ysgol Bodhyfryd

Parciau Community Centre Canolfan cymunedol Offa



The Parciau Community Centre in Bellevue Park has a lot of activities to offer for the local community, suitable for all ages. Most take place on a weekly basis, so come along and join in.

MONDAY

Indoor Bowls 12pm - 3.30pm

Contact Gren on: 01978 265392 or Shane on: 07500 038395

TUESDAY

7pm - 9 pm Ladies Group (Bingo/Speakers). Contact Christine on: 01978 262006

WEDNESDAY

1pm - 3.30pm **Pensioners Bingo** Contact Vera on: 01978 353866

WEDNESDAY

5pm - 9pm **Larchwood Morris Dancing Troupes**

All ages welcome.

Pop in to see the Organisers

THURSDAY

5.30pm - 8.30pm Illusion Morris Dancing Troupes Pop in to see the Organisers

FRIDAY

7 pm - 9 pm **Indoor Carpet Bowls** Contact Malcolm Roche on: 01978 357162

FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

01978 367665 / 07825 637813



The Friends of Wrexham Cemetery Ffrindiau mynwent Wrecsam

The cemetery on Ruabon Road covers an area of 72 hectares and was opened in 1876 as a garden cemetery, designed by Yeaman Strachan.

The Friends Group was formed in with the aim of promoting the Wrexham Victorian Cemetery as a place of historical importance.

Victorians would use the cemetery to stroll around and much of the original layout and planting remains today.

The cemetery chapel is now a

Grade 11 listed building and was

designed by William Turner. It has been refurbished and is still used for burial services as well as cemetery events.

There have been over 38,000 burials in the cemetery and as part of the work of the Friends Group there is an on-going project to photograph and transcribe each headstone and record the data for future generations. These graves include many significant people who helped shape the town and also there are numerous War graves dedicated to those who fought and gave their lives in both World Wars.

Members of the Friends group are all volunteers and come from all walks of life. The committee meets once a month and it is their aim to organise events to encourage more people to take an active interest in the cemetery. Themed walks and talks are organised whereby graves which are significant to the theme e.g. The Polish War Graves, The Victorian Mayors of Wrexham are visited.

The group holds 'clean up days' as well as craft events one of which is the making of a Christmas Willow Wreath.

If you are interested in helping in any way or joining the Friends Group please ring the Cemetery on 01978 292048.

FREE Offa Pensioners Christmas Party Parti Nadolig pensiynwyr offa am ddim



Offa Community Council is once again funding a FREE Festive Christmas Party for residents in the Offa Community over the age of 60.

The event will take place on Saturday 14th December from 1.30pm - 4pm in the Parciau Community Centre, Bellevue Road, Wrexham.

You are invited to attend what we plan to be a lovely festive event with a 4-course traditional Christmas meal with carols, games and prizes.

The Mayor and Mayoress will be attending along with a special visit from Santa!

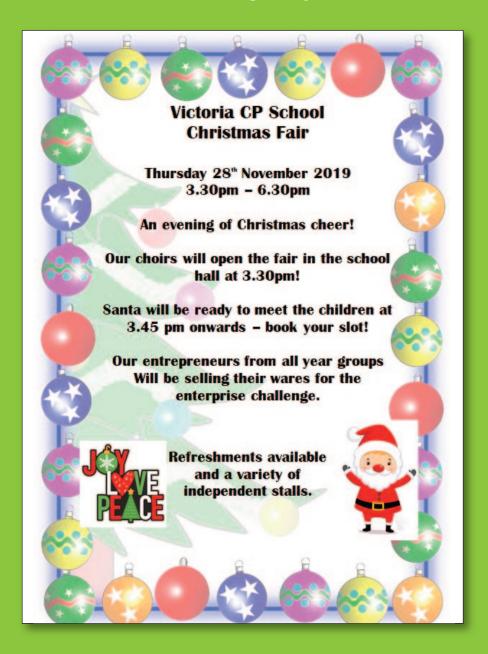
This is a free event, but as we are providing a 4-course Christmas meal the event is TICKET ONLY to help with numbers for catering.

Numbers are restricted, so to avoid disappointment please apply for tickets early and by Friday 6th December at the latest to:

> The Clerk to the Council, Parciau Community Centre, Bellevue Road, Wrexham, LL13 7NH or email: clerk@offacommunitycouncil.gov.uk

We look forward to you being able to join us on the day.





Belle Vue Playgroup Cultch chwarae Belle Vue



Friends of Bellevue Park Group Grwp ffrindiau parc Belle Vue

As a Friends group we held our annual Easter egg hunt which saw over 100 children with their parents coming along to take part.

The Music in the park went very well again this year our thank's go to Wrexfest who helped with these events and the weather was very kind to us.

Our Veterans day this year was commemoration of the **D-Day** landings and we were honoured to have one of the Veterans of this campaign **Ted Edwards** (see photo) join us at our service of commemoration which we held in the Cemetery Chapel in Ruabon Road cemetery. This was attended by His Worship the Mayor of Wrexham and councillors along with many people of the town.

The Friends try really hard to keep Bellevue Park working for all of Wrexham. I would like to thank Rob Jones our gardener for all his hard work and to wish him well on his retirement at the end of the year.

If anyone would like to join our Friends group we meet on the first Friday of the month at 11am in the Park Office.

Telephone Barbara 262035 for further information.

All welcome.



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Mayor's Charity Ball Dawns Elusen y Maer

Offa Community Councillors David Jones, Barbara Lloyd and Sarah Roberts at the Mayor's Charity Ball with the Mayor of Wrexham Cllr Rob Walsh and the Mayoress Ms Sharon Pope

> Cllrs Barbara Lloyd, Sarah Roberts, and David Jones attended the Mayor's Charity Dinner Dance on Friday 4 October. Proceeds and donations were shared between the Mayor's three chosen charities for this year: Bowel Cancer UK, H.A.C.K. Horse Sanctuary and Sands (Stillbirth and Neo-natal Death Society).

The evening opened with an inspirational performance from members of Sign of the Times, St. Christopher's school's signing choir, including renditions of Imagine and Calon Lân. The following night they competed in the Manchester heat of Britain's Got Talent.

An enjoyable evening was had by all.



Offa Community Centres For Hire Canolfan cymuned i'w llogi yn Offa



MUNITY CENTRES FOR HIRE



Parciau Community Centre (Bellevue Park). Available to hire for parties, meetings and social gatherings. Fully equipped kitchen. Tables and chairs for 100 people. Perfect Setting



Maesgwyn **Community Centre** (Maesgwyn Estate). Available to hire for parties, meetings and social gatherings. **Fully equipped** kitchen. Tables and chairs available. Perfect settings.

Luke O'Connor House Resource Centre. (Hightown) Available to hire. Has a fully equipped Computer Suite & 9 computers, updated and secure. Also offices to hire. Fully equipped kitchen. Tables and chairs available. Perfect setting.

Please contact Helen McCarthy on 01978 367665 or 07825637813 for details available dates and prices. Or email bookings @offacommunitycouncil.gov.uk

Meet Your Local Councillors Cwrdd a'ch cynghorwyr lleol

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Add an introcuction...

Chairman of Offa Community Council

Alex Jones, age 34 (I look good on it!) I am the community council representative for Erddig ward. I'm a husband to a very tolerant wife and proud father to 2 beautiful little girls Elicia and Isabelle. My eldest daughter has just started nursery at Victoria School and will be soon followed by her sister. My Wife and I are both from Wrexham and live in the offa ward. I run The Bank Wine Bar in Wrexham Town Centre. I am passionate about wrexham and

have enjoyed the last 10 years in the town running my own businesses. Most recently I formed part of the committee who organise the Wrexham Food and Drink Festival. This years event attracted over 7000 people to Wrexham during the weekend and we donate over £3000 to charity. My other commitments to the community include being the chair of Offa Community Council for the past 2 years and also a School Governor for Victoria School.

Brynnyffynnon Ward Community Councillor Elane Roberts

I am Elane Roberts and I grew up and have lived in the Brynyffynon Ward of Offa almost all my life, as did my father. He, my two daughters and I all attended Victoria School. I work in education in Wrexham and one of my passions is to ensure that everyone has access to the best possible and most suitable education opportunities. I have been a Labour community councillor for Brynyffynon Ward for a year. I am keen to ensure that Offa remains a welcoming and safe community for all of us who live and work here.

Community Councillor Linda Subacchi is a councillor for the Hermitage area of Offa.

Linda Subacchi has lived in Wrexham for 30 years, originally from Aberystwyth. Linda works at Ysgol BODHYFRYD primary welsh school in Hightown and speaks welsh fluently. Married with three grown up children.

Erddig Ward Community Councillor Councillor David R. Jones

Brought up in Wrexham, I attended Acton Park Junior School, St David's High School and Yale Sixth-form College. At the University of Wales, Bangor, I read English and later Music for which I was awarded a PhD. A resident of the area since 1975, I joined the Offa Community Council as a Community Councillor for Erddig Ward and subsequently have been regularly involved volunteering in community events such as the annual Christmas Party and Offa Carnival. I have also supported Wrexham's free Thursday lunchtime concerts at Tŷ Pawb and gave a piano recital there in May this year. I am the designated Music Link Governor at St Giles School, a Member of the Huntroyde & District Residents' Association, a Vicechairman of the Friends of Wrexham Cemetery, and a Vice-president of the Denbighshire Historical Society.

Brynyffynnon Ward Community Councillor Christine Griffiths

Originally from Liverpool, where I worked in an International Bank, I moved to Wrexham when I married a local man in 1975. I worked at the War Memorial and Maelor Hospitals for many years, retiring from my post as Hospital Office and Bereavement Office Manager in 2008. I've been a Community Councillor since June 2017, but as a stranger to Wrexham, I first became involved with my local community by joining the Parciau Ladies Club and have been on the Committee for 44 years and been the Chairman for more years than I can remember. I'm also on the Parciau Community Centre Management Committee and have been the Treasurer since 1996. I've been a Trustee with the Wrexham Hospital League of Friends for the past 12 years and I'm a member of the NHS Retirement Fellowship and enjoy their social activities. My home and friends are important to me and, although busy, I try to make time to appreciate both.

Brynyffynnon Ward Community Councillor Barbara Lloyd

Born in Wrexham I have lived in Offa for over 40 years. I have two daughters who attended local schools and one grandchild in Victoria School. I am a retired teacher and I am involved with WINGS Wrexham, a community group combating period poverty. Interests: education, particularly literacy and I am involved in an adult reading movement promoting enjoyment of quality literature. Hobbies: painting, quizzes and travelling.



Treemendous Christmas at Erddig

Marga Grabska, Doctor of Medicine M G. DR meddygaeth

Slow down and enjoy unique moments to treasure - a festive forest is growing throughout the historic hall and gardens.

Whether vou're looking to create magical memories or escape the bustle of the high street Erddig's treemendous Christmas trail and festive programme of events is set to captivate young and old alike.

Discover trees in different shapes and sizes from miniature forests made of gingerbread to a canopy of stars along Moss Walk and uncover hidden Christmas trees along the outdoor trail.

Find trees in all different shapes and sizes both inside and outdoors in a celebration of Erddig skills past and present. Explore the house to find our miniature forests frafted from gingerbread and paper. Pick up a copy of a former Erddig cook's recipe for gingerbread and marvel at the intricate paper craft trees inspired by former servant's artwork, Betty Rattcliffe.

Outdoors, adventure under a canopy of stars within the shelter of our garden trees and uncover the Christmas trees hidden in our trail this festive season.

Trail opens on Saturday 30 November and closes on Sunday 5 January.

Meet Father Christmas

Create some magical memories with your family and join Father Christmas for breakfast or supper in Erddig's Hayloft restaurant. Booking essential and tickets for non-members includes access to the house and garden.

Christmas gifts

The reverse grotto returns, so say a quick hello to Father Christmas and enjoy the gift of giving by leaving a donation for the local Wrexham foodbank.

Centrepiece-making workshop

Join a centrepiece-making workshop and let Erddig's gardeners guide you through their selected cuts of foliage and decorations to create something special to decorate your home this Christmas. £3 per item, just drop in at weekends from 7 to 22 December. Normal admission applies.

For pre-bookable events, visit: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/Erddig/whats-on In the middle of Wrexham cemetery sits an unassuming memorial discovered quite by chance. It reads "Marga Grabska, Doctor of Medicine, ex-prisoner of Ravensbruck Concentration Camp."

Those last few words send a chill down the spine. Ravensbruck was a Nazi concentration camp for women. Marga would have been sent there because she and other professionals posed a threat to the German occupation of Poland in 1939. Most of the 130,000 prisoners taken there were beaten, starved, experimented on, worked to death, or gassed. She was one of only 24,000 survivors who would have endured truly unimaginable hardships. Somehow she made her way to Wrexham to rebuild her life. She died in 1966. We know nothing else of her story.

There will be a temporary display about the wartime experience of Wrexham's Poles in the Wrexham Cemetery Chapel from November through to December and a guided walk on the 3rd November at 2pm.



The British School Brook Street Ysgol Prydeinig Stryd Brook

The British School Brook Street Ysgol Prydeinig Stryd Brook

By David R. Jones This September saw the loss of another historic building from Wrexham's townscape

Locals transported stones and bricks to the site voluntarily and the school was completed in 1844.

The long-abandoned tall stone-clad structure in Brook Street, once known as Victoria Hall and a one-time night club, was originally built to house Wrexham's British school and was a fine example of the work of a local architect. Indeed, it was a testament to the success of local people working together for the benefit of their town and community. The school was a venture of the British and Foreign Schools Society and met first in Hope Street in c.1832 before moving to the Town Hall for five years 1838-1843 when it was forced to leave.

Its uncertain future was secured by prominent local businessman and non-conformist, Alexander Wylde Thornely (1771-1854) who had moved from Chester to Wrexham in 1798. He was a successful hatter, a staunch Liberal and a member and Deacon of Pen-y-Bryn chapel when it was an Independent place of worship. According to the late Vernon Price he also established Wrexham's first Sunday-school as early as 1784. A keen promoter of education in the town it was he who played a vital role in founding the British School in Brook Street.

When the old Brookside Tannery was offered for sale, Thornely bought the land, building property on part and giving another area for the construction of the new school.

The cost of the building was nearly £1200, raised entirely by voluntary contributions with no Government funding. Locals transported stones and bricks to the site voluntarily and the school was completed in 1844. Its interior had lime-washed brick walls and was designed to accommodate 300 boys and 300 girls with a separate room for infants.

The attraction of the building was its distinctive external appearance described as Neo-Jacobean in style. The distinguished architectural historian Edward Hubbard writes that Penson, 'evolved his own version of Jacobean, characterized by fancifully shaped gables, pedimented windows and the use of ashlar.' He describes the Brook Street building specifically as having a 'Tall gable-ended façade with pedimented mullioned and transomed windows. The centre is corbelled out and rises as the top-piece of a fancifully shaped gable'.

Thornely remained an active and ardent supporter of the school as did the congregation of Pen-y-Bryn from whose ranks a number of teachers and Headmasters were supplied. As with other British Schools, the Brook Street School relied for its upkeep on subscriptions and donations, but these proved insufficient and the running of the school was transferred from 31 October 1897 to the Wrexham School Board which was appointed in 1871 following the Elementary Education Act of 1870 and the establishment of the School Board system. It led to a new school being built - the Victoria Board School which opened in Poyser Street in 1901. The old 'Brookside' school was sold and became the Victoria Hall.

The closure of the British School marked the end of an era; it was the last of its kind in Wrexham and the move to local authority controlled education was underway.

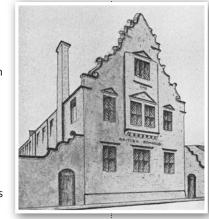
An unique link remained between the two schools through Charles Dodd (1855-1928), the last Headmaster of Brook Street School 1884-1901 (boys) and the first Headmaster of Victoria (boys) 1901-1919. Former pupils from both schools also featured in the new school's journal the Victoria Magazine which lasted until the First World War.

Dodd had received his early education from his grandmother Mrs John Griffiths who kept a Dame School 1819-1860 on what was known as The Bonc, in Poplar Road. He was the father of the theologian Rev Dr C.H. Dodd (1884-1973) and A.H. Dodd (1891-1975) who has been described as 'one of the finest Welsh historians of the century.'

So the Brook Street British School is no more. This gem of early Victorian architecture now lies in rubble. Thankfully the Market Hall (1847) in High Street and the County Buildings, Regent Street (1857) – now the Wrexham Museum and Archives - both by Penson, are still extant.

The British School in Brook Street was the earliest surviving example of Penson's work in the town. It was a tribute to Thornely and to all those concerned to work for the benefit of ordinary people in the local community. A building of such significance to the social and educational history of the town should surely have been more deserving of a blue plaque than the wreckers' ball.

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This magazine is edited and pubished by Karen Benfield, Clerk to the Council.

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