

DON'T BE FOOLED BY FAKES THIS CHRISTMAS



With Christmas approaching, criminals selling fake goods will be trying to rip off as many customers as possible.

While it is tempting to buy the latest must-have items at “bargain” prices, those cheap gifts may have hidden dangers and frightening consequences.

For instance, counterfeit make-up can contain lead, copper, mercury, arsenic or cadmium and can cause swelling, rashes and poisoning.

Fake alcohol can contain methanol, antifreeze and fuel, causing nausea, stomach pains, kidney or liver problems, coma or even death.

Unofficial children’s merchandise such as toys and dressing-up clothes could pose numerous hazards with small loose parts, long cords and materials that are toxic or don’t meet fire standards.

Poor quality and missing components in fake electrical goods and chargers can lead to electric shocks, fires and explosions.

Criminals use the internet, social media, shops and even visit clubs and pubs selling their fake goods.

Report counterfeiters to Trading Standards trading.standards@newportgov.uk or call 656656.

KEEP RECYCLING. KEEP RECYCLING. KEEP RECYCLING!



Changes introduced to the city’s recycling service operated by Wastesavers on behalf of Newport City Council will eventually save the council around £224,000 a year.

Replacing the plastic bags with a heavy duty red bag for plastic and cans will save the council around £34,000 a year.

Wastesavers is also taking over cardboard collections, and making them weekly, and this will create a saving of around £190,000 a year.

Although some people have questioned why we changed, the way in which Newport residents recycle their waste, including the various receptacles used, is one of the most cost effective and efficient systems in place.

Across Wales and the rest of the UK there are two main ways of collecting household recycling; one is where residents put all recyclable items in one container which is then sorted at a different recycling facility. This is known as a co-mingled collection.

The other method, used in Newport, is where residents put recyclable items in a variety of containers and it is sorted on the kerbside – this is known as a kerbside sort. This method was chosen as it reduces costs and is more environmentally friendly.

Councillor Ray Truman, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment, Sustainability and Transport said: “We hope residents appreciate these changes. Recycling is so important for the environment and reduces the amount

of rubbish going to landfill. I would urge everyone to do their bit.”

The Newport recycling system is quite simple and logical to use:

- **Red bag** – this is weighted down to stop your plastics, cans, foil and aerosols from blowing way
- **Green box** – this sturdy box collects your cardboard, food and drink cartons (tetra packs) and glass. And don’t worry about the rain; we can still collect and recycle your

wet cardboard – and we will do this every single week

- **Blue box** – the place for your paper, small broken electrical items and clean textiles
- **Food caddy** – just for your food waste, peelings and tea bags – no wrappers or packaging please

If people need help with recycling they can contact the council or Wastesavers for advice. To find out more visit www.newport.gov.uk/recycling

WALK THE PORT



Newport City Council has agreed the popular Walk the Port event, held earlier this year, will now be an annual event.

Around 125 people turned up on the day despite the very wet weather.

The event was sponsored by several groups and organisations including Newport City Council; Let's Walk Cymru; South Gwent Ramblers; Newport Live; Walk Newport; Newport Outdoor Group; Long Distance Walkers Association (LDWA); The Sparkle Appeal; Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and Tesco.

Councillor Debbie Harvey, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport, said she was very pleased at the success of the first event and delighted it will now take place annually.

"We look forward to even more people signing up for next year," said Councillor Harvey.

BE THE BEST VERSION OF YOU

New Year is a great time to make realistic resolutions for a healthier and happier lifestyle, and Newport Live is there to help you be the best version of you.

Want to improve your general health and fitness? They have leisure facilities across the city plus bespoke fitness programmes and exercise classes as part of membership packages.

Or if you're resolving to get out more with friends and family or to enjoy more 'me time', Newport Live also offers theatre, comedy, live music, dance and cultural experiences at The Riverfront Theatre and Arts Centre and Newport Centre. www.newportlive.co.uk

THE COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS BEGINS



Newport's official countdown to Christmas starts on Saturday 12 November with a day of colourful, festive entertainment throughout the city centre.

There will be a spectacular stage show at the junction of Charles Street and Commercial Street starting at noon, featuring celebrity and local acts. Santa will also parade the streets before the big lights switch on at 5pm.

This year's festivities are presented by Newport Now, the business-led body which supports and

promotes the city centre. Chair Alan Edwards, said: "We're working closely with Newport City Council, Newport Norse and Friars Walk on this year's countdown to create a real spirit of Christmas in the heart of the city."

Friars Walk will also celebrate its first anniversary on the day. There will be street entertainment, including the wonderful Bjorn the Bear, and comic capers courtesy of festive grannies on scooters and rather mischievous elves!

Youngsters can get hands-on with new interactive arts installations as



well as sports activities courtesy of Newport Gwent Dragons. Meet some of the players, get your photo taken and be in with a chance of winning match tickets.

Add a sprinkling of music and a dash of fireworks, and you have the perfect start to the Christmas season.

And don't forget The Riverfront's pantomime – this year Cinderella – will be adding a sprinkling of fairy dust! This family favourite is suitable for all ages and runs from 29 November to 2 January. www.newport.gov.uk/christmas

REGENERATION TRANSFORMS CITY CENTRE BUILDINGS



► Proposed open space in Commercial St

Newport is in the final stages of the three year Welsh Government Vibrant and Viable Places programme, due to end in March.

The council has worked with partners in the private and voluntary sectors on projects which have seen new life breathed into a number of key buildings.

Work will shortly begin to create a quality open space between Commercial Street and Kingsway. Two buildings, including the former Riley's snooker hall, were demolished to provide a public space linking the southern end of the city centre to wider developments.

Completed schemes include the conversion of the former King's Hotel by a private developer into offices and apartments and the National Buildings in Commercial Street, owned by a trust, have been refurbished.

Work is still progressing well on a number of schemes including phase two of housing association Pobl's project to restore the upper floors of Griffin Island, in the High Street area, into new homes following the successful completion of phase one and work to enhance the outside of properties in Commercial Road opposite Mariner's Green including the historic Alma pub.

CEMETERY AWARD



Congratulations to staff at St Woolos Cemetery who were highly commended in the Cemetery of the Year category in this year's Good Funeral Awards, the annual awards for excellence in the funeral industry.

The nomination came from Ian Watts and Son Funeral Directors who are clearly impressed by the work done by the staff.

Well done everyone.

COUNCIL BUDGET – HAVE YOUR SAY

Over the next few months the council will be preparing it's 2017/18 budget.

Around £48m of savings have already been made in the last five years, but we anticipate having to find further savings in 2017/18 due to ongoing financial and service demand pressures.

We want to hear from you about the things that are most important to your wellbeing now and in the future, and how you think we could do things better and save money.

In December, Cabinet will review a number of budget proposals that will then go out for public consultation over four weeks. All responses will then be considered at the February cabinet meeting before a draft budget is recommended and put before full council.

For more information and to have your say visit www.newport.gov.uk/budget.uk/budget



TWO JAILED FOR CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD



A father and son were given prison sentences for conspiracy to defraud consumers in South Wales after a successful prosecution brought by the council on behalf of Newport-based Scambusters Wales.

Jeffrey Tawse, aged 52, and his 25-year-old son James, both of Cardiff, pleaded guilty to the charge in July. Jeffrey Tawse also admitted money laundering.

The court heard how the pair conned 15 elderly and vulnerable people across South Wales

Scambuster Wales carried out a two-year investigation into the pair's activities. Team leader Andrew Bertie said: "We were shocked by what we discovered. The two men used aggressive sales tactics to intimidate elderly and vulnerable people into having work carried out. We found examples of poor standards, overcharging and even work not being carried out."

DEVELOPER FINED FOR BUILDING OFFENCE

A developer who failed to apply for permission, under the Building Regulations 2010 legislation for building work, was fined £3,000 plus costs and a further £10 a day for every day the default continued.

The developer was asked on numerous occasions to resolve the situation but unfortunately he ignored advice from council officers and the council were left with no choice but to prosecute.

The regulations are there to ensure the health and safety of people in and around buildings.

PRIDE – BUILDING ON SUCCESS



The campaign to tackle the problem of fly-tipping being dumped across the city – Pride in Newport – is going from strength to strength, collecting more than 50 tonnes of rubbish in its first three months.

The public is backing the campaign by reporting incidents via the **Pride in Newport hotline number 07973 698582** where callers can leave information in confidence.

Deputy Leader Councillor Ray Truman, Cabinet Member for Environment, Sustainability and Transport, hopes to build on the momentum:

"We are working together to build a better Newport for the future" – that is the theme of the next City Summit organised by the city council.

More information about the summit, including the speakers, can be found at www.newport.gov.uk/citysummit

Councillor Debbie Wilcox, Leader of Newport City Council, said:

"There is a feeling of optimism in the city and we want to continue that momentum so the speakers will be people who believe in Newport's huge potential.

"The council cannot realise the city's ambitions on its own, but it can play a pivotal role in bringing together the right people to work with us and each other to make Newport the best it possibly can be, for the benefit of all who live and work here.

"We are exploring a number of exciting ideas and more details will be given at the summit. Places are limited but we will make sure an update is made available after the event and I'm sure those who do attend will share the good news as widely as possible."

The South Wales Argus launched We're Backing Newport in September and the council is giving its support to the campaign.

"I would like to commend the Argus for work it is doing to highlight the many positive aspects of our city as I know it has so much to offer to residents, businesses and visitors.

"We have excellent schools, world-class businesses, fantastic sporting and leisure facilities, amazing attractions and crowd-pulling events.

WE'RE BACKING NEWPORT



Leader of Newport City Council, Debbie Wilcox

"Our city centre was boosted by the opening of Friars Walk last year and we welcomed new and old names to join established businesses, including our excellent independent traders.

"The Vibrant and Viable Places programme has also made a huge difference in the city centre, refurbishing key buildings into new homes and businesses.

"A record number of new homes were built in the city in 2015/16 and there was a significant increase

"Our officers have carried out thorough examinations of the rubbish that has been fly-tipped to secure evidence that will lead to prosecution of offenders through the courts.

"This is the only way to get the message across that fly-tipping won't be tolerated and we will not hesitate to take legal action."

Many community groups are also doing their bit– the Pride in Pill group carries out clean-ups every two months, often joined by other organisations such as South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Fly-Tipping Action Wales and many more who have helped to make these clean up days a huge success.

in tourism spend and visitors.

"While we embrace cutting-edge technology and an exciting future for the city, we also have to acknowledge our rich heritage. The city's story stretches from the Romans in Caerleon through the industrial revolution and its part in the fight for democracy by the Chartists.

"We have a lot to be proud of so let's all make sure that we're backing Newport."

GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS

Collections of garden waste will shortly take a winter break.

Your last collection will be between 21 November and 2 December, depending on your collection day/week.

You can check all your collection dates at www.newport.gov.uk/mynewport

Collections will start again week beginning 6 March 2017.

You can take your garden waste, including Christmas trees, to the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC), Docks Way, or use your garden waste bin to collect leaf fall ready for the first collections next year.

APPLY ONLINE FOR SCHOOL PLACES



Online applications for reception, junior and secondary school places are now open.

Parents needing a reception place in Newport in September 2017 should apply before 13 January 2017.

Likewise, if your child is in Year 2 now you will need to apply for their junior school place by 13 January 2017.

Applications for children due to start secondary school in September 2017 should be made by 30 November 2016.

Applications for Roman Catholic primary schools or Charles Williams Church in Wales Primary should be made directly to the school.

For more information and to apply online visit www.newport.gov.uk/schooladmissions

DEADLINE FOR LANDLORDS

A new law requires all landlords to register, and agents and self-managing landlords to obtain a licence. If you own, rent out, manage and/or live in a rented property then this law will impact on you.

Landlords had 12 months from its introduction on 23 November 2015 to register and landlords and agents had 12 months from this date to obtain their licence. These both last for five years before needing to be reviewed.

After 23 November this year a person found guilty of not registering can be issued with a fixed penalty of £150 or if taken to court can be fined up to £1000, and a person found guilty of letting and managing rented property without a licence can be issued with

a fixed penalty of £250, or if taken to court could face an unlimited fine.

If you are a tenant and you are concerned regarding standards you should contact your landlord first. If your landlord does not respond, or fails to investigate your concerns or to conduct repairs please contact the council's environmental health housing team for advice and for further assistance.

Rent Smart Wales offers a number of services for tenants and encourages them to use www.rentsmart.gov.wales or call 03000 133344.



HAVE A PROPERTY TO LET?

The council is keen to work with landlords and letting agents in Newport who are looking to let their properties and last year helped more than 200 people, who were at risk of being made homeless, into private rented accommodation.

Officers within the housing needs unit can provide help, guidance and assistance to landlords with a number of options. Further information can be obtained from the team on either **01633 656656** or email rehousing.services@newport.gov.uk.



MAKING HOUSES INTO HOMES

A consultation has been held into a proposal to introduce a council tax premium which would allow the council to charge up to 200 per cent on certain long-term empty properties from next April.

Vacant properties can have a significant and detrimental impact

on people living in neighbouring properties.

The council has a strategy to deal with empty properties and this could be another tool to deal with them but all the submissions made during the month long consultation will be considered before a final decision is taken.



NetworkRail

We are continuing work at Bridge Street road bridge and Newport station, preparing for faster, greener electric trains.

Throughout the winter months we will be removing the redundant station footbridge, using a crane which will be situated outside the Dragon Taxi offices. This will not affect any services. We would like to thank you for bearing with us.

networkrail.co.uk/Newport



@NetworkrailWAL

CRWales@networkrail.co.uk

03457 11 41 41

Working for you.

FOOD FESTIVAL A GREAT SUCCESS



Chef demo in Newport Market

This year's Tiny Rebel Newport Food and Drink Festival saw around 14,000 people flock to the city centre.

Traders, chefs and entertainers provided culinary delights, packed out demonstrations and brought smiles to the crowds.

Councillor Debbie Wilcox, Leader of Newport City Council, said: "The festival has truly found

its footing and what promised to be the biggest and best yet, certainly didn't disappoint."

Tiny Rebel's Bradley Cummings, said "We're so proud of our city this year's food and drink festival really showed how we're all coming together to make great things happen. We're already thinking about how we can top it next year!"

Councillor Wilcox added: "I would

also like extend my appreciation again to this year's sponsors. Thanks to the businesses, residents and visitors who all showed they're #BackingNewport."

Supporters of this year's event were Tiny Rebel, Admiral, Celtic Manor Resort, The Golden Lion Magor, Everett Tomlin Lloyd & Pratt Solicitors, Western Power Distribution, Mojo The Food Bar, Clarks and Friars Walk.

LOG IN TO DIGITAL COURSES

Newport City Council prides itself on having a digital city, and is offering courses for people to take advantage of this.

The council, in partnership with RNIB (Royal National Institute for the Blind) is organising digital drop-in sessions for the winter, building on the success of the sessions held in summer.

These will take place: 10am to noon at Rogerstone Library and from 2pm to 4pm at Central Library on Wednesday 30 November and Wednesday 21 December.

Email Rogerstone Library: – rogerstone.library@newport.gov.uk

and Central Library: lending.library@newport.gov.uk

The council is also continuing to hold its popular Digital Fridays, which are operated in partnership with the Office of National Statistics.

These take place at: Rogerstone Library, 9.15am-11.15am, fortnightly from 12 August; Bettws Library 9.30am-11.30am, fortnightly from 5 August; Central Library 2pm-4pm fortnightly from 12 August and every Friday Ringland Library 2pm-4pm

www.newport.gov.uk/libraries

£60,000 FUND TO BOOST CITY CENTRE

A new business development fund established by the council will be used to help businesses set up shop in the city centre.

Councillor John Richards, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Investment, has supported four proposals to stimulate economic growth and investment in the city using the £60,000 pot.

One of the innovative ideas is to use about £30,000 to tackle the issue of empty retail units in parts of the city centre.

Councillor Richards said: "We recognise that people can be discouraged by the cost of rents and business rates. As a council, we have no control over these but we want to support entrepreneurs who would

like to open up in the city centre so it has been decided to offer a small number of retail grants.

"We will be offering retail grants of up to £6,000 towards the costs of setting up a retail business in Commercial Street and High Street. This could give a great first start to people running new shops in the city centre."

The other initiatives are:

- Potentially commissioning a company to market some of the larger vacant units by targeting multi-national companies
- Supporting "test trading" for start-up businesses
- A business awards event.



"As a council, we thought it was important for businesses in the city centre to work with us to implement a programme of improvements and events. As a result, the business improvement district, Newport Now, was established last year.

"We intend to work with Newport

Now to explore the possibility of marketing some of the larger vacant units by targeting national chains that don't yet have a Newport presence.

"We are also planning to help start-up businesses "test trade" following a planned pop-up event

aimed at giving advice and support to budding entrepreneurs.

"Finally, we are proposing to use some of the fund to establish and support a Newport Business Awards event which would allow us to celebrate all the great ventures we have in the city." he said.

£1,500 TO HELP START A BUSINESS

Grants of up to £1,500 are available to new and prospective businesses thanks to a partnership

between UK Steel Enterprise and the council.

One new local venture that successfully applied for a grant was Neon, a live concert and conference venue in Clarence Place.

Owner Andy Byers refurbished the inside of the distinctive art deco building – once home to

the Odeon cinema – before opening it in February.

He used the £800 grant towards building Neon's website. "It's going well and we are certainly attracting a lot of people to our shows, those who want sit down events rather than club nights."

Events have included hosting a show by Peter Andre and a sit

down meal for 250 people on behalf of Admiral Insurance

Mr Byers also intends to start showing classic and older films in the near future.

For more information about the criteria and an application form email business.services@newport.gov.uk or telephone 01633 656656.



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Punctual and regular school attendance is an essential requirement for successful learning from the time a child starts school.

Missing school can have a serious impact on gaining good results. Even a student who has 90 per cent attendance in a school year will have missed four complete weeks. Over five years of secondary school, 90 per cent attendance would add up to around 20 weeks off, that's half a school year in total.

A parent is responsible for ensuring their child attends school regularly and is expected to report any absence on the first day and to confirm the reason in writing on their child's return

to school. Parents are expected to work with school staff and the Education Welfare Service to address any concerns about attendance.

The law says that parents/carers whose children of compulsory school age are absent from school without good reason are committing an offence.

The council can issue a fixed penalty notice for a pupil who has at least 10 half day sessions unauthorised absence from school. This includes unauthorised holiday absence and persistent lateness.

If paid within 28 days, the fine is £60. If paid after 28 days, but within 42 days, the penalty will rise to £120. If the penalty is not paid in full by the 43rd day, this will result in legal action.

VELODROME IS GOLD CHOICE FOR CYCLISTS



In 2001, the council beat off the competition to win the bid for a prestigious national sporting venue to be sited in Newport.

Fifteen years later, the Wales National Velodrome has played a significant role in the success of the Olympic and Paralympic cyclists in Rio.

Both teams held their pre-games training camps in the Velodrome watched by enthusiastic local fans.

Cyclists who went on to win medals in Rio included Sir Bradley

Wiggins, Mark Cavendish, Becky James, Laura Trott, Dame Sarah Storey, Jody Cundy, Jon-Allan Butterworth, Megan Giglian and Lora Turnham.

Newport got several positive mentions by the incredible riders during the television coverage of the Games.

It was a repeat of the success enjoyed in the 2012 London Olympics and Paralympics when the stars at the pre-training camps included Sir Chris Hoy as well as those who triumphed again in 2016.

HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE FIND WORK



olds who are NEET, and those aged 25 and over who have been out of work for some time. It will offer an action plan of one-to-one mentoring and explore training opportunities which could lead to permanent employment.

This is a purely voluntary programme and participants can leave at any time.

There are four Communities First clusters in Newport. If you would like to discuss joining a project in your area and to see if you are eligible please contact the work triage co-ordinator in the following areas:

People aged 16 to 24 living in deprived areas of Newport who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) are being offered a helping hand to find work.

The same service is also offered to long term unemployed aged 25 and over.

The support is available through the Communities for Work project, which is a Welsh Government programme, supported by the European Social Fund, working in partnership with Communities First and Job Centre Plus.

The aim of the programme is to reduce the number of 16 to 24 year

North Cluster – Bettws, Shaftesbury and Malpas contact Clare Truman, telephone 07976714549, email: truman@newport.gov.uk

West Cluster – Duffryn, Gaer and Maesglas, contact Darren Draper on 07583180923, email: darren.draper@newport.gov.uk

Central Cluster – Pill, Maindee and Stow Hill, contact Donna Rogers on 07583180818, email donna.rogers@newport.gov.uk

East Cluster – Always, Ringland, Somerton, Moorland and St Julians, contact Estelle Lewis on 07976725107, email: estelle.lewis@newport.gov.uk



Newport Market Events



Children's market, preloved table top sale

Saturday 19th November, 10am – 4pm

Grab a bargain, or sell on your preloved baby and children items to earn some extra money for Christmas.

www.cheekimonkeys.co.uk

Christmas Cracker Food & Craft Market

Saturday 10th December, 10am – 4pm

www.cotyledon.co.uk

Santa's Grotto

From Saturday 12th November until Christmas

www.newport.gov.uk/market

Newport norse

NEWPORT MARCHNAD CASNEWYDD

WHAT'S ON



CITY CENTRE

www.newport.gov.uk/christmas

12 November: Countdown to Christmas

Family fun and lights switch-on. 12-5pm

DOLMAN THEATRE

www.dolmantheatre.co.uk

7-10 December: A Christmas Carol

14 - 17 December: Elf Jr the musical

18 December: Merry Musical Christmas

RIVERFRONT THEATRE

www.newportlive.co.uk

29 November – 2 January: Cinderella

A family favourite.

TREDEGAR HOUSE

www.nationaltrust.org.uk

26, 27 November, 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18 December:

Christmas at Tredegar House

NEWPORT WETLANDS

www.rspb.org.uk

10 December: Santa's nature grotto and wildlife workshop

Find out what happens to wildlife over the winter and meet Santa.

NEWPORT MARKET

www.newport.gov.uk/market

12 November until Christmas Santa's Grotto

19 November:

Cheeki Monkey table top sale

Pre-loved baby and children's items 10am-4pm.

10 December:

Christmas Market

10am-4pm.

CAERLEON

www.caerleon.net

10 December: Christmas in Caerleon

Farmers market, carols on the common and more. 10am-6.30pm