

HENLLYS

DIRECTORY



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SW DIRECTORIES

Welcome!



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MARCH/APRIL EDITION IS
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**Editor: Susan Woolford
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It's always good to try new things and aspire to improve our lives, whether it's losing the extra pounds we put on over the festive season, volunteering or helping a local charity, starting a new hobby or even starting a business.

If you are interested in advertising your business in the directory, please contact us to find out about the very competitive advertising rates.

Many thanks for the front cover photo sent to us by Sally York of her dog Ruby enjoying the snow. Also see page 8, where we have printed a selection of the photos that were sent to us. We are very grateful to everyone who responded to our request on Facebook.

We wish you a Happy New Year

Best wishes

Susan
x

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Re-seeding & Re-growth of Twmbarlwm

Another year has gone by and it was another busy year for the Society and probably an unforgettable one for Twmbarlwm and the surrounding area.

You all know that I'm referring to the wildfires that devastated vast areas of the Cwmcarn Forest and spread over the summit of Twmbarlwm causing extensive damage to the undergrowth and compromising the underlying archaeology.

The fires raged around Twmbarlwm for nearly two weeks and once it was over, CTS met on the mountain with field officers from Cadw to examine the damage.

Then with advice from CCBC's ecologist and a Cadw appointed landscape engineer it was decided that in the short term it was vital to attempt to stabilise the surface by re-seeding as much of the damaged area as possible before severe winter weather did further damage to the landscape.

Therefore the society set about raising the necessary money, primarily from Cadw and Trustees of the Llanarth Estates, to pay for a specialised mix of native species grass seed.

With just three days before the proposed day to sow the seed we put a call out on the internet for volunteers to help with the sowing - so it was a marvellous surprise on 7th October when over 40 people turned up to help. It was a glorious sunny day with just a small breeze - perfect sowing weather - and we had the whole top of the mountain covered within three hours - it was a marvellous day and illustrates how the Twmp holds a unique place in the hearts of the local community.

We have kept our eye on the Twmp to check on progress since the re-seeding. Unfortunately, storm Callum whipped through the area just a couple of days after re-seeding, this did us no favours in giving the seed a chance to germinate. The burnt areas had a real battering from the heavy rain and strong winds, and areas that were fine ash and dust hardened into a solid clay consistency - not a good base for the grass seed.

Much of the seed was also swept off the crest of the surrounding ditch leaving a few bare patches. So for the first few weeks our efforts seemed to be futile.



Some of the re-seeding volunteers show great sowing technique on Twmbarlwm



Despite some horrendous autumn weather some areas are showing signs of regrowth

However, a month further on, I visited the mountain in early December and I could see more promising signs. Now I'm no botanist, but even I could tell that there was plenty of evidence that our newly sown grass was starting to show through as well as some original, surviving grass stock - there are also new shoots of heather and wimberry coming up.

I await the experts' verdict but I believe we did a satisfactory rescue job and expect more re-seeding will be necessary in the spring - so watch our website for announcements and come and join us next time. •

CTS meet at the car park below Twmbarlwm's summit for a litter pick and volunteer workday on the last Sunday of every month to which everyone is invited, it's not all hard work and it's a great opportunity to find your way around up there. We organise walks and other events up the mountain and at Crosskeys RFC throughout the year so watch our website and Facebook page for details.

www.twmbarlwm.co.uk



Over 40 volunteers helped sow grass seed over the scorched areas of the mountain top.

HATHWAYS

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What's On

Please let me know if you are involved with a non-profit making organisation and would like your details included on this page.
Tel: 07725 888070
Email: contact@swdirectories.co.uk

Henllys Community Council

The Council meets on the 2nd Monday of each month (except August) at 6pm in Henllys Village Hall. Contact Laura Grey 07703 194263

Henllys Village Hall

Contact details www.henllysvillagehall.org.uk

Henllys W.I.

1st Monday of the month at 7.30pm
Coed Eva & Hollybush Community Hall

PACT

Partnership and Communities Together
Laura Grey 07703 194263
PC Rowland 01633 642088

St. Peter's Church

Every Sunday 9.15am. 1st Sunday in the month 6.00pm Service of Wholeness and Healing with the Eucharist
2nd Sunday in the month 11.00am Eucharist Service
3rd Sunday in the month 6.00pm Evensong
4th Sunday in the month 11.00am Eucharist
If the month has a 5th Sunday 11.00am Eucharist
Contact: Reverend Graham Opperman
Tel: 01633 861978.

Worship Centre

The congregation meets on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month at 9.15 am in the Hall of Henllys Church-in-Wales Primary School. Contact Details to arrange Baptisms and Weddings: Reverend Graham Opperman
Telephone 01633 861978
Email: graham.opperman@uwclub.net

1st Henllys Scout Group

Beavers - ages 6 to 7
Tuesday 6:15pm-7:15pm
Wednesday 6:00pm-7:00pm
Henllys Church in Wales Primary School
Cubs - ages 8 to 10.5
Monday 6:00pm-7:30pm
Glen Llwyd Scout Hut, Hollybush Roundabout
Scouts - ages 10.5 to 14
Wednesday 7:00pm-9:00pm
Henllys Church in Wales Primary School
Full information www.1sthenlysscouts.org

Henllys Rangers AFC

The club runs teams from under 7's through to seniors. See web site for details www.clubwebsite.co.uk
Under 16's, please contact Team Manager Huwkear@aol.com for further details.

The Isca Morrismen

Practice most Wednesdays at 8.00pm-9.45pm
Cwmbran Town AFC, Old Cwmbran Bagman (Secretary) 01633 868707

Cwmni Gwerin Pont-y-Pwl

Welsh Folk Dance Team. Tuesday 8pm-10pm
New Panteg Rugby Club. Secretary 01633 868707

Cwmbran Netball Team

We are currently looking for new members of all

standards to join our club.

Whether you just want to train in a fun environment or if you want join the team and play in matches.

Cwmbran Netball Team @ Cwmbran Stadium Newport

Cwmbran Business and Professional Woman's Club

Meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm Coed Eva Community Club
New members welcome

Rotary Clubs

Find out more by contacting:

The Rotary Club of Cwmbran Vale

Tel 01633 483238

The Rotary Club of Cwmbran

Tel 01633 862329

The Rotary Club of Henllys

Tel 01495 762228

The Rotary Club of St Woolos Newport

Tel 01633 258151

The Rotary Club of Pontypool

Tel 01495 756766

The Rotary Club of Caerleon

Sec: Gerry Fulcher 07891 390255

www.rotary-ribi.org/caerleon

email: gerryfulcher369@gmail.com

Whist Club

Come and meet new friends
Blaen-y-Pant Centre. Tues, Weds & Sat at 6.30pm. For details 01633 853348

Ponthir Canine Society

Croesyceiliog Community Hall. Tuesdays 6.00pm. For details contact
PonthirCanineSociety@hotmail.com

Ponthir Bridge Club

Weds 2pm Village Hall. Experience Payers
Contact 01633 420104

Gwent Family History Society (Newport Branch)

Help Desk at Newport Reference Library
2nd Wednesday of each month 2pm-4pm
Beginners Class at the Civic Centre 7.00pm on the second Wednesday of each month. Branch Meeting at the Civic Centre 7.00pm on the Last Wednesday of each month
Contact 01633 421378

South Wales and Mon. Numismatic Society
meets on the 1st Monday of the month in Newport for anyone interested in coins, tokens, Medals, Banknotes. For details please contact the Chairman on 01633 413238 or Secretary on 02920 561564

Probus Newport

is a club for retired Professional and Business men. Meet every other Tuesday morning at the Greenmeadow Golf and Country Club. The formal meeting at 11.00am, but come earlier for a coffee and chat.
Contact Stuart Murray on 07895695273 or email stuartmurray941@btinternet.com or visit www.probusnewport.org.uk



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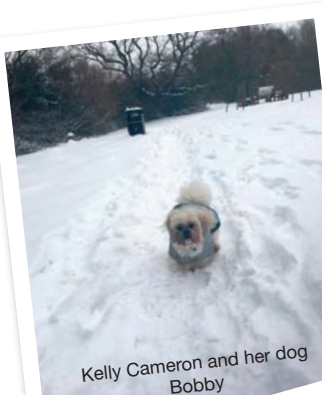
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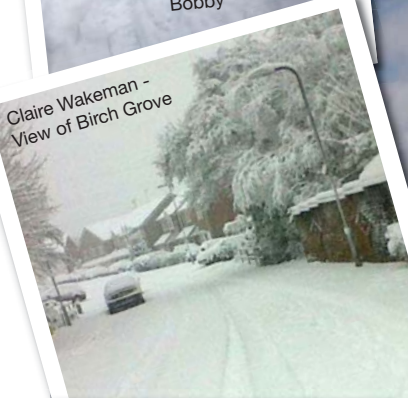
Kelly Cameron and her dog
Bobby



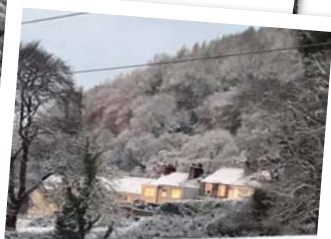
James Young



Kelly Evans



Claire Wakeman -
View of Birch Grove



Joy Marsh
View from the Old Henllys Chapel



Victoria
Bevan



Gemma
Jones

Henllys in the snow

Thank you for the selection of Henllys photos that were sent to us from people who responded to our request on Facebook.

Snow transforms our countryside into a mystical, magical experience that delights and thrills our senses. If it snows this year be sure to go outside and fill your lungs with crisp, cold air and marvel in the wonder of it all.

St David's Hospice Care

By supporting the work of St David's Hospice Care, you are making a positive difference to patients and their families throughout Newport, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Torfaen and South / Mid Powys. Funds raised provide comprehensive palliative care and support to patients and their families at a very difficult time of their lives. Our aim is to ensure patients have 'real' choice to receive individual tailored care, surrounded by friends and families.

Pontypool 10k Home Run Sunday 24 February 2019

St David's Hospice Care *Bringing care home*

Pontypool 10k Home Run & 2km Fun Run

10am
Sun 24 February 2019
Pontypool Park

Run with us along the beautiful Monmouthshire Brecon canal towpath. Suitable for all levels of ability. Proceeds to St David's Hospice Care.

www.stdavidshospicecare.org 01633 851051

Big Welsh Brew 1st March 2019 #BigWelshBrew

St David's Hospice Care *Bringing care home*

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For a free fundraising pack please contact us on 01633 851051 or email fundraising@stdavidshospicecare.org

www.stdavidshospicecare.org

The Admiral City of Newport Half Marathon Sunday 3 March 2019

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Scenic course that showcases some of the iconic landmarks of the City of Newport.

www.cityofnewporthalfmarathon.com

www.stdavidshospicecare.org 01633 851051

TOUR de TOWNT Sunday 14th April 2019

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Kolor Dash

Sun 19 May 2019
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Charity Golf Days

Thursday 12 September 2019
Newport Golf Club
South Wales

£200 per team - 4 Ball

www.stdavidshospicecare.org 01633 851051

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www.stdavidshospicecare.org

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LLANSANTFFRAED AND THE NARES FAMILY

(Part 4)

After our diversion in discussing American Presidential desks we will now return to the Nares Family and resume looking at the eventful career of George Strong Nares. Following his visit to the Arctic as mate on *HMS Resolute*, he returned back to this country and obtained merited promotion to Lieutenant. He was then sent on a gunnery course before being posted to the Crimea, where he served two years in *HMS Conqueror* mainly in the Mediterranean. In 1858 he joined the staff of a training ship *HMS Illustrious* and from her transferred to the larger *HMS Britannia*.

transit the canal. Laigle was the French Imperial Yacht and would be carrying the Empress Eugenie, wife of Emperor Napoleon the third.

When night fell, Commander Nares carefully conned and sneaked his 570 ton gun-ship, without the aid of any navigation lights, through the

Nares became married to Mary Grant, eldest daughter of a Portsmouth banker, in 1858. They eventually produced quite a large family of four sons and six daughters. In 1860 Nares wrote a manual named *The Navel Cadet's Guide*, which was published under the title of 'Seamanship' running to several editions and was regarded as the best manual of its day. In 1862 he was promoted to Commander and in then 1863 took over command of *HMS Boscawen* another training ship.



Mrs Mary Grant

In 1865 Nares was appointed to command a small paddle steamer, *HMS Salamander* sailing off the east coast of Australia, where his duties included surveying. Next in



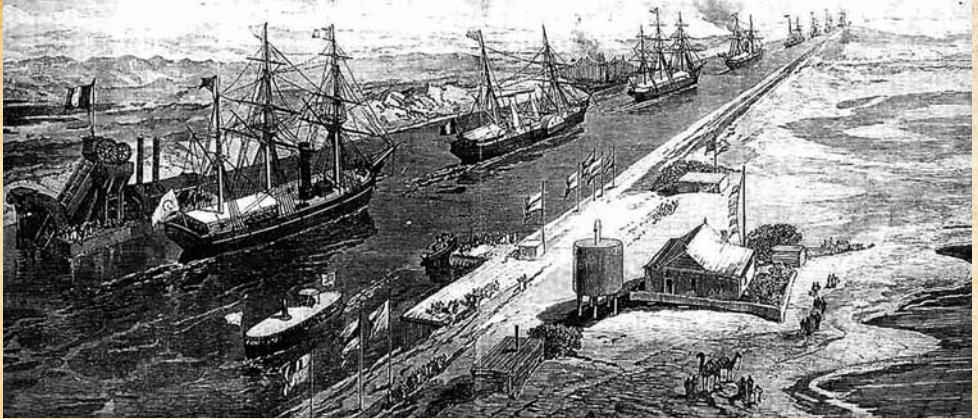
HMS Newport

1868 he commanded *HMS Newport*, a small wooden three-masted screw driven gun-ship, for hydrographical work in the Mediterranean. This work includes a survey of the Gulf of Suez in 1869. The Suez Canal had been constructed between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea by the French under the supervision of Engineer Ferdinand de Lesseps. The official opening ceremony was planned for November 1869, and the night before a large group of ships of various nations gathered outside the Suez entrance to the canal, waiting to enter on the following day. First in line was the French vessel *Laigle* intended to be the very first ship to lead into and

dense mass of waiting ships to the very front. The following morning, to the dismay of the French, the very first vessel to enter the canal and leading the fleet was flying the British ensign. The name of this ship was *HMS Newport*.

The French were enraged that the very first ship to enter their canal and leading the procession make the first transit should be a British ship flying a British flag. The French, obviously, made a very strong complaint to Britain about this interruption and desecration of their ceremony. Commander Nares received a very strong rebuke from the Admiralty for his impertinence to the French. However, he was much admired for his skill and the

The opening of the Suez canal



seamanship that he had demonstrated. The Admiralty could not have been too disgusted by his action because, within a year, Nares was promoted to Captain and continued to advance in his naval career.

The ship, HMS Newport, was probably not named after our city of Newport, but as she was laid down in 1860 in Pembroke dock yard, her name, therefore, was almost certainly borrowed from Newport in Pembrokeshire. She was a small 570 ton three-masted ship, 145 feet long, fitted with a two-cylinder horizontal single steam expansion engine, developing just over 325 horsepower and driving a single screw propeller. As a gunship she was armed with one 68-pounder smooth bore gun and two 20-pounder breech loading guns. Her three masts wore a barque rigged sail plan. She was finally sold into civilian service in 1881.

Following the Suez Canal incident Captain Nares continued his service in the Royal Navy. He was involved in much further hydrographical work and oceanographic exploration, going on to make many discoveries. We will discuss much of his future career which would eventually lead to his promotion to Rear Admiral in 1887 and Vice-Admiral in 1892.

HMS Newport after entering civilian service was re-named several times, changed owners and was used for Arctic exploration. She finally ended up in Russian ownership and was then named the



Commander Nares

Svyataya Anna (Saint Anne). The Russian explorer, Georgy Brusilov, employed her in 1912 to explore the North East passage between the Atlantic and Pacific. In October 1912 she became ice-locked in the Kara Sea off the Yamal Peninsula. The ship was well stocked with

supplies and the crew expected that they would be released in the next year's thaw. However, this did not happen and they remained trapped through 1913 into 1914. Supplies were now almost exhausted and scurvy broke out and their situation became desperate. Just one officer and a crewman attempted and succeeded in trekking to safety on foot, they were the sole survivors. The vessel and all her remaining crew completely disappeared, and not until 2010 was any trace discovered. Bones of a crew-member with various artefacts and a logbook were finally discovered on Franz Joseph Land. The unfortunate crew must have suffered a terrible fate resembling that of members of the better known Franklin expedition. Traditionally it has been held that to change the name of a ship would bring bad luck to that vessel. This seems to be confirmed by the present case, the ship that started life named Newport was first changed to Pandora II then became Blencathra and finally ended up as Svyataya Anna. In her final name she encountered a most unfortunate end.

(To Be Continued)

Llantarnam Abbey Tithe Barn Restoration Project

Llantarnam Abbey was founded in 1179 as a Cistercian Monastery and daughter house of Strata Florida Abbey.

In 1554 the Abbey and its estate was bought by William Morgan, who built a house on the same site using abbey materials. William Morgan may also have been responsible for the construction of the barn. Edward Morgan added to the house in the early 17th century and then nothing more was done to it until the early 19th century when Reginald Blewitt inherited it. He restored the house, made alterations to the park and built the garden. The huge cost (£60,000) led to his bankruptcy and breakdown. In 1895 the house and park were bought by Sir Clifford Cory, who wanted 'atmosphere', and lived here as a recluse. His main alterations were to the garden, and it is possible that the addition of an arch in the eastern gable of the barn dates from this period.

During WW2 the house was used by the RAF and US troops, and the grounds and parkland were converted to temporary camps for US troops in the build-up to D-Day. In 1946 the Sisters of St. Joseph bought the Abbey and part of the park, and they are still in residence.

Aims and Objectives of the Project

The Llantarnam Tithe Barn Project has been devised with the primary aim of saving this nationally significant building from collapse and finding a new



and sustainable use for the former monastic and agricultural structure. The Friends group has a vision to create a space within the building that would be suitable for a range of events, activities, exhibitions etc., whilst also preserving the historic character of the structure. Discussions are at an early stage but have centred around proposals to create a roof covering over the western end of the barn to allow it to be used in all weathers, while consolidating the walls at the eastern end as a standing ruin.

The consolidation of the building will provide multiple

opportunities for training, upskilling and education. The use of traditional building techniques in the consolidation of the building will provide opportunities for apprenticeships and voluntary activities, and it is the ambition of the friends group that, where practical, trainees and volunteers will form the bulk of the workforce.

In order to understand more about the history of the building and its context as series of archaeological projects will be carried out. These will be supervised by professionals but carried out by volunteers and students, providing valuable opportunities for people to engage in research, survey and excavation. This will have the added benefit of enhancing the recorded history of the site and, potentially, informing new designations.

The friends group will work with local Wildlife Trusts to enhance the environment around the barn, creating new habitat, monitoring existing species and controlling invasive species, such as Himalayan balsam.

In order to consolidate ideas for future uses of the barn the Friends group will carry out a series of consultations with local people and local and national organisations to understand what kind of space they would be interested in using. Please contact us if you would like to help with the project or have a potential use for the building on Llantarnam.abbey.tithe.barn@hotmail.com



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a secure base for the structure started in July 1897, some three years after the start of work on the lowest dam at Caban Coch. Craig Goch is seen by many as the most attractive of the dams, with an elegantly curved retaining wall and a series of arches. It has a domed valve

tower and the structure is typical of the 'Birmingham Baroque' style of much of the waterworks scheme. When we visited the dam in February 2014 the water was cascading over the top and down the spillways. Well worth and trip and only 1 ½ hours from Newport.

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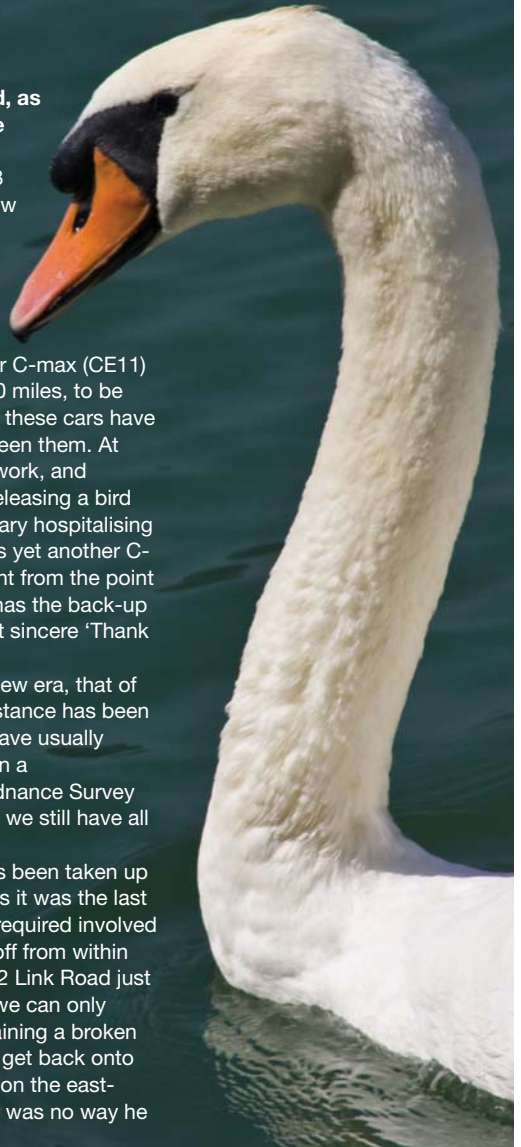
And So Another Year Ends; How Worrying Is That?

There we go! Another year is almost out, and, as usual, we're not stuck for something to write about!

One of us retired from the steel industry in 2003 after 40 years, and promptly bought a brand new car, an absolutely brilliant Ford Focus estate (CE03). That car had to be retired, exhausted, after about seven years and 273,000 miles. The stats relating to the next car, a Ford C-max are beyond recall, but from memory are not quite so frightening. There was then another C-max (CE11) which also was retired, in October after 193,000 miles, to be replaced by yet another one. One thing is clear, these cars have accumulated well over half a million miles between them. At least 80% of this relates directly to our rescue work, and includes 'the afters' by which we mean either releasing a bird into the most appropriate location, or, if necessary hospitalising it. The latest vehicle to join us on the treadmill is yet another C-max, we have to say they have all been excellent from the point of view of comfort, economy and reliability, as has the back-up received from the staff at Newport Ford. A most sincere 'Thank you' to all concerned for that.

With this latest car (CE67), we have entered a new era, that of satnav! A part of so many calls requesting assistance has been the offer of a postcode which, in the past, we have usually declined because we have depended entirely on a comprehensive collection of A-Z Street and Ordnance Survey maps and a lifetime of successful map reading; we still have all of those, but held in reserve.

Much of our time in October and November has been taken up dealing with this year's cygnets in distress. Thus it was the last mission for which the most recent old car was required involved a young (2018) cygnet which must have taken off from within the Cardiff Bay lagoon and landed on the A4232 Link Road just short of the Butetown Tunnels. At some point, we can only guess the details, it was seriously injured, sustaining a broken leg. By the time we arrived, it was struggling to get back onto the water through the railings on the pavement on the east-bound side of the carriageway; mercifully, there was no way he



SWAN RESCUE

could succeed; CE11's final trip was, therefore to take this poor little bird for treatment at the National Swan Sanctuary at Shepperton.

The following day, we parted with CE11 and took delivery of CE67, to be followed the very next day with a mission to the Teifi Estuary beyond Cardigan. Satnav came into its own on this very first trip mainly because of the road closures necessitated by the very heavy rain the week before. The story of the swan we had to rescue was peculiar to say the least. James

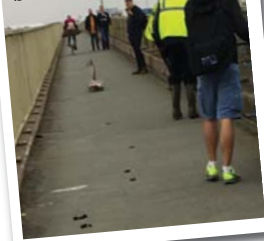
and his partner live on a boat moored in the estuary. A few months prior, they had rescued/befriended an adult swan they had spotted in a reed bed near their mooring. It appeared to be scruffy, in generally poor condition and underweight. Over the following weeks they fed him, it seems to the point at which the swan preferred their company to that of the other swans on the estuary. Crazy though it may sound, it seems he had forgotten how to be a wild swan. With James' travel plans for the forthcoming winter in mind spending it in Greece, it was agreed it would be best to relocate the bird to Shepperton which we duly did some few days later.

Excitement in the following days included, on two separate occasions, swans 'down' on the west-bound M4 and A48. In the latter case the bird had flown



Coed Kernew family before cob disappeared.

Cygnets which crash landed on Butetown Link Road and Subsequently suffered a broken leg.



before we arrived, but in the other there was a significant build up of traffic, potentially making it extremely difficult to progress quickly to the

precise location where our experience could be put to effective use. Needless to say, the Motorway Police and Traffic Officers were greatly relieved when we did finally turn up. In the event neither was too bad unlike on one occasion a few years ago when a major incident occurred on the A40 at Ross-on-Wye, on the bridge over the river itself; it took nearly an hour to complete the last mile to the scene.

With the benefit of hindsight, the implications of the case of the swan on the motorway are sad. A day later it was reported the adult male, the cob, from a family with its territory at Coed

Kernew had gone missing. This is a most unusual thing to have happened, a very well established family comprising an adult pair and four cygnets. This is the time of year when the young are starting to disperse, either of their own accord, or being 'encouraged' to do so especially by the cob. We've never come across a case of an adult leaving like this. Sadly, we've been left wondering whether or not the swan on the motorway could have been him. Having released this bird at Channel View in Grangetown, we have been hoping ever since he would fly back, something we do know a swan is well capable of, but so far it hasn't happened in this case. In the meantime, we continue to keep an eye on what is now a 'one parent family' resident near Coed Kernew.

Story by Peter, photographs by Ellen. For swan and all other wildlife problems please contact Peter & Ellen on 01633 895241 or 07802 472788

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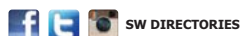


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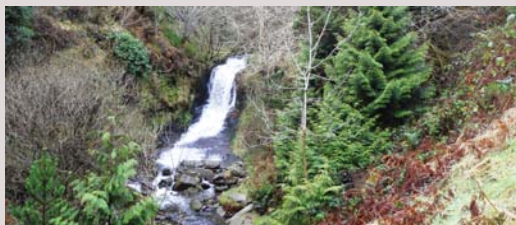
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