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

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

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Dear Readers...

Autumn is upon us, long walks in the woods (there are plenty to choose from!) kicking the leaves and back home to scrummy food in front of a roaring fire at least that's my idyllic picture of October!

It was great to catch up with local businesses Toystastik who are celebrating their first anniversary this month and Little Stars, both of these are located at the top end of town and have activities going on through half-term week.

This month sees the start of the jump season at Chepstow Racecourse on 8th/9th, the annual 'Hoggin the Bridge' takes place on the 16th and the 22nd brings the return of the Chepstow Stampede. There is what looks to be a fun Spooky Halloween Trail taking place in Tintern the following weekend on the 29th - so lots of different things to look forward to this month.

We have some reader offers for you again in this edition: Undy Yarncrafts has a 15% discount - see their advert for details, Easi-Ear are offering a £10 discount this month, Crichcraft Wall & Floor Tiles are also offering a 20% discount and Old Down Estate is offering 2 for 1.

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 our advertisers where you can by utilising their services whenever you have a need.

We would love to hear from more local businesses interested in joining us. We also welcome input from local clubs and groups with news to celebrate, or just updates on what you are up to locally - do get in touch with me.

If you would like to be included in our November edition, the deadline for content is 15th October.

Don't forget you can keep up with each monthly edition of your favourite community mag via
www.mattersmagazines.co.uk/chepstow

Jaci x

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Police Matters -

Update from Chepstow Police

Hello all, I am Community Support Officer Geraint Reynolds the CSO for Larkfield, St Christopher's and Thornwell wards within Chepstow. I have taken over the area from Emma Studley.



Hello all, I am Community Support Officer Andrew Jones the CSO for St Arvan's, Devauden and Shirenewton wards within Chepstow.

From 1st October till 31st October we would like to know what, if any, issues are affecting you in your community. We are asking you to complete a short survey. We will then use the information to help identify the main policing priorities for your area and will work with our partners to try and address those that are of most concern for residents.

To complete your survey please visit <https://www.gwent.police.uk/yourvoicesurvey/> Or pop into the police station which is open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm or stop and chat to an officer.

Contact Us

IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS DIAL: 999
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FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES DIAL:
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Email address for enquiries:
contact@gwent.pnn.police.uk

Officers will work their way through the 'Lets Decide' process of Your Voice and gather all the suggestions from the surveys – the top priorities for each ward will be chosen based on the survey data, then officers and partners will begin work on tackling these issues in your communities.

We will hold regular station surgeries please check our website or twitter account for more details.

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Robins Nursery tots toddle for charity

At the end of August children from Robins Nursery, in St Arvans, took part in a sponsored toddle to help raise money for Barnardo's Children's charity. The event saw children aged six months to 4 years toddle, walk or be pushed two miles to Chepstow Racecourse with the aim of raising more than £200.

Robins Nursery manager, Natalie Davies, said: "As the new manager at this setting, it was an honour to be part of a wonderful event and see the children participating, this is something I would like to make an annual event and increase our support for such a great charity. We will continue to always support charities centred around children and their needs."

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Chepstow Matters was delighted to catch up with Jon Amphlett, proprietor of Chepstow's fabulous toy shop Toytastik, situated at the top of town, which is celebrating its first anniversary later this month.

Toytastik is an independent toy shop offering a different experience to the large chain stores selling mass-produced licensed items. At Toytastik you can be sure of a personal service offering traditional, quality, wooden toys that stimulate imaginative play, working with suppliers who prefer to deal with independent toy shops who value their products. Jon is more than happy to help source a toy if he doesn't have what you are looking for in stock and is also quick to reassure that his prices often match those on internet sites and in the high street giants, so remember: support local and save money!

Jon would like to say a big Thank You to all the locals who have supported the store over the last 12 months and shared the journey with him so far. It has been a learning curve and the store has adapted with changing stock to suit.

Joining Chepstow Fair Trade Forum has been an important step for Toytastik in the last year, making the pledge to continue to grow the shop's Fair Trade and Environmentally Friendly range of toys; for example the beautiful range from Lanka Kade offering wooden toys from Sri Lanka, and the Green Toy range which is made from 100% recycled plastic milk bottles! Toytastik also supports locally sourced British-made toys such as the new Ridge Skateboards now in store.

Toytastik is proud to have developed relationships with many of the local nurseries, schools and PTAs over the last 12 months, supplying fun, educational toys for both indoor and outdoor play. The biggest seller this summer has been the ride-on tractors which has seen Toytastik provide FALK tractors at the best prices across the UK, both on-line and in-store, emphasising that it pays to shop local!

Jon has recently developed new links with a number of manufacturers and suppliers of a new range of toys, games and puzzles, including Engino toys an exciting construction set encouraging 'play to invent' and working on the principles of STEM as taught in schools (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths). Also arriving this month is a new range of jigsaws and puzzles from Belgium, France and Italy as well as skateboards previously mentioned and self-build go-karts for the older and more adventurous child.



As we fast approach Christmas, Toytastik is pleased to offer a **Christmas Savings Club** whereby you can reserve and pay weekly for toys to help spread the cost. The shop holds a wide range of toys, party gifts and stocking fillers, with items from just 99p! In fact one of the key areas of the shop is birthday parties and Toytastik can help with a range of party gifts from just £5-£10 a present, to organising party bags and even a birthday 'wish' list for friends and family.

To celebrate its first anniversary, Toytastik is planning a range of activities during the October half term 23rd-30th October: shopping evenings, discount days and come and play events.

In conjunction with Chepstow Matters there will also be a children's drawing competition all week, celebrating what Toytastik means to you!

For more information on all these events, please keep checking the FB page **Toytastik Toy Shop**.

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News from the Lions Den... Chepstow & Caldicot Lions Club: "Serving the Community"

This month sees another chapter in the life of the Club come to an end: after 18 years of being based at Dewstow Golf Club, the Lions Club is moving to its new headquarters at The Chepstow Castle Inn. As of 1st of October monthly meetings and members dinners will be held at the new venue, as always on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, and new members are always welcome.



Sean Matthews the new Landlord has stated that he and his partner Stephane Chauveau are delighted to welcome the Chepstow and Caldicot Lions Club to their premises. The Lions Club held a successful social afternoon at The Chepstow Castle Inn on the 17th of August enjoying a buffet lunch a raffle and a quiz (above).

The Club's ongoing project in collaboration with The British Heart Foundation is to provide defibrillators for all the surrounding villages, in next month's issue of the Chepstow Community Matters Magazine the Club will publish details of where all the machines have been placed and where to access training to use them.

Lions Club 'Message in a Bottle' Scheme

What is 'Message in a Bottle'? Abbreviated to MIAB, it is a simple piece of paper asking pertinent questions that contains vital information about you, directed at the Emergency Services. This allows them to make quick and accurate decisions on what action to take at the point of contact, which could save your life in an emergency at home.



A white plastic bottle containing a form with vital information about you that could save your life due to the speed with which the Emergency Services could respond to your individual needs. The bottle is placed where the Emergency Services are trained to look, in the refrigerator door. A green cross sticker is placed

on the inside of the main house door, or where it is considered would be most obvious and another sticker on the door of the fridge.

The information provided should include where you keep your medication and latest prescription, contact details, major medical conditions, personal doctor and anything considered necessary that would need attention in those first critical moments.

Bottles can be obtained from most Lions Clubs free of charge, or if distribution has been carried out, from local chemists or primary care trusts in the area.

Lions Club Knights of the Blind

Lions Clubs throughout the UK and Ireland collect unwanted spectacles for distribution in underdeveloped countries. The spectacles are then sent to a Lions Refurbishment Centre in Northern France, where volunteers grade, repair and refurbish thousands of pairs every year, these spectacles are then distributed to countries like Chile, Uruguay, Africa and the Far East, where those people and children who are unable to afford the cost of spectacles are supplied by local Lions Clubs.

This enables children to attend school, for adults it makes a real difference by being able to find employment due to better eye sight.

Chepstow and Caldicot Lions have over the past two years collected in excess of two thousand pairs of old spectacles, contributing to over 50,000 pairs sent from the UK alone.

If you have any old spectacles and would like to put them to good use, Lions collection boxes can be found at your local hospice shops, libraries and surgeries throughout the Chepstow and Caldicot area.

If you would like to know more about the MIAB scheme or you would like to donate your old spectacles please contact Lion Rowland Searle on 01291 420012 or Club Secretary Glyn Williams on 0845 8339502.



New Shop opening in Caldicot this October

Whether you want to paint a pot or enjoy a pot of tea with friends and family, Craft Coffee Caldicot has something for everyone. Opening this October Craft Coffee will host both a modern and comfortable coffee shop and the successful Ladybird Pottery - Paint your own Pottery right in the heart of Caldicot.

Building on the success of the shop in Abbey Mill, Tintern, Ladybird Pottery will bring you the very best pottery experience. Customers will be able to choose pottery to paint from as little as £6 right up to large statement pieces. There will also be the chance to book clay workshops and parties as well as hand and foot imprints.

"Like our shop in Tintern, Ladybird Pottery will offer customers the opportunity to drop in and paint any time but with the added benefit of a coffee shop to enjoy drinks and snacks," Jo Colla told us. She went on "the great thing with our Craft Coffee shop is that you can use either the coffee shop or the Pottery Painting or both - you choose."

This independent shop comes at a time when Caldicot is beginning to see real enterprise among the locals with community groups like Caldicot Town Team opening a Pop up shop on the high street, new shops opening and volunteer groups organising gardening and clean up sessions of the public areas. The addition of a modern coffee shop to Caldicot will be of benefit as a great place to meet up or just pop in for a takeaway coffee.

Ladybird Pottery is already known for selling locally sourced, handmade craft and carrying



on with this - Craft Coffee are very proud to be selling cakes made by the very talented Baked on Green Street. So whether you are looking for a ladies afternoon painting or a kids birthday party Ladybird Pottery @ Craft Coffee will be able to provide both the painting and the refreshments.

What's the Future for Craft Coffee? "We are so excited to bring Paint your own Pottery to Caldicot, but we are aiming to quickly build on this with other crafts like T-shirt painting and jewellery making. And we don't want to stop there," said Mrs Colla "we are hoping to be able to offer one off sessions and even termly courses in many different crafts. This is a little way off yet but we are always on the lookout for new crafts and we are keen to listen to what the public wants from us."

Craft Coffee hopes to be open for the start of the half term 22nd October but for the most up to date info please follow them on facebook - Ladybird Pottery or visit their website ladybirdpottery.com.



Castell Roc organiser Carol Mutlow of Hannah's Music in Chepstow, says she was delighted with this years event.

Held in the beautiful grounds of Chepstow Castle over the last 2 weeks of August, this festival goes from strength to strength each year and, with acts such as Jools Holland, The Proclaimers, The Shires and The Blues Band, as well as a host of top tribute acts who appeared this year, the festival has been well and truly put on the map as one to watch out for.

The event was attended by over 10,000 people over the 10 days. Not just supported by locals, people from all over the country (the world in fact as tickets were sold to people from the USA and Canada) visited, resulting in all the hotels, bed & breakfasts being full and reports that restaurants and pubs were been busy during the whole of the festival too.

Plans are already being put in place for next year with some of the nights booked up already.

But before that Carol and her team are planning a 3 day event at Tintern Abbey on 26th, 27th and 28th May 2017. Details of who will be playing will be announced shortly, so watch out for details in next month's Chepstow Matters!

Thank you to Paul Johnson of Pixels in Time for allowing us to share the above amazing photographs with our readers. You can view more of these at the website www.pixelsintime.co.uk where they are also available to purchase.

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Help and Advice for Older People

As we get older, changes to our health and finances can affect the way that we live independently and manage our own affairs.

At Monmouthshire Citizens Advice we regularly see people who want information and advice on matters which will impact on the quality of their lives in the future. Our second article about older people highlights examples relating to health where we can provide information and help. We have given website addresses but you can also drop in to one of our offices in Abergavenny, Caldicot, Chepstow and Monmouth or ring Adviceline on 03444 772020.

Help with Managing your Affairs

As we get older our ability to manage our affairs may be affected by failing physical or mental health. A person can be given authority to manage someone else's affairs on a day to day basis, for example:

- looking after their financial affairs
- making decisions about their day-to-day personal or health care.

There are different ways of managing someone's affairs. Choosing the right one depends on circumstances and whether or not the person has mental capacity. Options are:

- with a letter or a third party mandate to deal with financial accounts
- as an agent or appointee to deal with someone's welfare benefits or tax credits
- using a power of attorney
- as a deputy appointed by the Court of Protection

Wills

It is important for you to make a will whether or not you have many possessions or much money because:

- if you die without a will, there are certain rules which dictate how your money, property or possessions should be allocated



- unmarried partners and partners who have not registered a civil partnership cannot inherit from each other unless there is a will
- if your circumstances have changed, it is important that you make a will so that your money and possessions are distributed according to your wishes. For example if you marry or enter into a registered civil partnership, this will make any previous will invalid.

Financial Help for those with Disabilities

Attendance Allowance is a benefit for people with care needs who are 65 or over, and who do not get Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payment (PIP). To get Attendance Allowance you must have had care needs for at least six months (unless you are terminally ill). Care needs include help with, for example, washing, getting dressed, going to the toilet or taking part in social activities. Also if you need supervision to stop you from being a danger to yourself or others. If you are terminally ill, you are automatically treated as having care needs.

Costs of Care and Selecting a Care Home

Helping elderly people remain independent or finding a care home can be a challenge and the options and rules about financial help are complex. Firstly you should ask your council's Social Services Department to carry out a Needs Assessment. This can be carried out face to face or over the telephone and a family member or



friend can provide support. If you're eligible for help from the council, you'll be given a care plan outlining the help you can receive.

NHS Choices provides more information about how the council decides who's eligible for care and more detailed information can be found at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/wales/relationships/looking-after-people/social-care-and-support/#h-what-to-expect-from-a-needs-assessment>.

If an elderly person has been assessed as entitled to community care services there may be the option to receive cash payments (known as Direct Payments) from your council instead of care services. This can give you more flexibility and greater control of your support package.

More information on all these matters can be found at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk> and also at <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/cymru/>

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Don't Put Debt On Your Christmas List, Warns Local Charity

THE local arm of a debt charity is calling for people to prepare early for the festive season rather than rely on expensive credit.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP), which specialises in helping people on a low income, says it sees many struggling to cope with the cost of Christmas.

Manager of the Chepstow & District CAP Centre Isobel Mead said: *"It probably fills a few people with dread to think that Christmas is less than 90 days away but this is actually a great time to stop and consider how you can help yourself between now and then."*

"There's a lot of hype from marketing people about buying the perfect Christmas, which we know in our hearts isn't real life, but we all so easily get swept up in it. Before all that hits our TV screens, now is the time to get together our own personalised plans for an enjoyable, stress free celebration."

"There are loads of ways to get started – the main thing is setting yourself a target and deciding on your tactics. The last thing your family would want is to see you in financial trouble in 2017."

CAP recommends the following to start saving for Christmas:

- Regularly saving supermarket stamps
- Storing supermarket loyalty points from Nectar/Clubcard
- Putting money away each week in a dedicated savings account
- Hiding away a special box for presents and buying something to put in it each week

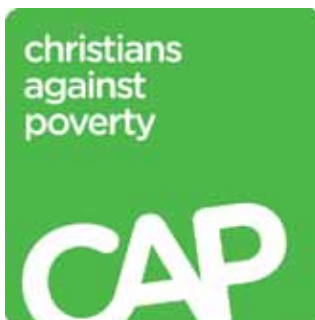
With 80+ days to go, the charity also suggests using the time to make Christmas craft projects like knitting, making jam, brewing or growing something special.

"My other top tip is to manage expectations early. If you think Christmas will be difficult, talk to family early and decide what you can afford together. They may want to chip in with bigger items or you may decide on a 'presents for children only' rule. Time is on your side to make these arrangements now."

Christians Against Poverty gives a free service to help people with debt problems and budgeting regardless of age, gender, faith or background.

The charity is determined to reduce hardship in the UK, with the help of local churches. It does this through 306 debt counselling centres; a money education programme called the CAP Money Course; CAP Job Clubs for unemployed people; CAP Release Groups for people struggling with addictions and CAP Life Skills for people living on a low income.

All services are given freely for everyone regardless of age, gender, faith or background. For more information see the website capuk.org or contact your local CAP centre on: 07539 477286.



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Chepstow U13s Rugby Team Swim the Channel!

Chepstow under 13's rugby team "swam the channel" last month in order to raise funds for their first rugby tour abroad.

Excited to have booked their tour to Holland in 2017, the team came up with the idea of a sponsored swim, undertaking as a team to swim the 21 miles from Dover to Calais. The swim took place in the Bathurst outdoor pool and each mile was calculated to be 44 lengths, which meant as a team they had to swim 924 lengths to cover the distance.

In total they collectively managed 1141 lengths, so all the way to Calais and a little bit back as well. Joanne Masser told Chepstow Matters *"The boys did an excellent job and I'm so proud of them. The pool was unbelievably cold so we had an authentic experience swimming the channel!"*

The team is currently collating the fundraising but so far on just giving they have hit the £1,000 mark, which is 10% of the total funds they are looking to raise for next year.

Other fundraising initiatives include bag packing in Chepstow Tesco later in September, then in October more bag packing at M&S, and a quiz night at the club.

If anyone is able to support the boys with their fundraising, it would be gratefully received on their just giving page : <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/chepstow-rugby-tour>

Chepstow RFC is one of the oldest clubs in the world - it formed in 1869 and is a traditional rugby club. It welcomes children from all abilities and walks of life with the aim of building a strong team, master a superb team game, and gain confidence.





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Crèche Facilities now Available for your Little Stars ...

After a busy summer, Chepstow Matters enjoyed the chance to pop back into the lovely Little Star Workshops in September to catch up over a latte with owner Ghalia Francis.

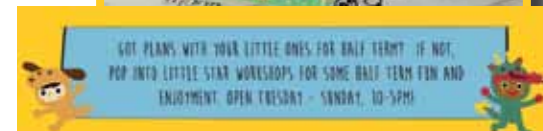
This lovely venue for parents/carers to bring their young children is an absolute delight and, with a lovely coffee shop at the back for the adults to relax in whilst the children are entertained front of house, is an absolute godsend!

Over the summer Ghalia found herself being repeatedly asked if children could be left in the capable hands of Little Star Workshops whilst their parent just popped to an appointment, or to do the shopping. After some further thought and planning Little Star Workshops is now pleased to offer a crèche service for a maximum of two hours. The friendly, reliable staff are fully qualified and DBS checked and happy to look after your little one/s for an hour or two if you have things to do. Rates are £6 per hour if booked in advance, or £8 per hour on the day (subject to availability). There is a 25% sibling discount.

Ghalia told me that it was her son Rocco that gave her the inspiration for the Little Star Workshop.

"In 2013 I gave birth to my beautiful baby boy Rocco. Being a mum, for me, was without a doubt the most amazing and challenging thing I have ever done. As Rocco became a toddler (and one that doesn't stop from morning till night!) living in Chepstow I soon realised there was a gap missing in the market for children. I started coming up with ideas on a daily basis to keep my little boy busy. Inspired by my fearless, fun-loving, little boy Rocco and the stuff he loves to do, I decided to open a beautiful bright but creative space for children - something different to the every day soft play that's available. Starting a children's workshop was never the plan, but the old cliché is very real: your whole world changes once you have a baby!"

With autumn fast upon us and winter just around the corner, Little Star Workshops are planning lots of Halloween and Bonfire Night fun, especially over the half term week. Events include a Monster Cookie House workshop, a Halloween party with lots of fun and games, pumpkin carving and Halloween cookie decoration as well as visits from Black Rock Reptiles, Moo Music and Voice of Earth (see our later article on VofE on p24).



Little Star Workshops offer creative workshops for children from 2yrs - 8yrs as well as the everyday 'stay and play offer' (see advert below). Children's parties can also be accommodated and parents struggling for party ideas can choose from their bespoke party range, including the Mini Moon Party, the Happy Planet Party and the Little Star VIP Party. Little Star Workshops take care of the decorations, games, food and lots more!

The space can hold up to 30 children; depending upon how many staff are present. Ghalia employs three additional members of staff to run the coffee shop and entertain the children.

Little Star Workshops is located at 8 Moor Street, Chepstow and is open from 10am - 5pm from Tuesday to Sunday.

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Year 7s at Chepstow School celebrated Roald Dahl's 100th birthday last month by dressing up as their favourite character.

Roald Dahl day is celebrated worldwide in recognition of one of the greatest authors of all time. Chepstow School played host to numerous characters from the timeless classics - Oompa Loompas, Matilda, Sophie, Willy Wonka to name a few! Lessons for year 7 focused around the works of Roald Dahl today and in particular, in their English lessons, they created Dream Jars to add to The BFG's collection.

A fantastic effort was made by everyone involved!

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SPOTY, Chepstow School's annual award ceremony for Sports Personalities Of The Year was held last month.

There was an excellent turnout of students and parents for the celebration evening on Thursday 8th September to recognise and reward the many talented sportspeople at Chepstow School. Awards were given both to teams and individuals.

3rd place for Sports Personality of the year was given to **Georgie Davies** for achievement in Tumbling. She is the Under 13's British Champion, she was also named Female Gymnast of the year.

Runner up went to **Sarah Gibbs**, who is part of the Under 20 Athletics Squad. A very talented and dedicated Athlete.

The winner of Sports Personality of the year 2016 went to **Harry Pritchard** - a member of Cardiff City Football Academy. Harry also captained our team in the British Cup Final in Dublin earlier this year where the team performed very well, representing Wales.



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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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Wye Valley Music's Autumn Season Moves in New Directions

Wye Valley Music continues its 50th Anniversary celebrations with an unusually varied programme taking in a broader than usual spectrum of musical styles and instrumental combinations.

This month, the second concert, entitled "Songs With And Without Words", is at 7:30pm on Saturday 15th October, again in St Briavels Church. It will be given by locally-based musicians Alison Wray (soprano, photo) and Robert Osborne (clarinet), who will be joined by the prize-winning pianist, organist and composer Charles Matthews at the piano. They will present a tempting collection of pieces from the English and German song traditions by composers including Mendelssohn, Schubert, Arnold Cooke and Edward German arranged for this innovative combination of instruments and voice.



The third concert is at the earlier time of 3:00pm on Sunday 27th November at the Bridges Centre, Monmouth, and features the Ruisi Quartet.



Founded in 2012 by brothers Alessandro and Max Ruisi, the quartet has quickly established itself as one of the leading British string quartets of its generation. In 2015 they were finalists in the Young Classical Artists Trust annual Public Final Auditions in the Wigmore Hall and in the same year they won the prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society award for Young British String Players. The quartet's shared affinity for the string quartets of Haydn has led them to embark upon a Haydn cycle in central London which commenced in March of this year. For their St Briavels programme they will present an exciting selection from this cycle.

The final concert of the Autumn season is at 7:30pm on Saturday 17th December, again at the Bridges Centre and is a seasonal programme entitled "Caroles of Nunnes & Roses" and marks a welcome return by the popular medieval music ensemble Joglaresa. Always highly entertaining, their combination on this occasion of voice, bagpipes, harp, fidel, dulcimer, gittern and percussion should make this possibly our tinkliest and twinkliest Christmas programme to date. Mulled wine and mince pies are included in the price, so advance booking is essential for this event.



As always, these concerts are open to the general public, as well as to members. Full details of each event, including prices, can be found by going to www.wvm.org.uk.

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Hoggin' the Bridge 2016 Sunday 16th October

Hoggin' the bridge started back in 2000 when what was thought would be a couple of hundred bikes riding together across the bridge turned out to be nearly 1000! The event has grown and developed over the years and literally takes over the Bridge and Chepstow itself with some 3-4,000 bikes taking part. For local residents it makes quite a spectacle - although temporary road closures/delays are to be expected.

This year the ride will take place on Sunday 16th October 2016 and will start in the Brightside Group PLC car park which is behind Severn View Services, Aust, Junction 1 M48, near Bristol. The parade ride will begin at 11.00 a.m by Hoggin' the Severn Bridge then follow the usual route through several local towns and villages and will finish at Chepstow Race Course.

Here we intend to use this fantastic venue to spoil you with bigger and easier parking areas, more bands, loads more traders and stalls, and a great range of food outlets. Covered seating will be available in the stands, so you can sit and listen to the bands while enjoying a drink, a bite to eat or just chat and watch the world go by.

As last year, the Hoggin' the Bridge ride, which is great in itself, will finish with a parade of bikes right through the very heart of the race course (no grass riding) giving all the riders a chance to show off their finery and giving all spectators a chance to see a really great spectacle.

The ride will then park up on an all tarmac surface. We will also be hosting a ride in bike show. For those who enter, they will have the chance to not only show off their bike, but also win a prize. As well as all this we hope to have an auto jumble on site, more details to follow.....all in all this gives us a chance to thank you for your support of our charity fundraising event and give you a great day to remember.

This is a charity fundraising event open to all motorcyclists and to join in with this unique spectacle you need to register and donate. You can do this online <http://hogginthebridge.co.uk> or alternatively print and complete the donation by post using the form for Hoggin' the Bridge 2016.

Donations will also be accepted on the day for those who want to see what the weather is like.

For more information check out the website
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A Little Help from my Friends

by Ami Cooper

“Sharing my ideas for Voice of Earth with my friends turned them into reality”

A few months ago I returned from my travels to Norway in my campervan, feeling inspired, refreshed and with a vision to follow my dreams. I had left my teaching job with a desire to try something new. I decided to focus on community singing and create my own local choirs and singing groups for all ages.

As a passionate singer, an experienced teacher and a music tutor, I knew that I had a wealth of songs and music to share with Chepstow. I had not long moved to the area and I was enthusiastic to get to know the community through singing. So I created my project; Voice of Earth.

My aim was to nurture individual and community wellbeing through singing. I wanted to focus on connecting to the natural world, celebrating the seasons, and embracing multiculturalism through singing. The emphasis would be on experiencing the joy of song and sharing the awe and wonder of community singing. I believe that through singing, we can nurture our inner selves whilst also connecting to others.

So I shared my ideas with my friends and talked to them along the way. Then the pieces started to slot together. I was just telling one friend that I was looking to start a community choir and she replied that her choir leader was looking for a replacement leader! So I jumped at the opportunity to meet him for coffee. Then it began. Brian and I agreed that we would work together to run Chepstow Community Choir.

Half an hour later, I met another friend and we spoke about how she was looking for a choir to bring her baby to and that she knew lots of mums who were interested. Then it began again! The start of my Parent and Baby Singing Group.

So if you have a dream and if you are working on a project that you love, remember to tell your friends and to share what you are doing; you never know, it might be exactly the right time. If you know what you are looking for, an opportunity might be waiting for you to knock on the door!

For more information on local choirs and singing groups for adults, babies and children visit
www.voiceofearth.co.uk
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Chepstow Choral Society Summer (Festival) Concert

by Marjorie Duerden

Chepstow Choral Society concluded their 2015/2016 season in fine style with their contribution to Chepstow Festival 2016, which was entitled a Summer Gala Concert, consisting of popular opera choruses, solos, and duets, light opera and musical theatre. It proved to be a fine choice which attracted an excellent audience, who thoroughly enjoyed a good night – and the refreshments and socialising that followed!

Brilliant soloists Angharad Morgan (soprano) and Stephen Hamnett (bass), both superb professional singers, provided wonderful singing with popular solos and duets that were simply stunning. Stephen actually included a highly topical and amusing extra verse into When Britain Really Ruled the Waves - this concert being held a few days after the EU Referendum! Ruth Rusling, another guest soloists (trumpet), played some magnificent contributions during the evening, including one from "Les Miserables".

The Choir, directed by the Society's Musical Director Graham Bull, rose to the occasion well, entering fully into the spirit of the evening, particularly in several of the choruses. The evening concluded with presentations to Marjorie Duerden, the Society's piano accompanist, for whom this performance was her final one in that role. Marjorie has chosen to stand down as the Society's pianist after 17 years, and this concert certainly marked a fitting finale, being involved in every item during the evening, with some outstanding playing, which illustrated the enormous demands that this highly varied programme created!

Following their summer break, CCS is resuming rehearsals on Wednesday evening, 31st August, 7.30pm in Chepstow Leisure Centre Arts Hall.

A Workshop will take place on Saturday afternoon (2.00pm – 5.30pm) 8th October, when all interested singers will be invited to come and spend the afternoon with us – and hopefully join! CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd-Making Music, and is a registered charity (no.1127098).

The Society welcomes new singers – no choral society can exist without singing membership! – and if you feel this is for you, and want further information, please contact Marjorie (tel 01291 623310) or visit our website (www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk).



Top inset shows Marjorie Duerden, Stephen Hamnett, Ruth Rusling, Angharad Morgan

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Free Concert at St John's on the Hill

St John's on the Hill are delighted to launch their concert series by welcoming Philippe Scharz to the School on Monday 17th October.

Ruth Frett (Headmistress) and David Mitchell (Director of Music) wanted to give the parents and pupils of St John's, as well as the community of Chepstow, the opportunity to hear professional musicians perform in the wonderful surroundings of St John's School. The Concerts are free and will feature a range of musical styles from musicians based in South Wales, Gloucestershire and Bristol.

Ruth Frett says 'Providing opportunities for our students and their families to experience the wonderful world of music is at the heart of what we do at St John's. I know that this concert series will provide this as well as opening up our school to the community of Chepstow and welcoming those that wish to experience some excellent music making.'

Philippe Scharz is one of the most exciting trumpeters of today. He has developed a highly successful career as an orchestral and chamber musicians as well as a soloist. As Principal Trumpet of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, until summer 2002, and his student days with the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra he has performed, to much critical acclaim, with conductors such as Claudio Abbado, Pierre Boulez and Bernard Haitink.

Wine reception is from 6.30pm, concert starts 7pm. You can reserve your free ticket to see Philippe at St John's on the Hill by calling 01291 622045.



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Saturday 1st October GOLDEN YEARS (12A)

A gentle Ealing like comedy with a serious undertone - and a lovely cast of British acting talent: Bernard Hill, Simon Callow, Virginia McKenna, Una Stubbs and Phil Davies. Hill's opportunistic OAP is furious with the bank for frittering away his pension. However, when his wife (Virginia McKenna) needs expensive medical treatment and the local bowls club is threatened with closure, Hill becomes a regular Robin Hood, robbing banks! His gang includes the old stalwarts listed above - with an increasingly frustrated police inspector (Alan Armstrong) on their tale. Made in Bristol, with West Country locations.



Saturday 29th October FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS (PG)

With Meryl Streep, Hugh Grant, Simon Helberg, Rebecca Ferguson

A significant patron of the arts in New York during the Second World War, Florence Foster Jenkins provided musical instruments for underprivileged children and set up The Verdi Club where she produced, directed and starred in tacky shows for select members of high society. But she always wanted to sing opera, despite her tone-deafness and distinct lack of talent. Now Stephen Frears brings the story to the big screen with three central performances of quality: Simon

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Helberg as FFJ's exasperated accompanist, Hugh Grant as her attentive husband and of course the wonderful Meryl Streep in the title role. "In Streep's inspired hands, Florence never becomes the expected figure of fun, but a diva-in-waiting whose unattainable aspirations you fully understand. And one can only imagine how much coaching the Mamma Mia! star needed to be able to sing badly! Streep's purity in the face of Florence's vocal limitations and her complete lack of cynicism towards the character are utterly relatable and totally charming. She gives poignancy to how the real Florence summed up her life: "People may say I can't sing, but no one can say I didn't sing." Fabulous!



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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

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 623599

Mount Pleasant Practice, Tempest Way, Chepstow NP16 5XR 01291 440154

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.chepstowphotosoc.org admin@chepstowphotosoc.org

Chepstow Probus Club fortnightly meetings for retired business gentleman. Contact Ian Whitford - Secretary for PROBUS of Chepstow 01291 622 193

Chepstow Round Table www.chepstow.roundtable.co.uk community voluntary organisation for men aged 18-44. 'find them at Facebook/Chepstow Round Table'

Chepstow Society local group exploring history and developments of town, meet each month in Drill Hall. www.chepstowsociety.co.uk Secretary is Henry Hodges, Tel 01291 625865.

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

Chepstow Womens Institute (WI) www.thewi.org.uk Shirenewton, St Arvans and Tidenham

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

Chepstow Group of Gwent Wildlife Trust Contact Hilary Lee 01291 689326 hilary-lee@tiscali.co.uk

ComBat Communities of Bulwark and Thornwell, community group Chairman Ric Hayes ric.hayes@talktalk.net

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

Lower Wye Ramblers Sunday Walks (meet CLC) www.lowerwyeramblers.org.uk 01291 637416

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

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

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

Rotary Club of Chepstow and District www.chepstowrotary.org.uk

Royal British Legion Chepstow Branch meets at the Beaufort Hotel in Chepstow monthly on 4th Tuesday at 7.30 pm. Contact Tom Moran on 01291 477266 tv Moran@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@stmarysrcchepstow.org.uk www.stmarysrcchepstow.org.uk

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

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

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

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

BABY AND TODDLER GROUPS

Chepstow 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.rimmer10@btinternet.com every Thurs 1.30-3pm

St Arvans Baby and Toddler St Arvans Memorial Hall contact Sabrina 07701027313 sabrinaortner@yahoo.co.uk every Wed 10-12.

St Christophers Under Fives and Familys St Christophers Church, Bulwark contact Babs Middleton 07594172720 babsmiddleton80@gmail.com Wed 3.45 term time, all age siblings welcome FREE



Please support us and connect with us:
@ChepstowMatters



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

NURSERIES / PRESCHOOLS

Bluebells Playgroup Fairfield Road, Chepstow 01291 628908
bluebellisplaygroup@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.littleacornisplaygroup.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
markburch1228@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
information@swimchepstow.co.uk

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

Tax returns to become a thing of the past

HMRC has launched its new system of personal online tax accounts amid real scepticism from advisers over the UK tax authority's ability to deliver on its goal of becoming one of the most digitally advanced tax administrations in the world.

The new system which will eventually replace annual tax returns and will be adopted by millions of individuals and businesses is one part of a radical overhaul that will see the taxman slash hundreds of jobs and plough £1.3bn into digitally transforming the way it administers tax.

HMRC is committed to making £717m of sustainable resource savings a year by 2019/20 with the cumulative savings offset, in a sense, by its digital reinvestment. At the same time, the taxman is to close 137 local offices by 2027 which it will replace with regional centres and has earmarked a headline 21% reduction in baseline resource costs through digitisation.

How these changes will affect HMRC's much-maligned levels of 'customer service' so bad that parliament now considers it to have "an adverse impact on the collection of tax revenues" depends on how you define customer service. Most businesses seem to believe that customers want a local presence, something accountants and their clients will have to live without. Judging by HMRC's previous efforts in this area, a smooth transition appears incredibly optimistic. Previous problems associated with HMRC's digital projects have centred on reconciliation between employer and tax collector estimates.

However, HMRC claim this as a big leap in modernising our tax system, putting good customer service at its heart, and making it as easy as possible for individuals and businesses to pay the right tax at the right time. They claim it signals the end of the tax return as we know it.

Today, taxpayers use a range of digital services to manage their tax affairs, and more than 85 per cent of Self-Assessment tax returns are already done online. But it's not always a joined-up process and many people have to provide information that HMRC already holds. That's something that the government is determined to change. It has already delivered digital accounts for small businesses, with more than a million currently using them, as well as a simpler online service for individuals. Feedback from these groups is helping to shape a bold vision for the future of the tax system. Now, HMRC is exploiting new digital technologies to create even better services that are truly built around its customers' needs.

They also claim that in 2016, all of the UK's five million small businesses and the first ten million individuals will have access to their own digital tax account. Over time, these will fundamentally transform the way in which taxpayers interact with the tax system. Everyone can expect a very different experience from the one they receive today it will be simple, personalised and

secure, offering an increasing range of integrated services. The accounts will bring together in one place all the information that taxpayers need to understand their tax position just like an online bank account. They will be able to register, file, pay and update their information, at any time of the year, using the digital device of their choice.

The idea is to streamline how tax works, automatically targeting help and support to customers when they need it, based on the data in their tax account. This will allow more people to solve their queries easily online, rather than by phone, letter or paper forms. It is envisaged that by the end of the next Parliament, every individual and small business will be able to see and manage their tax affairs through their digital tax account, removing the need for annual tax returns.

Later this year, the government will publish a roadmap and consult on how it will deliver the changes needed some of which will require changes to legislation and investment in new systems. Separate consultations will cover a new payment process to support digital tax accounts and reform of National Insurance contributions for the self-employed. This is a bold vision for a new, modern tax system, which will make it far easier for all taxpayers whether they are individuals or businesses to manage their tax affairs and pay the right tax at the right time.

The key issue, then, is how can HMRC make such a massive transformation, which involves a 31% reduction in headcount at an administration with the consistently lowest morale among government departments, and deliver a fully digital tax system by 2020?

"Digitisation is, on the face of it, a good idea – but my concern is making it mandatory. There will be significant burdens and costs for many.

HMRC says it will be as easy as 'pressing send', but that's naive. It won't be."

Rosemary Chicken, bdhc



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Community Noticeboard

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

Craft Exhibition

Thursday 13th to Saturday 15th
October 10am-4.30pm

Bath & West Showground,
Shepton Mallet BA4 6QN



Huge range of craft supplies including knitting, needlecraft, embroidery, felting, quilting, card making, beading, textiles and more!

Demonstrations and workshops

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Competition to win top of range Singer Sewing Machine at the Show

£8 adult/£7 concessions/Children under 16 free

www.Craft4Crafters.co.uk

Ticket Line: 0345 3040222

Charity Christmas cards

will be on sale in Chepstow Library from
26 October to 10 December 2016.

Offering over 240 card designs, these sales not only generate much needed funds for the charities but also increase their awareness.

In the past ten years, charities have received more than £40 million from Cards for Good Causes, representing at least 70p in every pound.

The shop will be open from 10.00am to 4.00pm except half day closings on Wednesday and Saturday.

Look forward to seeing you!



Morris the Monk's Murder Mystery!

Saturday 29th October 2016
3.30pm
from Tintern Village Hall

Adults £4 Children £2
(includes BBQ dinner)

A spooky Halloween mystery trail around Tintern to celebrate our village
FOR ALL AGES!

* Licensed Bar

* Fancy dress prizes * Disco

* Best carved pumpkin prize

* Bring spooky themed desserts to share

BOOK TICKETS NOW!

lindsaycobb1@btopenworld.com

call 07717 496369

All proceeds for Village Hall upkeep & improvements



URGENT!!! Could you help or do you know someone who could?

We are very urgently looking for volunteer drivers to help bring local elderly people to a club in Chepstow on Mondays at the Palmer Centre. The club runs from 2pm - 4pm and we need people who would be willing to use their own cars to help people to join us for the afternoon. Even if you could only help with transport in one direction it would be really helpful! Transport costs can be covered if needed!

If you think you might be able to help and would like to know more please contact Marianne Piper.
marianne.piper@befriendingmonmouthshire.org.uk

Tel: 01600 888481

Thank you so much!

Chepstow and District Garden
Appreciation Secretary (CADGAS)

"Winter into Spring"
Wednesday 26th October

Our speaker this month will be Julie Ritchie of Hoo House Nursery, Tewkesbury. It may seem early to be thinking about winter into spring, but now is the time to be stocking up on bulbs and plants for our gardens, to cheer us through the winter into a bright and colourful spring.

Hoo House Nursery is renowned for choice herbaceous plants, as well as a range of alpiners - a nursery filled with plant treasures.

CADGAS holds monthly meetings on the fourth Wednesday from September to June (excluding December) starting at 7.30pm in Chepstow Leisure Centre.

All very welcome - Visitors £4.



SUPPORTED BY CHEPSTOW TOWN COUNCIL



NEXT MARKET 22ND OCTOBER



Community Charity Fireworks

5th November
Chepstow School
FREE ENTRY
Gates Open 5.30pm

Various stalls run by community groups, live music from The Brothers Blue Showband, a variety of hot food, sweets etc

The Round Table will be collecting donations, which will all go towards supporting those in need in the community.

The gates open at 5:30pm, with everything available from then and with music from 6pm. Fireworks from around 7pm.

Devauden Bonfire Night and Fireworks Display

Sat 5th Nov 2016

Gates 6pm - Bonfire 6.15pm - Fireworks 7pm

Entry by donation

Event organised by Devauden Village Hall Committee

THE MIGHTY BAND MUSIKA

ROGORA KHART

BONFIRE!
FIREWORKS!
BAR!
FOOD!
LIVE MUSIC!



www.rogorakhart.com

www.devauden.org.uk




TOTEPOOL CHEPSTOW JUMPS FESTIVAL

**SATURDAY 8
SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER**

ENTERTAINMENT INCLUDING
LIVE MUSIC | COUNTRYSIDE MARKET | REAL ALE BAR
MEET AN EX-RACEHORSE | LURCHER RACING
GUN DOG DISPLAYS

**CHEPSTOW
RACING & EVENTS**

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

October is a busy month at Chepstow Racecourse!

The two day October Jumps Festival race meeting gets underway on Saturday 8 October, and for many will herald the start of the 2016-17 jumps season. Some of the best racehorses in training will come to Chepstow for the prestigious races and £300,000 in prize money. In addition to the racing there will be plenty of entertainment for visitors, including live music, a countryside market, a community farm, lurcher racing, falconry and gun dog displays along with the chance to meet a racehorse up close and learn more about their training and welfare.

The Chepstow Stampede on **Saturday 22nd October** is an adventure running race for all – there are 5 or 10k options for adults, plus 1.6k races for 5 to 9 year olds and 10 to 13 year olds. There will also be a new category for the 5k race for 14 – 15 year olds, so there's something for everyone! A tough and muddy obstacle run around the racecourse, competitors will tackle hills and banks, waist deep water plus new obstacles in the picturesque surroundings of Chepstow Racecourse, Piercefield Park and the Wye Valley Walk. **Book your place now via www.chepstowstampede.co.uk.**

The popular **Halloween Fireworks Spectacular** at Chepstow Racecourse on **Saturday 29th October** promises to be bigger and better than ever before! The amazing choreographed fireworks display will be the main attraction, however this is more than just a fireworks display. Gates open from 5.30pm for live music from Beyonce and Bruno Mars tribute acts, a large funfair offering thrills for people of all ages, and for children there will also be a magician, face painting and Arty Party drop in craft work shop. The evening has a Halloween theme - there will be prizes for the best and scariest Halloween fancy dress costumes so please dress up!

Various fast food options and a public bar will be available, or if you'd prefer to have a base you can book a table in Silks Restaurant for the evening, where jacket potatoes and fillings, chilli con carne and sausages and mash will be served. Adults are £20, children £12 and under 2s £1, please book in advance. Bigger groups of 12 or more can hire a family viewing box, (12 adults minimum) for a package which includes your private balconied room overlooking the track, fireworks and stage, a set meal of chilli and rice and access to a shared cash bar.

Entry tickets booked in advance will be £7 for adults and £5 for children, or £2 more on the night.

Car parking is free. Book in advance over the phone or via the racecourse website **www.chepstow-racecourse.co.uk**. Gates open at 5.30pm, fireworks will begin at 8pm.



CHEPSTOW RACING & EVENTS

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES AND EVENTS

OCTOBER

Sat 8th - JUMPS FESTIVAL
Sun 9th - JUMPS FESTIVAL
Tues 25th - Velindre Charity Race Day

NOVEMBER

Weds 2nd - Afternoon Racing
Weds 16th - Afternoon Racing

DECEMBER

Sat 3rd - Christmas Party Raceday
Tues 27th - Coral Welsh Grand National

Non Raceday Forthcoming Events

Sat 22nd Oct - Chepstow Stampede
Sat 29th Oct - Halloween Firework Spectacular
Thur 10th Nov - Comedy Night with Owen Money
Fri/Sat 23 - 9/10 - 16/17 Dec - Christmas Party Nights

To Book Tickets contact :
www.chepstow-racecourse.co.uk

Tel: 01291 622260



Let people know you saw them in Chepstow Matters!

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