

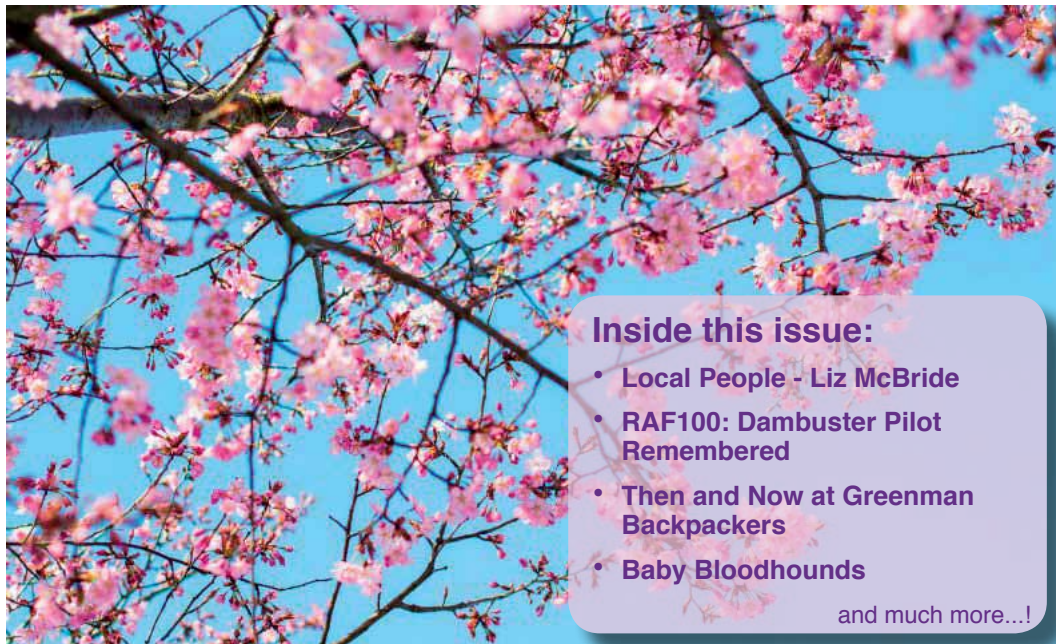
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May 2018

Community Chepstow Matters

Hand delivered FREE to c10,000 homes per quarter across Chepstow & the surrounding villages



Inside this issue:

- Local People - Liz McBride
- RAF100: Dambuster Pilot Remembered
- Then and Now at Greenman Backpackers
- Baby Bloodhounds

and much more...!

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Chepstow Matters
Editor: Jaci Crocombe
c/o Batwell Farm, Shirenewton NP16 6RX

Reg Office: Matters Magazines Ltd,
130 Aztec West, Almondsbury BS32 4UB
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Dear Readers...

Well it is finally looking and feeling as though Spring is on its way and the blossom is finally adorning the trees in my garden - such a beautiful time of year, especially when accompanied by lovely blue skies!

I have had a busy time out meeting people and visiting places this month - see p6-7 for our article on local resident Liz McBride, well known locally for her role in Girl Guiding and also her research in to the local men to gave their lives during the Great War. Page 9 brings information of a local war hero who took part in the Dambuster Raid of 1943 who is being commemorated on its 75th anniversary. There is also a family festival this month - see pages 12-13. Two of our local schools have been busy - read about the Baby Bloodhounds on page 17 and St Mary's film making exploits on page 19.

This issue we also have an interesting feature on the Greenman Backpackers including some of the building's history and restoration - read more on pages 20-21. We have updates from the Kestrel Gymnasts and the Chepstow & Caldicot Lions and news from Chepstow Bowls Club as they start their new season.

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 until next time and hope you enjoy the read!

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Sometimes donations are designated for an animal charity, some ask for them to be collected for a place of Worship, others to an organisation associated with an illness the person may have suffered from or a Hospital Ward that has assisted them. The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (or locally the Severn Area Rescue Association) is popular too, with others favouring a Forces connection.

We have files of hundreds of organisations, some local, some national but so often people will ask us to arrange for the donations to be collected for St. David's Hospice Care, based in Newport, particularly when the family have been involved with St. David's Hospice Care, families want to support them.

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St. David's Hospice Care is indebted to the local community for their on-going support and is sincerely grateful for any financial contributions towards the work of the Charity. For more information see: www.stdavidshospicecare.org or call Ian Watts & Son, tel: 01291 420972 for more details about how you can support St. David's Hospice Care.



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Local Community Matters...

Liz McBride : 'Tidenham Remembers'

It was a real pleasure to meet up with local resident Liz McBride for this issue at her home in Tutshill, where I was entertained with many local stories and histories.

Liz is a member of the Tidenham Historical group of which she was a co-founder back in c1990 along with Keith Underwood and Lesley Williams. She has a keen interest in family history and has undertaken much research in this area - tracing back to her grandfather's Australian routes and travelling all over the world to find and meet descendants and new family branches.

Liz's grandmother, May, worked as a Red Cross nurse in the first World War at the Hospital situated in Gwy House (now the Chepstow Museum). It was there that she met Gordon James Edwards, a soldier from the 12th Australian Light Horsemen, who ended up at the hospital after being shot in Gallipoli in 1915. Fortunately his brother, who was with him on the front line, managed to drag him to the first aid tent and from there he was sent first to Malta and then brought to the Red Cross Hospital in Chepstow in 1916. After a very swift romance, May and Gordon married and went on to have just one child (Liz's mother) as very sadly Gordon died whilst still away at war, just after Armistice was announced in 1918. He is buried in Beirut. Liz's grandmother later bought the Three Salmons House on Beachley Green from where she ran a post office. Liz herself was, much later, born in this house which was once the site of the 18th century turnpike.

Liz's dad was in the forces and she therefore spent time abroad as a child - 3 years in Libya and 3 years in Germany. Growing up she left Chepstow for college in Derbyshire, which is where she

met her very supportive husband Gerald. They too spent time abroad due to Gerald's work, living for some years in Zambia where their second son was born. Liz enjoyed her teaching role there to both ex patriots and native children. Liz and Gerald moved back to the local area

in 1978. A dedicated and popular primary school teacher, Liz did a lot of local supply teaching whilst her boys were growing up and latterly completed her teaching career with several years at the Offa's Meade Academy.

Liz was a brownie herself at the Cavill Hall in Chepstow in her younger years, and is now a member of Trefoil having been involved as a leader in Girl Guiding locally for over 35 years. She is the mainstay of the Sedbury Rainbows which she has been leading for over 20 years.

With Liz's deep local family connections and community involvement she is intensely interested in local affairs and local history and Keith Underwood reliably informs me there is very little that escapes her attention. This I can believe as Liz had so many stories to tell and information to share!

Her current all-consuming project is a closely researched study of all the lads in the Parish of Tidenham who fell in the Great War. Her interest in this research started many years ago when she first accompanied her son on a Wyedean school trip to the WW1 battlefields in Belgium. She remembers looking at all the many grave markers and thinking "There must be men on our war memorial at home who are buried here" and thus started her research, really just as a project which interested her.



Photos opposite page: top right Liz McBride; Liz's grandmother May in her Red Cross Uniform; Liz's grandfather Gordon Edwards; May and Gordon on their wedding day in 1916.

This page: above 'Dead Man's Penny' the commemorative plaque given to the families of all those who fell in WW1; photo right of the Tidenham Memorial and below Edgar Joseph Arnold of Tutshill.

She found several of the men had emigrated to Canada and Australia prior to the war, but signed up for their homeland as soon as war broke out. She has met so many descendants from this research, some of them staying with Liz and Gerald whilst Liz has helped them to further trace their own family history in the locality.

The stories are fascinating and also very sad. "One family lost 3 sons in the war, thankfully their fourth son survived. Other families lost pairs of sons and another their only son (Edgar Arnold see photo right). These 'men' were little more than boys really, many signing up at just 17 or 18" Liz told me, "I must admit I have found it quite emotional at times, tracing their stories".

Captain Harold Thorn Edwards lived just down the road in Tutshill. He is the subject of a painting housed in the Newport Museum entitled "Surrender Be Damned!", his last words of defiance against the advancing German army. "I have found out information on every man on the memorial, as well as other locals who don't appear on this memorial - where they served, where they died; there is



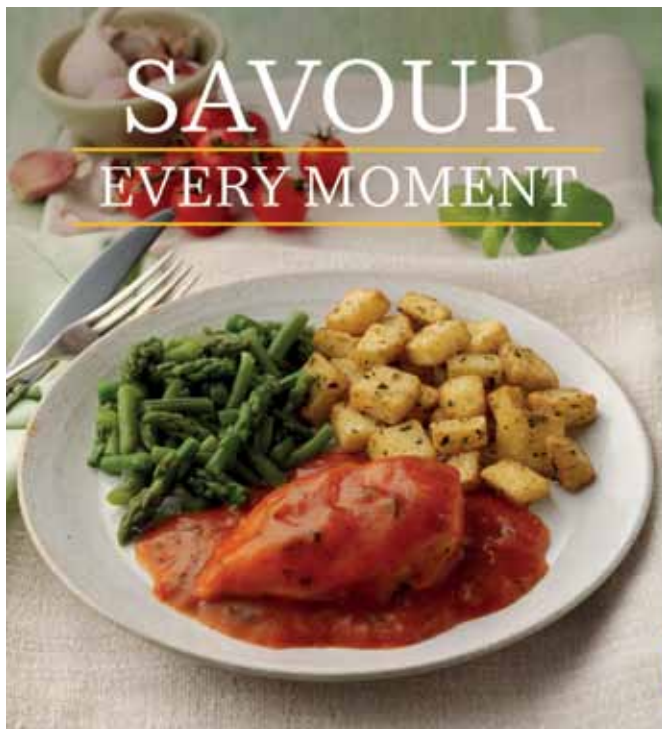
just one individual for whom I have struggled to find information - I have traced everywhere but nothing really fits - that man is John King".

It was Liz's early research on both the Chepstow and Tidenham war memorials that led her to the founding of the local history group which started really small in Chepstow Museum. The group has grown considerably over the years and now has about 50 regular members.

With all this research and knowledge, Liz has been encouraged by fellow members Keith Underwood and

also Richard and Carol Clammer who recently published a book on Beachley, to put it all down in a book which she hopes to complete later this summer. **Do look out for 'Tideham Remembers' - it promises to be an interesting read!**

Thank you to Liz for her time, and to Keith for the introduction.



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Chepstow Bowling Club

Mike Roy, Hon Secretary

A full and varied fixture list awaits all members of Chepstow Bowling Club!

The Green opened on Saturday 14th April and men's league fixtures commenced on Saturday 21st April. 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

This year it is intended to hold an 'Open Day' on Sunday 10th of June.

If you don't want to wait that long, come along on any Monday afternoon at 2pm where a coaching session can be arranged. 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'.

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 Friends of the Dell Park Chepstow

 **ARIENHIR GAN Y LOTERI GENEOLAETHOL NATIONAL LOTTERY FUNDED**

Friends of the Dell Park Chepstow Family Festival Day Sunday 13 May 2018

Friends of the Dell Park Chepstow group are pleased to announce that they have successfully been awarded Big Lottery Funding to be able to put on a fun family festival, to celebrate National Children's Day in the Dell Park in Chepstow. The group were so pleased to get the Big Lottery and the theme for the day is based around the quote, *"It takes a village to raise a child"*.



The group, Clare, Suzanne, Karen and Vicky are all working hard to put on this festival which will showcase the various groups and organisations in the Chepstow area for children and families. There will be workshops provided by local groups, face painting, singing, activities, bouncy castle, games and so much more on the day. The group also have the help of Monmouthshire County Council and they hope it will be an event to really highlight what families can do in and around Chepstow.

The event will take place on Sunday 13 May 2018, 10.30-4.30pm, entry is FREE and will be held in the Castle Dell play area and green. We will have marquees and different groups dotted around the Dell for people to come and meet the organisations to find out more and maybe even have a go at some of their activities. We hope that people will come to the Dell for the day, bring a picnic with their families and celebrate their children on National Children's day with the group.

The other important and exciting aspect to the day is to showcase the new park proposed plans that the play architect commissioned by the group has drawn up. These ideas were based on consultations with people in the Chepstow area and what they said they wanted to see. We hope that the play architect will also be on hand on the day to chat to people about the proposals and ideas for the new play park. We want to consult with people on the day to find out what they think about the ideas, so please do come along and be involved in the redevelopment of your local play park.

The Friends of the Dell Play park have achieved so much already in getting the park lease renegotiated, with the landowner generously agreeing to lengthen the lease to Monmouthshire County Council which in turn has enabled us to apply for the Big Lottery grant funding, raised money through fund raising, and obtained generous grants from the Chepstow Town Council and Hoggin' the Bridge to help towards the redevelopment of the Dell play park. We think that the proposed plans drawn up by the play landscape architect have been sympathetic to the area and reflective of the beautiful area that the park is set in and offers something for everyone with a focus on access for all.

We hope that people on the day will help us get the plans right for the people of the town. **Please come and get involved in your community Big Lottery Funded family festival fun day.**

You can find out more about the group and the day by visiting their Facebook page, search **Friends of the Dell Park Chepstow**. But please do come along on the day and say hello to the group.



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The gates open at 3pm. Music starts from 3.45pm with Smooth Operator live on stage. At 4.30pm The Epsom Derby will be shown on the big screen and a fantastic Ed Sheeran tribute, rEd Sheeran will be performing live at 4.45pm.

The first race on the card is off at 6pm with the last race off at 9pm. The Wurzels will be live from 9.15pm

Stones

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The Rolling Stones are playing Cardiff on this night so Chepstow Racecourse has decided to offer a value alternative with one of the best Stones tributes bands in the country who have been given the seal of approval by Mick Jagger himself!

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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 commented: *"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. For 2018 we will have some new displays and we always have something to entertain our younger visitors."*

Further information on Mathern Mill, and on mills open nationwide, can be found on the **National Mills Weekend website** at www.nationalmillsweekend.co.uk or contact Dave and Jan directly on 01291 622282 or email bowendf@btinternet.com.



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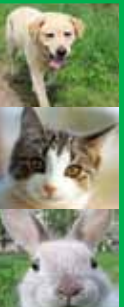
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Baby Bloodhounds!

Bloodhound supersonic car inspires engineers of the future

Pupils of Ysgol y Ffin, the Welsh medium school in Caldiot were thrilled to appear on ITV Wales 6 o'clock news in March, as they kicked off their week long exploration of all things scientific with an exciting and engaging model rocket car workshop run by the education team of Bloodhound SSC.

The Bloodhound project is a British supersonic land vehicle currently in development, which, powered by both a jet and rocket engine aims to exceed the 1,000mph barrier and set a new land speed record. The team ran a full day workshop at Ysgol Gymraeg y Ffin, enabling the children a hands on experience in exploration and discovery of engineering. The children designed and built aerodynamic cars in teams of 3 from mixed year groups, which were then seen tearing across the playground fuelled by rocket power, with the fastest car of the afternoon reaching a whopping 54mph!! If that excitement wasn't enough, the lucky winners will have their team name etched into the tail fin of the actual bloodhound car for all to see.



When asked about their favourite aspect of the day, the older children replied *"Designing the car. The anticipation and suspense was killing me"* and *"Watching the vehicles reach tremendous speed with flames and smoke billowing out the back"*, whilst a year 2 foundation pupil simply summed the experience up as *"Awesome"*.

Chepstow mum Liz David, the parent with a passion for science in education who is behind the school's participation in National science week says *"Whoever you chose to be or whatever you chose to do, I believe being curious and having the ability to*

evaluate and challenge information are critical skills - science week is a chance to develop these crucial life skills and have masses of fun along the way."

Ysgol Gymraeg y Ffin has recently been recognised by STEM Ambassadors for encouraging and inspiring children in Science and who knows, STEM ambassadors of the future may well be getting their first tastes of the enormous variety of disciplines, from these annual science concentrated weeks and the weekly science club that the school has established over the past 3 years.

This truly was an amazing experience for children and staff alike and I would encourage people with an interest in engineering (and super fast cars!) to plan a visit to see the Bloodhound project in Bristol where they are based.

You can see the ITV Wales news clip which shows the children making and racing the cars, followed by interviews of the children and Liz, by visiting ITV Wales online and searching "baby bloodhound".



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St Mary's RC Primary School get creative with their own magical movie about Chepstow

Dozens of pupils at Chepstow's St Mary's RC Primary School have been making a movie in class this year, as one of the Welsh Government's and Arts Council of Wales' Lead Creative Schools (LCS).

The LCS programme - part of Wales' Creative Learning Through the Arts initiative - aims to promote new, innovative ways of working in schools and to make creativity an integral part of the national curriculum to support numeracy, literacy and more via a creative project.

St Mary's was given £10,000 to support two projects over two years, and their Year 5 and 6 pupils are ready to show off the stunning results of year one with a premiere of their film - **Chepstow: Bridging Out to Our Future** - which showed at the town's comprehensive on March 20th.

"We've been able to work with Owain Hopkins from Tree Top Films (and some of his acting and filmmaking colleagues) and Jenny Hulme, a Monmouth based creative agent for the Arts Council across the whole of the Spring term on this project, which has allowed the children to explore Chepstow and how its history and future will shape their outlook and future life," explains Jo Williams, St Mary's Year 5 teacher.

Owain has worked with Jo and Year 6 teacher Charlotte Smith as he's taken their pupils on a journey through film, with stops along the way to explore script writing, story boarding, sound and music effects, acting and presenting techniques, costume design and finally filming on location across Chepstow.

"The children chose nine locations, and worked together to write the script, research



the locations, and to take on the roles of camera operator, sound engineer, producer, director, interviewer and anchor team," says Jo. "They've also organized the premiere event at Chepstow School (visitors were treated to everything from refreshments to red carpet, as well as displays of the work they've done in the making of the film)."

Jo says staff have seen how, as a result of this project, the children's oracy, research skills, imagination, teamwork, resilience and creative thinking has been pushed to the limit. "They've worked so hard and collaborated so well and are, quite rightly, hugely proud of the result," says Jo.

The nine locations chosen by the children to focus on during the film ranged from the racecourse to the museum, the fire station to the football ground and of course the castle! Children prepared questions for interviewees at each location to glean their thoughts and ideas about the future of Chepstow.

"Although we're at the finish line now, this project will provide a base for future projects and will influence our daily classroom practice to lead a more creative curriculum approach," Jo concluded.



The Greenman Backpackers, Then and Now

Chepstow Matters was delighted to receive a call from Mick Lewis who owns and runs the Greenman Backpackers in Beaufort Square, inviting us down for a tour of the recently renovated building and the facilities it now offers.

Most people who have lived in the town before 2007 would know this building as "The Legion" or The "Seamstress shop". Indeed, before Mick and Ness bought and renovated it, that is exactly what it was. The then frontage was a small Seamstress shop with a bowed window, a bit like those you see on a Dickensian Christmas card. Above and behind was The Royal British Legion Club, who acquired it in 1957.

The building itself is quite unique, being made up of several individual buildings of different ages, all linked together to form a rather unusual premises. It is Grade 2* listed and has many unusual and fascinating features, which has made the renovations somewhat fun! The Seamstress shop window was replaced with a copy of the original Victorian frontage (there are pictures of the frontage in the museum - Peace Day 1919 - when it was The Post Office). Behind this frontage there is a medieval Moot Hall with a beautiful vaulted stone ceiling dating back to circa 1290, where you can find the 'Green Man' that the building is now named after. This area is still being sympathetically renovated and restored and plans are that it will eventually become a coffee lounge/wine bar.

There is a plaque on the pavement outside detailing some of the long history of the Moot Hall.



Built on top of the Moot Hall is a lovely example of a Georgian town house built around 1760, which was formerly the home of John Bowsher of Bowsher Watkins and Hodges (Timber Merchants and dealers in the town). John Bowsher is the man who met Lord Nelson in The Tree Cranes Inn on Hocker Hill Street in 1802 to sign the deal that sent huge amounts of oak to help build Nelson's fleet for the Napoleonic war. Bowsher left all his money to the town in his will. It has also been the home of The Fydeil family. Thomas Fydeil was a High Sheriff of Monmouthshire.

This part of the building needed a great deal of work to bring it back to a sound condition. The whole roof was renovated and re-tiled. Lath and plaster and ornate plaster mouldings have been repaired and replaced and both large curved



windows were completely dismantled and rebuilt (incidentally, they are made of wood and metal) and had to be soldered back together. Floors and carpentry detail was undertaken by skilled craftsmen too. Today, the second floor room is the hostelry's period lounge and the first floor is "The Widders Bar" named after "The Widders" Morris men, a group initiated by Mick back in 2001 when he moved back to Chepstow. The décor and retained features give the building a wonderful feel. Membership of The Widders Bar is open to all for a lifetime membership fee of just £5. This fee goes into a charity pot that helps raise money for several charities including The Poppy Appeal, SARA and McMillan Nurses.

Behind the Georgian building stands a large Victorian house (all connected) which Mick believes was known as Raglan Lodge. This too needed extensive repair and detailed renovation to the roof and all parts of the building including windows, floors and timber features. The new communal kitchen and several bedrooms are housed here now. There is a new build to the side which homes the reception area and two new bedrooms. Behind the Victorian building stands a 1970's house and a walled car park, (the stone wall here was replaced also as most of the original had gone). The house now offers double en suite rooms and an outside kitchenette. There is a traditional Pizza oven in the garden and Mick and Ness host pizza evenings for Widders Bar members on dates throughout the summer.

Restoring the building to such a high standard has not been an overnight job. Work on the project commenced in 2009 and the main work was completed by 2016, that is 7 years of dedicated and continuous attention to detail! Mick's vision for restoring the building was to offer a decent standard of accommodation at an affordable price. The accommodation offered comprises of double en suite rooms, en suite family rooms, en suite

family suite, twin rooms with private bathrooms and 5 dormitory rooms for backpackers, hikers and groups. The rooms are modern, comfortable and finished to a high standard whilst still maintaining an

historic feel to the premises with the walls adorned with many photos and paintings of historical figures and scenes reflecting this building's history, as well as showing Ness and Mick's love of local nature. As well as the large modern communal kitchen, there is a large luxurious television lounge, The Widders feature bar and a patio area with the BBQ and pizza oven. There is onsite parking, free WIFI in all rooms and a secure lock up for cycles. The Greenman welcomes all visitors, whether travelling solo, couples, families, groups, walkers and cyclists. Also a great place for visiting family so stay when you can't accommodate them in your own home and at a reasonable price!



"We love this building and feel it has been a great privilege to be able to restore it and bring it back to become an important addition to our town. We get people here from all over the world, all kinds of people doing all manner of things in our beautiful area."

If you are interested in the building, just give us a call and we will be more than happy to show you around and show you some of the interesting features." Mick Lewis

**For more information please visit their website: www.greenmanbackpackers.co.uk
E mail: info@greenmanbackpackers.co.uk
or call 07870 611 979**



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, phone 07904 212135, or visit the website www.littleacornsplaygroup.co.uk



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

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E: enquiries@stjohnsonthehill.co.uk
W: www.stjohnsonthehill.co.uk

CO-EDUCATIONAL • BOARDING & DAY • AGE 3 MONTHS-13 YEARS

Congratulations to Kestrel gymnasts Lily Brain, Georgie Davies and Joseph Dunster who have all qualified at the Welsh Schools Tumble and Vault Finals to represent Wales at the British Schools Tumbling Championships at Fenton Manor, Stoke on Trent in June.

The three gymnasts were Champions in their age groups, with Olive Dunster winning Silver in the U11's section, and part of the Gold winning U11's Team. Jessica Ham together with Joseph and Olive were also presented with their Feathers for representing Wales in last year's British Championships. Clare John and Jessica were part of the Gold winning U19's Team.

William John and Henry French performed good routines, and Joseph was also part of the U14 Boys' Silver winning Team. Georgie Davies, Erica Denby, and Maisie Edwards were part of the U14 Girls' Gold winning Team.

The following week it was all smiles again from five happy Kestrel gymnasts after passing their Regional Grades. The girls travelled to Llanelli to compete routines on A-Bars, Vault, Beam and Floor routine to music, plus a Range and



Conditioning Set showing strength and flexibility.

Georgie Davies and Jessica Ham passed Regional Grade 1, with Jessica awarded Commended, and taking 5th Place Ribbon. Maisie Edwards, Charlotte Jones, and Erica Denby passed Regaional Grade 2. They were all relieved to have stayed on the Beam, avoiding falls making sure they achieved the required pass marks!



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

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

Tutshill Community Pre-School

Tutshill Community Pre-School has been providing childcare to the local community since 1971. We pride ourselves on the level of care that we provide and as we have no formal catchment area, we welcome children from across the various counties.

We are a friendly, play based environment that allows the children to take the lead in what they would like to do throughout the day with the support of the staff. We are also very keen that all children at the setting utilise our fantastic outdoor facilities for the government recommended 3 hours a day.

We can provide your childcare needs for children from 2 years – 5 years and we are registered to accept Nursery Education Funding (NEF) available from the term after your child is 3. These can be used to fund up to 30 hours at pre-school each week for 38 weeks of the year.

When your child is in their final year before primary school they can attend full day sessions between 9am – 3:30pm and from 2 years they can attend half day sessions (3 hours) on a Monday afternoon, Wednesday or Thursday (9am-12pm or 12:30-3:30pm). All morning sessions can also be extended to 1pm if you wish to provide a packed lunch.

For more information please contact Debra on 01291 629134 or email tutshillpreschool@talktalk.net

You can also find us on Facebook – www.facebook.com/tutshillpreschool



Reduce - Reuse - Recycle Green Toys at Toytastik

Thankfully, we are all becoming more aware of the tragic damage single use plastics are doing to our planet and I am sure many readers have seen the many images of plastic strewn beaches, and worse, that have been highlighted in the social media recently.

During a recent visit to Chepstow's lovely independent toy store, Toytastik, Chepstow Matters was pleased to learn that many of the toys on offer are made from sustainable wood sources and their plastic range, from Green Toys, are made from Recycled Milk Cartons! Around 55,000,000 milk cartons have been recycled by Green Toys to date (this number goes up by the second - check out their website!) diverting them from landfill sites and saving on energy.

These wonderful toys are made in the USA from 100% recycled plastic with no BPA, phthalates, or PVC, and they are even Dishwasher safe as well as providing lots of imaginative fun! They're also packaged with recycled and recyclable materials and printed with soy inks, also a natural, renewable resource. Why not pop into Toytastik and check out the range on offer!





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Community Noticeboard

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



CHEPSTOW HARRIERS

www.chepstowharriers.org.uk

Do you enjoy running? Thinking of taking up a new sport? Want to get fit & have fun? Come & join us!

Where: Chepstow Leisure Centre Sports Field

When : Thursdays 6.15pm from 3rd May

Cost: FREE!

Children are welcome under the care of a responsible parent or carer.

If you can walk a mile, we'll help you run with a smile!

Trained, dedicated Chepstow Harriers coaches will help you complete the NHS supported 9 week 'Couch to 5K' course.

You'll receive full coaching support, online encouragement, access to the training routine, audio MP3s to guide you through and other helpful advice on the club website.



c25k@chepstowharriers.org.uk

Learn to weave your own willow basket

With Clyde Hoare of Wild Wicker

At
Tintern Village Hall
19th May 2018

Learn to make a willow forage basket with seasonal materials in the traditional way. This introductory course will guide you through the different stages of the basket and you will have a lovely handmade basket at the end of the day.

The course will run from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm
Bring your own packed lunch.
Tea and coffee provided

Cost £25 per person which covers training and all materials

Limited spaces available so to book a place phone Jane on 07512 856024



Tintern Village Hall Spring Craft and Bric-a-Brac Fair

Local Arts

Local produce

Bric-a-Brac

Jewellery

Local crafts

Greetings cards

Toys

and more....

Tables
only £6

Light refreshments and
tasty bakes available

Sunday 27th May

11.00 am to 4.00 pm

FREE ENTRY



To book a table call 07512 856024



Follow us at Tintern Village Hall

Car Boot Sale Monday 7th May

Set up from 8am in Leyton's Field (weather depending), between the Abbey and the village, Tintern.

Private Cars £6, Commercial £12
To Book a place call 01594 531 362
helencarter2006@yahoo.co.uk

Proceeds to go towards the Village Fete to be held 30th June, also in Leyton's Field.



Wye Valley River Festival 5th-20th May 2018

www.wyevalleyriverfestival.co.uk
for further information

Gwent Wildlife Trust

Grand Plant Sale & Bazaar

Saturday 12 May

9.30am – 12.30

The Palmer Centre,
Cormeilles Square, Chepstow

As ever there will be a good range of plants of all descriptions at bargain prices, as well as other gardening & wildlife related books and sundries - FREE ADMISSION.

Sat 12th & Sun 13th May

**Mathern Mill is open to celebrate
National Mills Weekend.**
from 2 - 5pm both days

Much of the machinery intact, lots to interest all the family. entrance free.
More information tel. 01291 622282

CHEPSTOW
LIBRARY

Reading Garden



Plant Sale at Chepstow Library
4/5th May 2018

Friday 4th May 10am-3pm

Saturday 5th May 10.30am-12.30pm



All funds raised will help support the community work of the Library's two voluntary groups:

Friends of Chepstow Library Reading Garden and
Friends of Chepstow Library.

Refreshments will be provided.

18 & 19 MAY 2018 DEVAUDEN FESTIVAL

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



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 Elvin Hart on 01291 620438 or 07956 891 234.

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 Averary 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 acornsplaygroup@aol.com Tuesdays term time 1-3pm.

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

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

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

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

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



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Local Clubs, Groups & Community Organisations in and around Chepstow

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

Mountain House Special School Mr P Absalom, Headteacher
and enrolment contact Pwllmeyric, Chepstow, NP16 6LA,
01291 635642 mountainhouse@monmouthshire.gov.uk
www.mountainhouse.org.uk/

Wydean School Robert Ford, Headteacher Beachley 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



The Lions Club of Chepstow is delighted to
announce its incoming Officers for the year
2017-2018, we welcome back Lion Brian Prout as
President, Lion Brian was President in 2015/16
and the club is looking forward to hearing about his
plans for the coming year.

Vice President this year will be Lion Glyn Williams
currently Secretary of the club, Lion Glyn will carry
on his duties as Secretary for the time being.
Lion Robert Pring will continue as Treasurer and
custodian of the club's funds.

Lion John Bennett was re-elected as Director and
will be joined this year by Lion Ray Nash, Lion
Ray will also continue as Chair of the Welfare
Committee.

Chair of Fund Raising and Activities will be Lion
John Jenkins, Lion John has already made his
mark in the club by organising some really exciting
events.

The Club is also pleased to Welcome Lion Denise
Harrison to the position of Chair of Membership,
Lion Denise comes to the club with a multitude of
skills after many years in the civil Service, and her
role will be to recruit new members and volunteers
to the club.

Whilst President Lion John Robinson still has one
month of his term remaining the club wish to thank
him for his Leadership and direction throughout his
Presidential Year.

The handover of the Presidents Chain will take
place in June.

Picture
shows
Lion John
Jenkins and
Lion Ray
Nash at The
Chepstow
Garden
centre



Our first Easter Egg project ended by raising over
£550 for local worthy causes, the club would like to
thank all those members of the public who paid £1
for the chance to win, and also all the outlets who
displayed the Easter Baskets and collected the funds.

A bucket collection held at the Chepstow Garden
Centre also raised a further £188 which will go
towards the Children's party at Christmas.

Diary Dates for the coming months:

2nd June: Singing Clubbers Concert at Caldicot Choir Hall

15/16 June: Annual Bucket Collection at Waitrose Caldicot

22/23 June: Annual Bucket Collection at Tesco Chepstow

11th August: Chepstow Agricultural Show, Chepstow Race
Course

28th August: Family Fun Day at Chepstow Race Course.

**Please come along and support your Local
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help at any of these events please contact the
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Thurs - Mencap till 9pm.
Ladies Darts
Fri - Family night (incl children)
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Sat - Function room
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Sun - Pool league

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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 for further information

www.chepstowchamber.com / www.facebook.com/ChepstowAGreatPlaceTo



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Chepstow Racecourse *Racing and events* Chepstow NP16 6BE T: 01291 622260 www.chepstow-racecourse.co.uk

Cherished Earth Wholefoods *Healthfoods & wholefoods store/café* 3 Rifleman's Way, Chepstow NP16 3EJ Tel: 07736 292556; www.cherishedearth.co.uk

Country Clutter *Independent gift retailer* 2 St Mary St, Chepstow NP16 5EU T: 01291 630036 www.shop.giftshopuk.biz

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Scandia Shoes, accessories & gifts. 35 Moor St, Chepstow NP16 5DE T: 01291 627272 www.facebook.com/scandia-shoes

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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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Write, or update an existing Will

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Dr Josh Lewis
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