

THE CHEPSTOW SOCIETY

Members Bulletin October 2021



www.chepstowsociety.co.uk



BACK TO THE DRILL HALL!

**Wednesday
20th October, 7 p.m.**



The Berkeley Plantation in Virginia, 1619-22

A talk by Philip Ashford

- Please book your place in advance as Drill Hall capacity is limited.
- There is no charge for entry
- Face masks must be worn throughout the meeting
- Refreshments will not be available but you can bring your own
- The talk will also (we hope!) be accessible via Zoom
<https://zoom.us/join>
Meeting ID: **562 383 2571**
Passcode: **Waters**

Notes from the Chair

Your Executive Committee has had a long discussion about arrangements for using the Drill Hall for 'in person' meetings again.

For the time being we shall have to forgo the tea and biscuits at our Drill Hall meetings, but it will be good to get together again - even if we are masked!

So, as an experiment, the meeting on 20th October will be at the Drill Hall at the usual time of 7pm.- and will be free of charge.

Masks must be worn and we will do our best to ensure social distancing.

As numbers will be limited, please let us know if you wish to attend by contacting me on geoffcesumner@gmail.com or Guy Hamilton on secretary@chepstowsociety.co.uk. If you don't have email please leave a message on 01291 624758 (me) or 07786 500609 (Guy – preferably by text).

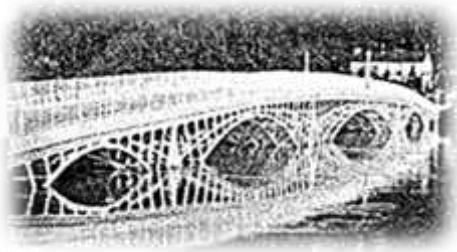
If you can't get to the Drill Hall we hope that we shall be able to relay the meeting via Zoom, but this will be confirmed shortly, after trials have been completed.

Although we have all missed our monthly get-togethers, the Society's membership has held up during this difficult period. Our membership secretary, Angela Middleditch, reported that we still have 102 paid up members.

There are 25 members she has not been able to contact, so if you are one of these please contact her as soon as possible on chepsocmemb@gmail.com

In the meantime, the suggested statue of William Marshal is on hold while we seek CADW's views.

Geoff Sumner



CIVIC AND AMENITY NOTES

We had our latest Zoom meeting on civic and amenity matters on 29th September, and thank you to those members who logged on.

However, we were disappointed that we only had one representative from the town council, and no-one from Monmouthshire county council. We have expressed our concerns over this and hope to have a better attendance at the next meeting.

One reason may be that there are, currently, no major consultations taking place, and we have decided that the next such meeting should be timed to coincide with a consultation process – perhaps (who knows?!) over the closure and possible reopening of the High Street.

All we know at the moment is that the county council have extended the High Street closure order into 2022, and have said that they will undertake some form of consultation before a definite decision is taken one way or the other. The town council is unhappy over this.

There are further discussions taking place this month on the Future Chepstow place plan, including a meeting on 19th October at which the Society will be represented. Information is at www.futurechepstow.co.uk Please get involved in this!

The Severn Bridge Social Club in Bulwark is being demolished and will be replaced by a new Lidl store – larger than the current one, which we assume will also be replaced. We are concerned that, in all the discussions over the town centre, the needs of the Bulwark area are not forgotten.



We asked for information on the promised Chepstow Transport Study - which has just now reported - and, related to that, the Burns Commission recommendations on transport in and around the Newport area after the Wales government's cancellation of the M4 relief road.

We have written to express our concerns over the apparently unwarranted and destructive felling of mature trees adjoining the Coast Path at Warren Slade in Thornwell.

We have also expressed concern over the state of some of the pavements in the town centre, especially where it has been dug up by utilities companies and good stone has been replaced by poor quality tarmac or concrete.

There is more on these issues, including photos, in Simon Maddison's report sent out with this bulletin.

Guy Hamilton

QUEEN'S JUBILEE 2022

In 2022, Her Majesty the Queen will become the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, seventy years of service, having acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952 when she was 25 years old.

An extended bank holiday, from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June, will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate the historic milestone.

Chepstow Town Council would like ideas from the community on what activities they would like to see.

Please email your ideas to admin@Chepstow.co.uk

DONATED BOOKS FOR SALE

The Society has received a number of generous donations of secondhand books and booklets of local interest – including those listed here.

To purchase any of these, please contact Guy Hamilton, ghmyrtle@gmail.com or 07786 500609

£40 - Ivor Waters: The Inns and Taverns of the Chepstow District (hardback, 1949)

£40 - Ivor Waters: Inns & Taverns of Chepstow and the Lower Wye Valley (hardback, 1976 – revised version)

£25 - Ivor Waters: Chepstow Street Literature and Ephemera (hardback, 1979)

£25 - Ivor Waters: Chepstow Printers and Newspapers (hardback, 1981 – revised version)


£15 - Ivor Waters: About Chepstow (hardback, 1952)

£15 - Ivor Waters: Chepstow Parish Records (hardback, 1955)

£15 - Ivor Waters: Chepstow Miscellany (hardback, 1958)

£15 - Ivor Waters: Henry Marten and the Long Parliament (hardback, 1983)



We are sorry that our website  www.chepstowsociety.co.uk - was not operating for a couple of weeks in September. This was the result of poor communication with our previous website hosting service. We are now back up and running again, thanks to the efforts of John Waters, and we have now changed our hosting service so that the problem should not recur.

And don't forget – we also have a separate Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/The-Chepstow-Society-373741446000017> - which is updated regularly and where we pass on links about local initiatives and other information.



"Goodbye to the High Street"

was the title of the Society's Zoom talk on September 15th, given by City of London tour guide and lecturer, David Williams.

We were shown the history of department stores, in London, in particular, which in many cases developed out of covered market arcades such as those in Cheapside and Covent Garden.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, they established themselves not only in the centre of London but in many suburbs and provincial cities, and increasingly attracted well-off women, in particular, to undertake shopping as a leisure activity – rather than it being a necessary task delegated to their servants!

The stories of some of those who developed the idea of department stores, such as the royal footman William Fortnum, the Polish-born salesman Michael Marks, the Somerset-born draper John Lewis, American H. G. Selfridge, were equally interesting.

By the late twentieth century, and the growth of supermarkets and out-of-town malls, many had failed, and are now further threatened by online shopping.

So, the future of all High Streets is once again subject to changing fashions and trends.



A new addition at the castle...

FUTURE MEETINGS

All talks start at 7 pm and are subject to change, depending on circumstances.

Wednesday 17th November

Dr Frances Hurd

The Birth of the English Parish Church

Wednesday 19th January 2022

Simon Draper - Surnames and Local History

Wednesday 16th February

Simon Waterfield - The Agincourt Archer

Wednesday 16th March

Nancy Cavill - Martha Gellhorn

Wednesday 20th April

Paul Barnett

RMS Carpathia and the Titanic

Wednesday 18th May

Annual General Meeting