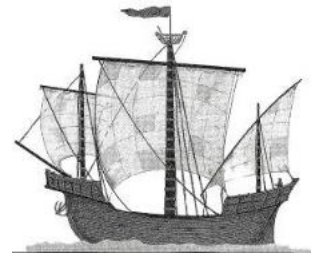


Friends of the Newport Ship

Registered Charity No 1105449

www.newportship.org



News September 2013

Open Day on 27th July

As the Ship Centre has now halved in size, some had questioned whether there was enough space to hold an Open Day. They needn't have worried. With careful planning, we still managed to fit in a number of additional attractions for the July Open Day, and it was an outstanding success. 605 people came through the doors, with 250 in the first hour alone. We had visitors from as far away as USA, Nepal and Australia. From closer to home, Surrey, Wiltshire, Worcestershire, Cheshire and the Isle of Man were all represented, some having travelled to Newport specifically to see the Ship. The comments in the visitors book were uniformly very positive. Here are a few examples:

- 'Fantastic piece of history which deserves display! A certain tourist magnet'
- 'The Newport Ship is important not just to Newport - but the world.'
- 'Unique educational resource. Needs to stay in Newport.'
- 'An amazing + educational experience. Will be back next time.'

The Open Day was also good for our finances. With strong sales, generous donations and a number of new members, we took £1920 on the day. By the time you read this we will have had the second Open Day on 7th September. Let's hope that is equally successful.



Photo: Bob Trett

AGM on 19th October

We're changing the format of our AGM. We've been very lucky to secure a renowned speaker, Dr Susan Rose, so we're going to have her talk first and invite members of the public to come along too. After a tea break, we'll then have a report on the current state of play followed by the business-part of the AGM. Any non-members will have to leave for the last bit, but they'll still be able to enjoy the rest of the afternoon. So, encourage your friends and neighbours to attend.

Can you help?

We have room for a couple more members on the Committee. The long-term future of the Ship is likely to be a major pre-occupation for the next year, so there's an opportunity for you to make a real contribution. If you are willing help us by joining the Committee, please contact our acting Secretary, Sian King, before the AGM. Elected Committee Members become trustees of the charity, but if you are unsure about taking that step, we can probably arrange for you to be co-opted instead.

We need a good mix of skills and would particularly welcome anyone who has:

- business or project management experience (and if it's in the tourism industry, that would be a bonus), or
- good communication skills to look after our publicity and relations with the media, or
- good writing skills to improve our communications with members through these news sheets.

However, we would welcome anyone who is prepared to get involved as there are other roles to be filled.

News of Ship reaches Covent Garden?

We were taken aback to see this sign in London's Covent Garden recently. Has Charles Ferris been there, striking replicas of the Ship's *petit blanc* coin for the tens of thousands of Londoners and tourists who visit Covent Garden each day? Sadly no. It turned out to be the sign for the outdoor café area of a restaurant run by the famous chef Raymond Blanc.



Newport City Centre

The City Centre Task Force, led by Simon Gibson, has been inviting ideas from the public on how to regenerate Newport's centre. By the time you read this it will probably be too late to make your own comments if you haven't already done so, but it was encouraging to see how many contributors mentioned the Ship. You should be able to read the suggestions at www.renewport.co.uk/.

DATES

Wednesday 18th September

St Julian Inn

7.30pm

The Swash Channel wreck. A talk on this large 17th century wreck from Dorset, parts of which have been salvaged and can be seen at the Newport Ship Centre.

Saturday 21st September

Swansea Waterfront Museum

10.00am to 3.30pm

Joint meeting of the South West Maritime History Society and the West Wales Maritime Heritage Society. Talks on the Newport Ship, schooner builders on the River Dyfi, restoration of a Tenby lugger and the replica Wye trow 'Hereford Bull' which took part in the Thames Royal Pageant. £7.50. For further details, contact Dale Thomas at dalethomas_52@hotmail.com.

Saturday 19th October

Malpas Court

2.00pm

AGM of the Friends of the Newport Ship. Guest speaker: Dr Susan Rose on *Maritime Trade and Technology in 15th century Europe*. Dr Rose is an expert in medieval maritime and social history and has written a number of books. She will explain how trading links caused advances in ship design and navigational skills to spread from Southern to Northern Europe. This should be a fascinating talk – don't miss it.

Wed/Thu 16th/17th October

Swansea Waterfront Museum

Maritime Heritage Trust Conference – see <http://www.wherewatersmeet.org.uk/>

Wednesday 20th November

St Julian Inn

7.30pm

Voyage along the Basque coast. Charles Ferris and reporter Jean Phillipe Manuel from the South Wales Argus will describe their exciting week-long trip in a replica 18th century iron-ore-carrying coaster.