

Shirenewton & Newchurch Parish Magazine June 2011

Shirenewton Fete

11th June

See Page 18 & 19 for details



Sketch by Barbara Davies

Price: 50p

Dear Friends.

After a prolonged absence it is good to be back with you. My sincere thanks to all those who brought flowers, gifts and sent so many 'get well' cards; your kindnesses were a great encouragement.

Thank you to those involved in providing and supporting the lunch for Christian Aid and for arranging and participating in the Christian Aid Service the next day which was my first day back in church. Everyone was most generous.

The Archdeacon has asked me to take 'charge' of this parish for the time being and I will endeavour to serve you as best I can but I will need your help and co-operation. For example, I would very much value some help visiting those in the parish who are housebound, sick or in any sort of need who would appreciate a visit from the church. I will, of course, visit those who ask for Holy Communion at home. Mrs Diane Marlow has kindly agreed to help me organise this and if you can help, even on an occasional basis, please let either of us know.

At the Annual General Meeting a new Parochial Church Council (PCC) was elected and they elected a Secretary and Treasurer. We all look forward to serving the church, its members and the wider parish. All are most warmly welcome to our Church Services and to the events which the PCC and the Fund-raising Committee will be organising.

The Easter Season ends on 2nd June, Ascension Day so we continue to rejoice in the fact of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. His disciples witnessed His Ascension and a few days later received the gift of His Holy Spirit an event which we will celebrate at Pentecost on Sunday 12th June. Our Lord Jesus Christ promised that He would be with us always through the Holy Spirit. So we rejoice in His presence with us not only on Sundays but always, in the good and not so good times. Come and join us and share in this wonderful gift!

Every Blessing

Revd. Nansi Davies.

Priest in Charge.

ST. PETER'S NEWCHURCH

Forthcoming Fund Raising Events 2011

Summer Fayre 30th July at St Peter's Church, Newchurch - 11a.m.

Coffee Morning Saturday 20th August at Mynyddbach Farm, Newchurch
(courtesy of Mrs Josie Jones) at 10.30 a.m.

Songs of Praise -St Peter's Church 8th September at 7 pm.

Please we need your help and support for these events to enable us to keep
St Peter's Church open for future generations

EARLSWOOD HOPE CHAPEL

5th June 2011 at 3.00 pm
Refreshments afterwards

200 CLUB RESULTS APRIL DRAW

200 Club results for May

No. 4	Stu Dutton	£40
No. 205	Marion Reece	£30
No. 69	Sue Jones	£20
No. 198	Mike Baker	£10

FROM THE REGISTERS

The Marriage of

Geraldine Campbell and Paul Kelly

21st May 2011 at St Thomas à Becket Church Shirenewton

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING AND ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING.

Monday 9th May 2011 Glynis Reporting.

This month's meeting included the Annual Council Meeting which takes place... err... annually. Shirenewton Rec was mired out with people jostling to get through the doors. So OK, I exaggerate. There were a couple of attendees – but on reflection I think they were there to hear their planning applications and then they jostled through the doors to escape. I was the crowd.

A Brief Report on the Annual Shirenewton Council Meeting 2010 – 2011

The outgoing chair-personage, Liz McCombe gave the yearly report on the achievements of the council but I won't spoil your anticipation as you can make a bee line to the Councillors' Stand at the Village Fete (see details below) where you will be able to get a copy of annual newsletter. The new chair-personage is Suzie Squires and there is a long list of the new who's who on the myriad of smaller bodies if I can put it like that. If you want to find out who is on Rec Committee, the footpath patrol, the Llanmellin Fort cohort, or who is the tree warden, and even the OVW it's all out there in the ether. I'm not against naming names – and as far as I know, there are no super injunctions it's just that you get all this twitter on the web-site and besides that I'm trying to cut down on ink and save my carbon typewriter ribbon.

Police Report - 4th April to 7th May

- Mon 4th Some cattle hurdles were stolen from a farm near Shirenewton.
(For a new bovine Olympic competition)
- Thurs 7th There was a domestic assault near Shirenewton.
- Thurs 7th A shed was broken into in Shirenewton but nothing was stolen.
- Thurs 7th There was an assault in Shirenewton village.
- Sun 10th Three off-road motorcycles up were up at Penyaemawr.
- Sun 10th A tractor caught fire near Shirenewton but it wasn't suspicious.
(I saw the plumes of black smoke and remember thinking I'm glad I'm not eating sausages at that BBQ)
- Wed 13th Some suspicious chalk markings were spotted on a road near Shirenewton. (Banksy ?)
- Sat 14th The suspicious white van was seen at Penyaemawr.
- Sun 15th A shed was broken into at Penyaemawr.
- Sun 24th A person was accidentally locked out of their own house near Shirenewton. (Would they lock themselves out deliberately?)
- Tues 26th Complaint of speeding through Shirenewton village.
- Mon 2nd Suspicious phone call received at Shirenewton – regarding a possible fault on a computer.
- Sat 7th Three off-road motorcycles... this time up in Wentwood.

What's going to happen when PC Cowburn retires in June? Will there be a serious outbreak of crime in the Shire? Will we have sheep running amuck in the lanes? Will there be a backlog and a logjam of logs in the roads And who will sort out those suspicious-looking white vans? What makes them look suspicious anyway? Are their headlights too close together? Worried of Shirenewton

Planning

DC/2011/00320 Mandalay House Earlswood. Construction of new electronic vehicular gates, pedestrian gate, associated boundary walls and pillars, resurfacing old drive and provision of lighting bollards,
Approval was recommended but with comments about low level lighting, rights of way and drainage issues

DC/2011/00358 Hill Top Earlswood

Erection of timber shed for storage of hay ... 15 ft by 24ft

Discussion about this application went on a bit but eventually....

Approval was recommended

DC/2010/1063 South Grove Earlswood

Proposed replacement garage store, Amendment in design, size and siting of proposed outbuilding. Approval was recommended with the comment that the existing building should be removed

DC/1/00337 Fir Tree House Shirenewton

Two storey side extension to accommodate disabled family member. Approval recommended

Items of Local Concern

The Community Council's Stand at the fete generated lengthy and... intense discussions about tents, gazebos, banners, bran tubs, the printing of newsletters and the photo on the front, questionnaires, spot charts and interpretations of spot charts. Outside, the gloom gathered and night fell.

Start trimming those dahlias and strimming your lawns because the Best Kept Village Judges will be wandering around from 6th – 30th June. For a whole month? Must have got that wrong.

As Cllr Down wasn't able to be at the meeting, the request for speed and the volume figures along the Usk Road was not available.

And apparently, Cllr Down has still not had a response from the new owners of the company that now owns Brookacre

The Tan House Pub has now closed down but no one is sure what lies ahead.

The appeal against enforcement at Great House is proceeding. There is some information on MCC website but Shirenewton Community Council's comments which were sent some weeks ago are still not appearing on the website

Short reports from meetings attended

OVW 14th April, Cllr Harvey attended and reported that OVW was unhappy about the Charter agreement. Namely that originally the intention was to have one Senior Officer as Citizens liaison Officer but it was announced on the evening of the signing of the Charter that there would be three Officers and OVW felt that the Charter will not be workable with this set up. Consequently OVW has lodged a complaint.

By now, it was pitch black out on the Rec, night had fallen, several months had passed and I was still sitting at my desk.... I pondered over the wording, 'short report'

The Clerk has written to Paul Matthews regarding the allotments /affordable housing, asking for all information regarding the tendering process for the land at Blethyn Close under the Freedom Of Information Act but guess what – she is **still** awaiting response from MCC.

The next meeting will be June 6th at Shirenewton Recreation Hall, at 7.30. Come along and be one of the in- crowd. Like what I am.

GUY'S ABSEILING FOR RETRAK

Shirenewton Church has been supporting Retrak, formerly known as the Tigers Club for more than a decade. Retrak supports street children in Uganda and other countries by helping to resettle them and giving them home, support and education.

At the Fund raising thank-you event last November Khakoon Cornwell spotted a Retrak poster advertising an abseil down Guy's Hospital. Khakoon trained at Guy's and was taken by the chance to abseil down her old hospital. Dave, her husband, was easily persuaded and over Christmas Khakoon persuaded Bob Miller, Clare White and Kevin and Alistair Bounds that descending a 500 foot drop on a piece of rope was what we had always wanted to do.

So it was that on Sunday 27th March the six of us met at Guy's and after a brief training session were led to the top of Guy's Hospital. The views at the top over London were stunning – not surprising when you are 500 foot high. The abseil is the longest you can do in Western Europe. One at a time we were taken to the tower and then persuaded to step down onto the side of the building, wave at the photographer and then begin the mighty descent! Waving with both hands from that high took a lot of nerve because it meant letting go of the rope!

It was surprisingly hard work – 500 feet of rope is not light! – and staying close in to the building was surprisingly difficult but it was exhilarating and over in a few minutes. The trainers reckoned we were the calmest group they had dealt with but that just means superior acting skills I'm sure.

Special mention must be made of Bob Miller who abseiled down frontwards to double his sponsorship – brave or foolish? And to the loyal supporters who turned up to watch us.

Collectively we raised just under £3,000 for Retrak – with gift aid well over £3,000 – and afterwards we enjoyed a well earned pint before tackling the traffic back to Wales.

We have just about forgiven Khakoon - it was a great experience but not one we are rushing to repeat! However, as they say, it was all in a good cause and Retrak does superb work and the money raised will make a real difference to so many children so thanks to all who sponsored us.



BEST KEPT VILLAGE 2011 COMPETITION

Just a reminder to everyone in Shirenewton that judging for this Competition will take place at anytime from 6th - 30th of June.

As you are probably aware we were only ONE POINT short of winning the Best Kept Village last year, while we won the Best Kept Recreation Hall and Best Kept War Memorial. The other category in the competition is Best Kept Churchyard.

Judges mainly concentrate on public areas so could you please look at the area outside of the perimeter of your garden.

Following some of the comments made by the judges last year we feel that we should make a concentrated effort on some of the public areas. If you are able to help in anyway with this please Contact:

Cllr Bev Moore on 641532 or Carole Jones 641791

MONMOUTHSHIRE

MOBILE

ONE STOP SHOP

is visiting your area

Shirenewton Recreation Hall

1.30 – 3.00 pm

On the following Tuesdays :

14th June

12th July 2011

Information – leaflets – forms – enquiries
Purple / Red / White recycling bags
and dog bags

If we cannot help you, we will try to find out who can

1ST SHIRENEWTON CUB PACK



We have had a very busy few months starting with our preparation for the St Georges Day Camp at Caldicot Castle 15th -17th April. All the cubs made costumes either as knights or damsel's to fit in with the medieval theme of the camp. The weather was good as we joined around six hundred other cub and scouts from all over South Wales. The activities over the weekend included wild bull riding, climbing, archery, bouncy castles, shooting and many more activities. Saturday evening we had a giant bonfire with lots of singing and then back to our own smaller fire for hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows. On the Sunday we all marched into the castle, all the groups flags were flying, for our St Georges day Service. It was a fantastic weekend.

On the 14th May twelve of our cubs and four scouts took part, as two teams in a district competition called Scubtrex. The teams had meet at Llandegfedd Reservoir and then had to navigate themselves around a four mile course. Throughout the course there were check points the teams had to find and answer questions on such things as the country code, first aid, knots, general scouting questions and also team challenges. Nineteen teams took part and I am very proud to say that our teams came 3rd and 5th. A brilliant effort by all who took part.

We have also made use of the forest area at the back of the Huntsman making shelters and search for animal tracks.

Our next big event is on the Bank Holiday weekend when we are off to the PGL at Ross on Wye for our activity weekend. If we only have half the fun we did last year it will still be great. Let's all keep our fingers crossed for good weather.

Plenty of photos of our events on our website

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

All the best in Scouting

Mike, Di & Geoff

SHIRENEWTON GUIDES



Girlguiding UK

Firstly a very big thank you to all those who supported our tea party in aid of the British Red Cross in early May. We raised £338 – a great effort. We will be having an official cheque presentation in early June when both our local Red Cross representative, Christine Morton and the First Aid trainer Claire Greenhouse, can join the Brownies and Guides for part of the evening.

The Guides have begun work on an environmental project with the help of a grant from the Community Council and we will be asking for your ideas – come along and talk to us at the fete. The older girls ran a very successful evening as part of the Baden Powell Award. Bases had an international theme and included crafts, food tasting, music and treasure hunt. Next on the agenda is camp and planning is well underway for this. The last time we camped at the chosen venue we had a scorching hot weekend with the highlight of camp being a massive water fight, so we are keeping our fingers crossed for a repeat performance!

Please pop by and say hello at the fete – Welsh cakes are on the menu again this year.

Yours in Guiding,

Kestrel	Helen Cann	01291 650835
Kitten	Amanda Turner	01291 650763

Baby sitting, dog walking, etc

Responsible 14 year old boy (15 in September) is available for baby sitting, dog walking, cat feeding and other stuff

Also able to teach you how to use your gadgets/facebook/phone. etc

Contact Sebastian Cornwall

Tel: 01291 641614

Email: sebastian.cornwall@gmail.com

FAIRTRADE NEWS



Here's a couple of significant facts:

1988 -First fairtrade product : Mexican coffee marketed in Holland

1992 - the establishment of the Fairtrade Foundation- ensuring independent certification.

Now 7 million farmers and their families receive the various benefits of Fairtrade. Fairtrade status means fairer wages and a guaranteed price, and a more sustainable, environmental approach to production. Workers have a say in decision making and they receive a small premium which they save and decide how to spend, e.g. a clinic, improvement to roads or schools, a well.

There are 750 Fairtrade towns, including London, Rome, San Francisco and of course Chepstow!

There are 10,000 products (world wide) , and 3,000 available in the UK. Clearly significantly more than the coffee-tea-chocolate-banana thing!

So many positive developments have grown out of Fairtrade!

If you are tired of reading only doom and gloom, have a look at

www.positivenews.org.uk - or there are copies of the paper at the library. It's very uplifting to read of various groups' successes. The current issue has the headline 'Huge Palm Oil Co Promises To End Deforestation'. Incidentally palm oil is in an astonishingly huge proportion of products, including one very popular range of soap/cosmetics. Its cultivation is wrecking Indonesia's forests and of course destroying the habitat of the remaining orang -outangs. Check the small print on the products you buy!

As ever contact me for a catalogue or more info or go direct to Traidcraft or the website of the Fairtrade Foundation.

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

FROM ONE ATTRACTION TO THE NEXT.

What a fabulous day we had celebrating the Royal Wedding. The first attraction started at Westminster Abbey, where Prince William married his stunning bride Catherine Middleton on Friday 29th of April. After the ceremony many of the villagers proceeded to the recreation field at Shirenewton. How privileged we are to have such beautiful grounds in our attractive village. We had a grand picnic, listened to music, danced and had a jolly time with our friends and family. The children played rounders, boules, giant chess and football. This was a great occasion for bonding the young and old together. In fact we had so much fun, the talk was "we must do this again". Suggestions were for 2012 "The Shirenewton Olympics" and for 2013 "The Queen's Jubilee".



Maureen Moody invites you to

A COFFEE MORNING

at

Glenfield, Weyloed Lane, Mynyddbach

On Saturday 18 June 2011, 10.30am

Entry £1.50

Cakes, Bring & Buy, Bric-a-Brac, Plants, and Raffle

All proceeds to Velindre Hospital

Call my Bluff Wine Tasting 15th July

Shirenewton Charity Committee (the committee formerly known as the Shirenewton Church Fund Raising Committee) will be holding a 'Call My Bluff' wine tasting on Friday 15th July in the Church Room – Save the date.

Call my Bluff wine tasting is fun wine tasting evening which requires absolutely no knowledge of the subject but does require a sense of humour. You and your team will taste a number of wines and hear 2 - 3 descriptions of the each wine and have to guess which one is the real description. Additional points are awarded for things like price (typically in the £4 - £12 range), 'vintage' and, who knows, maybe even whether it came from Tesco's, Waitrose or directly from France in a car boot.

Needless to say that as the hour gets later the guesses become wilder! All profits will be split between LATCH (South Wales Children Cancer Charity) & the Church Fabric Fund.

**MONMOUTH & DISTRICT NCT.
POSTNATAL SUPPORT.**



SOCIAL EVENING and committee meeting will be held on June 6th 2011 at The Gatehouse, 25 Monnow Street, Monmouth, Gwent, NP25 3EG. From 8 p.m.

Come along for a chat & a drink or two with other friendly local mums. You'll also get the opportunity to find out a bit more about the NCT and the work that we do.

We are a busy branch of the NCT and would like more volunteers to help us continue events such as the nearly new sales, coffee break & summer strolls. This social evening will also be a chance for you to find out how to volunteer your time!

NCT is here to support parents. We offer practical and emotional support through our network of 300 local branches, help-lines, classes and counsellors. www.monmouthshire-nct.org

We are on Facebook too – Monmouth and District NCT

Registered charity no. 801395 Registered company no. 2370573 (England)

TREDEGAR ARMS SHIRENEWTON

Shirenewton Community Luncheon Club

Please book early to secure your place for lunch on Wednesday

June 22nd

July 27th

Tredegar Arms, Shirenewton Telephone 641274

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEB SITE

Well what an eventful month April/May was! A Royal Wedding and 'Obama got Osama'. Unfortunately these events, especially the later one, are seen as a heaven sent opportunity for the nasty people trying to steal your identity, bank details and other such stuff.

Within hours of the Osama event especially, email land was awash with invitations to view the photos the Americans were refusing to release and containing videos purporting to be of the raid itself. Needless to say these were all from scammers and would simply install malware on your PC and then try and infect all your friends PCs by sending them a link from a 'trusted' friend. The problem was so bad that not only did the FBI issue a warning but it also made the Daily Mail and other mainstream newspapers. In fact the Daily Mail reported that the event generated in excess of 100 million spam emails.

However, the worst attack was through the new social media such as Facebook. This is a real problem because people trust their friends on Facebook. So, although this is a bit late, be warned and warn your kids. If you are worried, download and scan your computer with Malwarebytes. Download this from a trusted source (such as cnet.co.uk) and don't be fooled by the big adverts and look for the free download link. It is free, don't pay anything.

Another scam I need to bring to your attention is the following. You receive a phone call to your home number where the caller claims to be from Microsoft (or from 'Windows' or from 'The XP/Vista/Windows 7 Service centre' or some other plausible sounding name) and they tell you that they have remotely detected a problem with your PC and that they need your help in fixing it.

This is, of course, complete rubbish. They are after your credit card details and, if they get lucky and you follow all their instructions, you will then download and install their malware on your PC! You may laugh! However, people do get caught. Someone I know was half way through this process and then got suspicious and called me to see what I thought! The best thing is to put the phone down. But, if you want to have some fun, ask them what the 'IP address' of your computer is. If they give you one just say it's wrong. But, they won't give you one. So, your supplementary is 'how can you tell there is something wrong with my computer if you don't have the IP address'?

Anyway, I've added a couple of new website links to the Church Website. Under 'Fun and family stuff' I've added a link to a typing speed test. I was a poor 35 words per minute and under the 'traffic information' I've added a link to the Tom Tom Live traffic reports which reports back the traffic speeds from the Tom Tom satnavs – so I'd expect it to be fairly accurate.

Remember to do your summer holiday shopping through the church website. Flights, pre-booked parking, care hire, etc are all available.

Safe Browsing

David Cornwell

Webmaster

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

THE BELLS

The bells were rung between 11.00am and 12.00 noon on the 29th April to celebrate the marriage of HRH Prince William to Kate Middleton. A quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung totalling 1260 changes taking 43 minutes. Congratulations to Chris Eickhoff in ringing his first quarter of Grandsire on a working bell (No. 4). The other members of the band were Simon Stanley (1) Charles Eickhoff (2), Mike Penney (3), Claire Eickhoff (5) and Christine Stanley (6).

On 26th of March the first ever Youth Striking Competition was held at St Saviours, Pimlico in London as part of the Centenary Celebrations of the Ringing World magazine. This is a weekly magazine for ringers which has yet to feature on "Have I Got News For You"! There is a group in the Diocese for young ringers organised by Pip Penney called "Kids.Ring.Out" (KRO) and they wished to enter a band. The ringers had to be under 19 years of age on the day but many of the young ringers in KRO had become too old and others had gone off to universities in far flung places. Despite asking for help from the Cardiff students, Bristol students and any other local ringers, it was not possible to come up with a Method ringing band (Methods are the equivalent of ringer's music in which non-repeating permutations are rung involving all bells). However, the kids we did have were keen to enter into the Call Changes section (Call Changes are single bell alterations verbally instructed at each change – less challenging than Method ringing). So a quest to find ringers to fill the gaps in the band was started. Two young ringers from Bassaleg were identified but due to unforeseen circumstances they could not make the practice before the entry date where we were to assess if we had a suitable band to enter. We therefore quickly persuaded two of our younger Shirenewton ringers to join the band. It was all very rushed but we got our entry in within the time limit - just. This meant we now had 5 Shirenewton young ringers in the band totalling 8. We had four practices with all band members and many on the simulator and on 3 or 4 bells with the less experienced ringers. Everyone was very nervous as we travelled to London on the Megabus early that Saturday morning. Some of the younger ringers were worried that as they were inexperienced having hardly rung on 8 bells before the practices started, and that we might come last! They need not have worried KRO came in a healthy second place (out of 12) with an A* and 76%, only two percentage points behind the winners. What a confidence booster that was!

The Shirenewton Ringers were:- Claire Eickhoff, Maddie Stanley, Chris Eickhoff, Hannah Leney and Rhiannon Millar.



MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL

OUR NEXT CONCERT

WEDNESDAY JUNE 29th

The Drill Hall, Chepstow

7. 30pm

Programme

Joseph Haydn: Choruses from "Creation"

Andrew Carter: Benedicite

Michael Flanders/Josef Horovitz:

" Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo"

With Shirenewton Primary School

Marjorie Duerden (piano/keyboard)

Graham Bull : Musical Director

Further information, please tel (01291) 623310, 620414, 424725. The Society welcomes new members. If you enjoy singing, please contact Marjorie Duerden (tel.623310) about singing membership

CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd-Music Centre Wales, and is also a registered charity (1127098). Tickets (£10) for our concerts are available from CHEPSTOW BOOKSHOP, on the door, via any members, or by contacting the above telephone numbers.

SAMFAL

“AND SUMMER’S LEASE HATH ALL TOO SHORT A DATE”

Mid-summer is almost upon us and in a few weeks the sun will swing back southwards and the days will shorten- who knows where the time goes? To me it seems like yesterday I was splitting logs with split-fingered hands to feed the wood burner and scraping ice from the car windscreen and now the year is almost half gone. The mention of wood allows me to segue into a big thank-you to the band of volunteers who turned up a couple of Sundays ago to tidy up the fields of all the branches left behind when the boundaries were trimmed prior to the fences being erected. Armed with saws (mechanical and manual) thick gloves, sturdy footwear and enthusiasm we made good progress and created several piles of logs which as they decompose will form good habitat for many species of wildlife and fungi, and piles of smaller stuff which will be got rid of when conditions are suitable, naturally, in an environmentally friendly way.

The bird nesting season is well under way and as I write some species are sitting on their second clutch but I have noticed numbers are much depleted, which I think most people agree is due to the severe prolonged cold spell at the turn of the year. I was heartened, albeit in a perverse sort of way, to find a car-killed goldcrest on school lane. This is Britain’s smallest bird and as far as I can remember they have been resident on Mynyddbach, and it is good to see that even they can survive the harshest of winters.

The little pond in the fields is alive with tadpoles and supports a healthy invertebrate population and dragon and damselfly can be observed hovering above. Anyone who has witnessed a dragonfly larva catching and eating a tadpole will be relieved they are not as big as the crow sized specimens found fossilised in coal seams from the Carboniferous period 300 million years ago.

People intrigued by the blue coloured wrapped object in the field beyond Beverly’s garden need wonder no more; it is part of the Mike Sayce memorial due to be officially unveiled on Sunday 19 of June, ante meridian; be there or be square! We will have a stall at the fete this year manned by members of our able and willing committee who will be only too pleased to answer questions and offer information on all aspects of the association’s aims and policies and I will be around, although possibly in another part of the recreation field. Any questions or information before this date call or email on the usual numbers. Enjoy your days, whatever the clime. Mike Gambold.

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our April meeting had to be re arranged due to illness and one of our members, Dr Naylor Firth kindly stepped in and gave us an excellent talk on '*Ships that were built in Chepstow*'. He has done extensive research on this subject for a paper to be published in the Monmouthshire Antiquarian Journal. Everyone was amazed how many large ships were built and where they actually ended up.

We have a number of dates for your diary:

Sunday, 29th May, Walking the Parish Bounds on Rogation Sunday, meeting at the church at 2.00 pm. The walk will be approximately 3 miles long and will cover the Golden Valley section of the parish. Please wear suitable foot wear, everyone welcome and afterwards tea and refreshments in the Church Room.

Tuesday, 31st May. Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel at 7.30 the talk will be entitled '*The History of Monmouthshire*' given by Tony Hopkins from the County Record office. Not to be missed!

Saturday, 11th June. The history society will have a stand at the Village Fete, please come and see us I'm sure you will find something of interest.

Monday, 13th June. Resource Afternoon at the Recreational Hall at 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm (drop in session). We have just acquired the two volumes of 'The History of Gwent', available for our members to borrow.

Tuesday, 28th June. Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel, the talk will be entitled 'Top to Toe' given by Rosemary Scadden.

THE MOTHERS' UNION



1. The Deanery MU Festival 10 May at Caerwent went beautifully. Thank you to all who were involved.
2. MU Summer Fashion Show at Abergavenny 7 p.m. Wednesday 29 June. Open to all. Entrance £10 includes refreshments. Please let me know names plus the entrance fee by 10 June.
3. Next MU meeting A Picnic party in Paul and Patsy Lewis' garden. 2.15 p.m.. Wednesday 8 June. Welcome to all members and friends.
4. The National MU Conference, Edinburgh 5 - 11 June. Please pray for this event. Rosemary Carey, MU Branch Leader Tel. 01291 425010

Shirenewton Village Church Fete

THE PERFECT DAY!

COME TO THE FETE



Shirenewton Village Fete Notices

Saturday 11th June 2011

Fun for all the family

Grand prize draw

Loads of activities

Stalls Refreshments Entertainment

Floats and Parade leave the Tan House at 1:45pm

See You There

Stallholders

will be collecting on the following dates

Bottle stall, Thursday 26th May from 7pm

Books and Collectables, Tuesday 7th June from 6pm

Cakes and Biscuits, Friday 10th June from 6pm

The recreation hall will be open from 7pm until 8:30pm if you prefer to deliver your own cvake.

Could you put a price you think is appropriate on the cake.

This helps enormously

Diane Ward: Coordinator

Poster Competition

We would like to thank all the school children at Shirenewton primary School for their participation in the competition. As usual the standards were high and the judges found it difficult to select one winner, so this year there are three.

The overall winner is: Bethan Taylor year 6

The infant winner is: Amy Barrell year 1

The junior winner is: Lowry Sutherland—Watkins.

Well done to you all

Come and join...



SHIRENEWTON GAMING GROUP

**Do you enjoy playing games?
We do!**

We are a friendly, informal group with ages ranging from 13 to 48. We enjoy playing tactical & strategic games of all sorts - tabletop miniatures' games, board games & everything in between.



We meet on Sundays in Shirenewton Church Hall

If you want to join us, or have a game you want to play and are looking for partners/opponents, get in touch...

Contact Paul Owen on 01291 641483

or by email at dqgm@ppstudio.co.uk for more information.

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

The Studio at the Old Rectory Shirenewton

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

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The cake stall at Shirenewton fete is always one of the most popular attractions. It could be mum looking for something special for the family, grandma and granddad hoping to find a sweet treat with their tea, or children looking for a way of spending their pocket money.

*What could they **hope** to find at the stall?*

Biscuits of all descriptions-pinwheel, fork, shortbread, ginger snaps, spiced, melting moments, Viennese, flapjacks, or lemon cookies.

Mouth watering cakes- Dundee, Cup , brownies, rock, banana bread, Welsh bara brith, rocky road, date and cherry, gingerbread, carrot, swiss roll, vanilla, lemon, chocolate, coffee, fruit cake and more.....

Shortbread makes 8 wedges

Ingredients

4 oz (125g) plain flour

2oz (60g) ground rice

4 oz (125g) butter (**cold**)

2oz (60g) caster sugar

Method

1 Pre heat oven- 160 C, 325F, Gas Mark 3.

2 In a bowl mix the flour with the ground rice.

3 Add the butter and with **cold hands** rub in with the fingertips.

4 Stir in the sugar.



5 Knead the mixture **lightly** until it forms a smooth dough.

6 Lightly butter a baking tray.

7 Roll out the dough on a lightly floured work surface into an 18 cm (7in) **round**.

8 Lift onto the baking tray, **crimp** the edge to decorate.

9 Prick all over with a fork, and mark into 8 wedges with a sharp knife.

10 **Chill** until firm.

11 Bake in the oven for 35 minutes or until a **pale** golden brown colour. Mark the wedges again and sprinkle the shortbread with caster sugar.

12 Allow the shortbread to cool on the baking tray for about 5 minutes, then lift carefully with a palette knife and transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. Cut into wedges to serve.

To freeze-bag, seal, label. Use within 6 months. **To Use:** thaw ½ hour at room temperature.

To sell at the fete. Make them special; Present in a beautifully made container, plastic bag decorated with ribbon, covered, labelled with ingredients.

Enjoy!

STARGAZING

Look high in the west at dusk for stars in the shape of a backwards question mark, with a right triangle to the left of that. These stars form the constellation of [Leo, the Lion](#). The seven stars of the Plough are highest on spring evenings. From the Plough's handle, you can follow an imaginary arc to Arcturus, in the east at dusk. This is the brightest star in our night skies during all of June and July.

Continuing the curve of the Plough's handle past Arcturus, you come to another bright star called Spica.

Arcturus is a red giant star at a distance of 40 light years, which means it takes light 40 years to cross space from the star to Earth. As light travels approximately 200 thousand miles in 1 second, Arcturus is at quite a distance! Even so it is one of the closest of the bright stars.

The yellowish planet Saturn is in the south-west in the evening sky. The 9-day old Moon is just below Saturn on the 10th. Before sunrise, Jupiter lies in the east with the brighter planet Venus lower and closer to the Sun. On the 26th, the crescent Moon is just above Jupiter. The Moon is a very fine crescent close to Venus on the 30th.

On the 21st June the Earth's axis is tilted towards the Sun to its greatest extent and the Sun reaches its highest position in the sky at noon. This is the longest day or summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere.

Dave Thomas

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

May is the month of our AGM, a time to review the past year and prepare for the next. Not everyone looks forward AGM's, but whatever the organisation, they are important and can be quite exciting. Resolutions to debate, amendments to decide, new committees to elect, all sorts of interesting things to review or propose and lots of people to be thanked for all their hard work and support.

We were lucky to have our WI advisor, Jo Dawson, able to attend and support us with our proceedings. Jo was assisted by Ann, a trainee advisor, they provided us with information and inspiration.

We were lucky that although no other members wished to stand for committee the present committee were willing to continue.

Our secretary Margaret Woodliff gave a wonderful report, reminding us of all its events and highlights. Our treasurer Auriol Horton gave a comprehensive review of our finances and our president Diana Such thanked all our members involved with running our institute for their considerable support, help and energy.

Our meeting wasn't all business, we congratulated Winnie Jones and her husband on their Diamond Wedding and enjoyed some of their cake.

Jenny Bonner brought a wonderful birthday cake along for us to help her celebrate a milestone year and we all sang 'happy birthday'.

With plenty of nibbles, tea and coffee we all enjoyed a very sociable end to our evening.

Looking forward to our next meeting on June 9th, we will have Dr Naylor Firth returning to us with a talk on 'The Norwegian Coast'.



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GARDENING CORNER

Life in the garden here at Barn Farm is now running at break-neck speed! Although the weather has become changeable, but a little more seasonal, we are still desperate for rain, so watering of essential plants only, continues. Since writing the last contribution for the magazine, we have managed to squeeze a week away in Cornwall with the family, but as usual returned to a mountain of work to be done. We often wonder why we do what we do, but picking fresh produce straight out of the garden, steaming for a few minutes, before sitting down and enjoying a flavoursome meal soon reminds us of the rich rewards to be had. Before we went away we had started to pick a number of salad crops including cucumbers, which, first week in May, is the earliest we had ever managed to harvest. It goes without saying that we also had harvested spring onions, lettuce and radishes. Other additions were strawberries from pots in the greenhouse and our earliest new potatoes from inside the tunnel. We have returned to the first crop of courgettes, calabrese and cauliflowers. In the tunnel I had half expected to find a mass of calabrese requiring freezing when we returned, but with the change in the weather it appears that the plants have slowed down somewhat, so it will be another week at least before we might have to consider resorting to freezing some of the crop down. The cauli's have also slowed right down, and it looks like, apart from the odd one, these might well start to mature when the calabrese has finished. The latter are meant to send out side shoots once the main head has been harvested. Normally I would leave the crop to continue supplying, but this year the tomatoes are so advanced, that I will need to remove at least some of the calabrese plants in order to let me plant the tomatoes, as they are to go into the same bed in the tunnel. The tomatoes have been re-potted into large pots, but even so they are starting to show signs of running out of steam. The golden cherry tomatoes were planted into some bare ground before we went away and these are already showing signs of improvement now that they are starting to get their feed into 'proper soil'. I also planted the aubergines and various peppers into the borders of the tunnel, and the week away has also shown a vast improvement in how they are looking.

Elsewhere in the tunnel the nectarine and apricot trees have explode into growth and I will need to prune these in the next week or so. I'm still having trouble with scale insect on these, but I did spray with horticultural soap a week ago and this seems to have had some effect. I'll leave alone for a bit longer and if the insect starts to come back I will consider buying a living organic solution to the problem – a little insect that eats scale! I purchase a similar solution each year for red spider mite, which has become a huge problem in the tunnel and greenhouses in recent years. This pest mainly affects the cucumbers, aubergines, melons and courgettes, but the counter measure seems to keep the problem down to acceptable levels and of course it means that there are no chemicals getting into your produce. Some of the solutions can get a little expensive, but the end product is always worth it when picked and on your plate in under fifteen minutes. In the vegetable garden, all of the raised beds are now fully planted up and I am now struggling for room. I have one area which in time will get planted, but at the moment is full of flower plants awaiting a home in the main flower

areas. The intention was to start clearing the borders out of weeds and fill in the gaps where plants have died over the last couple of winters. Unfortunately with the dry weather, the last thing I want to do is to start digging established plants up and replanting them, as on the present showing, I will be non-stop watering for the next few weeks! So stay they must until the weather shows signs of rain. In the meantime I'll have to try and make other arrangements for the vegetable plants that are looking for a home. The salad crops are not so bad as the early one's need replacing, so its a case of one crop out and another in. Unfortunately I think I was a little early getting the purple sprouting broccoli seed in, so it has meant that I have potted these up into bigger pots in the hope that some ground will be available in the not too distant future. The problem has been exacerbated a bit by the fact that I now have two raised beds permanently planted with asparagus, two with strawberries and three with alstroemarias (lovely exotic cut flowers for the assistant head gardener to harvest). As I mentioned I did have plans to extend the vegetable cropping area, but best laid plans as they say!

Elsewhere around the 'estate' I will shortly be starting the first hedge cutting and strimming work of the year. The strimming will commence where the daffodils are planted in the grass. These areas have been left up until now in order to let the daffodil bulbs replenish themselves ready for next year. It will then continue up the drive as the early primroses and other wild flowers have now set seed. The bluebells have finished flowering but the seed heads are not ripe yet, so I will be careful to avoid cutting these off for several more weeks yet. I'm hoping to collect some of the seed this year and spread this in our small spinney. I had noticed that we had managed to import half a dozen Spanish bluebells in some garden soil from a small job that we did for someone. As these cross and hybridise with our native bluebell, I was quick to ensure that the flower stems were cut off before the bees started pollinating and therefore cross pollinating our native stock. I must remember to mark where the bulbs are and dig these up so we don't have the same problem next year.

Talking of bees these have been particularly active due to the hot weather. We had our first swarm in the last week of April, the earliest that I have ever known one. This was followed the following week by two more on the same day, one of which was an enormous swarm. These were all captured and boxed up and seem to be settling in well. I checked on our return from Cornwall to make sure all was okay. They were fine, but at the same time noticed another swarm on a thick branch of an apple tree. This meant getting changed pretty quick, grabbing all the stuff I needed and returning up the field. I did have time for a cuppa in between! I normally 'knock' a swarm of small branches, but I couldn't with this one as the branch was too thick. They were very quiet though, so I was able to brush them, literally, using a soft hand brush into the swarm box I made for this purpose. Having collected this swarm I turned around to find another one on a neighbouring tree, which wasn't there earlier! This I was able to knock straight off and into a straw skep as a short term solution, and I transferred these into a hive later on. Next problem – I have no more hives left! Time to get on Ebay and see what I can find. This looks good, a complete new hive at well below half price! Best get on and order one to see what they are like. Happy gardening until next month. Steve Hunt.

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LOCAL CONTACTS

*If you know of any changes or omissions please contact the Editor Terry Walters
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Church of St. Thomas à Becket Shirenewton

Priest in Charge	Revd. Nansi Davies 01633 400519
Church Wardens	Sally Saysell 01291 641369 Andrew Baker 01291 641925 Mrs Susan Lenthall Newchurch 01219 626389 William Clark 01291 641783 David Heritage Newchurch 01291 622708
PCC Secretaries	Kevin Bounds 01291 641818 Enid Heritage Newchurch 01291 622708
PCC Treasurers	Ruth Savagar 01291 641411 John Nicholas 01291 641368 Karen Millar 01291 650521 Ruth Savagar 01291 641411 Kath Whittington 01291 641600 Kerry Baker
Gift Aid Secretary	Mike Penny 01291 650653
Maintenance & Safety Organists	John Nicholas 01291 641368 Sally Saycell 01291 641369 John Waters 01291 641449 Maureen Moody 01291 641524 Terry Walters 01291 641338 Nerys Wilson 01291 641935
Sunday Club	
Tower Captain	
Church Hall Booking	
Child Protection Officer	
Church Flowers	
Parish Magazine Editor	
200 Club	

MP/Monmouth CC & Community Council Representatives

Clerk to Community Council	Carole Jones 01291 641791
Shirenewton Ward:	Beverley Moore 01291 641532 John Eede 01291 641257 Robin Mitchell 01291 650414 Beverley Leaf 01291 641680 John Harvey 01291 641279 Sally Saysell 01291 641369 Suzi Squires 01291 641787 Charles Eickhoff 01291 641716 Ken Morton 01291 650268
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Newchurch West	
MCC for Shirenewton	
Member of Parliament	

Police Neighbourhood Watch Contacts

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Shirenewton & Mynyddbach	Beverley Moore 01291 641532
Earlswood	Sue Leat 01291 641207

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Earlswood Hope	Mrs Sybil Cullimore 01291 641563
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Whist drive	Auriol Horton 01291 641844 aur10l@btinternet.com
Womens Institute (WI)	Jenny Bonner 01291 641929

DIARY DATES

For further details see inside the magazine

June	Event	Location
2	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
5	Service and Refreshments	Earlswood Hope Chapel
6	Monmouth & District NCT Meeting	Gatehouse Monmouth
8	Mothers Union Picnic Party	Paul & Patsy Lewis Garden
9	Womens Institute Meeting	Recreation Hall
11	Shirenewton Fete	Recreation Ground
13	Shirenewton History Society	Recreation Hall
14	Mobile One Stop Shop	Recreation Hall
18	Coffee Morning	Glenfield Weyloen Lane
20	DEADLINE FOR JULY PARISH MAGAZINE	
22	Community Lunch	Tredegar Arms
28	Shirenewton History Society	Huntsman Hotel
29	Mothers Union Fashion Show	Abergavenny
29	Chepstow Choral Society Concert	Drill Hall Chepstow
July	Event	Location
14	Mobile Shop	Recreation Hall
15	Call my bluff Wine Tasting	Church Room
27	Community Lunch	Tredegar Arms
30	Summer Fayre	St Peters Newchurch

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH - READERS AND SIDES-PERSONS

June	Service	Reader	Sides-Person
5	Seventh Sunday after Easter Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	Auriol Horton Barbara Davies	Auriol Horton Barbara Davies
12	PENTECOST SUNDAY Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	Diane Marlowe Jane Fisher	Diane Marlowe Claire Lewis
19	TRINITY SUNDAY MATTINS Service at 9:30 am	Andrew Baker Sally Saysell	Cynthia Smith Allan Saysell
26	First Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am	Annabell Hancock Mike Peirce	Annabel Hancock Mike Peirce

CHRISTIAN AID PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH

Thank you to everyone who came along to The Chantry for the annual Christian Aid Ploughman's Lunch on Saturday 7th May. So many people came along that we nearly ran out of chocolate brownies. The weather was kind to us and we had a lovely afternoon. We raised a wonderful £346.00 and when we added this to the collection from the Christian Aid Sunday Service, we were able to send a cheque for £437.40. Christian Aid helps people in this country and abroad, regardless of their denomination or their religious beliefs.

Once again thank you all again for your support – see you all again next year - Kevin, Glynis and Jane

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The views expressed are those of the contributor.

Deadline for contributions to the July issue is the 20th June