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ISSUE 105 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023



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Thank you to all the distributors who, no matter how bad the weather is, deliver the Directories for us. Thank you to the residents and organisations for sending us articles for publication in the Directory. Finally, a very special thank you to the advertisers for their continued support, without the financial support from the advertisers there would be no Directory.

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Wishing you a happy and healthy festive period.

Warm wishes

Susan x

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Between Tregwilym and Tydu

By Derek Picken (To be continued)

It's difficult to say where the old Rogerstone hamlet of Tregwilym ended and the Rogerstone hamlet of Tydu began. For this article it is somewhere between the end of the 'Buildings' houses (or these days the new Co-Op) and the Pentecostal Chapel. This relatively small area has a wealth of history most of which is summarised in this series of articles.



The old Castle mansion viewed from the West and the East

The Castle mansion is believed to have been constructed on, or next to, the castle mound in the 1600's together with the adjoining castle cottage and the stables. When Nettlefolds moved to the Rogerstone site in 1885 the Castle mansion was used as the offices until the Office block near the old viaduct was built. Also built then was the new Managers House, now demolished and replaced with an unsightly apartment block at the entrance to Jubilee Park Housing estate.
The car park at the top of the picture has seen many changes



The Managers house from the air and the adjoining garages (ex-stables) and The Castle Cottage 1971

over the years. When Nettlefolds first moved to Rogerstone it was called castle Fields along with the other field alongside the Managers house being the other Castle fields. The field which became the car park was part of the field where the famous Rogerstone soccer side played and the works cricket team. Their base was in the Institute on the opposite side of the road. The correct name of the soccer side was Castle Works Rovers, but this name was rarely referred to in press reports or on photographs where it was just referred to as Rogerstone AFC. The club ceased to exist in ca 1907 it is thought due to loss of players due to no work being available.
In the early 1950's very few workers could afford cars (which



An aerial photograph of the Tregwilym area showing part of the grass Castle field and ex sports ground and across the road the other castle field with brown patches which were the start of the groundwork for the New Alcan Office block in ca. 1950.



The new Alcan Office Block (early 1950's)

In the early 1950s the new Alcan Office block was built on the castle field next to the managers house and to the immediate right was the new entrance road to the works with a new gatehouse and weighbridge.

Interestingly the new main entrance was where the old Rogerstone 'Fire Station' was originally sited. It was just a large handcart with a water tank and hand pump. Apparently the fire brigade were often seen pulling/pushing and running with it through the village for practice. This was probably financed by Guest keen and Nettlefolds.

Opposite the Alcan offices was the village Doctors where, if you needed to see a Doctor, you just walked in any weekday and joined the queue. The Doctors would work until everyone had been seen. No appointments needed.

were rarely seen) and with the post war expansion of the Aluminium works most workers from the valleys etc had buses provided by the works. The Castle field therefore became a bus park which was very busy at shift changes as sown in the photograph below.



The works bus park at shift change ca. 1950.



The Rogerstone Fire brigade (photo pre 1914)

As the Alcan workforce grew and cars became more affordable the main workforce gradually changed transport from buses to cars and initially there was a bus stop plus a car park and eventually just a car park.



The works old bus park now a car park ca 1960



'Ovoca' The original Doctors consulting rooms and residence (now the left section of Tregwilym Lodge residential care home)

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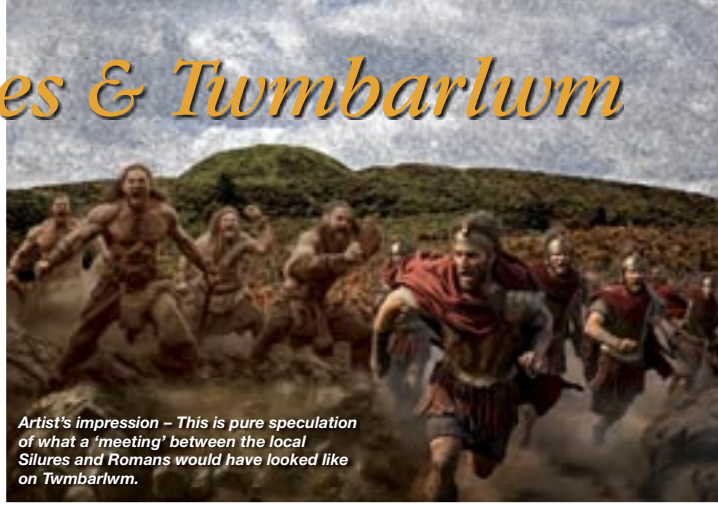
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The Silures & Twmbarlwm

In the early days of CTS some members wanted to refer to Twmbarlwm as *"…the home of the Silures"* but it was decided that was too bold a claim to make when the likes of Llanmelin hill-fort has stronger claims.

However, carbon dating of samples taken during our recent archaeological digs show that the Twmbarlwm hill-fort was certainly in existence during the Roman occupation – but, unfortunately we found no solid evidence of links with local peoples.



Artist's impression – This is pure speculation of what a 'meeting' between the local Silures and Romans would have looked like on Twmbarlwm.

Nearly all of what we know of the relationship of the Silures with the Romans comes from one man – the Roman historian Tacitus, who mentions the Silures in two of his works, *The Annals* and *The Agricola*.

Although the Silures were unquestionably Celtic speakers they did not fit the description of the Classical Celts, who are described as being mainly blond. Indeed, Tacitus describes them as "swarthy" and notices a preponderance of black, curly hair. He compares them, not improbably, with the Iberians – the Spaniards of his day. They occupied the whole of the old counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth, and some way into Brecon. Horses played a large part in their religion and it may be their skill in horsemanship that made them so formidable.

The Romans found little opposition in their initial invasion of Britain; many of the tribes of southern England being pro-Roman. After a minor rebellion by the Iceni tribe of East Anglia they drove over the Severn into what is now south-east Wales. There they had a shock: the Silures were definitely not pro-Roman. The invaders tried both carrot and stick tactics but as Tacitus remarks *"Neither severity nor kindness could prevent the Silures from carrying on the war."*

They then combined forces with Caratacus, a British prince who had refused to welcome the Romans. However, a combined force of Britons from both south and north Wales under his leadership was defeated somewhere in Shropshire and Caratacus was captured, to live out the rest of his life under house arrest in Rome.

The invaders assumed the Silures would sue for peace – but they did not. Instead, they attacked, killing the Roman Prefect and *"eight Centurions and the bravest of the private soldiers."* The Roman commander, Ostorius, was so enraged he stated that the enemy should either be transplanted inside the Empire or, better still, exterminated. However, Ostorius died without either ambition being realised.

The Romans had established forts at Abergavenny and Usk, but so great was the threat that they began to establish one of the only three Legionary forts south of Caledonia at what is now Caerleon.

The Romans moved their assault to north Wales to destroy the Druid sanctuary on Mona (Anglesey). They then had to deal with a major uprising from the Iceni, led by the redoubtable Boudica, which also ended with the Romans victorious.

However, the Silures fought on, having added the defeat of an entire legion to their accomplishments. Nero, alarmed by the near success of the Boudican uprising, removed armies from Germany to Britain to deal with the problem, over 2,000 legionaries, eight cohorts of auxiliaries and 1,000 cavalry. Faced with the forces of an entire Empire it was only a matter of time for the Silures, whose guerrilla tactics had frustrated the invaders for so long.

Tacitus' final words on the war refer to the final victor, Julius Frontinus, in these complimentary terms for his foe: *"He subdued by force of arms the strong and warlike nation of the Silures, after a hard struggle, not only against the valour of his enemy, but against the difficulties of the terrain."*

Thus the Silures were pacified, their capital, Llanmelin, was abandoned and a new one established at Caerwent.

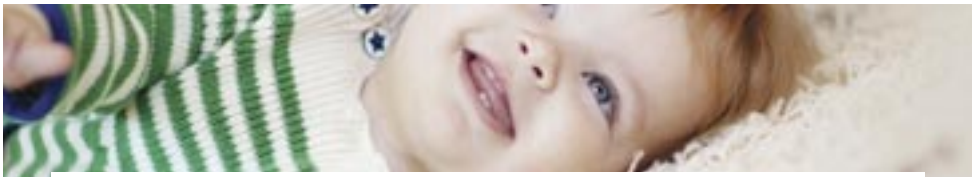
Their valour was not lost, having held off the Romans, Saxons, and battled long and hard against the Normans, their descendants are still here.

Who knows? Perhaps you are one!

Martyn Vaughan, Trustee
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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24th December 11.15 pm - Midnight Communion Service
25th December 10 am - Christmas Day Celebration

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Questions and Connections

As I am writing this in October it seems a little strange to wish any reader a Happy Christmas but as you will be reading this somewhat later in the year it does seem appropriate. So may I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous new year. It also seems appropriate, at this time, to say thank you to those of you who do skim my ramblings.

Enough of the pleasantries, down to the nitty gritty and the question is, What is the connection between the subjects listed below.





Captain Henry Morgan, a pirate; Darts and Skittles; Keep fit; Blood Bike Wales; Christmas Traditions; Comic entertainer.

An eclectic list isn't it and the connection is possibly elusive. Not however to any Rogerstone Roses' W.I. member, these are just some of the topics and experiences that have made up some of our programme since September. There are always new things to learn and different experiences to be had.

I have played skittles before quite a few times, not that in this case practise makes perfect, but its always good fun and a chance to chat to folk whilst waiting your turn. So, all in all a jolly sociable evening. Darts on the other hand is a first, so working on the principle that if I actually manage to hit the board, this will be a result. Hopefully everyone will have the sense to stand clear. This is an event organised by Gwent Federation and is held in Usk, our group is sending two teams of four and rumour has it that one of the ladies in our other team actually has a cup for winning a darts competition, so my expectations are greatly inflated by this inspiring info!!! Whatever, as I've said very recently sometimes you win and sometimes you lose but it is actually the taking part that is important. I can hear some of you sighing at this juncture that winning is important, which it is but I believe its not the most important factor, learning to lose gracefully is an important skill which stands one in good stead when treading life's rich path. That's enough preaching for now and on to a part of our programme that is much more serious, Blood Bikes Wales. Blood Bikes Wales is a charity founded in 2011, it provides a free motorcycle courier service to the NHS, it consists of a fleet of bikes ridden and co-ordinated by volunteers. These volunteers deliver blood to hospitals all over Wales, thus saving the NHS taxi fares and courier fees. A very worthwhile charity.

Captain Henry Morgan

I had heard a little about Henry Morgan prior to our talk and I did know that he was related to the Lords of Tredegar, as will anyone who has visited Tredegar House, but Henry's life was much more interesting and he was certainly a 'posh pirate', not your usual high seas robber, more a privateer, who spent much of his adult life in the Caribbean doing the king's bidding.

Space is finite and there is no more so any topic left uncovered will have to remain so. Once again Happy Christmas.

Liz James

Get into your loft, and into the Christmas Spirit, safely this year!

Approximately 1,000 people a year are hurt when decorating their homes for Christmas each year, according to RoSPA. Injuries include; children biting into glass baubles, adults falling whilst using unstable chairs instead of ladders to put up streamers and ceiling decorations and, of course, falling out of lofts whilst looking for the Christmas decorations! For many home owners, the loft is an underutilised area because it can be difficult and dangerous to reach. Newport based loft ladder installer Access4Lofts (whose



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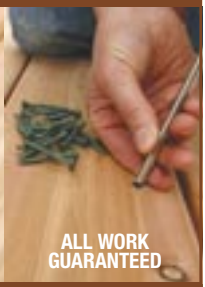
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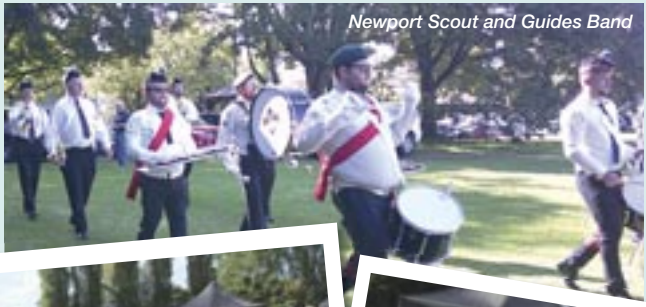
What a difference a year makes, the 2022 community get together was under the threat of heavy rain but for this year's event we were greeted with glorious sunshine. Just as well because the people of Rogerstone were treated to a wonderful variety of entertainment.

The day started with a marching display from the 'Newport Scout & Guide Band' that finished in front of the stage where young Lucas Reed received the Community Award for Kindness.

Kym Frederick from Newport City Radio then introduced a wonderful array of talent starting with the young ladies from Defying Gravity with an excellent display of dancing and acrobatics.

We once again had the pleasure of Ukulele Wolves playing at our event, they make such joyful music that you just want to sing along, and many did. Another musical talent returning to Rogerstone was Tobias Robertson who performed at the 'Let's Talk' event in 2017. He performed a wonderful set of songs that really illustrated the richness of his voice.

New to this year's event were: The Vikings (Blaeddau Du), the Viking reenactment group. They spent the day showing people traditional weapons and skills before a battle display. However, the Vikings were no match for the children of Rogerstone who left them a crumpled heap on the ground.



Newport Scout and Guides Band



Ukulele Wolves



Tobias Robertson



Vikings

The final act introduced by Newport City Radio and new to the festival was Josh Hicks. He did a lovely set and hit notes most people could only dream of.

Away from the stage the bouncy ship and slide were big attractions for the children whilst the adults could enjoy the Art Display in the hall and memories of Rogerstone past in the Cricket club.

Another important part of the festival was our stall holders, bringing a range of different items along with food and drink to keep everyone well fed.

Finally, an important part of our community are our local businesses, they took the opportunity to be involved in our special day by providing prizes for our raffle. So, many thanks to: Newport Golf Club, The Nook Café, The Loading Bay, Fourteen Locks Café, McDonalds, Morrisons, Dimensions Hair, Art Club, Bourton's Music School, Tesco, Newport Live, Co-op and others.

Our thanks also go to our community who came in great numbers to support the event.

Rogerstone Festival Committee.

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Life lessons

Life lessons are something we all experience every day, but do we actually accept and listen to the lesson or brush it off as another mistake?

As we head towards the close of 2023, can you identify with any key messages that you have learnt from this year? Are you more resilient that you thought, have you been more forgiving, did you try something new and realise you weren't actually as bad as you thought you were? Based on these outcomes, what will you take with you into 2024 to help you become a better version of yourself?

I've been in my business for 8 years and it's had its ups and downs, like any business. 2023 however, has been more challenging to me than going through the Pandemic. This is due to the one issue that I always took for granted, given I am still so young, my Health. This year I have experienced Covid for the 4th time. It has in every way broken my body and each time I learn how to adapt to get better. As a Personal trainer my work hours are long, intensive and I'm on my feet all day, which pushes my mental, physical and emotional capacity.

Covid has created a vulnerability in me that I need to learn about, regain control of and bring my health back in check.

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

I have had to reduce my workload by 50% to help manage fatigue, which has meant adjustments to living, I have adapted my diet to boost my Vitamins and Minerals to help manage my immunity, I have had to improve my sleep through Aromatherapy and meditation and I have to accept that I have long Covid for which I have sought the help of natural therapists to recover. This by far has been the most difficult lesson, accepting I need help. I am a stubborn and driven individual and I have always prided myself that I can do things on my own. My life lesson for 2023 has been to stop making the same mistakes and listen and accept help!

This has been a breakthrough, because without my health I cannot enjoy and do the simple things in life that bring happiness to me. I always thought my youth would shrug off a virus, but it hasn't and I am now re-inventing my health once again, so I can take the lessons with me into 2024 and keep learning about myself and how I can become healthier and enjoy the things in life that are meaningful.

What will you do to help you go forward into 2024? What help do you need? You can apply this to any element of your life which needs a little adjustment? 2023 is a time to stop, take check and listen to what you need to bring back the equilibrium, good luck.

Remember if you ever need help, advice or you simply have a question, please feel free to get in touch.

I have adapted my diet to boost my Vitamins and Minerals to help manage my immunity



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Tuesday	6.15pm	Body Conditioning - Online
Wednesday	10.00am	60+ - Hybrid
Thursday	6.15pm	Circuits - (Bookable)
Thursday	7.00pm	Pilates - Hybrid
Saturday	9.30am	Pilates in PJs - Online

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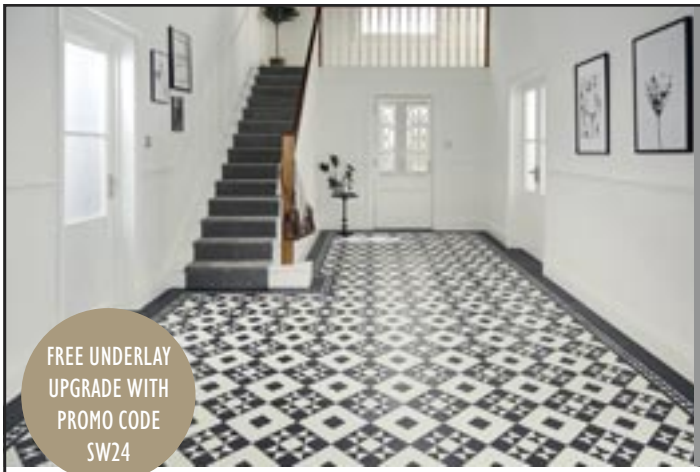


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I Want to Believe

by Paul Minton



Telling a ghost story in a Gower cafe was not what I had expected to be doing when my old university friend came over from Canada during the summer. I hadn't seen him since before COVID and so I was delighted to catch up. I collected him from Newport Central and had anticipated going to a few local pubs but when he said how much he missed the sea, I felt obliged to help him out. And so it was that we found ourselves drinking tea at the Three Cliffs Coffee Shop near Pennard.

Our conversation meandered around travel, jobs, and mutual acquaintances, before we started talking about podcasts and my friend asked if I had any recommendations. I mentioned one such show called 'Uncanny' (soon to be a TV series this October). In each episode, the host interviews a witness, who recounts a personal, supernatural experience and then, with the help of two experts, one a believer and the other a sceptic, they try to explain the mystery. My friend said excitedly that he was already a fan of the podcast and we laughed about how a pair of scientists should be so interested in a subject like the paranormal. But then, surely everybody enjoys a spooky tale and I had one to share. My friend looked at me keenly and invited me to continue. And so I did…

There was a man, who had travelled to his parents' home as he had just learned that his mother was dying. The news had been unexpected and the man and his father did what they could in those final days. Sadly, on one spring morning, the mother slipped away peacefully at home, with her husband and son at her bedside. After some little time had passed, the son took out his mobile phone and called his wife to break the news. No sooner had he returned the device to his pocket, a telephone rang somewhere in the house. But it wasn't the landline. Neither was it the son's mobile nor the father's. As the noise continued, father and son attempted to locate its origin and tracked it down to the mother's phone. When the son flipped open the old clamshell device, the screen showed the caller's identity and he was amazed to see that it was his name on the display. He pressed the answer button but unsurprisingly, there was no-one at the other end of the line. The son hung up and retrieved his own mobile to check its call history. Sure enough, a call had been placed from his phone to his mother's number a few minutes earlier. However, he had never made that call. Cynics would probably argue the son's finger must have slipped when putting away his mobile and he had dialled his mother accidentally – after all, her number was stored in his device's contact list but still, it was odd.

Several weeks later, the son went back home to his wife and returned to his job, albeit working remotely. On his first day, he glanced around his study and noticed an old block calendar. Each block was intended to be orientated so as to show a different number or month and thus provide the correct date. The item had become neglected and was largely forgotten and yet the date on the calendar, a random date that had been displayed, untouched, for years, was the same day on which his mother had passed away. Of course, it was just a fluke…wasn't it?

A slip of a finger plus a mere coincidence or something altogether more peculiar? I know which camp I fall into. After all, I was there.

I am the son.



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High Cross Community Hall

Winter Update

Our first year of operation is flying by and after a busy summer and autumn, there are no thoughts of winter hibernation at High Cross Community Hall! Here is an update of what has been happening at your local community facility.

What's on?

Scan the QR code with your mobile phone camera for 'What's on' details or visit our Facebook page for a full list of our winter schedule together with contact details for the groups who are using the Hall.

Money matters

We are delighted that our National Lottery Community Fund grant application has been approved in full enabling us to buy the former St Anne's Church Site. The sale process is progressing and, fingers crossed, we hope complete the purchase in the very near future.

Self-improvement

The hall volunteers are determined to provide a high quality venue for our local area. Renovation and upgrade efforts are now starting to get underway in earnest. Working from the bottom up (!), the unglamorous but vital work on Hall sewers has begun with a full CCTV condition survey. The entrance foyer has been beautifully redecorated and the tired looking male toilets have now had a complete modern refit. All of this work has been undertaken by our fantastic volunteers along with generous



donations of time and skills from local business. A big thank you to all who have contributed to improving the Hall environment for our visitors.

Young at heart

We are already developing as a significant hub for the Scouting and Girlguiding movements in the area. Meetings for local young people are now being held four nights a week with age groups ranging from 4 to 25 years.

Power to the people

We are very keen to make further progress on our mission to serve the local community and develop as a space for local training and classes. We are a volunteer run, non-profit organisation and offer attractive rates for fellow charities and community focused groups. We have a number of daytime slots available and would love to attract new visitors from all parts of our diverse neighbourhood.

Get the party started

Our reputation as a venue for children's parties is gathering pace and we have hosted a number of lively birthday celebrations. If you are interested in hiring our lovely hall space at reasonable rates, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



CRONFA GYMUNEDOL COMMUNITY FUND

Where are we and how to get here:

High Cross Community Hall (formerly St Anne's Church), Church Close, NP10 9SH
What3words: swim.each.scouts
We are 2 minute drive from M4 Junction 27
Public Transport Links:
Local Bus Stop – High Cross Post Office
Newport Bus Routes 1 (Newport) and R1 (Risca)
Stagecoach Route 56E
Pye Corner railway station 10 -15 minute walk (up a steep hill)
Contact us by email at: HCCH@newportscouts.org.uk

Join the team

Would you be willing to get involved with supporting your local community space?

We are currently looking for volunteers to join our Property Team. Grass cutting, painting or just a willingness to get stuck in, if you can give an hour a week or just one Saturday a year, any time and skills you can offer would be very welcome! Toolbox training and safety equipment is provided where necessary. Check out our new HCCH Property Team page for details!

The facilities

The Hall is already available for hire and we hope the Church building will soon be open for use once the property purchase process is complete. Each building has a capacity to accommodate around 150 people. In addition, the green and spacious grounds are ideal for outdoor activities. The site has a musical performance licence and on-site parking is free!

The Hall building

- Canteen style kitchen facilities
- Audio-Visual facilities
- Wheelchair access ramp
- Accessible toilet
- Baby changing facilities
- Stage curtains

The Church building

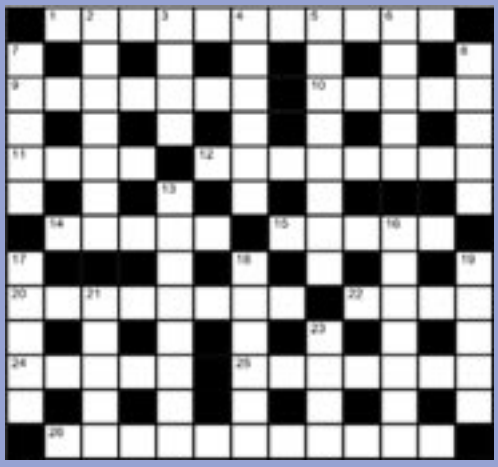
- Big screen projector
- PA audio equipment
- Hearing induction loop
- Raised stage area



28th Newport Scouts - Integrity, Respect, Care, Belief, Cooperation.

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

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

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 38

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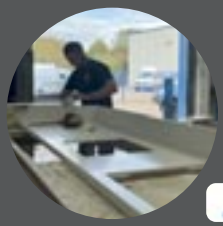
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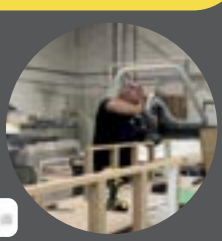
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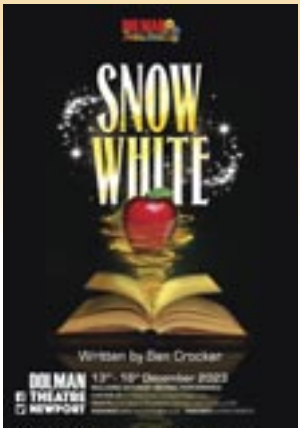
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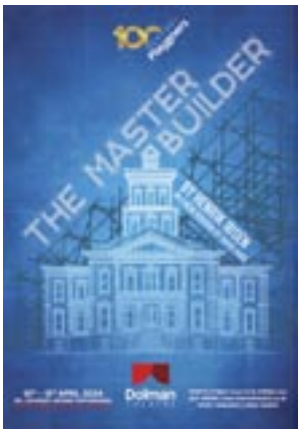
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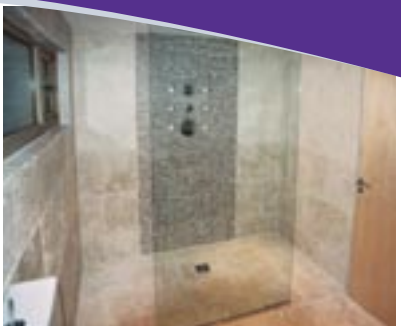
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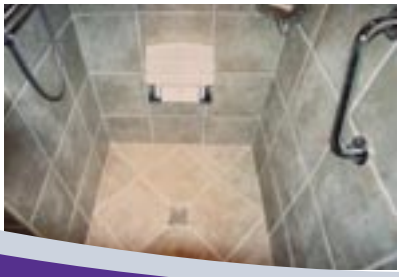
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Newport U3A Quickie Quiz

Newport u3a provides 40 active, leisure and cultural groups for the retired, plus it has a new addition to its timetable - 'Quickie Quiz' - a short monthly quiz of 40 questions.

The questions are chosen to appeal to our members' ages, diversity of interests, and experience, with just the occasional 'snorter' to sort out a winning team - we hope that those unable to answer the odd question will at least find it interesting! Teams are formed upon arrival so individuals can be included and members are invited to take a turn at being the quiz setter. The winners of the much coveted prize, bars of Gold (biscuits) at our first quiz were Marion Green, Sue Kilsby and Rob Wilkinson.



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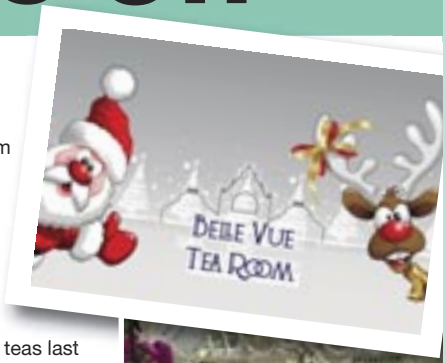
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What's On



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Friday 24th 6.00pm-8.00pm
Wreath making workshop with Chelsie from Appleblossom in May

December

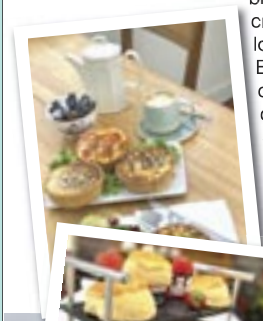
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Down: **2** Own goal, **3** Enid, **4** Spiral, **5** Caligula, **6** Largo, **7** Skate, **8** Babel, **13** Kangaroo, **16** Surgeon, **17** Spitz, **18** Peseta, **19** Pylon, **21** Ditto, **23** Ugli.

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

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The First Marathon for Quite Some Time

On each of the last nine days of September there was a call-out as a result of which just shy of 1200 miles was added to the car's logbook, including two trips to Shepperton. The first involved a very small cygnet (4.2kg) badly beaten up by a pair of adults on the Gloucester to Sharpness Canal. The second trip, marking the start of this marathon took us to Llandrindod – more mid than south Wales!

A local resident out walking with a friend near The Lake encountered two fairly large cygnets some 500 metres or so away from the lake. In the heat of the moment, it appeared there had been some kind of altercation on the lake – what we would describe as a territorial dispute. Accepting this to be the case, there was no alternative other than to bring the one bird which had been captured into care; the second cygnet had, meantime, disappeared.

Given what little was known of the history of this bird, it seemed the only sensible next step was to transport it to Shepperton. That was straightforward enough (the following day) except during a pit stop at Reading on the return, a call from Network Rail reported a pair of swans on the railway line at Allensmore, south of Hereford. They had been made safe (contained) but a 50 mile detour was now necessary to return them whence they had come.

Fast forward to the next day (2/10) and mid-morning Michelle rang to report a swan 'down' in the middle of a football pitch at Cogan; apparently unwilling to move and therefore somewhat vulnerable to any passing off-lead dog. Immediately, down tools and set off for Cogan. Halfway there, and in comes another call from Chloe at Llandrindod. She



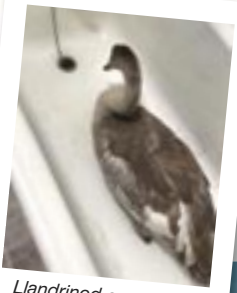
Grounded adult swan and Cogan Leisure Centre 2/10/2023

sounded desperate, and with good reason; the second cygnet had turned up, even further away from The Lake and under attack from two dogs. There really was no alternative but to deal with the Cogan situation as quickly as possible – capture, with the aid of two swan hooks in a corner of the playing field, and release at The Knap in Barry.

Next stop, Llandrindod for the second time in three days! The story to emerge from this is extraordinary.

The Lake at Llandrindod is not particularly large, so it is a bit of a surprise that it supports two pairs of breeding swans, but it does, and in 2023, each pair produced four cygnets. It now emerges that, at some point immediately prior to the start of this story, there were actually 10 cygnets on the lake, i.e., two intruders. This is difficult to understand or explain; only two possibilities appear to exist; one, the 2023 cohort of cygnets is only just starting to fly. We know of two cygnets flying out from Tredegar Park Lake, separately and landing in widely different locations. Not knowing the Llandrindod area intimately, we do not know where there might be other breeding swans which could be the source of these two intruders, but the likelihood of two coming down together in the same place seems a bit far-fetched. Two, we cannot rule out the possibility that these two unfortunate cygnets were thoughtlessly dumped on the lake by person or persons unknown in ignorance of the inevitable consequences of this action.

Chloe, having rescued the swan from the dogs secured it in her bath(!) awaiting my arrival for immediate transportation to Shepperton. The last time we asked, the two cygnets were doing well in SE England. We think this tale qualifies as a marathon!



Llandrinod cygnet on route to Shepperton

Story: Peter & Ellen. Photos: Michelle & Chloe.
For swan problems please contact Peter & Ellen on 07802 472788

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RWCC 2023 season review

In terms of weather 2023 will not live long in the memory (the warmest weekend actually arriving for our last two friendly fixtures), but despite this we still managed to play plenty of cricket across the various teams.

The 1st XI managed to record some early season wins, but as the weather deteriorated in the second half of the season, so did the results! Despite winning their final game against St Fagans 2nd XI, this could not prevent an 8th placed finish and relegation (due to league restructuring).

By contrast, the 2nd XI, ably led by Jamie Tutton, stormed to their 2nd league title in three seasons, comfortably winning Division 9. Despite several notable performances, the only centurion was Ben Williams, with 105 against Tredegar, in what turned out to be his only innings!

The 3rd XI were considerably stronger throughout the season and finished a very creditable 4th. Sib Majeed and Andrew Peggington both recording centuries, whilst skipper Martyn Smith fell tantalisingly short on 99 not out, despite several recounts.

The highlight of the season was hosting the MCC on 25th August, to celebrate the Club Centenary. Thankfully we managed to miss most of the poor weather forecast and in a well contested game the MCC posted a competitive 194-5 from their 35 overs, with



RWCC team v MCC

RWCC falling just short in reply on 180-7, Alec Holdaway top scoring with 77. Overall a great day.

The ladies team continues to grow and go from to strength, with the Rebels winning two winter indoor leagues at Wicket to Wicket, as well as the outdoor summer league. Congratulations to all who play and help run arguably our strongest team!

At Youth level the All Stars and Dynamo's Friday night sessions proved to be very popular again and the sun largely shone for the duration of the programme. A number of Dynamo's successfully transitioned into hardball cricket with the Under 11's, and Under 13's. Thanks to all the coaches, activators and volunteers who help run the programmes, along with the Groundstaff for making the Welfare Grounds such a lovely place to visit. Also, a big thank you to all our sponsors.

Many congratulations to Chairman Derek Picken for winning the Cricket Wales Volunteers Safe Hands Award which he was presented with at the SWALEC stadium at the end of September.



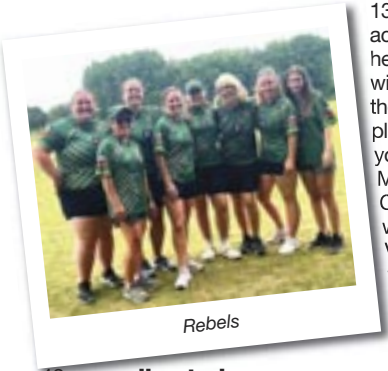
Jeff Walsh

And last, but not least, we were very sad to hear of the passing of Jeff Walsh, a Club life member and legend, and were touched by the numerous tributes received from the cricketing family throughout South Wales. Jeff was an unforgettable character and also known to many in the village. RIP Walshy and thanks for your immense contribution to RWCC.

Winter nets commence the start of February for senior and youth, where old and new faces are welcomed. Follow our Facebook page for news. For any youth queries contact Derek on 07851 863833 or (senior teams) Andrew on 07737 25841.

Winter well.

Andrew Trinder



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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



Afon village old construction bridge with river in full flow



Weir at Caerphilly Road bridge, Bassaleg



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Glandstone Street bridge, Crosskeys

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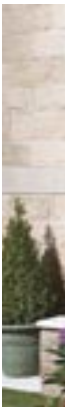
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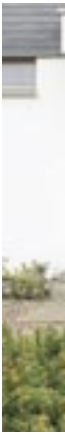


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