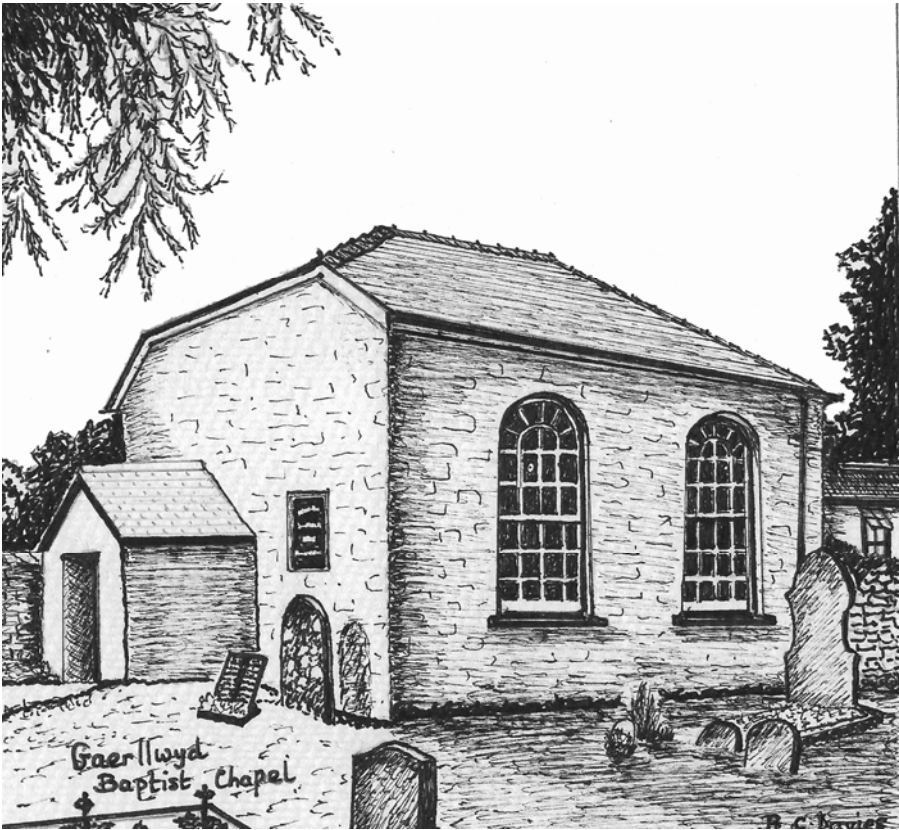


Shirenewton & Newchurch Parish Magazine July/August 2012



Sketch by Barbara Davies

Price: 50p

Dear Friends

The weather had been so wet and so dismal that we could only hope for some improvement for the Fete. The evening before the field was wet making preparation sticky and on the Saturday morning it was overcast but not raining. Would the rain hold off for the afternoon? Those of you came will remember that just as I declared the proceedings 'open' the sun came out and the rest of the day went with a swing!

There are many people to thank: those who had been on the planning committee, those who donated so many things for sale which had involved cooking and making, those who gave so much of their talents and time and of course, all who came to support the event. Thank you all!

Without the support of the Community your Parish Church would not be able, in the long term, remain open and functioning so the Fete is one of the most important events for fund raising to enable the building to be maintained. Elsewhere in this edition I am sure you will find how much was raised at the Fete. Last month our Treasurer explained how much it costs just to keep your Church open and how the funds of the church are used. If anyone needs to know more I am sure Our Treasurer, Kevin Bounds will be glad to answer any questions.

Following the Fete a 'than you' evening was held in the Church Room for all those who had helped with the Fete and it was a very pleasant time although perhaps a certain football match kept some away! Thanks to those who provided the wide variety of cheeses etc and the wine all generously given!

Now we enter the summer holiday season with the end of examinations and waiting for results upon so much depends. I hope that there will not be many disappointments and all may enjoy their holidays.

I am planning a special Sunday in the Autumn when I hope and pray that many will accept an invitation to come to a church service. Perhaps for some it may be for the first time but for others it may be that you have got out of the way of joining us for worship. Look out for 'Back to Church Sunday' and do come and join in our Church community of worshippers where a warm welcome awaits you.

Finally, I thank my team of Parish Visitors who were recently Commissioned in their ministry during morning service. They are doing what Our Lord Jesus commanded his followers to do in His Name; to visit the sick and lonely and to welcome newcomers to the village. If you know anyone in need of a visit or someone has moved into the area please let them or me know as we would love to visit. I am also able to bring Holy Communion to anyone who cannot attend Church but would like to receive the Sacrament.

Enjoy the summer whatever the weather!

Every Blessing,

Nansi Davies, Parish Priest.

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 person's 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.



FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism

James Keith Thomas son of Mark Thomas and Deborah James.

200 CLUB

winners for June are

1st prize	Linda Dobson
2nd prize	Jill Duckham
3rd prize	Nolyn Prout
4th prize	Tony Clark

ST PETER'S CHURCH NEWCHURCH

A Jubilee Fayre and Draw 7th July at 12 pm

Please come along and support our Church

GAERLLWYD BAPTIST CHAPEL

Anniversary Service Sunday July 8th at 6:30pm, Jane Ryan will be playing the Harp.

Monday July 9th at 7:30pm, Speaker Denis Monder of Longtown, St Caddocks Millennium Chimes will take part. Afterwards refreshments will be served.

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH FETE

On behalf of the Fete Committee I would like to thank everyone who was involved with the Fete to make it such a successful and enjoyable day. Thank you also to everyone who came along to support us and participate in such a lovely day.

See you next year. Diane Ward Fete Coordinator

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH FETE

And once again, it was another lovely day at The Fete. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful traditional Fete every year when everybody gathers together to make it such a special day.



OK so it wasn't actually toastie warm but at least the rain kept off and considering what a wet, cold and blustery summer it's been, we were very lucky. And the crowds turned out in force. The floats were brilliant as the

procession wound its way from the Tan House to the Rec. Miss Sophie Murphy was perfect as the Carnival Queen – surrounded by all her Princesses and Page Boys on the Tea Party Float. The Cubs and Scouts did well with their Team GB float as did the Brownies. The procession was lead by the Caerwent Silver Jazz Band who later went on to give a very good Play and Display. And the Kestrel Gym Club were simply amazing. As they always are!

And this year we were delighted to hold the inaugural Welsh Welly Wanging Competition which proved to be extremely popular. Even our MP David Davies was seen wanging his wellies although sadly he didn't win. The Hot Dogs Stand was a cut above the mustard, the Pimms Tent was a sparkling success and the I cue-cream Parlour did a cool trade. The Coconut Shy was a knockout, we were bowled over by the skittles and the raffle was one in a million. The plant stall blossomed and the Fortune Teller was a predictable success. And crumbs, I nearly forgot to mention the wonderful Cake Stall.

So a big thank you to all the organisers who work so hard especially Dianne Ward and Bob O'Keefe - and to everyone who helped to make the day such a great success.

Grand Fete Draw Lucky Winners

1 st Prize	£100	Mr J Nicholas
2 nd Prize	£50	Mrs Pauline James
3 rd Prize	£25	Andrew Jones
4 th Prize – Lunch Voucher for two at the Tredegar Arms		Mr Derek Davies
5 th Prize	Bottle of Single Malt Whisky	Mrs V Williams
6 th Prize	Goodies Hamper	Mrs Jean Jones
7 th Prize - Floral Basket Courtesy of Crown Hill Nurseries		Mr C Eickhoff
8 th Prize	Bottle of Wine	Ms L Brogan
9 th Prize	Collection of Cup Cakes	Dr J Leney
10 th Prize	Hand Made Broach	Miss J Bounds
11 th Prize	A Collection of Scented Soaps	Mr R Davies
12 th prize	A Vase	Mr T Walters

MOTHERS' UNION



On July 11th there will be a coach visit to Colwall Church, near Malvern. This is where Mary Sumner the founder of MU grew up and where she was married. Colwall MU will welcome us, show us the church and tell us about Mary Sumner's life. They are then providing a tea for us. We will let you know travel details in time.

Our MU group does not usually meet in August but this year we plan to do so, on Wednesday 8 August in the Shirenewton Church Room from 3 to 5 p.m. Programme to be arranged.

We are again supporting the "Mary's Meals" School Backpacks project by filling ten or more school bags with items like notepads, pencils, crayons, rulers, shorts, skirt, T shirt, flip-flops, toothbrush, spoon, hand towel, etc. These enable children in poverty to attend primary school and give such joy and hope. See <www.marysmeals.org> or e-mail <backpacks@marysmeals.org> Any reader of this notice please help if you can. We will put boxes in our churches with suggestions of items needed.

Lastly, our "Focolare" home group meets at 3 pm. Thursday 26th July in the home of Rosemary and Chris Carey. Everyone welcome. 83 Wentwood View, Caldicot.

Rosemary Carey, Group Leader 01291 425 010

FAIRTRADE NEWS

I hope I have seen many of you at my fairtrade stall at this year's fete! (You may have even purchased something!). I thought I might give a resume of Traidcraft's most recent bulletin. Apparently there are currently 6000 registered fair traders (including me) and retailers. We have achieved £8.14 million of sales this year. This is of course only one of the fair trade initiatives in UK, but a considerably important one. Our sales are lower than in the previous year but they have not suffered the major downturn of some other retailers.

However the stark reality is that Traidcraft actually purchased almost 20% less from producers in 2011/2012 than in the previous financial year. We know that many people in the UK and elsewhere are having to tighten their belts, but in the developing world the margins are so much narrower. Here, nowadays, we still spend a relatively small percentage of our income on food, even though prices have risen recently. My parents and grandparents spent a much larger proportion of their income on food - for many people there was relatively little cash left over for indulgences like holidays, visits to restaurants, new clothes etc. In my parents' house I know the gift of pyjamas or a sweater for Christmas was more a necessary requirement than an extra. The current steep rises in the price of basic foodstuffs in the developing world have an almost unimaginably devastating impact. More than ever the Fairtrade movement needs to grow. Our critics maintain it's not the only answer. We know that. But we know it can be a significant help to our producers. At least it's a start!
Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com



Jubilee Celebration

Monday 4th June dawned and, although not overly sunny and warm, proved to be by far the best day weatherwise over this special weekend. How lucky!

Our village party was a great success and 250/300 people came along to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. There are so many people to thank who made it all possible, but in particular Hilary Counsell who worked tirelessly and way above and beyond the call of duty! Also Brian Counsell for organizing and arranging the lighting of the beacon, Phil Moles for providing lovely food and arranging the music with Dave Watkins, David Adams for assembling the beacon, Rob Edwards and Neil Fuller for helping set up the tables, chairs and car park, Gordon and Maggie Hughes, Bob O'Keefe and David Prosser...

The beacon was lit just after 10pm followed by the fireworks, which everyone agreed were stunning. Not quite Buckingham Palace but absolutely wonderful just the same! A thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all and many stayed 'til late, keeping warm around the many barbeques.

Most of all, thank you to everyone who came along to make the evening such an enjoyable and memorable village event.

Lynne Prosser



Earlswood Hall -7.30 Wednesday 4th July

Come to an Evening of Entertainment Café Style!

'Bits of the Bard'

and

'Babes in the Woods'

(The former being bits inspired by Shakespeare and the latter being a short comedy by Glynis MacDonald which will be touring after its Chepstow Castle debut)

For more details contact Glynis 641 818

Or: glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

Tickets £7.50 to include light refreshments

Pay bar available

Sadly due to circumstances beyond our control
the Shirenewton Church

'Open Gardens and Flower Festival'

which had been advertised last month has been postponed until Spring
time next year.

However on

Monday 27th August Bank Holiday Monday
Shirenewton Church welcomes you to
Family Rounders on the Rec 2.00 – 4.00

And if you don't fancy running rounders come along to the
Tea Party in the Church Room 3.30 – 5.30

The proceeds from the Tea Party will go to 'Home Start' – a local charity
that helps families going through hard times.

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING,

From the Unofficial and Unpaid SCC Note Taker – Glynis MacDonald

The council now sits in a horse shoe to face all the people who come along to the meetings. I find myself at the rear end of the horseshoe so to speak and I'm afraid I don't always hear very clearly what is going on. Well that's my excuse.

Police Report

PC Thorpe was unable to attend the meeting and there was nothing to report on the crime front which hopefully is a good sign.

Planning

1. DC/2012/00153 Tredegar Court, Newchurch Court, Earlswood

Subdivision of Tredegar Court into 3 separate dwellings (semidetached barn conversions). To consider the division of the curtilage, parking and access only.

There was a long discussion over this planning application and in particular the possibility of a substantial increase in traffic emerging onto the main road at a point which is considered to be 'hairy'. One cllr pointed out that there have been many plans for Tredegar Court (a creche, a caravan park , conversions and now subdivisions). If these plans all came to fruition, the volume of traffic could be a huge issue. There was also a lengthy discussion about the pulling in of Refuse and Recycling Lorries. And the size of the splay. Then there was another lengthy discussion as to where the barn actually was. If you go through the arch in the middle, it's on the left. Or the right. I settled down to long evening...

Approval was finally Recommend with the condition that if the crèche comes into being, the access will have to be improved.

2. DC/2012/00305 The Uplands, Earlswood

Detached residential garage and store.

The question was raised, 'What is a residential garage?' Anyway I believe this one has a store downstairs, a work shop upstairs and a circular window. The applicant was asked why it was so far from the house and he replied that it couldn't put the garage next to the house because there are outbuildings there.

Approval was Recommended

3. DC/2012/00449 Home Farm, Shirenewton

Agricultural Notification of new agricultural building.

New agricultural buildings do not need planning permission but the owner has to give notification. On the other hand there are rules for what an agricultural

building is. If it's just to store machinery in then that is OK but if it is to facilitate and service contractors' machinery

that's a different matter. Theoretically this application could be in the wrong planning category. Is this a shed to keep stuff in or is this a shed for mending stuff? Sadly the applicant wasn't there to answer the questions the council had.

Shirenewton School

MCC Cllr Graham Down asked where the planning application for Shirenewton School was? It ought to have been before the council for discussion. Plans have been made for the long awaited extended carpark and improvements to the school's entrance/exit. This proposal has been going on forever. It has been highlighted in the Ofsted Reports and H&S Reports. (It was considered crucial when my children went to Shirenewton School and James is now 28) The planning signs are already attached to the school gate posts but annoyingly, the application had not come through to SCC. Graham pointed out that planning permission was needed asap so that the work can take place during the 6 weeks summer holiday and not to cause mayhem during term-time and he wondered if there was a way for the council to comment speedily. The application was actually submitted in April but it seems that it can't be registered until reports have been made about the trees and things like that. And MCC do intend for the work to be carried out during the school holidays when there are no children about as the contractors and workers have all had to be CRB checked.... (?)

Village Green Public Enquiry Update.

The Council were assured that they would receive the results of the enquiry with 6-8 weeks. It is now 11 weeks on and nothing has been heard. You will have to continue to wait with bated breath.

Queen Elizabeth 11 Initiative Update.

Things are progressing. The cllrs were shown a picture of the plaque that will be erected.

The Village Shop

26% of the village responded to the Community Council's latest survey. So although the results of the survey or the nature of those responses were not discussed at the meeting, the cllrs thought that maybe it was time to draw a line under this particular project. Unfortunately Cllr Moles was not at the meeting to outline what progress he had made in contacting wealthy people in the village who might like to support a shop enterprise. The cllrs also agreed that a response will need to be made to MHA who had been approached in regard to a Community

Council (or wealthy local backers) supported shop project. It was decided to set up a sub committee to discuss any plans that might spring up from local people.

Recreation Hall Lease

This went on for ages. I've cut it down to the bare minimum. Leases-solicitors-reports-lease-ownership-rent-constitutions-documents-peppercorns-renewable - 20 years or 22 years or 7 years and another 7 years or 25 years - herewith and thereon... Please feel free to make of it what you will.

Best Kept Village Competition 2012

Judging will take place in the month of June. The judges have been requested to take account of the Tan House and the Old Post Office. Or rather not to take account of. The Cllrs wished to thank all the people who have worked hard planting, brushing sweeping and weeding.

Traffic Calming Measures

It was acknowledged that sleeping policemen and rumble trips were not popular in the village or with local farmers. It was suggested that the 30mph signs could be moved a little closer into the village to slow traffic down. There were also discussions that the speed limit through the village should be reduced to 20 mph. And there was the possibility of a village share in one of those light-up signs. And also the possibility of copying Caerwent's 5 bar gate idea on the A48 but ours would be a 7barred gate and painted white so that it stands out. So to speak.

Feed Back on the Jubilee Event

This was a very successful evening, the weather was good and about 250-300 people watched the lighting of the Beacon and the brilliant Firework Display. Huge thanks go to our clerk, Hilary Counsell and to Cllr Lynne Prosser. Thanks also to Charles Eickhoff and Bill Clerk who arranged the excellent Firework Display.

Councillor for Mynynbach?

As yet no applicants

Bus Timetables.

Damien Weekes of MCC has been chased up and hopefully Bus Timetables will eventually reach the bus shelters in Earlswood and West End.

Code of Conduct Training.

MCC have been a little lax in organising 'Codes of Conduct' courses for new and recently elected cllrs. It was wondered if the council should organise its own course. Some councillors wondered if they needed to go on such a course.

Duration of Community Council Meetings

It was suggested that sometimes the monthly meeting can be a little... lengthy. (Surely not?) . It was suggested (again) that cllrs should look at planning applications on line before the meeting, to cut down on the discussion. And that perhaps a time limit could be imposed on how long the meetings should go on (and on...) for there were issues and problems of course and these were fully discussed. At length.

Temporary Access over Blethyn Close grounds.

Heavy site vehicles can't get along the little lane and so have been granted Temporary Access to drive over the grassland at Blethyn Close. This isn't very popular as it is grunging up the ground and making a muddy mess. It is to be hoped that the contractors put right the spoilt land.

Nick Ramsey had written to the council to ask if it would like him to attend and to give a talk on how the Welsh Assembly works. There was a discernable lack of enthusiasm around the table and it was decided to give that one a miss.

Caerwent MOD have had a change of heart and will continue to allow motor rallies to take place on the base.

The Piece of Community Land up at Earlswood

The council spent what seemed a very, very long time on what to do with this 5½ acre field. What should be done with the grass? Should it be cut? When should it be cut? Who should cut it? How much would they sell it for? Should they get a contractor? Should they sell it? Should they rent it? What should be the rent be? Should they go to an agent? Should it be advertised? Would that be too late for the grass? Forget the EU crisis – what about this field?

And finally an apology.

Regardless of any livestock, the community field up at Earlswood is known as The Poorland – and not as I suggested in last month's magazine, The Pooland.

SHIRENEWTON TODDLER GROUP

Come and join us for the Shirenewton Big Toddle in aid of Barnardo's!

On Thursday 12th July, starting at 12.45pm, the children of Shirenewton Toddler Group, Shirenewton Playgroup and some of their friends will be taking part in the Barnardo's Big Toddle. They'll be walking all the way around the field, which is a long way when you've only got little legs.

There'll be cakes and drinks to buy on the day plus a medal and a certificate for all who take part.

If you'd like to support us in raising money for this very important charity you can donate online here:

<http://www.justgiving.com/Shirenewton-Big-Toddle>

If you'd like to take part please contact Jude on 07981 368213 or email langdon.judith@gmail.com.

The more the merrier!"

News Flash

Shirenewton Parent and Toddler group will be running all through the summer holidays. Thursday afternoons from 1.30pm at the recreation hall. We'll be doing our best to get outside over the summer too, weather permitting!



QUIZ & AUCTION NIGHT



ON SEPTEMBER 16TH 2012 I WILL BE RUNNING
THE BUPA GREAT NORTH RUN
FOR THE BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION!



In order for me to raise as much money as possible for my chosen charity
I am holding a Quiz Night and Auction Evening!

Venue: Huntsman Hotel, Shirenewton

Date: 11th August 2012

Time: 7pm, Quiz starts at 7.30pm

£ 2 per person, maximum six members per team

If you know now that you cannot make it but would like to show
your support please feel free to sponsor me at
www.justaiving.com/Steph-Drake or contact me on 07747 776829

**Maureen Moody invites you to a coffee morning
in aid of Velindre Hospital**

on

Saturday 14th July 10.00 am to 12.00pm

at

'Glenfield', Weyloed Lane, Mynyddbach

£1.50 per person including coffee or tea and a

Welsh cake

Raffle, Bring & Buy, books, cakes,

bric a brac, plants etc for sale

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& Songs. £2

Shirenewton Recreation Hall

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/
groups/181560798590317](https://www.facebook.com/groups/181560798590317)

**CHEPSTOW BUMPS N
BABIES GROUP**
MONMOUTH & DISTRICT NCT

Every month parents and
mothers to be get together
at another parent's house or
a local child friendly venue.
It is an opportunity to make
friends and extend a support
network in the area. Parents
volunteer to host this event
in & around Chepstow.

You do not have to be an
NCT member to attend
Bumps n Babes, we have
venues in the Chepstow
area organised for January,
February & March so please
get in touch for the details &
to be added to our mailing
list.

To find out more email
nctmonmouthnewsletter@yahoo.co.uk

Do You Need Help When You Are Away On Your Holidays?



I am a reliable and trustworthy 13 year old girl and live locally in Mynyddbach. If you would like my help whilst you are on holiday give my mum or dad a call on 01291 641970.

While you are away I will.....

- Feed and look after your pets
- Water the plants/pots and hanging baskets
- Close curtains and turn on lights

&/OR if you also need someone to regularly walk your dog when you are busy or delayed home from work I would love to help you with that too!



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WHIST DRIVES

Our Jubilee Drive was a happy occasion. 28 players came and we were pleased to welcome 4 new players. Our next Drives will be on the 5th July and then the 2nd August. In September we will play on the 6th – all at the Recreation Hall commencing promptly at 7.30 p.m.

Auriol Horton. 01291 641844

STARGAZING IN JUNE

Later in the evening the Summer Triangle is overhead. This is a prominent triangle formed by the bright stars Altair, to the South of the triangle, Vega, closest to the Western horizon, and Deneb, to the East. Deneb forms the tail of the cross-shaped constellation Cygnus, the Swan. From our perspective the 3 stars have similar brightness. However they lie at different distances from Earth. Deneb is an extremely luminous star at 1400 light years from Earth whilst Vega and Altair are less luminous and are both much closer to Earth at a distance of about 20 light years. The familiar seven stars of Ursa Major, the Great Bear or Plough, are to be seen in the north-west, with the “W” of Cassiopeia climbing into the north-eastern sky.

The planet Saturn is low in the evening sky to the south-west above the bright star Spica. On the 25th they form a triangle with the 7-day old Moon. Yellowish Mars is lower in the sky and to the right of Saturn. It is joined by the Moon on the 24th. For early birds, Venus is low on the horizon with Jupiter above it. The crescent Moon sits close by on the 15th.

Over forty years ago, on July 20, 1969, the Apollo 11 Lunar Lander descended to the surface of the Moon and Neil Armstrong became the first man to set foot on the Moon.

I was up all night wondering where the Sun had gone... then it dawned on me.
Dave Thomas

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

Well the wet and windy weekends have meant that I've had a chance to update the Church website and there are pictures up there of the village fete and the jubilee picnic. If anyone has other photos they would like posted please send them on to me.

I've also add a 'community links' page under the Community section. It has the TA and huntsman linked. If you run a local business (bed and breakfast, etc) and want a link to your website simply email webmaster@shirenewtonchurch.com – by local I mean within the Shirenewton/Earlswood vicinity.

As you come to book your summer holidays, please don't forget to use the church website to book your airport car parking, car hire, flights, etc.

Safe Browsing David Cornwell webmaster

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

At our May meeting we welcomed Elisabeth Whittle to give a talk on 'Historic Garden of Monmouthshire'. Many still exist as settings for our country houses but as she pointed out some have been lost along with their houses which seems such a shame for our county. Of course we are lucky to have an historic garden in our village, the Japanese garden at Shirenewton Hall.

Our Church Jubilee Fete was a success and our stand met with a lot of interest and hopefully a few more members to our society.

Dates for your diary:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday, 26 th June | Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel at 7.30
The speaker will be Dr Mark Lewis who will give a talk entitled 'The Roman Garden' |
| Sunday, 22 nd July | A visit to Ragland Castle, accompanied by Mrs Anna Tribe
Afternoon tea if required |
| Tuesday, 31 st July | A visit to Llanfiangle Rogiet Church meeting at 7.00 pm at the church
A Friend of Friendless Churches
Accompanied by Peter Strong Please 'phone one of the committee to arrange a lift, if needed. |

SHIRENEWTON WI

Our June meeting was the first for our new committee. Diana Such retired after three years as President, as required by our constitution. We have to thank her for taking on over at a difficult time and now numbers are up. Auriol Horton retired after many years, the last few as Treasurer. Barbara Watson had served for a long time, and for many years was also Treasurer. We thank them all for the hard work they put in.

Jenny Bonner is the new President. Margaret Woodliffe continues as Secretary and Claire Lewis takes over as Treasurer.

Unfortunately a number of members were unable to attend, They missed an excellent talk by Mr Joseph Payne from The Royal Mint Museum, who gave us an illustrated talk concentrating on the special edition coins and medals which the mint has produced for the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics. His enthusiasm inspired us, and we will have more understanding of the craftsmanship and meaning behind the designs of coins and medals. We all checked the 50 pence pieces in our purses to see if we had one of the 29 different designs showing Olympic sports, A member found one with sailing on the reverse.

Thursday 12 July is our next meeting. As always it will be held in the Recreation Hall starting at 7.15pm. Beth Butler will be speaking on "The Secularisation of the Church in Wales". We always welcome visitors

Not Just Feet



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ATTENTION ALL YOU TOUGH WEATHER GOLFERS

This notice was posted in war-torn Britain in 1940 for golfers with stiff upper lips. German Aircraft from Norway would fly on missions to Northern England; because of the icy weather conditions the barrels of their guns had a shall dab of wax to protect them. As they crossed the coast, they would clear their guns by firing a few rounds at the golf course.

Golfers are urged to take cover.

Richmond Golf Club Temporary Rules 1940

1. Players are asked to collect Bomb and Shrapnel to save these causing damage to the Mowing Machines
2. In Competition, during gunfire or while bombs are falling, players may take cover without penalty for ceasing play.
3. The positions of known delayed action bombs are marked by red flags at a reasonable but not guaranteed safe distance there from.
4. Shrapnel and/or bomb splinters on the Fairways, or in Bunkers within a clubs length of a ball, may be moved without penalty and no penalty shall be incurred if a ball is thereby caused to move accidentally
5. A ball moved by enemy action may be replaced or if lost or destroyed, a ball may be dropped not nearer the hole without penalty
6. A ball lying in a crater may be lifted and dropped not nearer the hole, preserving the line to the hole, without penalty.
7. A played whose stroke is affected by the simultaneous explosion of a bomb may play another ball from the same place. Penalty one stroke

Now we know why Hitler Lost the War!

Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Fields Association

The Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Fields Association Limited (SAMFAL for short) was formed in November 2006 to protect and enhance the high biodiversity and special ecological value of the "Green wedge" between the two villages, and to allow the use of the fields as an educational resource for the adjacent primary school, with particular emphasis on its environmental curriculum, including the Forest School element.

You can help protect and improve this valuable Village resource by becoming a member.

- Membership Subscription Rates are:
- Single Community Member £10 PA
- Concessionary Community Member (OAPs, Full Time Students, Disabled, Unemployed) £5 PA
- Family Community Membership £15 PA
- Corporate Member (Non Commercial) £15 PA
- Corporate Member (Commercial) £50 PA

Membership application forms are available from the Web Site
www.shirenewtonchurch.info/samfal

MONMOUTHSHIRE MEADOWS OPEN DAYS

The Monmouthshire Meadows Group is holding a number of Open Days throughout the summer. Sites are open between 11.0 am and 4.0 pm.

These open days provide an opportunity to see the varied landscapes and flora of Monmouthshire including rare orchids and other unusual wild plants. Some of the events include training in plant identification.

1 July: Open Day at Bettws, near Forest Coal Pit to see an upland smallholding

15 July: another chance to visit Leechpool Holdings to see arable flowers growing among the sacrificial crops

Full details of the events and venues including directions to the sites are to be found on the meadows group website: www.monmouthshiremeadows.co.uk

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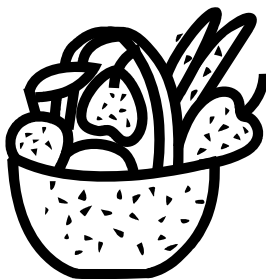


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Nerys's Natty Nosh



A Day. What Counts ?

Fruit and vegetables don't have to be fresh to count as a portion.

They don't have to be eaten on their own, they can be part of a dish.

Eat a wide variety of fruit and vegetables but remember potatoes don't count; they belong to the starch family.

The following count towards your 5 A DAY:

Fresh fruit and vegetables.

Frozen fruit and vegetables.

Tinned or canned fruit and vegetables. Buy the ones tinned in natural juice or water, with no added sugar or salt.

Dried fruit, such as currants, raisins, blueberries, cranberries, dates, sultanas, mango, pawpaw, pineapple and figs.

Fruit and vegetables cooked in dishes such as soups, stews or pasta dishes.

A glass (150ml) of unsweetened 100% fruit or vegetable juice.

Smoothies containing all of the edible fibre from the fruit or vegetable.

Beans and pulses. These only count as one portion a day, no matter how many you eat. That's because they contain fewer nutrients than other fruits and vegetables.

Fruit and vegetables found in convenience foods. Some ready-made foods are high in salt, sugar and fat, so only have them occasionally or in small amounts.

Top 10 fruit

Apples
Apricots
Bananas
Berries
Cherries
Citrus fruit
Kiwi Fruit
Mango
Papaya
Red grapes

Top 10 vegetables

Aubergine
Bell Peppers
Broccoli
Brussels
Carrots
Onion
Spinach Squash
Sprouts
Sweet potato
Tomato

Tomato - scientifically considered a fruit, but is more of a vegetable when used in cooking due to its savoury flavour.

Enjoy!

Nerys's Natty Nosh



Now it's summer lets start thinking about nourishing ways of using the many fruits on sale in the shops. The mango is native to Southern Asia, especially Burma and Eastern India. It was introduced to California in the late nineteenth century. The warm, dry climate is suitable for a healthy and plentiful crop. It's a nutritional superstar among fruits, being very rich in antioxidants and vitamins C and E. Packed with soluble fibre, which has cholesterol-removing properties, and insoluble fibre, which helps maintain healthy bowels.

The detoxifying properties of mangoes mean they are good for cleansing the kidney and blood and can help improve skin texture.

Mango and Tomato Salsa Serves 4-6

An accompaniment for meat, fish or vegetarian dishes. Excellent served at barbecues or as a dip with tortilla chips.

Ingredients .

- 6 medium ripe tomatoes
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 large mango, halved stoned, peeled and diced
- 2 tablespoon fresh coriander
- Salt and pepper

Method

- 1 Place the tomatoes in a large bowl. Cover with boiling water and leave to stand for 1 minute, then lift out. Using a knife, pierce the skin and peel it off. Cut the tomatoes into quarters, then cut out the central core and seeds. Chop the remaining flesh and place in a large bowl.
- 2 Heat the oil in a frying pan. Add the onions and fry gently until softened.
- 3 Add to the bowl of tomatoes with the mango and coriander.
- 4 Season to taste with salt and pepper.
- 5 Serve cold.

Tips

- 1 If you buy unripe mangoes, put them in a paper bag in a dark place and they will ripen within a few days.
- 2 Eat ripe mangoes raw for maximum vitamin C content, or eat with yogurt or in a salad.
- 3 Mangoes go well with prawns and cold rice salad with a spicy dressing.

Enjoy!

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GARDENING CORNER

When I was a mere lad of 6 or 7 years of age I used to regularly go and help my dad on his allotment. We had a double sized one and I had a little patch to 'mess around' with all of my own. We also had a very large garden, typical of 1950's suburbia. We lived in London, although as I may have said before, my walk to school took me past green field that had real cows grazing in them! So a far cry from the London we think of today. It seemed at the time that everyone gardened, and mostly everyone grew vegetables and fruit. Thinking back I suppose that this was most likely, more out of necessity than anything else, as times were still hard. I suppose mum did buy vegetables, but I can't remember. I do remember dad calling into the allotment on his way back from work and bringing the vegetables for dinner that night. What we ate was always 'fresh', meaning in the raw state or from a tin as we didn't have a freezer even if they had been invented for domestic use by then! During the seventies and eighties gardening seemed to have gone out of fashion, life was good and people were enjoying themselves. A couple of generations grew up without the need to garden. If they had land which needed managing they simply hired a gardener, with the result that gardening skills disappeared, but this meant that youngsters weren't able to learn the necessary skills either, so there has been a huge gap and a lot of lost knowledge along the way. My day job has shown the same trends in that for the last thirty plus years I have worked with landowners, mostly farmers, working with them to manage their own woodlands. This is the same situation in that these days there are very few farmers that know how to manage their woods. They usually end up being used as a sheltered spot in which to feed stock in the winter. This can do untold damage to the ground flora and the soil structure, withhold them realising. Go back a couple of generations and their grandfathers would have actively managed their woods as part of the farm business. The woods will have been managed to provide fuel for the house, material to build fences (cleft oak stakes for example) and the under-story (usually hazel around here) was cut young and made into hurdles for temporary sheep pens and the like. Obviously the larger timber was used to build the barns and out buildings and other 'waste wood' or excess was often turned into charcoal and sold locally either to the village blacksmith or to local industry (around here this tended to be iron smelting for nails or wire – as in the Angiddy valley above Tintern). Flora and fauna thrived, which is one reason why we have so many bluebell and daffodil woods in our area (the soil helps of course!).

In recent years I have seen both trends reverse as, especially farmers' wives and their children have shown an interest in woodland management and there has been a resurgence in courses available to train many in the valuable skills that we have sadly lost. Gardening is the same with more and more people showing an interest in vegetable growing. Some of this is out of necessity as current times are tough for many, but also because those that have tried have realised just how much better the food can taste, fresh from garden to plate.

This was brought home to me last night when we sat down to dinner. The new potatoes, calabrese, baby carrots and broad beans had been plucked from the garden less than forty minutes before and cooked immediately. Boy, were they good!

However those new to gardening do so when times are challenging to say the least. There are so many more pests and diseases to knock you down when you least expect, and the vagaries of today's weather can often be enough to turn people off for ever, as crops either rot in front of your eyes or die because you can't water them. Every year I write about failures and successes and this year has been no exception. The key I have discovered is to accept defeat gracefully and not to put all your eggs in the same basket. I've talked previously about growing seed from French or Italian seed companies and I'm closely monitoring what happens. The one key thing I've definitely hit on is to grow as much variety of vegetables as your plot will allow, as it doesn't matter what the weather does, you will always have some things that survive and thrive.

I mentioned a few months ago that we lost all our peaches and nectarines, which is almost true. I heavily pruned all the trees the other day and discovered one peach hanging on for dear life. Hardly a success admitted, but the cool weather and excess rain has meant the strawberries have bulked up well (now all we want is some sunny weather to ripen them), as have the blueberries and jostaberries, so you get my drift- something else will come along and you need to make the most of the harvest. Vegetable wise, I'm struggling to get carrots to germinate and grow, yet I've got the best parsnips I think ever, and the calabrese in the tunnel has been coming out of our ears! Thank heaven for the freezer I say.

Unfortunately the flower garden has suffered badly as the ground has been too wet to get on the beds to weed and sort them out generally, but they will have to wait until there is a change in the weather.

The bees have faced a challenging time too. The early warm weather (yes seems hard to believe that we have had any doesn't it) really set them off well, and bee numbers increased rapidly, as ready supplies of pollen were available. Then with numbers high we've had a period where there has been no decent weather for the bees to get out and fly. What food had been stored in the hive was quickly used to sustain the colony and things weren't looking good. Fortunately I avoided having to feed as a spell of warm weather came along to allow them out and to start foraging again. Whenever it is warm I keep an eye on the apiary as this is the most likely time for bees to swarm. Sure enough I looked a couple of Saturdays ago to find a huge swarm had alighted on one of the apple trees. I had left an empty hive with all its frames etc. in the apiary as this will often encourage a 'loose swarm' to take up residence. However this was a big swarm which I couldn't afford to lose, so I prepared the hive before collecting the swarm. This one couldn't have been any easier as they had alighted onto a small branch which had sagged down under the weight of bees. I grabbed the branch just above the swarm and with a pair of secateurs cut the branch off, carried it over to the empty hive and then gave one quick shake, so that all the bees fell off into the hive – job done! I fed then for a few days with sugar syrup, which would allow them to settle in and to start building up the wax frames ready for life to begin in earnest. I need to look at all the colonies again, but waiting for that elusive nice weather to come along again.

Happy gardening until next month. Steve and Felicity Hunt.

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DIARY DATES

For further details see inside the magazine

July	Event	Location
4	Bits of the Bard & Babes in the Wood	Earlswood Hall
5	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
7	Jubilee Fayre and Draw	St Peter's Church Newchurch
11	Mothers Union	Colwell Church near Malvern
12	Barnardo's Big Toddle	Recreationj Ground
12	Shirenewton WI	Recreation Hall
14	Coffee Morning	"Glenfield" Weyload Lane Mynyddbach
22	Shirenewton Local History Society	Raglan Castle
25	Community Lunch	Tredeggar Arms
26	Focolare Group	83 Wentwood View Caldicot
31	Shirenewton Local History Society	Llanfiangle Rogiet Church
August	Event	Location
8	Mothers Union	Church Room
11	Quiz & Auction Night	Huntsman Hotel
22	Community Lunch	Tredeggar Arms
27	Family Rounders	Recreation ground
27	Tea Party	Church Room

Saint Thomas áBeckett		Sunday Services (Note Change of Service times) Start 10 am unless stated otherwise	
Date	Service	Readers	Sides-persons
1 st July	6 th Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Mark Broughton Jane Smith- Haddon	Mark Broughton Jane Smith-Haddon
8 th July	6 th Sunday After Trinity Holy Eucharist	Margaret Lock Cynthia Smith	Claire Lewis Cynthia Smith
15 th July	6 th Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Andrew Baker Diane Marlow	Diane Marlow Allan Saysell
22 nd July	7 th Sunday after Trinity Mary Magdalene – Holy Eucharist	Bob Grattan Kevin Bounds	Bob Grattan Kevin Bounds
29 th July	8 th Sunday after Trinity Morning Prayer with Hymns	Wendy Baker Mark Broughton	Wendy Baker Mark Broughton
5 th August	9 th Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	James Leney Margaret Lock	James Leney Margaret Lock
12 th August	10 th Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Bob Grattan Sally Saysell	Bob Grattan Claire Lewis
19 th August	11 th Sunday after Trinity Songs of Praise	Bill Clarke Janet Horton	Bill Clarke Janet Horton
26 th August	12 th Sunday after Trinity Baptism Service	John Nicholas Ruth Savagar	John Nicholas Claire Lewis
2 nd September	13 th Sunday after Trinity BACK TO CHURCH SUN- DAY	Kevin Bounds Cynthia Smith	Kevin Bounds Cynthia Smith
9 th September	14 th Sunday after Trinity MATINS	Bill Clarke Janet Horton	Bill Clarke Janet Horton
16 th September	15 th Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Wendy Baker Diane Marlow	Wendy Baker Diane Marlow
23 rd September	16 th Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	John Nicholas Margaret Lock	John Nicholas Margaret Lock

Earlswood
Chepstow



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EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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The views expressed are those of the contributor.

**Deadline for contributions to the September 2012 issue
is the 27th August 2012**