

University of
South Wales
Prifysgol
De Cymru

Memories of
CAERLEON



Foreword from our Chancellor

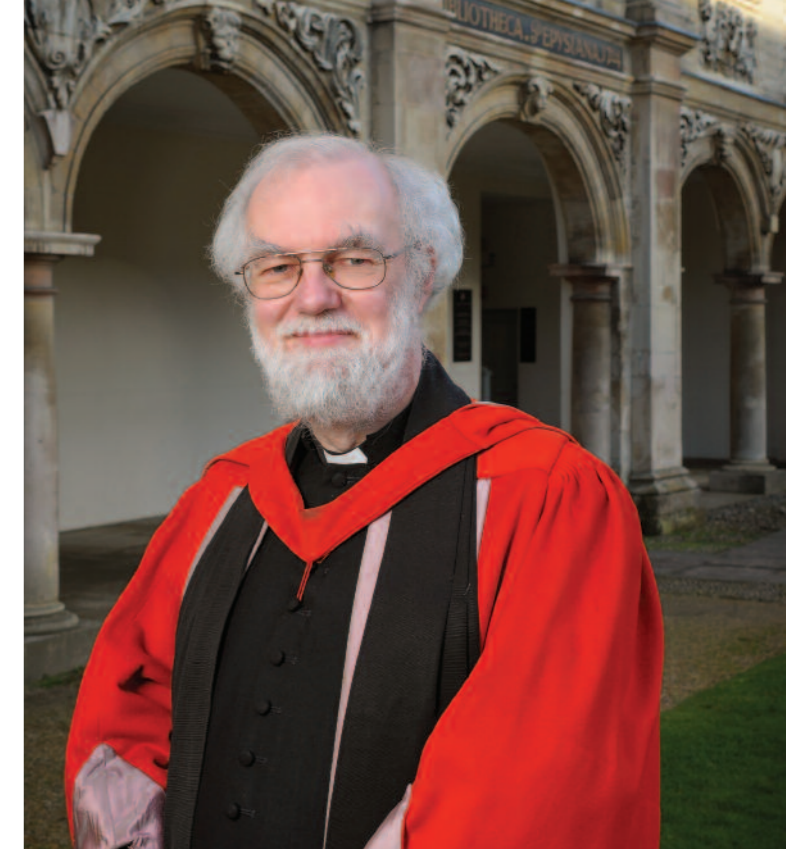
It is with both affection and optimism that I write this foreword to reminiscence above the Campus at Caerleon. Over two centuries the University has moved from its origins in the docks and commercial heart of Newport. For a while the different locations worked in parallel; then Caerleon became the single focus. In their day, the buildings at Caerleon, dignified and commanding, eloquent of the high aspirations of education in Wales, helped us keep our vision appropriately ambitious in a way worthy of those who created the college at Caerleon and shaped the hopes of so many generations of Welsh teachers. Now we are looking for further growth in the new riverfront campus, representing in tangible form our aspiration for the region's regeneration.

As our University has grown and, as courses have come and gone, our buildings have reflected each generation's progress. But one thing has not changed. That abiding strand is in the abiding values of a university itself, a golden thread of commitment to being a community of scholarly activity. This is what is at the heart of our work, not simply bricks and mortar. The buildings are repositories of our memories, but their lasting contribution is found in the educated minds and enhanced achievements of our graduates.

The education our University now provides is valued tremendously by graduates and their employers. We are right to take pride in how our students are prepared for the world of work. But there is more. We cannot these days forget the public responsibilities of the university, our calling to make an impact on the entire well-being (not just the material prosperity) of our society and to reach out to those who have historically been left behind.

Our most important function is something that is not confined to one subject or another. As I have said often at graduation ceremonies, and make no apologies for repeating, it lies fundamentally in educating citizens who will ask constructively critical questions in public life, who will understand the forces that shape it and know how seriously (or not) to take the confused mass of propaganda and fashion that swirls around in the overpopulated information culture of our age.

Our academic community represents more and more of a diversity of nations and beliefs, held together by a shared commitment to transforming lives through knowledge and education.



The most important bit of 'impact' any university can have is to help people grow into the responsibilities they have as citizens, global as well as local, who have a vision for their society and the skills to make that vision work for everyone. And this means helping them to understand what critical argument looks like, to know what genuine and creative thinking is, and to explore the great human issues in an atmosphere of respect and positive expectation.

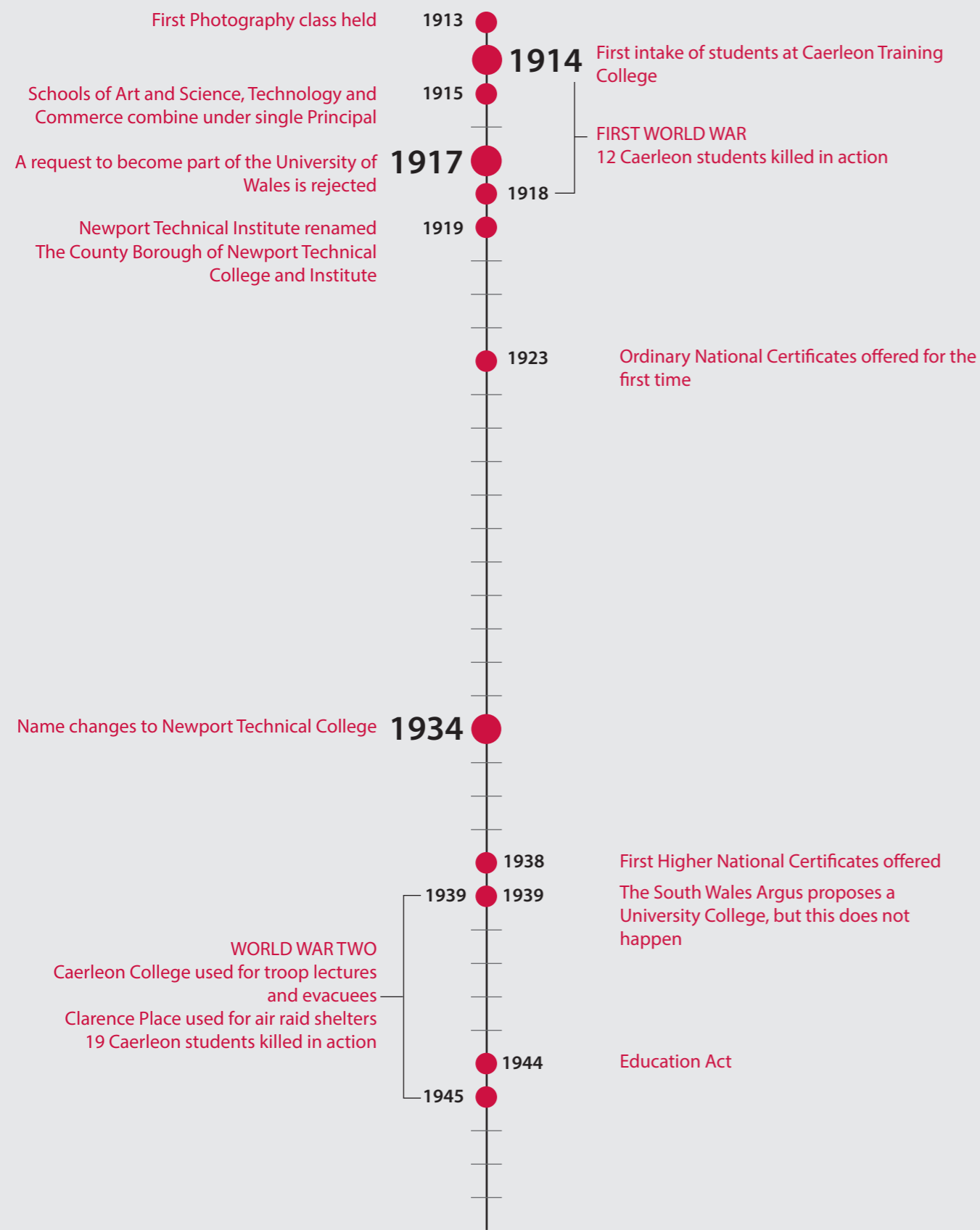
The University of South Wales is now a substantial presence in Britain and in the global higher education community; it is increasingly a major force for positive change in Wales. We are closing one chapter of our life as we say goodbye to the Caerleon campus. It is rightly something of an icon, embodying one major element in the University's story and standing for that bold commitment to the best standards in education for all that made Wales, at the beginning of the 20th century, a leader in the UK and in Europe. But we say goodbye knowing that we are opening a new and equally exciting chapter of our involvement in seeking the very best for all the communities of South East Wales, and hoping that, once again, we shall be able to help Wales set a benchmark for achievement and excellence far beyond our borders.

**Rt Revd and Rt Hon Lord Williams of Oystermouth
PC FBA FRSL
Chancellor of the University**

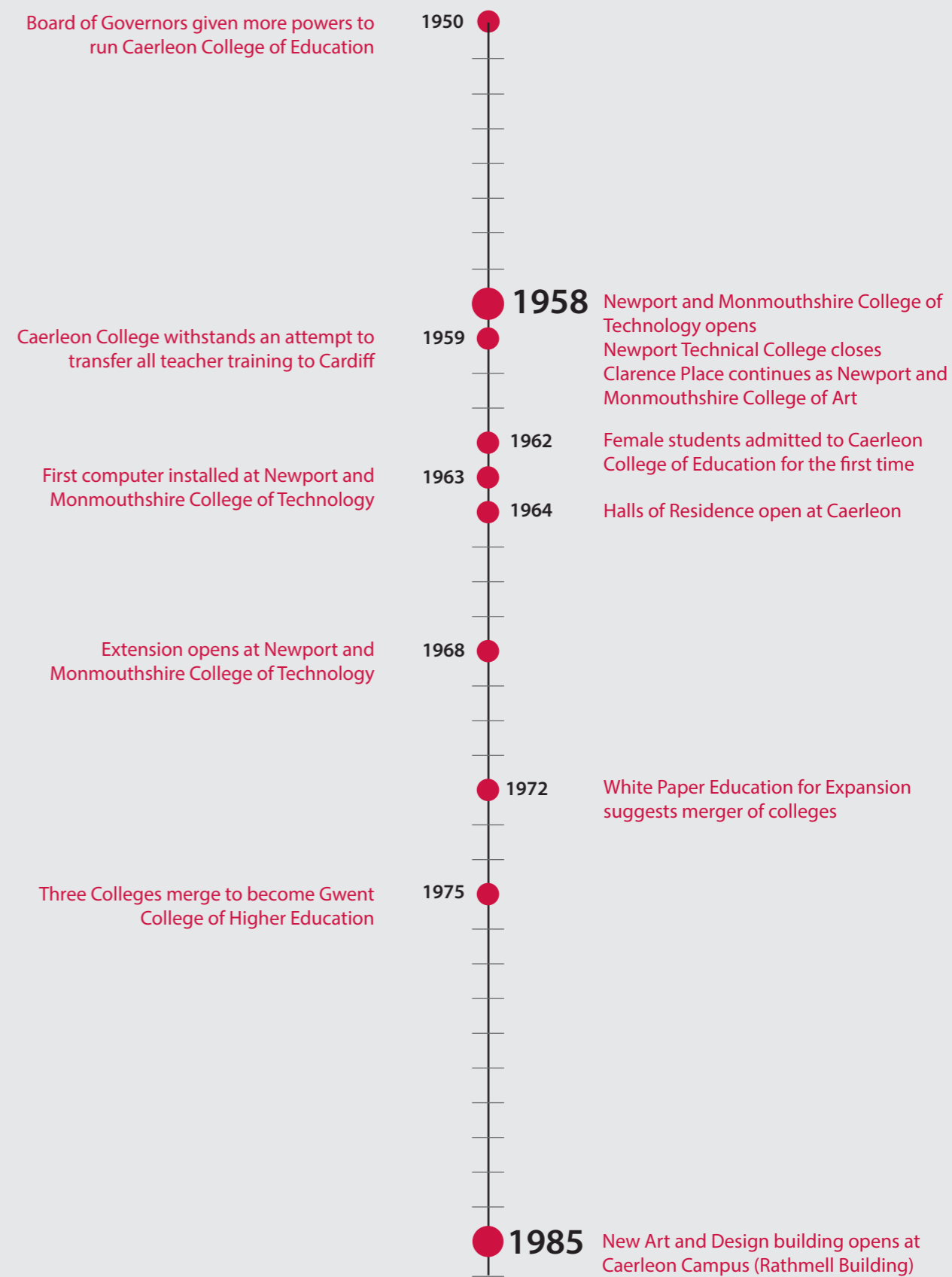


Caerleon College.

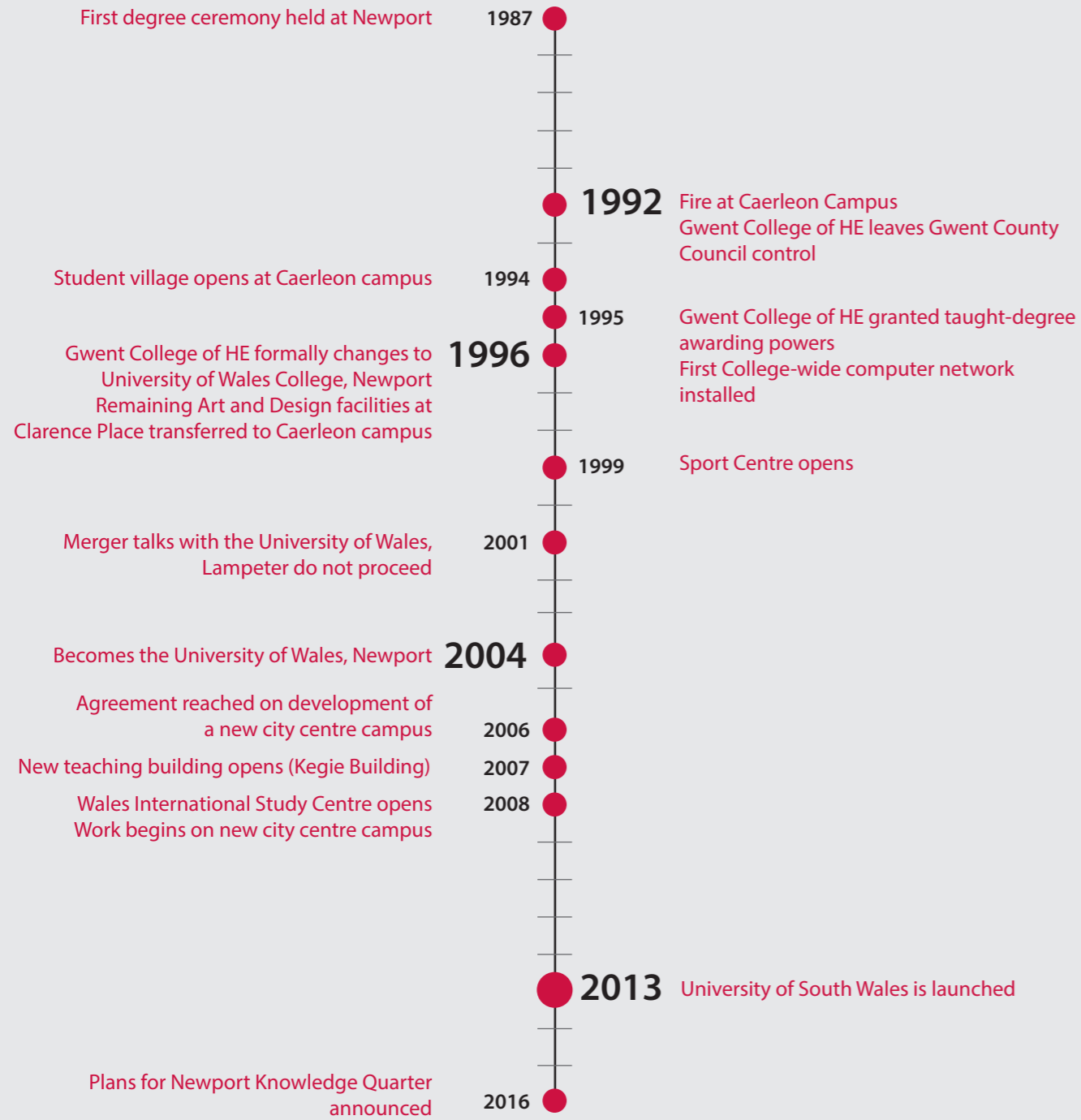
Memories 1913 to present



Memories 1913 to present



Memories 1913 to present



Caerleon Training College (1914-1975)

Caerleon College (originally known as Monmouthshire Training College) was almost the contemporary of the Newport Technical Institute, having been first mooted in 1908 in discussions between Monmouthshire County Council and the Board of Education. It was later decided, between Monmouth, Glamorgan, Newport and Cardiff, that two teacher training colleges were needed; one at Barry for female students and one at Caerleon for men, initially taking 40 from Monmouthshire and 60 from Glamorgan, as well as Newport students.

The College at Caerleon was built on land that had been purchased by Alderman Parry and sold on to the Education Committee. In 1913 the Education Committee also acquired the land to the east (now occupied by the playing fields and the redgra), which had originally been reserved for children with disabilities. The land to the north of College Drive (where student accommodation now stands) was also acquired later; this had been earmarked in 1920 for a tuberculosis sanatorium, but there were natural concerns about building this so near to the students.

Laying the foundation stone at Caerleon, 1912

The Liberal Home Secretary, Reginald McKenna (MP for Pontypool), laid the foundation stone of the new building on 18th July 1912. In this photograph of the ceremony, Mr McKenna is the balding figure standing to the left of centre. The man facing him to the right of centre (with a mark on his hat) is Mr Charles Lock, the Clerk of Works, whose family still own the photograph. His great grandson Peter Thomas recently studied Family History at the University.



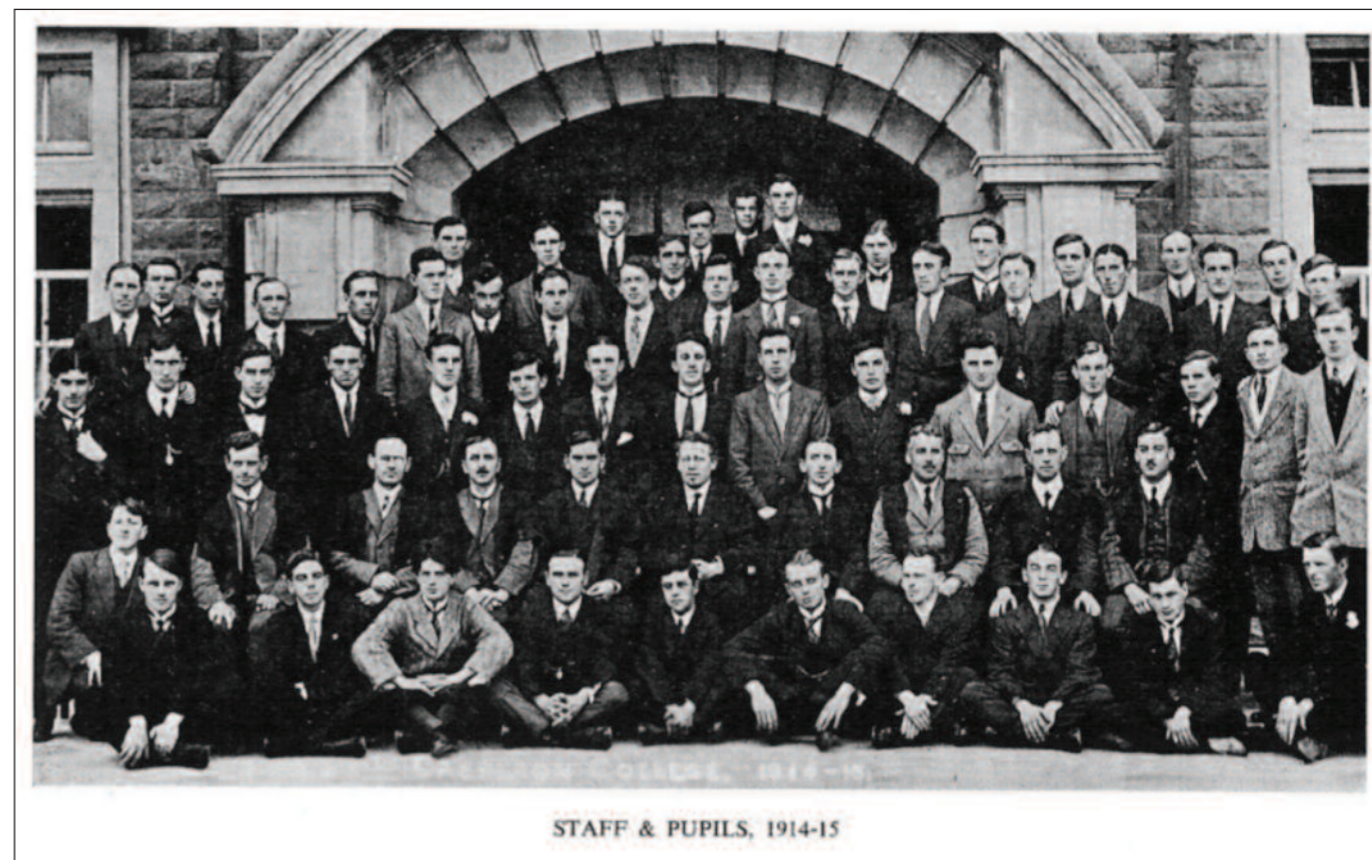
Laying the foundation stone at Caerleon, 1912 (courtesy of David Norris Thomas)



Foundation Stone installed 1912



David Norris and his wife Vera, pictured in 2012 at the cornerstone



STAFF & PUPILS, 1914-15

The first students at Caerleon in 1914

One of the first students was Gerald Buck, who featured in the University's Alumni News magazine in 1994 on his 101st birthday. He died in 1996, aged 103.

The first Principal of the new College was Sir Edward Anwyl, a Welsh and Celtic scholar from the University College of Wales, who laid the foundations of the College's high academic reputation by appointing to his staff

several distinguished academics who went on to high public office. One of these was David Brunt, a lecturer in Maths who later became Sir David and Head of the Meteorological Office. Such was the calibre of the first staff appointments that it was suggested as early as 1914 that the College should offer degree-level courses.

Unfortunately, Sir Edward did not live to see the College's development as he died in 1914 (even before the official opening) and was succeeded by I B John.

I B John

The Principal who presided over the early years of the College at Caerleon was Ivor Bertram John, of whom one student wrote in 1914

"...The Principal, Ivor B John, has already stamped himself as a distinct personality amongst us, leaving to us the freedom which is naturally ours the moment we realise the limits of absolute freedom... Under his care, both from the professional and the academic side, we feel that we are citizens of a free state..."





Caerleon Main Building

From 1914 to 1945

The development of the College began under difficult circumstances - as the First World War had already broken out - and the first planned student intake was drastically reduced from 56 to 18 students, as some joined the forces and others did war work in government departments. The College also had to fight for its survival against proposed merger plans as well as suggestions to use the building either as an internment facility for German prisoners, or as a military hospital. Several staff members also left to take up war work, yet the College was so successful that the Principal's report of 1917 claimed that every student entering the examinations since the opening had passed.

In the immediate post-war years, the College was lively and active, with reports on the academic work very favourable. For the first time, World History was offered, and extra-curricular activities also flourished, particularly drama and sport, with major successes on the rugby field. Disabled ex-servicemen were able to enjoy use of the front lawns, which had been transformed into a bowling green. In 1937, Principal Ivor Bertram John died and was succeeded by John Owen, who had been a teacher at the College since its beginning.

As in World War I, the Second World War produced similar problems of student and staff numbers, but, unlike the Great War, the College actively encouraged its use by the armed forces and other agencies, when the Assembly Hall was used for extra-mural lectures to troops and the

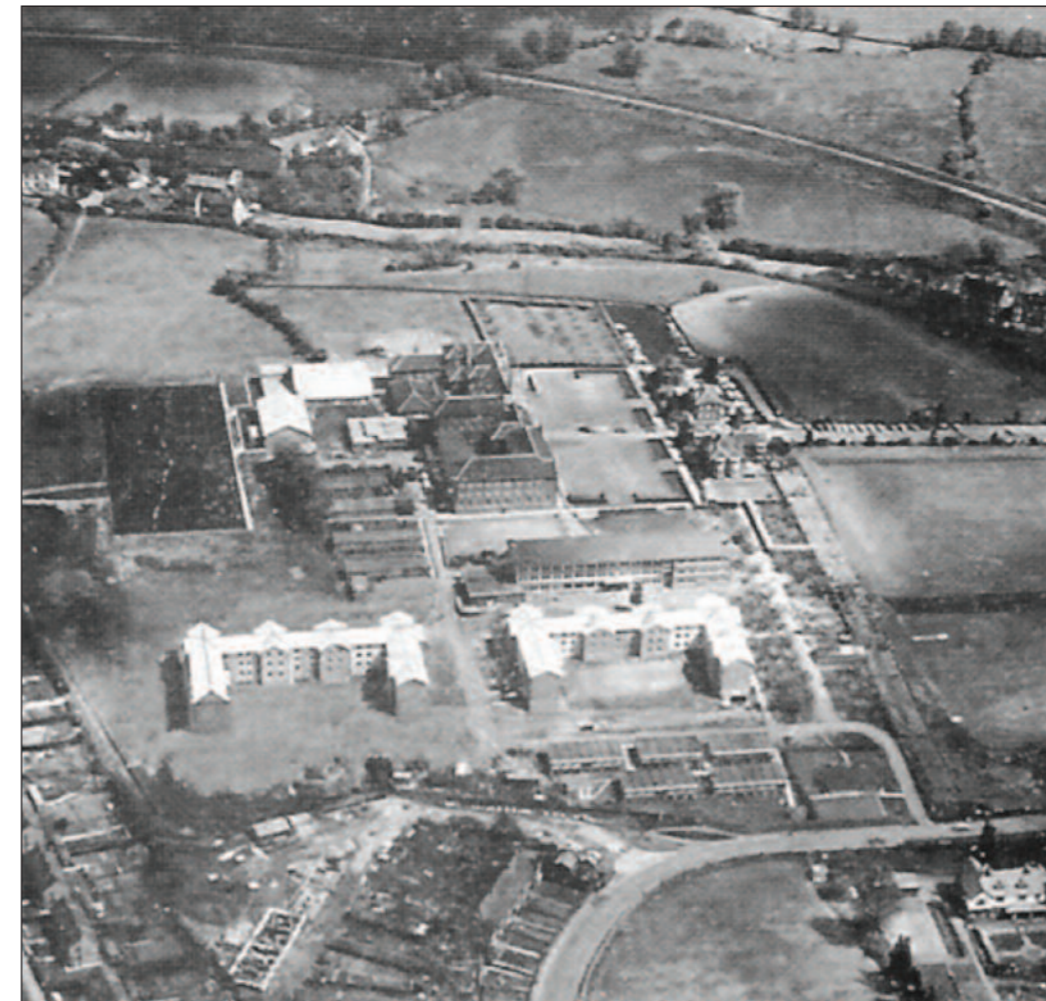
College tower was used for observation purposes by the Defence Corps. Temporary huts were erected in the grounds for accommodation for the National Fire Service and evacuated pupils from Dover County School for Girls.

The students who remained at the College during the war also actively participated in the war effort by joining the Air Training Corps and learning drill, signalling, map-reading and engineering. Students also took part in fire-watching, first aid and demolition squads, also taking over some of the domestic running of the College due to the shortage of staff. Activities, such as dances, were used to raise money for war charities. Another 19 of the College's students died in action during the war.

Post-war developments

After the war, T J Webley acquired an additional parcel of land along the west side of the campus to extend the estate. In 1952, Gwilym Prichard Ambrose was appointed Principal and presided over some of the most significant changes in the College's history up to that time. A notable development was the admission of women students for the first time in 1962, with separate halls of residence for them. The first female lecturers were appointed in 1961, and the first female Vice-Principal in 1963. These developments would not have been possible if Principal Ambrose had not fought off an attempt by the Ministry of Education (in 1959) to close the College and transfer all teacher training to Cardiff. He was described on his death in 1995 (at 91), as "...the man who put Caerleon College on the map...".

Aerial view of Caerleon Training College



The halls of residence and the Main Building can be easily spotted, with the Edward Anwyl Building between them.

Between the left-hand halls and the main building are the huts that were used by the evacuated pupils from Dover County School for Girls.

Between the right-hand halls and the road in the foreground are the 'demountable' teaching huts, which were near the entrance where the modern car park stands today.

The south edge of the campus was also used for growing food and the College was largely self-sufficient up to the 1960s.

"It felt more like a big social club than a college"

Monica Davies (nee Thomas) and Gareth Davies (better known as Gus) met at Caerleon Training College in 1962. They both studied teacher training and graduated in 1965, and got married in August of the same year.

"We loved meeting new people and making friends. We'd often go for a drink in The Angel in the centre of the village, which has now been turned into a Sainsbury's! And there was The Bull and The Drovers which were popular with students as well. When we started there were 60 male students and 44 women on the course, out of about 340 men on campus at the time, so girls were definitely in the minority. People would come here to study from all over the UK, so we made friends with students from totally different backgrounds to ours. We've always said it felt more like a big social club than a college. Everyone was so friendly."

Monica and Gareth taught in Essex after graduating, before moving to Canada and eventually back to Newport. They now live in Ponthir, in Torfaen.



Newport College of Art (1958-1975)

The College of Art, situated mainly at Clarence Place but with several annexes, achieved much success in the years immediately following the Second World War, with many of its students, mostly from Monmouthshire, progressing to prestigious employment or to postgraduate study. Its students were particularly successful in gaining places in the Painting Department at the Royal College of Art. This was largely due to Principal Harry Lea's success in attracting high-calibre staff. The result was that, from the 1950s onwards, it was Newport that was widely seen as the outstanding Welsh art school and one of the top art schools in England and Wales.

In 1963 the College was amongst the select few art colleges in the country awarded Diploma in Art and Design (Dip AD) status in the areas of Fine Art and Graphic Design, introduced to replace the former National Diploma in Design (NDD). Following the culmination of a very successful career, Harry Lea retired in 1964 and was replaced by John Wright, the youngest Art College Principal in Britain at the time. Over the next few years, the number of teaching staff was considerably increased and students began applying for places at Newport from Art and Design Foundation Study courses around the country. The new Dip AD status led to prestigious commissions from BBC Wales and other major organisations. Meanwhile, highly successful non Dip AD courses in Documentary Photography, Graphic Design, Film & Television, Fashion & Textiles and Foundation Studies were established.

The College's reputation in the mid 1960s was summed up by Tudor David in an article in the Western Mail '...Newport College of Art is one of the few and much-envied colleges to have been recognised for the new art degree – the Diploma in Art and Design; within a few years it will have on roll more than 300 full-time Dip Art & Design students, drawn from all over the country. It is already one of the top six art colleges outside London.' This prophetic 1965 article also suggested a merger between the art, teaching and technical colleges, and status as a University College, but it would take another 30 years for this to become a reality.

The Art College's reputation was given Royal approval in 1965 by an official visit by Lord Snowdon, who unsurprisingly showed greatest interest in the Photography Department. Eight years later, a Diploma course in Documentary Photography - unique in Europe - was set up, becoming one of the College's most prestigious areas of work in subsequent years. The course was initially devised and taught by David Hurn - a member of the celebrated Magnum Co-operative - and the University still produces some of the most prominent photojournalists from the UK and beyond. David Hurn was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the University College in 1997, in recognition of his contribution to the course development and his 15 years as director of the programme.

Film-making at the College has also been of national importance, with a Diploma course launched in 1966, as the first of its kind in Wales. Students' films in the late 1960s were shown on the BBC and at the National Film Theatre in London, also winning awards at several major festivals such as Edinburgh and Locarno. The course was designed not merely as an artistic exercise, but, as befitted the College's traditional links with industry, to produce technicians, producers and directors of the highest calibre.

All of this development happened under the management of John Wright, who was appointed Principal in 1964 at the age of only 29. He taught illustration and was a widely-exhibited artist himself, who had radical plans for the College's expansion and integration into national life. The Vice-Principal was Thomas Rathmell, a successful portrait and landscape painter, whose portraits of distinguished South Walsians hang in many institutions. The School of Art, Media and Design at Caerleon was later housed in a building opened in 1985 and named after him.

"David had an enormous impact on the school"



Documentary Photography class in the 1970s, with David Hurn seated on the table (Courtesy of David Hurn)

"The aim of the course is not just to turn out professional photographers. Hurn feels that a number of sociologists, archaeologists and anthropologists, for whom documentary photography could be an important tool of recording, may wish to take the course. He looks forward to a time when it will be normal for social service departments, for example, to have social workers on their staff who will be as skilled at using photography as they are in collecting statistics."

New Society, 12 April 1973

David Hurn

"When the Queen had some sort of celebration there were all these street parties in the valleys and everyone had a day off. David got his students to shoot pictures of the street parties, bring them back to Clarence Place, develop them, print them up. They took them to the station in Newport, they got them on the train to London, they had a motorcyclist in London who ran them across to Victoria and train out of Victoria and they were in Paris that afternoon. They were in French magazines the next day. They didn't have trade cards so they couldn't be printed in British magazines. He showed them how to do a rush job, how to market it and how to place it. He had the contacts to do that, you couldn't do that without the contacts."

Anthony Stevens, Art Lecturer, 1950s-1979

Gwent College of Higher Education (1975-1996)

The 1972 Government White Paper, entitled Education for Expansion, suggested the merging of colleges in response to increasing costs, and in particular that teacher training be combined with other facilities. The Gwent Director of Education (Trevor Morgan) recommended a merger, seeing the advantages to trainee teachers of mixing with Art and Science students.

There were other reasons for restructuring the local Higher Education provision, because the changes in industry were demanding this, as the traditional heavy industry, such as steel and coal mining, waned, in favour of growth in the service industries. The nature of the courses offered locally – then, as now needed to reflect these major changes, and the new skills required.

Thus it was that in September 1975, Newport College of Art, Caerleon College (formerly Training College) and Gwent (Newport and Monmouthshire) College of Technology merged to become a single institution – Gwent College of Higher Education - after discussions between trade unionists, college principals and councillors. This was a logical step for the three institutions, which had long had a close relationship, to create a single College to cater for the whole of the new county of Gwent, which had been created in 1974 under the Local Government Act.

Each of the colleges brought to the merged institution established regional and national reputations, but some people were initially concerned that the individual characters of the colleges would be lost, as these were very distinctive to each: the College of Art was relaxed and informal, with an atmosphere of 'artistic chaos' existing in the relationship between staff and students; the College of Technology with a more formal, school-like regime; and the College of Education, with a residual family-like atmosphere.

There were also differences with the level of the awards available, with some of the technical subjects still being regarded as 'inferior' and some not able to be accredited at degree level until the 1990s. As the new institution established itself, the greater part of the Further Education portfolio that the Colleges brought with them was transferred to other colleges; in terms of the range and level of courses offered by the new institution, it became the most strongly polytechnic in character of all public-sector institutions in Wales.

The original plan at the merger was to retain three separate principals for the College, but eventually a single Principal was appointed, Mel Harris, who had been the Principal of Caerleon College of Education since 1972. Under his astute leadership, particularly in fostering links with the funding authority (Gwent County Council), the new College prospered and offered Degree and Masters courses validated by the Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA) and the University of Wales. It was always his aim that the College would become part of the University, and he presided over an expansion of the library, research facilities, resources and staff, as well as creating an increased sense of community within the College.

Four new faculties were created, to carry on the work traditionally done by the colleges.

- The Faculty of Education
- The Faculty of Art and Design
- The Faculty of Management and Professional Studies
- The Faculty of Science and Technology

“We instantly became friends”

Mary Kinder (nee James) and Althea Williams (nee Morris) both studied teacher training from 1966 to 1969, at the Caerleon College of Education as it was then known.

Mary: “My father was from Milford Haven but we lived in Leicester when I was young, so I wanted to study at a Welsh college. Caerleon was nice and close to the English border so I could go back home for the weekend quite easily, as well as having that sense of independence. When I met Thea during that first week we instantly became best friends, and have stayed close to this day. We are godmothers for one another’s children, and they are also great friends, so I feel very thankful that coming here to study meant that I made a lifelong pal. I was secretary of the swimming club for a while, and really enjoyed being part of the Twmpath (Welsh folk dancing) society – that was great fun.”

Althea: “One of my earliest memories of our first term at the College was the Aberfan disaster, which happened in the October. Some of the male students were from the area and went to help in the rescue effort. Something like that really stays with you. I also met my husband while we were at Caerleon (as did Mary) after a friend set us up on a blind date, and we’ve been together ever since. And now we’ve all stayed friends, it’s like we’ve made an extended family. I remember we went down to the White Hart pub on our first night at college; it was the first time I’d ever set foot in a pub, and I hated it! So as I was on my way back up the hill, I met Mary and the rest, as they say, is history.”



Mary Kinder and Althea Williams (centre and right)

“Football brought us together”

Lawrie Dunn, Owen Jones, Hywel Williams, Leslie Owen and Jeffrey Mudford were all members of the football team while they studied at Caerleon, at various points between 1963 and 1968.

Lawrie: “I came down from Sunderland to study here and spent three wonderful years on this campus.”

Owen: “I was the captain of the football team and thoroughly enjoyed being part of it, for the social aspect as well as keeping fit. I went on to teach for 23 years. I met my wife Phyllis while we were here and we’ve been together ever since.”



The Rathmell Building

By the 1980s it was clear that the expansion of the School of Art and Design had made the facilities at Clarence Place inadequate, and Norman Robson Smith designed an innovative new building for the Caerleon campus. It was built on a steel frame, with glass walling to utilise the full natural light. The building opened in 1985, and the 1988-9 prospectus reported on it as follows.

'The new building at Caerleon is in itself a bold architectural statement of the unique nature of the course. Students are able to circulate as their work demands through open, flexible studio spaces, large well-equipped workshops and to use the extensive telematic systems incorporated into the building. From September 1988 the College will possess some of the finest facilities in Europe in Fine Art and 3D design. These will reflect, as do the facilities across the College, the importance attached to developments in high technology and preparing students for careers in the 21st century.'



From Higher Education College to University College

By the 1990s, the funding and nature of Higher Education was changing and on 1st April 1992, the College left Gwent County Council control to be funded directly by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales and run by a Board of Governors, including representatives from education, industry, business and public service in south-east Wales, who held responsibility for finance, estates and personnel.

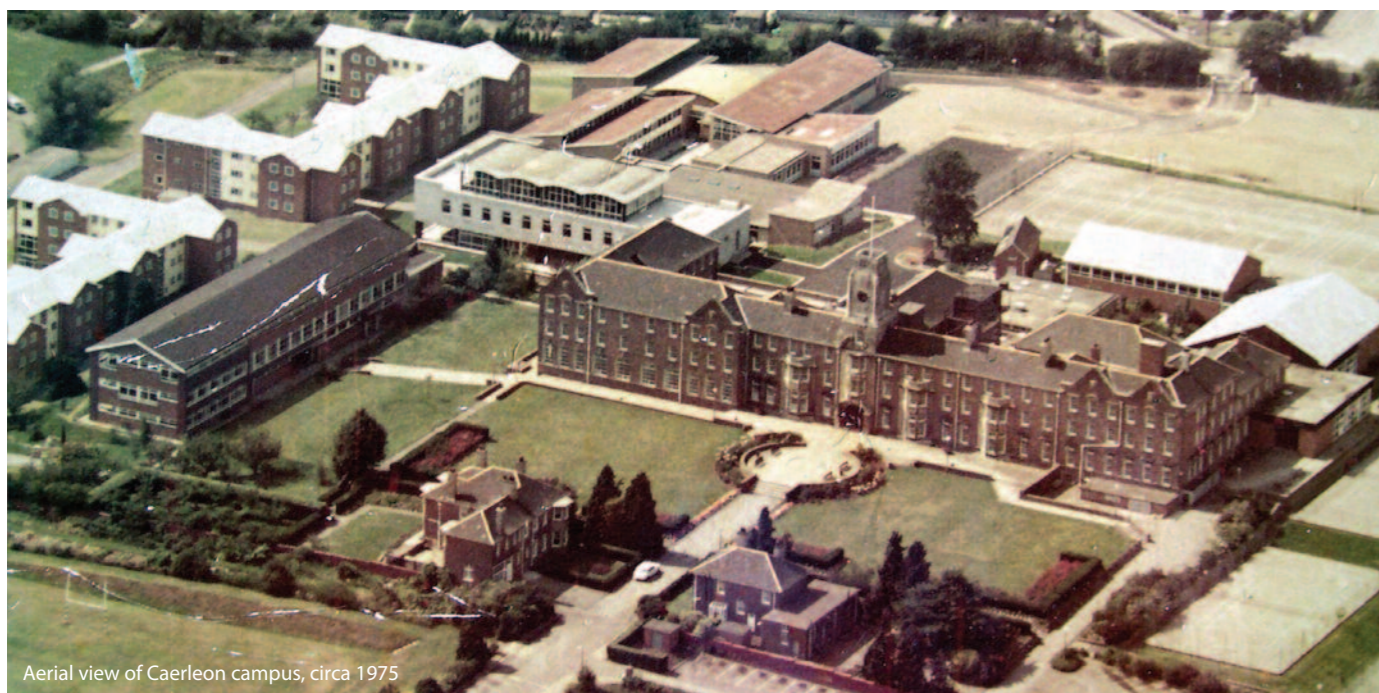
In 1995 a College-wide computer network was installed, linking all the separate campuses and providing access to the Internet, while an Information Technology Centre provided a full range of IT services to the new University College. Email was still referred to as electronic mail at that time!

In 1995 the University of Wales Court petitioned the Privy Council for the admission of the College as a University College, but the application was held up due to a legal debate on the use of the word 'University' in the title; a term protected by the Trade Descriptions Act. Although a few Colleges had used the title University College for some years, the legality of this use of the term University had never been tested in law. Progress was delayed while this issue was resolved and the Privy Council eventually approved the change of name from Gwent College of

Higher Education to University of Wales College, Newport on 18th April 1996. On the following day, the University of Wales formally accepted and welcomed the new University College at a meeting of the University of Wales Court.

This designation superseded the Taught Degree Awarding Powers granted to the College by the Privy Council in March 1995, following a visit by a scrutiny panel on behalf of the Higher Education Quality Council in 1994. At the same time, delegated powers to supervise research degrees - including PhDs - were awarded to the College by the University of Wales. The first degree ceremony had been held at Newport in 1987, attended by the Principals of other colleges and universities. This was a prestigious occasion, with the sight of gowned graduates in Newport raising the status of the College within the academic community and the town.

The College prepared for University status by developing into a broad-based, high-tech institution, while not losing touch with its traditional industrial and commercial base that the colleges had always supported. Other developments at that time were an expansion of the curriculum offered, a growth of international links and an increasing use of European structural funds to support regional development work.



Aerial view of Caerleon campus, circa 1975

Fire at Caerleon

The main building at Caerleon suffered a major fire on the evening of 17th March 1992, only weeks before the College opted out of local authority control. A candle left burning in a student's room probably started the fire; smoke was spotted coming from the room as the fire took hold, but, due to swift action by staff and students, the building was evacuated and no one was injured.

More than 50 firefighters with 10 appliances battled the blaze, which was not brought under control until several sections of the roof had collapsed and bedrooms and academic offices were damaged. Some records on the first floor were lost and students lost personal items as well as irreplaceable course work. Professor K J Overshott assured all the students that no one would suffer academically because of the fire.



The University of Wales College, Newport (1996-2004)



Vice-Chancellor Kenneth Overshott (left) and Lord Jenkins watch the release of the balloons

The Inauguration Ceremony of the new University College took place on 14th May 1996. The ceremony was performed by the Rt Hon Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, the Abersychan-born politician and historian, a former government minister also famous for his part in founding the Social Democratic Party. Lord Jenkins unveiled a plaque with the new university logo amid applause from 500 VIPs and guests and said:

"..This is a great day. Newport and surrounding areas need a university. It's an independent major town with a distinct identity and history, which will be given a stronger focus by the University of Wales College, Newport..."

Principal and Chief Executive Professor Ken Overshott added:

"Today is the culmination of 155 years of education in Newport since this institution can trace its ancestry back to 1841, when a mechanics institute was first formed in the town."

After the ceremony, the trumpeters of the Prince of Wales Division played a fanfare from the top of the University clock tower and balloons were released in the four faculty colours of red, blue, purple and green.

In the evening, staff and students continued celebrating with a musical evening held at the Caerleon campus. The Prince of Wales Division Band and Cantorian Creigiau provided the entertainment and the evening was rounded off with an impressive firework display over the historic Caerleon College buildings.

Student Memories



There was a great atmosphere

Alun Prosser, from Caerphilly, graduated from the BA (Hons) Youth and Community Work in 2012 before going to study a Masters course from 2013 to 2014. He now runs his own youth work company called GoConnect.

"The lecture theatres and teaching methods reinforced the fact I was studying at a 'proper' university – it felt very academic in comparison to the venues I'd studied at in my younger days, so I loved that aspect. There was a great atmosphere on campus and it was lovely to wander around. The Masters really helped inspire me to set up my own business after seeing the need to connect communities with the private sector. I would never have got that opportunity had I not gone back to university."

Caerleon gave me my career

Nick Gartside studied the BA (Hons) Youth and Community Work degree at Caerleon between 1999 and 2003, and was one of the first cohort of students on the course. He now works for Blaenau Gwent Youth Service.

"I remember getting on really well with the other students because we were all like-minded. I had been out of education for so long, but I took to university like a duck to water. One of our lecturers, Paul Trippier, was (and still is) so passionate about his subject – Social Policy – which made our learning so much easier. And Mark Edwards was really encouraging about where the course could take us. I would never have had the opportunity to carve out the career I have now if it wasn't for the University, so I'm very grateful for that."



We've loved our time here

Jamie Edwards studied Documentary Film and Television from 2010 to 2013. He spent his first year of study on the Caerleon Campus. He now runs his own travel blog site and creative company.

"The location and beautiful scenery had a lot to do with my choice of university; I loved my time here. It was just a lovely place to be. I studied the Foundation Course first so I was able to do a variety of different things, and it was very creative and hands on."

Rhiannon Oates studied a HNC in Civil and Construction Engineering at Caerleon, before going on to complete her degree at the Treforest Campus. She is currently studying a Masters in Engineering (MEng).

"My first memory of Caerleon was when I was seven and Mum used to bring us along to lectures while she was a student here herself. I have a lot of fond memories of this place and it was the natural choice for me when it came to choosing a university."

Elena Oates is in her final year of studying BSc (Hons) Secondary Mathematics with ICT. She hopes to become a secondary school teacher after graduating.

"I am looking forward to graduating on this campus, after having such a lovely time here studying for my degree. Teaching definitely runs in my family; our grandmother and mum were also teachers, and our great uncle, Dr David W R Oates, was Director of Education for Newport during the Second World War and until 1953."

I loved it here so much that I never left

Emma Chivers studied the BA (Hons) Youth and Community Work degree at Caerleon between 1999 and 2003, in the first cohort of students on the course. She is now Academic Manager for Foundation, Religious Studies and Youth Work at the University.

"I was absolutely terrified coming on to campus on my first day. I had only been taught at community venues before starting university, so the sight of the Main Building was impressive and scary at the same time! On top of that, I was a mature student at the age of 30, while some of my classmates were a lot younger, which is slightly more unusual these days. I was already working part-time as a youth worker but I wanted to gain my diploma, and then the full degree. I liked it here so much that I stayed on to do my teaching qualification as well, and I've never looked back. There was just a lovely sense of wellbeing and belonging on the campus. There was a really nice feel about the place."





“Studying here gave us so many opportunities”

Sam Howells, from Risca, also studied Youth and Community Work from 2012 to 2015 and now works for Charter Housing Association in Newport.

“Our lecturers – especially Mark Edwards – were a massive influence on us as a year group because they were so passionate about their subjects. I used to really enjoy lectures because I felt that all the academic staff cared about our futures and did their best to make sure we achieved our potential.”

Suzy Sorby, from Cwmbran, studied Youth and Community Work from 2012 to 2015 and works for Bron Afon Community Housing.

“We had so much fun on the course. I remember having a fancy dress day where we came in dressed as fairies, pirates and clowns, and we had so many funny looks around campus! It was like being part of a big family – even though we were all studying and it was hard work at times, we all had each other’s backs and supported each other through it.”

Abbie Clifford, from Blackwood, studied Youth and Community Work from 2012 to 2015. She now works at Bron Afon Community Housing in Torfaen.

“We had an early summer during our first year at university, and I remember us all sitting out on the grass after handing our assessments in, which was lovely. The course was also really rewarding – there are so many areas you can go into from studying Youth and Community Work, so it’s a great stepping stone to lots of careers.”

Nyla Webbe, who is from Newport, studied the BA (Hons) Youth and Community Work degree at Caerleon between 2011 and 2015. She now works with children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) at Dyffryn High School.

“I remember coming in for our induction and Mick Conroy, one of our lecturers, made us all take part in an African dance! We all felt silly together but it had the desired effect of helping us make friends straight away, which is why Mick organised it. He made our first week so much fun. That feeling of togetherness was a big part of my studies. We all used to hate Sociology, and I remember falling asleep in a few of the lectures on that! I left school when I was 16 and came to university when I was 21, so it has been a fantastic opportunity for me to do what I love, which is working with young people.”



The University of Wales, Newport (2004-2013)



Professor James Lusty

University status

Professor James Lusty, who led the University from 2002-6. He oversaw the transition from University College to full University status and secured agreement for the new city centre campus.

Sadly, Professor Lusty died in 2008 before the new campus had been built.



Kegie Building

The newest building at the Caerleon campus is the Kegie Building. It is named after Helen Kegie MBE, a pioneer who helped to establish the social care infrastructure in the Newport area. She also set up a major trust fund to help future students at Newport study the caring professions.

Regional development

The University is committed to its role as a catalyst for the development of the Gwent region. It is also helping to build stronger bridges to the communities, industry and public services, by providing expertise in regeneration, raising skills levels and directly promoting development of the region.

The University has actively worked with partners to promote and support a range of regeneration initiatives, particularly in the areas hardest hit by economic decline, such as the Heads of the Valleys and parts of Newport.

One of the largest regeneration initiatives was the Learning Campus in Ebbw Vale, on the site of the former steelworks, where the University worked closely with Coleg Gwent to offer the right range of courses to suit the developing needs of students in the Heads of the Valleys region.

The University's commitment is to raising the skills of our current workforce and to bringing Higher Education to people who traditionally may never have thought about university.



The City Campus

The development of the University's City campus marked a welcome return to the city centre after an absence of more than a decade. From 1910 until 1996, one of the University's predecessor institutions occupied the prominent building in Clarence Place, close to Newport Bridge on the east side of the river. The new campus saw a move across the river and a short distance downstream, near to the Newport Centre and the new pedestrian footbridge.

The new campus provides more space to accommodate a growing number of students and "state-of-the-art" facilities.

The City campus is the hub for the creation of a new 'Left Bank', turning an area that has been derelict until recently into a place where local people, students and visitors will mix and visit cafes, studios, shops, exhibitions and shows. The campus places the University at the heart of the community, the new campus provided a focus for entrepreneurship and enterprise, forging links between the best business brains and the cream of local creative talent.

Culture is seen as a vital ingredient for transforming and regenerating modern cities, by drawing on the combined support of the public, private and community sectors to promote the city's cultural activity and attractions.



Hothouse

The building is a striking design by architects BDP. Known as the 'Hothouse', it stands out in the building's profile as a distinctive zone, suspended from the ceiling and connected by walkways.

The building is physically transparent and open to the city, rather than being enclosed behind high walls. The campus helps to make clear to visitors to the city that Newport is home to a unique university with an international reputation.





Green credentials

The Newport City Campus building is BREEAM Excellent rated for its environmentally friendly aspects.

The University of South Wales

The University of South Wales was launched in April 2013, following a merger between the former University of Wales, Newport and the University of Glamorgan. Founded by industry and the professions, the University, with more than 30,000 students, is one of Britain's most exciting new universities and a major player in higher education. One of the 10 ten campus universities in the UK by student number, it attracts a cosmopolitan mix of students from more than 120 countries and all backgrounds.

USW students voted the University as one of the top 10 UK universities at the WhatUni? Student Choice Awards 2016.

Within the UK, USW is unique in the breadth of its role, encompassing a modern university and two subsidiaries in Wales's national conservatoire, the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, and The College Merthyr Tydfil.

The University offers a full range of qualifications, from further education level to degrees and PhD study. As a major university it delivers the full range of STEM subjects, from engineering and mathematics to computing and surveying as well as being an experienced provider of teacher training courses.

The University is renowned for its partnerships with major employers, from British Airways to the National Health Service. Its relationship with employers as a leading university for careers is reflected in the high employment rate of its graduates, with 94% of students in employment or further study within six months of graduating.

Lecturers range from award-winning poets, authors and historians, to computer scientists, engineers, and journalists. Many of them are still active in their professions, so they bring a real understanding of the world of work into the classroom.

Students learn how their profession works in real life, exploring their field through courses taught in unique hands-on environments, including their own airliner, moot courtroom, TV studios, stock exchange trading room, simulated hospital ward, and scenes of crime house. Sports students train and play on facilities used and endorsed by world champions such as the All Blacks.



Times of change

The University is developing its future in Newport through a two-phase, multi-million-pound investment in its flagship Newport City Campus. Phase one is a focus on the internal configuration and repurposing of the facility to prepare for the migration of professional and executive courses in business, education, early years, social work, counselling and other key professional disciplines in 2016 as part of the reconfiguration process.

Phase two of the development involves future plans for the expansion of the site to deliver more capacity for quality HE provision in Newport city and Gwent.

The University and Coleg Gwent have formed a senior-level group exploring options to build a new Knowledge Quarter in the City Centre of Newport, developing from our City Campus site as its anchor.

It would bring together a relocated Coleg Gwent campus from Nash Road, and some shared development in areas that could include library facilities, learning centre spaces and social space.

The University is now nearing the end of a major programme to reshape our campus estate so that our buildings are organised for the needs of our students, not the other way around. This University is more than a cog in a governmental growth machine or a link in the economic chain: we transform people's lives.

It will be anchored on the higher education here in this campus, involve development of a new FE campus for Coleg Gwent along the river, and we intend to develop jointly a new shared development to link us together, showing students in Newport and this region that they too can progress to higher education.

The next big step for the University here in the city is the Newport Knowledge Quarter. It is a development of potentially £60 million with our partners in Coleg Gwent, working with the Welsh Government and Newport City Council.

