# DIRECTORY

YOUR FREE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE & LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY DELIVERED TO CWMCARN, PONTYWAUN AND CROSSKEYS





## 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.

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

Susar

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## **Tramroad - Sirhowy to Newport**

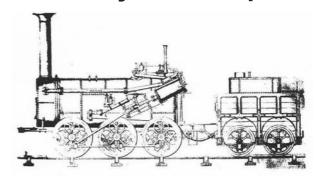
Some readers may recall passenger trains passing through Risca, Rogerstone and Bassaleg pulled by locomotives bearing the initials L.M.S. (London, Midland and Scottish Railway). They carried passengers between the Sirhowy Valley and Newport until the late 1940s. From Nine Mile Point (near Wattsville)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

4



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.

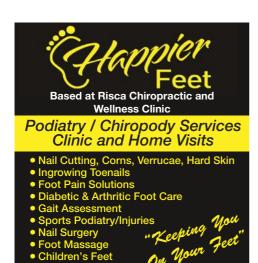
'The day previously, my father sent two men down from

Tredegar, one with a hatchet and a saw; the other with a ladder and a gauge. They had instructions 'to cut all branches of' (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.

By 'Uplander'



 Disability Experience John Terrell Bsc (Hons) SRCH Tel: 01633 614465 Mob: 07508 015662

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# The Twmbarlwm Glass Collection

Postive proof that the iconic mountain-top has been a popular destination for picnickers since Victorian times

Our litterpick at the end of April was very well attended, which allowed us the opportunity to split the group of volunteers and get a gang to the top of the mountain to do a job we have been planning on doing for the past few months.

That task was to pick up the vast amount of broken glass that was uncovered by the wildfires of last summer. Clearing away the glass was needed for both public safety and the fact that it presents the potential of starting more fires with its magnifying effect in the summer sun.

Half a dozen of us spent a couple of hours up there and each of us collected half a bucket of glass shards. I must stress here that we all used pick-up sticks and thick gloves – picking up broken glass can be an extremely hazardous task if not tackled with care and it's not an exercise for small children.

When we got the glass back down the hill I just couldn't bring myself to simply dump it all in the recycling for collection, so we sifted through it and found that each shard must reveal a part of our social

history. To our inexpert eyes much of the glass was quite thick and with a green hue to it, suggesting it is of considerable age and giving us further proof that people have been climbing Twmbarlwm with their picnics for many generations.

The bottles were all shapes and sizes – there were some flagons with vulcanite screw-in tops and there was also some examples of Codd-Neck bottles – a type of bottle that used a glass-marble as a stopper.

On many pieces you can make out parts of words such as:- "..aber...", "...rtons...", "...ercar...", "... BRO...", "...miner..." – and we spent a while guessing what some of these could be.

The most common wording we could decipher on the shards were "Newport and Merthyr Bottle Co." and













A few examples from the "Twmbarlwm hoard"

a quick Google search reveal that many of those could date from the early part of the 20th century.

One of our group later identified the piece with "...ERCAR..." on it. It was probably a bottle from the Gwyddon Vale Mineral Water Company that operated in Abercarn from 1880-1920. The bottle itself would have been a Codd bottle made by Cannington & Shaw in St. Helens, Lancashire.

None of us is an expert on the history of glass, so Cadw put us in touch with an expert in this field. We have since met with him and he has already identified much of the glass, and confirmed that some could date back to Victorian times.

We have also had a second foray onto the hill with him and found a great deal more. Together we will be compiling a more thorough report on our findings and will publish it on our website in due course.

I can promise you we won't be pursuing the person who dumped any of these bottles, or their descendants, for littering – and I wonder, if we find a complete bottle, will we still be able to claim back the deposit?

Terry C. Evans, Chairman CTS

CTS meet at the car park below Twmbarkwm'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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July/August 2019 swdirectories.com 7 As I'm sure vou 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 Osprev. 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



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 staved 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 Wate





## **GATERS**



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#### Gaters Barbershop has moved to new premises







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We look forward to seeing our old customers and look forward to seeing new ones too.

Wi Fi

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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 seeina 'bombs' droppina 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'.

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#### 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 twentyfive 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.

#### **GWENT CHORALE**

We meet at Dan-y-Graig Church, Risca at 7.00pm every Wednesday.

More information about the choir can be found at www.gwentchorale.com or find us on Facebook.

Alternatively you may like to talk to Nicola Price on 07974 111712 or Colin Harvey on 01633 894914.

### Aviation and Air Traffic Control Established 1987

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?
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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 Learn FREE Raja Yoga Meditation with the Brahma Kumaris Newport For information please contact Rupdaye:



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## THE NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME

#### Sunday 18th August 1.30pm-5.00pm

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For more information on gardens open go to: www.ngs.org.uk

Directions: From Cefn Walk go over canal bridge at the 14 Locks, stay or the lane for 1/4 mile, white stones on island, Croesllanfro Farm is in front of you.



## **Western Valley Camera Club**

Western Valley Camera Club is one of the leading Camera Clubs in South Wales.

We meet on a Thursday evening at Cross Keys Rugby Club and operate for people who are interested in photography and wish to develop and enhance new and existing skills.

The club holds meetings throughout the year on a variety of topics and aims to provide a varied programme which features the following broad topic areas:

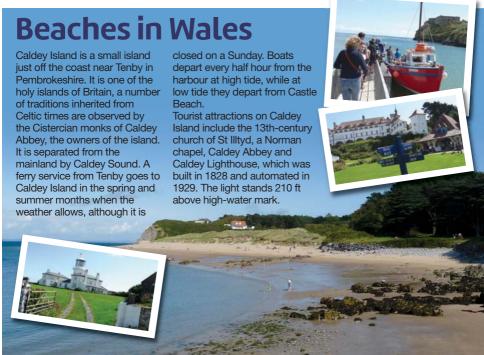
- Competitions
- Practical sessions
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- Talks and presentations from members and quality external speakers

We hold our meetings in the Dudley Suite, Cross Keys Rugby Club (Pandy Park, Woodward Avenue, Cross Keys, NP11 7BS) at 7.30pm and aim to finish by 10.00pm



For further information please go to the club web page at www.westernvalley.co.uk

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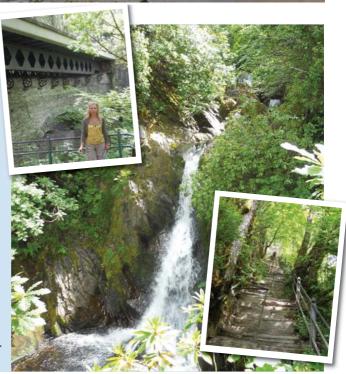
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## Crossword 9 10 20 22 24 25

#### Across

- 1 Plant stalks used as roofing material (6)
- Government tax on imports or exports (6)
- 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)

## 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 18

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



## **Puzzle Solutions**

#### Crossword

Across: 1 Thatch, 4 Tariff, 9 Riviera, 10 Piece, 11 Valid, 12 Elastic, 13 Aphrodisiac, 18 Empres 20 Rondo, 22 Herod, 23 Ecuador, 24 Rosary, 25 Osprey.

Down: 1 Thrive, 2 Anvil, 3 Cheddar, 5 Ajpha, 6 Intellig. 7 Fresco, 8 Haberdasher, 14 Papyrus, 15 Strause; 15 Tables 17 Edwards 19 Tables 19 Tabl

#### 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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Friday	9.30am - 1.00pm 2.00pm - 5.00pm
Saturday	9.30am - 4.00pm

#### **Reading Group**

meet on the 1st Tuesday of every month from 11am-12pm (The reading groups are fun, friendly

discussions about a book we have all chosen to read over the month. Tea and coffee provided)

#### **Crafters Corner**

meets weekly on Friday's at 11am-12pm (Informal craft session over tea and coffee, bring your own projects)

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(for children under4) – weekly on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 11am-12pm



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