

Shirenewton & Newchurch Parish Magazine July/August 2010



Sketch by Barbara Davies

Price: 50p

Dear Friends,

I turned on the news to hear about the execution of a prisoner in the US state of Utah. This itself is not surprising. Capital punishment is accepted over there. I don't happen to approve; but I grew up in America, so I know the score. It's not going to change any time soon.

What I found deeply troubling, though, was that Mark Shurtleff, Utah's Attorney General, actually thought it would be a clever idea to tweet about the execution live on Twitter. Twitter, for those who do not know, is a website on which users broadcast their goings-on in sentences of less than 140 letters. It is hugely popular, occasionally quite useful for drumming up grassroots social and political campaigning, but also filled with massive amounts of inanity and gibberish.

Now, on the one hand, I have no problem with elected officials using Twitter to keep people informed. I use it myself. In fact, it is quite useful for broadcasting barebones information at short notice to a self-selecting audience who want to hear what you have to say. And yet *here* what we have is the reduction of prisoner Ronnie Lee Gardner's life to two sentences, including one quite unnecessary swipe at a man already facing the ultimate penalty for his actions: *"I just gave the go ahead to Corrections Director to proceed with Gardner's execution. May God grant him the mercy he denied his victims."*

Is this really what we've come to? Because, frankly, I cannot get over the notion that live coverage of an execution in 140 letters is doing anything but trivialising the whole Christian principle of life as something sacred to God. Whatever our personal views on capital punishment, whatever our views on Mr. Gardner's crimes, it seems to me that an occasion of ending one life in exchange for another should always be treated with decorum. We should all be able to agree on that. In my job, frankly, I find it no easy task, in the too-short space of time allotted for funerals, to hand our loved ones back to God with some measure of dignity. I do my very best to serve grieving families with compassion, and I pray I've made a difference. But what always seems called for is *more* time, never less. In the end, the most crucial, meaningful moments of human existence—even the death of a murderer—require time and space for emotion, thought, real human contact, if we are to recognise them for what they are, and recognise God within them. That is not what Twitter does. And we will do well to learn that from Mr. Shurtleff's appalling insensitivity to the spark of life at its extinguishing.

Blessings, Fr. Will

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism

June 19th 2010 Jacob Rhys Howells
Son of James & Renee Natalie Howells

ST PETER'S NEWCHURCH

Forthcoming Events:

Wednesday 8th September - Songs of Praise 7pm

Thursday 7th October - Harvest Thanksgiving 7pm

GAERLLWYDD BAPTIST CHAPEL

Forthcoming Events:

Sunday 11th July - Anniversary Service 6.30pm Rev. G Moore

Monday 12th July - Service 7.30pm Refreshments to follow

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY LUNCHEON CLUB

Please book early to secure your place for lunch on Wednesday
July 21st 2010
Aug 18th 2010

Tredegar Arms, Shirenewton Telephone 641274

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Here are the dates for the remaining Summer Term we look forward to seeing you again. Numbers are sliding to a critically low level again, so we may have to finish the term early, if you know of any children that might like to join us, please bring them along.

Date		Time	Venue
4	July	9.30 am	<i>Sunday Club - Church Room Best Friends</i>
11	July	9.30 am	Family Service - Church

Shirenewton Sunday Club welcomes
All children from 3 years. Do come and join us
Jane Smith-Haddon 641 525
Glynis MaqcDonald 641 818

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING 7TH JUNE 2010

From Your Own Correspondent.... Glynis MacDonald.

Don't forget, I only do abbreviated notes... the meetings do last for 2 ½ hours or more. So for the full report go to www.shirenewtonchurch.com or find the report on the lovely new village notice boards.

Police Report

PC Cowburn was unable to be at the meeting but he sent the following:

- 3/5 There was a report of a suspicious vehicle at Gaerlwydd
- 4/5 There was a suspicious caller at Earlswood.
- 6/5 There were suspicious vehicles up at Earlswood – but there was also an innocent explanation.
- 7/5 There was a burglary at Shirenewton and a garage was entered in the early hours. Persons were disturbed.
- 7/5 A dog was worrying livestock at a farm near Shirenewton.
- 11/5 Cannabis-growing equipment and dead plants were found in black bags at Cadira Beeches.
- 18/5 There was a report of a possible drink driver near Shirenewton.
- 20/5 A possibly abandoned but locally owned vehicle was found near Shirenewton
- 22/5 Concern for an elderly male walking on the road near Shirenewton.
- 24/5 A suspicious Irish male was asking about odd jobs.
- 28/5 Batteries were stolen from plant hire equipment near Shirenewton.
- 28/5 Concern for an elderly male on the road near Shirenewton.
- 5/6 There were reports of gunshots near Earlswood. Source not located.

Planning

1. DC/2010/00356 Pear Tree Cottage, Mynyddbach
Change of roof from single slope to pitch over kitchen and change of external kitchen wall. Approval Recommended
2. DC/2010/00454 New Mill, Earlswood
Proposed 1st floor extension to create utility & en-suite. Approval Recommended
3. DC/2010/00446 The Old Rectory, Crick Road, Shirenewton
Listed Building Consent. Addition of cast iron gates onto driveway pillars (gates appear to have been a historic feature as pins are set into the pillars)
Approval Recommended
4. DC/2010/00453 Shop Farm Earlswood
Two storey extension to side and rear of existing dwelling.
I think this was 'Approval Recommended' but I'm not sure because I lost the plot.....

Items of Local Concern

To receive report from Environment Committee 17th May

The meeting was not on 17th May after all but will be held on 17th June.

To receive update on Motorbikes on the B4235

The village of Llangwm has the same problem – motorbikes roaring through the village. So the villagers have produced a flyer which was handed out to the 41 motorbike chappies (and chapesses) who were driving badly – and after they were stopped. (Apparently, only 2 were speeding....) Anyway, it was agreed that this flyer could be handed out at our Fete – presumably to any hairy biker that happens to be passing the SCC gazebo. On foot.

To receive report on tree removal/felling order on Bluebell Lane

No licence was granted to cut down these trees. So the Forestry Authority is looking into it.

To receive update on production of Annual Newsletter

This letter was still in its conceptual stage – but (*complicated*) plans were put into action so that the letter (plus pictures) would be ready to hand out at the Fete.

To confirm preparations in hand for stand at Fete

Gazebo? Yes. Handouts? Yes. Table? Yes. Questionnaire? Yes.

To receive details of Deposition from Cllr White re Owain Glyndwr status for Blethyn Close field

Umm.....

Items of local concern - information only

Wentwood Mountain Bike Centre – there will be a change of direction. (Maybe a tree was in the way...?)

The Clerk's Report

Allotments /Affordable Housing, Blethyn Close

The Clerk, Carole Jones reported that the Appeal Meeting which was held on May 20th in Shirenewton Church Hall, against MCC's refusal of the planning application for two affordable houses at Blethyn Close had been an extremely well attended meeting. (*Sadly, despite the obvious wishes of SCC, MCC and the local people against the building of two houses on the old allotment land, the Inspector upheld the appeal*) (*Sigh*)

It was suggested at the Community Council that if the appeal was upheld (*which it has been*) then the Community Council should apply to protect the land from development by registering it as having 'Village Green Status'. ASAP. Needless to say, this procedure is a highly complicated business, with vast numbers of forms having to be filled in, in triplicate, no doubt in black ink, by local people....

Referendum Meeting with Nick Ramsay.

This will be held in The Church Room on Monday 12th July at 7.30. Come and find out about The Welsh Assembly's Powers...

Best Kept Village

A lot of people have worked very hard to get Shirenewton ready for the 'Best Kept Village Competition'. Special thanks to John Saysell, Roffe Edwards, Stan Jones, Peter Morris, Rob Edwards and Howard Sheen. Green fingers, the lot of them! Also thanks to the W.I who did a sterling job clearing the War Memorial path and steps.

As Carole said, 'Lots of people have 'have done their bit' and helped to make the Village look really good. If we don't win this year we will have still have achieved our objective to make the village look its best and the community spirit has been great' (*And many thanks to Carole for all her hard work! Glynis*)

Looking at my notes, I see that I also wrote '40 m.p.h – Ernie Jones to The Huntsman'. I can't quite remember what that was about but I'm assuming that it was referring to the motorbikes on the B4235....

Next meeting: Monday 5th July. At the Rec. 7.30

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH FETE

What a magnificent day – AGAIN. The scene at the Recreation Ground was picture postcard perfect – blue skies, little white fluffy clouds, pretty marquees and gazeboes and smiling faces everywhere you looked. Aren't we lucky to live in such a lovely village with such a fabulous annual event?

Saturday lunchtime saw lots of excited children (and parents) dressed as Alice in Wonderland characters, warriors and partying guiders – milling around the Tan House car park preparing for the carnival parade. The pretty Carnival Queen sat surrounded by a bevy of lovely princesses and handsome page boys on the 'Alice in Wonderland' float. The Scouts and Cubs presented a siege scene with the cubs towing a catapult and firing missiles at the Scouts Castle float. The Brownies were having a party on their float to say 'Happy Birthday' and celebrate a hundred years of Girl Guiding. A lot of thought and time had obviously gone into all the floats and it is always great fun to follow the parade and watch all the kids waving from the floats and having a great time.



*Shirenewton Fete winning poster by
Raphael Thomas Year 6
Shirenewton Primary School*

The fete was opened by Mike Pearce who made a presentation to Ernie and Winnie Jones to thank them for all the years of work that they have done in connection with the Fete. Ernie has provided and driven the Carnival Queen Float for the past 17 years and Winnie has made more cups of tea than I could probably count. This was a very well deserved 'thank you' and a very happy and emotional start to the Fete. Mike then went on to present the prizes to the winners of the float and fancy dress competition. The stunning Alice in Wonderland Float looked like a clear winner but the cubs catapulted themselves into the lead with their towable Saxon Catapult which won first prize for its original design and the huge amount of work which had obviously gone into building it. Jane and Will Smith-Haddon, once again, had the difficult task of judging and I'm sure Simon Cowell could learn something from their stylish, fair and courteous approach!

The Fete was then declared open and everyone was let loose with their pennies (and pounds!) to spend, and enjoy. Whilst sipping Pimms, glugging beer and enjoying burgers and ice-cream we were entertained by the Chepstow Brass Band, Ball Room dancing and the Kestral Gym Club.

The military display with American jeeps and an impressive display of weapons made another different centrepiece for the fete and was a huge hit with the kids. The clairvoyant was a new attraction for this year and was busy giving readings all afternoon - I hope everyone had good news; I wasn't brave enough to go myself! Another new stall, that we were all happy to spend our money on, was the silly shower – it *was* pretty silly but also great fun to see Neil Davies, Matthew Benjamin, Guy Evered-Hall and others getting a good soaking each time the ball hit the spot. I think one of the joys of the Fete is seeing so many people from the village all together and joining in, and, on that note, it was great to see Bob O'Keefe looking so well and enjoying the day.

The end of the fete always seems to come far too quickly; there were so many great stalls and activities that the time flew by and all of a sudden 5.00pm was here; although the glorious weather meant that many people were drinking beer and Pimms long after that.

Later in the evening, we celebrated our successful day by enjoying a great evening at the Tredegar Arms; we enjoyed a smashing buffet and, of course, the wine and company were pretty good!

Financially it was a hugely successful day and we broke the record AGAIN by raising £6,459 for church funds. AND we all had a great time!!! We are all thrilled to bits to have raised so much money but, equally, or even more importantly, love the fact that so many kids (and grownups) enjoyed a great fun, traditional village fete in the sunshine.

On behalf of the fete committee, I would like to thank the many people who helped to make this day so successful. So many people put in so much hard work, time, and commitment into this fete – you all know who you are and it would not be possible without you. Many of the stall holders are preparing for weeks ahead of the Fete and put in so much time and effort. A huge thank you to **everyone** involved and we hope we can call on your various talents again next year!

Noelyn Prout
on behalf of the Church Fete Committee

MOTHERS' UNION



Thank you everyone who came to the MU Open Evening at Shirenewton Church Room on 9 June with our daughter Joy Carey speaking and leading a discussion on the ethics of food production, supermarket power, air-freighted food from overseas, local growers, food wasted, GM crops and much else. Joy's great concern is to promote good local food production, grown locally and sold locally, as it would vastly improve the health of the nation.

We had a full house and wonderful range of cakes and cookies sold to raise funds for the MU "WHEELS" appeal to provide transport for MU workers in their own countries. Thank you everyone.

MU plan a community picnic, well a Gaer-land garden party, on Saturday 10 July in the Caerwent Church car-park. 11 a.m. till 3 p.m. Light lunches, cakes, plants and bric-a-brac. for sale, so lots to prepare please. Also needed folding chairs and tables. Sunshades even ! proceeds also for the MU "WHEELS" appeal.

A very big thank-you to Auriol Horton who has handed over the leadership of the Deanery MU to Betty Lewis of Magor group. Auriol has worked hard and long to lead our Deanery groups and we are very grateful for all she has done.

Rosemary Carey, MU Branch Leader 01291 425 010

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Are you prepared for the proposed Welsh Assembly
Referendum concerning the Government of Wales Act 2006?**

**Do you want to know more about the Welsh Assembly's current powers
and other powers the Assembly might have following the proposed
referendum?**

**Nick Ramsay A.M.
will be at
Shirenewton Church Hall
on July 12th at 7.15 pm**

1ST SHIRENEWTON CUB PACK

What an exciting month:

We all had a fabulous time at the PGL Activity Centre at Ross on Wye on the Bank Holiday weekend with everyone having a chance to try their hand at archery, shooting climbing, abseiling, canoeing and quad biking.

Some of the smaller cubs amazed me with their fearless approach to some of the activities that they obviously had never done before. We also have a number of sharp shooters in the pack; both with rifles and bow and arrow so a big well done to all. Also a very big thank you to all the staff that looked after us so well from the moment we arrived on the Friday until the last person left on the Sunday. I have already booked again for the same weekend next year.



Village Fete. Another great weekend and the weather was so kind to us again. The Group took on a medieval theme for the parade with the Scouts and Beavers defending their Roman fortress, on the back of a lorry, and the cubs, Saxons, attacking with their giant catapult. I am delighted to say we won the trophy for the second year running, however I must add that my confidence had been shattered when I saw the competition we were up against, the results must have been very close which means we are going to have to work very hard next year if we wish to keep the shield. Thanks to all the parents also for the supply of used toys and for those who helped Di on our stall during the event, it was much appreciated. We can now buy a much needed toilet tent and the bits that go with it!!!

Cub Safari: Our Pack is hosting a Monmouth District event on Sunday 4th July. The event itself, which we are calling the 'Safari', includes teams from other packs following a trail on a map across a plain to the Golden Valley. After negotiating themselves through the valley they will then have to make their way through the haunted wood and out onto the plains beyond. On route there will be a number of challenges that the cubs will need to undertake. The event is not a race but instead a chance to learn new skills, for which points will be awarded. There will also be activities taking place all day on the recreation ground with about eighty cubs taking part so if you would like to see the type of things cubs get up to why not look in.

Finally we had twenty cubs pass the map reading badge this month so well done to them also.

Future Cubs Activities for 2010:

Sunday 4th July, Cubs Hike and adventure day, Around Shirenewton's old golf course.

Fri/Sat/Sun 27th Aug Cub Camp Botany Bay

Saturday 16th October: District Rugby tournament

Saturday 20th November: District Swimming Gala, Newport

Geoff Marlow at geoffmarlow@btinternet.com or Tel 01291 641407.

1ST SHIRENEWTON GUIDES

June has been a very busy month for

Girlguiding in its centenary year with lots of events

taking place. Here in Shirenewton the Guides did

not fancy celebrating the "Pitch and Munch" event at Newport Wetlands – an overnight stay with an early start to listen to the dawn chorus – with other Guides from the County. Instead we did our own thing and made Welsh cakes at the

following meeting. Then it was the WOW! Camp (Wonderful One hundred in Wales) at the showground in Builth Wells. Here we joined with over 800 other

Guides, plus their leaders, from all parts of Wales, for a weekend of fun activities. I hear there is photographic evidence of certain unit helpers on the inflatable

assault course and we certainly enjoyed an introduction to Tai Chi whilst the girls tried their hand at activities such as archery, fencing and climbing. The weekend

ended with a very noisy and colourful meeting of the sub camps in the hall for a closing ceremony (and yes, the pink sub camp was not only the best but definitely the noisiest!!!)

We are still gathering points towards the Adventure 100 badge and spent one meeting making miniature rafts and the next with a walk down to Prysgau-bach to "launch" them. We are getting close to the end of the year now and will say goodbye to our helper Bev, and her girls Molly and Ellie, who are moving down to West Wales. We shall miss them but know they are going to go straight back into guiding in September as they met their new Guider at the WOW! Camp. Good luck to you all and thanks for your help Bev.

We have lots of girls wanting to join both Guides and Brownies but we are short of people willing to train as Guiders. A meeting cannot run without a trained leader which puts pressure on existing leaders as none of us likes letting the girls down. However, sometimes personal commitments do need to take precedent – or we just need a night off to recharge our batteries. If you know of anyone who may be interested in training with us please get in touch – training is available and the more leaders we have the easier it is!

Yours in Guiding,

Kestrel Helen Cann 01291 650835

Kitten Amanda Turner 01291 650763

Koala and Panda



Girlguiding UK

BROWNIES TAKE OVER CALDICOT CASTLE



Girlguiding UK

Having just returned from lively Guiding centenary celebrations at Caldicot Castle, I am very grateful to my Brownies for putting together the report below on our weekly meetings. Girl Guiding's centenary celebrations continued in spectacular style on Saturday 19th June at the Caldicot Castle event. Here the Brownies were able to try out the climbing wall, archery, circus skills, street dancing and drumming sessions - not to mention endless craft activities and the giant inflatable slide. This event was followed by Shirenewton Brownies joining other Brownie units from the Chepstow District in a mass sleepover at Scallywags Castle play centre (and **yes** they did sleep some of the time). It's been a great weekend, enjoying what Guiding does best -challenging the girls in a safe and exciting environment and having loads of fun.

Here's the girls' version of what we have been doing over the last few weeks in Brownies –

A couple of weeks ago, all the Brownies went up the church tower and dropped mini parachutes from the clock tower. It was quite scary going up, but not too bad coming down. We then started our float preparations for Shirenewton fete. Our theme was 'party' – we all dressed in party clothes and put balloons and decorations on the float. Sadly we didn't get a place but we all enjoyed it immensely. When the fete was done and dusted, we made flapjacks for father's day. It was very goeey but was great fun! Soon we're going on a sleepover to the Scallywags Castle. We're going to do lots of activities in the day and then sleepover. We're only going to take the bare essentials and we're going to sleep in our clothes. We can't wait!!.

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The May meeting was held on a lovely warm late spring evening our speaker for the evening was Peter Strong who gave us a talk entitled 'Solemn Sabbaths and Faraway Sundays', a look back at how we spent our Sundays. How things have changed! A very interesting, amusing and well researched subject.

Our June Resource Meeting saw visitors from Glamorgan and Gloucestershire all researching their family tree. We were able to find living relatives still in the village for the visitor from Gloucestershire, always a pleasing result after a little research.

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday, 29th June, Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel at 7.30 pm
'Aust Ferry' a talk given by Tim Ryan

Wednesday, 7th July, A tour of the medieval village at Llanfair Discoed
With a talk by Stuart Peachey at 12.15pm. After, we will have lunch at the Woodland Tavern.

Monday, 12th July, Resource Afternoon at the Recreational Hall meeting
at 2.00pm – 5.00pm

Tuesday, 27th July, Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel at 7.30pm
'Curating at Newport' given by Oliver Blackmore.

FAIRTRADE NEWS



The Fairtrade mark is an independent consumer label which guarantees farmers a fair and stable price for their products and it guarantees a greater respect for the environment and sustainability. There is no doubt a great deal has been achieved: today more than 5 million farmers, workers and their families across 49 developing countries benefit from the international Fairtrade system. However the rules and practices of international trade are often biased in favour of the rich countries (who developed the systems) often to the detriment of poor countries. For example in 2007 the Guardian calculated that the world's 3 largest banana companies paid, on average 14% tax on their profits, despite all 3 having their offices in the US where the corporate rate is 35%. And that's in a well-regulated country! In 2009 the UK government stated that 'Tax systems in developing countries are undermined by international banking secrecy, including in tax havens. . . ineffective taxation undermines countries' ability to provide the basic services that underpin fairness as well as growth.'

Organizations such as The Fairtrade Foundation Action Aid and Christian Aid campaign on issues such as these which have a massive influence on developing countries. Do consult their websites for more info.

Meanwhile continue buying the (Fairtrade!) goodies!

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

THE BELLS, THE BELLS

Shirenewton bell ringers now have 3 Deputy Tower Captains, Kate Stanley, Maddie Stanley and Claire Eickhoff. They were elected by the ringers at the AGM held at Waterspring on 11th June. They will help run the practices, Sunday service ringing, help Mike with maintenance, and participate in teaching some of the new recruits. The ringers felt that this would give them valuable experience when they leave Shirenewton and move on to other parts of the country. The experience gained now would enable them to run a tower of their own some time in the future if they should want to.

Claire and Kate did a grand job organizing the striking competition bands for the Monmouth Branch Striking Competition held at St Mellons on 15th May.

Shirenewton came second out of eight competing bands in the Call Changes section.

Big congratulations to Chris Eickhoff who rang his first quarter peal on an "inside" or "working" bell on Sunday 20th June. He rang the 4th to Plain Bob Doubles. Other members of the band were Jenny Millar, Maddie Stanley, Mike Penney (conductor), Claire Eickhoff and Simon Stanley. Ringing a first quarter peal on a working bell is one of the biggest steps in bell ringing, following this achievement the ringer can truly consider themselves to be a "change ringer".

Pip Penney

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

Firstly a big 'Thank you' to everyone using the church website. As of the end of May it had earned over £900 this year. That is a massive increase (150%) compared to the same time last year. Keep up the good work!

In website world things continue very much as normal. Shops come and shops go - but still the main ones are there and popular. Amazon remains the most popular followed by The Train line and Tesco's. This is popularity in order of click through and doesn't reflect purchasing. Dell is probably the most lucrative shop having provided £186 in commission year to date.

Full information on the Kilimanjaro expedition and the Pen-y-Fan sunrise opportunity is available via the website. I've published information complete with photos on the various training walks we have done. At the time of writing it's slightly under two weeks until we leave. You can follow us via twitter. We will be at www.twitter.com/kilitweets or just follow the link from the Kilimanjaro page on the Church website. The website also offers you the opportunity to sponsor us via your credit or debit card.

As your summer holidays approach don't forget that you can book car hire, airport parking (I've added a load of new car parking options), lounge access and all sorts of things via the shopping portal.

Safe browsing.

David Cornwell Webmaster.

200 CLUB JUNE DRAW

No. 74 Annie Woodward £40

No. 136 Gary Williams £30

No. 116 David Adams £20

No. 150 Jean Jones £10

STARGAZING IN JUNE 2010

Later in the evening the Summer Triangle is overhead. This is a prominent triangle formed by the bright stars Altair, to the South of the triangle, Vega, closest to the Western horizon, and Deneb, to the East. Deneb forms the tail of the cross-shaped constellation Cygnus, the Swan. From our perspective the 3 stars have similar brightness. However they lie at different distances from Earth. Deneb is an extremely luminous star at 1400 light years from Earth whilst Vega and Altair are less luminous and are both much closer to Earth at a distance of about 20 light years.

The familiar seven stars of Ursa Major, the Great Bear or Plough, are to be seen in the north-west, with the "W" of Cassiopeia climbing into the north-eastern sky. The brilliant planet Venus dominates the evening sky to the West. Although a beautiful sight as viewed from Earth, Venus is not a very inviting place to visit. With a surface temperature of over 400°C, hot enough for rocks to glow, and a thick sulphurous atmosphere, it won't be appearing on the travel web-sites just yet!

In the middle of the month the crescent moon is a useful pointer to the planets. In the evening twilight of the 14th, 15th and 16th the Moon is just below Venus, Mars and Saturn respectively. At the end of the month, the 3 planets are close together, with Saturn just above Mars. On the 31st the Moon sits above the planet Jupiter to the south in the dawn sky.

Dave Thomas

WHIST DRIVES

32 players joined us on the 3rd June so we had 8 full tables which made for an enjoyable Drive and we were blessed with a fine warm evening. The next Drive is on Thursday, 1st July at the Recreation Hall at 7.30 p.m. New players are made welcome, please join us, our Table fee is £1. per person which includes light refreshments. We also have a Raffle which raises funds for the upkeep of the Hall. In August we shall be playing on the 5th(and d.v. there will be reason for a small celebration!!), and again in September on the 2nd same time, place and conditions.

Auriol Horton. 01291 641844

MANY THANKS FROM BAS AND JONTY

Bas Cornwell & Jonty Cann would like to thank everyone who purchased the Scout Jamboree quiz sheet.

The money raised through this and other activities will go to the world scout jamboree fund which, among other things, ensures that scouts from 3rd world countries can attend the jamboree.

The winner is from Gloucester. However, if you are interested the answers they are available from the Church website (on the home page under current events). The answers will only be there over the summer.

CONTINUING EXTRACTS FROM "WORKING TO LIVE"

BY ERNEST E. JONES

Chapter 3. Livestock

I myself have always liked working with sheep although here as with all things work could be viewed from two aspects, namely living to work and working to live. The start of the sheep year could be lambing time, in days past the flock would be penned in a field near to natural shelter and the shepherd would have his lambing hut stationed nearby. This was a small cabin on wheels where he had a rough bed and where he kept his faithful remedies for lambing problems, he would also have his "Hurricane Lamp", to provide the light to enable him to inspect his flock during the hours of darkness. It was a cold lonely life while it lasted and he probably did it without any regard to working to time, rather different to the present day when quite a lot of ewes lamb indoors, although with greater numbers in the flocks. To compensate the old shepherd would get much pleasure from seeing the young lambs skipping and jumping on a warm spring day. Then as the grass starts to grow in the spring, an unpleasant job with sheep is "digging", removing the soiled wool from the rear of the animals caused by the laxative nature of the spring grass, if left it will get very matted and will attract flies who will lay their eggs and then maggots will eat into the flesh of the sheep. This together with foot rot are two of the worst aspects of shepherding and are on the minus side or unpleasant side of the work of the shepherd. As the spring sun gets stronger the need arises to get the sheep shorn and on many farms the sheep were washed before they were shorn, this washing was usually done in fresh running water, a dammed up brook was often used, it is surprising how dirty the fleece can get. After washing the wool is lighter but there was a higher price paid for washed wool and washing the sheep made the job of shearing easier. Before the days of the shearing machine the sheep were shorn using a hand clippers, and no matter what method is used, and I have used both, a person needs to be strong and fit, to be able to manipulate the sheep into the various positions that are necessary during the shearing process, and there is a lot of satisfaction in seeing a flock of well shorn sheep. At the end of a days shearing although your back may be painful, the sight of newly shorn sheep all white and clean and the lambs all at pains and bleating plaintively to find their mothers was for me living to work.

Sheep farming like so many other parts of the farming world has changed and is continuing to change, it is becoming a numbers business, economics of scale are now important and it has to be viewed from a monetary angle, so it is becoming more a case of working to live. Not all that many years ago there were a lot of mixed farms about; farmers would spread their business to keep a small herd of about twenty dairy cows, rear a few beef cattle, perhaps plough a few fields to grow some corn, grow some potatoes and run a small flock of ewes possibly fifty or so. When I was a young man I did like shearing a flock like that, on a good hot day, often on my birthday, the last day of May, I was then young and fit and when the grease had risen into the wool, there is that certain smell from the lanolin in the grease, and although it was a greasy job at the end of the day you could wash your hands in water without any soap and they would be clean and really soft, and although I would be tired there was that wonderful feeling of a fulfilled day. Now it is a case of how many can be kept in one flock, it takes a man and his dogs just as long to gather fifty sheep as it does to gather three hundred sheep or more. But on the small mixed farm the sheep rotated around the farm, there was the mental aspect of it where at certain times of the year the sheep always occupied all his labour and all his thoughts, at other times the flock was less demanding. To me one of the joys of farming was after a hot day's work, on a summer evening in that certain type of light when the sun has set to see ewes and lambs grazing, after they had been laid up to avoid the heat of the day. It is one of those occasions in farming you will only know when you experience it. It is rather like the smell of the fox, I know all too well, the atmosphere and the time of day must be right but once you know it you will never forget it, and it is something that I cannot describe. Perhaps in other walks of life smells are important, but in farming they are very important. Some smells are very unpleasant, like foot rot, but the worst of all is when for some unknown reason near to lambing time the lambs die inside the ewe before being born and have to be removed this is a very unpleasant job. On the brighter side the smell of sheep at a sheep fair is very pleasant. Another aspect of sheep on the mixed farm was the growing of root crops, and it is worth pointing out that this type of mixed farming was the ideal with regards to preserving the environment. Every year, so many acres of land were ploughed and planted with root crops, mangolds, potatoes, turnips and swedes.

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There were several advantages in this system, to maintain fertility in the soil, to break the cycle of soil borne diseases and to clean the land of weeds without the use of chemicals. One job that did fall into the category of working to live was the job of hoeing root crops, that is before the days of the precision drill, swedes turnips and mangolds were sown in drills and at a critical stage of growth the young plants had to be thinned with a hand hoe to leave single plants at the required regular spacing so that they could grow to their optimum size, we used to call this chopping out. In a large field it could be a back breaking laborious job, but even then there was the satisfaction of anticipating a field of clean roots at harvest time.

The practice was that in early winter any lambs that did not get fat and were ready to be slaughtered for meat off grass in the summer would be penned on the swedes, the swedes were often pulled and put through a root cutter which cut the swedes up into cubes, these were fed to the sheep in troughs and a little corn was added to the troughs, and some hay would be fed in hay racks. Although it did not seem right to see them penned on this bare ground, they did fatten and they left the land clean and fertile in preparation for the following corn crops. Strange to say I found in the hedge up here at "Merrylea" a few of the special steel posts that were used for the sheep netting; they are like a long letter "h", with one bottom leg to hold the wire and a "v", shape in the top of the post to hold the top of the wire and they did work well. This fencing or penning did involve a lot of work and in rough cold weather it was not a pleasant task, certainly a case of working to live. On the bonus side in the autumn, for us it was the third week of October, to see the rams turned out with the ewes, with the hope especially if it was a new ram, there would be a good crop of lambs the following spring. Very many aspects of life in farming is a case of carrying out the labour and waiting to see the results and hoping that results justified the effort that had been put in. One of the quickest cycles in farming is possibly the chicken, the egg is laid, it is incubated, the chick is born, it develops and in about six months it is itself producing eggs.

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THOSE CHILDHOOD DAYS

By Minetta Morris

Oh, let me go back to my childhood days,
To those wonderful days of my youth,
When the sun shone forever as we played,
Where the fern stood up high and true.

We would climb up high through a woodland terrain,
To slide merrily down and return,
Just lie in the fields to watch the grasshoppers play,
Where ladybirds climb, wings unfurled.

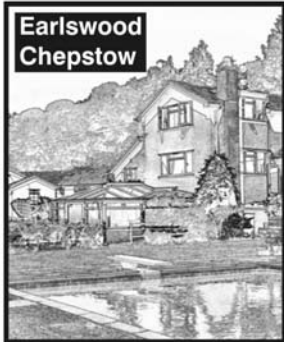
There's that good old struck oak that catches the eye,
In its branches we climb way up there,
We sit down and dream of those places we spy,
No one knows what great secrets we share.

It's Sunday when visitors call we stroll on,
Where the hazel nuts drop from the trees,
Let's gather them now, for these days will be gone,
Before long winter shadows retreat.

There are dens to be built and bluebells to see,
Like a wonderful carpet of blue.
And dotted amongst them a white one will gleam,
Little hands will take some passing through.

Here's a pretty grey mare looking over the gate,
We catch her and may have a ride,
She is warm to the touch, her coat glows silky grey,
As she ambles away two astride.

Distant voices are calling and we must not stay,
Echoing up from the valley below,
Homeward bound we go, swiftly, and there's no delay,
All these memories. our childhood bestows.



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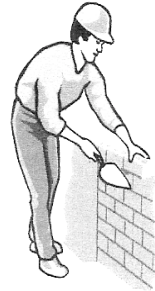
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Nerys's Natty Nosh



What was once a crude way of cooking freshly killed game over a fire has evolved into a fabulous art form in its own right. Delving into the history books reveals that early explorers noted the way in which indigenous people would dry meat and fish on a frame fashioned from green saplings and place them over a smouldering fire. Spaniards dubbed this makeshift grill barbacoa, while the French settlers who slowly roasted whole animals top to tail, coined the term, barbe-a queue. Lets hope the people of Shirenewton can enjoy a hot summer and sample some outdoor cooking.

Rib Steaks with Herb Marinade. Barbecue Serves 8

Ingredients

- 1¼ cups oil
- 2 tablespoons cracked black peppercorns
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh rosemary
- 2 tablespoon chopped fresh tarragon
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme
- 8 beef rib steaks

Method

- 1** Combine oil, peppercorns and herbs in a shallow dish, add steak, turn steaks to coat in mixture.
- 2** Refrigerate over-night.
- 3** Barbecue until tender.

An alternative marinade/sauce is Chimichurri sauce.

Ingredients

- 1 bunch flat leaf parsley
- 4 to 8 cloves minced garlic (your choice)
- ¾ cup extra virgin olive oil
- ¼ cup red wine vinegar
- 1 juice lemon wedge
- 1 tablespoon diced red onion
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- ½ teaspoon

Method

- 1** Chop parsley and place in a blender. Whirl once. Add the remaining ingredients and blend until liquid. Store in the refrigerator and serve as a marinade or condiment for steak.

Enjoy!

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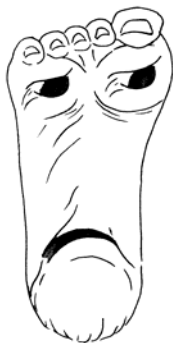
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GARDENING CORNER

With the weather remaining particularly dry now is not the time to spend weeding flower beds where the weeds are well established. Unfortunately we have a number of beds that are like this at the moment. This is because over the last couple of years we have not had the time, and when we have, the weather has been against us. To dig through these beds at the moment will result in everything collapsing in the sun, so not wise. Hopefully the weather will change a little and we will get a bit of rain soon. The intention would then be to get “stuck in”, probably digging everything out, removing all the weeds and then replanting. The trouble we have is that there is a fair amount of couch grass which, unless you remove every piece, re-grows with vigour. I can't spray as we would end up killing all the things we don't want to, so it's manual digging and removal only. We seem to have lost a number of plants due to the weather last winter, but we have a number in reserve in nursery beds and of course it means that I get to buy some new ones when we are out and about. We are currently visiting our eldest daughter in the Lake District, and plant nurseries are on the agenda! The best thing with going somewhere different is that you get a different choice of plants to pick from, and we already have a few sitting outside ready for the return journey south.

Efforts in the last couple of years have been concentrated on the vegetable areas and the three greenhouses. This year has been the no exception in that the vegetable areas are now pretty well there with every spare bit of ground planted up. I have tried to keep the “little and often” going with seed sowing, so that we don't have a glut of any one vegetable. Unfortunately, as said before, this is not always the easiest to achieve in practice! At the moment we have a glut of broad beans, peas and French beans as well as calabrese. The excess calabrese has been frozen so that isn't too much of a problem. The beans and peas we intend to make into a vegetable soup, as we have some fantastic new baby carrots to add to it. This will be the first job on our return from the Lakes. I did start sowing the winter greens at the end of April. This always seems an odd thing to do as the previous years' sprouts and broccoli were still in the ground. This has led to one problem though as much of the broccoli (purple sprouting and curly kale) were ready to soon. The intention was to replace the over wintered onions and garlic with these greens, but lack of rain means the onions aren't ready to harvest, so I have binned the greens on the compost heap and will be sowing some fresh ones this coming week. The runner beans, sweet corn and outdoor cucumbers are now growing well, but the bright sun the other day did scorch a number of leaves. The cucumbers came off the worst, but fortunately I had a half

dozen seeds sown just in case a plan B was required, and I have now planted these as replacements.

In the tunnel and greenhouses I have now cleared the small house out of plants as these are now either in pots or in the ground. All the tomatoes, peppers and tomatoes are now in their final growing places. Some of the tomatoes are not looking too good with the foliage looking very sick, just like last year. I don't know why, so will need to have a bit of a rethink to see what I'm doing wrong. It looks like a mineral deficiency, but the assistant head gardener wonders whether I'm starting them off too early and the extremes in temperature are having an adverse affect. Time for the wormery again! There seems to have been a lot of interest in this from the amount of fan enquiries coming in! All those interested will be pleased to know that the worms eventually settled in and stopped trying to do a runner, or rather slither, to escape. I'm now on filling the second tray with waste, whilst the worms continue to work their way through the first. As a result of their work I managed to run the first lot of "worm wee" out of the base of the wormery. I have to say that, smell wise, this is about as bad as it gets. I've started mixing this in the watering can and feeding the tomatoes and cucumbers. It is meant to be an excellent fertiliser, so we'll see if this helps to pick the sickly tomatoes up at all. I have a few spare plants waiting in the wings if not. I've got an old galvanised water tank down by the shed. I'm going to cut some nettles and also some comfrey plant as well to throw in the tank and then cover with some water. As this rots down it turns the water into a strong fertiliser as well, equally as smelly as the worm stuff, but excellent again as a fertiliser. The stuff that you buy in the shops costs so much and doesn't go very far so anything is worth a try. In the tunnel the calabrese and new carrots are proving to be a resounding success. We have been cutting large heads of calabrese and the variety we have sends a lot of side shoots out as well, so you get a second picking. The carrots are gradually being thinned, but the germination rate was good and so there are a lot of carrots. They are some of the sweetest that we have ever eaten and of course the added bonus is that they should be completely free of carrot root fly, which can make the roots almost inedible, without the need to resort to chemicals. With so many chemicals now being banned by the EU there isn't one that amateur gardeners can use effectively anyway. Growing in the tunnel I think will become the norm, although it does tie the ground up pretty well all season, as the carrots will be left to grow and get bigger as the year goes on. By the time they are all harvested it is too late to sow anything else, so we will probably resort to replant with the early potatoes next spring. I have pruned the apricot and nectarine trees in the tunnel for the first time, and they are already starting to shoot out again.

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We look to be set to have a good crop of apricots, but the nectarines are not so well laden. I think we were spoilt last year with such a heavy crop. I've had problems with scale insect sucking the sap. I have tried a chemical solution but with little success. Recently I tried a solution of horticultural soap. This doesn't taint the crop, nor does it have any residual affect in the tree. It damages the insects waxy like skin, affecting their metabolism and reproduction. The first effects of this treatment look promising, so this may be the way ahead. The strawberry plants that I had planted in hanging baskets are now well established and started to throw runner out. I've started pinning these down into the basket so that they take root, enabling me to increase the numbers of plants for next year. It's raining outside, but a trip to another garden centre is on the cards. Time to go! So happy gardening until next month.

Steve Hunt.

EXTRACTS FROM OTHER CHURCH MAGAZINES

(not this one of course)

Next weekend's Fasting and Prayer Conference in Whitby includes all meals.

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Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel	Avril Smith 01291 650733
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Girl Guides	Helen Cann 01291 650835 cann71@btinternet.com
Kids Ad Lib (KAL)	Karen Millar 01291 641818. Gail Jones 01291 650861
Recreation Association	Gordon Hughes 01291 641356 gordon.hughes3@tesco.net
Recreation Hall booking secretary	Beryl Saysell 01291 641637
St Peters Church Newchurch	Enid Heritage 01291 622708
Shirenewton Local History Socty	Dorothy Brabon 01291 641376 brabonn1@hotmail.com
Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Fields Association Ltd (SAMFAL)	Mike Sayce 01291 641625 saycemichael@btinternet.com Stu Dutton 01291 641677 stu@dutton47.freerve.co.uk
Shirenewton & Mynyddbach Initiative for Local Enterprise (SMILE)	Charles Eickhoff 01291 641716 eickhoff@shirenewton.org
Shirenewton Mothers Union	Rosemary Carey 01291 425010 crcandkili@tiscali.co.uk
Shirenewton Mothers Union Branch Treasurer	Auriol Horton 01291 641844
Shirenewton Operatic and Dramatic Society (SODS)	Glynis MacDonald 01291 641818 glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com
Shirenewton Play Group	Bev Lindsey BeverleyLindsay@btinternet.com
Shirenewton Primary School	Jayne Edwards 01291 641774 jayneedwards@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Shirenewton Tennis Association	P Brabon 01291 641376 brabonn1@hotmail.com
Sunday Club	Glynis MacDonald 01291 641818 glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com
Traidcraft	Marion McAdam 01291 641316
Whist drive	Auriol Horton 01291 641844 auriol@btinternet.com
Womens Institute (WI)	Shirley Bonsey 01291 641362 shirley.bonsey@tiscali.co.uk

DIARY DATES

For further details see inside the magazine.

JULY	Event	Location
1	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
4	Cubs Hike	Shirenewton Old Golf Course
5	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
7	Shirenewton Local History Society Tour Medieval Village Llanfair Discoed	Llanfair Discoed
9	Songs for Summer The Martin Singers	Chepstow Methodist Church
10	Mother Union Community Picnic / Garden Party	Caerwent Church Car Park
11	Sunrise walk on Pen Y Fan	Brecon Beacons
11	Summit of Mount Kilimanjaro reached !	High Up
11	Chepstow Agricultural Society	The Huntsman
11	Gaerllwydd Baptist Chapel Anniversay Service	Gaerllwydd Baptist Chapel
12	Shirenewton Local History Society Resource Afternoon	Recreation Hall
12	Gaerllwydd Baptist Chapel Monday service	Gaerllwydd Baptist Chapel
12	Nick Ramsey A.M. talk	Church Hall
27	Shirenewton Local History Soc. Meeting	Huntsman Hotel
AUG		
5	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
27	Cub Camp	Botany Bay
SEP		
2	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
8	St Peters Newchurch Songs of Praise	St Peters Newchurch
OCT		
7	St Peters Newchurch Harvest Thanksgiving	St Peters Newchurch
16	Cubs District Rugby Tournament	

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH - READERS AND SIDES-PERSONS

JULY	Service	Reader	Sides-Person
4	Fifth Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	Auriol Horton Ruth Savagar	Auriol Horton Claire Lewis
11	Sixth Sunday after Trinity Family Service		
18	Seventh Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	Diane Marlow Barbara Davies	Diane Marlow Barbara Davies
25	Sunday of St.James the Apostle Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	Lisa Morter Margaret Lock	Lisa Morter Margaret Lock
AUG.			
1	Ninth Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	Kevin Bounds Glynis MacDonald	Kevin Bounds Glynis MacDonald
8	Tenth Sunday after Trinity SONGS OF PRAISE		Cynthia Smith Clair Lewis
15	Sunday of the Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	John Nicholas Sally Seysell	John Nicholas Sally Seysell
22	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	James Leney Kevin Bounds	James Leney Kevin Bounds
29	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity GROUP SERVICE in Shirenewton	Sally Saysell Andrew Baker	Allan Saysell Claire Lewis
SEPT.			
5	Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	Mike Peirce Bob Grattan	Mike Peirce Bob Grattan
12	Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity MATTINS SERVICE at 9:30 am	Diane Marlow Barbara Davies	Diane Marlow Barbara Davies
19	Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	John Nicholas Annabel Hancock	John Nicholas Annabel Hancock
26	Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE at 9:30 am	The Children	

MOUNT KILIMANJARO

By the time you read this the Shirenewton Charity Challenge folk will likely be 1/2 way up Mount Kilimanjaro. The team flies out to Tanzania on the 4th July and hopes to reach the summit on the morning of July 11th.

Kilimanjaro is the largest highest free standing mountain in the World with Uhuru Peak being 5,895 metres (19,341 feet) - this is 515 meters (1,640ft) higher than Everest Base Camp. You will be able to follow our progress daily (or even more frequently) on twitter. Browse to www.twitter.com/kilitweets or follow the link from the church website (www.shirenewtonchurch.com).

There is still time to sponsor us. All monies are going to the Church, the sunshine home for children and African charities. Simply visit the Church website or get a sponsorship form from the Church.

SEE THE SUNRISE ON PEN Y FAN SUNDAY 11TH JULY

Still time to join us for a sponsored walk up the highest mountain in the Brecon Beacons. To make it special, we're going up at night. Weather permitting, you will be rewarded with a memorable experience, good company, and a magnificent sunrise. It will be well worth the early start.

The aim of the walk is to raise money for Shirenewton Church extension and for local African charities. It's a joint project with the group from the village that is attempting Kilimanjaro and who plan to reach their summit - a mere 19,340 ft – at around the same time.

To register for this tremendous experience, for details of the charities your sponsorship will support and for information on the walk, please contact:

Hugh James 641722. E mail hvjames@tiscali.co.uk

Also, please let me know if you would like to sponsor any of the walkers.

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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The views expressed are those of the contributor.

Deadline for contributions to the September issue is the 23rd August