

ROGERSTONE DIRECTORY



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SW DIRECTORIES

WELCOME!

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Susan
x

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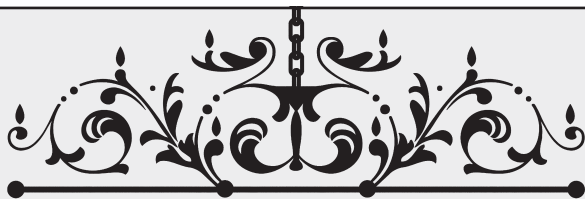
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Cricket in Rogerstone 2019

While the senior X1s of the two cricket clubs based in Rogerstone did not exactly have seasons to remember it is pleasing to report that youth cricket in Rogerstone is thriving which bodes well for the future of both clubs.

Success of the year must go to Newport Fugitives young under 11s side who brought the Gwent Cricket cup Plate to Rogerstone with a thoroughly deserved victory.

Although there was for the second year no league cricket both Rogerstone Welfare and Newport Fugitives young cricketers played a lot of youth cricket.

Both clubs had in excess of 40 children aged 5-8 participating in the cricket Wales/ECB. All Stars cricket program in its third year. The next stage up from this was the under 9s program where both clubs participated in the festivals.

At under 11s age group, Rogerstone ran two sides with the Fugitives also running a young side and at under 13s age group both clubs had a team playing.

At under 15s level the club's ran a combined team for the third year and hope to do the same in 2020. This is the age group where nationally there is a big 'drop off' for many reasons. Weather, early exams, holidays and other activities all play their part as the reasons for this.



Newport Fugitives 11s side

The 2020 season will also see the start of the follow up to All



Stars Cricket called **DYNAMOS CRICKET**.

DYNAMOS Cricket is another softball cricket program aimed at 8 to 11 year olds. The program will be based on skills and the new **100 ball** game. It is expected that this program will sit where under 9s currently is

but will allow ALL Stars to play up a level if they wish and under 10/11s not ready for hardball to play down a level. The under 9s festivals will not be affected other than the fact that the age group may be more flexible. It is expected that both clubs will register as centres for DYNAMOS Cricket.

Another very successful idea for girl's cricket was introduced by Rogerstone's Jon Matthews who came up with the idea of a Barbarians type team for girls at clubs who didn't have enough girls for their own team. Leading this with Jon is Lucy King of Ebbw Vale who is managing and coaching the team. After much thought and deliberation



South Wales Falcons and Radyr girl's teams

the team name of South Wales Falcons was chosen. The venture became a huge success with all involved and games were played against Britton Ferry and Radyr and the team was entered in the Lady Taverner's cup. It is intended to continue this drive with games spread about the participating club venues.

Another first at the welfare grounds for 2019 was the formation of Rogerstone Welfare CC Ladies team who in their first year played in four festivals and will next year hold their first home festival under the leadership of Carmel Reed , supported by Ella Reed and Hayley Plant.

And finally - Anything he can do, Rogerstone can as well!

D. A. Picken



Rogerstone Welfare CC Ladies





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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 Cwmrcarn 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.

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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 world 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



Brecon Mountain Railway which runs up its eastern side from Pant Station to Dolygaer and on to Torpantau.



WATERFALLS IN WALES

Sgwd Gwladys

Is a waterfall on the Afon Pyrddin in the Vale of Neath at Pontneddfechan. It is nestled between Aberdare and Ystradgynlais in Powys, South Wales and is part of the Brecon Beacons National Park.

Indeed the whole area is known as "waterfall country" and has become a centre for activity holidays and extreme sports. Caution should be taken, though, as the caves and waterfalls can become very dangerous in wet weather.

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LOCAL HEROES

By Bernard Osment

Gwent soldier killed by IRA bomb blast

A grave, in the far lower corner of Section F of Danygraig Cemetery, is the last resting place of Arthur Fryer and his wife Marie, previously of No.8 Garden Suburbs, Pontywaun. Some ten yards away is the grave of their only child, their son Paul Arthur Fryer.

Arthur Fryer passed away suddenly, at the age of 69, at the Royal Gwent Hospital on the 27th January 1992. His wife Doris Marie, always known as Marie, had passed away at the Royal Gwent Hospital some eleven years earlier, on the 10th June 1981, aged 51. Both had been heartbroken at the loss of their beloved son Paul in 1979.

Paul didn't die in an accident, or of an illness in bed at home or in a hospital, he was murdered by the IRA, in a quiet country lane in Northern Ireland, on the 13th November 1979, aged just 18 years and 4 months. It had always been Paul's ambition to join the Army and after leaving Cwmcarn Comprehensive School in 1977, at the age of 16 he joined up. In August 1978 he



was serving in the Welsh Guards, stationed in Berlin, as 24464284 Guardsman Paul Arthur Fryer. In 1979, in the midst of a 'most volatile

situation', his Battalion of the Welsh Guards was posted to Northern Ireland. Just three weeks after Paul joined the Prince of Wales Company at Crossmaglen, he was killed.

Paul had never shown any worry about the dangers of serving in Northern Ireland. His bold attitude was a great

encouragement to others in his Platoon. Though he was only eighteen he was a much respected

member of the Company and exemplified all that a Welsh Guardsman should be. He was sadly missed by his comrades.

At about one o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday the 13th November 1979, after spending most of the morning carrying out house to house inquiries in the Ford Cross area of Crossmaglen, Paul was one of a four man patrol making their way cross country to a helicopter pick-up point. They kept off the roads, crossed fields, avoided gates and gaps in hedges, but after two of the patrol had climbed over a wire fence to get across the road at Ford's Cross, three miles from

the South Armagh border, just as Paul was getting over the fence an unseen IRA team hidden some distance away, detonated a radio controlled bomb concealed behind a nearby telegraph pole. Paul took the full force of the blast and died instantly. Another member of the patrol, Guardsman Michael Miller was injured, but not seriously.

On Thursday the 22nd November 1979, Welsh Guardsman Paul Arthur Fryer was given a full military funeral.

Hundreds of people crowded into St John's Church, Cwmcarn, for the service. Paul's coffin, draped with the Union Jack, with a Welsh Guards cap and belt on top, was carried by eight guardsmen.

Guards from the Battalion Headquarters in Surrey, and some of Paul's colleagues from Northern Ireland, escorted the funeral procession. Shops in Cwmcarn and Pontywaun were closed, and people stood at the roadside as a mark of respect, as the cortege made its way to

Danygraig Cemetery.

At the cemetery, a firing party gave three volleys and a bugler sounded the Last Post followed by Reveille.

At Danygraig Cemetery on Wednesday the 13th November 2019, there were no rifle shots, only the sound of the Last Post and Reveille as family members, friends, army comrades and serving members of the Welsh Guards gathered at Paul's grave side for a memorial service to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Paul's death.

IRA's revenge – Gwent soldier is victim

A wooden plaque on a wall in Rogerstone Library reads – In Memory of Corporal G.C. Bristow. Killed on active service in Northern Ireland April 1972.

Gerald Charles Bristow, the third son of Charles and Doreen Bristow, was born in Rhiwderin in 1945. In the mid 1950s his family moved to No.11 Ebenezer Drive, Rogerstone. He attended High Cross Primary School before going to the Graig Secondary School in Bassaleg. On leaving school he started working on the railway as a fireman.

Bored with his job, in 1964 he decided to join the Army at the age of 19. He was serving in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers as 24040659 Private Bristow, eventually reaching the rank of Corporal. He served overseas, in Germany and Cyprus before returning to the U.K. in 1967, to Heathfield Camp, near Honiton. There he met and married his wife Gillian in 1969. He was then posted to Hong Kong, taking his wife with him, their son Peter being born there in 1971.



In March 1972 the Fusiliers were posted to Northern Ireland, where Gerald, his wife Gillian and baby son moved into married quarters at Ebrington Barracks, Londonderry.

Although Gerald was due to

come out of the Army in 1972, he was thinking of signing on for another 12 years.

On Sunday the 16th April 1972, Corporal Gerald Charles Bristow, aged 26 of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, was shot by a sniper whilst on foot patrol in Bishop Street, Londonderry. Despite an emergency operation Gerald died of his wounds.

The IRA claimed responsibility for Gerald's shooting, saying it was in retaliation for the death of Joseph McCann, a senior IRA leader shot by the Army the previous day.

Gerald was given a full military funeral in his adopted home town of Honiton, where he was laid to rest in the cemetery of St Michael's Church. His name is inscribed on the Honiton War Memorial.

**When they talk of Ulster,
Tell them of us who died and
say,
For their tomorrow,
We gave our today.**



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What's On



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

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Places of Worship

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NEW BEGINNINGS COMMUNITY GROUP



Cefn Wood Baptist Church Hall
Ebenezer Drive Rogerstone
Thursdays from 1.00pm – 3.00pm
January 9th & 23rd
February 6th & 20th

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For more info call Ellie on 07816 838667

Rogerstone Roses WI

Meet on the 2nd and 4th
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For more details please contact:
Mary Edmunds 01633 891363

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**CWMBRAN R.A.F.A. CLUB, GREENHILL ROAD,
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

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

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Rogerstone Library

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01633 656656

Email:

rogerstone.library@newport.gov.uk

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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
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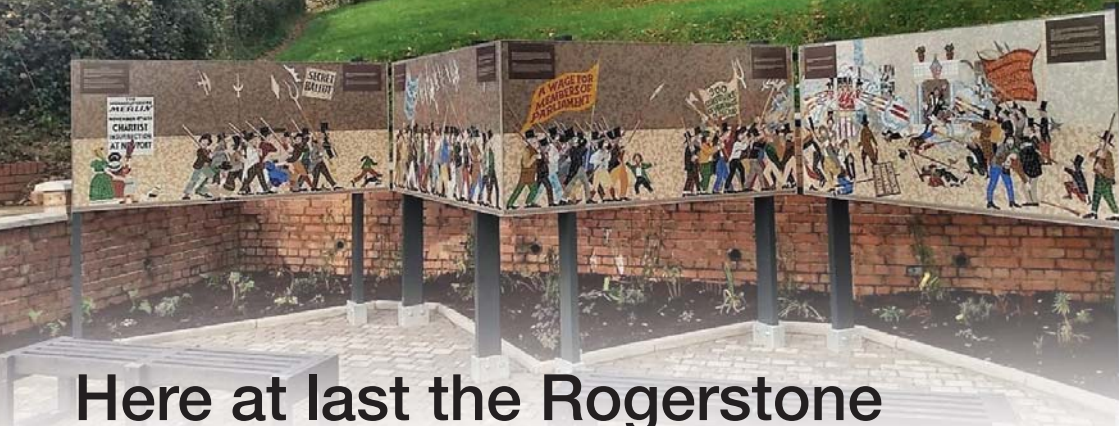
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Canal and Countryside Volunteers

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



Here at last the Rogerstone Chartist Mural

The 4th November 2019 was a very special day in Rogerstone with the unveiling of the Rogerstone Chartist Mural on the 180th anniversary of the Newport Rising.

Local dignitaries were invited along with many of the people who contributed to the project. Each of our local schools were invited to send six representatives to the event which was well covered on BBC TV, S4C along with a number of local news outlets. In fact, BBC Wales released a short video of the making of the new mural with the artist Oliver Budd the day before the unveiling. For Oliver it was clearly very special to recreate his father's mural.

Having had one previous extension to the grant funding meant that the project had to be completed by the 15th of November 2019. However, through the incredible hard work and commitment by all those working on the project we were able to meet the very special date of the 4th November. There was some late drama, ALUK Ltd who kindly supplied the material for the framework free of charge, supplied it in long bars and not cut to the size of the framework. Our contractor Holbrook Homes responsible for preparing the ground immediately stepped in and had the aluminum bars cut to size. They also arranged all the

barriers for the opening ceremony. The date of the 4th November was also very challenging to artist Oliver Budd who ended up working 12-hour days.

March', (located on the side wall), Sarah Lee Photography took pictures of the event free of charge. The value of goodwill donations would be well in excess of £5000 and it shows



We also received a £600 donation from the Newport Civic Society which enabled us to include an additional bench which gives the mural site a more balanced look. There was also a small donation from Charles Ferris through the sale of his chartist items at the Rogerstone Festival. The Monmouthshire Building Society also donated £500 prize money for a schools Chartist competition. Furthermore, translation into Welsh was done free of charge by Mrs. Fells (Mount Pleasant School), Bronwen Green and Dr. Elin Jones. Gillian Clark a former National Poet of Wales agreed that we could use her poem 'The

how much people got behind the project.

The mural also includes a timeline so that visitors to the site will get an understanding of reasons for the Newport Uprising. Rogerstone Community Council are delighted with the finished project and will be responsible for the maintenance. Finally, this project could not have been undertaken without the £20,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. We are also very grateful to all those who buy tickets for the National Lottery so that projects like this can become a reality.

Stephen Bowen

THE COMPANIONSHIP CENTRE

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



Please call in or phone us for further information

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.

The Companionship Centre, 7 Duffryn Shopping Centre, Duffryn. NP10 8TE
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Tel: 01633 499777

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!

Wednesday to Friday during term time - you're sure to receive a warm welcome.

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.

'Learn, Laugh and Live' is the U3A's motto and we certainly do all three by the bucket load! If you are retired or semi-retired come along and try a few sessions before committing to join. We meet at Shaftesbury Street Methodist Church rooms



For more details, please contact Angela Robins on 07980 970967.

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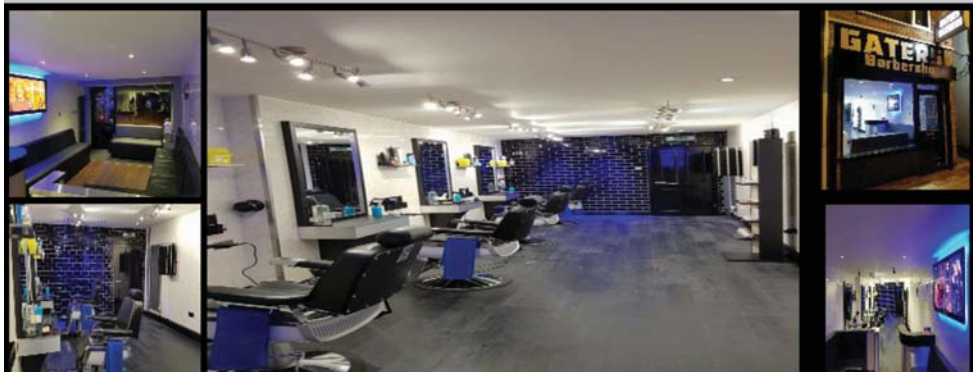


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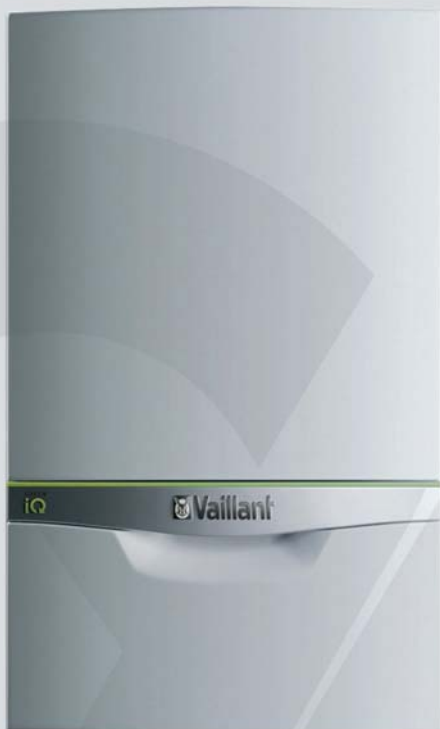
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King Henry V



Monmouth Castle



*left: Broad arrowhead
Right: Bodkin arrowhead*

THE FACIAL WOUND OF KING HENRY V

(Part 1)

One of the medieval English kings is unique for having been born in Monmouthshire, this was Henry V, who was born in 1386, in a room in the tower above the gatehouse of Monmouth castle. His father was Henry Bolingbroke, Earl of Derby who eventually became King Henry IV in 1399.

As a young prince Henry assisted his father by fighting against the Welsh uprising raised by the self-proclaimed Prince of Wales Owain Glyndwr. Glyndwr was initially quite successful in his revolt and succeeded in over running much of Wales. He even opened his own Parliament in the Welsh town of Machynlleth, where the building he used to house it stands to this day. He also managed to form an alliance with the French, who sent a body of knights to assist him and provided him with arms.

Despite his early successes Glyndwr was finally overcome by the English, with the young Prince 'Hal' taking a major part in commanding part of his father's forces. This was particularly true in battles at Grosmont (where Glyndwr lost about 800 men) and at a location known as Pwll Melyn (Yellow Pool) near Usk. At the latter battle Glyndwr's son, Gruffudd, was captured and his brother, Tudur, was killed. Finally, after these and other defeats Owain Glyndwr faded into obscurity and his final fate has always been something of a mystery with the site of his burial place much debated.

Prince 'Hal', when he became King Henry V, is probably best remembered for his victory over the French at Agincourt. This victory was greatly aided by the prowess of the British archers. The French army had not developed the use of the long bow but relied on the cross bow, which took much longer to load and shoot. There were generally two types of arrow used by longbows in wars. The barbed broad head particularly effective against horses and the bodkin type which was designed to pierce armour. King Henry had an earlier and very personal acquaintance with the power of the long bow. On the 21st July 1403, he then commonly known as 'Prince Hal' or young 'Henry of Monmouth', at the age of 16 fought in his father's army in the Battle of Shrewsbury. This battle was led by the Lancastrian King Henry IV against a rebel army led by Henry 'Harry Hotspur' Percy and his uncle Thomas Percy. This battle was the very first on English soil in which opposing English archers fought against each other, demonstrating the power and effectiveness of the long bow. The Shrewsbury Battle was won by the

army of Henry IV and Henry 'Harry Hotspur' was killed by an arrow in his face and Thomas Percy captured and punished by being hung, drawn and quartered.

The Percy family had originally supported Henry IV (then known as



Death of Hotspur

Bolingbroke) when he returned from banishment and claimed the throne from King Richard II in 1399. They later turned against Henry because they felt that he had broken various promises made when he had first

gained the throne. Henry IV's eligibility for claiming the throne was vague to say the least and he was probably responsible for the death of the captive King Richard II when he was imprisoned.

In the early stage of the Shrewsbury battle the Percy archers fired a huge opening volley of arrows and one of these hit young Prince Hal, who for some reason had left his armour visor open, possibly to give orders to his archers. I visualise this happening as follows – Prince Henry raises his visor, tilts his head back and shouts the following commands to his archers. 'Draw your bows, Take Aim, Loose.' But as the archers fired their arrows there was a dull thud as an enemy arrow impacted the young Prince's face as he commanded 'Loose'. He fell on his back, uttering a cry of pain.

Retainers rushed to his aid and he ordered them to pull the arrow out, the shaft came clear but left the arrow head still deeply embedded. The arrow had penetrated his face, below the eye and to the side of his nose, the

arrow head (a bodkin type) becoming embedded internally in the back of his skull. Despite this horrible wound, young Prince Hal refused to leave the battlefield for medical attention until it was certain that his father's army had won the day. The removal of the



King Henry IV

shaft enabled him to continue fighting despite the terrible pain that he must have endured.

(To be continued)



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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*		12.45-1.30 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
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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		
5.15-6.00 Yr3-Yr6		5.15-6.00 Yr3-Yr6		5.20-6.05 Advanced Yr4-Yr8		
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LISA PRYCE-JONES

HYPNOTHERAPY & HEALING

NEWPORT

New Year's resolutions for healthier and happier living

At the start of the year many people make New Year's resolutions (e.g. eat more healthily, lose weight, be more active, stop smoking, drink less alcohol, spend less money, get a more rewarding job etc.). However, many people find that they are unable to maintain the desired changes. So if the methods which you have tried to date have not worked why not try something different – you might be surprised and delighted with the results!

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Happy New Year

Happy New Year is the appropriate greeting for this issue of the Directory, it seems strange though because I am writing this just as our Christmas festivities are about to start. We have a Christmas dinner, a Christmas party and a trip to Blenheim Palace to look forward to. However, by the time this is printed they will be something of a hopefully pleasant but distant memory.

It is not unusual in W.I. to have craft evenings and recently we had a willow weaving evening. We were fortunate enough to have Mel Bastier as our demonstrator, she is a graphic designer who trains adults and children in the traditional craft of willow weaving, using dried and living willow. She has been involved in creating many large scale sculpture installations including commissions for: Six Coronation Arches, a gift to the Queen from the Royal Windsor Rose and Horticultural Society installed on the Long Walk outside Windsor Castle; BBC Studios Llandaff, film set for 'Class', new production of Dr Who series and many more that can be viewed on her website. Mel started the evening with a brief outline of the different types of willow and their uses which are extensive. Although Mel had brought along several sculptures the most impressive of which was a rather splendid reindeer and seemingly effortlessly Mel, while she spoke, created an angel which she stood alongside him, obviously these were chosen because of the seasonal context. Then it was our turn and we at Rogerstone Roses were more simply engaged in creating a star initially and then on to the slightly more complex



Christmas tree. Many of us managed the star which was a very simple fold but the tree proved a little more demanding and mine resembled a rather lopsided triangle. Not to worry, an enjoyable evening was spent with much laughter and even some grim determination detected as ladies persevered. Mel suggested that we could actually plant our stars and trees in our gardens and that they would root and grow. So, if in the spring you detect an influx of willow saplings in Rogerstone you will know why.

The meetings in January are almost set in stone we have for many years, by popular request started the new year with a quiz, there is no pressure, everyone plays in a team and we play for the kudos of winning, no prizes.



The second meeting is often taken up with discussions on our national resolutions, it is important that members are well informed regarding the substance of each individual idea so that when they vote they do so knowledgeably. Many of our resolutions have changed national policy or political thinking over the years and it is important that we give them due consideration.

Our meetings 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.

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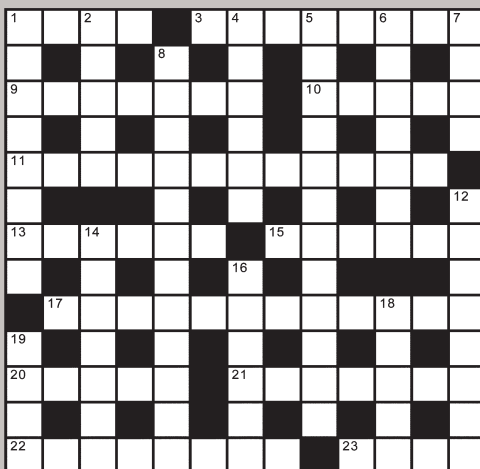
Quick Crossword

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)

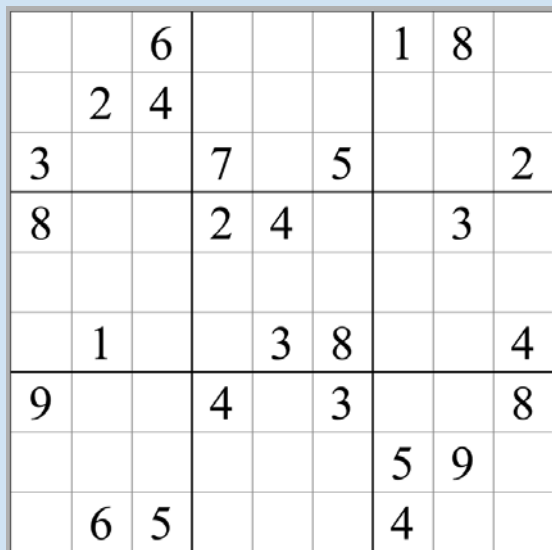
Down

- 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



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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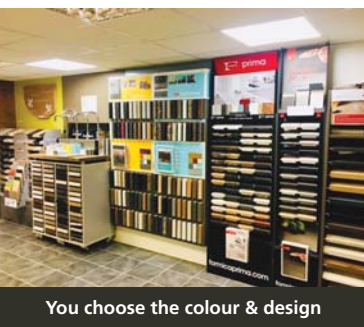
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Gwerinwyr Gwent Diary

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).

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

1	C	O	W	S	3	O	4	C	5	U	6	R	E	7	D
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9	A	R	R	A	N	G	E	10	B	U	S	E	S		
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17	C	I	V	I	L	I	S	A	T	I	O	N			
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19	T	Y	I	N	G	21	B	A	L	A	N	C	E		
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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.

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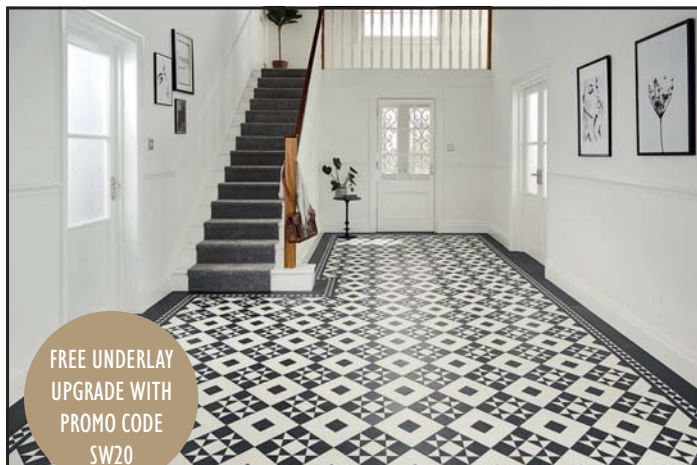
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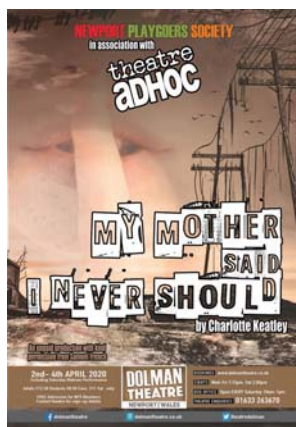
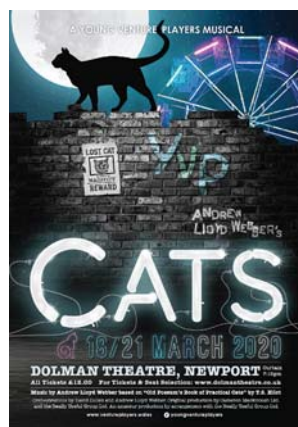
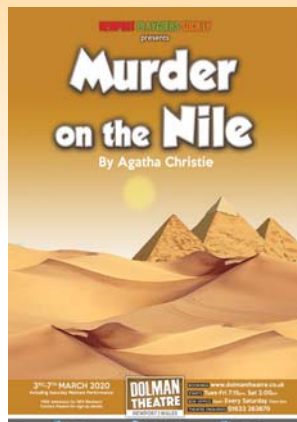
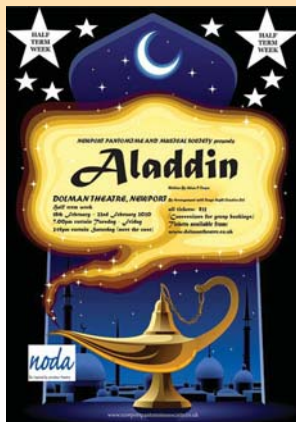
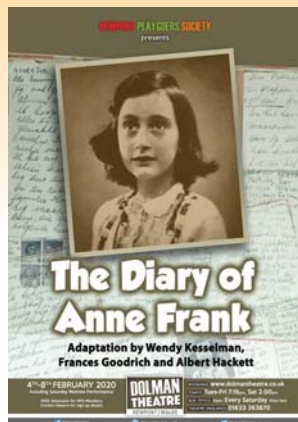
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During the war

It's likely that most people will be familiar with the appearance of the gas masks which were issued to the general public in the United Kingdom during the Second World War. However, a stark reminder of the potential horrors of war which civilians may have had to endure was brought home to us at the museum thanks to a recent donation.

Local resident Mark Jones donated the baby's gas mask, shown in the photograph, which had been given to the family of his cousin, Ann. She was born in the 1940s and, it seems, never had to be placed inside the gas mask. We can only imagine the horror a baby would feel being placed inside such an item and the trauma of the parent having to use it. As an interesting side note to this, Ann's uncle was taken as a prisoner of war while serving in North Africa. In the first instance, he was held in Italy but was later transferred to Dresden in Germany. While there he had to endure but, thankfully, survived the Allied bombing which all but destroyed it.

Civilians on both sides in wars are subject to the horrors of attacks on their homes. The Home Office pamphlet in this photograph sets out directions on how civilians in the UK should go about defending their homes. As well as advice for protecting property, the government established Air Raid

Protection Warden's whose duties included enforcing the blackouts to prevent enemy aircraft from



spotting potential targets. A warden's helmet is also on display in the porch area of the museum.

Rationing was something else which had to be endured by the civilian population during the war; in fact rationing was not totally lifted until 1954 in the United Kingdom. This photograph shows another exhibit on display at Risca Museum, being a ration book for a Mr M. Davies of Gloucestershire dated 1945-46. It wasn't only food that was rationed, we also have a Clothing

Book for the same individual dated 1943.



During the war, and the consequent rationing, British civilians often received gifts of food from overseas. Recently, the museum was given such a gift in the form of a large tin of Maxwell House Coffee. It can be clearly seen on the label on the tin that this one-pound tin of coffee was produced in New York. The information from the donor is that it was a charitable gift from the people of the United States of America and that it was received by the Ward family who lived in Hill Street, Risca.

At this time of year, it is usual to remember those from the armed forces who were killed during the wars that have been fought over the last century. We have two WW1 memorial boards from Richard Thomas and Baldwin, one listing the men who lost their lives and the other the men who were awarded gallantry medals. It's worth remembering that it wasn't only members of the armed forces who exhibited bravery. We have had a number of certificates donated to the museum which record the bravery of the men who fought and extinguished the gob fire in the Black Vein Colliery in 1918 which had closed the colliery. The certificates note that the 'heroic action and self-sacrifice' shown by these men 'will live as an example and inspiration to future generations'. The civilian memorabilia described above and on display in Risca Museum also reminds us that the horrors and privations that civilians have to endure during war is also something that gets all too easily forgotten or ignored.



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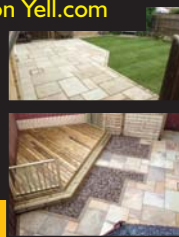
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