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# DIRECTORY



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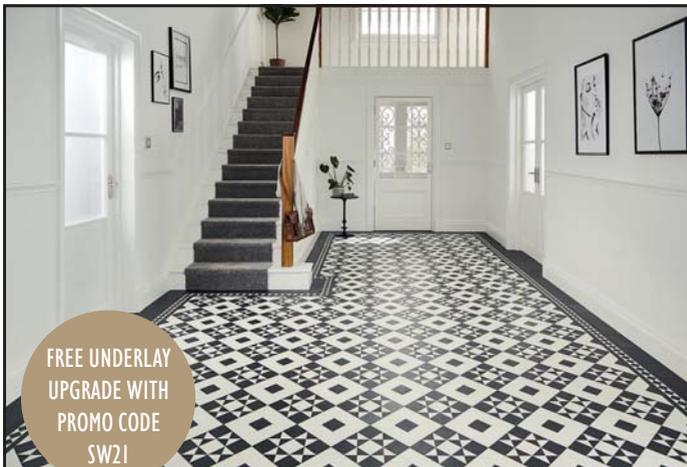


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# Jayne Bryant MS/AS

for Newport West | dros Gorllewin Casnewydd

✉ Jayne.Bryant@senedd.wales 📞 01633 376627 🌐 www.jaynebryant.wales



I am sending residents of Newport West a **weekly Covid-19 update**, please get in touch or scan the QR code if you would like to sign up.

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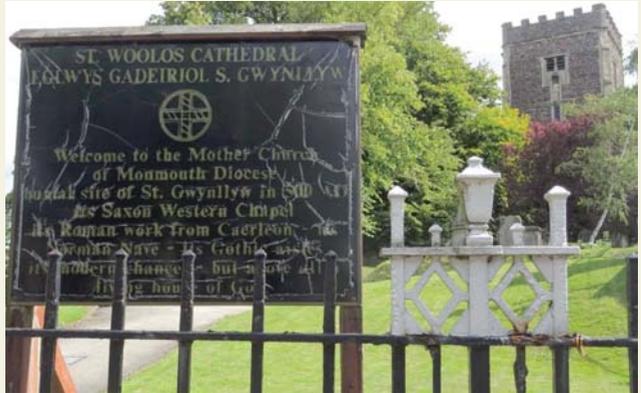
# The Church of many Names

by Paul Minton

For many years, I believed the closest link that South Wales had to the Vikings was when a certain Roald Dahl was born to Norwegian parents in Llandaff. As many, more informed people will know, Welsh-Scandinavian ties go back a tad further than that. Before the discovery of the famous Newport medieval ship in 2002, a much older vessel was unearthed in 1878. Thought to have been a Danish Viking boat, it was found during excavation work in the Alexandra Dock, lying under 12 feet of silt. It was reported to be 70 feet long, constructed of Dantzig oak and waterproofed with clinker. The consensus at the time was that it had been repurposed as a dam and had probably lain undisturbed for the best part of a millennium. For a distinctly less muddy reminder of our Nordic connections, however, one need not look further than Newport Cathedral.

The holy site was first established by a local chieftain called Gwynllyw, who, after his conversion to Christianity, had a vision of a white ox with a dark spot upon its forehead. When he observed a similar beast on what is now Stow Hill, he built a hermitage at the location. This became an important shrine following his death in AD 500 and a more permanent stone edifice, known as Eglwys Gwynllyw (church of Gwynllyw), was later constructed. Some have suggested that St Woolos is simply an anglicised version of St Gwynllyw. In fact, scholars believe that the names of Gwynllyw and Woolos relate to completely different people.

From the turn of the 9th century onwards, the Vikings plundered large areas of coastal Wales and



many of their number are believed to have settled here. Perhaps that is why certain local landmarks bear decidedly Scandinavian monikers like Flat Holm, Steep Holm, Skomer, and Ikea, although I must admit that I'm not too sure about the latter.

One memorable Norseman was Olaf Haraldsson, who joined forces with a Danish chieftain named Thorkell the Tall to attack southeast England. After three years of pillaging, from Canterbury to Oxford, King Ethelred the Unready had had enough and paid them to clear off. Olaf made his way to Normandy, where he ultimately found his faith and was baptised. In 1015, he returned to his homeland of Norway and captured the throne, becoming its first Christian monarch. He was eventually slain at the Battle of Stiklestad in 1030 but tales soon began to circulate of miracles and strange lights close to his burial site. The former king was subsequently canonised and as St Olave, he became a favourite saint among the Scandinavians, including those living in Britain. Indeed, there are a number of English churches that still bear his name, not to mention an entire village in Norfolk.

But what has all this got to do with St Woolos Cathedral? Well, from the mid to late 16th century onwards, the church of St Gwynllyw began to be referred to as St Olave's. It has been theorised this might then have been corrupted to St Olaues, which in turn became St Olaus (pronounced "ollowes"). In the early 17th century, there is evidence that the church was called St Twollowes and by 1796, the name had morphed into a more familiar-sounding St Wollas. Frustratingly, there does not appear to be any obvious explanation why a religious building dedicated to a Welshman should alter its allegiance to a Viking. Normally, I would say it's because there's nothing like a Dane but since he was Norwegian, it just wouldn't be appropriate!



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# There is more to the introduction of electric cars than meets the eye



Extract from a Blog Post by Mike Joenn, Founding Director of AJ Garage Services, Ponthir

**We learned last month that the government is to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars from 2030. Wow!**

That's not the full story of course. It will still be possible to buy a new car with a diesel or petrol engine installed, but it **MUST** be a hybrid, so it will still have 'plug-in' capability.

With or without hybrids, this is an ambitious target to be achieved in less than a decade, but the industry is moving at a pace. The electric car market is already growing quickly, with more than 164,100 pure-electric cars on UK roads at the end of September 2020 - and over 373,600 plug-in models in total (that includes those plug-in hybrid PHEVs). However, according to the DVLA, reporting at the end of June 2020, there were 38.4 million licensed vehicles in the UK, so there is clearly a long way to go before we stop burning fossil fuels on our roads and electric vehicle's become predominant. The target had originally been set at 2040 and even that was causing shock-waves throughout the international car industry, so there must have been a few choice words in the Ford, Nisan & Honda board rooms during November when the Government cut the lead time by 10 years!

For readers looking for some light 'primer' reading on electric vehicles - and in particular the INs & OUTs of the batteries that they use, then I thoroughly recommend the EDF energy web site. (<https://www.edfenergy.com/electric-cars/batteries>) But, I must warn you that you may leave the web page with more



questions than answers - particularly if you are worried about the planet. Which brings me back to the Government's ambitious plans. There is a lot more to this electric car thing than meets the eye and specifically, there simply isn't enough data about the peripheral issues surrounding the sourcing of raw materials & manufacturing of the Li-ion (Lithium Ion) batteries.

Whilst it is reported that the cost of Li-ion batteries for cars has dropped by a staggering 80% between 2010 & 2016 - and we can expect to see further similar reductions over the next decade, I'm just not convinced that the government has viewed the global impact in an entirely holistic manner. However, the debate is certainly under way - not least on-line.

I saw the following post on social media last week and thought that I'd share it just to get you thinking "... We need a green alternative to electric cars! Producing an electric vehicle

*contributes, on average, twice as much to global warming potential and uses double the amount of energy than producing a combustion engine car. This is mainly because of battery production - which uses a lot of energy - from the extraction of raw materials to the electricity consumed in manufacture. The bigger the electric car and its range, the more battery cells are needed to power it and consequently the more carbon produced..."*

Now, I am neither endorsing, nor denying the view-point, but I sure as hell will be investigating these claims in the coming weeks. Watch this space for more information about the race to introduce electric cars in the coming months.

**Mike Joenn, AJ Garage Services, Star Trading Estate. 01633 431305**

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## Leaving Home - One Way or Another

This article is being prepared as December and the end of year 2020 comes into view – a year which will never be forgotten; let's hope 2021 brings some real relief from what we have all had to endure these last nine months. For the swans too, it is the case that the annual cycle is well into the final phase – that of dispersal of this year's crop of surviving cygnets. This is a necessary prelude to the start of the next breeding season. Already we have seen examples of adult pairs on, for example Roath Park Lake and The Knap at Barry brazenly displaying to one another!

As rescuers, we have been accustomed over many years to having to rescue 'teenagers' from all kinds of inappropriate places – they having taken off from 'home' with no idea what lies outside the immediate home territory. It genuinely is a flight into the unknown. For us, this process has normally started in late September/early October, but this year it started a full two weeks earlier. This transition from adorable fluffy day-old cygnet weighing a couple of hundred grams to a full size teenager weighing anything upwards of say 8kg in just five months is quite astonishing.

What is also noteworthy is that departure can be peaceful or brutal. Obviously, it is preferable if cygnets leave of their own free will, but many are the occasions when the young birds show a very marked reluctance to move on. It's when the latter applies that things can turn ugly, and the adult male drives the young birds off, and if that doesn't work then



*Roath Park Lake Dad (right) vs Junior (left)*

the ultimate measure is to corner the young bird and drown it. This transition from supremely protective parents to things ending in the way described is hard to accept but that's the way it is. As with all so called general rules, there are exceptions; we've written in a past article of the strange goings on Cyfarthfa Lake at Merthyr, where until earlier this year there were representatives of three generations of swans present – most peculiar!

Just by way of illustration of what can happen here are a few examples. In the autumn of 2019 we felt we were the owners of season tickets to Tredegar; we lost count of the number of times we rescued novice teenagers from various locations around the area - obviously refugees from a large family at Bryn Bach Park. Sometimes the call comes from the police such as an occasion when it was necessary to rescue a cygnet near the two big ponds at Porthcawl. More recently there was the sad occurrence of a cygnet fleeing from the parents hit by a speeding motorist on a lane between two ponds at Belmont outside Hereford. Despite



*Grounded juvenile from the Wilderness Porthcawl.*

hospitalising it, it died two days later – possibly from a combination of shock and undiagnosed internal injuries. The motorist did not stop – unforgivable. Finally, last week, at Roath Park, a cygnet, fleeing from its parents ended up in the enclosed area adjacent to the outfall from the lake. Almost, without exception, we take the uninjured birds rescued successfully and release them onto The Knap at Barry.

PS. As this article goes to press, there is the very worrying news that there is what appears to be a fairly widespread outbreak of avian flu. We ourselves have encountered an unusually high number of dead swans - adults and juveniles – between Uskmouth and The Lighthouse public house at St. Brides. Potentially, this leaves us with a serious problem – for obvious reasons, the swan hospitals we use are effectively closed for fear of importing infected birds.

Story by Peter, photographs by Ellen. For swan and all other wildlife problems please contact Peter & Ellen on 01633 895241 or 07802 472788

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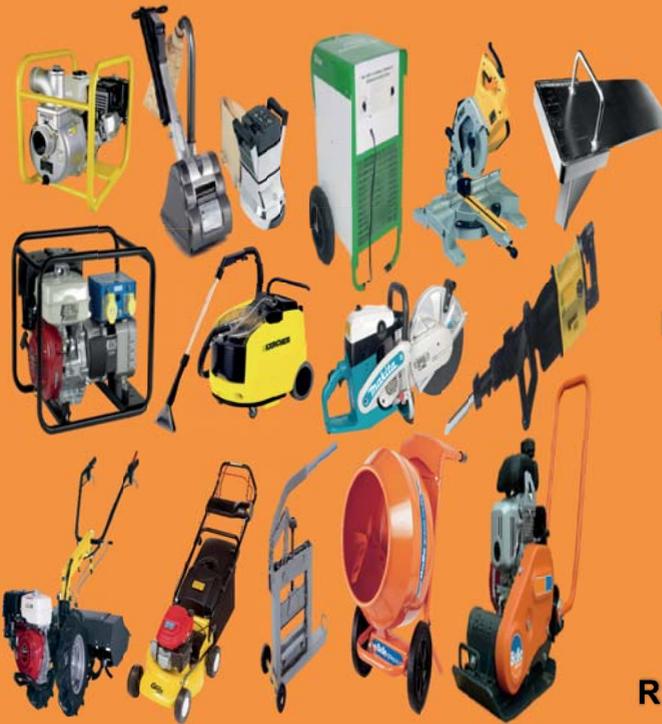
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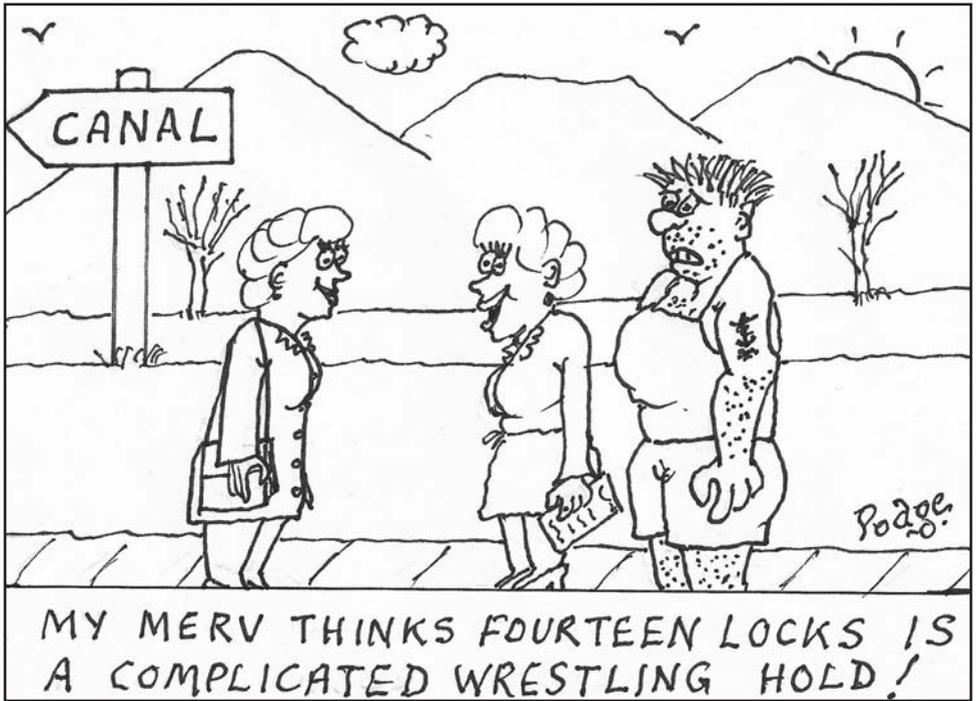


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## The LBJ 's Fatball League Match

*Reporters - Angela Robins and Mike Brown.*

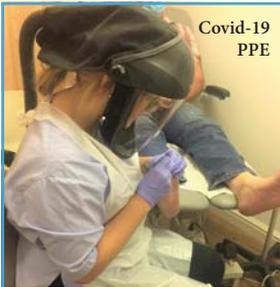
**We have had even more time to watch the antics of our garden birds recently. We were in stitches, laughing, when the remains of a fatball fell out of the feeder and the following really did occur - or so it seemed!**

Immediately it was pounced upon by a sparrow that came running with it onto the pitch (I mean patio). He was followed by the rest of his team and in hot pursuit came the Dunnocks Team. A blackbird, wanting a bite of the action, joined in the fray but couldn't keep up and chased around like a demented referee. After the kick off a young winger did well to get his pass to the fly half, who touched down with ease at the rocky end of the pitch.



Number 8 converted and piled on the pressure. There was some great interplay from the Dunnocks' backs and the fatball was beaked into touch. A stolen lineout allowed a full-back to pluck up the fatball and he flew off into a stiff breeze. It went right

along the back line and was dropped over the patio table. It's up for grabs! They were getting tired and considering bringing on some substitutes when a jackdaw swooped in and stole the fatball - **They think it's all over... it is now!**



Covid-19  
PPE



Jenny Foley  
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Many thanks for understanding.

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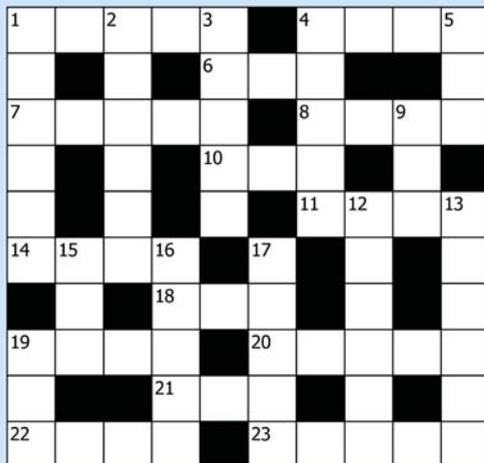
# Crossword

## Across

1. Seat (5)
4. In addition to (4)
6. As well as (3)
7. Romantic partner (5)
8. Bird of peace (4)
10. First woman (3)
11. Telephoned (4)
14. Appointment (4)
18. Large seed (3)
19. Worry (4)
20. Desired, wished for (5)
21. Devon river (3)
22. For always (4)
23. Having ascended (5)

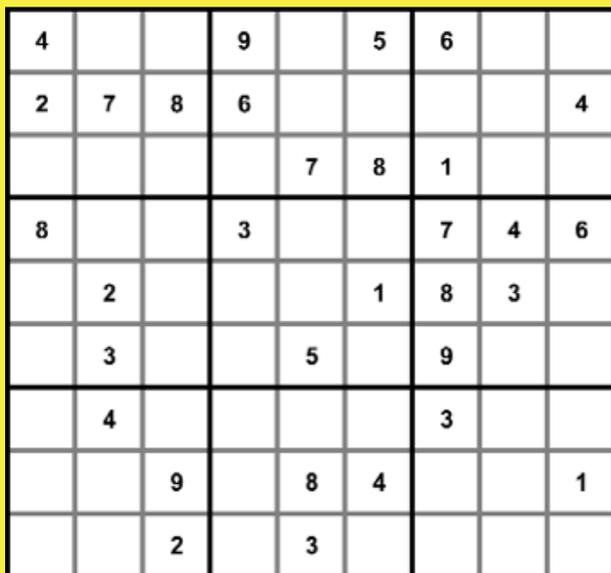
## Down

1. Named (6)
2. Business promotion (6)
3. Scarcer (5)
4. Poisonous snake (5)
5. Single number (3)
9. Commercial vehicle (3)
12. Takes as ones own (6)
13. Place for fruit & veg (6)
15. Atmosphere (3)
16. Go into (5)
17. Surgical spirit (5)
19. Enemy (3)



Puzzle Solutions on page 31

# Sudoku



The object of sudoku is to insert the missing numbers in the boxes to satisfy just one condition: each row, column and 3x3 box must contain the digits 1 through to 9 exactly once. This can be done by applying logic – you do not have to guess.



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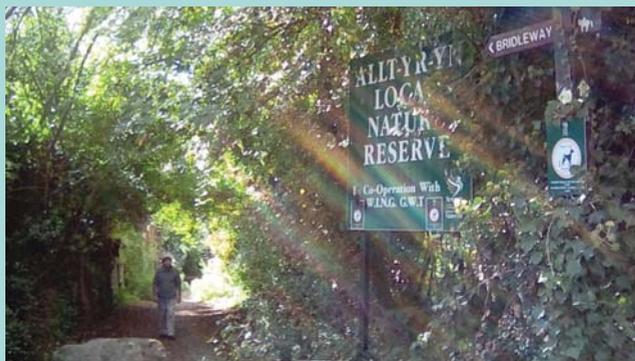
If you would like to adopt one of our furry friends please contact Sam Murray on 07535 087970.

Please friend us on Facebook; Usk New Start Cat Rescue

# Newport U3A

Newport U3A is the 21st largest charitable organisation in the UK and its aims are to advance the education of retired people; their Gardening & Wildlife Group meets twice a month for talks, day trips and social events.

Gwyneth Hawkes, a convenor of the group, gave a talk on 'Rewilding': a worldwide conservation movement whose aims are to reverse environmental damage. To get involved, Gwyneth proposed a tree-planting initiative which was well received by the members: a scheme that would enable us to help reverse the catastrophic impact that centuries of deforestation has had on our climate. Their fundraising events have been curtailed due to Coronavirus restrictions, so



donations were requested from the full membership of Newport U3A to purchase several Welsh fruit trees.

Gwyneth and co-convenor Jan Howells have been liaising with

Newport CBC which has suggested planting the trees at Allt-yr-yn Nature Reserve, helping to restore the old orchard. A small group of members will assist at the planting.

Visit [u3asites.org.uk/newportsewales](http://u3asites.org.uk/newportsewales) 'News' page for more information or call Angela Robins on 07980 970967



## **LAPTOPS 4 HOME LEARNING**

### **Upcycling old computers to benefit High School home learning**

Covid 19 has had a devastating effect on children's education. Whilst many pupils have been able to access online learning and support from their schools during Lockdown, there are too many who have not received this because they do not have the necessary IT equipment.

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To arrange collection of your old laptops please contact :

**[admin@laptops4homelearning.club](mailto:admin@laptops4homelearning.club)**

# Gwerinwyr Gwent Diary

**Gwerinwyr Gwent's longest serving member, Linda Dixon, joined just two years after the group was formed. Linda is also our chairman. As we have nothing currently to write about, we have instead dipped into the archives and here are a few of her memories from 40 years of dancing with GG...**

Of the many years spent in the group, I have wonderful memories from our foreign trips. Gwerinwyr Gwent has had the good fortune to travel to a number of destinations in Europe; promoting our Welsh heritage and experiencing the cultures of other nations. Our earliest one was to Germany (which was prompted by the twinning of Newport with Heidenheim in 1980), when we were welcomed by the Schwabische Trachtengruppe.

A firm friendship developed over many years, with a number of exchanges. Invitations have usually been extended to us to attend the bi-annual Shepherd Festival or Shepherd Run – a centuries old event attracting all the shepherds in the area. A procession through the streets culminated in the big event at the town's stadium. Part of the festivities includes the crowning of the new shepherd king and queen.

In 2006 our visit coincided with the town hosting a Garden Festival. We flew from Heathrow to Munich in August and the airport was thrown into chaos on our departure day following the liquid bomb plot. After long



queues, vigorous checks and a few hours delay we were airborne.

Unfortunately, our luggage never arrived and so no costumes. The next evening we performed at a concert in our 'civvies'! Our dilemma was explained to the audience, which was met with a huge wave of sympathy and applause. In the following hours and days, suitcases started to turn up, which meant great excitement for some, but disappointment for others, until we were eventually all reunited with our possessions.

Dancing with the group has also taken me to Denmark, Finland, Latvia, Belgium and Italy. In July 2003 we visited the little town of Coredo, northern Italy, for an international festival. We were accommodated in a castle

on a hill, with magnificent views over the vineyards below. It was very hot that week, so walking around in woollen costumes would have been a real challenge. Fortunately, all dance performances took place in the cooler evenings.

Our costumes are always admired wherever we go, but they drew a lot of attention from the locals, particularly our Welsh hats; some asked if we were witches! Such was the interest, that our teacher was persuaded to leave her costume behind to be placed in the town's museum.

I wonder if it is still on display?



**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 Bassaleg (opposite the Ruperra PH).**

**For more details, visit our website  
[www.gwerinwyrghwent.org.uk](http://www.gwerinwyrghwent.org.uk)**

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# Puzzle Solutions

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

1	C	H	A	I	3	4	A	L	S	5	O
A	D	6	A	N	D	7	8	9	E		
7	L	O	V	E	R	8	D	O	V	E	
L	E	9	E	V	E	10	A				
E	R	11	R	12	A	N	G	13			
14	D	A	T	E	16	E	D	A			
I	18	N	U	T	O	R					
19	F	R	E	T	20	H	O	P	E	D	
O	21	E	X	E	T	E					
22	E	V	E	R	23	R	I	S	E	N	

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Established in 2006, the Directories are extensively used and respected by our readers.

25,500 copies are delivered to homes and local businesses six times a year. The seven Directories cover Altyryn, Bassaleg & Rhiwderin, Caerleon, Malpas, Newport (Beechwood, St Julian's, Celtic Horizons, Duffryn, Lysaght Village, Glan Llyn, Mon Bank), Rogerstone, Risca (Crosskeys, Pontywaun & Cwmcarn).

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## Reliable, plumbing services in Newport and South East Wales

Newport based NBC Plumbing is a professional plumbing service and is the sister company to Newport Bathroom Centre, which are based at the largest furniture store in Wales, George Street Furnishers, in the Centre of Newport.

We are a family run business where two generations are working in hands-on roles. Our staff are either qualified Plumbers or Plumber and Heating Engineers. We have an extensive range of knowledge in all things that are plumbing and heating based. Our wealth of experience in building and construction is very helpful in our business, we have built and project managed many large building projects, both David Viggers the MD and Richard Viggers, David's father, were approved building contractors for both Caerphilly and Cardiff councils, completing many local authority approved grant funded improvements.



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(Part 3)

# THE MYSTERY OF THE PLAQUE DISCOVERED IN RHIWDERIN

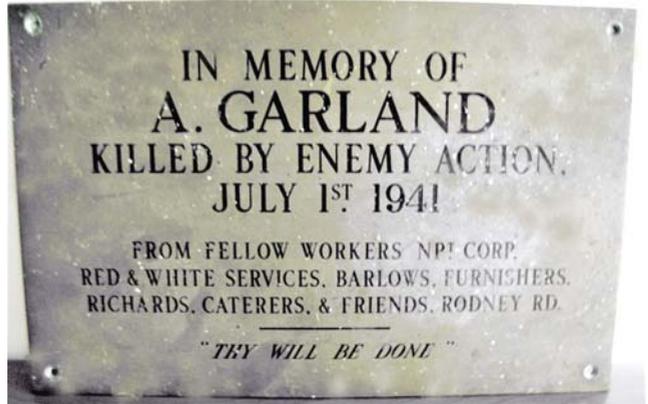
The mystery of the Plaque has now been partly solved, I ended my article by asking two questions. One was 'where was the Plaque originally intended to be displayed?' and the second question asked, 'how did it end up in Rhiwderin?'

I recently received a telephone call from a Mrs June Garland, a relative of the late Mr. Albert Garland, who was killed by the German bomb dropped during World War 2 in Eveswell Street, Maindee on the night of the 1st July, 1941, killing a total of 35 people and leaving 46 injured.

Mrs Garland was able to inform me that the Plaque discovered, under a pile of old carpet tiles in the Rhiwderin garage, was originally created to be mounted on a wall inside the Parish Church of St. Johns Maindee. This was where Albert Garland normally worshipped. I had suspected that this might be the case as the church also contains several other similar memorial plaques.

St. John's Church had the misfortune to suffer a disastrous fire in November 1949 and the Plaque was possibly rescued and saved from the burning wreckage by a parishioner or member of Albert's family. How it came to finally end up in the little village of Rhiwderin, right on the other side of Newport I cannot explain.

Mrs Garland also informed me that



Albert Garland was partially disabled, unfortunately having little use of one arm due to a childhood injury. He was apparently employed by Newport Corporation superintending a public toilet. This was very likely to have been the

public toilet, which was once located in Rodney Road, at the side of the Newport Technical College. I state this, because the names of companies inscribed on the Plaque are all from businesses in or surrounding Rodney Road.

5 Archibald Street





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Friday AM  
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Lodge Farm Church  
Thursday PM  
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Wednesday PM  
**Janice: 07813 286489**

## **ROGERSTONE:**

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Thursdays AM & PM  
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420331**

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# George Street Furnishers

## Wales' largest furnishers store launches a new Hot Tub & Sauna Department

**G**eorge Street Furnishers was established in 1951, now going into their 70th year. A family owned and operated business with 2nd and 3rd generation holding key roles within the business.

George Street Furnishers has 3 floors of all things for the home to include sofas, beds, furniture, carpets and flooring with in-store concessions to include bathrooms, kitchens, curtains and blinds, outdoor furniture and even waterbeds!

The new norm is staycations during these challenging times. All things for the home have seen a huge increase in demand, with particular emphasis on luxury feel good items - Hot tubs and Saunas are no exception to the new norm for people looking for leisure facilities at home.

George Street Furnishers is Wales' largest furniture store with over eighty thousand square feet of retail space, the huge space allows George Street to have a number of concessions within the store, this makes George street a destination hub for home products. Luke Sheppard said "we have a large retail space and this gives us lots of options. We



decided to undertake this joint venture with our in store bathroom concession, Newport Bathrooms Centre, and offer our customers hot tubs, saunas and steam rooms. Utilising our collective skill base will enable our team to deliver a professional service with installation handled in store by our team".

Initially George Street Furnishers will have five Hot Tubs and two Saunas, thus creating a wellness area in store. Dave Viggers from Newport Bathroom Centre said, "We have a large number of hot tubs on order, demand is very high in the world for spas and saunas with us all spending more time in our homes, but we have pre ordered and we will have a number of hot tubs and saunas on display and in stock ready for 2021, it is our plan to officially launch end of January 2021".



## The BIG Winter Sale

**Starts Monday  
28th December.**

Covid restrictions permitting, visitors to George Street Furnishers will be able to see the new hot tub department being created in early January.

19 – 24 George Street, Newport, NP20 1EN  
01633 214 241

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