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MAY 2004

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



PARISHES OF SHIRENEWTON AND NEWCHURCH

MAGAZINE

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CURATE	The Revd Nansi Davies	01633 400519
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MOTHERS UNION:	Auriol Horton	641844
CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER:	John Waters	641449
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CUBS:	Diana Such	650638
BEAVERS:	GILL NORRIS	622703
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TRADCRAFT:	Marion McAdam	641316

Please send notes, discs or emails (bobandwenche@aol.com) for the June magazine to Bob O'Keefe, 15 Newton Manor, Shirenewton, (641686) by Monday 22nd May.

Dear Parishioners,

Easter has brought with it the great chance to hear again the wonderful message of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We hear that He has banished death and transformed the future for all of us. All the services concentrate on light and life and the music is particularly joyful and uplifting. The contrast from Good Friday could not be greater, indeed, the movement from darkness to light, from death to life and from sorrow to immense joy can appear to some people as more akin to "a happy ending where everyone lives happily ever after" almost as if someone had waved a magic wand.

If we look at what the New Testament says we can begin to grasp the power and the meaning of what happened. It is first to a woman that Jesus appears. It is not until you realise that a woman's testimony was considered neither reliable nor permissible in a Jewish Court of Law that we begin to see that everything Jesus said it is to dictate the future. The last, the outsider, the stranger, the lost – all these are both valued and welcome. Mary does not at first recognise Jesus and it is not until He calls her by her name that her grief evaporates and she tries to cling to him. She thinks she has her old friend back but begins to realise that Jesus, the one who was crucified and who still bears the marks, is the one who has risen. The resurrection has not removed the marks of pain. When He meets Thomas this becomes even more evident.

Jesus is alive and brings that promise to all people. He cannot be owned, grasped hold of as Mary would have liked and made "her Jesus". He is as Thomas confessed Him to be both "Lord and God". While Thomas also used the word "my" it is the "my" of realisation not of possession, of faith and not idolatry. Jesus re-makes us in the image and likeness of God and we can never re-make or re-fashion Him. The risen Jesus makes Mary and Thomas and you and me "His" and it can only be that way because what He has done is for all of us for now and for eternity. The new life He offers begins now the moment He ignites us with the wonder of what that means.

It is so easy to speak glibly of death being vanquished and evil defeated and light and love triumphing over darkness and the violence of hate but one look around the world reveals a haunting picture which has to be made sense of in the light of this risen Jesus. People still die, even the most devout and holy, suffering fractures the lives of countless people and hate seems to thrive where ever one person puts themselves in God's place and exacts "judgement" on the life and person of another, (though it

must be said that it is "vengeance" rather than judgement.)
 Jesus is risen as the one who promises to embrace and accompany those whose lives bear the marks of suffering, rejection, pain and death. By His action Jesus gives life to those words He spoke to Mary after Lazarus had died. "I am the resurrection and the life" It's not about promises of an unknown future. It's about today and life that is inseparable from God's care and concern. That is where victory begins because eternal life has already begun.

The reality and truth of the resurrection lies not in an empty tomb nor in a restored body. It is the Crucified one still bearing the marks of how great his love is for us, who will be with us through everything life on this planet has to offer. He will not, because, He cannot let us go.

He is risen indeed! Alleluia.

With every Easter Blessing,

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.

We find out about Jesus

and how much fun it is to be a Christian.

Here's a list of this term's dates:

Date		Time	Venue
May	2	10.45	Sunday School – The Chantry
May	9	10.45	Sunday School – The Chantry
May	16	9.30	Parade Service – Church
May	23	10.45	Sunday School – The Chantry
May	30		Group Service – No Sunday School

If you would like more info – phone:

Jane Smith-Haddon - 01291 641 525

Glynis MacDonald - 01291 641 818

FROM THE REGISTERS :

26th March the Marriage of Sarah Louise Barnes to Benjamin Paul Laing at St. Thomas a Becket Church.

CHURCH FETE

Arrangements are now in hand for this years fete to be held on 12th June at the Recreation Field from 2.00 p.m. The next meeting of the Fete committee will be on 5th May at 8.00 p.m. at the Huntsman. Anyone that is interested will be welcome, as will new ideas for stalls, attractions or new forms of entertainment.

For further information, contact Steve White on 01291 641804 or Barbara Walters on 01291 641338.

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH 200 CLUB

April Draw

No. 185	Stan Jones	£40
No. 231	Roffe Edwards	£30
No. 171	Ritchie Tout	£20
No. 27	Helen Nield	£10

UPDATE ON CHURCH EXTENSION FUND RAISING

As you are probably aware by now, Shirenewton PCC are planning an extension to the church. This is a major exercise and will require substantial funding so a fund raising group has been set up. The aim of this group is to raise the £150,000 or so required to complete the extension.

Members of the group are: Kevin Bounds, John Nicholas, Glynis MacDonald, Nansi Davies, Dave Cornwell, Tony Bendall, Mike Pierce and Pauline James.

The group has met a number of times and has adopted the following strategies:

- Arrange a series of community events to raise awareness and profile as well as money e.g. concerts, open day, review evening
- Approach potential “significant” donors who are invited to contribute a sizeable sum e.g. £5,000- the donor pack sets out terms for refunds if

- extension doesn't proceed etc
- Launch an online shopping portal through:
www.shirenewtonchurch.org.uk
- Develop a sponsor a brick scheme – for £199 you can have an engraved brick with any reasonable message of your choice
- Support events such as the “Mid Life Cyclists” tour from St David's to Shirenewton – corporate, individual and team sponsorship is expected to generate over £5,000
- Encourage maximum use of gift aid - if we raise £78,000 by above means and it is all gift aided we generate £100,000 with government contribution.
- Apply for grants and other assistance – Pauline James has recently joined the group with this specific brief and will work closely with Nansi Davies – we hope to raise £50,000 this way

How are we doing so far? The answer is not too bad for the stage we are at. We have £18,000 in the separate bank account for the extension fund from donors and events. We have additional pledges worth around £20,000 and hope to convert these into cash soon. And there are planned events such as the bike ride, the Monmouth School concert and the fete that will bring in more revenue.

Is this enough? No – we need to keep the pressure going since we have a long way to go. What we need are:

- Volunteers for the fund raising committee – requirements are enthusiasm, a love of red wine and being prepared to have fun.
- More individual donors – please approach any member of the group if you would like to discuss this – discretion assured.
- Support for the planned events.
- Ideas – we haven't covered all angles and would love to hear other ideas.
- Evangelists for the shopping portal – it's very innovative and I personally use it to save money on my travel and office purchases.

Please contact any member of the group for more information including Kevin Bounds on 641818 or kevin@boundsk.freereserve.co.uk

Thanks for all your support.
Kevin Bounds.
Treasurer, Shirenewton PCC

GAERLLWYD WOMEN'S MEETINGS: – AT GAERLLWYD BAPTIST CHAPEL

5th May - 2.30 p.m. Our speaker will be Mrs White”

19th May - 2.30 p.m. Normal regular meeting.

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY Council

Meeting held 5th April 2004

Mrs. Pam Lloyd, a Development Officer for Rural Community Action and PC Andrew Mason joined 7 members of the Community Council at the meeting.

PC Mason told us there had been 5 reported crimes in the area during February and March 2 of which involved the theft of machinery.

Two "Police Surgeries" were held recently in the area, one at Earlswood Hall and the other at Shirenewton Recreation Hall. It is intended to hold one surgery per month, alternating between Earlswood and Shirenewton. Unfortunately PC Mason was unable to confirm the date or venue of the next surgery.

Mrs. Lloyd works for the Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO). Rural Community Action was set up following the 2001 Foot & Mouth outbreak with the aim of promoting and improving rural regeneration. The group she represents can offer financial support of up to £2500 for a range of community projects. Such money is intended to support rural tourism, community development which may involve the setting up of appropriate questionnaires, access to services, support for community planning applications etc. Mrs. Lloyd would be happy to talk to anyone and can be contacted on 01291 672352.

Matters Arising from the previous meeting

Dog fouling in an around Shirenewton. New signs have been ordered. If you have a preference as to where the signs should be erected let the Clerk or one of your councillors know. There have been reports of excessive fouling on and near the footpath between Tan House Court and the School. If your dog is responsible you are obliged to clear up the mess.

The Church Clock. It would appear that further work is required to repair a fault that has become apparent since electrification. The estimated cost of the additional work is £308 though it could be more if additional clock parts are needed. Members agreed to accept the quotation and ask the contractor to complete the work.

Traffic calming. Still no further news although it seems the Highways Department have presented a plan to construct a bus stop at the Recreation Field. We wondered *why?* How many people are going to the Recreation Field to catch the bus rather than the village centre?

The Old Barn, Lower Argoed. Following a visit by one of the members of the Community Council, and after considerable discussion, it was agreed to support the application for a granny-annexe conversion.

The footpaths across the Golf Course. Apparently all is not well. Some footpath walkers have used the revised routes and report that a number of places are only passable with difficulty while other paths are impassable. Ramblers are also liable to be struck by golf balls on some of the new paths. The Golf Club has been sold and there are suggestions that the new owner is also unhappy with the latest footpaths across the course.

Planning Matters

Two applications were received for consideration.

Little Brook Cottage, Earlswood – an application for a two-storey extension for which we could see little reason to object to and;

An application to construct a new farm building at **Marls Barn, Earlswood** that we also recommended for approval.

No decisions were received from Mon.CC Planning Department this month.

Matters of local concern

We understand that a retrospective planning application has been refused regarding the **Penyrheol Farm ménage.** The developers may appeal against the decision. No enforcement action can be taken until that appeal has been heard.


A number of minor, though important, local matters were brought to the attention of the meeting. These included a footpath being seriously affected by an overgrown hedge and a number of traffic signs in need of some TLC. The Clerk will approach the relevant authorities.

Caerwent Community Council have alerted us to the fact that the Bicca Common on Grey Hill may have a new owner. Problems could arise if the new owner decides to enforce his apparent feudal rights with regard to this property.

Community Council Elections take place on Thursday 10 June 2004. We believe that at least two members are not seeking re-election to our Council. If you are interested in becoming a Shirenewton Community Councillor contact the Clerk (01291 620370) or Mrs. M. Hendon (01633 644237) for more information.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on 10 May 2004.

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Fax: 01291 641713
email: Sue.Bullock@btinternet.com

SMU (SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS' UNION)

6 members and 3 guests attended the meeting on 14th April. Continuing our theme of “Building Relationships” our prayer for April was for “Grandparents” and was read by Enid Jones. The “building block” was “the Family” and Ruth Savagar read from Luke 2 vs.41-52. Following our prayers we were entertained and instructed by Mrs. Adelaide Morgan, she told us of her visits to Moscow and St. Petersburg in the late 90’s and illustrated her talk with slides. We were delighted to see the results of restoration works that had been completed between her first and second visits to Moscow but her words emphasised the difficulty of imposing a democracy in a country that had been ruled by a dictator for more than a generation.

Sally Saysell gave the vote of thanks for a most interesting talk. Members were reminded of the Deanery Festival to take place at Mathern Church at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 11th May.

The next meeting is in Church on Wednesday, 12th May at 2.30 p.m. when Mrs. Hilda Austen will speak to us. All are welcome to join us for prayer,

talk and tea.

There will be a short M.U. Wave of Prayer Service at 11.30 a.m. in Church on Wednesday, 26th May when we can be sure we are praying in unison with our Seven million world-wide members. This is also open to friends, so please join us.

Auriol Horton - Branch Leader.

FAIRTRADE NOTES

I've just returned from one of the most beautiful places on earth: Sri Lanka. An island of lush, verdant vegetation profusion of tropical fruits, scented with frangipani, spectacular unspoilt beaches, astonishing ancient cities and dramatic wildlife: leopards, elephants and nesting turtles being our most dramatic encounters. My daughter Alex has been a volunteer teaching English in state run schools in a poor area near Colombo. The tea plantations in the cooler hill country, laid out with suburban-like regularity give the tourist a glimpse of the lives of the workers who make it possible for the West to enjoy one of our favourite (and cheapest) beverages. The Tamil ladies who pick the tea are very close to being indentured labourers but as I wrote in last month's magazine, one of the benefits one small group has gained from Fairtrade is the introduction of electricity: scarcely little more than a basic essential as far as we are concerned.

As ever I urge you to look at the current Traidcraft catalogue, full of tempting foods and a vast range of other quality products. We have made a small, a very small beginning to improve the lives of the tea-pickers, perhaps our next job should be to ask ourselves why garment workers in this beautiful place and elsewhere in the developing world should receive derisory wages and suffer such unfair working conditions and practices.

But we have at least begun to consider such things.

As ever contact me or Spar for the new Spring catalogue.641 316
marion@mcadam100.frreserve.co.uk

SHIRENEWTON W.I.

Nineteen members attended the meeting on the 15th April, which was chaired by Sally Saysell (Vice President), and Ruth Savagar took the

minutes. Mrs. Winnie Jones asked that a vote of thanks from members to the Committee be recorded for the excellent Birthday Party in March and this was unanimously agreed. Members were continuing the research into and preparation of “the access to properties map” for the emergency services. Diana Such gave an interesting and descriptive account of the GFWI Annual Conference at County Hall and she was thanked for this. Last year’s Outing had been so successful that the Committee had decided to organise another outing, this would be on Friday, 16th July – venue to be confirmed. Mr. Ken Rui then made an unlikely subject most interesting as he told us about the world of Pharmacy today drawing on his 50 years as a practising pharmacist for comparisons. There were many questions at the end and Mrs. Winnie Jones gave the vote of thanks. 20th May is Shirenewton W.I.’s AGM when a new Chairman is elected. There will also be a Sales Table.

We shall be discussing at this meeting how we will vote on the 3 resolutions that will be presented at the Annual General Meeting in Sheffield in June this year. These resolutions are - The funding of Air Ambulance Services; the growing of GM crops, and concerns on the Trafficking of Women and Children.

The next meeting the AGM will be on Thursday, 20th May at the Recreation Hall for a 7.15 p.m. start.

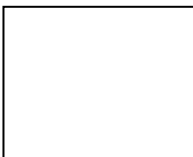
Visitors are welcome to attend the June meeting when the speakers are Margaret & Ron Kinsey on the “Women of the Rhonda”

Auriol Horton, member.

VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the litter picking during the first week in April. Both Shirenewton and Mynyddbach are looking very clean, let’s hope that they can remain so in the future, especially during the ‘Best Kept Village’ competition in June/July.

Shirley Bonsey



PYP- Parish Youth Page

Hiya Folks,

Isn't Spring wonderful? I went walking with my owner this morning and heard the fresh green leaves on the chestnut tree whispering away to themselves in the sunny breeze. And there were the sky larks, rippling high up in the blue. Makes you think just how lucky we are.

My owner has been reading about children and adults who have really hard lives. It's

Christian Aid Week soon (9th - 15th May) and so I've pinched this picture letter for you to solve.

It's words that Jesus spoke and He was pretty keen that everyone should help one another.

See ya! Pyp



U A



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as



u.



U R



Answers on page

THE VILLAGE PARADE SERVICE
SUNDAY 16TH MAY 9.30 AM.

It's a tradition in some parts of the country to celebrate Whitsun Time with a Parade Service. We did this last year and we had the Brownies, Guides, and Scouts and Sunday School marching up from the 'Tan House' pub to the church with their flags and banners following The Chepstow Brass Band. It was followed by a very short service in the church. It was great! There's something about marching behind a brass band that is very stirring! So we are going to do it again this year and we hope the weather will be as kind to us this year as it was last year.

Everyone is really welcome to join the parade and to come to a short user-friendly service that will be about Christian Aid.

Shirenewton Youth Group

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 9 th May	Forest of Dean Cycle Ride	12.00
Sunday 16 th May	Parade Service	9.30
Saturday 5 th June	Tigers Service	t.b.a.
Saturday 12 th June	Fete 'Nail Bar' and 'Wellie Wanging'	

Christian Aid Week: - 9th – 15th May.

We believe in life before death'

Christian Aid Week follows Red Cross Week. And so in a short space of time two very worthy causes will be calling upon you to support them. In both cases, volunteers take a deep breath and go knocking on doors. I have to confess that I do not look forward to it and I think to myself surely there is an easier way to raise money. But then I have to remind myself that this is a miniscule discomfort compared to the hardships that many people in this world endure.

So please give generously.

(And I still hope, in true feeble fashion, that it's not going to be a rainy day...)



Girlguiding UK

1ST SHIRENEWTON GUIDES.

The summer term is always a busy time as the lighter nights allows us to get out and about a bit more. We are preparing for camp in May, the theme being "I'm a Guide – get me out of here!" Bushtucker challenges are being put together as I write (no, I don't know what they are either, but it's very popular with the girls). In June, by popular request, we are going to Malvern again to join with about 2,500 other young people for a weekend of challenges and mayhem.

We start the term with a party organised by one of the Patrols as part of their “Go-for-it” award. They have chosen “good or bad” as the theme and we are all expected to dress accordingly - watch out for a host of heavenly bodies and more than our fair share of devils! The older Guides will also be preparing some of the meetings this term as part of their Baden Powell challenge. This certainly helps reduce the Leaders workload on a weekly basis - especially welcome when we are trying to organise camps!

Although it is the busiest time of the year, it is also the most fun. You could well meet us in the village on a Tuesday evening or hear us out in the school grounds - weather permitting of course.

Yours in Guiding

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

BROWNIE REPORT

Fire Alert!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

2nd March 2004

The Brownies went to visit Chepstow Fire Station.

There was a fireman there who was to show the Brownies around called Fire Fighter Brice.

Fire Fighter Brice showed the Brownies the fire engines, the equipment and they even tried on the some of the special fireman’s clothes! Then they had a ride in the real fire engine!

He also said that if there was a call they would be in their fire gear and in the fire engine in a flash!

23rd March 2004

Fire Fighter Brice came to see the Brownies and he came in a mini fire Engine!

He taught them how to use a fire extinguisher, and when they went outside he showed them how to use a special hose.

When they went back inside they talked about smoke alarms. The Brownies thought that it was great fun.

Report from:

Natalie Connell - age 8
1st Shirenewton Brownies

PLEASE, WE NEED HELP!

Can you help Shirenewton Brownies? The Brownie float has become something of a tradition at Shirenewton's Church Fete, it is also one of the highlights of the year for the girls, but this year we have no lorry to ride on! Does anyone have contacts or know of someone I can ask who would be able to provide a lorry and driver on Saturday 12th June (we usually need the lorry between about 12.30 – 3.30 on the day as we like to decorate beforehand if possible). If you can help please let me know a.s.a.p.

Jackie 641797

Shirenewton Whist Drives

27 People joined the Drive on the 1st April – we had hoped for pleasant weather on the first of the light evenings but rain and illness decimated our numbers. However those that came had a happy game. The next meeting is on 6th May followed by the 3rd June (fortunately we miss Polling Day this year!) Do join us at 7.30 p.m. at The Recreation Hall.

Auriol Horton 01291 641844.

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The Church Shopping Portal

In addition to adding new shops & deleting those that no longer have affiliate programs, I have started updating the Fund Raising section of the site. In addition to publishing the photos of various fund raising events (see the photos of the review evening and the cycle tour) I will be publishing the latest church extension plans and so on. Keep checking back as I tend to work in spurts and things will suddenly appear.

The other good news is that the church fund raising can now received credit card donations through the industry standard and very secure Worldpay system. This means that over the next couple of weeks I will implement a credit card donation capability. Thus, for example, sponsors of the 'Tour de Pays de Galles' or people wishing to sponsor a brick can pay immediately through the church website in the same way as if they were on-line shopping elsewhere.

So much to do so little time

David Cornwell
Webmaster

MID LIFE CYCLISTS 250 MILE "TOUR DE PAYS DE GALLES"

A Village team of middle-aged men are cycling both the Taff and the Celtic Trails with the objective of raising £5,000 towards the Shirenewton Church Extension Appeal.

The Taff trail, a 55 miles ride from Brecon to Cardiff, was successfully completed on 17th April as the 'warm up' to the main event - the 200+ miles Celtic Trail which runs from St David's (Wales' most westerly point) to Chepstow in the east. We aim to complete the Celtic Trail in 3½ days arriving back in Shirenewton in time for the village fete on 12th June.

Team comprises Mark Broughton (chief advocate and leader), Kevin Bounds, David Cornwell, Rob Duckham, Jon Hancock and Robert Thomas. Average age 48!

Needless to say we are seeking sponsorship and we are sure you are eager to know how you can sponsor us! Not only are there sponsorship forms at the Village Shop and other local establishments, there is also information on the church website [www.shirenewtonchurch.org.uk], or you can use the form below.

For more information on this sponsored ride, please refer to the church website which has full route information, photos and other news, or contact any of the Team – details of a couple are given below.

Contact	Tel	E-mail
Mark Broughton	641797	Mark_Broughton@btopenworld.com
David Cornwell	641715	david@dcornwell.com

I'll sponsor the Mid Life Cyclists "Tour de Pays de Galles"	£
Name	
Address	
Phone Number:	
tick here	"I am a UK taxpayer. I want Shirenewton Church to treat this donation as a Gift Aid donation under the Gift Aid scheme".

Please complete and return either to the Village shop or to one of the team members.

Shirenewton Local History Society

On Saturday 27th March, a pleasant spring afternoon, thirty members of the society plus two dogs met in the village and walked down the hill to Cwm and onto the Llanmelin ancient fort. We then toured the site with Mr. Ian McFarlane as our guide who gave us a comprehensive description of how the area would have looked, who would have lived there, and how many people would have inhabited it. Many thanks to Ian for sharing his knowledge.

Following the visit to the site we retired to Coombe Farm by the kind invitation of Mrs. Jan Adams for refreshments, which made a very welcome end to a very pleasant afternoon.

Our next meeting is on 25th May at the Shirenewton Golf Club at 7.30 p.m. when Mr. John Grove will talk to us about William Marshall.

NEWCHURCH NEWS

Thanks to all of you that came to St. Peter's evening of Hymn Singing and Readings. It was a good way to enjoy the company of friends old and new in such a special little church.

The PCC are using their raised funds to undertake essential repairs on the church. Unfortunately we but have had to decline lottery funding as the escalating costs regarding our contribution was too high and as such a grant would not be viable.

For the stall at the Fete on 12th June, would Newchurch parishioners please contribute home-made sweets to sell, and other ideas would be very welcome.

The Annual Vestry meeting for St. Peter's will be held on Sunday 2nd May following the 2.30 p.m. service.

Church Wardens Pam & Steve Manning
Tel 01291 650294

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COFFEE MORNING

IN AID OF VELINDRE HOSPITAL

WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY 8TH MAY

AT THE HOME OF

MRS. BERNICE BOWEN 21 CLEARVIEW

SHIRENEWTON

FROM 10.00 AM. – 12.30

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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!

Nancy Propert B & B

NFU Ad

Earlswood Hall News

The Hall AGM on Wednesday 7th April was very poorly attended, in fact only the previous committee turned up for this important meeting. It was very disappointing that although there are several local groups that use the Hall for fund raising, etc. none attended the meeting. Nevertheless, a new committee was duly elected. The new committee being: -

Chairman:	Mr. Peter Jones	tel. 641627
Vice Chairman:	Mr. Ken Morton	tel. 650268
Secretary: -	Mrs. Nancy Davies	tel. 420270
Treasurer: -	Mrs. Christine Stanley	tel. 641616
Booking Sec-	Ms. Glynis Bounds	tel. 641818
Entertainment Sec. -	Mr. John Spary	tel. 650779

Other committee members being: Mrs. Sheila Spary, Mrs. Dorothy Cockran, Mrs Mary Davies.

There will be a meeting of the committee in the near future to discuss future functions and events at the Hall.

To book the Hall at competitive rates please contact Glynis MacDonald on: 641818



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Mix together in a small pan: -

16 oz. Tin of salmon drained, or 1lb fresh cooked salmon flaked.

*Pinch of black pepper - 2 sticks of celery chopped - Chopped parsley
2 tablespoons chopped gherkins or capers - 2 tablespoons red peppers
chopped.*

Put the following in a small pan over a low heat and melt, an allow to cool:

*3 tablespoons water - 1 tablespoon of white wine vinegar -1 tablespoon dry
mustard powder - 2 teaspoons sugar -1 tablespoon gelatine*

*Mix the liquid to the salmon, add 1 tablespoon of mayonnaise, and fold in ¼
pint whipped cream. Chill*

*Marilynn often has fresh crabs – ready prepared in the shop, but it is best to
order them. I think they are very well prepared and very good. Excellent as
they are or with salad and mayonnaise or the meat can be mixed with hard
boiled eggs, a squeeze of lemon juice, black pepper, pinch of mace and
mayonnaise. Great as a starter or light lunch with brown bread, or simply
mixed with lemon juice, parsley pepper, mace and melted butter- chilled
and served with toast.*

*To serve as a hot starter, make a rich white sauce (I always add a dollop of
Dijon mustard and a good dash of Worcester sauce to my white sauce and*

for a rich flavour, an egg yolk) Add the crab meat, parsley and mace. Pour into individual dishes and top with breadcrumbs, grill and serve with lemon.

Finally: - Indonesian Corn and Crab Fritters:

Mix an 11-1/2oz can of drained sweet-corn with 4 oz. White crab meat, 2 beaten eggs, 2 small onions – finely chopped, 2 spring onions thinly sliced, 1 green chilli, thinly sliced, 1 tablespoon cornflower, salt and pepper. Heat 2 fluid oz of oil in a large frying pan and drop batches of heaped tablespoon of the mix into the pan and fry for 3 minutes on each side, drain on paper and serve immediately.

Many thanks again to Caroline Davies.

ANSWERS TO PYP'S QUIZ: - (AND IT WAS BY THE SOUND OF THE WORDS NOT THE SPELLING)

Jesus said to his followers: 'I give you a new command. Love one another as I have loved you.

By this all people will know that you are my friend'. John 13: 34 - 35

The Bells..the bells

SHIRENEWTON NEWS/ NEWYDDION TRENEWYDD GELLI FARCH

Much has happened in the past month.

A hand picked, crack team of ringers represented Shirenewton in the recent Llandaff and Monmouth Diocese striking competition. This has very little to do with lighting a brazier, avoiding police cordons and getting on the cover of *The Socialist Worker* and everything to do with ringing bells tidily. Shirenewton came second only to the ringers of St Woolos Cathedral in the called changes category and third in the method ringing category.

This truly heroic performance, homerian in its magnitude means that Shirenewton is through to the Pitman Trophy round to be held on 26 June and with this event comes the chance to take part in the all Wales finals.

On a lesser note last month saw a failed attempt at a quarter peal of the London Minor method.

A barn dance to raise money for the diocesan association took place in Earlswood Village hall on 27 March. The event was attended by well over a hundred people (I've lost my note with the exact number) and was by all accounts very successful and raised some £600.

A Kids Ring Out event took place on 13 April with 16 local children, 3 from Shirenewton, ringing at the Magor, Tidenham and Caldicot towers.

On a personal note I wish to say thank you or diolch yn fawr iawn to those responsible for the new road signs with the prominent Welsh name for our village on them.....tidy mun.

Ian Griffiths

Mary Vittle

B.Sc. D.Pod M MchS

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GARDENING CORNER

April really is the month for the most frenetic of activity in the garden. All we need is a little spring-like weather and it will be eyes down and look in. The problem will be deciding what to do first! Work is still continuing in the new hot garden that featured in the "Garden For All Seasons" television programme last year. The stonewalling has now been completed in this part and I have now continued this along towards the summerhouse. All that is left is to measure up the area close to the summer house, work out how many slabs are required, and get these ordered up ready for laying. This will become the secluded barbecue area for those balmy summer nights (we hope!). Before I start to fill the beds with soil I have to lay an armoured electric cable in at the bottom of the wall in order to take power out to the summerhouse. At the same time I need to cut the cable and install a double, external socket. This will be for running the pump and filter for a small water feature. A further cable will be buried to run a mains lighting system. There are plenty of low wattage systems available but

these tend to be Japanese in style (pagoda types) and need the transformer being placed inside a building. This limits their use substantially and these would not fit in with the plans that I have. The water feature will be just a simple pool leading to another slightly larger pool and connected by a small canal. The intention is to have a "floating" step over which to walk. This will be a slab that is positioned in the centre of the canal and positioned on top of a concrete block that cannot be seen. This will then appear to float on the water – at least that is the theory. Watch this space or better still come along to the garden when we are open and see for yourself. The final stage for this area will then be to lay a weed suppressing membrane and cover this with some pea gravel followed by some planting in order to break up the hard lines of the slab areas. I recently discovered a terracotta pot business on the side of the A49 road, north of Hereford. They had some unusual shaped pots that were reminiscent of the Mediterranean and one of these would fit in well as a feature. We struggled to decide which one to buy, but in the end plumped for the biggest! Now it is installed in its position I can say that we definitely selected the right one. The smaller ones would have looked insignificant in contrast.

One of the other projects started for television was the fruit cage. This has now been completely planted. I'm leaving the top netting off for the time being in order that the pollinating insects will have easy access to the blossom. Once this has all set I'll pull the netting over to then do its job. I had ordered some rhubarb roots during the winter and as it had been too wet to plant them when delivered I had potted them up. I have now cleared the small raised bed of weed and planted the crowns. Hopefully by this time next year they will be established enough to put on a forcing pot for some lovely pink succulent stems. Unfortunately a little bit of digging I could have done without last week was to bury our oldest cat.

Unfortunately he had another stroke and couldn't continue any more. He had always been a grand protector of the garden and one of the last memories that we will have of him was to steal a rabbit that one of the younger cats had killed! Scraggy is now buried alongside Scamp, the pair of them keeping a close eye on the proceedings!

Now that the soil has dried a little I can at last get on with some work in the vegetable garden. I needed to empty one of the compost bins so wheel-barrowed the contents off to the vegetable patch for spreading later. The bin had to be emptied in order to allow the first cut of the grass to take place. The under-gardener had refused to do this whilst there was no room to empty the grass box. Needless to say I couldn't allow this excuse to stop the work! The first raised beds have been cleared of winter weeds and the soil forked over. This is the one benefit of raised beds in that as you never walk on them they do not get compacted down and are so easy to loosen up. They were then raked over and a liberal amount of blood, fish and

bonemeal spread over them. This is a totally organic fertiliser and gives by far the best results of anything that I have tried. The first bed was sown with mainly carrots and a couple of rows of beetroot. This will allow me to erect some horticultural fleece barriers around the bed in order to keep the carrot fly from damaging the roots. Another one was sown with the parsnips, more beetroot and some spring onions. Some room has been left for planting the first lettuce, but these are still in the cold frame at present and are not ready just yet. Perhaps another week or so before planting out, depending on the weather. The final job for now was to plant the first of the broad bean plants.

In the greenhouse the hot bench is full up with trays of seedlings, and the under gardener is busy pricking these out into individual cells at present. As each tray of seedlings disappears it will be replaced by another for germinating. Vegetables, verbascums with runner beans replace flower seedlings, so a veritable little production line.

The next main job to start on is weeding and cleaning of all the flower borders. Normally this job is well under way by the time that the cuckoo arrives. This is traditionally 14th of April, but as we haven't heard him yet perhaps we will be able to catch up! The soil has been too wet until now, a far cry from last year when at this time we had already had five weeks of dry weather. Well better get on, rain is forecast so better make the most of it!

Happy gardening until next month,

Steve Hunt

FURTHER ENERGETIC FUND RAISING

Local man Martin Goodyer took part in this year's London Marathon in order to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society. Martin completed the 26 plus miles in a very creditable time of just over four hours.

Martin, his late mother and father-in-law were former parishioners of St. Thomas a Becket Church. Sadly, his father-in-law Bob died just before Christmas, while his mother –in-law is now suffering from Alzheimer's. Should anyone feel inclined to make a donation, there is note explaining All on Martin's web page: www.martingoodyer.com

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.



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D.O.G's PADDLE
(Doddering Old Gents Gents)
& Some Lovely Old Ladies
For Medecins Sans Frontieres

Many thanks to all of you that so generously sponsored me for our 13 stage relay paddle in a a kayak double, from Devizes to Westminster on Good Friday / Easter Saturday, arriving at Westminster at 9.45 a.m.

The whole event went off superbly. The team of twenty five paddlers (yes one fit soul paddled two stages covering 25 miles in total) completed the 127-miles, portaging the 77 locks down the course in a total time of 21 hours 35 minutes,. This gave us an average speed of just under 6 miles an hour, considerably faster than the 28 hours we had estimated. Greatly helped by perfect weather conditions through the day and night. Very satisfying for a group of folk aged between 54 and 73, some of whom had taken up paddling again specifically for this event after a lapse of more than 25 years.

My own stage of just under 10 miles, Reading to Henley was to my relief, just about completed in daylight in 1 hour 35 minutes. I was blessed with a very competent partner in Sylvia Lunn an old friend and former Olympic paddler from 1964. Yet again I needed a good women to help me through.

Once again the people of the village have been extremely generous, and I have received or been pledged in excess of over £250 from the village.

As a team event, with some generous corporate support we should achieve a total of about £14,000, for **Medecins Sans Frontieres** a truly significant sum from the efforts of our team.

So many thanks again to all of you for your most generous support.

(If you would like to see some pictures, log on to www.kirton-kayaks.co.uk/dogs.html)

Bob O'Keefe

LINE DANCING
CLASSES ARE HELD EVERY MONDAY EVENING
FROM 7.30 P.M. UNTIL 9.00 AT

EARLSWOOD MEMORIAL HALL

COST - £2.50 PER SESSION

Piers Propert

Some Dates for your Diary

2 nd May	Newchurch Annual Vestry Meeting - 2.30 p.m.
6 th May	Whist Drive – Recreation Hall – 7.30 p.m.
8 th May	Coffee Morning for Velindre Hospital 10.00 a.m. 21 Clearview, Shirenewton
9 th May	Youth Group – Forest of Dean Bike Ride – 12.00
10 th May	Community Council Meeting
9 th – 15 th May	Christian Aid Week
11 th May	M.U. Deanery Festival – Mathern Church - 2.30 p.m.
16 th May	Village Parade Service – From the Tan House 9.30 a.m.
20 th May	W.I. AGM - Recreation Hall 7.15 p.m.
25 th May	Local History Society – Shirenewton Golf Club 7.30 p.m.
3 rd June	Whist Drive – Recreation Hall – 7.30 p.m.
12 th June	Village Fete – Recreation Field

READERS AND SIDE PERSONS ROTA – MAY

Date		Reader	Sides-person
2nd May	4th Sunday of Easter	Kevin Bounds	Kevin Bounds
9.45 a.m.	Holy Eucharist	Barbara Davies	Barbara Davies
9th May	5th Sunday of Easter	Bob Grattan	Bob Grattan
9.45 a.m.	Holy Eucharist	Alicea Brown	Bernice Bowen
16th May	6th Sunday of Easter	FAMILY PARADE SERVICE	
9.45 a.m.	Rogation Sunday	(Youth Groups gather at 9.30 a.m.)	
23rd May	7th Sunday of Easter	James Leney	Felicity Hunt
9.45 a.m.	Holy Eucharist	Felicity Hunt	Alan Saysell
30th May	The Day of Pentecost	GROUP SERVICE at CAERWENT	
9.45 a.m.	Whitsunday		
6th June	1st Sunday after Pentecost	Jean Jones	Jean Jones
9.45 a.m.	Trinity Sunday	Peter Jones	Peter Jones
	Holy Eucharist		

NEWCHURCH: 2.30 P.M. EVERY SUNDAY