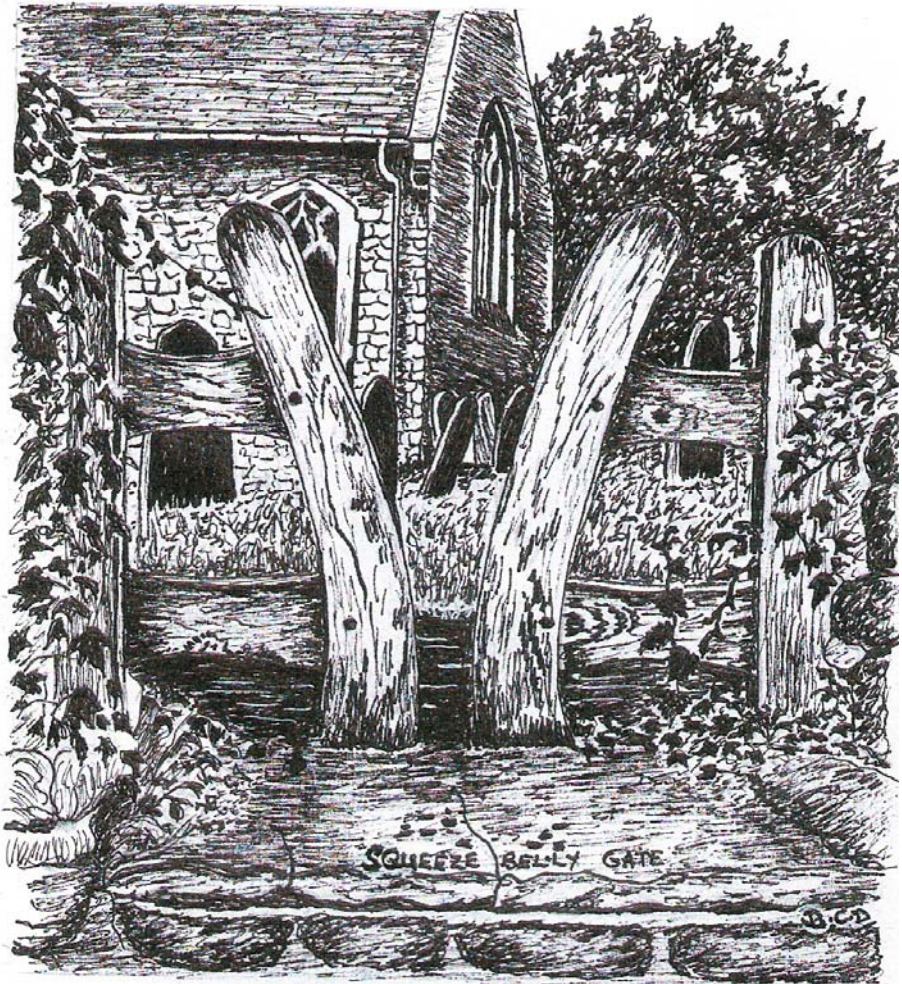


# Shirenewton & Newchurch Parish Magazine October 2010



*Sketch by Barbara Davies*

Price: 50p

Dear Friends,

I've a confession to make, much to my shame. I didn't do my bit last month to help people who desperately needed it.

Each month, I put together a page for print in the Caerwent and Shirenewton community magazines. It has become my custom to include at least one web address to which the reader can go and donate money or time or resources and help make a real difference to real people who need our support. I think this is vitally important—and all the more so right now—because even in a time when we all look at our bank balance and wonder how we're going to manage several years' worth of coming austerity—well, I do, at least; your mileage may vary—we are nonetheless remarkably well off in modern western society. It will, of course, be easy for people at this moment in history to turn inwards and stop giving because we feel the pinch of recession and budget cuts. I fully understand the impulse. But, however easy it would be, it would still be wrong.

Here's why: let me urge you to look at the following website:

[www.globalrichlist.com](http://www.globalrichlist.com) . It allows you to input your annual income, after which it will tell you where you rank amongst the world's wealth. Turns out: anyone making £20,000 per annum is in the top 5% of global wealth. If you make £10,000, you're in the top 12%; if you make £5000, you're in the top 14%. And if you make just £1000 per annum, you are still—amazingly—in the top 20%; *80% of the world's population makes less than you, if you earn only £1000 per annum.*

Now ... that's context. What I'm ashamed of is this: last month, as the deadline hit, I couldn't think of a single news issue to promote. So I sent my article without the customary charitable link. 24 hours later—*i.e.*, 24 hours too late—I suddenly realised that there had been flooding in Pakistan for several weeks—people have lost homes and livelihoods—and I had simply turned it off in my head. *Why could I not remember?* "Charity fatigue", as we euphemistically call our western cynicism? Lack of identification with a place and people that we in the west neither know nor understand very well? Just simply too tired to think straight that day? I do not know. Maybe a little of all three. They're not mutually exclusive for any of us.

But what I *do* know is that, this day, I am called to repent of my culpable negligence and respond to God's call to bring justice and mercy where I have the power to do so. So that's what I'm doing. Right now. Link's just below; please use it.

Blessings, Fr. Will

**See how much you're worth:** [www.globalrichlist.com](http://www.globalrichlist.com)

**Then give:** [www.unicef.org.uk/give/index.asp?page=81](http://www.unicef.org.uk/give/index.asp?page=81)

## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

Funeral Service and Celebration of the life of Clive Ward 1946 to 2010  
at St. Thomas á Becket Church Shirenewton on the 2nd September 2010

Celebration of the life of Mike Sayce 1948 to 2010  
at the Forest of Dean Crematorium 17th September 2010

## **SINCERE THANKS FROM THE WARD FAMILY**

Diane, Sarah and Lizzie wish to thanks everyone for the love and kindness shown to us at this very difficult time in our lives. We have been overwhelmed by the letters, cards and offers of help we have received.  
A very special thanks to all the wonderful people and helpers on the day. It made the unbearable bearable. Clive would have loved it.

### **St. Peter's Church Newchurch**

Harvest Thanksgiving 7:00pm Thursday 7th October

### **Earlswood Hope Methodist Church**

Harvest Service Sunday 3rd October at 3:00pm

Evening Service Monday 4th October at 7:30 pm followed by the Sale of Produce

### **Earlswood and Newchurch West Memorial Hall**

Rememberence Service Sunday 14th November at 10:30 am

### **SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY LUNCHEON CLUB**

Please book early to secure your place for lunch on Wednesday

October 27th

November 24th

Tredegar Arms, Shirenewton Telephone 641274

## SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Best Kept Village Competition 2010

Shirenewton missed winning the Best Kept Village award by only ONE point and received a Highly Commended Certificate.

Shirenewton won the award for Best Kept Recreation Hall - this includes the field, play park and playgroup enclosure.

Shirenewton also won the award for Best Kept War Memorial. This is a new category.

The three awards will be displayed in the Recreation Hall.

Redwick won the awards for Best Kept Village and Best Kept Pub

The event was sponsored by Chepstow Garden Centre and the prizes were in the form of vouchers which will be used towards next year's floral arrangements.

Congratulations to everyone who 'did their bit' We have not yet received copies of the Judges comments but these will be published in November's magazine.

### DOG POO PATROL

Most people will have read the requests from the Community Council and the Recreation Association in this Parish Magazine for dog owners to act responsibly and pick up their dog's poo.

This would appear to be working well - so thank you to all who have complied with this request.

However it appears that for some owners there is a need for a second stage reminder - **Once you have picked up the poo and put it in a bag, could you please take the bag home or find a waste bin and not leave it on the ground (or hanging in trees)**

The 'dog poo patrol' has reported 8 discarded bags lying on the ground beside the raised wooden walkway by the boggy ground. Approach the walkway opposite Kirrin House and there are 7 on the left side and 1 on the other side, a little way in on the right, close to the hedge. Obviously if allowed to go unchecked this situation will get totally out of hand .

Although the dog owner has complied with part of their responsibility i.e. cleared up after the dog, they have omitted to grasp their full responsibility of placing the bag in the bin at home or any other suitable bin whose contents are disposed of regularly.

**NOTICE OF VACANCY  
IN OFFICE OF COUNCILLOR  
SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
SHIRENEWTON WARD**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**

that pursuant to Section 87(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, a casual vacancy has arisen in the Office of Councillor for the Community Council

If by 7 October 2010 (14 days \* after the date of this notice), a request for an election to fill the said vacancy is made in writing to the Returning Officer at County Hall, Cwmbran, NP44 2XH by TEN electors for the said Community Council Ward, an election will be held to fill the said vacancy, otherwise the vacancy will be filled by co-option.

If an election is called, it will take place not later than 9 December 2010.

SKF GREENSLADE Returning Officer Dated : 17 September 2010

\* In computing any period of time for this purpose, a Saturday, Sunday, day of the Christmas break, of the Easter break or of a bank holiday or day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning must be disregarded.  
"The Christmas break" means the period beginning with the last week day before Christmas Eve and ending with the first week day after Christmas Day which is not a bank holiday, "the Easter break" means the period beginning with the Thursday before and ending with the Tuesday after Easter Day, and "a bank holiday break" means any bank holiday not included in the Christmas break or Easter break and the period beginning with the last week day before that bank holiday and ending with the next week day which is not a bank holiday.

## **THE RED RUBBER BANDS.**

We've all seen them littered around the streets, dropped by the busy posties. Although it may just seem like a tiny, little thing that couldn't do any harm, animals *have* been known to choke on them, thinking that they are food. Imagine if the matter was just left, the roads would be strewn with them and our wildlife in danger.

I am planning to send them back to the post office with a letter suggesting that they reuse the rubber bands that are still intact. For the past three months I've been picking up all the ones I have seen. Why don't you do the same too. Save both our wildlife and our village. A little from us could make a big difference to the community. Start picking them up today.

Erin McInnes Willard Age 10

## EARLSWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

I wish to express my thanks to the volunteer 'Patch Watchers' who distribute the bi monthly police newsletters, membership cards for reduced house insurance and collect the annual £1 contributions. The money is put towards the cost of NHW advertising such as new and replacement NHW signs.

Our Watch members have provided the police with much valuable information which on occasion has led to results. I am aware that there are still several householders who are not on our lists and, as a consequence, do not receive information which may refer to incidents in the Earlswood area or to something/ someone you may have thought of as suspicious. If you would like to join our Watch and receive updates please contact me with your details.

A volunteer 'Patch Worker' is required in the West End area and also between Cock-a-Roosting and Earlswood Hall. If you are able to offer your help please let me know as it would be much appreciated.

Earlswood NHW combines with Shirenewton and Mynyddbach for regular meetings with our Community Police. The dates of these are advertised in the Church magazine and held at the Huntsman Hotel at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Keep watching

Sue Leat

## FAIRTRADE NEWS

Does the name UBUNTU mean anything to you? If it doesn't yet, I hope it will do soon! This is the brand name of Fairtrade Cola. This product is already on sale in some outlets, university campuses for example, and I understand (from my daughter) that it's quite good. As many sober-minded old fogeys might know, one of the principal ingredients in cola is sugar, in fact as far as one (of the aforementioned old fogeys) can tell, this is just about the only significant ingredient, apart from water. Clearly then, a product ripe for the fairtrade treatment! Give it a try - and on Sat Oct 2nd at our esteemed local Waitrose (in Caldicot) you can sample it for nothing! Tempus fugit, and all that - do not leave Christmas shopping to a nightmarish scurry round Cribbs on the eve of the festivities - take a look at what fairtrade has to offer- the internet has masses of different sites or contact me for a Traidcraft catalogue.



Marion McAdam 641 316 [msm316@gmail.com](mailto:msm316@gmail.com)

# SODS



## 'Trouble in Pantoland'

Yes it's that time of year again. And the SODS need some help. Cinderella is desperate to have some new clothes, the Frog Prince hasn't got a crown, the Wicked Queen is demanding to have her palace renovated and painted and as for that dreadful old Wizard - well he needs to be taught a few manners. So do you think you could help in any way? Would you be able to stitch some clothes, make some props, or paint some scenery? Or even join our courtiers and tread the boards as our chorus does need a few more voices.

Please give Glynis a ring on 01291 641 818 or email [glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com](mailto:glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com) and help to make life in Pantoland happy and peaceful once more.

Glyn Edmunds (MCC)

will be at

Shirenewton Recreation Hall

On Monday October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm

to speak and answer questions on the proposed

**FORTNIGHTLY REFUSE COLLECTION**

Shirenewton Community Council

## SHIRENEWTON WI SEPTEMBER 2010

Overcome by a host of circumstances WI took a long summer break. September 9<sup>th</sup> saw us back together catching up with each other, Federation news and our branch. Our WI adviser came to lend a hand and stir us up a bit, she has promised to return in November accompanied by one or more members of the federation. After business was concluded members were entertained with a talk entitled 'On the Buses' from our speaker Rosemary Scadden. Rosemary wanted to encourage us all to make use of our bus system to enjoy as much of Wales and the Borders as we can, especially those able to have a free pass. Routes take a bit of planning to get the connections but if time is not a problem then it is possible to get to all parts of the country using 'local' buses. Using local buses takes you on journeys along lanes and through parts one would probably never otherwise encounter. Rosemary recounted some of the interesting journeys she has made with her husband and fascinating places they have visited. They have experienced a long distance journey taking three days, with sightseeing, to travel from Llandudno to Cardiff via the Ilyn Peninsular, Dolgellau, Barmouth, Aberaeron, New Quay, Cardigan and Carmarthen.

We were told to plan well, check the Traveline website for up to date info on routes and if we go over the border, make sure we have proof of the outward journey in order to get the concession on our return or we will be charged full fare. Rosemary certainly inspired us with thoughts of glorious days out, but realised we might need someone with a car to get us home from Chepstow.

Our next meeting is on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 7:15pm at the Rec Hall. Our speaker will be DR Nick Fenwick, on Bovine TB. We hope that he will provide very good and up to date information on the subject which affects us all. Other people wishing to hear him will be welcome, please ring Shirley Bonsey 641362 or Claire Lewis 641675 if you are not a member and wish to come.

## Barn Dance

Earlswood Hall Saturday 20th November at 7:00pm  
Tickets £5 adult, £3 child to include a Ploughman's Supper  
Licensed bar, mocktails and raffle.  
Raising money for 3 local Scouts to attend  
the Jamboree in Sweden next year.



# Baby Sitting Services !

Fancy a night out?... but no-one to look after your children??.....look no further your Fairy Godmother is here! I am a confident, responsible kind 17 year old (18 in Dec). I have experience with looking after young children through coaching sport and through undertaking work experience at the local primary school. References are available .....and there is no need panic if you live out in the sticks I can drive.

Gemma Farley 01291 641 782



## Shirenewton Church Room

Come and listen to:

**Sarah Jones**

'Folk Singer and Song Writer'

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October

7.30

Tickets £7.00

Light refreshments included

Tickets from Glynis on 641 818

[glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com](mailto:glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com)

A great evening's entertainment



## **SAMFAL**

It is with great sadness that I report the loss of two of the association's leading lights; namely Mike Sayce and Clive Ward. It was Mike who had the idea and the dream to start the project, and through his knowledge of conservation and numerous contacts and dogged determination to see it through; whether it be raising funds from corporations, government bodies or individuals, or incorporating the interest of local schools and wildlife groups, we have arrived where we are today. I had the privilege of knowing Mike for many years and we shared a lot of good and sometimes bad times together and I know he will be missed by all of us for many different reasons.

Clive joined us relatively recently and immediately proved to be a first rate facilitator and had a clear vision of what we aspired to achieve and how to go about it, and on our several walks together in the fields discussing and determining boundary positions I was greatly impressed by his forthright manner and gentle humour.

Two men it will be very difficult, if not impossible to replace.

Mike Gambold

## **SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

October sees once again our society's A.G.M. 26th October at the Huntsman starting a little earlier than our normal meeting at 7.00 pm and afterwards our speaker will be Averil Kear who will give a talk on 'Special Houses of the Forest of Dean'.

Dates for your diary:

Resource Meeting: Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> October at the Recreational Hall, Shirenewton.

Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> November at the Huntsman, Hotel

The talk will be entitled 'Farming in the Past' Given by John Rogers

# Peace, Privacy, and Stunning Views!

Delightful cosy cabin for two, nestling on a hillside between the Wye and Usk Valleys, 1 mile from picturesque Shirenewton village

- \* **fabulous, uninterrupted views of the countryside**
- \* **newly refurbished, fitted kitchen / luxury shower room**
- \* **private drive, patio and garden area**
- \* **3 night breaks or full weeks available**

**Perfect for a relaxing break or ideal for walkers, bird-watchers, site seeing...or family visiting**

## **Bryn Cosyn**

**Pant-y-Cosyn House, Usk Rd, Shirenewton, Chepstow,  
Monmouthshire, NP16 6RZ      Tel: 01291 641826  
email [lynne@bryncosyn.co.uk](mailto:lynne@bryncosyn.co.uk)    Website [www.bryncosyn.co.uk](http://www.bryncosyn.co.uk)**

## **Spanish Tutor and Translation Services (English, Spanish, Italian & French)**



Are you thinking of taking a few lessons for your holidays? Do you need to improve your skills as a Spanish speaker?

I'm a native-Spanish speaker, with an excellent pronunciation and grammar. If you are interested in learning a new language for business or leisure purposes, just call or drop me an e-mail.

Translation services and rates vary depending on the extension and nature of the text. I guarantee professional reliable service, flexible prices and confidentiality.

I am available in the day time and early evenings during the week. The place will be agreed on together to suit both parties. Please feel free to contact me for further details.

### **Paty Davies**

Tel: 01291 641553

Mobile: 07807103901

email: [lucy\\_24@hotmail.com](mailto:lucy_24@hotmail.com)

## 1<sup>ST</sup> SHIRENEWTON GUIDES.



Guides has got off to a busy start this term with lots of activities planned. We welcomed five new Guides and look forward to getting to know them in the next few weeks. As we come towards the end of our Centenary year celebrations we are looking forward to the closing ceremony – called Vision – where members of Girlguiding will renew their promise at 8.10pm on the 20<sup>th</sup> October. Why such an odd time? Well it is 20.10 (pm), 20.10 2010.

We are going to find out “How Girl Guides won the war” courtesy of the Chepstow Book Shop, have an afternoon out travelling by train and possibly go on winter camp. We are inundated with permission slips!

Kestrel, Kitten and Koala.

## BROWNIES

Brownies are back! We started our new session on 21 September with several new Brownies. The girls have made several changes. We now have two sixes the Rabbits and the Hedgehogs and we have a new leader, Claire Oldfield to help Jackie. Sue Jones has also offered to help but we urgently need at least one more adult leader so that we can go back to weekly meetings.

The girls planted bulbs and played games and with so many new Brownies there was lots to learn. We're all looking forward to a special candlelight celebration in Tintern Abbey to mark the end of our Centenary Year in October. Our next meeting is on 5th October where we will be eating jelly! It's a tough job but someone has to do it.

We are looking for new members, so if you are a girl aged 7 - 10 please get in touch with us. If you think you could help us as a leader we'd love to talk to you too - no previous experience is necessary.

Contact Jackie Broughton 01291 641 797 or Claire Oldfield 01291 641 537

# 1<sup>ST</sup> SHIRENEWTON CUB PACK



## An exciting start to a new term:

Although we have had say to farewell to eleven of our older cubs who have now moved on to scouts we are delighted to have the following twelve new girls and boys who have joined us. Anna Gough, Lucy Jones, Ellie Horton, Lowri Watkins, Bethan Evans, Toby Parry-James, Tom Wacey, Patrick Hingston, Charlie Jack, Thomas Wilson, Ben Rees, Ieuan Williams.

Our first two meetings have included practicing our knots and learning a few new ones, making flying saucers and erecting hike tents plus lots of games. Seven of our newer cubs plus their sixers, Ashraf Peckham and Rhys Kennedy, have also experienced an overnight camp sleeping in the forest. The new cubs had to help set up the camp, build shelters, collect wood and light a fire and during the camp cook the traditional sausage and beans for breakfast.

During the next five weeks we will be running a further three camps to give all the other cubs a similar experience.

I am also delighted to report that Elaine Wilson, one of our cubs mum, has volunteered to manage the cubs own web site <http://shirenewtonscouts.jimdo.com/> so during the next few weeks you will see lots of new photos and reports on our activities and notices to parents. This terms diary of activities is already available on the web so please visit it at least once a week in the event of any changes or additions that we may have made. Other items such as copies of Camp Kit Lists and Parent consent forms plus updates on our PGL weekend will soon be available on the site.

All the very best

Geoff

*For any further information please contact Geoff at [geoffmarlow@btinternet.com](mailto:geoffmarlow@btinternet.com) or Tel 01291 641407*

## **SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE**

[www.shirenewtonchurch.com](http://www.shirenewtonchurch.com)

The church website continues to attract lots of visitors with a total of 416 visits in August delivering 1,728 page views which is 4.15 pages per visit and an average time of 3mins 30 secs on the site per visit. 53% of visitors are 'new'. Our top traffic source is, not surprisingly, Google searches. The top search is 'Shirenewton Church' which delivered 62 visits, followed by 'Shirenewton' (12 searches), 'church fundraising' (11 visits), 'Shirenewton shopping' (5 visits) and 'Shirenewton Community Council' (4 visits). These stats are for the church website itself.

We keep separate stats for the shopping portal. It delivered 3,796 page views in August. There are currently 268 shops in 34 categories. The newest listings are: myTravelCash, Club Med, Play.com, Spanair, Garden Bargains, Celtic Manor Resort, lowcosttravelextras.com, lowcostholidays.com, boxfresh & Flybe.

Don't forget that the shopping portal also has many 'high street' names such as: Amazon, Argos, Asda, BHS, comet, Dell, Halfords, House of Fraser, JD Sports, John Lewis, La Senza, Laura Ashley, Marks & Spencer, Sainsburys, Staples, Tesco, Toys R us, & Waterstones. All shops may be browsed by category and/or name. The Church website isn't only about shopping. It contains useful information for the community including the minutes of the community council meetings, the parish magazine and links to interesting sites including links to traffic cameras and other traffic sites.

So, as we go into the winter. Please keep visiting the site and shopping through it. We are headed for a record year!

Many thanks

David Cornwell webmaster

### **200 CLUB JUNE DRAW FOR SEPTEMBER**

No. 61 James Leney £40

No. 209 Charlotte Broughton £30

No. 112 David McAdam £15

No. 156 John Waters £10

## STARGAZING IN OCTOBER '10

The planet Jupiter is a brilliant object in the evening sky to the South-East this month. On the 19<sup>th</sup> the Moon is just to the right of Jupiter. On the 5<sup>th</sup> the crescent Moon is just below the bright star Regulus to the East in the early morning sky. The constellation of Cygnus the Swan lies pretty much directly above. It is in the shape of a cross – in fact it is sometimes called the Northern Cross. According to legend, Jupiter the king of the Gods changed himself into a swan when he wanted to visit Leda, the wife of the King of Sparta. In memory of the episode, he placed a swan in the sky. [Deneb](#), the brightest star in the constellation, is at the tail of the swan, whilst [Albireo](#) forms the "head" of the Swan. Albireo is worth looking at through a small telescope. It consists of 2 separate stars, one gold in colour, the other blue.

The seven stars of the Plough are to the North and the four stars forming the Great Square of Pegasus lie to the South.

Edward Lowe, a Victorian gentleman scientist lived at Shirenewton Hall from 1880 until his death in 1900. His memorial tablet in Shirenewton Church shows he was a fellow of a number of scientific societies including the Royal Astronomical Society. Although particularly well known for his interest in botany, he published papers on a wide variety of subjects, including meteors, sunspots, and the observations he made during the total eclipse of the Sun in 1860 at Santander.

Dave Thomas

## WHIST DRIVES

The Whist Drives remain well attended and enjoyable but it would be lovely to see more local people there. The next Drive is on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> October 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 November we shall be playing on the 4<sup>th</sup> and in December on the 2<sup>nd</sup> same time, place and conditions  
Auriol Horton. 01291 641844



MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL  
**2010 / 2011 SEASON**

CHORAL SOCIETIES ARE CLOSING EVERY YEAR.....  
WHY?

A lack of singers, a lack of support, apathy.....  
DOES IT MATTER?

WE believe it does! If you do too, why not come & join us in our determination to keep choral music in Chepstow....so.....

Come along to our Choral Workshop at the Drill Hall, Chepstow, SUNDAY OCTOBER 3rd, 2.00pm, and join with us as we sing and work on a choral favourite (Vivaldi's "Gloria") as well as some lighter items –admission free, music provided –and meet choir members and our music team and committee. You may find you like it!

***Chepstow Choral Society has an exciting season planned –***

***SATURDAY DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Concert  
with Wyedean School Choir  
St Mary's Church, Chepstow, 7.30pm***

***SATURDAY MARCH 26<sup>th</sup> 2011 – Passiontide Concert  
Anton Dvorak's "Stabat Mater"  
With full professional orchestra & soloists  
St Mary's Church, Chepstow***

***WEDNESDAY JUNE 29<sup>th</sup> 2011 – Summer Celebration Concert  
Andrew Carter's "Benedicite", Flanders & Horovitz "Captain Noah" –  
and much more....  
Chepstow Drill Hall***

CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY is affiliated to Ty Cerdd – Music Centre Wales, and is also a registered charity (no. 1127098).

Further information, please tel.( 01291) 623310, 620414, 424725. Chepstow Choral Society welcomes new members. If you enjoy singing, please come along and join us. We rehearse at Chepstow Leisure Centre on Wednesday evenings (term time), 7.30pm



## SHIRENEWTON CHURCH – OLD AND NEW

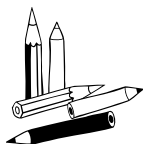


### The Victorian Tiles

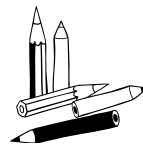


Shirenewton Church wishes to thank the the MCC for their generous grant of £600 administered through the Welsh Church Act. This has enabled us to restore the old red, white and black Victorian floor tiles. The green carpet which had been there for some 20 years had become worn and rucked and so it was removed. We then needed to clean off the glue residue, reset the loose tiles, replace cracked or missing tiles and apply a protective varnish layer.

Why not pop along and have a look. The church is open most days.



### The Play Corner



And Shirenewton Church is proud to present a new corner for children at the back of the church. It's got a play mat, squidgee bean bags, soft toys, boxes of cars, dinosaurs and books. They are all there to used, loved and played with during any of the services. Cos, lets face it, sometimes – just sometimes - the services can be a little beyond the reach of small children. Of course, young children can always come along to Sunday Club, but we recognise that sometimes they don't want to leave their mums or their dads and so this little play corner has been set up just for them. The children – not the parents. Oh, I don't know though...



And I apologise for being unable to take the Shirenewton Community Council notes last month. It clashed with the Earlswood Hall Committee Meeting which, as it happens, was cancelled at the last moment because some of the committee members were down at the Community Council Meeting. Naturally, I was devastated to have missed both meetings and was obliged to have a couple of large glasses of wine instead.

Glynis.

# Daisy Pulls It Off

**By  
Denise Deegan**

**Thurs 21 October  
Fri 22 October  
Sat 23 October  
Earlswood Hall  
7.30pm**



**Box Office 01291 641547**

*“ANOTHER TOTALLY SPIFFING PRODUCTION FROM  
KIDS AD LIB”*

## **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](mailto:studio@omar1.com)

Website: [www.shirenewtonstudio.co.uk](http://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.

***Short breaks available out of high season.***

[www.cornerhousemathry.co.uk](http://www.cornerhousemathry.co.uk)

Tel: 641722

Hugh and Pauline James.

# Wye Valley HOME Improvements



BATHROOM & KITCHEN  
FITTING &  
INSTALLATION

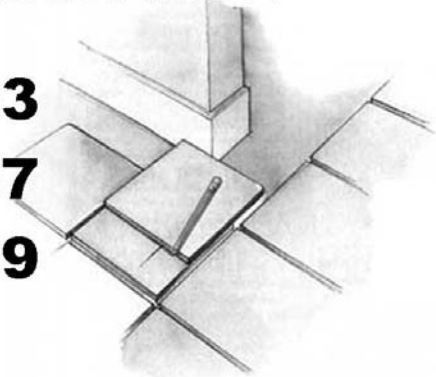


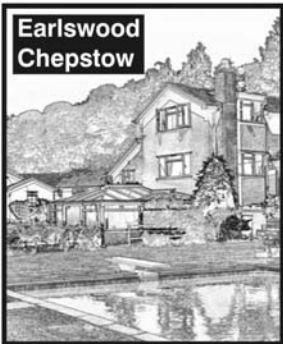
TILING & RE-DECORATION

**07940 991283**

**07789 286357**

**01291 628569**





# **P**ARSONS GROVE Holiday Cottages Bed and Breakfast

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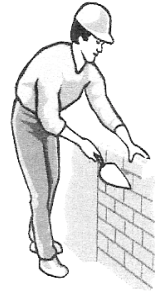
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## ***Nerys's Natty Nosh***

The festive meringue may have been invented by Herbert Sachse, chef of the hotel Esplanade in Perth, Western Australia, to celebrate the visit of the great Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova (1881-1931) who toured Australia and New Zealand twice in the 1920. The white meringue is said to be a tribute to her swan costume, worn during the famous dance of the Dying Swan.

### ***Pavlova - Serves 6***

#### **Ingredients .**

*4 egg whites*

*¾ tsp cream of tartar*

*8oz ( 200g) castor sugar*

*1tsp white vinegar*

*1tsp vanilla essence*

*2 tsp corn flour*

*½ pint ( 300 ml) chilled double cream*

*6oz ( 150g) fruit*

#### **Method**

**1** Preheat the oven, 140C, 275F, Gas Mark 1.

**2** Line a large round baking tin with non- stick parchment paper.

**3** Whisk the egg whites with the cream of tartar until they are stiff and form peaks.

**4** Gradually whisk in the vanilla essence, vinegar, corn flour and castor sugar, adding a teaspoon at a time, then whisk.

**5** Spoon or pipe the meringue onto the baking parchment making a large circular shape.

**6** Bake for 1¼ hours. Turn the oven off and leave the meringue for a few minutes in the oven.

**7** When the meringue is completely cold, whisk the chilled cream carefully until peaks form.

**8** Fold the cream into the centre of the meringue then add the fruit.

**9** Store in the refrigerator until needed.

Last year Tony and I were invited to Clive and Diane's barbecue. It was the only day of the year the sun shone brightly. As always we had the most wonderful day, the food was perfect, the wine flowed freely and the hosts were welcoming and attentive to the core. Sadly our friend, Clive passed away this August; we will miss him dearly. Anthea, Clive's sister, had prepared the most delicious Pavlova for the barbecue and this is her recipe.

#### **Anthea's Tip**

**1** Always make sure the bowl used for whisking the meringue is spotlessly clean, any grease will prevent the eggs from holding any air.

**To Freeze:** pack the meringue, excluding the cream and fruit, carefully in container, seal and label. Use within 3 months. **To serve:** put on a plate and thaw for half an hour.





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## GARDENING CORNER

I'm writing this early as we will be away on our holidays when this month's article is due. By the time you read it we will in fact be back in harness and no doubt picking up where we left off in the garden. At the moment the bulk of our work is being spent in the vegetable garden, investing the time into next year's cropping plan. From last month's episode you will have gathered that I'm moving things around, making some fundamental changes to the crops we are growing. The strawberry plants that went in last month are now getting well established and so we'll keep our fingers crossed for a bumper crop next year. We love strawberries, but over the last few years the cropping levels have just fallen away. I hadn't noticed this fact, and the assistant head gardener was too nice to have pointed out that our production of strawberries had dwindled to almost zero. Hopefully next year this will change. The one bed that had become diseased will now be cleared, dug and manured. I'll then sprinkle some of my favourite fertiliser, blood, fish and bone, over the soil and mix this in ready for the next crop, over-wintering garlic. I've saved three of the best bulbs of two different varieties from this year's harvest. These will be broken up into the individual cloves, before planting them just below the soil surface. I think many people still think of garlic being a warm climate crop, and there's no doubt that they thrive in a good summer. However these days we grow many varieties that have been bred specifically for our climate, and many don't realise that the cloves need a spell of cold weather in order for them to grow at their best. So planting in the Autumn is the ideal time. I've now planted the late sown greens and they seem to be responding to the warm soil and wet weather we are experiencing at the moment. I'm still concerned that I might be too late, but they only have two choices! I've kept some back, mainly broccoli and cauliflowers, and these will be planted into the border in the greenhouse. Hopefully these will provide a crop several weeks earlier than those planted outside. I grew shallots for the first time this year and have had a mixed crop. I grew two varieties, both recommended by French chefs! The one lot has grown into quite small bulbs, but these are meant to be the best for cooking, with very intense flavour. I'm torn at the moment whether to pickle them, or to retain for cooking, mainly in casseroles. I'll leave them to dry off first and then make a decision. If pickling is the route, there is still time to get them bottled and have them ready for Christmas. The other variety has fared much

better, and these are also drying in the greenhouse. These are much better size wise, and I'm looking forward to having them roasted in the meat dish on Sundays over the coming months. Like the garlic, I intend to select some for producing next years' crop. Traditionally, shallots should be planted on the shortest day, and harvested on the longest. Trends change and shallots tend to be planted earlier these days. Hopefully the weather will be fine in the first weeks of October, and I will get the bulbs planted into the soil. I find this allows them to get rooted before the first frosts are able to push the bulbs back out of the soil again.

One and a half areas of the raised beds have been planted with asparagus over the last three or four years. These are now getting established and this week I'll be weeding and making sure the beds are covered in a thick mulch of manure ready for the Winter. The plants themselves have now grown quite tall and turned into the familiar asparagus "fern" that is so often used in wedding button holes. Once the fern starts to die back for the winter, these will be pruned back to about four inches above the ground in order to make sure that the asparagus beetle can't take up residence. These would result in the crop being spoilt if they do build up in any numbers. I still have one bed full of potatoes that need harvesting before we go on holiday. The variety has been bred specifically for its resistance to potato blight and the foliage even now is looking very well. They are due to be harvested, but many of the earlier ones had slight slug damage, so I'm keeping my fingers crossed that these are resistant to slugs as well, otherwise they won't keep for very long!

We're hoping to start tidying up some of the flower beds if the weather stays kind. We have a lot of wallflower and sweet William plants that we grew earlier on and that are now ready to plant out, for flowering in the Spring. As we tidy, we'll plant. I've also invested in some new penstemon plants. The garden at Barn Farm was famous for its selection of these at one time, but over the years ealworm took its toll and last Winter just about finished them off. In order to prevent them getting the worm again you should leave a gap of at least two years before planting again, so they have had plenty of time for this to hopefully not be a problem for a few more years. Penstemon can be easily propagated from cuttings as well, so they are good for building up n umbers in a short period of time. Anyone that knows them will also know that they flower non stop all summer long, a real star of the cottage garden border.

*Continued on page 32*

*Continued from Page 31*

Fruit wise I really do need to sort out our fruit cage as it is in a right mess. The last two Winters have wrecked the frame, and I need to sort this out, before sorting the planting out. The raspberries have suffered in recent years as well, so I will probably need to dig all these out and save the best of the canes, and replacing with new ones where we haven't got enough. In our field where we keep the bees, we have established quite an orchard over the years with apples pears and cherries. Apart from one year, we have never actually had a cherry crop as either they haven't produced any, or when they have the birds have clobbered them before they were ripe enough to pick. There are about 8 large cherry trees, so its been decided that they have to go. I'll cut them down in the autumn and poison the stumps. I have already ordered 5 new apple varieties and 5 new pears. I've selected ones with different cropping and storage times to those we already have, so hopefully we can extend the eating time. Talking of which, we were picking apples the other evening to eat and for also making into apple pies for freezing. The assistant noticed a lot of wasps around the bee hives and on closer inspection we discovered several holes in the older hives where the wasps were gaining access and then robbing the honey. They were also storming the front entrances, and the bees were involved in a daily struggle to keep them out. Drastic action was required, so the smoker was lit, spare hive parts were sought and I headed for the battle zone. With the old hives it was simply a case of finding the damaged parts and replacing them with new bits. All the old type "WBC" hives had mouse guards fitted ready across the doors to stop these rodents getting access in the colder weather. The gaps had been widened to allow the high bee numbers in the Summer, easy access. So these were closed right down, to the bare minimum, allowing the bees to guard the small gaps much easier. The national hives, just have a small slot as an entrance. The mouse guards in this case are perforated metal strips, with the holes big enough for bees but not mice! They also have a solid part as well so these have been pinned across the entrance, again reducing the size of gap needing defending. The wasps started flying around in circles not knowing where or what to do, so hopefully now they will find easier pickings elsewhere and leave my bees alone! Still must get on, time to go and dig those potatoes up. So happy gardening until next month.

Steve Hunt.



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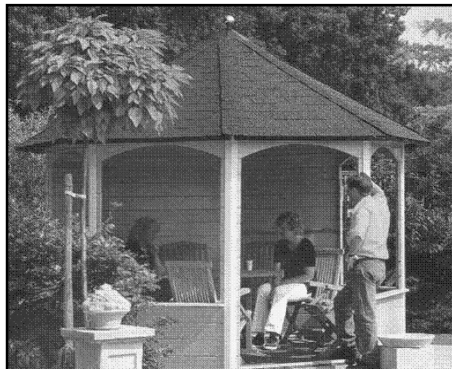
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## **LOCAL CONTACTS**

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### **Church of St. Thomas à Becket Shirenewton**

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<b>Newchurch West</b>	Liz McCombe (CHAIRMAN) 01291 652957
<b>MCC for Shirenewton</b>	Graham Down 01291 621846 <a href="mailto:grahamdown@monmouthshire.gov.uk">grahamdown@monmouthshire.gov.uk</a>
<b>Member of Parliament</b>	David Davies 020 7219 8360 <a href="mailto:daviesd@parliament.uk">daviesd@parliament.uk</a>

### **Police Neighbourhood Watch Contacts**

<b>Comm. Police Officer</b>	Michael Cowburn 01633 642068 <a href="mailto:michael.cowburn@gwent.pnn.police.uk">michael.cowburn@gwent.pnn.police.uk</a>
<b>Shirenewton &amp; Mynyddbach</b>	Beverley Moore 01291 641532
<b>Earlswood</b>	Sue Leat 01291 641207

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<b>Brownies</b>	Jackie Broughton 01291 641797
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## DIARY DATES

For further details see inside the magazine.

OCT	Event	Location
2	Quiz and Social Evening	Recreation Hall
3	Harvest Service	Earlswood Hope Methodist
4	Evening Service, Sale of Produce	Earlswood Hope Methodist
4	Fortnightly Refuse Collection talk by Glyn Edmunds	Recreation Hall
7	St Peters Newchurch Harvest Thanksgiving	St Peters Newchurch
7	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
11	Shirenewton Local History Resource Meeting	Recreation Hall
15	Sarah Jones "Folk Singer & Song Writer"	Church Room
15	Mike Sayce Memorial Gig	Tan House
16	Cubs District Rugby Tournament	
21	Kids ad Lib Show: "Daisy Pulls it OFF"	Earlswood Hall
22	Kids ad Lib Show: "Daisy Pulls it OFF"	Earlswood Hall
23	Kids ad Lib Show: "Daisy Pulls it OFF"	Earlswood Hall
26	Shirenewton Local History AGM and Talk	Huntsman Hotel
27	Tredegar Arms Luncheon Club	Tredegar Arms
Nov	Event	Location
4	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
14	Remembrance Service	Earlswood Hall
20	Barn Dance	Earlswood Hall
24	Tredegar Arms Luncheon Club	Tredegar Arms
30	Shirenewton Local History Soc. Talk	Huntsman Hotel

## SHIRENEWTON CHURCH - READERS AND SIDES-PERSONS

<b>OCT</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Sides-Person</b>
<b>3</b>	Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	Bill Clark Janet Clark	Bill Clark Janet Clark
<b>10</b>	Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity SONGS of PRAISE Service at 9:30 am	John Nicholas Mike Peirce	John Nicholas Mike Peirce
<b>17</b>	Twentieth Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	James Leney Ruth Savagar	James Leney Claire Lewis
<b>24</b>	BIBLE SUNDAY Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	Margaret Lock Lisa Morter	Margaret Lock Lisa Morter
<b>31</b>	GROUP SERVICE CAERWENT CHURCH at 11:00 am		
<b>NOV</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Sides-Person</b>
<b>7</b>	Third Sunday before Advent Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	Annabel Hancock Auriol Horton	Annabel Hancock Auriol Horton
<b>14</b>	Second Sunday before Advent REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY Assemble at Cenotaph at 10:45 am followed by Service at 11:00 am	The Children	
<b>21</b>	Sunday before Advent Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	Diane Marlow Barbara Davies	Diane Marlow Barbara Davies
<b>28</b>	First Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	Bob Grattan Mike Peirce	Bob Grattan Mike Peirce
<b>Dec</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Sides-Person</b>
<b>5</b>	Second Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	John Nicholas Kevin Bounds	John Nicholas Kevin Bounds
<b>12</b>	Third Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	Jane Fisher Sally Saysell	Jane Fisher Sally Saysell
<b>19</b>	Fourth Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist at 9.30	Bill Clark Janet Clark	Bill Clark Janet Clark
<b>24</b>	Midnight Mass at 11:30 pm	Sally Saysell Andrew Baker	Sally Saysell Andrew Baker
<b>25</b>	CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE AT 10:00 AM	The Children	
<b>26</b>	GROUP SERVICE AT 10:00 am LLANFAIR DISCOED CHURCH		

## Kids ad Lib

Our tenth anniversary year culminates in three performances of 'Daisy Pulls it Off' - a charming and comical ripping yarn about the adventures of an 'elementary school pupil' at the Grangewood School for girls, written by Denise Deegan.

Thurs 21 October, Fri 22 October, Sat 23 October  
7:30 pm Earlswood Hall

Don't miss your opportunity to see this 'simply spiffing' show - tickets available from Box office c/o Jackie Budd at 641547.

**See advertisement on Page 18**

### **EDITORIAL INFORMATION**

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- The views expressed are those of the contributor.

**Deadline for contributions to the November issue is the 25th October**