

Your Council

News from Flintshire County Council

Summer Edition 2016

Welcome

Apprentices galore!

Flintshire County Council has recently entered into an agreement with Futureworks to introduce an "Apprentice Academy" for the county. The academy will maximise the creation of skilled local jobs, which will be needed for the Council's major housing construction and refurbishment programmes over the next five years.

Council construction contracts always place a requirement on the contractor to provide apprentice opportunities and to recruit local labour, however it is often difficult to complete the apprenticeships owing to the nature of the contracts. The creation of this academy will ensure that full apprenticeships can be made and delivered. The type of job roles needed include plumbing, joinery, plastering, gas and electrical, bricklayers, but also other roles such as tenant liaison officers and quantity surveyors will be required.



Pictured is the first Futureworks apprentice, Keiffer Jones, who started with Wates Living Space at the end of April, with Cllr Aaron Shotton, Cllr Derek Butler and Clare Budden, Chief Officer for Community and Enterprise.

Futureworks is a community interest company which has the relevant experience, the right culture and values to be a close partner to the Council and working with a third party reduces significantly the cost of scheme administration for the Council. They have committed to having a Flintshire base and the scheme manager/placement officer will be employed by the Council but seconded to work on the Futureworks Flintshire programme.

For more information please email info@futureworks.wales (mailto:info@futureworks.wales).

Before the Academy was set up, the Council's contractors were already giving valuable work experience and opportunities to local young people by taking them on as apprentices – here are a few of the stories:

Thomas Miller and Joseph Collin are working with Mitie who were awarded the contract to upgrade the kitchens and bathrooms in 328 homes. They were both studying plumbing at Coleg Cambria and, now, they are gaining invaluable experience fitting bathrooms and kitchens, working alongside Mitie's experienced plumbers.



Keepmoat, another of our contractors, enlisted the help of a local electrical contractor, JDE Electrical of Alltami, and has worked with them over the last 4-5 years replacing kitchens on the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) Programme in Flintshire. JDE has been able to employ an extra five apprentices during this time and helped a further three employees complete their apprenticeships. JDE has also recruited a number of adult trainees who are in the process of completing electrical apprenticeships.

Pictured left to right are front: Apprentices Ben Davies, Andy Dale, Jac Williams, Matthew Palin (standing), Calum Davies, Chris Wood, Sam Williams

Back: Julian Davies - Director of JDE, Colin Welsby - Keepmoat, David Williams - Operations Manager Keepmoat, Cllr Bernie Attridge, Cllr Helen Brown, Shaun O'Donnell - Contract Surveyor with FCC, Kris Davies - Director of JDE and Josh Davies - Supervisor at JDE

Welcome to Flintshire - a dementia friendly county

Two towns in Flintshire have been formally recognised by the Alzheimer's Society as dementia friendly communities – in the same week!

This makes the towns of Flint and Buckley the first in North Wales to receive such accreditation and join many cities, towns and villages now exploring what they need to do to better support people with dementia and enable them to live well in the community.

Flintshire County Councillor Christine Jones, Cabinet Member for Social Services, said:

“Both Flint and Buckley have worked hard to achieve recognition from the Alzheimer's Society and are committed to working with local businesses, schools and community groups so that each town can become a dementia friendly community where people with dementia are understood, respected, supported and confident that they can contribute to the life of the town. To get first two accreditations in North Wales in the same week is wonderful and testament to the hard working, caring people of our county.”

In Flint, the recognition follows work that has been undertaken by a group chaired by the Reverend Brian Harvey, Rector of Flint, and town councillor, who said:

“Over the past eighteen months, the group has run information sessions to raise awareness of dementia, as well as starting a regular get together in the parish church for people with dementia and their carers. In partnership with shops in Church Street, late-evening shopping was organised in the run up to Christmas and a play called "The D-Word" exploring issues to do with dementia was staged.”

In Buckley, a group chaired by local businessman Ged Fitzpatrick has run similar initiatives to achieve their accreditation. Ged said:

“I am delighted to receive the news that Buckley has achieved the status to work towards our town becoming a Dementia Friendly Community. Ours is a true partnership between people living with dementia their families and carers, local businesses, volunteers, community groups and the Church with full backing from both our town and county. This shows what can be achieved when people come together with a joint commitment to ensure that people with dementia in our town can live well.”

Both groups have been well supported by the Planning and Development Team of Flintshire County Council's Social Services Department.

If anyone wants to become a dementia friend or discuss accreditation of their group or business, please contact Luke Pickering-Jones on 01352 702655 or email luke.pickering-jones@flintshire.gov.uk. (<mailto:luke.pickering-jones@flintshire.gov.uk>)

The people who made it happen!



Front row from left: Rose Marie Dennan – Flint Monday Mix Group, Jo Lane – Alzheimer's Society, Donna Redgrave – RMD Memory Matters Buckley, Dawn Jones – Buckley Dementia Support Worker, Angela Wedgewood – Flint Age Connects, Cllr Christine Jones – Cabinet Member for Social Services, Neil Ayling – Chief Officer for Social Services

Back row from left: Luke Pickering-Jones, Planning and Development Officer, Rebecca Fitzpatrick – Buckley, Cllr Andrew Williams – Buckley and Ged Fitzpatrick – Buckley.

Spotlight on...

Care and support in Wales has changed from April 2016

In case you weren't aware, the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act came into being on 6 April this year. It is the new law for improving the well-being of people who need care and support, and carers who need support, and allows you to have more say in YOUR social services.

What does this mean for me?

The Act changes the way people's needs are assessed and the way services are delivered - people will have more of a say in the care and support they receive.

It also promotes a range of help available within the community to reduce the need for formal, planned support.

- Services will be available to provide the right support at the right time
- More information and advice will be available
- Assessment will be simpler and proportionate
- Carers will have an equal right to be assessed for support
- There will be stronger powers to keep people safe from abuse and neglect.



So what do I do now?

If you receive care or support, you will take part in the new process during your next scheduled review date.

You can access the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act on the [legislation.gov website](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2014/4/contents) (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2014/4/contents>) and access more information by visiting [our website](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Social-Services/Social-Services-and-Well-being-Wales-Act-2014.aspx) (<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Social-Services/Social-Services-and-Well-being-Wales-Act-2014.aspx>).

The Referendum on membership of the European Union



The referendum on Thursday 23 June will be a significant event with the electorate deciding whether the United Kingdom should remain in, or leave, the European Union.

Voters will be asked the following questions as shown on this specimen ballot paper.

Referendum on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union Refferendwm ar aelodaeth y Deyrnas Unedig o'r Undeb Ewropeaidd	
Vote only once by putting a cross <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in the box next to your choice Pleidleisiwch unwaith yn unig drwy roi croes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yn y blwch wrth ymyl eich dewis	
Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union? A ddylai'r Deyrnas Unedig aros yn aelod o'r Undeb Ewropeaidd neu adael yr Undeb Ewropeaidd?	
Remain a member of the European Union Aros yn aelod o'r Undeb Ewropeaidd	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leave the European Union Gadael yr Undeb Ewropeaidd	<input type="checkbox"/>

The referendum already has a major media profile with intense campaigning for both points of view led by the two registered lead campaign organisations.

If you are already registered to vote then you will be registered to vote in the Referendum and will receive a voting card at your home address in the usual way.

If you have recently moved, or are not currently registered, you will need to register by the deadline of **7 June**.

You can register quickly and easily on line at <http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote/> (<http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote/>). If you require a paper copy of a registration form please e-mail vote2016@flintshire.gov.uk (<mailto:vote2016@flintshire.gov.uk>) or phone 01352 702412. You will require your date of birth and national insurance number to complete your registration. If you cannot find your national insurance number you can use the HMRC enquiry service at <http://www.gov.uk/lost-national-insurance-number> (<http://www.gov.uk/lost-national-insurance-number>), or ring 0300 200 3502.

The deadline for applying for a postal vote is **8 June**.

You can also get more information on the EU Referendum [here](http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/upcoming-elections-and-referendums/eu-referendum) (<http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/upcoming-elections-and-referendums/eu-referendum>).

The Referendum timetable is set out below:-

Date	Event
Tuesday 17 May	Publication of notice of referendum
Tuesday 24 May	Delivery of poll cards to electors
Friday 27 May	Despatch of postal votes to overseas addresses
Friday 3 June	Postal votes delivered to electors at UK addresses
Tuesday 7 June	Last day to register to vote
Wednesday 8 June	Last day to apply for a postal vote
Wednesday 15 June	Last day to apply for a proxy vote
Thursday 23 June 7am to 10pm	Polling day

Behind the scenes in running the Referendum

There will be 100 polling stations throughout Flintshire and around 224 election staff.

The votes will be counted overnight all across the United Kingdom as in a general election and the UK result declaration will be made in Manchester. There are 12 regions for the purposes of the Referendum with Wales being classed as a region. The regional count totals will be co-ordinated from and declared at 12 centres around the UK. The regional count centre for Wales is the Deeside Campus, Coleg Cambria, Connah's Quay, Flintshire.

The county level results will be declared individually at the local count centres by the 380 local counting officers in the counties across Wales, England and Scotland. Flintshire is one of the 22 counties in Wales which are part of the 380 total. There are two further count centres in Northern Ireland and Gibraltar making a grand total of 382.

For more local information, please visit [Flintshire County Council's website](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Elections-and-Electoral-Registration/Home.aspx) (<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Elections-and-Electoral-Registration/Home.aspx>).

Housing success - the story so far

We believe that all our residents have the right to decent and appropriate accommodation and living standards. That's why we are working with a number of contractors to improve our current housing stock as well as investing in building new council house stock for the first time in a generation.

Here are some of the things that have been happening over the last few months.

Building work commences on first phase of Flintshire's housing programme

Wates Living Space Homes, one of our contractors, has started to build 12 new homes at the site of the former Custom House School in Conna's Quay. This is part of Flintshire Council's ambitious Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP) and is the start of plans to build approximately 500 new homes across the county by 2020 to accommodate rising demand for social and affordable housing.

The SHARP programme is the first of its kind in Wales and will see up to 2,000 people employed in addition to the creation of around 20 apprenticeship positions for local people. It is estimated that Flintshire sub-contractors will benefit from work packages totalling £40m throughout the programme.



Pictured (l to r) are: Ian Power, Quantity Surveyor, Wates Living Space Homes, Adrian Cronin, Construction Manager, Wates Living Space Homes, Cllr. Bernie Attridge, Deputy Leader of Flintshire County Council, Cllr. Brian Dunn, local Ward Member, Mick Cunningham, Project Manager, Wates Living Space Homes, Cllr. Helen Brown, Cabinet Member for Housing and Cllr. Aaron Shotton, Leader of Flintshire County Council.

The start on site at Conna's Quay closely follows February's announcement that planning approval has also been granted for the construction of 92 new homes at The Walks in Flint as part of the SHARP programme.

Flint Town Centre Regeneration



Face-lift for Flintshire homes ...

... outside ...

Hundreds of council owned homes have been getting a face-lift in a £4 million-plus Flintshire County Council project.

As part of its commitment to the Welsh Government's initiative of achieving The Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) for its properties by the year 2020, the first major scheme started in Holywell in April 2015. Properties received external wall insulation including new windows and doors to improve security, cut heat-loss and reduce carbon emissions.

Holywell resident Mr Kenneth Williams of Ffordd Fer said: "Everyone carrying out the work has been very friendly and it's great that the Council is helping residents keep their homes safe and warm with the new improvements."

Mr Williams is pictured here with Paula Eaves Tenant Liaison Officer and Brian Winrow Site Manager, A. Connolly Ltd, Karen Stevens, Tenant Liaison Officer and Tryfan Jones, Contract Surveyor, Flintshire County Council.

... and in





Over the past year, we have been working with another contractor, Keepmoat, to update council-owned properties with new kitchens and bathrooms, electrical rewires and heating upgrades as part of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS). We have recently reached a milestone and celebrated with the 500th resident to have her bathroom and kitchen refurbished – Caerwys resident, Mrs Marjorie Jones, who said:

"I am absolutely thrilled with the work that has been done – the workmen were very polite and friendly and made sure that there was as little disruption as possible. They worked efficiently so that the work was completed quickly."

Left to right: Sean O'Donnell Contract Surveyor Flintshire, Stephen Hunt Site Manager Keepmoat, Lynne Tetlow Tenant Liaison Keepmoat, Mrs Marjorie Jones and Cllr Helen Brown, Cabinet Member for Housing

Flintshire celebrates their women in construction

Flintshire County Council marked this year's International Women's Day on 8 March by celebrating their women in construction.

In the UK, women make up only 11% of the construction workforce, and just 1% of workers on site, according to figures quoted on the UCATT (Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians) website. The Office for National Statistics says that the number of women working as roofers, bricklayers and glaziers is so low that it is unmeasurable.

Flintshire is bucking this trend where 25% of their Capital Works team are women. This team works on the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) programme, to ensure all council houses are up to standard by 2020. The Flintshire repairs and maintenance team also has the Council's first female electrician.

Pictured in front of Castle Heights in Flint are L to R: Rae Williams - Tenant Liaison Officer (TLO), Christine Stewart - WHQS System Auditor, Diane Thomas - TLO, Clare Budden - Flintshire County Council Chief Officer Community and Enterprise, Karen Stevens - TLO, Cllr Helen Brown, Cabinet Member for Housing, Michelle Gordon - Maintenance Inspector, Hazel Oliver - TLO and Hannah James - Contract Surveyor



50th satisfied customer!

Flintshire County Council was the first authority in Wales to set up its own housing company back in 2014.

Less than two years on and the company is going from strength to strength.

Designed to respond to the challenges experienced by residents in accessing affordable housing, NEW Homes (North East Wales Homes) was set up by the Council to increase the housing options available to local residents. It offers tailored housing management services which are designed to increase the quantity and quality of affordable housing across the county.

And the company recently rented out its 50th property.

Find out more about the company and the services offered on 01352 701400.

From the left: Phil Gilbert, Interim Manager of NEW Homes, Cllr Bernie Attridge, Chair of the NEW Homes Board, new tenant Andrew Trinder, Melville Evans, NEW Homes Lead Officer



Council news

Schools fit for the 21st century!

Flintshire County Council has a responsibility to review and modernise all school provision, to make sure that we are providing the best possible opportunities for learners, so that they can achieve their full potential. Here are some of the exciting projects which have been completed recently, or which will be completed, very soon.

Ysgol Tŷ Ffynnon, Shotton

Ysgol Tŷ Ffynnon Primary School is a £6.4million development delivered through the Welsh Government's Transitional Funding Programme. The project was funded in partnership between the Welsh Government and Flintshire County Council.

The ultra modern school, which opened its doors to pupils in September 2014 and was officially opened by the then Education Minister, Huw Lewis, on 29 February, accommodates 245 primary and 30 nursery pupils. It was built on the site of the existing junior school by Wrexham based Read Construction Holdings Ltd.

The new school building has nine classrooms and two resource classes for children with moderate learning difficulties, a nursery, assembly hall, studio, and kitchen and community facilities. In the outside space, there are landscaped play and recreation areas.

Nia Goldsmith, Headteacher, said: "The pupils are so fortunate to have a wonderful 21st century school with modern up to date technology and resources. Both pupils and staff are delighted to be working in such excellent surroundings and hope that the local community will work with the school to keep the facilities in pristine condition."



Pictured at the opening left to right: Nia Goldsmith - Headteacher, Huw Lewis, Cllr Aaron Shotton and John Donnelly - Chair of Governors

Holywell Learning Campus

Building work for the new primary and secondary schools in Holywell, which are co-located on the site of the existing High School, is nearing completion and the schools are due to open their doors this September.

One new primary school called Ysgol Maes y Felin will replace Ysgol Perth y Terfyn Infants and Ysgol y Fron Junior School and will cater for learners up to the age of 11. The new Holywell High School will provide education for 11 to 16 year olds.

The new three storey secondary school will have 600 places and the single storey primary school will have 315 places. Primary children and secondary age students will be educated in the latest state-of-the-art accommodation with all modern IT facilities to assist with learning.

Development Walk-through

Holywell School Planning Application - Approved / Treffynnon Cais Cynllunio



Deeside Sixth Form Centre

The new Post 16 Education Centre jointly developed by Coleg Cambria, local schools and Flintshire County Council will provide new facilities and a broader curriculum of choice for Post 16 learners in Flintshire.

The three-storey building includes specialist performing arts, music, science and creative arts facilities as well as general teaching classrooms and social and private study spaces. Accessed from a newly formed entrance from Golftyn Lane, the scheme includes staff and visitor car parking as well as a coach park area to serve the wider Coleg Cambria site.

Work started on site in March 2015 and it will open its doors to the first students in September this year.

Take a look at this exciting new learning centre.

Deeside Sixth - a fly-through of the new building



Pesky Pests Alert!

At this time of year, when you start to look forward to warmer spring weather, you can sometimes find some unwanted guests visiting your home or office.

Flintshire County Council offers a professional and comprehensive pest control service to rid your home or office of the following unwelcome callers:

- Rats
- Mice
- Fleas
- Wasps
- Crawling ants

Services range from basic advice on pest prevention to direct control of pests. Our rates are competitive and include follow-up visits with concessions available on the full rate if you are in receipt of certain benefits. All pest control officers are fully trained and qualified to industry standards.

Maintenance contracts are also available with an annual fixed price. These contracts are tailored to the individual's needs and include regular scheduled inspections, pest monitors and an information binder.

For more information, call 01352 701234 or email pestcontrol@flintshire.gov.uk (mailto:pestcontrol@flintshire.gov.uk) or find us on www.flintshire.gov.uk (<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Environmental-Health/Pest-control.aspx>).

Changes to Services

Community Asset Transfers

Community asset transfers (CATs) are a way of keeping buildings that may otherwise have closed due to lack of funding, open and running for the benefit of local residents. The Council is a strong supporter of charity and community groups and social enterprises and is committed to working with them to ensure that asset transfer to local communities in Flintshire is successful and sustainable in the long-term.

Gwernymynydd Village Centre is one of the latest facilities to be taken over by a local community group under the Council's Community Asset Transfer (CAT) scheme. The Gwernymynydd Village Centre Management Committee took formal responsibility for the centre in March on behalf of the community following the completion of a formal agreement with the Council.

Other former Council facilities already transferred to community groups under the CAT scheme include Carmel Village Hall and Caerwys public conveniences.

One hundred and three expressions of interest have been received and approved for 208 community assets since the Council re-launched its CAT scheme in November 2014. Of these, 12 business plans have been approved for 18 community assets with the aim of having between 7 and 12 full CATs by the end of March 2016.

These CATs would potentially include; Trelogan Community Centre, Connah's Quay Allotments, Gwespyr Play Area, Bagillt War Memorial, Connah's Quay Swimming Pool and Mynydd Isa Community Centre (including Mynydd Isa Library). The estimated savings to the Council of transferring these assets are over £0.330m per annum revenue savings, as well as an estimated saving of £0.600m on maintenance costs.



Over the next twelve months the Council anticipates that the number of CATs that could be completed could be doubled and may potentially include Holywell Leisure Centre, Hope Library and Saltney Library, which, as well as protecting these facilities, could save the Council a further £0.350m in revenue per annum.

Further details about the CAT scheme are available from Flintshire Local Voluntary Council. You can contact FLVC by telephone on 01352 744000 or by email at info@flvc.org.uk (<mailto:info@flvc.org.uk>)

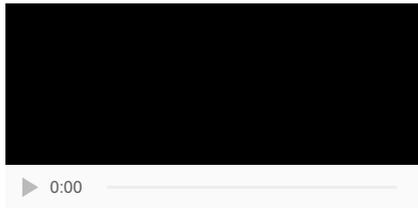
Flintshire's library service

The library service is evolving to help ensure a sustainable library network for our future generations.

Deeside Library

The Library at Deeside was officially opened by Ken Skates, the then Deputy Minister for Sport Culture and Tourism, on 29 February 2016. Flintshire County Council received £86,000 from the Welsh Government's Community Learning and Libraries Programme to create this co-located space in Deeside Leisure Centre. The new library has self-service technology, allowing it to remain open all the hours the leisure centre opens. Library users also have the advantage of using the café and foyer space for reading, refreshments and access to Wi-Fi. The library has a brand new stock of 5000 books and 4 public use computers and 20 tablets for use in the library.

Check out the video of the opening day



Holywell Library

Holywell Library has been awarded £120,000 which will mean the Council's plans to move the library into the Leisure Centre to create a central hub offering a range of services can now go ahead.

This will create a modern hub in Holywell similar to the one at Deeside Leisure Centre. Co-location means that the centre will have longer opening hours and customers can access a wider range of services in one convenient place. This move will significantly strengthen the Council's long term ambitions with regard to leisure services and it also supports the Council's Community Asset Transfer programme.

The work is due to start later this year with a planned opening date currently of January 2017.

For more information, contact Library Head Office on 01352 704400 or [submit an enquiry via our website](#) (<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/LeisureAndTourism/Libraries/Libraries.aspx>).

What's on

26 May: Time to Foster, Time to Care Information session



This year's Foster Care Fortnight campaign "Time to Foster, Time to Care", run by the Fostering Network, aims to encourage people who may have been thinking about fostering for a number of years to come forward. **Now** is the time to foster...**now** is the time to care.

Flintshire Fostering Service will be holding an information session on Thursday, 26 May at 7pm at the Springfield Hotel near Holywell including a presentation about becoming a foster carer. The service wants to raise awareness of the need for people who can care for children over 10 years old.

Contact Flintshire Fostering team on 01352 702190 or email if you would like to attend.

You can get in touch in so many ways, send an email fostering@flintshire.gov.uk (<mailto:fostering@flintshire.gov.uk>), text "foster" to 61211, Facebook (search Flintshire Fostering), visit [our website](https://www.flintshirefostering.org.uk/en/home.aspx) (<https://www.flintshirefostering.org.uk/en/home.aspx>), or phone 01352 702190.

We will have **live chat** on our website throughout foster care fortnight if you just want to ask a question and we hold information sessions almost every month. All details are on our website.

29 May: Urdd Eisteddfod Opening Ceremony



Urdd Opening Concert

Welsh rock star, Mike Peters, will be performing in Flintshire Urdd National Eisteddfod's opening concert on Sunday evening, 29 May. He is currently on tour in the USA but will be returning to Wales in time for the concert.

A host of other stars originally from the area will be performing in the concert, including Broadway star Mark Evans, *Britain's Got Talent* finalists Richard and Adam and popular comedian and singer, Caryl Parry Jones.

This will be the first time that these stars have shared a stage, and joining them will be Côr Cytgan Clwyd, Ysgol Maes Garmon Choir, Castell Alun Jazz Band and the children and young people from the area that are in the Eisteddfod musicals.

Mike Peters, lead singer of the Alarm, said, "I'm delighted to be performing at the Urdd Eisteddfod Opening Ceremony. The icing on the cake is that my sons, Dylan & Evan will both be in attendance. They both love singing, playing the guitar and piano and Dylan will be competing with Ysgol Glan Clwyd in the Eisteddfod so it will be a real

family affair!"

Classical duo Richard and Adam's latest album was number 1 in the Classical Charts for three weeks and Mark Evans will fly home from New York especially for the Eisteddfod. Caryl Parry Jones will be bringing some of her characters from popular S4C programme, Caryl a'r Lleill, to the stage as well as a new character created especially for the Eisteddfod, Fflint Eastwood.

Tickets for the opening concert and musicals are available from the Eisteddfod website, [urdd.cymru/eisteddfod](http://www.urdd.cymru/eisteddfod/) (<http://www.urdd.cymru/en/eisteddfod/>) or from the box office by ringing 0845 257 1639. The concert will be filmed by Avanti Production Company and will be broadcast live on S4C.

30 May-4 June: Urdd Eisteddfod



Eisteddfod yr Urdd Sir y Fflint

30 May – 4 June 2016

For the first time since 1984, the Urdd National Eisteddfod will be visiting Flintshire! The Eisteddfod is a family friendly festival with plenty of activities for all the family including live bands, funfair, climbing wall, S4C Cyw and Stwnsh shows and nearly 100 stalls selling everything from picnic tables to jewellery!

At the centre of it all is the main pavilion, where the most talented children and young people from across Wales will be taking part in competitions such as singing, dancing, instrumental and acting. Stars such as Alex Jones, Rhys Ifans and Ioan Gruffudd started their route to stardom on the Urdd Eisteddfod stage!

Where is it going to be held?

The Eisteddfod will be held on the fields of Flint High School.



How to get there?

By Car – the school is just off the A55 towards Flint, post code CH6 5LL but organisers are urging the public to follow the official signs to the event.

By train – Flint train station is a mile from the Eisteddfod site with service buses 28, 28A and 28X (Flint – Wrexham) leaving regularly outside the station to Flint High School.

By bus – Service Buses 28, 28A or 28X (Flint – Wrexham) all pass Flint High School regularly.

[Please note: the service may be reduced on weekends and bank holidays]



How much will it cost?

Adults - £15

Children (16 and under) - £7

Children (4yrs old and younger) – FREE

With everyone HALF PRICE on the last Saturday (4 June, 2016)

Visit the Flintshire County Council marquee at the Eisteddfod where you can find out more about things to do and places to visit in the County.

92% of visitors agree that it's a great day out for the whole family!

For more information or for a full list of ticket prices and event information, visit [urdd.cymru/eisteddfod](http://www.urdd.cymru/eisteddfod)

(<http://www.urdd.cymru/en/eisteddfod/>)

23 June: EU Referendum



The referendum on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union is on **Thursday 23 June 2016**.

To find out more and to register to vote, please visit [About My Vote](http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/upcoming-elections-and-referendums/eu-referendum) (<http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/upcoming-elections-and-referendums/eu-referendum>).



18 August: Flint and Denbigh Show



The Denbigh and Flint Show site sits in the heart of the beautiful Vale of Clwyd, Denbighshire, North Wales. During its many years, the Show has traveled all over the Counties of Flintshire – which included Wrexham – and Denbighshire, settling for a long period on the edge of Rhyl. After many years of consideration, the move to the existing site at the Green, Denbigh took place in 1990 with agreement from Mr EMW Griffith to use part of the Ty Newydd Estate.

Check out this year's events on 18 August at [Denbigh and Flint Show](http://www.denbighandflintshow.com/) (<http://www.denbighandflintshow.com/>), and come along to visit the joint Denbighshire and Flintshire stand on the day - it's the Year of Adventure!

7 September: Tour of Britain - in Flintshire!



Stage 4

Wednesday

7 September

Denbigh to Builth Wells

Taking place from Sunday 4 - Sunday 11 September 2016, the Tour of Britain is the UK's highest ranked cycle race attracting the world's top riders to race on UK roads.

The longest stage of the 2016 Tour of Britain is Stage Four on with a gruelling day in the saddle comprising of 217 kilometres through the heart of Denbighshire, Flintshire and Powys and a total ascent of 4,133m through the Clwydian Hills and Cambrian Mountains.

Starting in Denbigh the race will head first into Flintshire and Mold before going south to Corwen and crossing into Powys, running along the outskirts of Snowdonia National Park.

[Find out more about Stage 4](http://www.tourofbritain.co.uk/stages/stage4/index.php#.VwZzSHLmrlU) (<http://www.tourofbritain.co.uk/stages/stage4/index.php#.VwZzSHLmrlU>).

9 September: Award Ceremony Best Kept Communities - but you can still enter ...

If you are interested in taking part, it's not too late to enter - the closing date is **27 May 2016**.

Do you have an area you would like to bring back to life but don't know where to start - don't worry, help is at hand. You can contact your local town or community council, your local Streetscene Co-ordinator on 01352 701234 or Jan Kelly on 01352 702301 or



JanetKelly@flintshire.gov.uk (mailto:JanetKelly@flintshire.gov.uk).

Likewise, if you are **a business interested in getting involved with sponsorship**, however small, please contact Jan for more details. Any contribution will help ensure that this competition can continue and grow. Sponsors are acknowledged on publicity material and are invited to present prizes at the Awards Evening which will take place at County Hall on Friday, 9 September 2016.

Best Kept Communities Competition, organised by Flintshire County Council, is a tradition which goes back almost twenty years.

This hugely popular competition has grown and evolved - where it once concentrated on beautiful blooms and flowers, it now also encourages growing plants and flowers which help the environment and encourage wildlife.

Preparations are well underway already and communities are encouraged to enter one of the five categories:

- Best Kept Village/Community under 1000 population
- Best Kept Village/Community over 1000 and below 5000 population
- Best Kept Town Centre (over 5000 population)
- Best Kept Senior Citizen Estate
- Best Kept Community Garden/Wildlife area

Last year's Chairman of the Council, Councillor Ray Hughes, who hosted last year's award ceremony in September, said:

"This competition has gone from strength to strength, especially with entries from schools and in the wildlife/community garden section. The Council is delighted to facilitate this event, but it wouldn't be possible without the generosity of our sponsors including Airbus, Toyota, Clwyd Alyn, Grŵp Cynefin and Warwick Chemicals. As the competition grows, we are looking for other sponsors to help secure the future of this popular event, even a donation of £100 could make an incredible difference to one of our local communities."

The aim is to encourage as many people of all ages to get involved in improving their local environment. Previous events have shown that the competition brings people together and contributes to making Flintshire a better place to live and work.

Martin Fry, Specialist from Toyota, said:

"At Toyota, we are committed to working with and enhancing the communities in which we operate and in which our members and their families live.

We have supported this competition for many years and continue to do so. The competition is an excellent example of the impact we can all make within our local communities by joining together to take part. The participation of so many groups and individuals to improve their own area is very commendable. Events such as this struggle to survive without external sponsorship, Toyota are happy to be associated with this very successful event."

Airbus Government Affairs Executive, Steve Thomas, said:

"Airbus supports many activities in the local community, but we are especially keen to support opportunities that help the local community to become actively involved in enhancing the local environment, which is why we are delighted to support this competition. The judges say the standards in the competition keep increasing, so much so that they have difficulty picking winners - the effort, community spirit and pride in our local villages that this event arouses is tremendous."

16 & 17 September: Big Dee Day

10 year anniversary!



Get involved in this 48 hour marathon of clearing and enhancing the Dee coastline and tributaries of the River Dee. Got a group? Get them involved.

For more information ring 01352 703900.

This year sees the 10th annual Big Dee Day. Probably the biggest independent cross border river and estuary clean up in the UK.

This partnership project involves English and Welsh local authorities, the private sector, volunteer groups and volunteers from North East Wales and the North West England.

Making a measurable impact on coastal and estuary litter, the event has cleared tons of rubbish from Flintshire's coast and coastal communities. It has also initiated coastal regeneration hand in glove with the Wales Coast path.

17 & 18 September: Mold Food and Drink Festival



Mold's annual food and drink festival will return to the town for its eleventh year in September and organisers say preparations are well on track for the region's biggest foodie event.

The 11th Mold Food & Drink Festival is on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 September.

For further information about the Festival and to download an application form for a stand please visit [moldfoodfestival.co.uk](http://www.moldfoodfestival.co.uk). (<http://www.moldfoodfestival.co.uk/>)

27-30 September: Flintshire Business Week

Flintshire Business Week supports the business community in Flintshire to platform their business whilst maximising trading opportunities and promoting to a wide range of delegates representing companies. This event attracts global, regional and local companies to network and take part in knowledge sharing and innovation.

This year will be the Business Week's 10th anniversary.

For more information or to find out how we can help your business, contact the [Flintshire Business Development](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Business/Advice-and-guidance/Business-development-team.aspx) (<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Business/Advice-and-guidance/Business-development-team.aspx>) team.



01352 703219



busdev@flintshire.gov.uk (<mailto:busdev@flintshire.gov.uk>)



[@BusDev_FCC](https://twitter.com/BusDev_FCC) (https://twitter.com/BusDev_FCC)

15 October: Festival of Light



Following the success of the Festival of Light in 2013, Flintshire County Council is again hosting the inspirational 'Festival of Light' event in October this year.

The event will be held in and around the coastal areas of Greenfield, with the procession culminating in the beautiful setting of Basingwerk Abbey in Greenfield Valley Heritage Park.

This family festival will take place during the afternoon and evening of Saturday, 15 October and aims to bring together the coastal communities of Talacre, Greenfield and Bagillt and their historical links with the River Dee. The theme of the festival will be 'From the Dee to the Sea' and will concentrate on the stories, myths and legends of Flintshire's coastal communities as well as their rich heritage and culture.

Flintshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Education, Councillor Chris Bithell, said:

"It's going to be a fantastic event – even bigger than the one held in 2013, so make sure you make a note in your calendars to come along. In the months leading up to the festival, various workshops will be held with schools and the local coastal communities to design lanterns, create music and choreograph dance pieces with professional artists from the local area. This will culminate in performances during this

wonderful family festival on 15 October which will also include an afternoon of activities such as percussion workshops and lantern workshops.”

The festival is being organised by the Arts, Culture and Events section of Flintshire County Council with financial support from the Coastal Communities Fund and Cadw. The Coastal Communities Fund is funded by the Government with income from the Crown Estate's marine assets. It is delivered by the Big Lottery Fund on behalf of UK Government and the Devolved Administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Stay tuned for more information on the workshops which will be held in the coming months. If you would like further information, please contact Gwenno Eleri Jones on 01352 702471.



News from our partners

Superfast Business Wales

Superfast Business Wales is a fully funded business support service that can inspire and transform your business. Created specifically to help small and medium sized businesses, the service provides extensive online information including guides, factsheets, top tips, blogs and case studies as well as online tools, practical workshops and access to expert Digital Business Advisers.

Here are a few social media tips from the service:

Love it or hate it, social media is here to stay. Get a head start with our social media top tips.

Go where your customers are

Opening up good communication channels with your customers is key. Find out what social media platforms they are using, sign up and create your online presence to actively engage with your customers.

Measure results against objectives

Once you're on social media, don't rest on your laurels, do your homework and find out if it's actually working in terms of your business goals – doing this will also help you work out what you could be doing better.

Get more followers

Using social media links on your website and emails is an easy way of pointing people towards your Facebook page, Twitter account, etc., increasing your followers.

Keep an eye on changes in the social world

The world of social media is constantly developing, and there are more and more platforms popping up all the time. Keep up to date with the latest social media news and stay one step ahead.

Accept criticism and respond positively

Sometimes customers will use social media as a gateway to publically complain. The golden rules are don't get defensive or dragged into an online argument – respond promptly, thank them for bringing it to your attention, and be positive but above all don't ignore it or delete it. Ask your customers for feedback and act on it so they can see that you are listening.

Be consistent

Be consistent in the messages you are posting on social media and always provide honest, accurate information to avoid negative repercussions – or inevitably it will come back to bite you at some point!

Next steps – book onto a free 2 hour Inspiring Action Technology for Business Growth workshop and find out how you can use social media to sell your products and services and boost your business – [Register your interest on a Superfast Business Wales workshop near you](https://wales.business-events.org.uk/en/events/superfast-business-wales-inspiring-action-workshop-technology-for-business-growth/dates/) (<https://wales.business-events.org.uk/en/events/superfast-business-wales-inspiring-action-workshop-technology-for-business-growth/dates/>)

Superfast Business Wales is an EU funded programme which provides micro, small and medium sized businesses, which are eligible, with access to fully-funded workshops, a technology needs diagnostic, 1:1 support, a free website review, all supported by information and tools available at [www.businesswales.gov.wales/superfastbusinesswales/](http://businesswales.gov.wales/superfastbusinesswales/) (<http://businesswales.gov.wales/superfastbusinesswales/>)

03000 603000 / superfast@businesswales.org.uk (<mailto:superfast@businesswales.org.uk>)



Are you Rent Smart Ready?



Rent Smart Wales is the brand name for the new registration and licensing requirement under Part 1 of the Housing Act (Wales) Act 2014. introduced by the Welsh Government at the end of last year.

This new law applies to all landlords and agents of private residential property across Wales. If you own, rent out, manage and/or live in a rented property then this law will impact on you.

Rent Smart Wales will improve the image of the private rental sector. It will benefit people who rent their home in the sector and improve the practices of landlords and agents.

From November 2015, landlords and agents were given 12 months to register and become licensed with Rent Smart Wales. This can be done online at the Rent Smart Wales website. During this first year, the focus is on compliance and awareness of the new requirement.

There are compulsory approved training courses listed on the Rent Smart Wales website. Your nearest venue and contact details can be viewed and booked online through the website.

Online courses for both landlords and agents will soon be available from Rent Smart Wales.

To find out more and to apply Visit [rentsmart.gov.wales](https://www.rentsmart.gov.wales) (<https://www.rentsmart.gov.wales/en/>) or call 03000 133344.

The new legislation and Rent Smart Wales replaces the voluntary Landlord Accreditation Wales scheme, which has been operated by Cardiff Council. In the future the local authority will lead enforcement action against those landlords and agents not complying with their legal obligations on behalf of the licensing authority.

The Old Courthouse, Flint



Earlier this year, the Old Court House Café in Flint was awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, supported by Flintshire County Council, to provide a wide range of community activities linked with the history of the town.

The property in Church Street, which is the oldest building in Flint except for the Castle, has been developed as a high-end coffee shop and community hub by the Pennaf Housing Group.

The development is a partnership initiative supported by the Flint Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) - a partnership funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, CADW, Flint Town Council and Flintshire County Council. The Heritage Lottery Fund gave a £48,200 grant to create a community heritage hub within the building.

The grant includes a £7,000 contribution from Flintshire County Council.

As well as being a busy, vibrant café offering a range of coffee blends, refreshing teas and high quality food, the Old Court House is a hub of activity centred on the historic past of the building. A very popular "Memories Day" has already taken place, where Flint residents helped bring history to life sharing memories of their bygone times in the town.

There are lots more activities planned over the coming months including:

- Memories Day: 28 May 11 am - 3 pm
- Storytelling and family activities during the Urdd Eisteddfod:
 - 30 May on the Urdd Maes
 - 31 May at the Old Court House café 10 am - noon & 2 - 4 pm
- Weekly family activities over the summer holidays
- A Halloween Ghost Walk on 31 October

The café is one of the 'dementia friendly' businesses in Flint recognised by the Alzheimer's Society. There is a meeting room upstairs which can be hired, together with free Wi-Fi.

Watch out for special offers and details of forthcoming activities on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/theoldcourthousecafe/) (<https://www.facebook.com/theoldcourthousecafe/>) and Twitter [@courthousecafe1](https://twitter.com/courthousecafe1) (<https://twitter.com/courthousecafe1>).

Supporting our Credit Unions

Credit Unions provide an ethical and responsible alternative for savings and loans.

There are two Credit Unions operating in Flintshire, the [North Wales Credit Union](http://www.northwalescu.co.uk/en/) (soon to change its name to Cambrian Savings and Loans) and the [All Flintshire Credit Union](http://allflintshirecreditunion.co.uk/).

Although each offer a different range of services, both provide local people with opportunities to save and access affordable loans.

Use the links above to visit their websites to see what's on offer.

[Taylorfitch](http://www.taylorfitch.com/). Bringing Newsletters to life