

# THE CHEPSTOW SOCIETY

***Members Bulletin***    **April 2023**



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

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2023/24 ARE NOW DUE**

### **Our next meeting**

**Wednesday**  
**19<sup>th</sup> April**

*A talk by Naylor Firth on*

### **Chepstow in the Second World War**

at 7.15 pm, at  
the Drill Hall,  
Lower Church St.,  
Chepstow NP16 5HJ

All welcome  
Members £1  
Non-members £3

**CHEPSTOW**  
**HISTORY FESTIVAL**

**17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> MAY**

*Provisional programme  
inside*

## **SUMMER PICNIC**

Visit to Grove House  
archaeological dig at Piercefield,  
followed by short walk and picnic

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2pm**

*Details to follow*



## Village Witchcraft and Magic

It was a pleasure to see over 100 members and non-members gather in the Drill Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> March, for the talk by Professor Ronald Hutton of Bristol University, on “Village Witchcraft and Magic”. It was our best-attended meeting for several years, with people travelling from far and wide to hear a fascinating talk, from an internationally-renowned expert.



The talk focused on the beliefs in witchcraft and magic held by ordinary British people between 1740 and 1940, a neglected period between the end of the witch trials and the appearance of the modern Wicca movement – and the other esoteric and spiritual activities which in the past were the preserve of the “cunning folk”.

He explained the evidence which is now being studied, and which reveals a fascinating world of wise folk and charmers serving clients, in which the old fear of malevolent witchcraft was still very strong.

The talk looked at who became folk magicians and why, what techniques they used, whether they worked in groups, how much they were persecuted, and what became of their traditions. He also covered who was suspected of evil witchcraft and what happened to them.

It was an eye-opening evening on a subject about most of us knew very little, finished off with a range of interesting questions to Professor Hutton.

We have already invited him to return on another occasion to speak on another of his many areas of interest.

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Thank you to everyone who has already renewed their membership.

**Renewals to cover 2023/24 are now due and should be paid by the end of April.**

**The cost of membership is £12 per person**

You can pay by the following methods:

**Standing Order** (please check the amount is correct)

**BACS payment:**

**Account Name:** Chepstow Society

**Sort Code:** 30-98-90

**Account Number:** 18173668

**Reference:** Your membership name

**Cheque** to the Chepstow Society, by post to:  
**Angela Middleditch, Pen y Morfa, Mathern,  
Chepstow NP16 6J**

Payment can be made at one of our meetings, with cash, card or cheque (please put the exact cash amount in an envelope with your name on it).

You will need a membership card to claim your Cadw discount. These will be available at Society meetings, or by post from Angela on receipt of a stamped self-addressed envelope.

If you are not planning to renew, it would be very helpful if you could email to let me know – [membership@chepstowsociety.co.uk](mailto:membership@chepstowsociety.co.uk), - so that I can remove your name from our lists.

*Angela Middleditch*



From April 1<sup>st</sup> 2023, Chepstow Society members will be entitled to discounts on Cadw membership and entry prices on Chepstow Castle event weekends.

- 20% off Cadw membership (1<sup>st</sup> year membership only).
- 10% admission discount on Chepstow Castle event weekends.
- Monument Passes valid on 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary weekend (20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023).

Discounts can only be applied to on-site purchases, and not online.

In order to receive any discount, Chepstow Society members must show an in-date membership card and a matching photo ID.

Monument passes allow unlimited access to any one of Cadw's monuments – such as Chepstow Castle - starting from £7.50 per person.

With a Cadw Monument Pass you can visit your favourite site as often as you like over a three-year period, and is available to anyone 5 years and older:

<https://cadw.gov.wales/monumentpass>



## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

*At this stage, all details are subject to final confirmation – please check for updates*

### **WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MAY**

- **Drill Hall, 6 30 pm** - Chepstow Society AGM
- **Drill Hall, 7.00 pm**  
Tales of the Riverbank –  
Local tales of riverside activities presented by Tim Ryan  
“Forest Life - The River Severn” – a rare showing of the 1981 film by Melville Watts, introduced by John Thurston  
*Entry £1 for members, £3 for non-members.  
Refreshments available.*

### **THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> MAY**

- **Palmer Centre, 12 noon**  
Display of old photographs of the town. *Free.*
- **Drill Hall, 7.00 pm**  
“Novello and Son” – a musical entertainment celebrating the Cardiff-born dramatist and entertainer, and his mother, in a one-woman show by Rosamund Shelley, supported by the Arts Council of Wales Night Out scheme.  
*Tickets £7 from <https://dhmc-101417.square.site/>, or on the door. Bar available.*

### **FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MAY**

- **Drill Hall, 7.00 pm**  
Film night – two films of the local son et lumière events, “Echoes in the Stones” (2000) and “Most Loyal Knight” (2002), together with a documentary about their making. Introduced by the shows’ producer, Ned Heywood.  
*Tickets from <https://dhmc-101417.square.site/> or on the door. Bar available*

### **SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MAY**

- **Drill Hall, 11.00 am – 4.00 pm**  
Opening by Dame Claire Clancy, Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Gwent, with members of Chepstow Town Council.  
Stalls by local history and memorabilia groups.  
Displays of “Then and now” photos of the town.  
*Free.*
- **Chepstow Castle**  
“The Household” - Anglo-Norman living history encampment, with tents, armoury, crafts, displays, talks, and costumed performers.  
*Cadw entrance charges to the Castle will apply.  
Cadw Monument Passes will be accepted.*
- **Castle Green**  
Sealed Knot – English Civil War encampment.  
*Free.*
- **Methodist Church Hall, 2.00 pm**  
Gwent County History Association AGM and talk by Tony Hopkins, “The Commonplace Book of John Gwin of Llangwm”. *Free.*

- **Tourist Information Centre, 6.00 pm**  
Town walk – “The old inns and taverns of Chepstow”.  
*£3 per person, bookable in advance – 07786 500609.*

### **SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MAY**

- **Chepstow Castle**  
“The Household” - Anglo-Norman living history encampment.  
*Cadw entrance charges to the Castle will apply.  
Cadw Monument Passes will be accepted.*
- **Drill Hall, 11.00 am – 4.00 pm**  
Oral history project - displays of old photographs and “then and now” photographs of the town, to start the process of capturing stories and memories of Chepstow as it was in the 1950s, 60s and 70s. *Free.*





## EXCURSION

**National Botanic Gardens,  
Carmarthen**

**Saturday 24 June 2023**



After the successful excursion to Worcester in March, we plan to visit the National Botanic Gardens of Wales near Carmarthen.

The gardens and parkland have a variety of extensive walks and the garden themes include Japanese, apothecary and bees being some of many.

It has two glasshouses, one being tropical, and boasts a well known Birds of Prey Centre, entrance to which is included. Catering is available on site.

We feel this is a perfect venue for a mid-summer's day outing.

Full details with booking form will be available after Easter but do contact Patrick Gale and express your interest as soon as you can.

Provisional price as at today: £41.00 per head, based on 25 travelling.

**For details, please contact:  
Patrick Gale - 07760 452629  
[excursions@chepstowsociety.co.uk](mailto:excursions@chepstowsociety.co.uk)**

## MEETING DATES

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

*NOTE: Starting at 6 30 pm*

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May –  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

## **HISTORY FESTIVAL**

*See details elsewhere*

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June  
Owen Gower  
*Dr Jenner of Berkeley –  
pioneer of vaccination***

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July  
Janet Karn  
*Chepstow Notables***

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September  
John Burrows  
*William Marshal in Ireland***

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October  
Jeff Grosvenor  
*The Newport Transporter Bridge***

*More to follow...*

Our monthly meetings take place on the third Wednesday of the month, at 7.15 pm, at the Drill Hall, Lower Church St., Chepstow NP16 5HJ

All welcome  
Members £1 Non-members £3

Whenever possible, the meetings are also streamed via Zoom -  
<https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 513 005 1668  
Passcode: Waters



Chepstow Priory Friends invite you to a guided tour of the historic St Mary's Priory Church in Chepstow, that has stood since 1072.

Discover and learn about its rich history and many artefacts that it contains.

The tour is hosted by the Monmouthshire Antiquarian Society.

Meet at St Mary's Priory Church  
Wednesday 19th April,  
2 - 4pm  
All welcome

GWARCHAE AR DREFYNWY

THE SEALED KNOT PRESENTS

AIL- FYW HANES RELIVE HISTORY

# THE SIEGE OF MONMOUTH

MONMOUTH SHOWGROUND

APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup> & MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> 2023

OPEN 11 AM TIL 4 PM

ENTRY ONLY £15 PER FAMILY

PRICE INCLUDES 2 ADULTS AND 3 CHILDREN

USUAL PRICE £5 PER ADULT, £3 CONCESSIONS

INCLUDING:

- BATTLE RE-ENACTMENT
- LIVING HISTORY DISPLAY
- BEER TENT AND STALLS
- HORSE DISPLAY

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'Gwir Gofnod o Gyfnod: Darganfod Hanes a Threftadaeth Menywod yn ne-ddwyrain Cymru'

'Setting the Record Straight: Discovering the History and Heritage of Women in south-east Wales'



PRIFYSGOL DE CYMRU  
CAMPWS CASNEWYDD  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH WALES  
NEWPORT CAMPUS  
Usk Way, Newport/Casnewydd  
NP20 2BP

**MAI/MAY 11 2023**

I gofrestru: Eventbrite a thrwy'r wefan - [www.archifmenywodcymru.org](http://www.archifmenywodcymru.org)

To register: Eventbrite and see the website - [www.womensarchivewales.org](http://www.womensarchivewales.org)

**Dewch i Ddathlu**

- Panelau am Wyddoniaeth a Gwleidyddiaeth
- Ffilmiau
- Sgyrsiau am: Ferched y Ddiseb Heddwch
- Arglwyddes Llanofwr
- Menywod y Siartwyr ...

**Come and Celebrate**

- Panels on Science and politics
- Films
- Talks on: Women's Peace Petition
- Lady Llanofwr
- Chartist Women



Yr Arglwyddes /  
Lady Greenly

**CROESO I BAWB  
ALL WELCOME**

**AM DDIM**

**FREE**



Emily Everett  
(Cenhadwrth Wladwrth  
Generation)  
© Rebecca Everett-Clawes



Pamela Stevens  
(Gwladwrth Wladwrth  
© Ymddiriedolaeth  
Amgueddfa Tŷ Pen  
Tŷ Pen Tŷ Pen Tŷ Pen