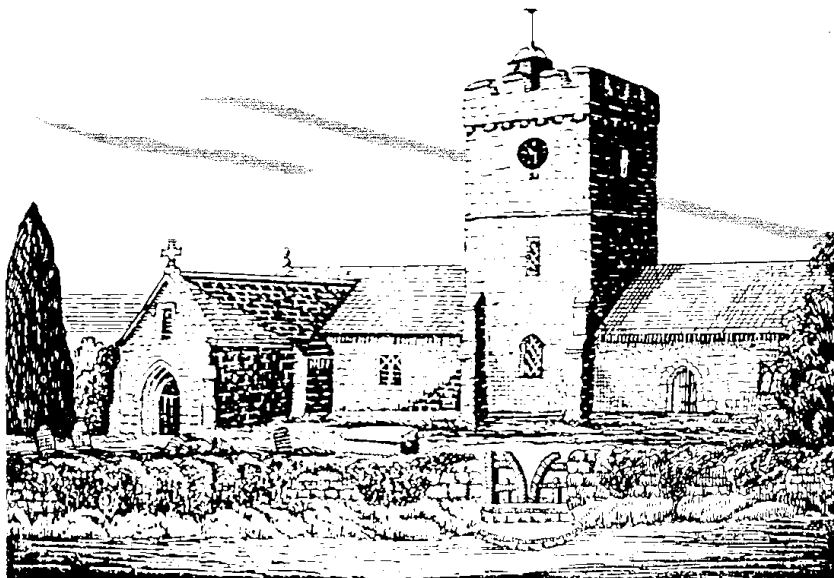


PRICE: 50P

APRIL 2005

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



**PARISHES OF SHIRENEWTON AND NEWCHURCH**

**MAGAZINE**

<b>INCUMBENT:</b>	The Revd Hugh Trenchard	424984
<b>CURATE</b>	The Revd Nansi Davies	01633 400519
<b>CHURCH WARDENS:</b>	Auriol Horton	641844
	Sally Saysell	641369
	Mrs Kath Whittington – Newchurch	641600
	Mrs Susan Lenthall – Newchurch	626389
<b>PCC SECRETARIES:</b>	Andrew Baker - Shirenewton	641925
	David Heritage - Newchurch	650380
<b>PCC TREASURERS:</b>	Kevin Bounds - Shirenewton	641818
	Enid Heritage - Newchurch	650380
<b>GIFT AID SECRETARY</b>	Ruth Savagar	629890
<b>CHURCH MAINTENANCE &amp; SAFETY OFFICER</b>	John Nicholas	641368
<b>ORGANISTS:</b>	Karen Millar	650521
	Ruth Savagar	629890
	Kath Wittington	641600
<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL:</b>	Jane Smith-Haddon	641525
<b>TOWER CAPTAIN:</b>	Mike Penny	650653
<b>MOTHERS UNION:</b>	Auriol Horton	641844
<b>CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER:</b>	John Waters	641449
<b>CHURCH FLOWERS:</b>	Felicity Hunt	650604
<b>PARISH MAGAZINE:</b>	Bob O'Keefe	641686
<b>200 Club</b>	Pauline Dutton	641677

**NAMES TO NOTE**

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

Please send notes, discs or emails for magazine to Bob O'Keefe, 15 Newton Manor, Shirenewton, (641686) or email to bobandwenche@aol.com by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April for inclusion in the May Magazine

Dear Friends,

As I write this note I am thinking about Palm Sunday and the following week which is Holy Week and all that this special time means for Christians.

By the time you read this we will have travelled through Holy Week alongside the events of Our Lord's Passion. These events took place a long time ago about which none of us can say we knew someone who was there, but we are celebrating a mystery, which is a present reality in the lives of us all. This is a mystery that has stepped out of the pages of history to be that reality in our own lives. Such a celebration is important for the confirmation of our own faith. Also, this celebration is important to the world, because of our witness to the truth of the dying and rising of Jesus. By our lives 'in Christ', which each of us began at our baptism, the world will know that 'it is not any invented myths' that we are retelling when we tell others about the death and resurrection of Jesus. The question for each person who is baptised is, "Did you share in the remembrance or at least in the Easter celebrations?"

Our newly established Worship Group has met again and we are hoping to bring new forms of worship into our Sunday services and on other special days throughout the year. First we have to consult the 4 PCC's for their views which we will do at the first meetings following the AGM'S which are taking place shortly. The dates will be announced in each church and be put on the notice boards so please look out for this information and come along to the meeting. But meanwhile come and join us as we continue to celebrate the Good News of the Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

With every blessing for a joyous Eastertide,

Nansi Davies, Curate.

---

## **SHIRENEWTON CHURCH 200 CLUB**

### **March Draw**

103	Mrs. Yvonne Hamer	£40
4	Mr. Stu Dutton	£30
114	Mrs. Choux	£20
229	Ms. Beverley Moore	£10

# SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

*Here are the dates for the next month.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> April	9.45	Sunday Club Chantry Group
17 <sup>th</sup> April	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry
24 <sup>th</sup> April	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry
1 <sup>st</sup> May	9.45	Group All Age Service
8 <sup>th</sup> May	9.45	Chantry

*We welcome all children from 3 years.*

*Do come and join us.*

*Jane Smith-Haddon 641 525*

*Glynis MacDonald 641 818*

---

£60 of Red Noses in Shirenewton Church

Thank you Sunday School for painting the noses of the congregation red.

Thank you congregation for paying to have your noses painted.

Thank you also to those who paid extra not to have their noses painted.

---

**GAERLLWYD WOMEN'S MEETINGS: – AT GAERLLWYD BAPTIST CHAPEL**

Meetings for April will be held on:

6<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30 p.m. and the 20<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30 p.m. When the speaker will be Mrs. White, from Chepstow.

**PAUSE FOR THOUGHT**

If the earth's population could be shrunk to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, there would be: -

57 Asians.

21 Europeans.

14 From the Western Hemisphere North and South.

8 Africans.

52 would be female.

48 would be male.

70 non Christians.

30 Christians.

89 heterosexual.

11 homosexual.

6 people would possess 59% of the world's wealth and all would be from the USA.

80 would live in substandard housing

70 unable to read.

50 suffer from malnutrition.

1 near to death.

1 be near to giving birth.

1 repeat 1 would have a college education

1 would own a computer

FOR THE PEOPLE WHO WORSHIP THE SAME GOD AS OURSELVES

As o'er each continent and island  
The dawn leads on another day,  
The voice of prayer is never silent  
Nor dies the strain of praise away

Examples of Prayer in practice

Why not forward your own examples for all to share

In Morocco, children and parents sleeping seven in one room, their faces smiling, and so happy with so little.

The poverty of the people and children in Egypt is heartbreaking, but equally most of the children remain very, very happy.

Thirdly, to the other extreme in Hollywood, Beverly Hills and Melrose Place, the film stars in their limousines and 'Glam' clothes make their way to worship. In the glittering world in which they live most find time to go to worship

**SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Meeting of 7<sup>th</sup>.March 2005**

9 members of the Council were joined by County Councillor Graham Down.

The Chair began the meeting by reading out a letter from Cllr. Martin Sutherland who is resigning because of work commitments. This creates a vacancy for the Ward of Shirenewton which should be filled by co-option in the near future. Anyone wishing to be considered should contact the Chair or Clerk as soon as possible.

**Matters Arising** from the minutes of the previous meeting.

***Shirenewton Golf Club.*** It seems there is a possibility that the Golf Course could be retained. This could now lead to an application from the owner of the Course for permission to build a new Golf Clubhouse!

***The Squeeze Belly Gates*** have been constructed and are ready for installation as soon as this can be arranged.

The defective ***Solar Light System*** near the Churchyard steps is to be inspected by an expert. It may well be repaired by the time we get those long, light summer evenings.

Following a meeting between members of both Shirenewton and Caerwent Community Councils and their visit to ***The Bicca Common*** efforts are being made to locate the appropriate records of the Common, particularly those relating to the creation of that particular Common.

***Website.*** It is expected that the official minutes of a number of recent Community Council meetings will soon be posted on a specific section of the Shirenewton Church website. Members also felt it would be useful if a list of recent Planning Applications were posted indicating our response to them and the eventual outcome.

***The Village Plan.*** A meeting of the sub-committee set up to take the matter forward is set for 21<sup>st</sup>. March.

The ***Green Wedge*** between Mynyddbach and Shirenewton is due to be auctioned in three lots on 12<sup>th</sup>. April 2005. Potential purchasers should familiarise themselves with any limitations regarding the use of the land before the sale.

### **Planning Matters**

A number of Applications were presented for consideration. These included:-

***Paddocks, Weylod Lane,*** amended garage plans – again refusal recommended

***Hollybushes, LLwyncelyn Lane,*** construction of new dwelling – refusal recommended

***Twin Oaks, Shirenewton,*** construction of two new dwellings – refusal recommended

***Crick Road,*** removal and replacement of portion of hedgerow – a retrospective Application for which approval was recommended

***The Coach House, Great House Farm, Newchurch West,***

construction of store shed - refusal recommended

**Red House Barn, Shirenewton**, proposed extension - refusal recommended

**Weylod Lane**, construction of new dwelling - decision deferred until the next meeting.

A number of decisions have been received from the County Planning Department.

It seems the Application to erect a new dwelling on a plot **adjacent to the Churchyard** has been refused but an appeal is likely. Interested parties are advised to send any responses to the Building Inspector before the appeal date which is yet to be fixed.

Other decisions from the Planning Department included permission for a barn conversion at **Oxpool Cottage, Earlswood**, a first floor extension at **Beechgrove, Earlswood**, a new **Water Booster Station** at The Batwell and confirmation of permission to create 10 dwellings at **Shirenewton Golf Clubhouse**.

### **Matters of Local Concern**

Members are still concerned about the activities along the **Penyaemawr to Goytre Cross road**. Serious damage has and is being caused to the Highway, hedgerows are being removed and various buildings are being erected, some of which appear to block public footpaths. Again, we will ask that the area be visited by Officers from the Planning Department.

The defective letterbox has now been removed from **School Hill, Mynyddbach**. A letter will be sent to the Post Office requesting that this much needed facility be replaced as soon as possible. It was also noted that letterboxes in the area are often overloaded suggesting there should be more of them or they are not being emptied regularly. The Post Office will be asked for their comments.

Complaints have been received concerning the removal of much of the line of conifers below the properties adjacent to the Village Shop. It seems this action was in contravention of the initial Planning Approval.

Concern was expressed about the speed of traffic travelling past the junction at **Clearview** in **Shirenewton**. Pedestrians, many of whom are children, are finding this a very dangerous part of the highway to cross.

The next meeting of the Community Council will be on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April.

*Peter Jones*

## **VILLAGE GARDENS OPEN DAY**

**Note change of date.** Following the notice in the last parish magazine, the date for the gardens open day has been changed to 19<sup>th</sup> June, since 12<sup>th</sup> June has already been earmarked by Barn Farm (Steve and Felicity Hunt) as an open day under the National Gardens Scheme.

Good news really since all you gardeners have an extra week to tweak your gardens into shape - with lovely plants bought at Barn Farm the week before! So, still lots of time to volunteer your gardens and help raise some money towards the recreation hall refurbishment.

For more information or to offer your garden please contact: -  
Lyn McFarlane – tel. 01291 641594 or email [lyn@thecayo.com](mailto:lyn@thecayo.com)

Happy gardening!

---

### **SMU (SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS' UNION)**

We have increased our membership by 4 this year and we welcome all our friends from Caerwent. Sue Collingbourne gave us a heartrending account of her visit to the townships on the fringe of Johannesburg when she spoke to us on the 9<sup>th</sup> March. Her picture of South Africa was of a quite different scene than is painted in the holiday brochures. She stressed that the current teenage population was South Africa's only hope of survival in the future and then only if they remained free of the HIV/Aids Virus. Sue is returning to South Africa in July to help set up Sunday Schools – this time her husband is going with her as he was too shocked by her photos and stories to let her go on her own again. Next month we welcome a return visit of Mrs. Adelaide Morgan to tell us of her life as the wife of a P.O.Chaplain.

Our next meeting will be in Church at 2.30 p.m. on 13th April 2005. Visitors are always welcome – join us at 3 for Talk & Tea! Or come at 2.30 and add weight to our prayers, which will be led by Cynthia Smith.

Auriol Horton, Branch Leader on 01291.

### **FAIRTRADE NEWS**

In response to the high demand for milk chocolate Divine bars (on sale in the Body Shop and many other outlets as well as from people like me) Traidcraft has introduced a Divine orange milk chocolate and also a dark chocolate bar (70% cocoa). There is also a small chocolate covered wafer



biscuit, individually wrapped at just 20p. I sell small boxes of orange juice, but supermarkets now stock large fairly traded juices. Do buy them! The new catalogues are now available at Spar or directly from me. The beautifully embroidered cards are stunning and the range of foods is growing all the time. It seems quite a few people have been won over by fairly traded tea and coffee but that is really only the beginning. I have now received the white silicone MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY bands (£1) As ever contact me for more info or a catalogue.  
Marion McAdam 641 316 [marion@mcadam100.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:marion@mcadam100.freeserve.co.uk)

## EMOTIVE GARDEN DESIGNS



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*Full Working Drawings*  
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*Free Initial Consultation*

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*email: [Sue.Bullock@btinternet.com](mailto:Sue.Bullock@btinternet.com)*

### BROWNIES REPORT

#### BROWN OWLS MISSING LEG!

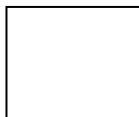
On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March the Brownies gathered, armed with torches, ready for a special mission. Their task was to find 11 of the 'Mad Doctors' bones, hidden in the school playground and to reassemble their skeleton.

Unfortunately one group could only find 10 bones – they were missing one Tibia for their skeleton. So if anyone finds the missing tibia please could they return it to Brown Owl (Jackie) who has not felt quite the same since that evening – it took the leaders ages to make that game! No doubt the Hospital Evening on March 15<sup>th</sup> will get the 'old bird' back to normal. P.S the bones were only made of card – honest

## **STOP PRESS**

A **HUGE** thank you to all the community for their tremendous response to our biscuit making fund raising appeal. The Leaders and 11 determined Brownies have spent today baking 936 biscuits ready for delivery by Good Friday. We will give an update of funds raised in next month's magazine.

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**PYP- Parish Youth Page**  
April 05

My owner was reading this book of church funnies and smirking. So I've copied them out for you my readers! I hope my owner doesn't get into trouble with the clergy because of them. Mind you, no one knows who my owner is!

A notice outside a cathedral advertising lunchtime concerts.  
'Sandwiches may be eaten'  
Underneath someone had written  
'So if you are a sandwich, don't come'

Definition of a good sermon;  
'It should have a good beginning and a good ending -  
as close together as possible'

Definition of a church committee:  
'A church committee is a dark avenue down which  
good ideas are lured and quietly strangled'

Notice in the kitchen of a church hall:  
'Ladies, when you have emptied the teapot,  
please stand upside down in the sink'

Another notice in a church hall kitchen  
'No hot bottoms on the formica'

That's all for now folks. Have a Happy Easter

PYP

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## YOUTH GROUP

We met on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March to decorate Red Nose Biscuits, which looked almost too horrible to eat. Then we had A Balloon Debate in which the priest, murderer, pop star, politician, prison warder, and teacher all got thrown out. The two voted to remain being considered the most indispensable were the nurse and the speeder. Work that out. Then being a sophisticated youth group, we played with the balloons but I'm afraid the game that was played was too noisy to be polite.

Next meeting - Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April      5.00 - 6.30      At the Rec  
Interested in joining? For details phone:  
Karen 650 521    Kha Koon 641 614                      Glynis 641818

---

surprise yourself



Girlguiding

1<sup>st</sup> Shirenewton Guides

The Caterpillars patrol of Young Leaders has finally completed their

Baden Powell Challenge, after a year of working towards it! The last challenge was a weekend away in London, with twenty other guides from all over England and Wales, who were also doing their BP award. We left from Chepstow bus station on the National Express Coach (we were very upset to hear that you had to pay for headphones to watch the television!). We arrived at the ICANDO guide centre on Buckingham Palace Road at around 8 0'clock, which left plenty of time for all of us to look around the interactive quiz section of the centre. The whole upper floor was made to look like a woodland area, and had various quizzes and games about Guiding. Our favourite by far was the cave which told the Brownie story when you sat in it! We were then separated into groups, and our first challenge was to plan a trip around London for a fictional party of guides or guiders. My group had to plan a weekend for Swedish guiders, so language, airport transport etc. had to be taken into account. After planning that, we finally got to bed at midnight (which, I'll admit, wasn't the best idea considering we were walking around London the next day!). In the morning, we had to pack up, and received our Underground Passes, and set off into the city. Our aim was to find out information about the attractions listed on our plans, and we managed to visit St. Paul's cathedral, Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Millennium Bridge and more, all in one day! Miraculously, we also found time for shopping (of course!). On Sunday, our last day in London, we were taken on a surprise trip on the London Eye, before re-joining our leaders, Kitten and Raven for the return journey. Needless to say, the journey back was a lot quieter than the journey going!

Emma Kelly (Aka, Hornet)

Shirenewton Guide Leaders

Helen Cann	Kestrel	01291 650835
Tracey Ashton	Zebra	01291 650692
Amanda Turner	Kitten	01291 650763

**Page For Guides Quiz**

### **SHIRENEWTON WHIST DRIVES**

Due to illness we were a table short in March and we wish our absent players a speedy return to good health. Our next Drive is on 7<sup>th</sup> April at The Recreation Hall at 7.30 p.m. As it seems likely that the General Election will take place in May on our meeting date we may have no Drive in May but no Election means “yes to Drive”!! on the 5<sup>th</sup> May

Enquiries to Auriol Horton 01291 641844.

## Church Fete

11th June has been fixed for this year's Fete.

Next Fete Committee meeting is on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 8.00 p.m. in The Huntsman Hotel. The Fete committee is always looking for new ideas or attractions.

We have a couple of new events this year, but if you have any new ideas please come along and share them, it is not a closed club it's the village fete, so come and make a difference to this great community event.

## Shirenewton Church Website and Shopping Portal

[www.shirenewtonchurch.org.uk](http://www.shirenewtonchurch.org.uk)

STOP PRESS: Community Council information has now been added to the website. Look for the 'Community' menu item. In co-operation with the Community Council we intend to start publishing the minutes of meetings and the various planning applications, the Council's recommendation and the results.

The shopping section has been overhauled to reflect the new look and feel. I have registered '[www.shirenewtonchurch.com](http://www.shirenewtonchurch.com)' and will slowly be moving to that address rather than the more cumbersome '.org.uk'.

This month's 'be a wizz' feature:

Q: How do I back-up my Outlook and Outlook Express files?

A: *instructions on the church website. These files are hidden away deep in the file structure but, if you value the information in your e-mail package, its important to back them up on a regular basis. We give full*

Q: Microsoft Office is so expensive at almost £300 are there alternatives?

A: *Yes we discuss the free alternatives to Microsoft Office but, perhaps best of all, we tell you how to get Microsoft Office for up to three of your home PCs for less than £90 - and its a perfectly legal standard Microsoft license!!! Detailed answers are featured under the 'Be a wizz' feature - look for nice Mr Wizard on the home page !*

---

David Cornwell

Contact details:

david@dcornwell.com

Tel UK: 01291 641 715 (international: code 44 1291 641 715)

## **SHIRENEWTON BELL RINGERS THE BELLS, THE BELLS.....**

Saturday 19th February saw the Monmouth Branch Annual Ringing Course, a large event with more than 50 people involved which lasts for the whole day.

Everyone meets at Magor where it is based, at 9.30am. They have a cup of tea or coffee meet their tutor and have a theory session then the groups go out to various local towers for practice on the bells. Lunch is back at Magor and consists of gigantic 3ft pizzas cut into individual portions. The groups then go out to different local towers for further practice on the bells. The whole thing rounds up again back at Magor with tea and the presentation of certificates.

As a student you can study a range of things through basic bell handling, raising and lowering in peal, through to basic 5 bell methods.

Glynis Macdonald and Bob Millar attended as pupils on the Grandsire Doubles course. Bob followed this up on Sunday 13th March with a quarter peal. Band; 1. Claire Eickhoff; 2. Sally Utting; 3. Bob Millar; 4. Pip Penney; 5. Mike Penney (conductor) 6. Charles Eickhoff. This was also rung to celebrate the twelfth birthday of Claire on the treble, it was her second quarter peal.

If you would like us to ring a quarter for your special event, birthday, anniversary etc. we would be very willing. Let us know.

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### **STARGAZING IN APRIL**

The constellation of Leo the Lion lies to the South. Unlike most constellations, Leo really can be pictured as its namesake. His mane is made up of a backwards-shaped question mark with the bright star Regulus forming his front paw. Off to the left are three stars, which make up the lion's hindquarters.

The seven stars of the Plough lie pretty much overhead. It is one of the "circumpolar" constellations that are always above our horizon. Its classical

name is Ursa Major, the Great Bear.

American slaves in the southern States were taught a song in childhood. The first verse runs:

*When the Sun comes back  
And the first quail calls  
Follow the Drinking Gourd  
For the old man is a-waiting for to carry you to freedom  
If you follow the Drinking Gourd*

The song gave a time, after the December solstice, when the Sun begins to climb higher into the northern sky and the calls of migratory quail can be heard in the southern United States, and a direction – the Drinking Gourd is the Plough and lies to the North. This gave slaves the vital information which allowed them to escape to the North and to freedom.

In the evening Saturn lies to the South West below and to the right of the bright stars Castor and Pollux, in the constellation Gemini. Saturn is yellowish in colour. Earlier in the year the spacecraft Cassini released the probe Huyghens which landed on Saturn's moon Titan. The images beamed back to Earth reveal strangely familiar hills, valleys and cliffs. Titan is the only moon in the Solar System with an atmosphere, but Titan's is very different to that of Earth, consisting of methane and ammonia. It is of particular interest since the present conditions on Titan are believed to be similar to those on the surface of primeval Earth before life began.

The very bright planet Jupiter, which is in the constellation Virgo, is in the South East.

*Dave Thomas*

## **LINE DANCE CLASSES**

**EARLSWOOD HALL, EVERY MONDAY**

**7.30 P.M. UNTIL 9.00**

**Beginner and intermediate dances taught**

**£2.50 PER SESSION**

**Just come along and have a go, or for further information**

**contact either Es on 01291 673172 or Sue on 01291**

**690102**



"Thinking of a holiday in Orlando with all its attractions".  
Why pay hotel rates?

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

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***Shirenewton Local History Society***

On a cold February night a full house (over fifty members) greeted our speaker Mrs Avril Kear who gave a fascinating talk on how to research the history of your house. Mrs Kear who was an archivist at Gloucester Record Office before her retirement has done a considerable amount of research on her own property and others in the Forest of Dean.

She encouraged anyone who lived in an older property to consider some investigation, who knows what you might discover? Mr Mike

Barnes gave the vote of thanks, coffee and a chat followed ending a very pleasant evening.

Dates for your diary:

Date: Tuesday, 26th April  
Talk: The Auxiliary Units of the Second World War  
(A.k.a. British Resistance Organisation)  
Speaker: Mr Peter Rennie  
Venue: The Huntsman Hotel – at 7.30 p.m

**All are welcome**

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**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: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

You are reminded that the School-recycling centre is only for the recycling of the above materials and other waste should not be left at the centre that attracts vermin.

**EARLSWOOD AND NEWCHURCH WEST  
MEMORIAL HALL AGM**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 8.00

It's a great hall. In fact it's the biggest village hall in

Monmouthshire. Why not come along and see what's been going on in the last year. Or even better, help to support it by joining the committee to help run this wonderful local resource.

NFU Ad

### **Cookery Corner**

#### ***Chunky Chocolate Nut Flapjacks***

*1 oz desiccated coconut*

*2 oz light muscovado sugar*

*4 oz Brazil nuts or cashews cut into large chunks*

*6 oz butter cut into pieces*

*5 tbsp syrup*

2 oz almonds - cut

8 oz oats

3 oz dark chocolate cut into large chunks

*Butter a 9" square tin, and line.*

*Mix oats and coconut*

*Melt butter, sugar and syrup until dissolved. Remove from the heat and add the oat mix. Spoon into the tin and press down evenly. Scatter over the nuts and press down lightly. Stick chunks of chocolate between the nuts. Bake at 180°C for 25 – 30 minutes until pale golden.*

*Mark while still warm, but leave in the tin until cold.*

*Thanks again to Caroline Davies.*



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rewire phone**

***Mark Baldwin Electrical***

**641296 or 07791 771691 (mobile)**

*Fully Insured*

## **EARLSWOOD HALL NEWS**

There has been a lot of activity at the Hall lately, with the Rock and Roll night, the rehearsals in the build up to the this years very successful pantomime.

Sadly the Rock and Roll night was not the success we had hoped for being somewhat poorly attended, with only eighty tickets being sold. However we did manage to just break even on the night.

Over the last few months the Hall has secured a substantial number of bookings which will help our finances.

At a recent committee meeting it was decided to organise a Big Band Night as part of the 60 year anniversary celebrations of VE Day. Victory in Europe for the 7<sup>th</sup> May. Details below.

The AGM will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> April at 8.00 p.m. Your support would be very welcome, so do come and support your hall.

We have recently been informed that SODs would like to donate new curtains for the stage and windows. This will make the Hall brighter for all users of the Hall. Many thanks to all concerned.

You may have observed that new lights have been fitted to the outside walls of the Hall making it easier and safer for those arriving after dark. New lights have also been fitted to the emergency exits. This along with other work carried out by the SODs and Kids Ad Lib teams are generally improving the overall facilities at the Hall. Our most sincere thanks to the individuals involved.

### **HOLIDAY COTTAGE – NEW FOREST**

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

Sleeps four, open all year.

Contact Helen and Stewart Walker.

Tel. 02380 292428 - email: [Yorke@alonka.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:Yorke@alonka.fsnet.co.uk)

## **BIG BAND BASH**

**To Celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
VE Day  
Earlswood Hall**

on

21

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 7.30 –11.30

The Big Band is going to be playing old and new favourites.

Come and dance the night away!

Included in the price of the ticket will be a good old-fashioned

Bread and Cheese Supper

A Bar will be available

**Tickets - £7.50.**

**Phone Glynis 641 818 or Christine 641 616**

**Help!** Has any one got in their loft or attic, items that we could borrow to help create a historical display in Earlswood Hall for our celebrations for VE Day? We are looking for items that would be reminiscent of the Second World War and we would take great care of them. We are looking for such things as old photographs, recipes of the times, clothes, gas masks, black out material etc We are interested in finding out how local people were affected by the war.

For more information, please ring Christine 641 616 or Glynis 641 818

**Earlswood and Newchurch West  
Memorial Hall**

**ONLY 2 MILES FROM SHIRENEWTON**

**The Biggest Village Hall**

in

**Monmouthshire!!**

Sprung Wooden Dance Floor  
Superb Stage  
**SEATING FOR 200**  
Central Heating  
Bar Area  
Large Car Park  
Why not hire it for your next Function,  
Party or Dance?

For more details, ring: - 01291 641 818

## Mary Vittle

B.Sc. D.Pod M MchS

**STATE REGISTERED CHIROPODIST**

Home Visits

Tel. Chepstow 624458

### **Gardening Corner**

*Now then, where was I, Oh yes pruning trees. This is not an art form but does depend a lot on science and if you get it right it looks right! Get it wrong and it can look awful. When I say science, it helps to have a little understanding of biology in order to understand how trees respond when they have their branches cut off! I first started working with trees some thirty two years ago and many of the lessons learnt then have stood the test of time. Advice such as "a tree that has been pruned should look exactly as if it hasn't" or "it takes just as long to do a job badly as to do it well". All good advice from the under gardeners dad all those years ago, and sadly advice that has been long lost. The second pearl of wisdom is*

self-explanatory, but the first takes a little bit more to understand. There is as I mentioned last time many examples locally of jobs that have been done poorly. It seems that many peoples idea of pruning a tree is to just cut the branches off (appropriately named topping or lopping) and leaving it to recover and re-grow into a well balanced and attractive looking tree. Wrong! It may well reduce the height and width in one fell swoop, but once done it will never look the same again. True there are some trees that can respond to similar treatment, but this is known as pollarding and is best restricted to only those few species of trees that respond to this type of treatment. Species such as limes, horse chestnuts and London planes and to a lesser extent beech, ash and hornbeam for example. Apart from ash how many of you have these in your garden! This is the sort of treatment that you expect to find practised with street trees and requires regular interventions, like every three or four years. What should be undertaken to reduce height and spread is a package of crown reduction and thinning. When this has been done properly it is very difficult to tell that a tree has received attention. The height of the tree is reduced by cutting main branches back to a suitable sized side branch. Ideally this should be about one-third the diameter of the main stem. This reduces the likelihood of the tree throwing a mass of young branches that will nearly always grow straight and true, like the archers' arrow! There is nothing worse than a tree that has branches characterised by age being spoilt with a mass of young growth. The crown should also be thinned by removing approximately one third of the main branches in order to maintain an open canopy. This allows light and air into the remaining branches allowing all the leaves to work well, reducing dieback and maintaining the health of the tree. All these cuts must not be flush to the stem, but slightly proud to allow the repairing tissue, that is at the base of each branch, to seal over the wound. Whatever you do don't seal the cuts with wound sealant. This actually seals moisture in the cut and encourages rot. Allow the cuts to dry naturally and they will seal over much sooner. Timely cutting is also essential. It is no good cutting a branch that is 25 centimetres across and expecting it to heal over. In ten years time maybe! There is a rule (and no I can't remember what it is called) of one third, two thirds. The same applies when landscaping forest areas. If you fell one third and leave two thirds things are always in proportion and look natural, hence the crown thinning rule. Another no no is to leave a peg 7 centimetres long or more. These will either die back and encourage rot, or will shoot out like the proverbial bush, neither of which is desirable. When felling a tree the ideal is to cut it as close to the ground as possible unless you want the stump for a feature that is to support a clematis or similar climber. Conifers will not re-grow (unless it is Californian redwood or western red cedar) but broadleaves will, so if you don't want them to grow again the cut surface should be treated with a weed-killer. I always paint neat Round-up onto the living tissue, but



*you might only be able to purchase brushwood killer or root out. Either will do, and the latter is meant to help the stump to rot away quicker but I have never used this to test if this is true!*

*So, if in doubt employ a tree surgeon and ideally one that comes recommended. To coin a saying, "Many come calling, but few should be chosen"!! All right, I know that isn't how it goes, but it sounds like good advice.*

*Right lecture over what's happening in the garden? Well at long last the soil has dried enough to allow me to make a start tidying up. Ernie tells me that we have only had an inch of rain compared to the usual five for last month. The trouble is we have had so little sunshine that the soil hasn't responded as it should and is still very cold. Too cold in fact at Barn Farm to start with the first outdoor sowings. I have got the first broad beans and French beans germinated in pots, so these will be placed in the cold frame this week to harden off, although the latter will be destined for the greenhouse border as mentioned last month. Similarly the first lettuce are now well up and running. Most of the flower seeds and other vegetables are pushing through the compost on the hot bench. The under gardener is now attacking these with gusto and busy pricking the seedlings out into individual cells. She grumbles a bit because it is still cold on the feet and hands but I just remind her that the fresh air is good for the complexion. Yes you're right, that fell on stony ground, which is very similar to the conditions where the next (and maybe final) water feature is about to go. I intend to hire a Jack hammer over Easter in order to dig the hole out. I've tried to dig it with a pickaxe and spade, but I've decided that I'm getting far too old for such hard work. I know that I need to lose weight but come on, there are limits! So for now I'll stay cuddly and try not to bust anything that I shouldn't! Gosh, well I must go. The Editor only allows me two pages, so I've out stayed my welcome already. Next month things really get busy coinciding with the arrival of the first cuckoo.*

*So happy gardening until then.*

Steve Hunt.

## **GARDENING DATES TO NOTE IN YOUR DIARY.**

The garden at Barn Farm will be open on the Sunday afternoons (2.00 until 6.00) of the 29<sup>th</sup> May, 12<sup>th</sup> June and 10<sup>th</sup> July.

All proceeds go to the National Gardens Scheme who then pass this money on to a number of charities. The NGS is the biggest single donator to Marie Curie Cancer Care and gave over £500,000 last year alone (over £9 million in total). Macmillan Cancer relief then follow with over £300,000 last year. At £15 per hour (the cost

of a carer), this gives Marie Curie 33,334 hours of care for terminally ill patients. So please support us and other gardeners in the scheme, so that we can support others who so badly need it.

## Why not try Reflexology!

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

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

For more information contact  
**Annabel Hancock MRxS**  
**Clinical Reflexologist**  
01291 650309

### Some Dates for your Diary

4 <sup>th</sup> April	Community Council meeting Recreation Hall 7.30 p.m.
7 <sup>th</sup> April	Whist Drive at the Recreation Hall 7.30 p.m.
13 <sup>th</sup> April	M.U. Meeting in the Church – 2.30
13 <sup>th</sup> April	Fete meeting in the Huntsman Hotel 8.00p.m.
14 <sup>th</sup> April	Earlswood Hall AGM – The Hall Earlswood 8.00 p.m.
16 <sup>th</sup> April	Guides Family Quiz Night – Devauden Hall 7.30 .m.
26 <sup>th</sup> April	Local History Society – Huntsman Hotel 7.30 p.m.
7 <sup>th</sup> May	Big Band Night VE Anniversary Dance Earlswood Hall.
29 <sup>th</sup> May	Barn Farm Gardens Open 2.00 – 6.00 p.m.
11 <sup>th</sup> June	Church Fete Recreation Ground
12 <sup>th</sup> June	Barn Farm Gardens Open 2.00 – 6.00 p.m.
19 <sup>th</sup> June	Open Garden Day – <i>Your Garden?</i>

### **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.

### **TO ADVERTISE IN THE PARISH MAGAZINE RATES ARE:**

½ page for the year 10 issues, £25.

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

Local charity adverts for one off events no charge.

### **GARDEN MAINTENANCE**

For all your garden jobs, mowing,  
Tree-topping, hedge-trimming, stonewalling, concreting.  
Tel. Paul Lewis 01291 424205

**READER AND SIDE PERSONS ROTA - APRIL**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>READER</b>	<b>SIDES- PERSON</b>
<b>3rd April</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> <b>9.45 a.m.</b>	<b>GROUP SERVICE AT NEWCHURCH</b>	
<b>10<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> <b>9.45 a.m. Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>Jean Jones</b> <b>Peter Jones</b>	<b>Jean Jones</b> <b>Peter Jones</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> <b>9.45a.m.</b>	<b>FAMILY SERVICE -</b>	<b>Check Notice Board for details</b> <b>or possible alterations</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> <b>9.45a.m. Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>Winnie Jones</b> <b>James Leney</b>	<b>Winnie Jones</b> <b>Ernie Jones</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> <b>9.45 a.m.</b>	<b>GROUP EUCHARIST AT LLANFAIR DISCOED</b>	

**Newchurch Every Sunday at 2.30 p.m.**