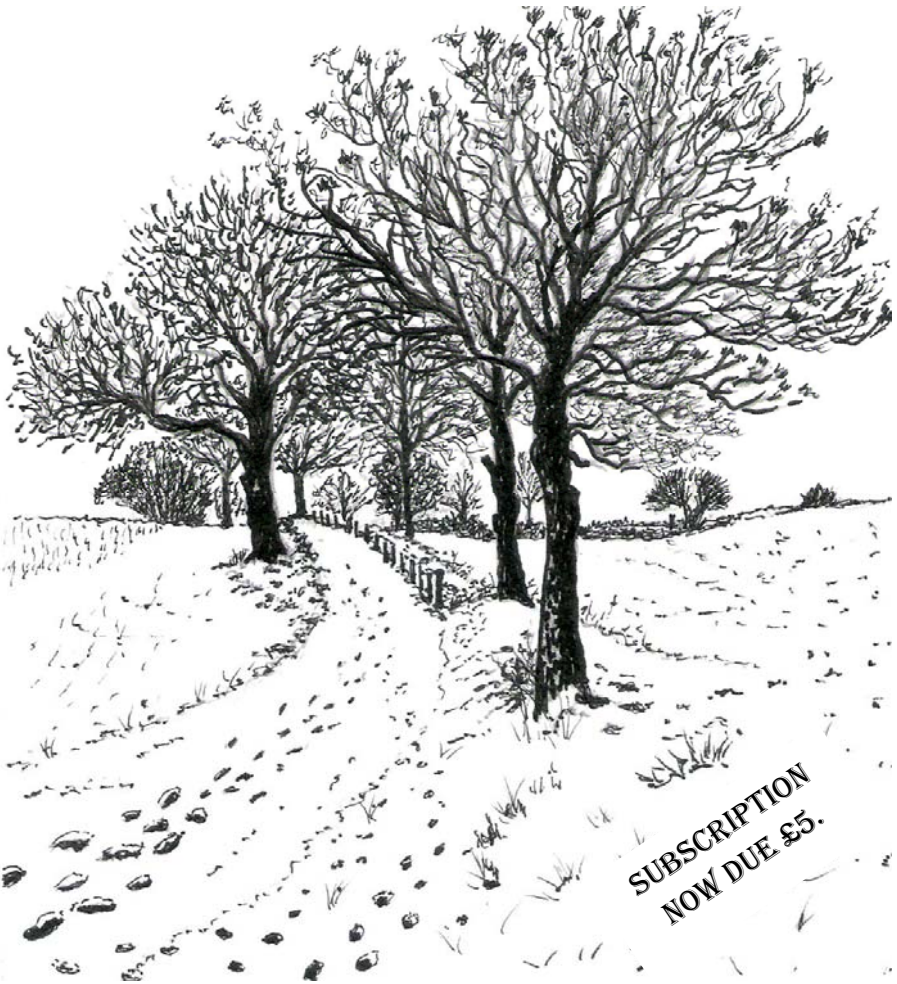


Shirenewton & Newchurch Parish Magazine February 2011



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Sketch by Barbara Davies

Price: 50p

Dear Friends,

In January, I told the regular congregations of my four Churches a story about my little boys and the fibre optic lamp we got for Christmas one year. Throughout the holiday season, the boys had excitedly turned on the lamp every night and watched proudly as it sparkled alongside the regular Christmas lights in a darkened room. Then, come the 6th of January — the Feast of the Epiphany — as we took down the Christmas lights we were wistful. I expect that many of you feel likewise at the end of the holiday season. And yet, in the midst of the wistfulness, that particular year I was able to point to the plain-old, garden-variety fiber-optic lamp and tell my kids to keep that one going — because *that* one was not a Christmas light. *That* one was an *all-year light*.

This is a crucial part of the Christian message: that Christ's light is an all-year light, and so therefore must ours be as well.

In the Church calendar, the season of Epiphany lasts from the 6th of January till Shrove Tuesday — Pancake Day. The word *epiphany* itself means a surprise revelation — the realisation of something brand new and light-filled. It is therefore a season of light before the more somber time of Lent. Throughout that period, the scriptures we read in Church and the festival days we mark are about light and how God brings hope to the world.

On the 2nd of February, we celebrate the Feast of Candlemas — the day when Joseph and Mary presented the child Christ in the temple. This was the Jewish equivalent of what Christians do when we bring our own children to Church for baptism: it was the dedication of the baby Jesus to God's service and love. There he was met by an old man named Simeon who recognised him — in his own epiphany — as the Saviour promised by God. Simeon held the child in his arms and declared him, famously, to be "a light to enlighten the gentiles" (anyone who does not come from Jewish heritage) "and the glory of your people, Israel". In the epiphany season, as we begin the long, dark trek from winter into spring, the days draw out and become lighter each evening. In the mean time, we in the Church candles (hence, Candlemas) to remind ourselves that Christ shares his light with all.

But this sharing of the light. It means nothing if it is only symbolic. For, we who have received light, are called likewise to share it with all: to get our hands dirty as we make the world a better place for those, both far and near, who are desperate for light and hope.

Blessings,
Fr. Will

FROM THE REGISTERS

The Marriage of Elizabeth Janet Morris and Paul John Walbyoff at
St. Thomas á Becket Church Shirenewton on Saturday 18th December 2010

The Marriage of Vanessa Claudia Shepherd and John David Gardner at
St. Thomas á Becket Church Shirenewton on Saturday 15th January 2011

The Funeral Service of Gordon Sinclair Ostler 1934 to 2010 at St. Thomas á Becket
Church Shirenewton on Monday 10th January 2011

The Funeral Service of Pauline Mary Burke 1921 to 2010 at St. Thomas á Becket
Church Shirenewton on Wednesday 12th January 2011

DONATION TO SARA

To: St Thomas á Becket Church

*Thanks you and your parishioners very much for your generous donation of
£365.00 from your Harvest Festival. I assure you it all be put to very good use.*

*As a voluntary organisation, SARA is totally dependant upon the goodwill of
individuals and organisations such as you for funding.*

*So far during 2010 our rescue stations have responded to over eighty emergency
calls for our specialist assistance, mostly from the statutory agencies; Police,
Coastguard, Fire & Rescue Services with a large proportion of these in the
Monmouth area. Again please accept out thanks for your kind donation and this
letter as a receipt for the money.*

Sincerely

M.P.Fleming Chairman, Beachley (Chepstow) Lifeboat & Rescue Station

TREDEGAR ARMS SHIRENEWTON

Shirenewton Community Luncheon Club

Please book early to secure your place for lunch on Wednesday

February 23rd

March 23rd

April 27th

Tredegar Arms, Shirenewton Telephone 641274

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING.

Monday 10th January 2011 From Your Own Correspondent

For the full report go to the minutes on the notice boards or find the draft minutes on the church web site. I only comment on the bits that seem to be vaguely interesting. And if anyone else would like to be the Community Council Meetings Hack, please, please, please, please, please let me know. Glynis 641 818 or glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

Of course, one could always carry out the punishment one promised to that dreadful Huntsman chappie....

Mr. David Adams has been appointed as councilor for Shirenewton Ward

Police Report

- 6/12 Accidental 999 call by a child at Earlswood.
- 9/12 Concern about horse riders near Earlswood.
- 9/12 Broken down car causing an obstruction near The Tan House.
'Suspicious white carriage seen up in Earlswood'
- 11/12 Off road bikes at Wentwood.
- 14/12 Scrap metal collectors at Earlswood.
'Faulty burglar alarm going off in ye Olde Gingerbreade Cottage. Again.'
- 16/12 Car damaged overnight at Mynyddbach. Wing mirror knocked off deliberately.
- 19/12 4 by 4 vehicles riding around Wentwood off road.
'A cow has been seen wandering along the Usk Road'
- 21/12 Vehicle causing an obstruction B4235 near Shirenewton.
- 22/12 Abandoned vehicle in the snow at Mynyddbach.
- 24/12 Obscene phone message received at Shirenewton.
- 26/12 Neighbour dispute near Shirenewton.
'A golden chicken is refusing to lay eggs and has been seen running around Wentwood Forest with a large white rabbit'
- 29/12 Accidental 999 call from Shirenewton.

It was also noted that just before Christmas, Mynyddbach was subjected to an outbreak of car trashing. It was commented on that with the downturn in the economy and the rash of CCTV cameras in towns and cities, small villages are more likely to be targeted for burglary and mayhem

Planning

DC/2010/00898 Hill View Cottage, Shirenewton

Proposed two storey dwelling

This is a re-application of a restyled building. After a good deal of discussion, there were various concerns raised by members of the council. These included that the proposed building would be tacked onto the end of Hill View Cottage and three windows and a door would be blocked, the house will be far too large for the plot, the building would change the character of the centre of the village, that the proposed use of existing 'garage' is disputed on the grounds that it is not an existing garage – it is a barn, that the access will be shared by customers to the TA and could therefore be potentially hazardous especially as the carpark entrance is already a 'blind' entrance. And what about the historical significance of the village pond where stray animals are kept locked up for the night.

Anyway refusal was recommended

DC/2010/00253 Brookacre.

Despite Shirenewton Community Council recommending refusal of this planning application, MCC have granted approval.

Items of local concern

A small sum of money (£285) was left from last year's budget so this money will be divvied up pro rata for the groups that already benefit from SCC

- The council was asked to consider an MCC Community Safety Draft Plan – but at 53 pages it was considered to be miles too long. *And apparently, it didn't read well as the lone worker in the in the MCC Community Safety Draft Planning Department had obviously done a lot of cutting and pasting. Well it was probably a deadline – and just before Christmas....*
- The local development plan was discussed – and it was discovered that MCC had hi-lited areas of possible development for the building of houses on plots of land around the **village without even contacting the landowners first!!!!** *Seems a bit bonkers.* Cllr Graham Down said he would look into this.
- MCC has arranged a Countryside Volunteers Drop In Meeting to discuss
- Public Rights of Way in the Woodlanders Tavern in Llanvair Discoed. Two Cllrs are intending to drop in.

The Clerk's Report

Allotments. Carole Jones outlined the latest development in the turgid saga of the allotments in Mynyddbach. Hey ho, it seems that MCC is determined to ignore what people in the village want and as it seemed to me to be a horrible tangled web of bureaucratic procedures, and as it was getting latish for me to be at the peak of my reporting prowess – I can't remember much about it. You can always look up the full minutes for more details

The untidy field at the top of the Huntsman Hill. The Enforcement Officer has paid a visit and has reported that all the non-farming related items have been removed. And soon the gate cladding will be removed.

And finally 'Well Done' Grit Men of MCC. During the recent cold weather you have kept the bins topped up and the roads gritted. So Thank you.

(Oh, and as a point of interest, anyone can use and shovel grit...)

The date of the next meeting is Monday 7th February 7th 2011 in Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

Now who would like to take the notes.....come on, don't be shy...

Are you interested in Community Affairs? Do you have a few hours to spare each month?

There is currently a vacancy for a **Councillor** in the **Mynyddbach ward** of Shirenewton Community Council.

Ideally you will live in the Mynyddbach ward but applications for co-option on to the Community Council will be accepted from applicants living in the other three wards.

Please contact the Clerk in the first instance.

Carole Jones 01291 641791

commcouncilclerk@aol.com

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our Christmas meeting was held at St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow where we were given a warm welcome by the Vicar the Rev Chris Blanchard who gave us a talk on the history of the building while we walked around the church seeing the many interesting and historical architectural features of the church. The members followed this with mulled wine and mince pies to get us in the festive mood, everyone agreed that it was a most beautiful building and so glad we had arranged the visit.

Later in December we walked up to Grey Hill to see the sunrise on the Winter solstice, a very white landscape greeted us and even less little sun, but I have to say it blew away the cobwebs. Nineteen members and one dog hurried back down the hill to a very welcomed breakfast at the Woodland Tavern.

The first meeting of the new year was held at the Recreational Hall, Shirenewton, where we held an open meeting with photographs and information held in our archive regarding the '*The Mounnton_Brook Mills*'. Mulled wine, nibbles and reminiscence were enjoyed with new and old members.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday, 25th January. Annual Dinner at the Huntsman Hotel
7.00 for 7.30

Monday, 14th February. Resource Meeting at the Recreational Hall,
Shirenewton at 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

Tuesday, 22nd February Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel, talk for the
Evening, '*Memorials to the Fallen*' given by
David Woodliffe

STARGAZING

The constellation of Orion the Hunter lies directly to the South. Four bright stars represent his shoulders and legs whilst a further three form his belt. Above Orion and to the right is a very bright orange star called Aldebaran. It's the brightest star in the constellation Taurus, the Bull and marks its eye. In classical times, the Greeks saw the constellation as Zeus disguised as a bull. Taurus is a member of the Zodiac, the twelve constellations which the Moon and planets travel through in a year. Looking further upwards and to the right you will see a small cluster of stars. These are called the Pleiades. With the naked eye, people can usually see six or seven stars in Pleiades. However, some people with better eyesight can see more. The cluster contains more than 200 young stars born some 50 million years ago, which means they are only one hundredth of the age of the Sun, our local star. Aldebaran means "the follower" in Arabic, as it rises above the horizon after the Pleiades.

The bright planet Jupiter can be seen in the evening sky to the west. On the 7th, the crescent Moon is just above the planet. In the early morning sky, Saturn is in the south-west, just above the star Spica, whilst much brighter Venus lies in the south-east.

Looking at Venus with telescopes reveals very little since it is shrouded in thick cloud. However recent space missions to Venus have used radars to reveal what the surface looks like. It has many volcanoes but they don't appear to be active.

Dave Thomas

MOTHERS' UNION



We held our AGM on 12 January and reviewed the past years' activities, and did some planning for this year. In place of a visiting speaker we considered the life and work of Mary Sumner the founder of the MU. She was dearly loved for her sunny personality and understanding of the pressures on mothers struggling to bring up their children. The 'sunshine' of her own family life may have had something to do with her motto: "Never grumble - it's like the East wind !"

Our chosen project to support this year is The Backpack Project (i.e. school satchels) The Back Pack project appeals to schools to fill backpacks with basic educational material to send to children in need. Most of the children who benefit from Mary's Meals and the Back Packs have suffered war, poverty, famine or natural disaster. Items needed for African children getting into school include exercise books, rulers, pencils, crayons etc. <www.marysmeals.org>

We meet next on Wednesday 8 February at 2.30 p.m. in the Shirenewton Church Room. From 3 p.m. we shall be preparing for the Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday 4 March. We will be viewing the DVD on Chile as a background to the service, prepared by Christian women there. Anyone interested, please join us for this preview.

Rosemary Carey Branch Leader 01291 425 010

Focolare Home Group

The word means fellowship around the home hearth. We plan to meet on the last Thursday of the month, so in February on Thursday 24th at 3 p.m. at 83 Wentwood View, Caldicot, home of Chris and Rosemary Carey. Open to all.

SHIRENEWTON & NEWCHURCH PARISH MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2011

SUBSCRIPTIONS OF £5 are now due Would collectors please forward their money to me and keep me informed of any changes in the quantity they need.

BARBARA DAVIES 641553

SHIRENEWTON WI NOVEMBER 2010

Coming together in January we wished those we had not seen a happy new year and reminisced about our lovely meal at the Tredegar Arms in December. Christmas preparations and festivities seem so long ago now, already we are looking forward to lighter days and warmer weather fit for outdoor activities and gardening.

It was very nice to greet two new faces and hope the ladies will decide to join us. We started our 2011 programme with a quiz, the members worked in groups pooling thoughts and knowledge to come up with the answers. With sweets and biscuits, tea and coffee everyone had an enjoyable evening together.

Our speaker for February is Mr Geoff Marlow, who will be instructing us on resuscitation and what to do in emergencies.



LLANGWM AND LLANSOY WI

OPEN MEETING

April 7, 2011 at 7 pm

Llangwm Village Hall

Everybody welcome!



Terry Walton – Allotmenteer/Gardener

Terry Walton has been a regular on BBC Radio 2's Jeremy Vine show for about four and a half years.

Come and hear his stories about the allotments and gardens!

Free entry – raffle - refreshments

Further information: Avis Hughes tel. 641250

FAIRTRADE NEWS

I read that there are currently 635 Fairtrade towns (including Chepstow, of course!) in 18 countries. Extraordinary! When I started on this malarkey hardly anyone knew what Fairtrade was. That's my glass half full moment. In my glass half empty moments I am still stunned by many people's general apathy : 'Yes, I can see that it is fairer and it genuinely helps poor people in the developing world, and improves the environment, but I've always bought BLAH BLAH and I can't really be bothered to try the Fairtrade equivalent'.

Fairtrade Fortnight is fast approaching :February 28th - March 13th. Why not try to extend the range of fairly traded products that you use? Check the Traidcraft catalogue or any of the appropriate fairtrade websites.

Meanwhile here's an idea of the vast range of products now available:

Coffee, tea, herbal teas, chocolate, cocoa, sugar, bananas, grapes, pineapples, mangoes, avocados, apples, citrus & other fresh fruits, dried fruit, juices, smoothies, biscuits, cakes & snacks, honey, jam & preserves, chutneys & sauces, rice, quinoa, herbs & spices, seeds, nuts & nut oil, wines, spirits, ale, confectionery, muesli, cereal bars, yoghurt, ice cream, flowers, sports balls, sugar body scrub, cotton products including clothing, homeware, cloth toys and cotton wool.

Marion McAdam 641 316 mms316@gmail.com



QUIZ and SOCIAL EVENING
at
Shirenewton Recreation Hall
on

Friday February 11th 2011

(monetary prizes)

Doors open at 7.30pm

Quiz begins at 8 pm

£2 per person

Maximum number per team - 6

Alcoholic/Soft Drinks and Snacks available

Proceeds in aid of Shirenewton RAFA
(Recreation Association Fundraising Activities)

SAMFAL

February; month of expiation, from the Latin Februa the Feast of Purification held on the fifteenth of the month. The old timers called it February fillditch but looking at the rain and snow we have experienced in the two preceding months it seems yet another example of the months and seasons being out of kilter. No doubt the flood victims in Australia, Brazil and Sri Lanka would grimly agree that the global climate is playing tricks indiscriminately and in many cases with catastrophic results. I am reminded that I once read that when early settlers arrived in the New World in what is present day Florida they found piles of oyster shells on the shore in what was obviously a man-made configuration but no natives to be seen anywhere. The settlers found the climate pleasing and the land fertile and built homes. Then came the hurricanes. They discovered what the indigenous people had learned from generations of bitter experience; it was only habitable here for part of the year, they moved inland late summer and hunted game and foraged. With the exponential expansion of population worldwide people do not now have much choice as to where they live and many communities are dwelling in flood plains, in the foothills of deforested mountains where soil erosion is rapid, inches above sea level and in known earthquake zones. Heads of State and World Leaders seem to have little interest or incentive to do any thing about it as we strive to feed ourselves and enrich our quality of life. We are all on the helter skelter whether we choose to be or not. I do not think that the planet is in any danger; it has been through countless cataclysmic changes over billions of years; Mother Earth can look after herself – it is mankind that is the endangered species. That's got my quarterly rant out of the way, on to more local topics. As I write this (January 16) Lyn McFarlane has just telephoned to tell me she has frogspawn in her pond (yet another example of how things are changing; I have normally got Frenchmen invading my garden with sharp knives for this years crop weeks before Lyn has any sign of parent frog activity) this short period of mild weather is starting things off. Tawny owls are calling at night and getting ready for breeding (nocturnal birds of prey lay eggs early in the year to take advantage of the longer hours of darkness for feeding their young.) and vixens are yelping to advertise their whereabouts and availability and catkins are shaking their tails in the breeze. Speaking of catkins and the above mentioned Lyn, she has very kindly offered us a selection of saplings which her late husband, the inimitable and much missed Ian was growing in pots for his woodland project; we will use these and others we will buy for the hedgerow we will be planting during the month . I cannot yet say when, but volunteers will be welcome to assist on one fine day for a couple of "hours of endless fun for children of all ages". The pony experiment seems to have proved a success and many thanks to everyone involved and also to all that use the fields for behaving sensibly while walking dogs etc. Several people have approached me about the lack of access from the northern (Mynyddbach) side of the fields now that the gates have been locked. I myself find this awkward but after racking my brains I can think of no solution because there is no right of way via our immediate neighbours, so it seems that, pro tem, we have to use the road side gates at the Spout or take the path alongside the school to the side gates. More details can be obtained by contacting any member of the committee or myself, Mike Gambold on 641773---- mike@shirenewton.org Many thanks.

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 Website www.bryncosyn.co.uk**

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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

1ST SHIRENEWTON CUB PACK

Thirty one cubs return for another term so we must be doing something right!!!

The leaders have already set what we hope will be both an exciting and challenging programme which covers three main themes: Birds in Winter, Communications, Expedition Skills and Pioneering. More details of the above can be found on our web-site

<http://shirenewtonscouts.jimdo.com/>.



We had a fantastic start to our first theme, Birds in Winter, with Will Davies bringing along his Harris Hawk. We also welcomed back Mike Gambol and between them they gave us a wonderful insight into falconry and in particular training and hunting with birds of prey. Mike also talked about how we can help our wild birds during the winter. A big thank you to you both.

Following on from the above our next meeting will include the building of simple bird feeders, out of plastic bottles and also making bird cake out of fat and seeds. Sounds like a messy night!

Friday night saw most of us off to the local pantomime for Trouble in Panto Land. This was a great night with the all the cubs giving the wicked witch and the wizard, whose name nobody knows, a hard time with plenty of booing and hissing. Well done to all those who took part it really was a good show.

It is with great sadness that we found out that Lucy; the mother of two of our cubs Nia and Ieuan Williams had died following a long illness. We all send our greatest sympathy to the family and our thoughts are with them at this difficult time.

Coming events <http://shirenewtonscouts.jimdo.com/>

20th March	Sunday morning expedition through Wentwood Forest and Greys Hill
1st – 2nd April	1st Spring Camp
8th – 9th April	2nd Spring Camp
27th – 29th May	PGL

Regards Leaders Team

For any further information please contact Geoff at geoffmarlow@btinternet.com or Tel 01291 641407. Or visit our website on <http://shirenewtonscouts.jimdo.com/>

1ST SHIRENEWTON SCOUT GROUP



Today, even with all the competing interests, it seems that Scouting is as popular as it ever has been – at least in the Shirenewton Group. One outstanding thing is worth noting - the commitment of the young people to Scouting - as they come along every week to meet their friends and take part in activities. The nervousness of new Beavers is eventually replaced by a growing confidence and ability as they progress through Cubs and then Scouts. On reaching 14 they move into the fourth section of the Scouting family, Explorers, where one can start to see the full potential of these youngsters.

Here they become more involved in decision making and planning programmes for themselves. Activities become more challenging and satisfying with meetings arranged in a more flexible way, fitting in around the demands of homework, part time jobs, exams etc. They also get the chance to start working towards the Queens Scout Award and D.of E and meet with other Explorer Scouts around the District, joining in activities that may not be possible in their own Group. No longer children these young adults deserve a programme that matches their commitment to Scouting but without a little more adult support, we are in danger of letting them down.

Currently the Group is in danger of losing many of the 14 year old Scouts. We would like to stop this and build up a strong Explorer Unit but for this we need more leader support.

Support can come in many forms with adults giving as little or as much time as they can, and age is no barrier nor is lack of experience. Full support is provided for any training needed –even for canoeing, hill walking, climbing or caving if that is what you think you would like to do.

If you are interested or know someone who may be then get in touch with the Group, come along meet the Explorers and have a chat about what they do. You're always welcome!

Gill Meeks (GSL) 01600 860 115 (gill_meeks@yahoo.co.uk)

Dave Richardson (Scout Leader) 01291 620 356

The Caerwent Group of Parishes

Rich Inheritance

Jesus' legacy of love

Lent Study Course 2011

In five sessions prepared for parish use by York Courses.
Speakers include Vincent Nichols, Paula Gooder, Jim Wallace
Coordinated by Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford.

Thursday Afternoons in the Shirenewton Church Room
Weekly from 10 March at 3 p.m.

THE BELLS, THE BELLS

It may not be generally appreciated that ringers are welcome to ring at virtually any tower in the UK or indeed the world, anywhere that is where the bells are rung in the British style known as “full circle ringing”. This welcome essentially means anywhere with full circle bells in the UK or within its former colonies, and there are increasing numbers of rings in North America and Australia e.g. recent installations at Wall Street, New York and the Swan Tower in Perth. Continental Europe never developed their rings in the same way although there is now recently established one British style ring in Holland. Thus visiting other rings of bells is an integral part of bell ringing British style and Shirenewton ringers continue this tradition.

January 8th dawned cold and crisp as the Shirenewton ringers headed off for their Winter Tour, a now established event in the calendar. This year the area just south of Hereford was to be explored. The first tower at Fownhope was a majestic old ring of 6 bells rung from a freezing ringing room approached from spiral staircase. Following this was the lighter ring of 6 at Hampton Bishop – the ringing chamber on the ground floor was beautifully restored but the bells proved a challenge. Then on to the isolated church of Holme Lacey, situated close to the bank of the Wye. This church is now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust but is extremely well tended and house the tombs of the Scudamore family, including Lord John Scudamore who was a key player in the development of English and Welsh cider. The bells are infrequently rung now and quite heavy but after some initial effort we managed well on the 8. Anyone wishing a day out in deep countryside would be recommended to visit this church and its surroundings. After we travelled onto Little Dewchurch, a light and recently restored ring of 6 not dissimilar to Shirenewton.

Lunch was at the Black Swan at Much Dewchurch, a thriving local pub serving an excellent lunch and good beer and cider. After which we rang the six bells at the church opposite. Then onto another 6 at Allensmore and finally the fine ring of 8 at Kingstone – the bells at this church having originated from the now demolished church at Llanbradoc in Wales. At the end of the day the ringers and their families met up for a post-Tour celebration at the Penney's house in Earlswood. Next year maybe Wall Street?

For those interested in ringing matters we are now widening our repertoire of methods we ring at Shirenewton. Having 6 bells we can either ring with 5 or 6 bells “changing” places – on 5 the 6th (heaviest termed “tenor”) bell rings at the end of each row of changes e.g. 214356 whereas on 6 the tenor is incorporated in to the change e.g. 214365. As each row is a different change then ringing on 6 increases the available permutations by a factor of 6 e.g. from factorial 5 (120) to factorial 6 (720). Ringing with 5 changing bells is called “Doubles” and with 6 changing bells is called “Minor”. Thus we are now working on Reverse Canterbury Doubles and St Clements Minor. See if you can hear the difference between Doubles and Minor next time you listen to the bells.

Mike Penney

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

The Church website raised £1,535 for the church in 2010. Many thanks to all who shopped through it. Please keep it up in 2011.

In addition to the shopping portal the website has lots of local community information such as details of the Community Council and its minutes, back copies of the Parish Magazine, links to useful parts of the Monmouthshire County Council website and links to local traffic information.

In 2010 the main website (i.e. not the shopping portal) had 3,751 unique visits from 2,146 unique visitors (but actually this will be IP addresses which means, for example, you re-boot your router and it gets a new IP address you will be considered a new visitor) who viewed 13,572 pages. Visitors came from a total of 43 countries/territories and spent on average 2 mins 37 secs on the site viewing on average 3.62 pages per visit. I'm happy with that.

As many of you know, I spend a lot of time pleading with people to keep their virus protection up-to-date and to use Internet security suites. Viruses can arrive in all sorts of attachments to email whether they 'appear' to be Word documents, PDF files or HTML pages. Do not click on a document unless you know from whence it came! The consequences of getting a virus infection is at least a lot of time spent cleaning it and at worst the complete loss of your PC.

Over Christmas I was given a laptop to try and clean up. Eventually I manage to get my favourite Malwarebytes downloaded and onto it. Running this revealed 53 separate infections. I confidently hit 'clean'. That was the last sensible action ever taken by that PC. The PC eventually froze and, once I had turned it off, I could not get it to re-boot again. I tried everything I knew, spent hours trawling the web trying stuff, downloading and creating rescue disks, etc. Nothing. The only option would be to re-install windows but the owner didn't have the original disks and trying to re-install with other disks simply didn't work. Eventually I had to admit defeat and return the non-working PC to the owner whose son was not, I suspect, overly disappointed to get a new one! So protect it or lose it!

I think my next project will be upgrading my wife and kids laptops to Windows 7. I'll let you know how I get on.

Safe browsing David Cornwell Webmaster.

ABSEILING 469 FT DOWN GUYS TOWER IN LONDON.....

On the 27th March 2011 Dave and Kha Koon Cornwell, Kevin and Alistair Bounds, Bob Millar and Claire White are going to be abseiling down all 31 storeys (469 ft) of Guys Tower to raise money for Retrack (Helping Street Children in Uganda and Ethiopia) .

Retrack (previously known as the Tiger's Club) is a very well worthwhile charity and all sponsorship will be gratefully received

1ST SHIRENEWTON GUIDES



Girlguiding UK

A belated Happy New Year from all at Guides. We have a busy year planned as we have been set a variety of challenges ranging from one based around the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton to a "Beyond the Duck" challenge that leads on from our Centenary celebrations of last year. We are also building on our relationship with the RSPB as this organisation celebrates 100 years in 2011 and is aiming to give every Girlguiding member in the UK the opportunity to visit one of its reserves and take part in a variety of activities. This was made possible after the success of the Girlguiding Gwent activity day at the Newport Wetlands last year – our organisational skills were much admired!

Both Brownies and Guides will be learning practical First Aid skills through a visit from the Red Cross and, in return, we will be holding a coffee evening during Red Cross week in May to raise funds – watch this space for your invitation. Our Baden Powell Challenge girls will be running several meetings this term and the leaders are looking forward to being able to sit back and watch our older members work!

If you have a skill or hobby that you feel the girls would enjoy, and you would be happy to share, please do not feel shy, but get in touch as we always like to try something new and it is good for the girls to meet other members of the community.

Yours in Guiding,

Kestrel	Helen Cann	01291 650835
Kitten	Amanda Turner	01291 650763

WHIST DRIVES

We were pleased to welcome 34 players to January's drive- it started the New Year well. Our next Drive is on Thursday, 3rd February 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 that raises funds for the upkeep of the Hall. In March we shall be playing on the 3rd and in April on the 7th, same time, place and conditions.

Auriol Horton. 01291 641844

THE BROWNIES



Girlguiding UK

Have been busy! Last term we managed to get outside before the weather got too cold and we tested the best ways to be seen if you're out in the dark. We found that reflective jackets beat torches and carrying white objects by several yards.

We had a couple of messy evenings cooking and painting, and finished with our Christmas Party, a wonderful afternoon at the swimming pool with a balls and floats party. After a party tea we enrolled Ava, Isobel, Mollie and Hattie.

This term started with a session on Fairtrade led by Marion MacAdam. We learnt just how little a non-Fairtrade banana grower earns for his week's work (it's less than some of the Brownies get for pocket money!) and what a difference it makes to farmers who are able to sell to Fairtrade. The Brownies sampled Fairtrade chocolate in drinks, biscuits and chocolate bars.

We've had a trip to the panto – quite a late night for some of us, and we're about to join the Guides to learn about First Aid from the Red Cross – more of this next time. We have further exciting activities planned for this term. We meet fortnightly and the dates for the next month are: 25 Jan, 8 Feb 1 March. If you're a girl aged 7-10, you can join us straightaway (we have 5 places available). We're still looking for another person willing to train to be a Brownie leader.

Contact Jackie on 641797 or Claire on 641537.

'TROUBLE IN PANTOLAND'

And talking of the panto –the donations for the programme (thank you, Jonty and Bas) and for the refreshments during the interval (thank you, Meg, Richard and team) came to £1042.00. What a brilliant result! This money will be shared equally between 'Help for Heroes' and 'Bobath', a charity based near Cardiff to help children in Wales who have cerebral palsy. This charity was chosen because one of the youngsters in the panto has cerebral palsy. Her parents were told that it would be unlikely that she would ever be able to walk and talk – but the dedicated care, help and support from Bobath has been inspirational. The generosity in this village is just amazing –a huge thank you to everyone.

Come and join...



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STRICTLY @ EARLSWOOD HALL

We are organising a series of "Strictly" ballroom dance classes at Earlswood Hall for beginners and improvers a series of seven professional one-hour classes

Thursdays at 8pm starting on 17th Feb

cost to be confirmed around £6 per session

so that you can then show off your new found skills at the

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Shirenewton Church 200 Club



Your money and support helps to keep
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New for 2011

I'm pleased to announce that Sue Philipson and Meg Driver are joining the 200 club collector's team.

The collectors are:-

Mynyddbach :-Barbara Davies, Meg Driver

Shirenewton :-John Nicholas, Sue Philipson, Nerys Wilson

Earlswood :-Peter Jones

In charge of finance:- Auriol Horton

For an annual subscription of **£10** collected in **February/March**, 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 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.

Cheques should be made payable to:- Shirenewton Church 200 club.

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

200 CLUB RESULTS CHRISTMAS BUMPER DRAW

NO.90	LYN MC. FARLANE	£100.00
NO.173	CYNTHIA SMITH	£50.00
NO.134	NICKY SMITH	£25.00
NO.10	LISA SMITH	£25.00

IT'S CERTAINLY A LUCKY SMITH MONTH !!!!!

NEXT DRAW IS IN FEBURARY.

CHRISTMAS AT THE REC

Shirenewton Recreation Association held a Christmas Fair on Friday 26th November to help raise funds for the refurbishment of the Rec Shed. It was a lovely festive occasion with glasses of mulled wine and mince pies. There were all sorts of Christmas goodies and a distinctive 'Buy Local' theme going on, including locally made cheeses, festive wreathes, floral decorations, jams and pickles, and fudge. It was a lovely evening, the Rec made some money for the shed and everyone had a great time. In fact, it was so good, we'll probably do the same again next year! See you there! Glynis MacDonald.

THE SUNDAY CLUB ADVENT FAIR

THE CAROLS AROUND THE VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE

Thank you to all the people who supported our fund raising activities for the Tigers Club which is now renamed 'Retrack'. The Sunday Club's Advent Fair raised over £780 which was the best ever! Carols around the Christmas Tree raised nearly £200 and we were so nearly at our £1000 target – and so some village youngsters braved the snow, the ice and the cold and raised £60 from some more Carol Singing – so yes, thanks to them we reached our target.

The money, as ever goes to support the orphaned street children in Kampala - who lead an appallingly hard and dangerous life – Retrack offers them a roof over their heads, food to eat and safety from the brutality of life on the streets plus the opportunity for education and health care. Thank you so much to everyone who helped.

Look out for details to support a valiant group of people from the village who have volunteered to abseil down Guys Hospital Tower in order to raise money for Retrack. It has to be said, that some of these village people are not actually in the first flush of youth. In fact, one of them could almost be described as an elderly abseiller. I think he is being very...brave...

Glynis MacDonald and Jane Smith-Haddon

EARLSWOOD HALL IMPROVEMENTS

There may be Trouble in Pantoland... but the Committee for Earlswood Hall is pleased to announce that they have just been awarded some money from CFAG5. CFAG5 I hear you cry? Of course...The 'Community and Facilities and Small Grant Scheme', which is administered by MCC! We have been offered £2142.94 which we are spending on two new kitchen work surfaces, a new kitchen shutter and the replacement of the top window-lights. Well, when you have The Wicked Queen visiting, one has to smarten up. And our next application might be to build a dungeon to lock up the Great and Evil Wizard....

And if you would like to hire Earlswood Hall – please contact Glynis (The Wicked Queen) on 01291 641 or glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

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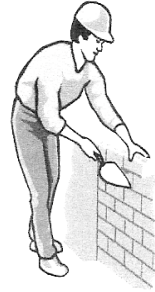
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Hearty Chicken and Corn Soup

Serves 4

Ingredients

- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 1 red pepper, diced
- 1 potato, peeled and sliced
- 1 oz bacon diced
- 1 large cup chicken stock
- 1 large cup milk
- 1 can corn
- 2 skinless, boneless chicken breast, diced into small pieces
- 2 tablespoons, chopped fresh parsley
- Salt and pepper for seasoning

Method

1 In a medium saucepan fry the onion, pepper, potato and bacon. Cover with a lid and allow to sweat for about 5 minutes or until the vegetables are soft.

2 Stir in the stock and milk. Bring to the boil and reduce to a simmer. Cook on a lower heat for 10 minutes.

3 Stir in the diced chicken and cook until the chicken is cooked throughout; about 5 minutes.

4 Stir in the corn and cook until heated through; about 2 minutes. Season to taste.

5 Ladle the soup into 4 warm bowls, sprinkle with the parsley, and serve, accompanied with toast or chunky bread.



Did you know?

That scientists have confirmed that chicken soup boosts the immune system and helps fight colds and flu.

Chicken is lower in fat and higher in protein than red meat. It has a good source of the B vitamins required for memory maintenance, release of energy from food and help protect arteries from damage. It also contains the mineral Selenium, which is an antioxidant that protects the heart.

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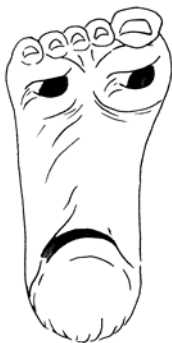
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GARDENING CORNER

With the freezing cold weather over Christmas there was little to do in the garden apart from clearing the snow off the tunnel cover so that it didn't collapse under the weight. Fortunately we had little damage as a result of the snow. It was also too cold to finish cutting the hedges, so these had to be held in reserve, although as I write this article things have improved and so as soon as I get five minutes I'll shoot out and finish off. The main thing, particularly with evergreen conifer hedges, is that you don't cut them when it is frozen or there is a minus wind chill factor. If you do, you run the risk of 'burning' the foliage, which will soon turn brown and look unsightly.

As the weather improved slightly I took the opportunity to get inside the tunnel and start the jobs that needed doing. All the old foliage has been cleared from the vegetable beds and these have all been dug and manured. I discovered a couple of first early roots of potatoes that I never did dig up. These had actually survived the extreme cold and were actually starting to shoot out. I dug these up and put to one side for the time being. As first earlies I decided that I could clear one of the other, smaller beds and replant the potatoes as I went. Not only should this provide for an extra early crop, it has also saved me from buying new seed potatoes – a double win! Duly planted and 'earthed' up, hopefully they will not shoot out until the worst of the frosts have gone by. I also took the opportunity to spray the fruit trees in the tunnel, with a winter tar oil wash. Hopefully this will destroy any overwintering bugs and beasties that have taken up residence, and ensure that we get a reasonable crop of apricots and peaches this coming season. All of the beds in the tunnel are now dug and ready for the next crops, the first of which will be carrots and salad leaves. The carrots will be an early variety such as primo, but these will provide the main crop as they will hopefully be totally free from the carrot root fly, the grubs of which can do so much damage to this crop.

In the small greenhouse the sweet pea plants are looking well as I have managed to keep any foraging mice at bay. I've also sown the first calabrese seed, as well as some salad leaves. When big enough the calabrese will be replanted into individual pots and nurtured for the next four or five weeks, before being planted into one of the tunnel beds. As in previous years, I'll plant these at quite wide spacing as this allows me to plant tomatoes in between later on in the season. The calabrese then has room to grow and mature, whilst the tomatoes get established, with the former then being harvested and cleared, to allow the tomatoes to grow on to maturity – definitely a case of double cropping. By the time that you read this, things will be starting to accelerate in the area of seed sowing, with the main salad crops being sown as soon as conditions permit, in order that they get as long a growing season as possible. I have sown a few broad beans already, but germination has been varied to say the least (only about half have germinated). I need to get on and sow some more and also the first peas, as both these crops are pretty hardy and will take quite a bit of cold weather. It was nice over the Christmas period to get on and catch up on a few odd jobs I'd been wanting to do for some time. I had to wait for the snow to clear, but then it was

a case of eyes down and look in. First was to get as much firewood in as I could to replace the stocks that we had burnt over the cold spell. It was whilst doing this one day that I took a quick breather and wandered around our field to check the bees were OK. Even during the cold weather, on a sunny day that provided enough warmth, they were busy flying. Not much to gather in the way of food but at least it allowed them to go to the toilet! Swiftly moving on, I had to replace a mouse guard before Christmas. These are wooden or metal strips that allow bees through, but act as a barrier to mice. There is nothing better than a nice warm beehive for a mouse to get into and spend the cold winter nights! I noticed that one of the wooden ones had been badly damaged, so assumed that a mouse had tried to get in. I had replaced this and all seemed well, but on my latest inspection it was obvious that all was not what it should be. The mouse guard had been what appeared to be chewed, but on closer inspection it had been hammered – literally. Fiddling around as I was the bees soon came tumbling out of the front of the hive – not impressed with being disturbed. Needless to say I beat a hasty retreat as I had no suit or other protection on. Looking from a distance I noticed that there were a couple of holes in the side of the hive, fortunately not the whole way through the wood. I noticed similar damage on the other 'national' hives, but the WBC ones (cottage style) were fortunately undamaged. All became clear, it wasn't mice doing the damage but a green woodpecker. No wonder the bees were not impressed as they no doubt thought my intentions were linked to knocking a hole clean through the side of their home! First aid was required and a solution to the problem. Although I hadn't encountered this with my own hives, my father had a similar issue, so it was off down the greenhouse, rustle out the rabbit netting and head back up the field. In the time I was gone the woodpecker had obviously decided to come back and finish the job. I heard the drumming, so moved faster, to be met by almost a swarm of bees. Needless to say I couldn't do anything until they settled down in this one hive, so I started on the others, with a little help from the deputy head gardener who wasn't over keen on being near several thousand angry bees. An hour later each hive was surrounded by a sheath of rabbit netting and the top of the wire was bent down to ensure there wasn't room for a sneaky woodpecker to get in. This seems to have done the trick, so we'll keep the fingers crossed. Whilst I was up the field I got the strimmer out and cut back an area that had gone a bit wild. I've got some ash trees that I want to plant then as we have started to plant some of the field with trees to provide firewood in the coming years. Before Christmas I'd managed to plant the new fruit trees, replacing several cherries that had never fruited. I'd noticed that rabbits were getting to be a problem, despite the attention of the farm cats. I had some spiral tree guards to wrap around the bases of these new trees as I'd noticed that a couple had been nibbled by the rabbits. Job done it was back home for a well deserved cup of coffee and the last of the Christmas cake. Happy gardening until next month.

Steve Hunt

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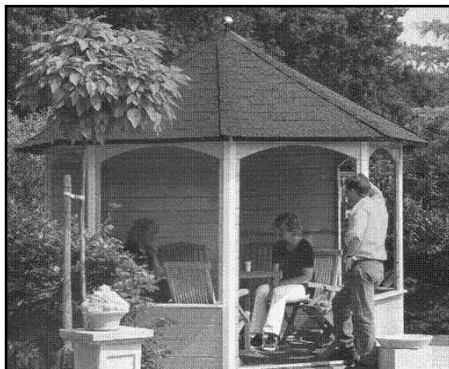
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*If you know of any changes or omissions please contact the Editor Terry Walters
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Curate	Revd. Nansi Davies 01633 400519
Church Wardens	Sally Saysell 01291 641369 Andrew Baker 01291 641925 Mrs Susan Lenthall Newchurch 01219 626389
PCC Secretaries	Jane Smith-Haddon 01291 641525 David Heritage Newchurch 01291 641549
PCC Treasurers	Charles Eickhoff Shirenewton 01291 641716 Enid Heritage Newchurch 01291 641549
Gift Aid Secretary	Ruth Savagar 01291 641411
Maintenance & Safety	John Nicholas 01291 641368
Organists	Karen Millar 01291 650521 Ruth Savagar 01291 641411 Kath Whittington 01291 641600 Jane Smith-Haddon 01291 641525
Sunday School	Mike Penny 01291 650653
Tower Captain	
Church Hall Booking	Glynis MacDonald 01291 641818
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Church Flowers	Maureen Moody 01291 641524
Parish Magazine Editor	Terry Walters 01291 641338
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Shirenewton Ward:	Beverley Moore 01291 641532 John Eede 01291 641257 Robin Mitchell 01291 650414 Beverley Leaf 01291 641680 John Harvey 01291 641279
Mynyddbach Ward	Sally Saysell 01291 641369 Suzi Squires 01291 641787
Earlswood Ward	Charles Eickhoff 01291 641716 Ken Morton 01291 650268
Newchurch West	Liz McCombe (CHAIRMAN) 01291 652957
MCC for Shirenewton	Graham Down 01291 621846 grahamdown@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Member of Parliament	David Davies 020 7219 8360 daviesd@parliament.uk

Police Neighbourhood Watch Contacts

Comm. Police Officer	Michael Cowburn 01633 642068 michael.cowburn@gwent.pnn.police.uk
Shirenewton & Mynyddbach	Beverley Moore 01291 641532
Earlswood	Sue Leat 01291 641207

Other Local Organisations

Beavers	Julie Hitchcock 01291 650548
Brownies	Jackie Broughton 01291 641797
Comm. Carol Services	John Nicholas 01291 641368 jd nicholas@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 Guides	Helen Cann 01291 650835 cann71@btinternet.com
Kids Ad Lib (KAL)	Karen Millar 01291 650521 Gail Jones 01291 650861
Recreation Association	Gordon Hughes 01291 641356 gordon.hughes3@tesco.net
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Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Fields Association Ltd (SAMFAL)	Stu Dutton 01291 641677 stu@dutton47.freeserve.co.uk
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Shirenewton Mothers Union	Rosemary Carey 01291 425010 rcandkili@tiscali.co.uk
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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

DIARY DATES

For further details see inside the magazine.

Feb	Event	Location
3	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
8	Brownies Meeting	
8	Mothers Union	Shirenewton Church Room
11	Quiz & Social Evening	Recreation Hall
14	Shirenewton Local History Society	Recreation Hall
17	Ballroom Dance Class	Earlswood Hall
22	Shirenewton Local History Society	Huntsman Hotel
23	Community Lunch Club	Tredegar Arms
23	Ballroom Dance Class	Earlswood Hall
24	Mothers Union Focolare Home Group	Caldicot
March	Event	Location
1	Brownies Meeting	
3	Ballroom Dance Class	Earlswood Hall
10	Ballroom Dance Class	Earlswood Hall
17	Ballroom Dance Class	Earlswood Hall
20	Shirenewton Cub Pack	Wentwood Forest
23	Community Lunch Club	Tredegar Arms
24	Ballroom Dance Class	Earlswood Hall
27	Abseiling	Guys Tower London
31	Ballroom Dance Class	Earlswood Hall
April	Event	Location
1 & 2	Shirenewton Cub Pack	1st Spring Camp
3	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
7	Llangwm and Llansoy WI	Llangwm Village Hall
8 & 9	Shirenewton Cub Pack	2nd Spring Camp
9	Big Band Dance	Earlswood Hall
27	Community Lunch Club	Tredegar Arms

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH - READERS AND SIDES-PERSONS

Feb	Service	Reader	Sides-Person
6	Fifth Sunday before Lent Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	Annabel Hancock Auriol Horton	Claire Lewis Auriol Horton
13	Fourth Sunday before lent "Songs of Praise" Service 9:30 am	Bob Grattan Mike Peirce	Bob Grattan Mike Peirce
20	Third Sunday before Lent Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	John Nicholas Cynthia Smith	John Nicholas Cynthia Smith
27	Second Sunday before Lent Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	Bill Clark Janet Clark	Bill Clark Janet Clark
March	Service	Reader	Sides-Person
6	Sunday before Lent Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	Mark Broughton Kevin Bounds	Mark Broughton Kevin Bounds
9	Ashing Eucharist at 7:00 pm		
13	First Sunday of Lent Family Service at 9:30 am	Diane Marlow Jane Fisher	Diane Marlow Clair Lewis
20	Second Sunday of Lent Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	Annabel Hancock Barbara Davies	Annabel Hancock Barbara Davies
27	Third Sunday of Lent Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	Margaret Lock Lisa Morter	Margaret Lock Lisa Morter

Earlswood
Chepstow



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EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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The views expressed are those of the contributor.

Deadline for contributions to the March issue is the 21st February