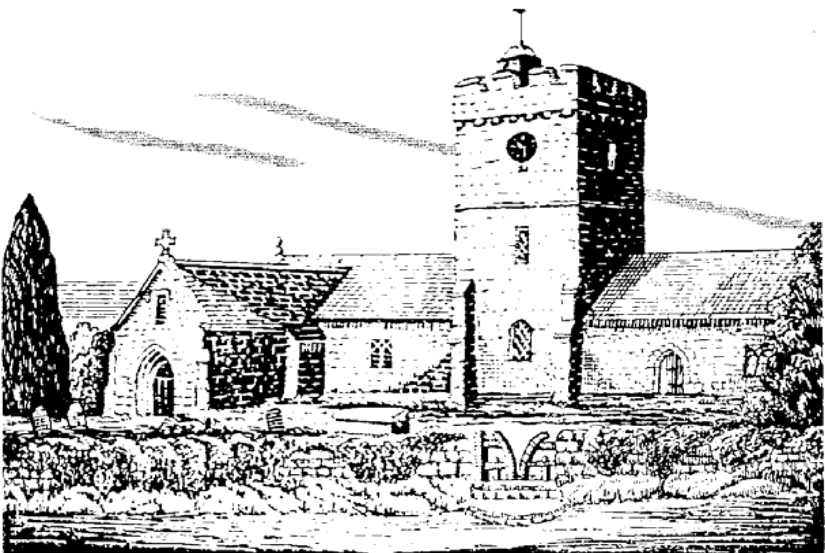


**THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS A BECKET
SHIRENEWTON**



**Parishes of Shirenewton and Newchurch
Magazine**

READERS AND SIDES- PERSONS ROTA FOR AUGUST

DATE	SERVICE	READER	SIDES-PERSON
August 3rd	12th Sunday after Pentecost 9.45 a.m.	Cynthia Smith Auriol Horton	Cynthia Smith Auriol Horton
August 10th	13th Sunday after Pentecost 9.45 a.m.	Sally Saysell Ruth Savager	Claire Lewis Bernice Bowen
August 17th	14th Sunday after Pentecost	Winnie Jones Ernie Jones	Winnie Jones Ernie Jones
August 24th	15th Sunday after Pentecost 9.45 a.m.	Bob Grattan John Nicholas	Bob Grattan John Nicholas
August 31st	16th Sunday after Pentecost Group Service at Shirenewton 9.45 a.m. 17th Sunday after Pentecost 9.45 a.m.	Andrew Baker James Loney Margaret Lock Diane Marlow	Alan Saysell Claire Lewis Margaret Lock Diane Marlow

St Peter's Newchurch first and third Sunday of each month at 2.30 p.m.

READERS AND SIDES- PERSONS ROTA FOR JULY

DATE	SERVICE	READER	SIDES-PERSON
July 6th	8th Sunday after Pentecost 9.45 a.m.	Mike Pierce Andrew Baker	Mike Pierce Alan Saysell
July 13th	9th Sunday after Pentecost 9.45 a.m.	Jean Jones Peter Jones	Jean Jones Peter Jones
July 20th	10th Sunday after Pentecost	FAMILY SERVICE	The Children
July 27th	11th Sunday after Pentecost 9.45 a.m.	Kevin Bounds Alistair Bounds	Kevin Bounds Alistair Bounds

St Peter's Newchurch first and third Sunday of each month at 2.30 p.m.

Priest in Charge.	The Revd Nansi Davies	01633 400519
CHURCH WARDENS:	Sally Saysell	641369
	Andrew Baker	641925
	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	ROBIN MITCHELL	
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. Mike Cowburn	01633 838111
REC. BOOKING SECRETARY:	Beryl Saysell	641637
TRAIDCRAFT:	Marion McAdam	641316
Local History Society	Shirley Bonsey	641362

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATORS

S'NEWTON & MYNYDD BACH -	Beverley Moore	641532
Earlswood	Sue Leat	641207

Please send your notes, discs or emails for inclusion in the September magazine to Bob O'Keefe at: 15 Newton Manor, Shirenewton, (641686) or email to bobandwenche@aol.com by Friday 22nd August. Please note: there is no Magazine in August, your notes should then include details pertaining to dates in August.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

28th June	Shirenewton School Summer Fayre
3rd July	Whist Drive—the Recreation Hall—7.30
4th July	Organ's Centenary Concert in Shirenewton Church (see ad)
4th July	Martin Singers—Chepstow Methodist Church
11th July	Shirenewton School End of year Hog Roast—6.30 (see inside)
9th Aug	Chepstow Agricultural Show—Crick
12th July	Choral Society—Carmen Burana— St Mary's Chepstow
7th Aug	Whist Drive—the Recreation Hall—7.30
25th Aug	Harpist plays the Stones (see inside) - The Chantry
4th Sept	Whist Drive—the Recreation Hall—7.30
9th Sept.	Sunday Cub recommences.

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WORKING TOGETHER

This last couple of months has been a very active period for the whole community, and what a couple of months it has been. The variety of events taking place have involved members of the community of all ages, and the benefits to the community have been many, both not just in financial terms, with various charities receiving substantial donations, but more importantly to the whole community are the social benefits of the community working together as a whole.

The various coffee mornings and lunches held by individuals have raised considerable sums for the respective charities. Several thousands of pounds.

The teams of individuals cleaning up various signs and verges around the village for the Best Kept Village Competition. Win or loose, this village has to be the winner in terms of community spirit.

The Church Fete, was not only a great fund raising exercise, but a great social occasion for all ages, involving a relatively small group in the initial planning. But needing a large number of people in bringing the event together on the day. The thankless task of putting out leaflets begging for donations of bottles, cakes and books. Then spending hours collecting them and hoping that they will be successful without getting any verbal abuse. Erecting tents and gazebos, praying that it will not rain and that they will not get blown away; obtaining tables, chairs and setting out the stalls.

When the day arrived we were once again blessed with glorious weather, the entertainment acts were brilliant. We would like to think both from the spectators viewpoint, and that the very young participants in the gymnastics display team enjoyed showing us their skills. The workshop from the Lydney State Circus aside from entertaining us, gave folk the chance to test their own skills.

The Kids Ad Lib — our local youngsters drama group, put on a tremendous performance for three consecutive evenings involving more than 60 youngsters, and a team of adults only a week after the Fete. (See separate report). Playing to approximately 200 people each evening.

Our village school raised tremendous sum with their 'Charity Auction' and by the time this magazine reaches you, will have held their 'Summer Fayre' which we hope will be just as successful as all the other events have been.

Long may this community atmosphere continue.

Ed.

NEW PRIEST IN CHARGE

I have been asked to announce the following: -

The Bishop has agreed the appointment of The Revd. William Clarke Ingle-Gilles as the next Priest in Charge on a date to be decided.

Mr. Gilles is currently serving as Curate in the RB Caldicot where he has served since ordination in 2004; he was Priested in 2005.

Nansi Davies—Priest in Charge.

PCC MINUTES IN A NUTSHELL

MEETING HELD ON 1 JUNE 2008

The New Incumbent: See note above.

Living Churchyards: Oh dear – this has caused some upset. One or two farmers thought it was a dig against modern farming methods – which it is not, we understand that farmers have to work under difficult economic constraints; some people thought their family graves will be overgrown – they won't, we have chosen a very old section of the graveyard; and the Community Council thought it might scupper our chances of winning the Best Kept Village competition – it shouldn't, the edges will be mown and the paths kept tidy. The area that is to be set aside as a flower meadow is small and will be well managed. We will put up notices to tell everybody all about it. There will also be pamphlets in church with lots of information about the scheme. We hope this will put people's minds at rest.

The New Church Room: The floor delivery got a bit delayed, but it should be safely seasoning in the new room by the time you read this. Charles Eickhoff and his team hope to lay it in August.

CHURCH FETE: We planned the church stall and the post-fete cheese and wine evening for the helpers.

Well that's about it in a nutshell - we stayed at John and Anne's until we'd eaten all the cake and then went home to Sunday lunch....!

*Jane Smith-Haddon
One of the PCC Secretaries*

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plant with bright red flowers related to nasturtiums) established on the hedge for a number of years. Its just starting to get going now, but of course cutting the hedge means that we will lose all the flowers as well. Still never mind, they must be cut as they are now having an adverse affect on many of the other established plants in the borders. In addition to this there are a number of other major tasks that I need to get sorted out that are just waiting for time in our busy calendar. Not least of these is getting the fish ponds sorted out where we had to remove the connecting stream due to some building work. Hopefully we won't get a hot, dry spell as I may have a problem with the fish. Unfortunately every pond is overstocked, which obviously goes to show that the conditions suit the fish! They seem to breed worse than rabbits, yet are impossible to catch when I want to pass some on to other needy pond owners! Another job that I want to sort is what used to be our plant selling area. This was divided up into three beds, about fifty feet long and some six feet wide, when the area was covered by a polythene tunnel. We have decided that we can no longer cope with the endless re-potting and watering required, so the one area has already been partly dug and planted up with cut flowers for her indoors. One area is going to be dug and acidified with compost etc. so that it can be planted up with blueberries. The remaining third is in the planning stage for now. In the short term I might increase vegetable production by planting this area. The intention being that I can then grow some soil improving crops and rotate the planting around the gardena bit. Ultimately I have it pencilled in as the chicken run area! I say ultimately, as the under gardener is being very assertive at the moment and says that I can only have chooks when I retire, and have more time to see to them. I can understand that argument as I struggle with seeing to my bees for the same reason, talking of which I need to go and sort some of the beehives out. As there is no magazine in August I'll say happy gardening until September!

Steve Hunt.

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Dates for the next couple of months

Date	Time	Venue
6th July	9.45 Sunday Club	The Chantry
6th July	Organ Birthday Party	The Chantry
13th July	9.45 Sunday Club	The Chantry
20th July	9.45 Family Service	The Church
Summer Holidays		
7th Sept	New Term Starts	
The Chantry or perhaps the new Church Room		

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 June draw was:

Ticket No	Winner	Prize
196	Joy Jones	£40
142	Alison Dutton	£30
118	Mike Sayse	£20
177	Neil Dogget	£10

A Message of Thanks

Mrs Pam Cornaby of the Old Post Office wishes to convey her most grateful thanks to everyone for their help, and concern following the fire of her car.

FRIENDS OF SHIRENEWTON CHURCH

We were invited to our first 'Welcome' event at the home of Mike Pearce on Friday 6th June. What a memorable occasion!

It was a lovely summer's evening so we started off in Mike's beautiful garden being served drinks and canapés by the grandchildren of various members. We were invited into the house to listen to the young talented harpist Jemima Phillips. What a dazzling performance. She had a unique style of playing classical and jazz music and explained in her friendly manner the intricacies of the harp to us. I so enjoyed the Clair de Lune by Debussy and the Dave Brubeck number. This young lady is the Royal Harpist to the Prince of Wales and performed at his wedding to the Duchess of Cornwall. She has also performed in front of the Queen, other members of the Royal family and has travelled around the world. What a privilege it was to listen to her. Next day I found her website and ordered the CD!

Later in the conservatory we were treated to a delicious supper of cold poached salmon, tasty quiches and salads. Then we finished with strawberries, meringues and chocolate brownies. Thank you so much to Rose and the ladies who helped to serve this delectable food. I appreciated so much the time taken to produce such wonderful fare. Mike as usual was brimming over with hospitality and of course the wine kept flowing.

The party was for the "Friends of Shirenewton Church" - a group of people who wish to protect, preserve and maintain Shirenewton Church. Wouldn't you also like to belong to this group and enjoy the future events? If you are interested contact the web site of www.shirenewtonchurch.com

Barbara Walters

rewards. We have plenty of salad crops. In fact for the first time ever we have cucumbers coming out of our ears because we have so many. For the first time ever every seed that germinated continued to grow. I didn't lose one as a result of the plant rotting off. Slightly different to the melons and water-melons. Of the former I have about four surviving out of twenty plants and the latter about seven plants out of at least a dozen. Hopefully enough to keep us supplied, but I can't afford to lose any more. We have been picking French beans in the tunnel for several weeks and had our first picking of runner beans yesterday from the greenhouse, so really enjoying the taste of fresh picked produce. I had hoped that the new potatoes in the tunnel would have been ready for digging by now, but they seem to be very slow. There is ample top growth. Too much in fact, but not much in the way of potatoes underneath, unless you count the ones that are the size of marbles. I put the overhead spray line on last night to hopefully help them on their way. Unfortunately the tops all flopped over so I hope that they are going to be OK! So far I have managed to keep a reasonably constant supply of vegetables going for the kitchen, but I need to get on and sow the next crops of salad stuff, especially the cut and come again lettuces, radishes and spring onions.

I managed to get around to covering many of the crops with enviromesh this year and currently – touch wood, they seem to be out of the reach of carrot root fly and cabbage white butterfly. The next couple of weeks will be critical as many of the plants will be starting to touch the mesh and I'm not sure at the moment whether the insects can lay their eggs through the cover material – time will tell. One job I've been desperate to get round to doing is cutting the hedges. This is a little early as given the right growing conditions they will need cutting again in the autumn. You may remember that I failed to do this task last year though, so as you can imagine they are looking a little wild at the moment! There is another downside to this as we have been trying to get the Scottish flame flower (a climbing

Gardening Corner

With some warm days and reasonable amounts of rainfall there are some areas of the garden that are growing away well. Almost perfect conditions in fact, apart from a few cold nights that have made some of the more tender vegetables stop and take check that it is the right time of year! In particular the runner beans and a few of the outdoor tomatoes have had a bit of a reality check. We are still coming to terms with the garden this year as work commitments have reduced the time available to both the under gardener and myself. Generally speaking the flower borders have had to fend for themselves and all in all they haven't done too badly. I do have to keep reminding myself however that the pretty yellow flowers aren't something that we have planted but are rampant buttercups. I'm not too bothered about these, as they are easy to get back under control. I usually find that a sharp hand held flat blade, similar to a wallpaper scraper is as good as any, so long as you slice through the roots and not the crown of the plant, as this will allow it to re-grow. Different to docks and dandelions which need to be dug out completely as any bit left in the ground will soon regenerate into another plant. I can cope with these easily enough, but we do have several areas of couch grass and I am concerned that unless we can get these under control, they will prove to be too big to manage easily. If this is likely, I may leave these areas until the autumn and then dig the ground completely, removing all of the flower plants. I'll take care to remove any bits of couch roots that are growing in the root balls, then remove the offending weed from the ground before replanting the whole area. A lot of work but the only way to go in the event of a bad infestation! At the moment the under gardener is doing a sterling job working her way around the beds pulling anything that can be removed. For some reason goose grass is particularly bad this year, but talking with others it appears not to be a problem confined to us here at Barn Farm.

Things have improved in the vegetable area in recent weeks and so far we have managed to keep on top of the worst of the weeds by simply hoeing off the offending growth when it dares to appear. Because I managed to get much of the seed in the ground early on, we are already reaping the

Organ Centenary Birthday Concert

On

Sunday 6th July—4.30 p.m

St. Thomas a Becket Church

Shirenewton



Celebrating the 100th Birthday

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There will be a rich selection of local music with solo performances by

Philippe Schartz

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Followed by cakes and candles, as required

by all good birthday parties.

No Charge, but donations please to the Church Music Fund

HARPIST PLAYS THE STONES

Shirenewton Church fund raising is proud to announce that the Royal Harpist Jemima Phillips will be performing a concert in aid of Shirenewton Church on the August Bank holiday – Monday 25th August 2008.



The stones in question relate to the venue which will be the front garden of The Chantry where many people have admired the new natural stone sculpture provided, some believe, for the villagers' entertainment. This stone sculpture has yet to be discovered by the 'new age' and rumours that there was to be 'frolicking' around the stones on the summer solstice were, your webmaster understands, greatly exaggerated. No matter, it will provide a delightful venue for Jemima to entertain us.

Jemima Phillips is a professional Harpist who performed at the wedding of Prince Charles and Camilla. (more information). She played a short concert at the Friends of the Church inaugural event and was, by general agreement, superb. Jemima is back by 'popular demand' and if you missed her the first time this is a great opportunity to enjoy her wonderful music. This is an open concert which can accommodate about 60 people.

Tickets will cost £6 per head (Friends of the Church may purchase tickets for £5 per head until the end of July). Family tickets are £20 (2 adults and kids under 16 years of age).

Tickets available from the Chantry 641818. Tickets are strictly limited so please get your tickets early to avoid disappointment. Start time to be determined. It is likely to be early evening.

Practicalities:

1. Seating will be on the stone walls lining the drive. Please bring your own cushions. If the concert is popular it may be 'cosy'.
2. Refreshments will not be provided. Please feel free to bring your own drinks and food. However, please note that space will be limited so you are unlikely to be able to 'spread out' for a lavish picnic.
3. The wet weather venue is likely to be marquees on the tennis court at Cae Pw Cella. In this case please bring your own seating and ensure it will not damage the tennis court.

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SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING -

Monday 2nd June 08

Reporting this month – Glynis MacDonald

Police Report for May

Thurs 8th A faulty house alarm went off in Shirenewton.
Tues 13th Speeding motorcycles were reported on B4235 Shirenewton.
Thurs 15th An Arsenal Shirt was stolen from the Tredegar Arms.
Sun 25th A tree was reported down between Shirenewton and Itton.
Mon 26th Another tree had fallen down on the B4235 near turn off Bully Hole Bottom.
Tues 27th Hanging baskets were stolen from outside the Carpenters Arms.
Thurs 29th Suspected bogus tarmac men reported in Earlswood.

PC Cowburn reminded people to be aware of people offering to tarmac drives.

After hearing about the speeding motor cyclists on the Usk Road, PC Cowburn was asked what could be done about this problem. (The recent Village Profile noted it as one of the major concerns of local people.) PC Cowburn said that the police can use a hand held speed gun but basically it was only useful for speeds around 40 mph and that it could be dangerous to try to stop motorcyclists travelling at 60 mph and over.

The next joint Police/Community Councillor Surgery will be on Saturday 19th July up at the Rec between 10.00 and 12.00. Pop in for an informal chat with either PC Cowburn or a local councillor – they would be pleased to see to you.

Planning

- 1. The Elms, Upper Argoed Farm,** Detached double garage Approval recommended.
- 2. Chwarae Teg, Usk Road, Shirenewton.** Detached garage. Approval recommended but with the recommendation that a proposed water pipe is large enough to deal with run-off water so that flooding is averted
- 3. Trees, Weyloed Lane, Mynyddbach** New doors for dormer windows Recommend refusal and reinstatement to original planning application
The councillors were concerned that the proposed new doors lead on to a very large flat roof that would seem to overlook the neighboring property. The council was also aware that this is a retrospective application.

4. The Marls, Earlswood: Proposed domestic garage
Recommend approval. However, the council were concerned that the drawings for this application were insufficient. They did not show the drainage or sewerage layout, or if the access is from the house or the farm drive.

5. Tredegar Farm, Shirenewton: Proposed public path diversion order.
To divert part of public footpath No175 so that the new route was not obstructed by a barn. - Recommend approval.

Cllr Down agreed to find out what the status of a green lane was – and what changes could be made to them, with or without planning permission.

Local Development Plan 2011 *(watch this space... Glynis)*

Cllr. Down reported that MCC had looked into four possible sites within the local area that could be developed. These areas are:

- Tredegar Farm for tourism and/or recreation (?)
- Ditto the area from West End to the back of the Wentwood (Ditto ?)
- The land at the junction of Weyloed Lane in Mynyddbach for housing.
- Housing behind and to the side of the shop in Shirenewton

However, Cllr Down was at great pains to stress that these were merely areas that ‘could be’ included in MCC’s development plan. And that the Shirenewton Community Council would be consulted in due course should these areas be considered for possible development

Finances.

Absorbing financial matters, annual investment strategies and the format of the newly proposed application form for yearly grants for public bodies were discussed.

Local concern

Equally absorbing information from the various meetings that councilors had attended e.g. planning seminars, stakeholder meetings was disseminated.

Cllr Mitchell suggested that it would be useful if the roles and responsibilities of councilors should be reviewed and discussed. Mercifully it was agreed that a separate meeting should be arranged.

I don’t think there was a motion passed for One Voice Wales

The Clerk’s Report

The clerk is going to meet Pam Lloyd of GAVO to see if it’s possible to obtain funding for the proposed **new playground equipment** up at the



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The clerk also reported that she is still waiting for a response from Colin Berg of MCC to her email of 4th April when she enquired whether there was to be replacement land for local **allotments** should the land at Blethyn Close be sold.

The Clerk reported that she has asked for an update from Graham Down re: **traffic calming**, and **parking at the school**.

Many people had swung into action for **The Best Kept Village Competition** (*which should have been judged by now*) and the village has been cleaned, tidied, swept, washed, and strimmed to perfection. The large floral pot on the island outside the TA was sponsored by Peter Moon

Ongoing requests for action from MCC re: **village signs** and **horse riding signs** continues. And continues.

Items of local concern -information only

Notification of removal of two **telephone boxes** near Gaerllwyd Farm, Newchurch and West End, Shirenewton. BT state that these kiosks are not being used sufficiently to continue the service. Objections, comments or reasons must be made by 31st July

The date of the next meeting is July 7th 2008 7.30 at Shirenewton Rec. Good luck Alison.

WHIST DRIVES

We had 9 full tables at the June Drive and a pleasant evening was had by all especially as it was the one dry evening in the week.

The next Drives are on the 3rd July, 7th August and 4th September (the first Thursday in each month) at the Recreation Hall starting at 7.30 p.m. promptly. New players always welcome.

For further details contact: - Auriol Horton 641844.

THANKYOU

Members of Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel would like to thank Mrs Minetta Morris for hosting the recent Coffee Morning. In addition, many thanks to all who donated items or attended the event. £360 was raised, which will be spent on the Chapel.

SHIRENEWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

EDUJAM

Edujam is a fun, creative I.T. learning resource.

6 people from year 5 (Millie, Merrick, Molly, Rebecca, Eleri and Evan) set up our own Edujam accounts, then we used microphones, headphones and recorders to do interviews about a good piece of learning that we've done. Some parents were invited in to see what we've learnt.

On Tuesday (10th June) the 6 people will be teaching the rest of year 5 how to use Edujam.

By Millie and Merrick

Rebecca Blount

On Wednesday 11th of June, our local eco-officer, Rebecca came in to talk to year 5 and 6 about composting. First she taught us a few facts by reading a story, showing us pictures and asking questions. We then played a games a bit like "Who wants to be a Millionaire" (but without the money!!!!)

To finish off the activity we moved the composting bins.
This was an educational and fun experience for everyone !!

By Eleanor Clutton Year 6

SHIRENEWTON PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Due to school commitments, as of September 2008 a volunteer is required to take on the running of our group.

Currently we run from 1.30 p.m. to 3.00 pm on Thursday afternoons (during school terms) at the Recreation Hall, providing tea / coffee for the parents and a small snack for the children.

There is very little effort or time required and all who attend are friendly and willing to help.

If you are interested or would like more information please contact:
Jane Watkins – 01291 641774

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

Our scheduled speaker for our May meeting was unable to attend and Diana Bevan very kindly at short notice agreed to give her talk on the village of Whitebrook. Her and other members of the village undertook to compile the history of this small village with its industrial past still much in evidence today.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday, 29th June, - change of programme
Walk to Cas Troggi Valley & Bicca Common
Meet at Wentwood Reservoir Car Park at 3.00pm

Saturday 12th July
Walk to Piercefield Estate and Bring a picnic
Meet at the far end of the Chepstow Leisure Centre car park at 2.00 pm

Monday, 14th July
Resource afternoon at the Recreational Hall, Shirenewton at 2.00 pm

Tuesday, 29th July
'When does Legend become History'
Daphne Pearson
Huntsman Hotel, Shirenewton, 7.30 pm

Saturday, 9th August
Shirenewton Local History Society will be having a stand at Chepstow Agricultural Show

Sunday 10th August
Heritage and talk, Brynmawr with Frank Olding
Meet at the Mountain Air Public House, Tredegar for light lunch and talk at 2.00pm

Monday, 11th August
Resource Afternoon, at Recreational Hall Shirenewton, 2.00 pm

Tuesday, 30th September
Society meeting at the Huntsman Hotel, Shirenewton, at 7.30

CAROLINE'S COOKERY CORNER

Barbeque Sauces

I hope I am not tempting fate now that we are in the barbeque season. Even if we do the same meals over again we can always vary the meal with different sauces and salads. Even basic coleslaw can be jazzed up with fruits such as grapes, pineapple, oranges apples and nuts.

Tomato, melon and cucumber salad is very refreshing with B.B.Q. food – cut tomato in to wedges, cube melon and cucumber roughly the same size as the tomato, toss in french dressing with chopped chives and a little mint.

Tomato and kiwi is an alternative. Peel & slice kiwi – slice tomato, layer in a shallow dish and serve with dressing and chopped chives.

Mushroom vinaigrette is also good and very easy. In a screw top jar mix 6 tablespoons olive oil, 2 tablespoons wine vinegar , 1 teaspoon sugar, ¼ teaspoon dry mustard, 1 tablespoon each of chopped gherkin, parsley and capers, shake well. Remove stalks and wipe 8 oz button mushrooms. Pour the dressing over the mushrooms, stir and leave for 1 hour. If you are lucky enough to have courgettes in the garden; using a peeler slice the courgettes into long ribbons, Whisk juice of 1 lemon with 4 teaspoons olive oil, salt and pepper. Pour over the courgettes, mix well and leave for 20 minutes, and garnish with chives.

Yoghurt mixed with diced cucumber, mint and garlic goes well with lamb.

Tomato sauce mixed with Dijon mustard and chilli sauce is fabulous with burgers.

Heat 5 tablespoons tomato sauce, 3 tablespoons white wine vinegar, 2 tablespoons each of honey and soy sauce, boil until thickened a little – a must for all BBQ food.

Our thanks once again to Caroline Davies



Shirenewton PTA

Hog Roast!

Celebrate the End of School Year
Following Sport's Day
Friday 11th July
6.30pm till after dark
Tickets £5 per person £3 per child
£15 per family
Bar - Music - Food
Bring Travel Rugs & chairs
Tickets available from School Office
Want to help out with the PTA?
Contact Jonathan Carter yewtree.house@tiscali.co.uk

**SHIRENEWTON
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Coming Soon!

**on
Saturday 28th June 2008
2-4pm**

*Dig out those Hawaiian
Shirts!*

**Its time for
the 2008
Summer Fayre**

**A super afternoon for all
the family with lots of
stalls, fun and
refreshments**

The Bells.....The Bells

Shirenewton bell ringers have rather a disrupted month what with people on holiday and others involved with the latest amateur dramatics going on in Earlswood hall. However, amongst all this there have been some significant ringing milestones achieved.

Both are newest and youngest ringers 10 year old Merrick Stanley and 11 year old Rhiannon Millar have now achieved their blue badges - The Ambitious Apprentice from the Sherbourne Teaching Aids award scheme. This is the very first milestone in ringing. Tom Mitchell aged 13 rang his first quarter peal of Minor. He rang the treble to Plain Bob Minor. Minor is when all 6 bells are involved in the changes unlike Doubles where 5 bells are involved in the changes and the sixth one rings in 6ths place throughout or as it is called "covers". Minor is significantly more difficult than doubles and considerably more difficult to strike well as there is no "tenor behind" to follow when your bell "leads" or rings the first blow of the change. So well done to Tom.

Pip has been doing some work for the Central Council of Church Bell ringers Education Committee and has produced "The Ringing Practice Toolkit" this is an online resource to help tower captains make their practices more interesting and varied. If you are interested follow the link: - www.cccbr.org.uk/edc/rpt.php

Pip Penny

EARLSWOOD & NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

Earlswood Hall was transported back to 1940s for this year's production from Kids Ad Lib "Careless Talk Cost lives" involving over 60 local children. The show followed the fortunes of a group of evacuees arriving in a country community as they got to know their hosts and the local children. The plot thickened as the evacuees became involved in the search for a German spy. As always, stunning costumes, props and set enhanced the children's excellent performances.

The hall has now been returned to the 21st century and we are taking bookings for the Autumn. To make your booking please call Glynis MacDonald on 641818.

Simon Stanley
Chairman

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

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Shirenewton W.I.

The weather was good but cooler than of late for our June meeting. Mrs Winnie Jones chaired and Mrs Sally Saysell reported on the AGM of the National Federation held in Liverpool. Sally enjoyed the conference and encouraged other members to go, if they have the chance, in order to experience the incredible atmosphere and wonderful speakers. Every delegate was presented with an oak sapling, which Sally managed to bring home in good condition (I hope all the rest fared as well). We hope to arrange a suitable planting site in the autumn, for the present it has been potted and well watered.

Our numbers were somewhat reduced this month, but we were lucky enough to have one visitor, a very brave W.I husband, he came because of our wonderful speaker Mr Ernie Jones and his talk on 'the passage of time'- memories of his childhood and of dairy farming in this part of the county. Ernie was welcomed by all and we thoroughly enjoyed his talk. It was very enlightening to hear what it was like before all the modern roads, abundance of cars and lorries, and electricity for everyone and everything. My memories don't go back quite as far as Ernie's, but I do remember being able to 'dawdle' on the way home from school to investigate and enjoy nature all around. Today's children whisked to school and back by car or bus, with us worrying about their security, certainly reduces the natural pleasures of growing up. Ernie brought a copy of his book on Mathern for us to look at, the photographs were particularly interesting. (contact Mr E Jones directly if you are interested in his books covering many subjects)

Our next meeting is our annual garden party, hosted by Mr & Mrs E Jones at their home, on the 10th July at 7pm. Please bring a chair, we hope for glorious weather to fully enjoy the garden at its best.

We are a very friendly group, so please come as a visitor and maybe stay as a member. We meet each 2nd Thursday of the month, usually at Shirenewton Recreation Hall, at 7:15pm.

August 14th is our summer social; usually a dinner out (venue to be confirmed).

September 11th will see us back at the Hall.

For more information contact our secretary Margaret Woodliffe on 01291 641384.

Diana Such

Best Kept Village Competition 2008

As well as the people who attended the 'team meetings' in the Tredegar Arms, many people rallied round to address the public areas of concern that had been reported in Shirenewton. Verges were strimmed and litter collected. Signs, sand bins and the bus shelter were cleaned.

The flower display between the bollards in the centre of the village was kindly sponsored by Peter Moon of Moon Estate Agents.

By the time you read this the judging will have been carried out (anytime in June) and the result will be known by the end of July.

Thank you to everyone who helped.

SHIRENEWTON , MYNYDD BACH & EARLSWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.

The Gwent police have informed us that they are seeking the help of the Community in tracking down rogue traders, this includes: builders, tarmac operators, gutter and patio cleaning services, block layers and window cleaners. Many maybe genuine, but these are frequently used as a cover for opportunities to commit crimes. The police have had some considerable success in apprehending a number of bogus operators and need further help from the community. You should contact the police on: 01633 838111, this can be done anonymously, you do not have to leave you name or address.

Additionally, there have been reported burglaries carried out by teams posing as representatives of the utilities, gas, water, electricity suppliers to gain access to properties. Always ask for I.D cards, and if in any doubt contact the utility concerned. A genuine operator should not object to being kept waiting while you check.

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Langstone, Newport NP18 2LH



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Chepstow Choral Society

presents

Carmina Burana

(by Carl Orff for two pianos and percussion)

Johannes Brahms Liebeslieder

Saturday July 12th

Chepstow Leisure Centre 7.30 pm

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL

MARJORIE DUERDEN & ROSALIND TAYLOR (PIANOS)

HANNAH GROVE ATHERTON (SOPRANO)

HENRY NEILL (BARITONE)

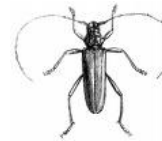
SEBASTIAN FIELD (COUNTER-TENOR)

PERCUSSION ARRANGED BY ADRIAN EVANS

TICKETS £10 (TO INCLUDE REFRESHMENTS & PROGRAMME)

Tickets from The Chepstow Bookshop, on the door, or from choir members – (01291 623310 for more information)

*Chepstow Choral Society is affiliated to the
Welsh Amateur Music Federation*



Beetle Mania



It's here! Beetle mania is back

but it's not the musical kind! I'm talking about the little black shiny variety on the woodland floor, or the long red variety with giant antennae nestling in the nettles or the beautiful iridescent ones on the dock plants. You may not have realised how many different types of beetle there are – of all the insects on earth (800,000 species) nearly HALF are beetles! 25% of all known life forms are beetles.

The word "beetle" stems from old English words for "little biter". Their order name "coleoptera" was first used by Aristotle over 5000 years ago and comes from the greek words "koleos" (sheath) and "ptera" (wings). The name refers to the fact that most beetles have a hard outer casing – the elytra – that protects them.

Beetles have been around since the age of the dinosaurs - 230 million years! When flowering plants arrived about 65 million years ago, speciation in beetles occurred at an astronomical rate. This incredible adaptability really is the key to their success. Some species can trap moisture under the elytra to allow them to travel across deserts. Others, like the great diving beetles at Magor, can trap air to allow them to swim under water. Some have flight wings underneath these to allow them to fly, others have lost this ability. They all have compound eyes but some, like the whirligig beetle in the reed at Magor, have split eyes. This allows them to see above and below the waterline at the same time!!

Talking of water beetles - at Magor Marsh we have over 60 different species of beetles in the water alone! This is our most important one. It is the great silver water beetle, *hydrophilus piceus* - one of the reasons that Magor Marsh is a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

We've got another lovely and very distinctive green longhorn beetle known as the musk beetle that lives in the pollarded willows around the site. Watch out for it at this time of year.

So there you have a few facts about beetles – from ladybirds to glow worms – its just one big happy family. One they think will outlast humans!!

Kathy Barclay Community Education Officer (Magor Marsh)
Tel: 01633 889048



1ST SHIRENEWTON GUIDES & BROWNIES Summer Madness

Summer term usually means hectic times in Guiding and June 08 has been no different. As well as our 'normal' weekly meetings (tennis, mid summer picnics, games and craft) we have also had some weekend events.

On June 7th a small but enthusiastic group of Brownies went to the Gwent Guiding Brownie Revels day at Rogerstone Primary School. While there we joined in many activities on an 'Animal Magic' theme – the girls made badges, bookmarks, Ratatouille –rat biscuits – played games and sang (and all the way there and back in my car – ah!). These county events are a great chance for the girls and leaders to make new friends in Guiding and to catch up with old friends. It never ceases to amaze me that it's the 'busy' people – who have jobs, family commitments and even other hobbies and social lives who still find the time to organise these events for girls and leaders to enjoy. Thank you to the Gwent Guiding organising committee for this fun day out.

June 14th is fete day in Shirenewton and what a tradition. For Brownies the weeks before this day involve deciding on a theme for the float, deciding on costumes and making decorations for the float .A lot of work and preparation goes into this so it was a little disappointing that only 10 of our 24 girls made it onto the float – but thank you to those girls that did come and join us. A **huge** thank you to our invaluable support team – Matt Smith – for lending us the lorry (yet again), Mark Broughton for driving the lorry (yet again) and Mark James for getting us just about anything we needed! Our theme this year was 'The Gold Rush' with the Brownies dressed as gold miners and the Guides as the saloon girls. We aimed to make everyone aware that there are 50,000 girls in the UK on waiting lists to join Rainbows, Brownies and Guides – all they need is 'the gold' – adult volunteer leaders to run the units . Chepstow Guiding is currently struggling – with two Brownie units under threat of closure if we can't get volunteers. So please if you can help even on a temporary/ part time/ job share basis let one of us know –

Jackie Broughton – 641797
Helen Cann 650835
Margaret Wheeler 629271

The costume department must have had to do some digging around, some of it I'm sure was from my wardrobe. Additionally with some approaches having been made to the War Office or I believe this has been superseded by the MOD to find the WW II costumes involved provided the right atmosphere in the military units.

Many congratulations to Karen Millar, Writer, Director and Musical director, to Gail Jones Production Director and the rest of the team that built and painted the sets, and the technical team that managed the lighting and special effects, to provide these evenings of wonderful entertainment and at the same time introduce this young cast to the experience of performing in front of a large audience in a play of a high standard and showing what can be achieved working as a team.



Left: Our two Nazi spies: Erich & Lt Max Thespie - Also known as Joe Glynn & George Evans.

Above: Elsie & Ernie two of the village locals - Also known as: Ben Jones and Mike Jones.

KIDS AD LIB

CARELESS TALK COSTS LIVES

Yet again Kids Ad Lib have provided the community with another three evenings of brilliant entertainment.

Their latest production written and produced by Karen Millar *"Careless Talk Costs Lives"* was a departure from the usual fantasy or science fiction plays of the past. This production was at heart a serious drama, based on a group of evacuee children from London sent out into the safety of the countryside.

Not so serious though that it didn't include a few rousing songs of the period sang both with talent and gusto. The play touched on the real problems that evacuee children faced when sent into a completely different environment and the suspicions and accusations made against them. There was a great deal of poignancy in many of the scenes touching on aspects of that period that were very real. These were well acted by this group of talented budding stars. What is truly amazing about these productions is that not only is this a completely original script and much of the music. Also that the stage sets and scenery were of a standard that most



professional companies with large budgets would be proud of. The stage effects with very realistic air-raid warnings, search-light sequences, explosions and a very dramatic opening scene transformed in seconds from a normal street scene to a blitzed building. A huge amount of effort must have gone into this scene for the short opening sequence that set the tone for the whole play.

SHIRENEWTON M.U.

The highlight of June has been the Road show held at St. David's Hall Cardiff on the 19th attended by 1,311 women and men who included 34 from Netherwent Deanery (8 from our Branch). The principal speakers were Rosemary Kempself, the World Wide President; Mary Salmon, the Provincial President of Wales; Jean Price, the Marketing Coordinator from Mary Sumner House in London and Reg. Bailey the Chief Executive of MU. Mary Salmon told of her work with a Contact Centre in North Wales- a place where estranged parents could have time with their children in a safe environment (this is already being put into practice in Monmouth Diocese too). The slogan for the meeting was "joining the dots" and video clips showed the work of the MU throughout the World. The "dots" were Finance, People power, Experience, Sustainability and Love that MU members join up to heal fragmented and wounded communities. As well as being an organisation of 3.6 million Christians in over 78 countries who give money, experience and prayer to support marriage and family life – they share a vision of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships; reaching out to communities, they change lives and bring hope.

Alongside the volunteering members MU also has 350 development workers (at a cost of £362,622 a year) who have become loved and respected across the globe. These workers and volunteers have been at the heart of every community offering assistance to families affected by 16 disasters in 14 countries during 07/08 from severe flooding in Africa, cyclones in the Pacific, earthquakes in Africa and Peru, and conflict in Kenya and Iraq. There will be a MU stand at Chepstow Show on August 9th – stop by and learn more of what MU does at home and abroad and in October on Wednesday, 8th at 2.30 p.m. call in at The Recreation Hall to meet local members. We'll even give you a cup of tea!!

Members, please remember we are off to St. Arvans on the 9th July and in September we will visit the Quiet Garden at Coed-y-paen.

Auriol Horton, Branch Leader, 01201 641844.

THE CHURCH WEB-PAGE

The church website continues to provide a steady stream of funds to the church and we thank those that use it for their support. I am managing to keep the shops updated and even keeping the special offers page (where you get discount vouchers for online spending) up-to-date. However, I simply don't have the time at the moment to get the new shopping experience up and running. We will get there.

The church website provides a valuable community service and we are happy to publish information on community events whether or not the church itself benefits directly. Simply send the information to web-master@shirenewtonchurch.com.

On another note, I've been asked to provide a facility through which lift sharing, either on a daily basis or for one off journeys, can be arranged. I'm looking into this as there are several options - should it be part of a village community discussion forum, or take the form of a classified ads site such as www.sewales.com. I would be interested to learn (i) whether people think this is a good idea, and (ii) whether people think a village discussion forum would be used. Please let me know via: webmaster@shirenewtonchurch.com.

For those interested in such things, at the time of writing (20th June 2008 - a damp and horrible morning you will recall) in the previous 3 months (ie since 21st March 08) the church website has had over 700 visits (that is 230 visits per month or, 55 visits per week) from 22 countries viewing over 2,300 pages. The 700 visits are from 351 unique visitors giving us a new visit percentage of 45.86%. About 33% of our traffic is via search engines (ie people searching for terms on Google or Yahoo). This means that the majority of our traffic is from people typing in the url (or having it on their favourites) or referring sites. I'm not sure what that tell us other than the fact that people from all over the world do visit the site.

So, please keep shopping through the site. Remember don't forget to book your airport parking through Holiday Extras and your hire car via Holiday Autos. You may also want to take out excess damage insurance (which also covers tyres and glass) from Insurance4carhire. All these shops are available via the 'Travel & Holidays' page on the shopping portal. All save you money, all pay the Church a commission if you shop via the Church website and, remember, it costs you nothing more to shop via the Church website.

Happy browsing. - David Cornwell - Webmaster

A message from Mr. Ernest E Jones

I am pleased that the books I have written that detail the experiences of my life as a farmer and of life in the countryside of Gwent are of sufficient interest to be serialized in the Parish magazine.

I would like to express my thanks to Peter Bartlett who has taken my handwritten books and transcribed into the documents that are now available . To date, Peter has complete six books and more will be done as time permits.

Details of the books can be obtained from myself on 01291 641557 or from Peter Barlett on 01291 641661.

CHRISTIAN AID

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Christian Aid Ploughman's Lunch at The Chantry on Saturday 11th May.

The warm afternoon allowed people to spill outside into the sunshine for a glass of wine and nosh of bread and cheese. It was lovely – and so much more enjoyable than collecting door-to-door. We raised £326 and this added to the collection raised at the family service in Shirenewton Church will mean that we will be sending a cheque for over £400 to Christian Aid ASAP.

Glynis MacDonald – Christian Aid Co-ordinator for Shirenewton

The editor apologises that the above should have appeared in last months magazine

A Thank You

Philip and Molly would like to convey their thanks to all friends and neighbours for their cards and get well wishes during their prolonged stay in N.Z. and when they returned home.

It was very kind of you all and very much appreciated.

Philip & Molly Choux

tankers that collected the milk by suction from a refrigerated tank on the farm. Although looking back it was a placid way of life sat on a milking stool milking away, swallows darting in and out, no great rush, there was poverty, while TB of the cattle was a hazard, abortion of calves if it came wa a disaster, and the warble fly was a curse. In hot thundery weather cows and young cattle would stampede and jump through fences to try and get away from the buzz of the warble fly. Today there are products to control many of the these problems, but not the thundery weather.

The sheep farmer in summer: perhaps it would be better to say summer and sheep, sheep farmers covers too wide a variation. In Australia a sheep farmer would count his flock in thousands, but in the UK flocks are getting bigger and indeed some of the mountain flocks do run into thousands, but here in Monmouthshire the flocks I write about were probably about twenty to one hundred head. To me the sheep have always been part of the stock of a general mixed farm. An easier way to manage sheep in some respects is in smaller numbers. Sheep like horses need to rotate from field to field to keep free from internal parasites. Although the fences on a farm as a whole need to be good, a big mistake folk make with sheep is to put them in a fresh field and after they escape, put the fence right. If the fences are good they will settle and not look to roam out. In the heat of summer sheep like shade, especially trees, and I have never been able to say truthfully whether trees are good or bad. Under trees it gets very foul and harbours flies and foot rot. A very pleasing sight after a hot day in the cool of the evening is to see the sheep out grazing and to hear ewes and lambs calling to each other.

A sheep farmer cannot get sentimental at lambing time when a great deal of effort and devotion is needed for lambs to survive, and then between twelve and twenty weeks those very lambs are sent of to market to be killed. That is the order of life in the countryside.

On a general mixed farm during the summer the shepherd should see that there are no lame animals, and where possible to have a fresh field once a week. To spray or dip them to keep flies at bay and to dose regularly against parasites

Sheep farming like many aspects of all farming are part of a changing world. British breeds that once roamed our fields are now inter-bred with many breeds from Europe. The main reason being people who eat lamb do not want fat, therefore the farmers are having to breed leaner sheep.

So we take leave of our sheep in the summer.

STARGAZING IN JULY 2008

Once it is properly dark 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. Astronomers have used telescopes carried on satellites to observe a disk of gas and dust around Vega, which possibly means planets are forming in its vicinity. Deneb is a supergiant star which is very bright indeed and far further away than the other stars in the triangle.

The familiar pattern of Ursa Major, the Great Bear or Plough, is to be seen in the north-west, with the "W" of Cassiopeia climbing into the north-eastern sky.

Jupiter is very bright low down to the South. It is at its closest to Earth for this year.

Saturn is just below the back-to-front question mark in the constellation Leo to the West whilst the less bright reddish planet Mars is moving up through the question mark as the month passes. Venus is appearing in the northwest low down in the twilight towards the end of July.

The crescent Moon is close to Saturn and Mars on 6th July, whilst the nearly Full Moon is near Jupiter on 17th July. The Moon takes approximately 28 days to rotate around the Earth, which explains why particular phases of the Moon such as the Full Moon are seen 28 days apart. In the case of the Full Moon we are viewing the Moon with the Sun behind us which means the Moon's shadow can't be seen. In the case of the New Moon, just a fine edge of the Moon's disc is illuminated by the Sun whilst the rest of the Moon's surface is in shadow. The very narrow crescent of the New Moon can be seen on 3rd July and the Full Moon on 18th July. The cycle repeats itself with the next New Moon appearing on 1st August and Full Moon on 18th August.

Dave Thomas

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH FETE

We all enjoyed **another fabulous fete day** again this year. Can you believe how lucky we were with the weather? A gorgeous, sunny day – obviously organised by Rev Nansi Davies! Thank you all for coming to support us and joining in the fun.

Saturday lunchtime saw lots of excited children (and parents) dressed as daleks, athletes, tarts (no, not the ones you eat!) – milling around the Tan House car park preparing for the carnival parade. The pretty Carnival Queen sat surrounded by a bevy of lovely princesses and handsome page boys on the spectacular 'Dr Who' float. The Scouts and Beavers took a sporting theme with all manner of sports represented, including an equestrian and shot putter, all ready for the Beijing 2008 Olympics. In the Guiding world, there is a big recruitment drive for leaders, with a theme of 'Gold', and as part of this, the Brownies' float was busily panning for gold and the guides were saucy saloon girls.

The fete was opened by the Rev Nansi Davies who presented the prizes to the winners of the float and fancy dress competition which Jane and Will Smith-Haddon had had the difficult task of judging. Everyone was then let loose with their pennies (and pounds!) to spend, and enjoy. The entertainment kicked off with a new attraction – the Lydney State Circus who wowed us with their juggling, Diabolo and uni-cycle skills. Whilst sipping Pimms, glugging beer and enjoying burgers and ice-cream we were entertained by the Kestrel Gym Club (aren't the little ones gorgeous?) and the Chepstow Band. There were so many other great stalls and attractions that we were kept entertained all afternoon and 5.00pm came along all too soon.

Later in the evening, we celebrated our successful day by enjoying a great evening at the Tredegar Arms. Thank you so much to Tim and Julie's team for looking after us so well – the buffet was truly sumptuous and the beer and company were pretty good as well!!

Last year was a bit of an exception financially and this year, when all the money is in, we hope to hit our 2006 figure of £5,000. A fantastic figure for a village fete but, of course more importantly, what a great way of bringing the village together, with both kids and grownups enjoying a great fun day in the sunshine.

COUNTRY LIFE IN OUR COUNTY

Below is further extract from Ernie Jones notes that he has compiled through his many years of life and farming in this locality. The text below follows on from last month's notes on springtime.

Thank you Ernie for sharing these notes with us.

Summer naturally follows spring and here again there is no preset time of change, with one season merging into the next, but by the calendar June, July and August are regarded as the summer months.

The Dairy Farmer in summer: to me this is the best time of the year, and in days of hand milking, morning milking was quite a pleasant job once your muscles were attuned to the work. While to anyone not used to regular hand milking of dairy cows, their arms would ache something awful. However, afternoon milking on a hot afternoon could be unpleasantly warm work indeed. Hand milking was a wonderful opportunity to think, once you got to know your cows it was almost automatic with the quiet docile ones, the temperamental cows on the other hand were a different matter; many times I've been kicked off the stool milk and all. As a member of Chepstow Young Farmers I did some public speaking, and have thought up these speeches whilst sitting on a milking stool. Today in the modern milking parlour it's a very different job. In the days of hand milking on average one person would milk between six and eight cows an hour, and about fifteen cows in total milking them twice a day. Today, some dairymen are expected to milk one hundred cows or more, this does not give much time for idle thought. In my youth cows would graze the fields near the building free range, strip grazing and electric fences didn't come into use until about the mid 1940's. No artificial fertilizer was applied to the fields you just grew what grew naturally; this compared today was a very leisurely way of life when you continued on as your father had, because it was tried and tested and you were confident that this was the right way to proceed.

As in all things there was a downside. The selling of milk was a haphazard business, the farmer being held to ransom by the buyers, this being before the days of the MMB (Milk Marketing Board). The MMB was established to give the dairy producers stable prices. Most milk except that sold direct to the public went by rail in seventeen gallon churns, before the days of refrigeration bulk tanks. In hot summer weather it could be difficult to get milk to keep as the dairies would send it back sour. With establishment of the MMB some stability was brought to prices and milk was collected by from the farms initially in churns but subsequently by bulk refrigerated

Songs of Celebration

A variety of works from the 16th to 20th Centuries

With the

Martin Singers



The Methodist Church, Chepstow

Friday July 4th, 7.30 pm

Tickets: £6 (on the door, from 01291 627800 and Chepstow Bookshop)

Vocal works by:

John Dowland, John Bennett, Thomas Weelkes, Morten Lauridson, Peter Warlock,
William Lloyd Webber, John Ireland,
Orlando Gibbons, Gerald Finzi, William Byrd,
and more...

Instrumental works for recorders & keyboard

Mozart Scarlatti Colin Hand
 Brian Bonsor

I can't put it any better than Fiona Venning of Shirenewton School who wrote the poem below. I read this to a number of organisers and helpers on the morning of the fete and it really hit the spot for us all:



*Our Village Fete is special to me
Our Village Fete is a sight to see*

*With stalls and competitions
And the cakes – yum, yum*

*Oh wow, Oh My!
Doesn't time just fly by*

*The children are free to run around
Just like there were meant to be*

*Not to mention the smell and sound
Of people cooking and ladies serv-
ing tea*

*But don't worry it hasn't ended
The fun hasn't even begun!*

*If there was a competition
For the best fete ever*

*In my mind this one
Will already have won.'*

On behalf of the fete committee, I would like to thank the many people who helped to make this day so successful. **Sooooo** many people put in so much hard work, time, and commitment into this fete – you all know who you are and it would not be possible without you. Many, many thanks to everyone involved and we hope we can call on your various talents again next year, when yet again I'm sure it will be 'the best fete ever'.

Noelyn Prout
on behalf of the Church Fete Committee

**THE CHURCH FETE
Grand Draw Winners**

		Ticket No.
1st Prize— £100—	Beryl Saysell	0601
2nd Prize—£50—	Lucy Melling	1379
3rd Prize—	Barbara Walters	1213
4th Prize—Bottle of Whisky & Gin -	Howard Sheene	0720
Other Prizes		
Liqueur & Chocolates—	Mrs Marlow	1050
Fondue Set—	Beth Baker	0268
Box of soft toys—	Jackie Broughton	1388
Box of Champagne Flutes—	Bernice Bowen	1916
Garden Lights Set—	Gary	0664
Set Of Games—	Millie	2107
Set of Games -	Martina O'Keefe	1690
Cosmetics—	P Brabon	0869
Sunday Lunch at the TA—	Barbara Davies	0208
Hanging Basket—	Mrs Jeremiah	1961
Decorative Candle Lights & Mirror—	Margaret Lock	1923



Let's follow the Band

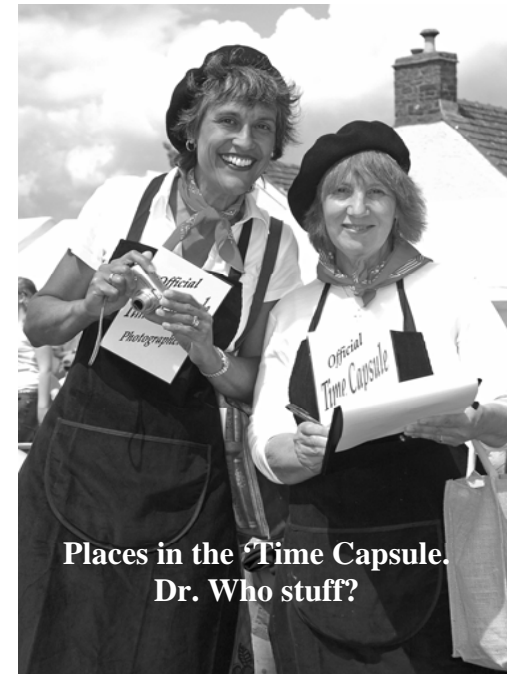
**SHIRENEWTON SCHOOL ART COMPETITION
Theme — "Our Village Fete"**

Upper Juniors:	1st Prize Phoebe Clutton £10 book token
	2nd Prize Fiona Venning £5 book token
Infants:	1st Prize Katie Bambridge £10 book token
	2nd Prize Eleanor Tout £5 book token
Reception	1st Prize Amelia Davies Book
	2nd Prize Hattie Leaf Book

The Fete Committee would like to thank all the pupils that took part, and the works were all of a very high standard making the judges decision very difficult.

Special thanks to some of you that went to the trouble to put together a pictures and verses that told the Fete Committee how much you enjoyed the Fete. This made their work all the more worthwhile.

Thank you all.



**Places in the Time Capsule.
Dr. Who stuff?**