



TRANSITION CHEPSTOW

Acting today for tomorrow

June 2019 Newsletter



A summer haircut for our community orchards

The [Orchard group](#) will shortly be planning some summer community orchard care events. We'll be checking trees, mulching, thinning fruit (to avoid the heavy cropping you can see in the picture below) and doing some light pruning to help ensure fruit ripens.

If you would like to get involved with these plans, please email Marcus via:

orchards@transitionchepstow.org.uk.

No previous experience or equipment necessary!



Monmouthshire County Council declares Climate Emergency

Monmouthshire County Council has adopted a motion to declare a Climate Emergency in accord with the Welsh and UK Government.

A working group open to the community will investigate and recommend measures for the council to take forward. These will probably lie in the three categories below:

- Internal Business (Energy saving practices, local sourcing, plastic free)
- External Business (Future Generations and Wellbeing Act should effectively ensure all committee and council decisions are taken in a sustainable, climate friendly fashion)
- Matters to lobby MCC or Welsh Government (i.e. Local Development Plan)

If you believe we have a duty to our younger generations, get involved! You can contact

hazelclatworthy@monmouthshire.gov.uk.

<https://climateemergency.uk/blog/monmouthshire/>

Congestion Free Chepstow

Following the packed [public meeting](#) held on 11th April, the campaign to reduce the increasingly frustrating traffic delays and associated air pollution hazards to health has gained substantial publicity and political impetus.

The urgent implementation of the various proposed road schemes to help ameliorate the situation is now expected as the result of ongoing discussions between the Transition Chepstow campaign group and the relevant responsible highway representatives and authorities who attended the meeting.

See below a detailed article about the [Congestion Free Chepstow](#) campaign:

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/welsh-town-left-gridlocked-rising-16329773>



TransitionChepstow.org.uk



Welsh Government rejects M4 Relief Road

The Welsh Government has decided not to back a new M4 relief route around Newport based on the the cost of the scheme and environmental criticisms. First Minister Mark Drakeford has given greater weight to environmental and ecological concerns than the Inquiry inspector, thus reflecting the Welsh Government's recent declaration of a Climate Emergency.

The [Campaign Against the Levels Motorway](https://savethelevels.org.uk/) stated: "This decision represents a major turning-point for Wales and hopefully for the rest of the UK as we face interlocking emergencies for climate and wildlife.

At last the case for protecting the irreplaceable wildlife and landscape of the Gwent Levels has been understood. Speaking truth to power can work. [...] We will strongly support the First Minister as he moves forward with his plans to improve traffic management, public transport and facilities for cycling and walking in the Newport area and beyond. This is how we can genuinely improve the quality of life for all."

<https://savethelevels.org.uk/>

Orchard and Wildlife Walk

For the second time Transition Chepstow [Orchard Group](#) members led a walk around the Orchard and Wildlife Trail as part of the Chepstow Walking Festival. We were joined by about 20 walkers from as far afield as the United States. After a rainy week, the weather was reasonable and the orchards were in full, glorious blossom.



Keep Chepstow Tidy

Spring Clean Chepstow, a month long campaign to rid Chepstow's parks and open spaces of litter, as part of Keep Wales Tidy's Spring Clean Cymru initiative, came to an end on 24th April with a fantastic effort from Sedbury Cubs. Over the month, community litter picks in the Town Centre, Garden City and Thornwell collected more than 70 bags of litter. Partner organisations participating in the Spring Clean included, in addition to the Cubs, the Dell Primary School, Bulwark Community Centre, Chepstow Mencap and St Arvans Litter Group.

Co-Ordinator Paul Gowen said, "Generally, I think Spring Clean Chepstow has done a lot to raise awareness of litter issues around the town, and remind people that litter is the responsibility of all of us. We'll be repeating it next year and hope to get many more organisations involved. But in the meantime, the focus has to be to [KEEP Chepstow tidy](#). There are lots of ways people can help. Join our monthly litter picks or pick up litter as you go. If you are passionate about litter, you can become one of Keep Wales Tidy's Litter Champions - you'll be given equipment and training and kept up to date with all the anti-litter initiatives. But perhaps the most important is to let those around you know that it's just not acceptable to drop litter."

May's Community Litter Pick on 19th May saw 15 volunteers - including our regular enthusiastic youngsters as well as some new volunteers - tackling Bulwark shopping area and surrounding streets.

The next Community Litter Pick will be on **Saturday 29th June** and we'll once again be visiting Thornwell. Meet us at **Tenby Lane Car Park** at 10 am and join in!





Plastic Free Chepstow

Plastic Free Chepstow went international on 6th June when Co-ordinator Graham Eele, along with the Mayor of Chepstow and representatives of the Town and County Council, met a delegation from South Korea who had come to find out more about how Chepstow has become a plastic free town. Led by Professor Wonkil Jeong, the delegation was particularly interested to find out if there were any approaches that could be used in their home county of Ulleung Island. The island, which has just over 10,000 inhabitants, is an important tourism destination and conserving both the marine and the island environment is a major concern for local government. The two communities hope to remain in contact and exchange experiences. If you would like to be part of the team working on the ongoing [Plastic Free Chepstow](#) campaign, or to join the mailing list, please contact Graham Eele on plasticfree@transitionchepstow.org.uk or 01291 630168. You can also follow the project's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts to help build momentum.

Give it Away, Take it Away

On Sunday 2nd June we held our first [Give It Away Take It Away](#) event at the premises of Monmouthshire Upcycle in Station Road. Although heavy rain reduced the number of browsers, there was a steady stream of people dropping off items and taking home baby equipment, books and toys, gardening and DIY tools and household goods. The venue was a success and we hope to be repeating the event regularly.

Energy Group meetings

Interested in sustainable energy? Join us for an [Energy Group](#) meeting on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at the Beaufort Hotel in Chepstow. Upcoming dates: 2nd July, 6th August and 3rd September 2019.

Contact: energy@transitionchepstow.org.uk

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

