

CAERLEON

DIRECTORY



ISSUE 77
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.

A sincere thank you to all our advertisers and everyone who supports us.

Keep safe & healthy

Susan

Editor: Susan Woolford | Sales & Distribution: Leslie Woolford



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CAERLEON THEN & NOW

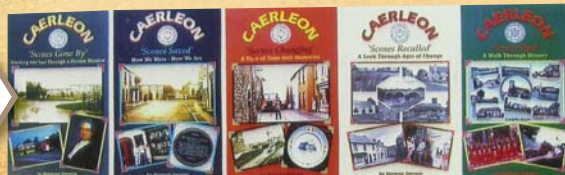


Looking up Station Road towards Ponthir. To the left is Gibbens the Wheelwright's and a corner supply stores. Behind a patient horse with its trap, is the sloping roadway which led to the railway station.

Below is the same view taken in 2020.



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



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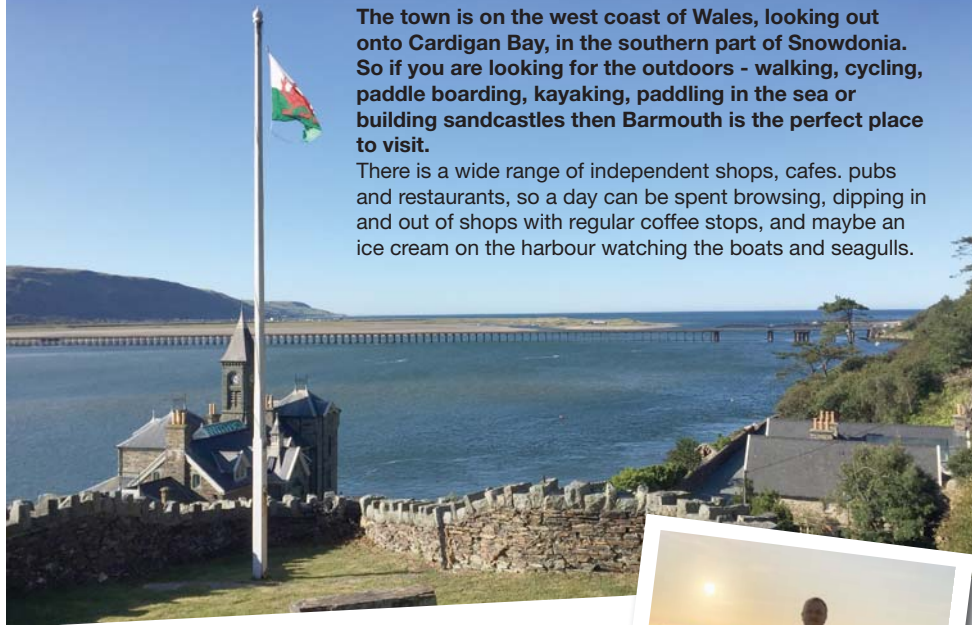
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Barmouth

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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When Crawfords arrive at your home or property to clean your soft furnishings or carpets we will be:

Wearing disposable overalls, gloves, overshoes and a face mask

Keeping a two-metre social distance

As a company we take our responsibility to our customers as paramount when working at their home or property and will endeavour to keep them safe whilst we are working.

On completion of the clean an application of Formula 429 plus (a water based anti-microbial with multi surface broad spectrum kill factor 6) will be applied to your fabrics and carpets, this will ensure that they are contamination free.

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

James Crawford

01633 265458 / 07840 554485

info@crawfordscleaningservices.co.uk
www.crawfordscleaningservices.co.uk

As the Restrictions Ease the Local Housing Market Booms

We have seen a spectacular increase in the number of instructions received to market houses of all sizes in the area since the Welsh Government eased the lockdown restrictions.

Sellers have spent the lockdown period preparing their houses for sale and our team have been out providing free valuations and advice to those of you who want to move.

When you travel around Caerleon you might well have noticed our For Sale boards as this area has been particularly active.

Houses in Caerleon 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.

We will also price match our fees with other local estate agents and make a NO SALE – NO FEE guarantee.



Book A Free Valuation and Let Us Help You to Sell Your House

If you are thinking of buying, selling, renting or seeking a professional company to manage your properties, get in touch to find out how we CAN help you.

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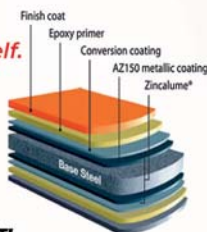
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Lockdown highlights littering illiteracy

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



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 does 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.
www.twmbarlwm.co.uk



Gater's Barbers Covid 19 Statement

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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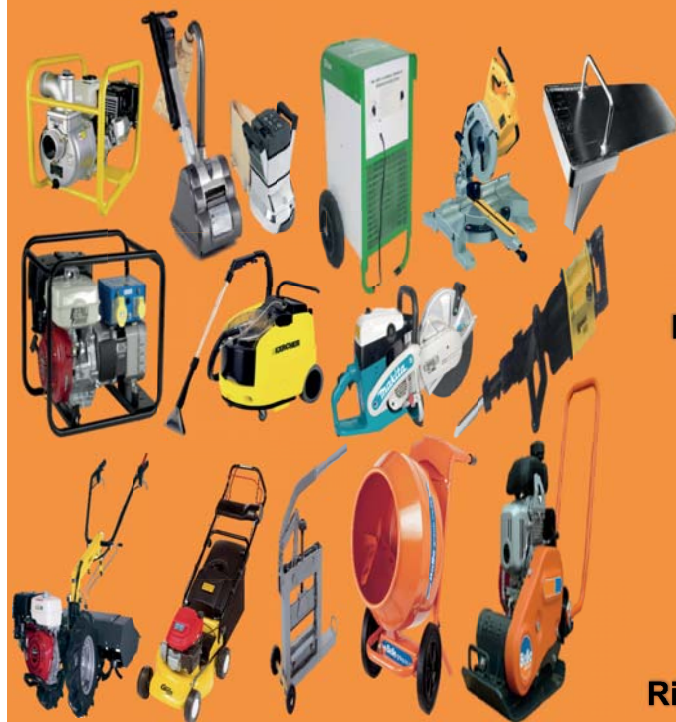


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What Did You Do in the Lock-down Daddy?

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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TEXTILES



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Covid-19

During these difficult times we are having to run our business in a different way.

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Many thanks for understanding.

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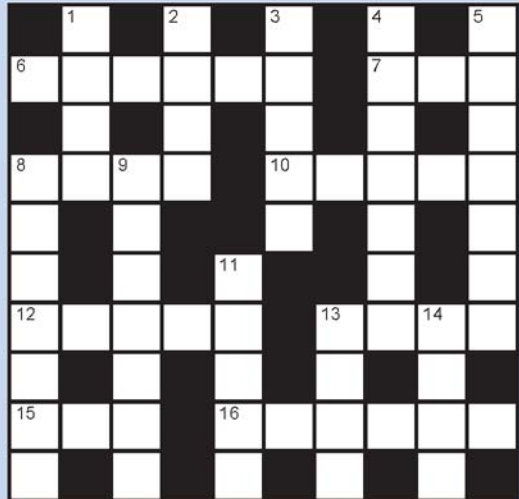
Crossword

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)



Sudoku

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

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 27

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Cwmbran group contact - Mrs Val Carnegie
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Further info on Diabetes contact - Diabetes UK Cymru
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2.15pm - 4.00pm

For more café or Branch meeting information, please call Penny on 07851 423264.

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.

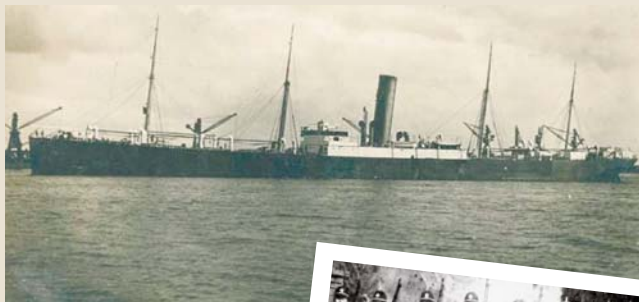
The First Prize of War

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*.

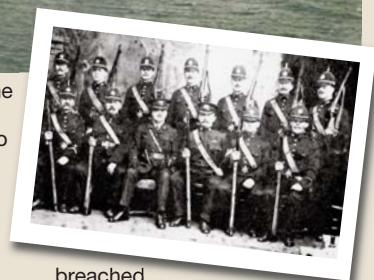
The steamship was originally called the *Irak* and was constructed in Belfast in 1901. It operated out of Liverpool for over decade until it was acquired by the Hamburg America Line in 1913, when it was renamed the *Belgia*. In August the following year, the vessel was travelling from Boston, Massachusetts 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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The changing face of veterinary practice



My colleague's daughter graduated with honours this year from Nottingham University and is now working as a veterinary surgeon in South Wales. The start of a new career can be daunting and exciting in equal measure, and there is usually a period of finding one's feet before branching out and following the path that stimulates you most. In veterinary science there is much to learn about each type of animal, and clever people frequently produce new information which may contradict earlier procedures and remedies, so it is not easy to keep abreast of everything.

Some young vets know before their final exams which species of animal they wish to work with, while others may wait a couple of years before making their choice, and may decide to move to another veterinary practice to accommodate such desires. There are a hardened few, however, who have spent their lives ministering to all species, including wildlife, and two such colleagues started at Usk when they graduated and have

remained there for the last 20 and 40 years respectively.

Careers in any industry will be improved following examination success and, in order to be achieve good results, there must be sufficient exposure to relevant material. Vets who wish to become proficient at ophthalmology, for instance, have a better chance if they remain in a surgery/hospital instead of driving out to farms and pulling on their wellies. In contrast, those who want to improve the lives and welfare of food animals need to be on those farms, suitably attired.

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons is the body responsible for awarding the privilege of working in this country as a veterinary surgeon or veterinary nurse, and oversees the examination procedures at the eight British and Irish universities, and those for overseas graduates who wish to work here. The RCVS also governs the issuing of certificates and diplomas to those who satisfy the examiners in specialist subjects. Colleagues have obtained certificates while working at Usk Vets in the

following specialties: radiology, cardiology, orthopaedics and porcine medicine so, with determination, it is still possible to achieve such goals in mixed practice.

Nevertheless, the veterinary profession has become more polarised in recent times and a large number of practices deal with only one type of animal. There are three equine-only practices covering Gwent, and three farm-only, while there are over 20 small animal-only surgeries. A couple of decades ago you could find a practice that would attend to all species in just about every town in this county, so the recent decision for Usk Vets to cease providing veterinary services to farm and equine clients was a difficult one sixty six years after Dad set up his plate on Monmouth Road.

The closure of the large animal side of the business will allow Usk Vets to concentrate more fully on giving the best care and attention to companion animals and those vets of a certain age will step aside with many happy memories.

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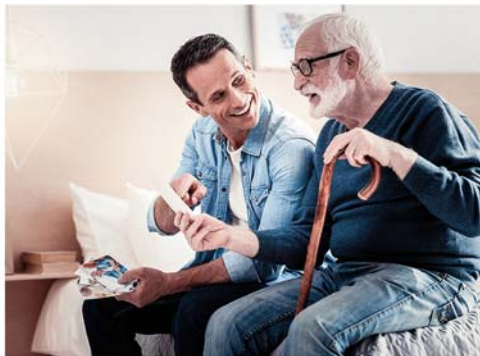
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