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March 2019

Community Chepstow Matters



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Dear Readers...

This lovely mild weather in the middle of February really makes us feel that spring is well on its way with plenty of snowdrops and daffodils peaking through. As you can see from our cover photos, it's 'blooming' lovely.

If you are lucky enough to still have your mum around, then don't forget to spoil her this Mother's Day - we have many advertisers in our pages who can help you with ideas, from jewellery and knitwear, to a new hair do (or gift vouchers to spend in the salon), a day at the races, wine tasting, a language course or a night listening to live music - there is certainly plenty going on around Chepstow over the coming months!

We welcome new business Chepstow Yoga Centre to the town as they launch this month and are offering a free session during their opening week. See page 13.

We have updates from local schools and local clubs too, so do sit back, relax and enjoy the read!

As usual, we couldn't bring you all the community news and events without the support of our fantastic advertisers, so a big shout out of thanks to them. Please do return their support by utilising their services where you can - and don't forget to mention Chepstow Matters too so they know where you saw them. **Keep it Local in 2019 and help our local community thrive!**

If you are a business looking to promote your services across Chepstow and the local villages do get in touch with us and we will be happy to help. Deadline for the next issue is 15th March.

Jaci x

Don't forget you can keep up with each monthly edition of your favourite local community magazine via

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Let people know you saw them in Chepstow Matters!

"Grief is the Price We Pay for Love"

**New Support Group starting
Wednesday 6th March, 2.30-4pm, Caldicot**

A Friendship Group for those who would like support following the loss of a loved one has been set up in a joint initiative between Ian Watts & Son, Independent Funeral Directors in Caldicot and Cruse Gwent Bereavement Care.

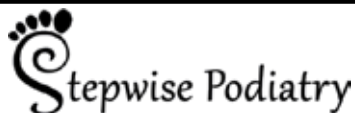
Jo Hume, of Ian Watts Funeral Home, said "We wanted to provide support based in the Caldicot area where people can meet, at what is often the most difficult and lonely time of their lives. We get to know families and individuals personally when arranging a Funeral and we feel passionately about always being there for them after the Funeral has taken place. We are very fortunate that so many become friends and we will always do whatever we can to help them."

Jo added, "We are grateful to Matt & Nicola for kindly letting us meet at their premises and providing the refreshments at The Cellar Cwtch Bar in Newport Road, Caldicot (near the Co-op).

We will be there between 2.30pm and 4pm on Wednesday 6th March and following that, we hope to meet regularly."

Derrick Price of Cruse Bereavement Care said they were grateful to Jo in driving this initiative. "Whilst we offer formal group sessions and face to face counselling there are many people who just want a place to share their experience and meet in an informal setting. Grief is the price we pay for love and quite often we hold back our feelings from family members. Talking or just listening to others does help".

For information call Jo Hume 01291 420972



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Communities across Wales will be getting together this spring for Spring Clean Cymru: a massive clean-up of streets, parks, public spaces and beaches.

Spring Clean Chepstow, co-ordinated by Keep Chepstow Tidy (Transition Chepstow's Litter Group) with support from Plastic Free Chepstow, will try to make the town a more attractive place for residents and visitors alike. We would like to invite all community groups, organisations and workplaces to help get rid of litter across our town. And we would like to invite all Chepstow residents to get involved!

Organising a clean-up

Clean-ups can be a single street, a park or open space, or a wider area. They can last anywhere from just a few minutes up to a day – it's up to you. If you or your organisation, for example, church, youth group or business would like to organise a clean-up, Keep Chepstow Tidy can help with advice and training and with the loan of equipment such as litter pickers.

Please contact Paul on litter@transitionchepstow.org.uk to find out more.

You can also register a clean-up directly with Keep Wales Tidy on **www.keeptwalestidy.org.uk**



cymru - but please drop us an email so we know which areas of Chepstow are being covered. Do take some 'before and after' photos and post them on our Facebook page Keep Chepstow Tidy. And have fun! Why not get together for a coffee or a BBQ afterwards?

Joining a clean-up

The first clean-up is on Saturday March 23rd, meeting at Nelson Street Car Park at 10 am to tackle the town centre, the underpass and the approach to the Railway Station. Others will follow - see our Facebook page or check with **www.keeptwalestidy.org.uk** or **www.transitionchepstow.org.uk** for an up-to-date list of clean-ups in and around Chepstow. Children are usually welcome, but please check with the organiser.

Other ways you can help

Carry a bag when you go out and pick up pieces of litter as you go. Let Keep Chepstow Tidy know about those persistent 'grot-spots' to help us build up a clear picture of problem areas and prioritise our community litter picks - contact **litter@transitionchepstow.org.uk**.

You can report fly-tipping online via **www.flytippingactionwales.org** and you can also report serious litter problems to Monmouthshire County Council via the MyMonmouthshire app or by phoning 01633 644644.

Last but not least - talk about litter! The long-term solution to the litter problem isn't clean-ups; it's a society that doesn't drop litter. So let those around you know that dropping litter just isn't acceptable.

Transition Chepstow



Chepstow Choral Society Celebrates 40 Years

Founded in 1979 (although its origins go back much further), Chepstow Choral Society is celebrating 40 years of singing and bringing great music to Monmouthshire this year.

During those four decades, it has presented work by most of the leading European classical composers from the past, including Mozart, Schubert, Vivaldi and Haydn, often performing the Chepstow premier of internationally acclaimed choral works, and has also interpreted popular music ranging from Abba to Gilbert & Sullivan.

Every year has seen the choir presenting exciting and ambitious programmes, and 2019 is no exception... This will begin with the **Spring Concert in St Mary's Church on 6th April**, which will include Beethoven's Mass in C, alongside work by Handel and Vaughan Williams. The choir will be joined by four outstanding young soloists from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and a full professional orchestra, giving Chepstow's music-lovers an outstanding evening. Tickets will go on sale in March from Chepstow Books or any choir member.

For over half of its history the choir has been led by Conductor and Musical Director Graham Bull, loved by the choir for his combination of outstanding musical knowledge and robust sense of humour, both of which make rehearsals hugely enjoyable. He is ably assisted by Assistant Musical Director Marjorie Duerden, who was the choir's accompanist for many years until 2016, when the talented musician Richard Kubiak took up the role.

Although the choir strives for excellence, Chepstow Choral Society welcomes anyone who can hold a tune, regardless of experience or knowledge of music. All voice parts are always warmly welcomed soprano, alto, tenor or bass (though male voices are always doubly welcome!), and whilst many members are first rate musicians, there are numerous members who rely on learning parts by ear, and there are lots of sources of assistance available for novices, from fellow choristers to online apps.

If you fancy giving choral singing a try, come along to Chepstow School at 7.30 any Wednesday evening, or call Marjorie on 01291 623310 for more details.

Big Tides (February, March and September 2019) and a new Tides plaque at Chepstow

Local resident John Burrows has provided us with some information on the forthcoming big tides for Chepstow and the Monmouthshire coast starting 22 February 2019.

The largest tides since the peak year of 2015 are due to arrive soon (as we went to print on this March edition) with the first 14.5 metre (46 feet) high tide due at Chepstow at 08.47 am on Thursday 21st February and at 9.30am on Friday 22nd February 2019 followed by an incredible 14.6 metre (48 feet) high tide at 8.28 am on Friday 22 March 2019.

The astronomical tides at Chepstow and in the Severn Estuary do not exceed 14.7 metres so 14.6 metres is very rare.

In 2015 we did have three 14.7 metre tides but 2015 was the peak year of a 19 year tide cycle.

The highest tides are impressive to watch from a safe path and will not create damage unless they are accompanied by a storm surge which can result from the wind blowing from the south west directly up the Bristol Channel and Severn Estuary and low atmospheric pressure, or high rainfall, or snow melt.

If these meteorological conditions combine with the high 'astronomical' tides (caused by the Moon and the Sun) then tides could be one metre or 1.5 metres higher than predicted. Hopefully that won't happen!

The highest tide recently at Chepstow was on 3rd January 2014 when there was a 1 metre storm surge on top of a 14.2 metre astronomical tide, creating a 15.2 metre (50 feet) tide at Chepstow Bridge by the Castle.

Chepstow now has a Tides plaque (photo below) explaining the world phenomenal tides at Chepstow. John Burrows (top photo) researched, measured and wrote the information for the plaque, which was then designed, made up and laid in place by Chepstow potter Ned Hayward (photo).

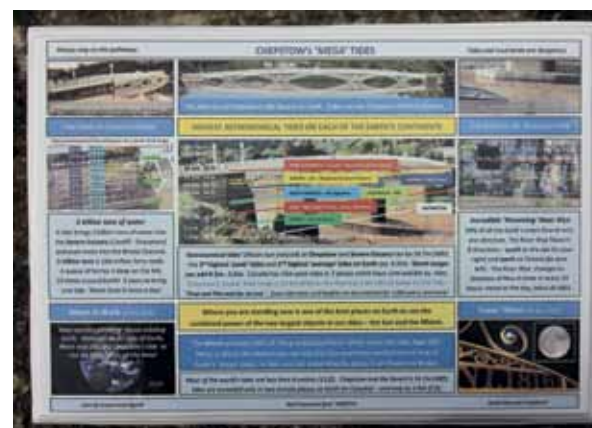


In 2019 the tide height at Chepstow will be 14.5 metres or 14.6 metres on

21 and 22 February;
22 and 23 March;
1 September, 29 & 30 September.

and high tides at Chepstow will be 14 metres (46 feet) or higher on:

22 to 24 January;
21 to 23 February;
21 to 24 March;
19 to 21 April;
3 August;
30 August to 2 September;
28 September to 1 October; and
27 to 30 October



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SARA is an Inshore Rescue Boat and Land Search and Rescue organisation covering the Severn Estuary and the surrounding area, supporting HM Coastguard, Fire & Rescue and Police services 24/7, 365 days of the year. Membership is made up entirely from volunteers, with no paid staff. As a registered charity, all funding is raised by way of donations.

SARA currently operates from five bases, at Chepstow (Beachley), Newport, Sharpness, Tewkesbury and Kidderminster (Wyre Forest). The need for SARA is increasing with more callouts evident year on year, as well as the variety and range of callouts increasing. Typical incidents involve boats or persons in difficulty on one of the rivers SARA covers, but also searches for missing persons, animal rescue and flood relief are also becoming common.

Beachley is the Headquarters Station for SARA and houses the equipment used by both the lifeboat crews and the other search & rescue teams. Crew members are trained in boat, mud, land and swift-water rescue. The Station is ideally located to cover the water from Sharpness in the north, to Avonmouth and Cardiff in the south. The Rivers Avon, Usk, Monnow and Wye are all part of its operational area.

Beachley was SARA's first purpose built lifeboat station and is situated under the M48 (Old) Severn Bridge. The slipway was originally used by the car ferry service between Beachley and Aust, before the opening of the Severn Bridge in 1966.

Beachley has also been a designated Mountain Rescue post since 1985, with specific regard to cliff rescue on the cliffs of the Lower Wye Valley.

Recent Operations

The weekend before Christmas, the team was called out to Caerleon, to support Gwent Police with a task on the river bank. This required the Newport lifeboat to work together with an SRT

party on the shore, and members of the Ambulance HART Team as well as the police.

On Christmas Day itself, lifeboat crew were woken at 04.40 by a page from the Coastguard. It turned out that no response was needed - but then around 11pm there was a callout for real, which involved SARA Lifeboat 1 searching the River Avon (again, together with RNLI Portishead and others) before eventually being stood down early on Boxing Day!

Please Join Us!

SARA is always looking for new operational crew members, both as Lifeboat Crew and Land Team Members. In addition, Fundraisers are needed to help raise the essential money needed to keep the Station operational. Other Specialist Members have skills such as administration and vehicle mechanics, which are all essential to keep the operation going.

All operational team members need to be physically fit; lifeboat crew should ideally live within 15 minutes of Beachley or Malpas, and must be able to swim. Full training is provided, regular attendance during the training course is needed to become operational, and then continuation and progression training can follow.

Could this be you? For more information contact info@sara-rescue.org.uk

During 2018, the Severn Area Rescue Association conducted 109 separate operations (just over two per week) together with over 100 separate tasks supporting the NHS during the two periods of heavy snow in March.

Of these operations 56 were lifeboat callouts, 37 land search and 24 involved inland water search and rescue.

Two of the operations lasted for two days and one for three days. There were 11 days with two or more operations on the same day, and sometimes individual crew members attended two callouts in a day.

Ann Llewellyn

an obituary by Keith Underwood

The sad news of Ann Llewellyn's death at very nearly 89 has caused shock waves amongst her family and the very many friends she has made over the years. The term 'icon' is much overused, but in many senses of the word Ann was very much an iconic figure, known, respected and loved by many.

Ann had strong connections to Itton where she lived for many years, but she had brought up her family at Black Rock where she lived in the old house with the steps. Her great love for the river was deep and she often sailed from Mathern Pill and had a fund of anecdotes about her many, sometimes close experiences.

She graduated from Cambridge at a time when women were in the minority, but she was never deterred by supposed male dominance and often entered the lists in defence of a project dear to her heart. Once focused there was nothing that was going to stop her. However, she was well aware of the needs of others, self-effacing, she came to the aid of many.

Ann taught at the old Boys' School in Chepstow and taught French and Drama at St John's-on-the-Hill for many years. She also organised eisteddfodau in Chepstow. In 1983 she was drawn into the great community event celebrating the year of Welsh castles, called 'The Pageant'. This was to reveal her talent for mustering local people, often at her



own expense, travelling great distances to ensure that actors and participants arrived on time to rehearsals and performances.

When the old tradition of castle pageant was revived as son et lumière productions at Chepstow Castle and Tintern Abbey, she was fearless and totally committed to them. One of her best sequences was the 1918 fete in 'Echoes of the Stones' at Tintern.

Ann was in total control however at Usk in 2005 where she masterminded the whole pageant to commemorate the Battle of Pwll Melyn in 1405. Ann also worked tirelessly for the cause to save Ruperra Castle, researching, script writing and work in the production of books and videos.

Music was a great passion and Ann played a number of instruments, including the organ at St Deiniols in Itton. But it was the recorder that was dear to her heart and she played at Treowen with Emma Wheelock and at many other venues. She was a keen member of Chepstow's U3A recorder group. Ann was an active member of the Monmouthshire Antiquarian Association, Usk Castle Friends and was also a member of the Chepstow Society.

Ann will be greatly missed by her many friends and by her children, Charlie, Mary and Thomas and by her grandchildren.

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Next event: Wine Tasting "Côtes du Rhône" on Friday 15th March from 6.30pm



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The East Wales Schools Tumble and Vault Championships was held at Kestrel Gymnastics Club, in Bulwark, where gymnasts from Primary and Secondary Schools throughout the region took part competing three different Tumbles and two Vaults.

It was a very enjoyable day for all taking part. In the Under 11 Girls' Section Callie Williams of North Road Primary won Gold, Lilian Sapsford of The Dell Primary won Silver, and Olive Dunster of St Mary's RC Primary won Bronze.

Undy Primary won Team Gold, St Mary's Primary won Team Silver, and The Dell won Team Bronze. Under 11 Boys - Nando Gaskor of Tredegar Park Primary won Gold, Brereton Trim of Shirenewton Primary won Silver, and Ben Jenkins of Tredegar Park Primary won Bronze. Tredegar Park boys also won Team Gold. Under 14 Girls - Maisie Edwards of Monmouth Comprehensive won Gold, Ruby Tugwell of Caerleon won Silver, Ella Burley of St Joseph's won Bronze. Caerleon won Team Gold, and Monmouth won Team Silver.

Under 19 Girls - All from Chepstow School, Georgie Davies won Gold, Jessica Ham won Silver, Clare John won Bronze. Caerleon won Team Gold.

The teams representing East Wales going through to the Welsh Regional Finals at Sport Wales National Centre in Cardiff in March are:

U11 Girls - Callie Williams - North Rd, Lilian Sapsford - The Dell, Olive Dunster - St Mary's, Erin Brady - Undy, Bethan Peacock - Undy, Eva Meddins - St Mary's.

U11 Boys - Nando Gaskor - Tredegar Park, Brereton Trim - Shirenewton, Ben Jenkins - Tredegar Park, Daniel Kucharczyk - Thornwell, Marley Elliot-Jones - Tredegar Park, Ben Heley - Tredegar Park.

U14 Girls - Maisie Edwards - Monmouth, Ruby Tugwell - Caerleon, Ella Burley - St Josephs, Holly Jones - St Albans, Kaya Kajer - St Joseph's, Erica Denby - Chepstow.

U19 Girls - From Chepstow - Georgie Davies, Jessica Ham, Clare John, from Caerleon - Amelia Basham, Megan Hoskins, Maia Ali.



Devauden Festival 17th-18th May 2019

The fabulous, family-friendly Devauden Festival celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2019 with another fun-filled weekend planned!

"We have grown so much since day one, learning from mistakes, listening to your feedback and implementing changes year upon year. We can't thank you all enough for your support over the years. It would be nothing without you." Kevin McElroy, Festival organiser.

Running Friday night and all of Saturday, three stages feature a wide range of some of the best local talent from across South Wales and surrounding areas. The main stage and second stage are situated in our Glastonbury Big Top, so you can enjoy the vast array of music, no matter what the weather, in a setting that is hard to beat! The acoustic stage is located in the main building, conveniently close to the well stocked bar, serving a selection of real ales, cider and other drinks. If you are looking for something to soak up the drinks, there will also be a variety of food vendors, catering for all tastes.

As well as the great music, food and drink, there is plenty to keep the younger visitors happy in the Kids Zone. Activities include the ever-popular music workshops, circus skills tent, kids play area, kids crafts, face painting and plenty more.

HEADLINING the TENTH BIRTHDAY festival celebrations are:

Friday 17th May - Rusty Shackle

These local lads have been with us on our journey since the very first festival nearly ten years ago. It would be down right rude not to celebrate this moment together. Expect all your favourites from over the years as well as brand new music from their soon to be released album "The Raven, The Thief & The Hangman".



Saturday 18th May - Tankus the Henge

Quite simply the best festival band on the circuit. Their funk-fuelled repertoire is wildly eclectic, ranging from New Orleans inspired swing to heavy rock riffs, and since their beginnings in the ratty alleyways of London's Soho, the band has evolved into a wild groove machine. A spectacle NOT TO BE MISSED!!

"...I love that. It reminds me of a mixture of early Kinks, Squeeze and a bit of Blur mashed in. His voice is his own, ...so great. I love it."

Dave Davies –
The Kinks



The team at Devauden Festival look forward to seeing you at what is shaping up to be the best festival so far on the 17th & 18th May 2019. The small festival with big ideas!

MORE INFO & TICKETS:
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Movement for Every Body in 2019

A week of FREE classes will celebrate the launch of Chepstow's first dedicated yoga and movement studio, Chepstow Yoga Space (CYS).

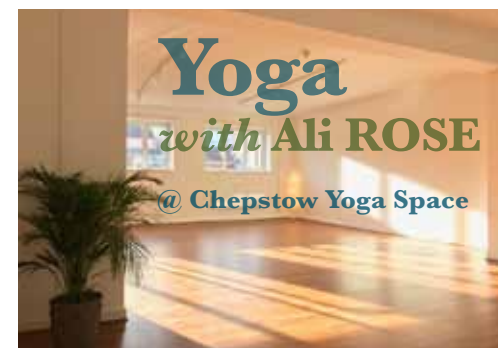
Opening the first week of March and located centrally in Moor Street, CYS will provide a vibrant hub for Chepstow's many yoga and movement enthusiasts, teachers and students alike.

Offering a varied timetable of classes - ranging from the dynamic practice of Vinyasa through to Hatha, Seniors and Pregnancy classes - the studio will enable people of all backgrounds and abilities to explore the various styles of yoga within a dedicated and supportive environment.

When yoga isn't on the timetable, the space will be used for complementary workshops and activities such as massage and relaxation. CYS is the shared dream of four local yoga and movement teachers Christine Cox, Lorna Kennedy, Ali Rose and Sarah McLellan. Having a wealth of teaching experience and established classes in and around the town, together they realised that Chepstow was missing a supportive community space where people could come together to share and to grow through the joy of movement. With this in mind, CYS is driven by the ethos of 'movement for every body'.

Whilst yoga styles can vary, all yoga has a common theme: 'the body benefits from movement and the mind from stillness'. We hope people can use the free classes during launch week to explore what's on offer and find the class that suits them. To 'book a mat' visit the website, click on the timetable which will link you to the relevant teacher.

To find out more visit the website:
www.chepstowyogaspacespace.co.uk
or find us on Facebook



Hatha Yoga Weds evening 6.15-7.45 pm
Friday morning 9.30-11.00am

Gentle Yoga Weds morning
10.00 - 11.30am

To book contact Ali
0788 367 8629
ali@yogawithalirose.co.uk

EASTER

Easter is a crucial time of year for the Christian faith as it celebrates two essential events in the life of Jesus - the cross (crucifixion) and the empty tomb (resurrection).

From a historical point of view there is considerable evidence that a man called Jesus from Nazareth was executed on a cross by the Romans as a political criminal. What people believe about that death is to move from fact to faith. For Christians the meanings of the cross include seeing it as the ultimate demonstration of God's love for the world, including an expression of God in solidarity with all those who suffer as well as offering Himself as the means for forgiveness.

The historical evidence for the empty tomb is a bit different. The Romans kept records of those they executed but not of those who rose, nor was there any CCTV in the first century Palestinian graveyards. Some evidence has been found and of course Christians trust the witness of the Gospels to believe in the resurrection. That life has triumphed over death, that light has overcome darkness, that Love Wins, is an act of faith - but not just a conviction in the head but of trust of the heart.

Some people see something compelling in the years after the death of Jesus. Many would be messiahs came and went during the time of the Romans, all executed and soon forgotten and the movements they started petered out. Not so with Jesus of Nazareth. Something so significant and spectacular happened that first Easter. The first Christians were transformed from a tiny defeated group into a movement that changed the world. Within a few years, so convinced were they that Jesus had risen they were prepared to face the gladiators in the colosseum for His cause. Within generations the church had spread like wild fire. Ironically the all powerful Roman Empire that sought to crush the Jesus Movement has disappeared whilst there are Christians in the millions and millions.

The very existence of millions of people who to this day worship and follow Jesus Christ is perhaps the most challenging piece of evidence for the resurrection that first Easter.

Whatever the Easter season means to you personally - may you know the blessings of peace and Joy.

Rev Andrew Webster, Chepstow Methodist Church

Lent and Easter Services at Chepstow Methodist Church Albion Square

We extend a warm welcome to attend our services

Sunday 31st March
10.30am Mothering Sunday

Sunday 14th April
10.30am Palm Sunday

Thursday 18th April
7.30pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion

Friday 19th April
6pm Good Friday reflective service

Easter Sunday 21st April
8am Easter Sunday Holy Communion
10.30am Easter Sunday Worship for All Ages with Holy Communion including egg hunt



Chepstow Baptist Easter Services

Good Friday - 19th April - 8pm - Tenebrae Service
(Tenebrae is a dramatic retelling by candlelight of the events of Holy Week)

Saturday 20th April
10.30am - 1pm Family Easter Craft and Games

Sunday 21st April
10.30am Easter Worship Service

Easter Services at Stroath Church

6th April 10am - Create for Easter
come and learn some new arts and crafts for Easter

14th April 11am - Palm Sunday Messy Church

21st April 11am - Easter Sunday morning worship

Churches Together

Lent Course every Wednesday starting on 13th March and finishing on 10th April, 7.30pm at St Christopher's, Bulwark

Easter Sunday
Churches Together Easter Celebration, 2pm at the Bandstand



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(By M&S Food Hall)
5.30pm & 7.30pm
David 07912 054286

TUESDAY
Burnt Barn Social Club
Burnt Barn Rd, Bulwark, Chepstow 5.30pm
Lisa 07490 706047

WEDNESDAY
Palmer Centre, High Street, Chepstow (Behind Peacocks) 9.30am
Lisa 07490 706047

WEDNESDAY
St Arvans Memorial Hall Tintern Road, St Arvans, Chepstow (Just past the Piercefield)
5.30pm & 7.30pm
David 07912 054286

THURSDAY
Tidenham War Memorial, Tutshill, Chepstow
5.30pm & 7.30pm
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Lent and Easter Services at St Mary's Priory & St Christopher's

6th March, 7pm at St Mary's
Ash Wednesday Service

Holy Week to Easter

Mon 15th, Tues 16th, Wed 17th April - evening prayer starting at 7pm @ St Mary's

Maundy Thursday 18th April Service 6.30pm @ St Mary's (Starting with an Agape meal)

Good Friday 19th April
Stations of the Cross 11am @ St Christopher's

Last 3 hours at the Cross from 12 noon @ St Mary's

Easter Eve Saturday 20 April
Easter vigil and service of light 7pm @ St Mary's

Easter Sunday -
8am and 11am at St Mary's Priory and 9.30am at St Christopher's

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Wydean School and Sixth Form Centre gears up for FameLab Academy 2019

Eight Year 9 students from Wydean School and Sixth Form have recently competed in FameLab Academy organised by Cheltenham Science Festival, to find the best young science communicator in the county.

The Wydean School final was won by Maya Hall who spoke articulately in front of 160 Year 8 students and staff on Tuesday 12 February.

Maya's three minute talk on the science of VTOL (vertical take-off and landing) engines linked neatly to the drawbacks of traditional transport solutions. Head judge Dr. Elspeth Kenny from Cheltenham Festivals, praised Maya's confident and eloquent style, married with clear technical understanding of the scientific challenges involved. Dr. Kenny, fellow judge Angus Bloomfield (Environmental Officer with EDF Energy) and Miss Sarah McDermott (former Home Office Forensic Scientist and Wydean School Governor) deliberated for over 20 minutes to choose two runner's up from a very strong field of eight contestants. Runner-up Lauren Bennett delivered an intriguing mini lecture on Benign Masochism (enjoying initially negative experiences that the brain falsely interprets as threatening). Rebecca Inglis-Hole gave an entertaining and informative talk on ecdysis (the scientific term for the shedding of the skin e.g. snakes). The competition was fierce and the decision to determine the winner "very tight indeed".

Well done to all the other Year 9 participants who each showed tremendous commitment and courage to perform without notes in public: Rhianna Parry, Micah Durbin, Jenny Crompton,



Above: Front: (left to right) Lauren Bennett (runner-up), Maya Hall (winner), Rebecca Inglis-Hole (runner-up) Back: Judges (left to right) Dr Elspeth Kenny, Sarah McDermott, Angus Bloomfield

Freya Tyldesley and Caitlin Dixon. All the Year 9 students performed assuredly and answered questions from the judges on the spot without prior preparation. In particular, Micah bravely came into school despite illness, to perform his speech on Evolution.

Fourteen schools from across Gloucestershire are taking part in FameLab Academy. Each school is matched with a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Mentor trained in public engagement who visits the school and works with students. The finalist from each school receives a two-day Communication Masterclass, a work placement in a local STEM company and

entry into the Gloucestershire final (21st March 2019 at EDF Barnwood, Gloucester).

FameLab Academy is a competition for Year 9 students in Gloucestershire, sponsored by EDF Energy. Supported by their teachers and STEM mentors, students have just three minutes to explain a scientific topic of their choice to a panel of judges who will adjudicate their presentations based on their content, clarity and charisma.

Ali Mawle, Director of Education at Cheltenham Festivals said: "FameLab Academy is tackling head-on the shortage of young people studying STEM subjects in schools. By targeting Year 9 pupils in 14 schools across Gloucestershire we are changing students' perceptions of science and nurturing the next generation of scientists."

Stuart Motson at Wydean School and Sixth Form Centre said: "We're delighted to take part in FameLab Academy for the fourth year running because the competition gives all students of all academic abilities a chance to shine. It is not just about what you say, but also how you say it. We are always striving for accuracy across all STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects, but scientists must be able to communicate to an audience clearly and with verve. We are conscious that all students will probably need to give a job presentation, formal speech or talk in public at some point in their life time and the FameLab Academy gives every student in Year 9 training in how to deliver a talk with confidence."

Good luck to Maya for the Final on 21st March!

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Another Great Evening with Chepstow Clubbers

On the 19th January, Chepstow and Caldicot Lions played host to the Chepstow Clubbers for an evening of music and songs at the Choir Hall, Caldicot.

Lion Rowland Searle is seen (inset) busily counting the takings, all of which will be spent on charitable purposes in the future.

The Chepstow Clubbers, who were returning for a third time are seen warming up as the tables started filling up with enthusiastic audience members.

We were all treated to a wonderful range of music and songs, ranging from WW1 through stage musicals to the present day.

With the help of various donations and an ingenious raffle (you had to be there to understand!) the Lions Club of Chepstow and Caldicot raised 450 pounds for charity.

When it was all over the club members were at last able to have a liquid discussion!



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FIVE TOPICS YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT IN 2019

As we embark on a new year, although it's likely to be overshadowed by uncertainty surrounding Brexit, it's important to keep your personal financial goals in mind and ensure you continue to plan for the future.

Revisit your investment goals

It makes sense to take stock of your investment goals. Over time your priorities can change and your appetite for risk may alter too. Arranging a review will help ensure that your portfolio remains well diversified and provides a good opportunity to see if any of your holdings need rebalancing.

Plan for the future

If you made your Will a while ago, does it still reflect your wishes? You might want to review its contents to ensure that everyone you want to benefit is included.

If you have concerns about what might happen if you can no longer manage your finances, you should consider putting a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) in place whilst you have the mental capacity to do so. Many people wrongly believe that their family could simply step in and take charge. However, they wouldn't have the legal authority to do so, and would need to apply to the Court of Protection. An LPA gives you the opportunity to appoint in advance someone whom you trust to manage your financial affairs and / or your health and welfare on your behalf.

Think about your IHT position

Each year, more families find themselves drawn into the Inheritance Tax net. There are a number of ways that you can legitimately dispose of your estate to reduce the tax payable. Taking professional advice will help you assess your liability and put appropriate plans in place.

Don't fall for scams

The sad fact is that scams are becoming more sophisticated every day. Many involve bogus or unauthorised investments or promise to liberate your pension savings before age 55 and are backed up by glossy brochures and



authentic-looking websites. As has often been said, if it looks too good to be true, then it probably is. Many scams start with a telephone call, so be very careful and don't give out financial or personal information to people you don't know.

It makes sense to take stock of your investment goals. Over time your priorities can change and your appetite for risk may alter too

Get good advice

Before making any major financial decisions, it pays to talk to us; we are experienced and qualified to provide you with a range of solutions tailored to your individual circumstances.

The value of 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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Castell Roc Festival 2019

Castell Roc announce details of the final show coming to Chepstow Castle this summer and it's been worth waiting for!

... Showaddywaddy are coming to town Friday 16th August



Living up to their title of "The Greatest Rock & Roll Band In The World" Showaddywaddy have sold over 20 million records and toured internationally for over 4 decades.

Their live show is dynamic and uplifting featuring all of their biggest hits including "Under The Moon Of Love", "Three Steps To Heaven", "Pretty Little Angel Eyes", and "Hey Rock & Roll". So come and join the 'Dancin' Party'... 'You've Got What It Takes'!

Thursday 8th of August - "Legends Of Roc", featuring three of the finest UK tributes to 'The Police & Sting', Dire Straits & U2 performed meticulously by 'Police Synchronicity', 'Dire Straits UK' and 'U2UK' respectively.

Friday 9th August - the most welcomed return from the incredible global superstars of



Country music "**The Shires**". The Shires first played here back in 2016, with the show both selling out and going on to be featured in the BBC documentary "The Shires: New Country", which detailed their incredible rise to fame plus footage and interviews of their impact in another little Town, called 'Nashville'. Guaranteed to sell out fast!

Saturday 10th August - "80's vs 90's Extravaganza", promising a retro Party with a huge feel good factor. Some of the biggest Artists from that era combine with visuals and support from retro DJ's. The first two Artists to be named are Spandau Ballet's Martin Kemp, plus S Club 3. Fancy dress is encouraged with prizes given out on the night by the actual Artist's....

Sunday 11th August - 'Big Girls Don't Cry' showcasing the amazingly talented Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons. This theatrical masterpiece will be enjoying its 10th anniversary and The East Coast Boys with a full live band will be authentically recreating Sherry, December 1963 (Oh What a Night), Walk Like a Man, Rag Doll and Big Girls Don't Cry, Grease, Let's Hang On, Working My Way Back to You, Beggin', I've Got You Under My Skin, Who Loves You and many more.

Thursday 15th August will see Chepstow Castle become 'el Cantina', (complete with Taco's, Tequila and thigh slapping tunes) when one of the UK's most popular touring bands '**Los Pacaminos**' rides in to Town. Featuring non-other than 80's superstar **Paul Young** the Stetson wearing band will play the very best in Tex Mex Border music, from The Texas Tornados and Ry Cooder through to Los Lobos and even Roy Orbison. This show also features firm festival favourites Mad Dog Mcrea.

Saturday 17th August is an absolute must for all lovers of Country Music, when "**A Country Night in Nashville**" rolls into Town recreating the scene of a buzzing Honky Tonk in downtown Nashville and perfectly capturing the energy and atmosphere of an evening in the home of country music. Featuring songs from its biggest stars both past and present.

Sunday 18th August - Abba Mania From London's West End, Abba Mania has been delighting audiences since 1999!

Thursday 22nd August is a night for the lovers of reggae and ska as the infectious '**Dualers**' roll back in to Town, supported by **The Navarones**. The nine piece Jamaican Rhythm & Blues band from South-East London were an undeniable highlight show of 2018 and the Organisers have been quite simply inundated with fan requests to bring them back, so they have!

Friday 23rd August is a chance to see two full shows for the price of one, firstly with '**Fleetwood Bac**' the world's first and best Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band. A band that are proudly endorsed by Big Daddy himself, Mick Fleetwood. Rounding off the night and being performed by **The Bohemians** is a high energy roller coaster ride of a concert,

featuring the back catalogue of one of the world's most popular and iconic rock acts of all time, Queen.

Saturday 24th August - firm Festival favourites **REEF** hit the big stage. If you want to see an iconic band in an iconic venue then this show is for you. With a superb new Album in 'Revelation' as well all the favourite songs including 'Place Your Hands', this will be a night to remember.

Sunday 25th August - back by incredible popular demand after his 2017 performance, the No1 Elvis impersonator **Ben Portsmouth** returns with his show, **Taking Care of Elvis**.

Tickets available to purchase from the Festival Box Office at Hannah's Music, Chepstow (01291 627122) or online via www.castellroc.co.uk

Burnt Barn Community (Sports) & Social Club

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3 Welsh Champions!

Awesome tumbling from Kestrel gymnasts at the Welsh NDP Tumbling Championships in Deeside resulted in three Welsh Champions.

The gymnasts performing three set tumbles really excelled in their categories.

Olive Dunster in NDP Level 1 was in the first group to compete, and was really focussed in all her Tumbles, taking Gold in the 11-12 yrs Section and becoming NDP Level 1 Welsh Champion.

Erin Roberts in the same age group, although not completing her second Tumble, made great improvement. The excellent performance continued in the 13-14 yrs Section with Maisie Edwards as NDP Level 2 Welsh Champion winning Gold, and Erica Denby taking 5th place Ribbon. In the Boy's Section, James Davies improved his skills taking Bronze. To end the day's competition, in the 15 yrs + NDP Level 3 Section, Georgie Davies won Gold becoming Welsh Champion, Jessica Ham taking Silver, both executing precise Tumbles. Olive, Maisie, Georgie and Jessica, all qualified to represent



Erin Roberts, Jessica Ham, Erica Denby, Georgie Davies, Maisie Edwards, Olive Dunster, with James Davies (front)

Wales at the British Semi-finals at The Arena in Birmingham in June.

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Tutshill Community Pre-School

Tutshill Community Pre-School now have SPACES AVAILABLE.

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We are able to take children from 2 years of age and we accept the 15 hours (NEF) free funding for children living in England AND Wales. We offer 30 hours extended funding for eligible families without any restrictions on when you can use these hours for children over 3 years of age. We also have no formal catchment and accept children from all the surrounding counties.

The Pre-School itself is a registered charity which means that we rely on fundraising activities and grants to enable us to upgrade our facilities and equipment. Currently we are trying to update our décor and also our equipment.

Thanks to the local community we recently were successful in winning the Tesco Bags of Help vote in Chepstow which means that we can now buy an interactive whiteboard for the pre-school. Thank you to everyone who voted for us – it really will make a huge difference to the children's learning.

If you'd like to find out more or have any questions then please don't hesitate to email us on tutshillpreschool@talktalk.net or message our Facebook page – www.facebook.com/tutshillpreschool.



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Alive with the Sound of Music at Pembroke Primary School

Pembroke Primary School has been alive with the sound of music since September and the children have had wonderful opportunities to work with Gwent Music developing their musical skills through our weekly workshops. Our sessions have included; Steel Drumming, Ukulele, Penny Whistle and Guitar. It is always a pleasure to observe the children enjoying a new skill and listen to the music around the school. We strongly encourage our children to be creative and the opportunities that music provides to develop our children creatively is fantastic.

On Wednesday 6th February the Pembroke Primary School Choir participated in Wales' first Barnardo's Young Supporters Concert at St David's Hall in Cardiff. The special concert was organised to help raise money to transform the lives of the most vulnerable children in the UK.

The 30 children that make up the school choir have rehearsed tirelessly during their lunch breaks to learn the words, harmonies and dance moves for each of the songs that they were to sing during the concert. The school choir were part of a massed choir made up of children from 15 primary schools across Wales, and sang a selection of 14 songs during the 3 hour concert. Rehearsals for



the day started at 11am where the children met the conductor Douglas Coombes MBE for the first time and began an active and exciting warm up before moving into the first few songs that would be performed during the concert.

Rehearsals drew to a close at around 4pm and children returned to their stage positions at 6pm as their families gathered in the auditorium. Parents commented that they were crying from the start of the first song, showing how proud they were of the hard work their children had put into the performance.

Everyone involved had a fantastic day and were proud of the money raised for a very worthy cause.

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Lydney Library: Mondays 10am-12.30pm
Chepstow Library : Thursdays 1pm – 3.00pm

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EXCELLENT is the official verdict for St John's on-the-Hill School

- **Excellent for academic achievement**
- **Excellent for personal development**

This was confirmed by the recent inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate at Chepstow's preparatory school for children up to 13 years, part of the Dean Close Foundation.

According to the inspectors, St John's pupils are: 'highly motivated and confident, positively embracing new challenges and opportunities'.

Pupils:

- 'make rapid progress' in lessons
- 'have excellent study skills'
- 'have excellent moral awareness'.

Ruth Frett, Head since 2016, said: "We are delighted with the report; to be rated 'excellent' in all areas is testament to our brilliant staff and pupils. We believe that every child benefits from individual attention from teachers, who are subject specialists, in small classes. We are proud to offer an exciting and varied curriculum, wonderful opportunities and outstanding facilities, to help every pupil reach their full potential whilst being nurtured in a family environment. This is reflected in the confidence and high self-esteem of our pupils."



The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) is the body approved by the Department for Education for the purpose of inspecting schools belonging to Independent Schools Council (ISC) Associations and reporting on compliance with independent school regulations. ISI inspections are also carried out under arrangements of the ISC Associations for the maintenance and improvement of the quality of their membership. **The full report is available at <https://www.stjohnsonthehill.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**



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JazzCorner by Debs Hancock

Black Mountain Jazz Club Keeping Jazz live in Abergavenny

The classic jazz love songs of the Great American Songbook have been part of the "Lexicon of Love" for a Century now. Representing love in all its guises; from butterflies and daydreams, to the perfect meeting, to heartbreak and despair, these timeless tunes chart the stories of the human heart that touches us all.

How do you choose your favourite with over 1500 songs expressing love in all its glory? Do you prefer the golden oldies sung by Frank Sinatra or Ella Fitzgerald? Or the more contemporary voices of Amy Winehouse, Diana Krall, Jamie Cullum and Gregory Porter?

Whichever your preference there is a song to reflect your feelings whether in or out of love and their timeless messages form a very special backdrop to our lives, whether in an advert, enhancing the moment in a film or listening to your favourite artist perform on CD, Spotify or even vinyl.

There is however, no substitute to hearing music performed live!

Here at Black Mountain Jazz Club we aim to bring you the best of jazz musicianship to Abergavenny.

If you love listening to the Great American Songbook, we are proud to say that we have some real vocal gems in our BMJ programme this year.

Look out for Grammy nominated jazz vocalist and saxophonist Becki Biggins (top right) returning to BMJ after a sell-out performance at The Angel Hotel opening our festival in August 2018. She will be performing in The Melville Theatre in Abergavenny 19th May. In addition, Jazz Vocalist of the year 2018 Ian Shaw (bottom right), who also performed at our wall2wall Jazz Festival in 2017, returns to open our wall2wall Jazz Festival with a Festival Jazz Supper at The Angel Hotel 29th August. Both of them world class performers, performing in Monmouthshire.



Black Mountain Jazz Club hosts a monthly club night, sponsored by Domino's Pizza, on the last Sunday of the month in the intimate performance space of the Melville Theatre.

**Live jazz @ The Melville Theatre, Pen y
pound, Abergavenny NP7 5UD**
**TICKETS: £10 Standard, £8 Friends of BMJ,
Students £3 on the door**

The bar is open from 7.30pm with live jazz from 8pm. Join us, sit back in the raised seating of the auditorium and listen to world class musicianship performed at close hand. Only 70 seats are available for every gig making this a truly exclusive musical experience.

What's on at BMJ this spring?

Sunday 31st March 2019 -

Chube featuring Jazz Harpist Ben Creighton Griffiths

Sunday 28th April 2019

The Gareth Roberts Quartet

For more info and to book online:

**www.blackmountainjazz.co.uk
or pay on the door.**

**Thursday 29th August –Sunday
1st September Abergavenny
wall2wall Jazz Festival 2019**

Now in its 6th year and hosted at various venues in Abergavenny, the Black Mountain Jazz Club annual wall2wall jazz festival goes from strength to strength keeping quality jazz live in Monmouthshire.

We are proud to say that several of this year's artists have been voted UK Jazz musicians of the year 2018 and we are delighted to have hosted musicians of this quality.

Join us for our eagerly anticipated Easter Monday Family Raceday on Monday 22nd April!

As well as great horse racing, there will be plenty of FREE family entertainment on site to keep the family amused, including live music from **Little Mix** and **Ariana Grande** tribute acts, panic circus, fairground rides, face painting, a fire engine, go-karts, donkey rides and more!

Advance family tickets are on sale at just £25 (2x adults and kids aged 17 & under go free) which makes it just £12.50 per adult making it a great value day out!

Remember, all entertainment on site is FREE, car parking is FREE and you can also bring a picnic (no alcohol)! Tickets will go fast so visit www.chepstow-racecourse.co.uk or call the team on 01291 622 260 to book yours.



Chepstow and District Garden Appreciation Society (CADGAS)

Wednesday 27 March 2019

Peter Dowle of Howle Hill Nursery, Ross on Wye, will be giving a talk entitled

"Designing and Delivering Show Gardens at the Chelsea and Malvern Shows"

7.30pm Chepstow Leisure Centre All Welcome Visitors £4

Tutshill Scarecrow Trail 6th-26th April

A family friendly trail around the Tutshill area to spot Scarecrows on this year's theme. Entry forms available from Lifestyle express, Tutshill.

'Neither Here nor There'

By Jo Fong and Sonia Hughes

Funny, intimate, political, a bit livid, powerful, powerless and patient.

Sonia and Jo host a series of conversations that happen over 6 minutes.

In Neither Here Nor There Jo and Sonia have questions about how it's all going, big unfathomable questions about the world, small questions about the state of your garden.

Presented by Break and Bell at Chepstow Drill Hall

Saturday 9th March 2019

Shows at 4pm and 7pm,
Tickets £12/10

From: ticketsignite.com, or on the door

More info here: <https://www.ticketsignite.com/event/858/neither-here-nor-there>

St. Peter's Church, St. Pierre
presents

A Journey's Tale

a celebration in words and music of travel, places & events featuring

Gary Branch, Spinet
& Monnica Williams, Poems

Friday 5th April 2019 at 7.00 pm

Refreshments in the interval
Tickets £10.00 from
Ann Evans ~

01291 621949 aledrink35@hotmail.com

Films Showing at Bulwark Community Centre

Saturday 23rd March 2019
The Children Act

Saturday 27th April 2019
The Wife

Ticket Price: Adults £3 Available on the door
Screening time: Usually 2.00pm - Doors open 1.30pm. Refreshments available. Parking available on site; No steps - Entry via Double Doors. Disabled Toilet. Induction Loop System

Bulwark Community Centre
Laburnam Way Bulwark, Chepstow, NP165RF
01291 624138

GWENT WILDLIFE TRUST

Wednesday 20th March 2019

"Swifts are in Trouble"
an illustrated talk by Alan Rosney of the Glamorgan Swift Group, with contributions from the Chepstow Swift Group about their local swift nests surveys.

Discover fascinating facts about these amazing birds, find out why they are struggling and how volunteers help to conserve and provide safe nesting sites for these much-loved summer residents.

Events take place at 7.30pm at
Chepstow Leisure Centre
£3.00 entry, refreshments provided.

For more information please contact
Hilary on 01291 689326
or see www.gwentwildlife.org

Combined Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Clubs

Chepstow and Lydney

Together We Served



There Is No Stronger Bond
Good Food, Good Company, Good Banter

Meet First Saturday of Each Month - 09:30 hrs
Watney Hall, 3 Hill Street, Lydney. GL15 5HW

Meet Third Saturday of Each Month - 09:30 hrs
Two Rivers Pub/ Bistro, Newport Rd, Chepstow NP16 5PR

Contact: Ray Taylor 07745 043665 - Jim Wernock 07523 582945
or alternatively please email: cafvbc@gmail.com



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/689045528100851/>
Join a Breakfast Club near you!

Bristol North - Bristol South - Bristol East - City of Bath - Chippenham
Cheltenham - Stroud - Cirencester - Chepstow and Lydney - Moremouth and Ross



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

Mahjong Group meets weekly on Monday afternoons in Tidenham Chase. For new and current players please contact David Green on 07813 200808

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 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. Contact: Elaine Moore 01291 629666

Wye Knot Speakers a group to help develop public speaking skills. Find us at Facebook/WyeKnot Speakers or call Stephen Dance on 01291 620819.

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

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 Rec Hall, Paula Siddall p.rimmer10@btinternet.com every Thurs 1.30-3pm

St Arvans Baby and Toddler St Arvans Memorial Hall. T: Sabrina 07701 027313 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/

Wyedean School Robert Ford, Headteacher Beachey Road,
Sedbury NP16 7AA 01291 625340 www.wyedean.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

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. Email secretary@chepstowchamber.com for further information. www.chepstowchamber.com / www.facebook.com/ChepstowAGreatPlaceTo



Baa Brewing Ltd
Brewers of fine Craft beers for the trade & public
Unit 4, Station Yard Ind Est, Chepstow NP16 5PF
T: 01291 408240 www.baabrewing.com



Castle Picture Framing
Picture framing, tool & knife sharpening
Hanbury House (inside Chepstow Buy & Sell, opposite Wilko), Welsh St,
Chepstow NP16 5LL T: 07716 801967



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



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



Deacons Florist
Creative, award winning floral designers
4 Bank Street, Chepstow NP16 5EL
T: 01291 623768 www.deaconsflorist.co.uk



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



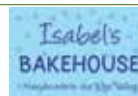
First Stop Stationers
Town centre printer with Fuji Photo Lab. Greetings cards, art & craft; stationery 3 Library Place, One Manor Way, Chepstow NP16 5HZ T: 01291 623999 www.firststopstationers.co.uk



Greenman Backpackers Ltd
Affordable accommodation for tourists, walkers, families & cyclists
Raglan Lodge, 13 Beaufort Square, Chepstow NP16 5EP
T: 01291 626773 www.chepstowbackpackers.com



Hannah's Music
More than just a music shop. Musical instruments, lessons, rehearsal room – all under one roof! 6 Moor St, Chepstow NP16 5DE
T: 01291 627122 www.hannahsmusic.co.uk



Isabel's Bakehouse (award winner)
Handmade celebration & wedding cakes. Mobile crepes catering & cookery classes
Chepstow T: 07966 592368 www.isabelsbakehouse.com



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



Mint and Mustard
Fine Indian restaurant and street food
13-14 Nelson St, Chepstow NP16 5HT
T: 01291 623222 www.mintandmustard.com



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

Chepstow Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

Supporting Local Business

Chepstow Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

Supporting Local Business

Retail & Hospitality

Services

Services



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



Sparkle
Gifts & accessories
3A The Courtyard, St Mary's Arcade, Chepstow NP16 5EU
T: 07872 349 011 www.sparkleonlinestore.co.uk



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.marriottstpierre.co.uk



St Tewdrics House
19th Century Italianate Villa wedding venue
Mathern Rd, Chepstow NP16 6HX
T: 07477 017537 www.sttewdrichouse.co.uk



Tell Me Wine
Quality wine shop, beers and spirits
Old Bell Chambers, Riflemans Way, Chepstow NP16 5EJ
T: 01291 629670 www.tellmewine.co.uk



The Royal George Hotel *Hotel, restaurant and pub*
Main Road, Tintern, Monmouthshire NP16 6SF T: 01291 689205
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Services

Stuffed, Pickled & Pinned

Wonders of nature discovered in Welsh Museums in an exhibition just opened at Chepstow Museum - Last chance to see this special exhibition on its tour around Wales

Chepstow Museum, Bridge Street, NP16 5EZ
Open daily 11am-4pm FREE ENTRY - Exhibition runs until July

Museums across Wales house some amazing natural treasures. Stuffed, Pickled and Pinned is a special exhibition which draws on just a tiny fraction of the rich natural science collections in 18 of those museums. The unusual and extraordinary come together in this 'cabinet of curiosities' which has just opened at Chepstow Museum, the final venue of this touring exhibition which has been travelling around Welsh Museums over the last few years.

The exhibition is the culmination of three years' work behind the scenes at local museums across Wales to find rare, beautiful and often unexpected natural history objects, some of which have never been seen before. The aim of the Linking Natural Science Collections in Wales project was to find about these collections and share information about them with the public. To do this, staff and volunteers in the museums worked with experts at Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales to examine and identify specimens and learn more about over 70,000 natural history objects in the regional museums across Wales.

Minerals, fossils, insects, taxidermy, bones, shells, plants and preserved animals – these amazing natural treasures help us to understand the world around us and our place within it. The exhibition explores the collections and how these specimens can still help to answer vital questions in modern research. It also challenges us to consider our relationship with nature and to consider humanity's impact on the natural world.

A delicate watercolour by Ladybird book illustrator Charles Tunnicliffe, a seaweed 'book' created inside a scallop shell, a fossil seashell found at the summit of Snowdon, a rare auroch's bone from the Severn estuary and a mummified cat, rub shoulders with rare curiosities from all four corners of the globe such as a stuffed platypus from Australia and a dessicated poisonous porcupine fish.

From our own collections at Chepstow Museum is a watercolour showing the stages of development in the life cycle of a Turnip moth drawn by Georgiana Ormerod to illustrate her more famous sister Eleanor Ormerod's work as an authority on insects that were harmful to agricultural crops. The sisters grew up at Sedbury Park, Chepstow, but Eleanor's career only began once her authoritarian father the antiquarian George Ormerod had died.

Visitors of all ages will be intrigued and amazed by the array of exhibits, and there is a special table with extra things to explore and activities specially designed for younger visitors. Don't miss this last chance to see this fantastic exhibition at its last stop on its tour around Wales.



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INDEX OF LOCAL ADVERTISERS

Car Maintenance / Car Sales					
AutoCare, Chepstow	38	Slimmingworld	15	Pets/Pet Care/Training	
Car Buying Centre	1	Dog Grooming		Perfect Pets/Doggy Daycare	3, 16
Terraclean	18	Perfect Dog Grooming	3, 16	Plumber -	
Child Care -		Financial Advisor -		R H White Plumbing & Heating	17
Hedgehogs Nursery	23	IAM Financial	19	Podiatrist - Stepwise Podiatry	4
Tutshill Community Preschool	23	Food Delivery / Takeaway		Repairs -	
Children's Activities		Wiltshire Farm Foods	10	D-CR Domestic Appliance Repairs	15
Kestrel Gym Club	22	Funeral Directors		Schooling/Tuition	
Chepstow Chamber of Commerce	33-36	Chepstow Funeral Service	26	Pembroke Primary	24
Community Banking		Ian Watts & Sons	4	St John's on the Hill	25
Natwest	24	Gifts & Accessories		Wydean	16-17
Community Listings	28-32	Silk Road Bazaar	17	Social Club- Burnt Barn Club	21
Days Out/Events/Activities		Hair Salon -		Tiling - Wall & Floor	
Chepstow Racecourse	28,40	Pierrette's Salon	6	Critchcraft	39
Castell Roc	20-21	Home - Thornbury Stairlifts	9	Toyshop - Toystatik	4
Chepstow Walking Festival	29	Horse Racing		TV/Aerials - The Aerial Man	3, 22
Devauden Festival	12	Chepstow Racecourse	28,40	Voluntary/Social groups	
Easter Services	14-15	Jewellery - Silk Road Bazaar	17	Chepstow Lions	18
Music Events at Drill Hall	26	Language -		Transition Chepstow	5
Diet & Fitness		Moore Language Solutions	15	SARA	8
Chepstow Yoga Centre	13	Locksmith - City Locksmiths	26	Windows/Conservatories	
Derek's Gym	17	Music - Hannah's Music	26	Monmouthshire Windows	2
Kestrel Gym Club	22			Wine Shop / Wine Tasting	
				Tell Me Wine	10



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