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ISSUE 112 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2025



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We are a small independent business and make a huge effort to produce and deliver this magazine. Our aim is to provide an informative and interesting magazine that positively contributes to both community life and local businesses. We rely totally on the revenue from the advertising to keep the magazine in production and need local businesses to support us as much as they possible can.

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Susan x

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Can I Help You?

Please get in touch if you have any concerns or issues regarding the Graig Ward.



Contact Community Councillor

David Williams

The Waggoners Cottage
Croes-Carn-Einon Farm
Holly Lane
Newport, NP10 8RR

Email: d.williams@graigcc.co.uk
Mobile: 07549 916533



JAYNE BRYANT MS/AS

Member of Senedd for Newport West
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Gwerinwyr Gwent Diary

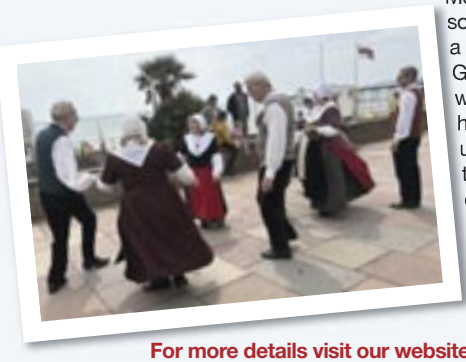
Our first booking of the year was at the end of February, when we spent a very pleasant evening with the ladies of Machen WI. This was swiftly followed by St David's Day at Foxhunters Care Community near Abergavenny. We danced and played for them, with Barbara Griffiths again as MC, and even got some residents to join in with one of our simple dances, most, but not all, from the comfort of their armchairs.

On 30th March we had our annual visit to Llanover for the NGS open gardens day. Lovely weather, lots of visitors, and record amounts raised for the charities.

Then a short break before the 10th May found us at another regular...the Tredegar House Folk Festival. Yet more good weather which brought out the crowds over the weekend. We danced on the Saturday and did a spot in both dance marquees. As well as the free dance displays, there were plenty of concerts, workshops, free entertainment, real ale bar, food and most importantly...sunshine.

As a consequence of having a local Hungarian dance group at the festival, GG was proud to be asked to take part in a Welsh/Hungarian day at Lisvane





Memorial Hall in Cardiff, celebrating our two cultures. It was a wonderful afternoon and we were entertained by singer Daf Jones and Hungarian musicians and dancers. GG demonstrated three dances, then got the audience on their feet for a twmpath dance. Colourful crafts were on sale as well as tasty Hungarian food.





It is many years (well before Covid) since we have been away as a group to a weekend festival, so we thoroughly enjoyed our time at the Teignmouth Folk Festival in June. This is mainly a Morris dancing event, with some Appalachian sides and a couple of extras, of which GG was one. The forecast was for it to be exceptionally hot (which would have been unbearable for the ladies in their long woollen costumes), but fortunately it was cooler than we feared, and we even got rained on and didn't mind! We danced at three spots along the promenade on Saturday, plus we had the honour of the 45 minute guest performance at the main venue (The Triangle), all dance venues are outdoors. On Sunday we did two spots before the lunch break and then made our way back to South Wales. Quite a few of us stayed at the lovely Cliffden Hotel in Teignmouth. It has extensive grounds which, happily for us, meander down to exactly the part of the promenade where Saturday's procession started. It also has an excellent indoor swimming pool.

During the last 18 months, we have been delighted to recruit four new dancers, however, Gwerinwyr Gwent is still seeking new members, and beginners or experienced dancers/musicians are very welcome. Practice night (numbers permitting) is Thursday 8-10pm at the Graig Community Hall (opposite the Ruperra PH).

For more details visit our website www.gwerinwyrgwent.org.uk, or ring 01495 271953

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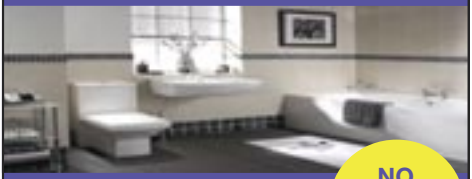
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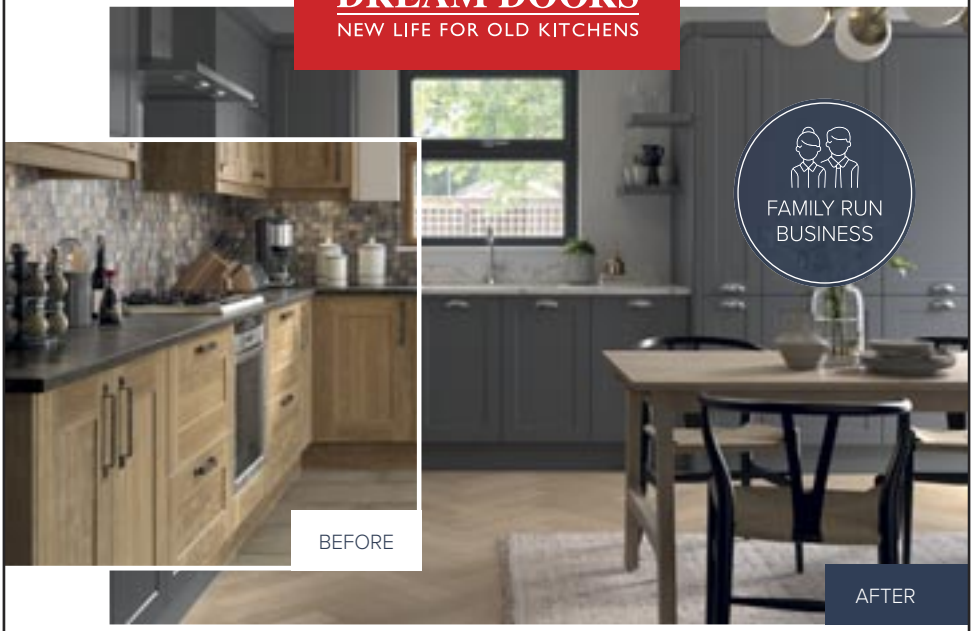
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Part 2

Changes in Rogerstone

since 1974 when it officially became part of Wales

Educational Institutions

Rogerstone has seen changes in its primary schools during this period. Firstly, the old board school near the Welfare Grounds moved to a more modern school at the Cefn Wood site and was renamed as such, then in 2003 the school was destroyed by fire. After a period of using portable classrooms and the use of an empty school at Malpas a new, bigger, state of the art school was built and opened in 2006. The other major educational development was the building of the new Jubilee Park School on the estate which opened in 2016.



The old Rogerstone Board School and the replacement Cefn Wood School



Recreational Spaces

Despite the loss of the aluminium factory outdoor sports facilities, partly due to the bypass, the village also benefited from the construction of the bypass, the old 'make do' facilities at the Welfare were replaced by a modern community hall, sports changing rooms and showers in the early 1980s. Then in 1987 Rogerstone Welfare Cricket Club secured a sports lottery grant for the building of a new two storey cricket clubhouse. More recently, the children's playground was upgraded as was the drainage on the football field. A new all-weather cricket net was also a featured addition with help from Cricket Wales/ECB and Rogerstone Community Council. There have been continual improvements at the Newport Fugitives Athletic Club, both on field and in the clubhouse, again with help from the same parties. These spaces have become integral to community life, offering residents places to gather, engage in physical activities, and foster social connections. The enhancement of these facilities underscores Rogerstone's focus on community well-being and cohesion.





The new Rogerstone Primary School in 2011 and Jubilee Park Primary School in 2025







The old Welfare Grounds from the 1930s, the 1970s and the modern Grounds in 2010s

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Taking Care of Twmbarlwm Gets Expensive…

… thanks to those who persist in trying to destroy it all.



I make no apologies for "banging on" again about the vandalism and fly-tipping we continue to experience on Twmbarlwm – but the fact is, apart from the obvious complaints of such anti-social behaviour being an eyesore and bad for the environment, it gets blooming expensive for the society and the farmers and, indirectly, every council tax payer out there.

Last month at our litter pick we discovered the fence on the slope to the top of Twmbarlwm had been deliberately cut through again, despite there being a gate not ten metres away from the breach. This comprises two lines of stock fence, with trees planted in between them, that the society installed a few years ago, paid for with a government grant that was available at the time.



Above: Vandals come fully equipped, ready to destroy livestock fencing. Right: The expensive fence reinforcement we recently installed.

The fence is there to do a job, to keep livestock from straying onto the scheduled monument and further afield, so we will have to effect a repair, but at what cost? There's the material costs, the manpower and time costs and even administrative costs in trying to find the funding to do it – which is no easy task in today's economic climate.

Similarly, where the fence continues on the far side of the Twmp, a stretch of fence was repeatedly cut alongside a stile – we can't fathom why. The landowners and the society must have repaired it a dozen times, at our own expense, only to find it cut a few days later.

As I said above, the fence is absolutely necessary so it had to be repaired and fortunately, earlier this year, we successfully applied for funding through Cadw to install a stronger fence at this location. This will now allow us to continue with the conservation project we are involved with on Twmbarlwm – but this is probably a funding stream we won't be able to access again.



Councils need to spend precious resources to clean up and investigate illegal fly-tipping

They are just two examples of the quite deliberate destruction of the hard work our members have put into the area – I could fill these pages with photos of the damage continually inflicted on and around Twmbarlwm.

Of course, I haven't yet mentioned the other abhorrent crime that besets us – fly-tipping. It is a constant battle, the cost of which, to all of us as tax-payers and decent citizens, is difficult to estimate. CTS gathers as much as possible on our monthly litter pick days but much of it must be left for the council to collect.

Everybody moans about their council tax bills and question where the money goes – but if more members of the public were diligent enough of how and where they dispose of their rubbish maybe, just maybe, there would be more money to spend elsewhere.

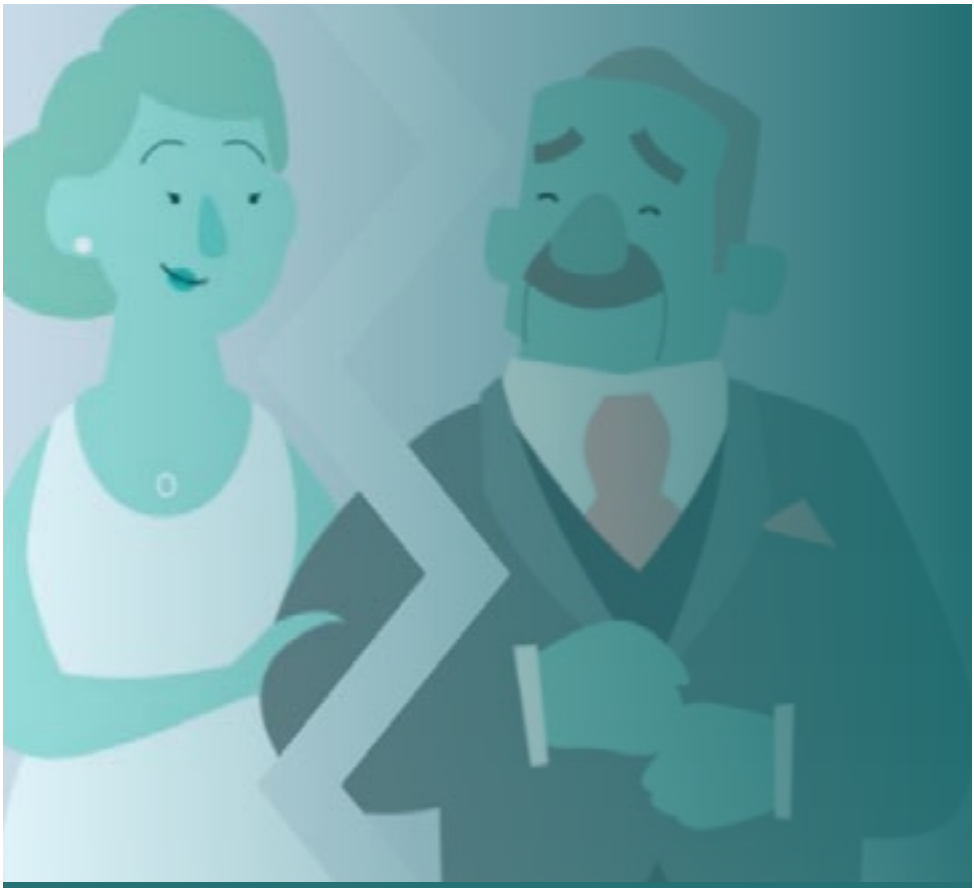
For millennia the mountain has been revered by the communities that have grown up in its shadow – that's why the local tribes built a stronghold at the top, they thought it was a special place to be.

Unfortunately, there are those who ignore accepted common decency and see no wrong in the destruction and littering of an area most people in the community have respected and cherished for generations.

Terry Evans, Chairman
Cymdeithas Twmbarlwm Society

Cymdeithas Twmbarlwm Society meet at the car park below Twmbarlwm's summit for a litter pick and volunteer workday on the 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



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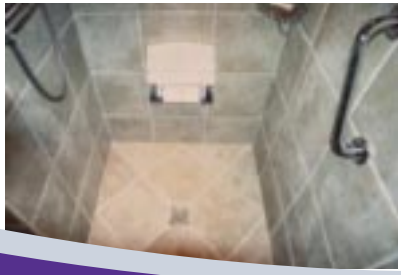
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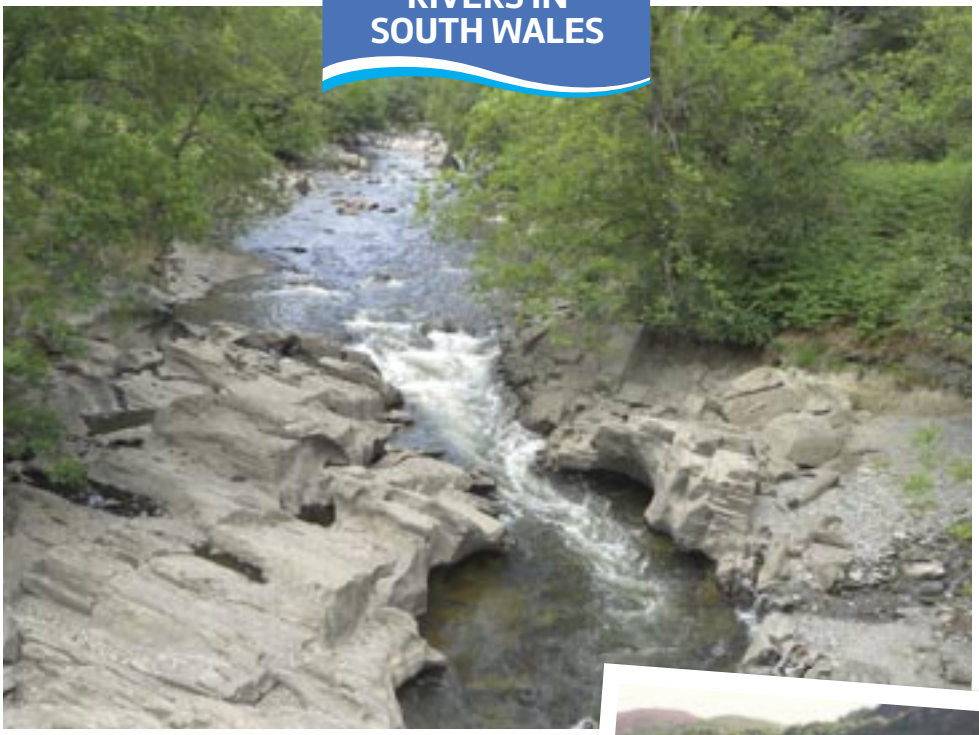


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Visitors can take a scenic drive around the reservoirs or walk along the many trails that run alongside them. The Elan Valley Visitors Centre is a great place to start exploring the area. The centre offers exhibitions, interactive displays, and guided tours that provide a wealth of information about the history and wildlife of the valley.

We have visited the area several times and each time see the river & dams in various states of water levels. It takes just under two hours to get to from the Newport area and is most definitely worth the drive to bask in the outstanding beauty.

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Newport u3a

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mint supplying 30 different countries each year. In addition, it produces a wide range of military, sporting and commemorative medals such as those awarded at the 2012 London Olympic Games. In the exhibition rooms we saw some of the rarest and most unique coins in the world and here we all are around a Mini covered in pennies.

Newport u3a offers 40 more active, social and cultural groups for the retired at the Dolman Theatre Wednesday to Friday during term time. If you would like to enrich your retirement, try out some free taster sessions, visit newport.u3asite.uk or phone Angela Robins on 07983 130541.

Hardy Plant Society

The HPS Monmouthshire group is for people who love plants and gardening and enjoy sharing their enthusiasm with other like-minded people. Non-members are very welcome to come along. Our meetings provide an excellent opportunity to meet people with similar interests in a friendly atmosphere and afterwards to take time to chat and enjoy refreshments and perhaps buy some plants. In addition to the monthly meetings at 2.30pm in Little Mill village hall NP4 0HE on the second Saturday of each month from September to May, the group organises garden visits and discussions, dinners, a plant sale and more.



On Thursday September 25th at the Blake Theatre, Monmouth at 7.30pm, we are delighted to welcome Chris Beardshaw, the well-known TV gardener and presenter, whose theme will be 'Painting with Plants'. Tickets are available by email, telephone or post from boxoffice@theblaketheatre.org at £15 for Hardy Plant Society members and £18 for non-members.
At our October 11th meeting at the Hall in Little Mill at 2.30pm, Marion Stainton will be talking on 'The Winter Garden' with lots of practical advice on your garden during the colder months. All welcome. Members £4, non-members £6.

For more information on all the above, our website is www.hpsmonmouthshire.co.uk

Belle Vue
Park & Tea Room



WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

As the hot summer comes to a close, the Team in Bellevue is embracing Autumn with all the russets and reds, yellows and browns of the Park. We want you to enjoy the cooler afternoons as we head towards the exciting festive season.

Sunday September 7th 11.00am – 4.00pm Sunday Market
Sunday September 14th 2.00pm – 5.00pm
Final Sunday Session with Three O'clock Club accompanied by street food vendors and a horsebox bar.
Sunday 21st September 11.00am – 4.00pm
Little Market. You will find new traders trying out their talents at our mid-month market; plus: Belle Vue presents its own chilled food, veg and farm meat stall.
Sunday October 5th 11.00am – 4.00pm Sunday Market
Sunday October 19th 11.00am – 4.00pm Sunday Market



FOCUS ON YOUR FAVOURITE ARTISANS

Our Food and Craft Market regularly presents 30 plus stalls. We try to present you with a great selection of familiar faces such as Iona's Kitchen for Jamaican inspired pies and patties.
Dot, makes our Victoria Sponge for afternoon tea. She joins us with a tasty choice of cakes and bakes including her famous iced slices.
Shivers is a deli on its own with a range of farm and artisan products.
Unique Touch for skin care.
Fur and Feather for handmade dog treats.
You can buy new collars and leads from Rocco's.
Hannah and her White Light stall, produces by hand an amazing selection of perfumes, soaps, melts and scrubs. She even has shampoo bars.
Margaret and Tina are talented crafters, creating bespoke cards and teddy clothing respectively. Just For You is inspirational stitched and knitted items beautifully made by Elaine.
All of these crafters will make special commissions for you... but hurry, they get very busy towards Christmas!
Nos Da Bakery, a favourite in Newport comes to our markets every month.
New traders start off 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.





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. Our cancellation policy is available on our website and information given on booking.



Why not try one of our afternoon teas. Book online on www.bellevuetearoom.uk or phone Jan on 07737 630657. We also offer tea gift vouchers which can be posted to you or another recipient (just added cost of a stamp).

home instead.

We’re based in Rogerstone, Newport!

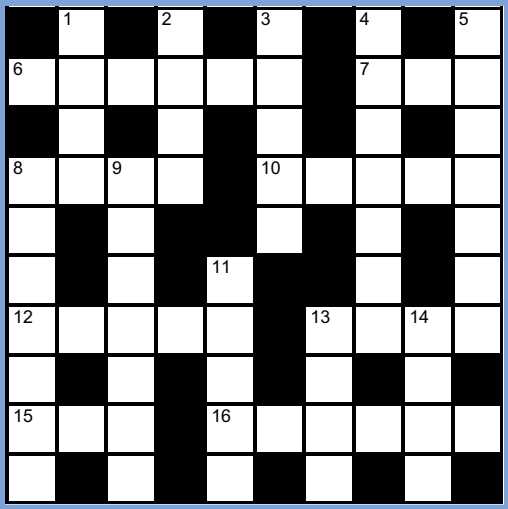

home
instead.

Puzzles

CROSSWORD

Across
6 Education centre (6)
7 Used for listening (3)
8 Groups (4)
10 Special occurrence (5)
12 Flowing water (5)
13 Group of cows (4)
15 Lubricant (3)
16 Loving touch (6)

Down
1 Dull pain (4)
2 Faithful pets (4)
3 Passageway (5)
4 Protection (7)
5 Make believe (7)
8 Common small bird (7)
9 Journeys (7)
11 Building block (5)
13 Cause injury (4)
14 Element of danger (4)



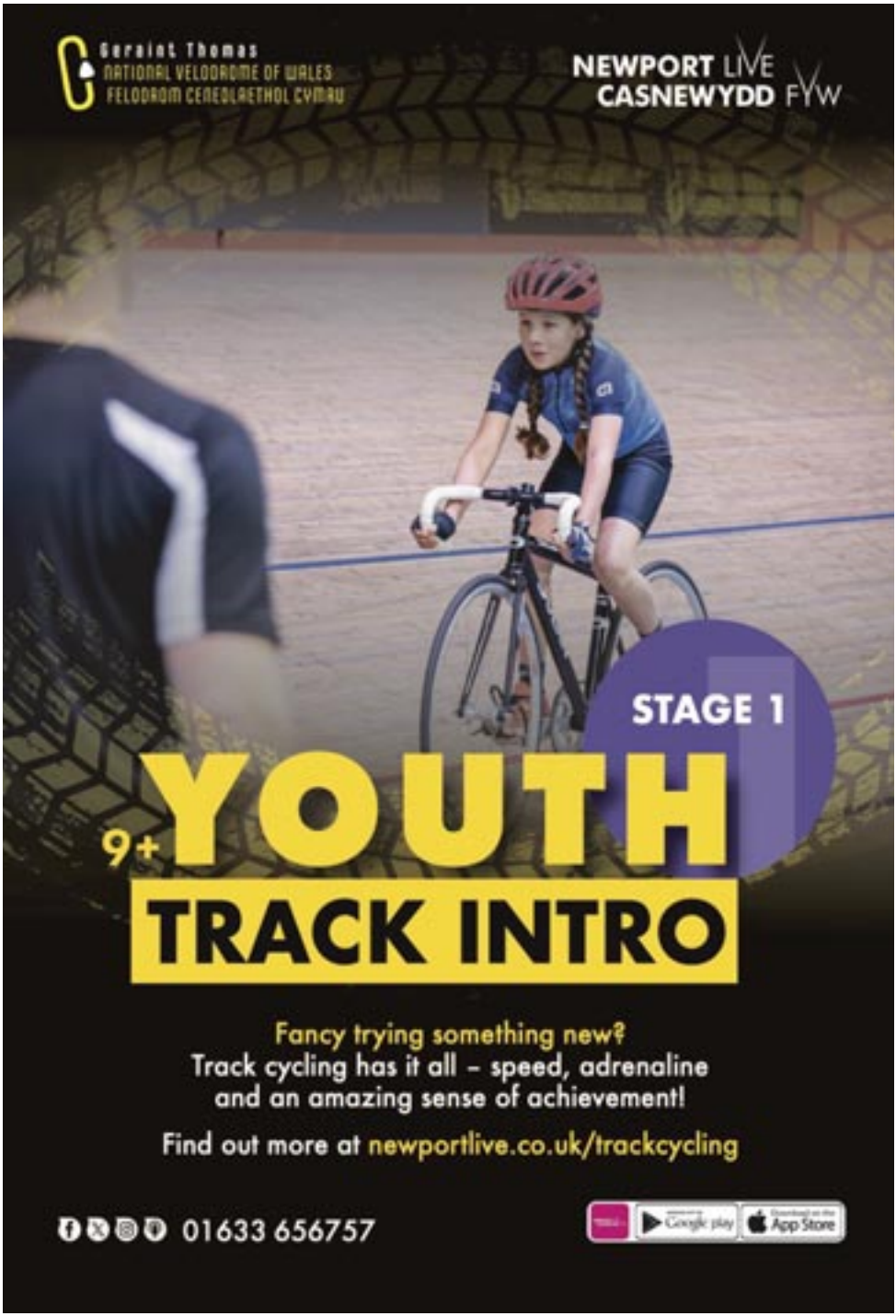
9		1				3		2
		2	8		7	1		
	5						4	
		6	1		4	2		
	2	7				6	5	
		4	5		2	7		
	1						2	
		8	3		5	4		
6		9				5		3

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 33




Geraint Thomas
NATIONAL VELODROME OF WALES
FELODROM GENEDLAETHOL CYMRU
NEWPORT LIVE
CASNEWYDD FYW
STAGE 1
9+ YOUTH
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Risca MUSEUM

Open Doors

Open Doors started as European Heritage Days in 1985 and is organised in Wales by Cadw. During September each year, buildings open that are normally closed to the general public, buildings that normally charge have free entry and other buildings have special events. The last category applies to Risca, with the Risca Museum and St. Mary's church participating, as they have done for many years.

Normally only open from 10am to 12.30pm on Saturdays, Risca Museum in Grove Road, housed in the old miner's institute building, will have an extended opening on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th of September from 10am to 4pm on both days. There are many items of interest; the extensive brick collection (including those from the eight identified Risca brickworks), the war-time memorabilia, the chemist shop from Cardiff Bay (saved from the skip), much railwayana and two separate rooms dedicated to heavy industry and coal mining. The Museum is especially proud of its 1832 Columbian printing press which was purchased, second hand, by Risca company Starling Press, who kept it for 74 years. Ex-employees who remembered it have visited in recent years. After its return to Risca, it was put back into working order by our printer friends Adrian and Richard, who will be there on the Open Days to demonstrate and talk about the printing process.

Much local material is on show and knowledgeable guides will be in attendance throughout the opening hours to answer any questions.

Upstairs in the building, the Western Valley Model Railway Club will be running their extensive track layouts and visitors can view these in operation during the Open Days.







Members of the club will be available to operate their individual layouts and explain the details.



St. Mary's church will be open from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 27th September, when the parish registers of baptisms, marriages and burials will be available for inspection. Although the building is Victorian, it is built on an ancient site; when the previous church was being demolished, Roman remains were found in the foundations and it has been suggested that a Roman building may have been constructed on an earlier Celtic religious site.

There are many interesting memorials in the church and churchyard, with notable stained glass windows, including a recent one commemorating the areas mining history. The church has undergone much work recently, installing a kitchen and toilets and creating a multi-use area where refreshments will be available during the Open Doors Day.

There is a link between the two buildings; in the churchyard close to the front door of the church is a gravestone to the Robathan family. Edward Robathan, the head of the family, was the local surgeon living at Grove House in Risca. After his death, the house was purchased for adult education and renamed Oxford House. Oxford House Industrial History Society, which looks after Risca Museum, was formed over 50 years ago following a series of lectures at Oxford House.

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Puzzle Solutions

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

■	1 A	■	2 D	■	3 A	■	4 D	5 P
6 S	C	H	O	O	L	■	7 E	A	R
■	H	■	G	■	L	■	F	■	E
8 S	E	9 T	S	■	10 E	V	E	N	T
P	■	R	■	■	Y	■	N	■	E
A	■	A	■	11 B	■	■	C	■	N
12 R	I	V	E	R	■	13 H	E	14 R	D
R	■	E	■	I	■	A	■	I	■
15 O	I	L	■	16 C	A	R	E	S	S
W	■	S	■	K	■	M	■	K	■

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BEACHES IN WALES

Saint Govans Head

The views along the Pembrokeshire Coast Path are magnificent. The cliffs here are important for seabirds, including guillemots, razorbills and kittiwakes. The path from the car park to the old coastguard station has been surfaced and provides a fairly level walk. Close to the car park, but down a flight of steps is the chapel dedicated to St Govan, an Irish abbot of the 6th century, unfortunately we never went down to the waters edge to see the chapel.

We walked around the stunning cliffs and saw a variety of seabirds and even some seals basking on the rocks. The Ministry of Defence has been using the area around Castle Martin as a firing range since the 1940s. It was fascinating seeing some of the old bunkers that have now been abandoned.

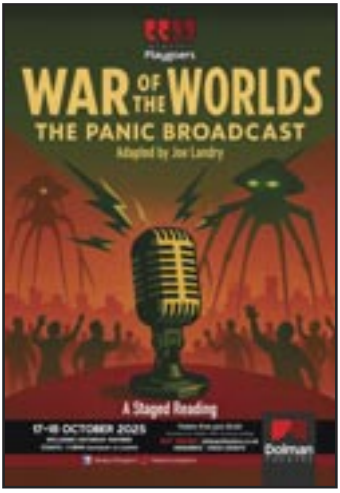


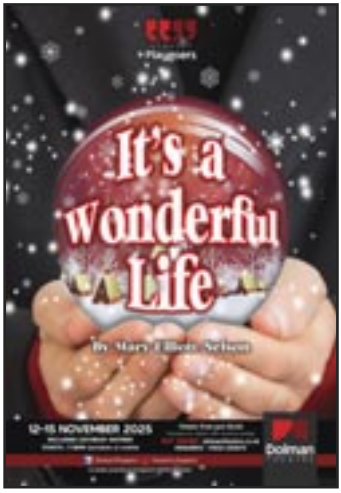
It's a two hour drive from Newport but if you are on holiday in the Pembrokeshire or Carmarthenshire area it's well worth a visit.

DOLMAN
THEATRE NEWPORT







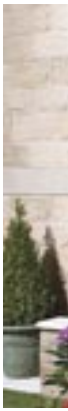


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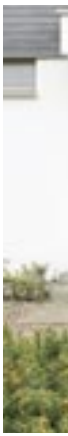
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Boosting Your Pension Pot in 2025/2026:

A Friendly Guide

Looking to grow your pension pot this tax year? Acting earlier in the tax year gives your investments more time to grow, taking full advantage of compound growth and boosting your retirement savings.

Maximise Your Annual Allowance
The annual pension allowance is the maximum amount that can be contributed to your pension schemes without triggering a tax charge. It's set at £60,000 or 100% of your earnings, whichever is lower. For high earners or those who've started withdrawing from pensions, the allowance could be lower. If you've started withdrawals, your limit may drop to just £10,000.

Maximising contributions allows you to reduce taxable income and potentially lower your tax bill, making it a smart way to grow your pension.

Tax Relief: A Valuable Boost
Pension contributions offer tax relief, which is one of the best incentives for retirement savings. For most UK taxpayers, this means a 20% government top-up. For example, a £100 contribution only costs you £80! Higher and additional-rate taxpayers can claim further relief, but a self-assessment tax return is required.

This makes pensions one of the most tax-efficient ways to save for retirement.

Workplace Pension Schemes
If you're in a workplace pension scheme, your employer is required to contribute at least 3% of your qualifying earnings, with you contributing at least 5%. Many employers even match contributions up to a certain limit, so boosting your contributions could double the money you put into your pension.

It's a simple way to grow your pension with minimal effort, so it's worth checking if your employer will contribute more.

Optimise Your Personal Allowance
In the 2025/26 tax year, the personal allowance is £12,570, the amount you can earn before paying income tax. However, for those earning above £100,000, this allowance reduces, disappearing entirely if your income exceeds £125,000.

By contributing to your pension, you can reduce taxable income and potentially reclaim lost personal allowance, which could save tax at an effective rate of 60%.



Keep Your Child Benefit with Pension Contributions
In 2024, the High-Income Child Benefit Charge threshold to £60,000. This means fewer families will lose Child Benefit. If your income is between £50,000 and £60,000, contributing to your pension can reduce your taxable income enough to retain full entitlement.

Even if your income is above £60,000, applying for Child Benefit is still worth it for National Insurance credits, which count towards your State Pension.

Ready to Talk About Boosting Your Pension?
Pension contributions and tax benefits can be a little tricky to navigate and requires careful consideration and professional financial advice, but don't worry – we are here to help. If you'd like to talk through your options or get some tailored advice on how to make the most of your pension, we're just a phone call or email away.

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