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## Aero industry 'helping economy achieve lift-off'



■ MPs Mary Creagh, Ian Lucas and David Hanson with apprentices Mohamed Al-Tayawe and Mohamed Bhaiyat from Airbus UK.

YOUNG people are being encouraged to find out more about the aerospace industry after a group of MPs met apprentices.

Wrexham MP Ian Lucas and the member for Delyn, David Hanson, were among those who met the apprentices, including some from North East Wales, at an event in the House of Commons.

Mr Lucas said: "The apprentices I met are great ambassadors for the vibrant and growing aerospace industry that exists in the UK."

"I know from the strong tradition of aerospace manufacturing in North East Wales that there is a strong commitment by local companies to providing apprenticeships.

"They recognise the value of developing the next generation of aerospace engineers."

The Commons event was held in

recognition of the crucial role apprentices play in the £24 billion UK aerospace industry.

"It was sponsored by UTC Aerospace Systems which directly employs more than 4,000 people in the UK, and organised by ADS Group, the UK aerospace trade association.

Paul Everitt, chief executive of aerospace organisation ADS Group, said: "Our aerospace industry is world leading and makes a significant contribution to a sustainable recovery.

"Increasing exports will be critical to the overall wellbeing of the UK economy.

"Achieving success in a competitive export market depends on the skills and capabilities of the young people working within the sector, ongoing investment in new technology and innovation and a long-term industrial strategy to give businesses the confidence to invest."

## Upgrade of busy line will improve journey times and rail capacity

WORK on a revised plan to upgrade a busy train line will start soon

The 'redoubling' of the Wrexham to Chester Line should be completed by spring 2015, according to Network Rail officials.

It confirmed a revised proposal to redouble the rail line between Wrexham and Chester would deliver everything the original scheme intended, increasing capacity as well as improving rail services and overall journey times.

The original plan would have seen the seven-and-a-half miles of track between Wrexham and Saltney junction redoubled.

But rising costs and delays meant proposals had to be revised to help the project come in on time.

Under the new proposals, redoubling work will take place on five-and-a-half miles of track between Rossett and Saltney.

Wrexham AM Griffiths, who met Network Rail officials in Cardiff last week, said: "The Welsh Government's announcement last October was welcomed and positively received but

# Former councillor in legal limbo over footpath ban

By Romilly Scragg  
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**A FORMER county councillor banned from using a public footpath he was fighting to protect is still being denied access almost two decades later.**

In 1996 Klaus Armstrong-Braun was barred from entering Brookhill Quarry, near Buckley, amid a bitter dispute over it being turned into a landfill site.

The sanction was imposed on the then Flintshire county councillor, along with Shotton councillor Elwyn Jones and other members of environmental campaign group Fauna, who were angry about the plight of the quarry's population of great crested newts.

The group claimed hundreds of newts had been lost when the site was drained to be used for landfill, despite the company behind the work – council-owned AD Waste – having agreed to relocate the protected creatures.

AD Waste accused the Fauna group of nuisance behaviour during their campaign and won a court injunction banning Mr Armstrong-Braun and Cllr Jones from entering the quarry or from "spying, picketing or otherwise interfering" from the

## Council should be natural successor to AD Waste

public footpath they were using to monitor activities there.

AD Waste was brought in-house by the council in 2008 and dissolved in 2012

In 2010 – 14 years after the ban was imposed – Mr Armstrong-Braun asked Flintshire Council to remove it.

At that time a council spokesman said consideration would be given to his request "in consultation with appropriate staff and subject to the costs involved".

But the ban remained in place and now, as plans are being developed to restore the quarry land for use as a public amenity, Mr Armstrong-Braun remains barred.

After another request from Mr Armstrong-Braun in 2012, Flintshire Council's head of legal services, Gareth Owens, said it was not in the council's power to lift the injunction.

"As FCC was not a party to the proceedings I cannot see there is anything we can do to assist you," he wrote in an email.

"It is not our court order to pursue and we can neither seek to have it

made permanent nor consent to its discharge."

Mr Armstrong-Braun described the council's position as "ridiculous", arguing the council should be natural successors to AD Waste to make the call on the matter.

"AD Waste was a wholly Flintshire-owned company and Flintshire Council has become the successor to AD Waste in all matters legal and not," he said.

"The council say they can't do anything but I think they can.

"It's ridiculous that everyone else will be able to go on the site but I won't be allowed.

"It's going to be a public open space – but I won't be able to go along the public footpath or go on the site at all."

A Flintshire Council spokesman said Mr Armstrong-Braun had been advised by the authority in July 2012 that it could not offer any assistance on the matter as it was not a party to the original proceedings and had advised him to seek his own legal advice.

"The council's position on the matter was reiterated to Mr Armstrong-Braun in response to correspondence received from him in February 2014."



■ Klaus Armstrong-Braun on the path next to the Brookhill Quarry site, from where he remains barred. (MC010414A)

►► COMMENT – PAGE 13

## George's swordplay cuts through field

A WELSH teenage fencing ace has added another trophy to his collection.

George Morris, 15, came second out of 213 young fencers at the major Challenge Wratlavslavia in Wroclaw, Poland.

George, who lives in Gresford and is a year 10 pupil at Bishop Heber High School in Malpas, got through to the final after passing through testing elimination stages against challengers from Poland, Germany, Argentina, Israel, Russia, Great

Britain and the Czech Republic.

George, son of George and Lucy Morris, lost out in the final to a competitor from Poland. He said: "This has been a great few days and many thanks go to my coach and club."

George has skippered the Welsh Epee team and recently became the British Epee Cadet Champion 2014.

■ **George Morris with his runner up trophy from the Challenge Wratlavslavia in event Poland.**



## Security advice to homeowners

RESIDENTS have been advised that if they are going out during the hours of darkness they should draw their curtains and leave a light on.

Offa Community Council in Wrexham has voiced concerned about the increase in burglaries in the area.

Cllr Stephen Vale said there had been three break-ins in the space of a few weeks in the Fairy Road area of Wrexham.

Police told the meeting they were staging an anti-burglary operation for the whole of Wrexham and that residents, if going out, should draw curtains and leave a light on "as this would not make a property seem empty and offenders would not take a chance".

Owners of homes that back on to open land were also advised to be more security conscious.

## Chance to get out and about

FREE walks for people of all abilities will be on offer at a walking festival.

Walkabout Wrexham and District has teamed up with the Rural Environment Project to host the Wrexham Walking Festival, which will run from June 1-7.

The festival, which aims to get people enjoying the great outdoors and promote a healthy lifestyle, will see trained walk leaders operate two walks per day.

Walkers will have the choice of going on a short walk up to four miles or a 6-12 mile walk.

Those wishing to take part are asked not to bring dogs and advised to wear suitable clothing, including walking boots.

For more informations visit [www.walksinwrexham.com](http://www.walksinwrexham.com) or call in at the tourist information centre.