



## **A COMMUNITY has launched a novel project to bring pop-up libraries to a coastal town.**

The first of its kind in North Wales, the little libraries project which will launch on World Book Night (April 23), will encourage people to read, share, and swap books in different locations throughout Rhyl.

Funded by Rhyl Town Council, library boxes will be at different locations throughout the town with each holding a number of books aimed at all ages and abilities.

Rhyl Mayor Cllr Win Mullen-James said: “The idea behind the library boxes project is really very simple – we want to give people the chance to take pleasure in a book, give families the opportunity to read together, and encourage people to share and talk about stories which they have found enjoyable.

“This is very much an extension of the town’s successful library and sees us working together to reach out to the community, help boost literacy and instil in people the somewhat old-fashioned joy of picking up a book for free.”

Rhyl Library has come on board with the project, securing 160 copies of Nick Hornby’s new book, *Juliet, Naked*, a story of second chances, which is aimed at adults. A number of children’s books have also been donated by the library and will be included in the boxes.

Rhyl’s librarian Deborah Owen said: “The idea of people stumbling across a book in unusual places really appealed to us. Finding the little libraries and the books will be as much a part of the joy as reading them.



“This is a lovely project that we hope will entice people of all ages to start, get back into reading or read to increase their literacy skills. People who have finished with their own book and want to share it with others can pop it into the boxes or drop it off with us. We hope this project also encourages people to come and join Rhyl library and explore our wide collection of books.”

The mini libraries were built by Rhyl’s Men’s Shed based in Abbey Street and designed by the St Mary’s Art Group at 4 The Community on Wellington Road.

“The mini libraries have been built by the community, for the community. This project has enabled us to support and work with Men’s Shed, the library, and the venues where the boxes will be placed.

“World Book Night is all about encouraging and fostering a love of reading and the people of Rhyl have worked together to achieve that,” added Cllr Mullen-James.

The little library boxes can be found at four locations in Rhyl and Clare Steel, who runs the art and craft group, and said the club’s members had been whole-heartedly behind the idea.

She added: “Both the Men’s Shed and the art club work with adults with varying needs. This was an opportunity not just to create something for the people of Rhyl but for the group to develop their own skills and to use their creativity to make the boxes.

“The Men’s Shed built the boxes from scratch, developing their woodwork and problem-solving skills, and the art group were able to complement that by thinking of ways of making the boxes stand out. The club went for some traditional, seaside colours but also themed a box around the town’s retail offer. To know our groups will be helping others is very rewarding.”

The boxes can be found at:

- White Rose Centre
- Rhyl Town Council offices, Wellington Community Centre, Wellington Road, Rhyl
- Rhyl Tourist Information Centre, West Parade, Rhyl
- Rhyl Library, Church Street, Rhyl

**Cap:** Rhyl Mayor Cllr Win Mullen-James with one of the little Library Boxes.

