

ROGERSTONE

DIRECTORY

Sunday 18th August

NGS Open Garden

1.30pm-5.00pm

**Croesllanfro Farm, Rogerstone
NP10 9GP**

ISSUE 80

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



Advertising enquiries:

**Telephone Leslie on 07725 888070 or 01633 892771
or email contact@swdirectories.co.uk**

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Rogerstone Welfare Cricket Club

Serving the Community for 90 years (From day one to the present day)

Ninety years ago the Welfare Grounds, given to the then Parish Council in 1928, were opened to the public in 1929. The cricket club has been an ever present, having been invited to the grounds by the Parish Council. The Club is the oldest continuously running organisation in Rogerstone (Chapels and Churches excluded). The Club was previously Rogerstone Cricket Club.

Over the years there have been many changes to the grounds and to the cricket club and the continuous improvement over the years by many has led to the magnificent facilities on show currently. Both the Parish and later renamed the Community Council have worked with the Cricket Club to give us what we have today together with Sports lottery, ECB/Cricket Wales.



It is impossible to summarise and remember all the changes but in the main they are as follows.

Initially the Cricket field was cut by the Parish Council Staff and the cricket square by the Cricket club. Pitches were cut with a 12 inch manual cylinder mower and rolled for half an hour with as many children

sitting on the roller as possible. The outfield cut with a motorised sit on 24 inch mower. Not forgetting that all sports were free! The original very small wooden pavilion was brought to the ground courtesy of Bethesda Chapel. This was a shack with just two small rooms without any utilities supply. Then in about 1960 the pavilion was doubled in size courtesy of the Parish Council who then took ownership and also took on wicket preparation and introduced reasonable hire fees. Changing



RWCC Youth 2019



RWCC ca 1930

and showering facilities were available in the old stables of Tydu House. Teas were taken in the ground floor of Tydu house. In the 60s following a request for Sunday cricket from the Club, the parish Council held the first Rogerstone referendum. All of the community were sent voting cards asking if they were agreeable or not to cricket being played at the grounds on



The Pavillion in 2019

Sundays. The response was an overwhelming Yes vote at about 95% in favour albeit with a low turnout.

The early 1980s saw further changes as a result of the by-pass. Tydu house was demolished and the new Community Hall built. The club's wooden pavilion remained, however the club now had the use of the kitchen and adjacent room for cricket teas and the new shower block.

The club continued to develop and in 1997 under the leadership of Dr. John Charles Evans managed to get a lottery grant and a new pavilion was built. The pavilion was opened in 1998. This was financially a very tough time for the club and a loan had to be taken out to cover the cost of VAT on the project and the proposed balcony wasn't built to minimise costs. Thanks to huge support from the community and the Redwood Club members the club managed to pay off its loan. The club then added the balcony and soon after, the first electronic LED scoreboard in the area. The final addition to the clubs facilities was the new state of the art practice facilities jointly paid for by the Community Council and ECB/Cricket Wales. This was

opened in 2015. The club started with just one team on a Saturday and currently has two Saturday teams, a Sunday team and five youth teams plus Allstars. The club now has a ladies team and our young girls play in the new South Wales Falcons (barbarian type) team. Many youngsters have passed through the club over the years and there are currently five boys playing in the various Gwent squads. The Club chairman is also Welfare Officer for the South East Wales Cricket League and sits on the cricket Wales welfare Council.

Over the years the club's presidents have been Lord and Lady Forrestier-Walker, Dr. George Hull the original practitioner in Rogerstone, Ernie Everson, head of Rogerstone and later Cefn Wood Schools, Phil Gibbs, well known local musician and Redwood Club proprietor, Councillor George Ray and currently Steve Jones, Rugby correspondent for the Sunday times, several times winner of Sports journalist of the year and born and bred in Rogerstone.



The Welfare Grounds 1929

The ground now has one of the nicest settings in Wales and we attract and host teams from all over the UK. Also this year in recognition of our development work 15 of our youth players will be Anthem Mascots at the World cup game between South Africa and Afghanistan.

Derek A. Picken R.W.C.C.

Events this year at the Welfare Grounds are:

- July 9th -**
Wales over 60s v Oxfordshire.
- August 4th -**
Graham Wagg testimonial day
- August 20th -**
Gwent U11s v Worcestershire
- September 7th -**
Visit of Heather Knight
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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 was "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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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 Rogerstone 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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NEW BEGINNINGS COMMUNITY GROUP



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Celebrating 90 years of the Welfare Grounds



ROGERSTONE FESTIVAL

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Rogerstone Festival Committee invites families and friends of Rogerstone to celebrate 90 years of the Welfare Grounds.

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Saturday	9.00am - 1.00pm
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0-5 year olds

THE NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME

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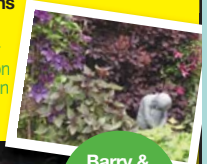
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And Now for Something Completely Different....

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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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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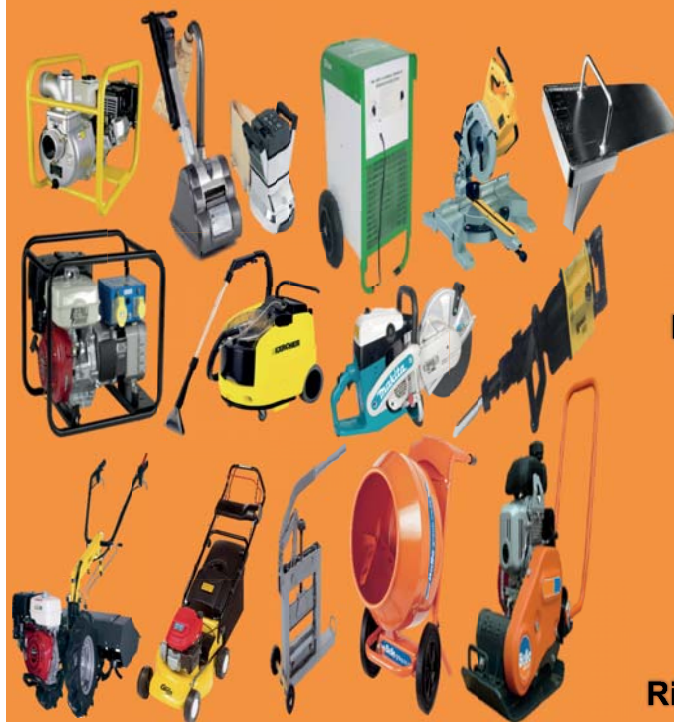
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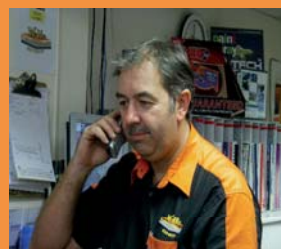
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(Part 2)

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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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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Laugh and the world laughs with you

I was somewhat stumped as how to start this article because I am one of those people who cannot for the life of me remember jokes. I invariably start with the punch line and then of course have spoiled it right from the beginning, so I haven't started with a joke, instead I will start with some very famous quotes about laughter.

"Laughter is the greatest weapon we have and we, as humans, use it the least."

Mark Twain

"If I am not allowed to laugh in heaven, I don't want to go there."

Martin Luther King

Just before Easter, a lady called Lorna Pearson came to W.I. She is called the 'Chuckle Lady,' this is possibly a big clue as to the sort of entertainment she provides but I am almost positive your thoughts and ideas would fall short of her expertise. This diminutive local lady stood for over an hour and told jokes, sang comical songs she had composed and regaled funny anecdotal stories. The subject matter of these is endless, many everyday happenings suddenly turned into comic renditions. The ladies were in stitches, just when you thought Lorna couldn't get any funnier, she would take a deep breath and start on another strand. Another very entertaining speaker was Roger James from the Black Mountain Falconry Centre in Abergavenny, he

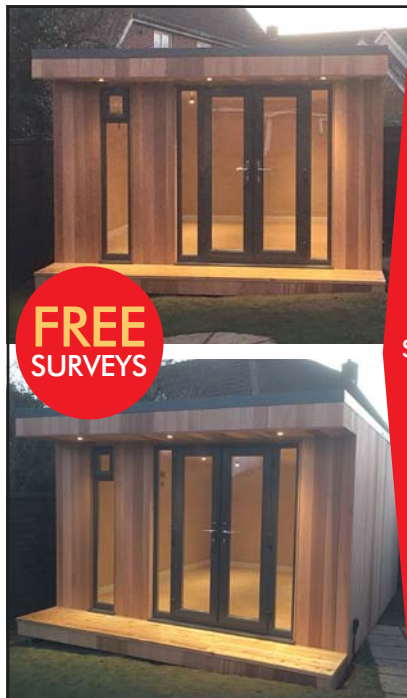


arrived with three wooden crates of various sizes, sat solemnly while the business end of the meeting was conducted and then proceeded to regale us with some very comic tales of life with his avian friends. Who would have thought a crate of partridges, one smallish terrier, two Doberman (I think that's what they were, large canines, anyway) and an elderly gentleman could cause so much mayhem!! Yet again the hall was filled with laughter. Sorry I don't have enough space to go into the whole story. Eventually he quenched our curiosity and opened the smallest box which contained a falcon, Roger explained the bird was calm because it was hooded, the second crate contained a magnificent red kite, who though not hooded seemed calm enough. Roger, talking all the time about the birds toured the room so all ladies were able to see these creatures. You know what they

say you keep the best till last and in the third crate was an eagle owl and wow was he superb. This owl is the largest of the species, a beak and talons that could do serious damage to human tissue. However this bird, apologies I've forgotten his name, was a pussycat of the bird world, he didn't mind people stroking him and getting up close and taking photos.

Again another wonderful evening filled with laughter but as with both evenings strands of information permeated the laughter, two wonderfully uplifting evenings, thoroughly enjoyable. We meet every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at St Anne's Church Hall, High Cross, the official meeting starts at 7.30pm but members arrive from 7.15pm onwards to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.

Liz James



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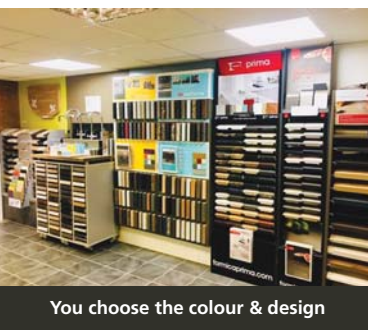
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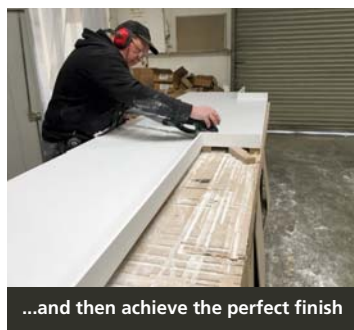
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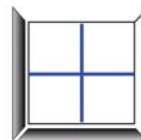
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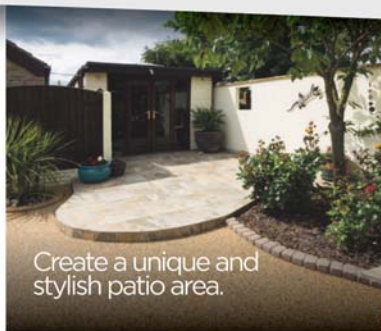
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