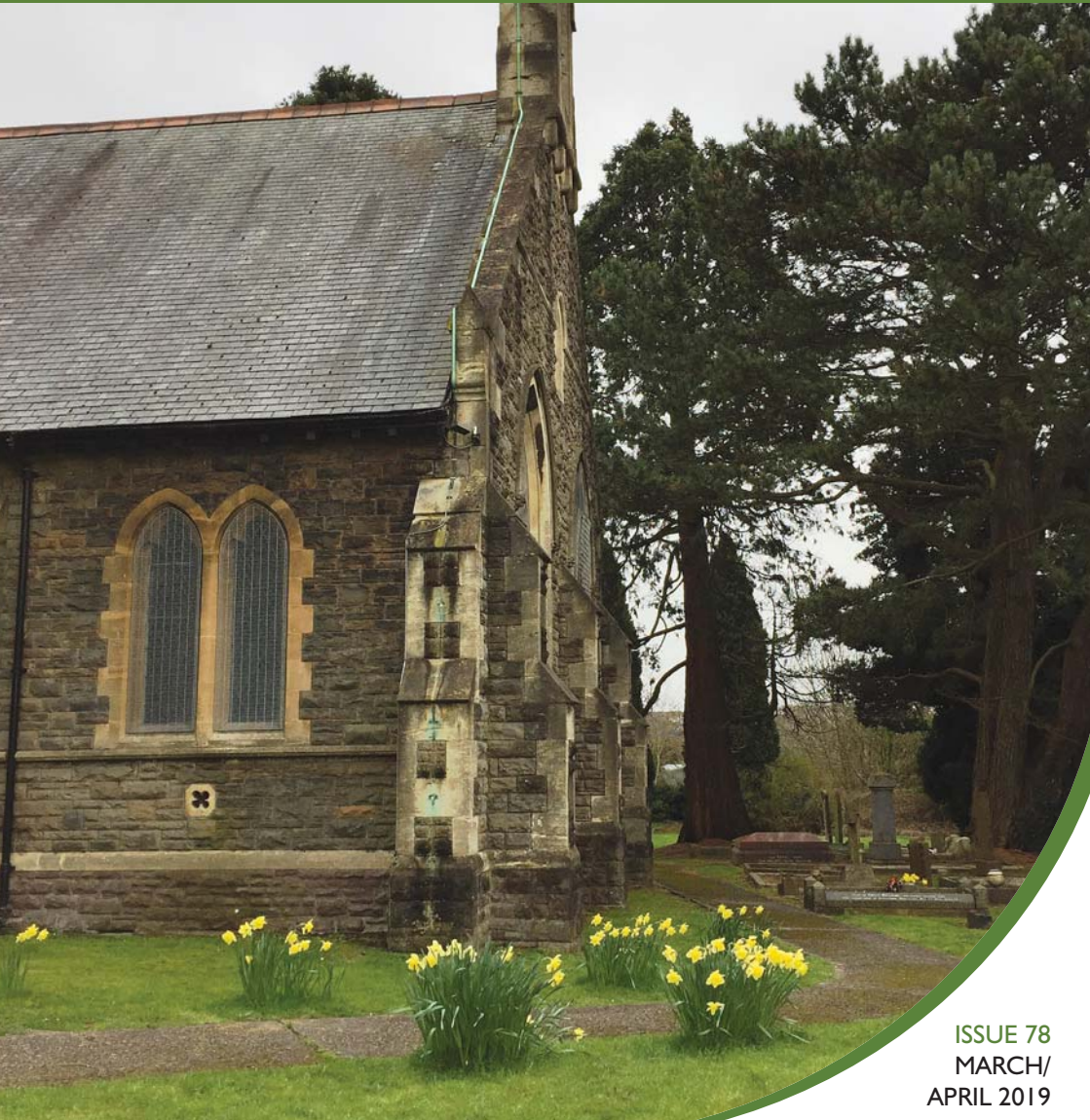


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# DIRECTORY



ISSUE 78  
MARCH/  
APRIL 2019



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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*



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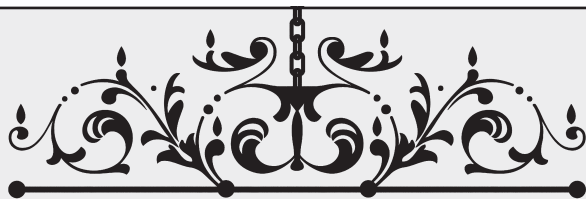
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# Optimism for the Future of Twmbarlwm

**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**



Photos: Terry C. Evans ©



*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.

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## Holy Week and Easter in the Parish of Bassaleg



### Maundy Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April

7.30pm Celebration of the Lord's supper at St Basil's Bassaleg

### Good Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April

10.30am Craft Party at St. Anne's Hall High Cross

11.30am Time for God at St. Anne's High Cross

2.00pm Celebration of the Cross at St. Basil's Bassaleg

6.00pm Evening Prayer at St. John's Rogerstone

### Holy Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April

8.00pm The Easter Vigil at St. Basil's Bassaleg

### Easter Day 21<sup>st</sup> April

8.30am Holy Eucharist at St. Basil's Bassaleg

9.30am Holy Eucharist at St. Anne's High Cross

10.00am Holy Eucharist at St. Basil's Bassaleg

10.45am Holy Eucharist at St. John's Rogerstone

You are all very welcome to join us at any of our services





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# **EASTER SERVICES**

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**19th April**

Cefn Wood 10.00am

Bethesda 7.30pm

### **Easter Sunday**

**21st April**

Cefn Wood 11.00am

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*John*  
**11:25-26**

Jesus said to her "I am the resurrection and the life.  
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# The Big HAMMER of Rogerstone

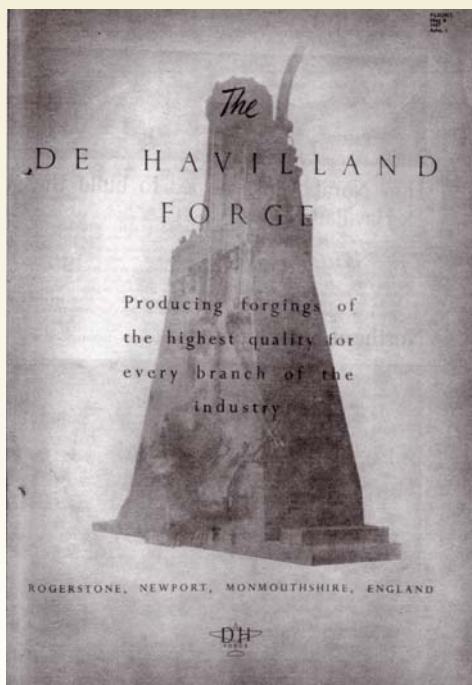
(The de Havilland Forge)

The Northern Aluminium Co, Rogerstone, became a major producer for the Second World War effort and as such the site was a prime target for German warplanes but was never hit. Lord Haw Haw (the traitor William Joyce) often interrupted BBC radio (no TV's about in those days) warning that tonight's target was the Aluminium factory in Rogerstone. Although Aluminium parts were fabricated for many aircraft sections, the main target for the German air force was the de Havilland section of the factory. A factory within a factory. Housed in this factory was the de Havilland Forge which produced more aircraft propeller blades than anywhere else in the UK.

An approximate description of the process was that one half of the mould was placed on the bottom of the forge (the anvil) and the other half on the hammer section of the forge. A heated section of aluminium ingot was placed on the anvil and then the hammer came down with force and forged the propeller blades. These were then trimmed ready for despatch.

The hammer descended with a force of 2,000 tons and considerable noise which was a feature of the Ty-Du area of Rogerstone (or in Welsh, the Ty-Du area of Tregwilym, the original welsh speakers' name for Rogerstone). There are still people living today who can remember the noise of the hammer and even claims that vibration could be felt near St. Johns Church.

The Location of the Forge today on the Jubilee Park estate would be between De Haia Road and the River.



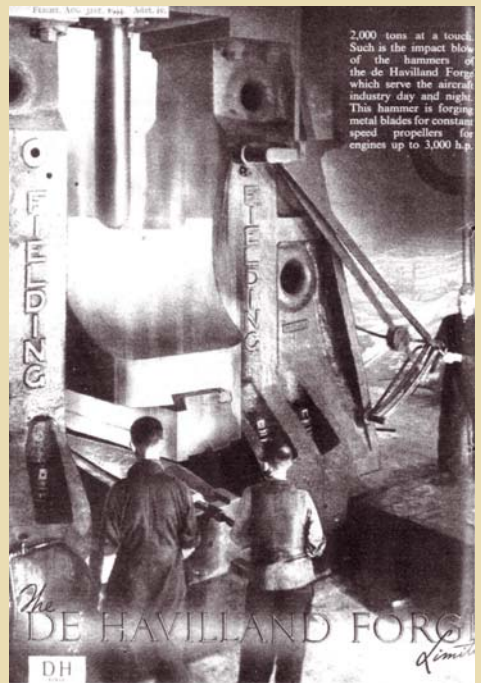
The article on the next page was provided by Roger de Mercado, Secretary de Havilland Aeronautical Technical School Association. Roger was an apprentice at de Havilland's Technical School, Hertfordshire many years ago.

**Derek A Picken.**



Towards the end of 1940 (just after the Battle of Britain) The de Havilland Co. had the feeling that there would develop a very serious shortage of aircraft propeller blade forgings. After repeatedly pressing these views with the authorities, and because of the growing seriousness of the position, the company made an offer to start a forge of their own using their own capital. A scheme to construct their own forge at Rogerstone, near Newport, Monmouthshire, was proposed on 28th Feb 1941. Approval was secured in July 18th 1941 and site work began in August.

The output was originally planned to reach 1000 forgings per month but the company's early anxieties were confirmed for, before the forge got going the Ministry asked for the programme to be expanded and offered capital assistance to this end. The project was increased by stages to 1,250 forgings per month. The first completed forging was delivered in Jan 1942 and from then until VJ day (Victory over Japan) a total of 67,178 forgings had left the works. With some smaller forgings the total output was 2,987 tons. For most of the time a three shift operation was in operation and the total number of employees reached 497. Later with increased efficiency and one shift with only 300 employees working, peak output reached 5,531 blades per month. This figure exceeds by a considerable margin the highest number of blade forgings ever produced in a one month period by any other supplier in the country. It represents an increase of 70% over the output that the DH Forge was planned to provide. This greatly helped the de Havilland propeller production through two and a half very busy years.



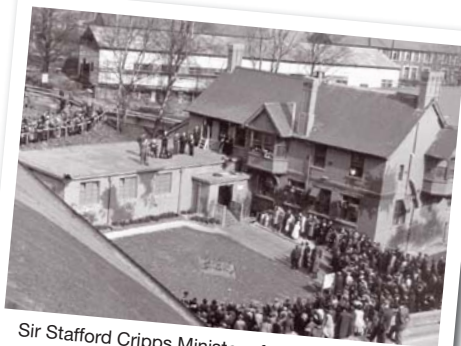
The de Havilland Forge at Rogerstone



The old de Havilland works section top right of photograph



The old de Havilland factory section top left.



Sir Stafford Cripps Minister of Aviation addressing the Northern Aluminium Co Employees

Information and Forge photographs was provided by Roger de Mercado.



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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



Newporter 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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# 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, it's 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](http://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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# PREPARING FOR RETIREMENT WHEN YOU'VE REACHED YOUR HALF CENTURY

When people reach their 50s, they often begin to realise that retirement, in whatever form they decide to take it, suddenly feels an awful lot nearer. If you're in that age group and haven't yet given the prospect much thought, now is a good time to start thinking about the years that lie ahead.

## Plan ahead

When do you envisage starting your retirement? Having an approximate date in mind will help you work out a budget for your later years. Typically, retirees need more money to spend in their active years on things like travel and hobbies. Later in retirement they tend to need less income, with their spending levels likely to increase towards the end of their life if they need residential or nursing care.

## Get a pension check

Now is the time to review your pension arrangements to see if they are on track



to provide the level of retirement income you'll need. At this point, if it looks as if you need to save more to reach your target income, you still have a few years in which to step up your contributions if your earnings will allow.

You should also keep track of any pensions you may have accumulated with past employers and take advice about whether it would be in your best interests to consolidate them into just one plan.

It also makes sense to get a state pension forecast, and to check when you will receive it, as the state pension age is increasing to 67 between 2026 and 2028.

There's a lot to consider in the run-up to retirement; we're here to help.

***If you're making plans for your retirement and would like some professional advice, then please get in touch for a free initial Pension Review.***

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## ADULTS COMPLETE 109 LIFE ADMIN TASKS A YEAR

Most of us have a list of personal admin tasks that need doing, such as paying bills, managing our mortgage, topping up our savings or checking our bank statements. On occasions we can all struggle to get through what seems to be a never-ending 'to do' list.

A recent survey<sup>[1]</sup> shows that the average adult has four important tasks currently pending, but never enough time to do them. These admin tasks include important things like managing their mortgage and reviewing their insurance and savings.

Whilst admin tasks can be a pain, tackling them can be financially rewarding, and give you a sense of achievement and peace of mind that you've finally accomplished them.

## Getting the help you need

Working with an adviser can help you tackle some of those tasks you know you should attend to. We can review your mortgage, tell you if you're saving enough in your pension, help you put the right protection policies in place to protect you and your family, and much more besides.

1. AAT (Association of Accounting Technicians) 2018

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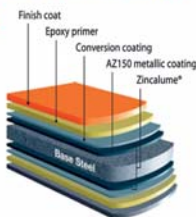
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# Are You Selling Your House in 2019?

**It's 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.



**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  
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# Tredeggar House Folk Festival May 10th, 11th & 12th

## 30 YEARS OF MUSIC AND DANCE

**2019 brings the 30th anniversary for the Tredeggar 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).

Ceilidhs 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 Tredeggar 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 ceilidhs, visit the website:**  
[www.tredeggarhousefestival.org.uk](http://www.tredeggarhousefestival.org.uk)



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# 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**





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### **St John Baptist, Rogerstone**

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### **St Anne, High Cross**

Sunday 9.30am; 11.30am (Time for God – all age service); Thursday 10.00am.

### **Rivermead Centre, Afon Village**

Sunday 3.00pm (2nd Sunday in month). For details of all other services & clergy. Please telephone or see our website

### **Trinity Methodist Church, Rogerstone**

Sunday 10.30am Morning Worship (1st Sunday of month — All-Age Service), 6.00pm Evening Worship. Reverend Gordon Gresswell  
01633 272066

### **Bethesda Baptist Church, Rogerstone**

Sunday 11.00am; 6.00pm  
Pastor Rev Mark Thomas 01633 664742

### **Ebenezer Pentecostal Church, Rogerstone**

Sunday 11.00am; 6.00pm; Tuesday 7.30pm  
Pastor John Forward

### **Saint Basil and Saint Gwladys RC Church, Rogerstone**

Saturday (Vigil Mass) - 6.00pm  
Sunday 11.30 Mass in the Ordinarite Rite  
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Further information, email [newport@rcadc.org](mailto:newport@rcadc.org)  
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### **Faith Community Church,**

Wern Industrial Estate, NP10 9FQ. (opposite Cedric John's). Sunday 10.30am  
Pastors Mike & Helen Taylor 07454 179892  
[www.fcconline.org.uk](http://www.fcconline.org.uk)

### **Cefn Wood Baptist Church, Rogerstone**

Sunday 11.00am  
Pastor: Huw Stephens 01633 891421

### **Christchurch, Old Malpas Road, Malpas**

Sunday 10.30am  
Pastor Pete Greasley 01633 822211  
[office@christchurchnewport.org](mailto:office@christchurchnewport.org)

### **St Mary's Street Baptist Church**

St Mary's Street, Baneswell. Sunday 11.00am (service includes Sunday School). Sunday 6.30pm  
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### **New Life Christian Church**

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### **Stow Park Church Centre, Brynhyfryd Rd, Newport**

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### **Society of Friends (Quakers)**

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## **Grace Baptist Assembly**

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### **St Paul's City Centre Church**

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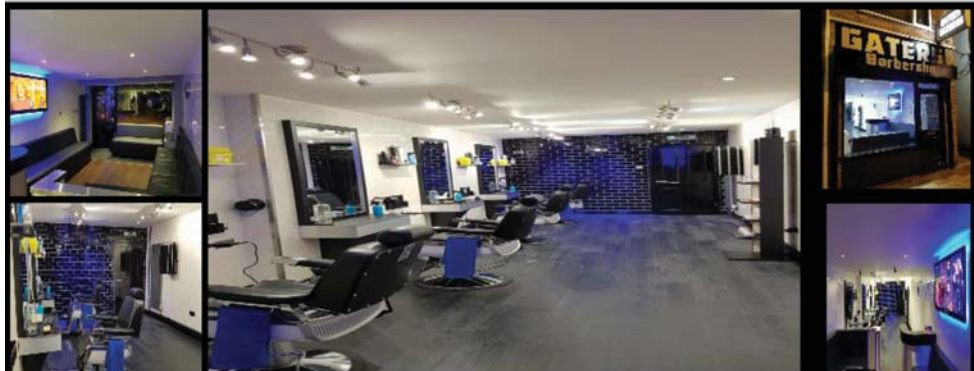


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# Spin offs

At this time of the year it can be difficult to decide what to write about; Christmas and New Year are long gone and yet W.I. has only had a couple of meetings so not too much to report. So, I thought I'd sing the praises, figuratively not literally of some of our extra groups, spin offs from our W.I. These include the Singing for Pleasure Choir, book clubs, craft club, bridge, litter picking and Mah Jong. All these extras have come about because someone has said I quite fancy learning to ...along side these we also run trips to the theatre and outings to places of interest.

The Singing for Pleasure Group began solely as a W.I. venture not just our W.I. but included all the W.I.'s in the Wentloog Group. This is a group of local W.I.'s that interact much as a family would with invitations to each other's special events and outings. This benefits everyone as the smaller groups can join outings that they themselves are unable to finance and others can take the opportunity to go out and about and meet different members and enjoy a huge variety of experiences. Now the group embraces non-members, it meets every Monday at St Anne's Church at 7pm. The group travels to various destinations to sing either for or with other groups and they give wonderful concerts in aid of charity but it is particularly busy in the pre-Christmas period when they sing at St David's Centre in Cardiff and this year or rather last year, they raised almost £1,000 for Breast cancer. If you get the chance to hear them sing don't



pass it by, it really is a treat! Rogerstone Roses run two book clubs thanks to Rogerstone Library, they provide the books and all they ask in return is that post discussion, we fill in a form rating the work and give reasons for our decisions. As a member from its inauguration about ten years ago I can whole heartedly recommend joining something like this, for a start it introduces me to genres that I would never normally choose to read. Ghosts are not my thing nor is science fiction but I have always, with two exceptions, finished the book. The two exceptions were so dire they beggared belief, fortunately

on those two occasions my fellow readers felt the same. On most other occasions discussion can be enlivening and it is always interesting to hear what other members enjoyed or not about a text.

For those of us with an environmental conscience there is litter picking, this small but dedicated team enhance parts of our local area by removing others wanton detritus.

Mah Jong is a small mixed group from Rogerstone and Marshfield, this is an ancient game; played with beautifully decorated tiles a sort of cross between rummy and dominoes. For the princely sum of £1.50 not only do you get to play but coffee and homemade cake is also served - what's not to like?

Bridge, is another of our clubs, an absorbing game for those of us who play. Learning the rules has always reminded me of long forgotten French verbs, there is always a but!

Craft club called Sewcial Circle is our newest club, they meet in the hall on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. This group has a wealth of talent among its members who create very beautiful items. They also have contributed to charitable causes, making and filling many toiletry bags for our local women's refuge.

Theatre trips and outings to places of interest take place throughout the year. And as if this weren't enough, we can join with other W.I.'s in Gwent for a huge range of activities and excursions.

**Liz James**





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## ROGERSTONE

### WEDNESDAY

5.15pm & 7.15pm

Tydu Community Hall

Welfare Grounds

Tel: Janice 07813 286489

## ROGERSTONE

### THURSDAY

9.30am, 11.30am

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7.30pm

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High Cross

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# THE HAIR JUNCTION

## Update

## Exciting news here at the Hair Junction!

We have a new stylist Katie, to add to our hard working team. Katie is fully qualified in all aspects of hairdressing and has eight years salon experience. She is also qualified in hair extensions.

We will be offering this service soon!

We are now a GHD salon, which gives us the training and knowledge to use GHD products and equipment. This enables us to give you your desired look.

As the Hair Junction is a very busy salon and we have added our 6th stylist to our team, we are opening on Mondays starting in March. We hope doing this will expand our clientele and show new clients our creative side.

Check out all of our work including styles created with GHD on our Facebook page – The Hair Junction and on our Instagram – thehairjunction Like & Share!

Thank you for the continued support and kindness shown by all our client's both old and new. Love from Lesley and all the girls from the hair junction.

**Lesley, Carol, Adrienne, Katie, Ashleigh and Katie**

### New Opening Hours

<b>Mon</b> 9.00am - 5.00pm	<b>Tues</b> 9.00am - 5.00pm
<b>Wed</b> 9.00am - 5.00pm	<b>Thurs</b> 9.00am - 7.00pm
<b>Fri</b> 9.00am - 6.00pm	<b>Sat</b> 9.00am - 2.30pm

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# MUSICPAINTING

*Dot Ray in 2015 producing her first ever canvas, 68 years after she left school.*

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This is an opportunity for those retired members of the community to get together, listen to music, chat and drink tea and maybe for the very first time, produce wonderful colourful paintings.

Those taking part will use the inspiration of music to explore shapes and colours on a canvas. They will be delighted at the success this approach to painting brings, even for those who state that 'they can't paint' and have 'no artistic ability.'

The main reason for taking part in musicpainting is to make a person feel good/to improve their overall wellbeing. Parliament reported in July 2017 that one fifth of persons visiting their GP surgeries need interventions of this nature on prescription.

In 2016, workshop leader Shaun Ray devised musicpainting whilst completing his Master of Arts at USW. Since then he has run a weekly painting group at Chepstow Community Hospital. The group is made up of a wide range of retired persons aged from 54 to 97, many of whom are



*Shaun Ray's own musicpainting exhibition at Neville Hall Hospital 2018*



*The musicpainters creating their work at Chepstow Community Hospital*

*The musicpainting display at 'Foxhunters' care home Abergavenny 2019.*



living with a variety of illness such as dementia, stroke, Parkinson's and macular degeneration.

The response to those taking part has been overwhelmingly positive and proven all scientific studies to be correct. It has led to recognition from Monmouthshire Housing, the High Sheriff of Gwent and staff, patients and visitors from the local community as they go about their work, attend hospital clinic appointments or visits to GPs. Aneurin Bevan are now planning to introduce musicpainting sessions on appropriate wards across its health board.

It's not only the process of musicpainting that generates a sense of wellbeing; it's also when sharing the outcomes with the wider community. Recently 38 paintings were purchased for permanent display at 'Foxhunters' a new care home in Abergavenny.

**If enough interest is shown to The Citizens Panel then a new musicpainting group in Rogerstone will start on Friday afternoons, from 2.00pm –**

**4.00pm at Cefn Wood Baptist Church in Thornbury Park.  
To reserve your place  
Tel 07941 909415. The cost will be £5.00 per week (inclusive of refreshments and all art materials).**

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Unlike other companies, we do not take a 'one size fits all' approach to providing care. Instead, we are passionate about delivering a personalised service designed around the needs of each individual customer to support their lifestyle.

## **Our staff**

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.



## 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.

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## JUNIORS Taekwon-Do

Ages 7-13

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## Adults Taekwon-Do

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# Sugarloaf Mountain

**I**t 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.



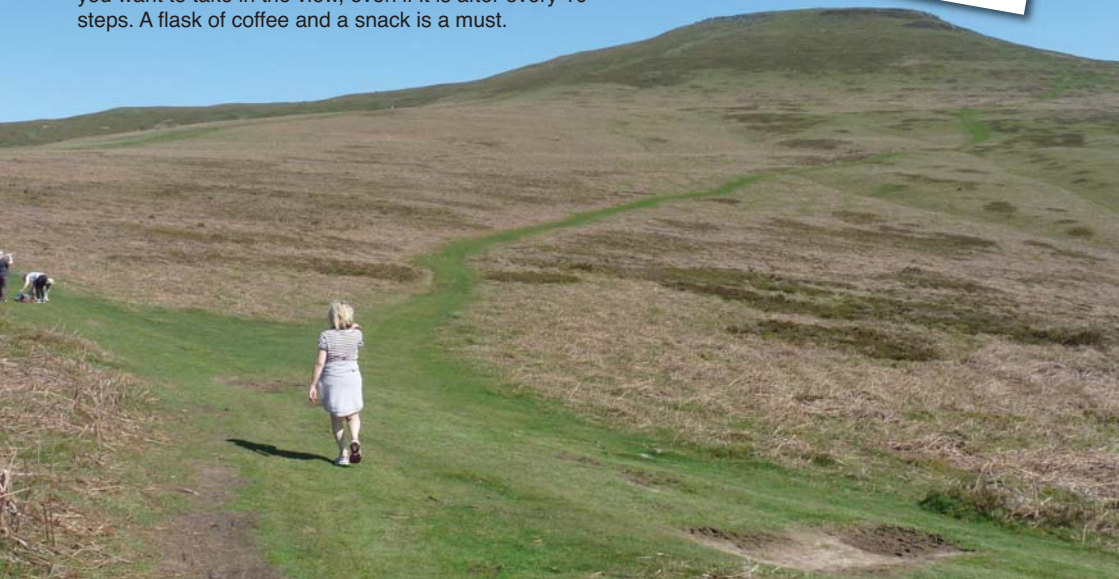
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*January 2019*



*January 2019*



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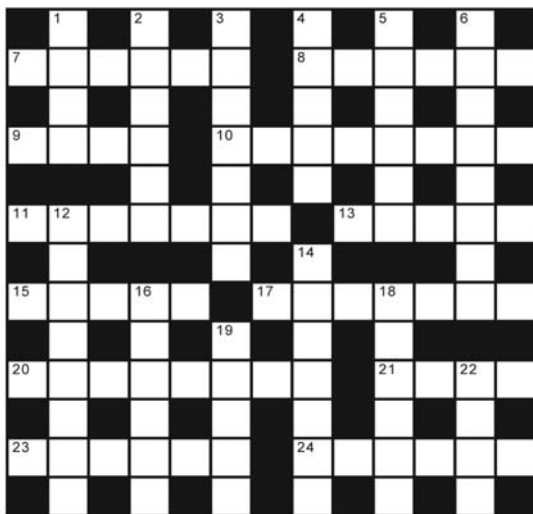
# Crossword

## 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)

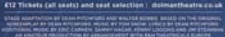
# Sudoku

		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 64

# NEWPORT



**Theatre Enquiries: 01633 263670**

Please let me know if you are involved with a non-profit making organisation and would like your details included on this page or if you have any Dates for the Diary.

Tel: 07725 888070

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# What's On

# What's On

## **Rogerstone Welfare Cricket Club**

For more details contact Derek Picken  
01633 894120 / 07851 863833 or Andrew Trinder  
01633 094657 / 07737 225841

## **28th High Cross Beaver, Cub and Scout Group**

Wednesday 5.00pm-6.00pm Beavers, 6.00pm-7.20pm Cubs 7.20-9.30pm. St Anne's Church Hall, High Cross Lane, High Cross. Turn up on the night or Contact: Stewart Jones 07796348749

## **1st Rogerstone Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers Group**

If you would like information about these groups in Rogerstone please contact:

Paul Smith. Tel No. 07714 582468

Email: [rogerstonescouts@aol.com](mailto:rogerstonescouts@aol.com)

## **Rainbows, Brownies and Guides**

There is a thriving Guiding Community in Rogerstone. To find out more about the various units in Rogerstone.

See [www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested) or telephone 0800 1695901 for details.

## **Sounds Fun**

Friday 10.30-11.30am. Music, fun and dance for babies and pre-school children  
[www.facebook.com/SoundsFunMusicGroup/?fref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/SoundsFunMusicGroup/?fref=ts). Contact: Claire Cowper 01633 895222

## **Head Over Heels Gymnastics**

Pre-School Gymnastics for children from 7mths-4yrs. After School Gymnastics for 4-8 yrs and Cheerleading for 4-10 yrs. 07768 485892  
<http://www.hohgymnastics.co.uk>

## **La Leche of Newport**

La Leche League Groups provide mother-to-mother support by holding regular meetings on various aspects of mothering through breastfeeding. Location details or further information please contact Rhiannon 01633 892505

## **Risca Mini & Juniors RFC U14s**

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

We always welcome new players under 14 years old. Contact Andrew on 07751 033507 for more details.

## **Rogerstone Junior RFC**

We are holding Training Sessions for 10 to 16 year olds on Wednesday evenings, 6.30pm at Newport Fugitives Club, High Cross NP10 9AE. Please contact James on 07919 412221 to join the fun.

## **St. Joseph's (Casnewydd) RFC**

Mini and junior rugby. New players welcome from age 7 to 15. See [www.stjosephsrfc.org.uk](http://www.stjosephsrfc.org.uk) for details or [info@stjosephsrfc.com](mailto:info@stjosephsrfc.com)

## **Whitehead Steelers Junior RFC**

Wednesday and Thursday evenings  
The club is always looking for new players and we welcome both boys and girls aged five years and over. For more information please contact Ryan on 07809 768203

## **Newport Fugitives Cricket Club**

U9s training on a Monday 6.00pm-7.15pm  
U11s & U13s training on a Monday night 6.30pm-7.45pm. U15s training on a Thursday night 5.30pm-7.00pm. Senior training on a Thursday night 6.15pm-8.00pm.  
For more information contact Nigel Pryce on 07974 121326

## **1st Rogerstone Scout Band**

Lowery Hall (The Scout Hut) Rogerstone  
[www.facebook.com/1stRogerstoneScoutBand](http://www.facebook.com/1stRogerstoneScoutBand)  
[www.1strogerstonescoutband.co.uk](http://www.1strogerstonescoutband.co.uk)  
Band Master: Gavin Foley 07739 233164

## **Rogerstone Community Band**

New members welcome. For details contact: Steve Haycox 07977 306011

## **Young Archaeologists' club**

We are a group for young people aged 8-16 and their families. Further details can be found on [www.yac-uk.org](http://www.yac-uk.org)  
Membership secretary: 07747 047909  
Email: [Surfingchick03@hotmail.com](mailto:Surfingchick03@hotmail.com)

## **Cefn Wood Baptist Church, Rogerstone**

Coffee Morning: Monday 10.00am-12noon  
All Welcome

Contact: Rev Bryan Ford 01633 214723

## **Rogerstone Roses W1**

2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month 7.00pm  
St Anne's Church Hall. Contact: Olive Sheward 07954 336098

## **Afon Belles W1**

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday in the month from 7.30pm to 9.00pm at Rivermead Community Centre, Afon Village. For more information please contact Karen Powell on 07870 116546 or email [afonbellesrogerstone@gmail.com](mailto:afonbellesrogerstone@gmail.com)

## **Rhiwderin W.I.**

2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, at 7.30pm, Rhiwderin Village Hall.

We are a friendly, supportive group and warmly welcome new members.

Contact: Linda Hughes on 01633 894042

## **Rogerstone Art Club**

Meets on Thursdays from 11.30am to 2pm every week at Tydu.

We are currently full but have a waiting list for those interested.

Email: [hedwards43@googlemail.com](mailto:hedwards43@googlemail.com)

## **Fourteen Locks Canal & Heritage Centre**

Why not come and join us on one of our regular monthly walks from the Centre, they take place on the first Saturday of each month at 10.00am REGARDLESS OF WEATHER  
Please phone 01633 892167 for details of the next walk

## **Aviation and Air Traffic Control**

If you are interested in aviation, and would like to know more about what goes on in the air above

us every day, why not come along to one of our regular meetings at the Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg? For more information call 01633 213243

### **ROTARY CLUBS**

#### **The Rotary Club of Newport**

Sec: Peter Landers 01633 213049

[www.rotarynewport.org](http://www.rotarynewport.org)

email: [peter\\_landers@hotmail.com](mailto:peter_landers@hotmail.com)

#### **The Rotary Club of Newport Uskmouth**

Sec: Keith Minton 01633 423368

[www.nuws.org.uk](http://www.nuws.org.uk)

email: [keithminton44@gmail.com](mailto:keithminton44@gmail.com)

#### **The Rotary Club of Caerleon**

Sec: Gerry Fulcher 07891 390255

[www.rotary-ribi.org/caerleon](http://www.rotary-ribi.org/caerleon)

email: [gerryfulcher369@gmail.com](mailto:gerryfulcher369@gmail.com)

#### **The Rotary Club of St Woolos Newport**

Sec: Alan Thomas

email: [stwoolosnewport@outlook.com](mailto:stwoolosnewport@outlook.com)

#### **The Rotary Club of Machen**

Sec: Hugh Clatworthy 01633 893919

### **Badminton club**

Rogerstone Primary School every Tuesday and Friday 7-9pm.

All ages welcome, for details:

Gary: 07967 146332

Linda: 07952 583827

[lindajdaniels@btinternet.com](mailto:lindajdaniels@btinternet.com)

Twitter: @PonthirBadders

Facebook: Ponthir Badminton

### **Legs Bums & Tums, Zumba, Pilates**

Rivermead Centre, Afon Village, Welfare Grounds,

Rogerstone. For further information call Michelle:

07957 267977

### **Tai Chi**

Tydu Community Hall, Rogerstone NP10 9EQ

Monday 7.15pm. Contact Bill James

07814 571247

Email: [bill.james@live.co.uk](mailto:bill.james@live.co.uk)

### **Indoor Short Green Bowls Club**

Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg

Mon 7.00pm-9.00pm

Tues 10.00am-12.00pm

Thurs 10.00-12.00pm

Contact: K. Davis 01633 896015

D. Martyn 01633 892659

### **Newport Indoor Bowling Centre**

The Glebeland, Bank Street

Contact 01633 264343

[www.newportindoorbowls.co.uk](http://www.newportindoorbowls.co.uk)

### **Welsh Folk Dancing Group**

Thursdays 8.00pm-10.00pm

Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg

Beginners & Experienced dancers welcome

Telephone 01495 271953 for details or

just turn up

### **Sequence Dancing**

Monday 8.00pm. St Margaret's Church Hall, Risca.

MC's Paul & Bella.

Contact 01633 612823 for more details

### **Line Dance Class for all levels**

7.00pm every Monday. Bassaleg & Rogerstone

Social Club. Tel 01633 262796 .

### **Old Time and Modern Sequence Dancing**

Friday 8.00pm. Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg  
Come along and our MCs, Bella and Paul, will help you make a start.

### **Sequence Dance Club**

St Basil's Church Hall, Bassaleg.

(parking next to Junction 28 Restaurant).

Fridays 8.00pm-10.00pm.

New members very welcome.

For more details call

Geoff or Maureen on 07802 934402

### **Alcan Singers**

Wednesdays 7.30pm

Rogerstone and Bassaleg Social Club (Alcan Club)

Tom Claridge 01495 231761

### **Nostalgia Music Society**

Rogerstone & Bassaleg Social Club, Tregwilym

Road, Rogerstone. 4th Wednesday of every month

at 7.15pm. Admission £2.00

Further details from Dave Davies 01633 891711

Email: [glyntaff2011@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:glyntaff2011@hotmail.co.uk)

### **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](http://www.riscachoir.net)

### **Newport Folk Club**

Every Thursday 8.45 at Newport Fugitives

Athletic Club, High Cross

Contact Malcolm Charnley on 07973 278932

### **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](mailto:newportorchestra@hotmail.com) or visit the website

[www.newportorchestra.co.uk](http://www.newportorchestra.co.uk)

### **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](http://www.christchurchmusicsociety.co.uk)

### **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](http://www.gwentchorale.com)

### **The Adams Chorale**

Is a mixed choir of 48 voices, we sing everything

from the Renaissance through Rutter to Rhythm

and Blues. Rehearsals are held on Tuesday 7.30-

9.30pm at Trinity Methodist Church, Glasllwch

Lane. For more details please contact David Owen

01633 662331 or Chris Purkiss 01633 422051

### **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 de-

tails please contact [timms.alice@gmail.com](mailto:timms.alice@gmail.com)

# What's On

Please let me know if you are involved with a non-profit making organisation and would like your details included on this page or if you have any Dates for the Diary.  
Tel: 07725 888070  
Email: [contact@swdirectories.co.uk](mailto:contact@swdirectories.co.uk)



## Risca U3A

for retired & unemployed people.  
Risca Youth Centre, Lyne Road  
Daily activities & Monthly Social Afternoon  
on last Thursday of the Month at 2.00pm  
We Warmly Welcome New Members  
Please Contact for more details  
Mrs I Davies 01633 850095

## Ridgeway and Allt-yr-yn Community Centre

MONDAY - OAP Keep Fit 2pm-4pm  
Pray Meeting 7.30pm-8pm  
TUESDAY - Art Class 10am-4.30pm  
WEDNESDAY - Patch Work & Quilting 1pm-3pm  
Sewing Class 7pm-9pm  
THURSDAY - Yoga Class 9.45am-11.15am  
For more details call Helen on 07973 534483  
French Class 7pm-9pm, Bible Reading 7.30pm-8.30pm  
FRIDAY - Pilates 10.00am-12.00pm  
Sewing Class 12.30pm-4.30pm  
SUNDAY - Bible Reading 11.00am-12.00pm  
Gospel Meeting 4.30pm-5.15pm  
Hall can be hired for children's parties, receptions and meetings  
For more information email Malcolm Schulz:  
malcolmschulze@viginmedia.com or come to the Centre any Wednesday

## Western Valley Camera Club

Thursday evening in the Dudley Suite, Cross Keys Rugby Club. (Pandy Park, Woodward Avenue, Cross Keys NP11 7BS) at 7.30pm. For further information please go to the club website - [www.westernvalley.co.uk](http://www.westernvalley.co.uk)

## MERCHED Y WAWR CASNEWYDD A'R CYLCH

(for Welsh Speakers & Learners)  
Dewch aton ni i fwynhau gweithgareddau amrywiol.  
Yr ail nos lau 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

## 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. [www.riscamuseum.org.uk](http://www.riscamuseum.org.uk)  
Contact Brian Absolon 01633 264819

## 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

## Newport and County Horticultural Society

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

## 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

## Book Club

Last Tuesday in the month at 2.30pm - Just turn up at the Hand Post Pub.  
Contact: Daphne Shirley 01633 257796

## Newport Reading Group

Tuesday 7.00pm-8.30pm  
Ye Old Murrenger Inn, High Street, Newport  
Please see our blog  
([www.thenewportreadinggroupblog.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.thenewportreadinggroupblog.blogspot.co.uk))  
for information the group and contact details

## Friends of Newport's Ornamental Parks

The group has a membership of almost a hundred. 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](http://www.fonop.org.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

## Whist Club

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

## 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](mailto: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

## Oxford House Museum

Open every Saturday from 10am to 12.30pm

## 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 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](http://www.newportu3a.org.uk).

## Bedwas & Trethomas Bridge Club

Looking for new members. Thursday 7:00-9:30pm. All standards welcome. Contact John: 07855 200525



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[www.wtlaminates.co.uk](http://www.wtlaminates.co.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...**

**I**n 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



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

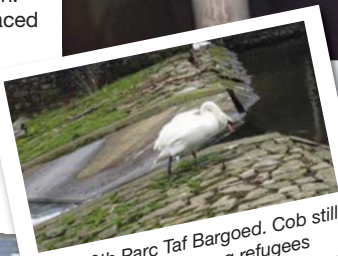
seemed to be associated with the wing joints, which in a human, would have been its elbows. There appeared to be some form of constraint preventing the wings from stretching to their full extent. We picked up this bird on 30th November, and transferred it to the Swan Sanctuary (Shepperton) about a week 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

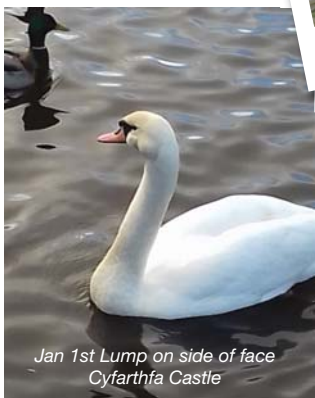
about. This was removed surgically and the bird is now doing well. Finally, for the time being at



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**



Flightless cygnet Cyfarthfa Castle

# Sgwd y Pannwr



The 'fall of the fuller' or 'fall of the woollen washer' is the lowermost of the three celebrated falls on the Mellt, which is within the Waterfall Country in the Forest Fawr section of the Brecon Beacons National Park.

It is well worth visiting this beautiful waterfall and enjoying the wonders of nature all around. It only takes just over one hour to drive to the waterfall car park from Newport and then about a one hour walk from the car park to the waterfall.

The Waterfall Wanderer.

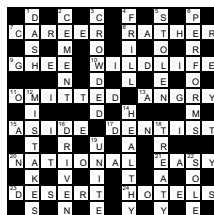
## GWENT CHORALE

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](http://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 Healthy, 16 Driven, 18 Treaty, 19 Unite, 22 Sole.

## NEW BEGINNINGS COMMUNITY GROUP



Cefn Wood Baptist Church Hall  
Ebenezer Drive Rogerstone  
Thursdays from 1.00pm – 3.00pm  
**March 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**April 4<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>**

A warm welcome awaits you and a nice 'cuppa' too!  
For more information call 01633 891579

## 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





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# LLANSANTFFRAED AND THE NARES FAMILY

## (Part 5)

We will now continue discussing the Naval career of George Strong Nares, following his progress after his 1869 transit of the Suez Canal, which so upset the French nation.

As previously related he was promoted to Captain in December 1869, then commanding *HMS Shearwater* (1871 – 1872) he continued hydrographical work. This included an oceanographic research of the sea currents around Gibraltar. This experience lead to him being next appointed to *HMS Challenger*, a steam assisted 2,306 ton corvette, which was sent on a three year voyage circumnavigating the world carrying out oceanographic exploration.

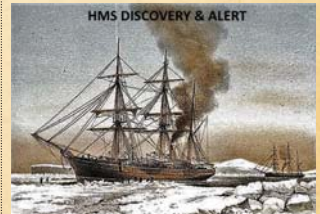
This voyage was the first time that the world's oceans were systematically investigated for scientific purposes. The crew included a team of civilian scientists as well as officers experienced as naval surveyors. *Challenger* spent the first year in the Atlantic, then in 1874, travelling between Cape Town and Australia, she investigated in a southerly direction visiting Marion, Kerguelon and the Heard islands. She next ventured south as far as 66° 40' S, 78° 22' E, where ice prevented further progress. *Challenger* became the first steam-propelled vessel to cross the Antarctic Circle.

On this voyage Nares took his nine year old son, William Grant Nares with him, accompanied by a tutor,

Adam Ebbels, who unfortunately died later in the voyage. Another unique feature of the expedition was the innovative extensive use of photography as a means of recording records, which ensured it a place in history. Nares published a two volume book in 1878, entitled '*Voyage to the Polar Sea*', which is now highly valued for its early photographs.

In 1874, Nares was recalled and appointed to command the *Alert* and *Discovery* vessels during the British Arctic Expedition. He was an ideal choice for this because of his past experience in both Arctic and Antarctic expeditions. He was then in the prime of his life and one of the most experienced surveyors existing at that time. The ships attempted to reach the North Pole by sailing into the Arctic

Ocean, via Smith Sound, which separated Greenland from Ellesmere Island. This attempt failed and the *Alert* only managed to reach Floeberg Beach at 82° N, on the north-east tip of Ellesmere Island, one of the highest Northern Latitudes reached at that date.



This voyage lasted 18 months but was blighted by an outbreak of the highly dreaded disease – scurvy. This outbreak, particularly amongst sledging parties, became so severe that it was decided to make an early return in autumn 1876. This decision probably saved many lives amongst those affected. Nares was severely criticised for





allowing scurvy to develop, he pointed out that he had regularly issued rations of lime juice the recognised preventive. It was later discovered that it had been boiled before being bottled to enhance the storage. The boiling caused the loss of much of the vitamin 'C' content, making it practically useless.

Nares was made a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1875 and in 1877 awarded the gold medal of the Royal Geographic Society and also the Société de Géographie de Paris. In 1876 he was knighted by Her Majesty Queen Victoria, then in 1878 he was appointed again to the *Alert* to carry out further surveying work in the Magellan Strait. After one season, he was recalled and appointed Marine Adviser to the Board of Trade. He served in the Harbour Department from 1879 to 1896. He was a Conservator of the River Mersey

from 1896 to 1910. He officially retired from active Naval service in 1886.

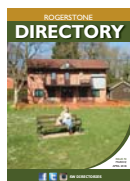
Nares was made a Rear Admiral in 1887 and placed on the retired list of Vice Admirals in 1892. One point of interest is that Nares was a member of the 'Ship Committee' for Captain Scott's ill-fated Antarctic expedition. Nares died in 1915 and his wife, Mary Grant, in 1905. He was buried at Long Ditton Churchyard on the 19th January 1915. Two of his sons also entered the Royal Navy and one of them, Vice Admiral John Dodd Nares (1877 to 1957), became Assistant Hydrographer and Director of the International Hydrographic Bureau at Monaco. Nares certainly left his mark on the world's geography because his name was so frequently used in naming many of the regions that he encountered. Examples of this are *Nares Harbour* in the

Admiralty Islands, *Nares Deep* in the North Atlantic, two Capes in the Canadian Arctic, *Nares Land* in northern Greenland, *Nares Strait* between Ellesmere Island and Greenland and *Mount Nares* in Victoria Land in the Antarctic, etc. etc..  
(The End)



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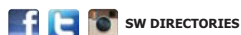


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