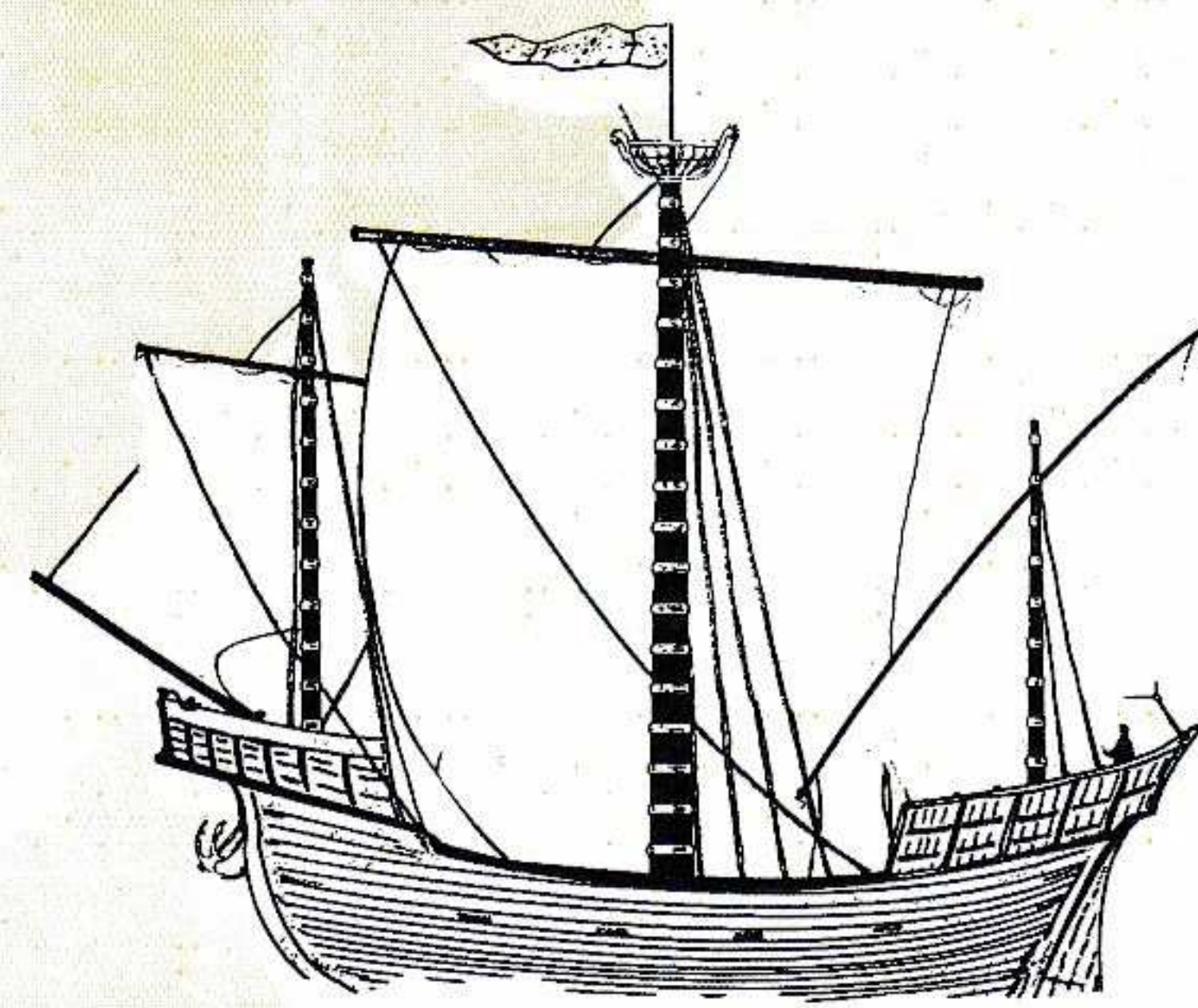


S.O.S.



News from the Friends of the Newport Ship

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

It has been another busy year for the Newport Medieval Ship and for the Friends of Newport Ship.

The big news is that Newport City Council has a plan for the future of our Medieval Ship! It's a work in progress and cannot yet be disclosed but we are hopeful that a decision will be made prior to the AGM on 12th November.

We are approaching our 15th anniversary year – yes it's that long ago that our Ship was found in the muddy banks of the River Usk. We will be planning some great events to mark this anniversary and with your help we can really make some noise and highlight the project to the widest possible audience. We need to continue to encourage the powers that be to progress their plans for a future home for the Ship and all the artefacts that we want to see displayed.



Forthcoming Events

It has been highlighted that the last few issues of the bi-monthly Newsletter have missed out on the listing of future events. These are listed on our web site (currently on the 'Other Events' page), and we will list these in future editions of the bi-monthly newsletter.

More use will be made of Facebook Events, so if you don't already follow Newport Medieval Ship on Facebook, please do so to ensure you know what is happening.

You will see our centre spread with all the images of fully conserved timbers being returned from York for storage, and the next batch being sent away for freeze-drying. This is supplemented by Tim White's 'volunteer's view' of the week's work.

We continue to open the Medieval Ship Centre to visitors for the main season, from Easter until the end of October, with Saturday opening extending from February Half Term, out to mid-December. Full dates are on the web site. We are likely to top over 2,500 visitors in 2016, double the numbers from 2015 – but we want more!

Our curator, Dr Toby Jones and I are now back out on the road giving talks to groups all over the place. Latest bookings include Stratford-upon-Avon and Solihull. We use the same slides, but our presentations are very different. Please give us a call if you want us to talk to your group, otherwise, please recommend us to friends and family.

Phil Cox, Chairman

No. 24

October 2016

The views given in this newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Friends as an organisation.

£3.00

Free to Members

www.newportship.org

Find us on



Facebook and Twitter



@FONSNewportShip

Unit 20, Estuary Road
Queensway Meadows Industrial Estate
Newport NP19 4SP

Telephone: 01633 274167
Charity Number 1105449

KEEPING BRITAIN TRADING

ABP South Wales are proud to **support the local community**

ABP's network of 21 ports handle around **100 million tonnes of cargo** every year.

Our ports connect British businesses to global markets and support **84,000 jobs**.

Together, our ports generate **£5.6 billion** for the UK economy.

Hull	Southampton	Port Talbot
Goole	Teignmouth	Garston
Immingham	Plymouth	Fleetwood
Grimsby	Newport	Barrow
King's Lynn	Cardiff	Silloth
Lowestoft	Barry	Ayr
Ipswich	Swansea	Troon

ABP | ASSOCIATED
BRITISH PORTS

www.abports.co.uk

Keep in touch



Correction: Bob Trett has highlighted the following correction to SOS 22.

In the article "The Trinity of Newport & A Voyage to Compostella", I referred to a licence in 1462 given to La Trinitie of Newport in Wales of 40 tons burden. Thanks to Margaret Condon and Evan Jones of Bristol University it is clear this should read 400 tons burden. At first glance this does not seem credible since it would make the Trinity about twice the size of the Newport Ship and larger than any other known Welsh ship at the time. However it is the case that this was so, and it would be needed if it was to transport 300 pilgrims to Compostella. There is obviously a case for rethinking the importance of Newport in medieval commerce.

New!

Shocking savings when you switch

See what you could save?

Compare gas and electric tariffs the easyfundraising way with USwitch and feel good knowing you could save over £300 per year and collect a £12 donation for Friends of the Newport Ship.

Finding the best deal for you is quick and easy, pop in your postcode, energy supplier and the name of your tariff and USwitch will do the hard work!

Help raise funds when you go shopping. Register at easyfundraising.org.uk, select 'Friends of Newport Ship' as your charity, and then go shopping clicking through their website.

It costs you nothing, and FoNS gets the benefit.

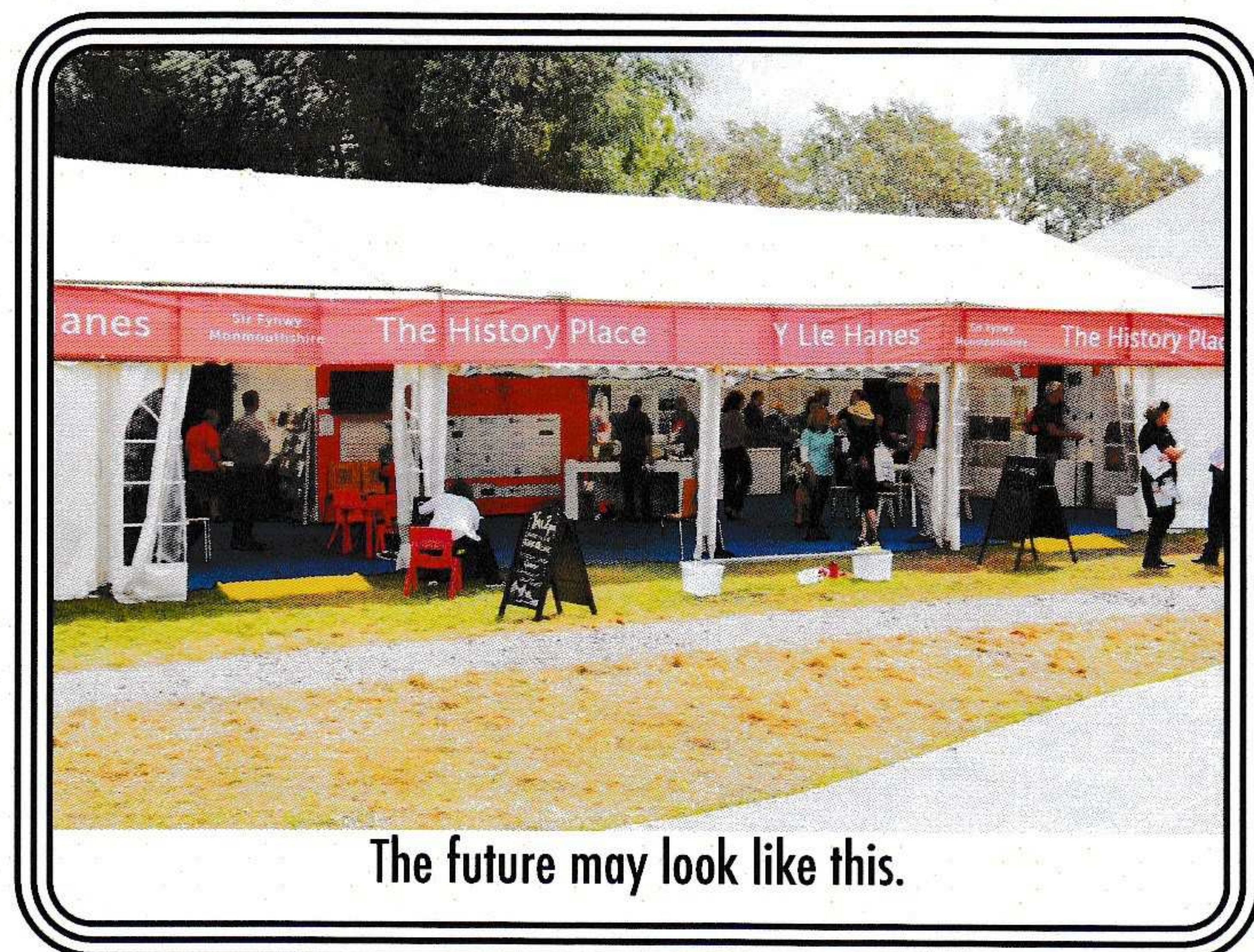


easyfundraising
feel good shopping

ENDING AND BEGINNING: FONS AT THE NATIONAL

Since 2008 the FONS has been a member of the Fforwm Hanes Cymru (FHC) This enables us to have a presence at the National Eisteddfod with the mutual support of the other member societies; which we in turn extend to them. This arrangement has been very beneficial for us as we spread news of our project to people from all parts of Wales and from across the world.

This year's Eisteddfod was held at Abergavenny and we were unusually busy on several days. This may have been due to a much larger than usual number of visitors from central and western England arriving at our stand. They seemed to come from almost all points from Ludlow in Shropshire to Bideford in Devon and were reinforced by quite a few folk from Birmingham and (especially) Bristol. All were very positive about the Eisteddfod (and about our Ship project as well!) There were so many of them that we nearly ran out of our English Ship leaflets; and that has not happened before!



The future may look like this.

But times change and we now face an interesting proposal.

Y Lle Hanes (The History Place) is an initiative set up by the National Museum of Wales, the National Library of Wales, Cadw and the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales, ("The Royal Commission").

The idea for the future is that these four bodies will provide technical expertise (especially with regard to IT) in a much larger marquee and the Fforwm



Rhys Brooks (back left) and our colleagues from the Fforwm Hanes Cymru (History Forum of Wales) pose alongside the FONS pop up banners before taking the stand down on the final day.

will provide the enthusiastic volunteers to staff the site during the Eisteddfod. The photo shows Y Lle Hanes marquee at Abergavenny, but with around twelve societies from the FHC, it should look far more populated next year than this photo shows. It should also reduce the cost of FONS participation; which is always a good idea!

Lastly my thanks go to FoNS volunteers Bob Evans, Alan Cook, Katie Davies, Rhys Brooks and Rob Kenny who all turned up and helped to maintain our presence at the 2016 Eisteddfod.

Jeff Brooks, Eisteddfod Coordinator

For All Your Printing Needs

APRINT *Established 1988*
& DESIGN LTD. **a-print.com**

- Full Colour Printing • Digital & Lithographic
- All sizes: A7 to A0, large format banners & more

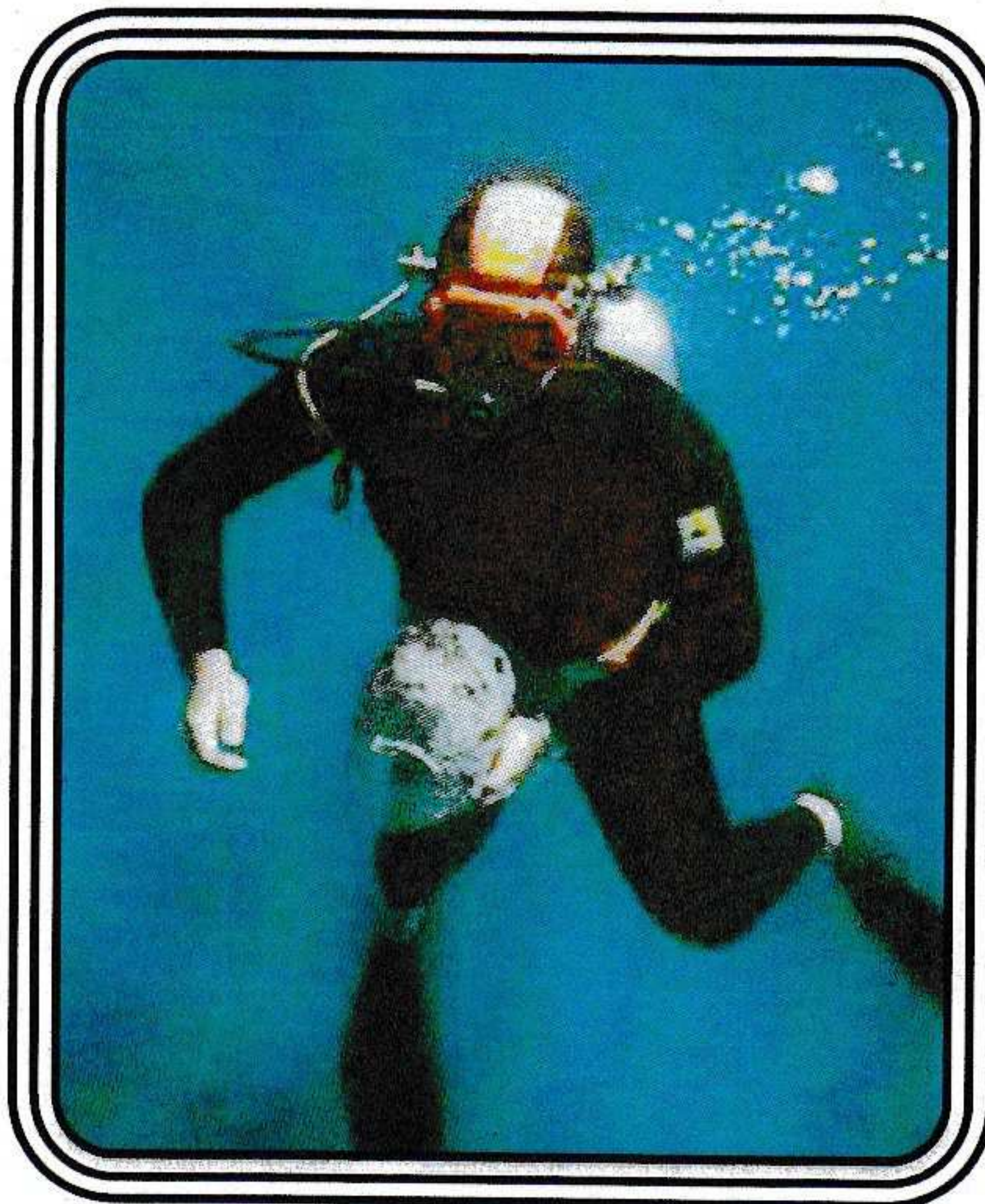
01633 264 815

23 Enterprise Way,
Newport NP20 2AQ

Underwater Archaeology Exhibition currently at the Ashmolean in Oxford

A report by Allan Cook

Under the Sea



Unusually, there are currently two exhibitions about underwater archaeology on display. One, *Sunken Cities; Egypt's Lost Worlds* runs at the British Museum until the 27th of November; the other *Storms War and Shipwrecks* ran at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford until September 25th.

The exhibition at Oxford has been particularly well reviewed, *The Times* called it "stunning" another said that "even the ballast is stunning" so I made the pilgrimage over to Oxford to see it.

The exhibition looks at underwater discoveries made over the past sixty years since the development of SCUBA diving equipment and is entirely drawn from the smaller museums on the island of Sicily. Sicily is often called the crossroads of the Mediterranean and has been fought over by the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs and Normans over the past two and a half thousand years, so there is a fair amount of underwater archaeology still to find.

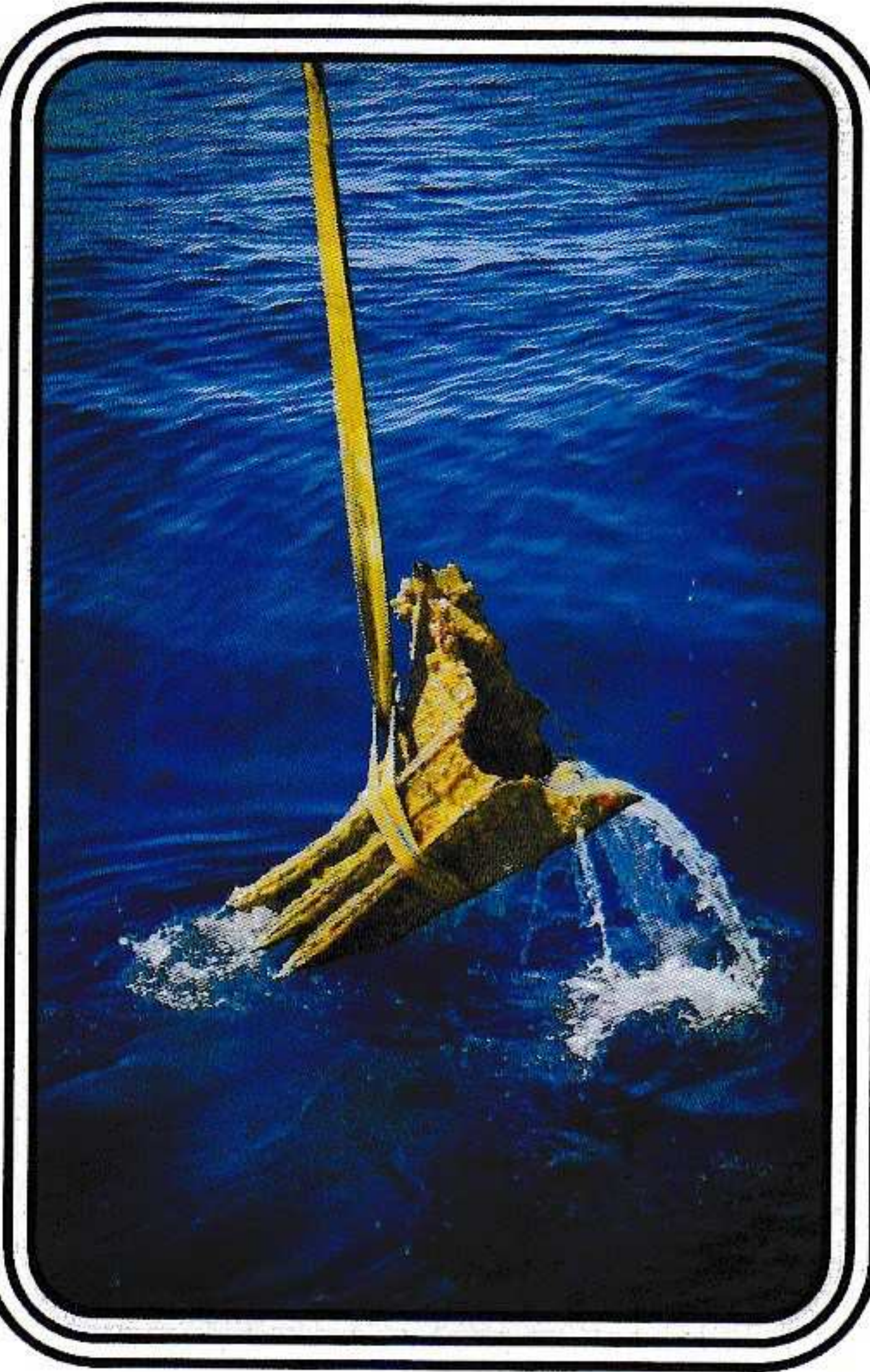
A fascinating section of the exhibition is devoted to Honor Frost (1917-2010) who trained in fine art at the Ruskin School of Art in Oxford and who worked as a ballet designer before devoting her life to underwater archaeology. She is credited with bringing the rigour of modern archaeology to the underwater field.

It is difficult to believe that the Jacques Cousteau television programmes I watched in the 1950's and early 1960's were in fact the opening up of an entirely new field of research. Cousteau is credited with developing SCUBA equipment. Most of the finds on display at Oxford were discovered by underwater archaeology but a few were brought up in the nets of fishermen.

A Momentous Naval Battle

Sicily, the largest island in the Mediterranean lies at the heart of historic maritime routes, is a leading centre for underwater archaeology. Eleven Roman and Carthaginian warship rams have been recovered near Levanzo, in the Egadi Islands off the north-western coast, and these are one of the most important discoveries to date. These powerful weapons, mounted on the bows of ships, were designed to plough into enemy vessels with great force.

Together with helmets and other debris, the rams are proof of the exact location of the Battle of the Egadi Islands fought between the Romans and the Carthaginians on 10 March 241 BC. The exhibition displays several rams, with a digital reconstruction of the battle, bringing to life the victory of Rome over Carthage, an event that changed history and ensured Rome's ultimate domination of the Mediterranean.



'Flat-Pack' Church

Another spectacular discovery on display is an example of a Byzantine 'flat-pack' church. The Emperor Justinian (c. 482-565), in his efforts to regulate Christianity across his empire, was a prolific builder of churches. Under his rule, based at Constantinople, ships laden with prefabricated marble church interiors were sent out from quarries around the Sea of Marmara (the 'marble sea') to sites in Italy and North Africa. Some of these ships never made it to their intended destination. Heavy and slow, they became unbalanced and sank during stormy weather. Using a selection of pieces, the exhibition has reconstructed the church interior allowing visitors to experience the building which spent more than a thousand years on the sea-bed.

Some items of particular interest to me were a group of small stone altars, about two feet in length, found on one of the Roman vessels. It is however, uncertain whether they were used for worship by the Roman sailors or were trading goods.

Perhaps the most common of the finds are amphorae, many of them complete. Hundreds of millions of them must have been produced in antiquity to carry wine and olive oil around the Mediterranean, the predecessors of the tuns found on the Newport Ship.



What our Visitors say

Our regular opening of our Medieval Ship Centre is designed to create footfall, hopefully having stimulated people's interest through talks, leaflets and word of mouth.

The best recommendations seem to come from our visitors who have been good enough to write in our Visitors Book and also review us on TripAdvisor. Special thanks go to them for the encouragement that they give to our volunteer guides and cabin staff.

Don't just read the newsletters – come and see us – and write your own comments of appreciation!

Entries from the Medieval Ship Centre Visitors' Book (2016 season)

Very interesting, great guided tour, excellent exhibits. AG Portland USA

Great project for which I hope you gain {continued} money and support. S&J H
Brisbane

Excellent! Informative and highly enjoyable session with guides. A valuable treasure. Good luck with next stage. GC Western Australia

Thanks for the interesting tour through the history and restoration of this Ship! We wish you good luck! Family W Germany

Wonderful! We'll be seeing you again & putting the word around. SC Tewkesbury

Great project, staff very knowledgeable. Will be back to check on progress. MW
Eastbourne

I love bringing friends here for the first time & watching their reaction. Such a huge heritage asset for Wales. ED Cardiff

What a wonderful project – in years to come the grandchildren will have a wonderful source of fascination as the project unfolds. S&J H Newport

Enthusiastic explanation of the recovery of an amazing part of history. Let's hope it is supported enough to rival the Mary Rose. CP Devon

Excellent display explained brilliantly by guide. I hope to see this ship on display in Newport. Protect our history. SF Langstone Newport

But don't believe them – come and see for yourselves.

NEWPORT SHIP FON



It has been another busy year here at the Newport Medieval Ship Centre! Conservation and archaeological research are continuing, along with expanded education and outreach efforts. The ship centre has proved to be a popular destination for both locals and people from further afield, with over 1200 visitors in 2015 and even more in 2016. The many visitors are able to witness the active conservation and documentation of the ship timbers and are given sneak peaks inside the large climate controlled timber store.

Support from the Friends of the Newport Ship, The Welsh Museums Federation and Newport City Council has enabled the purchase and commissioning of a precision air conditioning unit



that closely regulates the conditions within the store, ensuring optimal and efficient storage conditions.

In August 2016, York Archaeological Trust delivered two articulated lorries of dried timbers to the ship centre. These were carefully unloaded and placed in the store, and then a whole tank of PEG-treated timbers were fished out and loaded for the return trip to York. These timbers will be freeze dried and returned this time next year. The complex task of lifting and shifting all these timbers would not have been possible without the many volunteers who helped out. In addition to providing volunteer labour themselves, the FONS generously supported student and graduate volunteers by covering food and accommodation costs. This



represents great value for money as we clocked up over 400 hours of work in a single week!

Throughout the year, we have given numerous talks, lectures and tours of the ship project. Lectures in Madrid, at the MOROL conference in Lampeter, and at the Royal Archaeological Institute Annual Meeting in Southampton were augmented by many local talks. All these outreach efforts help to increase the awareness of and interest in the ship project. In April 2016, I gave a special lecture to over 300 people at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon, USA (where I grew up and went to university)!

FONS PROJECT UPDATE



We have added several new members to the Expert Panel, who meet annually to review progress and provide external oversight and ensure best practice in the conservation work and archaeological research. We are also continuing to archive data with the Archaeology Data Service in York, helping to ensure that the knowledge that the project has generated remains publically accessible long into the future.

We have built a full scale replica of a small section of the keel, and will soon be fastening some of the conserved planks to it and trial reassembling a small part of the conserved ship! We are experimenting with novel non-metallic fasteners which are light, strong and, most importantly, non-reactive with the timber.

I recently accompanied the FONS trip to the Albaola shipyard near San Sebastian in the Basque country of Northern Spain. The planking

from our ship appears to have originated in the Basque area and it is likely that the Newport Ship was built somewhere in this region. Albaola are currently building a replica of a carvel built ship of similar size but later date (The Red Bay Wreck/San Juan - late 16th C) than the Newport Ship. We



want to forge closer ties with this region and promote our shared maritime heritage.

Plans for the coming year include the creation of a second large timber store and the continued documentation of dried material. Research and trials have begun on designing a cradle structure to support the reassembled ship. We are planning to get our international intern programme kick started with the first researcher hopefully arriving in January 2017.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Dr Toby Jones, Curator



5 ... 4 ... 3 ... TWO: what it's all about, a volunteer's perspective – Tim White

On Monday, 15th Aug 2016, a Friends' work-party gathered at the Medieval Ship Centre (MSC) to prepare for a major event in our calendar: the dispatch to York for freeze-drying of the wet timbers in PEG Tank 2; and, on the same two days (Wednesday and Thursday), the receipt from York of the freeze-dried, fully conserved timbers of Tank 3 – destined, initially, for the MSC timber store. The Friends' displays, and other odd items, had to be trundled across the compound for temporary storage in space kindly provided by Yummies. A number of creative, if not out-right 'Heath Robinson', methods were employed (yes, you can transport a desk on a shopping-trolley) but we successfully cleared the necessary working space. Shelving, used as 'walkways', had to be recovered from Tank 1 and material – wood and scaffold pipes – used in the MSC moved from around Tank 2 to a more convenient location. Finally, a second scaffold-pipe timber-trolley had to be constructed.



On the Wednesday, work was undertaken by undergraduate and post-graduate students so as to expose them to the 'less glamorous parts of marine archaeology' (I quote our Curator!) with some support from the Friends. Work to empty Tank 2 was well underway by 0915. Oh yes, at one point the pipe came out of the carboy so pumping PEG on to the MSC floor: it is amazing how much PEG can be pumped in the time it takes to trap the flailing pipe and to re-insert it into the carboy! Also, as was said to the South Wales Argus reporter that day, we must have been one of the few groups of people in the UK who had not welcomed the fine, hot, sunny weather - strong sunshine not being good for the timbers being moved. From lunch-time, and in parallel to 'wet' timbers exiting via the Cabin-side roller-door, conserved timbers were being identified

by their cow-tags and their new location logged as they were returned to the MSC through the other roller-door.

Thursday lunch-time saw the majority of the task complete with the actual break-down of Tank 2 - and the clean-up of the MSC! - remaining. The entire floor of the MSC was pressure-cleaned resulting in the interesting experience, for Friends' volunteers, of brushing water up-hill: there are no drainage channels in the MSC and the cleaning-water had to be brushed out through the roller-door! Finally, the re-convened Friends' work-party returned some displays, and some display material, from Yummies to enable opening to the public, as normally as possible, on the Friday.



It was a very rewarding week for the FONS volunteers, supporting this very small part of the underlying archaeological processes which are, after all, the sine qua non – what it's all about (*) – and every bit of volunteer support, however little, helps the experts get on with their work.

And, of course, the Friends now have more to tell our MSC visitors: that a milestone towards the goal of completing the conservation in 2018 has been reached; and that the space, released by Tank 2, is already being re-used to fit out a space for a second timber store. The second timber store, in addition to housing timbers, might house some illustrative reconstructions, on a mocked-up keel, of a number of identified contiguous hull timbers. And it is hoped a larger 'viewing window' will give our MSC visitors a real feel for the rapidly approaching next phase: reconstruction in public view.

(*) The literal translation of the Latin is 'without which, nothing' so implying that something is fundamental or of fundamental importance.

The Early History of the Murenger Houses of Newport

The Murenger House Public House at 53 High Street, Newport is a Grade II listed Building, and at one time belonged to the Newport chartist John Frost. It is also the oldest domestic building surviving in Newport and could have existed at the time the Newport Ship came to the town.

The listing report (record 3025) describes the Murenger House as a 'much restored Inn, said to have 16th - 17th century origins. The title "Murenger" was applied to an official who collected a tax for the upkeep of the walls of Newport castle.

The tax was called murage (from the French "mur", wall). The original house was demolished around 1816, and had been a single storey building in stone. Nearby, on the site of the present public house, stood the 16th century residence of the High Sheriff of Monmouthshire; but that building was rebuilt in the 19th century. Late 19th century photos of the present public house show an inscription "Estd. 1819", and a building with only the attic storey jettied, and a 2-storey oriel spanning first and second floors; the roof pitch also appears steeper.'

It also says it is listed principally for historic interest. In my opinion there are major inaccuracies in the listing report.

The first reference I have noted referring to a house called the Murenger House is by William Coxe in 1800. Coxe refers to 'The western (gate), which was used as the town prison, and has been lately taken down.' This is a reference to the old West Gate, at the bottom of Stow Hill, close to or underneath the present Westgate Hotel building.

However he continues 'Near this gate, in the high street, is an old spacious building, with an ornamental front, and a coat of arms, carved in stone, over the door. This was called the

murenger's house, an officer of great antiquity in fortified towns, who was appointed to superintend the walls, and to collect a toll for the purpose of keeping them in repair. It appears, however, that as early as the reign of Edward the second, the burgesses were exempted from this murage or wall toll.

The apartments, which are converted into magazines, were spacious, and not inelegant for the early age in which the house was constructed. The windows are neat, and there are several gothic doorways and chimney-pieces.'¹

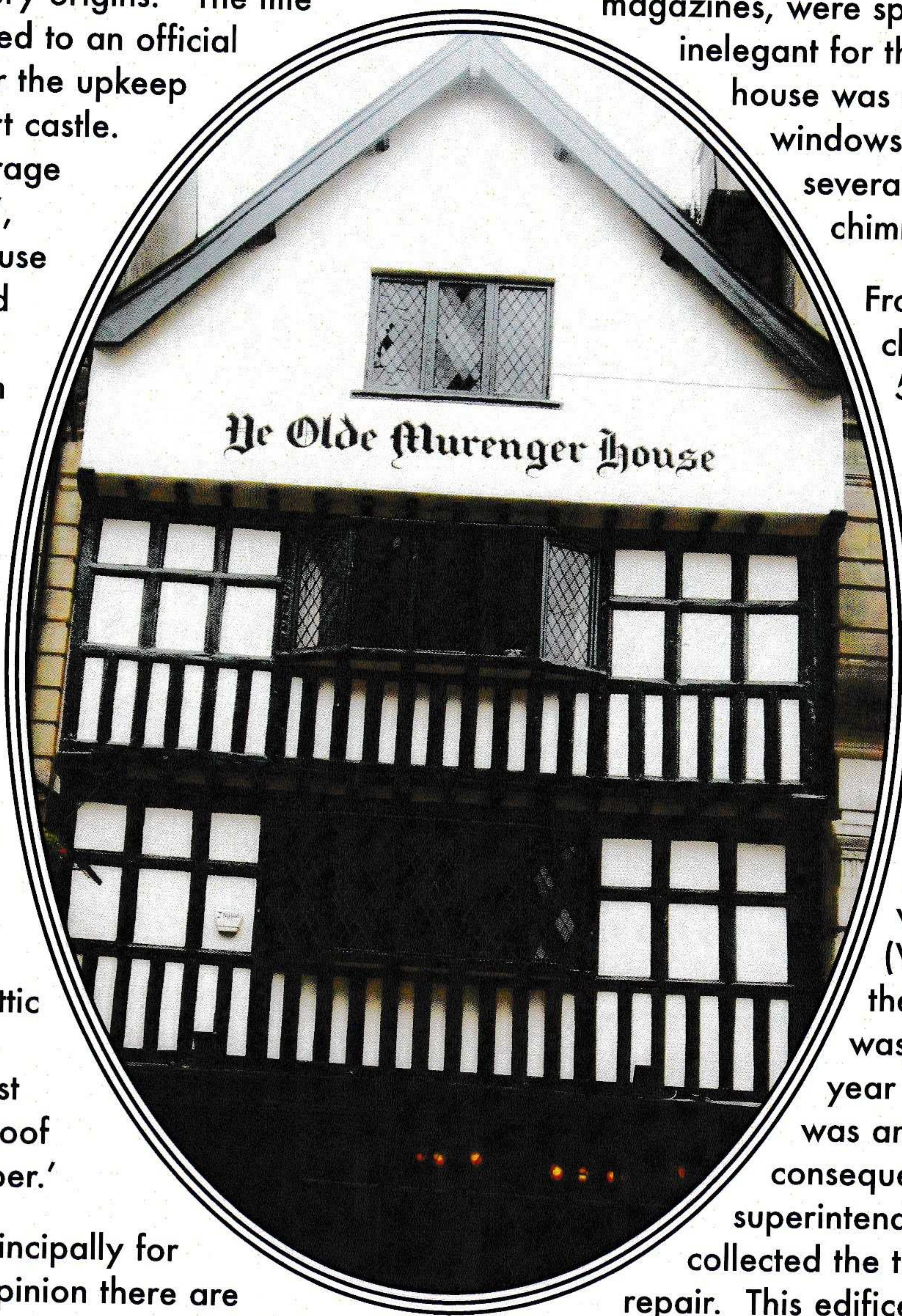
From the description this is clearly not the building at 53 High Street, now called the Murenger House. The puzzle appears to be explained by the following description from Nicholson's 'Cambrian Travelers Guide' of 1840.

This states that 'An old building near the spot where the latter gate (Westgate) stood, called the Murenger's House, was left standing till the year 1816. The Murenger was an officer of

consequence, who superintended the walls, and collected the tolls for keeping them in repair. This edifice, which is ornamented in front with shields and arms, carved in stone, over an antiquated doorway, has been taken down, and a building of one stor(e)y only, with a handsome freestone front and portico (has been built there?).'²

In 1847 J.M. Scott shed some more light on the confusion. He gave the following description:

'Near the west gate, and situated in High-street, was an antique and spacious building, with a carved stone coat of arms placed over the door, and an ornamental front, called the Murenger's house. The Murenger was an officer always



attached to fortified towns, whose duty it was to collect a murage toll, appropriated to the purpose of keeping the town walls in repair. This office, however, became extinct in Newport during the reign of Edward the Second, who gave the burgesses exemption from the toll. The coat of arms which was said to have formerly existed in front of the Murenger's residence, is now to be seen attached to the house of Mr John Frost's venerable mother, in a small cottage adjoining Thomas-street. So far as the bearings can be traced, though much broken and worn, the arms appear to be those of Ralph Stafford, or similar to that described as having formerly stood upon the west-gate. Many doubts exist as to the situation of the Murenger's house. One gentleman, whose long residence in Newport has made him largely acquainted with its history, distinctly states that he remembered the ancient building, standing in a very dilapidated condition where the Monmouth and Glamorgan Bank has since been built; but others are of the opinion that the ancient building yet standing in High street, and occupied by Messrs. Moss and Newman, cabinet makers (i.e. 53 High Street), should be pointed out as the house. With this view ourselves, we made a survey of the last-mentioned building, and found it composed of three floors, having a conical front. In the centre of the cone is a carved date, which, as well as could be observed from the street, we noted down as 1649. The interior imparts an idea of the house having once been an official residence. All the rooms are lofty and very spacious; the ceiling, in one or two apartments, is covered with ornamental mouldings in plaster; while in one chamber may yet be seen, though with many crustations of modern whitewashing upon the face, the crowned head of a king, against the wall. We could trace no name or date; but the visage was much like that of Henry the Eighth. And in another room; adjacent to this, but which was formerly part of it, was a coat of arms above the antique mantelpiece; and a similar coat of arms may be seen above the door of the same apartment, on the inside. Here, also, is a grand raised fireplace; and looking at these, with other characteristics, strong grounds are entertained for the idea of this having been the residence of the Murenger. It should not be overlooked, however that the date on the front of the building, destroys this conjecture; unless we have greatly erred in noting the year; as the Murenger's office was abolished by the foregoing charter.' ³

Murenger House' until sometime shortly before 1880. It is clear from Scott's account in 1847 that he was uncertain which building was the original Murenger House, but he preferred to regard 53 High Street as the site of the Murenger House. This may be the reason why the present Murenger House got its name.

However the evidence suggests that Scott's old gentleman was correct and in fact the first Murenger House was where the Monmouth and Glamorgan Bank was built in or after 1816. This bank later became the National Provincial Bank. The present building on the same site (on the corner of High Street and the present Bridge Street) is the NatWest Bank.

This interpretation is borne out by the description in Nicholson's Cambrian Travelers Guide to 'a building of one storey only, with a handsome freestone front and portico' which must be the Monmouth and Glamorgan Bank. A statue of Sir Charles Morgan was erected in front of the Monmouth and Glamorgan Bank in 1850. In 1860 this statue was removed to Park Square, before being returned to Bridge Street in 1992, close to the original site. An engraving by James Flewitt Mullock, dated 1853, shows the statue and also the bank which is clearly one storey with a handsome portico.

Earlier references to this first Murenger House do not call it by the name 'The Murenger House'. In a survey of 1570 it possibly on the site of a building called *lez porches* (the gates), probably an inn, then held by Thomas Lloyd, and paying 2 pence rent to the lord. More likely it was a burgage plot behind 'Paynes Gate' belonging to William Morgan of Tredegar House, paying 12 pence to the lord. Paynes Gate was probably a small gate at the end of the present Bridge Street and next to the West Gate.⁴

The Morgans of Tredegar House were known to have a town house next to the West Gate. In an infamous affray in 1533, reported to the Star Chamber in London in a complaint by William Morgan, there are references to a town house described as being 'near unto the Gatehouse' (i.e. the West Gate). This was the dwelling house of George ap Morgan. It was described as 'being the strongest place in all the Town' and here the Morgans and their supporters retired to defend themselves from an assault of about 300 armed men belonging to a faction led by their rivals, members the Herbert family who owned St Julian's

House near Caerleon.⁵ It seems likely that George ap Morgan's house was William Coxe's 'Murenger House'.

On a copy made from a map of 1750 the premises at the location of the present NatWest Bank are described as 'The Great House', owned by the Morgans of Tredegar House.⁶ It is conceivable that the names Gate House, Great House, and Murenger House all relate to the same building.

The earliest record I have so far traced that could relate to 53 High Street (the second Murenger House) is in the survey of rents in 1570, when there was a property of one burgage and outlands in the possession of Thomas Tanner, paying 14 pence to the lord of the manor in rent or fees. By 1630 this burgage was in the possession of Edward, Baron of Chirbury, in right of his wife Dame Mary⁷. Lord Edward Herbert of Chirbury (or Cherbury) married his wife, Mary Herbert, in 1598. Her father, Sir William Herbert of St Julians, was sheriff of Monmouthshire in 1553.

In 1922 building work was carried out behind the old cellared house at the front of the burgage plot. This led to the discovery of some Tudor and early post-medieval pottery. The pottery is now in the Newport Museum.⁸ Some mock timber-framing was attached to the front of the building, but it retained just the single jetty for the attic and what appear to be the original oriel windows.

The Murenger House Public House does still retain a number of earlier features although there appears never to have been a complete architectural survey of the building. Many features were recorded by Fred Hando in 1951. He gives the original date of the building as 1541, but does not give any reference to back up this claim.⁹ This date also contrasts with the date 1649 noted by J.M. Scott, and neither date can be regarded as conclusive proof of the age of the original building.

What Hando does do is to provide some illustrations of the surviving decorations, in particular an over-mantel in the private part of the house. He also describes 'the intertwining of Tudor roses and Aragon pineapples' still visible on the ceiling of the front first floor room. This room also contains the Tudor style fire-place mentioned by Scott. Hando also mentions the plaster portrait of Henry VIII and concludes that the pineapples refer to Katherine of Aragon who was divorced by the king in 1533. However the emblem of Katherine was the pomegranate, not the pineapple, and it is likely that the so-called pineapples are in fact pine-

cones.

There remains one more clue as to the origin of the present Murenger House. In Newport Reference Library there are copies of three architectural plans of the building by M.R. Bird made in 1966. Two of the plans show the 1949 frontage of the building but the third is a floor plan of the attic. Whilst the front wall is shown to be of a thin structure, reflecting either the modern building work or timber framing, the side walls and rear wall of the old part of the house, behind the high street frontage, appear fairly massive.¹⁰ Was the Murenger House originally a stone building dating at least to the time of the Newport Ship? Without a full survey we will never know.

Bob Trett, September 2009.

Based on an article in Gwent History in 2009.

Particular thanks to the late Haydn Davis for providing additional information.

¹ William Coxe 'An Historical Tour in Monmouthshire' 1801. Part 1, Page 48.

² George and Emilius Nicholson 'Nicholson's Cambrian Travelers Guide, In Every Direction: Containing Remarks Made During Many Excursions In The Principality Of Wales.' (1840) Page 470.

³ J.M. Scott. *The Ancient and Modern History of Newport*. 1847. Pages 16-19. The 'charter' refers to a number of different towns in South Wales, therefore does not prove whether or not there was an officer called a murenger in Newport. In 1324 Hugh Despenser, as lord, had secured from Edward II release from murage and other tolls for his burgesses and tenants in Newport, Cardiff, Usk, Caerleon, Cowbridge, Neath and Kenfig. Calendar of Patent Rolls 1300-1326 page 461.

⁴ National Library of Wales Ms. 170081. Joseph Bradney, (edited by Madeleine Gray). *A History of Monmouthshire Volume 5. The Hundred of Newport*. 1993. Page 32.

⁵ *Historical and Genealogical Memoirs of the Morgan Family Volume II*. Edited by G.B. Morgan (1891-5) Page 74.

⁶ National Library of Wales Tredegar Collection 200100633

⁷ Glamorgan Record Office MS 5 115

⁸ Newport Museum Accession NPTMG 24.10

⁹ Fred Hando *Journeys in Gwent* (1951) Pages 111-114.

¹⁰ Reference Library no N316180 M160728.5

Vehicle servicing, MOTs, Tyres & Repairs

MANIC
MECHANICS
01633 213 713
www.manic-mechanics.co.uk

The Cabin Shop

FONS Merchandise group

Jean Grey - Sales Coordinator

The initial group SOS – Save our ship – sold T shirts and badges. SOS looked for ways to spread the word, prove the support we had from Joe Public and influence the powers that be to Save Our Ship. FONS was formed and the T shirts and badges sold in the hundreds. They were to be seen everywhere, proudly worn and seen all over Newport.

Then in 2003 the small group (Charles Ferris, Sheila and John Dyke, Glenys Silverson, Cherie and Rosi Hollister) ran a stall upstairs in Newport Market on Saturday mornings, continuing to raise funds and spread the word. The range of items expanded to include newsletters, pottery, cards, etc., all bearing the ship logo. This kept up the pressure on Newport City Council and the Welsh Assembly.

In 2004 Charles Ferris started to strike the replica coins which proved so very popular. Charles, Sheila and John Dyke took the merchandise to events, giving up numerous weekends throughout the year, travelling from Chepstow to Milford Haven and many places in between. Charles also did many events solo.

In 2005 my husband and I joined the trio and we widened the range of items on sale. At these events we distributed many thousands of handouts publicising our open days. This helped to attract the hundreds of visitors, all eager to find out as much as possible about progress.

We were later supported by other members on our travels. In more recent years Charles has continued to attend many events and he has even visited Cremieu in France where the Petit Blanc was first struck. Sheila and I no longer go to outside events.

Since moving to Estuary Road we now have the luxury of a cabin where the goods are on permanent display and, guided by requests, we continue to expand our range of goods. We are also creating a catalogue in preparation for on-line sales.

We now have 3 teams going to outside events. They travel much further afield. Namely Brixham, Kings Lynn, Beaumaris, Tewksbury etc. These teams take a selection of stock and leaflets, so look out for them when you go to shows. Some of these events are themed, Pirates or Medieval and they dress accordingly. How brave!

My thanks to all concerned for carrying on with the excellent fund raising. We have a very happy treasurer.

Our best selling items are:

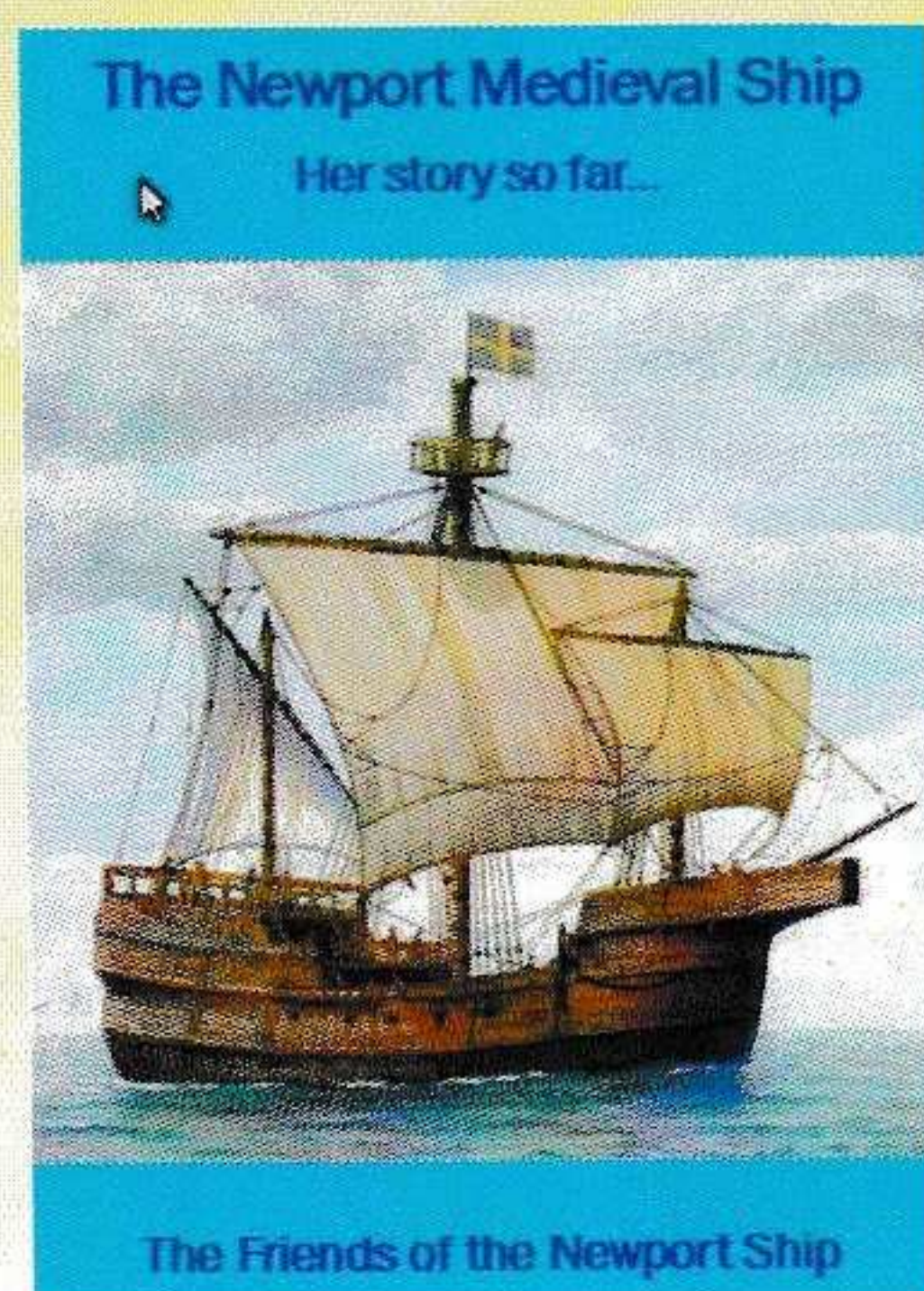
1. The Guide Book. This being updated and should be ready for publication by the end of the year.
2. The Petit Blanc replica coin. Charles' efforts have raised many thousands of pounds and it continues to be very popular.
3. Tea towels
4. Lapel badges.
5. Fridge magnets
6. Polo Shirts.
7. Blue mugs.
8. Blue tankards.
9. Postcards.
10. Pencils.



Lapel Badge



Mug



Guide Book



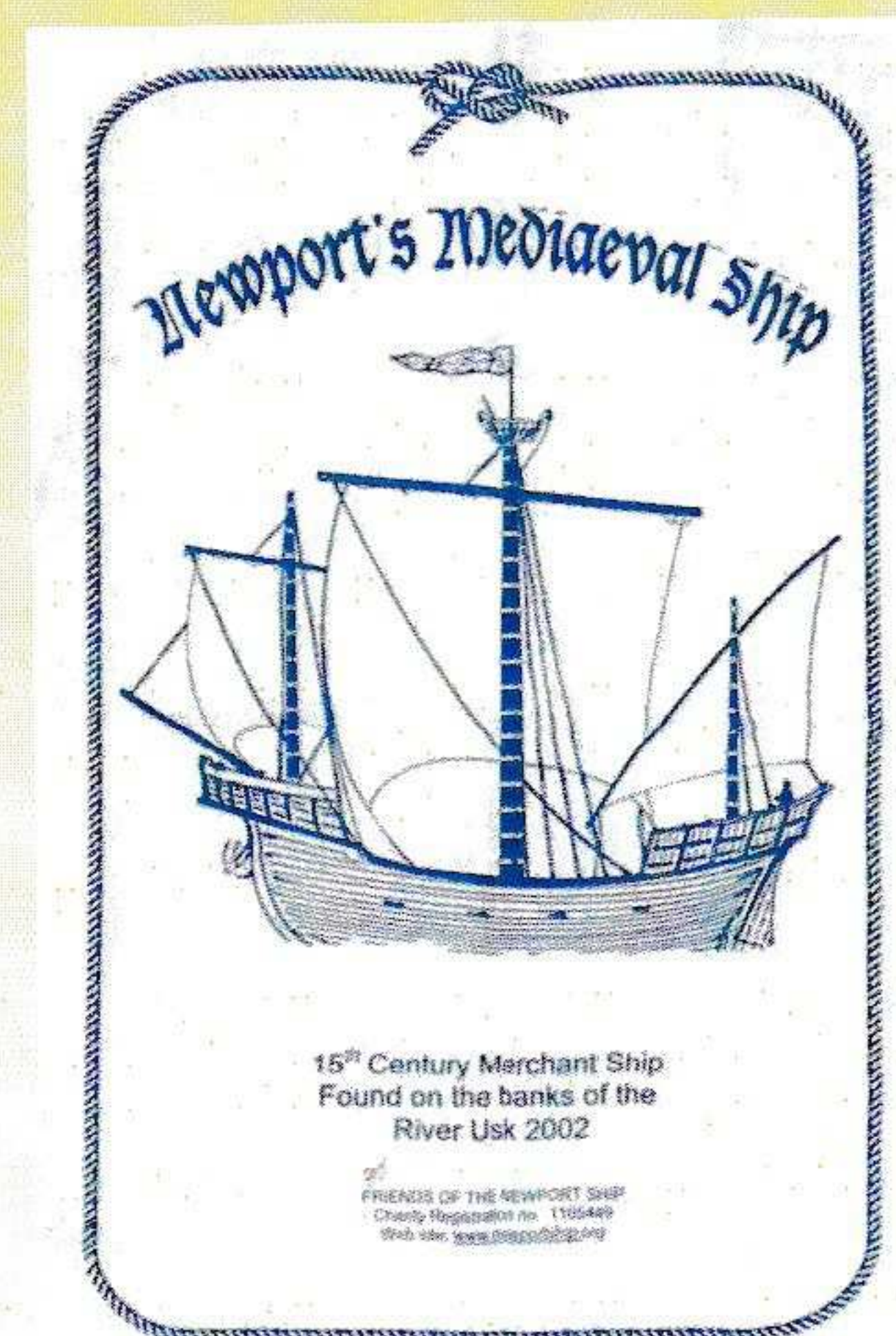
Fridge Magnet



Petit Blanc



Polo Shirt



Tea Towel



Postcards



Pencils



Tankard

Contact the Cabin Shop for prices and postage / packing costs. A complete list of all available items will soon be available on the FONS website.