



NM
NEWPORT
MATTERS

The official newspaper of Newport City Council



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FOR MORE ON THE FRIARS WALK
STORY AND HOW NEWPORT CITY
COUNCIL HELPED TO MAKE
THE VISION A REALITY

FRIARS WALK OPENS - A NEW CHAPTER FOR NEWPORT



Friars Walk, the city's much anticipated retail and leisure scheme, opened to the public on Thursday 12 November.

After the official opening by Councillor Bob Bright, Leader of Newport City Council, the crowds swept in to get their first look at the shops, restaurants and cinema.

Councillor Bright cut the ribbon in the presence of Newport's Mayor, Councillor Herbie Thomas, the First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones, Paul Sargent and Stuart Harris co-founders of Queensberry Real Estate.

The Rt Revd Bishop of Monmouth, Richard Pain, then blessed the new centre.

Welsh fashion designer Julien McDonald officially opened the anchor store Debenhams, one of 25 stores that welcomed shoppers from day one.

More shops, including M&S Foodhall, and restaurants were due to open in the coming weeks and, just before opening day, it was announced that Superbowl had signed up and would be coming to Friars Walk next year.

Friars Walk was the result of a public-private partnership between the council and Queensberry Real Estate.

Councillor Bright described Thursday 12 November as a momentous day for the city, its residents and businesses.

"It was the day our vision became a reality. Friars Walk is an exemplar for partnership working between the public and private sector, and it has proved a catalyst for investment in the city centre."

"We are seeing a renaissance with new and returning businesses opening both in Friars Walk and the city centre. These will contribute millions of pounds to the local economy, bringing far-reaching benefits for all those who live in, work in and visit Newport for many years to come."

Mr Sargent, Chief Executive of Queensberry Real Estate, said at the opening:

"The opening of the £117 million Friars Walk development is a major milestone for the city of Newport. It has turned around the retail and leisure offer in the city, while giving a significant boost to the local economy through £90 million of direct investment."

The First Minister of Wales, said:

"This fantastic development will breathe new life into the city."

"As well as providing a great array of shops, restaurants and a new cinema, it will deliver much needed employment, supporting businesses and the community."

He added that the council's vision in making Friars Walk a reality should be highly commended.

"I'd like to congratulate everyone who's worked so hard to make Friars Walk a reality. It's an ambitious and prestigious development worthy of a great city like Newport."

The exciting 390,000 sq. ft. (36,230 sq m) Friars Walk has 35 retail units and 11 restaurants, and it was 85 per cent let on opening day with more expected to sign up in the months to come.

Debenhams, Next, Topshop, Nando's, GBK and Le Bistro Pierre were among those welcoming shoppers and diners. There is also Cineworld's eight-screen cinema and a 350 space car park.

HUNDREDS OF NEWPORT PUPILS MARCHED THROUGH THE CITY TO MARK THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHARTIST MOVEMENT



Image courtesy of South Wales Argus

Pupils from six primary and two secondary schools took part in the event on November 4, the date on which the Chartists historically marched into Newport.

The children worked on the march with help and advice from Jamie Jarvis, a local actor who has been involved with this event for several years.

The Newport Schools Chartist March re-enacts annually the final moments of the trek from the Valleys by thousands of supporters of Chartism, which ended in bloody catastrophe outside the old Westgate Hotel back in 1839.

The re-enactment featured around 300 children from eight local schools, who gathered in Clifton Park opposite Newport Cathedral, where they chanted Chartist slogans and sang protest songs, before setting off down Stow Hill, banners aloft and in full voice.

Accompanied and applauded by teachers and parents, youngsters from St Woolos, Clytha, Maindee, St Julian's and St Joseph's RC primary schools, and St Julian's

and Duffryn High Schools, all Newport, and from Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw in Pontypool, marched into Westgate Square.

Groups of pupils spoke there of the injustices suffered by – and of the demands for a fairer society made by – their 19th Century predecessors.

Some marchers then fell to the ground at the sound of symbolic gunfire, before the names of those who died outside the Westgate Hotel on November 4 1839 were shouted by others in a powerful act of remembrance.

The event was organised by Newport City Council with stewards on the route supported by the council's Communities First team.

Newport Mayor Councillor Herbie Thomas was also at the event to greet the marchers in Westgate Square.



KEEP WARM AND SAVE MONEY



The Welsh Government's Nest scheme aims to help you keep warm and save money on energy bills.

Nest is open to all householders in Wales and provides advice on saving energy, money management, energy tariffs and benefit entitlement.

If your home is hard to heat, contact Nest on Freephone **0808 808 2244** for free advice and to see if you are eligible for energy saving home improvements, or visit www.nestwales.org.uk

NEW PLAYGROUND IS A BIG HIT WITH ALL AGES



Newport's Mayor, Councillor Herbie Thomas, officially opened new playground facilities in Cowshed Lane, Bassaleg.

He was joined by local children, Graig ward and community councillors and Councillor Deb Davies, Newport City Council's Cabinet Member for Streetscene and City Services.

Toddlers to teenagers can now enjoy a wide variety of new and innovative playground equipment and there is a trim trail for those who want to keep fit and healthy.

For the very young there is a separate enclosed play area while older youngsters can use a range of facilities.

There is also a rebound wall with a goal mouth and basketball hoop attached.

The installation of the new equipment was made possible by contributions received as a result of residential developments in Viaduct Way and Harlech Drive.

Councillor Davies, said: "Children and young people living locally now have an amazing play facility which I am confident will provide many years of enjoyment, especially as they were given a say in how it should be designed and what equipment ought to be included."



MILLBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL AWARDED CONFUCIUS CLASSROOM STATUS

A Newport primary school is one of only 12 in Wales to be awarded official Confucius Classroom status by The Hanban and Confucius Institute.

The aim of the Confucius Institute, a non-profit public educational organisation affiliated with the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China, is to promote Chinese language and culture, support local Chinese teaching internationally and facilitate cultural exchange.

Millbrook Primary School has been recognised for its active role in teaching Mandarin to non-native learners. The school has demonstrated its commitment to the teaching of Mandarin Chinese and about China across the curriculum and, by being granted official status, is able to access funding through the Confucius Institute to support the development of their Mandarin and Chinese teaching programme.

NEW SENSORY ROOM AT BRYNGLAS ADULT TRAINING CENTRE

September saw the opening of a new multi-sensory facility at Newport City Council's Brynglas Adult Training Centre (ATC), by the city's Mayor, Councillor Herbie Thomas.

Brynglas ATC offers a day service which provides support and activities for adults who have a learning disability and complex needs.

It also caters for older people with similar complex needs.

The building has recently undergone an extensive refurbishment programme to improve its facilities, which included the development of the new multi-sensory room where people can enjoy a range of experiences.

Councillor Paul Cockeram, Newport City Council's Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, said:

"This is something I've wanted for a long time, and I'm delighted it has been achieved."

KIDS AT SENEDD



Heather Vaughan on the left of Ken Skate and Adele Parry on the right.

Empowering children and young people to have their say and get actively involved in culture and heritage helps build confidence and raise aspirations, the Deputy Minister for Culture and Sport, Ken Skates, said.

Speaking at the launch of the nationwide Kids in Museums Taking Over Day events, which saw museums, art galleries and heritage sites taken over by young people, the Deputy Minister described the influential role that arts and culture can have in the lives of young people. He also noted the importance of listening to their fresh ideas and enthusiasm to widen the appeal of these sites.

As part of the annual Taking Over Day, young people acted as tour guides, exhibition curators and more, giving them a chance to have their say on its management for the day.

During the launch at the Senedd, organised by pupils from St Woolos Primary School in Newport, the audience were shown a film about the Chartist Uprising that the pupils made for Newport Museum during their Taking Over Day last year.

The pupils were asked to think about the kinds of interpretation they would like to see in the museum and created the film as a result which now features in a Newport Museum's exhibition explaining the story of the famous protests.

The Deputy Minister said:

"This excellent film, produced entirely by the talented young pupils at St Woolos Primary, is testament to what can be achieved when we place our faith in young people and let them take charge. I look forward to seeing more results from the many events taking place this year."

Headteacher at St Woolos Primary School, Miss Heather Vaughan, said:

"The success of the project was, for us, the very real sense of purpose and enjoyment all of the pupils gained when making the film and organising its premiere. It was another example of how children are able to learn about the world of work in a fun context. The parental and community support has been fantastic and also contributed to the pupils' feeling of success and pride in what they had achieved."

This year's Taking Over Day includes some of Wales' most famous sites, such as Raglan Castle and Tintern Abbey.



MILLION POUND NATIONAL LOTTERY WIN FOR THE GWENT LEVELS

Thousands of pounds are to be spent on projects based around the Gwent Levels thanks to funding provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Known as the Living Levels project, it was one of three to win a share of £6 million worth of investment.

The cash will be used to develop tourism projects and boost jobs through carefully planned conservation and renovation schemes aimed at protecting the landscape and encouraging residents to get involved.

Councillor John Richards, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Investment said:

"This Heritage Lottery Grant is a fantastic boost for Newport and will help the partnership to promote Newport Wetlands as a gateway to the Levels."

"The partnership will work with existing regeneration schemes in Pilgwenlly and other Communities First areas which fall within the Gwent Levels."

"We hope to introduce innovative access projects which will encourage residents to utilise the 'Green Lung' on their doorstep with cycling initiatives and public access to the Wales Coast path."

Rich in both historical and natural heritage, the Gwent Levels is an important landscape for agriculture, biodiversity and recreation.

Working with volunteers, farmers and communities to collectively increase wildlife-friendly management, provide interpretation and create new trails, the project aims to increase people's awareness of the area's unique features. Mark Underhill of RSPB Cymru, one of the project's partners explains,

"Our belief is that to conserve landscapes effectively, it is essential to get local communities interested and involved. For such a significant project we would usually work with contractors to deliver many elements of the work, but the Living Levels ethos is to deliver this project through working with local people and volunteers."

"We do not always appreciate the landscapes that surround us, but by looking at new ways of telling the stories of how this unique part of Wales evolved we intend to bring it to life for local people and visitors alike."

"It is fantastic that the Heritage Lottery Fund recognises the importance of safeguarding our landscapes."



NEW LIBRARY OPENING HOURS



The opening hours of the libraries in Malpas and Tredegar House have changed.

The new opening hours are as follows:

Malpas:

Monday	2pm – 7pm
Tuesday	9.30am – 1pm
Wednesday	2pm – 6pm
Thursday	Closed
Friday	9.30am – 1pm
Saturday	9am – 1pm

Tredegar House:

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	9am – 1pm; 2pm – 4.30pm
Wednesday	1.30pm – 4.30pm
Thursday	Closed
Friday	9am – 1pm; 2pm – 4.30pm
Saturday	9am – 1pm

CARERS SAVE LIFE OF RESIDENT IN FIRE

Two Newport City Council carers saved a tenant's life after a fire broke out on the premises.

The incident happened around midnight on Wednesday, 14 October when the fire alarm went off.

The two carers on duty that night had both received fire safety

training and when they investigated the alarm they discovered one of the flats was on fire.

They contacted the emergency services, tackled the fire and got the tenant out of the flat while managing the safety of other tenants who had woken up.

When the fire brigade attended, they used breathing apparatus

to enter the flat and reported that the tenant would not have survived the incident without the prompt action of staff.

While the incident could have been a lot worse, it shows that the partnership working with the local authority, fire precautions and training have all paid off. Our thanks go to these two quick-thinking staff.

NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL PREPARES FOR FURTHER BUDGET CUTS

Newport City Council is once again bracing itself for further cuts in its funding due to on-going public sector austerity measures, and is preparing to make more savings in the next financial year.

This is the fifth consecutive year the council will receive a cut in its funding, and it is now operating with a budget of £60 million less, and 1,220 fewer staff when compared to 2010.

However, even with less money coming in, Newport City Council's budget must still fund around 1,000 different services, and the savings needed are vital to ensure the council can continue to deliver 'front line services' and support and

protect some of the most vulnerable members of the community.

Residents will be only too aware that Newport is not alone in having to make tough decisions about what it can continue to provide for residents. Councils up and down Wales and across Gwent are in the same difficult position of having to stop providing many of the services that people expect their councils to offer.

As Newport City Council only receives around 20 per cent of its income from council tax, with the remainder coming from Welsh Government, the continued reduction in its core funding presents very real challenges, and unfortunately the council cannot continue to do everything that it always has done.

Newport residents have unfortunately seen increases in their council tax bills in recent years, but Newport still remains the second lowest council tax in the whole of Wales. An average band D household in Newport pays £1,154; this compares to £1,609 in Neath Port Talbot and £1,635 in Blaenau Gwent. It is therefore important to remember that a 1% rise in council tax in Newport is an increase of £11.54, but in Neath Port Talbot it is £16.09 and in Blaenau Gwent it is £16.35 – 40 per cent more in real terms.

Ahead of considering where it can save money, the council has again carried out a city-wide budget conversation, an engagement process that has seen more than 700 residents give their opinions on what's important to them

and what they think should be important to the council.

There were some strong, clear and consistent messages coming out of this research, and this powerful feedback will shape the proposals that will be considered this year.

When asked what the council could do differently to save money, residents regularly challenge the council to have less senior managers and reduced senior management salaries. The council has taken action in recent years to meet these demands. It has streamlined its operations, resulting in reduced staff and manager numbers. All staff salaries have been subject to a full review and appraisal.

It is also worth remembering that even with these challenges,

the council remains one of the best performing in Wales, and has recently been acknowledged by the Wales Audit Office as the third most improved local authority in Wales.

When announced in December, all budget savings proposals will be subject to a full public consultation, and all feedback on the proposals will be considered by the council's cabinet.

No decisions will be taken on the final budget until the full council meeting in March, when all feedback and consultation responses will have been received.



CYNGOR DINAS CASNEWYDD YN PARATOI AR GYFER TORIADAU CYLLIDEB PELLACH

Mae Cyngor Dinas Casnewydd unwaith eto'n paratoi ar gyfer toriadau pellach yn ei gyllideb o ganlyniad i fesurau arbed arian parhaus yn y sector gyhoeddus, ac mae'n paratoi ar gyfer gwneud rhagor o arbedion yn y flwyddyn ariannol nesaf.

Hon yw'r bumed flwyddyn y olynol y mae'r cyngor wedi derbyn toriad i'w gyllideb, ac y mae nawr yn gweithredu gyda chyllideb sydd £60 miliwn yn is, a gyda 1,220 yn llai o weithwyr o'i gymharu â 2010.

Fodd bynnag, er ei fod yn derbyn llai o arian, mae'n rhaid i gyllideb Cyngor Dinas Casnewydd ariannu tua 1,000 o wasanaethau gwahanol. Mae'r arbedion yn angenrheidiol er mwyn sicrhau fod

y cyngor yn parhau i allu darparu 'gwasanaethau rheng flaen' a chefnogi ac amddiffyn rhai o'r gymuned sydd fwyaf agored i niwed.

Bydd trigolion yn ymwybodol iawn nad yw Casnewydd ar ei phen ei hun wrth wneud penderfyniadau anodd ynglŷn â'r hyn y mae'n gallu parhau i ddarparu i drigolion. Mae cynghorau ar hyd a lled Gwent a Chymru yn yr un sefyllfa anodd o orfod rhoi'r gorau i lawer o'r gwasanaethau y mae pobl yn disgwyl i'w cynghorau i'w cynnig.

Gan fod Cyngor Dinas Casnewydd ond yn derbyn tua 20 y cant o'i incwm o dreth y cyngor, gyda'r gweddill yn dod o Lywodraeth Cymru, mae'r gostyngiad parhaus yn ei gyllid craidd yn cyflwyno heriau gwirioneddol. Yn anffodus nid yw'r cyngor yn gallu parhau

i wneud popeth y mae erioed wedi gwneud.

Yn anffodus, mae trigolion Casnewydd wedi gweld eu biliau treth y cyngor yn codi yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf, ond mae Casnewydd yn parhau i dalu'r dreth y cyngor isaf ond un drwy gydol Cymru. Mae aelwyd ganolig band D yng Nghasnewydd yn talu £1,154; o'i gymharu â £1,609 yng Nghastell-nedd Port Talbot a £1,635 ym Mlaenau Gwent. Mae'n bwysig cofio felly bod cynnydd o 1 y cant mewn treth y cyngor yng Nghasnewydd yn gynydd o £11.54, ond yng Nghastell-nedd Port Talbot y mae'n £16.09 ac ym Mlaenau Gwent mae'n £16.35 - 40% yn fwy mewn termau real.

Cyn ystyried lle gall arbed arian, mae'r cyngor wedi cynnal

trafodaeth ynghylch gyllideb drwy gydol y ddinas, proses o ymgysylltu a welodd fwy na 700 o drigolion yn rhoi eu barn ar yr hyn sy'n bwysig iddynt ac ar beth y maen nhw'n feddwl ddylai fod yn bwysig i'r cyngor.

Daeth rhai negeseuon clir a chyson o'r ymchwil, a bydd yr adborth pwerus hwn yn ffurfio'r cynigion a fydd yn cael eu hystyried y flwyddyn hon.

Pan ofynnir iddynt beth gall y cyngor ei wneud yn wahanol i arbed arian, mae trigolion yn herio'r cyngor yn rheolaidd i gael llai o uwch reolwyr. Mae'r cyngor wedi gweithredu yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf i gwrdd â'r galwadau yma. Mae wedi symleiddio ei weithrediadau, gan arwain at nifer

llai o staff a rheolwyr. Mae cyflogau'r holl weithlu wedi bod yn destun arolwg a gwerthusiad llawn.

Mae'n werth cofio hefyd er gwaetha'r heriau yma, mae'r cyngor yn parhau i fod ymysg un o'r cynghorau sydd yn perfformio orau yng Nghymru, ac mae wedi ei gydnabod gan Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru yn drydedd ar y rhestr o awdurdodau lleol sydd wedi gwella fwyaf yng Nghymru.

Pan gyhoeddir hwy ym mis Rhagfyr, bydd pob cynnig arbedion y gyllideb yn destun ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus llawn, ac ystyri'r holl adborth ar y cynigion gan gabinet y cyngor.

Ni wneir penderfyniadau ynghylch y gyllideb terfynol nes y cyfarfod cyngor llawn ym mis Mawrth, pan fydd yr holl adborth ac ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad wedi eu derbyn.

LLANMARTIN PRIMARY PUPILS CAST THEIR FIRST VOTE



Newport schoolchildren got a taste of democracy in action when they organised an election for their school council.

The children of Llanmartin Primary School took part in an election to choose their school council representatives.

Pupils wrote up manifestos which they presented to their peers, voting slips were created and polling stations set up so that children throughout the school were able to cast their first ever vote.

It is the job of each school council member to gather ideas about improvements to the

school from their peers and bring them to the school council meetings for discussion.

The ideas will be debated and a list drawn up.

The school council will meet with the school governors during the academic year and present ideas to them.

THE COUNCIL'S IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Newport City Council is committed to making the city a better place to live and has drawn up an improvement plan which residents are being asked to comment on.

Schemes supporting older people on leaving hospital, helping carers to balance their lives with their role, improving care and support for adults, regeneration of the city, helping parents and young children through the flying start scheme and through education programmes are among the topics you can share your thoughts on.

Developing and regenerating the city is covered elsewhere in Newport Matters, but under the improvement plan the council is still committed to making the city an attractive

place for businesses to set up, allowing established businesses the chance to grow and making the city a destination for tourism, culture, sport and retail.

The strategy also provides support for the newly developed Business Improvement District (BID), Newport Now, alongside continuing to secure external funding for regeneration programmes. Supporting young people into education, employment or training is being done through programmes developed through the WBLA (Work Based Learning Academy) which is a skills development organisation launched by Newport City Council.

The council wants to improve the number of pupils achieving the expected level of attainment

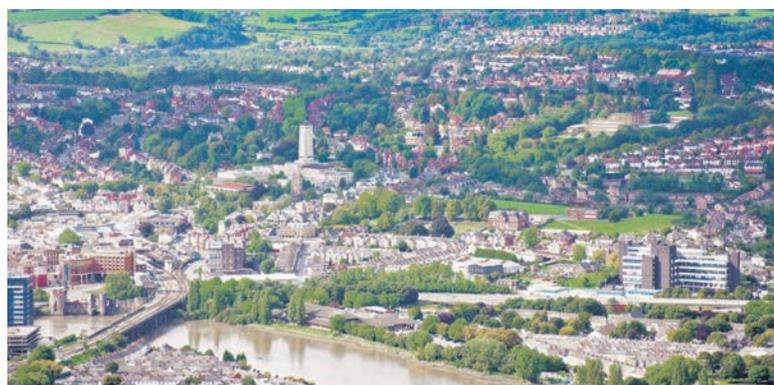
at Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 as well as helping younger children to have a flying start in life by offering eligible parents free quality childcare for two to three year olds, parenting support, an enhanced health visitor service and support for early language development.

One of the biggest challenges facing the council is increasing the amount of items households recycle across the city – at present around 30 per cent of households fail to recycle anything.

Reducing anti-social behaviour and offending by using Out of Court Disposals to divert young people from the criminal justice system, reducing re-offending and reducing the proportion of young people sentenced to custody is also a priority.



FINDING HOUSING SOLUTIONS IN NEWPORT



Recent changes have been introduced by the Welsh Government under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 which change how the council helps individuals who are either homeless or at risk of being made homeless.

The council has a legal duty to offer help and assistance to individuals in

these circumstances and has been working with a number of private landlords in the Newport area to identify suitable accommodation for individuals, providing financial help and practical support.

As a result, 102 homeless households were helped into private rented housing between April and the end of September 2015, and that help is continuing.

If you are a landlord looking to rent out accommodation, the council is keen to hear from you. Officers can explain the services provided and other options open to landlords for letting accommodation.

Contact Catherine Griffiths or Andrew Hale on **01633 656656**

RESIDENTS BELIEVE NEWPORT IS BECOMING A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

New statistics released by Newport City Council show that people living in Newport think the city is becoming a better place to live.

In a recent survey of more than 300 people, more than twice the number of people who responded in the same survey carried out in April 2013, said they thought Newport was improving.

More than half of those in the survey – 58 per cent – now agree that Newport is becoming a better place to live.

More people also agree that they are proud to come from Newport and the city is seen as being on the up thanks to the many new developments taking place, offering visitors plenty of places in which to shop and enjoy eating out.

The face of Newport is evolving dramatically across the whole of the city with several exciting developments completed and more underway. And it is encouraging to see that these physical changes are also improving people's perceptions of where they live.

Having submitted a successful bid, Newport City Council is also using £15 million from the Welsh Government's Vibrant and Viable Places regeneration programme.

This will ensure that key properties in the city centre will be transformed, converting them into new homes and space for business start-ups.

It will also unlock another £45 million of external investment in city centre projects to ensure the transformation of the city continues over the coming years.

NEWPORT PUPILS REWARDED FOR PERFECT ATTENDANCE RECORDS



Four pupils who did not miss a day of school in 2014/15 were each presented with a new iPad, kindly donated by Admiral, by Mayor Councillor Herbie Thomas.

More than 670 pupils across the city's schools with a 100 per cent

attendance record received a certificate for their achievement.

A winner was drawn from each of the four key stages, and they were Janella Belen, of St Patrick's RC Primary, Lacey Clifford, of Liswerry Primary, Morgan Walker, of Bassaleg School and Majid Al-Jeroudi, of Liswerry High.

FRIARS WALK HAS ARRIVED AS CONFIDENCE ROCKETS



In less than two years, a demolition site has been replaced with a 21st century retail and leisure destination that has put Newport on the map.

January 2014 saw the blowing up of the derelict Capitol car park – a symbol of the old making way for the new with a big bang.

Before that, Newport had a long and sometimes bumpy ride to secure its vision of a new scheme to revitalise the city centre.

However, once the funding was secured thanks to a £90 million loan from the city council to development partners Queensberry Real Estate, Friars Walk took shape very quickly.

Councillor Bob Bright, Leader of Newport City Council, said: "It is absolutely remarkable that so much has been done in such a short

space of time and it is a tribute to all those who have worked so hard to get to this point.

"The centre was 85 per cent let by the day of opening – a considerable achievement – and more are expected to sign up in the coming months.

"There will undoubtedly be some finishing touches still to be made but the important thing is that Friars Walk is open ahead of Christmas, making this a very special festive season for the city.

"Newport has been waiting for a scheme like this for 40 years and we are finally there. I'm sure that people will flock to the city centre for the big names and the independents, both in Friars Walk and the wider city centre.

"I would like to thank all those who have made our vision a reality: our development partners Queensberry Real Estate; contractors Bowmer and Kirkland; the businesses that

are preparing to welcome shoppers; and, of course, the council staff and councillors who have supported the scheme despite the challenges."

Councillor John Richards, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Investment, added:

"This is a fine example of how local government, both staff and elected members, can do something on behalf of residents and businesses.

"This has been delivered by a team of people – the council, Queensberry Real Estate and contractors Bowmer and Kirkland.

"Many people wrote Newport off a few years ago and it was a difficult time for everyone but the council was determined to drive the scheme forward and that commitment and perseverance has now paid off.

"The feeling of confidence is spreading beyond Friars Walk with new businesses opening up in other

parts of the city centre and new homes being created in landmark buildings. Our regeneration work will continue but we are now on the runway to success and everyone involved can be rightly proud of what has been achieved."



PUPILS HELPED FILL FRIARS WALK TIME CAPSULE

A time capsule buried in the new Friars Walk retail and leisure scheme will give future generations a glimpse of life in Newport today.

Schools in the city contributed items for the time capsule which is due to be opened in 50 years.

Pupils representing the participating schools were invited to the Friars

Walk site to watch Newport's Mayor, Councillor Herbie Thomas, bury the capsule.

The time capsule was the idea of Councillor Majid Rahman and he also attended the ceremony.

Schools were invited to submit items and their contributions included DVDs of school concerts, memory sticks containing their

work, school ties, letters to "people in the future", photographs of the city centre and the Newport Monopoly game.

There were also photographs from when Newport hosted the Nato summit in 2014. President Barack Obama visited Mount Pleasant Primary School and pupils from city schools were guests at a summit event at the Celtic Manor attended

by Mr Obama, Prince Charles and the Prime Minister.

Another DVD contains a film of pupils from Caerleon, Llanwern and St Joseph's RC comprehensive schools talking about why they were looking forward to the opening of Friars Walk and why Newport is a city on the rise.



How we got here



2011



2012



2013



2014



2015



Queensberry Real Estate was selected as the council's preferred development partner.



Debenhams, Next, Topshop and Cineworld sign up. Planning permission was granted in May.



Demolition began in John Frost Square and Upper Dock Street. Full council agreed to make a commercial loan of £90 million to QRE to enable works to proceed.



In January, the former Capitol car park was demolished. Construction began in the spring.



Newport City Council Leader, Cllr Bob Bright, opened Friars Walk on 12 November, quickly followed by Julien Macdonald who officially opened Debenhams.



The £117 million Friars Walk development will create 1,200 jobs on site. Newport's shopping catchment area will grow from 211,000 to 367,000 with an estimated footfall of 10 to 12 million per year, and it will double retail sales in the city adding £100 million per year.

From opening day, 25 of Friars Walk stores, six restaurants and the

eight-screen Cineworld cinema welcomed shoppers, diners and film-goers.

Debenhams, Topshop, New Look, River Island, Mothercare, Schuh, The Body Shop and Tiger were among those ready for the shoppers.

Family-friendly restaurants *Las Iguanas, Nandos, TGI Fridays, GBK and Le Bistro Pierre* were serving up

a wide range of dishes while *Greggs, Coffee #1 and Krispy Kreme* were available for those wanting a quick coffee or bite to eat.

Others, including *M&S Food, Sketchers, Holland and Barrett and Vodafone*, were due to open over the coming weeks as they continued to fit out their new premises.

A new bowling alley is set to open early next year.

Christmas opening times are:

Shopping:
Monday to Friday 9am – 8pm
Saturday 9am – 7pm
Sunday and Bank Holiday 10am – 5pm

SPREADING THE FEELING GOOD ABOUT NEWPORT FACTOR



Outside Friars Walk, a number of new businesses have sprung to life or are getting ready to open in the city centre.

In High Street, retailer *Bibi Bags* began trading this autumn and new bar and grill *Slipping Jimmy's* has opened, while *Tiny Rebel Brewery* is getting ready to open on the High Street side

of Newport Market – the splendid Victorian building with its excellent independent traders.

Work is continuing on the former King's Hotel to create smart new apartments, offices and retail units as part of the *Vibrant and Viable Places (VVP)* programme.

Sports Direct and *Pound World* have opened in Commercial Street,

toy shop *The Entertainer* has moved into *Austin Friars* and *Burger King* is serving customers nearby.

The *VVP* programme has also seen the *National Buildings* on Commercial Street restored to its former glory, while the former *King William* pub overlooking *Mariner's Green* has been refurbished to provide apartments and a smart new coffee shop on the ground floor.

HOW YOUR FOOD WASTE IS MAKING ELECTRICITY AND LOAVES OF BREAD!

They may be just the leftovers from your kitchen, but to the people at Biogen in Bryn Pica your food waste is a valuable fuel.

Wastesavers collects 17 tonnes of food waste in Newport every day. This gets sent off to Biogen where it is put into a large sealed silo and gently heated. The rotting food gives off methane gas which is captured and used to generate electricity. Biogen feeds the electricity produced from your food waste back into the grid – providing the power to supply 400 households every year.

After all the gas is extracted, what remains of the food waste is then turned into fertilizer through the process of pasteurisation to destroy any bacteria.

Last year, Wastesavers collected more than 4,000 tonnes of food waste from houses in Newport. This provided enough power to supply 400 houses with electricity for a year and enough fertilizer to grow wheat for more than 3,000 loaves of bread.

If you don't use the food recycling service, Christmas is an ideal time to start.

Food waste is collected weekly. Do you really want those Christmas left overs hanging around for two weeks in your general waste, or would you rather they help create electricity and loaves of bread?

For further information on food waste and other recycling information visit www.newport.gov.uk/recycling

CHRISTMAS RECYCLING COLLECTION DATES

Usual day	Changed to
Fri 25 Dec	Sun 27 Dec
Fri 1 Jan	Sat 2 Jan

Normal collections will take place on **28, 29, 30 and 31 Dec** and **Monday 4 January**.



HANDHELD TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST COUNCIL STREETSCENE EFFICIENCY

Newport City Council has introduced innovative new handheld technology in conjunction with Yotta, a specialist software provider, to revolutionise the way its Streetscene and City Services department operates.

This new technology has enabled smarter links between customer requests and front-line service response and delivery. As soon as a member of the public reports any issue to the council, details of this can be sent to the nearest team member on the ground who can

then investigate further. Councillor Deborah Davies, Cabinet Member for Streetscene and City Services, said:

"The introduction of this technology has completely changed the way our teams can work. Not only is it enabling us to maximise our employees' time, it's reducing the environmental impact and providing cost savings."

This project was delivered following a successful application to Welsh Government's Invest to Save scheme and is one of several new measures by the council to improve, modernise and streamline its services.

TROLLEY BOX TRIAL



Hundreds of residents are taking part in a trial aimed at making recycling household items much easier.

Some councils have found that giving residents a 'trolley box' can help.

The High Cross area of Newport has been chosen to trial the scheme because of their recycling habits – some are excellent recyclers, some recycle a bit and some residents are not so enthusiastic about recycling.

High Cross also has a good mix of housing types, a range of age groups ranging from elderly households to young families, plus a variety of streets, from busy main roads to quiet closes.

As a council, we know that not one size fits all which is why a trial is needed. The project is a joint one between the council and Wastesavers which was started on October 26.

Those households chosen to take part have received a trolley box and instructions and details of what is involved.

Anyone wanting to find out more about the trial can visit the website www.wastesavers.co.uk

There is a Facebook group residents can join.

Taking part is not compulsory but the council and Wastesavers hope as many people as possible will give it a go.

COMMUNITIES FIRST – HELPING PEOPLE GET BACK INTO WORK

Communities First have been running job clubs in Newport since July 2013. They were set up to help people with job searching and general employment support as well as CV development, advice on completing applications, interview skills and funding for employment related training.

A service user, known as HB, had attended the job club for around twelve months. As a single parent who had been out of work for a number of years, she came to the job club with a keen interest in retail, but did not think she could get a role in this sector. She lacked confidence and had limited computer skills and didn't think she would get employment. She didn't really know where to start when she first arrived.

The Communities First team helped her develop a good CV, assisted her with job searching and completing application forms. They also provided her with training courses and supported her by helping to build her confidence.

The following months saw a massive improvement in her skills, her confidence and self-belief. HB started to apply for roles more suited to her interests, and after a number of interviews she gained employment with Pandora, a luxury jewellery retail outlet.

"Job club has been fabulous for the 12 months I have been going there. Very helpful and also when not in job club, always here to help me with my job search. Thank you a lot everyone (Katie and Laura have been fab) I have a job at Pandora - 20 hours per week."

Since getting her job, her life has changed a lot. She has had the opportunity to sort out finances and her children are saying how much she's changed.

"I am so much happier now - I couldn't be out of work again. I love my job so much, and all the girls I work with. I'm working in the Cwmbran store at the moment but the management has offered me a job in Newport in the new Friars Walk store. They are fantastic with me and changed my store to suit me and my kids, which is great."

"Communities First has changed my life. Your support and the courses and everything changed my life completely. I tell everyone how amazing you've all been to me and how I've got this job now. Thank you so much to everyone that has helped me."

There are three community based sessions per week in local libraries and community centres that cater for job seekers ages 16 years upwards.

- Shaftesbury Community Centre: Mondays, 1–3pm
- Bettws Library: Tuesdays, 1.30 – 3.30pm
- Malpas Court: Thursdays, 12.30 – 2.30pm

There is also a Youth Job Club which runs on a Tuesday at Newport City Homes Offices, Bettws, 11am – 12pm



communitiesfirst.cymunedau.yn.gyntaf



CHRISTMAS PANTO



It wouldn't be Christmas without a visit to a traditional pantomime where we can laugh at the outrageous costumes and jokes and get ready to boo the baddie.

And luckily for those of us living in Newport, fun for all the family is guaranteed this festive season when Jack and the Beanstalk opens at The Riverfront theatre.

The popular theatre company Hiss and Boo is once again joining

forces with The Riverfront to stage the annual pantomime.

Local actor Gareth Tempest is playing the lead role of Jack, with Riverfront favourite Elin Llwyd returning to play the show's heroine, Jill.

The hilarious and talented Richard Elis is Dylan the Daft, with the experienced Nerine Skinner donning the glitter and sparkle, and a fabulous frock, to play the Fairy.

Visitors can cheer the hero on as Jack and his loyal companion Daisy the Cow leave their farm to try to raise some money, get all mixed up with trying to trade with magic beans which grow into a huge beanstalk and try to outwit the grumpy giant.

There will be plenty of laughs on offer as usual and lots of chances to boo the villain, Patrick Marlowe, playing the evil Fleshcreeper, performing in The Riverfront panto for the first time.

Also joining the cast will be Simon Nock, who will be playing Jack's mum, Dame Trott, with plenty of outrageous outfits to be seen throughout.

The partnership of The Riverfront and Hiss & Boo is hoping to build on the success of last year's hugely popular Dick Whittington panto, and will once again be prepared to perform in front of sell-out audiences.

The panto, which is suitable for all ages, is due to run from

Tuesday 1 December to Sunday, 3 January, 2016, with tickets ranging in price from £6 to £18.

More information is available on The Riverfront's website at newportlive.co.uk/riverfront and via the booking line on **01633 656757**.

The Riverfront is looking forward to audiences sharing their panto memories and experiences on Twitter using the **#riverfrontpanto** – and post those pics!

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS



Visitors to Newport city centre are well and truly in the Christmas spirit by now.

A week after the multi million pound Friars Walk development opened, the fun continued with Newport City Council's Christmas lights switch on event. Councillor Herbie Thomas was joined by Newport Rock Choir who sang Christmas carols, and there were performances from members of Gwent Music.

Adding to the fun were rugby players from Newport Gwent Dragons who were in the city to meet their fans.

The party atmosphere continued when Danter's funfair opened along the Riverfront Walk, ensuring there was plenty to do all evening in and around the city centre.

With a host of new places in which to eat and drink to suit the tastes of all people, it is time to see how much Newport has changed over the last 12 months and take a look around the national, local and independent retailers who are trading in the city.



CHRISTMAS IN CAERLEON



Get into the Christmas spirit with a trip to Caerleon on Saturday 12 December.

Pick up a host of goodies and fresh produce at a Farmers' Market at Caerleon Town Hall from 10am to 4pm.

A Christmas fair takes place from noon until 3pm at Charles Williams Church in Wales Primary School.

For an alternative celebration, check out the ancient Roman festival entitled Saturnalia – which in Roman times was a period of merrymaking and the predecessor of Christmas – at the National Roman Legion Museum from 11am to 4pm.

However, the official launch of Christmas is timed to take place at 4pm when Santa is due to arrive at Caerleon Common.

At 4.30pm you can enjoy Carols on the Common, with Caerleon Comprehensive School brass band, until 6pm.

Belshazzar's Feast at the Town Hall can be enjoyed from 7.30pm until late.

If the weather is bad some events may be cancelled.



NEWS FROM ONE OF THE MAYOR'S CHOSEN CHARITIES

NEWS FROM ZOE BAGGOTT, ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH UK REGIONAL FUNDRAISING OFFICER

Since Alzheimer's Research UK was named as one of the Mayor's charities this year, regional fundraising officer Zoe Baggott has been working hard to raise awareness of dementia across Newport and promote the work of the charity.

"I have distributed health information literature to care homes, delivered a number of dementia awareness

presentations to community groups and attended a number of events, such as Beating the Retreat at Newport Barracks and the 50 plus day at Newport Civic Centre.

"By far the biggest news though is that we have launched an Alzheimer's Research UK Newport Group which is dedicated to raising money to fund pioneering dementia research. This really is exciting news for the city.

"This group is the first of its kind for our charity in Wales and represents a lasting legacy from the Mayor's term of office. The group will also be raising awareness of dementia at their fundraising events which will contribute to the Mayor's ambition to make Newport a dementia friendly city."

More than 700 people have attended Dementia Friends sessions in Newport to learn what it's like to live

with dementia and how to help and turn that understanding into action.



Friends sessions take place on:
Wednesday 9 December,
 11am - Caerleon Town Hall,
Thursday 14 January 2016,
 2pm - Ringland Community Centre;
Tuesday 9 February,
 11am - Community House,
 Eton Road,
Tuesday 23 February,
 2pm - Alway Centre
Thursday 10 March,
 2pm - Malpas Court

Anyone wishing to find out more or who wants to join the Newport Group can contact Zoe: zoe.baggott@alzheimersresearchuk.org or telephone **07469 852501**

The Mayor's other charities this year are Diabetes UK and Madzimai Pamwe - Zimbabwe Wales Women's Partnership.

HORSE POWER COMES BACK TO NEWPORT WOOD



September saw the return of traditional horse logging at Ladyhill Wood at an event to celebrate the start of the coppicing season.

Horse logger Kate Mobbs-Morgan and her Ardennes Draft horse Kipp, demonstrated the traditional art of felling and extracting trees using just horse power

to a group of interested local residents and school children.

Horse logging offers an efficient and flexible approach to timber extraction with a wide range of both traditional and modern equipment available.

The trees were felled by tree surgeon Marco Pallisco and then carefully removed by Kipp and Kate,

creating an accessible area for this season's coppicing in a low impact and environmentally friendly way.

The coppicing project at Ladyhill Wood in Alway is the first of its kind in city council-owned woodland. Horse logging offers a low impact and sympathetic solution, particularly when it comes to the management of ancient woodland and archaeologically important sites.



NEWPORT REGENERATION PROJECTS HELPING PEOPLE INTO JOBS AND HOMES



Welsh Government Minister Lesley Griffiths visited two of Newport's completed Vibrant and Viable Places projects.

Pillgwenlly Millennium Centre has been transformed into a successful employment and training hub, backed with £258,000 through the Welsh Government's Vibrant and Viable Places Programme.

Renovation work included creating a modern learning zone and IT suite, as well as upgrading the front of house areas and catering facilities.

As part of the ambitious project, the existing Pillgwenlly Millennium Trust social enterprise was also developed to provide high-quality employment and training opportunities for residents and support for local start-up businesses.

The Minister also visited 62-66 Cardiff Road, Newport – a prominent historic building which had fallen into disrepair. With more than £890,000 from the Welsh Government, the building has been transformed by the Seren Group into 15 high quality affordable homes.

The £1.5m project has uplifted an area previously affected by anti-social behaviour, and created training and employment for four apprentices.

WHAT'S ON...

Newport Museum and Art Gallery
01633 656656



Now until April 16, 2016

140 years of Newport RFC

The Friends of Newport Rugby Trust have been working in partnership with the Newport Museum and Art Gallery to create an exhibition celebrating 140 years of Newport RFC, marking the ups and downs of this historic rugby football club. On display will be an outstanding collection of rugby memorabilia from Newport RFC, together with audio and visual exhibits.

e-mail: museum@newport.gov.uk

Price: **free admission**

On now until Saturday 23 January, 2016

Exhibition:

James Flewitt Mullock

James Flewitt Mullock is one of Newport's most significant 19th Century artists. Born in 1818, he witnessed the Chartist rising and experienced the unprecedented industrial and commercial growth of Newport. Newport Museum and Art Gallery cares for numerous of James Flewitt Mullock's works. Some watercolour drawings and lithographs are shown in this exhibition.

e-mail: museum@newport.gov.uk

Price: **free admission**

On now until Thursday, May 19, 2016

Exhibition – War, What is it Good For?

As the song says, 'absolutely nothing'. But is that true? As horrific as war is, are lessons learnt? A small exhibition that explores some of the positive as well as negative things that might never have happened if we hadn't gone to war. Museum opening times Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm

e-mail: museum@newport.gov.uk

Price: **free admission**

For more details tel: **0300 111 2333**



Newport Cathedral at St Woolos
01633 212077



Saturday 12 December, Concert by Gwent Schools Musicians (Gwent Music Support).

Price: **free admission with a leaving collection**

Saturday 9 January, 2016
Recital by Peter West (Baritone)

Newport Centre
01633 656757

Thursday 3 December
Pretty Vicious

A young rock four piece from Merthyr Tydfil

Saturday 12 December
Darren 'Graceland Jones'

Tribute to the 50s and 60s
Christmas party also featuring Dave Wickenden,
The Beat Goes On – Beatles Tribute

Newport Wetlands
01633 636363

Saturday 19 December to 31 December
Christmas Nature Crafts

Friday 1 January
New Years Day Walk

Saturday 2 January and Sunday 3 January
Christmas Nature Crafts

Website

www.rspb.org.uk

Riverfront Theatre 01633 656757

Tuesday 1 December and Wednesday 2 December at 3pm & 7.45pm
Screening of Suffragette (12A)

Tuesday 1 December to Sunday 3 January 2016
Jack and the Beanstalk

Tickets from £6 to £18
Call **01633 656679**
for exact dates, times, availability

Wednesday 2 December
Lunchtime classical: Olivia Gomez and Ben Pinnow
1pm tickets £5.50

Thursday 3 December
English National Opera: The Mikado,
7.30pm, screened live
£12.50

Friday 4 December – January 9, 2016
Christmas Creatives Exhibition, The Gallery
A collection of screen prints, photography, original artworks as well as ceramics and gifts from makers in Wales and beyond.

Friday 11 December
Sessions Boutique Market Stalls and Open Mic Night
7pm – 11pm
To book a stall, perform or for more info call **01633 656757** or email:
the.riverfront@newport.gov.uk

Comedy Shed – Phil Jerrod, Michael Fabbri in The Studio
Doors open 7.45pm first act
8.15pm Tickets £12.50



WASTESAVERS

REUSECENTRE

Phoenix Park | Newport

A Bed for Christmas

WINTER PROMOTION

DOUBLE DIVAN BASES
DOUBLE MATTRESS
KINGSIZE DIVAN BASES
KINGSIZE MATTRESS

BEST VALUE
*From £35!



Sale 30% off normal price. The amount and type of beds will change week to week, we cannot take orders. Beds will be sold on a first come first served basis. Headboards not included. * Price is for double base and mattress together, Kingsize prices start from £50.00. Delivery charges apply. **SALE ENDS CHRISTMAS EVE 2015**

Opening Hours:
Mon – Fri
9.00am – 5.00pm
Sat - 9.00am – 4.00pm

We are located at:
Unit 2, Phoenix Park,
Telford Street,
Newport NP19 0LW

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01633 216 855

WASTESAVERS.co.uk

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