



Delivered FREE to 10,000 Homes

issue 23, January 2016

Community Chepstow Matters

Telephone 01291 606 900

Matters Magazines have been 'in the community for the community' since 2005

Happy New Year!



South Wales Premier Home Improvement Company

Installing a wide range of products to suit your budget and needs, including:

• Conservatories • Orangeries • Home Extensions • Windows • Doors • Fascia & Soffits

Thermotech Showsite, Chepstow Garden Centre, Pyllmeyric, Chepstow, Monmouthshire, NP16 6LF

Showroom Winter Opening Times:

Open Tuesday & Thursday 10:30 – 16:00,

Open Saturday – Sunday 11:00 – 15:30



FreePhone **0800 917 1106**

Email: INFO@THERMOTECHUPVC.CO.UK



Your Local Community Magazine
for Services, Businesses, Groups and Community Events

Fun for the whole Family!

the national
diving&activity
centre

SCUBA DIVING

THE WIRE ZIP SLIDE

DRIVE-IN CINEMA

WOODEN WIGWAM GLAMPING

VIEW CAFE BAR

SEGWAY ACTIVE

DIVE SCHOOL

MONTHLY LIVE EVENTS

...AND MUCH MORE!

HOT TUB
CINEMA
Experience

THE
VIEW
CAFE BAR

The
Swing

DRIVE-IN
CINEMA
Experience

NEW FOR 2015

3G SWING

HOT TUB CINEMA

DELUXE WIGWAMS

The National Diving & Activity Centre

Tidenham • Chepstow • Gloucestershire • NP16 7LH

Tel 01291 630 046 • Email info@ndac.co.uk

Website www.ndac.co.uk

Follow us on  



Contact Us :

01291 606 900

sales@mattersmagazines.co.uk
community@mattersmagazines.co.uk

www.mattersmagazines.co.uk

Chepstow Matters
Editor: Jaci Crocombe
c/o Batwell Farm, Shirenewton NP16 6RX

Reg Office: Matters Magazines Ltd,
130 Aztec West, Almondsbury BS32 4UB
Co Regn No: 8490434



Follow us on Twitter
[@ChepstowMatters](https://twitter.com/ChepstowMatters)



Find us on:
facebook /ChepstowMatters

Chepstow Matters is independently published every month and delivered FREE to approximately 10,000 homes across NP16 5, 6 and 7 on a rotational basis so that every home receives one through their door once per quarter.

The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editor (unless it is a personal review of a service that we have participated in). We cannot vouch for every advertiser personally (although we endeavour to use as many of our advertisers' services ourselves as we can). Any feedback or experience is welcomed.

We would like to thank all the advertisers who support this publication and therefore make it possible. Please return their support by utilising their services when and where you can. It is the advertiser's responsibility to ensure conformity with the Trade Descriptions Act 1975, Business Advertisements Disclosure Order 1977, Sex Discriminations Act 1975 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974. We cannot be held responsible for misrepresentations in the adverts included. All artwork created by us must not be published in any other media without our permission. © Matters Magazines Ltd 2016

Dear Readers...

We hope you have all enjoyed a joyful Christmas and have managed to find some time to rest, recuperate and spend time with friends and loved ones.



The ethos of Matters Magazines when I first initiated it over 10 years ago, was to be a voice to celebrate all the good news that goes on in our communities every day - Good people doing Good things. There is never a shortage of things to write about! It's so easy to watch the news and get dragged down by what we hear, it can make us want to close our door on the outside world; but the good far outweighs the bad. In this issue we bring you several good news stories to start the New Year with. **Great people achieving Great things!**

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 January, do get in touch if you would like to be featured!

We hope you have a Happy and Healthy New Year and look forward to bringing you more community news and information in 2016. Jaci x

Ladybird Pottery
Paint your own Pottery
Abbey Mill, Tintern, NP16 6SE
• Fun for All Ages
• Clay and Craft Workshops
• Baby Hand and Foot Imprints
Follow us on Facebook or visit
www.ladybirdpottery.com

DOUBLE DIAMOND
Dog Grooming & Healthcare
Based in Sedbury & Chepstow
Karen Lewis
07717 663728
KarenLewis2004@hotmail.com
www.DoubleDiamondPets.com



FIND US ON FACEBOOK:
Chepstow Matters - Facebook/ChepstowMatters



Do you need a Helping Hand?

Our **Chepstow** care team has been providing award winning quality homecare since 1989.

We offer you a **one-to-one live in care** service which enables you or your loved one to remain at home with compassion and dignity.

To find out how we can help, call: **0808 180 1017** or visit: www.helpinghands.co.uk



Come & visit Chepstow's new Toy Shop at
16b Moor Street
 (opposite Weeks Fish & Chips)

Our toys range from pocket money to special occasions for kids of all ages

Join us on Facebook/Toytastik.uk

Call us on 01291 627200

Visit and shop on our website www.toytastik.co.uk



MAID2SHINE

"A Service Maid to Talk About"

We specialise in:

- ✓ Domestic Cleaning (Weekly/Fortnightly Available)
- ✓ Deep Clean Service
- ✓ Landlord & Property Agent Cleans
- ✓ Elderly Clean & Care Service

We are a reputable company that's fully insured whilst in your home. You can be 100% comfortable that your property is in safe hands and that the Maids that clean your house are qualified & professional.

Tel: **(01633) 300718 or 0740 333 9595**
info@maid2shine.co.uk
 or visit our website www.maid2shine.co.uk for more information.

SPECIAL OFFER- Book a regular Weekly/Fortnightly clean and receive a FREE hour on your first VISIT.

Police Matters - Update from Inspector Thompson

Hello Residents, a Very Happy New Year to you from Chepstow Police. I hope the Festive Season passed without incident for you all and you had a safe and enjoyable Christmas.

The Team will be continuing in 2016 with the "Your Voice" Priorities set for your Wards. Following the last set of "Your Voice" Surveys carried out in November the current Ward Priorities for Chepstow are

- Devauden – Speeding Vehicles
- Larkfield – Illegal parking
- Shirenewton – Speeding Vehicles
- St Arvan's – Speeding Vehicles
- St Christopher's – Illegal parking
- St Mary's – Illegal Parking
- Thornwell – Youth Nuisance

The priorities identified reflect our Low levels of Crime and the Team will continue to link in with our Partner agencies for assistance in tackling these issues.

Your Local Officers co-ordinating this approach remain as CSO 70 Andrew Jones for Devauden, Shirenewton and St Arvans. CSO 205 Emma Studley for St Christopher's, Thornwell and Larkfield and CSO 164 Mike Martin and CSO 170 Geraint Reynolds for St Kingsmark and St Mary's Wards. Throughout the year, the Team will continue provide updates on the work in their Wards.

As you may be aware towards the end of last year we ran a number of Engagement events and Community Action Days across South Monmouthshire. We will be continuing with this in the New Year, rotating the events across the Wards, we will publicise these details in advance.

Contact Us

IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS DIAL: 999
 FOR NON-EMERGENCIES DIAL: 101
 Calls to 101 (from both landlines and mobile networks) cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day you call, or how long you are on the phone.
 FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES DIAL: 01633 838111
 Email address for enquiries: contact@gwent.pnn.police.uk



In the meantime, Please continue to follow the activities of the Team on our Local Twitter accounts @gpchepstow and @gpcaldicot and our Monthly Blog updating residents of the Crime and ASB across our Wards.

If you do not need to report an incident but would like to contact the Neighbourhood Team about any local issues or concerns they can be contacted on 01633 642068 or email at Lowerwy@gwent.pnn.police.uk

Best Wishes

Inspector Lysha Thompson

South Monmouthshire Geographical Inspector
 Chepstow Police Station / Heddli Gwent Police
 Ffôn symudol / Mobile : 0781 389 8420
Lysha.Thompson@gwent.pnn.police.uk

www.facebook.com/gwentpolice
www.twitter.com/gwentpolice
 Yr we / Web : www.gwent.police.uk



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 it's completely FREE!



Solid roof conservatories

Enjoy shade in the summer and warmth in the winter..
Insulated conservatory roofs, available for both new and existing installations.

t. 0117 9311777
w. associatedwindows.co.uk
e. sales@associatedwindows.co.uk
a. 32-34 Gloucester Road North, Filton, Bristol BS7 0SJ

Visit our **showroom** in **Gardener Haskins**

Local & family run

Finance available

Make a great impression.

FENSA Registered Company HomePro Checkatrade.com



Bosch Car Service
For everything your car needs.

AUTOCARE CENTRE CHEPSTOW
Unit 6, Bulwark Business Park
Bulwark, Chepstow

01291 627137
auto.care@btconnect.com
www.auto.centre.co.uk





Affordable quality service you can trust!

Children Helping Children: The Annual Rotary Shoebox Appeal

A lorry containing 14,220 shoeboxes left the UK Rotary warehouse on Thursday 10th December destined for Kiev, from where shoeboxes will be distributed across the government controlled area of Ukraine. It should arrive within a week. The gift of a shoebox that contains toys, toiletries, educational items or household goods is a drop of happiness to the people of Eastern Europe who live in a world of poverty. For many, it will be the first present that they have ever received and it lets them know that somebody, somewhere cares.

The national Rotary Shoebox Scheme provides packages for the unfortunate children and foster parents in Central and Eastern Europe. (see <http://www.rotaryshoebox.org/>) The local Rotary Club provides empty boxes to the schools and over the term they are invited fill the boxes with articles for the children or their "carers/parents". They include simple items such as a bar of soap, a toothbrush, a soft toy, a notepad and pencil etc and we ask the donor to write their name on the outside and to whom it is intended, such as "Young girl" or "Old lady", since we try not to forget the elderly who care for many of these poor children. The boxes are then collected by Rotarians, shipped to the needy by Rotarians and distributed by Rotarians.

The Chepstow & District Rotary Club has collected no less than 1300 filled shoeboxes this year from the following schools: Chepstow School, Magor CiW Primary, Maesteg Primary, Offa's Mead Academy, Pembroke Primary, Shirenewton Primary, St Mary's RC Primary, The Dell Primary, Thornwell Primary, Tutshill C of E Primary, Wydean School.

Rotary believes that in this way, with the guidance of their parents and teachers, our children gain some appreciation of others who are severely deprived and those who are also mentally ill. As we approach Christmas we are all reminded of those less fortunate than ourselves. (see: www.chepstowrotary.org.uk).

Over 500 shoe boxes were delivered to Chepstow School at the start of December for the annual Shoe Box Appeal, in partnership with Chepstow Rotary Club.

Students in years 7,8 and 9 are asked to fill a shoebox with items such as jewellery, stationery, small games and toiletries for either a boy or a girl. The boxes are then delivered to Eastern European orphanages and opened on Xmas day.

Assistant Head Teacher Jamie Goddard, who oversees the project, told us "We believe this sends a powerful message to our students to think about and support young children who are less fortunate than themselves, and how these children really appreciate items that we often take for granted. It's incredible to see how the students respond every year and fill so many boxes, making a real difference to the orphans."



Pupils Raising Funds for the Syrian Refugee Crisis

At the end of November, pupils from Year 13 Music BTEC class at Chepstow School held a musical event to raise funds for the Syrian Refugee Crisis.

The event was a display of musical talent from the school and the local area, including Running with Scissors and Devan Cassels. The audience was year 7 and 8 pupils who were asked to donate what they could towards the fundraising effort. The pupils did well, earning £200 for a great cause.

Chepstow Matters was pleased to hear from Year 7 student Hannah, who gave us her account of the concert:

"Chepstow School held an amazing concert to raise money and awareness for the Syrian Refugee Crisis. All pupils from years 7 and 8 were invited and we were an awesome audience!"

"The two hosts (Scott Williams & Colin Dick) were a perfect mix of comedy and seriousness and introduced each act with ease. Starting the show was the awesome Bad Reputation who, as well as performing some of their own songs, covered 'Sugar We're Goin' Down' by the brilliant Fall Out Boy (a favourite!). The following acts were just as fantastic with a swinging performance from the Jazz Band and a fabulous acapella from the Barber Shop group. The band 'Society' did an epic job of covering Nirvana's 'Smells Like Teen Spirit (my friend and I particularly enjoyed singing along with this one!). Running with Scissors did a fine job at playing 'Do I Wanna Know?' by the Arctic Monkeys."

"To end it all, was a special duet performing many Taylor Swift songs. I hope it raised lots of money for the Syrian Refugees". Hannah 7W2



Photos show: Top-Scott Williams & Colin Dick; above left- Robbie Scudamore; above right- Merrick Stanley, Corin Dennehey, Colin Dick, Clara Zorab

Perfect Doggy Daycare & Grooming Centre

Perfect pet services for pets and their owners...

Doggy Daycare...Home Boarding...Dog Grooming
Cat Sitting...Dog Sitting...Small Animal Care
Puppy Club...Dog Walking...Pet Taxi...Equine Services



Contact us to enquire about any aspect of our service.

We can discuss a plan to suit you and your pet.

www.perfectpetservices.com
www.perfectdoggydaycare.com

01633 400993

Pike Road, rear of Rock and Fountain Inn
A48 Penhow. NP26 3AD

THE AERIAL MAN (DAN GRACE)

Local engineer



- Digital Aerials
- Fully Guaranteed
- Repairs
- Sky Work
- Free Quotes
- OAP Discounts
- Poor Reception Problems
- Additional TV Points

01633 759617 | 07818 413 451

www.dangraceaerials.co.uk

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE ADMISSION

FRIDAY 8 JANUARY
FRIDAY 22 JANUARY

TICKETS £18
IN ADVANCE AND ON THE DAY

CHEPSTOW
RACING & EVENTS

chepstow-racecourse.co.uk | 01291 622260

[Facebook](#) ChepstowRacecourse [Twitter](#) Chepstow_Racing

Terms & conditions apply. For full terms and conditions please visit our website. Chepstow Racecourse encourages responsible gambling. www.gamblingaware.co.uk

Brighten up someone's CHRISTMAS

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."

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 Barbarians 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".

We were delighted to speak to young Faith and find out more about her generous act:

Having lived close to the city centre for 9 months Faith told us she often spoke to the homeless people she saw, bringing a smile to their faces as she said hello. At just 9 years old Faith decided to do something different this Christmas and help those less fortunate.

With help she set up her GoFundMe page with a £50 target. Proud of her initiative, friends, family and others rallied to support her and she exceeded her goal, raising a staggering £250! With this amount, she was able to purchase and wrap presents intended for women on the streets. When shopping she realised she was slightly short of money so, wanting all the boxes to be the same, Faith donated her own pocket money too to meet the shortfall.

Faith told us: *"I was very pleased to make people so happy".* She recounted one lady showing her friends and hearing her say *"Look how many presents I've got!"*. Mum Helen told us that Faith's fundraising was completely independent and praised her daughter's initiative and attitude.



Photos: top left Bristol Barabrian's rugby team help give out donated presents; above 9 year old Faith with her presents for the homeless women.

What a wonderful story from an amazing young girl! So many amazing people doing amazing things, and fabulous feedback all round!

The work doesn't stop at Christmas however so keep seeking out those blankets, warm footwear, socks/underwear, sleeping bags, roll mats, flasks, torches, waterproof coats, joggers, jeans and rucksacks in the New Year. There are people out there who need them desperately! **email: sls.homeless@gmail.com for more information on how you can help.**

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 GalaxyCheerleaders 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.

Delicious meals from £2.95. Delivered free from Monmouth



Roast Chicken Breast with Stuffing £3.95

Ordered by calling our local number, delivered by one of our local team.

We offer a choice of over 300 tasty dishes, including special diet options. Our meals are created using carefully selected ingredients, frozen and then delivered with free delivery by your local team. They can be stored in the freezer and cooked in minutes.

What's more there's no commitment. Order what you want, when you want. Mealtimes taken care of. Simple.

Great Value Pack only **£19.95**

5 main courses with vegetables: • Roast Lamb in Mint Gravy • Roast Chicken Breast with Stuffing • Pork & Leek Sausages with Somerset Cider Gravy • Shepherds Pie • Chicken & Vegetable Pie
2 desserts: • Apple Crumble & Custard • Jam Sponge & Custard
Order code VP3



Delivered
FREE

Main meals
from **£2.95**

24 years
of great service

For your **FREE** brochure, or to order our Great Value Pack, call us today on

01600 892855
wiltshirefarmfoods.com



Wiltshire Farm Foods

Carols by Torchlight at Tintern Abbey Saturday 5th December

On Saturday 5th December the Chepstow Rotary Club held their annual Torchlight Carol Service at Tintern Abbey, by kind permission of CADW.

This popular family event is always well supported and this year over 350 people attended.

Thanks to posters, in-programme advertising by local businesses and flyers handed out in the High Street (and of course the articles in Chepstow Matters), The Rotary Club enjoys much local support for this wonderful family event.

The families assembled in front of the Anchor Inn, Tintern on a rather breezy night and then walked in column around the outside of the Abbey whilst the choir sang within. It is satisfying to see the faces of the young, and not-so young, reflected in the flames of the torches as they entered the rear of the Abbey ruins while the youngsters waved their light sticks on high.

Tintern Abbey is an atmospheric location by day, but by night, in floodlight with hundreds of flaming torches, it becomes quite magical. Within the Abbey the most popular carols were sung, lead by The Wydean School Choirs, and interspersed with familiar Bible readings and prayers that were lead by The Reverend Andrew Webster.

So far this year the Chepstow Club has raised over £1,300 for Rotary charities including global polio eradication, the Young Chef, Citizen, Photographer, Writer & Musician competitions in our local schools, a Life Education bus and shoe boxes filled by local schoolchildren for the needy in eastern Europe. All profits from this event will go to these Rotary Charities.

This was a very special evening that everyone will remember. It surely opened the Christmas season with a flourish!

**Chepstow Matters would like to
Thank all our advertisers who have
supported this community magazine
throughout 2014 and 2015.**

**We wish you a successful and
prosperous New Year and look
forward to continuing to work with
you in 2016!**



Update from Pembroke Primary School

The lead up to Christmas has been very busy at Pembroke Primary. All of our children have performed magnificent concerts for their families. Years 3 and 4 visited the Methodist Church to help decorate their Space-themed Christmas tree. In partnership with the local Rotary Club, many children filled shoeboxes with gifts, which are being shipped to children abroad.

It's been Pantomime Fever with visits to The Drill Hall, Bristol Hippodrome and also The Riverfront. We will be ending our celebrations with a Christmas Jumper Day raising funds in support of Save the Children, arranged by our School Council.

The New Year brings an exciting change at Pembroke Primary as it gives us great pleasure to welcome Mrs Helen Hampson who commences her role as our new Head Teacher in January. Mrs Hampson joins us from Millbrook Primary School in Newport where she has been a valued and dedicated Deputy Head Teacher for 8 years. Mrs Hampson brings a wealth of experience and expertise and we are all very much looking forward to her joining our school family!

Mrs Hampson's arrival at Pembroke also means a sad farewell to Mrs Jo Child who has been Acting Head Teacher at the school since September 2014. Mrs Child's invaluable support to Pembroke will continue long after her departure and the School community wishes her the best of luck in her new role as Head Teacher at Overmonnow Primary School.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families and the community a very Happy New Year and a Thank You for all your continued support in 2015! We look forward to this continuing in this coming year.



**New Head Teacher for Pembroke
Primary School, Mrs Helen Hampson**

*keeping your garden
beautiful...*

ask us about
LAZYLAWN

- LazyLawn - superior artificial grass supply and installation - licensee for Bristol & South Wales
- landscape design and build with 25 years experience
- tree surgery
- garden makeovers
- regular garden maintenance

**Garretts Gardens
and Landscapes**

for Garretts Gardens or Landscapes
t: 01454 614111 m: 07974 109919
info@garrettslandscapes.co.uk
www.garrettsgardens.co.uk

A Prosperous New Year?

**Promote YOUR BUSINESS in this
space for only £15+vat/month
(based on our annual rates)**



Chepstow Matters

Call Jaci on
01291 606 900

Your Local, Friendly Tea & Coffee Shop "for a more personal service"



*A fine old-fashioned tea and coffee
house serving proper home-made
cakes, pastries and light meals*



8 St Mary Street, Chepstow
Facebook/ Tiffin Vintage Tea & Coffee House



Chaos Music and Drama present their upcoming pantomime 'Dick Whittington'!

Join Chaos as they follow young Dick on his adventure to the city of London in search of his fortune.

Along the way he'll meet with his new friend Cat, fall madly in love with city-girl Alys, meet the lazy but loveable Idle Jack and his mother, the famous Sally the Cook all while working for the most powerful man in London, the Alderman.

But it's not all simple for Dick as the villainous King Rat is out to get Dick and ruin his dreams. Our adventure even takes us to distant lands, but we warn you, it's not all plain sailing for Dick and his friends! Come and join the adventure! **Dick Whittington is showing at the Drill Hall in Chepstow in 29th-31st January (see poster on page 35 for more details).**

Tickets are £6 and will be available from Hannah's Music, and Chepstow Museum. A limited number will be sold on the door but buy as soon as they are released to avoid disappointment! For more information please email chaosinchepstow@live.co.uk, or look for 'Chaos Mad' on Facebook and Twitter.

Chaos is Chepstow's longest running dramatic society. Formerly known as Chepstow Amateur Operatic Society, it has existed since 1908 and has entertained the people of Chepstow for over a century with shows both new and old.

The society embraces a family ethic and invites adults and children to join. It puts on 5 shows over 2 years, both musicals and occasionally comedic plays. For more information on Chaos Music and Drama, please contact us at chaosinchepstow@live.co.uk.



E K TYRES

Chepstow Ltd.

- Tyres • Exhausts • Batteries
- Brakes • MOTs • Wheel Alignment
- Alloy Wheel Stockists & Repairs

Quality Tyres at Low Prices

High Performance & Run Flat Tyre Specialists

All Brands Supplied & Fitted

We'll match any quote!

01291 622281

OPEN: Mon-Fri 8.00am-5.30pm; Sat 8.00am-1.00pm

Units 2 & 3 Bulwark Trade Centre, Bulwark,
Chepstow NP16 5QZ

R WHITE PLUMBING & HEATING

- Central Heating
- Kitchens
- Bathrooms

01291 420587 / 07792 094552

rwhiteplumbingheating@live.com

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 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 where ticket prices and full details of the programmes can be found.





Thumbs up for new safety fencing

Students at Wydean have been celebrating the advent of safety fencing across The Wye Bridge linking Chepstow to Wydean School.

Eliza Quinn, Tilly Clarke Roberts, Zak Fryer and Morgan Amor (pictured) along with many other students and parents are very pleased to see this latest development on a path lots of students tread every school day.

Two years ago, students, governors, staff and parents from Wydean School successfully campaigned for a reduction in the speed limit across the bridge. Now the crossing has been made even safer.

Rob Wagland Deputy Headteacher



More than just a wool shop! come along and get some inspiration!

A wool shop that is full of wonderful yarns, fibres, supplies, tools, patterns and books for just about any Yarn or Fibrecraft! Whether it is Hand or Machine Knitting, Crochet, Spinning, Weaving, Felting and Needle Felting, Rug making... and much more, we're dedicated to all crafts that involve yarns and fibres and we're sure to have something to entice and inspire you.

Stocking yarns and fibres from:- King Cole, Yeoman, James C Brett, Noro, West Yorkshire Spinners, DY Choice, Creativ, Barany, Woolley Knits, DMC, Jenny Watson, Twilley, Bronte Glen, Wendy, Robin, Texere, World of Wool and more...

**10 St Mary's Arcade,
Nelson Street, Chepstow
NP16 5EU
tel: 07732860415**

The Shop is open
10:00am till 5:00pm
Monday to Saturday

website: www.undyarns.co.uk

Paint On Me visits the Brownies

In the run up to Christmas, 1st Shirenewton Brownies were delighted to welcome Gail, owner of the Paint On Me Pottery Painting Studio in Chepstow, along to one of their Tuesday evening sessions.

Gail selected a 3D Christmas ornament for each of the brownies to paint and the girls had fantastic fun coming up with their own designs. *"It always amazes me how you can give a group of people the same item to paint and yet everyone comes up with a completely different look!"* commented Gail.

This certainly rang true with the brownies, with a snowman, a reindeer, a christmas tree on some and others creating zig zags or spiral patterns or one a complete picture!

Gail brought along everything necessary for the evening at the Rec in Shirenewton, and no mess was made! She then took the painted objects back to her studio to go in the Kiln and be finished off. These were collected a week or so later and given back to the brownies who were delighted with the end result. There would have been some lucky mums/dads/grannies/grandads this Christmas with a very unique and individually made gift under the tree!



contact us

info@olddownestate.co.uk
www.olddownestate.co.uk
01454 414081



Boutique Pottery Painting Studio

Suitable for ALL ages!

- Baby Foot & Hand Prints • Birthdays
- Bridal Showers • Weddings
- or just for FUN!



Creating memories & so much more!

Prices from £4.50 to £35.00

**Studio available for
Party Bookings on a Sunday!**

**3a St. Mary's Arcade, Chepstow
01291 408330 / 07714 706040**

contact@paintonme.co.uk • www.paintonme.co.uk • www.facebook.com/paintonmeuk



FIND US ON FACEBOOK:
Chepstow Matters - Facebook/ChepstowMatters

CHEPSTOW MOTORCYCLES



**HARLEY MAINTENANCE / RE-MAPPING
PARTS - CLOTHING - MAINTENANCE
LEXMOTO DEALER**



BIG BRANDS...OXFORD, WEISE, HJC, V&H...

Lexmoto 120's & Scooters
Pulse Scout at £649.99
FMS £879.99
Adrenaline £1499.99
* plus registration.

Credit available. Spend £1000 with £100 deposit and pay as little as £6.30 a week.

20 WEEKS BRIDGE TOLL BUYS A LEXMOTO SCOUT!

WWW.BIGBOAR.CO.UK
01291 645 999 // NP16 5JG
lexmoto

Ian Watts & Son Ltd



**Independent Family
Funeral Directors
Est 1968**

*"Respect & Dignity
are at the heart of
everything we do"*

- 24 Hour Personalised Service
- Private Chapels of Rest
- Monumental Services
- Pre-Payment Funeral Plans



01291 420972 • 07947 847277
07977 092935
www.ianwattsandson.com



**It is good to be different and
we certainly are...**

Everything we do is about you, and making you feel part of our family. We work together as a family to help your family or your business to make difficult times easier and make legal jargon simpler.

We are different because we are solicitor estate agents. We can start the legal process earlier when you are selling your home and offer a one stop service.

As solicitors we specialise in residential sales and purchases, property law such as boundary disputes, Wills and probate, inheritance tax planning, divorce, family law, commercial property law, business leases, commercial conveyancing, site development and numerous other areas.

Our experience is extensive and our service covers much of the UK.



JOIN THE PROPERTS FAMILY
01291 60 60 60
Beaufort Square Chepstow NP16 5EP



PROPERTS
SOLICITOR ESTATE AGENTS

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

Katie Bladen ACA CTA is a Chartered Tax Advisor with bdhc Chartered Accountants.



**A Comprehensive accountancy service to
businesses and individuals**

Whatever your needs, we can help

Call us on 01 291 624 866

INVESTORS | BUSINESSOWNERS
IN PEOPLE | NEWBORN POOL **www.bdhc.co.uk**



Chepstow Matters was delighted to be invited to Chepstow School in November for a presentation of three defibrillators, one each to three local schools: Chepstow, Mounton House and Caldicot.

The defibrillators were donated by June and Grant Thomas from fundraising carried out in the memory of their 15 year old son Jack, who died suddenly whilst sat on the sofa watching rugby in 2012.

"Jack was a fit and active boy" June told me, "He played football, rugby and cricket and was a 2nd Dan at Taekwondo where he was the Welsh Champion, British Champion and Scottish Champion and represented Wales in competitions across Europe! We had no idea that there was any problem with his heart, and to this day do not understand why it stopped working that day."

June was put in touch with an organisation called Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY) and about a month after Jack's funeral June started up a memorial fund called **CRY in the Valleys - Remembering Jack Thomas**, raising money to bring a heart screening programme into the South Wales area.

The first of these took place in Oakdale Comprehensive on what would have been Jack's 18th birthday on 6th June 2014. That first screening picked up two young people who needed further follow up, one of whom had a serious issue of which they were previously unaware.

Having raised around £35,000 towards this screening programme, June thought further about what would happen if another attack did affect a young person and there being no equipment on hand to help. Thus began **Jack's Appeal** - additional fundraising for the provision of defibrillators. June's goal was to place a defibrillator in every comprehensive school in Wales, starting with Gwent and the Rymney Valley. **The presentation to Chepstow, Mounton House and Caldicot means that this has now been achieved in Gwent, with 26 schools which did not previously have a**

"The gift of a defibrillator is an amazing opportunity for all our young people to receive training that could save lives. I have so much respect for this family who have turned a tragedy into hope for other young people"

**Claire Price,
Head Teacher,
Chepstow School**

defibrillator being provided with one, along with the training in how to use it, all due to Jack's Appeal.

June told me: "In May 2014 we provided a defibrillator to Blackwood Comprehensive School. A year later, in April of this year, that defibrillator was used on a 44 year old mother who was attending parents evening. This action saved her life."

Both the Welsh Hearts and the South Wales Argus have supported and backed Jack's Appeal. We also spoke with Phil Hill, a Registered Nurse for Welsh Hearts from Newport who saw Jack's Appeal in the paper and contacted June with regards to a petition

"This is a fantastic resource, not just for our school but for also the wider community. As a school we were aware that a defibrillator would be of benefit in school and had been having conversations about how to fundraise for one. This donation is a godsend."

**Jayne Weston,
Assistant Head Teacher,
Caldicot Comprehensive.**

Fifteen year old Jack Thomas was sat watching his beloved Wales play Rugby in 2012 when he suddenly died on the sofa.

His Family and local Health professionals have since worked tirelessly to provide Heart screening for School children and to provide Automated External Defibrillators (AED) to schools.

#JacksLaw will hopefully continue Jack's legacy to push for legislation to provide an AED in every public building in Wales, via the Welsh Assembly Government Petitions Committee.

he was preparing to take to the Welsh Assembly, for Mandatory Welsh legislation to ensure Defibrillators in all public places. He has called this **Jack's Law**.

Both Phil and June presented the petition before the Council in July of this year and have received a positive response from the Chair, William Powell:

"What we heard as a Committee convinced us that there is a need to install more AEDs in public places and to ensure that those already available are made more accessible. We have made five recommendations for the Welsh Government to consider, geared toward this general aim. We therefore, intend that the report should be debated in by the Assembly in due course. I have written to the Minister for Health and Social Services today asking that he formally responds to these recommendations so that his response, as well as the report, can be considered when the petition is debated by the Assembly."

"The general public in this country have a reluctance to administer CPR when needed. More, accessible defibrillators would save lives. They are easy to use with automated voice instructions telling you what to do. There needs to be more of them and people need to be prepared to use them." **Phil Hill**

"Cardiovascular disease accounts for a third of all deaths in Wales, where the death rate is higher than in the majority of countries in Western Europe."
Welsh Hearts

Each defibrillator and training costs around £1,200-£1,400 and each screening session costs £3,500-£4,000 per day. To date Jack's Appeal has raised around £37,000 and for C.R.Y (Cardiac Risk in the Young) circa £40,000 in Jack's name.

Photos show top left: June and Grant Thomas and Phil Hill presenting defibrillators to Claire Price, Head Teacher at Chepstow School, Mark McCormick Acting Head Teacher at Mounton House School and Jayne Weston Assistant Head Teacher at Caldicot Comprehensive. Inset: June and Grant Thomas presenting the defibrillator to Head Teacher Claire Price and School Nurse Gill Neil at Chepstow School. Top right: Jack Thomas



Jack's Appeal

“ Every week in the UK 12 young people die suddenly from an undiagnosed heart condition. On 12th February 2012 our 15-year-old son Jack Thomas became one of those 12 young people.

Jack was a fit and healthy boy who had represented Wales all across Europe on a number of occasions in Taekwondo.

Jack was an A* student and had been successful in gaining a scholarship at Cardiff Sixth Form College. His death came as a complete shock to us, as Jack had never been ill. To this day we still have had no answers to why our precious boy fell asleep.

Since Jack's death we have set up a memorial fund in his name within C.R.Y. All money raised in Jack's memory will go towards paying for a heart-screening programme in the South Wales Valleys. This project is very successful and the first screening programme took place at Oakdale Comprehensive on 6th June 2014, which would have been Jack's 18th Birthday.

All our local leisure centres have been provided with a defibrillator, but not our local schools. It is because of this I have set up Jack's Appeal, which has been backed by The South Wales Argus and Welsh Hearts.

The aim of Jack's Appeal is to provide all Comprehensive Schools, starting with those in Gwent and the Rymney Valley, with defibrillators.

June Thomas

For more information or to donate to Jack's Appeal, please visit:

<http://welshhearts.org/our-work/jack-thomas-appeal/>

A local business for
local businesses



Professionally delivered accountancy services
tailored to proactively meet the needs
of your business.

Providing you with simple straightforward
cloud-based accounting technology - by
trusting us to help you with your online
accounting, you can carry on doing what you're
great at!

Get in touch to see how we can help:

0845 548 8825

info@MyFinanceBusinessPartner.co.uk

www.MyFinanceBusinessPartner.co.uk

Chepstow Osteopathic & Sports Injury Clinic

**We specialise in treating a whole
range of Aches & Pains including:**

Headaches, Neck Pain & Stiffness, Shoulder
& Elbow conditions, Wrist problems RSI etc,
Back Pain, Sciatica, Whiplash, Postural &
Occupational injuries



We are the longest established Osteopathic Clinic in Monmouthshire

All our practitioners are GOSC Registered

The Practice is fully accredited by all major private health insurers

We also have free onsite parking and disabled access

To book an appointment call us on: (01291) 627 374

The Surgery, Beachley Road, Sedbury, Chepstow, Monmouthshire NP16 7AA

email: contact@chepstowosteopaths.co.uk www.chepstowosteopaths.co.uk

DEREK'S GYM & FITNESS CENTRE

Est in Chepstow 1969



**Bodybuilding & Fitness Specialists
with heavy duty gym equipment**

Opening Times:

10am-1pm Mon, Wed, Fri & Sun

5-9pm Mon - Thur, 5-8pm Fri

Membership Options:

£3.50 per session, or £2.50 per session to members (£15 annual
fee), Unlimited membership - £45 for 3 months or £80 for 6 months

01291 624 222

The Old Fire Station • Lower Church Street • Chepstow • NP16 5HJ

More Welsh Records Broken by our Welsh Champion at his 2nd Competition

Chepstow Matters was delighted to catch up
with 16 year old Michael Johnson again this
month following his second competition at the
start of December.

We were first invited down to **Derek's Gym &
Fitness Centre** at the start of October. Mike
had just achieved fabulous success at his first
competition with the British Drug Free Power-
lifting Association (BDFPA) at Tonypany
Community College, where he won in all three
of his competitions for his weight category (90k),
and broke the Welsh record in two! He achieved
Welsh Champion status in the Squat (155.5 kilos)
and also in the Deadlift (195 kilos). He also
won in the Bench Press with a lift of 120 kilos:
the current Welsh record at this weight stands at
122.5 kilos.

His second competition on 6th December saw
Mike go up a weight category to the 100k. There
was stiff competition at the event, all looking to
qualify for a place in the British Championships
to be held in the New Year. Mike did fantastically
well at this new weight, beating the Welsh records
in all three disciplines! He is now therefore the
Welsh Champion at 100k in the Squat (160 kilos),
the Deadlift (200 kilos) and the Bench Press (130
kilos).

Mike has lived in Tutshill and Sedbury all his
life, attending Wydean Comprehensive before
starting at SGS College in Filton, Bristol this
autumn. He has been training at Derek's Gym
for over a year. "I heard about the gym through
a friend whose dad trains here" Mike told me,
"I wanted training to keep fit and increase my
strength - it turned out I was good at lifting, so
with Derek's guidance I started bodybuilding".

Gym owner and trainer Derek Platt (pictured
with Mike right), who has a wealth of experience
having competed himself and successfully
trained many bodybuilders over his 45 years in
Chepstow, told me:

"I am so proud of Mike, only his second
competition and he has gone up a weight
category already and set more new Welsh records
at this weight too. He has such a fantastic
attitude to his training and is really dedicated. He
joined the gym for better health and fitness and



*just wanting to have
a good workout. I
could see that he had
good potential and
that with his positive,
committed attitude
he could do well if
he wanted to. He
wanted to win and I
could not be happier
for him, he has
worked hard and deserves it!"*

Mike added *"I could not have achieved this
without Derek's help and guidance - I would've
been lost! He has been such a great mentor and
we always have a good laugh too, the gym is
such a friendly place to come and train and not
like any other gym I have been to".*

Congratulations too to another Derek's Gym
competitor Ross McFarlane who also won his
classes in the 90k category.

**Both Mike and Ross have now qualified for
the British Championships which take place
over the weekend of 27th/28th February in
Weston-Super-Mare.**

Chepstow Matters wishes both competitors
well and hope they clinch a British Record
too!



FIND US ON FACEBOOK:

Chepstow Matters - Facebook/ChepstowMatters

FRESH & CLEAN



DRY CLEANING

SUIT
TROUSERS
SHORT DRESS
LONG DRESS
COATS

LAUNDRY

DUVETS
CURTAINS
SHEET
BAG WASHES

DRY CLEANERS & LAUNDRETTE CHEPSTOW

ALL COMMERCIAL
WORK
UNDERTAKEN:

HOTELS ✓
GUEST HOUSE ✓
HOLIDAY HOMES ✓
PUBS ✓
RESTAURANTS ✓
ETC. ✓

FOR ALL REPAIRS
& ALTERATIONS



WEDDING DRESS
£60.00



TOWN CENTRE NEXT TO BUS STOP OPPOSITE CO-OP

We also have a shop in Caldicot next to concords, opposite Store 21

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 9am – 5.30pm • Saturday 9am – 5.00pm • Sunday 10-4pm

Tel: 01291 408030

Financial Matters: Pensions and the self-employed

Dr Josh Lewis

Wealth Management Consultant, Hawkins Wealth Management



The UK labour market is one of the most diverse in the world with self-employment accounting for over a quarter of the rise in working numbers since 2010. According to Office for National Statistics figures, one in seven people in work choose to work for themselves, making a total of 4.5 million people. ¹

However, those choosing to 'go it alone' often have tough decisions to make about juggling self-employment with having a family, buying a home, or providing for their financial future, especially in the early stages of setting up their business.

A recent survey from IPSE, the Association of Independent Professionals and the Self Employed, has shown well over a third of freelancers are unable to contribute towards a pension fund and that one in ten are unsure of how to save for retirement. ²

Whereas most employed individuals are automatically enrolled into a workplace pension, no such scheme exists for the self-employed. Yet, as the IPSE survey shows, this significant minority are in need of most help and deserve the same policy consideration as employees.

Fluctuating Fortunes

Fluctuations in income mean pension provision can sometimes get pushed to one side. It's hard to put anything into a pension if you're not sure what your income is from one month to the next. So the self-employed are often reluctant to lock money away for longer periods.

A culture of entrepreneurship is something the government is keen to foster, and in recognition that self-employed people are sometimes unfairly penalised, it has commissioned a review to look into the issues surrounding how they save for their retirement. Results are expected to be published in early 2016.

Regardless of any future policy, I would urge anyone not already saving into a pension to seriously look at doing something about it. Pensions benefit from initial tax relief, and contributions can also bring people under certain tax thresholds. They're not as inflexible as they used to be, so if anyone had concerns about lack of access to their own money, it's no longer an issue. It's just a case of getting some simple advice first.

To receive a complimentary guide covering Wealth Management, Retirement Planning or Inheritance Tax Planning, contact Dr Josh Lewis of Hawkins Wealth Management, Chepstow, on 01291 635 552 or email hwmenquiries@sjpg.co.uk

¹ Office for National Statistics, 'Labour Market Statistics' for February to April 2015, published 17 June 2015

² www.ipse.co.uk, 1 September 2015

COME HOME TO REAL LUXURY

Stylish four
an five bedroom
homes

Prices from
£384,995
to
£520,000

The Grange
Off St Lawrence
Road, Usk Road,
Chepstow,
NP16 5BJ



Stamp Duty
Paid on
All Plots

**PART-EXCHANGE* AND STAMP
DUTY PAID** AVAILABLE.**

*We know that selling your home can be expensive and stressful.
So we've made sure you can say goodbye to agent's fees, endless
viewings and long weak chains with our Part-exchange service*.*

**100% Part-Exchange* available for a hassle-free
move, plus Stamp Duty paid on all plots!****

**SHOW HOME
NOW OPEN!**



Marketing Suite open Thursday to Monday 11am - 6pm

CALL US ON 01291 408053 OR VISIT charleschurch.com

Imagery is for illustration purposes only. External elevations including treatments, materials, window positions and sizes are subject to change at any time.
*Available on selected plots subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. A professional legal adviser is required to carry out the legal formalities of buying
the home and to represent your interests. Charles Church can provide you with a list of suggested solicitors and/or financial advisers as necessary. Charles
Church cannot advise you on a mortgage. This scheme is subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time without notice. This scheme may not be
available in conjunction with any other promotions or offers. **YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS
ON YOUR MORTGAGE OR OTHER DEBT SECURED ON IT.** **Available on selected plots, subject to status. Terms and conditions apply, including
full asking price. Some offers are subject to availability and/or stage of construction and may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Some offers may not
be available in conjunction with any other promotions or schemes. Full details available on request. Details correct at time of going to press.

Our Ultimate Offer Ticks All the Right Boxes!

**Meadow Rise
Highfield
Road, Lydney,
Gloucestershire,
GL15 5ND**

Prices from
£179,995 for a
4-bedroomed
3-storey house



- ✓ Stamp Duty paid
- ✓ £500 towards legal fees
- ✓ Turf to rear garden

*For a limited time only we are
offering the ultimate offer on one
of our homes. Hurry, this offer
won't be available for long so
make sure you don't miss out!*



**For further information on the offer please contact us on 01594 843727 † -
Thursday to Monday 11.00am to 6.00pm .**

* Schemes and offers mentioned are available on selected plots, subject to status, specific terms and conditions will apply. Contact the development for more information.
A professional legal adviser is required to carry out the legal formalities of buying the home and to represent your interests. Persimmon Homes can provide you with a list of
recommended solicitors and/or financial advisers as necessary. Persimmon Homes cannot advise you on a mortgage. **YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO
NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE, YOUR EQUITY LOAN OR OTHER DEBT SECURED ON IT.**
Imagery is for illustration purposes only. Internal photography may feature upgraded items which are available at extra cost. Please contact the development for a personal
quotation. External elevations including treatments, materials, window positions and sizes are subject to change at any time.
† Calls to numbers starting 084 will cost 7p per minute plus your phone company's network access charge. All other calls will be charged at standard local rate. Contact your
service provider for more details.
Copyright 2015 Persimmon plc. All Rights Reserved. Persimmon plc, Registered Office: Persimmon House, Fulford, York UK, YO19 4FE. Registered in England No. 1818486

Don't miss this Beauty!

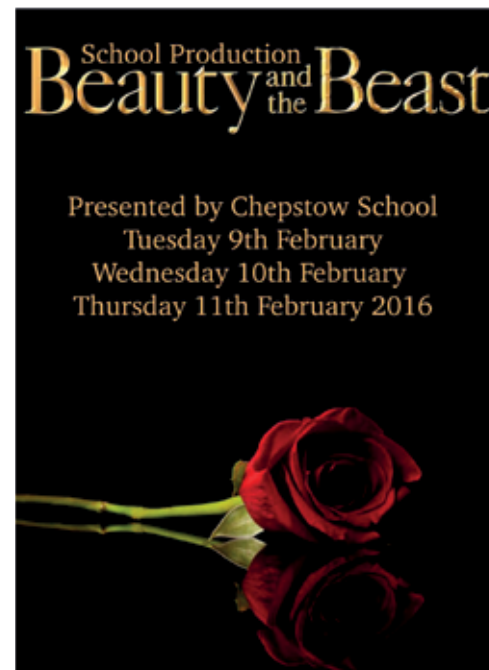
Since the end of the summer term, students at
Chepstow School have been busy preparing for this
year's School production - "Beauty and the Beast".

The Drama and Music departments have been blown
away by the effort and standard that the students
are demonstrating and this latest show promises
to continue the excellent standards set by past
productions such as West Side Story, Phantom of the
Opera and last year's fabulous We Will Rock You.

Students playing the main roles in the February 2016
show include:

Belle - Rosie Hathaway, Beast - Harry Lewis
Gaston - Luca Goddard, Maurice - Becca Henshaw
Cogsworth - Meg Marsh, Mrs Potts - Carys Curwood
Lumiere - Becca Ham, Chip - Jess Ham
Babette - Sophie Allen, Prince - Charlie Cole
Madame De La Grande Bouche - Jess Christie
Lefou - Bethan Taylor
Madamme D'Arque - Lisa Griffith

**Tickets go on Sale from Monday 4th January
from the School Reception. Email karenroberts@chepstowschool.net / 01291 635777. Adult £8, Concessions £6, Family ticket £24 (2 adults, 2
children), Student Special : If purchasing 5 student tickets you can have them for £5 each.**



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

**Come and enjoy our Fabulous Coffees and
Homemade Cakes, plenty of parking, children's play
corner, wi-fi, vintage tea parties.**

**Our lovely venue is also available to hire for
babyshowers, princess birthday teas and more!**

Following a hectic December with some fabulous events, we are
in the process of planning more special days in the New Year, so
do keep an eye on our facebook page for updates.

**Sunday 14th February - St Valentine's Day:
Spoil Your Loved One with a Sunday Afternoon Tea -
booking required.**



**On the A48, Pwllmeyric,
next to the New Inn**

For more information on how to book and more, give Karen a call:

01291 628892



Need Help?



January is a time of year when households are dealing with the colder weather and for some this will be a cause of worry about the cost of fuel, and can lead to difficult decisions about when, and for how long, they are able to use their heating systems.

If this is of concern to you or someone you know please consider visiting the Monmouthshire County Citizens Advice office for help in exploring what options may be available to assist you with heating related issues such as: fuel payment arrears, switching to a better tariff for your fuel needs; financial assistance for the replacement of condemned or unrepairable boilers; and possible grants for the improvement of building insulation. As part of this work Citizens Advice are researching those in Wales who are not on mains gas and the issues this may cause. If this is you please contact your local office for information and to help with our investigations.

Christmas is also a time when we can spend more freely than we normally do and if you would like help with dealing with debt, again please do contact Citizens Advice for assistance. Their website can offer information on this as well, visit [Advicguide, which can be found at https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/wales](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/wales). The site gives a wide range of information and links to other sites and organisations where you can find information and options to deal with the issues you may have.

In addition if you would like to speak to someone then you can ring their national Advice Line Service on 03444 772020. If as a result of your conversation with the Adviser it is agreed that you need further help from a local Bureau, your details would be passed to the local office so that an appointment can be made for you.

DROP IN TIMES at the Chepstow and Caldicot 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



Local builder with the old fashioned values of honesty, integrity and good craftsmanship.

Tiling, laminate & wood flooring, specialising in bathrooms and kitchens and general maintenance.

Call Steve
01291 641419
07476 319289

CHEPSTOW
Emergency Locksmith
1 Hr Repsonse 24/7, No Call Out Charges



Local & Fully Insured
Locks Opened, Repaired, Replaced,
Doors, Windows, Keys Cut On Site,
Domestic & Commercial
Covering All NP Postcodes



www.citylocksmithsgwent.co.uk

01291 33 00 85
AAA Chepstow Emergency Locksmiths
(save it on your phone!)

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



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

Email: beckett012@btinternet.com
T: 01291 629020 / M: 07850 534 370
www.burntbarnclub.co.uk





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

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

Chepstow Tourist Information Centre Castle Car Park, Bridge Street, Chepstow NP16 5EY. 01291 623772 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

Bulwark Community Centre, Laburnam Way, Bulwark, Chepstow, NP16 5RF 01291 624138 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 Jon Stow 07926 584 661

Chepstow Archaeological Society 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 07592 503757

Chepstow Choral Society www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk 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

Chepstow and District Amateur Radio Society www.gw4lwz.org.uk contact James Hewitt chairman@gw4lwz.com, meet at Chepstow Athletic Club

Chepstow and District Gardening Club Caroline Duchet cdgclub@gmail.com

Chepstow and District Lions 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

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 Mon & Thurs 7pm The Dell School contact Stuart Vigus on 01291 626566 / 07733 804317 or stuartvigus@aol.com.

Chepstow Photographic Club www.chepstowps.org admin@chepstowps.org

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

Chepstow Round Table www.chepstow.roundtable.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 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 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 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

ComBat Communities of Bulwark and Thornwell, community group Chairman Ric Hayes 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 01291 637416

Movie Night at Bulwak Community Centre and St Arvans Memorial Hall see www.monmouthshiremobilemovies.co.uk

Musical Youth Theatre www.cmyt.org Chepstow Baptist Church Tues and Thurs

Pottery Thursdays 7-9 Chepstow Comp School Cathy 07917 261511 www.monmouthshirepotters.org hello@monmouthshirepotters.org.uk

Rotary Club of Chepstow and District 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.

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

The Singing Club for anyone who wants to sing www.singingclubber.co.uk Karl@operaplayhouse.com

University 3rd Age U3A 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

CHURCHES

www.chepstowchurchestogether.org.uk

Chepstow Methodist Church, Albion Square, Chepstow, NP16 5DA 01291 627014 www.chepstowmethodist.org.uk

St Marys Priory, The Vicarage, Mount Way, Chepstow NP16 5NF Father Chris Blanchard 01291 620980 www.chepstowpriory.org

St Christophers, Bulwark, (linked to St Marys) www.chepstowpriory.org

Chepstow Baptist Church, Lower Church Street, Chepstow, NP16 5HJ 01291 622987 chepstowbaptist.org.uk

St Marys Catholic Presbytery Church, Bulwark Road, Chepstow, NP16 5JE 01291 622649 admin@stmarysrcchepstow.org.uk www.stmarysrcchepstow.org.uk

St Luke's Church, Coleford Road, Tutshill NP16 7PT 01291 624868 www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk

Stroat Evangelical Church, Gloucester Road, Stroat, Chepstow, NP16 7LR 01594 529209 pastor@stroatchurch.org.uk www.stroatchurch.org.uk

The Bridge Pentecostal Church, Unit 1A Critchcraft Buildings, Bulwark Road NP16 5QZ 07943 851799 thebridgechurchchepstow@gmail.com

Victory Church, Palmer Community Centre, High Street, Chepstow, NP16 5LH 0845 4092449 www.victorychurch.co.uk

BABY AND TODDLER GROUPS

Chepstow Methodist Church Parent and Toddler Groups mornings 10am term time www.chepstowmethodist.org.uk

Cylch Ti A Fi Cas-Gwent Chepstow Library contact Mai Jones 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 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.rimmer10@btinternet.com every Thurs 1.30-3pm

St Arvans Baby and Toddler St Arvans Memorial Hall contact Sabrina 07701027313 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 Wed 3.45 term time, all age siblings welcome FREE



Please support us and connect with us:
[@ChepstowMatters](https://twitter.com/ChepstowMatters)



[/ChepstowMatters](https://www.facebook.com/ChepstowMatters)



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

NURSERIES / PRESCHOOLS

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

Little Acorns Playgroup Burnt Barn Road, Chepstow 01291
628031 www.littleacornsplaygroup.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 Beachey
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 Wixey 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

Please support us and connect with us:



@ChepstowMatters

/ChepstowMatters

Gardening Matters: Brought to you by Chepstow Garden Centre



The start of the New Year marks your last few weeks on easy street before seed-sowing starts in earnest. Make the most of it by finishing off the winter jobs and getting ready for the new season.

Keep an eye out for overwintering weeds as some, like chickweed, can still set seed and spread in milder spells. Check any trees and shrubs you planted in autumn to make sure the frost hasn't lifted the roots out of the ground.

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

Prune wisteria back to two or three buds from the main stems to tidy it up and show off flowers at their best. Sow sweet peas in root trainer modules under cover for a scented display this summer.

Kitchen garden: Chit seed potatoes by setting them out in egg boxes. Place somewhere bright and frost-free to sprout.

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.

Time to Clean Tools! It's also a good idea to give your tools some TLC while the garden is quiet, as it won't be long before you're calling on them to work hard for you again - and you'll want them in tip-top condition when you do!

Start by cleaning your tools, brushing off any dirt and oiling wooden handles with teak oil. Next, turn your attention to sharpening blades.

It's not only cutting blades such as secateurs, loppers, garden knives and shears which need sharpening; hoes are most effective with a keen edge, and spades also cut through the ground more cleanly when kept sharp.

Invest in a traditional sharpening stone or custom-made sharpening tool - you'll find a good selection in our garden centre here in

Chepstow. Aim to create a bevelled edge on the cutting blade of your tool, sharpening one side only. Hold larger tools securely and skim the stone in sweeping strokes across the blade, pressing down firmly. For smaller tools, hold the stone, skimming the cutting edge of the tool evenly across.

Finish by carefully wiping over the blade with an oily rag to keep the edge keen until you need it. You may need to repeat the process during the season, especially if you garden on stony or heavy soils.

Plan your Crops! If you enjoy growing your own veg, you could also plan your crop rotation for this year, working out where you'll be growing what and at the same time avoiding the worst of the pests and diseases.

If you grow the same thing in the same place year after year colonies of pests simply increase from one season to the next, feeding on each successive generation until they reach plague proportions. Group the same types of veg together (legumes, for example, or brassicas) and then move them around the plot to interrupt the cycle, keeping all those nasties at bay.

Sit down now with a pencil and sketch what you grew where this year while it's all fresh in your mind. Then move each group of crops around clockwise by one bed, and draw a new plan for the coming season.

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

Chepstow Town Orchards Maintenance - Transition Chepstow
Saturday, 16th & Sunday 17th January 2016
@ 10:30 am – 3:00 pm
Chepstow Castle Car Park, Chepstow

Transition Chepstow has worked with Chepstow Town Council to plant over 150 fruit trees throughout the town. The fruit is free for residents to take and this year there was a bumper crop!

Would you like to help take care of these trees?

At this event we will be checking the trees, stakes and ties and pruning them ready for their 2016 season. No previous experience necessary. We will only be working at ground level!

We will meet at the Castle car park before moving to other locations around the riverbank.

Please come dressed for the prevailing weather conditions, with sturdy footwear and gloves if you have them. We will provide pruning equipment but if you have your own please bring it along.

(We will cancel in the case of bad weather – call Marcus on 07944 468052 to check)

Do get in touch if you have any queries via food@transitionchepstow.org.uk or 07944 468052

Lydney & Severnside Flower Club
Professional Demonstrations
at Town Hall, Lydney,
Every second Monday in the month
at 7.15pm
Tel. 01594 860578



Dance Through the Decades.
Mathern Village Hall
Saturday 30th January.
7 for 7.30

In aid of Mounth Church



Music from 50's to 2000 with our own live band "De Lorean"

Licensed bar and hot supper. – Tickets £15

From Lynne Brierley 01291621778

Sandra White 01291622317



Transition Chepstow

Food Group Meeting

Tuesday, 19th January 2016

@ 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Regency Rm, (upstairs), Beaufort Hotel,
Beaufort Square, Chepstow

The Food Group aims to help promote and develop, local, resilient and low carbon food supplies for our community.

This meeting is to plan our projects for 2016.

All welcome – please bring your ideas!

Drinks in the bar afterwards.

For more information contact Marcus

via food@
transitionchepstow.org.uk



Chepstow Wassail & Mari Lwyd
Saturday 16 Jan 2016

Annual New Years celebrations with music, Morris dancing, Wassailing, Country Dance Ceilidh, Welsh and English Traditions and some daft capers for all the family.

Lower Chepstow from 3pm until midnight.

Begins with Wassailing the apple trees in the Castle Dell at 3pm
see www.thewidders.co.uk use tag Wassail/Mari Lwyd for info or call Mick 07870 611 979.
mickwiddier@aol.com

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

Chepstow Library - Opening Hours
Mon 9.00-17.30
Tues 10.00-19.00
Weds 9.00-13.00
Thurs 9.00-19.00
Fri 9.00-17.30
Sat 9.00-13.00



Shirenewton Operatic & Drama Society Production
Thursday 28th to Saturday 30th January 2016 @ 7.30
Earlswood Hall

Adults £7, Children £5
Call 01291 641739 for tickets

CHEPSTOW HAS A NEW, REGULAR LIVE JAZZ VENUE!!!

The Piercefield in St Arvans with Bespoke Music Services are launching Sunday evenings as a regular slot for live jazz.

Excellent jazz musicians from Chepstow, Newport, Cardiff and Bristol, from solo jazz pianists, mixed duos and trios through to quartets and larger combos from time to time.

Sunday 3rd January 8-10pm will be the local "JAZZ LAdZZ" trio

who also perform at the Lime Tree on New Year's Eve, 10pm – midnight, and the last Thursday of each month from 8-10pm

More Medals in Last Competitions of the Year for Kestrel Gymnasts

Kestrel gymnasts aged 8 to 13 years took part in a Novice Invitational on 7th November. The competition was held at the Kestrel Club in Bulwark and the girls were competing with other gymnasts from Torfaen and Cardiff.

The Kestrel girls performed good routines on Vault, A-Bars, Beam and Floor. They all had a great afternoon, especially as each of them medalled. A fabulous end to competitions for 2015!

The smiles say it all, as on 14th November Kestrel boys aged 5 yrs onwards were awarded medals and trophies competing on Floor, Vault, Pommel and Trampoline with gymnasts from Cardiff.

It was some of the boys' first competition in front of a large audience, and all had a great time performing their routines.

The Overall age group winners were 5 yr old Brereton Trim, 7 yr old Aedan McDaid, 8 yr old Alex Hill-Wilson, 9 yr old Joseph Dunster, and 15 yr old Cameron Maggs.



Tumble Tastic! Kestrel Mini Squad gymnasts aged 5 years to 7 years travelled to Pencoed on 21st November to take part in Tumble Tastic. For the majority of the gymnasts it was their first tumbling competition.

Five year olds Hollie Smith, Amelie Thomason, Mia-Olivia Moore and Ava Burley were very focussed remembering all their tumbles, winning Team Silver.

In the 6 year old Section, Lilian Sapsford performed excellent tumbles, and a very good Conditioning Set, taking Bronze overall, and, with team mates Eva Lawn, Elsie-Mae Williams, Freya Hines, went on to win Team Bronze.

Seven year olds Olive Dunster, Sophia Catan, Sophie French, Lexi Weldon, Amber Price, Megan Kear, Martha Jones-Dekerf, and Simone Thornton worked very well, finishing in fifth place, and are working to better their performances for the next competition in the New Year.



Photo above shows: Back Row: Eva Lawn Sophie French, Sophia Cattin, Olive Dunster, Lexi Weldon, Megan Kear. Middle Row: Edith Ferrer, Martha Jones-Dekerf, Simone Thornton, Amber Price. Front Row: Lilian Sapsford, Elsie-Mae Williams, Mia-Olivia Moore, Freya Hines, Hollie Smith, Amelie Thomason, Ava Burley.

Photo top left shows: Back Row: Jessica Ham, Mollie Sage, Georgie Davies, Heather Dent, Olivia Hathaway. Front Row: Erica Denby, Ella Burley, Eden Fryer, Harriet Hathaway, Charlotte Jones, Isabelle Jones

Photo bottom left shows: Back Row: Finley Stenner, Alex Hill-Wilson, Joseph Dunster, Cameron Maggs, Joel Kohler-Hoon, Henry Jones-Dekerf, Dovydas Zarkorsky, Mackenzie Thornton. Front Row: Aedan McDaid, James Davies, Brereton Trim, Ted Watson, Henri French



Kestrel Gymnastics Club

Artistic Gymnastics, Acrobatics and Trampoline Classes for Girls & Boys

PeeWees (Pre-school 2-3 years): A structured class where children together with parent/carer, supervised by a qualified coach work towards British Gymnastics Awards. Mondays 13:00-13:45 & Fridays 09:30-10:15

Tweeties (Age 3 1/2 - 4 years): A class led by a qualified coach working on various apparatus. Mondays 13:45-14:30, Wednesdays 13:00-13:45, Fridays 13:00-13:45

Recreational Classes (Age 4 years +) Mondays 16:15-17:15, Wednesdays 16:15-17:15 & 17:30-18:30, Thursdays 16:15-17:15, Friday 16:15-17:15, Saturday 10:30-11:30

Trampoline Thursdays 16:15-17:15 and Saturdays 10:00-11:00

Competitive Squad Gymnasts - Selected Gymnasts with potential to compete at regional and national levels. Wednesdays Adult Classes: 19:00 - 20:00 Parkour: 20:00 - 21:00 pm

Acrobatics Wed & Thursdays 17:00-18:00



Open Gymnastics Fun Session

Saturdays
9.00am-10.00am

For children aged
4yrs onwards -
£3.00 per session
payable on entrance

01291 620780

Please email us at: kestrelgymclub@live.co.uk

Kestrel Gymnastics Club, Bulwark Industrial Estate, Bulwark Road, Chepstow, NP16 5QZ

We are always looking for new ideas that will benefit our customers and their cars

Introducing a new technology to the UK - TerraClean which not only saves money by improving your vehicles efficiency. It improves vehicle performance, restores MPG and significantly reduces emissions, protecting our environment. The other added benefit is that TerraClean prolongs the life of your cars, engine, ignition and exhaust system components reducing maintenance costs.

The process of TerraClean Decarbonisation is effectively a valet for all the internal parts of your engine and exhaust system. A TerraClean service should not be confused with pour in fuel treatments, it involves patented technology operated by trained automotive professionals, using highly refined chemicals. We recommend you have your car TerraCleaned and believe one day soon all cars will have an annual TerraClean service.

The process is already part of the Franchised Dealer service plan in the US for some vehicle manufacturers (e.g. Subaru), and in the UK is endorsed and used by TV mechanic Edd China in his own garage workshops.



TERRACLEAN.
Healthy living for your car.

www.terraclean.co.uk

Terraclean is the only de-carbonising service of its kind in the world

A Terraclean service will:-

- Restore fuel economy
- Restore vehicle performance
- Save on costly repairs by prolonging component life
- Give immediate drive-away difference

Did you know?

Only Terraclean will restore your vehicle's performance and fuel economy by removing carbon deposits from your oxygen sensors and other engine components.

Terraclean is now available from:-

AUTOCARE CENTRE CHEPSTOW
Unit 6, Bulwark Business Park
Bulwark, Chepstow

01291 627137
auto.care@btconnect.com
www.auto.centre.co.uk



INDEX OF LOCAL ADVERTISERS



Accountant		Estate Agent/House Purchase		Pets/Pet Care	
bdhc Chartered Accountants	19	Charles Church, Chepstow	26	Double Diamond Dog Groomg	3
My Finance Business Partner	22	Persimmon Homes, Lydney	26	Perfect Pets/Doggy Daycare	8
Builder - Oval Room	28	Properties	18	Police	5
Car Maintenance / Car Sales		Financial Consultant		Pottery	
AutoCare, Chepstow	6	Hawkins Wealth Management	25	Ladybird Pottery	3
E K Tyres	14	Fitness - Derek's Gym	22,23	Paint on Me	17
Terraclean	37	Funeral Directors		Plumber -	
Children's Activities		Ian Watts & Sons	18	R H White Plumbing & Heating	14
Kestrel Gym Club	36, 37	Gardening / Garden Centres		Restaurant/Cafe/Bars -	
Craft - Undy Yarn Crafts	16	Chepstow Garden Centre	33, 40	Old Forge Coffee Shop	27
Community Listings	30-32	Garretts Gardens/Lazy Lawn	12	Tiffin Vintage Tea & Coffee	13
Community Noticeboard	34-35	HomeCare		Social Club	
Days Out/Events/Activities		Helping Hands (Home Help)	4	Burnt Barn Social Club	29
Chepstow Racecourse	9	Wiltshire Farm Foods	11	Solicitor - Proerts	18
Ladybird Pottery	3	Home		Toyshop - Toytastik	4
National Diving & Activity Centre	2	Thermotech - UPVC Products	1, 29	TV/Aerials -	
Old Down	16	Insurance - NFU Mutual	38	The Aerial Man (Dan Grace)	8
Paint on Me	17	Locksmith - City Locksmiths	28	Weddings -	16
Cleaners - Maid 2 Shine	4	Motorcycles/Scooters		Windows -	
Dry Cleaners/Laundrette		Chepstow Motorcycles (Big Boar)	18	Associated Windows	6
Fresh & Clean	24	Osteopath		Monmouthshire Windows	39
		Chepstow Osteopathic Clinic	22		

Your Local Trade Specialist in PVCu Windows, Doors & Conservatories

The
MONMOUTHSHIRE
Window Company



FANTASTIC QUALITY PRODUCTS

Windows • Box Sash Windows • PVCu Doors • Composite Doors • French Doors
Bi Folding Doors • Patio Doors • Porches • Conservatories • And More!



Quality Service

Year after year we continually invest in the latest products and installation techniques to ensure that you, and your home, are in safe hands every step of the way.



The Very Best, As Standard

By combining REHAU frames with Pilkington and Planitherm glass we are pleased to offer the best products the industry has to offer!



Consumer Conscientious

Unlike other companies who rush an installation we understand your needs, and tailor our service to what you want, when you want it.



Quality Backed

Monmouthshire Windows are here to stay! From the insurance backed guarantee from point of sale to the 10 year guarantee we offer on our products, you know that if you need us we'll be here ready to help.

10% Off your First order
With This Advert!

Industry Leading Partners & Accreditations



WE BELIEVE
QUALITY HOME
INSURANCE CAN'T
BE RUSHED

We'll invest time to help you ensure you get the right cover for your home.

Call 01633 413 571 for a quote or pop in
NFU Mutual Branch, 3 Langstone Business Park,
Priory Drive, Newport NP18 2LH.



NFU Mutual
INSURANCE | PENSIONS | INVESTMENTS

NFU Mutual is The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited (No. 111982). Registered in England. Registered Office: Tiddington Road, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire CV37 7BJ. Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. A member of the Association of British Insurers. For security and training purposes, telephone calls may be recorded and monitored.

With Fantstic Offers Now Available Why Not Get in Touch Today!
T: 01291 430 353 E: monmouthshirewindows@hotmail.co.uk



GARDENER'S CLUB
HALF PRICE

16th - 24th
JANUARY

SEED
SALE

Mr Fothergills,
Thompson & Morgan
& Franchi seeds

EXCLUSIVE GARDENER'S CLUB RESTAURANT OFFER... OFFER VALID FROM JAN 2nd to JAN 31st*

The
Garden
Restaurant and Café bar

CHEF'S HOMEMADE Offer Excludes
Tuesdays & Weekends
Main Meal £5.99

From the daily specials board NORMALLY £7.49 - £7.99

CHEPSTOW 
Garden Centre

WINTER OPENING HOURS:

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

TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR MONTHLY
OFFERS JOIN OUR **FREE** GARDENER'S CLUB
Ask in store for details

Pwllmeyric, Chepstow NP16 6LF
On the A48 just west of Chepstow
TEL: 01291 626035

www.chepstowgardencentre.co.uk