

RUABON NEWS LETTER 329



TIDYING-UP - getting rid of the weeds and replanting with flowers sunflowers and vegetables.

The photo taken by Alison Hamlington shows Nia Evans with a young volunteer: Lily.

Nia and Alison are just two of the enthusiastic members of Friends of Ruabon. Friends of Ruabon have worked regularly with Shane Hughes, Keep Wales Tidy, Senior Project Officer, North Wales, for many years conducting regular litter picks around the village and up as far as Offa's Dyke. Just so that Ruabon residents can be proud of their village

WCBC workers have been able to cut the grass but not weed the various beds around Ruabon, such as at Wynnstay Gardens (pictured above and below) . With the boost of the generous gift from Martin Evans (mentioned last week) Friends of Ruabon all agreed it to be a lovely thing for Nia to do, to cheer up the residents of Wynnstay Gardens. Accompanied by Alison, the two set-to on their task and were soon amazed by the residents who came out of their houses wanting to help.

Ensuring social distancing, they all carried on together-making light work of the task.



Alison with Karen and Mervyn



Thanks to Lily's Mother and others who also helped and all the 'likes' on facebook.

**Just another 'good news' story to close:
One of the volunteers found a £10 note whilst weeding - the residents decided together that this sum should go to the Friends of Ruabon 'Plant Fund'.**



A Message from Friends of Ruabon

When the Corona Virus first struck we were warned that there could be a shortage of food, so Friends of Ruabon reacted by growing produce for the community (in a small way) to help people through this unforeseen crisis.

The result is that Nia Evans, Sarah and Steve Giles have produce some of which is ready for the community now.

Sarah and Steve Giles have some tomato plants and green bean plants which are ready if anybody would like some. It will be on a first come first served basis and Sarah can deliver. Just call her mobile number: 07789 727413.

We would be pleased for residents and the wider community to help themselves to produce when it's ready. Also coming soon will be kale, onions, beetroot and leeks from Nia's shed. The rhubarb will take a year to establish but should be good in 2021.



Vegetables in the centre planter at
Ruabon Station



Ysgol Rhiwabon

Lego Competition – Week 7

Monday, 22nd June 2020

This week's Lego challenge was to make a moving vehicle.

The winner this week is...Jordan Szabo 7SVT

Well done!

Mrs Wright-Davies.



Wrexham County Council Education Update

Friday, 19th June 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Late this afternoon I received notification from Wrexham Local Authority that the fourth week of the phased wider opening of schools will not run. The LA has written to communicate the reasons for their decision in a letter to you..

This decision will mean our Programme for students will be reduced to three weeks, not four, and the term will end on Friday July 17th. You may well have read this in the media already this evening. This short message is being sent to ensure that you are kept up to date with the changes which apply to schools across Wrexham. I will communicate our detailed plans for June 29th onwards next week.

Please be assured that the days already communicated to you for your child, from June 29th to July 17th, will remain the same.

We are all looking forward to meeting your child again face to face after such a long time.

Kind regards

Melanie Ferron Evans
Headteacher

Wrexham Community support response to Coronavirus

Briefing Sheet update 21st June 2020

Important changes this week:

Opening of non-essential retail:



From Monday many retail shops will be able to open in the town as well as surrounding area. There has been lots of planning by the Council and retailers in preparation and businesses have had to adjust their layout to ensure they maintain the current 2-metre social distance that is still enforce.



This will be a welcome for businesses that have been closed for nearly three months but the pace of return to any form of 'normal' shopping will take time before the public confidence level rises.

School opening:



The long-awaited announcement on schools opening has come this week with Wrexham schools being open for "check in, catch up, prepare for summer and September" for a three-week period. The actual opening arrangements for the children are being left to individual schools to determine how the make-up of pupil bubbles will be created. There will be

lots of logistical issues to overcome before all safety measures are in place – adjustments will be required to school transport, space in classrooms, staggered times and extra Health and Safety processes.



Traveling:

STAY LOCAL is still the current message here in Wales with a review being undertaken by 6th July when changes may be announced. For now, the 5-mile rule applies unless there are compassionate grounds to go further afield.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-53090890>



Private prayer can take place in places of worship:

From Monday individual prayer will be permitted in places of worship but organised services will remain prohibited. Many faith groups will continue with their online activities. There is no indication yet when collective worship will be reintroduced.

R number - is this now variable across Wales with localised outbreaks? 0.7-1 Note Stop Press at end of briefing. See s

Opening of childcare:



Childcare settings will be able to open from the 22nd June, but many will not be ready until at least the 29th as they have significant alterations to prepare to ensure safety of staff and children. Childcare settings should be contacted direct to know what their local arrangements will be.

Athletic training:



For those fitness readers the training for athletic sports will be permitted. Training sessions for non-elite athletes will now be able to commence with the social distancing still being in place.



Restrictions on outdoor sports courts will be lifted for non-contact sports:

Various forms of non-contact sport can be resumed including tennis, archery and bowls. Also last week Premiership football has recommended but being played without spectators to ensure there are no large gatherings. Details on lower league clubs have not yet been published.

House viewings:



The key point on now allowing house viewings is that it is only applicable to vacant properties and not properties where someone is still living. Moving to a new house will also be permitted which will come as a big relief for many people who have been waiting months to complete on the purchase of their new homes.

Household Bubbles:



The coming together of different households is **NOT** permitted here in Wales where travel is required but the regulations are currently under review with the potential to align with the other nations.

Hospitality and Tourism:



These categories remain closed although there is an indication from Welsh Government that tourism will be able to start from 13th July with bookings. Tourism venues could open from the 6th July if the five-mile rule restriction is lifted. There are no clear dates when the hospitality industry will be able to recommence trading.

Public Transport (Correction from last week) in England requires a compulsory face



mask face covering but not in Wales – **HOWEVER** if you travel on an ARRIVA bus in Wales the company have stated it is **COMPULSORY**.

<http://www.wrexham.com/news/wearing-face-coverings-is-set-to-become-compulsory-on-arriva-bus-services-from-next-week-187798.html>

Details on the use of masks face covering on trains and non-ARRIVA buses is still being considered by the Welsh Government and individual transport operators. (Sorry for any misleading information – it is the wearing of a ‘face covering’ not a ‘face mask’ that will be required)



Frequently asked questions:

“Can I car share with work colleagues from a different household to travel to and from work?”

– This is not recommended as it is difficult to maintain social distancing. If you normally share a vehicle with people from other households for essential journeys, it is recommended you find a different way to travel. However, it is recognised that there are times when travelling in a car with others cannot be avoided. Government guidance on traveling safely – <https://gov.wales/travelling-safely-coronavirus-guidance-public>

The go to place for answers to all your frequently asked questions can be found on the Welsh Government site that is regularly updated. Many of the questions listed are those that all of us may be asking ourselves but may be unsure. Many people will have questions that are unique, so this is a useful resource.

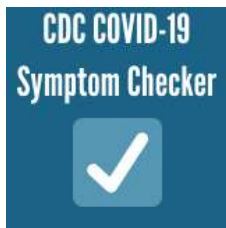
<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-regulations-guidance#section-39239>



There is evidence that social distancing has played a major part in controlling the spread of the virus the only conflicting views now are whether it should be reduced from 2 metre. Currently the guidance remains 2 metre here in Wales.

It is still very important to socially distance from other people, the guidance is for everyone, including children. It advises on social distancing measures we should all be taking to limit social interaction between people to reduce the transmission of Covid-19. <https://gov.wales/staying-local-social-distancing>

[Covid Symptom Checker: act now if you think you have any symptoms](#)



If you think you may have Coronavirus and have life threatening symptoms you should call 999.

If you have mild-moderate symptoms do not go to your GP.

You can complete the self-symptom checker online to help you. You can also ring the 111 helpline for advice.

<https://bit.ly/2ALhnBj>

Shielding – Children and Young People



We have been asked for any specific guidance on the requirements for children and young people who may have medical conditions that may mean they should be Shielding- the information on this site gives specific advice and guidance.

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/covid-19-shielding-guidance-children-young-people>

For general advice on the Shielding scheme in Wales <https://gov.wales/shielded-patient-list-wales-during-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic> - key change recently has been the extension of the scheme to 16th August.

Test, Trace, Protect:

TEST, TRACE, PROTECT PROGRAMME

Welsh Government update

The TTP is now operational in the Wrexham area and teams are in place to Trace people who have been in contact with someone who has been tested positive. The scheme is intended to reduce the spread of the infection by isolating people who have been in contact even if they are not showing any symptoms. It is important that if anyone is

contacted that they adhere strictly to the advice that is given for their own health and for those around them. <https://gov.wales/test-trace-protect>

Volunteering and Support:



Although the number of requests for volunteer support have now dropped AVOW Covid19 Helpdesk are still dealing with a range of support needs and we continue to thank all those people who have come forward to volunteers.

As some volunteers return to work, we will be calling on other people who may not yet have been called on from the many 100's that signed up.

We are very keen to retain everyone's details and keep in touch as we have no idea when or if there will be another surge in cases. Going by the science the politicians refer to, it seems to be when one will occur rather than if one will occur. We will be prepared if there is an upsurge in the level of support needs. We are already aware that some people who are identified through the Test Trace Protect scheme that they

may need to isolate for 14 days and may require support. If anyone finds themselves in this position contact AVOW for support Covid19@avow.org or tel 312556.

New Volunteering Opportunities:

As organisations are adjusting to the way they operate in the future many of them are identifying new volunteering roles. There is a demand for volunteers who have skills in online marketing, promotions, fundraising, use of Zoom etc. If anyone has any skills they feel they can offer to voluntary organisations either email VB@avow.org / tel 312556 for a personal discussion or go direct to register on the Volunteering in Wales web site <https://volunteering-wales.net/vk/volunteers/index-covid.htm> The wrexham Volunteer Centre is here to match those who want to volunteer with organisations seeking support.

Organisations seeking volunteers can register on the Volunteering in Wales web site- https://volunteering-wales.net/vk/providers/registration_provider.htm or speak to one of the three V's – Val, Vicky W or Vicky B who will help you promote your work and opportunities.

#SmallCharityWeek



No matter how large or small your organisation or even if you are not a formal group AVOW has a wide range of support to assist you with what you are doing in your communities- the team are able to help with everything from starting a group and possible registrations, governance, funding, recruitment, health and safety and lots more. There will be nothing that you may need to know that we cannot find someone to assist either from within our team or the vast network of contacts that we hold.

No one should think they have to do something by themselves as someone else will likely have tackled the same problem and issues.

For any general enquires contact info@avow.org to arrange for one of the team to make contact. Or seek information at www.avow.org

YOUR PROBLEM MADE EASIER-WE ARE HERE TO HELP

ONLY ONE WEEK LEFT!!!

There is only one week left for voluntary organisations to apply for this grant – it is very simple straightforward system that will take you less than 10 minutes to apply (I know because I have applied for AVOW)

Business (and charities) grants- this is a quick process and something that every organisation with a building that has a rateable value – even if you are obtaining 100% charitable rate relief.

A £10,000 grant to all ratepayers eligible for charitable relief and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC) relief, operating in the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors occupying properties with a rateable value of £12,000 or less.

A grant of £25,000 for occupied businesses in the retail, leisure, and hospitality sector with a rateable value of between £12,001 and £51,000, or A grant of £10,000

to businesses eligible for Small Business Rates Relief with a rateable value of £12,000 or less.

Further details on these [schemes and additional financial assistance for businesses \(external link\)](#) [Direct link to council application page](#)

https://myaccount.wrexham.gov.uk/en/service/Application_for_NDR_Grant

Funding available:

The AVOW run Voluntary Sector Emergency Fund (VSEF) - AVOW are continuing to distribute funds to organisations working across Wrexham County- the latest to obtain an award are: Apply this week to get **YOUR ORGANISATION NAMED HERE NEXT WEEK**

The local grant scheme remains open and applications are welcome by the weekly panel for assessment up to £1000. <https://bit.ly/2JZ274K> - for larger projects funding up to £100,000 is administered by WCVA <https://bit.ly/34vdxX3>

For wider funding support contact the AVOW Funding Officer at nigel.davies@avow.org or general help on grants can be found at <https://bit.ly/3eiuHLW>

Action Required: Survey on the future of the weekly bulletin:

[Many thanks for those readers who completed the survey last week – for those of you who have not done so please spare less than five minutes to help you in the future: https://bit.ly/2YgYdvY](#)

STOP Press

A multi-agency response is underway over the weekend to respond to the number of positive Covid cases confirmed at the Rowan Foods factory on Wrexham Industrial Estate. The First Minister has responded to questions about the situation- “Of course, we will now have people more directly involved in the outbreak at Rowan Foods in Wrexham and we will learn more as a result of the investigations that will be taken forward.

“Whether we need to do more to toughen or enforce the two meter rule which is in our regulations here in Wales, and we’ve worked very hard with employers who want to make that work and work properly. I’ll come to conclusions on that when we know more about the circumstances in Llangefni and in Wrexham”

Key web sites for resources and up to date information



<https://avow.org/category/covid-19/>

<https://twitter.com/AvowWrexham>

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=owain%20avow%20wrexham>



The Council is maintaining an information site where local and national information can be found.

<https://beta.wrexham.gov.uk/service/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information>



Welsh Government advice for Voluntary Organisations

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-the-third-sector-html> -



There is a vast amount of information available but be selective or you will spend more time reading rather than providing the resource.

<https://wcva.cymru/coronavirus-statement/>

Information disclaimer:

AVOW hopes to keep this as a weekly briefing to share with our community's support information and guidance- if there are issues you want information on email john.gallanders@avow.org

The content of this briefing is provided for information only. It is not intended to amount to advice on which you should rely. You must obtain professional or specialist advice before taking, or refraining from, any action based on the content. We do not accept responsibility for any errors, omissions, misleading statements, or the consequences thereof.

[https://avow.org/terms-and-conditions/this information](https://avow.org/terms-and-conditions/this-information)

Thank you Cllr Dana Davies for forwarding the information above from AVOW



JUNE 4 2020



Launch of The Young Person's Mental Health Toolkit

The Young Person's Mental Health Toolkit directs **young people, aged 11 to 25**, to a **variety of online resources which can help them through the lockdown and beyond**. In each of the six sections there are websites, apps, helplines, and more which support mental health and wellbeing.

[Young Person's Mental Health Toolkit](#)

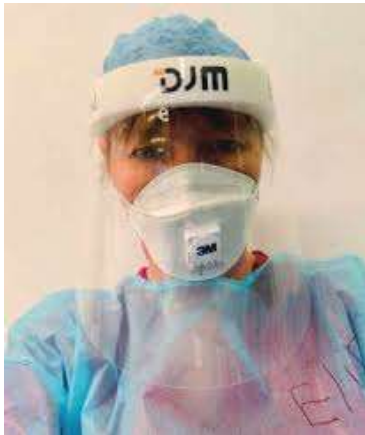
SCCH / PCSO 3606 Steve Bellis
Swyddog Cefnogi Cymuned Heddlu / Police Community Support officer
Diogelwch Cymunedol / Community Safety
Wrecsam / Wrexham
Heddlu Gogledd Cymru / North Wales Police
Symudol / Mobile: 07818 522367

Thank you PCSO Steve Bellis for sending in the information above

PPE Hwb Wreccsam

PPE Hwb Wreccsam, a local 3D printing hub was, until recently, based at Ysgol Clywedog, producing protective visors for staff in Health and Care settings and supported by AVOW

On May 8th 2020 volunteers began production at a new location in Gresford after setting up PPE Hwb Wreccsam as a Community Interest Company, entirely non-profit making. The volunteers are concerned that, as more and more people start a phased return to work, they are appropriately protected to try and prevent a further spread of Coronavirus.



Their mission is simple:-
the production of protective equipment, and the equipping of front line staff, key workers and community based workers.

Volunteers in general are VERY welcome but any that have experience in fundraising, logistics, admin, marketing or social media would be especially welcome!

Currently there is a team of two and they would definitely welcome more hands on deck!

THANK YOU TO ALISON HAMLINGTON FOR FORWARDING THIS INFORMATION.



Plas Madoc Leisure Centre

Your help is being asked for to raise funding for the complete refurbishment of the pool changing rooms.

A good field for a survey is required, please will you share with people you know. The online link is>>

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/6BZMJ5K>

This link can also be accessed via our facebook page:

'PLAS MADOC LEISURE CENTRE'

Thank you



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Ruabon Community Council

**Do you or somebody you know need any help
at this challenging time?**

**If you are affected by the current COVID 19 crisis
we are now able to help with**

**Emergency Food Packs - Available in different sizes
Family Activity Packs**

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We are all learning to adapt but if you need some extra support

Call or text: 07741 596 812 or 01978 824087

email: info@friendsofruabon.co.uk

Facebook: Friends of Ruabon Viral Kindness

VOLUNTEERS FROM
FRIENDS OF RUABON &
RUABON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
ARE HERE TO HELP FOR FREE



Feel Good bags





Grow a Sunflower and make our Village Shine



Get your Free Sunflower Seeds
tel 07985568627



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

RUABON

COMMUNITY

COUNCIL



HERE TO HELP

**Do you or somebody you know need any help
at this challenging time?**

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 we can help with:

Picking up shopping

Collecting Prescriptions

A friendly phone call

Urgent supplies

**Volunteers from Friends of Ruabon and
Ruabon Community Council are here to help**

We want you to know that you are not alone

Just contact us via any of the below and we will do
our best to help you (for free)

Call or text: 07741 596 812 01978 824087

email: info@friendsofruabon.co.uk

Facebook: Friends of Ruabon Viral Kindness

Check phw.nhs.wales for the latest advice

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep. #ViralKindnessRuabon

"Ruabon W.I. - Early Days"

At 7 pm. on the evening of Wednesday the 9th of October 1946 a group of ladies met at the Council Schools in Ruabon.

This was the first meeting of Ruabon WI. A formation meeting had been held on the 11th of September, when fifty six ladies were present. At that meeting there were three nominations for President, namely Mrs Dyke Dennis, Mrs Rees (Gardden Hall), and Lady Williams Wynn. Lady Williams Wynn was elected President in her absence, but she chose not to take on the position, she became Vice President and Mrs Dyke Dennis became President.

There were sixty four ladies at the first meeting. The subscription was 2/6, that amounted to £7, and badges were bought for one shilling each. It was a very exciting time and an opportunity for women from all backgrounds in Ruabon to get together.

At the meeting, the Speaker was Mrs R.T. Hughes of Rossett WI, she gave a demonstration on 'Hat Renovation', and also a talk on her visit to the Victory Parade in London as the representative of the WIs of Wales. The audience enjoyed every minute of the demonstration and talk. It was a very welcome event, taking place just after the end of the War.

However there was a problem locally, and Lady

Wynne gave a brief account of the dangers of young girls frequenting the vicinity of the Polish Camp, and asked for the co-operation of the WI in discouraging this activity. (No details unfortunately!).

At the end of the meeting the members had a cup of tea, and 23 shillings was raised, that is fourpence each. Who were the ladies who were leading the new Ruabon WI?

I haven't been able to discover anything about Mrs Rees yet. Margaret Jean Maclean, Lady Williams Wynne was the daughter of Colonel William Alleyne Maclean. She was married to the tenth baronet in 1939 in Kensington, and she lived at Belan, the Dower House for Wynnstay. Hall, it's a substantial three storey house near Rhosymadoc. Her husband was a prisoner of war on the Burma Railway from 1942 to 1945. Lady Wynne died in 1961.

Mrs Dyke Dennis, the first President, was about eighty in 1946 and was the wife of Henry Dyke Dennis of New Hall, whose family owned quarries, brickworks, coal mines and potteries all around the Wrexham area. I came across a fascinating account in the June 1892 issue of the Wrexham Advertiser of the marriage of Mr Henry Dyke Dennis of New Hall, Ruabon and Miss Mabel Jagger of Dinbren Hall Llangollen. It was a very grand event. A ball was held

at Dinbren Hall on the Tuesday night before the wedding on the Wednesday. The wedding was at Llangollen Church at two o'clock, a fine day and the church was crowded. The account is well worth quoting. "The bride's dress was of white duchesse satin, court train, trimmed with pearls and feathers." The two bridesmaids "were attired in grey poplinette costumes with yoke and sleeves of yellow Bengaline, trimmed with roses and foliage". An immense crowd lined the pathway from the church door to the entrance gate, and the customary showers of rice greeted the happy pair the jubilee bells rang out their merry peals while cannon were fired from the grounds of Dee Mill factory and Dee Lane..... The streets of the town especially Bridge Street, were gaily decorated with bunting, and assumed quite a festive appearance". After the reception at Dinbren Hall "the happy pair left, amid the congratulations of their friends, by the 4.26 train for the Isle of Wight, the bride's travelling costume being of tailor-made brown tweed with hat to match" "In the evening the men who had been employed in assisting at the street decorations, the bell-ringers, and others who had assisted in the day's festivities were entertained to a sumptuous supper in the Eagles Hotel, which they greatly appreciated and thoroughly enjoyed".

There is a list of wedding presents and the names of the people who gave them . The presents were "numerous, costly and of a most varied description". Mabel Dyke Dennis was the daughter wealthy Samuel Thornton Jagger who was originally from Liverpool, he lived off his wealth when at Dinbren Hall, but I haven't discovered how he made his money. Henry Dyke Dennis died in 1944 and Mabel lived at New Hall until her death in August 1947, less than a year after Ruabon WI was formed.

Ruabon Council School, where the first meeting was held was opened on the 25th of July 1912 The cost was £5,000, it was established by Denbighshire Education Committee because of the demands of parents who wanted a non-sectarian school. It became Ysgol Maes y Llan.

The WI minutes give a very interesting glimpse into the lives and activities of Ruabon women from 1946 to this day.

By **Ennys Hughes**. (Further extracts to follow!)

Information from "Remembering Ruabon " by T.W. Pritchard , Wrexham History - Annette Edwards , and Wikipedia.

(What a great deal of research has gone into this piece)

'In Touch' Edition 8.

17th June 2020

Hello Everybody.

It is a couple of weeks since the last In touch but to be honest not a lot has happened in the Snodgrass household.

We are now told by the government in England that we can now go to the shops, which for us is useful as we are on the Welsh /English border and so last week we ventured out and on Monday went to the Morton Garden centre, and Saxon wood burner centre opposite, to change a can of spray paint purchased on line, which had come from another of their branches, for a brush on can which they obligingly exchanged free of charge. Then we went into Oswestry to see if it still existed, which it does. To the bank to pay in some cheques. On the way home we called at Mc Donald's and got a take away coffee and chicken sandwich, which we ate in a lay-by. The excitement of it all was almost overwhelming when you have not been out for over 80 days. It was amazing that the world still exists as we used to know it, although with some quite big changes in people`s behaviour and the lack of cars and other traffic on the roads was like going back to the 50s and 60s.

The next day we ventured out again, and went over the border into England to the Grosvenor Garden Centre. We again went first thing and avoided any queues, which was fine and I spent some of my birthday money on some plants.

“

I purposely did not mention my birthday which was towards the end of May because I did not want you to be concerned that you had not sent me a card. I did have a very nice card from Jill and David Burton which she felt was appropriate "To the King of the castle" with a picture of a Knight in full armour, for the leader of the local history group. A rather reluctant leader I might add, if anybody would like the job. I do not think of myself as leader as I hope that we are all in it together, just a coordinator of the group, with a fabulous committee.

Kathy ordered me some flowers from M&S on line which arrived on my birthday, or rather were thrown over our six foot front gates, landing upside down in the full sun until we found them. An email followed to M&S to which they offered either a new delivery or a refund. A refund was accepted which was then spent on a handbag in the M&S sale. So don't you dare laugh but I seem to have had a hand bag for my birthday!!! Another gift that Kathy ordered for me was a Devon Cream Tea, again delivered by carrier from a company called Delimann www.delimann.co.uk . It consisted of four Cherry Scones, a pot of Strawberry jam, a quite large carton of Devon Clotted Cream, some Shortbread biscuits, a bar of homemade Chocolate and some Afternoon Blend Tea bags, all homemade and really lovely. A very nice gift for friends or family or even for yourself, go on treat yourself, you deserve it. There are other options and combinations, if that afternoon tea is not to your taste.

Yesterday we went to Bellis Garden centre, arriving early. Today we went to Oswestry to see if the market stalls were there as I feel we should try to support local business at this time, which must have been very worrying for them, or else they will all go out of business. The good news is the stalls were mostly there. We need to keep our businesses on the High Street and give them some revenue. Kathy finds this easy ha ha...

We had takeaway coffee on an outside seat and then washed our hands. It was sunny and we felt some sense of normality...lovely!!!

**

The following came from some friends of ours in America. If you have ever been over to the states you will understand the humorous content. Read the last line. This computer obviously has American spell check on it, but when I spell checked the HUMOR as the last line it came back as HUMOUR. I think that I am now as confused as the computer is.

A MESSAGE FROM THE QUEEN

To the citizens of the United States of America from Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

"In light of your failure to nominate competent candidates for President of the USA, and thus to govern yourselves, we hereby give notice of the revocation of your independence, effective immediately.

Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will resume monarchical duties over all states, commonwealths, and

territories (except North Dakota, and Utah, which she does not fancy).

Our new Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, will appoint a Governor for America without the need for further elections. Congress and the Senate will be disbanded. A questionnaire may be circulated next year to determine whether any of you noticed.

To aid in the transition to a British Crown dependency, the following rules are introduced with immediate effect:

1. The letter 'U' will be reinstated in words such as 'colour,' 'favour,' 'labour' and 'neighbour.' Likewise, you will learn to spell 'doughnut' without skipping half the letters, and the suffix '-ize' will be replaced by the suffix '-ise.' Generally, you will be expected to raise your vocabulary to acceptable levels. (look up 'vocabulary').

2. Using the same twenty-seven words interspersed with filler noises such as 'like' and 'you know' is an unacceptable and inefficient form of communication. There is no such thing as U.S. English. We will let Microsoft know on your behalf. The Microsoft spell-checker will be adjusted to take into account the reinstated letter 'u' and the elimination of '-ize'

3. July 4th will no longer be celebrated as a holiday.

4. You will learn to resolve personal issues without using guns, lawyers, or therapists. The fact that you need so many lawyers and therapists shows that you're not quite ready to be independent. Guns should only be used for shooting grouse. If you can't sort things out without suing someone or speaking to a therapist, then you're not ready to shoot grouse.

5. Therefore, you will no longer be allowed to own or carry anything more dangerous than a vegetable peeler. Although a permit will be required if you wish to carry a vegetable peeler in public.

6. All intersections will be replaced with roundabouts, and you will start driving on the left side with immediate effect. At the same time, you will go metric with immediate effect and without the benefit of conversion tables. Both roundabouts and metrication will help you understand the British sense of humour.

7. The former USA will adopt UK prices on petrol (which you have been calling gasoline) of roughly \$10/US gallon. Get used to it.

8. You will learn to make real chips. Those things you call French fries are not real chips, and those things you insist on calling potato chips are properly called crisps. Real chips are thick cut, fried in animal fat, and dressed not with catsup but with vinegar.

9. The cold, tasteless stuff you insist on calling beer is not actually beer at all. Henceforth, only proper British Bitter will be referred to as beer, and European brews of known and accepted provenance will be referred to as Lager. South African beer is also acceptable, as they are pound for pound the greatest sporting nation on earth and it can only be due to the beer. They are also part of the British Commonwealth - see what it did for them. American brands will be referred to as Near-Frozen Gnat's Urine, so that all can be sold without risk of further confusion.

10. Hollywood will be required occasionally to cast English actors as good guys. Hollywood will also be required to cast English actors to play English characters. Watching Andie Macdowell attempt English dialect in Four Weddings and a Funeral was an experience akin to having one's ears removed with a cheese grater.

11. You will cease playing American football. There is only one kind of proper football; you call it soccer. Those of you brave enough will, in time, be allowed to play rugby (which has some similarities to American football, but does not involve stopping for a rest every twenty seconds or wearing full kevlar body armour like a bunch of nancies).

12. Further, you will stop playing baseball. It is not reasonable to host an event called the World Series for a game which is not played outside of America. Since only 2.1% of you are aware there is a world beyond your borders, your error is understandable. You will learn cricket, and we will let you face the South Africans first to take the sting out of their deliveries.

13. You must tell us who killed JFK. It's been driving us mad.

14. An internal revenue agent (i.e. tax collector) from Her Majesty's Government will be with you shortly to ensure the acquisition of all monies due (backdated to 1776).

15. Daily Tea Time begins promptly at 4 p.m. with proper cups, with saucers, and never mugs, with high quality biscuits

(cookies) and cakes; plus strawberries (with cream) when in season.

God Save the Queen!

P.S.: Only share this with friends who have a good sense of humour (NOT humor)!

Take care and one day we will meet again.
Mike Snodgrass.

Thank you to Mike Snodgrass for allowing me to share his letters with you all, during lockdown.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive the Ruabon News Letter each week by email (free of charge) please contact:

bremner.millhouse@btinternet.com.

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This News Letter is only as good as the items received for publication. Please keep sending in your news and 'thank you.'

Sybil Bremner.