

Offa Community News

Newyddion Cymuned Offa



Erddig Youth Club Clwb Ieuenctid Erddig

July 2019 sees the Erddig Youth Club celebrate its 20 year anniversary and what a 20 years it has been for this unique youth club.

It was in April 1999 that discussions first started between the National Trust and Offa Community Council; the Trust wanting to engage with local young people to increase the sense of pride and ownership of the Erddig estate; the Community Council wanting good quality and varied provision for their young people.



The then disused building at Felin Puleston was earmarked as a prime location but was full to the rafters with old machinery and equipment. Determined to make the youth club a reality, everyone pitched in and the building was cleared, cleaned and painted. An old pool table was donated from another youth club, tables and benches came from what was then Bryn Offa School. As the saying goes, if you build it they will come – well in fact the young people helped us to get everything ready and open but they also became our first members.

So it's a 20 year old youth club, what's the big deal right? Erddig youth club was and remains the only youth club in the National Trust. It is a voluntary youth club, run entirely by a team of dedicated volunteer youth workers, the most recent addition being a past member who is now a qualified youth worker herself and has returned to volunteer. The club is open to anyone aged 11-17, there is no membership fee or subs to attend. All that is asked is that each young person endeavours to undertake some voluntary work. Over the years young people have done countless river clearances, constructed footpaths through Court Wood, Coed y Glyn and on Little Vawnog. Hundreds, if not thousands of bulbs have been planted in the local community, hanging baskets have been made for elderly residents, a youth club allotment has been created and tended to, grass is mown, fences painted, benches built and homes for wildlife created. However the young people haven't stopped there, they have also volunteered at events at Erddig, providing Elf help in the Christmas grotto, shoe shine stand at the Victorian Festival to manning the water station at the upcoming Nightingale House 10km charity run – nothing is beyond these amazing young people.

With a small annual grant from Offa Community Council, the building/utilities provided by the National Trust the youth club continues to provide a safe, welcoming and nurturing space for young people to grow into happy, healthy and active citizens.

Erddig Youth Club takes place at Felin Puleston, Wrexham LL13 7RF every Monday evening (excluding bank holidays) 18.30 – 20.30. Contact katie.rees-jones@natinonaltrust.org.uk 01978 315179.

Offa Citizen of the Year Award Dinesydd y flwyddyn Offa

Do you know someone living locally who has gone that extra mile to help the local community?



Every year the Community Council presents its **Citizen of the Year Award** to a person living in the Offa Community who has made a special contribution to the lives of local residents through volunteering with local community groups.

If you would like to nominate someone living in the Offa Community for the **Offa Citizen of the Year Award 2019** please put your nomination in writing to:

The Clerk of the Council, Offa Community Council, Parciau Community Centre, Bellevue Road, Wrexham LL13 7NH

Nominations can be made in writing to the above address or by email to: clerk@offacommunitycouncil.gov.uk

All nominations will need to be received by **30th August 2019**.

This summer St Giles' Church are holding a Mouse Festival, which will last throughout the School Holidays.

The Mouse Festival will start on Sunday 7th July at the All Age Worship Service at 9.30am, and be open every day until 1st September, when it will close at 3pm with a Pets' Service.

There will be displays of (knitted!) mice of all shapes, sizes and colours throughout the Church, showing a variety of themes and occasions, and others that will feature stories and rhymes connected with mice.



Look out for angel-mice, and a Treasure Trail - and most exciting of all a **Fun Day on Saturday 17th August** which will include a Zip Wire for Mice in Rockets. You can mice (not real ones of course) for this particular adventure. We intend also to have an Activity Day, at a date to be announced nearer the time.

Admission will be FREE, and there will be refreshments to buy of course...

Throughout the summer also, the **Tower Climbs** will continue on the **last Saturday of the month**, giving the chance to see some extraordinary views of Wrexham and the surrounding area. Tours can be booked through the Wrexham Tourist Information Office **01978 292015**



We would like to know what the Offa Community think about the Wrexham Cemetery Heritage Project

Please could you answer a few questions by circling your answer, then tear out the page and hand in at either the community centre, Bellevue park office or at the cemetery.

Do you think the history and the heritage of the cemetery is important?

☐ Very important ☐ Quite important ☐ Not very important ☐ Not at all important

What do you think of the improvements made through the Heritage Lottery funding?

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ OK ☐ Poor

Do you think Wrexham Cemetery has a positive impact on the community?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If you have any specific comments, please write them here:

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If you are interested in joining the Friends Group, becoming a volunteer or want to know about future events please add your contact details below.

Name:

Phone:

Email address:

Five Year Celebration Event at HCRC Dathlu Pum mlynedd Gŵyl HCRC

We had a great time at our Five Year Celebration Event at HCRC on **26th February**, with positive feedback from the general public, dignitaries, other local organisations and Wales & West employees.

The turn out was great and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves. It felt like a true community event with many local organisations also able to promote their services and inform local people of what is available to them in their local community.

We had a variety of free entertainment on offer with children's craft, face-painting, story-time with Mickey and Minnie, animals and minibests, along with performances by Bodhyfryd School Choir, Wrexham's Singing Hands and a karate demonstration. We even finished off with a game of bingo, so something for everyone!



Free Computer Lessons Gwersi cyfrifiadau am ddim



FREE
Computer
Lessons

Would you like to be shown the basics of how to use a computer, make an email address, send an email, write a letter?

If you do, please call 01978 367665, or text 07825 637813 to join our group.

The course is for six sessions over six weeks at the Luke O'Connor House Centre, 11am - 12pm.

Limited spaces available, so book as soon as possible.

Everyone is welcome

Don't Fall Prey to Cold Callers

Peidiwch a cael eich twyllo gan galwadau ffug

An elderly couple were prevented from paying out £28,000 for unnecessary work after Public Protection officers intervened. As a result, Lawrence Newberry was prosecuted and pleaded guilty recently to 3 offences under Consumer Protection laws.

If you think you might need work doing, find reputable traders and obtain a few quotes before agreeing to get work done. Check when and how payment will be made. Use recommendations and make sure you have the full details of any business before you commit to work. If you are unsure get help from friends or family. Never agree to work offered by cold callers on the doorstep.

In July 2017 he approached an 80 year old householder and offered to do minor repairs on the roof of his home. Once on the property the minor repairs quickly became a claim by the defendant that the entire roof required urgent replacement at a cost of £28,000.

Under pressure because of the threat of failure of the existing roof the householder agreed to work being done which started the same day. However, Public Protection's Trading Standards officers intervened and prevented the work from being completed and ultimately revealed that there was nothing wrong with the existing roof and that price quoted was more than double the reasonable cost of replacement.

Cllr Mark Pritchard, Leader of the Council, said: **"It is deeply troubling that this retired couple in our community were lured into having unnecessary, overpriced and, most likely, poor quality work done on their property by a man who cold called them and scared them into believing that failing to do major repairs immediately could result in problems for their home. I am pleased and relieved that on this occasion the problem was resolved for the householder and that the perpetrator has been held to account in the criminal courts.**

"Preying on vulnerable, elderly residents is a despicable, cowardly and particularly nasty activity and it is going on in the heart of our communities. I would urge all residents in Wrexham to look out for anything suspicious or unusual going on in their neighbourhood and think of their friends, neighbours and relatives, particularly those who may be more vulnerable to cold callers offering to carry out repairs on property. As we have seen, they only need a toe in the door to start the hard sell and scare or charm residents into signing up for very expensive work.

If you see anything suspicious or you want to report an incident call: Police on **101**, or Citizens Advice Consumer Services on **03454 040506**



Ymddiriedolaeth
Genedlaethol
National Trust

Become a Friend of Felin Volunteer



Are you 14 years or older? Would you like to work with nature and wildlife? Are you ready for some hands-on action?

Help us look after our community garden, allotment and orchard. We will support you to grow the skills and experience to look after nature on your doorstep.

Friends of Felin meet every 2nd Saturday of the month, from 10am to 3pm at Felin Puleston Outdoor Centre, LL13 7RF.

Contact: Mieke.DeLathouwers@nationaltrust.org.uk, 01978 356 223



Friends of Felin is supported by Erddig Green Academies Project
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/green-academies-project
www.facebook.com/GreenAcademiesProjectNT/

Photo © National Trust images | The National Trust is an independent registered charity, number 205846



FREE advice service available to all residents in Offa.
Drop in sessions, no appointment required.

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 Resource Centre, Barter Court, Hightown
10am to 12 noon

Every Wednesday Parciau Community Centre, Bellevue Park
2pm to 4pm

Supported by Offa Community Council and Caia Park Advice Service

At the end of last season, Bellevue had won their first trophy, lifting the Wrexham Community Cup at the Racecourse ground. What followed was a stream of accolades for a club that is still in its infancy.

The club was featured as part of the Wrexham is the Name art exhibition at Ty Pawb, was awarded the Daily Post Sportsmanship Award and was invited to be a stakeholder as part of Glyndwr University's Alien project. This resulted in members of the club being invited to the House of Lords by Lord Roberts of Llandudno to talk about the great work that Bellevue FC is doing in Wrexham.

The second season of Bellevue FC has been even better with Bellevue lifting the Arfon Jones Trophy in October as part of Hate Crime Awareness Week. Following this the club was featured on BBC Wales Live, presented by Jason Mohamed and a second film by Percy Dean, featuring Bellevue FC player Jordan Wright as part of the charity Mind's campaign for Mental Health Awareness Week.

Most recently, Bellevue founder Delwyn Derrick, was named volunteer of the year at the Wrexham County Borough Council Sports Awards 2019 for the achievements of Bellevue FC. This was followed by the highest profile game that Bellevue Park has ever seen, as Bellevue FC took on the Wrexham DSA All Stars. The handpicked opposition included Sky Sports' Bryn Law, former Wales captain Andy Melville, Richie McNeil and Wrexham legend Gaz Owen to name just a few. The two teams competed to raise awareness of the barriers that people face in sports, with the Community Cup on the line again. It was Bellevue FC who lifted the trophy for the second year in a row and a personal point of pride for the players to have shared the field with an incredible team of sporting legends.

The 2019 season has been an amazing experience for Bellevue FC and one the team are looking to top next season.



Club founder Delwyn Derrick was awarded the Police and Crime Commissioners Community Award for Equality and Diversity and the North East Wales Football League Secretary of the Year.

New Fitness Trail for Bellevue Park Llwybr ffitrwydd newydd Parc Belle Vue

Offa Community Council is funding a new fitness trail for Bellevue park this year at a cost of around £15,000. The current wooden fitness trail equipment has been failing safety inspections one by one and much of it has had to be removed. We are hoping to get the new fitness trail in place for this summer.



Bellevue Playgroup Meithrinfa Belle Vue



Above is a picture of some of the children and staff at Bellevue Playgroup who dressed up to celebrate **World Book Day on 7th March 2019**. It was lovely to see so many joining in. Well done everyone.

Bellevue Playgroup is a local community Playgroup situated in Bellevue Park. Children from 2 years to 4 years are welcome. We have fully qualified staff, and we are Inspected by CIW (Care Inspectorate Wales).

We are registered for the 30 hours free funding, providing 20 hours during school term time, and 30 hours during the summer Holiday Club.

Bellevue Playgroup is a registered Charity, holding several events during the year. We recently secured a Lottery Grant, which will help provide special activities for the children and their parents, and also the surrounding community.

If you would like information regarding the Playgroup, please email: mccarthy284@btinternet.com or telephone 01978 367665

Wrexham Music Festival Gŵyl Cerdd Wrecsam

The first **Wrexham Musical Festival** to be held for a number of years took place at Tŷ Pawb (the former Peoples' Market) on Thursday 18 April.

It was open to school-children and students in two age-groups - junior (under 12) and senior (13 to 18 years) - and was described as: **A Festival of Music performed live by school pupils and students in a celebration of the contribution of music in building character, self-confidence, life and social skills.**

Performances ranged from the classical, including J.S.Bach, Haydn, Purcell, Chopin and Brahms, to selections from 'Frozen', Lloyd Webber's Pie Jesu, Les Misérables, Psychedelic, Chuck Berry and Guns 'n' Roses.

Everyone who took part received a certificate and a medal. In addition, the musician who gave what the judges considered to be the best performance in each category was awarded a special memento.

In the junior category this went to Eleri Spinks, flautist, a pupil at Victoria Junior School, who played the first movement of a sonata by Telemann. Eleri was presented with her award by the Mayor, Councillor Andy Williams.



Other participants from schools in the Offa community were: **William Xu Hogan**, St Giles (piano); **Zoë Lansom**, Ysgol Bodhyfryd (violin); **Surita Sasaru**, Victoria (voice); **Cerys Owen**, Ysgol Clywedog (piano), and **Jessie Hack**, St Joseph's (voice).

An enjoyable day was had by all in a warm and friendly environment.

Offa Playwork Project Prosiect gwaith chwarae Offa



OFFA PLAYWORK PROJECT

FREE, OPEN ACCESS PLAYWORK PROVISION FOR AGES 5 +

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

(excluding February and the Christmas holidays)

2pm to 4pm

Tuesday at Luke O'Connor House

Wednesday at Bryncabanau Playground

Thursday & Friday at Bellevue Park



HIGHTOWN PLAY PROJECT

(Term time)

Tuesdays 3.30pm to 5.30pm
at Bryncabanau Playground



For further information please contact Wrexham Family Information Service on **01978 292094** or visit www.wrexham.gov.uk/play

Open access playschemes should not be considered as childcare.
Supported by Offa Community Council



www.wrecsam.gov.uk | www.wrexham.gov.uk

The Royal Welch Fusiliers in Wrexham Ffiwsilwyr Brenhinol Cymru yn Wrecsam

By Offa Community Councillor David Jones

The Royal Welch Fusiliers is a name to conjure with, and since 1877 has been closely associated with Hightown Barracks.

The Royal Welch Fusiliers in Wrexham: an international presence in our local community

It originated on 16 March 1689 when Henry, 4th Lord Herbert of Chirbury, raised a volunteer regiment that was soon designated the 23rd Regiment of Foot. On 15 December 1702 they became The Welsh Regiment of Fusiliers - a reference both to their recruitment area and their use of the then state-of-the-art firearm, the fusil. As a reward for gallantry - a trait so often exhibited by the RWF throughout its history - George I conferred on them (9 November 1714) the title the **'Prince of Wales's Own Royal Regiment of Welsh Fusiliers'**. Later in the century (1771) they were referred to as 'The Royal Regiment of Welch Fusiliers'.

By that date the tradition of the Regimental Goat, was long-established. A full member of the regiment - not a mascot - he holds the official rank of Lance Corporal - and is the responsibility of a junior NCO with the honorary title of Goat Major. Royal Goats were first presented by the monarch in 1844.

Another tradition is the use of **'Welch'** in the regiment's name. Whatever the evidence of the earliest official titles, **'Welch'** was the preferred spelling as early as 1707 and was in common use until the 1850s. There followed a period when **'Welsh'** became more prevalent giving rise to both spellings being used in different periods. The matter was only resolved in 1920 when permission was granted for the regiment to retain the old spelling - and it has been **'Welch'** ever since.

The RWF's association with Wrexham dates back to at least 1729 when a company was billeted in the town, and although a barracks was opened in Regent Street in 1857 for the Denbighshire Militia (it later became the police station and Magistrates' Court and is now the County Museum and Archives), it was not until the Brigade Depots system was introduced in 1876 that work began on a new site for the RWF.

The new barracks cost £30,000 and housed two companies from each of the two battalions. They arrived on 17 August 1877 and were greeted by the Mayor, James Charles Owen of Alma House, Madeira Hill.

Wrexham has long been a place of recruitment for the RWF. This was especially true for The Great War when 40 battalions were raised. Sadly,

almost 10,000 officers and men were lost in the ensuing conflict. One notable casualty was the poet Ellis Humphrey Evans ('Hedd Wynn').

Following the Second World War, the RWF received the Freedom of Wrexham on 15 June 1946, a privilege repeated at Wrexham on 17 September 1983 for the Borough of Wrexham Maelor. Another venue in Offa, the Drill Hall, Poyser Street, opened in 1902, had been home to the 4th Bn RWF until they moved to Hightown barracks on 9 October 1948.

The Depot system at Wrexham survived until 31 March 1960. The next day Wrexham was established as the Regimental Headquarters, a position it held until 10 September 1968 when the honour was transferred to Caernarfon, but the headquarters moved back to Wrexham on 1 December 1982.

The current Colonel-in-Chief is Her Majesty The Queen, and to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this role, Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Hightown Barracks on 4 June 2003.

Without doubt, the RWF is one of the most remarkable and distinguished of any part of the armed forces. Some of the colours are on display in St Giles' Parish Church which also has a dedicated Regimental Chapel. Many of the streets surrounding the barracks bear the names of those awarded the Victoria Cross. It has also been commemorated in a lively military march 'The Royal Welch Fusiliers' by American composer John Philip Sousa (1854-1932) in memory of its work alongside the US Marine Corps in China (1900) and LMS Royal Scot class locomotive number 6118 was named **'Royal Welch Fusilier'**.

As an independent corps the regiment existed for 317 years until 2006 when 'rationalisation' caused it to be merged with the Royal Welsh Regiment. When he reviewed the regiment in the summer of 1739, George II described it as 'the finest Regiment He had seen'. Fortunately its name lives on as 1st Battalion The Royal Welsh (The Royal Welch Fusiliers). The Keep at the barracks is a Grade II listed building and the hope for the future is that the traditions of such a distinguished regiment will continue on this historic site.

Without doubt, the RWF is one of the most remarkable and distinguished of any part of the armed forces. Some of the colours are on display in St Giles' Parish Church which also has a dedicated Regimental Chapel.



Wrexham's Industrial Giant Cawr Diwydiannol Wrecsam

William Henry Darby of Coalbrookdale (1819 – 1882) can rightly be called one of Wrexham's industrial giants. This month marked his 200th birthday.

The Darbys were revered in Wrexham, particularly for his generosity.

By Alex Greene, Wrexham Cemetery Research Assistant

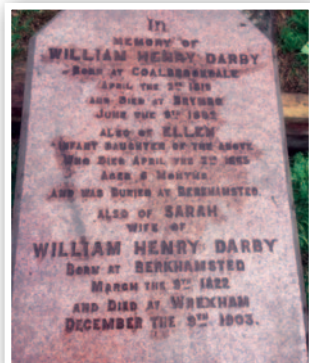
Born in Coalbrookdale on April 2, 1819, to Quaker parents Richard Darby and Maria Lofton of Chester, William was born to the Darby family, who had been Ironmasters at Coalbrookdale for many years.

Wrexham became a crucial asset to William and his brother Charles E Darby, because they set up the Brymbo Company, turning Wrexham's iron industry – the legacy of John “Iron Mad” Wilkinson – towards steelmaking instead.

The Darbys were revered in Wrexham, particularly for his generosity and his philanthropic acts – which were due to his Quaker upbringing. His wedding prompted massive celebrations. Schools were closed, children given sixpence each, and tea parties held. 1500 workers in the Smelting House feasted well.

His shrewd business acumen stood him well. He promoted Quakerism, held tea parties, supported a Quaker Band of Hope, promoted tea over alcohol, and acquired business interests in coalmining and lime, both vital subsidiary industries to steelmaking. At his death in 1882, he was a prominent figure in Wrexham, having served as a magistrate and a chairman of the school board. And even in death, the locals whose lives he touched came out en masse to say goodbye.

William Darby's grave can be found at Wrexham Cemetery, in Ruabon Road. His legacy benefited Wrexham until the end of steel production in the town he loved.



Hightown Clean-Up Day Diwrnod Glanhau Hightown



Councillor Graham Rogers has arranged another
Hightown clean-up day for
Wednesday 12th June 10.30am till 2pm.

There will be two large skips located on the car park at St Christopher's School. Householders are welcome to bring along any large items they want to dispose of. Any elderly or disabled person requiring assistance please contact Councillor Rogers direct on 07968214189 to arrange for items to be collected.

Dyma Ysgol Bodhyfryd a Ysgol St Christopher's yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth wrth greu ffenestri lliw ar thema y Saith Rhyfeddodd Cymru.

Here are Ysgol Bodhyfryd and St Christopher's working in partnership by creating stained glass windows on the Seven Wonders of Wales.

Parciau Community Centre (Bellevue Park)

This centre is for hire for parties, meetings and social gatherings. Fully equipped kitchen. Tables and chairs for 100 people. Perfect setting.

Maesgwyn Community Centre (Mold Road)

This centre is for hire for parties, meetings and social gatherings. Fully equipped kitchen. Tables and chairs available. Perfect Setting.

Community Centre (Hightown).

This centre is for hire for meetings and social gatherings. There is also a fully equipped Computer Suite with nine Computers. Updated and secure. 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**



Eisteddfod yr Urdd.

Llongyfarchiadau mawr i'r plant a pob lwc iddynt wrth cystadlu yn yr Eisteddfod diwedd mis Mai.

Congratulations to the children and good luck to them during the Eisteddfod end of May.

Music in the Park Cerddoriaeth yn y Parc

Wrexham County Borough Council and the Friends of Bellevue are delighted to team up with Wrexfest to deliver five concerts this summer this summer.

The concerts all take place from the Edwardian Bandstand in the award winning park. The events which run from **7pm to 9pm on Fridays** are a perfect way to enjoy the barmy summer evenings listening to live music, with many people bringing along a picnic to the park. Although free to enter, the events cost Wrexfest and the Friends of Bellevue a lot of money to host, as such please be generous with your donations when you see the collecting bucket!

Friday 7 June 7pm-9pm - Baby Brave
Sunday Morning Ritual

Friday 14 June 7pm-9pm - Trevor Roots Buffalo Soldier
(Bob Marley Tribute band)
The Columbians

Friday 21 June 7pm-9pm - Delta Road Band
Unforgivable Sinners

Friday 28 June 7pm- 9pm - Dinosaur

Friday 5 July 7pm- 9pm - Thunderbug

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 24th July**, meet at the bandstand. Tel: **01978 298997** for details.



Other summer events in the park:

Free Tennis Coaching

Thursday 30 May, Bellevue Park - 1pm - 3pm
Meet at the Courts. Ages 6-14. Free.

Tennis Coaching

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

For further details please contact **01978 763140**.



Offa Community Council
Parciau Community Centre, Bellevue Rd, Wrexham LL13 7NH
Tel 01978 291562



CARNIVAL

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY !

OFFA CARNIVAL 20TH JULY 2019 (BELLEVUE PARK)

Falconry Display, Punch And Judy, Bee Display.

FREE ENTRY

SUPPORTED AND FUNDED BY OFFA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

WELSH AXEMEN - LAND TRAIN

CARNIVAL RIDES, GAMES & DELICIOUS FOOD
COMMUNITY STALLS, FACE PAINTING AND MUCH MORE

11:00 - 4:00

Indoor refreshments inside Community Centre