

# THE CHEPSTOW SOCIETY

Members Bulletin

May 2020

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



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020

Members,

As members will be aware, each year at our Annual General (AGM) meeting in May I give a report on the year's activities. This year, as members will also be aware, we cannot hold our AGM in view of government restrictions. I am pleased to report that all Society officers have agreed to remain in post until we are able to hold an AGM, but I set out below my report on the activities of the Society from June 2019 to February 2020.

Our membership figures are holding up well and currently stand at 122 with quite a few new members. We are one of the largest societies of our type in the area and my thanks go to Marian Thomas for her diligence in chasing up subscription payments. Again I emphasise that our membership is getting older and, as with all societies and clubs nowadays, we must attract younger members if we are to survive. I hope that the publication of our monthly bulletin will keep you in touch with the Society until we can hold meetings again. It may be that we shall have to consider holding meetings on-line if the holding of actual meetings is delayed but that is for the future.

Our speakers since June last year have, I think, interested you. In May and June we had the last two of our William Marshal talks; that in June by Elizabeth Chadwick who has written several books on the Marshal. In September we were to have a talk by Matthew Hall the writer of, among other things, the 'Keeping Faith' television series. In the event, his talk was postponed until February but in his place I interviewed 'Keeping Faith' actor Alex Harries. Another popular talk was given by David Scaysbrook on Forensic Science which was interesting but not as blood-thirsty as some of us had hoped!

As always the excursions to Scarborough and the Bristol Old Vic organised by Keith and Sallie James were well supported and greatly enjoyed, as was the December 'Murder Mystery' evening which took the place of our usual party. The tour of World War I battlefields planned for this summer has had to be postponed until October and we hope that restrictions will have been relaxed enough to let that take place. We all thank Keith and Sallie for all their hard work which goes into these events.

The Society's income is kept at a healthy level by the continuing sales of our publications under the control of Guy Hamilton who is also the editor and publisher of our current monthly bulletin. Please don't be afraid to contribute to this: letters to the editor are always welcome and we could start a correspondence section if we receive enough letters and emails. Please send any comments or suggestions you may have to Guy at [ghmyrtle@gmail.com](mailto:ghmyrtle@gmail.com).

The project to erect a Kingsmark Priory plaque in Kingsmark Lane is at present a victim of the government Covid-19 regulations. The base has been erected thanks to David Barber but the installation of the plaque designed by Keith Underwood and made by Ned Heywood is on hold at present for obvious reasons.

On a sad note, this year we lost one of our greatest supporters and close friends, Rosemary Penrose. She died after a short illness and will be greatly missed. This means that we are one short on the Executive Committee and I would again emphasise how much we need members to step forward and help run the Society. In particular our civic officer, Henry Hodges, is finding that he cannot be as active as he would like and he would appreciate someone helping him keep an eye on the goings-on in Chepstow and surroundings.

You are all aware of the changes and pressures that the abolition of the Severn bridge tolls has caused and while we have been successful in helping prevent one large development in Chepstow, we are aware that the local development plan still allows for substantial housing on the west side of the town so we must be on our guard. The Covid-19 traffic reduction has demonstrated how much our air quality can be improved and we must try to keep as much of our present clean air as possible.

I would like to extend my grateful thanks to all my colleagues on the Executive Committee for making the Society the success that it is. Finally, as always we thank you for your support and again emphasise that this is your Society and inevitably its success or otherwise depends on you. I don't yet know how soon we shall be able to resume our normal activities but rest assured that we will be back just as soon as we are permitted. Until we meet again - many thanks.

**Geoff Sumner, Chair**

# TREASURER'S REPORT

The Executive Committee, being mindful that the A.G.M will not be held in May and will have to wait until a later date, have decided that an examined set of accounts for the year 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 be circulated at this juncture, and be formally adopted at the A.G.M. at a later date.

Therefore items of note are:

## Income

- Gift Aid will be claimed from June onwards, which is the earliest date we can make a claim
- Other Events. The majority is from our Town Walks which accounted for £229.00 of the total
- Investment Income. Due to our inability to present our investment account pass book, we are unable to declare the interest gained

## Expenditure

- Speakers. The general trend is of a charge of £50.00 per meeting. Due to the current circumstances the overall charges are reflected likewise
- External Subscriptions. Higher due to the dates they fall in the calendar year
- Insurance. Higher due to increased premium
- Other Events. The St Kingsmark Plaque project accounts for this costing

As this will be my final presentation to you - as I will be standing down at the A.G.M - I thank you for your support over these past years.

I am pleased to say that David Nicholls has agreed to become your new Treasurer

*David Barber*

## The Chepstow Society

Charity Number ;260483

Receipts and Payments Accounts

For the period from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

RECEIPTS	Total Funds 2020 to the nearest £	Total Funds 2019 to the nearest £
Subscriptions	£1,150.00	£1,180.00
Door Receipts	£871.00	£789.00
Donations		
Publications	£775.00	£786.00
Gift Aid		£343.00
Festival		
Other Events	£306.00	£218.00
Sundries		£30.00
Investment Income		£22.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£3,102.00</b>	<b>£3,368.00</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
Room Hire	£936.00	£847.00
Speakers	£390.00	£473.00
Administration	£24.00	£143.00
External Subscriptions	£135.00	£45.00

Website	£111.00	£90.00
Insurance	£397.00	£275.00
Publications		£1,040.00
Refreshments	£54.00	£54.00
Other Events	£766.00	£1,128.00
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£2,812.00</b>	<b>£4,095.00</b>
<b>Net of Receipts</b>	<b>£290.00</b>	<b>-£727.00</b>
<b>Building Society &amp; Cash</b>		
Funds last year End		
Cash at Bank	£6,350.00	£5,941.00
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>		
Monmouthshire Building Society	£6,294.00	£6,294.00
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>		
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>£12,644.00</b>	<b>£12,235.00</b>
<b>INVESTMENT INCOME</b>		
Monmouthshire Building Society		£22.00
<b>CREDITORS</b>		
Non presented cheques	228	122



## EXCURSIONS

### AGM REPORT

This time last year we reported on the very successful holiday to Scarborough. We had intended to make that our last Society holiday, but due to popular demand we decided to plan another trip - but that 2020 would definitely be the last. After consulting members it was decided that we would venture further afield and go to Europe.

We started planning the holiday in early summer 2019 and have spent many hours trawling the internet, sending emails and making telephone calls (to Belgium). We planned an exciting programme, with visits to Waterloo, WW1 battle fields, Ghent, Bruges, with the highlight being attending the Last Post ceremony in Ypres.

We were, therefore, very disappointed that due to Covid 19 the holiday had to be postponed. Everyone concerned was contacted and the various options discussed before deciding to rebook for the autumn. We have kept in contact with the coach company and the organisations in Belgium and it was agreed that we should delay the trip until October. Looking on the positive side the delay has enabled other members to join us.

For more information about any aspect of the holiday please contact us and we will be happy to help. We would like this opportunity to thank members for their understanding and support while trying to solve this unprecedented situation.

Apart from holidays we also organise day trips to places of interest, last autumn we visited

Bristol. In the morning we went to The Theatre Royal, Bristol, home of the Bristol Old Vic, where we were given information about the history of the venue, saw the scenery prep department and even sat in on a rehearsal. After a very enjoyable lunch at a fish restaurant we joined a boat trip around the historic harbour.

This year we had planned to visit the Gloucestershire Recycling Waste to Energy plant near Stonehouse, followed by lunch and a visit to Berkeley Castle, but we are waiting on Government advice before confirming the date.

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

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## PUBLICATIONS – ANNUAL REPORT

Sales of publications have continued well over the last year, with the Town Trail booklet, the Chepstow Story booklet, and the Tintern and Return walk leaflet being especially popular. The 2017 booklet on the National Shipyard is now sold out, and the Town Trail booklet is being reprinted with minor updates.

As most of our sales are through the Chepstow Bookshop in St Mary Street, and the Tourist Information Centre, we will all need to do our best to ensure that they will both continue to function in our new world!

Through the generosity of some of our members, we now have a variety of donated old books and booklets for sale - some written by Ivor Waters for the Society in the 1960s and 70s, as well as others of local interest. In next month's bulletin I hope to publish a list of what we currently have available for purchase.

***Guy Hamilton***

# **MORE MEMORIES**

## **PLEASE!**

As we will be publishing this bulletin each month under the current circumstances, it's an opportunity for us all to share memories and feelings about our town and its area. Last month, we asked two questions about your memories of the area.

**What are your happiest memories of your childhood in Chepstow?**

**Why did you move to Chepstow, and has it met your expectations?**

All of us should be able to find something to say –if you send your thoughts to me at [ghmyrtle@gmail.com](mailto:ghmyrtle@gmail.com), we will publish more in due course

### **A REMINDER**

Monmouthshire County Council's proposed Replacement Local Development Plan Strategy can be downloaded from <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-current-consultations/>

Make known your views!

## **GEOGRAPHY WORDSEARCH**

C	N	O	T	S	N	U	R	U	L	R	Y
G	T	H	O	R	N	W	E	L	L	D	C
E	D	I	T	E	I	L	T	O	N	H	L
S	T	A	O	R	T	S	L	U	A	N	E
S	K	C	O	R	L	E	P	A	H	C	D
A	L	H	C	A	M	W	X	I	C	K	D
C	E	A	H	S	D	A	T	O	R	T	O
H	S	G	N	D	D	T	T	A	V	O	N
T	T	E	E	C	O	A	W	H	P	I	E
R	H	V	T	N	A	L	N	T	E	S	L
O	N	T	A	W	U	U	S	E	N	R	C
P	A	V	M	B	R	A	T	S	S	A	N

*Included in the square above are 14 names of localities within a few miles of Chepstow – written either forwards or backwards, up, down or diagonally.  
No prizes – just fun! Answers next month*

### **Answers to last month's puzzle:**

Beaufort - Brunel - Cleyton - FitzOsbern -  
Herbert Lewis - Kingsmark - Mabey - Marten -  
Portwall - Red and White - Silley -  
Silures - Strigil - Wye

### **CORRECTION**

In last month's bulletin, it was suggested that planning permission had been given to demolish the former Castle View Hotel. This is incorrect – the proposal is to fell some trees to improve access to the rear of the property for new development.