

READERS AND SIDES-PERSONS ROTA

DATE	SERVICE	READER	SIDES-PERSON
1st Nov 9.30 am	All Saints Day Eucharist	Margaret Lock Lisa Morton	Margaret Lock Lisa Morton
8th Nov 10.45 am	Remembrance Day Service Cenotaph		
15th Nov 9.30 am	2nd Sunday before Advent Eucharist	James Loney Bob Gratton	James Loney Bob Gratton
22nd Nov 9.30 am	Christ the King Eucharist	Barbara Davies Auriol Horton	Barbara Davies Auriol Horton
29th Nov	Group Service Caerwent		
6th Dec 9.30 am	Second Sunday of Advent	Mike Peirce Ruth Savagar	Mike Peirce Claire Lewis
13 Dec 9.30 am	Third Sunday of Advent	Cynthia Smith Kevin Bounds	Cynthia Smith Kevin Bounds
20th Dec 9.30 am	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Diane Marlowe John Nicholas	Bernice Bowen Diane Marlow
24th Dec 11.30 pm	Christmas Day	Sally Saysell Andrew Baker	Allan Saysell John Nicholas
25th Dec 10.00 am	Christmas Morning Family Service		
27th Dec 9.30 am	John, Apostle & Evangelist Group Service in Shirenewton	Sally Saysell Andrew Baker	Claire Lewis Cynthia Smith

Shirenewton & Newchurch Parish Magazine Nov. 2009

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



The Church of St. Thomas à Becket Shirenewton

Priest in Charge.	Revd. Dr. William Ingle - Gillis	424984
Curate	Rev. Nansi Davies	01633 400519
Church Wardens:	Sally Saysell	641369
	Andrew Baker	641925
	Mrs Susan Lenthall	Newchurch 626389
PCC Secretaries:	Jane Smith-Haddon	641525
	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
Church Hall Booking	John Nicholas	641368
Mothers Union:	Auriol Horton	641844
Child Protection Officer:	John Waters	641449
Church Flowers:	Maureen Moody	641524
Parish Magazine Editor	Terry Walters	641338
200 CLUB	Pauline Dutton	641677

Names to Note

Community Council	John Eede (Chairman)	
Clerk to Community Council	Carole Jones	641791
W1:	Claire Lewis	
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 Cow burn	01633 642068
	e mail: michael.cowburn@gwent.pnn.police.uk	
Shirenewton & Mynyddbach	Beverley Moore	641532
Earlswood	Sue Leat	641207

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2nd Nov	Shirenewton Community Council
5th Nov	Whist Drive
8th Nov	Remembrance Service Earlswood Hall
8th Nov	Armistice Service at Shirenewton War Memorial
9th Nov	Shirenewton Historical Society Resource Meeting
11th Nov	Mother Union Meeting
16th Nov	Shirenewton Community Council—Priorities of Local People Meeting
20th Nov	"It's Behind You" Itton Hall
24th Nov	Shirenewton Historical Society Monthly Meeting
25th Nov	Community Luncheon Club at the Tredegar Arms
26th Nov	Focolare Informal Home Group Meeting

For further detail on all the above see inside the magazine.

Please send your notes, & emails for the December magazine to Terry Walters "Bywood" Mynyddbach, Chepstow, NP16 6RW (01291 641338) or email to terencewalters@hotmail.com by Thursday 19th November.



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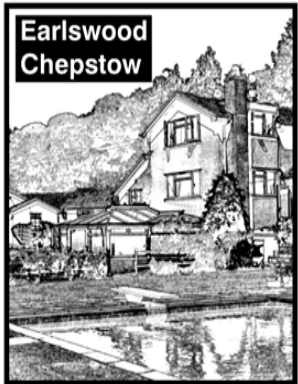
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Dear Friends,

I've just had a letter from the Bishop of Monmouth. It seems that a group called the English Defence League are planning a trip to Newport to protest the purchase of a redundant building from the United Reformed Church by the local Shia mosque. I suspect the local press will devote many column-inches to this story as it unfolds in days to come, and so I am writing this month to offer my Christian perspective: 'EDL, take your hate speech elsewhere.'

I used to worship in that church building, actually. I was a member of St. Paul's (Anglican) Church in Newport, and our own building had been declared unsafe two decades before. Although St. Paul's has since re-opened, at the time when I was there, we held services in the basement of the United Reformed Church by their congregation's generosity. The point being: I do not address the present matter from afar. I know the space well.

And what I, as a Christian minister, would like to ask the English Defence League is this: if they are as keen as they say to 'defend Christianity' and the 'English way of life' (in Wales, no less!), where were they, then, when that Christian congregation grew too small to support themselves in that building and had to close? What did the EDL do to help those loving and generous people to keep their church alive? The answer is: *Nothing*. Not one dang thing. It's blissfully easy for carpetbaggers to parachute into a town that is not their own, stir up tensions where there were very few before, and then depart. But let's not pretend it's for the sake of defending Christianity in a nation where football gets many times more attendance on a Sunday morning than church does.

Don't get me wrong: I was very sad when that church closed. As generous as they were to my own congregation, I know more than most that they did not deserve it. But that mosque is not their enemy, nor ours. (In fact, once, when I was a junior clergyman, the Muslims who worship there reached out to host us for a day of common prayer and peace ... and a wonderful meal. These people are not stereotypes.) In the end, that Church didn't close because the Muslims are threatening 'our' way of life. It closed because too many people reckoned that Church is a Good Thing -- but then left others to turn up week by week and carry Christ's message of peace.

Blessings,
Fr. Will

FROM THE REGISTERS

A funeral service took place in St. Thomas a Becket Church Shirenewton on Wednesday the 23rd of September of Ivor Alfred Williams.

A THANK YOU FROM THE MCFARLANE FAMILY

Lyn, John and Rob would like to say a very big thank you to all our friends who offered sympathy and help and sent so many cards, letters and flowers after Ian's death. It was very comforting to know that there was so much support and friendship also shown by all the folk who helped with Ian's funeral in so many ways.

Thank you as well to the church for the use of the new hall.

A MESSAGE FROM BOB

Thank you so much for all your get well wishes and prayers for me during my illness. We have been overwhelmed by all your concern and kindness. I'm now well on the way to recovery.

I would also like to thank Terry for taking over the Magazine
Bob

PS

Bob has been transferred to Chepstow Community Hospital which will make things a little easier for his family.

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY LUNCHEON CLUB

Please book early to secure your place for lunch on Wednesday 25th November.

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SHIRENEWTON HARVEST LUNCH

Once again we managed to fill Earlswood Hall. We hope that the 100 plus people who attended enjoyed the fare and, as ever, the support was tremendous. Our thanks go to all the ladies of the village who made and served the lunch and, 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, once again, managed to get top price for all the produce and raised over £500 for the 1st Rifles, Beachley.

Barbara Davies for obtaining such magnificent raffle prizes and raising over £190.

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

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

Tickets for next year's event will be available from the box office from mid August so make a note in your diaries!

Margaret and Pauline

WHIST DRIVES

Regretfully our numbers were decimated by illness and holidays in October with only 6 full tables plus one floating! However all who did attend had an enjoyable evening. The next Drives will be on the 5th November; then our Christmas Special on the 3rd December and we will start 2010 on the 7th January. All will be held at The Recreation Hall at 7.30 p.m. The minimum payment of £2.00 includes refreshments and raffle and all profits go to support the Recreation Hall Funds.

We are still low on local players and new players are always welcomed. Enquiries to Auriol Horton 01291 641844

EARLSWOOD & NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL

Will be holding a Remembrance Service on Sunday 8th November at 10:30am. All are welcome. Refreshments afterwards.

GWENT BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2009

Judges scoring sheet

		Max Marks	Marks awarded
1	The appearance and condition of the village centre, village green, playing field, churchyard/cemetery, bus shelter, surrounds	35	31
2	Condition of hedges, fences and walls adjacent to and surrounding buildings and gardens; the cleanliness of verges	20	17
3	Tidiness of flower and vegetable gardens, allotments and the neat appearance of outhouses and sheds	20	16
4	Bonus marks for the general appearance of the village including conservation areas (noting the absence of litter and unsightly refuse dumps). Marks for unsightly garages/petrol stations or other commercial properties should be deducted from any bonus marks awarded	25	22
	TOTAL	100	86

JUDGES COMMENTS:

The hall surrounds, sports field and children's play area were all litter free and well cared for.

The Redd Landes was immaculate as usual and was a pleasure to view. The area around the Memorial was much improved as was the footpath leading to the churchyard entrance.

The Churchyard retained its natural area which looks attractive, the remaining areas were cut and well tended. The outside of the Church boundary wall was also weed free and was much improved.

The Tredegar Arms Car Park was improved and was now virtually litter free.

There were some attractive baskets to the frontage of the property.

The Tan House was litter free and the adjacent area at Tan House Court was cleared. This area could be so attractive with some planting.

We enjoyed viewing many fine gardens within the village.

We congratulate you on the continued improvements that you have made within your community.

The team members deserve fulsome praise.

Talking of bees I lost one weak hive, as a result of wasps stealing the bees honey, and not being strong enough to fight them off. The other seven hives are looking well and I recently treated them in order to help them fight off pests and diseases. I need to treat them once more, before I shut the hives down for the winter, and the bees take a well earned rest. Too bad I can't do the same!

Happy gardening until next month.

Steve Hunt

in the garden, as she rarely is down on her hands and knees! So it looks like it is all down to me. There are a couple of jostaberries in the cage as well. These are a blackcurrant crossed with a gooseberry, and although lovely to eat, especially in pies, they are very vigorous and must be at least ten feet tall and just as wide across. Now I really do need to sort them out big time, so it might be a chainsaw massacre case! The rhubarb has also been in the same place for a number of years now and has lost its vigour. I will shortly be digging the clumps up and laying these on the ground surface. Here they will stay for the duration of the winter so that they get well frosted – well hopefully anyway. In early spring, I'll take a sharp spade to the clumps, cut off the newer bits and throw the old on the compost heap, planting the rest in another area of the garden.

With the promise of rain on the horizon it was a case of getting started with the flowerbeds last weekend, first being those near to the house. I have removed all the weeds, mainly buttercup, and any old plants out of the way, which has cleared some nice areas. I sowed some verbascums and dwarf foxgloves earlier in the year and these have now made some strong plants. I've planted some of these in clumps to hopefully provide for a nice show next summer. In between I have planted as many wallflowers as I could fit in. These were sown in early summer this year, and pricked into cells to grow on for a few weeks. They then had their tops pinched out in order to encourage them to bush out into nice plants, and were transplanted out in the garden. These have now made some fantastic plants, probably the best that I have grown. They should be robust enough to survive anything the winter can throw at them and will flower next spring, often providing the bees with their first full bounty of food.

GWENT BEST KEPT VILLAGE 2009

Prize Money

As reported in last month's magazine, Shirenewton won the 2009 title of Gwent Best Kept Village in the 51-350 category. **The prize this year is £150.** It has been suggested that we ask residents of Shirenewton how they would like the money spent to enhance the village with a view to retaining the title next year.

A small committee will determine which of the suggestions will be taken up. The owner of the most popular suggestion will receive a prize!

Your suggestion can be e mailed to commcouncilclerk@aol.com

or sent to Carole Jones, Church House, Shirenewton 641791

or Cllr Beverley Moore, 6 tan House Court, Shirenewton 641532

Once again, a huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way.

Carole Jones

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

INVITATION TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

In a move to continue to improve communication between local organisations and the Council, Shirenewton Community Council invites you to join with them in a discussion about the priorities of local people.

Councillors would welcome representatives from your organisation to

Shirenewton Recreation Hall on Monday 16th November at 7.30pm

Currently the Community Council's three key objectives for the year are, through improved communication with Monmouthshire Community Council,

1. Resolution of the provision of allotments
2. Resolution of provision of village shop
3. To lobby Highways department for the instigation of Traffic Calming measures.

Letters have already been sent to many local organisations but if your organisation has not been included, I apologise for this, but it may be because information held is not current.

If your organisation has not received a letter it would be very much appreciated if you could provide the Clerk with details for future use.

If representatives from your organisations will be attending the meeting please advise the Clerk.

Carole Jones. Clerk

commcouncilclerk@aol.com

Church House, Shirenewton.

COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Earlswood Hall Monday 5th October—Glynis MacDonald

Police report - 6th September to 3rd October

- 9/9 - Blue Pickup collecting scrap metal in Mynyddbach.
 - 9/9 - White flatbed lorry looking for scrap metal in Earlswood.
 - 9/9 - Dog found at the Recreation Hall, Shirenewton.
 - 17/9 - poor dog hit by a car B4235 near Shirenewton. It ran off.
 - 18/9 - A faulty alarm in Shirenewton.
 - 22/9 - 3 motorbikes on a footpath near Earlswood.
 - 23/9 - Male seeking to tarmac a drive at Earlswood.
 - 29/9 - 4 Irish males trying to steal a horse near Earlswood.
 - 30/9 - Rubbish dumped on the B4235 near Shirenewton.
 - 30/9 - Elderly female telephoned to try to obtain building work.
 - 2/10 - Suspicious vehicle heard late at night near Shirenewton.
 - 2/10 - Neighbour dispute at Shirenewton.
 - 2/10 - White Ford Transit looking for scrap metal Penycycaemawr.
- It was suggested that those who own horses and/or ponies pay extra attention at the moment. And to be aware of the 'surplus tarmac man'

Planning

1. Pentwyn Bach, Newchurch West.
Proposed replacement dwelling. Approval recommended
2. The Oaks farm, Red House Lane, Shirenewton
Plans amended. Approval recommended
3. Batwell House (formally Chware Teg) Usk Road, Shirenewton
Amendment to previous planning, Approval recommended

Items of Local Concern

- Shirenewton won the Best Kept Village!! Again! The prize is £150. (Last time I think we won a tree) It was thought that local people might like to give their ideas on how this dosh should be spent. Ideas please to any of your councillors. Also special votes of thanks went to David Adams who helps keep the village so trim. And also thanks to the WI. Councillors for Mynyddbach wondered if next year they could enter their patch.
- There was concern that litter has been left on the Rec by visiting football players. And even more unpleasant...footballers have been seen....weeing.. on the pitch. *(This is not on. The Rec has just spent a lot of money on drainage of the recreation field ...)*

then fed with blood, fish and bone -a good old fashioned and despite the sound of it, organic fertiliser. I swear by this, and never bother with any other processed fertiliser, such as Growmore. The onion and shallot sets were just lightly pushed into the ground so just the tops show above. The garlic is broken down into individual cloves and these are then planted some two inches deep. People think that garlic loves a hotter climate .than we can provide in this country, but they actually need a period when they are subject to cold weather in order for them to mature properly. Hence the reason for planting this time of year. I have grown garlic for a number of years now and always had good results, even using my own saved cloves some years. This season I decided to start with some new in order to help keep the vigour going. I've gone for two new varieties that are bred and grown on the Isle of Wight and so are more suitable for the home climate. I've chosen what they call a hard-neck and also a soft-neck variety. The hard-neck types tend to have a more intense, garlic flavour but tend not to keep very long, so must be used almost straight away. The soft-neck types are slightly milder, but can be kept a lot longer and will normally keep into the spring in a good year. In the fruit garden I have loads of work in front of me. The most important is sorting out the fruit cage, which currently is a shambles. The netting needs totally removing and some of the frame needs replacing. Once this is done I need to sort out the plants. Most of the raspberries have escaped from their beds and are shooting up just about everywhere else. The original stock is pretty well dead now, so I need to completely weed the beds, remove the old roots and replant with the new ones that have come up where I don't want them. Normally I'd have the help of the under gardener in this sort of task, but she has a poorly knee at the moment, and will likely need an operation to keep her going for a few more years! It seems that some cartilage has torn away and is grating between the bone and the knee cap. I have to say this was not inflicted

Gardening Corner Continued overleaf...

GARDENING CORNER

November is just around the corner and already next year's seed catalogues are tumbling through the letter box. Well they would be if we had one – a letter box that is! We are a long way off the 'main' road, so our mail gets dumped in a receptacle at the end of the drive. We try to collect each day, otherwise we end up having to remove various earwigs, slugs and assorted spiders and beetles from among, or sometimes even within the mail itself. All part of the joy of living 'in the sticks' I guess! So the catalogues, yes well as always there are a lot of interesting and new introductions to tempt the gardener for next year. I have no particular loyalty to any individual company, so I tend to trawl through all of them, marking things that tempt me, then compare the prices to the number of seed that is being purchased, and then try to select from each on the basis of value for money. At one time ordering seed for the garden did not seem that an expensive past time, but things are now very different. In an average year I probably spend some £200 on seed, onion sets and the like. This may seem like a lot of money, but when you consider that we have been almost entirely self sufficient in vegetables and salad stuff since the beginning of May, this is still good value for money. There are still plenty of vegetables to come too, so I regard that as very good value for money.

Some seed and onion sets were ordered much earlier, as these need to go in the ground or in pots in early autumn. I sowed all the sweet pea seed ready for next summer. I've found that these do much better and are stronger plants, if they have to endure the rigours of winter cold. What's more you don't need a greenhouse for them either, just germinate in pots on the kitchen windowsill, and then move outside to a sheltered spot – not forgetting to water them of course if they aren't going to catch a lot of rain! In addition to these I have received the onion and shallot sets, as well as the garlic. Whilst it was still dry, I was able to clear some of the raised beds of the previous crop and random weeds. The soil was

- The Council will ensure that the Memorial Path from the War Memorial to the church will be properly cleared of moss ready for the Armistice Service to held on Sunday 8th November.
- Councillor Eede – our Council Chairman attended the Civic Service for the new Mayor of Chepstow.

Clerk's Report Oct 5th - an Update on Carried Forward Items

The Clerk gave an update on the latest proceedings re: the Allotments and Affordable Housing Issue in Blethyn Close:-
Now I could be overstepping my remit but it could be seen that there has been a horrible breakdown of communication and trust over MCC's handling of this issue. As mentioned in many, many issues of the parish mag, there has been a long held desire by local people to have the land for allotments and despite the fact that the land in question used to be allotment land, and despite objections by local people as to the inappropriateness of that particular piece of land being used for 'affordable housing', and despite there being better sites for affordable housing in the immediate locality, and despite the company wishing to build the houses not having been registered before putting in its application to build, and despite SCC trying desperately hard to secure this land for allotments, it does seem as if MCC are determined to have their own way as to what they want to do with this small patch. Of course, social housing is important but the way that MCC have dealt with this matter over the years has hardly been sparkling. What a long history of failure to respond to emails or telephone calls or letters, or confused answers or misinformation, or doing things not in accordance with procedures..... it's gone on for absolutely ages.

At tonight's meeting, almost every councillor on Shirenewton Community Council seemed dismayed at the way MCC has handled this issue on every level. Even our own Monmouthshire Councillor, Graham Down seemed frustrated and read out his very strongly worded letter to MCC outlining his deep concern over the way the issue has been handled. All very glum really.

Next meeting will be on Monday 2nd November 2009 again up at Earlswood Hall at 7.30. Hopefully my colleague Alison will be doing the report. I may have been sacked.

SHIRENEWTON REMEMBERED

On the occasion of our Golden Wedding Anniversary, my wife and I, together with our daughters, Jackie and Karen and our grandsons, Miles and David, visited what we term 'our' Church, St Thomas A Becket, Shirenewton at the date and time of our marriage 50 years ago on 3rd October.

What a day of wonderful memories. To visit the Church was something very special.

The Church was immaculate as always and as our youngest grandson commented 'it's a great church'.


Why do we use the term 'our' Church? My wife is Christine Harper (nee Miles) who was born and lived until our marriage at 2 Oakview, Mynydd Bach. She was Christened and Confirmed in the Church as well as being a member of the Church Choir, and also married at the Church. One of our daughters and one grandson were also Christened there. Additionally, her parents, Horace and Lilian Miles are laid to rest in the Cemetery as was her great grandmother. Her grandfather, Sgt William Miles, who was killed in the First World War, is also commemorated in the Church and on the War Memorial.

Although we have lived all over the world since our marriage our roots have always been in the village to which we return as often as possible and visit the Church quite often. As you can imagine, our visit this time was something very special.

Though we now live in Shrewsbury, The Parish Magazine, published on the internet keeps us in touch with all that is going on and long may it do so.

Regards to all

Brian and Christine Harper
Shrewsbury




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SAMFAL

Mid October and we are well into Autumn and a sustained patch of high pressure has brought us some glorious days of sunshine; in fact personally I would rather have this type of weather now than in high Summer when I find the heat uncomfortable and oppressive. Most migratory birds are now well on their way, although this morning (16 October) I did see a couple of house martins flying high hoping to gather protein in the form of what insect life that is still about in small swarms.

The management of the fields is slowly progressing and Mike Sayce and myself had a site meeting with a man from the council Right of Way department to ensure we all agreed on where our Public Rights of Way are and the implications of us creating what are known as "Permitted Rights of Way". The verbal bit of the meeting reached a satisfactory conclusion and we proceeded to walk the fields to establish where we will erect self-closing gates, farm gates and stiles. All being well the stock-proof fences should be up by Christmas.

As most people will be aware- indeed all of our members will- last month we suffered the loss of one of our founder and committee members Ian McFarlane. It is my opinion, and I am sure that of the committee, that our association would not have got off the ground, let alone be where it is now without his time, hard work and typical attention to detail. He was a man who could not sit still and whatever he took on, whether it be local history, amateur archaeology, bureaucracy or claiming money back from people who'd served him badly, he took on with terrier-like tenacity. Anyone, (and I know there are many) who were invited to-or as was often the case, were just passing by- The Cayo will be witness to the open-handed hospitality offered by Ian and Lyn juxtaposed with his complete inability to suffer fools and his perfect ability to cheat at croquet whilst making his opponent feel the transgressor. I have spent many an hour in his company, discussing, debating with, baiting and yes, hating this friend who for me is irreplaceable. A man of intellect and discretion. Anyone wishing to discuss fields, fencing, footpaths or "Time as a Man-made Concept" please do not hesitate to call me on 641773 or mike@shirenewton.org or Mike Sayce on 641625 I do not have his email- I believe he has only just mastered the art of licking stamps! (sorry Mike, considering your present condition!)

STARGAZING IN NOVEMBER '09

The familiar seven stars of the Plough lie to the North in the evening sky. The cross shape of Cygnus the Swan is high in the western sky. The "W" of Cassiopeia lies nearly overhead in the Milky Way. The Milky Way is a faint band of light visible on clear dark nights. It is the combined light of an enormous number of stars that make up our galaxy. Present estimates reckon the number of stars to be between 100 and 400 billion.

The very bright morning star low in the south-east is the planet Venus. Slightly yellow Saturn lies above and to the right of Venus. Viewed through a telescope, Saturn and its rings are an awesome sight. The great Italian scientist Galileo was the first to view Saturn through a telescope in 1610. He was able to see it wasn't a perfect sphere. He thought he could see two moons on Saturn's sides. It was not until Christian Huygen used greater telescopic magnification in 1655, that they were seen to be rings.

Mars is yellow to orange in colour and is higher in the morning sky not far below the twin stars Castor and Pollux in the constellation of Gemini the Twins.

The evening sky is dominated by the planet Jupiter in the south-west. The moon is a good pointer for finding the planets. On the morning of 9th November the Moon is at last quarter and is below Saturn. In the evening of 23rd November, the waxing crescent Moon is just to the right of Jupiter.

Dave Thomas

RESULTS OF THE 200 CLUB DRAW

September 09

229	Beverly Moore	£40
48	James Bounds	£30
151	Tony Bental	£20
33	Stewart Dutton	£10

October 09

93	Sandra Morris	£40
59	Ann McLane	£30
183	Martin Milling	£20
62	JDW Pickles	£10

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EARLSWOOD & NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

Earlswood Hall is set for a busy Autumn with Soul'd Out on October 3rd, two harvest festivals, several private parties, Community Council meetings and Remembrance Sunday on 8th November.

The hall already has several bookings for 2010 so please call Glynis MacDonald on 641818 to book your event or find out more about the facilities at the hall.

Simon Stanley
Chairman

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Torch Light Carol Service

Tintern Abbey

With The Martin Singers

In aid of Barnardos

7 pm, Monday December 14th, 2009

Assemble at The Abbey Hotel, Tintern from 6 pm

Torches and Carol Sheets for sale

Dress up warmly and be prepared for the weather

as this is held in the open air

Chepstow Folk Dance Club

Every WEDNESDAY

7.30– 9.30

Beaufort Arms Hotel -
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Further details from 01291 641 537

LIVING TO WORK—OR—WORKING TO LIVE

From the September 2009 edition of the Parish Magazine we continue the notes of Ernest Jones.

Our thanks to Ernie for sharing these notes with us and for Peter Bartlett who carried out the original editing. This series of books (some 8 of them) are available to order from Peter Partlet or Ernie Jones.

Chapter 1 "Some of my Thoughts" continued.....

There always have been evils, we have only to remember the episode of Joseph and his coat of many colours, and what a despicable thing for those brothers to do to their Father. There are many evils in our age, the first of which is the break down of family life. The basis of a good family life is where the husband and wife are legally married and the children grow up in a stable and loving environment, and the parents set the example of how the children should behave. We all disagree with one another from time to time, to my mind one of the greatest virtues is to have respect for others, to respect their point of view and have concern for their well being. One of the failures is when the man of the house goes to the pub drinking and spending money that should be spent in the home, the wife rightly gets annoyed and rows start. Women do make mistakes, unfortunately many women are obliged to go out to work, and some are tempted to break the family rules. I have often thought with a large number of people on the dole and a lot of them are men, would it not be better for the critical years when the children are young for the mothers to be paid to stay at home and these men put to work. It is vital as the guidance of the mother is so important that when the children come home from school the mother is there to enquire how school is going and to show loving care, instead of the children returning to a dead and empty house. To some this may appear as too sympathetic and too romantic an idea, very often in life there are basic simple solutions to serious problems. The second evil of modern life is drinking which in excess is not only stupid in that it brings about poverty, but it also affects people's health and really speaking it is just plainly a sign of being weak willed.

Smoking is another of life's evils, I myself was a smoker, and at one stage when we worked alone for long hours, up to fourteen hours a day seven days a week, it was a habit that did fill a need and one thing in its favour, it did not affect ones work or judgment in the short term, and in those

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Saturday December 12th 2009 at 7.30pm
St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow
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Alison Wray (Soprano) Peter Cook (Organ)

PASSIONTIDE CONCERT

Sunday March 21st 2010 at 7.30 pm
St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow
M Charpentier : Te Deum WA Mozart: Missa Brevis in B Flat
J S Bach: Magnificat
With CCS Orchestra

SUMMER FESTIVAL CELEBRATION CONCERT

Wednesday June 30th 2010
S Coleridge-Taylor: Hiawatha's Wedding
C V Stanford: Songs of the Fleet A Borodin: Polovtsian Dances
Craig Downes (Tenor) Roger Martin (Baritone)
Marjorie Duerden (Piano)

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(no. 1127098). Further information, please tel. 01291 623310.

days fifty years ago there was not any information or advice to say that smoking was in any way harmful to health. There is I believe in some people a definite risk to health, although as many can testify there are those who have indulged in the habit all their lives and still live to a ripe old age. I found when I was tractor driving as a young man with a very poor social life, strange to say I enjoyed a cigarette. During the war when sweets were on the ration, when there were sweet coupons, I never saw mine they were used by other members of the family. Although never a heavy smoker I gave it up some years ago. By far the greatest evil in this modern age (1996), are drugs. Drugs are the most serious of all vices, not only is it a sinister affliction in that people start on a mild form, they get hooked and gradually they progress to stronger drugs. Not only is it an expensive habit; the most serious part about it is that it changes the personality of the user; they will resort to crime and violence to obtain the money to buy the drugs to satisfy their craving. It does really come down to will power and strength of character. The sad thing is that there are those who are weak willed and should be helped, as stupid as they appear as they appear to be unable to help themselves. The real culprits are those who deal in drugs either by growing or producing them, and worst of all those who sell the drugs. I would say that a law should be passed and well advertised, that anyone caught dealing in drugs would have all their property confiscated and put in jail for a minimum period of twenty five years, any further breaking of the rules would automatically result in an increased sentence.

To return to the first part of the title there is no doubt that there are certain forms of work that are repetitive and mundane where each day has been much the same as the previous day and the following day will also be no different. Fortunately I have never been in that situation and I can fully understand that that would be an example of working to live. With due respect to mankind very much of this repetitive work has been taken over by automation, and I do marvel how bottles on a conveyor belt can be filled and capped, newspapers stacked and office work could be printed much clearer than me pushing this pen along the lines on a sheet of paper. This is all very good providing that the time that has been saved can be used in some worthwhile way. Man has always been a creative being, I would like at this stage as I have in earlier written work to state that, by man I mean human beings of both genders, male and female.

'DICK WHITTINGTON'



Earlswood Hall

Thursday 21st January 2010

Friday 22nd January 2010

Saturday 23rd January 2010

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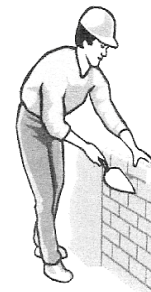
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**Itton Village Hall
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from the 'Beyond the Border Storytelling
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Entertainment for Adults and older
children – a new and amusing look at old
pantomime stories.

Friday 20th November 7.30pm
(please note this new date)

Tickets at door: Adults £6.00 Students £4.00
Disabled facilities, ample parking

Sponsored by the Welsh Arts Council

The fund-raising Fashion Show at St Mary's Priory Hall was attended by about 120 people. The venue and refreshments were great, as so also our spending ! The money raised from the ticket sales went to the MU fund for struggling communities around the world - about £1000. This was a Diocesan event - thank you to all the organisers.

Samaritans Purse

At the October MU meeting we welcomed Alan Wood from "Samaritans Purse", the organisation behind the annual 'Shoe Box' Christmas appeal. Samaritans Purse works in Eastern Europe, Africa and Indonesia, also on Emergency work, e.g. now after the recent earthquake and Tsunami in the Pacific.

Communities, Churches, schools and individuals all support the shoe box appeal which gives children sometimes the first Christmas present they have ever had, and maybe the only one they will ever get. Churches in the various countries are the local partners. Local governments also offer support and guidance about distribution. Many children are orphans, some have alcoholic parents or affected by HIV and Aids.

Alan's slide show gave us a feel of how much pleasure and joy these boxes are giving, and encouraged us to pack a box again this year. Each year 70% of the children have never received a box before. Alan's one plea was if you would like to do a box, consider doing one for a boy aged between 10- 14 yrs as they are always short of those. Leaflets with instructions can be obtained from Caerwent Post Office, the Baptist Chapel and the Parish Church. They need to be completed and handed in by the first week of November.

November meeting

Wed. 11 November 2.30 p.m. Shirenewton Church Room. Our Vicar, Will is to be the speaker.

Rosemary Carey, MU Branch Leader 01291 425 010

Focolare informal Home Group meets at 3pm on Thursday 26 November at 83 Wentwood View Caldicot. Contact Rosemary Carey 425 010

NERYS'S NATTY NOSH

November brings with it a frost that works wonders on parsnips and a crop of tart cranberries and buttery chestnuts with which to fill pies and pastries. This is a recipe I made last Christmas using tinned chestnuts and cranberry puree.

Chestnut Truffle Cake (moderate cooking) (vegetarian dish + gluten free)

Preparation Time: 30 minutes .

Chilling 24 hrs .

Serves 8

*400g tin cooked chestnuts
100g caster sugar
100g butter, chopped into cubes
100g dark chocolate
3tbsp milk
1tsp vanilla extract
2tbsp cognac (optional)*

Topping

*100g chocolate
25g butter
1tbsp single cream, plus extra for serving.
Icing sugar to decorate.*

Method

1. Put the chestnuts and sugar into the food processor, process until fairly smooth.
2. Put the chocolate, butter and milk in a pan, then gently heat, stirring, until they have melted to a smooth sauce.
3. Stir in the vanilla and cognac.
4. Add to the chestnut mix in the food processor, then whiz again until fairly smooth.
5. Line a small loaf tin with cling film, then pour in the chestnut truffle mix. Smooth the top, then cover the tin with cling film.
6. Chill for 24 hrs.
7. To serve, turn the truffle cake out onto a flat plate or board. Peel off the cling film.
8. Gently melt the chocolate, butter and cream for the topping. Allow to cool slightly, then spread over the top and sides of the cake.
9. Return to the fridge to set.

Tips

1. Will keep refrigerated for up to 6 days.
2. Decorate with a dusting of icing sugar.
3. Serve cut into thin slices with berries and single cream. Alternatively serve with cold vanilla custard or ice-cream.

Enjoy!



1ST SHIRENEWTON CUB PACK

Newsletter (October)

We welcome Michael Slack, Harry Glyn, Josheph Bailey, Adam Davis and Joe Simmonds who have all joined the Pack at the start of this term. We hope they enjoy their time with us.

I am delighted to inform you that Matthew Smith has now been invested and is in uniform as an official leader. Matt has been a tremendous help during the past year and has always supported us in all our activities. During the month we have been practicing our knots, first aid, compass reading and of course games and challenges. The games have included wellie wanging and Hawaiian boat racing. As part of our badge work themed around safety, (home safety, personal safety, first aid and local knowledge) we are visiting Caldicot Fire Station to see how the experts deal with emergencies.

Can I ask you all to please make a diary note that the cubs will be parading through the village to the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday 8th November. This will be followed by a short service in the church. All remembrance days are important but I do feel this one is special to Chepstow and its local areas due to our troops, The Rifles based in Beachley, and their recent return from Afghanistan. You may not be aware that eight died and many were seriously injured during their tour of duty. Please make every effort for your cub to join us on this morning. Further details will follow.

A big thanks as always to all our helpers and supports.

Geoff

SHIRENEWTON WI OCTOBER 09

Octobers meeting provided members with not only an informative and visual experience, but a truly hands on encounter as well.

Mrs Christine Hopkins came to give us a talk and demonstration on the techniques and skill required to produce 'Mocha Ware' pottery. Christine lives in Cinderford and is one of only a handful of potters in Britain today producing Mocha Ware. Christine makes all her own pots, jugs, bowls, dishes and plaques and a whole host of other interesting items all decorated using the technique which makes them Mocha Ware and very individual items. The finished products look as though a water colour artist has finely painted bushes and trees, sky and water and reflections. The shapes of the plants and trees actually 'grow' themselves, but there is certainly a lot of skill involved as it all has to be accomplished very fast and with considerable accuracy, mistakes cannot be rubbed out. As Christine demonstrated and talked we were given examples of her finished work and items ready to decorate to pass around and examine. We were all fascinated and quite taken aback when told that we could have a go. Christine provided small square tiles for us to decorate and we will be able to keep them once they are fired. Most everyone dived in, it was great fun and gave us a real insight into the skill and effort needed. We are all looking forward to seeing our results. Christine had brought a lovely selection of her wares and several members bought items. I bought two lovely jugs thinking to use them as presents but I'm not sure I want to part with them, they are so nice. Christine very kindly gave a small jug to us for our raffle, I don't think the member who won it will be letting hers go either.

D Such



FAIRTRADE NEWS



It is a measure of the growing popularity of fair trade products that even the biggest companies want to get involved. I imagine altruism has had little to do with the fact that Cadbury's Dairy Milk is now a fairly traded product. 300 million bars are sold each year in the UK and Ireland and the switch to fair trade should benefit 46,000 cocoa and sugar farmers. I hope there will be no adverse effect on the sales of Divine chocolate bars: I suspect the two markets are, or at least were, mutually exclusive.

I am delighted of course and I suppose this should be one of my 'glass half full' moments, but as is often the case I remain absolutely flummoxed as to why otherwise apparently rational people imagine that the intermittent purchase of a box of tea or a bunch of bananas should be enough to qualify them as fully paid up members of the 'I support fair trade club'.

But yes, of course it all helps! Just buy more! As I used to say at school 'Eat Chocolate and Save the World!'

(And pasta, dried fruit, biscuits, rice, juice, jam, sugar, nuts, sweets etc etc) Don't forget in the Traidcraft catalogue food items often come in batches of 6 or even 10, but I can sell them individually. There are also lovely gifts and cards in the Christmas catalogue.

Contact me for a catalogue or more info:

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

Shirenewton Historical Society

Registered Charity No. 1090167

A very pleasant afternoon was spent visiting Kilgwrrwg Church, situated on an idyllic site, tucked away from the 21st century in a beautiful part of Monmouthshire, we all agreed how lucky we are to have such historic buildings right on our doorstep.

The society will be starting our ninth year and thanks to our faithful members we have planned another year of events and visits with something to suit everyone. If you are interested in joining please contact 641376 or 642362 for more details.

We welcomed Anne Gatehouse to our September meeting who gave us a talk on 'The Newport Transporter Bridge', there was a lot of interest as most of our members had used the bridge at some time or other and were pleased to hear that it will be back in operation next year.

Date for your November Diary:

Monday, 9th November, Resource Meeting at the Recreational Hall,
Shirenewton, 2.00pm—5.00pm

Tuesday, 24th November, Monthly Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel,
Shirenewton, the speaker will be Jonathan Jenkins the talk will be entitled
'The History and Architecture of Howick Farm' 7.30 pm.