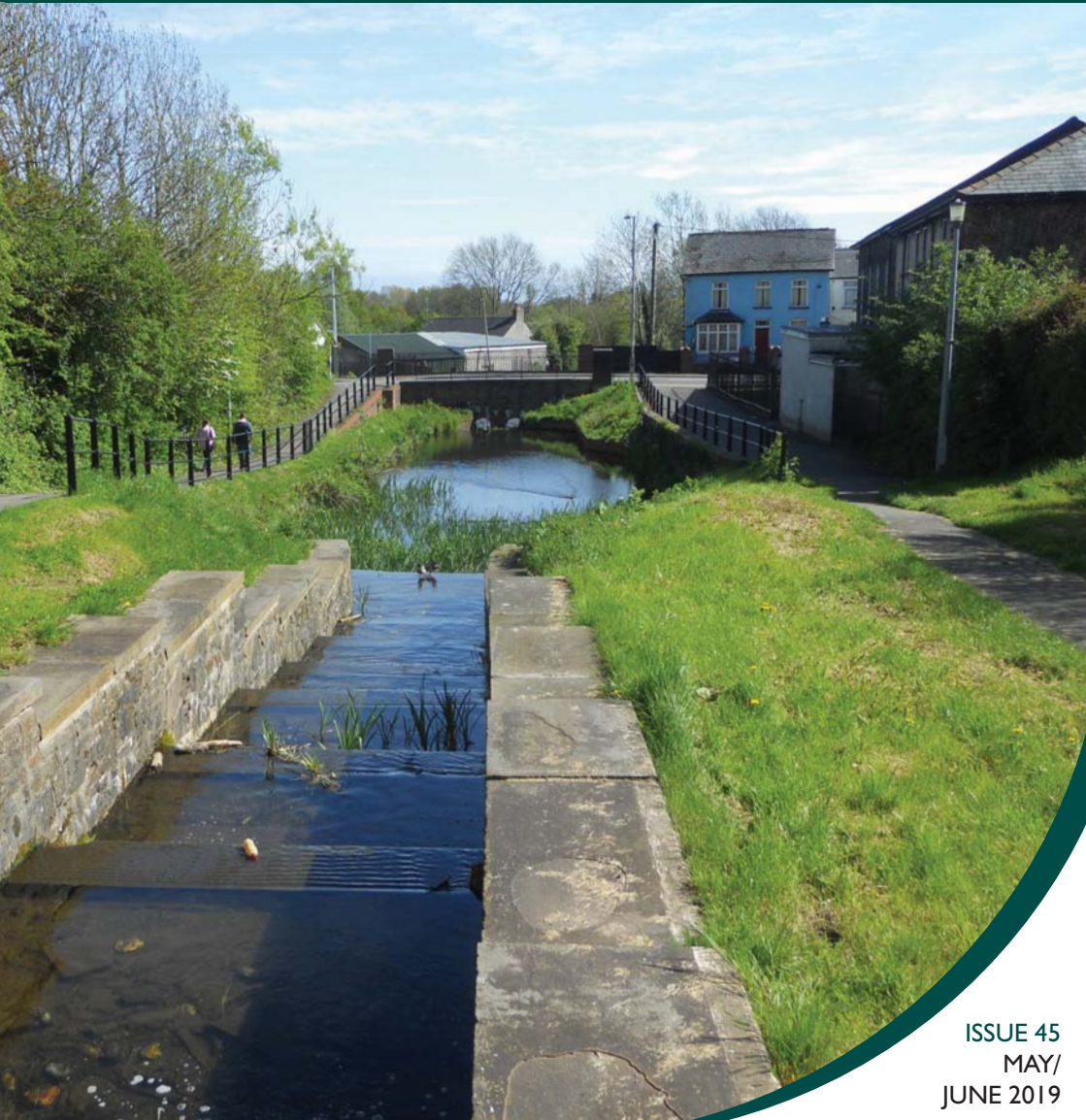


HENLLYS

# DIRECTORY



ISSUE 45  
MAY/  
JUNE 2019



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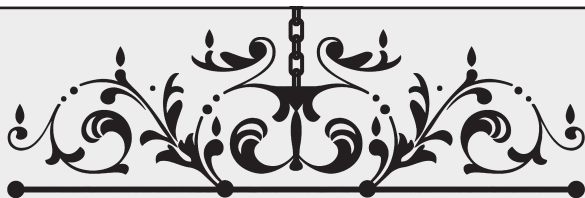
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Note that I said 'historic' – it's amazing how many people don't realise its historical significance. So this year CTS has arranged to erect signs to remind people that the hillfort at the summit of Twmbarlwm is, in fact, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM). As the signs say, Twmbarlwm is considered to be of National Importance and is protected by the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979* and updated by the *Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016*.

## But what exactly is "Scheduling"?

"Scheduling" is the UK's oldest form of heritage protection. It began in 1913, although its roots go as far back as 1882 when through the Ancient Monuments Protection Act, a 'Schedule' of mainly prehistoric monuments deserving of state protection was first compiled. Twmbarlwm was added to the list in 1939.

In Wales, "Scheduling" is the responsibility of Cadw (the Welsh word for 'keep') an Executive Agency within the Welsh Government.

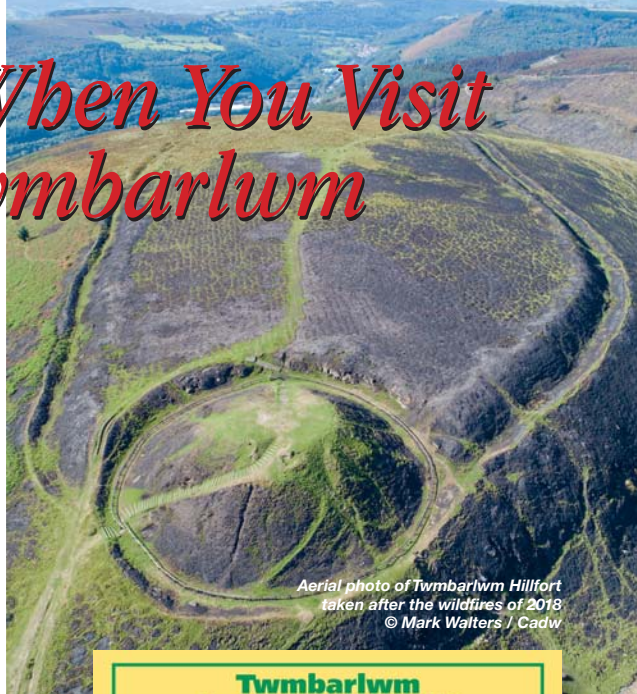
The term "Ancient Monument" is applied to a wide variety of archaeological sites. From ancient burial sites and standing stones to the far more prominent and well known medieval castles and abbeys.

At the other end of the spectrum, there are industrial remains which continued in use into the twentieth century. Indeed the eastern edge of the Mynydd Maen ridge way at Penyrheol and Cwm Llickey is also classified as a SAM because of its rich industrial heritage.

The aim of scheduling is to ensure the long-term preservation of a site. Any proposal to carry out works at a SAM which might have the effect of damaging it must be approved by Cadw. Even if the works are beneficial to the monument, Scheduled Monument Consent must be applied for – a thorough process that CTS has been involved with several times.

The full extent of SAM designation cannot be explained in such a short article and I would advise you to visit the Cadw website ([www.cadw.gov.wales](http://www.cadw.gov.wales)) for more details.

For the casual visitor to the site you should remember the basic rules such as: Take all litter home with you; Do not light fires or barbecues; Do not damage undergrowth or structures; Do not dig into the ground surface.



Aerial photo of Twmbarlwm Hillfort taken after the wildfires of 2018  
© Mark Walters / Cadw

**Twmbarlwm**  
Mound and Bailey Castle (MM044)





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The ground surface of this area is very fragile after the wildfires of 2018 – please respect this area while it recovers naturally.

[www.cadw.gov.wales](http://www.cadw.gov.wales)

Motorised vehicles are forbidden and the riding of horses and bicycles is not allowed.

Also, metal detectorists should note that it is an offence to use a metal detector on a SAM without prior consent from Cadw and the landowner.

However, a general rule of thumb might be – if you wouldn't do it at Cardiff Castle, Stonehenge or Tintern Abbey, then don't do it to Twmbarlwm.

Finally, please remember that at the moment the ground surface on Twmbarlwm is still extremely fragile after last year's wildfires, **so please respect the landscape and give the area time to recover naturally.**

Terry C. Evans, Chairman CTS

**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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# A Simple Plea

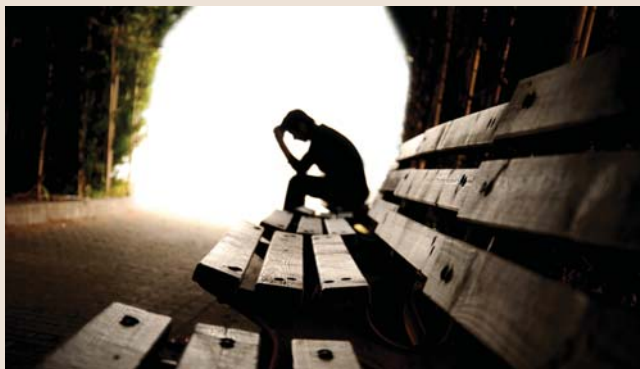
By Paul Minton

**In my regular articles for the Directories, I always endeavour to recount a story with a local flavour, preferably one laced with jokes and quirky asides. I will not do so on this occasion as I have a simple plea to make. But first, I want to tell you about one of my dearest friends.**

I met Rick at university: we lived in the same halls of residence, me on the top floor and he on the ground. I can't even recall how I got to know him but Rick was at ease talking to everyone. As he got older, his waistline might have expanded and his hair might have abandoned its coppery flame of youth but his sense of fun and infectious enthusiasm remained undiminished. He was loved and respected by all, including my parents who, I am sure, would have liked to have adopted him!

After graduating, Rick moved around with work but he was regular visitor to our home in Newport, often dropping in on his way down to the West Country where his family lived or en route to Cardiff if he had meetings there. He drove a red Chrysler for many years, which he christened "Scarlet O'Cara" and he would frequently bring along some of his delicious homemade bara brith: another reason why I always looked forward to seeing him.

Rick worked for various environmental organisations and was also a volunteer for different charities, often making long drives across Europe to Romania in order to deliver donated supplies. Each



Christmas Day would be spent, in part, at a homeless shelter that provided hot dinners for those in need. He was also a magistrate and on one occasion, I had the pleasure of watching him in action. Once the court was in session, this gentle giant, who would more likely than not, greet you with a big bear hug, became a formidable presence. Defendants and solicitors quivered as Rick unleashed withering reprimands but as soon as we were outside together, he reverted to his normal, placid demeanour, much like the Hulk shrinking back into Bruce Banner.

As if to counterbalance his enviable accomplishments, Rick lost his mum when he was still in his twenties and more recently, his father suffered a stroke and lived in a nursing home. Having no siblings, Rick sold his own property and moved back to the family house to be closer to his dad. When I saw him last, he mentioned finding it difficult dealing with his dad's condition but he quickly steered us into more light-hearted waters. It was a

momentary glimpse beneath his happy-go-lucky exterior but the thing about Rick was that he was a very private person, never wanting to burden anyone with his own problems.

His dad died earlier this spring and tragically, Rick took his own life the same week. He was 48 years old. It is particularly tragic that Rick had given so much support to those with mental health issues but when he needed it most, we - his friends - were oblivious. So I have an appeal to make. No matter how bad things get, whether there is a personal tragedy, a relationship breakdown, financial worries, or concerns about exams, it is crucial to talk to someone before doing something that cannot be undone. Similarly, if you are aware of somebody who might be at risk, don't wait to be asked for help. It is better to offer and be refused than to delay and discover it's too late to intervene. There was never a more beloved, cheerful, and outgoing character as Rick and if it can happen to him, then given the right circumstances, we are all at risk.



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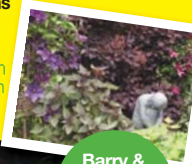
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## Sudoku

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

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 18



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## A New Slant on Territorial Disputes – Warring Cygnets

Even after almost 40 years of involvement with swans, we continue to be surprised by some of the things which happen. On 7th March it was reported from the Pond at Brynmawr (overlooked by Asda), that the 5 cygnets were under pressure from the adults. At this time of year, with the start of the new breeding season just round the corner this is normal; the adult male in particular is serving notice on the young birds that it is time to leave. Failure to do so is potentially fatal.

The following day, on arrival at Brynmawr, all was peaceful, except that, by this time, there were only four cygnets. Over the years we have had significant involvement at the nearby Machine Pond so we decided it was worth checking to see what if anything was going on there. Good job we did, as we were met with an extraordinary situation. Clearly, this is the territory of another swan family into which, it appears the missing 'Asda' cygnet had strayed, but there was only one adult present, assumed, based on our observations from some distance, to be a female. The intruder had been chased up onto the far bank by one, quickly followed by another of the resident cygnets. The intensity of the chase increased as all three birds re-entered the water, and were fast coming our way. Very soon, we lost sight of them as they beached on the near shore somewhere far below us at the bottom of a very steep bank. Clearly it was time to intervene. Equipped with just a swan hook



*Machine Pond intruder released at The Knap*

and a swan wrap, the descent of the bank was a hazardous business, it being both steep and slippery in places, combined with the fear of a turned ankle or worse. Approaching the bottom, there was no obvious sign of swans, apart from the adult

and two cygnets on the water, but the immediate view was restricted by a number of gorse bushes near the water's edge. And then, one's eye was caught by sizeable smudges of grey and white under one of those bushes. The feeling of something approaching panic was all too apparent as it was not at all clear it would be possible to intervene effectively, especially as the terrain was pretty challenging. Somehow we managed to move to the far side of the bush to discover one cygnet on top of the other and gripping its neck in its beak. They separated on my appearance, the assailant escaping onto the water, and the victim secured by the swan hook. Phew!!!! What a relief!

Despite the ferocity of what had happened, the cygnet we had



*Machine Pond, Brynmawr. Residents retiring having 'seen off' intruding cygnet*

caught seemed unhurt, and from long experience, we do know they are very resilient, with what seem like almost immediate powers of recovery. We have no doubt therefore we did the right thing in taking him for release at The Knap in Barry. Almost immediately, he was surrounded at close quarters by a bevy of mainly juveniles, but a couple of adults as well; all very friendly, so this combined with the witnessing of a cygnet on cygnet attack was a totally new experience for us. You can never tell what's going to happen next!

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

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# Gwerinwyr Gwent Diary

On Wednesday 6th March we had our first booking of 2019 (nothing on St David's day this year which is most unusual). This took place at Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed (Newport's first Welsh medium secondary school), and came about as a result of an email from L'Ecole d'Education Internationale de Laval, near Montreal in Canada to the Welsh Folk Dance Society. A group of 62 students (16-17 years old) and five teachers was visiting the UK, including a two day visit to Wales, and they were keen to watch and take part in some Welsh dancing.

Under the auspices of Gwyl Plant Gwent (the children's dance festival involving schools established by GG members in 1981), the visit to Ysgol Gwent Is Coed was arranged. With the help of the head teacher and pupils of the school, a programme was put together by Barbara Griffiths to give the Canadians a 'flavour of Wales'. This started with pupils giving their visitors a tour of the school, followed by refreshments and a short power point presentation about the landscape and famous places of Wales. Then they were treated to a demonstration of clog dancing by Mr James (maths teacher), a pupil harp quartet and a Welsh language solo. GG gave a display of some traditional Welsh folk dances, and finally a mini



twmpath with GG demonstrating the dances and the Canadian and Gwent Is Coed students joining in enthusiastically. We didn't have to encourage them onto the floor, the 14-17 year olds were up on their feet, eager to join in and determined to enjoy themselves and it certainly looked as though they did! They were returning to Canada on the following Saturday and we hope they left the UK with happy memories of their time in Wales.

Our next booking was Monday 25th March at Lodge Farm Church in Caerleon where, dare I say it, the age group was at the other end of the spectrum! This was a reprise of an evening put together by Barbara Griffiths telling the story of Gwerinwyr Gwent and Welsh

folk dancing, made up of dance displays interspersed with the audience guessing what was inside a series of boxes by answering clues read out by GG dancers. At the end there was time for just one easy ceilidh dance for those who wanted to join in. March was a busy month, as on 31st March we paid our annual visit to Llanover for the NGS open garden day. It is always a lovely event and raises such a lot of money for charity. The weather was dry although very cold, but that didn't stop people flooding in. We were again joined by the Lloyd family, so had a super band of musicians (they were frozen), and a lot of people watched and enjoyed our performances. We had some very nice feedback. Gwerinwyr Gwent is always seeking new members, and beginners or experienced dancers/musicians are very welcome. Practice night is Thursday 8pm-10pm at the Graig Community Hall Bassaleg, opposite the Ruperra pub.







Picture shows Tristone Iris Worktops recently fabricated and installed by WT Laminates

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## Usk New Start Cat Rescue

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

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Please friend us on Facebook;  
Usk New Start Cat Rescue

## Sudoku Solution

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

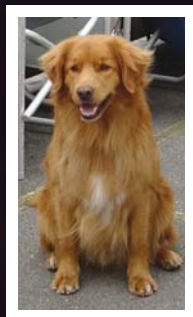
## Missing Dog

*Archie*

Archie is a Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, a smaller version of a golden retriever except ginger and a white flash on his chest. Archie went missing 10th March from Sirhowy Country Park, where he was swept down river. He has been seen several times since in Crosskeys and latterly 26th and 27th March in Cwmcarn by the park and the mountain.

Please phone 01495 271181, 07738 001950 or through [www.facebook.com/heatherjohnstone.buckingham](https://www.facebook.com/heatherjohnstone.buckingham) if you have any information.

Thank you for looking for him, your help is appreciated.



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