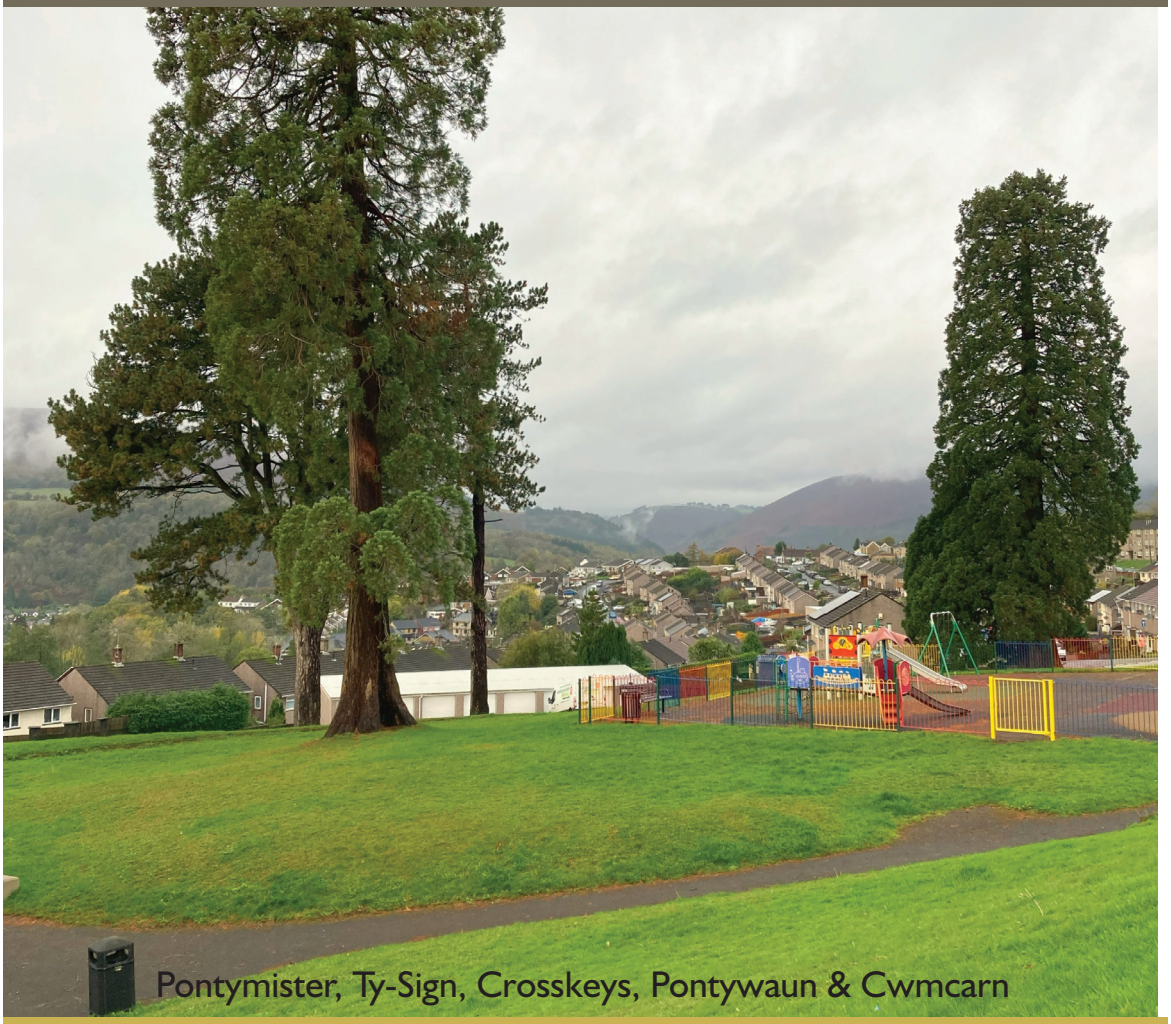
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Susan x

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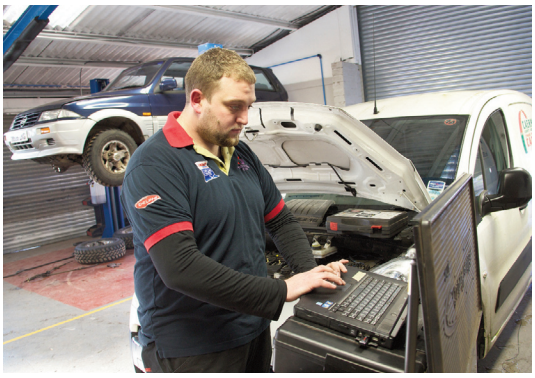
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The Joys of Summertime Tasks on Twmbarlwm



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.

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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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Risca MUSEUM

Oxford House Industrial History Society

The 1971 prospectus for the Oxford House Adult Education Centre included a series of lectures on Industrial Archaeology by Raymond Bowen. The group that signed up for the course were so enthused that they persuaded Ray to give a further set of lectures in the following term.



With enthusiasm increased further, they wished to continue but Ray had run out of subject matter, so it was decided to form the Oxford House Industrial Archaeology Society. Early leaders were Jack Lewis, Albert Clark and Howard Meyrick with Ray Bowen agreeing to become their President. They became a permanent fixture on the Adult Education programme, doing local research, inviting guest speakers to lecture and rescuing metal signs from disused railway lines and canals that were being dug up and sold for scrap. The warden allowed them to put these on the grass area outside the Oxford House buildings which was actually his garden! When the new Risca Comprehensive school was built, the warden of Oxford House was offered the opportunity to use empty classrooms in the old Pontymister secondary school on the main road. He immediately transferred the Society meetings and was even more pleased when the Society got agreement to use an empty building in the schoolyard as a museum (allowing him to reclaim his lawn). Once it had become established there was an official opening by renowned Welsh broadcaster Wynford Vaughan-Thomas on 13th January 1979. One of the members alerted the Society to the discovery of the contents of an old chemists shop in Cardiff Bay. It had been boarded-up for many years but, after it had been bought by the adjoining bank to be demolished, it was discovered that it had been closed-up with everything left untouched. With no-one in Cardiff willing to help, the Society resolved to save as much as possible from the skip. Another empty room in the school was available and every evening a small group laboured, transferring cabinets, boxes and bottles from Cardiff to Risca.



After a short time, it was decided that the stored items could be reconstructed into a close replica of the original chemist shop and this became a second arm of the museum.

When the school site was sold off (it's now the Lidl's store and car park), all the museum artefacts and the chemist shop were moved to an empty industrial unit in Pontllanfraith for storage and the Society returned to Oxford House for their lectures. This continued for over three years, whilst by this time, younger members had taken on the main roles, notably Robin Williams, Tony Jukes and Derek Sach.

In 1995, using European Heritage funding, the local authority

purchased the empty former Miners Institute next to Oxford House, converting the upper floor for use as additional classrooms and offering the ground floor for Risca Museum. Volunteers from the Society reinstalled the museum items and chemist shop with one room being able to be used for lectures. Around this time, it was decided to amend the Society name from Industrial Archaeology Society to Industrial History Society which better reflects the wide range of interests, local and social history as well as strictly industrial.


Miners Institute

Since the start of the Society meetings start at 7pm every Friday evening for an interesting talk (walks and visits during the summer months) and the museum opens on Saturdays between 10am and 12.30pm. Annual membership of the Society is £30 which entitles you to attend every lecture; visitors pay £2 for a single evening which is refundable if they become a member. There is also a Friends of the Museum group to help fund the operation of the museum at £10 a year. Both Members and Friends receive a monthly newsletter and other information.

Oxford House
Industrial Archaeology Society

request the pleasure of the company of

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INDUSTRIAL HISTORY MUSEUM

on Saturday, 13th January, 1979
at 4.00 p.m.

in the old PONTYMISTER UPPER SCHOOL by
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Society talks will start on Friday September 1st. Make contact via our Facebook page or website www.riscamuseum.org.uk or call in to the Museum on a Saturday.

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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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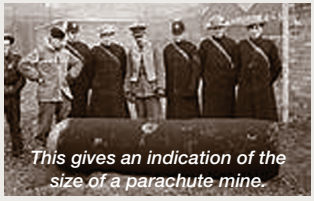
by Paul Minton



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.

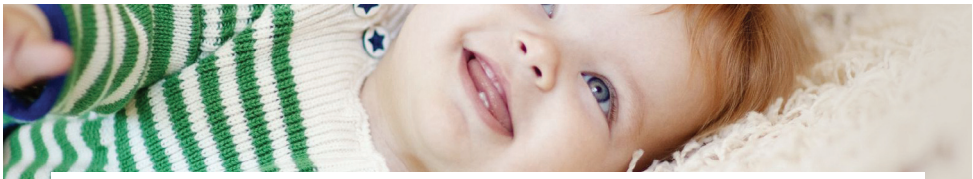
Perhaps one of the earliest attacks in the town was when Viscountess Rhondda attempted to blow up a post box on Risca Road in the name of women's suffrage. Her homemade incendiary was deposited into the box one day in June 1913 and caused damage to the mail inside. She refused to pay a £10 fine (presumably, 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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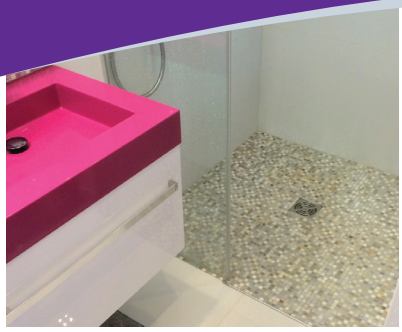
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Gwerinwyr Gwent Diary

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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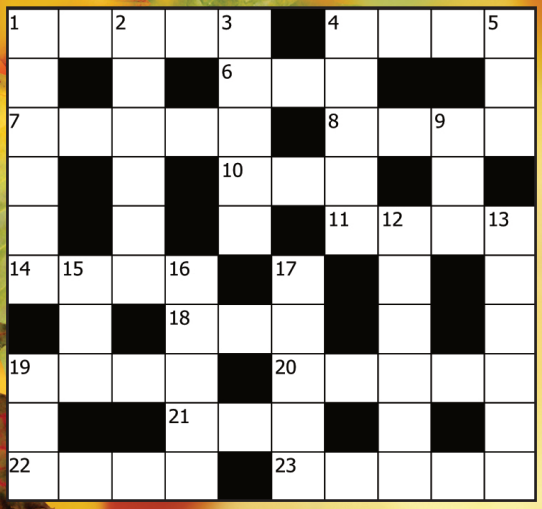




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10. Writing fluid (3)
11. Great story or film (4)
14. Ooze or leak (4)
18. Boy's name (3)
19. Large room (4)
20. Turn, rotate (5)
21. Be in debt (3)
22. Ditch around castle (4)
23. Of Rome (5)

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)

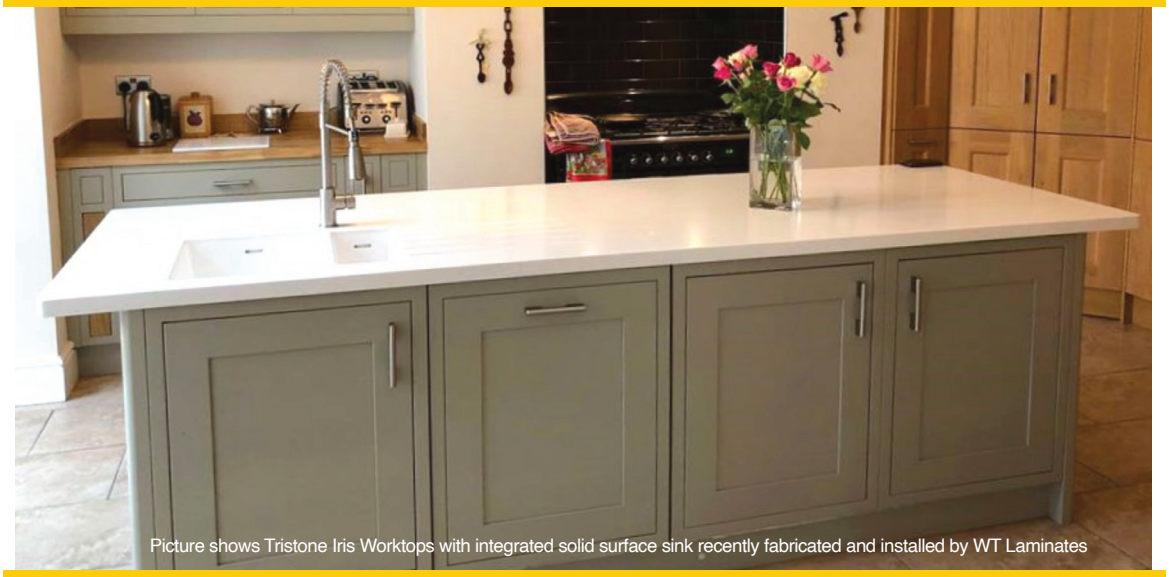
SUDOKU

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 23

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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.

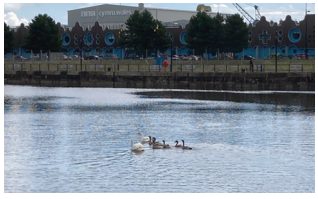
It took a month for an action plan to be put together. During this time, as became clear in the days leading up to the rescue, many people were feeding the swans, large quantities of green vegetables, brown bread and floating duck and swan food pellets.

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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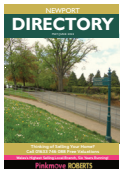
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8	1	3	7	2	4	9	6	5
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BEACHES IN WALES

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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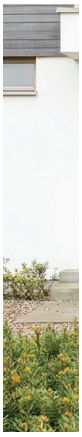
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