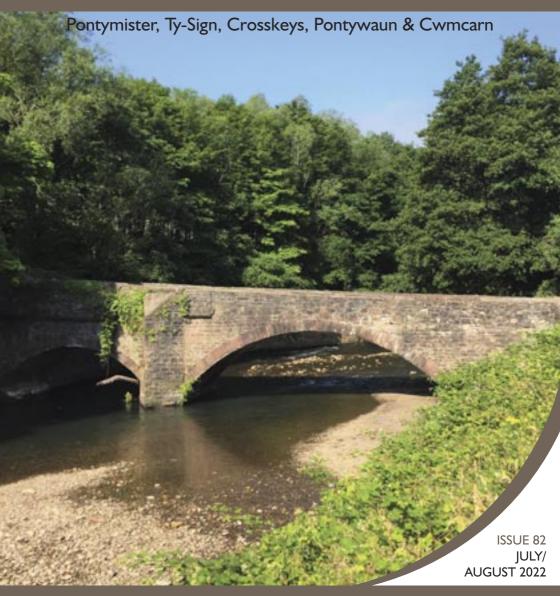
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to Risca East Community Council

# Welcome Newsletter

#### Hello everyone

Some news and chat from your community councillors in Risca East. We hope you enjoyed our last article about the preparations for the platinum jubilee. The oak tree is in full leaf and the tree guard has done the job of protecting it. We must say the children have been very good and have joined in keeping in safe and also helped litter picking. The concrete plinths are installed and the bespoke benches were in place ready for the opening.

The oak tree was purchased from Raglan nursery who also planted it. Howe engineering Abercarn have done a wonderful job designing and making the benches. The concrete plinths were placed by Damien Rendall builders. Banners and leaflets were designed and printed by Dean at Signet signs Risca, our bows and ribbons were donated by Rob Wallace at Risca florist. Last but not least D.S. paint and body restorers Risca added the beautiful colours to the benches to put the finishing touch. All local businesses thank you all.

Through working with the community on the project spar field as it was 'nicknamed' will now finally be called TY-SIGN COMMUNITY PARK.

We now look forward to future projects that will benefit our community.



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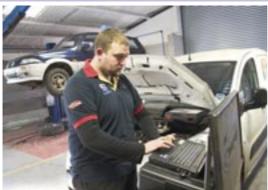
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# THE CHAPEL WITHOUT A NAME

#### By Bernard Osment

The Chapel without a name is located in Risca Old Cemetery, on un-consecrated land, adjacent to the main gate. At a meeting of the Risca Board, the Council, in November 1882, it was decided to purchase a piece of land for a cemetery and to employ an architect to prepare plans for the necessary buildings and layout of the grounds. In September 1883, the Board accepted Lord Tredegar's offer of four acres of land, alongside the road from Risca to Pontywain, that today we know as Cromwell Road, at a price of £600.

he plans for the New Cemetery were passed by the Board in March 1885. In June 1886, the Board accepted the tender price of £1887 from Messrs Wm. Jones & Sons of Newport, for the construction of the cemetery boundary walls, a Chapel, and a house for the Caretaker, to be completed on or before the 1st March 1887, and subject to a penalty of 10/per day. In April, the Board announced that the cemetery was ready for use. It had been decided that the cemetery would be divided into three portions, Nonconformist,



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Roman Catholic and Church of England, and that the Chapel was for the use of all sects to hold services prior to the interments of their dead. When the people of Risca, mainly Nonconformists, became aware that the Bishop of Llandaff had been asked to consecrate the Church of England portion of the cemetery, they were up in arms, and demanded that no part of the cemetery should be consecrated. The argument as to whether the act of consecration should take place continued for many months. Newspapers, local and national, carried the story of the 'Bigots of Risca', people who would deny members of the church the opportunity for burying their dead according to their religious beliefs. In October 1887, the Board decided, by a vote of six to three, to allocate a portion of land, to the Church of England. The Board however still refused to allow consecration of any part of the cemetery. By June 1888, nearly £3000 had already been spent on the cemetery, and it was costing the Board £200 a year, with no income from it. This, together with threat of Lord Tredegar withdrawing his offer of the land, resulted in a meeting of the Board on 20th June 1888, where it was decided that the cemetery should be opened on the 21st June 1888, for burials in the unconsecrated portion of the cemetery.

It had been agreed with the Church that they would pay for the land allocated to them, and they could have it consecrated. The Church also accepted the offer of using the Chapel, which was on unconsecrated ground.

Visitors to the cemetery will notice that the graves in the Church and Roman Catholic sections are parallel to the road, while those in the Nonconformist section are at right angles.

The earliest readable headstone in the Nonconformist area reads, Elizabeth Ann Morgan, aged 64 years, died







26th September 1888. The first interment in the Church section, that of Alfred James Woodward, aged 15 months, took place on the 21st January 1890.

Although there are many newspaper

reports of people being buried in the cemetery, there is little evidence of services being held in the Chapel. However, they do show that all three sects used the Chapel. In January 1902, Colonel George William Wilkinson, of Risca House, colliery manager, was buried in the Church section, following a service in the Chapel. In June 1902, a service for John Harrington, late landlord of the Myrtle Grove was held in the Chapel, before he was buried in the Roman Catholic section of the cemetery. In November 1909, a service for William Ford of Cross Keys, a platelayer killed on the railway line, was held in the Chapel before being buried in the Nonconformist section. In January 1907, at the funeral of Florence Purnell of the Black Vein, an extended service was held in the

Chapel as the grave, in the Church section, was not ready.

The Church was responsible for preparing the graves and the grass cutting, in their area of the cemetery, up until November 1969, when the care of the Church section was conveyed to the Risca Urban District Council

During WW2 local Councils had to

provide emergency mortuaries for civilians killed in air raids. Risca Council commandeered the Cemetery Chapel for use as mortuary to accommodate 45 persons. At a meeting of the Council in June 1958, it was proposed that because of the cost of the routine cleaning and only occasional use of the Chapel, it should be closed. Upon a vote being taken, five were for closing, nine were against. In November 1959, following the Surveyor's report on the poor state of repair of the Chapel, the Council decided that it should be demolished, and that the front wall and archway be made good to form a presentable appearance. Further consideration of the demolition of the Chapel was made when the Surveyor was made aware by the Vicar of Risca, that there was a need for somewhere to robe, and that on occasions the Chapel was used for

re-slated.
In October 1966, Council Members acknowledged the need for a place where a Minister officiating at a burial service could change into his robes, but having regard to the infrequent use of the Chapel, it was decided that no routine cleaning would take place there in the future. Some 10 years ago the little used and neglected Chapel was once again in a poor state of repair and being considered for demolition.
Fortunately, this time, the Council

9

conducting services. It was then

the Chapel roof was repaired.

decided to proceed to carry out the

necessary repairs to make the whole

Timbers were renewed and the roof

structure safe. In the summer of 1961,

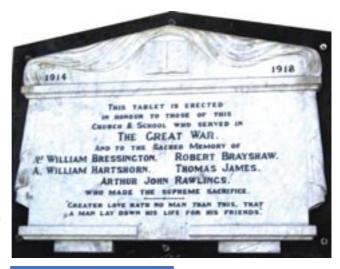
decided on a programme of restoration for the Chapel.

After spending thousands of pounds on restoring the Chapel to its former glory and in order to recover some the refurbishment costs, in February 2013, the Chapel was leased to funeral director, Stephen Tom, owner of Philip Tom and Sons of Pontymister. Beautifully restored, the Chapel is now used for private services, prior to interments or cremations. The first service was held there in March 2013

Mounted on the east wall inside the Chapel are three war memorial plaques, saved after being recovered from redundant local Chapels. One plaque from the now demolished Gladstone Street Methodist Church in Cross Keys, lists the names of the five church members who died in WW1, Alfred Bressington, Robert Brayshaw, Arthur Hartshorn, Thomas James and Arthur Rawlings. The other two plaques are from the

Ebenezer Chapel, now the Ebenezer Emporium, in Risca. One lists the three Chapel members who died in WW1, Alfred Jones, Bert Wheeler and Albert Williams. The other lists the three Chapel members who died in WW2, Cyril Evans, Arthur Parry

and Albert Wellington.
Following the demolition of the
Caretaker house in the late 1960's the
site was cleared to create a Garden of
Remembrance for cremation burials.
The first burial took place there in



# BEACHES IN WALES

# **Port Eynon**

Port Eynon Bay is a very popular beach resort beside the village of Port Eynon. Port Eynon Point is the most southerly tip of the Gower Peninsula.

Once there was a booming trade in oyster fishing, the remains of the oyster pools and the old harbour wall can be seen at low tide. Limestone quarrying, lobstering and crabbing was also booming but as with many little ports there was reports of smuggling. At one stage, it is thought that eight excise men were stationed in the village alone.

At the far end of Port Eynon Bay stands the 18th century ruin of the old Salt House, originally extracting salt from the sea, although it is thought that the business was run as a cover for smuggled goods.





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## **Springtime Perils**

May is almost 'out' as I write this article and so we face the start of meteorological summer already. As far as the swans are concerned, breeding pairs have, it seems, 'performed' at least as well as in recent years with hatched broods of seven or eight appearing, almost, but not universally, to be the norm, i.e. at Coed Kernew, Tredelach, Malpas and St. Pierre. Such numbers are of course an insurance against the strong

possibility of losses especially in the early days and weeks of life.

The Tredelech family, just off Lamby Way seems to be extremely unfortunate, ill-fated even. Within days of hatching two little cygnets went missing and a few days later another three were lost.

We'll never know the reason for this, but possibilities include providing meals for large predatory fish, marauding gulls and mink which, as we have reported previously are known to be in the area e.g. at Pentwyn, only a very short distance away.

Over the last few years, the adults from this family have endured a number of undiagnosed problems; two years ago the female was obviously ailing and was caught and spent a week at Shepperton receiving a course of TLC. A year later she suffered a nasty leg injury resulting in her going into self-isolation, largely because catching her proved impossible. Now, this year the male is in trouble as our photograph shows; the right leg is being held at a very unnatural



now, nothing is to be done; this family has endured more than enough trauma for now. We

hope that doesn't sound too anthropomorphic...!

Worse has befallen another family, the one on the Neath Canal in Neath itself. This pair also produced seven cygnets. Sadly, all too typical of the times in which we live, a gang of young hooligans was reported to have attacked the female in particular. leaving her with a damaged (right) wing. (See our second photograph). Help was sought from a well known national rescue organisation whose representative turned up the following day and it wasn't until four days later the swan was collected. To the consternation and horror of all those involved. the next we knew was that the bird had been euthanised. It is alleged the swan had suffered a double compound fracture of the

wing. It seems barely credible this can be true. In the days following the attack she continued to remain associating with the young family. A better and more acceptable outcome would have been to have administered antibiotics and pain relief, and then later on, if necessary, considered the option of a partial wing amputation. After all, our native Mute Swans are largely very sedentary; they actually do very little flying especially if they are paired and hold territory as these at Neath do.

Elsewhere, at Old Cwmbran, a family with six cygnets moved south to Two Locks and after a week there, one of the young birds was found dead in the water following a night of serious disturbance caused by, it is believed a group of 'out-of-control' youths. The police have been involved, but as we all know they are up against insuperable odds, so the chances of any kind of positive outcome from this episode can best be described as zero.

It's all a bit depressing, but we carry on as best we can.

Story: Peter and Ellen. Photos: Babs and V. Price, Neath. For swan and other wildlife issues please contact Ellen or Peter on 01633 895241 or 07802 472788. Please note, because there are so few of us, there is a limit to the volume of rescue work we can carry out; for Swan Rescue South Wales, swans are our priority.

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#### **RISCA MUSEUM**

## Lord Tredegar's Visit

On Monday 5th October 1896 the third annual eisteddfod associated with Moriah Baptist Chapel, Risca took place. However, it was to significantly eclipse the previous two events. Lord Tredegar had agreed to preside, it had been four years since his previous visit to Risca, and a committee of around 100 prominent local citizens (very few being members of Moriah) set about organising the event.

Lord Tredegar was met near Ty Isaf Farm, Pontymister by a guard of honour consisting of between 40 and 50 mounted farmers and sergeants of the local batteries of Monmouthshire Artillery Volunteers who escorted

him to the pavilion.

The road was decorated by no fewer than 11 triumphant arches, the first typical of agriculture proclaimed 'Welcome to Lord Tredegar'. Other arches had been erected by townspeople or local industries. the Risca Gas Company, the iron & steels trades, the firebrick & building trades and the colliery company.

The pavilion had been erected near the Public Hall and Lord Tredegar was received there by the committee chairman. Colonel Wilkinson, manager of the Risca Colliery. The pavilion

was crowded by four or five thousand people and, after a musical interlude by the

Volunteer Artillery band, Lord Tredegar was presented with a silver miner's safety lamp and a silver medal bearing a profile portrait of his Lordship. Various

eisteddfod events took place before luncheon was partaken in the schoolroom for about 200 invited guests. Events continued after the luncheon with participants from Abertillery, Ebbw Vale, Rhymney, Bargoed & Newport competing with local entrants.

During the speeches, Lord Tredegar seemed to indicate that the area was suffering a difficult time, specific mention was made that the Pontymister Iron & Steel Works was not working. Responses from committee members extolled Lord Tredegar's many virtues. nobleness of character. magnanimous spirit, extreme beneficence and kindness, lively wit, large social sympathies and a deep concern with his tenant's welfare.

Do these rather obsequious

comments hint at what this was really all about? Whatever other help Lord Tredegar

may have dispensed to Risca. shortly after the eisteddfod he donated the land next to Moriah Chapel for use as a public park and, a few years later, the land for the new Pontywaun County (later, Grammar) School. Photographs of several of the arches, together with some local views, all taken by local photographer J.E. Hancock feature in a presentation book commemorating the event. The leather-bound book was inscribed as presented to Col. James Williams J.P. He was a director of the colliery company. lived in Brynglas House in Newport and almost certainly was one of the senior members of the organising committee. It's speculated that the book was never presented as he died only 18 months later which explains why it remained, and still survives, in the Risca area.



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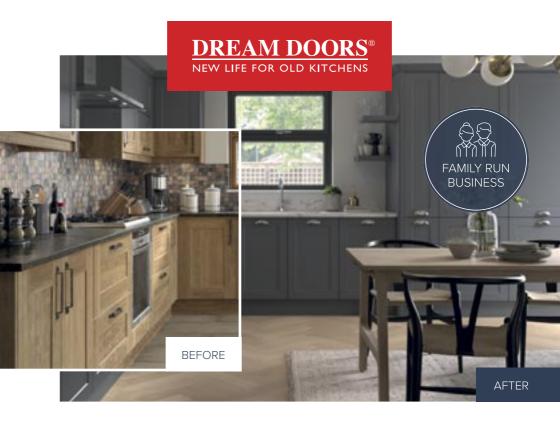




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# Twmbarlwm Beacon Starts Jubilee Celebrations...

What a great weekend of celebrations it was for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and what a great way to kick it off with a Beacon on top of Gwent's iconic landmark, Mynydd Twmbarlwm. Thousands of similar beacons were lit, not only around the UK but all around the globe throughout the commonwealth countries.

After months of planning the joint organisers, Cymdeithas Twmbarlwm Society and the Risca Community Council, led a team of willing volunteers up to the top of Twmbarlwm to light a Commemorative Beacon—at a height of 419m it's the highest peak in

south Wales.

The Society called on the help of many local organisations to make the event happen including Risca Fire Service who provided a 4x4 vehicle and three strong men to transport the Beacon and bottles of gas to the top – and bring it all down again.

Also in attendance were a team from the local branch of the St John's Ambulance Service whose specialist skills, fortunately, were not needed on the night.

The 1st Abercarn Scouts played a great part in helping guide visitors up the mountain and more importantly back down again in the dark. Scout

The Iron Age Hill Fort on Twmbarlwm has

been used as a location to light a Beacon for centuries. Photo courtesy Craig Hale,

1st Abercarn Scouts.

Rhys Richards, who recently received the Chief Scout's Gold Award, was given the honour of lighting the Beacon.

Weather on the night was perfect and we were treated to a beautiful sunset.

The Beacon burned brightly for half hour while the gathered throng marveled at the views and tried to identify the location of other beacons that could be seen far and wide.

The organising team were very grateful to all those who helped make the event such a success.

Terry Evans, Chairman Cymdeithas Twmbarlwm Society



Chris Evans MP for Islwyn, who delivered a short speech and the dedication to the Queen and led a rendition of the National Anthem before the lighting of the Beacon, is seen here with some of the 1st Abercam Scouts.



A related story from the night concerns Mr Cedric Mumford – he has been a member of CTS since it's inception and he has a special claim to fame because he was also at the first Twmbarlwm Beacon event for Her Majesty on the occasion of her Coronation in 1953 – 70 years ago.

Cedric was in the scouts on that first occasion and helped build a bonfire on top of Twmbarlwm. He clearly remembers how someone had to crawl inside the bonfire to light it and how they all watched in awe as other bonfires started to be lit on hill tops as far as the eye could see.

It was an emotional journey for Cedric who travelled from his home in Cardiff to relive those memories from 70 years ago and the Twmbarlwm Society was extremely pleased to welcome him here again.

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 throughout the year so watch our website and Facebook page for details.

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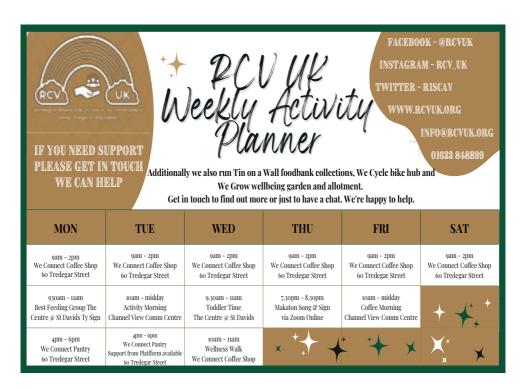




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had a devastating effect on the number of flights, the numbers are now starting to increase back to normal levels.

I wrote my first book on ATC in the early 1980s and had it published by Ian Allan Limited in

1984. It was so successful that I was asked to produce an update 2 years later. Over the next 25 vears there were 10 revised editions, plus a few others covering airband radio. In 1987 I was asked by Newport Borough Council to run evening classes at Brynglas House, which continued for the next 18 years. When my time with the council came to an end, the class members decided that we should continue independently. Our group still meets every fortnight in Newport covering every aspect of the subject, both in the UK and world-wide.

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Gold route: 98 miles
Silver route: 92 miles
Silver route: 90 miles
Midi route: 90 miles
Midi route: 90 miles
Midis route: 91 miles
Midis ride freet

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Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2022







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## **Quick Crossword**

#### Across

- Plant stalks used as roofing material (6)
- Government tax on imports or exports (6)
- 9 Coastal area between La Spezia in Italy and Cannes in France (7)
- 10 Man in chess or draughts (5)

- 11 Well-grounded in logic or truth (5)
  12 Stretchy fabric (7)
- 13 Substance that stimulates love or desire (11) 18 Female ruler of many countries (7) 20 Often the
- last movement of a sonata (5) 22 King of Judea who ordered the death of many children (5)
- 23 Country, capital Quito (7)
- 24 Beads used in prayer (6)
- 25 Fish-eating bird (6)

#### Down

- Flourish, prosper (6)
- Block of iron or steel on which hot metals are shaped (5)
- 3 Popular British cheese (7)
- First letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- Disposition to remain inactive (7)
- Picture painted on a plaster wall (6)
- Trader who sells sewing and dressmaking materials (11)
- 14 Egyptian paper reed (7)
- 15 Johann \_\_\_\_, Austrian composer of waltzes (1804-1849)(7)
- 16 18 24 25
- Rope or light chain used to restrain an animal (6)
- Scottish clan leader and outlaw (1671-1734), the subject of a novel by Sir Walter Scott (3,3)
- 19 Duck valued for its soft down (5)
- 21 Point directly opposite the zenith (5)

## Sudoku

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

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 28

swdirectories.com July/August 2022

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## **Gwerinwyr Gwent Diary**

On 21st April we had our first indoor booking since March 2020. This was at the Christchurch Centre in Malpas after receiving an invitation from the Legacy Ladies group to appear at one of their monthly meetings. As these are outreach meetings with lunch included, it was very well attended by both sexes, although only utilizing under half the space in the huge carpeted hall.

Barbara Griffiths, our MC, gave a 3-part talk on Lord and Ladv Llanover and we interspersed that with displays and audience participation until we were lucky enough to join them for lunch, a very pleasant morning for us, and I hope everyone present. The last Tredegar House Folk Festival was the 30th anniversary in 2019, so it was with much celebration that the 31st festival finally took place on the 6th - 8th May. GG had a 20 minute spot on the Saturday afternoon and it was lovely to be back among all the other teams to dance in front of an audience. The weather was great and crowds of people flocked to the festival, many of them saying it was wonderful to be back and how much they had missed being able to enjoy the music, dancing and the atmosphere.

The warm weather caused the CAMRA bar to completely sell out halfway



Hands who were on a UK tour and fortunately had that weekend free. The following weekend (14th) we took a trip into England to dance at the Bradford-on-Avon Green Man Festival. This was our 3rd appearance and we have seen it grow from an all Morris dance team event, to a Morris plus GG festival, into a really varied dance festival. It takes place on just one day with dancing at five different venues around the town. Once again a lovely sunny day, in fact much too warm for us in our woollen costumes, but it brought out plenty of people to watch and at least the belly dancers had the appropriate costume on!

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

For more details visit our website www.gwerinwyrgwent.org.uk or call us on 01495 271953.



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# uzzle Solutions

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

#### **Crossword Solution**

#### Across:

- 1 Thatch 4 Tariff 9 Riviera,
- 10 Piece 11 Valid 12 Elastic
- 13 Aphrodisiac 18 Empress20 Rondo 22 Herod 23 Ecuador
- 24 Rosary 25 Osprey

#### Down:

- 1 Thrive 2 Anvil 3 Cheddar
- 5 Alpha 6 Inertia 7 Fresco
- 8 Haberdasher 14 Papyrus
- 15 Strauss 16 Tether 17 Rob Roy
- 19 Eider 21 Nadir

swdirectories.com July/August 2022







#### **Atgofion Chwaraeon**

MYND I'R AFAEL Â DEMENTIA, ISELDER AC UNIGRWYDD DRWY BŴER CHWARAEON.

Mae Clybiau Atgofion Chwaraeon AM DDIM ac i unrhyw un dros 50 oed sy'n mwynhau siarad am chwaraeon a'u cofio.

Mae rhai – ond nid pob un – o'n haelodau yn byw gyda dementia neu hwyliau isel, neu maent wedi'u hynysu; mae eraill yn mwynhau'r cyfle i gwrdd â phobl eraill.

Clwb Wythnosol AM DDIM – Bob dydd Iau 2pm-3:30pm.

Pafiliwn Criced Tiroedd Lles Tŷ-du, Tregwilym, Road NP10 9EL

Mae sesiynau'n cynnwys:

- Pwnc gwahanol bob wythnos
- Cwis Wythnosol
- Gweithgaredd corfforol byr, ysgafn os dvmunir
- Te / Coffi

#### Mae croeso bob amser i ofalwyr gyda chyfranogwyr y clwb!

I gael rhagor o wybodaeth neu i gofrestru, ffoniwch sadie.lewis@glamorgancricket.co.uk neu ffoniwch 07949 468041. Fel arall, cysylltwch â Adam ar 07807043239 neu adam.howells@newport.gov.uk

#### **Sporting Memories**

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Sporting Memories Clubs are FREE and for anyone over the age of 50 who enjoys talking about and remembering sport.

Some - but not all - of our members are living with dementia or low mood, or are isolated; others simply enjoy the opportunity to meet other people.

FREE Weekly Club - Every Thursday 2pm-3:30pm.

Rogerstone Welfare Grounds Cricket Pavilion, Tregwilym Road, NP10 9EL

#### Sessions include:

- Different topic each week
- Weekly Quiz
- Short, gentle physical activity if desired
- Tea / Coffee

#### Carers always welcome with club participants!

For more information or to register contact Sadie on sadie.lewis@glamorgancricket.co.uk or call 07949 468041. Alternatively, contact Adam on 07807043239 or adam.howells@newport.gov.uk

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# THE NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME

Croesllanfro Farm, Groes Road, Rogerstone, Newport NP10 9GP
Sunday August 21st 1.30pm-5.00pm

Let the children run around and have fun trying the Kidz Quiz.

Large sweeping borders filled with late summer perennials, many unusual plants and architectural features including terracing, a folly and grotto.

If you enjoy gardening, or just getting out of doors, you will find something to inspire and impress you in every visit to one of these gardens, whether it is the beauty of the place, it's planting, or the shear hard work and dedication of all these garden owners. You are also more than likely to find tea and cakes to sustain you and best of all, a plant bargain to take home!

Every year, hundreds of gardens across England and Wales open their gates to the public, the owners of all these gardens share the same passion, gardening. More than £2 million is raised every year. Overheads are kept low which means that money raised at the garden gate goes straight to the charities.

The National Garden Scheme (NGS) was founded in 1927, to raise money for community nurses by opening private gardens to the public. Since its foundation, the National Gardens Scheme has donated over £42.5 million to nominated beneficiaries, of which nearly £23 million has been donated within the last ten years.

For more information on gardens open go to: www.ngs.org.uk or get the Yellow Book, NGS Gardens Open for Charity.

People are encouraged to book online through the National Garden Scheme.

However, we are happy to take cash on the day.

Every visitor makes a vital contribution!

Directions: From Cefn Walk go over canal bridge at the 14 Locks, stay on the lane for 1/4 mile, white stones on island, Croesllanfro Farm is in front of you.









Admission £5.00 - children free | Unusual plants for sale



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