

NEWPORT

# DIRECTORY



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)**

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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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# 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.**

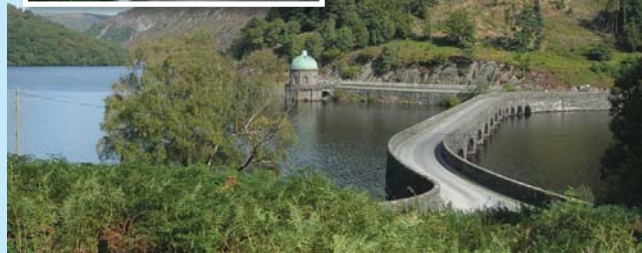
## Reservoirs in Wales

# 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.

The water flows to the Severn Trent water treatment works, where it is cleaned by rapid gravity filter sand beds.

Chlorine, fluoride and lime are added. The Foel Tower stands 52m above the Frankley Reservoir in Birmingham. The gradient of the aqueduct which links them averages 1 in 2,300,



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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# Warm Weather, Longer Days & Attractive Houses

**Summer is here and it's a great time of the year to think about selling your home. Even here in Newport 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.



## Book A Free Valuation and Let Us Help You to Sell Your House

To receive your FREE non-obligatory valuation by an experienced estate agent not an online calculator, please get in touch and a member of our team will be happy to help you.

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# These Days, it's a Computer with Four Wheels and a Spare

*(and the spare's often an option!)*



By Mike Joenn, Founding Director of AJ Garage Services, Ponthir

**When I finished my apprenticeship as a HGV mechanic, we were living in a different century and from where we stand now it has never seemed so far away.**

Back in the 1960s, cars came in one flavour – petrol. Only HGVs & buses ran on diesel and the only thing on the road that was powered by batteries was the dairy's milk float. In 2019, we can look back in awe. We've seen the rise **AND THE FALL** of the diesel car and more recently, the dawn of the age of the electric car (and Hybrid). But it's going to take time for us to go all electric. There's a LOT of conventional vehicles out there to be maintained and serviced, so we certainly don't see the need for our skills declining in the foreseeable future.

That said, life in vehicle servicing and repair isn't what it used to be. The car today is tantamount to a fancy computer with four wheels and whilst the fundamentals remain the same... pistons, gearboxes, wheels, brakes, they have become 'computer peripherals'. The modern vehicle is governed, controlled and enabled by computers. Consequently, the modern service centre must employ new technology to service and maintain them and believe me,

it's expensive. Our business, for example, has invested over £45,000 in just the last two years tooling up with new computer systems and the software to analyse customers' vehicles to identify problems and fulfil other specialist functions. And just like your home computer, the software needs constant updating, upgrading and replacement. Troubleshooting a vehicle fault these days often starts with a technological diagnosis before we can get down and dirty with the nuts and bolts.

And have you noticed, we're no longer 'mechanics'. We are 'Vehicle Technicians' reflecting the fact that it's simply not good enough to be able to use a spanner. We've got to be 'systems analysts' and we have to understand technology as well as know how to use a socket set. Training is both essential and on-going.

The introduction of Technology to the workshop has also been instrumental in opening up the market for vehicle servicing. Vehicle manufacturers can no longer 'tie you in' to their service regimes with proprietary diagnostics and threat of invalidated warranty. Software and system diagnostic tools are available to non-franchise garages.

Few motorists realise that

today, they have the option to have their vehicle diagnosed and serviced by an accredited garage of their choice - without invalidating the warranty. So long as you choose an accredited garage, you can rest assured that the work will be carried out to the manufacturer's standards using genuine parts. ***And here's the thing, it can be a highly cost-effective choice – particularly on premium brand motor vehicles.***

So, look out for the accreditations that offer assurances that you are dealing with a professional garage which has invested in the technology, equipment, the tools and the training to offer you the service that you need. And here's the plug... Our business – **AJ Garage Services** is affiliated to the **Retail Motor Industry Federation, The United Garage Services Group, the Trust My Garage Network** and we are members of the **Guild of Master Craftsmen**. When you are looking for your next motor vehicle service and start to compare pricing, give me a call.

**Mike Joenn, AJ Garage Services, Star Trading Estate.  
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# Tramroad - Sirhowy to Newport

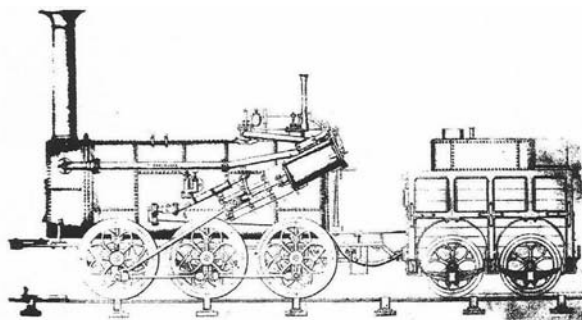
Some readers may recall passenger trains passing through Risca, Rogerstone and Bassaleg pulled by locomotives bearing the initials L.M.S. (London, Midland and Scottish Railway). They carried passengers between the Sirhowy Valley and Newport until the late 1940s. From Nine Mile Point (near Wattsville) 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 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'**

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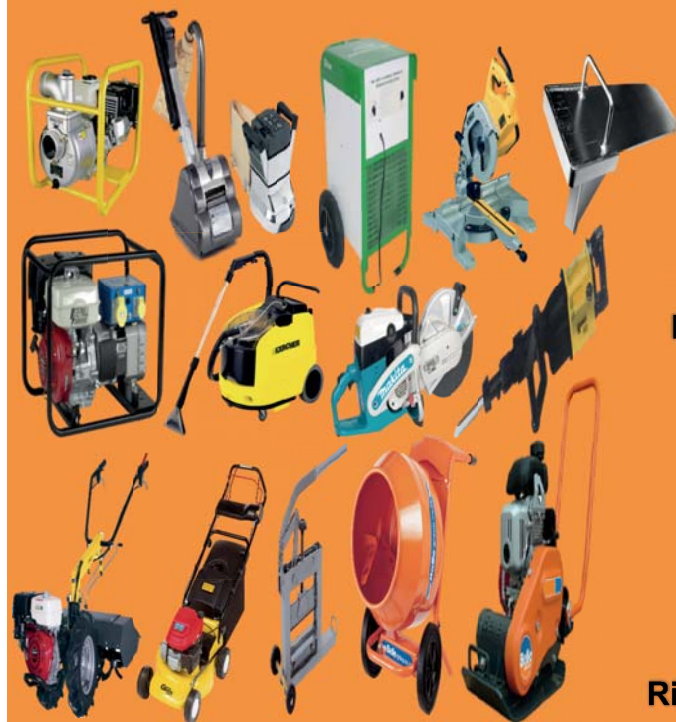




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# Beaches in Wales

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.



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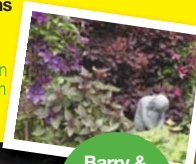
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# THE FINAL FATE OF H.M.S. NEWPORT

## (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

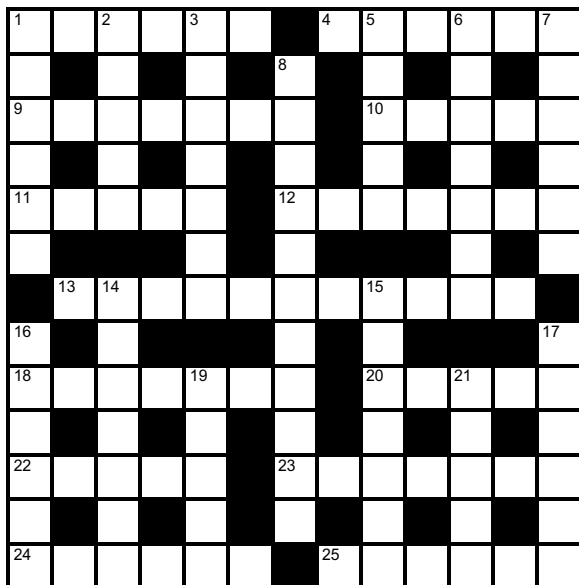
fortunate pair slipped and slid down from the top of the glacier to land, undamaged, in the water. They quickly gathered together their remaining belongings, dismantled the sledge and loaded everything into the kayak. Then paddling, with desperation for six hours, eventually reached Bell Island. As soon 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 hatted 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)



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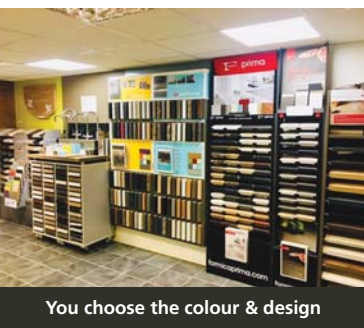
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## And Now for Something Completely Different....

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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## 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 Anvil, 3 Cheddar, 5 Alpha, 6 Inertia, 7 Fresco, 8 Haberdasher, 14 Papyrus, 15 Strauss, 16 Tether, 17 Rob Roy, 19 Eider, 21 Nadir.

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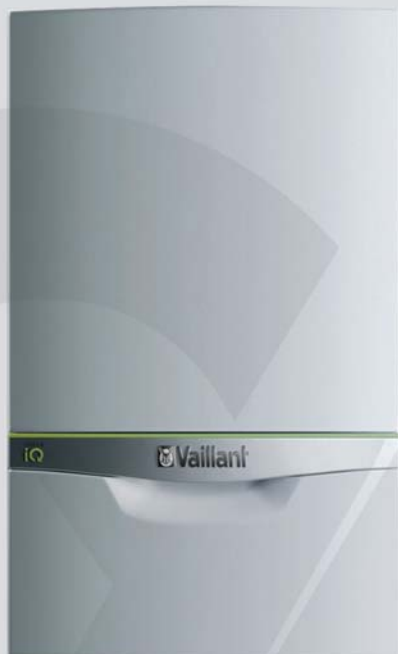
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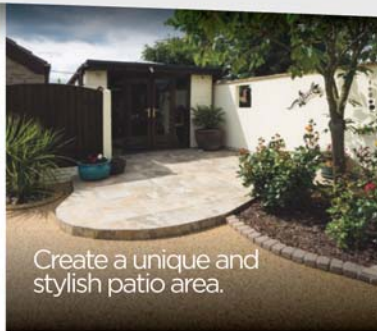
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