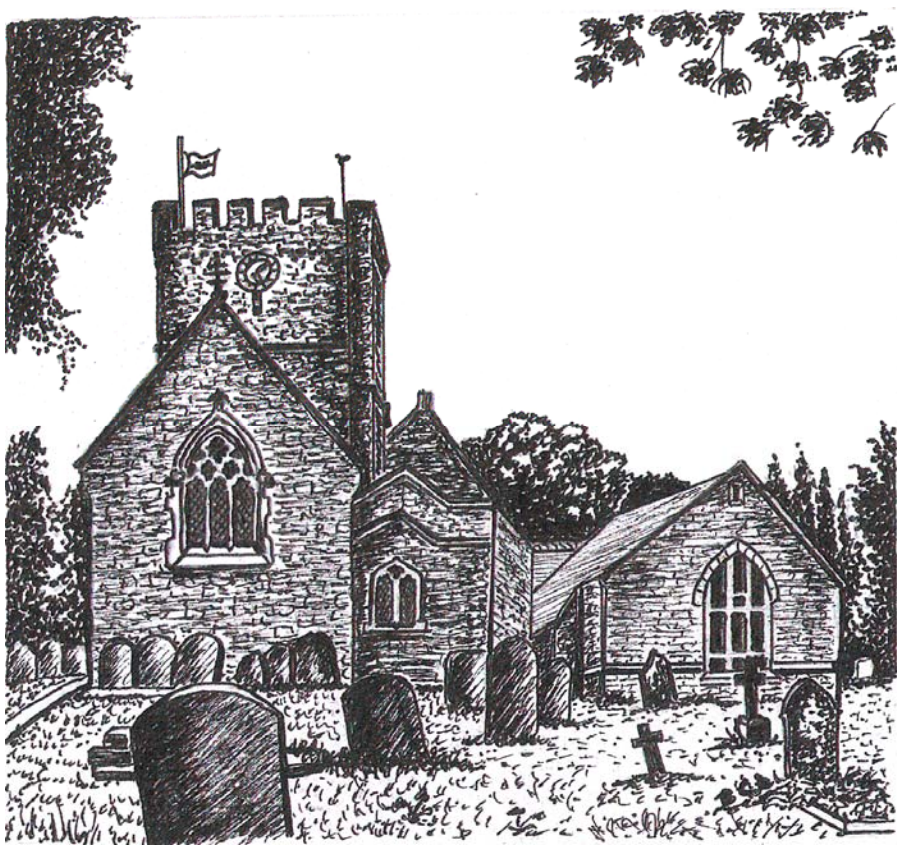


# Shirenewton & Newchurch Parish Magazine November 2011



*Sketch by Barbara Davies*

Price: 50p

## **RECENT EVENTS IN THE PARISH OF SHIRENEWTON**

From the Parochial Church Council

Many in the Parish are aware that there have been difficulties over the last year, and we are all very grateful to the Archdeacon and Bishop for their support in resolving them. It is now up to us all to work together to try to put this behind us, and prepare for the next big challenge, which will be the reorganisation of the Diocese in the next couple of years.

During the recent difficulties the PCC has been constrained in its communication to the Parish by considerations of confidentiality and matters to do with the personal reputations of individuals. This vacuum in communication has been filled by rumour, gossip and misinformation, but now the Bishop has resolved matters the PCC feels it can be completely open about the facts and what has taken place. Please feel free to speak to members of the PCC about any of these matters and they will be happy to answer questions of fact or detail, but will refrain from expressing opinions.

Over the last year the Archdeacon has been talking to the Reverend Doctor Father Will Ingle-Gillis, the Reverend Nansi Davies, the PCC and the Officers of the PCC. He recognised there had been a breakdown pastorally in the Parish, between Father Will and the Church officers and some of the congregation – but not all. He had hoped for a period of time for reflection and space and while Father Will was ill and off work with stress he arranged for Nansi to have pastoral responsibility in the Parish. But this period of distance did not work, so the Archdeacon recently met with PCC to discuss the best way forward. He consulted with the Bishop, and decided to give pastoral responsibility for this Parish to Nansi, and she will in effect be running the parish. The Bishop and Archdeacon recognised that it was best for the Parish to act independently.

It had been suggested that legal changes should be made to regularise the arrangement. But the Bishop was reluctant to make such legal changes at the moment because the whole area would be looked at during the deanery reorganisation, which would be the subject of consultation later in the year. Any changes now to the legal structure could reduce the options that would be examined for the future arrangements for the Deanery. The plan for the Deanery should not be based on personalities. This interim arrangement would be best for the Parish. The Parish needed understanding and clarity, and Nansi as Priest-in-Charge needed understanding and clarity. Father Will will continue to work with the other three parishes.

The Archdeacon said in Church on 2<sup>nd</sup> October that people come to the Church in faith and hope. Someone said to him recently that the behaviour of some people had not always been Christian; but Christianity is made up of people, and people have all the inadequacies of human beings. God brings the fruit; but time and other issues often combine to make the fruit go bad. In cases where things matter very much to people, people will give of their best but in some cases things can go wrong. He recognised that things had been difficult in the Parish and he hoped that the congregation would be able to work with the new arrangements, and so bear good fruit.

## SHIRENEWTON PARISH VISITORS

We have a team of five Parish Visitors who are members of the Church of St Thomas A Becket's congregation.

They are trained and supported to offer a listening ear and time to chat with those in particular need -- the housebound, the sick, the bereaved, or those facing some other kind of crisis. They are also there to welcome new people into the village and help them to integrate into the community more quickly.

They are not professional counsellors, carers or social workers, but ordinary people who are willing to be alongside you when you most need it. Their service is free to those of all faiths and none, with no strings attached.

### **Confidentiality:-**

Our Parish Visitors work within a strict code of confidentiality so that you may be confident that whatever is shared with them goes no further.

The one exception to this is that Visitors may share the minimum information necessary to obtain support and advice themselves, if necessary, from our clergy or other appropriate person. This would only happen with the persons consent

### **How to Find Out More:-**

Contact our coordinator, the Revd Nansi Davies Tel 01633 400519 or Diane Marlow Tel 01291 641407 for an informal chat about your need.

If you would like to become a member of the Parish Visitors team please contact Nansi or Diane.

### **List of Parish Visitors are:**

The Reverend Nansi Davies	01633 400519	Diane Marlow	01291 641407
Cynthia Smith	01291 626712	Margaret Lock	01291 641884
Kerry Baker	01291 642925		

## FROM THE REGISTERS

The Funeral of  
Evan Morgan Davies 1916 to 2011  
St Thomas à Becket Church Shirenewton

## SINCERE THANKS

"Annette, David, Gareth and Cerys wish to express their sincere thanks to friends and neighbours for the many kind messages of sympathy received during their recent bereavement. Our grateful thanks for all kind donations amounting to £992.21 for Velindre Cancer Centre and £81 for Gwent Cardiac Rehabilitation Trust."

## SHIRENEWTON CHURCH HARVEST LUNCH

Once again we had a good attendance at Earlswood Hall. We hope that the 80 people who attended enjoyed the fare and, as ever, the support was tremendous. Our thanks go to all the ladies of the village who made and served the lunch and, in addition, we must acknowledge the generous support of Andy Jones who has taken over from Geoff Roser.

So many people contribute, it is impossible to mention them all but our special thanks go to:

Stu Dutton who, once again, managed to get top price for all the produce and raised over £300 for the Rifles Benevolent Fund.

Barbara Davies for obtaining such magnificent raffle prizes and raising £160 which was also donated to the Rifles.

Kevin Bounds, who, as always, produced plentiful supplies of both soft and alcoholic drinks.

Jean Jones for producing such attractive flower arrangements for the tables and Peter Jones for organising the production of the tickets.

Thank you for your support over the past 10 years and we should mention that the lunch raised £463.50 for Church Funds.

Margaret and Pauline

## MOTHER'S UNION SHIRENEWTON / CAERWENT



On 12 October we met for 11 a.m. coffee followed by a cookery demonstration by Patsy Lewis making a delicious 'tomatoey soup' full of beans and herbs. A meal in a bowl. For dessert Patsy made a gorgeous chocolate & courgette (yes!) sponge cake. Of course we both tested and devoured all her output. In between whiles we had a catch-up time looking at the MU work around the world and sharing news of great projects of care and service.

On Wednesday 9 November we meet at 2.30 in the Shirenewton Church Room, when Lynn Waters will share her experiences of working in Uganda earlier this year. She spent 4 months with an organisation aiming to place parentless children in secure adoptive families.

Everyone is welcome. Please come and join in.

In December instead of our own meeting we have been invited by St Arvan's MU to their pre-Christmas gathering. This is on Tuesday 13 December at 2.30 p.m. We will arrange transport between us.

Rosemary Carey Branch Leader 01291 425 010

## SHIRENEWTON WOMENS INSTITUTE



A mild evening and the pleasant surroundings of the Rec Hall provided the backdrop for our October social evening. Everyone enjoyed a nice assortment of nibbles with tea or coffee, whilst perusing the competition array of photos and shoes. Everyone had brought a child photo of themselves and a shoe belonging to them (when everyone arrived they placed their articles into a bag so no one saw anyone else's items and all could take part).

It was amazing how similar everyone's photos were, although they were taken over a range of decades. Matching people with shoes wasn't that easy either, but it was all good fun and sparked some interesting stories and conversation.

Our next meeting will be 10<sup>th</sup> November and our talk 'Bringing home the Bacon' with Mrs Rosemary Scadden. Our competition for November 'A favourite old fashioned recipe'.

## FAIRTRADE NEWS



All over the UK thousands of committed, enthusiastic people raise money for a vast range of charitable causes. This is, of course, hugely commendable. But I am often disappointed to find that willing volunteers are sometimes so focused on their own particular goals that they lose sight of the overall picture. Organizing your team with jolly tee shirts emblazoned with your motto does not have as much moral standing if the cotton was

produced by marginalized, impoverished farmers and the garments were made up in a sweat shop. Buying cheap stuff really cheaply and selling it, for example at Christmas Fayres, raises a profit for many charitable organizations and good causes, but surely we need to consider the provenance of the cheap stuff. It is certainly a difficult and complicated world.

A recent campaign, backed by, amongst many others, Actionaid, highlights the activities of highly successful FTSE companies such as Glencore. It is estimated that (perfectly legitimate) tax dodging by Glencore could be costing Zambia up to £76 million in lost tax revenue. That's more than the £59 million Zambia receives in UK aid each year. Do look at the Actionaid website for info and suggestions for action. Supporters are currently contacting their MPs to urge them to close tax loopholes and to press for greater transparency in company accounting.

What else can we do? Eat FAIRTRADE chocolate of course! The Traidcraft Christmas catalogues are available now - or of course contact their website, or any others of the growing Fairtrade movement.

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

# SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING.

From Your Own Correspondent – Glynis MacDonald.

Don't forget, I only write up about the things that I find interesting – well it's all relative really ... but if you want the Full Unabridged Report go to the Village Notice Boards or find the draft minutes on the church web site.

## **The Police Report**

I didn't receive a Dated Time-Table of Crime in the Neighbourhood this month but this is a brief summery of the report from PC 1158 Louise Thorpe of the Chepstow Neighbourhood Policing Team

- All Wales Ploughing Championship was a good day out and luckily the weather was so kind that nothing got stuck in the mud.
- The Good News is – house crime in the area is down but the Bad News is – Rural Crime is up. So the warning is: SECURE YOUR OUTBUILDINGS. Keep your power tools, your ride-on mowers and your garden gnomes locked up. Make your premises look less desirable than your neighbours - in relation to security.
- Joists were stolen from a field.
- Fly-tipping is up but the Environmental People will catch these dumpers because they will go through the fly-tip with a fine toothcomb to discover who the culprit is. (Ugh, what a job...)
- And at the same time of the illegal dumping of rubbish, The White Van was Spotted.
- A scam has been reported up near Devauden involving the hiring of heavy earth-shifting vehicles. So if you see someone acting suspiciously with such a vehicle, please let the police know ASAP
- And finally some strange chaps – possibly 'mushroomers' (as opposed to 'toadstoolers') were seen in the vicinity... wearing 'hoodies'. But important info like this needs to be reported At The Time – to give the Police time to find and possibly question these 'alleged fungi-gatherers.'

## **Planning**

1. DC/2011/00761 Newton Lodge, Shirenewton

Extension to existing garage

There was good deal of discussion about extending this garage by a massive 5 foot but Approval was finally Recommended

2. DC/2011/00812 Cae Tumkin, Old Road, Newchurch West

Retention of agricultural wooden buildings for animal shelter, hay and feed storage and shelter of agricultural machinery

For cattle, geese, turkeys, milking goats, Jersey cows, ducks and Dexters.

Did I forget the chickens? Recommend Approval

### 3. Oak View

This will be the third set of plans for this particular application and there was much discussion (and some sadness expressed) over the fact that people are putting in planning applications to build houses in what is basically their back gardens – increasing the density of housing and thus changing the nature and character of the area.

In addition, concerns were raised over how construction vehicles would actually get to this particular site as the road is too narrow to even get a skip down. And the only other way would be over the playing area at Blethyn Close.

### 4. Dalimore House.

Yet another garden infill re-application

This application was originally turned down but it would appear that the new plans have done very little to address the original issues and the planned house would still have a huge and detrimental impact on the neighboring properties. The members of the council weren't too impressed either by the planning officer's letter to the applicant, wondering whether it went beyond a neutral response and whether a 'complaint' could be lodged...

#### **Items of local concern**

- Sadly, after some exhaustive research, the conclusion was reached that today's children would not be remotely interested in receiving a silver spoon or a commemorative mug to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee on 4<sup>th</sup> June. Only a coin the size of a tractor wheel and made of chocolate might interest them. Briefly. Such a shame. I've still got my crown given to me in 1953... And by crown I mean five bob in old money. Not that I am that old you understand... it was given to me by my ...grandmother.
- There was a very short report about the progress of acquiring somewhere to have a village shop which boiled down to 'waiting for people to get back to people'
- There is still no news on DC/2008/01157 at Wentwood Mill, Earlswood. County Cllr Down said that the person dealing with this matter is still on paternity leave. This was fine...until the Clerk pointed out that we had been waiting since 2008 which is a jolly generous amount of time for a paternity leave. At this rate the child will have left home and gone to uni before we hear anything...
- Cllr Down also reported that he had been unable to procure the new maps for the Electoral Wards as the Planning Department had been – or were in the process of, moving and that they were mired out with work. But another Cllr frowned and said that she had heard that the Planning Department were now only meeting once a month because of a major decline in the work load. But apparently the department was mired out with the work of moving departments. Which, because they were the Planning Department, would have taken them some time to plan.

*Continued on Page 8*

*Continued from Page 7*

- Cllr Eickhoff reported that it would cost over £4000 to look at all four faces of the War Memorial Clock on the church tower. I mean for the Clock Repair people to look at the 4 faces of the clock on a bosun's chair – not you or I casting a glance up to see what the time was. So there was a very long discussion as to whether to go for a repair to the North Side at £1800 or to go for the full monty – as it were - and overhaul all four at £4k. It was decided (I think) that Cllr Eickhoff should go back to the Clock repairers and ask how long the work would be guaranteed for. I can't guarantee that I will be around long enough to see the repairs or whether Father Time will have claimed me first.
- The Council received the resignation of Carole Jones the council clerk. (On a personal note, I think that Carole has done a brilliant job as Clerk to the council and she will be a very hard act to follow. But I suspect that MCC will be secretly pleased as she has been like a terrier gnawing at their ankles – metaphorically speaking – she has not let them prevaricate their way out of a dilemma) It was suggested that an ad be put in the parish mag advertising this post and it was recommended that it would be a good idea to recruit someone who not only lived in the area but who had a keen interest in our village life and our rural community.
- Other Items of local interest included The One Stop Shop was not where it should have been...
- Local Volunteers are needed to look after local footpaths but they need training if, for nothing else, insurance purposes. But of course, there is no money for training. On the other hand it was agreed by nearly all of the cllrs that it really wasn't a good idea just to send people out armed with chainsaws, lifting wire and wild enthusiasm. Like in the old days.
- Several of the cllrs had been taken on a tour of the MOD Base down at Caerwent and they had found the trip to be both interesting and informative.
- Once again Cllr Down has kindly donated a large quantity of daffodil bulbs to the village and these have been distributed to the cllrs to plant in our wayside verges.
- Cllr Squires reported that The All Wales Ploughing Championship on 17th September had been a brilliant event and very successful. The good weather had brought the crowds out and everyone had an extremely enjoyable day and the organizers were to be congratulated.
- We didn't win anything in the Best Kept Village Competition this year which was a little disappointing.
- And finally, because it was deep into the night and I'd been in the Rec for hours – my note-taking has let me down. I have written, 'In a domestic setting, how many cows would you need for an aerobic digester for methane cow droppings?' I don't know the answer. I don't even understand the question.

Glynis MacDonald



## SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Applications are invited for the part time (11.5 hours per week) paid role of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Council which will become available on 1 February 2012. Shirenewton Community Council is looking for a motivated and proactive person, with financial, IT and organisational skills ideally with WWYC (Working With Your Council) qualifications or equivalent or be prepared to work towards obtaining this within the first two years. You would be expected to attend all evening meetings of the Council (on average 2 a month). You will be working from home.

If you are interested in this role please, in the first instance, contact Suzi Squires at [suzisquires@btinternet.com](mailto:suzisquires@btinternet.com) or telephone 01291 641787.

Closing date for applications..5pm on 25 November 2011

Interviews will take place...mid December 2011

## STARGAZING IN SEPTEMBER

The familiar seven stars of the Plough lie to the North in the evening sky. The cross shape of Cygnus the Swan is high in the western sky. The "W" of Cassiopeia lies nearly overhead in the Milky Way. The Milky Way is a faint band of light visible on clear dark nights. It is the combined light of an enormous number of stars that make up our galaxy. Present estimates reckon the number of stars to be between 100 and 400 billion.

The very bright planet Jupiter is in the south-eastern evening sky with the Pleiades star cluster to its left. On the 9<sup>th</sup> the nearly Full Moon is very close to Jupiter.

In the early morning, the yellowish planet Saturn lies to the south-east, forming a pair with the star Spica. Saturn is to the left. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> a fine Crescent Moon is to their right. Viewed through a telescope, Saturn and its rings are an awesome sight. The great Italian scientist Galileo was the first to view Saturn through a telescope in 1610. He was able to see it wasn't a perfect sphere. He thought he could see two moons on Saturn's sides. It was not until Christian Huygens used greater telescopic magnification in 1655, that they were seen to be rings.

The slightly orange planet Mars is also to the south-east in the morning but at higher elevation. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, Mars forms a triangle with the star Regulus and the Moon.

Dave Thomas

## SAMFAL

### CLOCKS BACK TIME.

Here we are at the time of the year when somebody in the misty murky past decided that we alter the time of day by one hour to make it, for a short while lighter in the mornings and darker at night. Nothing in nature is affected by this except humans who are divided into those who find themselves working from dark in the morning till dark in the evening and those who are not governed by the clock. Farmers will say that you cannot tell the cows who are bellowing at the gate with tight udders that the clock says it is not yet milking time and they must adjust to the new regime.

Most of the migratory birds have gathered together and flown south, but I did see half a dozen house martins swooping low over the fields hunting the late insects to feed what is possibly their third brood of chicks. I have, in the past, witnessed house martins hatching three sets of young but whether the third clutch has time to fledge and fatten themselves up for the long flight to Africa is probably unlikely.

Walking through the fields these last few weeks I was struck by the absence of things I have been so used to seeing for most of my life that I have taken them for granted. I have not seen a hedgehog (alive) this year and only seen two killed on the roads. Rabbits are now a rarity, Myxomatosis is reported by several farmers to be rampant. Many species of butterfly and moths are missing and I think this is the first year in a quarter of a century that I have not been bitten by a horsefly. Field mushrooms and other once common fungi are noticeable by their absence and there are fewer grey squirrels than of late (a condition that we should be glad of ,if only the red squirrel should return) and I think the field vole population has gone down as I have not seen our resident kestrels hovering over the hill and tawny and barn owl numbers have dwindled.

There was a hedge planting session due this weekend but it has been put off by the mild weather; the sap is still up. Alison Broughton will keep us all posted as to when the new date is announced. Most things in the natural world are now settling down and becoming dormant but as All Hallows looms we will have our annual spate of activity from the American introduced species, "The Lesser Spotted Trick or Treater" And don't forget of course the annual burning of an effigy of a Catholic man who lived in the early part of the seventeenth century and the accompanying ritual of trying to outdo ones neighbours/next village/adjointing parish with the most expensive, noisy, terrifying to livestock and pets, pyrotechnic display. Lock up and sedate dogs and cats, give your hawk a full crop and shut in a darkened mews and sit down with a large Malt and you may survive the ordeal. As usual, anyone requiring information; or in fact offering information, contact any member of the committee or me on the usual numbers or email addresses. Enjoy the coming of the darkness and look forward to Christmas.

Mike Gambold.

## 1ST SHIRENEWTON GUIDES



Recently we joined nearly 1000 members of Girlguiding Gwent at Newport Wetlands for a day of pond dipping, insect identification, shelter building and bird watching. We are helping RSPB Cymru to celebrate its Centenary this year. Girlguiding celebrated its Centenary last year and were welcomed onto the reserve and a partnership between the 2 organisations has developed. Shirenewton Guides are building bird boxes to be placed locally to encourage the bird population. The girls have also been learning First Aid with the help of the Red Cross and our unit helpers, Debbie and Karen (both nurses). We also learned some basic self defence. Older girls are working towards their Baden Powell Award and they organised our last meeting based around developing a healthy lifestyle. Various team games in the dark were a great success, if the screams and laughter were anything to go by. Inside the girls made healthy wraps and fruit smoothies to their own recipes. Plans are being made for an evening climbing and some of the older girls are planning to camp overnight with the local Explorer Scout unit as part of their training for the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Our next challenge is based around Tanzania to support Girlguiding members who are raising funds to help Guiding in Africa. Then who knows what next – but we expect challenges based on the Olympics and the Queens jubilee – always something new to learn about and activities to try out (and that includes the adults as well as the girls).

If you have skills you would be willing to share with the girls then please do get in touch as we like to invite members of the community into the meeting place. If you would like to find out more about becoming a volunteer adult leader, again, get in touch for an informal chat.

Helen Cann	Kestrel	01291 650835
Amanda Moreton	Kitten	01291 650763
Karen & Debbie		

## **SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Registered Charity No. 1090167

Our first meeting of our new programme was an excellent talk on repairing ancient buildings by Peter James (who lives in the village), his company has worked on building and monuments all over the world, India, Middle East, Australia as well as in this country, our membership was very impressed by the work that had been carried out on such ancient structures.

Our next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting which will take place at the Huntsman Hotel, Shirenewton on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00 pm and afterwards our speaker for the evening will be John Harvey who will give a talk on 'T.A. Walker his life and Achievements'.

Members of the society will be participating in the 'Monmouthshire Walking Festival' by leading a walk entitled 'Moun-ton Brook Mills' which will start from the village and cover around 5 miles. Here's hoping for a dry day!

### **Dates for your Diary:**

**Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> November**, Resource Meeting  
At the Recreational Hall, 2.00pm – 5.00pm

**Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> November** Meeting  
At the Huntsman Hotel at 7.30 pm  
The speaker will be Godfrey Brangham  
'Hanging and Hangmen at Usk Prison'

## **EARLSWOOD AND NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL**

Remembrance Service Sunday 13th November at 10:30 am

**Everyone Welcome**

## **WHIST DRIVES**

Again 34 players attended the Drive on the 6<sup>th</sup> October. It was a cold evening and windy but that did not deter the players. Our next meeting is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November and new players are always 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. Our Seasonal Special will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> December and next year we start on the 5<sup>th</sup> January. All our Drives are held on the first Thursday of each month at the Recreation Hall starting promptly at 7.30 p.m.

Auriol Horton. 01291 641844

## THE BELLS, THE BELLS

Shirenewton have had an autumn of ringing quarter peals. A quarter peal is one quarter of a whole peal which is defined as 5000 "changes" and takes between two and three hours to ring. The normal time for a quarter peal on Shirenewton bells lasts about 43 minutes. A quarter peal is very pleasing to ring, it gives the bells time to settle down into a rhythm. Afterwards we always head to the pub for a quick one or even two! Since August there have been five quarter peals. The first was rung to celebrate the A level successes of Claire and Maddie, this was Plain Bob Minor- Minor meaning six "working" bells. This was followed by one of Grandsire Doubles – Doubles meaning five working bells, and was Merrick Stanley's first ringing Grandsire inside. This was a real family quarter with five members of the Stanley family ringing in the band! A further quarter of Plain Bob Minor was rung for Sam Bolingbroke before his return to university. This was his first "inside". In Doubles method the lightest or treble bell moves regularly from the front of the change to the back in a regular manner this is called Plain Hunting, the four middle bells ring the Grandsire Method (ringing "inside") whilst the Tenor or heaviest bell sounds in 6<sup>th</sup> place every time, this is called ringing the "Tenor behind" or "covering".

Towards the end of September our ringer numbers were reduced as several of our younger ringers either returned to or started at university. This has stimulated the band to think of recruiting new ringers to join our active group – see later.

The Monmouth Branch of the Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Association of Bellringers held its quarter peal fortnight between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October. This corresponded to the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Diocese. During this time we rang two quarter peals. The first was Plain Bob Minor with Jenny Millar returning to ring "inside" for the first time in about a year and the second was Plain Bob Doubles with younger sister Rhiannon ringing her first as "cover".

Bellringing is a fascinating past-time with elements of physical skill and mental challenges once the ringer gets as far as "change ringing". It is an enjoyable hobby and a good one in which families members can participate together. We are looking to recruit ringers, who would like to participate in this ancient British art, perhaps you have young children and would like to get out and socialise for one evening a week, perhaps you are looking for some activity you could pursue with your kids? (children must be over 10 years old.).

We practise on a Friday night and then debrief in the local pub, we ring for services on Sunday mornings. We go on two ringing tours each year with the Shirenewton ringers but there are plenty of other opportunities to join in with other tours, outings and events.

If you would like to join us contact tower captain Mike Penney or his wife Pip on 01291 650653.

## **SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY LUNCHEON CLUB**

Please book early to secure your place for lunch on Wednesday  
November 23rd  
Tredegar Arms, Shirenewton Telephone 641274

## **QUIZ & FESTIVE SOCIAL EVENING**

Shirenewton Recreation Hall On Friday November 25th  
Doors open 7.30 pm Quiz begins at 8.00 pm £2 per person  
Maximum number per team 6  
Alcoholic & Soft Drinks available  
In aid of Shirenewton Recreation Association Fundraising Activities

## **SHIRENEWTON CHURCH FETE 2012**

It was decided at our last committee meeting that next years Fete will be held on Saturday 2nd June. This ties in with the Queens Diamond Jubilee which is on the same weekend.

Obviously its going to be a big weekend so we want our village Fete to be really special.

To enable us to do this we need more help on the committee but also volunteers on the day to help with stalls, pitching tents, entertaining the crowds etc. If you can help in any way look out in the January Parish Magazine for our February committee meeting date.

Please come along

Diane Ward Fete Co-ordinator email: lordward99@hotmail.com

## **BIG BANGS IN EARLSWOOD**

Please note that there will be a firework display at Lower House Cottage Earlswood on the 17th December starting at 9:15 and lasting for 6 minutes  
Pip Penney

## Christmas Fair and Coffee Morning for 'Retrack'



Last year, the younger members of Shirenewton Church raised over £1000 for 'The Tigers Club' (now renamed 'RETRACK') which was fantastic. This charity helps children who have to live in dangerous conditions on the streets in Uganda and in Ethiopia.

This year we will be holding a Coffee Morning and Christmas Fair **Church Room on Sunday 4th December from 10.45 onwards.**

Do come along – it would be lovely to see you.

(PS You don't need to have gone to church either!)

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Liz O'Brien on 07831 740909, or email [lizobr@googlemail.com](mailto:lizobr@googlemail.com)

## EARLSWOOD HALL BARN DANCE

Thank you to everyone who came along to Earlswood Hall for the Barn Dance on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October. The food was excellent, the beer was great and there are some really good dancers in the village – and of course those who don't know their left from their right but hey - everyone had a really good evening – even those who are directionally challenged. We raised over £400 for the hall and had a great time - so dust down your dancing pumps, brush up on your dozey-d'ohs' and we'll see you at the next 'Solar Panel Barn Dance' in the New Year.

### Earlswood Hall Needs You



Earlswood Hall are planning to install Solar Panels on the roof of the hall.

This will take advantage of the Governments feed-in tariff which will guarantee an excellent financial return on the electricity we sell back to the National Grid. This project will cost us around £14,000.

And so far people in the area have pledged over £7500 either in direct donations or interest free loans or as an investment with an approx 3% interest rate. Brilliant!!

Would you like to support this excellent venture?  
If so see Glynis, (641 818) Charles, (641 716) Christine,  
Simon (641 616) for more details.



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**

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## **Nerys's Natty Nosh**

*Hi Nerys*

*Rachel (Bowler) shared her "chocolate delight" with our book group last week and everyone wanted the recipe. I've since made it and it is so easy and truly scrumptious! Thought it would be good for the Parish Mag.*

*Sue x*

*If you bring sunshine into the lives of others, you cannot keep the rays from yourself.*

*Written by J. M. Barrie.*

### *No cook chocolate squares*

## **Ingredients.**

250g margarine

2 heaped tablespoons drinking chocolate

2 heaped tablespoons cocoa

3 tablespoons golden syrup

2 x 250g packets rich tea fingers – crumbed with rolling pin to chunky.

350g to 400g good quality milk chocolate.

## **Method**

Greased swiss roll tin or disposable foil roasting dish

1. Melt on low heat; margarine, golden syrup, drinking chocolate and cocoa in large saucepan.
2. Add crumbed biscuits.
3. Press into tray.
4. Melt chocolate in basin over hot water. Place on top of the biscuit mixture.
5. Put in fridge until set.
6. Cut into small rectangles/squares.
7. Enjoy!

**Tip** – freezes well.

Many thanks to Sue Philipson for sharing this recipe with us. If you have any questions or recipes you would like us to try, please Email them to me on:- [Ranthonywilson@hotmail.com](mailto:Ranthonywilson@hotmail.com).



MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL

*CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY has commenced their 2011/2012 season and preparations for a challenging and varied programme have now commenced, with rehearsals taking place each week in term time at Chepstow Leisure Centre (Drama Room) on Wednesday evenings, 7.30pm – 9.30pm. A highlight of the season for many music lovers will be the performance of JS Bach's "St John Passion", which will be with an orchestra comprising 18 full professional Instrumentalists, and six young and exciting soloists, all of whom will be singing in Chepstow for the first time. For our Summer Concert this year we will be joined by the Rhondda Symphony Orchestra, and the principal choral item will be Sir Edward Elgar's "Music Makers".*

### **C.C.S. Concert Programme, 2011/2012.**

#### **SUNDAY DECEMBER 11th :**

Christmas Music & Carols, St Mary's Church, Chepstow, 3.00pm

#### **SATURDAY MARCH 24th 2012:**

J.S. Bach's "St John Passion", St Mary's Church Chepstow.  
CCS Orchestra, Gareth Treseder (Tenor) -Evangelist

#### **JUNE 30th 2012 :**

Summer Celebration - The Music Makers (Elgar)  
With the Rhondda Symphony Orchestra. Choral & Instrumental music

For further information about any of the above, please tel. (01291) 623310, 620414, 424725. The Society welcomes new members. If you enjoy singing, please contact Marjorie Duerden (tel.623310) about singing membership. **NEW MEMBERS ARE INVITED & MOST WELCOME – COME & KEEP YOUR LOCAL SOCIETY SINGING!! WE CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT YOU!!**

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.

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## GARDENING CORNER

Another month has flown by, with some of the best, although unseasonable weather of the last four or so months. Unfortunately it arrived far too late in the year to be of any value to those of you who are ardent gardeners. I suppose if nothing else it has allowed for some early 'autumn' cleaning up to have got underway although here at Barn Farm I have turned my attention for some of this time to maintenance on the house – mostly starting to paint the outside walls! This I have tried on a number of occasions and as usually happens with me, other things get in the way, to the point that actually the house has taken on a multi-colour appearance. This has resulted from starting to paint at several different times, and that paint having faded over the ensuing months and even years in some cases! So it is with some determination that I have set about getting the entire house painted at the same time, so at least it appears all one colour.

Times must in the garden however and I have had to take a breather from the paint brush and turn my attention to those jobs in the garden that desperately needed attention. With this in mind the last of the onions and shallots were harvested along with the main crop potatoes. The resulting beds, plus one that I had cleared earlier as a result of club root attacking the Brussels sprouts, were completely cleared of any weeds, heavily manured and replanted. The bed that had potatoes in was raked down and the next crop of soft and hard necked garlic planted. I bought new bulbs last year and as they performed well I have decided to keep several of the best bulbs for next year's crop. Having saved three of each, these were broken down into their individual cloves and duly planted. Garlic need a cold spell to entice them into growth, and they are surprisingly hardy. Despite the weather over the last two winters, the crop has come through each, with minimal losses and subsequent good crops. In the bed with the club root problems I have decided to 'lock this down' by planting the next strawberry crop. These will stay in the bed for probably three years before they start to get less productive and will need to be replaced. Sadly as I've said before, club root will remain in the ground for some fifteen years, so I won't be planting any greens in this bed again, although I am tempted to try one of the new resistant varieties of cabbage or cauliflower, just to see how good they are at combating the disease. I will have to think what I do with this and other beds that have succumbed to the same disease in the future, but don't think I need worry about this for the time being!

In the tunnel, most of the salad crops are coming to an end, although I have managed to keep a lettuce crop, mostly cut and come again leaves, growing on in the large grow bags that line down the one side of the tunnel. These have proved to be a revelation. They are actually small versions of the one tonne bags you get from the builders merchants with sand and gravel in. So they are woven fabric, which you put bamboos into around the top to help keep them rigid, and then fill with soil / compost. Finished they are about a metre long by about 0.6 metres across and 0.3 metres deep. I now have six of these down one side and will probably buy a few more this winter. This will give me the flexibility to grow some early carrots without tying up the main greenhouse borders for too long. I will then use them for planting up the melons, which need quite a long growing season to do their stuff. The cucumbers have pretty well finished. Apart from a golden period about the middle of August, when I picked some twenty cucs in one go and took them to the office, they did not perform too well – I think because of the very poor weather. They just seemed to rot off at the bottom of their stems, so think I must have over-watered them. The tomatoes have performed reasonably well, but the cooking varieties that I grew this year, especially the one (Federle), insisted on putting up too much green growth as opposed to growing tomatoes to pick. Having limited time available to me meant that I didn't keep on top of this growth, and the crop suffered as a result. These plants were removed a couple of weeks ago, and last week, following the assistant head gardener picking as many ripe tomatoes as possible, I removed a lot more, digging out any weeds as I went. This time I didn't manure the beds, but instead gave them a good covering of blood, fish and bonemeal, one of the best, if not the best, organic fertiliser available. The beds were then immediately planted up with purple sprouting broccoli, cauliflowers and spring cabbage. These should be ready for harvesting from March / April onwards. The tunnel should give adequate protection from the cold and wet weather of the coming winter. Whilst clearing up in the tunnel I pruned both the apricot and nectarine trees, although the latter had a particularly good 'haircut'. This may reduce any crop that we have next year, but possibly will increase the overall size of the fruits. This year we had so many we just didn't know what to do with them as witness the chutney and cooked fruit in the freezer! The peppers are still performing but will need harvesting shortly. The sweeter of them will be cut and frozen, ready for casseroles during the winter, whereas the 'hot' chillies will be strung up on fishing line, across our conservatory, and allowed to dry naturally. These will then be added to the casseroles as well or give the passata sauce a little more fire if it is being turned into chilli!

*Continued on Page 32*

*Continued from Page 31*

Elsewhere in the garden I have started on the cutting of the hedges, although a bad shoulder in recent weeks has meant that I need to recover enough to allow me to continue the job to its natural conclusion. In the meantime I have turned my attention to the bees, and with colder weather on its way had work to complete ready for the winter shut down period. Early on in the year the bees had really worked well and were bringing lots of honey in, although this slowed down considerably when the weather took a nose dive. I have ended the year with 12 hives intact, having started the year with eight. I lost one large swarm on the way, which starved to death, despite many attempts at feeding them, and also one small swarm which never really got started. I lost a couple of supers full of honey, where I had put a clearing board on (that allows the bees one way exit), but unbeknown to me there was a way in at the top that other bees and the blasted wasps had found, and so helped themselves to all the honey. The wasps were really starting to be a nuisance and a few weeks ago, when trimming the grass in the orchard, I discovered three separate nests, which I killed off. This has greatly reduced the pressure on the hives, as the wasps were making an all out attempt to rob the bees of their valuable, hard earned stores. Instead I robbed them of five almost full supers, which should yield around 100 pounds of honey. There were others that I could have possibly removed some individual frames from, increasing the yield to probably 125 pounds, but decided that the bees needs were probably greater than mine. There is still some fifty pounds of honey left over from last year, which is gradually being sold. This money helps fund the purchase of new equipment. I spent an afternoon going through all twelve hives, closing the entrances down for the winter to stop mice getting in, enclosing the last couple of hives with chicken wire to ensure that the green woodpecker isn't tempted to drill through the sides of the hives again, and finally treating the bees with a dose of 'Apistan' which is a medicine that helps them to combat the varroa mite, that has resulted in the loss of so many beehives in recent years. Fortunately where we live, there are not many farmers spraying crops with nicotine based sprays, so (touch wood) we seem to have so far escaped the problem of collapsing hives, which many bee keepers around the world seem to be victim of. Talking of wood, I need to go and get some logs in to replenish our wood store, so cutting and splitting next! Happy gardening until next month.

Steve Hunt.



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P R E S E N T S



# CINDERELLA

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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**

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	Andrew Baker	01291 641925
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<b>MCC for Shirenewton</b>	Graham Down	01291 621846
	<a href="mailto:grahamdown@monmouthshire.gov.uk">grahamdown@monmouthshire.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Member of Parliament</b>	David Davies	020 7219 8360
	<a href="mailto:daviesd@parliament.uk">daviesd@parliament.uk</a>	

## **Police Neighbourhood Watch Contacts**

**Comm. Police Officer** Louise Thorpe 01633 642068  
louise.thorpe@gwent.pnn.police.uk  
**Shirenewton & Mynyddbach** Beverley Moore 01291 641532  
**Earlswood** Sue Leat 01291 641207

## **Other Local Organisations**

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**Womens Institute (WI)** Jenny Bonner 01291 641929

## DIARY DATES

For further details see inside the magazine

Nov	Event	Location
3	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
9	Mothers Union	Church Room
10	Women's Institute	
13	Remembrance Day Service	Earlswood Hall
14	Shirenewton Historical society	Recreation Hall
18	The Shoeshine an Drama	Itton Village Hall
25	Quiz & Festive Social Evening	Recreation Hall
28	Monmouth NCT AGM	Gate House Monmouth
29	Shirenewton Historical Society	Huntsman
Dec	Event	Location
1	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
4	Christmas Fair & Coffee Morning	Church Room
11	Chepstow Choral Society	St. Mary's Church Chepstow
13	Shirenewton Historical Society	Mathern Church
13	Mothers Union	St Arvans MU

*A teenage boy had just passed his driving skills test and asked his father when they could discuss his use of the family car. His father said that he would make a deal with his son, 'You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car.'*

*The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer and they agreed on it. After about six weeks, his father said, 'Son, you've brought your grades up quite nicely, and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut.'*

*The boy said, 'You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair.'*

*The Dad's reply, 'Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere they went?'*

## SHIRENEWTON CHURCH - READERS AND SIDES-PERSONS

<b>Nov</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Sides-Person</b>
<b>6</b>	3rd Sunday before Advent Holy Eucharist	Margaret Lock Annabel Hancock	Margaret Lock Annabel Hancock
<b>13</b>	2nd Sunday before Advent Remembrance Sunday	The Children	The Children
<b>20</b>	Christ the King Mattins	Diane Marlow Mark Broughton	Diane Marlow Mark Broughton
<b>27</b>	1st Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist	Bill Clarke Janet Horton	Bill Clarke Janet Horton
<b>Dec</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Sides-Person</b>
<b>4</b>	2nd Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist	Bob Gratton Mike Peirce	Bob Gratton Mike Peirce
<b>11</b>	3rd Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist	James Leney Ruth Savagar	Claire Lewis Allan Saysell
<b>18</b>	4th Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist	Mark Broughton Kevin Bounds	Mark Broughton Kevin Bounds
<b>25</b>	Christmas Day Holy Eucharist	Andrew Baker Sally Saysell	John Nicholas Allan Saysell

*A man was telling his neighbour, 'I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me two thousand pounds but it is state of the art. It's perfect.'  
'Really,' answered the neighbour. 'What kind is it?'  
'Twelve thirty.'*

Earlswood  
Chepstow



# Parsons Grove

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*Stunning location*

*Peace and tranquility*

## EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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The views expressed are those of the contributor.

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