



Celebrating the Chartists

NEWSLETTER

1839 "CHARTIST SPRING" KICKING OFF

2 John Frost Removed as Magistrate by Home Secretary Government convinced Frost was linked with 'physical force' militants.

3 Henry Vincent - 25 Years Old - Roused Support For The Charter. Thousands on BOTH SIDES of the SEVERN turn out to hear him.

4 Devizes- special constables started a riot! Vincent injured.

5 Vincent's Tour Of The Coal Field and led night time torch lit demos at Newport He was a marked man watched by Thomas Phillips' agents.

6 In the last days of APRIL –the anti chartists rallied and magistrates searched for arms and collated reports of seditious speeches. **London policemen sent to Llanidloes enraged locals and Chartists took control of the town**

ALSO in this EDITION:

Digital Chartism – Follow the Story of the 1839 Chartist Rising on Twitter.TWEETS available daily throughout the 175th Anniversary Year **page 2**

From the Collections of NEWPORT MUSEUM – poster/broadsheet written by Vincent, published by John Partridge, Newport printer, April 1839 **page 5**

Chartist Art: Caerleon Quilter is making Chartist banner - FREE Workshop available Also article about Dr. Rowan's views on new Chartist artwork for Newport **page 7**

Video Link with Tasmania - Shire Hall making first moves **page 9**

Gwent Archives: 'Trails to Trials' Taster Days – Sign up to a FREE Session in May at Blaina or at Tredegar + Archive visit **page 10**

The 175th Anniversary – calendar of events 2014 **page 10**

NETWORKING **page 12**

'DIGITAL CHARTISM'

TWEET 'ChartistsLive' – and follow the events as they happened 175 years ago

THE 'CHARTIST SPRING' *breaks out* MARCH-APRIL 1839

GO TO <https://twitter.com/ChartistsLive> The Tweets started 10th March

TWEETS authored by David Howell; "Chartist Spring" Storyline by Les James

21 March TWEETS

- # Breaking - **John Frost has been removed as a magistrate**
- # This seems to be following on from the arguments between Frost and Lord John Russell
- # Details are still sketchy, but a response from the Convention to the removal of Frost as a magistrate is expected shortly.
- # The Convention has issued a response, demanding Frost is reinstated as a magistrate.
- # The Convention describes the removal of Frost as a magistrate as being "comparable to the interference of kings with judges in the past".
- # Correspondence between Frost and the Lord Chancellor has now been obtained on this matter.
- # It would appear that the Lord Chancellor had informed Frost of the intention to remove him from office three days ago.

John Frost v. Finality Jack EXPLAINED

4 Feb FROST arrived at the opening of the National Convention in London, delivering 5,500 signatures to the Petition obtained in Newport and Pontypool. Being a magistrate, gave him kudos and he was selected as one of the rotating chairmen.

At a dinner organised by the West London Democratic Association at Marylebone, Frost toasted *'The People... the only source of political power'*. The Home Office informed him that he could not remain a magistrate, if he continued as a delegate

16 Feb Frost was applauded by the Convention, when he said "If Lord John Russell takes my name off, the people will put it on"

5 March Meeting at the Bush Inn, Newport discussed a petition signed by 120 leading trades people in support of Frost.

Rev Benjamin Byron (Hope Chapel) argued no objection could be made to Frost's remark, for all he contemplated was that magistrates should be elected.

16 March Frost chaired meeting at the Crown and Anchor in the Strand. Sensationally – all the speakers called upon the people to physically force Parliament to grant all men the vote.

18 March The London Working Men's Association held a dinner at the White Conduit House in honour of John Frost for his 'splendid rebuke' to Lord John Russell. Frost attacked the Russell family - they had misused the profits from their Woburn Abbey and Tavistock estates. These lands had been given to the Church in early times to provide for the people. The poor had the right to be clothed from the produce.

19 March Frost received letter from the Home Office asking him to explain his remark that the people would place him back as a magistrate. Frost replied immediately, asking what it was he had to explain. He claimed that his real offence was that he was opposing a system of government which has 'bribery, drunkenness and perjury for its foundation'.

The Chartists dubbed Russell, 'Finality Jack' because he argued that the 1832 Reform Act had defined appropriate property qualifications for the male franchise.

'CHARTIST SPRING' starts MARCH 1839

HENRY VINCENT on tour

16 Day Speaking Marathon

**Meeting the people of
Gloucestershire, Herefordshire
and Monmouthshire**

**Climaxing at Newport (20
March) he warned of "the
growing snowball of Chartism...
oppressors to beware lest it
should roll down and crush them"**



Henry Vincent : From Schools Resource Pack 1989

25 March Vincent returned on the packet steamer from Bristol. He was well received and entertained to tea by the Newport women. His excited audience went in procession through the town – the women, four abreast, in front with Vincent, the men following behind. As they passed John Frost's house in High Street, **they gave three cheers for Mrs Frost**, the proud mother, not the newly wed Sarah Fry née Frost (*Our TWITTER correspondent misheard - Ed*). Daringly, Vincent spoke for an hour from a wagon. The Mayor's agents simply watched, ignoring this challenge to the Sedition laws.

26 -27 March William Edwards took Vincent for his first visit to Pontllanfraith, Blackwood and Gelligroes in the Sirhowy valley.

That evening, back in Newport and clearly emboldened by the experience of coal field activism, Vincent made his most militant speech to date. Standing on a wagon positioned beneath a gas lamp, he called for support on May 6th when the National Petition was due to be delivered to Parliament. If their demands were not conceded, every hill and valley must be prepared to send forth its army, at the call of the Convention. "We will, we will" answered the crowd. Edwards held up his powerful hand, crying out - "Here's the stuff".

28 March Vincent left for Stroud via the Aust ferry to meet Frost who had been in Gloucestershire campaigning against 'Finality Jack' – Lord John Russell.

29 March Stroud – supporters arrived from other Gloucestershire towns and a crowd of thousands acclaimed Frost as their representative in the National Convention. He was committing himself to stand in the next election against Russell.

30 March Frost hurried home for family duties – he had missed his daughter's marriage.

RIOTS at DEVIZES, Wilts

Following the break up by the authorities of the Chartist meeting at Devizes (22 March), Vincent planned a monster demonstration on 1 April. That morning, he attempted to muster supporters in the Chartist strongholds of Bradford-upon-Avon, Trowbridge, Chippeham and Bronham. They marched in the rain to Devizes. The Magistrates had declared the meeting illegal.

'CHARTIST SPRING' – The temperature rises in April

DEVIZES – 'Police Riot'

Henry Vincent tells his story:

"impressing upon our people the necessity of keeping the strictest order we marched eight abreast. ... we walked through the streets without the slightest interruption ... cheered by some of the most respectable inhabitants ... I observed the Lancers, under arms, and a large number of special constables, and also perceived all the streets round the Market-place were filled by large bodies of men, many of whom appeared to be railway labourers. A wagon was placed in front of the Market Cross, and our friends gradually took up their position around it...Mr Roberts and myself jumped upon the hustings. A horn blew in the rear of the hustings, immediately, when a stone struck me on the back part of the head and knocked me out of the waggon."

In the fight that followed..."I saw many well-dressed persons directing the attack, armed with pistols. After receiving several blows, I again got up to the waggon, and we remounted it, but found it impossible to speak. ...I was assailed by about twenty bludgeon men.... "Death to Vincent, Roberts, and Carrier", was yelled in chorus. ...

The tall fellow (WHO IS MARKED AND KNOWN) raised his heavy club ... I gave way, and received a severe blow on the chest"

They retreated to the Curriers' Arms, where Roberts and Vincent attempted to address the people for a short time, but gave up when they could see "the bludgeon men (who had been replenished with the contents of a few barrels of beer) again mustering for the attack". The High Sheriff provided a military escort out of the town.

5 April: Frost left Newport urgently for London to attend the National Convention

Kings Head Meeting Pontypool due to injuries sustained at Devizes, Vincent did not attend. William Edwards (Newport Baker) and local chairman William Jones, gave rousing 'physical force' speeches

6 Western Vindicator advises Chartists to protect themselves from attack by carrying wooden staves. Writing in his "Rambles" about his visit ten days previously to the Sirhowy valley, Vincent remarks - ***"Fine fertile hills rising in all directions, I could not help thinking of the defensible nature of the country in the case of foreign invasion! A few thousands of armed men on the hills could successfully defend them."***

9 Newtown Charles Jones speaking at meeting : *"If Lord John Russell and those with whom he acts will by their perversity drive us to the edge of the precipice and if we must take the leap, then, by Heaven, we will take it."*

8-12 Henry Hetherington, a LWMA missionary sent to mid-Wales, finds a strong 'physical force' element within the ranks of the textile workers at Newtown and Llanidloes.

12 The Yeomanry from twenty parishes mustered by William Phillips of Whitson Court – one of the magistrates, at the behest of Thomas Phillips, Newport's mayor. They gathered at the Royal Oak, Christchurch offering to defend the constitution.

13 Vincent wrote in Western Vindicator: April 1st is a day that it must not be forgotten.... **THAT THE ARISTOCRACY WILL COMMIT MURDER RATHER THAN GIVE THE PEOPLE FOOD; AND THE RIOT TELLS US, IN LANGUAGE WE CANNOT MISTAKE, TO PROVIDE ARMS FOR OUR SELF-DEFENCE. CHARTISTS! TAKE, FOR ONCE, A LESSON FROM YOUR FOES!**

15 Carmarthen WMA - declared oppression 'warranted all expedients' and that any force 'conjured up' should be used.

18 Thursday: Now recovered, Vincent arrives at Newport by the packet from Bristol and addresses the crowd gathered to meet him.

19 Friday: Speech at Pentonville (Queen's Hill): biblical text: 'To your tents, O Israel' Thomas Phillips, Newport's Mayor, taking legal advice from the Home Office

20 Saturday in Pontypool – Vincent meets William Jones 'the watchmaker'

21 Sunday: with supporters, attends Divine Service at St. Paul's Church, Newport where Rev. James Francis denounces Chartism.

22 Monday: Meets Dr. William Price at Blackwood, travels to Nantyglo, where he encounters Crawshay Bailey, ironmaster and stays at Blaina with Zephaniah and Joan Williams at the Royal Oak Inn, home to a thriving Chartist lodge and female society.

24 Wednesday: Vincent returns to Pontypool. Thomas Philips gathers the County magistrates at the Kings Head, Newport to announce night time meetings are illegal, meetings in Newport's public houses are banned and recruitment of new special constables.

25 Thursday: Large scale street protests occur in Newport. Mayor estimates crowd of 1000, Vincent claims 4000. Vincent speaks challenging the Mayor's injunction.

26 Friday: Vincent repeats his attack on the Mayor, from the upstairs window of Frost's property in High Street and again on the quayside before departing to Bristol for a night time meeting on Brandon Hill.

You can read Henry Vincent's own words @ <http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/travelers/Vincent>

"On the packet starting, I was cheered all down the river by the shipwrights who assembled on the hulls of the various ships they were building; and the seamen hoisted their flags mast high as I passed them. I was really overcome by this display of kind respect."

For a different view read the Monmouthshire Merlin **27 April 1839**
<http://welshnewspapers.llgc.org.uk/en/page/view/3392921>

"The recent proceedings of the Chartists having given rise to apprehension in the minds of many of the inhabitants of this town....."



To the Men & Women of Newport

MY FRIENDS,

You have ever found me your consistent and dauntless advocate, I have a right therefore to expect you are my Friends.

I am informed upon unquestionable authority that your local rulers are anxious to arrest me to night. LET THEM TAKE ME. If their conduct be legal— well! If illegal, they shall hereafter rue it. At the worst my detention can but be for a few days— and as Philosophy is every thing, the jails of our tyrants do not appal me.

Efforts are being made to frighten the people by calling our meetings illegal.— I never attended an illegal meeting—and there have been none of an illegal nature held within the precincts of Newport, save one held lately at Christchurch, where a man named Phillips told the mob to make their horses stand fire, and keep their powder dry!

I am told your Magistrates are about to swear in persons as Special Constables. They have their reasons for so doing; I believe them to be bad ones, and will with your assistance, turn the mischief they may contemplate into an engine for their own legal destruction.

Meet me to night at Pentonville, where I shall do myself the honour of addressing you. Keep the Peace I charge you!— The slightest indications of tumult on our part would afford our enemies a pretext for letting loose their Bloodhounds on us.

Keep the Peace - and laugh your enemies to scorn!

Your devoted Friend, Henry Vincent

April 25th, 1839.

Printed by John Partridge, Newport

[From the Collections of Newport Museum]

NATIONAL CONVENTION PREPARES for 6 MAY

The National Convention was anticipating the delivery of over one and a quarter million signatures to Parliament in favour of the Six Points of the People's Charter -

1. Votes for all men over 21
2. Secret Ballot
3. Abolition of the Property Qualification for MPs
4. Annual Parliaments
5. Payment of MPs
6. Equal Electoral Districts

Hugh Williams of Carmarthen WMA

collected 27,147 signed by men and women in Glamorganshire and west Wales, comprising:

- 18,884 Glamorganshire (including 14,710 from Merthyr Tydfil)
- 6,144 Carmarthenshire
- 1,103 Pembrokeshire
- 1,026 Cardiganshire

Working Men's Associations, modelled on the London WMA, had been founded by Hugh Williams, throughout west Wales. He set up the first at his home town of Carmarthen in 1837. During 1838, WMAs prospered at Swansea and Llanelli. News of the Charter reached east Glamorgan, due to the efforts of Unitarian dissenter, Morgan Williams of Merthyr and the free thinking republican, Dr. William Price. **(For more about Price see Dean Powell, Dr William Price: Wales's First Radical 2012)**

By April 1839, membership of the Merthyr WMA reached 2600, and was rising at a rate of one hundred per week. There were lodges springing up in the smaller communities of Aberdare, Dinas, Pontypridd and Nelson. The magistrates were concerned about 'Welsh' classes organised on Sundays by Dr. Price at a beer house, located on the Ynysbwl road near Llanwynno (Llanwonno). Its name - 'Commonwealth Society Hall of the Industrious People of Great Britain' - caused suspicions. An informer claimed the twenty 'scholars' were receiving lessons in 'handling muskets and military drill'. There were worrying signs throughout the south Wales coalfield that suggested the movement was moving out the hands of middle class radicals.

An Anti-Chartist Demonstration was called on 29th April in response to claims in the Monmouthshire Merlin (20 April) that pikes were being manufactured and hawkers were selling arms. The Chartists denied these rumours. Crawshay Bailey released his workers from their duties provided they attended this outdoor meeting. According to the Merlin (4 May), the crowd numbered 5000 with Bailey taking charge as chairman. He challenged Vincent's ability to lay out the capital as he had done to develop the valley and provide a livelihood for its inhabitants. His property was, he said, the result of his own industry and he would sacrifice his life rather than lose it.

NEWS from MID-WALES - Town in hands of the Chartists!

The Home Office received from the Welshpool magistrates complaints that the Chartists were secretly drilling and in recent weeks young Chartists from Llanidloes had visited farmers in the district demanding to 'borrow' their guns - they said they needed them for a shooting match. Three London policemen were dispatched to assist special constables. They arrived Monday 29 April and stayed the night at the Trewythen Arms. Tuesday morning, Lewis Humphreys blew his 'Horn of Liberty' and the people gathered at the Severn Bridge. Special constables arrived and two members of the crowd were taken into custody at the Trewythen Arms. The crowd rushed the hotel and released their two comrades. They wrecked the building and poured the beer and wine down the gutters. The police ran and hid in fear for their lives, leaving the Chartists in charge of the town, taking their orders from the Political Union based in Llandinam. There was no more violence and the expected attack on the Workhouse at Caersws did not occur. **(to be continued)**

HENRY VINCENT's April Itinerary
FOR FULL STORY - follow the
April TWEETS <https://twitter.com/ChartistsLive>

FOLLOW our correspondents
reporting on the day it happened

NEWSLETTER no. 6 out in MAY will
provide Full COVERAGE - ANALYSIS
and BACKGROUND

'CHARTIST' ART



Banner of the Quilters Guild (Region 28)

RAISE the CHARTIST BANNER Local Quilter Artist Accepts the Challenge

Unlike early trade union or friendly society banners, Chartist banners have sadly not survived. This is what Richard Frame and Les James recently learned when visiting the People's Museum in Manchester, home to the largest nineteenth century collection of popular banners in the UK.

We know that Chartist banners existed. They can be seen in contemporary lithographs, albeit indistinctly, and they are mentioned in newspaper reports, but rarely described. The Manchester trip resulted from Dr. David Osmond, an expert in the local Chartist movement, drawing attention to a short report in the *Northern Star* newspaper. It described a banner displayed at Newport in 1841. This exciting 'find' shows that despite defeat at the Westgate in 1839, the Newport Chartists were still very much 'alive and kicking' and boldly parading their opinions around the town.

Colours are mentioned - pink, green and white. But what dyes were used? What kinds of fabric? Its size? The lettering? And how was it carried? Vivian Lochhead, conservator at the People's

Museum provided invaluable clues and practical advice about making a 'recreation'. Such a project poses multiple possibilities. Richard Frame has produced a design that he is working up with a leading quilter artist.

The Banner will appear in 'Adult Learners Week' at Newport Museum and Art Gallery, where Christabel Gilbert will be running a workshop session on Thursday 19 June 10.00am – 02.30pm. designing and making Chartist banners in Welsh and English - for the 175th Chartist Anniversary. *Making Chartist Banners* is a FREE course for adults who would like an introduction to designing and making 'Chartist' banners for the 175th Chartist Anniversary. BOOK with les.james22@gmail.com.



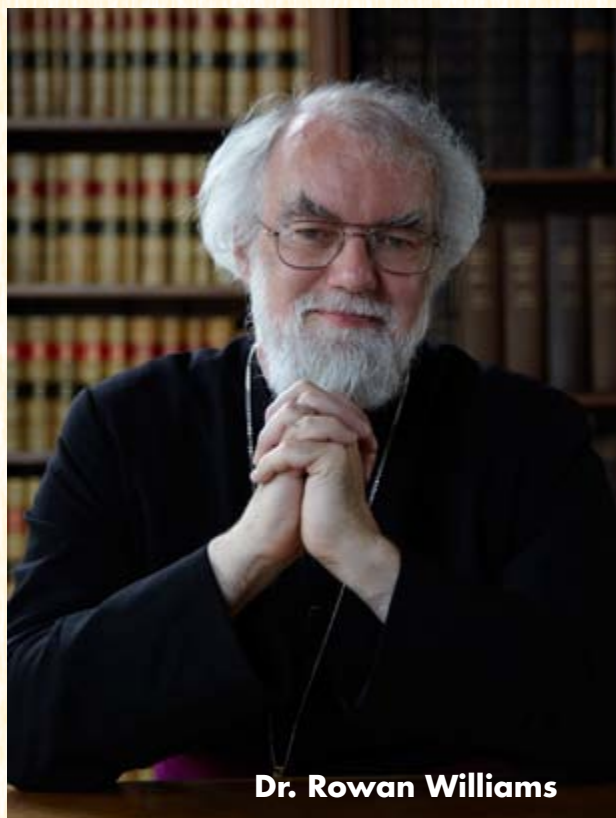
Christabel Gilbert, co-ordinator of the Mid and South Wales region (No. 28) of the Quilters Guild has started work on the project at her studio in Caerleon. The 'Newport Chartist Banner' will appear in May. In the months ahead it will be paraded as our 175th Anniversary standard at local events 'Celebrating the Chartists' - a testimony to the endurance of the Chartist cause in Newport beyond 1839.

CHARTIST COMMISSION TAKES OFF

The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams interviewed by the South Wales Argus (19/03/2014) expressed the hope that the Chartist Commission should have a plan by the autumn for a lasting reminder of its proud Chartist

history. Along with the locally based Dame Rosemary Butler and Patrick Drewett, he is one of three commissioners appointed by Newport CC to recommend a replacement for the Chartist mural.

The Commission is right not to rush. There is much for the Commission to ponder. As Dr. Williams acknowledges, it will take time to raise funds for a quality result. In this interview, Dr. Williams said he would like to see “a lasting, world-class



memorial to the Chartists”. Three clear objectives in one pithy sentence.

Yes, the City does need a world class art work, but it must also reflect our region and city. The Commission should avoid the ‘international corporate’ works that are currently parachuting into cities around the globe.

Yes, the City needs to think carefully about how to ensure survival of a publicly accessible art work. Within ten years of its existence, Kenneth Budd’s mural was under threat. Given its location, it’s amazing that it survived for over 35 years.

Yes, the City has an existing memorial to the Chartist dead (Kelly 1991) and it is located in the very place where more than 20 men from south-east Wales were killed – outside the Westgate

hotel building. Presumably there are no plans to move it?

Budd’s mural was never a memorial, it was a celebration – five banners held high representing the success of the People’s Charter – rights achieved through struggle and sacrifice. This is the ‘spirit of Chartism’ that needs to be recognised in the new art work. And how is the ‘spirit of Chartism’ faring today – that was the challenge Michael Sheen posed at last November’s Chartist Convention.

The Chartist Anniversary Committee has no fixed proposal to offer the Commission regarding the replacement art work. At our Chartist Convention last November, we started a consultation process and these ideas have been followed up by Pat Drewett as Committee Chair and now, Commissioner. He has consulted extensively with the local arts community, including representatives of Newport Arts Culture Heritage Association (NACHA) and has taken on board the ideas resulting from the Argus ‘pop vox’ and the Civic Society meeting (13 February) attended by 40 people.

The Chartist Anniversary Committee has been ‘cracking on’ since January with the 175th Anniversary. We are pleased to report that planned activities are emerging throughout south-east Wales (see [Anniversary Calendar pages 10-11](#)). We look forward to all three Commissioners taking part in the 175th Anniversary – and also Michael Sheen, who we are certain will work closely with the Commission.

We share Dr. Williams’ aspiration of ‘drawing communities together’ and also agree with his hope for “a real outreach to schools so that all young people will be aware of that heritage”.

“We have six months to November to organise and raise funds.”

VIDEO LINK FUNDING BID

Legacy for the 175th

Shire Hall and the Monmouth Nelson Museum is joining forces with Accent Newport Trust, Gwent Archives, Newport Museum and the University of South Wales to set up a video link with Tasmania. A live link is planned from the old courtroom at Shire Hall where three Monmouthshire Chartists were sentenced to death in January 1840.

Thanks to an act of clemency by young Queen Victoria, Frost, Williams and Jones avoided the traitor's fate of hanging, drawing and quartering. They were transported for life to Van Diemens Land (later renamed Tasmania). Mike Booth, manager, at Shire Hall wants to open the live link in early 2015, well before July 4th when the prisoners arrived at Hobart. "If we can get together a funding package, we could be up and running by February, the very time they were moved 175 years ago from Monmouth gaol to Chepstow, immediately shipped to Portsmouth and put aboard the Mandarin transport ship."

The aim is to use 'roving' cameras and create a triangle of video and digital 'hubs' – between

the court room at Monmouth, the valleys around Ebbw Vale where the 1839 Rising erupted and the streets of Newport where the Chartists battled with the authorities. This would be a 175th educational legacy for local schools and interested people around the world.

Groups such as the Gwent Family History Society will be invited to join the Project. Highly extensive Australian records of transportees, migrants and shipping already exist on the web and this project could bring about closer collaboration with family historians in Australia and elsewhere. It is hoped that with the help of volunteers, many who have not previously explored their family history, will be tempted to 'have a go' exploring genealogy.

Shire Hall is open daily from 10.00am to 4.00pm Adults £2, Children £1 each – the admission price includes use of a handset with trial re-enactment video, commentary and visual/doc evidence to explore.

Location Agincourt Square, in the centre of Monmouth, NP25 3DY
Contact: 01600 775257 enquiries@shirehall-monmouth.org.uk



175th Anniversary Events

GWENT ARCHIVES are running TRAILS to TRIALS PROJECT 'Taster Days'

(see itineraries below)

Each day (10.00 to 15.30) is a FREE opportunity to find out about this digital Chartist history project, which is funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and managed by Gwent Archives. The Project starts this Autumn and most volunteer transcribers are expected to take part on-line. Enjoy a morning exploring a 'Chartist era' landscape followed by afternoon at the Gwent Archives, Ebbw Vale to study a selection of related documents. Sessions are led by Emyr Morgan, Colin Gibson and Les James, joined by Kim Colebrook at Pontypool.

These courses focus on how we can discover the people – Chartists and Anti-Chartists – and their 'place' in the story of the Rising. Minibus and lunch provided. There is no residence restriction - open to all interested in local history and willing to find out more about the Chartist Rising of 1839 and what's involved in volunteering for the transcription project. Places on each day course are very limited –

Book immediately c/o Rhiannon Phillips

enquiries@gwentarchives.gov.uk

1. **Blaina and Nantyglo**
21 MAY (Wednesday)
Tour starts 10.00 at Salem Chapel, Blaina
2. **Tredeggar, Sirhowy & Dukestown**
28 MAY (Wednesday)
Tour starts 10.00 at the Tredeggar Library
3. **Pontypool**
25 JUNE (Wednesday)
4. **Newport**
16 JULY (Wednesday)

SUMMER & AUTUMN EVENTS

19 JUNE Thursday 10.00-14.30

Making Chartist Banners Workshop

Tutor: **Christabel Gilbert**

FREE Contact les.james22@gmail.com

International Chartism Conference 2014

Topic: ***Ireland & British Democracy***

4th (evening) & 5th 09.30- 17.00 July, 2014

National University of Ireland, Galway

Speakers include John McGrath, Matthew Roberts, Christine Kinealy, Maura Cronin, Michael Huggins, Ian Haywood, Joan Allen, Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh

Contact: joan.allen@ncl.ac.uk

AUGUST date to be announced

Chartist Trail through Merthyr

Guide: **Viv Pugh**

20 SEPTEMBER Saturday

Day School on 'Glamorgan Chartism'

Venue: Pontypridd. organised by Rhondda LHS and others

04 OCTOBER Saturday

Heritage Day School at Bedwellty House, Tredeggar

Programme includes lecture by **Les James**

After the Rising: There were no Chartists here?

14 OCTOBER Tuesday 7.30pm

Friends of Newport Museum & Art Gallery Venue: Newport Art Gallery

Lecturer: **Les James**

'Chartist Activism in South Wales – Commemoration, Celebration and Denial'

15 OCTOBER Wednesday 7pm

7th Annual Merthyr Chartist Lecture

Venue: Merthyr College

Lecturer: **Brian Davies** (Pontypridd Museum)

NEWPORT CHARTIST FESTIVAL

31 OCTOBER Friday

Music starts in the Evening – Other sessions over weekend

Full details to follow

1 NOVEMBER Saturday 10.0 -16.00

Annual Chartist Convention

Venue: Newport City Campus.

Speakers include: **Prof. Malcolm Chase, Prof. Owen Ashton, Dr. Ryland Wallace**

Film show: Animation film about Lady Rhondda (Winding Snake Production/Bird in a Cage Project)

3 NOVEMBER Monday 7.30pm

Night Out at the 'Stute'

with **Martyn Joseph** Welsh singer-songwriter
- a distinctive brand of Celtic and folk, 'focused on social lament or protest'

St. Mary's Institute, Stow Hill

4 NOVEMBER Tuesday PM

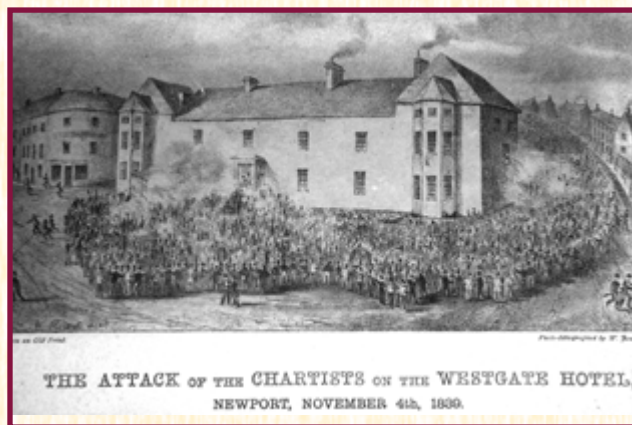
8th Children's Chartist March

from Stow Hill to Westgate Square
Newport Schools

4 NOVEMBER Tuesday 6.00pm

Remember the Chartist Dead

at St. Woolos Churchyard, Stow Hill



From the collection of Newport Museum

BLAENAU GWENT CHARTIST CELEBRATIONS

3 NOVEMBER Monday 7.00pm (VTBA)

Songs of Praise with guest speaker
followed with tea, coffee and biscuits

4 NOVEMBER Tuesday PM

Re-enactment march.

From former Royal Oak, public house (home of Zephaniah Williams) to Salem Chapel

Pupils of Ystruth & Coed y Garn Primary schools
Each child will be awarded a commemorative certificate.

4 NOVEMBER Tuesday 7pm

Annual Concert Wesley Chapel

Ebbw Vale Male Choir with **Craig James**,
baritone soloist.

Welsh Oak pub, Rogerstone - THEN and NOW



Courtesy Newport Museum



NETWORKING

email the Editor: les.james22@gmail.com

The Chartist Anniversary Committee is working to bring about a long Chartist Festival weekend in Newport City Centre that starts Friday 31st October and lasts to Tuesday 4th November, the date when over twenty Chartists died at the Westgate hotel. As well as the previously arranged Chartist Convention at the University, the 'Night Out at the Stute' performance starring Martyn Joseph, the Children's March and the Chartist Remembrance Ceremony at St. Woolos graveyard, there will be music and entertainment organised at Le Pub by the Newport Arts, Culture and Heritage Association (NACHA). The Chartist Anniversary Committee will announce details of additional events in the Newsletter as plans are firmed up. NACHA representatives Chrissie Wilson and Peter Rawcliffe were welcomed on to the Committee at its March meeting. It is pleasing to see how the 175th is growing in scale and extending across the region (for a calendar update, check page 10-11).

Chartist Anniversary Committee has set up an Education Group and they are appealing for teachers to get stuck in to the 175th Anniversary

Let's have your ideas!
Tell us what you want to do!

Elin Phillips (Chair) writes:

"Yes, it's coming up to the 175th anniversary of the Chartist march on Newport, and you may already have an uneasy feeling that you should do something about it somehow, some time. But oh dear, it is so difficult, isn't it? How do you get a class of 8 year olds – let alone 18 year olds – to buzz about a lot of men, some of whom were drunk, walking in the rain to the Westgate one November night and then getting shot by soldiers? And that's before you begin to talk about the Six Points of the People's Charter to those increasingly glazed faces, none of whom would want to use any vote they might have which wasn't connected to a competition. You are not alone. All over the Valleys, and in Newport, people are working on ideas to

make learning about the Chartists interesting, and even, dare we say it, fun. Some of them have got together to form an Education Group with the aim of helping learners of all ages to find out more about the Chartists, and find out too why their bitter struggle for the vote is so relevant to people today.

This Education Group is part of the Chartist Anniversary Committee, which organises the celebration and commemoration events at the beginning of November every year, and draws on the expertise, experience and scholarship of the academics, politicians, activists and teachers, who since 2007 volunteer to support the Newport Chartist Convention (1 Nov this year). The Newsletter Editor is very happy to pass on your thoughts to the group

GREAT NEWS from Blaenau Gwent

Pupils will be parading from Zephaniah Williams beer house (Royal Oak) to Salem Chapel on the afternoon of November 4th. How wonderful it will be if schools parade and perform drama, music, poetry throughout **ALL the Valleys**, simultaneously with the Newport primary schools, who will again be marching down Stow Hill to the Westgate Hotel as they have done for the past seven years.

Can readers please help to raise public awareness of the 175th Anniversary by

- encouraging your local schools to receive the Newsletter
- lobbying to get print versions of the Newsletter into your local library
- upload the Newsletter on to websites and blogs – thanks Meg Gurney, Civic Trust Wales, Gwent Archives, Society for Study of Labour History, Prof. Malcolm Chase – others are doing this, let me know
- Urge your email contacts to register with les.james22@gmail.com for FREE

The Chartists CD - last month when I said I was hunting for my copy, Professor Owen Ashton contacted to say "From memory, I think I recall the name of the STEAM PIE record label in South Wales producing some old Chartist songs and ballads on a record by local Valley artists. We moved to Stafford in 1971 and therefore were out of the South Wales scene by then."

Yes! the label came into being in 1981, it sprang from the 1970s Islwyn Folk Club when 'The Chartists' band (formed 1979 at the club) took the plunge and made their own recordings. All the songs were their own creations. Others from the Club followed on the label until 1994. In 2004, Allan yn y Fan re-established the 'Steam Pie' label for a new generation of artists.

Still haven't found my CD. From Brynmawr LHS – Eifion Lloyd-Davies brags that he has an original vinyl which was recorded by the band at Brynmawr. And that this was never available on CD. What I've got apparently is what they re-recorded live a few years back in the BRfm community radio station serving Blaenau Gwent. Well, the band survives as a trio and they can be found on the web. They played for us at the Pen and Wig in Newport, November 2012. Earlier that year a 'revival' CD was pressed and re-pressed in Griffithstown!! Thanks Eifion, despite such treachery, you have booked them for the Arts Festival in Blaina this September. Geri, Laurence, Wynford please contact the Newsletter immediately – it's time for you to 'RISE AGAIN' – title of your 2012 acoustic CD.

A special **Chartist Ancestors** feature will appear in a future edition of the Newsletter. Keen to hear from anyone with a Chartist era ancestor – both supporters of Chartism and the opponents of the movement – it's all history, isn't it? When you explore family history, you shouldn't have expectations about your forebears' allegiances or activities. Who knows what you would have done in their shoes. Is there anybody out there related to Thomas Walker, special constable wounded near the Welsh Oak? Please contact editor.

Dai Amos, who is approaching his 90th birthday, has written to me about his maternal great-grandfather Thomas Anthony of Ty Du (Lower Rogerstone), a haulage contractor who "owned the best draught horses in the county and though an employer, he was the leader of the party of local men who met the Chartists at the Welsh Oak and joined in the march to Newport in 1839." There was much activity that night (3rd/4th November) around the Welsh Oak (see pics on page 11). Sylvia Taylor tells the story in a video (shown daily at Newport

Museum's exhibition) of her great-g-g-g uncle Wright Beatty of Newport, who was also actively finding weapons and organising men in the vicinity of the Welsh Oak. Perhaps your family lived in one the farms and houses nearby where men were sheltering from the rain and seeking 'hospitality'. If you know of such stories, please get in touch.



National Charter Association founded July 1840
www.chartists.net

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We encourage you to advertise the listed forthcoming Chartist Events.

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