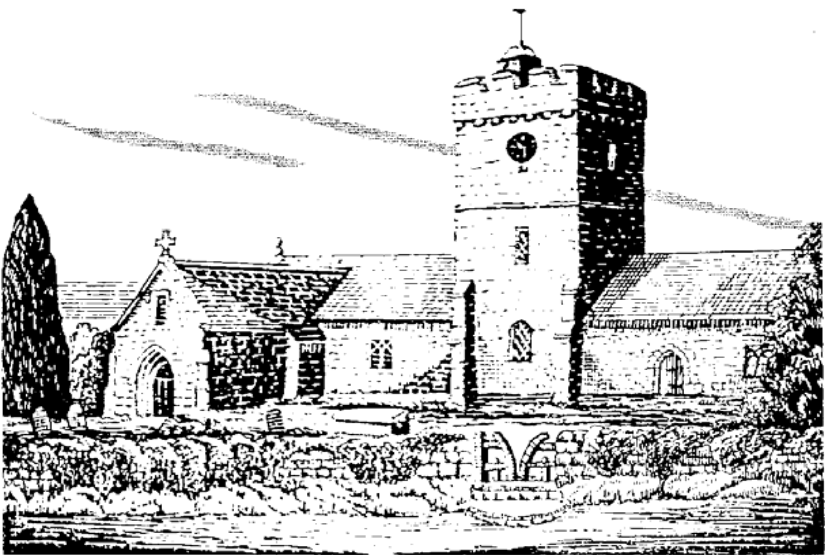


THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS A BECKET SHIRENEWTON



Parishes of Shirenewton and Newchurch Magazine

READERS AND SIDES- PERSONS ROTA FOR NOVEMBER

DATE	SERVICE	READER	SIDES-PERSON
Nov 2nd	4th Before Advent 9.45 a.m.	Mike Peirce Ruth Savagar	Mike Peirce Bernice Bowen
Nov 9th	3rd Before Advent	Remembrance Sunday	The Children
Nov 16th	2nd Before Advent 9.45 a.m.	Winnie Jones Ernie Jones	Winnie Jones Ernie Jones
Nov 23rd	Christ The King 9.45 a.m.	Margaret Lock Diane Marlow	Margaret Lock Diane Marlow
Nov 30th	1st Sunday of Advent	GROUP SERVICE—LLANVAIR DISCOED 10.00 A.M.	
Dec 7th	2nd Sunday of Advent 9.45 a.m.	John Nicholas Cynthia Smith	John Nicholas Cynthia Smith

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

PRIEST IN CHARGE.	Revd. Dr. William Ingle- Gilles	424984
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
Cub Scouts	Geoff Marlow	641407
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 CONTACTS

COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER	MICHAEL COWBURN	01633 642068
	E MAIL: michael.cowburn@gwent.pnn.police.uk	
S'NEWTON & MYNYDD BACH -	Beverley Moore	641532

Please send your notes, discs or emails for inclusion in the December magazine to Bob O'Keefe at: 15 Newton Manor, Shirenewton, (641686) or email to bobandwenche@aol.com by Friday 24th October.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1st Nov.	Cake Competition Church Hall—2.30p.m. see inside for details
3rd Nov	Community Council Meeting the Recreation Hall—7.30 p.m
6th Nov.	Whist Drive—the Recreation Hall—7.30
7th Nov	School 'Glow in the Dark Disco'
8th Nov.	Severn View Home Christmas Fayre—Methodist Hall Chepstow
10th Nov.	History Soc. Resource Afternoon—The Recreation Hall 2 o/c
24th Nov.	PACT meeting The Recreation Hall—See Neighbourhood Watch page 19.
25th Nov.	History Soc. 7.30p.m The Huntsman "The Lost City of Trelleck"
29th Dec.	School Christmas Fayre 2—4 p.m.
4th Dec.	Whist Drive—the Recreation Hall—7.30 p.m.
7th Dec.	Church Christmas Fair—The Church Hall 11.00
10/11th Dec	Infant School Christmas Concerts Shirenewton Church

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Dear Friends,

Well, a month has come and gone since my arrival in the Caerwent vicarage and the last dregs of summer weather appear to have gone with it!

At the moment, I'm still in the process of learning about each of the four communities and Churches I now serve -- each with its own distinct character (and, in some cases, characters!). So I dare not yet speak for all - but, for myself, I've always found the time between summer and Advent to be one of the oddest portions of the year, both in Church and community. We've all come back from our holidays, hopefully rested and excited, and the harvest has been gathered and celebrated -- but yet several weeks before Advent. Once Advent comes, of course, we in the Church shall find ourselves stuck in once again to the great annual re-telling of our Christian story—the story that leads to Christ's birth (Christmas), to the public embrace of his purpose on Earth (Epiphany), to our own repentant remembrance of his preparation for public ministry (Lent), to the story of his Passion (Holy Week), to his glorious resurrection (Easter), to the coming of the Spirit to equip his saints for a ministry of their own (Pentecost).

All very exiting stuff, actually -- except that it's not here yet. At this moment, in the waning weeks of a long Pentecost season (a period known as 'Ordinary Time' in many Churches), having returned from the excitement of our summers, having concluded our harvest thanksgiving, we find ourselves very much caught up in an 'in-between' time. A seemingly aimless moment when nothing happens in our Church calendar -- and to a degree even in the wider world: witness, for example, the decorations and chocolates and Christmas puddings that have begun to appear in the shops—in late October. There they are in all their glory, put out by people who desperately want us to believe that Christmas is upon us, but yet not actually convincing us that their place has really arrived. w

And yet, as the scripture says (for it was the scripture which coined the phrase, and not that brilliant 60s band, The Byrds): 'To everything there is a season'. (It was The Byrds who added 'turn, turn, turn.')

There is, indeed -- and so, too, is there a season for the in-between times. In fact, though in-between times may sometimes seem quiet or unproductive or lonely--or, in the case of those Tesco Christmas puddings, even awkward --still God exists very much in the between. We only need to search a little. It was out in the wilderness, fasting for 40 days, that Jesus came to grips with his calling as Messiah, before he began his public ministry. It was in a Nazi prison that the writer and pastor Friedrich Bonhoeffer accepted the consequences of a persistent faith lived in troubled times. It was in a dream in the midst of his flight from family troubles that Jacob met God face-to-face, then wrestled with him -- and received a blessing -- and then himself became a blessing to the

father of Israel -- a people destined to become 'a light to enlighten the nations'.

So let us now put our own between-time to productive ends. We who are Christians have a Gospel to proclaim -- a story to tell to the communities we serve. We shall be called very soon to tell that story, as Advent begins.

So can we not now, in the in-between, pray for God's guidance as we prepare for our task? In the quiet of the days -- indeed, because of the quiet of these days -- do we not today have an opportunity to deepen ourselves spiritually? To seek, to encounter the God of our forebears that little more fully? So let us rejoice in the between-time, and pray that God will bless us, too.

Every blessing, Fr. Will

The Rev'd Dr. William C. Ingle-Gillis

w.c.ingle-gillis@cantab.net

THE NEW CHURCH ROOM

On 27th October Bishop Dominic, the Bishop of Monmouth along with our New Priest in Charge, The Rev'd Dr. William C. Ingle-Gillis conducted a service of dedication and blessing at the formal opening of our new church hall.

The service was held with a large congregation, and was followed by a wonderful social evening in the new hall.

This really is a day that the community can be proud of. An enormous amount of effort and dedication has gone into the building of this wonderful new addition to the church. From the fund raising team that took on the mammoth task of raising sufficient funds over a number of years, and also to Mr. John Saysell and his team who have taken on the responsibility for the construction of this very high quality additional facility for the Church, for the benefit of the community as a whole. Their's was a real hands on role in the construction of the building which is a real credit to Mr Saysell and the skills and craftsmanship of his team, in producing a building which totally compliments the existing church building.

A building which will be the envy of many parishes and admired by all for generations to come.

knew about it too! I was surprised by how little honey there was in each of the hives. Another sign of a bad year! I will need to feed them with sugar water to ensure that they have enough food supply to get them through

the winter. They are making the most of these fine days by getting out and enjoying the last of the flowers that are about, mostly ivy. But the days are short now so the amount they can gather is quite limited.

The under gardener has been busy trying to tidy up some of the flower beds. Hopefully this will give me the opportunity to get weeding some of them, so that I can dig them over and get some copious amounts of manure on them before the worst of the winter weather sets in. I won't be able to finish them, but any start will be a good attempt at getting ahead early for next year. Talking of next year all the seed catalogues have now arrived so I need to get picking from the wide selection available. Seems crazy to think that in about 10 weeks time the first carrot seeds will be going into the greenhouse, heralding the first sowing of a new gardening year. Joys of global warming!

Happy gardening until next month. Steve Hunt.

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support frames that would lift the 'super boxes' (where the honey is stored) up about five centimetres. This allowed me to put trays of a special chemical into the hives in order to control a tiny mite that is attacking the bees and reducing the strength of the colonies. The bees walk in the trays and spread I have some potatoes planted in the large greenhouse that should provide new spuds for our Christmas dinner in January. January? Ah yes, we're having two Christmas' this year as we can only get all the family together in the middle of this month. By this time we may be back to buying vegetables of some sort again, but by then we are confident that we will have been completely self-sufficient for at least seven months.

We sat down the other night to eat fish that I had caught. The conversation drifted to beef and chickens, but the under-gardener made it quite clear that she wasn't going that far down the self-sufficiency route! Chickens' when I retire maybe, but nothing else! Sticking to the livestock theme I'm pleased to report that the under-gardeners escapades with the umbrella have proved very successful and the Koi have survived their summer traumas with alacrity! I suppose you could eat Koi, they are carp after all! But then again the look across the table suggests that perhaps I should let this discussion drop. Pity the heron doesn't take any notice of "that look"! The one has proved to be an absolute nightmare in recent weeks. Fortunately I happened to notice it land early one morning just as it was getting light. Having scared it off for all of five minutes I decided that there was no option but to put temporary nets over the two small ponds. At least this has kept the fish safe and sound, although I'm beginning to wonder whether Koi carp have nine lives just like our cats. Talking of which, the heron landed on our garage roof the following morning. I was just about to go and scare it off again when this ginger coloured, tortoiseshell cat shot across the roof, making the heron take flight. This is the same nutcase that threw herself off the house roof one day, trying to catch house martins, breaking her pelvis in the process. At this rate there can't be many of those nine lives left! The temporary netting is still in place and it looks as though the heron has got fed up with waiting, but I must get on with making a more permanent solution.

The lovely weather the other Sunday allowed me the opportunity to see to the five beehives that I have. Unfortunately like the flower garden, the chemical about the hives, helping to control the mites. I'd been meaning to do this job for some time, so was pleased when this was done. One hive in particular didn't like me messing about with them and made sure I

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Dates for the next couple of months

Date	Time	Venue
2nd Nov	9.45	The Church Room
9th Nov	9.45	Remembrance Service Church
16th Nov	9.45	The Church Room
23rd Nov	9.45	The Church Room
30th Nov	9.45	Group Service (Possible rehearsal)
7th Dec	9.45	The Church Room
14th Dec	9.45	The Church Room
21st Dec	9.45	Nativity Dress Rehearsal Church
24th Dec	4.00	Nativity & Christingle

We shall be starting rehearsals for the Nativity Play after Half Term. Get in touch if you would like to join in—we'll be needing a whole flock of sheep, shepherds a host of angels and who knows what else besides.

*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 winners of the October draw were:

Ticket No	Winner	Prize
150	Jean Jones	£40
40	Mike Lock	£30
130	Ernie Jones	£20
36	Tony Broadrib	£10

REMEMBRANCE DAY AS SEEN FROM THE FRONT LINE IN AFGANISTAN

With remembrance day approaching our thoughts usually turn to the First World War and the sacrifice made by so many people from diverse backgrounds and countries. However today in Afghanistan similar events are occurring but on a smaller scale. For the servicemen and women however the risks are just as apparent. In the cook house in Kandahar there are 23 nations represented and a myriad of different races and creeds. I have just returned from a 7 day operation to clear the 200 Taliban fighters from an area of Nadi-E'Ali where they had threatened to overrun a patrol base and re-establish their own distorted ideals. They had already bulldozed the two girls school, closed the medical clinic and had shot the female chief of Police whom had courageously stood up for women's rights.

Approximately 50 British troops and 300 Afghan soldiers were involved in the operation. Over the seven days they were under constant attack, living in the most basic of conditions. Using a 500 ml bottle of water for their daily ablutions and having to carry 40 KG (90lb) of kit every time they went out on the ground. All the time they slept with their boots on with their weapon made ready within reach.

The local inhabitants had left and moving into their compounds brought home just how different their lives are. The Afghan people of Helmand province live in mud huts with no windows. They sleep on the ground and have no electricity (although with the installation of the generator at Kajaki) this may change. If the Taliban regain control there will be no opportunity for the young girl whose compound we stayed in to get an education. I could feel her presence and imagined her life. She had left 7 simple colourful hair slides with glitter on in the mud oven along with a small battered plastic doll. The difference in her life experience and my daughters are literally worlds apart. In some reed baskets were evidence of the poppy harvest scored poppy heads where the opium had been drained, the seed being kept for next year. The soldiers I work with are not scared but our thoughtful and do care about what people think at home. They also are concerned for the people of Afghanistan with whom they come in daily contact. It is a war fought by few but can be greatly helped by our regular prayers. We must also remember that in all wars there are numerous casualties away from the immediate action on both sides whose sadness and loss can last for years.

I am proud of the way we conduct our remembrance service in Shirenewton, seeing it as one of the most poignant of messages understood by all generations and we will be thinking of you all on that day in Helmand.

Andrew Baker—Church Warden

GARDENING CORNER

The first touches of night frost have indicated a gradual decline, from the summer we never had, into the autumn that bodes well. The weather over the last few weeks has been kind and soil conditions have been excellent, allowing work to continue in the vegetable garden. Apart from odd glitches, here and there, the garden produce this year has probably been better than ever. I have been concentrating on trying to keep this part of the garden, going at least, despite the vagaries outside. We first started picking fresh vegetables back in May. The second week to be precise! Although there wasn't much variety we had at least started with French and broad beans, early calabrese, onions and courgettes. By the end of the month the selection had expanded a little further, building up to the point of being spoilt for choice by the time we reached July. Since May, I can honestly say that we have been completely self sufficient in the way of salad and vegetables for our table. Normally by now the garden has run out of steam and we would only be picking Brussels (oh yes sprouts!) and the odd root such as parsnip. Not this year though. During July I took advice from one of the vegetable growing magazines and started a whole new series of sowings. This led to the early potatoes in the tunnel being harvested and replaced with two different varieties of calabrese. The early beans were cut off at ground level when they finished and the ground immediately replanted with spring cabbages and cauliflowers. The beans fix nitrogen from the air in their roots. By leaving these in the ground the nitrogen is returned to the soil where greens are hungry to utilise it. Why spring cabbage in the autumn? Because they don't mind falling temperatures and shortening days and still mature quickly, so they are ready to eat before the hardest frosts come. I've also planted some winter cabbages alongside these as well. These will survive the coldest nights, so a continued supply of green vegetables is guaranteed. The result of all this is that we now have fantastically fresh calabrese and cabbage as well as leeks, parsnips, turnips – oh yes and the Brussels!

Not content with this we are still digging carrots, totally unaffected by root fly this year thanks to the fine mesh netting that we had erected around the bed. More carrots have been sown and these will be producing baby carrots during November. We are even still picking tomatoes and cucumbers, not to mention peppers, although these won't continue much longer. At least many of the excess tomatoes are languishing in the freezer at the moment in the form of roast tomato soup. In the garage we are busy tickling away at our stored potatoes, as well as onions and garlic. These have been neglected this year. I had made some small wooden

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St Thomas a Becket's Living Churchyard

You've probably noticed that this year a small area of the churchyard at Shirenewton has been left to grow, and you may have wondered why. Well with the support of Gwent's Living Churchyards Project St Thomas a Becket is beginning to look at what wildlife the churchyard supports and small ways in which wildlife could be encouraged.....

Living Churchyards

Our churchyards are often important wildlife havens. They support some of our finest displays of wildflowers and ancient trees, and are home to a variety of wildlife including bats, birds and butterflies. They are also important places for archaeology and history, revealing evidence of the past and documenting the lives of people who have lived and worked in the parish.

Gwent's Living Churchyards Project is based on the long running success of the Caring for Gods Acre scheme in Herefordshire. Their experience shows churchyards can become a focus for human activity as well as wildlife, yet still remain a place of quiet solace and contemplation.

The project is able to offer wildlife advice and surveys and can offer wildlife and history training days & talks across Gwent as a way of inviting people to learn more about your local churchyard.

Shirenewton's Trial Wildlife Area

The uncut area within the churchyard is a trial meadow area. It has been left to grow to allow the various grasses and wildflowers to flower and seed, before being cut and the cuttings raked off. This year's poor weather has affected the timing of the cut, but usually a meadow area would be cut in late July/early August and the cuttings raked off.

The area may not at first inspection appear full of wildflowers but over 20 were recorded in one visit, including meadow vetchling and field wood rush. Over time with yearly cuts and removal of the cuttings, the wildflowers should start to spread and who knows what other species might appear.

The tall vegetation also provides valuable feeding and breeding grounds for insects. Even small parts of a churchyard managed with wildlife in mind, can make a difference.

More Information

If you'd like to join in learning more about the wildlife & history of Shirenewton's churchyard or have any wildlife sightings or a tale associated with the churchyard please contact:

Rebecca Price, Gwent Wildlife Trust, Seddon House, Dingestow, Monmouth.
NP24 4DY. 01600 740358 or: rprice@gwentwildlife.org

Community Council report:—

Meeting held 6th October 2008

Police Report for September:

2/9/08 - Suspicious males looking to buy scrap - Shirenewton.
5/9/08—Vehicle stuck in a fence—Earlswood
11/9/08—Temporary traffic light on B4235 out of order
14/9/08— Suspicious van at Earlswood
21/9/08— Bottle containing methadone found in a recycling box
28/9/08— 2 Horses loose in Shirenewton
30/9/08— Dwelling burglary between Shirenewton and Earlswood

PC Cowburn said that there had been an increase in burglaries in the large rural area between Chepstow, Caldicot Usk and Monmouth. Most of these have occurred during the day while occupants have been out. He asked that any suspicious sightings be reported to the police with vehicle registrations numbers if possible/

Planning:

Old Barn at Lower Argoed, Shirenewton. Kitchen extension.
No decision, as more information required.


Llanmelin Hill Fort

Provision of informal visitor parking and access through woodland to site. Approval Recommended

Items of Local Concern:

1. The Recreation Association want to improve drainage on the field and rebuild the ex cricket club shed. SCC is happy in principle, so Recreation Association can now attempt to obtain grant money.
2. MCC is determined to charge for grass cutting in 2009, after backing down over this for the current year. There was a debate as to whether this would need to be covered by a significant increase in the local precept or whether the Rec. Association could raise some of the money from the sports groups who use the field.
3. Your council is intending to improve its communication and interaction with the community with a number of initiatives – watch this space!
4. Recycling – MCC are piloting collection of plastic and card/cardboard but not yet in our area. *Shame they can't focus on extending the current recycling service to all the properties in Earlswood & Newchurch.*

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5. Shirenewton won best kept village hall – Rec. Association will receive a tree as their prize. Shirenewton itself got Highly Commended for best kept village (i.e. we came second). Judges remarked on the many improvements made this year, but several instances of small amounts of litter let us down.

And a few items of interest from the Clerk's Report:-

- School route from Tan House Court to Mynyddbach, repairs should be carried out by Christmas.
- Replacement safety barrier on the Rhewl on the Chepstow road, work has been put out to tender by MCC, but start date for repairs not yet known.
- Horse & Rider signs in Earlswood, petition to be presented to MCC by Councillor Down on 9th October.

Disposal of land at Blethyn Close, Mynyddbach:

Monmouthshire County Council has advertised a part of the Amenity Open Space at Blethyn Close for sale by tender. The Community Council will be discussing this proposed sale at the Community Council meeting on Monday 3rd November at 7.30pm at the Recreation Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting.

LOCAL GRANTS 2008:

Shirenewton Community Council has a limited amount of money this year that it may grant to local bodies. The right to receive such a grant is not automatic but will require completion of an application form where the benefit to the local Community will need to be shown.

Please contact the **Clerk to the Community Council on 641791** for further information and an application form

Those already receiving an annual grant for basic maintenance of buildings open to the general public, or for support facilities will continue to receive it (subject to a brief satisfactory annual report on use of the funds). Those bodies already receiving an annual grant are not precluded from applying for the additional funds.

Some late information:

Work will commence on the Usk Road (B4235) to strengthen the bank on the stretch between the Racecourse junction and Mill Head Lodge currently controlled with temporary traffic lights. This work is planned to start week commencing 2nd November and will result in the B4235 being closed between Shirenewton and Chepstow for approximately 7 weeks.

The formal diversion will route traffic through Itton.



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Best Kept Village Competition 2008

The results are:-

Best Kept Village	Redwick
Highly Commended	SHIRENEWTON
Best Kept Churchyard	Llanvethrin
Best Kept Village Hall	SHIRENEWTON (2 nd year running)
Best Kept Pub	Redwick

Both Awards will be displayed in the Recreation Hall.

The judges comments were as follow:-

The Tredegar Arms car park was improved, but there was some litter. The wall fronting the car park was attractively planted. The footpath from the memorial to the Church was much improved, but there were some weeds at the Memorial and along the footpath. The Churchyard was well cut with an area left for conservation. The perimeter both internally and externally had been tended and was much improved. The Village Hall and playing field were well cared for and looked most attractive. There was litter on the floor adjacent to the litter bin near the children's swings. Redd Landes was immaculate and a pleasure to view. The footpath alongside the Tan House at Tan House Court had been cleared and was an improvement on previous years. The Tan House car park was litter free, except for a bottle and can at the fence opposite Ballintober. There was some plastic litter on the grassed area to the right of Ballintober. We enjoyed viewing the many fine gardens and congratulate you on the improvements that you have made.

Congratulations to everyone who helped in any way. The judges obviously recognised the work that had been done. There were 13 entries into our category and we were only one point behind the winners of the Best Kept Village - but there is always next year!



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CAROLINE'S COOKERY CORNER

Bacon, Mushroom and Cheese Baked Savoury Roll

2-3 rashers bacon
1 onion
2 oz mushrooms
3 or 4 tomatoes
A little oil
Salt and pepper
3 oz grated cheese

1. Remove rinds and cut up the bacon. Peel and chop up the onion. Slice the mushrooms and skin and chop tomatoes.
2. Fry bacon and onion for 2 or 3 minutes, adding a little oil if necessary.
3. Add mushrooms and tomatoes and cook 2 or 3 minutes more. Season to taste. Allow to cool.

Pastry

4 oz self-raising flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 oz shredded suet
3 to 4 tablespoons cold water

1. Sift flour and salt into a bowl and mix in the suet.
2. Add enough water to mix to a pliable dough.
3. Using a floured board, shape pastry into a rectangle.
4. Brush the edges with water.
5. Spread on the filling up to the damped edges and add the grated cheese.
6. Roll it up lightly like a swiss roll and press the edges to seal.
7. Put the roll on to a greased baking sheet and place in the middle of the oven (Gas 5, 375 F 190 C), for about 30 minutes until crisp and brown.

Thanks once again to Caroline Davies

HARVEST LUNCH

This year we welcomed our new Priest- In-Charge, the Reverend Dr William Ingle-Gilles, and managed once again to fill Earlswood and Newchurch West Memorial Hall. We hope that the near one hundred people who attended enjoyed the fare, the support was tremendous. Our thanks go to all the ladies of the village who made and served the food , in addition, we must acknowledge the generous support of Geoff Roser.

So many people contribute , it is impossible to mention them all, but our special thanks go to Stu Dutton who managed to get top price for all the produce and raised £365 for the Haematology Unit at the Heath Hospital.

Barbara Davies for obtaining such magnificent raffle prizes and raising £187.

Kevin and Alistair Bounds, who as always, produced plentiful supplies of both sot and alcoholic drinks.

Jean and Peter Jones for producing such attractive flower arrangements for the tables, and Peter for organising the production of the tickets.

Tickets for next years event will be available from the box office from mid August so make a note in your diaries.

Margaret and Pauline

Shirenewton School

Some dates to look forward to from the PTA:

Friday 7th November	'Glow in the Dark Disco'
Saturday 29th November	School 'Christmas Fayre' 2-4 p.m.
Tuesday 9th December	Carol Concert Shirenewton Church
10/11th December	Infant Christmas Concerts.
Friday 6th February	Fish & Chips—Family Quiz night.
Friday 27th March	Race night with curry
Thursday 2nd April	Easter Assembly and Easter Egg Rolling
Friday 5th June	Sports Day
Saturday 6th June	School 'Summer Fayre'
Wednesday 15th July	Music Open Evening
Friday 17th July	Hog roast.

For more information of the School go to their website:

www.shirenewtonprimary.ik.org

Christmas Fair

In the new Church Hall
Sunday 7th December at 11.00

Refreshments

Cards and Tags

Mincemeat and Mince Pies

Homemade Christmas Cakes

Candles, Toys, Lucky Dip

And much much more



Some words that would seem appropriate in today's World from a book by Evan Morgan 'A Man Full of Spirit'

THE FALL IN THE VALUE OF THE POUND

Money will Buy

A bed — but not sleep
Books — but not brains
Food — but not appetite
Fineries — but not beauty
A house — but not a home
Medicine — but not health
Luxuries — but not culture
Amusement — but not happiness
A crucifix — but not a saviour
A church — but not heaven

Borrowed from the Parish of Ewenny & St Brides Parish Magazine

Torchlight Carol Service

at

Tintern Abbey

*Monday, December 8th 2008 at 7.00pm
(assemble from 6.30pm for torchlight procession)*

With

THE MARTIN SINGERS

In aid of Barnardos



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For further information

Tel: 01291-641256

Email: shelly.whittington@shirenewton.org

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Two dates for your calendar

Shirenewton Church
**Be Victorious with your Victoria
Sandwich'**

Afternoon Tea and a Cake Competition
and a Cake Sale

In the new Church Room on Saturday
1st November 2.30

Cakes in @ 2.30
Winners announced @ 3.00

Categories

Men's cakes - The Victoria Sandwich
Best Decorated Fairy Cake
Best In Show Cake



For more details ring: Glynis 641 818 or email
glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

SHIRENEWTON OPERA AND DRAMA SOCIETY

PRESENT 10TH ANNIVERSARY PANTOMIME

Puss in Boots



Earlwood Memorial Hall
22nd, 23rd & 24th January 2009
Watch this space for further
details

Chepstow Choral Society

Chepstow Choral Society is now preparing for their first concert of the 2008/2009 season, which will be the annual programme of Christmas Music & Carols. The programme will take place on **SATURDAY DECEMBER 13th**, at **St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow**. The Choir will be joined by **Lindsay Kidd Churchill (soprano)** and the Choir from **Wydean School**. The programme will be a highly seasonal mixture of choral and individual items, with appropriate readings, and family carols, and will be an excellent commencement for Christmas. This annual Christmas music presentation by Chepstow Choral Society has now become very much a "fixture" in the town's Christmas programme of events..

The Society is encouraged with the increase in new membership at the start of this season. If you require further information regarding singing membership, please contact **Marjorie Duerden** (tel. 01291 623310) or log onto the website (chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk). Anyone interested in becoming a patron of the Society can contact membership secretary **Jean Parkes** (620414).

The Society's next concert & 2009 programme :

Saturday December 13th --- Christmas Music & Family Carols

with Lindsay Kidd Churchill (soprano)

Wydean School Choir

Peter Cook (organ)

St Mary's Church, Chepstow, 7.30pm

Sunday March 29th 2009 -- Passiontide Concert

J. Stainer -- Crucifixion

Karl Jenkins -- The Armed Man (Choral Suite)

Henry Purcell -- Funeral Sentences

St Mary's Church, Chepstow, 7.30pm

Saturday June 27th 2009 -- A Handel Celebration -- 250 years

G. F. Handel (1685 -- 1759)

Dettingen Te Deum

Coronation Anthems

With CCS Orchestra

St Mary's Church, Chepstow, 7.30pm

Musical Director : Graham Bull

Tickets are available for all concerts from Chepstow Bookshop and through choir members. Please also visit:

www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk for more information.

FAIR TRADE

SOME FAIR TRADE IS FAIRER THAN OTHERS!

Some times it's hard to work it out.

There are T-shirts on sale in supermarkets and department stores which carry the Fairtrade mark. Yet they can cost as little as £5. At Traidcraft and comparable outlets the price is significantly higher. The reason is quite simple. On the high street the Fairtrade mark applies to the way the cotton is produced. This is good as far as it goes. In fact it represents a huge improvement. BUT there is no such control on the manufacturing process. Of course some retailers are more responsible than others. Nevertheless many of our hard-earned employment rights, which we now take for granted in the west, rarely apply in the developing world. These include safe working conditions, fair pay, pensions, health and welfare provision. Companies like Traidcraft go the extra mile. I've mentioned before the real benefits of organic cotton. Using this environmentally product to manufacture really fairly-traded garments is the best possible way forward.

Contact me or the Traidcraft (or Fairtrade) website for more info. Christmas catalogues are now available.

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

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Playing live

Tickets £10 from the Carpenters Arm

Include

Beef or Chicken Curry + Chips or Rice

And Raffle ticket



Cubs Newsletter
(October 2008)



The cubs have been very active this month with eleven achieving their athlete's badge and a further two their collector's badge.

General activities have included first aid with all the cubs learning to give resuscitation and place a person in the recovery position plus how to treat scalds and burns. The following week one cub unfortunately burnt herself at home and amazed her father who tried to help and was told he was doing it wrong and proceeded to instruct him on what to do in treating her injury.

Although we would have preferred the accident not to have happened it was encouraging to know that the lesson had already proved useful. Other activities have included bridge building, Halloween mask making and of course lots of games.

On Sunday the 19th October the cubs paraded through the village to the church with their flags flying in the breeze, I must admit as cub leaders both my wife Diane and myself felt very proud that we seemed to have come a long way in a very short time.

The Rev'd. Nansi Davies blessed the flags during the family service and asked the cubs to stand and repeat their promise. I am pleased to say that, with my fingers crossed and a quick prayer myself, that they all remembered the words of their scouts' promise.

At the end of the service both cubs and their parents along with the rest of the congregation enjoyed chatting over coffee and biscuits.

During half term week we are going on a night hike in Chepstow Woods stopping to cook a supper of hot dogs. Providing we all find our way back I will give a fuller report on the hike in the next addition.

Our thanks as always go to our parents support group who constantly provide two parents at each meeting to give us maximum adult cover.

For further Information contact Geoff at geoffmarlow@btinternet.com

Autumn Fayre

The Severn View Residential Home

Will be holding an Autumn Fayre

At

The Methodist Church Hall

Chepstow

on

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SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE -

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

As Christmas approaches and you start stocking up on gifts please don't forget to use the Church website as the basis for your internet shopping.

We have many 'high street' stores featured. These include stores such as John Lewis, Tesco's, etc. There are also lots of smaller specialist shops which can provide some cracking deals.

Shopping via the church website costs you nothing. You have full access to all the store's special offers, etc.

The church picks up a referral fee on the sums you spend via the link. So, for example, this year to date a total of £1,420 has been purchased from Amazon.co.uk via the church website. This has resulted in a total commission of £56.86 received by the church.

Its free money! Can you think of a reason not to shop via the church website?

On a slightly different subject, please do be careful if you purchase from eBay. I purchased a few items from eBay over the last couple of months and at least two have turned out to be counterfeit. One example was a new battery for my Nokia phone. Needless to say it failed to hold its charge and was ultimately a waste of money. It was an excellent counterfeit and when I compared it with a 'real' Nokia battery (which does hold its charge) the only difference was that the hologram logo wasn't as well formed and had less depth. So two lessons here. Counterfeits can be very, very good (at looking like the original) but seldom perform. Secondly, it's frequently worth spending a bit more on genuine articles from respectable shops as you save in the long run.

Happy browsing
David Cornwell
Webmaster.

Time for the November magazine already. Where is the term going? We had a very successful GOLD evening with the Brownies where a range of activities was available from craft to cardboard box cookery. It was good to see some parents joining in the fun. This was part of our County-wide week to raise awareness of the need for more adult volunteers to help within units on a regular or occasional basis. We are lucky in Shirenewton as we can always call on parents if we need additional help, but in other areas it is difficult to get parents and community involved.

November will see us at the Remembrance Service as usual and, within the unit, we will continue our exploration of Mexican culture. This will be followed by activities based around the United Nations Rights of the Child. We are also beginning to consider how we will be involved with another guiding initiative based around a variety of charities. The girls are keen to help "Water Aid" so we may well be looking for community help with fund raising in the New Year!

Yours in Guiding

Kestrel Helen Cann tel. 650835

Kitten Amanda Turner tel. 650763

Koala and Panda

EARLSWOOD & NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL

After a quiet summer Earlswood Memorial Hall is busy again. The harvest lunch was held as usual by Shirenewton church on Sunday 28th September and SODS have started rehearsals for the next panto to be staged in January. We also have a number of bookings for private parties.

On October 18th the hall held a barn dance with Glynis McDonald calling. This was a lively evening, with great food, and seemed to be enjoyed by the 65 or so that were there. Thanks to everyone that supported this event raising funds for ongoing maintenance of the hall.

Earlswood hall is large enough to accommodate a full sized badminton court and there will be badminton and short tennis played at the hall 7:00-9:00pm most Wednesdays. Anyone aged 14 and above, or anyone 10 and above with an adult, is welcome to come and join in. Contact Charles Eickhoff on 01291-641716 for details."

Simon Stanley, Chairman

American Indians and The Weather Man

It was autumn, and the American Indians asked their New Chief if the winter was going to be cold or mild. Since he was an Indian chief in a modern society, he couldn't tell what the weather was going to be.

Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he replied to his Tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect wood to be prepared.

But also being a practical leader, after several days he got an idea. He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked 'Is the coming winter going to be cold?'

'It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold indeed,' the weather man responded.

So the Chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more wood. A week later, he called the National Weather Service again. 'Is it going to be a very cold winter?'

'Yes,' the man at National Weather Service again replied, 'It' definitely going to be a very cold winter.'

The Chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of wood they could find. Two weeks later, he called the National Weather Service again. 'Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?'

'Absolutely,' The Man replied. 'It's going to be one of the coldest winters ever.'

'How can you be so sure?' the Chief asked.

The weatherman replied, 'The Indians are collecting wood like crazy.'

This is how Stock Markets work.



Moths at Magor

Moths, small, brown fluttery things. They may seem boring to you but they are nevertheless a very important part of the food chain and there are hundreds here at Magor. Many birds rely on moths as part of their diet, particularly swallows, and, of course, the nightjars who have the best feast as the majority of moths fly at night.

An advantage of 'moth watching' rather than bird watching is that you do not need to chase them on the wing - a moth trap brings them to you - so that you can study them close up while hardly affecting their short lives. And they are so worth the effort - many of them are exquisitely beautiful! It is easy to regard them as just brown things fluttering at the window or around a light. But if you take a close look, even those have beautiful subtle patterns - and the brighter ones are quite dazzling!

The joy of a moth trap is that it gives you plenty of time to study and identify them, and enjoy their beauty. It consists of box, a light to attract the moths, a small hole for them to enter and to keep them in, and some old egg trays for the catch to land on. The moths enter the trap, and settle on the egg trays which can then be lifted out to identify the catch, either as they arrive or perhaps the following morning. The morning is perhaps the best option as the moths are then resting for the day and you can also see them more clearly in the daylight.

You can find dozens of different species in a trap in a single night. So how do you identify and find out more about them? Well, until a couple of years ago, it was difficult, because all the books had images of moths with their wings pinned out ...not at all how you actually see them!

But now there is a super book with the moths shown as they actually settle, which makes identification so much easier. The book, "A Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland" is written by Paul Waring and Martin Townsend and you could order it from any bookshop.

For a practical demonstration, you can join us on our Moth nights here at Magor next Spring. We would love to see you there and hope that we can send you away with the enthusiasm to try it out for yourself. Moth traps are great Christmas presents too!!

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

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Registered Charity No. 1090167

Our speaker for our September meeting was Neil Steven—son who is the Education Officer for the Newport Ship Project and gave a fascinating insight to the ongoing reconstruction of the Newport Ship. Its obviously turning out to be a lot bigger than first thought, and one of the problems they are trying to solve is where will they keep it once all the restoration and preservation work is completed. They are gradually solving the mystery of where it came from and why it came to be abandoned in Newport.

The Society is always looking out for old photographs of the area, we never keep originals, we scan and store on disc. If you know of anyone who would allow us to take a copy for our archive we would be very grateful. If you are interested please come and join us (and bring your photographs or anything that you think would be of interest) to our Resource Afternoon the next one will be on Monday, 10th November, at 2.00pm -5.00pm. everyone welcome.

Dates for your Diary

History Society Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 25th November,
Time: 7.30 pm
Venue: Huntsman Hotel
Talk: The Lost City of Trellech
Speaker: Stuart Wilson

Shirenewton W.I.

We were very pleased to have Margaret and Ron Kinsey as our speakers for October. They are a well travelled couple who provide very interesting slideshow talks on our worlds more exotic and out of the way places. They have used their talks over many years to raise funds not for themselves but for Amnesty International.

'Meandering through Mongolia' was the title this time; they went on an escorted walking holiday which started with a few days in China. Slides of the Great Wall crossing the mountains were awe inspiring; its sheer scale is amazing. In Mongolia; descriptions of the landscapes, the people, their animals and culture were supported by a wonderful collection of photographs. A piece of our world which has a very strong traditional culture. Margaret urged us to visit before 'progress' alters it too much; already many Mongolians are settling into new towns and static homes, giving up their traditional 'Gers' (framed huts covered in felt and canvas). Their traditional nomadic lifestyle is certainly very tough, but very strong, socially supported by extensive family links.

I would certainly like to visit Mongolia, but I don't think I could walk as far as Margaret and Ron, so I would probably be opting for a lift with the luggage quite often.

Oak Tree

On the 15th October, five members went to Shirenewton School to plant a sapling Oak tree with the help of year 4. The tree was one of 6000 given out to delegates at the National WI Conference in Liverpool, in June.

We received a very warm welcome at the school; the pupils of year 4 had a hole already prepared and did a wonderful job of planting the tree. A big thank you from Shirenewton WI to Shirenewton School and especially the pupils of year 4.

Novembers WI meeting is a social evening and will take place Thursday 13th November 7-15pm at the Rec. Hall. New members always welcome.

D Such

LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER PACT MEETING

This will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 24th November 2008 at the Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

At the last meeting on 13th August 2008 three Police Priorities were agreed for the Shirenewton and Earlswood areas:

1. Speeding in the area.
2. Motorbikes (a) In Wentwood (b) Speed.
3. Police presence in the village and two way communication.

A report will be given as to the progress on these priorities.
There will also be a Crime Report.

Those at the Meeting will then be invited to express their present concerns; and whether to replace or extend the above priorities.

This is your opportunity to influence Police priorities.

Further support is needed in Shirenewton . The demands on the individuals acting as local co-ordinators are very little. Meetings last about an hour are held every 2 – 3 months, it requires the volunteer to pass on information to neighbours in their immediate vicinity; either by email, phone or a short note, information that they will receive directly either from the police, or the area co-ordinator by telephone through an automated system or via e-mail.

Coordinators are needed to cover areas which include Clearview, the Row, properties adjacent to the shop, and neighbouring barns, School Hill and the Lower Lane, the Crick Road.

If you can help, the next meeting of the Local Group will be held on 14th January 2009 at the Huntsman Hotel at 7.30 p.m.

Alternatively please feel free to contact Beverley Moore on: - 01291 641532 or Bob O'Keefe on:- 01291 641686 prior to our next meeting. Anybody who would like to attend this meeting will be very welcome.

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SHIRENEWTON M.U.

STARGAZING IN NOVEMBER

The planet Venus is very bright in the early evening sky in the south-west. Jupiter is also visible in the early evening, although its not quite as bright as Venus. At the end of the month the two planets are close together and make a fine sight to the south at dusk. Saturn can be seen to the south around dawn just under the constellation of Leo the lion.

The Moon can be used as a way of spotting the planets. It's near Venus on 1st November, Jupiter on 3rd November and Saturn in the morning of 21st November.

The seven stars of the Plough lie to the North in the evening. Those of us with particularly good eye-sight can see that Mizar, the star that is the second along the handle of the plough, is in fact a double-star.

The "W" of Cassiopeia lies nearly overhead. In Roman mythology Cassiopeia was queen of the ancient kingdom of Aethiopia. She was chained to her throne as a punishment for being boastful, and placed in the heavens to sometimes hang upside down.

The band of stars making up the Milky Way runs through Cassiopeia. The Milky Way is best seen from the countryside, away from city and even village lights. It is our home galaxy, with our Sun one of 200 billion stars. It is spiral-shaped with the Sun about half-way between the centre and edge of the spiral. In Japanese it is the "Silver River" whilst in Sweden it is known as the "Winter Street".

Dave Thomas

We were pleased to welcome the Reverend Dr. William C. Ingle-Gillis to our meeting on the 8th October and were glad to receive his input to our discussions. We based our prayers around the "Provision" section of the 'HOME' Video compiled by Mary Sumner House, which was particularly appropriate, as we had just celebrated Harvest. The section we saw dealt with a Ugandan woman and her family – MU had helped her both with materials and advice so that she was able to provide food and clean water for her family. We then had a discussion on the future of the Branch and it was unanimously decided that from 1st January 2009 Rosemary Carey would take the reins as Branch Leader; Patsy Lewis would take on the office of Secretary and Auriol Horton would continue as Branch Treasurer.

The Revd Dr. Will is to arrange a commissioning service early in the New Year.

Our Diocesan President, Kathy Palmer will be the Speaker at our **next meeting on the 12th November** when we shall also be discussing our programme for next year. We will be meeting **at 2.30p.m, at The Recreation Hall** and visitors are welcome to join us – come and hear what we are planning for 2009.

Auriol Horton (retiring Branch Leader).

WHIST DRIVES

By the unexpected and very welcome arrival of 5 players from Monmouth, 38 players enjoyed the Drive in October. In November we meet on Thursday, 6th and in December our Christmas Drive will be on the 4th. Both meetings start at 7.30 p.m. promptly.

Enquiries to Auriol Horton, 01291641844 or e-mail aur10l@btinternet.com

Auriol Horton. 01291 841844

COUNTRY LIFE IN OUR COUNTY

Autumn and the sheep farmer, this is a critical time of year for the sheep farmer, a lot depends on when the sheep are expected to lamb, whatever the system nature has decided that there will be five months between mating and lambing, the rams are usually put with the ewes from August onwards so that lambing starts in January. This enables the lambs to be sold fat in twelve to sixteen weeks, when they will have had the benefit of the spring flush of grass, stimulating the ewes to produce more milk, and also they would graze this grass themselves, the lambs would be sold before the high risk period of internal parasites and flies giving rise to maggots.

Not so many years ago most ewes lambed outside, but now as lambing on specialist sheep farms is planned earlier in the year most lambing is done in special lambing houses, and with modern aids such as infra red lamps, farmers are getting good at operating this early lambing.

I always lambed my ewes in mid March, with spring just around the corner. With a dairy herd their demands in January were enough without adding to the work the problems of lambing at this time. One of the problems with ewes on good land once the lambs are sold is that the ewes can get too fat, which is bad for breeding, so by penning on a restricted area their feed intake is reduced so that they stay leaner. Autumn on the sheep farm is the time of sorting out, there are always those lambs that have not done so well, perhaps the mother had triplets and did not have enough milk, or may be she had lost a quarter which reduced the milk available, or the mother could have died when the lamb was quite young. These lambs may now have enough meat on then to be sold for slaughter, if their condition is not good enough for killing at this time they could be sold as store lambs for someone else to keep and fatten through the winter or this could be done on the farm where they were bred. Then some of the ewes have to be culled for all manner of reasons, lost a quarter, prone to foot-rot, or just old age which is often indicated by a loss of teeth making it difficult for the ewe to graze properly. It is these old faithful ewes that I am always sorry to see go.

Something I have always felt sorry about is that when animals are young and in their prime, be it, cow, sheep, horse or pig and their value is high they are treated with respect, but when old and their value is gone they are not treated by all people with the respect that they deserve. I know one should never draw comparisons between animals and the human

race, but there is a stage when they could be said to be in their prime of youth, for young girls I would say between seventeen and twenty years, not I would hasten to add that they decline after twenty, in fact most girls retain their attractions all through their lives, they just mature. Farm stock are in their prime at different ages, a heifer at two years, a filly at three years, a pig or gilt at one year and a sheep at one year, is when I believe they are at their best.

One of the most pleasant events to my mind is an autumn ewe sale at Kington in Herefordshire, where they sell stock ewes in their hundreds. Sheep farmers on the hills produce stock ewes for buyers far and wide, usually bred from mountain ewes crossed with either, Border Leicester, or Blue Faced Leicester rams to produce the half-bred or mule ewes. When I was buying, the Kerry type ewe was much in evidence. These ewes were penned in bunches of twenties or forties mostly yearlings or two year olds, drawn in very even bunches, and on an autumn day it is a real sight to see and to appreciate the characteristic smell of sheep and sheep dip. There would be a mixture of vendors, buyers, hauliers, drovers and auctioneers, all talking and thinking sheep. I would usually go with some friends; we would try and buy a few pens between us, then the haulage would usually work out cheaper per head if you could make up a hundred or more. I was always anxious next morning to see if the judgement at the sale was correct, and that they looked as good at home as they did in the sale ring.

Although the autumn can be a bad time of the year for fly strike, unless the sheep have been dipped, the blow fly seem to strike on the shoulder and the shepherd must be ever so watchful. Providing the ewes have been dipped, dosed for worms and vaccinated if necessary and tails clipped or crutched, then the risk of fly strike and the resulting maggots is much reduced. It has always been a very pleasing sight in autumn to turn the rams in with a good bunch of ewes, and apart from the ever present threat of foot-rot, autumn is a time of year when the sheep farmer can relax for a while, such a difference compared with the daily routine of milking cows, but the difference as far as finance is concerned is that the sheep farmer does not have a monthly milk cheque.

Our thanks to Ernie Jones for sharing with us his feelings for our local countryside through the seasons. Also to Peter Bartlett for providing the copy. These notes are short extracts from one of Ernie's numerous books, copies of the books are available direct from either Ernie or Peter.