ROGERSTONE

DIRECTORY

ISSUE 123 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2026



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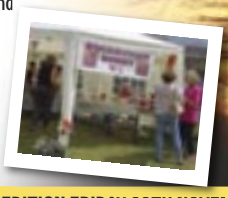
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Congratulations to Rogerstone Roses W.I. who celebrates its twentieth birthday this November. They still have members who were at that very first meeting!

We wish you all a very happy, peaceful and enjoyable Christmas.

Susan x



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ROSES

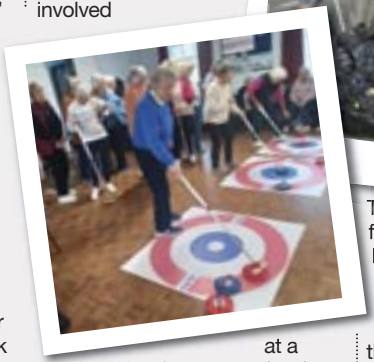
Happy birthday Rogerstone Roses W.I.

It is our twentieth birthday this November and we are celebrating it, as one does with a party. Not so much a jelly and ice-cream affair, more of a trip down memory lane.

We still have members who were at that very first meeting, who are prepared to share a memory. We have dug deep into our archives to find photos that jog members' memories and we are in the process of sorting the most interesting of them. We are looking back at programmes to discover lost gems that have receded with the passage of time. Mostly this is a fun activity which invites much laughter, but the reverse is also true as we wade through these memories, we remember the dear ladies who have died or who can no longer attend through illness. For their input to our group, we thank them.



The variety of speakers, demonstrators, crafts-persons, visits and trips are amazing, nothing has been duplicated. There have been times when we have enjoyed an evening so much that the visitor has been asked to return but with a different talk or demonstration. How wonderful, twenty years of information, additional skills, meeting new friends and much fun. Also, as we are part of a nationwide group, we are able to get involved at a local level, at county level and at national level, so much opportunity.





1st Litter pick early 2007

So over coffee, tea and homemade cake (what else), we will enjoy a trip down memory lane. The photos attached to this article are all from our archives.

We follow that, by focusing on Christmas, to start our festive season we have a talk entitled 'Being Santa'. I have no idea what the talk is about but I am quite excited that at last I might be meeting the 'real' one! Following that, is our Christmas party, this is the one event where sometimes games and activities are repeated but only because members have asked for them.

The final outing in 2026 for Rogerstone Roses' is a Christmas dinner, this year we are following our lunch club goers to Morels but taking up their offer of an evening event. Morels, if you are wondering is the restaurant that the Cross Keys College students run from the college site.

At this juncture I would like to wish all readers a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

If you have read this and think that maybe you would like to try us, please come along to St John the Baptist Church Hall, NP20 4JT, near The Handpost. We meet every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, 7pm-9pm.



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This last point can be of particular interest to couples who have come together but have children from different partners. A Trust can help each person in the relationship ensure that their children inherit their share of the estate.

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Tredegar Park Ministry Area

"In September we welcomed the Revd Dr Jeremy Heuslein to the team. Jeremy will be serving part time as Pioneer Priest in St John the Baptist Risca Road.



"As I write this, we are sliding into autumn and Christmas is getting closer and closer, which is something you should never tell a Vicar! The temperature in the evening is dropping, the horizon is more and more often grey, and there is a sense of settling into a new academic and institutional year. This is a time of year that often makes me think about home, which is an odd concept for a Vicar, especially for this one, because I am not from Newport, Wales, or even the UK. But here, I have have come home. It's a sense of hiraeth, a longing to belong to a place. As we approach Christmas, I do wonder how Mary and Joseph, and even the baby Jesus, felt about home.

On the road to Bethlehem what kind of home were they longing for? And for ourselves, what kind of homes are we longing for, what kind of communities? May we all work together to build up in our communities and in our homes, the peace, the joy, and the love that truly make homely homes. May God bless our homes and us to be those places of belonging for us and for all who come our way. And may you find in all the churches and services this Christmastime a warm welcome, a spiritual home, and God's love and peace."

Christmas 2026

Wed 9th Dec 6pm
Community Carols
Thurs 24th Dec 4pm
Christmas at the Crib
& 8pm Midnight Mass
Fri 25th Dec 10:00am
Family Christmas Mass

Thurs 10th Dec 7pm
Community Carols
Sun 20th Dec 4pm
Christmas at the Crib
Fri 25th Dec 10:45am
Family Christmas Mass

Fri 18th Dec 6pm
Community Carols
Fri 25th Dec 9:30am
Family Christmas Mass

Sun 20th Dec 6:30pm
9 Lessons & Carols
Thurs 24th Dec 9pm
Midnight Mass
Fri 25th Dec 9:30am
Family Christmas Mass

Fri 4th- Sun 6th Dec 11am-5pm
Christmas Tree Festival
Sun 6th Dec 6pm
Service of carols & poems
Sun 20th Dec 6pm
Community Carol Service
Thurs 24th Dec 4pm
Christingle
& 9pm Midnight Mass
Fri 25th Dec 10am
Christmas Day Eucharist

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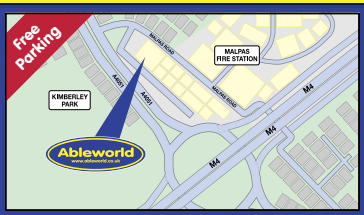
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SATURDAY 19TH DECEMBER

6.30PM	CAROLS in the CAR PARK	BETHESDA CAR PARK

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11AM	FAMILY SERVICE	BETHESDA
4PM	CAROL SERVICE	CEFN WOOD
6PM	CAROL SERVICE	BETHESDA

CHRISTMAS EVE

5PM	CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT	BETHESDA

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30AM	MORNING CELEBRATION	BETHESDA



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"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
(Isaiah 9:6)

Come and Join us for our family services this Christmas and New Year



Carol Service
Saturday 19th December
6.00pm - 8.00pm

Christmas Service
Sunday 20th December
11.00am - 12:30pm

New Years Service
Sunday 3rd January
11.00am - 12:30pm

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Re-Visiting the
Nook Estate

When Nettlefolds steelworks were preparing the site for the move from Shropshire in 1885, at the same time The Nook estate was built. The estate consisted of four streets, Hadley, Wellington, John and Maclean. These were bedroom houses with a small back yard and no garden. Strangely only one side was built on Wellington Street which left a large square which was ideal as a mass meeting place for villagers. In those days there were few distractions. The location of the Nook in present day references is on the immediate right as you enter Ebeneezer Drive from Tregwilym Road and before the railway bridge. Not to be confused with the Buildings Estate, which was from the now Doce Vita Italian restaurant, originally the Rogerstone Hotel. The adjoining terrace still has one block of the original buildings standing.



Hadley Street with Perriam's Shop Centre



Wellington Street



Maclean Street



John's Street





2nd Entrance to The Nook. Perriam's brush factory formerly on the left and Crabb's Bakery on the right





The Parade from the buildings to the Nook and the assembly of the two teams in Johns Square before the VE celebration soccer match.

Sadly, with the advent of so many technical advances the community spirit depicted in the photographs has long gone.

Derek Picken - Buildings Boy



The Churches and chapels Whitsun parade to a joint service in the Nook





A series of party time photos in Johns square the Nook complete with piano in the last picture.





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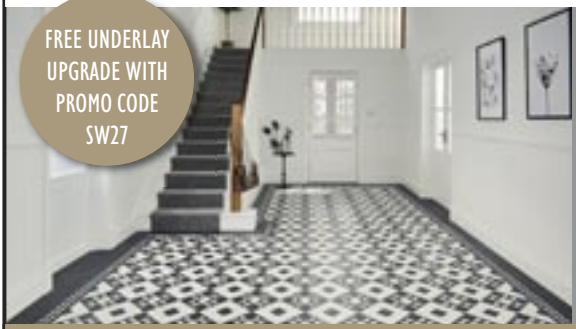
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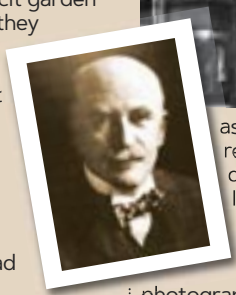
Where the Wildings Are

by Paul Minton

Graffiti was scrawled everywhere and a makeshift punchbag wrapped in brown packaging tape hung from a ceiling. A ramp had been fashioned from wall panels by some skateboard-loving trespassers, who might also have left the tent behind on the first floor.

These were the sights that greeted a Guardian journalist, who reported on his visit to a defunct Newport business premises in Spring 2026. Only a few years before, the site had been raided by Gwent Police, who discovered over 3000 cannabis plants worth more than £2 million. The criminals had installed lighting, pumps, and ventilation hoses throughout their illicit garden centre. In addition, they left behind a considerable amount of compost that was given to local allotments, where it could be put to a less nefarious use.





I am, of course, talking about the sad decline of Wildings Department Store in the city centre, which, after nearly 150 years of trading, closed its doors to customers (but evidently not to drug dealers and squatters) in 2019. However, it wasn't always this way.

Wildings took its name from its original proprietor, Alfred Wilding, who was born in Wistantow, Shropshire in 1853, a small village between Craven Arms and Church Stretton. He moved to Newport in 1874, whereupon he opened his business 'A. Wilding - Hatter, Hosier & Glover' at 154 Commercial Street, an address that is now occupied by Boots. Alfred's brother, Richard, joined as a Director and remained so until his death in 1932. Interestingly, Richard's youngest daughter, Dorothy, was a renowned photographer, becoming famous for her images of the Royal Family and celebrities, such as Noël Coward, Vivien Leigh, and George Bernard Shaw. Indeed, her picture of Elizabeth II adorned postage stamps issued during the first 15 years of her reign.

Wilding's initial premises had living quarters above the shop and it was here that his eldest son, Frederick, was born in 1878. Four years later, Alfred moved his store to a larger property at the bottom of Stow Hill under the name 'Alfred Wilding, The Bon Marché'. The shop became the first business in Newport to have electric lighting (courtesy of the Great Western Electric Light Company) and offered an extensive range of goods, such as ties, shirts, umbrellas, bags, and perfumes. In 1883, it unveiled its 'Hair Dressing and Shampooing Saloons accessible to ALL CLASSES of the People.' On the second floor of the building, the public could also take hot and cold baths for sixpence.

In 1897, the store moved again to 172-173 Commercial Street. Refusing to rest on his laurels, Alfred opened other shops but by 1911, he had possibly overstretched himself and offered shares in his business to raise funds, thereby forming a limited company. Despite living in the elegant Rock Villa opposite Penarth pier, Alfred sought further investment the following year, too. New shareholders were added, including Albert Pease, a wholesale clothier's manager from Leeds. When Alfred retired in 1922, the baton was passed to Mr Pease, whose grandson was still serving as Wildings Chairman by the time of its 125th anniversary.

Alfred remained a Director of the company until he passed away in 1924, whereupon he was succeeded by his son, Frederick. It was he who oversaw the final relocation to the aptly named Wyledene House at 165 Commercial Street in 1931: an address that was to become the site of its ultimate demise (as well as the aforementioned cannabis farm). Frederick served as Chairman until his own death in 1967. His framed photograph was still on a filing cabinet during the Guardian reporter's visit almost 60 years later. And beside it, a disposable lighter and a plastic bottle holding a dubious golden fluid that probably wasn't Lucozade. How times have changed!

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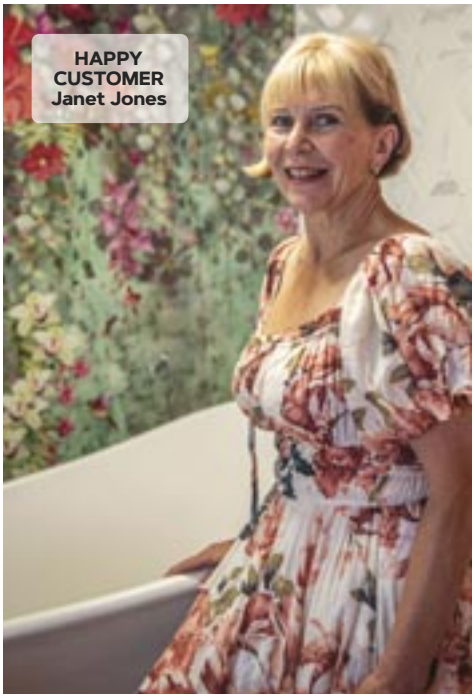
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A SPLASH OF COLOUR

When a Pontypool lady needed help Newport Bathroom Centre came to the rescue





Longtime customer Janet Jones visited Newport Bathroom Centre recently, looking for a distinct bath to go in her new home. Whilst browsing our Newport showroom, our small SplashBax sample display, which was on Director Dave Viggers' desk, caught the attentive eye of Janet, where she fell in love with the many floral designs and patterns. For her bathroom, Janet chose an ex-display Imperial roll-top freestanding bath with complimentary Tavistock taps, as well as two SplashBax panels as the backdrop for her lavish new bath.

We didn't fit Janet's bathroom, and she was unfortunately let down by a few handymen who promised to finish off the final touches in her wonderful new home. When Dave heard about what had happened, he sent his son Josh along to finish the job, fitting Janet's towel rail and hanging a vintage mirror. We love Janet's personal style and got the chance to photograph her beloved bath against the backdrop of her favourite design.

Janet said: "I've shopped at Newport Bathroom Centre for many years, purchasing a variety of things for many of my homes.

"I knew I was in safe hands when I went to see Dave, as he's always listens to

what I want and know exactly the type of thing I'm looking for!

"I love colour, so seeing the flower pattern on display in the showroom, I knew I had to have it on the wall in my bathroom.

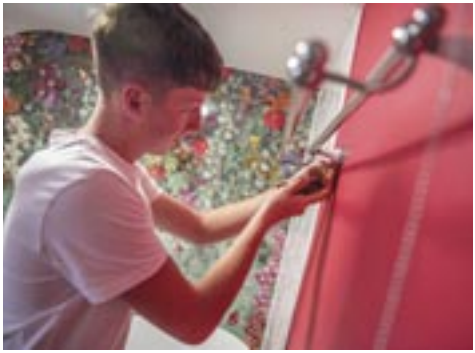
"The bath is my absolute favourite, it's so big! I joke that I could swim in it!

"My bathroom is currently my favourite room of the house, as I can spend hours relaxing in here.

"I'd like to say a special thank you to Dave's son Josh, who came to the rescue to add the finishing touches."

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. As Dave overseas the entire project, he's able to bridge the gap between design concepts and the physical realisation of your new living space.

With his trusted long-serving team of accredited fitters and tradesmen, 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. So, if you're looking to transform your bathroom this winter, why not pay us a visit? Like Janet, you'll be pleasantly surprised of what we have on offer.







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

Newport Bathroom Centre
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At Home Instead Newport, we offer personalised care and support to help you or your loved one continue living safely, comfortably and independently at home. Whether you are looking for support for one hour a day, companionship, personal care, or full-time live-in care, our team is here to help.

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The support we provide is built around consistent, relationship-led care. We carefully match our clients with trusted Care Professionals who understand their needs, routines and preferences, allowing meaningful relationships to develop over time.



All the carers are very kind, helpful and very supportive. I can't fault the service at all.

Review from Catherie D

Our hourly support includes:

- Companionship
- Home Help
- Personal Care
- Dementia Care
- Overnight Care
- Hospital-to-Home

Home Instead Newport is locally-owned and run, and has been serving the community since 2017.

If you are looking for live-in support:



Nesta, Registered Care Manager

We understand that choosing care can feel like a big decision, which is why we take the time to listen, answer your questions and help you find the right support for your individual needs.

At **Home Instead Newport,** we provide **personalised live-in care** to help you or your loved one remain safe, comfortable and independent at home.

Once care is in place, our support does not stop there. We remain on hand to offer guidance, reassurance and regular contact, making sure the care continues to meet your needs and gives your family peace of mind.

Live-in care provides one-to-one support, all day and all night, tailored around your individual needs.
As well as being a cost-effective solution for care, particularly for couples, you or a loved one can continue living a fulfilled life in the place you love best — your own home.

Whats next?

If you would like to have a chat about hourly or live in care, please do get in touch or pop in to see us.

Call: **01633 740028**

Online: **www.homeinstead.co.uk/newport-cwmbran-chepstow/**

Home Instead Newport, Cwmbran & Chepstow -
Office 11, Avana business Centre, Wern Trading Estate, Rogerstone, Newport, NP10 9FQ









Rogerstone

A POEM BY JOHN TERRELL

Rogerstone, Ty Du, Rogie
On the outskirts of Newport City
Once a village now more a town
With all the industry pulled down

Allegedly named after Roger de Haia
An important fella back in the day
A Norman lord in his pomposity
A castle erected to cement his grandiosity

Chartists met at Welsh Oak for a pause
John Frost & co fighting for their cause
Newport uprising causing some hell
Onwards to the Westgate hotel

Aluminium brought population boom
More housing built to make room
Workers came from far and wide
Great grandfather joined the tide

Power station dominated the landscape
Could see for miles it's two tower shape
Closed in 84' demolished in 91'
When all its work was done

Canal originally used to transport
Goods to and from Newport
Weaving and winding its way
More of a beauty spot today

Once in Rogie you could always tell
From the distinct Avana smell
Pop to the Avana shop with Nan
For a cake, bun or a flan

Carnival down the welfare as a lad
A day out with mam and dad
Admiring the floats passing by
Trying our luck at the coconut shy

Shopping at Asda up on the hill
Mother used to be work on the till
Trolleys always in the drink
Submerged and waiting to sink

Twas industrious down the Wern
Lots of places for folk to earn
Brookes and Light Ladders to name two
Gone now or replaced with something new

Like many places pubs have closed
Globe and Jolly Roger both deposed
T A still going strong on top road
Tiny Rebel taking up the load

Time brought change to Rogie
Population grew exponentially
Afon village and jubilee park
Ignited the population spark

Morrisons the place for shopping
McDonald's drive through, or pop in
Breakfast or lunch at Pugh's
A trip to 'What' for some screws

Rogerstone, Ty Du, Rogie
Was home to one half of the family
Risca born and bred
Rogerstone is now where I lay my head















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BACK I



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N TIME

For Christmas!



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"Had me laughing out loud on many occasions and even brought a tear to my eye"

"Funny, nostalgic, witty and thought provoking, I enjoyed every page"

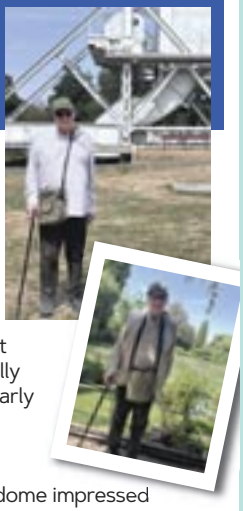
"What a great trilogy. Well written and cleverly plotted"

"I am honestly sad the series has finished"

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u3a MEMBER BROADENS HIS HORIZONS



Septuagenarian, Malcolm Keal, had never travelled abroad in his life. As a member of Newport u3a for 16 years he has been on most of our holidays and day trips but always declined the annual trips overseas.

In the true mutual support ethos of the u3a, Jackie Kerr, Convenor of our Holidays and Events Group, Julie Kennedy, our then Chairperson, and fellow member Chris Day helped Malcolm apply for his passport and gave him advice on getting travel insurance which made it possible for him to join us recently on a tour of Normandy.

He enjoyed visiting all the famous sites such as Honfleur, Monet's Garden and the WWII memorials and museums of the Normandy beaches, but it was the least known Basilique Sainte Terese at Lisieux that he found really memorable. Built in the early 20th century, the Romanesque-Byzantine-Style building with an imposing 95 meter high dome impressed with its grandeur and three naves adorned with colourful mosaics.

Newport u3a runs 40 active, social and cultural groups for the retired at the Dolman Theatre Wednesday to Friday at 9:45-15:00 during term time. For more information 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. The meetings provide an excellent opportunity to meet people with similar interests. Non-members are very welcome - guest entry is £6. Garden-related talks take place at Little Mill Hall NP4 0HJ on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 2.00pm between September and May. The talks, usually illustrated, are followed by Q&A, a raffle and refreshments are also served.

Derry Watkins, well known to the Society, will be with us on 14th November together with many of her plants for sale. Derry, a very successful



plantswoman, businesswoman and author, has run her specialist nursery, Special Plants near Bath, for almost 30 years. Her talk's entitled 'Pushing the Boundaries' when she will discuss why it is worth experimenting with borderline hardy plants and how to increase the likelihood of them surviving (www.specialplants.net).

Saturday 16th December is a must for your diary. Dave Robinson of Botanical Plantasy will be speaking on 'The Tropic of Newport' at the hall at 2.00pm. Dave Robinson might not be a familiar name but after this meeting, it will be. Behind the walls of a Newport semi lies a magical world of enormous tropical plants, a paradise created by Dave, his partner and their son. He will tell the tale of how, in just 10 years, a simple lawn has been transformed into a beautifully curated collection of exotic plants. It's stunning. They've also found media fame, lots of it. A meeting not to be missed.

For more info, visit the Hardy Plant Society website: https://hardy-plant.org.uk

Belle Vue
Park & Tea Room



What's On in November & December

In November we celebrate a 10 Year Anniversary of our artisan market in Belle Vue. We cannot believe it has been so long!

We want to pay tribute to some of the key producers in our markets who have been with us since the start: Dot (Dot's Cakes), Iona (Tasty Bites), Sara (Feathers and Fur plus a new range of olives, sweet treats), Hannah of White Light at Home, Tina (Teddy's Wardrobe), Margaret (Cards by Margaret), Lynn (Lily Rose), Mark John (glass creations), Matt (Nos Da Bakery), Mo, Brian and Sharon (Shivers deli) and the many more traders who joined us in the following years. Thank you one and all for your support throughout the years. We could not have done this without you.

There has been changes from when we first started out in Belle Vue; our trader lists has expanded and we have been able to support a range of small businesses to grow. We were able to have a good number of farmers alongside our small producers though sadly pressure of work and economy has prevented them from participating directly but we find other solutions including supplying our tearoom and our traders. We have seen small scale producers come and go too. In our support of over 100 small businesses through the markets, which is a continuation of our EU funded project through Cotyledon CIC (still the provider of markets at Belle Vue), many producers now have their own premises, selling direct to public. Others have diversified into other areas. In all, our insistence that items presented at the markets are home-made and not just value-added means we have an eclectic mix of favourites and unusual gifts, bakes and makes. Come to our markets and see for yourselves!



November

Sunday 1st November is our Anniversary Market and the launch of Christmas 2026 at Belle Vue. 11.00am – 4.00pm

Saturday 7th November sees us supporting Newport Rising to celebrate the 187th anniversary of the Newport Rising of 1839. The torch lit parade starts from Belle Vue Park. Gathering at the Park from 4.30pm. Tickets available on newportrising.co.uk. The Café will be open to serve warming soup, sandwiches and drinks until 6pm.

Sunday 15th November join our Christmas market where we have Santa and the Newport Peoples' Choir joining us. We will have festive refreshments as well as a superb selection of gifts, treats and your favourite bakes. 11.00am – 4.00pm.

Santa will be happy to see you for a drop-in minute or two between 11.00am and 2.30pm. There is no booking or ticket necessary but is on a first come first served basis and there may be a wait as he chats to other children. A small gift and chat with time for you to take a picture. £10 per child over 23 months.

December

It's here! The most exciting month of the year! Our Christmas theme this penultimate year for us as a company hosting Belle Vue is a traditional Christmas. Our beautiful main entrance tree will be surrounded by 30 or so smaller ones and we are inviting people to add pictures of loved ones lost to us this year as a reminder that they are gone but not forgotten.

6th December Santa is in residence for cream tea. He is waiting for children and their parents to come along and chat. There are two sittings for Cream Tea: 12 noon and 2.30pm. Tickets are as last year £12 per child and £15 per adult. Adults will have a cream tea, children will have a goodie bag with sweet and savoury treats.

Message Jan on 07737 630657 to book.

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

Email: Bookings@bellevuetearoom.uk Facebook: @bellevuetearooms Tel Jan on 07737 630657

Christmas Puzzles

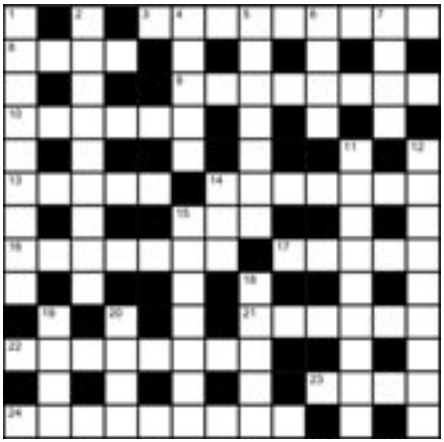
Crossword

Across

3 Pre-decimal coin worth two shillings and sixpence (4,5)
8 British county dissolved in 1996 (4)
9 Natives or inhabitants of Greece (8)
10 Breakfast food of untoasted dry cereals and fruits (6)
13 Country on the Iberian Peninsula (5)
14 Swiss cheese with small holes (7)
15 Nocturnal mammal (3)
16 London-based international news agency (7)
17 Same again (5)
21 Expensive white fur (6)
22 Line of longitude (8)
23 Bird symbolising peace (4)
24 Personification of icy or wintry weather (4,5)

Down

1 Telling fortunes by the lines on the hand (9)
2 French part of the Riviera (4,5)
4 Small plant-sucking insect (5)
5 Hazelnut (7)
6 Lively Scottish dance (4)
7 Tiny, common UK bird (4)



11 Aviator hired to fly experimental aeroplanes in designed manoeuvres (4,5)
12 Instrument for recording the number of steps taken (9)
14 Nitrogen, for example (3)
15 Metal container in which coal or charcoal is burned (7)
18 Roman goddess of love (5)
19 Salty Greek cheese (4)
20 Mammal having partially webbed feet; valued for its fur (4)

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.

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

Solutions on page 37


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Swan
RESCUE

An Update, and a hot Sweaty Afternoon's Walk

Our last story involved an entire family, two adults and seven cygnets, trapped, as we thought at the time for three weeks in the almost dried up canal between Two Locks and Ty Coch.

It took us three days to return them to Broadweir on 6th August where in due course, the water level returned to near normal. On the 14th, for reasons we'll never fathom, the whole family was back in the empty canal from where we had rescued them. Totally baffling! And there's more; three days later George and six cygnets made their way back to Broadweir on foot, no sign of cygnets flying yet. The seventh cygnet which by now had a debilitating leg injury had to be rescued and taken into care, while Gracie, the female rejoined the rest of the family back on Broadweir on the 18th, again, we assume on foot, but by a different route!

On top of this Cwmbran saga, August, high/low lights were 15 angling tackle related problems, an appalling fatal shooting of a magnificent cob incident at The Hendre, leaving the pen to complete the raising of their family and the rehabilitation of a stranded juvenile cormorant at Channel View in Cardiff.

Finally, into September, with a miscellany of issues, one of which involved a two year old swan trapped in an entirely enclosed reed bed which is best described as part of the headwaters of the stream which flows into the lake which is the centrepiece of the beauty spot Taf Bargoed Community Parc.



Hello! What are you doing there



Without help, there's no way home

Swans have bred here for a number of years. The cob which was almost flightless due to a wing injury sustained early in its life, possibly in the lake at Cyfarthfa Castle sadly died earlier this year, leaving the pen and two young swans, one of which was the cause of our visit there on the 25th. Elliot is the local contact; we met at the car park the furthest distance it is possible to travel up the east side of the lake, knowing we had a good half mile walk up stream in the hope the swan would still be where it had last been reported.

Not long after we set off on our reconnoitre, what turned out to be the sibling of the swan we sought appeared from the vegetation on the left below which flowed the stream from which it had come...but why? We passed and continued on our way. Eventually, and it was hot and sweaty, we reached the enclosure in which the swan had last been seen. There was no sign of it, but we searched around to the east and then the west, confirming a rescue was necessary. Back to the car for a sectional ladder, swan hooks, a wrap and some mixed corn (for the swan, not us). The rest was very straight forward, and so we trudged away back down the track to release the swan back into the lake just where, as it turned out by then, his sibling and the adult female were busy preening. To coin a phrase, neither batted an eyelid, as we released our swan, who appeared to have only two objectives, which were completely normal, to get away from us as quickly as possible and to have a long drink of water.

Story & photos by Peter.
For swan problems please contact Peter on 07802 472788



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NEW BEGINNINGS COMMUNITY GROUP

We meet every other Thursday between 12.00pm - 12.30pm in the Cafe in the Faith Church on Wern Trading Estate, The Celebration New Build, NP10 9FQ, for a chat, drink and maybe a bite to eat and then carry on at 1.00pm into the church area for our meeting, maybe for a speaker, board games or whatever else we might have planned. The session ends at 2.00pm.

CTS ... Yma o hyd...on Twmbarlwm



The stone cairn on Twmbarlwm shown below was a great collaboration of minds - from a scribbled concept by Howard Vicary, made into working drawings by Terry Evans and given life by the real craftsman, stone mason Ken Young.

Just got back in from our monthly litter pick on Twmbarlwm, and prompted by a couple of conversations there, I thought I'd use this article for an unashamed plug for CTS and a recruitment drive! As the Welsh football anthem says, "Yma o Hyd…" – we're "…still here!"

So, who are we, and what have we ever done for the mountain?

Cymdeithas Twmbarlwm Society was founded in 2010 by concerned citizens from Risca, Cwmbran, Newport and all the villages in Twmbarlwm's shadow. After decades of neglect, the mountain and surrounding landscape were in a sorry state, with severe erosion caused by illegal off-roaders on bikes, quads and cars.

Our original aim was ***"to research, restore and protect Gwent's most iconic landmark"***, and I'd like to think we've remained true to those founding principles.

Regular readers and former members may remember some of our earlier campaigns. But, if I'm to persuade a few new recruits to join us, let me share some of our achievements.

In our early days, we lobbied the council to tackle the serious problem of scramblers and 4x4s damaging the landscape. We soon persuaded them to build a new car park and repair damage to the Tump itself. Gwent Police also provided invaluable support, with specialist officers patrolling the area.

A grant from the Welsh Government then enabled us to install nearly a mile of double fencing, plant 4,000 trees, fit four kissing gates and lay a 15-metre stone path. An impressive stone cairn was erected at the car park to carry a "Welcome to Twmbarlwm" sign, and eventually we secured funding for a 100-metre dry-stone wall on the eastern side of the Twmp.

Much of this physical work was undertaken by the Commoners, supported by a team of volunteers from our own ranks.

Since then, we've organised archaeological digs, surveyed flora and fauna, and acted as extra eyes and ears to report suspicious or damaging activities. Our regular litter picks also help us keep watch over the area and care for the landscape.

It's important to understand that CTS owns no part of the mountain and has no formal power over it. We're a community group whose members are passionate about our iconic mountain, hill fort and landscape. We work alongside Cadw, the Commoners' Association, the landowners, local councils, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), and Gwent Police to help safeguard Twmbarlwm.

We keep an eye on the area and report concerns to the relevant organisations. We also suggest projects and events to improve or promote the mountain, and seek funding for work that falls outside those organisations' budgets.

Now, here's where you could help! Many of our volunteers are, how shall I put it kindly, "getting on a bit". We'd love some younger, fitter recruits to join us, particularly to help with the more physical projects ahead. Stone wall and fence repairs are needed, and another tree-planting exercise is planned.

Official membership costs just £10 a year, yet our paid-up membership remains fairly low. Meanwhile, more than 1,400 people follow us on Facebook – clear evidence of the affection and respect Twmbarlwm inspires.

So, if you're one of those who appreciates the mountain, why not take the next step? It would be wonderful to see more of our Facebook followers swap their keyboards for a pair of work gloves and put some physical energy into helping us care for this special place.

Terry Evans, Chairman of Cymdeithas Twmbarlwm Society



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.

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Puzzle Solutions

Crossword Solution

Across: 3 Half crown, 8 Avon, 9 Hellenes, 10 Muesli, 13 Spain, 14 Gruyère, 15 Bat, 16 Reuters, 17 Ditto, 21 Ermine, 22 Meridian, 23 Dove, 24 Jack Frost.

Down: 1 Palmistry, 2 Cote d'Azur, 4 Aphid, 5 Filbert, 6 Reel, 7 Wren, 11 Test pilot, 12 Pedometer, 14 Gas, 15 Brazier, 18 Venus, 19 Feta, 20 Mink.

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

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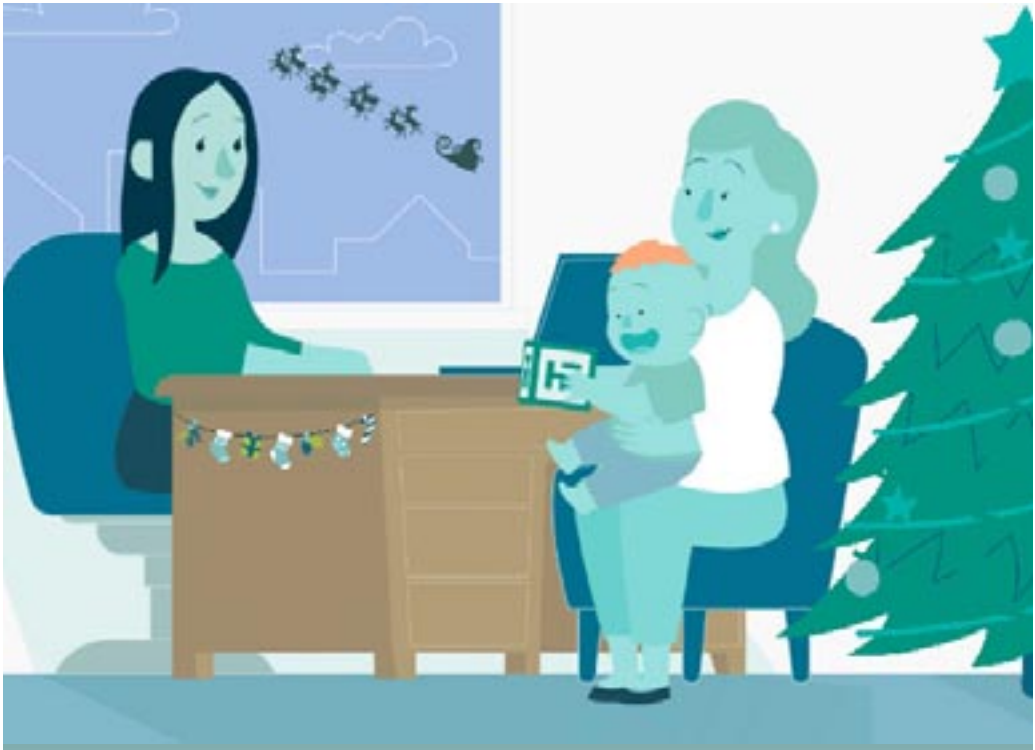
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THE WINTER SOLSTICE

Welcoming the Return of the Light

Every year, around 21 December, the Northern Hemisphere experiences the Winter Solstice – the shortest day and the longest night of the year. Although it marks the point when daylight is at its briefest, it also signals an important turning point, as each day that follows gradually becomes a little longer, bringing the promise of spring.

The word 'solstice' comes from the Latin words sol (sun) and sistere (to stand still), reflecting the way the sun appears to pause in its journey across the sky before beginning its slow return. For thousands of years, this moment has been celebrated by people around the world. Long before Christmas was observed, ancient communities recognised the importance of the Winter Solstice. For farming societies, the return of longer days meant that winter would eventually give way to new growth and another farming season. It became a time of hope, renewal and celebration during the darkest part of the year.

Many ancient monuments were built to mark the event. Perhaps the most famous is Stonehenge, where the stones are carefully aligned with the rising and setting sun at both the summer and winter solstices. Each December, thousands of people gather there to watch the sunrise and celebrate this remarkable connection between nature and our ancestors.

In Britain, many traditional midwinter customs have their roots in solstice celebrations. Lighting candles, gathering around a fire and decorating homes with evergreen plants all reflected the triumph of light and life over the darkness of winter. Over the centuries, these customs became woven into Christmas traditions, many of which continue today.

Although we now understand the science behind the changing seasons, the Winter Solstice still holds a special fascination. It reminds us that even in the darkest days of winter, brighter days lie ahead. For many people, it is a quiet opportunity to pause, reflect and appreciate the ever-changing rhythms of the natural world.

Whether watching the sunrise, enjoying a winter walk or simply noticing the gradual return of the light, the Winter Solstice remains one of nature's most remarkable annual events.



Did you know

The word 'solstice' comes from Latin and means "sun stands still," describing the sun's apparent position before it begins its return northwards.

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Brighten up your bathroom with an image of your choice

David Brunnock and his family recently moved from Rogerstone to Allt-yr-Yn and were looking to renovate their new home - one room at a time!
NBC Director, Dave Viggers, designed Mr Brunnock's bathroom and we were invited back to see the finished result.

We asked David a few questions about his experience - here's what he had to say:

How was the design process - what was involved from start to finish?
It was very simple. First Dave came to our







home to measure up and then we booked a Saturday morning appointment to go through the designs and options and ended up being there for a few hours.

Dave was so attentive and listened to everything we said we wanted but also made some fantastic suggestions for the space we had. Dave was really thorough showing us examples of different products in the showroom which really helped us visualise what it was we actually wanted. From colours of the units, thickness of the countertop, to space saving ideas and door handles. It was fantastic to have everything under one roof!

Why did you decide to feature a SplashBax panel within your shower?

We had never heard of SplashBax before our appointment but as soon as Dave showed us the samples in store, we knew that was what we needed! As my wife Amy prefers showers to baths, it was her decision and there ended up being a few on the shortlist before finally 'Tropical Rainforest' was chosen. This particular design was so vibrant – the beautiful birds, pretty flowers and stunning colours were perfect.

Finally, would you recommend NBC and why?

We'd 100% recommend NBC and already have in fact! Dave was lovely to deal with from day one and we wouldn't hesitate in going back to him in the future if we needed anything else.

We really felt we were in safe hands, Dave was very knowledgeable and made us feel at ease that we were going to get a high quality beautiful looking bathroom – which is exactly what we got!

Ready to transform your home into something wonderful, then contact us today.

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

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Gwerinwyr Gwent Diary

August Bank Holiday Monday found us in a very familiar place - The Graig Community Hall in Bassaleg (our weekly practice venue). We had been invited by organiser Hayley to appear at a fundraising fete in aid of Cerebral Palsy Cymru. It was a lovely day and lots of people turned up to enjoy the food and entertainment, which included the Nearly Wild Show, which gave children and adults a chance to get up close to, and in some cases, hold, lots of animals including snakes, spiders, rats etc. There were plenty of stalls, and live music from Post Modern Shoebox, the Panteg House Jazz and Blues Orchestra, with GG on last demonstrating some dances and getting the audience to join in. A good time was had by all and the fantastic sum of £1,800 was raised.



2026 is a special year for us, as it is the 50th anniversary of the group's formation. We marked the occasion on Sunday 6th September when we hired a narrowboat on the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal from Dragonfly cruises in Brecon. Another lovely day thank goodness, and we had a leisurely cruise with buffet lunch along the canal across the aqueduct and through a lock, with a short commentary about the history of the canal. A very pleasant afternoon, which almost all of our members and partners were able to enjoy. We may also treat ourselves to a celebratory meal later in the year.

Then onto what may well be our final booking of the year - on 23rd September we paid a visit to the ladies of Malpas WI. This was our first to them, which is a bit of a surprise as they are probably the closest WI to our base at The Graig. Not helped by the resurfacing work on Malpas Road, we did manage to get to Malpas Court Mansion House and back safely. Quite a few of our members are not locals, coming from as far afield as Hereford, Bridgend, and Penarth, so we were a little nervous that they could spend ages driving around Malpas in the dark – but it all went quite smoothly in the end. The WI ladies were a jolly lot so we really enjoyed our time with them, and, judging by their comments, they did too.



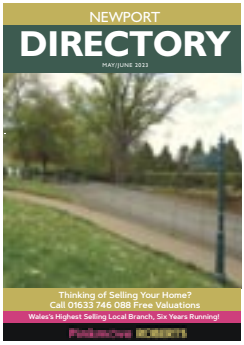


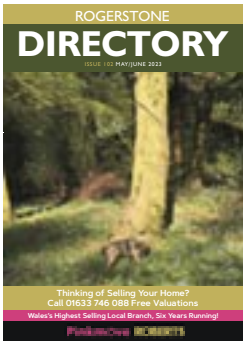
Gwerinwyr Gwent is always seeking new members and beginners or experienced dancers/musicians are very welcome. Practice night is Thursday 8-10pm at the Graig Community Hall (opposite the Ruperra PH). For more details visit our website www.gwerinwyrgwent.org.uk, or ring 01495 271953.

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Jolly Rogies

The Jolly Rogies is a community singing group in Rogerstone with a difference ... we really don't care whether you can sing or not!

We were created to foster community togetherness and wellbeing, where everyone is welcome and everyone leaves us smiling. We don't do auditions or sheet music, we just sing along to karaoke tracks, laugh a lot and enjoy every minute! The group has grown from 12-15 to around 30-strong today, some members confidently singing solos, others singing along with the group and some preferring to just listen and enjoy the camaraderie.

We meet every Monday between 6.30pm and 8.30pm at Loading Bay café (near Tiny Rebel, Wern Industrial Estate) and we only charge £2 to cover room-hire, so why not give us a go (the first session is free anyway)? Some members say Mondays are their favourite part of the week, and we've even got a 'Jolly Rogies' couple' that met at our sessions (I'm still waiting for the wedding invitation - just saying).



As well as singing for fun, The Jolly Rogies contribute to the community whenever we can, performing free at local festivals and regularly entertaining residents in local nursing homes. The residents love singing along, and we love putting smiles on their faces when we visit, that feeling really can't be beaten.

The Jolly Rogies - a feel-good community group created in the community by the community, for the community. Come and give us a try!

NEWPORT'S HIDDEN HAVEN



Since last year's contribution to these pages much has happened in and around this beautiful but least known green space in Allt yr yn. As we tip toward the winter months the call is being made for more to join the growing band of volunteers supporting this ecological wonder.

Close to the city centre, surrounded by houses and bordering the barracks, lies Y Twmp. Some forty species of birds visit this natural green space, which is also shared by over 600 species of insects recorded there since 2021.

In the last complete season alone, 36 new insect species were revealed supporting a mosaic of woodland, grassland, and shrubs, with transient streams, it is part of an extended pollinator belt and a green corridor that almost encircles the city.

Some characteristics indicate that the site may be a residual temperate rain forest. Ancient woodland markers include the Lords and Ladies plant and large-girth trees. Rumoured as the site of a Roman road, Y Twmp has had many former uses, but remains wonderfully unspoilt.

The site is cared for by volunteers in co-operation with Newport City Council. Work includes combatting invasive plants and clearing others to balance the mix of species. Discovering the flora and fauna at Y Twmp and its ecosystem continue to be exciting and informative, revealing the intricate relationships operating there to sustain its biodiversity. We are working towards gaining Local Nature Reserve status in 2027.

From its amazing autumnal orange and red sunrises to its rare insects and early morning birdsong, Y Twmp is a tranquil, mindful space hidden among the bustle of the city.

If you would like to help care for Y Twmp and join the volunteer group that meets on the morning of the last Thursday of the month contact arthurfturner35@gmail.com and find us on Facebook: Allt-Yr-Yn & Barrackswood Nature Group.

(What3words: Chops.Dairy.Case)



THE JOLLY ROGIES





YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY SINGING GROUP



Every Monday, 6.30-8.30pm

No voice tests or auditions, we just have fun

Loading Bay/Faith Church Hall, Wern Industrial Estate, Rogerstone

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If you'd like to find out more, or if you'd like us to sing at your event or party, please email us at:

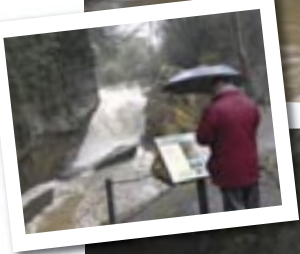
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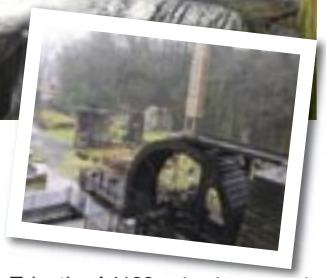
River Dulais

The River Dulais rises on the southern flank of Mynydd y Drum, near Onllwyn. From its source, it gathers numerous small streams flowing down from the mountain before heading south-west past Seven Sisters and carving its way through the Dulais Valley. The river then passes through Crynant and continues through open countryside before tumbling over the spectacular Aberdulais Falls, where it eventually joins the River Neath at Aberdulais.









The Dulais is a flash-flood river, meaning its water level can rise and fall very quickly in response to rainfall across its catchment. In wet weather, when the river is in full flood, its power is harnessed to drive a 400-year-old electricity-generating waterwheel.

There are two walks to enjoy from the car park. The Aberdulais Falls Circular Walk, around 3 miles long, passes through Craig Gwladys Country Park before following the Tennant Canal and looping back to the falls. The Aberdulais Heritage Trail, approximately 2 miles, follows the Neath Canal towpath from Tonna to the Aberdulais Basin, passing the impressive Tennant Canal Aqueduct along the way.

The falls are managed by the National Trust, which has a tearoom serving light refreshments, as well as toilets and a small shop. Lifts provide access to all levels, including the upper waterfall viewpoints. The site is open on a limited number of days each week, so it is worth checking the National Trust website for the latest opening days and times before setting out.

Getting there by car: Leave the M4 at Junction 43 and follow the A465 towards Merthyr Tydfil. Take the A4109 exit, signposted Seven Sisters/Blaendulais. Aberdulais is approximately 200 yards ahead on the left. Free parking is available directly opposite the site entrance on the A4109.

Well worth a trip!

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