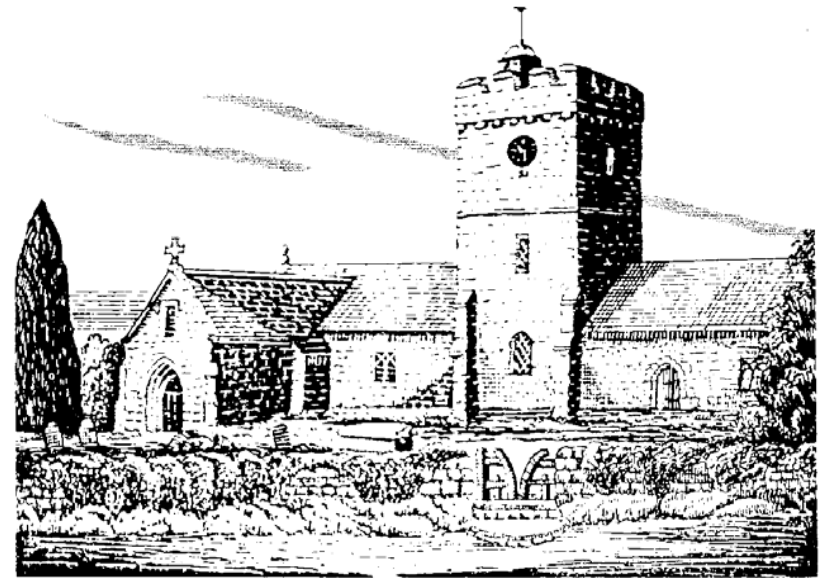


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October 2007

**THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS A BECKET
SHIRENEWTON**



Parishes of Shirenewton and Newchurch

READERS AND SIDES- PERSONS ROTA FOR NOVEMBER2007

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	
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
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:	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	Beverley Moore	641532
Earlswood	Jayne Kirby	641217
Local History Society	John Clelland	650595

Please send notes, discs or emails for the November magazine to Bob O’Keefe at: 15 Newton Manor, Shirenewton, (641686) or email to bobandwenche@aol.com by Monday 22nd October for inclusion in the November magazine. .

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4th October Whist Drive—The Recreation Hall 7.30
8th October History Society Resource Session The Rec. Hall 2.00
10th October Mothers Union—The Recreation Hall 2.30
15th October Community Council—Recreation Hall 7.30
18th October Women's Institute—The Recreation Hall—7.15
16th November Robin Reece Jazzmen Earlswood Hall—See advert

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Dear Friends,

I hope you have had a good summer break. Late September is the beginning of the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, and is therefore the time of the year when our thoughts turn to Harvest Festivals. It's a time when we thank God for all the gifts He has so lovingly and generously provided. Each of the churches in our Group will have celebrated their Harvest Service by the time this reaches you, but I hope you will have attended one of them and enjoyed the feasts provided.

As we enjoy food and company we are mindful of the great inequalities across the world; the famines and sufferings of so many nations. Every Sunday in our prayers (and daily in our private prayers) we pray for peace so that the prosperity we enjoy and take for granted, can spread to every country. We especially pray for the people of Zimbabwe and Darfur that some urgent action is taken by world leaders to relieve the terrible conditions these people suffer. Our churches support a number of charities in Africa and a good deal of hard work in raising funds is ongoing year round, this is in addition to raising funds to keep our buildings in good order. Some readers may think that the churches are always asking for money, but you can be assured that is shared with those who have less and often have next to nothing. Bishop Dominic has asked that thanks be sent to all those that donated to last year's Lent appeal for the Diocese of the Highveld in South Africa to which we are linked. A grand sum of £33,033 was raised and will be used to extend the children's feeding programme and to invest in some of it to provide income to continue the work.

Children are now back at school and our Sunday Clubs are meeting on Sunday mornings to which children are welcome. The clubs also work hard at fund raising for their chosen charities and I know parents generously help this important work so that children and young people learn to appreciate how fortunate they are in their homes and schools. Thank you and please continue with this vital part of Christian teaching.

Advent begins on the second of December, but before then there will be many event including the Diocesan Conference on 20th October at County Hall. On this occasion all parishes will be presenting to Bishop Dominic their church plans for the next five years, mapping work on which each of our parishes has been engaged during this year. If you want to know

more do come along to the conference , and in any case I hope all church members will attend. It is always possible to pick up good ideas that others have found helpful in building their church membership and in spreading the love of God which we are called to do as Christ's disciples.

Advent is the start of the Church's year, although we may think that September starts our winter programme! It is the time when we start our Bible study meetings on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 p.m. As we approach Advent and Christmas we will be studying the book of the Prophet Malachi was the last of the prophets of Israel for 400 years before the emergence of John the Baptist the last prophet before Jesus. It is the Prophet Malachi who foretells the coming of John the Baptist in the spirit of Elijah to prepare the way for our Lord Jesus Christ. Do come and join us in the warm vestry of Caerwent Church. If we want to bring others to share in the love and knowledge of our Lord Jesus we need to continue to learn and grow in the knowledge of our Christian faith. The Bible is our manual and we need to become fully conversant with it in the same way as followers of other faiths do with their holy books. If you need transport please tell one of the church wardens.

The clocks go back on the 27th October then we will be celebrating the Festival of Light on 31st before All Saints Day on 1st November when I hope we can have a Group celebration. Finally just a forward reminder that Easter next year is about as early as it can be , so Christmas will be quickly followed by Lent with Easter Day being on 23rd March 2008. Only 26 Sundays to Easter!

Peace to you all.

Nansi Davies, Curate.

FROM THE REGISTERS

26th August - A service of Baptism for Lucas William Laing, the son of Sarah Louise and Benjamin Paul Laing.

31st August - A Service of holy matrimony was held for Mark Walters and Elizabeth Humphries.

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and runner beans. I do wonder sometimes whether there is anything that will affect courgettes health! I bought a new gardening magazine the other day to see what it was all about. Entitled "Grow Your Own" it is full of vegetable growing features. I was a little tickled to see a book being advertised entitled "1001 Things You Can Do with Courgettes" – brings tears to my eyes just thinking about it!

We are reducing the number of plants that we grow for sale next year as we have decided that fishing, walking and generally relaxing should perhaps start to feature a little more in our itinerary. This is going to create yet more space to work with. I certainly don't intend to revert the area back to grass. Instead I'm going to dig the one side up and convert it into an area specifically for cut flower production for the house or giving away. We have a couple of raised beds that contain alstroemarias, one of mine and the under gardeners favourite flowers. These have been in the ground for probably three if not four years and have now become congested. I intend to dig these up, split them and then replant in this new bed. I also recently purchased a collection of bearded irises from France. This won't be their final home, but they can usefully grow and multiply, whilst I sort out a suitable home in the garden. For the next couple of years I intend to sort through a number of areas with the view to replanting them. One other job I need to get done shortly is to concrete an edge up our drive, and create a grass area between this and the fence. This will be naturalised with hundreds of daffodils and other spring bulbs that will hopefully create a cheerful site for us every time we go up the drive. The bulbs are in the garage waiting for October, so need to get on with this. Must get on. The train has just left Bristol Parkway so need to pack up the laptop ready for Newport.

*Happy gardening until next month.
Steve Hunt.*

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Dates for the next couple of months

Date	Time	Venue
30th Sept	9.45	Harvest Family Service—Church
7th Oct	9.45	The Chantry
14th Oct	9.45	The Chantry
21st October	9.45	Family Service—the Church.
28th October	9.45	The Chantry
4th November	9.45	The Chantry
11th November	9.45	The Chantry

***Did your teddies make a safe parachute jump?
At the Church Open Day on Saturday 22***

September

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

Jane Smith-Haddon 641 525

Shirenewton Church 200 Club

The result of the September draw was:

Ticket No	Winner	Prize
164	Frances Thomas	£40
180	Karen Morgan	£30
127	Clare Lewis	£20
227	Bert Stephens	£10

**Gwent Best Kept Village Competition 2007
Judges Scoring Sheet**

Name Of Village: Shirenewton

1	The appearance and condition of the village centre, village green, playing field, churchyard/ cemetery, bus shelter, surrounds	Max Marks 35	Awarded 29
2	Condition of hedges, fences and walls adjacent to and surrounding buildings and gardens; the cleanliness of verges	20	15
3	Tidiness of flower and vegetable gardens, allotments and the neat appearance of outhouses	20	17
4	Bonus marks for the general appearance of the village including conservation areas (noting the absence of litter and unsightly refuse dumps). Marks for unsightly garages/petrol stations or other commercial properties should be deducted from any bonus marks awarded	25	19
	Total	100	80

Judges Comments:

The Village Hall was much improved and together with the well- maintained litter free play area now forms an attractive asset to the community.
Redd Landes with its immaculate lawns with sympathetic shrub and tree planting was a delight to view.

The Churchyard had been cut but would have benefited from additional attention around the perimeter wall, both internally and externally. The area around the Memorial was weedy.

The footpath to the side of the Chantry was overgrown as was the area alongside the Tan House public house; this also included rubbish and glass.
Many of the gardens were a pleasure to view.

The Community Council was very pleased to accept a certificate and cheque for the Best Kept Village Hall. These have been passed to the Recreation Association Committee with thanks to all Committee Members for their hard work.

end, with a walk through door alongside. The panels remain down for most of the day to allow for air circulation, but are easily closed at night-time. I've fixed a small gauge netting to the inside of the frame. This will hopefully stop birds getting to the early strawberries and the cabbage white butterflies to the broccoli and cauliflower's. It will also stop the cats getting in to the vegetable beds and doing what cats do best!

Prior to the cover going on I had started digging a bed all down the one side of the tunnel. This has been covered in manure ready for planting as and when. The tunnel will mean that we will be able to grow a number of crops out of season, benefiting from produce three or four weeks early and by quite a few weeks at the end of the season. I have sown carrots, beetroot, French beans, lettuce leaves and a stir fry mixture in one bed. We have been cutting the two leaf mixtures now for several weeks, but if you don't cut it too short it comes again and allows you to keep cutting over a period of several weeks. I have already sown succession crops to take over when the first give up the ghost, so hopefully we will have enough greens to keep us going until the hardest of frosts. I intend to utilise several of our earlier potato crop and plant these into a number of large flowerpots. Things might be getting a little late now but it's worth a try. Even if we only get a meal on Christmas day and New Years day it will have been worth the time taken to water.

Since the cover has gone on I've also taken the time to repair the damaged frames inside to which I have the fan-trained peaches; nectarines and apricots tied to. Whilst undertaking this job I'm also "summer" pruning this years growth. These stoned fruits, fruit on the previous years new growth so it is essential to take out as much of the older wood, that has carried the current years crop, as you can .

In the main part of the garden I have really written off a lot of the vegetable and flower areas for this year. The under gardener is going around cutting back what flowers she can in order to stop them collapsing and rotting the plants underneath. Most years we would leave this task until the late Spring, but then most years we don't have the plants laying flat in all directions! Much of the vegetable production has either failed or got some disease to finish them off. Exceptions to this are the courgettes, vegetable squashes, parsnips

Gardening Corner

At last, a change in the weather and the opportunity to get the tunnel cover back on the frame. Fortunately I had spent several evenings before the bank holiday finishing off the wooden frame to which the polythene is fixed. The forecast for the Monday looked promising so I made arrangements, booking a little help for the task in hand. The tunnel itself is 23 feet wide and some 60 feet long. As you can imagine the polythene for this is pretty heavy and takes some lifting on its own, without having to heave it over the frame which stands some fifteen feet high on the ridge. The trick is to unroll the plastic first then spread it out along the length of the tunnel. The hoops are 2 inch galvanised tubes and as you can imagine when the sun shines the metal gets very hot and in time soon deteriorates the plastic where the two touch. For this reason it is best to fit "anti hot spot tape" to the hoops. This is an insulated strip stuck to the outside of the hoops that acts as a barrier to the direct heat. It means that the polythene cover will last for at least four and often five years. The stripping also means that the cover can be pulled up over the frame with minimum friction so makes life a lot easier!

Fortunately the day chosen dawned bright and sunny with no wind, absolutely perfect for the task in hand. Unfortunately the under gardener is a little on the short side for helping with this task. This was left to my hedge and tree cutting partner. Five minutes to unroll the plastic, another five to open it out and then fifteen more to drag the cover up and over the frame and the worst of the job was done. The cover was then left for a couple of hours to start warming up in the sun. The trick is to get it soft enough to be able to pull and stretch the cover tight, so that when it cools down it gets tighter still. Stretch it too much and when it cools you can actually tear the plastic because of the pressure that the cover is under. I have found the best way to go about this is to pull the ends tight first, fixing the polythene to the door frames and then work down the sides, pulling the cover tight and fixing down as you go. It is simply fixed to the wooden frame by screwing roof battening down. I've found the best way is to actually wrap the batten inside the polythene, so that it is then impossible to tear. The main task done, it was now time to turn to the doors themselves. I have made a large drop down panel each

From Your Community Council Correspondent

Community Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd September 07

6 members of the public attended this month's meeting.

Police Report

PC Mason was unable to attend this meeting.

Planning

The Old Granary, Lower Argoed, Shirenewton

Single storey bedroom with basement rumpus room

Approved

Quarry Cottage, Great House Farm, Earlswood

All weather riding arena plus stable block and parking spaces.

Approved although it was noted that the road should be maintained in good order and there must be no floodlighting

The Spout, Earlswood

Conversion of agricultural store to stable block

APPROVED

Financial Matters

It was agreed to purchase a computer and printer for the clerk of the council ASAP.

Items of Local Concern

Additional Post Box for Shirenewton. This issue is *still* ongoing. Cllr Down has talked to the Head of Post Boxes but it seems that the information has not filtered down to the Cardiff Office and there has been no response from them.

Environmental Officer

Cllr Charles Crundwell volunteered for this post and was appointed.

Parking problems at the School

It was recognised that there had been no response to Cllr Harvey's letter from the school as it had been the school holidays.

Is the Solar Powered Light working near the Church?

Mixed views on this so it was decided to keep a log on it.

Conversion of the Mynnyddbach Play Area to an Orchard.

Four members of the public were there to express their opinions as to this scheme and it quickly became clear that, much as they loved fruit, they wanted the play area to remain a play area. It is a lovely meeting place for the Mynnyddbachians to sit and while away the hours. Could they please have a couple more benches and tables?

Update on the Shop


Cllrs Saysell, Crundwell and Eickhoff continue to look into what can be done to ensure a shop for Shirenewton. Various ideas were floated including finding an outlet for fresh local food produce.

Flower Festival

The Community Council agreed to participate in the Shirenewton Church Flower Festival – and a bouquet of themes were put forward as the idea blossomed in people's minds. There were of course some blooming good ideas.

Allotments

The clerk explained that there is still disagreement with MCC over who owns this plot. Apparently, MCC dispute that it has ever been allotments. The council felt it would be great if more evidence could be furnished to prove to the MCC that it was, and had been allotment ground. It was suggested that those who had already put in an application to have one of these plots actually go ahead and to start clearing, digging and planting. The council also felt that the way the MCC had handled this issue had been to



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say the least, shabby and that an official Review should be asked for.

Golf Course Lights

The Golf course has lost its appeal to the MCC to retain their huge outside lights and they have been told to remove them.

Bollards

Nice new bollards have been erected outside the TA. Sadly within a couple of days one of them had been badly bashed about although as they are of the weegie-men type, they can bounce back. Even so, the lorry that did the damage has been copped and the company will be required to reinstate the bollard to it's original fine upstanding condition

There is a vacancy for a councillor for the Shirenewton ward. For information, please contact the clerk of the council – Carole Jones – or your local councillor.

Next meeting: Monday 15th October 07 – 7.30 – At The Recreation Hall

Glynis MacDonald

ST PETER'S CHURCH, NEWCHURCH

FROM THE REGISTER

A burial service was held on the 16th of August for Stanley Basil Jones on the 30th August.

THE CHURCH EXTENSION

Last month we reported that the roofing slates were on site and the first slates were being fixed in position. The slating of the roof is now complete along with the ridge tiles. The cast guttering has been fixed to the fascia boards. Some weather-proofing is still to be done at the gable ends where they adjoin the walls. With minor exceptions, the stone cladding has been completed as has the stone work around the windows.



Mr Saysell has been working with the joiners who have measured the window apertures to enable the frames to be manufactured to fit stone clad apertures. Again this joinery work will be in keeping with the rest of the structure. All of this work is being carried out by craftsmen from the surrounding area.

When this next phase of work is complete the scaffolding can be removed and a fuller impression of the extension will be visible.

Why not try Reflexology!

Reflexology is a therapeutic and relaxing treatment using gentle pressure over the feet.

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Caroline's Cookery Corner

CHICKEN AND SAUSAGE PIE:

This goes down very well in our house eaten cold with salad and pickles. I vary the recipe - sometimes I add leek with the onion, a few cashew nuts, green peppercorns, chopped spinach with the sausage meat, and I like to put a slice of ham on the first layer of sausage meat.

<i>2 tbl. spoons olive oil</i>	<i>Large knob of butter</i>
<i>1 large slice cooked ham</i>	<i>1 onion finely chopped</i>
<i>500 g sausages skinned</i>	<i>3 oz dried apricots—chopped</i>
<i>2 tsp chopped fresh thyme</i>	<i>1 tsp Dijon mustard</i>
<i>Dash of Worcestershire sauce</i>	<i>2 oz chestnuts (canned)</i>
<i>1lb 2oz boneless chicken breasts</i>	<i>500 g pack ready made short-crust pastry</i>

Preheat oven to 190 c /gas 5.

Heat a tbsp. oil and a knob of butter and fry the onion until soft. Cool - mix the sausage meat, onion, nuts, mustard, Worcestershire sauce, and apricots together and season. Cut chicken breasts into thin slices, season, and fry in the rest of the oil until just brown and cool. Roll out the pastry and line a 20—23 cm deep loose based tin. Add 1/2 the sausage meat and press down. Add slice of ham then the chicken, finish off with the rest of the sausage meat. Press down and cover with the remaining pastry. Brush with beaten egg or milk. Put the tin in the oven on a baking sheet for 50—60 minutes, then leave to cool completely.

Once again our thanks to Caroline Davies

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 either Phil, at the Huntsman, 01291 641521
or Tony Bendall, 01291 641303 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
for tickets as soon as possible.**

Can You Help?

I am carrying out some research in to planned Secret British Resistance (Auxiliary Units) activities for this area during the Second World War. I am looking for information that relates to members of my family that were part of the "Jonah Patrol". Their operation bunker is located at Coed Y Careau, which is just off Kemys Common behind Langstone.

The names of the patrol were: Cpl. C Rudd (the name I am most interested in) Ptes. Len Esscott (a butcher in Newport apparently); R. Skinner; Charles Bulley (my uncle); RH James; & Leslie Bulley (my Grandfather). Apparently one of the patrol was a resident of Shirenewton during this period.

If you are able to supply me any information on the above would be most appreciated.

Sallie Mogford
1 Spartan Close
Langstone
Newport
Gwent NP18 2BH 01633 413531

SHIRENEWTON WI

Thursday 20 September was the first meeting after the summer break. Jenny Bonner our president reminded us of all the activities and events we have done so far. Gwent Federation have informed us that Shirenewton WI have a new WI Adviser in Jo Dawson (past chairman of Gwent Federation of WIs) and also that our group will now be known as the Wye Valley Group, together with Devauden Green, Llandogo, Penallt, St Arvans, Tintern & District, The Narth and Wye WIs.

Clare has made up a very attractive scrap book for 2006 with photos of all that we have done and achieved during that year. Jenny is looking for another member to collate all photos and information for the 2007 year book, please let her know if you have some spare time to do this.

There will be a Computer Photo Editing class starting next week at the federation office. Also a Genealogy Workshop beginning this winter.

The Christmas Carol Concert will take place on Saturday 2 December 2pm at St Michaels, Pen y Pound, Abergavenny, where you will be able to listen to Ruth, Barbara and Anna singing with the Gwent Federation Choir – tea and mince pies will be served afterwards.

The Federation Day Show this year is at the Bridges Community Centre, Monmouth on Saturday 17 November and the Wye Valley Group have been given the job of providing cakes for our group stall – so get baking!

Shirley is organising a Drama Group, the first reading of the play will take place at her home on Wednesday 17 October 2pm.

Auriol has very kindly volunteered to provide a flower display for the 'Church in the Village' Flower Festival for the WI.

The speaker for the evening was Dee Griffith, Managing Director of Herbert Lewis and the 5th generation of the founding family. She related to us the story of Herbert Lewis who set up a retail business in Chepstow in 1878 and of his brother Alfred who started another business in Chepstow as Bon Marche. Bon Marche were the first retailers to put price tags on their clothes so everybody paid the same price for any item of clothing. The town clock provided by Herbert Lewis at the beginning of the 20th century has just lately been provided with new workings and is quite a landmark in the High Street.

Next meeting is 18 October 7.15 pm at the Recreation Hall – the talk will be on the Lave Net Fishermen of Black Rock. This meeting is open to anyone who would like to hear the speaker, entry £1.



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SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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On Sunday, 9th September members of the society visited Gilgal Chapel, Llanvaches and were given a warm welcome by Mrs Carol Lewis who gave us a talk on the history of the chapel and allowed us to wander around the grounds. The chapel is situated quite near to the reservoir on a most beautiful site. It closed in 1961 and fell into disrepair but in the early 90's a trust was formed to renovate the building and the exterior is now complete and has been brought back to its original state.

We must also thank Mrs Minetta Morris who acted as our guide as I think if it were not for her we would still be looking for the site!

We look forward to the church's Open Day where the society will *attempt* a floral display depicting the History Society.

Our meetings for the coming months are:

Monday 8th October- Resources Session with Dorothy Brabon 2.00pm Recreation Hall.

Tuesday 30th October- 'AGM' followed by a talk on 'Gaerllyd' by Ian McFarlane – 7.30pm Huntsman Hotel.

SHIRENEWTON WHIST DRIVES

We had only one spare chair at the September Drive!

Our next drives are on 4th October and 1st November at the Recreation Hall starting at 7.30 p.m. promptly.

Enquiries to Auriol Horton, 01291 641844

Stargazing in October 2007

The planet Jupiter is very bright and can be seen in the early evening in the southwest.

Mars is rising later in the evening in the southeast, and brightens noticeably through the month.

Venus is the extremely bright Morning Star in the southeast. The less bright Saturn is also in the southeast. Both Venus and Saturn are in the constellation of Leo the Lion, which really does look like a lion.

The Moon can be a useful pointer to the planets. In the evenings of 2nd and 30th October it is close to Mars, on the morning of 7th October the Moon is near Venus and Saturn, whilst on 15th October, the crescent Moon can be seen just below the planet Jupiter.

The constellation of Cygnus the Swan lies pretty much directly above in October. Its stars form a cross – in fact it is sometimes called the Northern Cross. The seven stars of the Plough are to the North and the four stars forming the Great Square of Pegasus lie to the South. The W-shape of Cassiopeia lies fairly high in the sky to the northeast. In Roman mythology Cassiopeia was a queen chained to her throne as a punishment for being boastful.

50 years ago this month, the great radio telescope at Jodrell Bank in Cheshire became operational. It hit the world newspaper headlines within days by picking up radio signals from the very first satellite launched into orbit. This was Russia's Sputnik 1 which heralded the start of the Space Age.

Dave Thomas

SHIRENEWTON MOTHER UNION

August was busier than usual. As well as celebrating Mary Sumner's Day with Midday Prayers and a soup lunch at Cobblers Pitch shared with two members of Pontypool Branch who told us how their church put faith into action by seeing a need and forming a successful Credit Union to fill it. We also had members from Portskewett and Mathern joining us for a visit to Mary Sumner House in London, which proved both illuminating and enjoyable.

Our autumn programme began with a Quiet Afternoon and Eucharist (led by Chris and Rosemary Carey) at the home of Mrs. Joan Stickland, at Coed-y-paen. Whilst all our members are individually involved with the work of the churches in our group of parishes we struggle to find a niche to which the words "Shirenewton MU does that" apply but we keep looking for options. In the meantime we hope that you have taken time to look at our display in the Lady Chapel at the Church in the Village Open Day and Flower Festival.

Our next meeting is at Shirenewton Recreation Hall on Wednesday, 10th October starting at 2.30 p.m. at which we will be "sharing our talents" We welcome visitors at any of our meetings. On November 14th (same time and place) Mrs. Jean Hackett will be giving a presentation and talk on the Slave Trade – then and now. She would appreciate a wider audience so please come and listen.

Auriol Horton, Branch Leader.

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EARLSWOOD & NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

Hello readers, it has been some time since there has been any news from the Hall to report in the Magazine, quite simply, because there has been little to report. However there are some items for this month's edition.

Firstly, our congratulations to Debora one of our committee members and her husband in celebrating twenty years of married bliss! We hear from the grapevine that everyone had an enjoyable evening at the Hall.

Dorothy Cockran one of our long serving committee members has recently been in hospital to undergo a knee replacement operation. We have heard that she is making good progress and improving every day. We wish her a speedy recovery.

It is with regret that Nancy our secretary over many years has tendered her resignation and has also run the bar for a good number of years. Nancy was a very committed member of the committee, and her efforts were very much appreciated.

There are several ongoing projects. New wooden doors are being fitted to replace the U-pvc doors that were showing signs of wear. A number of cracks in the exterior rendering are scheduled for repair, and additional emergency lighting is to be installed in the stage and toilet areas. A further 48 new chairs and 6 new tables are being purchased. These purchases being made available by some grant money and significant donations from Kids Ad Lib and SOD's along with a contribution from Hall funds. We are extremely grateful for these contributions enabling the ongoing efforts in upgrading of the Hall facilities.

Much of this improvement is a result of the hard work put in by Glynis MacDonald and Christine Stanley in obtaining these grants, and their efforts with Kids Ad Lib and Sod's in achieving these improvements.

Forthcoming events are:

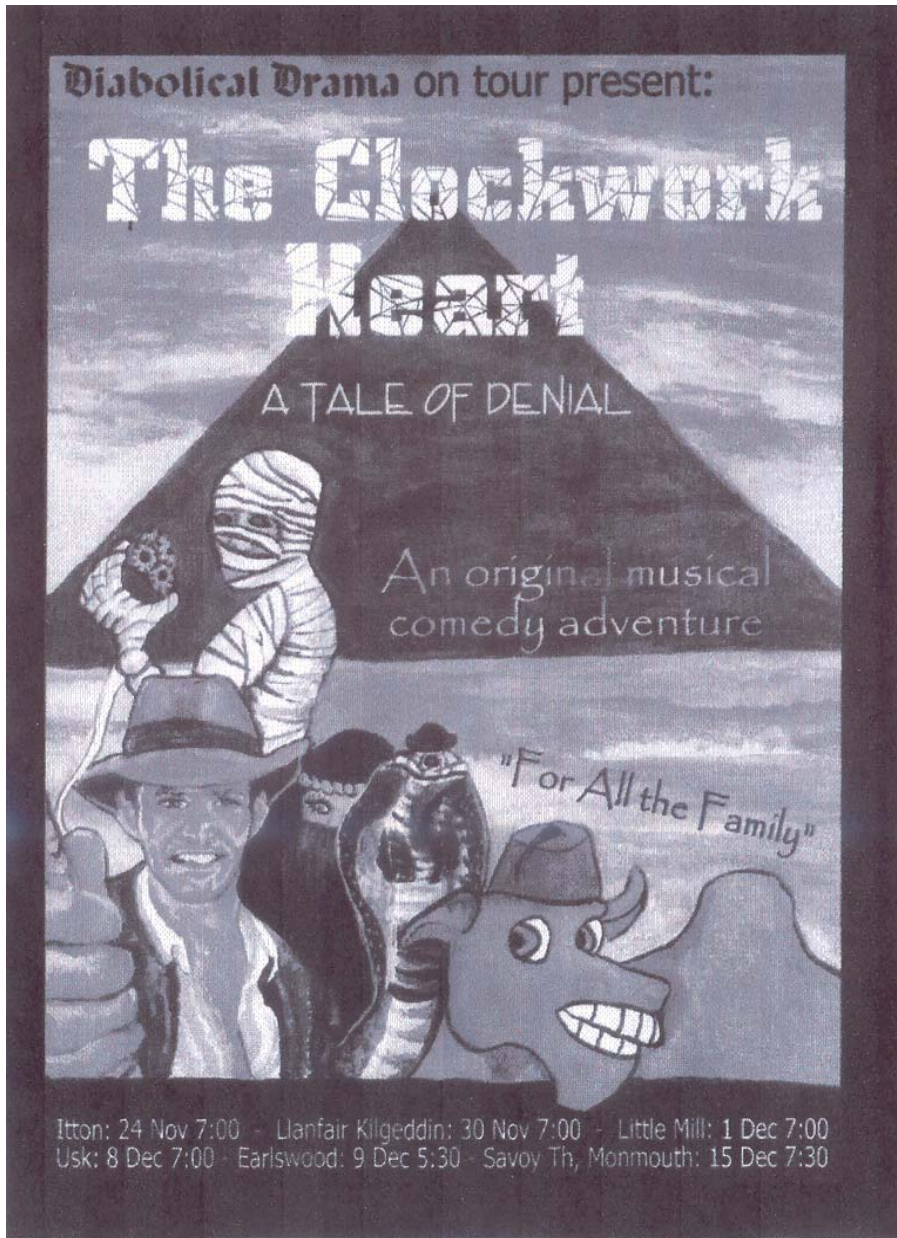
Sunday 11th November—Remembrance Day Service—All are welcome.

16th November—Jazz Night with Robin Reece Jazz Band—See the advert.

Panto season will be with us in January, with work now ongoing.

Other events are under discussion for the Spring within the committee.

John Spary



Shop in Danger!

Yes, there is another shop that may well be in trouble - the Newhall Farm Shop at Chepstow Garden Centre.

The following notice was seen during a recent visit:

PLANNING APPLICATION PETITION

Dear Customer

Monmouthshire County Council are attempting to close us down because of a condition in the Planning Permission which states "we have to produce 90% of products for sale from our farm". This is not practical, so we have applied to vary this condition which will allow us to continue to operate as we are selling high quality and organic produce, produced locally for the benefit and enjoyment of the local community, not to mention the employment of local people.

*Please support us by signing the attached *petition.*

Thank you

*The petition is with this notice in the shop. If you want to continue having the choice of produce on offer at the shop, please call in and sign. We risk losing this shop and having no choice but to support instead the local supermarket!

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Mike Gambold: 641773

mike.gambold@googlemail.com

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 Hatshepaul 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.

Well that summer certainly sped by and we are back to Guides now. We hope to persuade our unit mascot, Phoebe the teddy, to parachute from the tower again – by the time you read this we will know if she accepted the challenge and hope she had plenty of support on the day.

As is usual, we have “lost” several Guides over the summer as their leisure time is allocated elsewhere. We do not always know for sure who had left us so it would be good to leave a message on one of our telephones then the place can be offered to someone else. Also we are always extremely grateful for unwanted uniform as “spares” for camp or to lend to a Guide in the middle of a growing spurt!

We are going to be visited by members from the Monmouthshire Council “Dreamweaver Project” this term who are going to help with some inspirational art activity so look out for some super new artwork next time we are in the village.

We have a very distinguished visitor coming to show the Guides some Scottish dancing and we have activities planned to take us around the world. Winter “camp” is in the process of being planned now and the accommodation is booked – and then it will be Christmas!

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

SHIRENEWTON BROWNIES **Brownie Busy Bees**

Shirenewton Brownies’ Autumn term began on 11th September, with a meeting of the girls’ favourite games. The Brownies came up with some interesting ideas for our Autumn term’s meetings and the Guiders will try their hardest to put these into practice. This week we were all busy designing our ‘Busy Bee’ Flower Arrangement for Shirenewton Church’s Flower Festival. All of the Brownies (and our two visitors) helped to design and produce our arrangement. We hope that you come and see it on the 22nd/ 23rd September.

Jackie Broughton – Guider in Charge – 01291 641797

Sales of fairly traded goods are growing at a very encouraging rate, starting, of course from a very tiny base a few years ago. My own sales are diminishing; for various reasons. The Spar sold a lot of ‘my’ chocolate, geobars and coffee. I used to sell quite a lot of snacks and chocolate at school, but the government, quite understandably, has banned the sale of confectionery and suchlike in schools. Traidcraft have responded by producing packets of nuts and dried fruit, but my Headmaster, to be on the safe side, has decided that it would be advisable to stop selling altogether. I have just 2 customers in the village who have bought from me regularly over quite a few years. I really hope that vast numbers of people are seeking out fairly traded products themselves. Supermarkets offer a small range. They are not really interested in expanding the market unless, of course, they are responding to demand. But customers simply will not know what is available without organizations such as Traidcraft and other independent stockists

As I have often (too often!) said before: the odd jar of coffee or pack of Christmas cards is just the first step! Have a look at the new catalogue yourself! Ornaments, jewellery, clothes, paper goods and of course FOOD - you will be astonished at the range of goods available.

Here are a couple of quotes that might help convince you!:

Ehud Kafaukome, sugar farmer in Malawi :
"We would not even have dreamt that we could have electricity. It was something that nobody could imagine."

Efiness Gwiiriza, basket weaver in Malawi: "I did not have any shoes before because I was not able to afford them."

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com
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