

NM NEWPORT MATTERS

The official newspaper of Newport City Council

TIGERS TO LAND IN NEWPORT

The Tigers, one of the British Army's leading parachute display teams will be making a spectacular landing in Newport later this month*.

They will be dropping into Rodney Parade on Saturday 30 September, just before kick-off for the Dragons v Ospreys match.

The Tigers also provide support to the Army with an active role in

recruitment and will be on hand to share more information about the Army and the careers available.

To witness the landing first-hand, match tickets will be required – visit eticketing.co.uk/dragons for more information.

*All jumps are subject to weather conditions on the day. Details correct at time of going to press.



ONE MONTH TO GO! NEWPORT FOOD FESTIVAL 2023

The Newport Food Festival is back next month and for the first time in its history will be held over three days, from Friday 13 to Sunday 15 October.

Friday night will see the festival kick-off with a supper event at the Mercure Hotel, which will showcase fabulous Welsh, Georgian and German cuisine cooked up by our featured chefs.

Saturday will see the traditional food market set up in the city centre, with street entertainment, chef demonstrations in Newport Market, a vegan and vegetarian village in John Frost Square, and the return of the final of the Teen Chef competition.

Finally, on the Sunday there will be a new event for the festival, with live music and street food vendors taking over High Street.

Commenting on the extended festival, Councillor Jane Mudd, leader of the council and cabinet member for economic growth and strategic investment, said: "I'm thrilled to announce the return of the Newport Food Festival in an even bigger format than before.

"The festival has become established as one of the highlights of Newport's events calendar, and we're sure that this year's three-day programme will prove popular with residents, visitors and businesses.

There will be free entry to the festival on the Saturday and Sunday, while the festival supper event on the Friday will be ticketed.

More information about the programme can be found on the food festival website. newportfoodfestival.co.uk



Follow social media for updates

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



FUNDING BOOST FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES IN NEWPORT

Creatives in Newport and two other council areas are to benefit from funding which aims to nurture local talent.

Cardiff University's Centre for the Creative Economy is working in partnership with Newport, Monmouthshire and Rhondda Cynon Taf councils on a creative industries cluster project.

It is being funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Councillor Jane Mudd, leader of Newport City Council, said: "Newport has a thriving cultural scene with some incredibly talented and creative people working in a range of fields including art, music and theatre.

"I'm delighted that the city is set to benefit from pilot funding for a creative hub. The idea of bringing creative individuals together and

opening up new opportunities is very exciting. I'm looking forward to seeing this promising project in action."



NEW BUSINESS GRANTS SCHEME LAUNCHED



Newport City Council is offering more financial assistance to local businesses thanks to funding from the UK Government's shared prosperity fund, part of its levelling up agenda.

For several years, the council has given grants to small and medium-sized businesses in the city to help with start-up and other costs and this is continuing.

However, the new accelerated growth grants programme will build on what has been a very successful scheme by offering grants of between £25,000 and £75,000 towards capital investment.

Councillor Jane Mudd, leader of Newport City Council, said: *"Our ambitious vision for the city's growth and development has seen the city centre undergo one of the largest regeneration programmes in the UK.*

"Projects delivered so far have delivered significant transformation and opportunities. Growing confidence in Newport has set the foundations for the city to capitalise on its economic potential.

"But this cannot be done by the council alone and we have adopted a collaborative approach with our enterprising local businesses. They are the lifeblood of our communities and our economy.

"We know the business sector has faced challenges in recent years and so we want to continue to offer support whenever and however we can."

The accelerated growth programme is aimed at well-established or new companies to set up premises or for existing city businesses to accelerate their plans for growth.

The grants will be offered as match funding for equipment that is essential for the establishment of a new business or enables the business to grow substantially.

Potential applicants are being invited to get in touch with the council's expert business services team first who can talk them through the process and assess their eligibility. The scheme is due to run until early 2025.

Anyone interested should email business.services@newport.gov.uk



LOVE YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

This October sees the start of National Libraries Week, an annual celebration of the best that UK libraries have to offer.

Members of Newport libraries can borrow up to 20 books during a three-week period.

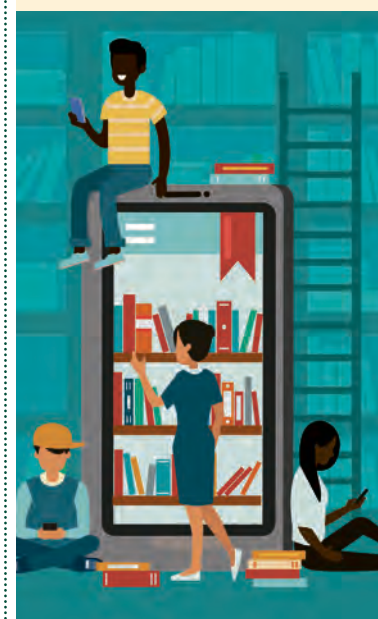
They can also get free online access to reading materials and information resources.

For the budding genealogists out there, it's easy to research family history with free access to Ancestry.com and FindMyPast.

Newport libraries are also a great place to socialise and meet new people with regular events and activities taking place throughout the year.

As well as the seasonal activities for children, parents with pre-school children can come along to the story clubs which provide an informal and exciting way to help with reading.

For adults, Reading Friends is a social reading and befriending programme which meets at Malpas Library on the third Monday of every month from 2:15 to 3:15pm.



Find out more about Newport libraries, including how to join and what's on visit newport.gov.uk/libraries

BOOKINGS NOW AVAILABLE FOR CITY CENTRE SMART HUB

Residents are now able to arrange an appointment to visit the council's Smart Hub at Newport Market.

The hub is a place where people will be able speak to members of the council's occupational therapy team and get advice about using the latest in assistive technology – helping them to live independently and safely at home.

Appointments can be made online at newport.gov.uk/assistivetech or by calling 01633 656656, asking for the occupational therapy team, or emailing info@newport.gov.uk

SMART HUB

Helping people to live independently in Newport

Learn about new and available assistive technology to live safely and independently at home.

Find us at Newport Market (Room 1.6)

HYB CLYFAR

Helpu Pobl i Fyw'n Annibynnol yng Nghasnewydd

Dysgwch am dechnoleg gynorthwyo newydd sydd ar gael i fyw'n ddiogel ac yn annibynnol gartref.

Dewch o hyd i ni ym Marchnad Casnewydd (Ystafell 1.6)

To book an appointment call 01633 656656, and ask for the OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY TEAM, or email info@newport.gov.uk
I drefnu apwyntiad ffoniwch 01633 656656, a gofynnwch am y TIM THERAPI GALWEDIGAETHOL, neu e-bostiwch info@newport.gov.uk
www.newport.gov.uk/assistivetech

FREE SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS



From this month, pupils in all council-maintained primary schools in the city will be eligible for a free school meal.

Financial support is also available for parents of primary and secondary pupils towards other costs such as uniform.

The council has rolled out the universal free school meal

offer ahead of the Welsh Government target date in 2024.

It had asked councils to extend the scheme to years three and four from September but pupils in years five and six are also included in Newport.

Universal free school meals were first made available last year to younger learners and

Newport again delivered ahead of the deadline by offering them to years one and two as well as reception pupils last September.

Councillor Jane Mudd, leader of the council, said: *"We made a promise to help as many children and their families as possible, as quickly as possible, and we have kept that promise."*

Councillor Deb Davies, cabinet member for education and early years, added: *"I would encourage parents and carers to check whether they are also entitled to other support with school costs by visiting our website or contacting the council."*

Pupils will be able to access meals directly through their school at the start of term.

You do not have to apply to receive a free school meal but families do have to apply to access additional financial support. It is important to do that so you don't miss out on this extra help.

For more information about free school meals and financial assistance with other school costs visit newport.gov.uk/schoolmeals or, if you are unable to apply online, email freeschoolmeals@newport.gov.uk or call 01633 656656.

CLUBS FOR 5 TO 25-YEAR-OLDS RESTART

Newport City Council's youth and play service's term time provision has returned after the successful delivery of the summer holiday programme.

A range of youth and play sessions are suitable for five to 25-year-olds and are run by qualified workers.

They offer activities, games and opportunities for children and young people to express their views in a safe space that meets their needs.

Find out more at bit.ly/youthandplay



Newport
Adult Community Learning
Dysgu Cymunedol i Oedolion
Casnewydd

New programme now available

with a variety of courses for adults aged 16+

Including - essential skills, sign language & digital courses

Find out more and enrol today

✉ community.learning@newport.gov.uk

🌐 www.newport.gov.uk/communitylearning



NEWPORT
CITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR DINAS
CASNEWYDD

GAIN A NEW SKILL WITH NEWPORT COMMUNITY LEARNING

September sees the start of the new round of adult community learning courses for 2023/2024.

This year people can enrol on a number of courses aimed to develop their literacy and numeracy skills - from basic skills to gaining a qualification in GCSE maths and English.

Following from the success of its launch in 2022, the introduction to carbon literacy course is once again on offer.

With climate change at the forefront of everyone's minds, this course will help learners understand their carbon footprint - demonstrating the steps they can take to reduce their impact on the planet.

To find out more about the courses available and to enrol visit newport.gov.uk/communitylearning



NEW 20MPH DEFAULT SPEED LIMITS IN PLACE

The new 20mph default speed limit in Wales is now in place.

The 20mph limit came into effect on Sunday 17 September, making Wales the first nation in the UK to adopt 20mph as a default speed limit.

The default speed limit applies to streets with streetlights no more than 200 yards apart, usually located in residential and built-up areas.

These streets will not have 20mph signs up, as that is now the default speed limit. From now, any speed limit signs in place will be to indicate a higher speed limit than 20mph.

There are some streets that will remain at 30mph. These are known as exceptions, and maps showing each of the 30mph exceptions are available to view on the council website.

You can also find maps showing which streets have defaulted to 20mph on our website.

newport.gov.uk/20mph

Welsh government has advised that reducing the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph on restricted roads could see many benefits.

These include:

- ✓ Helping to improve our health and wellbeing
- ✓ Making our streets safer
- ✓ Safeguarding the environment for future generations
- ✓ Reducing road collisions
- ✓ More opportunities to walk and cycle in our communities

Responsibility for enforcing speed limits lies with the police.



See streetlights, think 20.

Across Wales,

from 17th September, if you see streetlights close together you're probably on a 20mph road.

#ReadyFor20mph



REMINDER ABOUT CHANGES TO WASTE COLLECTIONS

The first phase of our three-weekly waste collections has been running since June, and we'd like to extend our thanks to all residents whose households have been part of the initial rollout by keeping recyclable waste out of their bins.

Before the changes take place where you live, we'll deliver a letter confirming the date from when we'll make these changes, and a calendar showing your new collection dates for these services.



We'll continue to collect your:

- ✓ food waste and 'dry recycling' every week, and
- ✓ nappy and hygiene waste every two weeks if you're registered for this service.

Did you know that nearly half of all waste disposed of in household rubbish bins across the city can be recycled?

Research carried out last year by Welsh Government showed that 47 per cent of waste found in black bins could actually be recycled.

47% of what goes into our black bins in Newport actually could be recycled!



Casnewydd yn ailgylchu
Newport recycles
wrpcymru.org.uk/composition



✓ Around 24 per cent of black bin waste was food, which can be recycled into your brown food caddy.

✓ Another 14 per cent of black bin waste could be recycled using your recycling bags and boxes.

✓ A further 2 per cent of black bin waste can be recycled using the garden waste bins, while around 7 per cent can be recycled at the household waste recycling centre.

For more information about what can and cannot be recycled, or for support with the changes in bin collections, visit our website.

newport.gov.uk/waste

WAYS TO CONTACT GWENT POLICE

Did you know you there are now various ways to contact your local police force, and specially trained staff are there to help as soon as you get in touch.

Call 999 if a serious offence is in progress or has just been committed; someone is in immediate danger or harm; property is in danger of being damaged; a serious disruption to the public is likely.

For non-emergencies such as antisocial behaviour or theft, to make a report or request information you can use the online reporting web page; email contact@gwent.police.uk; direct message on social media or call **101**.



GREEN FLAGS RAISED ONCE MORE IN NEWPORT PARKS



Two of Newport's biggest parks are celebrating once again after retaining their Green Flag status for 2023/24.

Beechwood Park and Belle Vue Park have been recognised by Keep Wales Tidy for their excellent visitor facilities, high environmental standards, and commitment to delivering great quality green space.

This will be the seventeenth consecutive year that Belle Vue has been awarded Green Flag status, while Beechwood is celebrating its sixth consecutive award.

Belle Vue has also retained its Green Heritage status for a sixth-year running.

A third council managed site, Gwent Crematorium, has also retained its Green Flag status for the seventh year in a row.

Four community-run sites in the city, Bishton village pond community area, Lliswerry pond, Glade community garden and the

Laundry gardens, have also been recognised with Green Flag status.

The Green Flag awards are a UK-wide scheme which recognise and reward well-managed parks and green spaces.

The Green Flag award programme is delivered in Wales by Keep Wales Tidy, with support from Welsh Government.

Independent green space experts volunteered their time to judge applicant sites against eight strict criteria, including biodiversity, cleanliness, environmental management, and community involvement.

Councillor Yvonne Forsey, cabinet member for climate change and biodiversity, said: *"I'm delighted that our three sites have retained their Green Flag status."*

"Increasing and improving our green infrastructure is one of the key priorities from our organisational climate change plan. Along with our successful application for Tree City of the World status, these awards recognise our officers' hard work and dedication in managing our green spaces for the benefit of residents, visitors and nature."



IMPROVEMENTS TO MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL

Newport City Council is working on a series of improvements to the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal.

The improvements will see the council clear silt and vegetation in the canal from the Fourteen Locks site up to the city boundary with Caerphilly county.

This stretch will also be relined.

The desilting and relining will improve water flow and retention, as well as improving the water environment for biodiversity purposes.

The Fourteen Locks site will also benefit from a new bridge over the pond, and new lock gates above the pond to replace the existing ones. The bridge will provide improved accessibility to the Fourteen Locks visitor centre with a modified access ramp. Feasibility works will also start on a potential redesign of the visitor centre.

Councillor Yvonne Forsey, cabinet member for climate change and biodiversity, said: *"Building resilience in our city's ecosystem is one of the priorities in our organisational climate change plan, and the desilting and relining work that will be carried out will help to build that resilience in the canal for future generations."*

"The canal is an important site within the local community, so I'm also pleased that these improvements will widen access to the visitor centre."

The work has been funded through the UK Government's

Shared Prosperity Fund under the Communities and Place investment priority.

Residents should expect varying levels of disruption over the next 18 months while these works are carried out. This will include full or partial closures of the canal path, for which diversions will be put in place, and may limit parking in the car park.

Exact timings for this work will be communicated through council channels and on site at Fourteen Locks once they are confirmed.



KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Ward meetings are an opportunity for residents of Newport to find out what is going on in their local area and a chance to chat with their local councillor about any issues or concerns they may have.

Upcoming meetings will be promoted on social media and on the council website, as well as via your ward councillor.



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.

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



PUTTING CHILDREN, NOT PROFIT, AT THE HEART OF FOSTERING



Foster Wales Newport is highlighting the benefits of fostering with a local authority as Welsh Government moves ahead with plans to remove profit from the care of looked-after children.

Wales is in the process of a whole system change for children’s services and there is a clear commitment to “eliminate private profit from the care of looked after children”.

This means that by 2027, care of children that are looked after in Wales will be provided by public sector, charitable or not-for-profit organisations.

In light of these changes, Foster Wales Newport – which is part of the network representing the 22 local authorities in Wales - is calling for more people to become local authority foster carers and encouraging those currently

fostering with a for-profit agency to transfer over to us.

Councillor Stephen Marshall, Newport City Council’s cabinet member for social services, said: *“This is a positive step forward and will hugely change the care of young people in Wales.*

“Fostering with your local authority offers many benefits from including a network of support and training. Importantly, it also means that children and young people who are being fostered can stay close to their families, friends and communities.

“We would love to hear from local people who want to make a difference to the lives of local children and can help us make this change happen. Get in touch with our friendly team today.

“Foster carers do amazing work, opening their doors and their hearts to provide children with care and support. All of us in the local

authority very much appreciate their dedication and commitment.”

In Wales, 79 per cent of children cared for by private fostering agencies are fostered outside their local area, and six per cent are moved out of Wales entirely. Meanwhile, 84 per cent of those living with local authority foster carers stay within their own local area, close to home, to school, to family and friends.

Our friendly Foster Wales Newport team can tell you more about how you can make a difference to a child’s life.

You can give them a call, email or meet face-to-face for an informal chat at one of their monthly sessions in Horton’s Coffee Shop, Millennium Walk, on the first Tuesday of every month.

Find out more about fostering for your local authority at fosterwales.newport.gov.uk

WHEN TO APPLY FOR A SCHOOL PLACE FOR 2024

School admission timetables are published the summer of the year before a child is due to start school and it is important that parents make note of the application deadlines and apply within the relevant timeframe.

The next round of applications will open on 25 September 2023 for secondary school places, with a closing date of 13 November 2023.

Applications for 2024 reception places will open on 6 November 2023 and will close on 9 January 2024.

Parents/carers can choose any school they want their child to attend and the council will try to meet that preference where

places are available. However, in many areas of Newport, the demand for school places is particularly high and there are often more applications received than there are places available.

It is important that parents/carers read the individual school admissions policy and express a preference for at least three different schools.

By choosing more than one school it will increase the chance of getting a place that they are happy with. A preference for the catchment school will receive priority but this does not guarantee a place.

For more information on how and when to apply visit newport.gov.uk/schooladmissions

If your child was born between:	Make an application for:	Apply from:	Closing date:
1 Sept 2020 and 31 Aug 2021	Nursery 2024	12 July 2023	5pm on 06 September 2023
1 Sept 2019 and 31 Aug 2020	Reception 2024	06 November 2023	5pm on 09 January 2024
1 Sept 2012 and 31 Aug 2013	Secondary 2024	25 September 2023	5pm on 13 November 2023



PRAISE FOR NEWPORT SCHOOLS



In July, three schools received glowing reports from the official inspection body Estyn.

Inspectors found Pentrepoeth Primary School was a place *“where pupils thrive and enjoy a wide range of engaging and exciting learning experiences”.*

It was also lauded by the Welsh Network of Healthy Schools who said: *“Wow, what a school! There can be no doubt that Pentrepoeth Primary School is a healthy school and fully deserving of its National Quality Award.”*

St Mary’s RC Primary was found to be *“a diverse, inclusive school where everyone matters.”*

The report added: *“Adults care deeply about the pupils, each other and the wider school community. As a result, there is a strong ethos*

of mutual respect and partnership working, that benefits the pupils and supports them to achieve their best.”

And Estyn said St Woolos Primary *“is an effective and caring school, which holds the community it serves at the heart of all it does. Pupil well-being is a strength of the school.”*



Pupils from Pentrepoeth Primary School

GET HELP WITH CHILDCARE COSTS

Did you know that parents and carers who are working, or in education, could be eligible for support towards the costs of childcare?

Through the Childcare Offer for Wales, you could claim up to 30 hours of early education and childcare a week, for up to 48 weeks a year.

And the tax-free childcare scheme is for working families, including the self-employed, who aren’t receiving tax credits or

universal credit with children aged 0-11 (or 0-16 if disabled).

Local support may also be available.

You can find out more from Newport’s Family Information Service - visit newport.gov.uk/FIS; email family.information@newport.gov.uk or call **01633 210842** for advice and support.

