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ChepstowMatters (ChepstowMatters)

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# Dear Readers...

As I write this the summer holidays are flying by, although with torrential rain and howling winds outside the window it feels like Autumn has already arrived!

We were fortunate and managed to get a good break in the caravan with kinder weather earlier in August. I hope you have all enjoyed a break whether home or away this

This month lots of students will be setting off to University onto the next stage of their education. We went to print just after the A level results were published and both our local Secondary Schools are pleased with the results - you can read more on this inside. Not much longer to wait for GCSF results!

We have some reader offers for you again in this edition: the Old Down Estate is offering a 2 for 1 on weekday entry until 30th September, Undy Yarncrafts has a 20% discount - see their advert for details, Easi-Ear are offering a £10 discount this month and Crichcraft Wall & Floor Tiles are also offering a 20% discount. If you are a business then Basepoint have some Bronze, Silver and Gold offers too!

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

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 they are up to locally - do get in touch with me.

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

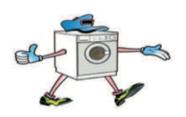
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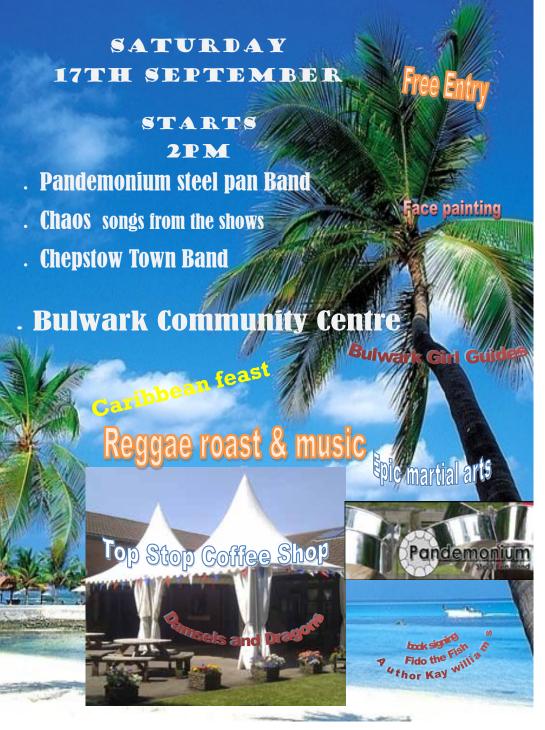


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## **How to Enjoy Your Baby**

Home-Start Monmouthshire is running a series of **FREE** sessions looking at practical ways to enjoy being a parent. They are aimed at parents who have a child aged 0-11.

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Tues 13th Sept @Bridges Community Centre, Monmouth NP26 5AS

Weds 14th Sept @Bulwark Community Centre, Laburnham Way, Bulwark, Chepstow NP16 5RF Fri 16th Sept @Llanfoist Village Hall, Church Lane, Abergavenny NP7 9LP

> Time: 10.00am - 11.30am For 10 sessions

### FREE Crèche will be provided, along with tea and cake!

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Call or text 0770 3611860 or 01600 715608 to book your space.

www.homestartmonmouthshire.org.uk/
services/enjoy-your-baby

www.two inmind.org





# For your Little Stars ...

Chepstow Matters was delighted to pay a visit to the recently opened Little Star Workshops at the top of Moor Street. 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!

We spoke with owner Ghalia
Francis and chatted over a latte whilst I also
sampled the heavenly multi layered chocolate
cake (recommended - although I must admit it
was hard to choose between that and the equally
tempting layered carrot cake!).

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!"

There are workshops for children from 2yrs – 8yrs as well as the everyday 'stay and play offer' (see advert below). The workshops include 'Cookie House Decoration', 'Summer Flower Cupcakes', 'Cookie Decoration' and the 'Little Star Workshop of the Week'. Prices and duration vary and children always get a special snack and can take their creation home. 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



There has been a very positive response to Little

Star Workshops since Ghalia opened at the end of April. During my visit there were a couple of mums taking advantage of a quiet hour to get some work done or simply read a magazine whilst their children were entertained by Amy. As I was leaving a group of mums were arriving - meeting up for a coffee and a chat and a relax whilst their children had lots of fun times with friends too!

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





'Design a Park' Competition for Friends of the Dell Park Chepstow

Friends of The Dell Park (FDPC) have kickstarted their campaign to get the Dell Park playground a makeover with a 'Design a Park' inter-schools competition.

The competition was sponsored by Toytastic Toyshop and Little Star Workshops, both on Moor Street in Chepstow.

All local schools including Dell primary, Thornwell, Pembroke, St. Mary's, Shirenewton and Mounton House school were invited to take part. There was a fantastic response with some imaginative ideas including many calls for a zip-wire, a roundabout, dens, pirate ships, obstacle course, space themed park and a duck pond as just some of the ideas that the children came up with.

There were so many fantastic entries that it was very hard to pick a winner! FDPC drew up a shortlist and the winners and runners-up were chosen by Toytastic and Little Stars Workshops.

#### And the winners were:

Infant Winner - Ellis Hodkinson Junior Winner - Lucy Keable-Steer

Junior Runner-up - Ben Brand Infant Runner-up - Leon Giordmaine Junior Runner-up - Lauren Tuck Infant Runner-up - Leo Durman

Clare Adams from FDPC commented: "We loved Ellis's design that included a 'car-track' that meandered around the park - this would be excellent for scooters or practising to ride a bike". Whilst Suzanne Moore Osley another FDPC representative added: "Lucy's winning design included an imaginative 'climbing tree' and a castle theme which we thought would be great and in keeping with the park's context."

The winning designs will be put to the design team when the community group are in the design stages - hopefully in not too distant a future!

Much has progressed since FDCP's last article in Chepstow Matters, with the parents of all local schools being invited to complete a survey. FDCP have below provided some of the stats from the survey:



- 98% children think the park needs to be improved
- 70% of parents are 'vey unhappy' with provision for disabled children
- 66% of parents are unhappy or very unhappy with provision for toddlers
- It was thought that there is nothing for teenagers with 84% of parents saying that they were unhappy or very unhappy with provision for teenagers.

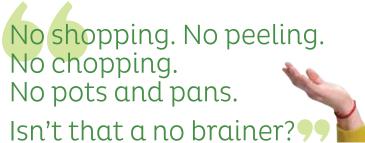
### Next Stage

FDPC have completed part of the research stage; the next stage will be to research the views of disabled people and pupils at the local comprehensive school. These statistics and qualitative statements can then be used in future grant applications.

The FDPC grants team of Karen Chadwick and Elizabeth David have identified all grants that FDPC are eligible for.

FDPC member Clare Adams gave a presentation at the recent Town Council meeting to urge their support, funding and commitment to the project. They have also outlined plans to begin a large-scale crowd-funding campaign to begin in the Autumn to which any local people of Chepstow are encouraged to contribute to - watch this space for more information!

Thanks to Suzanne Moore Osley and Clare Adams for the update and photo of the winners



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## A Level & BTEC Results 2015/2016: Press Releases from Chepstow School...

### Chepstow School 6th form students achieve superb A-level results once again!

99% of grades were at A\*-E, and particularly outstanding was that 36% achieved A\*-A. 61% of our BTEC qualifications were at grades D or D\*.

We are very proud of all of our students, but some particularly noteworthy achievements include:

- Head Student, Merrick Stanley, achieved A\*A\*A and is heading to Bath University to study Aerospace Engineering.
- Emma Ford achieved 1 A\* and 3 A grades and is busy preparing an application to medical school to follow a planned gap year.
- Charlotte Tregaskes achieved 1A\* and 2 A grades, and will head to Cardiff University to study Education and Social Policy.
- Clara Zorab, our Deputy Head Girl, achieved 3 A grades and will attend Exeter University to study Modern Languages.
- Eleri Williams, our Head Girl, achieved ABB and will go on to study Veterinary Medicine at Bristol University.
- Alviya Khan has earned a place at UWE, following in her siblings' footsteps, to read Law, with a
  phenomenal 4 D\* grades from her BTEC courses, rendering her one of the highest UCAS points
  scorers at Chepstow!
- Students have found equal success securing apprenticeships and traineeships, including Scott Williams, Tom Watts and Kieron Fenton.

Melanie Thomas, Head of 6th Form (shown far right of photo), said: "These are, once again, a superb set of results. I am really proud of the hard work and dedication shown by our students and staff, which has led to some superlative achievements. Our students have secured fantastic university and apprenticeship placements, in addition to those who have already commenced employment, and we cannot praise their diligence enough. We look forward to hearing about the undoubtedly bright futures they have ahead of them. Well done to all."



Craig Bridgeman, Chair of Governors, said: "I am proud that our young people are able to enter the next stage of their lives fully equipped with all the skills they need to succeed. As ever, the inspiring learning experiences at Chepstow School are reflected in our students' outstanding performances. Once again, our School shows further improvement and an inspirational platform for the success of our young learners. I am really looking forward to next week's GCSE results and the new school year as we welcome our new students. A huge well done to our students and staff on behalf of the Governors."

### and from Wyedean School ...

### Record top grades at high performing Wyedean in 2016!

The academic success of 2015 continues at Wyedean School in 2016 with the best ever performance of students achieving grades A\*-A at A Level with around a third of all students obtaining A\*-A, around two thirds of students obtaining A\*-B with an overall pass rate of 99% for A Level and BTEC entries.

This compares very well within Gloucestershire and across the border as well as nationally. All students have achieved either first or second choice university placement with a record number of applications to UCAS for the school. Students have obtained places at Oxbridge and Russell group universities on courses such as Maths, English Literature, History, Engineering and Medicine. A number of students have also achieved their chosen employment careers through excellent Post 16 results. This is an outstanding achievement for the school and reflects the hard work of staff, parents, governors and students.

Headteacher Rob Ford said "This is always one of the best days in school for anyone involved in education celebrating hard work, achievement and success for our young people who are looking forward to their future. The success of Post 16 education at Wyedean School is reflected not only in the 2016 record

results, but in the record number of applications for this September from across Monmouthshire and the Forest of Dean of students wanting to have their post 16 education in our outstanding Sixth Form".

Director of Sixth Form Johnathan Lane said "This is an excellent set of results again and is a testament to the commitment and dedication of the all staff and students at Wyedean School".



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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

Information about the different options can be found at :

https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/relationships/looking-after-people/managing-affairs-for-someone-else.



### 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.

More information at: https://www.citizensadvice. org.uk/relationships/death-and-wills/wills/#h-why-it-is-important-to-make-a-will

# 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.

More information at https://www.citizensadvice. org.uk/wales/benefits/sick-or-disabled-peopleand-carers/benefits-for-people-who-are-sick-ordisabled/#h-attendance-allowance

# **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 at https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/wales/relationships/looking-after-people/direct-payments.

When selecting a care home, inspectorate reports can be found at

http://cssiw.org.uk/find-a-care-service/service-directory

More information on all these matters also at: http://www.ageuk.org.uk/cymru/



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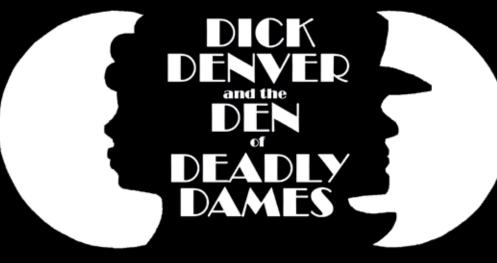


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As Denver delves deeper into the mystery, he discovers no one is who they seem, nobody has the same agenda and there is nothing deadlier than a woman crossed. Will he find 'Big Al's' killer, or will he be just another victim of the sinister plot afoot?

With action, thrills, original music and undoubtedly questionable accents, Dick Denver is Chaos' newest comedy noir.

Performances on 8th September at 7:30pm 9th September at 7:30pm and 10th September at 2:30pm and 7:30pm.

Tickets are only £6 and available from Hannah's Music, Chepstow Museum and Whirlikidz.

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### **News from Shirenewton Primary**

ARTISTIC SUCCESS: Huge congratulations to Hayley who was the overall winner of the Monmouthshire Housing Association school art competition which had the theme of 'home'. Beating over 200 entrants from across the whole of Monmouthshire, Hayley won herself a Kindle Fire Tablet and £500 for the school. Hayley's winning image will be the new homepage image for the Monmouthshire Homesearch's website, a portal to help people find affordable housing in Monmouthshire.

Congratulations also go to Jessica and Eleanor who were runners-up and won an art pack.

Presenting the prizes was Amy Brine from Monthmouthshire Housing Association and also local artist and Welsh Arts Council Creative Agent Claudia Peake, who between them chose the winning entry. The girls have decided that they would like the prize money to be spent on developing the outdoor environment at the school.

#### **SPORTING SUCCESS:**



We are also delighted to have achieved sporting success at the end of term ... huge congratulations to all the children who competed in the Chepstow Schools swimming gala and came FIRST for the second year running!

ACADEMIC SUCCESS: This year we celebrated our best results yet at the 'higher than expected levels' at the end of Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2. Well done to all students and staff for their achievements!

MUSICAL SUCCESS: All our Year 1 children learned to play the violin this year in their music lessons and treated their parents and



grandparents to a wonderful concert showcasing their musical talents.

### Looking forward to the new academic year ...

With parent forums, open mornings, assemblies concerts, workshops and charity events already planned - next year will be another action-packed vear!

PIONEER SCHOOL: We are one of only two schools in Monmouthshire to be chosen to be a pioneer school to help design the new curriculum which will be available to schools in September 2018 and will be become statutory for all schools in Wales in 2021. We will be embedding the four purposes, developing:

- Ambitious, capable learners ready to learn throughout their lives
- Enterprising, creative contributors taking a full part in life and work
- Ethical, informed citizens of Wales & the world
- Healthy, confident individuals ready to live fulfilling lives as valued members of society

... whilst developing literacy, numeracy & digital competency across all areas of learning.

### Exciting times ahead!





# **Kestrel Gymnastics Club**

Artistic Gymnastics, Acrobatics and **Trampoline Classes for Girls & Boys** 



PeeWees (Pre-school 2-3 years): A structured class where children together with parent/carer, supervised by a qualified coach work towards British Gymnastics Awards. Mondays 13:00-13.45 & Fridays 09:30-10.15

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

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

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

Competitive Squad Gymnasts - Selected Gymnasts with potential to compete at regional and national levels.

Wednesdays Adult Classes: 19:00 - 20:00

Parkour: 20:00 - 21:00 pm

Acrobatics Wed & Thursdays 17:00-18:00

**Open Gymnastics Fun Session** 

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



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# **Burrell's Exchange Boutique**

Chepstow Matters was delighted to be invited along to the launch of an exciting new venture at Burrell & Co County Jeweller in Moor Street on 15th July.

Burrell's Exchange Boutique is the idea of two of the long term employees at the local jewellery shop, Chloe and Rachel. Owner Michelle Burrell told me "the idea emanated from a chat between Chloe and Rachel whilst in the shop one day, talking about what was missing in Chepstow. They thought that the town would benefit from a top end, second hand clothing outlet. A lot of ladies spend a fortune on a special occasion outfit that they might only wear once or twice. At the Exchange Boutique we can help them recoup some of that expenditure and also help them source the perfect outfit for their next occasion!"

Having completed a fashion degree, Chloe started her career as a buyer in a local shop some years ago whilst Rachel has also had previous experience in ladies fashion and retail. Both are on hand to help with the Exchange Boutique and offer advice and a 'personal shopper' experience if required; keeping a record of your size and style requirements in order that they can either source these for you or make contact when certain pieces come into the shop that they think might be perfect for you.

Only some of the stock available is on view in the part of the shop allocated to the Exchange Boutique, however Michelle has had upstairs converted to a changing area with full length mirror and rails for additional stock - which are already full! The majority of the outfits are designer labels, but not exclusively so and on launch day, with my celebratory Burrell's Bombshell cocktail in hand, I spied pieces from Ralph Lauren, Boden, Mark Jacobs, Coast, Ted Baker, Hobbs amongst others and footwear from Jimmy Choo, Kurt Geiger, Michael Kors to name a few.

It's not exclusively for the ladies either as there were even one or two quality male items available tool

The Jewellery side of the business remains unaffected by this new addition to the store. but offers the perfect opportunity to find complimentary pieces to adorn your new outfit - all under one roof!

If you are looking for that special outfit or have pieces that you would like to sell why not pop into Burrell's at the top end of town and have a chat with the girls?







Pre-loved items of quality clothing available in a range of sizes

Bring in your laundered/dry cleaned items to sell on a 50/50 basis

Personal shopper service available



24 Moor Street Chepstow

01291 627075



## 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 September by quoting this article when booking an appointment for micro-suction or custom protectors.



01291 650312 7 days a week Home visit for the less mobile

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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.

The first concert of the season is at 7:30pm on Saturday 17th September in St Briavels Church and will be given by the Jaspa Brass Quintet, which was formed in 2014 at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama. In 2015 they were finalists in the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble competition



and are rapidly making a name for themselves as an exciting new group. In St Briavels they will perform a programme including music written for brass ensemble by Malcolm Arnold and by the Welsh composer Gareth Wood. The Suite Americana by the South American trombonist Enrique Crespo, will bring the concert to a close, and surprises are promised along the way!

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 Alassandro 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 where bookings can also be made. Booking for the Autumn series opens on 1st September.



## 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 <a href="http://hogginthebridge.co.uk">http://hogginthebridge.co.uk</a> 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 <a href="http://hogginthebridge.co.uk">http://hogginthebridge.co.uk</a>



# DEREK'S GYM & FITNESS CENTRE

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Opening Times: 10am-1pm Mon, Wed, Fri & Sun 5-9pm Mon - Thur, 5-8pm Fri Membership Options:

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

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# Charity Vintage Afternoon Tea Party - Sunday 11th September

Charity Vintage

afternoon Tea Party

SUNDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2016

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Con-Yo-Dian Novas Natal, Portypoul Board, Usia.

Monmouthshire NPG KX 81231 672312

raising funds for Home-Start

Home-Start Monmouthshire is excited to announce that it has teamed up with the Glen-Yr-Afon House Hotel in Usk on the 11th September to hold a "Charity Vintage Afternoon Tea Party" commencing at 3pm.

A local jazz group, "Lounging About" will be on hand to entertain, whilst you treat your taste buds to a sumptuous afternoon tea. 50% of the money from each ticket sold is going to help raise funds for the Monmouthshire charity.

Home-Start Monmouthshire is an independent charity that trains home visiting

volunteers who give support to families. A support package is tailor made to meet the each family's specific needs, including both emotional and practical support, activities with children and help to access services.

Tickets for the tea party are available direct from the Glen-Yr-Afon priced at £20 per adult and Children 8 and under £10. Space is limited so telephone them now on 01291 672302 for your ticket. You can check out the menu on this link: http://www.homestartmonmouthshire.org.uk/index.php/news/events

To find out more about Home-Start Monmouthshire please contact 01600 715608 or 07714287629, email enquiries@homestartmonmouthshire.org.uk or visit the website at www.homestartmonmouthshire.org.uk.



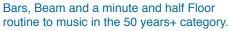


## **Bronze Medal** for Local 'Veteran' Gymnast

Congratulations to Karen Forbes who had an early morning start to Lilleshall National Sports Centre in Shropshire in early August to take part in the British **Veterans Artistic** Championships.

Karen, who trains at Kestrel Gymnastics, performed routines on all four pieces of apparatus, Vault,

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Karen was placed third overall, taking the Bronze medal.

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# **Music Maestro Heads** St John's on-the-Hill School

St John's on-the-Hill, Chepstow's independent preparatory school, is delighted to announce the appointment of its first female Head. Ruth Frett, in its 93 years of history.

Having been a professional singer for more than 10 years, performing on radio and in concerts all over the world, Ruth brings her passion for performing arts and love of world cultures to the children of St John's.

Speaking about her new role, Ruth said: "St John's has something very special - the school buzzes with excitement and energy and children are encouraged to be curious, adventurous and to exceed expectations. As the new Head, I will nurture this love of learning and enable every child to flourish.

"It is great to join a school that shares my passion for performing arts, sport, science, maths and design, to mention just a few subjects. St John's provides an excellent all-round education and equips children with skills that last a lifetime."

Roger Jones, CEO of the Dean Close Foundation said: "We are excited to have Ruth on board and with her inspirational leadership, I believe St John's will build on its reputation and go from strength to strength."

Ruth studied at St Andrew's University and Trinity College of Music and is about to complete a Masters in Education. Ruth most recently ran a successful boarding house for 120 girls at Cranleigh School. A keen sportswoman, she also coaches netball and rounders teams.

Ruth commented further: "I am thrilled to be part of the wonderful and vibrant St John's family. From the moment I stepped through the door I was blown away by the energy, enthusiasm and sense of fun that was clearly visible on the children's faces. St John's is buzzing with vitality and it is a pleasure to lead this unique community.

"I am often asked why I love working with children. The answer is simple: I love their curiosity and never-ending

"why" questions. I want to ensure that every child in my care never stops asking "why"; never stops seeking to further his or her knowledge of how the world works and, more importantly, what a huge part they have to play in it. It is a joy to get to know the children, to join their classes, have lunch with them, cheer them on from the touchline and listen to their opinions and dreams for the future.

"St John's provides a secure and nurturing environment for pupils to achieve their very best. I am privileged to be part of this vision which is child-centred and focused well-being."







### **Rotary Annual Dictionary Awards**

At the Archbishop Rowan Williams Church in Wales Primary School. Portskewett, Rotarian Christopher Wilson of the Chepstow & District Rotary Club, presented Rotary illustrated dictionaries to the children selected by the school for their 'best attitude to learning'. The top photograph shows scholars (L-R) Cerys, Cora, Caitlin, Harvey, Charley and Tomos with their dictionaries.

On 20th July Christopher Wilson was at Thornwell Primary School, in Bulwark, this time presenting dictionaries to those children that the school determined had tried the hardest during the year. Head Teacher, Mr Appleby thanked the local Rotary Club for their ongoing support and their encouragement of learning. Following a short talk on the aims and ideals of the international Rotary organisation the students who were were selected to receive the dictionaries were (bottom photo L to R) Rhys, Lucas, Ashton, Cerys, Fay and Keiah.

The Chepstow Rotary Club continues to support many community initiatives, including several competitions for young people for speaking, music, writing and technical ability. It also includes this annual event, where a total of 60 dictionaries were presented to 10 local primary schools. The Club considers that presenting the dictionaries to children in the local schools encourages a love of reading and learning in the young.

The Chepstow Rotary Club is now actively seeking new members, do visit www.chepstowrotary.org.uk to see if joining would be of









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



Hamnett, Ruth Rusling, Angharad Morgan

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) 5th October, when all interested singers will be invited to come and spend the afternoon with us - and hopefully join! CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerrd-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).





# Dog Grooming Now Available at the Pet & Reptile Centre

Chepstow Matters was pleased to be invited to meet owner Allan Trigg at the Pet & Reptile Centre at the top of town (opposite M&S and adjacent the dry cleaners). The shop has been open just over 3 years, providing all kinds of food and accessories for a wide range of pets: from cats and dogs to lizards and snakes! As you might expect from the name, the Pet & Reptile Centre specialises in reptiles, having everything you need from live and frozen foods to full set up of vivarium and lighting. Allan tells me the shop does its utmost to look after its customers, including free delivery where needed.

It was this ethos, following customer feedback, that gave Allan the idea to offer a dog grooming service at the shop. He has now converted an area at the rear of the premises, equipping it with hydraulic bathing area and grooming table as a dedicated area for groomer Kate to undertake her passion.

"I've loved dogs since a very young age." Kate told me, "My first job at just 12 was helping out with mum's friend who was a dog groomer and boarder. This experience was fantastic and she encouraged me to take it further. After school I went on and did Animal Care Training in Cardiff where I undertook a placement with a groomer in Risca who introduced me to the commercial side of grooming and taught me how to handle the dogs. Every dog is different - grooming is very personal and I love the satisfaction I feel from working with each individual dog and making him or her look their best. Not every dog likes being groomed but most dogs do need it and I am happy to do any breed - all shapes and sizes and different personalities!"

Kate can offer the full range of grooming services, from just bathing to full clip. She has a variety of pricing options and there are discounts for regular clients.

Give her a call on 01291 626935 to make an appointment, or pop in the shop to have a chat.



# News from the Lions Den... Chepstow & Caldleof Lions Clubs "Sarving the Community"

July and August have been very busy for the Club and especially for their new President Lion Brian Prout, not only did he reach his 79th Birthday but to celebrate he jumped from 17,000 feet in a tandem parachute to celebrate the event!

Brian, who is very active, decided to celebrate in the most different way he could think of, and in doing so also raised over £250 for good causes in the community.

On top of all that President Brian and Club Secretary Glyn Williams attended an award ceremony at Chepstow and at Caldicot Schools to present the Most Improved Pupil Awards, The awards are part of Lions International's Youth Initiative Project, it rewards pupils who have shown a marked improvement in their attitude to learning, attendance and working within the school during the academic year. Each recipient received an Amazon voucher and a Certificate of Excellence from the President.

The Club was also delighted to be asked to take part in the Chepstow festival at the Old Town Bridge, and they had a wonderful afternoon flying the Flag for Lions International, entertaining the children with silly games and recruiting for new members.

In the Community itself the club are in the process of supplying more defibrillators to outlying villages one to St Arvans and one to Caerwent, this will now bring the total of these machines to six which have been donated by Chepstow and Caldicot Lions, previously three were presented to the Newport, Chepstow and Caldicot First Responders, and one to Wye Dean School. Whilst the club supply's the defibrillators, the training is carried out by the South Wales Ambulance service.

The Chepstow Agricultural Show drew great crowds again this year, and Chepstow and Caldicot lions were delighted to be asked again to man the pay stations and be stewards for the car parking. As well as these duties the club hosted their own Marquee where members of the public could see and discuss what Lions International was all about.

The weather was wonderful and the club were able to sell raffle tickets to raise funds for local causes, the first prize being a wheel barrow of goodies, which was won by Mr Windsor.

The club would like to thank all their supporters who bought raffle tickets and the total raised was £350.

Due to the sale of Dewstow Golf Club House, the Lions will now be moving to The Castle Inn, Bridge Street in Chepstow on the 1st of October, where they have been warmly welcomed by the new Landlords Sean Matthews and Stephane Chauveau, the day and time of the meetings remain the first Wednesday of each month commencing at 7pm.

If you would like to know more about Chepstow and Caldicot lions Club or Lions International please contact the club Secretary on 0845 8339565







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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 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@ vahoo.co.uk 07592 503757

Chepstow Choral Society www.chepstowchoralsociety.org. uk info@chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk Wed 7.30 Chepstow

Chepstow Community Big Band Meets on Wednesday evenings during term time at Wyedean 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 tvmoran@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@vahoo.co.uk

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





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

### **NURSERIES / PRESCHOOLS**

Bluebells Playgroup Fairfield Road, Chepstow 01291 628908

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

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

Little Scamps Pre-School and Nursery Beachley Barracks,

Penguins Pre-School, c/o Offas Mead Academy, Beachley

**Robins Nursery**, in St Arvans Open 7.30am – 6.00pm for

Shirenewton Playgroup contact Beverly Lindsay, Playgroup

Tutshill Community Pre-School Debra Hockin 01291 629134

#### **PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

(The) Dell Primary Welsh Street, Chepstow NP16 5UQ

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

Shirenewton Primary School Shirenewton, Chepstow, NP16

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

St Marvs RC Primary School (Voluntary Aided) Bulwark

Thornwell Primary and Nursery Unit Thornwell Road, Bulwark, Chepstow, NP16 5NT 01291 623390

Tutshill C of E Primary School, Coleford Rd, Tutshill, Chepstow NP16 7BJ 01291 622593 admin@tutshillcofe.

#### SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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

Mounton House Special School Mr P Absalom, Headteacher and enrolment contact Pwllmeyric, Chepstow, NP16 6LA,

Wyedean School Robert Ford. Headteacher Beachev Road.

#### **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

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

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

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. gardencityifc.com

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

## 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

"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

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

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?



A Comprehensive accountancy service to businesses and individuals

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## Mathern Mill Open Day **Sunday 11th September** open from 2 to 5pm

An historic water mill in Mathern with much of the machinery intact

Last opening this year! Everyone welcome, entrance free.

Postcode NP16 6LG More information tel. 01291 622282





OF THE MONTH













# SHIRENEWTON SUPER SATURDAY

Saturday 3rd September 2016 2.00 To 7.00 pm

### At shirenewton recreational hall & grounds

Events include - Tea & Cake, children's treasure hunt & games, rounders match, live music, open mic sessions, bar

Bring a picnic, but mainly bring yourselves for a fun packed day!

See our Facebook page for details

# **Usk Show**

Saturday 10th September

9am-6.30pm **Usk Showground** Fun for all the Family www.uskshow.co.uk

Lydney & Severnside Flower Club

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

### **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 cofee and a slice of cake in the cafe!

**Chepstow and District Garden Appreciation Secretary** (CADGAS)

"Shady Ladies and Damp Damsels"

Wednesday 28th September

Our speaker will be Sally Gregson, the garden writer, horticultural adviser and owner of Mill Cottage Plants Nursery near Wells.

Her talk, entitled "Shady Ladies" and Damp Damsels", will include suggestions for planting in difficult spots from dry shade under trees to heavy, damp areas.

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

Visitors very welcome, £4.

# Leading the fight Society

# Alzheimer's Memory Walk



for a world without dementia

Join Chepstow Walkers are Welcome Memory Walk at Caldicot Castle at 10.30 am Sunday 25th September 2016 £5 registration fee or as you

Further info email chepstowwaw@hotmail.co.uk or call 01291 64185

memorywalk.org.uk

Alzheimer's

### 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

**Chepstow Community Hub** From Monday 4th July our opening times will be as follows:

Mon: 9am-5pm Tues: 9am-5pm Weds: 9am to 12noon

Thurs: 9am to 5pm Friday: 9am to 4pm Sat: 10am to 1pm

# **Bulwark Community Centre**

Caribbean feast



Saturday 17th September 2pm-5pm

Reggae Roast Musical Entertainment throughout the afternoon

Chaos Music & Drama Songs from the shows

Chepstow Town Band







Chepstow Racecourse staged its inaugural Jumps Festival race meeting last October, and the meeting was an immediate success, with Chepstow race winners going on to star at the Cheltenham and Aintree festivals in the spring.

This year the meeting, which marks the beginning of the new jump racing season, takes place on **Saturday and Sunday 8th and 9th October**. Prize money is up to a huge £300,000 and the course is looking forward to attracting some of the biggest names in the sport.



The race meeting offers local racing fans the chance to see some of the celebrities of the past and the stars of the future. It features the Jump Legends charity race in aid of the Bob Champion Cancer Trust and previous riders have included racing legends like Graham Bradley, Jim Culloty and Adrian Maguire. Race goers will also see in action horses which will be featuring in the biggest races this new jump racing season. Last year's opening race winner Altior went on to win Cheltenham's Supreme Novices Hurdle, while Blaklion won the RSA Chase.

Very excitingly this year trainer Colin Tizzard has reported that the £25,000 Robert Mottram Memorial Novices' Chase could be an early season target for leading hurdler Thistlecrack as he embarks on a chasing career. Previous equine superstars to have come to Chepstow for the big jump meetings include Cue Card, Silviniaco Conti and Sire de Grugy, so the racing really will be of the highest order.

As well as top class racing, there will be plenty of food and drink stands in the Countryside Market over both days and a real ale bar, plus live music before and during racing in our Bonanza Boy Marquee. Sunday's family entertainment will also include a community farm, a gundog display, lurcher/terrier racing and falconry, plus children's entertainment including bouncy castles and face painting.

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! 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 course has also just launched a comedy night with Welsh comedian, musician and actor Owen Money. He has toured the club circuit as a comedian, winning the Club Land "Comedian of the Year" award, performing alongside artists such as Shirley Bassey and Tom Jones.



The £15 ticket includes a seat in Silks restaurant to watch the performance and a meal of curry and rice.

Details of all these events can be found on the racecourse website www.chepstow-racecourse.co.uk.



FORTHCOMING FIXTURES AND EVENTS

fon 29th - Bank Holiday Family Race Day

### SEPTEMBER

Thurs 8th - Afternoon Racing Tues 13th - Afternoon Racing

### OCTOBER

A BIN - JUMPS FESTIVAL

Sun 9th - JUMPS FESTIVAL

ues 25th - Velindre Charity Race Day

#### NOVEMBER

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

### Non Raceday Forthcoming Events

Sat 22nd Oct - Chepstow Stamp

Sol. 20th Oct., Hallowson Firework Spectacol

To Book Tickets contact :

www.chepstow-racecourse.co.uk

Tel: 01291 622260



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**OPEN 9-5pm MON-SAT** 



# **GARDENER'S CLUB**

Smart Solar Foxglove Glass Solar Stake Light £12.99



Evergreen Azalea

NSP £9.99 each

VALID 1ST - 30TH SEPTEMBER



Pansy & Viola 6 pack

NSP £3.49 each



Tom Chambers Fat Balls 6 Pack **Buy One** Get One Free £1.99

BACON, SAUSAGE, FRIED EGG & BAKED BEANS.

Available Monday-Friday until 11 am. No item swap available on this offer.



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

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

www.chepstowgardencentre.co.uk SUN 10.30am-4.30pm

MON-FRI gam-6pm SAT 9am-5.30pm