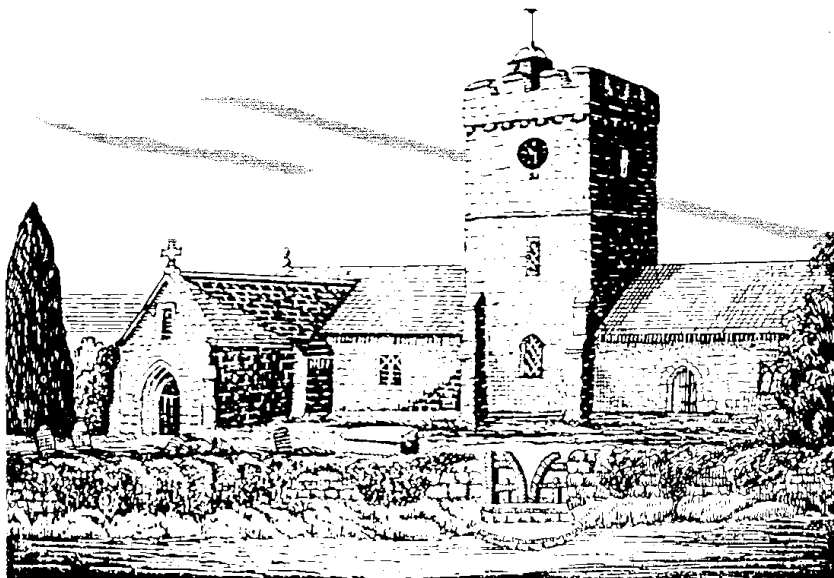


PRICE: 50P

OCTOBER 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
MOTHERS UNION:	Auriol Horton	641844
CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER:	John Waters	641449
CHURCH FLOWERS:	Felicity Hunt	650604
PARISH MAGAZINE:	Bob O'Keefe	641686
200 Club	Pauline Dutton	641677

NAMES TO NOTE

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

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

October 2004.

Dear Friends,

Some of you may have heard that the Church in Wales has recently undertaken a review of its structures and finances and that the consequences of this will have an impact upon both our Diocese of Monmouth and our Deanery of Netherwent.

Following the special Diocesan Conference of May this year, Bishop Dominic has asked each Deanery to review its mission plans in the light of the reduction of stipendary (paid) clergy from the present figure of 14 to 7. The aim is to achieve this figure by 2013, but beginning to move towards it by 2009.

A representative group of laity and clergy from each of the groups of parishes in the Deanery has met to discuss the way forward and to draw up a draft plan for further discussion in each of the parishes. I together with two colleagues drawn from the discussion group, have drawn up a paper outlining proposals for further discussion with the Bishop. These proposals have been presented to the discussion group, but so far, have not been finalised and therefore remain in draft form. Nevertheless the Rector believes that we should offer to church members and any other parishes in the Caerwent Group, the opportunity to consider the proposals and to discuss them.

A copy of the draft proposals is available from the Rector or me – a small donation towards the reproduction costs would be welcome but not essential - and it would be useful to have seen the draft if you propose to attend the Deanery Presentation on 21st October at 7.30 p.m. in Caldicot church hall. The meeting will be addressed by the Archdeacon and other Diocesan officers and will focus on: -

- The Mission of the diocese
- Diocesan Finances including the budget for 2005 and the Parish Share
- The Report from the Steering Group to the Representative Body and the subject of debate at the September 2004 meeting of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales
- Deanery plan for 2005 and beyond.

The presentation is open to all, and there will be time for comments and questions raised in addition to those above.

The future for our churches is both challenging and exciting, but we must be guided by the Holy Spirit. To help us Bishop Dominic has asked that the whole process is undergirded with prayer, and as a special focus for this he is calling the Church to a special week of prayer. This will be launched at the Diocesan Conference on October 16th, and will run through until Saturday morning October 23rd. During the week our churches will remain open for individual prayer and at times group prayers, helpful prayer material will be available in each church. A day of prayer and fasting on Friday 22nd will take place in each church where, again, material on prayer and fasting will be available. The week will end with an all-night Prayer Vigil in the Cathedral from 8 p.m. until 8 a.m. Saturday 23rd, with a slightly younger flavour. Of course people may and are encouraged to come for any part of the whole night.

This week of prayer is not just about getting the church to pray more, although this is no bad thing. Our intention is specifically to cry out to God that he will renew and grow His church in our Diocese. Let us pray with passion and desperation, and see what God will do.

With good wishes and prayer,
Nansi Davies

NOTES FROM THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

At our meeting on Monday 25th September members heard the Sunday School teachers plans for the next few months. This includes changing the name to "Sunday Club" (more 21st Century) and for a "mini Christmas Fair after church on 5th December.

The fund raising committee reported on the successful Corporate Golf meeting. Over 60 players from around the country and abroad took part, the event was a resounding success raising just over £7000 (*see report below*)

Other events are planned and a cheese and wine evening and a sports event possibly at Earlswood.

There is a problem with the Church roof where the Nave butts onto to the tower. This is important maintenance so it was agreed to accept the estimate of £1000 and get the work done.

A wheelchair ramp must be in place by the end of October and a

collapsible metal one has been suggested. This would serve our needs at a cost of £285.

The plans for the extension have been modified again, but the architect is sure that they will be passed when submitted in the autumn. If so work could commence by the summer of 2005.

Cynthia Smith

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH 200 CLUB

September Draw

180	Karen Morgan	£40
190	Pat White	£30
178	Desmond McElney	£20
19	Gladys Nicholas	£10

GAERLLWYD BAPTIST CHAPEL

Harvest thanksgiving Services will be held on Sunday 10th October at 6.30 p.m. and on Monday 11th October at 7.30 p.m. When the speaker will be the Reverend Nigel Burge. The Monday evening service will be followed by a 'Ploughman's supper', all will be welcome.

GAERLLWYD WOMEN'S MEETINGS: – AT GAERLLWYD BAPTIST CHAPEL

Meetings for October will be held on:

6th October at 2.30 p.m. When we celebrate the Harvest Festival and our speaker will be the Reverend Hugh Trenchard.

The following meeting will be on 20th October at 2.30.

Come and join us!

at

5

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

We meet at

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

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

Date	Time	Venue
3 rd Oct	9.45	Sunday Club - Harvest – The Chantry
10 th Oct	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry
17 th Oct	9.45	Family Service – Church
24 th Oct	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry
31 st Oct	9.45	Group Service – (not sure where yet)
7 th Nov	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry
14 th Nov	9.45	Remembrance Sunday – Church

- Nativity Play rehearsals will begin in the middle of November

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

Looking forward to seeing you

CHURCH EXTENSION FUND UPDATE

The latest event organised by the fund raising committee was the corporate golf charity day at St Pierre on Wednesday 1st September. We were blessed with fine weather and great hospitality from St Pierre. Sixty golfers were treated to a day that included a brunch, 18 holes on the championship golf course and a dinner and auction. The golf was wonderful – if a little challenging – but there was a great atmosphere throughout the day. The evening included a private dinner and auction with prize giving.

The church generated over £7,000 for the extension and a fund of goodwill from the participants, many of whom had travelled from afar to attend the event. There was an impressive contribution from Ireland and Germany, thanks to

Mike Peirce's network.

The day was hugely successful and already a repeat is planned for September 7th next year - details to be agreed but we already have firm bookings!

Following the sponsored bike ride and the golf day, we are planning more community-based events. We have been very successful in generating funds from outside the village but we are very conscious that the church extension is planned as a village amenity. We are planning a wine and cheese party in the autumn, possibly with a wine tasting, and are considering a barn dance early in the New Year.

In financial terms this means we are now confident that with continuing support we can proceed with the extension. We need to raise around £150,000 but thanks to the generosity of "significant donors" and the events held so far, we have already raised around £60,000 and this amount will be augmented by gift aid. We are not complacent but we have a very active fund raising group and a village that values the church and wants to see it continue as the fulcrum of community life. Please see any regular member of the fund raising group - John Nicholas, Glynis MacDonald, Mike Pierce, Dave Cornwell or Kevin Bounds if you would like more information or if you would like to get involved. But we warned - meetings don't start until 8.30pm and normally involve more red wine and cheese than we would care to admit!

Kevin Bounds,
Treasurer, Shirenewton PCC and fund raising co-ordinator

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 6th September 2004

Eight members of the Community Council were joined by County Councillor Graham Downs, Mr Andrew Nixon, Community Links Officer for the Wye Valley AONB and several members of the community.

Before the business of the meeting commenced the Community Council received a representation from Mr Steve Lacey, Landlord of the Tan House Public House. Mr Lacey was extremely concerned about by comments relating to the Tan House which appeared in the report of the Community Council in the last parish magazine.

Mr Lacey felt that the account given did not accurately represent the events of Saturday 31st July. Mr Lacey went to considerable lengths to stress that

he and his family had settled into the village and aimed to run a friendly family business which was very much a part of the community. Mr Lacey added that he very much regretted it if any one had been disturbed by events at the pub and stressed that he was extremely approachable and would welcome any local residents to approach him directly on any matters of concern about the pub that they might have. Mr Lacey concluded by stating that he felt that he had been harassed of late with visits from a number of official sources and vandalism to his advertising board placed at the entrance to the village, which he had erected to highlight the fact that the Tan House was now open all day. Mr Lacey stated that he had discussed the location of this sign with Monmouthshire County Council officers and was under the impression that it was generally acceptable.

The Chairman thanked Mr Lacey for his frank exchange and Mr Lacey left the meeting.

The Community Council then received a very informative presentation the work of the AONB from Mr Andrew Nixon, Community Links Officer for the Wye Valley AONB. It was noted that Mr Nixon had been extremely supportive in developing the environmental works at Shirenewton Primary School and it was hoped that Mr Nixon might be able to offer similar support within the wider community once the community appraisal had been completed and specific projects had been identified. Mr Nixon left the meeting.

Planning Matters

Planning Application M/10479 - Church Farm New Church – erection of new porch.

Having considered the plans the meeting resolved to recommend approval of the application.

Planning application – Oslo (part of garden) – erection of dormer bungalow.

Having adjourned the meeting the Chairman welcomed members of the community to make representation on the application. Local residents raised a number of issues of concern in respect of this application, including: concerns about the size and scale of the proposed development; lack of parking provision at Oslo; access and traffic along the lane serving the new property; and, the environmental impact on mature trees, hedges and wildlife in the vicinity.

The Chairman thanked the delegation of local residents who then left the meeting.

In considering the application together with the comments of local residents

the Community Council resolved to recommend refusal of this planning application.

Matters Arising: - The meeting considered concerns raised in respect of the location of the Tan House's advertising board at the entrance to the village. It was generally felt that the proliferation of such advertising signs would be detrimental to the village environment and should be discouraged, however, it was also accepted that Mr Lacey had made a good case for the board and had explained that he needed to raise awareness that his pub was now open all day if he was to attract the additional business needed to sustain it.

The meeting resolved to discuss this matter with Mr Lacey directly and to clarify with whom he had dealt with at Monmouthshire County Council. It was hoped that an amicable solution could be reached and, in the event that the existing sign had to be removed, the County Council should be asked to assist and advise on the possibility of erecting an official sign.

Matters of Local Concern

The meeting received the following matters of local concern to be taken up by the Clerk:-

Gravel on the highway in Earlswood;

The increasing numbers and size of potholes appearing in the roads around Shirenewton and Mynyddbach.

Overgrowing vegetation, causing the narrowing of the public footpath from Mynyddbach through Newton Manor to Shirenewton; and,

The lighting installed between the War Memorial and Church steps was not working.

It was also noted that the area at the bottom of the Mynyddbach playing field had now been cleared of the considerable volume of rubbish by a concerned local resident, to whom everyone was extremely grateful. volunteers are also needed to spring clean the War Memorial in time for Remembrance Day.

Correspondence

Arising from correspondence received it was hoped that the village Christmas tree might once again be erected at the Tredegar Arms Public House.

The date of the next ordinary meeting was set for Monday 4th October.

Public Meeting held on Tuesday 7th September 2004.

A very well attended and lively public meeting took place on Tuesday 7th September 2004 to hear residents concerns in respect of planning application M/10363 – Proposed change of use of Existing Golf Club

accommodation to residential accommodation in the form of 10 dwellings with garaging- parking facilities and amended site access with land and buildings at Shirenewton Golf Club.

Issues raised included

- The location of the proposed new entrance to the site (approximately opposite Newton Edge) and the resulting traffic on the existing narrow highway which is frequented by heavy agricultural equipment.
- The future of the Golf Club as a local amenity for both leisure and employment.
- If the Golf Club closes what is the future of the land. i.e. agricultural or development??
- Residents of Shirenewton and surrounding area, who have an opinion on this Planning Application, were urged to write to:-
The Corporate Director (Environment), Monmouthshire County Council, County Hall, Cwmbran, NP44 2XH

Following the public meeting the Community Council resolved to recommend refusal of planning application

POLICE SURGERIES

The next police surgery will be 10am to 12noon Saturday 9th October 2004 at Earlswood and Newchurch memorial hall. As with anything to do with Policing, there is always a small risk that it may have to be cancelled due to incidents that occur at the time and I will endeavour to have a notice placed at the venue indicating so. All times and dates will be confirmed by way of a local press release and posters in the locality.

I also meet with the community council at their monthly meetings on a regular basis and if practicable, would be available to meet with anyone until approximately 8pm.

Contacting the Police

It goes without saying that a significant number of you can remember the days when the front door of Chepstow police station (and indeed the back door to the cells) was open 24 hours and Shirenewton had its own police

station. The reasons why this is no longer the case are numerous and occasionally complex, but it has given rise to the myth that when Chepstow police station is shut or because the telephone is answered by someone in Cwmbran, there are actually no police officers working in Chepstow. Also, people have become uncertain as to how they can contact their local Police.

The object of this article is two fold. Firstly, to inform you that Chepstow is and always has been covered **24hours a day, 365 days of the year** by local officers. Secondly, how you can access your local policing service. The new telephone number for **ALL** police stations in Gwent is now 01633 838111, which is a HQ based call-handling centre in Cwmbran. It is not staffed by Police officers but they are trained to log preliminary information and details in order that the appropriate police response is processed; they also handle calls to the numerous departments within Gwent Police. As with all call-handling centres, there will be delays in answering your call, particularly at peak times. **Please do not use this number to report someone trying to break into your own or neighbours home.**

There is also the 999 emergency number, which is specifically for emergencies only. Basically, if you believe an immediate police response would prevent loss of life or serious injury to a person or would result in the apprehension of the criminal element, then please use 999. These calls are immediately routed to the police control room who will contact the officers by radio. **Exercise caution when using your mobile 'phone; many emergency calls end up being taken by our neighbouring police forces because of the mobile's service provision. This will result in a delayed response whilst they transfer the details to Gwent!**

Finally, should you call at Chepstow police station and find the main entrance is shut, **use the yellow telephone box** located on the wall to the left of the entrance. This will connect you to the Control Room who will contact a police officer to return to the station to see you, e.g. if you have driving documents to produce or you wish to report something. If nobody is available, arrangements can be made for you to be contacted either by 'phone or personally.

I trust this article will provide reassurance that Chepstow is constantly resourced by local officers. It will be the exception, not the rule that you will be attended to by police officers from another station.



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

Everyone is welcome to come along - book

It's that time of the year again. I have received the following note with a request to include it in the magazine regarding animals and fireworks. This would seem a totally reasonable reminder to all our responsible readers. If you are planning to use fireworks within the monthly span of the magazine a note to that effect can always be included in the magazine for the benefit of all those that keep pets. This we have done on previous occasions.

I would like to appeal to the residents of Shirenewton and Mynyddbach, to kindly let me know if they intend to use fireworks of any kind during their various celebrations.

I have again had the need to take my dog to vet having run away, after

being frightened by the very loud noises created by these fireworks. On the last occasion he was quite badly hurt; a very kind person found him outside the Carpenters Arms the following morning and returned him home.

If I know in advance I can keep him inside the house

I realise of course that it will be necessary to keep him in during the week leading up to "Bonfire Night" and the New Year, so there is no need to phone me during those weeks.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could kindly telephone me on 641354 with advance warning.

Thanks very much in anticipation of your kind co-operation.

Gloria Powell

SMU (SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS' UNION)

The Meeting on 8th September was our Annual Corporate Communion Service led by Revd. Hugh Trenchard and we thank him for his very pertinent address. Nine members attended and one prospective member who received a warm welcome. Members were reminded of the Diocesan Sharing Day on Monday, 18th October from 10.15 – 3.00p.m. which will be held at St. Paul's Church Newport. The cost for the day will be £2.50 including tea/coffee but please take a packed lunch. Transport can be arranged if you'd like to join us as it is open to anyone interested in the work of the MU. Birthday prayers and greetings in September went to Bernice, Fenella and Ruth. The Diocesan Autumn Council Meeting will be held on Friday, 1st October from 10.30-3.00 p.m. at The Priory Room, Abergavenny (packed lunch but drinks provided). If you want to know what MU is doing in the Diocese this is the meeting to go to – it is open to members as well as Branch Officers – so let me know if you'd like to go. Our next meeting will be on 13th October at 2.30 p.m. in Church when our Speaker will be our Diocesan President, Mrs. Jean Hackett. Continuing the theme of "Building Relationships" our prayers will be for families who are separated and isolated. As always our meetings are open to visitors and friends so please join us.

Auriol Horton, Branch Leader 01291 641844.

FAIRTRADE NEWS

Yesterday I dropped off my eldest daughter at Nottingham University. She's in fully catered accommodation in Hall but nevertheless Traidcraft goodies featured very positively in the box of goodies I left for her to open after our departure: Double Choc Chip Cookies (£1 for 9), plain choc (£1 40 for 100gms), Geobars (32p each) and the more mundane items such as Teadirect (£2.04); Cafedirect, (£2.85), Drinking Chocolate (£2) and demerara sugar (£1). I just hope she'll find the time and energy to open it all! If you've not tasted some of these products before I urge you to give them a try. The new winter catalogues are available in the SPAR now and the shop has new supplies of Geobars, chocolate and ground coffee. Do let Paul or Ann (or me) know if you'd like to see any other fairly traded goods in the shop.

Contact me for further info or a catalogue (pass on to a friend or return to the shop!)

Marion McAdam 641 316 marion@mcadam100.freeserve.co.uk

EMOTIVE GARDEN DESIGNS



Innovative Design Concepts
Full Working Drawings
Advisory visits, Planting Plans,
Free Initial Consultation

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

SHIRENEWTON W.I.

President Mrs Sally Saysell welcomed 2 guests to the meeting.

The Shirenewton WI entry for the Chepstow Show won 1st prize and a shield. President congratulated the members who organised and produced the entry.

The summer dinner at the Woodlands Restaurant in Llanvair Discoed was enjoyed by all who came.

Members were asked if they could help at the Federation Day Show at County Hall on Saturday 18 September. The Lunch Time discussions are once again starting on 24 September 1-3pm at Federation Office in Usk, with the subject of recycling. The Federation Carol Service will be at St Mary's Monmouth on 4 December and members were asked to give a reading, a recitation or sing.

Marion Jones who attended the W.I.'s Denman College in Abingdon thoroughly enjoyed her stay there and urged everyone to go there for fun, fellowship and education.

The evening ended with the speaker Cassandra White from the Forensic Science Labs. She informed members that they were employed by the Home Office and worked for Police Forces, Customs & Excise, Solicitors for the Defence and Corporate Customers. She also described some of the types of work they did. Afterwards there was a question & answer session. The subject was very interesting and members were thoroughly engrossed. Mrs W Jones thanked the speaker on behalf of Shirenewton WI.

The next meeting will be a social evening on 21st October 7.15pm

Shirley Bonsey

**Remembrance Day Service
Shirenewton Church
Sunday 14th November
10.45 at the War Memorial
Would you like to bring a photograph of a family**

**member who served in a war?
Contact Jane Smith Haddon on 641525**

come to

**SHIRENEWTON WI
FAMILY COFFEE MORNING ON
SATURDAY 6TH NOVEMBER
AT
SHIRENEWTON RECREATION HALL
10.30am to 12pm**

*there will be children's games, cakes, plants, raffle or just
relax with a cup of tea or coffee and a chat*

Entrance 50p including coffee & biscuit
Children free



PYP- Parish Youth Page

Oct 04

Hiya Folks or should I say, hi ppl?

Now u ppl owt da no dat I'm a dg bt da yung fings in da
wrld, al use da txt msgin 4 talkin so I fort I try. bt it reel
hrd coz we dgs don't tlk. We jst brk lotz'n'lotz.

Bt derz diz bk n it duz da txt msgin bout livin life 2 da max
wiv Jesus. So I fort it b ezy 2 copy da txt msgs 4 u(coz it
2 hard 4 me to rite like vis)

1. im da gd Sheperd. I no mi sheep like ma dad God nos me +mi sheep no me. I give mi life 4 da sheep.
John 10:14
2. Jesus? He wll b gr8 +b calld da Son ov God.
Luke 1:31,32
3. im da lite of da wrld. John 9:5
4. im da bred of life. come 2 me + u wont b hungry. If u believ in me u wont b thirsty. John 6:35
5. I giv u a nu command. Luv 1 anuva as I hav luvd u. den ppl wil no dat u r mi folowrs if u luv 1 anuva
John 13 : 34,35

Dis txtin giv dis paw dog 1 big hedake so frade I gotta stp now + hav a rst. My ownrs gon owt so I'm gonna chilowt on da sofa b4 I go doggon-crazy.

C ya - Pyp.

Shirenewton Youth Group

Cheese and Whine Meeting

The Rec Sunday 10th October. 4.00 - 5.00

We want to hear your ideas for the future.

What part do you want to play in our world famous nativity plays?

What can we do to support our charities like The Tigers Club in Uganda?

Old and new members welcome. We provide the grub, you do the talkin'

Kha koon 641 614 Glynis 641 818



Girlguiding UK

1st Shirenewton Guides.

Our main news this month is our District Camp that took place near Symonds Yat early in September. The advance party went to the site on the Friday evening to put up the large tents. They were up again in the middle of the night to rescue tents and the hired marquee from the gale that had blown in - not a good start! The girls arrived on the Saturday and apart from one heavy shower we managed to stick to the programme. The girls completed a number activity bases including a wet activity, cold cooking craft, origami and a "Harry Potter" base. Everyone fed, we went to the campfire in true Guiding style-and then the rain started!! We all had fun despite the weather. Some Guides (and Guiders) were supposed to be sleeping under the stars for the night but as we couldn't see any stars, we decided not to bother! The wind picked up again and became too dangerous to sleep out, so we all decamped to the barn. Thank you to all the parent helpers as without their help such events could not take place.

Our next adventure will be an indoor camp in November. Unfortunately the only date available for the accommodation is Remembrance weekend so I'm afraid the Guides will miss the village service this year.

Finally I would like to pass on our love and best wishes to Steve and Pam Manning for the new life. Keep in touch, as we want to camp in your field.

Yours in Guiding,

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

SAINT THOMAS A BECKET CHURCH

HARVEST FESTIVAL LUNCH

3RD OCTOBER 2004

BROWNIES REPORT

A Great Day Out

Eighteen Shirenewton Brownies joined two hundred + girls from Chepstow District Guides, Brownies and Rainbows for a Day Camp on Saturday 11th September. The theme was 'I'm a survivor ' and I'm happy to say we all succeeded. The challenges included riding the water slide, solving the Harry Potter puzzles, making campfire biscuits, making and floating peace lights on water and making a mouse key ring. One of the toughest challenges was sitting around the campfire, singing, while the heavens opened on us. So we steamed our way home in Phillips coach - soggy, tired but having had a great day out. Thanks again to all the adults who gave up their Saturday to help us.

Jackie Broughton (641797)

SHIRENEWTON WHIST DRIVES

Thirty-three people making 8.1/4 tables came to the Drive on 2nd September on another warm evening but the nights are drawing in! Come and join us at the next one on Thursday, 7th October commencing at 7.30 p.m. promptly, the following Drive will be on the 4th November. You will be made very welcome. The table fee is 50p. per person which includes refreshments at half-time and we have a small raffle. Profits from the Raffle go to Hall Funds. Our Christmas Drive falls on the 2nd December at the same time and place.

Auriol Horton 01291 641844

The Church Shopping Portal

Firstly a small apology. I discovered that I had not set the church website search engine to automatic updates and thus the search facility had not updated itself and was out of sync with the site's contents. This has been rectified and the search facility automatically updates itself every week now. So, if you've tried search in the previous year and had strange result blame me. It should all be working now.

Continuing the theme of personal usage of the site to give you ideas. It seems to be baby season in the Cornwell household. Not ours but our relations are popping them out all over the place! So a small liquid contribution to their recovery is generally called for. Tesco's website allows the purchase of wine and its delivery to another address. It also pays the church a 2% referral fee on wine purchased via its website (if you access the website from the church website) and you get Tesco club-card points! Cousins get liquid refreshment to assist in recovery from child birth, shopping done one evening via the internet (minimum effort) and church benefits a few quid as does club-card balance.

So the moral of the story: do your online shopping through the church website!

Thanks
David Cornwell

NEWCHURCH NEWS

Harvest Festival Service will be held on Thursday, 7th October at 7.30 p.m. followed by supper in the Church – No Charge.

There will also be a sale of produce.

Kathleen Whittington

***LANGUAGE TUITION FRENCH – SPANISH –
PORTUGUESE
ADULTS & CHILDREN
Property Abroad?
Then brush up your language skills
(Individual lessons or small groups welcome)***

Primary school age. GCSE and A level
English key stages 1 – 4
Give your children confidence with their school work.
In your own home if you prefer.
Experienced, qualified teacher
Tel. 01600 712718

THE BELLS, THE BELLS.....

Shirenewton Bell Ringers this year decided to go all the way to Yorkshire for their summer ringing outing The Ten Towers Tour or the T.T. as it has always been known. On Friday 20th August we all set out to a campsite just outside Knaresborough. There were eventually 10 intrepid adults accompanied by 8 children. Things did not get off to a good start on the Friday night. The traffic was extremely heavy on all the motorway systems and everyone was late. The pub had finished serving food so James and Mike had to go off for fish and chips. Then the Millars arrived just before it got dark with two tents to put up and after dark the Eickhoffs arrived with a huge frame tent to put up. Every one mucked in to help, but just as it was up, the rain started. The children went to bed and the adults sat under the awning of the biggest tent drinking wine, people on the outside with umbrellas to keep the rain off their backs. Breakfast was a rather soggy affair, sensible people such as Charles and Jane had brought wellies, but the rest of us just slid around on the mud.

The first tower was at 9.00 a lovely light ground floor ring of 6 at Whixley. We all started to cheer up and the sun came out. We rang 5 towers in the morning and then to The Carpenter's Arms at Felixkirk for a large and very welcome lunch. The weather stayed fine all afternoon and having rung the 5 towers of the afternoon session we arrived back in camp where James and Karen cooked an extensive curry supper. More wine and beer was consumed and we retired to bed tired and contented.

On the Sunday morning 4 of us drove to Pickhill a ring of 6 where the locals were short of ringers for Sunday Service, they were lovely bells and well worth the drive to ring them. This was followed by service ringing at Knaresborough a beautiful ring of 8 bells and then a visit to see the chiming bells at Goldborough where the parishioners treated us to coffee and

biscuits.

Jane's parents had very kindly invited us all to lunch with them. They had prepared a magnificent feast, which we ate, sitting on their terrace bathed in gentle sunshine over looking the river. We then all went our separate ways, some to Scotland and some back to South Wales stopping to ring for evensong at Beaston, a ring of 10 on the outskirts of Nottingham. Altogether we had a busy but rewarding weekend. Next year we are thinking it might be more camping, perhaps in Devon.

We have rung one-quarter peal since the last newsletter on Sunday 12th September. We rang 1260 of Bob Doubles. The band was Treble, Pip Penney; 2.Jane Leney; 3.James Leney; 4.Mike Penney (conductor); 5. Charles Eickhoff, and Tenor, Bob Millar.

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Shirenewton Local History Society

Our August walkabout met at the Rec. car park on a slightly damp Sunday afternoon, when sixteen members plus one dog set out in convoy for Gaerllwyd chambered tomb.

Mr. Anthony Williams very kindly agreed to show us the site, which is very close to his farmhouse. The tomb is believed to be early Bronze Age. The outer cairn has been destroyed by the combination of road construction and stone robbing over the passage of time, what remains are a series of uprights, three of which support a large partially collapsed capstone, two of these uprights demarcate an entrance to the chamber.

We then continued to Golden Hill to the extinct volcano! A very interesting and unusual site, where there was evidence of the extraction of saltpetre during the 2nd World War, and the crater itself covered quite a large area. We hope to make a further visit to this site at a later date.

A detour was then made to the remains of the Penual Chapel and then on to St. Peter's, Newchurch where we were met by Mr. & Mrs. Whittington who kindly showed us around the church including the tower. We all agreed this is such a beautiful building on a special site.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 28th September 7.30 p.m.

Shirenewton Golf Club

Mr. Frank Olding returning by popular demand to give us a talk on Industrial Archaeology.

Tuesday 26th October 7.30 p.m.

Earlswood Hall

Annual General Meeting and afterwards a talk by Mr. John Noble on the Society's photograph collection.

Dorothy Brabon

SHIRENEWTON SCHOOL RECYCLING

Please remember you can use the Centre for:

Glass, paper, tins, clothing and fabrics

Opening Hours:

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

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

Thank you – Caroline Davies

Earlswood Hall News

Welcome to the October edition of the newsletter from the Hall.

Friday 3rd September saw our variety show "Big Night Out at the Hall. Sadly this was not very well supported. I say sadly because it was hoped that this being a totally new venture with top artists from the Devon area would have been a success, but not so. Many thanks to those who made an effort to attend it was great night.

Regrettably the Hall finances had to greatly subsidise this event which in turn will leave us with a large deficit on our funds, funds which we were hoping to increase rather than decrease. It will now leave the committee with rather a large headache to make ends meet.

As you know the Hall was built after the last war by local people with their own funds as a memorial to those who fought in that war and also to the ones that sadly never returned, it would be a great tragedy if the Hall would have to close. This could be nearer than you think if there are not enough funds forthcoming.

Every year costs rise so we need the extra funding to compensate, in particular heating, electricity and maintenance, etc. So to survive we need your support. To be blunt no funds no hall. This in turn would have a devastating effect on all the local users and those from further afield. However, it's not all doom and gloom, we have just received a kind donation from Kids Ad Lib again this year, our grateful thanks to all involved. Also we received an anonymous donation towards the refurbishment of the electrical system in the hall.

Our next event will be on 27th November when we will be having a 60's, 70's Rock and Roll night with the Route 66 Club and a return of that very popular comedian Fred the Ted. Cost will be decided at the next committee meeting watch out for posters etc. Please support us and come along and have a very entertaining night.

Finally it's nice to know that once again we will be having a pantomime at the hall. Something to look forward to.

All the best to all.

John Spary
Entertainment secretary.

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COOKERY CORNER

BLACKBERRY AND APPLE CAKE

<i>6 oz. Plain flour</i>	<i>Pinch of salt</i>
<i>4 oz sunflower margarine</i>	<i>3 oz caster sugar</i>
<i>8 oz blackberries</i>	<i>12 oz apples cored and grated</i>
<i>3 eggs</i>	<i>caster sugar to dredge</i>

Grease an 8" cake tin. Sift the flour and salt and rub in the margarine. Add the sugar and fruit, stir in the eggs – do not beat. Pour into the tin.

Bake at 180°C / 350°F (gas mark 4 for 45 - 55 minutes, until cooked through, but slightly moist in the centre. Dredge with caster sugar while warm.

CHEESE AND PRAWN PUFFS

This is a simple lunch dish – serve with salad and cocktail sauce.

<i>3 oz butter</i>	<i>16 tablespoons of water</i>
<i>4 oz plain flour</i>	<i>salt & pepper</i>
<i>4 large eggs beaten</i>	<i>6 oz. mature cheddar</i>
<i>8oz prawn roughly chopped</i>	<i>oil for deep-frying</i>

Melt the butter in the water gently, then bring to the boil. Add the flour all at once and beat well until smooth and the mixture leave the sides of the pan. Remove from the heat, season and cool slightly. Beat in the eggs then the cheese and prawns. Heat the oil until a cube of bread browns in 20 seconds. Drop in teaspoons of the mixture and fry until golden brown. Drain on absorbent paper – serve hot.

Thanks again to Caroline Davies

GARDENING CORNER

With the weather remaining changeable it has been a case of choosing the right job to match the conditions during this period. Whilst the rain fell it was obviously too wet to get on the soil outside so I took the opportunity to make a start on the numerous hedges here at Barn Farm. First to get attention was our boundary along the bridle-way. This is mainly beech and soon looked neat and tidy. I prefer beech to most other species especially where an evergreen hedge would be too dense and dominating. Many think that they are too slow growing but once established they soon thicken up and you are left with an easily manageable hedge that isn't too demanding of attention. Its one drawback is that it is a heavy feeder so if you have any plants growing at its feet it will always be necessary to give them a good feeding of fertiliser or manure every year. This will also help the hedge to remain fresh and green. When cutting the growth off I try to do this with two or three cuts of the machine. The clippings are then left on the ground to rot away in situ. This gives a very nice leaf mulch, keeping the soil moist and enriched. It also saves the under gardener getting out with the rake and bucket. Every year I look forward to that lovely new fresh growth in late spring that often coincides with the cuckoo in full call and bluebells in full flower. Strange thoughts when the start of autumn is just around the corner!

Following a couple of days of dry weather the soil started to dry out enough to be able to work, especially where you can get away without walking on it. This is where the raised beds come into their-own, in this case in the fruit cage. This had been neglected for some time following the picking of the last raspberries so there was a lot of weed and lots of new growth that needed attention. As the raspberries are summer fruiting it requires all the old fruiting stems to be cut right down to ground level leaving only the new

seasons growth. This in turn should be restricted to no more than three or four stems per root so the thin or diseased stems should also be removed. We grow our raspberries on wires, the top one of which is about six feet high. The individual canes are tied to these and the tops cut off at about six inches higher. They then bush out next year to produce the flowers and eventually fruit. With this tidy the remaining work involves removing any weeds and then top dressing with a good layer of manure. This will gradually disappear during the winter and will be followed in spring with a top dressing of blood, fish and bonemeal and then a further application of manure. Raspberries are gross feeders so the more you give them the more they give in return. Next to get attention were the Jostaberries. These are a cross between a blackcurrant and gooseberry and have been in place for some five years although until I built the cage no fruit had been tasted. The blackbirds beat us every year! They haven't been trimmed before so there was some major pruning to be done. The under gardener usually does the "heavy pruning" in that I let her loose with a pair of loppers and she then "goes wild" cutting all in her path. In this case I had given her the enviable task of removing the strawberry runners and tidying them up. She did display a look of disbelief however when I entered the cage to do battle with a safety helmet and earmuffs on my head and chainsaw in hand. Five minutes later the job was done, with more material laid on the ground than had been left standing! I thought I'd done a good job anyway, but a comment was made that suggested that perhaps I shouldn't make reference to heavy handed pruning in future! The remaining canes also got a good top-dressing of manure. With the strawberries done as well it was time to move on further. The ballerina fruit trees have established well. These were planted last winter and we did manage three apples off two trees. The last of the side shoots needed pruning back to some four inches long, supporting stakes were firmed up and then the trees attached to these with expandable ties. This done it was the turn of the apricot. This is being trained into a fan shape so was subjected to some light pruning and then the remaining stems tied to the support canes and wires in order to maintain the fan shape. Further mulching completed the work in the fruit area. With the soil being so wet following further rain there was little else to be done outside so it was time to retreat into the greenhouses. This time of year is the best for taking cuttings of plants especially those tender perennials that may not make it through the winter months. In our garden this is mainly plant varieties such as French lavender, osteospermum and verbena. In addition to these though there are many other varieties of hardy plants that can be propagated now and grown on in the cold frame over winter once they have rooted. At Barn Farm this is mainly penstemons and old fashioned pinks. Many other varieties can be lifted and divided once the clumps become too congested. This is usually about

every three or four years but there is still plenty of time to do this either next month or when it begins to warm up again in late spring. For now it is out with the scissors and on with taking the cuttings. I usually take about twenty of each variety and reckon on a good ninety percent taking root. This ensures that we keep examples of all the different varieties that we have and leaves a few extras for selling when we are open or at Farmers Market to help pay for all the work in the garden. In addition to cuttings I have some sweet pea seed to sow as well. To date I've never been very successful with these and I always put this down to spring sowing. However a regular reader told me that you should never grow sweet peas in the same bit of ground the following year, which I didn't know, so maybe this year will produce results!

Happy gardening until next month, Steve Hunt.

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SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS & TODDLER GROUP

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Recreation Hall. (New term starts 9th September)

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!

Piers Propert

Some Dates for your Diary

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3 rd Oct. | St. Thomas A Becket Harvest Festival Lunch – Earlswood Memorial Hall. |
| 4 th Oct. | Community Council Meeting – Recreation Hall |
| 7 th Oct. | St. Peter's Newchurch Harvest Festival & supper 7.30 |
| 7 th Oct. | Whist Drive at the Recreation Hall – 7.30 |
| 9 th Oct. | Local Police Surgery at Earlswood Hall – 10 –12.00 |
| 10 th Oct. | Youth Group – Cheese & Whine meeting at the Rec. |
| 10 th & 11 th Oct. | Gaerllwyd Baptist Chapel Harvest Festival |
| 6 th Oct. | Diocesan Conference and start of Prayer Week |
| 22 nd Oct. | Night Vigil of Prayer St Woolo's Cathedral – 8.00 p.m. |
| 26 th Oct. | History Society Meeting – Earlswood Hall – 7.30 |
| 4 th Nov | Whist Drive at the Recreation Hall – 7.30 |
| 6 th Nov. | WI Coffee morning at the Recreation Hall 10.30 –12. |
| 27 th Nov. | Rock & Roll Night to Route 66 – Earlswood Hall |

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READERS AND SIDES-PERSONS ROTA - OCTOBER

DATE	SERVICE	READER	SIDES-PERSON
3 rd Oct. 9.45 a.m.	17th Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist HARVEST FESTIVAL FOLLOWED BY HARVEST LUNCH AT EARLSWOOD HALL.	Barbara Davies Bob Grattan	Barbara Davies Bob Grattan
10 th Oct. 9.45 a.m.	18th Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Alicea Brown Felicity Hunt	Bernice Bowen Felicity Hunt
17 th Oct. 9.45 a.m.	19th Sunday after Trinity	FAMILY SERVICE	
24 th Oct. 9.45 a.m.	20th Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Sally Saysell Ruth Savagar	Claire Lewis Alan Saysell
31 st Oct. 9.45 a.m.	21 st Sunday after Trinity GROUP Holy Eucharist at Shirenewton	John Nicholas Kevin Bounds	John Nicholas Kevin Bounds
7 th Nov. 9.45 a.m.	22 nd Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Jean Jones Peter Jones	Jean Jones Peter Jones

Newchurch Every Sunday at 2.30 p.m.