



TRANSITION CHEPSTOW

Acting today for tomorrow

February 2017 Newsletter



Chepstow Big Lunch

*Sunday, 18th June 2017
at Chepstow Castle*

At a meeting dedicated to exploring community feeling in Chepstow we decided to organise a Chepstow Big Lunch in 2017.

The Big Lunch is an event organised annually across the whole of the UK where people have lunch with their neighbours in a simple act of community, friendship and fun. Chepstow residents have free entry to the Castle with a pass they can receive from the Town Council.

Help us make The Big Lunch a great fun day for people in Chepstow! Come to our next meeting on **16th February 2017 at 7.30pm** upstairs at the **Lime Tree** or let us know if you are planning to join us on the big day.

We need all sorts of help from Facebook page set up, social media, contacting and liaising with entertainers, marshals, health and safety, engagement of schools, publicity and much more.

Contact: biglunch@transitionchepstow.org.uk or call Tim at 07971 566936.

We arrived at this idea after talking about several inspirational projects seen elsewhere, as well as existing and past events or activities that have been held in Chepstow that help improve the sense of community.

Some other ideas mentioned:

- Community gardens or farm
- Street party for meeting neighbours
- Auctions
- Chepstow Market
- Garden open day (Garden City organised previously)
- Art project at the Train Station (engaging schools, other services and volunteers)
- Time Banking
- Poster encouraging people to live more sustainably.



Transition Chepstow Annual General Meeting

*Monday, 13th March 2017, 7.30pm
The Beaufort Hotel*

St Mary's Street, Chepstow

We are seeking nominations for the following officers, as well as for steering group members: Coordinator, Secretary, Treasurer and Communications Officer. If you would like to take on a role and get more involved in the work of Transition Chepstow, please contact the secretary by 27th February 2017 via info@transitionchepstow.org.uk. All members are welcome to the AGM for a summary of the past year and up to date details about the workings of Transition Chepstow.

The Education Programme for Patients

*Thursday, 30th March 2017, 7.30pm
The Florence Room, The Beaufort Hotel
St Mary's Street, Chepstow*

Open Forum organised by the Health & Consciousness Group of Transition Chepstow, with guest speaker Wayne Jepson (National perspective) and Angela Tillcock (Area co-ordinator).

Free entry event, all welcome!



TransitionChepstow.org.uk



A new chance for Severndale Community Owned wind turbine

Resilient Energy (and Forest of Dean District Council) have been allowed to take the Severndale Community Owned wind turbine (Tidenham) planning decision back to the Court of Appeal.

Last spring, despite strong local support for the project and a positive decision made by Forest of Dean Councillors, a single high court judge quashed planning permission for the turbine (following an appeal by a small group of objectors and based on the interpretation of the way community benefit had been considered).

The outcome of this new hearing will determine whether the project finally gets the go ahead and will also have big knock-on implications for other community energy schemes across the country.

Thanks to those that supported this on Crowdfunder, they have already reached their target for the new legal costs.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/appeal-re-community-benefits-in-planning-decisions>



Reminiscence Training Programme

Friday, 17th February 2017

9.30am - 1.00pm, Chepstow Library

Organised by Reminiscence Volunteers Project of Monmouthshire Museums Service.

Earth Hour

Saturday, 25th March 2017, 8.30pm

Earth Hour is one of the world's largest demonstrations of support for action on climate change. Millions of people, organisations and landmarks around the world switch off their lights for one hour to show their support for our brilliant planet.

This year is Earth Hour's 10th anniversary and is set to be our biggest yet, with iconic UK landmarks including Big Ben, the London Eye, Palace of Holyrood, and Windsor Castle all switching off their lights.

Chepstow Cycling Club

With many people cycling in Chepstow and the surrounding areas, the Chepstow Cycling Club was formed in late 2016 and is open to riders of all abilities. They offer a range of rides, including Saturday and Sunday weekly club rides. In the future they aim to offer training rides and club events. They use a Facebook group as a virtual clubhouse to organise, as this allows all members to help shape the club.

All new and prospective members are welcome to attend one of the monthly introductory rides. These are short club rides in which you can find out what to carry with you, how to ride in group formations and how to use hand signals. It is an easy-paced ride followed by a cafe stop.

For additional information, visit www.chepstowcyclingclub.wales or e-mail susan.burnett@chepstowcyclingclub.wales.

Warren Slade Woods Litter Pick

Saturday, 4th March 2017, 10am

Playground on Bluebell Drive, Thornwell

Organised as part of Keep Wales Tidy Spring Clean Cymru nationwide event.

To find out about upcoming litter picks, contact Paul: litter@transitionchepstow.org.uk



Transport issues in Chepstow

During a very fruitful meeting in November 2016 the Transport Group decided on the following actions :

- Lift Sharing - In partnership with MCC and Chepstow Town Council using current apps use the Newhouse Industrial Estate, a safe place for parking for lift sharing.
- Electric Vehicle (EV) Charge Points - In partnership with MCC, Chepstow Town Council and Gwent Energy install Chepstow's first EV charge points.
- Electric Vehicle (EV) Open Day - In the New year have the major EV suppliers exhibit and offer test drives for their vehicles in Chepstow - In partnership with Chepstow Town Council.
- Free Bridge Toll for Electric Vehicles - To recommend the the Welsh Government to make the Severn Bridge Toll free to electric vehicles to encourage early adoption.

If you are interested in any of these actions, look out for the monthly meetings at the Lime Tree and you can contact Tim at transport@transitionchepstow.org.uk.



Interested in sustainable energy? Join us for an Energy Group meeting on the first **Wednesday** of every month at **7.30pm** at the **Beaufort Hotel, in Chepstow**. Contact: energy@transitionchepstow.org.uk

Help our campaign to make Electric Vehicles exempt from Severn Bridge Toll

The Department of Transport opened up a [consultation](#) for reduction of the Severn Bridge Tolls and the consultation period closes on 10th March 2017. The Department of Transport proposes that from late 2017/2018 the toll will be halved for most vehicles and reduced by 75% for vans. This should reduce emissions on Hardwick Hill, where lorries avoid the tolls causing air quality breaches, and reduce costs, which all residents will welcome.

The Transport Group of Transition Chepstow would like the Department of Transport to go further and encourage the use of electric vehicles, which dramatically reduce both CO₂ and particulate emissions. We have written to the Department of Transport copying Welsh Government, David Davis MP, Monmouthshire County Council and Chepstow Town Council - the responses from those copied has been very supportive.

Please could you either write a letter in support of Electric Vehicles to be exempt from the toll to the Department of Transport copying Welsh Government and/or respond to the consultation to the Severn Toll online adding to question 10 that Electric Vehicles should be exempted from the Bridge Toll at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ICS10/>.

Diesel scrappage scheme proposed to reduce air pollution

London Mayor Sadiq Khan has called for the government to adopt a diesel scrappage scheme to reduce air pollution. Part of his plan is to offer up to £3500 each to scrap older more polluting vehicles and reduce nitrogen oxide emissions in London. He has delivered a report to the government that would allow a national diesel scrappage fund to improve air quality throughout the country.



In Remembrance of Margaret Davis



Presentation to Margaret Davis of her Gwent Association of Voluntary Organizations community award by Clr Chris Woodhouse

Margaret Davis was well-known in Chepstow for her environmental and humanitarian activities and inspired both the creation and development of Transition Chepstow and the Chepstow Fairtrade Forum. Margaret died peacefully at the Royal Gwent Hospital on 10th December 2016 after suffering from respiratory problems, she was 89.

In June 2007 when Margaret Davis was 80 years old, she received a prestigious award from the Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) in recognition of her services to the environment. Together with others, Margaret set about persuading cafés and shops to stock and serve Fairtrade Products and The Chepstow Fairtrade Forum, has recently celebrated its 10th birthday. Margaret, who was also an active member of Friends of the Earth, worked together with other allied groups in Chepstow to help promote environmental issues related to climate change and peak oil. The result was the setting up of Transition Chepstow, its inaugural meeting taking place 23rd October 2007.

Margaret was a self-effacing though determined person and saw her role as primarily in “getting the ball rolling” and was happy to see other people becoming enthused and developing the project or the organization further. In her 80’s Margaret was an active coordinator of Transition Chepstow’s Heart & Soul Group (now renamed Health & Consciousness Group) organizing various meetings. Many will remember, with glee, the invitations to Margaret’s garden in Hardwick Avenue to harvest the juicy plums from her many fruit trees!

Margaret was also a writer and poet and co-authored a book of poetry in 2010. Many of her poems appeared in the Quaker publications: Quaker Voices and The Friend. Being a Quaker and a deeply spiritual person, she believed that we are all intimately connected through nature. As Quakers say, there is something of the light in all of us and Margaret Davis certainly illuminated Chepstow with her presence. Margaret was an exceptional, inspiring and compassionate person who, whilst in her 80’s, found the energy and vision to help found two organizations in Chepstow, both of which are still thriving thanks to her stalwart endeavours.

As her health declined Margaret decided to leave her house and live in Castle Court Residential Home, being there about three years before having to move to St Anne’s Nursing Home.

We send our condolences to Margaret’s family and friends.

We are most grateful to Janet and Steve Rawlings for the archival information and photograph of Margaret.

Nigel Lees and Peter Evans

