



# TRANSITION CHEPSTOW

Acting today for tomorrow

## August 2018 Newsletter



### We've been busy!

We celebrated Plastic Free Chepstow Week with the first Plastic Free Market in Wales, with talks from Andrew Cross on alternatives to oil-based plastics and from Martin Dorey on making a difference in two minutes, and with a litter pick along the Coast Path.



We received wide press coverage - locally and, unexpectedly, from places as far afield as Miami and Hong Kong, as well as the BBC and the national press - as the banner captured people's imagination. Though the headlines poked fun, the articles themselves helped to raise awareness of what has been our position all along - that plastic is an extremely valuable material for many applications precisely because it is long-lasting, but disastrous when used once and discarded. Other banners have been on display since, and our banner will be going up again later in the year.

Monmouthshire is aiming to be the first county in Wales to commit to seeking Plastic Free status. This will greatly increase our scope for working together with other communities who are hoping to become Plastic Free. We were also awarded a small grant by Chepstow Council to help cover running costs.



**PLASTIC FREE CHEPSTOW**  
SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE

Plastic litter harms wildlife, looks awful and lasts hundreds of years.



Let's get rid of plastic litter in Chepstow! Don't drop waste: **BIN IT!**



Our poster designed by Damian is on display on town noticeboards and has been distributed to supermarkets, convenience stores and takeaways

### What next for Plastic Free Chepstow?

Being awarded Plastic Free status was our first big milestone. But really, the hard work starts now! Our priorities are to help individuals to cut down on plastic and to make it easier for businesses to find more sustainable alternatives to single-use plastic. We want to put pressure on the supermarkets to make plastic-free shopping easier. We want to work with Monmouthshire County Council to encourage recycling and responsible disposal of litter. And last but definitely not least, we want to change the culture so that it's just not acceptable for anybody to drop litter. Anywhere.

Find out more and contact us:

<http://www.transitionchepstow.org.uk/groups/plastic-free-chepstow/>



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



## Straws off Streets Art Competition

The art competition for local primary schools came to a climax on the weekend of 21 and 22 July, as part of the Chepstow Art Trail. Pupils were invited to take part in a sculpture competition using plastic straws donated by local businesses switching to more sustainable options, as well as other single-use plastics. Three schools participated in the competition (Pembroke Primary, St. Mary's and Offa's Mead) that was judged by Ellie Jackson, author of the *Wild Tribe Heroes* series, which tells tales of marine animals harmed by plastic pollution. Copies of the books were donated to the schools by local businesses *Moore Language Solutions*, *Cherished Earth Wholefoods* and *Compose Management Limited* to help highlight the issues and provide inspiration for the sculptures.

### Winning Entries

#### Year 1

First - Save Our Sea Turtles (St Mary's)

Second - Duffy Eating Jellyfish (Pembroke Primary)

#### Years 3 and 4

First - Plastic Palm Tree (Pembroke Primary)

Second - Ocean Pollution (St Mary's)

Third - Polluted (St Mary's)

#### Individuals

First - Eiffel Tower (Offa's Mead)

Second - A Turtle (Offa's Mead)

Third - Leaning Tower of Pisa (Offa's Mead)



(Left to right) Kylie McComber, Hope Lyall and Macauley Poulter from Offa's Mead Primary School display their certificates.



Thomas Webb from St Mary's Primary School accepts a certificate on behalf of the Reception Class.



Jack Leek, Olivia Szmaglik and Amy Convery from Pembroke School accept their certificates from Plastic Free Chepstow's Charlotte Moore. In the background is their sculpture "Plastic Palm Tree".



**Garden City Litter Pick**  
Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> August 2018, 10am  
Meet us at the corner of Severn Crescent and Hardwick Avenue and join in with the next [litter pick](#) organised by Plastic Free Chepstow and Transition Chepstow!

### Community Orchards Signage

The team behind Chepstow's community orchards celebrated the installation of signage explaining the origin and benefits of the orchards. The signage was funded by the Welsh Perry and Cider Society and Heritage Lottery Fund. Full details of the trail, including the downloadable trail map can be found on our [website](#).

If you'd like to know more about the trail or how you can help with looking after our community orchards, please contact Marcus via [orchards@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:orchards@transitionchepstow.org.uk).



### Grow Your Own Food at [Hanley Landshare](#)

Every Saturday 10am-12pm

Next to Hanley Farm Shop, NP16 7LL

Our community plot continues to grow healthy food and you are welcome to join in every Saturday morning! To check if we are meeting, contact [landshare@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:landshare@transitionchepstow.org.uk).

### Chepstow Show

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

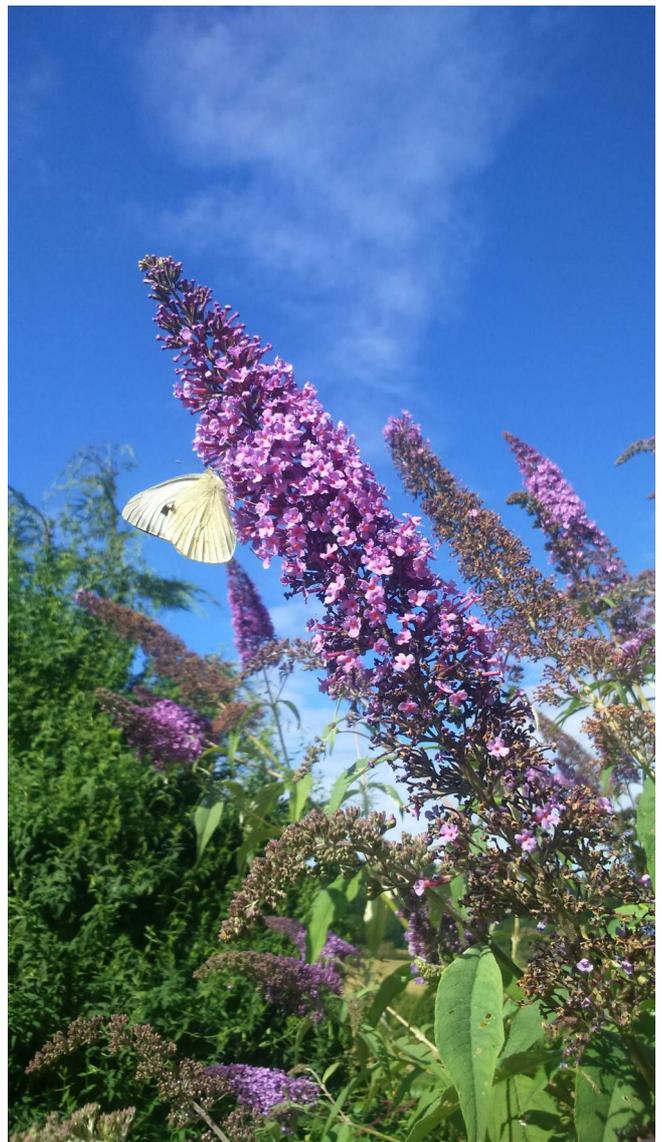
Chepstow Racecourse

Come visit the Green Marquee funded by Gwent Energy, hosting Gwent Energy, Bee Friendly Monmouthshire, and Transition Chepstow as Plastic Free Chepstow and the Orchard Group.

If you can help for an hour or two to talk to show goers please contact Graham at [plasticfree@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:plasticfree@transitionchepstow.org.uk).

There's still time to enter the Pollinator Friendly Planter competition at Chepstow Show! For details and an entry form see <http://www.chepstowshow.co.uk/competitors/horticulture/>

Entry forms to be submitted by Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> August.



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



### Plastic Free 2 Minute Challenge August 2018

We're inviting everyone to spend just 2 minutes a day in your street, in the park, in town, picking up litter and taking it home to recycle or otherwise dispose of responsibly. Together we can eliminate plastic litter from Chepstow's streets and countryside! Please send us a picture of your litter pick - email to [plasticfree@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:plasticfree@transitionchepstow.org.uk) or post on our [Facebook](#) page. The best photo will win a reusable bamboo coffee cup from *Monmouthshire Upcycle!*



### National conference on single use plastic

A special national conference sponsored by the Institute of Welsh Affairs entitled "How does Wales get there? Phasing out single use plastics" was held on 14<sup>th</sup> June in Cardiff. Expert speakers and participants from Welsh government, the recycling industry, university research and community groups provided a knowledgeable and wide discussion on the topic. Several members from the Transition Chepstow Plastic Free group attended and made active contributions to the burgeoning debate on the topical and important issue of environmental plastic pollution.

### Chepstow Apple Day 2018

Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2018

The Drill Hall, Chepstow

Transition Chepstow and the Town Council are making plans for the tenth [Apple Day](#) celebrating all things apple-related. It will include old favourites such as sales of apples, juice and cider, apple identification, entertainment and children's activities - not forgetting the Longest Apple Peel and the Apple Cookery Competition with great prizes. This will be our first Plastic Free Apple Day (no single-use plastic).

If you'd like to help plan activities or get involved on the day, please contact [appleday@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:appleday@transitionchepstow.org.uk).

### Litter pick in Thornwell



*Councillors Dale Rooke and Armand Watts joined in with volunteers at the litter pick organised in Thornwell in June by Transition Chepstow and Plastic Free Chepstow*

### Energy Group Meetings

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: 5<sup>th</sup> September and 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018.

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

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



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