

May 2008

Price: 50p

THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS A BECKET SHIRENEWTON



Parishes of Shirenewton and Newchurch Magazine

READERS AND SIDES- PERSONS ROTA FOR MAY

DATE	SERVICE	READER	SIDES-PERSON
4th May	7th Sunday of Easter 9.45 a.m.	Margaret Lock Diane Marlow	Margaret Lock Diane Marlow
11th May	Pentecost 9.45 a.m.	Bob Grattan Ruth Savagar	Bob Grattan Bernice Bowen
18th May	Trinity	FAMILY SERVICE	The Children
25th May	1st Sunday after Trinity 9.45 a.m.	Cynthia Smith James Leney	Cynthia Smith Claire Lewis
1st June	2nd Sunday after Trinity 9.45 a.m.	Mike Pierce Andrew Baker	Mike Pierce Allan Saysell

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 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. Mike Cowburn	01633 838111
REC. BOOKING SECRETARY:	Beryl Saysell	641637
TRAIDCRAFT:	Marion McAdam	641316
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 June magazine to Bob O'Keefe at: 15 Newton Manor, Shirenewton, (641686) or email to bobandwenche@aol.com by Friday 23rd May.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

29th April	History Society—Roman Medicine—The Huntsman 30 (see SLHS notes.)
1st May	Whist Drive—7.30 Recreation Hall
8th May	Floral Demonstration—Earlswood Memorial Hall
10th May	Shirenewton School 'Promise Auction' Hood Memorial Hall Devauden 7.00p.m.
10th May	Christian Aid Ploughmans lunch "The Chantry" (see page 15)
10th May	Coffee Morning for of Velindre Cancer Hospital (See page 14)
12th May	Community Council AGM at the Recreation Hall—7.30 p.m.
5th June	Whist Drive—7.30 Recreation Hall
6th June	Friends of the Church event Cae Pw Cella (see page 9)
7th June	Play—"Keep Moving" Itton Hall (see advert)
14th June	The Church Fete—Recreation Field from 2.00 p.m.
21st June	Coffee Morning in aid of Earlswood Church (see note)
28th June	Shirenewton Primary School—"Summer Fayre.

Holiday Villa - Dordogne Area

Newly refurbished 3 bedroom villa with swimming pool.

In the heart of the beautiful Dordogne area, France.

Near Bergerac – direct flights from Bristol.

Surrounded by vineyards and sunflowers

All modern amenities for holiday let.

For more information see website-

www.lescamelias.info

or ring 01923 231940

ANDREW GORE DECORATING SERVICES

FED UP WITH DECORATING

INTERIOR EXTERIOR



**ALL TYPES
OF
DECORATING
UNDERTAKEN
FRIENDLY
ADVICE
FULLY
INSURED**

Call today for a **Free** estimate!

01291 625451
MOBILE 07789286357

Dear Friends,

A recent newspaper article reported that the sort of weather we have been experiencing this April was seasonal and what in previous years we associated with our British climate as traditional for springtime. However, the article went on to warn that we should not be fooled into thinking that the weather would automatically follow a traditional pattern such as a warm summer with some hot days and a mild autumn, and so on. Nothing can be certain because of the influence of climate change. This set me thinking about the Church's year and the certainty of its seasons.

We have just celebrated Easter, indeed we continue to enjoy the Easter season for six weeks until Pentecost, or Whitsuntide as it is called in some parts. Then we come to Trinity Sunday and begin a new season which continues until Advent. This is followed by Christmas, Epiphany and finally Lent when we prepare once again to celebrate Easter. Unlike the weather the seasons of the Church's year are sure and certain. At one time these Holy days were times when the population had days off work in order to celebrate them with their families; over time 'Holy days' became 'holidays'. Nowadays, holidays are enjoyed all the year and even school holidays are no longer so closely tied to Holy days. Indeed many changes have taken place in this last decade, for example the May Day holiday is on May 5th with Whitsunday/Pentecost on May 11th when previously these were always the same weekend. There are many other examples which demonstrate how this once Christian country has become separated from its traditional roots and values. Does it matter? I believe it matters greatly for we see around us a society which is no longer at ease with its self and where the values and standards we experienced until relatively recently are barely discernable. What can we do about it supposing we want to recreate a happier and more contented society? Politicians from across the political spectrum tell us they know the answers but we know that they often cannot put into place what they say they want. The answers are in the hands of all of us and they are found in the words of Jesus: he taught that we should love God and love our neighbour as much as we love ourselves. What a difference this would make if everyone tried to do this and not only in our own

neighbourhood but throughout the world. We would see love and peace hand in hand with good governance and honesty, guns replaced with ploughs and the people fed, we might even see a fairer system of taxation return in our own country!

Finally I have been asked to say why I share the peace greeting at the Eucharist with those present. I would have thought that amongst the Christian fellowship there would be great joy in sharing the peace that Jesus gave us especially when we come to share Holy Communion. I have been told that a few members of our regular congregations 'feel uncomfortable' at my sharing the peace greeting with them and neither do they wish to share the peace greeting with their neighbours around them. Originally the Kiss of Peace was the mutual greeting of the faithful in the Eucharistic Liturgy, as a sign of their love and union. It is first mentioned by St. Justin Martyr in the 2nd century and is probably a usage of the Apostolic period (as we can read in Romans 16:16, Greet each other in Christian love. From the early Greek translates 'Great each other with a sacred kiss' then again 1 Peter 5:14, says, Great each other in Christian love' From the early Greek translates 'Great each other with a kiss of love'. And there are more such examples should you wish to look them up in your Bible. The Kiss of Peace has been found in all the Christian churches throughout the centuries and has been modified over time from a kiss to the present form of hand-shaking although there are many who still exchange a kiss of peace even in the Church in Wales! It is a visible sign that we are the people of whom it can be said, 'How these Christians love one another.' Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you." We know how much he loved us let us boldly acknowledge that love by sharing it openly and generously with one another at every opportunity.

Peace be with you

Reverend Nansi Davies
Priest in Charge.

soil up a bit and incorporating a load of well rotted manure, depending on what crops are to follow. The one area for carrots has not been manured as this makes the roots fork, so instead this has been dug, raked and sown after a liberal dressing of blood, fish and bonemeal, one of the best all round organic fertilisers for vegetables or flowers. The beds that have been identified for growing the green vegetables have been manured but not dug. This is because greens preferred a compact soil in which to grow. Light, fluffy soil increases the risk of the plants running to seed, before producing a crop. These beds have also been fitted with various types of supporting framework for something new that I'm trying this year. I have purchased a new product called "Enviromesh". This is a very fine mesh product that allows rain and air through but prevents the smallest of insect pests gaining access to your valuable crop. It will be interesting to see how effective this proves to be. It will make the vegetables expensive for this year but it will last for many years if properly looked after. The real benefit will be tasting your very own home produced vegetables that have not been exposed to chemical input in any shape or format.

The wet weather over the weekend has allowed us to catch up on a number of "indoor" tasks that have needed doing for some time. In the tunnel I had laid some drip feed piping around the strawberries and fruit trees some time ago, but this needed a lot of attention in order to get it up and running properly. This was mainly a case of replacing broken nozzles and pipes. This was quite time consuming but a job well done. It meant that I could leave the system dripping away whilst I went off and did something else. Mean while the under gardener was busy sorting out the potting shed, which was in a sorry state of affairs. I did poke my head inside the shed at one point in the operation, but soon cleared off when I was reprimanded for putting a pile of pot trays in the wrong place! Back to the tunnel me thinks!

*Happy gardening until next month. **Steve Hunt.***

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Dates for the next couple of months

Date	Time		Venue
4th May	9.45	Sunday Club	The Chantry
11th May	9.45	Sunday Club	The Chantry
18th May	9.45	Family Service	The Church
25th May	9.45	Sunday Club	The Chantry
1st June	9.45	Sunday Club	The Chantry
8th June	9.45	Sunday Club	The Chantry
15th June	9.45	Sunday Club	The Chantry
22nd June	9.45	Sunday Club	The Chantry
29th June	Group Service No Sunday Club		
6th July	9.45	Sunday Club	The Chantry
13th July	9.45	Sunday Club	The Chantry
20th July	9.45	Family Service	The Church

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

Jane Smith-Haddon 641 525

Glynis MacDonald 641818

CHURCH CLEANING

The Church is still in need of a volunteer to clean the Church during the month of July.

Would anyone prepared to offer their assistance in helping to maintain the church in this way please contact Sally Saysell—
Church Warden on 01291 641369

going to plant two melons and two water melons in the hot bed to see how they do, whilst the rest will go into the tunnel. It will be interesting to see if there is any difference in the end.

I sowed some sweet pea seed many weeks ago and the resultant plants have been pinched out several times to increase the number of stems for flowering. I planted these out today and hopefully the promise of rain will settle them in. Also planted today was another row of mangetout and sugar snap peas. These have been growing in the greenhouse, in lengths of guttering for a couple of weeks. Whoever thought of growing them like this deserves a medal! It is so easy to scrape a groove in the soil and then just slide the pea plants out of the guttering into the groove created. The only job left was to stick them up. Fortunately I cut a birch tree down a month ago and I saved the branches for the purpose of sticking the peas. They are not the best but do the job well enough. Once these were planted the next couple of rows of broad bean plants joined them. I have lost a number of the autumn sown beans, but the gaps have been filled with those sown earlier this year. With a gradual increase in temperature these have now started to grow strongly and are looking well. They are now flowering well, so hopefully it won't be long before we start to bring some early beans into the kitchen.

Although I am relying on the heat from the propagating bench to warm the rest of the small greenhouse, this still manages to keep the temperature well above freezing during the current cold spell. Many of the plants as a result are looking well but I don't want them to get too lush and drawn up, so to begin with I have moved the plants out and into the cold greenhouse in order to start the process of hardening off. In a few more days they will be moved again, but this time outside to the cold frame for a further week before planting in the raised beds. Not all the plants will leave the greenhouse however as some, mainly French beans and lettuce, with some calabrese will be planted in to the tunnel and greenhouse borders in order to get extra early crops.

I'm still busy getting the raised beds in the vegetable area in order ready for planting up. In most cases it is just a case of loosening the

CHARITY SHOP SHOWSTOPPER

Last week, Earlswood Hall was lucky enough to host the premier of 'SORTED' a new play by local playwright Glynis MacDonald - and what a triumph it proved to be. The show was sold out on all three nights. The audience was treated to a performance that left them crying in their seats - in the nicest possible way.

This new play reveals the confusions and mistakes that arise when a Zoe, a somewhat reluctant recruit joins the volunteers in the back room of the 'World-Aid charity Shop in 'Frimpleigh'. When the shop is threatened with closure, Zoe suggests a fashion show to raise the profile of the shop. But then, when a shotgun goes missing and Babs the shop manager leaps (wrongly) to the conclusion that Zoe and Mr Thigh the Area Manager are having an affair, the fashion show takes place under a sea of wild confusion.

Although this was an amateur dramatic production – put on by Shirenewton Operatic and Dramatic Society (SODS) the cast put on a performance that was worthy of the West End – and I don't mean West End – the tiny hamlet south of Earlswood. The cast – under the masterly direction of Will Smith-Haddon was pacey, polished and assured. All the roles were strongly performances but Ann Llewellyn who played the old and hard of hearing Martha with such brilliance and comic timing, was outstanding. Likewise Neil Chapman, who played the shy and retiring Nelson was absolutely unforgettable strutting his stuff for the catwalk.

The show must have been a challenge for Stage Manager Sue Philipson as the set included hundreds of bags, boxes, books, toys, items of clothing and bric-a-brac. The brilliant set invoked a scene of disorganised chaos as Beryl and Babs wittily played by Jane Smith-Haddon and Glynis MacDonald sparked off each other as the well meaning middle-aged charity shop volunteers who struggle to keep their heads above the rising tide of black bag donations.

The fun was fast and furious throughout and the play ended literally with a bang!

The proceeds from the play, £2500 will go to the Shirenewton Church Extension Fund.

Review by Betty Buntait

Photographs by Terry Walters

Gardening Corner

Another month gone and still no sign of the weather warming up. To think that this time last year we were experiencing drought and heat never seen in April before and now we are getting snow. Well, maybe not us personally, but its not far away! Nature has responded to some degree in that I'm still waiting for the first sign of the cuckoo, which has normally arrived by now. I'm still waiting for the first house martin here at Barn Farm. This is a bit odd as I saw one flying around the church in Shirenewton nearly two weeks ago. Maybe we have ones that fly to warmer climes and so it takes them longer to get back! They say that, like salmon, they find their way back to their place of birth but I've never discovered whether this is true or not.

Despite the weather things are moving forward in the garden. Although we seem to be getting our fair share of cold east winds at the moment we are lucky here in that we are completely sheltered from these and winds from the north as well. I was working in the garden the other day in a T shirt but across the valley I noticed that the builders currently working at our nearest neighbours all had woolly caps and coats on! A few days of sunshine have really worked their magic on the plants in the propagating greenhouse. The various varieties of tomato plants, cucumbers, aubergines and peppers have all dramatically increased in growth. All these were in small pots or cells, and I am re-potting these into much larger pots at the moment and the plants should now grow on in these up to the point that they are planted out into the borders of either the large greenhouse or tunnel. This won't happen until probably May time and although there will still be a risk of frosts then, any plants will quickly be covered with horticultural fleece to ensure that they don't get damaged. When re-potting many of these varieties it always pays to plant them deeper than they were before. This is because the stems will throw out more roots, which is a very effective way of maximising growth and ultimately the crop.

I've also just re-potted some water melons which are something new that I'm trying. The hot bed that I created is now warming up as it rots down and I think that I will try covering it with soil in the next week or two. I'm

Chepstow Physiotherapy Clinic
Specialist in Musculoskeletal & Sports injuries

Mr. Richard Coates M.C.S.P., H.P.C. Reg.

Chartered Physiotherapist

Approved by major insurance companies

Tel: 01291 423101/07950 948734

www.chepstowphysio.com



LIFE-CHANGING COMPLEMENTARY THERAPY

FROM
ASSOCIATED PROFESSIONAL HYPNOTHERAPISTS

**HYPNOSIS CAN HELP WITH MANY PROBLEMS
INCLUDING SMOKING, WEIGHT, STRESS, HABITS, FEARS, ETC.**

IRIDOLOGY FOR FUTURE HEALTH, AND EMOTIONAL FREEDOM TECHNIQUES.

FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION. DAY OR EVENING.

TELEPHONE 01291 641964 OR MOBILE 07921 130098

E-MAIL: andrew.griffith@tiscali.co.uk
WEBSITE: WWW.HYPNOHEALTH.ME.UK

ANDREW W GRIFFITH AMIH BSYA (IRID)

FROM THE REGISTERS

A service of Baptism was held on Sunday 20th April for:
Alysia Hazel Hughes
Daughter of
Simon Justin Hughes & Tracey Hughes

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH 200 CLUB

The result of the March draw was:

Ticket No	Winner	Prize
115	Pip Penney	£40
82	Peter Jones	£30
144	Martin Hughes	£20
204	Diane Ward	£10

A MESSAGE OF THANKS.

Helen, Bethany, Tom and Jonty would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, cards, messages, meals and support over the last few weeks following the death of their much loved husband and father John.

It is very humbling to realise how many friends rally round in difficult times. The children and I really appreciate it.

Helen Cann

EMOTIVE GARDEN DESIGNS



Innovative Design Concepts
Full Working Drawings
Advisory visits, Planting Plans,
Free Initial Consultation

Sue Bullock

Tel: 01291 641245

Fax: 01291 641713

email: Sue.Bullock@btinternet.com

E. LOVELL BRICKLAYING

Est. 1973

Do you need an experienced bricklayer?

If so contact Eddie, he specializes in..

new house building,
extensions,
patios,
garden walls,
and more!



Contact Eddie on:

Home Phone: 01291 420443

or

Mobile Phone: 07906504951

Why not try Reflexology!

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

A full session lasts approximately 1 hour and provides treatment for specific health problems such as migraine, stress, backpain and arthritis, followed by a relaxing massage with essential oils or a soothing foot lotion.

For more information contact
Annabel Hancock MRxS
Clinical Reflexologist
01291 650309

FRIENDS OF SHIRENEWTON CHURCH A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

There will be a 'Friends' event on the evening of Friday 6th June at Cae Pw Cella, by kind invitation of Mike Peirce. Certain to include food and wine, (maybe a barbecue weather permitting) probably merriment in the form of music – and congenial company guaranteed!

You don't have to be a regular Church goer to become a Friend. Anyone who appreciates having this beautiful and historic building at the centre of our village, and the benefits that it brings to the community as a focus for social and cultural activities as well as for worship is welcome to join. The common theme which runs through the Friends is that, in this era where the loss of community facilities seems to be a fait accompli, the village church is a 'good thing' and should be supported, protected and maintained.

In addition to its standard ministry, Shirenewton Church has a central role in planning and providing non-religious community events, communicating with the community through the Church website and generally providing a social environment in which people have an opportunity to informally meet neighbours and other fellow members of the community.

Anyone becoming a Friend before the end of May will be invited to the party on the 6th June.

The cost is £100 per annum which may be paid by direct debit on a monthly basis.

Please contact Kevin Bounds or Pauline James for further details – or see the Church website.

Pauline James.
Friends Secretary—641722

"Found on Mynyddbach Village Green"

On 8 April ...6 dolls. 5 answer to name "Barbie", the 6th is still too shy to say. They're being well cared for but ---

All are eager to return home!

If you are missing them please contact 641537."



OVENCLEAN®

UK's Leading Oven Cleaning Service

Caustic free cleaning products.

Removes grease, fat and burnt on carbon deposits.

Fully trained oven technician.

We also clean hobs, extractors (including replacing filter) and microwaves .

Totally safe eco-friendly cleaning solution individually prepared for each customer.

No fumes, no mess, no bother- just spotless results every time.

To book an appointment please call **(01291) 427244**

£5.00 OFF AN OVEN CLEAN WHEN YOU MENTION SHIRENEWTON PARISH MAGAZINE WHEN BOOKING

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 3RD MARCH

P.C. Cowburn's Report for March:-

There were a number of incidents reported that were not of a criminal nature. Including:-

Four instances of House alarms that were all a result of faults; a man sleeping in a car at the Shirenewton picnic site.

A badger sett had been disturbed near Shirenewton

Motor cycle nuisance again reported

Cold caller of what seemed Irish extraction seeking to buy a car.

Minor accident on the B4235 no injuries reported.

Flyer circulated for a suspect charity clothes collection in Shirenewton.

Chepstow Police have now received new equipment for the measurement of speeding traffic. An initial exercise was carried out in Shirenewton on the 7th April within the 30mph zone. The log produced showed that the equipment had been successful in slowing down the traffic. The equipment works by taking a reading of the vehicle speed which flashes up the speed for the motorist to see. A further reading is then taken seconds later. It is intended that this equipment will be used in villages and speeding offenders will be issued with fixed penalty fines.

Planning:

The Folly—Newchurch West: Proposed two storey extension with ground floor kitchen/ lounge and first floor annexe accommodation. Approval recommended.

Brook Cottage—Pandy Mill: Proposed two storey extension for two des, en-suite and new lounge.

Approval recommend subject access and drainage conditions being met.

Briar Hill - Earlswood: Application for certificate of existing lawful use or development for occupation of dwelling in contravention of agricultural occupancy condition.

Approval recommended as situation has existed for in excess of 10 years.

Land Adjacent to Bwthyn Cadwen Penyaemawr: -

Proposed wind turbine for domestic use.

The Carpenters Arms—Shirenewton:- Extended paved area with a perimeter fence and timber pergola to front elevation.

Lane Alongside the Recreation Field: The issue of the Tarmac surfacing has been raised with the Enforcement Office and is under investigation, along with other similar activities in the area.



Garden Maintenance & Tree Surgery



Over 10 years experience at commercial and domestic grounds maintenance.

NPTC approved tree surgery.

All aspects of tree work undertaken.

Tree & Shrub Planting, Hedge Trimming,
Hedge Laying, Agricultural & Domestic Fencing,
Turfing / Seeding, Rough Areas Cleared,
Rubbish Removal.

Lawn Care:

Weed Control, Spraying,
Grass Cutting, Strimming,
Scarifying, Acrating,
Fertilizing.

Competitive Rates, Free Quotations.

Contact: Daniel or Matthew Haines
01633 400548, 07930 893680, 07930 893678

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

The speaker for our March meeting was Chris Barber, who gave us his account of the research he has undertaken for his book on King Arthur. This subject has been of interest to Chris for many years and if anyone has read his book you will know that he has done a considerable amount of research and has come to some new conclusions on this character. He explained his theory about King Arthur, and the connections he has with this area, in particular Llanmelin Hill Fort. To accompany his book he brought along a video to explain his theory and we all agreed it was a very interesting talk.

We have been invited to visit an exhibition in the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff by Elizabeth Walker who heads the Prehistory Department at the museum. We will be visiting the museum on Saturday, 26th April and will be shown around by Elizabeth, who will give us an insight into the origins of the people who inhabited this area. The exhibition will include the Red Lady of Paviland (who happens to be a man!) who was found in a cave in the Gower Peninsular and usually resides in Oxford and is one of the oldest (and most travelled) skeleton to be found in the U.K.

Once again on Rogation Sunday the 27th April we will be Beating the Bounds of the parish, leading the walk will be Bob O'Keefe and back to the church for a well deserved tea and cake. We hope the weather will be kinder for us that in the past few years. We will let you know in the next issue how we fared. We still have copies of our last publication available, 'Beating the Bounds of the Parish of Shirenewton' and 'Historic Walks in the Parish' at the very reasonable price of £3.50, to obtain your copy please 'phone 641376.

We at last have suitable storage for our village resources/archive at the Recreational Hall. We obtained a grant from Monmouth County Council and had the cupboard custom made. These resources are available to all our members, we have a small collection of local interest books that members are able to borrow and varies records such as census returns (hard copies & on disk), electoral registers, parish records and a good collection of maps. Please come along, we want these resources to be used by as many people as possible.

Dates for your diary:

April Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel on Tuesday, 29th April at 7.30 the talk will be entitled 'Roman Medicine' given by Roger Evans. I'm sure this talk will be of interest and of great amusement, not to be missed. Everyone welcome

Notification of new cases on the enforcement officers:-

'The Paddocks' Mynydd Bach— Conversion of double garage to dwelling
'Field Adjacent' to Shirenewton Hall—Widening of access & creation of a road.

'Trees' Weyloed Lane Shirenewton—Balcony & Decking

'Panty-Cosyn Farm'—Siting of caravan for residential purposes

Items of Local concern:-

The Local Shop: - Discussions have been held with the owners and no interest has been shown by any potential buyers in the last 18months in spite of reduction in the asking price. Alternative possibilities are under discussion with various authorities and organisations.

Allotments: - The debate is ongoing Mon. CC having now proposed an area adjoining Blethyn, and passing the debate back to the Community Council whom Mon CC state it is their responsibility.

Play Area:- Issue is under discussion with possible contractor regarding costs. Local school children will supply their needs / wishes on a questionnaire through the school.

Bus Shelter: - Quotes for re-building have been supplied and are waiting approval of insurers to enable work to be carried out.

Web Site: - Access to the full Minutes is available on the Church website. www.shirenewtonchurch.org.com. Click on the appropriate link.

Water Supply: - Generators have now been installed at the pumping station to ensure water supplies are maintained when mains power fails.

Next meeting: 12th May which is also the AGM followed by normal meeting.

WHIST DRIVES

32 players enjoyed the Drive in April and were pleased to hear that we were able to go ahead with the Drive on the **1st May at 7.30 p.m. at the Recreation Hall.** The June Drive will be on the 5th also at 7.30 p.m. We have a core of 36 players now but new players are always welcome.

For further details contact: - Auriol Horton 641844.

Gwent Living Churchyards Project



' Our churchyards have always been special places. They are places of quiet solitude, where, for centuries, people of all denominations have come to reflect and to remember. We think of these places as havens of peace and tranquillity and for many, a place to remember their loved ones.

Gwent's churchyards are some of the few areas left that have escaped the pressures of modern farming and artificial fertilisers and as a result provide havens for wildlife to thrive....'

These sentiments have been taken from the Gwent Living Churchyards Project, a group that is coordinated by the Gwent Wildlife Trust and which aims to promote the care and sensitive management of Gwent's churchyards for the benefit of people, wildlife and the environment.

The PCC of Shirenewton Church has contacted the Gwent Living Churchyards Project with a view to investigating what this involves and with the idea of allowing a small part of the older area of the churchyard to become part of this project.

Leaflets and literature about the Gwent Living Churchyards Project can be found at the back of the church. Anyone who would like to know more, or indeed to get involved, please contact any PCC member of the church or ring Glynis on 641 818.

Caroline's Cookery Corner

My son, Max, has recently returned to the UK after working as a Chalet host in France for the winter. His job involved cooking a 3 course meal for 12 guests, 6 days a week. The meals he prepared were of a good standard and yet straightforward to prepare. The 3 course meal below is comprised of 3 dishes he would have prepared for his guests. These recipes are quality and are quick and easy at the same time.

Starter – Spicy Pumpkin Soup - Serves 6

Ingredients

1tbsp Olive Oil	1g Chilli Paste	300g Onions
1kg Pumpkin	2 Garlic Cloves	4 Medium Potatoes
1.5Ltr Veg Stock	300ml Cream	

- Heat the oil in a large saucepan on a medium heat. Dice the onions and crush the garlic and add to the saucepan, gently fry until soft.
- Peel and chop the pumpkin and potatoes and add to the saucepan. Fry off for a couple of minutes before adding the other ingredients.
- Bring to the boil and simmer for 25 minutes or until the pumpkin is soft.
- Blend the soup with a food processor and add the cream. Season with a pinch of salt and black pepper and serve.

Main Course – Sweet and Spicy apricot Chicken - Serves 2

Ingredients

1tbsp Olive Oil	400g Chicken fillets	1tsp both ground Cumin
and Coriander	1 Chicken stock cube	2 Rounded tbsp apricot
conserve	80g Dried apricots	100g frozen chopped French green
beans	20 Black Olives (approx)	

- Heat the oil in a large frying pan, slice the chicken in to strips and add to the pan with the spices. Gently fry the chicken until cooked through.
- Pour 200ml of boiling water over the chicken and crumble in the stock cube. Slice the apricots into small pieces. Add the apricots, apricot conserve, green beans and olives to the pan. Season with salt and pepper and leave to simmer gently for 5 minutes.

Chop the fresh coriander and sprinkle into the pan before serving. Ideally serve on a bed of couscous with roasted Mediterranean vegetables.

Sorry Folks, but you've got to wait until next month for your dessert.

Our thanks to Max, Caroline's son for this one.

The Bells.....The Bells

Three new learners started to learn to handle a rope over the Easter holiday. They were 10 year old Merrick Stanley, 11 year old Rhiannon Millar and 9 year old Mhairi Nicholson. All of them have older sisters who ring either at Shirenewton or at Mathern.

They can all now ring a bell by themselves and are now starting to learn how to keep the bell in place when ringing rounds. This always takes some time so if you hear some clashes and uneven rhythms you will understand the reason behind the sound.

We have our Monmouth Branch Striking competition coming up soon. This year it will be held at Nash church on the 17th May at 4.30. For a bit of fun we have decided to put in two adult bands and two kids bands. Watch this space, who will do better ? Will the adults beat the kids or the kids beat the adults?

Five members of the band went off to The Hereford Course, held the weekend after Easter and based in the National College for the blind in Hereford. Several other local ringers came too and we were billeted in a house rather than in halls of residence like most people. As there were four youngsters in the group this worked very well as in the evenings they could go back to the house and watch a DVD while the adults went to the bar. The students are kept very busy on this course. Lectures and ringing start at 9.00 am and go on all the way through until 9.00pm. On the Saturday night we went Hereford Cathedral, where there is a huge ringing chamber with iron beams rather like being in the roof of Paddington station; it can accommodate 50 plus people.

Claire Eickhoff who is now getting a reputation as a very skilled bell handler and capable of ringing heavy bells was invited to ring the 29 cwt tenor. She was very privileged to be asked and managed the awkward bell with apparent ease and a smile on her face.

Pip Penny

Best Kept Village 2008

We now have a group of volunteers who are looking at the various areas of Shirenewton (as listed in last month's Parish magazine) The aim is that all of these volunteers will contact Cllrs listed below before May 5th (Bank holiday Monday) with details of any concerns they have in their own area.

Then during the last week in May we hope to have 'an army of volunteers' who will work to address any perceived problem areas.

Can the village count on you to help?

If you would like to be part of the team please contact any of the people listed below.

Cllr Beverley Moore	641532	Cllr Ken Morton	650268
Cllr John Harvey	641279	Cllr Robin Mitchell	650414
Cllr Sally Saysell	641369	Carole Jones Clerk	641791

THE ARMED MAN

BY

THE NETHERWENT SINGERS

On Sunday 20th April the Netherwent Singers a group of local singers and musicians gave us a very moving performance of Karl Jenkins "The Armed Man".

The work was commissioned by The Royal Armouries Museum as a dedication to the victims of the Kosovo crisis.

The work, based on a 15th century French song *l'homme armé* (The Armed Man) is set within the framework of a Christian mass.

This local group gave a very talented and moving performance of this work in St Thomas a Becket Church on Sunday 20th April.

Sadly, the audience was smaller than had been hoped for. Those who missed the performance missed a very moving performance. However, the Group will be performing at the Church again in July.

**COFFEE MORNING
IN AID OF VELINDRE HOSPITAL**

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TOO A COFFEE MORNING

**AT THE HOME OF MRS & MR MOODY
AT "GLENFIELD", MYNYDD BACH**

ON

10TH MAY FROM 10 A.M. – 12.00

**AT £1.00 PER PERSON INCLUDING COFFEE AND
WELSH CAKES**

**BRING AND BUY, RAFFLE PLANTS AND MORE
FOR FURTHER DETAILS RING**

MRS. M. MOODY ON 641524

Poppy Fielding ~ MTI Registered Practitioner, IHHT, MCHT

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



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

Aromatherapy for Pregnancy & Childbirth from Nov. '07

Hopi Ear Candling from December '07 ~ Hot Stone Massage from February '08

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

Tel: 07758 579350

Shirenewton

Community

Council

Annual Meeting

Monday May 12th 2008

7.30 pm

At

The Recreation Hall

Mary Vittle

B.Sc. D.Pod M MchS

STATE REGISTERED CHIROPODIST

Home Visits

Tel. 01291 624458

SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS UNION

At our meeting on Wednesday 12th March at Shirenewton Recreation Hall, Ken and Coralie Payne told us of the work of the "Mercy Ships". Voluntary doctors, physicians, dentists, nurses and many others work among the people along the war torn countries on the West African coast. The work they faced was often harrowing and they could not help many hundreds of the people who queued for help when the Ship came near their shore. It is a cause well worthy of support.

We are sorry to lose Fenella Isitt as a member. We will miss her and hope that her health will improve sufficiently for her to carve a new life with her sister at Underwood.

Our winter savings boxes raised £110.41 for the overseas work of the MU.

April is a busy month for the MU – the Spring Council held at St.Johns Newport on the 11th is open to all members; the Celtic Pilgrimage on the 22nd April starts at St.Cadocs, Trevethin with Morning Prayer and continues with Midday Prayers at St.Cadoc's Raglan. Evensong will be at 4.00 p.m. at St.Arvals then Evening Prayers at St.Thomas', Redwick finishing with a meal at The Rose Inn Redwick. Members can join in the Pilgrimage at any point but numbers are required for the final meal. On the 23rd April we have our own Deanery Roadshow at Rogiet Church Hall from 10 – 3. This is open to all who are interested to see what the MU is about in a very informal setting – please come.

At our next Branch Meeting on Wednesday, 9th April (2.30p.m. at The Recreation Hall) we will be welcoming Mike and Mandy Scott to up date us on the trip by members of Caerwent Church to Uganda and the project that the Church has supported.

ADVANCE NOTICE FOR MAY - All parents and other interested persons are invited to an evening meeting at Caerwent Village Hall when John Hall will speak on "Equipping Parents in the World of Drugs". On the 19th June we are running a coach trip to Cardiff – there is likely to be 10 seats available at £6.00 each for ANYONE who would like to spend five hours in Cardiff on that day. Please help us fill the coach. If you are interested please contact the undersigned.

Visitors are welcome to join us at our monthly meetings at 3 for Talk and Tea.

Branch Leader: Auriol Horton 641844.

Shirenewton W.I.

The April meeting was a short one at the Recreation Hall at an earlier time of 6.30pm. We were informed that two members are attending the National Federation of Women's Institute Wales Conference in Tenby 15-16 April. Also two members will attend the Gwent Federation of WIs Annual Council meeting at County Hall Cwmbran on 23 April.

On 29 April a few members are visiting the Wormtech site in Caerwent where all the green waste and food waste is recycled/processed.

Afterwards we proceeded on to Chepstow Garden Centre for a browse and buy around the store. We then sat around on the garden furniture where James gave us a very interesting talk on gardening tools including the different types of secateurs, products, accessories, new innovations and of course plants. This was followed by many questions by members which were very helpful for some of us budding gardeners.

The garden centre tea rooms stayed open especially for us to buy refreshments and delicious cakes. We all went home satisfied with our purchases and a pleasant evening.

Visitors are welcome to join us at our monthly meetings at Shirenewton Recreation Hall each 2nd Thursday of the month 7.15pm.

Christian Aid 2008

Christian Aid 'Ploughman's Lunch

Saturday 10th May

£5.00 Family £15.00 Cons. £3.00

Complimentary glass of wine -

or mug of tea or coffee

All money to go to Christian Aid

All Welcome

Just pop into The Chantry, Shirenewton,
between 12.00 - 3.00

and help yourself to a Ploughman.

Glynis and Kevin 641 818

THE CHURCH FETE

IS ON
14TH JUNE
AT THE RECREATION FIELD

Once again the village is preparing for this year's Church Fete.

It is again the aim to make this the best ever, this is a tough task as with each Fete exceeding the success of the previous year.

The Fete Committee are always looking for new ideas and new committee members—do you have any ideas for improving the Fete? - They are all welcome, so come along to the next meeting on 28th April—8o/c at The Huntsman.

We would particularly like to include an interesting 'Pets Corner'. Do you have any pets that you would like could be shown?

For more information
Contact : Steve White on 01291 641 641804

SHIRENEWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Shirenewton Promises Auction

Saturday 10th May 2008 - 7:00pm
At The Hood Memorial Hall, Devauden
Bar available
Auction to begin at 7:45pm

CHEPSTOW AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
HOMECRAFT SECTION

INVITE YOU TO

A Floral Demonstration

By Mrs Alwyn Page

At **Earlswood Hall**

On Thursday May 8th 2008

At 7.30pm

Tickets £7.50 including Wine & Nibbles
Raffle

Tickets available from Denise Humble: 01291 420118

SUPPORTED BY BARCLAYS BANK MATCHFUNDING SCHEME

FAIRTRADE NEWS

Tesco rang me a few days ago. Apparently several people had complained that Tesco no longer sold fairly traded roses. Actually all the complainants may well have been me - I can't remember if I left my name on the several occasions I'd mentioned it. Flowers make a wonderful gift, usually for women, mothers, girlfriends, acquaintances - they're usually offered with real affection and I think most recipients would be saddened to know that a great many imported flowers are produced in rather dreadful circumstances. It seems that now Tesco will stock fairly traded roses again. Look out for them (or ask why there aren't any!). They are beautiful and last well.

They are also stocking fairly traded sugar now. Although we are experiencing financial difficulties here in the UK and the cost of food is rising, we spend significantly less of our income on food than we did a generation ago. In the developing world food can account for 80% or even more of a family's budget. A big increase spells real disaster for them. Fortunately very few of us here will actually go hungry because of it.

Contact me for a Traidcraft catalogue or contact them direct: 641 316 msm316@gmail.com www.traidcraftshop.co.uk

**For a more personal approach to
insurance, pensions & investments**

To find out more call **F Fitzpatrick and T W Ellis**
on **01633 413571**

Visit NFU Mutual Office,
3 Langstone Business Park, Priory Drive,
Langstone, Newport NP18 2LH



Agent of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited.

NFU Mutual

It's an NFU Mutual understanding

SHIRENEWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL **Homemakers Community Recycling**



A big thank you to the staff at Homemakers Recycling for taking away all the old junior desks, trays and chairs. All the items taken away are either recycled or reused. They take furniture and house hold goods.

To use their services ring 01873 857618



Eco Trip by Bas and Mara

We managed to get our picture taken with Kirk the yellow pages bug



On Wednesday 9th April, two members of the Eco-Committee (Bas and Mara) went with Mrs Eickhoff on a trip to County Hall to find out how our Yellow Pages are re-cycled and to find out the winners of the Yellow Woods Challenge. We managed to collect 168 yellow pages (0.81 yellow pages per person) so well done to everyone who took part! recycle saves seventeen trees.of Yellow

There are a few facts we discovered during our visit:-

- Every tonne of yellow pages we recycle saves seventeen trees.
- Together, the schools in Monmouthshire managed to save eleven tonnes of Yellow Pages which saved 187 trees.

Tesco computer vouchers.

Shirenewton Primary School are collecting Tesco Computer vouchers again this year If you have any spare and are not supporting any other school then please donate them to us. There are some fabulous offers on again this year!



1ST SHIRENEWTON GUIDES
1st Shirenewton Guides.

Off to a flying start this term with certificates and badges galore! Our "young leaders" were presented with their Adult Leader badges after completing the training programme, with Bumble also being awarded her camp permit and Bee gained her silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. All our "younger" leaders were out over the Easter period on practise hikes for their Gold Awards. They showed extreme fortitude as the weather was "interesting". When complaining about the snow on the tent they were told not to worry as rain was coming in and it would soon wash off if it didn't blow away first!! Well done all of you - July will be a piece of cake.

Most of the Guides received at least one badge after sterling efforts over the last two terms - some got four! They also helped demolish Koalas 18th birthday cake. They have been taxing their brains on matching events in history to dates. I don't think I can face that again after admitting I could remember something happening and the girls thought it might have happened in 1947. I suppose they could have said 1921.....

Yours in Guiding,

Kestrel Helen Cann tel. 650835
Kitten Amanda Turner tel. 650763
Bumble, Bee and Koala

The Shirenewton Parents Teachers Association have changed the date of Shirenewton School Fayre this year to June 28th
A date for everyone's diary!

Itton Village Hall presents
'KEEP ON MOVING'
by
The Fairgame Theatre from Cheltenham.

All the fun of the fair! A portrayal of an old fashioned fairground – an evening of fun for all the family.

Saturday 7th June 7.30 pm

Tickets at the Door:
Adults £6.00, Students £4.00,
Family of 4(Adults + children) £15.00

Refreshments, Raffle, Disabled facilities.

*Grateful thanks to the Arts Council of Wales for their support.
Please support this community theatre*

Nick Bruce

Treesurgery & Grounds Maintenance

From Oak Trees to Grass & Everything In Between

NPTC Qualified Fully Insured

44 Severn Crescent, Garden City, Chepstow, Monmouthshire NP16 5EA
Tel/Fax: 01291 630246 Mobile: 07929 302651

EARLSWOOD & NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

The AGM of the Hall Committee was held on 17th April.

The new committee elected to take effect from 18th April comprises of:-

Chairman—Simon Stanley	Vice Chair. —Christine Stanley
Treasurer—Charles Eickhoff	Secretary—Gail Jones
Booking Sec.—Glynis MacDonald	Hall Manager—Peter Jones
Bar Manager—Bob Millar	Catering—Debra MacLean
Other Committee Members are: —	Nancy Davies & Ken Morton.

The Chairman thanked all the committee members for their help and commitment over the last year. A great number of improvements have been made to the Hall over the last twelve months that will be of great benefit to the Hall and those that use these facilities in the future.

Sadly last year the Hall booking were down on previous years, which is a shame given the improvements made to the overall facilities of the Hall. However notwithstanding the fall in bookings, the bank balance is still healthy, which is good news.

Nevertheless, as a result of the recent substantial increases in fuel costs and other charges it is necessary for us to increase the hiring costs for the Hall.

To obtain details of the cost of hiring the Hall please contact Glynis on 641818.

Finally, after some 28 years of working with the committee, I have decided it is time for me to retire. I have enjoyed my time serving as a committee member all these years. I have seen a lot of people come and go, and I look forward to still supporting the Hall over the next years. In retiring I would like to wish the new committee every success in the future years.

John Spary.

I'm sure the community and all Hall users would like to thank John for his efforts and dedication to the Hall and community over these 28 years.

BROWNIE REPORT

...for their summer term challenges – and the first adventure is their 'Pastimes' Pack Holiday at Misikin Mill Scout Village (minus the scouts!). 16 Brownies, their three leaders and some brave Mums are spending the weekend, 25th-27th April, staying in this 300 year old Mill. There are lots of games and activities planned, including a trip to St Fagan's Museum. Can't say too much that would spoil the surprise – will tell you all about it next month.

Jackie Broughton - Guider in Charge (641 797)

SHIRENEWTON M.U.

At our April meeting Mike and Mandy Scott (with son Daniel at the controls) gave a spirited talk with slides, video and musical accompaniment about the vision behind the visit by members of Caerwent Church to Uganda where they physically took part in the building of a home for 8 orphaned children as well as raising money at home for the building materials. Mandy's mum, Jean, (who had inspired the project in Caerwent) was present along with two other guests and 10 members and it was a very happy afternoon.

There will be no branch meeting in Shirenewton in May as we have arranged **an open evening meeting on Monday, 12th May at 7.30 p.m. at Caerwent Village Hall when John Hall will speak on "Equipping Parents in the World of Drugs"**. (light refreshments will be provided). Fortunately many of us are still protected, mainly by ignorance, from this "World" but our children and grandchildren are very close to it and we should be aware of its perils. ***Please support this meeting.***

The **Deanery Festival** takes place at **St. Arvans at 2.00p.m. on Tuesday 13th May.**

We still have some places available on our coach to **Cardiff on Thursday, 19th June (dep. 9.45 a.m. return about 5.00 p.m. £6.p.p.)** – there will be a pick up spot by Caerwent Church where cars can be left in the car park.

Branch Leader Auriol Horton 641844.

CHURCH WEBSITE & SHOPPING PORTAL

Please continue to use the Church Website for your online shopping. It is easily accessible just log on to www.shirenewtonchurch.org.uk, where there are huge opportunities for buying through many of the high street retailers in addition to sites such as Amazon, for books electronics and music, Currys and B & Q. Expedia to book your flights and hotels and Holiday Extras for parking car hire and also hotels. Using these sites can save you up to 50% on some bookings, both hotels and parking at airports.

You save, and the Church gets a small commission at no cost to you
Happy browsing

David Cornwell
webmaster

SHIRENEWTON , MYNYDD BACH & EARLSWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.

We have been informed that there was a burglary in Shirenewton on Friday 19th April between midnight and 7.30am on Saturday morning, a house was entered, via the patio doors, and some items were stolen whilst the occupants slept upstairs.

COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF EARLSWOOD CHAPEL

**WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY 21ST JUNE
AT
OLD HOME - EARLSWOOD
NEAR SHIRENEWTON, CHEPSTOW
RAFFLE, BRING AND BUY AND OTHER STALLS**
For further details contact
Mrs. M Morris on 01291 641561

STARGAZING IN MAY APRIL '08

The seven stars of the Plough lie overhead in mid-evening. Its classical name is Ursa Major, the Great Bear. In mythology, Callisto, attendant to the goddess Juno was considered more beautiful than her mistress. To protect her from her jealous mistress, Jupiter turned Callisto into a bear. Unfortunately Callisto's son tried to kill the bear whilst he was out hunting, so Jupiter placed the bear in the sky.

The two stars furthest from the handle of the Plough are called the Pointers. Tracing a connecting line from the Pointers leads to Polaris, the North Star. Polaris is called the North Star because it is the closest easily visible star to the point in the sky about which the star patterns rotate. This point changes very gradually with time. In fact, over thousands of years, other stars have been the North Star.

The stars appear fixed with respect to each other, but over long periods of time the star patterns change. The pattern of stars we call the Plough looked very different many years ago, and will look very different in the distant future.

The reddish planet Mars can be seen in the western sky in the evening. It lies close to Castor and Pollux, the two brightest stars in the constellation of Gemini, the Twins. Mars is close to the crescent Moon on 10 May.

Saturn is just below the backwards question-mark of stars that make up the head and mane of the constellation Leo the Lion, in the south-west.

Very bright Jupiter rises in the late evening in the southeast.

Our constellations are formed by connecting stars together. Australia's Aboriginal peoples use the dark areas of sky, absent of stars, to construct outlines of objects. One of these dark areas is called the Emu.

Dave Thomas