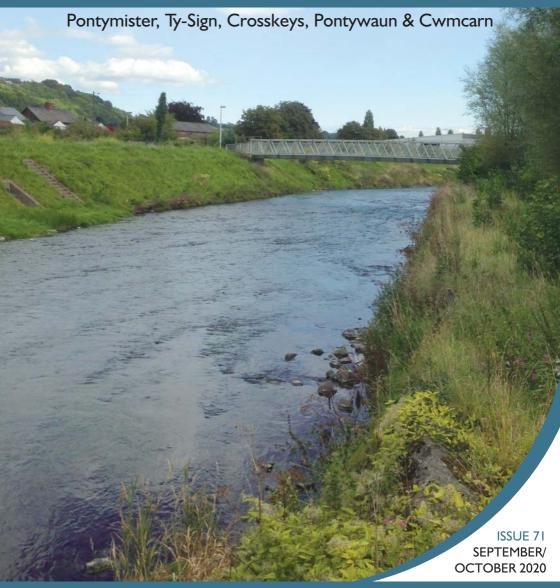
### **RISCA**

# DIRECTORY







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

Susar



Editor: Susan Woolford | Sales & Distribution: Leslie Woolford

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Lockdown bigbligh 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.

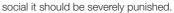
The nature of this litter suggests to me it's dumped by people who are out exercising – runners, cyclists etc. – surely if you take that stuff up the mountain with you, it's not too much effort to bring the emoties back down with you?

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 clearar

was found over half a mile from the nearest roa

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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# Welcome to

### Risca East Community Council

### **Newsletter**

How life has changed for us all in such a short spell of time. None of us are immune from the effects of

Coronavirus/Covid-19 and how it's affecting our daily routines. However, life has to go on and residents have compromised and adapted to overcome the difficulties facing our community and businesses.

Risca East Community Council has continued to work behind the scenes and, although we are unable to meet monthly at St David's Church, we are getting to grips with new technology to meet 'online'. This has not been an easy move but as the virus is not going to go away in the foreseeable future, we have persevered to ensure that we can serve the community of Risca East and beyond the best we can.

We're exceptionally proud to support the vital service 'Risca CV19 Volunteers' are providing in Risca, as Jenna Davies, one of the volunteers, explains below. If you need support, know someone who would benefit from support or would like to be involved with 'Risca CV19 Volunteers', please email riscacv19volunteers
@outlook.com
"On 15th March 2020, as

"On 1stn March 2020, as lockdown was announced and the country prepared to spend the next three months at home, hundreds of people across Risca and the surrounding valleys faced a very frightening and isolating reality: they were cut off from their

6



support networks, their families and friends and unable to get food supplies. Two local Risca residents came together with a mission to ensure that no one in our community felt frightened, hunary or alone during the Covid19 crisis and beyond. What initially started as a kind note through a few neighbours' doors quickly grew into a network of over 100 volunteers ready to help and support the vulnerable during these uncertain times. Services on offer included prescription collections for those shielding, shopping for people unable to book deliveries from supermarkets and kindness calls to combat the issues caused by so much time alone.

To date almost 150 families have benefitted from the help offered by Risca CV19 Volunteers. No job is too big or too small for us, whether it's checking in on local residents, completing food shops, mowing lawns or even making colourful gifts to raise spirits. If you want to make a difference to those around you and are eager to get involved follow Risca CV19 Volunteers on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram".

### Tin on a Wall



Do not think you have any time to spare? You can still help your community by taking part in the fantastic 'Tin on a Wall' initiative. Look out for the leaflet which will be posted through your letter box and leave a tin on your wall or windowsill to be collected by one of the volunteer Street champions

Stay safe and well everyone; together, we can do this!

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### Covid-19 Update - Crawfords Working Practice

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

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### 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

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# 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 Risca you might well have noticed our For Sale boards as this area has been particularly active.

### Houses in Risca 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.







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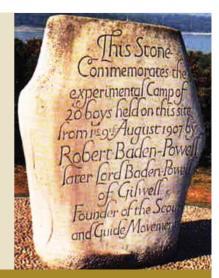




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# THE '1st RISCA' and 'WOODBINE WILLIE' SCOUT TROOPS

By Bernard Osment



The Scout Movement was started in August 1907 by Robert Baden-Powell when he arranged an experimental camp of 20 boys on Brownsea Island, Poole, Dorset. His idea to train growing lads into clean-living, healthy and muscular citizens, was a great success.

n early 1908, soon after the publishing of his handbook 'Scouting for Boys', Scout Troops were being set up all over the country.

In 1909 the first Scout Rally was held at Crystal Palace, London. Over 11,000 Scouts took part, including some girls dressed as Scouts and calling themselves 'Girl Scouts'. In 1910, Robert's sister Agnes started the Girl Guides movement.

In Risca, on the 12th June 1908, the first patrol of six boys was formed by Lawrence Driscoll. By the end of July, they had obtained the use of the old Drill Hall in Pontymister as their headquarters, and their number had increased to 18. Soon 36 had become members.

Unfortunately, in April 1909 the old Drill Hall, built in 1883 for the Pontymister Rifle Volunteers, was taken down as it was on the site of the proposed St Margaret's Church. The scouts found



themselves without a home. Soon their numbers began to fall, 36 fell to seven. The movement had been dealt a death blow.

Mr Driscoll persevered with the small number and kept them together. In the following months under the leadership of Mr Driscoll, assisted by Fred Jones the numbers began to increase, and two troops were setup. The larger one under the supervision of Mr Driscoll designated as the 1st Risca Troop, the other, the 2nd St George's Troop, under the supervision of Mr Jones.

During the following summer, a permanent camp was set up on

Machen Mountain, and several scouts lived out of doors for practically three months. At least 50 boys attended camps at Barry Island and Cymbran.

During the warmer months, their headquarters was a shed that they built themselves. Fortunately, when winter came, they had the use of a room in Grove House (today's Oxford House).

In May 1911 Scoutmaster L. Driscoll wrote to the Council asking for permission to use the Council Courtyard and fire appliances for the purpose of drills. There were some objections but eventually permission was granted.

A permanent headquarters was required. By means of funds raised from concerts held in St Mary's Church Schoolroom, open air displays and donations, which included money from Lord Tredegar and corrugated sheets from Mr. John Paton of

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Pontymister Tin works, a building was erected behind the Church Schoolroom, at a cost of £75.

The opening ceremony of their new headquarters took place on Wednesday the 18th September 1912.

The Scout movement in Risca flourished and when the 1st Risca Troop went to camp in July 1913, there were 32 in the senior brigade under Scoutmaster Lawrence Driscoll and 33 in the junior brigade under Assistant Scoutmaster Charles Constance.

Following our declaration of war on Germany on the 4th August 1914, hundreds of men from Risca volunteered to serve in the armed forces, among them were past and present members of the 1st Risca Scouts.

In a letter published in the Monmouthshire Evening Post on the 4th December 1914, from Scoutmaster Lawrence Driscoll writing from Draycott Army Camp, near Swindon, he listed the names of all those who had answered their country's call, that he was aware of.

### Assistant Scoutmasters -Charles Hiscox, Charles Constance, Albert Brooks and Ralph Lones.

Scouts – Sam Davey, Charlie Downes, Rob Driscoll, G. Evans, A. Griffiths, Fred Harper, W. Harris, H. Haynes, F. Highley, B. Hodges, E. Hughes, W. James, W. Jones, Bert Legge, Courtney Mayberry, W. Newton, Bernard Rallison, G. Thomas, Sid Thomas, H. Tutton, and T. Williams.

Sadly at least three of the above are known to have lost their lives.

Eighteen year old Charles Downes of Hill Street, who worked as a Postman before he volunteered to join the Army, was killed in action in France on the 18th May 1915. His body was never found. Twenty year old Courtney Mayberry of 107 Commercial Street, worked as a labourer in Pontymister Steel Works before he volunteered to join the Army. Courtney was wounded while serving with the Welsh Guards fighting in Gallipoli. Transferred to the Hospital Ship Valdivia, he died of dysentery on the 26th September 1915, and was buried



at sea.

Twenty year old Bernard Rallison was one of the many miners working at Risca Pit who volunteered to join the Army at the outbreak of the War. Bernard was killed in action on the 23rd June 1916 and is buried in a cemetery in Belgium.

Bernard's father, Edward Rallison, was from 1891 to 1909, the drill instructor of the Pontymister Rifle Volunteers. Their headquarters was the old Drill Hall, Pontymister. For many years, the Rallison family lived at 9 Commercial Street opposite the Hall.

On the 12th March 1929, two boys and a Scoutmaster from the 'Woodbine Willie's Own' Troop of Boy Scouts from Risca, attended a funeral held at Worcester Cathedral. On the same day other members of the Troop attended a memorial service held in Risca.

The funeral was that of the Reverend Geoffrey Ankertell Studdert Kennedy, who died of pneumonia in Liverpool on the 8th March 1929, age 46.

Better known by his affectionate nickname 'Woodbine Willie'; Geoffrey Anketell Studdert Kennedy, was born in Leeds in 1883, the son of William Studdert Kennedy, an Irish priest of the Church of England.

Following in his father's footsteps Geoffrey was ordained in 1908. He held a curacy in Leeds, in Rugby, and in May 1914, became the vicar of St. Paul's a very poor parish in Worcester.

His vocation was to care for the poor, the needy, and the sick of his parish and elsewhere. His generosity was legendary.

When the War broke out in the summer of 1914, he assumed, like many others that 'it would be over by Christmas'. He believed every able bodied man should volunteer; there should be no shirking of duty.

On the 21st December 1915 he was appointed as a Padre in the Army and sent to France. In a village square, on Christmas Day, in pouring rain, he conducted a service to over 400 soldiers.

He experienced life on the front line with the troops and shared their hardships with them. He said he was the 'Church' doing its job. He gave spiritual aid to the soldiers going into battle, and to their injured and dying comrades. His moral boosting speeches and his cheerfulness had an uplifting effect on all ranks.

He earned his nickname for giving out packets of Woodbines, along with copies of the New Testament. With the exception of his family's expenses, every spare penny of his Padre's salary was spent on cigarettes for the troops.

In 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross for his 'exceptional

bravery' in tending the wounded, German as well as British, under heavy machine gun fire in no man's land.

On Armistice Day 1918 he was at home, on leave after being hospitalised in France seriously ill from being gassed 'at the front'. After spending just over three years in the Army, 13 months on the frontline, in March 1919 he was demobbed and returned home to St Paul's in Worcester where he remained a vicar until September 1921.

Geoffrey was one of the 3,475 padres who served in WW1, of these 172 were killed or died as a result of the war.

In the autumn of 1921 he was appointed vicar of St Edmund's Church in London, a post which allowed him to work at the same time as the 'Messenger'. the main speaker for the Industrial Christian Fellowship, crusading

to alleviate the poverty and industrial unrest of the post war years.

He was a popular radio broadcaster and undertook extensive public speaking tours of the United Kingdom (Newspapers reported on his visits to Newport and Abertillery and his contributions to local causes).

He was known as a poet, prophet, a mediator and seeker of the truth. During the General Strike of 1926 he liaised between the miners the mine owners, even contributing to the Miners' Distress Fund.

It was during the war that he began writing poetry and stories that were to make him famous. He could have been one of the richest vicars in the land with the number of books he wrote but it was all given away and he died a



poor man.

Following his death, a fund was set up to support his wife and three sons.

'What was Woodbine Willie's connection with Risca?'



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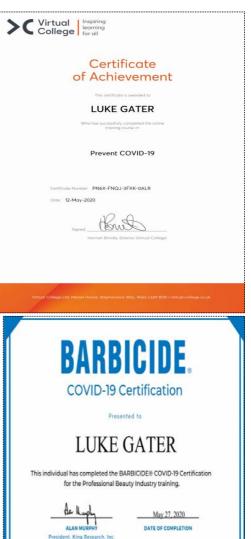
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### RISCA MUSEUM

### Let there be light

As the prosperity of Risca grew between the 1860s and 1870s, many shops were opened to cater for the needs of the populace. These would have included bakers. milliners, butchers and Post Offices: one of which was located in Pontymister and the other near the Zoar Cottages.

During the same period, a recurring problem to be dealt with by the local authorities was not only the state of the roads, but more importantly, the lack of street lighting. A letter written by a correspondent and published in the South Wales Daily News of 2nd December 1882, records;

"THE LIGHTING OF RISCA. -The prediction made in these

columns a few weeks since that the main roads of Risca would be lighted by means of petroleum has now been fulfilled. Whether it be progression or retrogression the people of Risca must decide. This is the fact that formerly the village was enveloped in darkness and is now brilliantly lit up. Great praise is due to our local authority, and particularly those members who said, 'Let there be light,' afterwards exerting themselves to the utmost in ascertaining and determining the relative cost of gas and petroleum. Their efforts have been crowned so far with great success. Their well-earned reward is to see Risca. illuminated.

and they can rest assured that the inhabitants be full of gratitude to them."

The man in the photograph, attending to the lamp, is James Levshon better known as 'Leyshon the Lamp.' He died in 1938 at the age of 94 years. Also shown is a drapery and tailoring business trading under the name 'Temple of Fashion' which was located on the corner of Tredegar Street and Dan y Graig Road. Opened in 1881 by Henry Budding, by 1901 the shop was managed by Budding's nephew John Thomas and his wife Louise. The shop has since been demolished.

The photograph was probably taken in the early 1880s. In the far distance can be seen an arch of the Longbridge which traversed the main road close to private house. On the right is an but now occupied by the Tan



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### This months **Hot Properties**

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FOR SALE



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# Kingston Newell

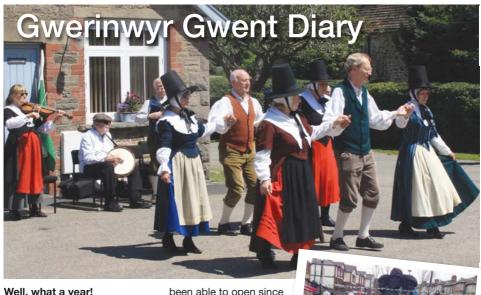


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### Well, what a year!

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. Panteq 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 ioin 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.gwerinwyrgwent.org.uk, ring 01495 271953, or just come along and give it a try.





# Great range of Gymnastics Classes for Pre-School and School Age Children.

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### Across

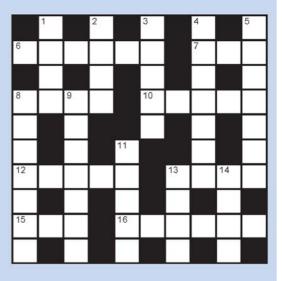
- 6 Education centre (6)
- 7 Used for listening (3)
- 8 Groups (4)
- 10 Special occurrence (5)
- 12 Flowing water (5)
- 13 Group of cows (4)
- 15 Lubricant (3)
- 16 Loving touch (6)

### Down

26

- 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)

### Crossword



### 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 31

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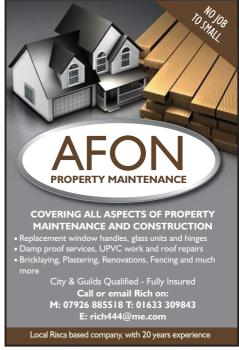
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### **GWENT CHORALE**

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



# Risca Rascals Parent & Toddler Group Tuesdays 9:15 to 11:15 66a Commercial Street, Pontymister call Pam: 07538 669609

### DO YOU HAVE

PARKINSON'S<sup>UK</sup> CHANGE ATTITUDES FIND A CURE. JOIN US.

## PARKINSONS?

The Newport Branch of Parkinson's UK holds a monthly Parkinson's Café.

We aim to give anyone with Parkinson's an opportunity to meet others who are in the same situation and to share experiences, worries and general encouragement.

We meet on the 2nd Friday of each month at the MAINDEE LIBRARY, Chepstow Road, NEWPORT NP19 8BY 2.00pm - 4.00pm

A small charge of £2 per head covers the cost of refreshments.

We also have a monthly Branch meeting on the last Wednesday of each month at the Stow Park Community Centre, Brynhyfryd Road, Newport NP20 4FX

2.15pm - 4.00pm

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

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### Risca LIBRARY

Risca Palace Unit B, 75 Tredegar Street 01443 864780 www.caerphilly.gov.uk

Monday	9.30am - 1.00pm 2.00pm - 6.00pm			
Tuesday	9.30am - 1.00pm 2.00pm - 5.00pm			
Wednesday	9.30am - 1.00pm 2.00pm - 6.00pm			
Thursday	9.30am - 1.00pm 2.00pm - 5.00pm			
Friday	9.30am - 1.00pm 2.00pm - 5.00pm			
Saturday	9.30am - 4.00pm			

### **Baby Rhyne Time**

meets every Wednesday 2.15pm - 2.45pm

### **Crafters Corner**

meets weekly on Friday's at 11am-12pm (Informal craft session over tea and coffee, bring your own projects)

### **Story Time and Crafts**

(for children under4) – weekly on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 11am-12pm





Meetings at Senior Citizens Hall, Park Road, Risca. Wednesday at 2.00pm



Entertainment - Trips Tea - Cakes - Chat

**New Members Always Welcome** 

### Aviation and Air Traffic Control Established 1987

If you are interested in aviation and would like to know more about what goes on in the air above us every day, why not come along to one of our regular meetings at the Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg?
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## Fun and Safe Cricket for young Players at the Pontymister/Crosskeys & Abercarn Cricket Clubs



Here leuan Watkins, Welsh Cricket's Safeguarding Lead Officer talks about the journey to make Welsh Cricket fun and safe for children and adults.

# The FUNdamentals of Cricket

leuan Watkins Welsh Cricket's Safeguarding Lead Officer

It is a decade now since cricket in Wales was reshaped to form Cricket Wales, a National Governing Body (NGB) seen by many as progressive, innovative and inclusive. The restructure allowed for central governance and increased investment from funding partners leading to increased support for recreational and representative cricket throughout Wales.

The new Cricket Wales Board and Executive identified the need for strong and effective safeguarding procedures, with an expectation that minimum standards would be introduced across all cricket in Wales. (Recent abuse scandals in football have demonstrated the shrewdness of this approach). Following due process, I was appointed as Safeguarding Director and set about my work. As a cricket coach myself, I remember during my coach training that my role was to ensure we taught the FUNdamentals of cricket. We have to make sport FUN and eniovable in order to attract children to the game and to retain





them within it. The starting point for such an approach is a safe environment, having properly qualified people in place, ensuring those supervising children have Disclosure and Barring checks (formerly CRB). coaching qualifications and first aid certificates and so on. We have to remember that cricket is a little different to some other sports in that children and adults. can play together. Children from the age of 13 can play alongside men and women, subject to appropriate assessment and in exceptional circumstances children of 11/12 years of age can also play. We simply have to get this right.

It would be impossible to manage all of the clubs alone – help was needed! There are six senior leagues in Wales, each league willing to support and encourage safe cricket and to use established protective procedures, but each league needed help to do so. League Welfare Officers were encouraged, linked directly to Cricket Wales, these individuals supporting clubs operationally whilst reporting to Cricket Wales – linking the cricketing network and providing support and encouragement across every club in Wales.

Alongside these remarkable volunteers, the Cricket Wales staffing team, also located in their cricketing communities across Wales provide additional support, pushing for safeguarding compliance. This combined approach, with the League Welfare Officers and the staffing team working hand in glove making huge inroads to make cricket in Wales as safe as it can be.

The creation and implementation of the Cricket Wales Welfare Council allowed all of these key people to come together, to share best practice, to receive specialist training and to help build an effective safeguarding umbrella





Derek Picken SEWCL Welfare Officer



Ryan Davy
Pontymister/Crosskeys
Welfare Officer



Peter Lee Abercarn Welfare Officer

for everyone.

Our ideology is that every club needs a safeguarding umbrella, each panel of the umbrella being a policy or a procedure, such as DBS checks, properly trained staff, reporting mechanisms and so on. It may sound simple, but if we get the panels of our umbrella in place, we keep those underneath it dry – an appropriate analogy perhaps when we think of a sometimes rainy cricket season!

Cricket has grown in Wales and we will continue to grow. We have initiated and embedded All Stars Cricket for thousands of children

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10 E aged 5-8 and will begin Dynamos Cricket for kids aged 8-11 once the Covid restrictions ease. We support and continue to develop Disability Cricket (our Disability Team recently returning from a tour of Sri Lanka). We have transformed Women's and Girls' Cricket and continue to develop significant opportunities for evervone across the game. We have come a long, long way and quite rightly, we are proud to have achieved so much. At the heart of this are the Club and League Welfare Officers who continue to make such a huge difference, building the

safeguarding umbrella to keep us all dry. To them, I say thank you, thank you for ensuring we don't forget the FUNdamentals of cricket.

leuan Watkins is a retired Police Detective with 31 years' service. During his career he specialised in Public Protection within Gwent, represented the four Welsh forces on national forums and was also deployed internationally with the National Crime Agency.

Alongside his work for Cricket Wales and Glamorgan Cricket Club, he is Director of Sport Safeguarding Limited, a consultancy providing training and support across sports and other bodies.

**leuan Watkins May 2020** 

### **FOOTNOTE**

leuan has done a remarkable job in guiding Wales (classed as a County in Cricket) to be one of, if not, the leading organisation in Welfare Compliance in the U.K.

Derek Picken

# **Solutions**



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