

RUABON NEWS LETTER 494

15.10.23



THE OP BANG CHALLENGE

The Rules

1. The Op Bang Challenge is open to all young people aged 5 - 18 years.
2. Groups must be made up of members of an established club, group, class or school which has been active for at least 1 month prior to the opening of competition window.
3. Projects must be carried out in North Wales.
4. Groups may be made up of mixed ages (between 5-18yrs)
5. Groups must be located/based in North Wales.
6. A group may consists of any number of participants.
7. Each group must have an adult advisor, this must be someone you know and aged 18 years or over.
8. You may enter more than one team into the challenge.
9. The Op Bang Challenge window is open between 1st October - 12th November 2023. All projects carried out must be done so within this time frame.

10. Once you have registered online, you will receive an email confirmation along with your team logbook, logbooks need to be completed and returned for judging.

You can print off your logbook and return by post or email it back to us.

11. Closing date for logbook submissions is 27th November 2023, logbooks are to be posted back to: Op Bang Challenge Prevention Hub North Wales Police DHQ St Asaph Business Park St Asaph LL17 0HQ or Emailed to youthengagementofficer@northwales.police.uk

12. Any logbooks received after the 27th November 2023 will not be considered for judging.

13. There may be a requirement to contact groups during and after the competition. Information and photographs supplied by the participants may be used for publicity purposes. If you do not wish for your details to be used in this way, please notify us via email youthengagementofficer@northwales.police.uk

Advice for the Adults!

- As an adult advisor it will be your responsibility to guide and safeguard your team and offer advice and support where appropriate.
- Please risk assess the proposed project prior to carrying out any activity.
- If a project involves raising money for a charity, please ensure all money is accounted for and kept safely by yourself until it is passed to the relevant party or charity. If you are planning on purchasing items for a charity, please keep all receipts and use the logbook to record all items and monies collected.
- Please note that directly asking someone for money or going door to door is against the law.
- Unfortunately, it is not possible for the Police, PACT or Fire Service to be present whilst your team is carrying out their project, therefore it is your responsibility to ensure the safety and supervision of the group.
- Please ensure your team has the appropriate PPE whilst carryout out their work. For example, if the project involved litter picking, then thick gloves may be required to protect hands from germs and sharp objects.
- Do not allow your team to carryout projects in areas of high risk, for example rivers, railway lines, busy roads etc.
- And finally have fun - the work your team is doing will really help your community!

Advice for the Teams

- Please make sure you discuss and agree your project with your adult advisor before you start on your work and understand any safety advice you have been given.
- Don't undertake any activity which have not been

agreed by your adult advisor beforehand. · Some projects may be more risky than others, make sure you have the right clothes and equipment before you start. · Always make sure that your parents/guardians know where you are and what you are doing. · Never carry out any activities on your own. · Make sure you know how to contact someone in case of emergency. · If your project involves entering someone's land or property you will need to make sure that you have permission from the relevant person or authority prior to doing so. · If your project involves raising money for charity, make sure that all money you collect is handed to your adult advisor who is responsible for keeping it safe. · Remember it is against the law to directly ask someone for money. The Logbook! This is essential! · It needs to be completed and returned for your team to be in with a chance of winning one of the fantastic cash prizes · We would like for this to be written by members of your team, however younger teams may need help from their adult advisor, and that's ok too. · It can be typed or hand-written, it really doesn't matter, so long as we can read it! We just want to know about all the amazing work you have been doing. We would love to see photos or videos of you carrying out your projects too - so make sure you tag us in any of your social media post #OpBangChallenge. You must include your group name. · Alternatively, you can print out any pictures and send them in with your posted logbook. · Adults - Please can you add your comments to the relevant section at the bottom of the logbook. · Remember, we may not be able to see you carrying out your projects therefore it is important that you provide us with as much information as you can. · It may be useful to update your logbook as you go along, particularly if your project is carried out over several days/weeks – That way, won't forget any important things. · All logbooks need to be posted or emailed back to us by 27th November 2023 - Details are in the Rules section above. So, Let's Get Started! · You're registered, you've got your team and now you need to think of a project that will help your community, perhaps you already have one in mind? Whatever it is, make sure you are safe, have taken advice from your adult advisor and are aware of the rules of the challenge. · Be as creative and as innovative as you like but remember, your project must help someone or something in your community. · Once your group has agreed on a project you then need to decide how you will carry it out. Consider risks, safety, roles, responsibilities, time spent and who will benefit from it - you can record all this in your logbook! · If your project requires permission from someone else, make sure

you get that too. · Your project doesn't need to be big; it doesn't need to cost you any money - You won't be judged on that. We are looking for projects that do the most to benefit the people, places or communities they were intended to help, and we want to showcase the fantastic contribution young people make in our society. · If you're struggling to decide on a project, we have included some suggested ideas on our advert but ultimately the choice is yours. So.... over to you!

Ysgol Rhiwabon(2)

Choose Your Future 2023

Friday, 13th October 2023

Year 9 students had the opportunity to attend an interactive careers event based at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, Wrexham, on Wednesday 11th October.

The event was an enlightening and informative experience for students, who were eager to explore their future career options.

The "Choose Your Future event" showcased a selection of local employers, where students gained the opportunity to hear from, and speak to, industry experts from across the region.

This was an excellent opportunity for pupils to: ' Research and get information from people in industry, ' Find out what employers look for when recruiting their workforce,' Get an insight into the world of work, to help them make decisions about their future.

Students also found out about jobs, careers, apprenticeships and training routes.

Careers Advisers were also available at the event to provide advice and guidance on jobs, courses and qualifications.

Here are some pictures of our Year 9 at the event





Oct 2023



Yr 11 Mock
Interviews
Thurs 26th

PRESS RELEASE

Ken Skates MS | Clwyd South

09/10/23

for immediate publication



**Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament**

Residents meet with MS to discuss 'disastrous' 1,520 homes plan

Member of the Senedd Ken Skates met with concerned residents who are opposing plans for a 1,520-home development on their doorstep.

Neighbours on Bersham Road are campaigning against Redrow's bid to build the mammoth development on Lower Berse Farm, just a stone's throw from their front doors.

The group are rallying support from across Wrexham – but residents only have until Friday October 13 to take part in Wrexham Council's public consultation.

Clwyd South MS Mr Skates said: "The recent meeting at Brickfield Rangers was extremely well attended at short notice, and that shows the strength of feeling locally.

“This planned development is huge. It’ll be like a self-contained village being dropped in the middle of two communities, and you’re probably talking about another 3,000 cars being thrust upon a local road network which is already buckling as it is.”

Lower Berse Farm straddles the Clwyd South and Wrexham constituencies, with Wrexham MS Lesley Griffiths also urging residents to make their voices heard before next Friday’s deadline.

Karen Evans, who lives on the immediate edge of the proposed development, said it would have an ‘enormous’ impact.

“The huge volume of extra cars, vans and construction traffic will increase issues on Ruthin Road, as well as Bersham Road. The development would also take away agricultural lands and remove the natural habitat for local wildlife,” said Mrs Evans.

“If the two new proposed roads to the south of the site onto Bersham Road are permitted, there will be a detrimental impact on a number of heritage properties that should be protected along with the Bersham Conservation Area and the residents of the historic village.

“A small village such as Bersham is not able to take thousands of extra vehicles a day without having a negative effect. Whilst some development is inevitable and needed in Wrexham, a development of this size should not be allowed to go ahead.”

Neighbour Mark Andrew said: “The developers have completely underestimated the negative impact of the increase in traffic on what are already extremely busy roads and the knock-on effect to Junction 4 of the A483 and Ruthin Road.

“The proposal for 1,520 dwellings has the potential to add an additional 3,000 vehicles to the traffic flows we have today. This would, in my view, have a catastrophic effect on the area.

“Bersham Road is a B-road and will not cope with that amount of traffic, especially as there are pinch-points at either end, with the sharp bend to the railway bridge at Bryn Offa, and the extremely narrow historic bridge at Bersham.”

Mr Andrew is also worried about how dispatch vehicles from the ambulance and fire stations on nearby Croesnewydd Road would be affected in emergencies.

He added: “The environmental impact will also cause a substantial risk of flooding to the south-east of the proposed development on land adjacent to the River Clwedog, where there are a number of springs already rendering the ground to being marshy and continually wet. The amount of ground preparation for the development will detrimentally affect the water table, increasing the flood risk. Add this to the loss of agricultural land and its associated wildlife habitats, and it would be an environmental disaster waiting to happen.”

Mr Skates added: “I have been contacted about this development regularly over the past few months, and have raised concerns with Wrexham Council as the Local Planning Authority which will ultimately make the decision.

“Time is running out for people to have their say on this, so I would once again encourage anyone who feels strongly about this to take part in the consultation to make their voice heard.”



The photograph shows (l-r) Ken with residents Malcolm and Karen Evans, Jen Stocks, Mark Andrew and Hannah Walker.

-Ends-

Garden waste update

Last updated: 12.10.2023 at 12:04 PM

**If you've signed up to
have your green bin
emptied...**

**Your collections will
run until February
2025**



As you'll be aware, we've been facing significant disruption during the period of industrial action from Unite.

During this time we've been focusing the resources we have available (approximately one-third of our usual resource) on collecting black bin waste and recycling (including food waste). We simply haven't had enough resources to allow us to collect garden bins as well.

We know this is causing concern and frustration for people who have signed up for this service prior to, or during the strike.

With the current strike expected to last until the end of November, we're trying to be realistic about when we'll be able to resume this service; as it's likely to take some time for us to catch-up with all other waste and recycling before the end of 2023.

Therefore, we've taken the decision to extend the green-bin collection period until the end of February 2025.

We'll resume collections from February 2024, and your subscription period will run until February 2025.

So, if you've already subscribed, your subscription will continue until February 2025 (you will not be required to renew in September 2024 as your sticker will remain valid until February 2025).

Depending on resources, we may also be able to do a green bin collection sooner than February (which will be included in your current

subscription) but as resources are changing daily (and we approach winter weather challenges),

we cannot be sure that this will be the case, and so we'll communicate with you further nearer the time about whether this is possible.

So, if you've already subscribed, you don't need to do anything. If you haven't, you can still sign up in preparation for collections starting again.

For further information about the garden waste service and collection subscriptions please visit www.wrexham.gov.uk/gardenwaste.

LATEST INFORMATION

When are my bins collected?

Check your bin day

What time should I put my bin out?

Make sure your bin and recycling container is put out by 7.30am on your collection day.

Collection dates calendars

The standard collection calendars have been temporarily removed during the period of industrial action. Click on the green 'Start button now and enter your postcode or the first line of your address to find out your collection dates.

Severe weather

During periods of severe weather, such as snow, it is possible that collections will be disrupted or even suspended. For the latest information please check out the **Council News blog**, **Facebook (external link)** or **X (formerly Twitter) (external link)**.

Bank holidays

Easter, May and August

Collection days stay the same on bank holidays.

Christmas and New Year

Collection days will change during this period.

TEST IT TUESDAY

Make sure you test your smoke alarm every week.

If you don't have an alarm, or your alarm doesn't work - contact us



Call

0800 169 1234

Text

07507303678



Llyfrgell Rhiwabon Library

Be sy 'mlaen! What's on!

Dydd Llun/Mondays

Stori a Chaân/Story and Rhyme 1.15

Clwb Teulu Lego/ Family Lego 3.30 - 4.30

Open – Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12 - 5, Thursday 9 – 1.15



Llyfrgells Wrexham Libraries

Be sy 'mlaen! What's on!

Reading Well: Mental Health

The Reading Well for Mental Health collection of books provides helpful information and support for managing common mental health conditions, or dealing with difficult feelings and experiences. Some books also include personal stories from people who are living with or caring for someone with mental health needs. The books are chosen by health experts and people living with the condition covered. There are special collections in Wrexham, Brynteg and Rhos libraries but in the meantime visit www.reading-well.org.uk for more details.

Friendship Groups

Friendship Groups are a great way to prevent isolation and loneliness and offer you a chance to find companionship, too. Friends can also increase your sense of belonging and purpose, boost your happiness and reduce your stress. Many of our libraries hold Friendship Groups and each library offers a different activity or arrangement every week. So if you feel you need company or just want to make new friends why not come and join one of our groups. You will find them at Brynteg, Coedpoeth, Llay, Rhos and Wrexham Libraries. Please contact them directly for more information. Contact detail can be found

www.wrexham.gov.uk/libraries

Foodbank Collection point at Rhos library

The Foodbank is a store of non-perishable food donated by local people. The food bank network helps people break free from poverty by providing additional support to help people resolve the crises they're facing so that they don't need to use a food bank again in the future. Food banks rely on the support of their local communities to support people in crisis. If you would like to donate food items then please visit Rhos Library where there is now a Foodbank collection point.

**Wales moves a step closer to ending
homelessness**

Ambitious plans to end homelessness in Wales will move forward today when key details of policy and legislative reform are introduced to the Senedd.

First published: 10 October 2023. Last updated: 10 October 2023

On World Homelessness Day (Tuesday, 10th October), Climate Change Minister Julie James will introduce a [White Paper that sets out how the Welsh Government plans to end homelessness in Wales.](#)

Reforming housing law is a key part of the [Programme for Government \(2021-2026\)](#) and the Co-operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru to end all forms of homelessness in Wales, by making it ‘rare, brief and unrepeatable’.

The proposals focus on improving prevention and early intervention, through the introduction of a package of reforms to create significant change to the existing Welsh homelessness and housing system.

Through legislative reform, the Welsh Government says:

- The risk of homelessness will be prevented at the earliest possible stage and responsibility for identification and prevention will be shared across the Welsh public service;
- Local Housing Authorities will offer a person-centred, trauma-informed service that is led by the needs of those facing homelessness;
- Those most likely to be impacted by homelessness will benefit from bespoke proposals to mitigate their risk.

The White Paper is heavily based on the findings of an Independent Expert Review Panel who were asked to review existing legislation and make recommendations to the Welsh Government. As part of this review, over 350 people with lived experience of homelessness have shared their views to help develop the proposals.

Minister for Climate Change Julie James said:

“Everyone in Wales should have somewhere to call home and today we’re marking a new chapter to help people remain in their homes and prevent anyone in Wales from experiencing homelessness.

I would like to thank the Expert Review Panel whose report has helped shape our White Paper. Their recommendations will truly help to end homelessness here in Wales.

I also want to thank the more than 350 people who shared their own experiences to help shape our reforms and ensure they are grounded in the reality of homelessness. This White Paper delivers our long-held view that homelessness is not just a housing issue.

It sets out a radical and ambitious plan to ensure all services work together to spot the risk of homelessness early and take action to stop it from happening.

For those who remain at risk, services will be co-ordinated in their response; to ensure the right help is in place, delivered by the right people, at the right time.

Designated Member, Sian Gwenllian added:

This White Paper sets out new proposals to end homelessness so that everyone has a home they can all their own and never finds themselves homeless.

We are committed to new legal reforms and ways of working that will make a real difference to people's lives and improve how we support some of the most vulnerable in our society.

Director of Support at Pobl, Nick Taylor, said:

"We welcome the introduction of the White Paper to the Senedd today on World Homelessness Day. As the largest provider of support services in Wales for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Pobl supports multi-agency working with a preventative trauma informed focus ensuring intervention is received at the earliest opportunity.

First published: 10th October 2023. Last updated: 10th October 2023

[Speaking at the Labour Party conference, shadow health secretary Wes Streeting said:](#)

"A Labour government would come down like "tonne of bricks" on vaping companies pushing flavours like 'rainbow burst' at children."

Sarah Griffin's bedroom at her home in Belfast is like that of most 12-year-old girls - a dressing table littered with make-up, perfume bottles and hair straighteners, with some childhood cuddly toys on the bed.

But this is where Sarah also used to hide her vapes from her mum - even cutting holes in the carpet to keep them out of sight. Sarah had started vaping when she was just nine. Her mum Mary tried to stop her - searching her when she came home, confiscating her phone - but nothing worked.

“Never start vaping”, says 12-year-old girl with lung damage



Sarah, who has asthma, became seriously ill and doctors said her vaping habit was a factor in her condition

By Dominic Hughes and Lucy Watkinson

BBC News

A 12-year-old girl who suffered a lung collapse and spent four days in an induced coma has told the

BBC that children should never start vaping.

Sarah Griffin had asthma and was a heavy vaper when she was rushed to hospital with breathing problems a month ago.

Her mum Mary told the BBC she feared she was going to lose her daughter.

The UK government has announced **plans to restrict the marketing and sale of vapes targeted at children.**

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said the proposals - which are open for public consultation for the next eight weeks - would "reverse the worrying rise in youth vaping" by making vapes less colourful and less appealing to children.

Health Secretary Steve Barclay said the government was committed to taking immediate legislative action following the consultation, telling BBC Radio 4's Today programme "head teachers are concerned, parents are concerned, about our children being targeted" by vape companies.

Speaking at the Labour Party conference, shadow health secretary Wes Streeting said **a Labour government would come down like "tonne of bricks"** on vaping companies pushing flavours like 'rainbow burst' at children.

Sarah Griffin's bedroom at her home in Belfast is like that of most 12-year-old girls - a dressing table littered with make-up, perfume bottles and hair straighteners, with some childhood cuddly toys on the bed. But this is where Sarah also used to hide her vapes from her mum - even cutting holes in the carpet to keep them out of sight.

Sarah had started vaping when she was just nine.

Her mum Mary tried to stop her - searching her when she came home, confiscating her phone - but nothing worked.

By the summer, Sarah was getting through a 4,000-puff vape (a regulation vape contains 600 puffs) in just a few days.

Image Caption,

Sarah hid her vapes from her mum Mary, who confiscated her phone. It was the first thing she did in the morning and the last thing she did at night - sleeping with the vape on her pillow.

Even though it's illegal to sell vapes to anyone under the age of 18, Sarah bought vapes over the counter and became addicted to the nicotine hit.

Sarah's asthma and the fact she was not good at using her preventative inhaler left her at risk of complications.

In early September she also developed a head cold, and when combined with her vaping, it all added up to what Sarah's doctor describes as a "perfect storm".

"A lot of risk factors were going in the wrong direction," says Dr Dara O'Donoghue, consultant respiratory paediatrician at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children.

Sarah became unwell and was taken to hospital, where an X-ray of her lungs showed only one was working properly - and she was not responding to treatment.

Within a few hours she was in intensive care - and shortly after that was put into an induced coma, in the hope that her condition would stabilise. For Mary, it was a moment of desperation.

"There is absolutely no words to describe when you think your child is going to die."



Image caption,
Sarah wants to warn other children
her age of the risks of using vapes

After four days, Sarah was gradually brought round and is now recovering - but she has been left with permanent damage to her lungs. "She's doing lung exercises and stuff you know, you'd expect an 80-year-old to be doing, not someone who is 12," says her mum.

"People open your eyes, because this is happening all round, and possibly your child too.

"No matter what you're thinking, people like to think their kids aren't doing these things but the reality is very, very different."

Sarah hopes her experience will help others her age wake up to the dangers posed by vaping.

"Don't start doing it, because once you start doing it, you don't stop doing it," she says.

"You only stop when you basically have to, when it's a life or death situation."

IMAGE SOURCE, MARY GRIFFIN

Image caption,

Sarah and her mum Mary told the BBC about their traumatic experience Dr O'Donoghue called youth vaping "a healthcare emergency" which had to be addressed "urgently".

"We need to be wary about vapes because the healthcare problems associated with vapes are only emerging."

Recent figures suggest that one in five children aged 11-17 have now tried vaping - three times as many as in 2020.

Vaping among younger children is also rising, with nearly one in ten 11- to 15-year-olds using them, according to a 2021 survey.

Many countries around the world are experiencing similar trends in youth vaping.

Fidelma Carter, from the charity Northern Ireland Chest, Heart and Stroke, says 17% of young vapers are doing it regularly.

"Young people are taking up vaping because they assume there is no risk, there's no dangers.

"And we want to challenge the misconceptions and raise awareness that vaping can impact on your health and wellbeing," she said.

The government has announced a UK-wide consultation on its proposals to crack down on vaping among young people.

The proposals include:

- restricting the flavours and descriptions of vapes so they are no longer targeted at children
- keeping vapes out of sight of children in shops
- regulating vape packaging so they are not targeted at children
- exploring whether increasing the price of vapes will reduce the number of young people using them

- considering restricting the sale of disposable vapes, which ministers say are clearly linked to the rise in vaping in children and are incredibly harmful to the environment.

Sarah Woolnough, from charity Asthma + Lung UK, said she wanted to see restrictions on the marketing of vapes so that they did not target children.

"Disposable vapes at their current pocket money prices, with cartoons and bubble-gum flavour options, are far too attractive and easy for children to access," she said.

Professor Chris Whitty, England's chief medical officer, said marketing vapes or e-cigarettes to children was "utterly unacceptable".

But he said vaping could be useful as a way for smokers to quit tobacco, and that vaping was "less dangerous than smoking".

Correction: An earlier version of this story incorrectly quoted Ms Carter as saying 70% of young vapers were vaping regularly. The story has been amended to reflect her actual quote, "17%"



Applications to Join Ysgol Rhiwabon Are Now Open

The link below will take you to the admissions process to join us – this is the quickest and easiest way to apply.

You will also get an email letting you know your application has been received.

Places are open to children who will have reached the age of 11 by August 31st, 2024.

The closing date for applications is 6th November 2023.

Ysgol Rhiwabon
Pont Adam, Ruabon
01978 822 392
@ysgolrhiwabon

<https://www.wrexham.gov.uk/service/school-admissions/secondary-admissions>



Get advice, support and more at our recruitment event

Wrexham Council Recruitment Event

When? 18th October, 2023

Where? Tŷ Pawb from 2pm–6pm

Looking to change career? If so, come along to our recruitment event and explore the diverse opportunities available working for Wrexham

Council.

We have a wide range of jobs which are ready and waiting for the right people!


At the event, you'll get to talk to our team about the different career opportunities on offer, plus they can fill you in on all the great employment benefits that working for us brings.

We've once again achieved the Gold Corporate Health Award and were commended for our extensive health and wellbeing initiatives which we provide for our employees.

Interested?

Just drop in to **Tŷ Pawb** anytime between **2pm-6pm on 18th October** and get advice, support and more information about working for Wrexham Council.

We look forward to seeing you.



Cut off dates for Funded Early Education 2024

January intake - Children who have their 3rd birthday
on or before - 7th January 2024.

January intake - Online opens 1st September 2023
and closes 27th October 2023.

April intake - Children who have their 3rd birthday
on or before 7th April 2024.

April intake - Online opens 30th October 2023
and closes 29th December 2023.

CHOIRS FOR GOOD

FEEL **GOOD**. DO **GOOD**. FOR **GOOD**.

Community wellbeing choirs rehearsing weekly near you! No experience necessary!

**FIRST
SESSION
FREE!**

Mondays 6:30pm - 8pm
singing starts at 7pm
Plas Pentwyn, Coedpoeth
email: hello@choirsforgood.com
for more info.



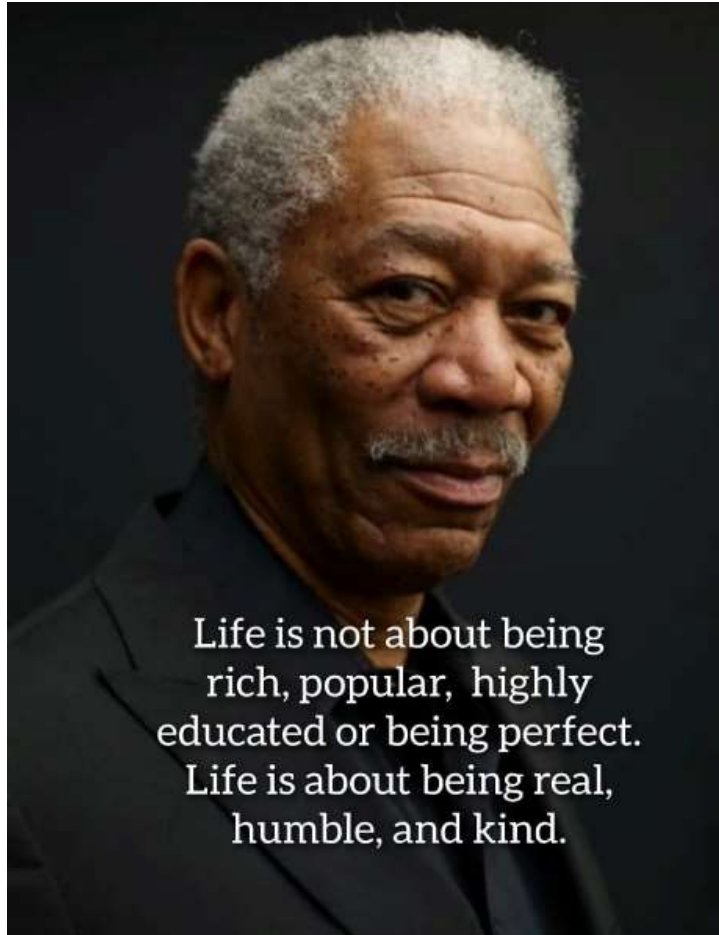
**SCAN
ME!**



VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE

www.choirsforgood.com/join

from Dianne Williams
with many thanks



With all good wishes everyone.
Sybil (Bremner)