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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 article on Barry Island) and benefit from some summer sunshine.

Susan x

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Wildlife on Twmbarlwm


Data gathering on a bio-blitz day with Gwent Wildlife Trust

MYNYDD TWMBARLWM intrigues us all with its historical mystery both factual and mythical. Cymdeithas Twmbarlwm Society has, since its inception, explored these subjects in many of our talks and written articles. But rarely have we visited the question of what actually lives on Twmbarlwm now!

I bet not many of you know that Twmbarlwm and its environs is a SINC (a Site of Importance for Natural Conservation) which is an official designation that helps an area to protect and enhance the landscape and its wild flora and fauna.

I have always loved to walk this mountain of ours and one of my favourite pastimes up on the Twmp is to lie flat on the ground, on a bed of wimberry bushes and heather, searching the sky for the high flying Skylarks who soar to incredible heights whilst continuously chirruping their high pitched songs. Yet when I spot an unusual bird, creature or wildflower I find the SEWBReC (South East Wales Bio-Diversity Records Centre) website a useful resource to help identify them.

I'm no great ornithologist but I can recognise the most common visitors to our mountain – the various Tits, Great, Coal and Blue – birds of prey like the common Buzzard and Red Kite gliding the air currents – Song Thrushes, Ravens, Warblers and, of course, the famous spring time visitor, the Cuckoo. I've seen both the Green and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers, Jays, Fieldfares and even a couple of Woodcocks.

I tend not to see much wildlife at my feet because my dogs have usually frightened everything away but I have come across frogs, toads, lizards, mice (or are they voles?) and slow worms which I used to spend hours searching for when I was a lad.

I'm told there are grass snakes and some say they've even encountered adders. There are reports of dormice hereabouts, although they were last recorded in 2004, so I sincerely hope they are thriving here still.

As regards larger mammals, strangely enough, I've never personally seen rabbits up there, lower down the hillside maybe, but never up on the ridgeway. There's plenty of evidence of foxes and I've seen their tracks in the snow and the dogs are always keen to roll in you-know-what. There's even been quite a few sightings of deer reported on social media – especially since NRW have cut down much of the forestry.

I've spotted many butterflies like red admirals, peacocks and tortoiseshell but I often have difficulty telling them apart – again, out come the reference books when I get home.

As regards the flora I get totally lost with all those Latin names – if you look at the data-sets compiled by SEWBReC available on their website www.sewbrec.org.uk you will see what I mean.

The SEWBReC documentation tells us this upland area is a mix of acid grassland and heath vegetation with bracken and coniferous planting on the valley sides – we helped compile this information when we first explored the area for conservation grazing.

If you have a strong interest in local flora and fauna I recommend that you visit their website – their scope of activity is too wide for me to explain here, but basically it is their job to compile and make appropriate local biodiversity information available to all those who need it, to ensure that decisions which affect local biodiversity are made using the best available data.

It's been a few years since CTS organised a bio-blitz (a sort of census of the flora and fauna) on the mountain under the guidance of Gwent Wildlife Trust and we would like to prepare another in the near future – so keep an eye on our website and Facebook page to see if we can get one underway – because it will be an informative, exciting event that everyone will be able to get involved with.

Terry Evans, Chairman of Cymdeithas Twmbarlwm Society


Cuckoo


Adder


Peacock Butterfly

Cymdeithas Twmbarlwm Society meet at the car park below Twmbarlwm's summit at 10:30 (What3Words location = ***ironic.sweetened.people***) 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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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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Risca

A POEM BY JOHN TERRELL

Risca is home
Where the cuckoo's roam
Gateway to the valley
Of Ebbw and Sirhowy

Twm Barlwn and Machen at its flanks
With tow paths and canal banks
Hilly fields there were to be seen
Ty-Sign now covering the green

Prosperity arose when mines where cast
Distant memories of industries past
Ghosts of miners still preside
Memorials to those who died

Palace cinema once a star attraction
To see all the movie action
Library now in situ
A place with lots to do

Risca RFC at the stores field
Hopeful the opposition will yield
A proud history since 1875
Generations of players keeping it alive

Clubs for locals to attend
Top and bottom end
Once pubs and punters a plenty of
Now they're mostly empty

'Twas a momentous pub crawl
After closing, the occasional brawl
Cuckoo, Fox and Rolling mill
Manor up on the hill
There were banks galore
Not even Barclays anymore
HSBC, NatWest, Lloyds all gone
Now only the hub to rely on

Times have changed for sure
Yet Risca will endure
Times passage relentless
It does not stop or redress

Risca will continue to rise
With Newport's daily demise
'Busy little place Risca' they say
As Newport dies a little everyday

New shops always arrive
Established businesses survive
Community spirit still evident
Risca gets behind an event

The people, the scenery
The abundant greenery
Risca place of my birth
My favourite place on earth

I've seen prettier places for sure
But Risca is where my heart will endure
Risca is home
Where the cuckoo's roam…










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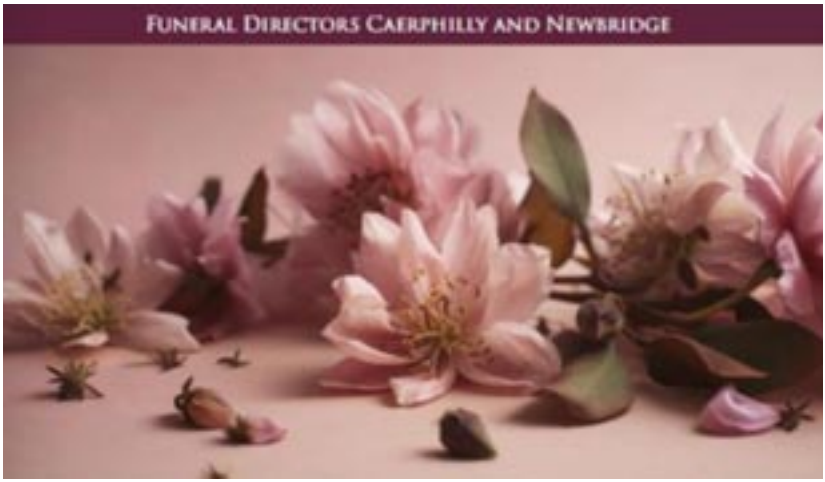

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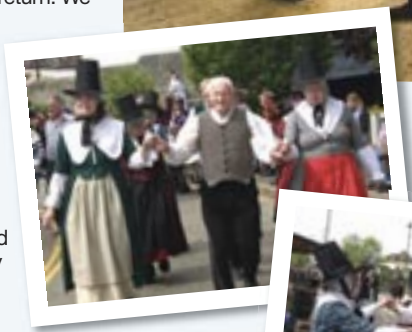
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Gwerinwyr Gwent Showcases Welsh Tradition Across Gwent and Beyond

Whenever possible we do like to show off Welsh dancing at festivals, particularly in England, and this year we were invited by the Upton-on-Severn folk festival. .



The festival is held over the May Day Bank Holiday and is predominantly a show case for the three styles of Morris dance, Cotswold, Border and Northwest. We only danced on the Saturday, and apart from GG, I only spotted one other type of dancing among the more than 30 Morris sides taking part, so we certainly introduced a bit of contrast to the day and received quite a few pleasing comments in return. We had some new members dancing out for their first time and it was quite a relaxed introduction for them. The weather was kind and Upton is a pleasant riverside town with plenty of independent shops and pubs, so all in all a very nice day out.



On the 19th May we spent a very pleasant evening with the ladies of Marshfield WI. They meet in Castleton village hall which has a spacious interior, perfect for dancing. As usual, Barbara Griffiths was our MC and we alternated our display dances with her GG-slanted Welsh culture talk. We then got the ladies to join us in a couple of simple ceilidh dances and finished the evening off with the tea & cake they provided, we always enjoy our trips to the WI.





By the time this edition is published, Gwyl Plant (the children's dance festival) will probably be over for this year. It takes place in three venues - Abergavenny, Cwmbran and Newport over three weekends, where on separate Saturday mornings (Abergavenny and Cwmbran in June and Newport on the 4th July), local primary schoolchildren show off their dancing skills in public. Hopefully out of doors, but with inside provision should the day be wet.

Sadly, schools from the Abertillery area no longer take part. Gwent's Gwyl Plant was started 45 years ago by members of GG, and is an after-school club where teachers, having been taught the dances and provided with the music, then teach the children. For many years there has also been a mini Gwyl Plant on the Saturday of the Tredegar House Folk Festival, but alas, for various reasons there was no folk festival this year. Gwerinwyr Gwent is always seeking new members, and beginners/experienced dancers or musicians are very welcome. Practice night 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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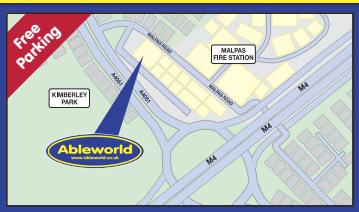
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The Louisiana Access Walk In Bath

The latest addition to Newport Bathroom Centre's already extensive catalogue of innovative products now includes Access walk-in baths - a British company based in the Black Country, who specialises in making bathing more than a possibility, they make it a pleasure, with elegant designs to suit any bathroom.

Newport Bathroom Centre Director, Dave Viggers, told us: "We understand you want to bathe with confidence, so the experience is relaxing and enjoyable. This is why every bath has been carefully designed to include multiple safety features without compromising looks. Combine this with outstanding design and affordability, you have a walk-in bathing solution that is unbeatable."

Here is what Carol Warren, who purchased a 'Louisiana' style walk-in bath from Newport Bathroom Centre had to say:

What made you decide to get rid of your old bath for a walk-in bath?
As we (my husband and I) got older, mobility became more of an issue, especially after falling and breaking my ankle. Getting in and out of a regular bath became a serious issue, due having to put one's entire weight on my weaker ankle.

How long did it take to fit?
Fitting took just under a week, which also included waiting for the electrician and replacing the floor covering. It would've probably been sooner, as the work was split over a weekend.

Finally, would you recommend an Access Walk-in Bath and why?
David and his team were really good with sound advice and were able to maintain use of the original bathroom, whilst the new one was being fitted.

Everything was left clean and tidy at the end of the working day.

Where suggestions were made in order to get a good looking bathroom there was no pressure to make the changes, but due to the experience of David and his team we ended up with something that was far better than we could have put together.

David also kept in touch throughout the whole experience and followed up with phone calls to make sure that there were no problems and we were satisfied with everything - Newport Bathroom Centre comes highly recommended in our eyes.

If you are interested in this Louisiana bath or any of the nine other options available, please get in touch with one of Newport Bathroom Centre's experts using the details below:

Call Dave today or email your enquiry for a FREE no obligation quote.

For more info about the walk-in baths on offer, please visit the official Newport Bathroom Centre website.

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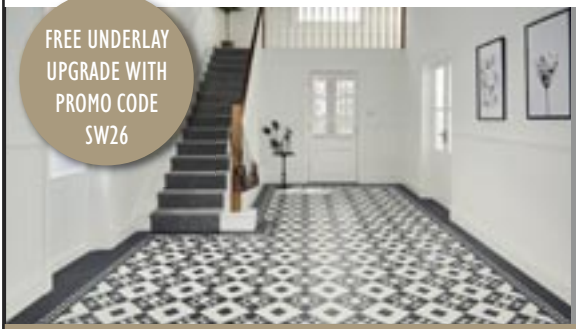
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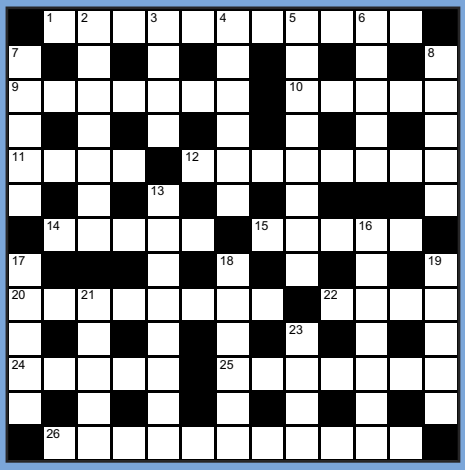
Crossword

Across

1 Sweet-smelling climbing plant (11)
9 Light raft made of balsa, used by Thor Heyerdahl to cross the Pacific in 1947 (3-4)
10 Insect in the stage between egg and pupa (5)
11 City of Helen, whose face "launched a thousand ships" (4)
12 Tree which grows in tidal, chiefly tropical, coastal swamps (8)
14 Communion table (5)
15 The Mill on the ___, George Eliot novel (5)
20 Line of descent of a pure-bred animal (8)
22 Brewery cart (4)
24 Private instructor (5)
25 Spanish painter, born in Greece (1541-1614) (2,5)
26 Primate species to which modern humans belong (4,7)

Down

2 Action that turns out to be to the disadvantage of the person who took it (3,4)
3 First name of authoress Blyton (4)
4 Helix (6)
5 Roman Emperor who succeeded Tiberius (8)
6 Key ___, 1948 film (5)
7 Glide across ice (5)
8 Biblical tower intended to reach to heaven (5)



13 Australian marsupial (8)
16 Physician who performs operations (7)
17 Mark ___, US swimmer who won seven gold medals in the1972 Olympic Games (5)
18 Formerly the basic unit of money in Spain (6)
19 Tower supporting high-tension wires (5)
21 Mark used to indicate the word above it should be repeated (5)
23 Tangerine/grapefruit hybrid (4)

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

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 20

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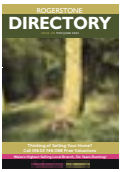


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Puzzle Solutions

Crossword Solution

Across: 1 Honeysuckle, 9 Kon-Tiki, 10 Larva, 11 Troy, 12 Mangrove, 14 Altar, 15 Floss, 20 Pedigree, 22 Dray, 24 Tutor, 25 El Greco, 26 Homo sapiens.
Down: 2 Own goal, 3 Enid, 4 Spiral, 5 Caligula, 6 Largo, 7 Skate, 8 Babel, 13 Kangaroo, 16 Surgeon, 17 Spitz, 18 Peseta, 19 Pylon, 21 Ditto, 23 Ugli.

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

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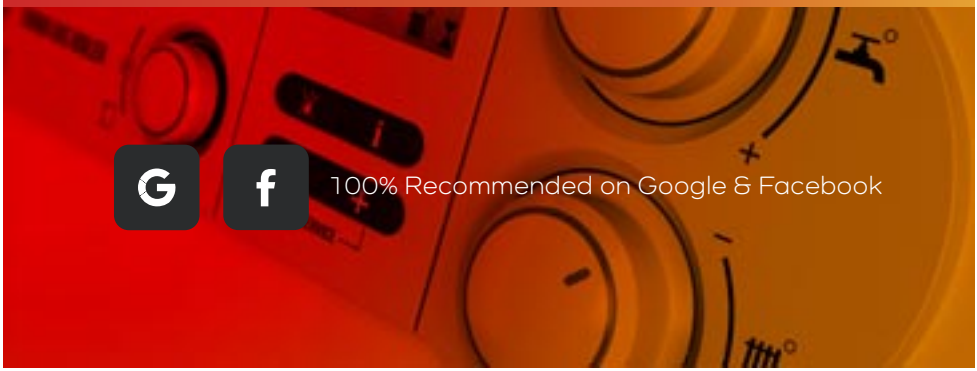
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BEACHES IN WALES

Barry Island's beach in Whitmore Bay

Barry Island is a district, peninsula and seaside resort, forming part of the town of Barry in the Vale of Glamorgan. It is named after the 6th century Saint Baruc. Barry's stretch of coast, on the Bristol Channel, has the world's second highest tidal range of 15 metres (49ft)

The peninsula was an island until the 1870s when it was linked to the mainland as the town of Barry expanded. This was partly due to the opening of Barry Docks by the Barry Railway Company.

Butlins Barry Island was a holiday camp that opened 1966 and closed in 1996, by which time it had been known as The Barry Island Resort for about nine years.

Barry is now known more for its Pleasure Park, there's a rollercoaster, log flume, dodgems and a Waltzer. Younger children will find plenty to keep them amused, with trampolines, pedal boats and traditional fairground attractions.

At the front is Whitmore Bay, which has a huge crescent of golden sand, it's ideal for families to have fun in the sun, with its wide, gently shelving sands. The promenade with its columned colonnade is full of amusement arcades, fish and chip shops and busy cafés including Marco's Café, which was used in the TV series 'Gavin & Stacey'.




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Newport Bathroom Centre

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The best thing about this service is that you get first-hand experience of what your new room will look and feel like, as your dream becomes a reality with a bespoke design and fitting service.



Director Dave Viggers







Director Dave Viggers has more than 30 years' experience in the installation of kitchens and bathrooms, using his extensive knowledge of working at a drawing office to formalise your ideas into real working plans.

Dave has full oversight of the project, fully costing the materials and labour from the outset, giving you piece of mind that everything is taken care of.

Dave told SW Directories: "The design process is simple, it just starts with a conversation to discuss styles and individual tastes. Working with a set budget, we can then look at the best suited materials for the job, then it's on to measure to work out an exact cost.

"You'll sit down with an experienced and talented designer who'll discuss your ideas in detail, noting your likes and dislikes, encompassing tiling, storage, accessories, and fittings.

"Whether modern, classic or specially commissioned, we ensure that your bathroom, kitchen or bedroom will look exactly how you want it while retaining practicality and function.

"When designs have been agreed and confirmed, customers will then receive a supply and fitting quotation based on the products and design chosen. These quotations will include a total cost including the products and the work involved in transforming your bathroom, kitchen or bedroom.

"We usually allow for two weeks as standard, but each installation varies depending on the work involved and will be discussed with you prior to confirmation of your installation date."

So, if you're looking for a high-level of quality service from a professional team who strive to get the very best for you and your budget, then simply pay a visit to Newport Bathroom Centre.

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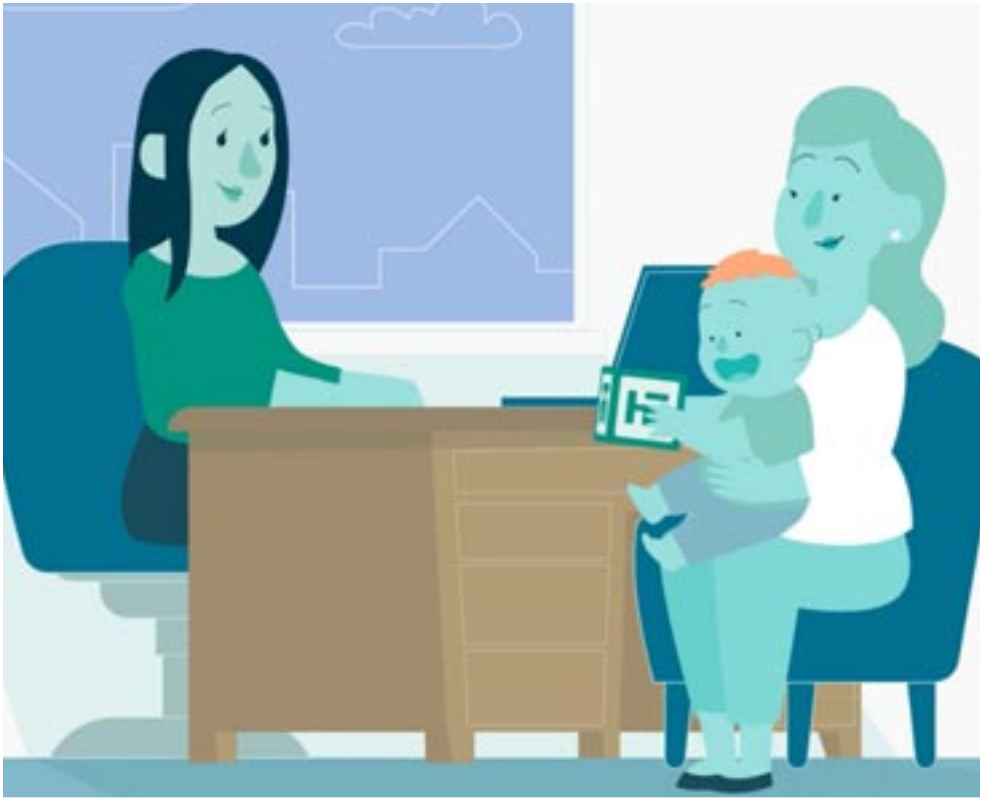
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