



# TRANSITION CHEPSTOW

*Acting today for tomorrow*

## December 2017 Newsletter



### Community plot harvest



Want to grow your own fruit and veg but don't have the space or know-how? We are now having more frequent meet-ups at our Hanley Landshare Community Plot where you can swap your time for free produce. We will now be on site every Saturday morning between 10 and 12. The project is in the field next to Hanley Farm Shop (A48), next to the Liam Bond Golf Academy.

If you'd like more information or if the weather is looking bad and you'd like to check if we are meeting, please email Bridgette via [landshare@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:landshare@transitionchepstow.org.uk) or call 07503 770529.

We look forward to showing you around!



### Festive Social Event

**Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017, 7.30pm**

**The Three Tuns, Bridge Street, Chepstow**

Join us to meet with members old and new at Transition Chepstow's annual festive get-together! We look forward to seeing you!

### Energy Network Meetings

Upcoming dates: 7.30pm at the Beaufort Hotel, Chepstow, on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 7<sup>th</sup> February, and 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

### On nature's trail

Designs for a new orchard and wildlife trail are currently being reviewed by members of the Orchard Group and it will be launched during the [2018 Chepstow Walking Festival](#). The trail will include attractive new signage for key orchard sites and a trail guide that will be available via the internet. If you'd like to help with this project and put nature on the map, contact [food@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:food@transitionchepstow.org.uk).

### Crocodile Bus to encourage children to walk to school



In the summer term the Transport Group is supporting the launch of a pilot scheme in Chepstow encouraging children to walk to school. The Crocodile app will be trialled in Chepstow with the view to rolling out across Wales and then the rest of the UK. See the app at <http://www.crocodile.org.uk/> and scroll down to "See how it works" to play the demonstration. There will be prizes for children and parents taking part.

It's been proven that children who do some form of exercise, especially a walk before school, do better in class because they arrive refreshed, fit and ready to learn. They also relate better to their peers and are less likely to develop obesity and diabetes in later life. Not only will this improve children's health, but also reduce congestion and emissions since 1 in 5 journeys in the rush hour are for taking children to school.

If your children would like to take part or you could be a walking "driver", please contact: [transport@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:transport@transitionchepstow.org.uk)



[TransitionChepstow.org.uk](http://TransitionChepstow.org.uk)



## Chepstow Apple Day



The last weekend of October saw the annual celebration of all things apple related, organised by Transition Chepstow and Chepstow Town Council. As usual, the day was well attended, with entertainment from the Widders and members of the Singing Club. A variety of apples, cider, perry and juices were on sale and children enjoyed making apple creatures and bird feeders. With a bumper apple crop for many growers this year, the press was busy all weekend - and we are just bottling the first of the cider from the juice! If you missed Apple Day, you will have a chance to catch up in February, when there will be a TV programme broadcast.



## Orchard group pruning workshop

The Orchard Group organised a hands-on pruning workshop in November, funded by the Welsh Perry and Cider Society and led by John Wore, who has a lifetime's experience growing fruit trees, especially for cider production. A theory session in the Chepstow Castle Inn was followed by work with the trees in the Dell Community Orchard. We learned that in general it's better to take out larger branches rather than smaller ones, and that pruning early in the season (for example, in November) encourages new growth.

By the end of the day, we'd identified a rough pruning plan for each of the trees and we'll be putting this into practice in the Community Orchards between December and February. If you'd like to get involved please contact [food@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:food@transitionchepstow.org.uk).



## Cider Making Course

Making cider is fairly easy, but making good cider requires some care and a lot of patience. Some of our members took part in a one-day cider-making course in October. The course was run by award-winning cider maker Dave Matthews at Bartestree Cider, his small-scale, specialist cider making company in Herefordshire.



We spent the day learning about cider making from collecting local apples, through pressing to fermentation and bottling. The course was organised by the Welsh Cider and Perry Society and funded through the project supporting community orchards in Chepstow. All being well, the results of the training should be available for drinking from January onwards.



## Help shape the Future of Monmouthshire



Monmouthshire is facing major long-term challenges of demographic population shifts, the impact of new technology on businesses and the pending effects of climate change. At the public forum meeting hosted by the Health & Consciousness Group and chaired by Coordinator Peter Evans, Hazel Clatworthy, Sustainability Officer, presented the MCC Draft Well-Being Assessment Plan. In accordance with the Welsh Government's Future Generations Act, elected councils and associated public organizations are required to coordinate the resilient improvement in social, economic and cultural well-being in their local communities. In addition to stimulating direct discussion at such forums, the public are encouraged to get involved with questions, comments and creative ideas. There is a further ten week consultation period to respond to the plan, and additional details are available online at the MCC websites:

[www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/our-monmouthshire](http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/our-monmouthshire)  
[www.monmouthshire.madeopen.co.uk](http://www.monmouthshire.madeopen.co.uk)

## Fully Charged Wales

The scheme run by [Gwent Energy](http://www.gwentenergy.org) for installing 20 electric car chargers around the county is now almost complete. In February they plan to install a further 20 chargers in town car parks in Monmouthshire. Monmouthshire will go from being the worst equipped counties for electric car chargers to one of the best in the country. In Chepstow there are 3 public charger points: Welsh Street car park, the Beaufort Hotel, and the Greenman Backpackers. There is a full list of venues on: <http://www.gwentenergycic.org/electric-vehicle-chargers>

## In remembrance of Morris Jones

We are sorry to share that Morris Jones, a strong community supporter from Tintern passed away recently. Morris was behind the Tintern Angiddy Project and he was also a volunteer driver for ambulances and for Grassroutes. He attended and supported many of our events, such as Apple Day. We send our condolences to his family and friends.

## Big Lunch 2018



Last summer Transition Chepstow organised the biggest picnic in the history of the castle to celebrate the 950th anniversary of Chepstow Castle and the 10th anniversary of Transition Chepstow, with support from many local groups. The Big Lunch is an annual event and 9.3 million people joined in across the UK in 2017. The idea is that people organise their own Big Lunch with their neighbours in a simple act of community, friendship and fun. Next year it will be on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2018, so now is the time to start planning for it.

- 94% of everyone who joins in thinks that the event will have a positive impact on their community
- 88% of organisers feel better about their neighbourhood after hosting a Big Lunch
- 74% of people who host a Big Lunch feel an increased sense of community



Would you like to invite your neighbours and organise a Big Lunch for your street in 2018? There are plenty of resources to help you at <https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/thebiglunchhomepage>



[TransitionChepstow.org.uk](http://TransitionChepstow.org.uk)

