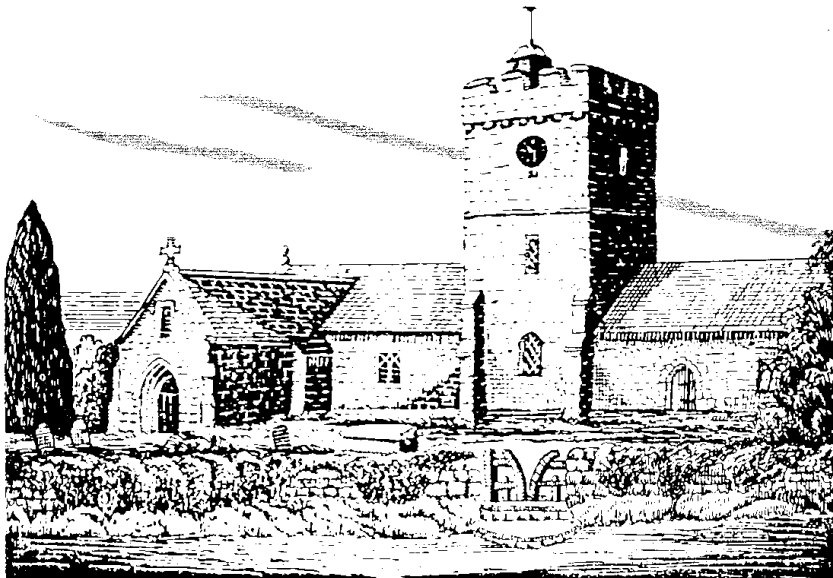


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JULY / AUGUST 2004

**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
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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
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TRADCRAFT:	Marion McAdam	641316

Please send notes, discs or emails for the September magazine to Bob O'Keefe, 15 Newton Manor, Shirenewton, (641686) or email to bobandwenche @aol.com by Friday 20th August. **Note: There is no magazine in August.**

July 2004.

Dear Parishioners,

"The times they are a changing". The Church in Wales has embarked upon a radical review of its whole structure. The Representative Body (RB) of the Church in Wales comprise the trustees of the churches monies. The Governing Body (GB) is the church's synod or parliament -- the decision-making body. The next level is the dioceses, six in all, and their decision-making bodies are the diocesan conferences which comprise people nominated from each deanery. The last level of decision-making is the parochial church council.

As trustees the R.B. has been facing an annual deficit of just over £2 million. Needless to say this cannot continue and in order to ensure and secure pensions for the future, not only will there need to be a greater demand made on each parish, but the number of clergy that the R. B. can support will be fixed. This will come into effect in 2009. This does not stop each diocese funding clergy above the fixed number but the full cost including pensions housing, etc. will have to be borne by the diocese.

In our diocese the number of full-time clergy will fall by one third by 2013. It is true that during these next years a sizeable number of clergy will retire. Attention must be given to recruiting the right people for the future and also ensuring that the church's ministry and mission develops in an appropriate way to meet the challenges of today's society.

There are two basic ways to approach the future. The first is to see crisis and problem and therefore to act in a way that seeks only to "manage decline". The second is to view the future as full of opportunities to be taken and therefore as a time of optimism and new growth. The only way forward is to concentrate on the second of these views. The future will be marked by encouraging as many lay people as possible to discover their own calling and ministry and ensuring that clergy and any other paid ministers are equipped to teach and train and encourage this change.

Our Bishop has looked at each deanery and has set particular targets for each deanery. In our case the deanery of Netherwent the number of clergy will fall from 15 to 7. We have been asked to prepare a detailed plan of how this can be achieved and how the mission of the church can expand. To that end the deanery has set up a working party. This work has to be completed before the end of this year so that the diocese can be ready for both the impact of 2009 and the retirement of a sizeable number of clergy reaching its peak around 2113. Some of us clergy may be one or two years after that date but preparation must go ahead.

The Bishop will be asking each church as well as each deanery, "What is your vision?" I hope we with in these four parishes and some beyond will be able to make a significant case for a strong united parish ministering to the distinctive rural communities of this deanery. The future is ours for the making. In the past so many of these reviews have been meaningless and that has given rise to a righteous scepticism as to whether any thing will happen. This time will be different.

Both Nansi and I passionately believe that there is a real and vibrant future for our Churches and each church council will be participating in our own review of who we are, who we are called to serve and just what shape the future should take. We want to ensure that what we already do well is secured but also there are significant things we are not as yet touching. Those who already come have an affection and respect for the worship they know. In terms of population we are not the majority and time is long due that we should address the needs and feelings of others and find those with the musical, communication, spiritual and practical skills that can broaden what we have to offer. It's not rocket science to note that we don't overuse our buildings even on a Sunday. So it's not a case of out with the old and in with the new, rather, it is to earnestly seek the opportunities God is giving us to build on our past but to really let God's Spirit move us to fresh expressions for all His people.

I see this as exciting and provoking and that is precisely what "the Good News" has always been. It offers a glimpse of a unity of purpose and courage through which we might be bold enough to see what have only been dreams till now. May the God of freedom free us to explore and actively seek out the future to which He is calling us.

With every good wish,

Hugh Trenchard.

Come and join us!
at
SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY SCHOOL

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
4 th July	9.45	Sunday School – The Chantry
11 th July	9.45	Sunday School – The Chantry
18 th July	9.45	Family Service - Church
		NEW TERM
12 th Sep	9.45	Sunday School – The Chantry
19 th Sep	9.45	Family Service – Church
26 th Sep	9.45	Sunday School – The Chantry
		September venues might change to accommodate Harvest Festival

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

Looking forward to seeing you

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Holy Baptism:	6 th June 2004	Henrietta Price-Bailey
	13 th June 2004	Thomas Boscoff
	27 th June 2004	Hanako Rose Owen

NOTES FROM THE P.C.C.

On 7th June at Caerwent Church a well-attended meeting for all four parishes was held. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the changes that will be taking place in the Deanery. The Diocese is in serious decline with the loss of one third of the worshipping public and the need to lose one third of the present clergy. It was suggested that our joint parishes become a United Parish. This would mean one of the clergy as head either the Rector or the Curate. It was agreed that they would make the decision between them as to who would serve. There would continue to be four separate committees each managing the running affairs and costs of the existing parishes, but would co-operate with each other to assist where necessary.

This years fete broke all records, with more stalls (35), more visitors, more profit something in excess of £4200 (final figure yet to be confirmed), and the site completely cleared by 6.45 p.m.

The Fete parade included the saddle sore but intrepid "Mid Life Cyclists" whose fund raising efforts will have added a further £7,500 to the "Extension Fund". Many congratulations.

A "Summer Buffet" followed the Fete at the Huntsman with a further £250 being made towards the fund.

Altogether, a very successful weekends fund raising.

Future plans include:

A Jazz evening at the Church on the 2nd July.

A Golf Tournament in September.

A letter of thanks was received from the organiser of the Monmouth Boys School Orchestra thanking us for our hospitality, hinting that another concert might be possible in 12 months.

Sadly, our general weekly fund raising is not making sufficient to pay our way.

The final plans for the extension are now being submitted for approval; so watch this space.

Some corrections regarding last months notes.

- a) Total sales revenue for the Parish Magazine is £1500 less production costs, not £1500 profit as stated.
- b) The anticipated sponsorship money for the Midlife Cyclists should have read £5000 not £5000, but see report below.

Cynthia Smith

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH 200 CLUB

June Draw

124	James Baker	£40
215	Clare Oldfield	£30
24	Mrs. S Lewis	£20
6	Jane Goodyear	£10

CHURCH FETE

Once again the annual Church Fete was a great success, blessed with a glorious day of bright sunshine and what appeared to be record numbers of visitors. This year a revised site layout for the stalls was used, and the general consensus was that this revised arrangement made for a more social event with none of the stalls being isolated. The numbers of large marquees, and gazebos added to the overall colourful effect.

The final accounts are not yet in from the treasurer, but from the figures available they indicate that we shall make a record contribution again to the funds, with the initial figure being in the region of £4500.

This fete really is a total community event with extremely generous support coming from the whole community, from the scouts, guides' brownies and the other end of the generation scale. The support is not just the financial support, but in the time and effort given with the organisation, loan of tents and gazebos, collection of books, the making and donation of cakes, bottles, bric-a-brac. Then the erection of tents and removal and clean up after the event, not to mention the generosity with the level of activity on the day.

The Parade from the Tan House was this year somewhat special being accompanied by the group of intrepid "Mid-life cyclists" having completed their marathon ride the morning of the fete from St. David's to Shirenewton. On arrival at the Recreation Ground, the Fete was opened by the Chairman of the Monmouth County Council, Councillor Mr. Colin White, and Mrs. White, who presented the prizes to the winners of the fancy dress competition, and the Fete Princess.

However, the Fete did not end with the clearing up of the site; there were then those who managed to party at the Huntsman until late, raising a further sum of about £250 for the fund.

THE GRAND DRAW PRIZE WINNERS WERE:

Ticket 1085 £100 Margaret Buttress

0689	£ 50	Ros & Chris
0149	£25	Nicky c/o Cynthia Smith
1530	Bottle of Whiskey	Phil Jackson
0513	Porcelain Doll	Jackie Broughton
1066	Barbie Doll	Barrie Morris
0430	Cosmetics	Steve Manning
0750	Action Man Doll	Mrs. Lloyd
0698	Cosmetics	Marilyn Wintersgill
1635	Pair of vacuum flasks	Alison
1541	Cosmetics	Mrs. Woodliffe
1010	Barbie's Posh Pet	Mrs. J Boast
0165	Scented candles	Roffe Edwards
1162	M & S Handbag	John Hooper
1660	Floating Candles	Dennis Hopkins
0131	Ladies Handbag	Sheila Gomm
0805	Hold-all	Mr / Mrs Arnold
0236	Shoe Cleaning Kit	Nancy Sheridan

THE CAKE STALL was once again endowed with the most incredible selection of cakes and pastries. Many thanks to all our generous donors.

In no time at all we were all sold out, raising just under £800.

Thank you all so much for all your efforts, and many thanks also to the donors of cash (in lieu of cake), and to Jean who gave us the iced cake to raffle, this was won by Clare Lewis, the other two cakes were won by Andrea Godsell (Caldicot) and Annabel Hancock.

The help received on the stall and those who helped with the collection was **much appreciated**.

Very many thanks:

Bernice, Barbara and Sally.

THE MID LIFE CYCLISTS **SAY THANK YOU TO ALL SPONSORS**

Having left St. David's on Wednesday morning (9th June), the team arrived home in Shirenewton on Saturday (12th June) at the end of our 250-mile Celtic Trail bike ride, just in time to join the village fete parade. Bow-legged but unbowed, we covered the most enjoyable half mile of the entire ride, balancing behind the band along with the floats, through the village to a wonderful reception at the fete. We had never expected to be greeted by the Vicar handing out glasses of champagne, and the weigh-in for the weight gain/loss competition came as an equal surprise – the beer and chips had triumphed over the calorie burn!!!

For the full story and pictures of the ride, please take a look at the Church website [www.shirenewtonchurch.org.uk]. We all knew that it would be a challenge, and so it proved to be, but it was also an unforgettable experience. From the wet and weary lows of Tenby north beach and St Clears, to the spectacular highs of Cefn-y-Bryn on the Gower and Mynydd y Glyn above Pontypridd, we enjoyed four remarkable and memorable days of physical challenge and great fun – with a result of which everyone involved, supporters and sponsors alike, can be justly proud. The total amount raised is still to be finalised, but it looks as though in excess of £8,000 will be going into the Shirenewton Church Extension Fund.

The Mid Life Cyclists, comprising Mark Broughton, Kevin Bounds, David Cornwell, Rob Duckham, Jon Hancock and Robert Thomas, would like to thank everyone who sponsored us - your generosity kept us going up many apparently impossible hills. If anyone would still like to add to the sponsorship, you will be very welcome to do so by contacting any team member.

All the photos from the Celtic Trail sponsored cycle ride are now on the website. Check it out under fund raising.

Mark Broughton (tel. 641797)

FINALLY: Many thanks to everyone that participated in making the fete such a total success, in particular to Steve, the Fete committee and the whole team that undertook the organisation, the collection teams, donors and benefactors, and those that worked to erect marquees, stalls and gazebos, and then remove them just hours later. Particular thanks to the ladies that organised the cake stall, and the team that organised the bottle stall, they contributed £782 and £640 respectively. Last but not least all the generous visitors without whom the whole fete would be a wasted effort.

GAERLLWYD WOMEN'S MEETINGS: – AT GAERLLWYD BAPTIST CHAPEL

Meetings for July and August will be held on: - 7th July at 2.30 p.m.
21st July at 2.30 p.m. when the speaker will be Mrs. Marion Edwards
4th August and the 18th August at 2.30 p.m..

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting held 7th June 2004

Councillor White and PC Lantzoz joined 6 members of the Community Council at the meeting.

PC Lantzoz confirmed there had been no reported thefts or burglaries in the area over the last month. The motorbikes using the B4235 Usk Road continue to cause distress to residents. PC Lantzoz had visited a member of the public living on the Usk Road to discuss the situation and explain what the Police can and are doing. A “Speed Analyser” has been placed on the highway just above the Huntsman Hotel in order to gather more information about traffic using the road. PC Lantzoz also confirmed that an accident had recently occurred near Pant y cosyn involving a motorcyclist. Tragically, the rider subsequently died as a result of his injuries.

Matters Arising from the previous meeting

Dog fouling in and around Shirenewton. Some notices have been put up in strategic locations in and around the village. More notices are available should anyone need them – contact your local councillor.

The Bicca Common. Following the recent elections new Community Councils, including those for Shirenewton and Caerwent will be formed at the next (Annual) meetings. The Clerk will then arrange a meeting between both Councils to consider the situation and any further action.

Bleddyn Close. Councillor White confirmed that the field below the houses that has been the cause of so much debate over recent months has now been given green wedge status. In effect this means planning permission for residential development of the area has been removed.

Footpath crossed by electric fence near Caepwcella. We are assured that the electrified fence includes an “insulated gate”, including guidance on its use, at the point where the public footpath is crossed. This, presumably, is a satisfactory arrangement for users of the footpath.

Planning Matters

Five applications were received for consideration.

Members deferred a recommendation regarding a single storey extension at Barns Cottage, Shirenewton until the next meeting. Members were unhappy with proposals for a two-storey extension at Marls Farm, Earlswood and for a multi-extension at 8 Tan House Court and recommended both applications be rejected. However the application for a single storey extension at Red House, Earlswood was considered suitable for approval and there were no objections to the application for renewal of Planning Permission at Westfield Cottage, Mynyddbach.

The County Planning Department confirmed that approval has been given for the construction of an agricultural building at Home Farm, Itton.

Matters of local concern

A member suggested that the 30mph sign on Spout Hill should be moved to a point near to the junction with the Usk Road, at least between Merrylea and the junction. The Clerk will contact the appropriate authority.

There was general dismay over various aspects of the highways in the rural parts of the community. Road signs are left damaged, almost illegible because of their dirty state or being obscured by foliage and in some cases pointing in altogether the wrong direction. The grass verge cutting, where it has been done, is in places rather unsatisfactory. It was pointed out that the highways are kept in a far better condition in some other Welsh counties and even in other parts of Monmouthshire.

The severely overhanging hedgerow on the Top Road near Cock a Roostin has at last been cut back and is no longer a traffic hazard.

Mr. Ernie Jones confirmed he is standing down as a Community Councillor. He has been a local councillor for many years. He is well known and greatly respected in many walks of life including his activities as a councillor. His calm, logical approach to problems has been an example to us all. His fellow members presented him with a cut glass bowl to mark his retirement.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:45pm. The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting and will be held at the Recreation Hall on 5th July 2004.

Peter Jones

EMOTIVE GARDEN DESIGNS



Innovative Design Concepts
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Sue Bullock
Tel: 01291 641245
Fax: 01291 641713
email: Sue.Bullock@btinternet.com

THE VILLAGE SHOP

It's going to be all change at the village shop at the end of June, as John and Marilyn move on and Paul and Anne move in.

It still seems a bit of a miracle that having lived without a shop in the village for just over two years, John and Marilyn had the courage and determination to put together a business plan, sell their house in Mynyddbach, and open the new venture, on the same site as the old one.

After much planning, gnashing of teeth, sorting out the storage space, working out how to get their settee into the lounge through the upstairs window, sorting out the power supplies for all the new chillers and freezers, and practising getting up at 6 o'clock in the morning, the shop finally opened on May 2nd 2002. And how good it was not to have to travel four miles or more to get a paper, a can of beer, a loaf, or a bottle of sherry (not to imply that we drink a lot in the village!) Although smaller in size than Ostler's, good organisation and planning meant that the range of items sold covered most people's needs, and with the addition of the Walter's patented vegetable stall and meat supplies from Geoff Rosen, the range was enhanced even further. The whole operation now runs so smoothly, and nothing is too much trouble.

With the Business now running so well, John and Marilyn have decided to move on to the next phase of their life, possibly abroad, and with no surprise to most of us managed to find a buyer for it within weeks of putting it on the market. Paul and Anne had been staying in the village while looking for a suitable business to buy into, and it must have been fortuitous that the shop came on the market at the same time as they were living here. They have already been contributing to village life, as anyone who was at the Spring Review will have seen when Paul showed us how to really hold an audience in the palm of your hand!

For Anne and Paul, we wish a smooth transfer, a good alarm clock(!), and success for the future, and on behalf of everyone in the village and the surrounding area we would like to thank John and Marilyn for giving us back our shop, their contributions and donations to all the charitable and fund-raising events in the village, and really making it the centre of village life again. We wish them every success and happiness in their new life, wherever it may be.

SMU (SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS' UNION)

Nine members and one guest attended the meeting on 9th June. We were pleased to welcome back Mrs. Ivy Wells after her recent illness.

In our theme of "Building Relationships" our prayers were for families with fostered or troubled children and our "Building block" was "Communities". Mrs. Cynthia Smith read to us from St. Paul's letter to the Romans Chapter 12 Vs.9-21. A Birthday prayer was included for Edith Evans, Gladys Lloyd and Ivy Wells whom all celebrated birthdays during June.

Our speaker was Debbie Ward the Headteacher of Shirenewton School, who was able to draw on her past experiences to explain to us the difficulties and heart-tugging situations for a teacher in dealing with troubled children. We were all moved by what she told us and very pleased she that was able to join us for the afternoon.

It was reported that six members had attended the Wave of Prayer Service in Church on 26th May. The unaccompanied hymn singing was quite enthusiastic and we were conscious of the fact that on that same day around the world other members of the M.U. would have been joining in the same prayers and worship.

Our next meeting will be on 14th July at 2.30 p.m. by kind invitation at the home of Marcia Hoskins at St. Arvans. The speaker will be Mrs. Maureen Mahoney who will talk to us about the problems facing Asylum Seekers and Refugees on their arrival in Newport.

We do not meet in August but will resume in September on Wednesday, 8th at 2.30p.m. in the Church when our Corporate Communion will be led by Revd. Hugh Trenchard who will also give the Address – our prayers on that day will be for “adopted children”. Our “Building Brick” for September is “The Church” and our Bible Reading will be from I Corinthians 12:12-31 and will be read by our Guest, Mrs. Maureen Clabon. Cynthia Smith and Bernice Bowen will serve tea and biscuits, visitors will be very welcome to join us for the service and tea.

Auriol Horton, Branch Leader – 01291 641 844

FAIRTRADE NEWS

Apparently Traidcraft fair traders generated £6.5 million in the last financial year, an increase of 14% on the previous year!

In Malawi a group of 500 villagers in Kapasule are delighted. In March for the first time local people had their own supply of clean water. Before that women and children had to carry water 1.5 km. from a nearby village. Not all the villagers are involved in farming the cane sugar, which has earned them the fair trade premium, which made the new bore-hole possible, but the whole village benefits. They now have plans to improve the local hospital and to build a community day secondary school.

So, as I say to my pupils at school "Eat chocolate and save the World!" - well it could also be rice, brazil nuts, cereal etc - but you get the message.

As ever contact me for info or a catalogue Marion McAdam 641 316
marion@mcadam100.freeserve.co.uk

SHIRENEWTON W.I.

Sally Saysell took her first meeting as President of Shirenewton W.I. on Thursday 17 June 2004.

We were very busy at the Village Fete providing cream teas which was very successful, so we raised a total of £161 which went towards the church funds.

It was agreed that the summer dinner would take place at the Woodlands' Tavern on Thursday 19 August.

Shirley Bonsey gave an update of the 'Quick Find' map for the Monmouthshire Ambulance Services, who were very appreciative of the work we were doing for them. They also found out when looking at the Mynyddbach map that there were lanes they were unaware of! With just a few minor alterations the maps will soon be able to be finalised. Can members, therefore, please pass on to me the work done on the Shirenewton area so that I can compile the Shirenewton map? It is hoped to hand over the first 6 maps to the emergency services at the October Half Yearly Council Meeting in Drybridge House, Monmouth.

Some members were interested in the Digital Camera Taster Day in September at the Federation Office. Also 2 members are attending the European Evening of Food & Entertainment on Friday in Usk. Members were informed of the Federation Day Show on Saturday 18 September at County Hall where produce and members' talents will be on show. The event will be open to members of the public as well at £1 per person.

Arrangements for the trip to Hestercombe Gardens for Friday 16 July are in hand.

The Gwent Federation's 2005 Calendars and Diaries are on sale at £2.40 and £3.10 respectively.

The results of the voting at the AGM on 9 June at Sheffield is as follows:

- Trafficking of women & children resolution was passed with a 98.5% majority
- The growing of GM crops in the UK resolution was passed with an 88% majority
- Air Ambulance Service funding resolution was defeated by 51%

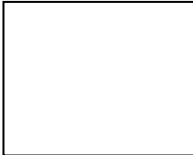
This means that National Federation in London will now be able to lobby the Government for the two mandates passed. WI & members will be urged to lobby their MPs, AMs and MEPs.

The speakers for the evening were Margaret & Ron Kinsey on the "Women of the Rhonda", the history of the role women played during the peak

mining years in the valley.

The next meeting will take place in the form of a garden party on 15 July at the invitation of Mr & Mrs Jones in their lovely garden.

Shirley Bonsey



PYP- Parish Youth Page

Guten Abend Volkes!

Yes, I'm hoping that means something like Hiya folks in German. You see, I saw 'The Pied Piper of Betelgeuse' performed by Kids Ad Lib last week and it was fabulous! And now I'm very keen to try out my German because I'm almost fluent now. Do you recognise this fairy tale?

Eins upon a glockenspiel there lived Herr Kurl. He had zwei, kinder, Hansel und Gretal. Herr Kurl married Frau Horrible. She did not like Hansel und Gretal und she sent them out into the Black Forest to get lost. 'But papa said the forest was verboten,' cried Gretal.

'Too bad und Auf Wiedersehen' cried frau Horrible and, cackling horribly to herself, she turned the tale and ran home to Herr Kurl.

'Mien lieblich' said Herr Kurl, 'Where are mien kinder?'

'In the Black Forest and probably Kaputt by now!' said Frau Horrible, 'Why don't we get a nice little kitten or perhaps a puppy instead? Perhaps we can get a German Shepherd'

'Nien Danke' said Herr Kurl, 'I prefer daschunds. Oh what am I saying, I want mien kinder back!'

'Tough', said the horrible Frau Horrible drinking her fifth tankard of wiessbier. 'Und Prost!'

Meanwhile, deep in the Black Forest, Hansel und Gretal were

getting cold. Hansel sneezed. 'Gesundheit!' said Gretel.
'Achtung! What's that?' cried Hansel as a bat flitted past.
'I am Die Fledermaus' squeaked die fledermaus, 'Your sneezing
woke me up but I can lead you to your haus if you follow me'
'Oh danke' said Hansel. 'Danke schon' said Gretel. So they
scampered after die Fledermaus trying to keep up with
enormous difficulty.' If we get home by Morgen, I will treat you
to a Cinnamon bun'
'Gut' squeaked die Fledermaus. ' But I'd prefer some pretzels'
Meanwhile back at the haus, Frau Horrible was having to do all
the haus work. 'I am not cut out to be a haus frau' she thought
to herself. 'I must either get the kinder back or look up a
cleaning agency in the gelbe zietzung'
But at that very moment, in came Hansel und Gretel. 'Guten tag
Frau Horrible' Where is Papa? Upon hearing them, in came Herr
Kurl. 'Mien lieblich' , he cried as he hugged Hansel. 'Oh mien
liebchen' he said as he hugged Gretel, 'Oh, das is gut!
'And as for you', he said turning to Frau Horrible, 'Guten tag und
auf Weiderschen!'

Die end.

See ya. PYP

SHIRENEWTON YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Well Done Youth Group:

Youth Group were kept busy at the church fete - if they were not painting nails, they were selling sweets (no, not eating) , organising the Planet game and helping with the weight gain/ loss of those crazy cyclists competition . They helped raise £128 for church funds - what a fantastic effort!

**NEXT MEETING - Village Family Rounders - Sunday 25th July
2p.m. Shirenewton Recreation Ground** followed by BBQ - hot dogs /
vegetarian alternative 50p each. Squash provided, parents please bring

own drinks unless you're satisfied with orange squash.

Please phone with numbers by Friday 23rd July:
Jackie (641797), Glynis(641818), Kha Koon

KIDS AD LIB

‘The Pied Piper of Betelgeuse’

Thursday Friday and Saturday of 17th 18th and 19th June saw the staging of another phenomenal presentation by “Kids Ad Lib” at the Earlswood Hippodrome, to near sell out audiences. The level of professionalism and talent for what is purported to be an amateur production was outstanding. The sets, lighting, costumes, script the music and songs were even better than the high standards set by the groups previous productions. With songs and music written specifically for the show. The set background painting was of a very high standard with our children abducted to the very realistic red planet of Mars, by a magical Pied Piper (Ellie Waite).

Based with some artistic licence on the traditional Pied Piper of Hamelin, the production was narrated brilliantly by Robert Browning in person (Aka as Maddie Stanley). The story brought up to date served a valuable moral tale, covering the levels of corruption, particularly from the slimy mayor of Hamburger (Alistair Bounds) and the way we treat the world and the environment.

Many congratulations to Glynis, Christine, Gail, Karen, Sue and Patricia, and the whole production team and cast in putting together another wonderful series of performances and managing to produce such outstanding performances from a cast of some seventy talented youngsters between the ages of five to fourteen. They too should feel proud of what they achieved.

1st Shirenewton Guides.

The Guides have been enjoying the fine weather to practise compass skills in the school grounds. By the time you read this it will hopefully have helped those who attended the Malvern Challenge at the end of June. We have also put up our new Patrol tent purchased with Grant aid from Monmouthshire Council. First Aid and knots are planned for the next couple of weeks.

We had fun at the fete and even the quietest of Guides managed to find a voice and persuade people to purchase tickets for the Wheel of Fortune. In fact, it was interesting to see how quiet some of our more voluble members were when facing the public (can you arrange a rota to attend Guide meetings and save the Leaders voices?) Those that helped certainly seemed to enjoy the stall.

We shall be joining other Guides, Brownies and Rainbows for a fun walk at Chepstow Racecourse to raise money for Guiding development abroad – watch the local press for reports. Weather permitting we hope to have a campfire and a cookout to end another year.

We wish you all a happy and safe summer as we plan for our District Day Camp in September! It's all go, as they say!

Yours in Guiding,

Kestrel	Helen Cann	650835
Raven	Kate Godwin-Tate	629360
Zebra	Tracey Ashton	650692

BROWNIE REPORT

Brownies celebrate 90 years

Thanks to all the Brownies and parents who made such an effort with our splendid float at the church fete. We were celebrating the Brownies 90th birthday and had borrowed 'old' uniforms - some even older than the leaders. The girls enjoyed wearing the uniforms their mums and grandmothers had worn, but preferred our new Brownie uniform that was launched last year. Thanks to our 'knights in shining armour and damsels' who came to our rescue to make the float such a success. Thanks to Matt and family who lent us the lorry, Wayne our trusted driver who was an invaluable help along with John in assembling the float. Thanks to Gill for her artistic flair and Dorothy and Lucy for dozens and dozens of things but most importantly their time. Great teamwork - that's what it's all about.

Jackie Broughton

(641614).

JAZZ AT THE CHURCH

“ WITH SOMETHING SULTRY ”

7:30PM ON FRIDAY 2ND JULY

Jazz at the Church is a casual, open air, jazz evening in the Church grounds featuring live jazz from the Village's own “Something Sultry” and hopefully another guest band.

The Church will provide the Band(s), Pimms and you provide the rest..

Gather a few friends, bring your own seating and / or a picnic blanket.

Bring a picnic and something to drink. Relax and enjoy.

The £5 charge (£7 on the night so please buy in advance!) includes a glass of Pimms for the adults (please bring a glass/cup!). We ask for a nominal £1 per child payable on the evening. Further glasses of Pimms will be available for a suitable donation.

Tickets from The Spar village shop, David Cornwell and others.

SHIRENEWTON WHIST DRIVES

Although it was a grey evening it was still fairly light at 10 o'clock and 27 people had enjoyed a good evening of whist on the 3rd June. The next Drive is on Thursday, 1st July followed by 5th August and 2nd September. Do join us for a 7.30 p.m. start at The Recreation Hall on each date.

Auriol Horton. 01291 641844.

The Church Shopping Portal

Do you shop on-line? If so please shop through the Shirenewton Church shopping portal. It doesn't cost you anything and the church benefits.

See: www.shirenewtonchurch.org.uk

David Cornwell
Webmaster

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Shirenewton Local History Society

The May meeting was held at The Shirenewton Golf Club when Mr. John Grove gave us a series of cameo stories on the life of William Marshal (about 1147-1219). Unusually his life was recorded in a French poem – *Historie de Guillaume le Marshall*.

William was sent to France to the household of his kinsman, William de Tancarville where he had military training and learnt something of politics and courtly behaviour. He was not literate for that was left to the clerks. He

distinguished himself in battle and was knighted when he was twenty. He made a reputation for himself in the tournaments and Queen Eleanor became his patron. Later he became protector and tutor to her son and heir Prince Henry. When Henry died he asked William to take his cloak to the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. On his return William joined King Henry II and remained loyal to him, when his son Richard rebelled. However, William spared Richard when he could have killed him.

Henry II had a ward, Isabella who was the daughter and heir of Richard de Clare who had great estates in England, Ireland and Wales, including Chepstow Castle and its lands. Henry II had promised Isabella to Marshall. When Richard was crowned King he honoured his father's wishes and William and Isabella were married. As a result William became one of the richest men in England. Isabella gave birth to ten sons all of who survived her. William was active in politics, and was one of four co-justicians who ran the country in Richard I's absence.

Isabella travelled with William acting as his adviser. They built and made many improvements to their many castles, among them Pembroke, Kilkenny and especially Chepstow. William Marshall died in his sons arms. He had a good end to a good life. A man of chivalry, a leader of men, a patron of churches a builder of castles, a politician and a good husband and father.

The next meeting of the Society is a visit to the Dewstow Sunken Gardens on Tuesday 27th July at 7.00 p.m. Tickets cost £5.00, numbers must be known in advance, so please contact Dorothy Brabon (641376) before 9th July if you would like to go.

Gray Hill Visit 13 June 2004

Member enjoyed the spectacular views and the cooling breeze at the top of Gray Hill on the very hot Sunday 13 June when Adrian Chadwick gave a tour of the archaeology. He is Director of the Gray Hill Landscape Archaeology Project, which is in the third year of a five-year programme of surveying and excavation.

The tour started at the large burial Cairn at the summit, which, along with many of the other such Cairns on Gray Hill had been robbed by

antiquarians, probably in Victorian times. "Chad", who lectures at University of Wales, Newport, then described the enormous (more than 30 acres) prehistoric D-shaped enclosure, before descending to the row of Standing Stones and the Bronze Age Stone Circle, features already known to those members who brave the elements on the Winter Solstice. To the south of these stones were three trenches currently under excavation. The first was a stone platform where the D-shaped enclosure met one of the stone field boundaries. The second was a section of one of these "orthostatic" field boundaries, which had been created using two rows of upright stones with smaller stones as in-fill. As yet the date and purpose of these has not been confirmed but they are also thought to be prehistoric. Members were impressed by the sheer size of the stones used in the construction.

Finally, we saw a near-fully-excavated ring cairn with its burial cist. This, luckily, had not been robbed by antiquarians and so far a "Faience" bead (Bronze Age blue glass) with 5 flint "Barbed and Tanged" arrowheads underneath had been discovered by the archaeologists. These would have been grave goods from inhumations, the bones haven't been eaten away by the acid soil. They indicate burials in the Cairn between 2300-1800 BC for the lower graves and 1800-1600BC for the top one. Also some fragments of "Beaker" pottery were there, typical of the so-called "Beaker People" who appeared in Britain at the beginning of the Bronze Age. A large horizontal stone adjacent to the cist was due to be lifted, tantalisingly the next day.

Volunteers and students from all over Britain (and the USA and Canada) are helping with the dig and some of them were working "overtime" on the Cairn on Sunday 13th. Dorothy Brabon gave a warm thank-you to Adrian Chadwick for giving such an informative and compelling tour of the archaeology.

The August meeting on the 8th August will be a field visit to the Gaerllwyd Neolithic Chambered Tomb, and the extinct volcano at Golden Hill. Car Parking at these sites is a problem, so please meet at the recreation ground at 2.00 p.m. in order that we may share cars.

Jenny Bonner

NEWCHURCH NEWS

A sincere word of thanks to all whom helped and supported our stall at the

fete. It was a very pleasant and successful afternoon.

May we draw attention to all those tending graves in our churchyard, that due to Health and Safety regulations it would be appreciated if people do not put plastic or glass containers on the middle of the graves but as near as possible to headstones. You can obviously appreciate it could be hazardous when mowing or strimming near these objects.

David Heritage, Secretary

Gwent Community Policing Local Surgeries

Gwent police will be holding a series of local community surgeries. The object of these surgeries are to provide the community with an opportunity to meet with me (PC 542 Dino Lantzoz), share any information that may mutually benefit ourselves or to discuss any concerns regarding the policing of the community. Surgeries will be held on the following dates.

3rd August 2004 Earlswood village hall 6pm-8pm

21st August 2004 Shirenewton village hall 10am-12noon

22nd September 2004 Earlswood village hall 6pm-8pm

There will be posters and hopefully a press release confirming each date nearer the time.

PC 542 Dino Lantzoz

Earlswood Hall News

Hello Readers,

Apologies for the lack of news in last months magazine, however some news for this month. The Hall Committee held a meeting on the 10th June to discuss future functions. A proposal was made and passed that there will be no New Years Eve Dance, but a that a Dance would be held for "Twelfth Night" 8th January. More information will follow.

Friday 3rd September we have a fantastic show lined up with five top artists from the Devon area. The line up is, Big Game Band (ex Roulettes) Tony Everett the "Magic Man"; "Shauna" an Abba Tribute, Lou James a Cliff Richard Tribute and a top comedian from Liverpool, Vic Boulton. The show

starts at 8.00 p.m. until midnight. Ticket prices will be advised later.

There will be another great night on 26th November with a 60's and 70's night with "Route 66" with a welcome return of that great comedian "Fred the Ted". The show again will start at 8.00 p.m. and refreshments will be on sale both nights.

Finally on a sad note, we hear recently that after a short illness of the passing away of Mrs Jean Jones of the Bungalow, Newchurch West. Jean moved here from Birmingham some twelve years ago and was a visitor to the Hall. Her family and neighbours will sadly miss her.

To hire the Hall at competitive rates contact Glynis MacDonald on 01291 641818.

John Spary
Entertainment secretary.

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**WOODLAND TRUST TO REINSTATE 19TH CENTURY DEER PARK
AS PART
OF NEW RAVINE WOODLIFE PROJECT**

GRAZING BY DEER TO BE REINTRODUCED AT LITTLE DOWARD IN THE WYE VALLEY SO AS TO BETTER CARE FOR THE SITE'S UNIQUE WILDLIFE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

On Thursday 20 May the Woodland Trust, the UK's leading woodland conservation charity, together with seven other partner organisations, will be celebrating the launch of an exciting new project to ensure the long-term ecological viability native woodland in the Wye Valley and in the Peak District. The project will be formally launched at a special celebration event at Forestry Commission Youth Campsite at The Biblins in the heart of the Wye Valley.

As part of the project, known as Ravine Woodlife, the Woodland Trust will be carrying out important management work at four of its woods in the Wye Valley on the English-Welsh border: Little Doward, near Monmouth; Bigsweir Wood, at St Briavels; Symonds Yat West near Monmouth and Priory Grove, near Monmouth.

Part-funded by the European Union, this project will target a total of £1.3 million on meeting its conservation objectives, over a period of three years. As part of the project, the Woodland Trust will plans to spend over £220,000 conserving and enhancing these sites within the Wye Valley, of which £132,000 will come from the EU, £48,000 from the Forestry Commission and £40,000 from the Woodland Trust's own resources. Much of this money being used to employ local contractors.

At Little Doward, the Woodland Trust will be reinstating the deer park, which existed at the site in the 1840s, by restoring some of the old walls and erecting new fences, so that managed grazing by deer and sheep can be introduced.

Paula Keen, who manages the site for the Trust explains: "Fallow deer have become part of the ecology of Wye Valley, but grazing by them can be a problem for woodlands if deer numbers become too high. Unusually, however, there are areas of Little Doward where the level of grazing appears to be too low, and where regeneration of scrub is taking over areas of grassland and rocky slopes, smothering plants which are already rare, some unique to this area. By reintroducing controlled grazing, we can ensure that this species rich habitat with its wonderful rare plants such as Hutchinsia and fingered sedge, is protected. Reinstating the deer park, which itself replaced common grazing arrangements with a variety of grazing animals, will enable us to do this."

Little Doward contains an Iron Age hill fort, and as part of its plan for the wood, the Trust plans not only to remove conifers from this part of the site, but to ensure that it remains undamaged by tree roots, by having this particular area grazed by sheep. Each of the four Woodland Trust sites included in this project will continue to be open to the public, free of charge, at any time.

The Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Beauty, which straddles the English/Welsh border, represents the second largest concentration of ancient woodland in the UK, and is regarded as being internationally significant. It attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year who wish to enjoy the area's beautiful woodland and countryside.

Paula Keen concludes: "The Woodland Trust is particularly pleased to be involved in the Ravine Woodlife project as it has long believed that, if we are to ensure to the long-term viability of our native woodland, we need to think and plan at a landscape scale, not just on the level of individual woods. It is heartening to see eight key environmental organisations doing just this, and the Wye Valley, with its concentration of ancient woodland, is certainly one of the best places to start."

SHIRENEWTON RECYCLING SITE

The Shirenewton recycling site is pretty unusual. Local residents fill it, the local school and friends maintain it, and one local company empties it. The project has been running for a year now, and it is time for a bit of feedback from Monmouthshire Community Recycling, the ones that take everything away. We have not been able to keep precise records of what has been collected because we pick it up on the same rounds as our door-to-door rounds, but have seen enough loads to make a good estimate.

Over the year around 15 tonnes of recyclable materials have been collected - all of it has been recycled. The Black Box Scheme works because we only take what we know we can use. There has been some plastic left at the site, which we can't yet do anything with (sorry), but otherwise we get a lot of what we have asked for. There is certainly more glass than anyone could have expected - we haven't looked closely at what sort of glass, perhaps Shirenewton and district is particularly fond of jam or pickled onions! Paper is a bit on the light side - just a reminder, this can be nearly any sort of paper: newspaper, magazines, directories, catalogues, office-type paper. On top of this several thousand cans and a couple of hundred bags of clothing have gone through the Shirenewton shed to date. If there are any

questions about what can or can't go in, or what we do with it, call us on (01291) 430550.

On behalf of Monmouthshire Community Recycling and the Waste Dept at Monmouthshire Council we would like to thank Caroline and the teachers and pupils at Shirenewton School. The regular Black Box crew for the area (most are called Paul, so you'll know what to call them if you see them!), everyone who helps get the boxes filled, and special thanks to Tony who opens the site up on a regular basis. If that reads like an over-enthusiastic Oscar-winner, it is a good illustration of why Shirenewton is so good at recycling - so many people are involved one way or another. Between us we've saved shed loads of rubbish from being landfilled!

David Roman

Monmouthshire Community Recycling/Ail-gylchu Cymunedol Sir Fynwy

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COOKERY CORNER

We often have barbecues in the summer, and although I really enjoy barbecue food it does mean that Wayne does the cooking! As I write, it is raining let's hope we have more sun soon!

We don't have a large barbecue and for a large number of people lots of little things can be quite a fiddle.

One of Wayne's best barbecues is a leg lamb.

Rub into the lamb:

2 tablespoons oil	juice of 1 lemon
3 cloves of crushed garlic	2 teaspoons of cumin powder
2 teaspoons cinnamon	3 teaspoons of coriander powder

If the leg is large, make slits up the bone – or the leg can be boned. A shoulder is just as good and will take less cooking.

I like to serve with a bowl of yoghurt mixed with crushed garlic, chopped mint and salt and pepper.

Vegetable Kebabs are also good, I toss cherry tomatoes, sliced courgettes, onions cut into eighths mushrooms and diced Halloumi (Greek cheese) In oil mixed with salt, pepper and chopped chives, marjoram and thyme. These threaded onto skewers or for extra flavour onto rosemary branches (with the leaves removed and thrown onto the coals).

When making burgers I like to put either a square of mozzarella or a square of chilled garlic butter in the middle.

An excellent marinade sauce for ribs or chops:

2 tablespoons sunflower oil	1 clove of garlic
1 –2 tablespoons chilli sauce	2 tablespoons soy sauce
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce	1 tablespoon soft brown sugar
1 tablespoon tomato puree	1 tablespoon white wine vinegar
1 tablespoon ground ginger	

Best of all is bread cooked on the barbecue – make the dough as normal, I put:

1 lb. flour, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 oz butter, 1 packet of yeast into a food processor, mix in warm water until the right consistency is achieved, about ½ pint. Leave to rise in the processor until you are ready to cook. Whiz the processor until the dough is knocked back. Tip onto a floured board and shape into flat buns. Place these on the rack of the barbecue. Wayne usually these when everything else has finished. When the bottom has cooked turn them over.

Delicious with butter, or to mop up the lovely juices from the sauces.

Thanks again to Caroline Davies

Mary Vittle

B.Sc. D.Pod M MchS

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GARDENING CORNER

It seems that my gardening assassination of Monty Don raised a few eyebrows in last month's pages. Funnily enough I read a letter in one of the gardening magazines the other day that suggested there were two

camps when it comes to Mr. Don, you either love him or hate him! I wouldn't quite go this far. I just don't like the modern trend of dragging celebrities onto a gardening programme and letting them strut their stuff! Talking of which, I am not a great supporter of Chelsea flower show. I have only been once but I certainly do not intend to go again. I did watch it on television for a bit though but when Jenny Bond appeared I thought Oh dear and promptly turned it off! I don't mean to get wound up by these programmes its just that everything is based on fashion. Now don't get me wrong I can do fashion. In fact I still remember my two-tone platform shoes and shiny two coloured trousers of the very early seventies (oh yes, sad but true!). Seriously, I just cannot understand why everything in the garden has to be geared to fashion. It seems that plants are in fashion one year but out another. Why? The under gardener was at a plant sale the other week only to be told that hardy geraniums were no longer a fashion item. Now how sad is that! For many, gardening is a relatively new-found passion and one that the latest glut of gardening programmes is trying to tap into. One of the best ways to nurture this passion is for the budding gardener to be successful. I wonder how many people would soon lose interest if the plants that they were buying kept turning their toes up in the air and expiring because they were too temperamental in their requirements? Bring on the hardy geranium. No amount of abuse will see them off. I have even set light to one before now (by accident I hasten to add!) and it still came back for more. Now tell me why that should go out of fashion. These make over programmes are all very well and Okay, people can have their fashion but at the end of the day each one of us should have what we want in our garden and not have it imposed by guilt by others that should know better. I love the random riot of colour that cottage gardening can give you and I intend to stick with that.

Well there you have it, back to business! The last few weeks have proved to be very difficult with little rain for it seems like ages. I'll have to check with Ernie Jones to see just when the last measurable rain actually fell. The flowerbeds are now more akin to a desert, being just like a dust bowl and as a result I have resisted the temptation to plant up the many gaps that we have in the borders. These will have to wait until there is a chance of some rain in the air. I don't want to start watering the beds if I can help it as it doesn't matter how much you put on it is never the same as proper rain. In many places the ground is literally like concrete. I manage to keep the fertility of the soil up by spreading blood, fish and bonemeal earlier on in the season, but with the extremes of weather that we are now experiencing it is becoming more essential that I get some moisture retentive material on the ground this autumn. Fortunately I have a good supply rotting away in our top field courtesy of a local farmer. I do make our own compost with the grass clippings and other plant material from the garden but this is nowhere near enough for the amount of ground that there is to cover. With

the hot weather that we have had many of the flowers have had a burst of colour and finished almost immediately. If we do get some rain it will be the under-gardeners job to go around with the shears and hack all the old growth off. That is one of the best things with perennials in that you can always get a second flush of growth and flowers if you treat them ruthlessly! Things aren't a lot better in the fruit garden with the sun finishing off the strawberries both indoors and out. The cane fruit is looking all right but again we desperately need some rain to help swell the fruit up. If not there will be a lot of seeds and not a lot else! The fruit cage itself is almost finished with just the top net to go on. Hopefully this will be completed now this week.

Things are a looking a little better in the vegetable garden. I have to admit though that some of this is probably due to the fact that I have succumbed to watering some of this, especially the produce with high water demands, such as salad and beans. I took a gamble and put the runner and French beans seed in earlier than normal. There were one or two cold nights that we had to protect them with some fleece but I think that we have now benefited from this gamble. It has meant that the plants have got well established before the dry weather set in and they haven't really looked back since. We have been picking the first of the dwarf French beans for a couple of weeks now and these mixed in with some broad beans, mangetout and some diced courgettes, either steamed or in stir fry are a delight to eat.

*We have had the first two gardening openings now and had over one hundred people at each, so this has been a good start to the year. I had hoped to have made progress on the new "hot" area and completed it by now. Unfortunately there is quite a bit of digging to be done and so a little rain will help to soften the ground a bit. Not that either of us has been sitting around twiddling our thumbs mind you! I have this fear that the television crew, like Ground Force, will return to look at the items they featured in the programme, but hopefully not! Just caught the weather tonight and the forecast is for wind and rain. We could do without the latter but guess beggars can't be choosers!
Happy gardening until next month,*

Steve Hunt.

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Some Dates for your Diary

1 st July	Whist Drive – Recreation Hall – 7.30 p.m.
2 nd July	Jazz at the Church
5 th July	Community Council Annual Meeting – Recreation Hall
22 nd July	History Society visits to Dewstow Sunken Gardens –See above.
3 rd August	Police Surgery – See above
5 th August	Whist Drive – Recreation Hall – 7.30 p.m.
8 th August	History Society visits to Gaerllwyd Neolithic Tomb, and Volcano at Golden Hill – 2.00 p.m. Recreation Ground
19 th August	W.I. Dinner – Woodlands Tavern – Llanfair Discoed.
21 st August	Police Surgery – See above.
3 rd September	Earlswood Hall – Variety Show night.

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READERS AND SIDES-PERSONS ROTA - JULY & AUGUST

Date	Service	Reader	Sides-person
4 th July	5 th Sunday after Pentecost 9.45 a.m. Holy Eucharist	Cynthia Smith James Leney	Cynthia Smith Claire Lewis
11 th July	6 th Sunday after Pentecost 9.45 a.m. Holy Eucharist	Andrew Baker Kevin Bounds	Andrew Baker Kevin Bounds
18 th July	7 th Sunday after Pentecost	FAMILY SERVICE 9.45 a.m.	
25 th July	8 th Sunday after Pentecost 9.45 a.m. Holy Eucharist	Alicea Brown Jane Smith-Hadden	Bernice Bowen Alan Saysell
1 st August	9 th Sunday after Pentecost 9.45 a.m. Holy Eucharist	Barbara Davies Bob Grattan	Barbara Davies Bob Grattan
8 th August	10 th Sunday after Pentecost 9.45 a.m. Holy Eucharist	Felicity Hunt John Nicholas	Felicity Hunt John Nicholas
15 th August	11 th Sunday after Pentecost 9.45 a.m. FAMILY SERVICE		
22 nd August	12 th Sunday after Pentecost 9.45 a.m. Holy Eucharist	Peter Jones Jean Jones	Peter Jones Jean Jones

Newchurch Every Sunday at 2.30 p.m.