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Dear Readers...

Welcome to the November issue, as we write this the trees are turning golden and it is feeling decidedly Autumnal, our local countryside is looking beautiful. This month brings Armistice day and Remembrance Sunday - see page 9 for details of this year's parade and a note from the local Royal British Legion.

Burrell & Co County Jeweller are celebrating their first anniversary this month, hot on the heels of close neighbour Toystatik - more on both of these inside. There is also a family friendly activity - a fancy dress walk across the Severn Bridge to raise funds for St David's Hospice - later this month, dress code this year is the 1960s!

Overleaf is information on the SLS shoebox campaign to help the homeless, they would love for as many people as possible to get involved this year.

We have some reader offers for you again in this edition: Undy Yarncrafts has various offers - see their advert for details, Easi-Ear have an open-house weekend coming up with special offers, Critchcraft Wall & Floor Tiles are offering a 20% discount, Old Down Estate is offering 2 for 1 and Chepstow Wool Shop is offering a 10% discount this month! Be sure to take advantage of some of these offers and take in your Chepstow Matters with you to claim.

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! 'Keep it local' by supporting our advertisers in return 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 December edition, the deadline for content is 15th November.

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

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HOMELESS SHOE BOX CAMPAIGN

Why not give the homeless and vulnerable something to smile about this Christmas?

What to include in your shoe box:

Put all of the items in a plastic bag then in a shoebox wrapped in sturdy wrapping paper to avoid ripping.

A pair of warm socks, A pair of gloves,
A 200g bar of chocolate,
1 packet of wipes, 1 packet of tissues,
Deodorant,
Shower gel / shampoo 2-in-1,
Flannel, Comb / brush, Toothbrush &
toothpaste, A 2 blade razor, Shaving gel

Maybe you could even write a Christmas card - but please, no money or personal details. Perhaps 'Merry Christmas from our family x'

...and we also collect chocolate selection boxes for children in emergency housing too.

(Please make everything unisex so we can help as many people as possible)



Drop off by 2nd December throughout South East Wales & Bristol - email for your closest address.

✉ sls.homeless@gmail.com
 📱 [/groups/streetlifearnies](https://www.facebook.com/groups/streetlifearnies)



British Council International School Award success for Wyedean

Wyedean School in Sedbury has been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award is a badge of honour for schools that do outstanding work in international education, such as through links with partner schools overseas. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need to live and work as global citizens.

Wyedean School's international work includes the celebration of European Day of Languages with a food tasting café, holding an International Christmas Market, the introduction of Mandarin to Wyedean students, primary clusters and community in conjunction with Confucius Institute Cardiff, holding a Chinese New Year Festival, having regular skype chats with students in Moldova and Canada, taking part in letter writing activities with schools in Paris and Madrid, residential trips around the world and much, much more!

On hearing the news that Wyedean School had received the award, Mr Rob Ford, Head teacher said: "For all educators the British Council's ISA remains the gold standard benchmark for a school's international education work. I am thrilled that Wyedean School has been awarded reaccreditation of the ISA by the British Council as it recognises not only the hard work of staff and students but also how global learning remains at the heart of the school's ethos and culture"

John Rolfe, from the British Council, said: 'The school's fantastic international work has rightfully earned it this prestigious award. The International School Award is a great chance for schools to demonstrate the important work they're doing to bring the world into their classrooms. Adding an international dimension to children's education ensures that they are truly global citizens and helps prepare them for successful future careers in an increasingly global economy.'

The award is now available worldwide in countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Lebanon, Cyprus

BRITISH COUNCIL
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL AWARD

and Pakistan as part of the British Council's Connecting Classrooms programme. Around 5,000 International School Awards have been presented to successful schools in the UK since the scheme began in 1999.

The International School Award encourages and supports schools to develop:

- An international ethos embedded throughout the school
- A majority of pupils within the school impacted by and involved in international work
- Collaborative curriculum-based work with a number of partner schools
- Curriculum-based work across a range of subjects
- Year-round international activity
- Involvement of the wider community

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Toytastik turns 1!

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 celebrated its first anniversary late October.

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 now in store 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.

As we went to print, Toytastik was planning a range of activities during the October half term as well as a drawing competition, in conjunction with Chepstow Matters! We look forward to hopefully bringing you some of the pictures next issue!

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



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The Royal British Legion and the Poppy Appeal

We are all familiar with the Poppy and its significance, especially at this time of Remembrance. The use of the Poppy as the flower of Remembrance stems from the poem by Col John McCrae:

*In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place...*

That poem inspired the use of the Poppy as the flower of Remembrance from as far back as 1921 when the British Legion came into existence. It has remained the emblem of Remembrance in Britain ever since and The Royal British Legion has been the very Guardian of Remembrance ever since, as well. The two are inseparably linked.

In 2015-16 a total of £16,373 was raised for the Poppy Appeal in the Chepstow area thanks to the generosity of the people of Chepstow and to the increasing support of pubs and clubs such as Poppie's Cafe, the Coach & Horses or the Severn Bridge Club to mention just a few. The national total was £44.4 million; an enormous amount but bear in mind that the Legion actually spends, on average, £1.5 million per week, on its Welfare work.

It would take too much space to itemise the different aspects of this Welfare work so let me just say that if you, a family member or a friend are a partner or a dependant of a serving person or an ex-Service man or woman, and are in need – whether financially, medically or emotionally – do not hesitate to contact the Royal British Legion without delay. Just ring 0800 802 8080, 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week (calls are free from UK landlines and main mobile networks). Or go online at www.britishlegion.org.uk

The Royal British Legion is alive and well in Chepstow: The Legion Club closed about ten years ago but the Branch, the Charity element, meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month, at 7.30 in the Beaufort Hotel. New Members are always welcome. We also welcome Volunteer Poppy Collectors. Please contact Tom Moran on 01291 427266 or via vmoran@btinternet.com for further information.

Remembrance Day Parade: Sunday, 13th November 2016

- 1040hrs. Parade Assembles - Welsh Street car park;**
- 1045hrs. Parade moves off to War Memorial;**
- 1050hrs. Laying of wreaths, Act of Remembrance and Two Minutes Silence**
- 1105hrs. Parades proceeds to St Mary's Priory Church for Church Service - all welcome.**
- 1215hrs. Parade reforms and returns to the Welsh Street car park.**

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Mobile Movies

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Golden Years (12A) - Thursday 3rd November 2016

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!

Money Monster (15) - Thursday 1st December 2016

A big name thriller directed by Jodie Foster with George Clooney as a TV financial show host whose programme is hijacked by a gunman protesting about the corruption of the financial markets. Julia Roberts plays the producer whose job is to keep everyone calm and prevent catastrophe. An action thriller which attempts to make some serious points about the money markets.

Ticket Price: £4.50 Screening time: 7.30 p.m.

Free parking available on site. Disabled facilities.

For more information contact Andrew Ker - Tel: 01291

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The Effects of Untreated Hearing Loss

Ian Croft Audiologist

Christmas is coming! A time of year when families are drawn together and vibrant conversations occur frequently; unfortunately a large number of people will struggle to take part because they can't hear clearly what is being said. What better present could you give them than better hearing?

Actually, many people are aware that their hearing has deteriorated but are reluctant to seek help. Perhaps they don't want to acknowledge the problem, are embarrassed by what they see as a weakness, or believe that they can "get by" without using a hearing aid. And, unfortunately, too many wait years, even decades, to address the effects of hearing loss before getting treatment.

However, research demonstrates the many negative social, psychological, cognitive and health effects of untreated hearing loss. Each can have far-reaching implications that go well beyond hearing alone. In fact, those who have difficulty hearing can experience such distorted and incomplete communication that it seriously impacts their professional and personal lives, at times leading to isolation and withdrawal.

Studies have linked untreated hearing loss effects to:

- fatigue, tension, stress and depression
- avoidance or withdrawal from social situations and loneliness
- reduced alertness and increased risk to personal safety
- impaired memory and ability to learn new tasks
- reduced job performance and earning power
- diminished psychological and overall health
- increased potential of developing dementia

Hearing loss is not just an ailment of old age – 50% of hearing aid wearers are under 55. It can strike at any time and any age. Modern instruments in the private sector are so advanced these days (and discreet!) that they can stream the TV signal, let you hear the phone in both ears and be controlled without touching them. They last for years and can cost a lot less than a two week holiday.

If you think you or a loved one suffers from hearing loss, don't delay another day. Visit a hearing healthcare professional and take the first step toward a world of better hearing.

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Old Sailors Think Of Their Elders

RNA President Commander Christopher Wilson

On 10th October the Chepstow branch of The Royal Naval Association presented a sofa set to the dementia ward of the Chepstow & District hospital where the infirm and those suffering from Alzheimers are cared for.

The seating comprised a two-seater sofa, a coffee table and two chairs upholstered in modern black rattan that is now in place in the garden room adjacent to the ward where patients and their visitors can relax whilst overlooking the hospital garden. The Royal Naval Association aims to support the local community and has previously presented a video recorder to the ward. The Ward Manager, Kate Clark received the gift on behalf of the St Pierre Ward and thanked the RNA for their thoughtfulness and generosity in providing this gift.

The RNA Chairman, Mr Ted Green, stated that it was a privilege to be able to help those on the ward and their families in a practical way. He stressed that The RNA here in Chepstow is for everyone, whether currently serving or have served in the Naval Service; it is also for their family and friends. He understood that once Naval Service has been experienced, life is never the same again, but in the RNA, it can be shared and enjoyed for the rest of your life. As a member of the RNA, you have access to social and welfare advice or can simply pop-in to your local branch for a quiet drink and chat.

If you'd like a taster of what they are about, their local Branch Secretary, Ken Davies (01291 621485) will be delighted to host you as a guest to their next branch meeting.

Well done Shipmates!



Photo (L To R) Ward Manager Kate Clark, RNA Len Daysh, Occupational Therapist Michelle Palfrey, RNA Brian Flooks, RNA Secretary Ken Davies, Occupational Therapist Sarah Morecroft, RNA Ian Sime, RNA Chairman Ted Green, RNA President Comander Christopher Wilson

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Help to Save Energy and Cut Fuel Bills

As the winter months get closer, we begin to worry about fuel bills. At Monmouthshire Citizens Advice we regularly see people who want information and advice on managing their fuel bills and getting the financial support they are entitled to. Below is information on how to get the best deal from your energy provider and make homes more energy efficient.

CHECK you are getting the best deal from your energy supplier.

- Ask about the different tariffs and discounts such as managing your account on line, choosing dual fuel and paying by direct debit.
- Read your meter regularly and check your bills to make sure you know how much energy you're using and that you are paying the right amount.
- Annually your supplier will tell you which tariff is cheapest for you.

CHECK you're getting all the benefits and help you are entitled to.

- If you've reached state pension age you may get Winter Fuel payment to help with heating costs.
- Some people receiving certain benefits can also get a Cold Weather payment of £25 if the temperature drops below freezing in their area for 7 days in a row. Check if you qualify.
- Warm Home Discount scheme is a government scheme where energy suppliers give rebates to households on certain benefits. Contact your energy supplier directly to see if you qualify for this help.
- If you are a pensioner, disabled or chronically sick, you can sign up to your supplier's Priority Services Register and get extra help and support.

Citizens Advice can help you by carrying out a Benefits check.

SWITCH your supplier - shopping around for an energy supplier could save you up to £300. Visit <http://energycompare.citizensadvice.org.uk/> to compare energy prices, or ring Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 040506. Before you switch, check you will not be charged an exit fee by your current provider. If you have problems



switching due to fuel debts, Citizens Advice can help you to negotiate with your supplier.

SAVE - make sure your home is well insulated and energy efficient. Save money and energy by turning off lights, not leaving appliances on standby and only charging laptops and phones when they need it. NEST is a Welsh Government scheme to help households reduce their fuel bills and they can give advice on how to save energy. Contact NEST on 0808 808 2244 or if you are calling from a mobile on 0300 456 2655, or go to www.nestwales.org.uk.

OIL/PROPANE GAS - if you are in a home without mains gas, shop around different fuel suppliers to get the best deal. You could also join a local oil club as bulk buying can mean cheaper prices.

Drop into your local Citizens Advice office or ring our Consumer Advice Service on 03454 040506 for more information.

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CHRISTMAS OPEN DAY

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Gymnastic Successes

Bouncing high on the Trampoline early last month were 10 yr olds Evie Bayliss and Gemma Heal competing in Cardiff for Kestrel Gymnasts. Evie, who had not long joined the Squad, was delighted on winning her Silver Medal in the Novice Section. Gemma was on top form with her performance, taking Gold in the Advanced section, and was awarded a trophy for the highest score of the day. Coach Kevin Rickards was delighted with the girls' achievements!



A week later more Kestrel gymnasts headed for Cardiff again to compete in the East Area Novice Level 6 Championships. 8 year old Olive Dunster achieved a good score of 11.25 on vault in this her first Novice competition, in the 10/11 years section, Maisie Edwards and Charlotte Jones worked hard in a group of 40 gymnasts, with Charlotte winning 5th Place Ribbon on Bars.



Georgie Davies, Olivia Hathaway and Jessica Ham were in the 12+ age group, Olivia took second place on Bars and Beam, with Jessica taking first place on Bars, and 6th on Beam, Georgie 3rd on Bars, 2nd on Vault, 5th on Floor, and taking Individual Bronze Overall, and together the girls won Bronze Team Overall.

Georgie has also gained a place in the East Area Team to compete in the Welsh Novice Finals. Fantastic, well done to all!!

Kestrel Gymnastics Club

Artistic Gymnastics, Acrobatics and Trampoline Classes for Girls & Boys



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

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

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

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

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

Acrobatics Wed & Thursdays 17:00-18:00



Open Gymnastics Fun Session

Saturdays
9.00am-10.00am

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

01291 620780

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

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

Little Acorns Playgroup

Little Acorns Playgroup @The Burnt Barn Club, Bulwark is a Pre-school Playgroup providing a fun and educational start to life in a friendly and stimulating environment, encouraging the development of social and communication skills through fantastic play opportunities. Children start from age 2 to pre-school, we are Social Services inspected and members of the WPPA (Wales Pre-School & Playgroup Association)

Little Acorns is a childcare setting run during term time for 2 to pre-school age children. Monday to Friday 9.15-12pm, cost for this session is £7.50. There is also a Lunch Club from 12-12.45 after which children can be collected or taken to Thornwell or Pembroke Nursery in Bulwark, cost for this session is £3.50.

For more information please inbox Rachel on email acornspaygroup@aol.com, phone 07904 212135, or visit the website www.littleacornspaygroup.co.uk



Little Acorns Playgroup, Burnt Barn Club, Bulwark NP16 5AR
Tel: Rachel on 07904 212135

Discover 66 acres of outdoor entertainment

Say "HI" to our Micro Pigs and more in the Animal Park, bounce on our Jumping Pillow, zip on the Zipwire, explore the Adventure Park in Autumn, and enjoy strolling around the Victorian Walled Garden and Orchard before relaxing in our family-friendly Café and Farm Shop.

***Terms & Conditions:** The offer is obtained upon presentation of this voucher at entry. One adult (or child) is admitted free of charge when accompanied by one adult who pays the full adult price. Offer valid until 30th September 2017. Monday to Friday only. Offer may not be used in conjunction with any other promotion. Only one discount voucher may be used per two people. There is no cash alternative. The promoters are Old Down Estate.

Autumn Fun 2for1* Weekdays

"Great for all ages"

Old Down Estate, Foxholes Lane, Bristol BS32 4PG
Open Mon - Fri 10am to 4pm (4.30pm weekends) Quote: C.M

**Have you ever lost something?
A toy? A tooth? A memory?**

**What if, one day, you lost all of your
'silly'?**

Christmas is a magical time for young children, and often the occasion for a trip to the theatre – where all audiences can enter another time and space. Introducing very young children to the magical world that the theatre can make needs a special production to engage them and actors who can draw them into the story. The Sherman Theatre and Theatr Iolo have worked together to create a show specially for children aged 3 to 6 years old, and Chepstow Museum have brought the show to Chepstow's Drill Hall at the end of November. It's a friendly setting and the production is intimate and in the round, so the children are close to the action.

This year they have created a deliciously mischievous re-telling of one of Hans Andersen's classic tales – The Emperor's New Clothes - written by award-winning playwright Alun Saunders, with songs and live music.

When the Emperor demands the coolest clothes to help him be, well, 'cool'... The call is answered by a pair of wily Weavers, who concoct a cunning plan and land everyone in an embarrassing situation. Who will help the Emperor rediscover his joy and silliness?

Filled with laughter, music and a big sprinkling of magic, this is a must-see show for all little ones and their families this Christmas.

Performances last an hour, and there are tickets available on Tuesday 29th November 10.30am & 1.30pm and Wednesday 30th November at 10.30am. Children's tickets are £5 and accompanying adults £3, maximum of 3 children per adult.

On Wednesday 30th November at 1.30pm there is a Welsh language performance and tickets are also available for this show. To buy contact Chepstow Museum tel 01291 625981.

If you run a nursery group or work at a school and are interested in a bringing a party of children please contact the Museum. It's the perfect trip for the very young at Christmas!



Caerwent Village Hall

Christmas Shopping Night

26th November
2016
5.30pm onwards
Raffle Prizes

**Lots of Christmassy
Stalls**

Vintage Tea Room
Cakes
Chocolate Baileys and Mulled Wine On Sale

Paint on Me has a New Home!

Regular customers and Facebook followers will already be aware that Paint on Me, Chepstow's lovely boutique pottery painting studio, is now to be found in fantastic, spacious new premises at 21-22 St Mary's Street. "It's so exciting", proprietor Gail told me "we have so much more space, and (drumroll) ... a toilet! We also now have the facilities for our customers to help themselves to a drink as they paint, which is something I've wanted to encourage for a while, especially helpful for our carers who come in to accompany others and also for our afternoon 'vintage' painters for whom it is something of a social too!"

Social occasion is something that Gail is encouraging - painting pottery is definitely not just for kids (although they do love it, and it's a great idea for a birthday party with themed bisque to paint) - it's good for grownups too! She has welcomed Hen Nights (bring your own bottle of fizz!), special birthdays, retirement parties, teambuilding and just about any other excuse to get friends together and have fun chatting over a glass of wine whilst you have a go at a new craft and paint yourself a memorable item. All ages and abilities are welcome into the studio and it is a perfect activity to encourage 'mindfulness' - taking time out to just chill and enjoy the moment. Gail enjoys relationships with Building Bridges and also welcomes regulars from Mencap in to paint once a fortnight.

The new premises can accommodate private parties as well as general drop-ins, although booking is advisable in the school holidays.

For more information call 07714 706040 or 01291 408330, or check out their facebook page!



Boutique Pottery Painting Studio

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- Gift Vouchers
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- Team Building • Weddings

Back to School, So Time to Chill & Paint

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Prices from £4.50 to £35.00

Studio available for Party Bookings!



21/22 St Mary's Street, Chepstow

07714 706040 or 01291 408330

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



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In addition, Roving Sommelier Wines can provide a bespoke wine service and consultancy. For instance you may wish to purchase a selection of wines for your wedding festivities, private parties and corporate tastings and events. At Roving Sommelier, we can do all of this for you and make suggestions based on your budget and taste.

www.rovingsommelier.com



@rovingsommelier rovingsommelier@gmail.com 07847 877 775



1st Anniversary Celebrations at Burrell's: Friday 11th November



Chepstow Matters was delighted to chat with Michelle Burrell, owner of Burrell & Co County Jewellers, as it is a year this month since she took ownership of the Moor Street shop, having previously worked in the premises for approaching 25 years.

"These last 12 months have simply flown by and we have made some exciting developments to the shop in that time. I would really like to say Thank You to all our lovely customers who have supported us over this past year, who appreciate the value and personal service of shopping locally".

Personal service is high on the agenda for the friendly team at Burrell's: having launched their Exchange Boutique in the summer Michelle is keen to emphasise the 'Personal Shopper' experience that the team now offer. You can book an appointment and have exclusive private use of the upstairs space with your own rail of selected outfits chosen for you by an experienced member of the team. Fantastic if you have a special occasion approaching, or just fancy trying out something different or a style change. This is a free service offered, but prior booking by phone or FaceBook message is necessary to ensure that the appropriate staff cover is available.

The Exchange Boutique has been so successful in recent months, that the team are having to limit the number of quality pre-loved outfits brought in at one time to just 10 per customer. Stock is changing constantly, so if you are looking for a certain type of item then the team can keep your details on file and contact you when something comes in.

Burrell's offers a range of services from fitting new watch batteries and jewellery repairs, to the commissioning of bespoke jewellery or remodelling of an existing piece. The shop stocks a wide range of jewellery and watches and can also help with valuations, as well as watch and clock repairs. There is also a selection of pre-loved jewellery sold on commission, including gent's watches.

Another new service on offer to simplify gift buying for friends and family (perfect with Christmas coming up fast), is the compilation of a 'Wish List'. Come in and look around and staff will take note of your 'wish list' and anyone you choose to send in can come and select a gift off of your list - perfect if perhaps your spouse needs steering in the right direction in buying you that perfect gift for Christmas, Birthday, Wedding or Anniversary!

New ranges this year have been the introduction of the beautiful Clogau (*pronounced Clog-I*) Gold of Royalty range of jewellery and new from Hot Diamonds is the Anais (*Anay Is*) Paris range which is a new, fresh and on-trend way to wear sentimental jewellery, the letter and birthstone charms offering easy-gift solutions (top image).

Christmas is coming ...

**Join Michelle and the team
for a celebratory
Mulled Wine & Mince Pie
from midday on
Friday 11th November**

**An opportunity to do some
Christmas shopping, or
pre-select your 'wish list'
perhaps!**

**There will be special offers
on the day and late night
opening until 7.30pm**



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Chepstow School – Inspiring Learning

The Open Evening was a success on Thursday 6th October welcoming over 180 families with year 6 students to the school, visiting departments and enjoying the themed activities of Roald Dahl.

At Chepstow School, we pride ourselves on ensuring that all young people reach their potential, whatever their talents may be. Our students are supported to develop their skills, knowledge and personal qualities to prepare them to be active citizens of the 21st century.

We are delighted that twelve Year 12 students have been nominated this year for the prestigious Seren Project - a support programme funded by the Welsh Government aimed at Wales' highest achieving students.

Our Student-led LGBT+ group (photo right) delivered a workshop to 40 professionals at County Hall, Usk recently discussing how teachers and youth workers can support LGBT+ students in work environments through an inspiring and engaging programme of activities and advice sessions. We are very proud of them.

Our Sixth Form Open Evening is being held on Thursday 17th November 6.00pm -8.30pm with our Students and Teachers available to discuss options.



Record numbers of Wyedean students are aiming higher!

Despite growing anxiety about the cost of Higher Education, record numbers of students from Wyedean Sixth Form are applying to university, with nearly 10% applying to Oxford. The school's university application rate has soared to 77% this year, which is a 15% increase on last year. This achievement is even more remarkable given that the national average for state school university applications is 56%.

Director of Sixth Form, Johnathan Lane, stated that, *"Applying to university is not something we cajole our students into. Our philosophy is to enable students to be the people they wish to be and help them forge their own path. It's wonderful to have so many students who wish to stretch themselves academically and take their studies to a higher level. None of this would be possible without a fantastic support system in our Sixth Form and excellent results which put our students in a superb position to further their studies"*.

The school is equally proud of students wishing to tread a different path. Year 13 student, Craig Hinchliffe, has led the way in finding apprenticeships and now offers advice and guidance to other Sixth Formers. Craig commented that, *"Top level apprenticeships are even harder to access than university places. It's not for everyone but if you have the desire, then go for it!"*.

If you wish to be part of a thriving learning environment at Wyedean Sixth Form then why not visit their website or pop along to the Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 1st December from 6-8pm. Further details can be found at www.wyedean.gloucs.sch.uk



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Making Our Best Better Offa's Mead Academy

Offa's Mead Academy is a small Primary School where pupils get the best start in education. We create a safe, happy and caring environment, where all children are valued, encouraged and supported to achieve their best in all areas of learning and development. As part of the Academies Enterprise Trust (AET) we strive always 'To make our best better'.

We have a talented, committed and enthusiastic team, who work together to provide children and their families with a range of exciting and engaging learning opportunities to help them become independent and confident lifelong learners.

With the recent arrival of our new Principal, Mrs Ros Escott, the school is at an exciting time in its future further development. The best way to learn more about Offa's Mead Academy is to meet pupils and staff and see the school in action. With limited school spaces still available, we look forward to you contacting us today to arrange a visit.

We will be holding an 'Open Day' on Tuesday 15th November 2016 at 10:00am-12:00pm and 1:45pm-2:45pm. We look forward to welcoming you to our school.

We offer a before and after school club and a range of extra-curricular activities for all ages. We have excellent links with Penguins Pre-School, catering for 2-5 year olds, which is situated on the school site. The school is set in stunning grounds with exciting pupil play equipment, extensive field space and our own school woodland.



New Principal Mrs Escott
with some of her newest pupils



**Offa's Mead
Academy**
To make our best better

Beachley Road, Sedbury, Near
Chepstow, NP16 7DT
Telephone: 01291 622932
Principal: Mrs R Escott
contactus@offasmeadacademy.org
www.offasmeadacademy.org

Burnt Barn Community (Sports) & Social Club

Burnt Barn Road, Chepstow, Monmouthshire NP16 5AR

Club activities

- Mon - Crib/Skittles/Bingo
- Tues - Club members tote prizes to £3000
- Wed - Men's Darts incl Gwent Super League
- Thurs - Mencap till 9pm.
Ladies Darts
- Fri - Family night (incl children)
Thrft Club • Men's Darts
- Sat - Function room
available for hire
- Sun - Pool league

The Club has Free WiFi

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



Club Associates

- Little Acorns Playgroup, 9.15-12.45
Mon - Fri in term time only.
Contact Rachel 07904 212135
- Tues - Slimming World
- Thurs - Kung Foo Club
- Weekly - Mike's Joyriders -
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Sun: 12pm - 12am
Mon-Thurs: 7pm - 11.30pm
Fri: 7pm - 12am



News from the Lions Den...

Chepstow & Caldicot Lions Club: "Serving the Community"

It's been a busy few weeks for the members of Chepstow and Caldicot Lions, having just completed the installation of the eleventh defibrillator in the district, moving into their new headquarters in Chepstow, and helping at Monmouthshire Upcycle (Chepstow Depot).

The club, along with all Lions International, is celebrating their Centennial Year. To mark the occasion the members decided to develop a project that would help in all the local community and, with the help of The British Heart Foundation and local Community Councils, the club has now completed the installation of the eleventh defibrillator.

Three machines along with medical kits and torches were presented to the Newport, Chepstow and Caldicot First responders, their training was provided by the Wales Ambulance Service. After consultation with local Community Councils, seven sites were identified in rural areas where there was a need for a defibrillator.

- Wye Dean School (Sedbury)
- Caerwent
- St Arvans (Two)
- Shirenewton
- Mynyddbach
- Earlswood
- Huntsman Inn (Shirenewton)

The last four Shirenewton, Mynyddbach, Earlswood and The Huntsman was a joint effort with Phillip Moles JP, owner of The Huntsman who had already identified a need in these areas, and was in the process of raising funds.

This Month also saw the club move to its new Headquarters at The Chepstow Castle Inn, after eighteen years at Dewstow Golf Club.

The owners of the Inn Sean Matthews and Stephane Chauveau have made all the members welcome and we look forward to a long relationship. The club meets at the Inn on first Wednesday of every month and every third Wednesday holds a Dinner Meeting usually with a guest speaker.

This month also saw Lion President Brian Prout present Monmouthshire Upcycle with tools to the value of £600 to assist with their gardening projects.



Lion President Brian Prout presenting the tools to Paul Sims head gardener

Monmouthshire Upcycle is a registered Charity which uses the model of collecting and selling donated furniture to allow them to employ those marginalised in society.

Gardening and house moves are part of the project and this enables funds to employ more people with disabilities, learning difficulties and substance abuse issues.

Unfortunately the members had to say farewell to one of its staunchest members Lion Doug Lloyd, who has served the club for over forty five years, twenty of which he has been the club Treasurer, Doug has decide to retire but will still be working with the club at several functions throughout the coming year, the members would like to thank him for his service and wish him well in his retirement.



Lion President Brian Prout, presenting a plaque to Stephane Chauveau of the Chepstow Castle Inn



The Forest's newest group of coffee entrepreneurs have started work – in a school.

The Big Bean Café is run by students at Wydean School as part of a BTEC Level Three hospitality course, which is equivalent to an A-level.

All the sixth-formers on the course have been trained as baristas but they tackle all aspects of running a business.

Course leader Kate Lewis said: *"If you can give students real life experiences, they seem to excel. We started doing pop-up restaurants but now they are running a business. It runs five days a week and they are maintaining a sustainable coffee shop. They've all been trained as baristas but they do the opening and closing checks and take it in turns on the front desk. They also have to do the orders for coffee, smoothies and food and they're prepping food – they are getting the complete experience!"*

The café is part of the new-look sixth-form common room and was also open for several hundred visitors to the school's open evening for Year Six pupils and their parents last month.

A business case was put together for the investment in the cafe with equipment being bought from the University of South Wales in Newport.



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

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

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

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



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Chepstow Museum Events

at The Drill Hall, Lower Church Street, NP16 5HJ

Thursday 3rd November, 7.30pm

The Curious World of Hieronymus Bosch

Exhibition-on-Screen film featuring the exhibition 'Visions of Genius' in the artist Bosch's hometown to mark the 500th anniversary of his death this year

Tickets £10 from, and to raise funds for Chepstow Museum 01291 625981

Sunday 13th November, 4pm

The Bright Stream

Bolshoi Ballet screening

Tickets £12/ £10 conc, from and to raise funds for Chepstow Museum 01291 625981

Tuesday 29th November 10.30am & 1.30pm & Wednesday 30 Nov 10.30am

The Emperor's New Clothes

Sherman Theatre's delightful Christmas show for 3-6 yrs adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen classic with music and song

Tickets £5 child, £3 accompanying adult from Chepstow Museum 01291 625981

Wednesday 30 November 1.30pm

Dillad Newydd Yr Ymerawdwr -

The Emperor's New Clothes – Welsh Language performance, Sherman Theatre

& Theatr Iolo Christmas show for 3-6 yrs

Tickets £5 child, £3 accompanying adult from Chepstow Museum 01291 625981

Thursday 1st December 7.30pm

Leonardo da Vinci, The Genius of Milan

Discover Arts film screening

Tickets £10 from and to raise funds for Chepstow Museum tel 01291 625981

Exhibitions at Chepstow Museum
Bridge Street, NP16 5EZ,
open Mon-Sat 11-4, Sun 2-4

Until Sun 20 November

Hidden Presence exhibition of photographs by Julian Germain exploring the story of Nathaniel Wells of Piercefield and St Kitts, Britain's first black sheriff 1818

From Sat 26 Nov – Feb 26 2017

Ffiniau – Border Country.

The works of 4 Welsh painters of the 1940s and 1950s contemporaries of Raymond Williams author of Border Country

Ladybird Pottery
Abbey Mill, Tintern, NP16 6SE
Craft Coffee
Opening this October in Caldicot
Paint your own Pottery and Coffee Shop
Keep up to date on Facebook or visit
www.ladybirdpottery.com

Visions and Visionary, The Weird and the Wonderful: Two Giants of Art Brought to the Big Screen

It's been called one of the greatest exhibitions of the century and almost half a million people visited it earlier this year in the small Dutch city that was the home of the extraordinary artist Hieronymus Bosch. Thanks to 'Exhibition on Screen' there's now another opportunity to see it, and Chepstow Museum is presenting a screening of the remarkable new film **'The Curious World of Hieronymus Bosch' at the Drill Hall Chepstow on 3rd November.**

The Museum in Bosch's home town does not have a single work by its famous son, but to mark the 500th anniversary of his death they brought together most of his known works from galleries around the world. 17 out of only 24 paintings and 19 of 20 drawings came back to his city, Den Bosch.

Famous in his lifetime, Bosch was described 30 years after his death as 'the devil's painter'. Ostensibly, he was a respectable citizen of the small, prosperous town where he was born in 1450 and died in 1516. Married, he spent most of his life living on one side of the market square, crossing 100 yards every day to his studio. Born into a family of industrious but run-of-the-mill artists, his grandfather, father, uncles, and nephews were all painters. So where did his unconventional, weird and wonderful, creations come from? His extraordinary visions of heaven and hell swarming with strange creatures, terrible torments, fabulous structures, continue to be intriguing and strangely compelling. Why do his fantastical paintings resonate now more than ever? Who was this artist with the vivid imagination of a true visionary? This film reveals his fascinating life story and shows details and stories within his works as they've never been seen before.

If Bosch bridged the medieval and Renaissance worlds, Leonardo da Vinci is the towering giant of the Renaissance.

Another spectacular exhibition was created in 2015 to celebrate the 18 years that Leonardo spent in the city of Milan at the end of the 15th century, a period that left a lasting impression on the city. Milan paid tribute by staging a landmark exhibition at the historic Palazzo Reale. Another stunning film, **Leonardo da Vinci – Genius in Milan**, combines the many masterpieces brought together in the exhibition, interviews and insights from leading experts and period recreations to tell the story of the artist's world, and the treasures he created. Discover new perspectives on Leonardo the Genius, - painter, sculptor, scientist, anatomist, botanist, architect and inventor - with this film by Discover Arts screened at Chepstow Drill Hall on 1st December.

Tickets £10 from and to raise funds for Chepstow Museum tel 01291 625981





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/chepstow 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.freeseve.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.pimmer10@btinternet.com every Thurs 1.30-3pm

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

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



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

NURSERIES / PRESCHOOLS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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

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

01291 635642 mountonhouse@monmouthshire.gov.uk
www.mountonhouse.org.uk/

Wydean School Robert Ford, Headteacher Beachey Road,
Sedbury NP16 7AA 01291 625340 www.wydean.gloucs.
sch.uk

SPORTS CLUBS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chepstow Darts League contact Rob Murdin - murdrobe@
sky.com or Chris Smith - smudger391@hotmail.com, tel -
07445 287018.

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.clubwebsite.co.uk/
chepstowtownafc. Contact Stuart Carter 07592 323 770

Chepstow Garden City Junior Football Club www.
gardencityjfc.com

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

Gains and Losses on Employment Allowance

The employment allowance was set at £2,000 for the first two years of its existence. For 2016-17, the allowance has been increased to £3,000. So you can reduce the amount of your employer class 1 national insurance contributions (NICs) payable to HMRC by this amount throughout the year.

The employment allowance is targeted at businesses that support employment, and for 2016-17 will cover your NIC cost of employing four adult full-time workers earning the national living wage for those aged 25 or over. However, the allowance has never been available for employing someone for personal, household or domestic work, such as a cleaner, nanny or gardener. However, it can be claimed by employers of care and support workers. What's more, from 6 April this year, you no longer qualify if you are the director and only paid employee of your company.

Qualifying Employment

This will not make too much difference if only a low level of remuneration is taken, with profits mainly withdrawn as dividends. However, the situation may be more serious for contractors who, regardless of whether or not the IR35 rules apply, often take a much higher level of remuneration. The after-tax cost of losing the full allowance for 2016-17 is £2,400.

Just having employees or another director is, in itself, insufficient to continue qualifying for the allowance. You will only qualify if your earnings from the company are high enough to be subject to employer NICs. This means that an employee's weekly earnings have to be at least £156 (£676 monthly), while a director needs annual earnings of £8,112.

The full allowance of £3,000 will be available provided you qualify at some point during 2016-17. But a word of warning if you think that simply employing your spouse or partner for one week is good enough: you cannot qualify for the employment allowance as a consequence of avoidance arrangements. By contrast, employing a seasonal worker for one or more weeks would be fine, provided their earnings are high enough. HMRC also gives the example of a person who is the only UK-based employee of an international company. When it comes to the employment of a spouse, partner or family member, the employment needs to be genuine; in particular, HMRC will be less likely to query long-term arrangements.

Lower Exemption for Employee Shareholders

The take up of employee-shareholder status has been somewhat less than the government hoped for, the recently introduced restriction to the amount of capital

gains tax (CGT) exemption is certainly not going to help. The basic idea is that an employee-shareholder receives tax-advantaged shares in exchange for giving up certain employment rights.

The employee shareholder must receive shares in their employing company with a minimum value of £2,000, with these shares free of tax and national insurance contributions. There is no upper value for the shares which can be acquired, but the excess value over the £2,000 limit is taxed as earnings. The employee-shareholder then benefits from a CGT exemption on the disposal of up to £50,000 worth of shares. The shares are valued at the time they are received by the employee, and the exemption would previously have applied regardless of their increase in value – even if sold for millions of pounds.

However, the amount of exemption is now subject to a £100,000 lifetime limit where shares are acquired under an employee shareholder agreement entered into on or after 17 March 2016. Any past or future gains arising from prior shareholder agreements do not count towards the £100,000 limit. For example, an employee sells £50,000 worth of these employee shareholder shares with a gain of £250,000. If the employee-shareholder agreement was entered into before 17 March 2016, the £250,000 gain would be exempt from CGT. If the agreement was later, £150,000 of the gain would be taxed. Although employee shareholder style contracts have not been widely used by rank and file employees, they have been more popular for start-ups with high growth potential. The CGT exemption has been particularly attractive to key employees and directors because they could enjoy the growth in share value in a tax-efficient manner. Such employees would probably not be worried about the loss of some employment rights. Unfortunately, the lifetime limit now reduces the attractiveness of the employee-shareholder regime, even taking into account the reduction in the higher rate of CGT from 28% to 20%. Arrangements may no longer be cost-effective where they involve complex share structures.



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Community Noticeboard

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

**Open Days at
Tutshill Community Preschool**
(taking children from 2 years 0 months)

**on Friday 4th and
Saturday 5th November from
10am-12pm.**
Drop in, we'd love to meet you!

Tintern Philosophy Circle
meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at
7.30pm at the Rose & Crown pub, Tintern.
£2. All welcome
Next Meetings:
15th Nov - Dr Peter Sedgwick: The
Philosophy of Nietzsche
20th Dec - Steve Spengland: On Time

Charity Christmas cards
will be on sale in **Chepstow Library** until
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!

St David's Hospice Care have launched a new event appropriate for all the family... a fancy dress walk across the Severn Bridge.

It is a 5 mile walk with a "Rhythm of the Sixties" theme! The walk will be taking part on November 12th, starting and finishing at Basepoint. Get in touch if you would like to book your place, its £5 for adults and free to children under the age of 16. Think flower power and join us :) See advert page 20.

You can register on line at <http://stdavidshospicecare.org/event-details/splendid-severn-bridge-walk/>
or ring the fundraising team on 01633 851043.



Christmas Shopping Evening
7-9pm Thursday 1st December
Chepstow Rugby Club
Burnt Barn Road,
Come along for an evening of shopping,
mulled wine and treats!

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)**

**Roy Cheek, former Director of
Gardens and Senior Lecturer -
Chairman of RHS Trials Forum, will be
giving a talk entitled**

"Holly & Ivy"
Wednesday 23rd November
at 7.30pm in Chepstow Leisure Centre
All very welcome Visitors £4

**Chepstow Christmas
Steampunk Market**
26th November
10am-4pm
at the Drill Hall,
Lower Church Street,
Chepstow



Starlings over the Severn
Saturday 26th November 2016
Meet 2.30 pm

Newport Wetlands Cafe Nash Road NP18 2BZ

Join Chepstow Walkers are Welcome
for a walk around the periphery of
Newport Wetlands including the
Wales Coast Path with a strong
chance of seeing a
Starling Murmuration
4 miles - Easy



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

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www.devauden.org.uk



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TUESDAY 27 DECEMBER

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RACING & EVENTS

chepstow-racecourse.co.uk

01291 622260



On Thursday 10th November Chepstow Racecourse welcomes Merthyr Tydfil's own Owen Money for a night of comedy. Owen Money is a musician, actor, comedian and presenter. He has toured the club circuit as a comedian, winning the Club Land "Comedian of the Year" award, performing alongside Shirley Bassey and Tom Jones. He has also featured on BBC Radio Wales weekly programme "Money for Nothing", winning two gold Sony Radio Academy Awards. In 2007 Owen was presented with an MBE for his services to entertainment in Wales. **Tickets for the Comedy Night are £15 per person and include a meal of curry and rice in Silks Restaurant.**



In recent years **Chepstow Racecourse's Christmas Party Nights** have proved very popular, offering large or small groups the chance to join a bigger Christmas party with great food, live music from a tribute act, and a DJ and dancing.

Of the six dates in 2016, two nights, Abba and Olly Murs, have already sold out and places at the remaining nights are selling fast. These include the Freddie Mercury tribute on Friday 2nd December, Tom Jones tribute on Friday 9th December, Beatles tribute on Saturday 10th December and Rod Stewart tribute on Friday 16th December.

The package includes a welcome drink on arrival, a two course Christmas dinner with several buffet selections, coffee and chocolates, live entertainment from our tribute act and a DJ and dancing till midnight. **Tickets are from £39 per person.**

The biggest race of the season at Chepstow, and in fact the richest race in Wales, is the **Coral Welsh Grand National on Tuesday 27th December.**

This year the race is worth a record £150,000, making it one of the richest jumping handicaps in the UK. It's a staying race over the bigger steeplechase fences, and it's a real test of bravery and stamina for the starring horses.

This race has been won by some of the very best horses in training in recent years, including Cheltenham Gold Cup winner Synchronised and Grand National winners Silver Birch and Earth Summit. Dual winner Mountainous took the honours last year for rookie Herefordshire trainer Kerry Lee, adding to his victory in 2013. The meeting also features the Grade One £50,000 Coral Future Champions Juvenile Hurdle for some of the best young jumpers around.

International opera stars Bryn Terfel and Rebecca Evans will sing the Welsh National anthem before the runners and riders set off for the main event

and the Regimental Band of The Royal Welsh will accompany the jockeys to the Parade Ring before the big race. There will also be a performance from the Bridgend Male Voice Choir.

It's a fantastic social and family occasion. There will be plenty to eat and drink, live music from the Wild Murphys throughout the afternoon in the Bonanza Boy Marquee and children's entertainment in the Family Marquee. Admission tickets and hospitality packages are available.

For more information on all of the above, please visit the website www.chepstow-racecourse.co.uk

CHEPSTOW RACING & EVENTS
FORTHCOMING FIXTURES AND EVENTS
NOVEMBER
WED 2nd Afternoon Racing
WED 16th Afternoon Racing
NON RACEDAY EVENTS
THU 10th Comedy Night-Owen Money
DECEMBER
SAT 3rd Christmas Party Raceday
TUE 27th Coral Welsh Grand National
NON RACEDAY EVENTS
CHRISTMAS PARTY - TRIBUTE ACT
FRI 2nd Freddie Mercury
SAT 3rd ABBA
FRI 9th Tom Jones
SAT 10th Beatles
FRI 16th Rod Stewart
SAT 17th Olly Murs
To Book Tickets contact :
www.chepstow-racecourse.co.uk
Tel: 01291 622260



INDEX OF LOCAL ADVERTISERS



Accountant / Book-Keeping

bdhc Chartered Accountants 33
Sulu Book-Keeping 8

Business Services

Virtual Office - Basepoint 39

Car Maintenance / Car Sales

AutoCare, Chepstow 23
Terraclean 27

Child Care - Hedgehogs Nursery

6

Children's Activities

Kestrel Gym Club 16
Little Acorns Playgroup 17
Old Down Estate 17

Clothing -

Burrell's Exchange Boutique 21

Craft -

Chepstow Wool Shop 13
Undy Yarncraft 5

Community Listings 30-32

Community Noticeboard 34-35

Days Out/Events/Activities

Chepstow Museum 18,28,29
Chepstow Racecourse 36-37
Ladybird Pottery 28
Old Down Estate 17

Paint on Me 19
Remembrance Sunday 9
Severn Bridge Walk 24

Dog Grooming

Perfect Dog Grooming 3, 15
Pet & Reptile Centre 6

Dry Cleaners/Laundrette

Fresh & Clean 12

Fitness -

Derek's Gym 9

Funeral Directors

Chepstow Funeral Service 28
Ian Watts & Sons 8

Gardening / Garden Centres

Chepstow Garden Centre 40

HomeCare

Wiltshire Farm Foods 8
Hearing - Easi-Ear 11

Home -

Critchcraft Wall & Floor Tiles 2
Thermotech-UPVC 1

Jewellers -

Burrell's County Jewellers 21

Locksmith -
City Locksmiths 14

Osteopath

Chepstow Osteopathic Clinic 10

Pets/Pet Care

Perfect Pets/Doggy Daycare 15
Pet & Reptile Centre 6

Police

Pottery

Ladybird Pottery 28
Paint on Me 19

Plumber

R H White Plumbing & Heating 10

Schooling/Tuition

Chepstow School 22
Offa's Mead Academy 25
St John's-on-the-Hill 22
Wydean School 5,23,27

Social Club

Burnt Barn Social Club 25

Toyshop - Toytastik

7

TV/Aerials - The Aerial Man 1, 3

Wine - The Roving Sommalier 20

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or email **sales@mattersmagazines.co.uk**
and she will be pleased to help.

Prices to advertise in Chepstow Matters start from as little as £20 per month for an eighth page advert (or just £15 per month when booked on an annual basis). Or a full page works out at just £67.50 per month when you book for a full year. (Prices exclude vat)

We can offer premium positions to get your business noticed, Artwork design, written Editorials and Reviews.

Matters Magazines are in the community for the community: Keeping it Local!

CHRISTMAS EVENTS November

Gardener's Club Members

**Christmas
Open Evening**

10th November
2:00pm - 8:30pm

20% off Christmas,
Yankee and
Giftware

Gardener's Club Members

20% off

**Christmas, Yankee
and Giftware**
12th - 13th November

Gardener's Club Members

**Senior Citizens
Double Discount
Day** **20% off**
15th November

Reindeer

Weekend

19th - 20th November

11:00am - 1:00pm

26th - 27th November

11:00am - 1:00pm

**Festive Jazz
Evening**

25th November

6:30pm - 10:00pm

£15 per adult. Book Instore

Children's

Christmas Party
1st December

5:00pm - 7:30pm

£6 per child. Book Instore

Santa's Grotto

Opens on

19th November

£5 per child - includes gift
Book Instore, must pre-book



CHEPSTOW
Garden Centre

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

MON-FRI 9am-6pm

SAT 9am-5.30pm

SUN 10.30am-4.30pm