

THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS A BECKET SHIRENEWTON



Parishes of Shirenewton and Newchurch

READERS AND SIDES- PERSONS ROTA FOR NOVEMBER 2007

DATE	SERVICE	READER	SIDES-PERSON
4th November	All Saints 9.45 a.m.	Peter Jones Jean Jones	Peter Jones Jean Jones
11th November	3rd Sunday Before Advent	Remembrance Sunday 10.30	
18th November	2nd Sunday before Advent 9.45 a.m.	Sally Saysell Andrew Baker	Alan Saysell Claire Lewis
25th November	Christ The King 9.45 a.m.	John Nicholas Mike Pierce	John Nicholas Ann Nicholas
2nd December	Advent Sunday 9.45 a.m.	Kevin Bounds Alistair Bounds	Kevin Bounds Alistair Bounds

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
	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:	Jenny Bonner	641929
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 - Earlswood	Beverley Moore	641532
	Jayne Kirby	641217

Please send notes, discs or emails for the December magazine to Bob O'Keefe at: 15 Newton Manor, Shirenewton, (641686) or email to bobandwenche@aol.com by Friday 23rd November for inclusion in the December magazine. Please note:- there is no magazine published in January, notices for January need to be sent to me with the December's contributions.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1st November	Whist Drive—The Recreation Hall 7.30
11th November	Remembrance Day Services at Earlswood Hall And St Thomas A Becket Church 10.30 a.m. 2 p.m. Resource session SLHS –Recreation Hall
12th November	Community Council Meeting 7.30 Recreation Hall
16th November	Robin Reece Jazzmen Earlswood Hall—See advert
24th November	The Clockwork Heart—Itton Hall.
5th December	Local Neighbourhood Watch Meeting 7.30—Huntsman
2nd December	A Christmas Concert—Shirenewton Church
6th December	Whist Drive—The Recreation Hall 7.30
9th December	Christmas Concert St. Mary's Church Chepstow.
31st December	A village New Years Eve Party at The Huntsman Tickets from the Huntsman.
24/25/26th Jan	Panto –Beauty and the Beast –Earlswood Hall

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Dear Friends,

As many of you may know by now, the Revd Hugh Trenchard, our Vicar, has decided to take early retirement on the grounds of ill health. Hugh has been ill for some time this year and has not previously enjoyed good health for some time. We are sorry that Hugh's health has meant that he is unable to continue his ministry among us and we all hope and pray that he will regain some improvement so that he and Gill can together enjoy their retirement. Hugh and Gill will be remaining in the vicarage at least until the New Year or until their arrangements for a new home are made.

This means that in the New Year the Benefice of the Caerwent Group will be facing an interregnum during which time I, together with the churchwardens in the four parishes and our ministry team will endeavour to ensure that the services and pastoral care will continue smoothly until a new incumbent is appointed. Bishop Dominic has reminded us that an interregnum is a time when parishes can grow together and unite in a common vision. I am confident that we will all do our very best to ensure that we continue in our work together drawing strength from each other through our prayers and fellowship.

Much work continues in each of our church buildings. Llanfair have now sold most of the pews and installed new chairs which are very comfortable and which enables the building to become more versatile and used by the community for a variety of purposes. Donations in memory of a loved one or for any reason can be made towards the cost of a chair and those interested should contact the churchwardens. Work on the church extension at Shirenewton is now moving to the completion of the shell and plans are in hand to raising the necessary funds to fit out the interior. Newchurch is working on the documents towards a faculty for repairing the tower to prevent the egress of rain water. At Caerwent some minor works are in hand and discussion about the repair of the outer church wall is ongoing not least because a considerable sum of money is needed to undertake the work..

The annual Festival of Light will again take place on 31st October at Caerwent at 6pm to which all are welcome. Each year we are delighted that so many people come to join in the fun and fellowship especially the younger members of our parishes.

Four of our church members at Caerwent are travelling at their own expense to Uganda in November to help with a project for which Jean Earl has been fund raising this year. All the money raised, much from the local community, will go to the project costs. These intrepid travellers will help with the building of houses for children whose parents have died from HIV/Aids or from some other tragedy, leaving these little ones without family or homes. We wish them God speed and safe return.

On Remembrance Sunday we will once again remember all those who have given their lives in service of their country both in the First and Second World Wars and all those who have died in the many conflicts since. After WW1 and WW2 everyone prayed for an enduring peace but as we have seen, even today, peace eludes the world but we must continue to pray for peace, pray for the bereaved and for those who bear the wounds and scars of conflict. In each of our churches there is a book available for anyone to enter a request for prayers to be offered for any person or purpose. Such requests are offered in the prayers during our services.

Peace and blessings,
Nansi Davies. Curate.

From the Registers

A service of Baptism was held in the Family Service on 16th September for James Shaw the son of Claire Louise and Paul Shaw.

some into chutney! We are still picking cucumbers as well which is about the latest we have ever had them. I did have to resort to spraying them for red spider mite, and this action just managed to save them in time. It won't be much longer though before we resort to picking what we can and clearing the greenhouse out. I intend to give it a good wash down with Jeyes fluid this year in an effort to kill off any over-wintering pests.

I have now started the cut flower area I mentioned last month and planted this up with Irises and alstroemaria's, plus one or two other odd bits and pieces. I'll also be opening the sweet pea seed packets this week and getting them planted in pots. Sweet peas are amazingly hardy during the winter, especially now they are generally milder. I had some cracking plants a couple of years ago but mice ate these over the winter so I need to make sure that this doesn't happen again.

Elsewhere in the fruit garden it is time for the major clear up. I will be cutting all this years fruiting raspberry canes out as a first off. The few autumn fruiting ones that I have will be left for next spring as they fruit on current years wood, whereas the main crop fruit on previous years growth. All the other fruits growing on canes (blackberries, Tayberries etc) will also be cut and all the canes left will then be tied to their support wires. Most of these are in the fruit cage and I intend to revamp this at the same time, thanks to the local squirrel population. I will take the bird netting off the top and sides, replacing the sides with wire rabbit netting. I am going to leave the top off over winter in case we get any snow again, and then cover this with bird netting in the spring. Hopefully the cats will keep the squirrels at bay and prevent them from chewing hole that the birds then gain access through. Time will tell!

Happy gardening until next month. Steve Hunt.

well this year. You wouldn't be able to do this with garlic bought from the shops however as the likely-hood is that this has been grown in a hot climate and therefore not suitable here – at least not for a few more years of global warming. Presently I'm starting to work my way around the raised beds in the vegetable patch and getting these cleaned up, removing the remains of old crops and weed. Again most of these would benefit from some of the soil being removed and replace with copious amounts of manure. The only exceptions to this are those beds that I intend to plant with root crops next year, as fresh manure makes the roots fork. We are currently harvesting leeks; parsnips, squashes and cabbages with the Brussels due to come in shortly. All welcome additions to the casserole pot. I have already planted the first broad beans for next year, into 3-inch pots. Hopefully these will be ready for planting out in the ground by the end of next month and will provide sweet young beans by June. I haven't grown beans over-winter for several years but will make sure they have some winter protection by putting a cloche over the top of them.

In the tunnel we still have some peppers growing strongly, although I doubt that these will go for much longer. The baby carrots are a success and the first are ready for pulling. The second crop is also coming along well and these should be ready for picking around Christmas time with any luck. The late French beans are also looking well but I'm waiting to see what rate of pollination I get, considering that insects can't readily gain access inside the tunnel. They are meant to be self-pollinating so we will wait and see. I will try planting some of the broad beans in one of the tunnel beds as well as outside just to see how these fare in the better shelter of the tunnel. Maybe we'll have beans in May, the same time as the strawberries, but not necessarily together! I had a major clearout in the large greenhouse this weekend. The tomatoes had been left to their own devices for a couple of weeks and with this mild, still grey weather there was a fair amount of mould starting to form on leaves and fruits, wherever they touched something. There were also a lot of new shoots that needed removing, as they will serve no purpose. We still have plenty of tomatoes to pick. Some of these will never turn red as we are getting too late in the year for this. Hopefully the under-gardener will turn

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Dates for the next couple of months

Date	Time	Venue	
28th October	9.45	Sunday Club	The Chantry
4th November	9.45	Sunday Club	The Chantry
11th November	9.45	Remembrance Sunday Church	
18th November	9.45	Sunday Club	The Chantry
25th November	9.45	Sunday Club	The Chantry
2nd December	9.45	Sunday Club	The Chantry
9th December	9.45	Sunday Club & Advent Mini Fayre	
16th December	9.45	Sunday Club	The Chantry
23rd December	9.45	Nativity Dress Rehearsal—Church	
24th December	9.45	Nativity and Christingle—Church	

It's nearly time to start rehearsing our Nativity play again!
New members always wanted, do come and join us.

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

Jane Smith-Haddon 641 525

Glynis MacDonald 641818

Shirenewton Church 200 Club

The result of the September draw was:

Ticket No	Winner	Prize
65	Simon Rubach	£40
94	Frank Atkinson	£30
223	Elaine Rigby	£20
171	Richie Tout	£10



'Church in the Village' Flower Festival

Long before the Reformation, the parish church was the hub of village life. It was built by the laity for the laity. Everything happened there or was linked to it in some way, from the ceremonies that followed childbirth to the priest using the confessional to resolve parish disputes. Churches even had their own breweries, with church ales a source of revenue for maintenance.'

Taken from a review of Roy Strong's new book 'A Little History of the English Country Church' The Times, Saturday 15th September 07

Well, I guess the powers that be would take a dim view of the PCC brewing up 'Thomas a Becket Beer' but we are keen to keep the church as the hub of village life. So we dreamt up this flower show with a difference. We asked all the different groups in and around the village to create an arrangement that somehow would represent their group. So we had arrangements from the Brownies, the Guides, the Scouts, the Sunday Club and from the After School Club from Shirenewton Primary. And we even had a basket of paper posies from the youngest in the community – the Playgroup. And then we had floral displays from those that have more experience in flower arranging - from the History Society - to the Community Council.

So over the weekend of 22nd /23rd September, the church full of wonderful flowers and friendly people, the church tower was full of excited teddies waiting to do their parachute jumps, the bottom church yard was full of enthusiastic dogs waiting for the agility show and even the new (and not yet finished) church extension was full of hungry people eating the excellent ploughman's lunches.

Thank you to everyone who made the day so enjoyable and such a success.

Now for our next project, I wonder if the PCC would like to brew up some 'Becket Beer'...

THE CHURCH EXTENSION

As can be seen from the facing page, with Jane Smith Haddon and Glynis MacDonald fitting the final roof stone (well, they did lay the first block) the shell of the building is now complete. The scaffolding has been removed, and work has started on levelling, restoring the ground around the new extension, and laying down a new access path to the extension.

With the roof on, providing protection from the oncoming winter, work on the interior can now be started.

Gardening Corner

With three cats always on the prowl I guess it had to happen eventually? One of our previous cats used to delight in doing it so it was almost inevitable that one of the current ones would as well! What am I talking about? Polythene running to be exact – the art of running up the side of a poly-tunnel at great speed, usually followed by a period of quiet contemplation, sitting on the very top of the said poly-tunnel whilst surveying the countryside. This then followed by a period of rapid decent as one slide's back down to the ground. Only on this occasion I happened to be down the garden connecting a mower to the back of our little tractor and caught the culprit in full tilt heading for the top. As you can imagine the only way for a cat to climb up polythene is to get the claws out for grip! Needless to say there was no time for the period of reflection on the part of the cat, but every time for me to vent my spleen as I headed full pelt down the garden yelling and screaming at the aforementioned animal. This continued with me in hot pursuit as the cat disappeared out of the garden and up our drive. This certainly made me feel good and hopefully will have pointed out the error of his ways to the cat! I can honestly say that no animal was harmed during this entire exercise, but if I find him up there again it may be a different story! No doubt "Spencer" will get his revenge next time he requires a worm pill as the last time he managed to clamp his mouth shut, whilst my finger was still well and truly inside! Let's just say it's an uncomfortable truce at present with each eyeing the other with suspicion!

I've managed to get the autumn onion and garlic in the ground. The raised beds had too much soil in to be able to add yet more manure. As an area near the pond required some soil as a result of the earlier building work, I dug several barrow loads and moved this out, replacing with well-rotted manure from our field store. This was incorporated into the ground and the onions and garlic planted straight away. They are yet to show green shoots but I'm sure this won't be long. This time I have used some of our own garlic harvested this year to produce next years' crop. I thought it might be worth a try as the species are bred for our climate and they did



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and Chepstow Hospital Rehab Unit***



We started so we'll finish.
Jane Smith-Haddon and Glynis MacDonald fit
the final stone into place on the roof.



The scaffolding is down, and work has started on the renovation of the ground.



A Christmas Concert in Shirenewton Church

Get Christmas off to a great start with a seasonal feast of song and music.

Featuring
Phillip Schartz on trumpet
The Netherwent Choir
And refreshments.
Sunday 2nd December 5.00—6.30

Tickets £8.00 or £7.00 for
"Friends of the Church"
Concessions £5.00.

Tickets available from the church wardens.
Sally Saysell and Andrew Baker
Or ring Glynis on 641818

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From Your Community Council Correspondent

Please note: The official Council minutes are displayed on the village notice boards or can be found on the Church web site.

The current minutes have to be ratified by the next month's council so you only see the previous month's not the current month.

Meeting of Monday 14th October 07 9 members of the public attended.

Meeting of:

As so many members of the public had turned up to discuss one specific issue, i.e. The Barriers at Mynnyddbach the matter was discussed before it was reached on the agenda. Feelings were running very high. The Council was at pains to explain to the attending members of the public that a breakdown in communications with MCC (surely not I hear you cry) resulted in action being taken by MCC which had **not** been requested by Shirenewton Community Council. As those of you who read the magazine will have noted, some local residents had approached the council wondering if it would be useful to have some sort of barrier at the open space to prevent unwanted access – i.e. joy riders. And so, to get more information as to what might be appropriate, should the council wish to further this action, a request was sent to MCC asking them for advice. Imagine then, everyone's surprise when MCC - without consultation - went ahead and erected barriers. The Chairman explained that no way would the Community Council have installed barriers without consulting the local residents. Anyone with a view concerning the barriers is requested to put these views in writing to the Clerk. Clls Saysell and Crundwell will also be canvassing the opinions of the local residents.

Police Report

Not good news at all. Check your windows and doors. Thieves have had rich pickings recently.

Crime

Wed 15th Aug:- A house was entered by forcing rear French windows. 2 males were disturbed and were seen leaving in the 'white van'.

Although the registration numbers were taken, the numbers proved to be cloned.

Sat 18th Sept: - Attempted burglary - marks found on rear window frame.

- Tues 29th Sept:- Trailer stolen from Old Golf Course
 Sat 13th Oct:- Overnight break-in via dining room window. Property stolen.
 Sat 13th Oct:- Overnight break -in - entry gained through insecure rear window and property was stolen.

Road Traffic Accidents

- Tues 14th Aug:- In the centre of the village, a large HGV travelling through the village hit a garden wall. Details were taken by witnesses and the vehicle was traced.
 Sun 16th Sept:- Single vehicle in an accident involving a squirrel. Luckily there were no injuries.

Other

- Friday 10th Aug:- Another HGV got stuck on the steep incline at the junction between Weyloed Lane and the Usk Road.
 Monday 3rd Sept:- Shooting in St Pierre Great Woods. Shots have been heard and it is suspected to be related to the shooting of buzzards. Several have been found dead recently.
 Tuesday 4th Sept:- Suspicious vehicle seen – a red van similar to the old Post Office van – N reg. seen between Shirenewton and Mounton

PC Mason and a Community Councillor go on a walk-about round the village on the third sat of every month between 10 am and 12 midday. Please feel free to stop and talk to them.

Planning Applications:-

There were none – nevertheless, it was still a long council meeting.

Items of Local Concern: -

Additional Post Box — Cllr Down has once again written to the Royal Mail but this time has requested a response within two weeks. So at the next council meeting there should be a result.

The Scope of the Community Council's Environmental Officer:-

Cllr Crundwell – our Community Council Environmental Officer produced an extremely comprehensive report all the issues that could be address by the council. There were so many opportunities for action that it was agreed to prioritise.

Caroline's Cookery Corner

With "Bonfire night" once again open us, the following recipe will be ideal for completing the evening.

Filled Pitta Breads are ideal for a bonfire party—cut in half , filled and wrapped in foil they can be heated on a bonfire— alternatively the mix can be kept warm and everyone helps themselves.

<i>4 Tablespoons oil</i>	<i>2 tablespoons pine nuts</i>
<i>2 onions chopped</i>	<i>1 clove garlic chopped</i>
<i>2 lbs minced beef or lamb</i>	<i>4 tablespoons sultanas</i>
<i>2 teaspoon cinnamon</i>	<i>1 teaspoon allspice</i>
<i>Pepper & salt & stock</i>	<i>Finely chopped parsley</i>

Fry the nuts in the oil until lightly brown & remove from the pan. Fry onions and garlic until soft and add the mince and fry quickly until the meat is brown. Add fruit and spices with a little stock and cook until the meat is tender. Season and add the pine nuts and parsley.

Put a couple of spoonfuls into the halved Pitta, wrap in foil and heat up on the bonfire.

I remember as a child having toffee apples on bonfire night—not exactly healthy but so what once in a while.

<i>6 oz. Syrup</i>	<i>12 oz. Dark brown sugar</i>
<i>1 oz Butter</i>	<i>1/4 Pint water</i>
<i>1 teaspoon vinegar</i>	<i>8 Apples & 8 Toffee apple sticks</i>

Place the syrup, sugar, butter, water and vinegar in a heavy based pan and heat over a low heat– stir until the sugar has dissolved. Do not Allow the sugar to boil. Remove spoon and increase the heat and boil to soft crack stage 138 deg C /280 deg F or when a little syrup dropped into iced water forms a hard ball. Remove from the from the heat and place the base into cold a pan of cold water. When the bubbles have subsided, push the stick into the apple an dunk them into the toffee until thoroughly coated Dip each apple into cold water to set the toffee. Stand on greaseproof paper to cool and wrap in cellophane.

Once again our thanks to Caroline Davies.



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Shirenewton School Parking:-

This 10 + year old problem continues to exercise the mind. However Cllr Down reported that MCC had applied for a grant from the Welsh Assembly for parking – although how and what the solution would be – has not been agreed. The cllrs requested that there be consultation with residents before any decision is made.

The Church Flower Festival

Cllr Eickhoff reflected the council's appreciation to Mrs Harvey for producing such a beautiful flower arrangement. However it was noted by another councillor –and I was requested to mention this in the magazine – that any posters that are placed around the village to advertise any event should be removed ASAP after that event.

*At the time of going to print the church posters have been removed.
Glynis.*

The Open Space at Mynnyddbach

Keep your eye on this one. Cllr Down explained the complicated situation whereby the understanding that this is a green space protected from development by being a designated Owain Glyndwr site might not be the case. He is concerned that MCC might be reneging on their original agreement and explained that in 2011 new plans (UDP or similar title and remit) will be drawn up and MCC will be looking for areas to develop for housing. This patch of land might not be as protected as is thought.

Village Shop

The council is keen to discover ways of maintaining a village shop and reported that there are a lot of people who would be interested to work in or invest in, a village shop.

Allotments

Unlike the too speedy response from MCC re: The Barriers of Mynnyddbach, the problem of The Allotments of Mynnyddbach continues to rumble on. Colin Berg of MCC has said that the outcome of a review between the Corporate Director and the relevant Cabinet Minister should have been forwarded to Shirenewton and he will chase it up.

At last month's meeting I reported on the councillors' general dismay at MCC's lack of communication and response to the enquiries made concerning these allotments. I also reported the suggestion that was

made (presumably born out of frustration at the lack of progress) that interested people might just as well go ahead and start digging. As regular readers of this column know, the allotment situation has been on the council table since a year last February. However, the sentiments in my article were read by and objected to, by officers at MCC. Hmm... Biting my tongue...no comment.

Solar powered light by Shirenewton Church

The existing solar panel will be removed and a larger one will be installed to enable the light to stay on longer.

Road Closures

The Goetre –Penycaemawr road is to be temporarily closed from 29th October for 4 weeks for essential highway work. The closures will be restricted to 9.00 – 15.30 Mondays to Fridays only.

Important. The Old Horse is Out of Action

It was reported that the old horse in the play ground in the recreation playground is suffering from irredeemable rot. **Consequently it is advised that no one rides on him...** until he is fixed or sent to the knackers yard. The council will attach a notice to the horse's withers or wherever... to this effect.

Next meeting will be on Monday 12th November (not 5th because it's Bonfire Night)

FOUND

A man's M&S Blue harbour jacket - large
The owner went to Llanvapley on Saturday 9th April 2005
And placed a £5 bet on 'Chief Predator' at 5/1
And won £30.00
If this is your jacket please ring 01291 641 818

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

Our first meeting after the summer break was well attended. Our speaker for the evening had just '*flown in*' from Bangor and was a little late due to the flight being late getting into Cardiff Airport (I kid you not). Rick Turner is a CADW inspector for the whole of Wales and his specialist subject is Chepstow Castle. He has recently published a book on the subject (which we have in our resources, if any of our members would like to borrow) and gave an experts account of the history of the castle, with a lively question and answer session taking place afterwards, the vote of thanks was given by Peggy Jenkins.

Our October meeting on Tuesdays, 30th October, as usual at the Huntsman Hotel, will include our A.G.M. (no groans, please) this will soon be over and you are assured of an interesting, educating and amusing talk given by Ian McFarlane on the subject of 'The History and Pre-History of GaerLlwyd', please come along, everyone welcome. Non-members only need pay a small fee (£1).

Resource Sessions will take place on Monday, 12th November at Shirenewton Recreational Hall, sessions start at 2.00 pm. They are drop in sessions, where you can pop in and browse through our books on local history or check out our Ordinance Survey maps of the parish of Shirenewton (3 editions) or look up the census records of Monmouthshire we have on disk (1841,1851,1861,1871,1881,1891,1901) and quite a lot more.

SHIRENEWTON WHIST DRIVES

Again there was only one spare chair at the October Drive! And six players missing due to illness or holidays! (Hall Committee please note – we do need some reserve chairs please) Our next Drives are on the 1st November and 6th December at the Recreation Hall starting at 7.30 p.m. promptly.

Enquiries to Auriol Horton. 0291 641844.

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It's an NFU Mutual understanding

Harvest Lunch

Once again we managed to fill Earlswood Hall and we hope that the near 100 people who attended enjoyed the fare. As ever, the support was tremendous and our thanks go to all the ladies of the village who made and served the lunch. In addition we must acknowledge the generous support of Geoff Roser.

So many people contribute, it is impossible to mention them all but our special thanks go to:

Stu Dutton and Dave Cornwell who, as auctioneers, managed to get top price for all the produce and raised over £225 for the Physiotherapy Unit at Chepstow Community Hospital.

Barbara Davies for obtaining such magnificent raffle prizes and raising over £150.

Kevin and Alistair Bounds, who produced plentiful supplies of soft drinks for the adults and wine for the kids - or was it the other way round?

Jean Jones for producing such attractive flower arrangements for the tables.

Tickets for next year's event will be available from the box office from mid August so make a note in your diaries!

THE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

New Year at The Huntsman 2007

Proceedings to commence 7:30 pm

Background music by our local DJ - Peter Burke

Live entertainment by Zoe Schwartz & Rob Koral

Buffet from 8:30 pm throughout the evening.

Please contact Phil, at the Huntsman, 01291 641521
to register for tickets.

Tickets £30.00 per head.

The last two years have been a sell out so get your name on the list.

SHIRENEWTON W.I.

Jenny Bonner presided at our meeting in October. We had a short business meeting because it was an OPEN EVENING with guests. She warmly congratulated three of our members, Ruth Savager, Barbara Oubridge and Anna Evans-Pollard for being members of the Gwent Federation choir which was placed second at the Inter Federation Eisteddfod in Aberystwyth. Jenny reminded members of the carol concert in Abergavenny 1 December and the Federation event 17 November when our group will be providing cakes.

Our President welcomed nine guests to our evening and introduced the speaker, Mr Martin Morgan who spoke on "The Black Rock Lave Fishermen". This is an ancient craft originating in the 1600s. The licence to fish for salmon was originally given to the Lewis family of St Pierre. This ancient craft was handed down through four or five generations and was revived by our speaker and other local fishermen.

The season runs from 1 June – 31 August and is totally dependent on the rise and fall of the tides. He explained how the nets were made with a frame of local ash and willow and the nets are constructed by the fishermen themselves. The craft of using these nets is to wade out into the Severn, when the water is chest high to catch the salmon on a falling tide. Their knowledge of the river bed and the flow of the water is critical to their safety. Mr Morgan showed us a short T.V. film of this craft with the hope that this dedicated form of salmon fishing will continue for many years.

Our next meeting will be 15 November at 7.15 pm in the Recreation Hall when Hugo Nieuwen-Huizebn will speak on ceramics.

Shirenewton Opera & Drama Society
present

Beauty and the Beast



Earlswood Memorial Hall

Thur 24th, Fri 25th & Sat 26th January 2008
at 7.30pm

Tickets available from Monday 17th December
from
Barbara Walters Tel No 01291 641338

Price: Adults £6.00 Children £4.00

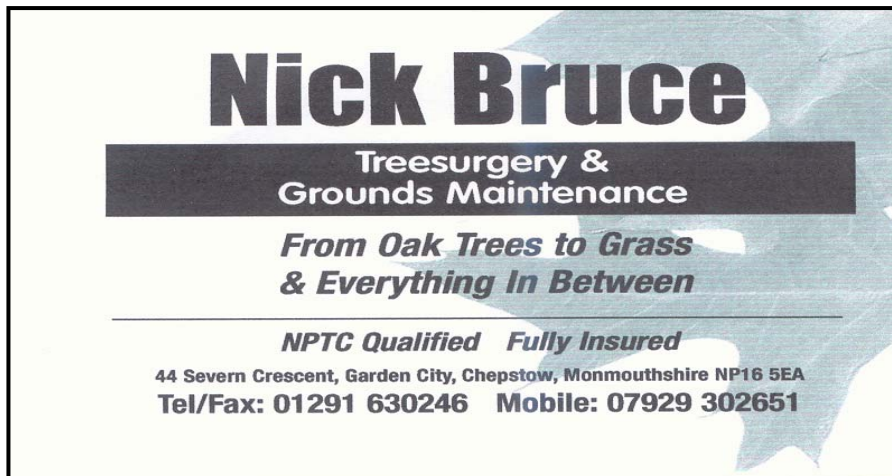
NEW RECRUITS: It remains difficult to attract new members to the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordination Group, therefore other ways of engaging the community were discussed. Many residents, in the Shirenewton & Mynydd Bach area are currently receiving Neighbourhood Watch Bulletins when they are issued by the police, however, we are aware that not all the area is covered. If any resident wishes to receive information distributed by e'mail they can contact:-

David Ward
Debbie Carley
Beverley Moore

Wwiew@aol.com
deborah_carley@merk.com
Mmoorebev@aol.com

and we will ensure that you get added to our existing distribution lists. In addition, any bulletins issued will be posted on the Notice Boards at The Old Post Office, the top of School Hill and Earlswood Hall. If any member of the community would like to be part of The NHW Co-ordination group, please contact one of the three people listed above. The next meeting will be on December 5th at The Huntsman.

Beverley Moore
NHW Co-Ordinator



Nick Bruce
Treesurgery & Grounds Maintenance
From Oak Trees to Grass & Everything In Between
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Tel/Fax: 01291 630246 Mobile: 07929 302651

Stargazing in November '07

Venus is dazzlingly bright to the South in the early morning sky before sunrise.

The reddish planet Mars can be seen in the evening eastern sky. It lies to the west of the twin stars Castor and Pollux in the constellation of Gemini. Mars becomes brighter as November progresses.

Observations by spacecraft have improved our knowledge of Mars immensely in recent years. The surface of Mars is better mapped than many regions on Earth. One area of particular interest is the presence of water on the planet, as this will be particularly important if manned bases are to be operated on Mars. Water is present as ice in the Martian Polar Caps. Present estimates put the amount of water on Mars as approximately the same as that of the ice covering Greenland.

The Crescent Moon is close to Saturn on the night of 3rd November. It is near Venus on the mornings of 5th and 6th of November, and can be seen beside Mars on the night of 26th November.

The seven stars of the Plough lie to the North in the evening. The cross of Cygnus is high in the western sky. The "W" of Cassiopeia lies nearly overhead in the Milky Way. The Milky Way is a faint band of light visible on clear dark nights. It is the combined light of an enormous number of stars that make up our galaxy.

Dave Thomas

ST PETER'S CHURCH, NEWCHURCH

HARVEST THANKSGIVING 27TH SEPTEMBER

Many thanks to all those who supported our harvest thanksgiving and supper.

Needless to say we still await our faculty for the urgent repairs to the church tower.

Enid and David Heritage thank everyone for their good wishes during David's recent illness, from which he is making progress.

SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS UNION

Our October meeting was one of fellowship and sharing. We illustrated our God-given talents and gave the history of the items brought. It was a very pleasant afternoon.

Three members attended the Diocesan Sharing Day in Newport on the 15th October and took part in the four workshops that were instructive and thought provoking. We came away with some useful information.

The Deanery Evening meeting organised by Mathern MU on the 17th October was attended by members from Shirenewton, St. Arvans and Penhow with Llanvaches MU's as well as Mathern and three male guests and we heard an interesting talk by a member of the Forensic Science team from Chepstow. These evening meetings are held four times a year – the next one will be in the Spring so look out for the Notice. If afternoon meetings are inconvenient, members and visitors (male and female) will be made very welcome at the evening ones.

On the 14th November at Shirenewton Recreation Hall at 2.30 p.m. we will be welcoming Mrs. Jean Hackett (a former President of Monmouth Diocese MU) to give us a talk and presentation on the Slave Trade, then and now. Our meetings are always open to visitors – tea and biscuits are always served – please come and give our Speaker the support she deserves.

SHIRENEWTON , MYNYDD BACH & EARLSWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

At the meeting held on Wednesday 26th September, PC Andy Mason gave his usual report of local crime. Between the end of July and middle of September there were four reports of burglary or attempted burglary in the Shirenewton & Mynydd Bach area. On each occasion the rear door or patio doors were targeted as the method of entry. A white van, with cloned number plates, was seen at, at least, one location.

In addition, the theft of a trailer was reported.

3 Road traffic incidents were reported. A single vehicle lost control and overturned on a bend near Howick (B4235). Minor injuries. An articulated lorry collided with the front wall at Olive Cottage in the centre of Shirenewton and a single vehicle was involved in an incident (on Cwm Lane) when it swerved to avoid a squirrel.

A lorry got stuck at the bottom of Weyloed Lane. The camber of the road at this junction, has been reported to Monmouthshire County Council Highways Dept.

A red LDV Panel Van was seen in St Pierre Great Wood and reported as suspicious.

A bogus "Phishing" letter from the Spanish Lottery has been forwarded to Trading Standards.

CRIME PREVENTION: In view of the recent break-ins and attempted break-ins, PC Mason emphasised the need for good security, e.g.

Consider:-

Extra Patio Door locks.

Don't leave keys in obvious places, e.g. near the front door

A survey of your property, by a Gwent Police Crime Prevention Officer can be requested if necessary.

However, you are also advised not to be pressurised into buying a security systems from high pressure salesmen that are preying on peoples fears of crime; they are operating locally. Check through the local police what the crime rates, risks are in you area. Before buying obtain three quotations from reputable companies, these can be checked though the local Crime prevention officer on 01495 745587.

The Bells.....The Bells

Shirenewton bell ringers have had quite a busy time recently. You may have heard the bells ringing out on recent Sunday evenings. We have been ringing a few quarter peals.

Claire Eickhoff rang her first of Plain Bob Minor on the inside. That is to say she rang a method with all six bells moving throughout, on one of the bells which does all the work. She rang the 3. (The treble or bell number 1 follows a different and less complex pattern.) She had planned to ring this earlier in the year but the date we had it booked for back in July she had fallen down stairs and hurt her arm!

Jenny Millar conducted her first Quarter. Plain Bob Doubles on Sunday 23rd September. She did this at the age of 14 years which is an amazing achievement. The majority of ringers in the country never call one in their lives. She made the news pages of the online ringing records - photo and all. If you would like to see go to www.campanophile.com and click onto "news".

Tom Mitchell has also been ringing a lot. He wanted to ring his first Quarter peal while he was still 12, but instead he rang 3!! Twice he covered to Grandsire Doubles, that is to say he rang the tenor behind ringing the 6ths blow every round. On Sunday 22nd of October he rang the treble to Grandsire Doubles, the ringing was good and we rang it in 38mins.

On our practice nights we had a first. The more complex minor method is known as Surprise Minor Methods, and we managed a plain course of Cambridge Surprise Minor with a home grown all Shirenewton band. This is hard but we hope to work on it and eventually ring a Quarter peal (perhaps even a peal) of it.

Pip has a challenge too. She was asked to ring in a peal of 7 Surprise Minor methods. Each method is rung for an extent which takes just over 20 minutes and then you switch to the next method. They are all complicated methods and maximum concentration is required for (in this case) 2hrs 39 minutes.

Our new learners Hannah and Thomas Leney and Chris Eickhoff are coming on well and now join us for the first part of our Friday practice and also have a little turn on Sunday mornings.

Pip Penny



MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL

Chepstow Choral Society has commenced rehearsals for its 2007/2008 season, and is delighted that its publicised recruitment drive over recent months is bearing fruit, with several new members – the choir now has more male members than at any time during the past 15 years. New singing members continue to be welcome – please contact assistant musical director Marjorie Duerden (tel. 01291 623310) for information about singing membership.

The Society has recently held its AGM, with the following being appointed as officers: - Eric Taylor (Chairman), Sarah Whitehead (Secretary), Doug Lawrence (Treasurer), and Jean Parkes (Membership secretary) along with a slightly enlarged committee.

Anyone interested in becoming a patron of the Society will now need to contact the new membership secretary Jean Parkes (tel. 620414).

SUNDAY DECEMBER 9th 2007:

CHRISTMAS MUSIC and FAMILY CAROLS

St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow. 3.00pm

*With St Johns-on-the-Hill School Choir
(Director - Christopher Ward) - Organist: Peter Cook*

SATURDAY MARCH 8th 2008: PASSIONTIDE CONCERT

Programme to include:

*Faure: Requiem --- Dvorak: Te Deum --- Ralph Vaughan Williams:
Benedicite: - Charlotte Ives -- soprano Neil Bellingham -- baritone
CCS Orchestra*

St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow 7.30pm

SATURDAY JULY 12th 2008 : CARMINA BURANA – FESTIVAL CONCERT

*Orff: Carmina Burana --
Brahms: Liebeslieder (from op. 52 and op. 65)
With two pianos & percussion*

Chepstow Leisure Centre, Chepstow. 7.30pm

Visit our website for further details/information (www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk)

Diabolical Drama on tour present:

The Clockwork Heart

A TALE OF DENIAL

An original musical comedy adventure

"For All the Family"

Itton: 24 Nov 7:00 - Llanfair Kilgeddin: 30 Nov 7:00 - Little Mill: 1 Dec 7:00
 Usk: 8 Dec 7:00 - Earlswood: 9 Dec 5:30 - Savoy Th, Monmouth: 15 Dec 7:30

Poppy Fielding ~ MTI Registered Practitioner, IIHHT, MICHT

- ~ Holistic Massage
- ~ Reflexology
- ~ Aromatherapy
- ~ Indian Head Massage
- ~ Hands Free Massage

Quality holistic body treatments to help energise, rejuvenate, soothe, relax & heal

Aromatherapy for Pregnancy & Childbirth from Nov. '07
 Hopi Ear Candling from December '07 ~ Hot Stone Massage from February '08

Daytime, Evening & Weekend Appointments ~ Gift Vouchers available for the Perfect Gift

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Decorative, Ornamental or Functional

Gates, Railings, Furniture, etc.

Mike Gambold: 641773
 mike.gambold@googlemail.com

Kids Ad Lib raise £800 for Charity

On Monday 1st October a group of young people from Kids Ad Lib went to Chepstow Hospital to hand over a cheque for £400 to the Rehab Unit to help purchase a special machine which will help stroke victims regain the use of their arms and hands. Claire Robertson a physio-therapist at the unit (you may remember, she ran the London Marathon to raise money for this machine) explained that the machine costs over £3000 but that thanks to Kids Ad lib they nearly have enough now to buy it.

(On a side note, it was a bit galling to have to pay car parking charges up at the hospital to hand over this cheque ...)

Then on Wednesday 3rd another group of Ad Libbers went up to Dan Budd's house in Earlswood to present another cheque for £400 to 'Headlines' a charity which helps sufferers with cranio-facial problems.

All this money was raised at the three performances of 'Antropolis', through the sale of the programmes, from donations from refreshments and from the games the children organised and ran during the play intervals.

Congratulations to everyone in Kids Ad Lib for this fantastic result.

The Clockwork Heart 23rd Nov—15th Dec 2007

Come to Cairo for a family-friendly evening out at the Golden Eyelash pub. Meet its strange but fascinating clientele: archaeologist adventurers deranged toys, secret societies, belly dancers and astronaut funeral directors? Want to know who Hatshepal is, what is the evil politician up to and how the actions of a toy make will affect mankind's destiny? And what really makes Pharaohs and mummies tick? "The Clockwork Heart—A Tale of Denial" follows the adventures of Brett Avalaunch and his cohort . They seek fame and fortune by excavating ancient Egyptian relics However they dig up much more than they bargained for - and fall under the scrutiny of the Secret Order of the Golden Eyelash.

Written and Directed by Sam Densham

Music by Richard Kubiak

Tickets:- Adults £6.00 Children £5.00

Itton Hall—Sat. 24th Nov. 7.00—on the door

Llanvair Kilgeddin Village Hall—Fri. 30th Nov. 7.00 - Jean 01873 840218

Little Mill Village Hall—Sat. 1st Dec. 7.00—Pat 01495 785113

Usk Memorial Hall—Sat 8th Dec. 7.00—Sue 01291 673049

Earlswood & Newchurch Memorial Hall—

Sun 9th Dec. 5.30 Penny 01633 450617

Savoy Theatre, Monmouth - Sat. 15th Dec. 7.30—Vic 01600 750488

Now in our third year, Diabolical Drama are a local amateur community theatre group. We are open to everyone in the community and would welcome support from individuals and companies alike who may share our goal of bringing a sense of fun and inclusion into our otherwise frantic lifestyles ! s

Contact details and information about our past shows, on our web-site: www.diabolicaldrama



1ST SHIRENEWTON GUIDES.

The Guides are welcoming the Monmouthshire County Council "Dreamcatcher" Project to several meetings this term. Our aim is to use the artists to help us produce a Unit flag. Although this will not be an official flag for ceremonial occasions, we hope to be able to use it at camps and events like the fete. The girls have produced some outline designs and we have voted on the overall design. Next step is to look at the designs going around the edge which, we hope, will put into pictures what we actually do in the Unit (is Shirenewton ready for this?) As each girl will be producing a square we hope to get some stunning ideas with not just drawings but maybe some embroidery work, appliqué, quilting..... This is where we hope the artists will provide practical help!

Winter "camp" is well on the way to being planned and we are looking forward to a fun weekend with the Senior Section girls staying next door to us and helping during the day. All we need is slightly better weather than the summer camp when the road through Upton on Severn was reopened about one hour before we had to go through it.

November sees the celebration of St Andrews Day and we have a special guest coming to teach us country dancing – she says she will doze-e-doe but will not strip the willow with us. We look forward to a fun evening.

Yours in Guiding

Kestrel Helen Cann 01291 659835

Kitten Amanda Turner 01291 650763

and the rest of the team – Zebra, Bumble, Bee, and Koala

SHIRENEWTON BROWNIES

Brownie Finger Print Evening

Last week we had a meeting with Emily's Mum to help understand all about our fingerprints. Emily's Mum (Mrs James) works for the Avon and Somerset Police Force in the finger print department. We all had our finger prints taken and printed them on to our unique bookmark. We also put pencil lead onto a piece of paper and rubbed our fingers in it to take more fingerprints .Emily's mum told us about her job – she needs to look very carefully at different fingerprints to see which match up . We tried to match fingerprints in a quiz she gave to us .We had great fun with all of these activities.

By Shirenewton Brownies

Many thanks to Mrs James – the girls and leaders really enjoyed this evening.

The Church Website.

As the Christmas season approaches please use the church website for your online shopping. It's easy to use, saves you time and driving around. All the major stores are featured, some ones you won't have heard of, and hopefully there will be another Christmas Shop this year - if I get the time.

Also please remember to use the church website for booking travel, airport parking, etc.

It doesn't cost you anything and the church benefits so go to:-

www.shirenewtonchurch.com,

Thanks

David Cornwell— Webmaster
