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April 2019

Community Chepstow Matters



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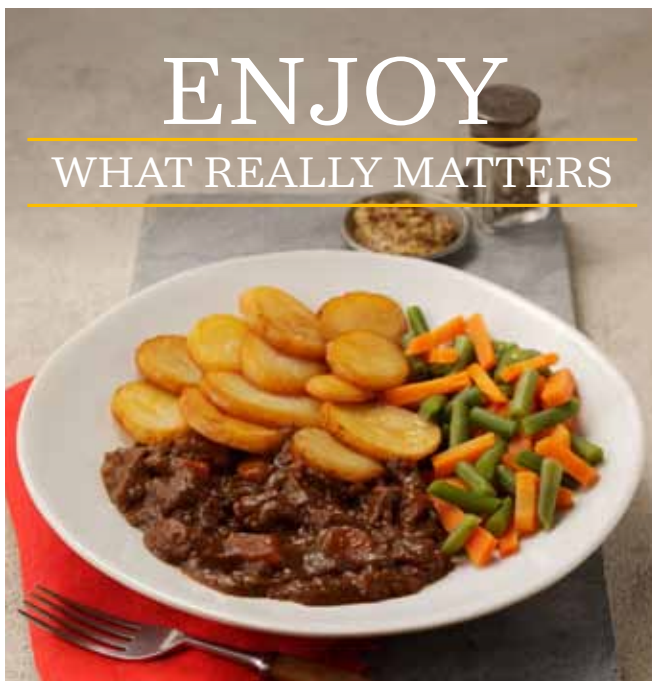
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Chepstow Matters
Editor: Jaci Crocombe
c/o Batwell Farm, Shirenewton NP16 6RX

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Dear Readers...

As I write this on officially the first day of spring, I can hear the birds tweeting and there is much to look forward to with the clocks springing forward as you receive this month's edition through your door. There is plenty going on locally to celebrate Easter, so have a good browse through this latest issue for ideas.

This month we bring you news of a new leaflet being published on the Historical Structures of Chepstow - see overleaf for more information. We also hear from Transition Chepstow on their mass plastic unwrap at Tesco's in March, along with a report from one Chepstow student on the Strike4Youth protest against the lack of government action on Climate Change which took place globally on 15th March. They are looking to increase awareness for the next scheduled protest in April. We have news from some of the local schools and clubs, including a request from Thornwell Primary School who are looking to create a Thornwell 'Wall of Fame' of past students and what they have gone on to achieve - see page 15 for more on this.

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 April.

Jaci x

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A Warm Welcome Awaits you at Pierrette's!

My daughter and I were pleased to visit the lovely Pierrette's Hair Salon in March and experience first hand their friendly and welcoming salon.

Pierrette herself moved to Chepstow from France some 28 years ago. After training in Paris, she had her own salon in Brittany for 10 years before making the move to the UK. Pierrette managed a local salon in Chepstow for 13 years before opening her own smaller salon in the town centre in 2004. In 2011 Pierrette's moved to larger premises in its current position in the lovely, tranquil St Mary's Arcade.

Nine years ago Pierrette's daughter Audrey joined her in the salon. Audrey also did all her training in France, as both a ladies hairdresser and a barber. Another current stylist, Stella, originates from Russia and has been with the salon for 4 years.

Pierrette's has a reputation for being respectful and accommodating and will do their utmost to give you the style you are looking for, catering for all ages, styles and trends. Young children are welcome and Pierrette enjoys being able to give a good hair-cutting experience, appreciating that it can be frightening for some little ones.

The salon is open 9am-5pm on a Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday (until 1pm). Earlier/later appointments can also be accommodated with advanced booking.

On a Monday and Wednesday the salon is pleased to offer a £2 discount for anyone aged 60+. Pierrette's are offering a further £5 deduction for all customers new or old on certain dates in April - see their advert on page 15 and give them a call to book - **01291 625544**.

Jo Hume, co-owner of Ian Watts & Son Independent Funeral Service in Monmouthshire is welcoming anyone who would like to attend their next Bereavement Support Meeting which is on **Wednesday 10th April at Caldicot's Town Council Offices, in Sandy Lane (NP26 4NA) from 1.30pm – 3.30pm** where teas, coffees and biscuits will be served.

Jo said, "We are a friendly group of all ages and on 10th April we welcome Complementary Therapist Holly Turner who owns the Wellbeing Studio in Magor who will speak and offer advice for those who struggle to sleep. People who have experienced a bereavement tell us this is a real problem for them".

Chris Goldoni will also be available at the meeting for those wanting advice about wills, probate, estate planning and financial matters.

Jo added, "Our last meeting was so well attended that we needed a larger venue and we are extremely grateful to Caldicot Town Council for their support in allowing us the use of their large meeting room. Anyone wanting to attend, is welcome to bring a friend.

Parking is limited at the Council Offices but the main car park in Jubilee Way (NP26 4BG) is opposite. For more information, call Jo on tel: 07977 092935.



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Chepstow's Historic Structures

A new Information Leaflet on Chepstow's Historic Structures – the 6 Grade 1 Listed Structures - has been produced to help local residents, young people and visitors to the town learn more about the incredible history of Chepstow and its local heritage which has national and even world significance.

The new leaflet looks at Chepstow's 6 'Grade 1 Listed' structures – the Castle, the Priory Church, the Town Walls, the Town Arch, Chepstow Bridge, and the Severn Bridge - all in one leaflet.

The new Information Leaflet also mentions the town's border location and its unique Wassail Festival held every January as well as some words about the world record tides at Chepstow.

Of particular importance this year, the leaflet has some information about **William Marshal**, Lord of Striguil (Chepstow) and Earl of Pembroke. William Marshal was one of the greatest knights of the Middle Ages, who built the Gatehouse and most of the outer walls of Chepstow Castle and who was key to the signing of the Magna Carta in 1215. He became Regent (ruler) of England from 1217 to 1219 (as King Henry III was 9 years old) and died on 14 May 1219 exactly 800 years ago this year.

The Information Leaflet adds to 4 others already published by Chepstow Town Council on:

- Chepstow's 950th anniversary • Chepstow's 'mega' tides
- Chepstow's splendid 200 year old iron arch road bridge
- and the 50th anniversary of the old Severn Bridge.

Mayor of Chepstow, Cllr Tony Redhead (pictured right) commented: "Chepstow has a fascinating history and we want residents, young people, and visitors to our town to know more about these outstanding historic structures and their significance which goes far beyond Chepstow, and some are of world-wide significance".

As per the above this latest Information Leaflet is the 5th in the series. It should really have been the first as it provides an introduction to the other 4 leaflets. However the 200th anniversary of the iron bridge (Chepstow Bridge) in 2016, the 50th anniversary of the Severn Bridge later in 2016 and the 950th anniversary of the Castle, the Priory Church and the Town in 2017 required the production of leaflets on those subjects first. Hopefully the Chepstow Historic Structures Information Leaflet will encourage interest in, and visitors to, Chepstow and help local businesses.

The significance of the Grade 1 Listed 'Structures' (usually 'Buildings', but Chepstow has 2 Grade 1 bridges also) is set out on the front of the leaflet (as pictured above).

Leaflets will be available around the town at Chepstow Town Council Offices at the Gatehouse, the Library, the TIC, the Museum, the Castle and hopefully many other outlets and will be available for downloading from the 'History and Heritage' section of Chepstow Town Council's website www.chepstow.co.uk.

For more information on any of the above - johnwburrows@btinternet.com

INFORMATION LEAFLET

CHEPSTOW'S Historic Structures

The 6 'Grade 1 Listed' Structures

A spectacular Castle of 'European' significance, a Norman Church, a Town Gateway and Medieval Town Walls, and two Bridges of 'world' significance.

Wales
CHEPSTOW

England
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1. Chepstow Castle (1067 - 1293) One of the oldest and most spectacular castles in the UK, and the oldest castle gates in Europe.

2. Priory Church (C11th – C19th) Superb Norman nave and west door (1071 - 1120s).

3. Port Wall / Town Wall (1272-78) Nearly 750 years old - surround the town.

4. Town Arch (1524) The only way into the town for 750 years. Rebuilt 500 years ago. It is still the main way into the High Street.

5. Chepstow Bridge (1816) World's largest iron arch road bridge built before 1830 - in the first 50 years of iron structures.

6. Severn Bridge (1966) World's first aerodynamic road deck. Now aerodynamic decks are used on all the world's main bridges.

Grade 1 Listed Buildings and Structures.

Only 2% of UK buildings are 'Listed' as being 'of special architectural, historical, or cultural significance' - of these: 92% are Grade 2; 6% are 2*; 2% are Grade 1 (of which 45% are churches). Chepstow has 5 'non church' Grade 1 structures.

4

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5



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.



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Chepstow Male Voice Choir Busy As Always!!

The Choir welcomes new choristers and most recently Ash, plus Tom and Jack, returning to the choir after a break. The choir is adding some new songs to their repertoire so they are in learning mode at the moment. Also new is the refreshed choir website chepstowmvc.co.uk which supplements their Facebook page. If you ever consider joining the Choir then the website is a good starting point for information and will tell you who to call if you want to chat to someone first.



Recently, the choir was delighted to sing for the pupils of The Dell School to mark St David's Day. As well as hearing traditional Welsh songs the school children actively participated in the Grand Old Duke of York which went down particularly well, even though some of the choristers didn't know whether they were up or down with their clapping and arm raises up or down. It was great fun!

The choir is off on a weekend tour to Cornwall in October and amongst other activities will raise money for the RNLI through performing in their own concert in the Looe RNLI Boathall. They will also sing in Buckfast Abbey and join in a concert with Loveny MVC in St Neot.

Before then of course is the Choir Summer Concert which will be at 7pm on Saturday 15th June at St Mary's Priory Church. Please put it on your calendar now!



Adult Community Learning - Summer Term 2019

- *Ancient History for Beginners; *Excavation Archaeology;
- *Clothes Making + Soft Furnishing; *Sewing for Beginners - Lydney;
- *Italian all levels - St Briavels + Westbury;
- *French (all levels); *Spanish (all levels); *Latin;
- *Enjoy Photography; *Writing for Pleasure;
- *Painting and Drawing; *Painting with Watercolours;
- *Dementia Awareness workshop (free);
- *Silversmithing Jewellery for all;
- *Summer Flower Arranging Workshop;
- *Excel; *Computer Skills - the Essential Introduction;
- *Make the most of your iPad; *eBay - how to sell;
- *Pilates; *Zumba for Fun + Fitness;
- *Golf Coaching - St Pierre Golf Academy, Chepstow;
- *Basic First Aid; *Basic Food Hygiene;

Download the Summer Term ACL Brochure from www.wyedean.gloucs.sch.uk

(Go to 'Community', then 'Adult Learning' then 'Courses available') OR

<http://wyedeangloucs.greenschoolsonline.co.uk/community/Adult-Learning/>

School Office on 01291 625340 (answerphone at times)

Wyedean School and Sixth Form Centre, Beachley Road, Sedbury, Chepstow, Glos NP16 7AA

Mass Unwrap at Tesco Chepstow

Shoppers at Tesco in Chepstow on Saturday morning 9th March were greeted by volunteers from Transition Chepstow's Plastic Free Chepstow who invited them to remove unnecessary plastic packaging from their shopping and leave it with the store for recycling. The Mass Unwrap – part of a national campaign run by Surfers Against Sewage - was undertaken to highlight the amount of plastic in an everyday shop.

The volunteers collected several hundred pieces of packaging – things like trays and bags from pre-packed fruit and vegetables, bags from multipacks of snacks, wrap from kitchen rolls and packaging from hardware items. They talked to over a hundred shoppers, many of whom were surprised by the sheer volume of plastic in their trolleys.

Graham Eele, co-ordinator of Plastic Free Chepstow, commented *"295 billion pieces of plastic are thrown away in the UK every year, and most of these are used for just a few minutes. We wanted to draw attention to just how much plastic is involved in the average shopping trip."*

"We had a fantastic response from shoppers. Many of them felt really strongly about the issue, and took the opportunity to make suggestions to Tesco. For example, many people commented that more fruit and vegetables should be sold loose with customers encouraged to bring their own bags. We are grateful to Tesco for giving us this opportunity; we will be sharing customers' comments with them and look forward to a dialogue about reducing plastic."

Why unwrap?

The UK throws away 295 billion pieces of plastic every year. Most single-use plastic is only used for a few minutes and much of it cannot be recycled at present. Most plastic will last for many years eventually breaking down into small pieces. Micro-plastics are now everywhere, harming wildlife and potentially damaging our health. We want to show just how much unnecessary plastic there is in an everyday shop.

What can you do?

- Buy loose fruit and vegetables where possible using your own bags.
- Bring your own containers for meat, fish and deli products
- Try to avoid over-packaged items
- Avoid throwaway cups and water bottles
- Tesco are happy to accept plastic film etc. for recycling, return it at the tills when you pay for your shopping.

How else can you help?

- Tell the supermarkets how you feel – comment cards
- Tell your MP and Assembly Member what you think – call for reductions in single-use plastic, a deposit return scheme and a 'latte levy'

Thank you to Tesco for supporting and facilitating the unwrap.

Contact Plastic Free Chepstow at:

Email: plasticfree@transitionchepstow.org.uk

Facebook: Follow us on **Plastic Free Chepstow**

Web-site: <http://www.transitionchepstow.org.uk/groups/plastic-free-chepstow/>



YOUTHSTRIKE4CLIMATE

Report by Hannah Crocombe, Year 10, Chepstow School

When Greta Thunberg began this movement last summer, motivated by the devastation global warming has caused, it was just her alone standing against the Swedish Government. Now, with 50,000 students in the UK and over 100 participating countries, we mere children are making a change where parliament is not.

With the main goal being to raise awareness for the consequences of climate change, Thunberg's cause is about forcing the people in power to listen; by sacrificing our education, we bring notice to the rapidly changing global temperature which has been blatantly ignored beforehand.

In fact, to quote her at the UN meeting for climate change in December:

"Some say I should be in school; but why should any young person be made to study for their future, when no one is doing enough to save that future?"

"What is the point of learning these facts, when the most important facts given by the finest scientists are disregarded by our politicians?"

Thunberg was just fifteen when she asked those questions, and now she's a Nobel Peace Prize nominee because of them.

In Bristol - on Friday the 15th of March – 1,200 students gathered on the College Green to protest for this critical matter; the amazing turnout fuelling the energy through painted signs and chants. I joined this number with eleven of my classmates from Chepstow School. We prepared our banners, got on the bus to Bristol, and had a brilliant experience, raising our voices and stomping our feet for the earth beneath us.

With a rallying speech delivered by the Extinction Rebellion team, and another by Zoe Bonnett the inspirational fourteen year old organiser of the Bristol strikes, the stationary protest propelled me to spread the word further about these events so that you too can help save our future.

The next strike is on the 12th of April, 11am until 1pm, nearby in Bristol and Cardiff.

We only have one planet, so let's protect it!



Royal Naval Association Supports Local Sea Cadets

The Chepstow & District branch of the Royal Naval Association has always maintained strong links with the local Sea Cadet Unit based in Lydney. It is important to encourage the activities of this most worthwhile group who instil such strong virtues in their young charges that prepare them for their life ahead.

On the evening of 6th March, the Unit held a Royal Naval Parade as the culmination of their annual inspection. Guests were given a tour of the Unit, known as 'Training Ship Royal Forest', while Cadets performed a number of demonstrations to demonstrate their values. This final parade was witnessed by members of the RNA together with local dignitaries including the High Sheriff of Gloucestershire and the mayors of Coleford and Lydney.

Surprisingly, the Sea Cadet organisation is not funded in any way by the Royal Navy and thus depends upon local charities and businesses to fund all of its activities. Therefore, it was at this important occasion that the Chepstow RNA presented the Unit with a cheque that will help support their future



activities. The photograph shows (L to R) Ashok Jethwa RNA, Clive Godfrey RNA, Ken Davies Secretary RNA, Cadet Darren Johnson, Petty Officer Toni Salmon Commanding Officer Lydney SCC, Christopher Wilson, President RNA.

Once Naval Service has been experienced, life is never the same again. The bonds that are made and the banter alone are worth their weight in gold. Within the RNA are thousands of like-minded people across the world who enjoy getting together and providing help and support to each other, the Naval Service family and local communities. The Chepstow Royal Naval Association meet in the Conservative Club, Moor Street, on the evening of the second Thursday in each month.

Le printemps est arrivé! / È arrivata la primavera! / Spring is here!

At last! Spring has started to make its presence known; flowers are blooming, the sun is peeking out from behind the clouds and Chepstow-based language teacher and translator, Charlotte Moore, is getting ready to accept a new wave of private students from April onwards.

Whether you are preparing to sit French or Italian exams at GCSE, A-Level or degree level, Charlotte will be happy to advise you on how to improve your confidence as well as your grades.

Charlotte has just finished teaching her French for Beginners evening course at The Three Tuns and is now preparing a bespoke follow-on course at the request of her dedicated students. Simultaneously, her Italian for Improvers course is in full swing at Mythos. Among the 10 Italophiles in attendance is Stephen who has returned from a work placement in Italy after having studied Italian with Charlotte for just 10 weeks last autumn. Bentornato, Stephen! / Welcome back!

This is also a perfect time of year for Charlotte's older students to start planning trips abroad during the warmer months. Some students have weekly language lessons in person at the Moore Language Solutions office whereas others hone their language skills on an ad hoc basis via Skype. Charlotte offers flexible language solutions to her clients and produces bespoke lesson plans and resources based upon the precise needs of her private students; so, whether you are looking to buy property in France or Italy, you're considering a career in languages or you have work/family ties abroad, your local language professional will be able to assist you. Happy Spring, everyone!



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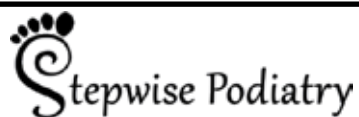
Top Stop Youth run a coffee shop style youth club on Thursday evenings 6pm-8pm at Bulwark Community Centre, Chepstow.

Coffee shop is open to all young people aged 11-25 living in Chepstow and the surrounding areas. The activities on offer include dance classes, drama, arts & crafts, board games, gaming and cooking! Entry is £1.50 (£4 for dance). If you don't want to get involved with any of the activities that's fine! Just come and hang out with your friends, enjoy a drink and a chat!

During the Easter Holidays on Thursday 18th and 25th Top Stop Coffee Shop will be hosting Big Screen Gaming nights with consoles including; PS4, PS3, PS2, Wii, alongside table top games and board games.

For more information contact: topstopyouth@gmail.com or

Find us on Facebook: @TopStopCoffeeShop



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Eisteddfod at Ysgol y Ffin

The Welsh festival of literature, music and performance has been stitched in history since as early as the 12th century. Schools across the country carry on the tradition with internal Eisteddfods, whilst the annual National Eisteddfod draws crowds of thousands each year.

Myrddin ap Dafydd, a former Welsh poet Laureate, has had a long affiliation with this festival which celebrates Welsh artists, himself having won the chair at the National Eisteddfod on several occasions. His most recent accomplishment is to become the Archdruid for 2019. The Archdruid presides over the most important ceremonies at the National Eisteddfod of Wales, including the presentation of the Prose Medal and the Crowning & Chairing of the Bard.

Myrddin ap Dafydd founded a publishing company in 1980, which specialises in the publication of books written in the Welsh language or those of Welsh interest. "Heddiw, ddoe a Dydd Gwyl Dewi", the latest book published by his company on St David's Day this year, looks at the celebrations that occur around the country with their heart at the centre of preserving Welsh history and culture, including the aforementioned Eisteddfod.

Thrilled to be published in this book are children from the Welsh medium school in Caldicot, Ysgol y Ffin who are depicted over a double page spread, taking part in their annual school Eisteddfod.

This is not the first time Ysgol y Ffin have been published, as last year they featured in a book by Myrddin ap Dafydd which looked at Welshness in the boarder countries.

A spokesperson for the school said "What an honour to be approached by someone with such standing in Welsh literature and that they should show such interest in our little school on the boarder is really exciting! We embrace Welsh culture at our school and to have that acknowledged and know that we have been woven into a bit of history for future generations to read, puts us all on a bit of a high. It's so exciting!"

The book's release timed in perfectly with the school's Eisteddfod this year which saw a great selection of music, literacy, art and recitals given by the children from nursery through to year 6 pupils.



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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

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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From classic hair cuts, including perms, colouring and
highlights, to the latest styling trends
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Thornwell Primary School Wall of Fame

At a recent governors' meeting we decided that to help to promote high aspiration for our pupils it would be a good idea to celebrate the successes of our past pupils.

To do this we would like, with your help, to create a 'Thornwell Wall of Fame' in our school.

We would really like a collection of photographs of past pupils with a short accompanying paragraph explaining their career path. Past pupils who chose the routes of apprentice or tradesperson, civil servants or professionals, all walks of life really. Of course anyone who achieved any representative sporting honours or musical success (at any level) would also be most welcome.

If you have someone in your family who would like to contribute or you know of anyone else who attended Thornwell and would be a good role model for our children please get in touch with us via the school office 01291 623390 or email the school thornwellprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk

EASTER OFFER! £5 DISCOUNT

**to all customers visiting the salon on
Mon 15th, Weds-Sat 17th-20th April**
GIFT VOUCHERS ALSO AVAILABLE



It's back, our eagerly anticipated Easter Monday Family Raceday

As well as thrilling horse racing, there will be plenty of free family entertainment on site to keep the whole family amused including ... Live music from a fantastic Little Mix and Ariana Grande tribute, Panic Circus where your family can practice their circus skills, bungee trampolines, a huge bouncy castle, fairground rides, face painting, a fire engine, cricket skills, an inflatable assault course, go-karts and more!

Advance family tickets are now on sale at just £25 (2 x adults and kids aged 17 & under go free!), this ticket will be £30 on the day

Single adult entry tickets are available at £17 in advance, these will be £20 on the day.

Please visit Chepstow-racecourse.co.uk or call 01291 622 260 to book!

Remember, children aged 17 & under go free, parking is free, all entertainment on site is free and you can bring a picnic (no alcohol)

Hospitality options start from just £50pp for a two-course carvery in our newly refurbished View Restaurant where kids (aged 12 & under) eat for £1! Please call a member of our team on 01291 622 260 to find out more.



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:
see website
devaudenfestival.com
GENERAL ENQUIRIES:
devaudenfestival@yahoo.com
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The process is already part of the Franchised Dealer service plan in the US for some vehicle manufacturers (e.g. Subaru), and in the UK is endorsed and used by TV mechanic Edd China in his own garage workshops.

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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

MBChB MBA MRCGP DipFA
MLIBF ACSI CertPFS MAQ

Senior Financial Planning Consultant

IAM Financial

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Chepstow: 01291 626373

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Chepstow Musical Youth Theatre

EASTER THEATRE WORKSHOPS

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PRICE PER DAY £35
Multi day discounts available
Suitable for ages 6-17

**To book call 07437 018440
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Three local schools competed in the annual Open Morning Triathlon at St John's on-the-Hill School on Saturday 2nd March.

Pupils from Berry Hill Primary School, Rogiet Primary School and St John's on-the-Hill School competed in teams in swimming, indoor athletics and running races.

Rogiet Leopards team came 1st, followed by Rogiet Rhinos in 2nd place.

Elliot Cracknell, Head of PE at St John's on-the-Hill, said: "This year's Triathlon tested the children's fitness, agility and determination."

"The school teams put their all into each event and we were particularly impressed with their speed – they ran 400m laps for 15 minutes, competed in a range of indoor exercises in our Sports Hall and took part in a swimming contest."

St John's on-the-Hill

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



Castleford Hill Tutshill
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E: enquiries@stjohnsonthehill.co.uk

W: www.stjohnsonthehill.co.uk

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Active Classrooms at Pembroke Primary

Here at Pembroke Primary our pupils are starting to enjoy the benefits of physical learning in the classroom. With a great amount of research into the ways in which physical activity can improve wellbeing, concentration, reduce disruptive behaviour and improve pupils motivation and enthusiasm, we are keen to embed physical activity throughout the whole school. With the Daily mile already well established, along with corridor sensory breaks, we have now started to build active learning into our daily classroom routines.

Exercise balls are used as a replacement for chairs, these have proven great for children who like to move and fidget a lot and enable children to direct their natural kinesthetic energy and need for movement in a positive way. The children love the use of the balls for chairs and say that it helps them to stay alert by the need to balance whilst sitting. Teachers have also noticed an improvement in the pupils' posture as they sit, ensuring neater handwriting and more engaged children – definitely a hit with the children!

Another very welcome purchase as been the use of pedal machines under desks, pupils will pedal away as they work. The children are a lot more focussed during lesson times when pedalling and the fact that the children think that the pedal machines are great fun and are extremely excited when it is their turn is a bonus. Teachers have noticed that the pedalling has already proven to promote improved concentration in class, as well as making the students more active.

The pupils have been so enthusiastic about the setting up of active classrooms, we are excited to develop this further, with stand up desks, resistance bands and we will be piloting 'Les Mills Born to Move programme' on behalf on Monmouthshire which we are very excited about.



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)
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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

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Sun all day & evening.

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



A message from the Headmaster of Tockington Manor School

We welcome children into the Tockington family from 2 years old in our refurbished onsite nursery. Here our children learn through play, tending to their own "cottage style" vegetable garden and exploring our 28 acres during "welly walks".

Throughout the school and nursery we put the child at the centre of learning. We're proud of our traditional family values and small class sizes. Our pupils know that small class sizes mean they get better feedback from teachers and that helps them to improve.

Together we deliver a curriculum to form a foundation that will equip them with the right attitude and aptitude to tackle the challenge of senior school and future life. Our school parents agree that we encourage confidence, independence, teamwork and social skills (100% stated agree/strongly agree in our recent parent survey).

In our recent inspection, the ISI Inspectors commented that "pupils enjoy a healthy lifestyle and make full use of the outdoor opportunities

afforded to them" including forest skills, cross country trails and national standard sports pitches. Plus our children begin weekly swimming lessons from nursery in our onsite 25m indoor swimming pool. We're very proud of our sporting success and most recently our U11 and U13 boys cross country teams have become National Champions!

If you're in the process of choosing a school or nursery for your child then do come and visit us. Children can join us from any age group, including Year 7/8 where we have an enviable success rate in delivering entry into first choice senior schools, many earning scholarships in Academia, Sport, Music or Drama.

Please arrange a private tour or join us on our Open Day in May to find out more about what Tockington Manor School and Nursery could offer your child over the bridge.

We look forward to meeting you.

Stephen Symonds, Headmaster



Open Day - Friday 10th May 2:30pm to 5pm

Only 4 miles from the Severn Bridge
with a daily school minibus from Chepstow



Welcome to Tockington Manor School and Nursery for boys and girls aged 2 to 13 years

Situated in 28 acres of beautiful countryside with cross country trails, national standard all-weather pitch, 25m heated indoor pool and a brand new Music and Performing Arts Suite.

Visit us to find out more about our small friendly classes, family approach to education and enviable success rate in delivering entry into first choice senior schools, many of which have challenging entry requirements.

We offer extended hours, wrap-around care including breakfast/supper and a variety of extra curricular activities including drama, judo and cricket.

Contact us to arrange a visit: asymonds@tockingtonmanorschool.com 01454 613229
Washingpool Hill Road, Tockington, BS32 4NY www.tockingtonmanorschool.com





Come and join our fun Tintern Easter Trail around the village!

Starts at Tintern Village Hall from 1pm on Sunday 7th April.

Suitable for all ages.

Or just come and have tea and cake and Easter treats in the Hall !

All fundraising for the Tintern Playground Regeneration Project.

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Which? Trusted Trader

Tutshill Community Pre-School

Tutshill Community Pre-School now have SPACES AVAILABLE.

If you are looking for high quality childcare that promotes independence and encourages child-based learning then why not get in touch?

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.



Kestrel Gymnastics Club

Artistic Gymnastics and Trampoline Classes for Girls & Boys

PeeWees (Pre-school 2-3 years): A structured class where children together with parent/carer, supervised by a qualified coach work towards British Gymnastics Awards. Mondays 13:00-13:45 & Fridays 09:30-10:15

Tweeties (Age 3 1/2 - 4 years): A class led by a qualified coach working on various apparatus. Mondays 13:45-14:30 & Fridays 13:00-13:45

Recreational Classes (Age 4 years +) Mondays 16:15-17:15, Wednesdays 16:15-17:15 & 17:30-18:30, Thursdays 16:15-17:15, Friday 16:15-17:15, Saturday 10:30-11:30

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

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

Parkour: Wednesdays 20:00 - 21:00 pm



Open Gymnastics Fun Session

Saturdays
9.00am-10.00am

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

01291 620780

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

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

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Easter Bunnies (well not quite)

Last year we held our first Easter Egg Raffle by placing lots of chocolate goodies in various pubs in Chepstow and Caldicot. This resulted in a magnificent £380 to go into our Lions charity account.

So, this year we are going to do it again, placing 8 baskets of chocolate goodies in various hostleries in the area, all waiting for your £1 donation. The proceeds will all go to the Children with Cancer charity. Good Luck!



Getting steamed up

Monmouthshire UpCycle collects, up cycles where appropriate and sells donated furniture, while employing people marginalized in society. This month we were delighted to find an industrial steam cleaner which will ensure that soft furniture can be thoroughly cleaned before sale.

Our picture (below) shows Lions Nigel Gibby, Dewi Hughes, together with employee Dafydd Williams and a chair which has benefited from a good clean.



Defibrillator Update

The Clubs continuing quest to assist in the installation of Public Access Defibrillators goes on, with recent presentations at Caerwent, bringing the total up to 24.

Members of Caerwent Community Council

Chepstow & Caldicot Lions are always looking for volunteers and new members, and if you feel that you need to put something back into your community please come along and see what you can do to help.



For more information, please contact Lion Nigel Gibby on 01600 869151.



The Drill Hall Chepstow Saturday 20th April

A night dedicated
to the legendary singer /songwriter
NEIL DIAMOND

Performed by international performer
'Bob Drury'
tickets £10 from Hannah's Music
Chepstow 01291 627122

Celebrate National Mills Weekend at Mathern Mill

On Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th May
Open 2pm to 5pm each day. **FREE!**

Here at Mathern Mill, 2 miles outside Chepstow, we will have plenty to see and do for all the family. This is a grade 2* listed watermill in the village of Mathern, NP16 6LG.

Our mill dates back beyond the 17th century but the machinery is Victorian, installed when an engine house was added to accommodate a steam engine for extra power. The engine has not survived but most of the machinery is still here. The mill is something of a time capsule, and whilst not operational, gives an excellent insight into how it would have been during its working life.

Mildred Cookson, Chairman of the SPAB Mills Section, says:

"Mills have always been a focal point for communities. National Mills Weekend is always a wonderful family event - an opportunity for everyone to explore their local windmill or watermill, to learn about our rich milling heritage and its place in our landscape."

We know a great deal about the people who lived and worked here from the earliest known miller, Joh'es Watkyn, in 1571 to the Harris family in 1969. There are fascinating stories to tell about the men and women of Mathern Mill but while the people changed the milling process remained essentially the same. Corn from the fields came to the mill to be ground into flour to provide the families of the local area with their daily bread.

The mill is owned by Dave and Jan Bowen who began opening it to the public in 2015 on



selected days throughout the summer.

"We really enjoy showing the mill to people who are often surprised and delighted by what they find inside. Because it is unrestored the mill has an extraordinary atmosphere often commented on by our visitors. Mills Weekend is our largest event and this year we will be welcoming our 1000th visitor."

We look forward to showing you our wonderful mill; there is no charge to visit!

If you are unable to make mills weekend we are open again on **Saturday 22nd June, 2-5pm**, and other days through the summer. Ring us for details.

We open for visits from groups and societies at other times and also do talks about the mill. Contact us on **01291 622282** or email **bowendf@btinternet.co.uk**



**NatWest
Community
Banker**



Your local NatWest Community Banker
is available to meet customers at the following
locations and times:.

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

for more information or to book an appointment, contact

07584 509 259
penny.latham@natwest.com



Time to sort out your debt?

As we're now in the fourth month of the year (where did the time go?!) it's a good time to reflect on the New Year's resolutions we made all the way back in January. How long did yours last? Maybe you're still going – well done! If not, don't worry – there's always time to give it another try.

This includes getting your financial situation into shape. At Christians Against Poverty (CAP), we know that being in debt can feel like a prison sentence, but we also know that there's always a way out.

There are lots of brilliant debt counselling organisations that can help you if you're worrying about debt. StepChange, PayPlan and Citizens Advice are just a few to consider.

However, if you're struggling emotionally as well as financially and need that extra bit of support as you work your way out of debt, get in touch with CAP. Our service is specifically tailored to help the most vulnerable and marginalised in society because it's face to face and accessible (we visit every client in their own home) and it's holistic (we recognise that debt is often a cause or symptom of wider issues).

As well as debt help, CAP offers group services where members can tackle various issues in a safe environment, around people who are often going through a similar thing. CAP Job Clubs offer support and practical help for people looking to get into work, and Fresh Start is for those hoping to break free from a life controlling dependency (such as smoking, drinking, gambling or shopping). CAP Life Skills is designed to help members make their money stretch further and better manage the wide ranging effects of life on a low income. All CAP's services are run in partnership with local churches across the UK.

To get in touch about debt help, give us a call on our Freephone helpline: 0800 328 0006 (open 8:30am-5pm, Mon-Fri). To join one of our group services, visit capuk.org/help.

It doesn't matter how long you've been putting off asking for help – nearly 4 in 10 of our debt clients have waited over three years before getting in touch. Even if it's been your New Year's resolution for the last several years, it's never too late to start your journey out of debt.

Six steps to start sorting out your debt:

1. Make a list of what money you have coming in, what money you spend each month and how much money you owe.
2. Make a budget, prioritising essential bills and money for food while trying to make sure there is something left to pay your debts.
3. Contact your creditors. Tell them your situation and what you can reasonably afford to repay.
4. Start making affordable payments as soon as you can – this shows your creditors that you're serious.
5. Stick to your budget. It takes discipline, but it's worth it.
6. If you're struggling to manage on your own and need help, get in touch with a reputable debt counselling organisation. See moneysavingexpert.com/loans/debt-help-plan for a list of contacts and more advice.

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against
poverty

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***excluding end of line stock**

Bulwark Industrial Estate, Chepstow NP16 5QZ

OPEN 9-5pm MON-SAT



Community Noticeboard

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

Transition Chepstow
Energy & Transport Group
Health & Consciousness Group

Traffic Congestion Forum for Urgent Action

Thursday 11th April 2019 7.30pm
Arts Hall, Chepstow School
www.transitionchepstow.org.uk

Chepstow and District Garden Appreciation Society (CADGAS)

Wednesday 24 April 2019

Nathalie Mignotte, Horticulturist and Former Lecturer will be giving a talk entitled

'The Birds & The Bees - How to Attract Wildlife into your Garden'

7.30pm Chepstow Leisure Centre All Welcome
Visitors £4

Chepstow Museum's events and exhibitions

Sunday 14th April at 3pm - The Golden Age
Bolshoi Ballet set in the roaring 1920s captured live in Moscow screening at The Drill Hall, Lower Church Street. Tickets £12 / £10 concession
in advance from Chepstow Museum 01291 625981

Sat 6th April - Sun 28th April
Eggstra -ordinary Easter Egg Hunt
Chepstow Museum, Bridge Street,
FREE 11am-4pm, Daily



Thursdays 18th & 25th April, 2-4pm
Chepstow Museum's Drop-in-and-Make
Craft Afternoons at The Drill Hall, Lower
Church St Suitable for children all ages,
must be accompanied, suggested donation
£2 age 3+



The Friends of Chepstow Library and the Friends of
Chepstow Library Reading Garden are holding a

Plant Sale

at Chepstow Library on
Friday 10 May 2019 from 10am until 4pm and
Saturday 11 May 2019 from 10am until 12.30pm

All funds raised will help support the community
work of these two Library voluntary groups

Great Annual Duck Race

Saturday 13th April, Midday

Prizes for the Winning Ducks and
Best Named Duck
£1.00 per duck



To be held in the stream adjoining the
Church of Saint Andoenus, Mounton.
Wonderful setting by the brook.
Starts at the bridge next to the Church parking
area. Followed by refreshments in the Church.
Home made soups and Ploughman's Lunch.
Sponsorship forms available from
01291 622317

All proceeds to benefit the
Church of Saint Andoenus.



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/886045528100851/

Join a Breakfast Club near you!

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

Gwent Wildlife Trust, Chepstow Group GRAND PLANT SALE & BAZAAR

SATURDAY 18 MAY 2019

9.30am - 12.30pm

THE PALMER CENTRE, CORMEILLES SQUARE,
CHEPSTOW NP16 5LH
Admission free

A great selection of plants of all kinds at
bargain prices
Donations of plants welcomed, please contact
Hilary on 01291 689326

For more information please visit
www.gwentwildlife.org

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.

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 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

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S
Oklahoma!
PRESENTED BY
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MUSICAL YOUTH
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AT
WYDEAN SCHOOL,
SEDBURY

THURSDAY 11TH APRIL 7:30pm
FRIDAY 12TH APRIL 7:30pm
SATURDAY 13TH APRIL 2:30pm and
7:30pm
FOR ONLINE BOOKING: CMYT.org
CALL: 07437018440

Join our annual celebration as
a Walkers are Welcome Town

**Chepstow
Walking Festival 2019**

24th—28th April 2019

Programme information available
from February 2019 at
www.walksinchepstow.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

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 Secretary Geoff Sumner 01291 624758 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 Church, Gloucester Road, Stroat, Chepstow, NP16 7LR 01594 529209 info@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

Parent and Toddler Time at Whirlkidz 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

Stroat Church Toddler Group 10am on Thursdays, term time only 01594 529209 www.stroatchurch.org.uk

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

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



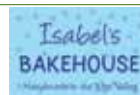
First Stop Stationers
Town centre printer with Fuji Photo Lab. Greetings cards, art & craft; stationery 3 Library Place, One Manor Way, Chepstow NP16 5HZ T: 01291 623999 www.firststopstationers.co.uk



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



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



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

Chepstow Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

Supporting Local Business



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.marriottspierre.co.uk



St Tewdric's House
19th Century Italianate Villa wedding venue
Mathern Rd, Chepstow NP16 6HX
T: 07477 017537 www.sttewdricshouse.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, restaurant and pub
Main Road, Tintern, Monmouthshire NP16 6SF T: 01291 689205
www.theroyalgeorgetintern.co.uk



Tyrell's Family Butchers
Local, quality meat & products at affordable prices; catering & takeaway
Beachley Road, Sedbury, Chepstow NP16 7AA
T: 01291 621089 www.tyrrellsfamilybutchers.co.uk



Associated Professional Hypnotherapists *Hypnosis helps with many problems, inc. weight, smoking, stress, confidence, insomnia*
The Summerhouse, Shirenewton, Chepstow NP16 6RL
T: 01291 641964 / 07921 130098 www.hypnosiscanhelp.co.uk



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



Basepoint Centres Ltd
Maintained & serviced office space
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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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