

Friends of the Newport Ship

Registered Charity No 1105449

www.newportship.org



News: September 2014

The FONS at Caerleon and at Pill.

FONS volunteers attended "EMPIRE"; a Roman themed event at Caerleon over the August Bank Holiday weekend. Over 2000 people came to watch the activities and to wander around the various stands, including ours. As usual those who stopped at our tent were interested (and sometimes amazed) by our Project. The fact that we were not exactly Roman didn't seem to matter at all and people, especially a group of re-enactors from the Netherlands, were very supportive of us.

On bank holiday Monday the FONS float took part in the Pill Carnival. This took a lot of planning and preparation. In particular we are very grateful to those who helped us. Gawain from Malarky Arts who designed our Ship and for the materials to "build" it from SCA Packaging. Severn Sands Sand and Aggregates loaned us an articulated lorry, whose roofed trailer was invaluable in keeping our brave sailors at least partly dry. The "Ship" on the float was spectacular and convincing. Onlookers would not have guessed it was made from faced cardboard made to look like ancient timbers and supported by a few roofing battens, Coloured tissue paper twisted and billowed to look like waves swished along the side of the craft. Flags and pennants, shields and costumes were ready and we even had a "crew" on board. We were honoured to have Delfina Cappellini (pictured) and Reuben Bennett on the float, as they were two of the winners of the Ship Poetry Competition. We understand they enjoyed themselves very much. Despite appalling weather, hundreds of people lined the roads of Pill for one of the major social events of their year.



Our float didn't win, but was judged to be among the best of around forty floats that made up the procession. We are very grateful to all the members of the FONS who helped and, especially, to those who gave of their time (and their lorry) to make the event a success and to generate valuable publicity. Thank you all!

Sunshine! - The FONS at the National Eisteddfod.



John Davies and Sian Meredith in the Wales History Forum marquee.
Their constant support makes the FONS attendance possible.

The National Eisteddfod was held this year at the Millennium Coastal Park at Llanelli. As is expected we arrived a day early to set up our stand and that of the other member societies of Fforwym Hanes Cymru; an exercise in mutual help. We were optimistic and enjoyed the fine weather which made our shifting and arranging much easier. But as we finished, the area was hit by a storm that started to flood the whole site (something of an Eisteddfod tradition unfortunately). By the following morning everything had dried and warm clear weather and gentle breezes brought an average of 19,000 people on to the *Maes* each day for the whole week.

The second storm that hit just as we were dismantling on the last day is another matter.

Our new bi-lingual leaflet, plus an older English-only leaflet were both in great demand from the visitors whose interest in Welsh history brought them to our marquee. There was a great deal of interest (as always) in the Project. But we wondered if we were being a little too successful with our full colour freebies and if this was affecting sales of our guide book and "update" newsletter. There is no way of quantifying this and our sales were reasonably good, so it's probably not a serious problem.

Thanks to those members of the FONS who manned our stand for the week.
Next stop; Abergavenny in 2016!

(Serious) Fund raising – A message from our Chairman.

If we are going to create a new museum for the Ship, our fund raising needs to step up a gear. To do that, we need to recruit to the Committee someone who is willing to take responsibility for developing a fund raising strategy for the next couple of years. (After that, the proposed new trust should be in a position to employ a professional fund raiser). So, here's your opportunity to make a significant, lasting contribution to the Ship. Don't worry if you've never done this before, because the Wales Council for Voluntary Action have arranged a 2-day training course on 'Developing a Fundraising Strategy', at Blaenavon on 4th November and 10th December - see <http://us8.campaign-archive1.com/?u=981f960ac676c2d3e8901559e&id=dae4eb2782&e=99bf990a08> .

If you are interested in helping the Ship in this way and want to find out more, please contact the Chairman Peter Hayward (chair@newportship.org or 01600 712864). We'll pay the course fee.

The last Open Day at Unit 22.



Emma Lewis (just visible through the framing) explains the significance of the Ship model to visitors on the last Open Day at Unit 22.

A reporter and cameraman from ITV Wales News spent over an hour at the Ship Open Day on 16th August, filming what was going on and interviewing many of the visitors plus our Chairman, Peter Hayward. The result was broadcast the following Wednesday, providing very good publicity for us. The Ship Centre was packed with visitors all day, making a very satisfying final event at Maesglas. Sadly, the Ship Centre is now closed to visitors whilst everything is packed up for the anticipated move to new premises.

Even more sadly, we still have no news from Newport Council about the new premises. Council officials started planning for the move last November. After false starts and many delays, FONS took the initiative and drew up a list of possibilities. One

of them was selected on 19th June by a tripartite working group including representatives from the Welsh Government, FONS and Newport Council. However, three months further on, Newport Council officials are still deliberating about it. Time is rapidly running out. Negotiating a lease is expected to take 3-4 weeks, and moving all the wet timbers and other stuff is expected to take 6-8 weeks. As Maesglas has to be vacated by the end of the year, the dithering by the Council is taking things right up to the wire.

Big Raffle!



Sorry, we're not allowed to raffle the Cutty Sark, but we have lots of other great prizes.

We've got a superb prize draw this Autumn to raise money for the Ship!

Several exceptionally good prizes have been donated, including:

- Dinner, bed & breakfast break for 2 at the Celtic Manor
- Golf day for 4 at the Celtic Manor
- Spa day for 2 at the Celtic Manor
- £80 Sainsbury's voucher
- An original water colour 'Tall Ship' by Alun Edwards
- 2 places on a trip to the Cutty Sark next May.

Tickets cost £1. You will be sent some with the AGM papers, and you can also buy them at any meeting or any public event at which FONS have a stand. The prizes will be drawn on 11th December.

Please help support the Ship by buying some tickets and selling some to your friends.

AGM and Winter talks; September – November 2014.

Wednesday 1st October 2014, St Julian Inn at 7.30 pm

The latest findings regarding the Ship by Toby Jones, the Curator.

Thursday 9th October 2014, Newport Civic Centre at 7.00 pm

Trade between the West Country and Spain in the 15th Century: a talk by Dr A J Parker of Bristol University. This talk should be highly relevant to our Ship. It has been organised by Newport Civic Society. You don't have to be a member of the Civic Society to attend, but you'll be asked for a £2 contribution if you're not a member.

Saturday 1st November 2014, Malpas Court at 2.00 pm

Annual General Meeting of the Friends. Guest speaker: Professor Mark Jones, Head of conservation at the Mary Rose.

Wednesday 5th November 2014, Sainsbury's (Newport) at 7.30 pm

The original excavations of the Ship by Jerry Cross. He will use his own original footage that was compiled into the HTV programme 'Caught in a Storm'. Please note this meeting will be held in the cafeteria at the Sainsbury's in Albany Road, Newport (between junction 25a and the city centre) because our usual venue, St Julian Inn, is not available.

And lastly, for this edition.....

FONS and the NATO summit.....you can't win them all...

Some months ago it seemed possible that the FONS would have their very own stand at the NATO summit and plans were out in place to produce a bi-lingual English-French leaflet and some thought was given to moving some Ship's timbers to the Celtic Manor for the occasion. But, as time went on there was no firm news and, sadly, at the last minute we were told all displays were banned.

A very rare failure for the FONS!!

Stop Press;

A. It was announced on 11th. September that John Griffiths, AM for Newport East, has been replaced as Minister for Culture (among other things) by Ken Sykes, AM for Clwyd South. We hope to build a positive and constructive relationship with Mr. Sykes and wish him well in his new post.

B. Congratulations to Emma and Toby Jones on the birth of their son, Rory Austin. (Toby is the Curator of the Medieval Newport Ship).

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