



# The Chepstow Society

Notes from the Executive Committee meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at the Beaufort Hotel at 7.00pm

Present: Guy Hamilton, Sallie James, David Nicholls, Patrick Gale, Annie Rainsbury, John Burrows, Marion Huckle and Nicky Bailey

Apologies: Keith James and Angela Middleditch

1. Guy opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.
2. The notes from the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 had been circulated and were agreed.

Matters arising and not on the agenda.

Society emails: It seems that the problem has still not been resolved, Patrick said that he has now set up another email account for the excursions as:

outings.chepstowsociety@outlook.com Need to check with Angela. See item 4, Membership.

Henry Hodges plaque: There was a great deal of discussion about the location of the plaque. Several options were discussed, and it was agreed that permission would be required from the County Council.

Action: John will discuss with Ned and contact the CC.

Spring Lunch: everyone agreed that it was very successful, Sallie added that they had received lots of emails, phone calls, letters and cards.

Action: Guy will thank Keith at the next monthly meeting for his hard work in organising the event.

St Mary's church: The friends of the Church had suggested that the Society could curate the information table and noticeboard inside the church entrance. Guy was implementing this. It was agreed to purchase an A2 folder to display Chepstow Society information for people to look through.

Action: Patrick offered to help organise this as he attends the church regularly. The Church have also asked the Society to offer a tour of the Church as part of the Walking Festival event in April.

Action: Guy will liaise with Chepstow Walking Festival

3. Treasurer's report

David circulated a summary of the accounts, there were several questions about the membership item.

Action: David will investigate and report back at the next meeting.

Patrick drew the committees attention to the excursions account, he explained the problems using Barclays and that it would be more beneficial to transfer the account to Lloyds as there is still a Lloyds bank in Chepstow. All agreed.

Action: Patrick and David to arrange

Sallie asked about any surplus monies from excursions, and it was agreed that Patrick should not be out of pocket, and that he should claim for expenses.

#### 4. Membership Secretary's report

Guy read out Angela's report, and there followed considerable discussion about whether the annual membership should be increased, if the £1 entrance fee for monthly meetings should be abolished, and to increase the entrance cost for visitors. All agreed to increase the charge for visitors to £4 from April. Various ideas and options were discussed, it was finally agreed to leave membership and entrance fee as they stands for the time being and to discuss again with Angela. Marion suggested that there could be a 'special general meeting' at anytime if it was felt that the fees needed to be changed.

Angela, suggested that the on-line forms still need to be up-dated to include gift aid and that all members should complete another membership form to keep records up-to-date. She also suggested updating the promotional flyer.

Action: Item to be included in next committee meeting.

#### 5. Excursions

Patrick gave a description of the trips that he has got planned for the year. The first one being a visit to Birmingham Jewellery Qtr, another walking tour of Gloucester in April, Afternoon Tea on the Bristol Packet in June and maybe a weekend away in Exmouth in the autumn. He was asked for some idea of costs for the trips. Annie suggested Show of Strength, theatre walking tours of Bristol.

Action: Patrick will investigate ideas and provide approx. costing

#### 6. Drill Hall

Annie said that the roof will be done this spring, and it is thought that there should be minimum disruption to the users.

There is now a technical working group, so hopefully those issues will be addressed.

Sallie said that David Rock was very upset with the email that he received from Chepstow Society. She stressed that David R is a volunteer, and he is a valuable asset to the DH and must be treated with respect.

Action: Guy and other members will contact David to convey the Society's continuing appreciation for his efforts and try to sort out any misunderstandings.

#### 7. Memories Project

Guy reported that there has been some progress, Ivor Cavill and Keith Underwood have been interviewed by Guy and John, with follow up interviews to be arranged. A few other people have agreed to be contacted. Nancy Marsh and Kathryn Speechley have also volunteered to be interviewers. Guy suggested that transcription software might need to be purchased. All agreed that there needs to be more clarity on what is required, and safeguarding issues need to be addressed.

Action: Guy and John to discuss further action.

#### 8. 500 Anniversary

Guy said that Cllr Marg Griffiths' update note on actions had been circulated and it was noted that the Town Council are taking the lead on most activities. Another meeting will take place with them on 13<sup>th</sup> February.

As time was running out it was agreed to arrange another meeting to discuss this.

#### 9. Celebrating Chepstow

All agreed that the Society would support the event at the Drill Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> March, whilst noting the unfortunate clash of date with rugby international.

#### 10. Arrangements for speakers and links with Chepstow Bookshop

Sallie suggested that there is an extra meeting at the end of May or the beginning of December to co-inside with the 500 anniversary events. Matt from the bookshop has suggested Nathan Amin who writes about Tudor Wales.

Action: Sallie will speak to Matt and find out about availability of the DH

#### 11. MCC Budgets

Annie spoke about the forthcoming 50th Anniversary of the founding of Chepstow Museum (9th April 2024), which the Museum wishes to celebrate. Agreed that Chepstow Society will write to MCC offering to fund an event.

Action: Guy will write to MCC

Annie asked that members write to MCC expressing their concerns about the budget cuts.

#### 12. Chairman's report

Guy referred to earlier discussions on how the Society could input to a local teachers' seminar in May. This could include producing a Key Facts document. Steve King (Head, The Dell School) has contacted Guy to discuss producing a Key Facts document to help schools. Agreed the Society will respond positively. Some discussion on how such a list could be produced (e.g John Burrow's timeline document)

#### 13. Secretary's report

Sallie circulated an invitation to the meeting of the South Wales and West of England Regional Industrial Archaeological conference 2024 in Llanhelleth on 27<sup>th</sup> April.

#### 16. Date of next meeting 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 500 anniversary focus

Action: Sallie will check availability of members and book DH

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.