ROGERSTONE

DIRECTORY

ISSUE 117 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025



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Welcome!

As 2025 draws to an end we would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who has contributed to the continued success of the Directory this year.

Thank you to all the distributors who, no matter how bad the weather is, deliver the Directories for us. Thank you to the residents and organisations for sending us articles. Finally, a very special thank you to the advertisers for their continued support, without the financial support from them, there would be no Directory.

If you are interested in advertising your business in the Directory, please contact us to find out about the extremely competitive advertising rates. You will always deal with us directly, like many of the businesses that advertise in this magazine, we are a small, independent family business and fully appreciate how much your business means to you.

Please check our website for churches near you for information of their Christmas services.



COPY DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY / FEBRUARY EDITION FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

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

Editor: Susan Woolford | Sales & Distribution: Leslie Woolford

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Rogerstone Community Council invites you to the

Community CAROL SERVICE

at St John's Church

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Thursday 11th December at 7.00pm



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21st Dec 10.30 am - Morning Worship (Advent 4)
21st Dec 5.00 pm - Carol Service
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passes to the beneficiaries. As the surviving partner does not own the deceased's share of the property it is fully protected for the beneficiaries, so if the surviving partner requires care, or even remarries, this share of the children'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 PPT can help each person in a relationship ensure that their children inherit their share of the property, while giving their surviving partner the ability to live in the property for the rest of their life. If the surviving partner wants to move to another property, 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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The ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY at Rogerstone

& Changes after the second world War

With the end of the war the Aluminium works changed from the Northern Aluminium Company (Noral), which was set up with government aid specifically for the war effort, The Company then became Alcan Aluminium Company of Canada).

This saw the start of many changes and land acquisition. The company was very pro employee welfare and set up many social and sporting groups. Firstly, a large tennis section and club was started on the Bassaleg side of the Brecon and Merthyr Railway Line, on the site where the Forge Mews estate now stands. That was followed by the purchase of Plain Farm fields where the original Alcan Sports and Social Club was built (of course, built of aluminium). There was initially a soccer pitch and a cricket pitch, both where the Beavers Walk estate and Bypass is today. Later the cricket pitch was moved to the front of the Alcan Sports and Social Club, now the Rogerstone and Bassaleg Social Club. Later the soccer pitch was moved to the field opposite the St Basil & Gwladys church. Other sports catered for at the club were snooker, darts, judo and table tennis and bowls at the Drill Hall. There was also archery on the cricket field and initially a TV room was provided



The old Alcan Club and Sports Fields



A picture showing the Old DeHavilland site (bottom left) and the football pitch on the other side of the old river feeder that powered the works engines. Also, visible is the stream and pond on the football field and Pontnewydd Farm before the power station works.

in the Sports and Social Club. The footpath to Bassaleg was eventually moved across to the other side of the river by provision of an aluminium bridge. This footpath now runs through the Tregwilym Industrial estate. Other land acquisitions were that of the John's Farm fields, Tregwilym Fach, The Oak Tree Pub and later the adjoining houses. Perhaps the most interesting acquisition was some land the other side of the river belonging to Glochwen Farm. The use of this land was achieved by diverting the river. At the extreme west end of the works, the old De Haviland Forge works was also purchased and became the Case Sheds. In the 1950s a large continuous strip mill, a third of a mile long was constructed on the West Works site.

Also acquired in the late 1950s was the tram road leading to the river bridge and a triangular section of the Welfare Grounds at the south end of the cricket field. In return the Community Council received a section of land where the Glade area now sits. There were later many other changes as dictated by the financial markets until finally the works site was closed and rolling mills relocated to China. Then in 2015, came the Jubilee Park Housing Estate.

Derek Picken



Another photograph of the tram road and the triangular area at the far end of the cricket field obtained by Alcan, the picture also shows the land on the other side of the river acquired later by diverting the river together with the new West Works rolling mill. The river feeder can also be seen as the 'white strip' behind the cricket field, as can the Case Sheds, the old DeHavilland Forge buildings, top right-hand corner.


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MINCE PIES

BETHESDA
and CEFN WOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

CHRISTMAS AT BETHESDA & CEFN WOOD

CAROLS IN THE CAR PARK

THURS 18TH DECEMBER
6.30PM
BETHESDA

ALL-AGE FAMILY SERVICE

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER
11AM
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AFTERNOON CAROL SERVICE

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER
4PM
CEFN WOOD

EVENING CAROL SERVICE

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER
6PM
BETHESDA

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

CHRISTMAS EVE
5PM
BETHESDA

CHRISTMAS MORNING FAMILY SERVICE

CHRISTMAS DAY
10.30AM
BETHESDA



Festive Music Facts

We Wish You A Merry Christmas is one of the oldest Christmas songs, originating in 16th century England.

James Pierpont's 1857 song Jingle Bells was first called One Horse Open Sleigh and was written for Thanksgiving.

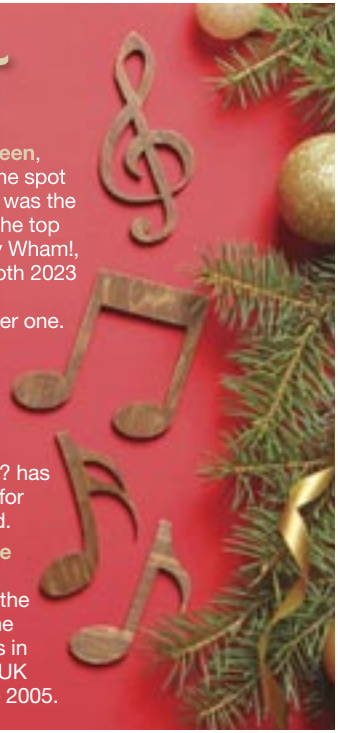
White Christmas by Bing Crosby is the best selling single of all time, its sold over 50 million copies worldwide.

LadBaby is the act with the most Christmas number ones with five, surpassing the Beatles' previous record of four in 2022. Paul McCartney has been top eight times with various acts, while Cliff Richard has spent four Christmases at number one.
The Spice Girls later equalled the then-record of the Beatles to have three consecutive Christmas number ones, from 1996 to 1998.

Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen, which reached the number-one spot at Christmas 1975 and 1991, was the only record to have reached the top twice, until Last Christmas by Wham!, which topped the charts in both 2023 and 2024, making it the first consecutive Christmas number one.

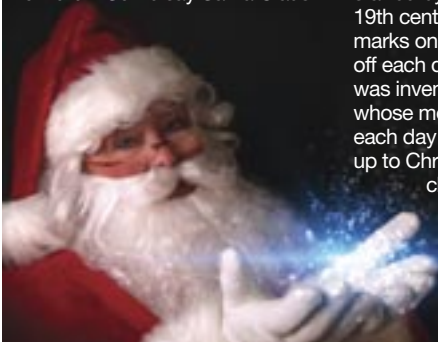
Mary's Boy Child is the only song to be Christmas number one for two artists – Harry Belafonte in 1957 and Boney M. in 1978, although Do They Know It's Christmas? has been Christmas number one for three generations of Band Aid.

Fairytale of New York by The Pogues and Kirsty MacColl has never hit number one on the UK charts but is still one of the most played Christmas songs in the UK. It has re-entered the UK Top 20 chart every year since 2005.



More Christmas Traditions

SANTA CLAUS
The tradition stems from the pagan figure of Father Winter, who would be welcomed into homes and plied with food and drink in hope of being given a mild winter. The name Santa Claus comes from the generous Catholic St Nicholas, a red-robed bishop who was said to drop presents down chimneys for children. Some say Santa Claus wore green until Coca-Cola gave him a red coat in the 1930s adverts. But some earlier descriptions show him dressed in red, based on St Nicholas' red bishop's robes. In 1879, the world's first ever Santa's Christmas Grotto appeared in Liverpool.



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Christmas Service
Sunday 21st December
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Rogerstone
ROSES

All creatures great and small

Many of you will instantly recognise the heading either as a sentence from a well-loved hymn or as the title of a popular television programme; more of that later. Many of our speakers are interesting and informative, some have capable tech skills that allow them to illustrate their talks with superb pictures that bring their talk to life, they emphasise their topics which I must say sometimes and I emphasise sometimes, denies our imagination that luxury. Once in a while, we have a very different experience and so it was when our very own version of James Herriot, (the pseudonym of the television vet and author of many books) came to talk about her experiences. It was most informative, entertaining, compassionate and often very amusing, illustrated with strange 'things' in plastic containers.

The lady, I'm sure she won't mind my saying worked until she was eighty and that was some years ago, is diminutive, barely above five feet in height and very slightly built. I only mention this because it makes some of her experiences even more extraordinary. I wish that I had time to repeat all of her anecdotes, I haven't so I will choose some of the more bizarre, please bear in mind that this lady was a 'small animal' vet. This to you or certainly myself means cats, dogs, rabbits and other domestic animals, possibly the occasional fox, stoat or badger. However just occasionally this term encompasses some rather unusual animals.

Years ago, the circus came to Newport and I can remember, as a small girl watching them parade through town; in those days, circuses were allowed to have animals, lions, tigers and certainly elephants. And so, it was on one of these occasions, our lady vet received a frantic telephone call saying that one of the elephants had a stone stuck in its trunk! Dutifully our speaker hurried down to the circus pitch to view said beast.



There it was looking sad and sorry for itself, as a vet not used to such predicaments she rang London Zoo and spoke to the vet there, who suggested a solution, sedate the elephant and remove the stone by lancing the appropriate site on the trunk; all good so far but, there is always a but, be careful not to over sedate the animal otherwise it will have enormous difficulty getting up again. Not only that but where to inject, an elephant's hide is very thick, but apparently there is a less thick area just behind the ear and so our intrepid vet set about her task, not only was she successful but she had the stone there for us to see. On another occasion, when the circus visited, a second disaster was reported, several of the elephants had diarrhoea. Again, it is obvious that the elephants are very sick with suspected salmonella, once more our inspirational speaker devises a method which involves pumping gallons and gallons of saline solution into each elephant to rehydrate them. This involves a stepladder, garden hose and large pumping equipment. All the elephants recovered.

On one occasion, a python was brought to the surgery by two rather nervous policemen, one at either end of the massive snake, a member of the public had found it in her bath! Not a problem for our vet she promptly puts the snake in a tank, the snake does what snakes do and coiled itself up and there it stayed. Pleas were put out, have you lost a snake? A few days later in comes a chap with substantial body art and cries "you've found my_____"-can't remember the snake's name. On hearing chap's voice, the snake unwinds and the owner helps it wind its way around his neck and round his arms and off he goes!

These are just a few of the accounts we heard, there is no space to tell you about the parrot or the pig or any of the other animals we heard about, but we all went home having enjoyed an insight into the busy life of a caring conscientious vet.

Liz James

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Christmas Wreaths

Where do they come from?

Christmas wreaths are one of the most beloved Christmas decorations adorning front doors of homes today.
The wreath is an assortment of flowers, leaves, fruits, twigs, or various materials that are constructed to resemble a ring. They are usually made from evergreens and symbolize strength, as evergreens last even throughout the harshest winters.
In Christianity, wreaths are used to observe the Advent season and are often set up on the first Sunday of Advent. The Advent wreath was first used by Lutherans in Germany in the 16th century, and in 1839, Lutheran priest Johann Hinrich Wichern used a wreath made from a cart wheel to educate children about the meaning and purpose of Christmas, as well as to help them count its approach, thus giving rise to the modern version of the Advent wreath. For every Sunday of Advent, starting with the fourth Sunday before Christmas, he would put a white candle in the wreath and for every day in between he would use a red candle. All of the Advent wreaths, however, have four candles, and many of them have a white candle in the centre, the Christ candle, which is lit on Christmas Day.



This Christmas, consider the history of the Christmas wreath as you're hanging your wreath on your front door. Think about what the circle means to you and your family, and decorate your Christmas wreath with symbols of love and life.

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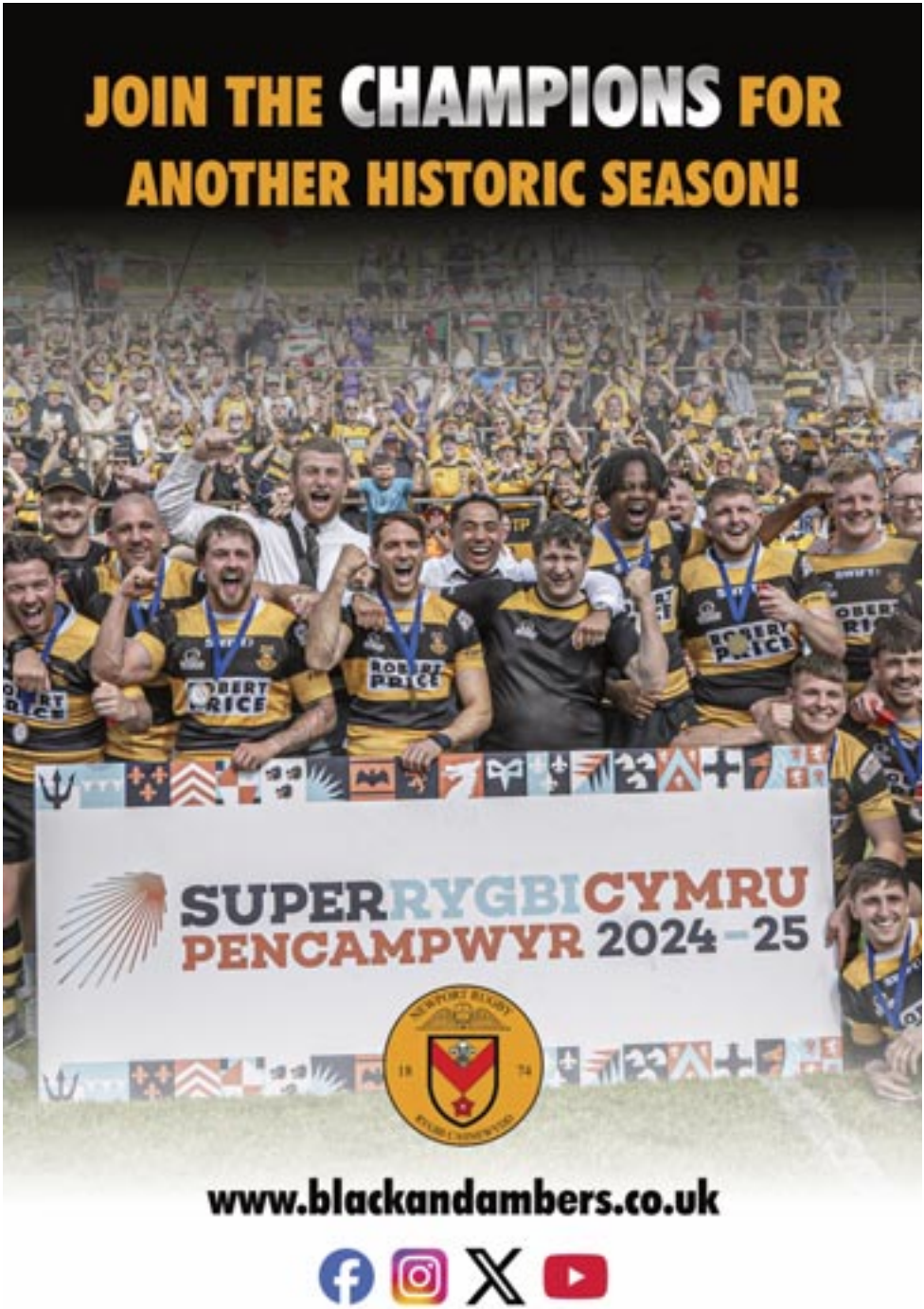
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Swan
RESCUE

What Can One Say About September?

It has been a month of challenges and difficulties, resulting inevitably in a considerable amount of driving and a handful of truly awful incidents; so here is just a flavour.

The biggest single problem, which given the circumstances had the happiest possible outcome. The location is Tredelerch Lake at the bottom of Llanrumney, a stretch of water with which we have had a very long connection, a lot of it in the past with unhappy memories. There was an echo of this in mid-August when two of the six cygnets were shot dead and another was left severely traumatised. Eight days later, one of the surviving cygnets was found to be horribly tackled involving a 45 minute patient vigil until an opportunity presented to catch the bird; the rest was just routine removal of hook and line. A matter of days later, (5th September), Paul called to say that two more of the cygnets had been shot and appeared to have broken wings. Mercifully, we weren't too far away and so were able to be on site very quickly.

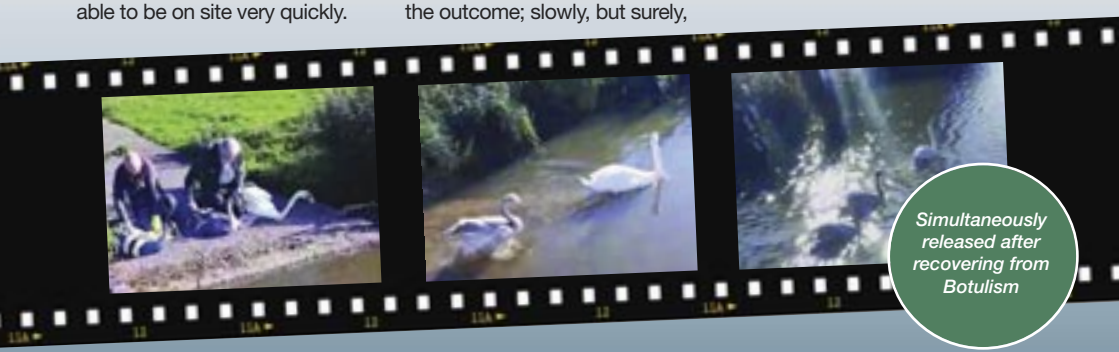
With the benefit of modern technology, photographs were despatched immediately to Mel at the Swan Sanctuary at Shepperton. 'No', she said 'That's botulism. Get them up here as quickly as you can.' We were under way in no time at all. Technology, then intervened again; passing through the Brynglas Tunnel, Sally from Shepperton phoned with an offer to meet partway; an offer which was accepted pretty quickly! For this purpose, Reading Services is ideally placed with full entry and exit junctions to the motorway, both to the east and the west. Those two cygnets were in treatment, one much more poorly than the other and therefore on a drip, in near record time.

At 6.40pm the following day, Paul phoned again to report that the cob (adult male) was then showing significant signs of distress. Clearly, there was no alternative but to drop everything, collect the swan, large and very heavy, a long way back to the car and arriving at Shepperton at 10.45pm. For a few days, it seems, it was touch and go as to the outcome; slowly, but surely, the signs of improvement grew stronger.

The effectiveness of the drugs available is well illustrated by the fact that towards the end of the following week, it became clear the swans could be returned to South Wales, which duly happened on 22nd.

In the meantime, a further trip to Shepperton had to be undertaken on the 8th as a result of the need to rescue a poorly swan from Cold Knap on account of it apparently lost the ability to walk, and hence dragging itself along on its belly.

The release of the botulism survivors went well; the three returnees, still in their bags, were lined up at the foot of the slipway, and all released simultaneously; they all departed extremely rapidly and immediately headed half right to the other side of the lake where, quite obviously they had spotted the rest of the family which had not succumbed to botulism. Despite the lengthy absence, it was obvious there was instant recognition and the anticipated greeting between the adults.



Simultaneously released after recovering from Botulism

Story by Peter & photos by Paul and Lynn Cawley. For swan problems please contact Peter on 07802 472788

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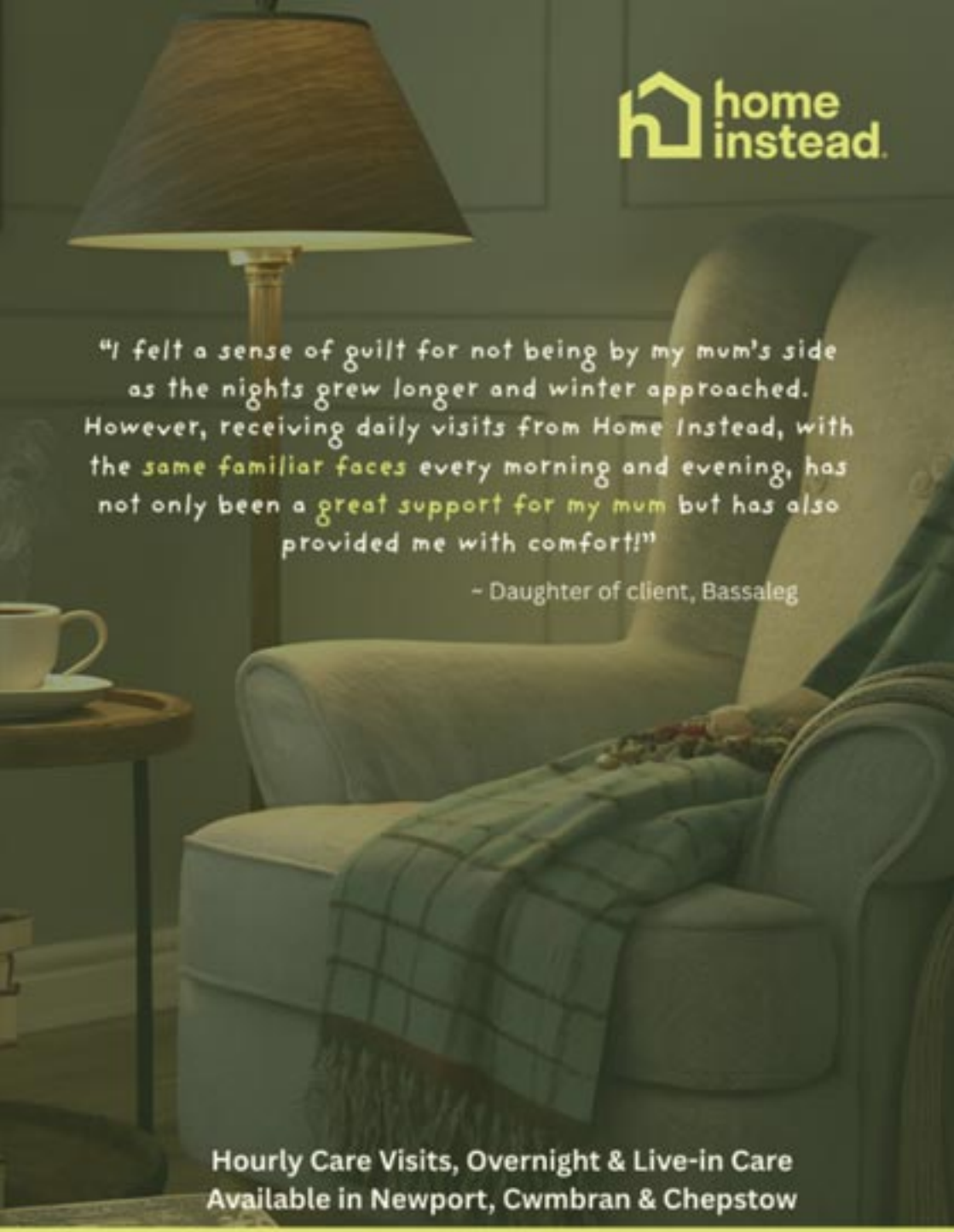
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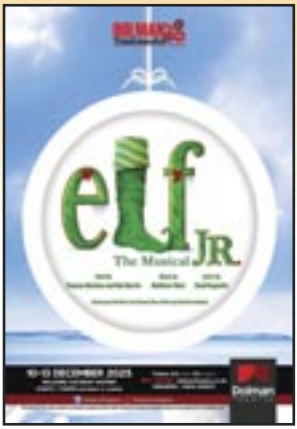
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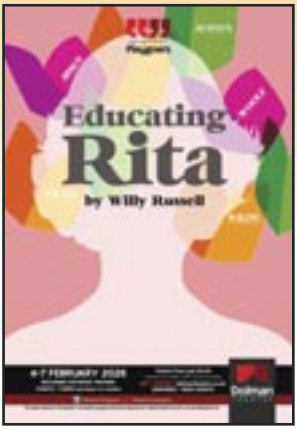
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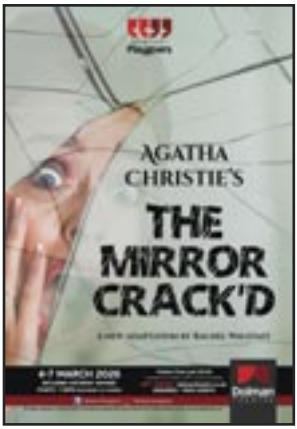
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Christmas Puzzles

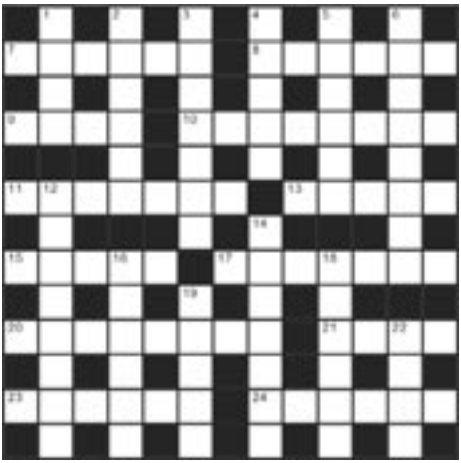
Crossword

Across

7 Any person (6)
8 Strong cloth artists use (6)
9 Wild animal of the dog family (4)
10 Sending something through the air (8)
11 Prohibiting (7)
13 Operate a vehicle (5)
15 Large water birds (5)
17 Easily understood (7)
20 Brief news report (8)
21 A green plant with leaves like feathers (4)
23 Nuclear (6)
24 Person in charge of a newspaper (6)

Down

1 Enter (4)
2 Casket (6)
3 Risking money on horse races etc (7)
4 Provoking fear (5)
5 Reply (6)
6 Large outdoor party or festival (8)
12 Satisfactory (8)
14 Slim (7)



16 Serious (6)
18 An event (6)
19 An orderly pile (5)
22 Part of the plant below the ground (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.

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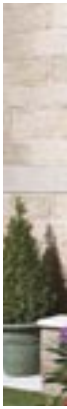
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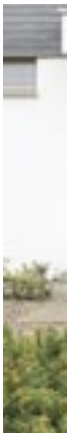
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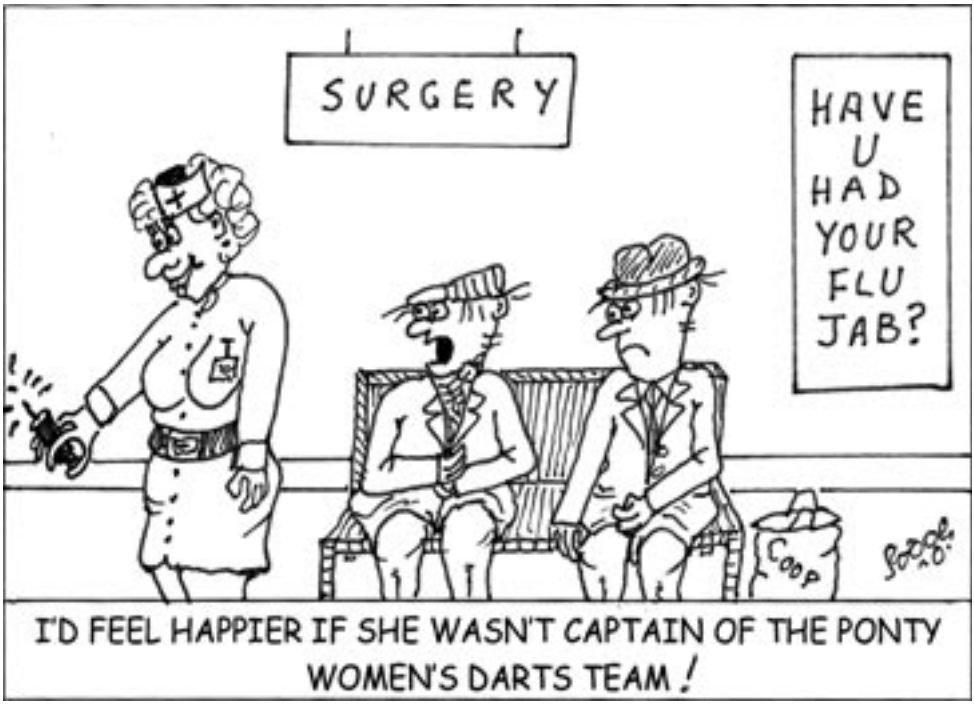
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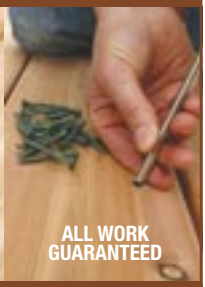
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3	2	4	8	9	6	1	7	5
5	9	6	2	7	1	4	3	8
8	7	5	9	4	2	3	1	6
4	6	2	3	1	8	9	5	7
9	3	1	6	5	7	8	2	4



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Does the Pwca Still Roam Over Twmbarlwm?



Of the many folk tales on and around Twmbarlwm the Pwca is one often repeated by story tellers throughout Wales and beyond. The Pwca is usually described as a gangly, evil looking sprite with a long nose and can be mischievous or kindly in equal measure.

Many tales concern the Pwca of Abercarn (or Abergwyddon as it was formerly known) – which some say go as far back as the fifteenth century, and were still being told into the nineteenth. The small close in Cwmbran known as Tŷ Pwca (Pwca's House) – is evidence of that. However, most of the Pwca stories are located in the lower Ebbw and Sirhowy valleys. In fact, a line enclosing the tales, runs through Abercarn, Mynydd Maen, Pantygasseg and Hafodyrynys, enclosing a roughly circular space.

It is said one particular Pwca relocated from Pantygasseg to Trwyn farm, near Abercarn. He was fleeing the wrath of a servant girl after he robbed her of a jug of barm – beer in its initial fermentation stage. Unfortunately for servants, Pwcas saw them as easy victims and became notorious for their acts of theft.

Another poor girl, tasked with taking a ball of yarn to her mistress, dropped it, and immediately heard a Pwca say "I am going into this ball and I am going to Trwyn farm and never coming back." The servant girl never saw the Pwca but on trying to retrieve the yarn, the ball moved away from her. Each time she tried to pick it up, it rolled further away.

Eventually tiring of the game, the Pwca and the ball began rolling away, they rolled up the mountain (that we must assume was Twmbarlwm), down the other side and finally arrived at Trwyn farm. Unfortunately, we are not told of what happened next.

On another farm, things started off much better when a servant girl heard the small voice of a Pwca who agreed to do all her household chores in exchange for a saucer of warm milk. All went well for some time until the foolish girl decided to play a trick and instead of milk gave the Pwca a saucer of stale urine – which was on hand, because in those days that liquid was used for dying wool. The enraged sprite retaliated and began kicking her all over the house. Fortunately for the servant, the men of the house heard her screams and managed to chase it away. From that moment, the unfortunate girl had to do all her own chores.

But from this point on, the Pwca became a pest, knocking on doors, harassing the farm animals and stealing food. Eventually the farmer, fed up with this disruption to his farm's smooth running, tried to shoot the Pwca to get rid of him.

However, the Pwca was too clever for him and taught the farmer a lesson when one dark, misty night on the mountain, he led the farmer astray, by the light of a candle, to the edge of a cliff. The farmer saw the chasm just in time and did not fall – but he stood there all night long trembling with fear.

Apparently, these servants never really understood that Pwcas are very short-tempered. On one farm in the Abercarn area, the Pwca almost became part of the family and often spoke to them from his rooms (which included the oven by the hearth). Then one day, the farmer told a servant to get up early to feed the cows. Now, Pwcas were very proud of their rapport with cows and were well known, for doing the milking, and immediately offered to do the job for him.

However, the servant, wishing to get in his master's good books, spurned the offer and when the Pwca discovered this, he upset a hayrick over the animals, and the servant had to explain to the farmer why his cows had nearly been killed.

So let that be a warning to you: if your local Pwca makes you an offer – don't turn it down and especially don't give it a saucer of urine!

Martyn Vaughan, Trustee of 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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Newport u3a provides over 40 active, leisure and cultural groups for the retired including the popular Play Reading Group.

The convenor has had a long association with the Newport Playgoers Society and is able to borrow a variety of scripts from their extensive library. In addition, we have had the pleasure of reading several works that have been written by our very own members, including a murder mystery that was performed on the Orient Express.



This is the group for those who love escapism by bringing a script to life. Acting experience is not required, there is no typecasting, learning lines or first night nerves - just fun!

Newport u3a meets at the Dolman Theatre, Wednesday to Friday at 8:45-15:00 during term time. If you would like more drama in your retirement, come and try us out for two weeks (FOC). Phone Angela Robins on 07983130541 or www.newport.u3asite.uk

Hardy Plant Society

The HPS Monmouthshire group is for people who love plants and gardening and enjoy sharing that interest with other like-minded people. Our meetings provide an excellent opportunity to meet fellow enthusiasts in a relaxed environment, to take time to listen to some excellent speakers, to mingle, chat and enjoy refreshments and perhaps buy some plants. We welcome non-members, entry is £6. You will be made very welcome.

Our meetings are monthly and are held at 2.30pm in Little Mill village hall NP4 0HE on the second Saturday of each month from September to May. In addition, the group organises garden visits and discussions, dinners, a plant sale and more. Saturday 8th November brings the editor of Gardens Illustrated magazine, Stephanie Mahon, to our meeting. Stephnie's talk is entitled 'Behind the Scenes at Gardens Illustrated'. Saturday 13th December Liz Knight will talk on 'How to Make Wild Drinks', an appropriate subject for the approaching festive season.



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

Belle Vue
Park & Tea Room



What's On in November & December

And before we know it… it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

We shall be closing early (2pm) on Christmas Eve just in case we need to take a last minute dash to the shops. We will open for the weekend on 27th and 28th at our regular time of 9.00am – 4.00pm and then we are closing for three days until 1st January 2026. It has been a busy year and we are ready for a rest. We hope this doesn't cause too much inconvenience to you.

Before then…

We saw in October that our crafters and makers have been busy making cards, gifts and floral displays. They will have many more on the two **Sunday November markets 7th & 21st** so get your orders in and buy those early gifts especially if you are having to post them!

Sunday December 7th 11.00am – 4.00pm

Christmas market packed full of gifts, food, arts and crafts for all the family. We are making this year extra special with a performance from the People's Show Choir from Newport. We also asked Santa to drop by and do the rounds. He will have a grotto on the mezzanine – if you can get around the mahoosive tree in the foyer and we heard the Grinch may make an appearance. It will be our celebration of the year and we hope you come along to join us.

Sunday December 14th Cream Tea with Santa.

Once again, we are setting up the conservatory with two sittings
12.00pm – 1.45pm and 2.30pm - 4.00pm.
Bookings will be via text or phone only to Jan on 07737 630657
Price: £12 per person over 2 years old. Book early to avoid disappointment.

The Team in Belle Vue wishes all of our regular and new customers a very merry and happy Christmas.

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 collected at the Tea Room or posted to you or another recipient (just added cost of a stamp).
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.
Did you know that we have a Google review page (Belle Vue Park Tea Rooms) with consistent 4.5 out of 5 rating. This is great and demonstrates how good our customer service and offer is and we appreciate your lovely comments. The Park also has its Google Review page (Belle Vue Park Newport) and it shows that the Tea Room features heavily in the good reviews. That page is 4.6 out of 5. If you think we deserve a good review, please go onto the Google Review page.



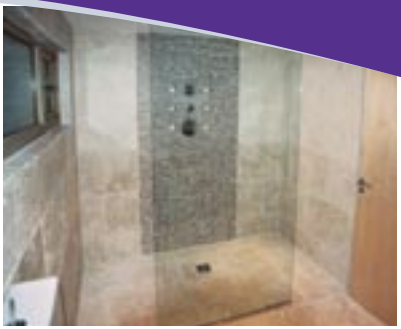
If you have a complaint, or think we could improve our service, or, if you have advice you would like to give us, particularly on menu additions, then please get in touch via email to bookings@bellevuetearoom.uk We have a complaints and compliments policy and will always take your concerns very seriously.

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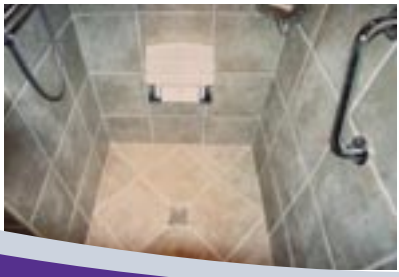
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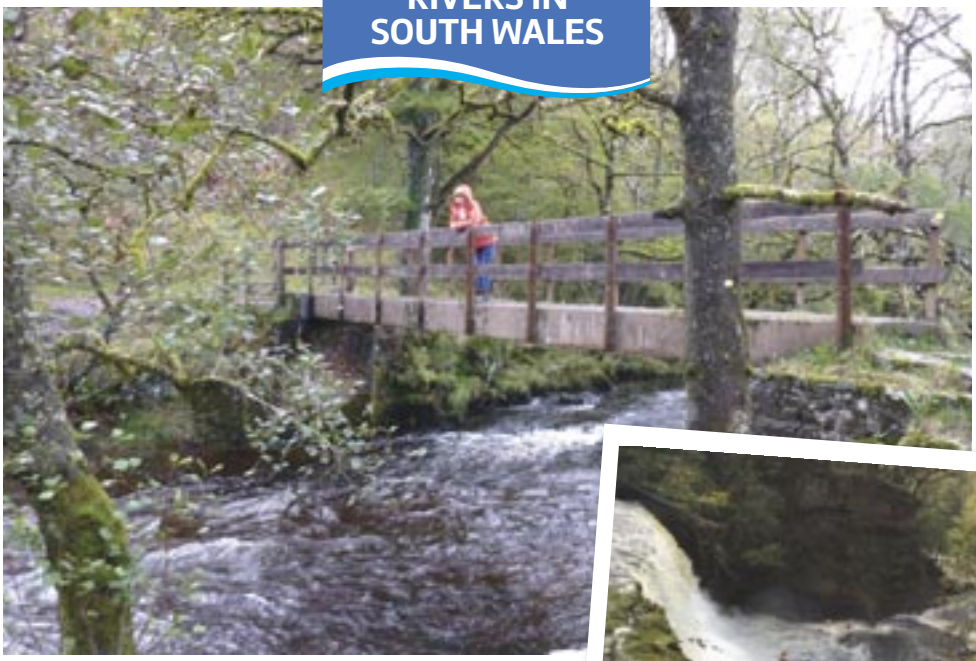


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River Mellte

The Afon Mellte is formed by the confluence of the Afon Llia and the Afon Dringarth. It then flows south through the village of Ystradfellte to Pontneddfechan where it joins with the Nedd Fechan to become the River Neath. The river derives its name from 'mellt' - the Welsh word for 'lightning' - after its tendency to rise and fall rapidly in response to heavy rainfall.

The bridge over the River Mellte is a great place to view the river that then flows down into Sgwd Clun-Gwyn. When the river is low you can walk along the banks, on the rocks and get yourself down to the waterfall. You can also go for a paddle as the flow is not too strong.

The river and surrounding area are a hot spot for many different outdoor activities including the famous waterfall walks, caving, canyoning, gorge walking and white-water kayaking.

Visitors can park at the pay and display car parks at Cwm Porth and the nearby Gwaun Hepste or in Pontneddfechan. It only takes just over one hour to drive to the car parks from Newport and then about a one hour walk from the car park to the waterfalls.





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