



Friends of Newport Ship

News Sheet – September 2021

Update from the Chairman

The Friends have had a good summer. In July the Ship Centre reopened on Saturdays with a new layout, not to mention a repainted floor! It was wonderful to see old friends again as well as several new volunteers. We have been pleasantly surprised by the number of visitors and I am grateful to everyone who has contributed to this success.

Your Committee was none too confident about reopening with the COVID restrictions still in place and it is hard to remember how unlikely it looked even a few months ago. As it has turned out, everything has worked out for the best: we have new displays which go down well with our visitors, our COVID precautions have proved to be flexible and proportionate, and our team of volunteers has returned to support us once again. Family activities have restarted thanks to Emma and Naz and we have a busy programme of talks and visits under way.

Now is the time therefore to start thinking about the future and the beginning of our reassembly phase. This will require a different approach and different skills and experience. I shall be stepping down from the Chair at the AGM, having taken the Friends as far as I can. We need new blood to join the Committee and trustees and to take us forward. So please, consider whether you have the time and commitment to join the Committee and play a part in the next exciting stage in the life of the Newport Ship.

My last introduction reported on the sad loss of our dear colleague Lynne Crabbe and I must now pay tribute to another of our number, Professor Sean McGrail, who sadly passed away a few months ago. Sean was one of those people we will never see again. A naval test pilot who became one of the giants of the nautical archaeology world, his “Boats of the World” is one of the key texts on the subject. Sean was also a warm and friendly colleague who was always ready to answer questions and provide support for those, like myself, whose scholarship was lacking. A convivial and active member of our expert panel, he will be sadly missed by those of us who knew him. The friends will be represented at his memorial service in October.

Bob Evans
chair@newportship.org



Editor

Since our last newsletter 2021 has floated by. With hot, cold and in between days. A bit like life a mixture of ups, downs and steady as she goes. It was mine and the committee's intention to pen a newsletter mid-year but sands of time slipped away. I have made a note and told myself I must do better. Let us hope the pattern of life returns to an even keel. The opening of the centre to visitors certainly is a step in the right direction. I feel that an

article(s) penned by volunteers old and new on the experience of unlocking the centre and showcasing the ship to the wider world. This time the ship has been hidden from view in a mere blink of an eye when considering the centuries, it laid hidden underneath estuarine mud. If volunteers would like to chat with me about putting a piece together, I would be happy to come down the centre and chat with you on a Saturday when we are open.

Ideas for newsheet or the Newsletter are always welcomed.

Liz Aiken
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FONS Project Report

Dr. Toby Jones, Curator, Newport Medieval Ship Project

There has been no formal report from Toby for this newsletter. Toby has had a busy summer preparing the centre to be able to successfully re-open. He has also been heavily involved with the Transporter Bridge and the Museum. There will be a Project Report from him in the annual Newsletter in a few weeks' time.

Secretary's Report

Annual member subscriptions were due on 24th August and I am pleased to report that over 75% of FoNS members now pay their subs by standing order which makes the work of our Treasurer and myself a lot easier. If you haven't yet paid your sub then please do so as soon as possible either by post to me at PO Box 109, Caldicot, NP26 9AR or by direct payment to FoNS' bank account the details of which are as follows: sort code 40-34-27 account number 91841149. Please include your name and/or member number as a reference if paying direct to the bank so that I can identify the payer.

As you will be aware from the email I recently sent to all members with email addresses, our **AGM will take place on Saturday 13th November**. I will provide more details such as Agenda etc. in due course. However, one matter which requires immediate attention is that of election of officers and committee members. In this regard, I am requesting that **nominations for committee members be sent to me by Saturday 25th September** either using the nomination form or by sending me an email. If the latter method, then please ensure that I receive emails from the nominee, the proposer and the seconder. Similarly, if any member wishes to propose a **motion for discussion at the AGM please submit this to me by 25th September**. If a ballot is necessary for election of committee members/officers, this will be a postal ballot with votes to be received by me by 11th November.

At the time of writing I can advise members that Bob Evans will be standing down as Chairman at the AGM. I will be standing as a candidate for Chair and my wife, Claire Dowd, who has been FoNS Minute Secretary for 5 years, will be standing to succeed me as Secretary. Peter Horleston and Sian King are prepared to continue as Treasurer and Vice Chair respectively.

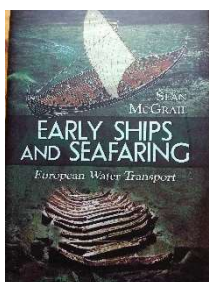
My contact details are as follows: secretary@newportship.org or robert.kenny1947@outlook.com

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*Robert Kenny
Secretary*

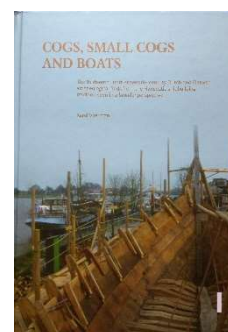


The Ship Centre Library News



We have received a generous donation of books from one of our supporters, Timothy Bowly. It comprises 42 books, all in very good condition and all relevant to our collection. The donor completed a Ph. D. thesis in 2013 on the medieval maritime trade of the Bristol Channel, and these are some of the books he used.

We have also recently made a purchase, thanks to FoNS, of a magnificent 2-volume work on the archaeology of medieval Dutch and Flemish cog boats.



The library is currently located on mobile shelving in the timber store at the Ship Centre. Although not available for browsing, the books can be virtually browsed by subject, title or author via the website at <https://www.newportship.org/archaeology-conservation/our-library>. If you are a member of FoNS, you can borrow books from our library – please contact Toby Jones or Bob Evans.

*Sian King
Honorary Librarian
vice-chair@newportship.org*



Social Media

The power of social media will ensure that the Newport Medieval Ship is seen as a proactive project and a place to visit. The profile has been raised and reach increased with a series of posts across the platforms.

Everyone can assist in the process by liking posts, sharing and commenting this increases the visibility of a project that we all want to be understood and supported by the people of Newport, Gwent and beyond!



Facebook

Friends of Newport Ship – [facebook.com/fonsnewportship](https://www.facebook.com/fonsnewportship)

Newport Medieval Ship Project – [facebook.com/newportship](https://www.facebook.com/newportship)



Twitter - @NewportShip



Instagram - newport_ship

Liz Gulliver
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The Financial Statement Summer 2021

The pandemic continues to impact our finances.

Actually, the overall picture does not look that bad, a small surplus as at the 20th of June and the balance sheet remains healthy.

This despite a dramatic, covid related, reduction in our income from the sale of merchandise. In fact, a reduction of some 95% when compared to 2019, the last year completely unaffected by the pandemic. The closure of the ship centre and the suspension of offsite lectures explains this. Our other major income streams, membership subscriptions and donations, are unaffected and remain healthy. A heartfelt thank you is due to the membership whose continuing support has underpinned this.

On the expenditure front our financial support for the project continues. We will shortly be making a further substantial grant to enable the completion of the freeze-drying process. Also financed has been a complete refurbishment of the visitor experience and cabin in the centre. Together these will mean support of some £20K in the last 2 years.

The calls on our finances to support the project are likely to increase as the reconstruction phase looms.

So how can you help?

To try to recoup some of the lost sales income we have been constructing an online shop. Have a look at the web site and of course please feel free to purchase and or make a donation!

When the centre reopens do come and have a look. You will be impressed.

If you are a member of a local history group etc., please encourage them to book a talk or better still organise a pre-booked visit to the centre.

But above all maintain your membership and encourage others to join please.

So, the message is we have weathered the storm well. Thanks in no small part to the support of the members. There will be a need to redouble our efforts as the calls on our finances by the project are likely to increase as the final phases approach.

*Peter Horleston
Treasurer*



Fundraising News

Raise free funds Every time you shop online! Amazon Smile – support Friends of Newport Ship every time you buy something through Amazon. Look out for the ‘Eligible for AmazonSmile donation’ on the product page. Millions of products are eligible for donations and every time you buy one Amazon will make a donation to us at no cost to you. In order to take advantage of this opportunity go to smile.amazon.co.uk and select Friends of Newport Ship as your chosen charity. You can use your existing Amazon account but to qualify for the donation you must shop through the AmazonSmile website rather than the Amazon.co.uk website. Don’t worry though, both the look of the screen and the shopping experience are the same! Bookmark the page on your computer or laptop to make sure you always shop on AmazonSmile. If you use Amazon on a smart phone you may want to delete your existing Amazon.co.uk app. There is currently no app for AmazonSmile but you can share the website to your phone by tapping the share button at the bottom of the website and then tapping the ‘Add to home screen’ icon. You will now have an AmazonSmile icon on your home screen which you can use in exactly the same way as the Amazon app with the added benefit that Amazon will donate a percentage of the purchase price to FoNS!

Easyfundraising - don’t forget that if you shop online you can sign up to [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to support Friends of the Newport Ship. All you need to do is go to: www.easyfundraising.org.uk

World of the Newport Medieval Ship in 2019 you may remember the Ship Centre hosted the launch of ‘The World of the Newport Medieval Ship’ which brings together all the current research and knowledge relating to both the Ship and the maritime history of that period. The book is a must read for anyone interested in medieval or maritime history or for those who want to better understand the ship and the world in which it sailed. Make sure you get your copy.

Purchase via website - <https://www.newportship.org/discover-the-ship/guidebook> or you can purchase a copy from Amazon.

