



THE CHEPSTOW SOCIETY

Members Bulletin

April 2024

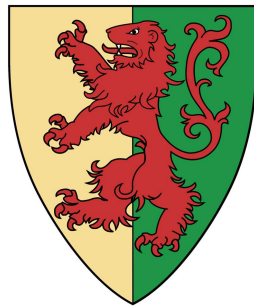


www.chepstowsociety.co.uk

Wednesday 17th April

Talk by John Burrows

**Chepstow,
the Marshals,
Magna Carta,
and the Moon**



- the life and
800 year legacy of
William Marshal
and Isabel De Clare

Wednesday 19th June

Talk by Kirstie Bingham

**Beer, Birch and Bibles in
Tudor England**



Wednesday 15th May

Annual General Meeting
(details to follow) +

Talk by Anne Rainsbury

***CHEPSTOW'S
RED CROSS NURSES IN
THE FIRST WORLD WAR***



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>

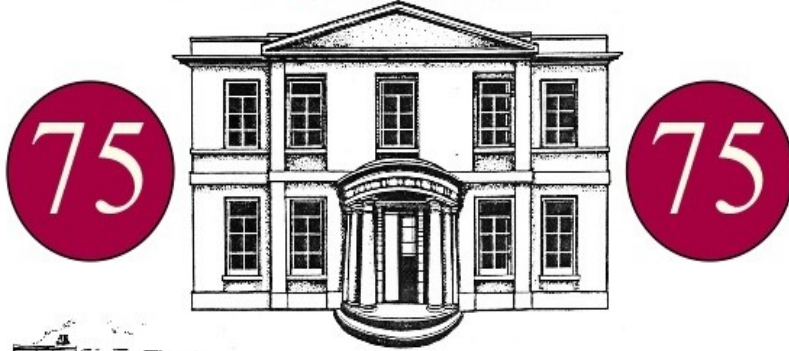
Meeting ID: 513 005 1668

Passcode: Waters

CHEPSTOW MUSEUM 1949 - 2024

You are Invited

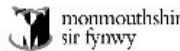
To Celebrate the 75th anniversary of Chepstow Museum
9th April 2024, 5-7pm



The Museum was opened in its first home in the room above the Town Gate on 9th April 1949 and was founded and maintained by the Chepstow Society until 1976 when Chepstow Museum became part of Monmouthshire's Museums Service.

Chepstow Society maintains its close links with the Museum and is delighted to host this celebration together with MonLife Heritage Museums at Chepstow Museum, Gwy House, Bridge Street, Chepstow NP16 5EZ

Please RSVP by Sunday 7 April to annerainsbury@monmouthshire.gov.uk



Newspaper announcement,
Weekly Argus, April 9th 1949

**THE CHEPSTOW SOCIETY,
THE TOWN GATE
MUSEUM**
will be opened at
**THE PUBLIC HALL,
CHEPSTOW, on
SATURDAY, APRIL 9,**
at 3 p.m., by
LORD RAGLAN
(Lord Lieutenant of Monmouthshire and President of The Chepstow Society)
Admission to Opening Ceremony Free. Admission to Museum 6d. Children 3d.
The Chepstow Society wishes to thank all who have helped in any way, by presenting or lending exhibits, by furnishing the Museum, by gifts of money, or by contributing their services.
This is only a beginning. Help us to improve. We need:
1—Financial help — donations, legacies, or your subscription as a member of the Society (10s. a year).
2—Showcases, tables, chairs, etc.
3—Articles for exhibition, old prints, books about the district and particularly anything of local interest.
4—A storage room to enable us to change the exhibits from time to time.
Offers of help of any kind will be gratefully received by the Hon. Secretary of The Chepstow Society, Ivor Waters, 41, Hardwick Avenue, Chepstow.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

2024/25

The time has come around again to renew your membership to the Chepstow Society.

If you are intending to renew could you please aim to do so by April 30th.

If you are not planning to renew, it would be very helpful if you could email to let me know, so that I can remove your name from our lists.

**The annual membership rate 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: 30-98-9
Account Number: 18173668
Reference: Your membership name
- **Cheque** by post sent to
Angela Middleditch,
Pen y Morfa,
Mathern,
Chepstow NP16 6J
- Card payments are possible at monthly meetings
- Payment can be made at a meeting with cash or cheque (**please put the exact cash amount in an envelope with your name on it**).

Any member who has joined since January 2024 has membership until April 2025

If you have any difficulties or queries, do please let me know.

Thank you very much

Angela Middleditch
Membership Secretary
chepsocmemb@gmail.com



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !

Plans are now well advanced for the Chepstow 500 celebrations this year – including the Tudor Fair on Saturday 18th May.

We are celebrating the 500th anniversary of the charter given to the town in 1524 by the Marcher Lord, the Earl of Somerset – and of the rebuilding of the Town Arch in its current form.

There will be a Tudor Fair in the High Street, with musicians, singers, dancers, children's games, story telling, town walks, and other activities.

A Tudor re-enactment group may attempt to access the High Street from the Welsh areas outside the walls - without paying the dues required by the Lord !

To make this event a success, we urgently need volunteers to help on the day, and beforehand – for instance...

- To wear Tudor clothing on the day and be part of the procession
- To help with fitting and adjusting existing costumes
- To help steward the procession that will take place from St Mary's Church up to the Arch
- To supervise the children's games taking place outside the Palmer Centre
- To supervise our Chepstow Society exhibition and stand.

If you are interested, please email either myself – chair@chepstowsociety.co.uk – or Lucy Allen at the Town Council – admin@chepstow.gov.uk – and we will give you more details.

Thanks!

Guy Hamilton

Good news for the Drill Hall

At last, the Drill Hall roof, which in the main is over a hundred years old (possibly 150) and leaks when it rains, is to be re-covered with funding from a Welsh government grant obtained by Chepstow Town Council and top up funding from the Chepstow Town Council itself.

The work, which has now started, is external to the building and the plan is that the Hall will remain open for all events in the planned programme.

The Hall has plans to extend the offer even further, but it is staffed by volunteers, with a paid caretaker and temporary manager, and we need more volunteers if we are going to offer more.

There has long been a suggestion to screen children's or family films at an appropriate time, possibly Saturday mornings.

Currently we have one projectionist who screens the vast majority of cinema, opera theatre and art productions.

So we are looking for some more technically minded volunteers who could assist in broadening our programme to wider sections of the community.

Anyone interested in helping in this way should contact Drill Hall manager, Mike Turner - miketurner@chepstow.co.uk, or chat to current projectionist Ned Heywood,.



EXCURSIONS

THURSDAY 25th APRIL

WALKING TOUR OF GLOUCESTER DOCKS

Meet: 09.30 Chepstow Railway Station

Departure: 09.44

Return at your leisure. Please arrange your own day return rail ticket to Gloucester.

The Tour will meet at 10.45 at St Michaels Tower at the Cross in Gloucester, and will be about two hours long. It will be led by a guide from the Gloucester Civic Trust.

The Docks were conceived as early as the late 1790s and construction took a good 30 years. We will learn about difficulty in their construction, and how they helped employment in Gloucester and importantly, the impact of the Docks on the City with their link to the sea. This brought ocean-going vessels and trade to Gloucester and made it a staging post for onward traffic further upstream. The canal was the longest and widest of its time and compensation paid to slave owners after abolition was invested in building warehouses.

The cost is £10.00 for the guided tour, excluding train travel. No fixed return time is arranged to allow more time to experience Gloucester.

Our bank account for electronic transmissions is:

Barclays Bank, sort code: 20-60-58 ac. No: 73276457

We are restricted in the first instance to fifteen as the group size, so please advise the number persons who wish to participate to: outings.chepstowsociety@outlook.com

Please note that this outing is subject to a minimum of participants, so please express your interest and booking as early as possible. Timings are approximate.

Patrick Gale, Flat 33, Wye Apartments, Chepstow, NP16 5FG

Email: gale.p.mr@gmail.com Mobile: 07760452629 (for text messages)

MONDAY 10th JUNE

CRUISE THE BRISTOL CHANNEL AND SPEND THREE HOURS IN ILFRACOMBE ON THE PADDLE STEAMER "WAVERLEY"



Price per person including coach to and from Chepstow - £58

Leave: 10.00 Thomas Street Bus Station

Departure: 11.45 Penarth Pier

Arrive/Depart 14.30/17.45 Ilfracombe

Arrive 20.30 Penarth Pier

Arrive 22.00 Chepstow Thomas Street Bus Station

The Waverley is with us again and this time takes us across the Bristol Channel to Ilfracombe, where you have three hours to explore and enjoy this premier seaside holiday resort. A coach has been provided to and from Chepstow Coach Station in connection with the steamer's departure from Penarth.

The Waverley offers a self-service restaurant, heated lounges and a shop with many mementos from its past.

For bookings and the number of seats required, together with your remittance and contact details, contact:

outings.chepstowsociety@outlook.com

OR gale.p.mr@gmail.com

or in writing

Patrick Gale for Chepstow Society Excursions

Flat 33, Wye Apartments, Chepstow, NP16 5FG

Mobile: 07760452629 (for text messages)

Our bank account for electronic transmissions is:

Barclays Bank, sort code: 20-60-58 ac. No: 73276457

This outing is offered by Waverley Excursions Limited whose conditions of booking apply which are available on: www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk The Chepstow Society is acting as agents.

All arrangements are valid as at April 2024

On behalf of Monmouthshire Antiquarian Association, I would like to invite members of the Chepstow Society to our forthcoming study day, on Saturday 6th July.

The venue is Tintern Village Hall, and the programme includes the opportunity to tour the Abbey with one of the speakers or with the custodian.

As you may know Cadw is undertaking a programme of major works at Tintern Abbey ahead of the 900th anniversary of its founding.

During 2023 major survey works and an archaeological assessment were started. The speakers at the study day will talk about their role in this work and their findings to date.

It is hoped that by July there may be more excavations to view. A great deal of information has already been added to current knowledge, and historian David Robinson will be speaking about this,

Details of the programme and a link to the ticket source web site are attached.

The day school fee includes lunch and light refreshments through the day. Tour fees will be payable locally on the day (at the group rate current at the time).

If you have any queries please address them to me using janet.bailey3@btinternet.com

Kind regards,

Jan Bailey,
Secretary, Monmouthshire
Antiquarian Association

Monmouthshire Antiquarian Association

Tintern Abbey Study Day

Saturday 6 July 2024

9.30 am until 5.30 pm

Tintern Village Hall, Tintern, NP16 6SZ

Booking website
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/monmouthshire-antiquarian-association/t-vvkqgxv>

Cadw

BLACK MOUNTAINS ARCHAEOLOGY - ARCHAEOLOGICAL BY THE DOG

ArchaeoDomus
Archaeological & Heritage Services

David M. Robinson
Historian & Writer

9.30 Registration

10.00–10.45: Tintern Abbey: Cistercian Monks, Romantics, and the Making of a Monument (David Robinson)

10.45–11.15: What are we Doing at Tintern? (Will Davies, Cadw)

11.30–12.15: Recording the Fabric of the Church (Ross Cook, Archaeodorus Archaeological and Heritage Services)

12.15–1300: Digging for Answers (Richard Lewis, Black Mountains Archaeology Ltd)

Lunch

Afternoon Tours of Abbey

15.45–16.30: The Findings to Date: A Fresh View of Tintern (David Robinson)

16.30–16.45: Final Questions and Closing Remarks

JOHN SINGER SARGENT

A new Exhibition on Screen film

Thursday May 2, 7.30pm

The Drill Hall, Lower Church Street, Chepstow

Tickets £10

Will be available online: www.drillhallchepstow.co.uk

Or at the door from 6.45pm

Brought to the Drill Hall by and in support of MonLife Heritage Museums



This new Exhibition on Screen film is based on the exhibition currently showing at Tate Britain, "Sargent and Fashion", in conjunction with the Museum of Fine Arts Boston.

John Singer Sargent is known as the greatest portraitist of his era. What made his "swagger" portraits remarkable was his power over his sitters, what they wore and how they were presented to the public. With interviews with curators, contemporary fashionistas and style influencers, the film will look at how Sargent's unique practice has influenced modern art, culture and fashion.

The exhibition reveals Sargent's power to express distinctive personalities. Alongside 50 of his paintings sit stunning items of clothing and accessories in which he dressed his subjects. This was a glittering world of fashion, scandal and shameless self-promotion.

The manufacture of public identity is as controversial and contested today as it was the turn of the 20th century, but somehow Sargent's work transcends the social noise. Explore his unique creative process and the way in which his portraits captured the spirit of a vibrant and rapidly changing age and made Sargent the painter who defined an era.

THE CHEPSTOW SOCIETY NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

Pursuant to Clause 7(a) of the Chepstow Society's Constitution, notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in the Drill Hall, Chepstow, on **Wednesday 15th May at 7:00 pm.**

Members are advised that at this meeting the business will include the election of Officers of the Society, the appointment of appropriate auditors, and the consideration of annual reports by the appropriate Officers of the work done by or under the auspices of the Society, and of the audited accounts.

A President and Vice President for the year 2024/25 will also be elected at this meeting. For those positions, nominations must be received by the Secretary **no later than Wednesday 24th April.**

Nominations for officers of the Society - that is, Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer - as well as for other committee members, and for auditors, may be given at the Annual General Meeting.

A full agenda for the AGM will be circulated nearer the time.

MORE CHEPSTOW SOCIETY TALKS FOR 2024

17th July – The Druids – *Prof. Ronald Hutton*

18th September – The Bristol Riots of 1831 –
Garry Attacombe

16th October – The story of Rolls Royce –
Roger James

20th November – The Newport Transporter Bridge –
Jeff Grosvenor

11th December - The Tudors: How Welsh Rebels
became English Kings – *Nathen Amin*

Subject to final confirmation.