



# TRANSITION CHEPSTOW

*Acting today for tomorrow*

## April 2018 Newsletter



### Towards a Plastic-Free Chepstow

*Next meeting Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm  
Greenman Backpackers Hostel*

Significant progress is being made in a new Transition Chepstow project to work towards a plastic-free Chepstow.

As part of our effort to reduce plastic straws in town, we found sponsors to give two books about the impact of plastics on ocean ecosystems by [Ellie Jackson](#) to all primary schools in Chepstow. The author has agreed to send signed books with written letters, with a guide on "How to make your town straw-free" with each package. Schools will also be invited to create a sculpture which will go on public display in Chepstow during relevant events in the campaign and Ellie Jackson will help judge the school sculptures for a prize.

Amongst other actions, we are planning to show some samples of plastic-free boxes from Vegware to independent cafés in Chepstow to encourage them to switch their packaging. We are also looking to get a number of local businesses to give up 3 plastic items each.

We agreed to apply for registration as a designated **Plastic Free Town** under the [Surfers against Sewage Plastic Free Coastlines](#).

On 28<sup>th</sup> March Chepstow Town Council passed a resolution in line with this - the first of 5 steps completed. We aim to discuss the possibility of making Monmouthshire the first **Plastic Free County** in the UK in conjunction with plastic-free campaigns in Monmouth, Abergavenny and Usk.



We are investigating the possibility of registering Chepstow as a refill town. [Refill](#) operates an app showing locations where water bottles can be refilled for free. Cherished Earth, Moon and Co and Mythos are already listed. We also agreed to pursue the possibility of a county-wide approach to spread the cost and increase the impact.

We expect to formally launch the campaign through a number of events in the first week of June to coincide with **World Environment Day on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2018**.

We are looking for volunteers to develop and promote activities in the following areas:

1. **Businesses** - contacting businesses about reducing/eliminating plastic including straws, bottles, bags, milk capsules, sauce sachets, cups, trays, cutlery. Drafting letters introducing scheme; designing and producing stickers or similar to reward participation.
2. **Schools** - taking forward the art competition including displaying art work, looking at plastic usage including milk bottles, lunchboxes, linking to curriculum.
3. **Households** - information and raising awareness through social media, press, events.
4. **Research** - investigating alternative technologies or products, other campaigns, current usage, monitoring progress, feedback on social media.
5. **Fundraising** - to cover events, prizes, publicity, possibly a Chepstow mug/cup/water bottle, licences.

If you would like to be part of the team developing this campaign, or to join the mailing list, please get in touch with Graham Eele on [plasticfree@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:plasticfree@transitionchepstow.org.uk) or 01291 630168. You can also follow the project's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts to help build momentum.



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



### Orchard and Wildlife Trail Walk

Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2018, 2pm

Tourist Information Centre, Chepstow

Transition Chepstow's new Orchard and Wildlife trail will be launched as part of the [Chepstow Walking Festival](#) this year. The walk, which is around 6 miles, takes in all twelve Community Orchards, as well as other sites of wildlife interest and a section of the Wales Coast Path with spectacular views of the River Wye. The walk is mostly on quiet backstreets and footpaths, but one or two sections may be muddy, so please wear suitable footwear. Although there are some steepish sections, there will be frequent stops to get your breath back and chat about the orchards and how we care for them.

For booking information visit the [Chepstow Walking Festival](#) website.

Transition members can join the walk for free by noting that they are a Transition Chepstow member in the [booking form](#) (under "How did you hear about the festival?") and emailing it to Helen at [chepstowwaw@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chepstowwaw@hotmail.co.uk).



### Gwent Wildlife Trust Plant Sale

Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018, 9.30-12.30

Palmer Centre, Cormeilles Square

A selection of wildlife-friendly plants at bargain prices.

### Pollinator Friendly Planter Competition at Chepstow Show

Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Chepstow Racecourse



Transition Chepstow will once again be sponsoring a pollinator friendly planter competition at [Chepstow Show](#). The aim is to demonstrate how you can produce an attractive display which is also beneficial to wildlife, by using nectar-rich flowers easily accessible to bees and other pollinators - including old favourites such as cornflowers, lavender, poached-egg plants and nasturtiums. With growing concern about the use of pesticides in commercially grown plants, now is a good time to sow seeds for annual flowers which you can be sure are free of pesticide residues. For competition details, as well as a list of suggested plants, visit the [Chepstow Show](#) website.



### Plant Sale in the Library Garden

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Chepstow Library

Friends of Chepstow Library Reading Garden and Friends of Chepstow Library are holding a joint plant sale to help raise funds and awareness. The Library Garden was created in 2012 and it is completely run and funded by volunteers who also run outreach projects with local schools. Refreshments will be available. Do come along and help support this very worthwhile project.





### Wanted - a volunteer to strengthen our links with children and young people

At the Transition Chepstow AGM on 19<sup>th</sup> March, we talked about how we can engage more with children and young people. We think this should be very much a two-way process - we would like to have their views about our priorities and input into our projects, and perhaps we can lend some support to the environmental work already going on in schools and elsewhere. Are you or do you know a parent, youth leader or teacher who would be prepared to help develop our links with schools and youth groups? We would like to invite such a volunteer to join our steering group which meets 4 times a year to create and strengthen these links with all of our projects. Please get in touch with us at [info@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:info@transitionchepstow.org.uk).



### Thornwell Litter Pick

Ten volunteers met at Tenby Lane car park in March with ideal weather conditions in place for a spring clean of the area near the Wales Coast Path in Thornwell. The litter pick was organised as part of [Spring Clean Cymru 2018](#), a nationwide campaign encouraging people across Wales to get outdoors, be active and help clean up our beautiful country. The volunteers in Chepstow split into two groups to cover the Caerwent Lane Tunnel area and the Wales Coast Path, and the green areas and alleyways off Middle Way. Some may have already noticed the difference it has made to the area, and a sign was left for a couple of days to raise awareness. You can contact Paul to find out about any upcoming litter picks: [litter@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:litter@transitionchepstow.org.uk).

### Monmouthshire makes outstanding progress in electric car usage

Last year there was a 25% increase in registrations of new electric vehicles in the Gwent counties and this year Monmouthshire promises to be as good or better than last. Fully Charged, the public car charger network, has made a great difference, with 20 points spread across the county. In the first 3 months of this year they delivered 185 charge events saving about 3 tonnes of carbon. We expect this to increase month by month as the news spreads around. You are no more than 5 miles from a charge point anywhere in Monmouthshire.



*The charge point at The Beaufort in Raglan is already attracting customers*

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. Upcoming dates: 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 6<sup>th</sup> June and 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

Contact: [energy@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:energy@transitionchepstow.org.uk)

### Community Climate Champions Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018, 7pm Abergavenny Community Centre

We are looking forward to a very interesting meeting where Mark Hand, Head of Planning, Housing and Place Shaping at Monmouthshire County Council will chat with us about sustainable housing and development planning, as well as giving us an update on the Local Development Plan review. The move to reduce plastics in our towns is also on the agenda.



### The Big Lunch

Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2018

Organise your own!

Last year Transition Chepstow celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday and the 950<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chepstow Castle by holding a picnic for over 1,000 people in the Castle. This year we'd like to encourage you to get to know and celebrate with your neighbours on your street by having a Street Party. There are loads of ideas to help you on [The Big Lunch](#) webpage. It just takes one person to initiate it, and that could be you!

Please let us know if you are thinking about planning a Big Lunch this summer at [biglunch@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:biglunch@transitionchepstow.org.uk).



*Last year's event was a great success!*

Keep an eye on Transition Chepstow's [events page](#) for updates on all events!

### Take the bus to Hanley Landshare

Every Saturday 10am-12pm

Did you know you can catch the [755 bus](#) (to Lydney) from Chepstow Bus Station and it stops right outside Hanley Farm shop, next to [Hanley Landshare](#)?

Some of us are there every Saturday morning between 10am and 12pm at our community plot where you can swap your time for free produce. On Saturday there is a 755 leaving Chepstow at 9:01 or 11:11, and returning at 11:43 or 13:45 (it only runs Monday to Saturday, not on Sundays). There is also the option to car share or cycle and spend Saturday mornings in the outdoors gardening together!

If the weather is looking bad and you'd like to check if we are meeting, email Bridgette at [landshare@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:landshare@transitionchepstow.org.uk).



**Grow Your Own Food**  
at  
**HANLEY LANDSHARE**

Join us at our Community Plot  
next to Hanley Farm Shop (A48)  
NP16 7NA

**EVERY SATURDAY**  
**10AM-12PM**

We look forward to showing you around!  
[Landshare@TransitionChepstow.org.uk](mailto:Landshare@TransitionChepstow.org.uk)



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

