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July 2018

Community Chepstow Matters

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



Inside this month's issue:

Chepstow Castle Last Siege Re-enactment
SARA Duck Race
Chepstow Art's Trail
Local People: Eileen Grassby
AND MORE...!

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Dear Readers...

As we go to print on this July edition, the world cup has not long kicked off - thankfully I do not live in a footballing household! Wimbledon fortnight (which is much more my cup of tea) starts on 2nd July this year and we are pleased to welcome aboard Chepstow Tennis Club to this edition who would like to encourage more people to give tennis a go this summer, whatever your age or ability. See their advert opposite and article on page 13 for more information.

I was delighted to spend an afternoon with local resident Eileen Grassby recently, a thoroughly interesting lady with so many stories to tell from her amazing life and adventures it could fill several books - I can only give an insight on pages 10-11 but I hope you enjoy the read.

There is plenty going on in Chepstow this month, from the Art's Trail (see p9), to the Castle Re-enactment (p6-7), the annual SARA Duck Race (p15) and the Tidenham Church 'Flowers' Week (p19) to name but a few. We also hear from St John's on-the-Hill pupils who have been on a very exciting adventure, and Pembroke Primary who have been considering the environment and going 'Plastic Free'.

There is plenty more besides the above for you to read in this July 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. **Jaci x**

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Chepstow Matters was delighted to chat with local mum, Vicky, who is a target member of Slimming World. Based upon her own slimming experience Vicky came up with the idea for mummabeartreats.

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mummabeartreats is based in Chepstow but sold online at www.mummabeartreats.co.uk and most recently in Runway, Chepstow. You can also email Vicky on mummabeartreats@hotmail.com or follow her on instagram @mummabeartreats



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Wye Valley Challenge 2018

Chepstow Matters was very pleased to hear from local resident Robert Wall for this issue. Robert and his wife Noreen, have been involved with a national dog rescue charity, Houndsfirst Sighthound Rescue since 2013 being a rescuer, foster carer, adopter, transporter and fundraiser for them.

For the past two years in August, Robert and his disabled eldest son, Alistair, have taken on a version of the Welsh three peaks challenge where they have trekked up and down the three highest mountains in Wales, namely Snowdon, Cadir Idris and Pen y Fan raising much needed funds for the rescue. It was both a mental and physical challenge for the both of them.

For this year's challenge Robert wanted to do something different, so this August Robert and his youngest son, Logan, have planned a gruelling multi point challenge. They intend to go to the Source of the River Wye high in the Cambrian Mountains and trek some 30 miles downstream to where it is navigable by canoe. They will then take 4 or 5 days to canoe from Glasbury to Chepstow. The last section of this is tidal and hard work. Finally, they will then walk the final distance to the official end of the Wye Valley outside Chepstow Castle.

This will not just be physically gruelling but a personal challenge for them both. Logan has his own learning difficulties, with autism and hypermobility, which makes the fact he is willing to push so hard to raise funds for this cause even more amazing.

Hounds First Sighthound Rescue is a small but committed team who work tirelessly to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome Sighthounds of all types. They have rehomed over 450 dogs over the last 4 years. They are passionate about the education and support of dog owners, children and the wider public about the responsibilities of dog ownership and the importance of understanding dog language to reduce bite incidents in the UK

Houndsfirst Sighthound Rescue are entirely self-funded, receiving no government support. Any support you can give to Robert and his son is very much appreciated.

justgiving.com/Houndsfirst-WyeChallenge2018

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Houndsfirst Sighthound Rescue Wye Valley Challenge 2018

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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

How Well Do YOU Know Your Town?

Chepstow's history goes back some 950 years - and, this summer, knowledgeable members of the Chepstow Society will be leading walks around its historic town centre and riverside on Monday evenings in July.

The gentle walks, following the town's heritage trail, will be an opportunity to find out more about the town, as part of a small informal group.

They will start from outside the Tourist Information Centre, opposite the castle, at 7pm on Mondays 2nd July, 9th July, 16th July, 23rd July, and 30th July.

Everyone with an interest in Chepstow's history is welcome to come along. The walks will each last about 60-80 minutes, and cost £2 per head. No prior booking is necessary - just turn up.

The Chepstow Society is the town's civic amenity and historical society, and meets regularly every month in the Drill Hall. It is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year. The meeting on 18th July will have a talk on the history of Lundy Island and the Harman family. Everyone is welcome, with discounted entrance fees for members.

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Chepstow Walkers are Welcome

Saturday 7th July 2018 Hidden Mountain Valley

Meet 10.30 am at Great Barnett's Wood Car Park on the B4235 Chepstow to Usk road (0.7 miles from where the B4235 joins the A466 ST12944) Walk is 5 miles, moderate.

This circular walk offers a varied landscape of open fields, woods, and a beautiful river valley. This route is not often walked which makes it all the more charming and yet it is so close to Chepstow. Dogs WELCOME particularly if they enjoy a paddle but please note there is one difficult stile and they will need to be on leads as directed by the leader.

For more information contact Helen 01291 641856 or email chepstowwaw@hotmail.co.uk

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Chepstow Art Trail Sat/Sun 21st/22nd July 2018

Grab your Art's Trail map and explore art exhibitions throughout a variety of venues along the iconic streets of Chepstow, any time between 11am-4pm Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd July.

Come and refresh yourselves with some food, drink and entertainment at Gestalt Centre Wales, 10 Hocker Hill Street, 12pm onwards on Saturday and Sunday too; we'll have poetry readings, story telling and lots of marvellous musicians! Free event; children and families most welcome.

As well as our range of artists, poets, storytellers and solo musicians, the following bands will be joining us at GCW 10 Hocker Hill Street:

Carmina - 4pm Saturday 21st July

Double Measure - 1pm Sunday 22nd July

DB Smith Band - 2pm Sunday 22nd July

So come and explore, see what you find! For more details, check out our facebook page: Chepstow Therapy Rooms

Interested in volunteering?

WE NEED YOU! Please email Cherry or Lucy at admin@gestaltcentrewales.com

This is a fundraiser for Toad Fund, which provides low cost therapy to children, young people and families at Chepstow Child and Family Therapy Centre (a sister enterprise to Chepstow Therapy Rooms).



Mah-Jong - Summer 2018

Mah-Jong can be described as a cross between dominoes and rummy with a raft of options of making your 'Mah-Jong' hand. Where possible we are using the British Mah-Jong Association Rules but we acknowledge there are a number of different ways to play the game.

We are now looking to accommodate new members to add to our current attendance of 12- 14 who have been with us since we started in July 17. Prior experience is not required – just a willingness to have a go at something completely different. You will be allocated an experienced player and will be playing in the first session!

We meet every Monday afternoon in Tidenham Chase.

Contact David Green 07813 200808 or davidwgreen1@aol.com for further information.

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Eileen Grassby: A Fascinating Life

At the Chepstow School Remembrance Service held at St Mary's Priory last November, Chepstow Matters was delighted to meet and chat to local resident Eileen Grassby. It transpired that Eileen has enjoyed a very interesting life and I was pleased to visit with Eileen recently with a view to sharing her story.

Born in 1930 into an old Earlswood/Shirenewton farming family, she later became a pupil of Larkfield Grammar School and the College of Music and Drama in Cardiff. Eileen tells me her mother had a beautiful singing voice, that was never encouraged by her Grandmother. As a result Eileen's mother was adamant that Eileen should be given every opportunity to sing. When still young, she began to attract the attention of the local Dramatic and Operatic Society, building her reputation and appearing in many local productions. When she was old enough, Eileen's aunt took her up to London to auditions and she was first accepted into the popular Tiller Girls where she danced and sang. She was invited to perform in Manchester and then given the opportunity to travel to America, which she was just about to do when her then beau, proposed marriage. Peter Grassby was an Army Officer and local Chepstow man. He wanted Eileen to accompany him to Nigeria where he promised her a lavish lifestyle with servants. Eileen's mother was not happy that Eileen chose to marry Peter and go to Nigeria, instead of following her career to America! After two years in Nigeria, Peter became an Officer in the New Malaya Army and after a short visit back home they set off to Malaya for four years, where their son Stephen was born. Not content with staying at home whilst in Nigeria and Malaya, Eileen took to teaching locals.

On the way home from their time in Malaya, Eileen and Peter explored Australia including Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne before picking up a passenger ship in Sydney which took them to New Zealand, Tahiti, Fiji, Panama through the canal to Trinidad and finally back to Britain. They bought a beautiful home in Chepstow, but sadly a slump in the market later meant they lost everything. Eileen used some money left to her by her father to buy Lower Hardwick House in c1962. This big old house opposite Bulwark corner was almost derelict at the time, but she ended up staying there for over 40



Eileen in 'La Traviatta' in the late 1960s



years. With Peter working away in London, Eileen worked several jobs in order to raise her children and bring the house back into a good state of repair. She worked in sales for the Coal Board and Adams Biscuits and in the evenings was the 'First Lady' at the Caldicot Castle Medieval Banquets where she would utilise her beautiful voice to entertain the guests.

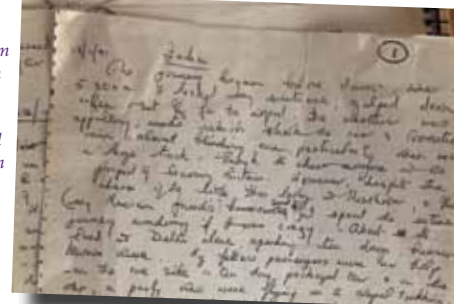
She also spent time teaching at the Cardiff College of Music and in 1968 was interviewed and invited to participate with the brand new Welsh National Opera, with whom she performed for about 4 years. Sadly the touring with the WNO became too difficult as she had the children at home to care for.

Eileen's marriage to Peter faltered and he stayed in London. Eileen opened her home at Hardwick House as a B&B where she continued to bring up her two children, Stephen and Juliette, and became heavily involved in many local activities including the Cormeilles Twinning Association, and later with U3A where she became the convenor for Art Appreciation. She was also the convenor for her singing group that prospered under her professional guidance, organising charity concerts in Summer and

at Christmas. Eileen kept singing herself and a notable performance was in 1983 at the Chepstow Castle Pageant as Emma, Lady Hamilton playing Britannia.

A member of the Chepstow Society, Eileen worked with Keith Underwood for many years in what eventually became something of a business, arranging very popular monthly excursions. They also set up a regular summer Garden Party, for instance at High Glanau and Wyndcliffe Court, and an annual holiday. These events greatly raised the profile of the Society, but were greatly missed when Eileen and Keith retired.

19/11/91 Extract: "The journey began before dawn, when at 5.30am I locked my suitcase, gulped down a coffee and set off for the airport. The weather was appalling, winds which shook the car and torrential rain almost blinding one ... Enough to cheer anyone on the prospect of leaving Britain! I spent the entire journey wondering if I was crazy. About to land in Delhi - alone - spending 10 days heavens knows where!"



Through her B&B Eileen met many interesting people, one of whom was a chap from New Zealand who later became a travel companion. They initially travelled around Wales together, before going to Paris for a week, back to visit his home in New Zealand, and then on to Honolulu and Los Angeles.

This was just one of many foreign adventures for Eileen, who just loved to travel. "After the children had left home and I had mostly retired, I used to run the B&B and save up until I could afford to go again! I am perfectly happy travelling on my own, I have met so many people over the years through singing and living abroad that I feel like I have friends wherever I go. I'm also quite a haggler and always travelled in the cheapest way I could, 'playing' on being an older lady travelling on my own to my best advantage. It's amazing what deals you can get!" Eileen told me with a twinkle in her eye.

Eileen's keen interest in travel and her many and varied experiences across Africa, India, Sri Lanka and Peru would make a book in themselves!

Throughout each of her adventures, Eileen kept a detailed diary of everything she did. They make interesting and enjoyable reading (extract above). The books Eileen showed me (which was not all by any means) detail trips to:

1986 - Los Angeles; 1988 - Toronto - Montreal - Quebec - Ottawa - Niagra - Boston; 1991 - India, New Zealand, Australia; 1992 - Singapore - Malaya; 1993 - Hong Kong; 1996 - Sri Lanka; 1997 - Delhi; 1997 - Seattle - Canadian Rockies 1998 - Mexico; 2000 - India (Southern); 2003 - Dubai - Singapore - Australia; 2009 - Cyprus

Asked what her favourite country of all was, Eileen responded "New Zealand, I truly love it there. It is so beautiful and very varied. You can have sunshine and warm seas, but snow on the mountains." One country Eileen has never visited is Russia. "I'm sorry to have not made it but my philosophy is to regret nothing. Be thankful for everything you have been able to do".

Throughout all her varied and extensive travels, Eileen has always kept a home in Chepstow.

Saddened by the recent news that Herbert Lewis will soon be closing down in the town, Eileen remembered fondly how then directors Herbert, Fred and Blodwyn Griffith always supported her early professional career as a soloist by being present at her many performances. "Chepstow's just not like that any more, it's got so much bigger."

Gardening has been a particular obsession of Eileen's and she has created beautiful gardens, first at Lower Hardwick, then at her current home in Chepstow, which was a particular challenge, providing her with a blank canvas. Many species of trees, shrubs and plants have appeared, gathered from the outlets of the very many gardens she has visited.

Eileen is also an adventurous and gifted painter and is a member of Keith's Thursday art group in Sedbury. Her home is filled with beautiful paintings, both of her own and others, with her travels and her garden being a great inspiration for her art (photos above and below).

It was an absolute delight chatting with Eileen, who tells me that the hardest thing about growing older has been "learning to do nothing - I'm itching to do more than I am currently able".

What a fascinating and inspirational lady.



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09.30 - 10.15 Poundfit	06.15 - 7.00 Spartan Circuits	06.15 - 07.00 Spin	06.30 - 07.00 Express Core & Abs	06.15 - 07.00 Kettlebell	08.30 - 09.30 Spartan Bootcamp	08.30 - 9.30 Ladies Spring Blast
18.00 - 18.45 Kettlebells	09.30 - 10.15 Core & Booty	09.30 - 10.30 Fitness Pilates	09.30 - 10.15 Ladies Weighted Pump	09.30 - 10.15 DanceFit	08.30 - 09.15 Spin	09.00 - 10.00 Yoga
18.30 - 10.15 Spin	18.00 - 19.00 Fitness Pilates	16.30 - 17.20 Little Dragons	18.00 - 18.45 PoundFit Disco	18.00 - 18.45 Spin	09.00 - 09.50 Little Dragons	10.30 - 12.00 Brazilian Ju Jitsu
18.45 - 19.45 Yoga	18.00 - 19.45 Spin	17.00 - 17.30 Express Booty Burner	19.00 - 19.45 Strongwoman/ Strongman	19.30 - 21.00 Brazilian Ju Jitsu	10.00 - 11.15 Kids Kickboxing	
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Interested In Tennis?

With Wimbledon just around the corner, has your inner tennis player come out? Do you know someone one with hidden potential or would your children fancy giving tennis a go? Whatever your background or interest, Chepstow Tennis club love to welcome new members and bring tennis to the local communities.



Davis Cup Day

Recently Chepstow Tennis Club hosted its Annual Open day with British Davis Cup Professionals coming to offer some free coaching and play in an exhibition match. The event was organised by Chepstow Tennis Club and saw two ex pro Davis Cup and Grand slam players - James Auckland and Danny Sapsford - offering coaching before playing an exhibition match against Gavin Reid (Mens first Team Captain) and Ben Durman (Club communications).

Danny Sapsford was beaten by Pete Sampras in the 1999 Wimbledon Championships, and James Auckland who had reached a career high of 57 in doubles, gave up their time to help the club raise money for tennis in the community. The event was organised by Jason Allen (Club Organiser and Social Secretary), Julia Hitchcock (Club Junior development) and Ben Durman. Beautiful weather saw an attendance of over 100 and the club raised over £500. The funds raised have been earmarked to help children in local schools experience free tennis taster sessions. A program that will be coming to your local schools over the summer.

Teams

Our Chepstow mens team play in the premier division of the south Wales League and the Cymru Kitchens Premier league centred around Gwent. Chepstow men have also been past champions and play against all the big teams inc Newport and Cardiff. Our ladies and mixed teams play in the Welsh 2nd divisions but are hoping to make the step up this year. The club is always looking for new team players so if you enjoy the challenge and sights of Wales we would love to have you.

Upcoming

This year is an exciting year for the club with some great events and developments coming up. We have:

- Annual taster day in association with the LTA. 'Great British Tennis Weekend'
- New Floodlights being installed
- Summer Social BBQ & tennis tournament
- Wimbledon Day trips
- Nights out
- Annual club tournaments
- Introducing Tennis into Schools Program
- Local pop up tennis taster sessions at Local events



Please come on a Tues Evening from 7pm and introduce yourself, we would love to see you. **Give tennis a go.**



History

Chepstow Tennis club have been in Chepstow since 1929 and along the way have seen massive changes. Only 3 years ago the club paid out nearly £50,000 to have the courts re surfaced in a fantastic Wimbledon Green Astro turf. The club currently boasts a membership of over 160 members.



Juniors

We currently have a healthy Juniors coaching programme with some of our juniors progressing onto playing in the mens' and ladies' teams. We also have our juniors playing in the Welsh national competition league. With dedicated coaching sessions and court times set aside for Junior development, Chepstow Tennis offers a safe and exciting place for your children to develop their tennis skills, social skills, build teamwork and make friends. We are always looking for new juniors and offer free taster sessions. If interested please contact: juniordv@chepstowtennis.club



A Busy Year in Rotary

Update from the Chepstow & District Rotary Club
by Christopher Wilson

It has been another busy year for the Chepstow & District Rotary Club (www.chepstowrotary.org.uk) that started when David Burr took over as Club President last June. That month they were visited by the Westerwald Rotary Club of Germany with which Chepstow is twinned and a full programme was arranged.

In July Rotary Dictionaries were presented to the local Primary schools to encourage literacy. Following participation in the Chepstow Show a special Trafalgar night dinner was staged in October. December is always a busy month with 430 attending the Tintern Torchlight Carol Service and raising £3,200 for charity. In the same vein the Club distributed empty shoeboxes to 9 local schools and then collected the 950 filled boxes that were then despatched to the needy of Eastern Europe. A Christmas dinner was enjoyed at Abbey Mill to close the calendar year.

In January Club representatives visited their twin Club in Germany where they were hosted royally at a New Year Reception. During the dark winter evenings of January a Burns Night Dinner was staged, complete with haggis, piper and a dram or two. A French murder mystery evening left everyone confused and no one guessed who dunnit. In February the annual Youth Speaks competition was held to encourage young people in debate and public speaking. Following a Valentine's Night dinner the Club staged a St George's Night event in April complete with community singing as at The Albert Hall.

The big event in May was the annual Wye Run when over 50 classic cars departed the Garden Centre in a very colourful procession. They enjoyed the wonderful local scenery following detailed instructions and completed the 100 mile run at The Anchor Inn, Tintern.

As the end of the Rotary year approaches President Burr presented a Rotary cheque for £500 to Mr Barry Buxton of SARA in recognition of the fine work that our local rescue service continues to carry out over the treacherous Severn estuary (photo above right).



President Burr commented that this has been yet another busy year for the Chepstow Rotary Club but the year closed in the knowledge that the members continue to enjoy themselves immensely while raising funds for the many local good causes in accordance with the Rotary motto of "Service above Self".

The Club is now recruiting new members with details at www.chepstowrotary.org.uk.

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The 11th Annual Great SARA Duck Race will take place on Saturday 21st July, at the Boat Inn in Chepstow.



This year will be bigger than ever - as well as the Lifeboat Demonstration on the Wye, there will be an Open Day on the quayside and a demonstration of a Cliff Rescue in the morning.

SARA PR Manager Richard Newhouse explained "Cliff Rescue is an important part of what SARA does. Starting at 11.00, we plan to rescue someone from the Gunpowder Hole, next to the Union Jack painted into the cliffs, and show how we could evacuate them up the cliffs or in a lifeboat."

The Boat Inn will be serving food and there will be a number of exhibits showing the work of SARA, with the lifeboat demo and Duck Race starting from 12.30. First prize this year is a lifeboat experience ride in the flagship lifeboat SARA 1, 2nd Prize is a SARA Abseil Experience and 3rd Prize a SARA Umbrella. Tickets are available from The Old Ferry Inn, The Boat Inn and the Coventry Building Society, as well as the Beachley Station.

The SARA Team are all volunteers, and many of them carry pagers. SARA conducted 138 separate operations last year, many of them on the Severn and in the Forest of Dean areas. They are often looking for more volunteers, to help with maintenance and fundraising as well as for operational crew. For more information contact info@sara-rescue.org.uk



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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 55,469,000 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!

Toytastik

Supplier of
Sustainable
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Green Toys



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Find us on Facebook/Toytastik.uk
We're very sociable!
01291 627200



Update from Pembroke Primary School - Earth Day

Our Pembroke Protectors and One World Club came together to raise awareness of reducing single use plastics in our school and local community. Charlotte Moore from 'Plastic Free Chepstow' presented the school with two books about reducing plastic waste in the oceans.

The two school groups held an assembly to set the school 3 challenges to carry out throughout our Earth Day. The challenges included creating a poster to raise awareness of plastic pollution, coming up with 5 ways to reduce plastic waste and making a list of all of the plastic things we use in an afternoon.

All of the children in school came away from the day feeling inspired and motivated to reduce single use plastic and were even coming up with ways to communicate their ideas and encourage their families to act!



Thanks for sharing some of your amazing posters with us!!

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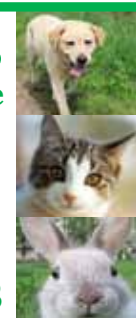
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www.freshairfridays.co.uk/saranne-postans
or contact me: **07557 226473**



Fresh Air Fridays



Friends of St Mary & St Peter, Tidenham Registered Charity no 1159658

“Flowers Week” to Commemorate World War One Armistice Centenary 1918 – 2018

The Friends of Tidenham Church (NP16 7JQ) will proudly present a Week of Commemoration from 8th – 14th July with an Open Garden Day, a Flower Festival in the Church and concluding with two evening drama performances by GO2THEATRE entitled “NO YOUNG MEN”

On Sunday 8th July the week's commemorations will begin with an “Open Gardens Afternoon” from 2.00 – 5.00pm, at Boughcliff House and Chase End (top of Boughspring Lane B4228 Tidenham). £6.00 Adults, Children free, with tea, cakes available; enjoy croquet and games on the lawn as well as the wonderful gardens.

The Flower Festival will be open for viewing from the Monday 9th July, to Sunday 15th July inclusive at Tidenham Church, situated just off the A48 up Tidenham Lane. Come and visit to view the magnificent floral displays, all with a themed WW1 depiction – and the spectacular Cascade of Poppies around the Lych Gate and also in the church itself. These poppies have been made by members of the church and local community. Admission to the Church is free, but donations are welcome for the Tidenham Church Refurbishment Project. Learn about how WW1 affected the village and area. Open daily from 2-00-5.30pm. Light refreshments available.

Friday and Saturday 13th-14th July
GO2THEATRE presents “NO YOUNG MEN”
Commences 7.30pm each evening. Tickets
£10.00, including glass of wine.

Please note -- The new car park is now available for parking, at the lower end of the Church grounds, and there will also be a Portaloo. available. All proceeds from this week of activity will go to the Tidenham Church Refurbishment Project.

Further information –please tel. (01291) 627800
(Anne)



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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 Fydeall family. Thomas Fydeall 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
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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 are currently accepting applications for 2+year olds – we have space available from September 2018 so please do get in touch to find out more and to avoid disappointment.

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



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

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Please email us at: kestrelgymclub@live.co.uk

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

Summer Fun at Chepstow Racecourse

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WITH **SCOTT MILLS**
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FRIDAY 13TH JULY

RACEDAY SHUTTLE BUS AVAILABLE
BEST DRESSED LADY COMPETITION
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CHEPSTOW RACING & EVENTS

CARIBBEAN RACE NIGHT
FRIDAY 27TH JULY

ADMISSION FROM **£22PP**

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Monday 27th August

Bring a PICNIC
Kids go FREE
Free PARKING

With **THE CHUCKLE BROTHERS**

CHEPSTOW RACING & EVENTS

There are some great events over the summer at Chepstow Racecourse!

Ladies Evening with Scott Mills Friday 13th July

There will be 7 exciting horse races on the track and a 'Best Dressed Lady Competition' with a staggering 1st prize of £1,000 as well as prizes for 9 runners up! The party will then carry on with our official afterparty with Scott Mills (from BBC Radio One) who will be playing a DJ set live after racing.

So ladies, get your biggest hat and gents, your smartest suits and head to Chepstow Racecourse for our Summer Ladies Evening.

Book in advance and save online or by calling 01291 622 260.

Caribbean Racenight with Bob Marley Tribute, The Trenchtown Experience Friday 27th July

This is one of the most popular meetings of the year, so get a group of friends together and enjoy a fun night out at our Caribbean Racenight.

Following an evening of thrilling horse racing, the brilliant Bob Marley tribute band, The Trenchtown Experience will be live on stage. It's going to be a fun, party atmosphere with sounds and flavours of the Caribbean.

Book in advance and save online or by calling 01291 622 260.

Big Bank Holiday Family Raceday with Andy Day & The Chuckle Brothers Monday 27th August

It's back, our BIG Bank Holiday Family Raceday on the Bank Holiday Monday in August.

As well as the great horse racing throughout the afternoon there will be bundles of free family entertainment on site for the entire family to enjoy, including a performance from popular CBeebies presenter Andy Day and an appearance from famous duo, The Chuckle Brothers!

As well as entertainment on stage all afternoon there will be face painting, go karts, a magician, bouncy castle, cricket skills, football skills and more!

...and remember, all ENTERTAINMENT IS FREE with your ticket, children aged 17 and under go free and what's more, you can also bring a picnic (no alcohol)!

Book in advance and save online or by calling 01291 622 260.

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Community Noticeboard

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Wednesday 4th July Chepstow Choral Society

is presenting a celebration of American popular music, with songs and medleys including West Side Story, Rogers and Hammerstein hits and the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

They will also be joined by special guests Bristol Gilbert & Sullivan Operatic Society to present the classic comic operetta

'Trial by Jury'

With tunes that'll encourage the audience to hum along and humour bound to lift the spirits, this popular local choir's summer concert is not to be missed.

At just £10 a ticket for adults (all under 18s and students free), including light refreshments, it'll be a great night out for the whole family.

From 7pm Wednesday 4 July 2018, Arts Hall, Chepstow School.

Tickets from Chepstow Books, any chorister or on the door.

Poetry And Pimms!

An evening of poetry about gardens and gardening in the
Reading Garden of Chepstow Library (or inside if weather is inclement).
FREE event.
Thursday 19th July 7pm-8.30pm Chepstow Library.

CHEPSTOW ARTS TRAIL ENTERTAINMENT

TO HOCKER HILL ST
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CARMINA
DOUBLE MEASURE
DB SMITH BAND
SOLO MUSICIANS
STORYTELLING & POETS

*Free Event!
Families Welcome!*

This is a fundraiser for Toad Fund, which provides low cost therapy to children, young people and their families at Gestalt Centre Wales

DEVAUDEN FETE

SATURDAY JULY 14th

Don't miss the amazing
Bubble Man,
Mini Zoo,
Have a go at
archery,
Kestrels gym
display,
plus family fun and games.

sack race. tug of war. 3 leg race.
Handicraft & side shows.
2pm-5pm everybody welcome
ONLY ASSISTANCE DOGS ARE ALLOWED AT THE FETE.

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.



THE CHEPSTOW SOCIETY
70th Anniversary – 1948-2018

MEETINGS 2018

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

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

19 September –
Chris Barber – In Search of King Arthur

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

www.chepsoc.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
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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



Art's Trail:

Chepstow Photographic Society

For the second year in succession, Chepstow Photographic Society is holding an exhibition featuring a varied selection of images, photographed by their members.

The exhibition is being staged in the vaulted 'moot' room of the Greenman Backpackers Hostel in Beaufort Square, as part of Chepstow's 2018 Art's Trail.

This event takes place on
Saturday 21st July 11.00am – 4.30pm and
Sunday 22nd July 11.00am – 4.00pm.

It's free to enter, and well worth a visit.

Tintern Film Nights

Big-screen movies close to home

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

Tintern Garden Club



44th Annual Show

Saturday 11th August 2018

If you are a Tintern resident then give it a go and enter something into the show. Free to enter.

2:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Tintern Village Hall

Flowers,
Vegetables,
Cookery,
Handicrafts
Raffle,
Teas and Refreshments



Contact the Show Secretary dave.tuffery@talk21.com 01291 689919
Show schedule can be found at www.tinternvillage.co.uk



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, Cormeilles Square, High Street, Chepstow, NP16 5LH 01291 628725 main hall and lounge available for hire, Tea Rooms open for all!

The Drill Hall, Lower Church Street, Chepstow, NP16 5HJ Hall available for hire including weddings 01291 628552 or e-mail Mike at ctcdrillhall@aol.com

Bulwark Community Centre, Laburnam Way, Bulwark, Chepstow, NP16 5RF 01291 624138 bccbulwark@btconnect.com Large Hall, seminar room, café, kitchen and garden area.

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 Cormeilles Twinning Association www.chepstowtwinning.wordpress.com

Chepstow and District Amateur Radio Society www.gw4lwz.org.uk contact James Hewitt chairman@gw4lwz.com, meet at Chepstow Athletic Club

Chepstow and District Gardening Club Caroline Duchet cdgclub@gmail.com

Chepstow and District Lions www.caldicot.com/lions 0845 8339565

Chepstow Folk Dance Club Wednesdays 7.30 pm Function Room Conservative Club, Moor Street. <http://chepstowfolkdance.weebly.com/>

Chepstow Hill Walking Club an informal group of people of all ages who like to walk on the hills and moorland. www.chwc.org.uk

Chepstow Jubilee Townswomen's Guild meets at Chepstow Leisure Centre on the 1st Wednesday of each Month. Contact: Maureen Dale 01291 623257

Chepstow Knitters first and third Monday of the month Chepstow Methodist Hall 7.30-9.30pm. Contact Margaret Payne 01291 630580

Chepstow Male Voice Choir www.chepstowmvc.co.uk Mon & Thurs 7pm The Dell School contact 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
St Christophers, Bulwark, (linked to St Marys)
Rev Phillip Averay 01291 620980
<http://www.chepstowparish.co.uk/>

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



/ChepstowMatters

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

Ysgol Y Ffin (Welsh medium), Sandy Lane, Caldicot, NP26
4NR 01291 420331 Headteacher: Mr J Hallett

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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

Mounton House Special School Mr P Absalom, Headteacher
Pwllmeyric, Chepstow, NP16 6LA, 01291 635642
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
markburch1228@hotmail.com 01291 622126

Chepstow Cycling Club www.chepstowcyclingclub.wales/
Chepstow Darts League contact Rob Murdin - murdrobe@
sky.com or Chris Smith - smudger391@hotmail.com, tel -
07445 287018.

Chepstow & District Yacht Club www.cdyc.co.uk Roger
Nasey 07968495124

Chepstow Harriers Running Club
www.chepstowharriers.org.uk Tues and Thurs 7pm Leisure
Centre

Chepstow Ladies Hockey www.pitchero.com/clubs/
chepstowladieshockeyclub Jamie Clifton (Secretary) email:
jamie.clifton@hotmail.co.uk

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



Pupils donate thousands to township school in South Africa

South African school children received some life-changing news, thanks to the incredibly generous pupils of St John's on-the-Hill School in Chepstow.

A huge total of a £3,500 has been raised for the Isikhokelo Primary School in the Khayelitsha township, in Cape Town.

The St John's children worked incredibly hard to raise money for the school, which they visited on a recent three-week exchange trip to South Africa. They raised the money through a range of initiatives in the run up to the trip, including a sponsored read-a-thon, triathlons and car boot sales. They also organised a dedicated charity day at school, where the children experienced a traditional African dance and drum workshop.

Miss Stephanie George, the St John's teacher who organised the trip, said: *"We have been visiting the school for a number of years and have built a close relationship with the wonderful teachers and children there. It is an underprivileged school and so we just wanted to help them. With the funds, we bought computers, printers, a year's supply of ink, laminators and projectors, writing books, pens and reading books. Visiting the school was an incredible experience for all of our children – we joined their lessons, sang and danced together and played football."*

Anna Boyle, a Year 7 pupil at St John's, said: *"This was such an amazing trip which I will never forget. I have made friends for life on this exchange and I will be forever grateful for this experience. I had the best time ever!"*

The South African Exchange has run for more than 14 years and is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for Year 7 children at St John's. The children were taken on lots of amazing trips in Cape Town, including: a trip to Table Mountain by cable car, visits to the Cool-Runnings Toboggan Park, A Segway



tour in Stellenbosch, a trip to Cape Point, Ostrich Encounters and an educational visit to Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was infamously held prisoner.

They then travelled by plane to East London where they had a few days at the Stirling Primary School, learning the Afrikaans and Xhosa languages and playing the Marimbas. They also took part in Jonginenge activities, which included surfing, sandboarding, canoeing and rock climbing. However, the pinnacle of the trip was surely the three-day safari - the children spotted four out of the big five animals (rhinoceros, lion, elephant and buffalo); indeed, they were fortunate enough to have a VERY close encounter with the lions!



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)
Thrill 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.

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

St John's on-the-Hill

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



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



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Chepstow Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

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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.

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T: 01291 622260 www.chepstow-racecourse.co.uk



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T: 07730 764547 www.cherishedearth.co.uk



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T: 01291 627340 www.edenroseonline@icloud.com



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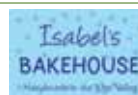
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Chepstow Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

Supporting Local Business



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www.facebook.com/scandia-shoes



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T: 01291 621616 www.stonerockpizza.co.uk



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Hotel & Country Club
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T: 01291 625261 www.marriottspierre.co.uk



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T: 01291 629670 www.tellmewine.co.uk



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www.theroyalgeorgetintern.co.uk



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Beaufort Square, Chepstow NP16 5XL T: 07766 360114 (Moir Wearing);
T: 07342 05355 (Anne Winfield); www.barclays.com



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Retail & Hospitality

Services

Chepstow Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

Supporting Local Business



Bevans-Evans & Capehorn Solicitors
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www.etpproperty.co.uk



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T: 01291 470126 www.homelinklettings.com



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Services

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
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MLIBF ACSI CertPFS MAQ
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IAM Financial



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