



Robert Lloyd

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# 'Bin Watch' not such a bad thing!

HOW do you confuse everyone in the street?

Easy! Just make a minor tweak to bin collection times. Works a treat every time – and it plays havoc with my blood pressure!

If there is one thing that is guaranteed to kick-start a full 'Victor Meldrew I Don't Believe It' meltdown, then it is 'The Bins.'

I'm beginning to suspect that I am developing an unhealthy obsession with the subject.

I'm also beginning to suspect there is a local government officer in County Hall who is taking a little guilty pleasure in random tweaks to the bin rota.

In my 'Milltir Sgwâr' (Square Mile), we have recently seen the introduction of glass bottle collections, alongside changes to black (landfill) bag collections and blue (recycling) collections.

In our street, I am already known as something of a busybody when it comes to the bins.

I get annoyed at neighbours who leave their bins out too early the night before – causing traffic chaos on windy nights (blue bags) or providing a running buffet for our resident squirrels and foxes (black bags).

When I did my morning walk inspection yesterday, the black bags (which should have been collected last Thursday) were still out.

But they'd been collected from the top half of our rear lane!

I wondered: are some of my neighbours paying a higher rate of council tax for this service?

My obsession with the bins is also sparking a letter to Welsh Government.

For many moons now, I have been seeing red (not blue or black) at the way our bins are colour-coded.

Many of our local authorities have different colour schemes for the bin bags. Why can't we have one standard colour scheme across the whole of Wales?

Meanwhile, don't get me started on the big green garden waste bins.

In my 'Milltir Sgwâr', they seem to exist for the sole purpose of providing wheeled transport for alcopop-swilling teens who get over-excited on rugby international days.

Bin Watch is not, however, an entirely negative pastime; there are positives.

The arrival of the glass bottle collection service is to be commended – and has added another dimension to Bin Watch.

Yes, I have become the nosy neighbour who likes to inspect the bottle boxes to see what other folk are drinking.

What was it that Dylan Thomas once said? "An alcoholic is someone you don't like who drinks as much as you do".



Changes to 'The Bins' can leave us all feeling frustrated

Inspection of neighbouring bottle collection boxes enables me to give a satisfying 'Tut, Tut' when I see one overflowing with spirit bottles.

It does also give me an opportunity to work out the latest popularity trends on red wine sales at Aldi (other supermarkets are available).

Meanwhile, the arrival of the bottle collection van (an amazing bit of kit, by the way) does give me another chance to leave the desk and get out of the house.

The bottle-guzzling van provides a soundtrack of a very satisfying crunching noise as it eats the bottles.

My neighbours are beginning to think my obsession with the bins may be turning into a medical condition.

I am beginning to think they may be right...

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## A Grand night out... just not the one she wants

LIKE all careful husbands, I shall choose the moment carefully.

Picking the correct time to explain/contradict/apologise (delete as appropriate) is always complicated and fraught with danger.

Tonight, I think I'll ask Mrs L to drive and then drop the rock into the conversation pool just as we approach Dyfatty lights.

Hopefully, she will be so focused on driving that I will get away with it.

Mrs L has been excited (beyond ever since I announced on Monday that I was taking her to The Grand Theatre for a night out.

I didn't elaborate too much – and that, on reflection, was a blunder.

For some reason, she seems to have got it into her head that she is heading for a front row seat in the main auditorium to watch 'Dreamboys: No Strings Attached' – a show featuring eight young hunks in various states of undress.

The reality is that I have gone for

a more highbrow option at The Grand – a new production called Sorter, starring Richard Mylan and Sophie Melville.

The drama is being produced by Swansea's Grand Ambition team and is being staged in the Arts Wing. It'll be powerful stuff.

I'm just hoping that it's powerful enough to take Mrs L's mind off the six-packs in the adjacent auditorium.

If not, then I have a feeling I may be walking home!

**TIDES** (Height in metres)

**Swansea King's Dock**  
Friday 3.36am (9.82)  
4.10pm (10.05)  
Saturday 4.33am (10.48)  
4.59pm (10.66)  
Sunday 5.17am (11.08)  
5.38pm (11.18)

**Port Talbot**  
Friday 3.47am (7.42)  
4.17pm (7.54)  
Saturday 4.40am (8.02)  
5.03pm (8.11)  
Sunday 5.21am (8.56)  
5.41pm (8.58)

**Llanelli**  
Friday 3.43am (5.90)  
4.13pm (6.00)  
Saturday 4.35am (6.40)  
4.58pm (6.47)  
Sunday 5.16am (6.85)  
5.35pm (6.87)

Lighting-up time: 5.28pm

Tidal predictions for Port Talbot, Llanelli and Swansea King's Dock (outer sill) computed by the National Oceanography Centre. [www.noc.ac.uk](http://www.noc.ac.uk). Swansea: 2.30 metres below Chart Datum; Port Talbot: 5.20 metres below; Llanelli 3.66 metres below

**Weather**  
Around the Country

	Friday	°C	°F	Saturday	°C	°F
Birmingham	overcast	6	43	overcast	6	43
Bristol	overcast	7	45	overcast	7	45
Cardiff	overcast	7	45	overcast	7	45
Carlisle	cloudy	8	46	cloudy	7	45
Exeter	overcast	8	46	overcast	8	46
Gloucester	overcast	7	45	overcast	7	45
Leeds	cloudy	8	46	overcast	7	45
Liverpool	overcast	7	45	overcast	7	45
London	overcast	9	48	overcast	7	45
Manchester	overcast	8	46	overcast	8	46
Norwich	cloudy	8	46	overcast	7	45
Nottingham	overcast	8	46	overcast	7	45
Plymouth	overcast	8	46	cloudy	8	46
Swansea	overcast	8	46	cloudy	8	46

**Around the World**

	Friday	°C	°F	Saturday	°C	°F
Amsterdam	sunny	8	47	overcast	7	45
Beijing	sunny	17	63	sunny	15	59
Corfu	rain	14	57	rain	12	54
Majorca	rain	12	53	sunny	13	56
Mexico City	sunny	28	82	pcloudy	27	81
Moscow	snow	0	32	snow	-1	30
New Delhi	pcloudy	33	92	pcloudy	34	93
New York	rain	7	44	rain	6	43
Paris	sunny	11	51	pcloudy	6	43
Rio	rain	32	89	rain	33	91
Rome	rain	14	58	pcloudy	15	59
Sydney	rain	23	73	rain	23	74
Tokyo	sunny	11	51	rain	14	58

**Today's Weather**

Skies will be cloudy today. Afternoon highs will range from 6 to 8C.



**Sun & Moon**

Sunrise 6:53 a.m.  
Sunset 5:54 p.m.  
Moonrise 1:09 p.m.  
Moonset 5:54 a.m.



Mar. 7 Full  
Mar. 14 Last  
Mar. 21 New  
Mar. 28 First

**Almanac**

	Aberystwyth	Cardiff	Conwy
Yesterday's High (°C/°F)	7/45	10/50	7/45
Yesterday's Low (°C/°F)	4/39	4/39	4/39
Yesterday's Precip	0.00"	0.00"	0.00"

	Brecon	Carmarthen	Swansea
Yesterday's High (°C/°F)	7/45	7/45	9/48
Yesterday's Low (°C/°F)	3/37	4/39	3/37
Yesterday's Precip	0.00"	0.00"	0.00"

**Wales' Four-Day Outlook**

Overcast. ENE wind 9 mph.  
**7°C/ 45°F**

Overcast. W wind 7 mph.  
**7°C/ 45°F**

Cloudy. W wind 11 mph.  
**8°C/ 46°F**

Cloudy. NNW wind 13 mph.  
**6°C/ 43°F**

**Saturday**  
3°C/ 37°F

**Sunday**  
1°C/ 34°F

**Monday**  
3°C/ 37°F

**Tuesday**  
0°C/ 32°F

**High Tides**

	Friday	Saturday
Holyhead	4.6 8:13 a 4.6 8:45 p	4.8 8:57 a 4.8 9:23 p
Pwllheli	3.8 5:53 a 3.8 6:23 p	4.2 6:39 a 4.1 7:03 p
Aberystwyth	3.7 5:44 a 3.7 6:12 p	4.0 6:28 a 4.0 6:51 p
Milford Haven	5.2 3:46 a 5.3 4:16 p	5.7 4:38 a 5.8 5:01 p
Llanelli	5.9 3:43 a 6.0 4:13 p	6.4 4:35 a 6.4 4:58 p
Swansea	7.0 3:37 a 7.2 4:10 p	7.6 4:34 a 7.8 4:58 p
Port Talbot	7.2 3:40 a 7.5 4:14 p	7.9 4:35 a 8.1 5:00 p
Barry	8.5 3:57 a 8.9 4:34 p	9.4 4:58 a 9.7 5:25 p
Cardiff	8.9 4:03 a 9.2 4:45 p	9.8 5:07 a 10.1 5:37 p
Newport	8.8 4:04 a 9.1 4:45 p	9.7 5:07 a 10.0 5:39 p

**PHARMACIES**

The following are open tonight from 5.30pm to 6pm unless stated:

**Clydach:** \*Lloyds, Heol y Nant, and High Street. **Cwmfelin:** Carmarthen Road, Swansea. **Cwmlllynfell:** Well, Gwyllym Road. **Llangennech:** \*Gravelle Pharmacy. **Morriston:** Lloyds Pharmacy, Strawberry Place, 8.30am-6pm. **Penclawdd:** \*Huw S Rees, The Pharmacy. **Swansea:** Swansea Sainsbury's Instore Pharmacy, Quay Parade, 8am-10pm; Tesco Forestfach, 8am-8pm; Boots Morfa, Morfa Shopping Park, 8am-10.30pm. **Uplands:** \*Well Pharmacy, 55 Uplands Crescent. **\*Oxygen equipment stocked.**

For details of pharmacies (including out of hours) contact NHS Direct on 111 or [www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk)

**LOTTERY**  
Wednesday, March 1

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