

Newport Matters



January 2014

The official newspaper of Newport City Council

Big bang clears the way for Friars Walk to begin



Going...going...gone. The Capitol car park was demolished earlier this month to make way for the new Friars Walk.

Newport's Capitol car park was demolished earlier this month by a controlled explosion.

Newport City Council cabinet member for infrastructure, Councillor Ken Critchley, said: "Friars Walk has officially started with a bang with the explosion of the capitol car park. The removal of the car park represents a significant stage in the demolition programme and construction of the eagerly awaited Friars Walk."

development will begin shortly.

"The car park has been standing for more than 30 years in the city but it is important that we now look ahead to the next exciting chapter of the city's history."

Experts from Cuddy Group drilled 750 holes in strategic positions all over six floors of the car park. A charge was inserted into each hole, over 35kg of detonating cord explosive in all, and delay detonators set off over a one

second period.

Cuddy managing director, Mike Cuddy, was delighted that everything had gone exactly to plan, he said: "Demolition is a very serious business and safety is always the number one priority. It may only take a second or two for the building to fall but the amount of preparation and co-ordination that goes into an event like today is vast."

"We were keen to ensure minimal

disruption for local businesses and the surrounding community and have ensured there has been ongoing consultation at every stage in our planning and preparation. I am delighted that the explosion went according to plan and that the clean down programme can now begin in earnest."

The debris from the car park will now be cleared and construction work on Friars Walk will start shortly.

City centre regeneration projects making a big difference

Several major city centre regeneration projects were completed or took major steps forward in Newport last year and 2014 is set to see more exciting projects and developments taking shape.

Buses are now using the new

bus terminus in Upper Dock Street just behind the market and it is expected that this will be used by between two and three million passengers a year.

It will eventually link with another new terminus being constructed as part of the Friars

Walk development.

While work takes place on the scheme, bus services will continue to operate from temporary stops around the city centre.

Mayor Councillor Cliff Suller also officially opened the transformed High Street entrance

of Newport Market.

The £1million project, funded by Newport Unlimited, refurbished the foyer and units in this part of the grade-two listed building. A new central entrance was created flanked by smart new units topped by brightly coloured canopies.

Flood scheme for 700 Newport homes

Late last year, parts of the UK experienced the worst coastal flooding for 60 years. Fortunately, improvements to

flood schemes and flood warnings saved many from the devastating impacts of flooding.

Most recently, properties in Crindau were flooded by a tidal surge that came very close to affecting hundreds of homes and business in

the area.

For more information on flood defence work in Newport, see the full story on page 9.

Inside...



New jobs coming to city



New wardens on patrol



New year gym offer



Focus on Communities First

changing city

Changing face of city centre

Here are a selection of images showing work to transform the city centre in readiness for Friars Walk.



City centre businesses open

Businesses in and around John Frost Square, including shops, cafes, solicitors and banks, are trading as usual while work on the new Friars Walk shopping and leisure scheme takes place.

Friars Street, Austin Friars, Corn Street and Llanarth Street – as well as those parts of John Frost Square and Upper Dock Street which are not part of the redevelopment area – are still accessible from Commercial Street.

A safe route to Newport Centre is available via Corn Street and along Kingsway.

New jobs on the way in Newport

Work is progressing on a brand new pub and restaurant in Newport that will create 40 new jobs.

Located in the Old Town Dock area the pub and restaurant will offer quality fresh beer and value for money authentic fresh pub food. The pub is as yet unnamed but will seat 180 diners.

Newport Unlimited, Newport's urban regeneration company, facilitated the sale of the site. Paul Tarling, head of development at Newport Unlimited, said: "We are delighted to welcome Marston's to Newport and in particular to The Old Town Dock where the company clearly foresees a bright future.

"The area has undergone extensive regeneration over the last few years and its transformation from derelict land to an attractive investment opportunity is something of which

Newport can be very proud."

The reclamation of the Old Town Dock was one of the first projects undertaken by Newport Unlimited when it was formed in 2003. Since then, the area has been transformed with a £200 million redevelopment programme, including residential developments and a riverside park. In June, proposals were revealed by the developer Sennybridge to transform the area into a sustainable suburb including new retail, leisure and office space as well as a health centre, houses and apartments.

The pub is due for completion in May.

Laura Barnes, from Marston's Inns and Taverns with Councillor John Richards, Newport City Council cabinet member for regeneration and development and Paul Tarling of Newport Unlimited



Council protects residents from storm surge risk

Newport City Council and partners successfully delivered a coordinated plan to safeguard residents in four areas of the city that were identified to be at a high risk of flooding earlier this month.

This involved a comprehensive operation which placed the safety of clearly identified groups of Newport residents at the heart of the actions.

All affected areas were identified

in advance by Floodline who alerted property owners to the flood risk and were fully supported by the council as part of a multi-agency task force activated to deal with such events.

Notice of the decision to issue this warning also triggered Newport City Council's emergency flood plan which saw specialist teams and council resources delivered directly to the affected areas.

Actions included:

- A full evacuation of 140 properties and rehousing of around 30 residents from Lighthouse Park
- Social services support team for elderly and vulnerable people
- Door-to-door evacuation visits made to all houses in the affected Crindau area
- Monitoring patrols at key points along the River Usk
- Deployment of sandbags to vulnerable locations and properties

Paul Cockeram, ward councillor for Shaftesbury actively monitored the situation in the Crindau area and assisted with the evacuation alert.

A few pockets of isolated flooding were experienced in Newport as the city braced itself for some of the highest tidal levels in recent years. Despite recording a tidal high of 8.02 metres, only a few properties in Crindau experienced water ingress and a low-lying stretch of Caerleon Road running from St Julian's Inn to The Ship public house was closed due to surface water run-off.

With the help of Gwent Police, Welsh Ambulance Service and Newport Transport all evacuation plans were swiftly completed the evening before the expected high tide and surge. Evacuated properties were also given appropriate police protection.

Many council staff came back early off annual leave or volunteered to help late into the night to deliver the critical strands and essential parts of the emergency plan. Newport Centre staff quickly prepared the venue to be used as a rescue centre.

Councillor Bob Bright, Leader of Newport City Council, visited Crindau as the evacuation operation developed, and progressed on to Newport Centre to support council staff and to meet the evacuated residents. Councillor

Council officers have visited homes in Crindau to advise on next steps including advice on disposal of damaged property and any concerns regarding environmental health.

If you are ever concerned about flood risks in your area then you can contact Natural Resources Wales www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk or call the Floodline on 0845 988 1188.

LDP moves to next stage



Newport City Council has approved the final version of the revised deposit Local Development Plan (LDP) and it will now be submitted to the Welsh Government for an independent inspector to examine.

It will provide the strategy and policy framework for the development and conservation of Newport until 2026. Once adopted, the LDP will be used by the council to guide, manage and grant development and provides the basis on which planning applications are determined.

The plan provides details on a range of issues including housing, sustainability, affordable housing, environment, green belt,

transport, employment, retail, gypsy and traveller sites and waste.

It identifies that housing provision will be met primarily on previously developed land. A significant proportion is met by housing commitments, i.e. sites that already have planning permission as at 1 October 2012.

To meet the affordable housing need, 86 per cent of new residential development would need to be affordable housing which would clearly not be viable so the revised LDP seeks 30 per cent affordable housing on new residential developments.

It retains the greenbelt on the boundary with Cardiff and includes a small extension to the greenbelt from the previous unitary development plan to the

north to follow the existing M4.

There is a statutory requirement to identify transit and residential for Gypsy and Traveller sites so the LDP has allocated seven transit pitches in Celtic Way; 43 residential pitches on land at Hartridge Farm Road and a contingency site on the former Ringland Allotments.

Five major road schemes are included as well as proposals for a range of public transport improvements including new railway stations and the expansion of the National Cycle Route.

The public examination is likely to take place in the first half of this year and the inspector's report is expected in November before the LDP is formally adopted by the council in December.





February half term fun

Christmas may now seem like a distant memory but don't worry, February half term is nearly here.

There are lots of fun and exciting things to take part in.

Here's just a taster of what you can look forward to:

- Welsh story time and crafts - Listen to stories from Wales and make your own origami daffodil or dragon in libraries across Newport. This is a free activity.

- Leeks and daffodils arts and crafts - A chance to create something to celebrate St David's Day at The Riverfront Theatre.

- Free swim - swim for free in any of Newport's leisure centres every day, including weekends. Please note this is for youngsters under 17 years old.

- Holiday club - childcare for children aged 5-12 years at Newport International Sports Village from 8.30am-5.30pm for just £19 a day.

- Playschemes - lots of activities including mini Eisteddfod competitions

There is something for everyone to enjoy, children, young people and families.

To find out more information and for details about other activities just keep an eye out for the February half term activity brochure, distributed to schools, leisure centres and libraries or visit

www.newport.gov.uk/holidayfun or call 01633 656 757.



Riverfront start for Sport Relief mile

Newport will again host the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile which will take place on Sunday 23 March and you can show your support by entering at www.sportrelief.com

Starting outside the Riverfront Theatre you can walk, jog or run (or hop, skip, jump) along the River Usk taking in the best views Newport has to offer.

As one of the UK's biggest fundraising events, Sport Relief brings the entire nation together to get active, raise cash and change lives – so it's time to dust off those trainers and enter.

Entrants don't have to be sporty to take part, but can choose to complete one, three or six miles knowing that all the money raised will help to change the lives of people living unimaginably tough lives right here on our doorstep, across the rest of the UK and in some of the world's poorest countries.

If you'd like any help in getting fitter in preparing for your challenge and have some fun along the way, Newport's leisure facilities offer a wide range of activities to help you including swimming, fitness classes, gyms or even a round of golf.

Find out more at
www.newport.gov.uk/activenewport

City half marathon



The second City of Newport half marathon will take place on Sunday 2 March and this year will be supported by Admiral.

The half marathon is a great way to start your running year, and good training for those who are training for a spring marathon. The 2014 route was not confirmed at the time Newport Matters went to press – look out for more updates in the coming weeks.

Entry costs just £24 and while the half marathon is a

fundraising event supporting hospice care for everyone in the community, there is no minimum amount of sponsorship to raise. However, participants are asked that they endeavour to raise as much as they can as every penny really does count.

Please note that raising sponsorship for St David's Hospice Care is not compulsory and you are very welcome to fund raise for any charity of your choice.

For more information visit www.stdavidshospicecare.org

JMW Turner?

A temporary exhibition showing sketches attributed to JMW Turner from the collections of Newport Museum and Art Gallery are currently on show.

In 1926 Edmund Brewer-Williams lent a collection of over 500 ink and pencil sketches to Newport Museum and Art Gallery. The sketches are recorded as being the work of British landscape painter, JMW Turner (1775-1851), and some of them carry the artist's signature. When Edmund Brewer-Williams died in 1945, his wife donated the collection

to Newport Museum and Art Gallery.

The sketches relate to places in Europe including modern-day Germany, France, Italy and the Netherlands. Some are no more than rough impressions or outline drawings; others contain handwritten annotations and meticulous detail. It is possible that they originate from a number of sketchbooks, taken apart in the past for ease of distribution or display.

18 January - 14 June 2014
Newport Museum and Art Gallery
Free admission

Kick start your new year with seven days for £7 with Active Newport

Newport City Council is currently running a special offer where you can work out in the gym, enjoy a swim or choose from more than 100 weekly fitness classes at Newport Centre, Newport International Sports Village (NISV) or Active Living Centre for seven days for just £7.

There are three council-run leisure centres in the city and all offer state-of-the-art gym facilities, fitness classes and swimming.

Try the new gyms at Newport Centre and NISV which have just undergone extensive refurbishment and been extended. They now boast the very latest Technogym equipment, Newport's only 'Freedom Climber' climbing wall can be found at NISV as well as a dedicated free weights training area.

You can take part in a fitness class or have a leisurely swim as many times as you like over the seven days.

There are more than 100 fitness classes held each week and range from zumba to yoga, boxercise to aqua and spinning to kettle bells – there are classes to suit any fitness level.

To take up this great offer simply visit your nearest leisure centre. The offer will be available to purchase from 1 January until 28 February 2014 and can be used until 31 March 2014.

Please note only one voucher can be purchased per person. The £7 has to be paid up front and on one day you may use the gym, swim and attend a class.

Find out more at
www.newport.gov.uk/activenewport

7 days for £7*



Gym | Swim | Fitness Classes



This offer is proving extremely popular with more than 500 people taking up seven days for £7 in the first ten days of January alone. If you are interested make sure you don't delay – visit your nearest leisure centre to find out more.

* For full terms and conditions visit www.newport.gov.uk/activenewport



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01633 656 656 www.newport.gov.uk/libraries

Budget goes for council approval

Consultation on the council's draft budget proposals has now ended and we would like to thank everyone who responded and put forward their views and ideas.

Cabinet members and officers are now reviewing all the feedback received so that it can be fed into the next stage of the decision making process.

Public events were also held in December and January and some very valuable issues were raised with our senior officers.

On February 17, Cabinet will meet to again discuss every proposal on the table. They will then agree a final set of proposals that will be put before full Council at its meeting on 24 February.

At this meeting, the increase in

council tax will also be decided. Council tax is collected to help pay for services, but makes up only 12 per cent of the council's total income. Rises are effectively capped by five per cent each year but unlike England, the Welsh Government has not recommended a council tax freeze.

Newport is proud to have had

one of the lowest levels of council tax in Wales and the UK for many years. During such challenging times rises are difficult to avoid but we continue to aim to deliver value to our residents.

For the latest budget information visit www.newport.gov.uk or follow us on Twitter @newportcouncil or Facebook – Newport City Council.

Pupils celebrate Tree Week

Pillgwenlly Primary School children helped to celebrate National Tree Week in Belle Vue Park by reading their work in the pavilion and watching a paper bark birch being planted.

Nine-year-old Ayesha Begum also unveiled a plaque marking the park's status as a Queen Elizabeth II Field.

Her school took part in a writing project, supported by Literature Wales, with poet in residence Ric Hool.



Pupils from Pillgwenlly Primary celebrate National Tree Week

Council walks off with animal hero award

Newport City Council won the public sector category of the Animal Hero Awards 2013 after being nominated by Hope Rescue for its "sustained commitment to animal welfare" and its partnership with the charity.

For the last five years, Hope Rescue has taken all the stray dogs following the end of the statutory seven days in the council kennels.

More than 7,000 stray dogs are destroyed annually in the UK but since the two organisations began working together, none of the

rescued animals in Newport have been put to sleep except for severe behavioural or medical reasons.

A spokeswoman for Hope Rescue said: "We are very proud of our partnership that ensures the welfare, safety and future of the stray dogs in Newport City. Having worked with a number of councils over the years, the Newport City Council stray dog service really stands out as a blueprint for how other councils could work."

The city's stray dogs service was also recognised earlier last year by the RSPCA with a silver community animal welfare footprints award.

Innovative housing project wins award

Newport-based MyPad was named innovation of the year at the Welsh Housing Awards 2013.

Launched in May 2012, it is a partnership between the city council, Supporting People and four social landlords (Charter Housing Association, Melin Homes, Linc-Cymru and Newport City Homes).

Housing professionals give practical pre-tenancy training to young people on the common

housing register. While there is a fun element, it also teaches them about the serious responsibilities of holding a tenancy.

The judges said it was a "very successful scheme engaging difficult to reach young groups in a way they value and appreciated."

They added: "This exceptional programme is delivering the holy grail of more sustainable tenancies – something which is crucial in the current climate."

An advertisement for the MyPad initiative. It features a laptop, a smartphone, and a tablet all displaying the website newport.gov.uk. A pink speech bubble with a white arrow points towards the devices, containing the text "Need to report a problem? Save time GOONLINE". In the top left corner, there is a purple button with a clock icon and the text "Save time GO ONLINE". In the bottom right corner, there is a small logo for "Newport City Council" with the tagline "a better place to live, work and do business". The background of the ad shows a blurred image of a bridge over water.

Changes to waste and recycling collections

This year changes to waste and recycling collections in Newport will be extended to all residents.

Our aim is to improve the service on offer, increase recycling levels and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

Many residents are not making full use of the recycling services and we know that almost 50 per cent of the material going into the rubbish bin is easily recyclable. There is very little that can't be recycled at the kerbside or at the household waste recycling centre and we are encouraging everyone to make that extra effort.

Recycling is a positive action that not only benefits the environment but can also save you money.

Sending waste to landfill is expensive for the council and in addition, if we do not meet the targets set by Welsh Government we are likely to be hit with costly fines.

Cardboard collections

Residents will be receiving a new sack for cardboard over the coming year. New legislation on composting means the council can no longer collect garden waste and cardboard in the same container. Please continue to use your orange lidded bin for card until you are on the new scheme.

Your new sack will be delivered with

an advice leaflet and details of when the scheme will begin in your area. The bags for cardboard will be a polypropylene material (similar to bags in Ikea). They will also have a lid so that cardboard will be protected against the elements.

If you only use your orange lidded bin for cardboard, we can remove the bin when the new scheme starts if you prefer.

Smaller bins

As part of the increased recycling services we will also be rolling out 180 litre bins in replacement of the standard 240 litre bins.

The new bins are slightly narrower and do not take up as much room and, by participating in all the recycling schemes, offer ample capacity for a family's worth of residual waste.

If you would like to have a new bin sooner please contact the council on 01633 656 656 or visit www.newport.gov.uk/recycling

Did you know...

- Many of the bins are over five years old and will go for recycling. The better quality bins will be reused for other projects such as recycling in schools.

- If you are using all the recycling services on offer there should be very little left in your rubbish bin. If your

bin is still full every fortnight please contact us and we would be happy to advise.

- All the recyclables collected in Newport are sent for recycling in the UK, less than 0.1 per cent of materials collected at the kerbside cannot be recycled.

- Less than one per cent of your council tax goes to providing waste management services.

- The council has always had a no side waste policy. If bags of rubbish are placed by the side of bins you could be given a fixed penalty notice for £100 or fined up to £5,000.

- All Welsh authorities are under huge pressure to increase recycling rates not only Newport. Some councils' are only allowing two bags of rubbish or moving to 140 litre bins with fortnightly collections. Many are charging for garden waste collections or limiting collections to peak months. Some are looking at monthly collections of rubbish and charging for all other services.

- You can take your rubbish to the Household Waste Recycling Centre but it still needs to be separated for recycling, doing this at home and using the kerbside recycling schemes will save you the journey.

For more information visit www.newport.gov.uk/recycling

Turning waste into a resource

A new facility in Cardiff is set to begin turning Newport's waste that cannot be recycled or composted into valuable resources.

Prosiegt Gwydd, a consortium between five south Wales councils, has recently signed a contract with Viridor to create green energy from waste.

It will save the partner authorities £11m in the first year of operation and £500m over the lifetime of the contract.

The Welsh Government has set challenging recycling targets which are set in law. The contract will deliver at least a further five per cent recycling by extracting any remaining metal and using the incinerator bottom ash (IBA) as aggregate for building materials. The facility will also generate 28 MW of power which is the equivalent electricity needs for 50,000 homes.

The facility is currently being built at Trident Park in Cardiff. This solution represents excellent value for money, is safe, tried and tested and is an environmentally sustainable solution for the remaining rubbish.

The partner councils will start sending waste to the facility from September 2015 with full service starting on April 1, 2016.

Visit www.prosiegtgwydd.co.uk

Wardens help keep Newport streets cleaner

Newport City Council's campaign against litter louts and dog fouling stepped up with two new part-time enforcement wardens patrolling the streets.

They have been issuing fixed penalty notices to irresponsible dog owners and anyone caught dropping litter in a public place.

Councillor Gail Giles, cabinet member for licensing and statutory functions, said: "Like other councillors, I regularly get complaints about dog mess and litter on our streets.

"We are tackling these problems in a number of ways including raising awareness and education. However,

regrettably, a minority continue to ignore these messages and we are, therefore, taking further action through fixed penalty notices.

"We are determined to reduce this blight on our local environment and irresponsible people will risk these sanctions should they not clear up after their dogs or continue to drop litter.

Fixed penalty notices carry a £75 fine if paid straight away. There is an appeal procedure but if people choose not to pay the fine they could be fined up to £1,000 at a magistrates court. Income generated by the notices will go towards paying for the warden service.



Councillor Gail Giles (right) with the two new wardens



Green Scene...



Workshops (ongoing)

The Riverfront plays host to a vast range of workshops with something to suit all ages, interests and abilities.

Cinema (ongoing)

The Riverfront plays a broad range of films from around the world. We also have a selection of matinee showings and bring baby showings.

The first time machine (1 Feb)

Brothers Treays welcome you aboard their time machine for a voyage of a life time. Ages 5+. 11.30am.

Circus of Horrors (5 Feb)

The Circus of Horrors presents what is undoubtedly its greatest show to date – London after Midnight. 8pm.

Met Opera: (8 Feb, 1 Mar, 15 Mar)

The hugely popular Metropolitan Opera's Emmy Award winning series of live performance transmissions are beamed to The Riverfront direct from New York – 1 Feb: Rusalka, 1 Mar: Prince Igor, 15 Mar: Werther. 5.55pm.

Motowns greatest hits (8 Feb)

The ultimate celebration of the sweet sound of Motown – back by popular demand. 7.30pm.

Of mice and men (12, 13, 14 Feb)

Tin Shed Theatre Co. tell the story of George Milton and Lenny Small, two very different men bound together by providence. Various times.

Sherlock Holmes – The death and life (20 Feb)

The world's greatest detective refuses to leave the stage! A wryly humorous tale, of murder, mystery and the occult... 7.45pm.

Joanna Young: Recall (21 Feb)

Four performers make their way through a shifting landscape. They transform from self to animal, from the subtle to the extreme. 7.45pm.

Andy Fairweather Low (22 Feb)

Andy Fairweather Low was born in Cardiff in 1948 and rose to prominence as front man and guitarist for chart-topping, teen idol band, Amen Corner. 7.30pm.

Mr Blue Sky: The ELO experience (28 Feb)

Forty years on, and the music of Jeff Lynne and the Electric Light Orchestra is still regularly played on radio stations throughout the world. The Official UK No 1 Tribute Show 2013. 7.30pm.

City Centre – 01633 656656

The Admiral City of Newport half marathon (2 Mar)

Returning for its second year in aid of St David's Hospice Care. For more information see page 4.

Sport Relief Mile (23 Mar)

Newport will again host the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile which will take place on Sunday 23 March and you can show your support by entering at www.sportrelief.com See page 4 for more details.

Events are subject to change – visit www.newport.gov.uk/whatson for updated listings

Comedy Shed (28 Feb)

The relaxed cabaret style comedy club offers three professional comedians and the chance to enjoy a drink.

The killing of Sister George: Theatr Pena (5, 6, 7, 8 Mar)

1965, a BBC radio soap is losing listeners, the axe is about to fall and its most popular character is about to face her own personal apocalypse. Age guide 14, various times.

Russell Kane: Smallness (8 Mar)

Well known comedian Russell Kane with his 'smallness' tour. 7.30pm.

Music Academy Showcase (12 Mar)

The Music Academy works with local artists and community groups to develop their talents, culminating in the academy showcase. 7pm.

Emily - The making of a militant suffragette (20 Mar)

A year after the centenary of Emily Wilding Davison's death at the Derby, this iconic but enigmatic suffragette's life is movingly portrayed by Elizabeth Crarer. 7.45pm.

Grandpa's railway (22 Mar)

Imagine a railway that fits in one room, but travels the world on a winter's afternoon. The toot of the whistle, the hiss of the steam, a train full of adventures, surprises, and dreams! Ages 5+, 2pm and 4pm.

Pop up Bowie (22 Mar)

Paul Anthony looks and sounds like David Bowie. With his own band he performs Bowie's greatest hits. 7.30pm.

Sinfonia Cymru (23 Mar)

A celebration of Strauss' 150th Anniversary sets the composer's Metamorphosen alongside his buoyant Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme. 3pm.

Under Milk Wood (26, 27, 28, 29 Mar)

Under Milk Wood is a work of genius; ripe with vitality, rich in humour and populated by sublime, eccentric, enchanting characters. Clwyd Theatr Cymru. Various times.

Newport Centre – 01633 656757

Welsh Open (19 Feb-2 Mar)

Snooker's Welsh Open world ranking event returns with a new format where all 128 players start in the same round. Established stars like Ronnie O'Sullivan, Judd Trump, John Higgins, Mark Selby, home favourite Mark Williams and defending champion Stephen Maguire will all be eligible to enter the event and could face against up-and-coming rookies in the first round. Tickets are on sale now and early booking is advised.

Newport Wetlands – 01633 636363

World Wetlands Day walk (2 Feb)

A walk to explore the reedbeds and Severn Estuary. See over-wintering wildfowl such as tufted duck, pochard and gadwall and shoveler and waders such as curlew and dunlin. Free event, 9.40-11.30am.

Newport Community Learning

Does your CV need something extra?

Would you like to
learn a new skill?

Newport Community Learning offers a wide range of courses and qualifications for anyone over 16 throughout the year at venues across Newport.

Courses are starting in January.
There is still time to enrol now!



Courses start throughout the year



What is Newport Community Learning?

Are you looking to further your learning this year?
Want to add a new skill to your CV?
Always fancied being fluent in French?
Want to cook up a storm in the kitchen?



Newport
Community
Learning

Take a look at what Newport Community Learning can offer you! With bite size courses available in the morning, afternoon and evening it's easy to fit in a course around your busy schedule.

It's never too late to learn!

Where can I study?

Charles Street Community Learning Centre CLC16 Charles St, NP20 1JU

Rivermead Centre Fuchsia Way Rogerstone, NP10 9LZ

St Julian's Community Learning & Library Centre Beaufort Road, NP19 7UB

Staff will be available to offer further information, advice and guidance.

Please note:

even though a course start date has passed there may be places available. Please call us to find out.

Contact details

Call and ask for Community Learning
01633 666656

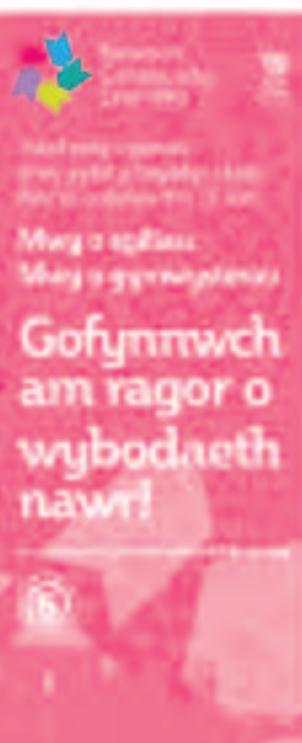
Visit
www.newport.gov.uk/communitylearning

Email
Community.Learning@newport.gov.uk

How do I enrol?

You can enrol online
and access the full course
content information

www.newport.gov.uk/communitylearning



Code	Day	Start	End	Weeks	Start date	Venue	Cost
Computing							
Bookkeeping							
IAB Level 1 Award In Computerised Payroll							
K0344	Mon	18:30	21:00	12	10-Mar-14	St Julians Community Learning Centre	£129.00
<i>The exam fee is included in the cost of the course</i>							
IAB Level 2 Award In Computerised Bookkeeping							
K0326	Wed	12:00	15:00	10	05-Mar-14	St Julians Community Learning Centre	£139.40
<i>The exam fee is included in the cost of the course</i>							
Sage - IAB Level 1 Award In Computerised Accounts							
K0324	Wed	19:00	21:00	15	12-Feb-14	St Julians Community Learning Centre	£114.00
K0329	Thu	09:15	11:45	12	20-Mar-14	Charles Street Community Learning Centre	£114.00
<i>The exam fee is included in the cost of the course</i>							
ITQ Level 1 Award (ECDL)							
K0486	Tue	18:30	21:00	18	04-Feb-14	Rivermead Centre	£109.00
Computers don't bite - Unable to switch computer on							
K0321	Thu	10:00	12:30	6	6-Feb-14	Ringland Library	£7.00
K0343	Thu	18:30	21:00	6	13-Feb-14	Charles Street Community Learning Centre	£7.00
K0484	Thu	09:30	12:00	6	06-Feb-14	Rivermead Centre	£7.00
ESW - Computers for improvers - intermediate							
K0350	Wed	12:00	14:30	12	12-Mar-14	Charles Street Community Learning Centre	£14.50
K0331	Thu	10:00	12:30	12	3-Apr-14	Ringland Library	£14.50
K0485	Thu	12:30	14:30	15	13-Feb-14	Rivermead Centre	£14.50
First Steps Using Spreadsheets							
K0327	Mon	18:00	21:00	5	10-Mar-14	Charles Street Community Learning Centre	£38.50
K0340	Tue	10:00	12:30	6	13-May-14	Bethws Library	£38.50
Introduction To Buying And Selling On Ebay							
K0328	Sat	09:30	12:00	2	15-Mar-14	St Julians Community Learning Centre	£14.50
Creative							
Get Creative With Your Tablet Computer							
K0320	Mon	13:00	15:30	6	27-Jan-14	Rivermead Centre	£38.50
Creative Studies							
Art (Places may still be available)							
Courses for all those wishing to study painting and drawing techniques							
K0061	Tue	18:30	21:00	6	3-Jun-14	Charles Street Community Learning Centre	£38.50
Experimental Street Art							
K0079	Thu	18:00	20:30	6	6-Mar-14	Spytty Stadium	£38.50
Oil Painting							
K0064	Tue	13:00	15:00	10	29-Apr-14	Riverfront Arts Centre	£68.87
Watercolour Painting							
K0067	Mon	12:30	15:00	12	29-Apr-14	St Julians Community Learning Centre	£115.00

Code	Day	Start	End	Weeks	Start date	Venue	Cost
Catering							
Cookery - Cooking a Three Course Meal							
K0093	Mon	18:00	21:00	5	3-Feb-14	Brynglas Kitchen	£46.00
Cup Cake Decorating Day School							
K0098	Sat	10:00	15:00	1	8-Feb-14	Brynglas Kitchen	£14.50
K0099	Sat	10:00	15:00	1	29-Mar-14	Brynglas Kitchen	£14.50
K0100	Sat	10:00	15:00	1	12-Apr-14	Brynglas Kitchen	£14.50
Level 2 Award In Food Safety In Catering							
K0111	Fri	12:15	16:00	2	31-Jan-14	Rivermead Centre	£31.00
K0112	Sat	09:15	13:00	2	1-Mar-14	Rivermead Centre	£31.00
K0113	Fri	14:45	18:30	2	28-Mar-14	Rivermead Centre	£31.00
Patisserie Day School							
K0119	Sat	10:00	15:00	1	8-Feb-14	Brynglas Kitchen	£23.14
Patisserie Short Course							
K0122	Tue	12:00	14:30	2	11-Feb-14	Brynglas Kitchen	£23.14
Wired Sugar Flowers - Summer Taster Course							
K0124	Thu	10:00	12:30	6	12-Jun-14	St Julians Community Learning Centre	£38.50
Craft							
Crafts To Teach Your Kids							
K0129	Mon	18:30	21:00	6	2-Jun-14	St Julians Community Learning Centre	£38.50
Designing Greeting Cards For Fun And Profit							
K0131	Tue	13:00	15:30	6	4-Mar-14	Spytty Stadium	£38.50
Scrapbooking							
K0135	Wed	18:30	21:00	12	02-April-14	Riverfront Arts Centre	£77.00
Textiles							
Upcycling Your Wardrobe							
K0150	Tue	13:00	15:30	6	3-Jun-14	Spytty Stadium	£38.50
Essential Skills							
English or Maths							
We have many courses to help you with the basics, brush up your skills or start working towards a GCSE. Go to our website or call in at a Centre for more information. We will be happy to help and give advice.							
General Education							
First Aid At Work							
Emergency First Aid							
K0257	Wed	9:30	13:30	2	26-Mar-14	Rivermead Centre	£28.90
Researching Your Family Tree							
Family History							
K0259	Tue	18:00	21:00	10	29-Apr-14	St Julians Community Learning Centre	£77.00
Working with Children							
Paediatric First Aid							
K0254	Thu	09:30	16:00	2	23-Jan-14	Rivermead Centre	£49.10

Code	Day	Start	End	Weeks	Start date	Venue	Cost	Code	Day	Start	End	Weeks	Start date	Venue	Cost
Modern Foreign Languages															
British Sign Language <small>Sign Language - Improvers (Beginners Part 2)</small>															
K0395	Wed	19:00	21:00	15	22-Jan-14	Charles Street Community Learning Centre	£77.00								
German <small>Building On The Basics Of German (Beginners Part 2)</small>															
K0418	Mon	19:00	21:00	15	20-Jan-14	Charles Street Community Learning Centre	£77.00								
French <small>Building On The Basics Of French (Beginners Part 2)</small>															
K0406	Tue	19:00	21:00	15	21-Jan-14	St Julian's Community Learning Centre	£77.00								
Italian <small>Building On The Basics Of Italian (Beginners Part 2)</small>															
K0415	Tue	19:00	21:00	15	21-Jan-14	Charles Street Community Learning Centre	£77.00								
Spanish <small>Building On The Basics Of Spanish (Beginners Part 2)</small>															
K0399	Thu	13:30	15:30	15	23-Jan-14	St Julian's Community Learning Centre	£77.00								
Welsh/Cymraeg															
Welsh For Beginners <small>(Places may still be available)</small>															
Cymraeg i'r Teulu (Welsh Year 1)															
K0428	Wed	09:30	11:30	30	2-Oct-13	Cardiff Library & Information Centre	£130.50								
Mynediad 1 (Welsh Year 1)															
K0427	Wed	13:00	15:00	30	2-Oct-13	Charles Street Community Learning Centre	£130.50								
Mynediad 1 (Welsh Year 1) - Term 1															
K0431	Thu	19:00	21:00	10	3-Oct-13	St Julian's Community Learning Centre	£44.50								
Mynediad 1 (Welsh Year 1) - Term 2															
K0432	Thu	19:00	21:00	10	9-Jan-14	St Julian's Community Learning Centre	£44.50								
Mynediad 1 (Welsh Year 1) - Term 3															
K0433	Thu	19:00	21:00	10	10-Apr-14	St Julian's Community Learning Centre	£44.50								
Day/Weekend Schools for Welsh Learners															
Welsh Day School															
K0449	Sat	09:15	15:45	1	12-Jul-14	Newport Centre	£15.00								
Short Courses For Beginners															
Introduction To Welsh															
K0452	Sat	09:30	15:30	1	28-Jun-14	Rivermead Centre, Rogerstone	£13.30								
Welsh For Parents															
K0450	Mon	09:30	11:30	10	3-Mar-14	Carnegie Library & Information Centre	£38.50								
Welsh For Continuers															
Mynediad 2 (Welsh Year 2)															
K0434	Mon	19:00	21:00	30	30-Sep-13	St Julian's Community Learning Centre	£130.50								
Sylfaen 1 (Welsh Year 3)															
K0439	Thu	19:00	21:00	30	3-Oct-13	Charles Street Community Learning Centre	£130.50								
Hyfeddredd (Proficiency)															
K0447	Mon	09:30	12:30	30	30-Sep-13	Rivermead Centre Rogerstone	£167.50								

How much is a course?

The full cost is listed against each course. Concessions are available.

Please note that conditions apply for any concessionary rate and will require proof of benefit, which must be valid on the day you enrol on a course.

A 100% concession on course tuition fees is available to those receiving Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance, Guaranteed Pension Credit and Full Time Students.

A 50% concession on course tuition fees is available for people on Working Tax Credit (but not Family Tax or Child Tax Credit)

A Low Income policy applies to **some** courses. If your income is less than £16,000 a year, you may be eligible for a reduction in fees. Documentary proof of low income will be needed when you enrol at a learning centre.

Please note concessions are not available on cost recovery, non-accredited courses. Our staff will be very willing to advise you of the remaining cost of resources and accreditation for your course. Please bring documentary proof of eligibility when you register.

For more information on course concessions view the full brochure at www.newport.gov.uk/communitylearning



**Tredegar House –
01633 815880**

House open 'below stairs' (8-28 Feb)

A chance to experience the working areas of the house and find out what it was like to work there. 11am-4pm.

Half term activities (22 Feb-1 Mar)

Family friendly activities including a children's trail, crafts and bird box making.

House opens (1 Mar)

House opens 7 days a week, alongside gardens. 11am-5pm.

**Newport Market –
01633 656656**

Land and Scape (8-28 Feb)

The Upmarket Galleries is hosting a new exhibition featuring work by artists taking their immediate rural environment as inspiration in a variety of media from painting and photography to computer generated pieces and sound art. Upstairs in the market, the exhibition is organised and curated by members of Bosch and Artopsy. Opening show from 12pm to 4pm on 8 February.

For further information, please contact Steven Jones on 07980466262 or senojnevets@hotmail.com

Convey Law win award

Newport based conveyancing specialists Convey Law have won a Sunday Times Convayancer of the Year Award. The judging panel at the awards recognised Convey Law as, "having an outstanding level of

**Newport Museum
and Art Gallery –
01633 656656**

Object enquiry sessions (12 Feb, 12 Mar)

Newport Museum and Art Gallery holds regular object enquiry sessions and can examine archaeology and social history objects and works of fine and decorative art.

Art store tours

Venture behind the scenes of Newport Museum and Art Gallery and peak into some of the art stores. Booking essential. 11am.

**Dolman Theatre –
01633 263670**

What the butler saw (19-22 Feb)

A manic, shocking, helter-skelter of a farce involving an orgy of cross-dressing, mistaken identity and half-naked pursuits around a zany psychiatric clinic.

Aladdin (25 Feb-1 Mar)

The family favourite performed by Newport Pantomime Society.

All Shook Up (19-22 Mar)

New Venture Players present this lively musical built around the songs made famous by Elvis Presley.

Ward meetings

Allt-yr-Yn: 18 February, 10am surgery, 10.30am meeting, Civic Centre

Caerleon: 3 February, 6pm surgery, 6.30pm meeting, Lodge Hill

Primary School

Rogerstone: 11 February, 7pm, Rogerstone & Bassaleg Social Club

Stow Hill: 6 February, 7pm, Newport Centre

Flood scheme for 700 Newport homes

In early December parts of the UK experienced the worst tidal flooding for 60 years. Fortunately, improvements to flood schemes and flood warnings saved many from the devastating impacts of flooding.

Most recently, properties in Crindau were flooded by a tidal surge that came very close to affecting hundreds of homes and business in the area.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW), with support from Newport City Council is working to reduce this risk in Crindau with continued improvements to flood schemes along the banks of the River Usk. Having completed improvements along parts of Riverside in recent years, NRW is now preparing plans for substantial improvements in the Crindau / Shaftsbury Park area.

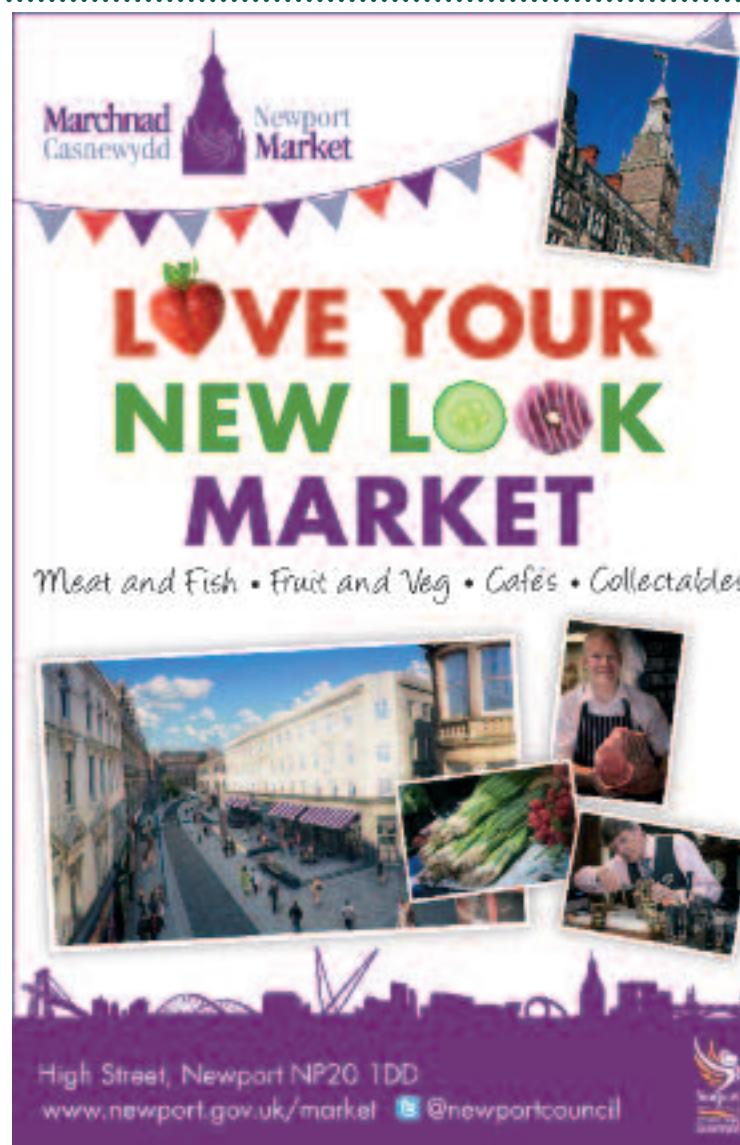


The proposed Crindau Pill Flood Scheme aims to increase community resilience, offering flood protection to over 700 homes and businesses. The

scheme would extend along the banks of the River Usk and Crindau Pill between the M4 motorway south down to the London to Cardiff railway line (see image). Provided funding is in place, construction is due to begin in 2015.

Councillor Ken Critchley, cabinet member for infrastructure, said: "I am very pleased to support the NRW's proposed flood scheme at Crindau Pill. This area represents the biggest risk of flooding in Newport and this scheme, with a combination of reinforced concrete walls and raised earth embankments, will remove that danger to residents in the area."

A community drop-in exhibition is being held on February 10, 2pm to 8pm at Shaftsbury Community Centre. All local residents are encouraged to attend. NRW's flood experts will be on hand to showcase and discuss proposals for the Crindau Pill Flood Scheme. NRW is also keen to hear from residents about any stories of past flooding, and there will be information on how everyone can better prepare and protect themselves from flooding.



Health Challenge Newport

Health Challenge Newport aims to help people living and working in Newport to live a healthy lifestyle. It offers advice and support about getting active plus a range of health information.

The website (address at bottom of page) covers topics from healthy diet advice to facts about alcohol. It's the place to visit for healthy living information, advice on how to stop smoking, as a place to share healthy recipes or how your family stays active in Newport. You can also sign up to an e-newsletter, sent directly to you, about different events going on in Newport.



Health Challenge Newport
Her Iechyd Casnewydd

The Eatwell Plate

Eating healthily is about eating the right amount of food for your needs.

The Eatwell Plate shows what to eat, and how much, from each food group and shows the different types of food that make up a well-balanced and healthy diet.

It's a good idea to try to get this balance right every day, but you don't need to do it at every meal. You might find it easier to get the balance right over a longer period, for example over a week.

In Wales, many adults and children are either overweight or obese. Many of us are eating more than we need, and should eat and drink fewer calories, in order to aim for a healthier weight. Exercise will also help to achieve a healthy weight, as well as changing the foods that you eat.

The eatwell plate

Use the eatwell plate to help you get the balance right; it shows how much of what you eat should come from each food group.



Based on the Eatwell Plate (above) try to eat:

- Plenty of fruit and vegetables
Did you know that we should be eating at least five portions of a variety of fruit and veg every day?
- Plenty of potatoes, bread, rice, pasta and other starchy foods
Choose wholegrain varieties whenever you can, or eat potatoes with their skins on for more fibre.
- Some meat, fish, eggs, beans and other non-dairy sources of protein
These are important sources of protein, vitamins and minerals, and form part of a healthy balanced diet.
- Some milk and dairy foods
Go for lower-fat milk and dairy foods. These are healthier options to help you get enough protein and calcium.
- Just a small amount of foods and drinks that are high in fat or sugar
Cut down on fat and sugar by eating fewer sweets, cakes and biscuits, and drinking fewer sugary soft drinks.

Is the Eatwell Plate for me?

The Eatwell Plate applies to most people of a healthy weight or overweight, vegetarian or meat-eaters and of any ethnic origin.

Eatwell doesn't apply to children under the age of two because they have different nutritional needs. Between the ages of two and five, children should gradually move to eating the same foods as the rest of the family, in the proportions shown on the Eatwell plate.

Anyone with special dietary requirements or medical needs might want to check with a registered dietitian whether the Eatwell Plate applies to them.

Healthy eating is simple.

A diet based on the following food groups will give you all the nutrients you need:

- starchy foods such as potatoes, rice and pasta
- fruit and vegetables
- protein-rich foods such as meat, fish and lentils
- milk and dairy foods.

Balance is the key to getting a healthy diet right. Eat a wide variety of foods, in the right proportions, and consume the right amount of food and drink to become healthier.

For more information visit:

Change for life website
www.nhs.uk/ChangeLife/Pages/healthy-eating.aspx

The British Dietetic Association
www.bda.uk.com/foodfacts

WeightWise
www.bdaweightwise.com



Visit the Health Challenge Newport Website

www.newport.gov.uk/healthchallenge





Youngsters celebrate their Duke of Edinburgh awards at presentation

Newport City Council's youth service hosted a presentation evening at The Riverfront recently, with young people from across the city collecting certificates at Duke of Edinburgh bronze, silver and gold levels.

The youngsters completed their awards through their school, youth club or explorer scouts. Many councillors attended the presentation night and had the honour of presenting a total of 183 bronze awards, 48 silver and 31 gold to the young people of Newport.

To achieve a Duke of Edinburgh's award young people aged 14 – 25 have to complete four different activities, each over a period of between three to 18 months.

As part of their volunteering section young people across Newport gave more than 6,000 hours back to the community last year by helping in charity shops, animal welfare

centres, their schools and youth clubs. They also completed an hour a week of physical activity and learned many new skills.

All of the young people involved completed expeditions, travelling around the country by foot, bike or

canoe. The gold award holders took part in an extra week-long residential activity in order to gain their award. They will now be invited to St James' Palace to collect their award from the Duke of Edinburgh himself.

During the presentation evening, which was hosted by the young people themselves, the audience were given an insight into some of the activities that were undertaken through some great presentations covering all sections of the award.



Young people celebrate their Duke of Edinburgh awards
Pobl ifanc yn dathlu ennill gwobrau Dug Caeredin

Pobl ifanc yn dathlu ennill gwobrau Dug Caeredin

Cafodd gwasanaeth ieuengtiaid Cyngor Dinas Casnewydd noson gyflwyno yng Nglan-yr-afon yn ddiweddar, gyda phobl ifanc o bob rhan o'r ddinas yn cael dystysgrifau efydd, arian ac aur Dug Caeredin.

Cwblhaodd y bobl ifanc eu gwobrau drwy eu hysgol, eu canolfan hamdden neu'r sgwiliaid.

Daeth nifer o gynghorwyr i'r cyflwyniad, a bu'n faint cyflwyno 183 o wobrau efydd, 48 o wobrau arian a 31 o wobrau aur i bobl ifanc Casnewydd.

I gyflawni gwobr Dug Caeredin, rhaid i bobl ifanc 14-25 oed gwblhau pedwar gweithgaredd gwahanol, gyda phob un yn cymryd rhwng 3 a 18 mis i'w cwblhau.

Fel rhan o'u hadran wirfoddoli, rhoddodd pobl ifanc ar draws

Casnewydd dros 6,000 o oriau'n ôl i'r gymuned y llynedd drwy helpu mewn siopau elusen, canolfannau lles anifeiliaid, yn eu hysgolion ac yn eu canolfannau ieuengtiaid.

Gwnaethant hefyd gwblhau awr o weithgareddau corfforol a dysgu nifer o sgliau newydd.

Gwnaeth yr holl bobl ifanc gwblhau alldéithiau, gan deithio'r wlad ar droed, ar feic neu mewn canŵ.

Cymerodd deiliaid y wobr aur ran

mewn gweithgaredd preswyll wythnos ychwanegol i ennill eu gwobr nhw. Byddant bellach yn cael eu gwahodd i Balas St Iago i gael eu gwobr gan Ddug Caeredin ei hun.

Yn ystod y noson gyflwyno, a gynhalwyd gan y bobl ifanc eu hunain, cafodd y gynulleidfa gipolwg ar rai o'r gweithgareddau a gyflawnwyd drwy gyflwyniadau gwych a soniodd am bob agwedd ar y wobr.

Chief education officer returns

Following a successful period of sharing a chief education officer, Newport City Council and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council have agreed to end the partnership arrangement, and return to full time self-management at both authorities from 1 February 2014.

In February 2013 James Harris was appointed joint chief education officer for both councils, he will return to Newport City Council and spend 100 per cent of his time in charge of education services at the authority.

A spokesperson for Newport City Council, commented:

"The issue of collaboration is important for Welsh councils. The

example set by Newport and Blaenau Gwent on how collaborative working can add value to the delivery of services is an example for others across the country.

"We have to ensure that we maintain our own education standards and in the long term feel we can only do that by having our chief education officer in post full time."

"We will continue to support our colleagues in Blaenau Gwent through this transitional phase until the end of January 2014."

Both councils will continue to support and participate in the South East Wales Education Achievement Service (EAS).



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Putting Communities First

Communities First – the Welsh Government's flagship programme aimed at tackling deprivation – was re-launched last year and the council won the bid to deliver the programme in the city.

It will provide external funding of £5.5 million over two years and support 50 full-time equivalent posts.

Three new themes have been identified for the programme – prosperous communities, learning communities and healthier communities

Four new clusters were established – north (Bettws, Malpas and Shaftesbury); central (Maindee, Pill and Stow Hill); west (Gaer, Maesglas and Tredegar Park) and east (Alway, Beechwood/Old Barn, Lliswerry, Ringland and Somerton).

North cluster

The team delivers a range of projects and support throughout the cluster designed to develop more prosperous, learning and healthier communities as can be seen in the examples below.

Health and well-being: courses including healthy cooking, exercise and



nutrition advice and promoting health and well-being.

Education and learning: extended sixth form provision runs every weekday in the Bettws Civil Service Building with a focus on sport and leisure as well as the opportunity to take various qualifications while adult education courses in first aid, food hygiene, confidence building and other topics began this month.

Prosperity: work placements, employment advice/support and social enterprise training are available throughout the cluster.



Citizens Advice Bureau drop-in sessions are held in Bettws, Malpas and Shaftesbury. Call 01633 222622 for further details.

Central cluster

A big part of the central team's programme is helping people get back to work through their job clubs.

One of the busiest sessions takes place at Community House, Eton Road, delivered in partnership with Careers Wales, Jobcentre Plus, Save Time Online and Maindee Action Group.



each Thursday between 1pm and 3pm.

Help is also offered to local people who want to start a business or groups who want to set up a social enterprise.

Three health promotion events were held last year and the last one in October, in Community House, attracted more than 300 residents. Similar events are promised this year.

A project to support and keep young people aged between 14 and 16 in education is being run in conjunction with Coleg Gwent with NVQ modules in fabrication and welding and vehicle mechanics.

They are held on Thursdays between 1pm and 4pm.

Other sessions are held at Pill Mill Centre on Wednesdays from 1pm-3pm and on Thursdays from 9.30am-12pm as well as the SHARE Centre on Stow Hill



Newport gets super-connected

Newport is one step closer to becoming a super-connected city with the launch of Super-connected Newport.

Superfast and ultrafast broadband are going to change everything we do – from shopping to healthcare – and Newport's programme is leading the way in delivering the change.

£4 million of funding is available to local businesses through a voucher scheme which will help them get improved broadband connections.

Cllr Bob Bright, leader of Newport City Council, said: "The council and colleagues in Newport Unlimited have worked hard to bring this important project to Newport. The fact that it is now going live is a great moment for local businesses and I urge them to take advantage of the support available."

Communications minister Ed Vaizey, said: "The broadband market is moving at an incredible pace. Today, businesses expect and demand faster and faster

broadband to compete in the global race. Connection vouchers will be an important tool for cities in helping to address that demand, and government has now allocated up to £100 million to provide a digital boost to superconnected cities like Newport."

Already the project is working with a wide range of companies that hope to benefit from improved broadband access – companies including the Ashton Park Care Home that hope to improve video calling for residents, the NSP

Gaming Centre bringing a sense of community back to online gaming, and Newport based UK Plumbing Supplies providing online ordering for plumbers across the UK.

The Super-connected Newport project will also bring high speed wireless internet access to key areas of the city.

For more information visit www.newport.gov.uk/superfast, call 01633 656656 or follow @ConnectNewport on Twitter.

Work on-track for rail electrification



Network Rail Wales is working closely with Welsh Government, the Department for Transport, train operating companies and key stakeholders to deliver a better railway for South Wales.

This investment will bring benefits for passengers, while supporting the growth of the local economy.

In July 2012, the secretary of state for transport announced the decision to electrify the Great

Western Main Line (GWML) between London and Swansea, with the aim for the network to Cardiff to be electrified by 2017 and to Swansea by 2018.

In order to facilitate electrification, essential preparatory works are required and will begin in 2014. In Wales, a number of bridges are too low to accommodate the new infrastructure and overhead electrical lines. Work on such bridges is expected to begin in late 2014 and continue until 2016.

Overgrown vegetation will also have to be cleared and maintained to prevent encroachment on the electrified lines. Following this, foundation works will begin.

As project plans develop, a number of public information events will be held – details will be published in Newport Matters, online and in the press when available.

An electrified rail network will mean faster, greener, quieter and more reliable journeys for tens of thousands of rail passengers. It is

more economical to operate and maintain. The enhanced infrastructure will also give the provision for smoother train journeys for passengers as well as helping to deliver a quieter railway for line-side neighbours.

The electrification of the GWML is a vital aspect of the government's strategy to provide a safe, reliable and efficient railway for the 21st Century.

For more information visit www.networkrail.co.uk/greatwesternelectrification

International summit

World leaders will be coming to Newport this year when a major international summit comes to our city.

A summit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is to meet at the Celtic Manor Resort in September.

Prime Minister David Cameron announced late last year that

Britain would host the summit for the first time since Margaret Thatcher welcomed NATO leaders at the end of the cold war in 1990.

Set up in 1949, NATO's essential purpose is to safeguard the freedom and security of its 28 member countries through political and military means.

World-class convention centre

Welsh Government announced late last year that they will provide match funding for the initial stage of a project to create a world-class convention centre facility in Newport.

The match funding will allow Celtic Manor management to

submit the Wales International Convention Centre scheme, which would provide the largest convention facility of its kind in Wales or the south west of England, for outline planning consent this year.

The project includes a state-of-the-art new auditorium, exhibition hall and complementary facilities.

Work programme launches

Two innovative projects providing unemployed people with opportunities to improve their job prospects have been officially launched.

Newport City Council, together with its One Newport partners, has established a Work Based Learning Academy (WBLA) which offers paid and unpaid work experience to young people, graduates, apprentices and the long-term unemployed.

It is also collaborating with Jobcentre Plus at the Information Station to give expert support and advice in personal development, skills, vocational qualifications and work experience.

Councillor Deborah Davies, cabinet member for skills and work, launched the WBLA at Malpas Court last month.

"The council, and our One Newport partners, want to put this important work at the heart of our business. Opening up opportunities to help people find permanent employment is important for the individual but also has an economic benefit for the city.

"Recent developments in Newport - including the new Admiral offices in the city centre which are due to open next year, the announcement that an international conference centre is to be created at the Celtic Manor and with construction of Friars Walk beginning early next year - signal a renewed confidence in the city.

"We want to ensure that local people have the best skills and opportunities so they can be part of Newport's future growth."

Councillor Davies was joined by Newport East MP Jessica Morden for

the launch of the co-location project which is one strand of the work programme in the city which is delivered by the council in partnership with Working Links under contract by the DWP (Department of Work and Pensions).

From October 2012 to November 2013, the council has supported 960 people in looking for employment and, as a result, 52 per cent found work.

In the last year, the teams have excelled in two particular areas:

Working with 156 young people aged between 18 and 24 claiming job seekers allowance, they helped 75 per cent of them to find work.

Of 385 job seeker allowance claimants aged 25 plus, 57 per cent found employment.

Take pride in your neighbourhood

Fly-tipping is a serious problem in England and Wales. Dealing with the problem can cost taxpayers and private landowners in the region of £100-£150 million every year.

Fly-tipping poses a threat to humans and wildlife, damages our environment, and spoils our enjoyment of our towns and countryside. The blight in fly-tipping hot spots can even reduce property prices in the area and local businesses may suffer as people stay away.

It also undermines legitimate waste businesses where illegal operators undercut those abiding by the law. At the same time, the reputation of legal operators is undermined by rogue traders.

Did you know that if you are caught fly tipping you could receive a £20,000 fine or imprisonment?

Competition

To tackle fly tipping the council's waste management team are calling for residents of Newport to nominate areas that are victim to fly tipping.

If you have problems with fly tipping you can put your area forward to receive support from the council to clean it up.

To enter email rethink.rubbish@newport.gov.uk or phone Christine Thomas on 01633 656656. The closing date for entries is Friday 14 February 2014.

Together we can clean up our communities and help make Newport free from fly-tipping.

Fairness Commission reports findings of its research

A year on from its launch Newport Fairness Commission, the first in Wales, has published a detailed report on the council's budget setting and decision making processes.

The Labour Administration elected in 2012 decided that issues relating to fairness needed to remain high on the council's agenda. To do this an independent body made up of representatives from local groups and organisations with an interest in fairness, equalities and social inclusion was set up.

The fairness commission immediately began work on building a clearer understanding of what fairness means and how it applies to council policies and decisions. It has also looked at how it could stimulate wider public debate on such issues and a public consultation exercise was carried out in summer 2013.

The report explores a range of questions including; when is it fair to treat people the same, and when is it fair to treat people differently? What groups have priority in Newport and why?

It also asks how the council ensures that decision-making is fair, consistent and transparent and how

the exchange of views is facilitated between Newport City Council and citizens.

Councillor Bob Bright, leader of the council, said "We very much welcome this report from the fairness commission. As a party, one of our key promises was that we would stand up for Newport and make it a fairer city, a place where everyone feels included. The commission and this report will assist the council in its aim of narrowing the gap between the most disadvantaged and the most affluent areas of Newport and ensure local people feel part of the decision-making that affects their lives."

Professor Steve Smith, chair of the commission, commented: "It is commendable that Newport is leading the way in Wales by setting-up a fairness commission. Our aim is to provide policy-makers with a 'critical lens' for viewing fairness, and to encourage public debate which takes fairness seriously as a centrally important political, economic, and social goal."

For more information on the commission and to view the full report visit www.newportfairnesscommission.org



Councillor Deborah Davies and Jessica Morden MP attend the launch of the new academy

Scheme helps warm Newport households and save £500

More than 350 households across Newport saved an average of £500 per year after being referred for free home energy improvements last year from a Welsh Government's fuel poverty scheme.

Nest offers home improvements at no cost to applicants who own or privately rent their home, live in a property that is very energy inefficient

and receive a means tested state benefit.

Following a home visit to check eligibility, a Nest assessor will recommend a tailored package of improvements to help make the property warmer and save money on energy bills. These may include a new central heating boiler, loft insulation, cavity wall or solid wall insulation, or renewable energy technologies.

The Nest scheme, which is managed by British Gas, also supports applicants through the process with advice via a freephone number.

If you are on a means tested benefit, and your home is hard to heat, please contact Nest on Freephone 0808 808 2244 to see if you are eligible for a home energy improvement package, or visit www.nestwales.org.uk for more information.

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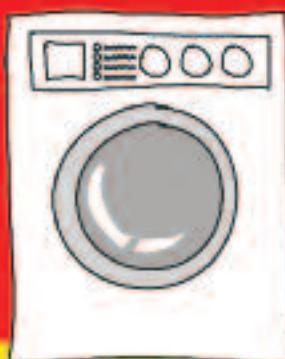
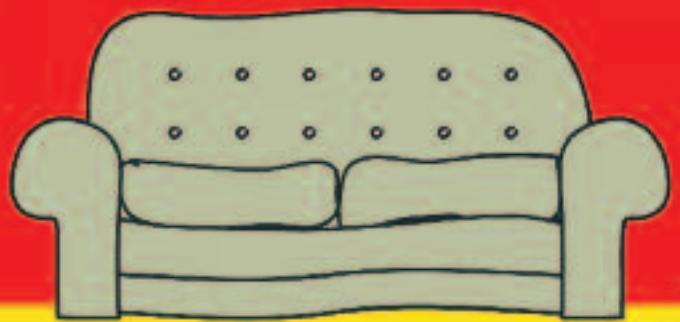
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