



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 or call 07503 770529.

We look forward to showing you around!



Festive Social Event

Wednesday, 6th 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 3rd January, 7th February, and 7th 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.

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



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.



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.



