

Project gives donations whole new lease of life



WOMBLING FREE: Opening Wastesavers' new re-use centre are, from left, Christopher Southern, Great Uncle Bulgaria, mayor of Newport Cllr Matthew Evans and John Griffiths AM

WASTESAVERS' new re-use centre was officially opened by John Griffiths AM at Phoenix Park in Newport yesterday.

The event was also attended by Jessica Morden, MP for Newport East; the mayor of Newport, Matthew Evans – and the Wombles' Uncle Bulgaria.

Wastesavers has restored and refurbished a variety of donated goods – from furniture and books to laptops and mirrors – and is selling them at discount prices.

The new centre is a merger of the Wastesavers project at the Community Furniture Shop in Pill, and EInclusion Recycling, a community interest company.

Christopher Southern, 53, is the re-use and volunteer manager at Wastesavers Charitable Trust and he said that the cen-

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tre is helping people to get back to work.

He said: "It's all about getting people back into the job market. "We get a lot of young people who have not got a lot of previous work experience and you stand a better chance of getting an interview with another job if you're being active. We've got six paid staff on the site all the time."

Victor Key, 31, is one of the refurbishment workers at the site and he said that Wastesavers has given him a great opportunity.

He said: "I started out as a volunteer for eight weeks and they've asked me to stay on for a couple of days a week to help out.

"The furniture is selling well and, rather than it being broken up and being thrown out, it's great to see the smile on someone's face when they buy one of the restored pieces."

John Griffiths AM said the facility is a great boost for Newport.

He said: "It's so important to have the right kind of re-use and recycling policy in place, because we need to deal with it as effectively as possible.

"Also, speaking to customers, they value the fact that they can get really good quality goods at a very reasonable price. It really matters to people."

Celebrating the works of a classical composer

A CHOIR will be joining forces with the Concert Orchestra De Cymru at a concert celebrating the music of Handel at a Newport church.

The Priory Singers will be performing at St John The Baptist Church, in Risca Road, on Satur-

day, November 8. Some of Handel's best known music including the Four Coronation Anthems, The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba and Music for the Royal Fireworks will be performed.

Formed in 1999, the Priory Singers perform an eclectic mix

of genres including Tudor anthems, Baroque music or modern composers from Bob Chilcott and John Rutter to Newport-born Michael Elliott. The concert starts at 7.30pm.

For more information and tickets visit priorysingers.org

NEWS IN BRIEF

Affordable homes

NEW figures from the Welsh Government show that 2,416 affordable homes were made available during 2013/14, up 18 per cent on the previous year.

Resurfacing work

RESURFACING work will take place at the B4245 Magor interchange, Magor, from Monday, October 27 to Sunday, November 2. Road closures will operate.

Community fair

A COMMUNITY day and craft fair will be held at Lysaght Institute, Newport, next month.

The event, including a children's corner, community corner, crafts, games and prizes, will take place on Sunday, November 16 from 11am until 2pm.

Anyone interested in having a stall should call 01633 284911.

Name correction

ONE of the two Penygarn Primary schoolgirls pictured in the Argus story on Thursday on page 11 taking part in workshops on the Second World War was Keira Hobbs, not Keira Gullis.

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Aunt's appeal ahead of woman's funding being cut: page 17