

# Family says thanks following 'heartbreakingly difficult' time

by Desmond Pugh

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WHAT should have been the holiday of a lifetime was instead a tribute to the memory of a much-loved wife, mother, grandmother and landlady.

Judith Ramsden would have been 66 years old last Sunday, 3rd March and was to have celebrated the event on Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro with her husband, Phil Ramsden.

However on Saturday 9th February, a tragedy struck when paramedics were called to the Gate House public house at 4am to find

her unresponsive and efforts to revive her were unsuccessful.

The family would like to take the opportunity to "express our love and thanks to everyone who extended their support to us".

Her funeral was held on Friday 1st March and although it was heartbreakingly difficult for the family they were humbled by the "attendance to both service and reception at the Gate House where the love, support and kindness was overwhelming."

"Our family has

been deeply blessed and comforted to know how much our mum meant to so many," said her daughter Alex Jakeway. "We felt the day was a befitting tribute and celebration to a wonderful lady whose life was lived and loved, yet tragically whose bright and vivacious light was taken from us far too soon."

"Our sincerest and deepest appreciation to all who have supported us throughout with caring words, hugs, cards, flowers and every element of support has touched us deeply."

"The generosity also displayed towards fundraising for Men-

ingitis Now has also brought us comfort as a family as we still struggle with our personal loss and with the knowledge that such a cruel illness is still affecting lives tragically and physically. All the generous donations play a huge part in research and hopefully will provide a future where prevention and treatment will prevail. The family would like to say a heartfelt thanks to Stacey from Michael G Ryan Son and Daughters Ltd and to Michael Farr for all their support and assistance going above and beyond during this heart-breaking time."



## News in brief

### Quad bikes stolen

POLICE are investigating the theft of two quad bikes from a farm near the River Olway in Usk at the weekend.

The quads were both red Hondas valued in excess of £8,000. CCTV shows two males with bolt cutters wheeling away the vehicles at about 10.30 pm on Saturday (March 2nd).

Did you see any suspicious vehicles? Did you see any suspicious activity in the area around that time? If so, please call 07464 653211 (Allan, Farmwatch) or contact ruralcrimeteam@gwent.pnn.police.uk

### February rainfall well below average

FEBRUARY rainfall recorded at Cornwall House was 43.3 mm, well below the average for the month of 61.9 mm.

There was a wet start to the month with 37.7 mm of rain in the first ten days, but after that there were only four days with measurable rain.

### Driver and passenger suffer minor injuries

GWENT Police attended a collision between two vehicles on Rockfield Road, Monmouth at around 9.50am last Thursday (28th February).

The incident involved a silver Nissan Micra and an agricultural vehicle. The driver and passenger of the Micra were treated for minor injuries.

### Work scheduled for A449 Raglan to Usk road

ESSENTIAL maintenance works are due to start on Monday (11th March) for eight night shifts (Mondays - Fridays, 8pm to 6am) along the A449 southbound carriageway between Raglan and Usk - subject to favourable weather conditions.

The alternative route used will be via the A40 westbound at Raglan to Hardwick Roundabout, A4042 southbound to Grove Park, M4 eastbound to Coldra Interchange and northbound along the A449.

Non-motorway traffic at Grove Park will be diverted to continue along the A4042 Usk Way, A48 SDR to Coldra Interchange.

Exemption has been made for emergency service vehicles to travel through the works.

## Celebrating St David's Day with Welsh cakes, dance and dragon craft

WITH St David's Day coinciding with the half-term holidays for most schools this year, pictures of youngsters celebrating the event in national costume are in short supply.

Haberdashers' Monmouth Schools were an exception - having broken up for half-term a week earlier - with Monmouth Schools Pre-Prep and Nursery in particular pulling out all the stops to embrace the Welsh cultural event.

Following a special St David's Day assembly, activities included Welsh cake-making,

traditional Welsh dance and paper-chain dragon craft.

The nursery hosted its own Eisteddfod and, with every child taking part, it was a very special occasion at Agincourt.

Monmouth AM, Nick Ramsay meanwhile attended Chepstow and District Men-cap's St David's Day Tea Party held at Burnt Barn Club.

All present were entertained during the afternoon by The Berkeley Singers and friends, with music and dancing.

Proceeds raised from

the sale of refreshments were donated to Chepstow Mencap's fundraising for refurbishment of their new headquarters and community space in Chepstow.

Nick said he was

delighted to be able to attend and thanked everyone involved in organising the event.

He says he is looking forward to arranging a quiz to help further with the fundraising later in the year.



Nick Ramsay AM at the tea party with Mrs Heather Perrett, Mrs Betty Bastin and Mrs Gill Boswell

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