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DIRECTORY

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Susan x

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Roger Morgan BEM

It is with great pleasure to be able to report that Roger Morgan of Rogerstone was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Kings New Year Honours List 2025.

Roger was awarded the honour for 38 years of services to heritage interpretation and education in CADW. Roger has been seen at numerous events over many years, dressed in various roles and with his characteristic wit, there was never a dull moment and audiences are always fascinated when Roger does one of his many dressed for the part skits, which ensures the audience are kept amused but learning our heritage.

Roger received the BEM from the Lord Lieutenant of Gwent, Brigadier Robert Aitken at CADW. Roger said “Of course, the two people who absolutely should have been there, and were there only in spirit, were mum and dad. If they had been there, they would have loved it, especially as there was cake! Thanks, though, to Uncle Don for saying some lovely words and to everyone for coming along.”

Roger and his wife Wendy later had the privilege of attending a garden party at Buckingham Palace. As Roger says “A very special affair indeed, but what we both said after the event was over, and when we were on our way back to the hotel, was how lovely everybody was, how relaxed it was and what a smashing way to spend an afternoon. We met some wonderful people, swapping stories and passing the time with them. There was the conservation forester from North Yorkshire and his wife, The Mayor of Bolton and her consort (her daughter),



Roger receiving his medal from the Lord Lieutenant of Gwent



Roger's CADW work colleagues , his wife Wendy and Uncle Don

Dave and Chris the lovely couple from Aberdare, the young couple from Northern Ireland, who are expecting their second in August (it's amazing what people tell you)



Roger and Wendy at the Buckingham Palace Garden Party

and so many more including, of course, my friend Phil Richards and his wife Ann. It was a treat to meet up with Phil and Ann. The garden party was fantastic; we met some wonderful people from across the country but made friends with a couple from Aberdare. The Prince and Princess of Wales were hosting, and we were so lucky with the weather."
When asked - Did we see a Royal?
"Actually no. There was such a huge number of folk crowding around we never saw one although the Prince and Princess of Wales were hosting, The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh were there and so were Zara and Eugene I believe.
But we heard terrific music from the bands, saw the Yeomen of the Guard, met the best of people and I must say that the refreshments were delightful.
All told, a wonderful occasion and one to remember."
To Close, I remember Roger's dad Vernon telling me he was meeting Roger at a car sales place for Roger's advice and Roger turned up in full Roman armour and no his dad didn't buy a horse drawn Chariot!
I'm sure I speak for all of Rogerstone when I say. Congratulations Roger Morgan BEM!

Derek Picken, Rogie Boy



Roger and some of his many amusing but very educational heritage skits

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Rogerstone
ROSES

The Break

I thought just for a change I'd start my article before I get the very much needed nod from the editor. I thought I'd start it mainly because it's so hot I can't imagine doing anything that involves large movements of any sort, but using two or three fingers might just be alright. Yes, I still basically use my index fingers to type, unlike the youth who manage to tap out messages at incredible speeds with their thumbs.

It was obviously wrong of me to decry the weather because just as the school term ends the weather becomes rather changeable, certainly more comfortable for doing anything vital to maintaining the status quo, but there is no sign of the much needed rain and gardens look parched and brown. Will we like others in the U.K. eventually have a hosepipe ban?

You may wonder why I'm writing about the weather when the whole idea of this article is to promote Rogerstone Roses W.I. It's because like schools we have a break too and so there are no meetings to comment on. Our last meetings, a hog roast and a picnic in the park are distant happy memories.



Although meetings ceased for August, the committee still met to ensure that the programme for the following months is a varied selection of talks, demonstrations and hands on evenings.

I hope that by the time you read this the summer will have been a Camelot experience, whereby it has rained only at night and the days have been suitably temperate and that you have managed to enjoy the long days doing whatever floats your boat, as the saying goes.

By the time you read this autumn will be upon us upon us, the light evenings will be shorter and the heat waves and holidays probably another distant memory.



On the second Tuesday of September, the W.I., starts a completely new programme. It ranges from talks by a local vet, art appreciation, skittles (playing them, not too taxing!) and a Christmas party with appropriate entertainment and buffet. These are just some of the evenings our social secretaries have planned. If you think some of these activities would interest you, you are more than welcome to come and join us. We meet at St John the Baptist Church Hall, Bryngwyn Road, 7.15pm to 9.00pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month.

Liz James



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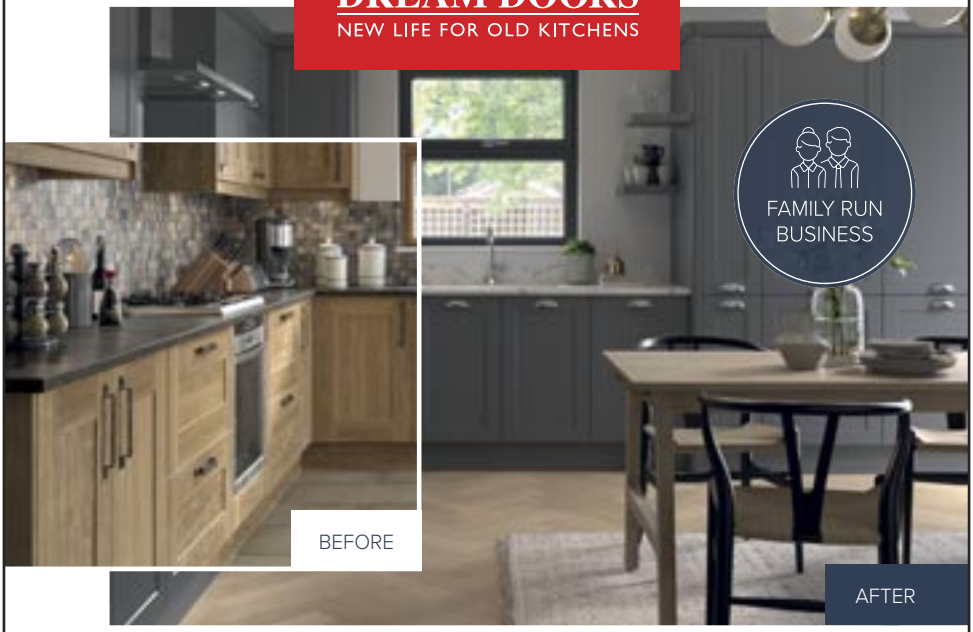
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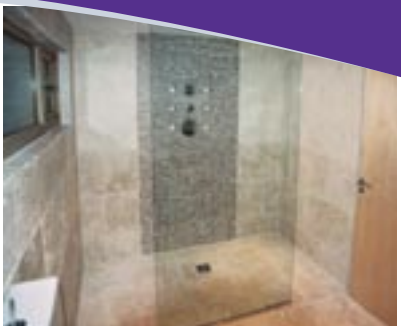
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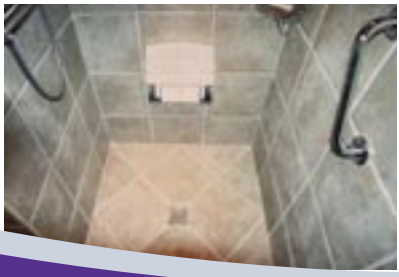
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THE ORIGINS OF ROGERSTONE LIBRARY

The next time you're travelling along Tregwilym Road in Rogerstone, the road that stretches between St John's Church and the entrance to Jubilee Park, take time to stop about half-way down and take a look at Rogerstone Library.

Because it is above street level and back from the road it is easy to miss but from the opposite side of Tregwilym Road you will have a splendid view of this imposing, 120 year-old, Grade ll listed building. It was built 'in a prime site... overlooking the broad Ebbw valley' and, to quote the experts, in 'an Edwardian free Classical style of squared purple sandstone with a slate roof and a lantern dome'.

What makes Rogerstone Library special is that it came into existence because of the generosity of one man, namely Andrew Carnegie and is one of 35 free libraries that Carnegie funded throughout Wales at the beginning of the twentieth century. Andrew Carnegie was an iron and steel entrepreneur, a billionaire described as the richest man in the world in his lifetime and as the world's first modern philanthropist. A patriotic Scotsman from a poor family in Dunfermline, he relocated to America and as an avid reader 'this first great patron of public libraries in Britain and America' dreamed of providing free libraries for all in every town and village. Carnegie worked assiduously with local communities to ensure that the buildings he funded had security of tenure over time and would have



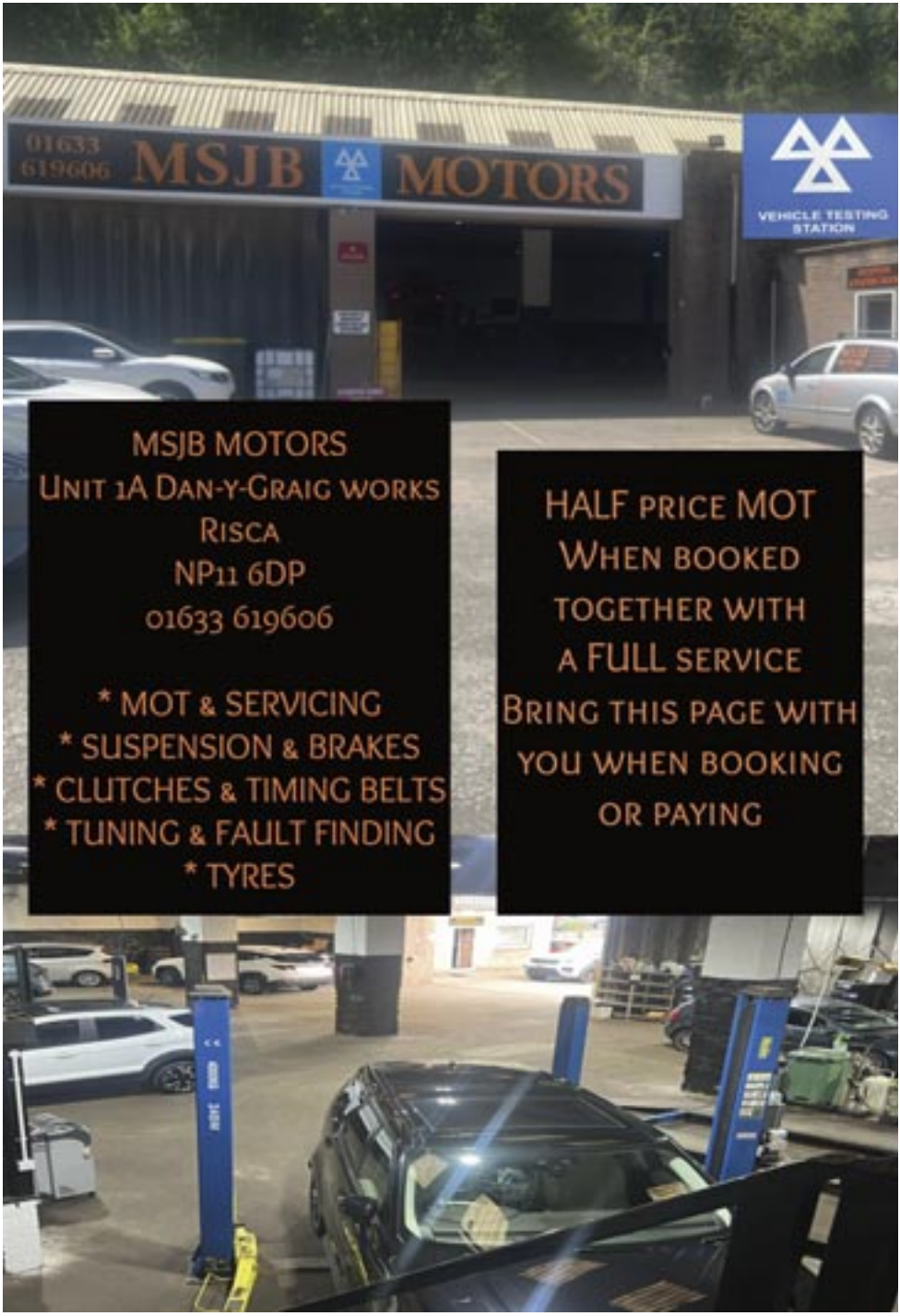


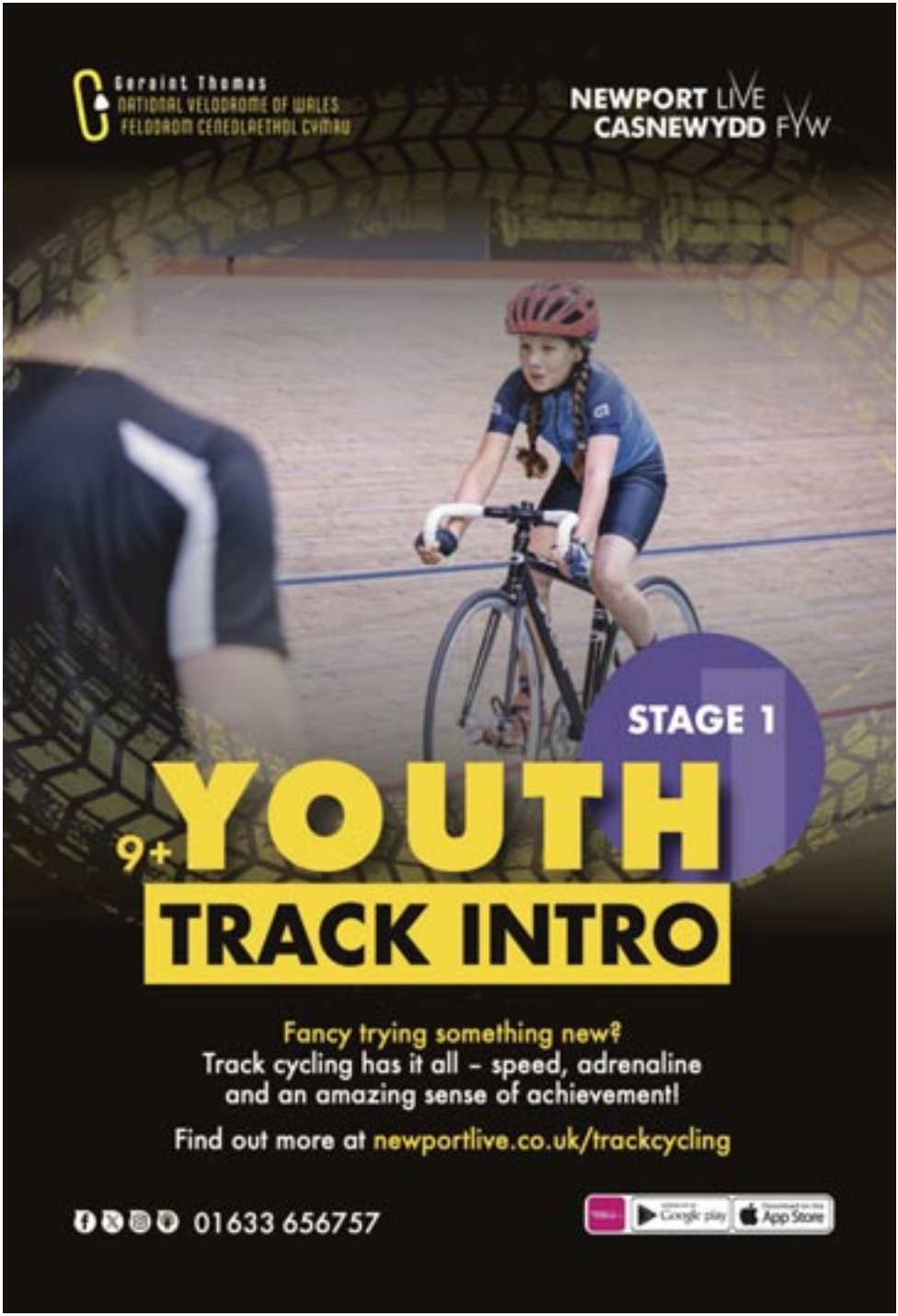
sufficient books either donated or paid for from the 'penny rate' that local authorities could levy. His largesse enabled 660 free libraries to be set up in the UK at a cost of 15 million dollars. His friendship with people like David Lloyd George and with Gladstone, who lived in Wales, and his contacts in the world of Welsh iron and steel ensured that his philanthropy reached many areas of Wales particularly those, like Rogerstone, which were heavily industrialised.

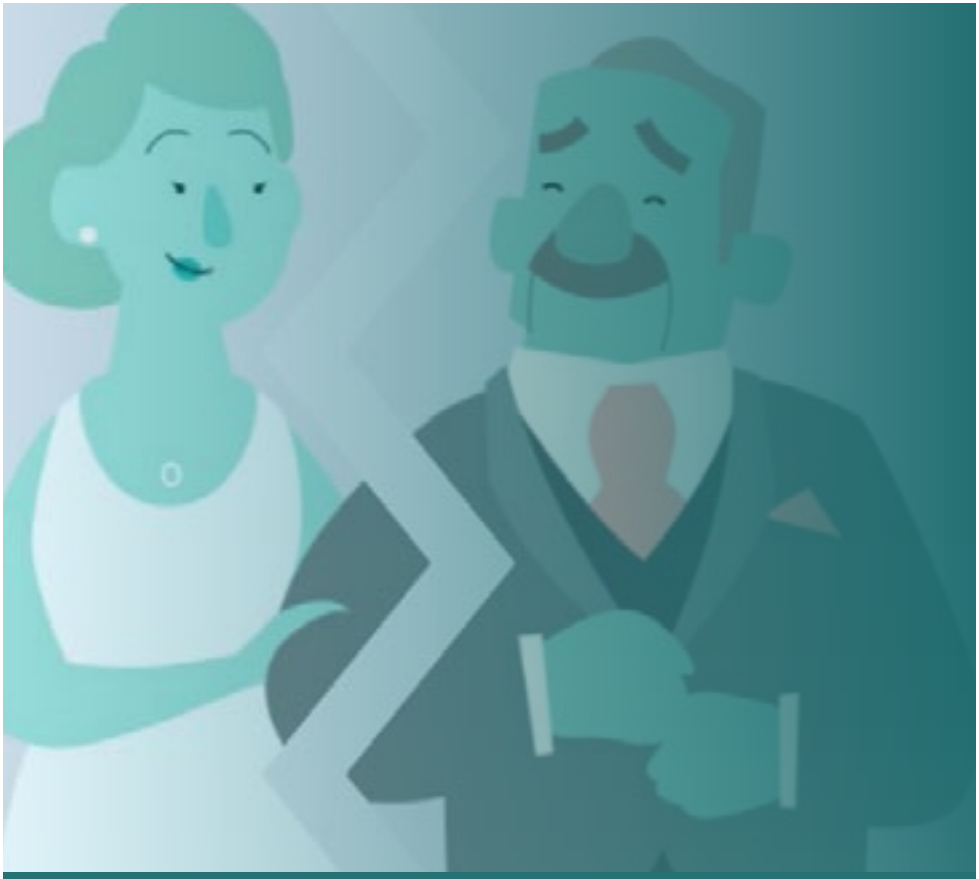
On 29th September 1903 Rogerstone Parish Council resolved to thank Andrew Carnegie for his promise of £1400 for a new library building and so it was that only just over two years later the Rogerstone Library, free for all to use, was opened. It was fitting, perhaps, that the Lord Lieutenant of Monmouthshire, Lord Tredegar, officially opened the library for, as a philanthropist in his own right, he had provided the 'prime site' and at Carnegie's request had also gifted the freehold of the land. There were some behind-the-scenes negotiations before the deal was struck in that the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Monmouthshire button-holed Carnegie about the matter at a meeting of the Iron and Steel Institute of Great Britain, both men being prominent members of the institute.

Andrew Carnegie has generally remained an unsung hero in Welsh history despite his philanthropic work in The Principality. However, there is no doubt that his love of books translated into the provision of free libraries for all has had a profound and lasting effect on communities all around Wales. Rogerstone should certainly be proud that its library is a thriving legacy of this great benefactor's vision.

Reference: Free and Public, Andrew Carnegie and the Libraries of Wales by Ralph A. Griffiths, University of Wales Press.
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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.

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





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

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.
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Swan RESCUE

The Moult

Memory plays funny To moult in animals and birds is to shed skin, hair or fur and feathers in order to make way for new growth. In the case of swans, of course, it's feathers and there are very many of them, providing waterproofing, insulation and streamlining. They don't last forever and need to be replaced annually, a process which starts in late July or early August and consumes a lot of energy. It can take four-seven weeks to complete and obviously, during this time they are flightless, as, are the cygnets, which have not yet learnt to fly.



On the water again at last after how long



Peace at last

In the context of swan rescue, it is very much the case that one learns as one goes along. Many years ago, our attention was drawn to what appeared to be a very sick adult male swan at Brynhill Golf Course (Barry). He was taken into care for a few days, given a vitamin boost and ensured he had free access to lots of good wholesome swan food, before returning him to his territory.

This memory was jogged as the end of July approached, when we received a call from the canal near the Harvester in Malpas; the report referred to a near motionless lethargic swan surrounded by a large quantity of poo.

It would be totally wrong to assume anything, such reports must be investigated regardless of inconvenience. It was as described, so we started by offering wheat on which he started to feed immediately, a good sign. Shortly he struggled to his feet, and very laboriously made his way down the bank, a long way, given the very low water level in the canal. At this point it was time to try some floating swan and duck food which was also acceptable. This was the moment which his family, female and six cygnets chose to appear. There can be little doubt they became aware 'easy access food' was available!

It is so easy to be tempted to superimpose human interpretations on events as they unfold. The enthusiasm with which the adult female and particularly the six cygnets were tucking in, made it look as if the cob decided he couldn't be bothered to compete. The response was to find a packet of energy and as we watched, the male was paddling away from the scene, at speed, up towards the Harvester bridge. Clearly, there was nothing more to be done here, so we followed him on our way back to the car.

Just short of the bridge, he stopped, stretched fully upwards and outwards and then started to preen. Given the nature of this story, our pictures are self-explanatory!



Family arrive with the lure of food

Two days later, normal service was resumed. We received a call that reported the same swan in exactly the same position on the canal bank, but this time there was fishing line attached to the swan's black berry above his beak by means of a small hook, trailing line and float, mercifully, an easy one to solve.

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

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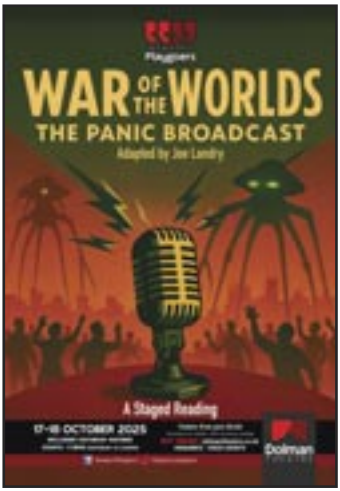
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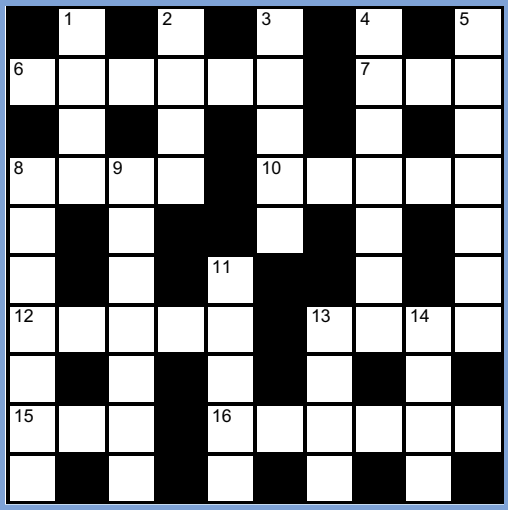
Booking: www.dolmantheatre.co.uk
Theatre Enquiries: 01633 263670

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 39



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.

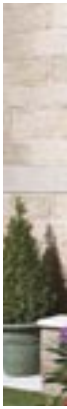


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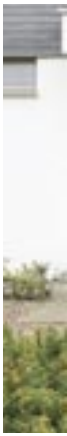
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Gwerinwyr Gwent Diary

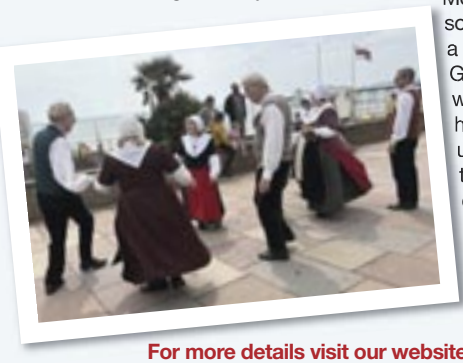
Our first booking of the year was at the end of February, when we spent a very pleasant evening with the ladies of Machen WI. This was swiftly followed by St David's Day at Foxhunters Care Community near Abergavenny. We danced and played for them, with Barbara Griffiths again as MC, and even got some 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).

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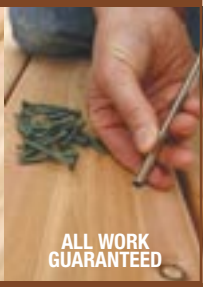
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7	5	3	2	1	9	8	4	6
5	9	6	1	7	4	2	3	8
1	2	7	9	8	3	6	5	4
8	3	4	5	6	2	7	1	9
3	1	5	6	4	8	9	2	7
2	7	8	3	9	5	4	6	1
6	4	9	7	2	1	5	8	3

■	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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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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