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**60th ANNIVERSARY**

[www.christmasswim.org](http://www.christmasswim.org)



# A MESSAGE FROM THE SWIM'S CHAIRMAN

Who would have thought! in 1965 the idea of having a Swim on Christmas Morning would grow to what it is today.

This Christmas we celebrate 60 years of the event. A truly remarkable achievement. Over the years, many thousands of pounds have been raised in support of numerous charities and local organisations.

This year our Headline Charities are two very worthwhile charities, '2 wish' who provide immediate and on-going bereavement support for anyone affected by the sudden death of a child or young adult aged 25 years and under. And 'Sir Gareth Edwards Cancer Charity' who give grants to young people aged 15-35 who have been diagnosed with Cancer in Wales.

Spare a thought for the Committee members past and present who have worked hard pulling it all together. The Swim Committee would like to thank you all, The Swimmers, The Spectators, The Sponsors, The Advertisers, Porthcawl's Emergency Services, Town and Borough Councils, The Management and Staff of the Hi Tide, The Volunteers who give up their Christmas morning to help make the event happen year on year.

You are all amazing and a credit to our town, Porthcawl.

I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 'Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda'.

David King, MBE

## RECIPIENTS OF THE 2024 SWIM

Alzheimer's Society Cymru -	£5,550	Porthcawl Lifeguards	£300
Porthcawl Male Voice Choir	£600	Newton Lifeguards	£300
Porthcawl Museum	£500	Porthcawl Stroke Club	£300
2 Wish	£500	Porthcawl & Pyle Boxing Club	£300
Guide Dogs Cymru	£500	Trinity Care & Support	£300
Porthcawl First Responders	£400	Porthcawl RFC Shegulls	£250
Fire Fighters Charity	£400	Pyle & Kenfig Hill Bowls Club	£200
Porthcawl Girl Guides	£400	Marine Debris	£200
Porthcawl RNLI	£400	British Heart Foundation	£200
Sandville Self Help	£400	Ty Lidiard	£100
Porthcawl Coastguards	£300	Porthcawl Rotary Club	£100

**Total donated £12,500**

# A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR -

The Porthcawl Christmas Morning Swim is an integral part of Porthcawl's annual festive calendar. Initiated by Mr Arlon Owens what began with a very small group of people has now become a Porthcawl tradition enjoyed by thousands of participants and spectators alike.

Alongside being a celebrated community Christmas event over the years, the loyal volunteers have raised thousands of pounds for local organisations and charities, and it is at this point I feel it is important that I mention Mrs Marilyn Smith a former Town Clerk who worked tirelessly as a volunteer for the Christmas Morning Swim overseeing its administration and who we sadly lost this year. I know that Marilyn is hugely missed by the Christmas Swim Group and is certainly going to be a very hard act to follow.

As the town of Porthcawl celebrates its 200th year, the Christmas Morning Swim now celebrates its 60th year – and continues to grow in popularity.

As Mayor of Porthcawl I would like to offer a big thank you to all the volunteers who work so hard in making this event such a success and of course to the very brave participants who make the event what it is - let us hope it continues for many future generations.

Pob lwc I chi gyd.

Cllr E Jones

Mayor of Porthcawl



## Support for those affected by sudden death in young people

### Cefnogaeth pan fydd plant a phobl ifanc yn marw'n sydyn

2wish provides immediate and on-going bereavement support for anyone affected by the sudden death of a child or young adult aged 25 years and under.



#### *Rhian's Story*

In February 2012, my son George tragically passed away a week after his first birthday. With little to no support available and unable to cope with the loss, my husband and best friend, Paul, took his own life five days later.

Understandably, coming to terms with the loss has been very tough emotionally, both for myself and our two young children. However, since February 2012, I have gained strength from the idea of raising money and I set up 2wish, so that no parent ever need experience that same feeling of helplessness and abandonment.

*Rhian Mannings MBE, CEO & Founder of 2wish*



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The Sir Gareth Edwards Cancer Charity gives grants to young people  
**aged 15-35** who have been  
diagnosed with **Cancer**  
in **Wales**

By being totally amazing and jumping into the waves for the Porthcawl Christmas Swim you will be raising money to help young people to pay for petrol to get to hospital appointments, wigs after chemotherapy, bras after mastectomies, rising household and food bills and childcare for young mams and dads going through cancer treatment.

You are the best! Diolch!

We'd love to see your chilly pics x

@sirgarethedwardscancercharity @christmasswim @2wish.cymru

Merry Christmas x Nadolig Llawen





## **EVENT INFORMATION**

- Arrival / Registration from 10.30am
- 10.30 -11.30am Carol Singing with Porthcawl Community Orchestra
- 11.30am – Swimmers make their way onto the beach
- 11.45am – The swimmers brave the winter waves

All timings are approximate

Swimmers receive a free commemorative mug after the swim. A big **Thank you** to the sponsors who made this possible

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**Money raised this year will be donated to**

**2 Wish**

**&**

**Sir Gareth Edwards Cancer Charity**


**And other local charities & organisations**

**To make a donation visit our website**

**[www.christmasswim.org](http://www.christmasswim.org)**

**Or scan the QR code on Page 10**

**Porthcawl Christmas Morning Swim is the operating name of Porthcawl  
Buckaneers – Company number 07608572 (Registered in England & Wales)**



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*Good Luck to everyone taking part  
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everyone a Merry Christmas  
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## IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE BEACH.....

You can still support the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Porthcawl Christmas Morning Swim by completing your own virtual swim at any time during December and raising money for our 2 headline charities, Sir Gareth Edwards Cancer Charity and 2Wish, plus local charities and organisations.

This year's fancy dress theme is the **Swinging 60's** or should that be the **'Swimming' 60's**? Whether it's your music or fashion idol, favourite comic or TV programme character – the choices are endless.

You can be part of this year's swim wherever you are in the world. Take a dip in the warm seas at a beach near you, splash in your kids paddling pool the choice is yours. Whatever you choose, please stay safe!

We would love to see your photos and videos so please tag us on Facebook @Porthcawl Christmas Morning Swim or Instagram @christmasswim

You can donate using the QR code below



## In memory of Marilyn Smith (1942–2025)

My aunty Marilyn passed away in April this year. It's not an exaggeration when I say she was the kindest, most dignified, and most caring person I've ever known. She spoiled me all year round, not just at Christmas.

Marilyn also loved Porthcawl and gave her time so generously. She was the secretary for the Porthcawl Kidney Research Unit for Wales Foundation (KRUF) for many years, following my kidney failure, dialysis, and transplant. She cared deeply about animal welfare and the natural world. She loved her cats and garden wildlife. I loved sitting in her conservatory, doing crosswords with her while looking out into the garden for birds and hedgehogs.

As treasurer for the swim, we'll miss how meticulous and organised Marilyn was. She had things in order well ahead of time, and quietly but diligently (albeit while sticking to old-fashioned pen and paper ledgers) jotted up the accounts, accounting for every penny.

On Christmas morning, Marilyn was one of the team who missed out on seeing the spectacle on the beach, as she stood behind the registration desk helping people and giving out the mugs.

To us (nieces, nephew, grand-nieces, little brother, and husband), her warmth will be missed at the dinner table this year. We'll miss talking with her about how many people swam this year and how much we raised for charity. We'll miss raising a glass with her to toast another year.



'by Owen Richards'

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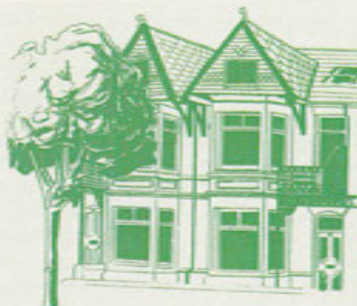


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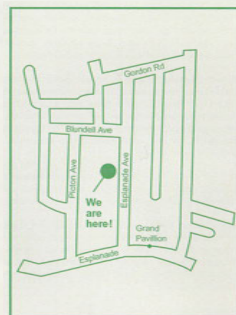
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# piccolo bar

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“

Our vision is to create a world where mental health is prioritised, stigma is eliminated and everyone has access to compassionate and effective support for their well-being.

”



“

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[samantha.kurl@serendipitycare.com](mailto:samantha.kurl@serendipitycare.com)

”

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TO ALL THOSE TAKING PART  
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## **2026 EVENT DATES**

**MEDIEVAL DAY 2ND MAY**

**POLICE DAY 18TH JULY**

**DINOSAUR DAY 15TH AUGUST**

**VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS DAY**

**5TH DECEMBER**

**FOR FULL DETAILS VISIT  
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**THE COASTGUARD  
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