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April 2018

# Community Chepstow Matters

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## Inside this issue:

- Season starts for Chepstow Bowls Club
- 70 years of the Chepstow Society
- Wye Valley River Festival • Mathern Open Mill
- The Gift of Time at Joy's, Bulwark
- Chepstow Walking Festival • Charity Bike Ride

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## Dear Readers...

Well, after two snow storms in March, and snow still on the ground as I type this, it is really not feeling like Spring is on its way. Let's hope for a warmer Easter, although current weather reports dare to suggest that we might have a snowy one! This month's cover photo is of last year's bluebells; we can only hope they make an appearance soon this year, along with the sunshine!

This issue we bring you news of the Chepstow Society who are celebrating their 70th anniversary - turn the page for more. Chepstow Bowling Club opens for the season this month - you can read about them on p11. Joy's Gift Shop in Bulwark also gives its time to offering free activities for those living with dementia - read their article on p19. We bring you news of a very brave lady organising a Charity Bike Ride in May - she would love to receive your entry so if you can pedal a bike why not give it a go! See p17 for more. There is an opportunity for free admission into the Retro Rock Festival on the Bristol Downs this summer by volunteering as a collector for the charity Child Bereavement UK - see p18. We also bring you news of the Wye Valley River Festival on p32, and the full line up from Castell Roc on p25 and plenty more to read inside!

If it wasn't for our advertisers who support this community magazine we would not be able to bring it to you - so, as ever, a big shout out to all those who support us. Please do try and use their services whenever you have a need. If you would like to promote your business within Chepstow Matter do get in touch with me. Take care **Jaci** x until next time,

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**Seventy years ago, on 12 March 1948, a small group of people met in the Tudor Café on Beaufort Square in Chepstow.**

They agreed to set up a local amenity and historical society, dedicated to studying and protecting the town and its surroundings.

Now, in 2018, that society – the Chepstow Society – is still a thriving part of the town's life.

The Society was the idea of Ivor Waters, a local teacher who became the town's foremost historian as well as a poet, printer, and councillor. He was joined at early meetings by such luminaries as Lord Raglan, Barney O'Neill, and the young Trevor Evans – who, 70 years later and honoured with an MBE, remains the Society's President.

In those first years, the top priority was to set up a Museum in the town. This was achieved in 1949 when the town council gave the Society the use of the room over the Town Gate. As the collection expanded over the years, it outgrew its premises, and the Museum moved, firstly in 1968 to the old Board School on Bridge Street, and then in 1983 to its current site in Gwy House. Responsibility for the

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Museum passed to the County Council in the 1970s.

The early 1950s saw the Society flourish. It organised concerts with nationally-known performers, art shows and regular excursions. Ivor Waters in particular was responsible for producing a series of pamphlets and books on aspects of the town's history, all of them highly regarded, and many now valuable and collectable.

As time has passed, the Society has concentrated more on its core aims of protecting the town's heritage, informing residents and visitors about the history and environment of Chepstow and its surrounding area, and encouraging its protection and improvement.

The Society produced its first Town Trail leaflet in 1975, and has continued with regular publications about Chepstow's history. It was also responsible for helping to set up the information boards and paving slabs all around the town.

Now, the Chepstow Society meets in the Drill Hall in Lower Church Street, on the third Wednesday of each month, to hear talks about aspects of local history, and to discuss current issues important to the community.

We run excursions for members to places of interest – and sometimes longer holidays as well. We also promote and support local initiatives; and lobby organisations and authorities on local planning, transport, and environmental issues.

**The Society always welcomes new members.**

Membership costs £10 each year, and benefits include discounted meeting entrance fees and a regular newsletter, as well as the chance to join its excursions.

A small committee runs the Society. It welcomes new members who can contribute actively to its work – and can come up with ideas for keeping it relevant for the times in which we live.

As our Secretary, Henry Hodges, wrote at the time of our 50th birthday:



*"There will always be people in this ancient town ready to protect its history, architecture and unique environment. Those people are the future of the Chepstow Society."*

**For more information about joining the Society, please contact Marian Thomas, 01291 625591 – or just turn up at one of our meetings, and talk to the people there.**

We also have a website, now being updated and modernised – [www.chepsoc.co.uk](http://www.chepsoc.co.uk) – and a Facebook page.



Photos show clockwise: Ivor Waters (1907-92) - local teacher, historian and poet, and founder of the Society; The High Street in the 1950s, showing the Tudor Café - the Society's first meeting place; One of the Society's plaques beside the Port Wall

## MEETINGS 2018

**Wednesday evenings, 7.15 pm,  
at the Drill Hall, Lower Church St.,  
Chepstow NP16 5HJ**

**18 April –  
Naylor Firth - More Monmouthshire Oddments**

**16 May - Annual General Meeting**

**20 June – Paul Taylor - The Piercefield Caves**

**18 July – Andre Coutanche -  
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## The Promise of Easter

Perhaps I am odd, well lets face it I am odd, but I love Lent. The Church over the centuries in their wisdom recognise the reality of life. Christians who are true to their faith know to expect that life is not always going to be fun or easy and they may even experience push back for their faith. Christians in the West are unlikely to experience anything more than ridicule or, as happened recently, a TV programme comparing Christian belief to mental illness. Many other Christians in the world experience genuine persecution for their faith and may even face death for it, just as they did in the early days under the Roman Empire.

The Christian year reflects this reality of life, that it is both dark and light, there are great moments of joy, such as Christmas and moments of great heartache such as Good Friday. This is perhaps what I love about Lent. It is a time of self-reflection and repentance for all that has gone wrong in our lives. It forces us to own up to our own problems, our own darkness, not to blame it on anyone or anything else; such self honesty is truly liberating. If we deny our own darkness it is bound to come out in very destructive ways, but if we acknowledge it, shine a light on our darkness it loses all its power.

Also what I love about Lent is the journey we undertake. We start with self-reflection, which helps us identify the things in our life which need to be addressed, some of which we will be very attached to and are part of the identity we have created for ourselves. But we come to the point at the end of this self-reflection where we have to let go of these things that bind us, we need to let them die; we come to Good Friday. We need to let these things be nailed to the Cross with Jesus, and anytime you nail something to a cross it's bound to be painful and may feel like death, but it is unavoidable if we want true liberation from all that holds us back. Many people these days spend their lives trying to avoid the Good Friday experience, and given the luxury we have in the West it is easier than ever to do. But if we avoid Good Friday we can never know true freedom from fear, we can never truly live life to its fullest, we can never fully grow up and mature into the people we were always meant to be. We only have to look at the extreme example of this in the current President of the United States. It is only by going through Good Friday that our journey can continue.

But the thing I love most about the Lenten journey is that it does not end with the desolation of Good Friday, but the joy and hope of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday! We have journeyed through self-reflection to death on Good Friday, but now God, who is Love, restores us and destroys death itself. We are freed, liberated, released from all that binds us and holds us back from living life to its fullness. This is the message of Easter, this is the example that Jesus shows us, this is what it means to follow him. Following Jesus will not stop the tough reality of life affecting us, but it does promise that even in the mist of real life we will be set free to live life to its fullness, full of joy. The Christian journey always ends with the promise of resurrection to new life. So no matter what you have done, who you have been, what has happened to you in life, the promise of Easter is all that can be transformed into something brand new and something precious, if you are willing to follow Jesus in taking the journey through Lent, via Good Friday, to the glorious new life of Easter.

So my prayer for us all is that at this Easter time we will be brave enough to be truly honest about ourselves before God and allow God to transform our brokenness and darkness into something beautiful and new.

Happy Easter.

**The Revd Philip Averay, Vicar, Parish of Chepstow**

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## WHAT'S YOUR FINANCIAL PLAN FOR 2018?

*If you haven't given much thought to your New Year resolutions, there's still time even now and here's one you should seriously consider. Make 2018 the year you plan your long-term wealth and get the right advice to help you achieve your goals.*

### Review your financial objectives

It helps to start with a clear idea of what your goals are - have they changed? Think through what your key saving, spending and investment plans are for the next 12 months and decide what you want your money to do for you. For instance, are you looking to become debt-free, save for your children, or plan your retirement spending?

### Pensions

This year, you will be a year older and a year closer to your retirement. Pensions are one of the most efficient savings vehicles for the future, offering tax-free growth and tax relief on contributions. Plus, if you join a workplace scheme (including not opting out of pension auto-enrolment), then your employer will, in most cases, make contributions on your behalf, meaning you will effectively benefit from free money. Sitting down with us will help you get a clear picture of how much your pension is likely to be worth, and we will be able to tell you if you're saving enough for a comfortable retirement, or if you need to put aside more to ensure you have enough to live on in your later years.

### Review your savings and investments

Don't forget to make the most of this year's ISA allowance. For the 2017-2018 tax year it is a generous £20,000 or £40,000 for a couple in separate ISA accounts. ISAs are a great way to save tax effectively; each year more and more people are becoming 'ISA millionaires'.

If you've held a portfolio of investments for a while, it might be time to review its performance. We will be able to assess the stocks and shares you hold, and ensure the balance of your portfolio remains in line with your risk profile and asset allocation strategy. A review gives you the opportunity to consider moves like selling investments that are under performing or taking a profit from a holding

This year, you'll be a year older and a year closer to your retirement. Pensions are one of the most efficient savings vehicles for the future, offering tax-free growth and tax relief on contributions



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## Chepstow Bowling Club

**A full and varied fixture list awaits all members of Chepstow Bowling Club for 2018.**

The Green opens on Saturday, 14th April, and men's league fixtures commence the following Saturday. The ladies league season begins on Tuesday, 1st May, with a home match against St Julians BC of Newport.

The men's MBA (Monmouthshire Bowling Association) side finished a very creditable fourth in 2017 in the first division, under the leadership of Peter Bailey, who will again captain the side this year.

The men's GBL (Gwent Bowling League) side won the first division title, under the captaincy of Mike Roy, who will again lead the team this year.

The men also compete in the Newport OSL (Over 60s League) and will again be led by Dave King. The side had an outstanding season in 2017 finishing second in a league made up of 19 teams.

The Ladies teams, who had a very praiseworthy season and competed well in all competitions, are led this year by Diane Parsons in the South Wales and Monmouthshire League and by Jan Bowen in the Casnewydd League. There are also Mixed Friendly matches, on nearly every Wednesday and Thursday throughout the season, against teams from the Forest of Dean, Bristol and Gloucestershire, and this side will be led by Alan Harris. Coupled with internal and external competitions bowlers are also able to compete in county matches. All in all this makes for a very packed outdoor season for Chepstow bowlers and the committee wish everyone representing the club a very happy, successful and rewarding season ahead.

The Club are always on the look out for new members, of any age, who wish to take up bowling competitively or recreationally. Qualified coaches are always on hand at the Club and will offer guidance and support to any new members who wish to join.

**If you are brand new to the sport or a seasoned international, you will get a very warm welcome from the committee and fellow bowlers. All contact details are on our website [ChepstowBowlingClub@gmail.com](mailto:ChepstowBowlingClub@gmail.com)**

This year it is intended to hold an 'Open Day' which will probably be on Whitsun Bank Holiday Monday, 28th May (yet to be confirmed). If you don't want to wait that long then come along to the **'Opening of the Green' on Saturday, 14th April**, or any Monday afternoon where we hold our 'Club Day'. Let's all hope we have a wonderful and successful summer and, whether you're a club regular or a new member, it will be great to see you 'on the green'.

Mike Roy  
Hon Secretary



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## Chepstow Matters recently had the great pleasure of meeting with local artist and art historian, Keith Underwood.

Keith, now 83 years young, has lived in the Beachley/ Sedbury area of Chepstow since his parents moved here from Portsmouth following his father's posting to Beachley way back in 1939. Keith is a well-known member of the local community being an active member of several local community and historical groups across the town. Keith is such an interesting chap and very passionate about local history - it was delightful to spend time with him.

For many years Keith guided at Tintern Abbey as the original Brother Thomas and produced a statuette of the Blessed Virgin Mary, together with other artefacts including an illuminated manuscript book of pressed plants which was recently on show at Chepstow Museum. He has also guided at Chepstow Castle, mainly as Edmund, the Seneschal for Richard de Clare, but was sometimes also seen in full Cavalier kit as Thomas Underwood (photo right).

Back in the early 1990s, Keith was commissioned by Monmouthshire County Council to provide the murals at the Drill Hall at a time of major renovation (see bottom photo of one of the murals). He also gave presentations after the murals were completed, the first being in 1992 (photo above far right). Other accomplishments include creating the Earl of Worcester's heraldic achievement for the Town Gate, as well as the Chepstow map. He also worked with Ned Heywood on the design for the illustrative ceramic plaques to accompany the Town Trail in the streets of Chepstow.

As a boy, at Monmouth School, he was taught by the late Otto Macaig, the hundredth anniversary of whose birth will be celebrated in Monmouth next year, and Keith hopes to be a contributor.

Keith has just completed a piece to celebrate the 950th anniversary of William FitzOsbern, Norman builder of Chepstow Castle which was commenced in 1067. FitzOsbern, 1st Earl of Hereford and a relative and close counsellor to William the Conqueror, was known to have fought in The Battle of Hastings 1066 and was one of the great magnates of Early Norman England. He was one of the earliest and most vigorous advocates of the invasion of England.

As part of the assertion of Norman control over England and Wales, FitzOsbern was one of the major Norman castle builders with King William tasking him to build castles as launching points for Norman military expeditions and provide refuge for the King's men. Chepstow Castle, it has been reported, was his greatest achievement and became a springboard for westward Norman expeditions and the focal point of Norman settlement in Wales. FitzOsbern died in February 1071 at the Battle of Cassel in his native Normandy.

Keith's latest commission to celebrate FitzOsbern is an A5 parchment booklet (which you can see Keith working on in the main photo above) all of which will be hand written, in calligraphy, along with Keith's hand drawings for which he uses acrylic paints. It is now available to purchase from the Chepstow Bookshop.



*Drill Hall and Keith in costume photos reproduced with kind permission from the Chepstow Society*



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## Devauden Races - Next Race 7th May 2018

The Devauden Races is an entirely off-road event open to all ages and abilities with distances to suit all the family - from 10k to just 60m! It is held annually on May Bank Holiday Monday and starts and finishes at the Hood Memorial Hall in Devauden which is situated on the northern edge of Chepstow Park Woods. This year's event is on Monday 7th May 2018.

Since 2016, in recognition of its growing status and popularity, Devauden Races became an affiliated event with Welsh Athletics through the Spirit of Monmouth Running Club.

The charity event raises funds for the Hood Memorial Hall, in Devauden, and SARA (Severn Area Rescue Association) who provide invaluable assistance in many areas leading up to and throughout the event.

Online registration is now open at the website <http://www.devaudenraces.com>

Spaces are limited therefore on-the-day registration is not guaranteed. Booking on-line in advance is strongly recommended to avoid disappointment.



### COURSE RECORDS

Can you beat the course record?  
Current holders in male and female categories are:

#### 10k record

36:05 Mark Jennings (2013)

39:54 Katherine Matthew (2014)

#### 5k record

21:18 Thomas Weeks (2017)

23:18 Jenny Gow (2017)

## Mathern Mill: Open for National Mills Weekend

National Mills Weekend is the annual festival of the UK's milling heritage, and the chance for everyone to explore their local windmills and watermills. It is organised by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) Mills Section which was founded in 1931 to protect and promote windmills and watermills.

In 2018 it will take place on the 12th and 13th May and the theme will be Mills and Wildlife.

Mathern Mill, near Chepstow (NP16 6LG), will be open to visitors from 2pm to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday. Entry is free.

This watermill, dating back to at least the late 17th century, ground grain for the farmers of Mathern and the surrounding area until the 1960s. It was powered by an overshot water wheel, the skeleton of which can still be seen. In Victorian times an engine house was added to house a steam engine to increase the power and capacity of the mill. Much of the Victorian machinery remains in situ and visitors can get a good idea of what the mill was like and how it worked.

The mill is owned by Dave and Jan Bowen who began opening it to the public in 2015 on selected days throughout the summer.

*"We really enjoy showing the mill to people who are often surprised and delighted by what they find inside. We have done a lot of research into the mill's working life over three centuries and there are many stories to tell about the building and the people who lived and worked here. Because it is unrestored, the mill has an extraordinary atmosphere often commented on by our visitors."*

Mills Weekend is our largest event of the year and in 2017 we welcomed over 100 visitors. For 2018 we will have some new displays, some of which relate to the 'mills and wildlife' theme. We always have something to entertain our younger visitors and for mills weekend we have additional activities based on the theme."

Mills weekend is the chance for local people to look inside and find out more about the role of the mill in local life over the centuries. Further information on Mathern Mill, and on mills open nationwide, can be found on the National Mills Weekend website at [www.nationalmillsweekend.co.uk](http://www.nationalmillsweekend.co.uk) or contact Dave and Jan directly on 01291 622282 or email [bowendf@btinternet.com](mailto:bowendf@btinternet.com).



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## Chepstow Walking Festival Wednesday 4th – Sunday 8th April

Join us for 5 days of walking fun! This popular festival provides lots of great opportunities to meet other people who also love walking, make new friends and discover the stunning landscape and rich heritage that we have on our doorstep. You can learn more about the countryside and flora and fauna, visit establishments that rarely if ever open to the public or just enjoy a ramble with the dog some specially devised to avoid stiles and livestock where possible.

It's also a great way to introduce the kids to walking. Even if you usually walk only as a family unit or by yourself, it's rewarding to occasionally share your walking experience with others who enjoy the countryside. If you are new to country walking, unsure about where to go, or need an incentive to get your boots on, then this might be just the answer to get you started with experienced friendly walk leaders.

There are 34 guided walks ranging from 2 – 15 miles on offer.

A Supersaver Ticket of £15 gives you the opportunity to join as many walks as you wish or £5 for a single walk. Children Under 16 are free. Both tickets include transport and free parking at Chepstow where applicable.

The full programme and how to purchase your tickets can be found online [www.walksinchepstow.co.uk](http://www.walksinchepstow.co.uk) or visit Chepstow Tourist Information Centre 01291 623772 or Chepstow Museum 01291 625981. We're looking forward to meeting you!



## Entrants Welcomed for Charity Bike Ride 26th May

**Chepstow Matters was delighted to chat with a courageous and inspiring lady for this issue.**

Julie Harvey was diagnosed with an incurable Grade 4 Brain Tumour 15 months ago, having gone into hospital with a bad headache. She had an operation 2 days later to remove a brain tumour and then endured 6 weeks of daily radio- and chemo-therapy followed by a further 6 months of chemotherapy which in her own words *"knocks you out for 2 weeks of every month"*. In spite of all this, Julie has maintained her determination to fight back *"I'm just bloody minded really"* she told me *"why should I let this cancer define me and stop me doing what I want?"*.

Having previously undertaken 'the odd triathlon', in between her treatments Julie trained to undertake a power-walk midnight marathon around Edinburgh and a 2-mile sea swim and plans to undertake a 45-mile cycle in April.

**She is also organising a bike ride at the end of May to raise awareness and funds for the Brain Tumour Support group, without whom her life would have been so much more difficult since diagnosis.** *"I would be lost with out their help"* Julie told me *"I have a wonderful counsellor called Kate and I can totally be myself with her, let all my frustrations out. She enables me to go back out and face the world and keep being 'me'. The support they have given to me and to others is just so amazing, and I want to give them something back"*

**The bike ride is for anyone who can get on a bike and pedal! There are 3 routes 33km, 65km, 85km, and the cost is £20.00, £25.00 and £30.00.**

Riders can choose between 33km, 65km and 85km rides, costing £20/£25/£30. The rides will start from Thornbury Sailing Club in Oldbury on Severn and before the event Bacon Butties will be available. The entry fee will include Tea, coffee and cake when you finish, pitstop refreshments along the route and a medal for all finishers.

After the event you are welcome to relax at the sailing club. The bar will be open and there will be a BBQ serving hot food.

**For further information on the different routes (two of the routes come through Chepstow and the surrounds) and to enter the event, visit <https://thornburysc.org.uk> and click on the link.**

This is the first time Julie and her family have organised such an event and it is a family affair with her husband, daughters, uncle, cousin all being involved. *"Anyone not cycling is on cake-baking duty!"* Julie laughed.

**Top photo shows Julie's husband, her cousin, Julie, her uncle and her daughter, and inset Julie with her bike.**



*"When I am on my bike I feel free - I am not ill when I'm cycling"*



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**#giftoffitness**

Only applies to Platinum membership only on presentation of this flyer.

## Rock out at Retro festival for FREE

**LOVE LIVE music? Love the 80s? Then why not volunteer at Let's Rock retro festival this summer and enjoy the event for free?**

By signing up to do a 4 hour shift with festival charity partner, Child Bereavement UK, selling wristbands and raffle tickets on the day, you will gain entry to the festival without spending a single penny. Let's Rock Bristol will take place at The Downs on June 2nd and will include live performances from Marc Almond, Billy Ocean, ABC and many more.

Child Bereavement UK supports families when a baby or child of any age dies or is dying, or when a child faces bereavement.

The charity also trains professionals such as doctors, teachers and midwives to help them better understand and meet the needs of grieving families.

Ruth Sanger, Regional Fundraising & Communications Manager for the charity said: *"Last year we raised over £60,000 at Let's Rock festivals across the UK and we couldn't have done this without the support of our wonderful volunteers. The atmosphere on the day is brilliant and our volunteers really do enjoy themselves. So if you're tempted, please give us a call and find out how you can get involved."*

**Email [femke.bekker@childbereavementuk.org](mailto:femke.bekker@childbereavementuk.org) or call 01494 568932.**

**To find out more about the charity and for support please visit: [www.childbereavementuk.org](http://www.childbereavementuk.org) or call 0800 02 888 40**





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## Giving the Gift of Time, at Joy's Gift Shop, Bulwark

Joy's is a unique gift shop in Bulwark at the site of the old post office. Their motto is **"giving the gift of time"**.

The shop is open 6 days a week. Mondays to Friday from 10am to 4pm and Saturday 10am to 2pm. All profits from sales at Joy's are donated to both the Alzheimer's Society and Dementia UK.

**In addition to raising funds for charity, Joy's gives the gift of time by arranging activity sessions every afternoon for people with a Dementia related illness.**



Joy's is the brainchild of local lady Kate Lewis who is a Registered Nurse and runs her own social care training and consultancy business which helps to fund Joy's continuing support of the local community.

The shop is managed and run by Toni Murphy who has a passion for bringing the community together and raising funds for Dementia related charities, a cause that is close to her heart. Toni has relaunched Joy's and transformed it into a lively hub where you can buy gifts and greeting cards. They also have a photocopying service and a coffee lounge providing free teas, coffees, squash and biscuits, all just for a donation!

The activity sessions are available by booking in advance on **01291 629392** and are run every day from 10.00 am to 3.30 pm. Toni works hard to ensure that she can provide activities that are of interest to customers and are worthwhile. The environment is happy and safe, giving people a little bit of respite from the everyday pressures that living with dementia can bring. Sometimes a change of scenery, a cuppa and a chat is all that is needed!

Local artists are also encouraged to display their goods at Joy's and they happily donate a percentage of their profit to the chosen dementia related charities. Joy's is currently showcasing upcycled garden pots, cards with local scenes of Chepstow, T-towels, T-shirts, cosmetic bags, handbags, knitted animals, decorated glasses, trees of life, moon catchers, fairy doors and stones crafted into animals.

Last year from the donations of the refreshments and the commission of sales from the local artists and chocolates plus raffles...over £1,200 was made.....this year Toni hopes to better that!

This year at Joy's, Chocolates are on sale from the catalogue "Chocoholics" which include a Fair Trade range also there are chocolates for Mother's Day and Father's Day and also Easter

Comments from customers: **"Joy's is a godsend to me, I really enjoy coming here!"**

**"I can't believe the activity sessions are free! Mum really enjoys it and we know she is happy and safe whilst we have a couple of hours of free time!"**

**Kate and Toni (pictured above) welcome you to visit Joy's and see for yourselves – why not pop in and have a cuppa!**

**St John's on-the-Hill School raised £456 for Noah's Ark Children's Hospital Charity. Pupils at the school chose to support the charity at their Six Nations Rugby themed charity day on Friday 16th March.**

For a £1 donation they dressed in rugby shirts or their country's rugby colours. They held rugby challenges throughout the day, a cake sale and a number of competitions including guess the name of a cuddly bear, the number of sweets in jars and the weights of the Welsh and English backlines. A raffle included tickets to the Wales v France Six Nations fixture on Saturday.

The money was presented to Kath Fisher, Engagement Manager, at the Noah's Ark Hospital Charity, who visited the school to give a special assembly on Monday. Kath told the children about all the amazing things the charity does including raising funds for specialist medical equipment and supporting the specialist team, who provide therapeutic care for children going through difficult procedures at the hospital.

Kath thanked the children for the donation and said: "You are super heroes without capes for all the money you have raised."



Four local schools competed in the annual Open Morning Triathlon at St John's on-the-Hill School on Saturday 24th February. Pupils from Primrose Hill Church of England Primary Academy, Berry Hill Primary School, Rogiet Primary School and St John's on-the-Hill School competed in teams in swimming, indoor athletics and running races.

The competition was closely fought with the children showing great determination and endurance. Rogiet Primary Leopards team scored the most points taking first place, followed by Primrose Hill Sharks in second place.



Lisa Duncan, Head of PE and Girls' Games at St John's, said: "This year's Triathlon was really challenging, testing the children's fitness, agility and teamwork. The school teams put their all into each event and kept up an incredible pace throughout. The running races were particularly challenging, as this year we changed the course and the children had to run across more difficult terrain. We were very impressed with the standard of these young athletes."

# St John's on-the-Hill

- UK Top 10 Best Value Prep School - Good Schools Guide
- Set in beautiful countryside with excellent teachers, small classes and extensive facilities
- A caring community with wrap-around care to help working parents



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9.30am - 12.30pm

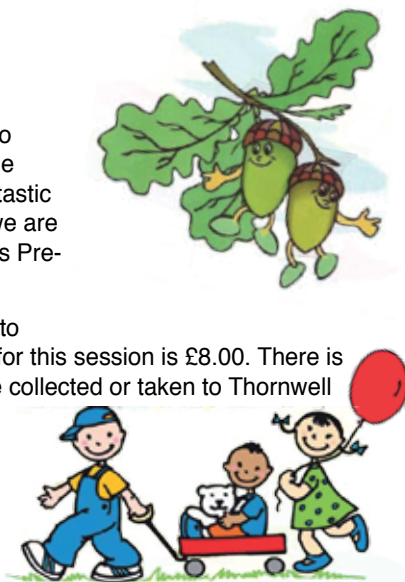
ST JOHN'S ON-THE-HILL  
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## Little Acorns Playgroup

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 £8.00. 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 £4.00.

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)



**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 & 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** Fridays 16:15-17:15 and Saturdays 10:00-11:30

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

**Parkour**: Wednesdays 20:00 - 21:00 pm

**Acrobatics** Wednesdays & Thursdays 18:00-20:00



### Open Gymnastics Fun Session

Saturdays  
9.00am-10.00am

For children aged  
4yrs onwards -  
£4.00 per session  
payable on entrance

**01291 620780**

Please email us at: [kestrelgymclub@live.co.uk](mailto:kestrelgymclub@live.co.uk)

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

## News from Chepstow School

### World Book Day

After snow closed the school at the start of March, World Book day took place slightly later this year in mid-March and Year 7 students put in a tremendous effort with their character costumes. They also enjoyed a Hogwarts-themed lesson in the Arts Hall. Whilst there were many outstanding costumes to choose from, the winners of the best-dressed female were Alys McDonald and Molly Jenkins. Male winners were Filip Chitnis and Tom Davies.

### Sporting Achievements

A huge 'well done' to the Under 13 Team Challenge Chess team who played amazingly well earlier this month, with a 100% win, taking them through to the final in Oxford!



Congratulations to Darcy Howells in year 8 and Iris Bell in year 7 who represented Chepstow School at the Welsh Gymnastics Schools Acro competition in Cardiff. They finished 3rd against some really tough competition.

### Young Enterprise

Kerry Bellamy, an international Business consultant, came into school in March for a day long workshop with the year 10 young enterprise team. It was a very successful day where the team looked at marketing and promoting their creative and innovative 'invincibobble' product (please follow @invinci15 on twitter for updates and more information). The team has raised money and shares in the company and is currently fine tuning their design and product ready to submit their company report in April.

The final of Young Enterprise Wales will be held on 26th April at the University of South Wales.

Kerry Bellamy was very impressed with the team's resilience, innovation and the maturity of the way they worked together; she cannot wait to come back in April to give the team more support.

### Easter Egg Collection

Well done to Year 7 pupil Noah Herniman who has on his own initiative, with the help of students and staff in school, collected 170 Easter eggs for Women's Aid shelter.



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[www.ackermantuition.co.uk](http://www.ackermantuition.co.uk)



## Join us for a mini-golf experience with European Tour player Liam Bond

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April**  
**St John's on-the-Hill School**  
**Open Morning**  
**9.30am – 12.30pm**  
**Everyone welcome!**



## Castell Roc: Full Line Up for 2018... and what a line up it is...!!!!!!

*Held inside the historic walls of Chepstow Castle and hosting a variety of different shows to suit all tastes, the festival has been nationally praised for its relaxed atmosphere as well as it's world class venue. It's not Glastonbury, it's small (but perfectly formed) it's definitely quaint, it's intimate, the acoustics are brilliant, it's perfect for all ages and it is, by far, much prettier!*

*Held over 12 nights on the last 3 weekends of August and into the beginning of September, you may want to start planning....*

**THURSDAY 16th August- "Monsters of Roc"**- featuring "Letz Zep", "Whitesnake UK", & "UK Guns N Roses", in what has now become the legendary big Rock triple headliner event show opener.

**FRIDAY 17th August- "Alabama 3"**. The band with a very dedicated following and are noted for their fusion of styles, lyrics and outrageous live performances, known especially for writing the intro to the hit TV show "The Sopranos" plus, support from the amazing "Philippa Hanna"- makes this a show you will not want to miss.

**SATURDAY 18th August "Dr Hook"** starring the incredible "Dennis Locorriere" performing all the hit singles including - Sylvia's Mother, A Little bit More, When you're in Love with a beautiful woman, Sexy Eyes, plus many, many more.

**SUNDAY 19th August- An evening of "Blues & Grooves"** with the amazing - "King King" voted best blues band of the year and best vocalist of the year at the "British Blues Awards 2016" also rating 2nd in the Guitarist of the year- support is from "Buck & Evans" who won Guitarist of the year 2017, - a must see show !!!

**FRIDAY 24th August-** Sees the welcome return of a 2017 sell-out show; back by popular demand "The Magic of Motown" bring top Motown hits, glimmering costumes, dazzling dance routines and an incredible party atmosphere to the castle.

**SATURDAY 25th August-** We are very proud to introduce the incredible country duo "The Shires" heading for big things, and are very privileged to welcome back to the Castle one more time !!!!

**SUNDAY 26th August-** Flying in from Australia is none other than the Grammy award winning, international



chart topping music legend "Leo Sayer", supported by Mari Wilson & The New Wilsations" - an amazing evening awaits !!!

**MONDAY 27th August-** is a unique chance to see two full theatrical shows in one evening with "Return of the King meets Prince" tributes to "Prince" and "Michael Jackson", a show never seen before.

**THURSDAY 30th August-** brings you the incredible UK stars of Ska & Reggae "The DUALERS"- 9 piece Jamaican band from East London, - First hit the headlines with the hit single "Kiss on The Lips" which stormed into the UK to 30. They have played alongside some of the biggest names in Ska & Reggae !!! Support from the amazing "Navarones".

**FRIDAY 31st August- "The Craig Charles Funk & Soul Club"**, Yes the TV Legend "Craig Charles" returns to Chepstow Castle.

**SATURDAY 1st September-** Fresh from the big theatre is "Fastlove". An opportunity to re live the passion, flare and the unique sensitivity of "George Michael"- Accurate, captivating and heart- warming, with all the big hits.

**SUNDAY 2nd September-** Castell Roc festival is proud to be able to open up the gates of the Castle to bring you an all-day "FAMILY FUN DAY" bought to you by local people, for the local community, showcasing a host of local talent, for more information visit [www.castellroc.co.uk](http://www.castellroc.co.uk).

All shows are standing, guests are welcome to bring foldable chairs or blankets (for use in designated areas). Full details are on [www.castellroc.co.uk](http://www.castellroc.co.uk) or via the Festival box office at Hannah's Music Chepstow (01291 627122), Limited discounted tickets are currently available from both.

**Matters Magazines Ltd is proud to be a media sponsor of the 2018 Castell Roc Festival.**

# Community Noticeboard

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

## Tintern Garden Club

Friday 20th April  
Talk on 'Raised Bed Gardening' by  
Marion Stainton

All at 7.30pm, Tintern Village Hall  
£2 charge for non-members

## 'Flix in the Stix'

at St Arvans Memorial Hall

On the first Thursday of the month, usually from September until May inclusive, the Hall turns into a community cinema fondly known as 'Flix in the Stix'. Films start at 7.30pm and the entrance price is £4.50.

### 5th April: 'Murder on the Orient Express'

Kenneth Branagh again this month, both directing and starring in this film. One critic said that he 'commandeers the movie, turning it into a showcase for himself as Poirot.'

A lavish trip through Europe quickly unfolds into a race against time to solve a murder aboard a train. When an avalanche stops the Orient Express dead in its tracks, the world's greatest detective -- Hercule Poirot -- arrives to interrogate all passengers and search for clues before the killer can strike again. Also starring Johnny Depp and Daisy Ridley

## TIDENHAM HISTORICAL GROUP NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday April 24th 7.30pm  
Sedbury Village Hall  
King Alfred's Road, Sedbury

Sedbury Park House - this has long featured in the past as the home of the wealthiest person and the major benefactor of our parish's churches, schools and charitable activities. It was also the home of significant antiquarian and author George Ormerod. Find out more at this fascinating meeting followed by our very brief AGM.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
CONTACT 01291 623736 or email  
info@tidenhamhistory.co.uk

## Films at BULWARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

### Film Stars don't die in Liverpool Saturday 7th April. 2018 2pm.

*Synopsis:* Hollywood actress Gloria Grahame finds romance and happiness with a younger man, but her life changes forever when she is diagnosed with breast cancer in the 1970s.

### My Cousin Rachel Saturday April 28th 2018 2pm. Please note the date has been changed.

*Synopsis:* A young Englishman plots revenge against his late cousin's mysterious, beautiful wife, believing her responsible for his death. But his feelings become complicated as he finds himself falling under the beguiling spell of her charms.

**Ticket Price: Adults £3 - Available on the door**  
**Screening time: Usually 2pm - Doors open 1.30pm**  
**Refreshments: Available**  
**Parking: Available on site - Centre signposted from Maple Avenue - Turn down Sycamore Avenue and into Laburnum Way.**

**Disabled facilities: No steps - Entry via Double Doors. Disabled Toilet. Induction Loop System.**

## Chepstow Choral Society

CCS Brass & Percussion  
Peter Cook - Organ

Conducted by  
Graham Bull

## A Very British Affair

A celebration of British choral music  
including

Rutter - Gloria & Te Deum  
Parry - Blest Pair of Sirens  
Stainer - I Saw the Lord

and music from the Queen's coronation by  
Vaughan Williams and Parry

Saturday 21st April 2018  
7.30pm St Mary's Church, Chepstow

£12 per adult, U18s & Students FREE

Tickets available from choir members, Chepstow Bookshop, on the door or tel: 01291 623310, 620414

CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd - Music Centre Wales and is a Registered Charity (No 1127990)  
Further information: 01291 623310



TY CERDD



www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk

## Chepstow and District Garden Appreciation Society (CADGAS)

Wednesday 25 April

Amanda Goddard of Down To Earth  
based in Stroud will be giving an  
informative talk entitled

### "How Gardening Can Help People"

7.30pm Chepstow Leisure Centre  
All Welcome Visitors £4



For more information on this year's  
festival visit  
<http://www.devaudenfestival.com>



## Easter Fun and Foolery at Raglan Castle

Join us for topsy-turvy fun as Easter  
falls upon April Fool's Day!

Crazy capers will rule across the  
three day event so be prepared for  
unexpected. Jesters, Fool School, the  
Lord of Misrule, polar bears, yes polar  
bears, Cavemen, dinosaurs and lots  
besides, nothing will make sense.

Come along in fancy dress and be  
part of the festive frivolities.

[cadw.wales.gov.uk/daysout/  
raglancastle/?lang=en](http://cadw.wales.gov.uk/daysout/raglancastle/?lang=en)

Usual entry fees apply



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

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 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, Corneilles 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.

Sedbury Space, 11 King Alfred's Rd, Sedbury NP16 7AG, info@sedburyspace.org.uk, 01291 626158, community activities & rooms for hire

#### 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; Beachley Road, Sedbury NP16 7AA 01291 626041

**Mount Pleasant Practice**, Tempest Way, NP16 5XR 01291 440154; 12A Main Rd, Portskewett NP26 5SG 01291 425242

**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.

**Care Support:** Joy's Gift Shop, Bulwark. Free Activity Sessions for people with Alzheimers \ Dementia Related Illness. Phone Toni to book a place on 01291 629392

**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 Corneilles 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

**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 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 427266 tmoran@btinternet.com.

**Royal Naval Association Chepstow Branch** meets at the Conservative Club, Moor 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

**Tidenham Historical Group** meets from September to April on the last Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in Sedbury Village Hall NP16 7AQ. Visitors are welcome. For details ring 01291 623736 or e-mail info@tidenhamhistory.co.uk.

**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

### 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 Rev Phillip Averay 01291 620980

[www.chepstowpriory.org](http://www.chepstowpriory.org)

**St Christophers**, Bulwark, (linked to St Marys) [www.chepstowpriory.org](http://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](http://www.stmarysrchepstow.org.uk)

**St Luke's Church**, Coleford Road, Tutshill NP16 7PT 01291 624868 [www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk)

**Stroat Evangelical Church**, Gloucester Road, Stroat, Chepstow, NP16 7LR 01594 529209 pastor@stroatchurch.org.uk [www.stroatchurch.org.uk](http://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](http://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](http://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

**Sedbury Stay & Play**, Sedbury & Beachley Village Hall, Wednesdays 9.30-11am. Glos term times only. Contact Jane Penny 07856 679377

**Tutshill Baby & Toddler group**, Tutshill Memorial Hall, Tuesdays, 9.30-11.15am Glos term times only. Contact Jane Penny 07856 679377



Please support us and connect with us:  
@ChepstowMatters



/ChepstowMatters

### 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. 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  
Mike Roy 01291 626137

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

**Chepstow Cycling Club** www.chepstowcyclingclub.wales/  
**Chepstow Darts League** contact Rob Mordin - 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



A special thank you this month must go to the management at Chepstow Race Course, for allowing the club to hold a bucket collection on Ladies Day. Despite being bitterly cold Lions Nigel Gibby, Denise Harrison, Dewi Hughes, Ray Nash, John Jenkins and Glyn Williams braved the freezing conditions and raised £371, this money will be used by the club to hold a children's Christmas party in December.

Also this month saw Lions John Bennett and Ray Nash receive from the Zone Chairman Lion Glyn Williams, awards marking exceptional service to Lions Clubs International and Chepstow and Caldicot Lions Club.

Lion John was awarded a chevron marking thirty five years of unbroken service to the club, Lion John is a Director of the club and lives in St. Arvans, John has been instrumental in arranging and liaising with the First responders the training sessions for the new defibrillators and also CPR training.

Lion Ray Nash the Chairman of the Welfare Committee also received a Gold Centennial Membership badge for his great work in recruiting new members to the club, Lion Ray as Chairman of the Welfare Committee oversees the requests for donations within the community, and ensure that with his team all monies raised from public donations goes back into the community.

The club is also pleased to announce that they have now supplied twenty one defibrillator to local communities the latest being presented to Mathern Village Community, Lion Ray Nash was able to attend the first of the training sessions given by Peter Richardson of the Newport and Chepstow First Responders on Thursday 8th of March, at Mathern Village Hall.



The club has planned for another nineteen defibrillators to be supplied to local communities over the coming year. If any local community has a need for a defibrillator please get in touch with the club on 0845 833 9565.

One of Chepstow and Caldicot Lions Club favourite evenings is the Concert by the Singing Clubbers, held every year at the Choir Hall in Caldicot, unfortunately due to the untimely death of its conductor Karl Daymond the concert was cancelled in February, we are now delighted to say that this year the concert will be held on the 2nd of June and tickets will be available in the near future.

This Easter the club has tried something new in the way of fund raising, in ten selected outlets they have placed a superb Easter basket full of Chocolate goodies and all it takes is a pound to enter for a chance to win it, so if you see one please help the Lions raise funds for the local children's party.

Pictures show Lion John Bennett and Ray Nash receiving awards and Lion Ray Nash presenting the defibrillator to Mathern Village Community.



## Can't Make The Rolling Stones Gig in Cardiff?

*Come To Chepstow For The Next Best Thing!*



### Our Counterfeit Stones Racenight on Friday 15th June.

Following 7 exciting races on the track, the Counterfeit Stones will take to the stage to perform live!

Described by Mick Jagger himself as The Most famous Stones band in England it's sure to be a great racenight!

Tickets are now available from [chepstow-racecourse.co.uk](http://chepstow-racecourse.co.uk) or by calling the racecourse office on 01291 622 260

## Snow Warning !! Keep calm and carry on singing!

Like everyone else Chepstow Male Voice Choir was troubled by the snow.

Three bookings were affected, two school Eisteddfods in Chepstow and one concert in a near-by hotel. Never mind eh, the preparations for those will not be wasted in readiness for other upcoming events.

And, of course we have our Annual Summer Concert, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the choir, coming up on **Saturday 16th June in St Mary's**. Put it on your calendar now!! We are delighted to be joined again by Wydean Gospel Choir. These young singers bring additional joy and pizzazz!

Get it in your diary now and "Keep on singing!!"

## Wye Valley River Festival 5th-20th May 2018

The Wye Valley River Festival is back in 2018, bigger and better than ever. From 5th - 20th May it will be flowing through the riverside towns and villages of the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, as artists and communities celebrate the river and its wonderful woodlands in our magnificent arts and environment festival.

Woods and trees are the theme for this year's Festival and our artists will be challenging us to think about the vital role they play in our world. Trees provide oxygen and store carbon, helping to slow down global warming. They provide habitats for wildlife - 500 species can live in a single old oak tree! They absorb pollutants and have therapeutic qualities too. Did you know that your heart rate and blood pressure will drop when you are surrounded by trees and your stress levels will go down?

We have special reasons to be focusing on trees as the Wye Valley Woodlands are internationally important, with 27% of the Wye Valley AONB covered in woodland, of which about ¾ is ancient woodland. These woods define the lower Wye Valley and follow the River almost continuously for 30 miles. You could walk between Ross-on-Wye and Chepstow hardly leaving woodland, save for a couple of river crossings and a short, furtive traverse along tree-lined hedges. We also have over 2,400 veteran trees recorded in the AONB - giant limes, oaks, beech and ash trees who have seen hundreds of years of history. The Wye Valley River Festival is an opportunity to celebrate the significance of woods and trees in the nature, culture, landscape and life of the Wye Valley.

With so much woodland there are plenty of places to de-stress. Test the therapeutic benefits of trees by joining our forest gathering at Symonds Yat on 5th/6th May for a night time music and light installation by artist Jony Easterby.

Throw in some circus fun and games, giant puppets at the River Carnival in Hereford and an action packed day including canoe ballet, remixed folk dance, trapeze, fire sculptures and a torchlight procession to the river at the Festival Finale in Llandogo and you have two weeks of world class art.

For further information and the programme of events, visit [www.wyevalleyriverfestival.co.uk](http://www.wyevalleyriverfestival.co.uk)

## Chepstow Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

Chepstow Chamber of Commerce and Tourism is a long-standing group of local businesses who work together to benefit the economy and community in and around Chepstow. Our Members are varied and diverse, include retail, hospitality and service businesses.

Email [secretary@chepstowchamber.com](mailto:secretary@chepstowchamber.com) for further information

[www.chepstowchamber.com](http://www.chepstowchamber.com) / [www.facebook.com/ChepstowAGreatPlaceTo](https://www.facebook.com/ChepstowAGreatPlaceTo)



**AluK (GB) Ltd** *Design, engineer and manufacture industry leading aluminium façade systems* Newhouse Ind Est, Chepstow NP16 5UD T: 01291 639739 [www.uk.aluk.com](http://www.uk.aluk.com)

**Andrew Miller Photography** *Wedding, family and corporate photographer* T: 07891 408266 [www.andrew-miller.co.uk](http://www.andrew-miller.co.uk)

**Associated Professional Hypnotherapists** *Hypnosis helps with many problems, inc. weight, smoking, stress, confidence, insomnia & more* The Summerhouse, Shirenewton, Chepstow NP16 6RL T: 01291 641964 / 07921 130098 [www.hypnosiscanhelpt.co.uk](http://www.hypnosiscanhelpt.co.uk)

**Barclays Bank Business Managers for Barclays Bank** Beaufort Square, Chepstow NP16 5XL T: 07766 360114 (Moir Wearing); T:07342 05355 (Anne Winfield); [www.barclays.com](http://www.barclays.com)

**Basepoint Centres Ltd** *Maintained & serviced office space* Riverside Court, Beaufort Park, Chepstow NP16 5UH T: 01291 635500 [www.basepoint.co.uk](http://www.basepoint.co.uk)

**BDHC Chartered Accountants** *Accountancy, business & tax advisors* 11 Moor St, Chepstow NP16 5D T: 01291 624866 [www.bdhc.co.uk](http://www.bdhc.co.uk)

**Bespoke Music Services** *Live music services for all occasions* Forge Road, Tintern NP16 6TH T: 01291 689227 [www.chepstowcommunitybigband.weebly.com/live-music-for-hire](http://www.chepstowcommunitybigband.weebly.com/live-music-for-hire)

**Chepstow Beacon** *Independent, family owned newspaper* T: 01600 712142 [www.chepstowbeacon.co.uk](http://www.chepstowbeacon.co.uk)

**Chepstow Dental Care at Fairlight General & specialised dentistry in modern, friendly practice** Welsh Street, Chepstow NP16 5LR T: 01291 622450 [www.chepstowdental.co.uk](http://www.chepstowdental.co.uk)

**Chepstow Matters** *Affordable and locally targeted advertising options for businesses of all sizes* T: 01291 606900 [FB/ChepstowMatters](http://FB/ChepstowMatters) [www.mattersmagazines.co.uk](http://www.mattersmagazines.co.uk)

**Chepstow Voice** *Community magazine publisher* T: 01600 717249 [www.thevoicemagazines.co.uk](http://www.thevoicemagazines.co.uk)

**Crown Estate & Letting Agents** *Property services for sales and rentals* 6 High St, Chepstow NP16 5LH T: 01291 500100 [www.crown-estateagents.co.uk](http://www.crown-estateagents.co.uk)

**DW Osteopathy** *Fast, effective pain relief for any aches or pains from a qualified professional* 10 Hocker Hill St, NP16 5ER T: 07870 492293 [www.dwesteopathy.com](http://www.dwesteopathy.com)

**Environmental Landcare** *Bespoke landscaping & estate management* Crown Hill Nursery, 4 Leechpool Holdings, Portskewett, Caldicot NP2 5UU T: 07920 054844 [www.environmental-landcare.co.uk](http://www.environmental-landcare.co.uk)

**ETP Property Consultants** *Commercial property consultants & chartered surveyors* 10 Beaufort Square, Chepstow NP16 5EP T: 01291 440100 [www.etpproperty.co.uk](http://www.etpproperty.co.uk)

**Hallux Podiatry** *Professional podiatry & chiropody services* 16a Moor St, Chepstow NP16 5DB T: 01291 623193

**Help u at Home** *Homecare services & support for the elderly and infirm in the Chepstow area* T: 07708 519374 [www.helpuathome.co.uk](http://www.helpuathome.co.uk)

**Homelink Lettings Ltd** *Property letting & management* Office B, The Greyhound Building, 17 Moor Street, Chepstow NP16 5DB T: 01291 470126 [www.homelinklettings.com](http://www.homelinklettings.com)

**Honeybadger Construction** *All aspects of building and hard landscaping* Picton House, Church St, Chepstow NP16 5HJ T: 07801 288400

**Hopkins Law Ltd** Suite 6, Stuart House, The Back, Chepstow NP16 5HH T: 01291 639510 [www.hopkinslawltd.com](http://www.hopkinslawltd.com)

**HR Dept** *Preventing People Problems* 3 Tymperleys, Welsh St, Chepstow NP16 5LX T: 01291 661555 [www.hrdept.co.uk](http://www.hrdept.co.uk)

**IAM Financial** *Financial advisors to individuals & businesses* Chepstow, NP16 6BS T: 01291 626373 / 07979 157259 [www.iamfinancial.co.uk](http://www.iamfinancial.co.uk)

**JG3Design** *Architectural and energy surveyor; 3D visualisation* Bridge St, Chepstow NP16 5EY T: 07870 988410 [www.energysurveyor.co.uk](http://www.energysurveyor.co.uk)

**Kudos Printing** *Printed products, branded clothing, schoolwear, signage & displays* Kudos House, Bulwark Ind Est, Chepstow NP16 5QZ T: 01291 620091 [www.kudosprinters.co.uk](http://www.kudosprinters.co.uk)

**LoveSeen Photography** *by Clare Adams Award winning wedding photography* Chepstow NP16 5EH T: 07876 288452 [www.loveseen.co.uk](http://www.loveseen.co.uk)

**Monmouthshire Building Society** *Savings, mortgages, insurance and financial planning* 19, High St, Chepstow NP16 5LQ T: 01291 629306 [www.monbs.com](http://www.monbs.com)

**Newlann Mystery Shopping** *We help organisations evaluate how customers feel and what effective actions you can take to improve the customer experience* T: 01600 860540 [www.newlann.com](http://www.newlann.com)

**Sales Academy 2012 Business Coaching - Sales Training - Team Performance ... in your corner** SA Towers, 21a Welsh Street, Chepstow NP16 5LL T: 01291 409117 [www.salesacademy2012.com](http://www.salesacademy2012.com)

**Sulu Bookkeeping** *Friendly bookkeeping services for small to medium-sized businesses* T: 07775 908569 [sue@sulubookkeeping.co.uk](mailto:sue@sulubookkeeping.co.uk)

**Tandem Communications and Coaching Ltd** *Coaching for leadership and life; communications for people and profile* Moor Street, Chepstow NP16 5QB T: 07557 226473 [www.tandemcc.co](http://www.tandemcc.co)

**Taylor Made Energy Solutions Ltd** *Independent advice for businesses on energy efficiency; gas & electricity contracts; commercial epcs* High View, Steep Street, Chepstow NP16 5QB T: 07785 313179 [www.tmenergysolutions.com](http://www.tmenergysolutions.com)

**Tea Cup Tales** *Vintage china & linen hire; event planning, styling & catering* T: 01291 420664 / 07803 936520 [www.facebook.com/tcupptales.com](http://www.facebook.com/tcupptales.com)

**The Village Websmith** *Websites that work as hard as you* Main Road, Tintern NP16 6SE T: 02032 390350 / 07703 290243 [www.villagewebsmith.co.uk](http://www.villagewebsmith.co.uk)

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Brewers of fine Craft beers for the trade & public  
Unit 4, Station Yard Ind Est, Chepstow NP16 5PF  
T: 01291 408240 [www.baabrewing.com](http://www.baabrewing.com)



**Castle Picture Framing**  
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5 High St (inside Chepstow News), Chepstow NP16 5LH  
T: 07716 801967



**Chepstow Racecourse**  
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Chepstow NP16 6BE  
T: 01291 622260 [www.chepstow-racecourse.co.uk](http://www.chepstow-racecourse.co.uk)



**Cherished Earth Wholefoods**  
Healthfoods & wholefoods store/café  
3 Rifleman's Way, Chepstow NP16 3EJ  
T: 07730 764547 [www.cherishedearth.co.uk](http://www.cherishedearth.co.uk)



**Country Clutter**  
Independent gift retailer  
2 St Mary St, Chepstow NP16 5EU  
T: 01291 630036 [www.shop.giftshopuk.biz](http://www.shop.giftshopuk.biz)



**Deacons Florist**  
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Independent fashion boutique  
11 St Mary Street, Chepstow NP16 5EW  
T: 01291 627340 [www.edenroseonline@icloud.com](http://www.edenroseonline@icloud.com)



**First Stop Stationers**  
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3 Library Place, One Manor Way, Chepstow NP16 5HZ T: 01291 623999 [www.firststopstationers.co.uk](http://www.firststopstationers.co.uk)



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**Get Dancing**  
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**Orchard**  
Ladies 14+ clothing. Bags, scarves, jewellery. Linens, tea dresses & petticoats, long tunics & dresses  
22 Moor St, Chepstow NP16 5DB T: 01291 622459 [www.facebook.com/orchard-clothing](http://www.facebook.com/orchard-clothing)



**Rockarella**  
Hair & accessories  
10 Upper Church Street, Chepstow NP16 5EX  
T: 01291 622189 / 07704 648686 [www.rockarellahair.co.uk](http://www.rockarellahair.co.uk)



**Runway**  
Independent boutique for ladies clothes, jewellery, shoes, handbags & accessories  
8 High Street, Chepstow NP16 5LH T: 01291 622033 [www.runwaychepstow.com](http://www.runwaychepstow.com)



**Scandia**  
Shoes, accessories & gifts  
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**Stonerock Pizza**  
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**St Pierre Marriot**  
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**Viva Couture**  
**Designer ladieswear**  
12 High Street, Chepstow NP16 5XY  
T: 01291 627221 [www.vivacouture.co.uk](http://www.vivacouture.co.uk)

## Relationship breakdown

The breakdown of a relationship can be stressful for all concerned. There are several practical matters that need to be dealt with so that problems can be minimised and managed in the future. You can get confidential information and advice from Monmouthshire Citizens Advice. Drop in to one of our offices (Abergavenny, Caldicot, Chepstow or Monmouth), ring Advice line 03444 772020 or webchat via <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/wales/about-us/contact-us/web-chat-service>

Here are some of the things you will need to think about:

### Mediation

- Would mediation help you to deal with your relationship problems or help you reach agreement on the practical aspects of separating? Mediation can be facilitated by an individual or an organisation acceptable to both of you such as Relate [www.relate.org.uk](http://www.relate.org.uk)
- If you have suffered any form of abuse or coercion, then you can contact organisations that can provide support and assistance such as Refuge, Women's Aid (0808 2000 247 at any time) or Men's Advice Line (0808 801 0327 Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm).

### Money

- How will ending the relationship affect your finances? If one party remains in the family home, how will the costs of the home be met?
- Are any benefits being claimed in joint or single names? How will the changes affect those claims? You need to inform the relevant government departments about the changes and, if necessary, change the basis of the claim.
- What changes, if any, will need to be made to current banking and savings arrangements?

### Housing

- Do you own or rent a property? Is the property, mortgage or tenancy agreement in joint or single names? Who will be responsible for future payments, both in the short and longer term?
- Is one of you prepared to leave the property and on what basis? Which organisations need to be informed of the change of circumstances



so that, if necessary, one party can remain in the family home, especially if they are responsible for the care of children?

- What will happen to the property in the longer term?

### Children

- Where and with whom will the children live? How will both parents continue to have access to the children (if this is appropriate)?
- Have you been able to agree visiting and financial maintenance arrangements for the children? Remember that the arrangements can be reviewed at any time if they are not working.

### Immigration

- If you are not a British Citizen and your visa is based on your relationship then the ending of the relationship, marriage or civil partnership may affect your right to stay in the UK. You should inform the Home Office of your change of circumstances and get information and guidance on your status and rights to stay in the UK, either via the Home Office website/helpline (Gov.Uk) or from an immigration specialist.

### Divorce or ending a civil partnership

- Does the relationship breakdown mean that eventually a marriage or civil partnership needs to be legally ended?
- If you are married and you and your ex-partner agree that you both want a divorce and on the reason why, you can get divorced without needing a solicitor or going to court. Your situation must meet one of the grounds for divorce and the timescales required.
- If you are in a civil partnership you will need permission from a court to end the partnership. There are specific grounds on which the court could grant an order.

**More detailed information and links to websites of organisations who can assist you, can be found at:**

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/wales/family/ending-a-relationship/>

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