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ISSUE 97 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024



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Do you feel better when you smile? I certainly know that whenever I smile, I instantly feel happier. The only resolution I'm making this year is to smile more and hopefully spread a little happiness to everyone I meet.

Wishing you all a 2024 filled with kindness, compassion, respect and gentleness.

Susan

**COPY DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH / APRIL EDITION
MONDAY 29TH JANUARY**

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FROM NEWPORT, FOR NEWPORT
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Ffalewyd costau'r cyhoeddiad hwn gan Gomiisiwn y Senedd, a grantydd cyhoeddus.
The costs of this publication have been met by the Senedd Commission from public funds.

Happy New Year!

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda!



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Caerleon *Then & Now*



The town water pump on Gold Common, circa. 1900, opposite the Town Hall at Church Street, approximately on the driveway to the health centre. The notice displayed on the railings behind the young girl states 'Not Fit To Drink'. The pump apparatus was removed and the well sealed, circa. 1960s.

Below is the small taken in January 2023



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



PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY'S INHERITANCE

Most people hope that their estate will pass on to their children and grandchildren eventually. But this will not happen for many, unless careful arrangements have been made to protect their assets from being taken towards the end of their life to pay for care home fees.

The solution to help protect your estate is a Will incorporating a Property Protection Trust (PPT). A testamentary PPT can only be executed whilst both partners remain alive. Upon death of the first partner, their Will specifies that their share of the property is placed into trust and names the ultimate beneficiary of this share, normally the children and grandchildren of the deceased. The surviving partner, under the terms of the Trust, has the unequivocal right to remain living in the property for the rest of their life. On the death of the second partner the Trust comes to an end and the property



passes to the beneficiaries. As the surviving partner does not own the deceased's share of the property it is fully protected for the beneficiaries, so if the surviving partner requires care, or even remarries, this share of the children's inheritance is protected. This last point can be of particular interest to couples who have come together but have children from different

partners. A PPT can help each person in a relationship ensure that their children inherit their share of the property, while giving their surviving partner the ability to live in the property for the rest of their life. If the surviving partner wants to move to another property, they can still sell the property and the proceeds be used to purchase a new property; the terms of the trust remain over the new property. Westminster Law will assess your current circumstances and arrange the trust that will provide the best protection for you, your family and your assets.

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Clearly, There's No End in Sight

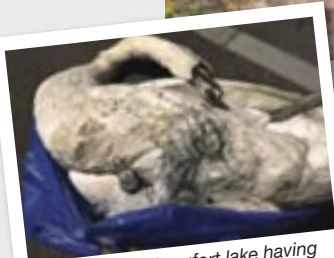
We have been writing about our exploits since 2008. In 2015, we wrote about an incident which occurred in 2008. We must have been short of material then. This was an absolutely appalling story (see photo) of an adult swan which survived being snared – hooks in both feet and a mass of heavy duty braided line - in the Severn Estuary off Black Rock near Portskewett. Until very recently, this was the scariest rescue from more points of view than one, in which we had ever become involved, with, potentially, the most appalling consequences; the swan would have drowned when the tide came in.

Now, this autumn, the horrors of this incident have been relived and exceeded. Over the years there have been calls from time to time from the lakes at Beaufort. Almost without exception, these have been to deal with angling related problems. In a way, this time round, the problem was relatively minor; the male swan was not moving very freely on the water on account of what amounted to a tourniquet around the lower part of his right leg. Clearly, it had been there some time, and the line had cut in very deeply, but, not without difficulty, this was removed, and the swan was released back with his partner.

A week later, another call from Beaufort; the same swan was



Black Rock swan showing hooks in both feet, 2008



Drowned in Beaufort lake having been caught in fishing tackle

struggling to free itself from fishing line in the middle of the lake (upper of two). With the best

will in the world, from

a standing start it would be difficult to reach a position to be able to do anything in under one hour, but we did the very best we could.

Approaching the lake with a full array of rescue kit, including binoculars. There was no obvious sign of the swan. It was only by moving closer, and changing the angle of view that we obtained the first very frightening sign of what we were looking for – it looked very much as if we were already too late. Away, on the far side of the lake was a small white 'patch' under an overhanging alder tree. Immediately, one could not do other than to fear the worst. Laden with gear as we

were, we crossed to the other side of the lake as fast as we were able, only for our worst fears to be confirmed.

It wasn't easy to access the water's edge and then to retrieve the body, then, only with the aid of our longest swan hook.

Meantime, while we were preoccupied with the need to do this, we were all too aware of the partner moving around close by, calling plaintively as they do in such circumstances – such a sad sad sound, and there was nothing we could do to ease her distress.

There was line everywhere, many times tight around one leg, and leading ultimately to a medium to large hook caught in the tip of the swan's beak. We cannot begin to imagine the struggle which this poor innocent creature put up before he finally died.

As we have had cause to say again and again recently, nothing has changed in the 40 years we have been doing this work; how depressing is that!



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Ebbw River

The Ebbw is a river in South Wales which gives its name to the town of Ebbw Vale. The Ebbw River is joined by the Ebbw Fach River (Welsh meaning 'little Ebbw river') at Aberbeeg. The tributary Sirhowy River joins at Crosskeys, then the river continues flowing south east, through the town of Risca, then through Rogerstone, Bassaleg and alongside Tredegar Park. The Ebbw then at the western end of Newport it joins with the River Usk, before flowing into the Severn Estuary. In common with the nearby Sirhowy River and Rhymney River the correct name for the river is 'Ebbw River', not the more usual 'River Ebbw'.

For more than two hundred years, the Ebbw River played an important role in the industrialisation of the valleys. Iron works were established at the heads of both the Ebbw Fach and Ebbw Fawr, and the river became a depository for waste from the coal and steel industries. The demise of these industries has seen the Ebbw's waters flow clean again and its natural life restored.



Crescent Road, Risca



Afon village after heavy snowfall



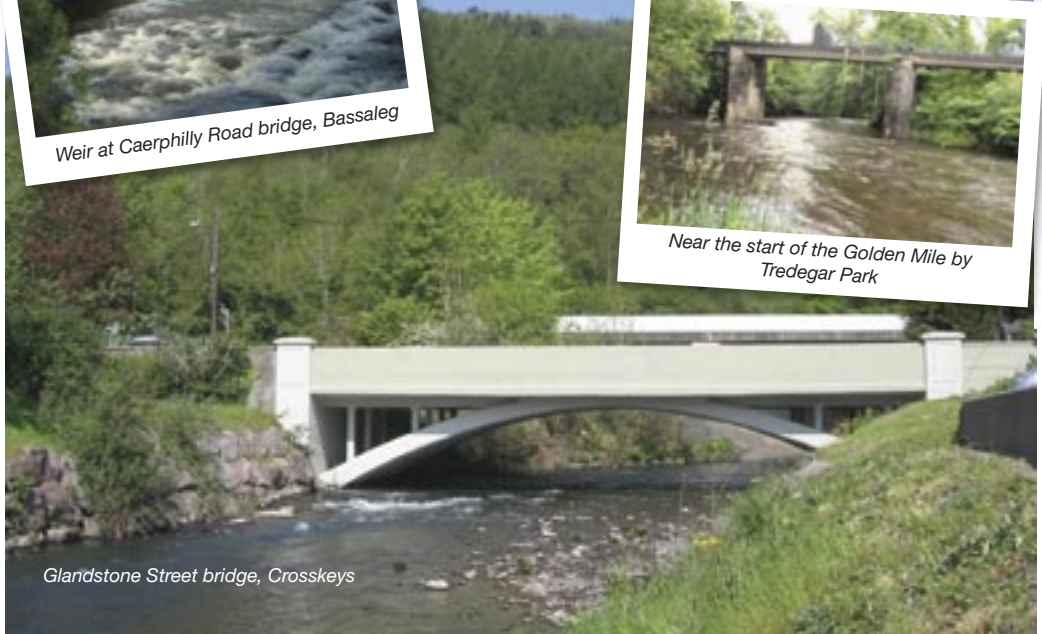
Weir at Caerphilly Road bridge, Bassaleg



Afon village old construction bridge with river in full flow



Near the start of the Golden Mile by Tredegar Park



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There is absolutely no guarantee that this firm will be local to you.

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Our trusted Wills & Probate team are on hand to discuss moving your Will across to Harding Evans. You will find us in the heart of Newport but if you are unable to come to us, we can come to you. Contact us today to make an appointment.



Get in touch:

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NEW YEAR 'INVESTMENT' RESOLUTIONS

Navigating the choices planning for the future brings

Like millions of Britons, you've probably made some New Year's resolutions. Now you need to figure out how to make them become a reality. Having a personal lifestyle financial plan in place early will make it easier to manage your money further down the line.

With so many savings and investments options out there, you might feel confused about what's the right choice for you. That's where we step in to help. It's never too early to start to plan. The sooner you work out your goals and start following a plan to achieve them, the more likely you are to succeed.

A personal lifestyle financial plan is now more important than ever. In these difficult economic times, people need to be aware of how to better manage their money and generate new sources of income to survive and thrive in today's world.

A solid personal financial plan will keep your finances on track while allowing you the freedom to have fun, spend time with your family and save for future endeavours or emergencies that may come up.

To create a strong personal lifestyle financial plan that works for you, it's a good idea to first take some time and ask yourself questions about why you want this kind of plan, what exactly it would entail, what its benefits are to you, what you hope to get from it in the future, and what steps you can take to make it happen.

Asking yourself these questions is a good first step towards creating a lifestyle financial plan that will work for years. By taking the time to find out exactly what your goals are, you'll be better able to move towards them – and keep moving even when life gets in the way of achieving them.

This knowledge can help you get on track more quickly after a setback or help you stay the course when times get tough. A solid personal financial plan starts with asking these key questions of yourself before going any further.

IN SUMMARY

Whatever your plans, the right advice could help bring them to life.

Your personal lifestyle financial plan should shift your focus from the goal to the journey. With a full understanding of your vision, circumstances, and priorities, we will provide you with bespoke professional advice to effectively create your



successful lifestyle plan, enabling you to achieve your financial and lifestyle goals, and together develop a strategy to make these become a reality.

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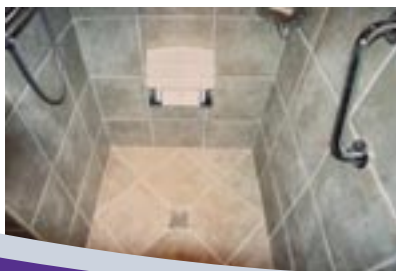
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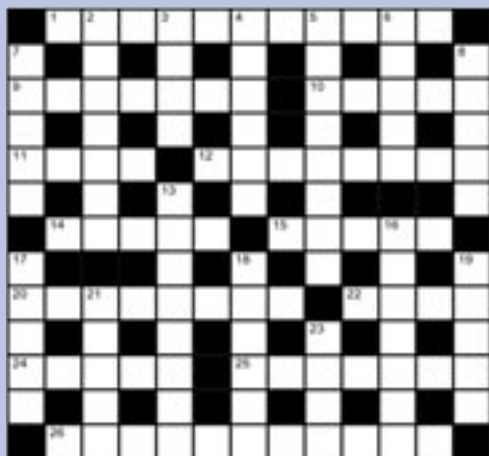
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Puzzles

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Sweet-smelling climbing plant (11)
- 9 Light raft made of balsa, used by Thor Heyerdahl to cross the Pacific in 1947 (3-4)
- 10 Insect in the stage between egg and pupa (5)
- 11 City of Helen, whose face "launched a thousand ships" (4)
- 12 Tree which grows in tidal, chiefly tropical, coastal swamps (8) 14 Communion table (5)
- 15 The Mill on the ___, George Eliot novel (5)
- 20 Line of descent of a pure-bred animal (8)
- 22 Brewery cart (4)
- 24 Private instructor (5)
- 25 Spanish painter, born in Greece (1541-1614) (2,5)
- 26 Primate species to which modern humans belong (4,7)

Down

- 2 Action that turns out to be to the disadvantage of the person who took it (3,4)
- 3 First name of authoress Blyton (4) 4 Helix (6)
- 5 Roman Emperor who succeeded Tiberius (8)
- 6 Key ___, 1948 film (5)
- 7 Glide across ice (5)
- 8 Biblical tower intended to reach to heaven (5)
- 13 Australian marsupial (8)
- 16 Physician who performs operations (7) 17 Mark ___, US swimmer who won seven gold medals in the 1972 Olympic Games (5)
- 18 Formerly the basic unit of money in Spain (6)
- 19 Tower supporting high-tension wires (5) 21 Mark used to indicate the word above it should be repeated (5)
- 23 Tangerine/grapefruit hybrid (4)



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.

Solutions on page 22

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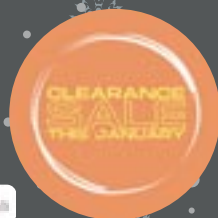
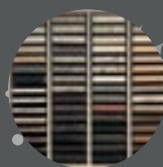


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Puzzle Solutions

Across: 1 Honeysuckle, 9 Kon-Tiki, 10 Larva, 11 Troy, 12 Mangrove, 14 Altar, 15 Floss, 20 Pedigree, 22 Dray, 24 Tutor, 25 El Greco, 26 Homo sapiens.

Down: 2 Own goal, 3 Enid, 4 Spiral, 5 Caligula, 6 Largo, 7 Skate, 8 Babel, 13 Kangaroo, 16 Surgeon, 17 Spitz, 18 Peseta, 19 Pylon, 21 Ditto, 23 Ugli.

4	3	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



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- Evening/bedtime routines

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- Medication prompts
- Monitor nutrition
- Support at medical appointments
- Safety safety and security
- Social activities
- Company & conversation
- Reminiscence
- Singing for the Brain

Social Services referrals are NOT required.

All services commissioned through self-funding or Direct Payments (with top up).

Contact us to arrange a care consultation.

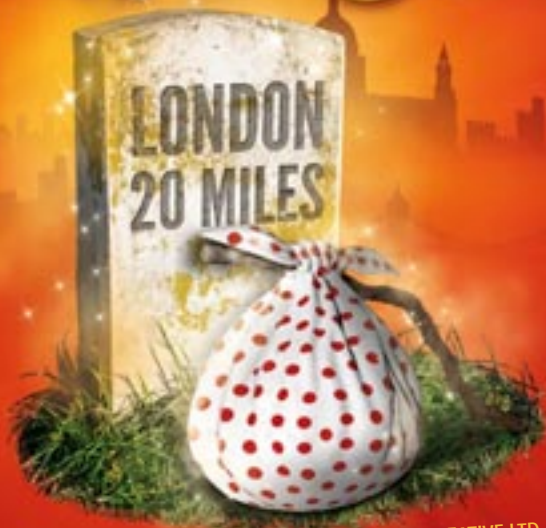
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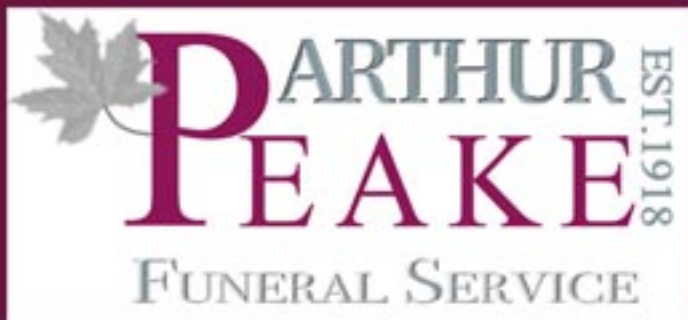


WRITTEN BY ALAN FRAYN – ARRANGEMENT WITH STAGE RIGHT CREATIVE LTD

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TUESDAY 13TH – 17TH FEBRUARY 2024

17TH -SPECIAL MATINEE PERFORMANCE 2.15PM (MEET DICK AND THE CAST) FANCY DRESS OPTIONAL
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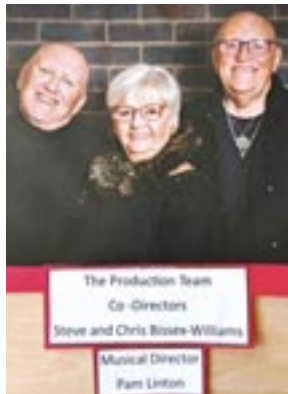
newport@bluebirdcare.co.uk



Move opens up interesting avenues for Newport U3A

Newport u3a's move to the Dolman Theatre and our association with the Newport Playgoers Society have opened up interesting new avenues for us.

Steve and Chris Bissex-Williams are long-time members of NPS and have joined our Choir and organise special events for us. They recently co-directed a production of 'The Shakespeare Revue' at the Dolman Theatre - a witty and enchanting collection of music and skits written by theatre's finest comic writers that were inspired by the Bard.



Steven Lansdown is also a member of the choir and has many years' experience in amateur dramatics. He successfully auditioned for a role through the friendship he has formed with Steve.

In addition, Pam Linton who was a u3a member for 22 years and a previous Convenor of the Choir is also the Musical Director of NPS.



Newport u3a provides 40 social, active and cultural groups for the retired at the Dolman Theatre Wednesdays to Fridays during term time at 9.45-15.00. For more information visit u3asites.org.uk/newportsewales or phone Angela Robins on 07983 130541.

Hardy Plant Society

The Hardy Plant Society Monmouthshire group meets at the village hall on Berthon Road, Little Mill NP4 0HJ twice a month on Saturdays at 2.30pm. We invite those who love hardy perennials, shrubs and trees to share their interest by joining us.

On Wednesday 17th January at 7.30pm a Zoom talk 'Amazing Orchid Stories' by Trey Sanders of Orchid Botanics.

Learn how to grow orchids with Orchid Botanics, a Bristol-based online plant store which specialises in orchids and many other rare and unusual plant species too.

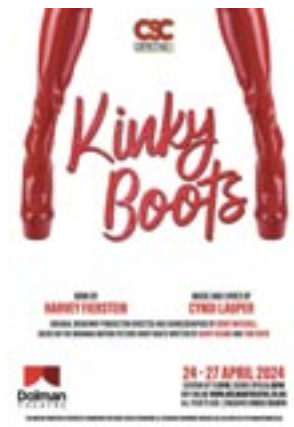
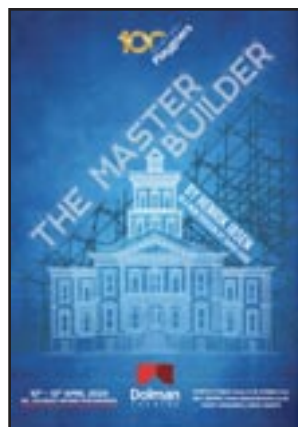
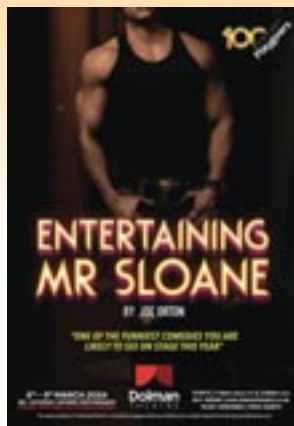
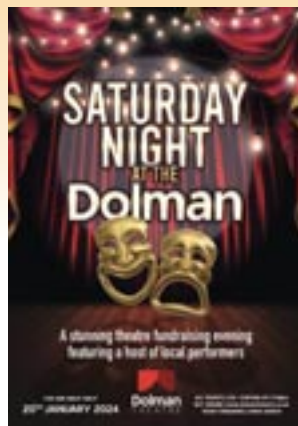
Cost £4 for members, £6 for non-members.



For more details of our activities, please consult our excellent website: <https://hpsmonmouthshire.co.uk/>

DOLMAN

THEATRE NEWPORT



Booking: www.dolmantheatre.co.uk
Theatre Enquiries: 01633 263670



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