

Wrexham Matters

Sponsored by **the Leader**

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Wrexham Matters is produced by the Wrexham Town Centre Forum and supported by the Wrexham Healthy High Streets' Team and Wrexham County Borough Council. We are extremely grateful to the Wrexham Leader for its generous printing of the newsletter and help with its distribution.



In the last edition of Wrexham Matters, we explained how the Wrexham Town Centre Forum is implementing a number of initiatives to improve the town centre. Our first community clean up took place on Sunday 10 May on Regent Street and Hope Street. Over 50 volunteers of all ages took part and gave the streets a comprehensive spring clean, including painting the street furniture.

Nigel Lewis, Chair of the Wrexham Town Centre Forum and Director of Wrexham Savers Ltd said: "I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported our clean-up with time and materials: Cllr Phil Wynn and Matthew McHale from La Baguette who organised the Street Clean up; The Wrexham Healthy High Streets' team - Co-op Food and Funeralcare; Santander; Boots and M&S who provided refreshments for the volunteers and helped with the clean up; County Councillors Carole O'Toole and Bill Baldwin; Keep Wales Tidy; WCBC Street Team; Town Centre Manager Isobel Garner; Ian Lucas MP and Norah Lucas; The Portuguese Community; Andrew Atkinson; McDonalds; The Royal British Legion; Wrexham Savers; Jacqui Blore - Piccolos Music; Wrexham Branch of the National Autistic Society; The Boys Brigade; Rhosnesni High School; Tony Eccles, photographer; Debbie Eccles, Head Victoria Primary School, plus staff and lots of children; Tracy Barraclough; Mark Specialist Applications Limited; Chris Allen; Bookers Cash and Carry; Main Man Supplies; Griffiths Tool Hire; and everyone else who came along on the day and joined in."

As part of the programme to revitalise the town centre, the Forum is also working with the owners of vacant premises to get them tidied up and bring them back to life.

The next milestone event for the Forum is the Wrexham Street Festival on Saturday 23 May from 10.am - 5.30 pm on

Regent Street and Hope Street. This is a trial Saturday event with lots of things to see and do for all age groups, with a real connection to our Market Town Heritage. Similar events in other towns have demonstrated a 25% increase in footfall on the day which translates into more trade for existing businesses. If the event is successful, it will be held on a regular basis. Please come along, support the event and see what hidden gems Wrexham has to offer.



Wrexham Street Festival is supported by WCBC, Wrexham Town Centre Forum, Wrexham Business Group, Healthy High Streets' Project, The Co-operative

Wrexham Choir seeking new members

Wrexham Community Choir is inviting new members to join them. The choir holds weekly practices every Tuesday at the Methodist Church in Regent Street. The choir is open to everyone, regardless of age or experience. There is no upper limit to numbers, no auditions, no solos, no need to read music and everyone is welcome. For more information email info@wrexhamchoir.co.uk



Saith Seren saved after public donation drive

Organisers of a fund-raising campaign to keep the centre open have announced they have hit their £3,000 a month target of pledges from individuals and companies. For details visit www.saithseren.org.uk

Wrexham Symphony Orchestra makes its Debut at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

For details see page 2

Wrexham Healthy High Streets' Team helps local children with autism get active

Last month, the local Healthy High Streets' team - Co-op Food and Funeralcare; Santander; Boots; and M&S - set about raising money for the Wrexham branch of the National Autistic Society and thanks to the generosity of local staff, customers and friends, together they raised a fantastic £5,300. The charity will use the money to set up sport sessions with local partners as part of the charity's Active for Autism campaign.

The Healthy High Streets' team also supported the charity's Family Fun Day in Wrexham town centre on Thursday 2 April. The event was delivered by the charity's new committee - Kelly McLeod-Andrews and Kerry Roberts supported by Claire D, Mel, Claire W and Lisa. And what a great job they did! There was something for everyone from crazy golf, trampolines and a fun cycle challenge delivered by Co-op and Simply Gym to Boots No 7 makeovers and a Super Hero motor bike display. Elsa and Anna from North Wales Children's Parties opened the event and there was singing and dancing from Limelight Productions and Singing Hands and much more too. The charity would like to thank everyone who supported the event.

To find out more about the Wrexham branch of the National Autistic Society or if you would like to get involved contact wrexham@nas.org.uk / www.facebook.com/WrexhamNAS



Wrexham Symphony Orchestra makes its Debut at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

When local GP and viola player in Wrexham Symphony Orchestra, Dr Andrew McCaddon, developed the drug 'Betrinac' to slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease, he decided to sponsor a cycle of Mahler Symphony concerts with Wrexham Symphony Orchestra.

The Orchestra will make its Bridgewater Hall debut this month, joined by the tremendous singing talents of Rebecca Afonwy-Jones and April Fredrick.

The local world-renowned choir, Cantorion Sirenian Singers, will be among the 180-strong choir performing Mahler's Symphony No. 2, "The Resurrection", ably directed by conductor, Richard Howarth. The concert is on Saturday 30 May at 7.30pm in the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester. Tickets are for sale at www.bridgewater-hall.co.uk. All proceeds from the concert, sponsored by Betrinac, will be donated to local Alzheimer's charities. Why not go along and support your local orchestra?

ABF Par courses - new dates

Advance Brighter Futures (ABF) is a local mental health charity offering support to people experiencing the effects of mental distress. The charity has two new courses starting in June:

- 16-25 PAR: Wednesday 10 June 5.30 pm - 7 pm for 6 weeks at Clays Golf Club (minibus from Wrexham Library). Half an hour group discussion on topics including challenging unhelpful thinking; dealing with stress; and identifying attitudes and goals followed by a golf lesson.
- Over 50s PAR: Wednesday 24 June 1.30 pm - 4 pm for 6 weeks at Clays Golf Club. Mindfulness lessons followed by a golf lesson. £2.50 per session (goes towards sustaining the Charity's project).

For details or to reserve a place, call 01978 364777 or e-mail emily@abfwxm.co.uk

Fitcamp Challenge Wrexham

Would you like to feel good and have fun at the same time? Why not join in the fun and FREE Wrexham Fitcamp?

Fitcamp started in January and already has 100 members. Qualified trainers provide free fitness training and advice on basic nutrition for all age groups and levels of personal fitness. Family groups are welcome too. The barrier to a healthy active lifestyle is often lack of support which is where Fitcamp can help. Fitcamp trainers have all been on their own journey and are passionate about helping people live a healthy active lifestyle. Sessions take place at Acton Park, Wrexham at 6.30 pm on Tuesday and Thursday and 9 am on Saturday. To book a free place visit www.fitcampwrexham.co.uk

Wrexham Police - working with partners to keep the town safe

The policing of Wrexham town centre is complex. The retail sector attracts shoppers from all over North Wales and further afield. A team of uniformed police community support officers provide reassurance to town centre users and two constables are dedicated to town centre duty, employing a mix of uniform and plain clothed patrol. Wrexham also has the largest night time economy in North Wales, particularly at weekends and the number of officers deployed is boosted to reduce alcohol fuelled anti-social behaviour. A rapidly growing university means that numbers using the town centre fluctuate throughout the year.

The police are at the centre of a strong local partnership to keep Wrexham safe for local people. The Council town centre CCTV system helps prevent and detect offences. The police work with traders via the Crimelink forum and provide photographs of known prolific shoplifters to help reduce offending. There is also a Nightsafe group where police, licensees and Council licensing officials work with door security supervisors, CCTV staff, the Council lead for crime and disorder and the partnerships officers. This partnership approach is already proving successful.

Spotlight on St Giles'

In the busyness and pressures of all our daily lives, why not take a few moments out in the peace and tranquillity of St. Giles', either outside in the Churchyard or inside the Church?

St Giles' is generally open daily from 10 am - 3 pm for visitors, private prayer etc. Details about the Church and its activities are available from the Church office tel 01978 355808 / email: management.stgiles@gmail.com / www.facebook.com/stgilescurch.wrexham

Wrexham pupils put forward ideas to improve the town centre



Pupils at Victoria Primary School in Wrexham turned town planners over the Easter holidays and came up with their own ideas to make Wrexham Town Centre a better place.

Head teacher, Debbie Eccles, asked the children to come up with five ideas for improving Wrexham. Their plans included play areas; more family-friendly restaurants; cheaper parking; planting trees and even a roof on Eagles Meadow; introducing flying cars; and creating a pond for toy boats.

The judges were Nigel Lewis, Chair Wrexham Town Centre Forum; Richard Owen, Principal Funeral Director, E Clarke and Son (part of The Co-operative Funeralcare); Ruth Rees, Martin Rees Jewellers, a member of the Wrexham Business Group; and head teacher, Debbie Eccles. The Co-operative, one of the local Healthy High Streets' businesses, was so impressed by the children's work, as a thank you, it donated a set of junior football kit and sports equipment to the school.

Spotlight on Wrexham's General Market

Wrexham's General Market has entrances off Henblas Street, Henblas Square and Chester Street. It is open Monday to Saturday from 9am - 5pm, but closes at 2 pm on Wednesday. Previously known as the 'Butter Market', it is the smallest of the three indoor markets, and has the following stalls:

- **Anwar Fashionwear** - fashion and work clothing, fancy dress, Welsh rugby clothing and Welsh gifts.
- **The Cut Hut** - old-fashioned barber shop with haircuts from £3.60.
- **The Little Café** - freshly prepared sandwiches, hot and cold drinks and, according to one enthusiastic customer, "a home from home - the best café in Wrexham!"
- **Deak's Occasions** - Wedding hire and stationery, catering and event dressing.
- **Snip 'N' Tuck** - clothing alterations and repairs, jewellery and cards.

For enquiries about any of the Markets or becoming a stall holder, please contact the Markets Office on 01978 297051, via Face Book, or the Council's website, www.wrexham.gov.uk

Town Centre parking update

Did you know, you can use the ticket from any one of the Council's short stay car parks in any other Council car park, provided the time limit is valid? And that's not all, there are also several reduced parking rates available in the town centre:

- On the long-stay floors of the People's Market car park, the full-day parking rate is £2! And, better still, if you arrive after 3pm it is absolutely free... This car park is convenient for Eagles Meadow or Island Green shopping centres which are only about five minutes' walk, and also handy for the library, post office, banks and shops on Regent and Chester Streets.
- The Crescent Road car park, near Mecca Bingo, is £1.50 for all day and is free after 3pm!
- You can also park for half an hour free of charge in five different locations around the town, or for a full hour in St George's Crescent South car park.

Wrexham also makes generous provision for Blue Badge holders who can park free for any length of time, in disabled and standard parking bays in any of the Council car parks.

The Town Centre Forum and Business Group are talking with the Council officers and elected members responsible for parking policy, and are grateful for their support so far, which includes free parking in Council car parks on selected event days. For information on parking in Wrexham visit www.wrexham.gov.uk/english/travel/car_parks/town_centre_carparks.htm

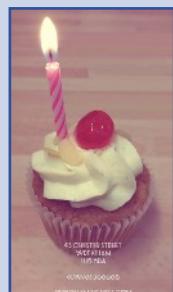
Nigel Lewis commented: "Everyone who knows me, knows that I am passionate about revitalising our town centre. I was delighted when Debbie Eccles approached us. Developing ways to improve our town centre is a real-time challenge for all of us and we need to ensure that we consider the views and interests of everyone, young and old, if we are to succeed. I will be sharing all the children's ideas at this month's Town Centre Forum."

Debbie Eccles concluded: "I am very proud of our pupils and passionate about our town. I am keen for the children to get involved with their local community. This project provided an opportunity for the children to look at the town and see some of the great things we already have as well as to think about places they've been and things they have seen elsewhere that they liked which could work here and to tell us about them."

News from the town centre

The American themed **Arnold's Grill and Bar** on Egerton Street has just undergone an extensive make over by its new owner.

Emz Cakes Creative Café on Chester Street celebrates its first anniversary on Saturday 20 June and, as a thank you all for all the support they have received over the past year, they will be giving away a free cupcake (while stocks last and one chocolate chip or vanilla cupcake per person) to the first 100 people to arrive in the shop that day. Simply wish the team a happy birthday and ask for your free birthday cupcake.



Martin Rees jewellers, 30 years and counting

When Martin and Ruth Rees moved into their Chester Street shop in July 1985, the business was very different from today. They sold wind-up alarm clocks, cuckoo clocks, and a massive selection of new-fangled LCD watches for just 99p each. Today the shop is crammed with pre owned gold and silver jewellery, and 8 staff members help them to run it. They plan to celebrate in style on 4 July, which is also History Fair day! There will be goodies and give-aways, everyone dressed up 80s style, and they will be sponsoring free tours of the town centre based on the route of the Heritage Trail which was launched last year. For more details nearer the time visit www.facebook.com/pages/Martin-Rees-Jeweller-Pawnbroker/199766780842

What's On

Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 May

Wrexham Food and Drink Festival, Llwyn Isaaf

Local and national fresh produce from an extensive selection of stallholders as well as live music. Adult entry £4 and under 14s free (all proceeds go to Nightingale House Hospice). Free parking in Council town centre car parks. For details visit www.wrexhamfoodfest.co.uk

Saturday 23 May

New Wrexham Street Festival, Regent Street and Hope Street, 10 am - 5.30 pm

Includes craft and food stalls, street food, entertainment, Wrexham Miners' Exhibition, children's fair and rides and more. For details visit www.facebook.com/wrexhamstreetfestival

Wrexham Mini Zine Fest, Undegun, 11 Regent Street, 12 noon-4 pm

Children's comic making workshop and poetry workshop with performances and stalls. For details: horrorsummer@horrorsummer.tumblr.com

The Capital FM bus

The bus will be on Queen's Square with a free draw to win tickets for the Summertime Ball at Wembley on 6 June. For details visit www.capitalfm.com/summertime-ball/

Monday 25 May - Wednesday 10 June, closed Sundays

Burning Bright: the 2015 Degree Show, North Wales School of Art and Design, 49 Regent Street

Exciting and varied exhibition in this magnificent Victorian building - not just paintings and photos, but installations and videos, graphic novels and illustrations, game art, jewellery and ceramics... Who knows what else, last year's show included talking garden tools!

For details visit www.glyndwr.ac.uk/en/Campusesandfacilities/NorthWalesSchoolofArtandDesign/

June - Portuguese events throughout the month - see box opposite

Saturday 6 June

Nightingale House Hospice Summer Fair, Llwyn Isaaf - 12 noon - 4 pm

£1.00 for adults / under 5s free

AVOW annual volunteer day, Eagles Meadow - 10 am - 3 pm

To mark Volunteers' Week, the event with over 40 organisations celebrates the contribution made by volunteers to our communities. In Wrexham there are over 26,000 volunteers in over 1,500 organisations. Come along to find out about their great work and how to get involved. Trusts are taking on services previously run by the Local Authority - the two most recent, Gresford Library and Splash Magic in Plas Madoc, which would have ceased if community volunteers had not stepped in to run them. In the town centre, charity shops contribute to the successful retail mix offering bargains and supporting local good causes. For details contact AVOW, 21 Egerton Street, Wrexham, email info@avow.org / tel 01978 312556.

Saturday 20 June

Nightingale House Hospice Ladies Midnight Walk

6 or 10K ladies only sponsored walk around Wrexham starting from Llwyn Isaaf. For details visit www.ladiesmidnightwalk.co.uk

Ysgol Plas Coch Family Fun Day, Stansty Road, Wrexham, 11am-2 pm

Attractions for all the family with a large craft fair, Wrexham Lager tent, fairground, sing on stage with the Disney Princesses, meet the Superheros, face-painting, pony rides, Punch & Judy shows, free taster sessions with Rugby Tots and balls skills from Wrexham Crusaders, free crafts, birds of prey display, a chainsaw speed carve, BBQ and lots more! All proceeds go to supporting the school. For details contact @plas.coch.pta or email plascochpta@gmail.com

Tour of Britain

The first stage of the Tour of Britain will end in Wrexham town centre on the afternoon of Sunday 6 September and is expected to attract thousands of visitors. Further details will be in the next issue but anyone interested in getting involved should contact

Amandae.davies@wrexham.gov.uk or colin.jones@wrexham.gov.uk



Volunteer Team

Great people make great events and we know Wrexham has lots of great people. If you share our vision for fantastic community events, help us deliver these by becoming part of the Events Volunteer Team where you can exchange knowledge, meet new friends and have fun. Contact: nigel@wrexhamsavers.co.uk for information.

We'd love to hear from you

If you have any ideas for an article about the town centre for a future issue or if you would like to write an article, we'd love to hear from you. And local businesses in the town centre - do you have something of interest to tell people - a new product line or service; new opening; are you moving premises; have you won an award; are you celebrating an anniversary etc? - We'd love to hear from you too.

Saturday 20 June - Saturday 5 September

Writing for Eternity: Decoding Ancient Egypt, Wrexham Museum, Regent Street

In partnership with the British Museum, Wrexham Museum is hosting a series of Window On The World exhibitions exploring aspects of the world's greatest ancient civilisations. The first exhibition, Writing for Eternity: Decoding Ancient Egypt, (Gallery 3 from 20 June) is about ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics and will include objects from the British Museum's Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan such as sculpture, jewellery, pottery and funerary artefacts; all chosen to tell the story of the development and use of this ancient language. Look out for details of Ancient Egypt-themed drop-in children's activities and a sleepover! For more information, contact the museum on 01978 297 460 / facebook.com/WrexhamMuseums



Friday 26 June

Music in Bellevue Park - 7 - 9 pm

Jazzectomy; free

Take a picnic and enjoy the balmy summer evenings listening to live music on the Edwardian Bandstand. The series of concerts is hosted by the Friends of Bellevue in partnership with Wrexham County Borough Council. For details, contact Bellevue Park on 01978 264150.

Saturday 27 June

Memorial Concert Only Men Aloud, St Giles' Parish Church - 2 - 4 pm

Tickets £10 charitable donation - visit elainesconcert.org.uk

Portuguese Month in Wrexham

The local Portuguese Cultural Association of Great Britain is planning a full programme to celebrate Portuguese culture and life, from 1 - 28 June:



Four art exhibitions (one per week) featuring Raul Ferrao, Sara Magalhaes, Debora Carvalho and Dawn McGuire in Oriel Gallery 2 and 3, Wrexham Library.

Saturday 6 June - Fado dance event in St Mary's Church Hall.

Sunday 7 June - Portuguese National Day celebrations with music, poetry and a buffet, sports and traditional games.

Saturday 13 June - St Antonio celebration; lantern parade in Wrexham town centre.

Saturday 20 June - St John celebration, Queen's Square.

Tuesday 23 - Sunday 28 June - Portuguese Products Market on Queen's Square.

Saturday 27 June - St Peter celebration.

Details are being finalised and will be available from portugueseculturegb@gmail.com / www.facebook.com/portugueseculturegb or pop into one of the local Portuguese businesses.

Saturday 4 July

Wrexham History Fair, Wrexham Museum Forecourt, Regent Street - 11 am - 4 pm

History groups throughout the county are exhibiting, entry free. Great free children's activities, town centre tours, fascinating fossils and artefacts on display, North Wales Mines Trust exhibition bus, and lots more. For details visit www.facebook.com/WrexhamHistory

Friday 10 July

Music in Bellevue Park - 7 - 9 pm

Tobacco Road; free

Sunday 12 July

Nightingale House Hospice, Wrexham Waterslide

Bristol is doing it, Liverpool is doing it, Cardiff is doing it and so is Wrexham! Come and slide down the 70 metre man made waterslide on Yorke Street and raise valuable funds for Nightingale House Hospice. Entry by pre-sale only - £10 for two slides.



Visit www.nightingalehouse.co.uk for details and to register.

Friday 17 July

Music in Bellevue Park - 7 - 9 pm

Mudslide; free

Further concerts - Friday 24 July - Wall Street Crash and Friday 31 July - 5past40.

How to get in touch:

Email - wrexhammatters@gmail.com

Pop in and see - Becky Martin in Rees Jewellers on Chester Street or Shan Rogers in Co-op Food on Lord Street.

And remember to keep up to date with what's happening in Wrexham - visit www.leaderlive.co.uk/news

Wrexham Matters is published by Wrexham Town Centre Forum.

The opinions expressed within the newsletter are those of individual contributors and do not reflect the views of the Wrexham Town Centre Forum, Wrexham County Borough Council, The Co-operative Group, the Wrexham Healthy High Streets' team or the Wrexham Leader.