

BASSALEG & RHIWDERIN

DIRECTORY



ISSUE 81
JUNE/JULY/
AUGUST 2020



SW DIRECTORIES

HELLO EVERYONE

It feels so good to be back, life in lockdown has been hard on many of us but hopefully moving forward and working together as a community we will be stronger and more caring than ever. Please use as many of the advertisers as you possibly can so that we can continue to deliver our magazine through your door in the future, we totally rely on the revenue from the advertising to design, print and deliver the magazines each time.

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Here's to a vibrant and resilient future for both our community and local businesses.

Take care

Susan

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FRIDAY 31st JULY**

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My team and I are still working through the current COVID-19 pandemic.

If you have any issues that you would like to discuss or bring to my attention, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Mae fy nhîm a minnau yn dal i weithio drwy'r pandemig COVID-19 presennol.

Os oes gennych chi unrhyw faterion yr hoffech eu trafod neu eu dwyn i'm sylw, mae croeso i chi gysylltu.



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THE MYSTERY OF THE MEMORIAL PLAQUE DISCOVERED IN RHIWDERIN (PART 1)

Leslie Woolford of SW Directories contacted me, by email last October, regarding a metal plaque that a lady living in Rhiwderin had discovered when clearing out her garage. Mrs Susanna Playle of Derin Cottage, Rhiwderin, in August, found this interesting plaque buried under a pile of old carpet tiles in a dusty corner of the garage.

The plaque, size 14 inches x 7 inches, is in memory of A. Garland killed by enemy action on July 1st 1941, a copy of a photograph of the plaque is printed below.



In my investigations I first consulted Shaun McGuire's Internet Website - *Newport's War Dead* and soon found details of the July 1941 bombing of Eveswell Street. This website give details of the number of people killed and injured - 35 people died and 46 survived injured. The dead included many women and children wiping out some families completely. Another bomb dropped at the same time, on Gaerwood a house in Kensington Place, exterminating Alfred Searle an 80 year old Newport Solicitor and his housekeeper Daisy Frances Pouncey age 61. I have a clear memory of this last bomb as I shall later explain. During World War 1 Mr. Searle

served in the Royal Navy as a Lt. Commander.



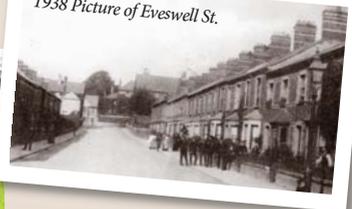
It was not possible to identify many of the dead when bodies and body parts were recovered from the demolished properties. Some, including the Gimlett family, were buried at St. Woolos Cemetery and others in a communal grave at Christchurch cemetery.



The powerful bombs that were dropped are often identified as Land Mines, as they were observed hanging from parachutes when falling. They were probably intended to land in the sea just off the port of Newport, but an unanticipated wind caught the parachutes and carried them inland over the town. The parachutes were intended to prevent the abrupt shock or impact of landing in the water from causing the mines to explode prematurely.

Of the houses in Eveswell Street at least nine were totally destroyed and never rebuilt, the 1946 Newport John's Directory lists them as vacant sites. These houses were all situated at the junction of Eveswell street with Archibald street. The site is now occupied by Maindee Fire Station. I can show a photograph of pre-war Eveswell Street and another of Archibald Street as damaged by the bombing.

1938 Picture of Eveswell St.



I am sufficiently old enough to remember the night when these bombs dropped on Newport. I would have been about 5 years old at that time, then living in Chaucer Road in the Beechwood area. I recollect that on the night of the 1st July 1941, when

Bomb damaged Archibald St.



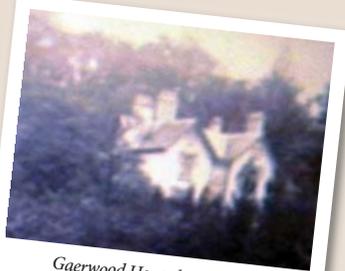
the air raid siren began it's disconsolate wail, as a family we left our beds to descend to the garden air raid shelter. But probably because my mother was very pregnant with my brother, we did not exit the house to go down steep external concrete steps to the shelter. Instead, we all crouched under the staircase which was open to the hallway on one side. We heard the uneven drone of enemy bombers overhead, heard bombs dropping on the town and anti-aircraft guns firing at the bombers. My father decided to go down the hallway to look through the kitchen window over the town to try and see what was happening. All of a sudden

there was the noise of a tremendous explosion quite close to our location and I can recollect a vivid blue flash of light. My startled father hastened from the Kitchen back down the hallway on his hands and knees and re-joined us under the staircase, declaring *"that was close, someone just on the other side of the hill has just copped it"*.

Finally the *All-clear* siren sounded and we thankfully returned to our beds. The following morning, when all was peaceful, my father decided to go and see the site where the bomb had landed and I went with him. Together, we walked through the local allotments up to Clevedon Road, then down to Eveswell Park Road, turned right to the Woodland Road area where other people were also making their way. We reached a spot where I remember looking down a slope on to a sea of brick and stone rubble debris, all that remained of Gaerwood house. In the middle of this debris stood a small yellow ridge tent, and in the tent entrance stood a uniformed police officer surveying

the scene.

In the overhead branches of an adjacent tree was deposited a Top Hat and a Long Tailed black coat, probably the only trace of the Searle residents. At this time we were not aware of the damage and casualties caused by the Eveswell Street bomb. I show a copy of a photograph of Gaerwood House taken before the war, unfortunately very poor quality as it is enlarged from a photograph taken from some distance away.



Gaerwood House before War

(To be continued)

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I would like to say to all my customers - please stay safe.

James Crawford

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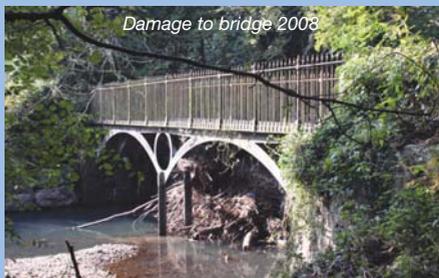
Iron Bridge Circular Walk

The walk is a 4.5km circular heritage trail that passes through Coed Craig Ruperra, 150 acre woodland, which once formed part of the large Ruperra Estate. The route follows permissive paths and public footpaths, that can become quite muddy during bad weather so suitable footwear is strongly recommended. The trail is signed with the distinctive Iron Bridge Waymarking Disc and should take around 2.5 hours to complete.

Hollybush Inn, a 200 year old countryside pub is located on the crossroads in the picturesque village of Draethen. The pub welcomes walkers and serves a selection of real ales and meals.

Craig Ruperra has a long history. It has been an Iron age hillfort, a Norman motte and bailey castle and in the later 17th Century a two-storey stone summer house was constructed. Finally, in the early 20th Century a split-logged thatched summer house was constructed where the Morgan family would take tea.

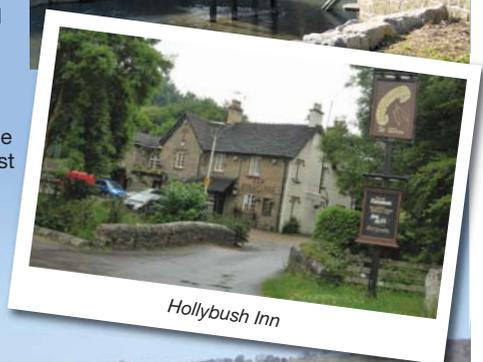
The 16 metre span cast iron footbridge was constructed in 1829. It was part of the estate of Lord Tredegar, who commissioned its construction to provide access for horse drawn vehicles and pedestrians from Ruperra Castle to and from the church at Lower Machen and the Lower Machen area. The bridge was closed to the public in 2008 due to extensive damage to the stone abutments and cast iron beams. A programme of restoration work was carried out by Newport City Council and Caerphilly County Borough Council, with grant funding from Cadw, Heritage Lottery Fund and Countryside Council for Wales.



Damage to bridge 2008



Repaired bridge 2011



Hollybush Inn

Coed Craig Ruperra



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Our showroom will not re-open on 1st June as the current government guidelines do not allow it, however we can bring samples of items such as

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Barafundle Bay

This is a remote bay with a slightly curved, east-facing sandy beach in Pembrokeshire near Stackpole Quay. It is part of the Stackpole Estate, managed by The National Trust.

There is no road access directly to the beach. The nearest car park is at Stackpole Quay which charges for parking between March and October. It is a half mile walk over cliffs and is not suitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs due to large number of steps to get up and down from the cliff top. Barafundle has been voted many times as one of the best beaches in Britain and the world. It is definitely worth a visit. The Boat House tearooms at Stackpole Quay are run by the National Trust and serve a section of snacks, hot food, cold drinks



and tea & coffee. We had sunshine, rain and a windy headland walk in August last year, a typical Welsh summers day!

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Gwerinwyr Gwent Diary

A steady start to this year's bookings, our first on the 14th January when we travelled to St Augustine's church hall in Pontllanfraith to give our Welsh culture evening to the ladies of the WI. This was only for an hour and mainly consisted of GG demonstrating dances and the ladies joining in with a few easy ceilihd dances. These evenings can be tailored to fit the audience with more, or, less audience participation and longer or fewer talks about costume, Lady Llanover, the culture of Wales etc.

On the 10th February our services were requested by Goytre and Penperlleni WI. As a relatively newly formed group, these ladies were somewhat younger, and joined in enthusiastically, so there was more dancing and much less talking that night!

Later in the month we were back on home turf as the ladies of Rogerstone Roses WI fancied a ceilihd at their meeting on the 25th February. A lot of dancing was done and much fun was had that that evening.

We are really popular with the WI this year, and the 12th March saw us travel to Gilwern as the ladies there were keen to share our Welsh culture evening on their first meeting after St David's Day. Barbara Griffiths had a variety of Welsh topics ready to talk about in case the ladies didn't want to take part in any dancing because of hand holding and coronavirus fears. But actually, they were keen to



be involved and danced five dances. We finished the evening with refreshments including home-made Welsh cakes and bara brith...lovely.

Our next booking was due to be the Llanover open gardens day on the 22nd March, but with the double whammy of coronavirus and the sodden ground in the field used for parking, the owner Mrs Murray had already decided to postpone to the 2nd August before the PM's announcement.

Of course since then Covid-19 restrictions have overtaken us and what looked like being a busy year will probably turn out to be our quietest. Our big local annual event, the Tredegar House Folk Festival, has become a casualty of the virus and the 31st festival will now take place over the weekend of 7th-9th May 2021.

Fortunately, most of the main concert artists are available next year so the festival will have almost the same great line-up as this year. For details visit the website tredegarhousefestival.org.uk where you can also watch the winner and two runners up of the inaugural song writing competition.

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

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The Property Market is Back and with a Huge Surge of Buyers and Sellers

Rightmove reported a 120 per cent increase in the demand for property in the first week since the property market reopened in England.

This is a trend that will almost definitely be the same for Wales, and in particular Newport and the surrounding areas due to historical industry similarities and our close proximity to the border.

11,000 new sales listings were added to the Rightmove portal on the first day alone with the other leading house buying websites reporting similar figures.

Mortgage Market Responds Positively with More Products Available

In response to the re-opening of the property market, many of the mortgage lenders have reinstated products they had temporarily removed due to the lockdown.

A popular website that compares mortgages reported an 18% uplift in the number of visitors comparing mortgages in the first week since the re-opening.

Another very important factor to remember is that due to the very low interest rates there are some incredible mortgage products currently available including fixed term deals.

Bassaleg & Rhiwderin - Our Local Market – What Can You Expect?

During lockdown, the local market as you would expect has been very quiet. We have kept ourselves busy completing on the sales of houses we had sold prior to the pandemic, and interestingly we have also been providing our professional experience and local knowledge for home owners who are going to be putting their houses on the market.

For some, the lockdown has given them the time to prepare their houses for sale. Gardens have been worked on, spare bedrooms decorated and the overall look and feel of houses have been improved.

For others, the impact on personal finances has had polar impacts. Not being able to go out and spend money has helped some save sizable deposits to move to larger houses, whilst for others who have experienced a decrease in household income, they are being forced to downsize to help manage their finances.

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Gater's Barbers Covid 19 Statement

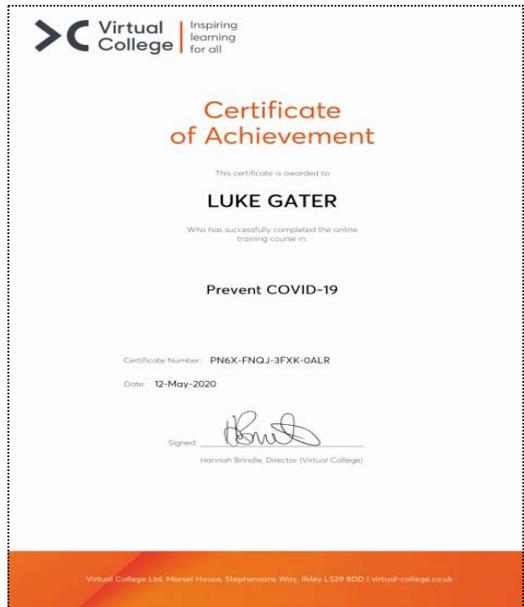
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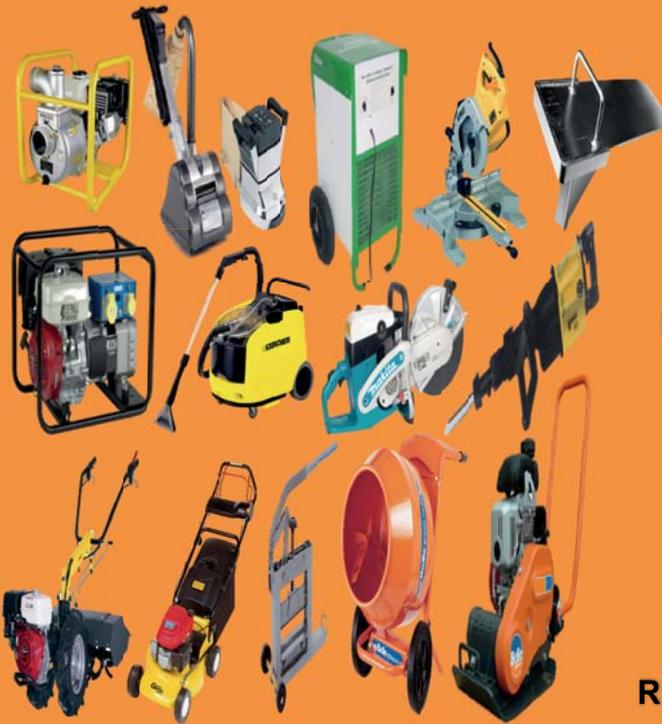
Looking forward to a healthy future together.

**Thanks,
Luke**



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Flying Sea Lions and Stone Roses

by Paul Minton

One of my proudest moments was discovering that my family had a coat of arms. Admittedly, many surnames have their own heraldic shields, but it still came as a surprise nonetheless. We even have a motto, “Pro Deo et patria”, which, if your Latin is as non-existent as mine, means “For God and country”. Since my ancestors appear to have been mainly farm workers, I like to think of them shouting out these words as they heroically chased chickens and fed pigs their daily slop.

Historically, the designs were used in battle or on seals for legal documents, so it was always important to verify their identity or credentials. This work was carried out by so-called “heralds” and thus, the related study became known as heraldry. With terms like “fess”, “gules”, and “ordinaries”, the field has its own unique language. Without help in navigating its otherwise impenetrable glossary, the novice would be left scratching their head so much people would think they had nits.

The Newport coat of arms is an interesting one. It has a downward-pointing red chevron on a gold shield or escutcheon, crowned by a cherub’s head with wings that seem to grow out of its face. Each side is accompanied by a “supporter”: there is a winged sea lion on one side and a sea dragon on the other. These fantastical beasts are meant to represent strength on land, water, and in the air – there’s nothing like covering all the



bases! In fact, Newport was the first authority to include a winged sea lion in their coat of arms but let me clarify that this is not a sea lion in the conventional sense but a half lion-half fish hybrid complete with webbed feet and scales. It would sooner rip your face off than balance a beachball on its nose. The current Newport City Council logo is also based on this dubious-looking creature, even though the image bears more than a passing resemblance to a sheep being hit by a flaming boomerang.

The shield was officially adopted in 1929 and the College of Arms, which regulates heraldic matters,

agreed to the addition of the supporters and the motto, “Terra Marique” (meaning “By land and sea”), in 1958. However, Newport had been using a basic design composed of the escutcheon and cherub since 1835. The emblem is actually adapted from the earlier Stafford crest of the Dukes of Buckingham, who held the Lordship of Newport during the Middle Ages. It is generally believed that the chevron was cunningly inverted to point downwards to avoid confusion with the family’s insignia but others have suggested that its reversal was indicative of disgrace: the 3rd Duke was executed for treason in 1521. Whatever the explanation, the chevron is intended to represent a roof so when it is upside down, someone definitely needs to get their house in order by phoning a builder.

Whilst recording their album, ‘Second Coming’, at Rockfield Studios near Monmouth, Manchester band, *The Stone Roses*, spent some time at the legendary TJ’s in Clarence Place. When it came to designing a cover for their 1994 single, ‘Love Spreads’, guitarist John Squire chose a photograph he had taken of the town’s coat of arms on Newport Bridge. The song proved to be their biggest hit and over-enthusiastic fans were later blamed for removing cherubs from the bridge in order to keep as mementoes. Although the cherubic image was to resurface on the album sleeve, the fate of those missing originals remains a mystery to this day.

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More Swans in Unsuitable or Inappropriate Places

Sunday 8th March, 7.47pm, the phone rang as it tends to do! It's completely dark outside and we're just finishing our evening meal. The caller is from Dyfed Powys Police; she is reporting a grounded young swan on a busy main road in Felinfoel, Llanelli. We have to make it clear there is nothing any of us can do at this particular time, which maybe sounds somewhat unprofessional, but a compromise agreement was reached. This was that the police would 'shunt' the bird into the immediately adjacent Afon Lliedi. This they did successfully although concern was expressed that the stream was very fast flowing, as a result of what seemed like days of heavy and near continuous rain. And so this was the way it was left, but with the promise we would attend the following day, and assess what more needed to be done. The following day, Gary duly reported, as expected, the swan was still there but did not seem distressed by his predicament. He was holding his position in the stream, but clearly a rescue sooner rather than later was essential. Bread and poultry corn was given and accepted, but any thought of a rescue at this time had to be dismissed as much too dangerous. The fact the swan was fit and well was amply demonstrated by him attempting to take off a number of times by pattering along the water surface some 50-60 metres before running out of space. We joined Gary in Llanelli the following day when we took the first of our

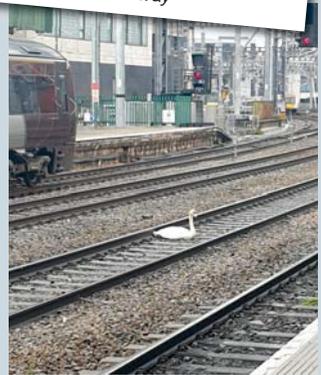


Afon Lliedi in full spate, no safe rescue possible

photographs; it was still the case the water flow in this narrow and very deep channel was far too great to contemplate a rescue. The change in the character of the stream following two further days during which there was little or no rain was dramatic, as can be seen from our second photograph. From this point on the plan was very simple; Gary was in the stream below the swan to prevent him from escaping in that direction and your reporter, was on what was now a bit of a beach ready with a swan hook as Gary moved slowly upstream. And the rest, as they say, allegedly, is history. As a brief tailpiece to this story, and before the Coronavirus shutters went up, and a few days after the Llanelli episode, we received a call from Network Rail; a swan had 'alighted' in the middle of the tracks at Cardiff Central railway station and extraordinarily had survived to tell the tale, notwithstanding the 'cats cradle' of high voltage conductors which are now a very obvious feature of the main



Conditions now favourable, rescue under way



Please direct me to the correct platform to Newport

South Wales to London line. Needless to say, it was railway staff who retrieved the shell-shocked bird, but clearly needed our help to provide rest and rehabilitation, most of which, thankfully our friends at Shepperton were willing and able to provide.

For swan and all other wildlife problems please contact Peter or Ellen on 01633 895241 or 07802 472788.



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Make a DIFFERENCE

Hello, my name is Karla, I run a local health and fitness business here in Newport. Like most, we are at home, staying safe and extremely grateful to those Key workers who keep this country going. I'm writing today to try and give back, to try and raise spirits and keep the local community positive.

As a mum, wife and business owner I can empathise and appreciate how the current situation has negatively affected us all, not able to connect with family and friends, not having the freedom to exercise as we'd like and most of all, those with children and vulnerable adults isolated at home, its hard to see a way through and stay positive.

As a fitness professional, as in any businesses, planning and setting targets is essential for success, but in a climate where every day brings new uncertainty, how do we do it? We look for a new angle, we look at our businesses and seek out a new way to do things. Every cloud has a silver lining and this Pandemic has helped to re-focus and shape a new way for our businesses to work. A phrase we use in the fitness industry, 'work outside your comfort zone, because this is where the magic happens' is so true and today, I implore you to find your comfort zone and step outside.



My business relied on face to face appointments whether in a class or a private PT session, in one week it was all gone. I was not ready for online, I wasn't ready to try and get to grips with social media, I like things the old-fashioned way, paper and pen, hardcopy diaries and face to face. I now had to step outside my comfort zone, I had to deal with my demons that I had put off for so long. So here I am, trying to make a difference in the virtual world, I am now like a child, learning new skills for the first time, I'm excited that I'm trying, I'm positive that with the help of my family I can do it, I'm motivated because the things that scare me are now what drive me to succeed. I wanted to write to you today to

Like so many other businesses I have been greatly impacted by the Pandemic and I simply want to shine a bit of light on this dark time



not give up, but to keep trying, after all what have we got to lose?

I plan to use my new digital skills to bring some positivity to my local community, after all, I can now reach more people! Yes, I'm online and yes, I'm trying. As part of my give back campaign I will be raising money for the Sparkle Appeal. I'm doing this by running fitness classes, family discos, quizzes and bingo mornings. Like so many other businesses I have been greatly impacted by the Pandemic and I simply want to shine a bit of light on this dark time and put a smile to the faces of our local community.

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Once you donate, they will send your money directly to Sparkle (South Wales) Limited, so it's the most efficient way to give - saving time and cutting costs for the charity. Just go to their website and type in the search bar -

Karla's PBF Fitness fun or just call 07791 217306 for more details.

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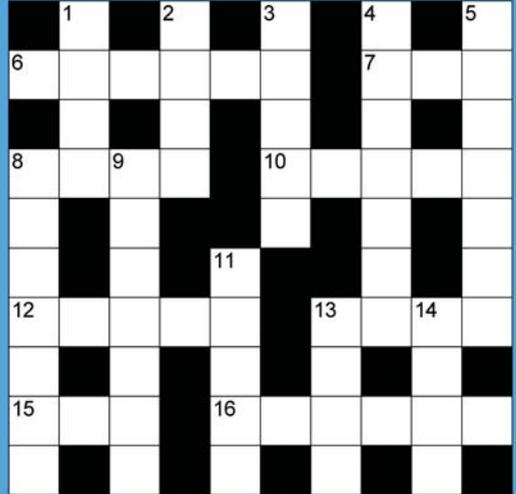
Crossword

Across

- 6. Rotten (6)
- 7. Small child (3)
- 8. London art gallery (4)
- 10. Depart (5)
- 12. Heavenly being (5)
- 13. Scottish loch (4)
- 15. Single number (3)
- 16. Horse barn (5)

Down

- 1. Molten rock (4)
- 2. Land measurement (4)
- 3. Grown up (5)
- 4. Unusual (7)
- 5. Small rivers (7)
- 8. Crime against crown (7)
- 9. In a knot (7)
- 11. Deep cut (5)
- 13. Close to (4)
- 14. Condiment (4)



Sudoku

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

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.

Puzzle solutions on page 32

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Puzzle Solutions

Sudoku

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

Crossword Solution

Across: 6 Rancid, 7 Tot, 8 Tate, 10 Leave, 12 Angel, 13 Ness, 15 One, 16 Stable.

Down: 1 Lava, 2 Acre, 3 Adult, 4 Strange, 5 Streams, 8 Treason, 9 Tangled, 11 Slash, 13 Near, 14 Salt.

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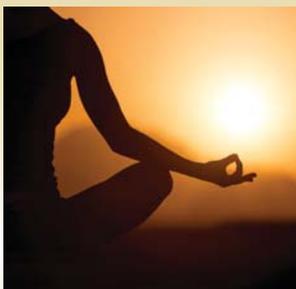
Newport U3A

I Hope by the time this article is published that the Coronavirus Crisis will be easing down and some sense of normality has return.

Newport University of the Third Age is a self-help charitable organisation that aims to advance the education of retired people.

We have had to curtail our activities this Spring and self-isolate as many of us are in the vulnerable category. Staying at home was testing, wondering how to fill the time.

However, our biggest asset is a super abundance of talented members, so a pop-up magazine called Desert Island Times was developed and sent out to most of our 400+



members via email, to stimulate interest and keep us connected. Members from our 44 interest groups were very quick to submit articles, poems, stories, cartoons,

jokes, artwork and gentle exercises. Also there were lessons on how to solve cryptic crosswords and Jazz and Classical Music Appreciation sessions that both had suggested pieces to listen to on YouTube. There was even a meditation session to calm our nerves.

Very soon members were passing the magazine on to family and friends, and it was sent to other U3As around the country.

You could say we became the OPEN University of the Third Age!

If you are retired from full-time employment visit u3asites.org/newportsewales to see if classes have resumed, then come along and try a few taster sessions before committing to enrol. Angela Robins 07980 970967.

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 **Glow-worm**

MAIN

ideal

 **ARISTON**

Ferroli

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