



Maindee

MAINDEE NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2026

New Charity Chair

Alison Starling was elected as the new Chairperson of Maindee Unlimited at their AGM held last November. She takes over from David Moses. Alison is very enthusiastic about her new role: ***“David set a high standard so I am a little nervous, but very pleased to be the new Chairperson. Our volunteers and all projects are focussed on making Maindee a more sustainable place, but there is still a long way to go”.*** One thing that will be keeping Alison busy is the new Pride in Place fund. ***“The total pot of £20m will be split between Victoria, Pill and Stow Hill Wards, so we must make sure that Maindee gets its fair share and that local people are properly represented when decisions are made later this year on how the money will be spent.”***



Volunteering with Us

Maindee Unlimited, the local charity that publishes this newsletter, was established in 2014. Since then, hundreds of local volunteers have signed up to help run the library, staff the food pantry or work on the beautiful public gardens created by Greening Maindee.

Go to www.maindee.org/volunteer for more information.

Ida Wenøe & Samantha Whates

**Llyfrgell Maindee Library | Tickets £15/£7.50
7.30pm Sat 25th April. See poster on back.**

The library is presenting a captivating live performance by Ida Wenøe & Samantha Whates this April. Ida Wenøe's intimate sound has made her one of Denmark's most captivating voices. Praised by audiences across Europe, she is the 2021 Danish Music Awards winner. For this UK wide tour, Ida has teamed up with Scottish singer-songwriter, Samantha Whates. Samantha is a hugely respected figure on the folk & roots scene and has enjoyed both critical acclaim and extensive radio play on BBC 6 Music and BBC Radio 2. Across two immersive sets, they offer harmony, intimacy, and communion – truly enchanting.

Tickets (£15.00 – aged 18 and over / £7.50 – aged under 18) can be purchased now on Eventbrite or on the evening. Doors open at 6.45 to give you time to get a drink and find a good seat. The library is grateful to the Arts Council of Wales Night Out Scheme for their helpful support.

Fed Up with Potholes

Everyone's fed up with all the potholes. They're bad for cars, dangerous for cyclists and can give passers by a right old soaking. Hereford Street and Prince Street have been bad. They got hammered a few months ago when they turned into the unofficial rat run for drivers avoiding a road closure by the Cenotaph. It went on for weeks and all that rain didn't help. In the end the roads were left in tatters. The Council patched them up but the repairs didn't last long. In early March both roads got patched a second time. If a road needs patching twice – isn't it time it got resurfaced?



To get some answers we got in touch with Rhian Howells, the Council's Cabinet Member for Assets and Infrastructure. We first asked about these temporary fixes. She agreed that "Resurfacing roads is the proper long term solution as it prevents potholes from happening. At the moment our teams prioritise safety risks and move quickly from one pothole to the next. So in all likelihood it is not the quality of repair they would like to provide in better circumstances and under less pressure". On resurfacing, Rhian said ***“We have just allocated an extra £15 million for resurfacing work this coming year. That's on top of the existing £6.6 million. It's a total of over £20 million.”***

Rhian also said that the Council is increasing the budget for maintenance ***“There will be more operatives and better kit to make better quality repairs”.*** Finally, we asked Rhian if some of that extra money will be used to resurface Hereford Street and Prince Street. She couldn't say yet as ***“the list of streets is still being drawn up”.*** It would be nice if Hereford Street and Prince Street could be on that list, but it was good to get positive news and straight answers from the politician in charge. Thanks Rhian.

Flexible Friends

Well done and thank you to staff and clients at Flexible Options who raised £220 at their Christmas raffle to donate to library funds. They popped in the other day to hand over the money on their way to an archery session at Pill Mill. Flexible Options is a great local organisation that supports people with a learning disability to develop skills and get out and about more in Newport. www.flexibleoptions.co.uk/about



Ellen Kershaw Painting

Here is Tracey Kershaw in the library with a lovely 1949 painting by her Mum, Ellen Kershaw, showing the entrance to the old Maindee School on Chepstow Road.



There was loads of interest on Facebook last October when Tracey posted a photo of the painting on the Maindee Past and Present page. The consensus then was that it should be on public display. The good news is that, after some restoration work, the painting will now be given to the library on an extended loan so it can be displayed for everyone to see it. There is an opening event at 6pm on Friday 1st May. Refreshments will be served. All welcome.

Ellen Kershaw was born in 1929. She attended Newport College of



Art on Clarence Place where she studied under Thomas Rathmell. After College, she worked as a tracer for the Cwmbrân Development Corporation, going on to write a weekly nature column in the Argus. A woman of many talents, she also ran the South Wales Swan Rescue for forty years. Ellen is still alive but very frail and now living on a local Nursing Home.

Above: 'Painting of Ellen' by Thomas Rathmell

Below: Ellen Kirshaw - 1950



Maindee in Bloom 2026

A COMMUNITY COMPETITION



CALLING ALL MAINDEE GARDENERS YOUNG AND OLD; NEW OR EXPERIENCED

INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS
SCAN THE QR CODE TO
REGISTER OR VISIT
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/OJGMJZORKPSJCVSV6](https://forms.gle/OJGMJZORKPSJCVSV6)



Giveaway Events (for participants ONLY):

**11am-1pm on April 1st and 10th at
St.Mary's Garden, Wharf Road
FREE soil, pots, seedlings and seeds available.
Window boxes - £5.00**



All the gardens will be judged on how pollinator-friendly and colourful they make Maindee. Judging takes place on 1st July, with winners announced and prizes awarded at the Maindee Festival on Saturday 4th July 2026

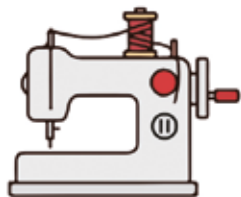
<https://www.maindee.org/greening>



NEWPORT MAKERSPACE

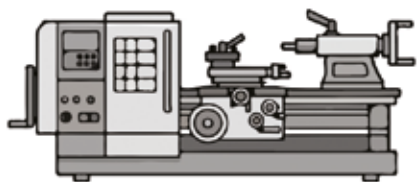


CREUDY CASNEWYDD



Create! Repair! Share!

Join Newport's creative maker community and amazing shared workshop space



SCAN ME



Newport Makerspace
Wastesavers Reuse Centre
138-142 Chepstow Road
NP19 8EG

Community night every Tuesday
Join Newport Makerspace
for just £10 per month
newportmakerspace.org

Materion Cymdogaeth
Neighbourhood Matters



Join the conversation

Keeping in Touch with the Police

Did you know that Gwent Police offer a free online community messaging service called **Neighbourhood Matters**?

The service is free to use and gives you loads of information; updates from the neighbourhood policing team, crime prevention advice, neighbourhood watch alerts and details of upcoming events. You can customise the system so you just get the types of information you want. It can also be used to feed in your own ideas on what local policing priorities should be.

Our Victoria Ward Neighbourhood Inspector, Roland Giles, said:
"Through this service, we're providing timely updates around the work we're carrying out to address trends and send messages that help people protect themselves and their belongings from crimes like theft."

If you want to help Maindee be a safer place then Neighbourhood Matters is really worth checking out. To sign up use this QR code or go to gwentneighbourhoodmatters.co.uk

You can report criminal activity at www.gwent.police.uk or by ringing 101. In an emergency always dial 999. Non-emergency contacts for the Newport East Neighbourhood Policing Team are:

PCSO Joseph Clark:
joseph.clark@gwent.police.uk

PCSO Hamad Ali Khokhar:
hamad.khokhar@gwent.police.uk





Pride in Place Cash for Maindee

The UK Government announced last September that Newport would be one of the areas to get an extra £20m from their UK-wide Pride in Place fund. The idea is to provide significant (mainly capital) funding to poorer neighbourhoods to help local people get more control of improvements to their local area. Neighbourhood boards, with majority community representation, will be established. The boards will draw up plans for how the money will be spend.

In January this year, Newport City Council announced that the areas to benefit from this Newport fund will be Stow Hill, Pill and Victoria Wards (with a focus on the Maindee District Centre). The Council is aiming to set up the neighbourhood board by the end of July, with initial plans then in place by December. The money will be allocated over ten years and is conditional on local plans being approved along the way.

Alison Starling, from Maindee Unlimited, thinks the work the Charity has done over the last ten years has helped secure this new money. *"We turned a corner in 2024 with Full Colour Maindee – all that amazing street art. Then last year we opened the beautiful Gateway Garden on Wharf Road. It won an award from the Royal Horticultural Society and got featured on BBC's Gardeners World. These sorts of things make a place more visible to decision makers. They can then more easily see the potential for further investment"*.

Over the next few months more information is expected on how everyone can get involved. The next newsletter in June will cover this. In the meantime keep an eye on the Maindee Library facebook page at www.facebook.com/MaindeeLibrary You can email any questions or comments to info@maindee.org.

BOM HADAU

Sharing stories that take root
Rhannu'r straeon
*sy'n bwrw gwreiddiau

A new community zine for Newport on people, place, and planet. With positive news, stories, and more!

1st Issue available from the 13th March. Find your copy in a community space near you!

Cylchgrawn cymunedol newydd ar gyfer Casnewydd ar bobl, lle a'r blaned. Gyda newyddion a straeon cadarnhaol, a mwy!

Rhifyn laf ar gael o'r 13eg o Fawrth. Dewch o hyd i'ch copi mewn lle cymunedol yn agos atoch chi!

learn more, and get involved!
dysgwch fwy, a chymerwch ran!

www.bomhadau.com



BORROW useful items and
SAVE MONEY!



MAINDEE LIBRARY OF THINGS



Based at Wastesavers Reuse Centre
138-142 Chepstow Road

www.maindeelot.co.uk



MAENDY LLYFRGELL PETHAU

Lleolir yng Nghanolfan Aildefnyddio Wastesavers
138-142 Heol Cas-gwent

BENTHYCWCH eitemau defnyddiol
ac **ARBED ARIAN!!**



Food Pantry News



Every day, UK households throw away 4.4 million tonnes of edible food – worth a staggering £17.5 billion. That's about £250 wasted by every person every year. At a time when the cost of living continues to squeeze family budgets and climate pressures intensify, reducing the amount of food you waste is one of the simplest ways you can save money and protect the planet.

Here in Maindee, Food Pantry volunteers collect surplus food from local supermarkets which is then issued at sessions held three times a week in the library. The Pantry crew collects, processes and issues over two tonnes of edible food each month.

The Spytty Aldi store is the biggest single food donor to the Pantry and last Christmas pantry volunteers presented Aldi's staff at store with a framed print

of the library to thank them for their help in reducing food waste.

With so much food being processed, storage in the library has become an issue. The location of the pantry next to the main entrance also means things can get pretty congested. Thanks to a community food grant from Newport City Council, a new storage and service area is being commissioned and should be up and running this Summer.

If you share our passion for reducing food waste – you might want to help. We are currently looking for new volunteers to work at the pantry on Monday and Friday mornings from 9.30am to 12.00am. No experience needed – just a positive attitude! You will get free Level 2 food hygiene training plus a nice apron. Email pantry@maindee.org or see maindee.org/pantry for more information.





CREATIVE TEXTILE SKILLS FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

SGILIAU TECSTILAU CREADIGOL
AR GYFER DYFODOL MWY
CYNALIADWY

JOIN OUR WORKSHOPS TO LEARN PRACTICAL MENDING AND UPCYCLING SKILLS, AND GET CREATIVE ALONG THE WAY.

YMUWCH Â'N GWEITHDAI I DDYSGU SGILIAU ATGYWEIRIO AC UWCHGYLCHU YMARFEROL, A BOD YN GREADIGOL AR HYD Y FFORDD.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS GWEITHDAI SYDD AR DDOD

THURSDAY 19TH MARCH
IAU 19FED MAWRTH
18:30 - 21:00

VISIBLE MENDING

Join Lauren to learn visible mending techniques, helping to keep your clothes in use and looking lovely for longer.

ATGYWEIRIO GWELADWY

Ymunwch â Lauren i ddysgu technegau atgyweirio gweladwy, gan helpu i gadw'ch dillad mewn defnydd ac edrych yn hyfryd am hirach.



SATURDAY 21ST MARCH
SADWRN 2AUN MAWRTH
13:30 - 16:30

UPCYCLE YOUR WARDROBE WITH APPLIQUE

Give your clothes a second life. Bring an unloved item and learn how to transform it with bold applique and fabric collage.

SATURDAY 4TH APRIL
SADWRN 4YDD EBRILL
13:30 - 16:30

UWCHGYLCHU EICH CWPWRDD DILLAD GYDAG APPLIQUÉ

Rhowch ail fywyd i'ch dillad. Dewch ag eitem hen a dysgwch sut i'w thrawsnewid gydag appliqué beiddgar a collage ffabrig.



SATURDAY 18TH APRIL
SATURDAY 2ND MAY
SATURDAY 16TH MAY
SATURDAY 30TH MAY
13:30 - 16:30

WOOL SERIES

Workshop 1: Explore British wool and have a go at preparing fleece through carding.

Workshop 2: Spin your carded wool!

Workshop 3: Natural dyeing

Workshop 4: Weave, knit or crochet your new wool!

SADWRN 18FED EBRILL
SADWRN 2AIL MAI
SADWRN 16FED MAI
SADWRN 30AUN MAI
13:30 - 16:30

CYFRES WLÂN

Gweithdy 1: Archwiliwch wlân Prydeinig a rhowch gynnig ar baratoi cnu trwy gardio.

Gweithdy 2: Nyddwch eich gwlan wedi'i gardio!

Gweithdy 3: Lliwio naturiol

Gweithdy 4: Gwehyddu, gwau neu grosio eich gwlan newydd!

SESSIONS ARE FREE
BEGINNER FRIENDLY
SPACES MUST BE BOOKED

MAE'R SESIYNAU AM DDIM
ADDAS I DDECHREUWYR
RHAID ARCHEBU LLEOEDD

Email: recreative@maindee.org to book a workshop





Feeling Safe and Supported

Trish Johns and Michelle Brown from Maindee Unlimited (left of picture) have developed joint working arrangements with senior staff from the School of Psychology and Therapeutic Studies at the University of South Wales. This new partnership is working well. The University is keen to offer its expertise in social work practice and psychological therapies all provided at no cost to the Charity for community benefit.

One of the first outputs has been work to help volunteers feel more confident and skilled in dealing with challenging behaviour. Training sessions were designed and

delivered to volunteers by Anna Playle and Owain Jones from the University (right of picture). New guidance has been developed and signs for community spaces, like the one here, are now being rolled out.

Owain and Anna are running the next volunteer training session on Thursday 16th April at 12.00 midday in The Triangle on Chepstow Road (opposite the library). Please email info@maindee.org if you would like to join the session or would like any further information.

University of
South Wales
Prifysgol
De Cymru



Keeping Our Space Calm & Welcoming

We Want



We want everyone to feel respected, supported, and listened to. We use calm, compassionate communication and will always try to resolve concerns quickly and safely.



If you're feeling stressed or upset

Please let a staff member or volunteer know.

We will:

- Listen to you
- Give you time and space
- Try to help



To keep everyone safe, we cannot accept:

- Shouting or aggressive behaviour
- Threatening language
- Damage to property
- Anti-social or racist behaviour

If these occur, you may be asked to leave. In serious situations, we may contact emergency services.



How You Can Help

- Speak to us calmly.
- Let us know what you need
- Tell us if English isn't your first language
- Ask for a quiet space if you need one

Woodland Park Public Meeting

12pm – 2pm Saturday 11th April

Everyone who visits or lives near Woodland Park is invited to come to a public meeting on 11th April to be held by the main gates at the top of the park. The meeting is being organised by The Woodlanders, a group of local residents who help look after the Park and improve it for the benefit of people and nature.

The meeting is a chance to have your say about current issues and future

priorities. These will then be worked up into a plan for the next few years. There will be tented cover in case of rain and seating will be provided. Free soup and drinks. Children welcome. (note: there are no public toilets in the park!)



Woodland Park is one of Newport's hidden gems. Much smaller and less manicured than its grand neighbour, Beechwood Park, it includes two wooded areas (Oaklands Wood and The Dingle) plus an orchard of Welsh native apples and pears that was planted by The Woodlanders some years ago. The park was once the private gardens of Garewood – a large Victorian gentleman's residence that was blown up in a German air raid on Maindee in 1941. For further information email r.waller50@ntlworld.com



Mabel Wulff Plaque

Maindee is honouring one of its war time heroine's with the installation of a purple plaque on the front of Maindee Library in June.

Mabel Wulff BEM, who used to live in Church Road, moved to Hamburg and became the caretaker of an English Church where she sheltered people during frequent visits from the Gestapo during World War II.

The plaque will be unveiled in a ceremony at 11am, Friday June 26th. All welcome.



2026 Maindee Festival: FUTURE MAINDEE 2

Maindee's largest annual free community event is on Saturday 4th July in the grounds of Maindee Primary School. This year's theme, Future Maindee 2, keeps our focus on young people – the future of Maindee of course!

Become a volunteer: We are now recruiting young adults to help run the event. If you are 18 or over we can help you get free training for a level 2 door supervisor qualification and SIA licence.

Parade : Festival parade workshops start at the end of May. Get in touch if you or your group want to join the parade or join a screen printing workshop. You will make a 'No Place Like Maindee' flag to carry in the parade or design your own screen print to go onto flags, tops and bags.



Traders: Come and sell stuff on an outdoor stall. We are looking for food traders, inexpensive clothes items, crafts and fun activities for adults and children. Contact admin@maindee.org for details of fees and how to book.

Big Green Tent: Hosted again by Circular Newport, the tent's focus this year is on sustainable fashion. There will be loads of green stalls and activities and some cool upcycled fashion. The team from www.bomhadau.com, Newport's new community magazine, will be on hand and check out the Recreative textile workshops.

For more info or details of how to get involved in festival activities contact festival@maindee.org or text **07925 436903**.

Help from MBS

Pop into Llyfrgell Maindee Library between 2pm and 5pm on Wednesday 25th March for some free information on savings, budgeting and basic financial issues from Muss Noor and Leighton Edwards from Monmouth Building Society. It is part of MBS's "Our Colleague in the Community" scheme that supports staff to volunteer their time to community groups and charities.

Leighton, pictured here, stressed that MBS are not independent financial advisors but he and Muss can guide people in the right direction. They can also provide information on how MBS works with, and helps fund, local charities and the community.



Maindee Nature Plan

Thanks to everyone's suggestions, the Greening Maindee team has now published a Nature Plan for Maindee. You can read the full plan at maindee.org/greening or by using this QR code to get the link via your mobile camera.

Maindee In Bloom

Some people suggested holding a competition for local gardens – so this year we are starting Maindee in Bloom as part of the Nature Plan. Enter if you dare! Contact greeningmaindee@gmail.com if you would like to be sponsor, donate a prize or become a judge. If you need plants, soil or pots then come to our giveaway events on 1st and 10th April (See the Maindee in Bloom advert in this newsletter for full details.)

Green Carers Partnership

Another suggestion was to help local young people develop green skills. Codi (previously known as Pobl) have stepped in to help

and now Maindee Unlimited is a delivery partner of Codi's Green Careers Partnership. Anyone who is 16–30 years old and interested in getting work experience, a green apprenticeship or just exploring what green careers are out there can get more info on this great scheme at greencareerspathway.co.uk

The Nature Plan identifies the need for more green spaces and play areas in Maindee. To help take this forward we have installed new play equipment on The Triangle this Spring and are now arranging to lease a plot of land from, Codi on Archibald Street opposite the fire station. This will be developed into a pocket park and growing space this Summer. Keep an eye out for action there!

Join the Volunteers

Each Friday from 9.30am until lunch ...ish – Greening Maindee volunteers are out and about maintaining

our eleven public gardens across Maindee. Please join us if you can – You'll learn so many new skills, you'll probably teach us a thing or two and you'll be guaranteed to make new friends. No previous experience is necessary just a positive attitude to working outside. Tea and cake will be your prize! Contact greeningmaindee@gmail.com if you want to find out more. We need you!





SAMANTHA WHATES IDA WENØE



IDA WENØE: 'HER VOICE...IS PERFECT' THE GUARDIAN
SAMANTHA WHATES: 'JUST GORGEOUS' BBC 6 MUS.C

LLYFRGELL MAINDEE LIBRARY
7.30PM SATURDAY 25TH APRIL

£15.00 AGED 18+ | £7.50 AGED UNDER 18

 **Noson Allan**
Night Out