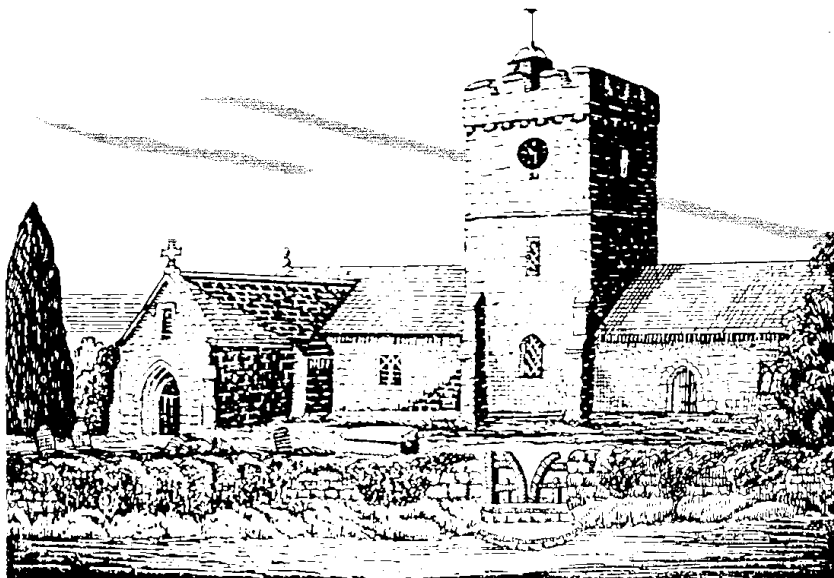


PRICE: 50P

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2004/5

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



PARISHES OF SHIRENEWTON AND NEWCHURCH

MAGAZINE

INCUMBENT:	The Revd Hugh Trenchard	424984
CURATE	The Revd Nansi Davies	01633 400519
CHURCH WARDENS:	Auriol Horton	641844
	Sally Saysell	641369
	Mrs Kath Whittington – Newchurch	641600
	Mrs Susan Lenthall – Newchurch	626389
PCC SECRETARIES:	Andrew Baker - Shirenewton	641925
	David Heritage - Newchurch	650380
PCC TREASURERS:	Kevin Bounds - Shirenewton	641818
	Enid Heritage - Newchurch	650380
GIFT AID SECRETARY	Ruth Savagar	629890
CHURCH MAINTENANCE & SAFETY OFFICER	John Nicholas	641368
ORGANISTS:	Karen Millar	650521
	Ruth Savagar	629890
	Kath Wittington	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:	Felicity Hunt	650604
PARISH MAGAZINE:	Bob O'Keefe	641686
200 Club	Pauline Dutton	641677

NAMES TO NOTE

WI:	Sally Saysell	641369
SCOUTS:	Dave Richardson	620356
GUIDES:	Helen Cann	650835
BROWNIES:	Jackie Broughton	641797
EXPLORERS:	Pete Maggs	650930
CUBS:	Diana Such	650638
BEAVERS:	Gill Norris	622703
POLICE CONTACT:	P.C. Dino Lantz	01633 838111
REC. BOOKING SECRETARY:	Beryl Saysell	641637
TRADCRAFT:	Marion McAdam	641316

Please send notes, discs or emails for the February magazine to Bob O'Keefe, 15 Newton Manor, Shirenewton, (641686) or email to bobandwenche @aol.com by Friday 21st January. **Note: - there is no magazine in January.**

November 2004.

Dear Parishioners,

This season of the year is always charged with memories and each passing year invites us to focus afresh on just what we are remembering and why we need to do so.

The horrors we have witnessed in so many deaths in Iraq, Palestine and the Sudan through deliberate violence, the fragility of life in the Caribbean, the Americas and Bangladesh by hurricane or monsoon, all these give a vivid reminder of why we need to remember.

As I write this the safety of a dedicated Aid worker Margaret Hassan is uncertain and after the evil killing of Ken Bigley and his fellow workers every one of us can doubt just where a loving God is in all this. Many throughout history have been beset with the same feelings. Yet one of the incredible features of Remembrance confirms that our God is a God who always accompanies His people.

It is the God who not only comes and experiences what it is like to be human, but the God who gives His life for the whole world, who is the God who never gives up on us and who feels the weight of evil that one human being or nation can inflict upon another. It is so tempting to picture God as somehow detached from the hideous things that happen. "Why did He let it happen? Why didn't He stop it? How can there be a God who lets such things take place?" Part of responding to such questions is first to look at our world and ourselves. Both are wondrously made and in the making there inevitable consequences. The delicate touch of an artist or surgeon can also lash out in rage and malice. The warming radiance of the sun in one place can trigger devastating conditions elsewhere such is the nature of a planet where sun and moon control our tides. It is so easy to blame anyone, especially God and the incredible thing is He still loves us. We see from the past how even some thing as evil as the Third Reich can be reduced to the evil of one man rather than accept something about the attraction of power to a whole people. God was and is with the Ken Bigleys of this world, with the victims of the Holocaust, with the millions slaughtered in the First World War, with those caught up in the genocide of Rwanda the Balkans and Sudan. It is the God who hangs on a cross who cries out to us, not in pain but in celebration, encouraging us to remember not how bad we can make our world, but how we can learn from the past and look again at what we really could be like and begin to live in a way that celebrates life and love. Our children especially need to experience the moving and meaning or true Remembrance.

With every good wish, Hugh Trenchard.

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH 200 CLUB

October Draw

123	Colin White	£40
35	Mrs. Kath Whittington	£30
142	Alison Dutton	£20
159	Ruth Savagar	£10

Come and join us!

at

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

We meet at

*The Chantry, Shirenewton (opposite the church)
from 9.45 to 10.45 on Sunday mornings.*

Here's a list of the dates for the next couple of months.

Date	Time	Venue
7 th Nov	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry
14 th Nov	9.45	Remembrance Sunday – Church
21 st Nov	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry
28 th Nov	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry
5 th Dec	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry The Advent Mini Fair
12 th Dec	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry

**Nativity Play rehearsals will begin in the middle of
November**

**If you would like more info – phone:
Jane Smith-Haddon - 01291 641 525
Glynis MacDonald - 01291 641 818**

Looking forward to seeing you

Notes from the P.C.C.

John Nicholas reported that the the roof leaks in the Church and the Parvis have been repaired.

A temporary repair has been affected on the storage shed.

The Porch has been cleared and cleaned, and will be repainted with a special lime wash. Our thanks to John Nicholas and Alan Saysell for this labour of love!

The Community Council have again agreed to contribute to towards the lighting of the Christmas Tree in the village, ready for the carol singing on 18th December at 7.00 p.m. All monies collected will go to a local charity.

The Nativity Play will be performed on Sunday 19th December at 4.00 p.m. and " **Nine Lessons**" and Carols" will be held at Caerwent Church on the same day at 7 p.m.

Christingle will be at 4.00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, with Midnight Mass at 11.30 p.m.

December 25th there will be a Eucharist Service at 10.00 a.m. as there will be no service on 26th – Boxing Day.

On 30th December there will be a **Patronal** Service at Caerwent, and on 2nd January there will be a Group Eucharist Service at Llanvair Discoed.

On Finance, Kevin Bounds reported that we were just keeping our heads above water. The Church website is proving a useful source of income.

£65,000 has been raised so far towards the extension.

10% of our income is given to Mission Giving. This year it will be shared between; The Rainbow Club, Tiger Club and Sudan Relief.

GAERLLWYD WOMEN'S MEETINGS: – AT GAERLLWYD BAPTIST CHAPEL

Meetings for November will be held on:

3rd November at 2.30 p.m. When our speaker will be Mrs. Joan Tarr.

The following meeting will be on 17th November at 2.30 when our speaker will be Mrs. Wendy Wright.

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting held 4th. October 2004

The full Council was joined by County Councillor Down, PC Lantzos and one member of the community.

Mr. Mike Barnes had come to the meeting to seek approval for an amendment to his recently submitted planning permission. Members readily agreed with his proposed change and thanked him for bringing their attention to the matter.

PC Lantzos reported on a relatively "quiet" August and September as far as he was concerned. There had been 7 reported incidents in August which included one shed burglary, one case of dangerous driving and the ongoing problem of motorcyclists in Wentwood. 13 incidents were reported in September, which included one shed burglary and one house burglary. Investigations are ongoing with regard to the burglaries. He suggested that recent problems caused by speeding motorcycles on the Usk Road had now considerably reduced, though their presence is now causing problems in other parts of the county.

PC Lantzos confirmed that monthly surgeries continue to be held alternately at Shirenewton and Earlswood Halls, the date and venue being publicised in the local press.

Matters Arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

The Tan House Inn: A representative of the Highways Department is to speak to the landlord. Members suggested that if the present form of sign is considered unacceptable maybe it could be replaced by an appropriate "brown sign".

Village Plan: This important local document is being updated by members over the next few months. If any member of the community, particularly those from Shirenewton and Mynyddbach, wish a particular aspect to be considered let the appropriate councillor know. Squeeze Belly Gate adjacent to the War Memorial. Several members are to meet a local craftsman on site to discuss the matter further.

Closure of telephone: kiosks particularly in Earlswood. BT has assured those concerned that because of the considerable response to their

proposals there is likely to be a long delay before their reply is published. It is unlikely any kiosks will be closed until that response has been finalised.

Traffic calming measures through Earlswood. Members felt the proposed measures to be totally unnecessary. A letter will be sent to the Highways Department suggesting any available funds could be used in a far more appropriate way within the community.

Planning Matters

Six applications were offered for consideration. Plans for: -

- (1) The erection of a garage at Meadow Barn, Shirenewton
- (2) A 2-storey extension at The Old Engineers Arms, Shirenewton and
- (3) An extension to Dyer's House, Itton were recommended for approval.
- (4) Members recommended approval of plans to erect a new garage at The Paddocks, Weyloed Lane provided there were specific limitations as to its future use.
- (5) A decision regarding conversion of a redundant building into a dwelling at Gaerllwyd Barn, Earlswood was deferred pending further investigations.
- (6) Rejection was recommended for the proposed infill development on land adjacent to Tre Newydd, Shirenewton.

Approval was received from Mon.CC Planning Department for an application for development work at Cae Golwg, Mynyddbach

Matters of Local Concern

It is reported that the footpath leading from Shirenewton School towards Redd Landes is muddy and not suitable for children. The matter will be investigated.

The letterbox on School Hill is in a poor state of repair. The Post Office is aware of the problem and confirm the situation will be rectified within the next 3 months.

Workmen, apparently from Mon CC, were recently stopped by a member of the public while "pruning" a weeping birch tree near Oslo, Mynyddbach. The tree was planted by the Women's Institute many years ago, is marked by a plaque, and is tended by people living in the area. The Clerk will endeavour to find out who gave instructions for the work to be carried out, and why!

Collection of recyclable domestic waste: The "black box" collection service is likely to begin in Earlswood in the near future though there are no such plans for Shirenewton and Mynyddbach at present.

Members felt the official minutes of Community Council meetings should be placed in each of the three Notice Boards as soon as possible after each meeting.

One member pointed out that many residents living in the rural parts of the community are very concerned about the sharp increase in their Community Charge. Many will have increases in excess of 50%.

Householders are questioning just what extra services they receive for the big increase in their Community Charge. There is little doubt that in some cases the increase may cause financial hardship, indeed some residents are considering the need to move to a new home.

The recent heavy rain has washed a considerable amount of debris onto the road adjacent to Upper Tump Farm, Earlswood creating a dangerous situation for motorists. Highways Department to be informed.

The Bicca Common: a meeting between members of Shirenewton and Caerwent Community Councils is due to be held shortly to decide what steps can be taken to safeguard the interests of those living in the area.

Shirenewton Golf Club: The recent public meeting indicated that many residents are opposed to proposed development. Mr. Hayward has confirmed that the Golf Club is to close and the land will be returned to agricultural use. Apparently amended plans for the development of the buildings are being submitted for consideration. No further comment can be made until those plans are produced.

Community Council members were surprised and a little disappointed to be told that an independent action group is being created to "separately approach and negotiate" with the developers. Even more surprising is that much of the opposition is being promoted under the www.shirenewtonchurch.org.uk umbrella. Council members feel all opposition should be channelled through the local community councillors rather through the Church website.

An extraordinary meeting of the Community Council was held on Monday 18 October to consider a revised plan of the Golf Club development. Five members attended plus one representative of the recently created independent action group. After some consideration members recommended refusal of the revised plan.

A second public meeting is to be held in the Recreation Hall on Monday 1st. November at 7:30 pm to discuss the proposed Golf Club development plans. All interested parties are invited to attend.

The date of the next Community Council meeting was set as Monday 8th. November 2004

Peter Jones



Shirenewton Village Theatre Trip to see Alice in Wonderland at Bristol Old Vic

Everyone is welcome to come along - book early to avoid disappointment!

Thursday 30th December - 2PM performance;
coach will leave Shirenewton Rec at 12.30.

Cost - £9.00 per ticket plus £2.00 coach fare
(group price, so no concessions)

*Our thanks to Shirenewton Church for
subsidising the cost of the coach.*

St David's Foundation Hospice Care

St David's Foundation Hospice Care is the largest independent hospice at home service in the UK. We provide hospice care to patients and their families throughout the boroughs of Monmouthshire, Torfaen, Caerphilly and Newport. We care for patients with any life threatening illness, however much of our work is with cancer patients. We are committed to providing care in the home and we have an exceptional record of allowing patients to remain at home to die if that is their choice. Our clinical team of highly specialist nurses, social workers, welfare rights and bereavement workers provide 24hr care in the community. To complement these services we also have 2-day hospices and 2 in-patient units.

Local Service:

By providing care within local communities, we enable patients' care to be tailored to their needs, and this is at the heart of the care we provide. St David's Foundation is caring for over 150 patients and their families at any one time in Monmouthshire. We have specialist nurses based in Chepstow, Caldicot, Monmouth and Abergavenny. We also run an information/resource centre in Chepstow Hospital on a Monday. Their GP or another healthcare professional can refer patients to St David's. In order to provide this service (which is free to all our patients) we need £3.1 million pounds a year, and only 20% of this is provided by the government. The remainder is raised through charitable giving via our shops, lottery and fundraising activities. We need to raise £5 every single minute in order to

continue providing our services.

If you would like more information on our service or would like to take part in fundraising please contact 01633 270980.

ST DAVID'S FOUNDATION

**Warmly invite you to join them on
Thursday 9th December at 7pm to their
Light up a Life service at Chepstow Methodist Church
CALL 01633 271364 IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION**

FIREWORKS

Please give due consideration to local pets and animals while planning this period's seasonal firework celebration.

SMU (SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS' UNION)

On the 13th October 7 members 6 prospective members and one guest met in Church to hear an address by Jean Hackett our Diocesan President. She spoke on the subject of "families who are separated and isolated" which is part of our 2004 theme of "Building Relationships". She pointed out that it is not only divorce that results in separation and isolation but lifestyles, political situations and war. References to the Old Testament revealed that this was not a new situation. She closed with an illustration of how the ties that bind a family together through three generations can so easily be broken by illness, war and lack of education leading to severe poverty and desperation. The MU helps with this problem in Africa by providing literacy programs, which enable women to take some control over their lives. Ivy Wells thanked her for such an illuminating talk. During tea and biscuits provided by Mrs. Lloyd and Mrs. Bowen members were pleased to welcome new friends and renew old friendships.

On the 18th October some members attended the Diocesan Sharing Day at St. Paul's Church in Newport. It continued the theme of Building Relationships and after a period of prayer and getting to know each other we all made a simple gift to give to someone later in the day. After lunch we had a period of Creative prayer followed by Worship. It was a fulfilling day.

A reminder to members and friends that a Quiet Day will be held at Llantarnam Abbey on Thursday 11th November starting at 10.30 a.m. – please let me know as soon as possible if you wish to attend.

The next meeting is in Church on Wednesday November 10th at 2.30 p.m. when we shall welcome Glyn Jenkins and the M.U. Stand – it is Glyn's first visit to us so I hope we can give him a good welcome. As usual all are welcome to join us for prayer, talk and tea.

Auriol Horton - Branch Leader.

FAIRTRADE NEWS

SOME GOOD NEWS: Fairtrade sales are surging: up by 42% across the globe in the last 12 months.

Interestingly enough the UK is now the largest market by volume, followed by Switzerland. An estimated 5 million people in 49 countries now benefit from the better deal guaranteed by the Fairtrade system.

100% of the coffee on offer in the 198 Cafe Revive outlets in Marks and Spencer stores is now fairly traded. "In the same way that we changed to using only free-range eggs in all our products, we are switching to Fairtrade coffee in response to demand from our customers." Ah the virtue of pester power!

HOWEVER . .

The almost suicidal price war in the banana trade encourages shoddy practice, lack of concern for workers' rights and their general health and environmental degradation. Prices have fallen by 30% since July 2002. In Dominica 700 small scale farmers now sell their fairly traded bananas to Tesco and it has transformed their communities. Before, there was increasing crime and instability, with many people forced to leave the island to look for jobs. Spread the word: Fairtrade works!

As ever do contact me for more info or borrow a Traidcraft catalogue from Spar

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Itton Village Hall

Friday 3rd December 7.30 p.m.

Drive the Cold Winter Away

By **Contraband** – an Early Music quartet played on early instruments

The programme includes Traditional Christmas Music from Mediaeval to Baroque played by some of Wales' finest exponents. Favourites such as The Boar's Head Carol. The Gloucestershire Wassail and Gaudette, are sung with seasonal abandon, while Contrabands arrangements of Deck the Halls, I Saw Three Ships and Ding Dong Merrily on High will not fail to get you into the Christmas spirit. Please come along.

Adults £5.00, Children & Students £3.50

Refreshments available. Disabled facilities

Supported by The As Council for Wales

SHIRENEWTON W.I.

Arrangements were made for our Christmas dinner and a visit to Tredegar House.

Everyone is welcome at:

Our **Family Coffee Morning** in the **Recreation Hall on 6th November at 10.30-12.00**. Where there will be activities for children.

After the formal meeting we had a social evening. We played Beetle, a new experience for some of us. We taxed our brains with a quiz and tried to recognise our committee from their baby photographs. There was also time for coffee and a chat.

At our meeting 18 November, Jenny Bonner will show slides from her life on South Georgia 'with a baby of two and half years, and of 'Penguins and Seals.

NOTES FROM OUR COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

The next police surgery will be held at Shirenewton recreation hall between 4pm and 6pm Wednesday 10th November.

It may be of interest and reassurance for the communities of Shirenewton and Earlswood to know that crime levels continue to be very low. For the period of July to September, there were only 6 reported crimes for the area compared with 320 for Chepstow as a whole; only one of them was for burglary and none were for violence or disorder.

As the wintry weather is now closing in on us, now would be a good time to consider some common sense precautions to ensure the continuing safety of family and friends. As travel to work and leisure is soon to take place mostly in the dark, it's worth giving the car's lights and tyres a check. If you start your journey with one headlight not working, how clearly will you be able to see or be seen when the other light fails?

Driving with too many lights on is just as illegal as not enough. Fog lamps and driving lamps (spotlights) should only be used in conditions of seriously reduced visibility, i.e. below 100 metres. In any other conditions, you will dazzle oncoming motorists as if you were driving with the main beam on.

Tyres are the only component of the car that actually stops you. The brakes stop the wheel but it's the amount of tread in contact with the road surface that will bring your 2-ton of metal to a halt. However, no matter how low profile your tyres are, the laws of physics will always take precedence if you take no account of driving conditions.

Finally, if you are out walking in the lanes, please ensure that you wear something lightly coloured or even a and torch would enhance your visibility to traffic. Where it is safe to do so, walk towards oncoming traffic to prevent anyone creeping up behind you.

PC 542 Dino Lantzios.

STARGAZING IN DECEMBER

To the Southeast the constellation Orion is particularly impressive – three bright stars make up his belt; two stars are his shoulders, and two more make his legs. Orion was the great hunter of Greek Mythology who boasted that he could kill any creature on earth – but he met his match in the scorpion, which stung him in the heel and killed him. The bright blue-white star in Orion's right leg is Rigel, an extremely powerful star but at great distance, it is at least 60,000 times more luminous than the Sun. The bright star at Orion's left shoulder is Betelgeuse (pronounce it "beetle-juice" and you'll be close enough). Betelgeuse has a reddish colour – it is a vast red super-giant star, large enough to contain the entire path of the Earth round the Sun.

Early on Christmas morning, before sunrise the brilliant planet Venus is in the southeast. Saturn lies due east mid-evening, below and approximately in line with the two bright stars Castor and Pollux in Gemini, the Twins. The spacecraft Cassini arrived in the vicinity of Saturn in the summer, having taken seven years to get there. It is taking wonderful close-up photographs of Saturn's rings and moons. Up to date images can be seen on the web-site:

["http://ciclops.lpl.arizona.edu/ir_index_main.php"](http://ciclops.lpl.arizona.edu/ir_index_main.php). These are really worth looking at.

Edward Joseph Lowe lived at Shirenewton Hall from 1880 until his death in 1900. His memorial tablet in Shirenewton Church shows that he was an F.R.A.S. – a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, to which he was elected at the ripe old age of 23. His many interests included meteor showers and sunspots.



PYP- Parish Youth Page

Nov 04

Hiya Folks,

It's definitely autumn time. I was taken for a great walk in the woods the other day. My owner was going on about all the wonderful colours of the leaves but I was much more interested in the smell-text-messages left by my friends round the tree trunks.

Now, I can't tell one tree from another but I have this really good way of remembering them. It's like association of ideas? Like this. 'Prince Harry's brother is down in the dumps'. The tree is a Willow. Get it? Prince Harry's brother is Will and if he's down in the dumps he must be feeling low. Clever or wot! Try these.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 The remains of a fire | 2 O.K. but lose the 'ay |
| 3 An old fashioned beating. | 4 A place of sand and sea |
| 5 A good place to store nuts | 6 A 747 without the
bubbles |
| 7 Canadian syrup? | 8 They got ill in Holland |
| 9 A female sheep | 10 A hairy skin |
| 11 A friend of Ivy | 12 Neat and tidy |
| 13 The younger berries don't make good wine. | |
| 14 When you get well, you're not any | |

So next time you are out for a walk, use my foolproof method of tree and bush identification and amaze all your friends.

Sniff, sniff.

PYP

The editor will know where the answers are! (p30).

Shirenewton Youth Group

Sunday 7th November 5.00 - 6.30

at Shirenewton Rec.

Fancy a strong debate?

Come and discuss, argue and vote!

'Should R.E. be taught in schools?'

Beccy and Joanna will be exercising
their culinary skills and making toast.

Christingle News

£1 per session

Interested? Just turn up.

Glynis 641 818



Girlguiding UK

1st Shirenewton Guides.

The Guides have continued to work in their patrols on a variety of activities. We recently “did drugs” with the Dolphins and learned of the dangers of drug taking. We were lucky to have a Guider at the meeting who “does drugs” on a daily basis as part of her work for the Government (we won’t say more....). She reiterated the dangers of drugs in all forms.

Roses are “being active” and we have all enjoyed skipping. I discovered a skill learned in the primary school playground many years ago is still there, as the Leaders taught several Guides how to “run in” to a turning rope. Mobiles are being made and pasta cooking organised.

Our main project this term is to knit squares to be taken out to the Guide world centre in Mexico. Here they are sewn together to make blankets or waistcoats for many orphanages. Very few Guides could knit so we have been learning a new skill! Thank you to all the parents out there who have picked up stitches, surreptitiously undone and redone knitting and generally encouraged the girls to succeed.

We have a social evening planned for Friday 26th November from 8 p.m. in Devauden Hall. Come and see the Body Shop range of goods and possibly indulge in a hand massage or mini makeover courtesy of the Guides. If you can't manage the evening, but would like to see a catalogue, please contact us. Our senior section will be organising refreshments to raise funds for their Baden Powell Challenge weekend and Phoenix Trading will be showing their cards and gift wrap. We hope you will be able to come.

Yours in Guiding,

Helen Cann - Kestrel	650835
Tracey Ashton - Zebra	650692
Amanda Turner – Kitten	650763

BROWNIES REPORT

WHO SAYS WE CAN'T!

After reading in National newspaper reports this summer that most 10 year olds were unable to do simple, everyday tasks, such as cook a simple meal, read a bus timetable or sew on a button, the Brownies and their leaders decided to rise to the challenge. During October we tackled some of these life skills in our weekly meetings. The girls learnt to sew on a button, iron a hankie, cook scrambled egg/ baked beans on toast and banana smoothies, read the bus timetable between Shirenewton and Chepstow and pack a suitcase. They are now ready to cope with **almost** anything life throws at them! Just hope that they still remember all this at 18, - but they've got at least 8 years to practice. All this learning started us wondering what skills you, ex Brownies and Guides remember learning in your time in Guiding. Please let us know.

Jackie Broughton (641797)

SHIRENEWTON WHIST DRIVES

Only 7 tables on the 7th October but as usual the atmosphere was great and everyone had an enjoyable evening. Our November meeting is on the 4th and in December it will fall on the 2nd. We start at 7.30 p.m. promptly – do come and join us.

Auriol Horton. 01291 641844.

The Church Shopping Portal

Do you shop on line? If so please shop through the Shirenewton Church shopping portal, particularly in the run up to Christmas where you can save considerable amounts of time and money, particularly if you use sites like Amazon for books, games, etc. The site has been continuously updated with additional outlets. It doesn't cost you any extra, and the church benefits. See: www.shirenewtonchurch.org.uk

Thanks
David Cornwell

BRITISH RED CROSS - SOUTH WALES

Applying simple first aid can reduce the consequences of the many thousands of accidents that happen each year.

Would you know what to do?

If you are 55 years of age or over the British Red Cross are running an Emergency First Aid Course on:

Wednesday 1st December

10.00 am – 3.00pm

at

Earlswood Hall

Cost - Free of Charge

To register please telephone 01633 267131

SCHOOL PAGE CHRISTMAS FAYRE

NEWCHURCH NEWS

Many thanks to you all who helped and supported us at our recent harvest thanksgiving, which was once again enjoyed by all who, attended. Pam and Steve Manning have at last set sail for the Isles of Scilly at the end of September. We wish them a happy and contented retirement.

It is anticipated that we will hold our annual carol service in December. Date to be confirmed but we are aiming for the 19th.

David Heritage (Secretary).

“Thinking of a holiday in Orlando with all its attractions”.

Why pay hotel rates?

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Mention this magazine when booking for a 5% discount on published rates."

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THE BELLS, THE BELLS.....

Shirenewton bells were re-hung in 1997 with money from the National Lottery who donated funding to the Millennium Commission of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. The National Lottery is now 10 years old and all churches whose bells received money from the Commission have been asked to perform an extended piece of ringing over the week-end of the 6th and 7th of November to commemorate this event. Shirenewton have decided to participate.

We have decided to have an attempt at a peal. A peal is 5040 changes long and lasts for between 2hrs 40 minutes and 3 hours. We are planning on the afternoon of Saturday the 6th of November. We will be ringing with ringers who have been taught from scratch by our Tower Captain Mike Penney. In preparation we rang a practice quarter peal on Sunday 10th October. The band was as it will be for the peal attempt.

Treble: Pip Penney; 2: Bob Millar; 3: Jane Leney;
4: Charles Eickhoff; 5: Mike Penney (conductor).
Tenor: James Leney.

Shirenewton Local History Society

The September meeting was held, at The Shirenewton Golf Club where a large audience welcomed back Frank Oldfield who gave another fascinating lecture on the industrial heritage of Blaenau Gwent.

The iron industry came to be concentrated along the Heads of the Valleys road due to the ready availability of iron ore, limestone and coal. These were burnt together to form iron, and were frequently found within 500 metres of the mills. The plentiful water supply drove the wheel which powered the bellows that forced air through the furnaces.

There were many accidents, when men loading the raw materials fell into the open furnaces and there were frequent explosions through the loading chambers which resulted in many fatalities and crippling injuries.

The iron masters were notoriously bad employers. The workers were frequently paid only every 6-8 weeks in tokens, which could only be used

at the foundry owned shop charging the employers prices. The workers would borrow from the company in advance of their wages (subbing) with the end result that they were permanently in debt to the company, and unable to move on.

The raw materials were transported to the works and the finished product taken to the rivers and canals by horses pulling trucks on tramways. (If the flange is on the rails it is a tramway, if the flange is on the wheel it is a railway.) Because the horses could not pull up or down gradients, these tramways were constructed to be level and now make excellent footpaths and bridle-ways through wonderful countryside. In some places, where the incline was too steep the trucks would be released and as they descended, would hit metal tubes hanging from the trees to warn the people below. Men would slow the trucks by poking a pole through the spokes of the wheel. As can be envisaged there were many serious injuries.

Most of the iron production was run down in Blaenau Gwent in the 1840' s with the introduction of the manufacture of steel further down the valleys, and had effectively ceased by 1870. The closure of the iron works resulted in the emigration of many of the workers and their families to the iron and coal fields of America and Australia.

The limestone quarried from the area was also processed (slaked) for other applications, fertiliser and mortar. Limestone being a very corrosive substance was again the cause of many injuries. Standard first aid treatment of the time was that if any went into an eye someone else licked the eye to prevent blindness.

Coal at first came from open cast mines and only later from deep mines where children were employed to open and close doors to ventilate the mines. Deep coal mining commenced in the 1850's expanded rapidly and became the major employer of the area.

Our next meeting is at The Huntsman on Tuesday 23 November at 7.30 p.m. Mr Geoff Mein will speak on Prehistoric Troestrey.

Jenny Bonner

SHIRENEWTON SCHOOL RECYCLING

Please remember you can use the Centre for:

Glass, paper, tins, clothing and fabrics

Opening Hours:

School Term time weekdays: 7a.m. – 6 p.m.

School Holidays and weekends : 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Thank you – Caroline Davies

Earlswood Hall News

With winter around the corner the committee are busy organising events for the forthcoming dark nights.

The first major event will be our Remembrance Service on Sunday 14th November at 10.30. Thankfully this service is still conducted around the world remembering those that perished in both World Wars. Join us for the service and for tea, biscuits and a chat after the service.

Friday 26th November we will be holding a 60's & 70's Rock and Roll night with Kevin and his Route 66 Club, and the return of that brilliant comedian Fred the Ted. Do join us and show the younger generation that you can dance them under the table. Tickets are £6.00 there will be a bar and raffle. The Hall committee is in the process of arranging to have the electrical system up-dated. There is will include improved outside lighting with additional power points within the Hall.

Preparations are underway for the panto. New stage curtain tracks and runner system has been installed along with improved stage lighting and switching. Thanks to the S.O.Ds team again for these improvements.

The Hall is a large, well-equipped venue for all kinds of events and is available for hire at very modest rates. To hire it, contact Glynis on 01291 641818.

John Spary
Entertainment secretary.

FOR EARLSWOOD HALL BOOKINGS

Children's Parties	4 hours	Only £25!!
Special functions/dances	6 –8 hours	Only £50

Phone Glynis on: - 01291 641 818 for more details

NFU Ad



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HOLIDAY COTTAGE – NEW FOREST

Lovely Victorian cottage in a very peaceful location, minutes from open forest yet convenient for Lyndhurst village centre. Private parking, small garden with patio area. All gas, electric linen and towels included.

Sleeps four, open all year.

Contact Helen and Stewart Walker.

Tel. 02380 292428 - email: Yorke@alonka.fsnet.co.uk

LINE DANCE CLASSES

EARLSWOOD HALL, EVERY MONDAY

7.30 P.M. UNTIL 9.00

Beginner and intermediate dances taught

£2.50 PER SESSION

**Just come along and have a go, or for further information
contact either Es on 01291 673172 or Sue on 01291
690102**

TO ADVERTISE IN THE PARISH MAGAZINE RATES ARE:

½ page for the year 10 issues, £25.

Small block advert – 4-5 lines :- 10 issues £5.00

Local charity adverts for one off events no charge.

PAGE FOR EARLSWOOD HALL AD.

COOKERY CORNER

SPICED CHRISTMAS BEEF

The original recipe for spiced or Christmas beef needs to marinade the meat in spices and saltpetre for over a week. I have adapted the recipe to make it quicker, it is not so spicy but is a good cold dish covered with jelly.

You will need:

A piece of beef weighing about 5lb. I.e. silverside or top rump.

*7 cloves - ground
7 juniper berries - ground
8 black peppercorns - ground
Good pinch of mace
2 good pinches of thyme
pinch of sea salt
3 teaspoons soft brown sugar*

Mix all the above, rub over the meat and leave overnight.

Next day put the beef, plus all the spices in a heavy casserole dish which just fits it. Add 2-bouquet garni, 3 carrots; 2 onions; and 3 sticks of celery peeled and chopped. Pour on two wineglasses of port, and 1 pint of good beef stock and cover tightly with the lid.

Cook in a low oven 150 deg C/ 300deg F/ gas 2 very slowly, turning the meat occasionally for 4 – 5 hours.

Allow the meat to cool and put a weight on top of the meat. I use a dish roughly the same size as the casserole and fill it with tins of tomatoes, etc. Leave overnight. The next day remove the fat from the cooled cooking liquid. Strain, skim and taste it – if it is too salty dilute with red wine or weak stock. Measure 1 pint of the liquid, put ½ oz gelatine in a cup with 3–4 tablespoons of the liquid and dissolve over heat. Add the rest of the pint, and a good handful of chopped parsley. Put into the fridge along with the beef. As soon as the gelatine mix starts to become thick and syrupy, spoon over the beef – repeat this a few times so that the beef has a nice thick glaze with the parsley in it. Pour the remaining jelly onto the serving plate. Serve sliced with plenty of pickles mustard and horseradish. Make sure that everyone has plenty of jelly with the meat, as it tastes so good

Thanks again to Caroline Davies.

GARDENING CORNER

Work on the hedges still continues as time and the weather allows. There are still plenty more to do but I'm in no rush. I find hedge-cutting an extremely satisfying occupation. There is nothing better than looking behind you to see a nicely cut well-proportioned hedge for that finishing touch to any garden. If you want to fill in holes in an existing hedge or planting a new one it will soon be time to buy bare rooted plants, all we need is a couple of cold frosty nights to encourage them to shut down for the winter. These are by far the cheapest option with plants ranging in price from 20 pence up to perhaps 60 pence each depending on size and variety. Most garden centres will have a limited supply of varieties at a cost so it is always best to go to a specialist tree nursery if you can, especially if you want to plant a hedge that will be a mixture of local native species. In this area a hedge comprising hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, holly, spindle and guelder rose with a few field maple and wayfaring is about as natural as you will get. The blackberry will come in of its own accord! With an old field hedge each separate species would indicate approximately 100 years of history, so that's one way of establishing a hedge with 800 years of history behind it!

In the greenhouse the cuttings that I took last month have now rooted well and the under-gardener is busy working through potting these up. Most have produced well-rooted plants that should grow away well. These will be pinched out to allow them to bush out and will be grown on in the greenhouse, probably for most of the winter. They will be well protected but won't be subject to any heat. Hopefully this will produce nice stout plants that won't be too lush. In the spring when they begin to grow strongly I may well take a few more cuttings that will help build up stock numbers. This will then allow me to plant a few and sell a few! The sweet pea seed that went in is also germinating well. Again these will have their tops pinched out so they make bushy plants. At the moment they have a little shelter in the polytunnel but they are quite hardy and so will soon be moved outside into the cold-frame. Here they will only get some limited TLC when it gets really cold and frosty. You forget just how hardy they are really.

I will need to clear everything out of the tunnel at some stage as it is due a major refurbishment this year. At present there are still plenty of tomatoes and peppers so it won't be for some time yet. The problem is that I need to keep the protection of the cover at least until April but I need to replace all the door timbers and tensioning bars on the sides as well and I can only do this work once the cover is off. Case of betwixt a rock and a hard place! Once all this timber has been replaced it is relatively easy to put the cover back on. The worst bit is unrolling it, as it isn't the easiest thing to handle. At this stage in the proceedings the Under gardener usually makes a sharp, Harp exit (as the advert goes – assuming they still make Harp larger that is!). I am normally very mild mannered but cladding a tunnel usually brings

out the worst in me! I've been ordered to get help this year, but this is usually noticeable by its absence at the most crucial time, so we will have to wait and see. At the moment I have two very large doors either end of the tunnel in order to aid air circulation, but as weather conditions are getting windier, or so it seems, the doors are more difficult to keep in one piece. This means I have to design something a little more practical. Originally I could drive the mini tractor into the tunnel to rotovate the ground but as the area is now divided into separate raised beds this requirement is no longer needed. The actual cover itself is white. I find this by far the best as it helps to reflect the sun's rays away so that the temperature inside doesn't become too hot. The inside of the cover is also specially treated so that condensation runs down the side rather than drips off onto the plants. This is a great boon in preventing plants getting too wet and rotting off or going mouldy. Although our tunnel is a professional growers' one these types of cover are available for garden sized ones and I would really recommend one. Tunnels are great for getting early crops of salad stuff, strawberries and vegetables such as carrots, courgettes and potatoes. Given right conditions you can treat yourselves often three or four weeks ahead of normal.

Fortunately whilst it was dry I managed to clean, dig and manure a number of the raised vegetable beds and these are now ready for planting. Several weeks ago I planted one with red onions that are ideal raw in salads or sandwiches. The yellow onions and garlic have now been delivered so these will get planted hopefully this weekend, conditions allowing. With the onions it will simply be a case of pushing them into the soil at approximately 30 cms apart, with 35 cms between the rows. These should then be fine if we don't get any hard frosts. This will allow them to root and take hold of the soil. Often a hard frost just after planting will lift them clean out of the ground. I will also spread some bird netting over the top of the bed. Not only does this stop the birds from pulling the sets out of the ground but it also prevents the cats using the bed as a toilet area. The garlic will be broken into individual cloves, planted about 7 cms. deep and then again covered over with netting. All these should over winter well and allow us to harvest them in the middle to end of June. This will still leave room to plant the asparagus that should also be arriving very soon, but I will then need some more dry weather to prepare more beds. Dry weather? Something in short supply at the moment!

Happy gardening until next month. Steve Hunt

Answers to Pyp's quiz

- | | | | |
|---|-------|---|-------|
| 1 | Ash | 2 | Oak |
| 3 | Birch | 4 | Beech |

5	Chestnut	6	Plane
7	Maple	8	Elm
9	Yew	10	Fir
11	Holly	12	Spruce
13	Elder	14	Sycamore

And remember to identify any tree or bush with confidence. Because you can bet your bottom dollar, most of your friends wouldn't know a tree from a dandelion. PYP!

Why not try Reflexology!

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

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

For more information contact

Annabel Hancock MRxS
Clinical Reflexologist

Job Wanted!!!

Want to go on holiday but don't know who will feed the cat? Or walk the dog? Or water the plants? Or fetch the newspaper? Whatever! If so call me, Alistair Bounds on 01291 641 818 or contact Glynis Macdonald who will tell me. I am 13 years old & willing to do most jobs for a fee decided by you. So call 01291 641 818.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE

For all your garden jobs, mowing, tree-topping, hedge-trimming, stone-walling, concreting.

Tel. Paul Lewis 01291 424205

SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS & TODDLER GROUP

Meets every Thursday at 1.30 p.m. during term time at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

All mums and their children 0 – 4 years are welcome to come and join us for fun, craft activities, snacks (including tea and coffee), and a chat.

For more information please contact:
Helen on 01633 400516 or Jo on 01600 869077
Or just pop in!

Some Dates for your Diary

1 st Nov.	Community Council Meeting – Recreation Hall
4 th Nov.	Whist Drive at the Recreation Hall – 7.30
6 th Nov.	WI Coffee morning at the Recreation Hall 10.30 –12.
7 th Nov.	Youth Group Meeting 5.00 – 6.30 p.m.
10 th Nov.	Police Surgery – Shirenewton Rec. Hall – 4.00 – 6.00 pm
14 th Nov.	Remembrance Sunday – 10.45 at the Memorial
23 rd Nov.	History Society Meeting – The Huntsman 7.30
27 th Nov.	Rock & Roll Night to Route 66 – Earlswood Hall (ad. p.26)
2 nd Dec.	Whist Drive at the Recreation Hall – 7.30
9 th Dec.	St. David's Foundation Service Chepstow Methodist Hall
3 rd Dec.	Itton Village Hall "Contraband" Christmas Concert 7.30
18 th Dec.	Village Christmas Carol Evening – 7.00 TA Car Park
30 th Dec	Village Trip to Bristol Old Vic Alice in Wonderland (ad. p8)

READERS AND SIDES-PERSONS ROTA - NOVEMBER

DATE	SERVICE	READER	SIDES- PERSON
31 st Oct. 9.45 a.m.	21 st Sunday after Trinity GROUP Holy Eucharist at Shirenewton	John Nicholas Kevin Bounds	John Nicholas Kevin Bounds
7 th Nov. 9.45 a.m.	3 rd Sunday before Advent Holy Eucharist	Jean Jones Peter Jones	Jean Jones Peter Jones
14 th Nov.	2 nd Sunday before Advent REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – MEET AT THE CENOTAPH AT 10.45 A.M.	FAMILY / PARADE SERVICE	
21 st Nov. 9.45 a.m.	Christ the King Holy Eucharist	Winnie Jones Winnie Jones	John Nicholas John Nicholas
28 th Nov. 9.45 a.m.	1 st Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist	Andrew Baker Kevin Bounds	Andrew Baker Kevin Bounds
5 th Dec. 9.45 a.m.	2 nd Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist Followed by Sunday School Mini Christmas Fayre	Barbara Davies Bob Grattan	Barbara Davies Bob Grattan

Newchurch Every Sunday at 2.30 p.m.