RISCA

DIRECTORY

ISSUE 98 MARCH/APRIL 2025



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Hopefully, the weather will warm up a little over the next couple of months and we'll all be able to take a walk in our beautiful countryside, along the canals, by the river and benefit from some spring sunshine.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter. Susan x



COPY DEADLINE FOR THE MAY / JUNE EDITION - MONDAY 31ST MARCH

Advertising enquiries: Telephone Leslie on 07725 888070 or email contact@swdirectories.co.uk

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Twmbarlwm ~ A Place For Memories?



The flowers may be biodegradeable but the frames on which they are built are metal or plastic which pollutes the landscape until they are removed.

On our monthly litter-pick yesterday I was asked about our policy regarding removing memorials that people have deposited on the mountain to commemorate their loved ones.

My answer was simple – we use a bit of common sense and try to be a little sympathetic to people's reasons for placing mementoes of their loved ones around our precious landscape. If it's material that looks unsightly and has obviously been there a long time – or if it is stuff that is likely to harm the environment, wildlife and livestock – then we will collect and dispose of it.

To bury or fix any items or materials into the hill-fort itself is, in fact, illegal because of its scheduled monument status and we will therefore remove it immediately (you should check out Cadw's guidelines on this topic).

But why do people do this? As we navigate the delicate journey of grief, many seek to honour the memories of loved ones in meaningful ways. For those who cherish Twmbarlwm and the British countryside in general, the thought of marking a favourite spot with a memorial of some sort or scattering cremated ashes can be a deeply soothing and personal act.

However, it's vital to know both the legalities and ethical considerations surrounding this practice, particularly when those we honour are passionate about the environment and landscape in which you are marking their memory.

Practically every square inch of the UK is owned by someone and to scatter ashes on private land requires the landowner's permission. It's always worth researching local guidelines, as some areas may have specific regulations – check with relevant authorities to ensure compliance and avoid unnecessary distress during this sensitive time.



Helium filled balloons may create a memorable moment for those involved but they create environmental havoc to wildlife and livestock for many miles around.

Assuming you have complied with all legalities, it's understandable to want to mark the occasion with tangible tokens of remembrance, such as plastic flowers, plaques, or other non-biodegradable items. However, in eco-sensitive areas such as Twmbarlwm, these tokens can become environmental and unsightly hazards. Wildlife and livestock may swallow small objects, and plastics can linger in the landscape for many years.

Consider biodegradable alternatives that will lend a sense of continuity and harmony with the landscape. For example wildflower seeds could be scattered, to provide a living tribute that enhances the surrounding environment and bring joy for years to come. Similarly, wooden or stone markers can be a beautiful, environmentally respectful way to commemorate your loved one's life – again the landowners permission will be required.

If you must honour the memory of your loved one in such a public location please allow their passion for the environment and locality to guide your choices. In doing so, you not only pay homage to their life but also protect the very landscapes that they cherished.

In the same way that CTS considers what is acceptable on our precious mountain, use your common sense and think about the reaction of visitors to the site – visitors who are here to experience the splendour of the views and landscape and to not feel that they are disturbing a private mausoleum to dearly departed souls.

TERRY EVANS (Chairman CTS

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

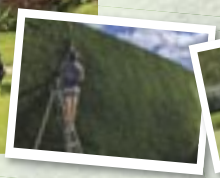
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Tredegar House Folk Festival

9th – 11th May 2025

The 34th Tredegar House Folk Festival will soon be here and this year the festival is again running a singer-songwriter competition (closing date end of January), where the winner gets a cash prize, a 3 hour recording session plus the chance to perform their song at the festival. Judging is by an independent panel of significant industry figures. Mair Thomas - the winner of the first competition, is now a regular on BBC radio and has twice appeared at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod. We are pleased to welcome her back to the festival this year.

As well as the big Friday concert (held in the concert marquee) featuring 4 top acts, there will be a free twmpath in the Dawnsio.Cymru marquee run by Menter Iaith Newport (a principality-wide organisation supporting and promoting the Welsh language). It will be conducted in Welsh, but that shouldn't stop anyone joining in with the dancing, as plenty of fun will be had.

Meanwhile in the Marcus Music marquee there will be the Friday Night Big Bash, a night of great tunes, many instruments and lots of joining in. Bring your instrument along or just come and listen, in what promises to be a special intimate atmosphere.

Moving on to Saturday and Sunday afternoons where both marquees showcase free dance displays featuring local and national sides, including India Dance Wales, Morris dancing, Middle Eastern, Welsh, Flamenco, Appalachian and more to be confirmed.







Saturday evening the concert has 4 acts kicking off with Avanc, a fantastic group of a dozen young Welsh musicians that really raises the roof. For dancers, there is the traditional Saturday ceilidh featuring Juice with caller Ned Clamp.

Sunday late afternoon brings the huge 5 act concert. There are too many acts appearing at the festival to name, so please keep checking the website www.tredegarhousefestival.org.uk and our Facebook page for details of all music and dance acts, including musical clips (website).

Workshops, singarounds, folk club sessions and dance displays all have free entry, plus on site there is a CAMRA bar, food outlets, children's entertainer and a farmers market.

People buying weekend tickets or tickets to any of the 3 concerts or Saturday ceilidh, get the added bonus of free entry to Tredegar House.

Thanks must go to the Arts Council of Wales and Ty Cerdd for their continuing financial support, without which the festival could not have survived for so long.

Fingers crossed for good weather!



Photos courtesy from Andy Howells of Entertainment South Wales.

WHY DO I NEED A LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY (LPA)?

If you lose mental capacity through illness (for example a stroke, dementia, or Alzheimer's disease), or an accident, and haven't created an LPA:

- You will no longer be able to choose who makes decisions and act for you (such as your spouse and children). You can only make your LPA while you still have mental capacity.
- A stranger appointed by the court such as a solicitor would end up making crucial decisions about you and your assets – where you will live, whether to accept medical treatment to keep you alive, what you eat and wear, and will control all your finances and your property.
- Your spouse, children or friends would have to apply to court to get permission to make decisions on your behalf and act for you – which is far more expensive and time-consuming than making an LPA and the court could refuse the application.

If you still have mental capacity, LPAs are a simple, inexpensive, and legally robust way of giving someone you trust the power to make decisions and act for you – either temporarily or long term should you lose capacity in the future.

To plan for this, you must create an LPA now whilst you still have mental capacity and so make things much easier for other people in your life.



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Risca
MUSEUM

The Tin Box

Shortly before Christmas 2017, the Museum was contacted by Gwent Archives about a tin box. It had been used to store papers when the Archive office was in Cwmbran and, after they had transferred to Ebbw Vale, the contents were examined and deposited in more suitable archival boxes. The now redundant box was about to be disposed of when the phrase 'Risca Widows & Orphans' was spotted on the front of the box and we were asked if we were interested in having it.

The offer was accepted and, on a snowy day in January, one of the Museum volunteers duly collected said tin box. The box was lockable, and corner pieces at a quarter depth inside could have held a tray or shelf.

When we looked closely, we spotted another faint word and discovered that the full inscription was 'RISCA Widows & Orphans FUND'.



Initial research revealed that this fund was set up in the aftermath of the terrible explosion at the Black Vein Colliery on 1st December 1860 when 142 men and boys were killed.

The disaster was reported nationally and, almost immediately, random donations were made. A philanthropic lady from Manchester sent £5 via Mr Cross of Risca Brewery and the Ancient Order of Foresters paid a sum of £212 for the funeral expenses of the relatives of the unfortunate brethren who had been killed.

On 27th December, a public meeting was held at the Town Hall in Newport to officially establish a Fund and the following resolution was approved, 'That it is imperatively necessary that contributions should be collected from the humane and charitable, towards the relief and support of the 51 Widows, 120 Orphans and 8 aged Parents of the men who lost their lives from the late Explosion at the Colliery, according to their several claims and necessities'.

Sir Thomas Phillips chaired the meeting, the Fund Secretary was W. G. Cartwright and the Treasurer Stephen Vernon esquire, who was manager of the West of England and South Wales Bank. Monies already collected amounted to £5649 4s 11d; of



significant note was £5 from the Archbishop of Dublin, £30 from the workmen of Abercarn Tin Works, £20 from Daniel Whitehouse Esq, £155 5s 6d contribution from Liverpool and £8 16s 10d collected at Llanover Church. Also, £5 10s 10d was collected by Mrs Harriet Rees at the Cardiff Refreshment Rooms of the South Wales Railway (Cardiff main line station).

The Treasurer published accounts, officially audited, in July 1862 by which time the fund had grown to £6694 6s 11d before payments of £18331s 5d. Although a number of children born after their father had died were added to the claimants, there were reductions as a result of deaths of widows, orphans and elderly dependants. Also, widows who remarried, and their children, became the responsibility of the new husband and, at 12 years old, children were considered to be of working age and therefore were also removed.

By 1868, the balance was £3154 0s 1d, the Treasurer was still Stephen Vernon and the Secretary was still W G Cartwright and the annual meeting was now chaired by Lord Tredegar. The 1874 meeting was informed that the present recipients were 7 widows at 4s a week, 3 parents at 2s per week, 4 parents at 4s per week and 1 parent at 5s per week. Almost 14 years after the explosion most widows had remarried and all children would have been over working age.

These funds were set up, necessarily, after any disaster; this happened in Abercarn in 1878 and then, in July 1880, an explosion occurred in the recently opened Risca Colliery that was linked to the Black Vein. After Abercarn, which resulted in the greatest loss of life in any Monmouthshire event, collecting for Risca was proving difficult and in November 1880 it was reported that the fund was still £3000 short of the necessary amount.

In 1887 the Risca funds were £3945 16s 4d which, it was estimated, would last less than 4 years. In January1892, when it was almost exhausted, the trustees of the Abercarn fund, which was in surplus, agreed to support the Risca fund. From that time on the two funds were effectively merged.

We surmise that the weekly payments were made in Risca to designated claimants and that the money was brought from the West of England and South Wales Bank of which the Treasurer of the fund, Stephen Vernon was the manager. As well as the money, we consider that the locked box would have contained a ledger with the claimants names and amount they were due against which the claimants signed when receiving their payment.

This important local artefact, now almost 165 years old, is on display in the Risca Museum every Saturday from 10am to 12.30pm.



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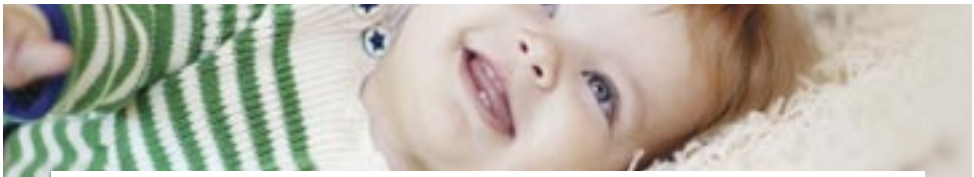
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BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH RISCA

This is a follow up on the excitement going on at Bethany

WE NEVER THOUGHT WE WOULD SEE OUR CHAPEL SO FULL



We were celebrating the many blessings we have had in the last year with the community of Risca. We had decided on a concert with the people of Risca participating. We wanted something for all ages, variety, congregation participation and FUN, FUN, FUN.

We had:-

Risca Primary school who combined with Ty Sign Primary school.

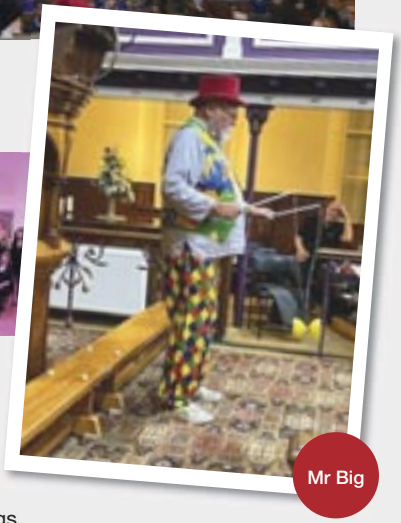
The children were under the guidance of teachers, Mr. Thomas, Miss. Wallace and Miss Hopkins. They sang a range of songs and really entertained the audience. The schools can be very proud of their children. They then challenged the congregation to join with the singing and actions of "He's got the whole world in his hands." It was quite a sight, lots of fun.

We also had Lara a lovely young lady with a lovely voice. Lara sang two solos, followed her mum and grandmother, Kate and Meryl, playing a flute and piano duet. Three Generations, very musically talented family. The Risca Von Trapp family. Thanks to the three of them.



Swn y Gan choir

Our adult choir was Swn Y Gan who were outstanding and were accompanied by our own Dan the music man. They are about 40 in number and they sang a range of songs. We thank Geraint the conductor, Dan and all the members of Swn y Gan for their brilliant contribution.

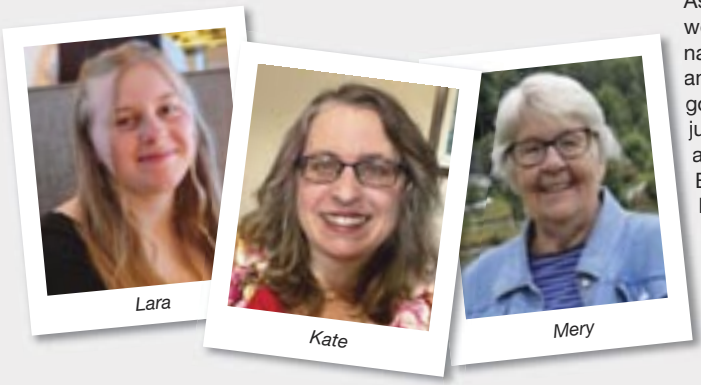


Mr Big

As a thank you to the children we had Mr. Big, whose real name is Peter Coles, who amazed us with his juggling. He got some of the children to juggle. I think the grownups also enjoyed it. Thank you Mr. Big.

BONUS was a donation of £330 for the Risca Foodbank.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU EVERYONE.



Lara

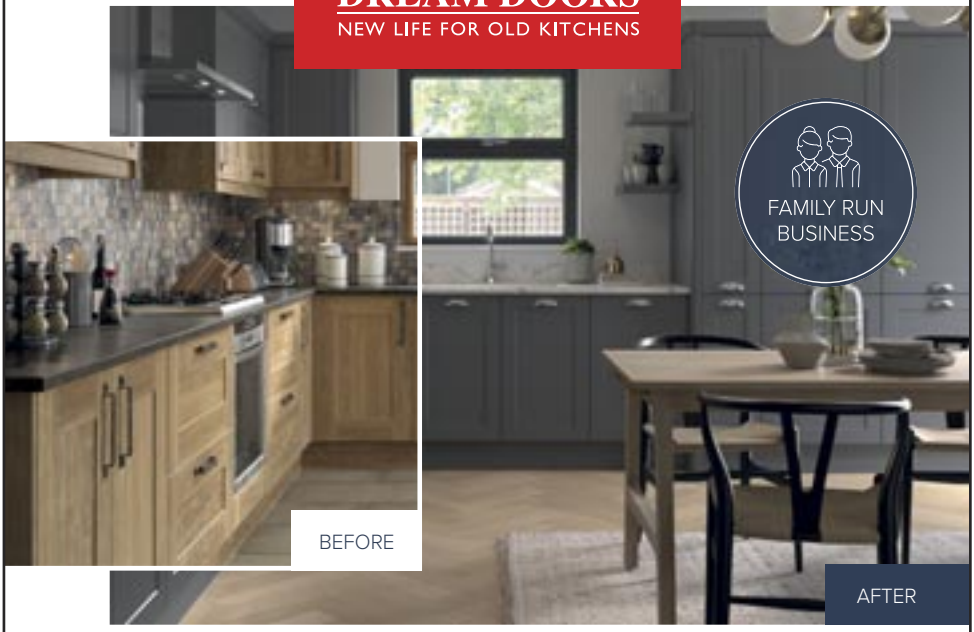
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Mery

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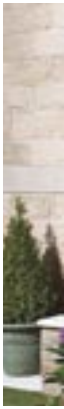
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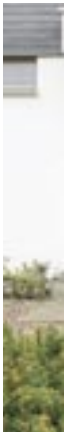
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Puzzles

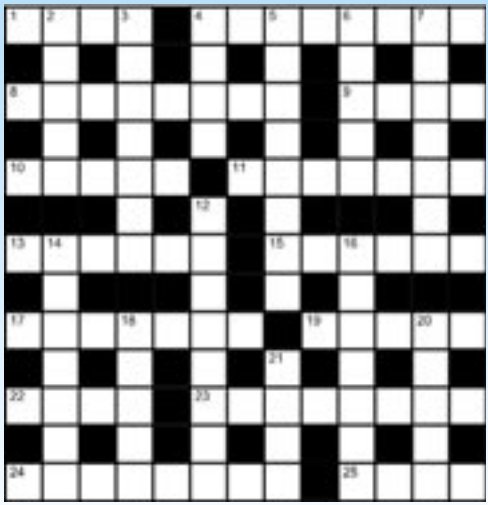
CROSSWORD

Across

1 Nymph who fell in love with Narcissus and faded away, leaving just her voice (4)
4 Humorous verse form of five lines (8)
8 Capital of Belgium (8)
9 Musical instrument associated with Wales (4)
10 Tree with rot-resistant wood (5)
11 Italian liqueur made with elderberries and flavoured with liquorice (7)
13 Art of growing miniature trees (6)
15 Remove by cutting out (6)
17 German cake traditionally eaten at Christmas (7)
19 Battleground of World Wars I and II (5)
22 Swiss patriot, William ___ (4)
23 Monument built to honour soldiers (8)
24 Menu having individual dishes listed with separate prices (1,2,5)
25 Actor ___ Guinness, who played Smiley in Smiley's People (4)

Down

2 Marine colonial polyp which masses in a variety of shapes, forming reefs (5)
3 Molluscs from which pearls are obtained (7)
4 Sediment in wine (4)
5 Sweet aromatic grape used for raisins and wine (8)
6 Amy Winehouse hit of 2007 (5)
7 Capital of Venezuela (7)
12 Short tube attached to the muzzle of a gun (8)
14 Porridge ingredient (7)
16 Country, capital Zagreb (7)
18 Bush with fragrant flowers (5)
20 Leaf which adorns the Canadian flag (5)
21 Poker stake (4)



SUDOKU

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

The object of sudoku is to insert the missing numbers in the boxes to satisfy just one condition: each row, column and 3x3 box must contain the digits 1 through to 9 exactly once. This can be done by applying logic – you do not have to guess.

Solutions on page 20

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Puzzle Solutions

Crossword Solution

Across: 1 Echo, 4 Limerick, 8 Brussels, 9 Harp, 10 Alder, 11 Sambuca, 13 Bonsai, 15 Excise, 17 Stollen, 19 Somme, 22 Tell, 23 Cenotaph, 24 A la carte, 25 Alec.

Down: 2 Coral, 3 Oysters, 4 Lees, 5 Muscatel, 6 Rehab, 7 Caracas, 12 Silencer, 14 Oatmeal, 16 Croatia, 18 Lilac, 20 Maple, 21 Ante.

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

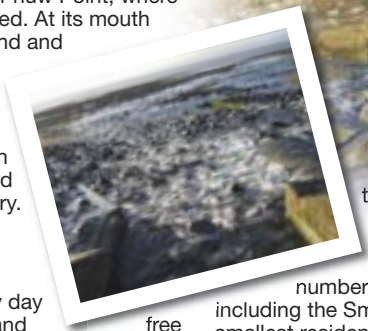
RIVERS IN SOUTH WALES



Afon Col-huw

Afon Col-huw is a very short river in the Vale of Glamorgan. It is only one mile long, formed when two rivers, the Ogney Brook and the Hoddnant converge south of Llantwit Major.

The river meets the sea at Col-huw Point, where Llantwit Major beach is situated. At its mouth the river flows through the sand and stones of Llantwit beach, the mouth of the river was originally sandy, but dredging in the Bristol Channel and thus degradation of the Nash Bank, has resulted in less sand around the estuary.



Popular with families and surfers alike, Cwm Col-huw beach is packed with all the facilities you need for a family day out. There are toilets, a cafe and free parking. Dogs are allowed on the beach from the 1st November to the end of April.

As well as being full of great features typical of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast such as rock-pools, a sandy beach and rugged cliffs, Cwm Col-huw is also home to a number of rare and beautiful species, including the Small Blue Butterfly, Britain's smallest resident butterfly. Wildlife can also be spotted at the Cwm Col-huw Nature Reserve which runs along the cliff tops to the west and back towards the town.

St David's Hospice Care

Fundraising Calendar of Events 2025













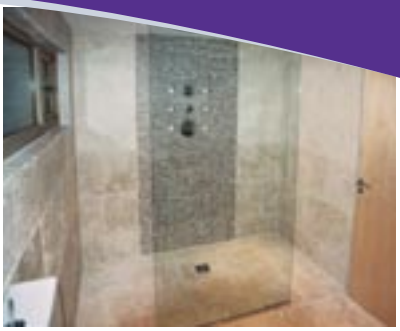
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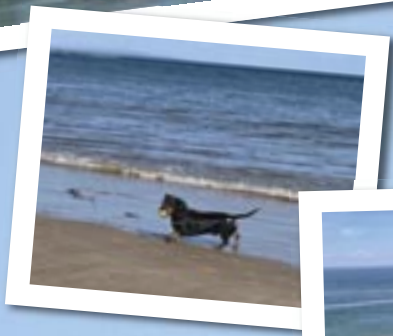
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BEACHES IN WALES

Tenby in the Spring









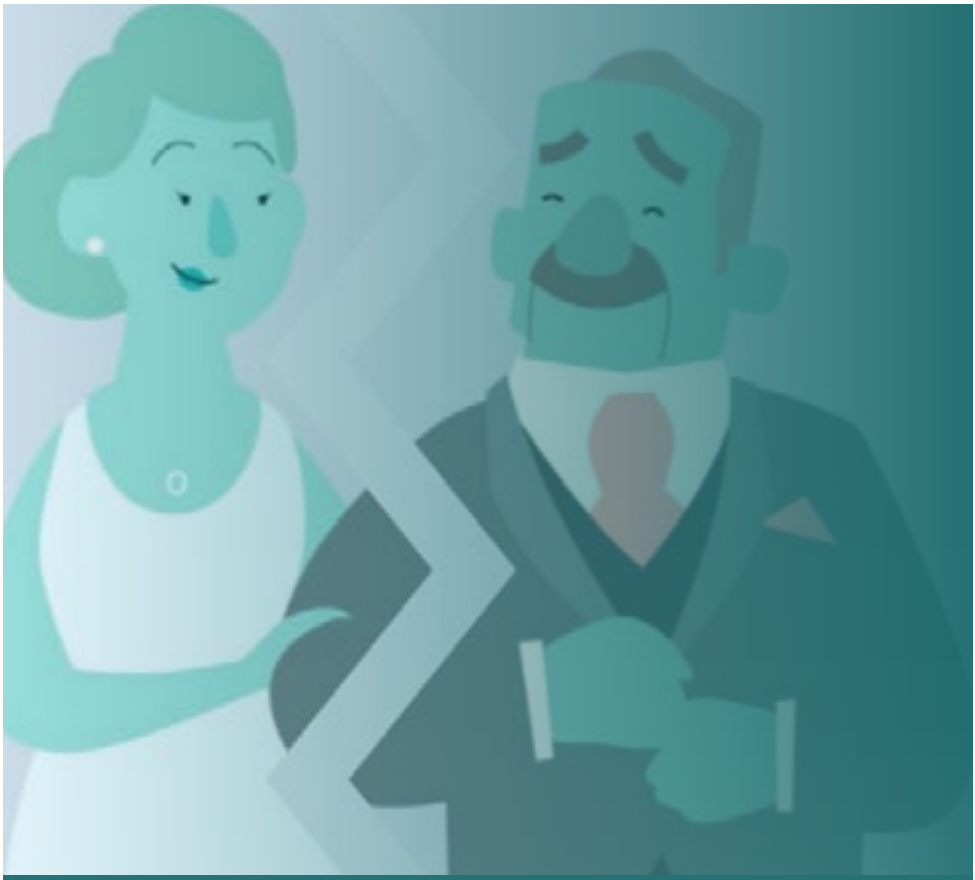
Tenby is perfect for both young and old and there is something for everyone to enjoy all year round.

For a true Tenby experience visit the small friendly harbour, where you can enjoy a spot of fishing, take a boat trip out to the nearby beautiful and tranquil Caldey Island, relax and unwind on the fantastic beaches or simply sit and people watch.

The three beaches are all dog-friendly until the end of April and there's no shortage of good restaurants, cafes and pubs.

With the pastel coloured buildings as your backdrop and the sea ahead, this picturesque seaside town is the perfect place to visit and enjoy early spring walks.





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Hardy Plant Society, Monmouthshire

Our group meets every second Saturday of the month between September and May at 2.30pm in Little Mill Village Hall, Little Mill, Usk NP4 0HE. There is ample free parking. Refreshments are available and non-members will be made very welcome. During the summer months, we have many garden visits and other related activities.

Our regular programme of talks at Little Mill Village Hall continues on Saturday 8th March, Robin Pearce will talk on 'Ornamental Grasses'. Robin ran a wholesale and retail nursery for 20 years and has now retired to spend more



time in his garden. Ornamental grasses are a special interest, as are rare and unusual plants. Ferns too!

The Annual General Meeting of the Monmouthshire Branch of the Hardy Plant Society, held via Zoom, will be on 12th March. The wonderfully knowledgeable Derry Watkins of the renowned Special Plants nursery at Cold Ashton, near Bath will be with us on 12th April to talk about the 'Humble Umbel'. Not to be missed. Derry describes herself as a 'plant freak American with a gorgeous, thriving garden designed by her architect husband, Peter Clegg'.

Saturday 26th April Kelly Weare, a professional gardener based in Monmouthshire and a member of the HPS Monmouthshire branch, will be holding a Practical Workshop. More details to follow.

For further details of our local group and programme of events, see https://hpsmonmouthshire.co.uk/

For more about the national Hardy Plant Society, see https://www.hardy-plant.org.uk/

The HPS Monmouthshire Group is also an Affiliated Group of the RHS, see https://www.rhs.org.uk/, and of the online Tender Shoots Garden Club Network, see https://tendershoots.uk/



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