

THE CHEPSTOW SOCIETY

Members Bulletin

April 2019

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Notes from the Chair

At a recent meeting of your Executive Committee it was reported that we were known as a Society of 'moaners' – always objecting to something!

I suppose that it's in the nature of our role; to make a fuss when something seems wrong to us, such as the proposed new 200 house development adjacent to the Bayfield estate which will add to the traffic congestion and pollution.

Be assured, however, that we are very conscious of the fact that Chepstow is a very pleasant place to live, with much going for it. I suppose that is why there are so many people wanting to live here.

Perhaps we should though sometimes publicly praise the good things that happen here.

For instance, we were very pleased with the adoption of the Old Board School in Bridge Street by the Chepstow and District Mencap Society.

This is rescuing an empty building and turning it into a valuable asset for the town both for adults with learning disabilities and for the inhabitants of Chepstow generally as a community centre.

So please don't think that we don't appreciate Chepstow; we just want to keep it as the pleasant town that it is.

If there is anything that you think should be praised – please let us know and we won't moan, we'll celebrate it!

Geoffrey Sumner

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2019-20 ARE NOW DUE

THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION REMAINS AT £10 AND SHOULD BE PAID TO MARIAN THOMAS.

MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS

Weds. 17 April *Bill Zajac – Chepstow Castle at the time of William Marshal*

Weds. 15 May ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Geoff Sumner – William Marshal – the Man who Saved Magna Carta

Weds. 19 June *Elizabeth Chadwick – The Life of William Marshal*

All at 7.15 p.m. in the Drill Hall

AN INDICATIVE VOTE! *At the last monthly meeting, technical problems meant that tea was served before the main speaker, rather than afterwards. Some people suggested that this should become a regular feature. What do members think? If you have a view, please let us know – by email, or at the next meeting!*

Honorary Secretary's Report

The photographers' shop in Moor Street has become overnight another ladies hairdressing salon. Hairdressing and cutting seems very popular at the top end of the town.

We should all be aware that the on-street car parking regime in the town is about to change drastically. From 6th April it will be regulated by MCC in place of the local police. Civil Enforcement Officers will be on the town's streets leaving the police to deal more effectively with crime and public order.

The Paulownia (Foxglove) tree in the Riverside gardens will bloom later this month but unfortunately it is now on its own, the others having had various problems.

The County Council (Planning) is also keen to get our views on the guidance they propose to make for those proposing small scale infill developments in their area.

We are also being encouraged from some quarters to take an interest in the unusually high tides expected this year. Chepstow is said to be the best place to see the dramatic rise and fall.

Lydney Docks is set to benefit from a sizable grant so that the historic sea gates can be repaired. The proposed redevelopment also includes an eel farm. When I was a much younger person we used to help the adults to fish for eels in the reens across the Levels below Roggiett (it was spelt with 2 g's and 2 t's then).

It involved wet muddy places, lamps to attract them on dark nights, and nets made out of old net curtains to catch the silver eels (elvers). Then someone found a market for them and suddenly there were licences and permissions and bailiffs and mothers – and soon no eels and worse no shillings either.

But that's the way of the world – we learnt early that eels and money are both slippery customers.

Henry Hodges



EXCURSIONS

Holiday 2019, Scarborough 29th April to 3rd May, at the Royal Hotel

Due to the distance we will need to leave Chepstow earlier than previously, therefore more quizzes please! The pickup points are: Woolaston 7.30am, Severn Bridge Social Club 7.40am and St Lawrence Roundabout 7.50am

Itinerary:

Monday - Comfort stop on M42 or as required. Lunch stop at Elsecar to include guided tour of heritage park, in two groups. Arrive at hotel late afternoon

Tuesday - coach from hotel to York, three groups for walking tour of York, Jorvik Centre (£8 extra). Back to hotel by coach in time for evening meal

Wednesday - Free day, but optional walking tour of Scarborough at 2pm from the hotel

Thursday - coach to Pickering, free time there before catching the steam train on North Yorkshire Railway to Whitby.

Free time in Whitby before meeting our coach to return to Scarborough.

Friday - return home details later, but should be back in Chepstow late afternoon (depending on traffic)

We have a spare double room, which has just become available due to a cancellation. Please let us know if you know of anyone who may be interested.

Autumn Excursion

We are planning a visit to Bristol in late September, date to be confirmed, for a backstage tour of the Bristol Old Vic and a boat trip on the river. The cost will be approximately £30 to include transport. More details to follow at the next monthly meeting.

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