



NM
NEWPORT
MATTERS

The official newspaper of Newport City Council

STREET ART MURALS

Have you noticed the street art murals that have been popping up around the city recently?

The council, working alongside partners and community groups, has commissioned a number of murals as part of our efforts to improve the local environmental quality of the city.

The projects are designed to celebrate the heritage of the city, add a splash of colour to key locations, and increase feelings of pride and connection in the local area.



COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS: SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTS



Newport City Council is committed to helping residents during the cost-of-living crisis, particularly the most vulnerable in our communities.

However, we recognise that spiralling costs are impacting

on many more families and individuals than ever before.

We are working with partners to offer advice and support to as many people as possible and urge people to get in touch if they are struggling financially.

Assistance includes:

- ✓ **The winter fuel support scheme – a one-off cash payment to one household member responsible for utility bills**
- ✓ **Free school meals for every Newport pupil in reception, year one and year two with plans to roll out to every primary school pupil as soon as possible**
- ✓ **Additional support for some groups of people under the discretionary phase of the cost-of-living support scheme**
- ✓ **Alternative payment plans for people finding it difficult to pay their council tax**
- ✓ **Food banks operating across the city**
- ✓ **Discretionary housing payments for those struggling to pay rent**
- ✓ **Discretionary assistance fund to help pay essential costs or to help people live independently**

Earlier this month, an event was held where council services and third sector organisations came together to offer face-to-face advice to residents.

Council teams will continue to provide useful information through its day-to-day work in our communities.

There is a support and advice page on the council website with links to help both the council and other organisations are able to offer and this is continually updated newport.gov.uk/support. Alternatively, call **01633 656656**.

CLAIM WHAT'S YOURS!

If you are unsure about what benefits you can claim, **Advicelink Cymru** can help you check and claim what's yours.

Get in touch with one of their advisors today by calling the free helpline on **0808 250 5700**.

Newport City Council has committed £100,000 to assist community food groups dedicated to helping residents as the cost-of-living continues to spiral.

A scheme to help these organisations is now open for applications after being launched by the council in partnership with voluntary support organisation GAVO.

Food banks, and other groups that help residents who are struggling financially, can apply for grants to assist with day-to-day costs such as buying groceries to replenish their stocks.

An earlier scheme, also run with GAVO, gives financial assistance for initiatives such as growing projects or upgrading of equipment to help groups meet the challenge of tackling food insecurity.

For more information and to apply for the funding visit gavo.org.uk/newportfood

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PARADE

Newport's annual Remembrance parade and service will take place on **Sunday 13 November** in Newport city centre.



Those invited to take part in the parade will include standard bearers, ex-servicemen, members of the Royal British Legion, Armed Forces, associations, councillors, representatives from emergency services and youth groups.

Residents are advised that there will be road closures in place from 7am – 1pm. The roads affected will be; Upper Dock Street (from Skinner Street to Old Green roundabout), Old Green roundabout (including slip roads), Newport Bridge, Clarence Place, Caerleon Road (from Clarence Place to Church Road), Chepstow

Road (from Clarence Place to Cedar Road), Corporation Road (from Clarence Place to St. Vincent Road) and East Usk Road (from Clarence Place to Tregare Street).

On Saturday 19 November the Merchant Navy Remembrance service will take place at Mariners Green.



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE - LEADER AND MAYOR



As we approach the festive season, I'm looking forward to the countdown to Christmas event in the city centre on 19 November.

The message "shop local" has never been more important as our retailers, restaurants, pubs, cafes and leisure outlets have seen trade impacted by Covid and lockdowns over the last few years.

And now they are faced with the cost-of-living crisis. This is a double blow as they see their own costs spiralling, while customers are also making difficult financial decisions.

I would urge everyone to do their Christmas shopping as close to home as possible to support local businesses and, importantly, ensure they can go on serving us and employing local people.

It's also a time to think of others so, if you are able, please support those organisations in Newport who are providing a lifeline to those in crisis this winter.

**Councillor Jane Mudd,
Leader of the council**



On behalf of myself and the mayoress, I'd like to wish all our residents a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The festive season is an important time of the year, one where we come together with our families, friends and loved ones to reminisce, celebrate and look forward to the year ahead.

It has been great to meet so many residents and community groups during my first six months as mayor. Being there for each other in tough times is important, and it has been great to see so many people demonstrating this throughout the city.

As has been mentioned elsewhere in this edition, the cost of living is increasing. It's great to see our city's charities come together to support those who need it most, through initiatives such as the community food grants.

Throughout my term in office, I am supporting two charities

who do just that: Elliot's Endeavours to End Duchenne, and the Burnt Chef Project.

Elliot's Endeavours is a fundraising effort organised by the parents of a local boy, Elliot, who was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) at the age of three.

They raise funds to support Duchenne UK, in order to help them accelerate treatments for DMD and make them more widely available.

The Burnt Chef Project aims to eradicate mental health stigma within the hospitality sector, supporting hospitality workers through a range of mental health services.

More information on both of these charities can be found on the mayor's office pages of the council website.

All the best for 2023.

**Councillor Martyn Kellaway,
Mayor of Newport.**

KNIFE ANGEL COMES TO NEWPORT



Newport city centre will be home to the impressive Knife Angel statue as it continues its tour of the UK.

The sculpture, made from over 100,000 seized blades, was specifically created to highlight the negative effects of violent behaviour and the need for social change.

It will stand proud at Usk Plaza, the lower area of Friars Walk, for the month of November.

The initiative, led in Gwent by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, will be supported by school workshops and awareness sessions that will support the aim of the Knife Angel to educate children, young people and adults about the harmful effects that violent behaviour has on communities all across our nation.

For more information visit britishironworkcentre.co.uk/the-knife-angel-official

WELSH LANGUAGE RIGHTS DAY



Each year 7 December 2022 is Welsh Language Rights Day.

This is an opportunity for public organisations such as Newport City Council to promote Welsh language services to the public and to encourage all staff who have an ability in the Welsh language to use it in the workplace.

All Welsh speakers and learners have a right to receive Welsh language services without having to ask for those services.

Welsh Language Rights Day marks the date on which the Welsh Language Measure was passed by the Welsh Parliament.

The measure confirms the official status of the Welsh language, which establishes the Welsh language should not be treated less favourably than the English language in Wales.

Newport City Council encourages the use of the Welsh language across this city and offers a range of

services to ensure the rights of all Welsh speakers are met.

These services include written correspondence in letters and emails, posters and signage, converse on the telephone and have road signs all through the medium of Welsh.

For more information please visit: welshlanguagecommissioner.wales/your-rights

WHITE RIBBON DAY



This year, White Ribbon Day takes place on 25 November – the same week as the start of FIFA men's World Cup.

All men can join the team to end violence against women and girls - that's **#TheGoal**.

#TheGoal calls on people to make the White Ribbon Promise, never to use, excuse or remain silent about violence against women and girls.

The Promise can be made on White Ribbon UK's website: whiteribbon.org.uk

COUNCIL BUILDING REVAMP ON TRACK

Work is progressing well in the Central Library and Museum building and it is on schedule to reopen early next year.

The John Frost Square building is closed while work takes place in to create an "information hub" which will include a more attractive foyer.



Following the completion of the project, the building will house some council services as well as the library, museum and art gallery.

While it is closed, library users can visit the pop-up library in nearby Kingsway. Lending services, access to public computers and some family research resources are being provided.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING...



Images supplied by Newport Now

Newport's popular and spectacular Countdown to Christmas event takes place in the city centre on Saturday 19 November.

Running from 3pm to 5.15pm, it will feature live music, fairground rides along the riverfront and Commercial Street, and celebrity guests, culminating in the official switching on the Christmas lights at 5pm and a breath-taking fireworks display at 5.15pm.

Organised by the Newport Now Business Improvement District (BID) in partnership with Newport City Council, Friars Walk and Newport City Radio, the main stage will be based at the junction of Charles Street and Commercial Street.

Last year's event attracted more than 8,000 additional people into the city centre compared with an average Saturday.

Big-name musical acts will be on stage during the day along with local artists, and a special celebrity guest will be helping the city's mayor, Councillor Martyn Kellaway, push the button to light up the city centre for the festive season.



Newport Now BID chairman Zep Bellavia said: "As usual, we will be offering something for all the family and Countdown to Christmas marks the official start of the festive trading period for the city centre. There has never been a more important Christmas to go out and support your local businesses."

Councillor Jane Mudd, Leader of Newport City Council, said: "This year's Countdown to Christmas event promises to be a great start to the festive season."

"It will also be a big boost for local businesses and that is extremely important at this challenging time. I hope people will "shop local" to support our retailers, restaurants, bars and leisure facilities this Christmas."

OH YES IT IS!



Panto returns to The Riverfront later this month after a two-year absence because of the pandemic.

Robin Hood will be staged from 29 November to 7 January with special performances for schools; a "relaxed" show and one that will have audio description and sign language.

For more information visit newportlive.co.uk/riverfront or call **01633 656757**
For more Christmas events visit newport.gov.uk/whatson

URGENT CALL TO SUPPORT YOUNG REFUGEES

Every year around 36 million young people are displaced globally because of conflict and violence.

Foster Wales, made up of all 22 local authorities including Newport, has issued an urgent call for people to come forward to help these young people in need.

One Newport foster carer described his experience: "It's broadened my understanding of different cultures and made me realise how similar everybody is. We all want the same things."

"I looked after one young man who got married last year, he was with me for three years. He still talks to me every week. He treats me like a father figure and there's others as well that still live in the local area and I see them regularly."

"These are young people that need help and protection, and I see that as very important. I know I'm making a difference."

Contact the Foster Wales Newport team by email fostering@newport.gov.uk, telephone 01633 210272 or visit fosterwales.newport.co.uk



LOOKING BACK AT THE NEWPORT FOOD FESTIVAL

Last month, we were delighted to bring the Newport Food Festival back to the city centre after a two-year covid-enforced absence.

There were lots of tasty treats and entertainment on display, as well as some fantastic cookery demos from local chefs.

Here's a few of our favourite pictures from the day!



JOB CLUB AT GAER COMMUNITY CENTRE

A new weekly job club runs every Tuesday at Gaer Community Centre.

Staff will be on hand to help with:

- updating your CV
- job searches
- application support
- free training courses.

For more information email westhub@newport.gov.uk

BE PREPARED THIS WINTER



As we enter the winter months we should do everything we can to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe and well. We can also help reduce the pressure facing Newport's local health and social care services.

Our partners in health are calling for people to ensure they are accessing the right service for help and support.

For non-life threatening or severe conditions people are advised to contact their GP practice or call the NHS 111 service which can provide advice and direct callers to the appropriate support.

For minor injuries, units in the Royal Gwent or Ystrad Mynach hospitals are available.

LOOKING OUT FOR NEIGHBOURS

Offering to bring some shopping can be a real help during winter months, particularly during severe weather.

Simple things like ensuring they are keeping warm and protecting themselves against the risks the cold weather poses can really help.



More information can be found at ageuk.org.uk

BE WEATHER READY

With winter comes cold and wet weather.

To prepare for inclement weather, the Met Office advises people to take steps to prepare their vehicles, homes and businesses for the winter months ahead.

Thinking ahead and preparing for what the weather may bring this winter can make a real difference.

For more information and advice visit metoffice.gov.uk/WeatherReady



WINTER MAINTENANCE

As we start to move through the winter months, the council are trying to keep disruption to services at a minimum.

We'll be doing our best to keep things running as smoothly as possible by taking extra care of our roads during the wet and cold weather. This includes gritting and access to grit bins.

The council grits roads to reduce delays caused by bad weather and to help road safety.

Priority is given to city centre pavements and paths and to those that give access to schools, hospitals, and care providers.

The rest of the network is prioritised according to use and potential risk.

Grit bins are also provided to help clear neighbourhood roads and paths when there is snow and ice.

You can find more information – including advice from the Met Office on travelling during the winter – and check your nearest gritting routes at newport.gov.uk/gritting



CELEBRATING CARERS RIGHTS DAY IN NEWPORT

Being an unpaid carer can be very rewarding but it can affect you physically and emotionally and carers often feel isolated.

An unpaid carer is someone of any age who provides unpaid support to family or friends who could not manage without this help.

This year Carers Rights Day takes place on Thursday 24 November and Newport's community connectors will be joined by partners at the Riverfront throughout the day between 1pm and 6pm to offer advice and information to unpaid carers.

For more information on support for carers visit newport.gov.uk/carers email communityconnectors@newport.gov.uk or call **01633 235650** and ask for the community connectors.



CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRESS NOTED IN FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

Newport City Council has made positive progress towards its aim of becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2030.

The progress is noted in an introductory annual report on the council's organisational climate change plan, which was approved by the council's cabinet.

Progress includes an increase in the number of council buildings now using renewable heating rather than gas, further electrification of the council fleet, and the development of a local area energy plan to help shape how we meet the city's future energy needs in a greener, more sustainable way.

Councillor Jane Mudd, leader of the council, said: "We're delighted to be able to present our introductory annual report on our organisation climate change plan.

"As a major public body, we recognise that we have a duty to reduce our carbon footprint. This is why we declared a climate and ecological emergency last

year, and why we developed our plan.

"I'm pleased with the progress we have made to date, and this report shows that we take our responsibility to our residents, and our communities, seriously."

Councillor Yvonne Forsey, cabinet member for climate change and

biodiversity, added: "We know we have a long way to go to become carbon neutral, but we are pleased with the progress we have made so far, and are excited for the journey to come.

"We hope this report showcases that, and inspires our residents to take whatever action they can in the battle against climate change."



REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Are you passionate about the environment and want to reduce your carbon footprint?

Our Introduction to Carbon Literacy course is for you - find out how you can reduce your impact on the planet and you could even save money on your bills!

Find out more newport.gov.uk/communitylearning

COUNCIL RECOGNISES CHALLENGING YEAR AHEAD AS IT CONSIDERS BUDGET



The challenges being faced by residents, businesses and individuals will be at the forefront of the council's considerations as it plans its 2023/24 budget.

Councillor Jane Mudd, leader of the council, said: "There is absolutely no doubt that the coming year is going to be challenging. Our main aim in setting next year's budget will be to ensure the most fundamental of services are maintained for residents and that we can support

those that need an extra helping hand.

"It will however be a very difficult balancing act – the cost of providing services is going up in the same way that everyone's cost of living has risen. And at the same time, more people are accessing those services, increasing demand. So we will inevitably have a considerable gap between what money we have available to us and what we need and want to spend.

"However, we want Newport to keep moving forward as a city, so we need to manage our finances carefully to continue our transformation. We will soon be publishing our new corporate plan which sets out our ambitions for the next five years. Although things are difficult now, we are planning and remain positive about the medium and long-term."

More than three-quarters of the council's budget is funded by a grant from the Welsh Government. Draft details of how much the council will receive for the coming financial year are expected to be received in December and will be confirmed in the new year.

These figures will be used to help plan and put forward a number of proposals which will be considered by Cabinet at their December meeting and then put out for public consultation.

Look out for further information closer to the time about how you can have your say.

The money raised through council tax only accounts for less than one quarter of the council's budget, but it is recognised that this is a very substantial bill for residents, despite Newport maintaining one of the lowest rates in Wales for many years.

For more information about the council's budget, how we spend our money, the budget setting process for 2023/24 and how and when you can have your say, visit newport.gov.uk/budget



CHILDCARE OFFER FOR WALES GOES DIGITAL

If you wish to receive Childcare Offer for Wales funded childcare from January 2023, you will need to apply through the new national digital service.

This is a bilingual, online service that can be accessed via a laptop, mobile phone or tablet.

Applications for the January 2023 intake open this month.

If you're already accessing the offer, there is nothing you need to do as you will remain on the current system until you become ineligible.

However, if you wish to receive Childcare Offer for Wales funding for another child from January 2023, you will need to apply via the national digital service.

For more information visit newport.gov.uk/childcareoffer



Christmas Career Journeys

Temp Jobs

over the festive period



Scan to register your interest



WASTE AND RECYCLING

GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS TO STOP FOR WINTER

Garden waste collections are suspended during the winter months and will restart week commencing 27 February 2023.

The last garden waste collections of 2022 will take place between Monday 21 November and Friday 2 December.

During this period green waste can be taken to the Household Waste Recycling Centre in Docks Way for free collection.

Flower cuts can be put in the food waste caddies with food waste.



FESTIVE & NEW YEAR COLLECTIONS

Despite Christmas day and New Year's Day falling on a Sunday this year, all council and Wastesavers waste and recycling collection days will remain unchanged.

Check your collection day at newport.gov.uk/recycling



