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issue 26, May 2016

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Dear Readers...

Spring is most certainly upon us, and we have had some really summery days too ... right before the temperatures plummeted, just in time for over 120 Guides to spend the night hiking in the woods and sleeping in the open air in Devauden - you can read more about their Midnight Manoeuvres on page 11.

Also in this edition we have the final line up for Castell Roc this summer, updates from Chepstow School and Shirenewton Primary, a list of the latest medal haul from local Kestrel Gymnasts, news of Coleridge coming to Wales later this month, along with the Wye Valley River Festival, Tintern's Big Lunch in June, and much, much more! New advertiser Burrell's Jewellers invite you to Fizzy Friday later this month and Old Down Estate are offering discounted entry to Chepstow Matters' readers - be sure to take advantage of this, it's a fabulous venue especially if you have young children.

NEW FOR YOU! We are pleased to announce that each monthly edition is now also available to view online via the website **www.mattersmagazines.co.uk**, just to make it easier for you to keep up with your favourite community mag!!

Thank you to all the local businesses who support the publication of Chepstow Matters by promoting their services with us - we can't do it without you! Do support them where you can by utilising their services whenever you have a need. If you would like to be included in our June edition, the deadline for content is 15th May.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Jaci x

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Police Matters -

Update from Chepstow Police

Hello readers, my name is Andy Jones, I am a community support officer for the rural wards of Chepstow. I have been working in these areas for the last 11 years so know them well.



The recent Your voice priorities for the St Arvans and Devauden wards have been set and, as anticipated, speeding vehicles in these areas is the main priority for the villages.

We have already started speed monitoring in these areas along with the help of the localised community speed watch teams and the usual Go – Safe speed van and motorcycle. (The van and motorcycle have mainly been deployed in St Arvans). As you can see there is a lot of activity regarding speeding issues.

The majority of vehicles are adhering to the speed limits but some are not and it is these drivers that we need to target in the hope of changing attitudes. Several speed monitoring exercises have been conducted by ourselves recently with one driver in Devauden being reported for driving at 48mph in the 30 mph area. The other vehicles checked on that date were all under or on the 30mph limit. In St Arvans 200 vehicles were checked on one day recently on the A466 in the middle of the village, with the average speed being 26mph in the 30mph limit. Seven warning letters were sent out to drivers who were above the limit.

Rural thefts are still occurring, but not as frequently recently. Please don't let that lull you into a false sense of security. Continue to be vigilant and make sure your garages, sheds and outbuildings are secured and report any suspicious activity "at the time" via 101 or 999 if you deem it an emergency. If possible please get index numbers of offending vehicles and descriptions of offenders but without putting yourself in harm's way.

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Rediscovering the Cavill Hall

Chepstow Matters was delighted to meet up with local resident Steve O'Sullivan in early March. Steve has voluntarily made it his mission to reinstate the Cavill Hall which is situated behind the St Mary's Priory in the centre of the town.

The Hall is named after George I H Cavill who was the Church Warden at St Mary's from 1960-1977.

Sadly, the once well-used hall had fallen into a state of disrepair, which was the reason for its discontinued use over five years ago. Steve is a relatively new member of the congregation at St Mary's having been involved at the church for just over 12 months. As per previous articles in Chepstow Matters, the church is trying to raise funds for building works and roof repairs, and also to create a disabled entrance. At a meeting last autumn the Cavill Hall was mentioned, which Steve had not known previously existed in the grounds behind the church. The brambles had done a good job of disguising the building and inside the spiders had done a redecoration job too, creating a black mesh of web that completely covered the kitchen ceiling!

With a background in building but now having retired due to a variety of health problems which prevent him from working, Steve was offered the 'opportunity' to voluntarily project co-ordinate the works at the church and also try and bring the hall back into a state of use. Being determined not to give in to his health problems, and feeling that it was time to give back to his local community, Steve feels quite strongly about reinstating the hall. It is a lovely sized hall with a traditionally sprung wooden floor which was great for all the dances that used to be held at the hall back in its day and also for future dance groups looking to hire the hall in the future.

To date Steve has organised the ripping out of the old stage and the scrapping off of the dark green and red paint on the walls. It has been redone in magnolia and the opened up and lightened space is now looking very promising. The floor needs an industrial sanding down and varnishing but Steve is confident it will come up good as new.

More volunteers are needed who are prepared to get their hands dirty and help with the project



Photos:
above - Cavill Hall in mid March with grounds cleared; right dismantling the old stage; below redwalls and clutter. Opposite page, work in progress the Hall at the start and now.



before it can be opened back to the community, which Steve hopes might be achievable by the end of April. Painting and decorating are key, new kitchen units have already been donated and just need fitting so that this area can be made operable again. The toilets and entrance hall also need to be revamped and heaters installed.

Steve has already had quite a bit of interest in renting the hall when it is finished for children's parties, line dancing, zumba, pilates and other community groups. It's central location in Chepstow makes it attractive to all areas as it is easily accessible from the Sedbury side of Chepstow as well as Bulwark and Thornwell too. It also benefits from some limited free parking behind the church.

Steve told me that when starting the project there was evidence that the porches of the hall were being used by the homeless as he found sleeping bags by the doorways. One of these guys 'Mark' came by when Steve was at the hall and offered to help with the clearance. Plied



with hot drinks, sandwiches and an escape from the miserable weather, Mark helped out for 5 days before disappearing.

Steve is passionate about the potential of using the hall as a future night shelter, giving food and warmth during the winter months for a small number of homeless men and women. He tells me there is nowhere locally offering this at present and he would love to see it set up in Chepstow. This has already been proposed to the local PCC and was favoured, so liaison is taking place with other working with homeless projects in the area.

However, Steve went on, there are plenty of people locally experiencing some form of poverty without actually being homeless: the call on local foodbanks is growing and Steve would like to see the hall as a community hub offering counselling/comfort or just somewhere to bring your young children to a playgroup for an hour or two which doesn't have a price tag.

The first task to all of these plans is to get the hall back into a usable state, so that it can start hiring out and become a community hub once again, generating funds for the church to put towards some of these other projects.

If you can offer any help with this project Steve would be pleased to hear from you. Please call him on 07496 995 830.

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Chepstow and Caldicot Lions Club were delighted to respond to a plea for help from the Caroline Graham School for Dancing in Bulwark.

The School, along with two other schools from the Bristol area, have been chosen to appear at the Disney Land Paris Magic Stage in October of this year.

As always Chepstow and Caldicot Lions stepped up to offer their help and a cheque for £600 was presented to the school on Friday 8th April.

Lion President Ray Nash presented the cheque to dance tutor Becky Smart and some of the dancers during a class at Mathern Village hall.

Lion Ray was quoted as saying that "Chepstow and Caldicot Lions part of Lions International, the world's largest Service organisation is always ready to invest in the youth of today and our aim is to serve within our community where ever there is a need".

Lions Club donates £10,000 to Wales Air Ambulance

The Lions Club were entertained by an excellent presentation by Ms Catrin Hall, Community Coordinator of the Wales Air Ambulance, at the March monthly dinner meeting held at Dewstow Golf Club. Ms Hall explained to the members the running of the service and how it benefits the whole of Wales, and their ability to be anywhere in the principality with twenty minutes of being called out.

Catrin also went into great detail about the cost of running the service and the need for continued support.

The Wales Air Ambulance is one of Chepstow and Caldicot Lions favourite causes and Lion President Ray Nash praised the work that the service and the medical teams carry out for the district.

Lion Robert Pring thanked Ms Hall for her very concise presentation and said that the Lions Club of Chepstow and Caldicot are proud to help sponsor the service.

Lion President Ray Nash then presented Ms Hall with a cheque for £10,000 on behalf of the club and The Dennis Lynch Memorial fund.



Photo above shows Lion President Ray Nash with tutor Becky Smart and dancers from the Street Dance Group



Photo right shows Ms Hall being presented with the cheque from Lion President Ray Nash

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This is a community event with a bit of fundraising to help with improvements and upkeep for Tintern Village Hall so please do support us. Feel free to forward this invite to family, friends and neighbours.

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Rare bird spotted in Chepstow Park Woods

by Helen Cann

Over 120 members of Girlguiding Gwent recently spent a night protecting a very exotic bird from extinction! Teams of Guides from all over the county descended upon Devauden to take part in Midnight Manoeuvres - a night hike with a difference. They were told that the very rare Tootle Warbler had been spotted in the woods and that some eggs had been found that needed looking after until they hatched. Once hatched the fledglings would require food, water and a safe nest. The aim was for each team to undertake activities to provide for their egg.



Setting off in teams of 4 throughout the night, the girls' first task was to construct a box to carry the egg in until it hatched, then they were sent off into the dark to find bases within the woods to undertake further tasks. Birds need water, so some very muddy water required filtering, a bird feeder was required, a nest needed to be remade after a hurricane blew through the woods (we all know there is a microclimate in Devauden), and a method of raising the nest box high into the trees to protect from predators had to be devised. Of course, the girls did not know what the Tootle Warbler looked like so had to find someone who had recently seen them in the woods to guide them to observe the bird in its natural habitat! Scientific drawings were then made to help others identify this rare visitor. The inclement weather struck again and the teams encountered great floods and had to devise a way of crossing the water carrying their egg, food etc to safety.

Each team had to navigate between the bases using a basic map and instructions. Although some teams had scary moments (who wouldn't in a strange wood in the dark?) all returned to the Hood Memorial Hall for a hot drink and food before crossing the frost encrusted grass to climbing into tents or bivouac bags for a few hours sleep.



Yes those are girls in the bags!

Thanks to all the leaders who provided assistance with bases and check points, through several long and very cold hours, to ensure the event was an enjoyable experience and challenge for the girls.

For the serious ornithologists amongst you I am afraid to say they the Tootle Warbler has now departed on its migration - who knows when it may be spotted again?



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Chepstow Photographic Society

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Now meeting fortnightly at 7.30pm to approximately 9.30pm on Tuesday evenings, at Chepstow's 'Coach and Horses' in Welsh Street, Chepstow Photographic Society is a small and friendly camera club; open to all those over sixteen. The club welcomes everyone who has an interest in photography, from complete beginners with their new point and shoot cameras and camera phones, to the more experienced photographers with their DSLR's who wish to enjoy the company of those with a similar interest. Currently we are in the process of setting up a new website and looking to expand and increase our membership, so if you're interested and would like to get involved, either e-mail us at admin@chepstowphotosoc.org or just turn up on the evening; you'll find a warm welcome. Our annual membership is just £20 (half price if joining after 1st July).

Photography can be a very rewarding pastime which involves a balance between your creative and artistic ability and a certain amount of technical awareness. Our aim primarily is to learn from each other, picking up on tips, suggestions, and the knowledge and experience that fellow members have gained as they've progressed.

The club boasts a full and varied agenda which can be found in more detail in the 'diary' section on our website; www.chepstowphotosoc.org. In addition to the topics shown on this page, evenings are occasionally arranged with local camera clubs who invite guest speakers to give a presentation of their work; recently, some of our members spent the evening at Viney Hill sport's club near Blakeney, where we listened to an encouraging talk by professional wildlife photographer and journalist Tom Mason, whilst he displayed some of his award winning images.

Several times a year, our photographs are entered into local competitions and yearly around November time, we challenge ourselves to a 'battle' against Coleford camera club. Refreshments are on hand for the mid time interval at the chosen venue, and a professional is hired for the evening to judge and comment on the exhibits entered by both clubs; the team with the highest accumulated score is declared the winner. It's an evening full of rivalry, but a friendly and enjoyable time is had by all who take part.

If in the past you've been under the impression that your photos were acceptable but could see that there was still room for improvement, come along and join us; we're here to help. With practice, your precious snapshots could become works of art and something to be proud of.



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Fizzy Friday: Friday 20th May



Chepstow Matters was delighted to pop in and catch up with Michelle Burrell, owner of Burrell & Co County Jewellers in Chepstow. Michelle has been in the Jewellery trade since leaving school 'an undefined number of years ago' and took ownership of the Moor Street shop in November, having worked in the premises for approaching 25 years.

The friendly and approachable team at Burrell's have all worked at the shop for many years and can help you with a range of services from fitting new watch batteries and jewellery repairs, to the commissioning of bespoke jewellery or remodelling of an existing piece. They stock a wide range of jewellery and watches and can also help with valuations, as well as watch and clock repairs.

In celebration of taking over the business Michelle, is inviting customers old and new along to an early evening event 'Fizzy Friday' on Friday 20th May when she is keeping the shop open later. Why not start your weekend by popping by for a glass of Fizz and saying hello! Reps will be available showing some of the newer ranges and there will be special offers available on the night and a 10% discount* on jewellery items.

If you are unable to pop in on Frizzly Friday, Michelle is offering Chepstow Matters readers a 10% discount* during the month of May! Just take along this magazine to qualify!

** certain ranges are excluded from the discount offer.*

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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 at Chepstow Racecourse 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 and follow along on Twitter for the latest updates.



Raja Yoga Meditation classes are now running each week, from April to June, at the Mathern Village Hall, near Chepstow.

This form of meditation, as taught by the Brahma Kumaris, is suitable for all, whether experienced meditators or first timers. It does not involve physical postures; simply that one is sat comfortably. This is a very practical form of meditation which can help you learn how to tap into your inner resources such as peace, contentment and strength/empowerment which help you to meet the challenges of modern life.

Founded in India in 1937, the Brahma Kumaris now has centres in 110 countries on all continents. The organisation provides opportunities for people from all religious and cultural backgrounds to explore their own spirituality and learn skills of reflection and meditation based on Raja Yoga philosophy, which can help develop inner calm, clear thinking and personal well-being.

Across the UK the organisation works with national and local organisations and community groups in such areas as inter-religious dialogue, youth programmes, prison outreach, social work and women's and men's groups. A founding principle of the organization is that there are no charges for services provided. It is able to continue its work because of the contributions made by those who have taken benefit and want others to receive the same. All who contribute their time to support and run events do so on a voluntary basis.

Activities, such as courses, talks, workshops and meditation classes, started in South Wales around 30 years ago in Cardiff and are now also running in Swansea, Newport and now starting in Chepstow. The various activities cover topics such as 'Positive Living', 'Self-Esteem', 'Stress Free Living' and many other subjects which contribute to an improved quality of life.

Michael, who will be organising the classes in Chepstow, volunteers his time due to the immense benefit the study and practice of Raja Yoga has brought to his life. It has helped him to better respond to the challenges of life and also improve the quality of relationships with friends, family and work colleagues and, most importantly, it helps him stay happy!

Suitable for all. Free of charge. Donations welcome but not expected.

Please call 01291 409787 to check, as some classes may be subject to change of venue.

Learn more by visiting <http://www.brahmakumaris.org>



Raja Yoga Meditation Classes

**Every Thursday from 7- 8.30pm
Commencing April 14th 2016**

What human beings need more than anything these days is inner peace. Many live in constant tension due to the stresses of daily life, no longer able to relax even in good circumstances.

True peace can only be achieved within. Meditation enables us to mine and refine our inner treasure, helping to calm the spirit so that we can face life's challenges and transform our own compulsive or destructive habits.

These weekly classes offer an opportunity to learn how to quieten the mind and use it in a positive way. The sessions are suitable for all, whether new to meditation or experienced, and will allow you to experience the power of Raja Yoga meditation and to discuss how this practice can help us meet the challenges of modern life.

**Mathern Village Hall 7 Parklands CI,
Mathern, Chepstow NP16 6JL**

Free of Charge. Donations welcome but not expected



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bristol@uk.brahmakumaris.org
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Following on from articles on the Chepstow Walking Festival in earlier issues, Chepstow Matters was really pleased to receive positive feedback from the event which took place in early April.

Several walks were organised ranging from 2-20 miles, all showcasing the wonderful local area and beautiful surroundings that we enjoy within the county.

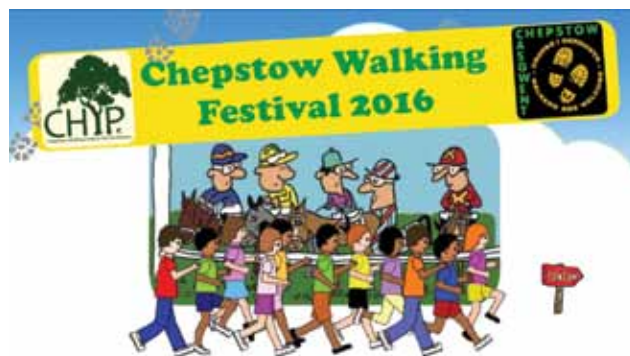
Over 700 places were booked over the 5 day festival with people coming from all over the country and as far flung as the USA!

The most successful event was the 'Walk for Health' primarily aimed at families that took place on 7th April around the two mile inside track of the racecourse. The volunteers at 'Chepstow Walkers are Welcome' teamed up with Vicky Yates at Chepstow Children's Hub (CHIP) to organise the walk. Having seen the CHIP Explorers community walks increasing in popularity following coverage last year in Chepstow Matters, this event was bound to appeal to many local families.

The walk was also advertised on the CHIP Facebook page which continues to share community information for families to access. An unprecedented number of more than 220 walkers turned up to the event! Parents, grandparents, childminders and groups of friends all turned up to enjoy the rare opportunity to walk the two mile track inside the racecourse.

The participants had a fantastic time despite the chilly weather and the feedback has been so positive that it could become an annual event!

Many thanks to Vicky for the update and photos. If you'd like to follow CHIP Chepstow for future events and for more family information then take a look on www.facebook.com/CHIPCchepstow.



Introducing the Chepstow Social Compass. A growing social media networking group, trying to bring the local communities of Chepstow, Caldicot, Bristol and the Forest of Dean together, along with their local connections to the web.

FREE Facebook group where you can easily and instantly communicate with fellow local businesses, groups and creative individuals. Find out about new local ideas, products, offers and future events; or promote your own services.

We're not a business, simply a place for the local community to connect with one another. So why not check us out at: www.facebook.com/groups/chepstowsocialcompass/ Come join & put yourself on the Social Media Compass.

We look forward to connecting with you!

Cleaner & Relief Lunchtime Supervisor Required

The Headteacher and Governing Body of Tutshill C of E Primary School are looking to appoint a flexible, reliable, enthusiastic and hardworking person to join our team as Cleaner, to maintain a high standard of cleanliness within classrooms, corridors, offices, toilets. This will require duties such as vacuuming, dusting and cleaning of washroom areas, tables, chairs etc. You will be joining a very supportive and dedicated cleaning team. The post is subject to a DBS check.

13.5 hours per week
43 weeks per year
(term time plus 5 weeks holiday cleaning)
Grade A point 4 + Living Wage supplement
Start Date: 21 July 2016

Ideally, the successful candidate would also be employed on a casual basis as a relief Lunchtime Supervisor. Full details of this role will be provided on request.

Please contact Anne Davies, School Business Manager on 01291 622593 for further information and an application form.



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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

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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

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Funding your Business

You've had this brilliant idea that solves a problem or adds value for customers.

You've researched the market and found that people are willing to pay for what you have to offer.

Now, finding funding is the next step in turning your idea into reality.

Access to the right kind of funding at the right time plays an important role in growing a successful business.

Funding options:

1. Overdrafts:

An overdraft is a credit facility you agree with your bank and is generally used to cover short-term financing needs. Although an overdraft isn't suitable as a long-term source of finance, it can go a long way towards meeting immediate funding needs. Overdrafts are flexible as you only pay interest on the amount you borrow. They are also easy to arrange but can be recalled by the bank at any time.

2. Loans:

The most common sources of loans are friends, family and banks. There are also government initiatives such as Start Up Loans that grant loans to individuals, allowing several founders in the company to apply.

Loans carry interest on the amount borrowed. How much interest you pay depends on factors like how long you need the money for, whether the loan is 'secured' against assets you own, or other broader economic factors, like the Bank of England base rate.

3. Equity Finance:

Simply put, equity finance involves selling part of your company to get the funds you need. This takes different forms at different stages of the company's life:

Seed funding: This is needed for product development, setting up a management structure, market research, etc. You can approach accelerators, angel investors or crowdfunding platforms for seed funding.

Early-stage funding / Series A: This comes into play

once you're close to taking your product to market. It can be broken down into multiple rounds if needed and tends to involve angel investors and perhaps venture capital firms.

Expansion-stage funding: Once you've taken your product to market and validated your business model, the next step is to expand. This is similar to early-stage funding, but tends to come from VCs and private equity firms (PEs) who are usually interested in more established businesses.

Exit-stage funding: This is the capital needed to maintain the momentum you've gained over the years and meet exit costs before you exit the business. This could come from a trade sale or a public listing.

"As a business, you'll know that attracting investment is perhaps your biggest challenge. So anything that makes investing more attractive, for you or for other people, has got to be good news."
Rosemary Chicken,
bdhc

4. Accelerators:

Accelerators are programmes that combine seed capital and mentorship support. The standard model is a structured and intensive programme that runs for about 3-6 months. Programmes generally culminate in a 'demo day' where start-ups pitch to a group of investors to raise the next round of funding. Some accelerators, instead of capital, offer free working space and mentorship support. More often than not, they are backed by large corporates who are interested in tapping into the innovative ideas from the start-ups they help.

5. Crowdfunding:

Crowdfunding has seen enormous growth in the past few years because it gives businesses the ability to pitch to the masses. If people pledge funds, they will probably buy your product too. However, you do miss out on the mentoring and guidance that you get with accelerators, which can make the difference between making it big or going bust. There are two types of crowdfunding platforms: Equity platforms and rewards-based platforms.



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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!

All of the above can be provided by your local independent practitioner, Ian Croft. An audiologist of over 20 years' experience and a Fellow of his professional body since 2002, he is also its longest serving Council Member. Contact him for a free assessment of your requirements – available 7 days a week and some evenings.

SAVE £10! Ian is offering a saving of £10 in May by quoting this article when booking an appointment for micro-suction or custom protectors.

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Sponsorship Needed for National Championship Team!

On 20th April Chepstow School's Year 9 football team became Welsh Champions after beating John Bright 2:1 in an action packed final played in Newtown, North Wales. The team are now heading to Dublin this month where they will represent Wales and play the winners of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

This is the first time the school has reached the final, let alone win it! Only one other Gwent team has achieved this previously - and this was 19 years ago!!

Assistant Head Teacher Jamie Goddard commented: *"The team won nine games en route to the final against local, regional and national sides. Their incredible success is a culmination of great team spirit and amazing positive attitude from the whole squad. We are so proud of them they are an absolute credit to the school."*

The team are now Fundraising for the trip. Support/sponsorship from local businesses would be very welcome. If you can help please email jamiegoddard@chepstowschool.net



Head Student campaign

Chepstow School is undergoing this year's process to appoint the new Head Student team. Applicants have to follow a robust procedure designed to assess their suitability by writing an application letter, undergoing formal interviews and giving hustings to staff and students, who then vote for the top two Head Students, irrespective of gender.

This year's shortlisted campaigners are Sarah Gibbs, Emily Pine-Smith, Abi Chamberlain and Emily Williams, who all performed excellently at the interview stage. They will now begin a week of campaigning for votes before the all important speeches.

The new Head Students will be announced in school and on @chepstow6thform on 05/05.

We wish them all the very best of luck!



Premier Reading Stars!

In March a group of Year 7 Premier League Reading Stars from Chepstow School (above) had the fantastic opportunity to attend an author event at Rodney Parade.

The first activity of the day involved working alongside the author, David Brayley, interviewing the captain, Mark Byrne. They asked him interesting questions about his aspirations and his career. Following this, the students worked with poet, Patrick Jones. They created their own football-inspired poetry. The students really were a credit to the school whilst displaying their enthusiastic creative writing abilities.



LGBT Assemblies Encourage Inclusivity

On 19th April LGBT Society (above) gave the first of a series of assemblies on inclusivity, when they discussed LGBT rights and respect with Year 7. The LGBT Society has a variety of pastoral activities planned for KS3 and 4, and a series of thought-provoking films for them to view and respond to, following on from their assemblies. They meet with students every Thursday lunchtime in the 6th Form Block with Ms Thomas, Head of 6th Form, and Jade Atkins, who supports them through Monmouth Youth Service.

"We are so proud of them and all they are doing to make Chepstow School truly inclusive, and to foster a culture of love, respect and kindness to all."

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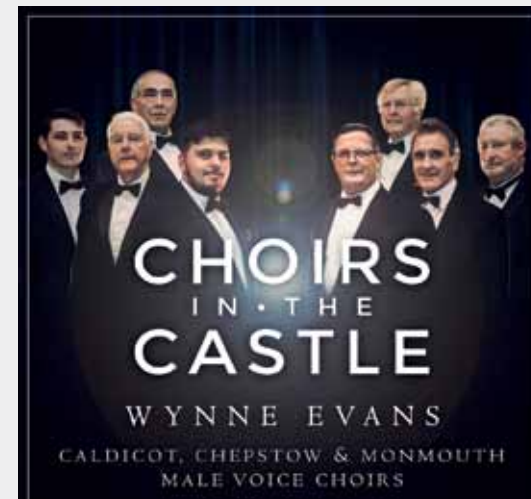


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County's Male Voice Choirs Unite in Aid of National Eisteddfod Saturday 18th June, Caldicot Castle

Caldicot, Chepstow and Monmouth Male Voice Choirs will join forces at Caldicot Castle this summer for an evening of entertainment in aid of the Monmouthshire & District National Eisteddfod on Saturday 18 June 2016. The choirs will be joined by the acclaimed Welsh tenor Wynne Evans, who will host the concert.

The choirs will perform separately before joining for a grand finale, bringing them together for the first time in over thirty years. All money raised will go towards funding the 2016 National Eisteddfod, which will be held in Abergavenny from 29th July to 6th August - a festival that is expected to attract over 150,000 visitors to the county.

County councillor Phil Hobson, Monmouthshire County Council's cabinet member with responsibility for the Welsh language said: *"This evening with the county's male voice choirs will be a wonderful occasion and will celebrate the community's musical talents in an iconic and atmospheric venue. It will build on the celebrations that are already taking place in Monmouthshire in the approach to the National Eisteddfod. Why not bring a picnic for maximum enjoyment!"*

Tickets are on sale now at a cost of £22 (including booking fee) and are available from www.caldicotcastle.co.uk, from Monmouthshire's leisure centres or by phoning the box office on 02920 224488.

Music in June Returns in Style

Wye Valley Music will present its eighth Music in June series this year. The season will comprise the usual four concerts in four different locations and will continue the successful collaborations with Daniel Tong and Rosie Biss each of whom has been a featured artiste for many years. This year's series opens in style with a very special concert.



The opening concert will be on Sunday 5th June at 4:00pm at the Bridges Centre, Monmouth.

It will be given by the Carducci Quartet, widely recognised as one of today's outstanding string quartets, whose recent recording of Shostakovich quartets received rave reviews. They perform over 90 concerts worldwide each year and also run an annual festival in Highnam, near Gloucester. Their Monmouth programme will comprise of Quartets by Haydn, Dvorak and Beethoven. After the concert there will be an informal reception with the quartet.

The second concert will be on Saturday 11 June at 3:00pm at Hom Church, near Ross-on-Wye, and will feature Daniel Tong (piano) and Sara Trickey (violin). Daniel has performed



as soloist and chamber musician at most of the major venues in the UK and many in Europe. He is founder of the London Bridge Ensemble and also performs regularly as a duo with the award-winning violinist Sara Trickey. Their programme will include violin sonatas by Beethoven, Schubert and Elgar. A pre-concert lunch will be available at The Mill Race, Walford.

The third concert, on Sunday 19th June at 7:30pm, will be held at Wyndcliffe Court, Chepstow, famed for its Grade II listed gardens. It will be given by Rosie Biss and Alice Neary (cellos). Rosie is principal cello of Welsh National Opera as well as being an accomplished chamber musician, soloist and teacher. Alice enjoys a distinguished career as both chamber musician and soloist. She is a member of the Gould Piano Trio and also plays regularly with the famed Nash Ensemble. They will be playing music by Boccherini, Chopin and Paganini among others. The Grade II listed gardens will be open from 6:00pm and Canapés will be served from 6:30pm.



The final concert will be on Sunday 26th June at 7:30pm in St Briavels Church. It will be given by Ivo Varbanov and Fiammetta Tarli (piano 4 hands).



After graduating in his native Bulgaria, Ivo travelled to London for postgraduate study at the Royal Academy of Music. Fiammetta was born in Pisa and studied at Florence Conservatoire and subsequently at Kings College, London, where she obtained her PhD. Their recital will include music by Schumann, Beethoven and Brahms. There will be an opportunity to tour the Castle at 5:30pm, and the concert will be preceded from 6:30pm by strawberries and cream and pink fizz on the Castle Moat lawn.

Full details of the series are available on-line at www.wvm.org.uk where you can book for the concerts and for the accompanying social events. Advance booking is strongly recommended and is essential for the social events.

Chepstow Baptist Church Bicentenary Year

This year, 2016, marks the bicentenary of not only the iron bridge over the River Wye, but also the opening of Chepstow Baptist Church.

Over the years the building has seen many changes, in its uses, congregation and neighbourhood.

This year the church is planning events to mark its 200 year existence in several ways. On Sunday 19th June at 6pm there will be an anniversary service to mark this special birthday of the church, while during the Chepstow Festival the church will be open on the 16th and 17th July to give a flavour of the life and times of Chepstow Baptist church history.

During the post war years (1950's-1970's, even 1940's) many children attended a Sunday School which was run by the Baptist church. If you were one of those children, please would you get in touch? The church is gathering memories of that time.

If you have relevant memorabilia that would be appropriate to use in an exhibition, please let Hazel Coleman know on admin@chepstowbaptist.org.uk or call into the church on a Monday afternoon between 2 and 5pm.



200 years!

Burnt Barn Community (Sports) & Social Club

Burnt Barn Road, Chepstow, Monmouthshire NP16 5AR

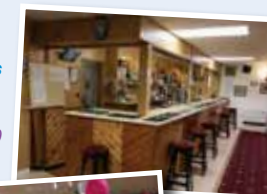
Club Associates

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

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
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From the minute that visitors approach the imposing entrance of the wonderful venue that is Chepstow Castle you know you're in for something special! Chepstow's Castell Roc Festival 2016 has something for everyone. Comedy, Country, Pop, Rock, Blues right through to a rather intriguing Orchestra. Kicking off in style with an old school knees up...

18th sees "The Sausage & Cider Festival" featuring the West Country's finest export 'The Wurzels'. Taking the very best local food, adding the very best local cider and the very best entertainment promises to be one heck of a summers evening. A choice of 10 different locally sourced sausages are on offer as well as the largest cider collection ever to come to Chepstow, plus all the laughs and sing along's that you can handle.

19th sees a more relaxed affair as the Worlds finest Fleetwood Mac Tribute arrives in Town. Endorsed by Mick Fleetwood himself and replicating the classic 'Rumours' line-up (which is still the 5th biggest selling album of all time), Fleetwood Bac have received massive praise everywhere and perform all the big hits with stunning accuracy.

20th welcomes record breaking Country act 'The Shires', who have quickly become a UK Country institution. Their debut album 'Brave' went gold in 2015, making them one of only 4 uk debut acts to break gold that year. The first ever UK act to play the legendary Grand Ole Opry in Nashville.

21st prepare to 'Walk 500 miles' with the one and only 'Proclaimers'. Twin brothers Craig & Charlie Reid have over the years enjoyed huge success across the Globe, enjoying gold and platinum singles with songs that are etched in people's memory..

24th has a truly wondrous evening in store with 'The Simon & Garfunkel Story', using projection photos, original film footage and a live band this is an enchanting and emotional evening with all the hits including Mrs Robinson, Cecilia, Bridge Of Troubled Water, Homeward Bound and many more.

25th is another chance to cast yourself back to heady days of Stadium Rock. 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.

26th sees a real giant of the Blues Scene. Fronted by Paul Jones (singer/actor/BBC radio personality/TV presenter), 'The Blues Band' are held in admiration by generations of rhythm and blues fans. With almost two and a half decades together and over 16 albums it's not unheard of to see three generations from the same family at a concert. Support includes Aynsley Lister recently voted 'best UK guitarist'.

27th sees a gentleman who needs no introduction, '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'.

28th sees what has become a National Institution hit the Town. "The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain" brings a hilarious, virtuosic, twanging, awesome, foot-stomping evening all played on the 'baby guitar'. A musical trip from Tchaikovsky to Nirvana via Otis Reading and Spaghetti Western soundtracks showcases just what can be done with a 'Uke'. Wonderfully entertaining, fun, innocence and daftness all wrapped up in Castle?

29th celebrates two highly talented, yet different legends of the music scene who were recently sadly lost to cancer. 'A Tribute 2' hosts two highly talented shows, with a chance to applaud, revel & commemorate both Lemmy & David Bowie. Both ground breaking and enduring artistes that broke musical barriers. Performed by Motorheadache & The Bowie Experience, the ticket price includes a donation to Cancer Research.

Grab your tickets while you can! A fabulous bar and hot food is available at all shows (no food/drink can be brought in to the venue), all shows are standing only (foldable chairs can be brought to all shows, used in designated area only). Loads of information on the Festival including all shows is at www.castellroc.co.uk

Photo courtesy of Paul Johnson at www.pjkeisline.com



News from Shirenewton Primary School

by Jill Mitchell Associate Headteacher

Sponsored Triathlon

The School Councils of the Chepstow Primary Alliance (Shirenewton, Thornwell and Pembroke Primaries) organised a sponsored triathlon last term to raise money to purchase topic books to be shared across the three schools. All the children had a great time throwing, jumping, dribbling and scooting and we have raised over £2100 to buy much needed books.

Teddy Bears' Picnic

Foundation Phase bears were fortunate to have a sunny spring day for their picnic to celebrate the end of their 'bears' topic. Before enjoying lunch outside - they were very busy bears ... making bear caves; bear collages using natural resources; mini dens for their teddies; banana & raisin bear biscuits; spiced bears;



bear leaf masks; listening to bear stories and singing bear songs! They also enjoyed a teddy bear fruit salad and 'bamboo juice' for snack!



Rwanda

Here are some photos from Mrs Mitchell's recent visit to our link school - Gahoga PS in Rwanda (below right). Although each class contained 45-55 pupils, all the children were extremely polite, well behaved and eager to learn. The children speak 3 languages - Kinyarwanda (their mother-tongue), English and French. From the age of 9/10 all lessons are taught in English. We all sent them some work, including penpal letters, videos teaching them some Welsh phrases, powerpoints about our school, our village, Chepstow, Monmouthshire and Wales, pictures and weather charts and we are looking forward to receiving their replies!



REDISCOVER FAMILY TIME!

Visit The Country Park at Old Down Estate with 66 acres of breathtaking countryside walks, wild flower meadows with panoramic views across the River Severn. With a huge adventure playground including zip wire and giant jumping pillow and plenty of farmyard animals for children to interact with. The Barn Cafe serves freshly prepared food made with locally sourced ingredients, some from our very own gardens, whilst The Farm Shop supplies local produce, our very own free range eggs, deli-style snacks and special gifts. Don't forget to say 'hi' to Fred the Parrot and Kevin the Peacock!

Foxholes Lane, Tockington, Bristol BS32 4PG
01454 414081

info@olddownestate.co.uk www.olddownestate.co.uk

Terms and Conditions apply: 20% discount applies to park entry only. Certificate of Excellence. One voucher per household only. No cash alternative.



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 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

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.monmouthshiremobilie.com.

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.freemove.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@stmarysrchepstow.org.uk www.stmarysrchepstow.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 Leisure Centre Playgroup. Contact: Karen Isaac 01291 623392 karenisaac61@aol.com

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.pimmer10@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



/ChepstowMatters



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

NURSERIES / PRESCHOOLS

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

Hedgehogs Nursery, in Tutshill Open 7.30am–6.00pm
for ages 3m–4 yrs. 01291 628344 hedgehogs@
deanclosenurseries.co.uk

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

Robins Nursery, in St Arvans Open 7.30am – 6.00pm for
ages 3m–4yrs. 01291 624893 robins@deanclosenurseries.
co.uk

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

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

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

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

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

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

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

St John's on-the-Hill, Independent, co-educational
school for ages 4 -13 years. 01291 622045 enquiries@
stjohnsonthehill.co.uk.

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

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

Tutshill C of E Primary School, 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 Robert Ford, Headteacher 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 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

Coleridge in Wales comes to the Wye Valley

Best known as one of our greatest romantic poets, Samuel Taylor Coleridge was also philosopher, literary critic, journalist, lecturer, diplomat, political thinker, the best talker of his time, and notorious opium addict. This year the Coleridge in Wales Festival aims to rediscover the imaginative voice of Samuel Taylor Coleridge and its relevance to challenges facing Wales today. In May, singer and facilitator Richard Parry sets out on an 80 day adventure around Wales in search of hidden Welsh treasure, meeting and travelling with artists, poets, musicians, actors, environmentalists, philosophers, on the route of Coleridge's tours of Wales.

In 1794 the 21 year old Coleridge set off from Cambridge University with a fellow undergraduate, on a walking tour of Wales. Walking holidays are now such a popular pastime it's hard to imagine how radical an act it was considered to be in the late 18th century. Poor people and vagrants had to walk, other people travelled by horseback or carriage. To walk through choice was to align with the common people – a political statement in this era of revolution in France.

Stopping off in Oxford they met the young Bristol poet Robert Southey already renowned for his strong republican views. A 3-day stay turned into 3 weeks as Southey and Coleridge formed a bond of friendship and mutual admiration, and hatched a plan to emigrate to America and set up a community, sharing property, labour and self government, a scheme they christened 'Pantisocracy'. Energised and excited they both set off to find fellow thinkers to recruit, Southey to Bristol and Coleridge on his tour of Wales. At the King's Arms, Ross, Coleridge scratched democratic verses in the window shutter about the Man of Ross, before heading off to North Wales. The Welsh tour brought out, for the first time, his passionate response to wild nature, and he began writing poetry with much greater fluency.

Coleridge must have seen Tintern Abbey and Chepstow for the first time as he headed for Bristol, but it was the following year, in 1795 that Coleridge and Southey, together with Sara and Edith Fricker - the sisters soon to be their respective wives - were invited to make a trip to Tintern Abbey by their friend and publisher Joseph Cottle.

Tensions in the poets' relationship erupted at Chepstow, were soothed by the delights of Piercefield, then almost disastrous drama befell them as they were caught out by night falling as they walked to Tintern on the treacherously stony road.

Find out more about their Wye Valley adventure at events planned for Chepstow and Tintern on May 22nd and 23rd in Chepstow and 24th at Tintern. Follow in their footsteps with guides discovering Piercefield on Monday 23rd May and walk their path to Tintern (not in the dark!) on Tuesday 24th. At Tintern Village Hall, Prof John Clarke of the Tintern Philosophy Circle will introduce aspects of Coleridge's life, accompanied by images, readings and music.

In Monmouth, on 25th May, the story moves on to 1804, when Coleridge left his wife and children and voyaged to a war zone, the Mediterranean, and Malta. Here he found friendship as well as employment with the Governor of Malta Sir Alexander Ball, one of Nelson's Band of Brothers. Appropriately, in the town that holds one of Britain's pre-eminent Nelson collections, Barry Hough, author of works on Coleridge's life on Malta, will talk about his extraordinary work as diplomat and administrator as Public Secretary, time he later described as the most memorable and instructive period of his life. 'Spin, lies and deception: Coleridge's triumph on Malta' talk at Shire Hall, promises a fascinating insight into another aspect of charismatic Coleridge's life.

Get involved in this travelling celebration. Discover more about Coleridge, his Wye journeys and why we know so little about his influence on British cultural life.

**For details of Coleridge in Wales events in the lower Wye Valley contact
Chepstow Museum on 01291 625981
chepstowmuseum@monmouthshire.gov.uk.
www.coleridgefestival.org**



Samuel Taylor Coleridge in 1795



Community Noticeboard

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

Chepstow Community Hub (Cheptow Library)

Events May through to July are:

Monday 23rd May from 2 pm the author Louise James will be visiting Chepstow Community Hub to talk and sign copies of her new book 'From Unicorns to Wild Geese' a sequel to 'The Blackberry Pickers'. Free event

Tuesday 21st June from 7 pm, William Ayot will be at Chepstow Community Hub for an evening of poetry and prose, 'Re-enchanting the Forest' This event is held in conjunction with Chepstow Bookshop. Free event

Tuesday 12th July from 7.30 Wye Valley writers will be at Chepstow Community Hub to discuss their work.

Monday 18th July from 7 pm Christine Martyn will be at Chepstow Community Hub to discuss her book 'A modern history of the Forest of Dean'. This event is held in conjunction with Chepstow Bookshop. Free event.

Tuesday 19th July from 7 pm the author Linwood Barclay will be at Chepstow Community Hub to discuss his books. This event is held in conjunction with Chepstow Bookshop. Free event.

Events at Shirenewton Primary School

Summer Fayre
Saturday 25th June 2-4pm

Hog Roast Friday
15th July 6pm

DEVAUDEN FESTIVAL

LITTLE FESTIVAL WITH BIG IDEAS ★ ★ ★ 7th YEAR ANNIVERSARY ★ ★ ★

NEVILLE STAPLE BAND RUSTY SHACKLE
MADDIE JONES ECHO AND THE ALWAYS OFELIA
LITTLE FOLK THE RUMBLE VINCE JAMES GRACE HARTREY
CLYDE JEFFERSON HOT KNIFE CLUB THE BUG CLUB DEVON
MORJA TAFFY WAS A THIEF GENTLEMAN JOE KELLY AND THE ROYAL PHARMACY
CHWARAE TEG CWCW ROCK CHOIR BIG SHY GWENT MUSIC CELTIC BAND
LIVE MUSIC CAMPING KIDS ENTERTAINMENT STALLS JITTERBUG CIRCUS FOOD WORKSHOPS

★ ★ ★ MAY 20TH & 21ST ★ ★ ★

GET YOUR TICKETS: TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/DEVAUDENFESTIVAL WWW.DEVAUDENFESTIVAL.COM

Mathern Mill Open Days

To celebrate National Mills Weekend on
Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th May

This historic water mill in Mathern
(postcode NP16 6LG)
is open both days from 2 - 5pm.
Everyone welcome, entrance free.

More information tel. **01291 622282**

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!

TABLE TOP SALE



GRAB A BARGAIN OR GET RID OF YOUR CLUTTER!

Set up from 8.30am
Saturday 28th May
in Tintern Village Hall
Everyone welcome!
Tables £5 each - Book now on 07512 856024

Tea, coffee, soft drinks, cakes and treats available
Fundraising for the Village Hall - all proceeds go towards improvements and upkeep.

Date for your diary: next sale on 17th September

Children's Events at Chepstow Community Hub

Thursday 2nd June 11.00 - 12.00. Stories and crafts for 5 - 8 year olds. The theme is 'Magical mini beasts'. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

The Summer Reading Challenge 2016 commences on Saturday 16th July and the theme this year is 'The Big Friendly Read' and it is centred around the life and works of Roald Dahl. Launch event TBA!

Throughout the summer we will be holding four story/craft sessions for the Summer Reading Scheme at Chepstow Community Hub. These will have a Roald Dahl theme and will be held on Thursday 4th August, Thursday 11th August, Thursday 18th August and Thursday 25th August from 11.00 - 12.00. The events are suitable for children aged 5 - 8. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

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

CHEPSTOW MUSEUM EVENTS

Throughout May
Chepstow Museum
Open Mon-Sat 11-5, Sun 2-5
Exhibition
Hidden Presence - A photographic legacy the work of internationally renowned photographer Julian Germain at Chepstow, Piercefield and on St Kitts, exploring the story of Nathaniel Wells

Walking for Health

Chepstow Fit 4 Life Group meet every Monday at 10am in Chepstow Leisure Centre Car Park. Walks are generally fairly short, less than 3 miles, with very few stiles discovering the Lower Wye Valley & Forest of Dean followed by a chat and a drink afterwards. All welcome. For more information call Helen 01291 641856

Sedbury Walk for Health Group meet every Thursday at 10.00am Cafe Twenty2 Sedbury. Walk up to an hour on the Offa's Dyke Path, local footpaths and pavements returning for refreshments and a chat. All welcome. For more info call Sue on 01291 629821 or email tcbelfry@btinternet.com

Gwent Wildlife Trust Chepstow Group Grand Plant Sale & Bazaar

Saturday 14th May 9.30am - 12.30pm
Palmer Centre, Cormeilles Square, Chepstow
Free admission
All kinds of excellent and interesting plants at bargain prices!

Contact 01291 689326
with queries & offers of plants

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



Medals Galore for Kestrel Gymnasts

Kestrel gymnasts aged 5 yrs to 16 yrs, had a hectic weekend of Regional and National competitions being held in different places at the same time last month, with fantastic performances, and a good haul of medals, trophies and Certificates being won!

In the South East Area Preliminary Championships held in Cwmbran Freya Hines, Eva Lawn, Megan Kear, Lilian Sapsford, Elsie-Mae Williams won Team Gold, and Martha Jones-Dekerf, Mia-Olivia Moore, Ava Burley, Hollie Smith and Kourtney Hancock taking Team Bronze in the U8's section, with Lilian taking Silver on Vault, Gold on Floor and Overall Gold, Hollie Silver on Vault, Eva 4th place Ribbon on Vault, Megan 4th place Ribbon on Vault, Kourtney 5th place Ribbon on Floor, Ted Watson won Silver on Vault, Bronze on Floor, and Bronze Overall, with Henry French taking three 4th place Ribbons.

In the U10's age group Olive Dunster, Sophie French, Francesca Owen, Sophia Cattan and Erin Roberts won Team Bronze, with Erin taking Gold on Floor, Sophie 5th place Ribbon on Vault and Olive 6th place Ribbon on Floor, Sophia 6th place Ribbon on Floor and 5th place Ribbon Overall. Henri Jones-Dekerf won Bronze on Vault, Silver on Floor, and Overall Silver. In the U12's Section, Lilli Edwards, Annie Selwyn, Willow Summers, Honey Manley and Emma Lewis took Team Gold, with Willow taking Gold on Vault and Bronze Overall, Lilli 6th place Ribbon on Vault and 5th place Ribbon Overall. The boys kept up the pace, Dovydas Zagorskis, James Davies, Mackenzie Thornton and Freddie



Roberts won Team Gold, with Dovydas taking Silver on Vault, Gold on Floor and Overall Gold, James Winning Gold on Vault and Silver on Floor and Overall Silver, Mackenzie won Bronze on Vault, Floor and Overall, and Freddie taking three 4th place Ribbons. In the U14's Luke Tomley took 3 Golds. Cora Chisholm took Silver on Vault and Floor and Overall 4th Ribbon. Clare John 4th Place Ribbon on Vault. Daisy Macharg, Yazmin Phelps, Lexie Weldon and Amber Price had a competition and were presented with Certificates.

At the same time competing in Cardiff in the Welsh NDP Tumbling Championships, the gymnasts were out giving their best performance. In the 9/10 yrs Club Level 2 Imogen Dowling took Bronze, and in the 11/12 yrs National NDP Level 2, Joseph Dunster won Gold, Joel Kohler-Hoon took Silver, and both boys have qualified for the British Championships together with Georgie Davies who won Gold. In the 13 yrs + Heather Dent took Gold, also Sam Dallimore won Gold and Cameron Maggs won Silver. Also in Cardiff Club Grades were being held with Faye Russell passing Grade 6 with Commended, Eden Fryer, Harriet Hathaway and Charlotte Jones passed Grade 5.

At the Regional Grades held in Llanelli, Jessica Ham passed Grade 2, Grade 3 Commended Olivia Hathaway and Georgie Davies with Distinction. Grade 4 Commended Erica Denby and Ella Burley.

They should all be very proud of themselves for all the hard work they had put in towards these competitions.



Hedgehogs Nursery: Closer to Nature

Chepstow Matters was delighted to be invited along to the launch party of the re-branded Hedgehogs Nursery at St John's-on-the-Hill on Friday 22nd April. It was lovely to join with local families meet the friendly staff and learning more about the nursery. There was hedgehog themed party food and props, as well as a talk from animal rescuer Ryan Mitchell, who brought along some real hedgehogs for the children to meet!

Abbie Zanotti, Manager of the Hedgehogs Nursery told us "We chose to be named Hedgehogs as this creature is in decline and needs our help - part of our ethos is teaching children more awareness of nature and to care for the environment we live in. Young children learn so much through their senses when playing outside and we want to encourage as much outdoor play as possible, with exciting spaces that are friendly to wildlife."

Despite the inclement Spring weather, we were still pleased to go outside and explore the new sensory and nature garden areas which include a castle, bug hotel and hedgehog house designed to encourage exploration of the outside world. Future plans include increasing the garden area and reclaiming an overgrown area of forest to create a forest school.

The re-brand of the nursery follows the acquisition of St Johns-on the Hill School by the co-educational day and boarding school Dean Close in Cheltenham.

Abbie added: "We still maintain the excellent standards of care throughout the nursery, and are now benefitting from the exciting resources and expertise that Dean Close have to offer us too."



Spring and Summer Fashion Show

The Friends of St John's-on-the-Hill School are hosting a Fashion Show on Friday 13 May from 7pm - 9.30pm. If you love to shop then this is the event for you, as local boutiques including: Eden Rose, Runway and Viva Couture will be showcasing fabulous Spring and Summer collections.

Tickets are £10.00 each and include a glass of Prosecco and a goody bag. The event is being held at: St John's-on-the-Hill School, Tutshill, Chepstow, NP16 7LE.

Tickets can be reserved or purchased in advance at the school's reception, at Eden Rose, Runway or Viva Couture. For further information or to reserve your ticket call 01291 622045 or email: enquiries@stjohnsonthehill.co.uk

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