



# The Rossett Rascal

Yr Orsedd Cnaf

Councillors Bulletin for Rossett Community

Bwletin y Cynghorwyr ar gyfer Cymuned yr Orsedd

Issue 2

Spring 2025

## Chairman's column

I hope everyone had a fantastic time over Christmas and New Year, Signs of spring are beginning to show all around the village, even if the weather is not backing it up!

The Hwb continues to thrive and there seems endless activities going on down there so be sure to pop in, hopefully those patio doors can be opened shortly...

We are currently focussing on the Coop end of the park and having sourced grants last year to install the new toddlers area, we are using the remaining funds along with some grants we are seeking to consult our older children in the coming months to develop an area and facilities for them to socialise and play to complete the upgrade of the park and ensure all age groups have something.

Rossett community council have made fantastic progress over the recent months with the appointment of Ali as our newly created Community coordinator and I would like to personally welcome Grant Purcell as our new community agent.

Our events team are busy organising events for the year starting with the Easter treasure-hunt on 18th and 19th April and a little bunny tells me there will be lots of treats to be found so please take your children down to the hub to take part.

As always we are your community council so if you do have any issues you would like to raise do get in touch via Joni the community clerk.

As this edition covers March it leaves me to wish you all **Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Sant Hapus!**



## Rossett gets a community coordinator and a new community agent.

Ali Pickard writes that after 7 years as Rossett Community Agent, I'm starting a new role as Community Coordinator. Grant Purcell is our new community agent and you will meet him on the next page. Grant will now take over individual referrals for those age 50+ with queries about housing, health, or benefits. He'll also start new initiatives and aid us with current projects. We're excited to have him on board.



Ali Pickard and Harry Smith pictured above

As Community Coordinator, I'll work fewer hours (8 hours a week for Rossett) but will have more freedom to explore new initiatives and intergenerational projects.

We'll be sharing some more news about it soon. Grant will take on the day to day managing of it alongside some lovely new helpers.

I'll continue running our popular Thursday morning Community Cafe for older people, alongside Helen Maurice Jones (the village would fall apart without her) and our fantastic team of volunteers.

We had a record 39 attendees on February 13<sup>th</sup> so really need all our many cake-making, tea-distributing, driving, and chatting volunteers to keep it all running smoothly every week. If you'd like to get involved do get in touch.

When I first started working in Rossett, I was told a number of times that the village no longer had a community spirit, that there was no community left... I didn't believe it then and certainly don't now. Many amazing people contribute their time and ideas to make Rossett a welcoming place for all ages, including at our fantastic new Hwb. If you haven't visited yet, do drop by and say hello.



I'm currently setting up the Chatty Cafe scheme at The Hwb, the first one in Wrexham County. A designated table will be at the Hwb for if you are heading there by yourself and fancy a chat with someone new, (whether you're having a low day, or a great day.)

More details on the next page.

# Community Council Meetings

The community council meet on the third Wednesday of every month and the next meetings are on:

Wednesday 19th March

Wednesday 16th April

Wednesday 21st May

Wednesday 18th June

## Your councillors

William Cleaver

Michael Gledhill

J Hugh Jones

Helen Maurice Jones

Curtis Morgan

Peter Morris

Allan Parrington

Nathan Roberts

Paul Roberts

Lucy Rowland

Ross Shepherd

Andrew Steven

Louise Todd

Martyn Woods

## Council Staff

Joni Rusling—Clerk

Grant Purcell—Community Agent

Ali Pickard—Community Coordinator

Ollie Edwards—Park Warden

Colin Hughes— Street Warden

## Our new community agent—Grant Purcell



Hello everybody, my name's Grant and I'm the newly appointed community agent for Rossett, working for local charity AVOW, supporting the over 50s in the local area.

Being originally from Gresford myself and having had family connections in Rossett, I am very familiar with the area and am going to enjoy working with the local public.

As the Community Agent, I will be responsible for a variety of roles, including applications like Blue Badges and bus-passes.

I will be looking to also establish new local clubs & activities tailored to people's needs and requirements, to sign-post you to appropriate services and reconnecting you with your local community.

I will also be on hand to assist people with connecting with others using modern digital technology, in the hope to improve health and wellbeing.

You'll find me as a regular face in the Rossett Community Hub and I look forward to meeting you all.

## Chatter & Natter at The Hwb



The Chatty Cafe Scheme is the UK's leading non-profit organisation aiming to get people connecting and having a chat. Chatter & Natter tables are where customers can sit if they are happy to talk to other customers. Hundreds of venues offer Chatter & Natter tables, in cafes, pubs, libraries, hospitals – anywhere that people can sit and chat over a cuppa. The aim is to kickstart conversations, get people chatting and reduce loneliness along the way.

We are proud to say Hwb Yr Orsedd will be the first venue in Wrexham County. The table will be available anytime the Hwb is open, identified by a yellow sign, so if you want to take a seat you can see if anyone is around

who would like a chat. Twice a week it will be manned by volunteers who will provide a friendly face and contact point for meeting.

The times the table will be manned will be 11-12 Monday morning & 2-3pm Wednesday afternoon. Our new Community Agent Grant will be there at the Wednesday session. Come along and meet some new people. We aim to set up the table in March-please look out for publicity or pop into the Hwb and ask.

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, you can call Ali on 07538 583814 or message us on Rossett Community Council Facebook page.

## Councillor profile—Michael Gledhill



I have lived in Rossett for all my life and worked locally from the age of 16.

I joined the Community Council as a Youth Representative in 2018 and then went onto take a Community Councillor role when I turned 18.

I currently sit as the Vice Chair and as a member of the parks committee.

I'm a keen follower of Sale Sharks Rugby union team and Wrexham AFC.

I am currently in training for the Manchester Marathon which takes place on Sunday 27th April, so please do say hello if you see me running through Rossett and Burton in training!



# News from our County Councillors

## Hugh Jones & Ross Shepherd

As we enter another new year we are both busy ensuring we are representing the people of Rossett with a variety of issues and concerns.

We have been working closely with Natural Resources Wales about ensuring the river is kept clear throughout the village. A number of large trees and branches have been spotted in places and we have asked for these to be removed as soon as possible.

We meet Street Scene Services Officers on a regular basis to highlight issues which need addressing in the village. These at present include cutting back trees as necessary near street lamps to improve lighting and ensuring gullies are clear and are regularly checked.

We have been out on patrols with North Wales Police around the ward carrying out speed checks. A number of motorists have been given advisory notices about travelling in excess of 20 mph in areas such as Trevalyn, Burton Road and on Wrexham Road. We have been assured these random checks will continue to be carried out to help address many residents concerns about vehicles breaking speed limits throughout the village. Drivers over the threshold speed will be given a fixed penalty fine and will receive points on their licence. Similarly drivers have been ticketed for ignoring the No Entry signs at the Co-op.

Again we have suffered from significant amounts of heavy rainfall throughout the autumn and winter. Officers have been continuing to carry out remedial work in target areas such as Burton and Almere Ferry. This has including ensuring drains and culverts are clear and digging out a number of ditches which are causing problems. The council are working hard by contacting various landowners instructing them to clear ditches on private land as a number of the issues are being caused by excess water running off fields leading to flooding on a number of roads and isolating residents.

Parking restrictions and extended double yellow lines have been implemented around the Green. These measures should help to improve the traffic flow in this area and help reduce inconsiderate parking.

As many of you will be aware the planning application for the Darland Football Academy was approved. We were able to persuade the planning committee to include conditions to ensure proper screening of the portaging, limiting access to Gamford Lane and ensuring that no provision for flood-lighting was included.

We are both easily contactable by e mail or phone.

# Hwb Orsedd (Rossett Community Hub)

## Update

The Hwb has now been open for 5 months and what a busy time it's been, we've had over 5000 people through the door since our opening in October, with many returning week after week.

We have regular events taking place, all of which are proving extremely popular including the Monday Craft and Chat Group, the Thursday Community Cafe, and our "Warm Spaces" sessions on a Tuesday with free food and drink available to everyone. We have a board game group who meet every Friday, Yoga lessons on a Monday evening and the Community Choir who meet at the Hwb every Wednesday. If you'd like to start up a special interest group please get in touch with Beth our Hwb manager.

## [hwbyrasedd.org.uk](http://hwbyrasedd.org.uk)

Our new website has now been launched. It provides loads of information about the Hwb, with a What's On section, our cafe menu and opening hours and a useful community directory. We'd appreciate any feedback you may have regarding the website, just email us on [hwbyrasedd@gmail.com](mailto:hwbyrasedd@gmail.com) or via Facebook messenger.

## Volunteering - the Hwb needs you

The Hwb is a registered charity, we are a not-for-profit organisation and although we have a few paid members of staff we are very much dependent on our volunteers. We have a group of regular volunteers who help out in the cafe and at Hwb events, but we need more.

Your help as a volunteer could make a huge difference. Volunteering with us is a great way to give back to your community, meet new people, and be part of something bigger. Come and join the team. Can you spare a morning, afternoon or just a couple of hours a week? If you can give us a ring on **01978 532501**, email [hwbyrasedd@gmail.com](mailto:hwbyrasedd@gmail.com) or just pop into The Hwb to see how you could help.

We're always looking for friendly, passionate individuals to help us run the Hwb and support our community projects.

### Why Volunteer?

**Make a positive impact in the community.**

**Gain valuable experience and skills.**

**Meet like-minded people and make new friends.**

**Be part of a supportive and rewarding environment.**

Whether you can spare a few hours a week or want to get more involved, we'd love to hear from you!

## Local Legend—Harry Smith

The Rascal editorial team, recently sat down with Harry at the community café.



We told Harry that he had been nominated as a local legend and he spoke enthusiastically with a sparkle in his eye, and in his mid eighties can still be described as a cheeky chappie.

Harry is a massive train enthusiast and he started working in 1956 at the age of 15 years and still recalls having to travel to Swindon for a medical and how nervous he was travelling on his own as until then he had only been a few miles from Wrexham. Harry started cleaning the engines on the steam trains. He was then promoted to an on-board fireman. He was then again promoted to a train driver when the trains switched to diesel and he describes with passion his career on the trains.

In 1970 Harry was the youngest train driver in Chester and has driven famous people such as Sir John Wakely who shook Harry's hand afterwards and he also drove 12 1st class carriages for former TV and radio presenter "Pete Murray".

Harry lives in Almere ferry and has had to be rescued several times due to flooding.

He not only helps out at the community café helping to set up and clear away, but can always be relied upon to help out at Village Hall & other events in the village.

Harry also showed us a framed letter from Buckingham palace thanking him for his efforts to save Grove school from being demolished. If you like trains we are sure Harry would love to have a chat over a warm drink in the hub.



## Community Café

Every Thursday we have the Rossett community café that is held in the community Hwb.

You don't need to be a café regular to pop down and use these services.

Support local home-made and keep services coming to the village. 10-30-12.00pm at the Hwb on the green.

It's a really great way to meet new friends and get involved within the community.

For more information please contact our community agent Ali on 07538 583814

or via the community council Facebook page.

## Our website

Our community website is now under development and a lot of work is being done behind the scenes to bring to you a really useful and informative resource for the village.

We are hoping that by Easter the new site will be live but for the time being our existing website continues to provide important information.

## Feedback matters

Do you have any feedback on this newsletter?

Is there any other information you would like us to include in the next edition?

Do you have any articles or events that you would like us to cover?

The next issue will be published in May so please do get in touch before then if you have any feedback or suggestions of our Local Hero / Local Legend column.

Contact the editors at

[clerk@rossettcommunitycouncil.cymru](mailto:clerk@rossettcommunitycouncil.cymru)

## What's occurring in Rossett

### Children's Easter Treasure Hunt 18th 19th April



### VE Day—Thursday 8th May

We will be unveiling the new statue of the unknown soldier near the notice board at the Rossett Park. More details to follow via the website.

### Save the Date Rossett Picnic in the Park -Saturday 14th June

More details to follow in the next Rossett Rascal

### National Eisteddfod 2025 to be held in Wrexham 2nd—9th August

#### Bydd Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru yn dychwelyd i Wrecsam yn 2025

Mae Eisteddfod ydy'r ŵyl ddiwylliannol deithiol fwyaf yn Ewrop. Yn 2025 Bydd yr ŵyl yn dychwelyd i dir amaethyddol, yn Isycoed, gyda'r Maes, y maes carafanau, y meysydd parcio a Maes B gyfochrog â'i gilydd a hynny mewn ardal sy'n gyfleus ar gyfer teithwyr o bob cyfeiriad.

Mae'r Eisteddfod yn rhywbeth y gallwn ni i gyd ei gefnogi a'i fwynhau drwy'r gweithgareddau a'r codi arian yn ystod y cyfnod paratoi, yn ogystal â'r ŵyl ei hun.

Dyma'r cyfle perffaith i ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg sydd gennych chi neu ddechrau dysgu ychydig ar ein hiaith cyn i'r ŵyl gyrraedd ardal Is-y-coed yma yn Wrecsam fis Awst nesaf.

Gobeithio y bydd pobl yr Orsedd yn ymuno yn y gweithgareddau niferus sydd ar y gweill yn y misoedd nesaf

Cynhelir Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Wrecsam yn Is-y-coed o 2-9 Awst y flwyddyn nesaf. Am fwy o wybodaeth ewch ar-lein, [www.eisteddfod.cymru](http://www.eisteddfod.cymru).