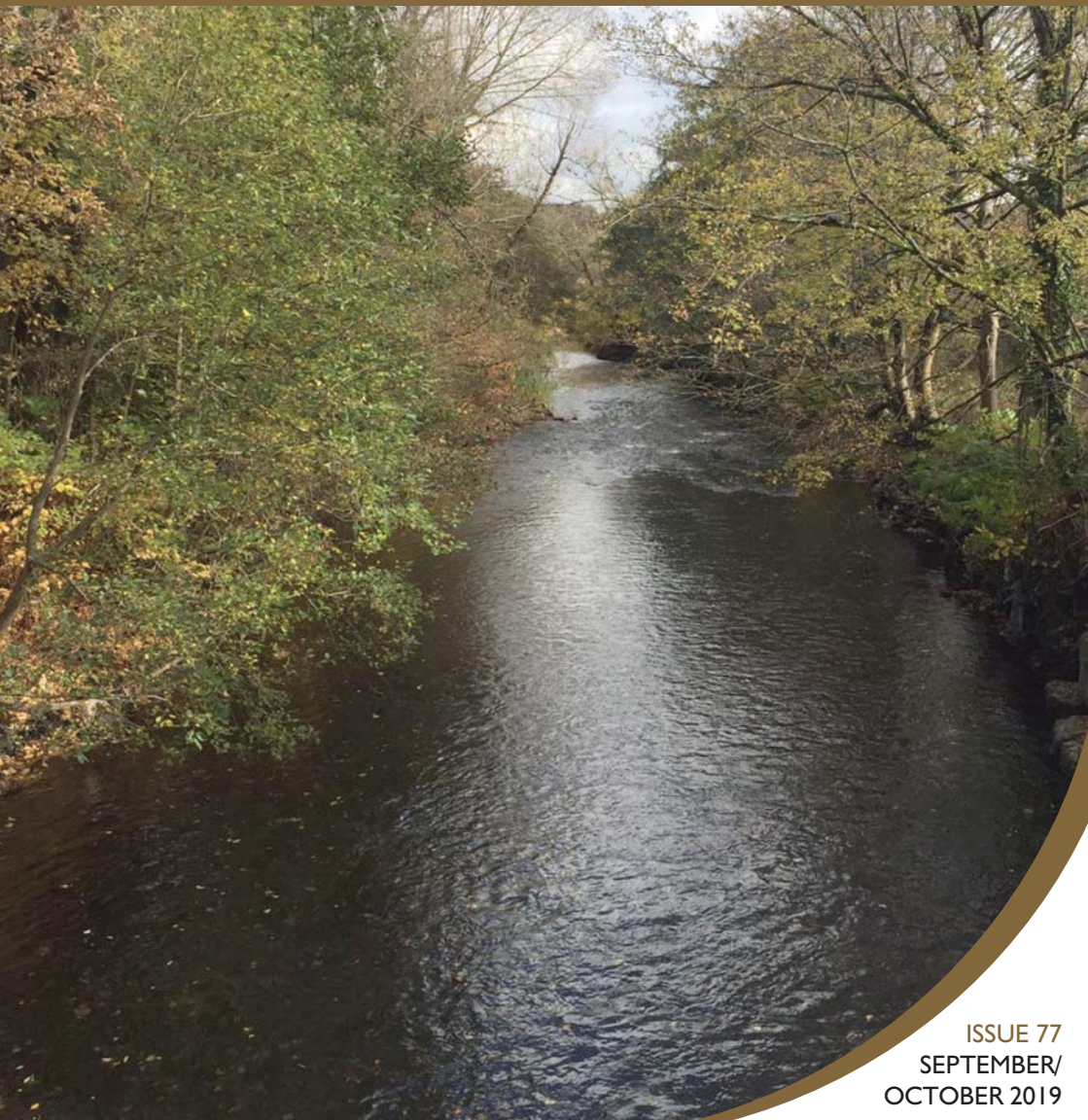


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DIRECTORY



ISSUE 77
SEPTEMBER/
OCTOBER 2019



SW DIRECTORIES

Welcome!

Hope you all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to Autumn and the usual seasonal activities ahead.

We are a small independent business and our aim is to provide an informative and interesting magazine that positively contributes to both community life and local businesses. A full list of local events, activities, groups and churches are available on our website, www.swdirectories.com

Please don't forget to get in touch soon if you would like to advertise your business in our November/December edition. This will be our Christmas edition so may be an excellent opportunity to promote your business to lots of potential customers at this time of year. We deliver to 30000 homes all over Newport; this is an ideal way for you to reach prospective customers and support the local community at the same time. 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:

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Gwerinwyr Gwent Diary

On the 12th June we had our second conference booking of the year, this time at Caldicot Castle. International delegates at a medical conference in Cardiff were holding their gala dinner in a marquee in the castle grounds and GG was part of the welcoming events before their meal.

With about 200 people arriving, the timings were well planned and precise, but unfortunately traffic from the M4 to the castle was so heavy that the coaches were over 30 minutes late arriving. This meant our plans to dance for two separate groups and then get people to join in had to be curtailed. We completed our display, and then as the rain started, found some space in the marquee to get a few people to join us - half the delegates were still exploring the castle grounds. A shame but I think particularly the foreign delegates enjoyed seeing our Welsh costumes and dancing, even if it was only for a short while.

The 27th June saw us back at the adult special needs school on the Treforest Industrial Estate. This has become an annual event and



our visit is always eagerly anticipated. Barbara Griffiths had again put together a Welsh culture session with questions for the students to answer, some dance demonstrations, including clogging, music from our band and some simple audience participation dances. Usually our bookings are arranged well in advance, sometimes almost a year, but at the end of May we had an invitation to dance again at Llanover, this time in the village, on the 4th July for a visiting VIP. Sometime later we were informed that the VIP would be Prince

Charles, who after visiting a school and the Winding House in New Tredegar with the Duchess of Cornwall, would be arriving alone to tour Elizabeth Murray's lovely gardens and hear about the work of her ancestor Lady Llanover. GG would be dancing Llanover Reel for his arrival at the village hall and another dance as he departed.

The 4th July turned out to be a really hot day, and in our woollen costumes with the ladies wearing bonnets and tall hats, we were feeling the heat as we waited for almost an hour past the intended start time. Finally HRH and Mr & Mrs Murray arrived and we started dancing, they then entered the village hall to meet various local dignitaries and we began to prepare for our second dance. Prince Charles' equerry suddenly appeared to say not to dance again but to form a group as HRH wanted to meet us. He shook hands with everyone, was very charming, and suggested we go into the hall for a cup of tea and get out of the sun.

Many thanks to David Owen for the two photos from Llanover



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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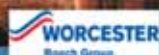
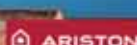
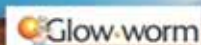
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OPEN DOORS

Doors Open Days or simply, Open Doors, provide free access to buildings not usually open to the public or which normally charge. Openings last year included 10 Downing Street & the U.S. Embassy in London, the Redcliffe Caves & Bristol Old Vic in Bristol whilst Tintern Abbey & Tredegar House were attractions closer to home. The Risca Museum first took part in 2016 and last year St. Mary's church also participated. Both are taking part this year and are being joined by the Risca Male Choir who occupy the old Risca Urban District Council Offices.

Risca Museum

The Museum is on the ground floor of the old Risca Collieries Workman's Institute which was built in 1916 for the local miners. After the colliery closed in 1967 it was used as the local benefits office for many years. In 1995 it was purchased by Islwyn Borough Council using European Heritage money, putting the Museum on the ground floor and additional classrooms for the Oxford House Adult Education Centre on the first floor. Caerphilly CBC disposed of the building in 2016 resulting in a 7-fold rent

increase for the Museum which is run by volunteers from the Oxford House Industrial History Society and receives no official financial support.

Although the Museum is open from 10am to 12.30pm every Saturday, for Open Doors it will be open from 10am to 4pm on both Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th September. As well as the Edwardian Chemist shop and the 1834 printing press from the Starling Press, on display will be many items not usually available including artefacts, photographs & maps. Also, on Sunday 29th there will be a short walk & talk on the Risca Long Bridge (maximum duration 1 hour, flat ground) starting from the Museum at 1pm.

St Mary's Church

The current Risca parish church, St. Mary's was built in 1852 in a Gothic revival style. The church will open from 10.30am to 4pm on Saturday 28th September. The historic parish records of Baptisms, Marriages & Burials will be available for inspection. There will be leaflets available indicating the location of some of the most interesting sights and booklets on the full history of the church will be on sale. Refreshments will be



Risca Colliers Institute

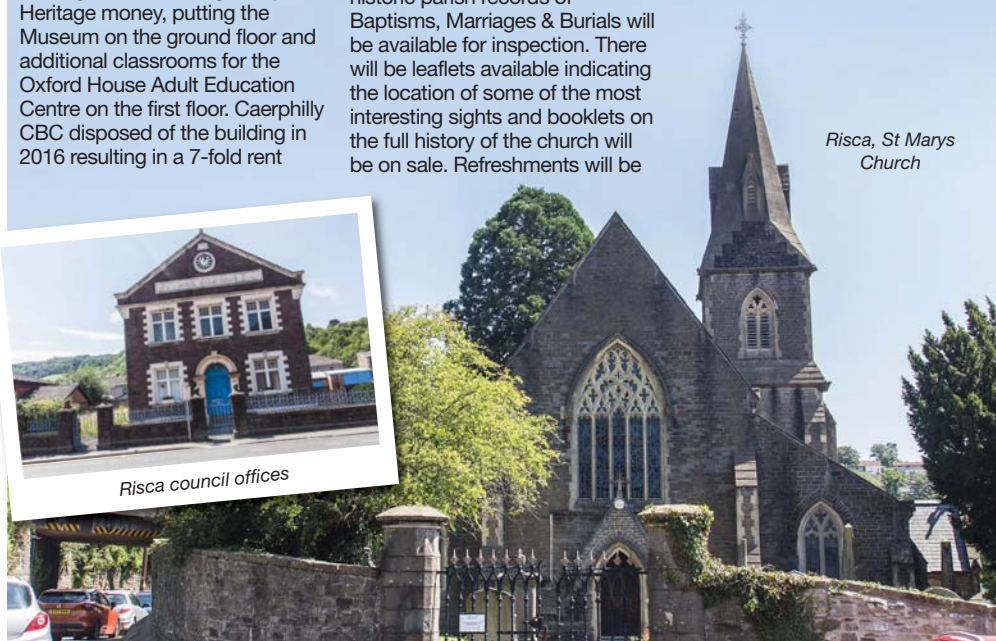
available.

Risca Male Choir

The old Council Offices on St. Mary's Street will open from 10.30am to 4pm on Saturday 28th September. The building was completed in 1912 for the Risca Urban District Council and remained its headquarters until it ceased to exist after local government reorganisation in 1974. Since 1988 it has been the home of RMC, the Risca Male Choir. Choir members will be in attendance and the illustrated history of the choir 'The First Forty Years' and selected CDs will be available to purchase.



Risca council offices



Risca, St Marys Church

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The New Term starts on Wednesday 4th September. Come along and try a few taster sessions before committing to join us. We would love to see you at anytime of the year.

For more information about Newport U3A's many interest groups and events visit www.newportu3a.org.uk or phone Angela Robins on 07980 970967.

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Tornado in Newport

Early on a sunny morning in July a Tornado passed through Newport leaving a trail of steam and a group of happy railway enthusiasts, young and old, all feeling that the early start had been well worth it. Built in 2008, the Tornado is the

first mainline steam engine to be built in the UK since the 1960s. The magnificent steam engine set off on its Pembroke Coast Express journey from Bristol, travelling to Newport, Cardiff, Bridgend, Port Talbot, Swansea, Llanelli, Carmarthen and Tenby.



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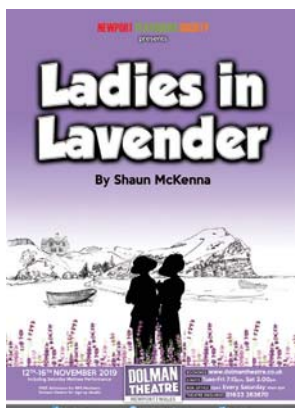
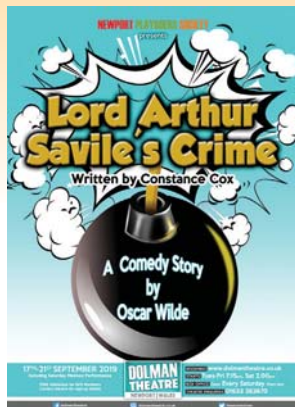
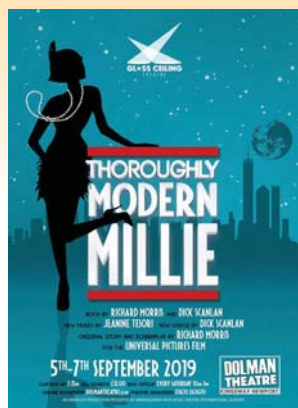
Caerfai Bay



A small rocky cove at high tide, sandwiched between towering cliffs, one mile south of the UK's smallest city, St David's. The beach is accessed by following a path through the craggy cliffs and down a steep set of steps. At low tide, a sandy beach is revealed with lots of rock pools to explore. You

won't find much in the way of beach amenities at Caerfai Bay and there is no lifeguard, so care should be taken if swimming here as currents are strong and changeable. If you are passing or on holiday in the area, the magnificent Cathedral is definitely well worth a visit.

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LISA PRYCE-JONES

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NEWPORT

How is your Mental Health?

Most people are quite happy to talk about their physical health but very often find it more difficult to talk about mental health.

World Mental Health Awareness Day takes place during October. Perhaps you can take a little time to think about and reflect on your own mental health and well-being and also of those around you both personally and professionally.

Mental health issues present themselves in many ways including anger, addictions, anxiety, bi-polar disorder, depression, eating problems, loneliness, obsessive compulsive disorder, phobias, post traumatic stress disorder, sleeping problems, self-harming, stress and suicidal feelings.

Every day we experience around 60,000 thoughts many of which are negative and up to two thirds of these thoughts can be very unhelpful or even painful. So you are certainly not alone when experiencing such thoughts!

The majority of Lisa's clients experience mental health issues in one form or another. This can range from struggling to deal with everyday life to achieving aspirations and maximising potential. Lisa helps clients on a conscious level using Acceptance & Commitment Therapy (ACT), sub-conscious level using Hypnotherapy and a spiritual level using Spiritual Healing. This combined therapeutic approach often achieves life changing results. Delighted clients have provided many testimonials to this effect which can be seen on Lisa's website.

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Fifteen Seconds to Create the Right Impression!

Our experience has shown that most potential buyers will decide whether they have a good feeling about a house within 15 seconds of entering it!

Whilst it would be ridiculous to suggest that this is the major contributing factor as to whether an offer is made or not, we strongly recommend that home owners looking to sell their properties take note and do what they can to present their house in its most favourable light.

We encourage our sellers to look at their own home through the eyes of a potential buyer and ask themselves what would you like to see, how would you like the house to be presented?

Tidy Up Before Viewings

You would be amazed by the number of houses we show people around where the current owners have made no effort to clean the main living spaces. Plates, mugs, clothes, toys etc are left on display instead of being tidied away.

- Keep a few family pictures on display but if possible pack away your knick-knacks, ornaments and other items that some might consider as clutter. Whilst it is still your home, potential buyers want to be able to see themselves living there and constant reminders of you won't help!

- If your kitchen worktop space is limited, make it look as large as possible by putting kettles, toasters, microwaves, storage jars/containers and other items in cupboards.

You might also be interested to know that almost 95% of buyers are looking to buy a house that they can move straight in to. Even though buyers are encouraged to overlook the current furnishings and decoration of a property, ripped or marked wallpaper and stained or worn carpets can turn buyers off.

Some sellers might think that because they are moving they needed invest the time or go to the expense of replacing things like this but we strongly recommend you reconsider because what will cost you a couple of hundred pounds to do might save you thousands when it comes to negotiating the sale price.

Don't Forget Your Garden

Spend a bit of time and money preparing the exterior of your home. Create the right first impression and keep the gardens and driveway well maintained, clean the facias and guttering, paint the front door if necessary and please remove the gnomes from the lawn!

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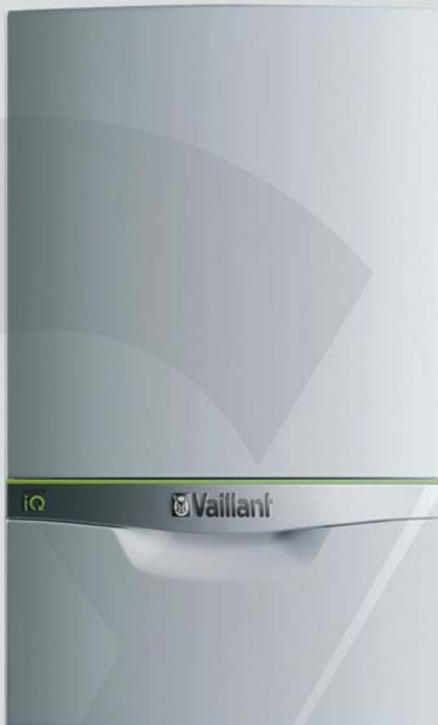


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The 'Long Bridge' by Geoff Smith

The feature on the Sirhowy to Newport Tramroad by Uplander in the previous edition of the Directory reminded me that I had long intended to write about this forgotten feature of Risca.

When the early tramroads were built the route taken was dictated by not only the industry to be served, but also the attitude of the landowners through whose land the route was to pass through. The later railways were built with Parliamentary sanction and thus had compulsory purchase power, but this was not the case with the early tramroads. The Monmouthshire Canal Company's tramroad from Newport into the Western Valley more or less followed the canal on the Eastern side of the Valley, so when it came to building the tramroad to connect with the Sirhowy tramroad at Nine Mile Point, the opportunity was taken to serve those industries on the Western side of the valley Northwards from Risca, rather than branching off at Cross Keys.

I suspect that there was a land ownership issue here, but have no documentary evidence to support this theory.

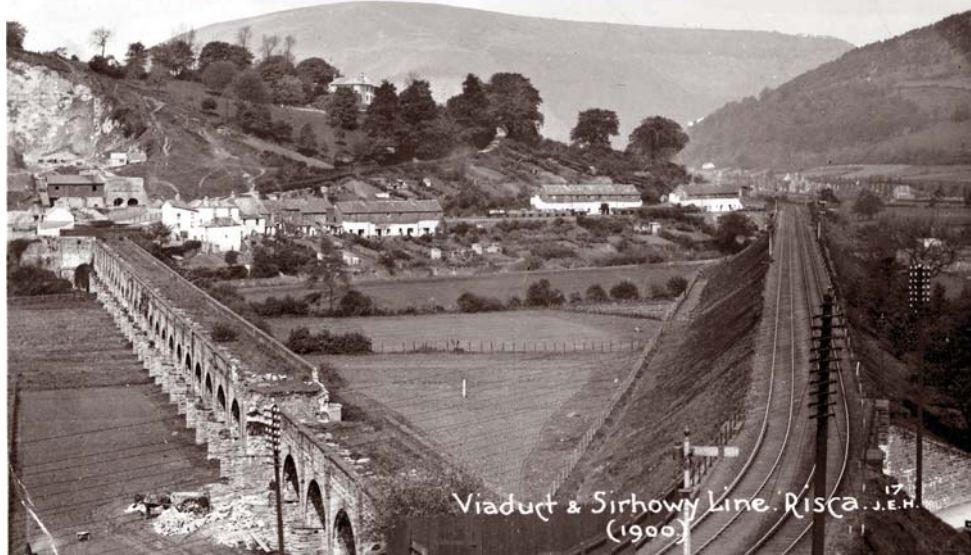
Thus, the tramroad came South from Nine Mile Point and served the notorious Black Vein Colliery and its coke ovens, a large brickworks, extensive limekilns and a copper works on the Western side at Risca (Danygraig). All of this section of the tramroad is now beneath the A467 road. To join with the Western Valley tramroad a magnificent viaduct, the 'Long Bridge' was constructed. It consisted of 32 arches, built of stone, was 48ft above the valley floor, and is said to have cost around £40,000 in 1805. By 1859 the tramroad had been converted to a conventional railway, which took an easier and less curvaceous course, as the photograph shows. For the next 40 years the 'Long Bridge' slumbered, unused, until from about 1900 it was slowly demolished, and its stonework recycled, being used in numerous

buildings in the area.

It is hard to understand why such an expensive structure was considered necessary. Tramroads were better able to cope with gradients than the later railways, so a ramp down to the river, a simple bridge and another ramp up would have been a much cheaper option.

The later railway is also long gone, and its embankment levelled to provide extensive playing fields. Of the 'Long Bridge' itself just some stonework remains, just to the side of Risca Builders Merchant's yard.

Of the tramroads themselves, remains are few. The course of the railway is a foot and cycle track from near Cross Keys, and a bridge with the stone sleeper blocks of the tramway is to be seen at Nine Mile Point. At Pye Corner, if you stand facing the 'Hair Junction' premises, to the right a lane disappears behind the houses in Western Valley Road. This was the tramroad course.



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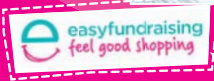
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Dying to Get Up Twmbarlwm

Photo: Terry C. Evans



Photo: Ann Woosnam

I know this is going to be a sensitive subject and many out there will castigate me for these views – but ask yourself, would your dearly departed really want his or her favourite location treated in this way?

I am, of course, talking about the increasingly common practice of displaying floral tributes and other memorabilia in public places. You see a lot of this on local beauty spots and Twmbarlwm is no exception.

I have no problem at all with the occasional bunch of flowers which are going to rot down to nothing – but when it's a six foot long wreath spelling out "Grandad" I start to question the sentiment.

Some of these wreaths are works of art and one has to admire the skills of the florist who created them and when they are displayed on that emotion-sapping day of the dearly departed's funeral they look splendid atop the casket – there's no finer indication of the family's love for their beloved relation.

Later, the family decide they need to mark the loss of their loved one in one last commemoration by displaying the wonderful, expensive, floral tributes in the place he/she loved the most. Never mind that it's everybody else's favourite place too. But that doesn't matter because the flowers will rot away naturally and be returned to the earth's bounty in the same symbolic way of the one who is now pushing up the daisies.

But wait a minute – how has the talented florist managed to sculpt the flowers into a meaningful symbol of the expired person's life? As one who has cleared away much of this type of detritus I can tell you – there is half a mile of 16 gauge wire, several kilos of phenolic foam, a ton of plastic and enough polyester ribbon to encircle around the world – none of which is going to melt into the environment any time soon.

Bearing that in mind, I believe that if the site of the tribute was truly the favourite spot of the one who is now at peace, I strongly suspect he/she is considering moving on to a less cluttered location to spend eternity.

As if the floral tributes weren't enough to irk my

After only two weeks the beautiful floral tributes are reduced to just so much plastic, ribbon and metal.

ire, don't get me started on balloons, inflated with hydrogen and released in their hundreds to interfere with air-traffic control and land miles away across the country where they can be potentially gobbled up by all sorts of wildlife and farm animals.

To top it all, the distribution of such tributes is often preceded by the bizarre practice of scattering poor old Grandma or Grandad to the four winds.

Now I must admit, I don't object to that too much – indeed, I also intend having the lead role in such a ceremony one day (in the distant future). Hopefully, those that I leave behind to perform the ceremony will have the sense not to leave me in an untidy pile where visitors to the site are going to want to sit with their egg sandwiches and thermos of tea. I also hope that they check the direction of the wind – I don't fancy being inhaled by my grieving family or faithful hound.

Although this article takes a light hearted view at this subject there is a real message – the passing of somebody close to you is a traumatic, personal time and we in the Twmbarlwm Society who tend the landscape for the sake of the community do not want to impinge on anyone's time of grief. However, please do not be offended when your well-meant tributes are removed after a suitable period – or why not retrieve them yourself before they're past their best?

Terry C. Evans, Chairman CTS

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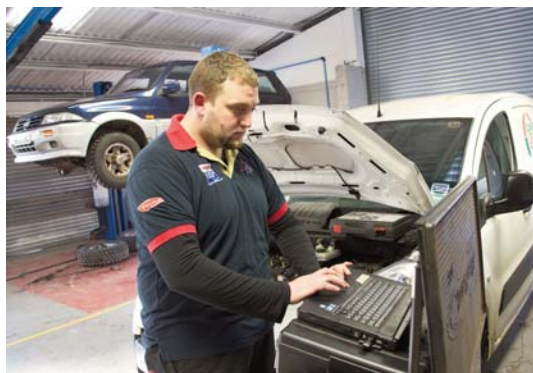
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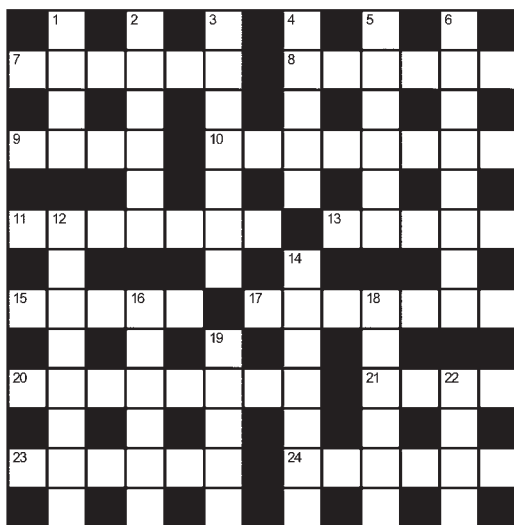
Crossword

Across

- 7 Wait upon (6)
- 8 Educated (6)
- 9 Leave out (4)
- 10 Buy (8)
- 11 Rebuked (7)
- 13 Cost (5)
- 15 Areas within a house (5)
- 17 Covered with thorns (7)
- 20 Against the current (8)
- 21 Curve on bottom of foot (4)
- 23 Edible bulbs (6)
- 24 Employ (6)

Down

- 1 Very small particle (4)
- 2 Relating to the teeth (6)
- 3 Modified (7)
- 4 Celestial bodies (5)
- 5 Writer (6)
- 6 Involving the body (8)
- 12 Cutting with an axe (8)
- 14 Metal wind instrument (7)



- 16 Technique (6)
- 18 Alter (6)
- 19 Sound practical judgment (5)
- 22 Wire enclosure used for birds (4)

Solution on page 43



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Sudoku

1	3	4	2		9		8	
				1			4	3
7	6	8	3				9	
3				9				
4						5		
		9	1				7	
	4	6	5	7				
5					4		2	
8	1	3		2				

The object of sudoku is to insert the missing numbers in the boxes to satisfy just one condition: each row, column and 3x3 box must contain the digits 1 through to 9 exactly once. This can be done by applying logic – you do not have to guess.

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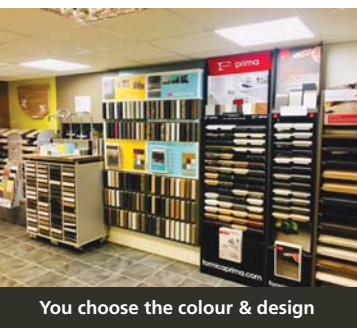
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	10.15-11.00 Independent 3-4yrs*	10.15-11.00 Under 2yrs	10.30-11.15 Independent 3-4yrs*	10.30-11.15 Independent 3-4yrs*		10.15-11.00 Yr3-Yr6
	11.15-12.00 Parent/Child 2-4yrs	11.15-12.00 Parent/Child 2-4yrs	11.30-12.15 Parent/Child 2-4yrs	11.30-12.15 Under 2yrs		11.00-11.45 Rec-Yr2
	12.30-1.15 Independent 3-4yrs*	12.30-1.15 Parent/Child 2-4yrs	12.45-1.30 Independent 3-4yrs*	12.45-1.30 Independent 3-4yrs*		11.45-12.30 Rec-Yr2
	1.30-2.15 Independent 3-4yrs*	1.30-2.15 Independent 3-4yrs*	1.45-2.30 Parent/Child 2-4yrs	1.45-2.30 Parent/Child 2-4yrs		1.00-1.45 Independent 3-4yrs*
	2.15-3.00 Independent 3-4yrs gym/cheerleading	2.15-3.00 Independent 3-4yrs gym/cheerleading				1.45-2.30 Parent/Child 2-4yrs
3.45-4.30 Rec-Yr2	3.45-4.30 Rec-Yr2	3.45-4.30 Rec-Yr2	3.45-4.30 Rec-Yr2	3.45-4.30 Rec-Yr2		
4.30-5.15 Rec-Yr2	4.30-5.15 Rec-Yr2	4.30-5.15 Rec-Yr2	4.30-5.15 Rec-Yr2	4.30-5.15 Rec-Yr2		
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The Golden Age of Smuggling

by Paul Minton

I write this article at the height of summer, when the country has recorded its hottest July ever temperature. Welsh beaches have been invaded by throngs (or should that be thongs?) of sun worshippers, whose modesty is protected only by scanty bikinis and budgie smugglers. Of course, budgie smuggling is not the only sort of smuggling that takes place in the UK. Trafficking in both drugs and people is an ever-present blight but old school smuggling of goods is never out of fashion. In 2012, for instance, contraband consisting of 25,000 bottles of red wine, 67,000 cigarettes and 92 kilos of tobacco was recovered from just a single container at Newport Docks.

According to estimates, Britain once had as many as 25,000 smugglers with another 100,000 people actively involved in distribution. The Royal Navy, with its complement of 50,000 sailors, struggled to police national waters and it was only after the conflict with France had ended with the defeat of Napoleon that the war against the smuggler gained traction.

As a major port, Newport has been awash with illicit goods for hundreds of years, depriving HM Customs and Excise and its

predecessors of millions of pounds in lost revenue. The manner in which contraband was brought ashore varied but there have been persistent rumours of secret tunnels running beneath the city, such as between the River Usk and Christchurch and from the River Ebbw to St Woolos Cathedral.

The earliest reports of the illegal trade around Newport possibly date back to 1649 when 2,000 lbs of tobacco were seized at Redwick. Attempts by customs officers to board moored vessels suspected of smuggling were often less than plain sailing. During one such episode in 1791, a ship's crew, brandishing both cutlass and pistol, swore to the official that "if he presumed to come on board, they would blow his brains out!" Many merchant seamen who were found guilty of smuggling were later pressganged into the Royal Navy as a punishment and a deterrent. From 1830, it was generally recognised that smuggling was in decline nationwide, although Newport did not see a similar change in the tide. Instead, it reported increasing numbers of offences and it has been suggested that the opening of the Monmouthshire Brecon Canal may have contributed to the rise. One interesting case involved the inaptly named ship, *Good Intent*.

Owned by a group of Newport businessmen, the 72-ton schooner ran a seemingly respectable operation between Britain and France. However, an inspection in 1837 revealed a series of false bulkheads that concealed 1100 gallons of brandy in 259 kegs. As a result, the *Good Intent*'s master was sentenced to a stint in Monmouth Gaol, whilst the vessel itself was confiscated and broken up.

On another occasion in 1891, the *South Wales Echo* reported that the master of a German ship named the *Leocadia* had been summoned to Newport Town Hall following the discovery of undeclared brandy stowed beneath some canvas in his bath. The steward had claimed the barrel was empty but the truth was revealed when customs officers heard the liquid sloshing about inside. That same year, the *Western Mail* printed a story about a runner for a Newport butchers, who was charged with smuggling cigars. Upon being confronted when bringing them ashore, the man literally did a runner, although he was apprehended some two hours later. The sentence was one month's imprisonment with a two guinea fine and no doubt, his dreams of becoming a big time smuggler went up in smoke at the same time!

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Crossword

Across: 7 Attend, 8 Taught, 9 Omit, 10 Purchase, 11 Scolded, 13 Price, 15 Rooms, 17 Prickly, 20 Upstream, 21 Arch, 23 Onions, 24 Engage.

Down: 1 Atom, 2 Dental, 3 Adapted, 4 Stars, 5 Author, 6 Physical, 12 Chopping, 14 Trumpet, 16 Method, 18 Change, 19 Sense, 22 Cage.

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1	3	4	2	6	9	7	8	5
9	2	5	7	1	8	6	4	3
7	6	8	3	4	5	2	9	1
3	5	1	4	9	7	8	6	2
4	7	2	6	8	3	5	1	9
6	8	9	1	5	2	3	7	4
2	4	6	5	7	1	9	3	8
5	9	7	8	3	4	1	2	6
8	1	3	9	2	6	4	5	7

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What do we believe?

We seek to be Word-centred and gospel-driven.

The Word of God is crucial! The ministry of Grace Baptist Assembly will, we trust, always keep God's Word central. Why? The Holy Bible is God's written Word; it is how He has chosen to communicate to us who He is, what He has been doing, and what He expects of us. The Bible alone holds the ultimate, most trustworthy, most authoritative answers to the questions of life and eternity. Thus, rather than magnifying the ideas of mere human beings, we look instead to God, trusting that He inspired and preserved His Word for His glory and our good. We believe that the written Word is a reflection of the Living Word, Jesus Christ, and that its contents are our reliable, sufficient rule of faith and practice. When a moral question is raised, or when we face a difficult circumstance, we choose to resort to the Bible for guidance, correction or comfort, rather than falling back on our own experiences and opinions.

We seek to be traditional in our message.

We hold to historical Baptist distinctives. Specifically, we are fond of The First London Baptist Confession of Faith, 1646 edition. We gladly accept broken, unaccomplished, needy sinners like ourselves; but we are not seeker-driven. We do not believe that 'doing church' is what God requires of people, and we do not believe that it is this or any other local church's responsibility to water down, nor add to, the gospel of Jesus Christ in order to create a more 'comfortable' environment. Do we want that gospel [good news] to be understandable? Yes. Do we ourselves want to be compassionate and inclusive? Yes. We want broken people - people like us - who know their sinfulness. We are here for those who know that they need something more than what this life has to offer. We seek not to offer more of the same, but to offer something different. The person and work of Jesus Christ is enough for us. We invite you to come see why.

We seek to be relevant in our vision.

We maintain that the Bible is more than a collection of ancient writings, but rather, it contains everything we need to face the problems of life in today's culture. Consequently, our teaching and preaching will include practical application to help us live as we ought to live. We are not an elite group of those who have 'arrived' and we are committed to continual change. We rest on and submit to the absolute, unchanging truth of the Bible; and it in turn changes us. We hear and meditate on God's Word - and while we do that, we try to be doers of that Word, and not hearers only. We have found that the unchanging truths of the Bible affect our everyday lives, and we pray that we will become more and more like Jesus Christ as we submit to and obey His Word.

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

(continued from the previous issue) ...The Apostle Paul taught the same kind of thing in Romans 8:19-22, "For the earnest expectation of the creature (now by "creature" or "creation" is meant all manner of inanimate objects, such as the geological plates under the Philippines and California and Britain) waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope, because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now."

Now, I ask you, who subjected creation to vanity, as it says, "in hope"? The devil? No! Satan subjects nothing to anything in hope; only **GOD** is a God of hope. God subjected creation to vanity in hope, so that when the curse came upon the world with all of its manifold decaying and vanity, it was God bringing a curse on the world for sin - but in hope!

If you were to ask, "Why should God ordain that there be an increasing frequency and intensity of earthquakes toward the end of the age, as the Lord draws near?" the biblical answer would seem to be that God intends to give hope-filled and shocking warnings, the same way labour pains are hope-filled warnings that a mother and father should get ready and go to a safe place to have the baby. God gives birth-pangs to the world so that the world will wake up and know something is about to happen. This is a great mercy: that with all of the tragedy in the calamities of the world, it is the loud, sombre voice of a holy God saying, "Get ready! There's a shaking still to come that will leave no house standing, no building standing, no place to stand but My throne." That's the meaning of earthquakes: they are warnings! And there'll be an increasing number of calamities, so that there's a growing sense of unsettledness in this world, and people grasp and hang onto money, and some cling to power, and some go after alcohol, and some go after drugs, and some go after illicit sexual relationships, and only a few have their love not grow cold because lawlessness is multiplied. Those will be the ones who hear the voice of the Lord in the shaking of our world. Open your eyes to read the signs of the times so that you won't be taken off-guard when the calamity comes - whether it is your own little private calamity of a stopped heart, or whether everybody together rolls with the earthquake. It is coming, and the Lord is warning us that it is coming. Again and again and again He is shaking people awake to the reality of the instability of this world and the desirability of the unshakable kingdom that He offers.

Before the end of this age, God is giving to **everyone** who **believes** in His Son **the gift of a kingdom that cannot be moved** and will never end.

This is the message of the entire Bible. But in order to see it, we should look at verse 28 of our text: "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved..."

Notice with me that we've already received it. Verse 27 says that what can be shaken will be swept away in one last great shaking, and that what is unshakable will remain. Then verse 28 says that we've already received that unshakable kingdom.

This is the great joy of being a genuine Christian believer. It doesn't matter whether you live San Francisco, California, or Newport, South Wales, or on the island of Luzon in the Philippines - you have a kingdom which has already been given to you, and your life in Christ is **UNSHAKEABLE**.

That doesn't mean that there weren't any Christians killed in the rubble of those buildings. There probably were. We share in the vanity and futility and decay and calamities of creation as long as we're in the body. Romans 8:23 says, "And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body." When the flood comes, even we believers in Jesus Christ may drown. When the tornado comes, we may lose our homes and church property. When the earthquake strikes, we may be crushed under the rubble.

No, my friends, receiving an immovable kingdom does not mean safety for the body in this world. It does not mean that we'll escape the earthquake. What it means is that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39). It means the deep and abiding certainty that "whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living" (Romans 14:8-9). It means that "here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come" (Hebrews 13:14): "a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God" (Hebrews 11:10), "a kingdom which cannot be moved" (Hebrews 12:28) - forever. It doesn't mean that the judgment won't begin at the house of God. The Apostle Peter tells us (1 Peter 4:17) that it will.

And this brings us to our final point - that **God is a consuming fire.**

In view of all of these things - the free gift of an unshakable kingdom - we ought to serve God with reverence and godly fear, remembering that our God is a consuming fire.

Verses 28 and 29 tell us: "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: for our God is a consuming fire."

The question for believer and unbeliever alike today is this: are you serving the immovable God, or are you worshiping shakeable possessions? Is your heart steadfastly fixed on God? Is Christ Himself your greatest treasure, or is the world out there your treasure? Is God your security, or is your pension plan your security? Is God your fellowship, or is your own family the sum-total of your fellowship? Are you an idolater? Is Christ your portion in this life, or is the world your portion? Do you stand with reverence and godly fear before the power and holiness of this God, who is a consuming fire toward all sin, and do you clothe yourself with the flame-resistant righteousness of Jesus Christ, so that the fire of God can be seen from within you as glory and not as punishment?

One thing that the recent cyclone and earthquakes should reinforce in our minds is the importance of holding loosely to material things. In one powerful stroke, accumulated possessions for which people had laboured for many years were turned over to wind and rain, or a quaking ground, and soon followed by...looters.

Receive the kingdom which cannot be moved. Jesus says to us, "**Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein**" (Mark 10:15). See how simple it is? What does "**a little child...**" mean? It means that you humble yourself and recognize that you cannot possibly make a place for yourself to stand. You simply humble yourself like "**a little child...**" You recognize that there is a Father in heaven. You see the gift offered to you through His Son Jesus Christ - forgiveness and the hope of everlasting life and a firm kingdom that cannot be shaken - and you extend your hands and say, "Sinner though I am, I receive it; this is now my portion forever and ever." Will you do that today?

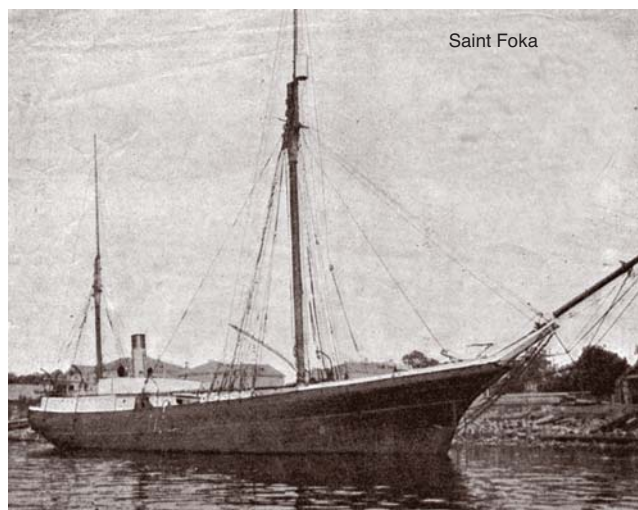
THE FINAL FATE OF H.M.S. NEWPORT

(Part 3)

Albanov and Konrad paddled their Kayak out across the sea to meet the approaching ship, the *Saint Martyr Foka*, which then dropped anchor. The relieved pair then clambered on board and were made welcome. The ship was calling at Cape Flora in order to search for fuel supplies for the steam engines. They had used up most of their coal supplies and were forced to rely on sail power.

Once on board they learned that the original expedition commander Sedov had died previously and that

three days and, hopefully, take them clear of the ice. The ship was very old and had



the expedition leader was now a Dr. P. Kushakov. It was agreed that the fortunate pair, Albanov and Konrad, could stay on board the *Saint Foka* for the trip back to Archangel. The next morning the crew went ashore to search for fuel and they dismantled a large cabin and transported the wood back to the ship to use as fuel. This salvaged wood fuel would give the ship enough steam power to last about

sprung a leak which required pumping for a couple of hours every day to prevent it from sinking. The shortage of fuel caused much concern and care had to be taken to avoid frequent collisions with ice floes. Before heading back towards Archangel, the ship made a search of other islands of the archipelago for any surviving missing members of the *Saint Anna* party, but no trace of any of these

people was found. Albanov and Konrad must be the only survivors of the forlorn party that had set out from the icebound ship *Saint Anna*. After completing the unsuccessful search the ship set off in the direction of Archangel, making use of any favourable winds to use sail power. The crew were desperately ransacking the ship for any wood that was not a vital structural part and could be burnt as fuel to raise steam. They even considered burning the ship's piano and also dismantled all the ship's cabins in the search for fuel. This meant that everybody would have to sleep on the bare deck!

The *Saint Foka* made very slow progress on her return voyage, they were blocked by fog and had difficulty in avoiding icebergs. The ship became trapped in the ice and had to anchor itself to a berg. They were now desperately short of fuel and resorted to dismantling the topmast, the jib boom and spritsail gaff, to saw up for fuel. They even piled up in the coal bins spare sails, coils of rope, mattresses and anything not absolutely necessary that would burn.

In the morning the fog finally lifted and the winds became favourable and they were able to hoist sails and maintain a southerly progress at four to five knots. Eventually, the ship broke free of ice and was able to set a straight course for Cape Svyatoy and it was hoped that they might meet a steam ship that would

tow them to Archangel. They eventually began to meet other vessels, but despite the *Saint Foka's* signals none of them would stop. Finally, they made contact through a fishing boat and managed to send a message which resulted in two motor boats towing the ship into a fishing port.

From here they were able to arrange a lift on board a steamer, *S.S. Emperor Nicholas*, which would take a party on to Archangel including Albanov and Konrad. This then finally achieved the homecoming of a pair, who after two years voyaging, were all that remained of the crew of 24 who had left St. Petersburg on September 1st 1914.

From his diary records that he had kept so carefully over the last few years, Albanov later went on to write a book detailing the story of this tragic expedition and survival. The book was initially written in



Russian then translated into French and finally in English. I managed to find such a copy entitled 'In the Land of White Death' via Amazon from which I have taken details for this article.

Albanov continued as a sailor serving on board various ships including an icebreaker. He, unfortunately, died in 1919 some reports say of typhoid and others say that he was killed by the explosion of a munitions wagon at a railway station in Siberia.

Konrad also continued at sea sailing with Albanov on board the icebreaker *Canada* and then he worked as an engineer and mechanic on the Baltic Steam Ship Line. He outlived Albanov, dying of pleurisy in Leningrad in 1940. Now the final question must be 'What happened to the *Saint Anna* and remaining crew members?' I am afraid that you must wait until the next and final instalment to find out.

(To be continued)

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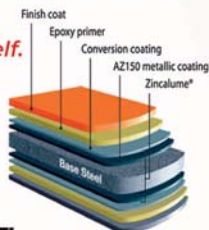
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Newport Uskmouth Rotary boost Charity funds to over £180,000

Newport charities and volunteer organisations continue to benefit by thousands of pounds each year by taking part in the annual Newport Uskmouth Rotary's City Draw **and there is an opportunity for new organisations to join the 2020 Draw.** Affectionately known as the **NURD**, the event is genuinely a win/win scheme first introduced in Newport in September 2008. The concept is simple and hugely beneficial. The Club obtains prizes from sponsorship from various commercial and private sources. The Rotary Club prints the raffle tickets, **gives them** to the participating organisations who **keep the income from the sale of tickets.**

On average each year, more than £17,000 has been pumped into the charity sector of the City. The first Draw was in May 2009 and the most recent on 1st May 2019, when the Mayor of Newport drew the winning 11 tickets which were shared by Friends of the Newport Ship, Newport Philharmonic Choir, Newport MIND, Lliswerry Heart Link, Zimbabwe Volunteers Association, Adams Chorale, Cantorion Sanctaidd Choir, and ETA-mined. **£20,000 worth of tickets will be available for the next Draw (NURD20) and registration will take place in late October.** Beneficiaries of the Draw say:

RN Association (Newport): "A big thank you for inviting us again to take part in the Annual Draw. They provide everything – all we have to do is sell the

Newport Uskmouth
Rotary
& Satellites



tickets and keep the money and, this year, our funds were swollen by £1,500".

Parkinson's Newport: "We may not have won a prize but it was all in a good cause and we raised £395 for our funds".

"Opt to Adopt" Dogs'

Home: "We really appreciate the opportunity to take part and the funds raised will be put to good use".

NURD19 first prize

Winner: "Winning the top cash prize means that I can afford a holiday for the first time for many years. Thank you Rotary".

The Draw promoter, Keith Minton, says "This is just part of the contribution Newport Uskmouth Rotary makes to the City: other activities include the award-winning 'Young Carers' project, developing work in the City's first 'Men's Shed', the annual summer cycle ride for Prostate Cancer and the 'Tree of Light' at Christmas in Friar's Walk.



“ The event is genuinely a win/win scheme first introduced in Newport in September 2008. ”

If you are involved in running a charity, a youth activity, keep-fit class, PTA, church, choir etc. etc., you may be eligible to take part in the 2020 Draw. To learn more contact Keith Minton on keithminton44@gmail.com



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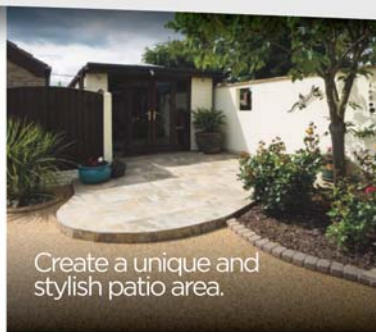
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