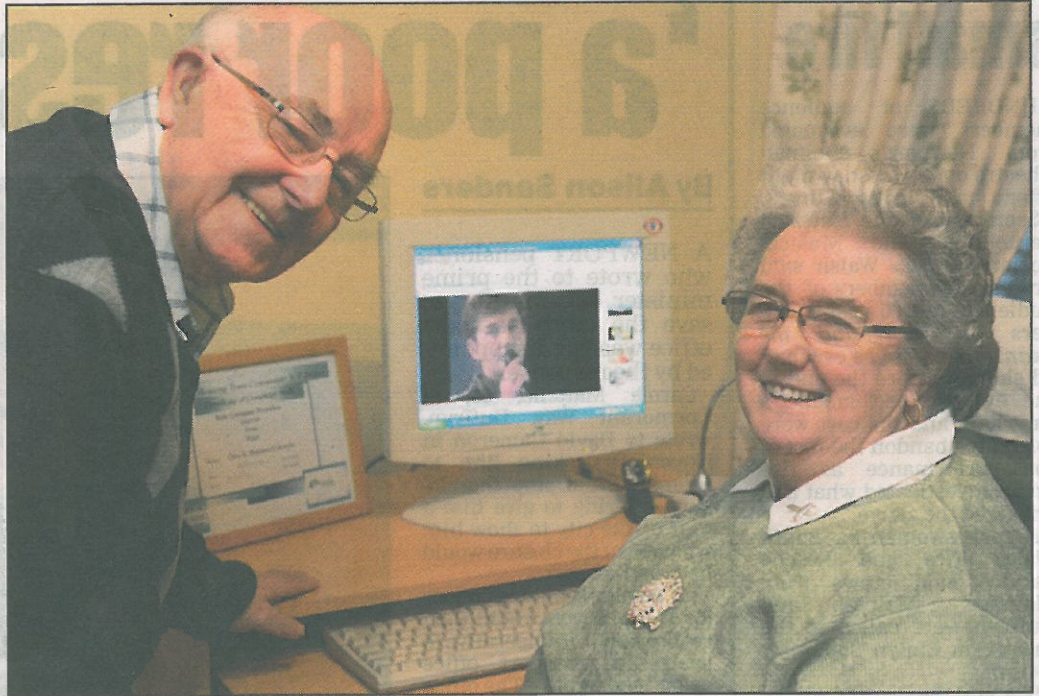


# Free training helps over-60s get online



**SILVER SURFERS:** Clive and Maureen Colcombe are now computer literate CT\_4098

**MAUREEN and Clive Colcombe** are just two of 26 residents in Newport who have received free computer training thanks to a project by Newport Housing Trust.

The trust, which provides housing for people aged over 60, has joined with E-Inclusion Recycling to help its residents learn how to use a computer.

Newport Housing Trust has funded a total of 26 residents since 2008 which sees each tenant selected for the project receive a reconditioned computer and one-to-one training.

Maureen and Clive Colcombe had never used a computer before starting the project.

The couple, of Ridgeway Villas, received a free computer which for £25 they could upgrade to a flatscreen computer.

They started the training in April and received about eight sessions which taught them skills at their own pace.

Mrs Colcombe, 68, said: "I was petrified when we started. I didn't even know how to switch a computer on.

"This time last year, we had no interest in computers whatsoever. I used to think why don't people go out and get a life. We didn't realise what we were missing."

The project covers basic IT skills as well as using the inter-

net and Skype. Mrs Colcombe said they speak to family members and other people on the project using Skype and sent Christmas e-mails to family in Canada.

The couple now plan to start doing their shopping on the internet.

The trust has also recently set up a computer club for residents to receive ongoing support once their one-to-one training has ended.

Newport Housing Trust plans to continue funding the training in the new year.

For more information about the project, call Carolyn Pearse on 01633 261990.