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What's On Arts & Culture Caerphilly

Art gallery filled with 1,000 ceramic hearts for St Dwynwen's Day

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Calling all romantics, we've found the perfect art exhibition for you. One gallery in Caerphilly is transforming itself to celebrate the Welsh Patron Saint of Love

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1,000 Hearts... For Lovers is a new exhibition of ceramic hearts at Y Galeri, Caerphilly to celebrate St Dwynwen's Day

Could there be a more romantic way of celebrating [St Dwynwen's Day](#) than by filling an art gallery with 1,000 ceramic hearts?

Y Galeri in [Caerphilly](#) will be doing just that and the vibrant red porcelain hearts will come in all shapes and sizes.

They are the work of artists Tracey Moberly and Phil Hughes who have been working flat out in their studio to produce the beautiful symbols of romance in time for the exhibition, which opens on January 24 – a day before we celebrate the Welsh Patron Saint of Lovers.

The installations include a 'kissing seat' laden with red hearts – the perfect place for those wishing to pop the question to their significant other.

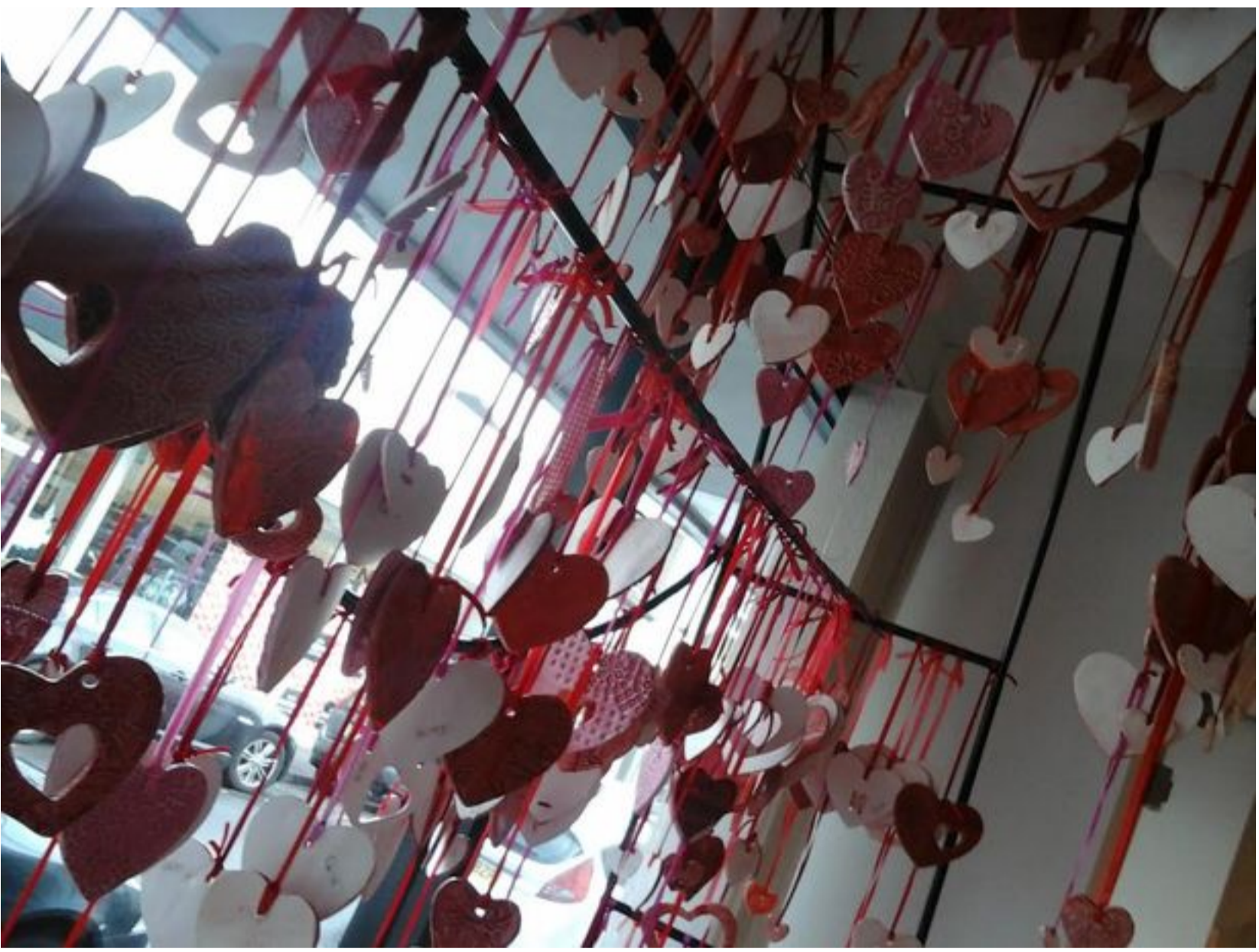
And don't forget ladies, it's now a leap year when traditionally you should be in the driving seat...



Gallery owner Jan Pennell says: "This is the second year that we've had this installation and it's returning because it was such a success last year and seemed to have captured the imagination of people of all ages. It's certainly not a prerogative for young lovers.

"New for this year is the introduction of the red love seat which will be laden with red hearts and can be used for lovers to sit on for photographs or selfies.

"During the launch (Sunday, January 24), we're planning to take the love seat over to [Caerphilly Castle](#) for lovers to take advantage of the magnificent backdrop. A proposal would be the icing on the cake.



"The hearts are available in different sizes and are handmade in Pontllanfraith. Each one is unique. Costing between £5 and £10, they are an affordable romantic gesture."

St Dwynwen's Day comes 20 days before [St Valentine's Day](#) on February 14 – the day the exhibition ends – and is based on folklore and Celtic stories about Dwynwen, the daughter of King Brychan Brycheiniog and Queen Rigrawst.

Dwynwen was engaged to Prince Maelon Dafodrill but her father was opposed to the union. Filled with anger Maelon raped Dwynwen who then fled to the woods.

Falling asleep praying that she could forget Maelon, she was visited by an angel who gave her a potion of forgetfulness. This potion was meant to dispel the love that she felt for him, and for the grave sin the Prince had committed - he was turned into ice.



Artists Tracey Moberly and Phil Hughes

Her love was strong for him and upon seeing that he had been turned into ice she asked for three requests. Firstly that Maelon be returned to life and the living, that all the dreams of true lovers be looked after through her and that she would remain unmarried.

Dwynwen then left for the solitude of the west coast of [Anglesey](#) where she become a hermit until she died. Dwynwen is said to be buried beneath the ruins of the 16th century church there.

1,000 Hearts... For Lovers will be at Y Galeri, Caerphilly from January 24 until February 14



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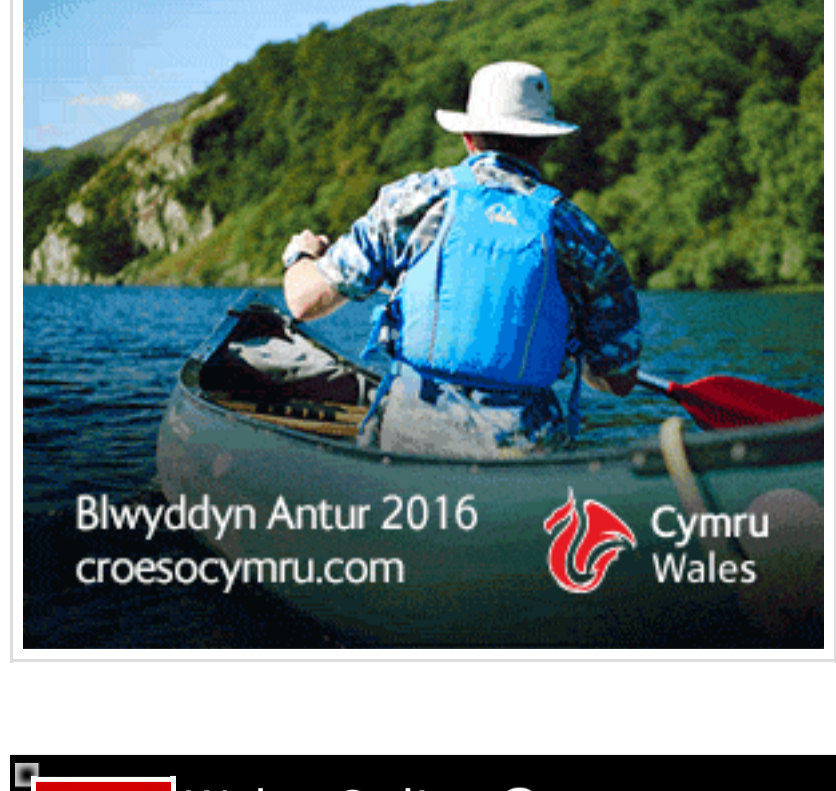
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