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issue 24, March 2016

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## Dear Readers...

As we reach the second anniversary of the launch of your Chepstow Matters community magazine it is great to have received so much positive feedback from the High Street this month about how often our magazine is requested in stores. We do leave copies in as many venues as we can get to each month and always leave a stash at the library too. If it's not your month to have a copy through your door, and ever have difficulty getting hold of a copy, feel free to contact me and I will be pleased to help. Soon each edition will be posted on line on the website [www.mattersmagazines.co.uk](http://www.mattersmagazines.co.uk) for your ease to view.

We have received more information from local groups/organisations with their news updates this issue and bring you news from the local police team, Shirenewton Primary, the fabulous show that was Beauty & the Beast at Chepstow School, Famelab at Wyedean, as well as an update from the Chepstow Rotary on the recent 'Youth Speaks' competition. We are pleased to share the news of local community group SLS's recent community award and also their latest call for donations for the homeless - Easter Eggs! Chepstow Walking Festival is at the start of April and the Wye Valley River Festival commences on 29th April - more on both of these inside.

There are also many events taking place locally inside, including Drill Hall listings and Chepstow Museum, and the fabulous Castell Roc in August where more names are now announced and tickets are selling fast!

Thank you to all the local businesses who continue to support this initiative by promoting their services with us. Do support them where you can by utilising their services whenever you have a need. If you would like your business, community group or event included in our April edition, the deadline for content is 15th March. Do contact me and I would be pleased to help.

I look forward to hearing from you!

**Jaci x**

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## Police Matters -

### Update from Chepstow Police

Hello Residents, this month's update comes from two members of our Lower Wye Neighbourhood Team. The Team are still working hard towards the current Your Voice priorities and we will be entering a new survey period this month, so keep an eye out for the details and links into that process.

We have had a really wet and windy start to the New Year and that has brought with it several challenges to the team so please, a key message from me this month is to take extra care and be vigilant when driving particularly on our more rural roads.

Best wishes, Inspector Lysha Thompson



Inspector Lysha Thompson

South Monmouthshire Geographical Inspector  
Chepstow Police Station / Heddlu Gwent Police  
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Hello all, I am Community Support Officer Geraint Reynolds the CSO for Chepstow Town (St Marys and St Kingsmark) area along with CSO Ceri Vaughan. We have both been CSO's for over 8 years. I have working in Chepstow for 5 years and Ceri joined us in February 2016 from Caldicot. We are joined by 3 other CSO's and 1 Neighbourhood Ward Manager who cover other areas of Chepstow.



Our "Your Voice" priority within Chepstow town and St Kingsmark is illegal parking. We have issued over 96 tickets since December 2015. Tickets range from parking on double yellow lines, single yellow lines, disabled bays, restricted zones, limited waiting areas and using a vehicle where prohibited.

- Double yellow lines you: cannot park at any time

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- Using a vehicle where prohibited: you cannot enter the area unless for access.

We are asking people to double check the areas that they park in for lines or signs also if you have a problem with parking please do call 101 and report it.

From 5th March we will undertake our latest round of "Your Voice" surveys. Please visit our website or call into the station for more details and to help set your priority.

### Contact Us

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FOR NON-EMERGENCIES DIAL: 101

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

## *Easter thoughts: Changing Times?*

*sent in to us by a local resident*

A regular walk into Chepstow takes me across the A48 road bridge. It's a good chance to get a birds' eye view of how things are changing in the area below the bridge. The demolition of various buildings recently reminds us that, regardless of our views on what 'they are going to do', things are changing and there is a desire to have something new in place of something old. Whatever we think about this and no matter how useful (or otherwise) those buildings were, we often have a sense of sadness when we consider the finality of what we know has gone.

This was further impressed upon me when my husband and I recently visited the village where he grew up. Much had changed in the village with shops and factories turned into houses and new houses added. Then we looked at the house where he grew up; completely changed, his childhood home gone for ever!

With Easter fast approaching, it made me wonder how Jesus' disciples felt about that very first Easter? It must have turned their world upside down. Certainly their life with Jesus had been at times comforting, challenging, disturbing and thought provoking. The Good Friday crucifixion scene would have left them feeling empty and hopeless, knowing that life would never be the same again. Jesus had tried to warn them that life would change, but they hadn't understood. How surprised they must have been when the women – considered to be unreliable witnesses in Jewish law courts – came to say that Jesus was alive. Then to have Jesus appear to them as well! At last they knew for sure that that Jesus was someone special.

But the amazing thing here is that Jesus can still be with us today. With us, through all the changing scenes of life. When we feel the world has come to an end, or when we're on cloud nine, and everywhere else in between. So, however, much has changed in our lives recently, let's remember that others have been there too and we can ask Jesus to help us through it all.

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## **'Celebration of the Piano'** **Saturday 16th April, Drill Hall, Chepstow**

Chepstow Matters readers will remember the fundraising efforts last year to secure a piano for the Drill Hall. A 'Celebration of the Piano' concert has now been organised at the Drill Hall, on Saturday 16th April starting at 7.30pm.

Now that there is a grand piano in situ, the evening will celebrate all the myriad ways a piano can be used: playing solos, duets, even trios(!) and also in its role as an accompanying instrument, for example with solo singers, choirs and instrumentalists.

To demonstrate this, the evening will also be an opportunity to celebrate the cream of Chepstow's young musical talent. All of these young musicians go to local schools and they will be performing many different styles of music, so there will be something for everyone to look forward to.

The evening will feature pianists of a high standard, aged 7 to 16 from the Chepstow Piano Academy (director Yvonne Lewis) and will include Joe Rooney who recently reached the regional final of the European Piano Teachers' Association UK Competition which will take place at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Olly Jenkins (saxophone) is an up and coming jazz saxophonist and Elliot Kempton a wonderfully gifted viola player. Also on this occasion the versatile and hugely talented young female singer Ceira Moulton will be singing a 'Gospel' solo.

There are a number of interesting singing groups in the Chepstow community and one of those is 'The Chepstow Chatelaines.' Directed by Karl Daymond, this all-female prize-winning chamber choir will be performing a selection of delightfully stylish songs from their repertoire.

As a finale to this eclectic mix of music The Chepstow Singing Club will be singing their own unique tribute to David Bowie. Accompanied by Karl Daymond this local group of enthusiastic male and female voices embraces singers of all ages and musical backgrounds.

The Mayor of Chepstow, Councillor Dale Rooke will be attending the event along with the Chairman of Monmouthshire County Council Councillor Brian Strong and his lady wife Mary. Councillor Brian Strong has been particularly supportive in the fundraising concerts for the piano and both he and Mary Strong have a keen interest in encouraging young local musicians.

***This entertaining and enjoyable concert will be in aid of the Chepstow Piano Fund; the fund is ongoing so as to help keep the piano maintained. Tickets are £8 or £5 for 12s and under and will be available at the door or from the Chepstow Bookshop.***





## Community Matters: Local Group wins Community Award

Congratulations to local support group for the homeless, SLS, who have won a local Halifax community award for their fantastic work for the homeless and vulnerable over the last 15 months.

Founder Claire Day initiated the facebook group as a way of collecting donations for a local team helping the homeless on the streets of Bristol, which she and her family had been part of. Since then the group has grown beyond all imagination, now approaching 2,000 members, which enables their help to extend to homeless projects and charities for the vulnerable across Bristol, Newport and Cardiff.

Claire was nominated by members of the group and has been awarded £300 in vouchers from the Giving Extra Awards, which have all gone into funding more much needed items for the local homeless.

Claire commented: "I am so proud that this group has won a local Halifax award and £300. Whoop whoop! I know my name is on it but WE won this, our fantastic group! I so hope it will help raise the SLS profile to gain more donations for the projects, centres and guests we help."

Sue Jordan, Halifax Local Director Gloucestershire & Wales East wrote to Claire: "I just wanted to drop you a note to say a massive congratulations on your Giving Extra Award - I was part of the judging panel with my area team and your story and contribution really touched all of us. You are reaching out to people who are at the very lowest point of their life and there is nothing and no one else there for them. We all know that this could happen to any one of us with just a few wrong decisions or difficult circumstances. Thank you for everything that you do and I am so pleased that the award has already been put to great use."



## Knit it for Yourself, with Chepstow Wool Shop

Due to the successful launch of the beginners' Crochet classes with Jodie (All for the Love of Abbie) in February, we are pleased to say that we are happy to announce the next set of sessions. They include beginners, intermediates and project days. Starting in April 2016, booking can be done online via our website [www.chepstowwoolshop.co.uk](http://www.chepstowwoolshop.co.uk) or via the shop. Again daytime and evening options will be available for both beginners and intermediate crocheters. The classes are a maximum of 6 people and your materials are included. Early booking essential as the Feb classes sold so quickly!

Also due in stock during March is a lovely Crochet-a-long project pack from the team at Stylecraft Yarns. Each fortnight from the beginning of April, a downloadable pattern will be available at their website [www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk](http://www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk). At the end of the crochet-a-long you will have a gorgeous full size throw. We will have the lovely 100% cotton yarns in store for those that wish to participate in the event. Discounts will be available for those wishing to purchase the complete yarn kit in advance. These events have proved massively popular in the past.

We also have some lovely 100% cotton fabrics by the metre, and fat quarters, as well as small quilt kits in stock.

New yarns & patterns arrive every couple of weeks, and the spring/summer yarns are starting to arrive in store now.

Our loyalty points scheme is now up and running and if you haven't already got your loyalty card please ask for one next time you pop in and see us.

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## Cotton buds; Candles; Paper clips; Water? Keep it out of your ears!

Many people can't have water in their ear canals, yet many also have blockages; what can be done? You should never try to remove earwax by sticking cotton buds or paper clips or hair grips into them. The lining of the canal is very delicate and can be affected easily with infection being introduced and/or physically damaged. There are a number of proprietary remedies that claim a lot of success but do not always work for everyone; some even make the problem worse.

Olive oil – correctly applied – can help but often you need manual intervention from a professional clinician. However, some people cannot have water squirted into their ears owing to a variety of conditions particularly if they have a damaged tympanic membrane [ear-drum]. Equally many people find their doctors' practice no longer offers the service or there is a very long wait. My practice is able to offer micro-suction removal of detritus from your ear.

There are also those who need to keep their ears dry at all times owing to a chronic condition affecting the lining of the ear canal. A pair of custom-made ear protectors allow you to swim, shower, bathe, wash hair or simply walk in a downpour; they are also floatable so won't sink if you drop them in water!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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## Chepstow Walking Festival Wednesday 6th - Sunday 10th April 2016

Chepstow Walking Festival has become firmly established on the walker's map and each year brings something new to those who live locally or are visitors to the area.

As the days lengthen the Lower Wye Valley comes into its own and by joining a walk there is no better way to experience its landscape and heritage.

There are 28 walks of various lengths on offer, led by friendly experienced walk leaders. Many are specialists who work in an around the Lower Wye Valley and are happy to share their knowledge and enthusiasm on the walks. **See the website [www.walksinchepstow.co.uk](http://www.walksinchepstow.co.uk) for full programme and further details.**

As Chepstow Tourist Information Centre is closed until the beginning of April, Chepstow Walkers are unable to offer the full range of booking and payment options that were available in previous years. However, online and postal bookings are available, and Chepstow Museum have kindly agreed to provide visitors with Festival information and will accept cash bookings.

Ticket prices are £5 for a single walk or £10 for a Supersaver ticket; which gives you the option of joining as many walks as you wish. Free car parking at Chepstow and transport for linear walks is included in the ticket price.



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## Beauty & the Beast

On February 9th, 10th and 11th, Chepstow School once again continued their tradition of staging musicals to mesmerise audiences.

This year the production was the Disney classic 'The Beauty and the Beast'. Students were hard at work preparing for this challenging show since the summer term and as opening night got nearer, the excitement grew and grew. Following on from previous productions such as 'The Phantom of the Opera' and 'We Will Rock You' was a major challenge, even more so since so many students left last summer for University, but the cast of 2016 were superb. Not only were they so professional in their approach to auditions and rehearsals, some even stepped up as lead choreographers.

Two students from Year 11, Megan Marsh (played Cogsworth) and Rebecca Ham (played Lumiere) choreographed all dance numbers within the show and the younger students in the cast this year have responded magnificently to their guidance. Without students such as these, productions would not be possible. These are the type of students who make shows so unique at Chepstow.

Rosie Hathaway (Belle) and Harry Lewis (Beast) were the lead characters this year, both for the first time, and their professionalism and commitment from the start was outstanding. Other main cast members include Carys Curwood as Mrs Potts, Luca Goddard as Gaston, Sophie Allen as Babette, Jessica Ham as Chip and Bethan Taylor as Lefou.

Mr Rhidian Phillips was producer again this year with Miss Natalie Jones directing. Mr Simon Hendry was Musical Director and once again the orchestra was made up fully of students, ranging from years 7 through to the sixth form.

The set has been designed and created by Mr Rhidian Phillips and Mr Tim Smith, with the amazing artwork on set carried out by Mrs Emily Powell. With various other staff supporting with costume, make up, publicity and ticket sales, the show, as every other year, was a team effort and a huge success.

It was a totally enchanting show week that culminated in an outstanding sell out on the final night. Congratulations to all the cast for a fabulous show and to all those hard at work behind the scenes.





**Chepstow School** has become an accredited Stonewall Champion School following Head of Sixth Form, Mel Thomas, successfully completing the Stonewall 'Train the Trainer' course. Mel has been overseeing a student-led LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) club which meets every Thursday lunchtime, in conjunction with Monmouth Youth Service, who send a representative, Jade Atkins, to support them.

A staff CPD session will now follow on the subject of equality and diversity.

## A good start to the new year !

At the Welsh Trampoline NDP Championship and Regional Gratings held at South Wales National Centre in Cardiff, Kestrel Flyers did well in the 9-10 yrs NDP 2 Section with Gemma Heal giving an excellent performance, and taking the Champion trophy.

William Dent competing in the U13 Regional 3 section performed two good routines, winning himself a silver medal.

Both Gemma and William (photo right) are now looking forward to their next competition in Cardiff in a couple of week's time and hoping to still be on top form!



## Kestrel Gymnastics Club

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**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



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## Youth Speaks!

A team of Sixth Formers at Wydean won the Rotary Club's Youth Speaks competition for the Chepstow and District region. Tom Saunders, Sophie Drinkwater and Abbie O'Connell (photos right) gave an excellent account of themselves and spoke confidently on why Britain should remain in the EU.

They then progressed to the District Final on the 6th of February where they faced tough competition from schools in Monmouth, Bristol and Malvern.

The District Finals were held in Maisemore Hall, Gloucester. The winning Intermediate (age 11-13 years) team, comprised Chair Ellie Drake, Speaker Sienna Jackson-Wolfe and Vote of thanks Kai Darmai of Redland Green School, Bristol. They spoke on "Should 16-18 year olds be given the vote". The winning Senior (14-17 years) team from Red Maids School, Westbury-on-Trym, spoke on "Introvertism" and was Chaired by Neha Meta with Speaker Bea Bacon and Vote of Thanks Georgie Scott. The large audience very much enjoyed both presentations that were both contentious and amusing.

The photographs shows the Intermediate winning and runner up teams having received their certificates from Rotary Youth Officer Cerri Pridding (L to R Kai Damani, Sienna Jackson-Wolfe, Ellie Drake, Cerri Pridding, Eleri Jarrold, Ella de St Croix and Alice Barrell together with the Senior winners (L to R Neha Meta, Bea Bacon and Georgia Scott)

This four stage competition is designed to support and encourage the development of effective communication skills. It offers young people:

- Experience in speaking on a public platform as a member of a team.
- An incentive to formulate ideas on topical subjects.
- Discipline in dealing with a topic in a limited time.
- The opportunity of learning and practicing high standards of expression, presentation and appearance.



- Impartial feedback and assessment of performance by experienced adjudicators.

At the same event prizes were awarded for the Rotary Young Writer and also the Young Photographer competition where Saskia Wood of Chepstow School won Second place.

Rotary Clubs are 'service' clubs whose members try to help where needed in their local or worldwide communities. This Youth Speaks competition in just one of the events organised by Rotary for young people and are intended to develop their extra-curricular skills. They are also useful to future employers in showing above average enthusiasm and interests.

**To find out more about Rotary visit**  
[www.chepstowrotary.org.uk](http://www.chepstowrotary.org.uk)



## Wye Valley Music Spring Programme

Wye Valley Music's Spring programme continues on **Saturday 12 March**, in St Briavels Church, with a piano recital given by the renowned Israeli pianist Noam Greenberg.



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

On **Saturday 23 April**, again in St Briavels Church, Wye Valley Music will present a recital given by one of the most exciting classical guitarists of the younger generation, Michael Christian Durrant.



Michael studied classical guitar performance at the Leeds Conservatoire of Music from which he graduated with first-class honours. He subsequently continued his studies at the Royal College of Music, London, with the world-renowned classical guitarist Carlos Bonell.

He has also studied privately with Graham Wade and attended public master-classes with many of the world's most famous classical guitarists, including Craig Ogden. In 2011 he won the prize for best string soloist at the Harrogate music festival. His programme at St Briavels will include works by Bach, Mozart, Rodrigo, Albeniz and Sor.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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## Wye Valley River Festival 29 April to 15 May 2016

The amazing Wye Valley River Festival launches in Hereford on 29th April and flows through venues along the Wye to its fabulous finale in Chepstow on 15th May.

The watery festival with the “wow” factor will bring a series of innovative, intriguing and spectacular events to locations along a 60-mile stretch of the River Wye, under the central theme of Global Arteries.

The unique and creative Wye Valley River Festival is a biennial event inspired by the landscape and led by arts professionals collaborating with the people who live in and around the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). After the first Festival's tidal wave of success in 2014, organisers are setting their sights high to make their second, 17-day festival even more amazing, exciting, entertaining and educational.

Environmentalists, artists and communities are coming together for themed events including:

**\*Fire and flame \*Riverside revelry \*Performances \*Arts installations \*Workshops \*Walks and talks**

The focus of the Wye Valley River Festival 2016 is a travelling Wye Serai, a dynamic combination of performances, activities and workshops. At the heart of the Wye Serai is the Giant Samovar, a beautiful water heating sculpture, used to heat filtered water from the river. At key events the Samovar will be the centrepiece of a spellbinding fire and flame spectacular.

Main venues for the Wye Serai will be Hereford; Ross on Wye; Lydbrook; The Slaughters/ Symonds Yat; Monmouth; Llandogo and Chepstow, where the last Wye Serai will lead to a finale show and grand narrative denouement at Chepstow Racecourse.

**For more details and information about sponsors, funders and supporters visit [www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk](http://www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk) and follow along on Twitter for the latest updates.**



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## **“The economy is in ruins! Bottom line? Good management will defeat a bad economy.”**

Sir John Harvey-Jones MBE (16 April 1924 – 9 January 2008) was an English businessman best known by the public for his BBC television show, Troublesooter, in which he advised struggling businesses. Listening to the radio one day whilst travelling in my car to visit a customer, Sir John was asked by an interviewer “*did he have any survival tips for business owners?*” Sir John replied “*Cash Flow - your business will only survive if you can manage it efficiently.*”

**Here we are today, a few recessions later, and his words are just as relevant now as they were then.** With this in mind, here are some simple adjustments that all businesses can make, which will deliver noticeable improvements to your bottom line.

### **Create a cash flow ritual**

It's human nature to avoid the less attractive parts of our businesses (ledgers, bank balances, etc.). It allows us to keep ‘busy’, doing what's easy and comfortable, instead of what we know we need to do. Creating rituals will help you learn to love these financial parts of business.

Start your week by reviewing what you owe, who owes you, how much work is in the pipeline and how much cash you will have for the month ahead as a result. Then list out the outcomes you need to achieve to get you where you need to be and the actions you need to take to make them happen (chasing payments, closing contracts, making more sales, etc.). This will help you focus and work out what to do next.

### **Make your invoicing and debt management anonymous**

Create a separate, generic email address for all billing and debt collection correspondence (e.g. [accounts@a2zbusiness.co.uk](mailto:accounts@a2zbusiness.co.uk)), even if you're a one or two person business. This helps separate you from the billing process itself, especially if you deal with customers directly or have another prominent role in your business that you don't want to mix up with the painful job of chasing payments.

We've all been in the uncomfortable position of needing a customer to make a payment but not wanting to come across as needy or unprofessional. There is a natural fear that chasing debt will create pressure and strain the customer relationship.

By having a separate billing identity, you can create a virtual department at no cost, which can help bring

you the cash you need on time, and give you more peace of mind.

Also use a neutral, business tone on all correspondence regarding billing, separate from your personal relationship with your client. This helps make things easier, should any issues arise later.

### **Use four elements to get your invoices to the top of your customer's payment list:**

1. A clear and specific deadline for payment – i.e. the actual date instead of generic wording, e.g. ‘within 30 days’
2. More than one payment option - the easier these options are for the customer, the better.
3. A clear consequence for late payment – this should influence customers to pay on time and create a relationship of trust and respect around billing. Consequences can range between the loss of a specific privilege, a monetary penalty for late payments, or the use of debt collection agencies (whatever makes sense for your business).
4. A request for immediate contact regarding late payments - by requesting upfront for immediate communication if they are unable to meet the deadline, you will be able to plan for cash flow shortfalls and negotiate new deadlines. Part-payments or other options that will give your client a breather but still keep them accountable for the new commitment they make.

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## Wydean FameLab Academy Final 2016

The Wydean School FameLab Academy Final took place on 3rd Feb 2016. The winning student Dan Feltham will now go on to compete in a countywide final organised by The Times Cheltenham Science Festival. Dan will also receive a masterclass in communication training, a work placement in a local STEM company and £50 cash prize. Dan had strong competition from the two runners-up Sophie Davies and James Phillips who also impressed the judges, receiving a £20 cash prize for their efforts.

Rob Ford, Headteacher at Wydean said: *"I just want to pass on my thanks and appreciation to the Science Learning Area for the success in raising aspirations of the students in KS3 learning science through our involvement with STEM, FameLab and the Cheltenham Festival. It was impressive to see the confidence of the students deliver their findings in front of outside judges, Wydean Governor Paul Stephens and their peers yesterday. The more work through STEM we do as a school, to keep stretching and challenging the students, the better."*

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

All 150 students in year 9 prepared talks during their science lessons in December. The best eight students were selected and received additional training from STEM Mentor John Drew from Hewlett Packard Enterprise during the month of January. The finalists impressed the judges by performing in front of 130 year 8 students and were particularly praised for the quality and depth of their scientific explanations.

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

*FameLab was set up in 2005 by Cheltenham Festivals to find and nurture scientists and engineers with a flair for communicating with public audiences. Since then it has gone from strength to strength and has gone global in partnership with The British Council and NASA. Competitions are now held in 26 countries across Europe, Asia, Africa and the United States. Thousands of researchers have taken part around the world to date. The result is a vibrant network of scientists and engineers engaging international audiences and broadening each other's views of what it means to be working in science and engineering right now. [www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/about/famelab/](http://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/about/famelab/)*



Main photo from left: Henry Williams, Jack McGilvray, Sophie Davies, Bethany Garland, Daniel Feltham, Eleanor Thrift and Kaylie Hawker. Front: James Phillips.  
Below: Daniel Feltham (winner); James Phillips (runner-up); Sophie Davies (runner-up).



## \*\* Easter Egg Launch \*\*

It's that eggstastic time of the year again and SLS are now collecting boxed and small creme/caramel eggs for rough sleepers and the vulnerably housed up until the 18th March.

They need over a 1000 eggs so please help make this a successful egg hunt for all those people this fabulous local group help! The eggs will be sent to 15+ centres, refuges, projects and organisations that house the homeless and support the street sleepers across Cardiff, Newport and Bristol. Different approaches are used to access the needy and vulnerable, both kerbside and via a centre, project or organisation. No one route is better than another - all are worthy of our help, love, care and generosity.

So what can you do to help? Well, if you can spare a few ££s then that means purchasing a few creme eggs or a boxed egg. If you don't feel you can afford to do this then please don't worry - spreading the word and collecting via your FB friend walls, at your workplace or maybe through a local club you are part of.

**They have 4 weeks (at time of writing) to collect and distribute and SLS can't do this without a lot of help! Contact [sls.homeless@gmail.com](mailto:sls.homeless@gmail.com) for your nearest drop off point. Thank You!!**



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## News from Shirenewton Primary School

by Associate Headteacher Jill Mitchell

### HAPPY 30th BIRTHDAY!

Shirenewton Primary School was built in 1985 when the small village schools in Mynyddbach, Earlswood, Itton, Devauden and Llanfair Discoed were closed down. At the end of last year we celebrated the school's 30th birthday with a picnic outside and a celebration afternoon organised by the School Council.

A parent, Sarah Hebblethwaite ([www.chlojocupcakes.co.uk](http://www.chlojocupcakes.co.uk)), made a fantastic birthday cake which all the pupils and staff agreed was delicious! After singing happy birthday to the school and watching Chloe cut the cake - all the pupils enjoyed choosing from a range of fun activities for the afternoon including cheer leading, tennis, football, hockey, wheeled toys, art and craft making sock puppets, constructions, parachute, loom bands, top trumps ... to name but a few!

One of the highlights of the afternoon was having an ice-cream van in school! Thank you to the PTA for paying for the ice-creams, birthday cake and pencil gifts for each pupil.

The PTA also bought the school two 'Birthday Buddy Benches' - one for each of our yards. These are somewhere for the children to sit if they're feeling lonely, would like someone new to play with or simply want to chat to their friends. The children keep an eye on the bench and offer friendship to those sitting on it.

### Where are we now ... 30 years on?

We are a **MODEL SCHOOL** for our teaching of literacy skills using Read Write Inc. For 8 years we have welcomed teachers from across Wales, watching how we teach pupils to read and write.

SHIRENEWTON  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



We are a **PIONEER SCHOOL**, being one of only 2 schools in Monmouthshire to be selected

to play a crucial role in writing an ambitious and exciting new curriculum for Wales, by implementing the vision set out in Professor Donaldson's report "Successful Futures".

We are a **LEAD CREATIVE SCHOOL** having secured funding from the Arts Council

Wales to promote new ways of working, with innovative and bespoke programmes of learning designed to improve the quality of teaching and learning. Our project will motivate pupils to write through the planning and creation of a computer based game - this idea was decided by our Y4 pupils!

We are an **ALLIANCE SCHOOL**, having developed partnerships with Pembroke and Thornwell primary schools, we share an Executive Headteacher, Jayne Edwards. Monmouthshire County Council set up this school-to-school improvement initiative in Autumn 2014.

We are a **PLATINUM SCHOOL**, having achieved 3 green eco flags over the years, we have just gained our 2nd platinum renewal for our continued commitment to sustainability.

We are a **GREEN SCHOOL** The Welsh Government's national categorisation of schools, gave us "1" for standards, "A" for improvement capacity and "Green" for support category.

To find out more about our school, visit our website:  
[www.shirenewton.monmouthshire.gov.uk](http://www.shirenewton.monmouthshire.gov.uk)



## Chepstow Bowling Club

Part of Chepstow Athletic Club, the Bowling Club season opens at 2 pm on Saturday 16 April at Mathern Road Bulwark, Chepstow.

The men play on weekend afternoons in the Monmouthshire Bowling Association League Division 2 and in the evening East Mon League. The second Team won the Gwent Bowling League last season, and a team play in the Newport Over 60's afternoon mid-week League. The ladies bowl in the afternoon SW & Mon League and evening Casnewydd League. In addition, Mixed Friendly Matches are played on mid-week afternoons which are beneficial to the newer members.

Social and team members enjoy playing on Monday Club Afternoons in a relaxed atmosphere with time for tea and a chat. This is ideal for newer members to learn the game. The Club organises Competitions and Tournaments with a Tour to Bournemouth in late May. Off the Green activities include a Club BBQ in early August, coffee mornings and social evenings.

If you enjoy good company, fresh air and gentle exercise, why not contact Peter Shapland on 01291/422208 or email: [chepstowbowlingclub@gmail.com](mailto:chepstowbowlingclub@gmail.com). The Club Website is updated regularly.



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Plans for Castell Roc 2016, held annually inside the stunning grounds of Chepstow Castle, are well underway with tickets already on sale and selling fast for all the events.

The 2015 event saw headline acts such as The Levellers, Blue, Bellowhead, as well as a whole host of top tribute acts.

Organiser Carol Mutlow of Hannah's Music Chepstow, began to wonder how she could top the 2015 event, after having such acts, but 2016 looks to be just as exciting!

The festival starts on **Thursday August 18th** with the legendary 'Wurzels', a scrumpy and western band from Somerset. Best known for their number one hit 'Combine Harvester'

**Friday 19th Fleetwood Mac** The world's first and best Fleetwood Mac tribute band, endorsed by Mick Fleetwood himself. If you are a fan of Fleetwood Mac, then this is a show not to miss as they take you back in time to make you feel you are actually reliving the times.

**Saturday 20th** Castell Roc are thrilled to welcome 'The Shires' a country duo that is taking the world by storm. Their debut album 'Brave' went gold in 2015, making them one of only 4 uk debut acts to break gold that year.

**Sunday 21st** - Be prepared to walk 500 miles with non other than 'The Proclaimers'. One of the highlights of this year's festival, strikingly individual twin brothers Craig and Charlie Reid have over the years enjoyed huge success across the globe and are now joining us at Chepstow Castle.

Photo courtesy of Paul Johnson at www.pixelsintime.co.uk



**Thursday 25th**, a band no stranger to Castell Roc - 'The Bohemians'. The world's biggest and best tribute to the late great Freddie Mercury. It will be their 3rd time at Castell Roc to sold out performances each year.

**Friday 26th** The amazing 'Blues Band' featuring Paul Jones, Dave Kelly, Tom McGuinness, Rob Townsend and Gary Fletcher, who are today acknowledged through Europe and beyond as being amongst the very finest purveyors of rhythm & blues.



**Saturday 27th** A gentleman who needs no introduction, non other than 'Mr Jools Holland with his rhythm & blues orchestra', featuring 'Gilson Lavis', and special guest 'Marc Almond' and guest vocalists

'Ruby Turner', 'Louise Marshall' and 'Beth Rowley'.

**Sunday 28th**: Last seen at Chepstow Castle in 2010, we are absolutely delighted to have back, the world renowned 'Ukulele Orchestra Of Great Britain'. As part of their 'Gigs a second tour', this highly entertaining and accomplished show is an experience not to miss. You will be amazed at what the humble 'little ukulele' can achieve as you are capulated from Handel to Sinatra, to Lady Ga Ga and back again!

**Monday 29th** - to finish off the festival there will be a very fitting finale from 'A Tribute 2'. A very unique evening to celebrate the lives and music of 'David Bowie' and 'Lemmy' who both recently lost their lives to cancer. Two very talented and yet very different legends that will be greatly missed in the music scene. Two very different people that shared a remarkable story. Music will be performed by, 'Motorheadache' and the 'Bowie Experience' and £1 from each ticket sold will go to 'Cancer Research uk' in memory of these 2 true legends.

For more information and how to buy tickets check out: [www.castellroc.co.uk](http://www.castellroc.co.uk)  
or call the box office at Hannah's Music: 01291 627122

## Come and join the Chepstow Society!

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

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

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

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

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

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

**The Society always welcomes new members.** Membership costs just £10 each year, and benefits include discounted meeting entrance fees and a regular newsletter, as well as the chance to join its excursions.

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

For more information about joining the Society, please contact Marian Thomas, 01291 625591 – or just turn up at one of our meetings (more on page 35), and talk to the people there. We also have a website – [www.chepsoc.co.uk](http://www.chepsoc.co.uk) – and a Facebook page.



## DEREK'S GYM & FITNESS CENTRE

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With over 20 years combined experience of the events industry we pride ourselves on providing a first class customer service. We appreciate the important role we play as part of your event and ensure we go that extra mile to impress your delegates. Be assured that Chepstow Racing and Events will work hard to deliver an event that is enjoyable and successful.

For more information, please visit [www.chepstow-racecourse.co.uk](http://www.chepstow-racecourse.co.uk) or contact the Events Team on [events@chepstow-racecourse.co.uk](mailto:events@chepstow-racecourse.co.uk). Alternatively you can call the office on 01291 622260.



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**12pm - 2pm**

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**4pm - 6pm**

Mini éclairs, tartlets,  
cake, tea, coffee and juice.



Confirm your attendance on  
**events@chepstow-racecourse.co.uk** | 01291 622260

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

### CHEPSTOW COMMUNITY LISTINGS

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

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

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

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

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

#### Community Centres

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

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

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

#### Doctors Surgeries and Community Hospital

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

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

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

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

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

### LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

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

**Bingo** Wednesdays 2pm Palmers Community Centre

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

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

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

**Chepstow (Archway) Bridge Club** meets Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursday at the Palmer Centre, 7-10pm

<http://chepstowarchwaybc.org.uk> or call Pete on 01291 - 627599 for more information.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Chepstow Folk Dance Club** Wednesday 7.30pm Severn Bridge Club 01291 641537

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Chepstow Round Table** [www.chepstow.roundtable.co.uk](http://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](http://www.chepstowsociety.co.uk) Secretary is Henry Hodges, Tel 01291 625865.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### CHURCHES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### BABY AND TODDLER GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

### NURSERIES / PRESCHOOLS

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

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

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

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

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

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

### PRIMARY SCHOOLS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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

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

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

### SPORTS CLUBS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Football:

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

**Chepstow Town Football Club** www.chepstowtownfc.com

**Chepstow Garden City Junior Football Club** www.  
gardencityjfc.com

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

Please support us and connect with us:



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**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!



## 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)  
Thrft Club • Men's Darts  
Sat - Function room  
available for hire  
Sun - Pool league

**The Club has Free WIFI**

#### Club Associates

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

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Room is available for hire  
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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



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](mailto:community@mattersmagazines.co.uk)

**Chepstow Baptist Church**  
Built 1816 ... Still here 2016  
200 years of Baptist Worship  
Lower Church Street, Chepstow

Throughout 2016 there will be a series of events to celebrate 200 years of Church History

18th March –  
Quiz night 7pm cost £5 each

email [admin@chepstowbaptist.org.uk](mailto:admin@chepstowbaptist.org.uk) for more information.

## Harmony The World in Song Saturday 2nd April, 7pm

St Thomas a Becket Church, Shirenewton

Harmony is a well travelled choir from Berkshire whose diverse repertoire adds an international flavour to their concerts. In little more than an hour, Harmony can bring you New Zealand's stirring Maori folk songs, American gospel music, the vibrant sounds of Spain and the rich harmonies of Africa. The musical tour ends in the UK with a touch of 'Last Night of the Proms' (flags provided for the audience!)

Wine and nibbles served during the interval will reflect the international flavour of the occasion and are included in ticket price. Tickets £8, £5 for concessions available from Bill Clark: 01291 641783, email [williamjhclark@btinternet.com](mailto:williamjhclark@btinternet.com)

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

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

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

**Gwent Wildlife Trust, Chepstow Group**  
Chepstow Leisure Centre  
Wednesday 16 March at 7.30pm

**"Have you seen a Polecat?"**  
an illustrated talk by Johnny Birks, author, conservationist and Chair of the Mammal Society

Admission GWT members £2, non-members £3. All welcome. Tea & coffee available  
For more details ring 01291 689326 or visit [www.gwentwildlife.org](http://www.gwentwildlife.org)

**Free open event  
Saturday 9th April  
Let's party!  
A Two Bridges Celebration  
4.00pm, By the Bandstand on  
Chepstow Riverbank**

Chepstow has two important anniversaries in 2016. The 200th anniversary of the Old Wye Bridge and the 50th anniversary of the Severn Bridge. The popular Singing Club of Chepstow will be joining in the celebrations together with a performance of The Widders, Morris men with Attitude!

John Burrows will also be giving brief talks on the history of the Old Wye Bridge.

The riverbank is a great place to relax so come and join in!

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

see [www.devauden.org.uk/races](http://www.devauden.org.uk/races) for more information

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

Wednesday 16 March  
John Putley, "Stand and Deliver"

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

## CHEPSTOW BOWLING CLUB

Season starts at 2 pm Saturday  
16 April - Mathern Road Bulwark, Chepstow.

Friendly and League Matches played by ladies and men on mid-week and weekend afternoons. Beginners and experienced bowlers welcome - coaching is available.

Please contact Peter Shapland  
Tel: 01291/422208 or email: [chepstowbowlingclub@gmail.com](mailto:chepstowbowlingclub@gmail.com)

## A Very Welsh Market

To celebrate St David's Day and Eisteddfod 2016 in Monmouthshire, Caldicot Town Team are hosting a Very Welsh Market.

All proceeds from stall, pitch fees and donations will be donated to Eisteddfod 2016.

Come and join us for fun and festivities on Saturday 5th March  
From 10am - 4pm



**Shirenewton Village Market**  
every third Saturday  
10am-12pm in the Rec Hall

A variety of stalls including fresh bread, homemade pickles, honey and an assortment of locally made produce. Also enjoy coffee and a slice of cake in the cafe!

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

**Throughout March  
at Chepstow Museum  
HIDDEN PRESENCE Project**

Exhibition of work produced by local young people with creative media artist Eva Sajovic & Ffotogallery, based on the life of Nathaniel Wells of Piercefield, Britain's first black sheriff  
CHEPSTOW MUSEUM, Bridge Street, NP16 5EZ  
Open: Mon-Sat 11-5, Sun 2-5, Free

Sunday 13th March 3pm  
The Drill Hall, Lower Church Street, Chepstow  
Bolshoi Ballet - Sparctacus - captured live in Moscow  
Set in ancient Rome the captured Sparctacus is forced to fight as a gladiator and kill his friend, he plots an amazing rebellion....  
Tickets £12/ £10 concession from and to raise funds for Chepstow Museum tel 01291 625981

Tuesday March 15 7.30pm  
The Drill Hall, Lower Church Street, Chepstow  
"Florence & The Uffizi Gallery" a new film by Discover Arts takes a journey into the city that was the cradle of the Italian Renaissance and a breathtaking tour with world experts of the masterpieces in the Uffizi Gallery.  
Tickets £10 from and to raise funds for Chepstow Museum tel 01291 625981

From Saturday 19th March (until Sun 10 April)  
Chepstow Museum, Bridge St Chepstow Open  
Mon - Sat 11-5, Sun 2-5

**Get cracking on Chepstow  
Museum's eggsciting Egg Hunt!**

Discover hidden eggs around the museum and have some fun with quizzes

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



## Events at the Drill Hall in March

**Tuesday 1 March Film - UNDER MILK WOOD (15) 117 mins 7.30pm £4 & £3.** Rhys Ifans has a go at the Richard Burton role in Kevin Allen's film version of the 1954 BBC radio play – done in English and broadcast after Dylan Thomas death. Allen has a bit of celebrity casting with Charlotte Church as the alive-and-well good-time-girl Polly Garter; but Church is in fact pretty good in the role, a wholesome apple-cheeked type who gets up to all sorts in the woods.

**Thursday 3 March 7 p.m. National Theatre live production of HANGMEN by Martin McDonagh** Following a sell-out run at London's Royal Court Theatre, Olivier and Academy Award® winner Martin McDonagh (*The Pillowman*, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *In Bruges*) returns to the West End with Matthew Dunster's award-winning production of his deeply funny new play *Hangmen*, broadcast live to cinemas by National Theatre Live. In his small pub in the northern English town of Oldham, Harry (David Morrissey – *The Walking Dead*, *State of Play*) is something of a local celebrity. But what's the second-best hangman in England to do on the day they've abolished hanging? Tickets £12 £10 from Chepstow Museum

**Friday 4 March Film – BROOKLYN (12A) 111mins. 7.30pm £4 & £3** An Irish immigrant lands in 1950s Brooklyn, where she quickly falls into a new romance. When her past catches up with her, however, she must choose between two countries and the lives that exist within. Terrific cast (the estimable Saoirse Ronan, Domhnall Gleeson, Julie Walters, Jim Broadbent) in Nick Hornby's adaptation of the best-seller by Colm Toibin.



**Saturday 5 March 7:30 PM-10 PM Mystic Night in aid of Mind Monmouthshire** organised by Cardiff Metropolitan University students. Stalls, Mystic Cocktails, group readings, raffle and refreshments tickets £15 from eventbright.co.uk and Love&Light (Bank Street) £15

**Sunday 6th March 3pm (doors open 2.30) '...And Mother Came Too'...** The Accidental Singers (a small ensemble made up of members of The Singing Club) invite you to a 'Glamorous' afternoon out at the Drill Hall. What

could be better than listening to some wonderful songs by Ivor Novello for *Mothering Sunday*? A lovely afternoon in good company with tea and cake! Accompanied on the Grand Piano by Jayne Thomas. Tickets £5 on the door. (Tea and Cake available)

**Friday 11 March Film – A WALK IN THE WOODS (15) 104mins. 7.30pm £4 & £3**

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



**Saturday 12 March - ANGELS IN YOUR LIFE 10am to 4pm. Entry £3, children free.**

Come for a fun and informative day of Angelic exploration and discover how these beings can work with you in your life. There will be many stalls of Angel products to buy, psychic readers and talks about Angels. For further information see Facebook Angels In Your Life or contact Helen Stott on e/mail angelsinyourlife16@gmail.com.

**Sunday 13 March Bolshoi Ballet – SPARTACUS 3pm** Grigorovich's *Spartacus* was created at the Bolshoi in 1968 and has since remained the Russian company's signature ballet. This most spectacular production is an epic tour de force, giving full expression to the strength for which the Bolshoi's male dancers are renowned. Principal dancer Mikhail Lobukhin is stunning in the role of the legendary gladiator, along with Svetlana Zakharova as Aegina. Tickets from and in support of Chepstow Museum £12 & £10 tel. 01291 625981

**Tuesday 15 March-Exhibition On-Screen - UFFIZI AND THE ART OF FLORENCE**

Journey into the rich history and timeless charm of the Italian city of Florence. Renowned as the cradle of the Renaissance and the place that gave birth to innumerable pioneering artists, Florence remains one of the world's most beautiful cities. This guided tour of Florence and its celebrated art gallery of treasures, The Uffizi, brings audiences up close and personal to such legendary figures as Michelangelo, Raphael and Botticelli, each of whom helped shape the character of the city. Tickets from and in support of Chepstow Museum £10 tel.01291 625981

**Friday 18 March Film -THE LADY IN THE VAN (12A) 104mins. 7.30pm £4 & £3.**

Alan Bennett's stage play filmed with Maggie Smith in the title role, supported by a wealth of UK treasures – not least Alex Jennings as Bennett himself and a roll call of rep players from other Bennett vehicles such as 'History Boys'.



**Films showing this month at BULWARK COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Laburnam Way, Bulwark, NP165RF  
Email: bccbulwark@btconnect.com  
tel: 01291 624138

p9;8u

admission £3 refreshments on sale,  
doors open 1.30 pm

**Saturday 5th March A Walk in the Woods (15) -**

Please note date - one week later than usual  
See description above.

**Saturday 26th March The Lady in the Van (12A) -**

See description above.



**Monday 21 March 7.15pm Live Broadcast -**

**Opera - BORIS GODUNOV - Royal Opera.** Antonio Pappano conducts a new production of Musorgsky's magnificent opera, starring Bryn Terfel in the title role and directed by Richard Jones. Tickets £15 £12 from Chepstow Museum

**Friday 25 March Film - STEVE JOBS 7.30pm (15) 122mins.**

**£4 & £3** "Steve Jobs" takes us behind the scenes of the digital revolution, to paint a portrait of the man at its epicentre. The story unfolds backstage at three iconic product launches, ending in 1998 with the unveiling of the iMac. Directed by Danny Boyle who gave us 'Slumdog Millionaire', this is about a different sort of millionaire in a very different world.



CHEPSTOW COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTRE  
Enjoy and achieve!

# Piano Recital and Masterclass with ALEX KIRK

BMus (RCM) - Currently studying for MMus in performance

**SATURDAY 26 MARCH  
11AM – 1PM**

AT THE DRILL HALL, LOWER CHURCH  
STREET, CHEPSTOW NP16 5HJ



- Programme includes music by Schubert, Chopin and Britten
- Entrance £5, including refreshments
- 20% discount for CCMC members
- Opportunity for some pianists to have Alex's guidance
- Alex will also be performing at the Lime Tree from 8-10pm with Laura Bonar (violin)

chepstowcommunitymusiccentre.weebly.com

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# Your Invitation

## Preview our Summer Garden Furniture Range

Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th March\*

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CLUB MEMBERS

**15% OFF**

JOIN FREE!  
SEE INSTORE.

Extensive ranges from Bramblecrest, Hartman, Kettler, Alexander Rose & more!



EXCLUSIVE GARDENERS CLUB OFFERS ...

**The Garden**  
Restaurant and Café bar

*Jacket Potato* **£3.50**

Choose from cheese/beans, coleslaw or plain with butter (usually between £4.45 and £5.45)

Available from 1st-31st March 11.30-4.30 mon - sat, 11.30-3.30 sundays

*Hot Cross Bun* **£2**

with regular filter coffee or pot of tea for ONLY

Available daily from 1st-31st March

**CHEPSTOW**  
Garden Centre

Pwllmeyric, Chepstow NP16 6LF

**TEL: 01291 626035**

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

MON-FRI 9am-6pm SAT 9am-5.30pm SUN 10.30am-4.30pm

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