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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, attempting to become fitter, volunteering or helping a local charity, starting a new hobby or even starting a business. Trying something new and having different experiences often makes us feel focused and happier in life.

If you are interested in advertising your business in the directory, please contact us to find out about the very competitive advertising rates. You will always deal with us directly, like many of the businesses that advertise in this magazine, we are a small, independent business and fully appreciate how much your business means to you.

We wish you a Happy New Year

Susan

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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

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





Little Dragons classes

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Ages 7-13

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Places of Worship

Please contact me if you would like your Place of Worship added to this page: 07725 888070 contact@swdirectories.co.uk

Benefice of Lower Islwyn St. Mary's Risca

Sunday 10am Holy Eucharist St. Margaret's Pontymister Wednesday 10am Holy Eucharist Reverend Martyn Evans 01633 619425 martynevans01@btinternet.com

The Salvation Army

Sunday – 10.30am & 5.00pm
Parent & Toddlers, Tuesday 9.30am
Luncheon Club –
Wednesday12.00pm
Rainbow Weds 5.00pm
Brownies Weds 6.30pm
Guides Weds 6.30pm
Captain John Stark
01633 613794
www.riscasalvationarmy.org.uk

Moriah Baptist Church

Sunday 11.00am; 6.00pm Friday Babies & Tots 9.30am-11.30am Secretary: Sylvia Ware 01633 612789 www.moriahrisca.com

Bethany Baptist Church

Sunday 10.30am; 6.00pm. Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 7.15pm Friday Coffee Morning 10.30–12noon The Revd. Ian Waugh 01633 619163

St Davids Shared Church, Ty Sign

Sunday 11.00; 6.00pm

Crosskeys Methodist Church Sunday 11.00am

Trinity Congregational Church, Pontywain

Sunday 11.00am Rev Paula Parish-Foley

Hope Baptist Church, Crosskeys Sunday 11.00am; 6.00pm Tuesday Prayer Meeting 7.00pm Wednesday Luncheon Club 12.15pm Thursday Sisterhood 7.00pm Friday (term time) K's Childrens meeting 6.00pm Contact: Stuart Godfrey 01495 272227

Clyde Street Pentecostal Church

Sunday Communion 11.00am Sunday Evening Service 6.00pm Tuesday Prayer Meeting 7.30pm

Ss. Anthony and Clare (RC) Risca

Sunday Mass 11.00am Tuesday Mass 7.00pm Wednesday Exposition 9.30am followed by Mass 10.00am Church open to visitors 10.00– 1.00pm with coffee and tea in the Church

with coffee and tea in the Church Hall

Our Lady of Peace (RC) Newbridge

Sunday Mass 6.00pm Thursday Mass 1.30pm Church open to visitors 12.00– 2.00pm

The Sacred Heart (RC), Pontllanfraith

Portilanfraith
Saturday Mass 6.00pm
Sunday Mass 9.30am
Monday 11.00am
Friday Exposition 10.00am
followed by Mass 10.30am
Church open to visitors 10.00am–2.00pm
Fr. Kevin Paine Tel.01495 233304
07980 236936
catholicchurch@binternet.com

Crosskeys Pentecostal Church

Gladstone Street
Sunday 10.30am; 6.00pm
Sunday School 11.00am
Tuesday 7.15pm prayer meeting
Thursday 7.15pm Bible Study

Agape Community Church, Ty-Sign

Channel View Community Centre Sunday 10.30am Pastor Mark Jones 078836 608085 www.agapeonline.org.uk

Ty-Isaf Baptist Church

Sunday 11.00am; 6.00pm Thursday Prayer/Bible Study 7.00pm Friday (term time) Children's Club 6.00pm Pastor Stephen Tucker 01633 866580 www.tyisafbaptist.com

New Life Christian Church

37 Llanover Street, West End, Abercarn NP11 4SX We meet at 5pm each Sunday. Haydn Jefferies 07949 220135

Dan-y-Graig Church Risca

Sunday 11.00am and 6.00pm.
Sunday School 11.00am
Monday 7.00pm Guild
Tuesday 10.30am Coffee morning
Thursday10.30am Coffee morning
Rev. Paula Parish-Foley 01633
412760

Crosskevs Methodist Church

Sunday Worship 11am Mondays - Wesley Guild 7pm to 9pm Contact Michael Gray 01495 270253 Thursdays - Ladies Group 2pm

Thursdays - Ladies Group 2pm to 4pm

Contact Ruth Gray 01495 270253 General Contact Michael Gray 01495 270253, or The Minister, Rev Les Jones 01633 843322



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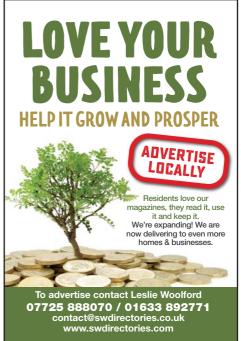
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The Waterfall Wanderer.





GATERS



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Reservoirs in Wales

Caban Coch

The lowest of the dams in the sequence of four built in the valley of the Elan River is Caban Coch dam. It is the simplest and most functional in appearance of all the dams, resembling a natural waterfall when the reservoir is full and the dam.

The Birmingham Corporation agreed and an Act of Parliament was passed for the compulsory purchase of the total water catchment area of the Flan and Claerwen Valleys. In 1893 the building work began, a railway line was constructed to transport the workers and thousands of tonnes of building material each day, this took three years. Local rock was only suitable for use inside of the dams. The hand-chiselled facing stones were transported from Glamorgan. On 21st July 1904 King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra opened the Elan dams and water started flowing along 73 miles of pipeline to Birmingham. The whole of the Elan scheme had cost £6 million and employed 50.000 men in total. An average of 360 million litres of water a day is extracted from the Foel Tower to the Severn Trent water treatment works. The Foel Tower stands 171 feet above the Frankley Reservoir in

Birmingham. The gradient of the aqueduct maintains a flow of less than 2 miles per hour and the water takes one-and-a-half days to reach Birmingham. The River Elan is compensated with 68 million litres of water a day from Caban Coch. This can be increased to 232 million litres



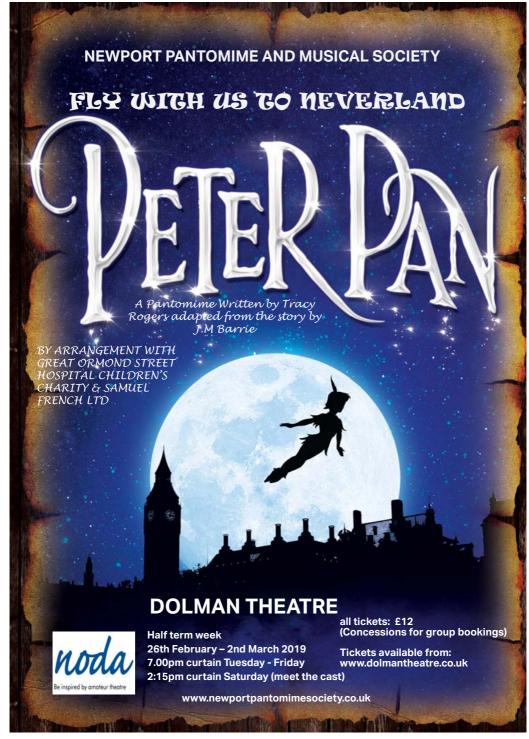
per day so that South Wales can also benefit from this water as the River Elan flows into the River Wye from which water can be transferred in times of shortage.

I was fortunate to visit the Elan Valley on a beautiful sunny day last year, just after a prolonged period of heavy rainfall. The spectacular view of the water cascading over the dams together with the graceful Red Kites flying overhead was breathtaking. This really is a

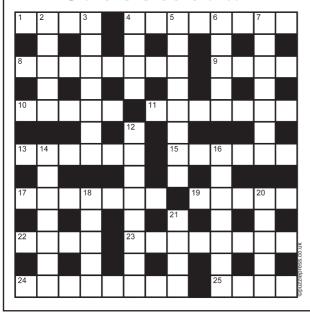
peaceful and tranquil place that makes you feel grateful to be alive and privileged to experience the beauty all around us.

This spectacular scenery is slightly less than a two hour drive to from Newport and is well worth the effort. On an average it rains 235 days a year on the Elan Estate so, for the perfect day out make sure you check the local weather forecast before you leave.





Crossword



Across

- 1 "Beware the ___ of March given to Julius Caesar (4) of March", advice
- 4 Lake on which Chicago stands (8)
- 8 Royalist supporter of Charles I (8)
- 9 Hindu or Buddhist religious leader (4)
- 10 Divisions of the school year (5)
- 11 Plait of braided hair (7)
- 13 Protruding abdomen (6)
- 15 Computer application program that uses the client's web browser to provide a user interface (6)
- 17 Outlet of a river to the sea (7)
- 19 City, the capital of Ghana (5)
- 22 Threesome (4)
- 23 Spillage caused by exceeding capacity (
- 24 Medicated lozenge for the throat (8)
- 25 Dark greenish-blue colour (4)

Down

- 2 First Englishman to
- circumnavigate the globe (5)
- 3 Itinerant Australian labourer (7)
- 4 Female domestic (4)
- 5 Prominent bishop of the Roman Catholic Church (8)
- 6 Block of metal (5)
- 7 Flight-operating company (7)
- 12 Stick of black carbon material
- used for drawing (8) 14 Country, capital Vienna (7)
- 16 World's largest ocean (7)
- 18 German submarine in
- World War II (1-4) 20 Dry red table wine from Spain (5)
- 21 French for 'father' (4)

Sudoku

6	7	9				3	8	
4					3			
			6	8				4
	8					4	7	
5		4	1	6		8		
	1	2						
	3			5	6	9		
8						1		
9	4	5		1			3	8

the boxes to satisfy just one condition: each row, column and 3x3 box must contain the digits 1 through to 9 exactly once. This can be done by applying logic - you do not have to guess.

The object of sudoku is to insert the missing numbers in

Solution on page 22



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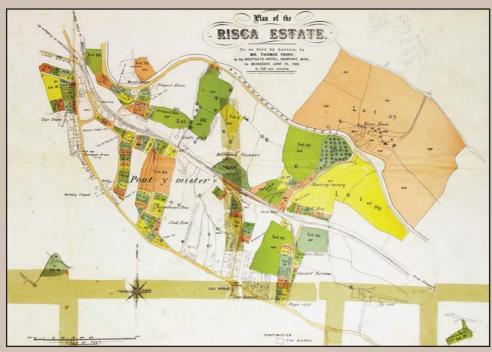
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RISCA MUSEUM

Risca Estate Sale of 1893



Currently on display at Risca Museum is an original catalogue advertising the proposed auction of the Risca Estate, Monmouthshire. The estate was to be sold at the Westgate Hotel, Newport, by **Newport auctioneers Thomas** Parry on June 7th, 1893, on behalf of the owner, Frederick Phillips, a descendant of the legendary 'Squire' Phillips. Included in the auction was a manor house and freehold farm known as Risca House (Tv-Mawr). It was this house that gave its name to 'Manor Way', the road now leading to the modern-day housing estate known as Ty-Sign.

In addition to the manor house there were 68 acres of pasture and arable land and some 30 freehold workmen's cottages and gardens. The estate generated ground rent income of over £400 per annum. In the possession of the Phillips family since the 1750s, descendants farmed much of the surrounding neighbourhood.

By the 19th century the Parish of Risca had begun to change from a rural to an industrial society. Although many of the local populace were involved in farming, documentation records a growing workforce employed as masons, blacksmiths, foundry workers, as well as

shopkeepers and maltsters. The 1893 Risca Estate Map clearly shows that Risca had the arteries to develop and take advantage of its natural and man made resources. As the population grew, local industries became a magnet to workers from other parts of the country. New cottages, shops and public houses were centred on the earlier communities. For example, housing for the workers of Britannia Foundry was built along a branch line which served the Foundry and known as Forge Trip. Cottages were also built in nearby Mill Row. Yet more cottages were to be built in Water Lane, later

RISCA MUSEUM

renamed Mill Street. The estate map clearly shows Club Row, built in the early 1850s, and now known as Brookland Road. As communities grew, each became well served by local hostelries. The auction catalogue records long forgotten inns including: 'Western Valley Inn', 'Crown Inn', 'Apple Tree Inn', 'New Inn', 'Globe Inn'. Many of these inns were owned by the Risca brewers. Cross and Matthews. Of the auctioned inns, the 'Fox and Hounds' near Risca railway station sold for £850. However, the 'Mason's Arms'. leased to Messrs, Cross and Matthews. sold for £1010. The high price probably reflected by its location near to Britannia Foundry and its considerable workforce. The 'Apple Tree' was sold to Cross and Matthews for £605. Situated adjacent to the Monmouthshire canal was the 'Prince of Wales': this property and three nearby freehold cottages sold for £750. Meanwhile, 'The Railway Tavern' and 'Britannia Inn', located off Forge Trip, sold for £750 and £75, respectively. Chapels serving the early communities include; Glyn, Bethany and Moriah. Sale documents record that the 99 lots generated returns of £21,600: today equivalent to £17.7 million, Lot 99, for example, illustrate that Risca House was sold to William Giles for £2,075. The sale price included arable and pasture land, orchards, as well as outbuildings such as the magnificent stables. Of particular interest, Lot 9 -Risca Mill, as well as certain water rights, was sold for £505 to Henry White, owner of Britannia Foundry. The sales agreement included an undertaking for White to

improve the property and to maintain existing machinery. The nearby Flannel Factory and three cottages were sold to Thomas Budding for £110. Ten cottages located close to the 'Apple Tree' and known as Prospect Row, sold for £140 or £14 each!

£14 each!
One particular plot identified as 'Watling Dab' was sold to a Mr Goldsworthy for £50, the 'postal' address being 'Tydee Road, Pontymister'. That location is today identified as being adjacent to the junction of

Park Road and Station Road. The sale document also refers to a number of sites adjacent to the former Pontymister Ironworks – a site now occupied by a Tesco supermarket store.

N.B. It is noteworthy that the Risca Estate Map is clearly branded as PONTYMISTER, suggesting that in 1893 the location of Risca was acknowledged as being north of the Longbridge and not extending south, as it is today!



ust over a year ago the Risca Museum, which is run by a small group of volunteers, suffered an increase of about £3000 in their annual rent which put the continued existence of the Museum in ieopardy. As a result the 'Friends of Risca Museum' was formed based on an annual donation of £10, very little to ensure that this special local institution continues to exist. Unfortunately, numbers fell short of what was required to meet the costs but one-off visitor donations helped and the balance was met from Museum reserves. However, if this situation continues, it would result in the Museum

reserves being exhausted within a few years and closure being the only option. We are therefore making a further appeal for 2019, hoping existing Friends will renew and that many more will decide give their support. Please consider becoming a Friend and also talk to your friends, relations and neighbours. Whilst our preference is for

Whilst our preference is for Friends to complete a direct debit form, we are happy to accept other methods. Full details are available on our website

www.riscamuseum.org.uk or Facebook page or call in to the Museum any Saturday between 10am and 12.30pm.

Oxford House Museum

Open every Saturday from 10.00am to 12.30pm

Risca U3A

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MONDAY

Walking 10.00am at Risca Leisure Centre Scrabble 12.30pm

TUESDAY

Art Club 9.00am, Local History 12.30pm Walking 10.00am at Fields Road

WEDNESDAY

Keep Fit 10.30am, Short Mat Bowls 1.00pm

Bridge 1.15pm

THURSDAY

Craft 9.00am, Short mat Bowls 9.30am

FRIDAY

Walking 10.00am at Risca Leisure Centre (Easy). Monthly Social Afternoon on last Thursday of the Month at 2.00pm Please Contact Mrs I Davies 01633 850095

Trussell Trust Food Bank

Monday: 10am - 12pm Wednesday: 10am - 12pm Friday: 10am - 12pm Salvation Army 66A Commercial Street, Risca Tel: 07599 973312 or 01633 613794 info@risca.foodbank.org.uk

Oxford House Industrial History Society. (OHIHS)

If you are interested in industrial history then why not join us every Friday evening at Risca Colliers Institute 7:00 pm.

Details of our talks and walks programme are available on our website www.riscamuseum.org.uk Contact Brian Absolon 01633 264819

Western Valley Camera Club

Every Thursday - 7:30pm till about 10:00 Cross Keys RFC, Pandy Park, Woodward Ave. Cross Kevs

We run a varied program of competitions. practical work, talks, etc.

Everyone is welcome regardless of age, gender, experience, ability, or equipment. For more info contact: Vince Penticost. Chairman - 01495 271581. Chris Meaker 07730 686034

Or visit the club website www.westernvallev.co.uk

Sequence Dancing

Monday 8.00pm St Margaret's Church Hall, Risca MC's Paul & Bella. All are Welcome Contact 01633 612823 for more details

Sequence Dancing

Tuesday 8.15pm-10.15pm

(dance and instruction) Saturday 8.00pm-10.30pm (social dancing) Channel View Community Centre (off Lower Wyndham Terrace) Contact: Les 01495 270798

Shade

A self help group for people with depression and anxiety. Every Tuesday 7.00-9.00pm and Thursday 1.00-3.00pm, Danygraig Church Hall. No charge, all welcome

Risca Male Choir

Sunday 6-8pm and Thursday 7-9 pm at the old Risca UDC offices in St. Mary

For more details call secretary Alan Davis 01495 272664 or www.riscachoir.net

GWENT CHORALE supported by **COLEG GWENT**

The choir meets every Wednesday at 7pm at Dan-y-Graig Church, Risca NP11 6DR New choristers are always welcome. For more details call Colin on 01633 894914 or Nicola on 07974 111712 Or visit www.gwentchorale.com

Indoor Short Mat Bowls

Every Tuesday 12.30pm until 2.30pm at the Risca Library. £2 a game. All ages and abilities welcome For more information please Contact Derek Haines on 01633 601302

Reading Group - Risca Library

1st Tuesday morning each month 11.00am -12noon. For full details please contact Gill Bartlett - 01443 864780

Story, Rhyme and Play Session

For children under 4 at Risca Library Tuesday & Saturdays 11am-12noon (term-time only), Contact: Risca Library 01443 864780

Moriah Baptist Church

Friday Parents and Tots 9.30am-11.30am Secretary: Sylvia Ware 01633 612789 www.moriahrisca.org.uk

5th Risca Scout Group - Beavers/Cubs/Scouts

Beavers: Tuesday 5.15pm-6.15pm Cubs: Tuesday 6.30pm-7.30pm Scouts: Wednesday 7.00pm-9.00pm

Contact: Gareth Tanswell

(Group Scout Leader) 08432 891272

The Samurai Judo Club - Crosskeys

St Catherine's Church, Gladstone Street Wednesday 6.15pm-8.00pm

For more information contact: 01633 614356

or 01633 601256

Agape Community Church, Ty-Sign

Monday 9:30am-11:30am Ty Sign Tots at Channel View Community Hall. Monday 7:00pm-9:00pm CAP Fresh Start Group for people tackling life controlling

dependencies at TLC Cafe.

Wednesday 10:30am-12:00noon at the TLC Cafe CAP Job Club.

Wednesday 7:30pm-9:30pm. Connect Group for adults.

Thursday evening 7:30pm once a month Bible Book Club.

Contact 07836 608085 for details of CAP Group courses and Bible Book Club.

Really Cuckoo Company

Sing, Dance, Act and have Fun www.cuckoos.org.uk

Risca Mini & Juniors RFC U14s

Our training sessions are held every Wednesday night at Fire Station Fields, Risca throughout the rugby season.

We are actively seeking new players under 14 years old.

Contact Andrew on 07751 033507 for more details.

1st Pontywaun Scout Group

Beavers/Cubs/Scouts

Beavers: Monday 5:00pm - 6:00pm Cubs: Monday 6:00pm - 7:30pm Scouts: Monday 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Contact: Alan Terrell (Group Scout Leader)

07977 651453

gsl@1stpontywaun.craiscouts.co.uk

Risca LIBRARY

Risca Palace Unit B, 75 Tredegar Street 01443 864780 www.caerphilly.gov.uk

Monday	9.30am - 1.00pm 2.00pm - 6.00pm
Tuesday	9.30am - 1.00pm 2.00pm - 5.00pm
Wednesday	9.30am - 1.00pm 2.00pm - 6.00pm
Thursday	9.30am - 1.00pm 2.00pm - 5.00pm
Friday	9.30am - 1.00pm 2.00pm - 5.00pm
Saturday	9.30am - 4.00pm

Reading Group

meet on the 1st Tuesday of every month from 11am-12pm

(The reading groups are fun, friendly discussions about a book we have all chosen to read over the month. Tea and coffee provided)

Crafters Corner

meets weekly on Friday's at 11am-12pm (Informal craft session over tea and coffee, bring your own projects)

Story Time and Crafts

(for children under4) – weekly on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 11am-12pm



Crossword

Across: 1 Ideas, 4 Michigan, 8 Cavalier, 9 Guru, 10 Terms, 11 Pigtail, 13 Paunch, 15 Applet, 17 Estuary, 19 Accra, 22 Trio, 23 Overthrow, 24 Pastille, 25 Cyan.

Down: 2 Drake. 3 Swagman. 4 Maid. 5 Cardinal, 6 Ingot, 7 Airline, 12 Charcoal, 14 Austria. 16 Pacific. 18 U-boat. 20 Rioia. 21 Pére

Sudoku

6	7	9	2	4	1	3	8	5
4	5	8	9	7	3	2	1	6
1	2	3	6	8	5	7	9	4
3	8	6	5	2	9	4	7	1
5	9	4	1	6	7	8	2	3
7	1	2	4	3	8	5	6	9
2	3	1	8	5	6	9	4	7
8	6	7	3	9	4	1	5	2
9	4	5	7	1	2	6	3	8



Western Valley Camera Club

Western Valley Camera Club is one of the leading Camera Clubs in South Wales.

We meet on a Thursday evening at Cross Keys Rugby Club and operate for people who are interested in photography and wish to develop and enhance new and existina skills.

The club holds meetings throughout the year on a variety of topics and aims to provide a varied programme which features the following broad topic areas:

- Competitions
- Practical sessions
- Demonstrations
- Talks and presentations from members and quality external speakers

We hold our meetings in the **Dudley Suite. Cross Keys** Rugby Club (Pandy Park, Woodward Avenue, Cross Keys, NP11 7BS) at 7.30pm and aim to finish by 10.00pm



For further information please go to the club web page at www.westernvalley.co.uk



per issue **888070**

contact@swdirectories.co.uk

GWENT CHORALE

We meet at Dan-y-Graig Church, Risca at 7.00pm every Wednesday.

More information about the choir can be found at www.gwentchorale.com or find us on Facebook. Alternatively you may like to talk to Nicola Price on 07974 111712

or Colin Harvey on 01633 894914.

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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.









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St David's Hospice Care Blackett Avenue, Newport, NP20 6NH **Telephone:** 01633 851051 **Email:** fundraising@stdavidshospicecare.org



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