



## A Christmas message from Rhyl mayor, Cllr Alexander Walker

### Food for thought

As I sat down to write this year's Christmas cards, I thought about the long-running tradition and how it all started. For hundreds of years, we have been sending cards to wish our nearest and dearest, a friends and family, far and wide, a happy festive time.

Back in the 1800s, way before mobile phones and WhatsApp, a prominent and popular educator named Henry Cole wanted to find a way to wish his many friends a happy Christmas without having to write each a personalised letter. He hit upon the idea of having a design printed on card along with a pre-printed message. All Henry had to do was add the To... and, in a stroke, the Christmas card was born.

Things have moved on considerably since Henry's day, and Christmas cards have slowly dwindled, given there are so many other ways to wish each other a happy Christmas, such as here on social media.

Generally, town mayors send out a Christmas card to the many organisations, individuals, colleagues and dignitaries they meet through the year. Traditionally, Rhyl has done the same. But this year, we have decided to do something else.

Henry's sentiment was great. But we are in different times. And occasions like Christmas can vary from person to person – one person's celebrations might cause anxiety for another, creating an additional financial burden.

With that in mind, the town council has decided not to send cards this year.

As Christmas is naturally a time of giving, instead of sending formal cards, I have allocated funds from the town council's annual mayoral fund to the Foryd centre foodbank. I do so on behalf of the town council in the hope that more people will be able to have a food box and enjoy a Christmas dinner together this year without the added worry.

There may be no official card dropping through the letterbox or popping in the inbox this year, but the sentiment remains. Wherever you are spending the festive season and whoever you are with, the town council wishes you all a happy and peaceful time.

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Mae croeso i chi gysylltu â'r Cyngor yn Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg