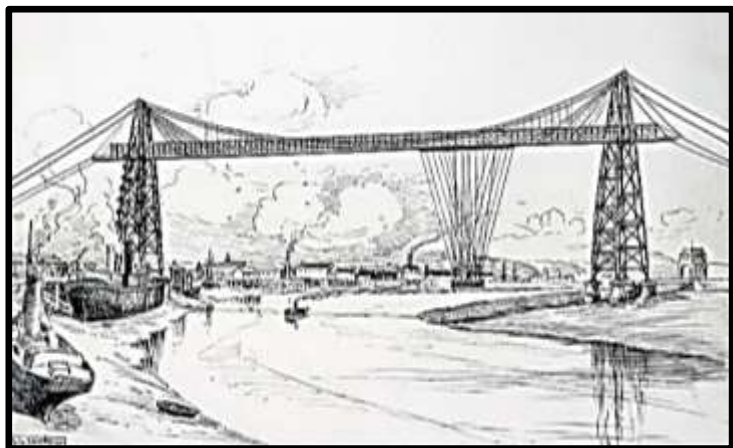


# THE CHEPSTOW SOCIETY

***Members Bulletin***     **October 2023**



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



**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

## **THE NEWPORT TRANSPORTER BRIDGE**

**Talk by Jeff Grosvenor**

**Our meetings and talks  
are held on the third  
Wednesday of each  
month at the Drill Hall,  
Lower Church Street,  
Chepstow NP16 5HJ**

**Tea and coffee from 7 pm  
Talk from 7 30 pm**

**All welcome  
Members £1  
Non-members £3**

When possible, the meetings  
are also streamed via Zoom

**<https://zoom.us/join>**

**Meeting ID: 513 005 1668**

**Passcode: Waters**

***Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November***

***Talk by Richard Clammer***

## ***FROM SUDBROOK TO SOUTH AMERICA***

***The Forgotten Story of  
Shipbuilders and Civil Engineers,  
T.A. & C.H. Walker***





## TOUR OF ST MARY'S PRIORY CHURCH

**SATURDAY  
11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

**ARMISTICE DAY  
2 30 pm**

Join the Friends of St Mary's Priory Church for a tour around the church, pointing out its architecture, features and memorials. We hope to have a representative of the British Legion to talk about the war memorials in the church.

Suggested minimum donation, for the Friends of St Mary's Priory Appeal, is £3.

There may also be an opportunity to climb inside the tower **BUT** numbers will be strictly limited and it would be **at your own risk**. The steps are narrow, steep, dark, uneven, slippery, and in need of repair. **If you would like to go inside the tower, please confirm as soon as possible** – [chair@chepstowsociety.co.uk](mailto:chair@chepstowsociety.co.uk) – first come first served!



## Chepstow Society Christmas Social

**Murder Mystery  
Party**

**WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

**7 30 PM  
IN THE DRILL HALL**

More details to follow...



## EXCURSIONS

We are disappointed that the outing to the steam railway on 31 October has had to be postponed to next year.

The numbers booked have not reached the required level to enable us to operate this outing.

This is not an isolated case where numbers have been low.

We would like to canvass Chepstow Society members on what they would like to see as destinations, content and length of outing, as we start to plan our outings for 2024.

Please put your thoughts down and reply to:  
[excursions@chepstowsociety.co.uk](mailto:excursions@chepstowsociety.co.uk).

We look forward to your views as these outings are for yourselves and your enjoyment.

*Patrick Gale*

# Chepstow Memories

We still aim to record some of the memories of residents who lived in the town during the 1950s, 60s and 70s, but we have had difficulty in setting up a small working group to manage the project, perhaps as people have had other priorities over the summer.

There are several people who are happy to be interviewed, or who have started to write down their memories – and several people who are willing to be interviewers.

It seems that this will be a fairly small scale project, at least initially, with no need for external funding or involvement. However, we still need to prepare and apply guidelines for those involved.

We hope that, eventually, we will be able to publish something either as a booklet or on a website.

Within the next few weeks I will be contacting those who have already shown an interest in this, to discuss the position with them and make further progress.

The Society will also arrange further displays of the exhibition material, and the old photographs of the town, that were the focus of much interest in May during our History Festival.

We expect to have another exhibition in the Drill Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024. We will also look into the town council's suggestion of showing the exhibition in the library, and we also hope to work more closely with the Palmer Centre.

All this does require more input from Society members, in helping to progress what I think all feel should be a worthwhile exercise.

If you are interested in contributing to this project on a voluntary basis, please contact me if you have not already done so.

**Guy Hamilton**

**chair@chepstowsociety.co.uk**

## CHEPSTOW Town Council

Historic Chepstow: *The Way to Wales and the Wye Valley*  
See the Chepstow Web Site at [www.chepstow.co.uk](http://www.chepstow.co.uk)  
e-mail: [admin@chepstow.co.uk](mailto:admin@chepstow.co.uk)



Dear Guy

### The Chepstow Society – 75<sup>th</sup> birthday

At the Full Council meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 Councillor Tudor Griffiths reported that he had attended the 75-year celebrations and exhibition held at the Drill Hall which had been very well received.

The Council would like to extend its congratulations to The Chepstow Society and all those involved in the exhibition and ask if you have considered displaying the exhibition in the library? This would receive full support from the Town Council and would be an excellent opportunity for residents to view the exhibition and history of Chepstow.

Yours sincerely

Lucy Allen  
Town Clerk



# **COMMITTEE NEWS**

## **Drill Hall and Zoom**

We have met with the Drill Hall manager to try and resolve the various audio and connection issues that have unfortunately sometimes arisen when we attempt to link meetings with Zoom. The hall is now obtaining new hardware that we hope may help resolve the problems.

However, we remain very reliant on the staunch efforts of our volunteer David Rock, and again we must appeal for any members who are able to help out with running the technology for meetings – please, come forward and offer your services! We need you!

## **Anniversaries in 2024**

We have reminded the town council that December 2024 will mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the charter given to Chepstow by the last Marcher Lord, Charles, Earl of Somerset. The Town Arch dates from around the same time. We hope and expect to be involved in some form of commemoration of this event, and will give details in due course.

Another reason for celebration in 2024 will be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society establishing the first town museum, in 1949.

## **Henry Hodges**

We are in discussions with the town council and Ned Heywood to produce and install a suitable plaque in the town centre, to remember Henry, our long-serving Secretary.

## **Town walks**

We ran several walks around the town centre and elsewhere in the summer, and our thanks go to Tim Ryan and Jackie Neal for helping with these. Disappointingly, numbers of participants were down on some previous years. Next year, we may run fewer walks, but be more focused on specific topics or areas.

# 2024

## **MEETING DATES**

### **SUBJECT TO FINAL CONFIRMATION**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January**

**Anne Rainsbury**

***Chepstow's Red Cross Nurses  
in the First World War***

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February**

**Ian Standing**

***The Forest of Dean Verderers***

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March**

**Ned Heywood**

***Blue Plaques – made in Chepstow!***

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

**John Burrows**

***The Legacy of William Marshal and  
Isabel De Clare, of Chepstow,  
Pembroke and Leinster***

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**+**

**Pamela Holland**

***Three Spokes of a Catherine Wheel***

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

**Kirstie Bingham**

***Birch, Beer and Bibles***

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July**

**Prof. Ronald Hutton**

***The Druids***

*All meetings will be in the Drill Hall.*

***More to follow...***