

# NEWPORTFIRST

**'town team' housekeeping.....** On 7<sup>th</sup> April the 'town team' held its AGM. The meeting started with thanks to everyone who has contributed in some way to the town team's work in the past 12 months. We know that you all have busy lives so it was entirely appropriate to acknowledge those who find both energy and time to contribute to improving Newport's town centre.

Those present at the AGM had an opportunity to reflect on achievements of the past year, confirm priorities for the coming year, and sign off the accounts for the year ending 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

Nigel West of Fiveways Insurance Services was re-elected chairman, Karen Woodcock (All About Newport) was re-elected vice-chairman, and Maria Sindhu (Daisy Chain) was elected treasurer. The position of secretary was not filled so if any trader / business operator is interested please let us know. The next AGM will take place in April 2016

Karen Woodcock, Margaret Woodcock (Newport League of Friends), Maria Sindhu, and Mark Freeman (Henshalls Insurance Services) continue as directors of the town team as a 'not-for-profit' private limited company that is dedicated to revitalising Newport's town centre.

***Pride in Your High Street Fund Launched.....*** On 24<sup>th</sup> March 2015 Telford & Wrekin Council launched the Pride in Your High Street fund with £1m allocated to provide a major boost to town centres in the borough. The most any area can receive is set at £100,000 indicating that each of the 9 town centre areas has good prospects of securing some investment provided they can put together a coherent bid.

Three workshops for prospective bidders are to be held throughout the borough with one of those events scheduled for Newport on **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April** (time & venue details to follow), and everyone interested is encouraged to attend.

**Contacting the Town Team:-**

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**Face-book:** [www.facebook.com/newporttownteam](http://www.facebook.com/newporttownteam)

## ***St George's Day Parade.....***

In the March edition of NEWPORTFIRST we provided an outline of proposals for the St. George's Day Parade. The itinerary for the event has now been finalised and is as follows:-

- ❖ 9.00 am Newport Rotary Club 'mile of coins' fund raising initiative continues collecting for popular local charities - Newport Cottage Care Centre and Combat Stress;
- ❖ 10.30 am Newport Town Band will be playing in the Town Square;
- ❖ 11.00 am The Bedcote Squires Morris Dancers will be entertaining shoppers
- ❖ 12.00 noon St. George's Day Parade starts from The Shakespeare PH and proceeds along the High Street to the Town Square (for road closure details see below);
- ❖ 12.15 pm St. George will slay the dragon
- ❖ 12.30 pm The Bedcote Squires Morris Dancers will continue entertaining shoppers.

Throughout the day there will be a range of street entertainment activities including a competition for the best theme dressed child, free children's face painting, free 'dragon' sausages and St. George's buns, and loads more.

**Best Dressed Window Competition:** all Newport traders and businesses are invited to enter a best dressed window competition following a red & white / St. George theme. This will run from Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April (actual St. George's day) through to close of business on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

Please do enter the window dressing competition as this helps create a whole-town centre atmosphere for the event which now forms an important part of Newport's annual calendar of events.

**Market Hall Dragon's Egg Hunt:** Children's dragon's egg hunt during the day with a photo-call at 12.45 pm as St. George draws a charity fund raising raffle for a giant teddy bear.

**Road Closure:** please note that the High Street will be closed from the Shakespeare PH through to Lower Bar from 12.00 noon for up to one hour whilst the parade assembles and then proceeds to the Town Square. These temporary closures will affect vehicles parked within the town centre area including St. Mary Street.

***Membership renewals now due.....thank you to all those traders and businesses who have supported the work of the 'town team' throughout 2014/15 by subscribing as members - we appreciate your support and trust that you will continue to put your faith in your town team as we collectively work to support businesses and improve Newport's town centre offer. Membership renewals are now due with new members always welcome. Details already circulated by email and to follow shortly in paper format.***