



### Chairman's Introduction

*Phil Cox, Chairman*

Welcome to your December edition of the FoNS Newsletter. Winter is well and truly here and we have shut up shop to get the Ship Centre ready for the New Year. FoNS will be helping Toby build the extension to the conserved timber store, ready to accommodate the next batch of timbers that will be returned from York, and allow Toby to start reassembly of the first 'trial' of 8 adjacent timbers on a false section of the keel.

Our retail team will still be able to service any requirements that you may have through our mail order system as advertised along with the AGM papers.

The Ship Centre will re-open on 18<sup>th</sup> February (spring half term) for Saturdays only until Easter and will then resume the usual summer routine of opening every Friday, Saturday and Bank Holiday Monday until the end of October. We would love to be open on more days, but to do this we need more volunteers. If you can help out, or know somebody who can get involved then please get in touch. Without more people coming forward we could be forced into reducing opening hours when we desperately need to make the project more accessible.

### **AGM and outcomes**

Thank you to all those who came along to the AGM and enjoyed a wonderful talk by Mark Beattie-Edwards, CEO of the Nautical Archaeological Society who inspired us to get diving and come and see some of the fascinating wrecks around the British coast.

Toby's update on the project gave us an insight into the work that is about to get underway (and for which we will likely need physical help) and further progress that is to be made with the design of the cradle structure that will be required to support our re-assembled ship in its new location.

#### **Your new Committee**

<b>Chairman</b>	Phil Cox	<a href="mailto:chair@newportship.org">chair@newportship.org</a>
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Alan Aberg	
<b>Secretary (incl. Membership &amp; Events)</b>	Robert Kenny	<a href="mailto:secretary@newportship.org">secretary@newportship.org</a> , <a href="mailto:membership@newportship.org">membership@newportship.org</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Peter Horleston	<a href="mailto:treasurer@newportship.org">treasurer@newportship.org</a>
Patron	Charles Ferris	
Retail	Jean Gray	
	Lynne Crabbe	
Webmaster	Rhys Brooks	
Volunteer Coordinator	Jeff Brooks	
Ship Centre Events	Lewis Griffiths	<a href="mailto:events@newportship.org">events@newportship.org</a>
<b>Co-opted Members</b>		
Minutes Secretary	Claire Dowd	
Archivist	Simon Hickman	
Social Media Coordinator	Charlotte Vigar	<a href="mailto:pr@newportship.org">pr@newportship.org</a>

I'm very pleased that we now have a full committee (as allowed by our constitution) with the 4 officers and 6 other trustees. At our first meeting in November we agreed to co-opt 3 other members to help with the general business of the Friends.

We are still looking for some specialist skills to extend our reach into the community – so if you know your way around the education system and feel that you could help

to define our education outreach strategy and then make it happen to help inspire the next generation of your archaeologists – please get in touch.

The full text of the Chairman's Report has been published to the website for all to see.

### **Future Welsh Government funding for the Newport Medieval Ship project**

We are now supporting Newport Council on their plans to create a new home for our Ship, where she can be reconstructed and displayed within Newport. More work is required to confirm that the proposed site is sound and strong enough to take the weight of the Ship and more of the maritime heritage exhibits that logically fit alongside her. Watch this space for more details as soon as they can be released.

## **Changes to Membership Subscriptions**

*Robert Kenny, Secretary*

In July I assumed responsibility as Membership Secretary and at the AGM in November I was elected as Secretary of FoNS which includes the duties of Membership Secretary. Therefore, I have had detailed involvement with the register of members for some five months, including the recent annual member subscription renewal exercise. During that time I have become aware of several anomalies regarding payment of membership subscriptions which I would summarise as follows.

It has become custom to state that the membership year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> August but the FoNS Constitution states that membership subscriptions are renewable annually on 24<sup>th</sup> August and I would like to move to this situation in 2017. At some time in the past the custom was adopted that anyone becoming a member after 1<sup>st</sup> April would pay the standard annual membership fee but would not then be requested to pay a renewal fee until 1<sup>st</sup> September of the following year, i.e. a potential 17 months membership in return for 12 months subscription. It is also the case that we have a significant number of members who joined FoNS in the first three months of a year and who now renew their membership fee on the anniversary of their becoming a member.

I wish to normalise the situation as follows:-

1. All annual subscriptions will become due on 24<sup>th</sup> August and all members will be requested to make payment on or very close to that date.
2. Anyone joining part way through the year will be asked to pay a pro-rata fee based on the number of months until the next 24<sup>th</sup> August following their joining FoNS. They will then be requested to pay a full annual membership fee on 24<sup>th</sup> August. If new members volunteer to pay the full annual payment on joining, the "surplus" will be treated as a donation.

I trust that all members will support my proposals in order to improve the procedure for renewal of membership fees and to be in accordance with the Constitution.

I appreciate that it may take beyond August 2017 to achieve these objectives but I will be contacting all members affected, initially those whose anniversaries arise in the first three months of 2017. I would appreciate all members who pay by standing order amending their standing order details to make payment on 24<sup>th</sup> August in future.

Current Membership rates are: Adult £10, Couple £15, Student (still in full-time education) £5, Overseas rates \$30, Eu25 and these rates will apply in 2017. Membership subscription rates will not be reviewed until the AGM in September 2017.

Finally, we would encourage as many members as possible to give us their email addresses to allow us to send communications electronically which in turn means that more of your subscription goes to supporting the project.

## **Feature Article: New Friends in Europe**

Tewkesbury Medieval Fayre was back in mid-July, but we made contact with some fascinating people at this huge re-enactment of the Battle of Tewkesbury (4<sup>th</sup> May 1471).

Bruno Detienne, a member of the ***Compagnie des Archers du Bailli*** contacted us after talking to us at the fayre, wanting to get more detail about the archer's wrist bracer that was found on board our ship. We gave him lots of information, and in return we asked him to tell us about his re-enactment experiences. Below is his reply.

### **What could I say about my company?**

We are based on Braine-le-Chateau, south of Brussels. We have existed since 1989 (we are one of the older medieval re-enactment companies in Belgium).

We are an archery company. That means that (where many re-enactment companies are mainly sword fighters, with sometimes a few archers) all our troops are trained archers. We do training and competition as well as re-enactment activities. Our period is mid-15th century; that means (for Belgian geographic zone) that we are Burgundian troops, under Charles the Bold's ordinances.

We were 3 at Tewkesbury (long way to come, expensive weekend but I hope to come with more troops in the next years)... and our training makes us able to win the 1st and second places at the Tewksbury archers contest.

### **Why do all this? Why don't we have a quiet weekend at home?**

Because history and re-enactment is a passion, we do "living history", just like roman, WWII, or Napoleonic re-enactors. We want to show the public "inside" history, to explain to them where we all come from.

This is especially important for children. They see 'history in action' right in front of them, so much more than simply seeing a knight any day (every child loves that) when they learn at school, they will understand better and remember more.

At Tewkesbury we were hosted by another friend company, les Dragons d'Argent. They are armoured sword and pike fighters (and very good ones). as Burgundian troops, they (and us) were sent by the Duke

Charles, to help his friend the King of England (who often send also archers companies to help the duke) for this battle (and Bosworth). They are the close royal guards on battle field – a great honour.

Well, all this to explain that it is very important for all of us to makes costumes (and life) as close as possible to "what it was at that time". Costumes, equipment, food, tents; when we are on location, we try to do "all" as it was in XV<sup>th</sup> century.

Then, as sources we have pictures from books, painting, texts which describe what was the equipment of Charles the Bold's army... and what was found into the Mary Rose.

Here's the bad point, the Mary Rose is dated to XVI<sup>th</sup> century; the equipment didn't change a lot (as it seems, but... how to know? the question remains always for a small part).

Some bracers (for example) were found with some texts and logos (as Tudor Rose) which could not exist in XV<sup>th</sup>

And now we have this wonderful new (for me) source; a ship clearly dated from the middle of our period; our exact period of re-enactment.

You have a bracer, similar to those of the Mary Rose, with texts, and shape, of the exact period. Bless you and all your team (and the luck also) for finding that ship).

Tewkesbury is a great weekend, with more re-enactors than I've ever seen (twice what we have in Belgium or France). With incredible shops of historic stuff for re-enactors... but the best time was my 10 minutes at your stand. I didn't have more time free but you cannot imagine how I was excited.

I cannot thank you so much for coming there, and explain the ship story and spare parts. We make living history, but yours was real story. The one we have to match and explain to the public.



For us it will be important to present replicas we will do of that bracer, and explain that it's the exact copy that an ancient archer owned, because it was found at Newport in a ship of XV<sup>th</sup> century – no imagination, no change. And I've your guide to explain that and prove this.

History is very important. Those who forget the past don't have future.

Well, I'm pretty sure that all this text is not in perfect English; my apologies for this. You could find some additional information in our (French speaking, sorry!)

website : [www.archers-du-bailli.be](http://www.archers-du-bailli.be)

## **Forthcoming FoNS Visits of Interest**

Make the most of your membership. Why not join us on our trips and where possible we will take you behind the scenes – a benefit of being in a recognised group with shared interests!

### **Mary Rose – Portsmouth Historic Dockyard**

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017 - coach trip to Portsmouth primarily to visit the Mary Rose Museum but the entrance ticket will also cover admission to HMS Victory, HMS Warrior, National Museum of the Royal Navy, HMS M33, Action Stations (interactive displays) and Boathouse 4 (ship building skills). It will also include a harbour tour by launch and, hopefully, a "behind the scenes" tour. Furthermore, the entrance ticket will be valid for 12 months from date of issue enabling persons to make return visits as many times as they may wish during the year.

The luxury coach (with on-board wc) will depart from the Ship Centre in Newport at approx. 07.00am with anticipated arrival in Portsmouth at approx. 10.00am. The return trip will start at approx. 05.00pm with anticipated arrival in Newport at approx. 08.00pm. Total cost to include coach and admittance ticket will be approx. £35 per person. This will not include refreshments or meals but there are plenty of establishments serving food and beverages within the Historic Dockyard.

If you are interested in this trip please email me as soon as possible at [secretary@newportship.org](mailto:secretary@newportship.org) or telephone me on 07718 751391.

### **National Museum of Wales**

For a very different kind of visit, the National Collections Centre in Nantgarw stores thousands of fascinating objects that are not on display. The Collections Centre is not open to the general public but they offer exclusive access to groups. There are four tours/talks available each of which lasts between 30-45 minutes:-

**Conservation:** a small team of conservators and engineers preserve the Welsh national industry collections, ranging from delicate old photographs to 22-tonne machines.



**Collections Storage and Management:** this talk is held in the large industrial objects store, alongside objects ranging in size from bricks to engines and explains how they store, record and manage the [national industry collections](#).

**The Transport Collection:** a collection of bicycles, motorbikes, cars, buses and even an air sea rescue helicopter, with a talk by one of the collections management team.

**Gas Engines and Large Stationary Engines:** a talk on the larger engines and the challenges of cleaning, conserving and eventually rebuilding the parts into a restored engine.

Booked tours are available for a maximum of twenty people during the following times 11.00am-12.30pm and 2.00-3.30pm, Monday-Friday (excluding bank holidays). Each group of twenty would be split into two groups of ten and would attend two talks, swopping over after 30-45 minutes.

I propose to arrange a series of visits, one possibly two per month, commencing in February/March 2017 with maximum twenty participants each visit. Nantgarw is between Caerphilly and Pontypridd and it will not be economical to arrange coach transport, therefore those who wish to attend will need to use their own cars and possibly agree to take passengers who do not have their own transport.

If you are interested in these visits please email me at [secretary@newportship.org](mailto:secretary@newportship.org) or telephone me on 07718 751391. Please indicate whether you have your own transport or would require a lift from someone else, also if you have your own transport whether you would be prepared to take passengers without their own transport.

### **The Vasa Museum, Stockholm**

Some members have expressed interest in visiting the Vasa Museum in Stockholm. My wife, Claire, and I visited the museum in July and it is a very impressive exhibition. I have not made any enquiries regarding costings yet but the trip would involve flying to Stockholm, entry to the Vasa Museum, hotel accommodation, possible excursions to other attractions in Stockholm (and there are plenty) etc.

At this stage all I wish to establish is the amount of interest so that I can ascertain the potential numbers wishing to take part.

If you are interested in this trip please email me as soon as possible at [secretary@newportship.org](mailto:secretary@newportship.org) or telephone me on 07718 751391.

*Robert Kenny, Events Co-ordinator*

### **The Living Levels Landscape Partnership project**

At the end of last year, a partnership of 12 organisations and local authorities in Wales, was awarded £321,100, with a further £2.5 million ring-fenced, from the Heritage Lottery Fund to help recapture, enhance and tell the story of the unique Gwent Levels landscape – a patchwork of tranquil fertile fields and historic watercourses sweeping the Severn Estuary coastline between Cardiff and Chepstow.

Unlike most of Wales, this is a place of big skies and wide horizons. The landscape is one of the



finest examples of a landscape crafted by man and is the largest area of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh in Wales. Reclaimed from the sea in Roman times, the maintenance of this ancient drainage system of field ditches is vital to protect communities from flooding - a threat which is becoming ever more pertinent with climate change and rising tides.

Including seven Sites of Special Scientific Interest, the mosaic of ditches supports aquatic plants and insects unique to Wales which boasts populations of lapwing, otter, water vole, the great diving beetle and one of the UK's rarest bumblebees, the shrill carder bee. The area also hosts a number of specialist plants including frogbit, arrowhead and *Wolffia arrhiza* – the smallest flowering plant in the world. The project aims to reconnect the communities and visitors to the landscape by working with volunteers, farmers, local groups, businesses and communities to collectively showcase the historical heritage. It aims to bring the stories from this fascinating landscape to life, many of which are yet untold and promises to engage and captivate both old and new visitors to the Gwent Levels.



We want to make sure that we celebrate all that the Levels has to offer; its wildlife, its people and its economy. Over the next twelve months, the Partnership will be developing a programme of activities to help shape the project. This will involve a series of community engagement events to ensure the views and wishes of local people are embedded into the heart of the project. If you would like to find out more about the project or tell us a story about the Levels, we would love to hear from you. Visit our Twitter page @ourlivinglevels / Facebook page 'Our Living Levels' , give us a call on 01633 292982 or look out for us 'popping-up' in your locality!

### Project Partners

Buglife <https://www.buglife.org.uk/>

Bumblebee Conservation Trust

<http://bumblebeeconservation.org/>

Cardiff Story Museum <http://cardiffstory.com/>

City of Cardiff Council <https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/>

Gwent Archives [www.gwentarchives.gov.uk/](http://www.gwentarchives.gov.uk/)

Gwent Wildlife Trust [www.gwentwildlife.org/](http://www.gwentwildlife.org/)

Monmouthshire County Council

[www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/](http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/)

National Trust <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/>

National Resources Wales <https://naturalresources.wales>

Newport City Council [www.newport.gov.uk/](http://www.newport.gov.uk/)

RSPB Cymru [www.rspb.org.uk/Wales](http://www.rspb.org.uk/Wales)

Sustrans [www.sustrans.org.uk/](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/)

The *Friends of Newport Ship* are working with this project and intend to host a talk at the Ship Centre during the summer of 2017. Our Ship was found 'on the levels' and the project team is keen to include us in their plans as part of a wider initiative to draw visitors into the area.

### 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](http://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.

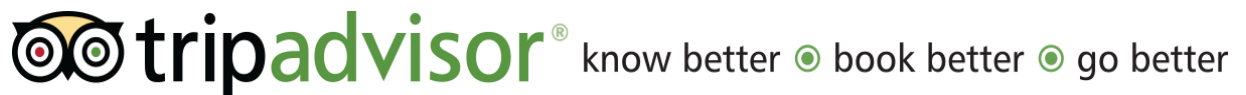
The regular postings have been supplemented by a couple of our student volunteers, Katie & Chloe over the summer months as they came and help out around the Ship Centre. It's great to have their fresh perspective on our work.



All of our blogs are posted automatically to the Newport Medieval Ship facebook page and out via twitter @FONSNewportShip. Please follow these pages and 'like' and share the facebook posts to spread the good word around your own networks. If you have been down



and visited the Medieval Ship Centre, put up a review on Facebook or TripAdvisor. The more GOOD reviews we get, the higher up the list of things to do in Newport we climb and the more visitors we will attract!



### Newport Ship Inspires further Interest in History

I met you on the Saturday of the Ludlow Medieval Fair and you asked me to tell you about my personal experiences from when I did voluntary work for my work experience! Below I have copied and pasted a section of my CV, telling what I gained from volunteering at the Medieval Ship Centre.



Once I had arrived at the Ship Centre, My dad and I were both invited in to the store, where we were able to see the different pieces of the ship that had either been preserved, or were waiting to be preserved, which was a once in a lifetime opportunity!

Throughout the day I was able to meet the different volunteers who were just as passionate as me about Newport's History as it often gets forgotten in today's society. Not enough information is out there for those who are interested; the Ship is a good idea to see how people lived in the medieval times, and how Newport was a Key Port!

From my CV: During the day at the medieval ship I was able to use a piece of equipment called the 'faro

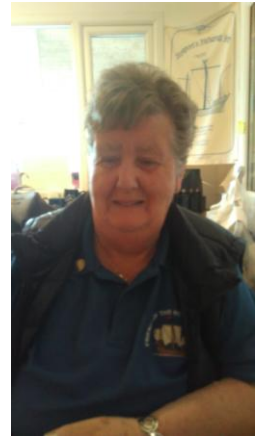
arm' with which I was able to measure the markings on a piece of wood taken from the actual Medieval ship. This was incredibly interesting as it allowed me to get hands-on experience of some of the tasks that the volunteers were sometimes able to experience. This was the highlight of my day as I was able to see the different indentations that had been left behind from nails and other objects.



I would like to thank those at the Newport Medieval Ship Centre as this widened my knowledge, and gave me a small insight into the different aspects of Newport's history, it also helped me to gain more experience for when I eventually finish University, and when it comes to finding a future Graduate Job.  
*Many Thanks, Emma Jones. Now Reading History at Aberystwyth University.*

### **Spotlight on Volunteers – Lynne Crabbe**

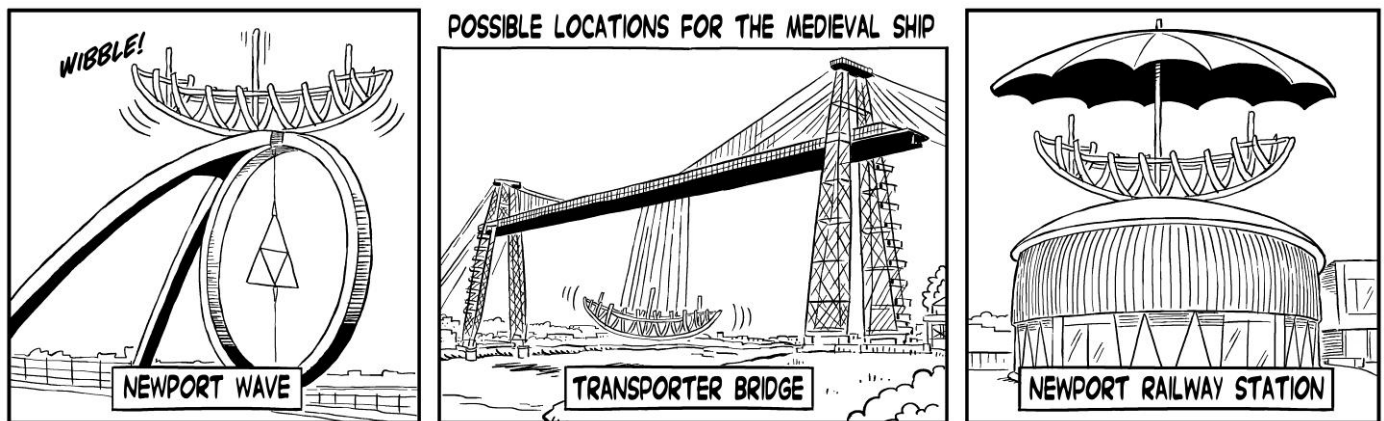
Three years ago I visited the Medieval Ship Centre (then at Maesglas) where I was 'hooked'. I was drawn into helping on the retail sales stall the following Open Day. I am now a committee member and help out in the Cabin every Friday and Bank Holiday. During the school holidays my grandson Sean helps alongside me in the Cabin. He too is very interested in this amazing project, and helps out where he can. This fascinating project interests so many people in so many different ways, and we are always looking for more help. This is our heritage, and if we don't step forward and look after it, then who will? Why not pop in and see for yourself and have a chat with the crew members over a cup of tea?



*If you can tell others what inspires you to support the Newport Ship through the Friends, please send your story and a photo of yourself to me at [chair@newportship.org](mailto:chair@newportship.org) and you can be in the next issue!*

### **'Never Say Dai'**

Here's another of Tim Harries' cartoons that was originally published in the South Wales Argus. Our project curator, Dr Toby Jones is currently considering options for the display of our reconstructed ship. Here's more inspiration should he need it!



**And finally....**

**May we wish you a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and an AMAZING NEW YEAR**

