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ISSUE 56
MARCH/
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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
x



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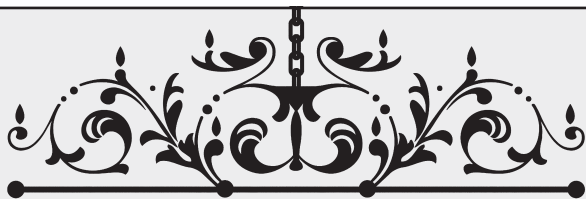
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Optimism for the Future of Twmbarlwm

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 Hafodyrnys - 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 Pontymister, 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 ©



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gathers for public worship on Sunday afternoons at the **Malpas Community Centre**, Pillmawr Road, at 3 pm.

Sermon excerpt from: *JESUS CHRIST REVEALED BY SOMETHING MORE THAN FLESH AND BLOOD*

(continued from the previous issue) ...So, let's take these two questions one at a time.

First, **what is being denied in verse 17 when Jesus says, "...flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee - flesh and blood has not revealed to you that I am the Messiah and the Son of God"?**

The phrase "**flesh and blood**" is used four other times in the New Testament.

Speaking of the resurrection body, the Apostle Paul says in I Corinthians 15:50, "...this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood** cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption."

The meaning seems to be that ordinary human nature will not be raised from the dead. There will be a change. There will be a spiritual body, similar, yet different. "Flesh and blood" is man in his present limited, ordinary state.

In Galatians 1:15-17, Paul speaks of his own conversion: "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with **flesh and blood**: neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia..."

This is a remarkable parallel to Matthew 16:17. God "reveals" His Son to Paul, and Paul doesn't confer with "flesh and blood" - that is, Paul doesn't confer with man. He goes away to Arabia.

In Ephesians 6:12 Paul tells us, "...we wrestle not against **flesh and blood**, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

So "**flesh and blood**" is the merely human non-supernatural forces in the world. These are **NOT** our real enemies; the real ones are supernatural.

In Hebrews 2:14 we read concerning the incarnation of Jesus: "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of **flesh and blood**, he also himself likewise took part of the same..."

In other words, Jesus Christ took on human nature and became a man.

So, what we can conclude from all these uses of the phrase "**flesh and blood**" is that it is simply a way of referring to ordinary humanity - finite, limited, natural.

So, when the Lord Jesus denies that "**flesh and blood**" has revealed His true identity to Peter, what He's saying is that mere human powers by themselves cannot recognize the true glory of Jesus Christ. Neither your humanity nor that of anyone else has opened the eyes of your heart to recognize the truth and beauty of Jesus.

This was the teaching of Jesus that the Apostle Paul unfolded in I Corinthians 2:14, "...the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned."

The "natural man" in I Corinthians 2:14 is basically the same as "**flesh and blood**" in Matthew 16:17. **Flesh and blood** cannot reveal the true spiritual reality of Jesus Christ and the "**natural man**" cannot know the things of the Spirit of God.

Why not? Because (as Paul says) apart from God the Holy Spirit we inevitably assess heavenly things as "foolishness..." Apart from the work of God in our hearts we don't like the humiliating implications of Christmas. What are the humiliating implications of Christmas? How about...that we're under a **curse** and we need a **Saviour**...that we're **dirty** and we need a **Purifier**...that we're **lost sheep** who need a **Shepherd**...that we're **sick** and need a **Physician**...that we're **rebels** who need a **Mediator** and **Reconciler**.

The inevitable reflex of our natural antipathy toward this truth is blindness. Why is it that flesh and blood cannot see the light of the glory of God in Jesus Christ? Jesus said in John 3:19, "...**light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.**" We inevitably love darkness; that's why we cannot see the light. Nobody is spiritually blind against his or her will. The blindness of fallen flesh and blood is simply this: fallen flesh and blood hates the light.

And so, Simon Peter didn't confess the truth of Jesus by means of his own ability. Flesh and blood could never reveal such a wonderful thing as the true Messiahship and Sonship of Jesus Christ. Something more than flesh and blood is required in order to recognize Christ for who He truly is.

Anybody in this room who has recognized in Jesus the glory of the Son of God and acknowledged Him as the Fulfiller of all of God's promises - the very Messiah - has done so because something more has been at work than flesh and blood. That leads us to the second question.

What does Jesus mean in Matthew 16:17 when He says, "...flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven"? How does God reveal the true identity of His Son to a person?

Christian friend, what happened in Peter's heart and your heart that can be called a revelation of the Son of God? Did God speak to you in a dream and tell you to believe the Bible? Did thunder strike when you were reading a certain verse about the deity of Jesus Christ?

I've got to tell you that I'd be very suspicious of such things, because in themselves they do not honour Jesus Christ. If Christ knocks at your door and you don't recognize Him and welcome Him as Christ because of His own glory, but you only let Him in because someone calls you on the phone and tells you that He's coming and that you'd better let Him in, then you've not really recognized Christ for who He is. It is really no honour to Him to gain admittance on the word of another.

Is this the way that God revealed the Son to Peter? Was Peter looking at the work of Jesus and listening to the teaching of Jesus and seeing nothing but a prophet and a rabbi and a friend until God came to Peter in a dream or a vision and said that, contrary to all appearances and evidences, this Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God? And was Peter's confession then based on this new information, so that it meant something like this: "Jesus, personally I just don't see the marks of divinity in you, and I don't see the works of a Messiah or any evidence that you're the Son of God, but on the basis of the dream I had last night, I'll believe it anyway; You're the Messiah, the Son of the living God" - is that how it went down?

Listen to me now - if that's what happened, then the confession of Simon Peter really isn't much credit to Jesus, now is it? If the recognition of Jesus of Nazareth's true dignity and glory as the Son of God is based on some separate information than what it is that we see in Him, then our confession doesn't glorify Jesus.

I cannot imagine that this is what Jesus meant when He said that His Father had revealed Jesus to Peter. So just what *did* Jesus mean?

Let me give you just one illustration from many possibilities (Matthew 11:21; 14:33; 15:13-14; 21:38; 23:16; etc.) of how Jesus expected people to recognize Him for who He truly was. In Matthew 11:2-3, John the Baptist, from his prison cell, is struggling with doubts about Jesus. John sends his disciples to ask Jesus, "Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?" (Matthew 11:3). In other words, "Are you really the Messiah?" - the very question that Jesus says you can only answer willingly if God reveals it to you.

But how does Jesus answer John's question? Does He say, "Pray, John, for a special revelation, and God will tell you if I am the Christ"? No! He says, "**Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: the blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me**" (Matthew 11:4-6).

Now, if you can only recognize Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God by means of a divine revelation of God, why does Jesus answer John's desperate question with a human report of His power and His preaching?

The answer is this: the absolutely indispensable work of God in revealing the Son both then to John the Baptist and Simon Peter and today to me and you is **NOT** the adding to what we see and hear in Jesus Himself; it is the opening of the eyes of our hearts to taste and see the true divine glory of what is really there in Jesus Christ.

When people have doubts about the truth of Jesus Christ, don't send them away to seek special messages from God. Point them to Christ. Tell them what you've seen and heard in His life and His teachings. Why? Because **this** is where God breaks in with His revealing power! God the Father **loves to glorify His SON!** He loves to open the eyes of the blind when they're looking at His **SON!**

God the Father doesn't reveal His Son to me by coming to me and saying, "Now, look here, I know that you don't see anything magnificent in **MY SON**; you don't see Him as all glorious and divine and attractive above all worldly things; you don't see Him as your all-satisfying treasure; and you don't see His holiness and wisdom and power and love as beautiful beyond measure; but you just take **MY WORD** for it; He **is** all that; just believe it."

NO! ABSOLUTELY NOT! Such faith as that does **NOT** honour the Son of God. It **cannot** glorify the Son. Saving faith is based on a spiritual sight of Jesus Christ as He is in Himself, the all glorious Son of God. And this spiritual sight is given to us through this inspired Word - the Holy Bible. And the eyes of our hearts are opened to recognize Him and receive Him not by the wisdom of flesh and blood, but by the revealing work of His heavenly Father.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (II Corinthians 4:6).

So, how shall you prepare your heart this Christmas to receive Christ? Fix your gaze on Him in His Word. Look to Christ! Consider Jesus. And pray, beyond the power of your own flesh and blood, that God would give you eyes to see and ears to hear that you might cry out with Simon Peter, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

GRACE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

gathers for public worship on Sunday afternoons at the **Malpas Community Centre, Pillmawr Road, Newport, at 3pm** and **fourth Sunday mornings of the month at the Libanus Centre, Libanus Road, Blackwood, at 10.30am**

What do we believe?

We seek to be Word-centred and gospel-driven.

The Word of God is crucial! The ministry of Grace Baptist Assembly will, we trust, always keep God's Word central. Why? The Holy Bible is God's written Word; it is how He has chosen to communicate to us who He is, what He has been doing, and what He expects of us. The Bible alone holds the ultimate, most trustworthy, most authoritative answers to the questions of life and eternity. Thus, rather than magnifying the ideas of mere human beings, we look instead to God, trusting that He inspired and preserved His Word for His glory and our good. We believe that the written Word is a reflection of the Living Word, Jesus Christ, and that its contents are our reliable, sufficient rule of faith and practice. When a moral question is raised, or when we face a difficult circumstance, we choose to resort to the Bible for guidance, correction or comfort, rather than falling back on our own experiences and opinions.

We seek to be traditional in our message.

We hold to historical Baptist distinctives. Specifically, we are fond of The First London Baptist Confession of Faith, 1646 edition. We gladly accept broken, unaccomplished, needy sinners like ourselves; but we are not seeker-driven. We do not believe that 'doing church' is what God requires of people, and we do not believe that it is this or any other local church's responsibility to water down, nor add to, the gospel of Jesus Christ in order to create a more 'comfortable' environment. Do we want that gospel [good news] to be understandable? Yes. Do we ourselves want to be compassionate and inclusive? Yes. We want broken people - people like us - who know their sinfulness. We are here for those who know that they need something more than what this life has to offer. We seek not to offer more of the same, but to offer something different. The person and work of Jesus Christ is enough for us. We invite you to come see why.

We seek to be relevant in our vision.

We maintain that the Bible is more than a collection of ancient writings, but rather, it contains everything we need to face the problems of life in today's culture. Consequently, our teaching and preaching will include practical application to help us live as we ought to live. We are not an elite group of those who have 'arrived' and we are committed to continual change. We rest on and submit to the absolute, unchanging truth of the Bible; and it in turn changes us. We hear and meditate on God's Word - and while we do that, we try to be doers of that Word, and not hearers only. We have found that the unchanging truths of the Bible affect our everyday lives, and we pray that we will become more and more like Jesus Christ as we submit to and obey His Word.

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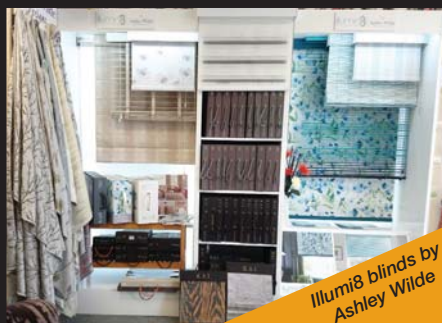
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Twin Towns by Paul Minton

Twins play a significant role in popular culture, from identical pairings like Tweedledee and Tweedledum to mismatched siblings in the form of Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito in...er... Twins. For my part, I am an only child but my aunt swears she saw my doppelgänger at a local pub. But then, surely all pubs serve doubles!

Of course, it's not just people who might have twins. The idea of twinning towns to bring disparate communities together in a fractured post-war Europe goes back as far as the late '40s. The concept quickly gained popularity and nowadays, you might be hard pressed to find somewhere not linked to a distant counterpart. Newport is no exception and in fact, it is somewhat spoilt because rather than having just one twin, it has three.

The oldest union is with Heidenheim in southern

Germany. The relationship was officially cemented in 1981 and both places have remained close ever since. The link fostered between the Newport Philharmonic Choir and the Heidenheim Oratoriënchor has proven particularly strong and to mark noteworthy anniversaries, they have exchanged gifts, such as bespoke pottery, embroidery, and a specially-commissioned love spoon. In recognition of the civic partnership, the road leading from the Harlequin Roundabout to Kingsway is called Heidenheim Drive.

Likewise, Heidenheim has



Newport Strasse, a small street which has an English language school at one end and the River Brenz at the other. Famously, Field Marshal Rommel, known as The Desert Fox during World War II, was born in the town.

Another of Newport's twins is Kutaisi: the third largest city in Georgia, the home of the Georgian Parliament until last year, and most importantly, the birthplace of the singer, Katie Melua. A formal application for twinning Newport with a Soviet town was submitted to Moscow shortly after its success with Heidenheim. Many years passed without apparent progress but unbeknownst to the council here, Kutaisi was looking to pair up with a British municipality. Despite there being a number of willing possibilities in England, the authorities settled on Newport in 1989. The choice was perhaps made because of perceived similarities between Georgia and Wales: both are

mountainous countries of comparable size with their own language and culture, as well as a shared passion for rugby. At the start of the millennium, Kutaisi renamed one of its main thoroughfares, Newport Street, in honour of the association. Meanwhile, the pathway alongside the Usk between Newport Bridge and the new footbridge was christened Kutaisi Walk in 2010. Admittedly, this would not appear to be on quite the same scale but it's the thought that counts and at least there's a commemorative plaque. The final member of our trio is doubtless the most controversial: Wuzhou in the Chinese Province of Guangxi was twinned with Newport in 1986. Despite this, contact has been comparatively infrequent. The last major interaction seems to have been in 2004 when a delegation from China visited the National Eisteddfod at Tredegar House. In the past year, however, local



campaigners have urged the cutting of ties in view of the Yulin Dog Festival. Established in 2009, the Province plays host to the annual ten day event at which around 10,000 of man's best friend are consumed. Activists believe many are killed inhumanely and there are claims that pets are stolen specifically to be served up to hungry festival-

goers. Definitely not the sort of dog show we are used to over here. A petition demanding that Newport terminates the connection with its twin has gained thousands of signatures and whilst it is often said you can't choose your family, our city is in the fortunate position that it most certainly can.



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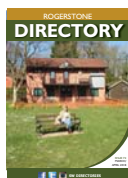


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BYRON D JONES B.Vet.Med., M.R.C.V.S

Veterans and pensioners Christmas meal 2018

It is hard to believe that this was my eighth year organising and raising funds for Veterans and Pensioners from across South Wales.

On Thursday the 13th December the staff canteen was transformed by volunteers from IPO, the Welsh Government and ONS, as over 60 volunteers descended on the canteen to help rearrange tables and chairs, dress the tables and lay them ready for our guests to arrive. It always amazes me to see how quickly the room is transformed. Our guests started arriving by car, minibus and taxi (some a little earlier than expected (at 14:00 instead of 15:00, but they were given tea/coffee and looked after by the volunteers). The volunteers welcomed all of the veterans and pensioners with a glass of Bucks Fizz or orange and lemonade. With coats and jackets taken, they then chose where they wanted to be seated. Some waited to see friends who they had not seen since last year and eyes glowed and the smiles spoke volumes at seeing each other again.

It was only a short time later that the Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress arrived. Speeches were given by the Deputy Mayor and Mrs Joan Reynolds and I thanked the catering staff and the volunteers for helping make the event possible. A huge thank you must also go to Mrs Joan Reynolds for putting together the list of attendees (no small task, as she worked long and hard to ensure that everyone had the opportunity to attend, even with some very late

replies.) I also paid thanks to our guests for attending and hoped that they enjoyed the afternoon. Everyone stood for the prayers which were read by Mrs Joan



Reynolds of The Royal British Legion, with shivers running down my spine and I am sure that I was not alone in feeling emotional; the room fell silent for the minute's silence. The bugle was played by Mr Bill Baber. Everyone returned to their tables for the start of the festivities. The catering staff provided yet another brilliant meal again this year with a four course dinner that would outshine even a five star restaurant (this coming from so many of our guests), they said that the meal was faultless and that they were all so grateful for the courtesy and kindness shown by the staff waiting on them. John Pullinger, Iain Bell, Jan Jones, Nick Barford and Scott Howell were a huge hit, not only with the staff for joining in, but also the pensioners and veterans. Well done to you all for taking time to come and support all the other volunteers.

The entertainment was provided in the form of The Cats Pyjama's

(from Bristol), three very talented young ladies and the ONS Choir. Again everyone was in awe of the talent and I have been asked for them to come again in 2019. I hope that this will be possible and will be asking to book them both again for 2019. Even though most of our guests had started leaving around 19:00, the canteen erupted when the Welsh national anthem was sung by the choir with everyone left joining in. Scott Howell took charge of the huge free raffle and did an amazing job (maybe he will add this to his busy calendar each year, fingers crossed). He helped wherever he could and did so with great gusto, much to the enjoyment of the veterans and pensioners.

All the veterans and pensioners were presented with a fabulous goodie bag that had been donated by NGARA Media UK, based in Cwmbran.

Lastly, my ever grateful thanks go to all the staff who volunteered to wait on the tables, help set up the canteen, cook and serve the meal and entertain our guests. I know a lot of you said that I did an amazing job again this year, but it would not have been at all possible without your fabulous help and support.

2019 is already in my diary, some invites have already been sent to ensure that dates are marked on calendars and I look forward to seeing everyone there again.

Elizabeth Buttigerg





24th April

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Gaters Barbershop has moved to new premises



Gaters Barbers are pleased to welcome you to our new barbershop which opened on Monday 21st March At 54 Tredegar street Risca NP11 6BW only about 80 yards from our old shop but this one offers you more luxury with a dedicated seating / waiting area which has TV and FREE WI FI so you can connect with your phones , check in and if you have kids they can play on their ipads to keep them entertained also. We look forward to seeing our old customers and look forward to seeing new ones too.

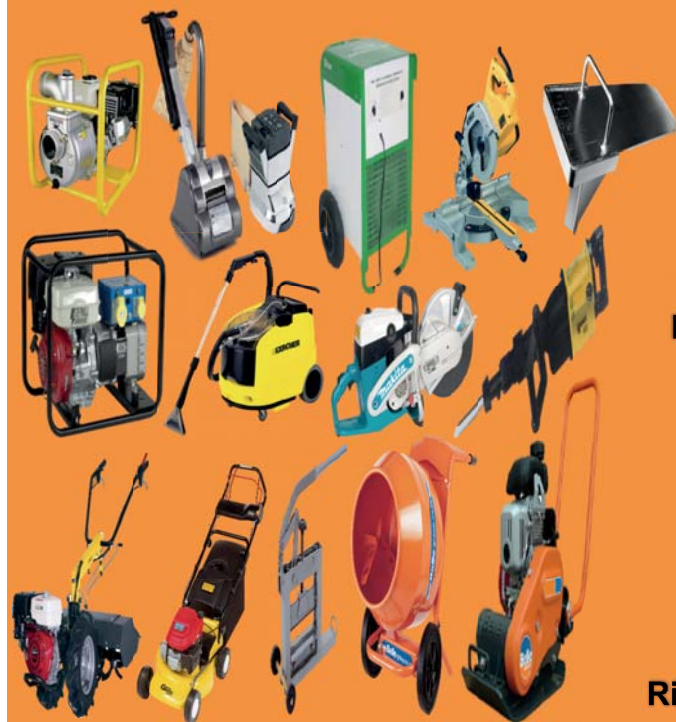
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Are You Selling Your House in 2019?

Its been a busy start of the year for estate agents in Newport. The city is continuing to increase in popularity amongst both home buyers and investors seeking to purchase properties.

The number of people moving to Newport is at a record high as are the number of landlords from further afield who are adding houses here to their property portfolios.

What Does This Mean for Our City?

In my opinion it is a clear indication that Newport is a city on the up. The launch and announcement of various commercial, retail and industrial schemes over the last 12 months has helped put Newport back on the map and become a location of choice for people to move to from both the local area and further afield.

The immediate conurbations surrounding the key M4 junctions remain the most popular. On the west side of the city, houses in these areas selling very quickly and at their full asking prices. We even have people on waiting lists which is a first since 2008.

As Winter Comes to an End, the Housing Market Will Spring Forward

Whilst it has been a busier winter than in previous years we anticipate the housing market to move up another notch in the Spring. The longer days and (hopefully) better weather traditionally encourages those that are considering moving to start the process and begin to prepare their homes and look around the market.

Top Tips to Sell Your House This Spring

1. **First Appearances Count** - prepare the exterior of your house and garden to make it appealing
2. **Have a Spring Clean** - Mess and clutter doesn't sell houses but brighter and more spacious areas does
3. **Finish off any Jobs** - get the professionals in for plumbing, building and electrical work and decorate in neutral colours
4. **Warm, Welcoming Homes Sell** - open the curtains, turn lights and heating on if necessary. Polish and flowers can also help!
5. **Use a Professional to Sell Your House** - get in touch for a free market appraisal and valuation, accompanied viewings, extensive marketing and coverage of your home, quality photographs and floorplans and managing all interactions with viewers/buyers.



rightmove



Please Get in Touch or Call in to Speak to One of Our Team:

Kingston Newell Estate Agents, 70 Bridge Street, Newport, South Wales NP20 4AQ
Tel: 01633 262628 Email: sales@kingston-newell.com www.kingston-newell.com

This months Hot Properties

FOR SALE



£425,000

Stow Park Avenue, Newport

Newly renovated 5 bedroom mid-terrace period property on the West side of the city.

FOR SALE



£349,950

York Place, Newport

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FOR SALE



£315,000

Camellia Avenue, Rogerstone

Superbly presented 4 bedroom detached family home. Double garage & driveway.

FOR SALE



£295,000

Allt-yr-yn Heights, Newport

Well presented detached 4 bedroom detached property. Driveway with integral single garage providing off-road parking.

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Lodge Farm Church

(top of Lodge Hill) Sunday 11.00am Morning Service which includes Sunday Club for Primary School age children. For Sunday evenings and all other activities check the church website: www.lodgefarmchurch.org.uk Church Secretary: 01633 420800

St Thomas Church, Maesglas
Sunday 10.30am. Wednesday 10.00am. 01633 815738

St Mary's Church, Malpas
Sunday 8.00am; 9.45am; 11.30am; 6.30pm

Sunday Junior Church 9.45am
Tuesday 11.00am Communion at the Cloister Room in the Church. All welcome.

Wednesday 10.00am in the Church
Friday free coffee & biscuits in the Cloister 10am to 11.30am
www.stmarysmalpas.org.uk
Assistant Curate Rev Jane Sims.
Tel 01633 763 805

Caerleon Ministry Area - All Saints (Llanfrefchfa), St Cadoc's (Caerleon), St John the Baptist's (Llanhenock) & St Tegfedd's (Llandegfedd)
For all service times, please go to www.caerleonministryarea.co.uk or contact Reverend Sue Pratten at - vicar.stcadocs@gmail.com or 01633 420248

Trinity Presbyterian
Revival & Healing Centre. Malpas Court. Rev. K.W. Jarvis 01633 277900
Christchurch, Old Malpas Road, Malpas
Sunday 10.30am.

Pastor Pete Greasley 01633 822211
office@christchurchnewport.org

Grace Baptist Assembly
Malpas Community Centre. Pillmawr Road. Sunday 3.00pm

Malpas Road Evangelical Church
Malpas Road, Newport. Sunday 10.30am & 6.00pm.

"S" club Sunday 12.00pm. Wednesday 7.30pm. www.malpasroad.org.uk. Rev. Meirion Thomas 01633 854780

Ponith Baptist Church
Station Road. Sunday 10.30am
01633 422703. www.pbchurch.org.uk

Society of Friends (Quakers)
Caerleon Town Hall
1st & 3rd Sundays 10.30am
01633 264210

Caerleon RC Church of Saint Julius Aaron & David

High Street Caerleon NP18 1AG
Mass - Wednesday 10am & Saturday 6.30pm. Tel: 01633 265533

The Community Church
01633 430400

Stow Park Church Centre, Brynhyfryd Rd, Newport

Sunday 10.45am, 3.00pm Oedfa Gymraeg (Welsh Language Service) 5.30pm Informal Service with Tea
Wednesday Prayers 10.00am, Bible Class 11.15am
Cafe & shop open Tuesday to Friday only. Volunteers welcome.
www.stowparkchurch.org.uk / 01633 843730

Eglwys Annibynnol Mynydd Seion
Hill Street, Casnewydd NP20 1LZ
Oedfa Gymraeg am 10.30 Bore Sul ac Ysgol Sul. Welsh Language Service at 10.30am on Sundays

Croeso Cynnes i Bawb
A warm welcome to fluent Welsh speakers and learners.
www.mynyddseion.org.uk

Sian Howley 01633 421427

sianhowley@hotmail.com

Elin Maher 01633 243700

elin.maher@ntlworld.com

St Anne's Roman Catholic Church
Sunday 9.00am. St Anne's Community Club

Tuesday 10.30am. Tel: 01633 265533
www.allsaintsrcnewport.co.uk/allsaintsanne

Newport Cathedral

Sunday 8.00am Holy Eucharist
10.30am Cathedral Eucharist
5.00pm Choral Evensong

Every weekday

8.00 am Morning Prayer
8.15 am Holy Eucharist
Everyday except Wednesdays 5.00 pm Evensong

Wednesday 6.30 pm Choral Evensong

Thursdays only 10.30 am Cathedral Eucharist. Contact details
01633 267464

Email
enquiries@newportcathedral.org.uk

Website
www.newportcathedral.org.uk

St Martins-in-the-Gaer

Sunday 9.30am Holy Eucharist
Contact details 01633 267464,

Email
enquiries@newportcathedral.org.uk,

Nant Coch Church

68 Fields Park Road. Sunday 10.30am; 6.30pm. www.nantcoch.org.uk

St Mary's Street Baptist Church

St Mary's Street, Baneswell

Sunday 11.00am

1st & 3rd Sunday 6.30pm

Pastor: Les Tuckwell 01633 764650

St John Baptist Church

Risca Road

Sunday 8.00am; 10.00am; 6.00pm

Various other services - please call for details
C.D Westbrook 01633 265581

Ridgeway Christian Fellowship

Ridgeway Community Centre
Sunday 10.30am - Bible Study
Reading: 4.00pm - Gospel Preaching
Monday 7.30pm - Prayer & Thanksgiving

Thursday 7.30pm - Bible Study
Reading. For further information please contact: Stuart Herbert 01495 752941 or 07971 525774.

Philip Herbert 01633 892434

St Marks Church, Gold Tops

Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Sung Eucharist

Wednesday 11.00am Holy Communion
Rev Dr Paul Thompson 01633 252046

St Paul's City Centre Church

The old Post Office building on Bridge Street Sunday 10.30am. 01633 266076
www.stpaulsnewport.org.uk

King's Church

Lower Dock Street, Newport. Sunday 10.30am and 5.00pm. 01633 244453

Emmanuel Evangelical Church,

Rutland Place, Newport

(opposite the Royal Gwent Hospital)
Sunday 10.30am and 6.00pm
Sunday 12.15 pm Sunday Rock for Young People

Wednesday 7.30pm Prayer Meeting
Various other meetings - details on website

www.emmanuel-newport.org.uk
Reverend Bernard Lewis 07840 672394

Bethel Community Church, Stow Hill

Sunday Worship - 10.30am. Includes Children's Church
Pastor: Andrew Cleverly.
www.bethelnewport.co.uk
01633 212327

Newport Christian Spiritualist Church

Orchard Lane Community Centre off Stafford Road

Friday Service 7.00pm- 8.30pm

Sunday Service 6.30pm-8.00pm

Tuesday Healing Clinic 6.30pm-8.30pm

Duckpool Road Baptist Church, Duckpool Road

Sunday 10.30am Family Service and

Young Church. Evening Service at

6.30pm. Wednesday 7.30pm Bible

Study and Prayer

Tel 01633 662094 A very warm

welcome to all

St Julians Methodist Church,

Caerleon Road

Sunday 10.30am Morning Worship &

Junior Church

Sunday 6.30pm 1st & 3rd Sunday of

month Evening Worship

Various other meetings - please call for

details

Minister Rev Les Jones 01633 843322

The Parish Church of St. Julians,

Heather Road

Sunday 10.00am and Daily 9.30am

Father David Matthews.

Tel: 01633 258040

www.stjuliansparishchurch.co.uk

New Dimensions

124 Lower Dock Street. Newport.

NP20 1EG

Tel: 01633 214264 (Facebook - New

Dimensions, FWM)

Services: Sunday 11am & Wed 6pm

Spiritualist National Union Church

29 Charles Street, Newport
Sunday 6.30pm-8pm. Mon/Tues 7pm-8pm

01633 895065

Bishpool Methodist church

Ringland Circle. Sunday worship

10.30am

Coffee morning 4th Weds every month

10.30am to 12.30pm.

Holy Trinity Church

Christchurch Newport NP18 1JJ

Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 10.30am Sung Eucharist

2nd Sunday of the month

10.30am Family Service

Sunday 6.00pm Evensong

Weds 10.30am Holy Communion

REV MICHAEL JARMAN 01633

420701

Malpas Spiritual Enlightenment

Centre

Every Friday 7.00pm-8.45pm

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Malpas Community Centre

Pillmawr Road, Malpas NP20 6WG

www.facebook.com/malpasspiritualenlightenmentcentre

Church of Christ (Iglesia ni Cristo)

Llanethwy Road, Newport, NP20 4LD

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Childrens Services on Saturday 1pm

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Bro Michael 07984 833645

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Retired Persons Welfare Club

Every Thursday
Caerleon Town Hall
You will receive a very warm welcome.
Contact: Val Stocker
01633 420158

Caerleon W.I.

The group meet at the Town Hall in Caerleon on the second Monday of every month from 2.00pm until 4.00pm.

We are a friendly group with wide ranging interests. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Georgina 01633 422421

Lodge Farm Church

Parent and Toddler Group
Come and join us for a cup of tea and a chat while your children (ages 0-4) have fun and play, Wednesday 1.15pm. For further information phone Kath on 01633 422013 or Lynn on 01633 420800 or visit our website for directions: www.lodgefarmchurch.org

Caerleon Sequence Dance Club

Friday 2.00pm-4.00pm Caerleon Town Hall. A welcome to everyone who enjoys sequence dancing or listening to dance music. Contact: Aileen Gibbs 01633 857513

Caerleon Amblers

Sunday 10.00am
Coldbath Rd, car park
Newcomers always welcome.

Christchurch Music Society

We are an amateur music society welcoming new members on stage and back stage.
We meet on a Wednesday at 7.30pm at Christchurch Church Hall, Newport.

Contact the secretary for more details
Martyn Brown 07896 284424
www.christchurchmusicsociety.co.uk

Ponthir Canine Society

Croesycelliog Community Hall
Tuesdays 6.00pm
For details: PonthirCanineSociety@hotmail.com
Ponthir Bridge Club
Wed 2pm Village Hall
Experience Players
Contact 01633 420104

Yoga Class

Introduction/Beginners Class
Monday 5.45-6.45pm, Malpas Community Centre
General Class
Monday 7.00-8.30pm, Malpas Community Centre
For more information contact Chris Robins 07979 500212

Blaen-y-Pant Centre

Bingo & Lunch Club - Tuesday 1:00pm
For details call 01633 211830
Monday
Art Group - 11:00am
Life Drawing - 4.45pm
Adult Art Class 7.00pm
Wednesday
Adult Art Class 11.00am & 2.00pm
Children's Art Classes - Saturday 2:00-4:00pm
For details call 07720 064424

Whist Club

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

Art Group

Life Drawings 2nd & 4th Sunday
White Hart, Caerleon
For details call 07770 064424

Newport Scrabble Club

Meet at Malpas Community Centre every Tuesday 6.30pm to 9.30pm
Beginners welcome
For more details call 01633 858758

Women in Malpas WI

Malpas Community Centre on the 4th Wednesday of every month, 7pm start.
For further information contact Felicity Roberts on 07932 620146

Email womeninmalpas@btinternet.com.
Follow us on Facebook: Women in Malpas
Twitter @womeninmalpas

St Anne's Roman Catholic Church

St Anne's Community Club meet every Tuesday at 10.30am
Tel: 01633 265533

Christchurch, Old Malpas Road, Malpas

www.christchurchnewport.org
For full details of all the activities contact:
Gavin Smith 01633 822211

The Lyceum Folk Club of Newport

Held every Thursday at 8.30pm
at the Crindau Constitutional Club.
Malpas Road Newport
For more details ring 07966 754366

City of Newport Model Engineering Society

Every Wednesday 7.30pm - Bits and Natter
Every Saturday 11am to 5pm - working on site, track repairs tidying etc.

Glebelands Park, Newport (by the Newport Bowls Club). www.newportmodelengineering.uk

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

26th Newport Scout Group

Beavers - ages 5.5 to 7 - Tuesdays 5.45pm to 6.45pm
Cubs - ages 8 to 10.5 - Wednesdays 6.45pm to 8.15pm. Shaftesbury Community Centre
Contact Paula on 07894 388340

St. Joseph's (Casnewydd) RFC

Mini and junior rugby
New players welcome from age 7 to 15.
See www.stjosephsrfc.org.uk for details

Learn FREE Raja Yoga Meditation

with the Brahma Kumaris Newport
For information please contact
Rupdaye: newport@uk.brahmakumaris.org
Text: 07908 221731

Beechwood Bowling Club

Contact Ron 01633 672440
www.beechwoodbowlingclub.co.uk

Newport Indoor Bowling Centre

The Glebeland, Bank Street
Contact 01633 264343
www.newportindoorbowls.co.uk

Belle Vue Bowling Club

Belle Vue Park runs two teams and is always welcome new players of all ages to the game and the social events organised by the club April -

September.

Contact Tony Allen 01633 770777

www.bellevuebowlingclub.com

St. Julians Ladies Bowls Club

Glebelands Bowling Green, new members welcome, practice sessions Monday afternoons (summer) from 2.00pm. For more information contact Gay Thomas, 01633 274527 or mgthomas@btinternet.com

Newport Royal Naval Association

A warm welcome to ex matelots/marines, Meet at Baneswell Club, Stow Hill, 1st Tuesday every month For more details

admin@newport-rna.co.uk or www.newport-rna.co.uk

The Rotary Club of Newport

Sec: Peter Landers 01633 213049

www.rotarynewport.org

email: peter_landers@hotmail.com

The Rotary Club of Newport Uskmouth

Sec: Keith Minton 01633 423368

www.nuws.org.uk

email: keithminton44@gmail.com

The Rotary Club of Caerleon

Sec: Gerry Fulcher 07891 390255

www.rotary-ribi.org/caerleon

email: gerryfulcher369@gmail.com

The Rotary Club of St Woolos Newport

Sec: Alan Thomas

email: stwoolosnewport@outlook.com

Book Club

Last Tuesday in the month at 2.30pm – Just turn up at the Hand Post Pub.

Contact: Daphne Shirley 01633 257796

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

Friends of Newport's Ornamental Parks

If you would like to become a Friend of Newport's Ornamental Parks

Contact Kerry on 01633 660716 or go to the website

www.fonop.org.uk

Newport Central WI

We now meet in the Newport Centre, Emlyn 1 room,

Kingsway, 2nd Monday of the month at 1.30 pm. New

members welcome. For more information contact Gay

Thomas, 01633 274527 or mgthomas@btinternet.com, or

Gwent Federation office, 01633 864456 or

Secretary@gwentwi.org.uk

East Side Art Club

Eveswell Community Centre, Eveswell Street

Tuesday 7.00pm-9.00pm

All abilities and media meet to draw/paint, hold exhibitions and arrange workshops.

For more details ring 01633 674033

Newport Reading Group

Tuesday 7.00pm-8.30pm

Ye Old Murranger Inn, High Street, Newport

Please see our blog

(www.thenewportreadinggroupblog.blogspot.co.uk) for information the group and contact details.

Newport Chess Club

Meets every Wednesday 7:00pm-10:00pm at the Baneswell Community Centre.

www.newportchessclub.org.uk

Contact Roger Lockyer on 01633 252003

MERCHED Y WAWR CASNEWYDD A'R CYLCH

(for Welsh Speakers & Learners)

Dewch aton ni i fwynhau gweithgareddau amrywiol.

Yr ail nos iau bob mis (Medi-Mehefin) am 7:30 y.h.

yn Neuadd Eglwys Bethesda, Cefn Road, Ty-du.

Ffôn: Bronwen Green 01633 894404 / Vivien Lee 01633 894896

Newport and County Horticultural Society.

Winter talks and summer outings. For further information contact Gay Thomas on 01633 274527

The Crystal Lodge of Freemasons

Meet monthly at the Masonic Hall Newport.

For more details contact:

The Assistant Secretary

Email: crystal4562@hotmail.co.uk

The Newport Medieval Ship

The Ship Centre is opened Fridays & Saturdays 10.30am – 4.30pm. Unit 20 Estuary Road, Queensway Meadows Ind Est, Newport, NP19 4SP

Newport and Gwent Philatelic Society

Meetings are held twice a month in Room 3 of the Civic Centre Newport, 7pm every second Wednesday.

All ages welcome. For more details please contact Roy

Bentley. 01633 892410. Roybentley@mylundy.co.uk

South Wales and Mon. Numismatic Society

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

Newport Orchestra

Can you play an orchestral instrument?

The orchestra NOW rehearse weekly (in school term time) on Monday 7.30-9.30pm at YMCA, Mendelgief Road, Newport.

Please contact the Secretary by e-mail at

newportorchestra@hotmail.com or visit the website

www.newportorchestra.co.uk

Newport Folk Club

Every Thursday 8.45 at Newport Fugitives Athletic Club, High Cross. Contact Malcolm Charnley on 07973 278932

Newport Community Choir

Are looking for new members. Open to men and women, we rehearse on Wednesdays, 5.30-6.45pm at Gwent Music (NP20 6NS).

For more details please contact timms.alice@gmail.com

Newport U3A

for those retired or near retirement, we meet at Shaftesbury Methodist Church each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during term time. Nearly 40 interest groups from Art to Welsh.

New members very welcome. For more details Contact

Angela Robins 07980 970967 or www.newportu3a.org.uk.

Friends of Newport Museum and Art Gallery (FonMAG)

Talks in Newport Art Gallery at 7pm

March 13th & April 10th.

Summer Excursions to be confirmed

Find details and programme at

<http://www.fonmag.org.uk/>

Newport Diabetes UK Group

We meet the third Thursday of every month 7-8.30 pm, St

Julius and Aaron Church Hall, Heather Road, Newport, NP19

7JT. Come and join us for information about Type 1 and Type

2 Diabetes and good company.

Contact Sarah Gibbs 07743447331 or visit

www.newportdiabetesukgroup.org

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

Malpas Library

Coffee and Chat 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm

Do come and meet your friends and neighbours at Malpas

Library on the second Monday of every month. All are

welcome.

SGI Nichiren Buddhist group in Newport

We hold meetings in Newport once a month and invite people to come along.

If you are interested in, please contact us through SGI-UK

website: www.sgi-uk.org

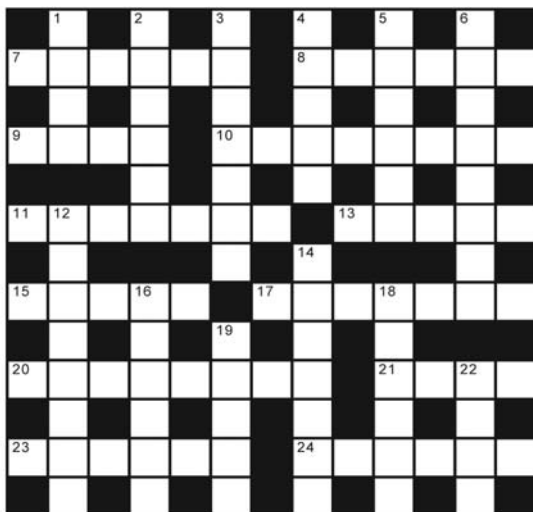
Crossword

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)
- 16 Determined (6)
- 12 Errors (8)
- 18 Pact (6)
- 14 Having a strong constitution (7)
- 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 37

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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



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We recruit and train all of our own staff to the highest standards to ensure we provide the quality of care that we would want for our own family and friends.

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Follow us on Twitter  **@BluebirdNewport**

Our Services

You might be looking for short-term help and support after a stay in hospital, or whilst recovering from an illness. Or perhaps you need care and support for the long term. It might be respite that you need whilst your usual carer takes a break, or maybe you need someone to take care of a family member whilst you're away. Whatever your needs, Bluebird Care can help.

From 30-minute visits aimed at helping with household tasks or preparing a meal; to caring for those living with dementia – Bluebird Care provides you with the support you need, when you need it most.

Some of the tasks that our Home Care Assistants frequently undertake include:

- Full personal care including showering and bathing
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- Assisting with managing the home, e.g. cooking, cleaning, laundry
- Help with shopping and meeting friends
- Providing support and assistance to customers attending GP/hospital/dental appointments

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Call and speak to a member of our team to find out how Bluebird Care can help you and your family.

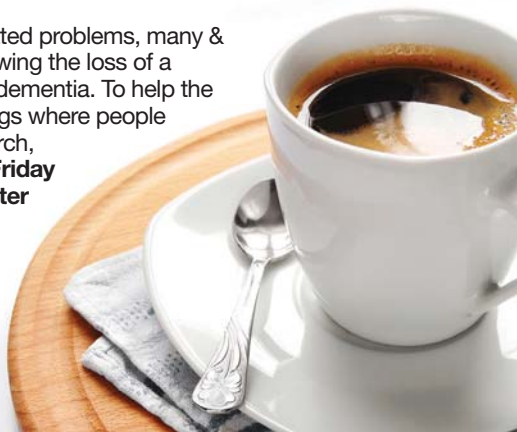


St Mary's Church, Malpass

COFFEE MORNINGS

With the advancing years come the associated problems, many & various. Among these is the loneliness following the loss of a husband, wife or partner; also the dreaded dementia. To help the first many churches hold free coffee mornings where people can go and meet others and St Mary's Church, Malpas is one of these. **The café is every Friday morning 10.00am to 11.30am in the Cloister Room** for free tea, coffee, biscuits and people to chat with.

With the second problem St Mary's has a dementia friendly café in the Cloister Room, again free tea, coffee, songs, painting and much more. **The café is on the second Monday of the month 10.00am to 12 noon.**



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Crossword Solution



Across: 7 Career, 8 Rather, 9 Glee, 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 Healthy, 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

Malpas Library

01633 821376

01633 656656

Email:

malpas.library@newport.gov.uk

OPENING TIMES

Monday	2.00am - 7.00pm
Tuesday	9.30am - 1.00pm
Wednesday	2.00pm - 6.00pm
Thursday	Closed
Friday	9.30am - 1.00pm
Saturday	9.00am - 1.00pm

Malpas Library, Pillmawr Road,
Newport NP20 6WF

Tredegar House Folk Festival May 10th, 11th & 12th

30 YEARS OF MUSIC AND DANCE

2019 brings the 30th anniversary for the Tredegar House Folk Festival, the festival started in 1988 but had to miss a year due to the foot and mouth outbreak in 2001.

During the early years the festival was primarily a dance festival with multiple local and British teams taking part in free displays on the Saturday / Sunday afternoons (24 teams in 2018), joined by at least one international side. This year that side will again be Matenik from Prague in the Czech Republic. They are old friends of the festival, and their colourful costumes, lively dances plus a superb band of musicians always adds to the atmosphere.

Over the years the music side of the festival has expanded greatly thanks to the support of the Arts Council of Wales, and we have a reputation for featuring up and coming acts (often just as they receive a BBC Radio 2 folk award), while headlining the concerts with some of the finest talent around...which is often from right here in Wales.

This year on such a special anniversary there will be a major concert on each of the three days of the festival, plus a free Saturday afternoon concert run by the Lyceum and Llantrisant folk clubs which will include spots for local singers/musicians. Across the weekend there will also be workshops as well as impromptu and organised music sessions.

At the time of writing, proposed acts for the main concerts are, Friday evening: Brooks Williams (one of the greatest acoustic country blues players), Will Pound and Eddy Jay (greatest harmonica player of his generation and the nation's



number one accordion player, these two get phenomenal

sounds from their instruments), plus Bob Fox (more than 40 years on the folk scene, latterly known as the Songman in War House). Saturday evening: Patty Gurdy, who is flying in from Dusseldorf and playing solo (known for her soaring vocals), Rob Lear Band, The Hut People (accordion and amazing percussion...they will also hold a workshop), and headlining will be Alaw comprising Jamie Smith (accordion), Oli Wilson-Dickson (violin) and Dylan Fowler (guitar). Jamie and Oli are the front line of the awesome Jamie Smith's Mabon and Dylan has developed an international career.

Sunday afternoon: Jez Lowe (his songs are sung by many other performers), Frank Hennessy (presenter of BBC Radio Wales's Celtic Heartbeat show and a distinctive singer songwriter), Belshazzar's Feast (Paul Hutchinson accordion and Paul Sartin oboe, violin and vocals), they have played together for over 10 years and are known for their impressive musicianship and sense of humour, and Calan (five brilliant young and original talents...the new Welsh supergroup).

Ceillidhs are held Friday and Saturday evenings, and a children's entertainer is on site Saturday /Sunday afternoons, plus this all takes place in the gorgeous surroundings of Newport's Tredegar House (NT car parking charges apply). All that is needed now for a perfect weekend for the whole family is some dry sunny weather (all events will be under cover should it be wet).

For more details, and ticket prices for the whole weekend or individual concerts and ceillidhs, visit the website:

www.tredegarhousefestival.org.uk

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Strange Goings-On in the Merthyr Tydfil Area



We've had a working relationship with the man-made lake at Cyfarthfa Castle, Merthyr Tydfil for a number of years. This is one which has been a source of moderate to considerable difficulty from the beginning. On the plus side there is Mary who lives locally; she is totally committed to the welfare of the birds which have made the lake their home, and so far, there appears to be no limit to the lengths to which she will go to assist any bird which is in distress; at this location, the majority of problems are angling related. Based on our experience, and therefore just our opinion, the extent of commitment to solving problems here on the part of the local authority is minimal. Be that as it may...

In our opinion, this lake with, at its simplest, its two small islands and vertical masonry sides is far from ideal as a habitat for swans. Nevertheless, a few years ago a breeding pair arrived, and a succession of families of cygnets was produced. The normal procedure is that, at the end of the breeding season, late summer and extending quite possibly into the early weeks of the following year, the cygnets

leave. They do so, either of their own accord, or the adult male (cob) 'encourages' them to move out. Failure to leave tends to have catastrophic consequences, in short, death by drowning. At the end of the 2017 season, 'normal procedure' was not followed. Three of the cygnets did not leave, and although it was clear all three were capable of flight, the cob's efforts to force them out were somewhat



Cyfarthfa Lake, Merthyr Tydfil

half hearted. And so, most unusually the pair of swans, in 2018, produced a further six cygnets, bringing the total swan population at Cyfarthfa to 11. Summer waned into autumn, and we suffered the expected number of incidents involving fishing tackle entanglements. We know of only one early attempt to leave the lake by one of these, on 24th September, and this ended very badly less than a mile from the lake. We were unable to reach Merthyr in time to save him. The next episode in this story occurred on 25th November. Mary, remarked that all the swans were missing apart from one of the 2018 cygnets; every indication was that he was unable to fly. The problem

SWAN RESCUE

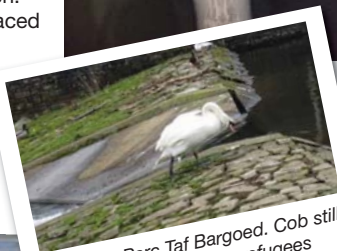
seemed to be associated with the wing joints, which in a human, would have been its elbows. There appeared to be some form of constraint preventing the wings from stretching to their full extent. We picked up this bird on 30th November, and transferred it to the Swan Sanctuary (Shepperton) about a week later. Now there were no swans at Cyfarthfa.

This is the way it remained right until the end of the year, when all the others, three generations, returned, plus one other swan! No reports were received to indicate where they had been. This 'extra' individual now faced two problems: (i), when it came to feeding he was clearly unwelcome, the adult male made it his business to 'see him off', and (ii), there was a large lump on the left side of the

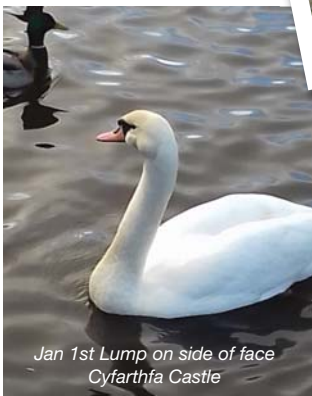
about. This was removed surgically and the bird is now doing well. Finally, for the time being at



Jan 8th X-ray of swan with ball bearing lodged in head



Jan 10th Parc Taf Bargoed. Cob still in pursuit of young refugees



Jan 1st Lump on side of face Cyfarthfa Castle

face a short distance below the eye, one effect of which appeared to actually impede the ability of the bird to feed. This bird was caught, not without some difficulty, on 1st January and transferred to Shepperton on 3rd where an x-ray examination revealed a 5mm diameter ball bearing, clearly, there are some dreadful people

least, it came to our notice four cygnets had gone missing from Cyfarthfa. They had actually been moved to Parc Taf Bargoed, so on the 10th we went up to investigate. Moving swans just because it seems like a good idea at the time, e.g. 'to reduce the possibility of overcrowding' is seldom a good thing, and in any case is illegal under the provisions of the 1982 Wildlife and Countryside Act. If there really is a desperate need for a move, which more often than not has to be proved, then a licence has to be obtained through the Welsh Assembly Government. From our own experience, such a licence is not granted readily. Quite apart from anything else the selection of a site for release of the 'refugees' is not

easily resolved. How things will turn out in the long run is not easy to gauge. There is one resident adult male swan there. He is disabled to a degree; he is not able to sustain flight. Having observed the behaviour of the swans over a period of about two hours during our visit, we are confident the cygnets comprise of three males and one female. The latter spent a great deal of time in close company with the adult, that is, when he wasn't giving the other three a hard time. Of particular concern is the precipitous nature of the outfall from the lake into which the juveniles were being chased. Of course, there is no guarantee any of the juveniles will stay, but in the meantime we are on 'stand by' to rescue any of them if they really do get into trouble. And for a local authority official to say to us 'they look happy' is just plain silly, anthropomorphological nonsense.

Story: Peter. Photos: Ellen, Mary & Mel. For swan and all other wildlife problems please contact Peter & Ellen on 01633 895241 or 07802 472788



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