

# THE CHEPSTOW SOCIETY

Members Bulletin      October 2019

[www.chepstowsociety.co.uk](http://www.chepstowsociety.co.uk)



## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Our speaker in October will be Chris Barber talking about 'Exploring Gwent Castles' Did you know that there are more castles in Monmouthshire than in any other UK county, and that there are even more in the territory of Gwent?

That's because we have always been on the 'front line' of events – the Norman invasion, and the Civil War. And now we are on the front line of another invasion – the incomers from over the Severn who want to live in Chepstow!

I realise that I am stretching the analogy somewhat but it is correct that Chepstow is under severe pressure from the builders who want to build more and more houses in this delightful area.

I realise that people have to have homes but, in addition to the 200 that Barratts want to build next to the Bayfield estate we now understand that application has been made for 148 more houses in Tutshill opposite Mead Farm. Although this is in Gloucestershire it is, in effect, part of Chepstow and your Society will do all that it can to oppose this application.

According to a recent BBC report, Chepstow is the sixth most polluted town in the country and we all know what chaos is caused by traffic at rush-hours. Your Society is concerned about the effect that further large scale development will have on Chepstow.

Please help by voicing your objections to this latest proposal at <http://your-views.co.uk/tutshill-a48/>

*Geoffrey Sumner*



## Christmas Party

*This year the party will be on  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December  
at Mathern Village Hall,  
commencing at 7pm.*

*The theme is 1960s murder  
mystery, so dig out your flares  
and mini skirts!*

*Tickets will be on sale at the next  
meeting, Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October.*

*The cost is £14 per person  
(members and guests)  
to include fish and chip supper  
(other options available on  
request), and bring your own  
drink.*

*A reminder that membership subscriptions for the year 2019/20 are now overdue.  
Anyone who has not yet paid, please contact Marian Thomas, 01291 625591*

## THE SOCIETY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

As a civic and amenity group, the Chepstow Society has always sought to protect the town and its surroundings from inappropriate development, to improve the area's environment, and to support the community

Over the last 70 years, we have made numerous comments and representations to local authorities and other bodies on planning, transport and other issues, many of which have been taken on board.

With all the pressures now bearing upon the town, the Society needs additional voluntary help and expertise, from well-informed members (and potential members) who are willing to assist (and perhaps take a lead) in preparing responses on planning applications and other initiatives that affect the town - and, ideally, on new environmental activities that the Society can support.

If you think you may be interested in helping the Society carry out this important role, please speak to Keith, Guy, or another committee member, at the next Society meeting, or leave a message on the Society's Facebook page.

We need your help and support!



## EXCURSIONS

On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September members visited Bristol for a backstage tour of the Old Vic Theatre and a harbour boat trip. Both guides were excellent, very knowledgeable with delightful personalities. The weather was kind and we all enjoyed a lovely lunch.



## France and Belgium Holiday 21<sup>st</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> April 2020

We are now in the final stages of arranging this holiday. We currently have 36 people signed up, so room for a few more.

The cost will be approximately £400

There is a flyer with full details. We would like the booking form completed, with £50 deposit per person as soon as possible and by 21st November at the latest.

Keith is hoping to visit Coutral in October, so more information to follow.

**Keith and Sallie James, 01594 529713 or  
[kp.james@btinternet.com](mailto:kp.james@btinternet.com)**

## MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS

16<sup>th</sup> October

Chris Barber - *Exploring Gwent Castles*

20<sup>th</sup> November

Dave Scaysbrook – *Forensics*

*No meeting in December*

15<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Speaker to be confirmed –  
*The 180th Anniversary of the Monmouth  
Chartist Trial*

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