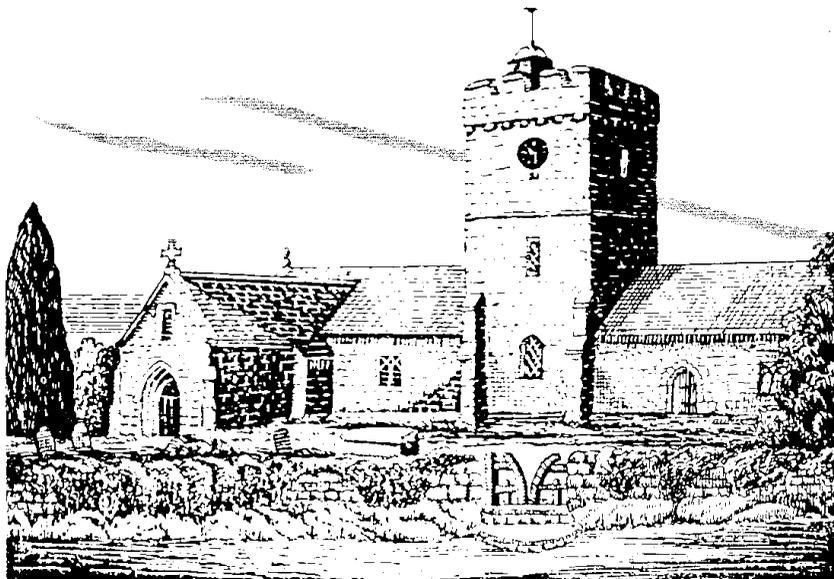


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MARCH 2005

**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
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<b>MOTHERS UNION:</b>	Auriol Horton	641844
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**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
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<b>CUBS:</b>	Diana Such	650638
<b>BEAVERS:</b>	Gill Norris	622703
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<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 Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

March 2005

Dear Friends,

Our observance of Lent began with a service on Ash Wednesday at Llanfair Church where a few of us gathered to share fellowship in the Eucharist. The Lent Course is proving to be of interest to a few more people than previously, but there is ample room for more of you to come and join us at Caerwent Vestry on Monday evenings at 7.30.p.m. It's not only a good way to learn more about our faith and what the scriptures mean for us in today's world, but the hour and a half together also enables to get to know one another in our group of parishes.

During February those interested in our future patterns of worship met to discuss a wide range of issues concerning when and how we conduct our services and I would like to thank those who attended and contributed to the discussion. There is still need for more discussion and our next meeting will be on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March at the Chantry, Shirenewton, by kind invitation of Mrs Glynis Bounds when we will be considering what spiritual gifts we can offer in services of worship. God has given us all gifts which can be used in his service, for example, music, drama, reading aloud not only the scriptures but also poetry and extracts from relevant writings. Welcoming those coming to worship, helping with the electrics and technical equipment which I hope we can build more frequently into some of our meetings for worship, some have the gift of leading in prayer while others can manage the provision and serving of refreshments – not always an easy matter. There quite a number of talented people who can relate to the younger generations and I am sure the Sunday School Clubs would welcome more of you who are experienced in this area of work. The list of gifts is varied and endless. Of course it requires commitment of time, energy and resources and what better time than Lent to consider afresh what aspects of our lives we can offer in God's service. If you think you can offer some of your gifts do come to the next meeting. Training for all is available.

During Lent it is customary that our church buildings are not decorated with flowers but there will be gifts of flowers available on **Mothering Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> March at our Group Service at Shirenewton Church at 9.45 a.m.** This will be a Family Service in an exciting new format so we hope families and our usual members will come along to enjoy our fellowship as we grow together into our united parish.

Our new Area Dean of Netherwent Deanery has been elected and commissioned by the Bishop is The Reverend Julian White, Vicar of Mathern. I am sure you will pray for Julian as he takes on this extra role which has many challenges facing him and us all as the Deanery and

Diocese moves towards implementing the Deanery Plan over the coming years. **There will be a Deanery Conference on March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 p.m. at Caldicot Church Hall** where a presentation of our Deanery Plan will be given. Those from our parishes who have been elected as Deanery Conference members will wish to note that it is important that they attend. The next occasion when we will learn the Bishops decision about all the deanery plans and the Diocesan Plan will be at the Diocesan Conference on May 14<sup>th</sup>, venue etc. will be announced later.

The re-ordering of Caerwent Church is about to begin and John Waters, who is master- minding it, has placed the timetable of work for the first phase in the church. Everyone using the building throughout the period of work needs to consult the table and be aware of any temporary hazards that may occur. We are very grateful to John for all the careful work he has put in on this exciting project and I know he will readily answer questions or give advice that may arise over the coming months as work proceeds. The choir pews will be replaced with chairs which cost £60 each and anyone who would like to donate a chair in memory of a loved one or as thanksgiving will be welcome to send their donation and any details to John. There are handbills about this in the church.

The planning and fundraising for the extension to Shirenewton Church is ongoing and faculty application is in hand. More detailed news about the progress of this exciting project will soon be available. Watch this space!

News of our Vicar, Hugh, is that he is making steady progress towards better health so please continue to pray for both Gill and Hugh that he may soon fully recover and that they both be able to return among us.

Every blessing,  
Nansi Davies, Curate.

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### **FROM THE REGISTERS**

A Memorial Service was held on 12<sup>th</sup> Feruary followed by interment of ashes of Jean Metcalfe.

### **CHURCH NOTICES**

- 7.30 p.m        Mondays in Lent: Peace and reconciliation Meeting –  
Walking into Life a Group Lenten Study. Join us at  
Caerwent Church as we search for some answers
- 3.00 p.m.        Every Tuesday – A prayer meeting in Caerwent Church  
open to all.
- 7.30 p.m.        Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March Group Worship Meeting at the  
Chantry (thank you Glynis for a warm venue)

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### **Congratulations**

Go to Donna and John Denyer of Mynyddbach, on the recent birth of their twins Noah and Jasmine.

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### **SHIRENEWTON CHURCH 200 CLUB**

#### **February Draw**

186	Mrs. E.I. Hughes	£40
144	Mr. Martin Hughes	£30
61	Dr. James Leney	£20
156	Mr. John Waters	£10

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### **SHIRENEWTON CHURCH 200 CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Subscriptions for the 200 Club for the year April 2005 – 2006 are now due. The following: Barbara Davies, Pauline Dutton, John Nicholas, and Peter Jones will shortly collect the £10 per number subscription if you have not already paid.

Pauline Dutton

### **PARISH MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS.**

**Magazine subscriptions of £5.00 for the ten editions of the 2005 magazine are now due. Would you kindly arrange to pay your regular delivery person.**

**Our thanks go to; Paul and Anne at the Village Shop and the team of regulars who collect the subscriptions and distribute the magazine.**

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## **SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB**

*Here are the dates for the next month or so.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	9.45	Group Mothering Sunday Service Shirenewton Church
13 <sup>th</sup> Mar	9.45	Group Sunday Club – The Chantry
20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry

*And then we break up for Easter. I think the new term will start on 17 April, but because of the changes in Group Services I'm not sure whether it will be Sunday Club or Family Service.... Watch this space next month!*

***We welcome all children from 3 years.***

***Do come and join us.***

***Jane Smith-Haddon 641 525***

***Glynis MacDonald 641 818***

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

Meetings for March will be held on:

2<sup>nd</sup> March at 2.30 p.m. and the 16<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30p.m.  
The Women's World Day of Prayer service will be held at the Chapel on  
4<sup>th</sup> March at 3.00p.m.

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## **SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup>.January – part (ii) (held 24<sup>th</sup> January 2005)**

County Councillor Graham Down joined 6 members of the Council.

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

***The Village Plan.*** It was agreed that a sub-group of 5 members be established to take the project forward with regular reports back to the full Council.

***The Shirenewton Golf Club*** development: It is expected that the developer will make some form of "offer" to the village to compensate for the loss of the amenity. Just what form the offer will take, or how substantial it may be will depend on what we can show is being lost by the closure of the Golf Club.

***The Squeeze Belly Gate*** is likely to be constructed within the next month.

***The Earlswood Village Scheme.*** The scheme involved installing traffic calming measures within the village. Members felt the proposals were unnecessary and inappropriate. However it was agreed that **EARLSWOOD** signs should be installed at the three major entry points to the village.

***Website.*** Members expressed their gratitude to Mr.Cornwell for his offer to create a website area specifically for the Community Council.

### **Planning Matters**

Four applications were presented for consideration. Members recommended approval for an extension at ***Beech Grove, Earlswood.*** There were no objections for a new dwelling to be constructed at the site of an obsolete barn at ***Oxpool, Earlswood.*** Plans were also submitted for upgrading the ***Water Booster Station, Batwell Road.*** In recommending this development members asked if "Bat Boxes" could also be included in the plan. A retrospective application was received regarding the now completed development at ***Waterspring, Earlswood.*** Having dealt with this matter in the past members only comment was that it was presumed the development was as per the originally approved plan.

Three decisions were received from the County Planning committee. Approval has been given for an extension at ***The Old Engineers Arms, Shirenewton,*** for the erection of a garage at ***Meadow Barn, Shirenewton*** and for an extension and alterations at ***Lothlorien,***

## ***Newchurch West.***

### **Matters of Local Concern**

A number of items were raised by councillors including:-

- the ***damaged letter box*** on School Hill, Mynyddbach. A letter to be sent to the Post Office.
- the ***inoperative solar light*** on the footpath above the War Memorial. The Clerk to investigate if the equipment is still covered by warranty.
- a proposal that a ***Community Notice Board*** be supplied and erected for the benefit of residents in Newchurch West. Prices and availability of the item to be sought.
- the ***increase in the cost of maintaining local Chapels***. Costs have increased sharply of late because of the need for Chapels to comply with Health and Safety regulations. Any financial support from the Community Council would be very welcome.
- the ***damage caused to the highway*** between Goytre Cross and Penycaemawr by heavy vehicles transporting waste material to a site on Golden Hill. The Clerk to contact the Highways Department to ensure they are aware of the situation.

### **Meeting held 7<sup>th</sup>. February 2005**

Cllr. Graham Down and PC Andrew Mason joined 8 members.

### **Police Report**

The most serious reported incident involved a person walking their dog along the highway, while driving their car! PC Mason would still welcome volunteers from Shirenewton to help him set up a Neighbourhood Watch group in the village.

### **Matters Arising**

The Clerk reported that we still have not received any form of response from the County Planning Department to our letter regarding what we feel as their inconsistent approach to planning applications. A letter will now be sent, via. *ONE VOICE WALES*, challenging some of their recent decisions particularly with regard to local conservation areas. Because the matter of planning applications and subsequent decisions by the Planning Authority appear to be so variable the Community Council have set up a small sub-committee to look at the whole process.

### **Planning Matters**

An application for the demolition of the existing property and the construction of a new detached dwelling at ***New Mill Cottage, Earlswood*** was recommended for refusal. However members were happy to recommend approval of an application to extend ***St. Thomas a Becket Church, Shirenewton***.

Two decisions were received from the County Planning Committee. Permission has been given for an extension to **Upper Bushes, Earlswood** and for the conversion of a derelict building into a dwelling at **Gaerllwyd Barn, Earlswood**.

### **Matters of Local Concern**

Having met only two weeks previously there were few matters to consider.

One member reported that the **Shirenewton Church Clock**, having been modernised, is now working perfectly.

Members of Shirenewton and Caerwent Community Councils are to meet to discuss the situation regarding the **Bicca Common**. There remains confusion regarding the ownership of the common and the possible variation of Rights of those living in the area.

The next meeting of the Community Council is to be on Monday 7<sup>th</sup>. March 2005.

*Peter Jones*

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## **VILLAGE GARDENS OPEN DAY**

**Calling all gardeners!** An open day of gardens in and around Mynyddbach and Shirenewton is being planned for Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> June this year, the day after the village fete. The aim is to raise money to go towards the much needed recreation hall refurbishment scheme. You do not need to be a Charlie Dimmock or an Alan Titchmarsh to open your garden nor does it need to be of horticultural excellence. Most people just enjoy pottering around other gardens getting ideas and inspiration and exchanging tips. So even if the weather isn't clement enough to get into the garden just yet, you can be reading Steve's article, towards the end of the magazine and browsing through the seed catalogue to get into the mood. 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!

**SHIRENEWTON RECREATION ASSOCIATION  
ARE HOLDING THEIR EXCITING  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**ON  
ON WEDNESDAY 23RD MARCH AT THE RECREATION HALL AT  
7.30 P.M.  
ALL WELCOME.**

**NIBBLES AND A GLASS OF WINE WILL BE PROVIDED.**

Shirenewton Recreation Association has been successful in obtaining two substantial grants to improve the facilities in our village hall. The first is a grant from Monmouthshire County Council to go towards upgrading the general shower and toilet facilities, and specifically to provide access and a toilet for the disabled. We are looking to complete this work by September 2005.

The second, an even more substantial award, is an Article 33 Grant from the Rural Development Plan for Wales. This will go towards the second phase, to refurbish and rearrange the existing internal facilities, to add an extra bay on to the East end of the building, and to increase the size of the committee room to the right of the current entrance. We hope to complete this phase of the project by September 2006

A project management team has been set up to oversee the design and construction work, to ensure that disruption is kept to a minimum, to ensure that safety procedures are followed, and to communicate progress to all interested parties.

A second team has been formed to handle all aspects of Fund Raising. Although the grants are substantial, we still have to raise in the region of £12,000 ourselves to be able to complete all phases of the project in time. We appreciate that the church has a major fund-raising and construction project running at the same time, and that both projects require financial assistance from the village. But we hope that through everyone's generosity, both projects to improve the amenities in the village can be completed successfully. All ideas and efforts for fund-raising will be gratefully received!

If you would like to hear more about our project and see the plans, please come along to The AGM on March 23rd!

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**SMU (SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS' UNION)**

The local Branch will resume it's meetings on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30 p.m. in the Church when our speaker will be Sue Collingbourne, the

Diocesan Children's Officer.

Visitors are always welcome to join us. If you would like to know more about the MU please contact Auriol Horton, Branch Leader on:

01291 641844.

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## **FAIRTRADE NEWS**

You may well have heard of the new campaign

### **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY.**

The view is that 2005 could be the year when finally, after all the fine words something radical might be achieved to significantly reduce world poverty. Britain is currently leader of the G8 group of developed nations whose summit will take place in June. In July the UK assumes the Presidency of the EU. Ironically enough the tremendous outpouring of sympathy and money after the Tsunami has also galvanised support for poorer countries.

April 10-16 is a Global Week of Action highlighting amongst other things the campaign for Trade Justice. To mention just one aspect: the campaign wants people to realise the devastating effect of dumping rich nations' subsidised goods on poorer less well developed economies.

July 1st is White Band Day. These cotton or silicone bracelets (£1) have been selling incredibly well. Oxfam had some cotton ones and I'm ordering silicone ones.

Also due very soon are copies of the new Traidcraft catalogue, which I will leave at the Spar.

As ever contact me or [www.traidcraft.co.uk](http://www.traidcraft.co.uk) for more info.

Marion McAdam 01291 641 316 [marion@mcadam100.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:marion@mcadam100.freeserve.co.uk)

P.S. The new Geoactive bars (mango and cashew/pineapple) are scrumptious - now available at Spar 75p

# 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](mailto:Sue.Bullock@btinternet.com)

## SHIRENEWTON W.I.

Shirenewton WI totals 27 members, an increase from last year.

Jenny Bonner, Auriol Horton and Ruth Savagar will be representing Shirenewton WI at the County Quiz Show in Usk on 25 February with support from Thelma Moore, Barbara Oubridge, Gladys Lloyd and Sally Saysell.

2 members are attending a craft workshop in Llangwm and another member Pilates & Pancakes at Gilwern on 21 March.

Once again we will be entering the Chepstow Show competition entitled "Nursery Rhyme" with the help of Shân Henshall and Jenny Bonner.

The summer outing will be a guided tour of Evesham, including a boat trip along the river.

Items highlighted from the county newsletter was the lunchtime discussion on 11 March in Usk, subject is children's health. Some members are attending the Annual Meeting at County Hall on 20 April. Interest was also shown on "an evening with Simon Weston" on 23 June at County Hall. Members of the public can also buy tickets for this event at a cost of £15, applications to Gwent Federation of WIs in Usk.

A letter from Therese Casemore, our WI Adviser, sent in a report from the

last Group Meeting held recently with details of the Federation Show Day on 16 July at County Hall. Shirenewton WI will be helping and providing the group stall with items for "digging delights".

The evening finished with members being pampered with help from the 'Body Shop at Home'.

The next meeting is on 17 March, 7pm celebrating 53 years of 'WI-ing' in Shirenewton.

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## **BROWNIES REPORT**

### **PLEASE HELP SAVE THE BROWNIE HOUSE**

As Shirenewton Brownies, we do not stand alone as an isolated unit of 24 girls, 3 Guiders and 2 Young Leaders. We are part of the Guiding Association, the largest organisation for girls and young women in the U.K. This year, all Brownie units in Wales are being asked to raise funds to restore our Brownie House at Broneirion, Wales' Guiding Headquarters. The Brownie house is a small house in the grounds of Broneirion, which Brownie units can book to stay in for pack holidays. We are seeking to raise funds by baking and selling biscuits at Easter time (Brownies are very good at cooking and very enthusiastic!). We are hoping that you can help us with this project by filling in the form below and ordering some delicious biscuits, perhaps as special Easter presents. Please hand the completed slip below with your money to a Brownie leader / parent or put it through Jackie's door at Ridgeway, Redd Landes (opposite Shirenewton Rec.) **by Saturday 19th March**. Delivery will be by Friday 25th March (Good Friday). Thank you for your support.

Jackie Broughton (641797)  
Dorothy Thomas (641660)  
Lucy Kirkham (641351)

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I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ packs of biscuits ( each pack contains 4 biscuits) @ £1 per pack or 5 packs for £4 .

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Contact tel. no. \_\_\_\_\_



Hiya Folks,

I know you enjoyed last month's article about a dog's closest friend, the flea. And I bet you're just itching to read about your own little friend, the nit. Well I did promise and I wouldn't like to let my reader down. (readers?)

Anyway, here are 10 facts about nits.

- Nits are the tiny eggs laid by the head louse.
- The best place for the mummy louse to lay her eggs is firmly attached to your hair, close to the scalp where it is nice and warm.
- Head lice love to suck human blood. That's what sets up the itching, after they've had a good old nosh.
- The louse needs to hang on tight so their back legs have special claws that are just the right size to grip onto human hair.
- Head lice love to hang around in school - not cos they like the lessons but because when you huddle with your friends they can wander from head to head.
- One louse can travel over 8 heads in a day. ( How did they find that out?)
- It doesn't matter how clean your hair is, anyone can get nits.
- Two thousand-year-old mummified bodies from Peru have been found with nits. (Tricky job mummifying a nit?)
- The best way to get rid of these blood-sucking fiends is to wash your hair, put conditioner on and then comb it very very thoroughly with a special nit comb. The close teeth of the comb will remove the eggs.
- The best thing I learnt about baby lice, is when they are ready to hatch, it's a very tight squeeze in the egg and the opening is too small for the baby louse to crawl out of. So the baby louse swallows air and then...err...passes wind...so to speak... to build up the air pressure in the egg. Eventually, the pressure is so great that the baby louse is literally fired out of his egg. Hmm,

nice entrance!

Well that's all for now. I'll leave you to get on with your scratching.

PYP



We have welcomed four new Guides in the last couple of weeks and the Patrols are working towards new challenges. Last week we all got terribly dirty taking our own fingerprints and trying to work out whether we had whorls or arches. Thank you to Mandy, our fingerprint officer from Avon and Somerset Police.

One of our Young Leaders, Bethany, has been selected to represent Girlguiding Cymru at an International camp in Oregon, USA in July. Whilst this is a great honour, it also requires fundraising on a large scale! Please make a note in your diary for Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April when there will be a Family Quiz in Devauden Hall. Full details in the next edition. Bethany is on the look-out for sponsors or the donation of raffle prizes. If you can help, please contact one of the Guiders and we'll collect. She will also be selling individual music quiz sheets for £1 which requires you to fill in names of artists/bands to complete a story (this is probably more appropriate for aficionados of popular music). Sheets will be available through Guides or Guiders as well as Chepstow Comprehensive School.

Our senior Patrol is being let loose in London at the end of February as the final clause in their Baden-Powell Award. They are attending a

challenge at Commonwealth Headquarters in Buckingham Palace Road, where they will meet Guides from other areas also completing the challenge. They still have some fund raising to do to pay for the weekend, but as they fancy offering a car wash facility we are waiting for warmer weather! Watch this space for details.

Yours in Guiding,

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

## **Church Fete**

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

Next Fete Committee meeting is on 16<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00 p.m. in The Huntsman Hotel. If you are interested in participating new ideas are always welcome. It is not a closed club, so come and make a difference to this great community event.

## **SHIRENEWTON WHIST DRIVES**

29 players met on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February for another enjoyable evening. We meet on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Recreation Hall and start playing at 7.30 p.m. promptly. Do join us. The next Drives are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March and the 7<sup>th</sup> April. If a General election is called for May our Drive in that month will have to be cancelled as the Hall may be used for Polling on our usual Thursday- we should know by the next edition of the magazine.

Enquiries to Auriol Horton 01291 641844

## **NEWCHURCH NEWS**

Rather belatedly, we would like to thank all that came and supported us at our annual Carol and Christmas Day Services. The Carol Service was particularly seasonal as we had a light sprinkling of snow - usual Newchurch weather due to our elevated position!

We would also like to remind everyone of our Palm Sunday Service traditionally held at 3.p.m. Every other service is 2.30 p.m. except of course the Group Service. Our next one at Newchurch is on April 3rd at 9.45 a.m.

Also, on the 3rd Sunday of each month, we hold an informal Family Service taken by John Waters - all are very welcome.

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## **Shirenewton Church Website and Shopping Portal**

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

The new look home page is up and running and the new look content pages are being used in the new 'Be a whizz' feature which is based around question posed in this magazine. I am half way through updating the entire shop to the new content pages.

Two questions this month: -

Q: I am worried about identity theft. Is it safe to surf and use on-line banks and shops.

A: *The 'good' news is that recent surveys suggest that on-line identity theft is only a small percentage of overall identity theft (the church website has a link to a relevant article). However, this doesn't mean that you can take your on-line security for granted. You have to consider malware, spyware, Trojan Horses and of course viruses.*

*The church website has a link where you can test your system (for free) to your exposure to a wide range of online threats, including viruses. Additionally we tell you where you can get free state-of-the-art virus protection, free firewalls and free spyware removal tools.*

Q: Who or what is 'Phishing'?

A: *Pronounced 'fishing' its just that - identity thieves fishing for information by trying to get you to release your confidential passwords and pin numbers. The simple way to avoid it is never to follow a link in an*

*email and only ever to go directly to the site. However, the website has a link to a full description of Phishing and how to avoid phishing scams.*

David Cornwell Shirenewton Church website webmaster

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## **SHIRENEWTON OPERA & DRAMA SOCIETY**

Following the success of this year pantomime Treasure Island in January, a meeting was held to review the good and bad points of the production and close off the accounts. Among the items discussed regarding potential improvements and how the overall effect of productions could be further improved was with enhancements within the Hall. These will be discussed with the Earlswood Hall committee to find the most beneficial way this can be achieved to the benefit of the Hall and for S.O.D's and Kids Ad Lib productions.

S.O.D's have this year the Hall with a complete range of set of theatrical curtain rails for the stage. These will be of great assistance to any organisation wishing to stage productions using multiple backdrops. While further improvements have been made to the stage lighting enabling this also to be controlled either from backstage or from the attic control room.

The Society would like to thank the Earlswood Hall Committee for their continued support, and special thanks to all the members of the production team and cast for all their considerable efforts to create this very special village event.

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## **STARGAZING IN MARCH**

Much the brightest star in the sky, Sirius can be seen to the South, below and to the left of the constellation Orion. The name "Sirius" is derived from the Greek word meaning scorching. For the ancient Egyptians the appearance of Sirius coincided with the annual flooding of the Nile Valley, vital to growing their crops. This event was of such importance to them that it marked the beginning of their year.

The pair of stars high above Sirius and Orion are part of the constellation Gemini, the Twins, and are called Castor and Pollux. In mythology Castor and Pollux were the twin sons of the Queen of Sparta. Castor was mortal, but Pollux was not – his father was none other than Jupiter, who had paid a clandestine visit to the Queen. When Castor was killed in battle, Pollux

pleaded to be allowed to share his immortality with his brother; this was granted, and both boys were placed in the heavens. Gemini is crossed by the Milky Way – the dense belt of stars that make up our own galaxy.

In the evening Saturn lies to the South below and to the right of Castor and Pollux. Saturn is yellowish in colour. The very bright planet Jupiter, which is in the constellation Virgo, appears in the South East as it climbs above the horizon later in the evening, and lies to the South West at dawn.

In March 1781, William Herschel of Bath was observing stars in the constellation Gemini when he discovered a new planet. This was the first new planet to be seen since the beginning of history and resulted in Herschel being knighted and given a royal pension. In gratitude to the king he wanted to call the planet George! However good sense prevailed and it was named after the god Uranus.

*Dave Thomas*

## **LINE DANCE CLASSES**

**EARLSWOOD HALL, EVERY MONDAY**

**7.30 P.M. UNTIL 9.00**

**Beginner and intermediate dances taught**

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### *Shirenewton Local History Society*

The January meeting was held at the Huntsman Hotel. Our Secretary, Jessica King devised a quiz covering a wide variety of subjects. David and Stella Collard, Helen Nield and David Charles proved they were the 'Brains' of the society and won a bottle of wine each.

The next meeting will be held at the Huntsman Hotel on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March when Dr. Daphne Pearson will speak on 'Starting Historical Research', or a funny thing happened on the way to the National Archives.

*Jenny Bonner*

#### **SHIRENEWTON SCHOOL RECYCLING**

Please remember you can use the Centre for:  
**Glass, paper, tins, clothing and fabrics**

Opening Hours:

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

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

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.

#### **PLAY ASSISTANTS REQUIRED AT SHIRENEWTON KIDS CLUB**

**SHIRENEWTON KIDS CLUB BASED AT SHIRENEWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**PROVIDES AFTER SCHOOL CARE FOR UP TO 24 CHILDREN, 5 DAYS A WEEK (TERM TIME).**

We have 2 vacancies for play assistants to work 3pm to 6pm between 1 and 5 evenings a week (term time only)

The play assistants work closely with the play leaders in providing a safe and caring environment and ensuring the club meets the relevant standards

You will enjoy being around children and ideally (but not essential) have an NVQ level 2 in childcare.

These posts are subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau disclosure.

**Please contact Penny Davies tel. (01291) 650709 or Jacky Hale (01291) 421287 for an informal chat / application form.**

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## GARDENING CORNER

*I hate February as a month and I am always glad when we leave it behind and stumble into March. This year has been so mild on average that the*

countryside seems to be well and truly fooled into thinking that spring has arrived early. We always reckon that the first daffodil at Barn Farm just opens in time for St David's day. Current signs are that they will be out a good bit earlier. I know many of you with sheltered gardens have had splashes of colour for some weeks, but we are about 250 metres above sea level (700 feet) and this elevation does make a big difference, even though we are sheltered from the North and East winds.

I haven't managed to get much done in the garden since last month's article. When I have had time it has always been too wet. I can't remember just when we actually had a reasonable spell of dry weather enough to dry the soil out that is. Ernie Jones provided me with the rainfall figures for last year and these make interesting reading. The actual rainfall was around what appears to now be the average for this area. This was 1156 millimetres (about 46 inches in old money). Ernie had also given me the highest and lowest figures for each month since he started taking records. It was interesting to note that all but one of the highest figures have occurred in the last six years with 2000 being the most notable with four individual months of record rainfall, followed by two in 2002. The lowest months are actually spread over a much larger time scale but noticeable by the fact that only one has been since 2000 and there was only 1995 that had two of the driest months. Who says that the weather isn't getting wetter and more unsettled? As for last year? Well it just rained every month, consistently!

The wet weather has meant that I have continued to work inside the tunnel and greenhouses. Most of this has been spent re-potting and dividing some of last year's plants and finishing tidying up the raised beds. Some of the beds will then be ready for planting up in the next few weeks, whilst the rest will be used for storing plants until it is warm enough to move them outside. The latter will then be ready for planting up with the summer crops such as tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers. The bed in the large greenhouse will be raked shortly and the first sowing of baby carrots, spring onions and beetroot will be made. These will provide tender young pickings in May and early June, well ahead of anything sown outside. The propagating bench in the small greenhouse will also be turned on in the next week or so. Although many of the earlier sowings will be of flowers, I will be getting the first lettuce crops and also the first dwarf beans going as well. These will also be planted out in the greenhouse for succulent, early crops.

I don't bother to put in broad bean seeds in the autumn as I have always managed to lose them due to the cold wet ground. So these will also be sown in the next week. These I put into individual 9 centimetre pots, which are then planted out in mid April. This gives them an excellent start and makes sure that they are up and running as soon as their roots hit the open ground. I will grow all of the bean crops in a similar fashion. Regular

readers may remember that I decided to sow sweet peas in the autumn as an experiment. Like beans I have always had a problem with plants rotting off over winter in the past. These were looking really well when I looked before Christmas. I moved them out of the tunnel and into the cold frame as they were growing a bit too fast! Having pinched the tops out they were bushing out well and I must say I was well pleased! At least I was until last week when I checked to see how they were doing, only to find that the mice had been enjoying themselves and eaten the tops off nearly every one! So much for feeding two cats! I have now moved the pots out in the open again. This has stopped the mice and there are signs that the plants are beginning to shoot out again. Just so long as we don't get a long, cold, wet spell now they may still recover. Still you have to try these things! Out in the open garden I have been busy trying to finish a path area alongside a raised stone bed that I built last year. The path is being edged with the boards that I creosoted over the Christmas period and has a number of shallow wooden steps in it (nowhere at Barn Farm is it flat!). I have nearly finished this and have started filling the pathway up with wood chips. Although I say so myself it looks quite nice. Getting a little frustrated with the weather I also decided to start developing another area of the garden. We planted a small orchard area when we first moved here 17 years ago. Several of the trees have never really done much so one day the chainsaw came out and they were no more. I think the under-gardener was a little shocked at my pruning technique but we did get a roaring fire going and she helped clear up, so I must have been forgiven. I have decided to turn this area into an early flowering shady border. A number of different varieties of snowdrops have been ordered in the green and these have already been delivered and potted up whilst the ground is got ready. I also have a number of pulmonarias and hellebores waiting patiently. Some of the shade that is no more, will be re-instated by planting a number of acers. Two in particular, the snake-bark and paper-bark maples have already been ordered and await collection. These will be planted immediately to allow them plenty of time to settle in. They are in large pots so this shouldn't be a shock to their system. It is surprising just how resilient trees can be. Whilst the saw was out I decided to climb the ladder and undertake some pruning on some of our boundary trees. There is a right and many wrong ways to do this. Sadly there seems to be a lot of evidence of the wrong way about locally at the moment but more of that next month! Happy gardening until then. Steve Hunt.

## Why not try Reflexology!

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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

### **Some Dates for your Diary**

3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Whist Drive the Recreation Hall 7.30p.m.
6 <sup>th</sup> March	Family Service – Mothering Sunday
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Community Council Meeting the Recreation Hall
9 <sup>th</sup> March	M.U. Meeting in the Church – 2.30
16 <sup>th</sup> March	Fete meeting in the Huntsman Hotel 8.00p.m.
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Deanery Conference – Caldicot Church Hall
17 <sup>th</sup> March	W.I. Meeting
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Rec. Association AGM the Recreation Hall
16 <sup>th</sup> April	Guides Family Quiz night –Devauden Hall
11 <sup>th</sup> June	Church Fete Recreation Ground
12 <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.

### **HOLIDAY COTTAGE – NEW FOREST**

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Sleeps four, open all year.

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Tel. Paul Lewis 01291 42420

**Some Church Bloopers to Finish**

Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: - "Searching for Jesus."

Ladies don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.

**READER AND SIDE PERSONS ROTA - MARCH**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>READER</b>	<b>SIDES- PERSON</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent 9.45 a.m.</b>	<b>GROUP SERVICE AT SHIRENEWTON MOTHERING SUNDAY - ALL AGE WORSHIP</b>	
<b>13<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent 9.45 a.m. Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>Bob Grattan Felicity Hunt</b>	<b>Bob Grattan Felicity Hunt</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Palm Sunday 9.45a.m.</b>	<b>FAMILY SERVICE - SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>	
<b>27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Easter Sunday 9.45a.m. Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>Sally Saysell Auriol Horton</b>	<b>Alan Saysell Bernice Bowen</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter 9.45 a.m.</b>	<b>GROUP SERVICE AT NEWCHURCH</b>	

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