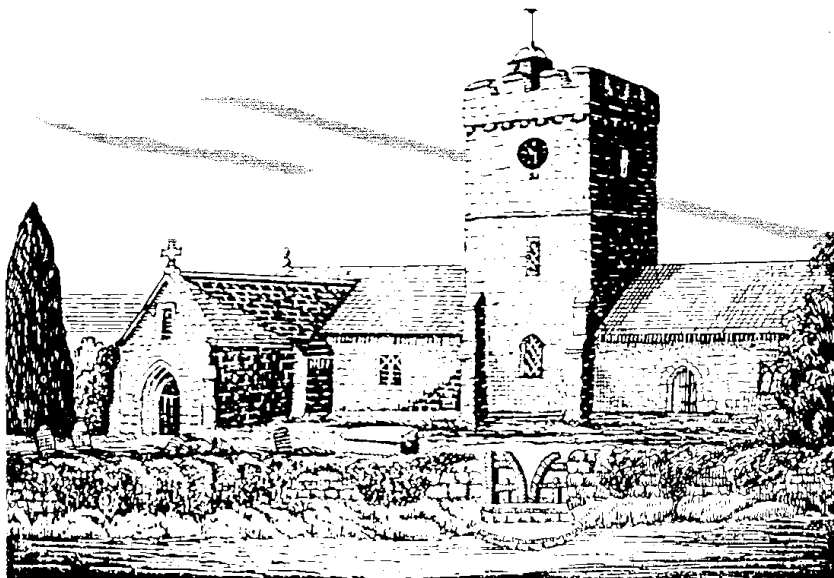


PRICE: 50P

MAY 2005

**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:	Alan Saysell	641369
	Sally Saysell	641369
	Mrs Kath Whittington – Newchurch	641600
	Mrs Susan Lenthall – Newchurch	626389
PCC SECRETARIES:	Andrew Baker - Shirenewton	641925
	David Heritage - Newchurch	641570
PCC TREASURERS:	Kevin Bounds - Shirenewton	641818
	Enid Heritage - Newchurch	641570
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. Andrew Mason	01633 838111
REC. BOOKING SECRETARY:	Beryl Saysell	641637
TRAIDCRAFT:	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 20th May for inclusion in the June Magazine

Dear Friends,

The Good News of Easter is always with us even though it may seem that as the celebrations have passed it's all over for another year. However, Christians know that the truth of the Resurrection means that we can continue to celebrate even into Eternity. What a wonderful outlook on life that provides for each one of us who believes Our Lord's promise that he has gone to prepare a place for us and that he will be with us until the end of time!

Much work is going on in our parishes, not only in the refurbishment and reordering of the interior of Caerwent Church, and also in the preparations for the start of the building work in Shirenewton Church, but in the planning of our Services of Worship which will involve all four churches. At the next meeting of the Worship Group we hope that we can prepare the plan for when, where and when each Sunday services will be held and what form of worship will take place up to April next year. Later we hope to further develop other services and joint events across our four parishes which will, we hope, become a United Parish to be announced by the Bishop at the forthcoming Diocesan Conference.

Another very important event will be taking place on 5th May, the General Election. While Christians will want to avoid the charge of being party political as a Church, we dare not isolate ourselves from the things that matter to people. Governments can only provide the right infrastructure but it is up to individuals to take responsibility for their own attitudes and choices. Christians in making their choices will be focused on the wider common good rather than on purely self-serving decisions. Christ continues to call us to challenge and transform all that is evil, all that distorts his image and likeness in young and old. Human suffering and opportunities for care and human fulfilment affects us all, all the time, whatever our political party allegiance. We can all make a difference and voting is only one part of the democratic process but an essential part.

By the end of April each parish will have held its Annual General Meeting and we will be able to publish a full list of Churchwardens and Parochial Church Councillors in the next issue.

Finally the other piece of good news is that Hugh Trenchard hopes to be back in harness early in May and I am sure we will all be glad. With every blessing,

Nansi Davies - Curate.

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Here are the dates for the next month or so.

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Dates for Summer Term....

....As far as we know them at the moment!

Things might change a bit as we work out how to incorporate our new Group All Age Service

DATE	Time	Venue
Apr 7th	9.45	Family Service – Shirenewton Church
Apr 24 th	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry
May 1 st	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry
May 8 th	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry
May 15 th	9.45	Parade Family Service - Shirenewton Church
May 22 nd	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry
May 29 th	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry
Jun 5 th	9.45	New! Group All Age Service Caerwent Church
Jun 12 th	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry
Jun 19 th	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry
Jun 26 th	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry
Jul 3 rd	9.45	Group All Age Service–Shirenewton Church
Jul 10 th	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry
Jul 17 th	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry

*Autumn Term will begin on Sunday 11 September
Please make a special effort to come to the first
Group All Age Service
on Sunday 5 June
at Caerwent Church*

This will replace our current Family Service. It will be an informal "child and young person friendly" service, where we will meet up with the other parishes and Sunday Schools in our group.

We expect to hold Group All Age Services on the First Sunday of every month.

The services will be led by our clergy and other members of our churches including Glynis and Jane

Shirenewton Sunday Club welcomes all children from 3 years.

Do come and join us.

Jane Smith-Haddon 641 525

Glynis MacDonald 641 818

A NOTE OF THANKS

Bob Metcalf and family would like to express their sincere thanks to all those that attended the Thanksgiving Service at Saint Thomas a Becket Church for his late wife Jean, and for the cards letters and donations received in her memory.

Donations amounting to £358.90 were given to the Hertfordshire Society for the Blind and gratefully acknowledged by them.

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH 200 CLUB

March Draw

19	Sheila Spary	£40
109	Holly Martin	£30
216	Bernice Bowen	£20
46	Margaret Ashill	£10

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting of 4th.April 2005

County Councillor Graham Down, PC Andy Mason and one member of the public joined the 9 members of the Council.

Police Report During the past month the Police had received 11 calls from the area and dealt with one traffic accident.

PC Mason told us one incident involved the removal of a sign in Mynyddbach. A resident in the area had installed the sign with no objection from the Community Council, to identify the locality of Lower Lane. The member of the public attending the meeting said the sign had been erected without consultation with other members of the community and in his opinion such a sign was not necessary. No further action is likely to be taken by the Police. The Community Council advised that the matter be resolved between the residents living in the area.

Matters Arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

The Solar Light on the War Memorial path now seems to be working perfectly.

The Recreation Association Annual General Meeting. A member of the Community Council who attended the meeting reported that much of the time was spent discussing the proposed extension to the Recreation Hall. There are 3 phases of the development.

- Phase 1: – access for the disabled and improved toilet facilities.
- Phase 2: – extension to the kitchen.
- Phase 3 – extension of the building to accommodate the needs of more groups within the community.

Most of the required funding is or will be available for the development though it is envisaged that there could be a shortfall of about £10000. The Community Council may be invited to make a contribution towards the cost of the project.

Burial Ground Survey: - Forms were distributed to members of each local area for completion.

Planning Matters

Refusal was recommended for an Application to demolish Calla Cottage, Earlswood and replace it with a new dwelling. However members were happy to recommend approval for the proposed improvement work at 8 Tan House Court, Shirenewton and for the erection of a conservatory at Red House, Earlswood.

Retrospective approval was received from the County Planning Department for the rebuilding of Waterspring, Earlswood.

Matters of Local Concern

The footpath between School Lane and the School is muddy and can be dangerous to pedestrians. The Clerk is to investigate who is responsible and what can be done to improve matters.

The Landlord of The Tan House has met Cllr. Down and a representative of the County Highways Department regarding the sign at the junction of the Usk Road. It is understood the matter will be resolved in the near future. The Landlord has asked for a Public Entertainment Licence for a "Family Day" to be held on Saturday 25th June between 2-10 pm. The afternoon is being held to raise funds for the NSPCC. Members had no objection to the granting of the licence and assumed the Tan House would consider the residents living in the vicinity, particularly with regard to noise levels.

It was suggested that a sign be placed at the top of the Huntsman Hill warning motorists of the school children crossing point.

Another suggestion was that the Notice Board outside the School gates be moved to a position near to where the soon-to-be-repaired letterbox will be mounted on School Hill, Mynyddbach.

It has been noticed that cars collecting children from the School are parking and destroying the green verge outside the School gates. This seems to be an unfortunate consequence of an increasing number of children coming to school by car.

Shirenewton has been entered into the Best Kept Village this year. Could the whole village bear this in mind and try and win the competition this year.

The Green Wedge. Mr. Sayce is optimistic that his bid will secure the land at the forthcoming auction ensuring the preservation of the green wedge between Mynyddbach and Shirenewton. In that event a group will be set up to oversee the management of the site. The Community Council nominated Cllr. Crundwell as their representative on that group.

Fresh rumours are circulating regarding Shirenewton Golf Club. It seems a new owner for the Course may be sought and there even seems to be suggestions as to the location of another Clubhouse. At this stage these proposals remain unfounded.

The next meeting of the Community Council, the Annual General Meeting, will be held on Monday 9th May 2005. All members of the community are welcome to attend. It is likely that this meeting will be followed by a General Meeting.

Peter Jones

VILLAGE GARDENS OPEN DAY

VILLAGE GARDENS OPEN DAY - Sunday 19th June

This is a final call for all you shrinking violet gardeners in the village to volunteer your gardens to take part in the open day and help raise some much-needed money to go towards the Recreation Hall Refurbishment and Extension Project.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO OFFER YOUR GARDEN PLEASE CONTACT

Lyn McFarlane – tel. 01291 641594 or email lyn@thecayo.com

Happy gardening!

GAERLLWYD WOMEN'S MEETINGS: – AT GAERLLWYD BAPTIST CHAPEL

Meetings for May will be held on:

4th May at 2.30 p.m. and the 18th May at 2.30 p.m.

SMU (SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS' UNION)

Eleven Members attended our meeting on 13th April, copies of the Spring issue of News & Views were distributed. Notes from the Diocesan Spring Council were related and the programme for the Diocesan Festival was decided upon. Members decided to support the Deanery Project to finance another Virtual Baby for the Diocese.

Mrs. Adelaide Morgan gave us an entertaining view of her journeys with her husband as he fulfilled his duties as a Chaplain aboard P&O cruise ships.

Our next meeting will be The Deanery Festival to be held at St. Thomas a Becket Church when we sincerely hope and pray that the Rector will be well enough to give the Address, and afterwards for refreshments at Earlswood Hall on Tuesday, 10th May (Members to the Hall from 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon please) and to Church by 2.00 p.m. It is seven years since Shirenewton last hosted the Festival, which goes round those Branches in the Deanery where the churches and halls can cope with 100 plus members.

Our Meeting on the 8th June will be held at St. Stephen's & St. Tathan's Caerwent at 2.30 p.m. when the Speakers will be Roy and Jennifer Collins on the Blind Poetess, Fanny Crosby. Sally Saysell will lead our prayers, and the tea hostesses will be Bridget Evans and Margaret John. As usual visitors are always welcome to join us.

Auriol Horton, Branch Leader on 01291 641844

SHIRENEWTON WI

21 April 2005

A summer trip is being organised for Friday 15 July for a guided tour of Evesham, anyone interested can contact Sally Saysell.

Auriol Horton was our delegate at the Gwent Federation's Annual Council Meeting at County Hall on 20th April – two other members also went along and had a very full and interesting day.

Three members have entered the Gwent Federation's 'Dotty Ditty' at which all entries will be displayed at the Federation Show Day on Saturday 16th July at County Hall. This event is also open to the public.

Two members will be attending the Resolutions Meeting on Wednesday 27 April at County Office, Usk, to hear specialist speakers talk on 'Farmgate Milk Prices' and 'Care of the environment'. These resolutions will then be voted on at The Royal Albert Hall, London in June.

The Church Fete on 11th June was discussed, and it was agreed to do the refreshments as per usual.

Our speakers for the evening were Madeleine and Mervin Thomas. Friends of the Wales Air Ambulance who gave us an insight of the work and workings of the Air Ambulances based at Swansea and Caernarfon. The Wales Air Ambulance is a registered charity and relies wholly on donations and fundraising amongst the public.

The next meeting will be on 19th May, at 7.15pm, which is the Annual General Meeting.

FAIR TRADE NEWS

The True Value of Coffee.

The word 'Ethiopia' tends to conjure up images of drought and starvation but did you know that Ethiopia is widely considered to be the birthplace of coffee? Apparently Ethiopians have been drinking coffee for 3 thousand years - and exporting it since the 16th century! It accounts for up to 65% of the country's export earnings. As you know coffee prices have plunged in recent years, in some instances by two thirds. Fairly traded coffee is the only viable alternative, and some Ethiopian co-operatives are lucky enough to benefit from this. The high quality of the coffee is achieved through

organic farming and intercropping to improve soil fertility. The small farmers also benefit from these other crops such as cardamom and ginger, papaya, mangoes, avocados and sweet potatoes. The Fairtrade premium and stable prices have enabled the co-operatives to construct 4 elementary schools, 2 health clinics and several coffee processing stations.

Equal Exchange's Ethiopian Fairtrade coffee is available from independent shops and it also forms part of the blend of Marks and Spencer's Cafe Revive Fairtrade Filter coffee.

Traidcraft produce quite a wide range of instant and ground coffee (including decaffeinated) and coffee beans.

Oxfam are setting up a chain of fair trade coffee shops: Cafe Progreso, but you can always ask for fairly traded coffee in places like Costa.

As ever ask for a new Traidcraft catalogue at Spar or contact me

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

(careful with the spelling of 'mcadam' otherwise you won't be able to find me!)

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Hiya Folks,

My owner is busy preparing for the Big Band Bash and Dance up at Earlswood Hall in May. A 'Bash and Dance' huh? It sounds a bit dangerous to me. Like dodgem cars at a fairground. It's to celebrate the ending of the Second World War 60 years ago and on the day after the dance my owner says there's going to be a 'local museum' of war-time items that people have lent her. Sadly, she's offended many people by asking for things cos they think that she thinks that they were in the War and of course, they're not that old. Well so they say.

She got all excited the other day cos she's got this book of War-time recipes and she was keen to try them all out. Well, a word of warning folks! Don't come for a meal until she's got over this War effort. Or you'll be fed with something like this:

Cabbage Casserole with Reconstituted Hard-Boiled Dried Eggs

Beetroot and Cucumber Fricassee

Curried Carrots with Sultanas and Chutney

Here is her favourite recipe, so watch out. Especially if you are a sheep.

*

Sheep's Head Roll

'If you have never cooked a sheep's head before you will be delighted at the amount of meat you can obtain from it. And the brains are so nourishing'.

- Soak head (the sheep's?) in water and bring to boil. Discard that water.
- Tie head in cloth (presumably the sheep's again). This keeps delicate brains in the head.
- Add a selection of turnips, carrots, mace, cloves, cinnamon etc to the pan plus some vinegar and simmer away until head is tender.
- Strain the stock and put your head on one side and your vegetables on the other.

- Remove the meat from the head.
- Slice tongue thinly. Keep this separate. Mince meat and add the soft vegetables, flour and breadcrumbs.
- Press the meat mixture into a long strip with floured hands and place tongue down the middle and form a long roll.
- Wrap this in cloth or margarine paper and put into a large greased jam jar.
- Steam for 1 hour
- Serve cold with salad. Or try it with a little tomato ketchup.

* War time recipes taken from

'VICTORY COOKBOOK'

Nostalgic food and facts from 1940 - 1954

Marguerite Patten OBE (in association with The Imperial War Museum)

PYP

YOUTH GROUP

The Annual Shirenewton Parade Service!

Follow the Band on the 'Parade Service' on Sunday 22nd May
Collection to 'Christian Aid'

Glynis and Jane promise that the church service will be short.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ hour max.

Penalty clause = 'If we over-run, it will be mini Mars Bars all round'

Gather in the Tan House Car Park at 9.30

The band will leave the Car park at approx. 9.45.

(Hopefully this year they will go in the right direction)

A date for your diary
Another fantastic production from

Kids Ad Lib

Earlswood Hall is proud to present the world premier

BROWNIES REPORT

Thank you to everyone who supported our Easter Biscuit fund-raising venture. We were thrilled with the response, and we will be sending a cheque off to Guiding Wales HQ for £150. The money will go towards restoring the Brownie House at Broneirion. We are hoping to take some girls to visit the House in July for a special Brownie Friends Day, which will be a great opportunity to see how the money we have raised is being spent. In the meantime, we are getting ready for our weekend pack holiday in Tintern in May. Hope it stops raining by then!

Jackie Broughton



Girlguiding UK

surprise yourself

1ST SHIRENEWTON GUIDES.

Preparations for camp in May have already begun at 1st Shirenewton Guides. The Leaders have planned games and tasks for the girls, and for St. Mary's Guides who are coming with us. The camp will be over a weekend, starting on 20th May, and will be in Abergavenny. (Some of us are concerned that the lack of mobile phone reception will mean that we will not be able to receive the result of the cup final....namely, me). The Young Leaders will be completing the advance camper badge, so that we can start work on getting their Camp Permit. When we've completed this, we can go on camps on our own!

Bethany's Quiz Night to raise money for her trip to the International Camp in Oregon, USA, was a big success. Lots of people turned up, (although whether they wanted to complete the quiz or just eat the Ploughman's supper and home-made cakes remains unclear) and the proceeds from the tickets, the bar, the raffle, and the quiz all amounted to over £500. Combined with all the money that local businesses and others have donated, Bethany is well on her way to raising the money she needs, and representing Welsh Guiding in America.

Emma Kelly (Aka, Hornet)

Shirenewton Guide Leaders

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

**COFFEE MORNING
IN AID OF VELINDRE HOSPITAL**

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO A COFFEE MORNING AT
21 CLEARVIEW, SHIRENEWTON
ON
14TH MAY 2005 from 10 a.m. - 12.00
AT £1.00 PER PERSON INCLUDING COFFEE AND
WELSH CAKE**

**BRING AND BUY, RAFFLE, PLANTS AND MORE
FOR FUTHER DETAILS RING
MRS. B BOWEN ON 614235**

SHIRENEWTON WHIST DRIVES

As anticipated, the Hall will be in use as a Polling Station on the 5th May so our Next Drive will be on THURSDAY, 2ND JUNE at 7.30 p.m. We eagerly await the refurbishment of the Hall as this will enable us to advertise our Drive on the Whist Circuit and so draw in more players. At present it is one of the Circuit's "best kept secrets" and very popular with those in the know. It's a pity more local people don't try us out as it is a useful source of regular income for the Hall. At present we have one table of players from Mynyddbach and one player from Devauden – the rest come from Sedbury, Caldicot, Rogiet, Undy, Magor & Redwick – they come whatever the weather but it is an attractive venue on light and dry summer evenings and we are very grateful for their support.

Enquiries to Auriol Horton 01291 641844.

Church Fete

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

Next Fete Committee meeting is on Thursday 5th May at 8.00 p.m. in The Huntsman Hotel. We would welcome all those who have agreed to man stalls to attend.

The Fete committee is always looking for new ideas or attractions. We have a number 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.

The Fete will be followed by a "Post Fete Hop" at the Huntsman Hotel.

Shirenewton Church Website and Shopping Portal

www.shirenewtonchurch.org.uk

News:

- (i) We have started adding the Community Council minutes to the site. Select 'Community' from the main menu and then 'Community Council';
- (ii) Unfortunately Screwfix have terminated their affiliate program and will be removed from the shopping portal.

Be a whizz:

Q: Native Resolution. What is it and why is it important?

A: More and more people are using LCD monitors with their PCs. Whilst these look cool and save space, its important to understand that they work in an entirely different manner. If your LCD monitor is not giving you a decent screen image it may be because you are not using it at its 'native resolution'. We explain native resolution in detail on the church website. David Cornwell Shirenewton Church Webmaster

david@dcornwell.com

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

FETE ADVERT

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

The Bells the Bells

Shirenewton has a new learner, Tom Mitchell who is 10 years old and lives in Earlswood. He had his first lesson at Easter on a tied bell (one where the clapper is tied so it makes no sound) and he hopes to come into the practice on Friday night in the not too distant future.

On 9th April Claire, Jenny Kate and Maddie joined other kids from the Monmouth and Llandaff Diocese on the Easter outing of the KIDS RING OUT activities. We went to the Vale of Glamorgan and rang two towers in the morning had a delicious lunch at The Old Post at Bonvilston, in the afternoon we joined in the general ringing with the adults at three towers prior to the Annual General Meeting of the L&MDACBR. I hasten to add that none of the kids stayed for the meeting.

At that meeting Pip was elected to be a representative to The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, which is their policy making body. This is a great honour and she was a little surprised when she was nominated as in ringing terms she is still relatively a “new kid on the block”.

In her role as Public Relation Officer she was invited to P.R.O.'s Forum in Northampton on Saturday 16th April to give a talk on the subject of recruiting youngsters into bell ringing and then maintaining their interest. They were interested in the recent events in the Llandaff & Monmouth DACBR with the KIDS.RING.OUT programme.

On Easter Sunday we rang a quarter peal of Bob Doubles with 5 out of 6 ringers home grown. In the next year we hope we can ring some without any outside aid whatsoever.

STARGAZING IN MAY

The seven stars of the Plough lie overhead in mid-evening, its classical name is Ursa Major, the Great Bear. In mythology, Callisto, attendant to the goddess Juno was considered more beautiful than her mistress. To protect her from her jealous mistress, Jupiter turned Callisto into a bear. Unfortunately Callisto's son tried to kill the bear whilst he was out hunting, so Jupiter placed the bear in the sky.

The two stars furthest from the handle of the Plough are called the Pointers. Tracing a connecting line from the Pointers leads to Polaris, the North Star. Polaris is the North Star because it is the closest easily visible

star to the point in the sky about which the Earth rotates. This point changes very gradually with time. In fact, over thousands of years, other stars have been the North Star.

The very bright planet Jupiter, which is in the constellation Virgo, is in the South. Looking at Jupiter with binoculars should allow a good view of Jupiter's four largest moons: Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto – they form a line with the planet. In 1610 the Italian Galileo used a telescope for the first time and discovered the moons of Jupiter. The four moons have been called the Galilean Moons ever since.

In the evening Saturn lies to the West, below and to the left of the bright stars Castor and Pollux, in the constellation Gemini. Saturn is yellowish in colour.

Venus is becoming visible just above the WNW horizon about 30 minutes after sunset.

Dave Thomas

Christian Aid Week 15th – 21st May

'We believe in Life before death'

During the week 15th - 21st May, over 300,000 people will be collecting money for Christian Aid, money that will be used to help the world's poorest communities. (Worry not, that's 300,000 throughout the world, not just in Shirenewton and Mynyddbach) Last year, nearly £15 million was raised. The money collected helps many people regardless of race, colour or creed.

To make your money go further, if you are a tax- payer, you can sign the back of the little red envelope and the government add about a third again. (If you would like to help with the door to door collection, please contact Glynis on 641 818. It is not her favourite job so help would be hugely welcome.)

<p>LINE DANCE CLASSES EARLSWOOD HALL, EVERY MONDAY 7.30 P.M. UNTIL 9.00</p>
--

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**

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Shirenewton Local History Society

Our speaker at our March meeting was Dr Daphne Pearson who gave us an illustrated talk entitled 'On starting Historical Research, or a funny thing happened on the way to the National Archives'. She gave us a detailed account of how she became involved in historical research which eventually led to her book being published a few days earlier.

Our next meeting on **Saturday, 21st May** will be a field trip to Brynmawr Museum plus a walk to include the industrial sites in that valley. The guide for the walk will be our old friend Mr Frank Olding (who has spoken to the Society on several occasions) who I'm sure you will remember gave a talk last year on the industrial heritage of this particular area. There was such a lot of interest at that meeting that we decided to visit and see the site at first hand.

We will meet in the car park of Shirenewton Recreation Hall at 9.45am, if everyone is agreeable we will car share leaving excess cars in Shirenewton. If you want to make your own way to Brynmawr Museum we are meeting there at 11.00am. It will be advisable to wear suitable footwear/clothing for walking.

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.

NFU Ad

Quiz Night
In aid of
St David's Foundation Hospice Support
At the Carpenters Arms
on
Sunday 29th May at 8.00 p.m. prompt
£5.00 per team of 6 members maximum
All proceeds to the above charity.
All donations will be gratefully accepted
Prize of a bottle for the winning team
Raffle on the night.

COOKERY CORNER

Casserole of Lentils and Pork

I really like belly of pork, it has lots of flavour

*1 ½ lb. lean belly of pork 2tablespoons of lard
salt, olive oil, 4oz. streaky bacon, 2 thinly sliced carrots
2 thinly sliced –white part only leaks, 2 pints chicken stock
1 Spanish onion chopped, black pepper, bouquet garni,
12 oz soaked lentils 2 crushed cloves garlic.*

Pre heat oven to 450^of (230^oc) gas 8.

Score the skin of the pork with a sharp knife, rub with the salt and olive oil.

Roast for 15 minutes until the crackling is crisp. Reduce the heat to 325^of (162^oc) gas 3. Continue to roast until the pork is cooked through, about 40

minutes.

Melt the lard in a large casserole, add the chopped bacon, leeks, carrots and onions, and sauté until golden. Cover with everything except the garlic salt and beans, and bring to the boil. Drain the soaked lentil, add to the casserole with the crushed garlic, simmer, covered over a low heat for 15 – 20 minutes, season.

Place the roast pork on top of the lentils, making sure that the crackling remains uncovered and continue to simmer for 15 – 20 minutes.

EARLSWOOD HALL NEWS

This year's AGM on the 14th April opened with the Chairman's report. He reported that the Hall had struggled with some of the events held this year to do better than break even. However, current bookings were on the increase. Furthermore, a lot of work has been carried out on Hall in the last year to improve the overall facilities. The Chairman thanked the Committee for their hard work.

The Treasurer gave the Committee the financial report for the past year, and although a couple of the events held had not made a profit, other activities had provided an increase in the overall funds by about 10%, which is good news.

The Booking Secretary informed the meeting that there is a further increase in the number of organisations using the Hall, resulting in additional bookings.

A new Committee was elected, comprising of the following members.

Chairman:	Peter Jones
Vice Chairman:	Ken Morton
Treasurer:	Christine Stanley
Secretary:	Nancy Davies
Booking Secretary:	Glynis MacDonald
Other Committee Members:	John Spary
	Mary Davies
	Dorothy Walters
	Deborah McLean
	Bob Millar

Should anyone out there be interested in making a contribution to running the Hall, new committee members would be made very welcome. Please contact Peter Jones on 01291 641627

Tickets for the Big Band Bash celebrating the 60th anniversary of VE Day

are selling well. Please note that there is a limit on 130 tickets for this event, so book them early from any committee member to avoid disappointment.

The next Committee meeting will be held on 19th May at 8.00p.m. at the Hall.



Need an Electrician

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By qualified local tradesmen with over
twenty years experience.**

**For anything from an extra socket to a full
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Mark Baldwin Electrical
641296 or 07791 771691 (mobile)

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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

BIG BAND BASH

To Celebrate the 60th Anniversary of

VE Day

Earlswood Hall

on

Saturday 7th 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

And following the Big Band Bash and Dance

**'The Earlswood Museum of Local War Time
Memorabilia'**

Sunday 8th May

at

Earlswood and Newchurch Memorial Hall

2.00 - 5.00

Adults: £1/10 Children 10/-

Nostalgic refreshments will be on sale

Proceeds to Earlswood Hall

YOUR HALL NEEDS YOU!

**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

Gardening Corner

As I start writing this we are experiencing our usual cold snap that coincides with the blackthorn being in full flower. We always referred to it as the Blackthorn winter when I worked in the woodlands of Hampshire and it always seems to last for about a week. The cold nights have touched a number of the perennials new growth, but these will soon recover given a few warmer days. At least none of the really tender plants have started to move yet. One cold night just at the wrong time can often finish these off. I finished last month wondering whether the first cuckoo call would have been heard by the time I wrote next. Well it has, but only just. In fact exactly one week later than "normal" arrival time. So at least it now feels as though spring has arrived even if the weather, apart from the odd day here and there, doesn't seem to support this. The ground remains stubbornly wet and cold. This has really prevented both of us getting on the ground and making a start with the annual weeding programme. The under gardener has been around filling the weed bucket up with as much bitter cress as she can find. This along with creeping buttercup is our most pernicious weed. It flowers' early (having nearly finished already) and throws its seed everywhere. Usually I don't get around to weeding it until later, by which time the seedpods are ready to burst. In dry weather you only need to touch it and the pod explodes throwing seeds a long way. I can never understand how they even find their way past your glasses and into your eyes.

I eventually got around to hiring the jack hammer and managed to dig the two small ponds out in one day. In a couple of places I was digging down through solid rock. It took some persuading myself that it was a sensible thing to be digging rock out only to replace it with concrete! I did actually manage to spread the concrete out in the bottom of the holes as well, so that was a good day's job done. I'll allow this to harden for a couple of days before building a low block wall around each. These are to be joined by a narrow canal that will have a stepping stone in the middle. Hopefully this will be finished by the time that we are open at the end of May. I have a nice statue to stand alongside it. This is a hoblin figure (like an elf) with a

conch shell acting as a waterspout. Legend has it that the elf is calling the fish up through the shell so that he can watch them play in the moonlight. The intention is to hide this behind some low grasses. Just to add to the atmospheric ambience there will be a light in the base of the pond shining onto the statue, with a "mister" creating a low fog on the water. I can picture it in my mind now so just hope that it works out right in the end! Elsewhere in the garden, things are really gathering pace, although it would run a lot more smoothly if it would only dry up a bit. The under gardener as well as removing bitter cress has been busy cutting down the last years growth and tying up the new growth. She is well up to date in the greenhouses doing the pricking out and re-potting on of last years' plants. Many of these need to be cut in half. This always seems a bit brutal but it is amazing what plants will withstand. We bought some very expensive delphiniums at the end of last year. These were nearly £7.00 each for what was basically a rooted cutting. These were nurtured over winter and re-potted. These have now been split up and re-potted again so that we now have at least two of each variety and in some cases three. So beginning to work out a little more reasonably priced! I intend to plant these out near the new "woodland" garden in what is a sheltered spot. These delphiniums are very much old varieties and will reach some six to seven feet tall. Proper delphiniums! They will need to be staked, but when they are in full flower they are a sight to behold.

I have also been busy planting the new woodland area. There is still plenty to do and some of the plants aren't best suited for what eventually will be a shady area. For the time being I have planted true shade species in what little shade there is. I have planted a number of acers that will develop over the coming years. As they do so the cottage garden species that I have planted will gradually begin to fade. As they fade, more shade loving species will replace these plants. I am also laying out a path through the middle to allow for access. This will be timber edged with a wood chip surface. As soon as the weather begins to dry up it will be a case of all hands on weeding, forking and spreading compost, so we need to be getting on with these odd jobs whilst we can.

The vegetable garden is beginning to take shape. Most of the raised beds have now been dug over and manured where appropriate, ready for the next crop. The seeds that I sowed earlier on are now beginning to show through, as well as an awful lot of ash and sycamore trees. Although I am a forester by trade and naturally love trees, there is a limit! The vegetable patch is not the place to be, but until it dries up there is little point in trying to hoe them off. The first broad beans and lettuce plants have been planted outside and are looking well despite the cold nights. I have sown runner beans and French beans early like last year but it is nowhere near warm enough to plant them outside yet. When I do get them out they will be protected from the cold by some horticultural fleece at least well into June.

I have planted a few French beans in the bigger greenhouse but these are well enough protected from all but the coldest nights. There is still plenty of time to sow these tender beans though so don't panic if you haven't got that far yet. I always maintain that things soon catch up when the weather warms up even if you are behind. Still must get on. Time to get a load of cement going around in the mixer and lay out some of those blocks on the base of the pond. So happy gardening until next month. 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 29th May, 12th June and 10th 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.

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.

Why not try Reflexology!

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

29

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

5 th May	General Election
5 th May	Fete meeting in the Huntsman Hotel 8.00p.m.
7 th May	Big Band Night VE Anniversary Dance Earlswood Hall
9 th May	Community AGM – Recreation Hall.
10 th May	M.U. Meeting in the Church – 2.30 p.m.
21 st May	Local History Society – Brynmawr trip- Meet at Recreation Ground 9.45a.m..
22 nd May	Annual Parade Service – From Tan House to Church 9.45
29 th May	Barn Farm Gardens Open 2.00 – 6.00 p.m.
29 th May	Quiz Night for St. David's Hospice at the Carpenters Arms 8.00 p.m.
2 nd June	Whist Drive at the Recreation Hall 7.30 p.m.
11 th June	Church Fete Recreation Ground
12 th June	Barn Farm Gardens Open 2.00 – 6.00 p.m.
19 th June	Village Open Garden Day – <i>Your Garden?</i>
23 rd -25 th June	Kids Ad Lib Production “Boggie Doo” Earlswood Hall

Having A Garden Party

The Church has a Marquee and several gazebos that are available on loan or hire to local groups and individuals for their own events.

Should you wish to make use of these please contact:
John Nicholas on 01291 641368

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

And Finally

It would never happen in Shirenewton ----or could it, some notices from other parishes: -

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

*At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?"
Come early and listen to our choir practice*

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones

READER AND SIDE PERSONS ROTA - MAY

DATE	SERVICE	READER	SIDES- PERSON
1st May	6th Sunday of Easter 9.45 a.m.	GROUP EUCHARIST At LLANFAIR DISCOED	
8th May	7th Sunday of Easter Holy Eucharist 9.45 a.m.	Mike Pearce Cynthia Smith	Mike Pearce Cynthia Smith
15th May	Whitsunday - Pentecost Holy Eucharist 9.45 a.m.	Ruth Savagar Andrew Baker	Clare Lewis Andrew Baker
22nd May	Trinity Sunday FAMILY PARADE SERVICE	Youth Groups gather at 9.30 a.m. at the Tan House	
29th May	Trinity I. Holy Eucharist 9.45 a.m.	Mike Barnes Kevin Bounds	Mike Barnes Kevin Bounds
5th June	Trinity 2 9.45a.m.	GROUP- ALL AGE WORDSHIP SERVICE – CAERWENT	

Newchurch Every Sunday at 2.30 p.m.