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August/September 2017

# Community Chepstow Matters

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## Dear Readers...

School's out for Summer!!! But there is plenty happening across our town to keep the children (and their parents) busy. Sign up primary age children for the Summer Reading Challenge at the Library (Chepstow Community Hub) and look out for their activity days (see p25). Mojo Active is running their fun active holiday club see p23, Chepstow Racecourse host their Family Race Day on Bank Holiday Monday 28th August - see more on this on p12 and don't forget Chepstow Show on the 12th.

Did you take part in the Norman re-enactment mid-July? See p5 for more on this and we also have feedback on the Garden City Centenary celebrations on pages 20-21.

This month I visited the newly opened Liam Bond Golf Academy in Tidenham, for all levels of golf enthusiasts from beginners to professional. They also have an offer for our readers of your first bucket of balls for FREE - more information on the Golf Academy is on pages 6-7.

We have news from the Chepstow Lions and Rotary Clubs for you in this edition, as well as school news from Pembroke Primary, Chepstow and Wydean. Good luck to those students awaiting GCSE and A'Levels results this month - we hope you achieve your expectations!

If you would like to appear in our next issue, the deadline will be 15th September. Until then, we hope you enjoy the read!

Jaci x

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## Chepstow 950 years: 1067 – 2017

Thank you to Chepstow Chamber of Commerce & Tourism for sharing their photos with us of the procession and Norman fair which took place on Saturday 15th July.

The local community was encouraged to join with Norman re-enactors as "William FitzOsbern" lead a procession of his Norman "Conquerors" from the High Street (the Norman market-place) down through the town to the Castle green. William FitzOsbern was a close support to King William and fought with him at the Battle of Hastings. He became the King's chief military strategist and castle builder and established castles and garrisons at Monmouth, Clifford and Wigmore, but his greatest work was our magnificent castle at Chepstow, on the mouth of the river Wye. Chepstow became a springboard for westward Norman expeditions and the focal point of Norman settlement in Wales. Construction of Chepstow's "Great Hall," was begun by FitzOsbern 950 years ago, in 1067, and still stands today, the oldest surviving stone castle of its type in Britain.

In celebration of 150 years, there was the Norman re-enactors camp at the green in front of the Castle, living history displays and demonstrations of Norman combat. It was a great afternoon with musical entertainment from the The Singing Club and South Monmouthshire Celtic folk band as well as Chepstow Festival's popular 'medieval' style games.





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**New Golf Training Facility Now Open!**

Last month saw the opening of a brand new facility for golf enthusiasts of all ages and abilities, from beginners through to professionals. Chepstow Matters was pleased to be invited down to visit the Liam Bond Golf Academy and see what it has to offer.

Based just outside Chepstow, next to the Hanley Farm Shop in Tidenham, the golf academy has been initiated by Class AA PGA Professional golf player Liam Bond, who has been a tournament professional for over 20 years, and played on the European Tour since 2005. It has long been Liam's dream to open an academy of golfing excellence - one that has now been realised:

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Very much a family venture, Liam is aided by wife Emma in the running the facility, which features an indoor teaching studio fitted out with the latest technology (see photo right) to offer professional golf tuition and coaching tailored to developing your game and having more fun on the golf course. In addition, the academy has a brand new, purpose built 10 bay golf driving range, boasting the very best in range equipment that Liam and Emma are confident will be appreciated by all local golfers, old and new alike.

Following a successful open day in early July, the academy is now fully open for business. With one-on-one coaching available, ladies only sessions, senior group coaching and also a Junior Academy starting in September, there is plenty for everyone.

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**Inspiring Learning ...**

**News from Chepstow School  
(taken from final term newsletter)**

**Matilda**



The KS3 Drama Club put on a wonderful version of Matilda this term. Miss Jones (Head of Usk House and Drama teacher) said, "I am really proud of how hard working our KS3 Drama club have been this year. Thank you for all your hard work! A special thank you goes to Megan Marsh in Year 12 who supported as assistant director and choreographer throughout the rehearsal process."

KS3 Drama Club student Matilda Berkett said, "Matilda the Musical' from my perspective was fantastic! I loved the exciting build up and it made the show feel special. I played the role of 'Mrs Wormward' and I had so much fun. Thanks to Miss Jones, I had the best time ever doing the show. Performing in 'Matilda' has helped my confidence and has helped me develop my drama skills. I can't wait to be in the next show."

Ben Ferns, also a Drama Club student said "Drama club in KS3 was so much fun this year, there was never a dull moment and everyone was always smiling. It was nice to perform for the primary schools as it gave them a taster of what Drama and Drama club is like for when they come to Chepstow School. "

## **Sports Personality of the Year 2017**

This was the third SPOTY presentation evening with ten students nominated for the prestigious SPOTY 2017 award. All ten nominees have and continue to represent their sports at a National level and beyond. Throughout the evening numerous trophies, medals and certificates were presented including player of the season, most improved player and players' player. Rosie Eccles came back to present some awards. Rosie is a past student who has just completed her degree with a first class honours and represents Wales and Team GB in boxing. Rosie will be at the

Commonwealth games in 2018 representing Wales. We wish her luck! Team of the year was awarded to the U16 school badminton team who were crowned Welsh Champions. Rebecca Looock in Year 9 won the Rosie Eccles commitment to female school sport award and Ben Ferns the Barney Nightingale commitment to boys sports award. The evening ended with the ten SPOTY nominees coming onto the stage to hear the top three nominations.

The overall winners were:

1st place – Jake Gaskell  
2nd place – Heather Dent  
3rd place – Morgan Daley

Congratulations to all of you!



## **Take Over Day**

On Thursday 29th June 2017 Chepstow Students had the opportunity to Take Over the school! Whilst the staff sat back, students taught across different subject areas, working in the learning hub and managing the school as part of the senior leadership TEAM. From managing budgets to behaviour, creating and delivering inspiring lessons the students involved really shone. The staff commented upon the excellent ideas and initiatives they used, and feedback from students showed how much they enjoyed the day (particular being called Miss!). Take over Head teacher Kyle Mailey commented on the level of insight he gained from the experience, and Callum and Oliver (our humanities teachers) went above and beyond with the outstanding resources they provided. It was a pleasure to work with these students and we look forward to seeing how they develop these skills for next year. Congratulations to all involved.

## **Young Poet Success**

Congratulations to Hannah Crocombe, year 8, who has just won the Mitcheldean Forest Young Poet age 12-16 award for the second year running! With a high entry level this year, the judges were incredibly complimentary commenting that her poem really stood out, sending tingles down the spine. The recital was held on 15th July and the team will visit Hannah in school in September to make a recording for the website.



## All Change at Chepstow & District Rotary



As one door closes another opens. Tuesday 4th July was handover night for the Chepstow & District Rotary Club at a dinner held at Abbey Mill, Tintern. The Rotary Presidents' chain of office that displays all past presidents of this 50-year-old local club, was transferred from the outgoing President, Mac McCarty (right in above photo) to his successor for the coming year namely Mr David Burr (left in above photo) of Sedbury Lane, Chepstow.

After a very busy year during which several youth programmes have been staged, dictionaries donated to primary schools, Tintern carol services held, visits to the German twin club, many social events and many grants made in response to local appeals, it was time for a new face to be in charge. David has served as a Rotarian for many years and he and his wife, Joyce, continue to support all of the major events. On this festive evening David briefed the club on the programme for the coming year that promises to include community, charity and social events a-plenty.

As part of this changeover Rotarian Richard Wickham, who lives in nearby Woolaston, became the club's Senior Vice President. Richard, and his wife Anne moved to the area



from Canterbury where he had served as Rotarian for many years. *Photo bottom left shows David with Richard.*

Rotarian Michael Bale and his wife Bronwyn live in St Lawrence Park and moved from Ilfracombe to Chepstow some 20 years ago. For his exceptional service and dedication to the club Michael was presented with The Paul Harris Fellowship medal. *(photo below shows Michael with Mac)*



So, with the new officers in place, it was time for the whole club to look forward to another busy, but most enjoyable Rotary year!

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## Rotary at the Dell School

At The Dell Primary School in Welsh Street, Chepstow, on Wednesday 19 July, over 400 pupils gathered when Rotarian Christopher Wilson presented Rotary illustrated dictionaries to pupils on behalf the Chepstow & District Rotary Club. Head Teacher, Steve King stated that the prizes were to be awarded to those students who had shown the most improvement in their year. He also thanked the local Rotary Club for their ongoing support and their encouragement of learning.

Following a short talk on the aims and ideals of the international Rotary organisation, the students who were selected to receive the dictionaries were (L to R Front) Alannah Mora (Year 1), Cameron Hemmings (Reception class) and Charlotte Scott (Year 2). (L to R Rear) Olivia Pitt (Year 3), Casper Durman (Year 5) and Eliza Davison (Year 4) (photo also shows Rotarian Christopher Wilson).

The Chepstow Rotary Club continues to support many community initiatives, including several competitions for young people for speaking, music, writing and technical ability. It also includes this annual event, where a total of 72 dictionaries were presented to 12 local primary schools. The Club considers that presenting the dictionaries to children in the local schools encourages a love of reading and learning in the young.

***The Chepstow Rotary Club is now actively seeking new members and so do visit [www.chepstowrotary.org.uk](http://www.chepstowrotary.org.uk)***



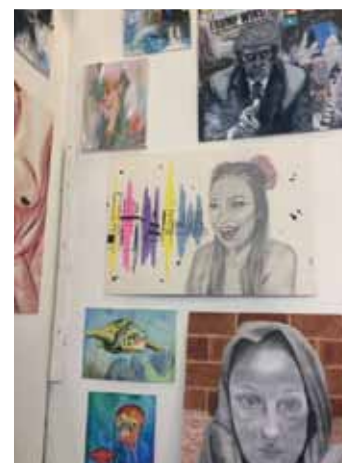
## Creativity Projects & Creativity Festival – Wyedean School

Year 9 students at Wyedean School have been busy working on a Street Art project with the 'BARK' initiative – a collaboration between schools and youth groups across the Forest of Dean. We worked with a professional street artist Tom Sledmore of Paintsmiths, Bristol who taught us specialist skills in freehand spray painting and stencil layering to create several large-scale artworks which will be exhibited in the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail throughout September.

These works provided a chance for students to have their say about major issues which are important to them, from environmental issues to bullying. The project also provided a chance to build collaboration skills and resilience as the group faced challenges of working to deadlines and some extreme weather conditions! The resilience, tenacity and skill displayed by students impressed even the professionals – outstanding work was produced.

As part of our Art Enrichment and Outreach activities students have recently created a Sensory Mural for Chepstow Community Hospital for all patients to enjoy and are involved in creating art works for various primary schools in the area.

The Wyedean School Creativity Festival held on Wednesday 19th July celebrated all things creative with live music, dance, drama performances, art exhibitions, craft stalls, delicious street food and a few festival surprises! The event raised funds for both the Young Minds charity helping young people through challenging times, and also towards improving out arts facilities at Wyedean School for community use.



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## Garden City Centenary Celebrations

In the words of one of the songs that drifted over this corner of Chepstow on July 1st: **'just a perfect day'**. The sun shone and young and old, as well as a fair few four-legged friends, came out to celebrate the centenary of the building of Garden City in a day of music, fun and community.

Garden City (originally known as Hardwick Garden City) was built during the First World War to house workers at Chepstow's National Shipyard no. 1, which later became the Fairfield Mabey site. Following the principles of the Garden City movement, the suburb was built with lots of open spaces, each house fitting into the contours of the site, with generous gardens and many individual features. The development pioneered the use of concrete blocks, which were made on site using prisoner-of-war labour. Workers came from all over the United Kingdom, and many of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren still live there, although the area is also popular with families moving in.

The Centenary Fun Day was organised by the Garden City Community Group, which was set up by local residents in 2011. Since then the Group has organised activities such as Christmas, Halloween and Easter celebrations; tree and bulb planting and regular litter picks. A corner of the playing field has been developed as a natural play area and another area contains a barbecue and seating area for community use. Future plans for the improvement of the playing field area – based on ongoing consultation with residents - include a sensory garden (for which funding has already been secured) as well as dedicated play areas for younger children and teenagers. Longer term, it is hoped to install exercise equipment, a well-being track for running and cycling and a community hub including public toilets, making the area an accessible and inclusive resource for all the people of Garden City.

On July 1st, a trail of balloons ran from the town centre to the playing field. Music for all tastes was provided by the Chepstow Singing Club, Chepstow Musical Youth Theatre, Oceans, NightJar, Giles Norman & Dave Harranty and John Mcconnachie. Other events included a dog show, a martial arts demonstration, defibrillator demonstrations, puppet entertainment and a bouncy



castle. A range of stalls sold cakes, plants and bric-a-brac and visitors could enjoy a hog roast and barbecue washed down by real ale. Transition Chepstow offered tours of the wildflower meadow at Piggy's Hill.

A particular draw, especially for older residents, was the history display, which brought together photographs, newspaper cuttings and memories from the last hundred years – many enjoyed spotting themselves and their friends in photos from the old Portwall School, a long-ago football team or a costumed silver jubilee parade.

Last but not least, the day raised over £1,400 towards the Garden City Community Group's future projects. The Group would like to thank everybody who contributed their time and energy, including Chepstow & Caldicot Lions, the British Legion, the Round Table, the Welsh Ambulance Service, the Chepstow Fire Service, Transition Chepstow and many, many more.



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## 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 [acornsplaygroup@aol.com](mailto:acornsplaygroup@aol.com), phone 07904 212135, or visit the website [www.littleacornsplaygroup.co.uk](http://www.littleacornsplaygroup.co.uk)



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## This is what it's like to be in year 6 at Pembroke Primary...

By Sophie, Ethan, Evie, Madi and Alys

To kick off the year, STEMworks came in to teach us how to make our own fairground rides and programme them to make music, move and have lights. After that we went to the Drill Hall to celebrate 50 years of the Severn Bridge by building a mini version for us to walk along.

In November PC Finister visited us to talk about how to stay safe on the internet; it was fun.

At the end of term all Keystage 2 performed Cinderella, Rockerfella; we spent a lot of time practicing!

At the end of January, we had to say goodbye to our favourite TA, Mrs Jones. For the rest of the half term we were learning Taiko drumming. We really enjoyed it. We had an exciting visit by the author of Witch Wars, Sibeal Pounder. It was so funny because we turned Mr Giles into Mr Chubby Bunny.

We celebrated St David's day by doing Welsh themed competitions. Aaron became the Bard with his winning poem. The Police came to teach us how to do CPR and what to do when someone is choking. Sheldon and Dean came to teach us how to beatbox and rap.

In May year 6 had some brilliant trips to Cardiff Bay. We had a tour around the Millennium Centre and went back stage to Scenery Street. Also, we went to the Senydd to have a debate about school times. We learned so much on our trip to Techniquet. At the BBC Dr. Who Experience we met weeping angels and the Doctor, we also drove the Tardis! On another trip we went to Cardiff Castle to watch jousting. We looked at armour and did tricks with sticks and ribbons. There were two teams for jousting. Red and blue. We were blue supporters; blue won! After jousting we could buy bows and arrows and swords and we had a battle.

PC Finister came back to talk to us about drugs and which ones are good medicines and which ones are bad and what to do when you see them. She also told us which ones are legal and which are illegal. She showed us fake samples of different drugs.

At the end of term we were all very excited to be visiting the Harry Potter Studios!

*photos show, top to bottom: Anthony Gormley style; Bridge Building; Inuit Wrestling; Indian Assembly*



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**Kestrel Gymnastics Club's Squad gymnasts, aged 3 yrs onwards, put on a great Summer Show for their family and friends, showing their skills on all apparatus.**

The gymnasts proudly demonstrated what they had achieved since last year's performance, from Development Squad level to those at National level.

Kestrel has had many competition successes this year, and hope to do well with gymnasts competing in the British Tumbling NDP Finals in Telford, and in the Adult British Championships before the end of the Summer.

Chepstow Matters wishes them lots of luck and look forward to hearing how they got on!

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**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

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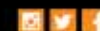
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**June and the start of July has been a very busy time for Chepstow and Caldicot Lions Club, it saw the culmination of several major projects in the community.**

The Welfare committee led by Lion Ray Nash provided a defibrillator to the St.Arvals community, which has been sited in the Piercefield Inn. This is the twelfth donated to local communities of Chepstow and Caldicot, and a further four have been earmarked for Itton, Myndd Bach, Chepstow Town and Mathern.

Saturday the 10th of June saw Chepstow Lions provide entertainment for the children at the Shirenewton Fete, they also provided stewards for the car parking. Special mention must be made of Cadet Lance Corporal Joshua Prout of the Caldicot Army Cadets who volunteered to help the lions through the day; he worked tirelessly and was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the club.

The Club along with several other Lions clubs visited the Burnt Barn Club in Bulwark for a social evening. The Chepstow and Caldicot Lions would like to thank Mr Bob Beckett and the members of the Burnt Barn for the very generous hospitality.

As reported in the Chepstow Matters Magazine previously Chepstow and Caldicot Lions were delighted to attend the opening of Pembroke Road School's new running track, a great innovation by the school to provide a source of keeping fit for the pupils.

Earlier this month saw the Lions again turn out at another Fete, this time it was the Garden City 100 birthday celebrations, again helping ensure the children were entertained.

Chepstow and Caldicot Lions were also pleased to induct two new members into the Club. The new Lion President Lion John Robinson presented Lions badges to Lion Denise Harrison and Lion John Jenkins.



The Club's Annual bucket Collection was held this year in Tesco Store Chepstow and again the people of Chepstow and Caldicot recognised the work the Lions carry out in the community by donating over £400, which will all go to help local causes. Chepstow and Caldicot Lions would like to thank Tesco for the considerable help and all those that donated over the two days.



One of the club's largest projects this year came to a conclusion by providing high visibility vests for all primary schools in the area. In total over 1100 vests were provided for those children who have to walk to school, hopefully this will make it much safer in the autumn and winter seasons.

Another school Project the Most Improved Pupil Award, was presented at Chepstow School this month by Lion President John Robinson, the pupils were chosen by their form teachers for their continued improvement throughout the academic year, this year's recipients were Adam Wilkinson, Mia Hatcher and Lillia Burford-Jones.



Finally, the Chepstow and Caldicot Lions are very sad to announce the death of one of its members. Lion Gloria Williams, better known to her fellow Lions as Kay. Kay was one of the first ladies to join the club in 2015, and passed away very suddenly this month after a short illness, the club (and Chepstow Matters) would like to extend their sympathy to Lion Glyn Williams and his family for their loss.



## KS3 Maths & Science trip the Big Bang Fair, Bristol

by Stuart Motson, 3 i/c Sciences Learning Area

At Wydean School and Sixth Form Centre we try our very best to give students of all ability a wide range of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematical opportunities. There have been many occasions this year where we have taken learning outside the classroom or arranged inspirational speakers to come to us to help broaden the horizons of our students.

For example, back in October Year 10 girls enjoyed presentations from WISE (Women in Science and Engineering) to help them recognise their own skills and what sort of Science careers are open to all.

In March, Wydean students were wowed watching the Prof. Robert Winston and Prof. Alice Roberts perform live at the Bristol Colston Hall at GCSE Science Live! Three other top academics lectured to a packed audience and students received exam coaching from a Chief Examiner to boost grades.

In the spring Year 9 students competed in The Times Fame Lab Academy public speaking competition (where Josh Thomas came a brilliant second in the regional final). In addition, in June Mr Gibson and intrepid technologists went to Reid Lifting, Chepstow to see a prototype of Bloodhound SSC (the British car that aims to break the world land speed later this year). Also in June, more students enjoyed the glorious weather at The Cheltenham Science Festival and soaked up more inspirational science ideas and STEM career information.

Most recently on 7th July, students enjoyed an inspirational afternoon at the Big Bang Fair, Bristol. Twenty-eight budding student Scientists, Mathematicians, Engineers and Technologists explored two floors of interactive exhibits and chatted to employers and graduates from a range of local Universities. Students really benefitted from discussing university courses, qualifications, aspirations and local career opportunities on our doorstep that many had no idea existed.

In the Research Zone scientists from local Universities gave hands on demonstrations, letting students do real experiments to show them what research is really like, and what it takes to be a researcher. In the Enterprise Zone a wide range of local companies delivered great demonstrations about the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) that goes on in their companies. Lots of Universities and Colleges also gave advice and information about degrees and apprenticeship opportunities.

Students aged between 11 and 14 enjoyed the amazing demonstrations of liquid nitrogen and dry ice to explore changes of state. Many tried using virtual reality goggles to practice assembling the components of a nuclear reactor. Hydrogen and oxygen was exploded (safely!). The Towers of Hanoi were resolved. Servers were disassembled and reconstructed. Remotely operated robots were used to simulate decommissioning of a nuclear power station. Students transferred chemical energy from themselves into electricity via a pedal bike dynamo. Towers were designed and constructed (winning a remote control drone for two lucky Wydean students). Robotics, microscopy, genetic engineering and many more STEM areas were explored.



## Wydean Year 11 Prom

The Wydean Year 11 Prom was held at the end of June (after all exams had finished!) at Coldra Court, Newport. The evening was fabulous in every way and the students and staff all joined together in an evening of celebration. The girls looked beautiful and displayed excellent taste and style in their choices of dress. The boys had equally gone to a lot of trouble to look smart. Everyone did themselves proud.

There was an Awards Ceremony and all winners wore their sashes for the rest of the evening with pride. The winners were voted for by the students and included Carlie and Bryce as Prom Queen and King; Beth for Best Smile; and Arion for Best Banter.

The school was complimented by the Coldra Court staff for such polite and pleasant students and there was, indeed, a lovely positive atmosphere all evening. The Prom Committee did a marvellous job of designing and sourcing the table decorations and their decision to have a photo booth proved a very popular one. Well done to all of you!

Goodbye and good luck to this excellent year group – it is the end of an era but everyone surely has a great future ahead of them.



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

### CHEPSTOW COMMUNITY LISTINGS

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**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.

#### Doctors Surgeries and Community Hospital

Chepstow Community Hospital, Tempest Way, Chepstow, NP16 5YX 01291 636636

Town Gate Practice, Tempest Way, Chepstow, NP16 5XP 01291 440065

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Vauxhall Surgery Vauxhall Lane, Chepstow, NP16 5PZ 01291 636100

**Police Station** 14 Moor Street, Chepstow, NP16 5XW 01633 838111

### LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

**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 Mon, Weds, Thurs 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** Wednesdays 7.30 pm Function Room Conservative Club, Moor Street. http://chepstowfolkdance.weebly.com/

**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 7.30-9.30pm. 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 Henry Hodges, 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

**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

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!

**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

**Mathern, Mounton and Pwllmeyric Villages in Bloom** Meet 7pm last Thur of the month, bi-monthly (Jan, Mar, May, July, Sep, Nov) Mathern Village Hall. https://www.facebook.com/MMPVB/ email: mmpvb@btinternet.com

**Movie Night** at Bulwark 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 427266 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 Meets the 1st Tuesday of the month 2pm, Chepstow Drill Hall. Check out the website for more information.

**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

**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

**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 acornspalygroup@aol.com Tuesdays term time 1-3pm.

**Parent and Toddler Time at Whirlikidz** Unit 2, School Hill Business Centre, 01291 628700 Mondays 10-12 term time

**Shirenewton Parent and Toddler** Shirenewton Recreation Hall, contact Paula Siddall p.rimmer10@btinternet.com every Thurs 1.30-3pm

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

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



Please support us and connect with us:  
**@ChepstowMatters**



/ChepstowMatters





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

### NURSERIES / PRESCHOOLS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### PRIMARY SCHOOLS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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

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

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

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

### SPORTS CLUBS

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Chepstow Cricket Club** www.chepstow.play-cricket.com  
markburch1228@hotmail.com 01291 622126

**Chepstow Cycling Club** www.chepstowcyclingclub.wales/

**Chepstow Darts League** contact Rob Murrin - murrinrobe@  
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

## Children's Events at Chepstow Community Hub this Summer

THE READING AGENCY AND LIBRARIES PRESENT

# ANIMAL AGENTS

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2017  
animal-agents.org.uk #AnimalAgents

**Stories & Crafts**  
11.00am-12.00 noon  
Thursdays 3, 10, 17, 24 August

**Baby Rhyme Time**  
Every Thursday at 2.15pm  
30 minutes session

**Under 5's Story Time**  
Every Friday at 10.15am-  
10.45am



### Louby Lou's Interactive Storytelling



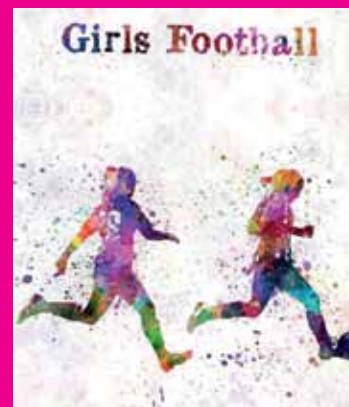
*Can you help the BFG on a special dream  
catching mission to trap troglglehumpers and  
fly after phizzwizards?*

Join Louby Lou for a magical morning story that  
will be sure to entertain, engage and stimulate  
your children's imaginations in a fun and creative  
way. Based around this family favourite, we will  
use action, sound props, costumer, role play  
and fishing nets to take you and your child on a  
storytelling adventure that will be jam packed with  
fun activities to keep them busy this half term!

**Saturday 12th August, 10.30am-11.30am Ages  
4 to 10 years £4 per child.**

TO BOOK YOUR SPACE please visit  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/louby-lous-interactive-  
storytelling-](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/louby-lous-interactive-storytelling-)

where you can purchase your tickets. Please note  
there will be a limited number of spaces available  
and all children will need to be accompanied by  
an adult. All children to be accounted for when  
booking please, due to limited spacing.



The Chepstow girls team are  
entering the local league this  
September and are looking for  
girls to join the team.

Training is Fridays in Chepstow  
from 6pm and games are on  
Sundays.

You will be welcome no matter  
what your skill level. So if you  
love football and fancy coming  
along for a taster session  
please contact

Andy 07540 789964  
chepstowtowngirls@gmail.com

**CHEPSTOW TOWN GIRLS**  
JOIN OUR TEAM!



AGES 8 -14 YRS  
EMAIL: [chepstowtowngirls@gmail.com](mailto:chepstowtowngirls@gmail.com)  
TEL: 07540 789964



# Community Noticeboard

to promote your non-profit making event for FREE email [community@mattersmagazines.co.uk](mailto:community@mattersmagazines.co.uk)

## CHEPSTOW RACING & EVENTS

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES AND EVENTS

### AUGUST

THUR 17th KILLER QUEEN RACE NIGHT  
THUR 24th AFTERNOON FLAT RACING  
FRI 25th FEEDER THE HOMECOMING  
MON 28th BANK HOLIDAY FAMILY RACEDAY

### SEPTEMBER

WEDS 6TH SUMMER AFTERNOON RACING  
THUR 14TH SUMMER AFTERNOON RACING  
TUES 19TH SUMMER AFTERNOON RACING

### OCTOBER

SAT 14TH JUMPS SEASON OPENER  
SUN 15TH JUMPS SEASON OPENER

To Book Tickets

[www.chepstow-racecourse.co.uk](http://www.chepstow-racecourse.co.uk)

**Tel: 01291 622260**

**Friday 11th August 7pm**

## Music for a Summers Evening

at St James Church, Devauden (NP16 6NN) -

Join us for performances by Alison Wray (soprano), The Kempton Strng Ensemble, Sophie Adams (keyboard), Moira Fraser-Hook and Annette Pagliaro (Recorder).

Free Admission, free light refreshments, retiring collection in aid of church funds.

## Mathern Mill Open Day

on Saturday 19th August 2017

open from 2 to 5pm. Entrance free.

Historic water mill in Mathern with much of the machinery intact. Discover how the mill worked and three centuries of its history. Plenty to see and do for all the family.

Postcode NP16 6LG

More information tel. 01291 622282

Find your lost balance and do something awesome for yourself



Itton Village Hall

Sunday 13th August

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

All abilities and ages welcome

Call/text Melissa on 07799206703



## Chepstow Cycling Club

was only launched in January this year and already has nearly 100 members.



On 17th September the club are re-running the first ride ever done by club members – back in 1888 – this is planned to be an annual historic ride from Chepstow to Monmouth and back, so book the date in your diary!

<http://www.chepstowcyclingclub.wales/>

NEW SEASON

## Tintern Film Nights

Big-screen movies close to home from Friends of Tintern

Friday 11th August

## Viceroy's House

Hugh Bonneville & Gillian Anderson in this gripping political drama

Friday 8th September

## Their Finest

A very British kind of magic delivered by Bill Nighy & Gemma Arterton

Friday 13th October

## The Sense of an Ending

A compelling adaptation with Charlotte Rampling & Jim Broadbent

Friday 10th November

## Churchill

The scalpel-sharp, timely lesson in leadership with brilliant Brian Cox

Friday 8th December

## The Time of Their Lives

Join a feel-good escapist treat with Joan Collins and Pauline Collins

All shows start at 7.45pm Tickets £4.00 at the door, Village Hall

## Shirenewton VILLAGE MARKET

Every third Saturday  
10am-12pm in the Rec Hall

## Mounton Church Summer Lunch at Mathern Village Hall



Saturday 16th September at 12.30

Two course lunch and a glass of fizz for £12.50

For tickets contact Lynne Brierley on 01291621778

All proceeds to Mounton Church



Author Event at  
Chepstow Community Hub  
Thursday 17th August, 7pm  
**FREE EVENT**



Acclaimed crime writer Matt Johnson (Ex-solder, Ex-cop) will be at Chepstow Hub to talk about his novel 'Wicked Game' and his new novel 'Deadly Game'.

## JOHN LESTER LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

Wednesdays 12.45pm – 1.45pm

St Mary's Priory, Upper Church St, Chepstow  
NP16 5HU,

Admission Free, donations to charity

UPCOMING CONCERTS

August 2nd - Anne Wilkins

August 9th - Mathern Ladies Choir

August 16th - Alex Kirk

August 23th - Georgina Malcolm  
(acc Duncan Honeybourne)

August 30th - Keith Evans & Michelle Hayes  
for more information call

St Marys Church, Chepstow  
07903 791276

or visit

<https://johnlesterlunchtimeconcerts.co.uk>

## CHEPSTOW SHOW

**Saturday 12th August**

at Chepstow Racecourse

Gates open at 8am

Public admission from 9:00am

Main Ring programme commences 9:30AM

This year's STAR attraction: STUNT MANIA.  
Stunt Mania in action



Show Day Admission prices:

Adults £10, Seniors £8, Children 5-16 £4,  
Under 5's are Free. Family tickets (2+3) £25.  
**SORRY BUT NO CARDS - CASH ONLY.**

Car parking free - please follow traffic signage and stewards' direction

**BANDS ON THE BANDSTAND**  
Summer Sundays 2.30pm-5pm  
Bring chairs and a picnic!

6th August - Swingcopation (Chepstow Community Big Band)  
13th August - John McConnachie  
20th August - Don't Tell Jonny (Folk)  
27th August - Twysted River (Country, Blues, Jazz, Rock)



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## All aspects of building and property maintenance.

We do not sub contract our work. This means that you will only ever deal with our professionals and will not pay a premium for any middle men.

### Our services include:

#### General Building

#### Roofing

#### Painting & Decorating

#### Electrics

#### Plumbing

#### Heating & Gas

#### Landscaping

#### Gardening

Conservatories

Tiling

Wet-rooms

Bespoke stairways

Carpentry

All aspects of plumbing

Tree surgery

Paving

Loft conversions

Plastering

Extensions

Disabled facilities

Barn conversions

Decking

PVC windows & doors

Stonemasonry

Groundworks

Charitable causes

Security systems

Kitchen & bathroom fitting

Roofing

Garage conversions

Brick laying

Wood burner installation

Pest control

...and much more!

"Toolbox Trades is a fabulous company with remarkable tradesmen. They are extremely reliable and always seemed to go about their work with smiles on their faces. We would recommend them to anyone."

**Mr and Mrs Stark, Cwmbran**

"As a letting agent we require trustworthy, honest, reliable and professional tradesmen to carry out all our general repairs for our rental properties. Toolbox Trades are all of these and more. I would recommend this firm to anyone."

**Richard Tuck Estate & Letting Agents, Blackwood**



## Advertising YOUR Business with Chepstow Matters couldn't be easier!

**Matters Magazines have been promoting local businesses within their local communities since 2005.**

### SUPPORT LOCAL!!!

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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!**

# 01633 526126

Toolbox Trades Limited - Registered in England and Wales - 09412429





# Summer

at Chepstow  
Garden Centre



Bedding  
Dianthus  
**£1.99**  
(usually £2.49)



NEWHALL FARM  
**Farm  
shop**

Fruit  
Vegetables  
Fresh Fish  
Butchers  
Local Cider  
and more!

## CHILDREN'S AFTERNOON

31st August  
**£7** per child  
Adults can join in  
Afternoon Tea  
£6 (nsp £8)

**TEA PARTY**  
AFTERNOON TEA  
LIVE MAGICIAN  
ANIMAL PETTING  
ACTIVITY BAG



Selected 3 ltr  
Herbaceous  
**2 for £12**  
(usually £8.99)



READY FOR THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

# CHILDREN'S BIZZI BAG

OUR BIZZI BAGS ARE A  
FUN ACTIVITY BAG WITH  
A CHOICE OF A SANDWICH,  
A DRINK AND 3 OTHER  
ITEMS FROM OUR  
BIZZI FOOD SELECTION.

**£3.50**  
USUALLY £4.50

AVAILABLE IN AUGUST, MONDAY - FRIDAY  
EXCLUDING BANK HOLIDAY, UNDER 12'S ONLY



**CHEPSTOW**  
Garden Centre

TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR MONTHLY OFFERS JOIN OUR **FREE GARDENER'S CLUB**  
Pwllmeyric, Chepstow NP16 6LF  
On the A48 just west of Chepstow  
**TEL: 01291 626035**  
[www.chepstowgardencentre.co.uk](http://www.chepstowgardencentre.co.uk)  
all offers subject to conditions, once stock gone offer ends

**MON-FRI 9am-6pm**  
**SAT 9am-5.30pm**  
**SUN 10.30am-4.30pm**