



TRANSITION CHEPSTOW

Acting today for tomorrow

December 2018 Newsletter



Chepstow Apple Day

Chepstow's tenth annual celebration of the town's heritage of apple growing and cider making, held in the Drill Hall on Sunday 28th October, was a great success. For the first time this year, the event was largely free of single-use plastic, and the Orchard Group put on activities in the Castle Dell Community Orchard.

The community event, which was presented by Chepstow Town Council and Transition Chepstow, was well attended by locals and visitors.



The Mayor of Chepstow, Tony Redhead, opened the day and everyone enjoyed the entertainments provided by the folk group Swn Celtaidd, Kre8ive Theatre Kidz and the Chepstow Wassail Singers.

There were lots of indoor activities with apple limericks, apple cookery competitions and a display of 82 varieties of apples. Making apple bird feeders and apple art was very popular with the children and apples, apple juice, cider and preserves from local producers were on sale.

Outdoors, fruit trees were planted in the Castle Dell and on the Riverbank, and plaques unveiled in memory of Karl Daymond, alongside representatives of Chepstow Mencap.

There was singing, a wassail led by Jez Becker, and various activities for children and adults. It was good to see the Community Orchards the focus of so much community activity! Regular attenders at Apple Day will appreciate this prize-winning Limerick by Scott Perry:

I can't get it out of my head
that this man every year called Ned
has the longest apple peel
so what is the deal
if he wins this year I'll see red!

Ned Heywood did indeed win the competition, with a peel measuring 127 inches!

Our unique Apple Varieties raffle raised £144, and half of that is being donated to Chepstow Foodbank. Sarah from the Foodbank is pictured here with the cheque.



For more details about Apple Day, visit www.transitionchepstow.org.uk.



TransitionChepstow.org.uk



Plastic Free Chepstow

Our group met at the Greenman Backpackers on 25th October and Amanda introduced us to Ecobricks and Tessa showed us Mors Bags. Ecobricks are a brilliant way of disposing of non-recyclable single-use plastic, providing a reusable resource for community projects and focusing the mind on your household's plastic use. This 500ml bottle absorbed a month's plastic, the equivalent of several carrier bags of general waste. Visit www.ecobricks.org or the local [Ecobricks Chepstow](#) Facebook group for more information.

Mors bags are sturdy re-usable fabric bags, often upcycled from old pillowcases or curtains, which continue the Transition Chepstow tradition of avoiding plastic bags - there is a local pod making Mors bags to give away. If you'd like to get involved contact plasticfree@transitionchepstow.org.uk.



We held a very successful **litter pick** along the coast path between Garden City and Bulwark on 18th November, with more than 30 adults and children involved, and some 17 bags of litter collected - including 5 bags of plastic and 4 bags of cans which were recycled. Thank you to all who came along! Our next litter pick will be in **January** - keep an eye on our [event calendar](#) and [Facebook group](#) for details.

During December we will be encouraging people to think about their use of single-use plastic in wrapping, decorations, food and gifts.

Download and read the [Plastic Free Christmas Hack](#) from Surfers Against Sewage to get started!



Chepstow Litter Summit

Thursday, 17th January 2019

The Drill Hall, Chepstow, NP16 5HJ

Our first focus for the New Year is the Litter Summit that we are holding with Chepstow Town Council to focus on dealing effectively with litter and influencing behaviour change to reduce littering. Schools, businesses and voluntary organisations will be invited. Members of the public are very welcome to attend, but please contact us at plasticfree@transitionchepstow.org.uk for an invitation.

We have many more ideas and need people to help us get projects off the ground. Do get in touch!

Find out more about this project:

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



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



Festive Social Event

Thursday, 13th December 2018, 7.30pm

The Three Tuns, Bridge Street, Chepstow

Come along to meet our volunteers and have a catch-up at our annual festive get-together! A great opportunity to find out about our current projects, as well as to share new ideas. We look forward to seeing you!



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: 6th February and 6th March 2019.

Contact: energy@transitionchepstow.org.uk

If you would like to find out more about our projects or to get involved, please get in touch!

info@transitionchepstow.org.uk

Renew Wales is recruiting Peer Mentors

It's hard not to notice the current trend aiming to turn the tide on plastic, and community groups could benefit from having support on how they can take action. [Renew Wales](#) supports community action on climate change, and they are recruiting more Peer Mentors, whose role is to work with community groups on a peer-to-peer basis by sharing their experience and expertise. They are inviting people involved with Transition Chepstow who may be interested in this role to support other communities working on projects involving plastic free, waste, transport and cycling, food growing and horticulture areas, local economies... this list goes on! So if you are interested in becoming a Peer Mentor please get in touch at info@renewwales.org.uk.

You can find more information with supporting documents on their website :

<https://www.renewwales.org.uk/news-and-events/can-you-help-others-take-action-on-climate-change-821.asp>

