

CAERLEON

DIRECTORY



ISSUE 74
JANUARY/
FEBRUARY 2020



SW DIRECTORIES

WELCOME!

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Susan
x

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or email contact@swdirectories.co.uk

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Editor: Susan Woolford

Sales & Distribution: Leslie Woolford

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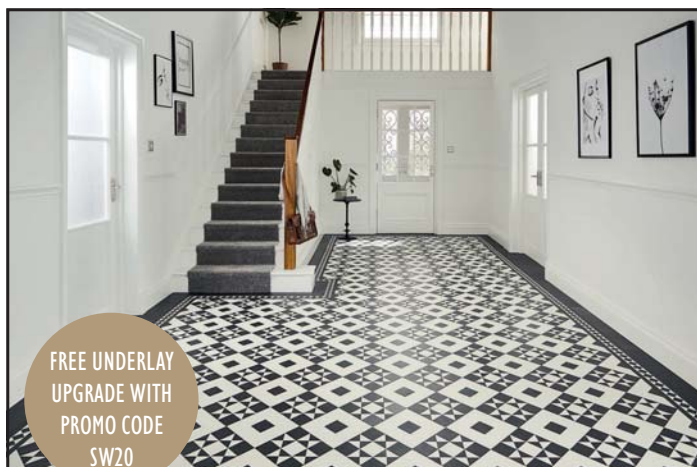
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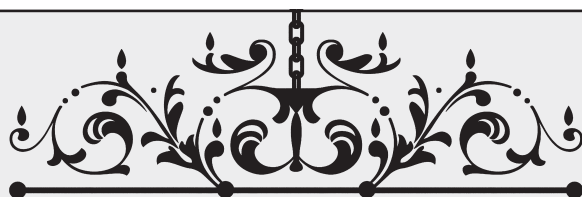
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EXTREME WEATHER

blighting animals

There has been remarkable photography broadcast on television recently of penguins in Antarctica adapted to survive the coldest weather on Earth by huddling and exchanging places, moving in turn away from the windward side and seeking shelter leeward, the groups by doing so cover hundreds of miles overwinter. On the same continent seals give birth to pups, which have to be shielded from fierce blizzards for at least 10 days before they are able to swim and achieve protection in the comparative warmth of the ocean.

According to David Attenborough, in the few minutes it takes to be born the seal pup experiences the greatest sudden drop in environmental temperature of any mammal, from +39° to -39° C. There are other fascinating examples of animals surviving and thriving in

extreme conditions in the natural world but only because they have become sufficiently well adapted over many millennia.

In the UK we are more fortunate climatically, however we do experience extremes of weather. November brought heavy rainfall to parts of the UK and it has been alarming to witness the effects of the sudden rise in water levels sweeping people and property away in the floods. Our concern and sympathy is directed towards those affected especially in Yorkshire and around the rivers Severn and Trent. Some may remember the river Usk overflowing during the 1970s and people canoeing down the main street of Usk, but what I recall most vividly are reports of cattle being swept downriver towards Caerleon, some of which managed to struggle to safety and survive albeit miles from home. About a decade ago,

whilst on my rounds, I spotted a small group of sheep that had been carried by floodwater and funnelled into the corner of the field, their sodden fleece dragging them underwater as one piled on top of another; fortunately, most of them were extracted from the brambles and directed to higher ground. A large part of the field that they were grazing was above water level but, sheep being sheep, they flocked together when they saw the water rising and decided to go the wrong way.

Reindeer are adapted to surviving in snow. Unusually for deer, both males and females have antlers, which they use to scrape and access herbage and lichen underneath the white blanket. Sheep aren't sufficiently well equipped and require supplementary feed and protection from icy blasts when out on the hill in these conditions. Well fed sheep not only have

reserves of energy to generate heat, but the body fat laid down provides extra insulation under the fleece. Lowland flocks commence lambing in midwinter and many of them are brought inside for this where they are protected from the ravages of winter weather. Once the bond between dam and offspring is well formed they are ushered outside into a more natural (and less infectious) environment. Hill ewes lamb later, but March can be very cold and each year hypothermia accounts for significant lamb losses in both hill and lowland flocks.

Hyperthermia is an issue for some animals in hot weather, especially those with thick coats. Husky, Samoyed and Bernese Mountain Dogs are examples of 'double-coated' dogs that are well insulated and adapted for cold weather; care must be taken not to allow these breeds to become overheated and if they do become hyperthermic, their body temperature should be

reduced carefully (not, for instance, by plunging them into a river). Reindeer also have a dense undercoat beneath the guard hairs and, as a result, are unsuited to living in southern UK.

Sunburn afflicts animals as well as people: the flesh-coloured muzzles of some horses and ponies require protection against ultraviolet irradiation, as do the ears of white cats; factor 50 sun cream is indicated in both instances. The white parts of some cows are similarly affected and the skin sloughs off leaving cracked scabs adjacent to completely normal black skin. There is a constituent in the herbage at certain times of the year that, when consumed by cattle, reacts in strong sunlight to cause this photosensitisation. Cows that have suffered this problem must be kept under cover during the summer months. The Hereford breed of cattle is prized in many parts of the world and is easily recognisable with its white head. In South America,




where it is very hot, the white orbit around the eyes is prone to cancer, so Hereford cattle with black around the eyes are selected for breeding to obviate this.

Remember to feed the birds that come to visit your garden this winter. Hanging feeders are preferable to table top because the risk of faecal disease spreading between the birds is reduced.

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CAERLEON THEN & NOW



Circa 1947 and the Toll House is now seen in use as a private residence. Simonds Brewery who were owners of the Ship Hotel at the time, is yet another familiar name to disappeared amidst the world of takeovers and acquisitions. Below is the same view taken in 2013.



Extract taken from Norman Stevens's books of Caerleon. They can be purchased from Caerleon Post Office





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Gwerinwyr Gwent Diary

On Monday 7th October GG was in St Mellons village hall at the invitation of the ladies of St Mellons WI. They had booked our evening of Welsh culture, which can be tailored to suit our audience but usually comprises a short talk on costume and Lady Llanover, demonstration dances and some easy audience participation dances. This time Barbara Griffiths had also promised them her boxes quiz, so we squeezed that in as well. The ladies really enjoyed the evening, joining in with gusto, and we later received a very nice 'thank you' letter.



The following Saturday (the 12th), we were running a twmpath as a 70th birthday celebration at Lysaght's Institute in Newport. For many of the people attending it was their first twmpath, and I have to say that most people joined in enthusiastically, especially the birthday girl! I think I can safely say a good time was had by all, and for the final dance of the evening (Circassian Circle) only one person in the whole room (a young man) refused to take to the dance floor.

This year the Welsh Folk Dance Society celebrated its 70th anniversary over the weekend of the 25/26th October, and GG joined the massed dancing in the atrium of St Fagan's National Museum of History. The weather was awful on the Saturday but fortunately the dancing had



always been planned to be in the atrium and not outside. Welsh folk dance teams from all over Wales had travelled to Cardiff for the weekend, and their costumes made a colourful display. The atrium is a very nice performance space, and many museum visitors chose to watch us dance and even joined in when invited. The music was played by a brilliant band made up of musicians from Tawer in and other teams, we danced solidly for an hour, then went for a cuppa!

November 21st was our final booking of the year and saw us return to Risca and the U3A's monthly social meeting. Our dance displays were interspersed with Barbara's Welsh places survey (this gives us a breather and the audience something to think about), plus a couple of audience participation dances. The

audience then gets to pick their favourite place from those named in the survey, and this time the winner was Tenby. We always have a good afternoon at the U3A, and as we keep being invited back, I'm pretty sure they really enjoy it too.

2019 has been one of our busiest years with 18 bookings, and we start all over again in January with 8 bookings already confirmed for 2020.

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).

For more details visit our website

**www.gwerinwyrghwent.org.uk,
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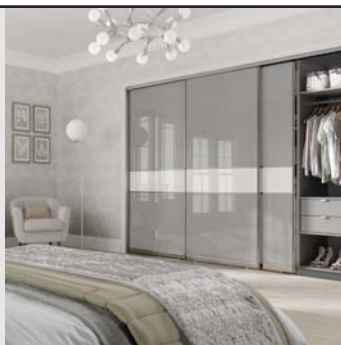
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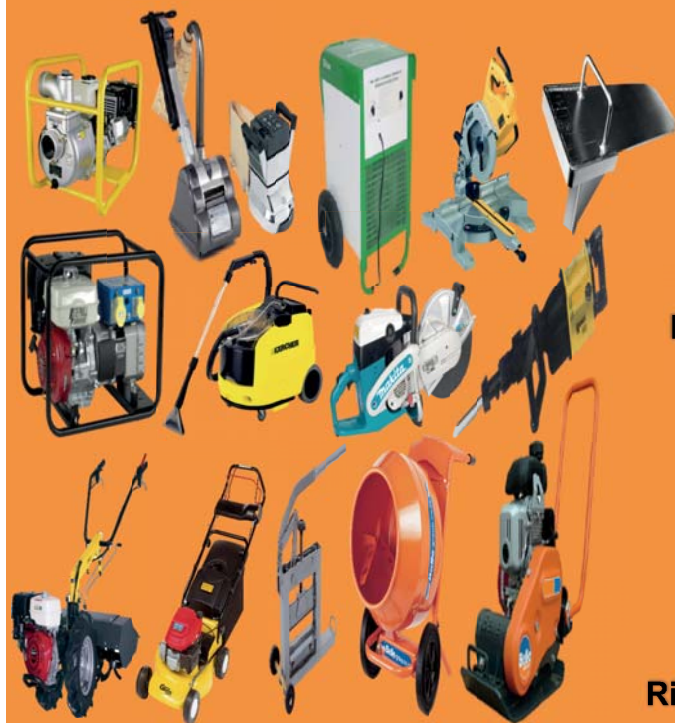
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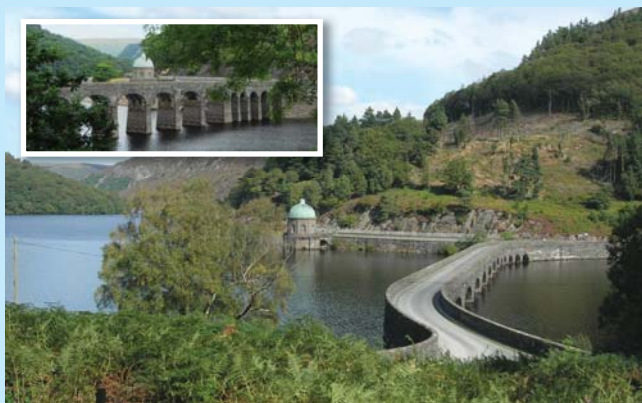
Reservoirs in Wales

The Garreg Ddu Dam

Although looking like a viaduct, it is actually a submerged dam. Its role is to maintain a sufficient level in the Garreg-ddu reservoir so water can enter the Foel Tower and the gravity-driven aqueduct to the Frankley Reservoir in Birmingham. The dam is only required to operate during times of extreme drought.

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

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



which allows the water to flow by gravity alone.

It also supports masonry pillars carrying the access roadway to the neighbouring valley of the River Claerwen which were

clearly visible on our trip in September 2010 but when we visited the dam in February of 2014 it was full. Well worth and trip and only 1 ½ hours from Newport.

RESERVOIRS IN WALES

Pontsticill Reservoir

Pontsticill Reservoir is one of many stunning Brecon Beacons reservoirs and can be found near to the village of Pontsticill in the county of Powys.

It's been in use since 1927 and holds a whopping 3,400 million gallons of water, which is used across houses, factories and other industry buildings across South Wales.

It's so large that it engulfs two different reservoirs (Pontsticill and Taf Fechan).

Although most of the reservoir looks like a lake, there is a bell-mouth spillway at the south-eastern side of it, which is only one of three in the whole of the UK. It is designed like an inverted bell and really makes the water look like it's swirling down into some kind of vortex! It's pretty cool to see.

The reservoir is popular with sailors, anglers and picnickers. The Taff Trail runs through the woods on the western side of the reservoir. Merthyr Tydfil sailing club is based on the eastern bank and the



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January 14th 2020

The Transporter Bridge Project – Emma Newrick, promised last year she would return and tell us about the project, its aims and goals for our wonderful bridge.

January 28th 2020

Tales from an Elizabethan still room – Katherine Kear, British Master Florist and RHS Gold Medal winner. An evening of fun, facts and fascinating tales.

February 11th 2020

St Woolos Cemetery – Richard Frame, historian and author. His knowledge of the oldest municipal cemetery in Britain is not to be missed. Tales of some of the famous and infamous inhabitants.

February 25th 2020

My Wild Newport – Rob Magee, Project Manager and club member Caroline Williams. The Project is consolidating and developing urban engagement in Newport City with the aim of bringing people closer to nature and improving wellbeing. There may be a quiz too!

**Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact: Maggie Bain - Chairperson
Tel 07714 008796**

Cafe Culture at Newport U3A

Newport U3A (u3asites.org.uk/newportsewales) has 42 educational, creative and leisure groups for its 400+ members, but in a recent survey they expressed a wish for even more!

To accommodate their interest in Bridge, Crossword Puzzles, Mah Jong, Quizzes, Chess and Scrabble we have introduced 'Cafe Culture'. Members can do those things for an hour or two, or just drop in for a chat over a morning cuppa. It also provides an opportunity for those new to U3A to socialise and learn more about our organisation from its members.

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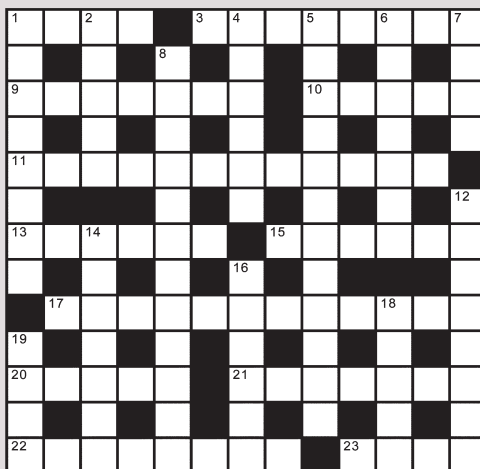
Quick Crossword

Across

- 1 Cattle (4)
- 3 Came about (8)
- 9 Organise (7)
- 10 Passenger coaches (5)
- 11 Garden pests (12)
- 13 Once a year (6)
- 15 Expose (6)
- 17 Formation of society (12)
- 20 Fastening together (5)
- 21 Equalise (7)
- 22 Troubling (8)
- 23 Upper limbs (4)

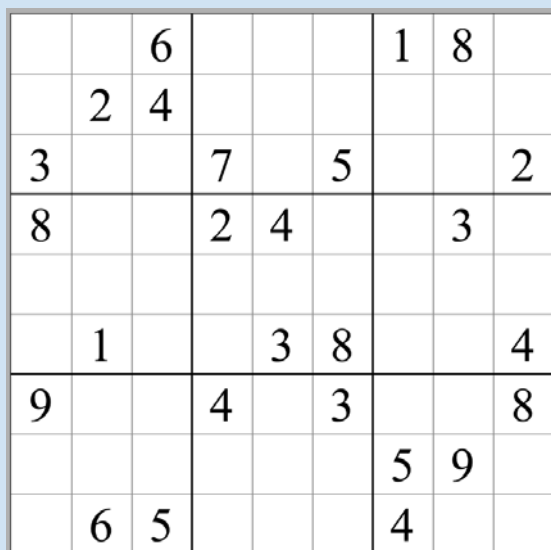
Down

- 1 Very dark grey colour (8)
- 2 Not the best (5)
- 4 Deferred payment (6)
- 5 Incredible (12)



- 6 Set aside (7)
- 7 Hurry (4)
- 8 More and more (12)
- 12 Wool covers (8)
- 14 Louder (7)
- 16 Type of ape (6)
- 18 Internal (5)
- 19 Casserole (4)

Sudoku



Solution on page 38

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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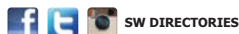
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Newcomer introduces himself to the residents of the Knapp

Cygnets struggle to make their way in the world

It's too early to be certain, but right now it feels as if the autumn and early winter 2019 have been amongst the busiest and most concentrated periods of activity we have ever experienced, or maybe it's just another sign we are getting a little bit longer in the tooth. It's not for the first time we find ourselves writing about cygnets and the territorial problems they encounter as they start trying to make their independent way in the world.

We like to think adult swans, as it were, give their offspring flying lessons, so that by the time they leave the parent's territory they are reasonably competent fliers. However, what is equally clear is that it is not possible for any guidance to be given as to where it is safe for them to go, or, in a way, where it is definitely unsafe to go. Once again we are in the realm of territorial disputes. This time, the action takes place on a pair of lakes near Upton Bishop a little to the north of Ross-on-Wye, nestling just below the southern end of the M50

motorway. Here there is a breeding pair of swans which we were told produced nine cygnets in 2019 but there were just six left when we were called in late November. The trouble began when two other cygnets (origin unknown) landed, one of which was promptly set upon by the resident adult male (cob). The victim was being pinned down at the bottom of the outfall connecting the two lakes. Grisly it is, but the aim is to drown the intruder. By the nature of things, it took us a little over an hour to reach our destination, and we firmly believed we were in time to save the badly distressed young bird. We brought him home and placed him with another reasonably fit cygnet rescued from somewhere else more local. They bonded immediately. What an awful shock it was to discover him dead two mornings later. We really don't know what more we could have done, but the cause of death could have been shock or the intake of too much water in an uncontrolled fashion or both. The next thing we know is we're

back up there again two days later when it seems the cob had 'decided' it was time his own family ought to be on their way and certainly the male juveniles in particular, because they are seen as potential threats. This time however was different; night had fallen and there were remnants of the earlier heavy rain. Of three cygnets which had been driven down the outfall from the lower of the two lakes, one which was slightly injured had managed to make his way up onto the far bank. Despite the uncompromising conditions we were fortunate enough to be able to find a route (on foot) resulting in a rescue being possible. He (definitely 'he' judging by his size and weight, approximately 10 kg.), is making a good recovery and we expect to be able to release him soon, probably at The Knap at Barry.

We do not expect the phone to stop ringing any time soon!

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6	1	7	9	3	8	2	5	4
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Twmbarlwm – iconic and as popular as ever

Photo showing some of the hundreds of visitors who climb to the top of Twmbarlwm every Good Friday – but how many recognise the work of CTS who watch over the landscape for the benefit of all

Photo: Terry C. Evans

I'm writing this just after the Society's AGM and I must admit, when I started to compile my annual report on the past year I was definitely a "glass half empty" person as I began to wonder "...what have we done this year". Then as I look at all my photos and go through the records of projects we have been involved with – I gradually became a "glass half full" type of guy.

Cymdeithas Twmbarlwm Society is going into its tenth year since we formed and so far we have achieved quite a lot on the mountain and I am pleased to say that we are recognised by the local authorities and other official bodies as a major influencer in environmental, community and historical issues of the area.

My "glass half-empty" persona says that to continue being effective we need to encourage more people to become members and get involved with the Society's work to make Twmbarlwm and surrounding area a place to be proud of and secure for future generations.

My "glass half-full" persona looks at how popular the mountain is, not just on Good Friday, as the above photo shows, but also on our litter pick days when visitors stop to chat to us and thank us for looking after the area. I would like to convince a few more to come and help us out, just look at the following stuff we get involved with, wouldn't you like to be part of it?

Our mantra, **"... dedicated to research, restore and protect Twmbarlwm"**, remains as pertinent now as when we were founded. Each of these criteria is inextricably linked and Society members work on various projects to help fulfil our aims for Twmbarlwm.

The "research" part of that statement is well underway (as described in this column last month). It has already started with drone, geophysics and paleoenvironmental surveys. Following on from these surveys, 2020 will see an archaeological dig take place on the mountain.

This will be the first time that such research has been officially endorsed and it has come about by the persistence of the society and the co-operation of some sympathetic Cadw officers.

I'm very optimistic that some interesting results will come out of the research and I hope that some light will be shed upon the mysteries of "the Twmp".

The "restore" element of our slogan is also tied in to the archaeological research because part of the programme will be looking at how the wildfires of 2018 have affected the underlying archaeology. It will look at how best to re-seed or treat the burnt areas to give mother-nature a helping hand in restoring the heath land to its former glory.

CTS did a great deal of restoration work in our early years when we erected fences, planted trees and installed and repaired paths and steps to the Twmp. Such projects were in conjunction with the Commoners Association and Caerphilly County Borough Council – together we continue to pursue similar landscape management projects.

For instance we are looking forward to more of that sort of work in 2020 working with CCBC on their implementation of the "Adventure Triangle" funding. This funding was announced a year ago and CTS was asked to submit a list of works to be done such as path repairs, way marking, signage, wall and fence repairs. Planning for this work is almost complete and we hope work will be underway in 2020.

Another major project that CTS has been involved with comes under the heading of "protection". Along with our sister organisation, Friends of Cwmcarn Forest Drive, we have helped campaign for the re-opening of the Drive. I'm sure that everyone is pleased to know that the Drive will re-open to vehicles in the Spring of 2020. Our involvement includes some members being part of the focus groups who advise and comment on the various requirements to re-open the drive.

Twmbarlwm is at the centre of the Forest Drive and the nature of the facilities will greatly influence the Drive's success and the Society's work on the mountain will undoubtedly help improve and protect the natural landscape for future generations.

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

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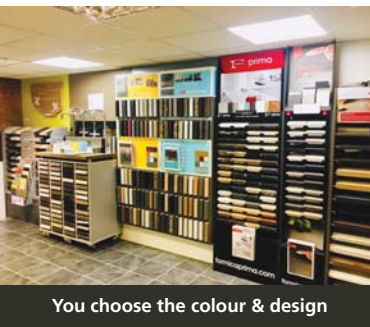
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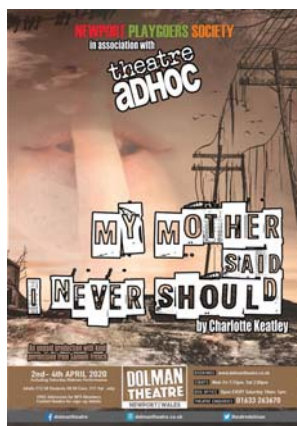
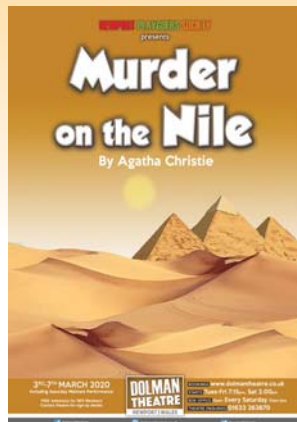
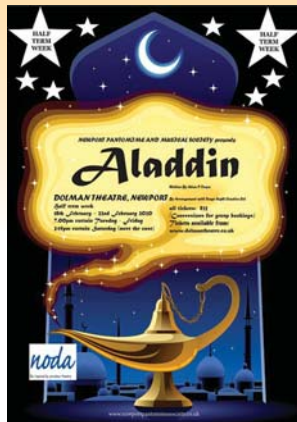
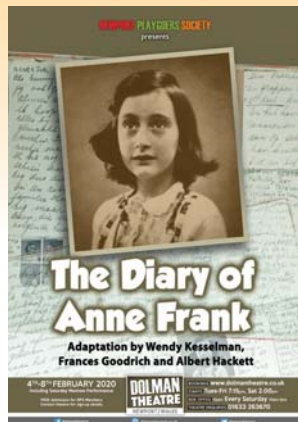
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