

NM NEWPORT MATTERS

The official newspaper of Newport City Council

NEWPORT FOOD FESTIVAL RETURNS FOR 2023

Newport's popular Food Festival will return to the streets of the city centre this autumn for a weekend of food and entertainment, including the main event on 14 October and a supper the evening before.

Information about how to apply for a stall and details of what will be on offer will be available on the festival website soon
newportfoodfestival.co.uk



Follow social media for updates

[@NewportFoodFest](https://twitter.com/NewportFoodFest)
[@newportfoodfestival](https://facebook.com/newportfoodfestival)
[@foodfestivalnewport](https://instagram.com/foodfestivalnewport)



WALES NATIONAL ARMED FORCES DAY COMES TO CITY



©UK MOD Crown Copyright 2022

Newport is very proud to be hosting the Wales National Armed Forces Day on Saturday 24 June.

It is an opportunity for people to show their support for the Armed Forces community including veterans, those currently serving, cadets and their families.

Armed Forces Day in Wales is a partnership event between councils, Welsh Government, the tri-services – Royal Navy, Army and RAF – and other partners.

A decision was made in 2021 that the annual event would travel

across all the Welsh regions and last year it took place in Wrexham.

This year it is the turn of Newport to host this prestigious day and it promises to be a spectacular. It will include a parade through the streets of the city centre, exciting displays and a concert.

Councillor Jane Mudd, Leader of Newport City Council, said: *"We are determined to make it a very special day to demonstrate our appreciation and gratitude to those who serve or have served our country."*

"We've already got a wonderful programme planned, some of

which can be revealed now but there will be more thrilling news to come over the coming weeks and months before the big day itself."

Councillor Mark Spencer, the council's armed forces champion, said: *"It will be a great day out and we hope many members of the armed forces, their families and veterans will join us so we can show them how much their service means to us and our communities."*

The day will begin at 10am with military displays along the riverside between the Riverfront and the University of South Wales city centre campus. Organisations such

as the Royal British Legion, Help for Heroes, SSAFA, Help for Heroes, Veterans Hub, GAVO, St John Cymru and Blesma will also have stalls inside the theatre and arts centre.

At 10.15am, there will be a parade in the city centre led by the Regimental Band and Corps of Drums of the Royal Welsh with the representatives from the armed services and veterans from across Wales.

There will be much more going on during the day including the Army's famous Tiger Parachute Display Team who will "drop in" somewhere in the city centre.

City centre activities will finish at 3pm but there will be a free, ticketed concert in Rodney Parade from 4pm to 6pm. The Regimental Band and Corps of Drums of the Royal Welsh will be among those performing.

Newport will officially hand over to Swansea, next year's hosts, before a military ceremony at sunset ends the day.

More guests and acts will be announced over the coming weeks.

Keep up-to-date at newport.gov.uk/armedforcesday or follow the council on Facebook and Twitter.



£5M INVESTED IN KEY SERVICES FOR NEWPORT

Newport City Council's cabinet has agreed how it will spend its 2023-24 budget.

In December last year, a number of proposals went out to public consultation and the response from the public was excellent, with thousands of responses received.

Councillor Jane Mudd, Leader of the council, said: *"We have promised to be a listening council and I was pleased with the response this year. It has been one of the most challenging budgets we've had to set in recent years, and it was vitally important that everyone had their opportunity to contribute. Every response was reviewed and considered before we made our final decisions."*

Since the draft budget was announced in December, a number of changes and updates including a positive Welsh Government settlement, reductions in pressures, additional savings and confirmation of other grant funding have meant the cabinet could allocate an additional £2.5m.

The decision was also taken to repurpose some of the council's reserves, meaning an overall additional investment of £5m in 2023/24.

Councillor Mudd added: *"We are very pleased to be able to invest in some of the areas our residents felt were most important. The decisions*

made by cabinet will mean that key services can continue, some cuts will not have to be made and others will have additional time and opportunity to consider how to change and deliver services more efficiently in the future."



Council tax

Newport's council tax increase will now be 8.5% rather than the proposed 9.5%. The cabinet recognised that this is a considerable bill for Newport households but were pleased that responses to the consultation acknowledged the council's position, that increases were unavoidable and that it can enable services to be protected.

For bands A to C, which are the most common in Newport, this equates to an increase of between £1.39 and £1.85 per week. Even with this increase, Newport is expected to maintain one of the lowest council tax rates in Wales.



Investment in schools

In the draft budget, funding for schools had already increased in real cash terms, but there were still challenges including increasing pupil numbers, pay-related pressures and increasing costs – so an extra £2.8m has been allocated to help further, and has increased the overall investment to £9m.



Services for our most vulnerable

More than a quarter of the council's budget is spent on social care – you wanted us to prioritise services that help our most vulnerable residents, so we've invested almost £1m extra into key adult and children support services.

This includes maintaining the short break provision at Oaklands respite and residential care home, and reducing the savings required within adult day opportunities, also known as the short break service at Spring Gardens. Additional money will also allow additional services to continue at Spring Gardens while a further review is carried out with the aim of setting the service on a stronger footing and working more efficiently in the future.

Other proposals removed by cabinet include car parking charges at countryside locations and charges for replacement residual waste bins.

By repurposing reserves, the council will also provide temporary support to mental health service provider Growing Space for the next two years.

The Education Achievement Service (EAS) will also receive temporary support with a partial deferral

of the proposed saving on the council's annual contribution.

These will allow for service reviews and changes to take place which will provide better and more sustainable services in the future.

As well as this, £150k of existing reserves will be used so that changes to our services for people with a learning disability can be reviewed over the coming year.

Work has also been carried out to remodel the service delivered through the Cwtch Centre and the Barnardo's partnership using grant funding. The current staff and all their experience and skills will be part of this remodelling. This means, in effect, that the savings proposal will be delayed by two years.

There will also be a one-off investment in the city centre to ensure continued support for businesses and recovery following the pandemic. This will include business rate support for eligible city centre businesses in 2023/24.

For more information visit newport.gov.uk/budget



CELEBRATING THE CORONATION

People across the country and the Commonwealth will be celebrating the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort over a weekend of special events.

The Coronation will take place on Saturday 6 May at Westminster Abbey and on Sunday 7 May a Coronation Concert will take place at Windsor Castle.

The weekend of celebrations will end with the Big Help Out on Monday 8 May – a special bank holiday.

Newport City Council will again be supporting local street parties as we did for the Jubilee.

For more information and to make an application visit the council website – the first round of applications will close mid-April so start making your plans!

There are also a host of Coronation-themed events and activities being organised. Further information will be released over the coming weeks, so look out for updates. If you are planning a public Coronation event, let us know and we'll add it to our

what's on listing – email the details to public.relations@newport.gov.uk

To support the Big Help Out we'll also have a bank of resources with information on local volunteering opportunities, and details of groups and support networks you can get involved with.

For more information visit newport.gov.uk

NEW MAYOR CHOSEN

Councillor Trevor Watkins is due to become the city's next Mayor after being recently elected by fellow councillors.

When he becomes Mayor in May, he will be Newport's 391st first citizen.

The first Mayor is recorded as taking up office in 1314 and previous holders of the title have included Chartist leader John Frost.

Councillor Martyn Kellaway is the current Mayor of Newport.



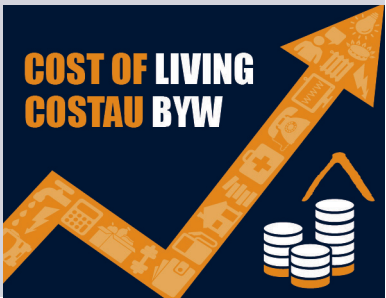
COST-OF-LIVING SUPPORT

Newport City Council and other organisations are helping residents during the cost-of-living crisis, particularly the most vulnerable in our communities.

Find out more by visiting newport.gov.uk/support or call 01633 656656.

If you are unsure about what benefits you can claim, Advicelink Cymru can also help you check and claim what's yours. Call the free helpline on 0808 250 5700.

COST OF LIVING COSTAU BYW



WOODLAND
WELLBEING
GROUPS -
BRINGING
PEOPLE
CLOSER TO
NATURE



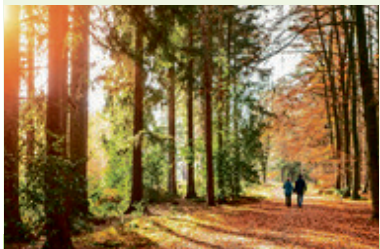
This spring, woodland wellbeing sessions are being run at sites across the city.

They have been designed to offer people the opportunity to learn new skills, make friends, spend time outdoors and protect the natural environment.

Each session is free and has been developed to help to improve people's health and wellbeing through woodland and nature-based activities, including conservation activities, campfire cooking and foraging, woodland crafts and woodland walks.

Sessions will run in March, April and May at the Fourteen Locks Canal Centre, Garth Fawr Woods in Bettws, and Ringland Wood. Sessions at the Fourteen Locks are also accessible for those with limited mobility.

Sessions are run in partnership with Coed Lleol (Small Woods Wales).



To find out more and to book a session through Eventbrite visit bit.ly/newportwoodland or call 07967 692 940.

NEW CITY CENTRE VENUE FOR
LEISURE FACILITIES



Newport Live, the not-for-profit charitable trust which provides sporting, leisure and cultural activities, has secured a temporary well-being and physical activity centre.

It will be used following the closure of Newport Centre which is due to happen at the end of March while a new leisure centre is being developed.

Located opposite Newport railway station, next to Admiral House, it is a short distance from Newport Centre and has easy access to train, bus and

cycle routes as well as private car parking for members' use.

It will have a variety of strength and cardiovascular equipment including a sledge track, easy line and free weights areas. In addition it will have functional training, stretching, group exercise areas and a welcoming social area.

The centre will be staffed by qualified fitness instructors who will provide members with tailored personal support and one-to-one sessions.

Newport Live's partnership with Aneurin Bevan University

Health Board and the National Exercise Referral programme will continue, providing help and guidance for people with chronic conditions to improve their health and well-being.

The new well-being and physical activity centre will open next month to welcome current and new members.

Newport Live members who currently use Newport Centre facilities will be contacted with information on where their health, well-being and group exercise classes will be relocated before the building closes.

Gym and fitness sessions will take place at either the new centre, the Regional Pool and Tennis Centre, the Geraint Thomas National Velodrome of Wales, the Riverfront Theatre & Arts Centre or the Active Living Centre in Bettws.

The closure of Newport Centre forms part of the council's plans to build a modern, purpose-built, "green" leisure centre on the city's riverfront. Coleg Gwent are proposing to build a new city centre campus on the former Newport Centre site to provide first-class further education facilities for local students.

FOOT IN
THE DOOR

Foot in the Door is an award-winning training programme that offers new opportunities for people to develop their transferable skills into creative careers.

Since spring last year, Foot In The Door has seen Ffilm Cymru work with over 800 people in Newport communities to demystify careers in film and TV, develop skills and offer opportunities for people with transferable skills to move into the screen sector.

Employment positions have been secured for trainees across five Wales-based productions for

producers including Netflix and Disney+, including paid roles in hair and make-up, rigging, locations and production departments.

The partners of the project include Urban Circle, Newport City Council, Screen Alliance Wales, Sgil Cymru, Cult Cymru/BECTU, University of South Wales, Pobl Housing and Coleg Gwent.

At the Screen Shift event in the ICC, which celebrated the successes of Newport's Foot In The Door project, they all took to the stage to showcase the rich relationships formed, development of transferable skills and screen sector opportunities provided to the community of Newport.

The partners have delivered 65 different events over the course of the year, creating a

community which leaves Newport well placed for the future.

Councillor Jane Mudd, leader of Newport City Council, said: "Foot in the Door has been brilliant for Newport. The development of the creative industries is very

important to us and right at the start of this project we knew there would be an abundance of local natural talent that would benefit from the project."

Find out more at footinthedoorwales.com





EXCELLENT EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

CORPORATE PLAN FOCUS

In January's Newport Matters we shared with you our new corporate plan which sets out the main priorities for the next five years and how they will support our longer-term vision for Newport over the next 20 years.

The aim is to deliver an ambitious, fairer, greener Newport for everyone.

This month we look in more depth at one of the four main objectives:

Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all.



Why did we choose this objective?

Following a number of challenging years due to the pandemic and wider global issues, our aim is to support initiatives that attract major investment into the city, kickstart and nurture homegrown entrepreneurs, celebrate our heritage and culture, and revitalise the city centre.

We will work with residents and developers to ensure Newport is an inclusive place for families, visitors, and businesses where they can access the services they need, build connections with each other, and take part in shaping the environment around them.

To support our economic growth, we must also provide opportunities for all our citizens to develop the skills and routes into employment that tackle inequality, while also providing our businesses with a skilled and effective workforce.

Over the next five years, Newport will develop an education system that maximises the potential of our young learners, providing the life skills they need to enter the labour market and support their communities.

We will also continue to support people to re-enter the job market and access long-term employment through training, skills development, and confidence building.



How we will achieve this...



Newport will have a robust economic strategy and replacement local development plan to support sustainable economic growth and strong placemaking across communities.



Lead and collaborate to attract major investment into the city and support our local entrepreneurs to thrive and bring prosperity to the city.



Re-vitalise the city centre and wider communities to benefit families, businesses, and visitors.



Become a destination that celebrates cultural diversity, heritage and delivers elite sporting events.



Develop education facilities that support future generations to achieve their potential and positively contribute to their communities.



Work towards eliminating education inequality faced by young learners that are from disadvantaged, Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, low-income households, and/or have additional learning needs.



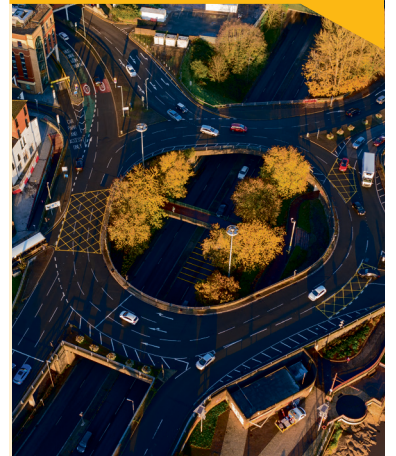
Increase the number of Welsh speakers in Newport by improving access to Welsh education, supporting businesses, and promoting the Welsh language.



Become a living wage city helping people out of poverty and provide opportunities to retrain, learn new skills and find long-term work.

For more information about the corporate plan visit newport.gov.uk/corporateplan

OLD GREEN CONSULTATION – HAVE YOUR SAY.



There is still time to have your say on the proposals for the future of Old Green roundabout.

The council and Transport for Wales want to improve the experience of travelling to Newport railway station, the riverfront and through Old Green.

The vision is for Newport rail station to become a hub for sustainable travel and our aim is to make the city a nicer place to live, work and visit, while helping people become less dependent on cars.

To help improve safety, the proposals will aim to deliver a more people focused environment by creating simplified active travel routes which are convenient and attractive for all users.

The consultation is open until Thursday 6 April, so you still have a chance to make your voice heard.

You can access the survey via the QR code below.



<https://haveyoursay.tfw.wales/newport-central-travel-improvements>

NEWPORT TO HOST WORLD'S BIGGEST CULINARY EVENT

The world's biggest culinary event will be coming to Newport in 2026.

The Worldchefs Congress and Expo will be held at the ICC Wales and Celtic Manor Resort, after a Team Wales partnership, led by the Culinary Association of Wales, secured the event, beating Italy 28-24 in a final vote.



The global event is expected to attract around 1,000 chefs and more than 5,000 visitors from around the world to Wales.

The World Association of Chef's Societies, known as Worldchefs, organises the Congress and Expo. Held every two years, this will be the first time that Wales has hosted the event. www.worldchefs.org



CAREER ADVICE AND SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS

The Riverfront will host a week-long careers fair for young people aged 15 to 18 this March.

The Moving On careers fair will showcase local training providers and employers, who will be on hand to offer advice and information on further education, training and employment - including business apprenticeships.

There will be three sessions each day. Newport schools have been invited to attend for the morning or afternoon sessions and, for parents/carers and individuals, there will also be dedicated evening sessions from 3pm to 7pm.

The event will run from 20 to 24 March, between 9am and 7pm. There is no booking required and visitors can attend any session throughout the day.



SIGN UP TO OUR RESIDENTS E-NEWSLETTER

Have you signed up for our residents newsletter yet?

We'll send you regular emails with the latest news and information from Newport City Council direct to your inbox.

We'll also let you know when there's big news or an event you might be interested in.

Subscribe to our mailing list at newport.gov.uk/signup



CENTRAL COUNCIL BUILDING REOPENS



Visitors are being welcomed back to Newport's Central Library, Museum and Art Gallery in John Frost Square following a major refurbishment programme.

Work was carried out to the foyer and parts of the building to accommodate some of the council services that were formerly housed in the Information Station.

Not much has changed in the much-loved library, museum and art gallery sections of the building although a new research area provides improved facilities for local historians and those looking into their family trees.

Some council teams, including housing and customer services, have moved into the building where they will provide services to residents.

The building's foyer has been transformed into a much more welcoming space which will be staffed by members of the customer service team on certain days of the week. New artwork is also planned for landing areas within the stairwell.

Tramshed Tech plan to offer coworking and tech spaces in the former railway station in Queensway that used to house council services.

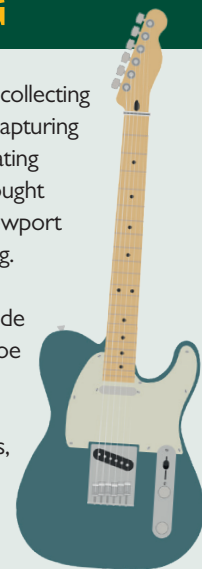
NEWPORT ROCK COLLECTING

Newport Museum and Art Gallery is hosting a fantastic exhibition that documents Newport's rich musical legacy over 40 years.

Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Winding Snake Productions has led a social history project that celebrates bands, gigs, and venues that sent generations of Newportonians into the night with their ears ringing.

It has involved collecting memorabilia, capturing audio, and creating animations brought together in Newport Rock Collecting.

Highlights include exhibits from Joe Strummer, Jon Langford, Dub War, 60ft Dolls, Terris, Elastica and Goldie Lookin Chain.



NEW TEACHING BLOCK FOR WELSH SCHOOL

Pupils and staff at Newport's only Welsh medium secondary school are enjoying superb new facilities following an investment of more than £18 million.

A new teaching block at Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed was opened earlier this month and is the first project to be completed in the city as part of the Welsh Government's Band B sustainable communities for learning programme (former 21st Century Schools).

As well as teaching spaces, it will also provide whole-school dining and assembly facilities. The school also has a new floodlit all-weather sports pitch.

Councillor Deborah Davies, Newport City Council's cabinet member for education, said: "As well as providing an excellent learning environment, it offers much improved spaces for all the pupils to meet for assemblies and to eat lunch."

Head teacher Eirian Jones said: "We are so pleased with the space this new block provides with a fit for purpose canteen and assembly hall. This excellent new environment will provide our learners with the best possible opportunity to succeed through the medium of Welsh."