

ROGERSTONE

DIRECTORY



ISSUE 82
NOVEMBER/
DECEMBER 2019



SW DIRECTORIES

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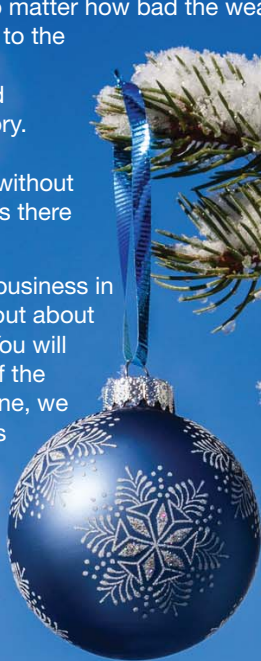
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Susan
x



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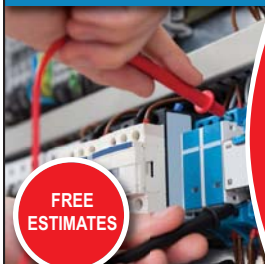
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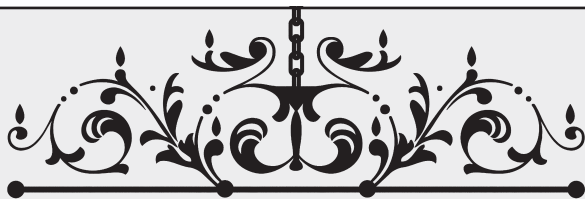
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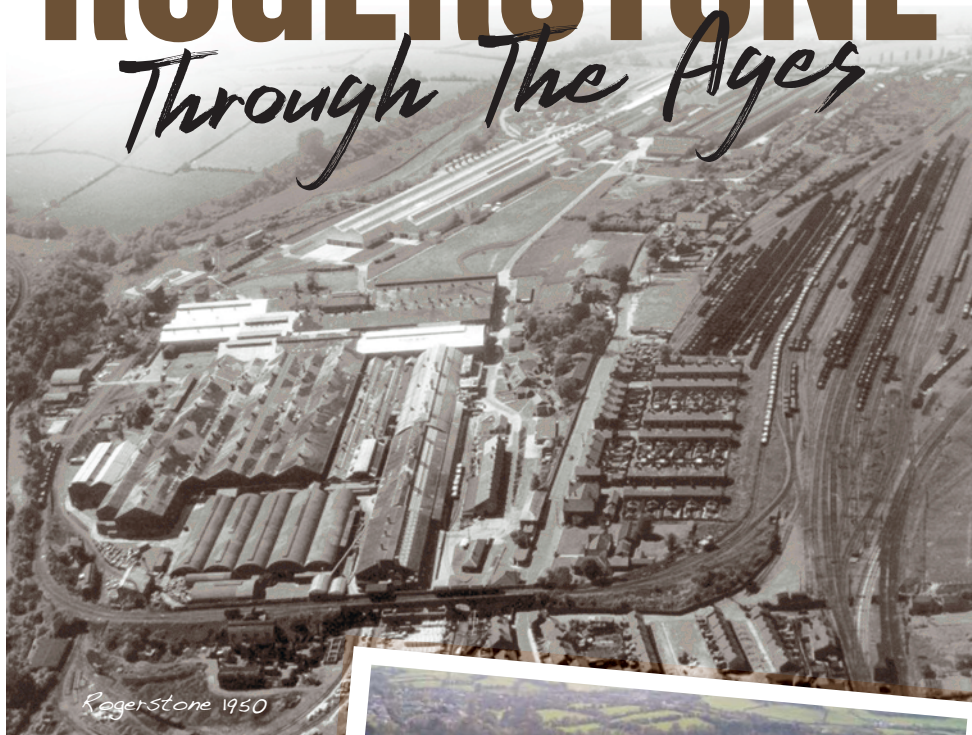


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ROGERSTONE

Through The Ages



Rogerstone 1950

How times have changed! In the late 1890s to early 1900s, when Rogerstone started to grow with the steel industry, the only way of communicating was by talking or writing. Any news from afar was announced by someone walking through the village ringing one of the old school bells like a town crier. An example of this was the news of the 'Relief of Mafeking' to end the Boer war in May 1900. In those days radio had only just been invented. The first overwater radio transmission was in fact in South Wales from Flat Holm to Lavernock Point. This was by Guglielmo Marconi who moved to South Wales because he was not taken seriously in Italy.



Rogerstone 2017

Since then of course technology has grown at rapid rates from Radio, Telephone Television, Computers, Mobile Phones, many others, the internet and with it of course Social Media. Social media of course has good and bad points, the following narrates one of the GOOD points of

social media.

Jane Hancox (nee Young) is from one of the base families who settled in Rogerstone when it began to grow in the late 1890s. Just over two and a half years ago, 'for a bit of fun', she set up the Facebook Group

'Rogerstone Through The Ages' for Rogerstone people to reminisce and light heartedly disagree, by posting stories and pictures about Rogerstone's past.



Jane Hancocks (founder)

Little did Jane know what she'd started! The site was soon very busy to the extent that she couldn't handle everything on her own and very quickly brought in her sister, Sue Screen as a second admin for the site. After a hectic start the site has now settled down but is averaging new members at an approximate rate of 1,000 per year. Not only does the site allow Rogerstone inhabitants to talk



Sue Screen (co admin)

and exchange views it is also a platform for people who have left Rogerstone, to keep in touch with friends and family and keep up with all news of Rogerstone. It has enabled old friendships to be rekindled. Also, it enables the children of older people who are not computer literate to show photographs and tales from the group page which they find very interesting and sometimes are able to point out anomalies which were unknown to the younger generations. Below is a snapshot of a few members to show how far and wide they are spread throughout the UK and the rest of the world, all discussing Rogerstone.

- Anne Baldwin - Newport, Terry Drewett - Exeter
- Pad Macnamee - County Durham, Susan Richards - Machen
- Lesley Anne Rees - Port Talbot, Jane & Michael Beale - St. Mellons
- Irene Willis - Carmarthen, Judith Holmes - Pontypool, Beverley Neil - Lincoln
- Bryan Richards - Oman, Rosemary Sharman - Cyprus, Anne Hughes - Australia
- Veronica Richards Miller - Canada, Ray Young - Australia, Jane Goodwin - Faro Portugal

'Buildings Boy'
Mrs. Audrey (nee Currier) and Fred Young
Finally a few words from Jane the founder of the site.
"It's been almost two and half years since I created the group 'Rogerstone Through The Ages' and with almost 2,500 members I was curious to see what our members thought of it and how many old friends or school pals they are back in touch with. Over the years our members have posted hundreds of

photos new and old, of families from the 'Nook' and the 'Building's', top and bottom Rogerstone. Weddings of our parents & grandparents and old school photos, that brings so many memories flooding back. Among the most senior residents in Rogerstone are my mother Audrey Young, who celebrated her 91st birthday this year, and Mrs Ethel Morgan, who celebrated her 99th birthday this year. I am so glad I started this group albeit as a joke. I am so happy old friends are back in touch and ex-pat Rogerstone families who have moved to other parts of the country, or emigrated can still see Rogerstone as it matures via photos posted on the Facebook group. I would like to thank my sister Sue, for helping me keep all the members in order, she is a great admin. Lastly, but not least, I would like to give a big thank you to all of our members for their contributions and support, which have helped to make this group a success. I hope that Rogerstone Through The Ages will continue to be a success and bring even more people back together."

Jane Hancox



Mrs. Audrey (nee Currier) and Fred Young



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Twmbarlwm devastated – but hey! – every cloud...

Have the fires done us a great favour and revealed some vital clues to the archaeological history of the iconic mountain?

You probably do not need reminding of the terrible wildfires that affected Twmbarlwm mountain in the summer of 2018 when much of the grass, heather and whim covering the scheduled monument was burnt away to quite a depth.

Cymdeithas Twmbarlwm Society, like everyone else, were very concerned about the devastation and within days of the fire, after sending a series of photos showing the damage, CTS were guiding officers from Cadw around the site.

Together with the ecologist from Caerphilly CBC they were shocked to see the extent of the damage. Although it was a very sad sight, we were able to see that without the cover of the undergrowth, there appeared to be some archaeological features that we and Cadw were not previously aware of.

Not being slow on the uptake CTS saw an opportunity developing. We had already had dealings with Cadw and knew how difficult it can be to get permission to stick a spade in a scheduled monument without their say-so.

After all, Twmbarlwm and its supposed hill-fort has had very little serious research done on it and certainly no official archaeological excavations – indeed there are many conflicting opinions on its history and possible origins, so wouldn't it be a great idea to try to get some answers.

As it turned out, our friends from Cadw were way ahead of us, and were thinking of ways they could persuade their bosses that a serious archaeological investigation of Twmbarlwm was long overdue and this window of opportunity provided by the fires was too good to miss.

So a team from CTS worked with Cadw to explore the possibility of an archaeological dig and after many months of planning and negotiations the Society managed to get the go ahead for an in-depth archaeological investigation of the ancient monument at the summit of Twmbarlwm.

Cadw provided the funding with which CTS engaged the professional services of Clwyd-Powys

Archaeological Trust to perform the investigation. Lead archaeologist, Richard Hankinson, from CPAT was shown around the site by CTS members for an initial assessment and designed a schedule for the project's four to five week duration.

Preliminary work started early October, so much of it will be complete by the time this article hits the press. The investigation kicked off with various surveys including magnetometry geo-physics, auger and borehole sampling.

Using the data supplied by those surveys a series of trenches were dug to help uncover some clues to the origins and nature of some of the features this fascinating area. Results of the surveys and trench work are all available in the public domain and can be accessed through the Twmbarlwm website.

CTS gathered a list of volunteers who were invited to a briefing meeting with Richard and Cadw officers – nearly 30 people turned up for the meeting at Risca Museum and many more applied via email.

Without volunteers and the support of the community an operation like this would be unviable, we are therefore very grateful to all those who help out.

The end of the dig is not the end of the project, our research into the history of Twmbarlwm goes on and there will be other opportunities to get involved – so please keep visiting our website for news.

At the end of the excavation period there will be an open day on the mountain to show people the work done, there will eventually be a printed report published and an audio visual talk on our findings.

Terry C. Evans, Chairman CTS

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.

www.twmbarlwm.co.uk

Officers from Cadw and the Caerphilly CBC ecologist examine the devastation on Twmbarlwm.

Photo: Terry C. Evans





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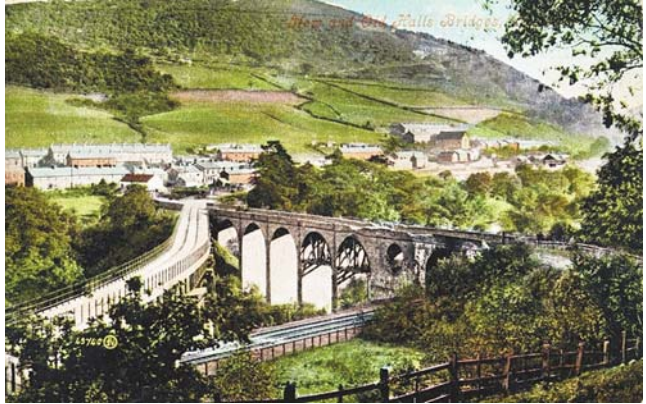
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Pont Hall (Hall's Bridge) by Geoff Smith

Travelling up the A467, between the roundabouts at Cross Keys and Cwmcarn you pass under a viaduct passing across the valley. This is Pont Hall.

So, who was Hall? Mention 'Big Ben' and the iconic clock tower at Westminster comes to mind, but Big Ben was the nickname of Sir Benjamin Hall, who was the Clerk of Works for the building of the clock tower, and at 6ft 2inches tall was very tall for a Victorian gentleman. This story is more concerned with his father, also Sir Benjamin Hall. He married the daughter of the ironmaster Richard Crawshaw of Cyfartha, and after Crawshaw had bought the Abercarn estate for some £50,000 in 1808, he sold it to his son-in-law for 5 shillings! Hall owned collieries in the Sirhowy Valley, and to get his



coal to Newport for shipping built a tramroad which via a tunnel at Pentwyn Mawr and Newbridge reached a basin which had been built alongside the Crumlin Branch of the Monmouthshire Canal at Abercarn. This was not altogether satisfactory, as despite the climate the canal was short of water and delays resulted. Sir Benjamin decided to extend his tramroad further down the Western Valley to eventually join the Monmouthshire Canal tramroad near Cross Keys. Hall's tramroad ran down the Western side of the valley until near Pontywaun, where a stone arched viaduct was built across the valley. This was Pont Hall. Later, the tramroad was upgraded to a railway, which was eventually leased by the Great Western Railway in the 1870s. As often happened, the later railway could not accommodate the sharp curves of the horse worked tramroad and as Pont Hall was subsiding a new bridge was built which gave an easier route for the railway. The picture shows both

the old and new 'Pont Hall'.

The industrialists of the early years of the 19th century were a crafty and ruthless lot. Sir Benjamin Hall had a rival coal owner in Sir Henry Protheroe, who intended to build his own tramroad through a tunnel between the Sirhowy and Western Valleys, to eventually reach the Canal at Pontywaun. Because the Valley is narrow and steep sided the choice of routes for a tramroad were very limited. To thwart Sir Henry, Sir Benjamin built a row of eight cottages directly up the hillside near West End, Abercarn, which effectively blocked the only available route down the valley. Sir Henry waited until the row was nearly completed, then one night his men demolished the buildings and carried away the doors and window frames. It was all to no avail, Sir Benjamin completed the cottages, thereby scuppering Sir Henry's plans. The cottages were known as 'Spiteful Row'. When Hall's Tramroad arrived the front and Back doors of cottage No.5 were enlarged, and the rails ran straight through!

Sir Benjamin Hall





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It Might Be the End of the Summer but NOW Is A Good Time to Sell Your House

As the nights grow longer and the days colder, many homeowners think that they should delay getting their house on the market until next spring. Other owners with properties not yet sold withdraw their house from the market. But are they right? Are they perhaps missing out on the opportunity for their property to shine (and sell) at a time when there is less competition?

To justify the decision for delaying putting our house on the market, we tell ourselves that we do not want to be disturbed right now, purchasers might be put off looking in bad weather and Christmas is coming so their focus turns to buying presents not houses!

But let's take a look at a few reasons why sellers should get their house on the market now:

- 1 Less competition:** your house is more visible to buyers now – beat your competition to the market!
- 2 Motivated buyers:** buyers looking for property at this time of year are usually motivated. Maybe they need to find a new house by January? If so, they will have a sense of urgency.

3 Bad weather: really? Well, yes. If somebody likes your house in bad weather, they know that they will absolutely love it in good weather, so decisions can be made more swiftly.

4 Strengthen your buying position: sell now and you will be in a much stronger position negotiating the purchase of another house.

5 A jolly mess: this is the only time of year that you can get away with a little jolly mess when selling your house. Buying a home is emotional. Christmas decorations, a roaring fire, the smell of mince pies and festive cheer conjure up happy memories. This can help you to sell.

Rogerstone remains very popular

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year on the Elan Estate, for the perfect day out make sure you check the local weather forecast before you leave.

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By supporting the work of St David's Hospice Care, you are making a positive difference to patients and their families throughout Newport, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Torfaen and South / Mid Powys. Funds raised provide comprehensive palliative care and support to patients and their families at a very difficult time of their lives. Our aim is to ensure patients have 'real' choice to receive individual tailored care, surrounded by friends and families.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 23rd Nov
Elf walk/Run – Cwmbran.

Sunday 1st Dec
Christmas Fayre – St Pierre, Chepstow.

Wednesday 11th Dec
Cinema Night – Newport.

Sunday 15th Dec
Santa Ride – Newport,

Sunday 23rd Feb
Pontypool 10K – Pontypool.

Sunday 1st March
Admiral Half Marathon – Newport.

Friday 6th March
Ladies Day – Cardiff.

Join our weekly Lottery - £1 a week – 24 prizes
More events listed on our website

Bringing care home

St David's Hospice Care Blackett Avenue, Newport, NP20 6NH
Telephone: 01633 851051 **Email:** fundraising@stdavidshospicecare.org
www.stdavidshospicecare.org

Find us on:    

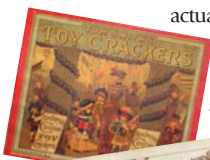
Registered charity number: 1010576

Christmas Traditions

Ever wondered how we came to kiss underneath the mistletoe, deck the halls with tinsel and wear paper crowns around the dinner table?

CRACKERS

In 1847, the confectioners Tom Smith started wrapping sweets in a twist of paper. Over the years, he added new elements, first inserting a love motto into the wrapper, and then – inspired by a crackling fire – a ‘crack’ when the wrapping was broken. Tom then replaced the sweets with trinkets and wrapped paper around a cardboard tube. When his sons took over the business, they introduced crowns.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Sending Christmas cards can be time-consuming, but they were actually invented to save time! In

1843 Sir Henry Cole commissioned an artist to create a festive illustration alongside a Christmas

greeting. He then printed 1,000 of these cards to send to friends, then sold the rest to charity. Today, around 900 million

Christmas

cards are sent in Britain every year. In 2001, one of Cole's 12 surviving original Christmas cards sold at auction for £22,500.

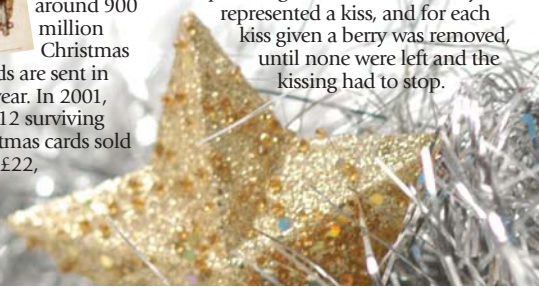
TINSEL

Tinsel was designed to

replicate icicles, and was initially made from strips of real silver! However, this became tarnished by smoke from candles, so lead foil was used instead. In the 1960s, worries about lead poisoning saw a switch to plastic materials, which are still used today.

MISTLETOE

Pagans believed mistletoe had a mystical life force of fertility. Kissing under the mistletoe became a popular Victorian parlour game: each white berry represented a kiss, and for each kiss given a berry was removed, until none were left and the kissing had to stop.



Festive Music Facts

James Pierpont's 1857 song Jingle Bells was first called One Horse Open Sleigh and was written for Thanksgiving.

We Wish You A Merry

Christmas is one of the oldest secular Christmas songs, originating in 16th century England.

White Christmas by Bing Crosby is the best selling single of all

time. It's sold over 50 million copies.

In Britain, the best-selling festive single is Band Aid's 1984 track, **Do They Know It's Christmas?**, which sold 3.5million copies. Wham is next in the same year with Last Christmas, selling 1.4million.

The Beatles hold the record for most Christmas number 1

singles, topping the charts in 1963, 65 and 67.

Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen is the only record to get the UK Christmas Singles Chart Number One twice, once in 1975 and again in 1991. Do They Know It's Christmas was number 1 three times (1984, 1989 and 2004), but technically it was by different groups, so doesn't count.

Parish of Bassaleg

Christmas Services 2019

12th December

7.30pm St. John's Rogerstone
Community Carol service

22nd December

Carol Service 11.30am St. Anne's High Cross
Carol Service 6.00pm St. Basil's Bassaleg

24th December Christmas Eve

4.00pm Christingle St. Basil's

4.00pm Crib Service St. John's

24th December 11.30pm Midnight Mass
St. Basil's and St. John's

25th December Christmas Day

8.30am St. Basil's Said Eucharist

9.30am St. Anne's Family Service

10.00am St. Basil's Family Service

10.45am St. John's Family Service



Christmas at

BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH

Bethesda Baptist Church, Cefn Road, Rogerstone
www.bethesdabaptistchurch.org.uk Pastor: Rev Mark Thomas 01633 664742



Sunday 22 December

11am Family Nativity Service 6pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve

5.00pm Christingle Service
11:30pm Christmas Eve Carol Service

**Christmas
Day**

10:30am Christmas Morning Celebration



Christmas at

CEFN WOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

Cefn Wood Baptist Church, Ebenezer Drive, Rogerstone
Pastor: Huw Stephens 01633 891421



Sunday 22 December

11am Family Service 6pm Carols by Candlelight

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COMING INTO THE WORLD" THE BIBLE, JOHN 1:9**



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Christmas socks
and **everyone's**
favourite chocs



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Newport | South Wales | NP20 3PU
www.trinitymethodistnewport.co.uk

December 1st

(1st Sunday in Advent)

10.30am - All Age Praise Toy Service

6.00pm - Advent 1 Service

December 8th

(2nd Sunday in Advent)

10.30am & 6.00pm - Advent 2 Services

December 15th

(3rd Sunday in Advent)

10.30am - Advent 3 Service

5.00pm - Messy Christingle

(All ages welcome)

December 22nd

(4th Sunday in Advent)

10.30am - Advent 4 Service

6.00pm - Traditional Carol Service

December 24th

(Christmas Eve)

11.15pm - Midnight Communion

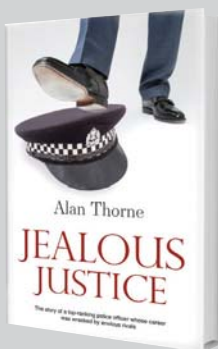
December 25th

(Christmas Day)

10.00am Christmas Day Family Worship

Top Read of 2019

IDEAL FOR CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS



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If you multitask, then audio
from AUDIBLE



Christmas Gift Extravaganza

Thursday 21st November 4pm - 8pm

Sunday 1st December 11am - 4pm

Saturday 7th December, 11am - 4pm

Thursday 12th December 4pm - 8pm

30+ stalls, free parking after 4pm, canapes, prosecco and mulled wine

Tel 07737 630657 Facebook bellevue tearooms



Check out Belle Vue Tea Room Grotto
and come to meet Santa

December dates:

1st 12.00 - 2.00pm £6.50 per child

7th 12.00 - 2.00pm £6.50 per child

8th with real reindeers 11.00am - 3.00pm £10.50 per child

14th 12.00 - 2.00pm £6.50 per child

21st and 22nd Cream Tea with Santa 12.00 - 2.00pm £6.50
per child plus £4.50 per cream tea; adults £7.50 per cream tea



Tickets available at Eventbrite and in the Tea Room
Tickets will have a time slot and are limited to 50 per day.

Tel Jan on 07737 630657

THE COMPANIONSHIP CENTRE

"Come to us as a stranger but leave us as a friend"



The Companionship Centre is open to anyone over the age of 50 yrs who is lonely, feels isolated or has short term memory loss.

The centre is open Monday - Friday and offers two sessions per day. The cost of each session includes refreshments and all activities.

Sessions are bookable in advance, each session runs for three hours and are competitively priced.

We also host Dementia Evenings fortnightly for families and friends to gain insight and advice.

Please call in or phone us for further information

The Companionship Centre, 7 Duffryn Shopping Centre, Duffryn. NP10 8TE

Email: duffryncc@gmail.com

Tel: 01633 499777

ROGERSTONE

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Rogerstone Community Council are considering developing part of Tydu Community Centre in Rogerstone Welfare Grounds, into a community cafe and are looking for expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced operators to work in partnership with the Community Council to develop a proposal.

The Welfare Grounds has seen a steady increase in footfall over the years and is the hub of sports and leisure activities in the busy and buoyant community of Rogerstone.

If you are interested in working with the Community Council and have a successful background in cafe development and operation please get in touch by 31st December 2019

COMMUNITY CAFE



Colin Atyeo

Clerk to the Council

Tydu Community Hall, Welfare Grounds,
Tregwilym Road, Rogerstone, Newport NP10 9EQ
rogerstonecc@gmail.com
01633 546696

Usk New Start Cat Rescue

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Ridgeway Community Centre Day Tours 2019

THURSDAY
21st NOVEMBER
Victorian Christmas
Market in Gloucester

RIDGEWAY HILL
Bus Stop 9:15am
RIVERFRONT 9:20am
Return from Market at 5:00pm
£11 per person

To book please ring
Heather on 01633 893730 or
Malcolm on 01633 661906
Payments can be made at the
Ridgeway Community Centre on
Wednesdays 9.30 - 11.00am
or Fridays 4.30 - 6.00pm

Newport U3A

The U3A is the 22nd largest charity in the UK and the Newport branch (u3asites.org.uk/newport) meets at Shaftesbury Street Methodist Church Wednesday - Friday each week during term time and, since the introduction in October of Meditation sessions, it now runs 40 interest groups. In addition there are many extra-curricular activities.

Recently the Out and About Group went to the Onion Fayre at Newent - a festival with live music, retail stalls, an onion eating competition and more. Members enjoy this trip so much it has become an annual event in their calendar!

Soon various groups will each enter a team in our Winter Quiz, when there will be much banter and taunting whilst trying to win



first prize.

The Skittles group will be hosting a return friendly match against Chepstow U3A, there's a lot to play for as the state of play is one-all at the moment.

The Choir (see photo) is rehearsing in preparation for a busy festive season with many concerts booked. Importantly

they will perform at our Annual Carol Service held at the church, along with the ten Language groups that sing a Carol in one of the five languages that they are studying.

We will finish the term with a Christmas Party and many groups will also go out for a Christmas meal.

If you are retired or winding down to retirement come along and try a few sessions before committing to join.

Angela Robins 07980 970967.

What's On



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

www.swdirectories.com



Places of Worship

See our website for a full list of local church services and activities.

www.swdirectories.com

NEW BEGINNINGS COMMUNITY GROUP



Cefn Wood Baptist Church Hall
Ebenezer Drive Rogerstone
Thursdays from 1.00pm – 3.00pm
November 14th & 28th
December 12th & January 9th

A warm welcome awaits you and a nice 'cuppa' too!
For more info call Ellie on 07816 838667

Rogerstone Roses WI

Meet on the 2nd and 4th
Tuesday in the month at
7.00pm in

St Anne's Church Hall,
High Cross Lane,
High Cross.



For more details please contact:
Mary Edmunds 01633 891363

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.

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If you are interested in aviation and
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goes on in the air above us every day,
why not come along to one of our
regular meetings at the
Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg?
For more information call
01633 213243

COMMUNITY COFFEE SPOT

10.30am - FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE
MONTH

St Anne's Church Hall NP10 9SH

Come and join us for coffee, tea and a chat.
You will be very welcome, so why not pop in?

If you want to find out more,
please call Claire on 01633 895222

Canal and Countryside Volunteers

Meet every Thursday from
10am until 3pm or 4pm.

We work on a variety of practical
conservation tasks around
Fourteen Locks Canal Centre and
Allt-yr-Yn Local Nature Reserve.

If you are interested please enquire at the
Fourteen Locks Canal Centre or contact
Newport City Council

Risca Rascals Parent & Toddler Group

Tuesdays 9:15 to 11:15

66a Commercial Street,
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call Pam:
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Graig Community Council

Committed to Maintaining and
Improving the Graig Ward

Covering Bassaleg, Rhiwderin, Lower Machen and
Afon Village (west of the river)

Visit our website to learn about the
work the Community Council does
at: graiGCC.co.uk

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Contact the Clerk on 07971 094382 or email
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FORGE HAMMER, CWMBRAN, NP44 3DQ**

**Cwmbran group contact - Mrs Val Carnegie
T: 01633 872553 E: slasher45@btinternet.com**

**Further info on Diabetes contact - Diabetes UK Cymru
T: 029 2066 8276 E: wales@diabetes.org.uk**

Rogerstone Library

Tregwilym Road

01633 656656

Email:

rogerstone.library@newport.gov.uk

OPENING TIMES

Monday	9.00am - 7.00pm
Tuesday	9.00am - 5.30pm
Wednesday	9.00am - 5.30pm
Thursday	9.00am - 5.30pm
Friday	9.00am - 5.30pm
Saturday	9.00am - 1.00pm
Lunch time closing	1.00pm - 2.00pm

Story Club

is now held on **TUESDAY** at 2pm
during term time.

0-5 year olds

Rogerstone Festival

After a number years absence the Rogerstone Festival made a successful return on 1st September. Helped with a beautiful sunny day the attendance was much more than anticipated but easily managed within the beautiful welfare grounds.

The festival had up to 46 stalls displaying numerous goods and supporting good causes. There were also a number of food outlets. Those who attended the festival were entertained by Ukulele Wolves who put on a delightful display. There was also a lot of interest in the Dog Show, Welsh Dancing display, Tae Kwondo Display and the spoken word by Georgina Bluebell. Prior to the opening of the festival the Royal British Legion Bikers rode a

route around Rogerstone taking in Afon Village, Mount Pleasant and Jubilee Park before displaying their bikes and trikes at the

festival. For those more interested in automobiles there was a display of Classic Cars. Raffle tickets sold at the event raised money for Welsh Air Ambulance and the Lucy Ellis Foundation the fight against sepsis. Overall a most enjoyable

day with much interest about plans for next year's event. The festival committee are extremely grateful for the outstanding work by the ground staff who in no small measure made the day such a success.

**The committee are always glad to welcome new members and to hear from those who would like to participate in next year's event. We can be contacted at: Stephen Bowen Rogerstone Festival Treasurer
Rogerstone Festival Committee, Tydu Community Hall
Welfare Grounds, Tregwilym Road, Rogerstone, NP10 9EQ.**

Chartist Mural

It seems a long time since the article in the January/February 2018 edition of the Rogerstone Directory where we asked for the community's support for a Chartist Mural.

Well after much research, a 6000 word application, some translation into welsh, letters of support from various quarters including: Paul Flynn, Dame Rosemary Butler, Pat Drewitt (Our Chartist Heritage), Mount Pleasant School, Lynne Richards (Tourism Officer NCC), Mike Lewis (Culture and Continuing Learning Manager NCC) and Oliver Budd (son of the original artist), we received the letter we had been waiting for. On the 24th September 2018 we received confirmation that we had been successful in obtaining a £20,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Chartist Mural. The



intervening months have seemed endless whilst we have waited for the necessary planning and lease documents so that work could finally start. On 30th July we had the permission to start, Oliver Budd went to work straight away on the mural. Although work at the mural site would only take about three weeks I was very glad to see this element of the project starting 30th September. With about one

week for the final installation of the mural the opening date is set for 4th November, the 180th anniversary of the Chartist Uprising. It will be sited between the bottom of Ruskin Avenue and the top of Chartist Way.

Stephen Bowen

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GATERS



07585 558051 Barbershop

54, TREDEGAR STREET, RISCA, NP11 6BW



Gaters Barbershop has moved to new premises



Gaters Barbers are pleased to welcome you to our new barbershop which opened on Monday 21st March At 54 Tredegar street Risca NP11 6BW only about 80 yards from our old shop but this one offers you more luxury with a dedicated seating / waiting area which has TV and FREE WI FI so you can connect with your phones , check in and if you have kids they can play on their ipads to keep them entertained also. We look forward to seeing our old customers and look forward to seeing new ones too.

www.gatersbarbers.com

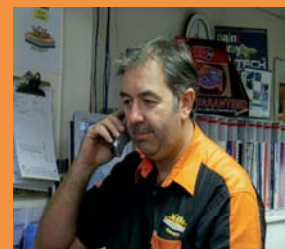


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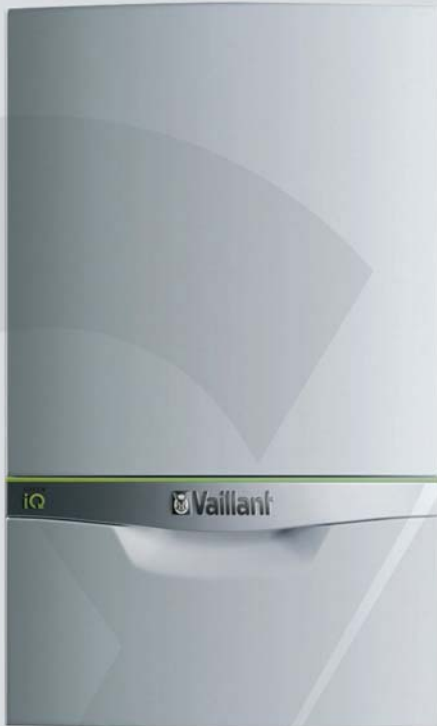
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Who Do You Think You Are, St Woolos?

by Paul Minton

A recent episode of *Who Do You Think You Are?* featured comedian Jack Whitehall tracking down his Welsh ancestor, Thomas Jones Phillips. Phillips, who was his great-great-great-great grandfather, was a successful solicitor and former Mayor of Newport. As clerk to the town's magistrates, however, Phillips sought to subjugate the working classes and was instrumental in the capture of John Frost. Being one of the ringleaders of the Chartists' uprising, Frost was condemned to be hung, drawn and quartered after being found guilty of high treason. This was the last time a prisoner in the UK faced such an extreme punishment, although his sentence was later commuted to penal servitude.

Despite Jack's horror at his forebear's antics, Phillips had been held in high esteem and even received the freedom of the City of London. When he died, a plaque was erected inside St Woolos Cathedral to commemorate his life. The programme closed with Whitehall hunting for the monument: a search that led to its discovery on a wall near the lavatory. To Jack, the location seemed befitting a man who had endeavoured to flush workers' rights down the toilet. But I was left with one burning question: just who the heck was St Woolos? Obviously, I was familiar with the name but I remained ignorant about the man. The time had come to make amends.

The name, Woolos, is apparently an anglicised version of



Gwynllyw, although for the life of me, I cannot conceive of how the one gave rise to the other. Born around 450 AD, his name still survives in places like Pillgwenlly. He was a formidable chieftain ruling the area betwixt the Usk



and Rhymney and he was renowned for attacking ships in the Bristol Channel and for raiding nearby territories. In one such skirmish, he captured Gwladys, the daughter of King Brychan of Brycheiniog, who had objected to a union between the two. Some stories claim that the battle was stopped only when King Arthur and Sir Bedevere intervened. Gwynllyw and Gwladys, the fifth century's answer to Posh and

Becks, went on to have several children. Among them was a son called Cadoc, who later became St Cadoc after whom the hospital in Caerleon is named. Cadoc became extremely religious and his pious influence led to his father's conversion to Christianity. Gwynllyw went on to experience a vision of a white ox with a black spot on its forehead. When he came across that same creature on what is now Stow Hill, he established a hermitage at the site. A statue commemorating the prophetic animal is located near Friar's Walk: its sculptor, Sebastien Boyesen, is also responsible for the enormous miners' memorial at Six Bells.

Following his death, Gwynllyw's hermitage became an important shrine and a wooden church was constructed there. It was rebuilt in stone in the 9th century and there is still evidence of that structure at the cathedral. Both Gwynllyw and Gwladys were subsequently canonised and they remain one of the few married couples to be honoured in this way. Although both are patron saints of Newport, St Gwynllyw also represents soldiers. And pirates!

Various miracles have been credited to St Gwynllyw over the years. A fountain, which appeared after he prayed for water, was believed to heal those who drank from it. Angels were said to have been seen near his tomb and the defeats of King Harold (of 1066 fame) and a marauding Viking party were attributed to him after they ransacked his church. So the next time you find yourself by the cathedral, make sure you behave or suffer the consequences. You have been warned...



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7.30pm-8.30pm – Pilates

Wednesday 10.30am-12.00pm – 60+ stretch and balance

Thursday 9.30am-10.30am – Mummy Boot camp
10.30am-11.00am – Pilates & Pelvic Floor course
6.30pm-7.00pm – High Intensity Interval Training
7.00pm-8.00pm – Pilates

Friday 11.30am – 12.30pm – 60+ Pilates and balance

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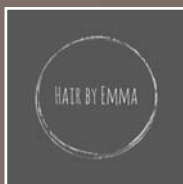
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Jam and Jerusalem

I always knew that the W.I. ladies had it right. For those of you wondering what I am wittering about, I am wittering about Jerusalem, that wonderfully inspiring hymn that the W.I. have always called their own but now the country has voted the best loved hymn. It is sung regularly at many W.I. meetings although not at ours, we render a version only at our AGM and other memorable dates such as our birthday.

I could possibly have ignored the other 'epithet' accorded to the W.I. but today it suits my purpose to mention jam; not, I might add, probably to my shame, that I have ever made any. However, I know plenty of ladies who do and excellent jam it is too. Just name the flavour!

Why have I thought to mention this when often it is a source of amusement to those who are somewhat ignorant of the kaleidoscope of learning opportunities that groups offer, it is because this coming Saturday the Gwent Federation of W.I.s is holding its biennial show. This allows members from the whole of Gwent the opportunity to show their talents. There are sections on flowers and plants, cookery items, craft sections, photography, preserves, floral art scarecrow making and a co-



operative item which has to include five items from the above list. The scope of artistry is amazing, what a wealth of talent that must be multiplied across the

Ambulance, it included a CPR demonstration and helpful tips on first response do's and don'ts.

October begins with a talk on Anti-Slavery, which is very topical at the moment and of course there have been several local incidents of slavery, so this is not something we can dismiss as 'not in my back yard'. The Great British Bake Off with Jon Jenkins will round off October. Just looking at these few weeks hopefully will show how diverse a W.I. programme can be, there are social events, physical events, informative talks on topical issues alongside clubs that are run such as bridge, Mah Jong, choir and craft. Add in theatre and cinema trips, excursions and dining experiences and our W.I. rightly claims to be a vibrant lively group.

If any of these activities interest you do come along to one of our meetings, which are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at St Anne's Church Hall, High Cross. The meetings start at 7.30pm but ladies arrive from about 7.00pm to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.

nation.

At Rogerstone Roses our new programme is as diverse and interesting as usual, we began September with an informal evening talking about holiday experiences, this was a very pleasant couple of hours catching up with members after the summer break. The following meeting was a practical session by St John's

Liz James

A photograph of a man and a woman sitting together, smiling and looking at each other. The man is on the left, wearing a grey sweater over a white shirt. The woman is on the right, wearing a light pink sweater. They are in a domestic setting with white paneling in the background.

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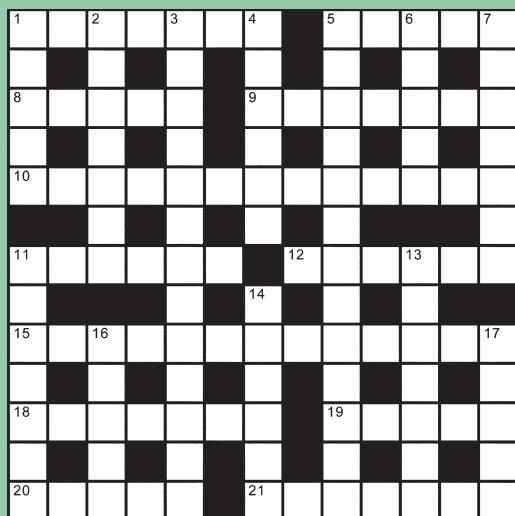
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Quick Crossword



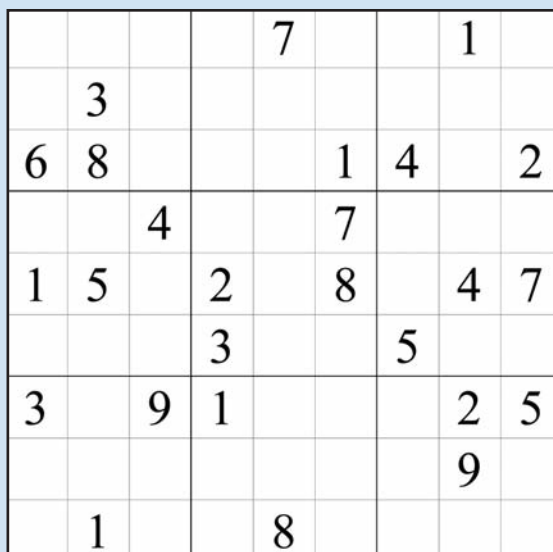
Across

- 1 Cooked in hot water vapour (7)
- 5 Older member (5)
- 8 Floating platforms (5)
- 9 Persons deliberately injured (7)
- 10 Upright (13)
- 11 Smoothly (6)
- 12 Spring back (6)
- 15 Display (13)
- 18 Saving of money (7)
- 19 Take in liquid (5)
- 20 Plant propagators (5)
- 21 Pulled or towed slowly (7)

Down

- 1 Thick sweet liquid (5)
- 2 Impose strongly (7)
- 3 Sundry items (13)
- 4 Split (6)
- 5 Book of facts (13)
- 6 Boring tool (5)
- 7 Extra player (7)
- 11 Everlasting (7)
- 13 Securing with metal pins (7)
- 14 Remained (6)
- 16 Elk (5)
- 17 Undressed (5)

Sudoku



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

Solution on page 53



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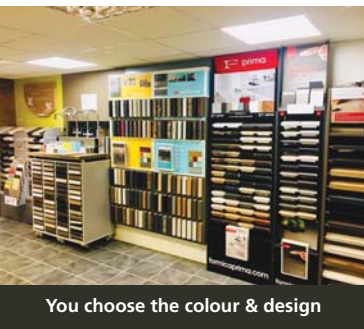
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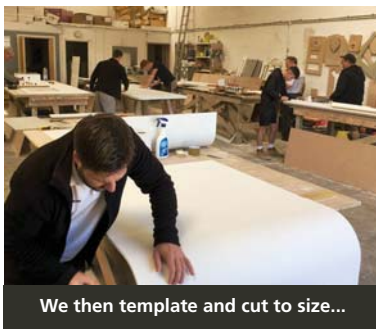
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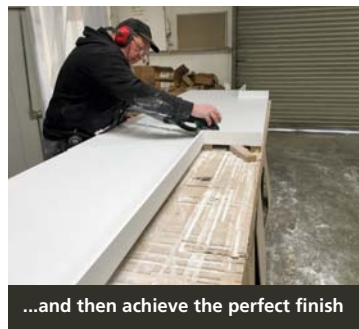
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Gwerinwyr Gwent Diary

Flushed with success after dancing for Prince Charles on 4th July, our busy month continued on Sat 13th at an old favourite – the Caerleon festival. Lovely weather drew out the crowds and we danced twice, once in the garden of The Bell and then in front of the main stage at the Hanbury Arms. So many people were sitting enjoying the sunshine, I should imagine the bar takings were through the roof!

Monday 15th saw us in Monmouth giving our Welsh culture evening to the ladies of Agincourt WI. They joined in enthusiastically with the participation dances (which makes our job much easier) and we had some very nice comments afterwards. Saturday 20th took us to Blaenavon and the 'Dance on the Mountain' day of dance. The event has been growing over several years, but it was the first appearance for GG. Again we had two spots, one in the Heritage Centre and the second in the marquee in Market Square. There were plenty of people watching the varied styles of dance, which included local youngsters with street dancing through to strictly ballroom, flamenco, rapper and folk. We were lucky to have the support of the Lloyd family as our



musicians, as we also did on the last weekend of July when we travelled to Dorset to take part in the Bridport Folk Festival. All the dancing takes place in street settings, so thank goodness the weather was lovely (although there was a plan B if it was wet). Lots of people around watching the mainly Morris dance sides, so I think we made a nice contrast and of course the Lloyd children's clogging routines always go down a storm with the audiences. The festival is only in its second year of revival after being defunct for several years. We danced both Saturday and Sunday and really enjoyed it. What a lovely town Bridport is, so many old buildings and a nice atmosphere. Also it is only a mile from West

Bay, where the TV series Broadchurch was filmed. August was quiet and we have our annual break from practicing then, but started back a week early as we had been invited to dance at the Rogerstone festival on Sunday 1st September. It was another beautiful day with lots going on and huge crowds at the Welfare Grounds. Sadly not that many were watching our performance and even fewer agreeing to join us in a simple ceilidh dance, so thank you to those who did and thanks also to the organisers for inviting us.



Gwerinwyr Gwent is always seeking new members, and beginners or experienced dancers/musicians are very welcome. Practice night is Thursday 8-10pm at the Graig Community Hall (opposite the Ruperra PH).

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4	1	2	5	8	9	7	6	3

1	S	T	E	A	M	E	D	5	E	L	D	E	R
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19	S	S	U	E	I	N	E						
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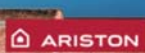
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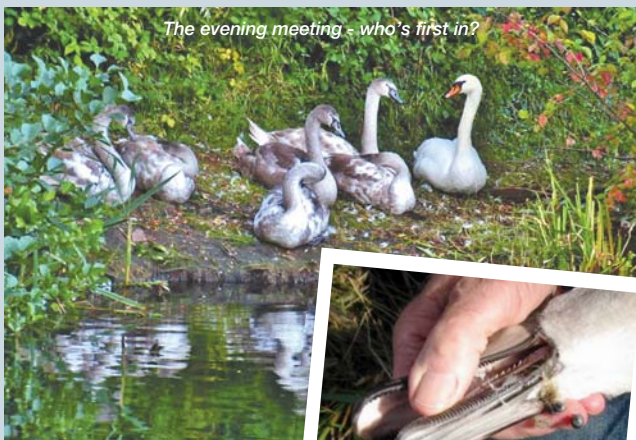


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Cygnets, More Cygnets and Still They Come

Never can we remember transgressing the print deadline date as badly as this, but as this article unfolds it may become apparent how it has happened this way! In terms of subject matter, we were spoiled for choice; it might have been to do with the problems we encounter caused by cats to swathes of our wildlife, horrendous injuries to small birds and bats, that's on the periphery of our self imposed remit – swans, or, not for the first time the problems which result from some irresponsible dog owners who refuse to accept their animals must be on a lead when they are sufficiently close to swans that an attack is possible. We have had to deal with examples of both of these within the last month, in addition to a veritable spate of cygnets getting into trouble as they start to disperse.

A start point is difficult to define, so for convenience, let's begin with a call from Gwent Police at 7.47am on 25th September about a cygnet grounded on the westbound Heads of the Valleys road between Ebbw Vale and Tredegar, not a good time of day to be crossing the county at high speed! Clearly this was the first of eight cygnets leaving Bryn Bach Country Park. In the event the police did pick up the swan and transport it to Tredegar Police Station in their van from where we recovered it. Within the hour, there was a further call from Porthcawl about a cygnet which had landed on the roof of a semi-detached house, had slid off, and had landed in the garden, mercifully uninjured. Later the same day, Gary, our man in Port Talbot recovered another one in



The evening meeting - who's first in?

roughly the same area. At 8.53pm that same evening, a further call from Gwent Police advised us of another cygnet 'down' in Tredegar town centre; this was collected eventually following a hiatus resulting from having been given the wrong post code! Don't know how we would manage these days, especially in the dark, without satnav, provided of course we are given the correct post code.

The next day started in much the same way; a call from the owner of a property barely half a mile from Bryn Bach with a cygnet 'down' in the back garden; sorted in the customary way, relocated. To return a cygnet to its 'home' at this time of year is pointless. Inevitably, either the same thing will happen again, or it will come under attack particularly from the adult male, with, ultimately far more serious consequences.

In the following days we continued to deal with more of the same; again three further visits to Tredegar, an actual attack by the adults on a cygnet at Duffryn, in Newport and an



Clehonger cygnet - fishing line plus weights around tongue and lower mandible

example of a young bird with a wing defect at Llanrhidian in Gower. In the case of the last bird, transportation to The Swan Sanctuary at Shepperton was necessary. We do not expect this to be the end of 'dispersion' for this year, we know of lots more cygnets still at home! However an underlying theme every year is the effect of lost or carelessly discarded fishing tackle on waterfowl. An example of this took us to Clehonger, a village to the south west of Hereford, mentioned in the Doomsday Book. Here we had one of three cygnets with a wedge of line and weights around its tongue and lower beak impeding its ability to feed freely. Caught, freed and released; all in yet another days work. Business as usual.

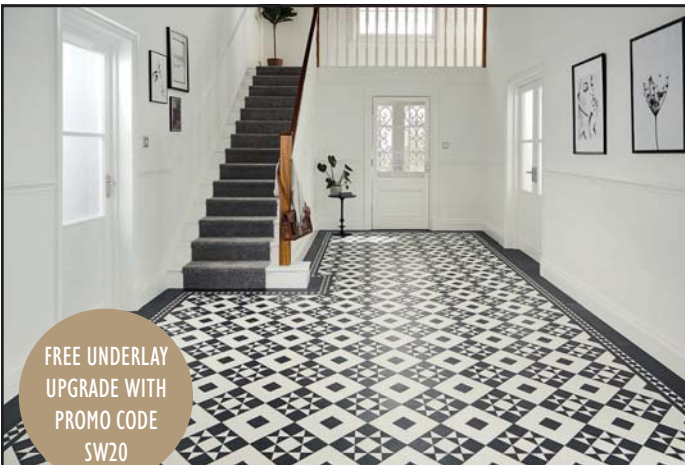
Story by Peter, photographs by Ellen. For swan and all other wildlife problems please contact Peter & Ellen on 01633 895241 or 07802 472788

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David Brimble

1860 Black Vein Disaster Survivor

This is the grave of David Brimble in Cromwell Road Cemetery, Risca. David, a native of High Littleton in Somerset, was a survivor of the Black Vein Colliery disaster of December 1860.

David was badly burned in the explosion and was expected to die. Two of his sons, Joseph (17) and William (13), were killed in the mine. His wife was infirm, and his four remaining children were all under the age of 11 at the time of the disaster. A further child was born in 1861.

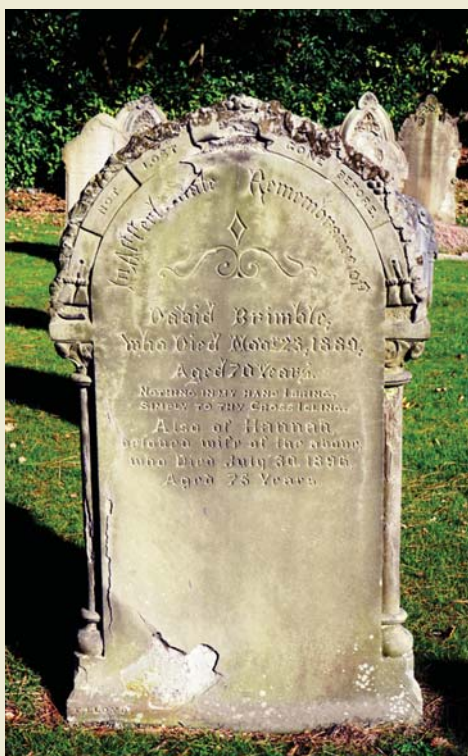
A coffin was made and placed in David's bedroom in readiness for his passing. However, he was cared for by a kindly local woman and, against the odds, survived. He slept with that coffin under his bed for the rest of his life.

Earlier in 1860, for a six-week period of work, David's earnings had been £13 3s 6d. He had paid 15 shillings rent, 4 shillings for coal and 6 shillings and 6d for Club Membership and Doctor. His two boys who were lost would have added to the family's income. David was deemed to be permanently disabled a result of his burns and, in 1862, his family was receiving 7 shillings a week Poor Relief at Risca. Sadly, less than a fifth of his former income.

The Act of Settlement and Removal (1662) had established who should have responsibility for the care of paupers and people like David, who were no longer able to earn a living and were dependant on the parish. Sadly, David fitted none of the criteria for a Certificate of Legal Settlement in Risca and the local authority had provision under the Act to apply for the removal of his family back to High Littleton, where he and his father were born.

In February 1862, in order to reduce Risca's poor relief payments, the authorities brought a case to do just this. David was examined and William Edmunds, Relieving Officer of the Newport Union, travelled to High Littleton to find David's Birth record and his father.

"I produce a certificate of Baptism of the pauper in High Littleton Parish Church on the 4th June 1820, which I saw compared with the original entry in the Register Book. It is a true extract. I



saw James Brimble, an infirm old man, the pauper's father, who pointed out a house at Hallow Brow in which he said he was born.

It is in High Littleton parish. I saw the assistant overseer, Isaac Cowen and he told me he knew the house in which James Brimble was born and believed he was a parishioner of High Littleton."

We don't know by what means David and his family were able to avoid that immediate threat of removal back to Somerset, but they never left Risca. Cruelly and out of necessity, nine years later David was a collier again and his three daughters were all working and his son was a collier. Ten years later again David was working as a Colliery Lampman. May he rest in peace for his trouble.

Stephen Lyons - Black Vein Miners Memorial Society.

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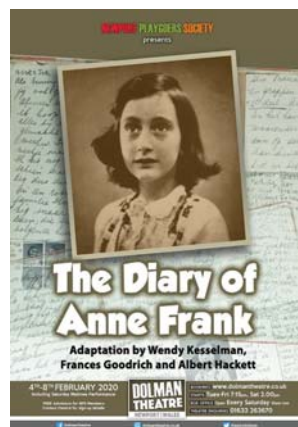
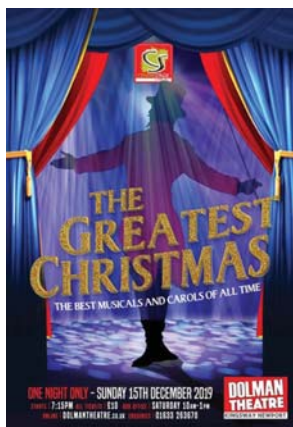
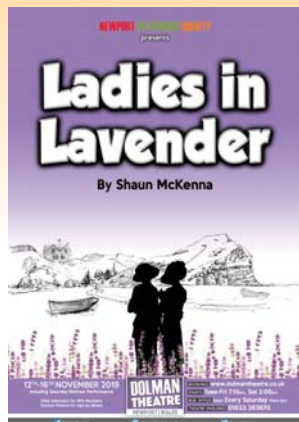
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Open Doors Review

For the fifth year running, the Museum opened on a Saturday & Sunday from 10am to 4pm as part of the Wales Open Doors event. This year it took place on September 28th & 29th and, although not blessed with the best of weather, after a quiet first 30 minutes a constant stream of visitors passed through the doors.

Several visitors came specifically to see the Western Valley Model Railway Club's tracks operating on the first floor of the building. Whilst these visitors found the Museum displays to be an unexpected bonus, for those attracted to the Museum, the railway displays came as a surprise extra attraction. Visitors came from near and far, with one couple from Grove Road making their first visit and an American couple who travelled from Oxford being particularly interested in our Columbia printing press (patented in London by an American) & associated printing-related items.

An additional attraction on the Saturday was St. Mary's Church whose parish records were available for inspection and where delicious refreshments were available. Also, Risca Male Choir opened the old Risca Urban District Council offices for inspection; they were especially pleased to talk to the son of the caretaker of the building, who grew up in the house next door (which no longer exists) and was able to describe the use of each room in UDC days.



FRIENDS OF RISCA MUSEUM

In 2017, following the disposal of the old Miners Institute building by Caerphilly County Borough Council, the charge for the use of the ground floor of the building by the Risca Museum increased from £500 a year to £3,500 a year. Among several ideas to raise money to meet this huge extra burden, it was decided to launch Friends of Risca Museum based on an annual contribution of £10 from those who wish to ensure that the Museum continues to exist.

Many people signed up to become Friends although others preferred to just give a monetary donation. However, even with donations from

increased numbers visiting the Museum on Saturday mornings and other money-raising by the volunteers that run the Museum, total income is still considerably short of requirement. The Museum has continued by dipping into its reserves which can only be a short term measure.

Therefore, whilst continuing to investigate any possible source of income, the Museum has decided to relaunch the Friends of Risca Museum. Enough people pledging £10 a year will make the difference between the Museum continuing to function and having to close in a few years time.



For details see our Facebook page, our website www.riscamuseum.org.uk or call in to the Museum any Saturday between 10.00am and 12.30pm.

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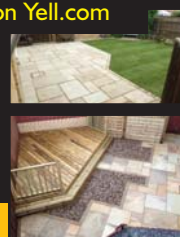
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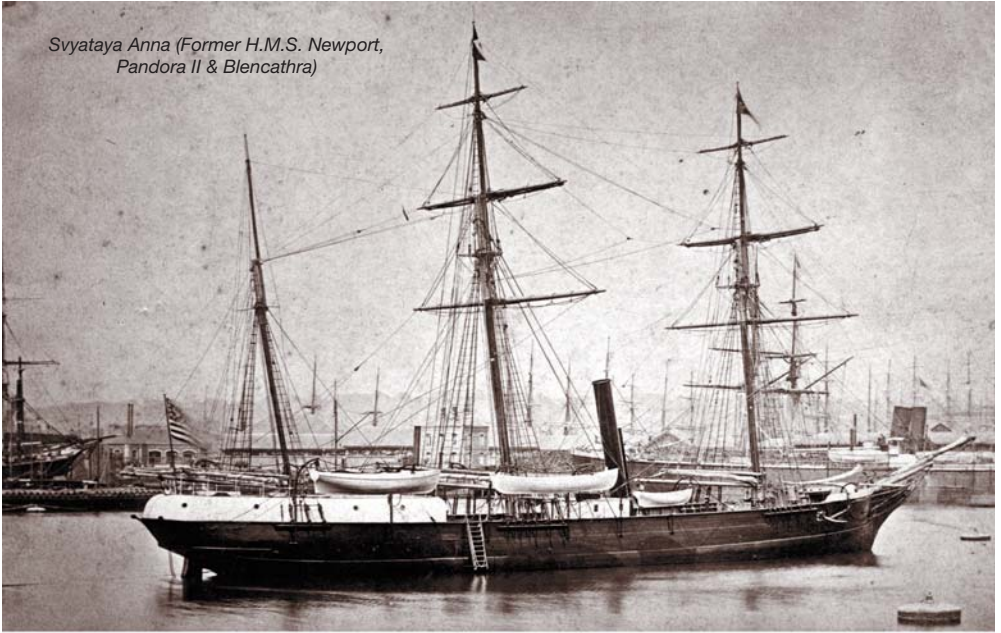
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THE FINAL FATE OF H.M.S. NEWPORT

(Part 4)

*Svyataya Anna (Former H.M.S. Newport,
Pandora II & Blencathra)*



It is very difficult to establish the final fate of the *Svyataya Anna* (H.M.S. *Newport*), because there are several different stories (some obviously apocryphal) about the final ending of this historic ship. There are also various different tales of the fate of the remaining crew members.

The *Svyataya Anna* (formerly H.M.S. *Newport*, then renamed as *Pandora II*, then again as *Blencathra* before finally becoming *Svyataya Anna*) was never ever seen again, perhaps crushed by the polar ice she sank to the bottom of the sea. It has been suggested that if she survived the ice she may have broken free and drifted to the other side of the Arctic and then, in 1915, been sunk by a German submarine without her crew realising that a war had occurred. Attempts were made to trace the ship

and crew, in 1914-1915 Otto Sverdrup searched for two missing expeditions in the Kara Sea, including that of Captain Brusilov on the *Svyataya Anna*, but found no trace. There was even an air search made by Polish/Russian aviator Jan Nagorski, on the first ever flight over Arctic regions, without any result. Valerian Albanov attempted when he returned to Russia to persuade a Russian Admiral Kolchak, former explorer and White Army Governor of the region, to help in setting up a search

for the iced up ship. This was not possible because the Russian Navy was too involved in the Great War and the confused political situation in Russia leading to revolution did not help.

When Albanov abandoned the ship and led his small party in the attempt to reach the mainland, there were still sufficient provisions left on board the *Svyataya Anna* to last the remaining crew another 18 months. These rations could also have been further stretched by shooting Polar bears and walruses to provide additional sustenance. It is possible that only when these remaining supplies were nearing exhaustion that the remaining crew abandoned the ship to make

another attempt to reach dry land. In 1937 Soviet explorer VI Akkuratov discovered a ladies' patent leather shoe on Rudolph Island marked 'Supplier of the Imperial Household, St. Petersburg'. The *Svyataya Anna's* nurse was the only Tsarist society lady likely to have been in this area. So it could be that Yermina Zhdanko left the ship with another crew group to try and follow in Albanov's footsteps. This would have left the unmanned and abandoned ship still gripped firmly in the ice. The ice of the Arctic Ocean is in continual westward motion which could have eventually pushed the ship into the Atlantic at some point.

In 2010 a Russian expedition to Franz Joseph Land came across remains of a skeleton and various artifacts, including cartridges, shell casings,

canvas belt, sailor's knife, pocket watch and a diary etc. These remains could likely be from any follow-on group. The diary largely illegible, on the date of May 1913, reads "Today we got our last brick of tobacco, the matches ran out long ago." It also noted that crew members were hunting polar bear to supplement canned food supplies. This diary has been placed in the Arctic and

Antarctic Museum of St.

Petersburg.



Nurse Yermina Zhdanko

The most likely explanation for the final fate of the ship that I have come across, was a report that Soviet artist and writer, Nikolai Cherkashin, had noticed in an

Hanseatic bar in the port of Stralsund, East Germany, a battered old ship's wheel and a worn Russian icon of a little known **Saint Anna** of Kashin. He enquired of the origin of these articles and was told a

surprising tale by the bar owner. "My father when fishing on a trawler in the North Sea encountered an abandoned schooner, boarded her and found a lot of canned meat and other food stuff and his father then took the helm and an icon from the schooner." Close examination of the wheel revealed a worn English inscription '...**andor**' which could be part of '**Pandora II**' seems probable that the *Svyataya Anna* when she finally broke free of the ice could have drifted into the North Sea where she was discovered. After this chance encounter by the German fisherman the ship finally sank. When the former British Naval Commander, George Strong Nares, of this ship undertook his insolent exploit of being the first ship to enter the Suez Canal in 1869, he would never have guessed what the final fate of his ship would be. He, himself, carried on to be a famous Arctic explorer and discoverer.

(The End)

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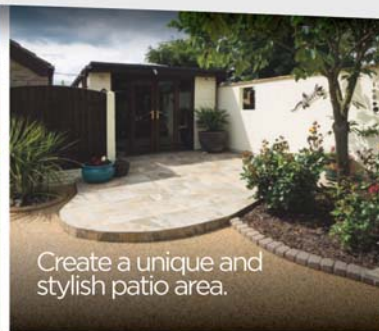
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