

THE CHEPSTOW SOCIETY

Members Bulletin

APRIL 2016



Notes from the Chair

There are three points I want to deal with in this issue.

The first is to make you aware that your Society is presently battling with Monmouthshire County Council over the Chepstow car parking situation.

The most urgent issue is the proposed change to the Welsh Street car park to make it a short term car park which will mean that rail commuters will have to find somewhere else to park. One of these places will be the Drill Hall car park which is to be for long term parking. This will mean that parking for Drill Hall events will be very difficult. We urgently need an adequate station car park.

The second is to inform you again that Frank Olding, the Chair of the 2016 Eisteddfod Committee, will tell us about the event which, hopefully, will bring many visitors to the county. This will be at the AGM on May 18.

Finally, another plea for volunteers to help the Executive Committee run the Society. Please come forward at the AGM or, preferably, before. You may well be tired of seeing my gnarled visage every month – now is your chance to do something about it!

Geoff Sumner

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions are now due for the year 2016/17.

They remain at £10 per member and can be paid at our monthly meetings, or to our Membership Secretary, Marian Thomas, at 24 Severn Crescent, Chepstow NP16 5EA.

Cheques should be made payable to the Chepstow Society.

MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS

Wednesday 20th April –

Chris Witts, “Life on the Severn”

Wednesday 18th May –

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 15th June –

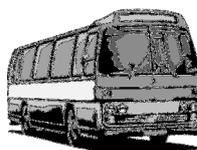
Rose Hewlett,

“Victorian Village Life”

Wednesday 20th July –

**Chepstow Festival event –
details to be confirmed**

All at 7.15 p.m. in the Drill Hall



EXCURSIONS

We are just waiting for the final pickup points and time for our holiday to Norfolk, we will contact members as soon as we have this information.

Future events:

- A day trip to Berkley and Sharpness possibly in May or June (own cars).
- We are in negotiations with coach companies for prices for a short holiday to Liverpool in the late autumn.
- Also, looking at the timetables and prices for a day out on a paddle steamer in the early autumn.

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

Keith and Sallie James

01594 52971

email: kp.james@btinternet.com

FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR CHEPSTOW MUSEUM

Come along and enjoy, and support the Museum
at the same time!

DON QUIXOTE

Bolshoi Ballet live broadcast at the Drill Hall,

Sunday April 10 4pm

Sunday will see the last of this season's Bolshoi Ballet live broadcast screenings at the Drill Hall, where a percentage of the proceeds goes towards the support of the Museum. Sparkling staging of Cervantes' timeless story of the adventures of his eccentric hero Don Quixote. Accompanied by his loyal squire Sancho Panza, and with his head filled with stories of knights and chivalry, Don Quixote sets out on a journey to make his name and discover his perfect woman. On the way he meets the beautiful Kitri, the dazzling daughter of an innkeeper, and is convinced that this might be his ideal love, the woman he has been searching for...

Don Quixote is one of the most famous and influential stories in world literature, and the Bolshoi Ballet's acclaimed staging brings fresh life to this classic tale. Imaginative new sets and costumes accompany this colourful and brilliant production, which has the Bolshoi hallmarks of panache and excellence.

Tickets £12 £10 concession in advance from Chepstow Museum 01291 625981. Or at the door – doors open 3.30pm

PAINTING THE MODERN GARDEN – MONET TO MATISSE

**Exhibition on Screen film showing at the Drill Hall,
Thursday 28th April 7.30pm**

Missed the blockbuster exhibition at the Royal Academy? Or want to find out more from the expert guides, curators and gardeners, in this stunning Exhibition on Screen film – the film explores not just the exhibition walls but the beauty of artists gardens.

Using the work of Monet as a starting point, this landmark exhibition examined the role gardens played in the evolution of art from the early 1860s through to the 1920s. Tracing the emergence of the modern garden in

its many forms and glories through a period of great social change and innovation in the arts. Discover the paintings of some of the most important Impressionist, Post-Impressionist and Avant-Garde artists of the early twentieth century as they explore this theme. Monet, arguably the most important painter of gardens in the history of art, once said he owed his painting "to flowers". But Monet was far from alone in his fascination with the horticultural world, as can be seen from the masterpieces by Renoir, Cezanne, Pissarro, Manet, Sargent, Kandinsky, Van Gogh, Matisse, Klimt and Klee which filled this much acclaimed exhibition. For these artists and others, the garden gave them the freedom to break new ground and explore the ever-changing world around them.

Put simply: this is an unmissable treat for both fans of art and gardening.

Tickets £10 from and in support of Chepstow Museum tel 01291 625981

PAINTING THE MODERN GARDEN RAFFLE

The Royal Academy has also generously donated items specially produced to accompany the exhibition for us to raffle to raise funds for the museum, including the sumptuous exhibition catalogue. Tickets just £1 available from the Museum or at events in the Drill Hall.

WORKSHOPS THIS WEEK!

On grandparent duty tomorrow?
Looking for something to do with the kids?

Get creative together for a couple of hours at Chepstow Museum's **DROP-IN-AND-MAKE** craft afternoon at the Drill Hall Thursday 7th April 2-4pm
We supply some ideas, templates and materials – and the children bring their own creativity to make it 'their own'.
£2 donation for children over 3 years to help us cover the costs of materials and refreshments.

ORIGAMI WORKSHOP FOR ALL AGES

2-4pm, Friday 8th April at the Drill Hall.
We're helping the River Wye Festival towards their target of 1000 origami birds to be made by local people for an art installation that will happen from May 6 -15 at Tintern. Come along and learn how to make origami Cranes, and make your contribution to this amazing artwork. It's free, drop in, stay as long as you like.