

RISCA

DIRECTORY



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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.

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



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The Twmbarlwm Glass Collection

Positive 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 inexperienced 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

Gang of CTS volunteers clearing away decades of broken glass from the top of Twmbarlwm



CTS meet at the car park below Twmbarlwm's summit for a litter pick and volunteer workday on the last Sunday of every month to which everyone is invited, it's not all hard work and it's a great opportunity to find your way around up there. We organise walks and other events up the mountain and at Crosskeys RFC throughout the year so watch our website and Facebook page for details.

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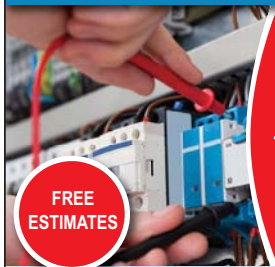
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Welcome to

Risca East Community Council

Newsletter

At the recent Annual General Meeting of Risca East Community Council, Mr Rob Derraven agreed to continue in the role of Chair and we would like to congratulate and thank him for his steadfast leadership during the past two years. Congratulations also to Cllr Arianna Leonard for being nominated and accepted as Vice Chair for 2019/2020 taking over from Community Councillor John Blackburn. Grateful thanks to John for his dedication over recent years and rest assured, he remains a valuable member of the Community Council.

The AGM was short and sweet which allowed us time to discuss what we would like to achieve during 2019/2020. Our draft action plan includes:

- Encouraging local charities and groups to apply for financial support, as this is one of the main reasons for Risca East Community Council's existence.
- Funding and siting a defibrillator in the area.
- Taking an equal part in activities with Risca Town Council such as the Risca Summer Festival and the Armistice and Commemoration Service.
- Planning activities for children, families and residents of Risca East to attend, free of charge, for everyone to feel part of the community.
- The purchase of the long-awaited Risca East Christmas tree.
- Organising the 'official' switch



on of the Christmas lights along Elm Drive together with, what appears to have become a bit of a tradition, the children's fancy-dress party in partnership with St David's Church.

We are really looking forward to developing links with the residents of Risca East in the coming twelve months and we would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported us during 2018/2019; it has been very much appreciated and we hope it continues.

If you wish to appeal for financial support for a local club, society or charity, etc. please email our Clerk, Mr Gwyn James on riscaeastcommunitycouncil@outlook.com or write to him at 13, Cherry Tree Road, Pontllanfraith, Blackwood, NP12 2PY.

The Community Council meets regularly on the third Thursday of the month at 5.30pm, except August, and holds its meetings in St David's Church on Thistle

Way, Ty Sign and members of the public are very welcome to observe proceedings. Meetings and dates of events are advertised on our notice boards throughout the area: one outside St David's Church on Thistle Way, one near the 'Top Shops' on Elm Drive leading to Holly Road, another at the junction of Channel View and Manor Road and one by the bus stop at the bottom of Herbert Avenue. Our contact details can be found on: <http://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/riscaeastcc/content/councillors> together with agendas, minutes and statement of accounts produced by the Clerk of the Council, Mr Gwyn James. You can also keep up to date with what we are planning and updates on events in our friendly community of Risca East and beyond by following us on Facebook. It would be appreciated if you would join, like and share to spread the word with your friends of what we are up to!



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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 war-time 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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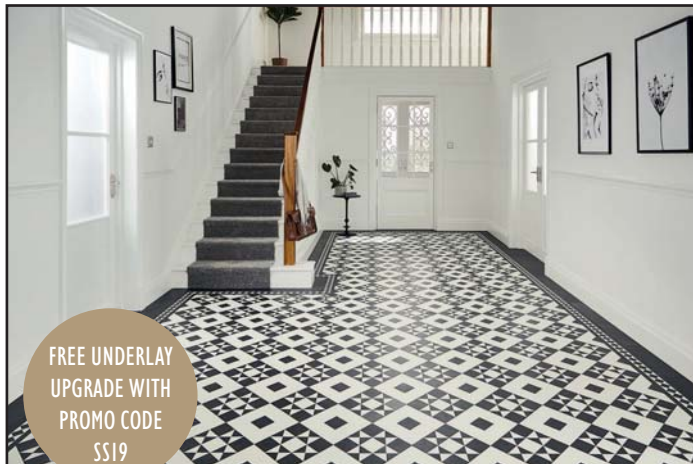
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Warm Weather, Longer Days & Attractive Houses

Summer is here and it's a great time of the year to think about selling your home. Even here in Risca 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 to 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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Where have all the Trowels gone?

By Bernard Osment

In May 1851, tenders were invited for the erection of a new **WESLEYAN CHAPEL** at **RISCA**. On Tuesday the 2nd September 1851, following the laying of the foundation stone of the new Chapel, William C. Webb, the mayor of Newport, was presented with a very handsome and elaborately-wrought silver trowel, with an inscription and crest. The Chapel, built to replace a smaller one erected in 1837, was known as the Wesley Chapel. In 1932 it was renamed as St. John's, and in 1962, following the amalgamation of the three Methodist churches in Risca, the Trinity. In 1991 the building was sold to the Coptic Church and

today is known as The Church of St Mary and St Mercurius.

In July 1851, tenders were invited for the erection of a new **PARISH CHURCH** at **RISCA**. On Thursday the 29th April 1852 the laying of the foundation stone of the new Church took place. The ceremony was performed by the esteemed lady of Sir Charles Morgan, using a trowel described as a silver implement of exquisite workmanship engraved with the inscription: -
Presented to Lady Morgan of

Tredegar Park on laying the foundation stone of the new Church at Risca, Mon. April 29th, 1852.

The first service in the new Church took place on the 22nd December 1853. Known as the Church of St Mary it replaced the old church known as the Church of St Michael. In November 1882 the Risca Public Hall Company was formed. The major shareholders were some of the

most influential men in the district; they included Mr George W. Wilkinson and Mr Edmund H. Watts of Risca Collieries, shop-keepers and property owners, Mr Edward Edwards and Mr Ernest Allen Taylor, and doctors, Robathan and Instance. The Company was setup to provide a hall to be used for concerts and other public entertainments, and offices for the Council, the School Board and the local Freemasons.

Their intention was to secure a site in the centre of Risca, near the Church.

In October of 1893, posters and local newspapers announced. -
The

Memorial Stones of the Risca Public and Masonic Hall will be

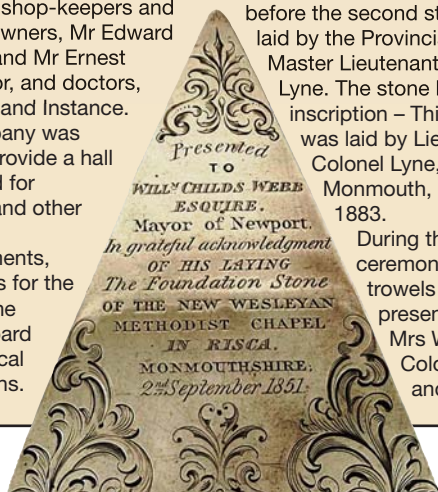
laid on Wednesday, October 31st 1883. Two stones are to be laid, starting at 1 pm. The first of the stones was laid by Mrs Watts, wife of the local colliery owner, under the stone a document was placed containing a 'statement of facts' associated with the event, together with a glass phial containing some coins. The stone bore the inscription - This stone was laid by Mrs Watts, Devonhurst, London, October 31, 1883. A Masonic ceremony then took place before the second stone was laid by the Provincial Grand Master Lieutenant Colonel Lyne. The stone bore the inscription - This stone was laid by Lieutenant-Colonel Lyne, P.G.M., Monmouth, Oct. 31, 1883.

During the laying ceremony Silver trowels were presented to Mrs Watts, Colonel Lyne and the



most influential men in the

district; they included Mr George W. Wilkinson and Mr Edmund H. Watts of Risca Collieries, shop-keepers and property owners, Mr Edward Edwards and Mr Ernest Allen Taylor, and doctors, Robathan and Instance. The Company was setup to provide a hall to be used for concerts and other public entertainments, and offices for the Council, the School Board and the local Freemasons.





architect of the building, Mr George Rosser. Eight months later on Wednesday the 2nd July 1884, Mr E. H. Watts, the chairman of the London and South Wales Colliery Company, who was not only one of the largest subscribers, but also gave the land on which the hall was built, performed the opening ceremony with a gold key presented to him by Mr Wilkinson.

In the early hour of Monday the 18th October 1891 the River Ebbw, in full flood, undermined the structure and practically destroyed the Primitive Methodist Chapel. Built in 1846 and enlarged in 1867, the chapel stood on the opposite side of the river from where Risca Fire Station stands today. On the 5th September 1892, on a site near the Public Hall, the foundation stones of a new school room, which would also be used as a chapel by the Primitive Methodists, were laid. Stones were laid by Dr D.T. Richards of Risca, Mr Frank Whitmarsh of Risca, and by Mr L. Bushell on behalf of himself, teachers and children of the Sunday School. As their fathers were unable to attend, stones were also laid by the daughter of Major Williams of Newport, the daughter of Mr George W.



Wilkinson and by Master Frank Taylor son of Mr Edwin A. Taylor. An elegant engraved silver trowel, with ivory handle,



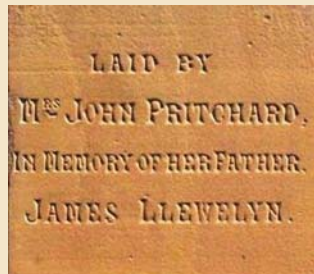
was presented to each one who laid a stone.

Six smaller stones, on which gold and silver coins were deposited, were laid by the children who had collected £1 and upwards for the building fund. The stones bore the names: - Misses F. Emery, E.A. Smith, M.A. Milsome, and Masters S. B. Dixon, E. H. Brookman and A.H. Evans. On the 31st October a further 10 inscribed small stones were laid by children who had donated a sovereign; Miss Ada Bushell, and Messrs. A. Fry, D. Langford, John Evans, G.J. Evans, F. Hawkins, Jonah Sage, C. Durbin, John Wilcox and George Emery.

In March 1893, tenders were invited for the erection of a BAPTIST CHAPEL at Pontymister for the Trustees of the Moriah Baptist Chapel, Risca. On Wednesday the 9th August 1893, on a site near Risca Railway Station, the ceremony of the laying of the foundation stones of the Chapel took place. The following laid the fifteen stones upon which their respective names were

inscribed; each was presented with a handsome silver trowel: - Mrs J.O. Jenkins, on behalf of the Moriah and Cwm-y-nant Schools; Evan Phillips Esq., Newbridge; Miss Edwards, Glyn House; Alderman George Jones, Abercarn; Mrs D.T. Richards, Risca; Mrs G.W. Wilkinson, Risca; Mrs E. A. Taylor, Risca; Mr W. Rowe, Mold, In memory of his father, the Rev James Rowe; Mrs John Pritchard, In memory of her father, John Llewelyn; Miss Broackes, Cross Keys; Mrs D. W. James, Twyn Carn House (laid by Miss James); Mrs James Williams, Newport; Mrs Watkin Williams, Pontypridd; Mrs George Robathan; and Councillor Edward Thomas of Cardiff.

There was no mention of silver trowels at the laying of the five memorial foundation stones at the Ty-Isaf Mission, Pontymister, on the 2nd October 1922. The stones, still readable today, were laid on behalf of: - The Band of Hope, The Sunday School, Bethany Baptist Church, The Choir and the Christian Endeavour Society.



Most of the inscriptions on the Moriah stones are readable, and a few of the Ebenezer. Unfortunately the Public Hall stones are unreadable and the Wesleyan and St Mary stones are hidden from view. How many stones can you find? And where have all the trowels gone?

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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 or Facebook page.

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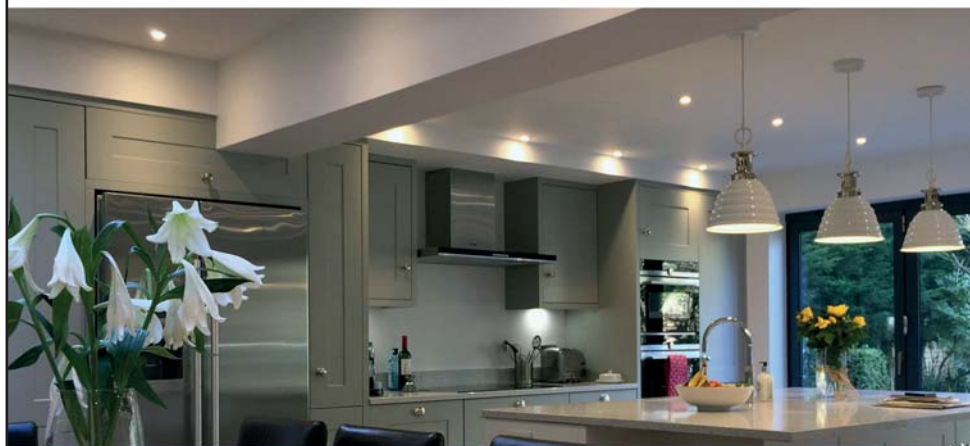


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Little Dragons classes

Ages 4-7



ROGERSTONE
Ty-du community hall
Welfare grounds
Tregwyllym road
Rogerstone
NP10 9EQ
Tuesdays 17.30 - 18.15
Thursdays 17.30 - 18.15

Cwmcarn OAP hall
Newport road
Cwmcarn
NP11 7LZ
Monday 17.45 - 18.30
Friday 17.45 - 18.30

JUNIORS Taekwon-Do

Ages 7-13

ROGERSTONE
Ty-du community hall
Welfare grounds
Tregwyllym road
Rogerstone
NP10 9EQ
Tuesdays 18.30 - 19.30
Thursdays 18.30 - 19.30

Cwmcarn OAP hall
Newport road
Cwmcarn
NP11 7LZ
Monday 18.30 - 19.30
Friday 18.30 - 19.30

Adults Taekwon-Do

Ages 13+

ROGERSTONE
Ty-du community hall
Welfare grounds
Tregwyllym road
Rogerstone
NP10 9EQ
Tuesdays 19.30 - 20.30
Thursdays 19.30 - 20.30

Cwmcarn OAP hall
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www.swdirectories.com

Places of Worship

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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
- Demonstrations
- 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

THE NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME

Sunday 18th August 1.30pm-5.00pm

Croesllanfro Farm, Groes Road, Rogerstone, Newport NP10 9GP

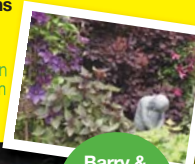
The National Gardens Scheme has donated over £42.5 million to nominated beneficiaries since it was founded in 1927. Please come along and support the NGS.

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Let the children run around and have fun trying the

Kidz Quiz.

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 on the lane for 1/4 mile, white stones on island, Croesllanfro Farm is in front of you.



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Wednesday	9.30am - 1.00pm 2.00pm - 6.00pm
Thursday	9.30am - 1.00pm 2.00pm - 5.00pm
Friday	9.30am - 1.00pm 2.00pm - 5.00pm
Saturday	9.30am - 4.00pm

Baby Rhyne Time

meets every Wednesday 2.15pm - 2.45pm

Crafters Corner

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

Story Time and Crafts

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



Risca Senior Citizens Association

Meetings at Senior Citizens Hall,
Park Road, Risca.
Wednesday at 2.00pm



Entertainment - Trips Tea - Cakes - Chat

New Members Always Welcome

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.

Usk New Start Cat Rescue

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

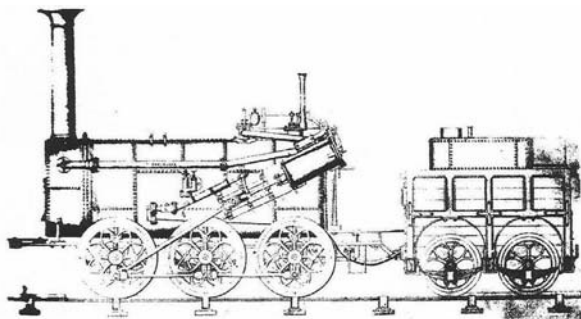
If you would like to adopt one of our
furry friends please contact
Sam Murray on 07535 087970.
Please friend us on Facebook;
Usk New Start Cat Rescue

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 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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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.

If you are passing or want a full day trip, the Bridge and the Falls Nature Trails are well worth it.

The Waterfall Wanderer



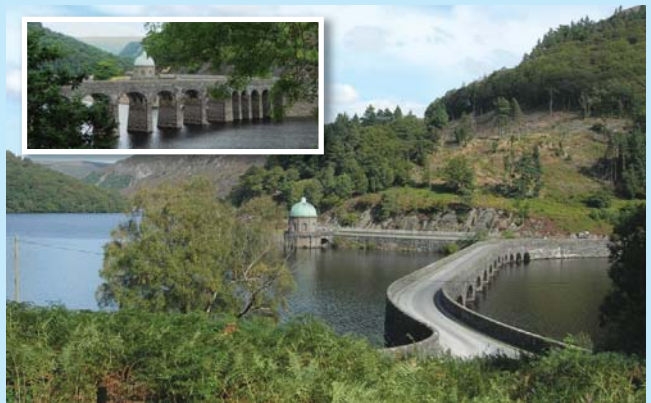
Reservoirs in Wales

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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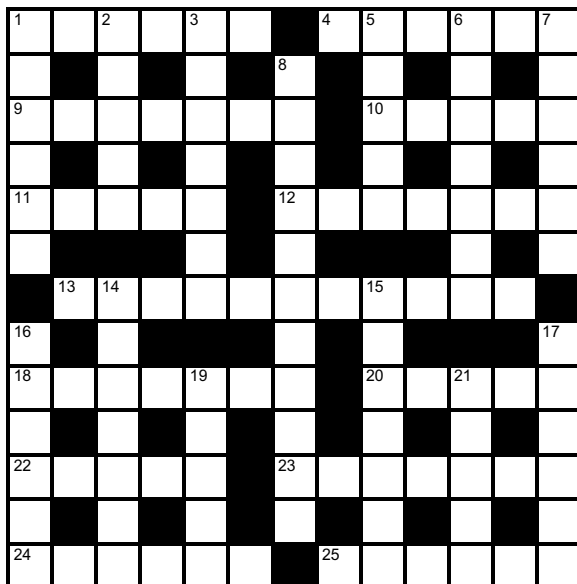
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Crossword



Solution on page 32

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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Puzzle Solution

Crossword

Solution

Across: 1 Thatch, 4 Tariff, 9 Riviera, 10 Piece, 11 Valid, 12 Elastic, 13 Aphrodisiac, 18 Empress, 20 Rondo, 22 Herod, 23 Equador, 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.

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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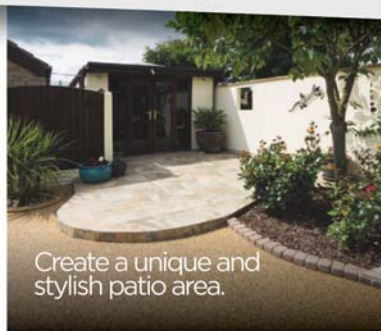
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