

THE MARKET HOUSE

Newent Town Council's newsletter - March/April 2021

Message from the Mayor - Cllr Christine Howley

Welcome everyone to the reinstatement of our newsletter, we have decided to produce these on a bi-monthly basis and we hope that you will find them both informative and interesting.

Whilst I write to this to you, we are still in lock down but awaiting news regarding the lifting of some restrictions, therefore external Mayoral duties have been non existent, but I do hope that this will change somewhat over the next months.

I am pleased to say that I have received my first Covid injection. I have been very impressed with the way our Health Centre have dealt with the situation, and thank everyone involved for their time and commitment

We now look forward to spring. I must say this is my favourite time of year, always full of promise, and as an allotment holder the start of some serious work on the allotment.

I recommend becoming an allotment holder to anyone who would grow their own fruit /vegetables, and it ensures you will get plenty of fresh air and exercise. The stipulation is that you must live in Newent. Please contact the Council on 01531 820638 to register an interest.

It may seem that during the most recent lock down there has been not much going on for many of us. However as usual at the Town Council there is a lot going on in the background. The Town Clerk and her staff have been busy all the while and the Estate staff in particular have been kept working hard putting restrictions in place, then removing them again depending on the rules in force at the time. Along with this they have been trying to keep up with the routine maintenance work ongoing in the Aboretum and the Lake. The revetments at the lake have been started, protecting the bank from further erosion. This entails making and filling the gabions which are used, then making good the area afterwards, and it has not been the perfect weather for this kind of task, as we all know.



The long awaited Valegro statue is in place in the market square and has already attracted great interest.

Even on the day it was installed there were selfies being taken. It has been a long task with the fundraising, selling the maquettes which funded the final statue and obtaining all the has paid off and the hope now is that once we are all able to travel, the statue will attract even more visitors to come into town and enjoy what Newent has to offer.

THE MARKET HOUSE continued

On that subject work has been going on behind the scenes on a banner for Gloucester Street. We are waiting for permission from Forest of Dean District Council to put the banner up, advertising the services available in the town.

Members of The Newent Neighbourhood Development Plan are still working behind the scenes. It has not been so easy during lock down as a lot of the work is done in small groups, but the second survey is now available both on line and as a hard copy. The hard copy can be found and returned to the display unit at the back of the main Co-op near the tills. The online version can be found at www.newentourfuture.org.uk The subject is Environment and Wildlife. As with all the surveys your opinion and input is very important because it is the residents' opinions which are the guiding factor in the plan

The Newent Youth Action Group (previously Newent Advisory Group) has begun well working with the Youth Facilities Group researching ideas for new amenities that the Young people have brought forward. Two Pump Tracks and a Nature Trail being YAG's task. YAG is also helping the Council to transform the phone box in Vauxhall into a Community Asset.

The team at Newent Dr's practice have been working incredibly hard over the past few weeks to ensure that eligible patients in priority groups 1-6 receive their vaccine. It has certainly been a challenge with the clinic availability based on vaccine delivery, often notified only a few days before with hundreds of patients to be called by 'phone to have a personal invitation to attend for vaccination. In spite of this since 12th January over 16 clinics have been run ensuring nearly 4000 patients have had their first vaccination. The Surgery would like to thank all the patients for the wonderful messages and support they have received. They wish also to thank the amazing volunteers who marshalled outside in all winds and weather. Special thanks go to The Town Council for the use of car parks and the supply of barriers and cones to keep everyone safe. The surgery will continue to invite patients for their vaccination.



We have had heard that a "Mens" shed is being planned for Newent. This is actually intended to be a community shed for men and women, for chat and cups of tea as well as repairing items in wood and metal of electrical items for the community free or for a donation. On line at present at 2.30pm on Tuesdays, they are hoping to find accommodation in real life after lock down. Any one with suggestion about about accommodation or enquiring about the shed can contact them on thenewentshed@gmail.com or Tony on 07808116898.

Finally, Newent Town Council has made a request to Gloucestershire County Council as the Local Lead Flood Authority, that a Multi-Agency Flood Forum be set up for Newent, to look for further flood prevention and alleviation measures. This Forum will enable members of the public, councillors and officers to discuss a wide range of ideas and solutions.