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# Herald



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**VICTIM WAS LEFT HIGH AND DRY AFTER POLICE SAID SIMPLE CASE 'HAD NO CHANCE' • P9**

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**CHILD SEX OFFENDER: ALEC DAVIDSON**

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# TRIBUTES TO MABLI

## A baby girl 'too precious for this world'

A BABY girl who sustained critical injuries in a collision at Withybush General Hospital on Wednesday (Jun 21) has sadly passed away, the family have confirmed

The eight-month-old was flown to hospital in by air ambulance following the incident which also saw three other people, all adults, hospitalised. Baby Mabli was being cared for by excellent staff at the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children – who battled tirelessly so save her.

But family friend Sinéad Morris has now shared an update on social media on behalf of Gwen and Rob, Mabli's parents.

In an emotional and heartfelt Facebook post, she said: "It is with a heavy heart that I share this update on behalf of Mabli's family and loved ones."

Sinéad's post went on to say: "As previously mentioned, little Mabli sustained severe injuries in the collision..."

"Unfortunately, these injuries were too severe to be reversed.

"Despite days of immense strength from Mabli, she peacefully crossed over the rainbow bridge in the loving arms of Gwen and Rob in the early hours of this morning [Sunday, June 25, 2023].

"The family would like to express their deepest gratitude to the dedicated healthcare professionals who have been involved in Mabli's care throughout this challenging period.

"Their tireless efforts and unwavering commitment have meant the world to the family during these trying times.

"Additionally, the family would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation to the



**Tom Sinclair**  
Editor@herald.email

compassionate chaplains of Bristol Royal Hospital for Children, whose guidance and support have brought solace and comfort.

"The outpouring generosity from those who have donated and sent messages of love and support has touched their hearts deeply, and they are immensely grateful for each and every gesture of kindness.

"During this heart-wrenching time, I kindly

request that everyone respects the family's privacy, allowing them the necessary space to cope with this unimaginable ordeal. As parents, this is their worst nightmare, and the pain they are experiencing right now is indescribable.

Sinéad confirmed that the GoFundMe fundraiser will be kept open, but the funds will now be directed towards supporting Rob, Gwen and Mabli's five siblings who adored her endlessly as they navigate this difficult period, both emotionally and financially,

while they grieve the loss of their precious baby girl, Mabli.

She signed off by saying: "Dream big baby girl, fly high. Mabli Cariad Hall – the most beautiful, smiley and happy baby girl... 27/09/2022 – 25/06/2023... Too precious for this world."

The link to the fundraiser is here: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/SupportGwenandRob>

Parents, Rob and Gwen Hall, said: "We are absolutely heartbroken by the death of our beautiful baby girl Mabli.

"She was adored by us and her five siblings and brought us so much joy in her short life.

"We will always remember Mabli's beautiful little smile and cherish the time we had with her."

Rob and Gwen added: "We would like to thank everyone who tried to help us at such a tragic time; the people who were there when it happened, the emergency services who came to our aid and the amazing staff at Withybush, the Heath in Cardiff and Bristol Children's Hospital.

"Their strength and support allowed us to focus on Mabli."



### Guilty of assault and harassment

BRANDON HALL, a 44-year-old resident of Priory Street, Milford Haven, has been found guilty of assault and harassment by the Haverfordwest Magistrates' Court. The court proceedings, which concluded on June 5, 2023, revealed a disturbing pattern of abusive behavior towards his former partner.

The assault charge against Brandon Hall stemmed from an incident on June 1, 2022, when he physically harmed the woman causing actual bodily harm. Despite initially pleading not guilty on April 3, 2023, the court ultimately found him guilty of the offence.

Hall faced charges related to harassment, both

with and without violence. The court found him guilty of pursuing a course of conduct amounting to harassment, as defined by the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. Between August 6, 2022, and October 22, 2022, he sent numerous abusive and drunk texts and voicemails to the victim, causing her significant distress.

During the court proceedings, Kelly Rivers of the Crown Prosecution Service presented the case against Brandon Hall, highlighting the detrimental impact his actions had on the victim's well-being.

Following the verdict, Brandon Hall was remanded on conditional bail, with the next hearing scheduled for July 3, 2023.

### Bowles banned from driving

AT a recent hearing at Haverfordwest Magistrates' Court, Phillip Bowles, a resident of Hakin, Milford Haven, was found guilty of driving a motor vehicle with a proportion of a specified controlled drug in his system. However, he was acquitted of a separate charge related to a different controlled drug. The verdict was delivered on Wednesday.

The charges against Bowles stemmed from an incident that occurred on November 24, when he was alleged to have driven a BMW 520 on the A4076 Steynton Road in Milford Haven. It was claimed that Mr. Bowles had a controlled drug, namely Cocaine, in his blood, with a proportion of 11ug, exceeding the specified limit.

During the trial Bowles pleaded not guilty to the charges. However, the court found him guilty of

driving with a proportion of a specified controlled drug above the specified limit.

The court acquitted Mr. Bowles of the charge related to the drug Benzoylcegonine.

As a result of the guilty verdict, the court imposed penalties on Bowles. He was ordered to pay a fine of £605.00, and an obligatory disqualification from driving for a period of 12 months was imposed.

In addition, he will be required to pay a surcharge of £242.00. The court directed Mr. Bowles to make the necessary payments by the 26th of July 2023.

STOP PRESS: Police said that after the court hearing Bowles was arrested and charged with disqualified driving and no insurance on Wednesday, July 28. He appeared in court yesterday and received a suspended jail sentence.

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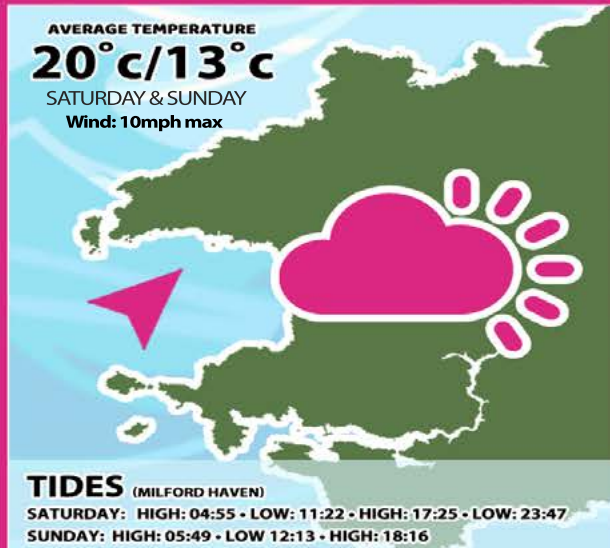
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## WEEKEND WEATHER & TIDES



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FACEBOOK LIKES:	64,236 (All titles)
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INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS	1,843

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## Council's Cabinet faces tough choices on spending

MONDAY's meeting of the Council Cabinet (July 3) has a packed programme of difficult decisions on several major projects.

First out of the traps is the massive overspending on Haverfordwest's Western Quay Development, centred on the old Ocky White building.

The project is already over budget thanks to circumstances beyond the Council's control, such as inflation, the pandemic's impact, the significant archaeological discoveries made during excavations, and the discovery of asbestos on five sites in the old building which added a year to the project's delivery time on its own.

The current contract with John Weaver Constructors is for a shell & core only.

A further fit-out project is needed to provide the ground-floor food emporium offer.

The "Bridge Street Kitchen" will house food production pods and a spacious seating area that opens onto the riverside external spaces.

Bridge Street Kitchen will be fitted for occupation, requiring operators to supply white goods within the kitchen areas and first-floor prep area only. The high-specification fit-out will include the display of artefacts found during the property's development.

Although Phase One is on course for completion in September, the project's second phase - the Warehouse area - faces delays. The signature design feature of the project - the Heart of Pembrokeshire Bridge - is funded by the UK Government's Levelling-Up Fund.

It includes a Bridge Street link, walkways, conservation work of the castle, castle events space and the refurbishment & extension of the old Gaol building.

However, the devil in the detail is contained in a response from Director of Resources Jon Haswell. Mr



Jon Coles

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Haswell writes: "If additional financial

resources are required unless funded from external funding or existing service budgets, any additional borrowing will place pressure on the revenue budget at a time when financial resources are under pressure."

If the Council parks the project pending further funding, it risks the whole of Phase Two and Bridge developments, which are planned to run in tandem. It also risks funding already granted for the project being clawed back.

Faced with what amounts to Hobson's Choice, the Cabinet is likely to want to press ahead. However, whether it can do so without Full Council's approval is open to question.

The same sort of woe faces the Haverfordwest Transport Interchange Project.

The tender process received no acceptable responses, and there is no scope to exceed the available budget.

The Council will now undertake a two-stage tender process that, officers hope, will reduce the risk to successful contractors.

The complicating factor is that abandoning the project will incur substantial costs. The development is in a Conservation Area.

permission,

therefore, depended on extensive landscaping and groundwork. Those works must be done no matter what. In addition, because the project relies on substantial grants, which would likely be clawed back, any future work at the site to complete or partially complete works would have to be fully funded by the local authority.

Again, it's Hobson's Choice for the Cabinet. However, a decision to move forward will certainly be subject to a further call-in for scrutiny or reference to Full Council. The project could face a rough ride at the latter.

Haverfordwest Airport also is up with its metaphorical hands out for money.

A report prepared in 2016 said the Airport could survive without subsidy in the medium term. Covid and recent economic pressures undeniably hit that prospect. However, the Council hopes that the Freeport and major projects planned for the Haven and mid-Pembrokeshire will increase traffic and reduce the Airport's current deficit (£240,000).

The big fly in the ointment is maintenance, in which it seems planned or scheduled maintenance has slipped to the point where urgent work is needed.

New runway lights will cost up to £500,000, and new fuel tanks another

£200,000.

To address those issues, the Council could apply for a grant under the wrapper of the Freeport scheme. But that does not mean funding is bound to be provided.

Whatever happens, the Airport must move to full cost recovery in the current financial year. The only way the Council can do that is to increase fees for Airport users.

Spending that sort of money also comes on the back of the recent decision to cut other services, particularly public toilet provision.

Cllr Huw Murphy commented on whether spending money on the Airport should take priority over an essential but discretionary service Pembrokeshire's public and visitors rely upon.

He told The Herald: "I'm not opposed to the Airport on principle, far from it. I'm a qualified pilot and can see the good it could do. I'm not into opposing for opposing's sake, and the Council must make difficult decisions. A few votes the other way in May, and I'd be in the Cabinet's shoes. I only question why money can be found for this and not for the basic services Pembrokeshire must maintain for more people's benefit.

"I don't think the Airport is what the public wants its money spent on. However, as I said, this is a difficult time and a very difficult decision and there are other factors involved."

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# Over 10,000 demand action over fatal junction

IN A RESOUNDING call for action, over 10,000 concerned individuals have come together to demand immediate safety improvements at the notorious Nash Fingerpost junction on the A477. The overwhelming support for change was reflected in a record-breaking petition that amassed 10,006 signatures in a remarkable 36-day period. Campaigners had aimed to reach the 10,000 mark within six months but achieved their goal much sooner.

"This unprecedented response underscores the depth of sentiment not only in Pembrokeshire but also across the region," said one of the organisers of the petition. "We refuse to tolerate any more needless accidents and fatalities at this perilous junction."

The petition, which has now been submitted to the Welsh Government for further review, advocates for significant enhancements at the existing Nash Fingerpost junction. Proposed measures include the construction of either a roundabout or traffic lights, along with speed reduction measures and improved signage.

The tragic death of 29-year-old Ashley Rogers at the junction on May 13, 2022, prompted the creation of the petition. "While we await serious discussions in the Senedd, our resolve is unwavering in ensuring a safer junction," stated a representative of the campaign. "We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all the concerned individuals in Pembrokeshire who took the time to sign this petition."

The campaign's success has garnered support from Government Chief Whip and South Pembrokeshire MP Simon Hart, who has been an ardent advocate for improving



Dangerous road: Several have been killed or injured in recent years

**Tom Sinclair**

Editor@herald.email

the Nash Fingerpost junction. "I hope that this marks the initial step towards enhancing the safety of this junction," he expressed. "Over the past 12 years, we have witnessed two fatalities and at least nine collisions resulting in 16 casualties. However, these figures do not capture the near misses and constant risks that endanger lives daily."

The junction poses a challenge for drivers attempting to traverse from the Pembroke road onto the eastbound carriageway in a seamless maneuver. "Regrettably, this is not feasible given the inadequate sight lines," continued Simon Hart. "Lorries and trailers frequently protrude into the westbound traffic, causing significant disruptions on the trunk road. A hair-raising video on my Facebook page showcases a crane navigating the junction, vividly illustrating this issue."

Simon Hart has persistently urged the Welsh Government to install a roundabout at the junction since his tenure as an MP began. However, in 2012, the former Welsh Transport



Wants action: Simon Hart MP

Minister deemed a roundabout upgrade unjustified based on the traffic volumes at the time. "I sincerely hope that the strength of public sentiment expressed through this petition, coupled with the tragic passing of Ashley Rogers, will compel the authorities to reassess the situation," concluded Hart.

The immense support behind the petition echoes the urgent need for improvements at the Nash Fingerpost junction. With public safety at stake and a growing chorus of voices demanding change, all eyes are on the Welsh Government to take swift action and rectify the hazardous conditions at this critical intersection.

# Harassment case in court

LEE WOODMASS, a resident of Hywel Road, Haverfordwest, found himself in the spotlight as he appeared before the Haverfordwest Magistrates' Court on Wednesday (Jun 28). Woodmass stands accused of harassment without violence, a charge brought against him under Section 2(1) and (2) of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997.

According to court documents, the alleged harassment occurred between 11th December 2022 and 13th December 2022

at Station Road, Pembroke. Woodmass is said to have engaged in a course of conduct that targeted the victim, repeatedly calling, emailing, and visiting her address.

During the initial hearing Woodmass entered a plea of not guilty.

The Haverfordwest Magistrates' Court has scheduled the next hearing for 26th July 2023

To ensure an impartial trial, the court has imposed bail conditions on Woodmass, citing the need to prevent interference with witnesses.

# Parker remanded in custody

ROBERT PARKER, a 25-year-old resident of Neyland, found himself at the centre of a courtroom showdown yesterday at Haverfordwest Magistrates' Court. Facing charges of possessing an offensive weapon in a public place and being in possession of a controlled substance, Parker's fate now rests in the hands of the Swansea Crown Court.

The incident in question occurred on 17th February 2023 when Parker was allegedly found carrying a butterfly knife at Withybush Hospital, a local medical facility. Authorities

arrested him, charging him with a violation of Section 1(1) of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953. Parker appeared before the Haverfordwest Magistrates' Court on 27th March and indicated a guilty plea to the charges.

It was also revealed that on the same day, he had been in possession of 0.3 grams of cannabis, a controlled drug classified as Class B, in contravention of Section 5(1) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

The court determined that Parker would be remanded in custody pending his sentencing at the Swansea Crown Court on 12th July

# Bramble Hall Farm death being treated as unexplained

POLICE have confirmed that they are still investigating the death of a male connected with Bramble Hall Farm, Ferry Lane, Pembrokeshire on Friday (Jun 23).

They also confirmed that another male, believed to be the occupant of a rented property on the Farm, was arrested for possession with the intent to supply drugs.

He was later released on bail.

In a statement the police said: "Dyfed-Powys Police was called to a report of a medical emergency at a property in Ferry Lane,



**Tom Sinclair**

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Pembrokeshire on the evening of Friday, 23rd June.

"A 33-year-old man was taken to hospital where he has sadly passed away.

"Next of kin have been

advised.

"A 35-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of the possession with the intent to supply drugs and released on bail pending further police enquiries.

"The death is currently being treated as unexplained and enquiries continue."

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# Pembrokeshire hit as



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THE CRISIS in Wales's NHS continues with no sign of the Welsh Government making progress in addressing its systemic problems. And Pembrokeshire is suffering due to the Welsh Government's failure to take decisive and effective action to end the crisis's disproportionate effect on rural Wales.

Despite an endless stream of initiatives, plans and spot funding for schemes to address endemic problems, the Welsh NHS

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remains stubbornly stuck in a cycle of missed targets and under-delivery.

### PEMBROKESHIRE SUFFERS AS SERVICES STRUGGLE

In the Hywel Dda UHB area, barely half of all Red Calls were reached within eight minutes. Over 20% of all Red Calls in the Hywel Dda UHB wait more than fifteen minutes.

Pembrokeshire is particularly badly affected after some ambulance services' relocation out of the county.

In addition, over 39% of Accident and Emergency patients at Withybush wait longer than the four-hour target for triage and treatment. 13% of patients at Withybush wait longer than 12 hours to be admitted, transferred or discharged from A&E.

Pembrokeshire's peak tourist season will shortly start. Unless things change



General Practice: Falling numbers of doctors mean less-qualified staff treat patients

# NHS crisis continues

rapidly and more staff and resources are devoted to Haverfordwest, performance can only get worse.

The situation is even worse when it comes to those waiting more than two years for treatment.

In February 2020, just before the Covid pandemic, Welsh Government data recorded 225 patients waiting more than two years for treatment in the Hywel Dda UHB area. That figure is now a staggering 15,389. While 15,389 represents a 40% reduction in waiting times year-on-year, Hywel Dda UHB's list represents just a fraction less than half of all waiting times over two years in Wales.

That's two years of waiting in pain and uncertainty while the Welsh Government gets its act together.

Underlining the size of the problem, the Welsh Government's recovery target to eliminate two-year waits in most specialities by March 2023 doesn't include seven specialities recognised as "exceptionally challenging".

The seven specialities are dermatology, general surgery, ophthalmology, urology, gynaecology, trauma and orthopaedics, and ear, nose and throat.

Excluding those specialities removes 30,000 patients from the two-year statistics. It incidentally leaves out 10,070 patients waiting more than two years for knee or hip replacements.

## PEMBROKESHIRE'S HOLLYWOOD SMILE

An exchange between Mark Drakeford and Paul Davies in the Senedd underlined the distance between Welsh ministerial perception and reality.

There is an obvious and ongoing underprovision of NHS dental treatment in the Hywel Dda UHB area, with many dental surgeries withdrawing from NHS contracts. NHS dental provision in Pembrokeshire is particularly low, with many reliant on emergency dental services for treatment.

Paul Davies raised the issue with the First Minister. Listening to Mr Drakeford's response, you'd imagine every Pembrokeshire



**Ambulances: Barely half of Red Calls reached on target in Hywel Dda UHB.**

resident smiling like Tom Cruise, with perfect dental health and an NHS dentist with an open patient list in every community.

The disconnection between reality and the First Minister's misleading use of statistics (something that would result in a reprimand for a minister in Westminster) is of one piece with successive health ministers' efforts to pee on the public's shoes and tell them it's raining.

## WHAT THE PROFESSIONALS SAY

Welsh Ministers rarely bother anymore with the pretence Wales's health services are improving. The best they can come up with is that it is getting worse slower.

Even when confronted with the views of expert bodies, to which it defers when they say what it wants to hear, the Welsh Government exists in absolute denial.

On Wednesday, June 29, the Royal College of Midwives warned: "There is an urgent need for a renewed focus on workforce and staffing levels for maternity services in Wales."

A report from the College

showed the number of experienced midwives in maternity services in Wales is at dramatically low levels.

RCM Director for Wales, Julie Richards, said: "Every day midwives go the extra mile for those they help, often to the detriment of their own mental and physical health. Despite more people using midwifery services and the steady increase in more complicated pregnancies, the number of midwives hasn't risen over the last five years. This is bound to impact on the quality of care."

"Let's be clear - services are currently coping only because of the superhuman efforts of their staff. In Wales, we have seen a worrying decline in the numbers of experienced midwives. When these midwives leave they take their knowledge and experience with them."

The same day, doctors offered an even more worrying take on the state of GP services in Wales.

More than 80% of GPs surveyed by the doctors' union BMA Cymru Wales said they fear they cannot provide quality and safe patient care due to their excessive workloads, diminishing workforce, and the rising demands on the service.

That is one of the findings from a report by the union as part of its "Save Our Surgeries" campaign, which launched in the Senedd on Wednesday. The campaign appeals for an urgent rescue package of support from the Welsh Government to save general practice.

The report lays bare the extent of the crisis in general practice, including a deficit of 664 GPs (compared with other OECD countries), 84 surgery closures in the last decade and an overspend of almost £11 million on managed practices by health boards.

There are now 18% fewer surgeries available, with GPs taking an unsustainable 32% more patients each.

General Practice Committee Wales Chair, Dr Gareth Oelmann, said: "Unless urgent action is taken to address workload, workforce and wellbeing, the service is at risk. Given our work's essential and all-encompassing nature, this crisis should concern us all."

RCN Wales estimates that the number of registered nurse vacancies in NHS Wales has risen to at least 3,000. That's over 1,200 more vacancies than last year.

## WG STATISTICS REVEAL DEEP-SEATED ISSUES

The latest Welsh NHS statistics revealed it missed the performance target of eliminating two-year waits in most specialities by March. It made almost no progress in eliminating two-year waits at the end of April.

31,481 are still waiting over two years to receive treatment as of the end of April.

The list shows a waiting list reduction of only 245 since March – the lowest monthly reduction in two-year waits since their peak in March 2022. The overall number of patients waiting for treatment increased by over 10,000.

Answering questions in the Welsh Parliament this week, Health Minister Eluned Morgan confirmed that two-year waits would not be eliminated by the end of March next year.

After being reminded by opposite number Russell George that the First Minister had ducked giving a definitive answer on the subject, Baroness Morgan said: "On two-year waits, we're expecting 99 per cent of people to be seen by the end [March 2024]. We're expecting, by

September, anybody waiting over three years to have an appointment so that they know exactly when they're going to get their treatment."

Ambulance waiting times have increased in Wales since 2019, with only marginal improvements over recent months. The target waiting time for Red Calls, designated life-threatening, is eight minutes. That target has never been met since set. The average in the last data is 15 minutes.

BMA Cymru chairwoman Dr Iona Collins said long waiting times led to patient health deteriorating. "We would like to know the predictable level of healthcare provision we can expect to have with the NHS."

"If we have a suspected heart attack, can we rely on an ambulance turning up?"

"Can we rely on that ambulance delivering us to an accident and emergency for life-saving treatment?"

"At the moment, we cannot rely on that."

"When you get the service, it will probably be good and satisfactory. The issue is the delay in getting that service in the first place and the deterioration in your health while you are waiting for your treatment."

# Three women facing jail after admitting to cocaine charges

THREE women from Haverfordwest are facing the prospect of a prison sentence after admitting to charges related to the supply of cocaine. Teigan Hodgson, Lauryn Moseley, and Lauren Rogers appeared before Swansea Crown Court today, Monday, June 26. The trial was expected to last five days.

Lauryn Moseley, aged 22, residing at Hawthorn Rise, and Lauren Rogers, aged 29, residing at St Thomas Avenue, had previously pleaded not guilty to possessing cocaine with intent to supply in Haverfordwest in July 2020. They also faced an alternative charge of possessing cocaine, as well as being involved in the supply of cocaine between April and July of that year.

However, during the court proceedings, both Moseley

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and Rogers changed their pleas and admitted to being concerned in the supply of cocaine. Meanwhile, Teigan Hodgson, aged 21, of Three Meadows, who initially denied possession with intent to supply cocaine on October 23, changed her plea and admitted to possessing the Class A drug.

As a result of these developments, the prosecution announced that it would not proceed with a trial against Moseley and Rogers on the remaining possession with intent to supply charges. The presiding judge, Recorder Christian Jowett, set a provisional sentencing date for July 24. The defendants were granted bail but were reminded by the judge that all options, including

imprisonment, were on the table.

In addition to the three women, the court also heard the guilty pleas of two other defendants. Andrew Mann, aged 28, of Old Heath Road in Wolverhampton, admitted to possessing cocaine and MDMA (both Class A drugs), amphetamine (Class B), a Class C drug, as well as possessing counterfeit currency notes amounting to £32,280.

Heidi Moseley, aged 42 and also from Haverfordwest, pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of cocaine between April 23 and July 21, 2020. She also admitted to possessing cocaine with intent to supply in October 2020.

The case will now proceed to sentencing, with all defendants facing the possibility of imprisonment. The



guilty pleas have shed light on the drug-related activities that occurred

in Haverfordwest during the specified period, and the court will consider the

appropriate penalties for the offenses committed.

# Prove job losses or face jail time, judge tells businessman

LAYTON NOLAN, a local business owner from Victoria Road, Pembroke Dock, appeared in Swansea Crown Court today, Monday, in front of

**Tom Sinclair**  
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Judge His Honour Paul Thomas KC for sentencing.

Nolan pleaded guilty to one charge of attempting to pervert the course of justice at the higher court and was subsequently convicted of assault charges at

Haverfordwest Magistrates Court.

During the hearing, it was revealed that three of the assaults took place in Pembroke Dock in July, while the fourth occurred at the Bluestone holiday resort in August of the previous year.

The court heard that the assaults were inflicted upon Nolan's partner.

According to the testimony presented, the couple was en route to Bluestone when they engaged in an argument, resulting in Nolan becoming verbally abusive.

As tensions escalated, he began driving erratically, prompting his partner to pull up the handbrake. In a disturbing turn of events, Nolan proceeded to physically assault her, punching and slapping her legs as she covered.

Upon their arrival at the resort, a concerned staff member noticed the distressing state of Nolan's partner and witnessed him forcefully pushing her into nearby bushes.

The court was informed that the July assaults involved incidents where perfume was sprayed into the victim's eyes during an argument, she was pushed causing injuries to her arm and thigh, and she was slapped on the right cheek while also being kicked in the leg.

Despite being found guilty after trial, Nolan continued to deny the assault charges, as revealed during the proceedings.

Subsequently, following the victim's visit to the police, Nolan contacted her via phone, urging her to withdraw the charges and even offering her financial compensation during their conversation.

Furthermore, he had previously contacted the victim's sister, requesting her to retract her witness statement.

In Nolan's defence, his counsel, Amelia Pike, highlighted that he had previously maintained a clean record. Nolan acknowledged that he had indeed attempted to pervert the course of justice and expressed remorse for his actions.

He claimed that at the time, he was unaware that he was committing an offence, given that he had been initially released without charge and the victim had initiated the contact.

He admitted his own foolishness in this regard.

Pike also acknowledged the toxic nature of the relationship and argued that Nolan should have ended it earlier.

She further revealed that Nolan had grown up in an environment marked by regular domestic violence, which had a lasting impact on him.

Additionally, he was under medication for anxiety and depression.

It was also revealed during the hearing that Nolan is the proprietor of a company engaged in

the sale of life insurance, regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Pike emphasised that if Nolan were to be incarcerated for attempting to pervert the course of justice, the company would be forced to shut down, resulting in the loss of ten jobs.

Judge Thomas acknowledged that the probation service's presentence report had provided minimal information regarding the potential job losses.

However, he stated that if substantiated evidence were presented within the next two weeks, he would consider it during the sentencing.

Judge Thomas cautioned that should this proof not be provided, Nolan could face an additional charge of attempting to pervert the course of justice.

"I was about to send you to prison for several months," Judge Thomas stated, "But I will give you the opportunity to prove that you have ten employees."

Consequently, the sentencing was adjourned for two weeks, and Nolan was remanded in custody until the next hearing. During this period, he must provide independently verified evidence to support his claim of job losses within his company.

The court awaits the forthcoming evidence, which will play a significant role in determining Nolan's ultimate fate in this case.



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# Judge forced police to charge child sex attacker

**A WEST WALES man, who was groomed by a paedophile when he was a 13-year-old child, had to seek a judicial review against a decision by Dyfed Powys Police not to continue the investigation into his case due to a "lack of evidence".**

The man, now in his 30s, suffered horrendous abuse at the hands of Alec Davidson from Carmarthen. Despite the odds stacked against him, the victim's determination led to the perpetrator being found guilty of two charges relating to historical sexual abuse and grooming on Monday (June 26) at Swansea Crown Court.

The victim has described his ordeal as unimaginable. Not only was he wronged by his perpetrator and the police, who should have been there to help him seek justice when he first asked, but the NHS and Carmarthenshire County Council have also admitted that they mishandled confidential documentation pertaining to the victim's mental health and school

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conduct by sharing it with the police without his express permission.

The story began in the winter of 2004/2005 when the victim was groomed on a social media platform called Bebo. It ended with Davidson picking him up in his car and taking him to a secluded mountain top location where Davidson unzipped the 13-year-old boy's trousers and performed a sexual act on him. He also attempted to get the victim to do the same to him.

The victim did not disclose the incident to anyone at the time, but in 2019, while using Facebook, he stumbled upon Davidson and decided to confront him, saying, "Hello, it's me. Do you remember when you picked me up and did those things to me when I was just 13?" To which Davidson replied, "Yes, I remember now."

Feeling ready to share his story, the victim went to Llanelli police station to

make a report. Two police officers spoke with him and assured him that the matter would be addressed. However, he waited for approximately six months without any action being taken.

Months later, the victim returned to the police station to request an update but was dismissed. Eventually, the police asked Davidson to come in for a voluntary interview, although there was no request for an appropriate adult to be present from either the suspect himself or his solicitor. The interview was further delayed, but it eventually took place, during which Davidson admitted to the sexual act but claimed he didn't know the boy was 13 and believed him to be 17.

This is not a legally valid defense, and with the admission and the Facebook conversation as evidence, one would have expected the police to have a solid case. However, that was not the outcome. The police wrote to the defendant, stating that due to a lack of evidence and the victim's

reported history of sexual abuse by his stepfather, a conviction was unlikely. The police also cited the victim's medical and school records, which showed a history of mental illness and behavioral problems, which they believed would work against him in court.

Dissatisfied with what he considered to be an open-and-shut case, the victim utilized his right to review and asked the police to reconsider their decision. Although the police reviewed the case, an officer known to the victim came back with the same answer. Shockingly, this officer called the victim the day after his grandmother's funeral and informed him that the case would not proceed. The officer also mentioned being at the scene of his grandmother's suicide, which greatly upset and disturbed the victim, finding it unprofessional.

Undeterred, the victim pursued a judicial review against the police's decision not to arrest and charge the perpetrator. In his argument to the court, the victim



highlighted the possibility of Davidson grooming other boys who might need protection. Eventually, a judicial review was granted, compelling the police to take action.

The NHS and Carmarthenshire County Council also admitted to unlawfully releasing medical and school records, and each paid the victim an undisclosed sum (believed to be less than £10,000) as compensation.

Once arrested and

charged, Davison, a 38-year-old resident of St Catherine Street, Carmarthen, was found guilty of two charges of historical sex crimes against the victim. The charges were brought under the Sexual Offences Act 1956 and the Indecency with Children Act 1960 since the Sexual Offences Act 2003 was not in force at the time of the offenses.

A complex sentencing exercise is scheduled to take place at Swansea Crown Court on July 31st.

## Call to stop sale of parking permits to holidaymakers



**A CALL for Pembrokeshire to review its policy of selling resident parking permits to holidaymakers is expected to be turned down by senior councillors.**

A notice of motion by Tenby councillor Michael Williams, to be heard by Pembrokeshire County Council's Cabinet on July 3, asks that: "PCC immediately cease issuing parking permits to other than permanent residents."

**Bruce Sinclair**  
Local Democracy Reporter

The motion was previously submitted to Pembrokeshire's full council before being referred to Cabinet.

Cllr Williams added: "The situation in certain areas of Tenby are now extremely difficult for residents, many of whom are afraid to use their vehicles as there is little chance that upon return they

will be able to find anywhere to park.

"Often vehicles with visitor permits will be parked for periods of seven to 14 days completely blocking residents from parking.

"Suitable parking is available in nearby car parks, and the removal of this facility would make life a great deal easier for the few remaining long-suffering residents that have not been priced out of the town.

"In certain areas it appears that the number of permits issued sometimes exceeds the number of spaces available.

"The issuing of permits to second home-owners should also be critically reviewed, with an audit of the impact on full term residents undertaken.

"The critical importance of tourism is recognised but there is also a cost which has never been evaluated. The inability of residents to avail themselves of such a basic facility for which they pay is but one example of that cost."

The visitor permit fee has recently been increased from £40 to £50 a week, following Cabinet approval in February.

A report for members states: "The concerns raised by Cllr Williams are valid and understood in terms of

the difficulty for residents and their ability to park.

"However, the analysis of permits issued seems to suggest the numbers are relatively low, and there is no mechanism for restricting wider visitor parking in non-resident parking bays anyway (and if displacement were to occur as a result of a policy change).

"There is also the potential issue of blocking residents from having a visitor permit for legitimate reasons, such as for families and friends to visit.

"However, given the restricted time period of the data set, it would seem beneficial to undertake further monitoring over this season and additional analysis before finalising any recommended way forward."

Four options are highlighted in the report: no change, no change with further monitoring and review, only one valid permit 'active' per property, and amending the order to prohibit the sale of visitor permits.

It is recommended that the Notice of Motion is not supported, but monitoring takes place over the next six months, with reports back to Cabinet following the tourist season.

## One month left to renew

**TAX credits customers have a month to renew their claim or risk having their payments stopped,** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has warned.

The annual deadline is 31 July and more than 300,000 customers who received a renewal pack with a red line across the first page and the

words 'reply now' still need to confirm their circumstances for the current tax year to continue receiving payments.

Circumstances that could affect tax credits payments include changes to living arrangements, childcare, working hours or a

change in income.

The quickest and easiest way for customers to renew their tax credits

is digitally via GOV.UK or the HMRC app.

Myrtle Lloyd, HMRC's Director-General for Customer Services, said:

"Please act now to meet the 31 July deadline for renewing your tax

credits or your payments could stop. There is no need to call us, it

is quick and easy to renew via GOV.UK or the HMRC app.

For details on how to renew, search 'manage my tax credits' on GOV.UK."

## Pembs man sentenced for stalking

**GLEN HUNT, a 34-year-old resident of Paynter Street, Pembroke, Pembrokeshire, has been handed a conviction for stalking and harassment by Haverfordwest Magistrates' Court. The court heard how Mr. Hunt pursued a distressing course of conduct, targeting a woman between February 22, 2023, and June 5, 2023, causing her significant fear and distress. His actions included incessant unwanted attention through social media, telephone calls, and even turning up uninvited at her residence.**

During the trial, which took place on June 28, 2023, the defendant pleaded guilty to the charges. Representing the prosecution was Kelly Rivers from the Crown Prosecution

Service.

A restraining order was made, which will remain in effect until June 27, 2025.

As a result of his guilty plea, the court took into account Glen Hunt's cooperation during the proceedings. However, he was ordered to pay £85.00 in costs to the Crown Prosecution Service, along with a £114.00 surcharge. Additionally, a collection order was issued to deduct £24.00 per month from Mr. Hunt's benefits, starting from July 26, 2023. The court further imposed a community order on Mr. Hunt, which will be in effect until June 27, 2025. The judge explained that compensation would not be awarded in this case, as it was deemed likely to exacerbate the situation. Instead, the focus was placed on ensuring the safety and well-being of the victim.

# Man avoids prison sentence after false rally car theft claim



Admitted wrong-doing: Llyr Jones

**LLANDYSUL** resident **Tom Sinclair** *Editor@herald.email*  
Llyr Jones, 34, has managed to avoid incarceration despite his false claim that his rally car had been stolen. Jones falsely reported that his Ford Escort MK2 vehicle had been taken from his residence in Drefach Felindre between Friday, October 7, and Saturday, October 8 of last year.

Upon receiving the report, authorities initiated a public appeal for information regarding the alleged theft. However, the investigation took an

unexpected turn when the car was discovered on Sunday morning, October 9, in a wooded area near the windmills atop Newcastle Emlyn.

Swansea Crown Court heard that the recovered car was found stripped down to its bare frame. Authorities noted significant damage to the vehicle, suggesting potential foul play.

Subsequent inquiries by the police revealed that Llyr Jones had deceitfully reported the car as missing,

with the sole intention of making an insurance claim amounting to £49,000.

Appearing before the Llanelli Magistrates' Court on May 18, Jones pleaded guilty to the charge of fraud by false representation. The case was then transferred to Swansea Crown Court, where the final sentencing took place on Tuesday, June 27.

In light of his offence, Jones has received a 16-month prison sentence. However, the court has suspended this sentence for a period of two years. As part of his punishment, Jones is obligated to complete 200 hours of unpaid work.

Additionally, he has been ordered to pay £420 in costs.

This case serves as a reminder that dishonesty in insurance claims can have serious legal consequences.

The court's decision to grant clemency in this instance highlights the complexity and discretion involved in sentencing, with the aim of striking a balance between punishment and the potential for rehabilitation.



## Launch of the Royal Welsh Show at the Senedd

LOCAL Senedd Member Paul Davies has joined Senedd colleagues to attend the official launch of the Royal Welsh Show 2023. The Royal Welsh Show is a four-day agricultural show which hosts a series of livestock and equine competitions as well as Welsh food and drink displays, craft exhibitions and trade stands. Members joined those representing rural organisations and groups to hear more about the programme for this year's Show and the Senedd's Presiding Officer

and the Minister for Rural Affairs also gave speeches on the importance of the Show as a cultural and economic asset.

Mr Davies said, "The Royal Welsh Show is the pinnacle in Wales' agricultural calendar, and it was great to join Senedd Members from across the political spectrum for the official launch of this year's Show. I'm looking forward to attending the Show myself and I hope to see many people from across Pembrokeshire at the event."

"Of course, in August we'll also have the Pembrokeshire

County Show which is another great opportunity for people to come together to watch displays, take part in competitions and celebrate Pembrokeshire's outstanding food and drink. We must remember that Shows like the Royal Welsh and the Pembrokeshire County Show rely heavily on the support of so many volunteers, who give up their free time to make these events happen - and so I pay tribute to their commitment and hard work in putting together these events and I look forward to attending both of them again this year."



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# Fire at Monkton apartment block caused by ‘unattended wood burn’

A FIRE that damaged four flats at a Monkton apartment block on Wednesday evening was determined to have been caused by an unattended brazier where waste wood was being burned.

In a statement released after a thorough investigation, fire officers have confirmed that the fire originated from the unattended burn, which set and left unattended by the occupant of the property.

Firefighters from Pembroke Dock, Tenby, and Milford Haven swiftly responded to the blaze, which broke out shortly after 8 p.m. on Wednesday, June 21.

“Our crews successfully tackled the fire, which affected four apartments,” said a spokesperson for Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue.

“It was discovered that the fire had started from burning waste wood in an improvised fire pit, which had been left unattended by the occupant. Upon their return, the occupant found the fire had escalated out of control, resulting in extensive damage to a first-floor apartment in the rear courtyard of the property.”

Several adjacent



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properties had to be evacuated while the firefighting operation was underway.

To facilitate the firefighting efforts, Long Mains was temporarily closed to traffic as the fire crews from Pembroke Dock, Tenby, and Milford Haven worked diligently to extinguish the blaze.

A spokesperson from the fire service confirmed that all occupants had safely evacuated the building before

the arrival of the fire crews.

“Our crews utilized eight breathing apparatus sets, a 10.5m ladder, two hose reel jets, one main jet, and two thermal imaging cameras,” the spokesperson stated.

“The Local Authority and National Grid were also in attendance and took measures to secure some of the affected apartments.”

The Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service concluded their operations at the scene at 10:53 p.m., successfully bringing the fire under control.

Fire officials are now

urging the public to exercise caution when disposing of household waste through burning. They emphasized that the current dry weather conditions make fires more prone to spreading, particularly in areas where access to water and firefighting resources is limited.

“Uncontrolled fires pose risks to homes, wildlife, livestock, as well as the lives of both firefighters and residents. Therefore, we strongly advise everyone to follow our guidelines when considering the burning of

waste materials,” cautioned the fire officer.

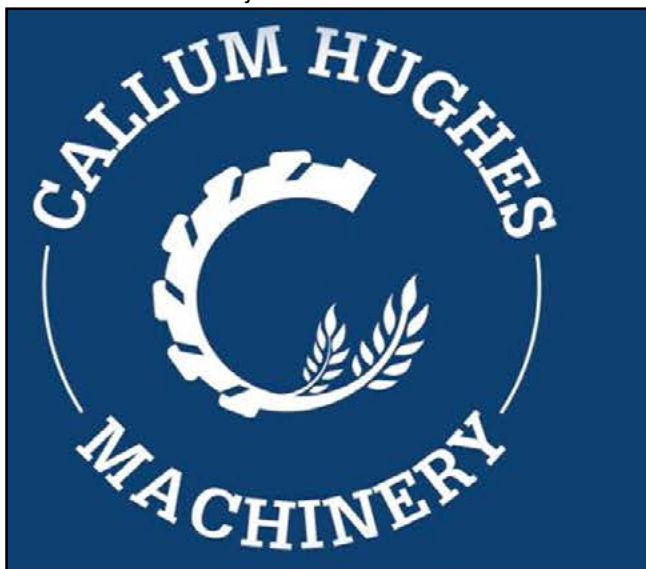
The officer further stressed that leaving a fire unattended or having an insufficient number of people to control it is illegal.

The recommended guidelines include:

- Whenever possible, take refuse to the local recycling centre.
- Assess the wind direction and ensure there is no risk to property, roads, or wildlife.
- If a fire gets out of

control, immediately contact the fire and rescue service, providing precise location and access details.

- Always ensure the fire is completely extinguished before leaving it unattended.
- Check the following day to ensure there is no reignition.
- Following these guidelines will not only help mitigate the risks associated with fires but also contribute to the overall safety and well-being of the community.



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# Coastguard issues appeal for yacht 'Minke'

HM COASTGUARD has issued an urgent appeal for the whereabouts of Duncan Lougee, the missing yacht captain who embarked on a solo challenge to Ireland. Lougee, participating in the renowned single-handed Jester Challenge, set sail from Plymouth on 18th June aboard his 25-foot fibreglass folkboat named 'The Minke'. His intended destination was Baltimore, Ireland, via the Isles of Scilly, with an estimated arrival date of 22nd June.

Alarming reports have emerged revealing that there has been no contact with Lougee since his departure, sparking grave concerns for his safety. HM Coastguard Dale, in collaboration with the Irish Coastguard, UK police, and the RNLI, has initiated a comprehensive search and rescue operation to locate the missing sailor.

"The Minke," Lougee's vessel, is easily recognisable with its white hull and white sails, bearing the sail number FB597. All other participating vessels in the Jester Challenge have been accounted for, heightening the urgency of finding Lougee and his boat.



Duncan Lougee,

Tom Sinclair

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Described as an experienced sailor in his late 60s, standing at 6 feet 1 inch, Lougee is believed to have been wearing glasses, Musto oilskins, and waterproof boots at the time of his disappearance. The last sighting of Lougee was reportedly near Helford River around 2 pm on Monday, 19th June.

Lougee's impressive sailing credentials include successfully navigating the Atlantic solo on three separate occasions, sailing from Plymouth to Azores and back. He has also completed the same crossing to Baltimore previously. Alongside his sailing ventures, Lougee is employed as a yacht

broker and boat builder, further highlighting his deep expertise in maritime matters.

The sailing community has been following the developments closely, with prominent sailing blogger Sallu Lucy-Ann Stamford confirming that all other participants in the Jester Challenge have either reached Baltimore or retired to alternative ports, except for Duncan Lougee and his 25-foot Folkboat Minke.

Despite extensive efforts by Falmouth MCA, the Irish Coastguard, and an aerial search covering the area between the Scillies and Baltimore, the whereabouts of Minke and Lougee remain unknown. Adding to the puzzling circumstances, Lougee is equipped with both an Emergency Position-Indicating Beacon (EPIRB) and a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), neither of which have been activated. Weather conditions in the Celtic Sea have been relatively calm, intensifying the mystery surrounding his disappearance.

While hopes have not yet diminished that Lougee may have encountered a major setback and is striving to find a safe haven, the waiting



period has been incredibly challenging for his partner, Louise. The thoughts of all past and present Jester Challengers are with her during this distressing time.

The Department of Transport has emphasised that the Coast Guard is working closely with the UK Maritime and Coastguard

Agency (MCA) to gather any potential sightings or reports of the missing yacht. Any individuals with information regarding The Minke or Duncan Lougee are urged to contact the Falmouth Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre on 01326 317575 without delay.

As the search for Duncan

Lougee and his vessel continues, the urgency to locate him and ensure his safety grows more critical by the minute. The entire maritime community remains on high alert, eagerly awaiting any breakthrough that may shed light on this baffling disappearance.

## Disability campaigner speaks in London

PEMBROKESHIRE People First representatives, Lucy Hinksman and Sian Huntley, joined parliamentarians and peers at an event in Parliament (27 June) to celebrate 'One Year of the RITES (Real-life, insights, tips, experiences and stories)' Committee.

In a busy committee room in the House of Lords, in the company of Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson DBE, well-known local campaigner, Lucy presented on the work that she has been engaged with at Pembrokeshire People First to promote disability rights.

The Committee is part of the British Institute of Human Rights and is made up of experts who have used the Human Rights Act to achieve change. The event gave representatives the opportunity to share lived experience perspectives on the importance of human rights in the UK, and the implications of leaving the European Council of Europe.

Pembrokeshire People First is an independently run charity based in Haverfordwest that focuses on engaging and supporting members of the local



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community with learning disabilities and/or autism by organising activities such as workshops and events.

As part of the visit Preseli MP, Stephen Crabb, provided the charity representatives with a personal tour of the House of Commons and Lords, as well as a chance for them to watch a Welsh Affairs Committee session, and a debate in the House of Commons Chamber.

Following the visit, MP Crabb added: "It was a pleasure to welcome Lucy and Sian to Parliament and to talk about the outstanding work of Pembrokeshire People First. Lucy and Sian are an integral part of the Pembrokeshire community and do a fantastic job supporting people with

learning disabilities and autism locally. I am delighted that Lucy was given the opportunity to come to Parliament and present on this important topic."

Sian and Lucy commented: "We have absolutely loved the experience, the opportunity to look around Parliament, learn about the history and, also about the day to day running of business there. We really look forward to sharing all that we have learned with the rest of our PPF Members and seeing and sharing social media posts"

"Today was very interesting and it was good to see Stephen Crabb in action chairing the Select Committee and to have a general catch up about the work that he has been doing and also the work that we have been doing in Pembrokeshire Peoples First"

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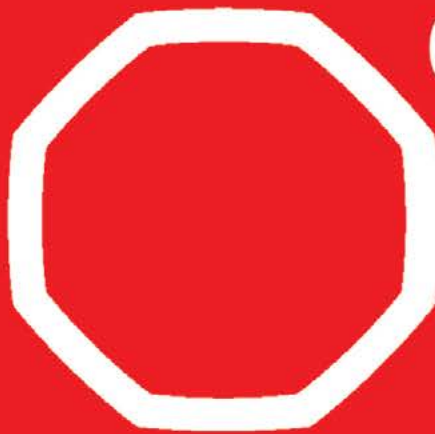


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# Paddleboarder rescued off Coppet Hall



TENBY'S inshore lifeboat was launched shortly after 5pm on Sunday (Jun 25), following a report of a paddleboarder in difficulty in a strong offshore breeze off Coppet Hall.

The volunteer crew were soon on scene, some three and a half miles north of

**Tom Sinclair**  
Editor@herald.email

Tenby and quickly located the casualty a few hundred metres offshore.

There was also an RNLI lifeguard alongside, having paddled out when she saw the paddleboarder in difficulty.

The casualty and their board were taken aboard the lifeboat, before being dropped ashore. The lifeguard was also given a lift ashore to save her from having to paddle in against the wind.

The lifeboat was then stood down to return to Tenby, arriving at 5.45pm.

# Police attend hospital following concerns over person's welfare



POLICE in Haverfordwest have confirmed that they were called to an incident outside Withybush Hospital in the early hours of Tuesday (Jun 27).

The Pembrokeshire Herald understands that the call was made at approximately 12.45am

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following concerns of the welfare of a member of the public.

Details of the incident have not yet been released by Dyfed-Powys Police officers who attended the

incident.

A spokesperson said: "Officers attended Withybush Hospital following a report over concerns for the welfare of a person

"The incident was cleared around an hour later with the person being taken to receive support."

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# Street comes to a halt following tumble dryer blaze

A BLAZE originating from a tumble dryer prompted the closure of Cardigan High Street on Tuesday afternoon (Jun 27), causing traffic disruption.

The incident occurred at the junction of High Street and Pendre at 12:21 pm, prompting an immediate response from the emergency services.

According to a spokesperson from the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, the fire broke out in an apartment situated above a commercial establishment, believed to have been caused by a faulty tumble dryer.

Firefighters from Cardigan, Crymych, Newcastle Emlyn, and Fishguard were swiftly dispatched to the scene. As a safety precaution, the



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occupants of the building were promptly evacuated.

During their operation,

the firefighters successfully rescued a cat from the premises, ensuring the safety of all living beings involved.

By 1:53 pm, the diligent efforts of the firefighting

teams had successfully extinguished the flames. Subsequently, Dyfed-Powys Police confirmed the reopening of the road at approximately 2:15 pm, allowing traffic to flow freely

once again.

Providing further details, a spokesperson from the fire service stated, "At 12:21 pm on Tuesday, June 27, crews from Cardigan, Crymych, Newcastle Emlyn, and Fishguard responded to an incident on Pendre Road in Cardigan. Upon arrival, the teams encountered a well-engulfed tumble dryer located within a first-floor apartment situated above a commercial premises."

The spokesperson continued, "To tackle the fire, the crews employed four breathing apparatus sets, two hose reel jets, a thermal imaging camera, and rapid deployment techniques. As a precautionary measure due to smoke and the potential spread of fire, the building's occupants were safely evacuated. During the search of the

premises' additional floors, our dedicated firefighters successfully rescued a cat."

Following their efforts, the firefighters proceeded to ventilate the affected property, ensuring any residual smoke was adequately cleared. By 1:53 pm, they concluded their duties at the scene.

The incident serves as a reminder of the potential hazards associated with domestic appliances and the importance of regular maintenance and safety precautions. The swift response and professionalism demonstrated by the emergency services undoubtedly played a crucial role in containing the fire and protecting both the occupants and the surrounding structures.

# Senior Pembrokeshire councillor's property plans backed at county hall

PLANS for an extension to a property, made by a senior "financial whizzkid" member of Pembrokeshire County Council, have been backed by council planners.

An application, made by Cabinet Member for Corporate Finance Alec Cormack and his wife, for the demolition of an existing canopy structure and a replacement rear extension with a new roof line at St Non, Pleasant Valley, was recommended for conditional approval at the county council's

**Tom Sinclair**  
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planning committee on June 27.

The application had been referred to the committee rather than decided by delegated planning officer powers as the applicant is an elected member of the council.

One objection to the application was received, raising concern in respect of potential noise in relation to the construction of the proposed development.

A report for planners stated: "The proposed

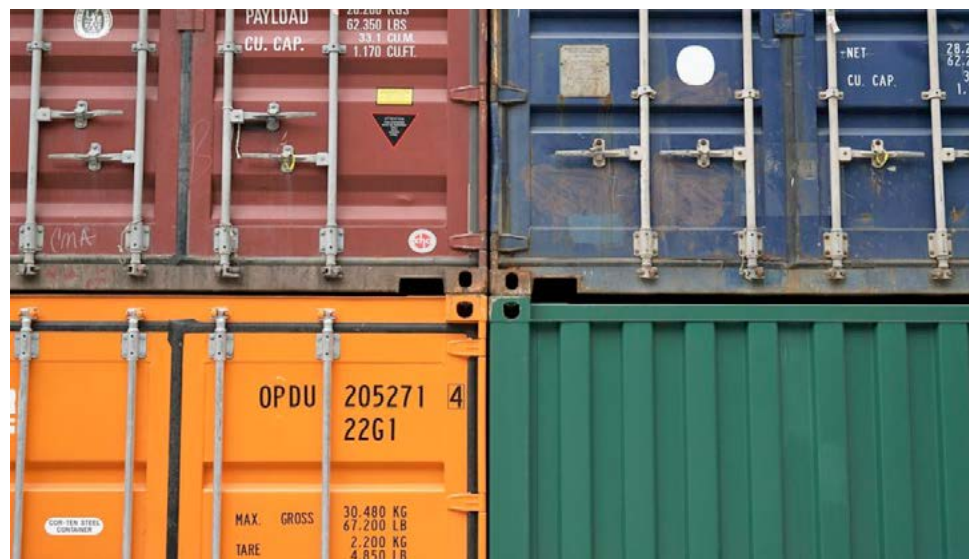
development accords with the relevant policies of the adopted development plan and in terms of detailed matters the submitted scheme demonstrates that the proposed development would have an acceptable impact on the character and appearance of the area and on local amenity."

Committee member councillor Brian Hall moved the application, made by "Cabinet financial whizzkid" Alec Cormack, be approved, seconded by Councillor Tim Evans.

The application was unanimously approved by members.



# Shipping container plans next to Pembrokeshire recycling centre backed



PLANS to site 20 shipping containers for storage hire next to Pembrokeshire County

Council's civic amenity site have been backed by county planners.

Applicant Mr Hart

sought permission for the sighting of the containers and associated works on a brownfield site next to

**Bruce Sinclair**  
Local Democracy Reporter

the Crane Cross waste and recycling centre, Devonshire Drive, near Tenby.

The site, owned by Mr Hart, was previously developed as an oil waste transfer station, and was later used for boat storage.

A planning statement from agent RPC Design & Architecture Ltd said a consent was given on the site in 2021 for a storage unit and works connected a previous boat business.

"At the time of this consent the applicant was proprietor of a boat business based in Saundersfoot Harbour. The site was a good location

within five miles of the harbour for boat storage and maintenance.

"Due to the nature of large boats and trailer access the location was far more suitable than a residential area or built-up settlement area with no amenity impact.

"Since the above planning approval was granted, the applicant has ceased trading with his charter boat business due to the Covid pandemic and the increase in business running costs making it unviable. Mr Hart still has ownership of the application site."

It adds: "The applicant wishes to utilise the land with a new business venture of a private storage facility in the form

of shipping containers.

"The storage will be aimed at private individuals and businesses around the Saundersfoot, Pentlepoir, Tenby and Kilgetty settlements such as: retail units who require storage for stock, business such as tradesmen to store materials and equipment, online business who requires stock storage, builders – storage for tools, equipment, private individuals, temporary storage for house moves etc, and furniture storage."

The scheme was recently backed by local community council Saundersfoot, and has now been conditionally approved by planning officers under delegated powers.

## Planners to visit site recommended for refusal



**COUNTY** planners are to visit the site of a proposed new dwelling on land once owned by the council, despite a recommendation it should be refused.

The application for a two-storey house, together with associated works including alterations to access and the repositioning of and erection of a boundary wall, at land adjacent to 18 Summerhill, Stepside, was recommended for refusal at the June 27 meeting of the council's planning committee.

Local community council Amroth has objected to the proposed scale of

**Bruce Sinclair**  
*Local Democracy Reporter*

applicant William Brooks' development and the impact on the character and appearance of the area and amenity.

Nine letters of objection have also been received.

A report for planners added: "The site and 18 Summerhill were formerly owned by the council and subsequently sold. It is the intention of the applicant to purchase from the council a portion of the garden of [number] 17, which remains in council ownership, in order to improve the access from

the turning head [in order to overcome the reasons for a previous refusal].

"The Council Property Division has, however, confirmed that it would resist such a sale."

The application was recommended for refusal for a string of reasons, including an adverse impact on neighbouring properties, and a failure to meet affordable housing criteria.

Speaking at the meeting, applicant William Brooks said an affordable housing contribution of nearly £26,000 was now being offered, and the application would reinstate a "turning head" in the area.

He told members he had previously received positive discussions about buying the parcel of land from chief executive Will Bramble, but had later been met with "a wall of silence" from officers.

Speaking on behalf of objectors, local resident Kelvin Thomas said the application would exacerbate an already difficult parking situation, saying it was "only a matter of time before there's a serious incident".

Councillor Brian Hall, who had initially favoured following the recommendation of refusal, instead moved a site visit.

"We're short of money, we don't need this land; why don't we sell it in principle?" he asked.

However, fellow councillors Alistair Cameron and Michael Williams both expressed their concerns at the application.

Cllr Williams raised the issue of previously-refused applications at the site, hearing the potential land purchase would lead to a larger building than previously refused.

Cllr Hall responded: "By us going out there doesn't mean we're giving it consent, I just think it would be a travesty to refuse it without seeing it; at least we will see the site first-hand."

Members supported a site visit prior to a final decision by eight votes to three.

## New town library safe despite costs increase

**A COMMUNITY** library being built as part of the redevelopment of the former community school in Narberth is safe despite a huge increase in costs, planners heard.

Back in 2020, an application from local businessman Andrew Rees, on behalf of a local consortium for the transformation of the "eyesore" former Narberth CP school site was given the green light by councillors.

The proposal included the conversion and redevelopment for two retail units, and a new library for the town, along with eight three-bedroom houses and three one-bedroom apartments.

The library itself is subject to a 125-year lease at a peppercorn rate, listed as £20.

Earlier this year, an application to remove an affordable housing element of the scheme was submitted to planners due to increased costs on the site.



**Bruce Sinclair**  
*Local Democracy Reporter*

An authority commissioned District Valuer's Office (DVO) report said the residual land value of the site, which it lists at -£202,759 is substantially below the benchmark land value, listed at £248,001, to make the scheme become viable.

"Evidence has been presented that clearly indicates that the development, that includes commercial space that would be of benefit to the town, a new library and

much-needed housing provision, could not proceed if the required affordable housing provision were to be pursued."

It was recommended to be approved at the April meeting of Pembrokeshire County council's planning committee, but was deferred in the hope a compromise could be reached on the affordable housing issue.

The application came back before the June 27 meeting of the planning committee, again recommended for approval.

Members heard from joint developer Charles Salmon, who stressed

the provision of the library was secure – the initial foundations having been laid – despite a major increase in costs of the development, including some £280,000 towards the library.

"We feel we have carried out our side of the bargain; we can't pull out anyway, it's been built," he said.

He also said the developers were "sensitive to the second homes issue," the open market housing on what was previously "an eyesore on the gateway to Narberth" being first offered for local over-55s.

Councillor Brian Hall moved the application – which has a long string of conditions including delivery of a scheme of affordable housing provision or a further development viability assessment after two years should no houses be occupied – be approved.

The recommendation was backed by nine votes to one, with one member abstaining.

## MIKE EDWARDS

**MRS EDWARDS**  
is in a good mood.

On the one hand, this pleases me. It means that when life's little accidents happen, she's more likely to brush them off with a wry smile and gently tell me not to worry.

On the other hand, it's best to be cautious when my beloved is in a good mood. Those periods of peace and joy don't last. Minor infractions committed during them soon emerge as grievances to be pursued vigorously and at full volume.

Regarding grudges, the missus has some sort of database in her mind she can call up whenever a foul mood hits her. Then you get chapter and verse, time-stamped and exhaustively cross-referenced, listing your shortcomings - real and potential.

When the missus is in a good mood, it's a delicate balancing act between enjoying the moment and being careful not to enjoy it too recklessly.

For now, however, my darling one is walking on the sunny side of the street.

I dare not imagine what atrocity she committed that provoked such happiness. I also dare not ask. Suppose the Police come and ask what happened to Muriel Prosser's garden gnomes. In that case, I will benefit from blissful ignorance. Our rockery has never looked so colourful.

While my beloved is in a good mood, I try to make it last as long as possible.

No egg can remain unscrambled. Not toast can be darker than light tan. No mug of Glengettie can be overmilked or, worse, have the milk put in

first. The little things count.

And so does getting the jobs done you've put off, like painting the garage and cleaning the backyard.

As I watched her this morning performing her callisthenics on our freshly cleaned patio, I was pleased to have contributed to her sense of joyful well-being. She smiled even as she bent herself like a pretzel and sweated in the heat.

After half-an-hour pottering around tidying up the borders, I made the universal sign offering her a mug of tea. She nodded and unfolded from her handstand against the garage wall.

After glancing at her briefly, I hurried inside, put the kettle on and made the perfect mug of gently steaming Glengettie with just the right amount of milk.

I even put two rich tea biscuits on a separate plate for her. My darling loves rich tea biscuits. She has dunking them down to a fine art.

Nothing was too much trouble for me to make her day brighter and prolong her enjoyment of it.

When she thanked me, she even gave me a little peck on the cheek and a hug.

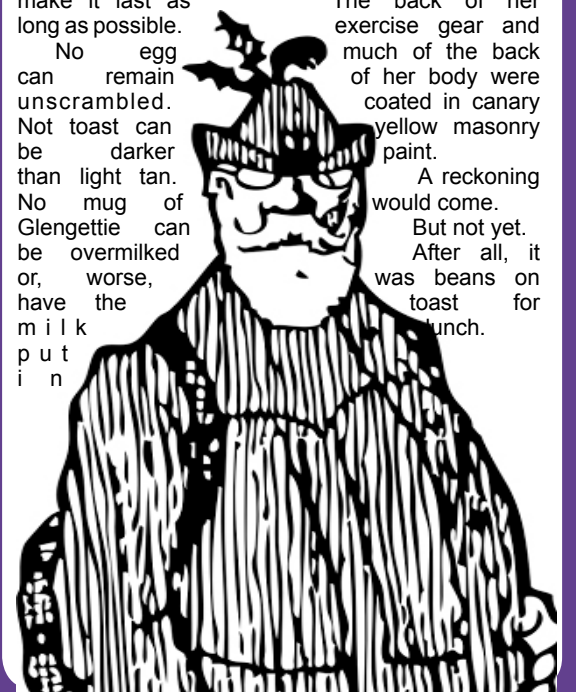
And off she went back to the patio and continued her leisurely stretching.

I knew it couldn't last. Shed done a handstand against the garage wall.

The back of her exercise gear and much of the back of her body were coated in canary yellow masonry paint.

A reckoning would come.

But not yet. After all, it was beans on toast for lunch.



# Paul Sartori secures grant funding towards Registered Nursing Service

**PAUL SARTORI Hospice at Home, a charity based in Pembrokeshire, has secured a grant of £10,000 from The James Tudor Foundation to support their Registered Nursing Service. The foundation, known for its support of various health charities, has awarded the grant to assist with the costs associated with Paul Sartori's dedicated nursing team. These registered nurses provide crucial end-of-life care to patients in the county, a service that amounts to over £200,000 per year.**

The experienced Nursing Team plays a vital role in delivering holistic support within the charity. Paul Sartori offers a comprehensive range of services to individuals in the final stages of any life-limiting illness, including home nursing care, complementary therapies, bereavement and counselling support, physiotherapy, future care planning, and training. The home nursing team devotes numerous hours each year to providing day and night respite care for end-of-life

patients in the community.

The Registered Nurses play a crucial part in supporting both the patients and their families, thereby enhancing the provision of other limited local services. Their flexible and rapid approach allows patients to receive care in the comfort of their own homes, aligning with their preferences. These nurses adopt a patient-centred approach, conducting assessments, making internal referrals, collaborating closely with other healthcare providers, and offering expert advice. They also assist with symptom management by administering necessary medication to increase patient comfort and well-being. Additionally, the nurses manage a 24/7 on-call facility, providing families with an emergency point of contact at any time of the day. The team coordinates a fast-track personal care package to support patients in their transition from hospital to home, ensuring they have the necessary care and equipment.

Laura Hugman, Clinical Team Manager at Paul Sartori Hospice at Home,

stated, "Having a Paul Sartori Registered Nurse available and present within their home can offer great peace of mind for family members. The nurses' experience in the field ensures the maintenance of dignity and the encouragement of quality of life. With a Registered Nurse on-site during the night, patients may experience reduced waiting times for out-of-hours support or assistance."

Judith Williams, Grant Development Officer at Paul Sartori Hospice at Home, expressed gratitude to The James Tudor Foundation for their generous donation towards the total costs. Williams acknowledged the significant impact the nurses have on local families, helping to alleviate anxiety during such a distressing time.

The James Tudor Foundation primarily focuses on the direct relief of human sickness. Their funding programs cover a wide spectrum, ranging from medical research aimed at preventing and treating diseases to organizations that assist individuals

in living with specific conditions. The foundation also supports palliative care charities that strive to provide compassionate and dignified end-of-life care.


"The Foundation was delighted to contribute to this much-needed service in Pembrokeshire. Offering practical and emotional support to people at the end of their lives is of utmost importance, and our Trustees were impressed by the highly effective manner in which Paul Sartori delivers this support across a rural county. We eagerly anticipate learning more about the ongoing impact this service has on local families as the year progresses," stated The James Tudor Foundation.

In addition to the Registered Nursing Service, Paul Sartori Hospice at Home offers a wide range of other services for individuals in the advanced stages of life-limiting illnesses. These services include home nursing care, 24-hour support, standby service, complementary therapy, bereavement and counselling support, physiotherapy, future care planning, and training.



By providing these comprehensive services, Paul Sartori ensures that individuals in the later stages of life-limiting illnesses

receive dignified, pain-free care in the comfort of their own homes, surrounded by their loved ones, if that is their wish.



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## Pacific pink salmon threat to UK fisheries

**NATURAL RESOURCES WALES has warned of the threat of invasive Pacific pink salmon and urged anglers to report catches or sightings of invasive pink salmon, which are expected to appear in UK waters this year.**

In 2019 and 2021, there were numerous sightings of invasive pink salmon in UK waters and - with pink salmon having a fixed, two-year life cycle and generally spawning in the summer - it is highly likely they will appear again in rivers this year.

The arrival of pink salmon raises potential concerns to other native species, including wild Atlantic salmon. Atlantic salmon are threatened with numbers of the species falling dramatically due to various pressures. The invasive pink salmon is seen as an additional threat to their survival.

Pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbusha*) originate from the northern Pacific Ocean and can be identified by large black oval spots on its tail, a very dark mouth and tongue and they have much smaller scales than the Atlantic salmon.

**Carli Newell**  
[carli.newell@herald.email](mailto:carli.newell@herald.email)

Dave Mee, NRW's Lead Specialist Advisor for Freshwater Fisheries, said: "Although in Wales we have had only one pink salmon reported in 2019, their continued spread across northern Europe to the UK could be a serious risk to our already threatened Atlantic salmon populations.

"NRW teams are working hard to contain and control invasive non-native species so that native fish, ecosystems and other wildlife are reduced from the damage they pose.

"That is why it is crucial that the public understand this immediate risk and report the capture or sightings of all pink salmon to us, whether that be through our new reporting tool or to the NRW incident hotline."

Fisheries managers, anglers, net fishers and members of the public are requested to report any sightings or catches to NRW's incident - 03000 65 3000 - via NRW's online form, or use the new reporting tool which has been developed in collaboration with Fisheries Management Scotland and the Environment Agency.

This new reporting tool can be used to report any sightings or captures of pink salmon, quickly and easily. Information will then be passed to the appropriate authority for any response which may be required. The data collected will help the Environment Agency and fisheries researchers better understand how to manage the arrival of pink salmon.

A guidance factsheet, can be found on NRW's website for individuals who do come across this species.



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# Children learn about food production during Farming Week



**OVER 1,000 school children from across Pembrokeshire, aged from five to 16, attended the BBQ 'Food Story / Stori Bwyd' event, held by the Pembrokeshire Agricultural Society recently to celebrate Welsh Farming Week.**

During the event arable, dairy, beef, pig, sheep, poultry and turkey farmers, from all over the county, volunteered their time to talk to the children and

**Tom Sinclair**  
*Editor@herald.email*

demonstrate local food production. They explained to the children where their food comes from, how they farm sustainably and how to care for the countryside.

The event was held on the Pembrokeshire County Showground where there was farm machinery and live animals for the local school children to see first-hand

what is used to produce their food. The children also got the opportunity to cook and eat their own kebabs with the assistance of chefs from Hybu Cig Cymru/Meat Promotion Wales and Castell Howell.

Kathy Wilson, a former teacher and now an Honorary Pembrokeshire Show Governor, organised the event on behalf of the Society's Food Story / Stori Bwyd. She said, "I would like

to say a massive thank you to each and every one of the volunteers who took two days from their busy work on the farm to come and talk to the children and demonstrate how they produce food and drink. The smiles on the faces of the children said it all, they listened intently, took part in the demonstrations and the teachers took resources back with them to their schools to continue the learning. One of the important elements of Pembrokeshire Agricultural

Society's work is educational and spreading the word around the county about how local food is produced by farmers."

As well as food production, the event was an opportunity to teach the children about the seasonality of what farmers produce locally and how the weather and climate affects the work farmers do as well as the different food groups and healthy eating.

Pupils from 32 schools

and colleges took up the opportunity to attend the event. These ranged from progression step 1 up to BTEC in Agriculture students.

Thank you to Castell Howell, Hybu Cig Cymru/Meat Promotion Wales, CLA Wales and the NFU Mutual in Pembrokeshire for their financial support. Thanks also to NFU Cymru, the FUW, Wynnstey, CCF and Lantra for providing educational resources for the schools and pupils.

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## Bucketful of Hope for Foley House

**COUNCIL officers have recommended that the Cabinet approves the community asset transfer of Foley House and Foley Cottage to local charity Adam's Bucketful of Hope.**

Described as "one of the jewels of Haverfordwest", the Grade II\* listed Foley House is owned by Pembrokeshire County Council.

The Council has tried to dispose of the landmark building for years, with several proposed sales hitting the buffers. Controversy has also beset its custodianship of the Georgian building.

In 2011, the Council wasted over £850K on creating a 43-space car park at the property, which it proceeded to construct on land it did not own and in respect of which it had not concluded any agreement with actual landowners.

The Council had previously not only carried out works to Foley House without the listed building consent it needed but could not even provide an accurate schedule of those works it had carried out.

Lumbered with an unsaleable asset needing expensive remedial works, Pembrokeshire County Council placed the property on the Community Asset Transfer Register in 2019.



**Jon Coles**  
*jon.coles@herald.email*

In November last year, officers provisionally approved a business plan presented by Adams Bucketful of Hope.

Adam Evans-Thomas started the charity after his diagnosis of Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia aged 25. He began fundraising for the NHS by recruiting blood and bone marrow donors for the Welsh Blood Service in Llantrisant.

After his death, aged 35, his mother, Chris Evans-Thomas, picked up the charity baton. In the years since then, Adams Bucketful of Hope contributed to efforts to secure and renew the Cancer Day Unit at Witybush

Hospital and opened a treatment centre and thriving charity shop and cafe in Dew Street, Haverfordwest.

The Herald spoke to Chris Evans-Thomas about the recommendation to Cabinet.

She expressed surprise that the decision would be made so soon.

"I'm grateful for all the help that officers have given us through this process," Chris said.

"I'm also very grateful for their recommendation to approve our plans for Foley House. It will be a tremendous challenge but a great opportunity to do so much more for many more people.

"I can guarantee I have an army of eager pensioners waiting to get to work with buckets, mops and brooms!"

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Pater Hall  
5.00pm  
Tel: **Alison 07792 490 723**

**CLARBESTON ROAD**  
Memorial Hall  
Clarbeston Road,  
5.30pm  
Tel: **Jon 07519 996519**

**TUESDAY**

**MILFORD HAVEN**  
Pill Social Centre  
Cellar Hill,  
9:30am  
Tel: **Julie 07786 440432**

**TUESDAY**

**PEMBROKE DOCK**  
Pater Hall  
Lewis Street, 9:30am  
Tel: **Alison 07792 490 723**

**LETTERSTON**  
Memorial Hall  
Station Road  
5.30pm  
Tel: **Jon 07519 996 519**

**WEDNESDAY**

**HAKIN**  
Hakin Rugby Club  
Observatory Avenue  
5:30pm  
Tel: **Julie 07786 440432**

**HAVERFORDWEST**  
Haverfordwest Leisure Centre  
St. Thomas Green  
5.30pm  
Tel: **Alison 07792 490 723**

**THURSDAY**

**HAVERFORDWEST**  
Haverfordwest Leisure Centre  
St. Thomas Green  
9:00am  
Tel: **Alison 07792 490 723**

**FISHGUARD AND GOOD-  
WICK**  
Phoenix Centre,  
Wern Road,  
5:30pm  
Tel: **Jon 07519 996 519**

**MILFORD HAVEN**  
Pill Social Centre  
Cellar Hill  
5.00pm  
Tel: **Alison 07792 490 723**

Milford United Football Club  
5.30pm  
Tel: **Rachel 07391 634 033**

**HAVERFORDWEST**  
Portfield School  
(up from Tesco),  
6:00pm  
Tel: **Julie 07786 440432**

**FRIDAY**

**KILGETTY**  
Community Centre  
8.30am and 10.00am  
Tel **LISA: 07717417610**  
**NEYLAND**  
Neyland Community Hub  
John Street  
9.30am  
Tel **Kelly: 07794 252595**

**SATURDAY**

**HAVERFORDWEST**  
Camrose Community Centre  
Pelcomb,  
8:30am  
Tel: **Ian 07432 595 073**



**JON**



**LISA**



**IAN**

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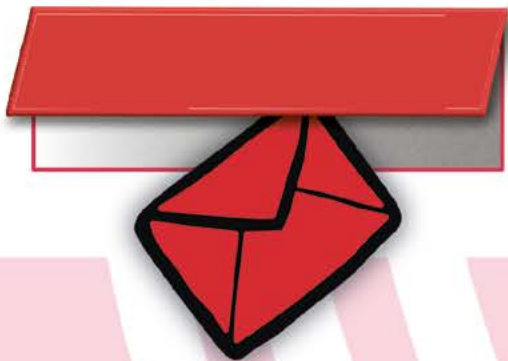


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# Inward investment creates thousands of Welsh jobs

**MORE than 3,000 jobs were created in Wales over the last year thanks to inward investments – the best results recorded in five years, according to new figures published on Tuesday, June 27**

The UK Department for Business & Trade annual report on Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in the UK for 2022-23 published today shows the number of jobs created has returned to pre-Covid pandemic levels with 3,062 jobs created during the last year, up from 1,793 in 2021-22 – a 66% increase compared to the previous year.

The report also shows 47 inward investment projects were created in Wales in 2022-23, up from 43 in 2021-22 – an increase of 9%.

The Welsh Government was directly involved in around 91% of the investments, supporting businesses through a range of interventions from advising companies on potential sites and premises, identifying skills and talent, assisting with market research and making introductions to banks, business networks and academia.

Economy Minister Vaughan Gething said: "The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring Wales is a great place to live, work and do business by creating the environment where

businesses and people can thrive and succeed.

"The fact that Wales has witnessed an increase in investment during a period of significant political and economic shocks shows the approach the Welsh Government is taking to promoting Wales and our capabilities is working.

"We will continue to do all we can to sell Wales internationally by promoting Welsh strengths and successes on the global stage."

Over the course of the last year, the Economy Minister has promoted Wales internationally, with visits to the Paris Air Show in France, Qatar and the USA, with the First Minister and other Ministers undertaking international activity that has helped to raise the profile of Wales globally.

Notable investments announced in Wales during the year include:

- KLA, the California headquartered semiconductor equipment manufacturer, has chosen Newport for its European HQ and Innovation hub, investing c\$100m in a new facility and supporting a further 362 jobs

- Amazon, the US online fulfilment giant,

- has opened a software development centre through its acquisition of Veeqo in Swansea, creating a further 50 jobs to provide shipping solutions to e-commerce sellers

- Siemens Healthcare, the life science division of German-owned Siemens Group, has launched a new

- centre of excellence in healthcare technology in Llanberis to focus on research, development, and manufacturing, safeguarding the current workforce of 400 and creating a further 92 jobs.

- Airflo, the US-owned leading manufacturer of PVC-free speciality fishing lines, is expanding its

- operations in Brecon, safeguarding 44 jobs and creating a further 21 to pave the way for a quadrupling of exports to North America.

- Yasa Motors, the Mercedes-owned manufacturer of advanced electric motors and motor controllers for hybrid and electric vehicles, is creating up to 40 new

- jobs as part of plans to expand its operations at a new R&D centre in its Welshpool facility.

Over 1,395 foreign-owned businesses call Wales home, employing more than 161,400 people. These include blue chip investors such as Airbus, Toyota, General Dynamics, Deloitte, Siemens Healthcare and Oracle.



# Pembrokeshire restaurant goes from pop-up to the best in Wales

**JT ABERGWAUN HOTEL in Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, has clinched the coveted title of the best restaurant in Wales, emerging victorious at the prestigious Food Awards Wales 2023.**

In a dazzling ceremony held last night, Monday, June 26, at The Mercure Cardiff Holland House Hotel, the culinary gem of Fishguard received the Outstanding Restaurant of the Year award, adding another jewel to its crown.

The Food Awards Wales aims to acknowledge and celebrate the remarkable talent and unwavering dedication of the Welsh food industry, showcasing the finest restaurants, takeaways, pubs, cafes, and producers in the country.

The winners were determined through public voting, with enthusiastic patrons nominating their preferred establishments across a range of categories.

Dan Jones, the

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mastermind behind JT Abergwaun Hotel, expressed his overwhelming joy at receiving the esteemed accolade.

"We were just there because it's something happening on a Monday night that we could just go and enjoy and spend some time together that's not work," shared Dan, reflecting on the unexpected triumph.

Dan attributed the restaurant's resounding success to the exceptional team supporting him, including his new partner in life, Lois.

"We've been together for ten years, in business together as JT for seven years, and married for two weeks," Dan disclosed. "We are both Thomas-Jones now, so we are both JT."

Following their recent wedding, Dan and Lois have experienced an exhilarating whirlwind of two weeks,

culminating in their triumph last night.

"It's been an incredible couple of weeks for us," Dan exclaimed, proudly highlighting his previous achievement of winning Pub Chef of the Year at the International Salon Culinare awards last year.

"We have grown from a little pop-up restaurant to a restaurant, to a hotel, and managed to maintain the same impeccable standards," Dan added. "Everything we've done has put Fishguard on the foodie map."

With their sights set on the future, Dan revealed that the coming months promise to be equally thrilling, with a couple of top-secret projects under wraps and the imminent launch of an entirely new menu.

"Winning this award has given us the confidence to elevate the restaurant to the next level. That's what truly excites us," Dan concluded, brimming with enthusiasm and anticipation for the remarkable journey ahead.



# Skills on show at Supported Employment open day

**BEHIND** the doors of an unassuming building in Haverfordwest there is a hive of activity as those involved with the Pembrokeshire Supported Employment Hub get to work.

An open day at the Snowdrop Lane site last week was an opportunity for anyone interested to take a closer look at the work of the Pembrokeshire Supported Employment Programme and its key role in supporting people with disabilities to gain work.

The Supported Employment Programme provides supported employment in a range of occupations including furniture making, grounds maintenance, craft, catering, retail, administration IT, construction and Health and Safety.

The open day was held at the large Haverfordwest site where a wide range of production and training is carried out.

The staff in the programme also run multiple facilities at Scolton Manor including cafés and shop, with the scheme to be boosted with a new centre for the south of the county at South Quay, Pembroke.

A new 'We Can' project for people with profound and multiple disability and the Local Supported Employment Initiative for people with



**Carli Newell**

[carli.newell@herald.email](mailto:carli.newell@herald.email)

Learning Disability or Autism who want paid work is also run from the Supported Employment Hub, along with a range of day opportunities and employability support.

Cabinet member for Social Services Cllr

Tessa Hodgson said: "The Pembrokeshire Supported Employment Hub provides an excellent service for those people who want to work but face a variety of barriers. Supported Employment provides not just skills but also an improvement in well-being for those involved as they are given the necessary backing to make their mark

on society."

Karen Davies, Programme Manager Employment Support said "We had over 80 visitors including potential participants in the programme and their carers and people representing a range of organisations as well as county and town councillors. The programme offers a

really modern alternative to traditional day services. Everyone I spoke to was really impressed with the range of services that the Hub offers and in particular the skills of the staff employed through the programme."

Pembrokeshire County Council Chairman Cllr Tom Tudor attended the Open Day and said it was "fantastic

to see the amazing work that the employees and volunteers produce.

"The programme employs over 75 people with a disability, and people work between four and 37 hours a week. It is an amazing organisation and I would like to thank the staff and all who are involved for their amazing efforts."

# Dangerous delays to Welsh Government's nature laws

**THE** First Minister announced his commitment to meeting the initial demands of a Nature Positive Wales campaign and promised a White Paper by the end of 2023, but delayed new laws for nature.

This commitment to a White Paper is a step in the right direction but it lacks the urgency that the biodiversity and climate crises demands. After years of delay, new laws for nature in Wales were once again pushed back and nature continues to decline.

David Kilner, Campaign Coordinator for Climate Cymru, said:

"This delay is genuinely dangerous. We all need to do everything we can to protect and restore the land and water around us. While we demand - and wait - for new laws, a national crisis is being left to our communities to address."

Over 350 organisations have been calling for legally-



**Jon Coles**

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binding nature recovery targets and an independent environmental watchdog for Wales as part of a Nature Positive Bill, which they want introduced this year.

On 20 June, the campaign delivered one of the largest open letters that

the Welsh Government has received and over 2,000 people sent messages to Mark Drakeford calling for action, without delay.

This public pressure was felt during the debate in Welsh Parliament, with several Members of the Senedd (MSs) voicing their support and highlighting how important the campaign is to people across Wales.

Heledd Fychan, Plaid Cymru MS for South Wales Central, said:

"We are losing biodiversity every day and every week that goes by without this legislation in place. Here in Wales, we are already behind post-brexit in terms of an environmental governance framework. We don't even have the interim properly in place."

Campaigners will use the widespread public and political support that the campaign has received to continue putting pressure on the Welsh Government to ensure they create a bold, ambitious Nature Positive White Paper.

Sam Ward, Head of Climate Cymru, said:

"Our food system, climate, economy, health and wellbeing are all directly tied to a healthy biosphere. Nature is essential to the ongoing existence of a functional Welsh society. Scientists have made it absolutely clear that nature is in a state of emergency, and that Wales is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world."

By introducing a Nature Positive Bill, campaigners say that Wales can halt the decline in nature and kickstart the recovery so it gains greater resilience and thrives within our lifetime.

Dr Sharon Thompson, Head of Policy and

Advocacy, RSPB Cymru:

"Yesterday, the Welsh Government committed to the right things, but at a painfully slow speed, and that delay has real consequences for nature and the people of Wales. But it's not too late. The White Paper offers the potential to be a real step forward if it is dealt with as a priority. We will keep demanding bold action now, without delay."

Sam Ward recently did a tour of Wales and had the opportunity to talk to communities all over the country:

"Many felt alone, like they were the only ones who cared, but I wish they could see what I felt as I travelled around - thousands of people in every corner of Wales, who cared deeply about our natural world. I'd really encourage anyone who cares about these issues to connect with local nature groups, and join Climate Cymru's national movement for change."

# Milford woman to brave waves in challenging swim for charitable cause

**KELLY HOWES, a dedicated employee at Value Independence CiC in Milford, is preparing to take on the exhilarating challenge of Tenby's Long Course swim this Friday, June 30. Not only will Howes be pushing her physical limits in this demanding open water event, but she will also be raising funds to provide equipment for the Well Being Walking Group, a local initiative supporting community health and well-being.**

When asked about her motivation for participating in this challenging swim, Howes spoke enthusiastically about her passion for sporting events and her strong swimming abilities. Two years ago, she made the decision to give the Long Course swim a try, and ever since, she has been diligently training to prepare herself. Her training routine includes regular workouts, healthy eating, and consistent swimming sessions, which often involve her swimming with the Puffins Disability Swimming Squad in Haverfordwest. Additionally, she recently joined the Pembrokeshire Blue Tits swimming group to further enhance her skills and endurance.

Speaking about her

**Tom Sinclair**  
Editor@herald.email

upcoming swim, Howes expressed her excitement and gratitude for the opportunity to make a positive impact. "I've always been a fan of sporting events, and the Long Course swim seemed like the perfect challenge for me. The fact that I can also support the Well Being Walking Group through this fundraiser is incredibly rewarding. Their work in promoting community health aligns with my own values, and I hope to contribute to their cause."

To support Howes in her fundraising efforts, individuals are encouraged to donate to her GoFundMe campaign. The link to the fundraiser will be provided by Howes to the campaign organizer, Tom, ensuring that every contribution goes towards providing necessary equipment for the Well Being Walking Group.

The local community and supporters are urged to rally behind Howes as she braves the waves and undertakes this remarkable endeavor. Her commitment to personal growth, community support, and charitable causes serves as an inspiration to all."



# Join Council's ICT Apprenticeship programme and kick-start your career

**ARE you looking for a pathway into the dynamic, ever changing and exciting world of technology?**

If you have a passion for problem-solving and creating innovative solutions, then Pembrokeshire County Council's apprenticeship programme is the perfect place to start for an aspiring IT developer.

The programme offers the unique opportunity to gain hands on experience, earn while you learn and unlock your potential in the field of IT development.

Start your journey with the Council and become a key part of shaping the digital landscape.

Three people are required to start the current programme in September 2023.

Cllr Neil Prior, Cabinet Member for Corporate Improvement and Communities, said: "At Pembrokeshire County Council we're committed to making the most of

**Tom Sinclair**  
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technology to provide better public services, so this is an ideal opportunity to develop skills for the future and be part of a great team."

Why choose the ICT Apprenticeship

- **Gain real world experience working alongside an experienced team, using cutting edge technologies and tools**
- **Develop in-demand skills in areas like networking, cybersecurity, programming, data analysis, digital design and much more**
- **Unlock a career path that offers you endless opportunities**
- **Work towards industry recognised qualifications while**



**you work**

- **Benefit from guidance and support from experienced mentors throughout your apprenticeship journey**

**Qualification and Salary**

- **Year 1-2: BTEC: Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Computing**

What are the requirements?

Five GCSEs at Grade C or above, including English and Maths or BTEC Level 2 Diploma grade Merit or Distinction, plus GCSE grade 4 or above or Functional Skills at level 2 in

English and Maths.  
Initial application: Each application is considered on an individual basis

Assessment day: If successful in the application stage you will be invited to an assessment day on the 31st July 2023 at Pembrokeshire Archives, Haverfordwest

Subject to the successful completion of the BTEC Level 3, and meeting the ICT Service standards of working practice, you can take the next step on your developer journey to become a:  
Junior IT Developer

- **Year 3-4: HNC Applied Computing** and potentially move on to become an:

**IT Developer**

- **Year 5-7: Applied Software Engineering Degree**

**For more info and to apply: ICT Apprenticeship**

# Energy Bill help for poorest Welsh households 'worth two months' salary

**SUPPORT** from the UK Government to assist Welsh families in paying their energy bills has not only benefited those most in need but has also resulted in a notable increase in the average household income by 7.6 percent, as per a recent analysis. The report reveals that the poorest 10 percent of households in Wales have received an average of £2,482 in payments from the UK Government since July of the previous year. This substantial amount equates to an additional two months' net salary, surpassing 20 percent of their annual disposable income.

On average, households in Wales have received approximately £1,914 in financial support from the UK Government, leading to a significant 7.6 percent increase in the average household income. This analysis, which draws on data provided by various expert bodies, estimates that households and businesses in Wales will benefit from a total of £4 billion in energy support spending by the UK Government for the years 2022/23 and 2023/24.

In addition to assisting with energy bills, the UK Government is diligently working to alleviate the pressure of rising living costs by aiming to halve inflation. This objective serves as the foundation for long-term growth, which is essential for enhancing living standards and securing a better future for future generations.

The comprehensive support package for households across the entire UK, since the summer of the previous year, is projected to incur an estimated cost of £78 billion, making it the largest single fiscal intervention by the UK Government



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since World War II. The magnitude of this support exceeds the expenditure on the furlough scheme implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Michael Gove, the Levelling Up Secretary, highlighted, "Rising energy bills and the cost of living were the issues that people across the UK were most concerned about as we headed into last winter. The broad shoulders of the UK have allowed us to deliver one of

the most generous cost of living packages anywhere in the world. This has been an unprecedented intervention by the Government in response to global events, to help those that needed it most."

David TC Davies, the Secretary of State for Wales, affirmed the Government's commitment to providing assistance to the people of Wales during challenging times. He stated, "We were clear that we would help people across Wales through these difficult times, and we continue to do so. A typical household in

Wales has so far received almost £2,000 in UK Government support, while 140,000 Welsh workers are receiving a pay rise thanks to an increase in the National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage. Fuel duty support has also been extended for another 12 months for drivers. Additional help is also available to thousands more people. I urge anyone eligible for pension credit to claim it, and households on prepayment meters should redeem their energy bill support vouchers before the 30 June deadline."

Out of the £4 billion of financial support provided in Wales, over £2 billion was allocated through the Energy Price Guarantee, which capped the energy bill for an average household at £2,500 per year, in addition to an extra £400 given to each home to reduce their energy costs. Furthermore, £1 billion was directed towards targeted cost of living payments for individuals already receiving specific UK benefit payments. The remaining funds were utilized for other support measures, including the freeze in fuel duty.

The report discloses that the total support provided in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland amounts to approximately £13 billion. By the end of June 2023, the average households in these regions are expected to receive the following total amounts: Northern Ireland (£2,221), Wales (£1,914), and Scotland (£1,850). The poorest tenth of households are projected to receive the following amounts: Northern Ireland (£2,799), Wales (£2,482), and Scotland (£2,302).

In response to the news, Andrew RT Davies MS, Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, commented, "The UK Conservative Government has provided record levels of support to combat cost of living pressures driven by Putin's barbaric invasion of Ukraine. The average Welsh household received nearly £2,000 in financial support last year from the UK Conservative Government, with the poorest 10 percent of households receiving an average of nearly £2,500 in packages – exceeding the support provided through the furlough scheme during COVID. This proves that despite Rishi Sunak's laser focus on reducing debt, any fiscal headwinds available are utilized to provide that much-needed assistance, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable. Labour Ministers in the Senedd now need to use the levers at their disposal to reverse the trends we are seeing in the economic figures, with unemployment rising in Wales despite falling UK numbers, pay packets here in Wales thousands of pounds behind the UK average, and child poverty rising in Wales while it is falling elsewhere in the UK. The Conservatives are delivering while Labour has the wrong priorities."



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# Upskilling scheme commended

**NEW RESEARCH** shows a Welsh Government scheme supported over 16,000 workers to upskill and retrain during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Personal Learning Accounts (PLA) Programme, a commitment in the Welsh Government's Employability Plan, aims to support lower-income individuals and those whose jobs are at risk to learn new skills, achieve new qualifications and help rewrite their careers.

Further education colleges across Wales offer PLA courses in priority areas with known skills shortages.

The Welsh Government Personal Learning Accounts Programme (PLA) was rolled out early due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the programme became available to all furloughed workers and employers during the pandemic.

An evaluation of this programme, recently published, stated: "The rapid and considerable scaling-up of the programme in



response to the unforeseen demand triggered by the pandemic should be commended and is an excellent example of the role that government can play in times of crises brought about by external shocks to the economy."

As a result:

- **Enrolment exploded six-fold from 1,187 in 2019/20 to 7,603 in 2020/21 academic years.**
- **Proportionally, more women are supported in PLA programme areas than in the same sector subjects in post-16 education.**
- **22% are now in a different career**
- **88% reported an increase in self-confidence**
- **82% reported clearer career aspirations**

Welcoming the report's

findings, Economy Minister Vaughan Gething said: "I'm delighted to see the Welsh Government's PLA Programme support workers and employers respond to businesses' needs to upskill and retrain in sectors where there is demand.

"I'm also delighted to see women, who traditionally face more barriers to career development and training, benefit from this programme. The Welsh Government is committed to a fairer and more equal Wales, where we work to ensure nobody is left behind or held back, and with a commitment to changing people's lives for the better."

Wales's Minister for Education, Jeremy Miles, said: "I am determined to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to rewrite their career in adult life so that Wales is a nation of second chances.

"The PLA Programme is enabling people to do just that and I am so pleased to see such high numbers of people enrolling on the programme and getting

the support they need to transform their careers."

One beneficiary of the PLA Programme was Helen from Cwmbran, who kickstarted her new career after years of full-time caring for her grandmother.

Through the programme, Helen was able to study a health and safety course at Coleg Gwent to support a career change. The course was flexible, and she could adapt to her commitments and lifestyle as a mother and a full-time employee.

She said: "Accessing the Personal Learning Account was incredibly easy. All I had to do was fill out a form online, and within a couple of phone calls, everything was set up and ready to go.

"It's also been a huge benefit to me that I haven't needed to pay for it, as I could access the course immediately rather than waiting until I'd put aside some money for it."

Helen intends to complete her qualifications and continues to upskill.

# Employee-owned businesses on rise

**THE WELSH GOVERNMENT** is on track to more than double the number of businesses in Wales that their employees own, economy minister Vaughan Gething has announced.

It is part of efforts to ensure Wales-backed companies remain in Welsh hands.

A commitment in The Welsh Government's Programme for Government is to double the number of employee-owned businesses in Wales during this Senedd term by providing greater support for worker buy-outs.

In May 2021, there were 37 employee-owned businesses, with a target to reach 74 by May 2026.

The minister revealed 63 employee-owned businesses in Wales, and ministers expect to hit the target to double the number before the end of this Government term.

On average, two to three employee buy-out deals occur each year, but the scale of the employee-owned sector has grown in the past few years, and there is potential for many more employee-owned

businesses.

The Welsh Government said employee ownership delivers "numerous benefits" for employees and businesses, with evidence showing employee-owned businesses are more productive and more resilient. It said they are also rooted in their local areas and regions, "securing good quality jobs for the longer term within communities across Wales".

The Welsh Government's Business Wales and Social Business Wales services offer specialist advice to support employee buy-outs. Fully funded and bespoke help is available to help business owners decide if employee ownership and share schemes are right for their business.

The Development Bank of Wales's Wales Flexible Investment Fund offers a potential debt-based funding route for employee buy-outs, with support for management buy-outs available through the Wales Management Succession Fund.

Vaughan Gething said: "Employee ownership provides so many positive

benefits. It gives employees a significant stake in the business they work for, giving them more control over their futures. It also provides business owners with the peace of mind that the future of their business is in safe hands and that the future of their highly valued employees has been safeguarded in the community the business was fostered in.

"I urge more businesses and employees to explore the benefits on offer via Business Wales and Social Business Wales."

Earlier this year, Archway Veterinary Centre, which has surgeries in Chepstow and Caldicot, became Wales's first employee-owned veterinary practice.

Now the business is owned by 26 of its staff and is governed by an Employee Ownership Trust.

Andrea Reynolds, who previously had a sole interest in the practice, said: "When considering the future of Archway, I was adamant that it should remain independent long after my stewardship ends. We have a fantastic team dedicated to



promoting animal health and welfare, and the employee ownership model recognises each staff member's contribution and gives them a voice in the

future of the business.

"It is the perfect way for me to pass on the practice and protect our core ethos long into the future."

Working with Cwmpas,

the Welsh Government promotes the benefits and development of employee ownership in Wales to ensure businesses know its opportunities.

# Haverfordwest gift-shop removes socks after Hindu protest

**A HAVERFORDWEST online gift-shop "Wisdom Wares" removed socks carrying images of Hindu deity Lord Ganesha; after Hindus protested calling these "highly inappropriate".**

"Hop Hare Bamboo Socks – Ganesha", which were earlier selling at £7.95, were absent from "Wisdom Wares" website when searched today. "No results found for "Ganesha", it pointed out. Hindu statesman Rajan

**Tom Sinclair**  
Editor@herald.email

Zed, who spearheaded the protest, in a statement in Nevada (USA) today, thanked "Wisdom Wares" for understanding the concerns of Hindu community, which felt that such a product was insensitive. We were, however, still waiting for the formal apology from "Wisdom Wares", he added.

Zed, who is President

of Universal Society of Hinduism, had said that Lord Ganesha was highly revered in Hinduism and was meant to be worshipped in temples or home shrines and not to adorn one's legs/feet/ankles/calves or absorb sweat. Inappropriate usage of sacred Hindu deities or concepts or symbols or icons for commercial or other agenda was not okay as it hurt the devotees.

Online retailers should not be in the business of

religious appropriation, sacrilege, and ridiculing entire communities. It was deeply trivializing of the immensely venerated Lord Ganesha to be treated like this; Rajan Zed had emphasized.

Hinduism was the oldest and third largest religion of the world with about 1.2 billion adherents and a rich philosophical thought and it should not be taken frivolously. Symbols of any faith, larger or smaller, should not be mishandled,

Zed had noted.

Rajan Zed had stated that Hindus were for free artistic expression and speech as much as anybody else if not more. But faith was something sacred and attempts at trivializing it hurt the followers.

"Wisdom Wares", whose tagline is "Gifts from around the world, Handmade with love.", had mentioned that "Our socks refer to mysticism, beliefs, traditions and

experiences."

In Hinduism, Lord Ganesha is worshipped as god of wisdom and remover of obstacles and is invoked before the beginning of any major undertaking.



# Girlguiding in Pembroke Dock and Lamphey suspended due to lack of volunteers

**GIRLGUIDING is facing a problem locally as two of its units in Pembroke Dock and Lamphey remain suspended at this time due to a severe shortage of volunteer leaders.**

This unfortunate situation has left a significant number of girls on the waiting lists unable to participate in the organisation's activities and programs.

Geraldine A E Butland, a concerned member of the Girlguiding community, took to Facebook to raise awareness about the issue. In her post, she highlighted the urgent need for volunteers to come forward and support the organisation in its mission to empower young girls.

Currently, Girlguiding's youngest section is experiencing a surge in demand, resulting in large waiting lists for enrollment.

However, the lack of volunteer leaders in Pembroke Dock and Lamphey has forced the



**Tom Sinclair**  
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suspension of activities in these areas.

The absence of these units deprives local girls of the opportunity to develop

new friendships, gain skills, and have fun in a supportive environment.

Girlguiding is actively seeking dedicated individuals who are willing to step up and make a difference in the lives of young girls. The

organisation promises to provide comprehensive training and ongoing support to ensure that volunteers are well-equipped for their roles. Becoming a volunteer leader not only presents an opportunity to positively impact the community but

also offers personal growth and satisfaction.

Those interested in contributing to Girlguiding's cause are encouraged to visit their official website at [www.Girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.Girlguiding.org.uk) for more information.

Additionally, individuals can register their interest by visiting [girlguiding.org.uk/joinus](http://girlguiding.org.uk/joinus). Once registered, the organisation will reach out to potential volunteers with further details and next steps.

Girlguiding plays a vital role in empowering girls, nurturing their talents, and helping them develop into confident and independent young women. However, without an adequate number of volunteer leaders, the organisation's ability to deliver its mission is severely hampered. It is crucial for the community to rally together and support Girlguiding by volunteering their time and expertise.

By doing so, not only can individuals make a significant impact on the lives of young girls, but they can also foster a sense of unity and camaraderie within their local communities. The time to act is now, as every girl deserves the chance to participate in Girlguiding's empowering programs and build lifelong friendships.

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# Veteran Aware status for Hywel Dda University Health Board

**HYWEL DDA University Health Board (UHB) has become the latest to achieve Veteran Aware accreditation, formally recognising its commitment to the Armed Forces community.**

The accreditation means that 153 NHS England providers across England and four NHS Wales Health Boards are now accredited as Veteran Aware.

The Veterans Covenant Healthcare Alliance (VCHA) aims to accredit all trusts and health boards by March 2024.

The VCHA's aim is to develop, share and drive the implementation of best practice that will improve Armed Forces Veterans' care, while at the same time raising standards for everyone, based on the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant.

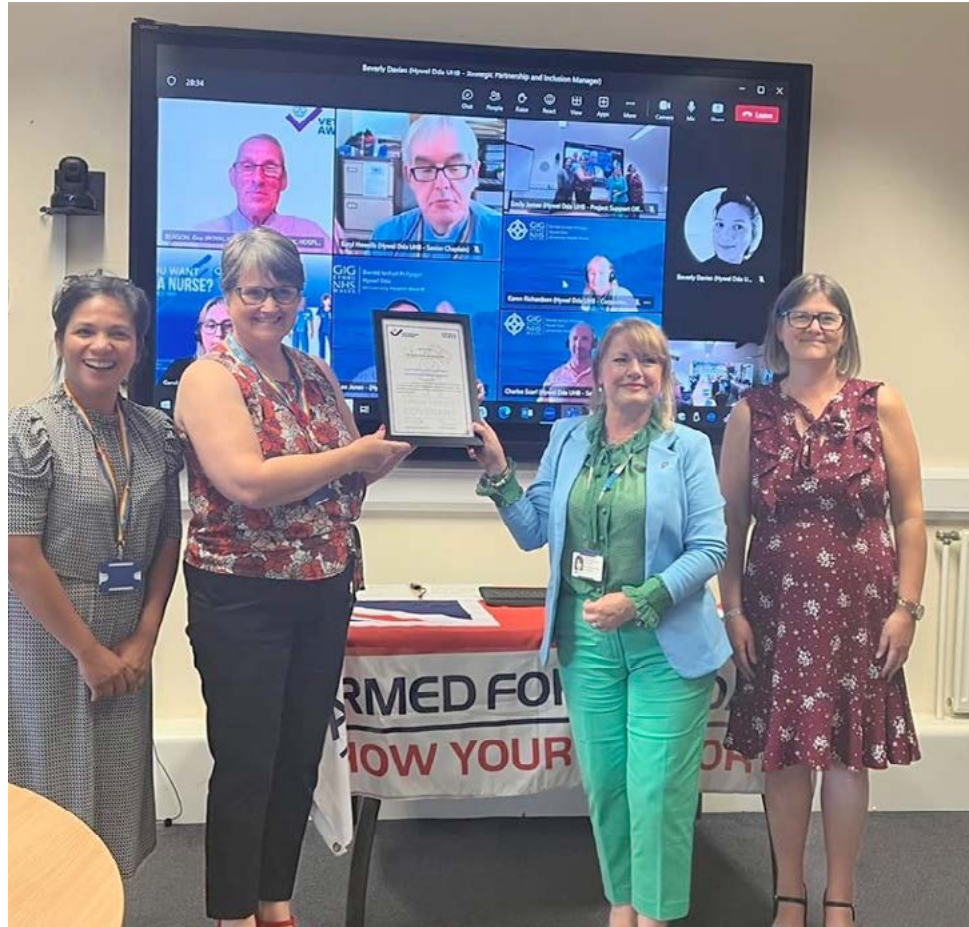
The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise by the nation to ensure that those who serve, or who have served, in the Armed Forces, and their families, are treated fairly.

**Tom Sinclair**  
*Editor@herald.email*

VCHA National Lead, Lt Col Retd Guy Benson said: "Hywel Dda University Health Board has most strongly demonstrated its commitment to being Veteran Aware for both patients and staff and in building this into its wider board business to make sure that staff understand the needs of the armed forces community."

VCHA Chairman, Prof Tim Briggs CBE, said: "More and more trusts and health boards are seeing the value of Veteran Aware accreditations as seen through the numbers that are now accredited. I wanted to thank the wider NHS family within Wales who work tirelessly on behalf of the military community despite the many pressures they will be under. Well done all."

Anna Bird, Assistant Director Strategic Partnerships, Diversity, and Inclusion at Hywel Dda UHB, said: "Hywel Dda



UHB is proud to achieve the Veteran Aware award through the Veterans Covenant Healthcare Alliance. The health board has a long-standing commitment to the armed forces community. Having

originally signed the Armed Forces Covenant in 2013, the health board re-affirmed its commitment and gained the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Gold award in 2021.

"Last year we adopted the Pride in Veterans Standard (PiVS) and are working with Fighting with Pride to ensure we are able to visibly demonstrate our commitment to providing an inclusive and welcoming service to LGBT+ Veterans.

"As a health board, we are committed to improving the wellbeing outcomes for all Veterans and members of the armed forces community who use our health and care services."

L-R: Beverly Davies, Strategic Partnership and Inclusion Manager at Hywel Dda UHB, Anna Bird, Assistant Director Strategic Partnerships, Diversity, and Inclusion at Hywel Dda UHB, Delyth Raynsford, Independent Member at Hywel Dda UHB and Lisa Gostling, Director of Workforce and OD at Hywel Dda UHB.

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# Exciting arrival of RNLI's new lifeboat in New Quay!

FLAGS and bunting fluttered in the breeze, crowds erupted in cheers, and a lively jazz band set the tone as the newest member of the RNLI's fleet sailed triumphantly into harbour today. A spectacular flotilla of local lifeboats accompanied the majestic £2.5m Shannon class lifeboat, proudly named the Roy Baker V, on its journey from Poole, via Brixham, Newlyn, Dunmore East in Ireland, and Pwllheli, before finally gracing New Quay's shores on this glorious Sunday, June 25, at precisely 13.48 – a time that coincided perfectly with its distinguished hull number.

This remarkable vessel, acquired following an arduous campaign to secure an all-weather lifeboat at New Quay, was welcomed by a sea of boats, including the valiant lifeboats from Fishguard and Cardigan, with whom the New Quay crew may well join forces during daring rescue missions.

The arrival of the Roy Barker V represents the triumphant outcome of an extensive fundraising endeavor and tireless advocacy by the local community. In 2017, the RNLI initially planned to replace New Quay's Mersey class all-weather lifeboat with an inshore Atlantic 85, a decision that sparked discontent among the station's supporters. Situated along

**Tom Sinclair**  
Editor@herald.email

one of the most expansive stretches of the West Wales Coast, spanning from Barmouth to Fishguard, New Quay would have been left without an all-weather lifeboat for the first time since the 19th century, had the plan been executed.

However, spurred into action, the determined residents of New Quay rallied together and established the Ceredigion Lifeboat Campaign in response to the announcement. This group fervently campaigned to raise awareness about the critical importance of maintaining an all-weather lifeboat at the town's esteemed lifeboat station, the sole one in the county.

Throngs of onlookers witnessed the New Quay Coastguard Rescue Team lending their unwavering support to their esteemed RNLI colleagues as they attended the arrival of the RNLI Shannon All-Weather Lifeboat at New Quay Harbour. Their presence was rewarded with a breathtaking display of RNLI lifeboats and pleasure crafts, adorning the ocean with an awe-inspiring spectacle.

"This was an immensely proud day for New Quay. Congratulations to all those involved in making this momentous occasion a reality. Da iawn!" expressed the elated New Quay



Coastguard Rescue Team.

In a stunning turn of events in 2021, the RNLI announced the reversal of their earlier decision, much to the delight of the community. As the sun dipped towards the horizon on Sunday, June 25, the highly anticipated arrival of the brand-new Roy Barker V bestowed a renewed sense of pride upon New Quay, ensuring the safety and security of the town's seafaring population for years to come.

Roger Couch, RNLI Lifeboat Operations Manager

at New Quay says:

'Seeing our new Shannon class lifeboat sailing into sight is something that will stay with me for a very long time. This really does signify the beginning of a new era of lifesaving at New Quay RNLI. The amount of people who had turned out to welcome her home really does speak volumes for the support we have in this community for which we are incredibly grateful.'

'It's been a long passage for the crew on their route back to New Quay but I know

they'll have taken this time to get acquainted with this faster and more capable 25 knot lifeboat. It's going to be a long and difficult few weeks ensuring all our volunteers are fully trained on our new lifeboat, but it's a challenge, I know we'll all relish.'

The community celebrated the historic occasion with a party on the pier, the highlight of which was the new lifeboat entering view. It was an emotional sight for fundraisers who have worked tirelessly to support efforts to raise an

appeal to raise over £100,000 to pay for crew training and transportation cost for the Shannon.

After delighting crowds with her presence, the Shannon was recovered onto New Quay beach, watched by crowds of onlookers. Then the Shannon Launch and Recovery System (SLRS) was put into action to safely recover the new lifeboat and introduce her to her new home.

New Quay's RNLI Coxswain had the important role of bringing the Shannon home. It was a historic moment for Dan Potter, who has been an operational volunteer on three different classes of lifeboat – the Watson class lifeboat – the Mersey and now the Shannon.

He says: 'Bringing this lifeboat home to New Quay is one of the greatest honour of my RNLI career. It was a humbling and incredibly emotional experience which will stay with me for a very long time. The passage was challenging and we all learned so much, but the pinnacle just had to be seeing the crowds who had turned out to welcome us home.'

Whilst the Mersey class lifeboat has served us well, this modern faster and more capable will help us to save more lives of the coast of Ceredigion. We are incredibly grateful for all the support we've received in making today happen.'

# Offshore wind and renewables discussed at power station

SENEDD Member Paul Davies has visited RWE Power Station to discuss floating offshore wind leasing opportunities in the Celtic Sea. Mr Davies was also given an overview of the Pembroke Net Zero Centre and discussed new innovative technologies needed for a low carbon future, including hydrogen production and Carbon Capture and Storage. Following the discussion, there was a site tour to show Mr Davies some of the work currently being done by RWE to decarbonise.

Mr Davies said, "RWE is Wales' largest energy generator and producer of renewable electricity, and it was great to hear more about their plans for the future. The Pembroke Net Zero Centre further demonstrates RWE's commitment to the

**Tom Sinclair**  
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decarbonisation of Wales and the UK and I was impressed by the work they have already done in this area. We had a really interesting discussion about green hydrogen and developing opportunities with new technologies to compliment their work so far on this agenda."

He added, "The deployment of floating wind represents a multi-billion-pound clean energy investment and economic development opportunity for Pembrokeshire and further afield. RWE is engaging with major employers and with the supply chain to identify the requirements needed to build a resilient and prosperous supply chain going forward."



# Frank still singing in his 94<sup>th</sup> year

**A FEW days after celebrating his 94th birthday, Pembroke and District Male Voice Choir's senior member, Frank Harries, was very much on home territory for the choir's latest concert.**

Frank, who has sung for 70 years with the choir, staged with colleagues at St Mary's Catholic Church, Pembroke Dock, where he has been a lifelong member.

This was the second concert in a week for choristers and musical team and very much shirtsleeve order on a sunny Sunday evening. There was a very appreciative audience and a warm welcome from John Power on behalf of the church.

Musical Director Juliet Rossiter chose a varied programme ranging from patriotic 'O Gymru' to the spiritual 'My Lord What A Morning' and Sixties classics 'You'll Never Walk Alone' and 'He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother'. Accompanist was Carole Rees.

Soloists were Alyson Griffiths on flute, warmly

**Tom Sinclair**  
*Editor@herald.email*

applauded for 'Pie Jesu' and 'Cavatina', and singer/songwriter and first tenor Peter Halifax. Peter accompanied himself on guitar to his own composition, 'Heaven's Train' and the hymn 'Praise Him'.

For the final items choristers welcomed back on stage after illness first tenor Rob Edwards and also Cor Meibion's Tony Hossack.

The previous Tuesday the choir joined with the Serendipity Singers of Narberth at St John's Church, Tenby - a regular venue - before an audience of 100. Welcomed by Liz Storey the choirs individually performed 16 items before joining for the lively 'Syahamba'.

Carole Rees again accompanied the men while Juliet Rossiter - Musical Director for both - was continually in action, conducting every item and also playing for the ladies in the absence of their regular pianist.



Ladies from both male voice chairman John at Lamphey Village Hall St Teilo's Schoolroom, excellent refreshments and were thanked by Hillier. Next male voice concert is on Tuesday July 18th on Tuesday evenings at Pembroke Farmers' Club. The choir practices pm.

# 'Worrying decline' in number of experienced midwives

**THERE is an urgent need for a renewed focus on workforce and staffing levels for maternity services in Wales say the Royal College of Midwives (RCM), as its latest report shows the number of experienced midwives in maternity services in Wales are at dramatically low levels.**

The stark warning comes as the RCM publishes its State of Maternity Services in Wales report, which will be launched at an event at the Senedd today. It shows that, although the number of midwives in Wales remains virtually the same now as it was in 2016, the number of experienced midwives (those aged 46-55) working in maternity services has actually declined. Coupled with the rapidly evolving demographics of women who use maternity services, the report paints a troubling picture.

**Carli Newell**  
*carli.newell@herald.email*

RCM Director for Wales, Julie Richards said: "Every day midwives go the extra mile for those they help, often to the detriment of their own mental and physical health. Despite more people using midwifery services and the steady increase in more complicated pregnancies, the actual numbers of midwives hasn't really risen over the last five years. This is bound to impact on the quality of care. Let's be clear - services are currently coping only because of the superhuman efforts of their staff. In Wales we have seen a worrying decline in the numbers of experienced midwives. When these midwives leave they take their knowledge and experience, which we need to help train the next generation of midwives,

with them."

The report also outlines growing numbers of women being cared for by Welsh maternity services with additional health needs, which is increasing the demands on midwives and their colleagues. Nearly 30% of women report having a mental health condition during their pregnancy. The level of obesity and the number of women classed as overweight during pregnancy is increasing too, with nearly 30% of women reported as obese at their initial assessment and a similar number for those overweight. Such conditions require more focus and care from maternity staff, which, in turn, places additional burdens on workforce planning.

Julie Richards added: "Although there has been a welcome rise in the number of student midwives in recent years, the overall



situation is unsustainable. The solution is clear - we need more investment and more midwives to deliver the services women expect and deserve. There needs

to be a comprehensive plan by the Welsh Government to recruit and train more midwives and retain the current ones already in the workforce. We look forward

to the publishing, funding and implementation of the Maternity and Neonatal Safety Support Programme for Wales."

# Residents of all ages urged not to be caught out by glaucoma

EYE care experts in Pembrokeshire are urging people to have regular eye tests to help protect them from glaucoma, as new data shows a third of referrals are now for those aged between 40 and 60 years old.

The latest data from Specsavers reveals there have been 30,000 referrals for glaucoma in people aged 40–60 years in the last year; accounting for nearly a third (30%) of all glaucoma referrals.

While glaucoma typically becomes more common with age, this Glaucoma Awareness Week (26 June – 2 July), Specsavers in Pembrokeshire and Glaucoma UK, are reminding people of all ages to have regular eye tests to help protect them from the disease, which is one of the leading causes of blindness in the world.

Ellie Thomas-Wigley, director at Specsavers in



**Tom Sinclair**  
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Pembroke Dock, says: 'Glaucoma is a common eye condition where the optic

nerve, which connects the eye to the brain, becomes damaged. It's usually caused by fluid building up in the front part of the eye, which increases pressure inside the eye. 'Our data shows that glaucoma can affect people of all ages. Although most will not experience any symptoms, glaucoma can

lead to loss of vision if it's not detected and treated early. Vision lost to glaucoma cannot be recovered, but with early detection, careful monitoring and regular treatment, most people retain useful sight for life.

'Having an eye test at least every two years, regardless of your age or whether you're experiencing vision issues or symptoms – is so important.'

Alarming, a fifth of the population (21%) still don't know how often they should visit their optician for a routine check-up and the same percentage either can't remember their last eye examination, or have never had one. And a recent survey also showed that almost one in four (23%) had an eye test in the last two years, despite eye tests being recommended at least every two years.

Long NHS waiting lists, exacerbated by the pandemic, remain a problem as NHS

eye care services are facing a growing demand for care. Latest figures show there are 628,502 people waiting for NHS ophthalmology appointments.

Joanne Creighton, Chief Executive of Glaucoma UK adds: 'As a charity that provides help and support to everyone living with glaucoma, Glaucoma Awareness Week is an opportunity to highlight the fact that an estimated 350,000 people in the UK are unaware they have glaucoma.'

'Glaucoma can be symptomless, and people could lose sight to the disease before they're able to spot the signs. An optometrist can identify glaucoma at a routine eye appointment at your local opticians, which is why we urge everyone to book an eye test and save their sight.'

For more information or to book an appointment visit: [www.specsavers.co.uk](http://www.specsavers.co.uk)

# Elton John's gig at Glastonbury may be his last, but his first was in Pembrokeshire



AS the final notes echoed through the crowd at Glastonbury, marking the end of an era for the legendary Elton John, fans and music enthusiasts couldn't help but reflect on the iconic singer's remarkable career. While the spotlight may have been on his last show in England, it's worth delving into the past and revisiting the

**Tom Sinclair**  
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momentous occasion when Elton John played his first gig in Wales back in 1970.

Last night, Glastonbury witnessed the culmination of a celebrated journey as Elton bid farewell to his UK fans. The festival, renowned for its vibrant atmosphere and eclectic lineup, has



become a national treasure. It embraces the familiar, like the Pyramid Stage, which has stood as a beacon of light, and the exuberant performers who entertain with their circus-like antics. But Glastonbury also welcomes newcomers from various walks of life, adding fresh energy and surprises each year.

Looking back to the early years, the festival's spirit of

embracing new talent and unique performances was already evident. In 1970, a young Elton John graced the stage at Narberth's Queens Hall, a venue etched in the memories of Pembrokeshire residents. The gig, held on June 13, marked his first-ever concert in Wales. Tickets were a mere 12 shillings and sixpence (60p), a far cry from the current prices for his farewell tour.

Back then, Elton John, referred to as "Chart and Top of the Pops star," performed with his backing group, former members of the Spencer Davis Group. The Queens Hall audience was in for a treat, as they experienced one of the earliest renditions of the timeless classic "Your Song," a track that would catapult Elton to international fame.

This historic gig at the Queens Hall was somewhat shrouded in rumor until recent times. Thanks to a local community history project, an original flyer and a wealth of incredible memories resurfaced. The confirmation from Elton John himself, during his final Welsh performance, added a touch of validation to this cherished event.

Those who were fortunate enough to witness Elton's mesmerizing show at the Queens Hall still recall the magic of that summer evening. As the sun set and the excitement in the air reached a crescendo, Elton took the stage. His first words, now etched in the annals of music history, were a playful complaint about the piano being out of tune. But with his talent and ingenuity, he turned it into an unforgettable performance. The audience watched in awe as Elton played with his head, feet, and hands,

captivating them with his genius and showmanship.

The significance of that evening in Narberth became apparent as Elton's career flourished. The Queens Hall gig served as a stepping stone, propelling him toward stardom. His subsequent visits to Pembrokeshire, including his supporting role for Long John Baldry at the Riverside Club in Haverfordwest, solidified his connection with Wales.

Now, as Elton John bids farewell to his legions of fans, memories of that unforgettable night in Narberth intertwine with the grand finale of his illustrious career. From the intimate setting of the Queens Hall to the monumental stages of Glastonbury, his journey has been one of constant reinvention and artistic brilliance.

As the cycle of life spins on, Glastonbury will continue to evolve, welcoming new talents and captivating performances. But let us remember the timeless magic Elton John brought to Wales in 1970 and the indelible mark he has left on the world of music. His final bow may have been taken, but the legacy of this extraordinary artist will endure, resonating with audiences for generations to come.



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**THIS WEEK** The Pembrokeshire Herald celebrates its 10th Birthday. It only seems like yesterday that the first edition was printed in July 2013 – with the first copy being sold, at 5.50am to a very keen Milford Haven resident, Mr Malcolm Wood, who was queuing outside Milford News on that warm summer morning.

Since then, for the busy team, the weeks have flown by, and everyone one of those weeks has been enjoyable, busy and had its unique challenges.

One of the first to offer their best

wishes was local MP Stephen Crabb. He said: “Congratulations to the Pembrokeshire Herald on its 10th birthday! It has been a rollercoaster ride, but they have demonstrated time and again the importance of local news and fearless reporting. The Herald has been a strong independent voice for Pembrokeshire and long may that continue. So, here’s to all the team at the Herald. Best wishes for the future!”

Herald Editor Tom Sinclair said: “Local newspapers have always been the epicentre of local news ecosystems.

“While communities may

have other sources of journalism, such as TV and radio stations and online-only outlets, the bulk of the reporting serving local communities has traditionally been provided by local newspapers.

“Local newspapers such as ours have been hit particularly hard by the economic challenges confronting local journalism, which raises questions about whether papers such as The Herald can still serve as the linchpins of local reporting in their communities, and whether other types of outlets are stepping up to take their place.

“In west Wales however, I strongly believe that The Pembrokeshire Herald and its team have an important role to play in holding democracy to account, to covering court cases, inquests, events, and other important community news.

“Very often we are the only outlet covering some news events, meaning that if we were not there those




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# WE ARE 10!

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important topics would not be covered properly, if at all.

Reporting in Pembrokeshire has faced recent criticism. Welsh actor Michael Sheen once famously offered to support anyone who wants to start a local news service in either of Wales' major news gaps.

Sheen said that in 1970 the town of Port Talbot had five local newspapers and 11 reporters.

Now there are none based either in the county of Neath Port Talbot or Pembrokeshire, he said.

He said: "It is truly frightening, the idea that

if you don't have reliable sources of information, [if] you don't have representation, your community's voice isn't represented and you can't hold people in power to account and scrutiny, then you have no power – and people will deal with that in different ways."

His view is certainly wrong. In response the Herald's Chief Writer and Deputy Editor, Jon Coles, posted on the Press Gazette forum. He wrote: "I'm almost certain I didn't

imagine the last ten years and 515 editions of writing for The Pembrokeshire Herald.

"The idea that no investigative reporting takes place is nonsense.

"The Western Telegraph won newspaper of the year twice on the spin. I'm certain they didn't do that by not challenging politicians on their statements.

"Then in 2019 The Pembrokeshire Herald took a trophy for Best Columnist at the Welsh Media Awards. Well done Matthew Paul.

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Herald thoroughly unpicked the pensions scandal surrounding the former Council CEO and exposed a European grant funding scandal which led to a large police investigation which exposed even more irregularities.

"The Observer (Tindle) reports diligently on planning issues and news affecting its three edition areas.

"The Milford Mercury (now a website) covers Milford and Neyland and reports on issues affecting those towns.

"The County Echo is a unique voice for St Davids.

"The Tivyside Advertiser reports major issues affecting both sides of the Teifi Valley. Media in Pembrokeshire is vibrant and diverse – both in print and online. Saying otherwise is just rubbish."

Herald Editor Tom Sinclair added: "As a now established part of the news eco-system in west Wales we will continue to strive to serve the people of the county."

"We, as a team, have learned a lot over the ten years,

and I realise that I have made mistakes. Dealing with the legal, financial and deadline challenges of running a local paper is a constant battle – but The Herald is going from strength to strength with a committed team determined to do all we can to report, accurately and independently – without fear or favour – on the local news which matters to you."

"Now in its 10th year The Herald is now fully digital - meaning it will be here for many years to come"




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**Decline of newspapers spa**

**LOCAL newspapers, once the lifeblood of communities, are facing a severe decline in readership as more people turn to digital platforms for news consumption.**

In response to this alarming trend, industry experts are suggesting that launching digital-only versions could not only help revive readership but also bring benefits to advertisers and pave the way for more extensive editions.

Over the years,

local newspapers have played a vital role in connecting communities, reporting on local events, and providing a platform for local voices. However, with the advent of digital technology and the rise of online news outlets, traditional print newspapers have struggled to retain their readership. The convenience and accessibility of digital news have enticed readers away from the physical copies that once graced coffee tables and newsstands.

sharp decline in readership figures for local newspapers across the country. The reasons are multifaceted, including changing consumer preferences, a shift towards online platforms, and the ubiquity of smartphones. As a result, local newspapers have seen dwindling circulation numbers and reduced advertising revenue, leading to cutbacks and layoffs within the industry.

To combat this downward trend, experts are proposing a digital transformation for local newspapers. Launching digital-only versions would allow these publications to leverage the power of the internet and reach a broader audience. With the majority of people now accessing news through their smartphones or computers, digital platforms offer a convenient and immediate way to connect with readers.

The benefits of a digital transition extend beyond increased readership. Advertisers stand to gain as well,



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## marks digital transformation

As digital newspapers provide more targeted advertising opportunities. With advanced data analytics and audience segmentation, advertisers can reach specific demographics and tailor their messages accordingly. This precise targeting can lead to better engagement and a higher return on investment for businesses.

Furthermore, going digital opens the door for expanded content and bigger editions. Unlike the

limitations of print, digital platforms offer virtually unlimited space for news articles, features, and multimedia elements. Local newspapers can embrace this flexibility to deliver in-depth coverage of community issues, showcase local talents, and offer interactive features that enhance the reader experience.

However, the transition from

print to digital does come with challenges. Some readers may still prefer the tactile experience of holding a physical newspaper, and not all communities have equal access to reliable internet connections. To address these concerns, newspapers could explore a hybrid model where both print and digital versions coexist.

This approach allows for flexibility and caters to the




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preferences of a diverse readership.

The decline in readership of local newspapers is a pressing issue that requires innovative solutions. Embracing the digital realm can breathe new life into these publications, fostering stronger connections with readers, and ensuring the survival of local journalism. The potential for increased readership, improved advertising opportunities, and the ability to produce richer and more extensive editions make the case for a digital transition compelling. As the industry evolves, local newspapers must adapt to the changing times and seize the opportunities offered by the digital landscape to thrive once again at the heart of their communities.

**THE HERALD LEADS THE WAY**

The Pembrokeshire Herald is no exception to the challenges faced by local newspapers in the digital age. Recognizing the need to adapt to the changing landscape, the publication has announced a

significant milestone in its history. On 30th June 2023, coinciding with its 10th anniversary, The Pembrokeshire Herald will release its first digital-only e-edition, available for free download to all customers.

The decision to launch a digital edition marks a strategic move to align with the evolving preferences of readers and the broader industry trends. By embracing digital technology, The Pembrokeshire Herald aims to not only retain its existing

readership but also reach a wider audience within and beyond the county.

The transition to a digital-only format comes with several advantages. Readers will have instant access to the latest news, features, and local stories at their fingertips. The digital edition will leverage interactive elements, such as videos and image galleries, to enhance the reader



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# WE ARE 10!

OUR READERS!

experience and bring stories to life. Furthermore, the e-edition will offer a user-friendly interface that allows for easy navigation and searchability.

The decision to offer the digital edition for free reflects The Pembrokeshire Herald's commitment to its readership and the local community. By removing barriers to access, the publication aims to encourage

broader readership and engagement. This move also opens up opportunities for advertisers to connect with a larger audience, amplifying their reach and impact.

While embracing digital technology, The Pembrokeshire Herald acknowledges the importance of its heritage and loyal print readership. To cater to diverse preferences, the publication will continue to offer a limited print edition, ensuring that those who prefer the tangible experience of a physical

newspaper can still enjoy their trusted source of local news.

The launch of the digital-only e-edition on the paper's 10th anniversary marks a significant milestone for The Pembrokeshire Herald. It showcases the publication's resilience and willingness to adapt to the ever-changing media landscape. By embracing digital transformation, The Pembrokeshire Herald aims to secure its position as the leading source of local news, catering to the needs and preferences of its readership in the digital age.

As local newspapers face the challenges of declining readership, The Pembrokeshire Herald's digital transition sets an example for other publications to explore innovative solutions and embrace the opportunities presented by the digital realm. It is a testament to the publication's commitment to providing quality journalism and community-focused reporting, ensuring that the voice of Pembrokeshire continues to be heard in the modern era of news consumption.



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# A decade of commu

OVER the past ten years, The Pembroke Herald has established itself as a cornerstone of the community, consistently delivering positive change and support when it's needed most.

From providing essential supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic to organising numerous charitable initiatives, the newspaper's unwavering commitment to the people of Pembrokeshire has left an indelible mark on the community. As we reflect on the remarkable achievements of The Pembroke Herald over the past decade, we celebrate its transformative impact on the lives of residents.

Amid the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Pembroke Herald emerged as a beacon of support. Recognising the vulnerability of local community members, the newspaper launched a remarkable campaign to deliver essential supplies. In a heartwarming display of solidarity, bread, eggs, milk, and other necessities were distributed to those in need, ensuring that the most vulnerable

individuals were not left without vital resources during these trying times. The Herald's initiative provided comfort and assistance when it was needed most, making a significant impact on the lives of countless Pembrokeshire residents.

The Pembroke Herald rallied the community to collect donations for the people of Ukraine. The Herald offices transformed into a hub for receiving generous contributions of food, blankets, and medical supplies. Undeterred by distance or logistical challenges, the newspaper's team orchestrated a monumental effort, filling five vans with donations bound for Ukraine. This tremendous act of humanitarian aid brought much-needed relief to families affected by turmoil and hardship, showcasing the power of community solidarity and support.

The invaluable work undertaken by Macmillan Cancer Support has been consistently championed by The Pembroke Herald. Over the years, the newspaper has organised and hosted numerous Macmillan Coffee Mornings. These

delightful events have served as a platform to raise substantial funds for the charity, enabling them to continue their vital support for individuals and families affected by cancer. Beyond financial contributions, the Herald's initiatives have fostered a sense of togetherness and compassion within the community, providing a comforting space for individuals to connect and find solace in shared experiences.

As a steadfast advocate for PATCH, The Pembroke Herald has consistently supported this charitable organisation dedicated to providing assistance to children and families in need. With unwavering determination, the Herald has collected Easter egg donations and facilitated the creation and sale of charity calendars. These initiatives have not only raised funds to support PATCH's mission but have also brought joy and happiness to the lives of countless individuals facing challenging circumstances. The Herald's commitment to making a positive impact shines through in their continued efforts to uplift and support the most

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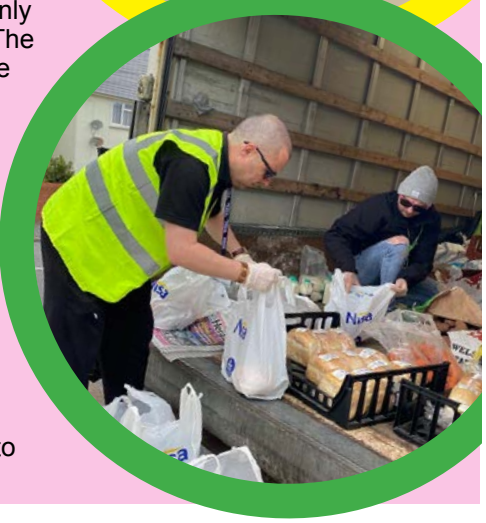
# RE 10!

OUR READERS!

## Community impact

vulnerable members of the community. The Pembrokeshire Herald's commitment to community extends beyond acts of charity. The newspaper has taken the lead in organising and hosting a range of engaging events designed to foster unity and celebration. One of the most recent and memorable examples is the Milford Haven Waterfront fun day, a vibrant gathering that brought together residents, visitors, and local businesses. These community events have become integral to The Pembrokeshire Herald's legacy, nurturing a sense of belonging and pride within Pembrokeshire. They provide an opportunity for individuals to connect, celebrate, and create lasting memories while fostering a strong sense of community spirit. As we reflect on the past ten years, The Pembrokeshire Herald's positive impact on the community is undeniable. From providing essential supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic to supporting vital charitable organisations like Macmillan and

PATCH, the newspaper has consistently gone above and beyond to make a meaningful difference in the lives of Pembrokeshire residents. The Herald's dedication, compassion, and tireless efforts have not only transformed individual lives but have also woven together the social fabric of the entire community. As we look towards the future, we can only anticipate that The Pembrokeshire Herald will continue to shine as a beacon of hope and support, leaving an enduring legacy of compassion and community spirit for years to





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# Black Bart: The most infamous pirate ever?

**THERE** are many infamous pirates throughout history, with Edward Teach, better known as Blackbeard, probably being the most well known.

However, over 300 years ago a Welsh seaman turned to piracy. Within a year he'd become the most successful pirate of his era – a time which is commonly referred to as The Golden Age of Piracy.

Born in the small village of Little Newcastle in Pembrokeshire during the early 1680s, John Robert turned to the sea for a living and for more than three decades, he kept on the right side of the law. Then, in May 1719, all this changed.

He was the second mate of a slave ship when it was captured by pirates off the West African coast. Our Welshman decided to join them, and to throw others off his trail he changed his name to Bartholomew Roberts. He was already an experienced mariner, so two months later, when the pirate captain Howell Davis was killed, the crew elected Roberts as their leader.

A few weeks later he captured his first prize – a Dutch slave ship – and from that moment on he was set for his life of crime.

Keeping one step ahead of any pursuers, he crossed the Atlantic and put into the Brazilian port of Bahia (now Salvador). The Portuguese treasure fleet was in harbour, and in a daring coup de main, Roberts captured a treasure ship and sailed it out of the harbour.

The ship's cargo was worth millions in today's money, but Roberts wasn't able to keep hold of it.

While Roberts was out hunting for victims, the prize crew in the Portuguese galleon sailed off into the sunset, leaving him with nothing. Undeterred, Roberts started all over again, and for the next year he combed the waters of the West Indies, before ranging as far north as Newfoundland in search of prizes.

As he went, he kept turning the biggest and best of these into his flagship. Each time, he gave these ships the same name – the Royal Fortune.



Once more, to avoid the warships sent to hunt him down, Roberts crossed the Atlantic, and by the summer of 1721 he was off the coast of Senegal. He then worked his way down the West African coast, capturing dozens of slave ships as he went.

In August he captured the Royal African Company's ship *Onslow*, which became the fourth of 1721 he was off the coast of Senegal. He then worked his way down the West African coast, capturing dozens of slave ships as he went.

there that his luck finally run out.

On February 5th the frigate *HMS Swallow* appeared and lured out Roberts' consort ship, the *Great Ranger*. The pirates thought the newcomer was just another slave ship, but once out of sight of land

the *Swallow's* commander, Captain Ogle, turned around and captured the pirate ship.

He then returned to *Whydah*, and Bartholomew Roberts sailed out to give battle.

It was the morning of February 10th 1722 when

the two ships fought their duel.

The *Royal Fortune* and the *Swallow* were evenly matched in terms of size and number of guns, but Ogle's men had the edge when it came to professionalism and training.

Suddenly, the *Swallow* spun about and fired a broadside at point-blank range. Grapeshot scythed along the decks of the pirate ship, and Bartholomew Roberts was cut down.

The pirate captain had put on his finest clothes for the battle, including a rich crimson suit, a hat with a red feather in it, and a priceless gold cross and chain – so everyone saw what happened to him.

The battle continued for another two hours until *Royal Fortune's* mainmast fell and the pirates signaled for quarter. One member of the crew, John Philips, tried to reach the magazine with a lighted match to blow up the ship, but was prevented by two men.

Only three pirates had been killed in the battle, including Roberts. A total of 272 men had been captured by the Royal Navy. Of these, 65 were former African slaves that Roberts had emancipated, and they were sold into slavery.

Of the captured pirates who told their place of birth, 42% were from Cornwall, Devon, and Somerset, and another 19% from London. There were smaller numbers from northern England and from Wales, and another quarter from a variety of countries including Ireland, Scotland, the West Indies, the Netherlands, and Greece.

Most of the information on Roberts comes from the book *A General History of the Pyrates*, published a few years after Roberts' death.

The original 1724 title page credits one Captain Charles Johnson as the author. The book is often printed under the byline of Daniel Defoe on the assumption that "Charles Johnson" is a pseudonym, but there is no proof that Defoe is the author, and the matter remains in dispute.

So the next time you stare out at the Welsh beaches, think of Black Bart, and his infamous pirates life.

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## MOVIE REVIEW



### WITH HANNAH CRAMP

He might just be the ultimate movie star...rugged good looks, roguish charm and an endless array of witty one-liners whether he's playing a space cowboy, an American president or everyone's favourite adventuring archaeologist.

It's Harrison Ford of course, and this summer he's gracing the silver screen once more as everyone's favourite explorer, Dr Henry Walton Jones Jr., in *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*.

If you enjoyed the original trilogy but didn't think much of the last film, this is the finale for you. It's everything we love about the *Indiana Jones* films - there are Nazis to fight, ancient relics to be discovered, annoying sidekicks to be endured, and a cast of characters both old and new to laugh along with.

Sure you'll have to suspend your disbelief a little, but watching this film feels like catching up with an old friend.

Welcome back Indy - it's good to see you!

## Johnny Cash has been resurrected!

That's how people feel when they come out of a Johnny Cash Roadshow gig. The "Through The Years" tour is currently in full swing and for fans of *The Man In Black* it's the perfect escape from everything going on in the world today. For 130 minutes you will be transported back to another time and place at the Torch Theatre on Friday 28 July, enjoying a show jam-packed with songs from all corners of Cash's catalogue, a show that the man himself would be proud of.

In this age of avatars and AI, you could almost be forgiven for thinking some kind of holographic trickery was in use, such is the likeness multi-award-winning frontman Clive John bears to Cash. You'd also be hard pressed to tell his rich baritone from the original and coupled with the beautiful voice of Meghan Thomas harmonising as June Carter Cash the impression is complete.

The enforced performance hiatus while Covid raged gave Clive the opportunity to go back to basics and create a new show even bigger and better than before. Having the experience of over 10 years of sell-out shows across the UK, Europe and beyond he knows exactly what his audience expects, and the favourites are all there, but he has pulled new songs into the set to surprise and delight them further. With five decades of a prolific back catalogue to choose from, the skill in putting a set together is to select songs that makes the audience feel something, to elicit an emotive response. Music to move to and be moved by is what makes these shows memorable, and it's a recipe that keeps people coming back for more.

Backed by a superb band which includes double bass, The Roadshow Horns and four-part vocal harmonies, they deliver of all the classics such as 'Walk The Line', 'Ring Of Fire', 'Jackson', 'Orange Blossom Special', 'Get Rhythm' and 'Boy Named Sue' alongside some of the darker more atmospheric songs from the later American Recordings such



as 'Hurt' and 'Rusty Cage'. There's a lot to cram in and the songs come thick and fast - this blistering emotional roller coaster of a show has earned them standing ovations every night.

Not only that, but their performance is so true to the real McCoy that they are endorsed by members of the Cash family themselves:

"I had the pleasure to see the Johnny Cash Roadshow just this past weekend in Manchester. As a member of this family, the Cash Family, I was in awe of how incredible the performances were. Clive and his 'June' capture my Grandfather and Grandmother JUST as they were in this world they put a mark in. I sincerely believe that there is an art form to "tributing", but this was absolutely authentic to the point where it felt

as if it wasn't a tribute per se, it was a rock 'n' roll gig, given by some sincere rock 'n' rollers! I am a fan!"

Caitlin Crowell, Granddaughter of Mr Johnny Cash and Mrs June Carter Cash

This endorsement echoes Clive's feelings about the "tribute" nature of the show. As far as he is concerned there will only ever be one *Man In Black* and no tribute would be worthy. He simply wants to keep Johnny Cash's music alive. There can be no doubt that while *The Johnny Cash Roadshow* is touring this goal is being achieved.

The Johnny Cash Roadshow will visit the Torch Theatre on Friday 28 July at 7.30pm. Tickets are: £25.00. Tickets can be purchased from the Box Office at the Torch Theatre on 01646 695267 or visit [torchtheatre.co.uk](http://torchtheatre.co.uk).

For up to date news please check our social network channels

## Summer programme heats up at Mwldan

IT'S time to revisit the classics and meet the new in an exciting musical programme at Theatr Mwldan this July. From ballet to musicals, to Hugh Jackman showing his musical theatre chops, the Cardigan theatre will bring some serious musical entertainment to West Wales.

Matthew Bourne's *Sleeping Beauty* is coming to Mwldan's big screen on July 8 and 9 for its 10th-anniversary celebrations.

Now established as a firm favourite in the New Adventures repertoire, this award-winning production has enchanted audiences throughout the UK and across the globe.

Enter a wondrous world of magical fairies and vampires, where the timeless tale of good vs evil is turned upside-down, creating a supernatural love story that even the passage of time cannot hinder.

Will Princess Aurora ever find her true love again? With an unforgettable score, sumptuous sets and costumes, evocative lighting and masterly storytelling, the uniquely talented New Adventures company brings the beloved fairy tale to life.

Get ready to be transported from the halcyon days of the late Edwardian era to the modern day in this gothic romance.

Tickets are priced at £17 (£16)

Get ready for big fun this summer – the smash hit West End stage show *Heathers: The Musical* will screen at Mwldan on July 9 and 15!

How very.

Based on the 1989 cult classic film starring Winona Ryder and Christian Slater and recorded live in its original London home, *The Other Palace*, this award-winning musical follows Westerberg High student Veronica Sawyer, whose dreams of popularity finally start to come true when she's taken under the wings of the three beautiful, yet impossibly cruel *Heathers*.

But when a mysterious new kid, teen rebel J.D. arrives in town, Veronica realises that whilst it might kill to be a nobody, it's murder being a somebody...

Wickedly funny, with dazzling music and lyrics by Tony Award-nominated, Legally Blonde composer Laurence O'Keefe, and Emmy-winning *Reefer Madness* author Kevin Murphy, *Heathers the Musical* is directed by acclaimed screen and stage

director Andy Fickman, with electrifying choreography by Thriller Live's Gary Lloyd.

Tickets are priced at £14 (£12)

On July 11 and 13, Mwldan will be screening the exquisite works of the Dutch Baroque period painter Vermeer, with Exhibition On Screen's captivating new film *Vermeer: The Greatest Exhibition*.

Vermeer's most famous



paintings include *The Girl With A Pearl Earring* and *The Milkmaid*, and he is considered to be one of the great names of the Dutch Golden Age alongside Rembrandt.

Tickets for the largest Vermeer exhibition in history at The Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam are completely sold out, making this broadcast event the only way to see the once-in-a-lifetime show.

This stunning documentary film invites audiences to a private viewing of this spectacular exhibition on the big screen, accompanied by the director of the Rijksmuseum and the show curators.

This momentous retrospective is the largest ever devoted exclusively to the "master of light", with 28 of his 35 known works from countries worldwide. Never have so many of Vermeer's masterpieces been brought together in one place.

As well as a unique encounter with the work of the great 17th Century artist, the film reveals insights from the team behind the Exhibition, world-renowned curators and Vermeer experts, shedding new light on his mysterious life and masterful work, the artistic choices and motivations for his compositions, as well as the creative process behind his paintings.

Tickets are priced at £12 (£10)

*Only Men Aloud* will be filling Cardigan Castle's grounds with the sound of their strong vocals and eclectic repertoire on July



14.

The group have been delighting audiences around the world for over twenty years. They were formed in the year 2000, hoping to inject some new life and blood into the Welsh Male Choir tradition.

A typical OMA concert will feature many different styles of music. Welsh hymns and folksongs, Opera and Musical Theatre, all the way to Swing, Acapella & Pop music.

Fourteen years ago, they were named BBC One's Last Choir Standing, leading to an album deal with Universal Records. They won a Classical Brit Award for Best Album of the Year in 2010. They have toured worldwide every year since winning the show and have worldwide record sales of over 300,000.

Over the years, the hugely popular group has built a strong nationwide fan base. They were honoured to be asked to sing at the London 2012 Opening Ceremony at the very moment the Olympic Flame was lit. This performance was broadcast to an estimated global TV audience of 900 million people.

Ceredigion Intermediate Choir comprises pupils in Years 7-9 across Ceredigion High Schools. They enjoy performing a wide-ranging repertoire, including Welsh Songs, musicals and classical. The choir are very excited to take part in this concert.

This concert takes place at Castell Aberteifi, and tickets cost £25.

Oh, what a beautiful day! On July 16 and 19,

live theatre's magic and energy will be screened at Mwldan with the National Theatre's acclaimed Olivier Award-winning production of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!*

Starring then-newcomer Hugh Jackman (*Les Misérables*, *The Greatest Showman*) as Curly, alongside Maureen Lipman, Josefina Gabrielle and Shuler Hensley, this riveting stage production was filmed during its record-breaking 1998 run in London.

Directed by theatre legend Trevor Nunn (*CATS*, *Les Misérables*) with choreography by Susan Stroman, *Oklahoma!* features some of musical theatre's most delightfully hummable songs, including "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'", "The Surrey With The Fringe On Top" and the joyous title tune, "Oklahoma".

Now one of the most beloved musicals ever to grace the stage is coming to the big screen 80 years after it premiered on Broadway.

Tickets are priced at £16 (£15)

All tickets for all shows are available now from [www.mwldan.co.uk](http://www.mwldan.co.uk) (24/7) or by phoning the box office between 12 - 8pm Tue - Sun 01239 621 200



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## WHAT'S ON



FRIDAY 30TH JUNE

5:00PM: RUBY GILLMAN, TEENAGE KRAKEN

6:00PM: INDIANA JONES AND THE DIAL OF DESTINY

7:15PM: INDIANA JONES AND THE DIAL OF DESTINY

SATURDAY 1ST JULY

12:00PM THE LITTLE MERMAID

1:00PM: INDIANA JONES AND THE DIAL OF DESTINY

2:30PM: RUBY GILLMAN, TEENAGE KRAKEN

4:30PM: SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE

7:15PM: THE FLASH

SUNDAY 2ND JULY

12:00PM THE LITTLE MERMAID

12:30PM: INDIANA JONES AND THE DIAL OF DESTINY

2:30PM: RUBY GILLMAN, TEENAGE KRAKEN

3:30PM: INDIANA JONES AND THE DIAL OF DESTINY

7:15PM: THE FLASH

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**GAMING**



# FIGHT FOREVER



**ALL ELITE WRESTLING'S debut console game, AEW: Fight Forever, is primed to unleash a tsunami of excitement in the wrestling genre, mate!**

As the release date has just landed, fans are abuzz with anticipation and intrigue, pondering whether this game will deliver a gripping alternative to the WWE 2K series or languish in the domain of forgettable wrestling titles from yesteryears.

Now, time alone shall unveil the true impact of AEW: Fight Forever, but the game's unique selling point lies in its departure from the hyper-realism obsession of the WWE 2K franchise. Instead, it takes inspiration from the halcyon days of wrestling games on the N64, channeling the spirit of those early SmackDown classics. No surprises there, considering Yuke's, the Japanese developer that expressed concerns about the WWE 2K series' trajectory and parted ways after 2K19, is on board. Now, Yuke's aims to enrapture the fan base of All Elite Wrestling while satisfying gamers yearning for an arcade-style wrestling extravaganza.

This game boasts a roster of around 50



By Eddie the Games Guru

wrestlers, with 41 already revealed. Fanatics will rejoice at the sight of esteemed names like Cody Rhodes, Kenny Omega, Chris Jericho, Hangman Page, Britt Baker, and even legends like Sting making the cut. And mark my words, the roster is likely to expand with additional DLC packs, hinting at a potential live service model that keeps the game fresh and pumping.

However, recent reports have illuminated some internal hiccups discovered during playtesting. The creation suite has taken flak for its limited scope, leaving players feeling shortchanged, like it's a far cry from their grand expectations.

Also, concerns have been raised about the repetitive clothing options for characters in the story mode. While the developers did take input from actual wrestling talent, it's worth noting that many creative team members had wrapped up their work on the game more than a year prior to its release.

Yet, amidst these concerns, AEW: Fight Forever presents us with gameplay that's tantalizing, promising an exhilarating and fast-paced experience reminiscent of those classic arcade-style wrestling gems. The trailers showcase action that's off the charts and an environment that can be destroyed, adding an extra layer of excitement.

Expect mind-boggling weapons and match types, including a barbed wire death match for those craving extreme shenanigans.

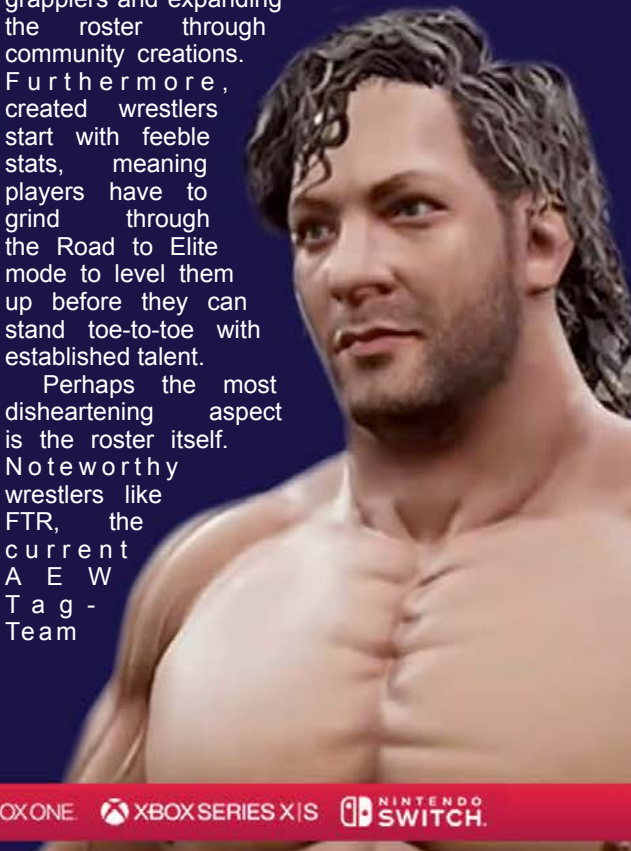
One standout feature is the deep career mode named "Road to Elite." It's akin to the beloved "WWE: No Mercy" game, offering branching storylines that let players climb the ladder of AEW while immersing themselves in unique narratives.

Now, it's not all sunshine and rainbows in AEW: Fight Forever land. The game's creation suite falls short of the extensive options provided by WWE 2K titles, limiting the customization potential for players who revel in crafting their own grapplers and expanding the roster through community creations. Furthermore, created wrestlers start with feeble stats, meaning players have to grind through the Road to Elite mode to level them up before they can stand toe-to-toe with established talent.

Perhaps the most disheartening aspect is the roster itself. Noteworthy wrestlers like FTR, the current AEW Tag Team

Champions, won't be available in the base game. Instead, AEW: Fight Forever adopts a live-service approach, rolling out microtransaction DLC packs that bring in additional wrestlers, even charging extra for established names like Matt Hardy. This strategy might strain players' wallets, especially since AEW has no plans for annual installments, choosing instead to expand the game's roster through post-launch updates.

As AEW: Fight Forever hits the shelves, wrestling enthusiasts have eagerly awaited its arrival. The amalgamation of nostalgic gameplay



**HOROSCOPE**

THE LUCKY SIGNS THIS WEEK: SCORPIO, SAGITTARIUS AND CAPRICORN

-  **ARIES**  
The holidays are fast approaching, and you don't have to stay home. You must balance your chakras to live in harmony with friends and family.
-  **TAURUS**  
Work and finances could be a source of worry this week and won't help ease tensions in a complicated relationship. Particular topics of conversation will calm your existential concern.
-  **GEMINI**  
You'll continue to put off the chore of cleaning your home. Your brilliant ideas will pay off at work, provided you know how to express yourself and show initiative and leadership.
-  **CANCER**  
You'll invest money in decorating your home and improving your quality of life. You'll also want to keep up with technology by purchasing several sophisticated gadgets.
-  **LEO**  
You'll struggle with impulse control this week. You'll move up the corporate ladder quickly. However, once you're at the top, you'll realize the extent of your new responsibilities.
-  **VIRGO**  
You must budget for family life and big projects. The holidays are coming up, and you want everything to be perfect so you can relax and enjoy the moment.
-  **LIBRA**  
You're generous and won't hesitate to help distressed family members. Be careful not to put yourself in a situation where you would exhaust yourself. Know how to put yourself first.
-  **SCORPIO**  
Whether you have time off or not, you'll settle into the comfort of your home while letting your mind wander. What better way to be transported to a different world for a while than with a good TV series?
-  **SAGITTARIUS**  
You have a festive nature and will know exactly how to get your friends together to celebrate the arrival of summer. Everyone will demand your attention at work, and you'll have many customers to serve.
-  **CAPRICORN**  
Using high-quality materials when renovating your property isn't only a luxury but an excellent long-term investment. If you're in a new relationship, you'll consider living together.
-  **AQUARIUS**  
Whether on a voyage, in a therapy session, at a conference or training seminar, you'll make new friends. You'll experience special moments while letting go of deep-seated emotions.
-  **PISCES**  
A simple love note from your partner isn't enough for you; you need a more meaningful demonstration of love. They must make you dream. Fortunately, you'll enjoy several romantic moments.



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# Badger knows best!

## And it's a Goodbye from Badger



**YOU KNOW the world still is the same. You never change it. As sure as the stars shine above.**

When Dean Martin sings those words, they're the lyrics to one of Badger's favourite songs. They grate when Badger reads the stream of constant whines on social media in the same terms about living in Pembrokeshire and what happens here.

Snivelling whingers can always find someone else to blame. It's the Council. It's the tourists. It's the farmers ruining the countryside. But you can't do anything about it. They're all in it for themselves. Whoever "they" are, "they've" got a lot to answer for.

Over the last decade, Badger has lambasted senior County Councillors and mocked others. Senior Council officers have felt the rough edge of Badger's keyboard during the ten years since The Herald's first edition. Badger has savaged bad policy decisions and pulled apart the figures underneath some of the Council's loopy ideas.

He is, however, clear on several points:

Firstly, we all use the services the local authority provides;

Secondly, you can have as many public services as you want if you're prepared to pay for the cost of delivering them;

Finally, only the economics of the loony bin tells anybody that Council Tax must rise in line with the Consumer Price Index - or less - without accounting for other cost pressures.

To those, Badger adds one further observation.

Councillors are no different from the rest of us. They're not endowed with superior wisdom or knowledge. Some might have expertise from their prior careers, supposing they have one. However, being a teacher, an estate agent, or a graduate of the University of Life does not make anyone an expert on local government finance or managing capital projects.



That means councillors must depend on the advice given to them by career local government officers. To interpret that advice, they must have two personal qualities in frighteningly rare supply: attention to detail and the capacity for critical thought. Badger doesn't use the hackneyed concept of "common-sense". Relying on something so capricious and elusive is the smart-arse's way out of thinking about an issue.

"Common-sense" might tell you that we can't live "beyond our means" and that "we must cut our cloth accordingly". Sometimes, however, the Council must take a longer-term view and balance more than financial risk and reward.

As we've seen with Bluestone, taking a risk has not delivered anything like a good return on investment for the Council. Still, it has rewarded Pembrokeshire's economy and population.

The same rule applies to developments that the Council hopes or expects will deliver wider rewards than a return on financial investment. Social, strategic, and long-term economic benefits play their part.

Astute readers will notice that Badger has (so far) avoided mentioning individual councillors or groups. That's because he's talking about the Council as an institution.

Regarding councillors, Pembrokeshire is lucky that its Council Chamber is not

divided on party-political lines. Councillors must work collaboratively when it comes to delivering local services. That is a good thing.

If the Council were split along political party lines, scrutiny and accountability would go out of the window. When Badger hears and reads about how things would be better if councillors stood on party manifestos, he asks one question.

Is Pembrokeshire so bloody insular that its inhabitants take no notice of what happens elsewhere when that's the case? You get one-party councils. Dysfunctional councils due to political deadlock. Disproportionate power rests with tiny groups of councillors

prepared to trade their votes for positions.

Labour members served in the last IPG Cabinet. Sue Perkins, Simon Hancock, and Alison Lee took posts.

Badger knows the IPG approached Labour to form a coalition. A MAJORITY of the Labour group rejected the offer. Badger knows who was not displeased by the possibility of a Cabinet post with Jamie Adams. Therefore, it's a bit rich for anyone in the Labour Party to reject the possibility of an IPG member joining the Cabinet.

You remember such details. When you have a capacious memory like Badger's - and access to every word you've written for publication.

A Council divided among individuals and small groups makes for better and more thorough scrutiny.

If you doubt Badger, you should watch committee meetings from other local authorities. Badger used to. They boggled the mind, especially Planning Committees. Gee, whizz! They used to be on the electric soup in Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire.

If you want to change things and get things done, you can. You could stand for election. You could win. You can be the person asking the questions.

But you're in for a shock if you think elected members - whether in a group or not - can change how much money the Council needs to tick over or even stand still. Be prepared for the rules governing your conduct in public office. Be prepared to read mind-bogglingly long documents written in Jargonese lacking clear summaries of the main issues.

And be prepared for morons on social media to come up with personal abuse and crackpot ideas - "sacking" councillors (elected, not employed), getting rid of all senior officers (making the Council incapable of lawful operation), and demolishing County Hall to build a

supermarket (for which planning would never be given. Come to think of it, building County Hall where it now is would not get permission).

Badger has seen all those idiotic suggestions. His all-time favourite is the lunatic claim that some individuals do not use council services and should not pay Council Tax. Badger guesses those people are childless orphans living in caves high in the Preselis who hunt woolly mammoths. Or, as Badger likes to think of them, tag nuts on the haemorrhoids of life.

We have what we have, readers. It's a Council whose elected members generally try and do their best to the best of their abilities and rely upon officers' advice, which they are entitled to question.

Stand for election if you're more able or think you are.

Question your councillors about local services. Ask what they're doing to improve them or when they will get a broken streetlamp fixed. Their email addresses are on the Council's website.

If they don't answer, tell others they don't answer. But don't raise issues on Facebook and expect detailed answers. And, if you get an answer you don't like, don't get abusive. If you want the best people to represent you, don't put potential candidates off by being a jerk to those in office now.

Calm down and cool your jets. If it's your thing, take a long drag on a jazz cigarette and relax.

And, remember, you can always read minutes and agendas online and watch council and committee meetings.

Badger is a big fan of learning about things before expressing an opinion. It might not make his opinions right, but at least they're backed by research and facts.

Knowledge is power. Knowing when to use it magnifies its power no end.



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# FUW climbs to charity target



**FUW and FUW Insurance Services staff have set themselves a final challenge to raise vital funds for the DPJ Foundation, a mental health charity in Wales supporting those in the agricultural sector, and break the £50,000 barrier.**

The team of 8, led by DPJ Foundation volunteer and mountain guide Iwan Meirion, will embark on a gruelling 24-hour challenge on Thursday, July 6, to tackle the Welsh 3000s, the 15 mountains in Wales with a height of 3000 feet or more. The challenge is over 50km long and involves nearly 3,700m of elevation gain.

A strenuous outing on Wales' highest mountains, split into three sections, will push the team to their limits.

The challenge starts by

tackling Yr Wyddfa, using the PYG Track to ease into things, but it won't be long before the team start their ascent of Crib Goch and tackling around 400 yards of knife edge ridge, which will take them to the first summit of the day. After the higher Garneidd Ugain and Snowdon, they will descend steep hillsides to reach the first Checkpoint at Nant Peris.

The second section will see them climb up to Elidir Fawr, which is relentless. Whilst not technically difficult, this section does include about 900m of almost continual climbing. A few ups and downs follow over Y Garn, Glyder Fawr, Glyder Fach and the wonderful Tryfan before the steep descent to the Ogwen Valley and Checkpoint 2.

The last big climb of the day, up to Pen Yr Ole Wen, will be a test for the team. Described as fairly easy going to Carnedd Dafydd and a deviation to the outlier Yr Elen, the route then takes them back onto the main ridgeline and up to Carnedd Llewelyn.

Once here, almost all of the ascent is done, and it'll be a case of getting their heads down and putting one foot in front of the other to tick off the remaining bumps of Foel Grach, Carnedd Gwenllian and Foel Fras, and completion of the challenge!

After the obligatory photo on top of the last peak, there is still the 1.5hr descent to the finish and pick up point.

Leading the FUW team is Senior County Executive Officer Emyr Wyn Davies. Speaking about the final

fundraiser, he said:

"This will challenge us in so many ways - mentally and physically, of course. However, we want to give our fundraising efforts for the DPJ Foundation one final giant push and break the £50,000 barrier.

"For the team taking on the challenge - I can't thank you enough for your bravery! I hope many of you will show your support through sponsorship. The work the DPJ Foundation does every day for our farming and rural communities is immense. They save lives every single day, and we want to make sure that they can continue to do that."

"While the DPJ Foundation has been our charity, they have supported 741 people with professional counselling, 964 people

have received Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention in Agriculture training, and 177 people have been trained in Bereavement and Grief Awareness in Agriculture. They have supported families who have lost loved ones through suicide and have worked with partners to improve mental health services and help prevent suicide.

"We want to continue to support them in doing this work and saving lives - so to the team taking on the Welsh 3000, dig deep! Your efforts are immense and we will provide you with moral support and anything else you need. Those of you who want to support the team - please donate what you can and know that every penny, every pound you give goes towards this worthy cause."



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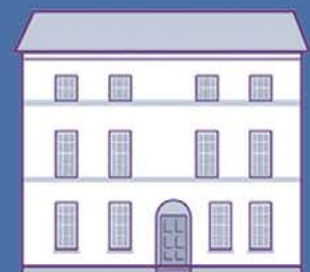
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# Historic Wales Agriculture Bill final stage to be voted on

**THE FIRST- EVER made-in-Wales Agriculture Bill moves to its final stage of Senedd scrutiny today (Tuesday, 27 June)**

Should the vote on the historic Bill be passed by Senedd Members later this evening, it will then seek Royal Assent, and if received, it will become law in Wales.

The Wales Agriculture Bill paves the way for ambitious and transformational legislation to support farmers to produce food and other goods in a sustainable manner, to tackle the climate and nature emergencies, and to conserve and enhance the Welsh countryside, culture and language.

The latest report from the Climate Change Committee highlighted the important contribution farming and agriculture can make to tackle the climate and nature emergencies, and the Agriculture Bill will be a key mechanism to achieve this.

The Bill includes a Programme for Government commitment for a ban on the use of snares, and glue traps, meaning Wales will be the first country in the UK to introduce a complete ban. It also amends the Forestry Act 1967 to better protect wildlife and the environment during felling operations, recognising the value of our woodlands as a natural resource as well as a habitat.

Sustainable Land Management (SLM) is at the very heart of the Bill and establishes a policy and legislative framework with the aim of ensuring farmers can continue to produce high quality produce and agricultural goods for generations to come alongside taking action to respond to the climate and nature emergencies.

The proposed Sustainable Farming Scheme will be the main source of future Government support for farmers in Wales. The Bill provides Welsh Ministers



with the powers necessary to provide future support whilst also ensuring continued support for farmers during a transition period, reflecting the Cooperation Agreement commitment with Plaid Cymru.

The SLM objectives are being used to underpin the design of the proposed SFS actions we will ask farmers to undertake in future.

Through consultation and codesign with farmers, we have explored how to integrate the proposed actions as part of resilient farm businesses. For example how to improve the health and efficiency of livestock which reduces carbon emissions through reduced medication, and how to incorporate additional tree planting onto farms across Wales so the trees become an

asset to the farm. Both examples demonstrate the ability of proposed actions to provide financial and environmental benefits for the farmers.

The Bill will also provide agricultural tenants with protection to ensure they are not unfairly restricted from accessing financial support.

Rural Affairs Minister, Lesley Griffiths said: "The Welsh Agriculture

Bill provides us with an opportunity to develop a first-ever made-in-Wales system of support and legislation which works for Welsh farmers, the agriculture sector, our land, and Wales as a whole.

"Our farmers continue to deal with different challenges and this Bill will provide an important framework on which future support for agriculture can be delivered, and outlines how we can keep farmers on the land to produce food sustainably whilst tackling the climate emergency.

"By working together, we can make a real difference to the future of our farmers and rural communities, by taking significant steps to tackle the climate and nature emergencies.

"If passed, it would also see Wales become the first nation in the UK to introduce a complete ban on the use of snares and glue traps which are inhumane, causing a great deal of suffering and even kill species."

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# Local MS leads on Food and Farming Week



**C A R M A R T H E N WEST and South Pembrokeshire MS Samuel Kurtz led the Senedd celebrations as Welsh politicians recognised Wales's food and farmers.**

Sponsored by NFU Cymru, the Welsh Food and Farming Week reception hosted by Mr Kurtz saw Welsh politicians, farmers and stakeholders meet to recognise world-renowned

produce, climate-friendly production, and the millions of pounds the agricultural industry contributes to Wales's economy every year.

It is the farmers themselves who protect the land, implement sophisticated breeding built on generations of experience, and celebrate animal welfare standards year-on-year.

The event also marked

the launch of the NFU Cymru's Next Generation group's report into key asks for young farmers and new entrants, titled "Framing the future for the next generation".

Sam Kurtz said: "Farming is the silver thread running through the fabric of Wales's national identity. Welsh agriculture is not only a vital part of our economy but also part of our rich culture and

protects our language and environmental beauty.

"I was proud to welcome farmers to the Senedd to mark this occasion and to help launch the new report on what our young farmers and new entrants need from the Welsh Government.

"As a former Young Farmer myself, I'll always stand up for the industry and advocate for the good that it does."

# 'Emperor' Welsh Lamb is a top table staple

**A FEAST that's fit for a King AND a President—that's PGI Welsh Lamb, the Emperor of premium meat.**

On June 22, around 700 top dignitaries enjoyed 50 kilos of prime rack of Welsh Lamb when the birthday of King Charles III was celebrated at the British Embassy in Tokyo.

The prestigious events follow on from Welsh Lamb's starring role at a sumptuous dinner for 24 exclusive guests at the Italian Embassy in London, held in honour of Italian President Sergio Mattarella, who was visiting King Charles III for the Coronation.

Top TV Chef and Hybu Cig Cymru-Meat Promotion Wales' (HCC)

Welsh "Lambassador", Francesco Mazzei, who has appeared regularly on the likes of James Martin Saturday Kitchen, MasterChef, Hell's Kitchen Italy, SnackMasters, and more recently on CNN with Stanley Tucci, cooked the meal for the Italian President- and received high praise.

"Welsh Lamb is the global go-to for exceptional meals for exceptional people and exceptional events," said Laura Pickup, HCC's Head of Strategic Marketing and Connections. "Japan and Italy are very different marketplaces but both remain very important to our future plans and it's wonderful to see the most discerning international diners seeking out our



**AS THE Agriculture (Wales) Bill is coming to the end of its scrutiny stages and will shortly receive Royal Assent, we wanted to remind the agricultural community that we have been lobbying hard on their behalf to ensure that this bill delivers as much as possible for our family farms.**

The FFW publicly expressed its disappointment at some of the missed opportunities in the Bill, as it progressed through its penultimate scrutiny stage back in May. Representatives of the Union were in the gallery to watch Senedd Members debate amendments tabled on economic viability, support for new entrants and energy efficiency and we were disappointed that these industry supported amendments were rejected by the politicians.

The landmark legislation will provide the framework for future agriculture support in Wales and is the first time Wales will have legislated for the sector in this way. The FFW has maintained since the introduction of the bill that the absence of economic viability of agricultural businesses and family farms from the Sustainable Land Management objectives is a significant concern and it remains as such.

We of course thank all those members of the Senedd who have worked with us on the Bill and whose support for our industry we appreciate. There are certainly positive changes in this Bill and our policy team has been working hard to ensure that agricultural businesses get recognised for their contribution to the local economy.

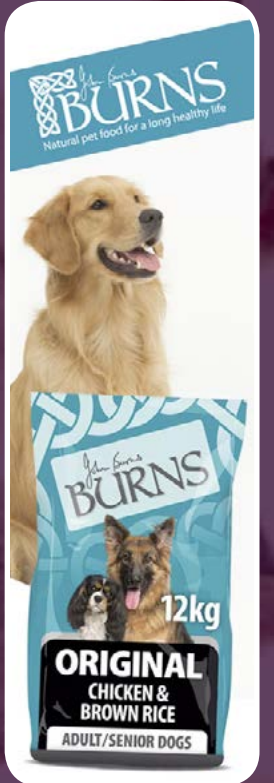
So there are some welcome developments

in the amendments that were accepted but they should have gone further. We have been consistent in our calls for the inclusion of an economic objective because without viable farm businesses, we will not see the wider environmental, social and cultural gains that we all want to achieve.

The Senedd also voted to include a multi-annual support plan which would provide information about how Welsh Ministers intend to provide future financial support to the sector. This has been a key demand of the FFW and is a provision which exists within the UK Agriculture Act. The inclusion of this amendment places farmers in Wales on an equal footing to those in England and gives some clarity to farmers when planning for the future.

We remain disappointed that amendments tabled to explicitly include support for new and young entrants were unsuccessful. In order to have a sustainable, thriving industry we must open doors to new entrants. There was an opportunity, if some amendments had been supported, to ensure that there is support available to those new entrants who all too often struggle to get their foot on the ladder. Since this opportunity has been missed, it is more important than ever that the Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) is accessible to all farmers, including young farmers and new entrants.

Farmers can rest assured that we will do all we can to positively shape the SFS so that we have a Bill and funding mechanism that ultimately contributes to our goal of securing thriving, sustainable, family farms here in Wales.



# PETS CORNER

## Distracted dog owners place sheep in Wales at risk

- Almost half of dog owners believe their pet won't harm livestock despite nearly two thirds saying their dog chases other animals
- Nearly four in ten dog owners admit their pet doesn't always come back when called
- Pregnant ewes and newborn lambs are under risk this spring from out-of-control dogs
- NFU Mutual estimates farm animals worth almost £440,000 were severely injured or killed by dog in Wales last year.

Wales at risk of horrific and fatal injuries, new research from NFU Mutual reveals.

NFU Mutual's latest survey\* of over 1,100 dog owners released today (Tuesday 7 February) found that despite 64% of owners admitting their dogs chase animals, almost half (46%) believe their dog was not capable of injuring or killing livestock.

Many dog owners are unaware that even if their pet doesn't make contact with a sheep, the distress and exhaustion caused by being chased can trigger a pregnant ewe to die or miscarry. Young lambs can also become separated from their mothers.

Nearly two thirds of owners (64%) say they let their dog roam off-lead in the countryside. However,

almost four in ten (39%) admit that their pets do not always come back when called.

The harsh reality of some dog owners' failure to control their pets is evident in the latest figures based on claims data from NFU Mutual.

The rural insurer estimates farm animals worth £438,536 were severely injured or killed by dogs in Wales in 2022, a rise of 15.5% in cost compared to 2021.

Across the UK, dog attacks on farm animals cost an estimated £1.8m last year.

Owen Suckley, NFU Mutual Wales Manager, said: "It's clear that a significant number of dog owners are blinded by their love for their pets and believe that they



would never chase, attack or kill livestock.

"We've heard reports from farmers that dog walkers are becoming more distracted, often on their mobile phones with their pets out of sight and are seemingly unaware of the carnage their dog could cause.

"The Covid-19 pandemic saw a boom in dog ownership as many people purchased puppies for the first time, yet these may not have been trained properly or be familiar with farm animals.

"It is concerning that these now fully-grown dogs will be visiting farmland as we get into spring at a time when pregnant ewes and newborn lambs are vulnerable.

"Farmers near cities, towns and tourist areas are also living in fear of repeat attacks, which cause horrific suffering to sheep and can also traumatise families as they deal with the aftermath.

"That is why we are calling for dog owners to be responsible and accept their pets, however friendly, are capable of chasing and attacking farm animals and should be kept on a lead when walked anywhere near livestock."

Rob Taylor, Wales Rural and Wildlife Police Crime Coordinator and NPCC Livestock lead, added: "Irresponsible dog ownership is the simple fact why these attacks continue to occur across the UK on a daily basis, whether it's leaving your pet alone and insecure at home or in a garden or not using a lead when near livestock.

"The results are barbaric, whether the attacked animal dies horrifically at the scene,

later from stress or aborts its unborn lamb.

"Over the past years we have witnessed many new dedicated police rural crime teams being established across the UK, who receive full training and understand the issues associated with an attack, however we cannot stop there and as well as raising awareness of the problem we are seeking a new law, which is currently passing through Parliament.

"This will provide police with better powers of investigation and also provide the courts with the power to put in place dog ownership bans for those who don't listen and allow their dog to conduct such preventable attacks in our countryside."

With many dog owners planning to visit the countryside as the weather improves and at a time when sheep are at their most vulnerable, NFU Mutual is calling for them to:

- **Keep dogs on a lead when walking in rural areas where livestock are kept but let go of the lead if chased by cattle**
- **Be aware that even small dogs can cause the distress, injury and death of farm animals**
- **Report attacks by dogs to the police or local farmers**
- **Never let dogs loose unsupervised in gardens near livestock fields – many attacks are caused by dogs which escape and attack sheep grazing nearby**



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# New scheme helps students achieve their potential

**YOUNG people at risk of leaving education will be provided with meaningful work experience as part of efforts to ensure they reconnect with their education.**

Wales's Minister for Education, Jeremy Miles, made the announcement last week.

Following a successful pilot, the half-a-million-pound scheme will support up to 500 learners aged 14-16 in years 10 and 11 in 2023/24. They will benefit from high-quality work experience placements in a sector that appeals to them as part of wider Welsh Government attempts to prevent and reduce youth unemployment.

Careers Wales advisers will work with schools and employers across Wales to match up to 500 year-10 and year-11 learners with a placement.

Learners will be expected to engage or reengage with core GCSE studies at their school as part of the scheme whilst attending their work experience placement one to two days a week.

As part of the pilot scheme where 100 year-10 learners were offered a



work experience placement, Louie, now a year 11 learner at Newport High School, was placed at Brooklyn Motors, a local garage in Newport.

Louie was not attending school in year 10, but as a result of his work experience placement and the mentorship of David Cocks, the owner of the garage, he has returned to school and is catching up with his school work.

Louie said: "The placement has helped my confidence grow, and I would

recommend all students to do work experience.

"If I had not done the work experience, I would not have done my GCSEs; I have done more this year to catch up because of my work experience.

"I did not go to school last year, but now since I started work experience, and because I know David says it's important, I don't miss school."

Louie has since been offered an apprenticeship to learn about light

vehicle mechanics and maintenance, which has greatly impacted his confidence and motivation.

Minister for Education and Welsh Language, Jeremy Miles, said: "Giving a real-life insight into the world of work through work experience is known to boost the career prospects of young people.

"I am determined to ensure young people have the aspiration, self-confidence and opportunities they need to

get on in life.

"That's why I'm announcing over £500,000 for Careers Wales to build on this successful scheme to help the young people who will benefit the most from work experience."

Economy Minister Vaughan Gething said: "The Welsh Government is determined to do everything we can to inspire children and young people to achieve their potential so they play their full part in our economy and society.

"This new scheme, which will provide year 11 learners with access to meaningful work experience in a sector they want to work in, will be crucial to ensuring they're supported and inspired to do just that."

The scheme will give learners access to new opportunities and a network of contacts outside of their school and immediate family to help them develop and progress their career ambitions, highlighting some of the different careers and career pathways available.

They will have a chance to develop knowledge, gain practical skills and improve confidence to help secure future employment.

# Tenby's Greenhill School hailed 'a place to be proud of'

**A PEMBROKESHIRE school, which once faced the bleak possibility of potential closure, is now a school to be proud of, county councillors heard.**

Tenby's Ysgol Greenhill School was taken out of special measures last year following an inspection by Estyn.

The 879-pupil school was placed under the most serious statutory category by the education inspection body in December 2019 after it was stated that teaching was 'not sufficiently effective'.

Under the leadership of headteacher David Haynes, who was appointed in September 2021, a positive report resulted from Estyn – Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales.

Following that, a Pembrokeshire County Council Schools Scrutiny Panel visit to the school was made in May, members of the council's Schools and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee heard.

A report for members stated: "It was clear that the deputy headteacher, learners and teaching staff had remained committed to the school despite the dark times which had been experienced.

"It was reassuring to see

**Bruce Sinclair**  
*Local Democracy Reporter*

that the perception of the school was improving with clear teaching and learning aspirations being supported by sound plans and learners expressing that they now felt content and safe within the school.

"The panel appreciated the candour of current areas of concern raised by both the learners and the leadership team and whilst noting the ongoing severe funding pressures, expressed that they would do all within their power to support, where appropriate, plans for remedial works to be undertaken, in line with the authority's capital programme.

"The panel was reassured to learn that the Governing Body and Director of Education had displayed strong support but also critical challenge throughout the improvement journey and panel members expressed genuine respect for the difficult conversations held with the school, particularly in September 2021, when closure of the school was needing to be seriously considered.

"The panel was confident that the components put



in place would ensure continuous improvement for the school, particularly in relation to the support partnership with [Swansea-based] Bishop Gore School and the self-evaluation methods which had been embedded.

"Recognition of personal and professional development was expressed by the panel, and it was felt that progression of teaching staff into leadership roles was vital for the robustness of education within the county."

In its recommendations, the report stated: "The panel noted that a plethora of resources were not poured into the school and that the stripped back arrangements appeared to be successful in terms of school improvement.

"This required an honest assessment within the school

of the extent of the challenges which lay ahead. The panel felt that this model of support should be considered for schools improvement at other schools."

Former pupil Cllr Alistair Cameron said: "Greenhill has a growing reputation in the area; to be blunt it wasn't fantastic a few years ago, we can all learn lessons for the future.

"The answer to this is not putting in lots of resources from outside but about the staff and students working together."

Cllr Sam Skyrme-Blackhall, also a member of the school governors, said: "It's been a bumpy few years, with Covid put into the mix as well; prior to Covid there was very much a cloud over it. The feeling was: 'What on earth is going on at Greenhill?'"

She said there was a different environment now: "When you walk in the school there's a real sense of happiness now, you wanted to show us how good the school is again."

Former head prefect Amelia Faletau said: "The improvements have just been absolutely immense during my time in Greenhill; we don't have the best building in the world, but we do our best.

"The ethos has improved so much; I hope that what we've achieved continues and prospers in coming years. This school is something that everyone should take pride in, I'm very proud of Greenhill, especially what it is now."

members agreed to support the report recommendations.



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# MINI Concept Aceman makes UK debut



Following its global reveal last year, the MINI Concept Aceman will make its UK debut at Goodwood Festival of Speed 2023. Taking centre stage inside the MINI display, the Concept Aceman is an initial glimpse of a vehicle bridging the space between the MINI Cooper and the MINI Countryman in the model family's future.

Showcasing MINI's

reduced future design language - which is completely free of chrome and leather - the concept offers a responsible material design with surfaces constructed from knitted recycled textiles. This combined seamlessly with digital controls and a new circular OLED display as the central interface, creates an immersive digital experience with a strong focus on a minimal environmental

footprint.

Following its podium finish at the Nürburgring 24-hour race in May, the MINI John Cooper Works 1to6 Edition will also make its first appearance in the UK. Set to take on Goodwood's infamous hill climb twice daily (Friday through Sunday), the six-speed manual transmission tribute will be driven by Charlie Cooper - grandson of the legendary John Cooper.

Guests will also find the 1to6 Edition in the First Glance Paddock across the festival.

Heading over to Electric Avenue, attendees can witness open air, all-electric driving with the first MINI Electric Convertible on display. Strictly limited to just 150 units for the UK and with a WLTP range of 125 miles, the trailblazer represents an important step in MINI's direction towards becoming an all-electric brand.

Offering guests an interactive experience with exciting giveaways, the MINI display will also feature a large circular screen - inspired by the concept car's revolutionary circular OLED - hosted by the brand's new canine virtual assistant, Spike.

The 2023 Goodwood Festival of Speeds takes place on 13th July - 16th July.

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**£8,795**



**AUDI A4-2015**

2.0 TDI ULTRA SE TECHNIK 4d 161 BHP \*\* DIESEL.....6 SPEED.....ONE PREVIOUS OWNER.....LOW MILEAGE YES ONLY 81,323 MILES.....£20 ROAD TAX.....67 MPG.....ULTRA SE TECHNIK EDITION.....

**£9,495**



**FORD FIESTA-2010**

1.2 ZETEC 5d 81 BHP \*\* PETROL.....5 SPEED.....LOW INSURANCE GROUP 6.....49 MPG.....ZETEC EDITION.....AIRCON.....ELECTRIC WINDOWS.....

**£4,495**



**HYUNDAI TUCSON-2017**

2.0 CRDI PREMIUM SE 5d 182 BHP \*\* DIESEL.....6 SPEED.....4 WHEEL DRIVE.....1 PREVIOUS OWNER.....SERVICE HISTORY 4 STAMPS.....2 KEYS.....47 MPG.....PREMIUM SE EDITION.....HUGE SPEC.....

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**TOYOTA AYGO-2015**

1.0 VVT-I X-CLUSIV 5d 69 BHP \*\* PETROL.....5 SPEED.....YES ONLY COVERED 36,629 MILES FROM NEW.....FULL SERVICE HISTORY 8 STAMPS.....2 KEYS.....£0 ROAD TAX.....LOW INSURANCE GROUP

**£8,395**



**BMW 1 SERIES-2012**

2.0 118D EXCLUSIVE EDITION 2d 141 BHP \*\* DIESEL.....COUPE.....6 SPEED.....YES ONLY COVERED 81,755 MILES.....£35 ROAD TAX.....62 MPG.....EXCLUSIVE EDITION.....FULL WHITE LEATHER.

**£7,595**



**VOLKSWAGEN UP-2013**

1.0 ROCK UP 3d 74 BHP \*\* PETROL.....5 SPEED.....YES ONLY COVERED 42,131 MILES FROM NEW.....FULL SERVICE HISTORY 5 STAMPS.....2 KEYS.....£20 ROAD TAX.....60 MPG.....

**£7,495**



**SMART FORTWO COUPE-2010**

PASSION MHD \*\* PETROL.....AUTOMATIC.....YES ONLY 59,859 MILES.....SERVICE HISTORY 8 STAMPS.....£20 ROAD TAX.....74 MPG.....PASSION EDITION.....AIRCON.....

**£4,995**



**NISSAN QASHQAI-2014**

1.5 DCI ASENTA PREMIUM 5d 108 BHP \*\* DIESEL.....6 SPEED.....£ZERO ROAD TAX.....SERVICE HISTORY.....2 KEYS.....PARKING SENSORS FRONT AND REAR.....DUAL ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL.....

**£9,495**



**MERCEDES-BENZ A-CLASS-2015**

1.5 A180 CDI BLUEEFFICIENCY SE 5d 109 BHP \*\* DIESEL.....6 SPEED.....£0 ROAD TAX.....74 MPG.....2 KEYS.....SE EDITION.....HALF LEATHER SPORTS SEATS.....MEDIA SCREEN.....

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**VOLKSWAGEN POLO-2013**

1.2 MATCH EDITION 5d 59 BHP \*\* PETROL.....5 SPEED.....2 PREVIOUS OWNERS.....YES ONLY 77,225 MILES.....SERVICE HISTORY 5 STAMPS.....2 KEYS.....£150 ROAD TAX.....

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**MERCEDES-BENZ E-CLASS-2013**

2.1 E250 CDI SE 5d 202 BHP \*\* ESTATE.....DIESEL.....7 SPEED AUTOMATIC.....ONE PREVIOUS OWNER.....SERVICE HISTORY.....2 KEYS.....SE EDITION.....FULL CREAM QUILTED LEATHER.....

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**SEAT LEON-2013**

2.0 TDI SE TECHNOLOGY 3d 150 BHP \*\* DIESEL.....6 SPEED.....ONE PREVIOUS OWNER.....FULL SERVICE HISTORY.....£20 ROAD TAX.....68 MPG.....SE EDITION.....SATNAV.....BLUETOOTH.....

**£7,295**



**MERCEDES-BENZ C-CLASS-2015**

2.1 C220 BLUETEC SE 4d 170 BHP \*\* DIESEL.....6 SPEED.....1 PREVIOUS OWNER.....£20 ROAD TAX.....70 MPG.....2 KEYS.....blueTEC SE EDITION.....FULL BLACK LEATHER.....MEDIA SCREEN.....BLUETOOTH.....

**£9,995**



**NISSAN JUKE-2011**

1.6 TEKNA DIG-T 5d 190 BHP \*\* DIESEL.....6 SPEED.....YES ONLY 82,392 MILES.....2 KEYS.....TEKNA EDITION.....FULL BLACK LEATHER.....HEATED SEATS.....SATNAV.....

**£5,495**



**MERCEDES BENZ C-CLASS 2014**

2.1 C220 CDI AMG SPORT EDITION 2d 168 BHP \*\* DIESEL.....COUPE.....AUTOMATIC 7 SPEED.....YES ONLY 83,149 MILES.....£180 ROAD TAX.....53 MPG.....AMG SPORT EDITION.....HALF LEATHER

**£9,495**



**VAUXHALL INSIGNIA-2009**

2.0 SRI NAV CDTI 5d 130 BHP \*\* DIESEL.....6 SPEED.....YES ONLY 99,673 MILES.....48 MPG.....SRI EDITION.....SATNAV.....AIRCON.....CRUISE CONTROL.....CLIMATE CONTROL.....

**£3,495**



**NISSAN JUKE-2012**

1.6 TEKNA 5d 117 BHP \*\* PETROL.....5 SPEED.....86,240 MILES.....2 KEYS.....47 MPG.....TEKNA EDITION.....FULL BLACK LEATHER.....HEATED SEATS.....SATNAV.....CRUISE CONTROL.....AIRCON.....REVERSING CAMERA.....

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**RENAULT TWINGO-2011**

1.1 BIZU 3d 75 BHP \*\* PETROL.....5 SPEED.....YES ONLY COVERED 34,161 MILES.....2 KEYS.....£30 ROAD TAX.....LOW INSURANCE GROUP 9.....55 MPG.....BIZU EDITION.....BLUETOOTH.....CENTRAL LOCKING.....ELECTRIC WINDOWS.....

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# Enhanced offers make the Mazda MX-30 better value than ever

**THE UNIQUE Mazda MX-30 battery electric compact SUV is a stylish, versatile and driver-focused EV that features an AC synchronous electric motor and a 35.5kWh lithium-ion battery that delivers a range of 124 miles+ and comes with AC charging up to 6.6kW and DC rapid charging designed to meet 125A Combo Charging standards.**

Since its launch in 2021, production constraints have limited the number of MX-30s available in the UK marketplace, but with an anticipated increase in production, Mazda UK has introduced a range of consumer offers that make the MX-30 better value in the retail sector. For cars ordered by end of September the Mazda MX-30 BEV is available with up to 4 years 0% APR on Mazda Personal Contract Purchase (PCP), with no minimum deposit and registration by 31st March 2024. Customers also benefit from 3 years free servicing. As before, all retail customers ordering an MX-30 can benefit from a half-price PodPoint home charger, meaning that the

flexibility of home charging comes for just £499~.

Commenting on the enhanced consumer offers on the Mazda MX-30 BEV, Jeremy Thomson, Managing Director Mazda Motors UK, said: "thanks to its compact battery, the Mazda MX-30 offers a tempting blend of an affordable price tag and engaging handling, which combined with its distinctive styling, innovative technology and class-leading interior quality, has meant very strong demand for Mazda's first BEV. And now with our production constraints easing through the remainder of this year, we're able to offer a fantastic consumer offer to retail customers as we ramp up MX-30 sales in the UK".

Adding, "the combination of zero per cent finance and free servicing means customers can benefit from a low monthly price and completely affordable running costs while owning an EV that has been developed with Mazda's unique focus on driver engagement and stand-out design."

Featuring three generously equipped model grades – Prime-Line,



Exclusive-Line and Makoto, standard equipment on all UK MX-30s includes LED headlights with daytime running lights, reversing camera, Mazda Radar Cruise Control with Intelligent Speed Assist, navigation and head-up display. Each MX-30 comes as standard with a Type 2 AC charging cable and a socket for DC rapid charging, which allows

for charging from 20 to 80 per cent battery in just 36 minutes ++.

The Mazda MX-30 range starts with the Mazda MX-30 Prime-Line, which is marked out by 18-inch Silver alloy wheels, black door mirrors and a black grille, it's exclusively offered in a single tone paint design with a choice of five colours: standard Arctic White, or

Polymetal Grey, Ceramic White and Jet Black, plus Machine Grey.

The MX-30 Exclusive-Line promises to be a popular model in the range, it features 18-inch Bright alloy wheels and sees an increase in standard equipment with the addition of power seats, lumbar support adjustment and smart keyless entry. There's the option to

choose a three-tone design – Mazda's latest exterior colour, Zircon Sand or Soul Red Crystal can be matched to a Brilliant Black roof and Black side panels, while customer's opting for Jet Black can expect a Brilliant Black roof with Silver side panels. In addition, Ceramic White can be matched to a Brilliant Black roof with Dark Grey side panels.


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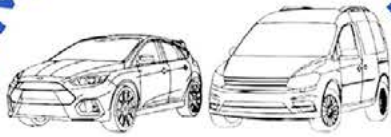
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YEAR 2008  
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2012 FORD B-MAX 1.6 TITANIUM TDCI 5d 96 BHP  
YEAR 2012  
MILAGE 92000Miles  
FUEL TYPE Diesel  
ENGINE SIZE 1.6L  
TRANSMISSION Manual



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2011 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 EXCITE AC 5d 83 BHP  
YEAR 2011  
MILAGE 69000 Miles  
FUEL TYPE Petrol  
ENGINE SIZE 1.2L  
TRANSMISSION Semi-Auto



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2014 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC TDCI 5d 113 BHP  
YEAR 2014  
MILAGE 84000Miles  
FUEL TYPE Diesel  
ENGINE SIZE 1.6L  
TRANSMISSION Manual



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2014 FORD FIESTA 1.6 ZETEC ECONETIC TDCI 5D  
YEAR 2014  
MILAGE 68000 Miles  
FUEL TYPE Diesel  
ENGINE SIZE 1.6L  
TRANSMISSION Manual



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2014 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 2.0 GTD 5d 181 BHP  
YEAR 2014  
MILAGE 86000Miles  
FUEL TYPE Diesel  
ENGINE SIZE 2L  
TRANSMISSION Manual



£7,995

SKODA YETI 1.6 SE GREEN LINE II TDI CR 5d 103 BHP  
YEAR 2014  
MILAGE 83000Miles  
FUEL TYPE Diesel  
ENGINE SIZE 1.6L  
TRANSMISSION Manual



£3,995

2009 CITROEN BERLINGO 1.6 MULTISPACE XTR HDI 5D 90 BHP  
YEAR 2009  
MILAGE 85000Miles  
FUEL TYPE Diesel  
ENGINE SIZE 1.6L  
TRANSMISSION Manual



£4,495

2013 VAUXHALL ANTARA 2.2 EXCLUSIV CDTI S/5 5D 161 BHP  
YEAR 2013  
MILAGE 92000 Miles  
FUEL TYPE Diesel  
ENGINE SIZE 2.20L  
TRANSMISSION Manual



£3,495

2010 CITROEN C1 1.0 VTR PLUS 5d 68 BHP  
YEAR 2010  
MILAGE 75000Miles  
FUEL TYPE Petrol  
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# HEALTH

## Bingo evening raises £1,300 for Withybush

**JOANNE SCOTT and her mother, Raydene, organised a bingo evening and raised a fantastic £1,300 for Ward 10 at Withybush Hospital.**

The bingo evening, which was held in the Black Rabbit Club in Pembroke, was organised as a thank-you for the fantastic support and treatment provided by the ward to Joanne's sister, Lisa.

Joanne said: "The bingo night went really well. Eighty people attended. We even had to turn people away! Local shops, businesses, family and friends donated sixty prizes.

"I want to say a huge thank you to Shelley, Mike, all the local shops, businesses and our family and friends for supporting the event. I also want to say a special thanks to my Mum, Dad, Lisa and Sarah for helping on the night.

"We chose causes that are close to our hearts and wanted to do something to help others in our position. Thank you to everyone that helped us raise this fantastic amount."

Lynette Herritty, Senior Sister, said: "From all of the staff on Ward 10 a big thank you to Joanne, Raydene and everyone who supported the



bingo night.

"Thanks for all your time and effort to help raise an incredible amount for the ward. It will make such a

difference to our patients and their families."

Nicola Llewelyn, Head of Hywel Dda Health Charities, the official charity of Hywel

Dda University Health Board, said: "The support of our local communities enables us to provide services over and above

what the NHS can provide in the three counties of Hywel Dda and we are extremely grateful for every donation we receive."

## Tenby Round Table donates £1,250 to Special Care Baby Unit

**TENBY ROUND Table has donated £1,250 to the Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) at Glangwili Hospital.**

When the son of Edward Spence, the former Chairman of Tenby Round Table, was born last April, he spent several hours in SCBU.

He received exceptional care and support from the service, which is why the group wanted to donate to the unit.

Edward said: "Tenby Round Table is a group of volunteers who carry out fundraising throughout the year to support a variety of local and national causes and charities.

"We are delighted to be able to support the Special Care Baby Unit and its fantastic staff with some of the proceeds of our Summer Spectaculars which we hold every summer in Tenby Harbour."

Bethan Odmundson, Senior Nurse, said: "We are very grateful to Tenby Round Table for their kind donation. The SCBU team are currently working on a number of projects that our



charitable donations will be funding.

"The kind donation from Tenby Round Table will be used to purchase a number of items which will enhance the experience of families, for example, care packs; items to meet the varied needs of families during their time on the unit and to make their stay as comfortable as

possible; a new parents and family room, and soft toys.

"The team regularly purchases a range of matching soft toys that are offered to families when there is a period of separation and a parent is unable to be with their baby for health reasons. One toy is kept by the parents and the matching one is kept

with the baby, providing comfort to the families."

Nicola Llewelyn, Head of Hywel Dda Health Charities, the official charity of Hywel Dda University Health Board, said: "We want to say a huge thank you to Edward and Tenby Round Table for their fantastic donation.

"The support of our local communities enables

us to provide services over and above what the NHS can provide and we are extremely grateful for every donation we receive."

For more details about the charity and how you can help support local NHS patients and staff, go to [www.hywelddahealthcharities.org.uk](http://www.hywelddahealthcharities.org.uk)

# Drop-in COVID-19 vaccination sessions announced by Hywel Dda UHB

**HYWEL DDA University Health Board (UHB) is holding drop-in COVID-19 spring booster vaccination sessions for eligible children aged 12 and over and adults.**

People aged 75 years and over, residents in care homes for older people and those aged 5 years and over with a weakened immune system are eligible for a spring booster.

Bethan Lewis, Interim Assistant Director of Public Health said, "COVID-19 continues to be more serious in older people and those with certain health conditions.

"It is important to have your booster because, like some other vaccines, levels of protection may begin to reduce over time. The booster will help protect you for longer and will also help to reduce the risk of you needing to go to hospital due to COVID-19 infection.

"Nobody will be left behind and anyone who is eligible and wants to take up the offer of a booster can still do so."

There is no need to contact the health board if you wish to attend a drop-in session, simply turn up



to one of the centres listed below.

If you are unable to attend a drop-in session and still wish to receive your COVID-19 spring booster, or have any questions,

please call Hywel Dda University Health Board's Communication Hub on 0300 303 8322 or email [ask.hdd@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:ask.hdd@wales.nhs.uk).

COVID-19 spring booster drop-in session

opening times:

Neyland vaccination centre, Unit 1 Honeyborough Retail Park, Neyland, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1SE – drop-in opening times 9.20am to 5.20pm

- **Wednesday 28 to Friday 30 June**
- **Monday 3 to Friday 7 July**
- **Monday 10 July**
- **Tuesday 11 July**

- **Friday 14 July**

Llanelli, Unit 2a, Dafen Industrial Estate, Heol Cropin, SA14 8QW – drop-in opening times 9.20am to 5.20pm

- **Tuesday 27 June**
- **Wednesday 28 June**
- **Monday 3 to Friday 7 July**
- **Monday 10 July**
- **Tuesday 11 July**

Cwm Cou, Ysgol Trewen, Cwm-Cou, Newcastle Emlyn SA38 9PE – drop-in opening times 9.20am to 5.20pm

- **Tuesday 27 to Friday 30 June**
- **Monday 3 to Friday 7 July**
- **Monday 10 July**
- **Tuesday 11 July**
- **Friday 14 July**

**Carmarthen**, Carmarthen Athletic club, Cambrian Park, Cillefwr Industrial Estate, Carmarthen SA31 3QY – drop-in opening times 9.45am to 5pm

- **Thursday 29 June**
- **Friday 30 June**

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## Successful week showcases Wales' growing wine industry



**THE WELSH wine industry has been handed a boost and developed stronger links with UK hospitality and retail audiences, as well as increased consumer awareness following Welsh Wine Week.**

During the celebration (2-11 June 2023) several events, guided tours and promotions were held to give wine lovers the chance to discover Wales' picturesque vineyards and sample the wide range of award-winning wines available.

A trade event featuring six Welsh vineyards took place in Cardiff on 6 June giving attendees from wine merchants, small independent businesses, chefs, and wider industry influencers the opportunity to sample the very best of Welsh wine, from the most renowned vineyards, and learn more from the passionate and knowledgeable vineyards themselves.

Attending the trade event in Cardiff was Woody Lennard of Montgomery Vineyard who saw the event as a fantastic opportunity to showcase his brand and the wider industry.

"Welsh Wine Week is a big celebration of the quality of wines and vineyards we have here in Wales. To have a number of great vineyards together in one place to showcase and offer tastings of our wines to people from all over the country, including influencers and specialists who've been in the industry for years is fantastic. Events such as this is all about growing the awareness of our brand, the Welsh wine industry as a whole

and the provenance of our vineyards."

Other events during the week included a number of tasting sessions at Velfrey Vineyard, Narberth; White Castle Vineyard, Abergavenny; Hebron Vineyard in Whitland and Gwinllan y Dyffryn Vineyard in Denbigh. Meanwhile one of Wales' newest vineyards, The Dell, in Monmouthshire opened its doors for the first time and welcomed people for a tour of their Vineyard planted in May 2022 and to show them how it has developed.

Commenting on the importance of the Welsh wine industry, Fiona Mounsey of Velfrey Vineyard, said: "The Welsh wine industry is a very young one, but it's growing and the quality is so good. The attention to detail and the hard work that we all put into our vineyards reflects in the wine we

produce.

The healthier the vines and grapes are, the better the quality of the wine.

"Wales has some fantastic vineyards, producing a great range of wines that are helping to complement the tourism offer for visitors coming to Wales. It's a rewarding time to be working in the industry that is proving itself on the world stage."

Robb Merchant, owner of White Castle Vineyard, added: "The Welsh wine industry has been growing over the past 10 years, with now close to 40 vineyards. It is becoming an integral part of the Welsh economy.

"We have a growing industry. It is labour intensive as we see established vineyards growing and new larger plantings being planned, so that creates job opportunities. There is also the tourism aspect, those vineyards that are open to

visitors are creating some great opportunities for tourists to visit and tour, learn about the growing process and then taste and learn about the wines they produce. Many are now becoming a primary destination for visitors. There is a real demand for Welsh wine across the UK."

Designed to give audiences in Wales and beyond the opportunity to discover the country's burgeoning number of vineyards and reveal its range of award-winning wines, Welsh Wine Week aims to boost the sales of Welsh wines, tasting and learning more about the number of varieties available and the climate in which they develop and grow.

The celebration was organised by the Welsh Drinks Cluster, delivered by category consultants Levercliff and funded by

the Welsh Government. The Cluster works in partnership with drinks producers and vineyards to promote the industry and its production of world-class products.

Welsh Government Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd, Lesley Griffiths, said: "Welsh Wine Week is important in celebrating our vineyards which are in a growing and prosperous industry.

"Welsh wine businesses continue to thrive and there is real potential to build on what has already been achieved. The sector is becoming an increasingly important part of both the food and drink and visitor economy."

With almost 40 vineyards now operating across the country, Wales' credibility as an innovative producer of high-quality wine has blossomed thanks to its pioneering vineyard owners, the fantastic fruit that is grown as well as Wales' distinctive landscape and microclimate. There are over 20 different grape varieties grown, producing exceptional red, white, rosé and sparkling wines.

Recently, a first-of-its-kind strategy was launched by the Welsh Government's Drinks Cluster, to set the clear direction for the Welsh wine industry for the next twelve years and increase the sector's current value by 10-fold to reach £100 million by 2035. The industry-led strategy is designed to ensure Wales builds on its emerging reputation as an experimental producer of varying wines, following some impressive successes in recent



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# BUSINESS

years that have been rewarded with a number of international awards.

The new strategy highlights Wales' achievements over the past year, including Welsh wine sales which, alongside English wine, increased by 31.3% to 9.3 million bottles in 2021.

It also outlines five strategic priorities including unlocking the potential of Welsh Wine tourism, developing a high-quality online presence, the creation of a Welsh wine identity/brand, investing in skills development and developing an aligned organisational structure. By exploring these five key pillars further, Welsh wine experts predict from past success that wine sales and revenue from cellar door activities, including wine tasting events, vineyard tours and overnight experiences will bring in a revenue of £14.4 million by 2035.

Key to the strategy is the industry's determination to embed an ethos of fair work and sustainability at its core. A good example of this is Gwinllan Conwy Vineyard, who earlier this



year introduced the use of sheep fleece between its vines after they were found to cut the need for chemicals and improved fruit quality.

Following a successful trial, the vineyard lays down thousands of fleeces under its vine rows to improve the soil, deter weeds, and reflect sunlight back onto the grapes, while potentially creating a brand new market for wool. A local sheep farmer who has been using fleeces around his vegetables to deter slugs and feed nutrients into the soil suggested the idea

to vineyard owner Colin Bennet.

Results show increased ripeness of the grapes, better nutrients in the soil under the fleeces, providing insulation and retaining moisture in the soil as well as deterring snails and slugs. This is also a great example of a collaborative project by two local businesses working together in a sustainable way.

The tourism impact on Welsh GDP, partnered with Welsh wine's popular growth is predicted to bring in a further £75.9 million by 2035.

## Working together to increase recycling

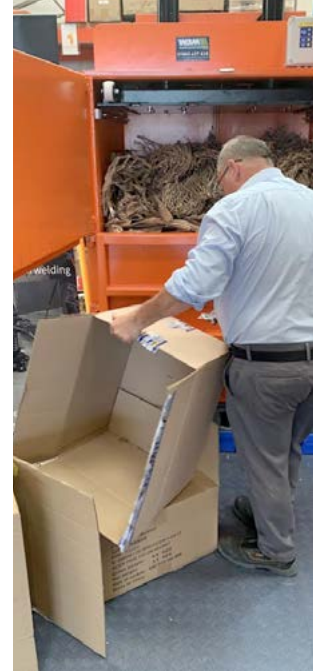
**WEST Wales' leading industrial wholesalers, David Harries & Co, have found a new way to ensure more of their waste makes its way back into the circular economy – whilst saving money and space at the same time! They've worked with another Welsh company Waste Baling Machines - based in Pembrokeshire and working across South and West Wales – to 'skip the skip' and introduce a waste baling machine into their business.**

As Dan Thomas of Waste Baling Machines explains, "When we spoke to David Harries & Co originally we realised they were paying to transport their recyclable waste off site as it was taking up so much space. The waste baling machine we supplied to them is able to compact cardboard, plastic, and metal down into clean, stackable bales which are then collected monthly by us. The balers reduce the materials' volume by around 80% so it saves storage space, and is far cheaper than paying to have the loose waste removed. It also means more materials are heading to recycling

facilities than landfill."

Llyndaf Harries, of David Harries & Co, explains "Before installing the baler we had a mountain of cardboard and plastic wrapping taking up a full aisle of the warehouse. This was eating away at very useful space and the cost of skips to remove was spiralling. The recycling baler has enabled us to clear this space by compacting all the cardboard and plastic – including shrinkwrap – into palletised bales. We can then store these neatly up on our racking ready for collection. The frequent collection means we are circulating our recycling regularly knowing that the cardboard and plastic is being recycled in an environmentally friendly manner. It's been an excellent investment to complement our continued efforts for improved efficiencies and minimising environmental impacts."

Waste baling machines have long been used in larger companies and factories with vast amounts of waste being saved from landfill this way, but now smaller units measuring less than a metre across



are available. These offer smaller companies a more manageable and cost-effective way of dealing with their waste, and as an added benefit it also enables them to recycle much more. The 'circular economy' that this feeds into is part of the solution to our global climate problems, ensuring that as much material as possible is put back into the system to be recycled and reused.



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# POSITIVELY LIBERAL

WITH ANDREW LYE

Caron Lindsay edits [www.libdemvoice.org](http://www.libdemvoice.org). I was going to write this week's Positively Liberal article on PM Rishi Sunak calling on everyone to "hold our nerve" as interest rates rise higher and higher. Caron has given me the OK to edit her words as they align with my own and to add my own comments.

The PM spoke with no empathy, telling millions of homeowners who face having to find an average of £2900 more a year if they are unfortunate enough to have to remortgage in the next year, as their fixed rate mortgage comes to an end, or if they are on a variable mortgage rate. The same people are already struggling with high inflation as wage increases fail to keep up as food, fuel and energy bills continue to rise.

An immaculately dressed PM, who is reputed to be married to a wife that puts them in the top 1000 richest people in the country, telling people that he's going to make unpopular decisions for their own good is never going to be well received. But he could have tried to do something to show that he was on their side.

Let's be clear, people are at risk of losing their homes if they can't keep up their mortgage payments, whether they are forced to sell or whether their home is repossessed. I lived through that in the 90's where every day I saw people having their homes repossessed. And sometimes it was the tenants, finding out at the last minute that bailiffs were coming to evict them, who would turn up in shock, seeking support and a way out of this horrible situation.

And if people are going to lose their homes and need emergency housing, Councils are going to struggle to find somewhere for them to go, such is the extent of the housing crisis. Chancellor Jeremy Hunt said last Friday after having seen mortgage lenders, that they will offer mortgage holders to go onto interest

only mortgages and not to instigate repossession of properties until 12 months after the first missed payment.

But this was not agreed by all mortgage lenders and monies owed will still build up and have to be paid, further down the road. It's merely kicking the can down the road.

Fighting inflation is not an easy thing to do. It involves slowing down the economy and stopping people spending as much money and interest rates are used to restrict people's incomes and encourage saving (supposedly). The trouble comes when people don't have anything to save and millions are already in that trap, before they have to find another £2,900 a year. People not spending on goods then results in higher unemployment.

Liberal Democrat leader, Ed Davey criticised Sunak's comments as "patronising".

He said "People need help, not a prime minister instructing them to hold their nerve. Struggling homeowners will be rightly furious after watching an out of touch prime minister who has no idea of the pain caused by rising mortgage rates."

Help is also needed for those renting. More also needs to be done to build more houses, especially social housing.

I welcome the announcement by Prince William, who on Monday announced a major 5 year campaign to end homelessness, which he says should not exist "in a modern and progressive society".



**If you have any issues or comments, please contact me at [andrew.lye@pembslibdems.wales](mailto:andrew.lye@pembslibdems.wales)**

## Interest rate hikes not

**TACKLING inflation dominates UK economic policy, but the proposed remedies are not working. Instead, the Government and Bank of England's policy could be making matters worse. We examine why that might be the case.**

Inflation is a reaction to economic shocks, and those shocks' aftereffects fade with time.

Since 2016, the UK has experienced three economic shocks: Brexit, Covid, and the War in Ukraine.

Although Brexit remains a factor in inflation figures, the effects of the pandemic and the Ukrainian War are fading. That is why inflation is falling.

But it's not falling as fast as expected.

### TRYING TO CONTROL INFLATION

Government intervention must meet three targets: cutting inflation faster, reducing inflation's impact on those least able to absorb price rises and avoiding creating new problems resulting from the policy decisions made.

The tool the UK and other governments use to reduce inflation is to increase interest rates for borrowing. Central Banks and traditional economists believe this reduces inflation by cutting consumer spending. The basic theory underlying that notion is that money becomes more expensive, cutting the money available. Demand falls as spending falls, and inflation is forced out of the system.

The problem with that approach is that it's a mechanism for dealing with a "wage/price spiral". A wage-price spiral occurs when rising wages increase disposable income. That raises demand for goods, and prices rise.

Whatever else is going on in the UK economy, there is no wage/price spiral, and neither is there a risk of one.

### THE SUPPLY SQUEEZE

Although prices were already rising before the

Ukrainian War, further inflation was predictable as one of its by-products. Those price rises had little to do with increased consumer demand. Even if demand remained static, prices would have risen - and did rise - because of the reduced supply of goods.

A further predictable outcome was that inflation would fall once the supply of goods increased and the immediate price shock of the Ukrainian War filtered out of the system.

World trade prices in raw materials and commodities are now largely at pre-war levels. And inflation has fallen.

When Rishi Sunak said his Government would halve inflation, he knew inflation would fall regardless of government actions and regardless of any increase in interest rates. That is a basic function of supply and demand economics. Provided demand does not markedly increase, when supply increases, prices fall.

### INFLATION AND PRICES

Inflation is like compound interest.

Imagine the price of a loaf of bread is £1.00 at the start of June 2021. An inflation rate of 5% between June 2021 and the end of May 2022 would mean that loaf would cost £1.05 at the start of June 2022. An inflation rate of 10% between June 2022 and the end of May 2023 makes the price of the same loaf of bread £1.15 (rounding down). If the rate of inflation then fell to 5% between the start of June 2023 and the end of May 2024, the loaf would cost £1.21 (rounding up).

Falling inflation does not mean falling prices. It means only that the rate at which prices rise decreases.

If wages increase in line with inflation, price increases are cost-neutral to consumers as their disposable income remains (more-or-less) constant.

Instead, wages have not kept pace with inflation, and the supply of goods has increased. Yet,

inflation - particularly food cost inflation - remains stubbornly high.

While the Consumer Price Index is at 8.7%, food inflation remains at around 19%.

And that means the standard model, increasing interest rates to control demand and reduce inflation, isn't working. Something has gone wrong.

### "STICKY INFLATION"

That raises an issue about whether economic orthodoxy contributes to inflation in the current economic circumstances.

Some of inflation's "stickiness" is due to higher UK import prices following Brexit. However, many companies, particularly retailers, have increased their prices by more than rising costs. Their protests to the contrary, the major supermarket chains have increased their profits. The same goes for major oil and energy companies and suppliers of essentials such as water.

In addition, bank profits have risen considerably. The banks are now earning more from the UK Government while not passing on the benefit of interest rate rises to savers. If a bank charges 9% for every £1 it lends but provides only 2% interest on every £1 saved, the profit made speaks for itself.

Westminster has also made a deliberate policy decision to try and "cure" inflation. It's endorsing increasing interest rates while exerting downward pressure on wages. At the same time, it's tightening the money supply.

Orthodoxy insists these are the right things to do to control a wage/price spiral, but there isn't one. The Government is treating the wrong problem with the wrong cure.

The combination of those factors discriminates against those most vulnerable to inflation.

### THE COST OF INFLATION

Those most affected by the Government's policy choices include older

# the answer to 'sticky inflation'

people, pensioners, those on relatively low or fixed incomes, and those reliant on welfare benefits.

While indexing benefits might protect a few people, those at the margin are now trapped by the failure of wages to keep pace with inflation. Those who do not qualify for benefits but are on low incomes are caught between a welfare system that is one of the least generous in the developed world and embedded low-wage rates in an economy disproportionately reliant on service industries that rely on part-time or casual working.

In addition, the burden of increased interest rates falls on those who combine borrowing with limited wealth; for example, young homeowners or those on tracker mortgages, for whom the cost of servicing their mortgage debts outstrips any additional income. If house prices drop (and they are), they get clobbered.

A family with a tracker mortgage with a fixed term of two years, for example, and an initial interest rate of 2.5%, face a threefold increase in the interest payments on their mortgage when the tracking period ends.

Conversely, lenders also suffer. While their income from rising interest rates increases, their loans' real values fall.

Holding back wage increases helps nobody in any of the groups worst affected by inflation.

## THE WRONG CURE FOR THE WRONG PROBLEM

Price increases - particularly in food and essential services (fuel, power, water) - squeeze hardest for those on low or fixed incomes. For those with large debts compared to their wealth or property equity, servicing debts becomes unaffordable when wages remain static or do not rise sufficiently to cover the cost of existing borrowing. For lenders, the increased risk of default deters lending for investment in projects that could stimulate economic growth.

There is another factor to consider. Politicians do not consider the human



cost of following economic orthodoxy. Being obsessed with government debt, forgets that inflation reduces the debt's value.

Current orthodoxy is not working. The measures taken to control inflation have had little impact on bringing it under control. It's like the saying often attributed to Einstein: "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results."

In this case, doing the same thing over and over again ignores the fact the problem that interest rate rises are supposed to tackle does not exist. It's like treating a patient with lung cancer by providing them with a new pair of spectacles.

The measures taken to control inflation have had little effect and could worsen its impact. It has certainly worsened the well-being of those most affected by it.

## ALTERNATIVES?

There isn't a magical solution. No single lever exists that pulling on it would "solve" inflation overnight.

Mr Sunak told the BBC's Sunday With Laura Kuenssberg programme: "The Bank of England is doing the right thing. The

Bank of England has my total support.

Asked if there is another way than raising interest rates, the Prime Minister said: "There is no alternative to stamping out inflation."

"I want people to be reassured that we've got to hold our nerve, stick to the plan and we will get through this."

The alternative solutions, at least those available to the UK Government, all cause pain.

Two stand out from a pack which generally consists of fiddling around the edges of economic policy.

The first is to reduce public spending massively. Not incrementally or gradually, but to make deep cuts at all levels and make them quickly. Those cuts would involve slashing capital projects and costs associated with staffing and training.

No UK Government could hope to survive such a move. While the polls predict a Conservative rout at the next election, cutting public spending by the amount needed to relieve inflation's effects would ensure electoral oblivion.

The second option is also politically unpalatable: tax rises. Raising taxes on consumption - for example,

Fuel Duty or VAT - would contribute to price inflation.

The Government has already imposed an effective income tax increase on the UK by freezing tax allowances on incomes. The cumulative effects of that are a tax rise for everyone over the next three years, which, combined with inflation's effects, amounts to a large real-terms wage cut.

If income and indirect taxes are off the table, the choices boil down to direct taxes on wealth, capital, and windfall profits. The chances of a Conservative Government doing any of those are effectively nil. The chances of Kier Starmer's Labour Party making for than token gestures towards them are not much higher.

There is, however, a longer-term option.

According to the Commons Public Accounts Committee, £42bn is outstanding in tax debt, with about 5% of the tax owed each year failing to be collected by HMRC. Better collection and enforcement, strong penalties for aggressive tax avoidance schemes and evasion, and pulling in outstanding debt would strengthen the Exchequer. The question is: why hasn't it already been done?

# BLUE VIEW

WITH BRIAN MURPHY

**THIS week I watched ITV's programme Sharp End and found it refreshing to hear the politicians being interviewed in agreement and not point scoring.**

The subject was child and adolescent mental health services and the problems the patients have when transitioning into adult services. Too often people are failed by a system which excludes them from the support they have been having, often for years. And forces them into having to start from scratch with a completely new team of doctors, therapists, and counsellors. They can no longer go to the clinics or surgeries where they have built relationships and family members can be excluded from being involved. The only reason for this, is that they have turned 18 and are now classed as an adult.

Being a teenager is difficult enough, but when you are suffering with mental health problems that is when support needs to be continuous and not abruptly cut. This is not a new issue and it was reassuring to hear three politicians from three parties in agreement rather than trying to attribute blame for past failures. They all agreed that drastic changes are needed to help young people in the future. Sarah Murphy (Labour), James Evans (Conservative) and Heledd Fychan (Plaid Cymru) have worked together in setting up a review of services, and they are happy to continue working

together to make the necessary changes.

It was a different approach Mark Drakeford took when asked in the Senedd if a specialist eating disorder unit would be provided in Wales. He replied that it was better for patients to travel to England for services as it would be "inconvenient" for some parts of Wales, and "a population of 3 million people will not support a service of that sort". So, according to Drakeford anyone with an eating disorder in Wales will get no help close to their homes and families.

His view is entirely at odds with those of service users, clinicians, families, and politicians of all parties who agree that early access to services in a local environment, which the patient is familiar with leads to better outcomes. They are also in agreement that maintaining established relationships with all involved is a better approach than a fragmented system in unfamiliar surroundings. There is a financial benefit too, it costs less.

Perhaps, he should listen to Sarah, James and Heledd, or at least watch Sharp End on catch-up. This is what the people in Wales want from the Senedd and the politicians who work there; collaborative working to deliver services we need, local to our communities, without wasting resources and funds. I hope that what I witnessed on TV this week will be the start of a new way of doing politics in Wales. Somehow, I don't think it will last.





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## Drakeford unveils Labour's big ideas for Wales

**THE WELSH CONSERVATIVES** have opened fire on the Welsh Government's Programme of Legislation for the next Senedd year. They claim it is out of touch with ordinary people's priorities over basic services.

Mark Drakeford unveiled Labour's plans in the Senedd on Tuesday, June 28.

The programme includes a bill to reform and improve bus services, a disused tips safety bill, a Welsh Language education bill, electoral reform, and reforming the Council Tax and business rates system.

The First Minister also committed to introducing legislation to eliminate private profit from the care of looked-after children, to introduce direct payments for continuing health care, and to make amendments to help the workforce operate more effectively.

The First Minister said: "This forthcoming year will have an unrelenting focus on reform to make positive changes in the lives of the people of Wales.

"This is an ambitious and radical programme of reform, which will modernise parts of our tax and electoral system. It will ensure we put the needs of looked-after children ahead of profits, and create a Senedd which reflects the Wales we live in today."

The Senedd will also vote on a Senedd Reform Bill. The Bill, which will increase the size of the Senedd from 60 to 96 members, includes a series of controversial proposals and will build Labour's advantage

in Wales into new electoral arrangements. It will also end the connection between MSs and constituents by creating a list system resembling the current regional system for groups of six constituencies, each group with 16 members. How candidates appear on the list will be sorted by party hacks.

In a significant change from the Welsh Government, it will deal with its proposals to "gender-zip" candidate lists in separate legislation. The legislation aims to force parties to alternate between women and men on their candidate lists, meaning that 50% of the candidates are women and 50% are men. Theoretically, the system ensures a 50-50 split between men and women in a parliament following an election.

There is a considerable legal dispute over whether the Senedd has the power to pass the gender-zipping element of its reform package. Mark Drakeford acknowledged the issue when he mentioned the proposals for Senedd reform. He asserted the Senedd did have the power to compel political parties on how to order their candidate lists. He was not, however, prepared to put that claim to the test in the main Senedd reform bill for the practical reason that a legal challenge to gender-zipping would postpone the other changes until after 2026's Welsh Parliamentary election.

By splitting the legislation, the Welsh Government hopes to get the main body of its reforms through in time



for the 2026 election. With Plaid Cymru ensuring a supermajority in the Senedd, it should manage to achieve its end.

Conservative leader Andrew RT Davies MS said: "It is truly depressing to see how out of touch the Labour Party has become after 25 years of failing the people of Wales.

"There is no mention of the excessive waiting lists in our Welsh NHS or a plan to eliminate 2-year waits that still stand at over 30,000 patients. I don't see any mention of our rising unemployment. No

mention of a plan to address our position at the bottom of Britain's GCSE and PISA rankings. No plan to end child poverty, which is still rising in Wales.

"Labour Ministers in the Senedd are focussed on the wrong priorities. They are far keener on bringing forward their tone-deaf proposal to send 36 more politicians to Cardiff Bay, costing the taxpayer £100 million and their so-called council tax reforms that will increase bills further for the people of Wales than addressing the people's priorities."

## Plaid leader unveils new Senedd team

**NEW Plaid Cymru Leader Rhun ap Iorwerth** announced a rejigged frontbench team on Tuesday, June 27.

He said his team was dedicated to a "fairer, greener, ambitious, more prosperous Wales".

Mr ap Iorwerth said the party's focus in the Senedd would be "firmly" on key issues, including the NHS, housing and the rising cost of living.

The Plaid Cymru Leader added that the group would continue to work collaboratively with the government through the Co-Operation Agreement to deliver life-changing pledges such as free school meals and democratic reform, while also holding the Labour administration to account where there was a "lack of urgency and delivery".

In a significant



promotion, Delyth Jewell has been appointed Senedd Deputy and will deputise for parliamentary affairs, including First Minister's Questions in the Leader's absence.

Heledd Fychan also gets a major promotion, taking on the role of Business Manager.

Mabon ap Gwynfor becomes Chief Whip and holds the key health and care portfolio.

Those three appointments, taken

together with the experienced Llyr Gruffydd's resumption of his role as the Chair of the Senedd Group, strongly indicate how Rhun ap Iorwerth sees the future. Each is a strong communicator, media performer, and first-term Senedd member.

Llyr Gruffydd also takes up the key role of Rural Affairs spokesperson.

Rhun ap Iorwerth said: "I am proud to lead a united and talented Senedd team dedicated to building a fairer,

greener, ambitious, and more prosperous Wales.

"Our focus will be firmly on tackling the issues of the day: the NHS, housing, and the economy – addressing the rising cost of living and sustainable public services.

"We will work diligently to deliver for our communities and make a difference in people's lives, working co-operatively with the government where there is common ground but at the same time hold them to account where there is a lack of urgency and delivery.

"Together, we will continue to make the case that Wales' best interests are served by making our own decisions as a nation. By talking to those confident and curious about independence and those whose interest has yet to be sparked, we will build the case for independence and a brighter future for all."



**PLAID CYMRU** recently announced their new policy to push the UK to rejoin the European Single Market – today, we argue why we believe they were wrong to do so.

Yes Cymru is a single policy organisation that is focused on the promotion of Welsh independence. While it does raise awareness of current affairs affecting Wales such as the housing crisis, it adopts no official position on other political or constitutional issues. And, so it is with Brexit.

While the UK Brexit referendum was divisive, Yes Cymru adopts no official position on the matter. We recognise that our supporters sit on all sides of the political spectrum and that Yes Cymru must continue to function as an umbrella organisation that welcomes all members, irrespective of political colours.

Indeed, according to many studies, nearly a third of Brexit supporters in Wales back independence. Between 10 – 15% of Conservative party members in Wales also support independence.

We must also recognise that a majority of the electorate in Wales voted in favour of Brexit by a majority of 52% to 48%.

Furthermore, it is our belief that in an independent Wales, the issue of Single Market or EU membership must be settled by the people of Wales.

With all these points in mind, we were surprised to hear that Plaid Cymru last week announced their new policy of promoting Single Market membership, while remaining a constituent part of the United Kingdom.

Billed as an attempt to "undo" the damage caused by Brexit, Plaid Cymru has outlined the immediate practical steps Wales and the rest of the UK could take to pave the way to establish a closer relationship with the European Union including, preparing to re-join the Single Market, re-joining the Erasmus scheme, devolving visa schemes to Wales, reducing barriers at Welsh ports and devolving

funding schemes.

While the issue of EU or Single Market membership itself still remains contentious, the policy serves to undermine the *raison d'être* that separates Plaid from Welsh Labour – that of Welsh independence. For, how can they purport to promote Welsh independence while also seeking to promote EU membership as a member – and not as an equal partner – of the United Kingdom?

And while there are titbits in the policy announcement hinting at an increased role for Wales within the framework of UK Single Market membership, there is no evidence that a future UK Government would be even prepared to consider these points, let alone consult with the Welsh Government regarding the terms of the UK's membership.

Indeed, as another commentator has succinctly put it, the policy of promoting UK membership of the Single Market and Customs Union is essentially "built around an argument of strengthening the UK economically".

It also tells those hopeful of re-joining the Single Market and perhaps the European Union that they need not bother with supporting independence, because the ultimate objective is to re-join the Single Market. This is disingenuous as both the UK Conservative and UK Labour party have made no such commitment to explore possibilities to re-join either, and even in the event that they did so, Plaid would have no role or input in any negotiations. Indeed, the very premise of supporting re-joining the Single Market undermines the concept of Welsh independence and Wales' autonomy for these very reasons.

While this may be a cynical ploy to snap up remainder votes at the next parliamentary election, we contend that this is a misguided strategy. We hold that the decision of Welsh membership of the Single Market should be left to the people of Wales in an independent Wales.

Contact us- Facebook. Yes Cymru Milford Haven

<https://twitter.com/YesCymruMilford>

[yescymru.miford@gmail.com](mailto:yescymru.miford@gmail.com)

# Death Notices

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## IEUAN WILLIAM MORGAN

MORGAN Ieuan William Peacefully at Withybush Hospital on Thursday 15th June 2023 Ieuan William Morgan of Haverfordwest aged 91 years. Beloved husband of Phyllis, much loved father of Laura, Neil, Howard and Kathy, he will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. The funeral service will take place on Monday 10th July, 2:00pm at St. Martin's

Church, Haverfordwest followed by interment at City Road Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu, if desired, in aid of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust may be sent to <https://www.justgiving.com/page/ieuan-morgan>. Further enquiries to F. G. Rees & Sons, Haverfordwest. Tel: 01437 764418.

## KEN OWEN

Mr Ken Owen - Dinas Cross Peacefully on Monday 19th June at Withybush Hospital,

Ken of Dinas Cross. Beloved husband of the late Sylvia, loving father of Melanie and Denise, devoted Dacs of Daniel, Nathan and Alex and a dear brother of Gwenda. Funeral service on Saturday 1st July at Tabernacle Chapel, Fishguard at 11am followed by interment at Tabernacle Cemetery. Immediate family flowers only. Donations in lieu if desired, made payable to the 'Paul Sartori Foundation' c/o Paul Jenkins & Sons Funeral Directors, Feidr

Castell, Fishguard, SA65 9BB. Tel: 01348 873250.

## MARIA O'CONNOR

Mrs Maria O'Connor Goodwick Peacefully at her home on Thursday 22nd June, Maria of Dyffryn, Goodwick. Beloved wife of the late John, loving mother of Chris and the late Annamarie, much loved grandmother of Sarah Louise, Steven, Kieran, George & Joshua and a dear sister of Michael. Funeral service on Monday 3rd July at the Church of the Holy Name, Fishguard at 11am followed by interment at Llanwnda Cemetery. No flowers by request. Donations in lieu if desired, made payable to the 'M.S. Society' or 'Paul Sartori Foundation' c/o Paul Jenkins & Sons Funeral Directors, Feidr Castell, Fishguard, SA65 9BB. Tel: 01348 873250.

## JOHN HOWITT

HOWITT John Robeston Wathen Rose and family of the late John Howitt would like to express heartfelt thanks to family, friends neighbours for all kindness and sympathy following John's passing. Thank you for all cards, phone calls, visits and for all kind deeds received. Thanks also to the Rev Martin Cox for conducting the service with dignity, and to all who contributed towards both Cancer Research and Dementia UK in lieu of flowers and in memory of John. The sum of £585.00 has been divided equally and has been sent to both charities. Thank you.

## BETTY HALL

Mrs Betty Hall (née Thomas) - Fishguard Peacefully on Thursday 22nd June at

Withybush Hospital, Betty of Fishguard. Beloved partner of Kevin, loving mother of Stephen and Robert, devoted nanny and a much-loved sister, sister-in-law, aunty and great aunty. Funeral service on Wednesday 5th July at Parc Gwyn Crematorium, Narberth at 10.45am. The Funeral cortege will leave The Chapel of Rest, Feidr Castell, Fishguard at 9.45am. Immediate family flowers only. Donations in lieu if desired, made payable to 'Motor Neurone Disease Association' c/o Paul Jenkins & Sons Funeral Directors, Feidr Castell, Fishguard, SA65 9BB. Tel - 01348 87250.

## DR ALAN GIBSON

DR ALAN GIBSON The family wish to announce that after a short illness the sudden death of Alan, aged 96 years, beloved husband of Janet, married for 40 years this October. Alan was in general practice at Winch Lane Surgery for 32 years and on retirement spent another 32 years helping Janet to run The Bowlings Riding School where he was fondly referred to as Dr G. He leaves to mourn 3 stepchildren, Sara, David and Amanda, 11 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. The funeral service and burial will take place on Thursday 6th July 2023, 3:00pm at St. Michael's Church, Rudbaxton. Family flowers only are requested. If you wish to make a donation in lieu of flowers then these will be received by Mrs Jo Goldsmith, 26 Lower Quay Road, Hook, SA62 4LR on behalf of The Pembrokeshire Riding for the Disabled Group, made

payable to 'Pembrokeshire RDA' Further enquiries to F. G. Rees & Sons, Haverfordwest. Tel: 01437 764418.

## JOAN LEWIS

LEWIS Joan of Simpson Cross Joan passed away peacefully on the 11th June, 2023 aged 79 years. Much loved, she will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Funeral service, Friday 30th June, 12.00pm at St. Mary's Church, Roch followed by the committal. Flowers are welcome at the graveside. All enquiries to Roy Folland & Son Funeral Directors (01437) 763821.

## WILLIAM GERALD

Mr William GERALD Foot Fishguard Wednesday, 14th June at Morriston Hospital, aged 87, Gerald Foot died peacefully in the presence of his family. Beloved husband of the late Hilda. Loving Uncle to Kathryn & William, Noel & Mandi, Kirsty & Peter, Great Uncle to Naomi, Katie, Ryan, Creegan and Great Great Uncle to Luna-Rose. Dear Friend to Kay, Paul & Huw and Eirwen & David. Gerald will leave from his home for the final time with immediate family to follow. The funeral service will take place at the Chapel of Rest, Feidr Castell, Fishguard, on Tuesday 4th July at 11:30am, followed by interment at Hermon Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu if desired, made payable to 'Paul Sartori Foundation' c/o Paul Jenkins & Sons Funeral Directors, Feidr Castell, Fishguard, SA65 9BB. Tel: 01348 873250.

## Pause for thought..

*I wasn't surprised to read that there has been a sharp decline in religious belief in Britain but I wasn't expecting to be told that we have some of the lowest levels of religiosity and belief in the world! We need to face up to that fact if we believe a global study that has surveyed some 120 countries since 1981.*

*As belief in God has died away, so has belief in heaven and yet strangely enough belief in life after death seems to have remained constant with just under half of the population believing in this last year. Likewise, 26% of Britons said they believe in hell, a figure that has remained virtually unchanged over the last four decades.*

*So how should the church react to these challenging figures? Well, to begin with it must never forget that we all enjoy a God given right to accept or to reject God's amazing offer of friendship.*

*Coercion is a 'no-go area'. At least it should be, but God's people have forgotten that sometimes. He wants our love not our cowed obedience.*

*We needn't panic though. We have been here many times before. The church began as a tiny group of committed disciples but it has grown exponentially ever since God poured out His Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. Indeed, as we all know, in spite of all the odds, the story of a Jewish carpenter named Jesus has shaped the course of world history. We can be sure it will continue to do so until He keeps His promise to return to earth again.*

*We shouldn't worry about numbers either. Jesus didn't because He wasn't and still isn't looking for large religious audiences. In fact, He was quite prepared to turn to a huge crowd and tell them that they were following Him for the wrong reason!*

*No, Jesus was and is still looking for serious disciples, people who are be willing to follow Him and live lives of sacrificial service.*

*In fact, if you stop and think about it for a moment, you could argue that it is pretty remarkable that anyone believes the Christian message given its supernatural claims and challenging demands. But they do so because God is in the business of working miracles. I had proof of that yet again this morning because as I sat down to write this column a friend knocked the door. His conversion was nothing short of staggering. Lots of people walked away from Jesus when He was living among us, but some didn't. Like my friend there those who don't walk away today either and there always will be.*

ROB JAMES

## ROY TANNAHILL

### Monumental Masons

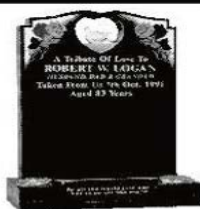
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## HOLD A PAWSOME TEA

DEAR SIR

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the current state of Britain's education system, which, in my observation, appears to be in a state of decline. The stark realisation of this issue was brought to my attention during a recent online search, which has left me both shocked and disheartened.

As an individual who has pondered the quality of education in our country, I found myself reflecting on this matter whilst visiting Google. Curiosity led me to type the phrase, "Can I get...", intending to seek information on a different topic altogether. However, before I could complete my query, I was confronted with an unsettling auto-suggestion in the drop-down list: "Can I get pregnant from a dog?" This unexpected search recommendation served as a poignant reminder of the gravity of our educational predicament.

The fact that such a bizarre and inappropriate search phrase ranks amongst the top suggestions raises significant questions about the knowledge and awareness of our society, particularly amongst the younger generation. It highlights a disconcerting lack of understanding regarding basic biological concepts, which should have been adequately covered within our educational institutions.

Education plays an essential role in shaping the minds of individuals and cultivating a society that is informed, rational, and responsible. It is crucial that our education system equips students with the necessary tools to navigate an increasingly complex world, fostering critical thinking, intellectual curiosity, and a sound moral compass.

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## THE ANATOMY OF TENBY

**A poem by John Prior, The Pembrokeshire Poet:**

The jewel in the Crown of Pembrokeshire  
 A peninsular surrounded by idyllic beaches  
 Breath-taking scenery picturesque and unspoilt

Narrow cobbled streets hark back to its history  
 Memories like DNA course through the streets of Tenby  
 Bonding generations of families together  
 Retaining, reviving, recalling previous experiences  
 From Tudor Merchants through to the present day  
 Invaded by the Normans 1093  
 Sacked by Llewelyn ap Gruffydd 1260  
 Medieval defensive walls replace earthen ramparts  
 Walls ameliorated and moat widened 1588  
 Defensive walls once encompassing the entire Town  
 Stand defiant with only six towers surviving  
 Semi-circular Five Arches Gate stands alone  
 Carmarthen, South and Quay Gates lost forever  
 Grade 1 Medieval walls of distinction built for defence  
 South Parade and St Florence Parade remain intact  
 Arrow loops, crenelated parapets and bastion  
 A reminder of Tenby's ancient roots and importance  
 Dominating the Town centre for over 700 years  
 St Mary's chimes invite patrons and visitors alike to enter  
 Where time stands still and faith in God prevails  
 Calm, quiet, peaceful and tranquil some of its superlatives  
 The exquisite 13th Century 'Wagon' roof and panelled ceiling  
 75 Carved bosses grotesques, fish, green man, mermaid and foliage  
 Jesus surrounded by four Apostles stands supreme  
 13th Century font and bell cast 'Santa Anna' - Mother of Mary  
 A Town famed for mathematician Robert Recorde  
 Thomas White for hiding the young Henry Tudor from Edward 4th  
 Christus Rex a moving tribute to our Lord by Jonah Jones  
 Unique 15th Century Merchants House furnished as in days gone by  
 Favoured by Victorians for health giving properties  
 Popularised by Sir William Paxton as a resort  
 Immortalised by Eric Bradford's mural within Market Hall  
 Historically chronicled at Castle Head museum  
 Momentous change in Town's fortunes  
 Heralded by the arrival of the railway 1863  
 Providing an access portal for tourism  
 Bringing a revolution in holiday habits  
 Beneath St Mary's 152 ft high spire

Eager children and adults await trips by horse drawn carriage  
 The chance to experience the charm and beauty of Tenby  
 A taste of life in days of old  
 The Promenade reveals the golden sand of North and Harbour Beaches  
 Stunning views of Carmarthen Bay set against pure blue skies  
 Yachts and vessels of all descriptions lie beached in the Harbour  
 The formidable Goskar Rock a backdrop to fun loving families  
 St Julians Chapel 1878 snuggles neatly into Penniless Cove Hill  
 Designed by William N Dunn specifically for Fisherman  
 The quaint and beautiful Gothic interior a visitors delight  
 Royal National Lifeboat Institution service held here annually  
 Castle Heads gleaming new RNLI Lifeboat Station Complete with the 'Haydn Miller' Tamar Class Lifeboat  
 Acknowledges Tenby's important and strategic coastal location  
 Life-saving engrained in the heart and blood of the Town  
 Tenby Castle's surviving Tower stands alone at Castle Head  
 Music emanates from the Bandstand near Prince Albert's Memorial  
 Cultural taste buds awakened at Tenby Museum and Art Gallery  
 Castle Beach lies in the cove adjacent to St Catherine's Island  
 Castle Beach busy slipway is the entrance to beach heaven  
 Pure soft golden sand a delight for any age  
 Low tide sees boat trips come and go to Caldey Island  
 Magical moments created and stored forever in one's heart  
 Looking down from The Esplanade South Beach extends to Giltar Point  
 Along the shoreline sheer cliffs give way to sand dunes  
 While the gently sloping beach descends to pure clear water  
 In the distance mysterious Caldey Island beckons  
 Visiting Caldey Island is like stepping back in time  
 The Reformed Order of Cistercian Monks lead a simple life  
 Noted for perfumes and lotions derived from flowers  
 The chance to appreciate John Coates Carters phenomenal Abbey  
 Ironman enthusiasts descend on Tenby in September  
 Crowds watch as competitors swim the 2.4 mile 'zig zag' course  
 Fund raising devotees take to water on Boxing and New Year's Day

The positive effects of Tourism on Tenby in Summer and Winter

## PRAISE FOR GREENHILL SCHOOL PUPILS

DEAR SIR

I would be most grateful if, through your newspaper, you would allow me to praise the recent efforts of three Greenhill School pupils from my community.

On the afternoon of Monday, 12th June, a nasty road incident involving a car and a van occurred in Pentlepoir near the petrol station and car garage. I understand that no life-threatening injuries were sustained and I wish all a speedy recovery. The van ended up on its side and the car, badly damaged, was also left in an undriveable state. With both vehicles in the road, and all three emergency services tending to the scene, traffic was understandably blocked in both directions for some hours.

Although some police officers were in attendance, for well over an hour there was no officer directing traffic coming from the Tenby side of the blockage. I spoke to a policeman at the scene about the situation and he said he had assumed that the traffic "was sorting itself out" - but that wasn't so! As I told him, that was all thanks to the efforts of Teejay and Tom, who told me they had also been assisted by their other friend, Corey. The three were on their way home from school, and took it upon themselves to stay at the scene to direct the traffic back on itself, or to divert it along Valley Road into Saundersfoot.

Such civic-mindedness is not only impressive but I think bodes well for their future. They did their school uniform proud, and I've drawn their public-spiritedness to the attention of their headmaster, however I believe their efforts deserve wider recognition. Thank you for what you did, and well done to you all.

## ANIMAL WELFARE BILL

DEAR SIR

I am writing to



## Picture of the week!

Tenby in the sun by Timbo Hughes

**express my deep concern regarding the unfortunate turn of events surrounding the Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill. It is disheartening to witness how political games and manoeuvring have once again hindered the progress of this crucial legislation, leaving dogs and other animals to suffer.**

Today, when MPs faced a binding vote brought by Labour, there were high hopes that the Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill would finally advance through Parliament. However, it has been blocked once again, with innocent animals becoming the victims of political game-playing.

Earlier today, Dogs Trust, along with other animal welfare charities, issued a joint statement urging the Government to ensure the Bill's progression through Parliament during a critical vote this afternoon, initiated by Labour's Opposition Day debate. A positive vote could have paved the way for the Bill's passage as early as 12th July.

Regrettably, due to the lack of universal support in the House of Commons, the Bill has failed for a second time. Its purpose

was to put an end to heinous crimes such as smuggling puppies and pregnant dogs into Great Britain under appalling conditions. Additionally, it aimed to address the importation of dogs with cruel mutilations like cropped ears, which have a detrimental impact on their health, behaviour, and overall welfare.

For over a decade, Dogs Trust has tirelessly campaigned to combat the abhorrent puppy smuggling trade. We have consistently urged the Government to fulfil its manifesto promise and take decisive action against this issue.

It is incredibly saddening that despite clear public backing, with 65,000 individuals emailing the Prime Minister, pleading for the passage of this Bill to protect animals, it has once again been blocked from proceeding in Parliament.

While Westminster engages in political games, innocent dogs continue to endure horrific journeys to Great Britain, often deprived of food and limited access to water, all to be sold to unsuspecting buyers. These animals are subjected to brutal ear mutilations, sometimes performed without

anaesthesia, resulting in severe consequences for their well-being, behaviour, and ability to express emotions effectively. The Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill has the potential to address such crimes against animals.

When will the Government prioritise the needs of animals over political point-scoring? It is imperative that we focus on safeguarding the welfare of these vulnerable creatures. The public's support for the Bill is evident, and it is high time that their voices are heard and acted upon.

**Yours sincerely,  
Paula Boyden Dogs  
Trust Veterinary Director**

### THE ALARMING STATE OF BRITAIN'S EDUCATION SYSTEM

DEAR SIR,

**I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the current state of Britain's education system, which, in my observation, appears to be in a state of decline. The stark realisation of this issue was brought to my attention during a recent online**

**search, which has left me both shocked and disheartened.**

As an individual who has pondered the quality of education in our country, I found myself reflecting on this matter whilst visiting Google. Curiosity led me to type the phrase, "Can I get...", intending to seek information on a different topic altogether. However, before I could complete my query, I was confronted with an unsettling auto-suggestion in the drop-down list: "Can I get pregnant from a dog?" This unexpected search recommendation served as a poignant reminder of the gravity of our educational predicament.

The fact that such a bizarre and inappropriate search phrase ranks amongst the top suggestions raises significant questions about the knowledge and awareness of our society, particularly amongst the younger generation. It highlights a disconcerting lack of understanding regarding basic biological concepts, which should have been adequately covered within our educational institutions.

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**Robin Whiting**

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# People in Pembrokeshire



food distributed by PATCH is sourced from public donations. Individuals can either deliver contributions directly to our headquarters on Robert Street or place them in conveniently located collection baskets at local

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Moreover, ordinary members of the public, who have experienced firsthand the challenges of putting food on the table, offer vital support. Previously, Pembrokeshire County Council has also provided financial aid.



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Despite purchasing large quantities of food using financial grants, the demand for sustenance remains insatiable. This year, we are compelled to purchase food to maintain the support we provide, highlighting the urgency of our cause.

In addition to year-round food parcel distribution, PATCH organizes an annual Toy Appeal during the Christmas season. Once again, the success of this initiative hinges on the generosity of the public and local businesses, including Valero, Milford Haven Port Authority, Stena, and several supermarkets. The Toy Appeal aims to provide each referred child with at least five age-appropriate toys, along with the necessary wrapping paper, tags, and sellotape, all kindly delivered by our partner organization, FRAME. We are immensely grateful for their invaluable assistance, as well as the support of every individual who stands by our cause.

During the pandemic, PATCH was compelled to close all its outreach posts and shifted its focus to delivering food parcels with the aid of a dedicated

team of volunteer drivers. While this approach was necessary at the time, it has become evident that it is not financially sustainable. Consequently, PATCH has recently made the decision to reopen its outreach posts, making it more convenient for referring agents and service users to collect food parcels. Currently, we have outreach Food Banks situated in "The Old Chapel" on Lower Frog Street, Tenby (open Tuesday to Saturday), and at The VC Gallery in Pembroke Dock, located in the old St Mary's School near the Fire Station in Pembroke Dock (open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 2 pm). Additionally, we have plans to open a Food Bank in "The Hive" on Goshawk Road, Haverfordwest, with the official date to be announced soon.

In addition to the Food Banks, we also operate a Charity Shop that opened its doors in September 2022. Once again, the success of this venture heavily relies on the generous contributions from the public. We are overwhelmed by the

support we receive in the form of donated goods that we are able to sell, generating valuable income for the Food Bank.

Apart from relying on food and item donations for the shop, we are immensely grateful for the assistance of our volunteers. These dedicated individuals not only help prepare the food parcels but also contribute to the smooth operation of the shop. If you are reading this article and are able to spare a few hours to volunteer at one of our Food Banks or in the Shop (either on the shop floor or in the back room for sorting), please do not hesitate to contact us.

PATCH has come a long way since its inception, but the journey is far from over. As we celebrate 15 years of dedicated service to the community, we remain committed to our mission of supporting those in need. Together, with the collective efforts of Tracy Olin, Dave Golding, our partners, volunteers, and the kind-hearted members of the public, we strive to make a tangible difference in the lives of individuals facing adversity.

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# LOCAL SCHOOL NEWS

## Exciting future for Haverfordwest young people



**Haverfordwest High VC School pupils have left a gift for future generations at the town's Western Quayside regeneration scheme.**

The Year 7 students filled a time capsule with items to show what their life is like in 2023 before a group came along to the former Ocky White store to bury it on site.

The time capsule project, spearheaded by development contractors John Weaver (Contractors) Ltd, allowed learners to focus on their town

as well as the exciting archeologically finds unearthed during the build.

Victoria Hooper, Humanities Teacher at Haverfordwest High VC School said: "Pupils at Haverfordwest High VC School felt privileged to be making history as part of the time capsule project.

"They enjoyed discussing ideas, writing about life and events in 2023 and filling the time capsule with photographs, coins, a stamp, a school tie and even an old mobile phone."

Anthony Hayward, Construction Team Manager at PCC said: "Pembrokeshire County Council are extremely pleased to have supported the time capsule project alongside John Weaver Contractors at Haverfordwest's new transformational development Western Quayside and welcomed the enthusiastic input from the pupils actively contributing as a group to bury the capsule on site."

Due to the historic importance of the

development site and archaeological discoveries it was agreed that the burial of a time capsule was a fitting way to link with the future of the area.

Haydyn Boyce, Project Manager for John Weaver Contractors, was able to give the students a tour of the site, which is due to be handed over in late September.

He showed them the three levels of the building and gave an insight into the challenges of the construction project and how these have been

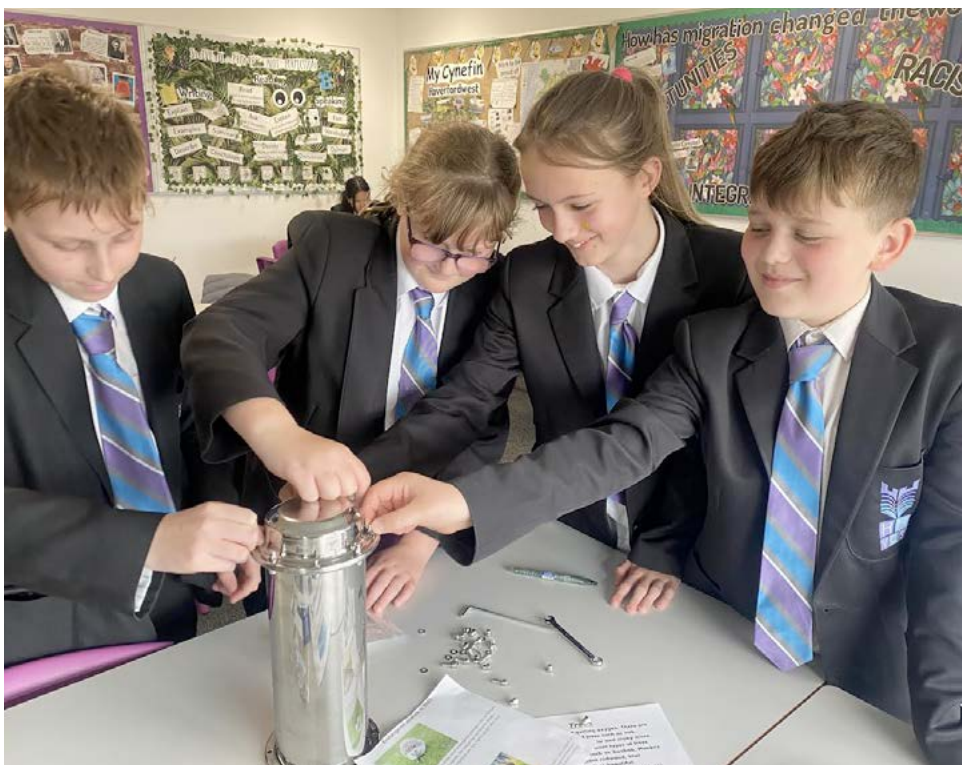
overcome working closely with PCC and the design team.

John Weaver Contractors Business Development Manager Joan Tamlyn had been working with Mrs Hooper and her class since January as they developed ideas for the time capsule project.

"The enthusiasm and excitement from the pupils has been amazing and a real pleasure to see. They've had such good ideas for the time capsule project, and it's been

rewarding to show them the construction of this wonderful development in their hometown," she said.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Place, the Region and Climate Change Cllr Paul Miller said: "It is fantastic to see work progressing well at Western Quayside and for the young people of Haverfordwest High VC School to have a chance to be involved in the regeneration of the town, which can only benefit their futures too."





# New storytelling chair at St Mark's School



Tiberius, Aaeesha, Leon, Mal, Rachel, Reuben and Tallulah with Headteacher Mrs Cale, Springboard Advisor Laura O'Loughlin, Artist Robert Jakes, Deputy Head teacher Mr Owen, Chair of Governors Fr Neil Hook and Tracy Crew

**CHILDREN** from St Mark's Church in Wales VA Primary School in Haverfordwest were thrilled to see how their artwork inspired local artist Robert Jakes in his designs for their giant story-telling chair.

Now installed in the grounds of St Mark's School, the chair celebrates the new class names of the school, Morfil (whale), Cadno (fox), Pili Pala (butterfly) and Barcud Coch (red kite).

Head teacher Heather Cale and Deputy Head Richard Owen praised Robert Jakes' skill in capturing the children's drawings in his carvings, and spoke inspiringly to the pupils about the importance of learning so that one day, they too can share their own skills with the younger generation.

Staff from Springboard have been supporting St Mark's School with the development of their outdoor learning

spaces thanks to Welsh Government funding that the project helped the school to secure for community use.

As well as the story-telling chair, a fire pit, storytelling circle, buddy benches, outdoor furniture and outdoor storage units have all been recently installed in the school grounds with the funding secured.

Springboard Coordinator Laura Phillips is really impressed by the improvement these new additions have instantly made to the grounds.

"I can't wait to see how families can benefit from learning outdoors in the school as the summer term gets into full swing," she said.

Head teacher Mrs Cale said: "As a school, we are delighted that our outdoor areas continue to be developed so that our learners and the wider community can benefit from such inspiring and creative spaces."

# Mary Immaculate School school welcomes glowing Estyn report

**HAVERFORDWEST'S Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School has welcomed a recent Estyn report praising the work of the school.**

Headteacher Sarah Mansfield took up her position in November 2021 and inspectors found that the school is well led by a dynamic and committed headteacher.

Estyn's report notes that "she has worked with parents, staff and pupils to create a vision that is specific and appropriate to the needs of the school" and works tirelessly with the staff to improve pupil outcomes and well-being."

Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School has a wonderfully caring and nurturing ethos underpinned by strong values and virtues, inspectors found, along with a distinct focus on equity of opportunity for all.

The report highlights that a broad range of

engaging and interesting activities are planned by teachers across the curriculum with a good pace of learning, development of understanding and promotion of thinking skills on the whole.

Recommendations made by Estyn were to ensure that outdoor learning develops pupils' skills effectively and provides a suitable level of challenge for all pupils and to ensure that feedback from teachers targets the next steps in pupils' learning.

Cabinet member for Education and the Welsh Language Cllr Guy Woodham said: "This is a fantastic report from Estyn and staff and pupils at Mary Immaculate Catholic School should be extremely proud of their hard work."

Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School Headteacher Sarah Mansfield said: "It's

pleasing to see everyone's hard work recognised. I am very proud of everyone in our school community and would like to thank our

wonderful pupils and staff for their desire to make Mary Immaculate the best it can be."

Also highlighted was

the prominent role that children at the school play in improving aspects of school life for all pupils, such as in their roles as

members of Y Senedd and its sub committees.

Two of the school's Pupil Leadership Team, Kayla Kplomedo and Leah Thomas, said: "We are really pleased to see our Senedd work highlighted in the report as it is such a massive part of our school. Rydyn ni'n y llais, we are the voice.

"Even though we will take our voices to the high school, we are confident that the new pupil leadership team will ensure that all pupils are heard and taken seriously. We know this as we will train the next First Ministers and Faith Ambassadors before we leave.

"They have looked up to so many before them and understand the importance of their roles including their responsibility to support the continued improvement of our school.

"The future is bright for the pupils at Mary Immaculate."





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**BARRY JOHN**  
MBE

**Barry John** is a renowned artist from Wales who has made a significant impact on the art world. His works are characterized by a unique blend of traditional and contemporary styles, which has earned him recognition from art enthusiasts around the world. One of the places where his works are prominently displayed is at the VC Gallery in Haverfordwest, which has become a hub for contemporary art lovers in the region.

The VC Gallery, founded by Barry John in 2013, is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting mental health awareness through art. The gallery features works by various artists, including those who have been affected by mental health issues. The gallery's mission is to provide a platform for artists to showcase their works, connect with the community, and raise awareness about mental health.

Barry John's works are prominently displayed at the VC Gallery, and they often take center stage at the various exhibitions held at the gallery. John's works are known for their bold colors, intricate details, and his ability to capture the essence of his subjects. His pieces range from stunning landscapes to portraits of people, which are all created using a unique combination of techniques that make his works stand out.

One of the most notable aspects of John's works is his ability to incorporate traditional Welsh imagery into his pieces. He often incorporates symbols and imagery from Welsh mythology, history, and culture into his works, which gives them a distinct sense of place and identity. For instance, some of his works feature the iconic Welsh dragon, while others showcase traditional Welsh costumes or the countryside.

The VC Gallery provides a unique platform for artists like Barry John to showcase their works and connect with the community. The gallery hosts various exhibitions throughout the year, showcasing works from different artists and styles. Visitors to the gallery can expect to see a diverse range of works, including paintings, sculptures, photographs, and installations.

In addition to exhibiting works, the VC Gallery also hosts various events and workshops, providing opportunities for artists and the community to come together and connect. These events often revolve around mental health awareness and art therapy, highlighting the role that art can play in promoting mental wellbeing.

Barry John and the VC Gallery have made a significant impact on the art world in Wales and beyond. Their commitment to promoting mental health awareness through art has inspired many artists and enthusiasts, and their works continue to inspire and captivate audiences. Whether you are an art lover or simply looking for a unique experience, a visit to the VC Gallery is sure to be an enriching and fulfilling experience.

Barry John Artist is at **Temple, City Of London.**

This unique historical graffiti commission is about the rich fabric history of the Temple region of London. It spans 600 years and has many stories entwined within the painting that is now in situ in London at a **500 year old tavern in Little Essex Street Temple London.**

He was recently seen at **Tenby Museum and Art Gallery**. Tenby . It was fabulous to be a part of 'The Celebration of Welsh Contemporary Painting' exhibition at Tenby Museum .



[barry@thevcgallery.com](mailto:barry@thevcgallery.com) • Tel: 01437 765873

THE **VC** GALLERY

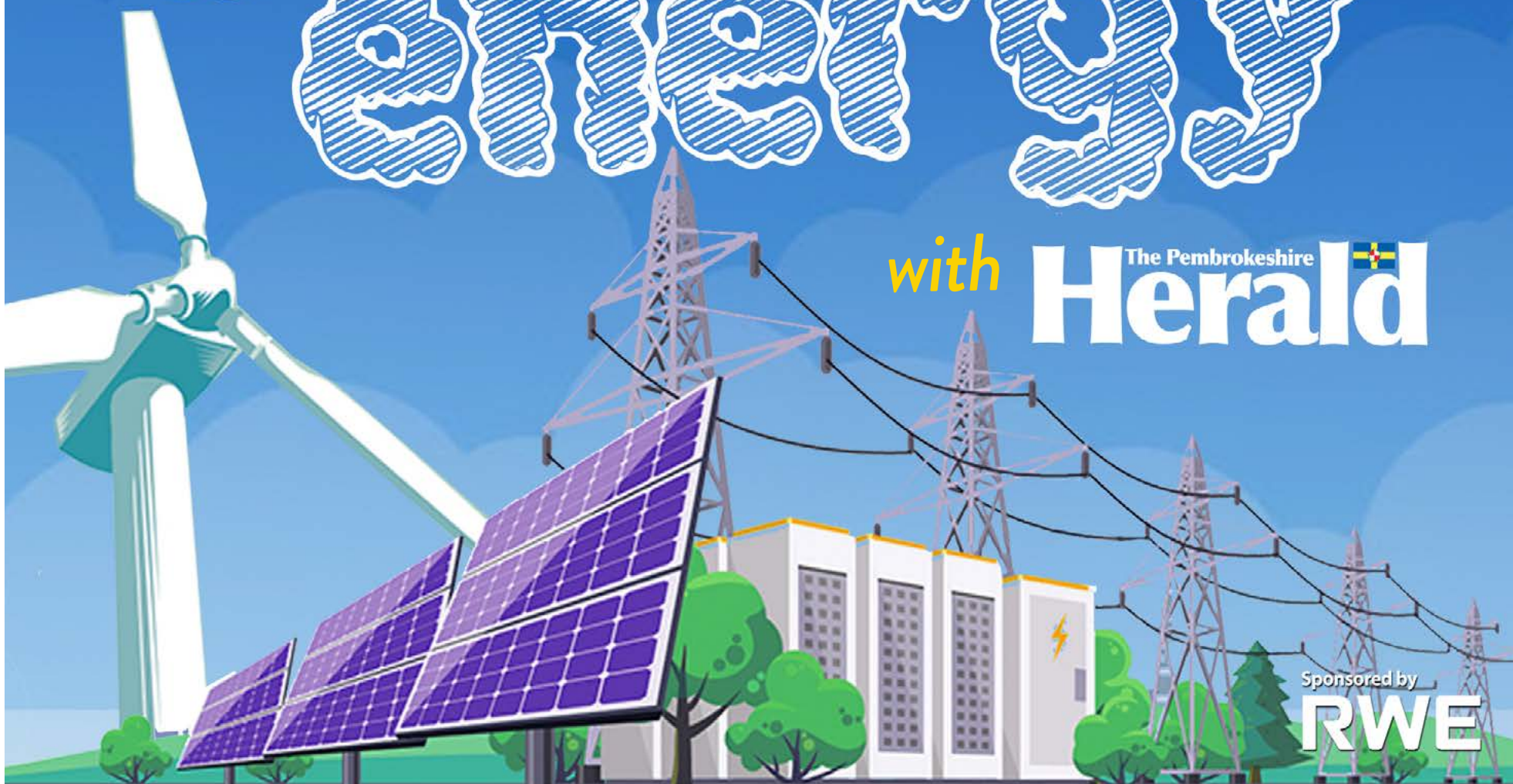
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# green energy

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## SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT, ONE WATT AT A TIME



**IN recent years, the world has seen a dramatic shift towards sustainable energy sources as we grapple with the impacts of climate change.**

The use of fossil fuels, which emit harmful greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, has led to devastating consequences for the environment, such as rising sea levels, more frequent natural disasters, and widespread habitat destruction. However, with the emergence of green energy, there is hope that we can mitigate these impacts and create a better future for ourselves and the planet.

Green energy is derived from natural sources that are replenished over time, such as solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, and biomass energy. Unlike fossil fuels, these sources emit little to no greenhouse gases and have minimal environmental impact. Additionally, green energy is renewable and sustainable, meaning that it can be used indefinitely without depleting natural resources.

One of the most popular forms of green energy is solar power. Solar panels capture energy from the sun and convert it into

electricity. This energy can be used to power homes, businesses, and even entire cities. Solar energy has become increasingly affordable and efficient in recent years, making it a viable option for many people.

Another form of green energy is wind power. Wind turbines harness the power of the wind and convert it into electricity. Like solar energy, wind energy is becoming more affordable and accessible as technology advances.

Hydroelectric power is another form of green energy that has been in use for centuries. Hydroelectric power plants use the energy of falling water to generate electricity. This form of energy is particularly useful in areas with large bodies of water, such as rivers and oceans.

Geothermal energy uses the natural heat of the earth to generate electricity. This energy is harnessed through geothermal power plants, which tap into natural geothermal reservoirs to produce electricity. While geothermal energy is not as widely used as solar or wind energy, it has great potential for the future.

Finally, biomass energy uses organic matter, such as wood, crops, and waste, to generate electricity. This form of energy has the potential to reduce waste and create energy from materials that would otherwise go unused.

Green energy is not just good for the environment; it also has many other benefits. For example, green energy can help to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, which are a finite resource that is becoming increasingly expensive and difficult to extract. Additionally, green energy can create jobs in a variety of fields, such as manufacturing, installation, and maintenance.

In conclusion, green energy is a crucial part of our efforts to combat climate change and protect the environment. With its many benefits and the increasing affordability and accessibility of renewable energy sources, there has never been a better time to make the switch to green energy. Whether you choose solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, or biomass energy, you can make a difference in creating a sustainable future for us all.



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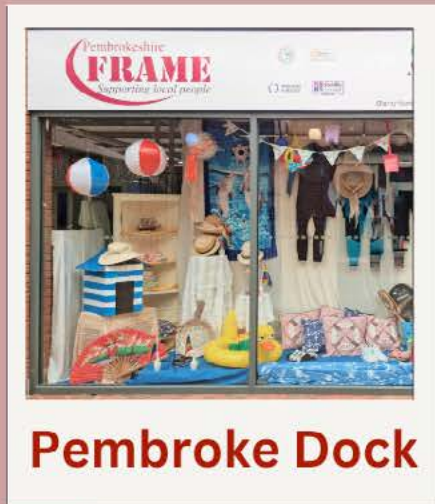
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-  Stock up on environmentally-friendly cleaning and personal care products



## ELECTRIC CARS ARE THE PRESENT, NOT THE FUTURE

**ELECTRIC cars are not just the future, they are the present. They are the future of transportation and it's no secret that they will continue to be important for years to come.**

Not only do electric cars offer a more sustainable and eco-friendly mode of transportation, but they also come with numerous benefits for the consumers.

One of the main reasons why electric cars will be so important in the future is that they will help to reduce the carbon footprint. Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing the world, and transportation is one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. With electric cars, we can drastically reduce the amount of CO2 emissions by replacing traditional gasoline-powered cars.

As the world continues to transition towards renewable energy sources, electric cars will play an even more crucial role in mitigating climate change.

Moreover, electric cars can also help us to become more energy independent. With the rise of renewable energy, we can power our cars using solar, wind, and other forms of clean energy sources. This means that we won't have to rely on foreign countries for our energy needs. It's also worth noting that electric cars are incredibly efficient compared to traditional gasoline-powered cars. They are more efficient in converting stored energy into motion, which means they can travel farther on the same amount of energy. This translates to lower maintenance costs, fewer trips to the gas station, and a smoother driving

experience.

Another reason why electric cars will be so important in the future is that they can help to reduce noise pollution. Electric cars are quiet and don't produce as much noise as traditional vehicles. This means that they can make our cities and towns quieter and more peaceful places to live. Imagine walking on the street without the constant hum of car engines in the background.

In addition to being environmentally friendly and quiet, electric cars also offer numerous benefits to the consumer. With advances in battery technology, electric cars can now travel farther than ever before on a single charge. This means that range anxiety is no longer a significant concern. Furthermore, charging times have significantly decreased,






and there are now a growing number of public charging stations available. As the market for electric cars continues to grow, prices will also become more affordable, making them a more accessible option for consumers.

In conclusion, electric cars are the future of transportation, and they will continue to be important for years to come. They are not just eco-friendly but also offer numerous benefits to the consumer, such as reduced maintenance costs,

a quieter driving experience, and increased energy independence. As the world moves towards renewable energy, electric cars will play a crucial role in reducing carbon emissions, and they will help to create a cleaner, more sustainable future.

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## WALES' FLOATING WIND PROJECT SECURES MARINE LICENSE

**BLUE GEM WIND, the joint venture between TotalEnergies, one of the world's largest energy companies, and Simply Blue Group, has secured a marine licence for the 100MW Erebus project.**

Working with OWC, MarineSpace, ITP Energised and Burges Salmon, and following a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment process, Blue Gem Wind was granted a marine licence for the Erebus project on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Erebus, Wales' first planned floating windfarm is located approx 40km off the Pembrokeshire coastline and will house seven next generation 14MW turbines on WindFloat® floating platforms, providing enough low carbon energy to power 93,000 homes, contributing to net zero targets and energy security.

Mike Scott, Project Managing Director at Blue Gem Wind, said: "We

welcome the decision from Natural Resources Wales to grant the marine licence for Erebus. The project, which will be the first floating wind farm in Wales, will play a crucial role in advancing the deployment of what will become a globally important low carbon technology."

Sean Evans, Consenting Manager, Blue Gem Wind, added: "We have been working with Natural Resources Wales and other key stakeholders since 2019 to develop a test & demonstration scale project that balances the need for low carbon energy with that of the natural environment, and minimises impacts to local communities and stakeholders. We are delighted to have achieved this milestone for the project."

David TC Davies, Secretary of State for Wales, said: "Wales has the potential to be a world leader in offshore wind energy, and

floating technology is key to unlocking the full potential of our coastlines as it generates economic growth and highly-skilled jobs. The UK Government is investing in this sector which will help us achieve our net zero ambitions as well as playing an important role in providing secure sources of energy. This latest milestone for Blue Gem is a positive step forward for this expanding sector in Wales."

Erebus, named after the famous ship built in 1826 in Pembroke Dock is due to be commissioned in 2026 and marks the start of Blue Gem Wind's stepping stone approach to floating wind development in the Celtic Sea.

The Celtic Sea and floating wind is poised to play a key role in net zero, the Climate Change Committee 100GW+ offshore wind target, and help deliver the UK Energy Security Strategy.



## DISCUSSION TO FOCUS ON SKILLS FOR WALES' GREEN REVOLUTION

**A ROUND table discussion at the Swansea University Bay Campus on February 17<sup>th</sup> will begin a major examination of how best to maximise the skills and training needed for the fast expanding green**

**economy in South West Wales.**

The UK Government's vision of 24GW of huge floating offshore wind turbines powering Britain in the Celtic Sea by 2045 offers a once in a generation opportunity to

establish a new green industry in South Wales. It's a key plank in delivering the Welsh Government's aim for Wales to meet 100% of its electricity needs from renewable sources by 2035.

For floating offshore

wind (FLOW) alone, there is the opportunity for Wales to capture as much as possible of the economic benefits coming from manufacturing, maintenance and operations - estimated at £54 billion - with the creation of thousands of new jobs, something the Celtic Freeport bid hopes to realise if successful.

Wind power is stronger at sea than on land but it was only recently turbines could be installed in very deep or complex seabed locations with the advent of new, floating structures anchored to the seabed by vast flexible anchors, chains or steel cables.

In addition, other renewable energy and alternative fuel technologies like hydrogen production will support improved security of energy supply, ensuring Wales and the UK meet net zero targets, as well as creating transformational numbers of high-quality, long-term jobs for future generations in South West Wales and wider.

A successful Celtic Freeport bid would also see two expanded green energy ports (Port Talbot and Milford Haven) and up to £1.4bn in port infrastructure and

factories to secure 'first mover' advantage in the global FLOW market.

The scale of the turbines needed to populate the Celtic Sea floating wind farm is colossal - imagine a structure nearly twice as tall as Wales' tallest building, the Tower at Meridian Quay in Swansea, with three 155 metre long blades, leaving Port Talbot and Pembroke Port each at every week throughout the next decade!

Also there would be up to £0.5 billion of investment in improvements, green skills and innovation programmes, as key drivers of local economic growth and regeneration.

Topics under discussion at the Skills Round Table at the Bay Campus on February 17<sup>th</sup> will include:

The steps we can take to ensure South West Wales maximises its skills and training base.

How current skills challenges facing the renewable energy industry can be addressed in the short to medium term, including the development of targeted skills initiatives.

The steps that need to be taken to bridge longer-term technical skills and training

gaps in South West Wales.

The Chief Executive of Neath Port Talbot Council, Karen Jones, who will be welcoming delegates to the Skills Round Table event said: "To ensure South West Wales capitalises on these new green industries, it's essential to equip our young people with the necessary skills and training.

"We also need to attract more skilled people at all levels into the renewable energy sector. This will take a collaborative effort by Welsh Government, Local Authorities, education providers, windfarm developers, port authorities and other participants in the supply chain.

"There is already a huge willingness to work together for the joint benefit of South West Wales and beyond. The opportunity of this discussion would be to cement this cooperative spirit and kick off further definite strands of work."

MPs, Senedd Members, Directors of Education, HE and FE representatives and skills and training professionals are among those invited to the Bay Campus discussion.





# MILFORD HAVEN WATERWAY FUTURE ENERGY CLUSTER

**THE MILFORD HAVEN WATERWAY Future Energy Cluster has recently mapped out a pathway to a low carbon future.**

The Cluster consists of a coalition of energy companies, renewable developers, green technology innovators, Pembrokeshire County Council and the Port of Milford Haven.

It is aiming to deliver at least 20% of the UK's low carbon hydrogen production target and 10% of the Celtic Sea Floating Offshore Wind (FLOW) target by 2030.

The Cluster's whole energy cycle solution has a pivotal role to play in supporting an accelerated transition to Net Zero, whilst stimulating substantial economic growth and creating well-paid, green jobs in Pembrokeshire and across Wales.

Adapting to deliver the UK's energy needs is part of the Waterway's DNA. Its location, near Atlantic trade

routes, coupled with it being one of the deepest natural harbours in the world, has long made it a key strategic location for the import and export of fuel. For sixty five years, the Milford Haven Waterway has been a critical national energy asset, attracting billions of pounds of investment over that time. Today, it supplies around a fifth of the UK's annual energy demand. Its existing assets, skills, rail connectivity, transmission and pipelines provide a unique opportunity to deliver a future focused on hydrogen, floating offshore wind (FLOW), marine renewables, sustainable fuels CO2 shipping, and energy storage.

By the 2040's the Milford Haven Waterway aims to be a significant exporter of low carbon electricity and hydrogen, and a globally recognised example of a low carbon, smart energy system fully capable of supporting society's energy needs



Members of the Milford Haven Waterway Future Energy Cluster officially launched their vision at an event at the Senedd co-hosted by Samuel Kurtz MS, Cefin Campbell MS, Jane Dodds MS, Joyce Watson MS

reliably, cost effectively and with significantly reduced emissions.

Playing its vital role in the transformation of the energy industry, with its consequent

investment in green jobs, will help Wales reach net zero. The Milford Haven Waterway will help deliver the just transition that the Welsh Government and politicians

across the spectrum wish to see. Members of the Milford Haven Waterway Future Energy Cluster are investing in green technology and skills so that people living

and working in our local communities today, as well as future generations, can benefit from this new industry.

## CELTIC FREEPORT

A Celtic Freeport is a key enabler to achieve a just transition in south west Wales. It will ensure that Wales maximises the economic opportunity from the development of floating offshore wind and other industries. Celtic Freeport is an exciting project that will accelerate innovation and encourage significant investment, while fast-tracking modern skills for new green industries and national decarbonisation.

The Celtic Freeport bid was lodged on behalf of a public-private consortium whose partners include Associated British Ports (ABP), Neath Port Talbot Council, Pembrokeshire County Council and the Port of Milford Haven.

# TOP TEN BENEFITS OF THE CELTIC FREEPORT



- Create 16,000 new, high-quality, well-paid, green jobs underpinned by fair working practices and inclusive workplaces.
- Boost green skills opportunities for future generations.
- Build two new green energy ports to unlock the £54 billion floating offshore wind (FLOW) industry.
- Give Wales 'global first-mover' advantage in this new form of clean, reliable energy with strengthened export and supply chain opportunities.
- Help to re-position the Welsh steel industry by using steel made at Port Talbot to drive the development of FLOW.
- Attract £5.5 billion inward investment in modern, green technologies.
- Decarbonise Wales' primary industrial cluster and make a major contribution to national net-zero carbon emissions targets.
- Boost innovation in other clean energy technologies, such as wave and tidal, hydrogen and other sustainable fuels.
- Enhance domestic-energy supply and security.
- And, importantly, invest in future skills, innovation and local projects, through a dedicated £500m fund.



Port of Milford Haven

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## HAPPY PLANET GREEN STORE ZERO WASTE SHOP



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www.happyplanetgreenstore.co.uk



A WELL established Narberth business is leading the pack within the local community about living and shopping more sustainable.

The Happy Planet Green Store, situated at Chestnut Chambers, Narberth, was established almost five years ago by Couple Tania and Jerry who moved to Wales around nine years ago.

Sustainable living has always been a goal for the couple, but the idea to open the store came after they experienced difficulties in purchasing food staples which were packed without plastic.

Speaking on the venture, Tania said the idea came after visiting the local beaches and seeing the amount of plastic and rubbish which were left strewn across the county's beaches which were brought up by storms churning the pollution out of the sea.

This prompted the couple to really look at their waste consumption and make some

environmentally friendly choices, especially on plastic usage.

After experiencing some difficulties sourcing those types products locally, Tania and Jerry decided to source the products themselves and opened up a store, something that was very much welcomed by like-minded individuals.

The uptake in the community was huge, which led to the extension of another shop in Cardigan.

Tania said: "We are so grateful and thankful that people are thinking about other ways to shop to help the environment."

This way of shopping makes it easier for people to shop like this and make changes, you can come in and get enough to make a meal, a teaspoon of a particular spice you need without having any waste or doing a week's shop."

To keep the stores fully stocked, a lot of the products come from Tania and Jerry's land through their one planet

development.

But to create a larger supply and a variety of produce, they have a good working relationship with other one planet developments, local dairies, bakers and coffee roasters. This way all of their produce is as locally sourced as possible.

You can bring your own clean containers to fill from a wide choice of foods for your larders, including rice, pasta, beans, dried fruit, nutW's, snacks, tea and coffee beans, (which they can grind for you) and herbs and spices. They have a great selection of breakfast cereals and you can even make up your own muesli mix!

There are bamboo coffee cups, steel water bottles, palm leaf picnic plates and wooden cutlery, which can all be packed into a jute bag for your picnic, festival, or beach day along with loose snacks to choose from and even a spud coat! A Raincoat made from potatoes??...I know we didn't believe it either!!

## HOW LOCALS ARE TAKING ACTION



**PEMBROKESHIRE, is home to many individuals and organizations dedicated to protecting and preserving the environment.**

Here are a few examples of great things that Pembrokeshire people are doing to help save the environment:

### **Sustainable tourism:**

We all know Pembrokeshire is a popular tourist destination, and many local businesses are committed to promoting sustainable tourism practices. For example, many accommodations have implemented green initiatives such as using renewable energy, reducing waste, and promoting local and organic food.

### **Wildlife conservation:**

Pembrokeshire is home to a wide variety of wildlife, including many rare and endangered species. Many conservation organizations, such as the Welsh Wildlife

Centre and the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales, are working to protect and restore local habitats and wildlife populations.

### **Community-led conservation:**

Many community groups in Pembrokeshire are actively engaged in conservation work, such as beach cleans, wildlife surveys, and habitat restoration. For example, the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority has a "Volunteer Rangers" program that encourages people to get involved in conservation work, and there are also community-led projects like "Friends of the Cleddau" who work to protect and restore the local river.

### **Plastic reduction:**

Plastic pollution is a significant environmental issue, and many people in Pembrokeshire are working to reduce plastic use and promote recycling. For example, the "Refill

Pembrokeshire" initiative encourages businesses to offer free water refills to help reduce the use of single-use plastic water bottles.

### **Renewable energy:**

Pembrokeshire has significant potential for renewable energy generation, and many individuals and organizations are working to harness this potential. For example, the Pembrokeshire Renewable Energy Network is a group of local businesses and individuals who are promoting renewable energy development in the area.

These are just a few examples of the great things that people in Pembrokeshire are doing to help save the environment. There are many more individuals and organizations working towards a more sustainable and environmentally-friendly future in the region.





# Lifeboats RNLI 200

1824-2024



# BE SAFE AT THE BEACH

Support your local lifeboats



Lifeboats

# TRUE STORY

**Sally Cole and her sons Jack (15) and Toby (12) will never forget their holiday in August ...**

'We were enjoying a family holiday with friends at Mawgan Porth. The beach was busy and the water was heaving. We were swimming and bodyboarding between the flags when we were suddenly caught in a rip current.

'One minute the water was at waist level, the next my feet couldn't find the bottom. My son Jack just shot straight out to sea, along with our friend Colin, his son and some others. Colin and I are both strong swimmers and I used to be a pool lifeguard so it was such a shock that I was out of my depth so quickly. I was being pulled under and out, and was really fighting large waves every time I came up.

'We were really glad to see the lifeguards who brought Jack in, along with our other friends, and checked I was okay on the way through. Luckily, my other son Toby had paddled out to me and two other ladies so we could grab onto his bodyboard until the lifeguards could come back for us. He was remarkably calm considering! All in all I reckon the lifeguards must have picked up 11 people during that rescue. We were all incredibly grateful.

'If I could give a piece of advice to others it would be that you absolutely need to be swimming on a lifeguarded beach, especially if there is a large group of you with teenagers. Most importantly – don't panic!'



Sally Cole and family with the lifeguards at Mawgan Porth  
Photo: Lewis Timson

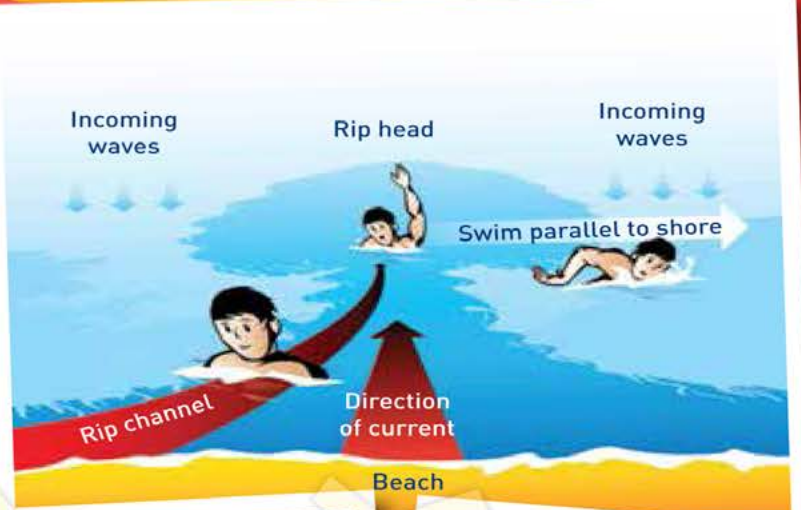
## RIP CURRENTS



Rips are strong currents that can quickly take swimmers from the shallows out beyond their depth.

Lifeguards will show you where you can avoid rips but if you do get caught in one:

- ★ stay calm – don't panic
- ★ if you can stand, wade don't swim
- ★ keep hold of your board or inflatable to help you float
- ★ raise your hand and shout for help
- ★ never try to swim directly against the rip or you'll get exhausted
- ★ swim parallel to the beach until free of the rip, then make for shore
- ★ if you see anyone else in trouble, alert the lifeguards or call **999** or **112** and ask for the Coastguard.



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# FAMILY FUN



The RNLI has teamed up with the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) to help keep our beaches safe and clean for people and wildlife. MCS recommends you visit [goodbeachguide.co.uk](http://goodbeachguide.co.uk) to discover Britain's best beaches and avoid swimming in dirty water.

When you've arrived at your chosen beach, exploring the seashore is fantastic fun for all the family. You can find a new world of wildlife in shallow pools among boulders and sands.

While most creatures are harmless, weeverfish, jellyfish and sea anemones are common finds that will cause a painful injury, so please remember to **look and not touch**.

To keep yourself and beach wildlife safe, MCS says:

- ★ leave animals where you find them
- ★ carefully lift and replace any rocks you may have removed – there are animals underneath that need them for shelter
- ★ leave attached seaweed in place – there is plenty lying loose on the shoreline
- ★ do not trample through the rock pools
- ★ play away from cliffs.

# ENVIRONMENT

Our coast is spectacularly beautiful, rich in wildlife and hugely popular, drawing people from a considerable distance for a range of recreational activities. Many sites are protected for their special wildlife interest and include a variety of rare and protected species from marine mammals to plants, birds and insects.

Depending on where you are in the UK, take a look at these websites to find out if the beach you're visiting is in a protected site and what habitats and species you might find:

- ★ Natural England [naturalengland.org.uk](http://naturalengland.org.uk)
- ★ Countryside Council for Wales [ccw.gov.uk](http://ccw.gov.uk)
- ★ Northern Ireland Environment Agency [doeni.gov.uk/niea](http://doeni.gov.uk/niea)
- ★ Scottish Natural Heritage [snh.gov.uk](http://snh.gov.uk)
- ★ National Trust [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk)



# TREATING A STING

## WEEVERFISH

These are plain-looking fish that sometimes nestle in the sand, in water just a few centimetres deep. A weeverfish will raise a sharp spine on its back in self defence if trodden on – ouch! Place the affected area in water as hot as you can stand. Test the water first so as not to scald the person who has been stung.



## JELLYFISH

If you are stung by a jellyfish, do not rub as this will cause the pain to increase. Lightly spray the area with sea water and apply a cold compress if available. **If severe and or life threatening symptoms are present, seek medical attention immediately.** If you spot a jellyfish, do not touch it and report it to the lifeguard or to the MCS at [mcsuk.org](http://mcsuk.org).



## SEA ANEMONES

You can find sea anemones stuck on rocks. These are soft-bodied creatures that can produce a nasty rash if brushed against – though most people won't be affected.



Photo: Paul Naylor



Photo: RNLI/Nigel Millard



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## MISSING CHILDREN



Children are safest when supervised.

As soon as you get to the beach, agree a meeting point in case of separation. If the beach runs a children's safety scheme, using wristbands or tickets, take part. They're free and they work.

If you are on an RNLI lifeguarded beach, pay a visit to the lifeguard hut on arrival and they will be able to tell you if there is a scheme running on that beach.

If a child does go missing:

- ★ calmly check your surroundings first, ensuring other children remain monitored
- ★ contact the lifeguards or police and keep them informed
- ★ let all searchers know once the child is found.

## INFLATABLES



Blow-up toys and airbeds are designed for pools, not the sea where they can easily be blown out to sea.

If you must use them at the beach, then:

- ★ ensure children are closely supervised
- ★ keep nearby
- ★ only use between the red and yellow flags
- ★ follow the lifeguard's advice
- ★ do not take out in big waves
- ★ do not use when orange windsock is flying, as this indicates offshore winds.

## HERE ARE SOME FUN, FREE GAMES THAT CAN BE PLAYED AT THE BEACH:

### FLAGS GAME

This game is used by lifesaving clubs with small children, but is also an international competitive lifesaving sport and is used as part of lifeguard fitness training.

The 'flags' are sticks (blunt!) with something tied to the top, or proper sandcastle flags, poked into the sand. Lie on the sand, face down and heads away from the flags. At a given signal, leap up and run to grab a flag. Make sure there are always one or two fewer flags than people playing, so the slowest are eliminated, just as in musical chairs. This goes on until only one person remains.

### SCAVENGER HUNT

Choose a theme to make your collection more exciting. Focus on natural objects or man-made ones but keep away from the sharp and spiky. Try finding something on the beach beginning with each letter of the alphabet. Or make a collection of particular colours – you could build a rainbow with your finds!

If you've collected litter – thank you! Otherwise, make sure you leave your finds on the beach at the end of the day as they are part of the natural environment.

### BEACH OLYMPICS

Wet sand makes a great Olympic arena! Draw some lines in the sand to mark out your own tracks, courts and pitches. As well as all the athletic events – running, jumping, throwing – how about inventing some variations of your own?

### HUMAN OBSTACLE COURSE

Each person becomes an obstacle for the rest of the family to climb over or jump across. When you've completed your go, form a new obstacle, and the line continues. The 'obstacles' can give the 'racers' instructions on how the obstacle is to be negotiated.

### BLANKET VOLLEYBALL

You'll need a beach ball or football and picnic rug for this one. Everyone holds the edges of the blanket with the ball in the middle. You have to work together to move the ball – see how high or how far you can throw it only using the blanket.



### PEMBROKESHIRE CANCER SHOP AND SUPPORT CENTRE IN PEMROKE DOCK IS OPEN!

*The centre provides support and information for those who have, or have had cancer. Together with carers and families.*

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# BE PREPARED

Once you've checked your route, don't forget you might have quite a trek to the beach itself, even if you're travelling by car, so don't overdo the packing!

You may find a checklist is helpful to ensure you don't forget the obvious: food, drink, sun cream ...

## FOOD

While you'll probably take cold food with you or buy refreshments on site, you may fancy cooking instead. Some beaches have clearly marked barbeque areas set aside for this. If you are unsure whether you can light a barbeque where you are, then it's best that you don't. Remember that a disposable barbeque stays very hot for a long time, so don't bury it for someone else to burn their feet on.

The Marine Conservation Society reports that litter levels have nearly doubled in 18 years. Please help to do something about it and always dispose of your rubbish in the bin or take it home so the beach remains clean and the wildlife doesn't get injured. If you want to do something about the problem, join in with a beach clean at [mcsuk.org](http://mcsuk.org).



## DRINKS

Fluid is vital. Cooler weather can mean a flask of tea or soup, but on any day make sure there is plenty of water for everyone, as the wind and sun can easily dehydrate you even when it isn't very hot.

Alcohol is a poor idea at the beach. It affects judgement, leading to greater risk-taking behaviour. It's not advisable to enter the water when you've been drinking, especially in the evening when lifeguards are no longer patrolling.

Alcohol also contributes to dehydration, increasing the danger of heat stroke. Be moderate or, better still, leave this kind of partying until after you've left the beach.



# SUN SAFETY



Sunburn can ruin your holiday and increase the risk of skin cancer in later life. According to our friends at the Karen Clifford Skin Cancer Charity, Skcin, we experience over half our lifetime's exposure to the sun before we reach the age of 21.

Remember the five Ss of sun safety::

- ★ **Sunscreen** – slop on a minimum of SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, 4 star+ rated, waterproof sunscreen. Follow the manufacturer's guidelines on the bottle for frequency of application. Waterproof sunscreens should not be used on children under 3 years as it can stop them sweating and lead to overheating
- ★ **Sun hat** – slap on a broad-brimmed hat that shades your face, neck and ears
- ★ **Sunglasses** – wear wrap-around sunglasses with UV protection to shield your eyes
- ★ **Shoulders** – slip on a T-shirt or UV protective suit for children and remember to keep your shoulders covered
- ★ **Shade** – seek shade, particularly during the hottest time of the day between 11am and 3pm when UV penetration is at its strongest.

For more info on sun safety visit [skcin.org](http://skcin.org)



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# SWIMMING, SURFING AND BODYBOARDING

Surfing GB is the national governing body for surfing and bodyboarding. For further information, accredited training centres and recognised schools visit [surfinggb.com](http://surfinggb.com) or contact **07711 263584**.



## STAYING SAFE

### Do:

- ★ follow the advice of the lifeguards
- ★ wear your leash so you don't lose your board
- ★ check your equipment for damage before use
- ★ bodyboard between the red and yellow flags
- ★ surf between the black and white flags
- ★ consider other water users – learn surf etiquette and rights of way.

### Don't:

- ★ ditch your board – it will keep you afloat in an emergency and make you easier to find
- ★ go alone
- ★ go in if the conditions are above your capability.



If you get into difficulties, stick up your hand and shout for help – but never abandon your board



## TIDES



A beach can seem like a vast playground, but the tide can come in surprisingly quickly. Many lifeboat and lifeguard rescues are to people getting cut off by the rising water. To prevent this happening to you, get local tidal information from the Harbour Master or the Tourist Information Centre.

Always keep a look out for the direction of the tide while on the beach. Just be aware ... and if in doubt, move out!



## TOMBSTONING



Jumping from heights into water is **dangerous** because:

- ★ water depth alters with the tide – it might be shallower than you think
- ★ submerged objects like rocks may not be visible
- ★ it can be really cold and the shock makes it difficult to swim
- ★ there can be strong currents that might sweep you away.

Many people have been seriously hurt or even killed due to tombstoning. Our advice is **not** to do it at all.

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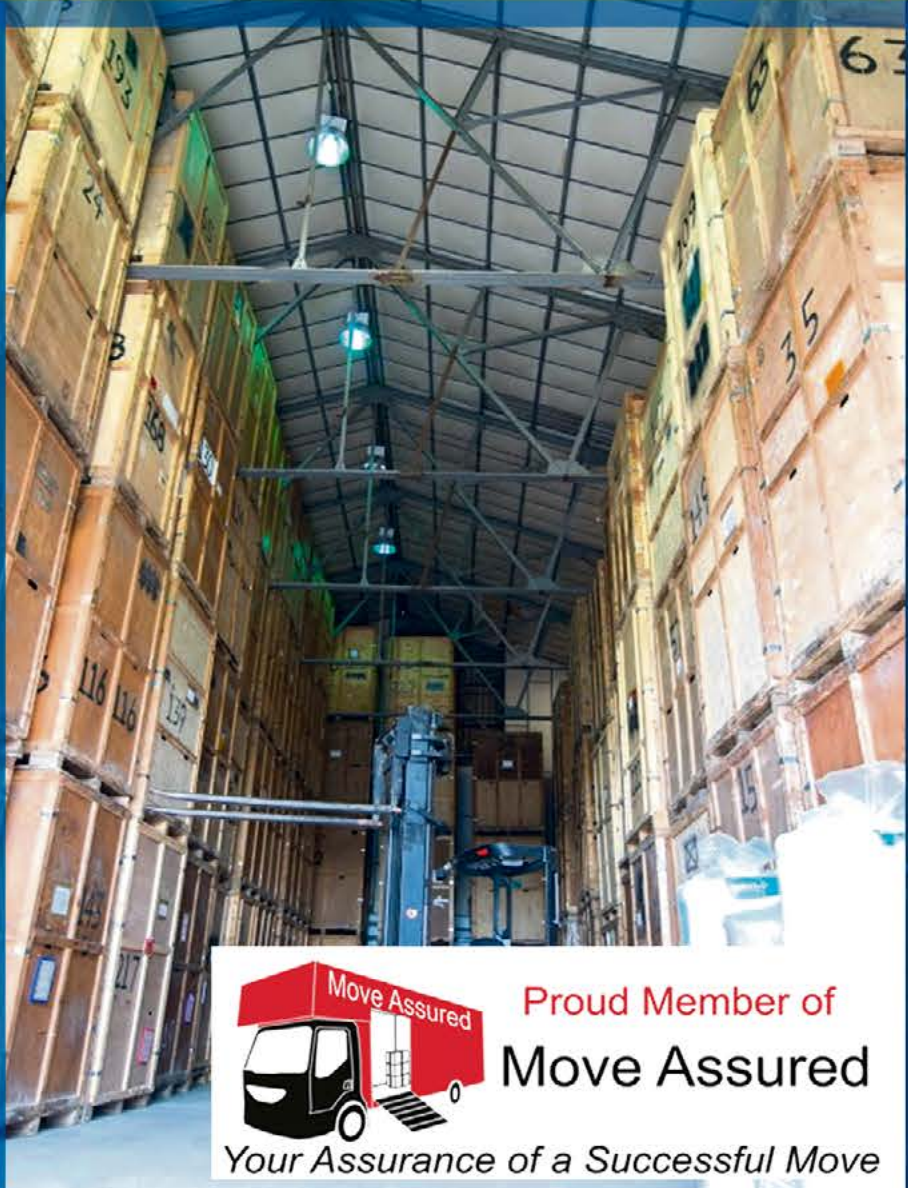
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# Out & about

## Six Beautiful Summer Walks

### 1. StrumbleHead



Strumble Head Lighthouse seems to rise straight from the sea, as you drive the narrow lane to the car park. In reality, it sits on a rocky islet, separated from the mainland by a narrow stretch of water. It's a glorious starting point for a hike along the Pembrokeshire Coast Path.

The path is edged with flowers such as thrift, pink campion and bluebells, and the sky is filled with seabirds. Take time to visit the observation post before striding out east: there's a good chance of seeing harbour porpoises, bottlenosed dolphins and grey seals.

From the memorial stone to the French invasion turn inland, following the path signed for Llanwnda Church. Continue to Trewydd, then follow country lanes back to the lighthouse.

Keep in mind: this is a surprisingly strenuous six mile walk. Expect rough clifftop paths that rise and fall with each new headland.

### 2. Porthgain to the Blue Lagoon



Porthgain is a picturesque fishing village with a gritty industrial past - as the ruins of the eerie brick hoppers above the harbour testify. Follow the Pembrokeshire Coast Path west, and discover remains of the old granite quarrying industry, still evident in the old railway track and ruined buildings.

The path continues up and round dizzying headlands, waves crashing on the rocks far below. Take time to climb down the metal stairway to the sandy cove at Traeth Llyfn before continuing on to the Blue Lagoon. Enclosed by land but for a narrow sea channel, the drowned slate quarry is a pool of intense aqua green and a playground for coast steerers, swimmers, divers and general daredevils.

Just before the car park at Abereiddy Beach, take the gorselined path inland and over fields to Porthgain. At the end of the four mile hike, enjoy a crab sandwich and a pint at the Sloop Inn or a hearty meal at the Shed Bistro.

### 4. Solva and the Gribin Headland



Solva is a charmingly pretty estuary village, so take time to explore the bright shopping street and harbour, before heading up the headland.

Cross the footbridge by the car park at the foot of the harbour and climb the Gribin to the Iron Age fort at the top with fine views over the sea.

Follow the hillside path down to the Gwadn, a small pebble beach. From here, take the path leading inland behind the beach, crossing a stream over stepping stones to climb the ridge and tumble down through woodland to Solva again. Relax on the balcony of the Cafe on the Quay at the end of the leisurely one mile stroll.

# Out this summer!

## WHAT TO DO AND SEE

### 3. St David's Peninsula



St David's Peninsula is a place of pilgrimage, raw nature and wild seas. Leaving Wales' smallest city behind, head down Goat Street, continuing down a minor road to St Non's Bay.

Follow a pathway to the remains of St Non's Chapel and Holy Well and turn west to loop round the tranquil creek at Porth Clais and on to Pen Dal-aderyn. Marvel at the tidal streams that race through Ramsey Point, reaching speeds of seven knots.

Pass the ruined Treginnis Copper Mine, where St Justinian crossed from Ramsey Island with his head tucked under his arm, as legend goes. Keep your eyes glued for dolphins, seals and porpoises in the expanse of blue. Finish at Whitesands, where it's believed St Patrick sailed for Ireland.

After the challenging nine mile hike, take the shuttle bus back to St David's. Explore the ruined Bishop's Palace and the imposing cathedral before re-energising with a filling oggie, the Welsh version of a Cornish Pasty.

### 4. Stack Rocks to St Govan



The starting point at Stack Rocks car park heralds a dramatic walk along the Pembrokeshire coast. This is an area of rugged sea stacks, a natural arch - the Green Bridge - forts and caves.

The limestone pillars are crammed with seabirds: guillemots, kittiwakes, fulmars and razorbills. From here the coastal path cuts across the Castlemartin Ministry of Defence firing range. Check it's open before striding out to St Govan.

Steep steps lead down to a medieval chapel that's built into the rockface. Dedicated to St Govan, legend says he came here to escape pirates, the cliff miraculously opening up a cleft to conceal him.

This is a magical place, legends aside, where waves lap in a rocky cove at the base of sheer cliffs. Retrace your steps to return to your starting point on this six mile walk.

### 5. Stackpole: Lily Ponds and Golden Beaches



Winding through the Stackpole Estate, now owned by the National Trust, this six mile ramble has a gentler feel to it, but is just as beautiful as the wilder Pembrokeshire coastline.

It takes you through varied landscapes filled with interest. Start at Bosherton and follow the northern bank of the Western Arm of the lily ponds - a Monet-esque scene in summer. Cross the bridge over the Central Arm to reach the Eastern Arm with its handsome Eight Arch Bridge.

From here, traverse the Deer Park to Stackpole Quay, where you can stop for refreshments before following the coast to Barafundle Bay. Head through the man-made arch, framing one of Wales' most beautiful beaches, then carry on to Broadhaven South.

Another golden strand, the striking sea stack of Church Rock stands sentry at the entrance of the deep-cut bay. Linger for a while before returning to Bosherton along the south bank of the Western Arm.

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# Out & about this summer!

## WHAT TO DO AND SEE

### HIDE & SEEK ON THE HIDDEN WATERWAY



Think of the water in Pembrokeshire and you'll most likely conjure up visions of ebbing tides and sandy shores, but there's a whole undiscovered world waiting to be explored further inland at the secret waterway.

Hidden away in the centre of Pembrokeshire county, the Daugleddau Estuary, also referred to as the Cleddau Estuary, snakes through rural countryside and almost time-forgotten neighbourhoods. Once a hive of activity during the coal mining era and the height of the fishing industry, this channel is now a scene of serenity and remains an unexplored location for many.

Known affectionately as the hidden or secret waterway, this body of aquatic habitats is a lesser-known part of this wild Welsh county. Wildlife enthusiasts, artists and photographers will revel in exploring this tranquil part of the world, with its scenic waterside villages, age-old fishing spots and picturesque hamlets

overlooking the river. The vista here is so idyllic, it almost feels like it has been lifted from a writer's imagination. It will inevitably spark inspiration in the creatives who pass through.

The Daugleddau Estuary as it is known, is home to various river birds and fish including mallards, shelducks, trout and salmon. To get close to the action, take a paddle and canoe or kayak your way through the waters, stopping off for bird sightings and photo opportunities. The banks of the water are formed by a mixture of muddy borders, grassy embankments, farmland and riverside cottages, so whether your attention is focussed inland or on the water, you're sure to see some spectacular sights.

Stemming at Milford Haven, the mouth of the Irish Sea, this estuary consists of four rivers and reaches as far inland as Haverfordwest via the western river, and Canaston Bridge via the eastern river. Together the two are known as

the Daugleddau Estuary and it has two smaller streams which split off on tangents stretching out to Carew and Cresswell Quay.

Journeying along the waterway, you will travel through Pembroke Dock to marvel at the port which once upon a time produced some 250 ships for industry and war, before reaching the pretty marina lights in Neyland. Continuing further inland takes you through the sleepy villages of Lawrenny, Llangwm and Landshipping - a stretch of the river which was once bustling with local fishermen chasing after a good haul for their wives to sell back on land.

Whilst the estuary technically begins at Milford (as this is where the seawater merges with river water), you can easily continue your water-based journey out towards the Irish Sea to explore the splendid coastal locations of Herbandston and Sandy Haven.





# Milford Haven Carnival is coming!

**GET READY for a jolly good time at the Milford Haven Carnival, happening on Saturday, 1st July 2023! Organised by the Milford Haven Round Table, this event is set to be a rip-roaring day filled with excitement, laughter, and plenty of carnival floats!**

The thrill begins at 1 PM from Waterloo Square, where a vibrant parade of carnival floats will commence its journey. Crossing the magnificent Hakin Bridge and making its way up Hamilton Terrace, the procession will take an exhilarating turn onto Charles Street, creating an atmosphere of anticipation and merriment along the route. Finally, the grand finale awaits at the Milford Haven Waterfront, where the energy and enthusiasm will be at an all-time high!

As you arrive at the Milford Haven Waterfront, prepare to be gobsmacked by the dazzling Carnival Arena that awaits you. Here, you'll find a wide array of attractions and activities to keep the excitement going throughout the day.

The Pure West Radio Stage will be pumping out lively tunes, setting the perfect soundtrack for the festivities. Talented musicians and performers will grace the stage, ensuring that there's never a dull moment. Let the rhythm

move you and have a jolly good boogie with the crowd!

Step into the world of wonder and be captivated by the mesmerising circus performers showcasing their incredible skills. From acrobats soaring through the air to jugglers displaying their remarkable dexterity, their performances will leave you gobsmacked.

Experience the thrill of the Fun Fair, where a variety of exciting rides and games await. Whether you're a fan of exhilarating roller coasters or prefer the classic carousel, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Get ready for an adrenaline rush and create lasting memories with your mates and family.

Keep an eye out for Mr. Toad's Roaming Cabaret, a whimsical troupe of entertainers who will wander through the crowds, spreading laughter and cheer. Their hilarious antics and interactive performances are guaranteed to put a smile on your face and create a lively atmosphere.

Be prepared to encounter Valerian, the animatronic dragon! This awe-inspiring creature will amaze both young and old alike with its realistic movements and fiery presence. Witness the magic come to life as Valerian roams the carnival, adding an enchanting touch to the event.

Sports enthusiasts are in for a treat with the Secret Rugby Roadshow! Engage in thrilling rugby activities, test your skills, and learn more about the sport from the experts. Get ready to channel your inner athlete and experience the excitement of rugby firsthand.

When hunger strikes, explore the mouth-watering array of street food options available at the carnival. From delicious snacks to flavoursome international cuisines, satisfy your cravings and recharge your energy to keep the festivities going strong.

Additionally, don't forget to visit the charity stalls, where you'll find an opportunity to support noble causes and make a positive impact on the community. Discover various organisations and learn about their initiatives while contributing to a brighter future.

Get ready for a splendid extravaganza like no other at the Milford Haven Carnival on Saturday, 1st July 2023. Join the Milford Haven Round Table and celebrate the spirit of community, joy, and adventure. Mark your calendars, gather your loved ones, and prepare for an unforgettable day of laughter, entertainment, and carnival magic!





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Come late August and you'll find blackberries in abundance across the countryside. Our expert guide on where to pick blackberries, how to cook, storing ideas and the best blackberry fruit recipes.

Few late summer activities are as typically British as rooting through a hedgerow in search of blackberries. The hardy brambles that grow the plump little fruits thrive anywhere from dense woodlands to wasted shrubbery, making the blackberry extremely common. Blackberries are also a particularly good introduction to foraging, as they are easily recognisable and are relatively simple to pluck. A popular childhood activity, blackberry-picking is a common introduction to foraging for many people.

Our guide on how to forage for blackberries, with a few key details regarding where the fruit can be found and characteristics

#### **What is the season for picking blackberries in the UK?**

The first early blackberries start appearing in August in the UK, but September and October can also be good picking months depending on location.

#### **Is it safe to eat wild blackberries in the UK?**

Grown in clusters along hedgerows, it is safe to eat wild blackberries found in the UK, although you should wash and freeze them first to kill any bugs. The blackberry should not be confused with the black raspberry, which looks almost identical. The easiest way to tell the difference is by the core. Blackberries will always have a white core, with part of the stem still attached, whereas black raspberries are hollow in the



center as the stem is left behind when picked. Black raspberries are a treat to find though – they are less tart than blackberries and make excellent jams.

#### **Where to look for blackberries**

You will find blackberries in woods, hedges, heaths, roadside verges, and possibly even your garden. Brambles are usually found in a tangled straggly clump, with prickly, toothed leaves that turn reddish green in the autumn. The berries should be a deep, purple-black when picked. Blackberries are at their best towards the latter half of summer, peaking in August and early September.

#### **What are the health benefits of eating blackberries?**

According to British folklore, passing under the archway formed by a bramble branch can cure hernias, ruptures, pimples and boils. This has also been used as a remedy for "downer" cows, cows that for whatever reason are unable to stand.

Apparently, eating blackberries can also help you look younger, as blackberries are rich in anti-oxidants that promote the healthy tightening of tissue, making your skin less likely to sag or wrinkle. Blackberries have also been used as hair dye with Nicholas Culpeper, an English herbalist from the 1600s, recommended the blackberry leaf to be used as hair dye. He advised that the leaves were to be boiled in a lye solution in order to "maketh the hair black".

#### **How to store blackberries**

Once you've brought your blackberries home, wash well with cold water and leave to soak with a little salt to kill any bugs. Fresh blackberries will last a day or two but blackberries ripen quickly - losing flavour and condition, so if you have a glut to use up it is worth freezing. Wash the blackberries and set aside to dry before spreading in thin layers in a container and popping in the freezer for a later date. Alternatively, you can stew with a little sugar and puree, again freezing or keeping in the fridge.

#### **Can you freeze blackberries?**

Blackberries freeze well and can be used throughout winter in crumbles and pies. Freezing them will also help kill any bugs.



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*Between Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July -Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July*

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*The Royal Watercolour Society of Wales will be exhibiting at the gallery  
between Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September*

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*The Wales Contemporary International Fine Art Exhibition opens at the Waterfront Gallery on **Saturday 21st October** – not to be missed.*

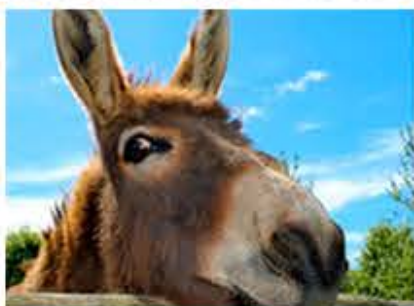
### *Artist opportunities*

- *Open call for works in 2D or 3D by artists based in the UK or internationally.*
- *Deadline for entry: Monday 21 August 2023, 5PM.*
- *Link to enter: <https://new.artopps.co.uk/opportunities/WalesContemporary>*
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## Wales: Where whisky, wings, and

WALES has a rich cultural heritage that is steeped in tradition and creativity.

Throughout history, Wales has been known for its rugged landscapes, its castles, its poets, and its musicians. But Wales is also home to a number of industries that have produced some of the world's most iconic and innovative products. Here are just a few examples of things made in Wales that have made their mark on the world.



### Welsh Slate

Wales is home to some of the world's finest slate, which has been used for roofing, flooring, and other construction purposes for centuries. Welsh slate is renowned for its durability, and it has been used in some of the world's most iconic buildings, including St. Pancras Station in London and the Smithsonian Museum in Washington D.C.

famous brew is Brains SA, a rich and malty beer that is popular throughout Wales and beyond. The brewery has also produced a range of other beers, including the award-winning Dark, which is a smooth and satisfying stout.



### Penderyn Whisky

Penderyn Distillery, located in the Brecon Beacons National Park, produces award-winning Welsh whisky that has gained global recognition. This premium single malt whisky is distilled in unique copper pot stills, producing a spirit that is distinctively smooth and complex. Penderyn whisky is matured in oak barrels, which give it a rich and mellow flavour that is perfect for sipping on its own or as part of a cocktail.



### Brains Beer

Brains Brewery, located in Cardiff, has been producing beer since 1882. Its most



### Halen Mon Sea Salt

Halen Mon Sea Salt is a luxury food product that is produced on the Isle of Anglesey. The salt is harvested from the pristine waters of the Menai Strait, and it is renowned for its purity and flavour. Halen Mon Sea Salt is used by top chefs around the world, and it has won numerous awards for its quality and taste.

### Airbus A380 Wings

Airbus, the global aerospace company, has a large

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## Wonders are made!



manufacturing plant in Broughton, North Wales. This plant produces the wings for the Airbus A380, the world's largest passenger aircraft. The wings are made using state-of-the-art technology, and they are transported to France, where the rest of the aircraft is assembled.



**Clogau Gold Jewellery**  
Clogau Gold is a Welsh jewellery company that has been producing stunning pieces since 1989. The company uses gold that is mined from the Clogau St. David's mine in North Wales,

which has been producing gold since the Roman era. Clogau Gold jewellery is known for its intricate designs and exquisite craftsmanship.

**Welsh Lamb**  
Wales is home to some of the finest lamb in the world, thanks to its lush green pastures and mild climate. Welsh lamb is a premium product that is sought after by top chefs and discerning diners. The lamb is reared on small family farms, where it is allowed to graze on the natural grasses and wildflowers that grow in the Welsh countryside.

These are just a few examples of the many things that are made in Wales. From food and drink to technology and luxury goods, Wales has a diverse range of industries that are producing world-class products. Whether you're a whisky connoisseur or a fashionista, there's something made in Wales that is sure to catch your eye.

### MADE IN WALES WALES MOST FAMOUS PEOPLE!

WALES has produced many famous people throughout history, from actors and musicians to politicians and sports stars. Here are ten of the most well-known Welsh figures:

**Tom Jones** - This legendary singer from Pontypridd has been entertaining audiences for over six decades with his powerful voice and charisma. He is known for hits like "It's Not Unusual" and "Delilah".

**Anthony Hopkins** - One of the most respected actors in the world, Hopkins was born in Port Talbot and has won numerous awards for his performances on stage and screen. He is perhaps best known for his role as Hannibal Lecter in "The Silence of the Lambs".

**Roald Dahl** - This beloved children's author was born in Cardiff and wrote such classics as "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and "Matilda". His books continue to inspire and entertain children and adults alike.

**Gareth Bale** - This footballer from Cardiff is known for his speed, skill, and scoring ability. He has played for some of the top teams in Europe, including Tottenham Hotspur and Real Madrid.

**Dylan Thomas** - This poet from Swansea is one of Wales' most celebrated literary figures. He wrote such works as "Under Milk Wood" and "Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night" before his untimely death at the age of 39.

## Defaid Dolwerdd Dairy Sheep

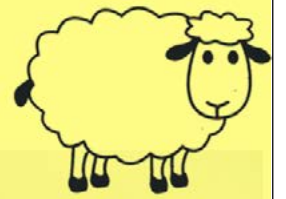
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# Welsh Wine

## Vineyard scoops national award



**VELFREY VINEYARD** from Lampeter Velfrey, near Narberth in Pembrokeshire, achieved their dream by winning the prestigious **Small Drinks Producer of the Year award at the Food and Drink Wales Awards 2023.**

The award was proudly accepted by Ryan Mounsey and Sophie Lockie, who are soon-to-be-married and part of the family team that operates the vineyard. Ryan expressed his delight and gratitude, saying, “We are incredibly thrilled and honored to receive this recognition at such a esteemed event.”

This accolade is a

testament to the years of dedicated effort in transforming an overgrown pasture into a thriving vineyard. Velfrey’s journey culminated in the production of exceptional wines, placing them among the elite 100 Master-Winning Winemakers from the Global Wine Masters—making Velfrey one of only two UK vineyards to achieve this distinction. Furthermore, Velfrey was recognized with the Visit Pembrokeshire Croeso Award for Tourism Innovation last year.

Sophie expressed her gratitude to everyone who contributed to their success,

including those involved in the planning, preparation, planting, growing, and harvesting of their grapes. She acknowledged the invaluable support of numerous individuals without whom their achievements would not have been possible.

Velfrey Vineyard specializes in crafting an array of award-winning sparkling and still wines. They also offer vineyard tours, complete with tastings and the opportunity to enjoy Welsh cheese and charcuterie grazing boards. For further information, please visit their website at [www.velfreyvineyard.com](http://www.velfreyvineyard.com).

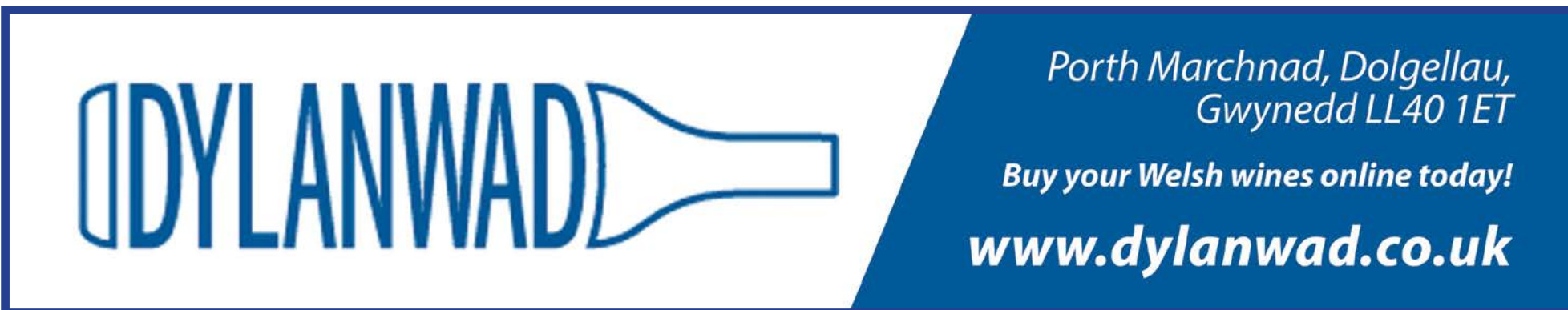


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# BACK IN EUROPE

# HAVERFORDWEST COUNTY AFC

## CONGRATULATIONS BOYS!

## Underdogs defy the odds to secure a place among Europe's elite



**IN A REMARKABLE display of determination and skill, Haverfordwest County AFC, the small-town Welsh football club, has accomplished the unimaginable by securing a coveted place in the prestigious UEFA Europa League.**

This remarkable achievement has not only brought unprecedented glory to the club but also elevated the entire region's footballing reputation.

Haverfordwest County AFC's journey to European competition is a testament to the relentless spirit of the underdog. The club, which has long been viewed as a modest outfit, has defied all expectations and punched above their weight to earn a shot at rubbing shoulders with some of the continent's footballing giants.

Under the guidance of their charismatic manager, Tony Pennock,

Haverfordwest County AFC has undergone a remarkable transformation in recent years. Pennock's tactical acumen and unwavering belief in his squad have been crucial factors in the team's meteoric rise. The coaching staff's emphasis on teamwork, discipline, and a never-say-die attitude has forged a cohesive unit capable of taking on formidable opponents.

The club's Europa League qualification was secured after an exceptional domestic campaign. Haverfordwest County AFC displayed an attacking brand of football that enthralled fans and earned plaudits from pundits across the country. The team's ability to combine solid defensive foundations with swift and incisive counter-attacks has proven to be a winning formula.

The road to the Europa League

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# HAVERFORDWEST COUNTY AFC

**BACK IN EUROPE**  
CONGRATULATIONS BOYS!



has been paved with memorable moments for Haverfordwest County AFC. Their remarkable cup runs and heroic comebacks against formidable opponents have captivated fans and captured the hearts of football enthusiasts nationwide. From the tense penalty shootouts to last-minute winners, the team has showcased an indomitable spirit that will undoubtedly resonate with future generations.

For the Haverfordwest community, this achievement holds immense significance. It represents the triumph of hard work, perseverance, and the unyielding passion for the sport that binds the town together. The local fans, whose unwavering support has been a constant source of motivation for the players, are now preparing to travel across Europe to cheer on their beloved team, creating an atmosphere that will undoubtedly rival that of any footballing stronghold on the continent.

As Haverfordwest County AFC prepares for their maiden Europa League campaign, they are well aware

of the challenges that lie ahead. They will face battle-hardened teams from across Europe, each with its own storied history and formidable talent. However, this remarkable Welsh club has already proven that they are more than capable of defying the odds.

While the ultimate outcome remains uncertain, one thing is clear: Haverfordwest County AFC's presence in the Europa League is a triumph for the entire club, its supporters, and the town itself. Their remarkable journey serves as a reminder that in football, and in life, dreams can be achieved through hard work, dedication, and an unwavering belief in one's abilities.

As the entire Haverfordwest community holds its breath in anticipation, the stage is set for this valiant underdog to etch its name in European football history. Regardless of the results, the remarkable rise of Haverfordwest County AFC will forever be remembered as a beacon of hope and inspiration for football enthusiasts worldwide.

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The Clarby Warriors is the pan-disability football team based at Clarbeston Road AFC. The Warriors were formed more than 20 years ago and draws players from much of the county of Pembrokeshire. The team takes part in regular pan disability festivals across south Wales and the players also have many social connections outside of football.

The team trains every Wednesday evening at Pembroke Leisure Centre between 7pm and 8pm and fortnightly on Sunday mornings at the Clarbeston Road AFC Graham Roberts Field.

Contact Ian on: [ian\\_eynon@hotmail.com](mailto:ian_eynon@hotmail.com)  
07849 528444 • [www.clarbestonroadafc.co.uk](http://www.clarbestonroadafc.co.uk)



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**SPORT, it isn't just a game, for many people around a county it's a way-of-life and a necessity.**

Staying active is good for both our mental and physical health, it can teach teamwork, dedication and focus.

The skills picked up from taking part in sport are too numerous to mention, but it's not always easy for people with ability issues.

The Herald are changing that today by taking a closer look at local sports clubs that either cater for or are aimed solely at improving access to sport for everyone, no matter their ability or learning difficulties.

This week we're taking a closer look at Pembroke Dock Cricket Club which was awarded the insport ribbon standard by Cricket Wales; by achieving certain goals and ensuring the club was able to delivery coaching and training, potentially in a range of different formats to a spectrum to disabled and non-disabled people,

These goals are about good practice across the board, and supporting the clubs doing this will mean that opportunities for involvement in the sport the clubs offer will increase.

Pembroke Dock Cricket Club has two senior sides, a First and Second Eleven who play in the Pembroke County Cricket Club league.

The teams comprise of



senior and juniors; the mix works well as each player has an opportunity to bat and bowl.

The Under 15 team play on the league as well. Pembroke Dock Cricket Club has a strong coaching structure; consisting of two Level 2 coaches and four Level 1 coach assistants. All have attended a First Aid course.

One of the club's mottos is enjoy – that extends to the cricket and social side of the club.

The management committee arrange various activities throughout the year such as charity matches, and various fund raisers.

Soft ball festivals have also been introduced to promote the Ladies cricket; all-encompassing everyone from the community.

Sport shouldn't be exclusive, we've seen during the pandemic that many, many people rely on the local sports scene for their mental health as well as their physical health.

The sports we play are not all about the physical act of hitting or kicking a ball, there's also the social aspects with many Pembrokeshire residents using team-based sports as their main chance to make and speak to friends and to be around like-minded people, those

of us with restricted abilities could be missing out on vital opportunities to socialise and learn the inter-personal skills that being part of a team or club teach you.

Pembrokeshire has a vibrant and active sports scene and it seems that Pembrokeshire's disabled sports scene is just as vibrant and just as vital an outlet for the members of those clubs.

Next we're taking a closer look at the Clarby Warriors, the pan-disability football team based at Clarbeston Road AFC.

The Warriors were formed more than 20 years ago and draws players from much of the county of Pembrokeshire.



Pembrokeshire Special Needs Gymnastics is a gymnastics club for children and young adults with difficulties, disabilities and additional learning needs.

Tel: Rachel Mathias  
07950 561913

Email:  
[psngc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:psngc@hotmail.co.uk)



Pembrokeshire Disabled Bowls Club began in 1984; volunteers can help disabled on the green lawn and stop for tea at half time.

Players would like to compete in county competitions, represent Wales and trips out in other venues.

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The team takes part in regular pan disability festivals across south Wales and the players also have many social connections outside of football.

The team trains every Wednesday evening at Pembroke Leisure Centre between 7pm and 8pm and fortnightly on Sunday mornings at the Clarbeston Road AFC Graham Roberts Field.

Now that football has resumed again, the Warriors are looking to recruit new players of all ages and abilities and new members are very welcome to come along to trainings sessions.

Further information may be obtained from Disability Football Co-ordinator Ian Eynon, at [ian\\_eynon@hotmail.com](mailto:ian_eynon@hotmail.com) or on 07849 528444 or via their facebook page: clarby warriors football team. Or via the clubs main web site, [www.clarbestonroadafc.co.uk](http://www.clarbestonroadafc.co.uk)

Clarby Warriors prove that there's real longevity and call for teams that cater to those with differing abilities, and we're going to do all we can to promote and highlight the plight of the clubs and organisations that offer their services to those with alternate or restricted abilities, keep up the great work!



**PEMBROKESHIRE PUFFINS**  
 Disability Swimming Squad

Pembrokeshire Puffins is a disabled swimming squad for children and young adults with physical and learning disabilities and/or autism. The squad meet on a Sunday afternoon at Haverfordwest Leisure Centre from 3:00 – 5:00 pm.

Tamara O'Leary – 07791 329944  
[www.pembspuffinsdisabilityswimming.com](http://www.pembspuffinsdisabilityswimming.com)

*Fishguard Sports AFC is a club with a junior disability team for girls under 10's, 12's 14's and 16's years of age and boys under 7's, 9's, 11's and 13's years of age with 2 senior male teams. The club is looking for a senior female team in the future.*

**Mathew Lamb – 07966 936126**  
[mathewlamb@live.co.uk](mailto:mathewlamb@live.co.uk)

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# TEAM OF THE WEEK



LAWRENNY AFC is an amateur football team in the small village of Lawrenny. The club was formed in 1985 when the members of the cricket club decided to come together to start their own team. Since then the club has gone from strength to strength with the addition of a Second XI in 1987 followed by the start of a junior section in 2013 which now consists of teams at Under 7, Under 8, Under 9, Under 10 and Under 13 age groups. The club has now taken a further step forward with the creation of a new senior Ladies team with the hope of entering a league competition next season.

The senior section currently ply their trade in Division 3 and Division 5 of the Manderwood Pembrokeshire League and have managed to add a few trophies to their cabinet including the Division 3 and Division 5 League Titles as well as the Division 2, Division 3 and Division 5 cups. While there have been these highs there has also been lows and the club are currently looking to rebuild themselves after relegation in the previous season from Division 2. A new manager in Mikey Beynon

has been brought in to oversee the progression and couple with a host of exciting new signings hopes are high for a successful season. The 2nd XI have also been boosted with new signings and managers Rhys Jenkins and Peter Horsley will certainly be confident of a good season themselves.

This season also sees the first time a Lawrenny junior side play competitive football as the Under 13's coached by Grant James take their place in the Todaros Pembrokeshire Junior Football Under 13's league. He is ably assisted in the Junior section by fellow coaches Stefan Jenkins (Under 7's), Ian Perridge (Under 8's), Alison Lewis (Under 9's) and David Cole (Under 10's) all of who are blessed to have a large number of talented players at their disposal and the whole junior section is brilliantly overseen by Diane James. The junior section started in 2013 with just a handful of kids and eventually the 1st teams were formed later that year with an Under 7's and Under 8's and this has now grown to over 90 kids playing and training which is giving a great amount excitement for the future of the club.



A new exciting venture the club has embarked on is the Ladies section. Although only very recently started it has seen an excellent response and training has started at Lawrenny Club on Monday nights at 6.30pm. The hope is to grow the interest enough to enter competition next season. If anyone is interested in coming along to training or would like more info just search for Lawrenny Ladies Football Club on

facebook and get in touch. As a small club we rely on all the above volunteers and so many more to help keep the club going. None more so than Roger Wood who has recently stood down as Treasurer after doing the role for over 25 years. Our gratitude to Roger can never truly be put in to words but Lawrenny certainly wouldn't be where it is now without all his hard work. This hard work has now been passed

on to Jonathan Cole who has taken to the new role excellently. Without people like this clubs like ours simply wouldn't survive but we cannot do it on that alone so we as a whole club would like to say a massive Thank You to all of our sponsors both new and old. Without your fantastic support this club would never have been able to thrive the way it has for a small village team.

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# Celebrating Eid ul-Adha as a Christian

## • Finding a home away from home at Milford Haven Mosque



**WEDNESDAY** (Jun 28) marked the beginning of Eid ul-Adha, and I had the incredible opportunity to immerse myself in the celebrations alongside Milford Haven's Muslim community. As the Editor of The Pembrokeshire Herald, I have developed a deep affection for this vibrant community and their values. Despite having many Muslim friends, I had never experienced firsthand the rituals and prayers that take place in a mosque. However, this year, I was graciously invited to join the local mosque for Eid ul-Adha, an experience that left me feeling right at home.

The morning of Eid ul-Adha saw local muslim residents flocking to the mosque in Milford Haven, dressed impeccably in their finest attire. The atmosphere was filled with warmth and hospitality, making me feel instantly welcomed.

To my surprise, the prayer session at the mosque felt strangely familiar, reminiscent of a church service. Led by the imam, the congregation engaged in call-and-response prayers. This structure, where the imam led and the attendees responded, mirrored the praise and worship I was accustomed to in church, with the choir master guiding and the congregation joining in harmony.

Following the prayer, the imam delivered a sermon, enlightening us

**Tom Sinclair**  
*Editor@herald.email*

about the origins and significance of Eid ul-Adha, also known as the feast of the sacrifice. This sacred occasion commemorates the prophet Ibrahim (Abraham in Christianity) and his unwavering faith. According to Islamic tradition, Ibrahim was instructed by God to sacrifice his beloved son, Ismail (Ishmael in Christianity). Just as Ibrahim was about to carry out the sacrifice, God intervened and replaced Ismail with a lamb, symbolizing the virtue of obedience and the divine intervention that safeguards our loved ones.

The imam's words resonated deeply within me, prompting introspection and contemplation of my own purpose in this world. Eid, he emphasized, is not merely about extravagant clothes or

indulgent feasts; it is about selflessness, extending a helping hand to the less fortunate, and nurturing our relationship with the divine.

As the sermon drew to a close, a spirit of unity and camaraderie filled the air. Everyone embraced one another, exchanging heartfelt greetings of "Eid Mubarak," the traditional blessing for Eid. It was remarkable to witness the inclusivity and acceptance extended to me, despite not sharing the Islamic faith. In that moment, I realized the true essence of this time of year.

The mosque had prepared a special Eid brunch, and the tantalizing aroma of freshly cooked food wafted through the air. Gathered around on the floor, people of diverse backgrounds shared a meal together, cherishing the sense of community and connection that permeated the room.

Leaving the mosque, I couldn't help but feel a

deep sense of gratitude for the experience I had been privileged to partake in. It served as a poignant reminder of the importance of understanding and embracing different cultures and beliefs. Eid ul-Adha taught me the power of unity, transcending religious boundaries. In that sacred space, I found a home away from home.

As our society continues to navigate the path towards harmony and coexistence, my personal encounter on this auspicious occasion underscores the potential for genuine connections, regardless of our religious affiliations. Eid ul-Adha, with its message of unity and shared humanity, stands as a testament to the beauty that lies in embracing diversity and finding common ground. Yesterday, I celebrated Eid ul-Adha not as an outsider, but as someone who felt a true sense of belonging and acceptance.





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**SPORT**

## Neyland extends dominance in Pembrokeshire Cricket League

**NEYLAND Cricket Club maintained their dominant position at the top of the Pembrokeshire Cricket League division one with an impressive eight-wicket victory over St Ishmaels.**

St Ishmaels were all out for 130 runs as Ross Hardy took five wickets for 21 runs and Brad McDermott-Jenkins claimed four wickets for 13 runs. In response, Nic Koomen scored 41 runs and Dai Davies remained unbeaten on 58 runs, guiding Neyland to victory with only two wickets lost.

Meanwhile, in a closely contested match, second-placed Carew emerged victorious by two wickets against Llangwm. James Hinchcliffe played a crucial role, taking four wickets for 40 runs and contributing 30 runs with the bat. Brian Hall scored 43 runs, while Scott Richards remained unbeaten on 38 runs to secure the win for Carew.

In another match, Herbrandston suffered a heavy defeat of 160 runs against Lawrenny. Lawrenny posted an impressive total of 243 runs, with Kyle Marsh top-scoring with 77 runs



and Patrick Elliott adding 57 runs. Herbrandston could only manage 83 runs in their chase, with Kyle Marsh and Ryan Morton taking five wickets each for Lawrenny.

Burton faced a similar fate, losing by eight wickets to Cresselly. Phil Williams

scored an unbeaten 56 runs, and Matthew Morgan contributed 61 runs as Cresselly chased down Burton's total of 132 runs comfortably.

Saundersfoot secured a 49-run victory over Narberth, thanks to an all-

round performance by Tom Mansbridge. Mansbridge scored 56 runs and also took three wickets for 57 runs to help his team defend a total of 205 runs.

In summary, Neyland maintained their lead in the division one standings with a

convincing win, while Carew, Lawrenny, Cresselly, and Saundersfoot also emerged victorious in their respective matches. These results have significant implications for the standings in the Thomas Carroll Pembrokeshire League division one.

## Bleddyn strikes gold at Special Olympics, receives hero's home coming

**A remarkable display of strength and determination by powerlifter Bleddyn Gibbs, hailing from Pembrokeshire, has earned him a hero's welcome upon his return from the Special Olympics held in Berlin.**

The 18-year-old athlete's outstanding performance saw him match his personal best in all three powerlifting categories, lifting an impressive 140kg in the squat, 75kg in the bench press, and 150kg in the deadlift. Gibbs emerged victorious in each class, securing not only the gold medals in those categories but also the coveted overall gold.

Having proudly represented Team GB at the Special Olympics, Bleddyn was greeted with tremendous fanfare as he arrived back in his hometown of Milford Haven. The community, with Welsh flags waving and cheers filling the air, celebrated the awe-inspiring achievement of their local hero. A blue light escort from the Milford Haven Police accompanied Gibbs, who expressed their privilege to be a part of his homecoming. "It was an honour to escort a four-

time Olympic Champion," they expressed. "Well done Bleddyn, an amazing achievement getting four gold medals at the Special Olympics in Berlin. The whole of Milford Haven is proud of you."

For Bleddyn, the Special Olympics marked a significant milestone, being his first major international event. His father, Steffan,

who is also his training partner at the Strength Academy Wales (SAW), highlighted the impact of competing again after the challenging period of the COVID-19 pandemic. "When Bleddyn started competing as we came out of Covid, that gave him a real spur and lots of motivation," Steffan shared. "He's been working from one

competition to the next, and since being selected for the GB team, he's really upped his training commitment and his performance level."

Bleddyn, a student at Portfield School, will further his education at Pembrokeshire College beginning in September. In addition to his academic pursuits, his next undertaking is

completing the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, a testament to his determination and dedication beyond the realm of sports.

Colin Dyer, the CEO of Special Olympics GB, couldn't contain his excitement for Bleddyn's extraordinary achievement, praising his exceptional qualities both as an athlete and as an individual. "We are absolutely thrilled for Bleddyn. This is a remarkable achievement," Dyer commented. "Each one of our competitors has defied all odds to partake in these games, and to come away with a medal caps a monumental accomplishment. They have undoubtedly brought immense pride to themselves, their family, and their nation."

Bleddyn Gibbs has not only proven his incredible prowess in powerlifting but has also become a symbol of inspiration and triumph, leaving an indelible mark on the sporting community. His achievements at the Special Olympics in Berlin will be remembered as a testament to the power of determination and unwavering commitment.



## Stackpole secures thrilling victory

**STACKPOLE** closed in on Thomas Carroll Pembrokeshire League division three leaders Lamphey with a thrilling 15-run home win, after defending their total of 200 for 5.

According to Richard MacKay, who made 57 runs for Stackpole, "We knew Lamphey was a tough opponent, but we were determined to give it our all. It was a team effort, and I'm glad we were able to defend our total and come out on top."

Lewis Gibby, who remained unbeaten at 76, expressed his satisfaction with the team's performance, stating, "We batted with confidence and put up a challenging total. It feels great to contribute to the victory."

Chris Gibbs, who played a crucial role by claiming 3 wickets for 40 runs, said, "The key was to maintain our focus during Lamphey's chase. I'm glad I could contribute with both bat and ball to help secure the win."

Lamphey finished on 185 for 7, with David Dredge scoring 48 runs and James Skeels contributing 33 runs. Reflecting on their performance, Dredge mentioned, "It was a tough match, and Stackpole put up a good fight. Unfortunately, we couldn't chase down the target, but credit to them for their performance."

In another match, Pembrokeshire emerged victorious by 5 wickets against St Ishmaels II. Alan Webster's impressive figures of 4 wickets for 20 runs played a crucial

role in Pembrokeshire's win. "I was pleased with my bowling performance today. The team showed great determination and executed our plans well," Webster commented.

Billy Wood, who took 3 wickets for 17 runs and scored an unbeaten 22, shared his thoughts on the match, stating, "It was a collective effort from our team. We knew we had to restrict St Ishmaels II's total, and everyone contributed with their skills."

Turning to the Division Four matches, Haverfordwest Seconds secured a narrow 3-run victory over Burton Seconds, with Ashoka Senavirathna leading the charge with a score of 66 runs. Senavirathna mentioned, "It was a close contest, and we had to work hard for the win. I'm happy to have contributed to the team's success."

Lastly, Llechryd Seconds suffered a 7-wicket defeat against Hook Seconds, despite Ollie Roberts' impressive knock of 88 runs. Jamie Phelps, who scored 82 runs for Hook, expressed his satisfaction with his performance, saying, "It feels great to have played a match-winning innings for the team. Everyone played their part in securing the win."

These results from the Thomas Carroll Pembrokeshire League matches on June 24 showcase the competitive spirit and talent within the league as teams strive for success in their respective divisions.

# Thomas Carroll Pembrokeshire League

DIVISION 1	P	W	D	L	T	AB	Pts
Neyland	10	8	0	1	0	1	160
Carew	10	7	0	2	0	1	149
Lawrenny	10	5	0	4	0	1	127
Cresselly	10	5	0	4	0	1	122
St Ishmaels	10	5	0	4	0	1	115
Saundersfoot	10	4	0	5	0	1	110
Llangwm	10	4	0	5	0	1	107
Narberth	10	3	0	6	0	1	97
Herbrandston	10	3	0	6	0	1	88
Burton	10	1	0	8	0	1	64

DIVISION 2	P	W	D	L	T	AB	Pts
Haverfordwest	10	8	0	1	0	1	155
Hook	10	8	0	1	0	1	153
Whitland	10	7	0	2	0	1	147
Pembrokeshire Dock	10	4	0	5	0	1	111
Llechryd	10	4	0	5	0	1	108
Kilgetty	10	5	0	2	0	3	104
Llanrhian	10	3	0	6	0	1	89
Carew II	10	1	0	9	0	0	74
Cresselly II	10	2	0	6	0	2	64
Johnston	10	1	0	6	0	3	45

DIVISION 3	P	W	D	L	T	AB	Pts
Lamphey	10	7	0	2	0	1	146
Pembrokeshire	10	7	0	1	0	2	138
Stackpole	10	7	0	2	0	1	137
Burton II	10	5	0	4	0	1	120
Haverfordwest II	10	4	0	5	0	1	111
Narberth II	10	5	0	3	0	2	107
Hook II	10	4	0	5	0	1	101
Laugharne	10	2	0	6	0	2	73
St Ishmaels II	10	2	0	6	0	2	70
Llechryd II	10	0	0	9	0	1	52

DIVISION 4	P	W	D	L	T	AB	Pts
Neyland II	10	8	0	1	0	1	165
Fishguard	10	7	0	2	0	1	148
Hundleton	10	7	0	1	0	2	145
Saundersfoot II	10	6	0	4	0	0	125
Lawrenny II	10	4	0	5	0	1	109
Carew III	10	5	0	3	0	2	106
Llangwm II	10	4	0	4	0	2	94
Llanrhian II	10	2	0	7	0	1	79
Crymych	10	1	0	8	0	1	47
Haverfordwest III	10	0	0	9	0	1	42

## Fixtures

### 1st July

#### Division 1

Burton v St Ishmaels  
Cresselly v Saundersfoot  
Lawrenny v Llangwm  
Narberth v Carew  
Neyland v Herbrandston

#### Division 2

Carew II v Llanrhian  
Haverfordwest v Johnston  
Kilgetty v Whitland  
Llechryd v Cresselly II  
Pembrokeshire Dock v Hook

#### Division 3

Hook II v Burton II  
Lamphey v Llechryd II  
Laugharne v Haverfordwest II  
St Ishmaels II v Narberth II  
Stackpole v Pembrokeshire

#### Division 4

Haverfordwest III v Neyland II  
Hundleton v Carew III  
Llangwm II v Lawrenny II  
Llanrhian II v Crymych  
Saundersfoot II v Fishguard

#### Division 5

Herbrandston II v Haverfordwest IV  
Pembrokeshire II v Kilgetty II  
Whitland II v Pembrokeshire Dock II

#### Division 6

Cresselly III v Neyland III  
Llechryd III v Stackpole II  
Whitland III v Laugharne II

DIVISION 5	P	W	D	L	T	AB	Pts
Pembrokeshire Dock II	10	5	0	4	0	1	125
Herbrandston II	10	6	0	3	0	1	117
Pembrokeshire II	10	5	0	3	0	2	111
Whitland II	10	3	0	4	0	3	77
Haverfordwest IV	10	3	0	5	0	2	74
Kilgetty II	10	2	0	5	0	3	53

DIVISION 6	P	W	D	L	T	AB	Pts
Laugharne II	9	5	0	2	0	2	95
Neyland III	8	4	0	2	0	2	92
Stackpole II	8	3	0	4	0	1	83
Hundleton II	8	3	0	4	0	1	80
Whitland III	8	3	0	2	0	3	73
Cresselly III	8	2	0	3	0	3	66
Llechryd III	9	2	0	5	0	2	63





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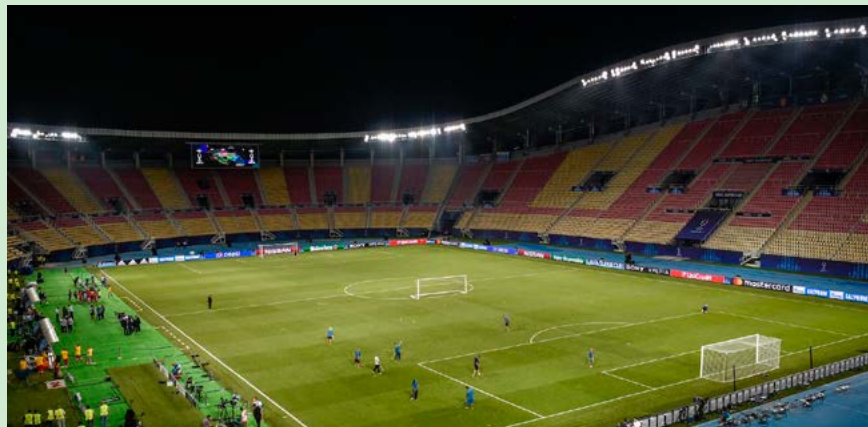


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## Welsh clubs set for European showdowns

**Haverfordwest County AFC, is gearing up to face KF Shkëndija from North Macedonia in the first qualifying round of the UEFA Europa Conference League.**

This exciting draw marks a significant moment for Haverfordwest County AFC, as they make their return to European competition after a hiatus of 19 years, last appearing in 2004. Their inclusion in this round comes as a result of their successful performance in the JD Cymru Premier European play-offs in May.

Tony Pennock, the manager of Haverfordwest County AFC, expressed his enthusiasm about the upcoming fixtures, stating, "We are thrilled to have this opportunity to compete in the UEFA Europa Conference League. It's been a long time since our last European adventure, and we are ready to embrace the challenge."

The first leg of the tie is scheduled to take place on Thursday, July 13, with Haverfordwest County AFC serving as the away team. They will travel to the Toše Proeski Arena, a 33,000-capacity stadium in Skopje, the capital city of North Macedonia. The second leg will be held on Thursday, July 20, and the match will be hosted at the Cardiff City Stadium, providing a home advantage for Haverfordwest County AFC.

Shkëndija, a North Macedonian football club, has a respectable record in European competitions. In the UEFA Champions League first qualifying round of the 2018/19 season,

they defeated Welsh side The New Saints. Last season, they progressed to the third qualifying round of the UEFA Europa Conference League. The team's strong European pedigree presents a formidable challenge for Haverfordwest County AFC.

Reflecting on their opponents, Tony Pennock commented, "Shkëndija is an experienced and accomplished team in European competitions. We are well aware of their achievements and the quality they possess. However, we are focused on our own game and will give our best efforts to progress to the next round."

The winner of the Haverfordwest County AFC vs. KF Shkëndija tie will move on to face either B36 Tórshavn from the Faroe Islands or Paide Linnameeskond from Estonia in the second qualifying round.

As the anticipation builds, Haverfordwest County AFC is expected to announce a comprehensive supporters travel package along with confirmed kick-off times. Additionally, ticketing details will be released to ensure fans can be part of this historic journey.

Meanwhile, another Welsh club, Connah's Quay Nomads, who finished as runners-up in the JD Cymru Premier last season, will be facing KA Akureyri from Iceland in their UEFA Europa Conference League tie. The first leg is scheduled to be held on July 13, with Connah's Quay Nomads playing as the away team. For the

second leg on July 20, they will utilize The New Saints' Park Hall stadium as their "home" venue.

Neil Gibson, the manager of Connah's Quay Nomads, expressed his excitement about the draw, saying, "We are delighted to be representing Welsh football in the UEFA Europa Conference League. Iceland will provide a challenging environment, but we are motivated to showcase our abilities on the European stage."

KA Akureyri, who finished second in the Icelandic top-flight in the 2022 season, is returning to European competitions after a two-decade absence. This encounter will mark Connah's Quay Nomads' first-ever visit to Iceland.

Another Welsh representative, Penybont, will be facing Andorran side FC Santa Coloma in their UEFA Europa Conference League tie. The first leg will be hosted at the Dunraven Brewery Field on July 13, with Penybont aiming to secure an advantage before heading to Andorra for the second leg on July 20.

Rhys Griffiths, the manager of Penybont, expressed his ambition for the fixtures, stating, "This is a fantastic opportunity for Penybont to compete at the European level. We are proud of our achievements, and we are determined to give our best performance against FC Santa Coloma."

FC Santa Coloma, the most successful club in Andorra's Primera Divisió with 13 league titles, finished third last season. Although they have a

rich history of European participation spanning 15 consecutive seasons, they are yet to progress beyond the second qualifying round in any competition.

In the UEFA Champions League draw, The New Saints (TNS), another Welsh club, has been matched against Swedish side BK Häcken. TNS will play the first leg away on either July 11 or 12 and then return to their home ground, Park Hall, for the second leg on July 18 or 19.

Craig Harrison, the manager of TNS, expressed his thoughts on the draw, saying, "BK Häcken is a strong opponent, and we respect their quality. We will prepare meticulously for these fixtures and aim to deliver a competitive performance."

BK Häcken, fresh off their first-ever Swedish Allsvenskan title win in the 2022 season, will be making their UEFA Champions League debut this summer. They have previously showcased their abilities in European competitions, having reached the third qualifying round of the UEFA Europa League in 2011/12 and 2013/14.

The New Saints' previous visit to Sweden dates back to 2012 when they faced Helsingborgs IF in the UEFA Champions League, suffering a 3-0 defeat.

If TNS successfully progresses from their tie, they will face either KÍ Klaksvík from the Faroe Islands or Ferencváros from Hungary in the UEFA Champions League second qualifying round.

## Hakin manager steps down



**HAKIN UNITED, a local football club, has been hit with surprising news as Scott Davies, the manager who has been involved with the club's second and first team squads at the Obs for seven years, has announced his decision to step down.**

Davies, along with his assistant Anthony Mayhew, informed the committee that they no longer have the time required to oversee the Vikings' first team.

Despite not securing any trophies in the previous season, Hakin United's first team had an impressive performance in the Welsh Cup and FA Trophy competitions, defeating strong opponents along the way. They also finished as runners-up in the Pembrokeshire Football League First Division and reached the West Wales Intermediate Cup Final after a 19-year absence.

Reflecting on his time as manager, Davies expressed his gratitude for the support he received from various individuals and groups.

In an interview with Pembrokeshire Sport, he stated, "I enjoyed every second of my time in charge; the constant support I received from the committee, supporters, players, and my family made my job easy." When asked about the highlights of his tenure, Davies mentioned the Welsh Cup run, particularly the victories against tier-two teams Afan Lido and Taffs Well. He also highlighted

the significance of having the 'Sgorio' TV cameras at the Obs for the Holywell Town tie during the fifth round. Additionally, Davies mentioned a charity walk and run organized for Mental Health, which he described as one of the most incredible things he witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Davies fondly recalled his seven seasons with Hakin United, which began with managing the second team and culminated in winning Division Two, a remarkable achievement for all involved. He acknowledged the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the efforts made by coaches to bring football back on track. Expressing his admiration for the club's committee, he stated, "Hakin is in a great place as a club, with a 10-15 strong committee full of people who love the club and seeing it progress and do well is their main priority. It was great to be a part of it, and Anthony and I plan to stay on board and help out in any way possible."

The latest update from the Obs reveals that former striker Justin 'Skinny' Harding has agreed to assume the managerial role, with assistance from Mark Jones and Alex Greenish. Davies extended his best wishes to the new management team, describing them as "three committed club men" who he believes will contribute positively to the club's future.



**Well Done Bleddyn!**

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## Welsh clubs set for European showdowns

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