

Price: 50p

Shirenewton & Newchurch Parish Magazine May 2010



The Church of St. Thomas à Becket Shirenewton

Church of St. Thomas à Becket Shirenewton

Priest in Charge.	Revd. Dr. William Ingle - Gillis		424984
Curate	Rev. Nansi Davies	01633	400519
Church Wardens:	Sally Saysell		641369
	Andrew Baker		641925
PCC Secretaries:	Mrs Susan Lenthall	Newchurch	626389
	Jane Smith-Haddon		641525
PCC Treasurers:	David Heritage	Newchurch	641549
	Charles Eickhoff	Shirenewton	641716
Gift Aid Secretary	Enid Heritage	Newchurch	641549
	Ruth Savagar		641411
Church Maintenance & Safety Officer	John Nicholas		641368
Organists:	Karen Millar		650521
	Ruth Savagar		641411
	Kath Whittington		641600
	Jane Smith-Haddon		641525
Sunday School:	Mike Penny		650653
Tower Captain:	Glynis MacDonald		641818
Church Hall Booking Secretary	Rosemary Carey		425010
Mothers Union Branch Leader	Auriol Horton		641844
Mothers Union Branch Treasurer	John Waters		641449
Child Protection Officer:	Maureen Moody		641524
Church Flowers:	Terry Walters		641338
Parish Magazine Editor	Nerys Wilson		641935
200 Club			

Names to Note

Community Council	John Eede (Chairman)		
Clerk to Community Council	Carole Jones		641791
WI:	Claire Lewis		
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		
Shirenewton & Mynyddbach	Beverley Moore		641532
Earlswood	Sue Leat		641207

Please send your notes, & emails for the May magazine to Terry Walters "Bywood" Mynyddbach, Chepstow, NP16 6RW (01291 641338) or email to terencewalters@hotmail.com by 9.00am Monday 24th May 2010

Local Organisations

*If you know of any changes or omissions please contact the Editor Terry Walters
Telephone 01291 641338 or email terencewalters@hotmail.com*

Beavers
Becky Lewis 01291 650304

Community Carol Services
John Nicholas 01291 641368
jdrnicholas@tiscali.co.uk

Church Fete
Gary Williams 01291 641529
gary@olivecottage.co.uk

Cubs
Geoff Marlow 01291 641407
geoffmarlow@btinternet.com

Earlswood Hope
Mrs Sybil Cullimore 01291 641563

Earlswood & Newchurch West
Memorial Hall
Glynis MacDonald 01291 641818
glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel
Avril Smith 01291 650733

Gaerllwyd Baptist
Mrs E Remnant
Brooklands, Usk Road NP16 6SA

Girl Guiding
Helen Cann – Guides 01291 650835
cann71@btinternet.com
Jackie Broughton – Brownies 01291
641797

KAL (Kids Ad Lib)
Karen Millar 01291 641818
Gail Jones 01291 650861

Neighbourhood Watch
Shirenewton & Earlswood
Sue Leat 01291 641207
barrysueleat@yahoo.co.uk
Beverley Moore 01291 641532
Mmoorebev@aol.com

Recreation Association
Gordon Hughes 01291 641356
gordon.hughes3@tesco.net

St Peters Church Newchurch
Enid Heritage 01291 622708

Shirenewton Local History Society
Dorothy Brabon 01291 641376
brabonnl@hotmail.com

SAMFAL (Shirenewton and Mynyddbach
Fields Association Ltd)
Mike Sayce 01291 641625
Stu Dutton 01291 641677
saycemichael@btinternet.com
stu@dutton47.freereserve.co.uk

SMILE (Shirenewton & Mynyddbach
Initiative for Local Enterprise)
Charles Eickhoff 01291 641716
eickhoff@shirenewton.org

Shirenewton Mothers Union
Rosemary Carey 01291 425010
crcandkili@tiscali.co.uk

SODS (Shirenewton Operatic and
Dramatic Society)
Glynis MacDonald 01291 641818
glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

Shirenewton Play Group
Bev Lindsey
BeverlyLindsay@btinternet.com

Shirenewton Primary School
Jayne Edwards 01291 641774
jayneedwards@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Shirenewton Tennis Association
P Brabon 01291 641376
brabonnl@hotmail.com

Sunday Club
Glynis MacDonald 01291 641818
glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

Whist drive
Auriol Horton 01291 641844
auriol@btinternet.com

WI (Womens Institute)
Shirley Bonsey 01291 641362
shirley.bonsey@tiscali.co.uk

Vote your hopes, not your fears.

May 2010

Dear Friends,

Back in 2000, the Progressive Party of Vermont used the phrase “Vote your hopes, not your fears” as its campaign slogan. And I urge you to do the same. It’s easy to be cynical about politics: the notion of MPs with their snouts in trough is centuries old, so we tend to vote—if we vote—with no great hope that things will change. Looking at the present campaign—as I have looked at campaigns for decades—I see the headlines dominated by the same old set of fears about crime, immigration, economics, housing, medicine, security. As a society, we tend to be scared of losing our little patch of turf to vaguely-defined bogeymen, and so at most elections—though there are a handful of exceptions—we tend to vote for the party we think is the least likely to take away our stuff, and the most likely to crack down hard on those who would. Forgive me if you think I’ve got it wrong, but I think that’s no way to live a life, much less thrive.

It’s not that we shouldn’t address such issues—of course we should. But, from a Christian outlook, I just don’t see how they count as First Principles. Christ once said, “I came that you might have life, and have it in abundance.” And, y’all: I don’t see a debate on that extra penny in your tax as the building block of life abundant.

The ancient prophet Isaiah, in God’s name, calls those who would thrive to “proclaim good news to the poor, freedom to the captive, sight to the blind, release to the oppressed.” The prophet Micah likewise imagined the coming of a kingdom where human beings would “beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Each one will sit under his own fig tree, and none shall make them afraid anymore.”

As a Christian priest, what I want out of politics is a party that shares that agenda of hope, and life, and thriving for all. Where we are compassionate to those who need our care (irrespective of their national origin), generous with our wealth (knowing we have more than 95% of the world), and filled with passion for justice (in a world where tyrants and bullies still rule). What’s more, I don’t want to wait for the politicians to

start. Rather, I want my life—and my Church—and my community—to reflect and cherish those hopes and dreams today—in tangible ways. I've never thought it the priest's place to promote party politics in public, and I don't plan to change that stance now. But, however you vote, use your vote for good: vote your hopes, not your fears. Imagine a world where love, grace, and justice are the rule. Then try to make that happen.

Blessings,
Fr. Will

Christian Aid week starts the week of 9th May — or, actually, 8th May with a luncheon at Kevin Bound's and Glynis MacDonald's house. But, even before those dates, I commend to you their pre-election issues website, which aims to move hope-for-the-poor up the political agenda: <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/ActNow/election2010/index.aspx> Oxfam also offers a non-party-biased website offering suggestions and ways to make your support for social justice heard during the election period:

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Funeral Service on 22nd March 2010
Margorie Phyllis May Evans: 1927 to 2010

Funeral Service on 7th April 2010
George Horton: 1910 to 2010

WHIST DRIVES

27 players joined us at the Whist drive on 1st April and had an enjoyable evening. The next Drive is on Polling Day, 6th May at the Recreation Hall at 7.30 p.m.. Come a little earlier and cast your vote before playing. 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 June the Drive is on the 3rd, same time, place and conditions.

Auriol Horton. 01291 641844

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Affordable Housing, Mynyddbach Planning Application Appeal

This application was turned down by MCC Planning Committee in January 2010 and the applicant has appealed against the decision.

The Appeal date is set for May 20th at 10 am in Shirenewton Church Hall. The Appeal is being held locally to enable local residents to attend more easily.

Everyone who sent in a written objection should receive a notice of this Appeal from MCC but anyone can attend the meeting.

FLY TIPPING

Fly tipping on the outskirts of our villages appears to have become more prevalent of late. Areas of concern have been reported to MCC who has arranged for the removal of items. However MCC recognise that this problem is increasing and is asking for help from local residents to report anyone seen depositing rubbish.

If you see someone fly tipping and can record the registration number of the vehicle could you please report it to The One Stop Shop 01291 635700 or alternatively on MCC's website

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2010

Last year Shirenewton was successful in gaining the prize for the Best kept Village thanks to the hard work of everyone.

The Community Council will be entering Shirenewton Village, the Recreation Hall, the Church and the Pubs in this competition again this year. Judging for this competition will be at anytime during the month of June.

Again we depend on volunteers to pinpoint any problem areas. Last year we split the village into 13 smaller areas as listed below and had volunteers in each area. A working party will be set up for the last week in May.

Alternatively If you can help in any of the following areas or have any suggestions please telephone the Clerk on **641791** or Cllr Moore on **641532**

1. Tan House Court, Orchard Rise
2. Clearview
3. The Row down to the Tan House and up to Post Office
4. Olive Cottage to Caerau House including grass triangle
5. Road down to Cox's Well and Friends Burial Ground
6. Kirrin House to Newton Manor
7. Newton Manor including footpath up to back of Newton Brae
8. The Barn to Redd Landes including footpath to back of Newton Brae
9. The Recreation Field and Play area.
10. Upper House to Newton Lodge including lower entrance to Rec field
11. The square up to Caerpercella to include right of way to Rec field.
12. Lane at side of Shirenewton Hall to Newton Edge
13. The Shop area to include houses and two barns opposite.
14. Entrances to Village including signs

Shirenewton Community Luncheon Club

Please book early to secure your place for lunch on Wednesday
May 26th 2010

Tredegar Arms, Shirenewton
Telephone 641274

200 CLUB

A **big thank you** to all the 200 club members and my fellow collectors; Barbara Davies, Peter Jones, and John Nicholas, and not forgetting Auriol Horton who ensures everything is ship-shape. The money is really appreciated and put to good use in maintaining our lovely church and grounds. Did you know that two years ago our churchyard was voted the best kept in the county? We can be proud that our money is keeping the church in tip-top condition.

For an annual subscription of £10 you will participate in ten draws a year starting from April. The draws take part in the church on the third Sunday of the month. Nine of the draws each payout prizes of £40, £30, £20 and £10. At Christmas there is a **bumper** draw with prizes of £100, £50, and two prizes at £25.

If you're interested in joining or adding another family member please call me on 641935.

Thank you so much for your continued support.
Nerys Wilson

Results of the April Draw:

No. 196 Joy Jones £40

No. 23 Maureen Moody £30

No. 239 Annabell Hancock £20

No. 10 Lisa Smith £10

Our April meeting was a time of sharing memories, individual stories including excitedly collecting wartime shrapnel as a child; and adventures about growing up in Africa and India in army and missionary families.

MU Deanery Festival Tuesday 11 May at 2.15 p.m. St Tewdric's Church, Mathern

Into June An Open Evening for all interested in where our food comes from now and in the future. **See Advertisement on Page 17**

Focolare Informal fellowship. Thursday 27 May 3 p.m. at 83 Wentwood View 01291 425 010

SHIRENEWTON WI OCTOBER 09

Our April meeting on the 8th was well attended, the fine spring weather and longer days encouraging us to look forward to evening excursions rather than wanting to batten down the hatches and stoke the fire.

Our speaker was Mr Richard Jordan, who gave us a personal insight into what it was like growing up in London during the Second World War. He was born in 1938, so was too young to be evacuated to the country. His recollections were aided by some poignant slides, contemporary recordings and music.

He competed with his school mates to find the largest pieces of shrapnel after the regular air raids and saw many friends' houses and local landmarks turned to rubble. When the Americans came most of his friends were after bubble gum, which the Americans seemed to carry in endless supply, but he asked for any foreign money and so collected notes from many countries

(Richard still has his note collection).

Mr Richard Jordan described many vivid memories giving a strong and interesting story, the more so for being delivered first hand.

This year is the seventieth anniversary of the evacuation, with so many memories of evacuees. Mr Jordan completed the picture, describing life for those left behind.

The next meeting is the 13th May 7:15pm at the Rec Hall, which will be our AGM.



1ST SHIRENEWTON GUIDES



Girlguiding UK

The new term started with an evening of “feet” activities. The better weather allowed us to begin the evening outdoors and this was ideal for these challenges. First activity – holding a paintbrush with the feet and painting a picture, followed by painting pictures using big toes. Such concentration! Next challenge – foot Frisbee – need I say more? Indoors we made bath bombs, played “keepy uppy” with balloons and feet and had a go at reflexology. A fun start to a busy term.

Yours in guiding,

Kestrel	Helen Cann	650835
Kitten	Amanda Turner	650763
Koala and Panda	Karen and Bev	

1ST SHIRENEWTON BROWNIES NEW FRIENDS

The spring term gave us all the chance to make new friends. On 23rd February we celebrated our ‘Thinking Day’ at St Mary’s School, joining the other Chepstow Brownie units to work towards our Cooks Island Badge. It was a chance to meet old friends and make new ones – just like in the Brownie song – ‘make new friends but keep the old; one is silver and the other gold’.

We have also had the chance to make some new adult friends. Leona McInnes Willard came to tell us about her job as an occupational therapist and had organised lots of fun activities to help us understand about the importance of her job. We also celebrated St Patrick’s Day accompanied by Mike Peirce. The Brownies ‘jigged’ to the Irish music Mike played on his accordion and loved the stories that he and Karen Horton told us of Ireland. The music set the tone for an evening of dance with Clare Oldfield helping us to learn two new dances towards our Dancers Badge.

Many thanks to everyone who volunteers their time to help us at Brownies.

Jackie Broughton (Brown Owl)

1ST SHIRENEWTON CUB PACK



We have had a great start to the summer. During the half term break one of our cubs Ashraf Peckham (aged 9 years) climbed Mount Kinabalu in Borneo and the highest peak in South East Asia. At 4,095 m (13,435 ft), the climb involved two days of hard ascent from the equatorial jungle to a frozen and windy summit. A 2am start on the summit day meant climbing roped sections in the dark in order to arrive at the summit to see the sunrise over Borneo. Having just turned nine years of age, Ashraf is believed to be one of the youngest climbers of the mountain. A big well done and we would like to think that his time with us in cubs may of helped him in some small way to reach the summit.

As a follow on seventeen cubs and twelve parents did a similar climb!!! On Sunday 18th April we climbed to the top of Sugar Loaf Mountain (1,937 ft) . The weather was fantastic. Mike and Matt gave the cubs the chance to do a bit of rock climbing, I had the more strenuous job of looking after the kit and enjoying the views with a hot cup of tea. We had also set up a base camp just below the summit which we returned to in order to cook sausages and make hotdogs to give us the energy for our descent. A big thanks to Mike, our climb leader, Matt for supervising the cooking and all the parents who helped with the cutting and buttering of all the rolls and supporting us throughout the trip.

Future Cubs Activities for 2010:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Sunday 25th April: | St Georges Day Parade at Abergavenny |
| Saturday 15th May: | Gwent Area Cubs Link Day for Cubs at Pontypool Park |
| Fri/Sat/Sun 28th May: | PGL Activity Weekend; canoeing, archery, climbing, shooting, quad-bikes and much much more. |
| 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 |



Family Quiz Night

Saturday 1st May 2010
Hood Memorial Hall, Devauden



7 for 7.30pm start
Teams of **FOUR**

Jonty has been selected as part of a group to represent SE Wales at the 2011 Scout Jamboree in Sweden and has to raise sufficient funds to pay for himself and to assist Scouts from Third World countries to attend.

For tickets contact Helen/Jonty Cann 650835

Adults £5
Children £2.50 to include Ploughman's Supper

Bar licence applied for

THE BELLS, THE BELLS

The bells of Britain are silent in Holy Week. This gives the bell ringers a chance to do something different. This Holy Week Shirenewton Ringers have been busy training new ringers.

Pip Penney, Maddie And Kate Stanley have been teaching at the new South East Wales Ringing Centre at Usk and at Shirenewton.

The new learners, once at a certain standard move on to ring in their own towers.

Shirenewton have 2 new learners taught in this manner, 11 year old Izzy Millar and 18 year old Sam Bollingbroke. Three young learners have now moved from Usk and started to ring at Trelleck. Pip will be going up there to continue training with them.

On Good Friday we took the opportunity to have a Spring cleaning session. It is a messy job cleaning the belfry and spiral staircase. Mike also took the opportunity to do any required maintenance to the bells. After the cleaning we practiced our ringing with computer simulated sound. The sound can't be heard outside the ringing room but inside it comes through on speakers. We have 5 speakers placed around the room. A simulated practice like this enables the ringer to practice without any other ropes moving. They have to ring purely on the sound of the bells coming through the speakers. It is quite challenging!

As Mike and Pip will be away on holiday two of our young ringers, Claire Eickhoff and Kate Stanley are going to take the lead on organizing bands for this year's Striking Competition to be held at St Mellons on the 15th of May. I am sure they will do an excellent job!

Pip Penney

EARLSWOOD & NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL AGM

The Earlswood and Newchurch West Memorial Hall AGM took place on Monday 19th April. This has been another successful year for the hall. Bookings from individuals and organisations, including the Community Council, have been steady. The hall has been used by several drama groups for both rehearsals and shows. We held a very successful fund raising evening in October featuring 'Soul'd Out' and the Remembrance Service was particularly well attended with over £80 being donated to the Royal British Legion.

The first event to be run by the new committee will be on Saturday 8th May, the 65th Anniversary of VE Day, and features the Monmouth Big Band. Contact Glynis (01291-641818) or Christine (01291-641616) to book your tickets (£10 including supper)
Simon Stanley Chairman

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Here are the dates for the 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
18	April	9.30 am	Sunday Club - Church Room
25	April	9.30 am	Sunday Club - Church Room Thomas has his Doubts
2	May	Bank Holiday - No Sunday Club	
9	May	9.30 am	Christian Aid Family Service — Church
16	May	9.30 am	Sunday Club - Church Room Onwards and Upwards
23	May	9.30 am	Sunday Club - Church Room Change the Name - Change the Game
Half Term			
13	June		Matins - No Sunday Club
20	June	9.30 am	Sunday Club - Church Room Little and Large
27	June	9.30 am	Sunday Club - meet in Church Room <i>Summer by the Brook..bring coat & wellies</i>
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 MaqDonald 641 818

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

At our February meeting the topic of the talk was 'A History of the Monmouthshire Canal and what is being done to restore it', Phil Hughes who is Chairman of the Trust gave an interesting insight to life on the canal in its heyday and eventually its decline due to the introduction of the steam engine and the railways. We were invited to visit the canal, and we hope, perhaps later in the year when the weather improves to make arrangements for this visit.

Our first annual dinner took place on Friday, 26th February at the Huntsman Hotel, our after dinner speaker for the evening was Mr Ivor Cavill . The evening celebrated the start of the Society's tenth year, we hope to make this an annual event and everyone who attended agreed that a good evening was had by all.

Dates for your Diary:

Meeting on Tuesday, 25th May, a talk entitled

Solemn Sabbaths and Faraway Sundays

Giver by Peter Strong

At the Huntsman Hotel at 7.30 pm

Shirenewton Church Fete Saturday, 12 June 2010

Fun for all the family.

Grand Prize draw.

Loads of activities, stalls, good refreshments and plenty of entertainment.

Floats and Parade leaves The Tan House at 13:45.

FAIRTRADE NEWS



One new range of fairtrade products which is selling well is rubber gloves. Here are a few details from Traidcraft's 'Extra Mile Magazine' :

The future is bright for Sri Lankan rubber farmer Siripala and his family. Thanks to Firstlight which provides the latex for Traidcraft rubber gloves he has been able to save up enough money to bring electricity into his home. . . . A new fan was in the corner but it was the light bulbs that Siripala pointed to first 'Now my children can read' he said proudly. He is also proud of the home which he has built for his family and wants to make more improvements such as installing ceilings and improving the floors. Before he began working with Firstlight 4 years ago he used to make and sell rubber sheets - a common way of selling latex - but finding a buyer or a good price was unreliable. 'We had difficulties selling the sheets', he said, 'Companies were coming to collect the sheets but we did not get the money on time.' Asked about the benefits of working with Firstlight, he said, 'It is all round. In education, health and technology, beginning with the kids' books and pencils and ending with my family's health.' Siripala has 210 rubber trees which he taps every other day. He begins about 5 a.m. to get the best yield (hence 'Firstlight').

Rubber farmers must plan far ahead as a tree should be around 7 years old before it is tapped. With Fairtrade's regular and reliable support families like Siripala's can look forward to the future with optimism.

Traidcraft has a range of rubber gloves, including the general ones for washing up and more robust ones for gardening. Look at the Traidcraft catalogue or go to their website for more info.

Marion McAdam 641316 msm316@gmail.com

Where does our food come from ?

The Supermarket ? But where from ?

How far has it travelled ?

Do we know what's in it and how it was produced ?

Do we know how nutritious it is ?

Do farmers get a fair price ?

How are the employees treated ?

Can we trust the information on the packaging ?

You are invited to an open evening of
information sharing and discussion with

JOY CAREY

On Wednesday 9th June at 7.30 pm

In the Church Room Shirenewton

For further information phone 01291 425010

Joy Carey, former Head of Local Food and Market
Development with the Soil Association Bristol, now
works independently as a freelance consultant on
sustainable food systems

Mothers'UNION
Christian care for families

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

Well the village discussion forum has been a failure. The only 'people' using it appears to be bots prompting various 'male enhancement' products.

I'm sick of deleting their posts and have taken the forum down. I can, of course, bring it back by popular demand but suspect that the demand isn't there. In many ways it is a shame as forums are very efficient means of multiple people communicating with each other. It will be there in the background and we can always bring it back for special projects.

As I write this my travel plans are in complete disarray thanks to the volcano. In fact, as I write this I was supposed to be touching down in New York! It all goes to show how very wrong it can all go very quickly. It also demonstrates the power of the internet as I was able to get all the information I needed for the various websites and was able to cancel my car parking, hotel and car hire, not to mention my flight, all via the web. Not a single human conversation. All facilities were all booked via the church website. So, if your thoughts are turning to summer holidays then there are lots of travel options available via the church website.

By the way, the website I have provided under 'interesting sites' (linked from the home page) called Flightradar24 which shows live aircraft traffic in the airspace above Europe is fascinating at the moment. There are zero aircraft in the air over the UK and Ireland, 1 over France, 5 over Germany, a handful over the Nordic countries but its all happening over Italy and Turkey and southern Europe. What is surprising is the lack of activity over Spain. They've also modified their header (the text which goes across the top of the browser) to reflect the topical joke that the we had asked Iceland for 'cash' not 'ash'.

In terms of popularity, once again Amazon is way out in front in terms of the number of click through. The Train Line is just one click through ahead of Tesco's. Trailing a long way back in 4th is Holiday Extras followed by British Airways, eBookers, Hotels.com, Late Rooms, Holiday Autos and Marriott Hotels. This completes the top ten most popular sites. But don't forget there are many others.

Safe Browsing

David Cornwell Web master

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

STARGAZING IN MAY 2010

The very bright planet Venus is to the north-west at dusk, with the new crescent Moon to the left of Venus on the 16th.

The constellation of Leo the Lion lies in the west and is one of the few constellations that looks like its namesake. It commemorates the giant lion that Hercules slaughtered as the first of his labours. Leo is dominated by his head, which looks like a back-to-front question mark. The bright blue-white star Regulus is at the base of the question mark.

In the west reddish Mars is approaching Regulus from the right as the month progresses, with Mars just to the right of Regulus at the end of the Month. The first quarter Moon is below Regulus on the 21st.

The yellowish planet Saturn is in the South-West beneath and to the left of Leo. The Moon is below Saturn on 23rd May.

Mars takes roughly 3 months to move across Leo, whilst Saturn has taken over 3 years. Saturn was near Regulus in the Winter of 2006 and has been moving slowly across Leo since then. This is partly explained by the different times the two planets take to orbit the Sun, with Mars taking 2 years and Saturn 30 years.

Other prominent Spring constellations are the familiar seven stars of Ursa Major, commonly called the Plough, which is now overhead in mid-evening, and the "W" of Cassiopeia which lies to the north.

Dave Thomas

STARGAZING IN MAY 2010

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CHRISTIAN AID PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH



Saturday 8th May

Just pop in to 'The Chantry' between 12.00 and 3.00
and pick up your Ploughman's Lunch.

Picnic outside in the sunshine or shelter from the rain in the conservatory.

£5.00 Family £15.00 Cons £3.50

Plus a complimentary glass of wine
or a cup of tea or a mug of coffee

All the money will go to Christian Aid

The Studio at the Old Rectory Shirenewton

Warm, welcoming and spacious holiday accommodation in the heart of Shirenewton

It's the perfect place for your friends and family to stay, whether it's for the weekend, a week or even longer. Please see our new website for photographs and availability.

For more information please contact Sarah

Tel: 01291 641277

Email: studio@omar1.com

Website: www.shirenewtonstudio.co.uk

WEST WALES HOLIDAY COTTAGE

Mathry - between St. David's and Fishguard.
Hilltop village approx 1.5 miles from coast path.

3 Beds – sleeps 4.

Spacious and very comfortable.

Village pub.

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NERYS'S NATTY NOSH - GLAMORGAN SAUSAGES

Glamorgan sausages (selsig Morgannwg) is a traditional welsh vegetarian sausage whose main ingredients are cheese (usually Caerphilly), leeks and breadcrumbs. They were originally made with Glamorgan cheese, which seems to be no longer available, but Caerphilly cheese is a direct descendant of the old traditional Glamorgan cheese recipe and lends the same general texture and flavour.

The sausage was developed in Wales in the 19th century and revived during world war two because of the general shortage of meat due to rationing. They have also been referred to as a "poor man's " sausage because of the lack of meat therein.

Ingredients: Serves 4 - makes 12 sausages.

- 150g grated Caerphilly cheese
- 125g fresh breadcrumbs
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped leeks or spring onion
- 3 egg yolks
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley
- ½ teaspoon thyme (optional)
- 1 teaspoon prepared English mustard

Seasoning to taste

Coating:

- 1 egg white
 - 1 cup breadcrumbs
- Oil for frying

Method

- 1 Mix the cheese, breadcrumbs and leek (spring onion) in the food processor.
- 2 Whisk the yolks, herbs, mustard and seasoning together.
- 3 Add to the breadcrumbs and cheese mixture and whiz again in the food processor.
- 4 The mixture should be quite moist and come together easily in your hand but if not add another egg yolk or a little milk.
- 5 Divide into 10 - 12 pieces and roll each into a sausage about 5 cm long.
- 6 You can make them ahead to this point and store in the fridge for up to a day.
- 7 Dip in egg white, roll in the extra breadcrumbs and fry until golden brown in the hot oil.
- 8 Serve with potato chips and salad.

Tips

- 1 If you can't find Caerphilly cheese, use Lancashire cheese or strong cheddar.
- 2 Glamorgan sausages freezes well.



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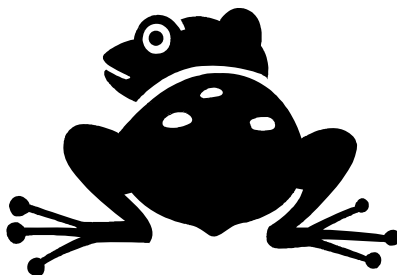
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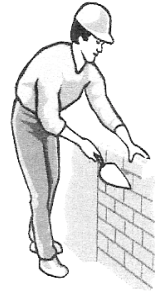
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SUNRISE ON PEN Y FAN SUNDAY 11 JULY

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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 is 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, or 5,985m – at around the same time.

Led by Mike Peckham, an experienced and qualified Mountain Leader, the 1 ½ to 2 hours walk will start at 3.00 am and climb 1500 feet to the 2,907 ft (886m) summit of Pen y Fan. Completed by starlight and head torches, we'll welcome the 5.09 am sunrise with tea and biscuits at the summit and enjoy the spectacular views over Wales. We will descend by the same route.

Mike Peirce is kindly hosting a breakfast of bacon butties and Bucks Fizz at Cae Pw Cella on our return to Shirenewton. 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

Geoff Marlow 641407. E mail geoffmarlow@btinternet.com

Only those registered in advance will be able to join the walk.

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GARDENING CORNER

It's early morning and the sun is just starting to peep over the horizon. The valley below is a carpet of white, a warning to gardeners that it is much too early to be planting any tender plants out yet. It's too late for the dawn chorus now, they stopped singing half an hour ago. Despite the fact that we have passed cuckoo day (14th April), there is no sign of him having arrived yet. I'm confident that today will be the day. It's gardening day today, which means if he cucks just once I'll be here to tell the tale. It is flat calm outside and quiet as a church mouse, no planes high up (thanks to the Icelandic dust!) and no life down below yet. I'm thinking that today would be a good day to go fishing, but so many jobs to be done. Hopefully this nice weather won't prove to be our summer, so plenty more calm days to go (fingers and toes now crossed!). Talking of fishing I was at Wentwood the other evening and there were plenty of swallows swooping down low over the water. At home the house martin nests remain vacant, waiting for some tired tenants. The nests have been taken down over winter and sterilized, so no nasty bugs or pests. Some years ago we had up to 13 bird made nests, but these always were in the wrong place, usually right over the top of a window or door! So in the end we bought some nests and put them where WE wanted them. Much better. Since then however the numbers of birds returning has fallen quite dramatically. Last year we had seven of our eight nests taken, but most did manage to raise a couple of broods, despite the weather, so hopefully there will be a few more this year. Thoughts are that with global warming, they are having to fly over too much desert now to reach their winter grounds. Hopefully they will be back soon, as we love to see them swooping low over the garden and then up into their nests. Gardening day then! The trees in the tunnel have now finished flowering and the first fruits are starting to swell. The bumble bees were around at the time but few and far between thanks to the cold weather we had at the time. It looks as though we are going to get a reasonable crop of

Continued on Page 34

apricots, but there are no signs of any nectarines. This is a shame as the trees were absolutely loaded last year. I've bought some new strawberry plants for this year and have planted these up in some old hanging baskets that we had around from when we used to make loads of them to sell. These are now hanging up down one side of the tunnel and the first ones to be planted are currently well in flower. I'm hoping that we will be able to manage them better by leaving them in the baskets and in the tunnel. Certainly the birds won't be able to get at the fruits, nor will the pests like vine weevil. The bonus is that we should get a reasonably early crop as well, although as this is their first year, this won't be large. Outside it is evident that our grape vine has succumbed to the cold of the winter. Another has been planted, but a lesson learnt that it will need protecting if we have another winter like last. Surprisingly though the kiwi fruit seems to have come through completely unscathed, so now that it is established we are expecting as least some fruits this year. I did buy another one in late autumn, but I can't find where it is at the moment! We have several blueberries that are to be planted out, but I still haven't got around to digging the piece of ground for them yet. If it gets too late, they are in big enough pots that they will be happy enough if I don't make it! Last year they spent the summer in the tunnel and were very happy, as were we as the birds couldn't get to the ripening fruit!

In the small greenhouse, production is now in full flow. At the moment we are re-potting the tomatoes into larger pots, and they will continue to stay in the small house as this is the only one that is heated to any degree. I went in to water the other day and thought how warm it was. Not long after I went back again and thought again how warm it was. Suddenly it dawned on me. Looking at the thermostat on the hot bench I had knocked it on by mistake and the temperature had been set at 40 degrees (centigrade). No wonder the plants had physically grown during the day! The tomatoes need sticking and I found I didn't have any. Another trip to B&Q I thought, but it came to me that there were still plenty of hazel sticks lying around from the hedge cutting work.

Continued from Page 33

Five minutes later and a pair of secateurs in hand, we had enough small sticks for all our tomato and cucumber needs! We have a good number of pepper plants (from sweet to red hot) and aubergines, which are also being re-potted up. It is easier to keep them warm in the small greenhouse rather than have to try and cover up in the tunnel if they were planted out. It's important to keep them growing as they need a long season.

The first broad beans and peas have been transferred out into the garden and these are starting to look OK. We've had a couple of cold nights since they were planted and this has slowed them down a bit. Dare I say what we need now is a little rain! Just a little, we don't want to get carried away! The garden is starting to dry up quite a bit now. I had intended to spend much of today working on the flower beds, but the trouble with this is that when it is drying up forking around the flowers doesn't do them any good and they soon collapse in the sun. Instead I'll concentrate on the vegetable area, clearing each raised bed as we go. Some will be planted up immediately. We have some early potatoes, both salad and ordinary so these will fill two of the beds. The sweet corn is just germinating in the greenhouse, but it will be some time before these get planted up. We may well need to re-pot these on to larger pots, depending on the weather, but they won't be in the open until all chance of frost has gone. I'm tempted to plant the carrot seed this weekend, but the piece of ground that I want them to go into is actually full of wallflowers at the present, and I'm reluctant to pull these out when they haven't really started flowering yet! They are a good source of nectar for the bees as well. The carrots will catch up I'm sure as there is still plenty of time. Those that were sown in the tunnel are showing well now and are already up to about three inches high. Talking of the tunnel the beds are ready for the tomatoes etc. To make sure we maximise cropping space, the beds have been inter-planted with calabrese and salad crops, which hopefully will be getting picked before the tomatoes are too large. It's a bit of an experiment but one worth trying! Still must get on I'm meant to be in the garden all day! Happy gardening until next month.

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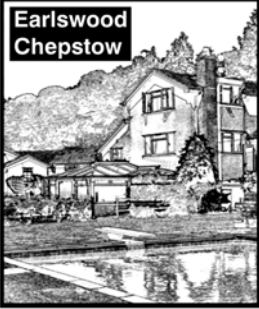
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SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

For further details see inside the magazine.

- 1st May Family Quiz Night Memorial Hall Devauden
- 2nd May Annual Vestry Meeting St. Peters Newchurch
- 6th May POLLING DAY
- 6th May Whist Drive Recreation Hall
- 8th May Christian Aid Ploughman's Lunch at The Chantry
- 8th May Monmouth Big Band at Earlswood Hall
- 10th May Shirenewton Community Council Annual Meeting
- 11th May Mothers Union Deanery Festival St Tewdric's Church Mathern
- 13th May Shirenewton WI Meeting at the Recreation Hall
- 15th May Coffee Morning for the Velindre Hospital at The Cayo
- 15th May Bell Ringers Striking Competition St Mellons
- 15th May Gwent Area Cubs Link Day at Pontypool Park
- 16th May Shirenewton & Mynyddbach Fields Ass. AGM Church Hall
- 25th May Shirenewton Historical Society talk at the Huntsman Hotel
- 26th May Community Lunch Club at the Tredegar Arms
- 27th May Mothers Union Informal Fellowship meeting at Wentwood View
- 28—30 May Cubs PGL Activity Weekend
- 9th June Mothers Union Open Evening at the Church Room
- 4th July Cubs hike around Shirenewton Old Golf Course
- 11th July Sunrise on Pen Y Fan walk
- 27th Aug Cub Camp Botany Bay
- 16th Oct Cubs District Rugby Tournament
- 20th Nov Cubs District Swimming Gala

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH - READERS AND SIDES-PERSONS ROTA

DATE	SERVICE	READER	SIDES-PERSON
2nd May	Fifth Sunday of Easter Holy Eucharist at 9.30 am	Lisa Morter Margaret Locke	Lisa Morter Margaret Locke
9th May	Sixth Sunday of Easter Family Service at 9.30 am		
16th May	Seventh Sunday of Easter Holy Eucharist at 9.30 am	John Nicholas Cynthia Smith	John Nicholas Cynthia Smith
23rd May	Pentecost Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9.30 am	Kevin Bounds Mike Peirce	Kevin Bounds Mike Peirce
30th May	Group service at St. Peters, Newchurch at 10.00 am		
6th June	First Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist at 9.30 am	Richard Grosvenor Bob Grattan	Richard Grosvenor Bob Grattan
13th June	Second Sunday after Trinity Mattins Service at 9.30 am	James Leney Kevin Bounds	James Leney Kevin Bounds
20th June	Third Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist at 9.30 am	Andrew Baker Sally Saysell	Andrew Baker Sally Saysell
27th June	Fourth Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist at 9.30 am	Jean Jones Peter Jones	Jean Jones Peter Jones