

Shirenewton & Newchurch Parish Magazine June 2012

Shirenewton Fete Saturday

2nd June

Jubilee Celebrations Monday

4th June

Be Here!



Sketch by Barbara Davies

Price: 50p

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

14th of April 2012: Emma Page daughter of Simon and Georgina Bottomley

19th of May 2012: Evan Wynn son of Nathan and Claire Franklin

Burial of Ashes

Frank Mann (previously of Shirenewton) was 87yrs old last August he died 16th of April 2012 in Scotland.

His ashes were buried in Shirenewton with Marion Mann (his first wife) on the 14th of May 2012

ST PETER'S CHURCH NEWCHURCH

A Jubilee Fayre and Draw 7th July at 12 pm

Please come along and support our Church

EARLSWOOD HOPE METHODIST CHURCH

Anniversary on June 3rd at 3:00 pm

Refreshments afterwards

A BIG THANK YOU!

A big thank you to Lisa and the girls for helping me out with the magazine deliveries in April and May — Auriol

SHIRENEWTON 200 CLUB DRAW FOR MAY

1st prize	Barbara Walters
2nd Prize	Allan Saycell
3rd Prize	Yvonne Harmer
4th Prize	Bill Clark

QUEEN ELIZABETH 11 FIELDS

QUEEN ELIZABETH 11 FIELDS is a Diamond Jubilee initiative to register 2012 areas of recreational land throughout the country in order to preserve their future. The land would be Registered with the "Fields in Trust" (formerly known as the Playing Fields Association) thus protecting the land in *perpetuity*, whilst not affecting the current ownership and management. In addition, it would enable the landowner (Shirenewton Community Council) to apply for grant funding for limited improvements.

The time limit for submitting the application is very tight, therefore, the Community Council has to press ahead quite urgently to get our application registered in time. If any members of the community have any queries or objections to this course of action, can I suggest that you look at the official website www.qe2fields.com and/or ring your community councillor as early as possible.

Anyone who is a fan of The Archers will have heard, in a recent episode, a very good explanation of what QE2 Fields status means for the community. Shirenewton & Mynyddbach are not the only areas in Monmouthshire to be pursuing an application and the entire initiative is being endorsed and supported by Monmouthshire County Council.

Beverley Moore (Tel 641532) On behalf of Shirenewton CC

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

The Competition will be judged in Shirenewton sometime between the 1st to 31st June, so now that there is no likelihood of a frost, the pots, planters and hanging baskets can come out of the greenhouse and go on glorious display.

Judges will be inspecting village landmarks such as the churchyard, war memorial, recreation hall and playing field. They will also note the condition of bus shelters, telephone kiosks and notice boards. All judging will take place from the highway, so the external appearance of pubs, outhouses, sheds and garages is important, as is the tidiness of flower and vegetable gardens.

Particular attention is paid to the public parts of the village such as hedges being trimmed, grass verges mown and the absence of litter and general eyesores.

A sense of pride is the main incentive for the competition and judges will be looking for evidence of there being a real community effort from villagers. So please do your bit (and maybe a bit more) in an effort to make the pretty village of Shirenewton beautiful - then we will be able to walk away with the prizes.

Hilary Counsell, Clerk to Shirenewton Community Council

NOTICE OF VACANCY FOR THE OFFICE OF COUNCILLOR in the Mynyddbach Ward

Following the recent election process we have a vacancy on the Community Council for a Councillor in the Mynyddbach Ward and are now able to co-opt onto the Council. If any resident in Mynyddbach, Shirenewton, Earlswood or Newchurch West is interested in applying for this position please contact Hilary Counsell, Clerk to Shirenewton Community Council, Five Lanes House, Caerwent, Caldicot, Monmouthshire NP26 5PQ.

E-mail: ShirenewtonCC@gmail.com or Tel: 01291 421307.

Closing date: 20 June 2012

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Address	Tel.	E-mail address
David Adams Shirenewton	Coombe Farm, Shirenewton NP166LN	641792	d.adams@farmline.com
Paul Harris Earlswood	West End Cottage, Earlswood NP16 6AR	650871	hariswestend@hotmail.co.uk
Tony Hughes Shirenewton	Wentworth, Shirenewton NP16 6RL	641360	tony@tony90.orangehome.co.uk
Carole Jones Shirenewton	Church House, Shirenewton NP16 6RL	641791	elorac123@aol.com
Liz McCombe Newchurch West	Great House, Great House Farm, Newchurch West NP16 6AT	652957	lizmccombe@btinternet.com
Phil Moles Shirenewton	Tantivy, The Huntsman Hotel, Shirenewton NP16 6BU	641521	pmoles@aol.com
Beverley Moore Shirenewton	6 Tan House Court, Shirenewton NP16 6AH	641532	mmoorebev@aol.com
Ken Morton Earlswood	Brynbriallen, Earlswood NP16 6AR	650268	ken.morton@hotmail.co.uk
Lynne Prosser Mynyddbach	Cherry Tree Cottage, Mynyddbach NP16 6RP	641666	Djwp63@yahoo.co.uk
Hilary Counsell - Clerk	Five Lanes House, Caerwent NP26 5PQ	421307	ShirenewtonCC@gmail.com



SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

JUBILEE CELEBRATION

PICNIC ON THE FIELD

**Monday 4 June 2012
from 6.30pm**

**Community picnic - please bring food
and drink to share.**

**Drinks for toasts will be supplied.
Music and fun.**

**Lighting the beacon at 10pm
followed by a firework display.**

Let's enjoy the evening whatever the weather.



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

It was a very busy but very happy Christian Aid Weekend. Jane, Kevin and Glynis would like to thank everyone who came along to the Lunch on Sat 20th May. It was so lovely to see everyone. Even the weather was kind and allowed us to eat outside and how often has that happened this year. So many people, so many ploughmen.

And we would also like to thank the very generous collection from the Netherwent Bell Ringers who held their annual bell ringing competition over in the Church on the Saturday and who came across to eat cake and sandwiches and to find out who won.

And we must thank all the young people who helped in the Christian Aid Service the next morning in church and of course, the (slightly) older regulars plus the Rev Martin Henig who was roped in at the last moment. We raised £602.00 This amount is fantastic. And so is the friendship in this village.

SUNDAY 26th August – Bank Holiday Sunday



Shirenewton Church will be holding an
'Open Gardens and Flower Festival'

on Sunday 26th August Bank Holiday .

Plus our favorite 'Throwing Teddies off the Tower'

Not just teddies of course, you can lob any of your

Soft Cuddly Furry Friends off the Tower.

Health and Safety insists on parachutes of course.

Funds raised will go to 'Home Start' – a local charity that helps families going through hard times.

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING, Monday 14th May

This month's meeting was a week later than usual because of the elections held on May 4th. Liz McCombe is now Chair of the council with Bev Moore as Vice Chair. There were lots of extra posts to fill e.g reps for One Voice Wales, the Conservation Area Committee, the Environment Committee and the Rec Association. Ken volunteered to continue being Footpath Officer, one of the band of Merry Men who patrol and protect the paths. I can't remember if anyone volunteered to be the Tree Officer. And then there was the equally puzzling Llanmelin Hill Fort Committee which nobody seemed to know much about. Apparently, it hasn't met for years – if ever. Its remit is lost in the mists of time. One can only assume that the Iron Age settlers got fed up waiting for their problems to be sorted because I don't think they're there now. Maybe someone ought to pass this news on.

Oh yes, and I think one of the new councillors hinted that I should make it plain that my notes on the council meetings are my own wobbly version and that they are not the **Official Minutes**. So I will mention once again that you can find the real McCoy on the church web site and on the notice boards. It was also suggested that someone on the council might like to write a report for the mag. But after a distinct pause it became clear that no one was rushing forward to pick up this wonderful opportunity.

Police Report from PC Louise Thorpe

- 6th April A suspicious vehicle was reported or was it a suspicious man and a woman in the suspicious vehicle...
- 6th April The abandoned blue Citroen Saxo isn't abandoned after all – the owner leaves it there and then cycles to work.
- 16th April A spade was found near a badger set. The Badger people have been alerted
- 17th April A mirror was stolen in Earlswood.
- 24th April A flat bed van was collecting dumped cycles near the allotments. (I'm not sure I grasped the essentials of this one)
- 2nd May There was a theft of garden equipment from Bulley Hole Bottom
- 5th May 2 hounds reported on the Usk Road but they disappeared.

Other items – Quite a few people have complained to councillors about the non-stop noise of scrambling bikes which seems to be constant all day long. So PC Thorpe has said if you don't like the noise, **complain to her**. She might then be able to do something about it. Also it is illegal to have scrambled bikes up on forestry land so if you see them, please report them to her. And if you see the scamble-transport in car parks – again report them to Louise. There have been posters put up in the forest saying that scrambling is illegal but the last time I was up there someone had taken the trouble to take a pot of paint with them to daub over the pertinent information. Sigh. So if you see bikers with paint-pots and brushes up on forestry land – let Louise know

And finally several people had heard the noisy bikers roaring along the Usk Road at 5.00 in the morning. 5am! The police have been made aware and there will be a higher police profile. Yes, but had there been any prosecutions? Ummm... Generally speaking the Police don't do speed monitoring on some roads for

Safety and chasing bikes at 100 mph is not good for Road Safety. It was pointed out that stringing sheep wire across the road is also unacceptable. But please let PC Thorpe know about the noise....

To report a crime, please ring 101 or if it is an emergency, ring 999.

Planning

DC/2012/00195 New Mill, Earlswood

Construction of a garden store. There was a good deal of chat about the size of this store. But if it was to house a tractor it would have to be quite big. But it seems that the numbers didn't add up and the written dimensions didn't fit the dimensions on the plan.

DC/2012/00153 Tredegar Court, Newchurch Earlswood

Subdivision of Tredegar Court into 3 separate dwellings (semidetached barn conversions). There was not enough information about this application but it was difficult to find out more from MCC's Planning Department because MCC's Planning Department are still moving. (But I thought they moved ages ago...) And they seemed to be 'off-line' a lot. There had been indications that there were bats there (that's at Tredegar Court not the planning department) but nobody could see any information about a bat survey. Therefore it was decided to ask for more information.

DC/2012/00214 Old Post Office, Ditch Hill Lane, Shirenewton

Change of defunct post office to residential dwelling. It was decided that these plans greatly improved the old Post Office in the centre of the village. Recommend Approval

DC/2012/00310 4 Tan House Court, Shirenewton

Single storey extension (kitchen) and loft conversion.

There were no issues with this application Recommend Approval

The Village Green Public Enquiry Update

No news. Still waiting.

The Queen Elizabeth 11 Initiative The Rec has been submitted for QE status and there will be an article in this month's mag about this initiative. And the little triangle in Mynnyddbach had also been considered. That's the bit behind the old school. But who owns this piece of land? Is it on the land registry? This would need to be established. Apparently there was an enquiry way, way back in 1960 and that one was held at St Pierre and that enquiry only lasted half a day. This was to try and establish who the land belonged to but then sadly the Enquirer got killed on the motorway and the ownership doesn't seem to be on the land registry but MCC cuts the grass and anyway it's slightly undersized.

The Village Shop Survey Well, the new questionnaires were circulated last month but as only 26% of people responded to this survey it was suggested that this 'poor response' indicated that people were not interested in having a shop. But then other cllrs had discovered on their election door-to-door canvassing that a good number of people were very interested in talking about having a local shop. Meanwhile, Graham Down had looked in to the possibility of finding a local Housing Association willing to take over the 'old shop' but it seems that only one Association would only consider the enterprise and only if it was underwritten by Shirenewton Community Council. Or by rich people in the village. So, after some discussion, it was decided that a couple of the cllrs should explore this route – the

local backers not the underwriting by SCC and that they should approach local business men to see if they would like to put something into the community.

Finance It takes years and years and years for the local bank to accept councilors becoming signatories with multiple visits by each cllr to present himself to the bank along with proof of identity, proof of residence, proof of existence, DNA, iris recognition, so it was suggested that life was too short for all this palaver. By the time the bank has authorized the mandate, there have usually been new elections.

Best Kept Village The competition application form now been sent in. Shirenewton spends £100 on this. Mathern allows £3000. It was agreed to increase the Shirenewton budget to £150

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations There was a sudden realization that this jubilee was happening in less than 3 weeks. There were some sharp intakes of breath at this point. Did I discern that the details seemed to be... a little on the hazy side? Well, the beacon will be lit, the fireworks have been ordered, the tickets were sort of talked about but no one seemed to know where the Hog was. Maybe he didn't want a roasting. But I'm sure it will all turn out splendidly on the day but whether for the Hog or not, I really wouldn't know.

(However can I just mention at this point, that although a lot of people over the past week have been ringing me up and asking me questions and wondering what's going on re: the Celebrations I actually haven't been involved in the organization of events. And then I had this horrible notion that people see me as the Mrs Snell of Shirenewton. No this is a Shirenewton Community Council event. But rest assured – a happening will happen on the Rec. I recommend you bring a bottle. And a brolly. And if the hog doesn't turn up, a sandwich. Have a look in the rest of this month's mag I expect there will be more info somewhere.

(Page 6 ED),

Renewal of Shirenewton Recreation Hall Lease It was decided at last month's meeting to defer this to this month's meeting. But it was getting very late and so it was deferred to next month's meeting. It was by now very dark. And very cold. I thought I saw fireworks. Or was there a bright new star in the sky? I'd fallen into a deep slumber. The Martians were landing. But No, it was flares over the base...and I was still at the meeting.

The Rental of the Community Field at Earlswood .This piece of land up in Earlswood is owned by SCC and is known as The Pooland. It has been rented out for donkey's years but now the people know no longer want to rent it. So, what to do? Somebody suggested a Children's Play Area but the Council, perhaps because it was getting late, seemed uninspired by this or by anything. They decided to give it a bit of a thought. And to put it off to next month's meeting

Reports from meetings attended. It was 10. 50 and with the prospect of the short reports I lost the will to live. Once again, I am unable to interpret my notes – they are gibberish. So if you want to find out about OVW, Codes of Conduct, good Councillor Guides or a draft report about...something, go to the official minutes

The date of the next meeting is Monday 11 June 2012 at 7.30pm

From your unofficial Council Meeting Reporter, Glynis MacDonald. And I'm not precious about this role – if you want to be the local reporter, you know what to do. The pay is lousy, the hours are long, but you might get to know what might be going on in the village. Or you might not.

1ST SHIRENEWTON GUIDES



Girlguiding UK

Well I can't say the weather is filling us with confidence for summer camp at the moment, but what falls now can't fall later, so fingers crossed! Our older girls went on their Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition and were very lucky with the weather, especially considering it was a Bank Holiday weekend. They proved that they have stamina and hopefully, to quote, "*A Guide faces challenge and learns from her experiences*".

In the unit we have tested patience with iris folding, played silly sports and had a go at quizzes linked to the Olympics and Jubilee. We are off to the gym and have more silly sport events up our sleeves. Hot news is that some of our bird boxes, in a wood at Crick, have now been adopted as homes for blue tits. Our local ornithologist will keep us posted as we see if they produce families! We are hoping to have a walk down there in the summer so the girls can see the boxes.

Our next activity has to be preparing for the fete – yes, Welsh cakes will be on sale and the "prize every time" card game for the younger customers. We hope to see you on the field parting with lots of cash!

Yours in guiding

Kestrel Helen Cann 01291 650835

Kitten Amanda Moreton 01291 650763

Karen & Debbie

A ROYAL VISIT



On Friday 27th April, I went to Ebbw Vale with Helen Cann and Emma Ford, to represent the whole of Gwent Brownies at a special church service in Christchurch, Ebbw Vale. I received an invitation from the Queen's Royal Lord Lieutenant asking if I would like to come a service of celebration in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh to celebrate the Queen's diamond jubilee. I saw the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh during the service and they were talking to some of the people outside. There was a school choir from Willowtown and Briery Hill, there was also an orchestra there and they were playing as the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh came in. I thought it was very exciting and I had an absolutely great time.

By Clare John.

THE BELLS, THE BELLS.

The Striking Competition, explained in the last Parish Magazine, went off well. Unlike the episode of *Midsummer Murders* no violent deaths ensued. In fact it was a good natured and very enjoyable event. After the competition the ringers were entertained to tea at The Chantry, and well in excess of £100 was raised for Christian Aid, to add to that raise earlier at the Christian Aid lunch. As host tower for The Striking Competition we received expert bands from St Woolos Cathedral and towers with large catchment populations so we were pleased with a second place in the call change section and third in the method section. What next in the ringing calendar?

Well Shirenewton is not on the Olympic Torch route but several of us will be assisting others towers that are, to peal their bells during The Torch's passage. Quickly following on from this is the Diamond Jubilee weekend. The bells in Shirenewton will ring out for the Church Fete on the 2nd June, and ring as usual for Sunday service. On Tuesday 5th June a peal attempt will take place during the afternoon. A "peal" in ringing jargon is a continuous set of changes exceeding 5000. This takes about 2 hours and 45 minutes to complete and will specifically commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee for Shirenewton, and the Queen will be personally informed of this if achieved. Church bells all over the UK will be commemorating this celebration in this way, with peal attempts at all major cathedrals, and within many churches in London including St Paul's, St Martin's in the Field and Westminster Abbey. Christopher Eickhoff will be ringing his first peal for this attempt. So if you are in the village on the afternoon of 5th June and you hear the bells, wish us well – it will be quite an achievement if we attain it



Come to an Evening of Entertainment Café Style!

This will include the playlet wot I wrote:

'Babes in the Woods'

A short comedy by Glynis MacDonald

Touring after its Chepstow Castle debut.

For more details contact Glynis 641 818

Or: glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

MOTHERS' UNION



The Monmouth MU Diocesan Festival took place at St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow, on 8 May, with a beautifully prepared service, followed by tea and home made refreshments.

This month the National MU AGM is to be held in Llandudno on 16 June. Additionally there is a week's holiday programme organized for the 30 or so members and spouses from our diocese, planning to attend.

For those not going on the Llandudno visit, our own monthly meeting will be held at the home of Paul and Patsy Lewis on Wednesday 13 June. Thank you Paul and Patsy for your hospitality.

Also in June, on Saturday 30th there will be an MU Awareness Day about the world-wide activities of the MU, to which you and your friends (anyone) are invited. St Mary's Priory. Abergavenny 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. See Notice attached.

Advance Notice: On Wednesday 11 July we are invited to join Rogiet MU members and friends on a coach outing to Colwall Church near Malvern. This is where the founder of MU, Mary Sumner, grew up and was married. The Colwall MU will be welcoming us and a talk will be given about Mary Sumner's life and vision.

Rosemary Carey, Branch Leader 01291 425 010



Monmouth Diocese Mothers Union
Invite you to come and find out more about us
through displays and activities

Saturday 30th June
St. Mary's Priory,
Abergavenny
11 am - 3 pm

We are part of the 4,000,000 members of Mothers' Union
in 84 Countries making up this Christian Charity
working in our own communities

**SHIRENEWTON
COMMUNITY
LUNCHEON CLUB**

**Tredegar Arms
Shirenewton**

01291 641274

tredegararmsshirenewton@hotmail.com

Please book early to secure
your place for lunch

June 27th
July 25th
Aug 22nd
Sept 26th

**SHIRENEWTON
PARENT
&
TODDLER GROUP**



Every Thursday
1.30 to 3pm term time
Drinks, Snacks, Crafts,
& Songs. £2

Shirenewton Recreation Hall

Facebook: <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

27 players came on the 2nd May. Hopefully better health will prevail in June and the early holiday makers will be back in the fold so that we can have a really Special Jubilee Drive on the 7th June at the Recreation Hall commencing promptly at 7.30 p.m. The July drive will be on the 5th same place & time. Auriol Horton.
01291 641844

STARGAZING IN JUNE

The planet Saturn can be seen just above the star Spica in the evening sky to the south. On the 28th the waxing Moon is positioned beside Saturn. Mars has a slightly orange colour and is further to the west. On the 26th the Moon is to the left of Mars.

On 6th June, the planet Venus passes in front of the Sun. This "Transit of Venus" is very rare – the next occurrence will be in 2117. Measurements of the transit in the late 16th century allowed astronomers to calculate the distance of the Sun from Earth for the first time. Never look directly at the Sun through binoculars or a telescope, as this will cause blindness.

To the south the constellation of Boötes the Herdsman, has the fourth brightest star in the whole sky, Arcturus. It is a red giant star and the curve of the handle of the Plough points down to it. Arcturus is at a distance of 40 light years, which means it takes light 40 years to cross space from the star to Earth. As light travels approximately 200 thousand miles in 1 second, Arcturus is at quite a distance! Even so it is one of the closest of the bright stars. The name Arcturus is derived from Greek and means "guardian of the bears". Above and to the left of Arcturus can be seen a semi-circle of stars making up Corona Borealis, the Northern Crown.

The W-shape of Cassiopeia lies in a north-easterly direction. Leo the Lion, shaped rather like a reversed question mark, can be seen in the west. Cygnus the Swan lies in the eastern sky. It is one of the most distinctive constellations, often nicknamed the Northern Cross.

Midsummer's Day is on June 20th. This is the summer solstice, the day with the longest period of daylight. In Wales it is called Gŵyl Ifan Ganol Haf (St John's of Midsummer). Great agricultural fairs used to be held at this time, along with merriment and dancing. A bonfire was also kept this night. Its observance finally died out in SE Wales by the end of the 19th century.

Dave Thomas

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The society has had a busy few weeks at our April meeting we had Anne Wareham to give us a talk entitled '*Squatters in the Veddw*'. This talk described the way the area developed, why and how it became the area it is now, the architecture and the professions of the inhabitants, a very interesting talk.

We held a joint visit with Caerwent Historic Trust to visit Allt-y-Bella, a medieval house near Usk which had been renovated and is now in private ownership. It was a fine, warm morning and we were warmly welcomed and invited into the house for morning coffee (and Welsh cakes), small groups of five toured the house while the rest of us visited the garden which has been designed by the owner who is an eminent garden designer. The pleached pear trees running the whole front of the house forming a screen were in blossom and made a perfect frame for this beautiful house. All our members agreed that it was a very enjoyable visit.

Our next visit was to 'Lasketts' a garden in Hereford owned by Sir Roy Strong. A group of twenty nine left Shirenewton, dressed for anything that the elements could throw at us. With a stop off at Hereford for sustenance we arrived at 'Lasketts' to be welcomed by Sir Roy Strong, who gave us a short history of the garden and how it had developed and then we scattered to the four corners, accompanied by a fine drizzle, to discover the many unusual, eccentric and beautiful aspects of this garden.

We continued the age old tradition of Beating the Bounds of the Parish, we met at the church on Rogation Sunday and walked the north eastern boundary, we passed through bluebell carpeted woods and fine vistas over the estuary, believe it or not we were blessed with a warm sunny day (not many of those about!), the walk was 4.1 miles in length and everyone arrived back at the Church Room ready for liquid refreshments and cakes. We are so lucky to live in such a beautiful county which has such a varied and interesting history.

May's meeting will be held on Tuesday, 29th May at the Huntsman Hotel at 7.30 and the speaker for the evening will be Elizabeth Whittle who will give a talk on the 'Historic Gardens of Monmouthshire'

Dates for your diary:

Saturday, 2nd June

Monday, 11th June

5.00pm (drop-in

Call and see us at the Church Fete

Resource Meeting at the Recreational Hall at 2.00pm-

session)

Tuesday, 26th June

'Roman Life' given

Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel, A talk entitled

by Dr Mark Lewis

Not Just Feet



Reflexology
Vertical Reflexology
Indian Head Massage
&
Maternity Reflexology

Annabel Hancock MAR

Contact me for a home visit on
01291 650309



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Paty Davies

Tel: 01291 641553

Mobile: 07807103901

email: lucy_24@hotmail.com

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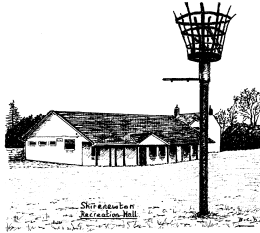
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Shirenewton Church Fete

Saturday June 2nd 2012



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See you there !

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH FETE

The Fete is now well underway in its planning stages and we are sure it will be the best yet.

We are asking for volunteers for Friday 1st June from 6:30 pm to put up tents, arrange stalls etc. If you feel you can help just turn up and we will be grateful.

Other happenings are the collections for the stalls

Bottle Stall

Will be collecting on Thursday 24th May from 6:30 to 9:00pm. Rob Duckham on 641764 will be able to pick up from you if needed

Book Stall

The Scouts will be collecting Wednesday 30th May 7 to 9pm.

Phone David Richardson on 620356 if you need anything picking up.

Cake Stall

The ladies on the Cake Stall will be at the Recreation Hall from 6:30 pm on June 1st. If you cannot deliver they will be happy to collect.

Phone Sally 641369, Ann 641368, Janet 641783

On behalf of the Fete Committee thank you all very much

Diane Ward Fete Co-ordinator

WELSH WELLY WANGING OPEN

Croeso i'r "Welly Wanging" agored Cymreig / Welcome to the Welsh Welly Wanging Open

The inaugural Welsh Welly Wanging Open Championship (sponsored by Countrywide) will be held on Saturday 2nd June 2012 at the Shirenewton fete.

There will be 6 classes of entry (adults men/women) under 16 (boys/girls) and under 13 (boys/girls). Winners will get prizes (wellies of course) and a trophy and be able to say they are the first winner of the Welsh Welly Wanging Open Championship. Others may try and muscle in on our success over the next few years but it's all about the brand and we will be the original and the best!

I plan to publicise the event widely within the South Wales area (including local and national press). We already have a Facebook account and we are on twitter.

The website, www.wwwopen.info, will start to get populated but already has the links to Facebook and Twitter. Please like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

I hope that the event will become a success annual event which not only brings many more visitors to the Shirenewton fete but also helps promote it. I'd like to thank Countrywide Farmers for their sponsorship of this event. Limber up those wanging arms.

Any help welcome – especially on the day.

David Cornwell, Welsh Welly Wanging Open Championship Organiser



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CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY

A Summer Celebration Concert, Saturday June 30th St Mary's Priory & Parish Church, 7.00pm.

The year 2012 is a memorable and momentous one for the United Kingdom, with the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth's reign, and the London Olympics later in the summer. Whatever one's personal feelings about these events may be, there is no doubt there is nationally a strong desire to mark them, and certainly music is playing a major part, with concerts all over the country and with music also playing a prominent role in the Cultural Olympics.

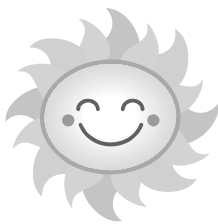
Chepstow Choral Society's members expressed a strong desire to be a part of all this, particularly as it is also Chepstow Festival during late June and early July. Therefore, a programme has been chosen that will highlight a tiny part of some of the vast range of music which spans the period from Elizabeth the First to Elizabeth the Second. Well-known items will feature works by Handel, Purcell, Elgar, Stanford, Vaughan Williams, John Rutter, Andrew Lloyd Webber with many other gems also on the programme ----

Graham Bull –Musical Director Peter Cook (Organ)
Alison Wray (Soprano) Paula Kempton String Ensemble
Marjorie Duerden (Piano)

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Nerys's Natty Nosh



A gift that is lovingly made is priceless and a worthwhile custom. A couple of years ago Tony's brother, family and Gnasher the dog came to celebrate Christmas at Ty Twr. Fran my sister in law made a delicious chocolate cake and I was appreciative of her kindness.

"The smallest good deed is worth a thousand grand intentions".

The no-bake chocolate cake is similar to Fran's recipe

No-bake Chocolate Cake for Easter *serves 15*

Ingredients:

150g (6oz) good quality chocolate, broken into pieces
100g (4oz) unsalted butter
50g (2oz) golden syrup
150g (6oz) sultanas
150g (6oz) ready to eat prunes, chopped
75g (3oz) pistachios
200g (8oz) shortbread, roughly broken
Mini chocolate eggs

Method:

Line a 900g (2lb) loaf tin with two layers of Clingfilm, leaving excess hanging over the sides.

Heat the chocolate and butter until melted and smooth.

Stir in the syrup, and remaining ingredients, and carefully fold in the shortbread.

Spoon the mixture into the prepared tin, scatter over the mini eggs, leave to set.

Tips:

Either freeze for 2 hours, or refrigerate for at least 5 hours until set . Or simply make the day before and leave in the fridge over night.

Remove from the freezer or fridge 20minutes before cutting into small pieces.

Why not make this cake and give it as a present to a friend, or family member. Make it for a tea-time treat or party, served with ice-cream or fruit puree. Sell it at a fete all wrapped in cellophane and ribbons. But most of all -----**Enjoy!**

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GARDENING CORNER

I know that I've said it many times before in different ways, but some 90% of these articles start with reference to the weather, which is a similar percentage to how conversations start – apparently! But I make no excuses for this as the weather impacts so much on what we, as gardeners, do or don't do and ultimately of course it affects the results we achieve. I've learnt over the many years I've been gardenening (and I have photographic proof that puts this at some 56 years now – yes hard to believe I hear you say!) that you have to take whatever nature brings and take it on the chin. One of the key lessons learnt is that you should never get disheartened, no matter how difficult this might appear at times. Some of you may have picked up by now that my day job is a forester and I have now worked for the Forestry Commission for over 34 years. One of the biggest challenges that now faces' us is global warming. As the life span of trees can be incredibly long we have to accept that we must make plans for the future, we can no longer carry on planting the same trees and expect them to survive into the next century. Politicians and man in general, despite the warning signs can't agree what needs to be done to prevent global warming getting worse. I recently sat through a presentation by some of my Forest Research colleagues which was sobering to say the least. They have done a lot of exceptional work on modelling for the future, and, assuming the current trend continues to 2050, our climate / conditions for say Staffordshire is set to become the same as Central France. If anyone has holidayed in this area (in France that is!), they may have picked up that the woodland there is different to what you might find in Staffordshire. The key changes we need to make when growing trees is to select seed to grow young trees from parents growing in central France now. This is fine as our most loved broadleaved trees (such as oak and ash), grow right down to the Mediterranean coast anyway, but it also means that we will have to start growing a lot of other species, probably in mixture to ensure we have a robust woodland going forward. Species such as Californian redwood, Japanese cedar and acacia may all figure in our future woodland cover. Like nature we'll have to get use to these changes. However even in the shorter term, as with gardening we may need to make some changes in how and what we grow.

Already this year we have lost our entire crop of both apricots and nectarines. I'm not sure whether this was down to a particularly cold night, or particularly hot days too early on. Either way all the fruit, which was the size of a pence piece, withered and fell off. Fortunately we made copious amounts of chutney last year from the excess of fruit we had, but we'll miss the incredible fruit picked fresh from the tree. When dwelling on this loss I began to mull over other losses or problems experienced recently and I'm convinced now that things are far worse than ever they have been in the past. As a kid I grew up in London (mind you I used to walk, or later on, cycle to school and in doing so went past green fields – it was the suburbs after all!). Dad had a big garden and an allotment and I had my own 'little patch'. I can never remember problems with any of this – no crop losses, no insect attacks to any great degree. Everything seemed to be in harmony. Not so these days, as whatever we seem to grow gets attacked by

something or other. Maybe dad sprayed everything with noxious chemicals and I never noticed, but certainly can't remember that this was the case. I've noticed recently that several seed companies have starting selling seed using either French or Italian varieties. Sold more along the lines supposedly of 'the taste' I wonder whether perhaps we shouldn't be taking a leaf out of forestry's books (sorry, no pun intended), and to start growing these seeds because they might be more suited to the weather, rather than just the taste. I've bought a few packets of seeds to try, so will see what happens.

Inevitably, because the weather has been so ridiculous so far this year, it has meant some major problems in the garden. The crops in the tunnel (apart from the fruit trees) are doing well, although the change to cold, wet weather has had a bad effect on the tomatoes. They ended up too wet and cold and as a result a lot of their roots rotted off. I've replanted them, and put them in the soil much deeper as they will grow a whole set of new roots – they just don't look to good at the moment. Fortunately the peppers are still in pots in the relative warmth of the greenhouse, so hopefully things will improve at some stage. As with every year I continue to have problems keeping the melons and cucumbers growing without rotting off. I started off with six cucumbers, and I'm now down to three, with one of them not looking good. This happens every year, but so long as I nurse one or two through, we will have enough to feed the salad market here at Barn Farm. I have sown a few extra seeds as an insurance policy, so we'll keep the fingers crossed. I always plant some runner and French bean seed during April with the intention of planting out in mid May. This year is no exception, but it is too cold at night and the beans, which are in individual pots are starting to use each other for support. This is not good news, as they will be a right mess to sort out. The only option is to plant them outside and protect them from any frosts using the good old horticultural fleece. I have grown several new varieties of beans this year as out of all the vegetables, these seem to be the least troublesome. However, rather than grow for the pods, some of the varieties are aimed for drying, so this will allow us to store them more easily and to use in different ways. Over the last two years we experimented by growing French 'Berlotti' beans (although the name sounds a bit Italian doesn't it?). These have been a very welcome addition to casseroles – you just have to remember to take out what you need the night before and leave them soaking in water for 12 or more hours. As a result of increasing the number of bean varieties I have had to turn a bit more ground over to vegetable beds, but we have plenty of ground so this is not a problem. I have one area that was once another tunnel, which was more recently used for growing flower plants in containers, which we took to Framers' Markets or sold at fete's etc. The plants have gone as we no longer have the time to grow them anymore, so the ground has been cleared and currently is being dug over. This has never grown anything directly as such, so hopefully we will have decent crops. The soil itself is clay in nature, but I've barrowed several loads of farm yard manure onto it, so we'll see what happens. Time to go and finish this off.

Happy gardening until next month. Steve and Felicity Hunt.

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	David Heritage	Newchurch 01291 622708
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Newchurch West	Liz McCombe	01291 652957
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Earlswood Sue Leat 01291 641207

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Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Fields Association

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10 June: Open Day at Chris Parson's meadows and orchard near Little Dean

17 June: Open Day at Parson's Grove, Earlswood

23 June: Biodiversity blitz at Tymawr Convent, Lydart

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

Phone Steph Tyler 01600 719890

Saint Thomas áBecket		Sunday Services (Note Change of Service times)	Start 10.00 Unless stated otherwise
Date	Service	Readers	Sides-persons
3 rd June	Trinity Sunday Holy Eucharist	James Lenev Ruth Savagar	Clare Lewis Allan Saysell
10 th June	1 st Sunday After Trinity Holy Eucharist	Margaret Lock Wendy Baker	Margaret Lock Wendy Baker
17 th June	2 nd Sunday After Trinity Holy Eucharist	Bill Clark Janet Horton	Bill Clark Janet Horton
24 th June	John The Baptist Holy Eucharist	Bob Grattan Kevin Bounds	Bob Grattan Kevin Bounds

DIARY DATES

For further details see inside the magazine

June	Event	Location
2	Shirenewton Fete	Recreation ground
3	Earlswood Hope Chapel Anniversary	Earlswood Hope Chapel
4	Jubilee Celebrations	Recreation Ground
7	Special Jubilee Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
11	Shirenewton History Society	Recreation Hall
11	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
26	Shirenewton History Society	Recreation Hall
27	Community Lunch	Tredegar Arms
30	Chepstow Choral Society Summer Celebration Concert	St Mary's priory Chepstow
30	Mothers Union Awareness Day	St Mary's Priory Abergavenny
July	Event	Location
4	Babes in the Wood	Earlswood Hall
7	Jubilee Fayre and Draw	St Peter's Church Newchurch
25 th	Community Lunch	Tredegar Arms

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 July/Aug 2012 issue
is the 25th June 2012**