



# The Chepstow Society

Notes from the Executive and History Event meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 held at the Drill Hall.

**Present:** Guy Hamilton, Keith James, Sallie James, Angela Middleditch, Nicky Bailey, Marion Huckle, David Nicholls, Annie Rainsbury, Jackie Neal, Simon Maddison

**Apologies:** Tim Ryan, Geoff Sumner, Rebecca Tyson and Patrick Gale

1. Guy welcomed everyone. The notes from the meetings held at the Beaufort Hotel on 5<sup>th</sup> October and History Event meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October had been distributed and were agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Everyone agreed that recent speakers have been very good, resulting in a good attendance.

Guy reported that he, Keith and Sallie had met John Lane from FoD history group and that links had been established.

Guy also reported that he had attended the opening of the slipway at the Barrett's development, the Chartists Convention at St Woollos and taken part in the Trevor Fishlock TV programme featuring Chepstow.

3. Treasurer's report

David reported that there was £4050.12 in the current account. He said that the updating of the signatories' process had been started, but more information was required. There was some discussion on how many and who were the Trustees.

Action: David will check who the Trustees are

4. Membership Secretary's report

Angela informed the committee that at every meeting there were new members. She was asked if visitors were followed up, Angela replied that all were asked if they wanted to join but we need to follow GDPR regulations and so contact details were not recorded.

5. Speakers and future monthly meeting

Sallie outlined the plan for December's social and quiz night: mulled wine and mince pies would be served at the beginning and halfway through the evening. Guy, Angela, Jacky, Marion and Sallie are compiling questions, it was agreed that they would do 15 per round. Marion said that she was making the mulled wine for the U3A next week and is happy to help with recipes and quantities

Actions: Sallie will coordinate questions, organise food and drink and decorate the tables

Keith updated the committee on the arrangements for the Society Lunch, he reported that 34 places have been booked, but it was desirable to have a few more members attend. He suggested that there is an after lunch speaker and a few people were suggested.

Action: Sallie will contact Becky Biggins

Sallie reported that Geoff has booked Nick Thomas-Symonds MP for a talk about the NHS.

Action: Sallie will contact Geoff

Guy then went through the list that Sallie has compiled, all agreed that it covered a good range of topics, the only gap was September and Guy suggested a talk about the Newport Transporter Bridge by Jeff Grosvenor.

Action: Guy to pass speaker details to Sallie

Guy suggested that as well as the Society lunch in January we hold our regular monthly meeting on 18<sup>th</sup>. Simon volunteered to give a talk on Grove House where he is involved in an archaeological project. Guy thanked Simon

Guy asked that more members volunteered to be involved with the running of the meetings, he gave the examples of giving the vote of thanks and writing up the reports in the bulletin. Anyone wanting to write the reports can have access to the recordings and powerpoints.

6/7/8 Drill Hall update, Town Walks, Liaison with Cadw,

Guy requested that these topics were deferred until the new year.

Guy reported on a meeting that he, Annie and Keith attended yesterday at Chepstow Council. The purpose of the meeting was to meet those organisations who plan events in the town, and help to promote tourism in the area.

#### 9. Excursions

Sallie reported that she had been in contact with Patrick who had given some dates for excursions next year: Worcester – last week in March, Welsh Botanical Garden first week in June, and September for the train trip. She said that hopefully Patrick will be able to join members for the lunch at the Beaufort in January where he can present the trips. Keith added that the members going to the lunch are the most likely to go on excursions.

Action: Sallie will contact Patrick

#### 10. Civic and Amenities

Simon informed the committee that he is producing a bulletin to keep members up to date with developments and local planning. The committee agreed that a copy of the bulletin should be sent to Chepstow councilors.

Simon added that it would now be more appropriate to hold meetings as and when required rather than on a regular basis.

#### 11. Museum and TIC

Deferred

#### 12. Publications

Guy reported that the Tintern booklet has been re-printed.

#### 13. Secretary's report, nothing to report.

#### 14. History Day

Guy began by reminding members that the AGM must take place in May, there followed some discussion and it was agreed that it would be preferable to hold it on the same evening as the films.

Wales Night Out – Nicky reported that she has been in touch with and circulated information about various groups. It was agreed that The Shakespeare Ladies Club was the first choice and Novello and Son second choice. It was also agreed that this could be scheduled for either Wednesday or Thursday to fit in with their availability. Nicky said that it was preferable to have another member involved with the booking and David N volunteered. She added that we need to be registered as a promoter and will be meeting with Ned Heywood to discuss.

Films – either Wednesday or Thursday to include Society AGM. Keith has booked Salmon Fishing film and Keith will check that Ned has a copy of Ivanhoe. Tim Ryan had also offered to show his “Hidden Chepstow” slideshow.

Action: Keith

Friday Night Films – The Drill Hall will show Son et Lumiere DVDs, which productions will be decided at a later date.

Re-enactment groups – Norman group waiting for confirmation from Cadw, but will take place in the Castle with usual admission cost applied. There was no need to organise group walks within the castle.

Action: Rebecca

Sealed Knot group, Keith is in contact with a local regiment and artillery unit.

Action: Keith

Gwent County History Association – were considering whether to hold their AGM at the event on Saturday afternoon.

Action: Guy

Stall – Saturday, the following groups have agreed to have stands:

FoD History, Chepstow Society (books), Sealed Knot, Chepstow Archaeology Society, Tidenham History Group, John Waters (Ivor Waters display), Tim Ryan (Severn Princess)

Action: Guy to coordinate

Keith emphasised the importance of publicity. Marion offered to help with admin but stressed the need for someone with good design skills. Members will be asked at the next meeting.

Oral History project was discussed and various ideas suggested. Guy had been in contact with the Oral History Society, and would speak to those involved in the Caldicot project of a few years ago. It was agreed that it would be launched at the History event, but it could become a big, long term project, possibly needing external funding.

Action: Guy to develop ideas

#### 15. AoB

Society AGM, following on from the discussion in item 14, Guy emphasised the importance of presenting the AGM in a more formal way.

16 The date for the next meeting was agreed as Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023

17. Guy thanked everyone for their help and support and the meeting closed at 9.10