

THE CHEPSTOW SOCIETY

Members Bulletin

July 2019

www.chepstowsociety.co.uk



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

I write this the day after a very full audience heard Elizabeth Chadwick round off our short series of talks about William Marshal with an excellent account of the life of 'The Greatest Knight' - our own Lord of Striguil.

In April another packed audience heard Bill Zajac from CADW give a talk on Chepstow Castle at the time of the Marshal and, despite the fact that it was at the AGM, a respectable number of members heard my presentation on William Marshal's role in making the Magna Carta part of the world's heritage.

We are very lucky in Chepstow to have so much history to explore and I will try and see if we can present talks in the future on other figures from our storied past.

We will shortly have a visit from the Bath and Counties Archaeological Society which will start our programme of town walks giving visitors a taste of the history of Chepstow. All walks start from the Tourist Information Centre; in July on Mondays at 7pm and in August on Wednesdays at 6.30pm.

Why not come along and see if you know more than we do?

In the meantime have a good summer, and we look forward to our talks and excursions programme starting in September.

A reminder that, as an experiment, in September teas will be served at the start of the evening, followed by a short programme of business and then the usual talk which, in September, will be local author Matthew Hall talking about 'My Life of Crime'.

Geoffrey Sumner

MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS

17th July –

Chris Barber – *Alexander Cordell- 'Rape of the Fair Country' at 60*

No meeting in August

18th September

Matthew Hall - *'My Life of Crime'*

16th October

Chris Barber - *Exploring Gwent Castles*

All at 7.15 p.m. in the Drill Hall



TOWN WALKS

JULY - Every Monday at 7 p.m.

AUGUST - Every Wednesday at 6.30 p.m.

**£3 per person
(members and non-members)**

No prior booking required – just turn up.

**Meet outside the Tourist Information Centre, opposite the Castle.
The walk takes about 60-80 minutes.**

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



EXCURSIONS



Our next day excursion is on
Saturday 28th September to Bristol

9.00 Meet at Severn Bridge Club
10.30 Backstage tour of **Bristol Old Vic**
13.30 **Bristol Packet** harbour tour
16.30 Leave Bristol

This leaves plenty of time for coffee and lunch.

The approximate cost is £28.00,
£5 deposit by next meeting, 17th July

Holiday 2020 –

week commencing 20th April (4 – 5 nights)



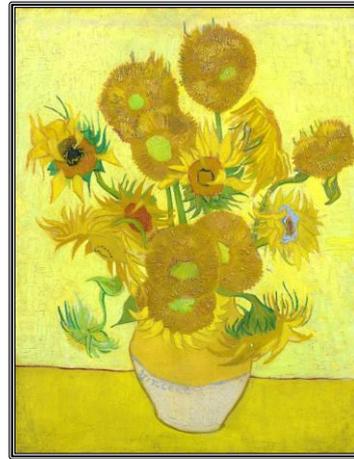
It has been suggested that we visit Belgium next year.

We have begun to investigate the possibilities - some of the ideas are Waterloo, Ypres (for last post ceremony), Arras, Ghent and Dunkirk. The coach company have suggested staying at Kortrijk.

The cost would be approximately £480 per person.

At this stage we are just looking at the feasibility of this type of holiday. **Please let us know if you are interested as soon as possible.**

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



**VAN
GOGH :**

**A
LULLABY
WITH
COLOUR**

Illustrated talk by Eleanor Bird
Tuesday 16 July, 7.30pm – 9.30pm
The Drill Hall
Tickets £10, £7 concession
from Chepstow Museum 01291 625981

Vincent Van Gogh, one of the world's best loved artists. comes under the spotlight in an illustrated talk at Chepstow's Drill Hall on Tuesday 16th July at 7.30pm.

Exploring the art of one of the most original and influential painters of his era, this evening with popular art history lecturer Eleanor Bird, will examine some of the influences which shaped Van Gogh's work - from the back streets of London to the colour of the Impressionists, and the composition of Japanese prints to the vivid new art of Gauguin.

It will also look at the ways in which future artists, from the Camden Town Group to Abstract Expressionism in America, were in turn influenced by Van Gogh's emotional expression and brilliant colour. Discover how Van Gogh's most famous and iconic works tell the story of his life and his passions and fascination for other cultures, other artists and other ways of life.

Also coinciding with a major exhibition in London, Van Gogh In Britain at Tate Britain, which focusses on the crucial years when Van Gogh actually lived in England falling in love with British culture and being inspired by British artists.

There will be a break for refreshments, and a chance for questions. Enjoy an evening of immersion in wonderful images and a revealing and highly informative talk from Eleanor Bird, lecturer for Chepstow Museum's popular series of art history courses, who sets the social, historical and political scene as well as the artistic one.