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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



COPY DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER EDITION - WEDNESDAY 30TH JULY

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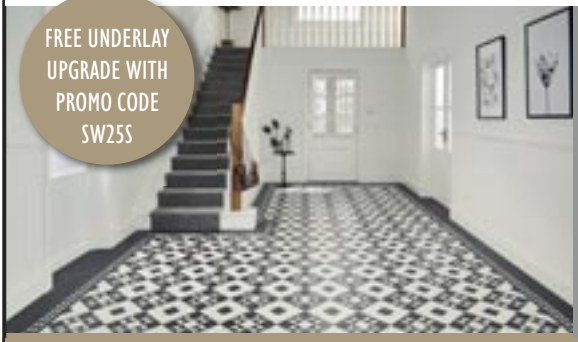
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The Twmbarlwm Raven



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.

www.twmbarlwm.co.uk

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.

If the surviving partner wants to move, they can still sell the property and the proceeds be used to purchase a new property; the terms of the Trust remain over the new property.

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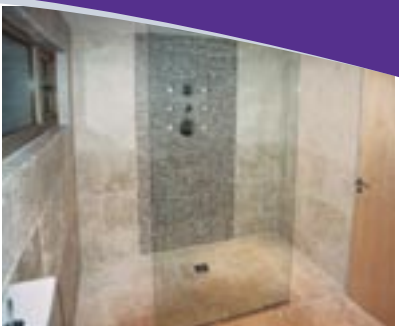
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Part 1

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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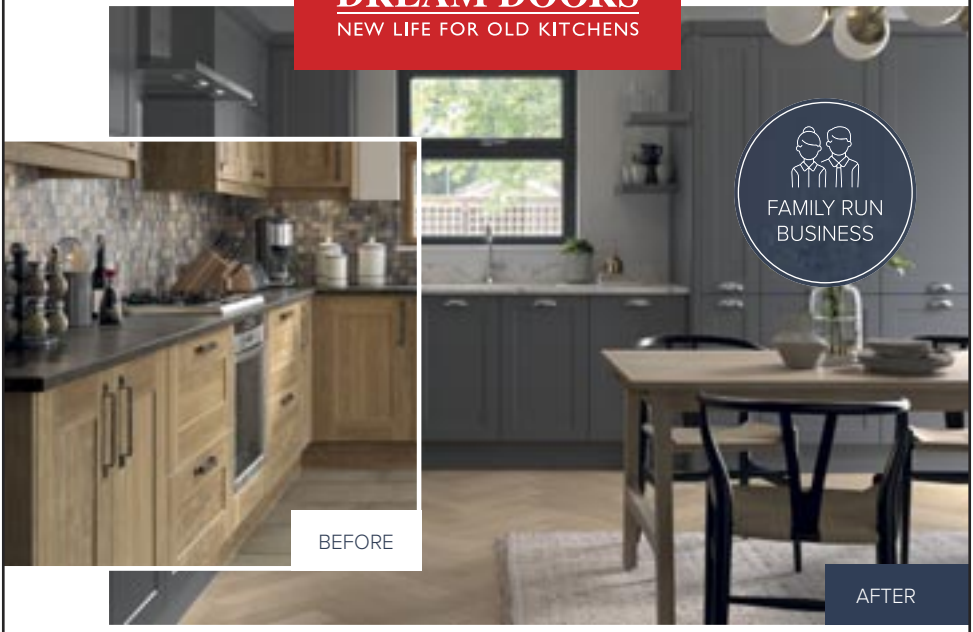
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Pennard Cliffs

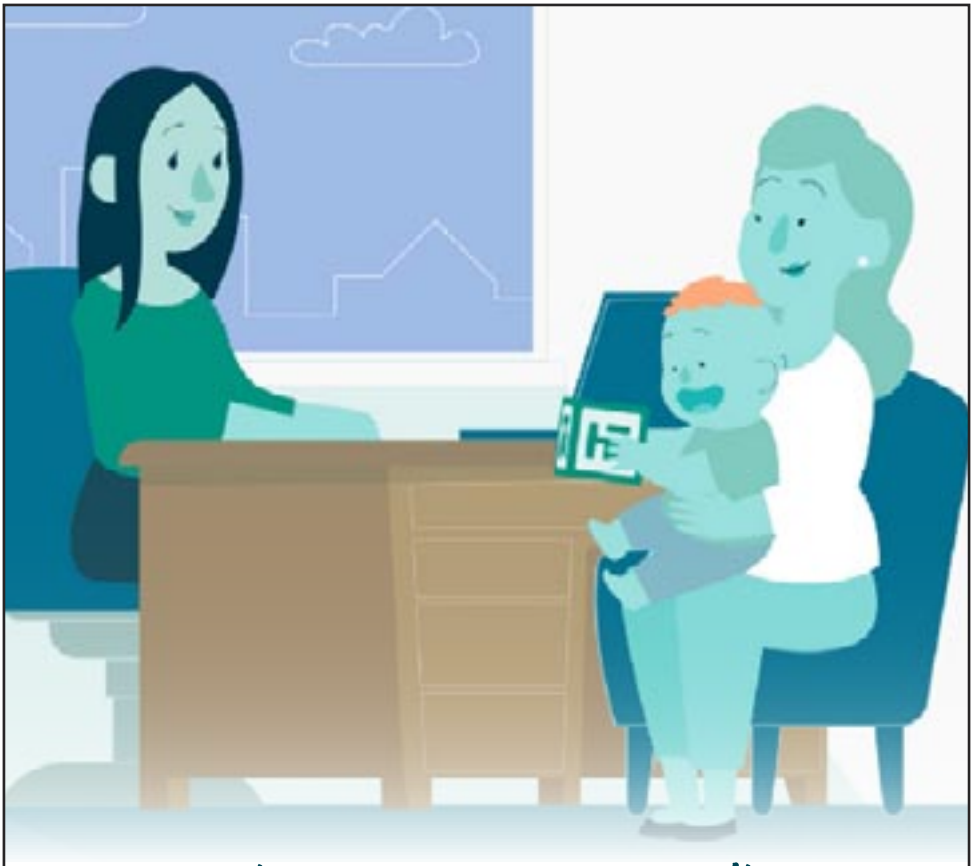




Pennard Cliffs is an area of spectacular scenery, designated as common land near Southgate, Swansea. The area is also designated as part of Gower's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This means that animals such as cattle and sheep have rights to roam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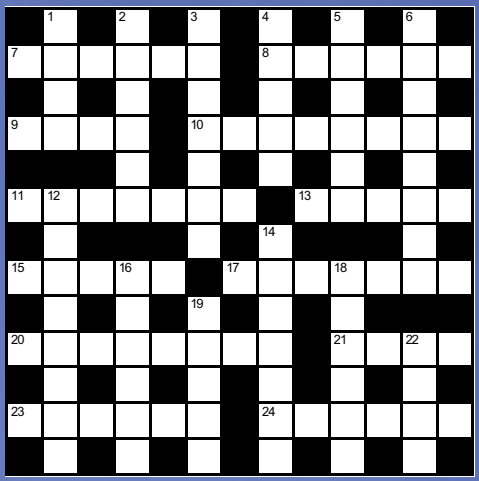
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Puzzles

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 21

St David's Hospice Care

Fundraising Calendar of Events 2025











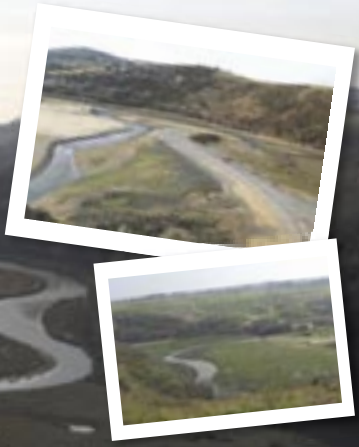


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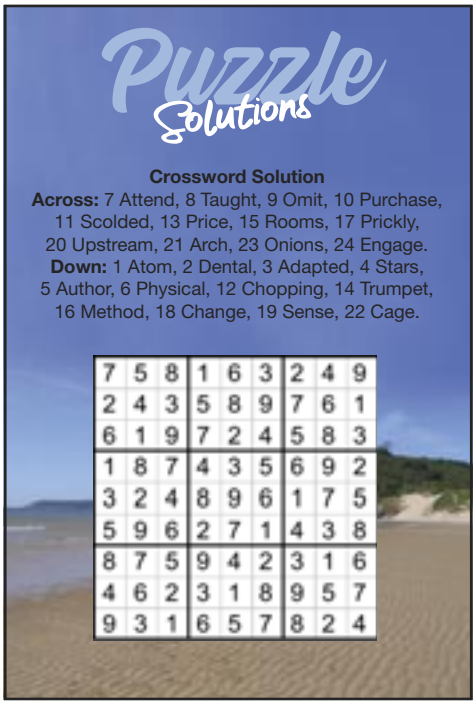


Pennard Pill

Pennard Pill is a large stream that flows through a wooded valley. It meanders through a vast open space surrounded by sand dunes and limestone features before flowing into the sea at Three Cliffs Bay.

The stream has its origins from the interior of the Gower around Fairwood Common, Ilston and Parkmill.





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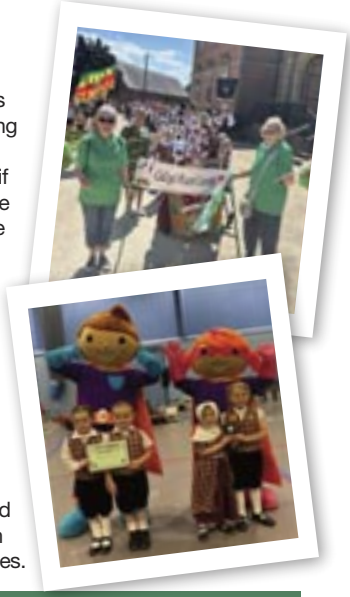
Gwyl Plant Children's Welsh Folk Dance Festivals

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.

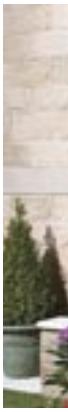
The end target for the festivals is for schools, parents and friends to join together to come to watch a two hour demonstration of Welsh folk dancing (and participate in one or two dances). We run three festivals on different Saturdays in the coming months. One takes place in Abergavenny Castle grounds 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.

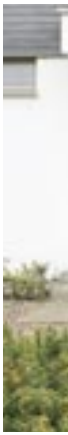






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