



Friends of the
Newport Ship

Newsletter

November 2015

Registered Charity No.1105449

Unit 20, Estuary Road, Queensway Meadows Ind Est, Newport, NP19 4SP

www.newportship.org

Welcome from the Chairman

Very many thanks to all FoNS members who came along to our AGM last month. It was an excellent turnout with over 50 members coming together to hear an inspiring talk by Chris Brandon, a trustee of the Mary Rose and the architect who designed the internal layout of the Mary Rose exhibition hall.

I was pleased to be re-elected as chairman of the Friends. There is so much to do to raise our game and drive forward to the next phase of the project. In the coming year we need to identify a new permanent home for our Ship and find the backing necessary to secure the site for our own use, and possibly for Newport Museum. All this has to be underpinned by a major fundraising effort which must look to funding providers and create bids for the various elements that we have to clearly identify.

Whilst the committee members are widely experienced, we do need additional skills to help us along the way, particularly in the areas of fundraising, marketing, PR and volunteer coordination. If you have the time, experience and inclination to come and help out, please get in touch with me for an informal chat.

Phil Cox, chair@newportship.org, m: 07411 149678

Christmas Shopping

Our retail Cabin is bulging with new items. We have a limited stock of Ship Christmas Cards featuring our Ship in a snow-storm (£5 for 10 cards); we have beautiful Ship medallions created from the Portuguese 50 Escudo coin showing a 3-masted ship – just like ours – finished in either silver or gold (£33 each), and we have special Cremieu-struck Petit Blancs that we brought back from our visit to the town in September which were struck in the same building in which the original coin was minted back in the summer of 1447 (in a presentation box at £12 each).

We are open on Saturdays through until 12th December, or could arrange for collection on other days/dates.

Peter Power Painting

We are now taking orders for the subscriber edition of this beautiful work, showing two aspects of our medieval Ship in full sail in the Severn Estuary. This special edition is a full size (24" x 36") giclee print, signed by the artist and numbered, either on high quality card or on canvas. For FoNS members, we are offering this at £110 on card or canvas, or £150 on canvas to include the necessary stretcher. A fully gold-framed option is also available at £400.

Please send your name and address, and a deposit of £50 to the Ship Centre, Unit 20 Estuary Road, Queensway Meadows Ind Est, Newport NP19 4SP.

New Sponsors

We are very pleased to welcome Motorpoint on board as sponsors of the Friends of Newport Ship. A full press release will be published shortly ensuring that both we and Motorpoint get great publicity. Other sponsors are being sought to support the project either through cash donations or through the giving of time and expertise in their own particular fields.



AGM Report

The minutes of the AGM are now available on our website under the 'About' tab on the home page, along with the updated constitution.

Every Little Helps

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be raising a free donation for Friends of the Newport Ship?

There are nearly 3,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's really simple, all you have to do is:

1. **Join.** Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/newportship/> and sign up for free.
2. **Shop.** Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.
3. **Raise.** After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Friends of the Newport Ship will be really grateful for your donations. Thank you for your support.

Winter Opening

1st November – 12th December

13th December – 11th February 2016

12th February – 20th February (Half-term)

26th February – 20th March

25th March 2016 onwards

Open Saturdays only

Closed

Open Fridays & Saturdays

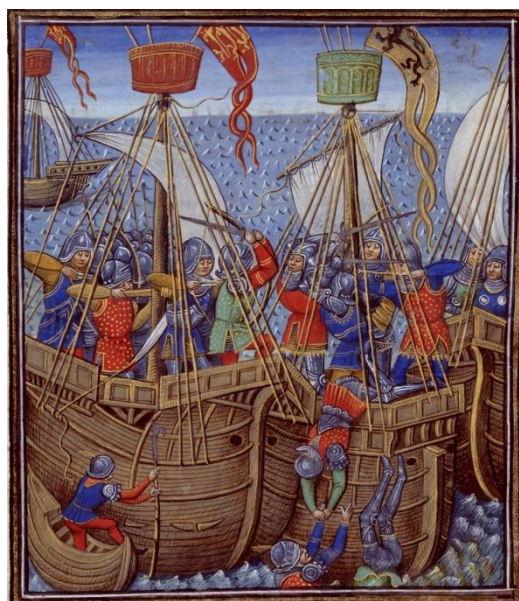
Open Saturdays only

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This issue's 'special feature'....

The Holigost

On the 12th October 2015 Historic England, formerly known as English Heritage, announced that it was "taking steps to protect and investigate a shipwreck in Hampshire that is believed to be the



second of four "great ships" built for Henry V's royal fleet. Experts from Historic England believe the wreck that lies buried in the mud in the River Hamble near Southampton, is the Holigost (Holy Ghost).

The Holigost was a major part of Henry V's war machine, playing a key role in the two battles that broke French naval power and enabled Henry to conquer France in the early 15th century".

The Holigost joined the fleet on the 17th November 1415 and took part in two important sea battles between 1416 and 1420 but not in the lead up to the Battle of Agincourt fought, as every Shakespeare lover knows, on St Crispin's Day, the 25th of October 1415.

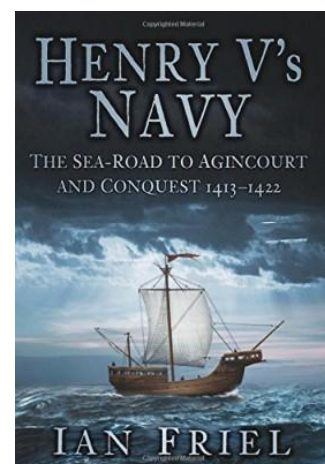
The wreck site had been spotted on an aerial photograph of the river Hamble taken in 1979, by Dr Ian Friel, a maritime historian. He has only recently brought the wreck site to the attention of Historic England whilst working on his latest

book, **Henry V's Navy**, also published on October 12th.

Of interest to FoNS is the fact that the Holigost was a ship captured from the Spanish around 1413/14. Formerly known as the Santa Clara, she was clinker built, weighed about 750 tons was over 30 metres long and 12 metres in breadth and carried a single mast; which makes her remarkably similar to the Newport Ship (*35m long, 8.9m beam, about 390 tons, 3 masts – Ed.*)

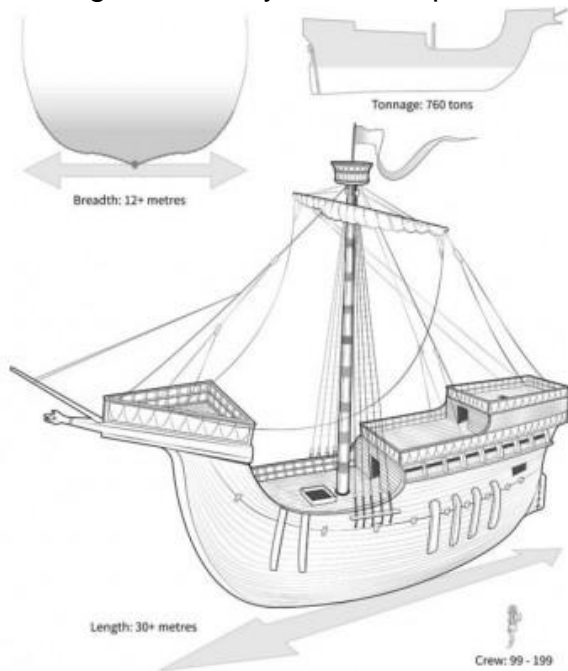
The Holigost also seems to lie at right angles to the main river in, or very near to a "pill"; although there is a suggestion that a special "dock" was built in the mud to house her.

The Santa Clara was a few years old when captured so she would probably date to around 1400, which would make the Newport Ship the missing link between the Holigost and the Mary Rose.



At this time merchant ships and warships were remarkably similar in build. In fact Dr Friel mentions the fact that Henry V used his war ships to carry wine from Gascony. Both would have carried “cannon” on their upper decks; expert opinion says that it is impossible to cut gun ports into clinker built vessels. That is one reason why, by the early 16th century, Henry VIII had abandoned clinker built ships in favour of carvel built ones such as the Mary Rose, where gun ports were possible.

The largest of Henry V's warships, the Grace Dieu, was found in the Hamble in 1859 and



“excavated” by a local landowner, Francis Crawshay, using gunpowder. She had already been damaged by a lightning strike in 1439 which led to a fire, by then most of her gear had already been removed. Recent photographs show only a few timbers remaining in the Hamble mud.

If the ship that Dr. Friel has discovered turns out to be the Holigost as is very likely, there is a great deal of historical information available in the Royal collection housed at the National Archive at Kew which supports this view. This will be an important development as, with luck, she will be as well preserved as the Newport Ship. Although initially Historic England only intend to look for the Holigost using the latest ground scanning technology, if they decide to proceed with a full excavation, techniques developed in the excavation and preservation of the Newport ship will undoubtedly be invaluable.

Questions like the actual age of the Santa Clara and where the timbers for her hull were felled will be crucial. But we at FoNS must always stress that the Newport Ship is the missing link between the Holigost and the Mary Rose at a time when ship building techniques were changing rapidly.

Footnote

It is interesting to note that the Holigost had been repaired in 1423 by the use of a diver, one Davy Owen, thought by some to have been Welsh. This is the first recorded instance of a repair being undertaken by a diver.

Researched and written by Allan Cook

FoNS Blog

Why not keep up to date with all our news as it is pushed out to other media sites? Go to our website (www.newportship.org) and click on ‘Blog’ (on the brown banner top right of the screen) and you can subscribe – that way you get all articles emailed to you as soon as they are published.

Keeping in Touch

We are always very keen to keep in touch with our membership. Please let us know if you move home, or change email address so that we can continue to keep you informed (and let you know when your subscriptions are due for renewal!)

In the next issue...

We are researching the possible name of our Ship. Is she the ‘Marie de Bayonne’ as mentioned in the Earl Warwick’s papers, or one of around a dozen vessels recorded as visiting Bristol in the same time period?