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Friday 29th March

**Editor: Susan Woolford
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Leslie Woolford**

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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.

Hopefully, the weather will warm up a little over the next couple of months and we'll all be able to take a walk in our beautiful countryside and benefit from some spring sunshine.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter.

Best wishes

Susan



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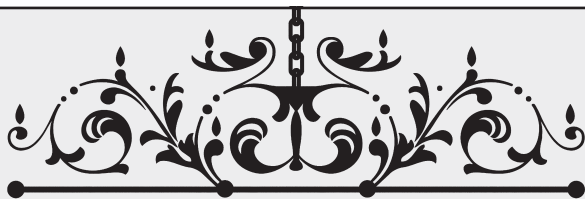
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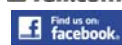


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Optimism for the Future of Twmbarlwm

FROM THE FIRST DAY that the Twmbarlwm Society was formed our motto has been "Dedicated to Research, Restore and Protect Mynydd Twmbarlwm" and here nearly 10 years on, that sentiment is as relevant as ever – and we are hopeful to push forward with that mantra even more this coming year.

Five years ago the Society took part in a survey (along with other local societies) that had been commissioned by Torfaen and Caerphilly County councils to help identify ways in which the area could be developed in the future.

Since the publication of that survey, known as the 'Twmbarlwm and Mynydd Maen Scoping Study', funding has been put in place and CTS are now hopeful that some of the proposals we put forward to the survey will be implemented over the next few years.

The overall project is referred to as 'The Adventure Triangle', it takes in the mountain ridge running from the A467 Hafodyrnyrs - Pontypool road to Twmbarlwm and along the Monmouthshire Brecon Canal.

Proposals in this project include the development of 'physical links and key connections between Cwmcarn over Mynydd Maen and Twmbarlwm' to Torfaen.

To put it simply the idea is to encourage more people to make use of the mountain ridge for recreation by linking the common and Twmbarlwm to the Cwmcarn Visitor Centre and Forest Drive and to Blaen Bran in Cwmbran. There will be improved signage and track repairs done to aid cross-common cycling, horse riding and walking routes to link Blaen Bran and Cwmcarn.

As far as the Society is concerned, we are now more optimistic that some plans that we have had in place for years will now come to fruition. Indeed some projects have already been put in place.

Projects include everything from landscape repair and erecting new signs to addressing illegal off-roading and anti-social behaviour. To help achieve these aims we will be calling for a great deal of volunteer help in the months ahead. So please watch this space for further information and regularly check out our website and Facebook page.

Some much needed repair work will need to be done to the Scheduled Ancient Monument after the wild fires of last year



Improved paths and signs can only encourage more events like the St David's Hospice Twmbarlwm Trek.

If you are interested in volunteering, come along and meet us - there's plenty of opportunity to do so at the other events we hold. For instance, just around the corner it's the annual tradition of tramping up to

Twmbarlwm on Good Friday (April 19th) – what we now call our Hot-Cross-Bun Walk. Again this year there will be organised walks from the Stony Bridge in Pontyminster, Cwmcarn Visitor Centre and Cwmbran.

We also have a couple of our popular historical talks planned. There will be a talk at Crosskeys RFC on the History of Newport Castle (TBC) and later in March there will be a fascinating talk on the famous Bowmen of Gwent and the part they played at the Battle of Agincourt.

There are also walks planned - one around the Forest Drive, one to Pwll Tra and another to Llanderfel Chapel. Each of these walks is always very popular so please keep an eye on our website for announcements.

Many members come along to these events, it's always a good time to catch up with news of what the society is up to, and with all the work we anticipate in the future we need all the help we can get.

Terry Evans (Chairman CTS)



Over 40 volunteers helped out with the re-seeding of the Tump last October

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

Photos: Terry C. Evans ©

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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Big Welsh Brew 2019

1st March 2019
#BigWelshBrew



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Oxford House Industrial History Society

After a few years in the increasingly crowded Oxford House complex, in 1974 the society was offered an empty classroom in the old Pontymister Secondary School for their Friday evening lectures. This extended to being given the use of an outside building, previously the pottery room, as the first Museum enabling various bits & pieces to be transferred from the garden of Oxford House. This was officially opened by Winford Vaughan Thomas with Saturday mornings becoming the regular opening time. Although suffering an influx of two feet of water during the 1978 Risca flood (the building was next to the river wall) most of the contents survived intact.

The Chemist Shop contents which had been saved from a skip in Cardiff were enabled to be put together in another empty classroom in such a way as to recreate, as closely as possible, its original look. This was also opened on Saturday mornings.

An old railway wagon was placed in the school yard and used for storage. There was much mindless vandalism at this time and the Society were aware of the two remaining gravestones in the Miners Cemetery at Greenmeadow. These were of great historical importance but very vulnerable,



so a few Society members took the decision to rescue them and store them in the railway wagon. They are now incorporated into the memorial wall at the back of the

cemetery.

There followed a very settled period of time at Pontymister which ended in 1990 when we were informed that the school buildings were to be demolished, Lidl and it's car park now occupy the site. The Society returned to Oxford House for their Friday evening lectures but what about the Museum and Chemist Shop. Islwyn Borough Council offered free storage in an empty industrial unit in Pontllanfraith but the Society had to arrange transportation and do the physical moving.

Over three years later the council acquired the old Risca Miners Institute using European Heritage funding by allowing the Industrial History Society to install the museum on the ground floor and using it for their weekly lectures whilst the upper floor was converted for use by other Oxford House groups. This has been the Societies home since then. The Oxford House Industrial History Society meets on the ground floor of the old Risca Miners Institute (Risca Museum) in Grove Road at 7pm on a Friday evening. The new season started on January 4th and future illustrated talks includes the Llanerch Colliery disaster, Neath Abbey Ironworks and the History of Risca Type. The full programme is available on our website - www.riscamuseum.org.uk

Anyone interested in local or industrial history, or who just enjoys listening to a good speaker delivering an expert presentation, will enjoy the evening, if you are interested just turn up at 7pm any Friday evening.



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Ages 4-7



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7.15pm

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10.30-12noon

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St Davids Shared Church,

Ty Sign

Sunday 11.00; 6.00pm

Crosskeys Methodist Church

Sunday 11.00am

Trinity Congregational Church,

Pontywnain

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

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Sunday Evening Service 6.00pm

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Thursday Mass 1.30pm

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to 4pm

Contact Ruth Gray 01495 270253

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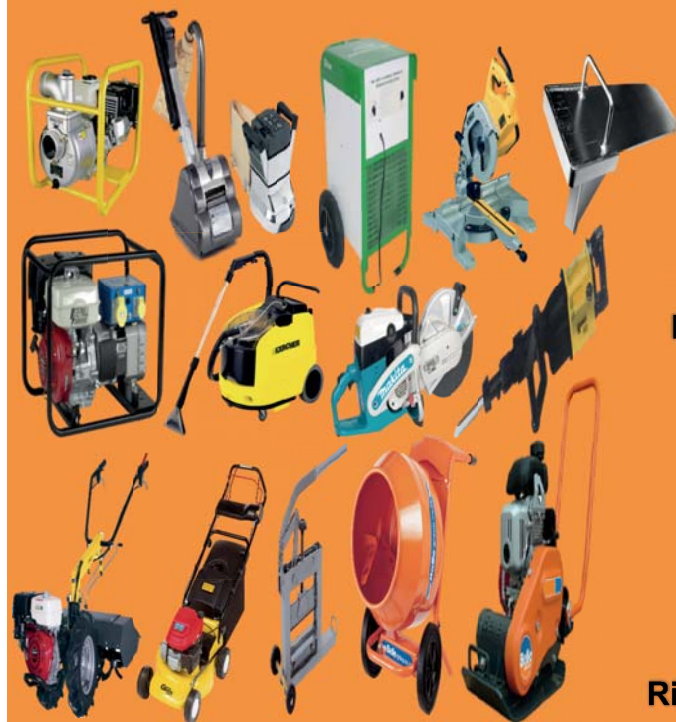
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Craig Goch



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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 a trip and only 1 ½ hours from Newport.

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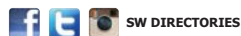


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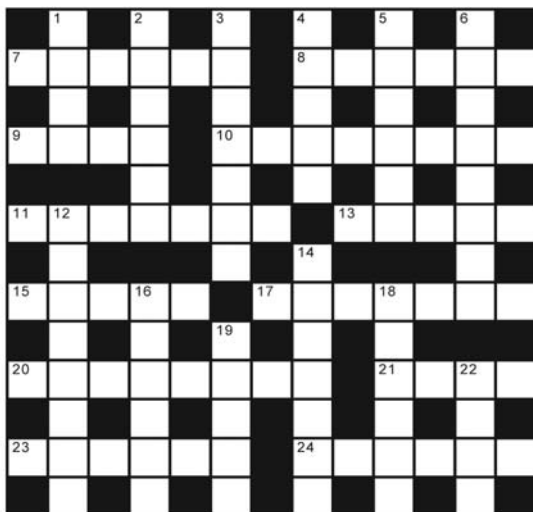
Crossword

Across

- 7 Vocation (6)
- 8 Preferably (6)
- 9 Clarified butter (4)
- 10 Undomesticated animals (8)
- 11 Left out (7)
- 13 Furious (5)
- 15 Apart (5)
- 17 Dental practitioner (7)
- 20 Across the country (8)
- 21 Simple (4)
- 23 Abandon (6)
- 24 Guest houses (6)

Down

- 1 Quick (4)
- 2 Concrete (6)
- 3 Full of people (7)
- 4 Ruff (5)
- 5 Taken without consent (6)



- 6 Acts (8)
- 12 Errors (8)
- 14 Having a strong constitution (7)
- 16 Determined (6)
- 18 Pact (6)
- 19 Bring together (5)
- 22 Flat fish (4)

Sudoku

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

The object of sudoku is to insert the missing numbers in 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.

Solution on page 19

Is it time to change your worktops?

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Friday 8.00am–4.30pm Saturday 9.00am–1.00pm



Before upgrade

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www.wtlaminates.co.uk

Sugarloaf Mountain

It was a dull, dreary Sunday morning in January when we decided to cheer ourselves up by going for a walk.

I was thinking of maybe a stroll along the canal or a quick trip to the Heritage Coast for a meander along the beach, followed by a nice cup of coffee somewhere. I don't quite know how it happened but I was persuaded that it would be a good idea to tackle Sugarloaf Mountain again. It had been at least six months since we first walked up the mountain, it was one of the hottest days of 2018 so it was a different walk this time with the rain, mist and even a smidgen of snow at the top. I was impressed by the number of people we encountered early on a January morning, all enjoying their walk to the summit, some finding it easier than others! As for us, we would most certainly not be classed as mountain walkers, we much prefer the flat. The final ascent to the summit on both occasions proved to be a little challenging but the rewards far outweighed the physical discomfort. I love my regular gentle strolls along canal paths or through pretty parks, often followed by a coffee and slice of cake but the expedition to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain was well worth the effort, mainly for the views but also for the sense of achievement.

My advice is to take it slowly and when you are in desperate need of a rest just stop and pretend that you want to take in the view, even if it is after every 10 steps. A flask of coffee and a snack is a must.



Summer 2018



January 2019



January 2019



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 existing 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

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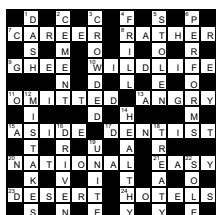
GWENT CHORALE

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.

Crossword Solution



Across: 7 Career, 8 Rather, 9 Ghee, 10 Wildlife, 11 Omitted, 13 Angry, 15 Aside, 17 Dentist, 20 National, 21 Easy, 23 Desert, 24 Hotels.

Down: 1 Dash, 2 Cement, 3 Crowded, 4 Frill, 5 Stolen, 6 Performs, 12 Mistakes, 14 Highway, 16 Driven, 18 Treaty, 19 Unite, 22 Sole.

Sudoku Solution

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

New Start Cat Rescue



Usk New Start Cat Rescue

We rescue abandoned and stray kitties and support owners to re-home.

If you would like to adopt one of our furry friends please contact Sam Murray on 07535 087970.

Adoption fee applies.

We also need additional volunteers within all areas of Gwent to help with transport, fostering or fundraising. Even the smallest of help can make a huge difference.

Please friend us on Facebook; Usk New Start Cat Rescue

Oxford House Museum

Open every Saturday from 10.00am to 12.30pm

Risca U3A

for retired & unemployed people.
Risca Youth Centre, Lyne Road

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 Keys
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.westernvalley.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 Street
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

Crafting Group

A friendly social group held every Friday 11:00am - 1:00pm at Risca Library.
For more details 01442 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

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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



Llandegfedd Reservoir

VISITOR CENTRE

Definitely has one of the best views in Wales to enjoy with your cuppa!

Set in the rolling landscape of south east Wales, Llandegfedd Reservoir is a site of special scientific interest. It is set within 434 acres of water and acres of woodland and grasslands with over four miles of footpaths, three miles of banks for angling and a large sailing area.

The visitor centre hosts a café with floor to ceiling glass providing an unrivalled view of the reservoir and ongoing activities.

There is a small gift shop on the ground floor, accessible via stairs or a lift from the café. Parking for the visitor centre and walking routes is at the main public car park overlooking the reservoir, disabled parking is provided adjacent to the shop.

The Centre opens at 9am on weekdays and 8am on weekends, school holiday and bank holidays.



For more details call 01633 373401 or visit the website
www.llandegfedd.co.uk
Llandegfedd Reservoir, Coed y Paen, Pontypool
(for Sat Nav please use NP4 0TA).

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