

Tintern Duck Race 2nd August 2025, Photo by David Hurn

TINTERN NEWS

August 2026

Produced by Friends of Tintern

DUCK RACE



2 AUGUST 2026 / 12PM

Follow the ducks along the riverbank
and join us for refreshments at the finish

Start: Brockweir Bridge @ 12pm

Finish: St Michael's Church, Tintern

Prizes: 1st: £100 | 2nd: £50 | 3rd: £25

Tickets: £2 each

Available from: Abbey Stores • The Wye Valley Hotel • Brockweir Village Shop • Tintern Fête Committee

Tintern Fete

A Tintern Fête fund-raising event

In collaboration with SARA

August will be warm, but friendly at the Village Show and the Duck Race

August gets off to a flying start with two of Tintern's best-loved summer traditions – the **Village Show** on **Saturday 1 August** and the ever-popular **Duck Race** on **Sunday 2 August**.



The Garden Club Annual Show is one of those wonderful occasions when the whole village comes together to admire each other's efforts while sharing a good-natured grumble about the hot, dry weather! Despite our challenging growing season, our gardeners, bakers, crafters and artists always manage to produce something remarkable. Come along to cast your vote for the **People's Choice Award**, celebrate this year's prize winners and discover who will be taking home the coveted trophies.

While you're there, don't forget to buy your **Duck Race** tickets from the Tintern Fête volunteers. At just **£2 a ticket**, your lucky duck could win you **£100**! The ducks are launched from **Brockweir Bridge at noon**, before bobbing their way downstream to the finish at **St Michael's Church**. Follow the race along the river, then settle down with homemade cakes, refreshments and good company on the banks of the Wye while everyone waits to see which duck crosses the line first.

Tintern Film Night returns on **Friday 14 August** with *Song Sung Blue*, the uplifting true story of two struggling musicians (Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson) who reinvent themselves as a Neil Diamond tribute act. Full of heart, humour and great music, it's a feel-good evening that reminds us that it's never too late to chase a dream.

The **Tintern Local Produce Market** takes place on **Saturday 8 August**, offering another chance to support local growers, makers and producers while stocking up on delicious treats and gifts.

For a peaceful summer escape, don't miss the stunning displays at the **Wye Valley Sculpture Garden**, open **Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10.30am–4.30pm**. On Sunday afternoons, classical guitar music from Simon Cottle provides the perfect soundtrack as you wander among the sculptures and flowers. New for this year are the Sanctuary Sessions – a programme of wellbeing activities including Qigong and Breathwork with Andy Squiff, Restorative Yoga with Sian Rule, and a range of holistic therapies in the Healing Cabin. Visit **www.wyevalleysculpturegarden.co.uk** for session times and booking details.

Finally, a gentle reminder that every pound we spend locally helps keep our village alive. Our shops, cafés, businesses and events depend on the support of the community. By choosing to buy local whenever we can, we're helping ensure Tintern remains the vibrant, welcoming place we all value.

Toni Harvey (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 but reserves the right to edit in a spirit of kindness (and sometimes just to fit into a page).

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

DOG FRIENDLY
TINTERN
CYFEILLGAR I GŴN

WYE VALLEY SCULPTURE GARDEN

Summer Sculpture Exhibition

Set on the gentle slopes of the beautiful Wye Valley in Tintern, this *award-winning sculpture garden* hosts one of Wales' largest outdoor sculpture exhibitions. Discover work by over 40 artists placed throughout three acres of gardens, orchard and woodland, where contemporary sculpture meets a remarkable natural setting.

Garden open every Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday from 2–5pm
Sunday 24 May to Sunday 13 September (incl. Bank Holidays)

Wander the garden paths, encounter sculpture in the open air, and enjoy a peaceful afternoon where art, landscape and light come together.

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See our socials for the announcement of the 2026 exhibiting artists







wyevalleysculpturegarden.co.uk

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Song returns to Tintern Abbey by Elisabeth Lewis

Imagine hearing the sound of monks singing again beside the soaring arches of Tintern Abbey. For over 400 years, the Cistercian monks who lived there gathered every day to sing Vespers, following the rule of Saint Benedict. On **Sunday, 13 September at 3pm**, that ancient tradition will come alive once more.

The Friends of Our Lady of Tintern, whose Chair is the Right Reverend Dominic Walker OSB, warmly invite everyone to this ecumenical celebration of Sung Vespers. After last year's service had to be cancelled because of severe storms, we are especially looking forward to gathering again.

Because restoration work is currently taking place within the Abbey, the service will be held immediately beside the Abbey on the Riverside. Thanks to the generous support of CADW, we will be able to worship as close to the Abbey Church as possible while the conservation work continues.

We are delighted that the Most Reverend Cherry Vann Archbishop of Wales and Bishop of Monmouth, will be with us, and that the sermon will be preached by The Right Reverend Brendan Thomas OSB. We are also thrilled to welcome the Benedictine monks of Belmont Abbey, together with the Newport Cathedral choir, whose music will help re-create something of the beauty and spirituality that once filled the Abbey each day.





The Friends of Our Lady believe that Tintern Abbey is far more than a spectacular historic monument. It is sacred ground, a centre of pilgrimage, where generations of Christians sought God in prayer and where worship still has its rightful place. The statue of Our Lady of Tintern is a reminder of the Abbey's rich Christian heritage and of the faith that has shaped this valley through the centuries.

Whether you come for the music, the history, the beauty of the Abbey or simply for a moment of peace and reflection, you will receive a warm welcome. Everyone is invited and there is no charge to attend or to park. Please bring a picnic chair or rug.

Before and after the service, visitors will also have the opportunity to purchase the Friends limited edition 2027 calendar, which regularly sells out, together with a selection of beautiful greeting cards featuring artwork by talented local artists. Every purchase helps support the friends in preserving Tintern Abbey as a living place of worship and pilgrimage.

We hope many people from Tintern and beyond will join us. For one afternoon, the ancient song of Vespers will once again echo through the Abbey, reminding us that while Tintern Abbey is one of the world's great historic monuments, it is also, and above all, a place where the worship of God continues.

Wye Valley Crafts at Abbey Mill

Wye Valley Crafts Association

Our lovely ceramicist guest, Mary will be staying with us for August. Please come and see her quirky, colourful work.

Good news, Bridie the candle maker has decided to join as a full-time member and has a lovely illustration of the abbey on her new containers. We are hoping that Marnie will also join us with her laser printed wooden items, from coasters to kitchen equipment.

The shop is pretty full now with the new members who have joined this year, but we always like to hear from any local producer who might like to take advantage of our showcase for their work.

See us on Facebook, Instagram and our website
www.wyevalleycrafts.co.uk







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Monmouth Priory	11:30-12:25am

Wednesdays

Chepstow Yoga Space	9:30-10:25am
St. Arvans Village Hall *(Gentle chair Pilates)*	11:10-11:55am
Monmouth Priory	5:30-6:25pm



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News from Parva Farm Vineyard by Judith Dudley

First of all, Colin and I would like to say a big thank you for all the offers of help we had during our recent illness. Thank you also to the doctors at Tintern surgery. It is lovely to know there are so many kind people in our village.

With the very hot weather, the vines have grown enormously and are much more advanced than is normal for the end of July. There is what appears to be a very big crop and if the warm weather continues, we will be harvesting in September as we did last year, not in October which was normal.

All this year's calves have now been born, and all the bulls have been sold, and the sheep have been shorn. Now it is time to concentrate on the Collie puppies.



These are growing fast and developing their characters and are now looking for new homes. We have 5 boys for sale- 2 brown & white and 3 tricolour. They are all very friendly and would love an active home.

They will be ready the second week in August. If you are interested, please phone Judith on 07484670302 to arrange a visit to meet them.

The Vineyard will be open as usual on Saturdays & Sundays from 12.00 until 4.30pm for self-guided vineyard tours and wine sales.



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Summer in Tintern - and why it matters that you're here



There are few places quite like Tintern in summer. The valley fills with green, the river catches the light in that particular way it only does in July, and the village hums with a quiet kind of life that is genuinely hard to find anywhere else. We are lucky to live and work here, and we don't take it for granted for a moment.

But beautiful places need people in them to survive. The independent shops, the cafés, the small businesses tucked along the road through the village - we are all here because people choose to visit, to stop, to spend a little time and a little money in a place they love. When footfall drops, we all feel it. When visitors come, we all benefit.

So, if you live locally, this is a gentle nudge. Pop into the shops you haven't visited in a while. Recommend Tintern to friends and family looking for a day out this summer. Leave a kind review online. Like and share our posts on social media - it costs nothing and genuinely helps push the village out to a wider audience.

We are a community, and communities thrive when they look after one another. Tintern is worth looking after.

You'll find us here as always - eight rooms of books, a warm welcome, and very probably a wagging tail or two to greet you.

Chris, Sonia & Maria, Stella & Rose's Books stellabooks.com

Wye Valley Greenway bat research project, by Jeremy Cowen

Researchers at the University of West of England have secured a licence from Natural England to vary Tidenham tunnel opening and lighting times for the remainder of the summer. This is an extension of previous work to investigate the impact of lighting and humans upon bat activity. For the remainder of the summer the gate/lighting times will be as follows:

Dates	Gates	Lighting
14/7/26 – 8/8/26	OPEN 24h	7am – 7:30pm
9/8/26 – 4/9/26	OPEN 24h	ON 24h
5/9/26 – 30/9/26	OPEN 8am – 6pm	ON 24h
From 1/10/26	CLOSED	OFF

(any variation from the above will be announced on www.wyevalleygreenway.org and the Wye Valley Greenway Facebook page)

Members of the public are welcome to use the tunnel during the period of extended opening, and such use will be counted and contribute to the research. However, when tunnel lighting is off, please use your own lights considerately by only illuminating the ground directly in front of you to avoid unnecessary disturbance and inconvenience to other users. Your participation in this project is greatly appreciated.

Why Review Your Pension?

For many people, their pension is one of the largest assets they will ever own, yet it is often one of the least reviewed. Whether you're still working, approaching retirement or already retired, taking the time to review your pension could make a real difference to your future income and financial security.

Many pensions are left untouched for years. During that time charges may have changed, investment performance may no longer be appropriate, and your retirement goals or personal circumstances may have evolved. A pension that was suitable ten or twenty years ago may not be the best option today.

At Richardson's Financial, we believe advice should be clear, straightforward and personal. As the sister company of Richardson's Wills, we build on an established reputation for friendly, professional advice reflected in our Google reviews and client feedback.

A pension review isn't about changing things for the sake of it. It's about understanding what you have, checking whether it's still working as intended, and identifying opportunities you may not have been aware of. This could include reducing charges, improving investment performance, consolidating pensions, reviewing retirement income options or ensuring your pension reflects your current objectives.

Important change from April 2027

From April 2027, unused pension funds form part of your estate for Inheritance Tax purposes.

For many people, this means that pension wealth which was previously outside their estate may now be subject to Inheritance Tax at 40%.

In addition, if you die after the age of 75, your beneficiaries will pay Income Tax at their own marginal rate on any pension benefits they receive.

As a result, a significant proportion of your pension fund could be lost to tax without appropriate planning.

A review can help you understand how these changes may affect your loved ones and what steps, if any, could be considered.

If retirement is approaching, a review can help answer important questions such as when you can afford to retire, how long your pension is likely to last and the most tax-efficient way to take your benefits. Cashflow planning can provide valuable reassurance by helping you see your future before making important decisions.

There is no obligation and no pressure—simply an opportunity to have an informed conversation about your retirement plans. Even if no changes are required, many clients value the peace of mind that comes from knowing everything remains on track.

If it's been several years since your pension was last reviewed, or you're simply unsure whether your arrangements are still suitable, now may be a good time to take another look.

A simple conversation today could help provide greater confidence for tomorrow.

To arrange your no-obligation pension review, call **01291 606960** or email **nicola@rwfs.net**

RICHARDSON'S
FINANCIAL

When Was the Last Time You Reviewed Your Pension?

Over time, charges, investments and your circumstances can change. A pension review can help ensure your pension is still working as hard as it should for your future.

A simple review can provide clarity, identify opportunities and give you peace of mind for the years ahead.



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Following in the footsteps of Donald Floyd, by Martin Everett

Two friends recently sent me a birthday card. It pictured a Wye river scene which I encounter every day on my way to fetch the daily paper. The title on the card was 'River Barn'; however, the picture captured is the formerly known Godfrey's Farm by the Wireworks Bridge. I can imagine the artist has bought his pint of beer and sat on a bench outside the Rose & Crown to take in and record that wonderful view across the river. The artist in question is Paul Burgess.



Paul was born and brought up in the Wye Valley near Chepstow. He says 'I have been exploring this beautiful part of the country for most of my life, and it has been a major influence on my work for the past thirty years. My paintings are an expression of that immediate present moment and the sense of connection it brings, with the pattern connecting every part of the painting to every other part, whilst accentuating the vibrancy of the situation. The early morning scenes also reflect how I feel about my own personal journey, with the dawn light casting brightness and clarity on a new day with new beginnings'.

It is noteworthy that Paul Burgess has won several prizes - notably the WM Patterson Fine Arts Award given for a pastel study exhibited at the Mall Galleries, London. In 2013 he was shortlisted by Artists and Illustrators Magazine, for "Artist of the Year" and was again featured by the magazine as "Painting of the Month" with 'Oak Wood', inspired by the morning light seen through trees in 'Wentwood ' near Penhow - one of his favourite locations. A trawl through his website you see many images of Tintern and the local woods. Paul is certainly following in the footsteps of our well-known Tintern artist Donald Floyd but with his own up-to-date flair for use of colour. *www.paulburgessart.com*



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La Velodyssee EV1 by Mike Moffatt

La Velodyssee is a long distance cycle path that runs down the spectacular western side of France and in to Spain. During May 2026, my partner cycled the this route from Roscoff to Hendaye (on the border with Spain), a distance of approximately 1350kms. I booked all of our accommodation via Booking.com. This way we could re-charge our bike batteries at the end of each day. I had previously estimated that if push came to shove that we would be able to cover on a full charge at least a 100kms per day and perhaps more. We were both using Raleigh Centros e-bikes with 650 watt capacity batteries.

So in early May after a ferry ride across the Channel we docked at Roscoff early in the morning and were quickly disembarked for the start of our adventure. We quickly picked up the signing for the route (EV1) with the weather looking favourable for the next week or so. We had previously told ourselves that there was no rush each day and we would stop at suitable spots en route for breaks for coffee etc or a light lunch. A routine that we stuck to over the whole route.

Our accommodation and our hosts throughout the whole trip were 5*, most hosts were amazed at what us two old codgers were endeavouring to achieve. Some of our accommodation had full facilities including a washing machine which was extremely helpful. Our alternative option was to use the laundrette's in the towns or villages en route. Happily supping coffee with the locals in the town squares while our washing was being done.

La Velodyssee route is essentially a very flat scenic cycle path purposely well maintained by the French authorities. In places the scenery was spectacular and there is also much history to be gleaned during our cycle. Hence our early plan not to pedal like maniacs just to get from A - B quickly, to subsequently return home, to boast to family and friends just how quickly we covered the distance. We had therefore built in one or two rest days especially when we were staying in places of significant historical interest eg (La Rochelle, Bayonne & Josselin etc).



We did experience one of two days of heavy rain (Atlantic coast and all that), However, the pair of us coming from a mountaineering background had all of the right clothing to continue our cycle regardless of what Mother Nature wished to throw at us. We quickly learned that unlike most of the U.K. the French authorities invest considerable finance, time and effort in to maintaining their cycle ways. Notably cyclist's also receive absolute priority on any of the main roads that have to be travelled on - which are very few. Cyclists are given dedicated areas to travel within on any of the French highways.

I would advise anyone wishing to cycle this route to stay away from the main French holiday periods as it will be very busy with both the accommodation and camping sites fully booked up.

Next year we plan to cycle the Rhine EV5 cycle path which passes through five European countries.

Finally, one does not have to be super fit to cycle this route. Good personal administration helps, having the right clothing, a gel is saddle also handy and being prepared to be flexible. There are a plethora of books that cover the EV1, most of them offering good advice and suggested clothing. Good quality waterproof panniers are a must along with a detachable top box. Plus recommended cycle locks (an insurance cover requirement). Anyone wishing to have further details please contact Mike via email templarmjm@yahoo.co.uk

Time is running out to join UK's largest environmental pollution claim

People have until the August Bank Holiday to join a group legal action over pollution in the rivers Wye, Lugg and Usk, the largest environmental pollution claim of its kind in the UK.

The deadline of **31 August 2026** follows the claim's first High Court hearing in April, at which a timetable for the case was set.



More than 4,800 people and local businesses have already signed up to join the claim, which argues that residents and businesses have been negatively impacted by river pollution caused by manure run-off from industrial poultry operations, as well as sewage discharges.

Residents say the pollution has prevented activities such as swimming and canoeing, affected businesses reliant on the river including fishing and tourism, and impacted property values.

Excess nutrient levels in the River Lugg have also contributed to a building moratorium which has resulted in some residents facing years of delays and extra costs from building projects.

Jenny-May While, a client on the claim who lives near the River Wye, said:

"Growing up in Herefordshire we would swim in the Wye and Lugg all the time, so it feels like home. When we moved in, we were aware of the pollution, but now being so close to the river, I see it getting worse almost on a daily basis. I haven't seen any live fish this year and the smell is so bad sometimes I don't want to go into our garden."

Visit our website https://www.leighday.co.uk/our-services/group-claims/river-wye-claim/ or search 'Leigh Day River Wye claim' to see if you're eligible to join.

‘What’s On’ at Catbrook Memorial Hall
Autumn/Winter 2026

Friday 11th Sept	**Pocket Choral Society** A cappella- a musical celebration of village life. Comedy and Song. *Tickets through ‘TicketSource’*	Tickets £12 Doors open 7.15pm Start 7.45pm Bar & Ice Cream
Saturday 26th Sept	**A Question of Stuff** *Email tickets.catbrook@gmail.com to reserve a place for your team (up to six)*	£3 per head. Doors open 7pm Start 7.30pm Bar & Ice Cream
Saturday 10th Oct	**Bois Y Bryn shanty band** *Tickets through ‘TicketSource’*	Tickets £12 Doors open 7pm Start 7.45pm Bar & Ice Cream
Sunday 8th Nov	**Service of Remembrance** with **Monmouth Band.** Refreshments available	Start 3pm
Friday 13th Nov	**Catbrook Pub Night** with **Horsebox Pizza** (Pizza pre-orders will be available to guarantee availability!)	Bar open and Pizza available from 6.30pm
Saturday 28th Nov	**A night at the Hot Club with ‘Afternoon in Paris’,** Dinner and music An evening of great entertainment. *Tickets through ‘TicketSource’*	Tickets inc meal £32 Show only £12 Doors open 7.15pm Starts 7.45pm Bar
Sunday 20th Dec	**Christmas Carol Service** Refreshments available	11am start
Thursday 31st Dec (New Year’s Eve)	Come along, celebrate and dance with **Cat’s Claw Ceilidh Band** *Tickets through ‘TicketSource’*	Tickets £15 Doors open 8.30pm Dancing 9.30pm Bar

We are now using **‘TicketSource’** for most of our upcoming hall events, shows, and community gatherings. You can book your spot at future events in just a few clicks! All ticket prices above include the booking fee. Please visit our event page:
https://www.ticketsource.com/whats-on/catbrook/catbrook-district-memorial-hall

Friends of the River Wye update, by Nick Day

FORW Restart Bacterial Testing at The Warren - With Worrying First Result
Another heatwave has passed through our region, and our citizen scientists have been out in force gathering water quality data.

\FORW has been provided with specialist equipment by River Action to continue bacterial testing at the Warren in Hay-on-Wye throughout this bathing season. This testing addresses a key limitation of NRW's own programme, which doesn't produce results until several days after water samples are taken. Although we can't issue advice on bathing ourselves, we can share timely data to help keep local people informed.

Our first result, from Thursday 25 June, showed worryingly high levels of E. coli, despite there having been no recent rainfall; Our second test, taken on 2 July, showed low levels of E. coli.

Record Water Temperatures Logged Across the Catchment by Our Citizen Scientists
Recent record-breaking heatwaves didn't just scorch the land, they overheated the river. Between 21 - 28 June, 10% of our temperature readings exceeded 25°C and 57% topped 20°C, with many sites recording their highest temperatures ever. At Ross-on-Wye, the Environment Agency recorded a new river record of 27.7°C, surpassing the previous peak by 1.2°C. High temperature have persisted through July.

New Online Form to Allow River Users to Report Illness
Friends of the River Wye have created an online form where you can log any illness that you believe occurred as a result of paddling, swimming, fishing or spending time in the Wye or your local stretch of river. If you've experienced symptoms such as stomach upset, skin rashes, ear or eye infections, or any other illness you believe may be linked to contact with the river, we encourage you to complete the form. Every report matters.

Collecting this information is vital. Reliable data helps us identify patterns, understand potential public health risks, and provide evidence that can support better monitoring, improved water quality, and stronger action to protect both people and the river.

To find out more or submit a report, visit our website. By sharing your experience, you'll be contributing to a body of evidence that can help safeguard the health of everyone who enjoys the River Wye.

The Big Ranunculus Watch - Signs That Water Crowfoot May Be Recovering?

The Big Ranunculus Watch is active and we are very keen for people to submit their photos of water crowfoot, be that a flowering bed that you stumble across today or some old family photos that show the river in bloom from many summers ago. In the last couple of weeks we have been receiving images showing some substantial beds of water crowfoot emerging on parts of the river. A sign of real hope. Submit your images via the website or email ranunculus@friendsoftheriverwye.org.uk

We still need volunteers! As part of this project, we'll also be training Citizen Scientists to undertake habitat and macrophyte surveys, to monitor the presence of water crowfoot in the rivers over the next three summers, starting this year. If you are interested in getting involved please look at friendsoftheriverwye.org.uk/join

WYE VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL (www.wyevalley-cc.gov.uk)

Minutes Wye Valley Community Council

Sorry, no minutes posted yet, so will be in Sept edition.

YOUR MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER –



Ann Webb is your elected Member to St Arvans, Llandogo and Tintern which provides all local services, and her wish is to represent your views and assist whenever possible.

If she can be of assistance to you, please do contact her via email: annwebb@monmouthshire.gov.uk, Office:The County Hall, Rhadyr, Usk NP15 1GA, Office Telephone: 01633 644219, Home Telephone: 01291 689559 or Mobile 078166 78948

Women's Institute by Gilly Flashman

Welcome to news and events from Llandogo WI. We are a very inclusive group with lots of members from Tintern and the surrounding villages. Even in this heat we have had some cool days out in both senses!



A group recently visited Lacock Abbey and village. Recognisable as it's often the backdrop for many historical films including Harry Potter!



We visit lots of different places and spaces and are always open to suggestions. We will be announcing our Supper Club programme soon, so keep an eye out. There are walking and ambling groups. You're welcome to join us for any or all of the above events.



To keep cool at the end of July we had afternoon tea at Speech House, well, we are the WI after all!

Our next meeting will be Wednesday 12th August at 7.30pm in Llandogo Village Hall for Jazz, Ballads and Salads! It's our summer event where we bring and share food and enjoy some live entertainment. Come and join us.

You can contact us via the QR code below, our facebook page or by phoning Jill on 07718 518922. Hope to meet you soon!

Tintern Garden Club, by Judith Dudley



The Tintern Garden Club's last garden visit of the year was to Salts Lodge, Ancre Hill, Monmouth. This was on Tuesday 14 July on a beautiful summer evening. Around a dozen members attended and enjoyed looking around what was an interesting garden bordering the River Monnow.

There was a woodland walk which took you over the river to an interesting structure called an Archimedes screw, a simple machine that moves water or other materials from a low area to a high area using a rotating spiral blade inside a pipe or trough. It was invented over 2,000 years ago and is credited to the ancient Greek scientist Archimedes.

Afterwards members were treated to a lovely tea with cakes- the perfect end to a beautiful garden visit!

In place of an August meeting, the Garden Club organise the Village Show. This year this will be held in the Village Hall on **Saturday 1 August.** Entries must be staged on the day between 9.00am & 11.30am. The show will be **open to the public for viewing at 2.30pm**.

We hope there will be plenty of entries from Tintern residents as well as Garden Club members. Even though this has been a tricky year for growing produce, there are classes for cookery, art & handicrafts, flowers arranging & indoor plants to enter and we hope to see lots of entries from the young people of the Village.

Looking on to September, our next meeting will be in the Village Hall on **Friday September 18** and will be a talk on "Industries of the Lower Wye Valley". If you didn't realise how industrial Tintern used to be, come along and join us on the day at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome. For more details ring Dave Tuffery on 01291689919.

The Lower Wye Valley Building Preservation Trust by Jo McCrum

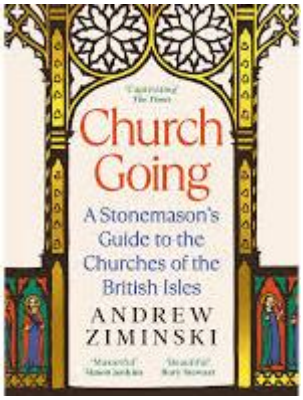
Tintern Talks



After a short summer break, we return—albeit from a different angle—to the subject of our pagan ancestors with master stonemason Andrew Ziminski.

Over more than forty years, Andrew has repaired almost every type of historic structure imaginable. His dedication to his craft is impressive: he even built a miniature Stonehenge to better understand how the original was constructed.

Andrew is the author of two bestselling and beautifully written books, which will form the basis of his talk. The Stonemason is a lyrical account of repairing and exploring buildings ranging from Neolithic tombs to industrial mills. His latest book, Church Going, is both an entertaining guide and a practical companion for anyone who enjoys exploring Britain's historic churches.



An engaging and lively speaker, Andrew has been described by Tony Robinson as "joyous and illuminating". Andrew's practical knowledge and deep understanding of how, why and where buildings were constructed will offer you a new understanding of the skills, ambitions and changing fashions of our historical architecture.

A Life in Ruins with Andrew Ziminski, **Friday 4 September,** 7.30pm, Tintern Village Hall. Doors open at 7.00pm. Tickets £5–£8, available from www.ticketsource.com/lwvbpt.

St Mary's

Our volunteers have been hard at work repairing walls and clearing brambles and bracken from the ruins in preparation for surveys and 3D modelling by Archaeodomus, specialist building archaeologists. Such has been the pace of growth this summer that much of it will probably have returned within a month—but we persevere!

There are several schools of thought when it comes to managing bracken. While the idea of reaching for glyphosate may be tempting, it would be at odds with our commitment to wildlife, so instead we are trialling two traditional methods: the slash and the bash.



The slash-and-rake approach leaves open, sunlit ground, allowing lower-growing plants to re-establish themselves. The bash method aims to weaken the bracken by repeatedly bruising the stems and fronds. It is meant to be the most effective (according to the Gwent Wildlife Trust) but not everyone in the team is convinced this is the most effective technique. Damaged plants continue to photosynthesise and shade out other vegetation whilst others argue that repeated cutting is the surest way to exhaust the underground rhizomes.

Whichever method proves most successful, patience will be essential. It is widely accepted that it takes around four years of consistent management to bring bracken under control.

Our next volunteer session is on **12 September**, St Mary's, 10.30am–12.30pm.

Support the Campaign

The Lower Wye Valley Building Preservation Trust is a volunteer-led charity dedicated to conserving St Mary's and Fryer's Wharf Slipway. Membership starts from just £10 and includes a range of members' benefits. If you would like to become a member, volunteer, or share your ideas and skills, please email info@lwvbpt.org, and do follow us on social media: @lwvbpt. Donations to the St Mary's campaign can be made by bank transfer:

Lower Wye Valley Building Preservation Trust
Lloyds Bank
Sort Code: 30-91-89
Account Number: 25277560

You can also support the campaign by adding a donation when booking tickets through TicketSource or by making an anonymous donation via JustGiving. (The optional JustGiving tip can be reduced to 0%.)
justgiving.com/campaign/savestmarystintern

St Michael's, Tintern
August Services

Sunday 2nd, 10.30am - Holy Communion

Sunday 9th, 10.30am - Holy Communion

Sunday 16th, 10.30am - Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd, 10.30am - Holy Communion

Sunday 30th, 11.00am - Joint Ministry Area Service, Old Church, Penallt

(*No* service in Tintern)

The Church in Wales

All very welcome!

Local priest: Rev Jan Pain 01291 624017.
Dean and Rector: Rev Tim Dack timothydack@cinw.org.uk
Church wardens: Alan Carter 07873 514255, Doug Gibson 07552 887493
Email prayer requests to include in Sunday prayers to prayersatstmichaels@icloud.com

Ecofest and Evensong at St Michaels Church over Michaelmas weekend

Looking ahead, do put the and Ecofest on **Saturday 26 September** and a special Evensong Service on **Sunday 27 September** at 5pm in your calendar.



The Ecofest will celebrate hope, creativity, and practical action for caring for our planet. The programme opens with music from guitarist Simon Cottle, setting the tone for a day of reflection and inspiration.

Delyth Higgins, Eco Church Officer for Wales at A Rocha UK, will explore the theme "Creation Care – Hope and Action," encouraging participants to consider how faith and community can inspire positive environmental change.

Music follows with an uplifting singing workshop led by Ami Cooper, culminating in a performance of the winning Eco Anthem, written by songwriter Felix Lindsell Hales.

Chris Keywood, Project Manager at Bees for Development, will share the fascinating story of "Beekeeping for Forest Conservation," demonstrating how sustainable beekeeping supports biodiversity, protects forests, and benefits local communities.

The day will conclude with Matt Dunn's update on the local 'One Planet' project in Tintern, an off-grid smallholding featuring a zero-carbon home and integrated small business. The project aims to grow most of its own food, generate income sustainably, meet its energy needs entirely from renewable sources, and harvest and treat rainwater on-site—offering an inspiring example of low-impact, environmentally responsible living.

Together, the Ecofest talks, music, and shared experiences promise an inspiring day that will celebrate practical ways to care for creation and build a more sustainable future.

And congratulation to Tintern local, Andy Langton, who was admitted as a Licensed Lay Minister, and licensed to serve in the Monmouth Marches Ministry Area of the Church of Wales in a ceremony lead by Bishop Cherry Van, Archbishop of Wales.





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Tintern Abbey Cottage and Foxes Reach



Tintern Abbey Cottage is in a premier position with unparalleled Abbey views. Our totally refurbished 5-star 18th 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 ensuite), 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).

Enjoy private off-road parking for three cars with EV charger and a bike/Golf club store.
Warmly heated and open all year for full weeks or short breaks.
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 and its own hot tub, up the hill at Catbrook, approx. 2 miles from the Abbey. Credit cards are welcome and for full details see

www.monmouthshirecottages.co.uk

Facebook - Monmouthshire Cottages
or telephone 01600 860341.

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COMMUNITY GROUPS IN TINTERN - CONTACT INFORMATION

Group	Contact	Contact Details
Church Lads & Church Girls Brigade	Alan Carter	07873 514255 clcgbtintern@mail.com
Friends of Tintern	Elspeth Reid	07780 566610 ellielynette@icloud.com
Lower Wye Valley Building Preservation Trust (Fryers Wharf & St Mary's Church)	Vanessa Clarke	01291 680139 lwvbpt2023@gmail.com
St Michael's Church Prayers of Intercession	Rev Jan Pain	prayersatstmichaels@icloud.com
The Monday Group	Marion Derrett	01600 860134 marionderrett@gmail.com
Tintern Abbey Football Club	Martin Woodford	01594 531346 or 07825 832751 mwoodford999@aol.com
Tintern Angling Club	Phil Hill	07747626928
Tintern Cricket Club	Sam Hayward	01291 689339 07986028031 swghayward79@hotmail.com
Tintern Garden Club	Dave Tuffery	01291 689919 dave.tuffery@talk21.com
Tintern Festivals Association (including Tintern Fete)	Julie Ward John Clarke	07951672681 julie@wardcreative.co.uk jjclar7@aol.com
Tintern Wine Tasting	Alan Hillard	alan.hillard@gmail.com
Village Hall Committee	Noelyn Allen	07512856024 BookingsTinternVH@hotmail.com
Wye Valley Community Council	Jacob Richards-Powell	clerk@wyevalleycc.co.uk
Wye Valley Greenway	Jeremy Cowen	wyevalleygreenway@yahoo.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 Also, we are a Flying Start provider.

For more information call Rachel Davies on 07786831401 or Rachellou9@aol.com or find us on Facebook.

See www.newportbus.co.uk for update if A466 road is open!
Replacement Bus schedule for A466 Bigsweir to Redbrook closure

69 Monmouth - Tintern - Chepstow during closure of A466 between Redbrook & Bigsweir Bridge

"sch": runs on school days only
"hols": runs on school holidays only

	Mondays to Fridays												
	hols	sch							sch	hols			
Monmouth Bus Station	**7:32**	**7:32**	**9:15**	**10:15**	**11:15**	**12:15**	**13:15**	**14:15**	**15:15**	**15:22**	**16:35**	**17:25**	**18:45**
Monmouth Comp	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	15:22	|	|	|	|
Wyesham Church	7:42	7:42	9:24	10:24	11:24	12:24	13:24	14:24	15:31	15:31	16:44	17:34	18:54
Redbrook Newland Rd	7:47	7:47	9:29	10:29	11:29	12:29	13:29	14:29	15:36	15:36	16:49	17:39	18:59
Llandogo Hudnalls View	8:09	8:09	9:51	10:51	11:51	12:51	13:51	14:51	15:58	15:58	17:11	18:01	19:21
Tintern The Wild Hare	**8:17**	**8:17**	**9:59**	**10:59**	**11:59**	**12:59**	**13:59**	**14:59**	**16:06**	**16:06**	**17:19**	**18:09**	**19:29**
St Arvans The Piercefield	8:24	8:24	10:06	11:06	12:06	13:06	14:06	15:06	16:13	16:13	17:26	18:16	19:36
Chepstow Hospital	8:28	|	10:10	11:10	12:10	13:10	14:10	15:10	16:17	16:17	17:30	18:20	19:40
Chepstow Comp	|	8:30	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Chepstow Bus Station	**8:33**	**8:34**	**10:14**	**11:14**	**12:14**	**13:14**	**14:14**	**15:14**	**16:22**	**16:22**	**17:34**	**18:24**	**19:44**

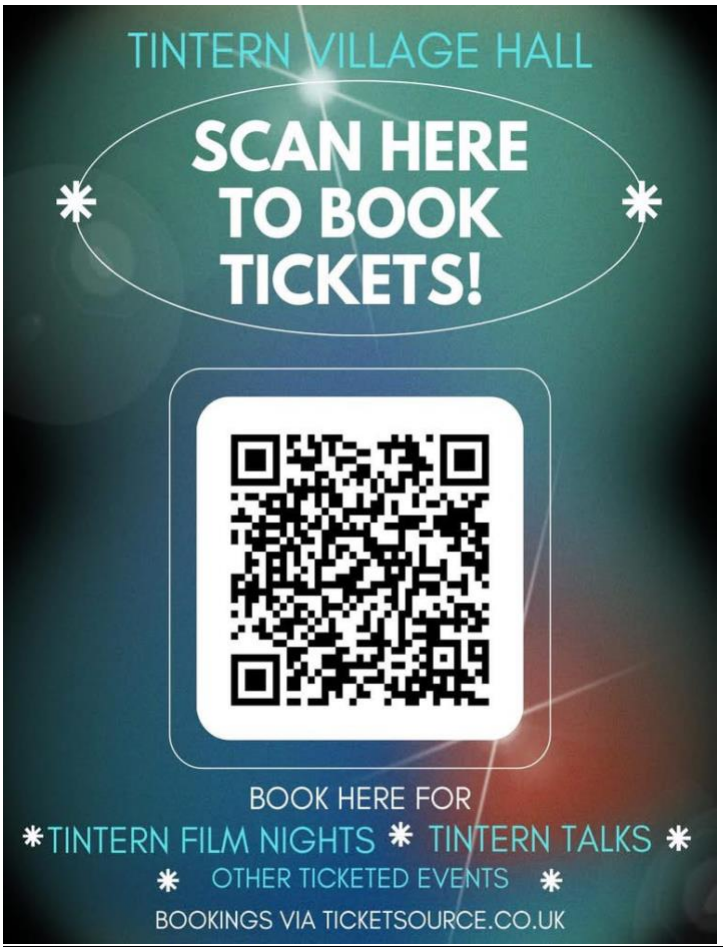
	Saturdays						Sundays			
Monmouth Bus Station	**7:00**	**9:09**	**11:09**	**13:02**	**15:02**	**17:00**	**10:00**	**12:04**	**15:06**	**17:10**
Wyesham Church	7:09	9:18	11:18	13:11	15:11	17:09	10:09	12:13	15:15	17:19
Redbrook Newland Rd	7:14	9:23	11:23	13:16	15:16	17:14	10:14	12:18	15:20	17:24
Llandogo Hudnalls View	7:36	9:45	11:45	13:38	15:38	17:36	10:36	12:40	15:42	17:46
Tintern The Wild Hare	**7:44**	**9:53**	**11:53**	**13:46**	**15:46**	**17:44**	**10:44**	**12:48**	**15:50**	**17:54**
St Arvans The Piercefield	7:51	10:00	12:00	13:53	15:53	17:51	10:51	12:55	15:57	18:01
Chepstow Hospital	7:55	10:04	12:04	13:57	15:57	17:55	10:55	12:59	16:01	18:05
Chepstow Bus Station	**7:59**	**10:08**	**12:08**	**14:01**	**16:01**	**17:59**	**10:59**	**13:03**	**16:05**	**18:09**

	Mondays to Fridays											
	hols	sch							sch	hols		
Chepstow Bus Station	**7:24**	**7:24**	**9:06**	**10:06**	**11:06**	**12:06**	**13:06**	**14:06**	**15:16**	**15:27**	**16:15**	**17:40**
Chepstow Comp	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	15:25	|	|	|
Chepstow Hospital	7:29	7:29	9:10	10:10	11:10	12:10	13:10	14:10	|	15:31	16:20	17:45
St Arvans The Piercefield	7:33	7:33	9:14	10:14	11:14	12:14	13:14	14:14	15:33	15:33	16:23	17:49
Tintern The Wild Hare	**7:41**	**7:41**	**9:22**	**10:22**	**11:22**	**12:22**	**13:22**	**14:22**	**15:41**	**15:41**	**16:31**	**17:57**
Llandogo Hudnalls View	7:50	7:50	9:31	10:31	11:31	12:31	13:31	14:31	15:50	15:50	16:40	18:06
Redbrook Newland Rd	8:12	8:12	9:53	10:53	11:53	12:53	13:53	14:53	16:12	16:12	17:02	18:28
Wyesham Church	8:20	8:20	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:19	16:19	17:09	18:35
Monmouth Comp	|	8:28	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Monmouth Bus Station	**8:30**	**8:33**	**10:09**	**11:09**	**12:09**	**13:09**	**14:09**	**15:11**	**16:29**	**16:29**	**17:19**	**18:44**

	Saturdays						Sundays			
Chepstow Bus Station	**8:03**	**10:30**	**11:55**	**13:55**	**15:50**	**18:03**	**8:52**	**11:04**	**13:55**	**16:10**
Chepstow Hospital	8:07	10:07	11:59	13:59	15:54	18:07	8:56	11:08	13:59	16:14
St Arvans The Piercefield	8:11	10:11	12:03	14:03	15:58	18:11	9:00	11:12	14:03	16:18
Tintern The Wild Hare	**8:19**	**10:19**	**12:11**	**14:11**	**16:06**	**18:19**	**9:08**	**11:20**	**14:11**	**16:26**
Llandogo Hudnalls View	8:27	10:27	12:19	14:19	16:14	18:27	9:17	11:29	14:20	16:35
Redbrook Newland Rd	8:49	10:49	12:41	14:41	16:36	18:49	9:39	11:51	14:42	16:57
Wyesham Church	8:56	10:56	12:48	14:48	16:43	18:56	9:46	11:58	14:49	17:04
Monmouth Bus Station	**9:05**	**11:05**	**12:57**	**14:57**	**16:52**	**19:05**	**9:55**	**12:07**	**14:58**	**17:13**

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20th March - Knowledge to Forage ~ Elise Goard
17th April - Hedgehog Rescue ~ Dylan Allman
NEW GARDEN PARTY DATE IS TUESDAY 12TH MAY
th May - Garden Party
16th June & 17th July - Garden Visits !
Sat 1st Aug - Annual Show
18th Sept - Industries of the Lower Wye Valley ~ Pat Lacy
16th Oct - Archaeology at Manor House ~ Dave Tuffery
20th Nov - Trees & Shrubs For Autumn ~ Duncan Coombs


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