NEWPORT

DIRECTORY

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2026



WINTER SOLSTICE

THE LONGEST NIGHT,
THE RETURN OF THE LIGHT

THE RISE, FALL AND REMARKABLE HISTORY OF NEWPORT'S WILDINGS DEPARTMENT STORE

Pinkmove

SCAN ME!

Selling your home? For a FREE valuation call 01633 746088 or scan our QR code!

Welcome!



As 2026 draws to an end we would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who has contributed to the continued success of the Directory this year.
Thank you to all the distributors who, no matter how bad the weather is, deliver the Directories for us. Thank you to the residents and organisations for sending us articles. Finally, a very special thank you to the advertisers for their continued support, without the financial support from them, there would be no Directory.

If you are interested in advertising your business in the Directory, please contact us to find out about the extremely competitive advertising rates. You will always deal with us directly, like many of the businesses that advertise in this magazine, we are a small, independent family business and fully appreciate how much your business means to you.

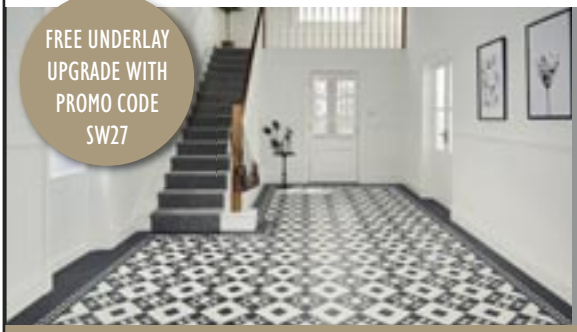
We wish you all a very happy, peaceful and enjoyable Christmas.

Susan x

COPY DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY / FEBRUARY EDITION FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

Advertising enquiries: Telephone Leslie on 07725 888070 or email contact@swdirectories.co.uk
SW Directories, Merlin House, Langstone Business Park, Newport, NP18 2HJ
Editor: Susan Woolford | Sales & Distribution: Leslie Woolford
The editor cannot accept any liability to any party for loss or damage caused by errors or omissions.
All artwork is accepted on the strict condition that permission has been given for use in the publication.
SW Directories does not officially endorse any advertising material included within this publication.
All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the prior permission of the editor.

CARPET GALLERY
Newport Ltd. Est. 1988



FREE UNDERLAY UPGRADE WITH PROMO CODE SW27

Newport's Premier Specialists in Flooring

WINTER SALE
Starts 4th January

• Quality Fitted Carpeting • Traditional Wood/Laminate Flooring • Natural Flooring • Window Blinds
• Safety Flooring • Luxury Vinyl Flooring • Subfloor Preparation • Commercial Flooring
• Bespoke Rugs & Stair Runners

Established in the city centre since 1988 with many thousands of satisfied customers to date, Carpet Gallery offers a friendly personal service with a wide experience of all types of flooring, we're passionate about helping you find the perfect floor to suit your space, your needs and your style. Carpet Gallery supplies all major manufacturers, we encourage our customers to browse at their leisure in our showroom, we recommend taking home a good selection of samples to ensure compatibility and satisfaction. Our consultation & estimating service is completely free of charge and without obligation to buy.

Tel: 01633 841967 • Email: carpetgallerynewport@gmail.com
8-9 Charles Street, Newport, Gwent, S.Wales NP20 1JU | www.carpetgallerynewport.co.uk

riverfront glan yr afon
NEWPORT LIVE CASNEWYDD FYW

TOGETHER WE ARE ACTIVE 60+

- Gym & Fitness Classes
- Free Swimming
- Workshops & Classes
- Racquet Sports



01633 656757
NEWPORTLIVE.CO.UK

Electrician

Info@wh-electrical.co.uk

Do you find it difficult to find a RELIABLE electrician to carry out the SMALL jobs

- Extra Lights and Sockets
- **New Fuseboards**
- P.A.T Testing
- **New installation**
- Smoke Alarms
- **Experts on Rewires**
- Landlord's and Home Buyers Reports
- **Rewires**
- Garden Lights
- Electric Heaters
- **Experts on Fault finding**

✓ Fully Qualified, Insured and Registered
✓ Reliable and Friendly Service
✓ Flexible Hours
✓ **Satisfaction Guaranteed**
✓ Proud to be Local

I will **Assure** You Of A **Quick Response** And A **Reasonably Priced** Service.

Call WH Electrical *NOW* on:

07543122526

WH ELECTRICAL

PLUMBING & HEATING SERVICES

R. Howells
PLUMBING & HEATING

- Central Heating Systems
- New Boiler Installations
- Boiler Repairs, Servicing & Power Flushing
- Landlord's Certificates
- Plastering
- Tiling
- Domestic & Commercial Services
- Bathroom Installation
- Local & Reliable Service
- Over 22 Years' Experience

No Job Too SMALL!
Call Ryan on 07789 996779
Email: ryanplumbandheat@gmail.com
www.rhowellsplumbingandheating.co.uk

STAIRLIFTS

25 YEARS

Reconditioned Straight From Only £795*
New Straight From Only £1695*
Reconditioned Curved From Only £2295*
New Curved From Only £3345*

FREEPHONE: 0808 599 1185

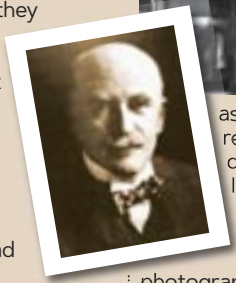
Where the Wildings Are

by Paul Minton

Graffiti was scrawled everywhere and a makeshift punchbag wrapped in brown packaging tape hung from a ceiling. A ramp had been fashioned from wall panels by some skateboard-loving trespassers, who might also have left the tent behind on the first floor.

These were the sights that greeted a Guardian journalist, who reported on his visit to a defunct Newport business premises in Spring 2026. Only a few years before, the site had been raided by Gwent Police, who discovered over 3000 cannabis plants worth more than £2 million. The criminals had installed lighting, pumps, and ventilation hoses throughout their illicit garden centre. In addition, they left behind a considerable amount of compost that was given to local allotments, where it could be put to a less nefarious use.





I am, of course, talking about the sad decline of Wildings Department Store in the city centre, which, after nearly 150 years of trading, closed its doors to customers (but evidently not to drug dealers and squatters) in 2019. However, it wasn't always this way.

Wildings took its name from its original proprietor, Alfred Wilding, who was born in Wistantow, Shropshire in 1853, a small village between Craven Arms and Church Stretton. He moved to Newport in 1874, whereupon he opened his business 'A. Wilding - Hatter, Hosier & Glover' at 154 Commercial Street, an address that is now occupied by Boots. Alfred's brother, Richard, joined as a Director and remained so until his death in 1932.

Interestingly, Richard's youngest daughter, Dorothy, was a renowned photographer, becoming famous for her images of the Royal Family and celebrities, such as Noël Coward, Vivien Leigh, and George Bernard Shaw. Indeed, her picture of Elizabeth II adorned postage stamps issued during the first 15 years of her reign.

Wilding's initial premises had living quarters above the shop and it was here that his eldest son, Frederick, was born in 1878. Four years later, Alfred moved his store to a larger property at the bottom of Stow Hill under the name 'Alfred Wilding, The Bon Marché'. The shop became the first business in Newport to have electric lighting (courtesy of the Great Western Electric Light Company) and offered an extensive range of goods, such as ties, shirts, umbrellas, bags, and perfumes. In 1883, it unveiled its 'Hair Dressing and Shampooing Saloons accessible to ALL CLASSES of the People.' On the second floor of the building, the public could also take hot and cold baths for sixpence.

In 1897, the store moved again to 172-173 Commercial Street. Refusing to rest on his laurels, Alfred opened other shops but by 1911, he had possibly overstretched himself and offered shares in his business to raise funds, thereby forming a limited company. Despite living in the elegant Rock Villa opposite Penarth pier, Alfred sought further investment the following year, too. New shareholders were added, including Albert Pease, a wholesale clothier's manager from Leeds. When Alfred retired in 1922, the baton was passed to Mr Pease, whose grandson was still serving as Wildings Chairman by the time of its 125th anniversary.

Alfred remained a Director of the company until he passed away in 1924, whereupon he was succeeded by his son, Frederick. It was he who oversaw the final relocation to the aptly named Wyledene House at 165 Commercial Street in 1931: an address that was to become the site of its ultimate demise (as well as the aforementioned cannabis farm). Frederick served as Chairman until his own death in 1967. His framed photograph was still on a filing cabinet during the Guardian reporter's visit almost 60 years later. And beside it, a disposable lighter and a plastic bottle holding a dubious golden fluid that probably wasn't Lucozade. How times have changed!

Wishing you all a lovely Christmas and happy New Year

Dymunaf i chi gyd Nadolig hyfryd a Blwyddyn Newydd hapus



Natasha **Asghar** MS | AS

Member of the Welsh Parliament for Casnewydd Islwyn | Aelod Senedd Cymru dros Casnewydd Islwyn

I'm here to help you! Rydw i yma i'ch helpu chi!

Rathbone House,
1 Serpentine Road,
Newport, NP20 4PF

01633 215138
Natasha.Asghar-MS@Senedd.Wales
www.natashaasghar.wales

Natasha Asghar MS
NatAsghar
NatashaAsghar

Welsh Conservatives | Ceidwadwyr Cymreig

This has been paid for by the Senedd Commission from Public Funds.
Comisiwn y Senedd sydd wedi talu am hyn o arian cyhoeddus.

Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

JAYNE BRYANT MS

REPRESENTING NEWPORT AND ISLWYN

YN CYNRYCHIOLI CASNEWYDD AC ISLWYN



Here to help

Yma i helpu

Get in touch

01633 376627

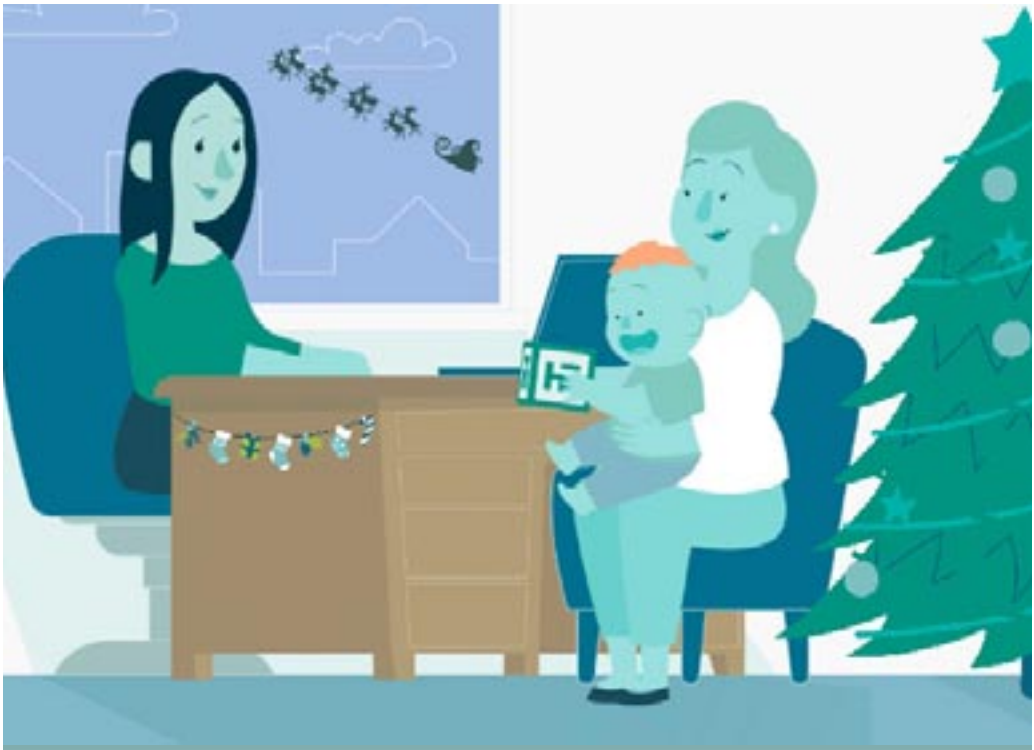
Jayne.Bryant-MS@Senedd.Wales

Cysylltwch

Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

The costs of this publication have been met by the Senedd Commission from public funds.

Welsh Labour | Llafur Cymru



Life. It's not always child's play...

It's good to know where to turn when the world throws you a curve-ball. Our wealth of knowledge and expertise covers all areas of the law, from conveyancing and personal injury, family law and wills & probate, clinical negligence and care, right through to commercial, employment law and dispute resolution.

At Harding Evans, it is our mission to provide clear, honest and high-quality legal advice in an environment that is approachable, inclusive and welcoming. You can trust our experienced solicitors to be by your side - through the good times ***and*** the bad; in your personal and your professional life.

Contact us...

Queens Chambers
2 North Street
Newport
NP20 1TE

01633 244233

hello@hevans.com

13 Merthyr Road
Whitchurch
Cardiff
CF14 1DA

029 2267 6818

hardingevans.com

Harding Evans solicitors

Your lawyers, for life.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas, from all of us at Harding Evans.

PRESERVING FAMILY WEALTH

Most couples hope that their estate will pass to their loved ones eventually. But for many this will not happen unless careful arrangements have been made to protect their assets from being taken towards the end of their life to pay care home fees.

To help protect a couple's estate, the solution may be a Will incorporating a Trust. A testamentary Trust can only be executed whilst both partners remain alive. On the death of one partner, their Will specifies that their share of the estate is placed in Trust and names the ultimate beneficiary of this share, normally their children and grandchildren. But under the terms of the Trust the surviving partner has the unequivocal right to remain living in the property and to enjoy the other assets, for the rest of their life.

On the death of the other partner the Trust comes to an end and the estate passes to the beneficiaries. As the surviving partner does not own the deceased's share of the estate it is fully protected for the beneficiaries, so if the surviving partner requires care, or even remarries, this share of the beneficiary's inheritance is protected.



This last point can be of particular interest to couples who have come together but have children from different partners. A Trust can help each person in the relationship ensure that their children inherit their share of the estate.

If the surviving partner wants to move, they can still sell the property and the proceeds be used to purchase a new property; the terms of the Trust remain over the new property.

Westminster Law assesses the circumstances of couples and arranges the Trust that will provide the best protection for them, their family and their assets.

Leading the way in providing an AFFORDABLE PROFESSIONAL service

WESTMINSTER LAW

Wills ~ Estate Planning ~ Probate



If you are over 60 it will cost you only £95* for us to prepare your Will. We are also Lasting Power of Attorney Specialists - only £120* each LPA if instructed during the Will appointment.

Our prices include home visits*, VAT and Inheritance Tax advice.

Call us now for a no obligation chat on: **01633 493073**

www.westminster-law.co.uk ~ Newport office email: wr@westminster-law.co.uk

Westminster Law Group Ltd ~ 12 Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF11 9LJ

***These very special rates are only available if you are over 60 years old. Minimum spend for a free home visit is £95. Our normal price for a standard single Will is £160, or £270 for a couple. VAT, when applicable, is included in these prices. Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) registration fee, when applicable, is not included in these prices.**



THE WINTER SOLSTICE

Welcoming the Return of the Light

Every year, around 21 December, the Northern Hemisphere experiences the Winter Solstice – the shortest day and the longest night of the year. Although it marks the point when daylight is at its briefest, it also signals an important turning point, as each day that follows gradually becomes a little longer, bringing the promise of spring.

The word 'solstice' comes from the Latin words sol (sun) and sistere (to stand still), reflecting the way the sun appears to pause in its journey across the sky before beginning its slow return. For thousands of years, this moment has been celebrated by people around the world.

Long before Christmas was observed, ancient communities recognised the importance of the Winter Solstice. For farming societies, the return of longer days meant that winter would eventually give way to new growth and another farming season. It became a time of hope, renewal and celebration during the darkest part of the year.

Many ancient monuments were built to mark the event. Perhaps the most famous is Stonehenge, where the stones are carefully aligned with the rising and setting sun at both the summer and winter solstices. Each December, thousands of people gather there to watch the sunrise and celebrate this remarkable connection between nature and our ancestors.

In Britain, many traditional midwinter customs have their roots in solstice celebrations. Lighting candles, gathering around a fire and decorating homes with evergreen plants all reflected the triumph of light and life over the darkness of winter. Over the centuries, these customs became woven into Christmas traditions, many of which continue today.

Although we now understand the science behind the changing seasons, the Winter Solstice still holds a special fascination. It reminds us that even in the darkest days of winter, brighter days lie ahead. For many people, it is a quiet opportunity to pause, reflect and appreciate the ever-changing rhythms of the natural world.

Whether watching the sunrise, enjoying a winter walk or simply noticing the gradual return of the light, the Winter Solstice remains one of nature's most remarkable annual events.



Did you know

The word 'solstice' comes from Latin and means "sun stands still," describing the sun's apparent position before it begins its return northwards.

Belle Vue
Park & Tea Room



What's On in November & December

In November we celebrate a 10 Year Anniversary of our artisan market in Belle Vue. We cannot believe it has been so long!

We want to pay tribute to some of the key producers in our markets who have been with us since the start: Dot (Dot's Cakes), Iona (Tasty Bites), Sara (Feathers and Fur plus a new range of olives, sweet treats), Hannah of White Light at Home, Tina (Teddy's Wardrobe), Margaret (Cards by Margaret), Lynn (Lily Rose), Mark John (glass creations), Matt (Nos Da Bakery), Mo, Brian and Sharon (Shivers deli) and the many more traders who joined us in the following years. Thank you one and all for your support throughout the years. We could not have done this without you.

There has been changes from when we first started out in Belle Vue; our trader lists has expanded and we have been able to support a range of small businesses to grow. We were able to have a good number of farmers alongside our small producers though sadly pressure of work and economy has prevented them from participating directly but we find other solutions including supplying our tearoom and our traders. We have seen small scale producers come and go too. In our support of over 100 small businesses through the markets, which is a continuation of our EU funded project through Cotyledon CIC (still the provider of markets at Belle Vue), many producers now have their own premises, selling direct to public. Others have diversified into other areas. In all, our insistence that items presented at the markets are home-made and not just value-added means we have an eclectic mix of favourites and unusual gifts, bakes and makes. Come to our markets and see for yourselves!



November

Sunday 1st November is our Anniversary Market and the launch of Christmas 2026 at Belle Vue. 11.00am – 4.00pm

Saturday 7th November sees us supporting Newport Rising to celebrate the 187th anniversary of the Newport Rising of 1839. The torch lit parade starts from Belle Vue Park. Gathering at the Park from 4.30pm. Tickets available on newportrising.co.uk. The Café will be open to serve warming soup, sandwiches and drinks until 6pm.

Sunday 15th November join our Christmas market where we have Santa and the Newport Peoples' Choir joining us. We will have festive refreshments as well as a superb selection of gifts, treats and your favourite bakes. 11.00am – 4.00pm.

Santa will be happy to see you for a drop-in minute or two between 11.00am and 2.30pm. There is no booking or ticket necessary but is on a first come first served basis and there may be a wait as he chats to other children. A small gift and chat with time for you to take a picture. £10 per child over 23 months.

December

It's here! The most exciting month of the year! Our Christmas theme this penultimate year for us as a company hosting Belle Vue is a traditional Christmas. Our beautiful main entrance tree will be surrounded by 30 or so smaller ones and we are inviting people to add pictures of loved ones lost to us this year as a reminder that they are gone but not forgotten.

6th December Santa is in residence for cream tea. He is waiting for children and their parents to come along and chat. There are two sittings for Cream Tea: 12 noon and 2.30pm. Tickets are as last year £12 per child and £15 per adult. Adults will have a cream tea, children will have a goodie bag with sweet and savoury treats.

Message Jan on 07737 630657 to book.

The Team in Belle Vue wishes all of our regular and new customers a very merry and happy Christmas.

Email: Bookings@bellevuetearoom.uk Facebook: @bellevuetearooms Tel Jan on 07737 630657



Newport Bathroom Centre

TOTALLY TROPICAL

Brighten up your bathroom with an image of your choice

David Brunnock and his family recently moved from Rogerstone to Allt-yr-Yn and were looking to renovate their new home - one room at a time! NBC Director, Dave Viggers, designed Mr Brunnock's bathroom and we were invited back to see the finished result.

We asked David a few questions about his experience - here's what he had to say:

How was the design process - what was involved from start to finish?
It was very simple. First Dave came to our







home to measure up and then we booked a Saturday morning appointment to go through the designs and options and ended up being there for a few hours.

Dave was so attentive and listened to everything we said we wanted but also made some fantastic suggestions for the space we had. Dave was really thorough showing us examples of different products in the showroom which really helped us visualise what it was we actually wanted. From colours of the units, thickness of the countertop, to space saving ideas and door handles. It was fantastic to have everything under one roof!

Why did you decide to feature a SplashBax panel within your shower?

We had never heard of SplashBax before our appointment but as soon as Dave showed us the samples in store, we knew that was what we needed! As my wife Amy prefers showers to baths, it was her decision and there ended up being a few on the shortlist before finally 'Tropical Rainforest' was chosen. This particular design was so vibrant – the beautiful birds, pretty flowers and stunning colours were perfect.

Finally, would you recommend NBC and why?

We'd 100% recommend NBC and already have in fact! Dave was lovely to deal with from day one and we wouldn't hesitate in going back to him in the future if we needed anything else.

We really felt we were in safe hands, Dave was very knowledgeable and made us feel at ease that we were going to get a high quality beautiful looking bathroom – which is exactly what we got!

Ready to transform your home into something wonderful, then contact us today.

Call Dave today or email your enquiry for a FREE no obligation quote.

Newport Bathroom Centre
19-24 George St, Newport NP20 1EN
01633 262629
newportbathroomcentre.co.uk
info@newportbathroomcentre.co.uk
Facebook: @NewportBathroomCentre

Swan
RESCUE

An Update, and a hot Sweaty Afternoon's Walk

Our last story involved an entire family, two adults and seven cygnets, trapped, as we thought at the time for three weeks in the almost dried up canal between Two Locks and Ty Coch.

It took us three days to return them to Broadweir on 6th August where in due course, the water level returned to near normal. On the 14th, for reasons we'll never fathom, the whole family was back in the empty canal from where we had rescued them. Totally baffling! And there's more; three days later George and six cygnets made their way back to Broadweir on foot, no sign of cygnets flying yet. The seventh cygnet which by now had a debilitating leg injury had to be rescued and taken into care, while Gracie, the female rejoined the rest of the family back on Broadweir on the 18th, again, we assume on foot, but by a different route!

On top of this Cwmbran saga, August, high/low lights were 15 angling tackle related problems, an appalling fatal shooting of a magnificent cob incident at The Hendre, leaving the pen to complete the raising of their family and the rehabilitation of a stranded juvenile cormorant at Channel View in Cardiff.

Finally, into September, with a miscellany of issues, one of which involved a two year old swan trapped in an entirely enclosed reed bed which is best described as part of the headwaters of the stream which flows into the lake which



Hello! What are you doing there



Without help, there's no way home

is the centrepiece of the beauty spot Taf Bargoed Community Parc.

Swans have bred here for a number of years. The cob which was almost flightless due to a wing injury sustained early in its life, possibly in the lake at Cyfarthfa Castle sadly died earlier this year, leaving the pen and two young swans, one of which was the cause of our visit there on the 25th. Elliot is the local contact; we met at the car park the furthest distance it is possible to travel up the east side of the lake, knowing we had a good half mile walk up stream in the hope the swan would still be where it had last been reported.

Not long after we set off on our reconnoitre, what turned out to be the sibling of the swan we sought appeared from the vegetation on the left below which flowed the stream from which it had come...but why? We passed and continued on our way. Eventually, and it was hot and sweaty, we reached the enclosure in which the swan had last been seen. There was no sign of it, but we searched around to the east and then the west, confirming a rescue was necessary. Back to the car for a sectional ladder, swan hooks, a wrap and some mixed corn (for the swan, not us). The rest was very straight forward, and so we trudged away back down the track to release the swan back into the lake just where, as it turned out by then, his sibling and the adult female were busy preening. To coin a phrase, neither batted an eyelid, as we released our swan, who appeared to have only two objectives, which were completely normal, to get away from us as quickly as possible and to have a long drink of water.

Story & photos by Peter.
For swan problems please contact Peter on 07802 472788

Ableworld
www.ableworld.co.uk
Mobility & Stairlifts

over 25 years of trusted trading

Why not visit one of our stores and view a large range of Mobility scooters, Powerchairs, Walkers/Rollators, electric adjustable beds and a huge range of Riser Recliner chairs, all with some of the most competitive pricing on the market.

- Scooters
- Wheelchairs
- Powerchairs
- Living Aids
- Walking Aids
- Riser Recliner Chairs
- Adjustable Beds
- Bathroom Aids
- Continence Care
- Engineering & Servicing

UP TO 1500 LINES TO REVIEW FROM PILL BOXES TO RISER RECLINER CHAIRS

MANY PRODUCTS IN-STORE TO TAKEAWAY ON THE DAY!



SHOP ONLINE AT WWW.ABLEWORLD.CO.UK

Home Delivery | In-store Demonstrations | Home Demonstrations

FREE 6 MONTHS INSURANCE with breakdown cover

COMPREHENSIVE WARRANTIES for complete peace of mind

COMPETITIVE PRICES on a huge range of quality products

VISIT YOUR LOCAL ABLEWORLD STORE TODAY! *Here to help, every step of the way!*

OFFERS APPLICABLE 1ST SEPTEMBER – 29TH NOVEMBER



UNMISSABLE STAIRLIFT OFFERS

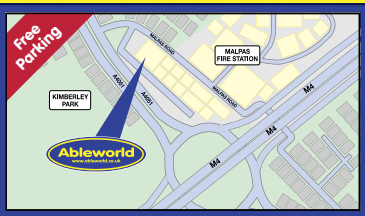
- STRAIGHT STAIRLIFTS OFTEN FITTED NEXT DAY
- FREE 7 DAY / 24HR MANNED HELPLINE
- FRIENDLY LOCAL ENGINEERS

- ✔ NEW
- ✔ RECONDITIONED
- ✔ STRAIGHT
- ✔ CURVED

WE BUY BACK AND REMOVE UNWANTED STAIRLIFTS
ACORN – AGE UK- BROOKS COMPANION – SAVARIA/ HANDICARE
DEPENDING ON AGE AND CONDITION (UP TO 5 YEARS OLD)
UP TO **£500** PAID

WE PROVIDE A FREE, NO-OBLIGATION HOME SURVEY

STAIRLIFT FREEPHONE 0800 027 1711 – FREE SURVEY



NEWPORT ABLEWORLD
219 Malpas Road, Malpas, Newport, NP20 5PP
Tel: 01633 960 779
newportwales@ableworld.co.uk
Opposite Malpas Fire Station

Further details on all our stores can be found on: www.ableworld.co.uk

www.ableworld.co.uk
Voted UK's no.1 Mobility Retailer 2019, by Access & Mobility Professionals

NHS Vouchers Welcome Where Applicable
*VAT Exempt - Ask in Store for Details
MRP- Manufacturers Recommended Price
Previous Price - Sold for 28 days in last 6 months at our Nantwich Store

Insurance/Warranty is arranged by Ableworld UK Ltd and provided through Mark Bates Ltd t/a Premier Care, Premier House, Londonthorpe Road, Grantham, Lincs, NG319SN who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. FRN308390. Calls made to this number may be recorded for monitoring and quality purposes

BACK I



* Over 1,000 five-star Amazon reviews and ratings

* A complete series of cosy(ish) crime capers set in South Wales and written by a local author

* Available in hardback, paperback, and ebook from just £2.99 (ebook)

* All three novels are also FREE to read on Kindle Unlimited

availab

amazon

N TIME

For Christmas!



Reviewers say...

"Had me laughing out loud on many occasions and even brought a tear to my eye"

"Funny, nostalgic, witty and thought provoking, I enjoyed every page"

"What a great trilogy. Well written and cleverly plotted"

"I am honestly sad the series has finished"

ble at

n.co.uk

Gwerinwyr Gwent Diary



August Bank Holiday Monday found us in a very familiar place - The Graig Community Hall in Bassaleg (our weekly practice venue). We had been invited by organiser Hayley to appear at a fundraising fete in aid of Cerebral Palsy Cymru. It was a lovely day and lots of people turned up to enjoy the food and entertainment, which included the Nearly Wild Show, which gave children and adults a chance to get up close to, and in some cases, hold, lots of animals including snakes, spiders, rats etc. There were plenty of stalls, and live music from Post Modern Shoebox, the Panteg House Jazz and Blues Orchestra, with GG on last demonstrating some dances and getting the audience to join in. A good time was had by all and the fantastic sum of £1,800 was raised.

2026 is a special year for us, as it is the 50th anniversary of the group's formation. We marked the occasion on Sunday 6th September when we hired a narrowboat on the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal from Dragonfly cruises in Brecon. Another lovely day thank goodness, and we had a leisurely cruise with buffet lunch along the canal across the aqueduct and through a lock, with a short commentary about the history of the canal. A very pleasant afternoon, which almost all of our members and partners were able to enjoy. We may also treat ourselves to a celebratory meal later in the year.

Then onto what may well be our final booking of the year - on 23rd September we paid a visit to the ladies of Malpas WI. This was our first to them, which is a bit of a surprise as they are probably the closest WI to our base at The Graig. Not helped by the resurfacing work on Malpas Road, we did manage to get to Malpas Court Mansion House and back safely. Quite a few of our members are not locals, coming from as far afield as Hereford, Bridgend, and Penarth, so we were a little nervous that they could spend ages driving around Malpas in the dark – but it all went quite smoothly in the end. The WI ladies were a jolly lot so we really enjoyed our time with them, and, judging by their comments, they did too.





Gwerinwyr Gwent is always seeking new members and beginners or experienced dancers/musicians are very welcome. Practice night is Thursday 8-10pm at the Graig Community Hall (opposite the Ruperra PH). For more details visit our website www.gwerinwyrgwent.org.uk, or ring 01495 271953.


warmerwise
Experience plumbing
& central heating excellence.
Call Laurie today...
01633 631136
www.warmerwise.world
gas safe
SERVICING
REPAIR
INSTALLATION
FLEXIBLE FINANCE
options available
100% RECOMMENDED ON GOOGLE & FACEBOOK

Christmas Puzzles

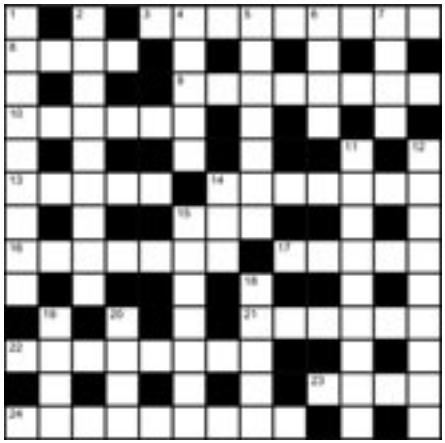
Crossword

Across

3 Pre-decimal coin worth two shillings and sixpence (4,5)
8 British county dissolved in 1996 (4)
9 Natives or inhabitants of Greece (8)
10 Breakfast food of untoasted dry cereals and fruits (6)
13 Country on the Iberian Peninsula (5)
14 Swiss cheese with small holes (7)
15 Nocturnal mammal (3)
16 London-based international news agency (7)
17 Same again (5)
21 Expensive white fur (6)
22 Line of longitude (8)
23 Bird symbolising peace (4)
24 Personification of icy or wintry weather (4,5)

Down

1 Telling fortunes by the lines on the hand (9)
2 French part of the Riviera (4,5)
4 Small plant-sucking insect (5)
5 Hazelnut (7)
6 Lively Scottish dance (4)
7 Tiny, common UK bird (4)



11 Aviator hired to fly experimental aeroplanes in designed manoeuvres (4,5)
12 Instrument for recording the number of steps taken (9)
14 Nitrogen, for example (3)
15 Metal container in which coal or charcoal is burned (7)
18 Roman goddess of love (5)
19 Salty Greek cheese (4)
20 Mammal having partially webbed feet; valued for its fur (4)

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

Sudoku

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.

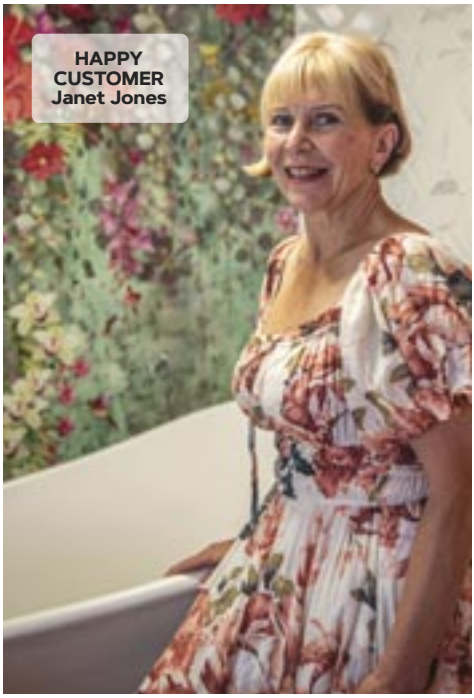
Solutions on page 23


The Riverfront Theatre & Arts Centre Presents
Theatr a Chanolfan y Celfyddydau Glan-yr-Afon yn Cyflwyno
SCAN HERE TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS
SGANIOCH YA I ARCHEBU EICH TOCYNNAU
Cinderella
November 27 Tachwedd 2026
- December 31 Rhagfyr 2026
BOX OFFICE: 01633 656757 • NEWPORTLIVE.CO.UK/CINDERELLA
riverfront glan afon
NEWPORT LIVE CASNEWYDD FYW

Newport Bathroom Centre

A SPLASH OF COLOUR

When a Pontypool lady needed help Newport Bathroom Centre came to the rescue





Longtime customer Janet Jones visited Newport Bathroom Centre recently, looking for a distinct bath to go in her new home. Whilst browsing our Newport showroom, our small SplashBax sample display, which was on Director Dave Viggers' desk, caught the attentive eye of Janet, where she fell in love with the many floral designs and patterns. For her bathroom, Janet chose an ex-display Imperial roll-top freestanding bath with complimentary Tavistock taps, as well as two SplashBax panels as the backdrop for her lavish new bath.

We didn't fit Janet's bathroom, and she was unfortunately let down by a few handymen who promised to finish off the final touches in her wonderful new home. When Dave heard about what had happened, he sent his son Josh along to finish the job, fitting Janet's towel rail and hanging a vintage mirror. We love Janet's personal style and got the chance to photograph her beloved bath against the backdrop of her favourite design.

Janet said: "I've shopped at Newport Bathroom Centre for many years, purchasing a variety of things for many of my homes.

"I knew I was in safe hands when I went to see Dave, as he's always listens to

what I want and know exactly the type of thing I'm looking for!

"I love colour, so seeing the flower pattern on display in the showroom, I knew I had to have it on the wall in my bathroom.

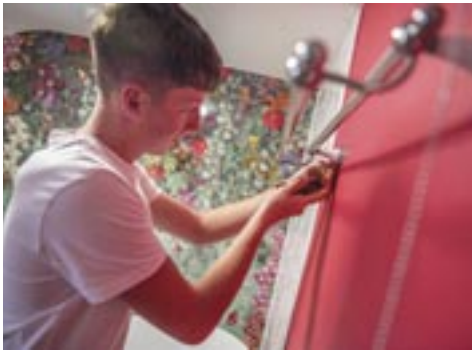
"The bath is my absolute favourite, it's so big! I joke that I could swim in it!

"My bathroom is currently my favourite room of the house, as I can spend hours relaxing in here.

"I'd like to say a special thank you to Dave's son Josh, who came to the rescue to add the finishing touches."

Director Dave Viggers has more than 30 years experience in the installation of kitchens and bathrooms, using his extensive knowledge of working at a drawing office to formalise your ideas into real working plans. As Dave overseas the entire project, he's able to bridge the gap between design concepts and the physical realisation of your new living space.

With his trusted long-serving team of accredited fitters and tradesmen, Dave has full oversight of the project, fully costing the materials and labour from the outset, giving you piece of mind that everything is taken care of. So, if you're looking to transform your bathroom this winter, why not pay us a visit? Like Janet, you'll be pleasantly surprised of what we have on offer.



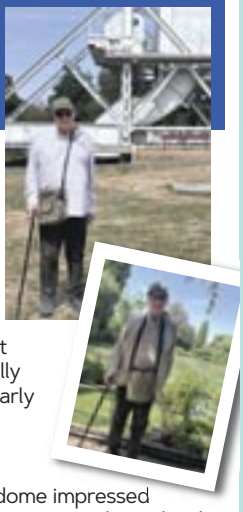




Call Dave today or email your enquiry for a FREE no obligation quote.

Newport Bathroom Centre
19-24 George St, Newport NP20 1EN
01633 262629
newportbathroomcentre.co.uk
info@newportbathroomcentre.co.uk
Facebook: @NewportBathroomCentre

u3a MEMBER BROADENS HIS HORIZONS



Septuagenarian, Malcolm Keal, had never travelled abroad in his life. As a member of Newport u3a for 16 years he has been on most of our holidays and day trips but always declined the annual trips overseas.

In the true mutual support ethos of the u3a, Jackie Kerr, Convenor of our Holidays and Events Group, Julie Kennedy, our then Chairperson, and fellow member Chris Day helped Malcolm apply for his passport and gave him advice on getting travel insurance which made it possible for him to join us recently on a tour of Normandy.

He enjoyed visiting all the famous sites such as Honfleur, Monet's Garden and the WWII memorials and museums of the Normandy beaches, but it was the least known Basilique Sainte Terese at Lisieux that he found really memorable. Built in the early 20th century, the Romanesque-Byzantine-Style building with an imposing 95 meter high dome impressed with its grandeur and three naves adorned with colourful mosaics.

u3a learn, laugh, live

Newport u3a runs 40 active, social and cultural groups for the retired at the Dolman Theatre Wednesday to Friday at 9:45-15:00 during term time. For more information visit newport.u3asite.uk or phone Angela Robins on 07983 130541.

Hardy Plant Society

The HPS Monmouthshire Group is for people who love plants and gardening. The meetings provide an excellent opportunity to meet people with similar interests. Non-members are very welcome - guest entry is £6. Garden-related talks take place at Little Mill Hall NP4 0HJ on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 2.00pm between September and May. The talks, usually illustrated, are followed by Q&A, a raffle and refreshments are also served.

Derry Watkins, well known to the Society, will be with us on 14th November together with many of her plants for sale. Derry, a very successful



plantswoman, businesswoman and author, has run her specialist nursery, Special Plants near Bath, for almost 30 years. Her talk's entitled 'Pushing the Boundaries' when she will discuss why it is worth experimenting with borderline hardy plants and how to increase the likelihood of them surviving (www.specialplants.net).

Saturday 16th December is a must for your diary. Dave Robinson of Botanical Plantasy will be speaking on 'The Tropic of Newport' at the hall at 2.00pm. Dave Robinson might not be a familiar name but after this meeting, it will be. Behind the walls of a Newport semi lies a magical world of enormous tropical plants, a paradise created by Dave, his partner and their son. He will tell the tale of how, in just 10 years, a simple lawn has been transformed into a beautifully curated collection of exotic plants. It's stunning. They've also found media fame, lots of it. A meeting not to be missed.

For more info, visit the Hardy Plant Society website: https://hardy-plant.org.uk

Conservatory Solutions Wales

Conservatory too hot in Summer or too cold in Winter?

Make your Conservatory a room you can use all year round with our Roof Systems.

Get a FREE QUOTE Today!



To arrange a free no obligation quotation, Please contact us:

Tel: 01633 420747
Mob: 07747 677131
www.conservatorysolutionwales.co.uk

VIDEO TAPE TRANSFERS TO DVD OR USB



I CAN COLLECT OR YOU CAN DROP OFF

Convert and transfer all your 8mm Films, VHS, VHSc, Betamax, Video 8 and DVI to DVD or USB.

PRICES FROM £20 FOR A DVD AND £25 FOR A USB

Ideal Christmas gift for family and friends

I am local (NP20) so no posting necessary.
Email: jtvideoconversions@gmail.com

Phone: 07916 298448



Puzzle Solutions

Crossword Solution

Across: 3 Half crown, 8 Avon, 9 Hellenes, 10 Muesli, 13 Spain, 14 Gruyère, 15 Bat, 16 Reuters, 17 Ditto, 21 Ermine, 22 Meridian, 23 Dove, 24 Jack Frost.

Down: 1 Palmistry, 2 Cote d'Azur, 4 Aphid, 5 Filbert, 6 Reel, 7 Wren, 11 Test pilot, 12 Pedometer, 14 Gas, 15 Brazier, 18 Venus, 19 Feta, 20 Mink.

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

QUALITY CLEANING & SEALING OF:

PATIOS, REPOINTING PATIOS
PATHS, DRIVES & GARDEN WALLS
FASCIA BOARDS & GUTTERING
CONSERVATORIES AND ALL
PVC FRAMES & DOORS
MOSS REMOVAL FROM SLATES & TILES
FENCING & DECKING STAINING
EXTERIOR & INTERIOR PAINTING



Call Mark On:
07814 264156 / 01633 281879



Newport RFC

The official home of the Black and Ambers

Over 150 years of rugby

www.blackandambers.co.uk 01633 927757

Newport_r.f.c



18+

Licensed and regulated by the Gambling Commission. Licence No. 004874. Website: www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk
Promoter: St David's Foundation Hospice Care, Blackett Avenue, Newport, NP20 6NH. Registered Charity No. 1010576.
Responsible Person: Kris Broome. Must be 18 or over to play. Underage gambling is an offence.

GambleAware

CTS … Yma o hyd…on Twmbarlwm



The stone cairn on Twmbarlwm shown below was a great collaboration of minds - from a scribbled concept by Howard Vicary, made into working drawings by Terry Evans and given life by the real craftsman, stone mason Ken Young.

Just got back in from our monthly litter pick on Twmbarlwm, and prompted by a couple of conversations there, I thought I'd use this article for an unashamed plug for CTS and a recruitment drive! As the Welsh football anthem says, "Yma o Hyd…" – we're "…still here!"

So, who are we, and what have we ever done for the mountain?

Cymdeithas Twmbarlwm Society was founded in 2010 by concerned citizens from Risca, Cwmbran, Newport and all the villages in Twmbarlwm's shadow. After decades of neglect, the mountain and surrounding landscape were in a sorry state, with severe erosion caused by illegal off-roaders on bikes, quads and cars.

Our original aim was ***"to research, restore and protect Gwent's most iconic landmark"***, and I'd like to think we've remained true to those founding principles.

Regular readers and former members may remember some of our earlier campaigns. But, if I'm to persuade a few new recruits to join us, let me share some of our achievements.

In our early days, we lobbied the council to tackle the serious problem of scramblers and 4x4s damaging the landscape. We soon persuaded them to build a new car park and repair damage to the Tump itself. Gwent Police also provided invaluable support, with specialist officers patrolling the area.

A grant from the Welsh Government then enabled us to install nearly a mile of double fencing, plant 4,000 trees, fit four kissing gates and lay a 15-metre stone path. An impressive stone cairn was erected at the car park to carry a "Welcome to Twmbarlwm" sign, and eventually we secured funding for a 100-metre dry-stone wall on the eastern side of the Twmp.

Much of this physical work was undertaken by the Commoners, supported by a team of volunteers from our own ranks.

Since then, we've organised archaeological digs, surveyed flora and fauna, and acted as extra eyes and ears to report suspicious or damaging activities. Our regular litter picks also help us keep watch over the area and care for the landscape.

It's important to understand that CTS owns no part of the mountain and has no formal power over it. We're a community group whose members are passionate about our iconic mountain, hill fort and landscape. We work alongside Cadw, the Commoners' Association, the landowners, local councils, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), and Gwent Police to help safeguard Twmbarlwm.

We keep an eye on the area and report concerns to the relevant organisations. We also suggest projects and events to improve or promote the mountain, and seek funding for work that falls outside those organisations' budgets.

Now, here's where you could help! Many of our volunteers are, how shall I put it kindly, "getting on a bit". We'd love some younger, fitter recruits to join us, particularly to help with the more physical projects ahead. Stone wall and fence repairs are needed, and another tree-planting exercise is planned.

Official membership costs just £10 a year, yet our paid-up membership remains fairly low. Meanwhile, more than 1,400 people follow us on Facebook – clear evidence of the affection and respect Twmbarlwm inspires.

So, if you're one of those who appreciates the mountain, why not take the next step? It would be wonderful to see more of our Facebook followers swap their keyboards for a pair of work gloves and put some physical energy into helping us care for this special place.

Terry Evans, Chairman of Cymdeithas Twmbarlwm Society



Cymdeithas Twmbarlwm Society meet at the car park below Twmbarlwm's summit at 10:30 (What3Words location = ***ironic.sweetened.people***) for a litter pick and volunteer workday on the first 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 throughout the year so watch our website and Facebook page for details.

www.twmbarlwm.co.uk

Gareth Williams
HEATING LIMITED

The boiler company Newport actually trusts.

Over 40 years' experience
A small Newport team. Our name is on every job.

★★★★★ **1,160+ reviews**
Rated 4.9 out of 5 across Google, Checkatrade, Trustpilot and Which? Trusted Trader.

Heating done once, done properly

Boiler Installation
Combi, system and regular boiler installations

Free written fixed-price quotation, with no hidden fuel supplements

Boiler Repair
All major boiler brands repaired

Clear price agreed before work starts

Boiler Servicing
Full manufacturer-standard annual service

Keeps manufacturer warranties valid

Landlord Gas Safety Certificate (CP12)
Single properties and multi-property portfolios

Instant certificate issued from site

Power Flushing
Removes sludge, debris and contaminants

Improves reliability, efficiency and radiator warmth

Central Heating Systems
Full system design around your home's requirements

New radiators, pipework, controls and cylinders

Up to 18-year manufacturer's guarantee on ATAG boilers

Gas Safe registered
No. 233679

We answer the phone. And we turn up.

01633 257230

garethwilliamsheating.co.uk

1,160+ reviews is our combined count on Google, Checkatrade, Trustpilot and Which? Trusted Trader, as at August 2026. 4.9 out of 5 is the average of our rating on each platform (Checkatrade's score out of 10 halved). Over 40 years' experience is Gareth Williams' own experience; the company was founded in 2007. ATAG guarantee: the full 18 years needs the Tado control, Fernox TF1 Omega filter and water treatment pack we fit as standard, plus an annual service. Gareth Williams Heating Limited, 103 Melfort Rd, Newport NP20 3FS. VAT No. 260440535.

L J SYMONDS ROOFING Ltd

DOMESTIC ROOFING & LEADWORK SPECIALIST

SLATE ROOFS
- Natural slate
- Fibre cement slates
- Easy slate (Low pitch)

TILED ROOFS
- Concrete tile
- Clay tiles
- Low pitch tiles

FLAT ROOFS
- Epdm (Rubber)
- Grp (Fibreglass)

LEAD WORK
- Apron
- Back gutters
- Saddles
- Soakers
- Flashing
- Lead tray
- Bossing
- Welding





0% FINANCE AVAILABLE ON ALL NEW ROOFS. DETAILS ON REQUEST



MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS
- Roofline (Fascia's, soffits, gutters)
- Shiplap cladding
- Leaking roofs
- Cement work



20 year Guarantee on all new roofs

18 years in business
Fully insured with all work guaranteed
Top 3 rated roofers in Newport
With over 200 genuine reviews on google

ThreeBest Rated

Find us on Facebook Lee Symonds. Over 8000 followers

Visit: www.ljsymonds.co.uk | Email: ljsymondsroofing@gmail.com
Tel: 01633 548688 Mob: 07506 292990
Office: 33 Allt-yr-yn View, Newport NP20 5EH
Business Premises: Unit 10 Wern Ind. Est. Rogerstone NP10 9FQ
Company registration: 14739001 | VAT number: 447592851

LJ Symonds Roofing Limited is an Introducer Appointed Representative (Financial Services Register No. 1049822) of Phoenix Financial Consultants Limited (Phoenix). Phoenix is a credit broker, not a lender. Phoenix is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FRN:539195) and offers finance from its panel of lenders. All finance subject to status and credit checks.

L J SYMONDS ROOFING Ltd

DOMESTIC ROOFING & LEADWORK SPECIALIST

SLATE ROOFS
- Natural slate
- Fibre cement slates
- Easy slate (Low pitch)





TILED ROOFS
- Concrete tile
- Clay tiles
- Low pitch tiles



FLAT ROOFS
- Epdm (Rubber)
- Grp (Fibreglass)

LEAD WORK
- Apron
- Back gutters
- Saddles
- Soakers
- Flashing
- Lead tray
- Bossing
- Welding

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS
- Roofline (Fascia's, soffits, gutters)
- Shiplap cladding
- Leaking roofs
- Cement work



20 year Guarantee on all new roofs

18 years in business
Fully insured with all work guaranteed
Top 3 rated roofers in Newport
With over 200 genuine reviews on google

ThreeBest Rated

Find us on Facebook Lee Symonds. Over 8000 followers

Visit: www.ljsymonds.co.uk | Email: ljsymondsroofing@gmail.com
Tel: 01633 548688 Mob: 07506 292990
Office: 33 Allt-yr-yn View, Newport NP20 5EH
Business Premises: Unit 10 Wern Ind. Est. Rogerstone NP10 9FQ
Company registration: 14739001 | VAT number: 447592851