

## **Chepstow Town Council – Apple Day**

On Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> October, Chepstow Drill Hall hosted the town's ninth annual Apple Day when more than 60 different varieties of apple were on display to celebrate one of Chepstow's favourite fruits.

In addition to an exhibition of locally grown apples, there were stalls, displays, games, competitions, musical entertainment and demonstrations of apple pressing and cider making.

There was a competition to cut the longest length of peel from a single apple, the winner was an amazing 3.7m, a challenging quiz identifying apple varieties from photographs and children's activities including making bird feeders and apple animals.

For competitive cooks there was an apple cookery competition for either a dessert or savoury dish with cash prizes.

More than a dozen varieties of locally grown apples were available in a pick and mix self-service sale that sold out of apples selling over 350kg at well below supermarket prices.

The day provided apple enjoyment for the entire family.

Mike Porter, the apple identification expert of the Marcher Apple Network and author of the 'Welsh Marches Pomona' was on hand to put names and provide information about apples brought for identification by local residents.

A spokesperson for the Drill Hall said: "In centuries past, Chepstow was famous for its apple blossom in the spring followed by a harvest of wonderful apples many of which were made into cider.

Starting in 2008 Chepstow Town Council and Transition Chepstow planted nearly 200 apple trees to recreate community orchards throughout the town, many of which are now bearing fruit.

This year has been very fruitful with many apple trees bending under the weight of the crop. Apple Day is a celebration of the community orchards around the town."

In addition a juicing day was held on Saturday, October 28 for those with large quantities of apples to process and those attending were asked to bring apples and containers to take away the juice.

Chepstow Apple Day is created by the Drill Hall, Chepstow Town Council and Transition Chepstow.

For more information contact Councillor Ned Heywood, 07899 868 591 or 01291 624836.