

READERS AND SIDES- PERSONS ROTA FOR AUGUST 2007

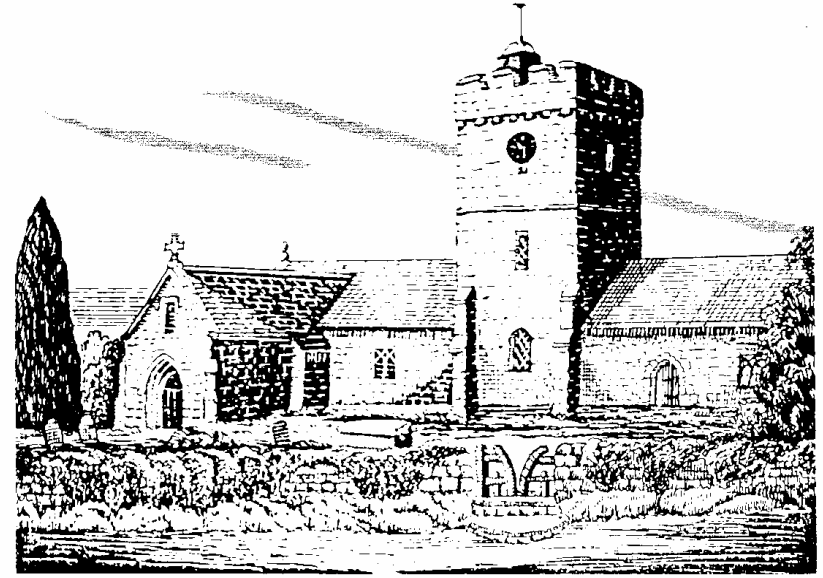
DATE	SERVICE	READER	SIDES-PERSON
5th August	9th Sunday After Trinity 9.45 a.m.	Kevin Bounds Alistair Bounds	Alistair Bounds Kevin Bounds
12th August	10th Sunday after Trinity	Andrew Baker Auriol Horton	Alan Saysell Bernice Bowne
19th August	11th Sunday after Trinity 9.45 a.m.	Cynthia Smith Jane Smith-Haddon	Cynthia Smith Auriol Horton
26th August	12th Sunday after Trinity 9.45 a.m.	Peter Jones Jean Jones	Jean Jones Peter Jones
2nd September	13th Sunday After Trinity 9.45 a.m.	Bob Grattan Sally Saysell	Bob Grattan Claire Lewis

Newchurch the first and 3rd Sunday of each month at 2.30 p.m.

Price: 50p

July / August 2007

THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS A BECKET SHIRENEWTON



Parishes of Shirenewton and Newchurch

READERS AND SIDES- PERSONS ROTA FOR JULY 2007

DATE	SERVICE	READER	SIDES-PERSON
1st July	4th Sunday After Trinity 9.45 a.m.	Sally Saysell Margaret Lock	Alan Saysell Margaret Lock
8th July	5th Sunday after Trinity	John Nicholas Mike Pierce	John Nicholas Ann Nicholas
15th July	6th Sunday after Trinity 9.45 a.m.	Family Service Shirenewton Parish Church	
22nd July	7th Sunday after Trinity 9.45 a.m.	Winnie Jones Ernie Jones	Ernie Jones Winnie Jones
29th July	Group Service at Newchurch		

Newchurch the first and 3rd Sunday of each month at 2.30 p.m.

INCUMBENT:	The Revd Hugh Trenchard	424984
CURATE	The Revd Nansi Davies	01633 400519
CHURCH WARDENS:	Sally Saysell	641369
	Andrew Baker	641925
	Mrs Kath Whittington – Newchurch	641600
	Mrs Susan Lenthall – Newchurch	626389
PCC SECRETARIES:	Andrew Baker - Shirenewton	641925
	David Heritage- Newchurch	641549
PCC TREASURERS:	Kevin Bounds - Shirenewton	641818
	Enid Heritage - Newchurch	641549
GIFT AID SECRETARY	Ruth Savagar	641411
CHURCH MAINTENANCE		
& SAFETY OFFICER	John Nicholas	641368
ORGANISTS:	Karen Millar	650521
	Ruth Savagar	641411
	Kath Whittington	641600
SUNDAY SCHOOL:	Jane Smith-Haddon	641525
TOWER CAPTAIN:	Mike Penny	650653
MOTHERS UNION:	Auriol Horton	641844
CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER:	John Waters	641449
CHURCH FLOWERS:	Maureen Moody	641524
PARISH MAGAZINE:	Bob O'Keefe	641686
200 Club	Pauline Dutton	641677

NAMES TO NOTE

COMMUNITY COUNCIL	John Harvey (Chairman)	641279
Clerk to Community Council	Carole Jones	641791
WI:	Sally Saysell	641369
SCOUTS:	Dave Richardson	620356
GUIDES:	Helen Cann	650835
BROWNIES:	Jackie Broughton	641797
BEAVERS:	Becky Lewis	650304
POLICE CONTACT:	P.C. Andrew Mason	01633 838111
REC. BOOKING SECRETARY:	Beryl Saysell	641637
TRAIDCRAFT:	Marion McAdam	641316
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Co-ORDINATOR		
S'NEWTON & MYNYDD BACH	Beverley Moore	641532
Local History Society	John Clelland	650595

Please send notes, discs or emails for the September magazine to Bob O'Keefe at: 15 Newton Manor, Shirenewton, (641686) or email to bobandwenche@aol.com by Monday 20th August for inclusion in the September magazine.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 30th June Coffee Morning— For Marie Curie (Wales) Cancer Support Fund from 10.30 a.m.
- 2nd July Community Council meeting at the Recreation Hall.
- 5th July Whist Drive—at the Recreation Hall—7.30 p.m.
- 7th July Itton Village Produce Show—Itton Hall from 2.30 p.m.
- 9th July PACT Meeting Police & Local community meeting—at 7.30p.m. at the Recreation Hall
- 9th July Local History Society –Resource session from 2.00 p.m. at the Recreation Hall
- 11th July Local Neighbourhood Watch meeting—7.30 p.m. at Huntsman
- 19th July WI Garden Party 7.00 p.m.
- 21st July Police “Drop in session” from 10 a.m.— 12 at the Recreation Hall
- 24th July Local History Society meeting 7.30 p.m. at the Huntsman
- 28th July The “Tan Fest” Tan House from 2 p.m.
- 31st July Local History Society—Visit to Dewstow Gardens
- 2nd Aug Whist Drive—at the Recreation Hall—7.30p.m.
- 13th Aug Local History Society –Resource session from 2.00 p.m. at the Recreation Hall.
- 27th Aug Shirenewton Hall –Japanese Gardens Open Day 2.00 p.m

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Dear Friends,

As I write we are almost at mid-summertime and after such a warm and sunny springtime I wonder when the promised hot summer will arrive! Despite the heavy rainfall we have been blessed with some lovely days especially for the evening concert at Llanfair when some of us enjoyed a delightful concert given by the Martin Singers in aid of church funds. Work will soon begin on the reordering and refurbishment at St. Mary's and more events are in the pipeline to help fund the work. We were again blessed for Shirenewton's annual church fete when many friends, visitors and members of the congregation enjoyed a gloriously hot sunny day. A great deal of planning and preparation, and hard work in erecting the stalls and selling such a wide variety of goods produced a wonderful result but not only in monetary terms (although that was magnificent) but also in the fellowship enjoyed by all those on the field. Thank you to all those involved!

Whatever the weather I am sure all the forthcoming events in each of our parishes will, with your support, be enjoyable occasions. Not all the events are to raise funds for our churches but some are to support projects overseas, Caerwent are having a lunch for a school project in Uganda and a concert to support the Kenyan Aids Centre. It is evidence of our Christian discipleship that so many are prepared to help those in great need beyond the needs of our own communities. I know that many of you give generously of your time and money to help with such projects and it is also pleasing that our young people in our Sunday Clubs are keen to get involved in raising funds for overseas in a variety of ways.

Holidays will soon be enjoyed by many of you and wherever you are please don't forget that there will be a local church to which I am sure you will be welcomed for Sunday worship. God doesn't take a holiday which is just as well for us. He is always present and wanting us to enjoy all the gifts He has provided and so we ought to continually give thanks to Him. Remember in your prayers those in our communities who are ill, lonely or afraid and also those who have been bereaved of a loved one.

Finally, watch out for the safety and well-being of children during the summer holidays. We hope for good weather for our Sunday Clubs outing and for the Holiday Club which Caerwent Sunday Club are running again this year. I am sure you will join me in wishing those sitting important examinations every success.

Blessing and peace,
Nansi Davies, Curate.

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Dates for the remainder of this Term

Date	Time	Venue
1st July	9.45	The Chantry
8th July	9.45	The Chantry
15th July	9.45	The Chantry
22nd July	9.45	The Chantry

*Shirenewton Sunday Club welcomes
all children from 3 years. Do come and join us.*

Jane Smith-Haddon 641 525

Glynis MacDonald 641 818

FROM THE REGISTERS

On Friday 15th June a Service of Holy Matrimony was held for Kerrie Ann Edwards daughter of Robert and Valerie Edwards to Mr Carl Andrew Morgan.

On Monday 25th June a Service of Thanksgiving was held for the life of Jan Peirce who died suddenly while on holiday.
Born— 1942 died— 2007.

JAN PEIRCE

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Janet. She may have only lived in the village for a short time but it is a testament of her warmth and friendship that so many people have been touched by her death. Janet entered into village life and the life of the church so readily and had so much to give. She had made many friends, friends who will miss her warmth, her readiness to help and her companionship.

Our sympathies go out to Mike, Kerry, Andrew and all the family.

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surprisingly hardy and will gradually spread into large clumps, producing flowers for the best part of four or five months. Something else that grows well here are Japanese iris. I have mentioned these before as they are real show offs, with some having flowers up to twenty centimetres (eight inches) across. One visitor we had to the garden was astounded that we had them growing in beds with everything else. She thought that they wouldn't cope with her soil as it wasn't always moist enough. I think her visit soon dispelled this idea!

Now that the builders have all but gone and the garden openings are finished for another year, we have the garden back to ourselves. With most of the crops well established there is minimal work to do on the ground. This means that I can start to play around with different ideas and change some of the earlier things that perhaps haven't quite worked. One of the first things that I need to do is work on the two main ponds again. These were connected to each other by a stream but this had to be destroyed to make way for the conservatory being rebuilt. I have the liner ready to build another, but I'm not quite sure how to lay this out yet to get best effect. I also need to have a rethink about the waterfall itself. At the moment the water tumbles down over some natural limestone rock, but I have never been completely happy with the end result. It has also leaked a bit which meant that the ponds had to be topped up on a regular basis. I have a couple of ideas to put this right but need to make sure I choose the right option, as I don't want to have to pull it all apart to start all over again! We have lost a bit of garden as well because of the development work. This has meant that a small path and bridge over the stream are too close to the edge of the wall to be safe. I think these will have to go and just get replaced by flowers. Then there is the tunnel cover to get back on and the fruit cage to repair! Time to go!!

Happy gardening until September.

Steve Hunt.

A Note for your Diary
SHIRENEWTON CHURCH FLOWER
FESTIVAL
Saturday 22nd September
Sunday 23rd September
And back by Popular Request:
The Soft Animal Parachute from the Tower
Live Music
Refreshments
Local produce stalls
Competitions
Extension Tours
and
The Local Dog Show

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH 200 CLUB

Due to unforeseen circumstances the results of the June draw were not available at the time of going to press. Results of the June and July draw will appear in the next issue

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4TH JUNE 2007

POLICE REPORT FROM PC MASON:

1. There was a theft from a field on the Usk Road of engine, tractor tyres and chains.
2. There has been criminal damage at Shirenewton School on several occasions in recent weeks, but no-one has reported seeing any of the activity.
3. There was a road accident by the Huntsman where a Landrover over-turned.
4. A large vehicle got stuck pulling out of the bottom of Weyloed Lane. Highways Department are looking at options to improve this junction.

POLICE SURGERIES ARE STILL NOT GETTING MUCH RESPONSE FROM THE PUBLIC BUT CONTINUE TO BE HELD DURING THE MORNING ON EVERY THIRD SATURDAY IN THE MONTH.

PLANNING

Approval recommended for:-

- Erection of an 8 metre flag pole at Shirenewton Primary School
- Oak Farm - to demolish the existing building and replace with a three-storey house, along with amendments to the existing planning permission on the adjacent buildings.
- Land adjacent to Great House Farm, at the Coach House from agricultural use to garden, this was a retrospective application.

Refusal recommended for:-

- Appeal against refusal of planning by Beacon Estates to construct a turning area adjacent to the gates for the golf course development.
- Appeal against refusal for stables & manège at Barn 4 Pen-yr-heol Farm at Penyaemawr.

meals. What is more, there wasn't a slug hole between them, but this may change if the weather stays wet. I may have to go and dig them all up to prevent this happening but will wait and see. I prefer to leave them in the ground if I can and dig them fresh for eating. This goes down better with the under gardener / chief cook (yes she is allowed to be in charge of the kitchen!) as it means they only have to be washed and not peeled. The first baby carrots and mangetout or sugar snap peas have also gone down a treat. They are so unbelievably sweet when pulled in the garden and straight into the pan. All within 30 minutes – not much to worry about miles travelled there! We sat down to fresh potatoes peas and carrots the other night and these complemented a very nice fillet of sea bass caught just the other day from our little fishing boat. I have to say it all tasted fantastic! At the moment we are just managing to keep in touch with our courgettes before they race to marrow size as well. At the moment I am really pleased with the way that the green crops (Brussels, cabbage and calabrese) have fared. The experiment with the netting seems to have worked in that there hasn't been any damage to the plants by caterpillars yet. It also seems indirectly to have prevented root fly damage as well as not one plant has keeled over this year as a result of having their roots eaten away. This will therefore be repeated again next year. The only problem that I have at present is the fact that they have grown so well, they are now touching the netting. I'll need to think what to do next as this will mean the cabbage white butterflies have got access to the plants and the effect of the barrier is nullified. I could raise the netting up, but unfortunately it is not wide enough to allow for this, so back to the drawing board!

In the flower beds things are really blooming. I caught the under gardener carrying two huge bunches of alstroemaria flowers across to the house the other day. She assured me that there were still plenty left for our visitors to view and I have to say on checking that she was right! I really love these flowers for colour and sheer impact. They also last a remarkably long time in the vase too. People often think that they are a fickle flower to have in the garden but they are not if you look after them in their first winter. Once established they are

Gardening Corner

I well remember some years ago the Queen talking about her "horrible year". I guess it must be 10 years ago as the people's princess died and part of Windsor Castle was burnt down. This is rapidly turning into our horrible year in the garden as yet more things go wrong! All right not quite the same disasters that beset HRH, but at times it certainly seems like it! You may remember me saying that the tunnel was trashed by wind around Christmas, the fruit cage was trashed by snow in February. The hot weather early on played havoc with the plants and the wet weather has done just the same since! Our first open day was a washout, made worse by my under gardener being struck down with pleurisy and so flat out in bed! We did manage to get one open day that was reasonable weather wise, but unfortunately didn't get as many people turn out as we had hoped for. We did have a further group booked in one evening, but this coincided with the terrible thunderstorm so this was well and truly washed out! I won't mention the builders who have also added to our troubles by taking so long to finish what was a straight-forward job! Despite all this the garden has stood up remarkably well considering all this attention from the weather. Unfortunately the charity hasn't fared quite so well and will be some £600 the poorer this year. Still that's life and despite the set backs we are happy in the knowledge that things can only get better! Hopefully!

So what's happening in the vegetable garden at the moment? In last month's article I mentioned sowing the carrots etc. just in time for the rain, hoping that this would encourage germination. Oh dear! I ended up with about six carrots in each row and the same with beetroot. I hoed these off the other day and sowed yet another lot. Taking a peak last night it does look as though this time we might be successful. I meant to go back and sprinkle a few slug pellets around the emerging shoots but forgot so I hope they are still there today. Elsewhere in the vegetable patch we are well into harvesting mode. I dug some of the first early potatoes at the start of the week. I have to say that, despite the vagaries of the weather, they have done remarkably well. I dug up two roots and these have lasted us for five

OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

- Recreation Association and their dispute with the Cricket Club rolls on, looks like they will not be able to agree terms which could result in another storage shed being erected until the legal position is finally settled.
- Grant money may be available for play equipment at Mynyddbach either in the open space or the old play area. Investigations are ongoing as to suitability of the sites.
- Litter on road from Gaerllwyd to Shirenewton was discussed but no conclusions reached.
- Solutions are being sought for the re-instatement of the grass verges that have been eroded by cars parking outside the school. Charles Eickhoff to take this up with the head teacher.
- The current ugly bollards outside the Tredegar Arms are to be replaced with modern, slim line ones which will apparently bounce back into position if (or more likely when) they are hit by passing vehicles.
- Preparations continue for the Best Kept Village Competition.

Next meeting will be held on 2nd July at 7.30pm at the Recreation Hall.

Some Words of Wisdom

Marathon runners with bad footwear suffer with de-feat

If you think dogs can't count, try putting three biscuits in your pocket and giving him one.

In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog to worship him, and a cat to ignore him.

The trouble with doing something right the first time is that nobody appreciates how difficult it was.

CALLING ALL CHILDREN (AND PARENTS)

What play equipment would you like to see in Mynyddbach and Shirenewton?

Shirenewton Community Council in partnership with MCC has arranged a meeting to hear what the children in the villages want

Come along to
SHIRENEWTON RECREATION HALL
MONDAY 13TH AUGUST AT 10 AM

The Community Council and the Play Development officer from Monmouthshire County Council will listen to all ideas. It is hoped that a new play area can be created in Mynyddbach and the equipment in Shirenewton up-dated

ST PETER'S CHURCH, NEWCHURCH

Many thanks to everyone who supported Newchurch stall at the recent fete.

The Tower Situation

The current position is that a faculty was submitted some months ago for emergency repairs to be undertaken. Certain further information was requested by the DAC and this has now been provided.

We now await further developments from the DAC.

LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

1. Problems of vandalism at the school have occurred. As a result regular police patrols take place and positive action will be taken against anyone found unlawfully on the premises.
2. A Partnerships and Communities Together (P.A.C.T.) Meeting will be held at 7pm on Monday 16th July 2007 in the Recreation Hall. Partnerships being Police, Local Authority, Community Council, Neighbourhood Watch etc.. This is an opportunity for residents to express their concerns and discuss issues which effect the community. Those present will then vote on their top three concerns and these will then be taken forward as village priorities.
3. On Wednesday 11th July 2007, at 7.30pm, there is the regular meeting of the Shirenewton and Earlswood Neighbourhood Watch being held in the Huntsman Hotel, Usk Road.
4. A big thank you to members of the Shirenewton NHW group, in particular Bev Moore and Debbie Carly, for their efforts at the Village Fete on Saturday 9th June. Guest stars were two five week old German Shepherd puppies who are destined to become police dogs with the Thames Valley Force. They were absolutely gorgeous.
5. Pc Mason will hold the July Drop-in-Session at the Recreation Hall on Saturday 21st July 10am - 12 noon, accompanied by a community councillor. The next one planned for August 18th will be cancelled due to annual leave. Anyone is welcome to attend. However, I may change the format in that I may be out walking the village rather than sitting in the hall. If this is the case there will be a note on the door with a contact number to get hold of me.
6. At 10.30am on Tuesday 10th July, PC Mason will be visiting the Shirenewton Playgroup to talk to the children.

Thanks
P.C. Andrew Mason

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VILLAGE MATTERS

* ***The new Village Plan*** - the meeting on Monday 18th June at the Rec was very informative and provided a valuable opportunity to examine and discuss a number of issues and matters of concern.

Many thanks to Charles Eickhoff and Community Councillors for their preparation and presentation of the booklet which contains a wealth of information and results based on the replies to the questionnaire distributed last year around the local Community Area (Shirenewton, Mynyddbach, Earlswood and Newchurch West).

A range of statistics are included and the professionally produced booklet provides a snapshot of the Community Area as it exists in 2007 (complete with photos, maps, proposals and action plan). Sections cover, for example, Conservation & Amenity, Development & Planning, Roads & Traffic....

Should you wish to obtain a copy, contact your local Councillor.

* ***The Village Shop*** - There is still time to consider putting in an objection to the change of use to residential. If the application is granted, we will have lost the chance to retain the shop and we'll **never** have a village shop again!

Please do consider carefully and object to this proposed change of use - details of how to object and a template objection letter are available under the Community section of the Church website - www.shirenewtonchurch.com

OUR VILLAGE MATTERS!

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH FETE


What a wonderful, wonderful day! So wonderful I had to say it twice!! I don't know who arranged the weather, perhaps it was Rev Nansi Davies – but how glorious it was. The Fete had a spectacular start on the Friday evening, with the arrival of Matt Smith and his shiny helicopter, which formed the centrepiece of the fete. The organisers and helpers watched it arrive with huge smiles on our faces and I think we all knew then that it was going to be a great fete. There was also some relief that the marquees weren't blown away to Earlswood!

Saturday lunchtime saw lots of excited children (and parents) dressed as pirates, monkeys, playing cards – you name it – milling around the Tan House car park preparing for the carnival parade. The pretty Carnival Queen sat surrounded by a bevy of lovely princesses on the spectacular 'Pirates of the Caribbean' float. The Brownies' float was packed with Hollywood stars and the guides were a walking pack of cards! The Scouts and Cubs represented 100 years of scouting and Kids Ad Lib were Workers United @Antropolis in line with their June production.



On the Way to the Fete

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The fete was opened in style by the Rev Nansi Davies who presented the prizes to the winners of the float and fancy dress competition which Tina Lacey from the Tan House had had the difficult task of judging. Everyone was then let loose with their pennies (and pounds!) to spend, and enjoy. And boy, did we both spend and enjoy! We had a couple of new attractions this year with the Pimms stall and the 'guess the flying hours on the helicopter' quiz. I am not sure which I enjoyed most – the Pimms or posing in the helicopter! It was great to see all the children having a sit in the cockpit; complete with headphones and the obligatory big grins! And isn't it great when enjoying cakes and burgers (normally forbidden treats), is for one afternoon, a good thing to do and is raising money for the Church! There were so many other great stalls and attractions that we were all kept entertained all afternoon. The ice-cream and beer ran out faster than ever before and whilst the rest of us wilted in the heat the cloggers kept on clogging!



Our own Burger Kings ready to go.

Later in the evening, we celebrated our successful day by enjoying an enormous buffet at the Huntsman and danced the night away to a disco. The final fundraising and fun event was the auction of a Helicopter ride for two where Dave Cornwell managed to push the bidding beyond anyone's previously agreed limit and added £300 to the days takings.

It was the climax of a very successful day financially – we smashed last year's figure of £5,000 and raised – wait for it - £6,100 for the church funds. AND we all had a great time!!!! We are all chuffed to bits to have raised so much money but equally, or even more importantly, love the fact that so many kids (and grown ups!) enjoyed a great fun, at a



It's very hot and my feet ache.

traditional village fete in the sunshine.

On behalf of the fete committee, I would like to thank the many people who helped to make this day so successful. It would not have been possible without the huge combined efforts of so many of you. Each stall and activity plays an important role in making this fete such a happy day. This was my first year as Fete Co-ordinator and I have to say I was knocked over by the hard work, commitment, team work and

Caroline's Cookery Corner

Zabaione—Cold

7 oz caster sugar— 6 egg yolks— 1 cup Marsala

Beat the egg yolks and sugar until the mixture turns light and begins to form a ribbon. Add the Marsala and whisk constantly in the top of a double boiler over a low heat until it becomes frothy and stiff—do not allow to boil.

Remove from the heat and decant into a chilled bowl, whisking all the time. When it has cooled down fold in 1/2 a cup of whipped cream and chill.

As this recipe requires constant whisking you might like to read a book while making it.

And for a less fattening pud.

Syrup for water ices:

1 pint water — 1/2 lb sugar— Juice 1/2 lemon

Bring water and sugar to the boil and simmer for 10 minutes, skimming when necessary. Add lemon juice and strain.

Lemon and orange sorbet

1/2 pint of the above syrup—

1/2 pint of lemon or orange juice (or mixed)

Rinds of 2 oranges or lemons

Pour the syrup while still hot over the thinly peeled fruit rind and leave to cool. Add the juice and strain. Transfer to a container and freeze.

When 1/2 frozen whisk again at this stage 1 whipped egg white may be added. Freeze.

Once again our thanks to Caroline Davies



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sheer goodwill shown by everyone involved with the Fete – there is hardly anything to co-ordinate because everyone knows what to do and simply gets on and does it. A model that many a large company could learn from!!!



But the right refreshments do bring out the smiles

Many, many thanks to everyone involved and we hope we can call on your various talents and generosity again next year!

Noelyn Prout
on behalf of the Church Fete Committee

The Cake Stall Raffle

The decorated cake that was raffled at the Fete was won by Heather Roffe. At the time of going to press the cake is unclaimed. If Heather would contact Sally Saysell on telephone number 01291 641369 arrangements can be made for you to collect your prize. Obviously the cake cannot be kept indefinitely.

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

At our May meeting Ernie Jones gave a very entertaining talk on 'A walk in the past' recounting his memories of the good old days!

Dorothy Brabon has been holding Resources Sessions at the Recreation Hall which have been well attended and will continue throughout 2007.

You can now find out all about us and view this year's programme by logging on to www.shirenewton-history.co.uk.

Our meetings for the coming months are:

Tuesday 26th June- 'How we know what we know about Roman Caerleon' by Mark Lewis- 7.30pm Huntsman Hotel.

Monday 9th July- Resources Session with Dorothy Brabon 2.00pm Recreation Hall.

Tuesday 24th July- 'Lave Fishermen' – 7.30pm Huntsman Hotel.

Tuesday 31st July- Visit to Dewstow Gardens followed by supper-7.00pm. (Please contact Dorothy Brabon on 641376 if you'd like to attend)

Monday 13th August- Resources Session with Dorothy Brabon 2.00pm Recreation Hall

THE PRIZES IN THE GRAND DRAW AT THE FETE WERE WON BY

- 1st Prize—£100 - Steve Reynolds
- 2nd Prize—£50 — Tony Broodrick
- 3rd Prize—£25 — Cynthia Smith
- 4th Prize—Whisky & Gin Pack— Mary Fuller
- 5th Prize—Cheese Board and accessories — Jolly Jones
- 6h Prize— Food Hamper— Tom Peirce
- 7th Prize—Hanging Basket— Dilwyn Jones
- 8th Prize—Rum & Coffee Liqueur— Gladys Lloyd
- 9th Prize—Meal for two at the Tan House— G Baker
- 10th Prize—Clock— Simon and Angela
- 11th Prize Beach Bag— Rose Robinson
- 12th Prize Toilet Set— by Peter / Jean Jones
- 13th Prize Cut and Blow Dry— Jo Williams

Shirenewton Hall's Famous Japanese Gardens!

(With Thanks to Mr and Mrs Bailey)

On August Bank Holiday - Monday 27th August

From 2.00 – 6.00

Tickets £5.00

Concessions £4.00

Fund Raiser for the Shirenewton Church Extension

Also available:

Cream Teas Tea and Coffee

Raffle

And hopefully Live Music

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ON

28 JULY

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P.M. IN THE CAR PARK AND TO 11.30P.M INSIDE.
AT THE TAN HOUSE**

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**AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS ENTRY WILL BE BY
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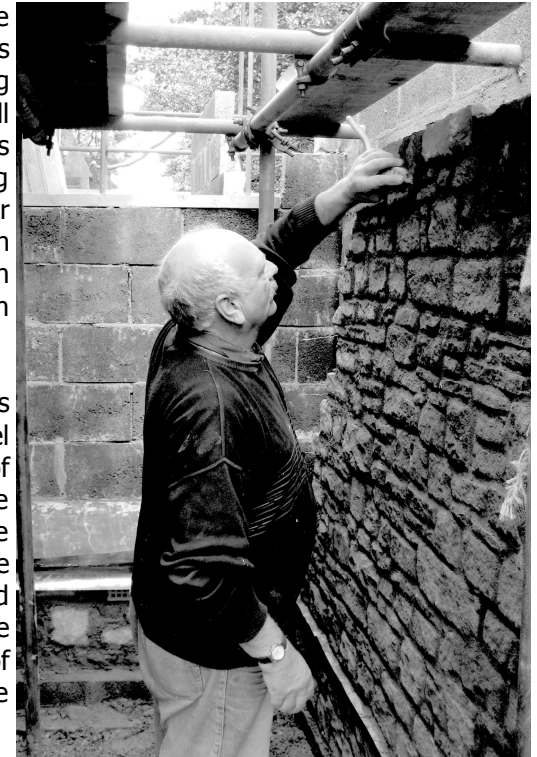
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THE CHURCH EXTENSION

Work continues on the new Church extension, and the progress we are able to see is significant. The stone dressing we saw last month is still ongoing, but the earlier stones dressed are now being converted in to the exterior cladding of the walls, which will give a finish that will be in keeping with existing church building.

This exterior stone cladding is now approaching the level where the decorative line of sills and cut stone are installed. around the periphery of the building. The sills under the main arched window are now in place giving a clear impression of what this aspect of the building will look like.



Roof tiles are on order, and once these arrive further significant progress will be visible even though there is still a great deal to be done

The picture shows Mr. John Saysell who is managing the project, working on the exterior stone cladding.

THE CHURCH WEB-PAGE

shirenewtonchurch.com

I've posted 113 photos of the village fete. Look under the 'recent events' section or the fund raising events section. If you have photos you'd like posted please pass them on and I will post them. Remember we are recording history. Imagine if we had instant access to 113 photos of the village fete in 1907, all the parish mags and community council minutes for the same year! My intention is that only very transient items get deleted from the site. I hope to build up an electronic picture of the village over the years. This is not a time for 'word bites' but "I feel the hand of history on our shoulder in respect to this. I really do. I just think we need to acknowledge that and respond to it."

I have also posted information on how you can join the tennis club and a downloadable application form. If any other societies want to have information posted you know where I am.

I've started posting links to interesting websites. The current 'website of choice' helps you find real phone numbers for those companies hiding behind the 0870 numbers. Check it out. Next is a website which apparently has the instruction manuals for "almost everything from motherboards to lawn-mowers" .I'll be checking it out and if its good I'll post it. If it isn't, you'll get something else. I have a list of about 50 sites I'm working through.

Don't forget to save yourself money (at the same time as help out the Church) by pre-booking your holiday parking at the airports with holiday Extras. They also provide cheap hotel/parking deals. Lets not forget Insurance4carhire (look under the Finance & Insurance category). Insurance4carhire provides excess insurance protecting the customer against excess charges whenever they rent a car. Your car rental includes Collision Damage Waiver (CDW) insurance. However you are still liable for excess charges on CDW. When a rental car is damaged or stolen, the driver is asked to pay a portion of the repair or replacement costs. This is known as the Excess. Insurance4carhire covers you not only for the total amount of Excess for which you are liable if the car is damaged or stolen, but also for damage to the undercarriage of the car, windows and tyres. I actually have this insurance and it has more than paid for itself.

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Itton Village Hall

Saturday 29th September

‘A Clucking Good Hen Night’

The MsFit theatre company from Scotland led by Fiona Knowles present their award winning comedy drama - three hen nights in one place on a stormy night – all the brides-to-be are getting on - one is 92!

Previous successes include ‘Stick Granny on the Roof Rack and ‘The Good, the Bad and the Botoxed’! Don’t miss it!

7.30 pm. Tickets at the door
Adults £6.00, Students £3.50

Disabled facilities, Ample car parking.
Raffle and refreshments

Finally, let me tell you a story 'bout a woman and a child - OK its just about a woman. She told me that she had used TheTrainLine through the Church website to book her train tickets. Not only that, but she had searched for cheaper tickets and even went directly to the website (without clicking through) to see if it was cheaper that way. It wasn't! The Trainline is not only cheap but pays us a 1% commission. So spend £50 on train tickets and the Church receives 50p. Those little bits add up to several hundred pounds a year - its free money people!

I've now upgraded the web stats recording on the site so rather than the simple 1st page number counting I get a complete view of how many people visited which pages and the 'stickiness' (ie how many pages were viewed prior to leaving the site). Stats have been running less than a month (since early June and its 22nd June as I write) and I can report that we have had 280 page impressions with an average of 4.08 pages viewed per visit with an average time spent on the site of over 2 mins 30 secs. 82.61% of the visits have been 'new visits'. Don't worry I can't tell who you are - I only get general stats - but its an interesting experience!

David Cornwell
Webmaster - www.shirenewtonchurch.com

SHIRENEWTON WHIST DRIVES

These continue to be well supported with 8 full tables at the Drive in June. There is always the possibility that no one will be on holiday; nor have other pressing engagements; or be ill and we will have 10 full tables which will be close to our capacity. Meanwhile we are happy to enjoy the company of between 32 and 36 players on a regular basis. We now have 5 regular players from Mynyddbach but none from Shirenewton! We play progressive whist so you do not need a partner to come and whatever your degree of skill you will be made welcome. The next Drives are at The Recreation Hall on the 5th July and the 2nd August and we start at 7.30 p.m. promptly.

Enquiries to Auriol Horton 01291 641844.

Space-Time Travellers Seen in Earlswood

The folk that were brave enough to visit Earlswood and Newchurch West Memorial Hall, on 21st 22nd and 23rd of June were, during a brief visit by the crew of "The Warp Ship N R Jize" given a glimpse of what lies ahead of us in six thousand years. Our thanks must be given to this brave crew to present us with a scenario that we must guard against for the future.

Once again, the Kids A Lib team have produced another quite remarkable presentation with "**Antropolis**". The cast of over seventy youngsters ranging in age from 5 to 17 provided the audience with performances worthy of a truly professional cast. This was a completely original production, with script, music and lyrics all coming from our local talent. The stage sets, special effects and music were absolutely outstanding, again worthy of any professional production. The performances of the actors were absolutely brilliant. It would seem now that some of our 12 to 17 year olds are now veterans of both Kids Ad Lib and SODS productions. Long may they continue to enjoy providing us with these high quality and entertaining performances.

The plot of Antropolis has a strong moral theme of the unfairness between the haves and have not's of the distant future, with the "Space travellers" having to break their laws to intervene and provide a remedy to these injustices.

It is wonderful that a number of former Kids Ad Lib actors are now making a major contribution back-stage as choreographers and Assistant Stage Managers. And the contribution of Backstage workers should not be underrated. Their work involve weeks of effort: designing and sewing over 100 costumes; the hours spent on the construction of the sets; installing the lighting rigs and sound systems plus the design and implementation of the special effects, which have become technically more demanding and increasingly more sophisticated with every production. The Director sets high standards for these productions, and has put together a brilliant team that ably supply within the very limited confines of the Hall.

It would be unfair to make special reference specific to any members of what was a piece of wonderful team work, but a special reference must be made to Director Glynis MacDonald who has once again provided the community with three superb evenings entertainment. Also to Karen Millar for her skill in providing the original music and lyrics for the songs. But more significantly Kids Ad Lib provides an opportunity for the various generations within the community to work together to produce something very worthwhile with long term benefits to the community.

Long may it continue.

ROK



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SHIRENEWTON WI

The Bells, The Bells... The Bells

June 2007

Shirenewton Bell ringers won the call changes section of The Annual Monmouth Branch Striking competition held at Shirenewton on 19th May AGAIN. This is for the third year running. To enter the call changes section the band must not be capable of ringing Methods so this year Tom Mitchell aged 12 years was our non method ringing participant. He also collected the trophy from the judges. We now go on to compete in the final of the Llandaff and Monmouth DACBR Striking competition which is to be held in the Llandaff Branch at St Hilary near Cowbridge on Saturday 23rd June.

Our latest recruits Chris Eickhoff, and Hannah and Thomas Leney are progressing well and have now all achieved their Ambitious Apprentice badges and are ready to start attending our regular Friday night practice.

Our annual Ten Tower tour is now scheduled for August. We are planning a camping weekend in Dorset. Let's hope it's stopped raining by then!

Pip Penney

SHIRENEWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL ART COMPETITION

The "Art Competition" run in conjunction with the Village Fete was given the theme of "My School". The winning exhibits were on display in the "Tea-room" at the Recreation Hall during the Fete. The winning entrants were:

Infants — First Prize - Blake Stevens
Infants— Second Prize - Harry Glyn

Juniors — First Prize - Sarah Kirkham
Juniors—Second Prize - Dagem Samuel

Highly commended were: - Oak Mackay & Joshua Seward

Book tokens for winners and books for highly commended were to be presented during a School Assembly meeting.

Jenny Bonner presided over her first meeting as President and members were advised that following the AGM Auriol was the new Treasurer, Margaret would continue as Secretary with Winnie Jones as Vice-President and Ruth, Barbara and Shirley committee members carrying out various important jobs.

Business matters were discussed – those members who had helped serve the cream teas at the fete were thanked and it was noted that a profit of £186.21 was handed over to Church funds. Future events were discussed, namely the summer outing to Lindors on the 25th July and the Dinner on the 16th August. Also two Gwent Federation dates for the diary were noted – a sale of craft items on the 13th July and on the 27th July Jeanette Hood is opening her delightful gardens to WI members who are being encouraged to take a picnic.

Shirley thanked members for sending her as the delegate to the AGM held in London earlier in the month and gave everyone a typed report of the proceedings on the day which emphasises the impact the WI organisation has on a number of national issues. Shirley has also suggested starting a drama group if enough members are interested.

The Forest School was the topic of this month's speaker. Lucy Kirkham is Education Manager for the Forestry Commission Wales and is involved in training teachers to run a Forest School. Lucy also happens to be the daughter of our new President, Jenny Bonner. The forest school is a concept that came over from Scandinavia and is about using an outdoor environment. It is a new educational approach where children from schools all across Wales regularly visit a woodland setting where they make things out of wood, explore the forest, make fires, build shelters, enjoy getting muddy, etc. This has proved to give children much more confidence and self esteem and also a feeling of achievement away from the conventional classroom situation, as well as encourage social skills through team building and a greater understanding about the environment. Indeed one of our teacher members is a Forest School leader. Even inner city schools can achieve this, not necessarily in a forest, and some schools use an area within their school grounds. All members were then encouraged to make necklaces made from wooden cookies, which proved fun and produced some unusual decorated items.

The next meeting will be the Garden Party on Thursday, 19th July. Please note earlier start at 7.00pm

STARGAZING IN JULY 2007

Later in the evening the Summer Triangle is overhead. This is a prominent triangle formed by the bright stars Altair, to the South of the triangle, Vega, closest to the Western horizon, and Deneb, to the East. Deneb forms the tail of the cross-shaped constellation Cygnus, the Swan. The familiar seven stars of Ursa Major, the Great Bear or Plough, are to be seen in the north-west, with the "W" of Cassiopeia climbing into the north-eastern sky.

The very bright planet Venus is in the west and reaches its maximum brightness in mid July. However by the end of the month it will become more and more difficult to see as it approaches the setting sun.

In early July Saturn can be seen to the right of Venus, but is also disappearing as it drops into the twilight.

Jupiter lies low in the southern sky in the later evening, just above Antares, a reddish coloured star. Antares is a red giant star that is near the end of its life. It is over 500 times bigger than our Sun, and much more luminous. Eventually it will explode forming a brilliant supernova.

If it's clear, the western sky on the evening of 16th July should provide a striking sight: the crescent Moon lies just below Saturn with the very bright Venus to the left.

Although a beautiful sight as viewed from Earth, Venus is not a very inviting place to visit. With a surface temperature of over 400°C, hot enough for rocks to glow, and a thick sulphurous atmosphere, it won't be appearing on the travel web-sites just yet!

Dave Thomas

FAIRTRADE NEWS

Although I have spent many years researching fairtrade goods I am still constantly amazed and horrified by the individual stories behind the basic commodities produced in the poorer parts of the world.

Actionaid have just launched a WHO PAYS? campaign with an article about the production of cashews in southern India. Apparently 500.000 women are involved in the processing of this luxury item. They earn as little as 30p per day. For every pound spent in Britain 1 penny - or even less goes to these women. Corrosive oil and acrid smoke are released by the roasting process - leading to a high level of respiratory illness and highly caustic oil released during the shelling results in dermatitis and blistering. Less reputable private companies in India's deregulated cashew industry have pushed most government factories out of business. UK importers say they have no choice (!) but to seek out the lowest possible prices.

Rahela works in Dhaka in a factory whose clothes end up in Tesco's . There is a day-care centre for children at the factory, as specified by law, but Rahela says employees are only able to use it when the supermarket inspectors come. When they are asked about their wages the employees are told to lie, otherwise they will lose their jobs.

Surely Tesco's customers need to demand a tougher system of inspection. But when you consider that people are happy to accept that Asda's cheapest jeans can cost as little as £3 it makes you wonder (or in my darker moments , despair) .

Traidcraft has cashews £1 95 for 150gms, brazil nuts £1 70 for 150gms, walnut halves £1 50 for 125gms AND of course many other delicious, fairly produced goods.

Contact me for info Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com



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Tel: 01291 425599 Mobile: 07790308952

Recycling Box Point: Carpenters Arms Shirenewton

SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS UNION

On Wednesday, 13th June 7 members and 1 guest met at The Recreation Hall and after opening prayers followed by a report on the Deanery Meeting held on the previous day we were pleased to welcome Captains Gerald and Jayne Nicholl of the Salvation Army. With the aid of videos they told us of the work of the Salvation Army internationally, nationally and locally and they do indeed help those in need from the cradle to the grave twenty-four hours of the day and seven days of the week. They are called upon in emergency situations to provide refreshment for rescue workers and to give counselling to the shocked and injured. Recently they have been asked to help provide sanctuary for girls rescued from "human trafficking" (slavery) raids by the police. At the other end of the scale there are the young people who find themselves alone without a roof over their heads and no "home" skills – here the S.A. teaches them how to look after themselves – to cook simple inexpensive meals and to budget their money. There seems to be no end to the ways they find to help people. They do receive a Government Grant but it in no way meets their expenses and the shortfall is made up from their street collections and public donations. If they ask for your help please give generously. They were thanked warmly by Patsy Lewis.

Members are reminded that our next meeting will be on the 11th July at St.Arvals.

In August on Thursday, 9th we will meet at The Recreation Hall to celebrate Mary Sumners Day with Midday Prayers followed by a Soup & Roll Lunch. We will be joined by some members from Pontypool Deanery and the subject of "Credit Union" will be discussed. Visitors are welcome to join us for Prayers, Lunch and discussion. Donations will be acceptable.

In September we will be making a visit to the Quiet Garden at Coed-y-paen for Corporate Communion and reflection.

Shirenewton Branch is part of the Netherwent Deanery in the Diocese of Monmouth and members take part in events at both Deanery and Diocese levels. The Diocese MU Marketing Stand will be at Chepstow Show this year – stop by and see what you can do to help the work of the MU both in this country and worldwide.

Enquiries to Auriol Horton
01291 641844

1ST SHIRENEWTON GUIDES.

All systems are go in Guides as I write this as camp is looming large and there is still quite a bit to do to ensure a successful weekend – not least praying for good weather! The girls enjoyed the fete and, although our game was not a great money-spinner, we doubled our profit on last year.

Unfortunately we had to cancel Guides last week due to the very inclement weather - we were scheduled to complete a village walk and scavenger hunt. The rest of the term we hope will go as planned with lots of outdoor activities culminating in a campfire. During the summer the leaders will plan activities for next term and we are always looking for people who might have a particular skill or hobby that they could share – we are still looking for someone to teach us to jive (or if that is a bit strenuous a hand jive will do). Please don't be shy – we are a friendly bunch and love to see new faces!

We hope you all have a happy and safe summer and Guides will resume in September.

Kestrel	Helen Cann	tel. 01291 650835
Kitten	Amanda Turner	tel. 01291 650763

ITTON VILLAGE PRODUCE SHOW

at

Itton Village Hall on Saturday 7th July

Opening at 2.30pm.. All exhibits must be in place on the morning of the Show by 12pm.

Schedules can be obtained by contacting
Gerdien Versteeg on 01291 628091

Besides vegetables and flowers, there are craft items, painting, photography, wine making, cooking and preserves. The children's section has a variety of entries also.

SHIRENEWTON BROWNIES

BROWNIES SUMMER FUN

Summer in Guiding always means lots of outdoor activities and trips – so this month has been exceptionally busy and we've also been very lucky at dodging the rain ... so far! Here are the girls' accounts of what we've been up to over the last few weeks –

The **Techniquet Trip** on 22nd May was very interesting and fun. We did lots of experiments like making a carbon dioxide fire extinguisher to put out a candle and we made a massive human electrical circuit which was able to light a huge light bulb. We were all able to earn our Brownie Science Investigator Badge at this evening.

The **Shirenewton Church Fete** on 9th June was really fun. The Brownies had a float which we had decorated to look like a film set and we all dressed up as film stars and famous people. We called the float Brownie Blockbuster. We travelled to the fete in style on a lorry and had lots of fun.

At **Magor Marsh** on 12th June we did Reen Dipping (like pond dipping) with Helen, which was extremely interesting. We put the creatures we had found (beetles, snails and leeches and many others) under a microscope and made them look bigger and showed them to everyone on a large interactive whiteboard.

On Tuesday Dorothy made us summer fruit Smoothies and Sue Morgan helped us learn to dance round the May Pole for our mid-summer party. It did rain as though we were in the tropics, but even that created great excitement as we thought we were going to have to paddle our way out of school.

The Brownie programme encourages the girls to take part in a wide variety of activities, including encouraging the girls into science and outdoor fun.

Jackie Broughton