



*Tintern Abbey 1979, Photo by David Hurn*

# TINTERN NEWS

## December 2024

Produced by Friends of Tintern



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## So much happening in December!

The Tintern Winter Festival is on **Sunday 1 DECEMBER 10am-4pm!** Come and visit Santa in his festive grotto - his trustee elves have been busy wrapping lots of presents for you. Will you spot Rudolph? Will the elves decorate the grotto in time? It's just £3 PER CHILD to visit Santa and includes a present.

Thanks to Liz Klinkert's effort in organising a collection, we'll have festive lights on the lampposts again this year. The Tintern Business Group is repeating the lights competition which encouraged every building in and near the village to look wonderful for the season for the benefit of both residents and visitors! As before, there will be a class for domestic properties and another class for businesses (which includes holiday rentals). If you have put up Christmas lights visible from the road, you are automatically entered and during the week commencing **Sunday 15 December**, the judge from outside the area will drive around, and if you are all lit up and visible from a road by 5.30 pm, you are in with a chance! The Winners will be shared on Facebook and will get a certificate. Business winners will be shared by Monmouthshire too.

The Tintern Abbey Sports Club is hosting a Christmas Quiz at the Village Hall on **Saturday 7 December**, so get your team together! Then on **Tuesday, 10 December** join the fun at Christmas Bingo at the Village Hall.

The Torchlight Carol Service at the Abbey is on **Saturday 7 December**. LED Flicker Sticks at £4.00 each will be on sale and programmes and tickets on sale at the Tintern Abbey Shop.

After the Tintern Local Produce Market at the Village Hall on **Saturday 14 December**, join in the St Mary's clearing effort and the party afterwards. On **Tuesday 17 December** there will be a talk at the Village Hall about CADW diggings at Tintern Abbey to support St Mary's churchyard restoration.

The Christingle Service with the Church Lads and Church Girls Brigade will be at St Michael's Church on **Sunday 15 December** and the Christmas Eve Carol Service on **Tuesday 24 December at 4pm**.

Finally, close the year out right at the Tintern Abbey Sports Club's **New Years Eve** party at the Village Hall. And looking ahead into 2025, the Tintern Senior's Lunch will be hosted at the Anchor Inn on **6 January**, so get your name in for the limited number of free places, which include free parking from 11.30am to 2.30pm in the Anchor/Abbey car parks. Call Noelyn Allen on 07501 529681 or email [noelynallen@hotmail.com](mailto:noelynallen@hotmail.com).

We've still not reached the pledge target for the full fibre upgrade of Tintern's infrastructure, so please do consider supporting everyone in our community (and yourself too, with better internet speed and likely lower costs because of increased service provider competition) by signing up. Check if you are eligible on [www.openreach.com/connectmycommunity](http://www.openreach.com/connectmycommunity).

Enjoy the holidays and the next Tintern News is in February. Toni Harvey ([tinternnews@gmail.com](mailto:tinternnews@gmail.com))

*The Tintern News is a vehicle for the expression of opinion by all members of the Tintern community. While it does not necessarily endorse the views of any contributor, it does wholeheartedly support the promotion of lively debate on the development of the village and of freedom of speech in general. However, it will reserve the right to edit any contributions to preserve moderation and a spirit of good intent in the presentation of arguments (and sometimes just to fit into a page).*



**Thoughts from everyone in our community will continue to be very welcome.**

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# *Tintern Christmas Lights*

*Best dressed house and business  
competitions 2024*



Join in and give your house or business a great big Christmas makeover for us all to enjoy.

Some easy rules:

- ★ must be visible from a road
- ★ everyone putting up lights is automatically entered - no entry forms!
- ★ in two categories, for houses and businesses
- ★ judging will take place w/c 15th December but ideally lights will be up and on in time for the Abbey Torchlight Service on 7th December
- ★ ensure you're switched on by 5.30 each evening
- ★ winners will be shared on Facebook and will receive certificates

Sponsored by Tintern Business Forum.

## St Mary's Churchyard Meadow, by Jo McCrum



Something to aim for - Penallt's wildflower meadow of cowslips and orchids.

There's nothing like obliterating a huge patch of brambles to get those frustrations out and put the world back to rights. And for some reason, a bit like housework, when it's not your own garden it's more fun. Perhaps because you can just leave whenever you like and don't have to look at the bit you never got around to. Perhaps it's the collegiate nature of the job and the latent sense of competition amongst the volunteers. Perhaps it's because St Mary's is so overgrown that any improvement has an immediate impact. Snip, snip – a work problem solved. Snip, snip – a joke shared. Snip, snip - it's now possible to walk down

to the bottom corner without tripping over a snaking bramble. Snip, snip – a small glimpse of the abbey. Snip, snip – a small view to the village. Snip, snip – light on paths so they are not so shaded and slippery. Snip, snip – a snippet of good-natured gossip.

Whilst the Lower Wye Valley Building Preservation Trust committee progress with applications for purchase and conservation grants for St Mary's, there is not much more that can be done other than physical work in the churchyard (professionals will be used for the ruin). Clearing sessions are, weather willing, held every second Saturday of the month, 10.30-12.30 – all welcome.

A wild flower meadow is a misnomer. Wild flowers are there, looking unstructured and romantic, but to be successful meadows have to be strictly managed. Brambles, ivy and bracken have to be strongly controlled for they strangle out diversity, monsterring out the shy species. This is not easy for they grow from the tiniest bit of root left in the soil.

Before 2016 dedicated volunteers had brought St Mary's churchyard just marginally short of Local Wildlife Site quality. Sadly, work slowed and stopped during Covid. Many of the original members are now too elderly or sadly deceased. Unwanted plants have filled the gaps and we need new volunteers.

Luckily Gwent Wildlife Trust (GWT) have confirmed that St Mary's Churchyard is still better than the vast majority of sites within Gwent. GWT advice is that if we reduce the dominance of ivy, bracken, sycamore, bramble and some of the "ranker" grass species such as oak grass we will soon be designated as a Local Wildlife Site. The basic principle would be to allow the grassland to grow and flourish during spring and summer with cuts and collect in late July / August to reduce grass vigour. Further cuts are also needed throughout autumn to remove any fresh growth and to

### Volunteering Dates to April 2025

**Saturday 14 December 2024, 10.30-12.30**  
with mulled wine and mince pies  
afterwards at Highfield House.

**Saturday 11 January 2025, 10.30-12.30**

**Saturday 15 February 2025, 10.30-12.30**

**Saturday 8 March 2025, 10.30-12.30**

**Thursday 17 April 2025, 10-2.30**  
with National Landscape volunteers.  
Refreshments provided.



Bistort, pink pokers or Easter man giant

promote a short sward height for the following spring for all the wildflowers to flourish and not be swamped.

Next year we will introduce yellow rattle seed to the grassland. Rattle is semi-parasitic on the grass and reduces its vigour to the benefit of the other flowering plants such as the bistort, once prevalent at St Mary's. Perhaps, with our tough love, drifts of bistort and the naturalised Martagon lilies will return.

The Cistercians once grew bistort for its herbal properties - astringent, anti-inflammatory, good for snake bites. It has roots that medieval herbalists described as 'writhing'. These roots and the fresh

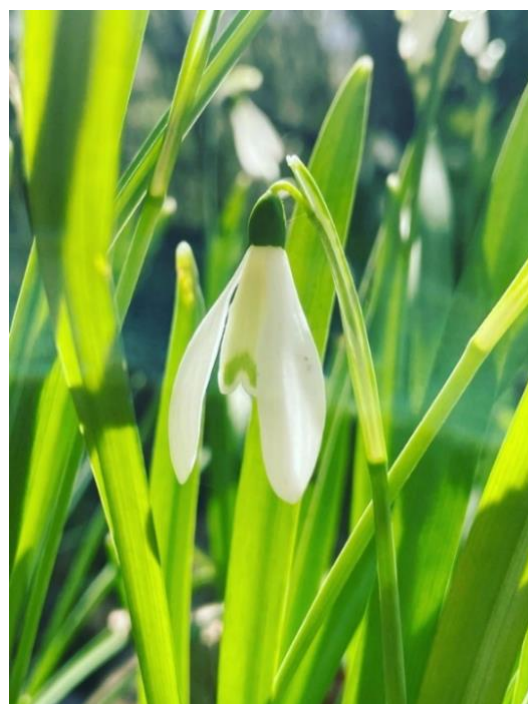
green leaves were eaten in a bitter Easter 'pudding' that you would not find in today's *Bake Off*. Perhaps it is not coincidental that adders used to be seen basking on St Mary's stones. Perhaps it is not coincidental, with the Cistercian's re-dedication from Llanandras to St Mary's, to see a lily that was also called 'Our Lady's Tears'. I could be wrong and perhaps the lilies are still there at dawn, then swiftly eaten by the deer before they move on to a nice selection of garden roses in Chapel Lane.

Do join our volunteers who at this stage, and alongside the Church in Wales's usual maintenance, are sensitively removing shrub to showcase the memorial trees and are removing saplings from ancient graves. There will be bracken bashing and bramble clearing. A mature, but scraggly, multi-stem sweet chestnut will be re-shaped. We hope to reveal a glimpse of Tintern Abbey once seen from the top south west corner without losing the churchyard's feeling of being embraced within a forest glade. Some hazel at the bottom right will be thinned, topped, or fully coppiced to accommodate this desire. Coppiced once every seven years, fast-growing hazel will extend its life from 80 to 200 years - for overgrown thick stools can become top-heavy compared to the root-system and will topple in high winds. This work will gently continue throughout winter before the birds return to nest and whilst any potential dormice are hibernating.

There are going to be times where the churchyard seems a bit messy with cuttings (although what some may call a messy garden pile of sticks others may call an insect or hedgehog house), then a little neat, or even a little bare - but bear with us. Nature abhors a vacuum. With light and with room to grow we will soon see more fungi, more flowers and their seeds, resulting in more birds, moths, bees and butterflies.

If you are not able to attend the clearing days there are still plenty of ways you can get involved. We will be arranging events with GWT, National Landscapes and others on topics such as taking ecological surveys, dry walling and wildflower management. You can follow our progress on Instagram, X or Facebook using @lwvbpt. Tag us with #lovestmarys or share your pictures and memories in the public community group Save Chapel Hill (St Mary's Tintern) ([bit.ly/3BoKUPR](https://bit.ly/3BoKUPR)).

Let's share skills and learn new ones. Until then we can enjoy mince pies and mulled wine on **14 December**, the snowdrops in February, bluebells in May then, in June, there will be an Easter man giant to show you.



Chapel Hill United Charities

# Tintern Seniors' Lunch

Monday 6th January 2025, 12.00pm at  
The Anchor Inn

The Committee of the Chapel Hill United Charities are pleased to invite Tintern Seniors (aged 60+) and spouses/partners to the lunch to be held at The Anchor Inn on 6th January 2025 at 12.00pm. If you are aged 60 or over and live within the Parish of St. Michael's Tintern please submit your name(s), your address, and contact phone or email address plus any dietary requirements to

Noelyn Allen, phone 07501 529681,  
email [noelynallen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:noelynallen@hotmail.co.uk)

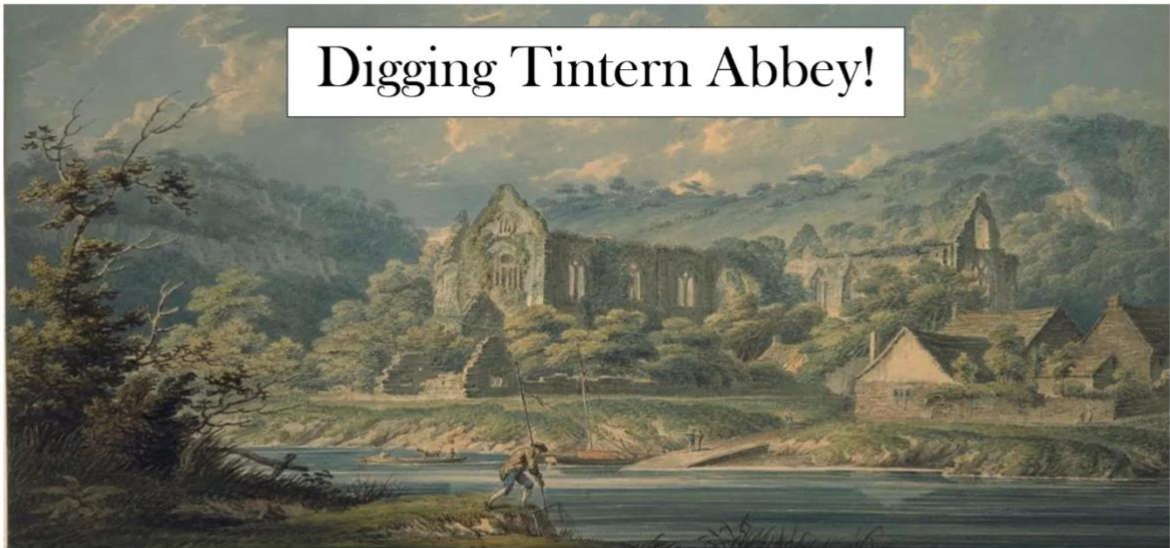
The meal is provided free but there will be a limited number of places available. Please make contact as soon as possible to reserve your places.

Free parking  
Free drink on arrival  
Free raffle

*We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!*

## Tintern Village Hall Local History Talks

### Digging Tintern Abbey!



Join us for a talk by

**Will Davies**

CADW Inspector of Ancient Monuments and heading up the Abbey project

Learn all about the recent exciting finds and unprecedented archaeological investigations at Tintern Abbey

7.30pm Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024

£2 entry (fundraising for St Mary's Church conservation project) Teas, coffees and Bar available

GŴYL Y GAELF TYNDRYN

TINTERN

*Winter Festival*



**CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR 10AM-4PM**

\* Visit Santa's Grotto!\*

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**SUNDAY 1ST DEC 2024**

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Now known as Joanne Hume & Son Funeral Directors, the funeral home on the corner of the Avenue in Caldicot continues with the same staff and director and owner Joanne Hume.

With Ben Barrett, Jo's Finance Director and Funeral Director, together they continue to provide the best service and care.

Jo and Ben are assisted by Jo's son Danny, Kelly, Colin, Jane, Molly, Tom, Holly, Stuart, Chris and others. Jo added 'my husband Rob works full-time in Wotton-Under-Edge but supports us in his spare time with preparation of accounts and is a rock for us all!'

Jo said 'we have recently undergone a company name change but I want to assure funeral plan holders and all those who know us that we are still providing the best service with even more staff.'



**Jo Hume and Danny Hume:**

Jo was raised in Chepstow and has also lived in Trelleck, Shirenewton and has a home in Woolaston.

Jo qualified with the British Institute of Embalmers in 2010. At that time she was not working full-time in the funeral sector, but managed a Care & Repair organisation.

When a local funeral director asked her to open a funeral home in Caldicot as a joint business partnership in 2014, she agreed. Jo then spent ten years building up the business which was named after the former business partner's late father.

That business partner has recently resigned and Jo then renamed the company which operates from the same premises which Jo has secured, still working with all the same staff.

Jo is assisted by her son Danny who is a qualified sound engineer but is often seen in the funeral home helping and also at funerals.

Jo said, 'whenever we are asked to assist, it is an honour. We meet the nicest people and to be given such insights into lives of those who have passed is a privilege and very humbling. We can never thank those enough who place their trust in us at what is often the worst time of their lives.'



**Ben Barrett:**

Ben Barrett joined Jo's Funeral Home when he asked to be a volunteer at the age of 17, helping out whilst still at school.

Jo said, 'Ben soon became a great help to us and we started to ask him to help pall-bearing and with office duties. Ben has been with us for eight years and is now our Finance Director and a Funeral Director too.'

Jo added 'we are so fortunate to have him work with us here. He is a well known local gentleman and very loved.' She said 'there are no words to express our gratitude to Ben for everything he does for us here and for bereaved families.'

**Colin Jones:**

'Colin Jones is also a much loved part-time staff member', Danny said. He added, 'Colin is often helping in our reception, assisting with funeral arranging, sometimes driving our cars and leads funeral processions.' Danny added, 'we are so grateful to Colin for being such a loyal and dedicated colleague.'



**Kelly Cole:**

Kelly is an asset to Jo's team and previously worked for a large organisation in the funeral sector.

Kelly said, 'we are like a family here helping your family when you need us. I feel very privileged to assist.'

**Susan Hughes:**

Jo said, 'we recently welcomed Susan Hughes to our team as our in-house Funeral Celebrant.'

Susan is caring and passionate about ensuring that every Service is unique. Taking time to talk to families and ensuring that every detail is taken care of. We have been friendly with Susan for many years and we have been delighted to welcome her to help us.'



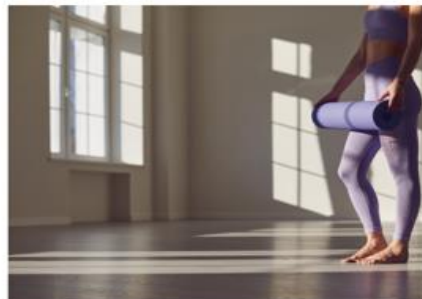
**Jane Rosser:**

Jane joined us several years ago and says 'it is a privilege to work here at Joanne Hume & Son Funeral Directors.'

Jane assists at funeral services, manages our donations collections and is a friendly face in our reception.

168-170 Newport Road, Caldicot, Monmouthshire, NP26 4AA  
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## NEW 40MPH SPEED LIMIT FOR A466



Amid much speculation on this subject, confirmation has just been received from a traffic officer at Monmouthshire County Council that a new speed limit will apply between St Arvans and Tintern from the end of March 2025. The MMC statement is as follows:

"The 40mph was identified as part of a specific casualty review. It was identified that a number of casualties has been recorded along this stretch of road (between St. Arvans and Tintern) including 2 fatalities and a number of serious collisions. As such, the County Council applied (and were subsequently successful) for a Welsh Government Road Safety Grant to develop/implement a casualty reduction scheme which consisted of reducing the speed limit to 40mph, localised signing/lining improvements and some

areas of resurfacing. It is anticipated the whole scheme will be completed by the end of March 2025."

**It's Christmas Party time  
at KINGSTONE BREWERY,  
Tintern  
Friday & Saturday  
6th-7th December**

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Café opening hours:

Mon to Sat 10:00-17:00, Sun 10:00-15:00

Lunch served every day 12:00-14:30

After the fire in our roof in June 2023, we have had a challenging 18 months, navigating a major insurance claim and rebuilding project. But we were able to run a temporary shop and café whilst some of the repair works progressed.

Not exactly the service our customers and visitors have counted on since we first opened in 2004!

The final phase of our refurbishment refreshes the look and feel of the shop and café, and we look forward to welcoming you - and your canine companions - into our new space.

Working with local suppliers, our shop continues to offer the produce you rely on, including dairy, bread, fruit and vegetables, meat, frozen food (including fish) as well as our popular "free from" food ranges and eco-refills. We also stock essential groceries, newspapers and beer, wine & spirits.

Our licensed café serves hot and cold drinks, gorgeous cakes and simple, tasty homemade lunches.

We are so excited to be back, and are planning events in the run-up to Christmas, as well as during 2025 to celebrate our 21st birthday, so keep an eye on our website and social media:



[bandhvillageshop.co.uk](https://bandhvillageshop.co.uk)

Mill Hill, Brockweir, NP16 7NW

phone 01291 570002



## The story of Toby the Tintern donkey, by Toni Harvey



Elisabeth Lewis and I met with Marion Sadler to learn about Toby, the Tintern donkey. Marion warmly welcomed us into her cottage and shared her early experiences in moving to Devauden at 14, and then moved to Tintern when her father managed what is now the Tintern Garage. She met Reg, her husband-to-be, who had returned from national service in Egypt, and he invited her to join him at the Moon and Sixpence across the street as he did not know her age. Her mother was cross when it was reported by the Publican, Mr Yates, that she had a cherry brandy and was only 16! Three years later, in 1956, she and Reg were married by Father Davis at St Michael's church, the last marriage he officiated before retiring.

They moved into a caravan behind the Beaufort Hotel while the cottage she still lives in, near Tintern Cross, was being made into a home. They had to wait another 2 years for the "mod cons" - mains water and electricity, using a tilley lamp and carrying water from a well until then. For many more years they still had to go to the phone booth down the road for calls. Marion did piecework at the Forestry Commission nursery at the Cot and served at all the local pubs – the George, the Anchor, the Beaufort Hotel, the Fountain and the Abbey Mill. They had three children and celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary before Reg passed, seven years ago. Marion has 10 grandchildren and nearly 8 great-grandchildren (including the one on the way!) and they are all very important to her.

On a family outing with Marion's brother-in-law, Tarnia made a wish at a wishing well and later told him what it was on the way home. The next day at work he heard about a programme on the telly where Richard Baker reported that they were looking for a home where one of the Weston-Super-Mare donkeys could retire, and he applied for Tarnia.



Reg was very surprised to get a telegram informing him that they had been selected to foster the donkey, named Toby – the next day, along with a film crew.

They scrambled to convert an outbuilding into a stall and found a bale of hay which had fallen off a farm vehicle onto the road just near their cottage. What luck! The photo is of Toby with Marion and two of her children (Tarnia and Russel) as Blaine was born later. Local children in Tintern enjoyed rides on Toby.

Sadly, Tarnia died of cancer two years later when she was seven, but her wish for a donkey was granted.

# Tintern Abbey Sports Club



Presents  
**Quiz night**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

Doors open 6:30

Quiz to begin 7:30

Teams up to five members

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MORE DETAILS

<https://www.chepstowrotary.co.uk/page51.html>

**GREAT FAMILY FUN**

# CHRISTMAS PRIZE BINGO!

**7.15PM**  
**TUESDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2024**  
**TINTERN VILLAGE HALL**  
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO HALL  
UPKEEP & IMPROVEMENTS

## Acclaimed documentary photojournalist David Hurn wins Award



The career of David Hurn, world renowned documentary photographer and long-time resident of Tintern, Monmouthshire, was celebrated at the Welsh Media Awards in Cardiff on Friday 15th November.

The award for Outstanding Contribution to Journalism acknowledged his 68-year photographic journey, covering major events and personalities beginning with

the Hungarian uprising of 1956, becoming part of the social revolution of the 1960s, and providing a wide-ranging pictorial narrative of life to this day.

In the citation for the award, photojournalist Glenn Edwards said, “David has produced work that is of lasting cultural and social significance – instantly recognisable images familiar to millions. These achievements, as well as his important role in setting up the school of documentary photography in Newport, make him a truly distinguished exponent of his art.”

In 2016, Hurn was given an honorary fellowship of The Royal Photographic Society and In 2021 was honoured in the internationally prestigious Lucie Awards held in New York for a lifetime contribution to photography.

A member of the top-flight international Magnum photographic co-operative, David Hurn is in regular demand for lectures and workshops around the world.



David has also been documenting life in Tintern for the [Tintern Village website](#) and the [Museum of Wales online collection](#) and allows us to images for the covers of the Tintern News. His photographs act as anchors, reinforcing our memories and also for sharing with people new to Tintern, helping them understand our vibrant community and how it has changed over time. Long after the individuals in the photos have passed, these images will remain as tangible artifacts of their existence, offering insight into their lives and the village.

Commenting on his Welsh award, David Hurn said, “This has come as a surprise, accompanied by puzzlement and delight. Nothing is better than being in a room full of your peers and being given such important recognition.”

Thank you David, and congratulations!



Wishing you a season filled with joy, peace  
and wonderful moments.

May your holidays be merry and bright  
and may the new year bring you  
happiness and success.

Looking forward to hosting you soon!

**THE ROYAL GEORGE**

- TINTERN -

## Tintern Church Lads and Church Girls Brigade, by Alan Carter

Meeting every Monday evening at 6 - 8:30 pm at Tintern Village Hall.

Martins - 5 to 7 years, Y Team - 7 to 10 years, JTC - 10 to 13 years and SC - 13 to 18 years

We will be holding our presentation night on **Monday 16 December - 7pm** at the Village Hall.

We have had a busy few months since we started back in September. Our younger members made harvest wreaths and trees to decorate St. Michaels for harvest as well as wreaths and poppies for remembrance Sunday. Our juniors have been cooking and geocaching and our Seniors have been getting on with their [Duke of Edinburgh's Award \(DofE\)](#) programme, among other activities.



In November our Seniors and our two young leaders travelled to London and took part in the Royal British Legion's Cenotaph march past (as seen on TV). These young people represented the Brigade and our village communities in the Wye Valley superbly and we should all be extremely proud of them.



The Brigade members continue to lead the family service at St. Michael's on the 3rd Sunday of every month.

*We have young members, leaders and helpers from throughout the lower Wye*

*Valley. We are always looking for more volunteers to enable us to offer a wider range of activities to our young members. So, if you have experience of outdoor activities, youth leadership, Duke of Edinburgh Award or any other skills or knowledge and you are willing and able to give up some of your free time, please come and speak to us.*



# Fitness Pilates Classes

Monday 7pm - Llandogo  
Village Hall

Tuesday 7pm - St Arvans  
Village Hall

Thursday 8:30am & 9:30am  
- The Narth

Thursday 7pm - Tintern  
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Contact Claire on

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*claire jardine*  
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Appointments also available at our Chepstow Clinic



# **NEW YEARS PARTY**

**TINTERN VILLAGE HALL**

**31.12. 7.30pm-1am**



**Party playlist  
Food provided  
Bar  
Welcome drink  
on arrival !**

***Glitz and glamour theme  
(optional)***

***£15 a Ticket***

***For booking please contact  
Jack: 07586040503 or Tintern Abbey  
sports club on Facebook***



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**[www.forestretreats.co.uk](http://www.forestretreats.co.uk)**

## Friends of the River Wye, by Nick Day

**Meetings with MPs** - Our local MP, Catherine Fookes, continues to press for better treatment of our rivers, with engagement about the Wye in parliament. Ellie Chowns (Green Party - North Herefordshire) chairs the newly established Water Pollution All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG), and all four MPs from the catchment have been meeting to discuss the way forward for the river.



**London March** - The March for Clean Water saw about 15,000 water campaigners in London demanding improvement in the way we treat our environment, from every perspective from wildlife to wild swimming. If way forward for the river.

**Data** - When we started our campaign to get the river better, we knew it was a long-term undertaking. Now, over three years in, we can start to see some of the patterns in the data- we have gained confidence in our measurements and can now start trying to unpick just how much effect is due to each of the huge range of influences. The environment is an immensely complex thing with massively complicated interactions between influences and effects. But the good thing here is that as we get data covering the longer term we can start to see how different combinations of influences have different effects. Our data, at 'WyeViz', is open for everyone to look at, and is used by the EA and NRW, as well as an increasing number of academic groups.

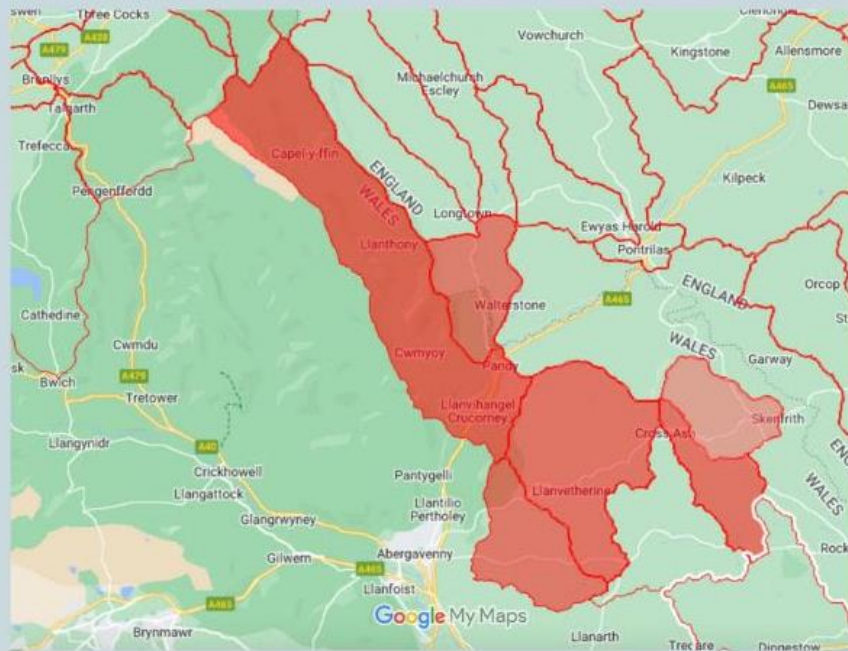
An example of the complexity came from the recent announcements about the University of Cardiff study on Algal Blooms, which concluded that phosphates in the river is not the only factor driving the extension of the duration and severity of algal blooms. Traditionally they would have put in a mild appearance for a couple of weeks, but in some recent years some parts of the river have seen 'pea soup' for a couple of months. Sadly, the Cardiff study was oversimplified in reporting, but in summary among the factors driving algal blooms, as well as water temperature, flow rate, and amounts of algae surviving as a starter population, nutrients (including phosphate) remain of interest.

A number of volunteers within Friends of the River Wye and the wider Wye Alliance of Citizen Scientists have already looked at some of the more specific features to see what they tell us, and, as an example, in a recent study we have been able to conclude that the loss of the Ranunculus river plant which is such a keystone species in the river cannot have been exclusively due to the extreme flow events seen at the time, and suggests that there may have been some other factor involved- possibly an indirect consequence of pollution?

**Call for new volunteers to become Citizen Scientists in Key Areas** - Are you regularly in the Pandy, Llanvetherine, Cross Ash or Skenfrith Area? (See map for more detail). We are looking for Citizen Scientists to test on the upper stretches of the Trothy, and one or two sites on the River Honddu and the Monnow. We want to fill in some vital gaps in our monitoring network.

If you are interested in finding out more and getting involved please [fill out this form](#) and we'll be in touch. And if you know anyone in these areas who might be able to help, please forward on this information. With thanks to all our existing volunteers, and to all who continue to follow the fate of the river, I'll also say 'compliments of the season' and sign off for 2024.

We are currently looking for people who can test in the highlighted areas:



**What does it involve?** We are looking for people who would be willing to test their local patch regularly (twice a week), to monitor nutrient levels and water quality as part of a community citizen science project. Performing the test and uploading your results should take around ten to fifteen minutes each time. We'll provide the kits and training.

If you are interested in finding out more and getting involved please fill out the form in the description and we'll be in touch. Thank you!

# HOWATS

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E. [glenthechimneysweep@outlook.com](mailto:glenthechimneysweep@outlook.com)

## Tintern Garden Club, by Judith Dudley

It was a fine but chilly evening for the November Garden Club meeting held in the Village Hall on Friday 15 November. The turnout was good for the talk entitled “Defensive Gardening at a time of Climate Change” by David Cropp. There was plenty of food for thought as he suggested unusual things such as leaving weeds and stones in the garden to protect the soil from sudden heavy rainfall which causes erosion. He also told us not to take notice of the time of year for planting seeds which is written on the seed packet but to go more by what the weather is doing.



Our next meeting is the Garden Club's Christmas party on **Friday 20 December at 6.30pm** in the Village Hall (an excuse to wear that Christmas jumper!) Members are asked to bring a plate of food and a drink of some sort. Food, drink, chat and a couple of quizzes will make an enjoyable evening to end our 2024 meetings.

January's meeting is the AGM at 7.30 in the Village Hall on **Friday 24 January**. Please note this meeting will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday instead of the 3<sup>rd</sup>. It would be lovely to see everyone attend this important but least popular meeting!

## News from Parva Farm Vineyard, by Judith Dudley



In case you missed last month's Village News, we will not be selling Christmas trees at the Vineyard this year due to Colin having been unwell. The shop will still be open for wine, gifts, Christmas decorations, plants and holly wreaths. Our opening hours are 1.00 until 4.00pm every day except Tuesday & Wednesday. In January we will only be opening at weekends although we are happy to open by prior arrangement. Ring 07484670302 to arrange a visit.

We have some good news to announce. Our Tintern Parva Dathliad Brut (white sparkling wine) was

awarded a silver medal in the Welsh Wine Awards held at Llanerch Vineyard Hotel in Cardiff on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November. It would make a great addition to your Christmas celebrations!

Lastly, we would like to wish everyone a lovely Christmas and a great 2025.

## St Michael's Church, Tintern Parva

# Christmas Services at St Michael's, Tintern

Sunday December 1st - 10.30am  
Holy Communion

Sunday December 8th - 10.30am  
Holy Communion

Sunday December 15th - 10.30am  
Christingle Service (with the Brigade)

Sunday December 22nd - 10.30am  
Holy Communion

Tuesday December 24th - 4pm  
Carol Service (with mulled wine and mince pies)

Wednesday December 25th - 10.30am  
Christmas Morning Holy Communion

Sunday December 29th - 10.30am  
Holy Communion

**All welcome at any service!**

Rev Jan Pain and the Tintern Village Hall donated the £170 raised at the Remembrance Day Service to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal who sent thanks for "helping us support thousands of veterans facing significant physical and mental challenges. Donations like yours mean we can be there so no one has to suffer alone".

Please join any or all of the Christmas Services at St Michael's Church!

**Prayers of intercession upon request.** Do you have a family member or friend recently deceased, with health problems or struggling with difficulties? Just email your message to us so that we can include a mention in Sunday prayers to [prayersatstmichaels@icloud.com](mailto:prayersatstmichaels@icloud.com)

Minister: Reverend Jan Pain - 01291 624017  
Churchwardens: Alan Hillard - 01291 689772 and Alan Carter 07873 514255

## Tintern Pentecostal Church

Trelleck Road

All are welcome to join Sunday Services at 11am and Thursday Bible Study group at 11am.

For more information, please ring Glyn Light 01291 423326

# Holmleigh Cottage in Tintern



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THE COMPLETE  
REFURBISHMENT OF  
THIS HISTORIC HOME



Spacious living area  
with an open plan  
kitchen/ dining room

- 3 double bedrooms
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- Parking
- Two two-tiered terrace overlooking the river



Holmleigh is a gorgeous 19th century cottage, centrally located in the valley of Tintern. It has stunning views, all the home comforts you could wish for and is within easy walking distance of all Tintern's shops, pubs, restaurants and of course, Tintern Abby.

To book contact Rebecca at [HOLMLEIGHHOLIDAYLET@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HOLMLEIGHHOLIDAYLET@GMAIL.COM)

## Llandogo Early Years, by Rachel Davies



Join our excellent playgroup run in Llandogo with fantastic facilities and emphasis on learning outdoors.

Monday – Thursday 9-3 & Friday 9-12. Children welcome from 2 years old. We offer Nursery Funding the term after children are three and the 30 hour Childcare Offer. We are registered with Estyn and CSSIW, Forest School Sessions with a trained practitioner and have Creative Gardening sessions with Miss Daisy.

## Wye Valley Arts Centre, Llandogo



KIDZART is a registered charity dedicated to providing FREE creative days for primary school children from under-resourced areas in Monmouthshire and neighbouring counties where their access to the creative arts is limited and to give them the chance to experience the potential offered by these subjects. Once imagination is sparked, free-thinking and problem-solving and confidence can follow. Working in small groups with our skilled staff and volunteers, the children also learn the value of kindness and generosity to each other.

We are based in the heart of the picturesque village Llandogo, on the banks of the River Wye in an area of outstanding natural beauty. Our art studio in the refurbished former Hephzibah Baptist Chapel, is full of charm and history, an environment flooded with natural light that is spacious and inviting, the perfect place where children can be curious and connect in a joyful and active way with visual arts projects and music. We can accommodate up to 15 children per visit, accompanied by one adult from the school.

- Our FREE bus will collect and return the children to their school
- Our experienced teachers guide the children through 2 visual arts projects during the morning, one of which will always be a clay-based project, and the afternoon will be dedicated to music and the performing arts.
- We provide breakfast on arrival, healthy snacks during the day and a well-balanced healthy lunch. The children will also have access to our field and orchard (weather permitting).



Please check us out online at <https://kidzart.uk>

For information and bookings, please phone ValWelham on 01594 530214  
Old Baptist Chapel Llandogo Monmouth NP25 4TW

### Debbie Devauden's Christmas Botanical Painting: Saturday 7 December, 10:00am – 4:00pm

Cost £70 for the day including all materials.



Debbie's classes are noted for their relaxed and informal atmosphere – always good fun! Her teaching methods inspire her students, from beginners to more experienced artists to enjoy producing beautiful botanical paintings. For this special Christmas class, you can use what you create to make your own Christmas cards. All materials are provided for use on the day. Email [info@wyearts.co.uk](mailto:info@wyearts.co.uk) or call 01594 530214 or 07796 697226 to join this course.

Proceeds from the art courses

help support the KIDZART charity [KIDZART \(www.kidzart.uk\)](http://www.kidzart.uk).

Please get in touch for further details . We look forward to hearing from you.



## Tintern Abbey Cottage

In a premier position with unparalleled Abbey views. Our totally refurbished 5-star 18<sup>th</sup> Century cottage now has a smartly contemporary interior offering deliciously comfortable, comprehensively equipped holiday accommodation.

Sleeping up to 6 in three bedrooms, it has two bathrooms (one en suite), and attractive facilities including superking 6 ft beds, a whirlpool bath, a shower with dinnerplate head, cosy woodburner, range cooker, flatscreen 37" TV, more TVs in bedrooms and kitchen and superfast WiFi internet access. A well-behaved pet is welcome (large unfenced front garden to protect the stunning view but the back garden is fenced and wonderful walks adjoins)

- Private off-road parking for three cars.
- Bike/Golf club store.
- Warmly heated and open all year for full weeks or short breaks.
- Electric car charging point

Perfect for honeymoons, significant birthdays, families and relaxing escapes. An easy stroll to pubs hotels and wedding venues. Our other 5-star cottage, Foxes Reach, also sleeps 6 in four bedrooms, with two bathrooms, up the hill at Catbrook, approx. 2 miles from the Abbey. Credit cards are welcome and full details [www.monmouthshirecottages.co.uk](http://www.monmouthshirecottages.co.uk) or telephone 01600 860341

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- Spotlight Awards Best Family Business
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# WYE VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the above Council held in Tintern Village Hall on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7.00pm.

**Present:** Cllrs Mawdsley, Parker, Snell, Evans, Shewell & Morrison, County Cllr Webb & the Clerk. Cllr Evans left the meeting at 19.33 hours after discussion on Agenda Item 3782.

**3767. Police Reports:** CSO Elis Park now covering WVCC's area. Nothing to report from Tintern. Clerk to ask Local Sgt & PCC to attend a future meeting. Cllr Mawdsley will ask them to attend a Wye Valley Villages meeting.

**3768. To receive apologies for absence:** Cllr Ashman.

**3769. Public Session:** No one present.

**3770. Declarations of interest for items on the agenda:** None.

**3771. To receive & approve minutes of previous meeting:** Circulated, approved & signed as correct.

**3772. Matters Arising from minutes:** None.

**3773. To receive Financial Report:** BMM A/C £3,254.74, Charitable A/C £22,879.59. Interest on BMM A/C - £15.67. Bank Charges on Charitable A/C - £7.00. Amount spent to end of August - £10,601.00.

**3774. To consider & approve accounts for payment:-**

St. Michael's Church, Tintern PCC- Michaelmas Eco-Fest - £500.00 (Ch. No. 300567)

Merlin Environmental Services- £131.04 (Ch. No. 300568)

One Voice Wales Conference - £95.00 (Ch. No. 300569)

Tintern Village Hall Services - £250.00 (Ch. No. 300570)

Tintern Village Hall Insurance - £1,186.92 (Ch. No. 300571)

Tintern Village Hall Plumbing Works – £250.00 (Ch. No.300572).

Clerk's Salary & Expenses - £411.75 (Ch. No.300573)

IONOS Website Hosting Fee - £144.00 – paid by direct debit.

All approved for payment.

**3775. To discuss Planning Applications:** None.

**3776. To receive other reports:-**

**Schools** – AGM held last week.

**Tintern & Llandogo Churches** - Tintern had a very successful weekend with the Gospel Choir & Eco-Fest. The issue of parking near the Church gates on Fryer's Wharf was raised. It was proposed that WVCC set aside two disabled spaces near the Church gates. Clerk to set this in motion.

Llandogo – Successful Tai Chi event held last weekend in the Church. No further report.

**Village Halls** – Llandogo meeting tonight. Tintern – Produce markets continuing. Quiz Night cancelled. Writers Event held last Saturday. Xmas Craft Fayre & Bingo.

**Reports from Councillors** – Tintern Charities met tonight. They propose funding the Over 60's Lunch again in January.

Cllr Snell raised the issue of the sign at the bus stop at the southern end of Llandogo village with County Cllr Webb who will report this again.

**3777. Reports from Sub-Committees:- Finance.** No further report.

**3778. Discuss Llandogo Play Area Proposed Improvements:** MCC are looking into improvements to improve disabled access to the playground. MCC have £15,000 available from the Disability Access Budget but are £6,000 short of the total cost of £21,081. Councillors had concerns about MCC's current proposals due to safety issues over the steepness of the proposed path. The Council do however support the proposals in principle subject to a revised layout. They feel the wheelchair access bench would be better situated in an alternative position but are prepared to pay for a new bench. Clerk reply sending plan

of revised siting of bench and confirming the Council would be happy to fund the cost of this bench.

**3779. Discuss request from Llandogo Memorial Green Committee for Information**

**Board:** Request received for a grant towards this. Clerk has asked for costings, etc. but not heard back to date.

**3780. Review Training Plan:** Reviewed and updated.

**3781. Discuss Bench outside St. Mary's Churchyard:** Re-agenda for discussion at future meeting. Clerk ask MCC (Amy Longford) what the results of their investigations into the safety of the structure of the Church building are.

**3782. Discuss Dialling in to remote meetings & IT:-**

(a) Proposed purchase of equipment to allow dialling in to remote meetings & IT to comply with Welsh legislation. Cllr Mawdsley has looked into some prices but has a laptop which he will bring to meetings for the next 12 months to try out.

(b) Change of site address to give gov.uk one as recommended. Cllr Mawdsley proposed & Cllr Parker seconded approval (4 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstained). It was suggested to trial this for 12 months at a cost of £10. IONOS would still host it.

**3783. Correspondence:** Email re OVW/SLCC Joint Event being held remotely on 20<sup>th</sup> November at a cost of £65. Councillors undecided whether anyone wishes to attend.

**3784. Any Other Business:** Wye Valley Villages Delivery Group next meeting 20/11/2024.

Cllr Morrison asked whether there was any information for parking by camper vans in public places in the village. County Cllr Webb will bring this up with MCC. Re-agenda for next meeting.

**3785. Date of next meeting:** 28<sup>th</sup> October.



Monmouthshire County Council  
monmouthshire  
sir fynyw

As your elected Member to Llandogo, St. Arvans and Tintern which provides all local services, my wish is to represent your views and assist wherever possible.

If I can be of assistance to you, please do contact me.

**ANN WEBB**  
T 01291 689559 | M 07816 678948  
annwebb@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Office 01633 644219  
The County Hall, Rhadyr, Usk. NP15 1GA

## YOUR COUNCIL

### REPRESENTATIVE - St

Arvans, Llandogo and  
Tintern

**Ann Webb**

Office The County Hall, Rhadyr, Usk  
NP15 1GA Office Telephone: 01633  
644219

Home Telephone: 01291 689559 or  
Mobile 078166 78948 email:

[annwebb@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:annwebb@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

## COMMUNITY GROUPS IN TINTERN - CONTACT INFORMATION

Group	Contact	Contact Details
Friends of Tintern	Elspeth Reid	01291 689456 ellielynette@icloud.com
The Monday Group	Marion Derrett	01600 860134 marionderrett@gmail.com
Village Hall Committee	Noelyn Allen	07512856024 BookingsTinternVH@hotmail.com
Tintern Abbey Football Club	Martin Woodford	01594 531346 or 07825 832751 mwoodford999@aol.com
Friends of the Old Station	John Clarke	01291 680139 jjclar7@aol.com
Festivals Association	John Livermore	01291 689461 johnlivermore160@gmail.com
Church Lads & Church Girls Brigade	Alan Carter	07873 514255 clcgbtintern@mail.com
Wye Valley Community Council	Liz Greatorex-Davies	01291 689861 clerk@wyevalleycc.co.uk
St Michael's Restoration Committee	John Livermore	01291 689461 johnlivermore160@gmail.com
Lower Wye Valley Building Preservation Trust (Fryers Wharf)	John Clarke	01291 680139 jjclar7@aol.com
Tintern Angling Club	Phil Hill	07747626928
Tintern Heritage Watch	Nick Day	01291 680023 nick.day@uwclub.net
Tintern Cricket Club	Sam Hayward	01291 689339 07986028031 swghayward79@hotmail.com
Tintern Garden Club	Dave Tuffery	01291 689919 dave.tuffery@talk21.com
Tintern Wine Tasting 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of each month	Alan Hillard	alan.hillard@gmail.com
St Michael's Church Prayers of Intercession	Rev Jan Pain	prayersatstmichaels@icloud.com

**69 Chepstow - Tintern - Monmouth**

from 1 September 2024

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\*sch\*: runs on school days only

\*hols\*: runs on school holidays only

Footnotes	Mondays to Fridays											
	hols	sch							sch	hols		
<b>Chepstow Bus Station</b>	<b>7:35</b>	<b>7:35</b>	<b>9:06</b>	<b>10:06</b>	<b>11:06</b>	<b>12:06</b>	<b>13:06</b>	<b>14:06</b>	<b>15:16</b>	<b>15:30</b>	<b>16:15</b>	<b>17:30</b>
Chepstow Comp									15:25			
Chepstow Hospital	7:40	7:40	9:10	10:10	11:10	12:10	13:10	14:10		15:34	16:20	17:35
St Arvans Piecefield	7:44	7:44	9:14	10:14	11:14	12:14	13:14	14:14	15:33	15:36	16:23	17:39
<b>Tintern Wild Hare Inn</b>	<b>7:52</b>	<b>7:52</b>	<b>9:22</b>	<b>10:22</b>	<b>11:22</b>	<b>12:22</b>	<b>13:22</b>	<b>14:22</b>	<b>15:41</b>	<b>15:44</b>	<b>16:31</b>	<b>17:47</b>
Llandogo	8:01	8:01	9:31	10:31	11:31	12:31	13:31	14:31	15:50	15:53	16:40	17:56
Redbrook	8:09	8:09	9:38	10:38	11:38	12:38	13:38	14:38	15:57	16:00	16:47	18:03
Wyesham Church	8:17	8:17	9:45	10:45	11:45	12:45	13:45	14:45	16:04	16:07	16:54	18:10
Monmouth Comp		8:25										
<b>Monmouth Bus Station</b>	<b>8:27</b>	<b>8:32</b>	<b>9:54</b>	<b>10:54</b>	<b>11:54</b>	<b>12:54</b>	<b>13:54</b>	<b>14:54</b>	<b>16:14</b>	<b>16:17</b>	<b>17:04</b>	<b>18:19</b>

	Saturdays						Sundays			
<b>Chepstow Bus Station</b>	<b>8:06</b>	<b>10:06</b>	<b>12:06</b>	<b>14:06</b>	<b>16:06</b>	<b>18:06</b>	<b>9:00</b>	<b>11:05</b>	<b>13:05</b>	<b>16:05</b>
Chepstow Hospital	8:10	10:10	12:10	14:10	16:10	18:10	9:04	11:09	13:09	16:09
St Arvans Piecefield	8:14	10:14	12:14	14:14	16:14	18:14	9:08	11:13	13:13	16:13
<b>Tintern Wild Hare Inn</b>	<b>8:22</b>	<b>10:22</b>	<b>12:22</b>	<b>14:22</b>	<b>16:22</b>	<b>18:22</b>	<b>9:16</b>	<b>11:21</b>	<b>13:21</b>	<b>16:21</b>
Llandogo	8:30	10:30	12:30	14:30	16:30	18:30	9:25	11:30	13:30	16:30
Redbrook	8:38	10:38	12:38	14:38	16:38	18:38	9:32	11:37	13:37	16:37
Wyesham Church	8:45	10:45	12:45	14:45	16:45	18:45	9:39	11:44	13:44	16:44
<b>Monmouth Bus Station</b>	<b>8:54</b>	<b>10:54</b>	<b>12:54</b>	<b>14:54</b>	<b>16:54</b>	<b>18:54</b>	<b>9:48</b>	<b>11:53</b>	<b>13:53</b>	<b>16:53</b>

Footnotes	Mondays to Fridays												
	hols	sch							sch	hols			
<b>Monmouth Bus Station</b>	<b>7:40</b>	<b>7:40</b>	<b>9:10</b>	<b>10:10</b>	<b>11:10</b>	<b>12:10</b>	<b>13:10</b>	<b>14:10</b>	<b>15:10</b>	<b>15:17</b>	<b>16:25</b>	<b>17:20</b>	<b>18:35</b>
Monmouth Comp									15:17				
Wyesham Church	7:50	7:55	9:19	10:19	11:19	12:19	13:19	14:19	15:26	15:26	16:34	17:29	18:44
Redbrook	7:55	7:55	9:24	10:24	11:24	12:24	13:24	14:24	15:31	15:31	16:39	17:34	18:49
Llandogo	8:04	8:04	9:33	10:33	11:33	12:33	13:33	14:33	15:40	15:40	16:48	17:43	18:58
<b>Tintern Wild Hare Inn</b>	<b>8:12</b>	<b>8:12</b>	<b>9:41</b>	<b>10:41</b>	<b>11:41</b>	<b>12:41</b>	<b>13:41</b>	<b>14:41</b>	<b>15:48</b>	<b>15:48</b>	<b>16:56</b>	<b>17:51</b>	<b>19:06</b>
St Arvans Piecefield	8:19	8:19	9:48	10:48	11:48	12:48	13:48	14:48	15:55	15:55	17:03	17:58	19:13
Chepstow Hospital	8:23		9:52	10:52	11:52	12:52	13:52	14:52	15:59	15:59	17:07	18:02	19:17
Chepstow Comp		8:25											
<b>Chepstow Bus Station</b>	<b>8:28</b>	<b>8:29</b>	<b>9:56</b>	<b>10:56</b>	<b>11:56</b>	<b>12:56</b>	<b>13:56</b>	<b>14:56</b>	<b>16:04</b>	<b>16:04</b>	<b>17:11</b>	<b>18:06</b>	<b>19:21</b>

	Saturdays						Sundays			
<b>Monmouth Bus Station</b>	<b>7:10</b>	<b>9:10</b>	<b>11:10</b>	<b>13:10</b>	<b>15:10</b>	<b>17:10</b>	<b>10:06</b>	<b>12:06</b>	<b>15:06</b>	<b>17:10</b>
Wyesham Church	7:19	9:19	11:19	13:19	15:19	17:19	10:15	12:15	15:15	17:19
Redbrook	7:24	9:24	11:24	13:24	15:24	17:24	10:20	12:20	15:20	17:24
Llandogo	7:33	9:33	11:33	13:33	15:33	17:33	10:29	12:29	15:29	17:33
<b>Tintern Wild Hare Inn</b>	<b>7:41</b>	<b>9:41</b>	<b>11:41</b>	<b>13:41</b>	<b>15:41</b>	<b>17:41</b>	<b>10:37</b>	<b>12:37</b>	<b>15:37</b>	<b>17:41</b>
St Arvans Piecefield	7:48	9:48	11:48	13:48	15:48	17:48	10:44	12:44	15:44	17:48
Chepstow Hospital	7:52	9:52	11:52	13:52	15:52	17:52	10:48	12:48	15:48	17:52
<b>Chepstow Bus Station</b>	<b>7:56</b>	<b>9:56</b>	<b>11:56</b>	<b>13:56</b>	<b>15:56</b>	<b>17:56</b>	<b>10:52</b>	<b>12:52</b>	<b>15:52</b>	<b>17:56</b>

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