

Friends of the Newport Ship

Newsletter September 2012

Welcome to the first Friends of the Newport Medieval Ship newsletter... we're now producing a newsletter every other month (5 editions a year), with a full news magazine once a year. So we'll be sending you news, events and information six times a year. Hopefully you'll send us articles and items too, to the Newport Ship address below.

MEMBERSHIP RATES: Due to increasing costs of postage, printing, envelopes, etc. we are reluctantly increasing our membership rates. If you have already mailed your membership renewal, you have beaten the increase this year. The new membership charges are as follows: Single membership £8, Couples membership £10, Single European (outside the UK) £15, Corporate Membership £15. We apologise for the increase, but trust you will understand and continue to support the ship. Please help us beat further cost increases by letting us have your current email addresses so that we can email you news and information in the future.

EMAIL ADDRESSES: We spend a lot of valuable funds on mailing out news and information, so if you have an email address, we'd love to email you instead - please send your current email address to our Membership Secretary and save us a fortune! Please fill in your membership form carefully; email addresses are often impossible to read.

APPEAL: The Friends need a Secretary! After long and sterling service, Ann is stepping down as our Secretary and we need some help. The job involves receiving emails, forwarding information and letters etc. when required. Ann has fitted the job around a very busy life, so it won't take over your life, and it'll bring you closer to the Ship, news and discoveries about her and to the rest of the team. Ann will help with a handover, so sign up now. We're a friendly and supportive committee; get in touch now – we need you!

News... Newport Ship may have Basque Origins

Professor Nigel Nayling, the dendrochronologist who originally dated the Newport Ship to the 15th Century, has found a correlation between timbers used in the construction of the Ship and buildings in the Basque Country, offering an enticing insight into the Ship's possible origins. Nigel has worked with the Ship from its discovery.

"Through collaboration between dendrochronologists Nigel Nayling, Associate Professor at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David and Josue Susperregi at the Arkeolan Foundation based in Irun, Spain, hull timbers from our medieval ship have been matched against the reference chronology built for the Basque Country. This includes new data from medieval buildings in the Araba and Navarra territories.

Nigel Nayling explains "The results strongly suggest that the ship was originally built in the Basque Country where wooden shipbuilding has a long tradition". The BBC and Friends of the Newport Ship Websites have more information.

News... Medieval History in the news... Richard III dig: the possible discovery of the lost body of King Richard III who died at the battle of Bosworth in 1485 has been announced. Research indicated the site, and the skeleton, found under the Greyfriars car park, has spinal abnormalities and a cleaved-in skull, suggesting it could indeed be Richard III. The University of Leicester is now testing the bones for DNA against descendants of Richard's family.

News... We have a great new website, thanks to Rhys, Jeff and Peter at the Friends of the Newport Ship, and Ozum – but mostly thanks to Rhys Brooks, our new Webmaster – check out the new website.

News... The National Trust has recently taken over Tredegar House in Newport, a stone's throw from the Newport Ship and adjacent to Junction 28 of the M4. The House and grounds are a great visit and have an interesting history encompassing the Charge of the Light Brigade, Aleister Crowley ('the most dangerous man in Britain'), the pirate Charles Morgan and a local school. The buildings are very impressive (for a former Council house), so if you haven't been for a while, pack a picnic and visit now – it's a local gem. You could combine a visit with the Transporter Bridge, St. Wollo's (Newport's tranquil Cathedral) or Newport Museum where some of the ship finds are on display. Make a Heritage visit to Newport and support our history.

Events... The AGM will be on October 20th at Malpas Court, Newport NP20 6NS at 2pm and Deanna Groom from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales will be talking to us about her shipwreck mapping project around the coast of Wales. Malpas Court directions on our website (J26, M4 or 19 bus).

Malpas Court serves an excellent and great value Sunday Lunch, so make a booking for the day – and the building is well worth a visit in itself.

Events... October 3rd, Newport Museum, '27,000 nails: How Medieval Craftsmen Built the Newport Ship' by Toby Jones

Events... October 17th, Newport Museum, 'Longing for the endless immensity of the Sea' by Marie Jordan

Events... November 21st, 7pm, St. Julian's Pub, 'Shipping in the Wars of the Roses' with Robert Trett, venue on the Cerleon Road between J25, M4 and Caerleon – directions on our website.

Events... January 16th, 7pm, St. Julian's Pub, 'Lydney's lost Fleet' with Paul Barnett

Events... February 20th, 7pm, St. Julian's Pub, 'How we know what we know about Caerleon', with Mark Lewis

Events... 2013 Open Days are pencilled in for March 23rd, July 27th, August 24th and December 7th – to be confirmed

Armchair Supporters... check out the new website where you can keep up to date with announcements, news, events, etc. and renew your membership via Paypal or buy a copy of the ship Guide Book. You can also follow the ship on Twitter or check out the ship's Facebook page. There is also a link from our website to the interview Nigel Nayling gave ITV News about the origins of the ship.

Friends Christmas Dinner – December 8th 2012, arrive at 8p.m. to eat at 8.30.

Following the success of Junction 28, we have decided to make a return journey next year. The Venue, in Station Approach, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8LD, has easy access to the M4, wheelchair access and convenient parking. Please join us for a special evening in our 10th Anniversary Year, meet old friends and make new ones. To secure a place, please -

- a) send payment of £23.50 p.p. to Rosi Hollister c/o Friends of the Newport Ship. Please make cheques payable to "Friends of the Newport Ship".
- b) Include your choices from the menu. For example – Starter A, Main D, Dessert B. This is very important as the venue requires the information well in advance of the night. Payment must be made by October 31st.
- c) Relax and look forward to a super evening! See you there – Rosi

Menu: Starters: A - Tomato and Basil Soup, B - Cream of Cauliflower Soup, C - Terrine of Chicken and Gammon, D - Trio of Vegetable Sushi (V), E - Wild Mushroom, Pancetta and Truffle Risotto, F - Cajun Salmon Fishcake. Main Courses: A - Traditional Turkey Platter with all the Trimmings, B - Slow Cooked Shoulder of Lamb, C - Mushroom, Spinach and Mozzarella Strudel (V), D - Fillet of Trout, E - 8oz Sirloin Steak cooked pink, F - Fillets of Sea Bass. Desserts: A - Vanilla, Star Anise and Bay Creme Brulee, B - Traditional Christmas Pudding, C - White Chocolate Pannacotta, D - Pear poached in Mulled Wine, E - Blue Stilton and Mature Cheddar. For further details, check with Rosi or Junction 28.

Don't forget to send us your email addresses (and write them carefully!) Thank you.

Our postal address: The Newport Ship, c/o FWD Law, Clifton Chambers, 12, Clifton Road, Newport, NP20 4EW, UK