

Offa Community News

Newyddion Cymuned Offa



Meet your Community Councillor. In each issue we will be featuring one of our Community Councillors – in this edition we feature **Linda Subacchi - Chair of Offa Community Council**

I have been a community councillor for 20 years covering the Hermitage area and during that time I have had the pleasure of serving several terms as Chair

My name is Linda Subacchi and I have lived in Wrexham for 27 years.

I have been married to my husband David for over 30 years. I'm a mum of three and very proud of each one who attended Ysgol Bodhyfryd / Ysgol Plas Coch and Ysgol Morgan Llwyd. All three attended University and returned to work in the Wrexham area.

Originally from Aberystwyth and Welsh being my first language I now work at Ysgol Bodhyfryd as a teaching assistant.

Locally I have been a community councillor for 20 years covering the Hermitage area and during that time I have had the pleasure of serving several terms as Chair of the Community Council. I was very involved in the process of Community First in the area when it was originally set up over 10 years ago.

I was also involved in the process of the re-development of the old Hightown flats working alongside residents and other agencies. I'm very proud of the new estate working closely with the housing association Wales and West. I also Chair the Hermitage Residents Forum held bi-monthly, and also the Housing committee held bi-monthly giving us the opportunity to share and discuss planning issues within Hermitage. I am committed to work alongside the local borough Councillor and look forward to any change that may occur after the May elections.

Anyone who needs to contact me please contact via Offa Community Council offices.

Thank you
Linda Subacchi



Pictured receiving her award from Offa Community Councillor David Jones is **Jane Redfern Jones** of Coed y Glyn.

Jane received the award for 2016 in recognition of all the voluntary work she had undertaken on behalf of the Community Council.

Jane had produced the newsletter on behalf of the Community Council for many years and had also designed and created the Offa Community Council website. In addition Jane continues to be very active in the local community and has served as Chair of the Governors at St Giles School for many years.

If you know of someone living within the Offa Community that you would like to nominate for the 2017 Citizen of the Year Award please contact the Clerk to the Council **Mrs Karen Benfield. Tel: 01978 291562.**

Email: clerk @offacommunitycouncil.gov.uk

Do you know of someone living within the Offa Community that you would like to nominate for the 2017 Citizen of the Year Award?



Eglwys Sant Silyn St Giles' Parish Church

We keep a welcome at **St Giles' Parish Church** on Sundays and also on every day of the week (volunteers permitting!) between **10am and 4pm**.



Tower climbs take place on the last Saturday of each month from April to September

During the Spring and Summer, there are several events in addition to our usual Services.

Tower climbs take place on the last Saturday of each month from April to September and can be booked at the Tourist Information Centre. The climb is exciting and views from the top spectacular!

Other events include the **Glyndwr Community Choir Concert** on 1st July. There is a very special event on 6th July, when the eminent historian **David Starkey** is to deliver a talk about **Margaret Beaufort**, the mother of Henry VII, and who is reputed to have connections with this Church. Tickets for this exceptional event are £35, and include a glass of wine and some nibbles.

St Giles' regularly hosts family-centred groups, such as **Babes in the Pew** for parents with young children, every Wednesday between 10 and 11.30am.

On the first Saturday of each month we have our most recent venture, called **Me and My Dad**. It begins at 9am and includes a bacon butty breakfast.

We have a popular **All Age Worship** on the second and fourth Sundays at 9.30am, a short, informal service with a chance for a drink and some biscuits and a chat afterwards.

We also hold a **Memory Café** on the second and fourth Tuesday between 1-3pm.

St Giles' offers also, in addition to its main celebration of **Sung Holy Eucharist** at 11am on Sunday, other services of a less formal nature. For example there is a quiet **Said Holy Eucharist** at 5.15pm on Wednesday evenings, a **Holy Eucharist** with hymns and an address at 11am on Thursday mornings, as well as a celebration in Welsh of the **Holy Eucharist** on the first Sunday of the month at 6pm. **Taize Prayer** takes place on the third Sunday of the month at 6pm. This lasts about half an hour and consists of simple meditative chants, with some short prayers and a period of silence.

St Giles' does, of course provide a wonderful setting for **Weddings**, and here is the surprise - it costs only £590 for the full service including the music and even some flowers. Extras include the Bells (£170), and additional flowers, drinks and canapes can be negotiated too.

We hold a **Weddings Office weekly** on Wednesday evenings between 6-7pm, when the clergy are present to discuss dates and plans. St Giles' describes itself as **"A Visible and Active Christian Witness at the Heart of Wrexham"**.

Please do come and enjoy our welcome!

It only costs only £590 for a full wedding service including the music and even some flowers

We have started work with Caia Park Partnership, a community led charity located in the heart of Wrexham.

GAP's main aim is to help young people to stay connected to local green spaces developing their skills to help look after nature on their doorstep.

The Youth Team provides a range of services and activities for young people and engages directly with the community to make a difference to young people's lives.

Working together the GAP team have consulted with over fifty young people and support staff about developing their green spaces. GAP's main aim is to help young people to stay connected to local green spaces developing their skills to help look after nature on their doorstep. Next we hope to build relationships and start to support many young people in environmental volunteering.

We would like to thank **Lauren Williams** our regular GAP volunteer (on the left of the photo below) who is a student at Glyndwr University studying Youth & Community. Lauren shares her experience about GAP:

"I am really enjoying my time with GAP. It has given me the opportunity to engage with young people within a community. GAP is a fantastic project which allows young people to facilitate their social, educational and development needs. I am enjoying going into Wrexham's local community, delivering fun, interactive and educational activities and building working relationships with the young people. It has been a pleasure to see the young people engage and I look forward to watching the young people and their community green spaces develop."



CPP Caia Park Partnership Ltd
PPC Partneriaeth Parc Caia Cyf

GAP is part of Our Bright Future, a £33m programme funded by the Big Lottery Fund.



Maesgwyn Youth Club

8 - 25 year old males and females

Every Monday, 6:45pm - 8:45pm

Maesgwyn Community Centre, Lilac Way

FREE OF CHARGE!

COME AND MEET THE STAFF AND
TELL THEM WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE
TO SEE AT THE CLUB



For more information contact the Youth Team on 01978 310984

Parc Belvue yn ystod y Haf

Summer in Bellevue Park

Bellevue Park's Bandstand will be put to good use this summer as the Music in the Park concerts return to the park.

The concerts are free, with many people bringing along a picnic to the park to enjoy the barmy summer evenings listening to live music

Music in the Park

The concerts, which run from 7pm to 9pm on Fridays are free, with many people bringing along a picnic to the park to enjoy the barmy summer evenings listening to live music. The events are hosted by the Friends of Bellevue in partnership with Wrexham County Borough Council. The concerts all take place from the Edwardian Bandstand in the award winning park, which is situated close to Wrexham Town Centre.

The seasons kicks off on Friday June 23rd with Luke Gallagher followed by Thunderbugs on July 7th, Dinosaur on July 14th, Billy Thompson on 21st July, finishing with Wall St Krash on Friday July 28th

For further details please contact Bellevue Park on **01978 264150**.

Music at Bellevue Park 2017

- Friday 23 June 7 - 9pm - **Luke Gallagher**
- Friday 7 July 7 - 9pm - **Thunderbugs**
- Friday 14 July 7 - 9pm - **Dinosaur**
- Friday 21 July 7 - 9pm - **Billy Thompson Gypsy Style**
- Friday 28 July 7 - 9pm - **Wall St Krash**

All the bands perform on the Edwardian bandstand, everyone welcome!

Free sport and games sessions in the Park

Wrexham Councils Sports development team are running special sports and games sessions through the summer holidays on each Wednesday afternoon (1pm to 3pm) at Bellevue.

The events are aimed at 8-14 year olds, and are a wonderful opportunity for children to have a go at playing different sports such as rugby, football, cricket and rounders.

The first session is on Wednesday 26th July, meet at the bandstand. Tel **01978 298997** for details.



Free play sessions

During the Summer holidays every Thursday and Friday afternoon, Wrexham Play Development Team will be organising free special play sessions in Park. Look out for the big tipi! Contact 01978 298361 for more information.

Other summer events in the park:

Free Tennis Coaching

Thursday 1 June. Bellevue Park - 1pm - 3pm.
Meet at the Courts. Ages 6-14. Free.

Offa Carnival

Saturday 22 July. Bellevue Park - 11am - 3pm.
Community Carnival with a range of attractions. Free.

Colour Crowns

Tuesday 1 August. Bellevue Park - 1:30pm - 3:30pm.
Meet near the play area to make some colourful crowns. All ages. £2.50

Tennis Coaching

Thursday 3 August. Bellevue Park - 1:30pm - 3:30pm
Meet at the courts. Learn with a qualified coach. Ages 6-14. Free.

Tree Trail & Wood Cookie Art

Tuesday 22 August. Bellevue Park - 1:30pm - 3:30pm.
Meet near the play area to design some wood cookie art and discover Bellevue's trees. All ages. £2.50.

For further details please contact Bellevue Park on **01978 264150**.

Wrexham Councils Sports development team are running special sports and games sessions through the summer holidays



FREE Advice Service

available to all residents in Offa.

We can help with a variety of issues including benefits, housing and council tax benefit, rent arrears, debt, housing and consumer problems.

Every Monday

**Luke O'Connor House, Barter Court,
Hightown 10 am to 12 noon
(You can also contact the Adviser by
telephone on a Monday: 01978 290767)**

Every Wednesday

**Parciau Community Centre
Bellevue Park
1.30 pm to 3.30 pm
Drop in sessions, no appointment required**

***Supported by Offa Community Council
And Caia Park Advice Service***

Neighbourhood Watch has been running since way back in local communities, with neighbours looking after each other's houses as well as looking out for their more vulnerable neighbours.

However, over the years, much has been achieved and **Neighbourhood Watch schemes are flourishing**. Neighbourhood Watch does receive a small amount of funding which provides Wrexham communities with the service of the OWL crime and community safety bulletins via Flintshire & Wrexham (Online Watch Link) Association. Neighbourhood Watch schemes run alongside Residents & Tenants Associations, Community and Town Councillors and they do help and support the Police, but it is not Police run!

Modern Crime Prevention Strategy – Home Office

Crime is down but is changing. In 2015 there were 6.6 million crimes committed in England and Wales according to the Office for National Statistics' independent Crime Survey. That compares with 19 million in 1995 – a reduction of more than 60%.

Changes in Crime

The fact that crime is changing means we need to update the way we approach crime prevention, building on successes of the past, making use of new research, techniques and tools such as OWL. OWL and watch schemes work together in stopping crime before it happens by providing you with direct crime prevention advice so you are informed of any 'drivers of crime' in your areas.

OWL crime bulletin updates & Watch schemes:

Do speak with your neighbours near to you to encourage them to register for OWL crime bulletins from us and do consider forming a 'Neighbourhood Watch' scheme.

Neighbourhood Watch is for everyone, it is about bringing the community together – crime does not flourish in a neighbourhood where people work together. We are here to help, so do contact us or speak with your Councillor or PCSO – our contact details are:
Telephone 01352 708118
Email watch@owlcymru.org -
or visit our website www.owlcymru.org
or direct via www.owl.co.uk

*Do speak
with your
neighbours
near to you
to encourage
them to
register for
OWL crime
bulletins
from us*



Little Vawnog is a small piece of heaven for both people and nature, located just at the back of the Fox-wood estate and forms part of the historic Clywedog Valley Trail.

A range of native trees have been planted to create a woodland area, these are now ready to be thinned out

It is owned by Offa Community Council and is managed in partnership with the National Trust, Erddig.

Since it was taken on by Offa the aim has been to manage the area as a conservation area rather than formal well clipped green space. Over the years much work has been done from creating new footpaths in 2003, with the help of young people from the Erddig Youth Club, to laying the hedge that borders the site in 2010, which was done by National Trust volunteers.

A range of native trees have been planted to create a woodland area, these are now ready to be thinned out. The aim is to create a winding pathway that leads through the wooded area and take in different tree species, identifying them with natural signage.

Whilst the footpaths are strimmed each month from April to September, this is only 1m each side, leaving the grass to grow and wildflowers to set seed. Rustic benches are sited along the pathways to provide some respite for anyone unable to complete the looped walk in one and these benches will be updated / replaced as needed.

Walking under the railway bridge you can easily access the Erddig estate which has miles of walks to en-joy.



Dyma'r plant o Ysgol Bodhyfryd sydd wedi bod yn llwyddiannus yn y gystadleuaeth celf a chrefft y Sir eleni. Bydd eu gwaith yn ein cynrychioli yn Eisteddfod yr Urdd Pen y Bont ar Ogwr ar ddiwedd mis Mai.



Work to return **Wrexham's Cemetery** to its original Victorian and Gardenesque roots is entering its final phases.



One of the twin chapel buildings at the front of the Cemetery is being refurbished to provide a reception point for visitors, a research area where people interested in family history can consult the digitised burial registers and an office.

The other will be kept as an open space, bookable for funeral services, visiting groups and schools to use. When not in use by groups, visitors will be able to

view wall mounted panels depicting elements of the history Wrexham and other topics.

An ongoing project will be the gathering of stories about the Cemetery and the lives of people buried there

Work on repointing the spire has been completed and pigeon netting fixed to discourage birds from damaging the structure. The listed gates and fences are being repaired and authentically repainted. To improve access the Victorian paths are being resurfaced and restored complete with the original brick tile edgings. A number of historically significant gravestones will also be refurbished.

For those visitors who want to find out more about the Cemetery, a map based leaflet will be available showing where graves and memorials with stories are located. Web based content will be accessible at the Cemetery for those visitors with smart phones.

A part-time Development Officer has been appointed through Heritage Lottery funding to support community involvement. This will include running events, working with schools and groups on history projects, recruiting volunteers and setting up a Friends group.

An ongoing project will be the gathering of stories about the Cemetery and the lives of people buried there. Anyone with an interest in the history of Wrexham Cemetery or has information to share can contact the **Cemetery Development Officer John Whittaker** on 07753 771645, or by e-mail at john.whittaker@wrexham.gov.uk



Hi,

I'm Paul and I would like to introduce myself as your new Councillor for the Erddig ward. Firstly I would like to say many thanks for your support in the recent election and am honoured to be appointed to the position. In the coming months I am looking forward to working with you all on any matters that concern you. I will be taking the role as your Councillor very seriously and intend to get the best possible results for Erddig. Obviously your previous Councillor represented the ward for many years and I will be aiming to maintain and continue the good work undertaken by him during his appointment.

During the last few months I have personally spoken to many residents in your ward and logged any issues for review. As I am now your Councillor representing you I will be taking these issues forward and keeping you updated on any progress. I plan on attending Community Council meetings and Huntroyde Residents Association meetings regularly to ensure that I have an overview of matters in the ward. Sitting on the Wrexham County Borough Council I will be representing your interests and looking to obtain the best result for you on any matters discussed.

If you have any other issues that I should be aware of please contact me by phone or email so we can arrange a mutually convenient meeting.

I will soon look forward to seeing all of you again,

Paul Roberts

Erddig Borough Councillor

Email: paul4erddig@gmail.com / Tel: 07769 977713

Dewiswch eich llwybr I Fywyd Choose Your Path in Life

Sarah goes for a walk or a run most days. I often see her in the **Erddig Country Park**. She started walking after her friend, Carol, was diagnosed with diabetes. We'd struck up a conversation one day in the woods.

Every single day of our lives, we have the choice to stay where we are or to move our life in a new direction

Sarah and Carol had been a similar weight and build at the time of Carol's diagnosis. They were both overweight and rarely exercised.

Carol said to Sarah that her doctor had told her that she needed to lose weight, start exercising and eat healthily. Sarah tried to encourage her friend to act on her doctor's advice, but it fell on deaf ears. Carol wanted a quick fix. She wanted tablets to make her better. Getting fit was too much effort for her, and she was entitled to NHS treatment, after all, she said. Sarah was shocked, especially as Carol had two young children. It made Sarah look at her own life and realise that we have to take responsibility for our own health and happiness.

Sarah started walking in Bellevue Park and the Erddig Country Park and gradually progressed to running. She started eating healthily and had lost three stone in weight. She felt fantastic now and had more energy to do things with her own children.

Some of her friends (including Carol) had scoffed at her at first, saying that she wouldn't keep it up. She proved them wrong and four months on she feels and looks better than ever. Sarah meanwhile was enjoying life. She told me that one of the things she'd learnt was to replace the word **'can't'** with **'choose'**. Replacing **'I can't eat that'** with **'I am choosing not to eat that'** makes an assertion to your mind that you have a choice and are making the right choice willingly. Replacing the words **'I can'** or **'I can't'** with **'I choose to'** or **'I choose not to'**, will give you control, power and lasting success.

Every single day of our lives, we have the choice to stay where we are or to move our life in a new direction. The question is: Will you start taking action, or will you resist and wait that bit longer to get the joy, satisfaction and fulfilment you deserve?

"Small choices lead to giant consequences over time. There's no such thing as an unimportant day. As you live your days, so you craft your life."

Robin Sharma.

Jane Redfern Jones www.naturespeaks.co.uk

Canolfan Adnoddau Hightown Hightown Community Resource Centre

The **Caia Park Partnership** continues to deliver positive outcomes for young people in the Hightown area.

We are pleased to deliver the following sessions at Hightown Community Resource Centre:

Adventure Service Challenge

Wednesdays
4:30 - 5:30pm
Age's 7 - 12

Hightown Youth Club

Thursdays
7:30 - 9pm
Age's 11+

The Youth Team continue to deliver a safe and engaging space for young people to express their views and spend time with one another. Sessions provided are open access and available to all.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the **Youth Team** on **01978 310984** or email **chris.lane@caiapark.org**

The Youth Team continue to deliver a safe and engaging space for young people to express their views and spend time with one another



Clwb Ieuenctid Maesgwyn Maesgwyn Youth Club

Young people at **Maesgwyn Youth Club** have been busy buiding and decorating Bird Nesting Boxes that were kindly donated to the club by **CLlr Julie Williams**.

In total 12 nesting boxes have been completed and are now ready to be put up

In total 12 nesting boxes have been completed and are now ready to be put up.

The boxes are designated to be positioned in the Brynyffynion area, highlighting the work the young people have done and providing a safe environment for small birds to nest in over the coming months.

Maesgwyn Youth Club opertaes on a Monday evening for young people aged 8 to 19 and opening times are 6.45pm to 8.45pm at the community centre on Lilac Way.



Ardaloedd chwarae Offa Play Areas in Offa

Community Councils have been asked to take over responsibility for the maintenance and refurbishment repairs of the play areas in the community.

Due to the constraints on the WCBC budget over recent years Community Councils have been asked to take over responsibility for the maintenance and refurbishment repairs of the play areas in the community or risk them closing.

Offa Community Council has agreed to this for seven play areas in the community: Court Rd, Brynycabanau, Bryn Offa, Maesgwyn, Toddler and Junior play areas at Bellevue Park and the fitness trail.

Pictured is a new item of equipment we have recently had installed at Maesgwyn along with changes to the swings at a cost in excess of £12,000. At the play area on Monger Rd in Hightown the Community Council has renewed the safety surfacing at a cost of over £10,000.

The Community Council is committed to this ongoing refurbishment programme and is currently investigating a possible Multi Use Games Area to be located in Bellevue Park by the basketball courts.



Cameŕau Teledu Cylch Cyfyng i stryd Nelson CCTV Cameras for Nelson Street

In the last few months two new **CCTV cameras** have been purchased for Hightown in response to residents concerns.

The Community Council would like to thank Wales & West for this assistance and their ongoing support for residents

These have been located on Nelson Street and have been purchased with the help of Wales and West Housing Association who contributed £1,000 towards the overall cost.

The Community Council would like to thank Wales & West for this assistance and their ongoing support for residents.

In addition the Community Council have upgraded the street lighting units to LED to give better coverage for the cameras. This is an ongoing programme of upgrading the lights and other areas will be selected soon.



Patrôl Croesfan Ysgol School Crossing Patrols

Offa Community Council was requested a few years back to take on the funding of the **school crossing patrols** in Offa or risk them being removed under the funding cuts at WCBC.

Members of the Community Council were determined that the three school crossing patrols in Offa must stay as all three locations were busy commuter routes into the town and they were all three very much needed.

It was therefore agreed to take over the funding at an additional cost to the Community Council in the region of £11,000 per annum.



Tŷ Fairfield Fairfield House

Do any of our readers remember **Fairfield House** on Erddig Road and the families who lived there?

The house was built around 1800 and demolished in 1950s after being used for many years as the headquarters for the Royal British Legion.

Local Historian Cllr David Jones is undertaking research for a future edition of our newsletter and has asked for help.

Please send any pictures or information to:
clerk@offa-communitycouncil.gov.uk

Canolfan Parciau & Maesgwyn Parciau & Maesgwyn Centres

Whilst still in the ownership of WCBC the Community Council is now responsible for all the running costs, repairs and refurbishment at the **Parciau and Maesgwyn Community Centres**.

Without this ongoing commitment they were to be closed.

Both are very busy centres used by a wide variety of groups. The cost to the Community Council is in the region of £20,000 per annum but thanks must also go to the Management committees and large number of volunteers who also assist to keep the 2 centres open.

To book the centres please contact **Karen Green** Parciau caretaker on 853587 or **Cllr Phil** for the Maesgwyn on 291208.

Prospect chwarae Offa Offa Playwork Project



OFFA

PLAYWORK PROJECT

FREE, OPEN ACCESS PLAYWORK PROVISION FOR AGES 5 +

2PM-4PM

RUN DURING ALL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS!
(EXCLUDING FEBRUARY AND THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS)

TUESDAY
AT LUKE O'CONNOR HOUSE

WEDNESDAY
AT BRYNYCABANAU PLAYGROUND

THURSDAY & FRIDAY
AT BELLEVUE PARK

For further information please contact **Wrexham Family Information Service**
Tel: 01978 292094 or **Email:** play@wrexham.gov.uk

Open access playschemes should not be considered as childcare.



www.wrexham.gov.uk / www.wrecsam.gov.uk



Offa Carnival 2017

Saturday 22nd July 11am—4pm

At Bellevue Park



FREE ENTRY!!

**Fun for all the
family**

Stokes Amusement rides

PDSA Dog Show

Donkey rides, falconry display,
Punch and Judy

Circus skills workshop

Land train rides around
the park

and lots of other stalls
and attractions.



For further info contact Karen
Benfield on 01978 291562 or email:
clerk@offacommunitycouncil.gov.uk