

Friends of the Newport Ship

Newsletter January 2013

www.newportship.org

News... Newport Ship pioneers modern ship design

EXCITING NEWS... The Newport Ship may be the EARLIEST SHIP EVER FOUND with a Transom Stern, a key to ship design for hundreds of years and still seen on almost every ship afloat today. Evidence for this design feature (the flat or blunt back end of a ship) in the Newport Ship is tangential but present. The model of the Newport Ship (constructed of exact copies of each of the timbers, and then put together to show the original shape of the ship) originally told us that the treated timbers would go back together... now it has been extended to show the missing timbers (lost over the years in the riverbank) to give an excellent impression of the Newport Ship as she would have looked at sea. The line of the main (weather) deck and forecastle (fo'csle) can be seen and the ship looks great!



News... Newport Ship Open Days announced

Please note there will be only two Open Days this year.

July 27th and September 7th – from 11am to 4pm at the Ship Preservation Centre, Maesglas, behind ParcelForce, close to Junction 28 of the M4 (follow the signs). We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Event... There will be a Newport Ship Exhibition in The Corn Exchange, Guildhall, Cardigan from 17th to 24th March – further West than our usual ventures, but we hope any of you in the area will visit. The building itself is a gem, in the historic town centre, which is full of character and set in a beautiful location. Cardigan itself is a maritime town located on the Teifi estuary between the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and the Cardigan Heritage Coast. We hope the exhibition will introduce the Ship to a new area of Wales and share our mutual maritime heritage along the coast.

News... Time Team appears to be on its last series (apart from a few specials which will be shown in the future, and a series of 'best of' Time Teams, possibly following up any news on previous digs), but we've noticed other programmes beginning to pick up the slack... Coast recently investigated and produced a 3D reconstruction of the World War II escape tunnel dug by German prisoners of War at Island Farm near Bridgend. It also looks likely that a new series – Village Dig – may be starting in the not too distant future, but there is no news on the famous three day dig limit. The One Show and many others are also including little bits of history, so we won't be without history and heritage on television all together, but Time Team will be missed.

News... Local History – in Newport, part of the old Lysaghts Institute is now open due to the development of the adjacent land, so do go along and visit one of the heritage landmarks of Newport, and take a look inside to see what the interior of the building looks like now. Revisit your past with a party in the fantastically restored Dance Hall, join a fitness class, tea or social dance or try the Social Enterprise cafe (excellent value). Even if you're just there to reminisce or have a look around it's worth a visit; close to the city centre, riverside walk and Transporter Bridge.

Recommended Visit... Tretower Court (Between Abergavenny and Brecon) has re-opened after a truly impressive refurbishment, and has been transformed inside back to a shade of its former glory. The Manor House has regained a lot of its former rooms and there are elements of Medieval life to see there – the tables in the Hall are laid for a splendid meal, and the trenchers, utensils, bowls, plates and drinking vessels are out, ready for the diners to arrive, all representative of the period of the Newport Ship. The top table looks splendid, and the paintings behind it include a Medieval Ship! The Castle is also a great visit on the same site, and the visit can be rounded off with a bit of Wales' Water Transport History with lunch in Brecon (canal side Tipple and Tiffin has splendid food for pub prices if you're not in a rush) and a trip along the Canal on a traditional style narrow boat, all open this month.

Events... February 20th, 7.30pm, St. Julian's Pub, 'How we know what we know about Caerleon', with Mark Lewis

Events... March 20th, 7.30pm, St. Julian's Pub, 'Outer Mongolia and Back by bike', with Francis Maxey

Events... April 17th, 7.30pm, St. Julian's Pub, 'Life and Work in South Wales Ports today', with Emma Lewis

Events... May 22nd, 12.30pm, Newport Museum and Art Gallery, 'From the Riverbed to the Freeze-Dryer and Beyond: The Conservation of the Newport Ship'

Events... June 12th, 12.30pm, Newport Museum and Art Gallery, 'Sharks, Pomegranate Seeds and Possible Basque Origins: Newport Medieval Ship Project Update'

News... Welsh History... The Garth Celyn Trust is fundraising to save land at Abergwyngregyn in Gwynedd; Llewellyn the Great and Llewellyn the Last are thought to have lived there, family land between the 11th and 13th Centuries and thought to be the location of their palace. Catherine Zeta Jones has supported the project, which aims to locate an Arts Centre at the site.

News... Duffryn House in the Vale of Glamorgan, has been one of the great heritage attractions of the area for many years – splendid gardens have been open and very popular for many years. The good news is that soon parts of the house, currently undergoing refurbishment, will be opened to the public. A relic of Wales' Victorian Maritime history, the house was built by the Cory family, coal and ship owners, and John Cory was a partner in building Barry Dock as a rival to Cardiff Dock for coal exports. The gardens recently underwent works with a £6.15m lottery grant, so if you haven't visited them recently, they're well worth a visit too.

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!

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

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

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