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Dear Readers...

As I go to print on this edition, we have just had a glorious weekend of beautiful weather and a fabulous coming together of the community - both for the Royal Wedding and at the Devauden Music Festival.

Whilst I appreciate the Royal Wedding is not everybody's cup of tea, it's been lovely seeing all the Union Jack bunting out and people coming together to share and to celebrate. We had a fantastic weekend enjoying the music and activities at the local Devauden Festival and are already looking forward to next year! Shirefest takes place this month on 2nd June at the Huntsman in Shirenewton - another evening promising to be filled with music to suit a variety of tastes.

Plastic Free Chepstow week takes place this month and you can read all about this local group and upcoming events on pages 16-17.

Next month there is historical re-enactment coming to Chepstow Castle over two weekends - see pages 6-7 for more on this.

There is plenty more for you to read in this June edition: local people, local groups and local clubs and our all important supporters - OUR ADVERTISERS - without whom we would not be able to bring you all the news. Please do return their support and use their services whenever you have a need. Enjoy!

If you are a business looking to promote your services across the Chepstow and the villages then please do get in touch with us and we will be happy to help.

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This month it was great to catch up with the owner of Hannah's Music and event organiser of Castell Roc Festival – Carol Mutlow. This is a lady passionate about all things musical!

How did Castell Roc Festival come about?

"I have been involved with organising outdoor events for a long time. I loved the idea of having a music performance in Chepstow Castle. In the beginning I had to work hard for it to be agreed for just one Rock concert to be put on there, it was met with such success, things have grown into Castell Roc, with shows taking place over 12 nights!"

How do you select what acts will feature?

"We try to make sure there is something for everyone's musical taste, from Soul to Rock, Pop to Reggae, Blues to Funk."

Who should we look out for in 2018?

"All the acts are fantastic! Due to popular demand we are pleased to welcome back The Magic of Motown this year. We are also proud to be one of only two European venues that Dr Hook (starring Dennis Locorriere) is performing at in 2018, the other is in Scotland and has already sold out, so if you want to see Dr Hook you best buy your tickets soon! Leo Sayer is travelling from Australia to be with us at the castle, and he too is only putting on a handful of European shows. The DUALERS, a 9 piece Jamaican band have a huge following and are not to be missed!"

Is there any opportunity for local musical talent to shine? "Oh yes, absolutely! At my music shop we also have rehearsal rooms, so of course I want to support the brilliant musical talent we have on our doorstep. That is why this year we have brought back the Family Fun Day on 2 September, that will showcase a whole host of local acts. This day is also an opportunity for us to do some fundraising for charity, which is important to me."

What makes this festival special?

"The venue is stunning, breathtaking in fact! The castle setting has great acoustics, and only holding 13,000 people it is an intimate and friendly festival."

Finally, is all the hard work worthwhile?

"Absolutely! It is extremely hard work but a lot of fun too and extremely rewarding. If you haven't ever attended one of the Castell Roc performances I urge you to come along, soak up the special atmosphere and enjoy a fantastic musical performance (or many of the performances!)."

Castell Roc 2018



THURSDAY 16th August- "Monsters of Roc" featuring "-Letz Zep", "Whitesnake UK", & "UK Guns N Roses"

FRIDAY 17th August- "Alabama 3"

SATURDAY 18th August "Dr Hook" starring Dennis Locorriere

SUNDAY 19th August- An evening of "Blues & Grooves" with the amazing - "King King"

FRIDAY 24th August- "The Magic of Motown"

SATURDAY 25th August- "The Shires"

SUNDAY 26th August- "Leo Sayer", supported by **Mari Wilson & The New Wilsations** - an amazing evening awaits !!!

MONDAY 27th August- "Return of the King meets Prince" tributes to "Prince" and "Michael Jackson", a show never seen before.

THURSDAY 30th August- "The DUALERS" with Support from the amazing "Navarones".

FRIDAY 31st August- "The Craig Charles Funk & Soul Club"

SATURDAY 1st September- "Fastlove". re live the passion, flare and the unique sensitivity of "George Michael"

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", showcasing a host of local talent, for more information visit 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 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.



CHEPSTOW 370 – RE-LIVE THE LAST SIEGE OF THE CASTLE!

Come to Chepstow Castle on 7th and 14th July, and experience the thrills of the Last Siege of the Castle – 370 years ago, in 1648!

The Sealed Knot – the country's leading re-enactment company - will relive the siege and its fighting.

As well as marches, battles, and cannon fire, there will be musical entertainment and continuous living history displays outside the Castle. Whether you are Royalist or Roundhead, it will be fun for all the family!

The English Civil Wars in the 17th century saw many changes of fortune, and Chepstow Castle changed hands many times between the forces of Parliament and those loyal to King Charles.

By early 1648, the Parliamentarians were in charge, but in May that year it was retaken by Royalist forces led by Sir Nicholas Kemeys. Oliver Cromwell and his troops marched from Monmouth and forced entry to Chepstow through the Town Gate, but failed to take the castle. Cromwell soon marched on to Pembroke, leaving his man, Colonel Ewer, to lay siege to the castle.

Ewer set up cannon on the slopes opposite the castle and, two weeks after the start of the siege, began bombarding it. Though some of Kemeys' men wanted to surrender, Kemeys himself refused.

The bombardment continued, the walls were breached, and Kemeys himself was shot and killed. The Royalist prisoners were taken and kept under guard in St Mary's Church. Thereafter, the castle itself entered the last phase of its active military life as a garrison and arsenal.



This year's re-enactment begins on Saturday 7th July with Sir Nicholas Kemeys and his men marching from the Town Gate down the High Street with drums beating, to gain entry to the castle and raise the flag above its battlements.

The main event is on Saturday 14th July, when Cromwell's men led by Colonel Ewer march through the town to retake the castle.

After being addressed by Cromwell himself, the troops will lay siege to the castle, with guns blazing. When Kemeys refuses to surrender, the attackers will charge in through the castle gate, and the prisoners will be marched out.

The living history displays will start on Saturday morning, 14 July, with the march starting from the Town Gate at 1 pm, and the events concluding at 4 pm.

This event is supported by the Town Council and the Chepstow Society.

For further details of the arrangements, contact Keith James - kp.james@btinternet.com



Plaque inside Chepstow Castle



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Local Dambuster Pilot

2018 sees 100 years of the RAF and the 75th anniversary of the famous Dambuster raid and there are a number of events taking place across the country to mark these milestones.

On Thursday 17th May a commemorative blue plaque was unveiled in Hardwick Avenue, Chepstow at the former home of Dambuster pilot Bill Townsend.

Representatives of Bill's family including his daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were present for the event, which was lead by Chepstow Town Mayor Cllr Dale Rooke and Air Commodore Simon Ellard. Also present were Sharon Linnard, the High Sheriff of Gwent and Brigadier Aitken, the Lord Lieutenant of Gwent, local air cadets, Chepstow Town Band and a fantastic turnout from the local community.

After the speeches the crowd was delighted by a flypast of the last operational Lancaster bomber similar to that piloted by Bill Townsend.

Born on 12th January 1921, Flt Sgt Townsend lived and grew up in Chepstow, and went to

Honoured RAF100



Monmouth School. Shortly after the start of the Second World War he joined the army, transferring into the RAF in May 1941, where he qualified as a pilot in 1942 and posted to 49 squadron. By the end of March 1943, Townsend had completed 26 operations and been recommended for his Distinguished Flying Medal.

His regular crew in 49 squadron included five of the men who would fly with him on the Dams Raid: flight engineer Dennis Powell, navigator Lance Howard, bomb aimer Charles Franklin, and air gunners Doug Webb and Ray Wilkinson. The pilot led the third and final wave of six Lancasters on the dams on the night of 16th/17th May 1943.

Townsend was awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal for his role in the Dams Raid. Five of his crew were also given medals, making them the second most decorated Dams Raid crew. He flew on just two further operations in 617 Squadron, both in July 1943. He had by then completed a full tour, and in September he was posted to a training role. He remained in the RAF until 1946.

Bill Townsend married his wife Eileen in 1947 and they had three children. Bill died in Bromsgrove on 9 April 1991. He was cremated nearby after a funeral service and honoured with a flypast by 617 Tornados. The ashes were later brought back to Chepstow and buried at Saint Arvans Church.

The blue plaque has been designed, made and donated by Councillor Ned Heywood MBE.

Bill Townsend (fourth from the left) and five of his crew, outside Buckingham Palace in June 1943.

More information on Bill Townsend and others involved in the Dambuster raid can be found at dambustersblog.com, text credit Charles Foster

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Summer is Coming Says Chipstow Male Voice Choir!

It may be hard to believe but it is true. The much-loved Chipstow Male Voice Choir is well through its rehearsal and practice programme for their Annual Summer Concert.

Their 30th Anniversary Concert is on Saturday 16th June 2018 St Marys Priory Church Chipstow at 7pm.

This will be a mixture of the old and the new with songs new to their concert repertoire as well as some old favourites. They will be in good voice under the leadership of Richard Fry.

The theme of the old and the new continues as not only is CMVC getting ready but so is the Wydean Gospel Choir.

Wydean Gospel Choir is a student led choir of over 30 members. The choir was founded in 2005 by Sarah Parsons, herself once a Wydean student. The choir have had great successes, participating in regional competitions such as the annual Music for Youth Festival held in Cheltenham. They take part in the school's annual European music tour; this year they will be visiting Tuscany.

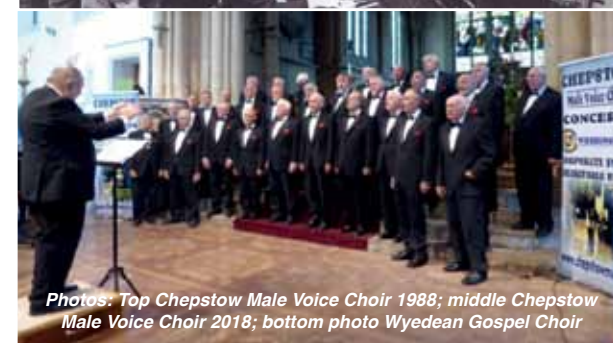
An important aim of this choir is to nurture and build confidence in all their members. Raising funds for a variety of local charities and supporting many community events is their prime goal. Their main aim however is to uplift and inspire audiences through their all-inclusive gospel music!

The last time this choir joined CMVC in concert they delighted the audience with their exhilarating singing and they will certainly bring pizzazz (not pizza) to this outstanding concert.

Tickets priced £10 are now on sale from choristers, Herbert Lewis and Chipstow Leisure Centre. Tickets will also be available at the door.

In the meantime, study the top two photographs, the first from 30 years ago when the Male Voice Choir started and one much more recent. Can you spot and name any choristers who appear in both?!

The Choir looks forward to welcoming you on the night, Saturday 16th June.



Photos: Top Chipstow Male Voice Choir 1988; middle Chipstow Male Voice Choir 2018; bottom photo Wydean Gospel Choir



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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.

Ladies Evening at Chepstow Racecourse - 13th July

It's Ladies Evening with Scott Mills (from Radio One) at Chepstow Racecourse on Friday 13th July!

Following 7 exciting races on the track and a 'Best Dressed Lady' competition with a staggering prize of £1,000 (as well as prizes for the 9 runners up), you can carry the party on with our official after party with Scott Mills (from Radio One) who will be playing a DJ set live after racing.

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Plastic Free Chepstow

2018 might well go down in history as the year the world woke up to the perils of plastic.

The pictures from David Attenborough's Blue Planet 2 series showed starkly the levels of plastic pollution in our seas.



accreditation, the group needs a number of local businesses to agree to give up at least three items of single-use plastic each, as well as the support of local government, schools and other community organisations. Litter clean-ups are another part of the process.

Since February, the group – which is linked to Transition Chepstow - has been busy and has already achieved a good deal.

Chepstow Town Council has passed a resolution promising to lead by example – removing single-use plastic from council-supported premises and events.

One of the group's first campaigns is '**Straws off Streets**'. The group has been working with local cafes and pubs to persuade them to stop using plastic straws, and with schools on a competition creating artwork from straws and other discarded items. To help inspire budding artists, local businesses Compose Management Limited, Moore Language Solutions and Cherished Earth Wholefoods have donated a series of books to seven local primary schools. Wild Tribe Heroes tells the stories of animals who are damaged by the thoughtlessness of humans, bringing environmental problems to life through simple



Plastic Free Chepstow was born in February this year, when a couple of dozen individuals got together in the Greenman Backpacker Hostel in Beaufort Square, Chepstow, to talk about what we can do about this plastic tide that threatens to engulf us.

The group's aims are simple: to drastically reduce the amount of plastic which is used once and then thrown away, and to eliminate plastic litter from our town.

Their hope is that Chepstow will become one of the Plastic Free Communities recognised by the national organisation **Surfers against Sewage**, which has been instrumental in leading the campaign against plastic. To gain this



stories and beautiful illustrations. Their author, Ellie Jackson, has agreed to judge the competition, and winning entries will be on display in June in the library, under the Town Arch and elsewhere.

The week of 10th to 17th June will be Plastic Free Chepstow Week, with a series of events organised to raise awareness and help residents to give up the plastic habit.

- On **Sunday 10th June** there will be a Plastic Free stall at the Sunday Market – and we will be encouraging all stall-holders to go Plastic Free.
- On **Tuesday 12th June** Chepstow Bookshop is hosting a talk by Martin Dorey, author of No.More.Plastics – 7pm at Chepstow Library, tickets free
- On **Saturday 16th June** a Litter Picking walk, followed by a Plastic Free Picnic, is planned.

Chepstow residents who want to cut down on plastic can remember these 5Rs:

Refuse unnecessary plastic: Say 'no thank you' to straws, plastic bags, plastic stirrers and unnecessary packaging.

Refill on the go and at home: if you buy drinks and food on the go, carry a reusable water bottle or coffee cup – and cutlery if necessary. Don't throw away your bottles of hand-soap, washing up liquid, laundry liquid and so on when they're done: you can refill them at Monmouthshire Upcycle (Station Road) or Cherished Earth Wholefoods (Rifleman's Way).

Replace single use plastic whenever you can - for example, use containers rather than cling film for leftovers and packed lunches; paper cotton buds instead of plastic ones and cloths instead of wipes. Maybe you could switch to bar soap and shampoo?

Always recycle your plastic. Most plastic items can be recycled in your purple household recycling bags. An exception is plastic bags and film – but you can take these to Tesco.

Remove plastic waste - carry a bag when you go out and pick up a few pieces of waste – if enough people do it we really can eliminate plastic waste from Chepstow!



For more details of the Plastic Free Chepstow campaign or to get involved, visit the Facebook page **Plastic-free Chepstow** or email Plasticfree@transitionchepstow.org.uk



Plastic Free members Charlotte Moore and Pam Robinson with the Plastic Free stand at the Dell Park Family Fun Day in May



Plastic Free member Iain Mills reads to children at the Dell Park Family Fun Day

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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Financial Advice for the 'Sandwich Generation'

It is estimated that up to 17 million people¹ are finding themselves part of what has come to be known as the 'sandwich generation' - those who are looking after the needs of children and ageing parents.

There is increasing evidence that people in this situation can find it difficult to put in place the right plans for their own financial well-being while taking care of others. Increased life expectancy, coupled with starting families later in life, means that more of us than ever are facing heavy demands on our time and energy, and there could be implications for our finances too.

Plan for your future as well as theirs

In your middle years, the chances are that looking after your growing family means that the important things like day-to-day living costs, family holidays and possibly school fees, will all be taking a sizeable bite out of your disposable income. At this stage, you may find yourself needing to take more financial care of your ageing parents.

With family members young and old depending on your support, it is vital to have in place the right sort of protection policies so that if one of life's painful and unexpected events were to occur, there would be a payout from a policy to help ease the financial burden.

Retirement is on the horizon

Although retirement could be anything from five to 15 years away at this point, these are likely to be your peak earning years, so it is important to make sure you are on top of your money.

You will need to have a retirement plan in place, even if it seems light years away right now; it will come around quicker than you think, so keep an eye on your pension. It is critical to know how much it is likely to be worth, so that you can make plans to save more if you need to.

This is also the time to focus on your savings and investments. Ensuring you review your portfolio regularly will mean your investment strategy remains in line with your goals, and takes account of your attitude to risk, which may change over the years.



There is a lot to think about, and taking financial advice at this stage in your life can make the difference between just about managing your later years, or enjoying a financially-secure retirement.

¹ Aviva, 2017

If you are making plans for retirement and would like some professional advice, then please get in touch.

The value of investments and pensions and the income they produce can fall as well as rise.

You may get back less than you invested.

Dr Josh Lewis
MBChB MBA MRCGP DipFA
MLIBF ACSI CertPFS MAQ
**Senior Financial
Planning Consultant**
IAM Financial



Mobile: 07979 157259
Chepstow: 01291 626373
Abergavenny: 01873 854488
Email: joshlewis@thinkpositive.co.uk
Web: www.iamfinancial.co.uk

- Pensions and Retirement Planning
- Mortgages • Savings and Investments
- Insurance • Tax Planning

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 Nelsons 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 acornplaygroup@aol.com, phone 07904 212135, or visit the website www.littleacornplaygroup.co.uk



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

Burnt Barn Community (Sports) & Social Club

Burnt Barn Road, Chepstow, Monmouthshire NP16 5AR

Club activities

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

The Club has Free WIFI

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



Club Associates

- Little Acorns Playgroup, 9.15-12.45 Mon - Fri in term time only. Contact Rachel 07904 212135
- Tues - Slimming World
- Thurs - Kung Foo Club

Large function hall available for hire for all types of parties.

Room is available for hire Mon - Fri afternoons after 1pm, Fri nights, Sat & Sun all day & evening.

Resident disco and catering available.

Opening Times
Sat: 2.30pm - 12am
Sun: 12pm - 12am
Mon-Thurs: 7pm - 11.30pm
Fri: 7pm - 12am

Competition Successes for Kestrel Gymnasts

The British Schools Tumbling Finals took place at Fenton Manor, where 15 yr old Kestrel gymnast Lily Brain who attends Monmouth School was representing Wales. Lily, who was Champion at the Welsh Schools Finals, was totally focussed on performing three precise tumbles on the day, and was rewarded with a Silver medal in second place, which was a great achievement.



EAST WALES PRELIMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The young Kestrel Squads went out on their first competition of the year in Newport to take part in the East Wales Prelims Championships. The gymnasts were competing in Phase 2 Level Tumble and Vault for the first time. In the 6/7 yrs section Carys Fullerton won 6th Place Ribbon in Tumbling, Phoebe Morris 5th Place Ribbon on Vault, Brereton Trim won Bronze Medal on Vault, 4th Place Ribbon in Tumbling, and third place Overall trophy, Laci

Watkins had a fantastic day winning Gold in Tumbling, Silver on Vault, and winning the Overall Champion Trophy. The four gymnasts were the proud Team Champions adding another Gold Medal to their collection.

In the 8 year old section, the gymnasts kept up the pace with Niamh Trott winning Gold on Vault, and in the Boys' section, Ted Watson won Silver on Vault and Silver in Tumbling, Leo Childs Champion on Vault and Floor winning two Gold Medals, and the Overall Champion Trophy, and together with Team mates Hollie Smith and Rose James, the five gymnasts went on to win Team Silver. First time competitors, Faye Webb, Olivia Jones and Miley Alexander enjoyed the experience, and are aiming higher for their next competition. We are very proud of their excellent success.



Kestrel Gymnastics Club

Artistic Gymnastics 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



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

Summer Fete!

**Saturday 7th July 2018 at
Tidenham War Memorial Hall from 10am.**

We are holding a summer fete to raise funds for the Pre-School – please do join us as there will be stalls, entertainment, games, food and also a chance to see the pre-school and meet the staff.

As a community pre-school we want the local community to support us and get involved, so come along and help us raise some much needed funds.

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. We have no formal catchment area, so we accept all children from the surrounding counties.

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



Pupils win 2nd place in National Maths Competition

Two of St John's on-the-Hill pupils won second place in a highly contested national maths competition on Saturday 12th May. Yan-Heng Zhang, aged 7, and Charlie Davies, aged 12, won second place in their year groups at the prestigious Pangea Maths UK competition.

More than 5000 pupils from across the UK were selected by schools to take part in the competition, with approximately 200 attending the finals at Queen Mary University, in London.

Pangea is a reputed competition organised in 18 European countries. Seven of St John's pupils won a place in the finals and six attended the event, where they were put through a fast-paced written paper which tested a range of mathematical problem solving skills.

Matt Allen, Head of Mathematics at St John's on-the-Hill, said: "We were delighted to get through to the finals. This is a tough competition and all six pupils did brilliantly against the UK's most talented young mathematicians. To have two podium positions was such a proud moment. We are only a small school and it was incredible to showcase our academic strength on the national stage."

The seven pupils who got through to the Pangea Maths UK final were:

Year 4: Yan-Heng Zhang (who is a Year 3 pupil); Year 5: Ewan Shakeshaft

Year 6: George Phillips; Year 7: Anna Boyle; Year 8: Ben Davies, Charlie Davies and Henry Green





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E: hedgehogs@deanclosenurseries.co.uk

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



Castleford Hill Tutshill
Chepstow NP16 7LE
T: 01291 622045
E: enquiries@stjohnsonthehill.co.uk
W: www.stjohnsonthehill.co.uk



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Community Noticeboard

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

Wednesday 27 June 2018

Chepstow and District Garden Appreciation Society (CADGAS)

Felicity Down of Cleeve Nursery in Bristol will be giving a talk on

Plants Grown for Fragrance Throughout the Year

7.30pm Chepstow Leisure Centre
All Welcome Visitors £4



Open Farm Sunday 10th June 2018

10am-4pm Free Entry

Visit our farm on Open Farm Sunday and discover the world of farming.

Where: Hanley Farm,
Tidenham, Chepstow
Gwent NP16 7LL

Time: 10am-4pm

Activities: Meet The Animals
Tractor and Trailer Rides
Milking Demo 1-4pm
Kids Go Free - Golf Driving Range
Vintage & Modern Tractor Display
Landshare
Bouncy Castles (Weather Permitting)
Farm Shop
Refreshments
Picnic Area
Tractor Pulling
Vintage Ploughing Demonstration
Tug Of War Competition
Kids Craft Activities
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www.farmsunday.org | @OpenFarmSunday #OFS16 | LEAFopenfarmsunday | @hanleyfarmshop | Hanley Farm Shop



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THE CHEPSTOW SOCIETY
70th Anniversary - 1948-2018

MEETINGS 2018

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

20 June - Paul Taylor - The Piercefield Caves

18 July - Andre Coutanche -
Lundy Island and the Harman family

All welcome - Refreshments available
Members £1 - Non-members £2
Annual membership - £10

www.chepsoc.co.uk Facebook

Sunday 17th June
Mathern Mill is
open
2pm to 5pm.

Historic watermill with
much of the machinery
intact, lots to
interest all the family.
Entrance free.

for more information
01291 622282

ST ARVANS FÊTE

Saturday 16th June, 1-4pm

St Arvans Memorial Hall & Playing field
Everyone Welcome



Proceeds to St. Arvans Community Plan Steering Group Village Events
For more information tel: 0129350 5500 email: maragord35@outlook.com / starvansvents.co.uk
Or 1188 Arvans Village Fete
Sorry no dogs are allowed on the Sports Field

CHEPSTOW

Male Voice Choir

30th Anniversary

Concert

Saturday 16th June 2018

St Mary's Priory Church
Chepstow



7 pm with 7 pm



The Wydean Gospel Choir



Tickets £10
From



Herbert Lewis, Chepstow Leisure Centre
Choir Members

Choir Website: chepstowmvc.co.uk

FUN DOG SHOW

From the waggiest tail, to the cutest puppy, we all love our 4 legged friends. That's why the Chepstow Agricultural Fun Dog Show is a real hit! Sponsorship experts will be on hand to advise on Dog Training, Grooming, Pet Health, Dog Foods, Pet Care Services plus much more...

...A GREAT DAY OUT FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Saturday 11th August 2018

to be held at Chepstow Racecourse

Entry on the day in the Dog Show Ring

£2 per class - Judging starts at 11am

Best Puppy (Under 12 months old)
Best Female (Pedigree)
Best Male (Pedigree)
Best Female (Cross Breed)
Best Male (Cross Breed)
Dog with the Waggiest Tail
Best Child Handlers (Child Under 11 Yrs)
Best Child Handler (Child 12 - 16 Yrs)
Best Fancy Dress
Golden Oldie (Over 8 Yrs Old)
BEST IN SHOW



Winners from all classes are eligible to compete for Best in Show in the Main Show Ring

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DOG SECTION SECRETARY - info@dogshow.fun
GUEST DOG SHOW JUDGE - Mr Richard Morris
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY EST'D 1841
REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 516919



Tintern Film Nights

Big-screen movies close to home

Friday 8th June
Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
Tragicomedy with Frances McDormand "A modern classic"

Friday 13th July
The Post
Meryl Streep, Tom Hanks, Stephen Spielberg together for the first time

Friday 10th August
Paddington 2

"A beautifully constructed, deliciously acted joy."

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



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 acornisplaygroup@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 Ben
Ponting 07872 532145 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



Lion President John Robinson this month was
delighted to present Lion Graham Probert with his 40
year Chevron for service to Lions International, and
Chepstow and Caldicot Lions Club.

Lion Graham joined Chepstow Lions in 1983,
transferring from Yeo Valley Lions, Graham has held
several posts within the club twice as President and
lately as the Lion Tamer!



*Picture shows Lion Graham presented with the
chevron from lion President.*

Chepstow and Caldicot Lions sponsor room at new
£5m St David's Hospice Care in-patient centre

Lion President John Robinson was so impressed
after a visit to St David's Hospice Care that he
roared his approval for a move to sponsor a room in
the building.

Chepstow and Caldicot Lions President John
Robinson said "I was visiting a friend who was a
patient in St David's Hospice in Malpas, Newport
and was totally impressed. The facilities, the care
provided and the environment in which the hospice
is, are all absolutely first rate." Lion President
John was talking as he joined fellow Chepstow and
Caldicot Lions and supporters on a tour of the new
£5m hospice by chief executive Emma Saysell.

Chepstow and Caldicot Lions handed over a cheque
for £10,000 as their sponsorship of the Chepstow
room at the hospice. Lion John "The care provided
and everything associated with the new hospice is
very humbling. Other Chepstow and Caldicot Lions
visited the new in-patient hospice and we soon
decided we wanted to support St David's Hospice
Care by sponsoring a room. We're very pleased to
have been able to secure the Chepstow room and



*that we're listed as
its sponsor on a wall
in the entrance to the
hospice."*

Emma Saysell, Chief
Executive of St.

David's Hospice Care, said: "I was delighted to be
able to give Chepstow and Caldicot Lions a guided
tour of our wonderful new in patient hospice so they
could see and officially open the room that they have
sponsored. We really can't thank the Chepstow and
Caldicot Lions enough for this marvellous support."

St David's Hospice provides care for terminally ill
patients from all over the district including Chepstow
and Caldicot.

Dates for your Diary:

2nd June	Choir Evening Caldicot Choir hall
6th June	AGM
15th June	Annual Bucket Collection Waitrose Caldicot
16th June	Annual Bucket Collection Waitrose Caldicot
20th June	Handover Dinner
22nd June	Annual Bucket Collection Tesco Chepstow
23rd June	Annual Bucket Collection Tesco Chepstow

**A Charity Craft fair will take place on Sunday 22nd
July at The Choir Hall in Caldicot, if you would
like to have a stall to sell your craft items please
contact Lion John Jenkins on 01291 420590.**

Almost everything will work again if
you unplug it for a few minutes,
including you...

To find out more about our sessions in Chepstow, visit the website:
www.freshairfridays.co.uk/saranne-postans
or contact me: **07557 226473**



Fresh Air Fridays

Chepstow Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

Supporting Local Business

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
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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
T: 07730 764547 www.cherishedearth.co.uk



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



Deacons Florist
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4 Bank Street, Chepstow NP16 5EL
T: 01291 623768 www.deaconsflorist.co.uk



Eden Rose
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11 St Mary Street, Chepstow NP16 5EW
T: 01291 627340 www.edenroseonline@icloud.com



First Stop Stationers
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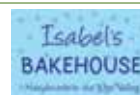
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Herbert Lewis
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T: 01291 622347 www.herbertlewis.com



Isabel's Bakehouse (award winner)
Handmade celebration & wedding cakes. Mobile crepes catering & cookery classes
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Retail & Hospitality

Chepstow Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

Supporting Local Business



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Unique place to stay or host a special event
Mathern, Chepstow NP16 5JA
T: 01291 626995/ 07500 930844 www.mathernpalace.com



Runway
Independent boutique for ladies clothes, jewellery, shoes, handbags & accessories 8 High Street, Chepstow NP16 5LH
T: 01291 622033 www.runwaychepstow.com



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



Stonerock Pizza
Artisan Pizzeria & takeaway
9-10 Upper Church St, Chepstow NP16 5EX
T: 01291 621616 www.stonerockpizza.co.uk



St Pierre Marriot
Hotel & Country Club
St Pierre Park, Chepstow NP16 6YA
T: 01291 625261 www.marriottspierre.co.uk



St Tewdrics House
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Tell Me Wine
Quality wine shop, beers and spirits
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T: 01291 629670 www.tellmewine.co.uk



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www.theroyalgeorgetintern.co.uk



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Local, quality meat & products at affordable prices; catering & takeaway
Beachley Road, Sedbury, Chepstow NP16 7AA
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Associated Professional Hypnotherapists *Hypnosis helps with many problems, inc. weight, smoking, stress, confidence, insomnia*
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Barclays Bank Business Managers for Barclays Bank
Beaufort Square, Chepstow NP16 5XL T: 07766 360114 (Moira Wearing);
T: 07342 05355 (Anne Winfield); www.barclays.com



Basepoint Centres Ltd
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BDHC Chartered Accountants
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Bespoke Music Services
Live music services for all occasions
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www.chepstowcommunitybigband.weebly.com/live-music-for-hire

Retail & Hospitality

Services

Chepstow Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

Supporting Local Business



Bevans-Evans & Capehorn Solicitors
Bevans-Evans House, Riflemans Way, Chepstow NP16 5EJ
T: 01291 630180 www.bevan-evansandcapehorn.co.uk



Chepstow Beacon
Independent, family owned newspaper
T: 01600 712142 www.chepstowbeacon.co.uk



Chepstow Dental Care at Fairlight
General & specialised dentistry in modern, friendly practice
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T: 01291 622450 www.chepstowdental.co.uk



Chepstow Matters

Chepstow Matters
Affordable and locally targetted advertising options for businesses of all sizes T: 01291 606900 FB/ChepstowMatters www.mattersmagazines.co.uk



Chepstow Mencap Ltd
The voice of learning disability
The Berkeley, Station Rd, Chepstow NP16 5PF
T: 01291 623216 www.chepstowmencap.co.uk



Chepstow Voice
Community magazine publisher
T: 01600 717249 www.thevoicemagazines.co.uk



Environmental Landcare
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T: 07920 054844 www.environmental-landcare.co.uk



ETP Property Consultants
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10 Beaufort Square, Chepstow NP16 5EP T: 01291 440100
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



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



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Hopkins Law Ltd Suite 6, Stuart House, The Back, Chepstow NP16 5HH
T: 01291 639510 www.hopkinslawltd.com



HR Dept
Preventing People Problems
3 Tymperleys, Welsh St, Chepstow NP16 5LX
T: 01291 661555 www.hrdept.co.uk

Services

Chepstow Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

Supporting Local Business



IAM Financial
Financial advisors to individuals & businesses
Itton, Chepstow, NP16 6BS
T: 01291 626373 / 07979 157259 www.iamfinancial.co.uk



JG3Design
Architectural and energy surveyor; 3D visualisation
Bridge St, Chepstow NP16 5EY T: 07870 988410 www.energysurveyor.co.uk



Kudos Printing
Printed products, branded clothing, schoolwear, signage & displays
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T: 01291 620091 www.kudosprinters.co.uk



Love & Light
Chepstow's holistic center
12 Bank Street, Chepstow NP16 5PB
T: 01291 622755 www.loveandlightshop.com



LoveSeen Photography by Clare Adams
Award winning wedding photography
Chepstow NP16 5EH T: 07876 288452 www.loveeseen.co.uk



Monmouthshire Building Society
Savings, mortgages, insurance and financial planning
19, High St, Chepstow NP16 5LQ T: 01291 629306 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



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Business Coaching - Sales Training - Team Performance ... in your corner
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T: 01291 409117 www.salesacademy2012.com



Sulu Bookkeeping
Friendly bookkeeping services for small to medium-sized businesses
T: 07775 908569 sue@sulubookkeeping.co.uk



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T: 07557 226473 www.tandemcc.co



Taylor Made Energy Solutions Ltd
Independent advice for businesses on energy efficiency; gas & electricity contracts; commercial ECPs High View, Steep Street, Chepstow NP16 5QB
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Tea Cup Tales
Vintage china & linen hire; event planning, styling & catering
T: 01291 420664 / 07803 936520 www.facebook/teacuptales.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

Services

Introduction of Universal Credit in Monmouthshire



Universal Credit (UC), is a single monthly payment for people in or out of work. Universal Credit will be fully introduced in Monmouthshire from Wednesday 27 June 2018. UC will replace six current benefits and tax credits and this quick guide provides some key facts about UC together with links to websites for more detailed information.

From 27 June 2018 new claims for any of the benefits listed below will require the claimant to make a UC claim. Monmouthshire Citizens Advice is able to help if you need more information or guidance. Drop into one of our offices or ring Adviceline 03444 772020.

- The following benefits will be replaced by UC:
 - Housing Benefit
 - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
 - Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
 - Child Tax Credit
 - Working Tax Credit
 - Income Support

- You can claim UC if you are unemployed or working (including self-employed, if it is your main regular job). If you are working the amount of money you earn each month will be taken into the calculation for the UC payment in the following month. This means you need to check and confirm on a monthly basis the information that the DWP has about your circumstances and earned income. There are no limits on how many hours a week you can work if you are claiming UC. Payments of UC will gradually reduce as you earn more, but payments will increase if your income falls.

- If you live with a partner as a couple (married, civil partners or living together) and you are both entitled to claim UC, a joint claim will need to be made. You will both need to make an online claim and you will get one monthly joint payment.

- UC is paid in arrears, as a single payment each month. It usually takes five weeks after you make your claim before you get your first payment. If you do not have enough money to live on until your first payment, you can ask for an advance payment. However, this payment cannot be paid until eligibility checks are complete. It is an interest-free loan and repayments will be deducted from your future UC payments over 12 months.

- The Housing benefit element of UC will normally be paid direct to the claimant and it is their responsibility to pay the rent. In exceptional circumstances, this element can be paid directly to the landlord.

- You will be required to make an agreement called a claimant commitment with your work coach. This will include activities that you will need to do to prepare for work or look for a job. Some claimants may not be required to do any activities because of their circumstances. If a joint claim is made the partner is usually required to enter into a claimant commitment as well. If one of you does not enter into the commitment then UC cannot be claimed. There are some exceptions which mean that only one of the couple needs to accept the commitment.

- Applying for UC is normally done online through GOV.UK <https://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit>. Details of the information you will need to have to hand is given at: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/wales/benefits/universal-credit/apply/apply-for-universal-credit>.

As well as applying on line, your account is also managed on line. If you do not have access to a computer there will be assisted digital support available to help you make a claim and manage your account. Contact the Job Centre or ring freephone 0300 4563559.

- If a potential UC claimant is not a British Citizen then additional eligibility rules apply.
- Other benefits can be claimed alongside UC e.g. Council Tax Reduction, which if you are eligible, will not reduce the amount of UC you will receive. This benefit is claimed separately through the Council.

Any payments received as a result of claims for contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance and Jobseeker's Allowance would reduce UC payments but you should check whether it is still worth claiming.

Monmouthshire County Citizens Advice offer full benefit checks so contact us if you would like help. Further information can be found at: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/wales/benefits/universal-credit/https://>

Freephone UC helpline 0800 328 9344 (Mon to Fri 8am to 6pm).



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