



April 2024

Issue 17

NEWSLETTER

Welcome

Welcome to this Spring edition of the Newsletter, which aims to provide useful & interesting news about the Council & the wider community.

If you have an article or information of interest to Newent residents, please email it to the Town Clerk: townclerk@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk

Market House Museum – Openings



Newent Market House is now open to visitors on Saturday afternoons, between 1300-1600, until 28th September.

The historic Market House is home to lots of interesting local artefacts & stories and the museum is run by dedicated volunteers, who manage the displays & staff the open afternoons.

Entry to the museum is free, but a small donation box is available for anyone wishing to give some change to the running of the museum.

Please note the museum is only accessible via an outside staircase; therefore is not suitable for wheelchair users/those with mobility issues.

New Daffodils Planted in the Arboretum.

Thank you to the Aston Project, which gathered a group of 6 young people and 2 PCSOs at the Arboretum to plant some daffodils along the top hedge. We can't wait to see how they look when they bloom!



Community Group Feature: Newent & District Men's Shed

This feature is the second in a series, based on interviews with local community groups or businesses in the town.

We are delighted that members of the Newent & District Men's Shed kindly agreed to us visiting their premises to chat about the group; this article provides an interesting insight into the organisation.



Newent & District Men's Shed is located in a building at the rear of Newent Community Centre and is open:

Monday:	10 am to 2 pm
Wednesday:	10 am to 2 pm
Friday:	10 am to 2 pm

What is the purpose of the organisation?

The Men's Shed is a charitable organisation whose aims are to:

- Share woodworking skills & create products;
- Make and mend items for the local community;
- Enjoy a friendly chat over a hot drink & biscuits;
- Connect with like-minded people & take time out;
- Provide comradeship & friendship.

The organisation provides space for men to regularly meet & learn/practice woodworking skills. No experience is necessary; beginners & those with some woodworking skills are welcomed alike.

The local group is part of the national Men's Shed network and is a member of the UK Men's Shed Association (which provides advice & discounts). There are currently 10 active members of the Newent group. Four members were on site when we visited - Tony, Phil, Brian and Mark. Tony is the founding member, Chairman & joint treasurer with Phil. Tony, Phil & Brian are trustees.

How did the organisation start?

The Men's Shed movement began in Australia and there are now Men's Sheds worldwide. Newent & District Men's Shed started in 2020 by Tony, who previously went to Ross-on-Wye's Men's Shed. Not long after, it had to close due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Men's Shed then re-opened proper in January 2022 at Shepherd's House. On 1st April 2022, the Men's Shed moved into a building at the rear of Newent Community Centre.

What are the key things you offer to members and what is your membership base?

Members can make their own items with their own materials, but most members enjoy creating things together - for community groups or individuals, using available materials. There's a wide variety of equipment in the workshop, including the planer thicknesser (pictured below), purchased via a Town Council grant & a donated laser engraver.



A grant from the Barnwood Trust also provided some new equipment.



Wide variety of tools & equipment

The group offers friendship, social interaction, a space to talk about issues, improved mental wellbeing, new skills, teamwork, working on joint projects and helping other community groups.

Members can get-together with like-minded people and the group provides a focus for achieving things outside the home. The weekly, even three times weekly, get-together is often a great highlight for members and has in fact helped some of them deal with health issues, job loss & family bereavement. The group is a great way for men to combat loneliness and to boost mental wellbeing. The majority of members are retired, but some are younger. Members come from Newent and surrounding villages.

The membership fee is £10 per month, which helps towards the cost of rent, heating, lighting, insurance and refreshments.

Whilst the organisation at the moment is for men, the group would consider having a joint day with women, if there was enough interest.

How is your organisation involved in the local community and what products do you make?

The Men's Shed is heavily involved with other organisations in Newent. For example, it has installed a new ramp at the Recycling Shed, storage units at the Chill Out & a bench in the community garden, a fairy door & raised bed at the library, refurbished an old dolls house & made coasters at The Ark plus a noticeboard at Tibberton School. Other items include hedgehog boxes, bat boxes and bird boxes.



Fairy Door at Newent Library



Noticeboard at Tibberton School

Shops and cafes have bought benches and planters. Individuals' favourites include bird tables, seed tray sets, wishing wells, chopping boards, garden Jenga and engraved slates.



Bench



Planters



Bird Table



Seed Tray Sets



Chopping Board



Garden Jenga

Items for sale are usually advertised on the Men's Shed Facebook page (see link at the end of article).

Quite a few unwanted items and materials are donated, which members then re-use to make new items. When we visited the workshop, there were 3 unique garden seats just finished - made from upcycled mahogany cupboards & discarded metal.



Upcycled Benches

Do you have any interesting stories you could share relating to your organisation?

The dolls house for The Ark was originally made from a packing case from the USA, sent over during WW2.



Refurbished Doll's House at The Ark

When refurbishing the old building, pulling off the ivy from the outside walls was a mammoth task involving lots of rope, pulleys and hard work!

Have you faced any major challenges and how did you overcome these? What has been particularly rewarding/successful?

Refurbishing the building was a challenge but hugely satisfying. The building prior to the Men's Shed was a delivery storage space; before then a shooting range for the Air Cadets. Originally, the building was part of Newent workhouse.

Creating & mending items is of course greatly rewarding and selling products very successful.

What are the best things about being part of the group?

Satisfaction in achieving something and making things, especially together. Having access to specialist equipment.

Having a place to go to regularly & being with like-minded people; friendship, learning new skills, working on joint projects and helping other community groups.

Do you have any exciting plans for your organisation?

The windows & guttering are being replaced, courtesy of a lottery grant. A new roof is needed, for which the group is seeking funding. Repointing the brickwork is a job for the longer, warmer days.

There are always things to do & make and hopefully more members will join to help with the many projects on the go.

More information about the organisation and contact details can be found on the Men's Shed Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Newent-and-District-Mens-Shed-100070429789294/>

If anyone is interested in trying out the Men's Shed, please just turn up or email thenewentshed@gmail.com

Trees for Streets

The Town Council recently agreed to support Gloucestershire's Trees for Streets initiative, by advertising the scheme in Newent parish.

"LET'S FILL GLOUCESTERSHIRE WITH TREES" Gloucestershire County Council has partnered with Trees for Streets and the Woodland Trust to help residents & businesses sponsor tree planting in their local streets or neighbourhood. The County Council also supports community crowdfunding campaigns and is keen for local businesses to be involved.

The initiative aims to reduce local air pollution, absorb carbon, improve residents' mental and physical wellbeing and make Gloucestershire a greener place.



For more information about getting involved in the Trees for Streets scheme, please visit the website:

<https://sponsor.treesforstreets.org/provider/gloucestershire-county-council>

Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 29th April

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

AND BURIAL AUTHORITY



Annexe Building
Rear Newent Community Centre
Ross Road
Newent
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Tel: 01531 820638
Email: townclerk@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk
www.newenttowncouncil.org.uk

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Monday 29th April 6pm – 8.30pm
Newent Community School Hall

**Come and see what Newent Town Council does
and meet your current Town Councillors**

Visit local organisation stalls, including:

Buses4Us - Canopy Arts - Chill Out Zone
Museum of Board Games - Newent Initiative Trust
Newent & District Men's Shed - Newent & District U3A
Newent Runners

**The meeting will commence at 7pm, where the Mayor will
give her annual report and the public has the opportunity to
ask the Town Council questions relating to the Parish.**

Please advise the Town Clerk of any questions you wish to put
to the Councillors, in writing 7 days prior to the meeting, to
townclerk@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk or Newent Town Council,
Annexe Building, Rear Community Centre, Ross Road, Newent GL18 1BD

Newent Town Council Meetings

*Sixth Form Common Room, Newent Community
School, Watery Lane, Newent (subject to change)*

Planning/Environment Committee 7pm	Annual General Meeting ~ 7.30pm
Monday 20 th May	Monday 20 th May

Council Positions & Roles

Mayor

Cllr Sara Hulbert

Deputy Mayor

Cllr Eddie Wood

Finance & Staffing Committee

Cllr Julia Gooch (Chair)

Cllr Eddie Wood (Vice-Chair)

Planning & Environment Committee

Cllr Gill Moseley (Chair)

Cllr Kay Selwyn (Vice-Chair)

Other Councillors were elected on to these Committees. In addition, Councillors were appointed for specific roles and Council representatives on outside bodies. The full list for all the positions can be found on the Council's website: www.newenttowncouncil.org.uk/

If you would like to find out more, please contact the Town Clerk

Council Contact Details

Newent Town Clerk

01531 820638

townclerk@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk

Newent Town Councillors

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Forest of Dean District Councillors

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Julie Hudson
Gill Moseley 01531 820826

Gloucestershire County Councillor

Gill Moseley 01531 820826

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Deadline for articles to be included in the next issue: 9am, Thursday 23rd May 2024

Email to: Town Clerk marked 'Newsletter'.
townclerk@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk

The Editor's decision is final.

Regular notices & news can also be found via the Council's:

Facebook page 

<https://www.facebook.com/Newent-Town-Council-147707619127917/>

Website



www.newenttowncouncil.org.uk

Details about the Council, its function, notices, news and documents, Agendas, Minutes, Policies and Financial information are available on the website.

Twitter 

[@newenttc](https://twitter.com/newenttc)

Noticeboards

Under the Market House, at the entrance to the Lake Car Park & by the children's play area at the Lake.

