

ROGERSTONE

DIRECTORY



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SW DIRECTORIES

Welcome!

Hope you all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to Autumn and the usual seasonal activities ahead.

We are a small independent business and our aim is to provide an informative and interesting magazine that positively contributes to both community life and local businesses. A full list of local events, activities, groups and churches are available on our website, www.swdirectories.com

Please don't forget to get in touch soon if you would like to advertise your business in our November/December edition. This will be our Christmas edition so may be an excellent opportunity to promote your business to lots of potential customers at this time of year. We deliver to 30000 homes all over Newport; this is an ideal way for you to reach prospective customers and support the local community at the same time. Advertising in the Directories has proved successful for so many of our advertisers, some have been with us since the very first magazine in May 2006.

A huge thank you to all our advertisers - we are grateful for all your support.

Best wishes

Susan
x

Advertising enquiries:

Telephone Leslie on 07725 888070 or 01633 892771
or email contact@swdirectories.co.uk

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Tornado in Newport

Early on a sunny morning in July a Tornado passed through Newport leaving a trail of steam and a group of happy railway enthusiasts, young and old, all feeling that the early start had been well worth it.

Built in 2008, the Tornado is the

first mainline steam engine to be built in the UK since the 1960s.

The magnificent steam engine set off on its Pembroke Coast Express journey from Bristol, travelling to Newport, Cardiff, Bridgend, Port Talbot, Swansea, Llanelli, Carmarthen and Tenby.



The £3m locomotive is owned by a trust and was built over an 18 year period.



BEACHES IN WALES

Caerfai Bay



A small rocky cove at high tide, sandwiched between towering cliffs, one mile south of the UK's smallest city, St David's. The beach is accessed by following a path through the craggy cliffs and down a steep set of steps. At low tide, a sandy beach is revealed with lots of rock pools to explore. You

won't find much in the way of beach amenities at Caerfai Bay and there is no lifeguard, so care should be taken if swimming here as currents are strong and changeable. If you are passing or on holiday in the area, the magnificent Cathedral is definitely well worth a visit.

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Rogerstone Welfare Cricket Club

90 Continuous years of Service to the Community

2019 is a big year for Rogerstone Welfare Cricket club as the Club celebrates 90 years at the Welfare Grounds and supporting Graham Wagg's Testimonial year.

The Clubs magnificent ALL Stars programme for 5-8 year olds was completed on Friday 2nd of August and followed by our end of programme party! A great evening was had by all with 'Starry the mascot in attendance. Every All Stars member was presented with medals and certificates. The highlight of the evening was Starry the Mascot leading the All Stars in the Conga! Special thanks must go to our magnificent main Activators, Carmel Reed and Hayley Plant who ran the program so well. Our U9s were again amongst the most active of clubs attending five festivals over the county. Unfortunately our own festival was cancelled due to the weather.

All of our U11s teams, U13s team and an U15s team in



Rogerstone Welfare C.C. Youth as mascots for South Africa CWC 2019

conjunction with our neighbours Newport Fugitives did well, all age groups reaching the semi final of the Shields or plate cup competitions, albeit was difficult to organise games for U15s due to weather, exams and holidays. In 2019 the Club has a record number of youth players with Gwent representative honours. One at U10s, two at U11s, two at U13s, we also have one girl playing for Wales U15s and one for Wales Women & Girls. Highlight of the year was our youth players being mascots for the Afghanistan vs South Africa Cricket 2019 World Cup

game. They were treated like royalty, were all on TV and all thoroughly enjoyed the day carrying memories for the rest of their lives.



South Wales Falcons girls team 2019

The Club is leading the way in increasing participation in all girls cricket and in conjunction with Ebbw Vale are the host Clubs for the new South Wales Falcons. This is for girls from clubs who do not have enough girls to form their own team and is made up of girls from various clubs in Newport and Glamorgan. The team was the vision of and is managed by Jonathan Matthews of Rogerstone and coached by

Rogerstone All Stars with Starry the mascot on Party Day 2019





RWCC Ladies 2019

Lucy King of Ebbw Vale Welfare Officer is Beverley Paginton. Their first season has gone really well. Our new Ladies team is now

thriving and have attended and played in four festivals with more to come. This year the club hosted our second All Girls festival on 30th June, Wales

Any new players wishing to join the club can contact us via

**Andrew Trinder Tel: 07734 818725,
email: andrew.trinder@dpw.gsi.gov.uk
or Derek Picken Tel: 07851 863833,
email: derek.picken@talk21.com**

over 60s v Worcestershire on the 9th July and Worcester U11s on the 20th August. On Sunday August 4th, the club hosted a Graham Wagg testimonial 6'side day. This was a fantastic success with all age groups and families in attendance with lots of attractions for all ages. A great day was had by all. On the senior front the Club continue to rebuild and are attracting new players. Our facilities are excellent and we look forward to new players joining us for next season.

Graham Wagg Testimonial day at RWCC



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Dying to Get Up Twmbarlwm

Photo: Terry C. Evans



Photo: Ann Woosnam

I know this is going to be a sensitive subject and many out there will castigate me for these views – but ask yourself, would your dearly departed really want his or her favourite location treated in this way?

I am, of course, talking about the increasingly common practice of displaying floral tributes and other memorabilia in public places. You see a lot of this on local beauty spots and Twmbarlwm is no exception.

I have no problem at all with the occasional bunch of flowers which are going to rot down to nothing – but when it's a six foot long wreath spelling out "Grandad" I start to question the sentiment.

Some of these wreaths are works of art and one has to admire the skills of the florist who created them and when they are displayed on that emotion-sapping day of the dearly departed's funeral they look splendid atop the casket – there's no finer indication of the family's love for their beloved relation.

Later, the family decide they need to mark the loss of their loved one in one last commemoration by displaying the wonderful, expensive, floral tributes in the place he/she loved the most. Never mind that it's everybody else's favourite place too. But that doesn't matter because the flowers will rot away naturally and be returned to the earth's bounty in the same symbolic way of the one who is now pushing up the daisies.

But wait a minute – how has the talented florist managed to sculpt the flowers into a meaningful symbol of the expired person's life? As one who has cleared away much of this type of detritus I can tell you – there is half a mile of 16 gauge wire, several kilos of phenolic foam, a ton of plastic and enough polyester ribbon to encircle around the world – none of which is going to melt into the environment any time soon.

Bearing that in mind, I believe that if the site of the tribute was truly the favourite spot of the one who is now at peace, I strongly suspect he/she is considering moving on to a less cluttered location to spend eternity.

As if the floral tributes weren't enough to irk my

After only two weeks the beautiful floral tributes are reduced to just so much plastic, ribbon and metal.

ire, don't get me started on balloons, inflated with hydrogen and released in their hundreds to interfere with air-traffic control and land miles away across the country where they can be potentially gobbled up by all sorts of wildlife and farm animals.

To top it all, the distribution of such tributes is often preceded by the bizarre practice of scattering poor old Grandma or Grandad to the four winds.

Now I must admit, I don't object to that too much – indeed, I also intend having the lead role in such a ceremony one day (in the distant future). Hopefully, those that I leave behind to perform the ceremony will have the sense not to leave me in an untidy pile where visitors to the site are going to want to sit with their egg sandwiches and thermos of tea. I also hope that they check the direction of the wind – I don't fancy being inhaled by my grieving family or faithful hound.

Although this article takes a light hearted view at this subject there is a real message – the passing of somebody close to you is a traumatic, personal time and we in the Twmbarlwm Society who tend the landscape for the sake of the community do not want to impinge on anyone's time of grief. However, please do not be offended when your well-meant tributes are removed after a suitable period – or why not retrieve them yourself before they're past their best?

Terry C. Evans, Chairman CTS

CTS meet at the car park below Twmbarlwm's summit for a litter pick and volunteer workday on the last Sunday of every month to which everyone is invited, it's not all hard work and it's a great opportunity to find your way around up there. We organise walks and other events up the mountain and at Crosskeys RFC throughout the year so watch our website and Facebook page for details.

www.twmbarlwm.co.uk



Fifteen Seconds to Create the Right Impression!

Our experience has shown that most potential buyers will decide whether they have a good feeling about a house within 15 seconds of entering it!

Whilst it would be ridiculous to suggest that this is the major contributing factor as to whether an offer is made or not, we strongly recommend that home owners looking to sell their properties take note and do what they can to present their house in its most favourable light.

We encourage our sellers to look at their own home through the eyes of a potential buyer and ask themselves what would you like to see, how would you like the house to be presented?

Tidy Up Before Viewings

You would be amazed by the number of houses we show people around where the current owners have made no effort to clean the main living spaces. Plates, mugs, clothes, toys etc are left on display instead of being tidied away.

- Keep a few family pictures on display but if possible pack away your knick-knacks, ornaments and other items that some might consider as clutter. Whilst it is still your home, potential buyers want to be able to see themselves living there and constant reminders of you won't help!

- If your kitchen worktop space is limited, make it look as large as possible by putting kettles, toasters, microwaves, storage jars/containers and other items in cupboards.

You might also be interested to know that almost 95% of buyers are looking to buy a house that they can move straight in to. Even though buyers are encouraged to overlook the current furnishings and decoration of a property, ripped or marked wallpaper and stained or worn carpets can turn buyers off.

Some sellers might think that because they are moving they needed invest the time or go to the expense of replacing things like this but we strongly recommend you reconsider because what will cost you a couple of hundred pounds to do might save you thousands when it comes to negotiating the sale price.

Don't Forget Your Garden

Spend a bit of time and money preparing the exterior of your home. Create the right first impression and keep the gardens and driveway well maintained, clean the facias and guttering, paint the front door if necessary and please remove the gnomes from the lawn!

Speak to the Experts

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Alternatively you may like to talk to Nicola Price on 07974 111712 or Colin Harvey on 01633 894914.

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The New Term starts on Wednesday 4th September. Come along and try a few taster sessions before committing to join us. We would love to see you at anytime of the year.

For more information about Newport U3A's many interest groups and events visit www.newportu3a.org.uk or phone Angela Robins on 07980 970967.

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Cwmbran group contact - Mrs Val Carnegie
T: 01633 872553 E: slasher45@btinternet.com

Further info on Diabetes contact - Diabetes UK Cymru
T: 029 2066 8276 E: wales@diabetes.org.uk

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Of Ducklings and Gulls

Those of our readers who have been with us for any length of time will know it's not only swans which need our help, but it is true that by far the majority of our rescues do involve 'water' birds in the broadest sense. This time, its ducklings (mallard) and gulls (Lesser Black Backed); the two stories are not related.

We received a family of eight tiny day old ducklings, their catastrophic separation from mother duck in a totally regrettable incident involving a speeding motorist on the outskirts of Cardiff. We have years of experience in dealing with these tiny creatures; at some stage this always involves moving them on for 'finishing' prior to release, due to limited capacity this might be sooner rather than later. And so it was with this group. A characteristic which marks some mallard families is they are incredible 'athletes', capable of jumping considerable heights from a standing start; doubtless a very useful attribute in their survival kit! So we loaded the ducklings into what we considered a suitable box and set off for Vale Wildlife Rescue at Beckford. Horror of horrors, when we arrived and booked the birds in, we found we had only six ducklings. Despite emptying the back of the car we could find no trace of the two missing ducklings and neither could we hear them, we would have expected their characteristic high pitched contact calls to have been apparent. There was nothing, so we set off for home. Stuck in traffic at some point during the return journey we did hear that call, and eventually found two little ducklings in one of my wellington boots. Clearly, they had jumped from the bottom of the box, locating one of the



The discovery was made at about 5am by members of the workforce. They had to find a certain amount of sophisticated kit in order to remove them from their predicament, whereupon we were



carrying slots and transferred themselves to the boot. So, for these two, the whole process had to be repeated, for which, it seems, they were none the worse.

A local food manufacturing /processing company has learnt how careful they have to be regarding the management of open topped road-going containers, by ensuring they are fully covered when they are not in use. One such recently emptied container (but not washed and cleaned because its use is for unwanted leftovers) was found by four adult gulls at some time during the night, and clearly was thought to contain some tasty food items. Whether it did or didn't, the actual residue was in fact a curry sauce colour; let's say turmeric yellow!

called to arrange transport, care and rehabilitation. In fact we were in a near identical situation three years ago, and so had no hesitation in, once again, involving Vale Wildlife Rescue. The gulls are recovering well. By an odd coincidence, on 6th July, The Times carried a picture of a Herring Gull which had met with a similar misfortune some 100 miles or so away, and was cleaned by the staff at another local wildlife hospital.

For swan and all other wildlife problems please contact Peter & Ellen on 01633 895241 or 07802 472788



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OPEN DOORS

Doors Open Days or simply, Open Doors, provide free access to buildings not usually open to the public or which normally charge. Openings last year included 10 Downing Street & the U.S. Embassy in London, the Redcliffe Caves & Bristol Old Vic in Bristol whilst Tintern Abbey & Tredegar House were attractions closer to home. The Risca Museum first took part in 2016 and last year St. Mary's church also participated. Both are taking part this year and are being joined by the Risca Male Choir who occupy the old Risca Urban District Council Offices.

Risca Museum

The Museum is on the ground floor of the old Risca Collieries Workman's Institute which was built in 1916 for the local miners. After the colliery closed in 1967 it was used as the local benefits office for many years. In 1995 it was purchased by Islwyn Borough Council using European Heritage money, putting the Museum on the ground floor and additional classrooms for the Oxford House Adult Education Centre on the first floor. Caerphilly CBC disposed of the building in 2016 resulting in a 7-fold rent

increase for the Museum which is run by volunteers from the Oxford House Industrial History Society and receives no official financial support.

Although the Museum is open from 10am to 12.30pm every Saturday, for Open Doors it will be open from 10am to 4pm on both Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th September. As well as the Edwardian Chemist shop and the 1834 printing press from the Starling Press, on display will be many items not usually available including artefacts, photographs & maps. Also, on Sunday 29th there will be a short walk & talk on the Risca Long Bridge (maximum duration 1 hour, flat ground) starting from the Museum at 1pm.

St Mary's Church

The current Risca parish church, St. Mary's was built in 1852 in a Gothic revival style. The church will open from 10.30am to 4pm on Saturday 28th September. The historic parish records of Baptisms, Marriages & Burials will be available for inspection. There will be leaflets available indicating the location of some of the most interesting sights and booklets on the full history of the church will be on sale. Refreshments will be



Risca Colliers Institute

available.

Risca Male Choir

The old Council Offices on St. Mary's Street will open from 10.30am to 4pm on Saturday 28th September. The building was completed in 1912 for the Risca Urban District Council and remained its headquarters until it ceased to exist after local government reorganisation in 1974. Since 1988 it has been the home of RMC, the Risca Male Choir. Choir members will be in attendance and the illustrated history of the choir 'The First Forty Years' and selected CDs will be available to purchase.



Risca council offices



Risca, St Marys Church



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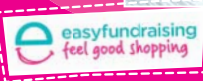
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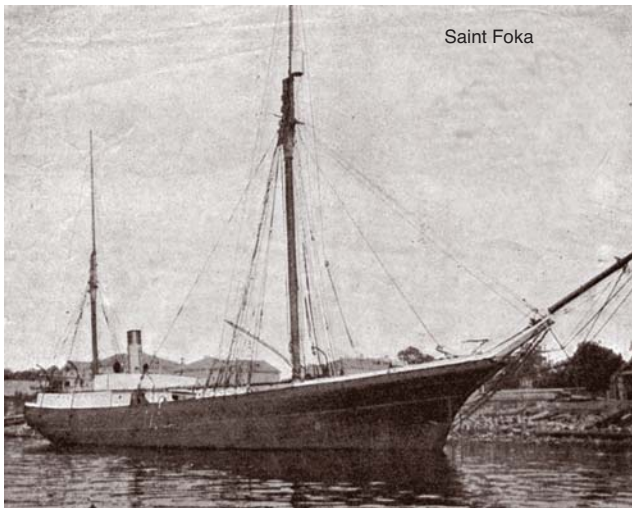
(Part 3)

Albanov and Konrad paddled their Kayak out across the sea to meet the approaching ship, the *Saint Martyr Foka*, which then dropped anchor. The relieved pair then clambered on board and were made welcome. The ship was calling at Cape Flora in order to search for fuel supplies for the steam engines. They had used up most of their coal supplies and were forced to rely on sail power.

Once on board they learned that the original expedition commander Sedov had died previously and that

three days and, hopefully, take them clear of the ice.

The ship was very old and had



the expedition leader was now a Dr. P. Kushakov. It was agreed that the fortunate pair, Albanov and Konrad, could stay on board the *Saint Foka* for the trip back to Archangel. The next morning the crew went ashore to search for fuel and they dismantled a large cabin and transported the wood back to the ship to use as fuel. This salvaged wood fuel would give the ship enough steam power to last about

sprung a leak which required pumping for a couple of hours every day to prevent it from sinking. The shortage of fuel caused much concern and care had to be taken to avoid frequent collisions with ice floes. Before heading back towards Archangel, the ship made a search of other islands of the archipelago for any surviving missing members of the *Saint Anna* party, but no trace of any of these

people was found. Albanov and Konrad must be the only survivors of the forlorn party that had set out from the icebound ship *Saint Anna*. After completing the unsuccessful search the ship set off in the direction of Archangel, making use of any favourable winds to use sail power. The crew were desperately ransacking the ship for any wood that was not a vital structural part and could be burnt as fuel to raise steam. They even considered burning the ship's piano and also dismantled all the ship's cabins in the search for fuel. This meant that everybody would have to sleep on the bare deck!

The *Saint Foka* made very slow progress on her return voyage, they were blocked by fog and had difficulty in avoiding icebergs. The ship became trapped in the ice and had to anchor itself to a berg. They were now desperately short of fuel and resorted to dismantling the topmast, the jib boom and spritsail gaff, to saw up for fuel. They even piled up in the coal bins spare sails, coils of rope, mattresses and anything not absolutely necessary that would burn.

In the morning the fog finally lifted and the winds became favourable and they were able to hoist sails and maintain a southerly progress at four to five knots. Eventually, the ship broke free of ice and was able to set a straight course for Cape Svyatoy and it was hoped that they might meet a steam ship that would

tow them to Archangel. They eventually began to meet other vessels, but despite the *Saint Foka's* signals none of them would stop. Finally, they made contact through a fishing boat and managed to send a message which resulted in two motor boats towing the ship into a fishing port.

From here they were able to arrange a lift on board a steamer, S.S. *Emperor Nicholas*, which would take a party on to Archangel including Albanov and Konrad. This then finally achieved the homecoming of a pair, who after two years voyaging, were all that remained of the crew of 24 who had left St. Petersburg on September 1st 1914.

From his diary records that he had kept so carefully over the last few years, Albanov later went on to write a book detailing the story of this tragic expedition and survival. The book was initially written in



Russian then translated into French and finally in English. I managed to find such a copy entitled 'In the Land of White Death' via Amazon from which I have taken details for this article.

Albanov continued as a sailor serving on board various ships including an icebreaker. He, unfortunately, died in 1919 some reports say of typhoid and others say that he was killed by the explosion of a munitions wagon at a railway station in Siberia.

Konrad also continued at sea sailing with Albanov on board the icebreaker *Canada* and then he worked as an engineer and mechanic on the Baltic Steam Ship Line. He outlived Albanov, dying of pleurisy in Leningrad in 1940. Now the final question must be 'What happened to the *Saint Anna* and remaining crew members?' I am afraid that you must wait until the next and final instalment to find out.

(To be continued)

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	11.15-12.00 Parent/Child 2-4yrs	11.15-12.00 Parent/Child 2-4yrs	11.30-12.15 Parent/Child 2-4yrs	11.30-12.15 Under 2yrs		11.00-11.45 Rec-Yr2
	12.30-1.15 Independent 3-4yrs*	12.30-1.15 Parent/Child 2-4yrs	12.45-1.30 Independent 3-4yrs*	12.45-1.30 Independent 3-4yrs*		11.45-12.30 Rec-Yr2
	1.30-2.15 Independent 3-4yrs*	1.30-2.15 Independent 3-4yrs*	1.45-2.30 Parent/Child 2-4yrs	1.45-2.30 Parent/Child 2-4yrs		1.00-1.45 Independent 3-4yrs*
	2.15-3.00 Independent 3-4yrs gym/cheerleading	2.15-3.00 Independent 3-4yrs gym/cheerleading				1.45-2.30 Parent/Child 2-4yrs
3.45-4.30 Rec-Yr2	3.45-4.30 Rec-Yr2	3.45-4.30 Rec-Yr2	3.45-4.30 Rec-Yr2	3.45-4.30 Rec-Yr2		
4.30-5.15 Rec-Yr2	4.30-5.15 Rec-Yr2	4.30-5.15 Rec-Yr2	4.30-5.15 Rec-Yr2	4.30-5.15 Rec-Yr2		
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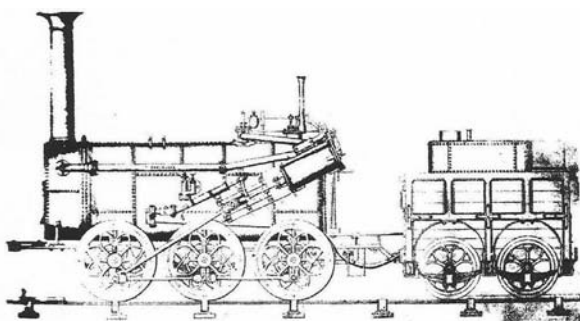
Some readers may recall passenger trains passing through Risca, Rogerstone and Bassaleg pulled by locomotives bearing the initials L.M.S. (London, Midland and Scottish Railway). They carried passengers between the Sirhowy Valley and Newport until the late 1940s. From Nine Mile Point (near Wattsville) the trains ran over track of the Great Western Railway to gain access to Newport. Nick-named 'The Cockney' it ran non-stop from Risca to Newport.

The right for the L.M.S. to 'invade' G.W.R. territory goes back to the start of the 19th century when the Tredegar Iron Company, having built a tramway down the Sirhowy Valley, made an agreement with The Monmouthshire Canal and Railway Company for through running to gain access to the wharves on the River Usk at Newport. The two tramways were joined 'end to end' at Nine Mile Point, near Wattsville.

Tramroads preceded railways and were local enterprises. These tramroads had cast iron 'L' shaped rails and the wagon wheels did not have flanges. Wagons and later carriages were drawn by horses but steam locomotives were beginning to appear in other parts of the Britain. The Tredegar Iron Company began hauling wagons of iron to Newport in 1805 but over 20 years later and having been aware of the success of steam haulage in other parts of the country, the Company decided on a change.

The following appeared in the Monmouthshire Evening Post of 2nd February 1912.

'It was not until 1829 that records show that a locomotive was used



on Monmouthshire lines and it may be said, its first appearance on any part of what is now the Great Western Railway. This engine was introduced by Samuel



Homfray of Tredegar Iron Works. He was the son of a father of the same name to whose wager with Richard Crawshay of Cyfarthfa Iron Works; the world is indebted for the contest that brought Trevithick's locomotive to notice. Mr. Homfray purchased an engine from Mr R. Stephenson and Co. (Newcastle – upon – Tyne) which started running from Tredegar Iron Works in 1829 but it was not until the December that it travelled the Sirhowy and Monmouthshire Tramroads into Newport, a distance of 28 miles.'

The inaugural run was not without incident as a letter to the Evening Post later told.

'The day previously, my father sent two men down from

Tredegar, one with a hatchet and a saw; the other with a ladder and a gauge. They had instructions 'to cut all branches off' (along the track from Tredegar to Newport). The men got as far as Bassaleg (just two miles from destination) and 'went on the spree' at a local pub. When Stephenson's Flyer came, the drivers thought the men had cleared the way through to Newport but a low branch in Tredegar Park, Bassaleg, was hit which knocked the chimney off the locomotive.'

Thomas Ellis is part of the story of Tredegar Ironworks, a name borne by father, son and grandson. The oldest Thomas Ellis was instrumental with Samuel Homfray in bringing three of Stephenson's locomotives to the ironworks and tramroads. Later his son supervised the construction of a further nine locomotives for the ironworks and the tramroad.

The middle of the 19th century brought the conversion of the tramroads into railways. Then followed purchase of the Sirhowy line by the L.N.W.R. (later forming part of the L.M.S.) and the line through Risca, Rogerstone and Bassaleg by the G.W.R.

By 'Uplander'

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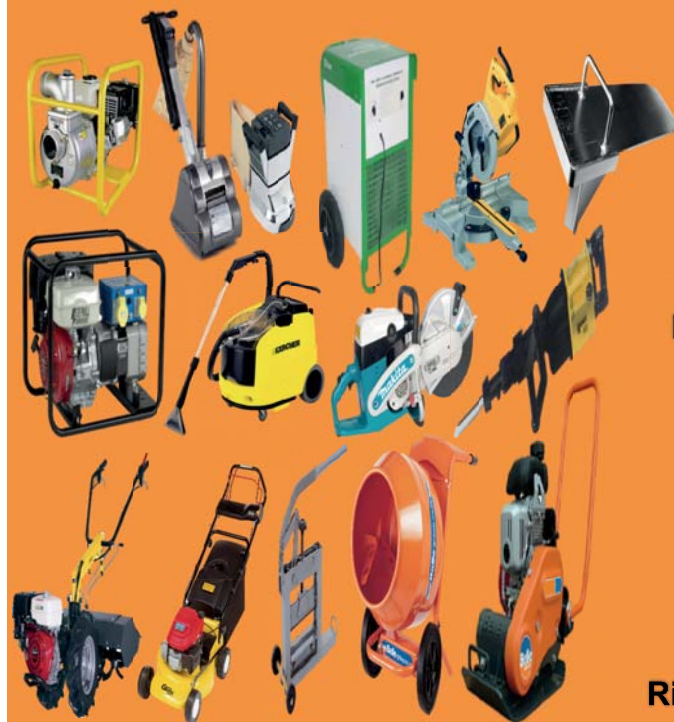
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The Golden Age of Smuggling

by Paul Minton

I write this article at the height of summer, when the country has recorded its hottest July ever temperature. Welsh beaches have been invaded by throngs (or should that be thongs?) of sun worshippers, whose modesty is protected only by scanty bikinis and budgie smugglers. Of course, budgie smuggling is not the only sort of smuggling that takes place in the UK. Trafficking in both drugs and people is an ever-present blight but old school smuggling of goods is never out of fashion. In 2012, for instance, contraband consisting of 25,000 bottles of red wine, 67,000 cigarettes and 92 kilos of tobacco was recovered from just a single container at Newport Docks.

According to estimates, Britain once had as many as 25,000 smugglers with another 100,000 people actively involved in distribution. The Royal Navy, with its complement of 50,000 sailors, struggled to police national waters and it was only after the conflict with France had ended with the defeat of Napoleon that the war against the smuggler gained traction.

As a major port, Newport has been awash with illicit goods for hundreds of years, depriving HM Customs and Excise and its

predecessors of millions of pounds in lost revenue. The manner in which contraband was brought ashore varied but there have been persistent rumours of secret tunnels running beneath the city, such as between the River Usk and Christchurch and from the River Ebbw to St Woolos Cathedral.

The earliest reports of the illegal trade around Newport possibly date back to 1649 when 2,000 lbs of tobacco were seized at Redwick. Attempts by customs officers to board moored vessels suspected of smuggling were often less than plain sailing. During one such episode in 1791, a ship's crew, brandishing both cutlass and pistol, swore to the official that "if he presumed to come on board, they would blow his brains out!" Many merchant seamen who were found guilty of smuggling were later pressganged into the Royal Navy as a punishment and a deterrent. From 1830, it was generally recognised that smuggling was in decline nationwide, although Newport did not see a similar change in the tide. Instead, it reported increasing numbers of offences and it has been suggested that the opening of the Monmouthshire Brecon Canal may have contributed to the rise. One interesting case involved the inaptly named ship, *Good Intent*.

Owned by a group of Newport businessmen, the 72-ton schooner ran a seemingly respectable operation between Britain and France. However, an inspection in 1837 revealed a series of false bulkheads that concealed 1100 gallons of brandy in 259 kegs. As a result, the *Good Intent*'s master was sentenced to a stint in Monmouth Gaol, whilst the vessel itself was confiscated and broken up.

On another occasion in 1891, the *South Wales Echo* reported that the master of a German ship named the *Leocadia* had been summoned to Newport Town Hall following the discovery of undeclared brandy stowed beneath some canvas in his bath. The steward had claimed the barrel was empty but the truth was revealed when customs officers heard the liquid sloshing about inside. That same year, the *Western Mail* printed a story about a runner for a Newport butchers, who was charged with smuggling cigars. Upon being confronted when bringing them ashore, the man literally did a runner, although he was apprehended some two hours later. The sentence was one month's imprisonment with a two guinea fine and no doubt, his dreams of becoming a big time smuggler went up in smoke at the same time!

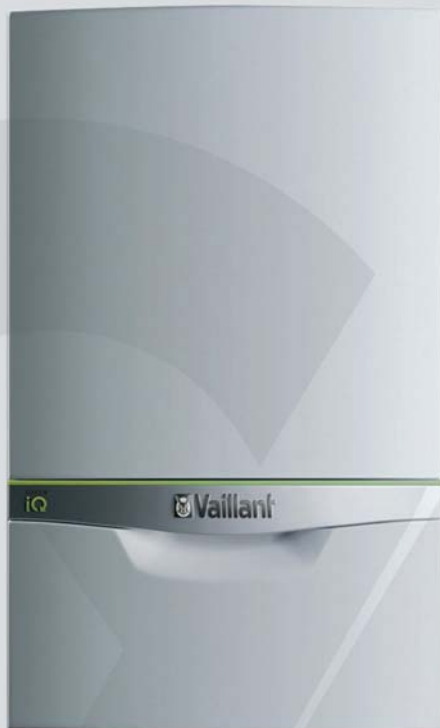
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Autumn returns

I always write this article with mixed feelings because just as everyone is looking forward to six weeks of summer, I am thinking about the September article for the directory and of course by the time you read this Autumn will be upon us, the children will have returned to school, the trees will have that faint hint of red and gold glory, the nights will be pulling in and Rogerstone Roses W.I. will have begun its new programme.

Autumn will bring a new programme; it starts on September 10th with an evening entitled 'Wish you were here,'

rural Derbyshire decided, as we reached the M4, to die!

On September 24th we will host the St John's Ambulance; demonstrating and instructing how to use a defibrillator. This life saving equipment is now found in many urban and rural spots and although there are clear instructions inside every one some exposure and practical use can only be helpful. The speediness of response is vital and this promises to be a very useful evening indeed.

As most readers will be aware the W.I. is

creativeness in classes covering everything from vegetable growing to photography. Two years ago, Rogerstone Roses won the 'Rose Bowl' for the most points awarded in our category - groups with large numbers, apologies can't remember the exact specifications. So, can we do it again? We certainly hope so, many ladies have dutifully filled in entry forms and for that the committee thanks them. I, myself am busy trying to knit a corsage, an interesting concept if you think about it or perhaps it is that I simply do not have the necessary skill, however I shall soldier on and enter something that is more akin to a posy I suspect.

W.I. also boasts several clubs, choir, book, bridge, mah jong and craft, they are all flourishing but all will welcome new members.

We meet at St Anne's Church Hall, High Cross, the official meeting starts at 7.30 pm but members arrive from 7.15 onwards to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a chat. Our advert in the directory also gives you a telephone number if you have any questions.

Liz James

a chance for ladies to share their holiday snaps and anecdotal stories. I am always amazed at some of the peculiar things that happen to people as they travel around. Nothing funny or peculiar for my husband and myself, just irritating, the sat nav having been briefed to take us to

probably best known for its cookery and craft items, although it is an organisation which encompasses so much more, but more of that another time! I digress slightly. This year the Gwent Federation of W.I.'s is holding its biennial show in October and this gives members throughout Gwent a chance to display their amazing



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Georgia is an experienced solicitor and specialises in taking instructions for and drafting Wills, preparing Lasting Powers of Attorney and applications to the Court of Protection. Georgia also deals with Estate Administration.



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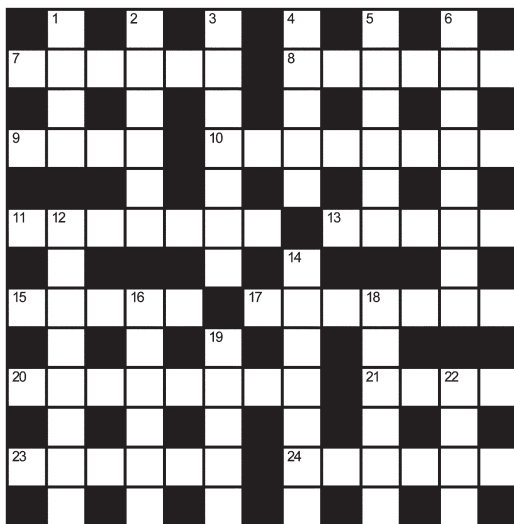
Crossword

Across

- 7 Wait upon (6)
- 8 Educated (6)
- 9 Leave out (4)
- 10 Buy (8)
- 11 Rebuked (7)
- 13 Cost (5)
- 15 Areas within a house (5)
- 17 Covered with thorns (7)
- 20 Against the current (8)
- 21 Curve on bottom of foot (4)
- 23 Edible bulbs (6)
- 24 Employ (6)

Down

- 1 Very small particle (4)
- 2 Relating to the teeth (6)
- 3 Modified (7)
- 4 Celestial bodies (5)
- 5 Writer (6)
- 6 Involving the body (8)
- 12 Cutting with an axe (8)
- 14 Metal wind instrument (7)



- 16 Technique (6)
- 18 Alter (6)
- 19 Sound practical judgment (5)
- 22 Wire enclosure used for birds (4)

Sudoku

1	3	4	2		9		8	
				1			4	3
7	6	8	3				9	
3				9				
4						5		
		9	1				7	
	4	6	5	7				
5					4		2	
8	1	3		2				

The object of sudoku is to insert the missing numbers in the boxes to satisfy just one condition: each row, column and 3x3 box must contain the digits 1 through to 9 exactly once. This can be done by applying logic – you do not have to guess.

Solution on page 46

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Gwerinwyr Gwent Diary

On the 12th June we had our second conference booking of the year, this time at Caldicot Castle. International delegates at a medical conference in Cardiff were holding their gala dinner in a marquee in the castle grounds and GG was part of the welcoming events before their meal.

With about 200 people arriving, the timings were well planned and precise, but unfortunately traffic from the M4 to the castle was so heavy that the coaches were over 30 minutes late arriving. This meant our plans to dance for two separate groups and then get people to join in had to be curtailed. We completed our display, and then as the rain started, found some space in the marquee to get a few people to join us - half the delegates were still exploring the castle grounds. A shame but I think particularly the foreign delegates enjoyed seeing our Welsh costumes and dancing, even if it was only for a short while.

The 27th June saw us back at the adult special needs school on the Treforest Industrial Estate. This has become an annual event and



our visit is always eagerly anticipated. Barbara Griffiths had again put together a Welsh culture session with questions for the students to answer, some dance demonstrations, including clogging, music from our band and some simple audience participation dances. Usually our bookings are arranged well in advance, sometimes almost a year, but at the end of May we had an invitation to dance again at Llanover, this time in the village, on the 4th July for a visiting VIP. Sometime later we were informed that the VIP would be Prince

Charles, who after visiting a school and the Winding House in New Tredegar with the Duchess of Cornwall, would be arriving alone to tour Elizabeth Murray's lovely gardens and hear about the work of her ancestor Lady Llanover. GG would be dancing Llanover Reel for his arrival at the village hall and another dance as he departed.

The 4th July turned out to be a really hot day, and in our woollen costumes with the ladies wearing bonnets and tall hats, we were feeling the heat as we waited for almost an hour past the intended start time. Finally HRH and Mr & Mrs Murray arrived and we started dancing, they then entered the village hall to meet various local dignitaries and we began to prepare for our second dance. Prince Charles' equerry suddenly appeared to say not to dance again but to form a group as HRH wanted to meet us. He shook hands with everyone, was very charming, and suggested we go into the hall for a cup of tea and get out of the sun.

Many thanks to David Owen for the two photos from Llanover



Gwerinwyr Gwent would love to recruit some new dancers, especially men!

Welsh dance steps are basic and few, it is just the patterns of the dances that need to be learned. We would also be delighted to welcome extra musicians to join our little band. Practice night is Thursday 8-10pm at the Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg (opposite the Ruperra Arms). Either just come along, ring 01495 271953 for more details, or check out our website www.gwerinwyrghwent.org.uk or Facebook page.

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Puzzle Solutions

Crossword

Across: 7 Attend, 8 Taught, 9 Omit, 10 Purchase, 11 Scolded, 13 Price, 15 Rooms, 17 Prickly, 20 Upstream, 21 Arch, 23 Onions, 24 Engage

Down: 1 Atom, 2 Dental, 3 Adapted, 4 Stars, 5 Author, 6 Physical, 12 Chopping, 14 Trumpet, 16 Method, 18 Change, 19 Sense, 22 Cage

Sudoku

1	3	4	2	6	9	7	8	5
9	2	5	7	1	8	6	4	3
7	6	8	3	4	5	2	9	1
3	5	1	4	9	7	8	6	2
4	7	2	6	8	3	5	1	9
6	8	9	1	5	2	3	7	4
2	4	6	5	7	1	9	3	8
5	9	7	8	3	4	1	2	6
8	1	3	9	2	6	4	5	7

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Captain Bligh's house in Lambeth, London

An Ideal guest house to stay for a London visit

by Steve Barber

That's right, Captain Bligh's house – he of Mutiny on the Bounty fame. This is the very house, in Lambeth, where William Bligh lived after he returned from the famed mutiny before later when he was sent off to Australia, where he again was forced to undergo another mutiny.

The lovely little Georgian house, at 100 Lambeth Road, London (Tel. No. 020 7928 2735), is now owned by Gayna and Simon, who have turned it into an exquisite Guest House, beautifully equipped and ideal for a London visit. It is tastefully divided into five sets of self-contained accommodation, each uniquely furnished and decorated.

The upper floors of the house are divided into five apartments, each attractively furnished and well equipped with bathroom and mini-kitchen facilities. You can choose from the 'Captain's Cabin', 'The London Apartment', 'The Film Studio', 'The Royal Suite' and the 'Crow's Nest'. These are economically priced from £100 to £125 per night, staying a minimum of four nights. We have so far stayed in the 'Film Studio' and the 'Crow's Nest', but intend to eventually try each apartment.

To start you off a generous pack of breakfast materials is



provided, which contains tea, coffee, milk, sugar, bread and butter with jams etc. and also fruit juice and cereals. If you wish to eat out you will find several restaurants and public houses conveniently close by. There are also many shops and supermarkets to be found in the vicinity.

My wife and I have enjoyed staying here on three occasions and will certainly be returning in the future. Gayna and Simon have always been ready to advise us on travel around

London, helping us by advising the best routes and means of transport. They provide a little booklet directing guests to locally situated restaurants and shops etc.

We usually start our London trip by a visit to The Imperial War Museum which is conveniently situated just across the road. Allow plenty of time for this visit, because there is so much to view in this very interesting museum. We have found that it takes at least two days to thoroughly explore and the exhibits are regularly changing.

There are also many places that are in easy walking distance of Captain Bligh's House: Trafalgar Square only took us about 40 minutes of brisk walking and here we were able to view the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery. We also strolled up Ludgate Hill in order to visit St. Paul's Cathedral, where we took a very interesting guided tour. We viewed the tombs of two of the U.K's greatest heroes – Admiral Lord Nelson and the Duke of Wellington.

You can easily walk to the former St. Mary at Lambeth Parish Church now home to a Garden Museum and situated close to Lambeth Palace. Here in the St. Mary's graveyard you will find the actual tomb containing the remains of William Bligh, his wife Betsy and two tiny coffins containing the remains of two very short-lived twin sons. The tomb is surmounted by a



symbolic carved stone reproduction of a **breadfruit**. There are many, many famous and interesting places that can be visited from this ideal little Guest House. Many easily by foot or alternatively there are frequent convenient connections by bus or by underground tube train. It will pay you to have a current **Oyster Card**. We have now three times visited this delightful little house but



intend to ensure that we always stay here when we take a London holiday. We have so enjoyed our three stays here that we hope to return as often as possible and we have awarded it a **Five Star Plus rating** on Trip Advisor. The Rough Guide to London is also very complimentary. For more information you will be able to find a Web Site, via Google, for the Captain Bligh House.

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The 'Long Bridge' by Geoff Smith

The feature on the Sirhowy to Newport Tramroad by Uplander in the previous edition of the Directory reminded me that I had long intended to write about this forgotten feature of Risca.

When the early tramroads were built the route taken was dictated by not only the industry to be served, but also the attitude of the landowners through whose land the route was to pass through. The later railways were built with Parliamentary sanction and thus had compulsory purchase power, but this was not the case with the early tramroads. The Monmouthshire Canal Company's tramroad from Newport into the Western Valley more or less followed the canal on the Eastern side of the Valley, so when it came to building the tramroad to connect with the Sirhowy tramroad at Nine Mile Point, the opportunity was taken to serve those industries on the Western side of the valley Northwards from Risca, rather than branching off at Cross Keys.

I suspect that there was a land ownership issue here, but have no documentary evidence to support this theory.

Thus, the tramroad came South from Nine Mile Point and served the notorious Black Vein Colliery and its coke ovens, a large brickworks, extensive limekilns and a copper works on the Western side at Risca (Danygraig). All of this section of the tramroad is now beneath the A467 road. To join with the Western Valley tramroad a magnificent viaduct, the 'Long Bridge' was constructed. It consisted of 32 arches, built of stone, was 48ft above the valley floor, and is said to have cost around £40,000 in 1805. By 1859 the tramroad had been converted to a conventional railway, which took an easier and less curvaceous course, as the photograph shows. For the next 40 years the 'Long Bridge' slumbered, unused, until from about 1900 it was slowly demolished, and its stonework recycled, being used in numerous

buildings in the area.

It is hard to understand why such and expensive structure was considered necessary. Tramroads were better able to cope with gradients than the later railways, so a ramp down to the river, a simple bridge and another ramp up would have been a much cheaper option.

The later railway is also long gone, and its embankment levelled to provide extensive playing fields. Of the 'Long Bridge' itself just some stonework remains, just to the side of Risca Builders Merchant's yard.

Of the tramroads themselves, remains are few. The course of the railway is a foot and cycle track from near Cross Keys, and a bridge with the stone sleeper blocks of the tramway is to be seen at Nine Mile Point. At Pye Corner, if you stand facing the 'Hair Junction' premises, to the right a lane disappears behind the houses in Western Valley Road. This was the tramroad course.



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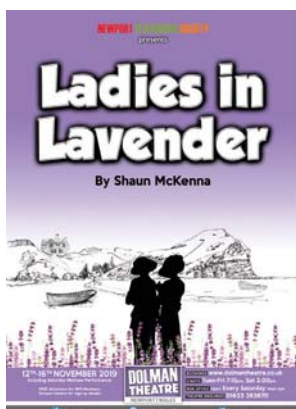
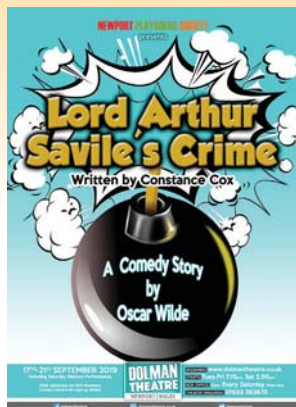
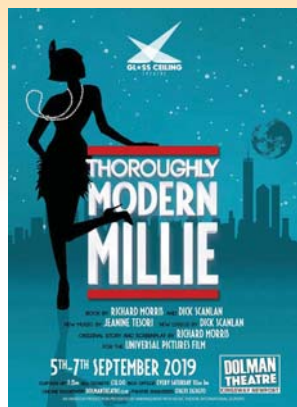
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Afon Belles is a local branch of the W.I. based in Afon village. It originated as a ladies group to encourage friendship and activities within the community. For the last 18 months it has been affiliated with the W.I.

This group is a far cry from the stereotypical view of the W.I. as elderly, middleclass do-gooders, making jam and doing flower arranging. It is a vibrant friendly group, attracting members from all walks of life and surrounding villages and from ages 18 upwards.

Our programme for 2019 includes a Cheese & Wine night, Samba Drumming, a Beetle Drive, Belly Dancing and a St John's ambulance evening. We



would love to welcome new members, so why not call in for a taster session, a warm welcome will be guaranteed.

We get together on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday in the month from 7.30pm to 9.00pm at Rivermead Community Centre, Afon Village.

For more information please contact Karen Powell on 07870 116546 or email afonbellesrogerstone@gmail.com

Newport Uskmouth Rotary boost Charity funds to over £180,000

Newport charities and volunteer organisations continue to benefit by thousands of pounds each year by taking part in the annual Newport Uskmouth Rotary's City Draw **and there is an opportunity for new organisations to join the 2020 Draw.** Affectionately known as the **NURD**, the event is genuinely a win/win scheme first introduced in Newport in September 2008. The concept is simple and hugely beneficial. The Club obtains prizes from sponsorship from various commercial and private sources. The Rotary Club prints the raffle tickets, **gives them** to the participating organisations who **keep the income from the sale of tickets.**

On average each year, more than £17,000 has been pumped into the charity sector of the City. The first Draw was in May 2009 and the most recent on 1st May 2019, when the Mayor of Newport drew the winning 11 tickets which were shared by Friends of the Newport Ship, Newport Philharmonic Choir, Newport MIND, Lliswerry Heart Link, Zimbabwe Volunteers Association, Adams Chorale, Cantorion Sanctaidd Choir, and ETA-mined. **£20,000 worth of tickets will be available for the next Draw (NURD20) and registration will take place in late October.** Beneficiaries of the Draw say:

RN Association (Newport): "A big thank you for inviting us again to take part in the Annual Draw. They provide everything – all we have to do is sell the

Newport Uskmouth
Rotary
& Satellites



tickets and keep the money and, this year, our funds were swollen by £1,500".

Parkinson's Newport: "We may not have won a prize but it was all in a good cause and we raised £395 for our funds".

"Opt to Adopt" Dogs'

Home: "We really appreciate the opportunity to take part and the funds raised will be put to good use".

NURD19 first prize

Winner: "Winning the top cash prize means that I can afford a holiday for the first time for many years. Thank you Rotary".

The Draw promoter, Keith Minton, says "This is just part of the contribution Newport Uskmouth Rotary makes to the City: other activities include the award-winning 'Young Carers' project, developing work in the City's first 'Men's Shed', the annual summer cycle ride for Prostate Cancer and the 'Tree of Light' at Christmas in Friar's Walk.



“The event is genuinely a win/win scheme first introduced in Newport in September 2008.”

If you are involved in running a charity, a youth activity, keep-fit class, PTA, church, choir etc. etc., you may be eligible to take part in the 2020 Draw. To learn more contact Keith Minton on keithminton44@gmail.com

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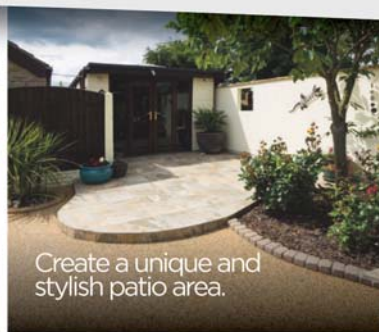
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