

THE DIRECTORY

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SEPTEMBER/
OCTOBER 2019



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:

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or email contact@swdirectories.co.uk

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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.

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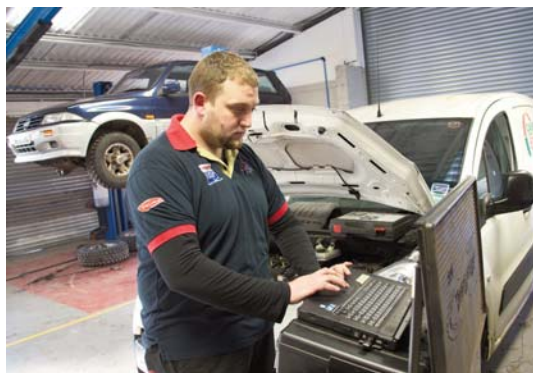
A small rocky cove at high tide, sandwiched between towering cliffs, one mile south of the UK's smallest city, St David's. The beach is accessed by following a path through the craggy cliffs and down a steep set of steps. At low tide, a sandy beach is revealed with lots of rock pools to explore. You

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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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

GWENT CHORALE

We meet at Dan-y-Graig Church, Risca at 7.00pm every Wednesday.

More information about the choir can be found at www.gwentchorale.com or find us on Facebook.

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

Aviation and Air Traffic Control

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If you are interested in aviation and would like to know more about what goes on in the air above us every day, why not come along to one of our regular meetings at the Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg? For more information call 01633 213243

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Western Valley Camera Club

Western Valley Camera Club is one of the leading Camera Clubs in South Wales.

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The club holds meetings throughout the year on a variety of topics and aims to provide a varied programme which features the following broad topic areas:

- Competitions
- Practical sessions
- Demonstrations
- Talks and presentations from members and quality external speakers

We hold our meetings in the Dudley Suite, Cross Keys Rugby Club (Pandy Park, Woodward Avenue, Cross Keys, NP11 7BS) at 7.30pm and aim to finish by 10.00pm



For further information please go to the club web page at www.westernvalley.co.uk

Risca Rascals Parent & Toddler Group

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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.

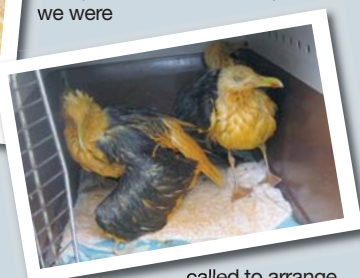
We received a family of eight tiny day old ducklings, their catastrophic separation from mother duck in a totally regrettable incident involving a speeding motorist on the outskirts of Cardiff. We have years of experience in dealing with these tiny creatures; at some stage this always involves moving 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



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!

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



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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	10.15-11.00 Independent 3-4yrs*	10.15-11.00 Under 2yrs	10.30-11.15 Independent 3-4yrs*	10.30-11.15 Independent 3-4yrs*		10.15-11.00 Yr3-Yr6
	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		
5.15-6.00 Yr3-Yr6		5.15-6.00 Yr3-Yr6		5.15-6.00 Advanced Yr4-Yr8		
				6.00-6.45 Tumbling Yr4-Yr8		
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Gymnastics: Reception - Yr8					Term Dates: 04.09.19 -26.10.19 4.11.19 - 21.12.19 6.1.20 - 15.2.20 24.2.20 - 4.4.20 20.4.20 - 23.5.20 1.6.20 - 18.7.20	
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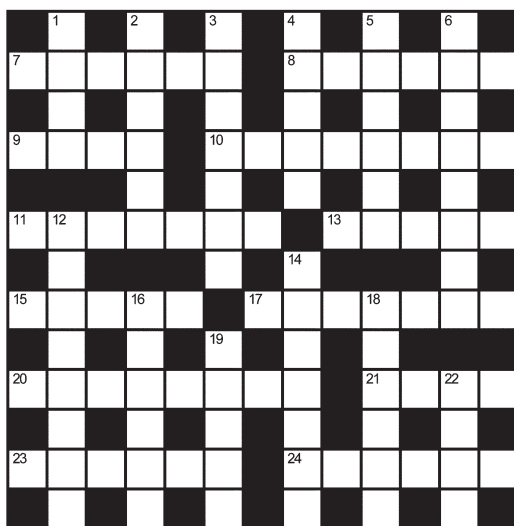
Crossword

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 18



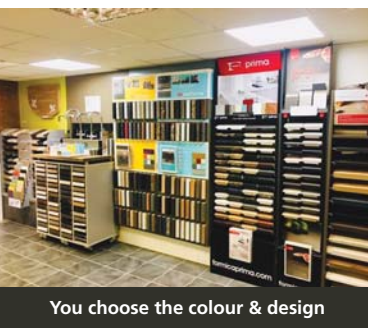
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Crossword

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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(The reading groups are fun, friendly discussions about a book we have all chosen to read over the month. Tea and coffee provided)

Crafters Corner

meets weekly on Friday's at 11am-12pm (Informal craft session over tea and coffee, bring your own projects)

Story Time and Crafts

(for children under4) – weekly on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 11am-12pm



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www.newportibc.co.uk



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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 a 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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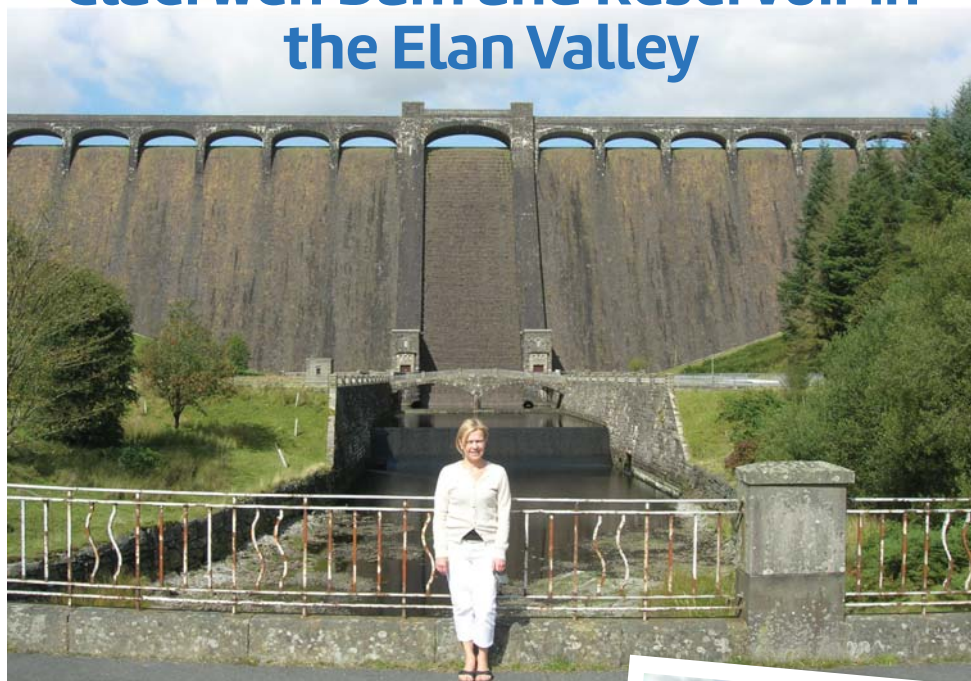
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Claerwen Dam and Reservoir in the Elan Valley



The severe drought of 1937 served to give warning of the increasing need for much greater water storage capacity. Proposals for a large new dam in the upper Claerwen Valley were at an advanced stage by early 1939, but the Second World War meant that the demands of wartime production itself put even greater strains on the existing water supplies. The increasingly urgent calls for a new dam and reservoir on the Claerwen were to be reactivated soon after the end of the war.

It is a measure of its size that the Claerwen dam was to create a reservoir which holds almost as much water as the

combined total of the three earlier dams built in the neighbouring Elan Valley. The dam is 184ft (56m) high and 1167ft (355m) long.



The Claerwen dam was designed to be in keeping with the appearance of the much older structures nearby. Although built in concrete, the



huge dam was faced with dressed stone. The construction of the Claerwen dam, the last of the dams in the district, took six years, using a workforce of 470. The Claerwen dam was ceremonially declared open by the newly crowned Queen Elizabeth in October 1952, in one of the first official engagements of her reign.



Little Dragons classes

Ages 4-7



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Ty-du community hall
Welfare grounds
Tregwyllym road
Rogerstone
NP10 9EQ
Tuesdays 17.30 - 18.15
Thursdays 17.30 - 18.15

Cwmarn OAP hall
Newport road
Cwmarn
NP11 7LZ
Monday 17.45 - 18.30
Friday 17.45 - 18.30

JUNIORS Taekwon-Do

Ages 7-13

ROGERSTONE

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Welfare grounds
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Rogerstone
NP10 9EQ
Tuesdays 18.30 - 19.30
Thursdays 18.30 - 19.30

Cwmarn OAP hall
Newport road
Cwmarn
NP11 7LZ
Monday 18.30 - 19.30
Friday 18.30 - 19.30

Adults Taekwon-Do

Ages 13+

ROGERSTONE

Ty-du community hall
Welfare grounds
Tregwyllym road
Rogerstone
NP10 9EQ
Tuesdays 19.30 - 20.30
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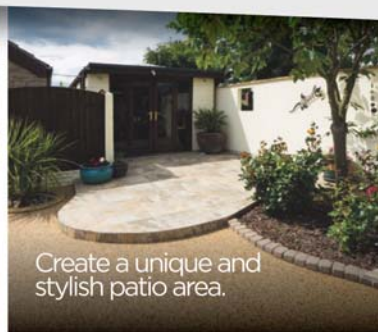
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