

THE CHEPSTOW SOCIETY



Members Bulletin

January 2020

www.chepstowsociety.co.uk

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

As we enter a new decade, it is an appropriate time to take stock of our Society and our town.

We are in a period of considerable change in Chepstow as a result of the removal of tolls on the Severn bridges and the next few years are going to see considerable pressures on Chepstow because of the influx of new residents and commuters. We are likely to become a suburb of Bristol because of the ease of commuting and the attractiveness of the area.

Your Society will continue to work with the other environmental groups such as Transition Chepstow, and the Town Council, to monitor the effect of the changes on our town and surrounding area.

Once again we ask for help from our members. We are pleased that we appear to have found a successor to David Barber as Treasurer, and we now urgently need, someone (or several members?) to assist Henry Hodges in monitoring the individual planning and environmental proposals affecting our area.

My call for assistance is made more urgent by the sad news of the passing of Rosemary Penrose who was a very active member of our Society and whose loss makes the recruitment of new helpers even more urgent. Our thoughts and sympathies are with her husband Chris at this sad time.

Geoffrey Sumner

ROSEMARY PENROSE

Most members will have heard the sad news of Rosemary's death in December. Rosemary was a valued and stalwart member of the Chepstow Society. She will be greatly missed.

This tribute has been written by David Barber.

Rosemary, together with Chris, had been a member of our Society for over 20 years. In that time, she became deeply involved with the many aspects of running our Society. She was often on the door, taking the entrance fees and marking off members' and guests' names - her excellent memory meant that she could instantly recognize faces and put names to them - an important part of welcoming all to the monthly meetings.

She was a member of the Executive Committee, proving to be an astute advocate of prudent financial management and inclusive members' participation. Her interest in Family History led to her being our representative on the Gwent County History Association, where she presented reports to the membership at meetings and the Executive Committee.

Although not strictly a Society-run activity, a great many of us have very fond memories of Rosemary and Chris organizing walking and sightseeing holidays in Bulgaria, Slovenia, and Andorra, besides the Strollers 2 walks from the Fourteen Locks where she always organized the afternoon end of walk tea and scones in the café, much looked forward to.

In all these events it was the social interaction which we and she enjoyed, putting the world and Chepstow to rights.

To Chris, daughters Liz and Tracy we give our deepest sympathy. We will all miss this elegant lady who lived life to the full and brightened our lives.

God bless you Rosemary.

Rosemary's funeral service will be held in St. Mary's Church, Chepstow, at 11 a.m. on Thursday 16th January.

MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS

15th January

Ray Stroud - *The 180th Anniversary of the Monmouth Chartist Trial*

19th February

Matthew Hall – *“My Life of Crime”*

18th March

Cyril Routley – *S.S. Great Britain*

15th April

Tony Conder – *Royal Gloucester*

All at 7.15 p.m. in the Drill Hall

THE SOCIETY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Planning, transport and the environment

With all the pressures now bearing upon the town and its surroundings, the Society needs additional voluntary help and expertise, from one, two or more well-informed members (or 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.

Town walks

Each summer, the Society organises early evening walks around the town, pointing out aspects of historical or more general interest. We would like to find one or two members to help lead these walks. Notes to help you can be provided!

If you think you may be interested in helping the Society carry out one or other of these important functions, 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

Holiday 2020 – France and Belgium 21st -26th April

We are just making the final arrangements for the visit and excursions.

We will contact members in the next few weeks with details and date for final payment.



We are considering a visit to the new Gloucestershire Energy from Waste facility when the visitor centre opens in 2020. (This is the large green building just off the M5 near Stonehouse).

***Keith and Sallie James, 01594 529713 or
kp.james@btinternet.com***



Christmas Party

On Saturday 14th December members enjoyed an evening of intrigue and mystery at Mathern Village Hall.

Who was the murderer, what was the title, and who were singers of all those songs - so cunningly included in the script - were the questions that dominated the conversation for most of the evening.

Several of the members dressed up in 60s gear and a fabulous meal was provided by the Millers' Arms.

Thanks to all those who help to organise and clear up afterwards.