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ISSUE 94 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023



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Susan x

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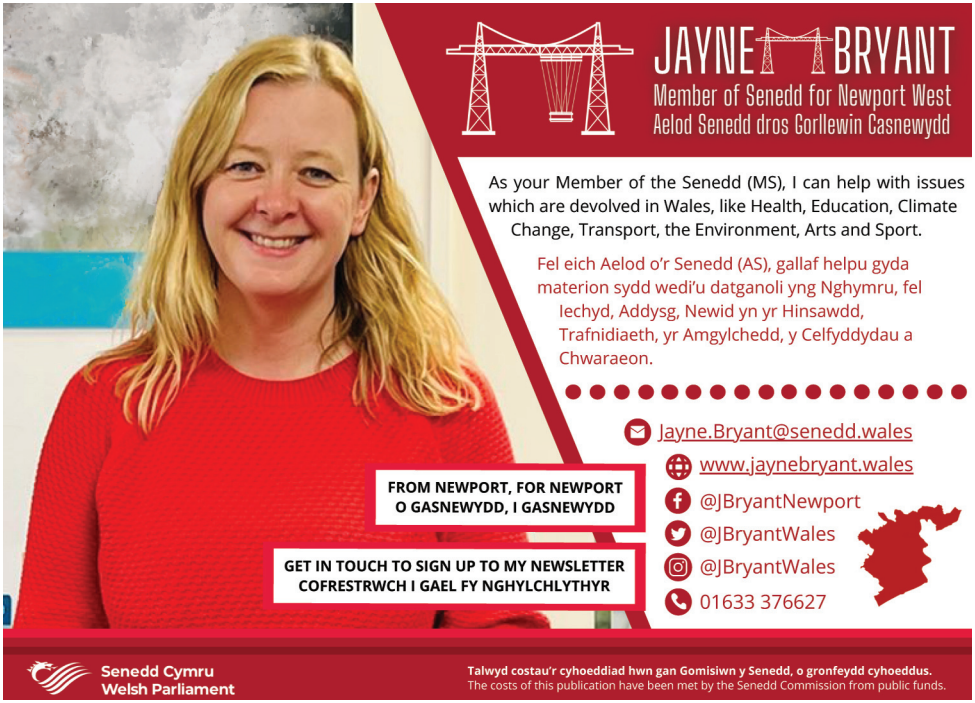
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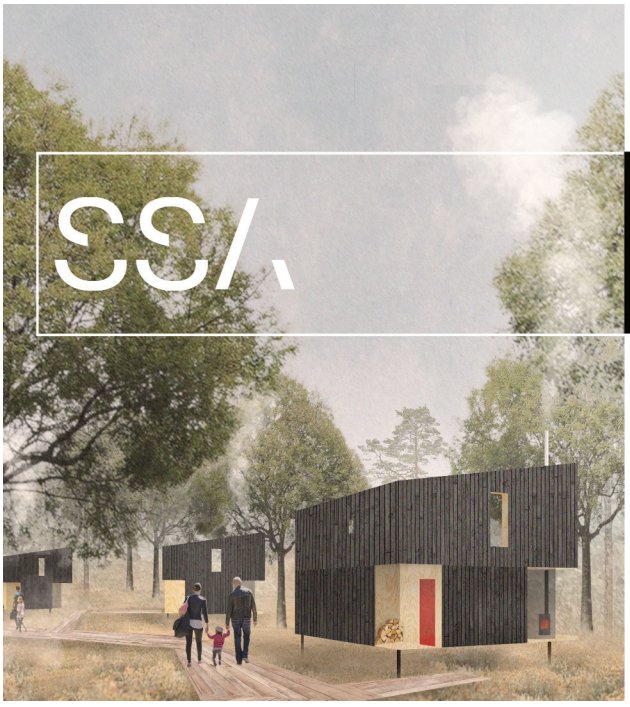
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Rogerstone ROSES

You win some and you lose some

As a WI group Rogerstone Roses is part of a much larger organisation which functions at county and national level.

Every so often individual groups are encouraged to show their collective expertise and enter a competition, this unsurprisingly is called a cooperative and consists of five items. These five items are undeniably WIish, a flower arrangement, two craft items, a preserve and a cookery item, they are to be displayed with flair and ingenuity, my words, on a specified size board, to the best efforts of the group. For many years Rogerstone Roses have entered this competition with little success. Judges, over the years have deemed our efforts not worthy of winning marks and in one or two cases very few marks, best not to dwell on that, its dispiriting. However, we did not let this daunt us, we tried and tried again and again working on the principle that if no one entered no one could win and besides it seems part of the WI ethos that groups should try their best. Every time we entered, we looked carefully at the wondrous exhibits surrounding us and made mental notes, we even attended courses entitled "What are the judges looking for!" Sadly, nothing we displayed impressed the judges until March, this year. The title of the display was "All things bright and beautiful" (there is always a title). Our small group of volunteers set to work with a rather resigned mood but bit by bit ideas expanded and came together, each member playing to their strength. I am proud to say I painted the small box one of the exhibits stood on and printed off the list of items to be judged,



don't scoff, it all counts.

They say persistence pays off and to our enormous surprise it did and we won. Hurrah, how pleased were we. Everyone's hard work and persistence had finally paid off.

Little did we know then that our superb creation would have to be transported to Llanelwedd, Builth Wells, to be an exhibit in the Royal Welsh Show.

Full of optimism and pride several ladies transported said items to the showground on the preceding Sunday, unfortunately it took quite a while to access the ground because the sheep farmers had not brought their sheep the day before as instructed and were clogging up the traffic. I had some sympathy with them as Saturday's rain was at times of Biblical proportions and soggy sheep are not going to win prizes. Eventually, the items were in situ, we admired our handy work, tried not to be awed by other efforts and made our way home.

Four days later another merry band went to fetch the items and collect our report, yes, just like school you get a comment on each of your items. Well, we didn't win but we didn't disgrace ourselves either. As they say, "you win some you lose some".

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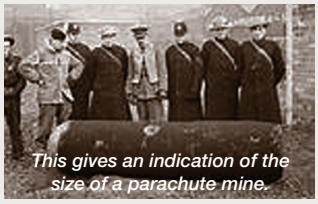
by Paul Minton



The destruction at Glasllwch Crescent



The destruction by the parachute mine at Park Avenue



This gives an indication of the size of a parachute mine.

Bombs are something that never seem to go out of fashion. Take Christopher Nolan's recent film, Oppenheimer, about the man credited with the development of atomic weapons. I haven't watched it but I am told the movie contains A-bombs as well as a few F-bombs. Then, there's their first ongoing use against the population of Ukraine. Whenever we hear about the atrocities that occur there daily, we might well find ourselves yearning for a gentler age but it is important to remember that our past is not as peaceful as we might wish. In fact, bombs have struck Newport many times over the years.

Perhaps one of the earliest attacks in the town was when Viscountess Rhondda attempted to blow up a post box on Risca Road in the name of women's suffrage. Her homemade incendiary was deposited into the box one day in June 1913 and caused damage to the mail inside. She refused to pay a £10 fine (presumably, she had forgotten to add a stamp to her explosive), which led to a brief stint at Usk Prison.

A little less than thirty years later, bomb attacks on Newport became far more prevalent and the casualties were far more than mere letters. Whilst the town was spared the worst of the Luftwaffe air raids during the Second World War, the town still proved an attractive target. The first bomb damage was reported in June 1940, when the Cleveland Oil Depot in Corporation Road suffered a direct hit. Nobody was injured in the blast itself, but four officials were hurt in their car en route to the scene. That all changed in the September, when a German bomber was brought down by a barrage balloon. The aeroplane crashed into a house in Stow Park Avenue, killing two children and most of the plane's crew. The following month, the Alexandra Dock Hotel in Pill was struck, causing several fatalities that included the landlady.

The next year saw yet more raids. In May 1941, bombs fell on Fields Park Avenue, Ridgeway Avenue, and Glasllwch Crescent, causing multiple deaths and damage to over 500 properties. And on the night of 1st July, parachute mines were dropped around Eveswell Street, Kensington Place, Belle Vue Park, Beechwood Road, and even Tredegar Park golf course. Some 37 civilians lost their lives and another 11 people died on 7th October when the Luftwaffe released bombs over Rogerstone. Attacks on Newport largely ceased afterwards but this was not the final time the town faced a bombing campaign.

Shortly after midnight on 14th December 1974, a 5lb bomb employing a clockwork detonator exploded in Commercial Street. The device had been planted in the doorway of Gor-Ray Skirts, a women's clothes shop, which was said to have been gutted. However, the damage extended far beyond the site and shops, such as the Homeland department store, Tesco, Millets, Halfords, and Lloyds Bank, were all affected. Commercial Street was cordoned off between Charles Street and Hill Street and many cars parked by the scene of the explosion suffered smashed windows and dented bodywork. A police constable, who was near the Gor-Ray premises at the time of the blast, was thrown backwards by its force and hurled into the window of a fabric shop. Thankfully, it wasn't curtains for him! Ironically, he had just been talking to the manager of Jackson's Discothèque, who enquired if the PC had had a quiet night.

The Newport bomb followed earlier attacks in Bath and Bristol, which used comparable devices. The authorities had been tipped off by a man with an Irish accent prior to both outrages but in the case of Newport, no advance warning was given. At first, in view of the similarities between the devices plus the apparent Irish connection, the police suspected the IRA were behind the Welsh explosion. However, a source close to the investigation later said the bomb was likely planted by a local person. Ultimately, no organisation or individual ever claimed responsibility and no-one seems to have been charged over the incident.

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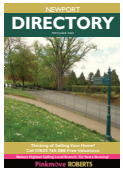
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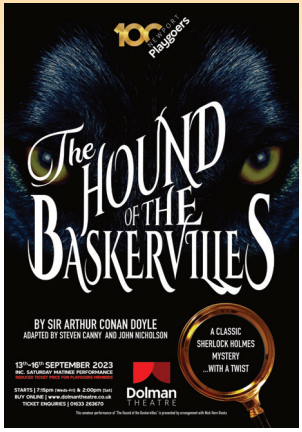
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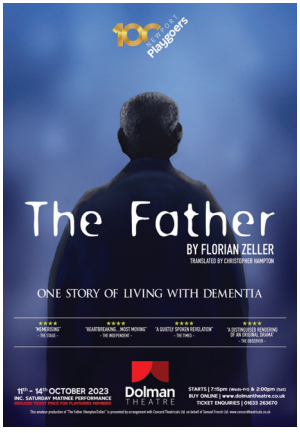
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Getting yourself Retirement Ready

Retirement planning can seem overwhelming, but the important thing is that no matter what age you are, it's never too early or late to start. Another benefit of starting early is compound earnings which is when the money you've earned on money you've invested begins generating earnings too. Investing a small percentage of your income can really add up over time.

Having a savings plan for every stage of your life is vital in helping you work towards a retirement that you can look forward to. To help, here's our decade-by-decade guide to saving for the future.

In your 20s: Getting started

Being in your 20s can feel like an exciting time to be alive but also daunting. It's never too early to start thinking about your financial future and setting yourself up for success.

With the proper knowledge and planning, you can easily create good savings habits that will set you on the path towards financial security.

Creating a budget is vital to staying on top of your finances. Knowing what expenses, you have each month will help keep you organised and make sure there's enough left over to put aside for savings. Ensure you know about upcoming bills and other costs to build those into your budget.

At the same time, remember to enjoy life too! Set money aside to do things you love, such as travel or hobbies. By taking a balanced approach to saving, you'll be able to get the most out of your 20s while still investing in your future financial security.

- Develop good savings habits early in life.
- Budget for saving rather than saving what's left at the end of the month.
- Take advantage of tax-efficient ISAs and Lifetime ISAs.
- Participate in workplace pension schemes.

In your 30s and 40s: Dialling up the focus

Another way to make the most of your 30s and 40s in the UK is to take advantage of salary sacrifice. This is an excellent way to increase your pension contributions while reducing your tax bill. You can redirect this money into your pension pot by agreeing to accept a lower salary each month. This means that while you will be contributing more to your pension, it could leave you with an increased take-home pay as you'll be paying less National Insurance Contributions (NICs).

In your 50s and 60s:

As you enter your 50s and 60s, retirement becomes a reality. It is essential to consider the right time to retire and how much money you will need to do so. Remember that individuals aged 55 or over can



start taking money from their pension. Starting from 6 April 2028, the average minimum pension age will increase to 57.

It is worth considering whether taking money at this stage is necessary for your circumstances, and any tax implications. Ultimately, careful planning and consideration throughout life will help ensure that you have enough money saved when the right time comes to retire. You should also ensure that you are up to date with any changes in the law or regulations that may affect your retirement and pension savings.

This can help ensure you receive the best returns for your investments when the time comes to retire. Remember, it's never too early to start saving for retirement. By following this decade-by-decade guide, you can work towards a secure and enjoyable retirement that you can look forward to. Don't forget, a 'flexi-retirement' approach is becoming more common, with many people continuing to work in some form during their retirement years.

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Gwerinwyr Gwent Diary

After a busy start to the year, it has gone rather quiet on the bookings front for Gwerinwyr Gwent, so I'll go back a few months.



Over the coronation weekend of 5th- 8th May we appeared at the Tredegar House Folk Festival, dancing two spots, one in each of the dance marquees on the Saturday. We were part of 21 different dance groups that entertained the crowds for free on the Saturday and Sunday afternoons. A varied dance programme as always which included Welsh, Morris, Appalachian, Cornish, Belly Dancers, Clogging, Flamenco, and Indian Dance, plus of course international teams from the Czech Republic and Germany. One sad note was the final performance of Clocs Canton from Cardiff who have been loyal supporters of the festival. This all-ladies side with their colourful costumes (see photo) which danced North West style of Morris, was founded in 1986 but has been forced to disband due to falling membership. This, I'm afraid to say, is becoming all too common with many traditional dance sides struggling to find new members and this includes GG.



The music side of the festival was a great success with headliners of the three paying concerts being Barbara Dickson, Kathryn Tickell and Merry Hell. There were many free concerts and events too, in fact as it was a Bank Holiday weekend, for the first time ever the festival continued through to Monday with all events that day free.

Unfortunately, the weather took a turn for the worse but the concert, family ceilidh and workshops were pretty well attended despite the rainy afternoon. A measure of the festival's success was the CAMRA bar running out of beer by Sunday evening!

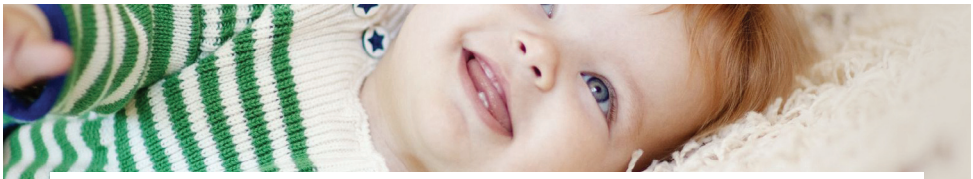
Since the festival, our only outing has been to St Julian's Methodist Church in June when we entertained the Monday afternoon group with one of our usual offerings of dance displays and audience participation.

Gwerinwyr Gwent (meaning: folk people of Gwent) was founded in 1976 and we dance just for pleasure, although we take part in festivals both in Wales/UK and Europe, and give demonstrations and run events including twmpaths/ceilidhs locally. Costumes are made from traditional Welsh flannel in a variety of colours and patterns with of course the famous tall Welsh hat worn by the ladies.

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

Dancing is fun, it is exercise, but you don't have to be super fit to do it...why not give it a try!

For more details visit our website www.gwerinwyrgwent.org.uk, ring 01495 271953



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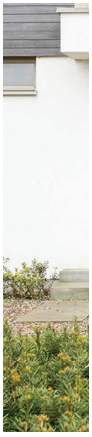
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The Joys of Summertime Tasks on Twmbarlwm



Bracken bashing volunteers in their essential hi-viz take on the weather and encroaching bracken on the hill-fort at the summit of Twmbarlwm

Just got back home from our Bracken Bashing session on Twmbarlwm, extremely kna… sorry, ... exhausted, cold and soaked through to the skin and wondering "…is it really still July?"

But nonetheless I was thoroughly satisfied with a job well done and proud of our brave band of volunteers who turned out for this essential part of our landscape management project. Bracken bashing is a strenuous activity in the best of conditions but at the top of a mountain in driving rain it's a full-body work-out.

Not-so-doddery OAPs make up much of our group so we were extremely grateful on this occasion when we were joined by a very hard-working couple of visiting Ukrainians who were keen to help out the community who are showing them so much compassion. Even a 10 year old lad (looking very much like my grandson) destroyed swathes of bracken with a fluorescent bashing-stick he had made himself for the event.

However, it was the extreme weather conditions that got me to thinking about global-warming and how it affects our local activities. The previous day had been a typical seasonal July day – overcast but fine – and when I saw the weather forecast for the following day I had to seriously consider calling off the planned event, but I know the CTS volunteers are a hardy, committed crew.

Last year, in particular, was a very mixed bag of weather conditions for the various events on the mountain. Starting with the Good Friday Hot-Cross-Bun Walk in April when it was brilliant sunshine and blue skies. Come the Jubilee Beacon event in June we could barely stand on the top due to high winds (at least it wasn't raining).

Then in August during our archaeological dig the first week was so hot we had to cancel work for a couple of days. Yet in the second week the weather changed so drastically you could barely see your hand in front of your face, it was that wet and misty – again howling gales on the Friday caused us to finish up early.

Those experiences are borne out by the Met Office who declared that 2022 was a record-breaking year for weather extremes and is a sign of the UK's changing climate. Not only was 2022 the first year in the UK when 40°C was recorded, it was also the warmest year in records back to 1884.

The *'State of the UK Climate'* report examined the weather of 2022 in the context of long-term climate records. The report highlights how the UK's climate continues to change, with recent decades warmer, wetter and sunnier than ever.

Climate change affects the intensity and frequency of precipitation. Warmer oceans increase the amount of water that evaporates into the air. When more moisture-laden air moves over high ground or converges into a storm system, it can produce more intense precipitation.

Therefore we in Wales can only look forward to more of the same and maybe should expect to cancel a few more events in the future.

Terry Evans, Chairman
Cymdeithas Twmbarlwm Society

Cymdeithas Twmbarlwm Society 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.

www.twmbarlwm.co.uk



Support for Asbestos Victims in the Newport Area

Asbestos Awareness & Support Cymru (AASC) is an independent charity providing support to victims of asbestos related illnesses and their families in Wales and is currently planning more support groups and events in and surrounding the Cwmcarn, Newport area! 'CafeAASC' is a concept of bringing people with a shared understanding together informally over light refreshments and the charity would welcome anyone who has been diagnosed with an asbestos related illness or anyone who is caring for a loved one who has been diagnosed to get in touch. There are also plans to hold a Patient & Carer event in the area in Autumn too which will provide an opportunity for those who have been diagnosed with the asbestos related cancer, Mesothelioma, asbestosis or pleural thickening to speak with health professionals and specialist advisors whilst meeting with others in relaxed surroundings.

Jo Barnes-Mannings, the founder of the charity identified a need in Wales following her father's diagnoses of Mesothelioma and explains, " AASC was set up in November 2011 with the hope of providing additional support to those who's lives have been devastated by illnesses that were very often caused by doing an honest day's work. Sadly, due to Wales' industrial past and a latency period of up to several decades, we have seen an increase in the number of cases in recent years. We would encourage anyone who has been affected by an asbestos related illness to get in touch so that we can offer our support and share information."

For more information, visit the website www.a-a-s-c.org.uk or call 01495 272479



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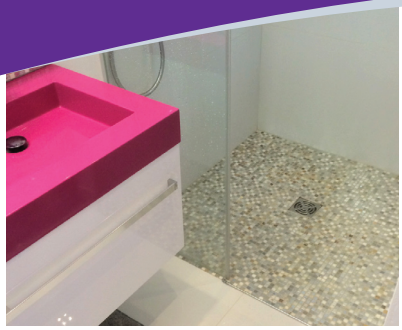
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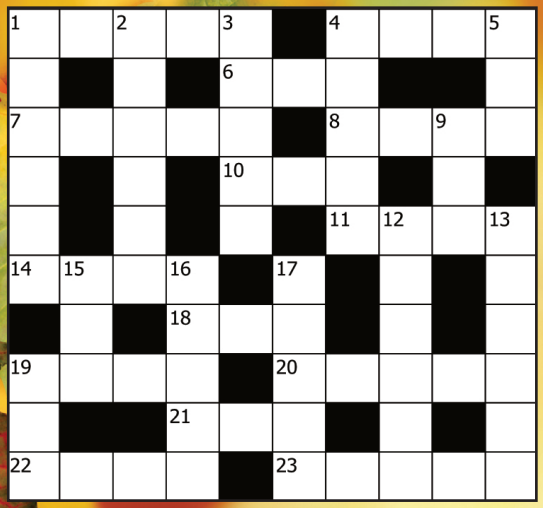
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Puzzles

CROSSWORD



Across
1. Plenty (5)
4. First man (4)
6. Cut the grass (3)
7. Steam room (5)
8. As well as (4)
10. Writing fluid (3)
11. Great story or film (4)
14. Ooze or leak (4)
18. Boy's name (3)
19. Large room (4)
20. Turn, rotate (5)
21. Be in debt (3)
22. Ditch around castle (4)
23. Of Rome (5)

Down
1. Estimate value of (6)
2. Dive into (6)
3. Computer message (5)
4. Not asleep (5)
5. Cow noise (3)
9. Snow shoe (3)
12. Small stage or lectern (6)
13. Cardboard container (6)
15. Long time (3)
16. Plane flyer (5)
17. Go into (5)
19. Bacon (3)

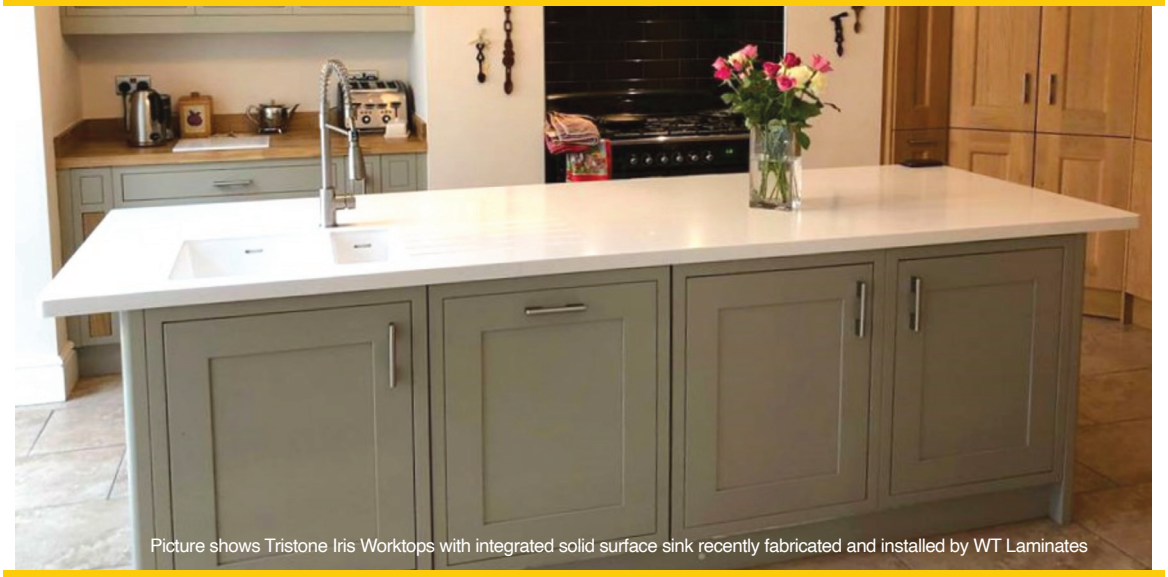
SUDOKU

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.

Solutions on page 29

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Positive steps and moving forward

For parents like myself, the summer holidays were great fun, hard work, but rewarding nonetheless. September lends itself to a pre-New Year focus, as many of us will have had a holiday or mini break from normality and this break naturally gives us time to think, contemplate and consider what you would like to do next. You now find yourself having the chance to reconnect and discover new opportunities for yourself, whether this is for your health, career or future goals.

During the Autumn, we spend time focusing on new routines and sometimes missing the opportunity to get prepared for the months ahead. If you're like me, I quite simply dread the winter, I work outdoors 90% of the time so the thought of Winter is slightly disconcerting. However, I have used my holiday this year to reflect on previous years and find ways to boost my spirits before the darker mornings and nights draw in.

I'm making positive steps and moving forward into the next season with a sense of ambition and purpose. I am getting prepared to ensure that this winter, will run smoothly and I'm more determined than ever to look after my health. So, what am I doing?

During the summer months I booked a health check-up and have now have a plan on how to boost my Micro-nutrient levels and will be taking certain vitamins to keep my body topped up. I've booked time off in October for a complete re-charge and rest, reducing stress levels, inflammation and the chance of burnout and or illness.

PBF Fitness
Pretty Bloomin Fablas Fitness

If you ever need help or advice, please get in touch, I'm here to help. Thanks for reading, Karla. 07791 217306

September is an alcohol-free month, to allow my body time to recuperate from a hectic summer and a chance to detox. My diet has improved dramatically and I am reducing my processed food, whilst including lots more colourful fruit and vegetables to improve my gut health, whilst taking a daily pro-biotic to boost my immune function. Finally, I've taken stock of my workload and created a manageable work programme to support my bodies physical, emotional and mental needs.



This may sound a lot, but Covid has had a significant impact on my body, like so many, and being such a physically active person, it has been very difficult to accept that I need to change. Time out and holidays have given the lifeline I needed to, stop and reassess what is needed In order for me to continue to do the job I love. This has been a journey of reflection, it has not been easy, but I am working towards a healthier, happier me.

So, what will you do, to improve your health? Lots of us will wait until January to make changes, but if change needs to happen now, then don't wait, make it happen today. Do something today, your future body will thank you for in years to come, your worth it.

If you ever need help or advice, please get in touch, I'm here to help. Thanks for reading, Karla.

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A	M	P	L	E	■	A	D	A
S	■	L	■	M	O	W	■	■
S	A	U	N	A	■	A	L	S
E	■	N	■	I	N	K	■	K
S	■	G	■	L	■	E	P	I
S	E	E	P	■	E	■	O	■
■	R	■	I	A	N	■	D	■
H	A	L	L	■	T	W	I	S
A	■	■	O	W	E	■	U	■
M	O	A	T	■	R	O	M	A

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

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BEACHES IN WALES

Porthcawl – Rest Bay Beach



Porthcawl's Rest Bay is a long sandy west facing beach and is popular with surfers.

It is designated a Blue Flag beach based on the cleanliness of the water and the state-of-the-art water sports centre, which provides the perfect base for adventure seekers eager to sample South Wales' outdoor activity.
Dogs are not allowed on the beach from May to the end September.
The annual Elvis Festival in Porthcawl takes place between 23rd & 25th September and attracts Elvis tribute artists and devotees from across the world. It is recognized as the biggest gathering of Elvis fans in Europe and maybe in the world.
Early last September, we took a stroll along the board walk part of the coastal path enjoying the views of the bay and the golf course.



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Rogerstone Roses WI

Meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month at 7.00pm in St John the Baptist Church Hall, Risca Road - The Handpost

For more details please contact: Mrs Joan McDermott 01633 662940

Usk New Start Cat Rescue

We rescue abandoned and stray kitties and support owners to re-home.

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 musical classes

Newport u3a has several musical classes including the long established Listening to Music Group. This sociable 'ensemble' listens to a wide range of music chosen by its enthusiastic members. Recently we've also had a video presentation based on the diaries of Clara and Robert Schumann, and a CD course about Mozart's life and music.

It gives us the opportunity to enjoy the positive effects of music whilst interacting with others. Some present a 'Desert Island Discs' selection or give a



presentation on a pet subject. We regularly attend concerts together and go out for a monthly lunch.

During the summer recess we continued to meet at each other's homes followed by a stroll to a local inn for a meal together.

u3a learn, laugh, live

Newport u3a resumes its meetings for the retired at the Dolman Theatre on 6th September. For more information visit our website u3asites.org.uk/newportsewales or phone Angela Robins on 07983 130541.

Belle Vue
Park & Tea Room



What's On



September

Belle Vue Artisan Market
Sunday 3rd 11.00am-4.00pm
Our popular monthly market returns with new and regular artisan bakers, makers and creators.
We collect a donation as an entry fee for our charity of the year Sparkle.

Bandstand Music
Sunday 3rd 1.00pm and 3.00pm
Newport Symphony Orchestra
Sunday 10th 1.00pm-3.00pm
Rogerstone Community Band
Sunday 24th 1.00pm – 3.00pm
Dave Williams Band bringing a selection of new and known songs to brighten your day.

Street Food Friday
Friday 15th 6.30pm – 9.30pm
Our final street food evening of 2023 sees the return of Andy Davies who will bring to life favourite sounds from across the decades. Street Food vendors, Cluckin Bull, Iona's Kitchen, Chai Delights, Happy Dumpling, bar and cocktails from Fairy Glen and Tipsy Mule. All welcome. Free entry.

October

Belle Vue Artisan Market
Sunday 1st
11.00am – 4.00pm
Welcome to our build up to Christmas with 40 plus stalls each month brimming full of gifts, artisan food and drink, health and beauty products.
Call us if you would like to try your own stall. We can help you get started.

Halloween
Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th
Come and join us for our ghostly mini meander through the pavilion. Tickle the creepy skeleton bones of Zeth and Amos, take the witch challenge, play tic tac to with mini pumpkins and try your hand in our slithery, slimy lucky dip. Louby Lou Storytellers will be joining us to delight. Ghoulish goodie bag included. Call Jan on 07737 630657 or visit the website for tickets.









Afternoon Teas available daily £18.50 per person. Bookable online www.bellevuetearoom.uk.
Christmas tickets for Santa and our grotto on sale shortly via our website.
To keep up to date with what's on in Belle Vue Park, follow us on Facebook @bellevuetearooms or call Jan on 07737 630657

St David's Hospice Care

Fundraising Calendar of Events 2023



Charity Golf Day

Thursday 28th September 2023
Newport Golf Club
9am onwards

4 Ball £200 per team



Pen y Fan Horseshoe Challenge

Saturday 30th September 2023

Run for us

CARDIFF HALF
HANNER MARATHON CAERDYDD

Sunday 1st October 2023



Twilight Memory Walk

Sat 7 October 2023
Caldicot Castle
Arrive for 5pm for a 6:15pm start



Where's Wally? Day

Friday 27th October 2023

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Saturday 2nd December 2023
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Swan RESCUE

A Most Challenging Situation

In 40 years of rescuing swans, it would be fair to say we have not faced a situation quite like the one which came to our attention around mid-June 2023. The incident which was ever so slightly reminiscent was recorded in March/April 2017 (SWD Issue No.66). It related to the rescue of a lone swan 'trapped' in the fish pass in The Barrage – it just could not find its way out.

What follows relates to a problem order of magnitude more challenging; it involves a pair of swans which nested inside the now defunct and sealed-up Roath Lock – one time entry point to Roath Basin from Cardiff Bay; it is closely adjacent to the Norwegian Church.

The existence of a problem was first drawn to the attention of Swan Rescue towards the end of June, by which time the cygnets, of which there were seven (originally eight) would have been a little over a month old. From a welfare standpoint, two issues needed to be addressed: firstly, the absolute certainty there would not be anywhere near enough natural food to sustain such a large family through to fledging, and secondly there is nowhere near enough space in which to 'learn' to fly. Linked to the latter would be the extreme unlikelihood of, especially the young swans being able to gain enough height quickly enough to clear all the possible obstacles on the minimal number of flight path options.

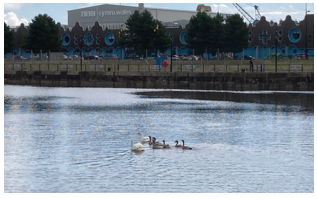
It took a month for an action plan to be put together. During this time, as became clear in the days leading up to the rescue, many people were feeding the swans, large quantities of green vegetables, brown bread and floating duck and swan food pellets.

And so it was, on the morning of Tuesday 25th July, there was a









gathering of four RSPCA inspectors along with their large red inflated rubber dinghy, complete with outboard motor. Immediately, it was apparent there was a serious logistics problem, how to 'launch' the boat having regard to the shear vertical 8m (estimated) drop into the lock.

Salvation was sought and obtained from the Bridgend Station of the Fire and Rescue Service. This came in the form of a large truck with a very substantial hydraulically operated crane at the rear.

Given the nature of the situation, it was clear the preparations to make a start on the rescue were dominated by safety considerations, so everything was done with meticulous care.

The rescue crew comprised three in the boat the skipper/helmsman and two catchers each with a swan hook. Ashore was a receiver to accept each swan as it was caught and secure it in one of the vehicles. First to be caught was the adult male, followed by two cygnets. Eventually they all fell to the skill and persistence of the boat crew, but the adult female was quite a challenge!

The original plan had been to release the family into Cardiff Bay i.e. behind the barrage. In the course of the morning's work, it emerged that the territory normally occupied by the adult pair is actually Roath Basin. Thus, there was no argument but that this would be the correct place to release them...and instantly, they looked completely at home.

An enormous debt of gratitude is due to both the RSPCA and Fire and Rescue teams for dealing with what initially was, very obviously, a truly daunting problem.

Story by Peter & Ellen, photographs by RSPCA Cymru.
For swan problems please contact Peter & Ellen on 07802 472788.


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Hardy Plant Society Monmouthshire Branch

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Ammi majus

- **Saturday 2nd Sept 2.30pm Little Mill Village Hall 'Robinson's Wild Garden at Gravetye'** an illustrated talk by Tom Coward the Head Gardener at Gravetye Manor in Sussex.
- **Saturday 9th September The Usk Show** a highlight for many. We will be selling plants on our stand. Come and buy!
- **Saturday 14th October 2.30pm Little Mill Village Hall 'A Garden above the Estuary' by Adam Alexander.** Adam will be full of tips and techniques for his speciality of growing heritage veg thus ensuring what you grow is at reasonable cost and by sustainable, organic methods.
- **Wednesday 18th October Tim Walker 'Paradise Lost and Restored' a Zoom talk at 7.30** Tim, the former Director of Oxford Botanic Garden looks at how gardening has changed over the last 400 years. Or has it?



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