

# BASSALEG & RHIWDERIN

# DIRECTORY



ISSUE 76  
JULY/  
AUGUST 2019



SW DIRECTORIES

# Welcome!

A big thank you to all the community groups who kindly responded to our recent email regarding the *What's On* pages. A full list of local events, activities and groups are now available on our website - [swdirectories.com](http://swdirectories.com).

We are a small independent business and make a huge effort to produce and deliver the magazines to as many people as possible, it takes a great deal of commitment and dedication to keep the production going and we always value and appreciate the positive feedback we receive.

Our aim is to provide an informative and interesting magazine that positively contributes to both community life and local businesses.

We rely totally on the revenue from the advertising to keep the magazine in production and need local businesses to support us as much as they possibly can. Please get in touch if you would like to advertise with us.

Advertising in the Directories has proved successful for so many of our advertisers, some have been with us since the very first magazine in May 2006.

**A huge thank you to all our advertisers - we are grateful for all your support.**

Best wishes

Susan  
x



**Advertising enquiries:**

**Telephone Leslie on 07725 888070 or 01633 892771  
or email [contact@swdirectories.co.uk](mailto:contact@swdirectories.co.uk)**

**COPY DEADLINE FOR THE SEPT / OCT EDITION - TUESDAY 30th JULY**

Editor: Susan Woolford

Sales & Distribution: Leslie Woolford

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## Any problems or issues in the Graig Ward?



*Contact  
Councillor*

**David  
Williams**

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# Gwerinwyr Gwent Diary

On Friday 12th April, a group of six dancers and three musicians travelled to the Mercure Holland House Hotel and Spa in Cardiff. This was to provide entertainment at the gala dinner for international delegates attending the Biofeedback Federation CIC conference. The conference is held in a different country every two years, and the organisers try to include examples of local culture. We put on a couple of displays in between courses, and when the meal had been cleared away, taught a few simple ceilidh dances on the small dance floor to those delegates who stayed up (it was quite a late night).

Our next big event was Saturday 11th May at the 30th anniversary Tredegar House Folk Festival. We danced three spots, one in each of the dance marquees plus one outside in the Cotyledon food and craft market. The weather was fine and sunny thank goodness, and the market (only there on the Saturday) was a nice addition to the festival. It is hoped that next year it will be onsite both Saturday and Sunday. Czech dance side Matenik from Prague was the international dance team, they are always energetic with colourful costumes, and with Hevva from Cornwall and many other local and English dance teams, (26 in all) they took part in the free dance displays over two days. The concerts were bigger and better than ever, with Welsh folk award winners Alaw and Calan headlining on Saturday and Sunday respectively. There was also a free concert and two open mic sessions for music lovers. The daily processions added



music and colour and there were workshops, impromptu and organised music sessions, a children's entertainer, craft stalls, food vans, and of course real ale and lager/soft drink bars. The following weekend we appeared at another festival, this time in Bradford-on-Avon. We danced two years ago at the inaugural BoA Day of Dance and were looking forward to a return in 2018, when the organisers realised the date clashed with the royal wedding of Harry and Meghan, they reluctantly decided to cancel the event knowing few people would be there. Happily,

renamed as the BoA Green Man Festival, it was reinstated this year. Participating teams are mainly drawn from the three types of Morris dancing with a few other dance styles thrown in for contrast. Bradford-on-Avon is a very pretty town and there were plenty of people sitting in the park and outside cafes watching the dancing. It is hoped the festival will grow in size year on year.

## Gwerinwyr Gwent would love to recruit some new dancers, especially men!

Welsh dance steps are basic and few, it is just the patterns of the dances that need to be learned. We would also be delighted to welcome extra musicians to join our little band. Practice night is Thursday 8-10pm at the Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg (opposite the Ruperra Arms). Either just come along, ring 01495 271953 for more details, or check out our website [www.gwerinwyrghwent.org.uk](http://www.gwerinwyrghwent.org.uk) or Facebook page.



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# Luftwaffe Drop Bombs and Leaflets on Rogerstone

## 'Hitler's Last Appeal to Reason'

During two Luftwaffe bombing raids over South Wales on the evening of Saturday, 3rd August 1940, one stray aircraft dropped a quantity of propaganda leaflets over Rogerstone: the leaflets were printed English copies of a speech given by Adolf Hitler before members of the Reichstag, Berlin, on 19th July 1940.

## An Early Warning

There were two early siren warnings during the late hours of that Saturday evening, the second warning lasting about three-quarters of an hour. In due course the sound of high flying aircraft could be heard overhead and the pilots received a 'warm' reception for the night sky above Rogerstone was soon lit by the flashes of anti-aircraft guns and searchlights.

As the bombing raid abated, Rogerstone residents once again heard a warning siren and again fearing another air-raid that night sort safe shelter. A stray aircraft was seen flying overhead and the residents later reported to the authorities of seeing 'bombs' dropping but hearing no explosions!

The following morning local police and air-raid wardens, while investigating possible damage to local properties, discovered propaganda leaflets littered about the district. One leaflet was caught in a tree branch and the Argus reported: *'there was competition for this copy'*.



## A Last Appeal

The leaflets dropped and collected were each of four pages measuring 12 inches by 18 inches. The cover page was headlined: *'A Last Appeal to Reason by Adolph Hitler: - A Speech before the Reichstag, 19th July, 1940.'*

One bale of leaflets had failed to open and nearby there were slats of wood held by strands of wire used to hold the bundle of leaflets together. In another local district, leaflets were scattered in fields and hedgerows while in Exeter a quantity of leaflets fell on a sewage farm.

A railway employee, working a night-shift at the marshalling yards close to Rogerstone's aluminium works, recalls a bale of leaflets crashing onto the roof of a 'gangers' shed located near the rail-sidings. The bale of propaganda leaflets landed heavily, crashing through the tin roof and rebounding off the shoulder of a workmate who was sheltering in the shed. It

was recorded that the 'ganger' suffered from mild shock and bruising but soon recovered to continue his duties.

Local police and military personnel hurriedly scoured the district in an attempt to collect and destroy the leaflets before they were read by the local populace. Quick-action by Rogerstone's residents and railway-yard workers had hurriedly spent Sunday morning souvenir-hunting by climbing trees and walking the hedgerows in order to add the collected leaflets to their wartime scrapbooks.

## For the Benefit of War Charities

Some days later the South Wales Argus reported two postmen had also collected propaganda leaflets only to advertise and sell the leaflets to souvenir hunters. The twenty-five shillings proceeds were donated to the British War Charity!

Not to be outdone, leaflets dropped over Rogerstone were collected by residents and later sold by Lady Seager from a stall on the roadside outside her home at Castleton. It was reported that a considerable sum of money was raised to support the Newport and Cardiff Spitfire Fund.

A leaflet dropped on Rogerstone during the night of 3rd August, 1940, can be viewed in the War Room entrance at Risca Museum which is open every Saturday from 10am to 12.30pm.

Leaflet recovered by the late Mr. Reginald Parsons. Donated by Mr. Alan Parsons to Risca Museum.  
Article written by Malc Johnson.

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## Places of Worship

See our website for a full list of local church services and activities.

[www.swdirectories.com](http://www.swdirectories.com)

## What's On



See our website for a full list of what's on locally.

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### Local Bus Information

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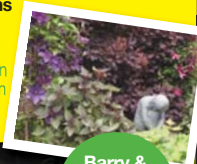
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# Newport U3A's Music Groups

## Newport U3A has several musical groups.

A Ukulele Group was instigated only a few years ago and has grown so much in ability and size that there are now three groups - Beginners, Improvers and a Technical Class.

Ukulele Daze is a band formed by members and it is available to perform at social and public events. It has had many engagements and raised a lot of funds for Saint David's Hospice Care.

Playing the ukulele doesn't need prior musical knowledge to get started. It is increasingly popular in schools so it could be just the thing for keeping up with the grandchildren!

All That Jazz Group's Convenor, Greg, has had over 60 years experience of playing live Jazz.



For each session he chooses a themed programme of recordings to explore Jazz from its roots in New Orleans to Swing, Latin and through to the more Modern.

He also organises a regular live lunchtime session as he is able to call upon his musical associates to form some great little bands for the

entertainment of all our members.

Greg is also an accomplished artist with a wicked sense of humour, as you can see from his illustration for an advertising poster here.

Who would have thought that our U3A had so many 'Cool Cats'?

Anyone interested can have a two week taster before committing to join.

### Date for your Diary -

Come along to our Annual Open Day at Shaftesbury Street Methodist Church on Thursday 15th August from 10.00am until noon.

**For more information about the other musical groups and so much more visit [www.newportu3a.org.uk](http://www.newportu3a.org.uk) or phone Angela Robins on 07980 970967.**

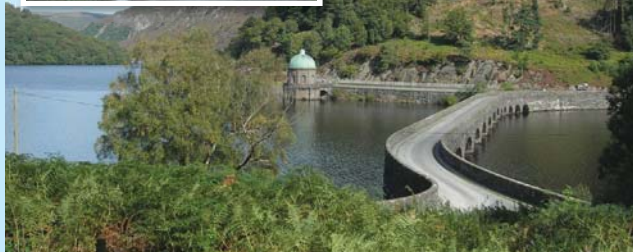
## Reservoirs in Wales

# The Garreg Ddu Dam

Although looking like a viaduct, it is actually a submerged dam. Its role is to maintain a sufficient level in the Garreg-ddu reservoir so water can enter the Foel Tower and the gravity-driven aqueduct to the Frankley Reservoir in Birmingham. The dam is only required to operate during times of extreme drought.

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which allows the water to flow by gravity alone.

It also supports masonry pillars carrying the access roadway to the neighbouring valley of the River Claerwen which were

clearly visible on our trip in September 2010 but when we visited the dam in February of 2014 it was full. Well worth and trip and only 1 ½ hours from Newport.





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Cwmcarn OAP hall  
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Monday 18.30 - 19.30  
Friday 18.30 - 19.30

## Adults Taekwon-Do

Ages 13+

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Tregwyllym road  
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NP10 9EQ  
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**Summer is here and it's a great time of the year to think about selling your home. Even here in Rhiwderin and Bassaleg the weather is warmer; you can enjoy the longer evenings and generally we all tend to be in much better moods.**

Houses look at their best with blue skies, green lawns and colourful flowerbeds. Both when photographed and in person and although they say you shouldn't judge a book by its cover, it is the first impressions that will attract potential buyers, so the joys of the summer do help.

## Our Top Tips for **Selling** **Your House** in the Summer

### **Keep the Colours Neutral**

Everyone has their own tastes and don't try to please all. When you are preparing your house to go on the market use neutral paints as this will not only make the property look light, bright and fresh it will help any potential buyers to picture themselves and their belongings living in your home.

### **De-Clutter**

Clutter makes rooms look smaller, might well distract your viewers and means you must pack even more items when you move!

### **Fresh Air and Sunlight**

Open all your curtains and blinds and if safe to do so, leave your windows open. Fresh air and sunlight will help bring your house to life and help to show off the size of your rooms.

### **Deodorise Your House**

You will love your family pets and be accustomed to their smells, but your potential buyers might not be so keen. If you can, ask friends/family to look after them before the viewing so you can air your house and don't empty your house bins regularly in the summer months and try to avoid cooking strong smelling foods shortly before a visit.

### **Added Extra Tip**

According to NAEA Propertymark freshening up your bathroom is a small but inexpensive job which could have a huge impact on viewers.

Add a green, leafy plant or a new white shower curtain to revitalise the room. Then clear away toiletries from view and store them in a cupboard whilst ensuring the toilet, bath, shower, sink and mirrors are spotlessly clean. Put a new toilet roll in the holder and hang out a clean hand towel as a finishing touch.



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# Tramroad - Sirhowy to Newport

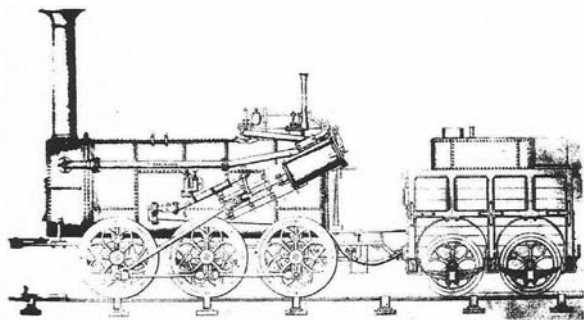
Some readers may recall passenger trains passing through Risca, Rogerstone and Bassaleg pulled by locomotives bearing the initials L.M.S. (London, Midland and Scottish Railway). They carried passengers between the Sirhowy Valley and Newport until the late 1940s. From Nine Mile Point (near Wattsville) the trains ran over track of the Great Western Railway to gain access to Newport. Nick-named 'The Cockney' it ran non-stop from Risca to Newport.

The right for the L.M.S. to 'invade' G.W.R. territory goes back to the start of the 19th century when the Tredegar Iron Company, having built a tramway down the Sirhowy Valley, made an agreement with The Monmouthshire Canal and Railway Company for through running to gain access to the wharves on the River Usk at Newport. The two tramways were joined 'end to end' at Nine Mile Point, near Wattsville.

Tramroads preceded railways and were local enterprises. These tramroads had cast iron 'L' shaped rails and the wagon wheels did not have flanges. Wagons and later carriages were drawn by horses but steam locomotives were beginning to appear in other parts of the Britain. The Tredegar Iron Company began hauling wagons of iron to Newport in 1805 but over 20 years later and having been aware of the success of steam haulage in other parts of the country, the Company decided on a change.

The following appeared in the Monmouthshire Evening Post of 2nd February 1912.

'It was not until 1829 that records show that a locomotive was used



on Monmouthshire lines and it may be said, its first appearance on any part of what is now the Great Western Railway. This engine was introduced by Samuel



Homfray of Tredegar Iron Works. He was the son of a father of the same name to whose wager with Richard Crawshay of Cyfarthfa Iron Works; the world is indebted for the contest that brought Trevithick's locomotive to notice. Mr. Homfray purchased an engine from Mr R. Stephenson and Co. (Newcastle – upon – Tyne) which started running from Tredegar Iron Works in 1829 but it was not until the December that it travelled the Sirhowy and Monmouthshire Tramroads into Newport, a distance of 28 miles.'

The inaugural run was not without incident as a letter to the Evening Post later told.

'The day previously, my father sent two men down from

Tredegar, one with a hatchet and a saw; the other with a ladder and a gauge. They had instructions 'to cut all branches off' (along the track from Tredegar to Newport). The men got as far as Bassaleg (just two miles from destination) and 'went on the spree' at a local pub. When Stephenson's Flyer came, the drivers thought the men had cleared the way through to Newport but a low branch in Tredegar Park, Bassaleg, was hit which knocked the chimney off the locomotive.'

Thomas Ellis is part of the story of Tredegar Ironworks, a name borne by father, son and grandson. The oldest Thomas Ellis was instrumental with Samuel Homfray in bringing three of Stephenson's locomotives to the ironworks and tramroads. Later his son supervised the construction of a further nine locomotives for the ironworks and the tramroad.

The middle of the 19th century brought the conversion of the tramroads into railways. Then followed purchase of the Sirhowy line by the L.N.W.R. (later forming part of the L.M.S.) and the line through Risca, Rogerstone and Bassaleg by the G.W.R.

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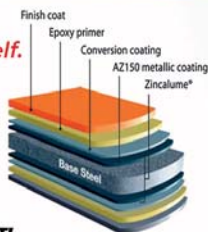
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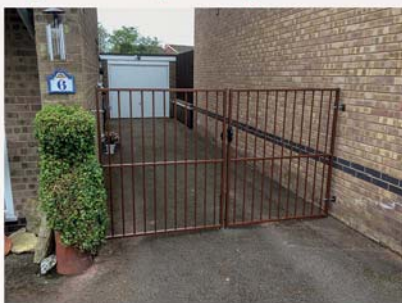
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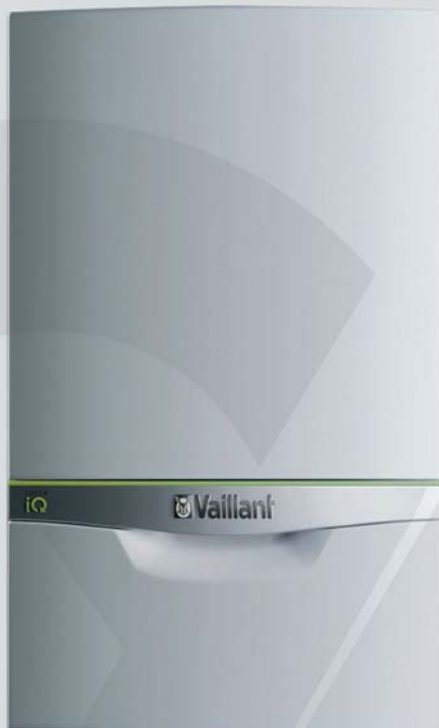
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## And Now for Something Completely Different....

As I'm sure you appreciate 'it' almost always starts with a telephone call; 'Is that Swan Rescue?', to which the answer is, of course, 'Yes'. Usually, what follows is perfectly straightforward; help is needed for a swan, a goose, a duck, or at this time of year, a multitude of ducklings. Occasionally the question asked is surprising; 'will you help - my dog (or cat) needs rescuing. This one is followed by a pause for breath and then the statement 'we're very sorry, but the clue is in the name SWAN RESCUE, which tends to bring the conversation to an abrupt end! On this occasion, second half of April, it really was completely different, a first; an Osprey. The caller is an employee of Welsh Water based at the string of reservoirs to the west of the A470 between Merthyr Tydfil and Brecon. It was reported to be unable to fly, but instead was fluttering helplessly behind the dam wall of the middle reservoir.

Because of other commitments it was left to the locals to catch the casualty, which they were able to do quite easily. We then met their driver at Pwll-y-Pant to the north of Caerphilly, and from there to



*Examination of Osprey at ICBP*

the only organisation capable of carrying out the necessary assessment and follow-up treatment, the International Centre for Birds of Prey (ICBP) at Newent in Gloucestershire (very well worth a visit).

The initial assessment was mildly encouraging, a few primary feathers damaged and some strain to the wing, but no broken bones. This was confirmed the following day on a visit to a world renowned bird of prey vet at Swindon. Once back at Newent, work was started on repairing all but one of the damaged flight

feathers. This involved cutting them and inserting into the shaft and gluing in place bamboo slivers, obviously very carefully aligned and waiting for the repair to set.

The next development was a phone call just five days after the rescue to announce the bird really was raring to go, simply astonishing. As with the rescue itself, it was disappointing not to have been part of it, so with the release, but for obvious good reasons it was right and proper that ICBP staff should take control of this. The release went very well, actually on the sixth day. Those who work on the reservoirs report the bird stayed around for most of the rest of the day, but there was no sign of him the following day.

This bird was ringed, so we know a bit more about him. He was ringed as a nestling on 2nd July 2014 on The Black Isle, Inverness. This species migrates for the winter to The Gambia, West Africa, and so must have been returning to the breeding grounds when some accident befell him. It is so gratifying to have been involved, and to have the hope we may have contributed to securing a long and healthy life.

Text: Peter. Photos: ICBP & Welsh Water.

*Release of Osprey at Cartref Reservoir*



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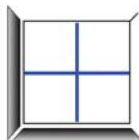
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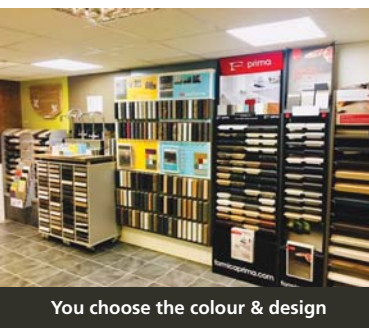
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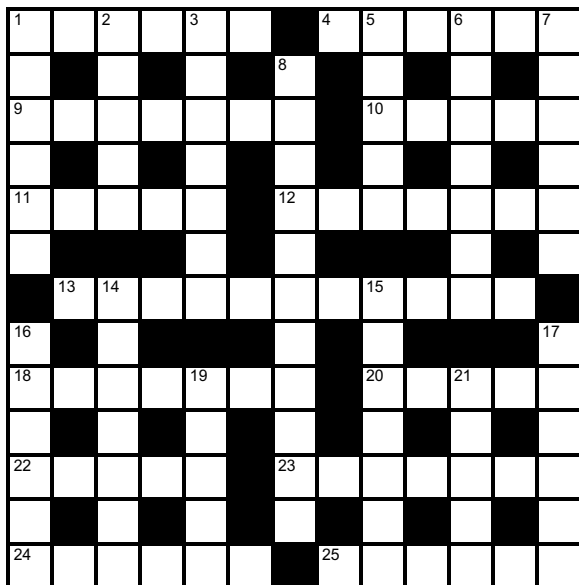


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# Crossword



## Across

- 1 Plant stalks used as roofing material (6)
- 4 Government tax on imports or exports (6)
- 9 Coastal area between La Spezia in Italy and Cannes in France (7)
- 10 Man in chess or draughts (5)
- 11 Well-grounded in logic or truth (5)
- 12 Stretchy fabric (7)
- 13 Substance that stimulates love or desire (11)
- 18 Female ruler of many countries (7)
- 20 Often the last movement of a sonata (5)
- 22 King of Judea who ordered the death of many children (5)
- 23 Country, capital Quito (7)
- 24 Beads used in prayer (6)
- 25 Fish-eating bird (6)

## Down

- 1 Flourish, prosper (6)
- 2 Block of iron or steel on which hot metals are shaped (5)
- 3 Popular British cheese (7)
- 5 First letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 6 Disposition to remain inactive (7)
- 7 Picture painted on a plaster wall (6)
- 8 Trader who sells sewing and dressmaking materials (11)
- 14 Egyptian paper reed (7)
- 15 Johann \_\_\_\_, Austrian composer of waltzes (1804-1849) (7)
- 16 Rope or light chain used to restrain an animal (6)
- 17 Scottish clan leader and outlaw (1671-1734), the subject of a novel by Sir Walter Scott (3,3)
- 19 Duck valued for its soft down (5)
- 21 Point directly opposite the zenith (5)

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# 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 43



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# Beaches in Wales

Caldey Island is a small island just off the coast near Tenby in Pembrokeshire. It is one of the holy islands of Britain, a number of traditions inherited from Celtic times are observed by the Cistercian monks of Caldey Abbey, the owners of the island. It is separated from the mainland by Caldey Sound. A ferry service from Tenby goes to Caldey Island in the spring and summer months when the weather allows, although it is

closed on a Sunday. Boats depart every half hour from the harbour at high tide, while at low tide they depart from Castle Beach. Tourist attractions on Caldey Island include the 13th-century church of St Illtyd, a Norman chapel, Caldey Abbey and Caldey Lighthouse, which was built in 1828 and automated in 1929. The light stands 210 ft above high-water mark.



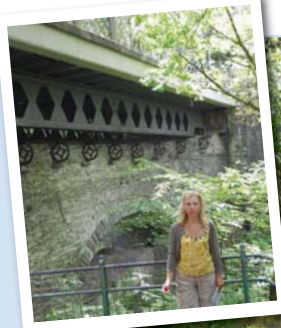
# Waterfalls in Wales

**Devils Bridge Falls is a world famous tourist attraction in the heart of the Cambrian Mountains. It is 12 miles from Aberystwyth and 85 miles from Newport along the A470.**

Today, the Falls Nature Trail provides a unique opportunity to see this great natural feature in the Rheidol Gorge. The set of stone steps, still open to tourists, leads down to the lowest bridge at the waterfall, they are known as Jacob's Ladder.

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# Big Bertha and Other Ghost Stories

**There is a fabulous ghost story recounted by the comedian, Dave Allen, which I came across recently. He told of a haunted house in Ireland that contained a so-called bad room: a chamber with a heavy atmosphere of foreboding and evil.**

A visitor to the property dismissed its reputation and insisted that he be allowed to spend the night inside. As morning arrived, however, there was a terrible scream and the room was found to be empty save for the smell of brimstone and a solitary shoe. A local priest was called and endeavoured to solve the mystery by staying overnight himself. He told the owners he would disclose all that he saw but promised that, were he to disappear in the same manner as the previous occupant, he would leave a message on the sole of his remaining boot. At sunrise, an inhuman shriek was heard once more. The owners raced to the bedroom that was now filled with the same sulphurous stench and discovered the priest had vanished, leaving only the single item of footwear. Nervously, they picked it up and searched for his message. And there, on the sole, they saw two words had been scorched onto the surface...Size 9!

It's a cracking yarn, especially when performed by the late Mr

**by Paul Minton**

Allen and I was reminded of it as a friend and I sat in The Rising Sun in Rogerstone, swapping tales of the supernatural. I had begun by telling him the pub was meant to be haunted. There had been several occasions when wine glasses at the end of the bar had tumbled to the floor without being touched. More disturbingly, a member of staff staying alone in one of the bedrooms was suddenly awoken as if a bucket of water had been thrown over her. Her night attire, including the dressing gown she slept in, was drenched and yet the rest of the room was entirely dry. No plumbing defect or other cause was ever identified.

My friend countered with a story of his own, which concerned an acquaintance of his who had been a trainee nurse. She was covering the night shift in a hospital ward when she became aware of another nurse dressed in an old fashioned uniform walking through the corridor. The trainee thought it peculiar but took no

action. When she described her experience to colleagues the following morning, she was assured the uniform had long since been abandoned but that a phantom dressed in such a style was said to roam the building.

While on the subject of female apparitions, I took the opportunity to tell my friend about Big Bertha Ramsey. She was a six foot tall matron, who worked at what later became the Caerleon Campus of the University of South Wales. She died there in January 1962 after toppling over the banister of a high staircase. There have long been rumours that she may have been pushed but no matter, her ghost, wearing brown overalls and with hair arranged in a bun, has reputedly been seen ever since. Security staff also reported odd sounds during the night and observed the lift coming down of its own accord with no one inside. On another occasion, two men watched in horror as a newly hung portrait swung violently from side to side as if moved by an invisible force. Even the Principal was certain Bertha had returned from the grave when she appeared in his office shortly after her funeral. Fortunately, on this occasion, it was just Bertha's twin sister paying him a visit. If only all ghost stories could be explained so easily.



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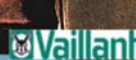
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## Puzzle Solutions

### Crossword

**Solution**  
Across: 1 Thatch, 4 Tariff, 9 Riviera, 10 Piece, 11 Valid, 12 Elastic, 13 Aphrodisiac, 18 Empress, 20 Rondo, 22 Herod, 23 Ecuador, 24 Rosary, 25 Osprey.  
Down: 1 Thrive, 2 Avel, 3 Cheddar, 5 Alpha, 6 Inertia, 7 Fresco, 8 Haberdasher, 14 Papyrus, 15 Strauss, 16 Tether, 17 Rob Roy, 19 Eider, 21 Nadir.

### Sudoku

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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# 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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## GRACE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

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

Sermon excerpt from: *A KINGDOM WHICH CANNOT BE MOVED*

In light of the recent earthquakes in the Philippines and the continuing aftershocks, as well as the terrorist attacks in New Zealand and Sri Lanka, our text today should be a great encouragement to those of us who are trusting in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. And let us continue to pray that God would turn the tragedy there into a triumph by shaking the affections of people loose from the world and putting those affections on the kingdom of God. So, let's pray together.

What is it that God is saying to us in such an earthquake as this in the Philippines? To find out, we turn to the Holy Bible. God's written Word is given to help us interpret His voice in nature - whether it is the voice in the wind and rain and floodwaters of Cyclone Idai, or in airplane crashes, or in auto accidents, or in the voice of the earth in the Philippines. Holy Scripture is not silent about earthquakes. And when earthquakes awaken the attention of the world, we need to go back and remember what they mean.

There are **four points that I consider helpful**.

**First**, God has appointed a great earthquake to bring this world to a close - **a great final shaking** of the earth and the heavens someday that will end this fallen creation as we know it and usher in eternity.

**Second**, long before that great shaking comes - even before the Tribulation - God has also appointed that **there'll be an increasing frequency and intensity of earthquakes and other calamities**.

**Third**, God in His great mercy is offering to everyone who trusts in His Son **a kingdom that cannot be moved** and will never end.

**Fourth**, therefore, let's worship and serve God with reverence and godly fear, because our **God is a consuming fire**.

So, let's take these one at a time and I'll try to unfold them from our text and elsewhere in Scripture and, hopefully, plant your feet upon a Rock for your own encouragement and for your free and willing service for Jesus Christ. I invite every believer to pray that there would be an irresistible attraction to the gospel of Jesus Christ in these days so that more people here in Wales and around the world in places like the Philippines and New Zealand and Sri Lanka and Mozambique would pass from spiritual death to spiritual life, because the shaking will increase as the coming of Christ approaches. And I cannot help but think that everybody would want a place to stand and that everybody would see the reasonableness that Almighty God - redeeming people through His Son - is the safest place in all the world to stand.

God has appointed **a great final shaking** of the earth that will mean the end of the world as we know it and the beginning of something infinitely better - the consummation of His kingdom.

Look first at verses 26 and 27 of our text: ...whose voice then shook the earth (referring to the shaking at Mount Sinai when He came to give the law, Exodus 19:18): but now he hath promised (an allusion to Haggai 2:6), saying, **YET ONCE MORE I SHAKE NOT THE EARTH ONLY, BUT ALSO HEAVEN**. (And then comes the interpretation of this prophecy.) And this *word*, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Now then, what you have here is a biblical prophecy that there's coming a day in which there'll be such a violent shaking in creation that the world as we know it will be removed. It simply will not be anymore. Finally, there'll come a new heaven and a new earth on which righteousness dwells, but this world is going to come to a cataclysmic end someday, and there'll be a removal of the world as



we know it, and what cannot be shaken will remain - the kingdom of God and everyone who dwells in it.

There are other places in the Bible where this is made clear. For example, take Isaiah 13:13, "I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger."

So, there's coming a day of fierce anger and retribution and justice upon the earth for its sin, and the earth will be shaken out of its place.

Yes, it is a painful admission for a Texan, but I was born in California (or Caal - ee - for - nee - uh as Arnold Schwarzenegger pronounces it). If you spend much time around Californians, you find that they like to joke about "the big one" that's coming someday. Yes, there is "a big one" coming someday. It is going to be bigger than anyone can imagine. Christian friends, the desire of our heart ought to be that flippant Californians, Filipinos, and everybody else would realize just how big "the big one" that's coming is really going to be! It is so ginormously bigger than anybody realizes! Our imaginations cannot conceive of what it'll be like when the stars are falling, the skies are rolled up like a scroll, and the earth comes out of its foundations and collapses, and all the islands and the mountains vanish, and there is only God with whom we must deal. Listen to me now - if you feel secure and safe outside of Jesus Christ, I pray that you'd tremble at this thought, because you're most definitely going to face God someday with nothing to stand on but what was in your heart when the great quake came!

But long before this end comes, God has appointed that **this great final shaking will be preceded by smaller earthquakes and other calamities of increasing frequency and intensity** to give notice of something awesome, the way contractions and labour pains precede the birth of a child and tell us that it is coming.

This particular point is not found in our text from Hebrews. It is found in the words of Jesus to His disciples in Matthew 24:6-8. The disciples ask Jesus in verse 3 what will be the sign of His coming and the end of the world. He answers beginning in verse 6: "Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All *these are* the beginning of sorrows." The word "**sorrows**" there is the Greek word ὥδιν (odin) for "birth-pangs". Notice three things: **first, there's an end coming** ("**the end is not yet**"); **second, before it comes there'll be wars, famines, and earthquakes**; and **third, these calamities before the end are called "**sorrows**" or "birth-pangs"**.

Calling the wars and famines and earthquakes "birth-pangs" is important for two reasons. **First**, it means that **there'll be an increasing frequency of these things as the end comes near and that the intensity of them will increase**, because that's the way it happens with labour pains before the birth of a child. **Second**, it means that **what these earthquakes are leading up to is something wonderful**, like the birth of a child. The labour may be painful, but it is full of hope. They're the birth-pangs of a kingdom. That's what the meaning of increasing frequency of calamities will be as this age draws to a close.

We should, then, hear in every rumour of war and every famine and every earthquake, first of all, the voice of the Lord saying, "I reign! And I am a God of holiness and justice and wrath and I will not condone sin." We should also hear in this great shaking, "I am a God of mercy, a God of hope; I am bringing in the kingdom; I don't want it to happen suddenly without warning, so I have warned again and again and again with shakings that should have broken you loose from your love of the world." That's what the real meaning of this earthquake is. Believe in God. Put your trust in Him...

(to be continued in the next issue)

# THE FINAL FATE OF H.M.S. NEWPORT

## (Part 2)

After the three reluctant members left the party and returned to the ship, Albanov and the remaining men continued on through the ever-shifting ice. Albanov already had strong doubts about the general health and stamina of the party. They still showed signs of the scurvy that had afflicted the whole crew during the past year, due to the lack of antiscorbutics in their diet. One man was 56 years old and staggering; another man had a hernia; another man had been complaining about chest pains for some time; another man had open sores on his legs; all of them complained of sore feet and had asthma symptoms.



Albanov had calculated that Franz Joseph Land most likely lay to the east of his little party, fortunately he was eventually proved to be correct. His means of navigation were minimal and included no way to calculate longitude. The only map that he carried was a sketch made of a page from Fridtjof Nansen's book *Farthest North*, published 20 years earlier. This showed Franz Joseph Land indicated by hypothetical dotted lines.

Albanov kept a diary in which he recorded details of their 90 day journey, which was to cover the 235 miles travelled from the trapped Saint Anna to Cape Flora. His terse narrative described how the party faced dangers from constantly shifting ice, disintegrating ice floes, blizzards, snow-blindness, attacks by polar bears and walrus. Albanov had to persuade his men to

continue the  
hauling of  
the

cumbersome and heavy sledges carrying their kayaks and supplies. The kayaks were often required to enable them to transit the frequent stretches of open water. The party managed to shoot some of the polar bears and walrus, which then provided them with additional food supplies.

On June 5th they caught a glimpse of distant land some way ahead, but members of the party were becoming apathetic, dragging their feet and not attempting to stride



Valerian Albanov



Alexander Konrad



purposely forward. One night two of the men chose to sneak away, purloining part of the parties' equipment and supplies. Albanov was disgusted by the betrayal and would have dealt harshly and swiftly with the mutineers, but realised that it would be pointless to attempt to chase after them to retrieve the stolen goods. On June the 9th, a short distance from land, an ice storm suddenly erupted and blew the ice floes apart, scattering the remaining members of the party. Albanov described how after being stuck on small battered pieces of ice they had to clamber into the unstable kayaks and try to avoid damaging them on the sharp edges of the shattered drifting ice. Miraculously all the men were re-united and managed to scramble up on to a glacier with their sledges and kayaks and then continued to stumble onwards. The storm raged around the glacier, which rose twelve feet above water level, the waves making it impossible to continue the crossing. Finally the storm abated, but three of the remaining members of the party had been swept away, leaving just Albanov and Konrad still surviving on the battered glacier. The Kayak belonging to this

fortunate pair slipped and slid down from the top of the glacier to land, undamaged, in the water. They quickly gathered together their remaining belongings, dismantled the sledge and loaded everything into the kayak. Then paddling, with desperation for six hours, eventually reached Bell Island. As soon as they landed on a solid shore they ran about furiously to restore the circulation in their stiffly frozen legs.

The next morning, after managing to shoot a few ducks for food, the pair set off for Cape Flora on Northbrook Island. Finally, after much paddling they landed on this Cape, where totally exhausted they lay down on the ground to rest and recover their strength. They eventually rose to their feet and began to explore and came upon the remains of a wooden hutted camp built several years earlier by an explorer named Frederick George Jackson, leader of the Jackson-Harmsworth expedition in 1896. This camp had also been used, in 1902-1905, by an American William Ziegler who stopped here when making unsuccessful attempts to reach the North Pole. Albanov and Konrad were delighted to find that Ziegler had

fortunately left ample supplies of still edible food. The food supplies contained intact sealed cans of pemmican, beef, mutton, dried vegetables, cakes of chocolate, powdered eggs etc. There was also chests of ship's biscuits and supplies of tea and coffee. Many other useful things were to be found even including a rifle and ammunition. The food supplies were sufficient to sustain them for several months. The pair discovered documents in one of the huts that indicated that a Russian explorer named Georgy Yakovlevich Sedov had, when on a polar expedition, called at the Jackson Camp. The pair initially thought that a ship would come from Archangel to contact Sedov and provide them with a means of rescue. However, one day a ship suddenly came into sight which they recognised as the *Svyatoy Muchenik Foka* (Saint Martyr Foka), which they had previously seen at Archangel being fitted out for Sedov. He had died of scurvy at sea and the ship was now returning to Archangel after calling at Cape Flora to search for fuel. The surviving pair were finally rescued !!!

(To be continued)



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