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**THE CHEPSTOW SOCIETY**

***Members Bulletin* *JANUARY 2016***

***HONORARY SECRETARY’S REPORT***

The scaffolding on the 1816 Bridge has been taken down and the crossing reopened.

The A48 Bridge has had a safety barrier installed over the Christmas break as well. This should make the school children who cross this bridge twice a day much safer.

The barrier work has also taken in and stopped up the unauthorised and dangerous pedestrian exit from Tesco’s car park across the A48 towards the Church.

The scheme for 600 houses on the ex-Fairfield Shipyard site has been put on hold by the WAG. This cannot now proceed to approval until the result of a survey on Highway capacity in the town is known.

Another scheme has been put forward this time by Melin Homes , for eight one bedroom flats on the site of “The Studio” bungalow next to the Port Wall on Garden City Way.

Although some improvement on the previous application, it is still too close to the Town Wall and shows little respect for the ancient monument and its setting.

*Henry Hodges - Secretary*

***Message from the Chair***

A very happy New Year to all our members!

2016 promises to be a very busy year for your Society.

On the positive side, we have the National Eisteddfod in our county and while we are not a Welsh speaking part of Wales, our involvement with Y Lle Hanes (the History Place) part of the Eisteddfod exhibitions, should produce an increase in the numbers of tourists and visitors to our town.

The History Place is a presentation of the history and tourist attractions of Monmouthshire and area and will involve most of the local history and civic societies of the county – including the Chepstow Society.

The down side to the year will be, of course, the effect of the continuing cutbacks imposed on our county, and it is understood that they fall rather more heavily here than elsewhere in Wales.

The immediate effect of these cuts is the closure of the Tourist Information Centre, officially just for the winter, but possibly permanently in its present location.

Your Society will do what it can about this and will fight to preserve what is good about Chepstow and our area.

For this we need to keep our membership strong and, again, your Executive Committee really needs some more participation from members. So please step forward if you are willing to help!

Blwyddyn Newydd da! (just practising!)

*Geoff Sumner*

**MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS**

**Weds. 20 January Richard Clammer,**

**“*Paddle Steamers in the Bristol Channel”***

**Weds. 17 February Ray Wilson, “*Sharpness Docks”***

**Weds. 16 March John Putley, *“Stand and Deliver”***

**Weds. 20 April Chris Witts, *“Life on the Severn”***

*All at 7.15 p.m. in the Drill Hall*

C:\Users\Jamess\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\LGQ32JED\MC900028383[1].wmf **EXCURSIONS**

Seventeen members enjoyed a visit to Berrington Hall before Christmas. The house was decorated for a Georgian Christmas, and as well as learning how to make some traditional decorations, some members joined in seasonal Regency dancing.

Looking forward to our holiday, due to the number of members going we have been able to negotiate better prices. The final payment is due **by 8th February**. Cheques should be made payable to Chepstow Society, Excursion and sent to

**Mr K P James, Roseville, Netherend, Lydney, Glos. GL15 6NN.**

More information about pickup points will be sent nearer the departure date.

**Future excursions/holidays**

We are in the process of planning a visit to Highclere House, near Newbury, the location of ‘Downton Abbey’. This is obviously a very popular house, but we are hoping to arrange something for the autumn.

There has been considerable interest in a short city break to Liverpool, again this is something that we are looking at for the autumn.

As always we welcome members’ suggestions, ideas and feedback.

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