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issue 24, February 2016

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Co Regn No: 8490434



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## Dear Readers...

January can often feel a bit 'blue' after the fun and excitement of Christmas, all we are left with is the cold and miserable weather. January in our family however has been one birthday after another and I've also celebrated friends' 40ths and 50ths - so no 'dry January' for me; my new year resolutions will be starting this month!

16th January saw the Chepstow Wassail take place in town. I haven't had room to include the photos in this issue but there are many uploaded onto our Chepstow Matters facebook page that you are welcome to look at if you missed, or even just to spot yourself if you were there!

If you haven't connected with us on Twitter or Facebook, then we would love you to join us in 2016, we are still relative newcomers in this area but we continue to grow!

If you belong to a club or local organisation that you would like featured - please do get in touch with us. As always, we must give a massive thank you to all our advertisers who, by supporting this community magazine, enable us to keep bringing you this little ray of sunshine every month! Please do support them and give them your business when you have a need.

Alternatively, if you have a business that you would like to see feature in our pages, then please do give us a call, I would be very pleased to help you.

Enough from me, I hope you get chance to grab a cuppa, sit down and enjoy the read. The deadline for our next edition will be 15th February, do get in touch if you would like to be featured!

***We wish you a happy and healthy 2016 and look forward to bringing you more community news and information throughout the year!***

Jaci x

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## Police Matters -

### Update from Chepstow Police

Hello residents, this year, I will be rotating the entries for Chepstow Matters across the Local Policing Team so you can see updates from all your Local officers. I hope that you will find this useful and Informative. This month's Update comes from our Ward Manager PC 1158 Louise Thorpe. In addition to this update you can of course still follow us on Facebook and on our Local Twitter Account @gpchepstow.

Kind Regards,  
Inspector Lysha Thompson

Hello All, I am PC Louise Thorpe, the Neighbourhood Ward Manager for the communities, both in the Town and the rural areas of Chepstow. I have been a Police Officer for nearly 25years, the last six of which have been in Chepstow. I manage five very competent and motivated Community Support Officers, who cover the same areas. This month I will give a brief update of what has been occurring in the areas of St Arvans, Tintern, Itton and Devauden.



These areas continue to be patrolled regularly by CO70 Andy Jones, who has covered the rural part of Chepstow for nearly ten years, but are also jointly patrolled by the other four CSO's when they are on duty. The overall crime in all the mentioned areas is quiet low and to help with this we carried out "Operation Handle" in St Arvans before Christmas. This is where, on our patrols, we check car doors, to see if they are unlocked and if they are, inform the owners and explain the possible consequences of doing so. Thankfully, only a small percentage of the vehicles checked were unlocked, but we would like to get to a point where there are NO vehicles found unlocked!

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As you may have noticed from the last article from the Inspector, the "Your Voice" priorities for St Arvans (including Tintern)

and Devauden (including Itton) are speeding through the villages. Over the past 12 months there have been several developments with the introduction of Community Speed Watch (CSW) into the Gwent Police area. This basically is a group of volunteers from the local area wishing to have CSW and with training and equipment, monitor the speed of the drivers passing through their villages. Currently, Tintern, St Arvans and Itton have CSW set up and Tintern has just seen the introduction of the Go Safe Camera Safety van by The Abbey due to the amount of people, travelling over the speed limit. I believe Devauden are looking at setting up their own CSW in the future.

**If you wish to discuss any local issues with the Team please contact us at Chepstow Police Station on 01633 642068 or E Mail the Team directly at [Lowerwyte@gwent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Lowerwyte@gwent.pnn.police.uk). If you need to report an incident please continue to use 101 or 999 in an emergency.**

Best Wishes,  
Louise Thorpe.



#### HAVE YOU REGISTERED?

Gwent Police use the OWL online watch link to update residents of Chepstow on current crime, appeals for information and also to hold on-line surgeries. This system is used force wide and has helped catch many offenders.

Residents of Chepstow can sign up via: [www.owl.co.uk](http://www.owl.co.uk) it's completely FREE!

## Come and join the Chepstow Society!

Chepstow is a town with an illustrious past but an uncertain future.

Since 1948 the Chepstow Society – the town's local amenity society – has been devoted to protecting the town's heritage, informing residents and visitors about the history and environment of Chepstow and its surrounding area, and encouraging its protection and improvement.

In the past, the Society was responsible for helping to set up the town Museum; for the information boards and paving slabs all around the town; and for producing a number of books and leaflets about the town's history, many of which are still available.

It meets regularly in the Drill Hall in Lower Church Street, on the third Wednesday of each month, to hear talks about aspects of local history, and to discuss current issues important to the community.

The Society organises excursions for its members to places of interest – and sometimes longer holidays as well.

We also promote and support local initiatives, and lobby organisations and authorities on local planning, transport, and environmental issues.

### The Society always welcomes new members.

Membership costs just £10 each year, and benefits include discounted meeting entrance fees and a regular newsletter, as well as the chance to join its excursions.

A small committee runs the Society, and again welcomes new members who can contribute actively to its work.

For more information about joining the Society, please contact Marian Thomas, 01291 625591 – or just turn up at one of our meetings, and talk to the people there.

We also have a website – [www.chepsoc.co.uk](http://www.chepsoc.co.uk) – and a Facebook page.

**The next meeting is on Wednesday 17 February at 7.15 pm, when the speaker will be Ray Wilson, talking about the history of Sharpness Docks.**

We hope to see you there!





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## Hannah's Music shop in Chepstow is starting a weekly 'samba band' workshop every Tuesday evening.

The samba workshop will be run by Noel Watson, who is the resident drum teacher at Hannah's Music. The workshop is open to all ages, adults and children and the cost will be just £5 for the hour.

So if you would like to get into the groove and learn about afro-brazilian drumming, just call Carol at Hannah's Music on 01291-627122 to register. All instruments are provided, so just bring yourself along and have some fun!! Before long Chepstow will have its first ever 'samba band'!

The samba band is another string in the bow for Hannah's Music. Established in 1991, Hannah's Music is celebrating its 25th birthday in 2016!

Carol Mutlow, owner of Hannah's Music, opened the shop on 7th September 1991 in memory of her daughter Hannah who lost her fight for life to cystic fibrosis. *"It was pure drive and determination to open the shop for Hannah."* Carol stated, *"That is what helped me to reach where I am today. It has not been easy, but giving up was not an option, no matter what."*

25 years on, Hannah's Music is not only a successful music shop, but hosts music lessons with over 100 pupils taking part in lessons each week, and it also has a band rehearsal room which is open 7 days a week. In addition, Carol is the organiser of the annual 'Castell Roc' festival held inside the stunning grounds of Chepstow Castle (read more about this on page 25).

Reaching a 25 year anniversary, some owners might start thinking of retiring: *"Not me!"* says Carol, *"It's more a case of what can I do next...?"* Helping to start a samba band sounds like an interesting next venture ...!



*"I feel like I don't know where the 25 years have gone, but then again it seems an age since I ventured into the unknown territory of running a business."*

**Carol Mutlow, owner of Hannah's Music**



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## A Tribute to a Respected Figure by Keith Underwood, The Chepstow Society (originally published 20 December 2015)

### Miss Ciceley Shirley A founder member of the Chepstow Society

Miss Ciceley Shirley died on 29th November 2015 at the age of 103. A service of thanks for her life took place at St Luke's Church, Tutshill on Monday 14th December 2015, attended by such numbers of relations and friends that the church was full to overflowing

Miss Shirley was known and respected throughout the parish of Tidenham as a leading figure in local affairs who was active in many fields.

Her participation in the founding of The Chepstow Society in 1948, and its many activities, gave the Society a special place in the town which is very much to the fore today.

The daughter of the owner of Shirley's Garage, (one of the first of its kind) on the corner of the crossroads at Tutshill, she became a councillor involving herself actively in local affairs.

Some will remember the summer fetes held at Eastcliffe, and the recreation ground and Castleford in aid of the proposed Tidenham War Memorial Hall.

She was intensely interested in the fauna and flora of the parish and, along with Tony James, Hugh Crowther and others, was instrumental in the establishment of the wildlife reserve at Woodcroft and Lancaut, containing the ancient church which also came in her remit.

Shirley Grove, the wooded area between Castleford Hill and Mopla Road which she gave for the use of the people of the parish, is an example of her benevolence.

She was also a very good painter whose landscapes showed both sensitivity and energy, and she was a keen member of Hugh Crowther's art group.

In the early 1990s she encouraged the embryonic Tidenham Historical Group and remained a firm supporter, greatly valuing the parish heritage

She was a rare example of devotion to duty and public service and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

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## Knit it for Yourself, with Chepstow Wool Shop

Chepstow Matters was delighted to meet with Sam Taylor from the Chepstow Wool Shop at her relatively new location in Riflemans Way. Having moved from the top end of town back in the summer, Sam has settled in well to her new shop: "I love the new location" Sam told me, "it's a much nicer unit in a great location, we have friendly interaction with the coffee shop opposite and it definitely feels more cosy here!"

Sam has been running the business for many years; initially starting from home with an on-line shop, Sam took on a unit in Tintern before moving to central Chepstow three and a half years ago. A knitter from just four years of age, there isn't much Sam doesn't know about the craft! Until recent years though she admits that crochet had always alluded her. This challenge now conquered, Sam showed me a fabulous crocheted wedding dress that she has completed from a vintage crochet pattern.

"Knitting and crochet have made a massive resurgence in recent years" Sam told me "Once thought of as the pastime of the retired, there are young people and adults of all ages taking it up again and enjoying making their own items". The Chepstow Wool Shop stocks a wide range of hand-knitting and crochet yarns, from the traditional to the latest fashion trends. She also stocks craft fabric and kits for both children and adults as well as embroidery threads. There are a small number of made-up items, such as baby clothes, available to purchase which Sam has knitted up herself, primarily to show how some of the self-patterning yarns look when made up.

Whilst preferring not to run structured classes herself, Sam is more than happy to help and advise customers with any issues with their knitting that they may be experiencing, and the shop will be hosting Crochet classes run by Jodie, commencing in February with evening and daytime options available. For more information on these or any of the above, pop in to see Sam or give her a call and she will be pleased to help you!



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## Wyedean School Reaches Out

by Jonathan Lane

*"One person cannot change the world, but we can change the world for one person."*

This is the motto of Care and Share Foundation, and words that I heard uttered by John Whatmore, a local representative of the charity.

For a long time, teachers at Wyedean had sought to change the world for schools less fortunate than our own, and in 2008, Care and Share helped to make this possible by facilitating the link between Wyedean and Orungu High school in Northern Uganda. Our work abroad strives to promote internationalism by developing links with foreign schools, thereby broadening the horizons of all involved.

Since 2008, the partnership between Wyedean and Orungu has gone from strength to strength. Our Sixth Form students visit every year, we've embarked on a teacher exchange programme and we've initiated various curriculum projects.

The students at Wyedean have also helped financially: fundraising for water tanks, solar panels and art equipment. However, on their 2015 visit the Sixth Formers were so touched by the plight of Nancy School for the Deaf that they came back brimming with determination to make a difference. The classrooms were bare and very few students had mosquito nets or even mattresses to sleep on.

Prior to Christmas, our students organised a charity 'Christmas Jumper Day' to raise money for some much needed malaria nets. We raised over £600: enough to buy 60 nets for the school. This term we hope to purchase mattresses for the students. Alongside this, we are looking forward to further developing our relationship with Nancy school and working in conjunction with their teachers to help change the world for *their* students.

If you are driven by the same determination to make a difference and to broaden horizons then why not consider Wyedean as your choice of school for A-level study? We are currently accepting applications for September 2016, details of which can be found on our website: <http://www.wyedean.gloucs.sch.uk/>







## Chepstow Male Voice Choir Charity Concert Saturday 27th February

### Update by Stuart Vigus:

After another busy year and Christmas just gone, the choir looks towards 2016. We started the year on January 8th when rehearsals re-commenced at The Dell School, and it was our pleasure to welcome a new chorister to our ranks and to make a start on a new repertoire. Frank Jones our MD, was very keen (as were the choristers) to make a fresh start and get on with the learning of some new pieces.

Depending on our progress, he hopes to incorporate the new ones in our first concert of 2016, which will be for two charities, *"To Kenya with Love"* and *"Genesis Trust"*. Both are new to us so I made contact with one of the organisers, Martyn Enever to ask him to give us some idea of both those charities work.

To Kenya with Love (TKWL) was formed about 25 years ago and as a church (The Bridge Church) they have been actively supporting the charity for 8 years. Both the charities work in the Manyatta area of Kisumu, Kenya.

Manyatta is one of the main slum areas of Kisumu and both aim to provide through-school projects, welfare and support for pupils and their families, a solid standard of education, academic, religious and relevant PSE. The project reaches between 400-500 of the poorest area in the area. The main way both of the charities are funded is by personal sponsorship, mainly from churches in UK.

"The Genesis Project" is the other primary school which is close to Manyatta, and has sponsored pupils who are being educated, medically cared for, and nurtured out of poverty.

**Chepstow Male Voice Choir are proud to be invited to perform a concert for this very deserving charity, which will take place at 7.30.Saturday 27th February at St.Mary's Priory Church Chepstow. Tickets at £10 can be purchased at Chepstow Leisure Centre, Herbert Lewis Dept.store, Chepstow Tourist Information, or choristers.**

Please come along to support the concert, you will be made most welcome. For more information contact: [stuartvigus@aol.com](mailto:stuartvigus@aol.com) or check out their website: [chepstowmvc.co.uk](http://chepstowmvc.co.uk)

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## Hearing Matters: What causes hearing problems?

by Ian Croft FSHAA, Lead Audiologist @ Easi Ear

The answers are many and varied! Over the coming months, I shall attempt to address the many problems that can occur with hearing. However, there are four main areas that concern people on a daily basis.

**Blockages** – The inability to hear well is frequently blamed on a person's ears being blocked by wax deposits. Wax is a perfectly natural phenomenon; it is caused by dead skin cells mixing with sebaceous oils in the ear canal. It can be removed – never by poking with cotton buds or other items – but syringing, irrigation or gentle, dry micro-suction.

**Noise Damage** – This can be caused by a number of factors including exposure to extra loud noise such as shooting or continued exposure as in discos, factories and roadworks. It can be prevented by using custom made active protection.

**Tinnitus** – The name given to any continual or intermittent noises heard in both or either ears. Caused by a number of factors and, though it can't at present be "cured", its symptoms can be assisted.

**Presbycusis** – Probably the most common form of hearing impairment when the mechanism that allows you to hear starts to deteriorate through wearing out caused by age; this process begins after 40 and can be greatly and discreetly improved with modern technology.

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## Wye Valley Music Spring Programme

Wye Valley Music's Spring programme continues in the eclectic style of their Autumn programme on **Saturday 20 February**, in St Briavels Church, with the return of award-winning pianist Mishka Momen, this time accompanied by virtuoso cellist David Waterman.

London born Mishka studied at the Guildhall School of Music with Imogen Cooper and has also received tuition from Alfred Brendel. She has won numerous prizes in the UK and abroad including, in 2013, the Prix Maurice Ravel. David studied at Trinity College Cambridge, where he received his PhD, and in 1979 he became a founder member of the Endellion Quartet, with whom he still plays. He now combines playing with teaching and writing about music. They will be presenting a programme of works ranging from Bach to Dvorak.

On **Saturday 12 March**, also in St Briavels Church, a piano recital will be given by the renowned Israeli pianist Noam Greenberg.

Noam studied at the Rubin Academy in Tel Aviv and at Yale University before moving to London to study with Maria Curcio. In 2001 he attended the world famous International Musicians Seminar at Prussia Cove in Cornwall where he took Master Classes with Andras Schiff. Noam now enjoys a busy international concert schedule as well as teaching and giving Master Classes. He is Artistic Director of the Tresanton Festival, which he founded in 2006. His recital

will be of works by Bach, Brahms, Berg and Schubert.

On **Saturday 23**

**April**, again in St Briavels Church, Wye Valley Music will present a recital given by one of the most exciting classical guitarists of the younger generation, Michael Christian Durrant.

Michael studied classical guitar performance at the Leeds Conservatoire of Music from which he graduated with first-class honours. He subsequently continued his studies at the Royal College of Music, London, with the world-renowned classical guitarist Carlos Bonell. He has also studied privately with Graham Wade and attended public master-classes with many of the world's most famous classical guitarists, including Craig Ogden. In 2011 he won the prize for best string soloist at the Harrogate music festival. His programme at St Briavels will include works by Bach, Mozart, Rodrigo, Albeniz and Sor.

The final event of the spring season will be given on **Saturday 21 May** in the Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir, with a tribute to Piaf and the Hot Club de Paris given by Eve Loiseau (vocals), Fiona Barrow (Violin) and Edward Jay (Accordion).

Eve's passion for Piaf developed at a young age. Coming from a French family of singers in South East France, long summer meals around the family dining table were often rounded off with French chansons. Piaf is inimitable, but Eve's lustrous tone captures the essence of the little sparrow and for this special evening the Mackenzie Hall will take on the atmosphere of a night club, with a cash bar, tables, soft lighting and an included 2-course meal. Advance booking is essential for this event.

**All four concerts begin at 7.30pm.**  
**Booking is now open at [www.wvm.org.uk](http://www.wvm.org.uk) where ticket prices and full details of the programmes can be found.**



## ANGELS IN YOUR LIFE

Across the world, more people are talking about how angels have helped them, or wondering how they might bring them in to their lives. There are references all around us – in books, films, music, and in social media.

Why are we so drawn to angels? Angels can bring hope, direction, support - a different awareness of ourselves - and companionship. When you open yourself to angels, your life can be filled with wonder, love and joy. Protection, guidance, and nurturing are there in abundance – and can flow towards us, to affect all areas of our lives.

Although angels are important in many religions, you do not need to have any particular faith to enjoy finding out what angels have to offer us.

As people become aware of angels, the veil between our world and theirs becomes thinner. Many of us already connect, perhaps without realising it. You don't need to be psychic to experience angelic contact - just open and receptive.

If you already work with angel energies, or would like to know more, come to the Drill Hall in Chepstow, on **Saturday March 12th**.

All are welcome - whether you're just curious or you've already experienced angelic energies. You are also welcome just to come and have a chat with like people over a cup of tea and a slice of cake.

- Intuitive angel readings will be available. These can provide insights and guidance into your life journey, or questions about your life.
- There will be talks, providing more background and information about how angels can support you – and we welcome people to come and share their own stories.
- Stalls will sell beautiful angel products.

Please join us in creating a day that will be fun and light, informative and memorable.

Your hosts are Helen Stott and Andrew Powell, both from Chepstow, who together have over 25 years of experience.

**Further information is available on Facebook, at like 'Angels In Your Life' page.**

## ANGELS IN YOUR LIFE

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10 AM – 4 PM

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- Angel card and intuitive Angel readings
- Tea, coffee and cakes available

For more information contact **Helen Stott** Tel: 07720 782532 Email: [hstott57@gmail.com](mailto:hstott57@gmail.com)



Angels In Your Life





## Wydean students cooking up a storm!

by Kate Lewis, Design Technology Lead

The launch of the level three BTEC hospitality course has been successful and the year twelve students have carried out two pop-up takeaway events; one offering Indian meals and the other Festive Chinese Bento boxes (inset), both of which have been productive, victorious and approved by 50 satisfied customers.

Our year eleven students were pleased to be given the opportunity to cater for Mark Harper's visit and to greet him with high quality patisserie cakes, which were also a success. As afternoon tea has been a large part of our course this term, we have been fortunate enough to visit the Celtic Manor twice with our year ten group. This was extremely beneficial as it allowed the class to expand their knowledge of the not only the food supplied for afternoon tea, but how it is presented and the different tastes that are combined to make it a success. However, the students have not only been given the opportunity to taste and be inspired by different foods; our year twelve students attended a trip to the Celtic Manor for an a la carte meal to study a professional standard of customer service. They have also visited "Cosmos" to get an insight into the style and tastes of Asian foods so that they were comfortable and confident when making their "pop-up" takeaways.

Our year eleven class have recently been to Cardiff to visit the restaurant "Get Fed" in order to research the topic of international cuisine which was also, not only enjoyable, but successful in expanding the children's knowledge and allowing them to gain the experience of trying the different international foods to inspire their cooking skills.

It's been wonderful to see the students thrive not just within the classroom, but out of school time as well.



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## Free Hot Drink for Chepstow Matters Readers at Tiffin Vintage Tea & Coffee House

Chepstow Matters was delighted to catch up once again with Nic Meyrick, owner of the lovely independent coffee shop "Tiffin Vintage Tea & Coffee House" on St Mary's Street.

Business has been growing steadily at Tiffin since it first opened in October 2014. A popular addition at the end of last summer was the opening of the refurbished garden at the back of the shop. A real sun trap, sheltered from the wind and surprisingly peaceful, the garden proved a sought after haven for guests and Nic is looking forward to enjoying this space again with the arrival of the warmer Spring weather.

The private room upstairs is also well utilised by local groups and businesses alike, looking to meet in a private space with excellent refreshments on hand. Just pop in to Tiffin to book or contact Nic via the facebook page 'Tiffin Vintage Tea & Coffee House'.

To tempt you to sample the gorgeous home-made goodies on offer, **Tiffin is offering Chepstow Matters' readers a FREE HOT DRINK with every cake purchased!**

**Be sure to remember to take your magazine with you when you visit! Offer expires 30th April 2016.**

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## Buy To Let Tax Changes will hit Amateur Landlords most

In the July 2015 Budget, Chancellor George Osborne announced that from 2017 he would be clamping down on buy to let landlords by removing the right to claim more than the basic rate tax equivalent in relief for mortgage interest.

Rather than being able to deduct mortgage interest paid from rental income received, thus reducing the property income subject to tax, a maximum of 20% of the mortgage interest will be allowed as an income tax deduction. This will be implemented on a sliding scale over 3 years as follows:

2017/18 - 75% of mortgage interest allowed as deduction, with the remaining 25% as a basic rate reduction

2018/19 - 50% of mortgage interest allowed as deduction, with the remaining 50% as a basic rate reduction

2019/20 - 25% of mortgage interest allowed as deduction, with the remaining 75% as a basic rate reduction

2020/21 onwards – 100% of mortgage interest as a basic rate reduction only

Not only will these changes impact all higher rate tax payers, but they could also mean that those who are currently basic rate tax payers end up paying higher rate tax, even though their income remains the same.

It could also mean that those making losses on their buy to lets could end up paying income tax, or that child benefit is lost for many people.

Companies with rental income will be exempt from the changes, and those who are able to buy properties without a mortgage will also be unaffected, meaning that it is the amateur landlords who will be hit the most.

### Example:

You have employment income of £38,000 a year, and 2 rental properties, with combined income of £15,000 a year and mortgage interest of £10,000 a year, giving you property income profits of

£5,000 a year. You also claim child benefit.

Currently, you pay basic rate tax of £1,000 on the rental profits.



Fast forward to 2020/21 – your taxable profits will be £15,000, which when added to your salary, means your total income is above £50,000 and so you have to start repaying your child benefit. You pay higher rate tax on most of your property income, giving you a tax liability of around £5,000, but can claim a 20% deduction of £2,000, giving you a net tax liability of £3,000

This means that in the space of a few years, your tax bill will have tripled, and you also have to repay child benefit, even though your circumstances have not changed!

The rules about claiming for wear and tear from April 2016 are also meant to be tightened, by only allowing claims for money spent, rather than the annual 10 per cent of rental that's currently allowed automatically. This has been under consultation recently and we let you know the outcome shortly.

If you would like to discuss how these new rules may affect your tax liability please contact Katie:

[katie@bdhc.co.uk](mailto:katie@bdhc.co.uk)

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## Wiltshire Farm Foods launches new campaign led by Fern Britton

Wiltshire Farm Foods, the UK's leading provider of home-delivered frozen ready meals, is launching a new national advertising campaign starring TV personality, Fern Britton. The campaign comprises four new television commercials, and a range of press advertising showcasing the company's various ranges, including their range of **"Nutritious and Delicious"** healthy frozen ready meals.

Brian and Sara Stringer run the Monmouth office for Wiltshire Farm Foods, and said *"It's fantastic to have Fern Britton starring in our advertising. She joined us all at our conference last year, and we were delighted to meet her. Fern has a real passion for our business, and is genuinely interested in the meals themselves, having placed an order herself in order to sample a variety of meals from the range."*

As Fern herself says *"Wiltshire Farm Foods provides an outstanding service that means everyone can enjoy the convenience of a tasty meal, every day."*

That range now includes **"Nutritious and Delicious"**, meals which are less than 400 calories and low in salt and saturated fat, as well as more than 150 gluten free meals. There are also hearty and mini meals, to provide options for a range of appetites, and a broad selection of desserts and cakes.

In total, there are now more than 300 delicious meals available, all cooked fresh then quick frozen to lock the goodness in. What's more, there is free delivery by friendly local drivers from Wiltshire Farm Foods.

For information about Wiltshire Farm Foods, contact your local outlet on 01600 892855 or visit: [wiltshirefarmfoods.com](http://wiltshirefarmfoods.com) and ask for a free brochure.



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**Wiltshire Farm Foods**

# SLS: Helping the Homeless and Vulnerable

Chepstow Matters was delighted to catch up with Claire Day, initiator of the SLS facebook group for helping the homeless, to gain feedback on their campaign for Christmas presents for the homeless. Chepstow Matters was pleased to be able to help promote this fabulous campaign and to also donate some presents too. Initially based in Undy/Magor, the Group started just over a year ago as a pipeline of food and needed items for the Edge Assist Street Life project which feeds the homeless in Bristol every Saturday night. A year on and the Group now supports many more homeless projects this side of the bridge too. Claire gave us the following report:

**"WOW! SLS wants to say a WHOPPING thank you to everyone that has donated to our SLS Christmas present campaign. We aimed to help 8 centres and collect 400 presents, which would double last year's achievement. However, this year a phenomenal 1,288 presents were collected! As a result of this fantastic response we have been able to help a total of 19 centres/projects!"**

*"Thank you to all the work places, clubs and individuals for getting on board, to our members that make SLS so special and to our fantastic depot organisers across 2 hubs. Together we touch many lives positively. Thank you for making this happen. We do not change a life around but we do make those we help smile, make a difference, boost them to tackle another day and show them they are loved, cared for. We have helped to make it a little brighter for them this Christmas."*

## SO WHERE DID ALL THOSE PRESENTS GO?

Here is a list of the centres/projects supported ....

BRYNMAWR - 28 went to Brynmawr night shelter; PONTYPOOL - 20 to the Youth homeless hostel, plus confectionary and toiletry sets; CARDIFF - 51 were delivered to Huggard by Galaxy Cheerleaders and another 50 went to the Shri Tiger Bay Social Club. The Walkabout Project received 20 and the Wallich night shelter and kerbside assistance 20 with a further 65 to the Shri Tiger Bay Social Club. CALDICOT Foodbank - 2. NEWPORT - 60 were delivered to Olive Branch, 17 to Edengate, 35 to the Wallich rough sleepers, 3 to PAC, 123 to Solas Cymru and 115 Lamau. Lions Newport helped provide 50 presents for Newport homeless. BRISTOL - 160 to Street Life via John Berry from SLS Bristol collection, 90 to the churches together Saturday lunch soup run, 13 to the homeless veterans project, a further 100 to Street Life and 100 Wild Goose via John Barnes Bristol barbarians charity rugby club. 155 to Care at Christmas.

Plus toys, presents for children for WIN and GEM. 9 present piles for mothers and children in safe houses. 8 presents piles for Cwmbran leisure centre families in need on 25th December, Chocolate selection boxes 30+ for WIN LAMAU GEM and given with present piles to individual children.



**Chepstow Matters was also pleased to hear from Richard Townsend who runs the Edge Assist Street Life project following their Christmas run on Saturday 12th December:**

*"Wow, what a fantastic evening. A huge thank you to everyone involved! The Edge Church Young Adults provided the music and carol singing. It was superb. It was so encouraging to see all the Edge Church Pastors on the street with their wives and children. Their support over the years has been central to all we do for the homeless. We had well over a hundred guests on Saturday night, who came for food and clothing and who also received a Christmas present. 9 year old Faith Mildren had fundraised in order to provide Christmas presents for homeless women. Five of the Bristol Barbarian's rugby team also turned up to help serve. Some of them gave our Christmas presents out, alongside Faith."*

*THANK YOU to everyone who donated Christmas presents and to all those working behind the scenes to provide food and clothing every week. Your great kindness and love is very much appreciated by all!"*

## The work doesn't stop at Christmas however!

As I sit and write this, temperatures have plummeted and SLS recently put out a plea for more flasks, thermal cups and warm clothing. Chepstow Matters was pleased to be able to go shopping to help: I felt the temperature drop under my duvet, in my warm bed; I can't imagine how cold it must be sleeping outside on the concrete.



So do keep seeking out those blankets, warm footwear, socks/underwear, sleeping bags, roll mats, flasks, torches, waterproof coats, joggers, jeans and rucksacks. There are people out there who need them desperately!

**email: [sls.homeless@gmail.com](mailto:sls.homeless@gmail.com) for more information on how you can help.**

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Photo courtesy of Paul Johnson at [www.pixelsintime.co.uk](http://www.pixelsintime.co.uk)



## Castell Roc 2016

**Plans for Castell Roc 2016 are well underway and once again will run for 10 evenings on the last 2 weekends of August inside the stunning grounds of Chepstow Castle.**

The 2015 event brought headline acts to the Castle, such as The Levellers, Blue, Bellowhead, as well as a whole host of top tribute acts ... And the 2016 event looks to be just as exciting !

Dates run from Thursday 18th-Monday 22nd and Thursday 25th-Monday 29th August, with a host of acts to suit the whole family.

Over the coming weeks the complete line will be revealed, but the organizers would like to reveal just 2 of the acts which will be returning for 2016, one of which last appeared in the Castle in 2010!

Back by popular demand is 'The Ukulele Orchestra Of Great Britain'!! Ever since their appearance in 2010, we have been inundated with requests to bring them back and we are thrilled they have decided to return for 2016.

Last year they allocated 30 plucking years of ukulele action, this year they will have have been active for one billion seconds and Castell Roc are happy to be part of that action and part of their 'GIGSASECOND TOUR'.

The only other act making a return for 2016 has become a firm favourite to Castell Roc, always playing to sell out performances is 'The Bohemians' - the most amazing tribute act to the late great Freddie Mercury .

***All other acts will be appearing at Castell Roc for the very first time!***

Over the coming issues of Chepstow Matters magazine, we will reveal the full line up for Castell Roc 2016, with tickets going on sale for all events as soon as they are announced.

After some sold out performances in 2015, organizers have decided to cut down on audience figures, so there will not be as many tickets available for each 2016 concert - so don't leave it too late to book your tickets, you might end up disappointed!

Tickets for The Ukulele Orchestra on Sunday 28th August at £24, and The Bohemians on Thursday 25th August at £15, are now on sale at Hannah's Music Chepstow or online at [www.castellroc.co.uk](http://www.castellroc.co.uk).

Check out [www.castellroc.co.uk](http://www.castellroc.co.uk) for more information and to grab yourself some tickets.

And keep an eye out for the next acts to be revealed over the coming issues!

## Finalists Selected for FameLab Academy 2016

Just prior to Christmas Wydean School launched its FameLab Academy 2016, with the winning student destined to compete in the countywide final organised by The Times Cheltenham Science Festival.

FameLab Academy is a competition for Year 9 students in Gloucestershire, sponsored by EDF Energy. Students have just three minutes to explain a scientific topic in a dynamic and engaging way to a panel of judges who will adjudicate the presentations based on their content, clarity and charisma.

Year 9 students have been preparing their talks in science lessons and practising throughout January ready for the school final due to take place on 3rd February.

FameLab Academy is a sister competition to Cheltenham Festivals' FameLab, the world's leading science communication competition, which discovers and promotes the best new voices in science, technology and engineering.

Each FameLab Academy school is matched with a STEM Mentor from either a local supporting business or a previous competitor from the FameLab UL competition who will visit the school and work with students. The winner from each school receives a Master Class in communication training at the University of Gloucester, a work placement in a local STEM company and entry into the county final at EDF Barnwood, Gloucester.

Every participating student has the opportunity to achieve a British Science Association CREST Bronze Award and will learn about potential



Photo shows from left to right John Drew (mentor), Finalists: Henry Williams, Bethany Garland, Jack McGilvray and Science teacher Chris Jones

careers in the STEM industry. The FameLab Academy heats are judged by one member of Cheltenham Festival staff and two professional scientists.

Ali Mawle, Education Director at Cheltenham Festivals, said: "At least 1000 students across Gloucestershire will take part in this year's competition, which blows open the walls of the classroom. Instead of starting with the curriculum, FameLab Academy starts with the student; they decide what to research and what to talk about."

The relationships formed between the schools and the STEM professionals and STEM companies continue to flourish once FameLab Academy has finished for the year.

David Akers, Human Resources Director at EDF Energy said: "FameLab Academy is a great thing to be part of. It's great for imagination and it's great to see so many young people inspired to participate as science and engineering are fundamental to everyday life."

# CHEPSTOW RACING & EVENTS

## Forthcoming Events:

Saturday 27th February is our new Winter Ladies Day featuring live music from Michael Buble and Olly Murs tribute acts, fashion shows, and best dressed lady and best dressed man prizes. We'll be joined by Heart FM's Jagger & Woody on the day, what could possibly go wrong!

We're delighted to have recently launched our two Music Nights for 2016:

Will Young joins us live after racing on Saturday 21st May. Will is one of the most popular solo artists in the UK, he has sold over eight million albums worldwide and has had four UK no.1 albums.

On Friday 10th June we will be joined by legendary soul band Simply Red. After more than 30 years in the music industry, Simply Red will bring their soul band to Chepstow Racecourse. With album sales of over 50 million, Simply Red are to continue their Big Love tour and perform all of their classic hits. Admission tickets and hospitality packages are available now.

More details can be found on our website [www.chepstowracecourse.co.uk](http://www.chepstowracecourse.co.uk).





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[www.dangraceaerials.co.uk](http://www.dangraceaerials.co.uk)



**FIND US ON FACEBOOK:**  
**Chepstow Matters - Facebook/ChepstowMatters**



## Charity Urges Couples to Start the Year Talking Money

Money and relationships are famed for starting rows but a local debt counselling agency is recommending Chepstow residents get talking about finances early in 2016.

Christians Against Poverty says having "the money conversation" with a partner can be one of the hardest things to do but it is a move that can really change your year ahead.

Isobel Mead, Centre Manager of the Chepstow & District CAP branch said: *"I see people who have fallen into crisis debt every week and I can tell you it is crucial for your health and happiness in 2016 that you have a reality check of your finances as soon as you can in this New Year."*

*"It might be nerve wracking to bring those bank statements out into the open but until you both know what's happening, you can't start to tackle it. Working at your finances together, setting goals together and resolving to sort things can be an amazing step forward for the whole family."*

The Money Advice Service found in a poll of more than 2,000 UK adults that nearly half (45%) weren't always honest with their partner about finances while a quarter were lying about spending.

Christians Against Poverty's latest research shows three in four debt clients said their situation had caused arguments while nearly a quarter (23%) said debt directly led to their relationship breaking down – so the stakes are high.

CAP's top tips for having "the money conversation" are:

1. Pick your time when things are quiet at home and no one is dealing with any immediate stresses.
2. Avoid the conversation when the children are around, your mum-in-law is visiting or a big bill has just landed.
3. Agree that you want to make it a year when you get on top of finances together and that the money conversation isn't about blaming anyone.

4. Acknowledge that money management can be hard, especially when stressed, or if you're on a low income. Mistakes may have been made but this is about looking forward.
5. Remember your attitudes to money might be very different. Past experiences can shape these but you can play to each other's strengths.
6. Decide on a shared goal you want to aim for, like a day out, a holiday or a new car or just a "getting back in the black" celebration. This will happen twice as fast if you're in it together.
7. Use one of the many online tools – or book into one of the hundreds of free CAP Money Courses – to begin to build your budget.
8. If you have debts, don't delay in getting help from a free debt counselling agency like Christians Against Poverty, Stepchange, National Debtline, Citizens Advice, Payplan, the Money Advice Service or, if you're self employed, Business Debtline.
9. Make payday the day you review how it's all going and make adjustments to the budget where necessary.
10. Avoid credit wherever possible and begin to save as soon as you can, even if it is a small regular amount.

**To find out more about CAP see [capuk.org](http://capuk.org) or call 0800 328 0006.**

They also run free money management courses to help you budget those bills and save for the future.

**The next course in Chepstow starts on Monday 15th February @ Unit 2A Critchcraft Building, Bulwark Trading Estate, Chepstow, NP16 5QZ.**

**Visit [www.capmoneycourse.org](http://www.capmoneycourse.org) to register for a place or call Isobel Mead on 07539 477286**



**Thermotech** is a family run business based in Chepstow garden centre that installs the very best in made to measure windows, doors, conservatories and orangeries amongst other home improvements.

2016 is an exciting year for Thermotech with a refurbished showroom, displaying many of the products we install. Karl's wife Emma has also joined the business due to its continued growth. Emma will be on board to market the Thermotech brand and to ensure the customer receives the same high quality service every time.

In 2016 the showroom will display our replacement solid tiled roof product which is proving very popular with people who want to update their tired old conservatories into a modern sunroom. We have also extended our product range to include stylish Aluminium bifold doors and windows, which we have on display at the showroom.

We encourage you to visit us at Chepstow Garden Centre to take a look at what we can offer you! We also have a new mobile friendly interactive website for you to browse through. It has all the information you need about the products we install including photos of our work and our customer reviews. We also encourage you to like us on our facebook page Thermotech upvc products ltd and follow us on twitter @thermotechupvc for all the latest Thermotech news and offers available.

We look forward to seeing you in 2016.



## Burnt Barn Community (Sports) & Social Club

Burnt Barn Road, Chepstow, Monmouthshire NP16 5AR

**Club activities**  
 Mon - Crib/Skittles/Bingo  
 Tues - Club members tote prizes to £3000  
 Wed - Men's Darts incl Gwent Super League  
 Thurs - Mencap till 9pm, Ladies Darts  
 Fri - Family night (incl children) Thrift Club • Men's Darts  
 Sat - Function room available for hire  
 Sun - Pool league

**The Club has Free WiFi**

**Email: [beckett012@btinternet.com](mailto:beckett012@btinternet.com)  
 T: 01291 629020 / M: 07850 534 370  
[www.burntbarnclub.co.uk](http://www.burntbarnclub.co.uk)**

### Club Associates

Little Acorns Playgroup, 9am Mon - Fri.  
 Contact Rachel 07951 969 043  
 Tues - Slimming World  
 Wed - Weight Watchers  
 Thurs - Kung Foo Club  
 Weekly - Mike's Joyriders - Motorcycle Training to test level.  
 Call Mike 015945 17037

**Large function hall available for hire for all types of parties.**

**Room is available for hire Mon - Fri afternoons after 1pm, Fri nights, Sat & Sun all day & evening.**

**Resident disco and catering available.**

**Opening Times**  
 Sat: 2.30pm - 12am  
 Sun: 12pm - 12am  
 Mon-Thurs: 7pm - 11.30pm  
 Fri: 7pm - 12am





## Local Clubs, Groups & Community Organisations in and around Chepstow

### CHEPSTOW COMMUNITY LISTINGS

**Chepstow Castle** Bridge Street, Chepstow, NP16 5EZ 01291 624065

**Chepstow Library** Manor Way, Chepstow, NP16 5HZ 01291 635730 [chepstowlibrary@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:chepstowlibrary@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

**Chepstow Museum** Bridge Street, Chepstow 01291 625981

**Chepstow Town Council** The Town Council Offices, The Gatehouse, High Street, Chepstow, NP16 5LH 01291 626370 [clerk@chepstow.co.uk](mailto:clerk@chepstow.co.uk)

**Chepstow Tourist Information Centre** Castle Car Park, Bridge Street, Chepstow NP16 5EY. 01291 623772 [chepstow.tic@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:chepstow.tic@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

#### Community Centres

Palmer Community Centre, Cormeilles Square, High Street, Chepstow, NP16 5LH 01291 628725 main hall and lounge available for hire, Tea Rooms open for all!

The Drill Hall, Lower Church Street, Chepstow, NP16 5HJ Hall available for hire including weddings 01291 628552 or e-mail Mike at [ctcdrillhall@aol.com](mailto:ctcdrillhall@aol.com)

Bulwark Community Centre, Laburnam Way, Bulwark, Chepstow, NP16 5RF 01291 624138 [bccbulwark@btconnect.com](mailto:bccbulwark@btconnect.com) Large Hall, seminar room, café, kitchen and garden area.

#### Doctors Surgeries and Community Hospital

Chepstow Community Hospital, Tempest Way, Chepstow, NP16 5YX 01291 636636

Town Gate Practice, Tempest Way, Chepstow, NP16 5XP 01291 636444

Mount Pleasant Practice, Tempest Way, Chepstow NP16 5XR 01291 636500

Vauxhall Surgery Vauxhall Lane, Chepstow, NP16 5PZ 01291 636100

**Police Station** 14 Moor Street, Chepstow, NP16 5XW 01633 838111

### LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

**Baby Rhyme Time and Under Fives Story Time** at Chepstow library 01291 635730 Rhyme Time Thurs 2.15-2.45 Story Time Fri 10.15-10.45

**Bingo** Wednesdays 2pm Palmers Community Centre

**Bulwark Senior Citizens Club** Contact Joan Johnson 01291 623352 various social trips and get togethers. Bingo Thurs and Sat 2-4pm and Whist on Wed 2-4pm.

**CHAOS Music and Drama** [chaosinchepstow@live.co.uk](mailto:chaosinchepstow@live.co.uk) Jon Stow 07926 584 661

**Chepstow Archaeological Society** [www.chepstow.org.uk](http://www.chepstow.org.uk) 1st Thursday of the month 7.30 Chepstow Conservative Club

**Chepstow (Archway) Bridge Club** meets Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursday at the Palmer Centre, 7-10pm <http://chepstowarchwaybc.org.uk> or call Pete on 01291 - 627599 for more information.

**Chepstow Carers Group** Scout Hut, off Pembroke Road, Bulwark first Wed of the month 10-12 [chepstowcarers@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chepstowcarers@yahoo.co.uk) 07592 503757

**Chepstow Choral Society** [www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk) [info@chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk) Wed 7.30 Chepstow Leisure Centre

**Chepstow Community Big Band** Meets on Wednesday evenings during term time at Wydean School NP16 7AA 6pm – Microjazz Training Band; 7pm - Swingcopation Big Band. <http://chepstowcommunitybigband.weebly.com>

**Chepstow Cormeilles Twinning Association** [www.chepstowtwinning.wordpress.com](http://www.chepstowtwinning.wordpress.com)

**Chepstow and District Amateur Radio Society** [www.gw4lwz.org.uk](http://www.gw4lwz.org.uk) contact James Hewitt [chairman@gw4lwz.com](mailto:chairman@gw4lwz.com), meet at Chepstow Athletic Club

**Chepstow and District Gardening Club** Caroline Duchet [cdgclub@gmail.com](mailto:cdgclub@gmail.com)

**Chepstow and District Lions** [www.caldicot.com/lions](http://www.caldicot.com/lions) 0845 8339565

**Chepstow Hill Walking Club** an informal group of people of all ages who like to walk on the hills and moorland. [www.chwc.org.uk](http://www.chwc.org.uk)

**Chepstow Jubilee Townswomen's Guild** meets at Chepstow Leisure Centre on the 1st Wednesday of each Month. Contact: Maureen Dale 01291 623257

**Chepstow Knitters** first and third Monday of the month Chepstow Methodist Hall 7.30-9.30 and third Wednesday 10-12. Contact Margaret Payne 01291 630580

**Chepstow Male Voice Choir** [www.chepstowmvc.co.uk](http://www.chepstowmvc.co.uk) Mon & Thurs 7pm The Dell School contact Stuart Vigus on 01291 626566 / 07733 804317 or [stuartvigus@aol.com](mailto:stuartvigus@aol.com).

**Chepstow Photographic Club** [www.chepstowps.org](http://www.chepstowps.org) [admin@chepstowps.org](mailto:admin@chepstowps.org)

**Chepstow Probus Club** fortnightly meetings for retired business gentleman Tel: Barry Catlin 01291 620891

**Chepstow Round Table** [www.chepstow.rountable.co.uk](http://www.chepstow.rountable.co.uk) community voluntary organisation for men aged 18-44. 'find them at Facebook/Chepstow Round Table'

**Chepstow Society** local group exploring history and developments of town, meet each month in Drill Hall. [www.chepstowsociety.co.uk](http://www.chepstowsociety.co.uk) Secretary is Henry Hodges, Tel 01291 625865.

**Chepstow Town Band** meet Sundays 6.30-8.30 at Bulwark Community Centre, contact Alen Lane 01291 629580

**Chepstow Womens Institute (WI)** [www.thewi.org.uk](http://www.thewi.org.uk) Shirenewton, St Arvans and Tidenham

On these pages we have tried to collate many of the non-profit making groups, clubs and organisations that regularly meet in the area, along with Church and School information. If we have got your details wrong, or missed out your club completely, please contact us on **[community@mattersmagazines.co.uk](mailto:community@mattersmagazines.co.uk)** and we shall do our best to put it right for you!

**Chepstow Group of Gwent Wildlife Trust** Contact Hilary Lee 01291 689326 [hilary-lee@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hilary-lee@tiscali.co.uk)

**ComBat Communities of Bulwark and Thornwell**, community group Chairman Ric Hayes [ric.hayes@talktalk.net](mailto:ric.hayes@talktalk.net)

**Library Friends Group** aims to support and promote the library through a variety of activities. Please contact 01291 635730 for more info.

**Lower Wye Ramblers Sunday Walks** (meet CLC) [www.lowerwyeramblers.org.uk](http://www.lowerwyeramblers.org.uk) 01291 637416

**Movie Night** at Bulwak Community Centre and St Arvans Memorial Hall see [www.monmouthshiremobilie.movies.co.uk](http://www.monmouthshiremobilie.movies.co.uk)

**Musical Youth Theatre** [www.cmyt.org](http://www.cmyt.org) Chepstow Baptist Church Tues and Thurs

**Pottery** Thursdays 7-9 Chepstow Comp School Cathy 07917 261511 [www.monmouthshirepotters.org](http://www.monmouthshirepotters.org) hello@monmouthshirepotters.org.uk

**Rotary Club of Chepstow and District** [www.chepstowrotary.org.uk](http://www.chepstowrotary.org.uk)

**Royal British Legion Chepstow Branch** meets at the Beaufort Hotel in Chepstow monthly on 4th Tuesday at 7.30 pm. Contact Tom Moran on 01291 477266 [tmoran@btinternet.com](mailto:tmoran@btinternet.com).

**Royal Naval Association Chepstow Branch** meets at the Conservative Club, Welsh Street monthly on 2nd Thursday (except August) at 8.00 pm Contact Ken Davies on 01291 621485 [kendavies131@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kendavies131@yahoo.co.uk)

**The Singing Club** for anyone who wants to sing [www.singingclubber.co.uk](http://www.singingclubber.co.uk) Karl@operaplayhouse.com

**University 3rd Age U3A** [www.u3asites.org.uk](http://www.u3asites.org.uk) wide variety of activities, contact Teresa Davies Membership Secretary 01594 529597

**Wye Cross Stitch Club** meets the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. 7.30pm to 10pm Sedbury Village Hall. A warm welcome to any fellow cross stitchers/embroiderers. Contact: Elaine Moore 01291 629666

**Wye Valley Railway Society** - for all model engineering enthusiasts, we run miniature trains at Tintern Old Station from Easter to September, on Bank Holidays and the last Sunday of the month. Contact Peter Kenington [peter@trap-farm.freesevice.co.uk](mailto:peter@trap-farm.freesevice.co.uk)

### CHURCHES

[www.chepstowchurchestogether.org.uk](http://www.chepstowchurchestogether.org.uk)

**Chepstow Methodist Church**, Albion Square, Chepstow, NP16 5DA 01291 627014 [www.chepstowmethodist.org.uk](http://www.chepstowmethodist.org.uk)

**St Marys Priory**, The Vicarage, Mount Way, Chepstow NP16 5NF Father Chris Blanchard 01291 620980 [www.chepstowpriory.org](http://www.chepstowpriory.org)

**St Christophers**, Bulwark, (linked to St Marys) [www.chepstowpriory.org](http://www.chepstowpriory.org)

**Chepstow Baptist Church**, Lower Church Street, Chepstow, NP16 5HJ 01291 622987 [chepstowbaptist.org.uk](http://chepstowbaptist.org.uk)

**St Marys Catholic Presbytery Church**, Bulwark Road, Chepstow, NP16 5JE 01291 622649 [admin@stmarysrcchepstow.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysrcchepstow.org.uk) [www.stmarysrcchepstow.org.uk](http://www.stmarysrcchepstow.org.uk)

**St Luke's Church**, Coleford Road, Tutshill NP16 7PT 01291 624868 [www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk)

**Stroat Evangelical Church**, Gloucester Road, Stroat, Chepstow, NP16 7LR 01594 529209 [pastor@stroatchurch.org.uk](mailto:pastor@stroatchurch.org.uk) [www.stroatchurch.org.uk](http://www.stroatchurch.org.uk)

**The Bridge Pentecostal Church**, Unit 1A Critchcraft Buildings, Bulwark Road NP16 5QZ 07943 851799 [thebridgechurchchepstow@gmail.com](mailto:thebridgechurchchepstow@gmail.com)

**Victory Church**, Palmer Community Centre, High Street, Chepstow, NP16 5LH 0845 4092449 [www.victorychurch.co.uk](http://www.victorychurch.co.uk)

### BABY AND TODDLER GROUPS

**Chepstow Leisure Centre Playgroup.** Contact: Karen Isaac 01291 623392 [karenisaac61@aol.com](mailto:karenisaac61@aol.com)

**Chepstow Methodist Church Parent and Toddler Groups** mornings 10am term time [www.chepstowmethodist.org.uk](http://www.chepstowmethodist.org.uk)

**Cylch Ti A Fi Cas-Gwent** Chepstow Library contact Mai Jones [mai.jones@meithrin.co.uk](mailto:mai.jones@meithrin.co.uk) Tuesdays 10.15-11.15

**Devauden Mother and Toddlers**, Devauden Village Hall contact sarah\_trim@rocketmail.com Mondays 10-12 including holidays, babies to school age

**Mini Acorns Toddler Group**, Burnt Barn Club, Burnt Barn Road, Bulwark. Contact Rachel Llewellyn-Bennett 07904212135 [acornsplaygroup@aol.com](mailto:acornsplaygroup@aol.com) Tuesdays term time 1-3pm.

**Parent and Toddler Time at Whirlikidz** Unit 2, School Hill Business Centre, 01291 628700 Mondays 10-12 term time

**Shirenewton Parent and Toddler** Shirenewton Recreation Hall, contact Paula Siddall [p.pimmer10@btinternet.com](mailto:p.pimmer10@btinternet.com) every Thurs 1.30-3pm

**St Arvans Baby and Toddler** St Arvans Memorial Hall contact Sabrina 07701027313 [sabrinaortner@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sabrinaortner@yahoo.co.uk) every Wed 10-12.

**St Christophers Under Fives and Familys** St Christophers Church, Bulwark contact Babs Middleton 07594172720 [babsmiddleton80@gmail.com](mailto:babsmiddleton80@gmail.com) Wed 3.45 term time, all age siblings welcome FREE



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## Local Clubs, Groups & Community Organisations in and around Chepstow continued

### NURSERIES / PRESCHOOLS

Bluebells Playgroup Fairfield Road, Chepstow 01291 628908  
bluebellspg@outlook.com

Little Acorns Playgroup Burnt Barn Road, Chepstow 01291  
628031 www.littleacornspg.co.uk

Little Scamps Pre-School and Nursery Beachley Barracks,  
Chepstow Nicky Morgan 01291 645381

Penguins Pre-School, c/o Offas Mead Academy, Beachley  
Road, Sedbury NP16 7DT Michelle 07923548584

Shirenewton Playgroup contact Beverly Lindsay, Playgroup  
Supervisor 07881 480764, email: shirenewtonplaygroup@  
gmail.com

Tutshill Community Pre-School Debra Hockin 01291 629134  
www.tutshillpreschool.org.uk tutshillpreschool@talktalk.net

### PRIMARY SCHOOLS

(The) Dell Primary Steve King, Headteacher, Welsh Street,  
Chepstow NP16 5UQ 01291 635641 thedellprimary@  
monmouthshire.gov.uk  
www.dell.monmouthshire.sch.uk

Offa's Mead Academy Mrs Clare Greene Beachley Road,  
Sedbury, Chepstow NP16 7DT 01291 622932  
www.offasmeadacademy.org contactus@  
offasmeadacademy.org

Pembroke Primary School Mr G Keeble, Headteacher,  
Fairfield Road, Bulwark, Chepstow NP16 5JN 01291 622310  
pembrokeprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk  
www.pembrokeprimaryschool.co.uk

Shirenewton Primary School Mrs J Edwards, Headteacher,  
Shirenewton, Chepstow, NP16 6RN, 01291 641774  
shirenewtonprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk

St Marys RC Primary School (Voluntary Aided) Mr M  
Gorrell, Headteacher, Bulwark Road, Chepstow NP16 5JE,  
01291 623006 stmarysprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Thornwell Primary and Nursery Unit Mrs L Davies,  
Headteacher, Thornwell Road, Bulwark, Chepstow, NP16 5NT  
01291 623390 thornwellprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Tutshill C of E Primary School, Jenny Lane, Head Teacher  
Coleford Rd, Tutshill, Chepstow NP16 7BJ 01291 622593  
admin@tutshillcofe.gloucs.sch.uk

### SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Chepstow School Ms Claire Price, Headteacher, Welsh  
Street, Chepstow, NP16 5LR 01291 635777 info@  
chepstowschool.net, www.chepstowschool.net

Mounton House Special School Mr P Absalom, Headteacher  
and enrolment contact Pwllmeyric, Chepstow, NP16 6LA,  
01291 635642 mountonhouse@monmouthshire.gov.uk  
www.mountonhouse.org.uk/

Wydean School Headteacher Clive Pemberton Beachley  
Road, Sedbury NP16 7AA 01291 625340 www.wydean.  
gloucs.sch.uk

### SPORTS CLUBS

Archery – St Kingsmark Bowmen www.st-kingsmark.co.uk  
Wed & Fri 7pm Chepstow Athletics Club

Chepstow Amateur Boxing Club www.welshboxing.org  
Stephen Woods 07793 047 941

Chepstow Athletics Club (Sports and Social Club) www.  
chepstowathleticac.co.uk Tony and Shirley Hardy 01291  
622126

Chepstow Badminton Club www.gwentbadminton.co.uk  
Tues 8-10 Leisure Centre contact Miss P Jenkins 01291  
624438

Chepstow Boat Club www.chepstowboatclub.co.uk Christine  
Norman 01291 624897  
secretary@chepstowboatclub.co.uk

Chepstow Bowling Club www.chepstowbowlingclub.co.uk  
Peter Shapland 01291 422208

Chepstow Cricket Club www.chepstow.play-cricket.com  
markbirch1228@hotmail.com 01291 622126

Chepstow Darts League contact Nigel Wright 07905681589  
nigel64.nw@gmail.com

Chepstow & District Yacht Club www.cdyc.co.uk Roger  
Nasey 07968495124

Chepstow Folk Dance Club Wednesday 7.30 Beaufort Hotel  
01291 641537

Chepstow Harriers Running Club  
www.chepstowharriers.org.uk Tues and Thurs 7pm Leisure  
Centre

Chepstow Ladies Hockey www.pitchero.com/clubs/  
chepstowladieshockeyclub Pat Morris 01291 621498

Chepstow Mountain Biking www.chepstowmtb.co.uk  
chepstowmtb@tiscali.co.uk

Chepstow Rugby Club www.chepstowrfc@mywru.co.uk  
01291 624818 email: chepstowrfc@outlook.com

Chepstow Swimming Club www.swimchepstow.org.uk  
info@swimchepstow.org.uk contact Elizabeth Wixcey 01291  
641216

Chepstow Tennis Club www.chepstowtennisclub.co.uk,  
admin@chepstowtennisclub.co.uk contact Ian Russell 01633  
400957 meet at Chepstow Athletics Club

#### Football:

Chepstow Athletic Football Club www.clubwebsite.co.uk/  
chepstowathletic

Chepstow Town Football Club www.chepstowtownfc.com

Chepstow Garden City Junior Football Club www.  
gardencityjfc.com

Thornwell Red and White Football Club www.teamstats.  
net/thornwellfc

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## Gardening Matters: Brought to you by Chepstow Garden Centre

It may be chilly outside – but that's all the more  
reason to wrap up warm and enjoy a bright, crisp  
winter's day in the garden. Here are some of the  
jobs you can be getting on with...

**Ornamental garden:** Plant low box hedging for  
an elegant formal edging to parterres and knot  
gardens, spacing plants about 20cm apart.

Buy in summer bulbs such as cannas and gladioli  
to grow on indoors for now - they're a highlight of  
the summer garden.

Fill gaps in your spring display with ready-potted  
snowdrops, daffodils and muscari from the garden  
centre.

Remove old leaves from hellebores to make the  
flowers more visible as they emerge and prevent  
disease.

**Kitchen garden:** Stock up on seed potatoes  
from our garden centre here in Chepstow, then  
'chit' them in egg trays till it's time to plant. Place  
somewhere bright and frost-free to sprout.

Pot up onion sets in roomy modules to grow on  
under cover until March when you can plant them  
out as sturdy seedlings.

Grow microgreens on your windowsills: sow  
radishes, peas, chard or kale thickly on damp  
kitchen paper and snip into salads at 5cm high.

Prune grape vines while they're still dormant,  
cutting back the side shoots to within one or two  
buds of the main stem.

Force rhubarb by covering the crowns with an  
upside down black dustbin or large plant pot with  
the holes blocked for long, slender, sweet stems  
within about eight weeks.

#### Add lime your soil if it's a little too acidic:

This will help keep your crops healthy and avoid  
disease. You can find out how acidic your soil is  
using an inexpensive soil testing kit. Your soil can  
change from year to year, so test regularly.

Acidic soil is a particular problem as brassicas  
hate it and sulk, or worse, develop clubroot. So if  
your soil's pH is less than 7, tip the balance back  
in favour of your cabbages by liming. This is best  
done as early as possible, as it takes up to six  
months to have an effect.



You can find testing kits and treatments at the  
garden centre, including dolomitic limestone,  
calcified seaweed and garden lime which will all  
raise the pH of your soil. Follow the instructions  
on the packet: you shouldn't increase your soil  
pH by more than 0.5 each year, so don't add too  
much!

**Build a composting area** in a corner of your  
garden and you'll never regret it. In goes kitchen  
peelings, garden prunings and autumn leaves; out  
comes lovely, crumbly black gold, rich and ready  
to spread on the garden to feed your plants.

Once you get into composting, one bin just isn't  
enough: three is the ideal (one to fill, one to  
rot and one to use), then there's leafmould to  
make, and a green cone and wormery for kitchen  
scraps. You'll find a fantastic range of composting  
equipment in our garden centre here in Chepstow,  
so come in and have a browse.

Setting aside part of your garden as a purpose-  
built compost area makes it easy to screen off  
with trellis, and very efficient: keeping everything  
in a simple square means you have plenty of  
room for wheelbarrows and, if you pave it, it's  
much easier to keep clean.

For more seasonal tips, visit <http://www.chepstowgardencentre.co.uk/news> or pop into  
the Garden Centre and ask - a member of staff  
will be pleased to help you!

**CHEPSTOW**   
**Garden Centre**

WINTER OPENING HOURS:

MON-SAT 9am-5pm SUN 10.30am-4.30pm



Let people know you saw them in Chepstow Matters!



# Community Noticeboard

to promote your non-profit making event for FREE  
email  
community@mattersmagazines.co.uk

**Opening Saturday 6th February**  
(throughout February),  
new exhibition at  
Chepstow Museum, Bridge Street  
Open Mon-Sat 11-4, Sun 2-4,  
Admission free

**The Hidden Presence Project,**  
showcasing the work produced by  
creative media artist Eva Sajovic working  
with local schools and young people  
to explore issues raised in the context  
of contemporary society, by the life of  
Nathaniel Wells son of a plantation owner  
and one of his enslaved African women on  
St Kitts in 18th century who became owner  
of the prestigious Piercefield estate and  
Britain's first black Sheriff

## The Chepstow Society

Monthly meetings in the Drill Hall,  
Lower Church Street  
Members £1, non-members £2

Wednesday 17 February  
Ray Wilson, "Sharpness Docks"

Wednesday 16 March  
John Putley, "Stand and Deliver"

Wednesday 20 April  
Chris Witts, "Life on the Severn"

**DROP IN TIMES at the Chepstow  
and Caldicot Citizens Advice offices:**

Caldicot, 5a Church Street: Open Monday and Thursday  
10.00am to 12.00pm; Tuesday and Wednesday 10.00am to  
1.00pm; Friday CLOSED

Chepstow, The Gate House, High Street : Daily 10.00am -  
3.00pm except Thursday CLOSED

**Tuesday 23 February**  
8.30am departure  
from Chepstow Castle Car Park

**Monmouthshire Museums'**  
**Coach Trip to Greenwich,**

special guided tour by Curator James Davey  
of 'Nelson, Navy, Nation' gallery,

Tea/coffee pastry, + free time. Return 8pm.  
Cost £35

To book tel Chepstow Museum 01291 625981

## School Production Beauty and the Beast

Presented by Chepstow School  
Tuesday 9th February  
Wednesday 10th February  
Thursday 11th February 2016

*Tickets available  
from the School Reception.*

Email karenroberts@chepstowschool.net  
/ 01291 635777. Adult £8, Concessions £6,  
Family ticket £24 (2 adults, 2 children),

**Devauden Cross  
Country Races  
Bank Holiday  
Monday 2nd May  
2016**

see www.devauden.  
org.uk/races  
for more information

The next meeting of the  
**Tintern Philosophy Circle**  
will be

Tuesday 16th February at 7.30pm  
at the Rose & Crown, Tintern.

**'Animal Rights'**  
with speaker  
Prof John Clarke

New members welcome!

Gwent Wildlife Trust,  
Chepstow Group

Wednesday 17th February 7.30 pm  
Chepstow Leisure Centre

**"Eels in Crisis"**

an illustrated talk by Andrew Kerr

Admission GWT members £2,  
non-members £3

**Thursday 18th February 2-4pm**

Chepstow Museum's popular  
**drop-in-and-make craft**  
**afternoon at the Drill Hall** suitable  
for children of all ages, must be  
accompanied by an adult.

**Walking for Health**

Every Thursday at 10am

from Cafe Twenty2, Beachley Road,  
Sedbury NP16 7AA

Various walks may be along Offa's Dyke Path or local  
footpaths depending on the weather & walkers'  
abilities. It has slight inclines in places but you can  
walk at your own pace, returning when you are  
ready. We walk for up to an hour arriving back at  
Cafe Twenty2 for refreshments.

Why not join us and give it a go?

Ring Sue on 01292 629821

www.walkingforhealth.org.uk

**Devauden Table Tennis**  
Every FRIDAY from 7pm

All Ages Welcome

Coaching Available

£3 adults or £1 under 16s

Contact John Brooks (Tel: 01291 650205)  
or John Rowlands (Tel: 01291 650846)  
for more information

**Lydney & Severnside Flower Club**  
Professional Demonstrations

at Town Hall, Lydney,  
Every second Monday in the month at  
7.15pm

Tel. 01594 860578

**Chepstow Library - Opening Hours**  
Mon 8.45am-5.15pm  
Tues 8.45am-7pm  
Weds 8.45-5.15pm  
Thurs 8.45-5.15pm  
Fri 8.45-5.15pm  
Sat 9.00am-1.00pm

## Fewer Emergencies

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the  
**weird sisters.**  
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Stephanie Goodfellow  
Alien Nicol  
www.wcs.theatre.com

**Saturday  
February 20th**  
in  
**Devauden Village Hall**

Adult only tickets £15.00 each can

be purchased from the Village Shop or online at  
www.devauden.org.uk

INCLUDED is a hot supper of chicken and chorizo casserole,  
with new potatoes and vegetables, plus a choice of dessert.  
Coffee and biscuits will be served after the performance.  
Doors and bar open at 6.30pm, supper will be  
served at 7pm.

The performance commences at 8.30pm.

## W.A.R.M. to Mental Health Peer Support Group

Every **Monday** between **12.30am-2.30pm** at the **Junction House**, Chepstow  
(opposite Job Centre, Chepstow),

In a W.A.R.M. Peer  
Support Group there is  
continuous good chat,  
good company,  
tea/coffee and biscuits.

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along?**

Empowering  
each other

Strength in  
support

No pressure

Peer support

Confidential  
setting

Sharing  
experiences

For further details please TEXT or PHONE: 07783 667 332



## Events at the Drill Hall

### Thursday 4th February 1.30pm "The Ruff Guide to Shakespeare"

Bristol Old Vic Theatre School's Introduction to Shakespeare for young people – a special show created to mark the 400th anniversary of his death, a glorious celebration of the world's greatest playwright – the life, the times and every single play. in an hour!

Tickets £4 children, £2 accompanying adult tel Chepstow Museum 01291 625981

### Thursday 4th February 7.15 pm £15 & £12 Live Broadcast **La Traviata Royal Opera**

### Friday 5th February 7.30pm £3 & £4 Film - **Suffragette (12A)**

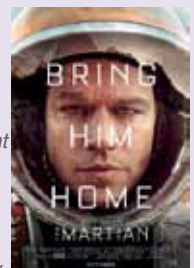
Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham-Carter, Meryl Streep, Romola Garai, Anne-Marie Duff.

A drama that tracks the story of the foot soldiers of the early feminist movement, women who were forced underground to pursue a dangerous game of cat and mouse with an increasingly brutal State. Radicalised and turning to violence as the only route to change, they were willing to lose everything in their fight for equality - their jobs, their homes, their children and their lives. Maud (wonderfully played by Carey Mulligan) was one such foot soldier. The story of her fight for dignity is as gripping and visceral as any thriller. It is also heart-breaking and inspirational.



### Friday 12th February 7.30pm £3 & £4 Film - **The Martian**

This is Ridley Scott's space adventure about an astronaut accidentally left behind on Mars and the attempt to rescue him. Scott is on fine form and excellent performances from Matt Damon, Jessica Chastain, Sean Bean, Kristen Wig - and a host of other familiar faces. This really is a Robinson Crusoe story, very very well acted by Damon, beautifully photographed and with a director (at 78) very much back on form.



### Friday 19th February 7.30pm £3 & £4 Film - **Radiator** Saturday 20th February 6pm til late **Another Night with the Stars**

Back by popular demand, Chepstow Museum presents another opportunity to come stargazing with Usk Astronomical Society, with indoor planetarium, outdoor telescopes (weather permitting), meeting meteorites and a constellation of craft activities for kids  
Booking essential – timed slots for planetarium, places limited £5 contact Chepstow Museum 01291 625981

### Wednesday 24th February 7.30pm **Renoir, Revered and Reviled** – this stunning film from Exhibition on Screen based on the large collection of the artist's work at the Barnes Foundation, Philadelphia, gives a fresh new biography of this artistic giant. Tickets from, and to raise funds for Chepstow Museum £10, tel 01291 625981

### Thursday 25th February 7pm £12 & £10 Live Broadcast **As You Like It**

### Friday 26th February 7.30pm £3 & £4 Film **A Walk In The Woods (15)**

In this new comedy adventure, celebrated travel writer, Bill Bryson (Robert Redford), instead of retiring to enjoy his loving and beautiful wife (Emma Thompson), and large, happy family, challenges himself to hike the Appalachian Trail - 2,200 miles of America's most unspoiled spectacular and rugged countryside from Georgia to Maine. The peace and tranquillity he hopes to find is anything but once he agrees to being accompanied by the only person he can find willing to join him on the trek - his long lost and former friend Katz (Nick Nolte), a down-on-his-luck serial philanderer who, after a lifetime relying on his charm and wits to keep one step ahead of the law, sees the trip as a way to sneak out of paying some debts and sneak into one last adventure before it's too late. The trouble is, the two have a completely different definition of the word "adventure".



## St Arvans Memorial Hall

St Arvans Memorial Hall, Tintern Road NP16 6DN  
£4.50 7.30 p.m. Parking available. Wheelchair access  
For more information: Andrew Ker - Tel: 01291 625711  
Email: kerandrewlyn@hotmail.com

### Thursday 4th February 2016 **Suffragette (12A)** - See previous description

### Thursday 3rd March 2016 **Brooklyn (12A)** - An Irish immigrant lands in 1950s Brooklyn, where she quickly falls into a new romance. When her past catches up with her, however, she must choose between two countries and the lives that exist within. A terrific cast - the estimable Saoirse Ronan, Domhnall Gleeson, Julie Walters, Jim Broadbent) in Nick Hornby's adaptation of the best-seller by Colm Toibin. "Brooklyn is one of those films that's written, acted and directed with such elegance, it never gets boring or disengaging." One of the hits of the Sundance Festival in 2015, it is a film of grace and beauty and Saoirse Ronan's central performance is of Oscar quality.



### Thursday 7th April 2016 **The Lady in the Van (12A)** - See description right

## Catbrook Memorial Hall

Broadstone Road, Catbrook NP16 6NG  
Ticket Price: £4.00 Screening time: 7.30pm  
Limited parking outside the hall  
For more information: Richard Cobourne Tel : 01600 860149 Email: Richard@cobourne.com  
www.catbrook.info

### Friday 12th February 2016 **Dark Horse (PG)** : The rags-to-riches story of the racehorse Dream Alliance who was trained (and became the soul of) a Welsh mining community, depressed after its pit closed.



### Friday 18th March 2016 **The Lady in the Van (12A)** See previous description

## Tintern Village Hall

Tintern Village Hall, Tintern NP16 6SZ  
Adults £4.00 - Age 15 and under £2.50  
Doors open 7.15 pm - Film starts 7.45 pm  
Parking available. Wheelchair access. For more information: Andrew Reid Tel: 01291 689456 or 07774 726860 Email: andrew.reid@huntermillerreid.co.uk

### Friday 12th February 2016 **45 Years (12A)** - A big hit at the Berlin Film Festival, 2015. Tom Courtenay and Charlotte Rampling play a couple (Geoff and Kate) whose celebration of 45 years of marriage is wrecked by the discovery of the body of Geoff's previous lover in an Alpine glacier 50 years after her accidental death. This is a terrific second film by British wunderkind, Andrew Haigh - all about a close relationship revealed to be not at all what it seemed. The two leads are perfect and Rampling, especially, gives a quietly devastating performance.



### Friday 11th March 2016 **A Walk in the Woods (15)** - See previous description

### Friday 8th April 2016 **The Lady in the Van (12A)** - Little needs to be said: Alan Bennett's stage play filmed with Maggie Smith in the title role, supported by a wealth of UK treasures - not least Alex Jennings as Bennett himself and a roll call of rep players from other Bennett vehicles such as "The History Boys". Everyone will want to see this - for a second time even if they have seen it in the cinema!



### Friday 15th April 2016 **Grandma (15)** : The first screen outing in 27 years for Lily Tomlin, now aged 75. Tomlin plays Elle Reid, a poet who is as celebrated as she is misanthropic. When her 18 year old granddaughter Sage turns up, announcing she is pregnant by her hopeless boyfriend, the pair go on a road trip to get the money for an abortion. Tomlin dominates each scene she's in and holds our attention for every second she is on screen.



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