

THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS A BECKET SHIRENEWTON



Parishes of Shirenewton and Newchurch Magazine

READERS AND SIDES- PERSONS ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER

DATE	SERVICE	READER	SIDES-PERSON
September 6th	13th Sunday after Trinity 9.30 a.m. Eucharist	Diane Marlow Bob Grattan	Diane Marlow Bob Grattan
September 13th	14th Sunday after Trinity 9.30 a.m. Matins	Auriol Horton Barbara Davies	Auriol Horton Barbara Davies
September 20th	15th Sunday after Trinity 9.30 a.m. Eucharist	James Leney Kevin Bounds	James Leney Kevin Bounds
September 27th	16th Sunday after Trinity 9.30 a.m. Eucharist	Jean Jones Peter Jones	Jean Jones Peter Jones
October 1st	17th Sunday after Trinity 9.30 a.m. Eucharist	Cynthia Smith Kevin Bounds	Cynthia Smith Claire Lewis

St Peter's Newchurch first and third Sunday of each month at 2.30 p.m.

PRIEST IN CHARGE.	Revd. Dr. William Ingle- Gillis	424984
CHURCH WARDENS:	Sally Saysell	641369
	Andrew Baker	641925
	Mrs Susan Lenthall - Newchurch	626389
PCC SECRETARIES:	Andrew Baker - Shirenewton	641925
	David Heritage- Newchurch	641549
PCC TREASURERS:	Kevin Bounds - Shirenewton	641818
	Enid Heritage - Newchurch	641549
	Ruth Savagar	641411
GIFT AID SECRETARY		
CHURCH MAINTENANCE		
& SAFETY OFFICER	John Nicholas	641368
ORGANISTS:	Karen Millar	650521
	Ruth Savagar	641411
	Kath Whittington	641600
SUNDAY SCHOOL:	Jane Smith-Haddon	641525
TOWER CAPTAIN:	Mike Penny	650653
Church Hall Bookings	John Nicholas	641368
MOTHERS UNION:	Auriol Horton	641844
CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER:	John Waters	641449
CHURCH FLOWERS:	Maureen Moody	641524
PARISH MAGAZINE:	Bob O'Keefe	641686
200 Club	Pauline Dutton	641677

NAMES TO NOTE

COMMUNITY COUNCIL	John Eede (Chairman)	
Clerk to Community Council	Carole Jones	641791
WI:	Jenny Bonner	641929
SCOUTS:	Dave Richardson	620356
GUIDES:	Helen Cann	650835
BROWNIES:	Jackie Broughton	641797
Cub Scouts	Geoff Marlow	641407
BEAVERS:	Becky Lewis	650304
POLICE CONTACT:	P.C. Mike Cowburn	01633 838111
REC. BOOKING SECRETARY:	Beryl Saysell	641637
TRAIDCRAFT:	Marion McAdam	641316
Local History Society	Shirley Bonsey	641362
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CONTACTS		
COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER	MICHAEL COWBURN	01633 642068
	E	MAIL:
michael.cowburn@gwent.pnn.police.uk		
S'NEWTON & MYNYDD BACH - Earlswood	Beverley Moore	641532
	Sue Leat	641207

Please send your notes, & emails for the October magazine to Bob O'Keefe at: 15 Newton Manor, Shirenewton, (641686) or email to bobandwenche@aol.com by Monday 21st September.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1st Sept	Guides re-start
2nd Sept	School - Autumn Term starts
3rd Sept	Whist Drive The recreation Hall from 7.30 p.m.
6th Sept	Sunday Club re-starts in the New Church Room
7th Sep	Community Council Meeting - Earlswood Hall 7.30 p.m.
9th Sept	MU Union re-commences
13th Sept	Devauden's, St James Church Harvest celebration
14th Sept	Local History Society -Resource session 2.00 p.m. Rec. Hall
15th Sept	"Panto" - First meeting for 2009 production - Earlswood Hall 7.30
27th Sept	Shirenewton Church Harvest Lunch Earlswood Hall
29th Sept	Local History Society - Meeting - Newport's Transporter Bridge The Huntsman 7.30 p.m.
3rd Oct	"Soul'd Out Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall
12th Nov	"It's Behind You" Itton Hall
14th	Chepstow Choral Society Concert - St Mar's Chepstow.

For further detail on all the above see inside the magazine.

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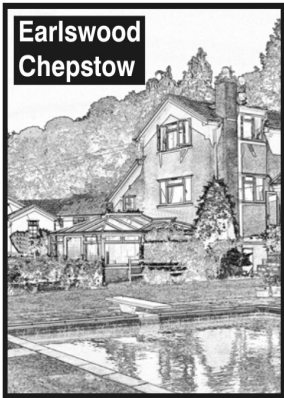
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September 2009

Dear Friends,

You're reading this, I know, in the middle of September; but as I write, it's the middle of August—that time when, in this country at least, everything ceases. This, actually, is my way of introducing the fact that I'm feeling lazy at the moment—it's the day before my holidays start—not to mention remarkably uninspired for writing!

Perhaps that isn't a terrible thing. To be sure: the Christian Church never counted laziness amongst its cardinal virtues. Couch Potato isn't exactly a career path encouraged by the Church! Yet, all the same, there's something to be said for enjoying the creation that God has given us. For Christians, who believe that we've been given the world's beauty by God himself, that he designed it for his pleasure and our well-being, the famous phrase 'work hard, play hard' really ought to resonate.

We live in a society dominated too often by workaholism and consumer culture. People work longer hours, commute further, keep more balls in the air at home and work. As often as not, they do so for the sake of Stuff to Buy (even in recession), but at the expense of leisure time to *use* that Stuff—or even simply to enjoy God's world and its people. Moreover, those who do have the leisure time enjoy the Stuff increasingly without mirth.

Such a society seems far from what God's aim when he laid down laws about the Sabbath. Our society ceased long ago to work hard and play hard; now, it more often works to exhaustion, then plays for keeps. Scripture suggests that, far from this being God's will, God is profoundly concerned with our physical and mental well-being, not just our spiritual health. When God laid down laws for his faithful, he took care to name times and spaces for both work *and* play.

Christians believe that we are called to bear witness, sometimes in ways that are not easy, to Christ's redemption of creation; this is, for us, a serious business. And, yet, there's no point in God redeeming the world, unless he also means for us to *enjoy* it. So God sets time aside for us to soak in the *richness* of all that he has made—whether through the enjoyment of nature, music, dancing, travel, or the written word—whether through time with friends, or together with family. God has made, just for us, a creation rich with beauty and possibilities. Thus should we indeed play hard—not because (as they say) He Who Dies with the Most Toys Wins. (That, in fact, is not really play, hard or otherwise); we should play hard simply because treasuring God's world and the people he has put around us is an important end in itself.

Every blessing,
Father Will

FROM THE REGISTERS

A marriage Service was held on the 4th July for Jamie Edward Richardson the son of Janet and the late Barry Richardson and Alison Marie Dutton. the daughter of Stuart & Pauline Dutton.

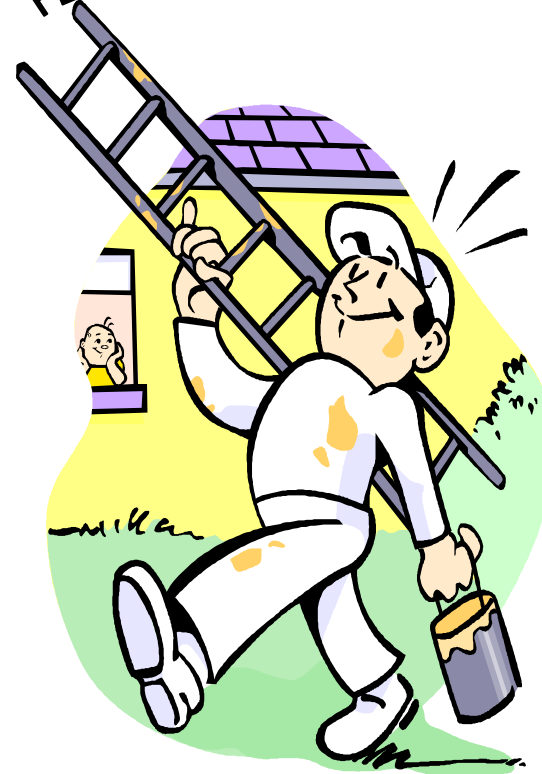
200 CLUB DRAW THERE WAS NO DRAW IN AUGUST

ADVERTISING RATES

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SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

There has been a Sunday School in Shirenewton for donkey's years, but this might all be about to change. Due to pressures of modern life and a more secular society Sunday Club has slipped below the radar. Sadly, if we are unable to attract new children we will be forced to close – can you imagine Christmas without our world famous Nativity and Christingle Service?!

But Jane Smith -Haddon and Glynis MacDonald are still keen, young at heart and enthusiastic Sunday Club leaders. All we need is a few more children!

See the enclosed flyer and return it to either Glynis at the Chantry opposite the Church or Jane at 14 Clearview. Both in Shirenewton.

LIFE-CHANGING COMPLEMENTARY THERAPY

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WHIST DRIVES.

The next whist drives will be held on 3rd September and 1st October at The Recreation Hall at 7.30 p.m.

New players are always welcomed.

Auriol Horton, 01291 641844.

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY NOTES

6th July, 2009

I could give you a long list of crime that happened in May/June but it would be of the 'dogs barking, faulty house alarms' variety. So in order not to spread alarm and fear, I'll leave it out. But here is the planning news.

Llwyn Celyn, Shirenewton, Internal refurbishment, rendering of external walls, replacement/repair of doors/ windows, construction of new access off existing lane /an internal driveway with turning facility.
Recommended with comments

Well Bungelow, Earlswood. Demolish existing building and construct replacement dwelling. Recommend approval

Ty Twr, Ditch Lane, Shirenewton. Erection of garden shed for storage and summer house Recommend approval

Land adjoining Azalea Cottage, Mynyddbach. Construction of a new dwelling Recommend approval

Land at Mynyddbach between Weyloed lane, Dancing Hill, Hunstman Hill and Usk Road. Application for planning permission for galvanised agricultural shed – storage for hay and agricultural equipment. Not enough info to recommend approval

Agricultural Notification. Land adjacent to California Lane, Gaer Fawr – Extension to form hay barn.

Items of Local Concern

There was a discussion about the way forward in the rather poor relationship between the Community Council and the MCC. *(Something of an understatement there if we're talking MCC and 'allotments')*

Suzi Squires was co-opted as the new community councillor for Mynyddbach.

Bev Moore related the feedback from the Community Council stand at the fete and from the 'Post-it' survey. The top three items of concern were:



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30th ANNIVERSARY SEASON 2009/2010

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7.30PM

GRAHAM BULL: MUSICAL DIRECTOR

CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd – Music Centre Wales, also registered charity (no. 1127098). CCS welcomes new members for this new season – contact Marjorie Duerden (623310) for singing membership information, and Jean Parkes (620414) for general enquiries.

Well this gardening year is creeping on now and it will soon be time to appraise what went well and what didn't, so that plans can be made for next year accordingly. What has gone well? The carrots inside the tunnel, early calabrese, runner beans are fantastic, pick and come again lettuce has been great (no more traditional hearting lettuces for us!) and we have had good crops of mangetout peas and broad beans. The latter, we used a variety that had red coloured beans, called red epicure. They were a delight too, very sweet, especially when picked before they got too big. The apricot and nectarine trees in the tunnel have been fantastic. I had them mixed up in that the trees with a huge crop I thought were apricots, but it was the other way around. We had some lovely apricots, but have masses of nectarines, some of which are now reaching a nice size. There are just so many. The under gardener is collecting a pan full off the ground every evening, then cutting them in half, removing the stone and zapping them in the microwave for a few minutes. These are currently heading for the freezer but we are rapidly running out of room. They will make some lovely winter puddings though! We are also picking straight off the tree for eating, and these are so juicy and sweet, that I'm threatening to go and buy a couple of cotton baby bibs! What went not so well? You'll have to wait until next month, otherwise the editor will be reprimanding me for taking up too much space-again!

Happy gardening until next month. Steve Hunt.

the need for a village shop, the speeding through the village and the provision of allotments.

The council reconfirmed that the 3 key priorities for this year were: The Allotments, The Village Shop and Traffic Calming, and that through improved communications with MCC (!!!) (my exclamation marks) these issues would be pursued with vigour.

The Village Shop issue was then discussed and it was agreed that a non-council- led meeting should be called as soon as possible in order that a BBC S.O.S grant application could be discussed. (This meeting was held Mon 20th July in the Rec. Around 80 people attended. It was agreed that BBC S.O.S Grant be applied for. If successful we would be awarded £45000 to build a shop! The application form was duly filled in and sent off with a gnat's whisker of time to spare)

The Clerk's Report

The bits of interest were that the proposed caravan park in Wentwood has been seen by the Planning Officer and it was deemed that the plans were inadequate.

The Clerk had contacted 16 community Councils about motorbike speeding but only 2 had responded that it was an issue.

Next meeting Mon 3rd August.

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SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

3RD AUGUST 2009

Welcome:

Suzi Squires was welcomed as the new Community Council member, one of two representatives for Mynyddbach ward.

Police Report

6/7/09 - 3 missing boys located at Shirenewton.
6/7/09 - One vehicle accident B4235 near Shirenewton.
13/7/09 - Suspicious male and female seen in Shirenewton.
13/7/09 - Broken down vehicle B4235 near Shirenewton.
17/7/09 - Concern for elderly lady at Shirenewton.
18/7/09 - Found dog near Shirenewton.
18/7/09 - Accidental 999 by a child at Earlswood.
19/7/09 - 2 dogs in the road near Shirenewton.
19/7/09 - Lost dog at Earlswood.
19/7/09 - Tree down B4235 near Shirenewton.
19/7/09 - Motorbikes in Wentwood Forest.
20/7/09 - Fly tipping at Wentwood.
22/7/09 - Welfare check on an elderly lady in Shirenewton.
24/7/09 - Suspicious activity in the early hours at Blethyn Close.
28/7/09 - Concern for an elderly lady in Shirenewton.

Planning

Azalea Cottage, Mynyddbach - rear extension, carport, altered car access.

Approval recommended

Castle Cottage, Penycamawr – Conservatory, first floor extension, car port.

Approval recommended

The Grange, Shirenewton – interior alterations, front extension

Approval recommended

The Grondra, Shirenewton – garage and exterior staircase to existing garage

Refusal recommended

The Grondra – listed building consent for above

Refusal recommended

Land adjacent to Oak Cottages (Blethyn Close) – two affordable housing units.

Reservations expressed concerning the use of the green wedge and open space for housing, height of the proposal, whether it is affordable housing *or not*, drainage, the company that made the

have a clue what variety they are. They have very white flesh and pink flushes on the skin. Whatever they are, they cook and eat extremely well. The soil is now clear and I have sown some fast maturing carrots in their place. Hopefully these will be providing us with some lovely tender roots around Christmas this year. I've also been busy sowing some late cauliflowers, cabbages and more broccoli along with the first of the over-wintering lettuces, although it is a little early for the lettuce. I will be sowing some more in a couple of weeks time so hopefully this will keep the supply going well into next year. All will have the benefit of shelter in the tunnel, but no matter how small a greenhouse you have, or if you have a few cloches for out in the garden, you don't need much protection from the worst of the winter weather in order to secure a good crop. The modern late cropping varieties are very resilient and can withstand most of what the winter weather brings.

I dug a whole new area of the garden this year as you may remember. In the short term this was planted with various vegetables, simply because we had run out of room elsewhere on the raised beds. This area was on a slight side slope, so I also built the lower side up with timber in order to increase the depth as best I could. Plenty of manure later, this area is cropping extremely well. I think that this is mainly down to the fact that nothing has been grown in earnest on this ground for at least twenty years. It will be interesting to see how it performs next year. I'll need to make sure that we incorporate lots of manure for the winter so that it can gradually work its way down into the soil ready for next spring. I managed to sow some wallflowers this year (I often forget to put the seed in!). The under gardener pricked these out of the seed tray into individual cells some weeks ago, and it was time to pinch the tops of these out to ensure some bushy plants, and then get them planted out into transplant lines. We did this a couple of weeks ago, and the results are outstanding. The plants have really bushed out now and are as green as green could be. This is looking encouraging for next spring when hopefully they will be a mass of colour.

GARDENING CORNER

So much for a blazing summer! Apart from Wimbledon fortnight I have to admit that it has not been the greatest weather for gardeners. What started off so promising has degenerated into yet another wet squib. I shouldn't really grumble though as from the growing point of view it has actually been quite good. We have had plenty of rain and warmth to go with it to encourage things on. The main problem has been through disease and pestilence, especially slugs. Some of these have grown to the size of houses, with an appetite to match. The garden has been a mass of butterflies, which of course is great as we love to see them. The downside to this of course is that probably fifty percent of them have been cabbage whites – either lesser or greater it makes no difference. Their caterpillar's still devour copious amounts of green leaves. I have to admit that I do resort to spraying on some occasions. I do try and protect the crops by covering them with especially fine netting, but this is not always easy, although effective. The problem with sprays these days is that so many have been banned in recent years because of their active ingredients, I now find them almost totally useless. I always try and choose sprays that allow you to pick the crop within a day, on the premise that these can't be that bad for you. Trouble is this results' in them having no affect what so ever on the pests you are trying to sort out! Back to picking off and squashing I'm afraid. I only grow first early and second early potatoes, and this year they were looking really well, up until the rain came. Even then they were fine to begin with. I was keeping an eye out for tell tale signs of blight. I missed the first brown blotches on the leaves some how or other and by the time I'd checked next, all the leaves had completely died off and shrivelled away to nothing. I then had to wait until the weather was good enough to be able to take a fork to the beds to lift the potatoes, but this was a couple of weeks later. Apart from some that had slug holes the potatoes looked fine and I thought that we had got away with it. Now the spuds are in store however, the tell tale smell of rotting potatoes tells a different story as one by one, the first earlies succumb. The second earlies at the moment look as though they may have escaped, but we will have to keep our fingers crossed and wait and see. In the meantime we have a reasonable crop of potatoes that were grown in the tunnel, and these stand no chance of getting blight as the disease relies on rain falling onto plant leaves in order for them to become infected. In fact I've just dug the last of these up in the main tunnel bed, cleared the ground and replanted it up immediately with calabrese and cauliflowers, ready for a crop in the autumn. In the larger greenhouse, I had planted some late cropping potatoes last August that were meant to be ready for Christmas. They were but there wasn't that many in the end. They were lovely eating potatoes, but it became evident in the spring that I actually missed digging a lot of them up as they took root. I decided to let these carry on growing and I have just dug these up as well. I don't

application, and the fact that the proposal contravenes the Unitary Development Plan, Policies C3 and C4, which state that the land should *not* be used for housing. County Councillor Down agreed that the land should not be used for housing.

Refusal recommended.

Springfield Bungalow, Earlswood - Agricultural Notification. Cover existing yard adjacent to building to form implement shed/hay barn. Land adjacent to Peniel Chapel, Newchurch West – appeal against Enforcement Notice

Items of Local Concern:

Village Shop – the well attended public meeting on 20th July considered several options, including temporary premises until a permanent site could be found. Final date for the SOS grant is 11th August: an application is being drawn up by a small subcommittee. Possibility of Rural Development Grants in the autumn.

From September until February inclusive, Community Council meetings will be held at Earlswood Hall.

Monmouthshire County Council has introduced new procedures for those wishing to address the Planning Committee. Three minutes at the lectern will be allowed for each speaker (member of the public or Community Councillor) who has registered in advance.

The next meeting will be 7th September at Earlswood Village Hall at 7.30pm.

St Thomas á Becket's The Harvest Lunch

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Beginnings are so small but as they travel gather speed.
Along a flat and quiet road it follows just below,
Small tributaries joining in its bubbling, rambling flow.
Not very far away a mighty reservoir stands deep,
Receives some of its waters, underground the waters creep.
Some pretty cottages are close to tranquil rippling sounds,
Those homely people fish for trout with many to be found.
As the hedger gathers wood along the water edge he sees and laughs,
The moorhen runs oblivious, wings extended going past.
On, on, it goes to ancient paper milling wheels,
If it could tell a story what could it just reveal?
When thunder, rain and heavy storms run down to valleys deep,
A sudden flood, a river flow, astonishing to see.
This muddy, raging torrent travels on down to the towns,
The Severn estuary is seen by those who follow down.
To a wider river mouth is converging and replete,
Where salt water meets fresh water, its journey is complete.

With thanks to Mrs. Minnetta Morris
From her anthology entitled. 'Country
Thoughts'

*If you would like a copy of this
anthology, contact the editor
who will pass on your request.*

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Devauden church invites you to visit us on
Sunday the 13th September for our harvest
celebration. There will
be a family service at 11am followed by a
barbeque on the church lawn.

The church itself will be open from 10am to
4pm and will be decorated by community
groups. This will be in the form of a display
to represent harvest and the group itself. We
are expecting mainly floral arrangements but
participation is the key! Displays from
Brownies, Guides, Scouting groups, WI,
Shirenewton school and Devauden Football
Club are amongst those represented. Please
come and visit our church with its unusual
beginnings as the village school built by James
Davies.

We look forward to seeing you.

SHIRENEWTON M.U.

At the Mothers' Union meeting on 8 July, Maureen Butterworth gave a talk entitled "Refugees with Love". She described her own involvement with a family of 'Boat People' who escaped from Vietnam in the Seventies. She and others from her church in Newport made them very welcome in their community, and they became dear friends, having suffered terribly. They now live settled, professional lives in the USA, but from time to time have travelled back to visit Maureen and express such love and warmth. Maureen feels she receives far more than she gave.

In August we shall not be meeting. Happy holidays everyone ! Our next planned Wednesday afternoon together will be on 9 September at the Quiet Garden, Coed-y-Paen, with the Rev Nansi Davies. Rosemary Carey, Branch Leader.

Mothers' Union

"Making the world a better place for families."

August was a holiday month with no meetings.

Some future dates:

Wednesday 9 September an afternoon together at the Quiet Garden Coed-y-Paen to be led by the Rev Nansi Davies. Anyone welcome.

Saturday 19 September. Children's Fun Day at Caldicot Castle. For info. call Pam Richards 01292 423 378

(Also) Saturday 19 September

Provincial Day, Port Talbot. For info. call Auriol Horton 01291 641 844

Wednesday 7 October

7.30 p.m. Fashion Show, with wine and refreshments.

The Priory, Abergavenny. Tickets £10

Contact Kate Stanton 01633 881 281 re transport.

Rosemary Carey, MU Branch Leader 01291 425 010



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A Disaster Zone

Being British is about driving in a German car to a Scottish pub for Belgian beer, an travelling home, grabbing an Indian curry or, a Turkish kebab on the way, to sit on Swedish furniture and watch American shows on a Japanese TV. AT the same time we have suspicion of all things foreign!

Only in Britain can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.

Only in Britain do supermarkets make sick people walk all the way to the back of the shop to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.

Only in here do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries and a DIET coke.

Only in here do banks leave both doors open and chain the pens to the counters.

Only in here do we leave our cars worth thousands of pounds on the drive and lock our junk and cheap lawn mower in the garage.

Only in here do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.

Only in Britain would you find disabled parking places in front of a skating rink.

NOT TO MENTION...

People die each year testing if a 9v battery works on their tongue.

Over 100 people were injured in 1999 by not removing all pins from new shirts.

More than 500 people are injured each year by using sharp knives instead of screwdrivers.

People have died by watering their Christmas tree while the fairy lights were plugged in.

20 people have died in the last 3 years believing that Christmas decorations were chocolate.

Irish Hospitals alone reported 4 broken arms last year after Xmas cracker-pulling accidents.

People have been reported as having serious burns trying on a new jumper with a lit cigarette in their mouth.

A massive 543 people were admitted to A&E in the last two years after trying to open bottles of beer with their teeth.

5 people were injured last year in accidents involving out-of-control Scalextric cars.

And finally..

In 2000 eight people were admitted to hospital with fractured skulls incurred whilst throwing up into the toilet.

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.from the

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Thursday 12th November 7.30pm

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STARGAZING IN SEPTEMBER '09

The seven stars of the Plough can be seen in the northern evening sky whilst the "W" of the constellation Cassiopeia lies to the northeast. The constellation Pegasus includes a large square that lies to the south. The Summer Triangle made up of the bright stars Deneb, Vega and Altair continues to dominate the night sky to the South. Deneb forms the tail of the constellation Cygnus, the Swan which lies pretty much overhead. Its brightest stars form a cross against the background of the Milky Way. The head of the Swan is a beautiful double star called Albireo. Viewed through a small telescope it can be seen to be a striking pair of stars, one coloured blue the other gold.

The brilliant planet Venus can be seen to the east in the early morning. On the 16th it is just to the left of the waning crescent Moon. Mars is also an early morning sight. It lies in the east and is to the right of the bright stars Castor and Pollux in the constellation Gemini, and above and to the right of Venus on the 16th. On the 13th, the waning crescent Moon is above and to the right of Mars.

Jupiter is the bright planet to the south-east in the evening sky. On the 1st day of the month it sits to the left of the nearly full Moon.

Saturn is too close to the Sun's direction to be visible this month.

Dave Thomas

ST PETER'S CHURCH, NEWCHURCH

We would like to thank all those who supported and helped us at our Summer Fayre on July 25th when the weather was very kind to us. Those who were unable to come, missed a very enjoyable afternoon.

Notices Songs of Praise at the church on Thursday 10th of September at 7.p.m. Please come and join us. Refreshments available.

Harvest Thanksgiving - Thursday 1st of October at 7.p.m.

THE BELLS, THE BELLS.....

In the second round of the Pitman Striking Competition on 27th June at Sully (just the other side of Cardiff near the airport) Shirenewton Kids Call Changes band was just pipped into second place by Cardiff Students by one half of a mark. They were justifiably a little bit disappointed and frustrated - but there is always next year.

Most of our ringers have returned from their summer holidays now and Shirenewton Ringers are heading for Suffolk.

It is time for our Ten Towers Tour and 18 ringers and various other accompanying people are off camping to a site at Saxmundum near Southold. We are planning BBQs and outside meals so we are keeping our fingers crossed for good weather. Last time we went camping in Dorset and we had gales and rain.

This year we are ringing on the Friday afternoon as well as all day Saturday so it will be an early start. (leave by 8.30a.m.) to get there in time to set up camp before the ringing starts. No time for relaxation then!!!

Pip Penny

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1ST SHIRENEWTON GUIDES.

Summer is flying by and we are busy organising the various events to celebrate the centenary of guiding. For those who saw the BBC programme on the guide camp at Blacklands Farm with Guides from Grimsby the other evening, I would like to point out that we feel quite sane in comparison to those leaders. However we do only camp for a weekend and goodness only knows what we would be like if we went for a week!

We start the new term early this year – Tuesday the 1st September. This is to allow us to complete the final preparations for the opening party on the 5th. If you have a Guide or Brownie attending this event please make sure you see one of the Leaders to sign permission forms for some of the more adventurous activities that will be available.

If you are a Guide and have not yet contacted me about the Centenary camp at Broneirion next August, please do so as a matter of urgency otherwise we will not get places.

We are looking forward to a busy year full of exciting activities. Our challenge now is to try and fit in as much as possible and involve as many of the girls as possible so that we all have a year to remember.

Yours in guiding

Kestrel	Helen Cann	01291 650835
Kitten	Amanda turner	01291 650763
Koala and Panda		

SHIRENEWTON W.I.

This July saw our meeting brightened not by the colour of summer flowers, but by the vibrant colours of the flags and banners of the Chepstow Lordships Heraldic past.

To the delight of all present Mr Keith Underwood took us through the history of Chepstow Castle, showing in turn each incumbent's flag and banner. The people and their family connections were displayed by their colours and designs. Keith interpreted each to provide us with an insight into the history and changing fortunes of our area. A change of flag flying was a clear sign for "under new management" with connections especially to the Crown openly declared even if obtained from the wrong side of the blanket. Our past is certainly more real with its own language of symbols, shapes and colours lighting the way.

In August we met again at the "Rat Trap" for a lovely meal. It was nice to be able to enjoy our pre-meal drinks outside, soaking up the warm evening sun.

It was a very sociable summers evening, good food and plenty of chat. Our next meeting will be at the Rec. Hall 10th September, 7:15pm. When our speaker will be Ms Gill Suttle giving her talk "Iron Road to Samarkand".

New members are always welcome.

D Such



**The Brownies and
Cub Scouts**



Shirenewton Cub Scouts and Brownies have not held their meeting during the August holidays
Hopefully we will get news of their activities next month.

Nerys's Natty Nosh

Hi, my name is Nerys and I have volunteered to take over the cookery page. I will be sharing with you a variety of recipes to enjoy. My first recipe is the dish I prepared for last years Harvest lunch at Earlswood Hall.

Nut Roast (moderate cooking) (vegetarian dish)

Preparation Time: 20 minutes - Cooking Time: 45 minutes

Serves 8

100g (4oz) pecan nuts	100g(4oz) brazil nuts
50g (2oz) almonds, blanched	2tbsp pumpkin seeds.
25g (1oz) unsalted butter	5 shallots, peeled and finely chopped
2tsp Worcestershire sauce	2 garlic cloves, peeled and chopped
1tsp sherry	½ tsp English mustard powder
3tbsp parsley roughly chopped	1tbsp sage leaves, roughly chopped
3 large eggs beaten	150g (5oz) strong cheese
400g (14oz) tin chopped tomatoes, drained.	

You will need a 900g (2lb) loaf-tin.

Method

- 1** Gently toast the nuts and pumpkin seeds in a dry frying pan over a medium heat, stirring gently until golden. Allow to cool then pulse in a food processor until finely chopped but do not let the nuts turn into a powder.
- 2** Melt the butter in a small frying pan and sweat the shallots and garlic for 5 minutes or until soft.
- 3** Prepare the oven to 180C, 160C fan, 350F, and gas 4. Grease the tin. Line the base with baking parchment, then grease again.
- 4** In a large bowl, combine the nut mixture with the cooked shallots and all the remaining ingredients. Season with salt and freshly ground pepper.
- 5** Scoop the mixture into the prepared tin and bake for 45 minutes or until firm and golden. Leave to cool, then turn out on to a serving plate and carefully peel away the baking parchment

Tips

- 1** A bag of chopped mixed nuts can be used instead of the individual nuts. Dry heat them, this will improve the flavour, but omit the pulsing process.
 - 2** Serve with a spicy tomato sauce for a real kick. Just heat up some passata, season well with and add a few splashes of Tabasco sauce.
 - 3** To make smaller quantities of the nut roast, divide the mixture between two 450g (1lb) loaf tin and cook for 30 minutes until firm.
 - 4** Freezes really well. Enjoy!
- Our thanks to Nerys for taking over from Caroline who has provided us with her recipes for many years

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

As I gaze out of the window on this damp and drizzly August afternoon, I'm looking longingly at the fete photos and remembering what a glorious day it was. So, as the summer (if that is what you can call it) draws to a close and the nights draw in, people will be spending more time at their PCs browsing the web. The church website is a great place to start. It's got lots of local information and links to local websites and groups.

It also has shops! Year-to-date (to mid-August) the website has generated £627 in commissions for the Church. So a big "thank you" to those who do use the shop for their shopping - please keep it up.

The shop has a useful feature called "Newest Listings". This shows the most recent additions to the shop. At the time of writing they are: Trunki kid suitcase; Sainsbury's non-food range; Sainsbury's Supermarkets; Mobile Phone Xchange; Urban Outfitters; BAA Airport Parking; Eurolines; Marriott Gift Cards & Shop; Barcelo Hotels; and Everything But The Music.

It also has "Most popular listing" and, once again Amazon is out in front with Tescos coming in at 2nd and The Train Line in 3rd position. Others in the top ten (in order) are: Laterooms.com; British Airways; Holiday Extras; Hotels.com; John Lewis; eBookers; and Holiday autos.

In fact there are currently 260 shops listed on the website in 21 master categories. Some of the master categories have sub-categories. So it's well worth taking a look.

Year-to-date we have had 1,718 visits (~8 visits per day) from 964 'Absolute Unique Visitors' representing hits from 29 countries/territories. The UK of course, provided the vast majority of the visits but we have also had almost 100 visits from the USA, 50 from Germany and then the rest of the top ten goes: Australia; Brazil; France; Ireland; Canada; Spain, and Thailand.

I'm currently working on getting a discussion forum script up and running. So keep an eye on the site and it should suddenly appear. This will provide not only general discussion forum capabilities but the website will be able to provide local groups with their own boards or even forums if requested. Happy browsing

David Cornwell
Webmaster - www.shirenewtonchurch.com

Call **Karen** or **Julie** on **01633 413 571**.

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SHIRENEWTON & MYNYDDBACH FIELDS ASSOCIATION.

LUGNASAD:-

The old Celtic festival celebrating the harvest and the weaning of calves and lambs. This year the harvest appears to be quite early, especially blackberries and Horse Chestnuts, indeed autumn itself seems to have jumped up on us possibly due to the lack of much summer sunshine and the noticeable shortening of daylight hours. Speaking of blackberries, the bramble patches seem to be taking over the fields but please do not put this down to neglect, as soon as the bird nesting season is over we will be knocking them back harshly prior to the erection of a stock-proof fence. While on the subject of weeds (or what we perceive to be weeds) many thanks to the few intrepid volunteers who turned up in what ended up as monsoon conditions to assist in pulling up the ragwort and Himalayan balsam.

I would also like to personally thank Beverly Moore for taking the step of removing the offensive graffiti from the bridge on the boardwalk over the brook- what a sad sign of the times that people feel the need to express themselves in this manner.

Some time ago I mentioned that there would be a moth survey carried out in the fields this summer but I am afraid this was not achieved and I apologise to those people who were looking forward to the "eerie lights" and the results thereof.

On a more positive note we have provisionally booked Earlswood Hall for a fund raising event on St. Valentine's day next year. Three acts have confirmed they will appear- the Sick Lizards, The Dervishes and Paul the Shop, but who knows? Elvis may make a surprise appearance! More details will be announced nearer the date.

Mike Gambold.

them, not just the ordinary window cords. The point that I wish to make is that in its heyday it was occupied by a family by the name of Lomas, who according to the history of the house were Lancashire mill owners, and while I am there I wonder how much the mill workers were exploited to enable that family to live in such splendour. However as if by fate the family died out and they were reduced to a bachelor living there in squalid conditions, then it was sold and turned into a hotel.

One can sympathise with groups of men like the Tollpuddle farm workers who were forced to try and improve their lot and we should be able to understand the reason for Trade Unions, because after all is said and done the only saleable thing that the working man has is his labour, and the only means he has to improve his lot if all else fails is to withdraw his labour or to put it bluntly, to go on strike, this to my mind is a failure by both sides. Strikes can be very damaging to all concerned and they are condemned by many people, very often with an accusing finger at the workers. I have never been involved with a dispute and my view is that unless you are fully aware of all the points of issue on both sides then it is very wrong to pass judgment. Through the pressure of trade unions and some M.P.'s, there have been and there are great improvements to workers rights. The unemployment benefit which in historical terms is quite new is a wonderful introduction when a man or a woman loses his or her job through no fault of their own they are able to claim benefit until fresh employment is found. Or if a person falls ill or meets with an accident and is unable to earn a living, then the means of sustenance for them and their family are there. Yet the sad fact is that this option is open to abuse and fraud, and this in the present day is worse than ever. It is a sad fact of modern society that when there are so many opportunities available to people to be able to live well in this modern age if they are prepared to make the effort, that some people are not prepared to make the effort to earn an honest living.

LIVING TO WORK - OR -WORKING TO LIVE

We leave behind this month Ernie Jones's notes on the Four Seasons compiled during his many years farming in the local area, and take a look at his notes from one of his other little books entitled 'Living to Work or Working to Live.

Our thanks to Ernie for sharing these notes with us and for Peter Bartlett who carried out the original editing. This series of books (some 8 of them) are available to order from Peter Bartlett or Ernie Jones.

Chapter 1. Some of my Thoughts.

To many the title may seem a trifle odd or perhaps mundane, but to the majority of folk it certainly applies. Although there are those who have inherited wealth and are not inclined to work and further more they have no need to work. Then there are the parasites who are content to live by various means, in this day and age by cheating the welfare state, some by fraud, theft, the sale of illicit drugs and the like and they seem happy to live on the efforts of others, this frailty of human nature has always been with us, the sad fact is that when the law catches up with them the punishment is not severe enough. It is also a fact of life that man has worked for hire or reward even in Biblical times, it is also a fact that any number of persons can be gathered together and each one given an equal sum of money, yet in the space of five years they will not all possess the same amount in money or value of material goods. It is a very sobering passage that is read out in church, "we brought nothing into this world and we will take nothing out". That maybe is worth pondering over because how very true it is to also quote, "he that heapeth up riches, for he knows not who will gather them". Before the days of the welfare state a person could not be blamed for accumulating sufficient means to cover a time of sickness or infirmity. In this day and age those that provide likewise are penalised for being prudent. Misfortune befalls many of us, business failures through matters beyond our control, ill health at critical times either of ourselves or members of our family and unfortunately, matrimonial problems. Then of course weakness of character in business dealings and personal lives, over indulgence in social habits, the three main vices which are, drugs, alcohol and gambling.

So the title, working to live probably applies even today to the majority of people. Not far back in our history, if you did not have private means of support, that is money or means of your own, it was a case of you worked or you starved, and many sections of the working classes were exploited. There were certain people working in very poor conditions, I have often thought that the coal miners were a work force that was exploited. For a number of years my wife and I have been able to take a short holiday, never longer than a week up near Welshpool in mid Wales. We stay in a beautiful, family run hotel that was once a country house set in parkland with beautiful gardens, and it is quite obvious that quite a lot of money was spent on the interior with very ornate ceilings, and the sash windows which are all equipped with high quality chains and sprockets to open and close

It's Panto Time Again



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FAIR TRADE NEWS

30 years ago Traidcraft's first catalogue was dominated by jute products from Bangladesh. Almost 15 million people depend on jute for their livelihoods. But a recent survey revealed that average per capita income is about \$0.70 a day (the international poverty line is \$1.25 a day). Jute is the only crop that can be harvested in flood-prone areas between two rice seasons when families often run out of food crops and cash, it enriches the soil and involves large groups of women and landless labourers as well as jobs in other related industries. In addition many rural households use the 'waste' jute sticks as environmentally friendly cooking fuel and building material.

Now with the help of a £475,000 grant from the Dept for International Development Traidcraft is launching a training and development programme to improve the lives of people involved in this vital industry. I have written before about the dire consequences of the intensive production of (non-organic) cotton. Hemp, jute and bamboo seem much more environmental friendly. I have bought 70% bamboo and cotton towels from Natural Collection. They are brilliant. Traidcraft Christmas (help!) catalogues are now available. Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.

The next meeting of the local Neighbourhood watch will take place on Wednesday 2nd September at The Huntsman Hotel at 7.30 p.m.

All are welcome.

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

Our speaker for our July meeting was Rosemary Scadden from Cardiff who gave us a talk entitled 'Welsh Girls in Service between the Wars'. A subject you see very little written about, girls of that era had very little choice of work other than going off to become maids in large town or country houses all over the U.K., quite an unique subject and she captured a glimpse of a forgotten time.

We had our usual stand at Chepstow Agricultural Show, the sun shone on us this year and we attracted plenty of show goers to our small exhibition, our stand was alongside Glamorgan & Gwent Archaeological Trust, Chepstow Agricultural Society and the Friends of Newport Ship, something of interest for everyone.

The programme of speakers and events is now available for our 9th year. Membership subscription is now due and forms will be available at the next meeting, anyone interested in joining please contact this 'phone number 01291 641376.

Dates for your Diary:

Sunday, 23rd August at 3.00pm

We will be visiting Holy Cross Church Kilgwrwg during the summer as it is a little inaccessible during the winter when we usually visit a local church. Church. Dr Naylor Firth will give us a talk on the history of the church.

Meet up at 2.40pm as below: From Shirenewton take the road to Devauden. Just before entering Devauden turn left, clearly signposted Kilgwrwg, Newchurch West and Gaerllwyd. Turn next right where there is a Post Box and a notice board and wait here for Dr Naylor Firth and myself Shirley (Bonsey) who will be there to direct you to park the car. Do wear sensible shoes to walk to the church.

Afterwards we hope to have a picnic, weather permitting.

Monday, 14th September at 2.00 pm

Resource meeting at the Recreational Hall, Shirenewton

Tuesday, 29th September, 7.30

The Newport Transporter Bridge, by Anne Gatehouse