

September 2008

Price: 50p

THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS A BECKET SHIRENEWTON



Parishes of Shirenewton and Newchurch Magazine

READERS AND SIDES- PERSONS ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER

DATE	SERVICE	READER	SIDES-PERSON
Sept 7th	16th Sunday after Trinity 9.45 a.m.	Margaret Lock Diane Marlow	Margaret Lock Diane Marlow
Sept 14th	17th Sunday after Trinity 9.45 a.m.	Mike Pierce Bob Grattan	Mike Pierce Bob Grattan
Sept 21st	18th Sunday after Trinity 9.45 a.m.	Jean Jones Peter Jones	Jean Jones Peter Jones
Sept 28th	Harvest Festival 9.45 a.m.	The Children	
Oct. 5th	20th Sunday after Trinity 9.45 a.m.	Kevin Bounds James Loney	Kevin Bounds 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 Susan Lenthall –	Newchurch	626389
PCC SECRETARIES:	Andrew Baker -	Shirenewton	641925
	David Heritage-	Newchurch	641549
PCC TREASURERS:	Kevin Bounds -	Shirenewton	641818
	Enid Heritage -	Newchurch	641549
GIFT AID SECRETARY	Ruth Savagar		641411
CHURCH MAINTENANCE & SAFETY OFFICER	John Nicholas		641368
ORGANISTS:	Karen Millar		650521
	Ruth Savagar		641411
	Kath Whittington		641600
SUNDAY SCHOOL:	Jane Smith-Haddon		641525
TOWER CAPTAIN:	Mike Penny		650653
MOTHERS UNION:	Auriol Horton		641844
CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER:	John Waters		641449
CHURCH FLOWERS:	Maureen Moody		641524
PARISH MAGAZINE:	Bob O'Keefe		641686
200 Club	Pauline Dutton		641677

NAMES TO NOTE

COMMUNITY COUNCIL	ROBIN MITCHELL		
Clerk to Community	Council Carole Jones		641791
WI:	Jenny Bonner		641929
SCOUTS:	Dave Richardson		620356
GUIDES:	Helen Cann		650835
BROWNIES:	Jackie Broughton		641797
BEAVERS:	Becky Lewis		650304
POLICE CONTACT:	P.C. Mike Cowburn	01633	838111
REC. BOOKING SECRETARY:	Beryl Saysell		641637
TRAIDCRAFT:	Marion McAdam		641316
Local History Society	Shirley Bonsey		641362

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATORS

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

Please send your notes, discs or emails for inclusion in the October magazine to Bob O'Keefe at: 15 Newton Manor, Shirenewton, (641686) or email to bobandwenche@aol.com by Saturday 20th Septmeber.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1st Sept	Community Council meeting—The Recreation Hall
4th Sept	Whist Drive—the Recreation Hall—7.30
6 th Sept	Local History Soc. Coal Mining in the Gwent Valley's' at Big Pit (See notes inside)
7th Sept.	Sunday Cub recommences.
8th Sept	Local History Soc. Resource session at Recreation Hall –2.30
19th Sept	RNLI present Chepstow Male Voice Choir—The Church 7 p.m.
24th Sept	Mothers Union –Fashion Parade—St Mary's Chepstow.
25th Sept	Dr William Ingle Gilles, to be Licensed in Caerwent 7.30p.m.
28th Sept	Harvest Festival Lunch –Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall
30 th Sept	History Society meeting at the Huntsman Hotel at 7.30 'An Update of the Newport Ship Project' - by Neil Stevenson
2nd Oct	Whist Drive—the Recreation Hall—7.30

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Dear Friends,

Is summer over or has it yet to come? So far the traditional holiday period has proved very disappointing, especially for the children who will soon be returning to school; some to new schools and some to school for the first time. We wish all children every happiness and success for the forthcoming term.

As I write it is again pouring with rain and so it's heartening to find some good news. I have been enthralled with the Olympics and GB Team's success which I am sure has lifted the spirits of many of you. The terrific success of Caerwent's Holiday Club which attracted some 63 children through its week long adventure; some of the children and parents subsequently joined the Sunday Club and Family Service. Thank you to all those who worked so very hard in organising and running the event. The other good news is that the next Priest-in-Charge has been selected and he will be taking up his appointment in September.

The Reverend Dr. William Ingle-Gillis, known to us in the Deanery as Will, will be licensed by the Bishop to the Caerwent Group of Parishes on the 25th September at 7.30p.m. in Caerwent Church followed by fellowship and refreshments. Everyone is welcome to attend the service to welcome and meet Will and his wife Heidi. Both Will and Heidi are American although they have been living in this country since the mid nineties. At present Will is curate in the Caldicot Benefice and primarily works in Rogiet, where he currently lives, but of course as part of the Benefice team, from time to time he works in other parts of the Benefice. Will was ordained Deacon in 2004 and Priest the following year. Since 2004 he has been an active member of the Deanery Chapter serving as Chapter Clerk and so I have come to know him quite well. I am sure everyone will extend a warm welcome to Will, Heidi and their two little boys.

For my part I would like to thank all those who have worked alongside me in the Worship Team both ordained and lay for without their help we would have had to call-in help for services from outside the Group on a much greater scale than has been the case during the last few years. I have been most grateful for the support of the Churchwardens and members of the Parochial Church Councils who have worked so hard to keep us all on an even keel. Many other church officers and members of

the congregations have played their part during the interregnum and I am sure you will all continue with the hard work in supporting Will.

During the last two or three months families in each of our parishes have been bereaved and I have had the privilege of conducting the funerals of their loved ones some who have suffered illness while others have enjoyed a good span of life but all are now at peace. Many of you have provided those families with tremendous love and support and the churches have been full for the services as clear evidence of this. On behalf of those families I thank you for your witness to our Christian faith and belief that all are loved by Our Heavenly Father and that we believe Our Lord Jesus when he said, "I go to prepare a place for you for where I am you will be also."

Prayers and peace to you all.

Nansi Davies, Priest in Charge.

FROM THE REGISTERS

A burial service was held for Mrs. Constance Margaret Elizabeth Benjamin on 14th July. Born February 1907 died July 2008

A funeral service was held for Timothy James on Tuesday 26th August. Born 1958 died August 2008

A service of Baptism was held on the 24th September for Louise Joy Sharp, daughter of Michael and Alison Sharp.

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH 200 CLUB

The result of the July / August draw was:

Ticket No	Winner	Prize
113	Gareth Davies	£40
80	Betty Bryant	£30
109	Holly Martin	£20
96	James Howells	£10

into soup as I type this article. They will be left overnight in the slow cooker and then left to cool in the morning, before being boxed up and placed in the freezer. I did try a recipe for roast tomato soup, with streaky bacon. This was a big hit and more of this will be made on the weekend. I'm leaving some courgettes to grow into marrows in the hope that the under-gardener will make some chutney, so hopefully she'll pick up on my heavy-handed hints! We have also been busy freezing peppers ready to add them to winter casseroles and these are cropping well at the moment. One disappointment has been the aubergines. These have made big plants, but once set, the fruits seem to be rotting and falling off. Aubergines prefer hot weather to succeed, so I can only assume that it has been too cold and cloudy. Never mind the melons that are planted around them, are now bigger than tennis balls so that's something to look forward to!

Happy gardening until next month.

Steve Hunt.

GRASS ROUTES and RING a RIDE

These two schemes are demand responsive flexible bus services operated using low floor, fully accessible vehicles with volunteer drivers.

The scheme, run by Monmouthshire County Council, is operated on a membership basis and is open to all members of the community.

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bury it, but when I captured it in the net, a couple of its fins fluttered, so I rushed this around to the other pond as well. There it laid, upside down, all day. In an effort to save it from the heat of the day, the under gardener found a golfing umbrella and shaded the fish with this! IT obviously worked as slowly but surely the fish came around over the next few days and is now busy swimming around. It is still in the small pond, but as fish only have five-second memories, I'm sure it doesn't realise that it is now swimming in smaller circles!

Whereas the flower garden has suffered I have tried to keep the vegetable garden in some order, not least because of the ever rising price of food. And with this in mind we have managed to keep ourselves in vegetables certainly since the beginning of June, although we were picking some well before this. As usual not all crops have been success stories although we have learnt some valuable lessons along the way. This year I decided it was time to keep a record of what was planted and where so that in future years I can make sure that the crops get rotated so that pests and diseases do not build up. This was brought home when I discovered that one of the beds that had been planted with cauliflowers had succumbed to club root, a nasty viral disease that can stay in the ground to re-infect crops for some 20 odd years. When you consider where we are, you have to ask just how these diseases find their way to the garden as we do not have near neighbour's at least none that grow vegetables. At least now I have started recording the details I'll know not to plant other members of the cabbage family in the same bed. Another advantage of having separate raised beds. Carrots have been a good success this year as I have protected them from damage by pests by protecting them with a very fine mesh net, made especially for this job. I have also protected the Brussels sprouts as well and this has kept them from being eaten by caterpillars. This netting is pretty expensive but should last many years, so hopefully will continue protecting for some years to come. A first this year as well is being able to keep a constant supply of lettuce / salad leaves growing by sowing on a fortnightly cycle. Most other crops have done well, although slugs have been a problem with the damp conditions. I have dug most of our potatoes and these have been dried and are now stored in wooden trays in a dark part of the garage. Onions and garlic continue to dry in the greenhouse and I have now started tying these up into strings so that they can also be hung up for use later on. Sweet corn have been picked and treated and in the freezer within 30 minutes, so little risk of them losing any flavour!

In the tunnel and greenhouse we have enough cucumbers and tomatoes to sink a battleship. The under-gardener is being turning the tomatoes

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Dates for the next month

Date	Time	Venue
7th Sept	9.45 - New Term Starts	The Chantry
14th Sept	9.45	The Chantry
21st Sept	9.45	The Chantry
28th Sept	9.45 Harvest Festival	The Church

Hopefully we shall be able to use the new Church Hall during October.

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

Jane Smith-Haddon 641 525

Glynis MacDonald 641818

ST PETER'S CHURCH — NEWCHURCH

At long last and after much frustration in obtaining permission the tower has now been repaired, and we would like to think that our little church has a future! We can now go forward and address other maintenance that is needed.

However, we still do need the help and support that has been given in the past particularly in the running of the Church and maintenance of the churchyard.

With the backing and enthusiasm of our new vicar perhaps Newchurch will see a new lease of life .

Our harvest festival service will take place on Thursday 2nd October at 7 p.m. when all will be very welcome.

CONSTANCE MARGARET ELIZABETH BENJAMIN.

Known as Connie was born Connie Cule on 27th February 1907 at Ystradowen near Cowbridge.

As a young girl she went to Australia where her father had obtained a position in the mining industry. Connie's mother couldn't settle there so they returned and settled in Mynyddbach when Connie was 7, just before the start of the First World War.

She was educated at Lydney Grammar School where she travelled to every day by bicycle and train. She then qualified as a teacher her first job being a trainee teacher in Mynyddbach School. Much of her life was devoted to teaching from the 1920's up to the early 70's. As well as Mynyddbach, where she both started and finished teaching, she taught at many local schools including Newchurch, Earlswood and St Arvans, often driving to them in what she described affectionately called the 'Old Ford', a 1936 Ford Eight.

She married her husband Harry in 1940 and having spent time in London during the Second World War, settled back in Mynyddbach with their 2 children Jim and Bill. During this time Connie lovingly cared for her mother who lived with her in later life up to her death at the age of 97.

Following retirement and after the death of her husband Harry she was involved in local affairs in the Shirenewton area including setting up of the Senior Citizens Club of which she was president for many years.

Having been widowed for many years she decided that living in Mynyddbach was a bit too remote, so in her 70's she decided to move into an apartment in the centre of Chepstow where she became involved with the local community, made many new friends and enjoyed the convenience of independence of living near the town centre. She was an avid reader, and also enjoyed travelling and spending time with her grandchildren Jeremy and Stacy.

At the age of 94 she decided that the time had come to move to residential care initially in Chepstow, and latterly in the Priory in Llandogo, where she was most fondly thought of by the staff. A highlight of her life was the attainment of her 100th Birthday, though typically she did not want a fuss made of it and celebrated it simply with her immediate family.

Gardening Corner

Maybe like me you are reflecting where our summer has disappeared to this year. I had high hopes that this was going to be one of the better years in the garden. Certainly the early signs were good, with no late frosts and plants seemingly enjoying the early season warmth. At one stage I estimated that the garden was probably about two weeks ahead of usual, but as the weeks went on things didn't look quite so good. We seem to have had above average rain and wind and as a result the garden has got rough around the edges!

Fortunately we had decided not to open the garden to the public this year and it was just as well. Pressures on us early in the year meant that we couldn't get onto the flower beds early on in the year, and when we had the time it was too wet. Subsequently the beds haven't been weeded at all this year and really are looking a bit of a mess. No point in worrying about things now as it is far too late to make a difference. We have decided to write this year off from the flower point of view and aim to start early in the autumn to see if we can get things underway ahead of schedule for next year. Not opening the garden has been a great relief as it is amazing how much pressure this places on your shoulders. Everything has to be ship shape and its not just the work building up to the opening, its all the work involved in organising the day itself, even putting signs up, that take there toll!

I guess that the year has had its moments and we have had some hot spells as well, but it is so easy to forget these. One that we won't forget is the most recent. Some of you may remember that we had to lose our stream that connected two fishponds together, when we did some building work. It is on the "to do" list of things to work on but I just hadn't got around to this particular one at the time. It was such a nice weekend a couple of weeks ago that we decided to go down to Swansea and have a day out in our little boat. Being late back we fell into bed and it wasn't until the following morning when I went to feed the fish that I realised we had a problem. Among the hundreds of goldfish we have there are two koi carp, which, like the nine original goldfish (yes they obviously like our ponds that much!) were donated to us by our builder some eight years ago. The koi are now quite sizeable, but this morning one was obviously struggling for oxygen, whilst the other appeared dead. I rushed into the garage to get a fishing net and managed to capture the one that was still alive and rush it around to a smaller pond where there is running water and more oxygen. The other was floating upside down in the water and thought I needed a spade to

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ROYAL HARPIST — JEMIMA PHILLIPS

August Bank holiday Monday turned into a typical British Bank Holiday— wet and windy.

However the Royal Harpist, Jemima Phillips made the day so much brighter by providing us with a wonderful concert in the Church. Originally intended for the Chantry's "Stone Garden" but transferred into the Church and the dry where Jemima provided an audience of about eighty with a whole range of works from Bach to Brubeck showing us the true versatility of the instrument when played by such an accomplished performer. It would not be an exaggeration to say that most of us were never aware of the versatility of the harp until played by such a maestro of the instrument.

Furthermore, it was also another successful village social event and a fund raising afternoon for the Church.

The Harvest Lunch

THE HARVEST LUNCH WILL BE ON 28TH SEPTEMBER AT OUR USUAL VENUE EARLSWOOD & NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL. TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE SHORTLY AND AVAILABLE FROM MARGARET LOCK, 641884, PAULINE DUTTON, 641677 AND SALLY SAYSELL, 641369. BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE AND HELP ON THE DAY, A COFFEE MORNING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER AT MARGARET'S HOUSE (PORTHCERRIG).

Shirenewton Community Council.
Report by Alison Broughton—meeting held 7th July 2008

Police Report

- 2/6/08 - 2 scam e-mails requesting Bank details etc. Received in Shirenewton.
- 4/6/08 - Car Fire, Shirenewton - electrical fault.
- 5/6/08 - Concern yellow arrows on road - possibly linked to horse thefts. These yellow arrows have elsewhere been confirmed as the work of a Cycle Club and Chepstow Harriers. Nevertheless there remains concern for possible horse thefts. Do report to Police any suspicious activity.
- 5/6/08 - Theft of catalytic converter in lane at rear of Usk Rd, Shirenewton
- 7/6/08 - Caller stating she disturbed horse thieves - suspicious activity, near Earlswood.
- 9/6/08 - Suspicious Audi at rear of Huntsman Inn - person photographing horses.
- 9/6/08 - Suspicious land rover near Earlswood - possibly linked to horse thefts.
- 9/6/08 - Suspicious van - Earlswood as above.
- 10/6/08 -Report of signs for Fete and play stolen - Removed by Council on Health and safety grounds!
- 12/6/08 - Problems with traffic lights B4235
- 13/6/08 - Report of suspicious vehicle Shirenewton - No offences disclosed.
- 17/6/08 - Emergency alarm elderly resident - fault/ accidental activation.
- 17/6/08 - Outbuilding entered Llanvair Discoed. Lawnmower and strimmer stolen.
- 23/6/08 - Elderly female collapsed Shirenewton - ambulance called.

A number of the calls were for suspicious vehicles in relation to possible horse thefts. Several of these calls were made from the same person. One suggested vehicle belonged to a local resident.

Planning Matters

Old Orchard, Mynyddbach. Second storey extension.
Recommend approval subject to retention of the hedge at its current height.

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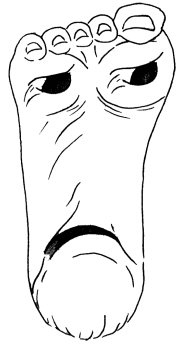
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Peniel Chapel, Llangwm—Conversion of chapel – amended design
Recommend approval, but would like to see both yew trees retained.

Rose Cottage - Usk Road.—Proposed barn to dwelling
Refusal recommended

Items of local concern

1. The Shop, Councillor Eickhoff has been actively researching possible grants to support the re-opening of the existing shop but with no joy to date. Looks like time to bring Plan B into operation, that is to look at alternative sites within the village.
2. Environment sub-committee report:-
Wind turbines, still trying to determine how SCC will assess any applications for wind turbines and establish the council's policy. Members are working on green articles for regular inclusion in the parish magazine.
3. Green lanes- County Cllr Down informed the meeting that no work should be done without consultation with the Highways Dept. who are actually responsible for the lanes. Although widening & gating the access onto the road is a matter for planning.
4. In discussion concerns also raised about the destruction of woodland within the old golf course land.
5. Removal of telephone boxes at Gaerllwyd & West End has been proposed by BT due to lack of use. The Call boxes were downgraded to card only boxes a few years ago, which probably means even less use has been made of them as not many people have cards and there's nowhere within several miles to buy one. Council will oppose this on various grounds but particularly as mobile coverage in both spots is poor.
6. Allotments, MCC seems to be taking the line that if they prevaricate and do nothing for long enough then the demand will wither. Councillor Down said he would determine formal application process so that the potential allotmentees (*surely not the correct collective noun!*) can apply directly to MCC and perhaps have more success than SCC has had on their behalf. (*I understand that they have all now made individual applications*).

7. A notice will be published regarding enforcement of planning permission. This will appear on the notice boards in due course and details will be published in the Parish magazine at a later date.
8. Signs will be erected for Mynyddbach this year, but still MCC is still denying need for Earlswood, this will be actively pursued. MCC is also still resisting the call for horse warning signs and again SCC continues to pursue this along with residents in Earlswood themselves.
9. MCC removal of unauthorised signs, they have a leaflet available spelling out their policy should anyone need it.
10. Speed checks in Shirenewton in June from the TA car park, recorded the highest speed on approach at 47 miles per hour.

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL NOTES -

Report by- Glynis MacDonald - meeting held on 4th August

Police report

- 7th July minor assault at school
 8th July theft of lawn mower from an open shed
 A loose dog was reported
 13th July noisy bikes reported
 14th July cold call leafleting reported
 18th July a suspicious vehicle was seen near the golf course – could be poachers
 23rd July a house alarm went off
 Some drunks sighted – (in Shirenewton?)
 1st August 2 loose dogs

The next walk-about will be in October and PC Cowburn will be accompanied by a member of the council. They would be delighted if anyone stopped to talk to them.

Planning

1. Barn 1, Priory Farm, Earlswood
 Conversion of redundant barn to 3 bedroom dwelling.
 Approval recommended
2. Barn 2, Priory Farm, Earlswood
 Conversion of redundant barn
 Approval recommended
3. Priory Farm, Earlswood
 Conversion of redundant milking parlour and cattle pen into holiday let
 Approval recommended



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SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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The speaker at our July meeting, was Daphne Pearson who gave us a talk entitled '*When does Legend Become History*' this covered many centuries, sorting out myth from actual history, giving us some interesting facts on some well known people.

As usual we had our stand at Chepstow Show on the Saturday, 9th August our display was entitled '*St Pierre Estate 1919*', two brave members set it up early on the morning of the show just in time for the rain and wind to descend on the show field and continued all day. The Free Press's headlines described the day as 'Muddy Marvellous', which our members could well agree with. Never mind there's always another year!

The following day on Sunday 10th August we were heading for Brynmawr to join Frank Olding on a heritage walk, starting at the *Mountain Air* public house. Guess what? Yes, once again we had heavy showers, which did not dampen Frank Olding's enthusiasm and everyone agreed it was well worth the visit.

Dates for your Diary:

Gwent History Council Day School - Saturday, 6th September, 10.30 am
At Big Pit, Blaenavon—'Coal Mining in the Gwent Valley's'

Resource Afternoon—Monday, 8th September, 2.00pm— Recreational Hall, Shirenewton

Society Meeting—Tuesday, 30th September, 7.30pm, Huntsman Hotel,
'An Update of the Newport Ship Project' - by Neil Stevenson

4. White Gates, Shirenewton
Rear single storey extension
Approval recommended

Financial Matters

Shire Hall in Monmouth is a Grade 1 listed building which needs considerable financial help to restore it to good health. The Hall Stewards of have requested donations from all local councils in the area for donations. Shirenewton decided to look how the building is to be used before committing any funds to this project.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 1st September at the Rec at 7.30

WHIST DRIVES

I have to thank everyone who attended and organised the July Drive in my absence (33 players were there) and in August once more we had 9 full tables.

The next Drives are on the 4th September and 2nd October (the first Thursday in each month) at the Recreation Hall starting at 7.30 p.m. promptly. New players always welcome.

A MESSAGE OF THANKS

Mrs June Jorgensen, and Mrs Karen Dodd would like to thanks all those that have been so kind and helpful following their recent driving accident on the Crick Road.

A very special thanks to *Louise and her husband from Earlswood, who kindly stopped and provided skilled and valuable first aid, who fortunately for June and Karen were the first to arrive on the scene of the accident.

* *Apologies but we didn't have a surname.*

Tredegar Arms—Thank You

Tim and Julie would like to express their heartfelt appreciation to all who came along to support their 'Cajun Afternoon' and made it such a tremendous success.

The number of people who offered to help in the planning and on the day was overwhelming, far too many to mention individually (you know who you are) but a special thanks must be given to the Church for their support.

A substantial amount of money was raised on the day for Tim's charities, and it is still coming in.

The final figure will be posted up in the TA shortly.

Thank you all once again.

Editors note. Sadly since receiving the above, Tim has tragically died. We can only send our deepest sympathy and condolences to his partner, family and friends of which he had many.

FAIR TRADE

Rising food prices—Christian Aid News has some facts and figures which rather put our worries into perspective. Their article is called; Food - The Silent Tsunami.

India — A family of 7 - Income:£8 a week (husband and wife's wages) Proportion spent on food : 56% (rest on electricity and rent). What they buy: 10 small onions, 10 small potatoes, 1/4 kilo lentils/pulses, 9 kg of wheat flour (used to be 15) - to make chapattis, green chilli (occasionally), meat (ONCE EVERY TWO MONTHS). Their motto is 'EAT LESS, IF POSSIBLE AVOID EATING)

Guatemala — A family of 5— Income: max £7 61 a week. Proportion spent on food: 60% (used to be 40%). What they buy: 10 eggs, 2kg tortillas, 1/4 kilo salt, 1/2 kg coffee, 4 kgs. sugar. What they say: 'We've had to stop buying milk for our baby. . . Normally we eat just twice a day - we don't have enough for dinner anymore. Even though we have never earned much we used to be able to afford a bit of meat and chicken now and again, not now.'

As is often the case it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the injustices that confront so many people. Purchasing fairtrade goods is at least one way we, in the rich countries of the world can start to effect real change for the better.

Do contact me for more info. Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

CAROLINE'S COOKERY CORNER

I do love courgettes, but that when you have them in the garden they grow fast and furiously. The following is for those of you who have them.

Courgette & Tomato Chutney is one of my mothers recipes.

1lb peeled & chopped courgettes	1lb skinned & chopped tomatoes
8 oz peeled & chopped onions	1 peeled crushed garlic clove
1 tbl.sp. pickling spice tied in muslin	1 heaped teaspoon ginger
8 oz sultanas	2 teasp. Salt
6 oz white sugar	6oz brown sugar
1/2 pint vinegar	

Boil all ingredients simmer gently until consistency of chutney. Then pot.

Courgette Bread

I do have a bread machine, but must confess that I have never used it. I prefer to make it in my food processor—quicker, quieter and less hassle. To a basic white bread recipe of 1 lb strong flour, add 3 grated courgettes, squeeze the water out in a tea-towel, add pinch of thyme and 3 oz grated Cheddar; make bread in the normal way.

All my family like Courgette Fritters

Grate courgettes squeeze the water out in a tea-towel—add flour, parmesan cheese about 1 teaspoon, egg and season. Shallow fry in small batches

Courgettes Cut into Matchsticks gently fried in butter and oil until cooked; add seasoning and lemon juice. Makes a good extra vegetable.

Marinated Courgette Salad.

2 large courgettes; juice 1 lemon; 4 tablespoons olive oil; seasoning. Using a vegetable peeler slice the courgettes into long thin ribbons—mix the oil and lemon and pour over the courgettes and leave to marinate for 10 minutes.

Also courgettes may be used in any salsa if you just have one or two lurking in the fridge.

By the way if anyone has a real glut of them, I don't have any this year, they were all eaten before I saw a courgette.

Our thanks once again to Caroline Davies

The Bells.....The Bells

It has been all or nothing with Shirenewton bell ringers over the summer. If everyone is on holiday the numbers dwindle down and then when everyone returns we suddenly have a full belfry again.

This is not all bad news, every practice is useful for somebody. If there are few people for practice someone may get lots of "goes" at what they are learning or even a chance to have a go at something completely new. This has happened at several practices over the holiday and provided an excellent opportunity to those affected.

However, we have finished our holidays now and expect to return to normal. We plan to start ringing some quarter peals on Sunday nights, if you would like us to dedicate one to your special event or anniversary please let us know. We will present you with a certificate afterward with details of the ringers involved and the method they rung for you. Contact Mike or Pip on 650653.

Pip Penny

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1st Shirenewton Cub Pack



Newsletter (August 2008)

Welcome to the first addition of the Pack's News Letter.

We seem to have got off to a flying start with five very enjoyable Cub Pack meetings with an average turn out of twenty four cubs. The meetings have included learning to tie a reef knot, tracking, making towers, a history session and game on the battle of Waterloo, collecting bits of nature and then making a montage, map reading plus lots of new games.

We ended the term on a high with an activity evening followed by a barbeque and campfire singsong at Millbrook Stables closing with roasting marshmallows.

I am delighted to announce that both my wife Diane and Matthew Smith have agreed to go into uniform which will be a great help. However we could still do with one more adult, part time or full time, to give a really good foundation to the pack.

Our pack meetings will commence on September 3rd with all the cubs who have uniform being invested into the world scout family on the September 10th. Parents are welcome to view the ceremony which will commence at approximately 6:45pm and finish around 7:15pm. We are hoping that Chris Munslow, District Commissioner, and a member of the local press will be able to attend this auspicious occasion.

Included within this coming terms programme we will have a number of visiting guests including one of Shirenewton's residents, Mike Gambold, with his wild birds, our local policeman and a member of the Curre Hunt with a few of his hounds. We also hope to be visiting Chepstow fire station and sea rescue centre.

Our main indoor projects will be working to achieve a number of activity badges.

Activity Badges are another way of recognising the achievements of Scouts who have learnt a new skill, or who have taken part in an activity for a certain period of time.

Church Parade.

There will be a church parade on October 19th when the pack will parade from the village hall to Shirenewton Church for the blessing of the cub flag during the family service. Teas and soft drinks will be provided at the end of the service. All parents would be made very welcome

Parents Support Group

We are delighted that about eight parents have volunteered to attend at least one pack evening during the term which allows us to do so much more with the group both in and out of doors. Matthew Smith who currently chairs the group will be holding a meeting at approximately 7:30pm on the 10th September to agree the roster and it would be really helpful if we could have a few more volunteers, you never know you might enjoy it!!

In addition I am sure I can speak for all the leaders when I say that we are always on the lookout for new ideas and activities so if you have any suggestions that you feel would benefit the pack or the group please let one of us know, or bring it up during the meeting.

Geoff & Diane Marlow; 01291 641407;
geoffmarlow@btinternet.com

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**RAINBOWS,
BROWNIES, GUIDES and RANGERS are going
'GOLD'**

During the week of September 21st -27th all Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Ranger Units within Gwent will be *'going GOLD'* in their meeting places.

They will be inviting parents and members of the local communities to come and have a fun evening by joining in some of their 'gold' activities.

They will be telling everyone about Guiding in the hope that more people will be encouraged to become leaders or help in some other way.

They will also be recruiting girls to join their unit, although in some places this might not be immediately possible because of the need for leaders.

The whole of *Gwent Guiding goes GOLD* on Saturday, September 27th with activities in town centres and village squares, - so if you see us please come and talk to us.

Look out for our posters during the week and contact us if you would like to know more.

If interested please telephone 0800 1 69 59 01 or email- guiding@live.co.uk. There is just as much fun and friendship in Guiding for the adults as there is for the girls.

Nick Bruce

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Shirenewton W.I.

We all look forward to our annual garden party hosted by Winnie and Ernie Jones. When July 10th came; were we to get garden party weather? We did get some sunshine, just long enough for our members to look at Ernie and Winnie's lovely garden and ponder over Ernie's quizzes, then came the rain. So we retired inside to enjoy strawberries and cream, wine and fruit juice, and to find out how well we had done with the quizzes. If you guessed the weight of the potatoes, the number of pea pods or the right number of sweet pea stems, that's what you won. It was really good fun and some of the right answers were quite a surprise. We all enjoyed the brainteasers:- two trays of objects to identify, a name to find made from the first letter of flowers in the garden and the name for a bear from a list of clues.

Winnie and Ernie Jones provided us with another fantastic evening and the rain stopped in time for us to have another look at the garden as we said goodbye.

In August we like to go out for a summer dinner. This year we booked at the 'Rat Trap' near Usk. I'm sure we were all watching the weather as Thursday 14th drew nearer. Were we to get a nice evening out or were we to put on our coats and battle the rain. The evening was beautiful, we gathered at the 'Rat Trap' enjoying the lovely warm sun and watching a glider doing lazy turns low in the sky (Usk gliding club is just down the road). The setting was lovely, the food was great and the service was friendly and very good. Twenty of us went and we all had a lovely evening which remained warm and fine for our homeward journey topped by an almost full moon to light our way.

Our next meeting is 7:15 pm on the 11th September at the Rec. Hall, there is a change of speaker to that in our programme. Don't forget to bring books, plants etc. for the sales table.

New members are always welcome.

Diana Such

To try to make hay in poor weather was a nightmare, and it was always much harder work making poor hay than making good hay. When hay was made in good weather the satisfaction from the nice "rattle" of the drying grass gave confidence for the following winter.

These days silage has taken over from haymaking as it is a more efficient way of conserving the grass as winter feed and to an extent, the making of silage is not quite so dependent on the weather as haymaking, but sunshine always enables the farmer to make better quality silage.

The making and feeding of silage is now in nearly all cases totally mechanised, and this is very necessary with the dwindling labour force on farms, many people have left farms to go and find the higher financial rewards and more sociable hours available elsewhere, and this has resulted in the remaining work force having to look after more livestock per man. Unfortunately silage making is not so friendly to the wild life, ground-nesting birds could still be hatching their eggs and young animals may not be able to get away from the fast moving machinery. Another problem that arises with silage making is that because the grass is harvested much younger it is more succulent and therefore contains more moisture, and although much of this moisture is dried off in the fields the grass when put into the silage pit or clamp does produce an effluent, and it is essential that this effluent is not allowed to enter water courses as it will de-oxygenate the water and result in the death of fish. The National Rivers Authority (N.R.A), are very vigilant in checking the condition of the water and if they find a farmer has been responsible for polluting a watercourse they can impose very heavy fines on that farmer.

We live in changing times, the production of food was at one time the paramount consideration, now it seems that care of the environment is the pacemaker. My idea of a perfect summer would be ten days hot dry weather (not above 70°), followed by two days gentle rain, but I know we just have to manage.

In spite of the unpredictability of the U.K. weather I think we have a lot to be thankful for, and for me there is no better place to live than great Britain.

Thanks again to Peter Bartlett who has generously supplied us with the texts for these articles.

Details of the books can be obtained from myself (Ernie Jones) on 01291 641557 or from Peter Bartlett on 01291 641661.

COUNTRY LIFE IN OUR COUNTY

We continue with some extracts from one of Mr Ernie Jones books on life in the Countryside. Coming towards the end of summer, it would seem appropriate to include and extract on "Summer weather" from the "Four Seasons"

Summer weather, like the weather at any time of the year in the United Kingdom summer weather is quite unpredictable, bad weather in the summer when the farmer is trying to harvest his crops is very disappointing. One thing is quite certain and that is that on a mainly livestock farm there has never been much profit made in a drought. I can still remember very vividly the summer of 1976, this was a very worrying time with no grass for the animals to graze and no fodder to conserve for winterfeed, and all the farm looking like a parched desert, I took some photographs at that time and when I look at them now I find it hard to believe that this was the U.K.

On a farm it is not very likely that a farmer can say that there are no problems, if there is not something amiss with the animals then the chances are that there is a problem with the crops, and this happens despite all the farmers efforts to do things correctly, probably it is natures way of showing that she is still in charge. I found that it paid handsomely to walk around the farm regularly, I would then see things that would not be noticed in the general course of the work day farming operations, such as a crop in need of some special treatment or an animal in need of that little bit of extra attention. Also I would see how pleasant this county of Gwent is to live in, and I would realise that every cloud has a silver lining.

As a youth I can remember the saying that three days hot weather would be followed by a thunderstorm, and I can remember that this was often the case. The sequence would be three hot cloudless days and then the clouds would gather, the air would become very still and oppressive and the weather would break. In recent years the weather seems to stay settled for longer periods without breaking with thunderstorms.

I have kept records of the weather over the last twenty years and I have noticed that the weather in the autumn is more settled than it is in other seasons. For the farmer especially the livestock farmer good weather for haymaking was essential, because the hay harvest was the major food for all the livestock in winter.

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