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DIRECTORY



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SEPTEMBER/
OCTOBER 2020



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I hope you enjoyed the sizzling temperatures we experienced in August. Personally, I'm looking forward to some cooler weather and to all the delights of autumn. It's my favourite time of year, the lovely crisp, dry days of September, a nip in the air and the gold, red and russet leaves on the trees.

Thank you, one again to the NHS, all the key workers and to the wonderful volunteers who have continued to keep our community going during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Please don't forget to get in touch soon if you would like to advertise your business in our November/December edition. We deliver to 26000 homes all over Newport; this is an ideal way for you to reach prospective customers and support the local community at the same time. Advertising in the Directories has proved successful for so many of our advertisers, some have been with us since the very first magazine in May 2006.

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Susan

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THE MYSTERY OF THE MEMORIAL PLAQUE DISCOVERED IN RHIWDERIN (PART 2)

I will open this part of the article with a photograph of Eveswell Street as it was before W.W. 2. It is likely that many of the people standing pictured in the group may have died during the bombing incident, perhaps even Albert Garland was amongst this group.

The Memorial Plaque for A. Garland is engraved from Fellow Workers Npt. Corporation, Red & White Services, Barlows Furnishers, Richards Caterers, & Friends Rodney Road. We can presume that all the people mentioned in the plaque must have worked with and known Albert



Garland. They possibly collected money and contributed to and paid for the Memorial Plaque. The first question is – Where was it intended to be attached by means of the four corner holes? Suggestions that have been made to me include that the plaque could possibly be screwed to a coffin containing the unidentified remains of the bomb victims, or secured to a wall in Albert's local school or church.

The second question has to be why was it that the Plaque ended up in this cottage garage in Rhiwderin? Maybe a previous owner of the cottage was a relative or friend or fellow worker of Albert Garland and for some particular reason had retained possession of the Plaque.

An informative local history book *The History of Newport Borough* by Hadyn Davis mentions that Albert Garland was the Bandmaster for the Newport Sea Cadet Corps.

Pre-war Eveswell Street



Coincidentally, another bomb victim, Mr. Alfred Searle of Gaerwood House, is also mentioned in the same book, as the founder and

commanding officer of the same unit for 41 years.

Perhaps the plaque could have been intended to be mounted and displayed on the wall of the Sea Cadet's

headquarters? Then for some reason this did not happen and one of the people involved retained it and took it to Rhiwderin, where it remained.

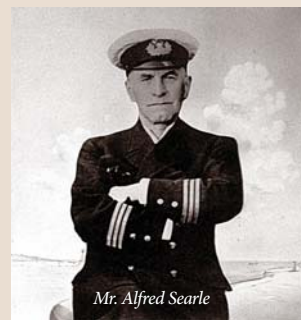
There are also similar sized memorial plaques mounted in St. John's Parish Church, Maindee. This may have been Albert Garland's local place of worship.

I have attempted to contact the Sea Cadets to see if they held any information about their former Bandmaster Albert Garland, leaving messages on their answer phone and sending them emails. The only response was an acknowledgement of my emails saying that they would get back in touch later, but I have not had any further message.

As a matter of interest I have discovered that Sea Cadets Corps was developed locally from the Maindee Church Lad's Naval Brigade.

I also searched in a recent telephone

directory for local residents with a Garland surname, to see if any of them were related to the Maindee Garland family. I did speak to about six local residents named Garland including one with a Conway Road address (situated close to Eveswell Street), but none were related to the Eveswell Street Garlands.



Mr. Alfred Searle

I have also arranged with contacts in the Newport Reference Library to try and identify the names of people living at Deri Cottage, Caerphilly Close, Rhiwderin during the relevant period. I was hoping to discover a possible connection to the Maindee Garland family. Unfortunately, none of my attempts to discover any further information about the plaque or Mr. Garland have been successful.

Basically there are two unanswered questions, where was this plaque intended to be mounted on display? And why did it end up in Rhiwderin? I have, therefore, decided to conclude my investigations and throw the search open to the readers of this Directory. I request that anyone, with any suggestions to contact the editors of the Directory with any relevant information or suggestions.

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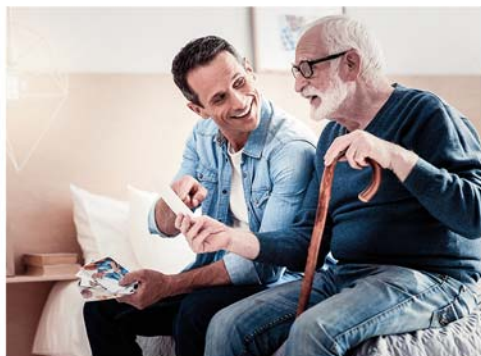
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Within your Will, you should include executors for the Will and beneficiaries who inherit your estate. If you have children under 18, then you will need to name a guardian for your children.



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James Crawford

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Gwerinwyr Gwent Diary



Well, what a year!

We have not danced since March and at the time of writing there is no prospect of even starting back to practice. It is such a shame that so many festivals and fund-raising events have had to be cancelled. We had some lovely bookings lined up such as the Tredegar House and Chippenham folk festivals in May, Abergavenny arts festival in June and Stroud folk weekend in September.

Then there was Crickfest and Magor Marsh open day, both in July, plus a fund-raising school ceilidh in Cefn Hengoed, Panteg Ladies Probus and Devauden WI.

The rescheduled NGS open garden day at Llanover was going ahead on the 2nd August, but with reduced numbers by timed ticket and no refreshments, plant sales or, of course, traditional Welsh dancing. The amount of money raised for charity this year will be a fraction of previous years, but at least some gardens have

been able to open since lockdown eased.

Whoever came up with the idea, it is a wonderful way to raise money.

Members of our group live as far apart as Bridgend in the west to Hereford in the east, and we have kept in touch by fortnightly Zoom meeting and quizzes, but it will be so good to get back together and dance. As always we are hoping to encourage some new people to join us. We have a couple of young members, but most of us are around retirement age and we worry that the group will not be able to keep going. It will be a tragedy if a part of traditional Welsh culture is lost from this area of Wales. At present there are also groups in Pontypool and Blaenavon but we are all

suffering from the same problem with recruitment, and fewer schools are including Welsh dancing in their curriculum, even with the encouragement of the Welsh government.

Welsh folk dance steps are few and quite easy, it is mainly the pattern of the dances that has to be learnt. It is a sociable way of keeping fit, so please think about giving it a try and don't let the costume put you off, you soon get used to wearing it. We would also love to recruit some extra musicians to join our band.



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).

For more details visit our website

www.gwerinwyrghwent.org.uk, ring 01495 271953, or just come along and give it a try.

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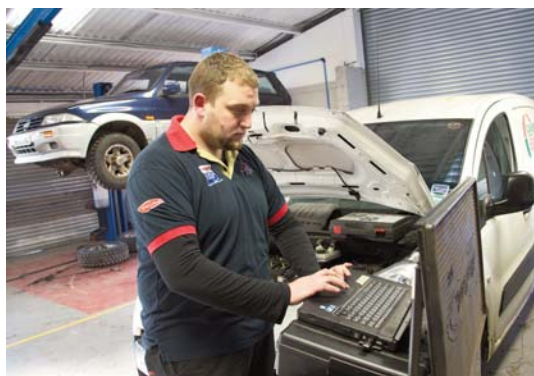
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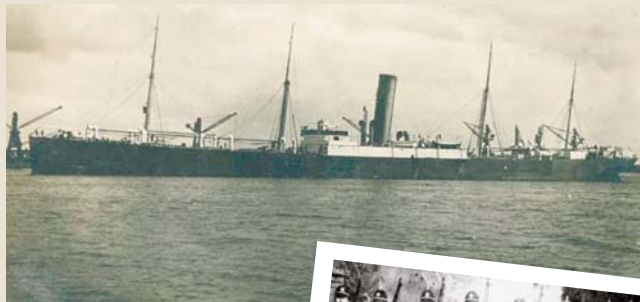
The First Prize of War

by Paul Minton

As countries across the world implement lockdown strategies to stem the tide of the coronavirus, many people have taken the opportunity to reconnect with family and acquaintances. I am no exception and have been exchanging stories (and cute animal videos) with an old friend from Hamburg. Curiously, there is one major tale from history that links our two cities, that of the SS *Belgia*.

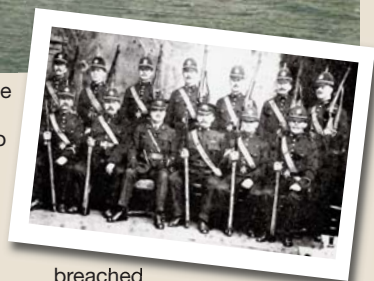
The steamship was originally called the *Irak* and was constructed in Belfast in 1901. It operated out of Liverpool for over decade until it was acquired by the Hamburg America Line in 1913, when it was renamed the *Belgia*. In August the following year, the vessel was travelling from Boston, Massachusetts to Hamburg with a cargo that included flour, timber, and copper as well as animals bound for Hamburg Zoo. These consisted of various exotic birds, chameleons, bullfrogs, rattlesnakes, racoons, and even two live alligators. On 3 August, the Captain learnt that war had broken out between France and Germany and he was reportedly concerned that his ship might be captured by the French Navy as it passed through the English Channel. Claiming that its reserves of coal were running low, the *Belgia* headed towards the Bristol Channel but was refused entry to both Barry Dock and Cardiff Pier Head. As it approached Newport, the last of the Welsh seaports, it was instructed to set anchor and wait for a pilot to navigate the ship into the newly opened Alexandra Dock.

Some five hours later, however,



events had caught up with the ship as Britain and Germany declared war. In less than two hours, the Chief Constable and the Dockmaster took a tugboat called *Wolfhound* and concealed a team of twelve policemen below deck. The men were armed with rifles borrowed from the Territorial Army, although these were reputedly devoid of ammunition. The *Belgia* was then berthed successfully with the Captain's cooperation, whereupon the policemen emerged from their hiding place and captured the liner along with its 20 crew, 75 reservists, and floating menagerie. The Germans, who offered no resistance, are thought to have become the first prisoners of the entire conflict. They were taken to the Temperance Hall in Dock Street before being transported to the Isle of Man, where they were interned for the duration of the war. Meanwhile, the ship's cargo was sold in auction at the Waterloo Hotel and the alligators and reptiles are said to have been displayed at Abergavenny Fair. The incident made the global news, including an announcement in the New York Times.

The Hamburg America Line protested at the loss of the *Belgia*, arguing that it



breached the Hague Convention that protected ships against seizure if moored at an enemy port during the outbreak of war. However, a British Court ruled that the vessel was not docked at Newport when hostilities were declared and as such, the confiscation was lawful.

As a prize of war, the *Belgia* soon found itself swelling the ranks of the Merchant Navy under the new moniker, *Huntstrick*. At the time, it was customary to rechristen seized ships with names that bore the anti-German prefix, *Hun-*. In June 1917, the steamer was tasked with delivering troops and provisions to Salonika in Greece but it was sunk by U-39, captained by Walter Forstmann, one of Germany's foremost U-boat commanders. Fifteen lives were claimed in the attack off the coast of Morocco, including *Huntstrick*'s Master, Robert Duncanson. Ironically, he lived in Clyffard Crescent, just a short walk from where his ship had been captured in Newport less than three years before.



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Houses in Bassaleg and Rhiwderin are In Demand

Houses in this area are selling quickly. Demand for properties here has increased and we are receiving enquiries from both local buyers and those from further afield who are actively looking to move.

Is It Safe to Put Your House on the Market?

We would like to reassure you that we are following all the advice provided by the Welsh Government regarding putting your house on the market. Our team will happily explain to you what is required by all parties and we also inform viewers what is expected from them. This information can frequently change and when it does, we will let you know.

Changes to Welsh Land Transaction Tax

The Welsh Government announced that the Land Transaction Tax (LTT) would change, bringing the rate payable for properties valued at between £180,000 and £250,000 to zero. The changes will come into play on 27 July 2020 and will run up until 31 March 2021.

Properties in Wales selling for under £180,000 were already exempt of paying the tax, so essentially the Government has extended the threshold up to £250,000. The change will not include second homes or buy-to-let properties, which will continue to pay the existing LTT as well as 3% of additional tax.

Free Valuation with Our Local Housing Market Experts

If you are thinking about selling your house, please get in touch with John Newell and his team who will be happy to arrange an appointment and provide you with a free valuation based on not only the condition of your house but also the local market. We will only provide realistic valuations; we do not over inflate prices.

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At Gaters Barbers we want all our staff and customers to be confident that we have done everything to perform our tasks safely and follow all the recommended government guidelines.

We have all completed both the attached certificates and we have all the necessary PPE and cleaning products to be able to provide as safe a service as possible.

We also respect if you can also help us by following any advice we offer.

Looking forward to a healthy future together.

**Thanks,
Luke**



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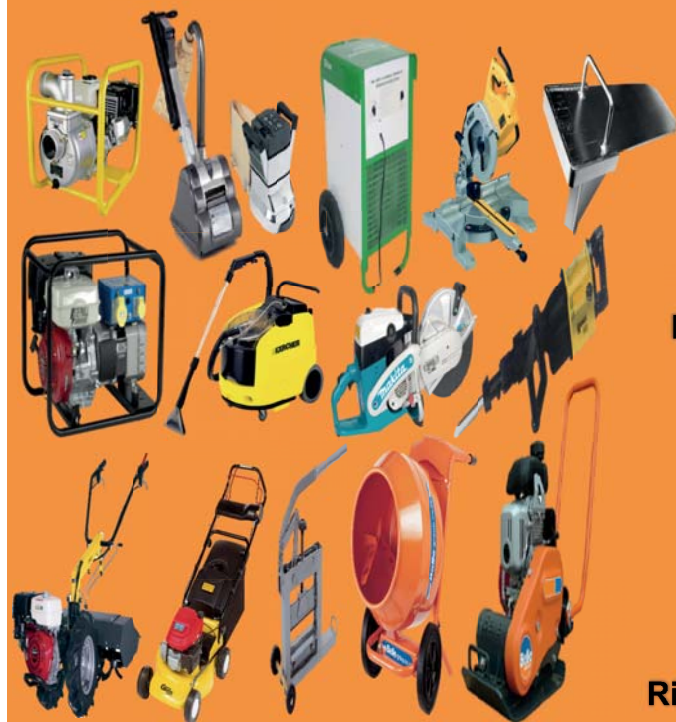
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It might be the first time that you have had to consider care for yourself or a member of your family; or perhaps you are looking for some extra support to complement the care you already receive. Whatever your situation, deciding on a suitable care company can be a stressful and difficult task, filled with uncertainty and pressure to make the right choice.

Unlike other companies, we do not take a 'one size fits all' approach to providing care. Instead, we are passionate about delivering a personalised service designed around the needs of each individual customer to support their lifestyle.

Our staff

We recruit and train all of our own staff to the highest standards to ensure we provide the quality of care that we would want for our own family and friends.

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Our Services

You might be looking for short-term help and support after a stay in hospital, or whilst recovering from an illness. Or perhaps you need care and support for the long term. It might be respite that you need whilst your usual carer takes a break, or maybe you need someone to take care of a family member whilst you're away. Whatever your needs, Bluebird Care can help.

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What Did You Do in the Lock-down Daddy?

To coin a phrase! The simple honest answer is that we carried on pretty well as normal. Apart from April, which was eerily quiet and uneventful, we were on the road only ten times, calls for our services continued more or less unabated. It is worth noting swan rescue activity is very largely a solitary occupation so that social distancing is really not a problem.

The following statistics (below table)

comparing the period March to July (up to 27th for 2020), are presented in support of this statement.

The most striking feature of our journeys until just over a week ago is how little traffic there was and in particular how incredibly easy it was to exit High Cross onto the main road. But now it is at least as bad as ever and manners of some drivers appear to us to be plummeting to new lows.

As might be expected we have a



wide selection from which to choose a couple of rescues

worthy of mention, but the two we will touch on both owe the eventual success to the sterling efforts of crews from the Fire and Rescue stations in Yate (South Gloucestershire) and Cwmbran. In the first case, our victim was a 'yearling' which had been driven away from his natal home by his parents, normal behaviour as the start of the next breeding season approaches and found himself

trapped in the deep narrow stream bed cut for the River Frome close to Yate town centre. Our picture shows the final act, made possible by the Fire Officer driving the swan towards me leading to capture and relocation to a sanctuary in the West Midlands.

The second required the help of a team of really fit guys to assist in the capture of the third (of seven) cygnets on the canal in Old Cwmbran, all of which had fallen victim to lost or carelessly discarded fishing tackle and all of which needed to be hospitalised. Our picture shows the final moments after the cygnet had been netted, just before taking charge of him for investigation, care and treatment.

Our involvement with 'tackled' swans continues unabated; sadly, nothing has changed in almost 40 years! Sincere heartfelt thanks to Red/Green and White Watch respectively for making both these rescues possible in the most efficient and timely way possible.

Text: Peter. Photos: Ellen and Stephen Pocock.

	2019	2020
Calls received	111	100
Number (%) days Swan Rescue services needed	93 (61%)	84 (56%)
Total mileage	11841	9927
Number of trips of greater than 100 miles	44	36
Most frequent reasons:		
Fishing tackle	28	22
Territorial dispute	17	17
False alarm	17	21

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

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Lockdown highlights littering illiteracy

When I started to consider my theme for this month's topic I had just come in from our monthly litter pick on Twmbarlwm. I thought I can't go banging on about rubbish and littering on our mountain again – can I? But then I realised that I haven't written about this disgusting habit for quite a while so I'm afraid the answer is a resounding "Yes" – indeed I really need to highlight this problem.

As part of the coronavirus restrictions the government allowed and encouraged people to maintain their fitness with at least a daily walk. So more people than ever seemed to be getting up to Twmbarlwm for their daily fitness routine. That's great but I was amazed that so many people seem to think it's okay to casually leave their empty bottles and energy-bar wrappers scattered about the countryside. I often gather a bag of such rubbish on my walks around the mountainside.

The nature of this litter suggests to me it's dumped by people who are out exercising – runners, cyclists etc. – surely if you take that stuff up the mountain with you, it's not too much effort to bring the empties back down with you?

Those of you who are briefly passing through our landscape scattering your dross to the four winds should go back to class to revise the country code and learn to leave only footprints – and make sure your friends get the message too.

Another bone of contention during lockdown was the fact that the council had closed down most civic waste disposal facilities. Many people argue that this policy led to an increase in fly-tipping in many areas around the borough. I'm not going to speculate on the veracity of that argument because in my opinion there can be no excuse for the crime of fly-tipping.

To load a car or van with household detritus and drive miles out into the countryside with the intention of dumping it in a hedgerow or on a quiet mountainside is an act so premeditated and anti-

Our first litter pick in six months (below) was done with social distancing in mind, nearly a dozen volunteers turned up and collected about twenty bags of rubbish



This fly-tip from some sort of house clearance was found over half a mile from the nearest road

social it should be severely punished.

To teach such perpetrators the error of their ways we should all be more vigilant and report any incidents of fly-tipping. If you see it in progress or have proof of the culprits, you can report it to the police using their 101 service, you can do so anonymously if you don't want to get involved.

Don't forget, if you arrange to have rubbish collected professionally, it is your responsibility to ensure it is a properly licensed service – if a fly-tip is traced back to you, you are liable to be prosecuted and fined as much as the offender. I can assure you that the authorities do try to trace the origin of the offenders and successful prosecutions are on the rise.

CTS did not arrange any "official" litter picks during the lockdown period but I am very grateful to a few members who went and did a clean-up on the mountain of their own volition.

At the end of July we had our first litter-pick since January. Nearly a dozen willing volunteers turned up and we collected twenty bags of rubbish and cleaned up a couple of burnt out mattresses. The following day, CCBC collected what we had gathered. We are always grateful when the council supports us so well in our efforts to keep our mountain and environs tidy for everyone to enjoy.

Maybe the most challenging lesson needs to go out to that group of young people who gather, like teenagers have always done, to have a bit of fun and have a sneaky drink or whatever. I know you don't think it's cool, but go on, take your fast food wrappers and unmentionable trash home with you – and behave like the little angels all your parents think you are.

I dare you, get "Keep Wales Tidy" trending – or better still, join us for a litter-pick.

Terry Evans, Chairman, Cymdeithas Twmbarlwm Society



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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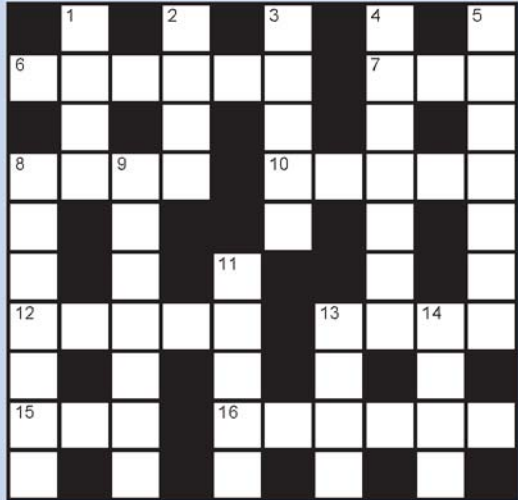
Crossword

Across

- 6 Education centre (6)
- 7 Used for listening (3)
- 8 Groups (4)
- 10 Special occurrence (5)
- 12 Flowing water (5)
- 13 Group of cows (4)
- 15 Lubricant (3)
- 16 Loving touch (6)

Down

- 1 Dull pain (4)
- 2 Faithful pets (4)
- 3 Passageway (5)
- 4 Protection (7)
- 5 Make believe (7)
- 8 Common small bird (7)
- 9 Journeys (7)
- 11 Building block (5)
- 13 Cause injury (4)
- 14 Element of danger (4)



Puzzle solution on page 38

Barmouth, where the Mountains meet the Sea, has been welcoming visitors for over 150 years.

The town is on the west coast of Wales, looking out onto Cardigan Bay, in the southern part of Snowdonia. So if you are looking for the outdoors - walking, cycling, paddle boarding, kayaking, paddling in the sea or building sandcastles then Barmouth is the perfect place to visit.

There is a wide range of independent shops, cafes, pubs and restaurants, so a day can be spent browsing, dipping in and out of shops with regular coffee stops, and maybe an ice cream on the harbour watching the boats and seagulls.

From Barmouth there are many places you can go for a day out. You can explore slate mines, travel on heritage steam trains, visit castles, gardens and prehistoric monuments.

We had a weekend break in Barmouth last September during the mini heatwave, the glorious sunset and stunning blue skies made it a very memorable trip for us.



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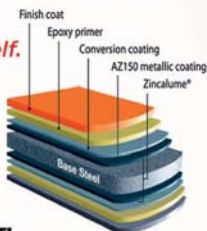
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Newport U3A's Scrubbers

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 since the Coronavirus Lock Down as many of our members are in the vulnerable category.

When the Aneurin Bevan Scrubbers was initiated in response to the COVID-19 outbreak our Welfare Officer and Chairman's daughter, Lisa, became a coordinator for Newport and Caerleon and recruited over 30 of our members, many from the Craft Group, to help create and supply scrubs to the NHS (hospitals and surgeries) and other care providers. Scrubs are usually worn by medics but are



Our member, Gwyneth McGuinness, with some of the scrubs she has made.

now used as personal protective equipment to prevent the spread of the virus. All fabric offerings were supplied by volunteers and even included clean bedding such as Peppa Pig and Superman duvet covers! In all, they made well over 2,000 pieces of PPE at the time when it was needed the most. Sewing is a pleasure for our members and to put it to such a worthy cause gave them a great sense of purpose and community during this challenging time.

If you are retired or working part-time towards retirement visit our website www.u3asites.org.uk/newportsewales for more information.

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Sunday 27th September
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Online Learning Provision Testimonials

"The online learning provision at GCSE has been second to none at Rougemont. Our daughter has received so much support via live lessons – it's been a seamless transition from the classroom to home. As parents, we feel assured that the School is going above and beyond to ensure no disruption to our daughter's education in these key years and she feels confident going into Year 11." Year 10 parent

"Learning at home has been a joy for my son in Infants. His teachers have been amazing – he loves the daily live guided reading and maths lessons. Such peace of mind knowing he's not falling behind in his education." Year 2 parent

Limited places are available for entry this September 2020 from Nursery to Sixth Form

Contact Nicky Bates, Admissions Registrar today to find out what Rougemont can do for your child.

Scholarships available for entry September 2021

Sixth Form
Scholarship Exams:
*Saturday 14th November
2020*

Year 7 Entrance,
Year 5 & Year 9
Scholarships Exams:
*Saturday 16th January
2021*

Apply today for Academic, Sporting
& Creative Arts Scholarships

Contact: registrar@rsch.co.uk



Bus routes available with more than 50 pick-up points across SE Wales including:

Chepstow - Abergavenny
Caldicot - Caerleon - Langstone
Cardiff - Marshfield - Newport
Rogerstone - Caerphilly
Cwmbran - Pontypool - Henllys
Usk - Raglan - Bassaleg
Blackwood - Lisvane - Goytre

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◀ Are you fed up with your leaking shower area?

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Based @ George Street Furnishers 19-24 George Street, Newport. NP20 1EN

Tel: 01633 26 26 29

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- Radiator Replacements
- Bathroom and Wet Room Installation
- Washing Machine and Dishwasher Installations
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