

# THE CHEPSTOW SOCIETY

*Members Bulletin*

*July 2017*



## Notes from the Chair

As you will be aware, next year marks your Society's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we on the Executive Committee have been considering how, if at all, the Society should change. While we appreciate that the present format seems to be working well, some of us feel that we should increase the civic role of the Society and become more involved with the modern day plans and problems of Chepstow.

To this end we are becoming involved with a number of projects affecting the town and in June your Secretary, Publications Officer and myself attended the quarterly meeting of the Monmouthshire County Council Lower Wye Area Committee. The meeting deals with Chepstow and area and this time focussed primarily on transport. It became apparent that one of the main problems was lack of communication between the Councillors and the public. I therefore emphasised to the Committee that we had monthly meetings at which, usually, between 60 and 100 members attended and that we were an ideal conduit for the decisions of the committee and the wishes of the public.

Therefore as part of our new role we propose to take a more active part in the deliberations of our Councillors and to present such deliberations to our members and relay to the Council the views of our members. Consequently we would be grateful if you would bring to our attention any local issues that concern you.

We have a meeting in July but not August so we do hope that you have a good summer and please keep in touch with your Society.

*Geoff Sumner*

## MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS

**Weds. 19 July -**

***The British Honours System - Ashley Jones***

**NO MEETING IN AUGUST**

**Weds. 20 September -**

***Village Life in the Great War - Rose Hewlett***

**Weds. 18 October -**

***The Royal Mint - Chris Barker***

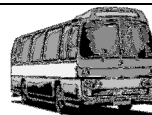
**All at 7.15 p.m. in the Drill Hall**

## Honorary Secretary's Report

When (if) the Motorway Bridge tolls are dropped in 2018, then a large increase in traffic at the M4 Newhouse junction to the A466 is forecast. However as yet no solution has been put forward to the dangers at this roundabout which have led to several fatalities in recent years. An increase in traffic arising from increased use of the bridge is not likely to solve the problem and something needs to be done.

The ex Solicitors offices in Welsh Street which have been empty for some time are now being advertised as a "development opportunity". This Edwardian building with modern extension to the rear and car park to one side has a strong presence on the street scene and should be protected from unsympathetic development. We await the outcome as it is indeed an "opportunity" with the right approach and on a very convenient site near the town centre.

*Henry Hodges*



## EXCURSIONS

**Royal Mint, Llantrisant and Cardiff Museum  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

Payment for this excursion is now due.

Please make cheques payable to Chepstow Society, Excursions and send to us at Roseville, Netherend, Lydney GL15 6NN

or if you prefer to can pay directly,

sort code: 20 60 58, Ac No:73276457.

Final details to follow nearer the date.

**Holiday 2018 (suggested date 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018)**

We are still trying to find a suitable location at an acceptable cost – watch this space.

**Christmas Party, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017 – confirmed** – Entertainment, Dancing and Supper.

Cost approximately £12.00 per person.

Please contact us to book a place or for more information. **Keith and Sallie James**

**01594 529713 or kp.james@btinternet.com**

**REMINDER - Membership subscriptions for 2017/18 were due from April 1st.**  
**They remain at £10 per person.**



**Chepstow Museum has arranged a series of talks to present the latest thinking and research into the Norman Conquest and its aftermath, and the exploits of William FitzOsbern, with a great line-up of experts who will each bring their own particular experience to their talks.**

All the talks will take place in the Drill Hall, and the tickets, price £4/ £3 concession are available from Chepstow Museum, tel 01291 625981

**Wednesday 5 July, 7.30pm: Marc Morris -  
'The Norman Conquest - Why Did It Matter?'**

In this talk Marc Morris looks at the replacement of the ruling elite of Anglo-Saxon England, the revolution in architecture, and the introduction of new attitudes towards human life.

**Thursday 13 July, 7.30pm: James Aitcheson -  
'Resistance and retribution: the aftermath  
of 1066'**

James Aitcheson speaks about the years of rebellion and subjugation that followed 1066 and the role played by

William Fitz Osbern in these events. He will also discuss the challenges and rewards of researching and writing fiction set during the Norman Conquest.

**Wednesday 26 July, 7.30pm: Rick Turner -  
'1067 and All That: The life and castles of  
William FitzOsbern'**

William FitzOsbern was William the Conqueror's best friend and closest ally in his invasion of England. This lecture will tell his life story and identify what survives of the many castles and priories he founded and discuss if he can be credited with building Chepstow's famous Great Tower.



**The Society's stall at the Big Lunch event at the Castle in June proved popular, and helped launch our new booklet on the town's National Shipyard in the First World War.**

**Copies of "Shipyards, Scandal and Pigstyes" are still available – price £2.50 – but are fast running out!**

**Hidden in the Lining – Krishna in the Garden of Assam, the tales of two textiles**

**A new special exhibition in partnership with the British Museum -  
at Chepstow Museum until September 3 2017**

The exhibition explores the origins, stories and meanings of wonderful silk woven temple textiles from 17th century north east India. A stunning example is remarkably in Monmouthshire Museum's own collections. To all outward appearances this is an elegant 18<sup>th</sup> century gentleman's dressing gown, known as a banyan. But hidden inside, kept from the ravages of light and wear, is a magnificent lining, made from this rare group of textiles woven in Assam, of which only about 20 examples survive today in collections around the world.

**IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE EXHIBITION:**

**July 22, 10am- 4.30pm, The Drill Hall**

**Textile & Costume Day School** – talks by expert speakers about the Assamese textiles and the gown featuring in the exhibition:

**July 29, The Drill Hall:**

**Dance Workshops** – in the Footsteps of the Monks of Majuli, Assam with Georgie Pope

11am – 12 beginners of all ages welcome - £5

2-4pm Dancers with any experience of any dance - £10

7.30pm **Stories and Steps – Krishna in the Garden of Assam**

£7/£5 concession from Chepstow Museum

**July 25, Aug 8 & Aug 29, 2-4**

**Tales & Textiles** – workshop for kids and families

£4 – booking essential - places limited