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December 2016

Community Chepstow Matters

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In the hospitality and retail industry for more than 25 years, Robert Giorgione has 17 years of experience in London working as wine buyer and head sommelier at Oxo Tower Restaurant, Fifth Floor at Harvey Nichols, 3 Michelin-starred La Tante Claire and D & D London at 1 Michelin-starred Orrery Restaurant in Marylebone. Freelance wine consultancy included previous clients such as New Zealand Wine, Les Caves de Pyrene, WineChap, Naked Wines, Adnams, Borough Market, D & D London, Imbibe Magazine, William Curley and Alexeeva & Jones, amongst others. As a wine consultant, he judged on many tasting panels for prestigious international wine awards such as Decanter World Wine Awards and Sommelier Wine Awards.

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Dear Readers...



Welcome to the December issue - is everyone feeling Festive yet?

If you need help 'getting in the mood' there are plenty of things going on locally this month from Christmas fares, carol services, singing around the tree, to chringles, and formal services. I look forward to seeing some of you out and about at these! We also have the man himself arriving on our doorstep in just a few days' time - as you will see overleaf!

We have tried to collate as much information as we can to include within our pages this month, so be sure to have a good read so you don't miss out!

Thank you to all the local businesses who have supported us over the last 12 months - you make this magazine possible! '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 January edition, the deadline for content is slightly earlier this month at 9th December.

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

***Wishing all our Readers
a Joyful Christmas and a Happy
and Healthy New Year!*** Jaci x

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Merry Christmas and a
Creative New Year!*

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You'd Better Watch Out ... Santa Claus is coming to Town!

**Chepstow & District Round Table
Santa Sleigh Runs 2016**

It is that time of year again when Father
Christmas pays his annual visit to Chepstow to
help the chaps from the Chepstow and District
Round Table bring some festive cheer to local
children.

Santa will be out on his sleigh throughout
December visiting children in the town and
local villages. Kids will have the chance to
meet the jolly old man and remind him what
they would like on the big day.

Santa's big tour starts off with the Chepstow
Town lights switch on, on 26 November and he
commences his sleigh run on 4 December in
Caldicot.

He will be helped by friendly elves from Round
Table who will be rattling buckets to help raise
money for good causes and keeping the kids
safe.

Chepstow and District Round Table Chairman,
Robert Phelps, said: *"We are delighted that
Father Christmas has agreed to help us out
again this year. We are dusting off the sleigh
and making sure we have enough sweets for
all of the children who want to come and say
hello. We look forward to seeing you out and
about in December."*

Santa usually arrives in Chepstow at 4.30pm
on Sundays, and 6.30pm on weekdays (after
a busy day toymaking in the workshop with his
elves). Look out for the 'Santa Stops Here'
signs which will be out on each route with
approximate timings.

Santa is up to date with modern technology
and likes to keep everyone informed, so do
keep an eye on his facebook page for updates
- search for:

**"Santa's page, just for his visits to the
Chepstow area".**



Sunday December 4th

First stop 4:30pm
Caldicot - Longfellow Road, Station Road, Firs
Road, Church Road.

Wednesday December 7th

First Stop 6:30pm
St. Arvans, Mathern

Friday December 9th

First stop 6:30pm
Garden City, St. Lawrence Park, The Danes.

Sunday December 11th

First stop 4:30pm
Tutshill - Elm Road, Wintour Gate,
Sedbury - Buttington Road, Mercian Way, King
Alfred's Road.

Wednesday December 14th

First stop 6:30pm
Caerwent: Ash Tree Road/Merton Green,
Coach & Horses, Caerwent Village Hall/
Highfield, Cannon Lane.

Friday December 16th

First stop 6pm
Tintern (Abbey Area), Llandogo (Brown's Shop).

Sunday December 18th

First stop 4:30pm
Bulwark - Channel View, Mathern Way, Burnt
Barn Road, Western Avenue, Somerset Way,
Marten Road, Strongbow Road.
Thornwell - Lord Eldon Drive, Tesco Express,
Thornwell Community Centre, Denbigh Drive,
Bluebell Drive.

Wednesday December 21st

First stop 6:30pm.
The Bayfields, Piercefield Avenue.

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A Christmas Celebration in Music and Words

This year's Christmas music by the choir and guests will take place on Sunday afternoon, 11th December, 3.00pm, at St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow and will include a mix of well-loved carols and readings.

Chepstow Choral Society is delighted to be joined by pupils from Chepstow School, and highly accomplished organist Peter Cook.

Give yourselves a break from the hustle and bustle, and come and enjoy some lovely Christmas music!

Tickets £8.00 (u/18s/students FREE) will be available from choir members (01291 623310, 620414, 650472 and Chepstow Bookshop.

Please view our website (www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk) for further information (contact details available). Chepstow Choral Society is affiliated to Ty Cerdd – Music Centre Wales and Making Music – The National Federation of Music Societies. Registered charity no. 1127098



Chepstow Choral Society
Musical Director –
Graham Bull

A Christmas Music Celebration

**Sunday 11th December
3.00pm
St Mary's Church, Chepstow**

Peter Cook (organ)
Chepstow Comprehensive
School Choirs

Victory Church Chepstow Presents

CAROLS IN THE PARK

CHEPSTOW BANDSTAND - SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER - 4:30PM

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Christmas with a live brass band, carols, choir,
hot soup, festive snacks and more



Christmas begins with *Christ*

VICTORY Church Chepstow

Tintern Abbey Carols by Torchlight

On Saturday 3rd December the Chepstow Rotary Club will stage its annual Torchlight Carol Service at Tintern Abbey.

This most popular family event is always well supported and last year some 400 people attended. Thanks to Chepstow Matters, posters, in-programme advertising and flyers handed out on the High Street, the Club enjoys much local support for this wonderful event.

From 5.45pm families form the column in front of the Anchor Inn, Tintern holding their flaming torches on high to light their way, while the smaller members carry light-sticks. They then slowly walk in column around the outside of the Abbey to the wonderful sounds of the choir singing carols within. It is always most satisfying to see the faces of the young, and not so young, reflected in the flames of the torches as they enter the rear of this beautiful and historic Abbey.

Tintern Abbey is certainly an atmospheric location by day. But by night, in floodlight, with hundreds of flaming torches burning brightly and with the sound of carols sung by the choir, it becomes a positively magical place. **"Harry Potter has nothing on this"**, said one visitor!

Once all are within the Abbey the congregation sing together the most popular carols lead by The Wydean School & Gospel Choir. The carols will be interspersed with seasonal Bible readings while prayers will be led by The Reverend Andrew Webster.

This Torchlight Carol Service is a very special local event that launches the Chepstow Christmas Season. Every member of the family will remember Tintern for a long time to come and so the mark the date 3rd December in your diary now or visit www.chepstowrotary.org.uk for details. As always, entry is by personal programme that may be purchased on the night or, from the end of November, from the Tintern Abbey shop. See you there!

So far this year the Chepstow Club raised over £2,000 for Rotary charities. These include global polio eradication, Young Chef, Young Citizen, Young Photographer, Young Writer, Youth Speaks & Young Musician competitions in our local schools and a Life Education bus.




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Celebrate the light

Happy Christmas from all of the Churches in Chepstow. At this time of year we celebrate with light. We light our houses, and Christmas trees (once we have checked the bulbs). We set fire to our Christmas puddings (usually on the 4th attempt), and we light our streets. Many churches light candles, including the now popular Christingles at special services of celebration.

Why do we do this, because this is the time of year when we remember the light of the world - Jesus Christ who entered into our darkness and brought light, forgiveness, mercy, love, generosity and kindness.

The great message of Christmas answered the question - are we alone in the universe? The answer was no. We were not visited by green creatures in space ships, but God who made everything, and also loves so much that he chose to intervene when things were going wrong - to bring hope, to bring love and to pardon all that was wrong. He did this at great cost, imagine giving up your child for all of mankind. The great joy of Christmas is the message of hope from John's Gospel: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. (John 1:5 NLT).

So our prayer for you and your family this Christmas is that your days would be merry and bright, full of the light that comes with Jesus Christ to the world, your hearts full of his love. That your new year would be full of hope, love and joy.

God bless you

Rev'd Laurence Brackpool

Community Outreach Pastor - The Bridge Church Chepstow
Current Chair of Chepstow Churches Together



Christmas Around

Chepstow Baptist Church

Sunday 18th December

6pm Carols and candles -
Traditional Christmas carols and
bible readings by candlelight.

Tuesday 20th December

7:30pm Christmas Praise with Cambrensis
Choir and brass ensemble. free entry with
retiring collection for Charity

Sunday 25th December

10:30 am Family Christmas Service
with pop-up nativity

Chepstow Methodist Church

Saturday 3rd December

3pm. Advent Messy Church

Sunday 4th December

4pm. Bi-lingual Carol Service

Wednesday 7th December

6.30 pm. Boys Brigade Crib Service

Thursday 8th December

7pm. Light up a Life Memorial Service

Wednesday 14th December

7pm. PROBUS Carol Service

Thursday 15th December

2.30pm. MENCAP carol service
7.30 pm. Alternativity

Saturday 17th December

10 -12 am. Singing for Fun Christmas get
together

12 midday Carol Singing outside M and S

Sunday 18th December

10.30 'ad hoc' nativity play.
6pm. Carols By Candlelight

Saturday 24th - Christmas Eve

3pm. Christingle Service
11.15 pm. Midnight Communion

Sunday 25th - Christmas Day

10am. All-age worship for Christmas

During December we will also be hosting the
'Messy Church' nativity trail and also there is
an opportunity to host the 'Possada'.

Christmas Masses at St. Mary's Catholic Church, & St. Paul's Catholic Church,

*Old Bulwark Road , Chepstow ,
Longcroft Street , Caldicot.*

Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve

6pm Vigil Mass at St. Mary's
12,00am Midnight Mass at St. Mary's
(Carols from 11.30 pm.)

Sunday 25th December Christmas Day

9am Morning Mass at St. Paul's
10am Morning Mass at St. Mary's

Chepstow Parish St Mary's Priory & St Christopher's

St Mary's Priory

Sunday 11th

3pm Chepstow Choral Society Carol Service

Saturday 17th

2pm Carols Around the Christmas Tree

Christmas Eve

*11.30pm Midnight Mass -
The First Eucharist of Christmas*

Christmas Day

*The Nativity of our Lord
10am Family Eucharist*

School Concerts at St Mary's Priory

Wednesday 7th December 2pm:

Dell School Concert

Thursday 8th December 6pm:

Dell School Concert

Monday 12th December 5pm:

Chepstow School Concert

Tuesday 13th December 7pm:

Wyedean School Concert

Friday 16th December 11am:

St. John's on the Hill -Ceremony of Nine Lessons and Carols

Chepstow

St Christopher's Church, Bulwark

Sunday 11th

4pm Christingle Service

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Family Christmas Carol Service

Christmas Day

The Nativity of our Lord

9.30am Family Communion

St Thomas a Beckett Church, Shirenewton

Sunday 18th December

10am Christmas Praise Service telling the
Christmas story through poems, readings and
carols, with coffee and cake afterwards

Christmas Eve

4pm Carols and Christingles
Everyone is welcome to this lovely warm
family-friendly service. Refreshments of
mulled wine and mince pies will be served
afterwards

11.30pm Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day

10am Family Service

The Bridge Church Chepstow

*Unit 1a Critchcraft Buildings, Bulwark Industrial
Estate, Bulwark NP16 5QZ
www.thebridgechurchchepstow.org*

18th December 2016

4.30pm - Carol Service

25th December 2016

10.30am - Christmas Day Family Service



Tidenham Parish

Sunday, 11th December

4:30pm St Luke's, Tutshill –
Christingle Service
followed by light refreshments

Saturday, 17th December

7 for 7.30pm St Mary & St Peter, Tidenham –
CHRISTMAS CRACKERS ‘

A festive cornucopia of theatrical delights in
story, song and verse’ (mulled wine and mince
pies from 7pm). Tickets £5.

All proceeds towards the
new Tidenham Church Car Park.

Sunday, 18th December

10:45am St Luke's, Tutshill – Nativity Play
followed by light refreshments

3pm St Mary & St Peter, Tidenham –
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
followed by mince pies and wine

Christmas, Saturday, 24th December

4:30pm St Luke's, Tutshill –
Family Crib Service

11:15pm St Mary & St Peter, Tidenham –
Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, Sunday, 25th December

9am St Michael & All Angels, Chase –
Holy Communion

10am St Luke's, Tutshill –
Family Service followed by
Holy Communion

Sunday, 1st January

10:45am St Luke's, Tutshill –
Christmas Carols Songs of Praise

Services in Sedbury:

SUNDAY, 18th December

10:30am Sedbury Evangelical –
Carol Service

SUNDAY, 25th December

10:30am Sedbury Evangelical
Christmas Service

SUNDAY, 25th December

10am Catholic Church of The Sacred Heart –
Christmas Day Mass



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Local Musician launches school Celtic Club

St John's on-the-Hill welcomed Scott McKeon, fiddle player with Rusty Shackle, a local welsh indie-roots band (www.rustyshackle.com), to its school on Friday 18 November, to launch a new folk music club called the Celtic Club.

Scott joined the pupils for a special assembly where Scott played the guitar, penny whistle, fiddle, mandolin, banjo and bodhran. He also gave a rendition of the unicorn song, complete with actions.

Scott then selected four students to play the Penny whistles, bodhran and mandolin and within minutes he had them playing a little tune!

Dave Mitchell, Music Director, St John's on-the-Hill, said: "We are so excited to have Scott on-board to lead our new Celtic folk music club. Scott is a passionate folk musician and teaches all over South Wales promoting Celtic and folk music.

"The club will cater for children who have never picked up an instrument as well as our more experienced musicians and if our assembly is anything to go by it will be great fun."

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Is Your Pet Ready for Christmas?

Chepstow Matters was pleased to pop into the Pet & Reptile shop this month and chat with owner Allan and Groomer Kate about what the shop can offer you and your pet in this month of festivities.

With temperatures dropping and the onset of inclement weather, it might be time to treat your dog to his own warm and waterproof coat - Pet & Reptile have a range in stock, along with cosy animal beds. For the festive season you can treat your cat or dog to his or her own advent calendar filled with appropriate treats to count down to the big day. To get you into the Christmas spirit the shop is also stocking festive jumpers for your dog (and for you!). Ready-made Christmas stockings are also available to purchase if you like for your pet to have his own present under tree, or of course you can build your own from all the treats and toys sold within the shop.

The dog grooming side of the shop has really grown over the last 6 months with many repeat clients as well as new dogs every week. Groomer Kate can offer the full range of services for your dog to suit your needs, from just bathing to a full clip. She has a variety of pricing options and there are discounts for regular clients.

To help your dog look his best this Christmas and New Year, Kate is offering a 10% discount on grooming throughout December and January with this copy of Chepstow Matters!

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



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LANA'S STORY – She recalls: *"I hadn't thought of having treatment abroad, but suddenly it was not only financially sensible, but it also gave me the opportunity for an adventure!"*

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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

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Championships beckon for local gymnasts

Kestrel Gymnasts had very good results in their first South East Wales Gymspire competition on Floor, Vault and Trampoline, with the U8's winning Team Bronze.

Eva Lawn became Vault Champion with special awards to Elsie-Mae Williams on Vault, Freya Hines on Floor and 6th place Ribbon on Trampoline, 6th place Ribbon to Martha Jones-Dekerf on vault, and Megan Kear 6th place Ribbon on Floor and Overall Bronze Medal.

All did well In other age groups with Fay Russell awarded 5th Ribbon on Vault in U10's section.

In the U12 Girl's section Annie Selwyn achieved 6th place Ribbon on Vault and 5th Floor and Overall 5th.

12+ Gymnasts kept the pace going with team members Daisy Machard and Florence winning Team Bronze together with Tom Hook who became Vault Champion, and 4th Overall, Cora Chisholm won Silver on Vault and Silver Overall.

A clean sweep with the U12 Boys - Dovydas Zagorskis won Silver on Vault & Trampoline, Gold on Floor and was Overall Champion, Finley Stenner won Gold on Vault and Trampoline, Silver on Floor and Silver overall. James Davies took 4th place Ribbon on Vault, and Bronze on Trampoline, Floor and Bronze medal overall, Mackenzie Thornton won Bronze on Vault, and 4th place Ribbons on Trampoline, Floor and Overall.

Cora, Annie, Tom, Dovydas, Finley, James and Mackenzie are now through to the Welsh Gymspire Championships at the end of the month, and are working hard to stay at the top!



PHOTO U8'S L TO R
Freya Hines, Elsie-Mae Williams, Megan Kear, Eva Lawn, Martha Jones-Dekerf



PHOTO U12'S L TO R
Tia Jones, Lily Edwards, Emma Lewis, Annie Selwyn, James Davies, Mackenzie Thornton, Dovydas Zagorskis, Finley Stenner



PHOTO 12+ L TO R
Florence Worgan, Daisy Machard, Tom Hook, Cora Chisholm

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

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



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Christmas Without Worry Is Priceless, Says Debt Charity

You can't buy the perfect Christmas – that's the message from a debt charity which has released its own top tips of staying in the black over the festive season.

Christians Against Poverty has a local centre in Chepstow covering Chepstow to Magor and is provided by Churches Together in Chepstow & District. This community service sees people through the year who have reached a crisis point in their finances, most commonly through job loss, low income, illness or relationship breakdown.

This year, it has launched a tried-and-tested list of ways to avoid the kind of financial melt down which sees a rush of clients by February.

"We love Christmas," said Chepstow & District centre manager Isobel Mead.

"The problem is we are sold this line that the perfect Christmas is something we should be buying and that causes more stress than celebration.

"Now is the right time for families to talk to each other to create a sensible game-plan to ensure that Christmas is happy for everyone – and so is the New Year."

The top tips have come from both the experience of those within the charity, as well as CAP's own clients who know what it is like to stick to a tight budget as they clear their debts.

1. Agree on a game plan to stop all of you overspending: do a 'secret Santa'? Agree on a set amount each? A 'just for the kids' rule? A 'from charity shops only' rule?
2. If children have their heart set on something out of your price range, club together with relatives.
3. Short of a new Christmas outfit? Get together with mates for a swapping party and you'll all go home with something new, without the cost.
4. If you're doing the meal, ask guests to each contribute something: drinks? pudding? cheese? cake? a turkey?! If you're spending time cooking a Christmas feast, you are already giving a lot.
5. Aim to only buy the food you will actually eat and decide what you will do with left-overs eg potato cakes from cooked potatoes, make stock from Turkey carcass, soup from uneaten vegetables, freeze un-used gravy for another time.
6. Home-made goodies always go down well – cupcakes, chocolate truffles, shortbread, jam – all are cheap to make and, wrapped with cellophane and ribbon, make great presents.
7. Your time and thoughtfulness are every bit as valuable as your money. Instead of presents, offer vouchers for gardening, washing the car, a few hours cleaning, ironing or making someone's favourite cake or snack.
8. So many people live alone – a cheery visit from you is worth more than any present.
9. Spend time focusing on what you can enjoy at no cost and make Christmas really special: watching your kids in the school nativity; watching the lights get switched on; enjoying Christmas carols in church; dressing the tree; playing family games.
10. Never take out credit or be tempted by a Christmas loan – you don't know what the New Year will bring. Your income may change and it could affect your whole family's security. No Christmas is worth that.

If you have problem debts, give yourself the gift of peace of mind: visit www.capdebthelp.org or call 0800 328 0006





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11+ Scholarships

St John's on-the-Hill School has announced that it is awarding Scholarships for pupils aged 11 plus (current Year 6) for Academic, Music, Drama, Sports, Art and Design Technology. This year's Scholarship exams will take place from 16-20 January 2017.

St John's on-the-Hill's Head, Ruth Frett, said: "We want to attract the best pupils and are offering generous Scholarships to pupils who display talent, enthusiasm and commitment in a wide range of subjects. We urge any parent who thinks their child has strong ability to get in touch. Our Scholarship Scheme is particularly attractive as it may carry through to Dean Close Senior School, bringing financial assistance in paying for school fees from age 11 to 16."



For more information please contact
Mrs Karen MacDonald on 01291 635 382
macdonaldk@stjohnsonthehill.co.uk

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Chepstow SSAFA Big Brew

The Chepstow Division of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen & Families Association charity, SSAFA, arranged their annual "Big Brew Up" in Chepstow last week. Tea, coffee and cakes, provided by the SSAFA volunteers and 1 Rifles, were served to the public from their Fisherman Square gazebo in exchange for a donation to the charity. This is annual event enables the public to mix and meet with the Riflemen and their SSAFA team who cover Chepstow, Caldicot, Magor, Rogiet, Tintern Portskewett and the surrounding areas.

The public were clearly very proud of the Riflemen, led by Serjeant Alan Fuller, and they enjoyed seeing them in the town when people stopped to chat and reminisce. There was also valuable on-site help from Jo, the wife of 1 Rifles Commanding Officer and Captain Mitch Mitchell, the Unit Welfare Officer together with his family.

Equally vital was the adjacent Barclay's Bank who most generously applied their community Matching Grant to this event. Their staff, including Allyson Barnes, worked alongside the volunteers and soldiers rattling tins and encouraging the public to choose one of the wicked cakes. For every pound raised, Barclay's added a further pound. This is a most generous scheme to support community events by registered charities and made a huge difference to the final totals of this event.

The Divisional Secretary of Chepstow SSAFA, Commander Christopher Wilson, stated that he wished to record a great vote of thanks to both the 1 Rifles and to Barclays Bank for their considerable support. He said that the event had raised some £1,600 which is was excellent result that demonstrated both the generosity of the local people and their admiration for their Armed Forces and their families.



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A lesson in saving lives – Helping Wydean students to make our roads a safer place

Sixth Form students at Wydean School took a break from their studies this autumn to learn an even more important lesson and one that could save lives.

Wydean School and Sixth Form Centre, alongside the Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership, hosted a day dedicated to helping students stay safe on our roads and encouraging respect for all road users.

The 'Drive for Life – Safe and Social Driving' day was held on Wednesday, October 19th at Wydean School and Sixth Form Centre with around 230 students taking part in activities and educational workshops.

They witnessed a hard-hitting road traffic collision (RTC) scene and investigation and saw first-hand the actions of the emergency services and the impact on them, as well as the people involved in the collision.

They also experienced the 'ripple effect' as the Family Liaison Officer breaks the news to the victim's family and heard the real-life stories of two mothers who have each lost a child in a RTC.

Wydean School's Headteacher, Robert Ford, said: "This is an incredibly important aspect of a wider education needed increasingly in schools for students in post 16 in particular. My thanks to Sam Bishop, assistant director of Sixth Form, the Sixth Form team and all our visitors for their hard work in organising this event for Wydean Sixth Form students".

All students were able to 'get behind the wheel' on a driving simulator that enabled them to experience different braking distances and sit on a seatbelt sled, where they felt the impact of hitting a vehicle at seven miles per hour.

They also learned about how different types of music and other distractions can affect their driving and wore 'beer goggles' that mimic the effects of alcohol on their driving performance.



Head of Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership, Maria Boon, said "we are fortunate to live in a beautiful rural area but this can mean we are dependent on our cars. This Drive4Life event has been designed to safeguard the driving futures of students in our country. It aims to prevent the harm and heartache caused by road traffic collisions."



"Driving isn't all about your skill behind the wheel. Skills and knowledge can produce a good driver but it's the right attitude and behaviour that will make a great one."

Becky Pain, the mother of Oliver, who tragically died in an RTC gave an emotional speech to students in the opening ceremony, she said "Sadly it can happen to any of us... like Oliver's collision you don't have to be driving excessively fast, under the influence of drugs or alcohol or on your mobile phone...fatal or serious injuries from a road collision can happen at any time."

Rhiannon Gillard a Year 13 student, said "the whole day was an eye opening experience, you don't understand the seriousness of distractions when driving with friends in a car. I found the variety of guest speakers and interactive workshops really engaging."

A number of outside organisations also supported the day, including Kwikfit, The AA and the Institute of Advanced Motoring.



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Club Associates

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Mon - Fri in term time only.
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Tues - Slimming World

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Club activities

Mon - Crib/Skittles/Bingo

Tues - Club members tote prizes to £3000

Wed - Men's Darts incl Gwent Super League

Thurs - Mencap till 9pm.
Ladies Darts

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This month at Chepstow and Caldicot Lions saw the end of a major community project for the club, as it assisted Chepstow Boxing Club with the provision of brand new equipment for their gym.

New gloves, punch bags, rowing machine, rope and corner covers, plus new sports clothing and protective equipment, head guards and new flooring have all been provided by the Lions at a total cost of £6,000 to bring the equipment up to the required standard.

Lion President Brian Prout and Vice President John Robinson Chairman of Welfare, were delighted to attend a presentation evening at the club too see the youngsters trying out the new equipment, Lion President Brian Prout commented on the new enthusiasm running through the club and that Chepstow and Caldicot Lions were proud to help the youth of the town.



Steve Wood who runs the club stated that *"with the new equipment they have been able to improve the training regime and allow more members to join, and with the new tracksuits the boxers now look and feel that they are part of a team. Since the introduction of the new equipment and attire there has been a real lift in the atmosphere at the club and this has shown in their latest results, last weekend they achieved well past their expectations with three boxers winning Welsh Novice Championships in their weight categories."*

They also have the Welsh Schoolboy Open Champion and their Female Welsh Elite Champion plus a GB Gold medallist, and without the help of organisations such as the Chepstow and Caldicot Lions this would not be possible"

Photos show Lion president Brian Prout and Lion Graham Probert with the youngsters showing off their new tracksuits and the boxers trying out the new equipment.



CHEPSTOW & CALDICOT LIONS CLUB




The Singing Clubbers in Concert


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Chepstow Wool Shop would like to wish local residents a very Happy Christmas & New Year

Please note that we will be closed for the holidays on 24th December, re-opening on 3rd January, so be sure to come in early and stock up on your supplies!

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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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MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



Huge thank you to all the parents and children who supported our Macmillan coffee morning and helped us raise £520 for this very good cause. Congratulations to Demi Morgan who won the 'Bake Off' competition judged by Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood!

ENRICHING THE CURRICULUM



Foundation Phase children and staff have enjoyed a range of enrichment activities on Thursday afternoons this term including Safe Cycling, Orienteering, Music Band, Master Chef, Mad Scientists, Glorious Gardeners and Serious Sewing. Meanwhile, Key Stage 2 pupils had an enrichment day where they could choose from Scouting Experience, Culture Vultures, Outdoor Creations, Arts & Crafts, Roving Reporters, Musical Madness and Sports Stars. Huge thank you to the staff in both departments and parent helpers for all their hard work in making these sessions such fun!

FOOTBALL FINAL



Congratulations to both our football teams who have made it through to the Monmouthshire Schools finals to be held at Caldicot Leisure Centre. Our Y3/4 team were runners-up and our Y5/6 were the winners in the heats.

CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITION



We also had great success in the recent cross country competition where 20 of our pupils have made it through to the Monmouthshire Cross Country final to be held at Caldicot Castle in the New Year.

FOREST SCHOOL



Year 5 and Year 6 celebrated the end of their forest school visits with the customary mmmmm-marshmallow toasting session!

SCHOOL COUNCIL VISITS



Brooke, Joe and Archie were fantastic ambassadors for our school when they visited our Alliance schools - Thornwell and Pembroke. These "learning walks" focussed on the use of Welsh and Curriculum Cymraeg. Their findings were fed back to staff in a staff meeting and their findings will help us plan how we can further improve our Welsh provision.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US ...

in our school hall for our PTA

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 10th December 12-2pm



Castell Roc 2017

"After a dazzling array of star studded shows in 2016, Chepstow's Castell Roc Festival has been inundated with requests to play at the acclaimed Festival." Organiser Carol Mutlow told us. "We had an amazing 2016, with superb acts including The Proclaimers, The Shires and not forgetting Jools Holland OBE. It was an honour to see such household names at Chepstow and ultimately to see the thousands of visitors enjoying the shows and the Town as a whole. It's lovely to hear people saying things like 'I've lost count of how many times I've seen Jools Holland, but this was the best and by far'. As a non-profit making organisation it is very humbling and makes all the hard work worthwhile for the team behind the Festival..... We must convey our thanks to Cadw and the people of Chepstow."

Castell Roc will run again for 10 days next year starting on Thursday 17th August - Sunday 20th, and Wednesday 23rd - Tuesday 29th.

Castell Roc is extremely proud to announce details of the first shows for 2017 to go public:

On Thursday 17th August there is a chance to go back to the headbanging days of the 80s and 90s with Monsters of Rock. Three of the very best rock tributes on the bill: Hells Bells are probably the best known AC/DC tribute in the UK; followed by The Bon Jovi Experience, the only tribute to have played with JBJ himself and in his own words 'the best tribute I've ever seen!'; third up is the UK Guns N Roses, the most established GNR cover band having toured around the world.

Saturday 19th August will host The Magic of Motown. Performing the music of the Temptations, Diana Ross and The Supremes, Four Tops, Stevie Wonder, Jackson 5, Marvin Gaye, Lionel Richie and more - Reviving the wondrous, classic Motown hits with all the dazzling dance moves, glittering costume changes and superb musicianship of the original artistes. This show is simply astounding! Chepstow will certainly be "dancing in the streets" and if your feet hurt afterwards you can always "blame it on the boogie"!

Sunday 20th August - Collabro are the world's most successful musical theatre group. They met in 2014 above a pub in London for their first rehearsal and only a month later went on to rouse the whole of the Hammersmith Apollo into a standing ovation during their first ever public performance of Stars in their first audition for Britain's Got Talent. They went on to win the overall competition with one of the biggest majorities ever and have since toured worldwide.

Strictly limited tickets are already on sale for these shows from the Festival Box Office at Hannah's Music, Chepstow or via the Festival website at www.castellroc.co.uk

Further shows will be announced during the coming weeks and if anyone is interested in joining the community based Castell Roc team call Carol on 01291 627122.

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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 Hub 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.

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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 Walk for Health. Meets 10.00 am every Monday (except Bank Holidays) at the rear of Chepstow Leisure Car Park. Walks no longer than 3 miles with few if any stiles. Come and make new friends and get fitter at the same time. For further information contact Helen 01291 641856

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

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@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.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@stmarysrchepstow.org.uk www.stmarysrchepstow.org.uk

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

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

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

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

BABY AND TODDLER GROUPS

Chepstow Leisure Centre Playgroup. Contact: Karen Isaac 01291 623392 karenisaac61@aol.com

Chepstow Methodist Church Parent and Toddler Groups mornings 10am term time www.chepstowmethodist.org.uk

Cylch Ti A Fi Cas-Gwent Chepstow Library contact Mai Jones mai.jones@meithrin.co.uk Tuesdays 10.15-11.15

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

Mini Acorns Toddler Group, Burnt Barn Club, Burnt Barn Road, Bulwark. Contact Rachel Llewellyn-Bennett 07904212135 acornsplaygroup@aol.com Tuesdays term time 1-3pm.

Parent and Toddler Time at Whirlkidz 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



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/ChepstowMatters



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

NURSERIES / PRESCHOOLS

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

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

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

Tintern Village Hall

Christmas Craft and Bric-a-Brac Fair

SATURDAY 3rd December

12.00 to 5pm

FUNDRAISING FOR THE VILLAGE HALL

Ring
07512 856024
to book a table

Tables
available at
£5 each

Set up from 10 am

FREE ENTRY

Light refreshments available

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!

Advent Fair & Coffee Morning Sunday 4th December 11am-12noon

Coffee, Cake and a lovely selection of Homemade Christmas Goodies in the Church Room, Shirenewton



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!

Christmas Prize Bingo!



Festive family fun for all ages

7.15pm

Wednesday 7th December

In Tintern Village Hall

Everyone welcome

Teas, coffee, soft drinks & festive snacks available
Donations of prizes for the raffle also welcome!

Fundraising for the Village Hall
All proceeds go towards improvements and upkeep.

Events at Cheptow Community Hub (Chepstow Library)

'An evening of Christmas Celebration'

7pm, Tuesday 13th December featuring Karl Daymond and the Chepstow Singing Group, plus seasonal readings.

Refreshments will be available.

Free event.

Christmas Under 5's Storytime with special guest!

10.15am Friday 16th December Everyone is welcome to join us to enjoy some festive stories and songs. Free event

A Concert of Christmas Music

Sunday 18th December, 3pm,

St James Church Devauden

(NP16 6NB)

Sophie Adams (keyboard) plus the
Divertimenti Consort,

led by Moira Fraser-Hook,

will be performing a concert of carols,
readings and instrumental music. Free
Admission, free light refreshments, retiring
collection in aid of church funds.



Christmas Fun



Christmas Party for All Ages

Sunday 18th December
2-6pm

Tintern Village Hall

Music & Games from Andy's
Music Mania

Refreshments & Santa's Grotto
Tickets £3 each

Raising funds for Brigade
(Youth Group)

Carols Around the Village Christmas Tree



6.30pm Friday 16th December

Tredegar Arms Car Park,
Shirenewton

Bring a torch and loud voices!
(if wet will be inside Church)

Tintern Philosophy Circle

meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at
7.30pm at the Rose & Crown pub, Tintern.

£2. All welcome

Next Meeting:

20th Dec - Steve Spengland: On Time

SHIRENEWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Christmas Fete

SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER 12PM - 2PM

FREE
Entry



A little bird told us...
Santa will be making a special
appearance in his grotto

Please join us for a day of family fun and entertainment!

Stalls, games, face painting,
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Amazing raffle prizes

Special performance by Shirenewton
school choir

Mulled wine and festive food

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TUESDAY 27 DECEMBER

CHEPSTOW
RACING & EVENTS

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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 visit the website
www.chepstow-racecourse.co.uk

MONMOUTH
SANTA
FUN RUN



Sunday 4th December 2016, run
starts at 10:00am, Monnow Bridge
Monmouth

CHEPSTOW RACING & EVENTS

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES AND EVENTS

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

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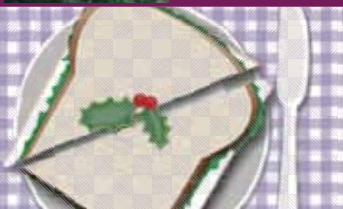


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www.chepstowgardencentre.co.uk

MON-FRI 9am-6pm
SAT 9am-5:30pm
SUN 10.30am-4.30pm

CHEPSTOW
Garden Centre