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ISSUE 105 JULY/AUGUST 2025



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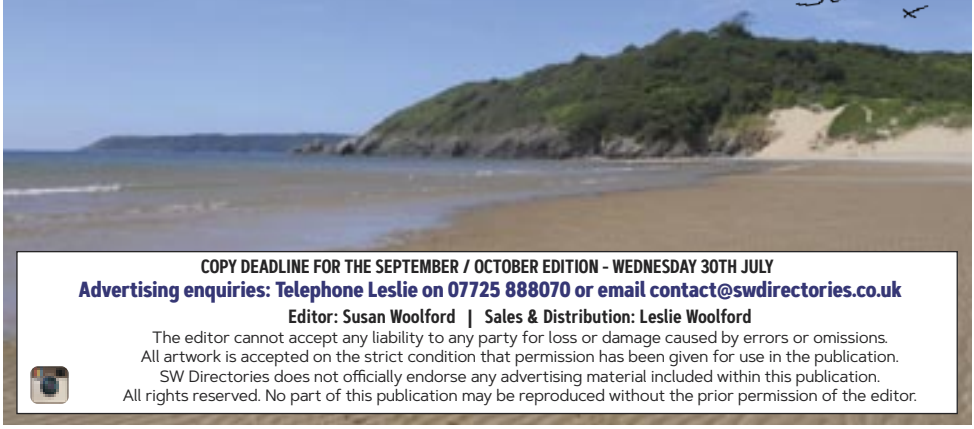
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Let's hope the weather will carry on being kind to us over the next couple of months and we'll all be able to continue walking in our beautiful countryside, paddling on the lovely beaches (see articles on Pennard Pill and Pennard Cliffs) and benefit from some summer sunshine.

Susan x



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PRESERVING FAMILY WEALTH

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

To help protect a couple's estate, the solution may be a Will incorporating a Trust. A testamentary Trust can only be executed whilst both partners remain alive. On the death of one partner, their Will specifies that their share of the estate is placed in Trust and names the ultimate beneficiary of this share, normally their children and grandchildren. But under the terms of the Trust the surviving partner has the unequivocal right to remain living in the property and to enjoy the other assets, for the rest of their life.

On the death of the other partner the Trust comes to an end and the estate passes to the beneficiaries. As the surviving partner does not own the deceased's share of the estate it is fully protected for the beneficiaries, so if the surviving partner requires care, or even remarries, this share of the beneficiary's inheritance is protected.

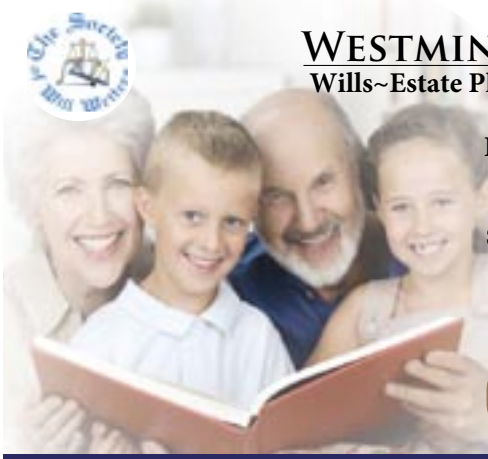


This last point can be of particular interest to couples who have come together but have children from different partners. A Trust can help each person in the relationship ensure that their children inherit their share of the estate.

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Ole

It was one of those evenings when folk, I am being presumptuous in assuming I am not the only one, do not want to leave the comfort of their own sitting room, heavy rain lashing down, much needed I might add after several weeks of glorious sunshine. But we had become used to the sunshine and mourned its disappearance. However, I did leave my home and ventured out into the cold and damp to attend my W.I. meeting. 'Flamenco Dancing' was the title of the evening's entertainment, no clue given as to whether we would be required to stamp and twirl as Spanish senoritas do or would we just be sitting and watching, neither enthused me particularly as I drove to the hall.

I should of course know better, entering the hall was a revelation, it was adorned with the most beautiful dresses and accessories of the aforementioned dance.

Vibrant colours, layers and layers of the most beautiful materials, huge shawls, hats, fans and of course castanets were all resplendent and there for us to view.

The dancing lady appeared in a glorious red creation with all the frills and flounces one expects of these dresses. What ensued was a most interesting evening, the hostess while demonstrating certain types of flamenco steps also talked us through the fascinating history of flamenco.

Flamenco's history is a blend of Gypsy, Moorish, Jewish, and Andalusian influences, mainly originating in Andalusia, Southern Spain. It is generally considered to have emerged in the 18th century, evolving from entertainment at private gatherings to public performances in the 19th century.

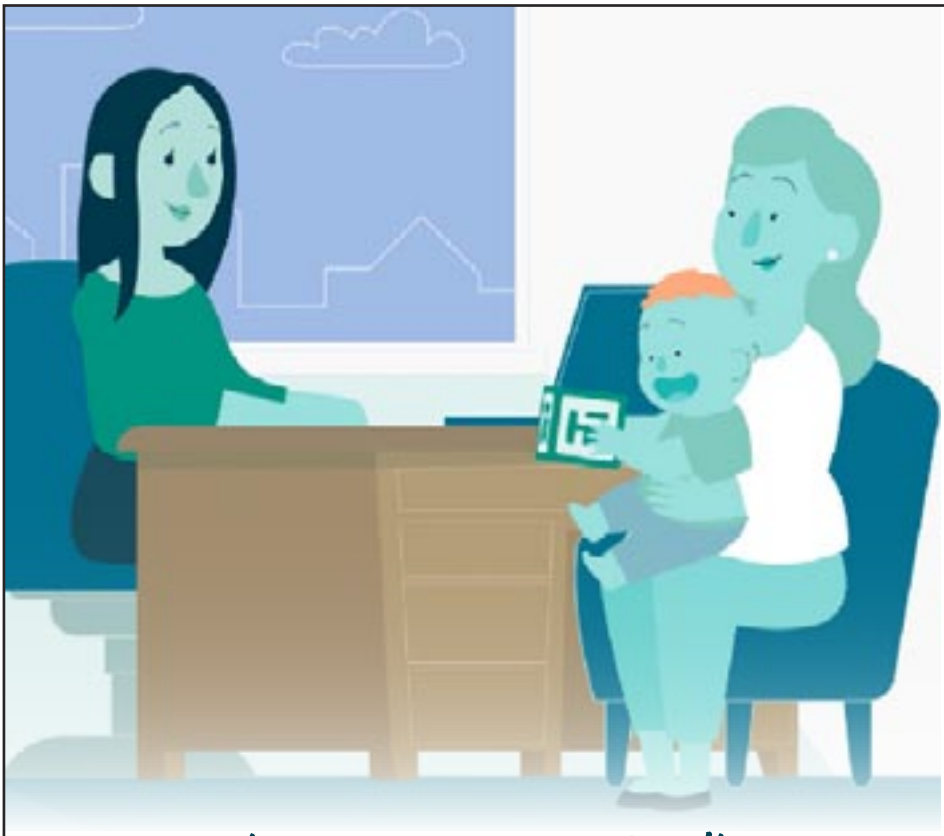
So, what started as a private expression later became a public art form. The well-known accessories have been introduced from all the various influences throughout time.

Fortunately, we did not have to stamp and twirl but we did get some instruction as to how to play the castanets, while she danced. Similarly, we learned how to flick open pretty fans and then use them as she did whilst dancing. All in all, a thoroughly interesting and enjoyable evening, and it had even stopped raining when I went home.



If you think you might enjoy evenings like this, we meet at St John the Baptist Church Hall in Bryngwyn Road on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month except August, meetings start at 7.15pm.

Liz James



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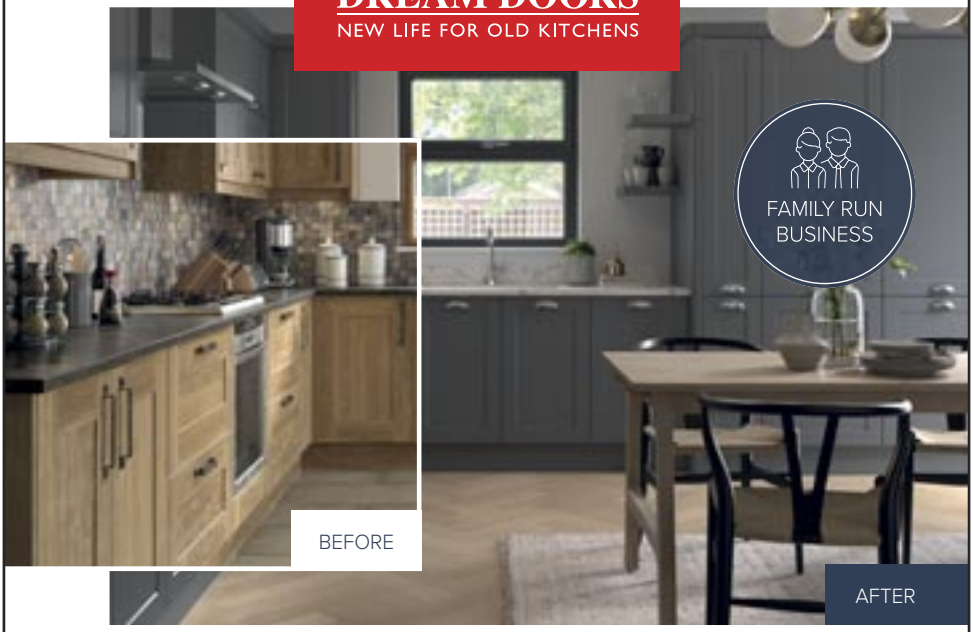




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The Twmbarlwm Raven



The Raven sculpture (Mabinogi Branwen) at Pegwn-y-Bwlch on the western slopes of Twmbarlwm by sculptor Rubin Eynon

Many people's first experience of walking up Twmbarlwm nowadays starts from Pegwn-y-Bwlch (car park 7) on the Cwmcarn Forest Drive. The first thing they see at this point is the splendid little sculpture of a raven poking its head out of the pages of the Mabinogion.

You can guarantee whenever I'm there someone will ask what I know about it and as it happens I knew this sculpture when it was first installed some 17 years ago in the woods a mile below where it is now. I first encountered it on an early morning dog walk just below Cwmbyr – I only had a primitive phone camera on me (*photo below right*) at the time and planned to go back to take a better photo – but when I returned two days later it had gone, the stone pillar on which it was mounted was vandalised and the bronze cast sculpture gone.

The council re-ordered another casting and it was re-installed in its current position a few months later – I wonder if the original is still residing in someone's back garden or was it melted down for scrap?

This sculpture was one of four pieces that were installed to waymark the Raven Walk – a thirteen mile walk around the peaks of Twmbarlwm, Machen and Mynydd Islwyn. The route was originally marked by carved wooden ravens which were prone to vandalism and natural decay. So they were replaced by specially commissioned metal pieces which, I believe, are still in place although the walk is not promoted as it once was due to changes to much of the forestry in the area and bureaucracy.



One of the original chainsaw carved wooden Ravens



The original Raven sculpture in the woods at Cwmbyr

The sculptor of this particular piece was Rubin Eynon, a south Wales artist who has created many public sculptures throughout Wales and the UK – amongst his works, you may know, are the celtic brooch on Crosskeys corner, Sirhowy Woodlands Gates, the Engineer at Blackrock in the Newport Wetlands and the metal animals on Cwmcarn Forest Drive (aided by artist blacksmith Glen Adam of Llanbradach).

His inspiration for this piece was the story from the second branch of the Mabinogion, of Brân the Blessed (or Bendigeidfran, literally "Blessed Crow") and his sister Branwen ("White Raven"). Brân being Welsh for crow or raven.

Brân was a King of Britain and a giant so huge he could wade across the Irish Sea, he permitted Matholwch, King of Ireland, to marry Branwen, a decision that leads to an epic tale of revenge, deception, bloody battles and ultimately his own death. On his own wishes, Brân's head was buried where the Tower of London now stands, facing France, to ward off invasion. Another local myth claims his body lies beneath Twmbarlwm guarding a pot of gold, but that's a tale for another day.

Recently, another series of sculptures was installed near the lake at the Cwmcarn visitor centre, by local art group, NoNaffArt, which also takes up the latter part of Brân's tale as inspiration.

The tales of Welsh folklore in the Mabinogion make fascinating reading, too long to include here but I'd recommend you to seek out these myths and legends – you won't be disappointed.

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 first 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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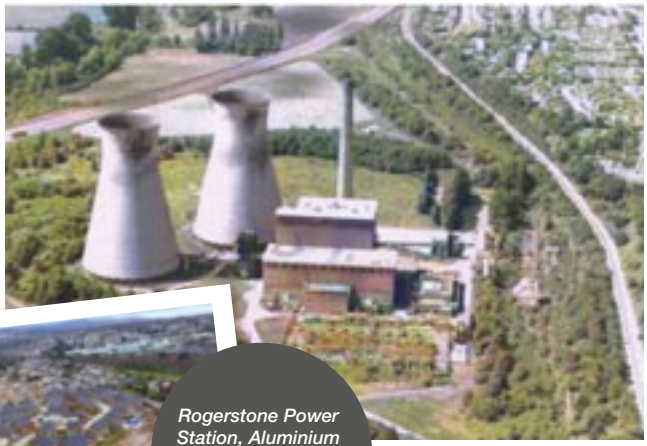
Part 1

Changes in Rogerstone

since 1974 when it officially became part of Wales

Introduction

The Local Government Act of 1972 confirmed that Monmouthshire was part of Wales for the first time. The act established a principal council for Monmouthshire. In 1974, the main piece of legislation defined the power and responsibilities of local authority, the Welsh Parish Councils were renamed Community Councils. In 2024 completed 50 years of Rogerstone Community Council, the current Chair, Councillor Stephen Bowen asked me to summarise the changes in Rogerstone over that period.







Rogerstone Power Station, Aluminium Works now both housing estates. Jubilee Park 2016

Residential Expansion

Since 1974, Rogerstone has experienced substantial residential growth. New housing estates have been constructed on the old power station site (Afon Village), the old Asda site (Squires Gate), the old school site (Scholars Close), the old Alcan sports field (Beavers Walk), the Redwood Club site (Hadley Fields) and of course the large Jubilee Park estate built on the old Aluminium Works site, all catering for the increasing population.

Transport and Connectivity

The construction of the Rogerstone bypass in the early 1980s was a major infrastructure project designed to alleviate traffic congestion within the village. The bypass has improved travel times, reduced heavy traffic through residential areas and enhanced safety for both drivers and pedestrians. Later, the reopening of Rogerstone Station in 2008 and Pye Corner Station in 2014 were pivotal moments, reconnecting the village with the Ebbw Valley Railway and providing direct services to Cardiff and Newport, thus enhancing local commuting options and boosting Rogerstone's appeal.





The old Rogerstone Station (originally Tydu Station) and Bassaleg Junction Station (in Rogerstone).

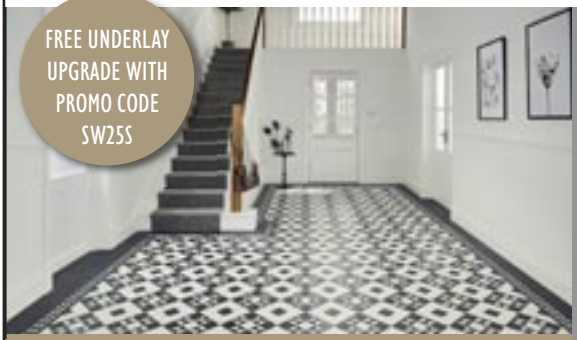




Rogerstone Station 2008 and Pye Corner Station 2015

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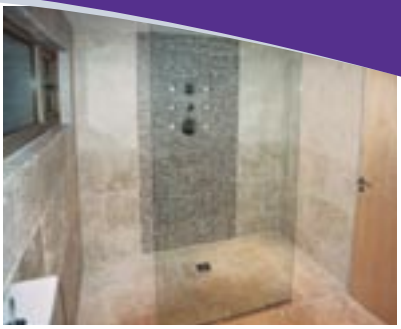
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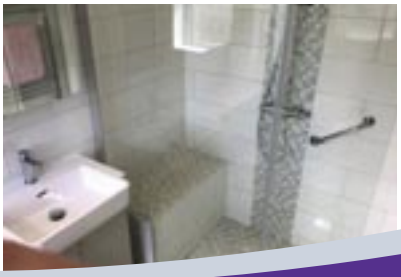


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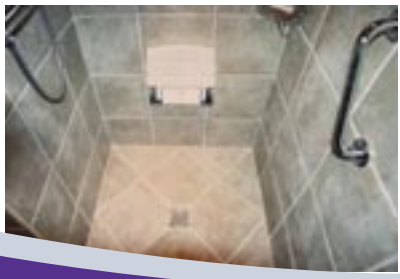
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Intergenerational Wealth Planning:

Securing Your Family's Future

As families grow and change, so do their financial needs. In the UK, intergenerational wealth planning is becoming increasingly important as parents and grandparents look for ways to pass on wealth efficiently, responsibly and in line with their values. Whether it's supporting children through university, helping a grandchild onto the property ladder, or planning for a smooth inheritance, careful financial planning can make a meaningful difference across generations.

At its core, intergenerational wealth planning is about preserving and transferring assets in a way that benefits the whole family. It's not just about minimising inheritance tax – although that's often a major consideration – but about ensuring that your wealth is used wisely and supports your loved ones when they need it most.



One of the key tools in intergenerational planning is the use of trusts. Trusts can help you retain control over how and when money is distributed, while also offering potential tax advantages. They can be particularly useful for protecting family wealth from divorce, bankruptcy, or simply the risks of handing over large sums too early.

Gifting is another popular strategy. Under current UK rules, individuals can gift up to £3,000 each tax year without it counting towards their estate for inheritance tax purposes. There are also allowances for wedding gifts and small gifts, as well as the potential to make larger gifts that fall out of your estate after seven years. These can be a tax-efficient way to help family members now, rather than waiting until later.

But intergenerational planning isn't just financial – it's emotional and practical too. Open communication within the family is vital. By discussing your intentions and understanding the hopes and needs of your children or grandchildren, you can avoid misunderstandings and make decisions that reflect your family's shared values.

Seeking advice from a qualified financial planner is also essential as the adviser will take time to understand your unique circumstances, help you navigate complex tax rules, and create a plan that evolves with your life and family.

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Pennard Cliffs





Pennard Cliffs is an area of spectacular scenery, designated as common land near Southgate, Swansea. The area is also designated as part of Gower's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This means that animals such as cattle and sheep have rights to roam freely around the common at Pennard.

There is parking in Southgate car park, National Trust members, motorbikes and Blue Badge holders can park for free. There is a shop and cafe in Southgate next to the car park.

Along the one-mile walking trail to Three Cliffs Bay, you'll enjoy spectacular views over Gower. Take some time out with a picnic on one of Gower's most iconic beaches, with a view of Pennard Castle ruins. Dogs are welcome on leads but please be aware of the livestock.

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Puzzles

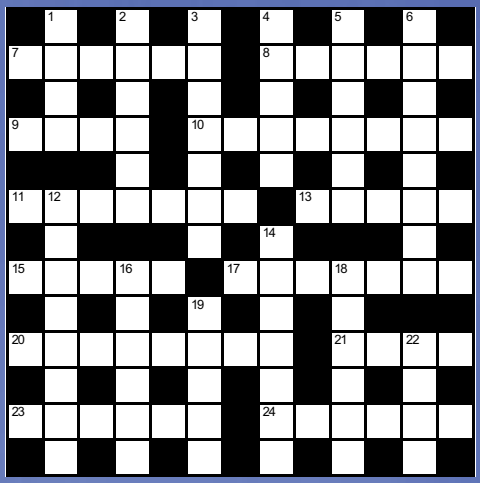
CROSSWORD

Across

7 Wait upon (6)
8 Educated (6)
9 Leave out (4)
10 Buy (8)
11 Rebuked (7)
13 Cost (5)
15 Areas within a house (5)
17 Covered with thorns (7)
20 Against the current (8)
21 Curve on bottom of foot (4)
23 Edible bulbs (6)
24 Employ (6)

Down

1 Very small particle (4)
2 Relating to the teeth (6)
3 Modified (7)
4 Celestial bodies (5)
5 Writer (6)
6 Involving the body (8)
12 Cutting with an axe (8)
14 Metal wind instrument (7)
16 Technique (6)
18 Alter (6)
19 Sound practical judgment (5)
22 Wire enclosure used for birds (4)



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

SUDOKU

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

Solutions on page 29



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Swan
RESCUE

I Don't Remember It Ever Being Quite Like This!



Memory plays funny tricks; the last time my fingers went to the keyboard to produce an article for The Directory, I seem to recall we were just emerging from winter, and now, already there are young birds of many species everywhere in evidence, and, like never before it seems so many of them are getting into difficulties of one kind or another. There are all the problems which occur annually; thank goodness for Roz who does her best to marshal both Swans plus cygnets and Canada Geese plus goslings off the roads around the ponds at Llantarnam. Then there is the new swan family on Cwmbran Boating Lake which appeared to want to make a 'dash for freedom' by leaving the lake and almost made it as far as the fast flowing Afon Llwyd before our good friend Ken, alerted to what was happening, managed to catch them all in time.

And then, literally, there is a constant stream of, for want of a better description, non-water bird calls; grounded and/or injured passerines (blackbirds, starlings, blue tits, pigeons jackdaws – to name but a few). All of these are genuine and clearly help is needed. As I type, this Thursday evening, within the past week there was the case of a starling which clearly had got caught, high up in the corner of a roof (nest presumably just inside somewhere resulting from a fault having developed in the structure), and a sparrow which had become jammed in a kitchen window mounted extractor fan. It is time consuming and exhausting having to explain (justify) how it is that Swan Rescue is not able to deal with such as these, and that respectively, the first needed a person with a long ladder and adequate insurance, and in the second a person who knows about the ins-and-outs of electrical appliances, and appropriate insurance.

All of this is one way of illustrating the absolutely thread-bare resource available to wildlife rescue, not just here in South Wales, but nationwide. Within the past fortnight we have had calls for help with swan problems, (yes, real swans!) in North Devon, Lancashire and at least two from North Wales. All we are able to do in cases like this is to advise the caller to use Google to search for 'Wildlife Rescue in whichever ….shire', or to contact the local county Wildlife Trust to establish whether or not they keep a local register of wildlife rescuers.

A further point: we are certain there is not a recognition (regardless of species) that the successful completion of a rescue is not necessarily the end of that particular episode. Potentially, the following additional steps may come into play: treatment, including the possibility of surgical intervention, aftercare and rehabilitation. The implications of this are enormous, bearing in mind the extent to which 'rescuing' is to a large extent provided by volunteers (i.e. by definition, in own time, and at own expense). Speaking for ourselves, as only we can, and because we have been around for four decades, we are very fortunate to have access to professionals who recognise what we do and have supported us when we have needed it. To them, we owe a huge debt of gratitude, especially recognising just how threadbare the volunteer side is.

Just by way of a hint of the continuing existence of normality, our picture this time is of another new family on the canal in Old Cwmbran and beautiful they are too.

Story & Photos: Peter & Ellen. Photo: Roz. For swan problems please contact Peter on 07802 472788

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Puzzle Solutions

Crossword Solution

Across: 7 Attend, 8 Taught, 9 Omit, 10 Purchase, 11 Scolded, 13 Price, 15 Rooms, 17 Prickly, 20 Upstream, 21 Arch, 23 Onions, 24 Engage.
Down: 1 Atom, 2 Dental, 3 Adapted, 4 Stars, 5 Author, 6 Physical, 12 Chopping, 14 Trumpet, 16 Method, 18 Change, 19 Sense, 22 Cage.

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

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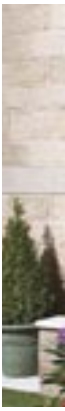
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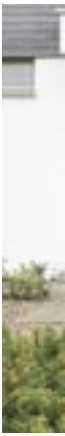
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Newport u3a



Members of Newport u3a went on a day trip arranged by our History Group to Aerospace Bristol, home to the assembly line for the British built Concorde. Situated in a WWI hangar we journeyed through 100 years of aviation history, exploring the vital role of aircraft during the global conflicts of the two World Wars, through the drama of the Space Race and on to discover the latest technological advances of today's aerospace industry.

We discovered how a small, pioneering company manufactured some of the earliest airplanes at Filton which evolved over the decades to influence the course of aviation history with hundreds of exhibits from small model aircrafts to helicopters, rockets and missiles.

The stunning centerpiece of our visit was the guided tour of Concorde Alfa Foxtrot: the last of the iconic supersonic passenger jets to be built and the last to fly. We watched projection shows displayed onto its fuselage telling its remarkable history before finally stepping onboard to see the stylish interior where passengers marveled at the Earth's curvature whilst sipping Champagne.

Newport u3a has 40 more active, social and cultural groups for the retired that meet at the Dolman Theatre Wednesday to Friday at 9:45-15:00 during term time. If you want to spread your wings during your retirement visit www.newport.u3asite.uk or call Angela Robins 07983 130541

Gwyl Plant Children's Welsh Folk Dance Festivals



The Dance Festivals offer a wide range of benefits and we at Gwyl Plant encourage many of these and at the same time include an aspect of Welsh culture.

Gwyl Plant translates into 'Children's Festival', the committee are trying to raise the profile after Covid and are trying to re-establish our Welsh folk dance festivals. Teachers are now running after school clubs and Gwyl Plant provides teaching material and accompanying music plus workshops.

The end target for the festivals is for schools, parents and friends to join together to come to watch a two hour demonstration of Welsh folk dancing (and participate in one or two dances). We run three festivals on different Saturdays in the coming months. One takes place in Abergavenny Castle grounds and if wet the Leisure centre, another one in Cwmbran and takes place in the shopping area and if wet in the Stadium and the other takes place in John Frost school, Newport.

These festivals are for all schools in the former Gwent area and any other schools beyond. Then we have a mini Gwyl Plant which is held at Tredegar House Folk Festival. At every Gwyl Plant we have a presentation of a trophy and certificate carried out by the Welsh government's language superheroes.

For more information please contact us at gwylplant81@gmail.com
Come and join us and have fun.

Belle Vue
Park & Tea Room



WHAT'S ON IN JULY AND AUGUST

Welcome Summer! We want you to enjoy the peace and tranquillity that is Belle Vue Park. We have arranged a small number of musical events to accompany our regular outdoor markets and what we are calling our small, mid-month market. Come along and enjoy. See what we are trialling in the Tea Room. We are thinking about mocktails and new ice cream sundaes.







July

Sunday 6th 11.00am – 4.00pm
Our regular Food and Craft Market is open for all of your artisan bakes, makes and general creativity as our crafters and artists are joining us again. Your favourites, plus new faces & plenty of delicious food for all tastes.

Sunday 13th 2.30pm – 6.00pm
Summer Sunday Session: Enjoy the sounds of the Davey and Deigh Revival blasting out favourites and their own works. Fairy Glen returns with craft beers and a delicious selection of street food vendors will serve from 2.00pm until 5.30pm.

Sunday 20th 11.00am – 4.00pm
Sees the return of our small market including our own little stall with information about Belle Vue plus a selection of chilled meals and fresh meat and vegetables.

Sunday 27th 2.30 – 6.00pm
Summer Sunday Session this time featuring Boy Named Huw. We have Fairy Glen Bar and street food vendors to tempt your taste buds. Come along and enjoy the summer here in Belle Vue!

August

Sunday 3rd August 11.00am – 4.00pm
Our monthly artisan Food and Craft market as always with regular and new faces alongside hot food stalls.

Sunday 10th 2.00pm – 4.00pm
Rogerstone Community Band will entertain us.

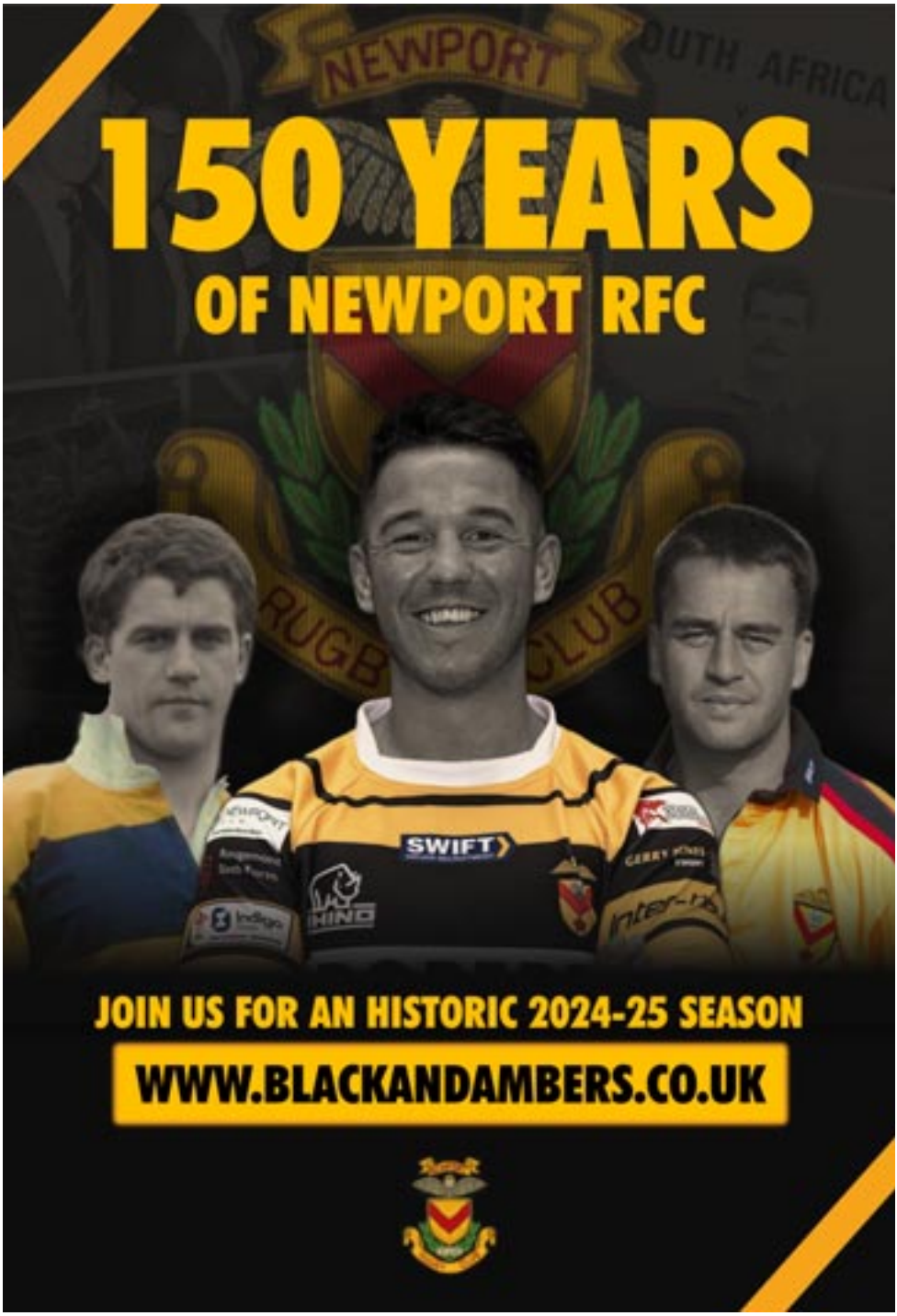
Sunday 17th 11.00am and 4.00pm
Sees the return of our small mid-month market.

Sunday 24th 2.30pm – 6.00pm
The fantastic 360 Degrees returns to blast out the anthems to stir the Bank Holiday weekend. We will have a bar provided by Fairy Glen and a great range of street food vendors. Come along, sing along and if you want to dance, Do!

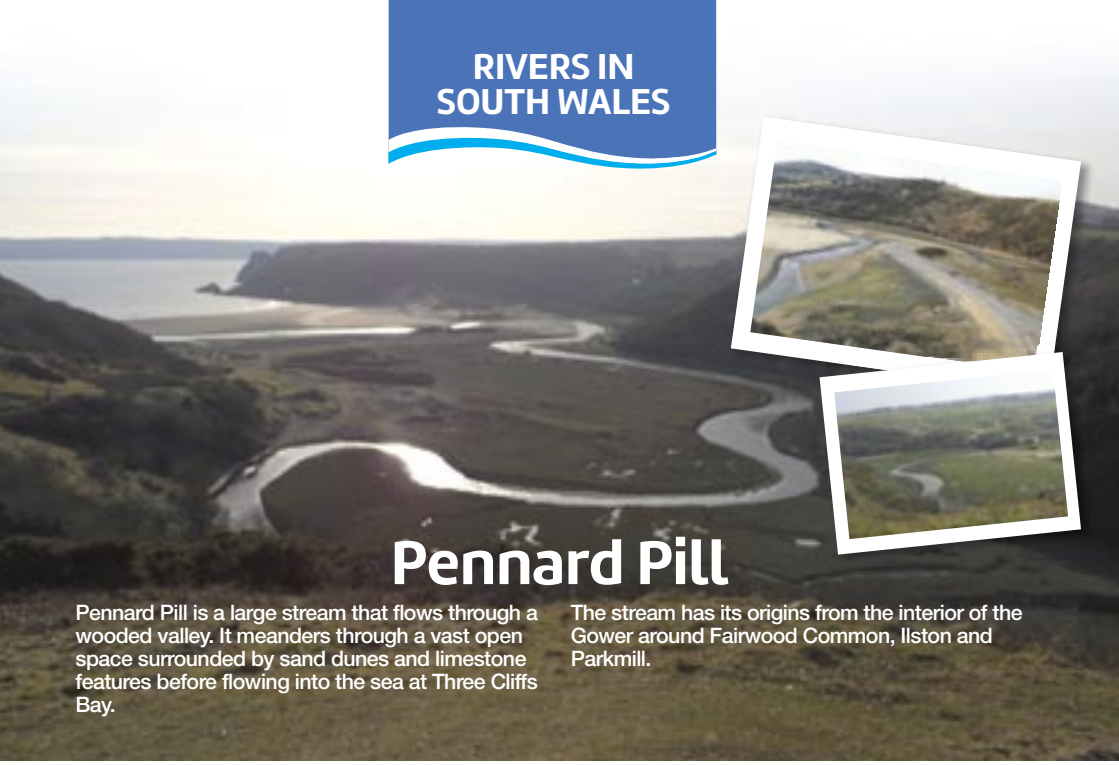
Our function room is open for bookings for larger gatherings provided with catering (afternoon tea or buffet). Please note we welcome bunting and banners to make your day special but we are committed to reducing our single use plastic therefore balloons and balloon arches are not allowed.
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