



The Chepstow Society

Notes from the Executive Committee meeting on 6th March 2024 at Chepstow Drill Hall at 7.00pm

Present: Nicky Bailey, John Burrows, Patrick Gale, Guy Hamilton, Marion Huckle, Angela Middleditch, and David Nicholls

Apologies: Keith & Sallie James and Annie Rainsbury

1. Guy opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.
2. (a) The notes from the meeting held on 7th February 2024 had been circulated and were agreed.
(b) Matters arising and not on the agenda.
 - I. Henry Hodges Plaque. There have been some difficulties identifying ownership of potential locations, and thus obtaining suitable permissions. John Burrows is pursuing.
 - II. Membership numbers and income (item 3; 060224). David explained that the discrepancy between membership numbers and subscription income arose as the majority of the income fell due in March. This matter should be resolved in the next fiscal year.
 - III. Excursions (item 5; 060224). Patrick announced that the next visit will be to Gloucester, either a walking tour of the Docks or the Cathedral. Likely to take place at the end of April. Details to be advised. Patrick also floated the possibility of the Society arranging a short break to Berlin. There was some discussion about the relevance of an overseas trip but the majority of those present were broadly supportive of this idea.
 - IV. Drill Hall (item 6; 060224). Some Committee members have been shown how to the use of the audio-visual equipment. Jon Marsden (DH Caretaker) has confirmed that he is happy to set up the equipment, so long as he is given the requirements well in advance." Noted that it was essential that all speakers provide information on their requirements well in advance, and in particular must let the Secretary know if they wish to use their own equipment, to allow sufficient time for this to be set up.
ACTION: *Sallie to ensure all speakers are made aware of this requirement*
3. Membership. Agreed that option to revisit the level of the visitors' fees remains open for a future meeting. Agreed that the fee should be set at a level that makes joining an attractive option. Noted the need to amend the membership form to include Gift Aid tick boxes (yes or no) and statement.
ACTION (1): *Angela and Guy to revise Membership Form*
(2): *Marion to ask u3a Treasurer if a digi-signature is acceptable**
(* Chepstow u3a membership form states that a signature is not required if the form is sent by email. This includes the Gift Aid permission <https://chepstowu3a.org.uk/membership/>)

4. Chepstow 500 Charter and Town Gate celebrations 2024

(1) Events

Guy provided an oral update. Details will be circulated when available. Copies of the 500th Anniversary Logo were shown to the meeting. Noted that Rebecca Prayoga is the Council lead on communications for this event.

ACTION: *Guy to check if the Town Council will make the logo available in Tudor Red (colour used in John's leaflet).*

(2) Chepstow Society activities

- a. *Leaflet.* John handed out draft copies of the A4 folded leaflet he has prepared for the event. The leaflet provides a useful summary of key facts and dates and will be widely available. It will also be made available as a pdf. The Town Council will arrange and cover the cost of printing. Brief discussion of how to make Chepstow Society more prominent in the text.
- b. *Tudor walking tours.* Guy and Jackie Neal will each lead at least one walk each in the morning and in the afternoon.
- c. *Childrens Competition.* Noted that the Drill Hall is not available for our use on 18th May but there would be an appropriate craft activity, in association with the Museum, as part of the Half-term programme of craft activities at the Drill Hall. The Children's Town walk will be updated to incorporate a more Tudor look and feel.
- d. **ACTION:** *Angela to draft a note for the Town Council, summarising these initiatives*
 - i. *Costumes(Dressing up).* The Mayor is keen for Chepstow Society members who are involved with events to dress up – both for the opening procession and the other activities running throughout the day.
 - ii. **ACTION:** *Guy to ask the Town Council how many costumed participants it hopes to have and the nature and number of costumes available*
 - iii. *Photographs:* Guy reported that the intended venue at Raglan Lodge (backpackers' hostel) seemed likely to be unavailable, and various alternative options were considered. St Mary's Church was preferred. The mounted photos used in the 2023 History Festival would need to be used and displayed on boards.
 - iv. **ACTION (1):** Guy to ask the Friends of St. Mary's Church if they would support hosting an exhibition at the Church.
 - v. **ACTION (2):** John to ask Philip Averay if he would agree to an exhibition being hosted by the church
 - vi. *Tudor fair and other activities* (e.g. The Widders). Agreed need for greater clarity on the location and timing of all events.
 - vii. *Scroll.* Keith Underwood has agreed to produce a Charter Scroll to be presented to the Town Council to coincide with the actual anniversary of the 1524 Charter (December). Will be presented by the Duke of Beaufort or his son, the Marquis of Worcester. Agreed that Chepstow Society will pay costs (est. £500)
 - viii. *School visits:* Defer until Sallie is in attendance
 - ix. *Noted that there a number of other significant anniversaries fall in 2024; 125th anniversary of the return of the Town Gate to the town (7th October 1899)by the Beaufort family; 150th Anniversary of the scrapping of the collection of taxes and tolls at the Town Gate; 75th Anniversary of the founding of Chepstow Museum (originally housed in the Town Gate).*

5. Chepstow Museum 75th Birthday celebration 9th April 2024. Chepstow Society has been asked to nominate potential guests to incorporate with the Museum's own list. Please send suggestions to Guy to collate.

ACTION: *All to send suggestions to Guy or Annie as soon as possible.*

6. Celebrating Chepstow 16th March 2024

Guy will represent the Society at the short event taking place in the Drill Hall between 11 AM and 1 PM on Saturday 16th March.

7. Links with other organisations

This item deferred until Sallie is present.

8. Other matters raised by the Chairman

There were none.

9. Any other business

There was no other business.

16. Date of next meeting Wednesday 3rd April 7 PM at the Drill Hall
28th February 2024

ACTION: *Sallie to be asked to book the DH*

The meeting closed at 8.45 PM.