

Friends of the Newport Ship

Registered Charity No 1105449

www.newportship.org



News: March 2015

Your Committee (definitely) needs YOU !

We now need to move into a different phase of interaction with the public, which will involve regular weekly openings throughout the year. And we really need your help.

It is our intention to try to get the new Ship Centre ready for opening by mid-June 2015 at the latest.

We are intending to open up to three days per week from 10am to 4pm and will need to have at least 2 FONS volunteers 'on duty' at any one time. With sufficient volunteers we could split the day into two 3 hour sessions, so no one needs to give up more than three hours of their time. We will also need a couple of 'reserves' to step in if someone cannot attend at the last minute.



We need FONS volunteers to "meet and greet", to act as guides, to staff the retail sales desk and to offer refreshments to our visitors. You will need to feel confident in encouraging visitors to donate to the project, to buy items from the Ship Shop, to join the Friends and to return (hopefully with relatives, friends and colleagues) to see future progress. We'll show you what each role entails and give you full support.

At the moment we have nearly 400 members but less than 20 active volunteers. We appreciate that many people are in work, including at weekends and have many calls on their precious free time. But if you could join a volunteer rota you would help to make a higher profile for the Medieval Newport Ship a reality.

If you can help, or simply wish to know more, please contact either chair@newportship.org or editor@newportship.org (01633 810209) (01633 897058).

Many thanks in anticipation of your help.

The New Ship Centre at Unit 20: Progress update



Rob Wilmott & Martin

Newman, whose full time jobs are that of maintaining the Transporter Bridge. They are incredibly cheery and modest, but without their help, knowledge and skills it would have been almost impossible to meet the deadline for vacating Unit 22 at Maesglas in December 2014. Many thanks from the FONS to them both, and to the team from Newport

Museum. In this photo they are inside the new FONS office which is taking shape at Unit 20 (and which they are largely building).

Our New Timber

Store was designed by Toby Jones and built with the help of Rob and Martin. It will eventually house all the Ship's timbers. To preserve a controlled environment a small number of timbers will be taken out of the store prior to open days, but there will be no routine store access for our visitors (or for us).



FONS Cutty Sark & Royal Greenwich visit: Friday 8th May 2015

There are still several places left for the annual FONS "works outing". We have arranged for a curator's tour of the Cutty Sark itself and the day will also include a visit to the Royal Greenwich Observatory.

Tickets are priced at £38.00 (Concessions £36.00). Please email chair@newportship.org or



ring Phil on 01633 810209 to book your tickets. A £10.00 deposit will be needed for each ticket.

Raffle Tickets – Win £500, Win £250

Uskmouth Rotary Raffle tickets are still available from the chairman. Please send a cheque and your address details to Phil Cox (FONS Raffle), 5 Goodrich Grove, Newport, NP10 8SY and he will fill out the counterfoils and return the tickets to you. Minimum order 10 x £1 tickets. Closing date is 15th April. We can also take your money by electronic funds transfer (EFT) – contact chair@newportship.org for details.

Future of Museums: Expert Review

Two FONS Committee members, Phil Cox and Jeff Brooks, attended this Welsh Government sponsored event in Merthyr Tydfil on March 11th. The FONS had already submitted our views in a document drawing on the huge experience of Alan Aberg, Bob Trett and Emma Routley. Phil and Jeff joined two groups of participants to look at specific questions relating to the future of Museum provision in Wales and gave our conclusions to the review panel. The report from the Expert Panel is planned to be published by the Welsh government in June or July this year.

Winter Talk – The Holgar Experience

The final winter talk of the 2014-5 season will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 1st April, and we have re-scheduled James Harding as he recounts his Holgar experiences on quest to deliver a 2 tonne Pembrokeshire bluestone halfway up the river Avon towards Stonehenge. St Julians Inn, Caerleon, NP18 1QA. This talk was originally scheduled for early February and had to be postponed.

An Introduction to Maritime Archaeology

This is being presented by Toby and it should be well worth attending.

17 October 2015, 10.30am – 4pm

Location: M Shed, Princes Wharf, Wapping Rd, Bristol, BS1 4RN

Cost per person: £35/£30. Age 16+

Led by Dr Toby Jones, Nautical Archaeologist and Curator of the Newport Medieval Ship Project.

Find out about the work of a maritime archaeologist. Learn how shipwrecks and other underwater sites are investigated and discover what happens to the objects that are found.

See <http://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/m-shed/whats-on/>

And lastly, for this issue!

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 2 - Monday 4 May 2015, FONS @ Fortress Wales, Caldicot Castle

Our Pirate Patron and Friends will have the medieval tent at this event, again telling the story of the Ship, striking 'petit blancs' and spreading the word.

Saturday 2 - Monday 4 May 2015, FONS @ St Fagans

The Friends will be telling the Ship's story at the May Day Festival at St Fagans.

Saturday 23 – Sunday 24 May 2015, FONS @ Gloucester Stone Carving Festival

Please note that the Newport Transporter Bridge 'Family Fun Day' planned for Easter Monday 6th April has been cancelled as the site has been invaded by a gypsy/traveller community.

Future Conference

This conference is taking place at Southampton University and includes a session by Nigel Nayling, who has been instrumental in the Medieval Newport Ship project and features in the original footage of the ITV 'Caught in a Storm' programme shown in our talk back in November 2014.

Ships and Shorelines: Maritime Archaeology for the 21st Century, 16 - 18 October 2015



**Royal Archaeological Institute's
Conference on Maritime Archaeology
16 – 18 October 2015
University of Southampton**

The programme will include lectures on the work of the Maritime Archaeology Trust, new research on *HMS Victory* by the Royal Navy Museum, sub-sonic investigation of the 'lost' port of Dunwich, sea-level changes, investigation of Mesolithic and other submerged landscapes in Northern Ireland, the *Mary Rose*, the Dover boat, the Swash Channel wreck and the Must Farm log-boats. There will also be short presentations by postgraduate students and early-career archaeologists.

The key-note opening address will be given by Professor Jon Adams.

Details will be made available in the New Year and will appear on the Royal Archaeological Institute's web-site:
www.royalarchinst.org

Our conference for 2015 has been organised in association with the University of Southampton Lifelong Learning Programme and the Centre for Maritime Archaeology.

It will be held at Avenue Campus, University of Southampton and promises to be a fascinating weekend packed full of interesting talks.

Download the full conference programme.

Friday 16 October

Key-note address by Professor Jon Adams, 'Maritime archaeology in the 21st century'

Saturday, 17 October

Garry Momber, Mesolithic occupation in the Solent: a common European heritage

Amanda Bowers, Forgotten wrecks of the First World War; raising awareness and public involvement

Julian Whitewright, South Coasters: the maritime archaeology of two 19th-century shipwrecks from the Solent

Lauren Tidbury, Maritime archaeology and cross-border co-operation

David Parham, The Swash Channel, Dorset, 16th-century wreck

Professor David Sear, Investigating the lost port of Dunwich, Suffolk, using sub-sonic techniques

Professor Dominic Tweddle and colleagues, Work of the Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth, on *HMS Victory* and two World War 1 vessels, *HMS Caroline* and *M33*

Dr Fraser Sturt, The isles of the British Isles; reconstructing sea-level changes

Dr Kieran Westley, Submerged archaeology: investigation in the north of Ireland

Sunday, 18 October:

Christopher Dobbs, Presenting maritime archaeology in the 21st century

Alexandra Hildred, *Mary Rose* research in the 21st century

Peter Clark, The Dover Bronze Age boat

David Gibson, The Must Farm log-boats

Gustav Milne, Community archaeology on the foreshore: CITIZAN and the Thames Discovery Programme

Professor Nigel Nayling, The Newport ship

Conference fees and booking

Conference fee: £80 (£70 for Royal Archaeological Institute members booking before 31 July and for British Archaeological Association members booking between 1 May and 31 July) to include teas and coffees

Student fee and bursaries: There will be a limited number of places for students, available after 31 July at £15 to include teas and coffees but not lunches. There are also Cheney Bursaries available to a few students for travel and accommodation costs. Please contact the Administrator.

Booking deadline: 1 October 2015

To book your place, please download and return the Booking Form.