

Shirenewton & Newchurch Parish Magazine November 2012



Sketch by Barbara Davies

Price: 50p

Dear Friends,

I am sure that all of you who joined us for the Harvest Lunch very much enjoyed the wonderful spread of delicious meats, salads, desserts, cheeses, biscuits and breads all served by those who had joined together to prepare the feast. One hundred and six people sat down to enjoy the lunch - is this the largest number of harvest luncheons served – I don't know but I know without doubt it was a very happy and enjoyable occasion. My sincere thanks to Meg Driver and Barbara Walters for masterminding the event, their husbands who helped in so many ways, their happy band of helpers and to our barman, Kevin. After lunch and following our usual practice, the Raffle and Auction of the Harvest Gifts was most admirably conducted, with a good deal of humour, by David Cornwall. Thank you David you have secured a job for the foreseeable future! Terry Walters, our magazine Editor, used one of his many talents with his musical accompaniment which was a splendid new addition and which I hope will be featuring in future events. Many thanks Terry for all that you do for us.

Last month I mentioned that discussions are ongoing with a view to Shirenewton Parish becoming part of the Mathern Group but these have not yet been concluded, indeed, a meeting of the four Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) is taking place after the closing date for this magazine. Further progress will be available next month although I may be able to announce any developments in church before then.

At present our Churchwarden Andrew Baker is serving with the Army in Sierra Leone and we pray for his safe return; also our other Churchwarden Sally Saysell and her husband Alun whom I hope are enjoying a Mediterranean cruise. They do so much for the church, much of it unseen and unheralded, but which is much appreciated, especially by me. Preparing the building for all services, not just on Sundays, and tidying up afterwards and being present at weddings baptisms and funerals ensure that all goes well for the families involved. During their holidays, John Nicholas looks after these duties as well as those as our Maintenance and Safety officer attending to the upkeep of the fabric of the building. His attention to detail is to be seen as soon as one enters the church building. John thank you for the enormous contribution you make. The members of the PCC all play their part in so many ways in ensuring that St. Thomas a Beckett continues to be at the heart of the community and we all owe them heartfelt thanks.

As the clocks go back at the end of October, we look forward to Remembrance Sunday on 11th November when we meet at The War Memorial at 10.50 a.m. followed by service in church. I remind readers of this as I have had several enquiries about it not only from residents of Shirenewton but also from someone who in tracing their family history has discovered that they have a connexion with a name on the War Memorial and would like to join us in this very important act of thanksgiving.

Finally, as this letter seems to have become a 'thank you' to so many, I thank those priests who help out from time to time in conducting Sunday Services, Venerable Peter Woodman, Canon Dr. Andrew Todd and Rev. Chris Carey. An opportunity to meet and chat is provided over tea/coffee, biscuits/cakes in the church room after the services.

Every blessing, Nansi Davies, Parish Priest.

HARVEST SERVICE AND LUNCH AT SHIRENEWTON

More than 50 people were in St Thomas a Becket Church when the Reverend Nansi Davies began the Harvest Service with prayers; and before she had finished the first prayer the congregation had increased to in excess of 60. Rousing Harvest hymns were followed by a game of 'I Spy' led by one of the younger members of the congregation, Hannekah Owen; and an abbreviated and updated version of the story of Joseph and his interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams foretelling seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine, told in inimitable style by Jane and Glynis. But the brilliant finale was an innovative show and tell led by Jane, with her young and attractive assistant Glynis, ably supported by old agricultural implements provided by Ernie and Winnie Jones. The congregation had to guess what the implements were used for: there were clippers for sheep's toenails; a bit off an old horse-drawn agricultural mower; a horse brass from the bridle of Ernie's old horse Bright; a cream ladle; sheep shears; a bread crumber; a weed fork; and a poncho for a new-born lamb – which brought many oohs and aahs from the congregation.

The Harvest service was followed by a substantial and delicious Harvest Lunch for 108 diners in Earlswood Hall – more than have attended in recent memory. Meg Driver and Barbara Walters, ably supported by Nerys Wilson and a bevy of volunteers produced meat, salads, rice, vegetarian roulade and coleslaw followed by all sorts of spectacular desserts and cheese and biscuits, Whilst the teas and coffees were served, Dave Cornwell conducted the raffle, which Ernie and Winnie had organised, and at least 20 happy winners collected a prize, and £206.00 was raised. Then began the part that everyone had been waiting for – the auction of the harvest produce. Pumpkins, squashes, fruit, vegetables, bread, cake, marmalade and jam all went under Dave Cornwell's hammer and raised £315.50 so along with the Church service loose collection a total of £642.50 was sent to St David's Foundation Hospice Care. The ticket sales and the bar made a profit of £530.58 which was donated to the church. Well done to all who planned and took part in the Service and Lunch.
Bill Clarke

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

The new portal is up and running. It now has 225 shops including many of the ones you use every day so please visit it (www.shirenewtonshop.com) and click through to make your purchases. To date (mid-October) the website has earned £712 for the Church this year. This is well done year-on-year as, last year (to the end of) it had brought in over £1,000. Let us hope the Christmas rush will help.

I'll continue to be tweaking the shopping portal as my knowledge of php develops so don't be surprised if you see new stuff on it from time to time.

So far in 2012 the Church website (not shopping portal) has had 2,908 visits from 1,672 unique visitors. For those of you interested in these things, Internet Explorer accounts for 51.44% of all visits, Safari 20.45%, Chrome 12.90% and Firefox 11.38%. 75.21% of browsers are using Windows, 8.22% Mac and 4.5% an iPad.

That's about it. Safe browsing. David Cornwell webmaster

GWENT BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2012

Cllr Beverley Moore and I attended a presentation evening at the end of September at Chepstow Garden Centre in Portskewett.

So near and yet so far! We scored 91 marks out of a possible 100 for the Best Kept Village but came second to Llanfair Discoed who also won the most marks for the Best Kept Churchyard.

However we won the Best Kept Village Hall and also the Best Kept War Memorial in our category.

The judges recorded very little criticism as can be seen from their comments below.

Judges comments

'Clearview, Tan House Court, Orchard Rise, Blacksmith Lane, Newton Edge, The Summer House all neat and tidy, no litter, few roadside weeds here and there. Village Hall area- childrens' play area and tennis courts excellent. Children's nature garden very good, no litter but gate entrance unsafe. Playing field excellent, sheds excellent. Village Hall, car park, bin area all very neat and tidy, no weeds or litter. Newton Manor, Notice Board, PO box, Telephone Kiosk- excellent. Tredegar Arms car park clean and tidy & 2 bits of litter. War Memorial excellent. Churchyard - paths to all 5 accesses all clear, no weeds or litter, very nice porch area'

Congratulations to everyone who played their part this year. Many people commented on how lovely Shirenewton looked during the Summer. Despite the awful storms, I think the roads were actually kept even clearer of debris than in past years.

Shirenewton Community Council donated £150 towards the cost of the floral arrangements which is a small amount in comparison with other villages entered into the competition. We are grateful to people who paid for and maintained some areas such as the displays opposite the Tredegar Arms and the War Memorial (Howard Sheen) and the display at the triangle outside Shirenewton Hall (Carole Bailey). Also thanks to people who maintained the public areas, John Saysell, Rob Edwards, Stan Jones, Peter Morris and others.

Next year we hope to be able to provide more floral displays to be able to compete with other entrants and would ask that if you plan to grow your own plants next year perhaps you could consider growing one or two more to donate to 'The Cause'. If you feel able to do this please let me know. At the beginning of April we hope to arrange a meeting to engage spirited visitors to improve on our efforts and hopefully win the overall competition next year.

Carole Jones 641791

SHIRENEWTON RECREATION HALL

Best Kept In Gwent!!

Shirenewton won this accolade in its category in the 2012 Best Kept Village Competition.

Have you thought about booking your next party or children's party at the Recreation Hall? There are some available dates and rates are reasonable.

For more information contact Beryl Saysell 641637

QUIZ AND SOCIAL EVENING

on

Friday November 23rd

(monetary prize)

Doors open at 7.30pm

Quiz begins at 8pm

£2 per person

Come along and join a team or bring your own team (maximum number per team -6)

Alcoholic/Soft drinks available

Proceeds in aid of Shirenewton RAFA

(Recreation Association Fundraising Activities)

EARLSWOOD HALL

Remembrance Service at Earlswood Hall

November 11th at 10.30am

Everyone Welcome

ST PETERS CHURCH NEWCHURCH

Christmas Fayre Saturday 17th November at 12 midday.

Xmas Fayre with Xmas Draw at the church

WHIST DRIVES

On Thursday the 4th November our monthly Drive will commence promptly at 7.30 p.m. at the Recreation Hall. In December, the Drive will be our Christmas Special and will be held on the 6th. The table fee per person is £1.00, which includes light refreshments. A raffle is held to raise funds for the Recreation Hall. New players are always made very welcome.

STORAGE REQUIRED

Touring caravan storage and siting required in Shirenewton area.

Contact Ian Williams 02920850741 mobile 07804870220



Saturday 24th November

We thought we'd try something a little
different!

**Earlwood Hall's
'Beer, Beetle Drive and Bingo'**

Families Welcome

7.00

Tickets £5.00 or £3.00

To include a Ploughman's Supper

Christine Stanley 641 616, Marion Harris 650 871

Glynis MacDonald 641 818 or glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

Licence applied for.

Saturday 3rd November

Philippe Schartz

Principal Trumpet of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales

In Concert

Accompanied by Karen Millar

Plus light entertainment from

the Netherwent Singers and others

Shirenewton Church 7:30 pm

Tickets: £10 and £6 include Wine and Nibbles

Contact: Jane Smith-Haddon 641 525

dolly.shirenewton@gmail.com

Glynis MacDonald 641 818 glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

The proceeds will be shared between

Shirenewton Church and Admiral Nurses - a charity that helps
people and families suffering from dementia.

MOTHER UNION



The Backpack Appeal

You are making 34 families around the world very happy. A very big thank you to all who helped us support the Mary's Meals School Backpack Appeal this year. [Do Google to learn more about them]

Between us in Caerwent, Shirenewton and Llanfair Discoed we have filled and prepared 34 school backpacks with essential items to enable any child to go to school well equipped with pencils, crayons, notebooks etc. Mary's Meals work in 18 developing nations countries enabling children to have one good meal in school each day, and also this Backpack Project to equip the poorest of them for school. How excited they will be.

Mothers' Union Notes

On 10 October Patsy Lewis gave us a cookery demonstration using all home-grown ingredients. A tasty 'garden soup' and a lush cake made with very healthy items grated, including courgettes. Needless to say we all enjoyed our lunch together following the demo. Thank you, Patsy.

A Songs of Praise service took place in St Woolos Cathedral on 13 October. This was an all-diocesan MU event. It was beautifully led by the new Dean, Lister Tonge, as a farewell and thank-you to our MU Diocesan President Kathy Palmer, who has held this office for 6 years. Five of us represented our Branch. The Cathedral was full.

Dates for the Diary

We are planning an Open Evening gathering on Wednesday 14 November to hear more from the "Street Pastors" in Caldicot about what they do. They are all volunteers with a heart for young people who provide a listening ear and a reassuring presence in Caldicot each Friday evening 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. They are all church members, not there to 'preach' but just caring and being there. All are welcome: Caerwent Church 7 for 7.30 p.m. beginning with refreshments. Wednesday 14 November. Please do come.

Our pre-Christmas MU gathering will be in Patsy and Paul Lewis' home on Monday 10 December at 2.30 p.m.

Rosemary Carey, MU Branch Leader. 01291 425 010

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 1st October 2012 - Glynis MacDonald

I was a little late in arriving to the meeting this month which was strange because I so look forward to it. Anyway I was relegated to sitting at the back of the councillors again – the equivalent of the naughty corner. And because of my lowly position and the acoustics and the sotto voce of the murmuring members I didn't catch all of the pertinent detail, so for a full, frank and factual account, go to the official minutes on the Church Web site or the village notice boards.

The Police Report

Sun 16th Sept. There were 2 reports of a man wandering around Earlswood and Shirenewton in a state of inebriation. It turned out he was a 'tagged' gentleman from Newport who had been dumped up there by his friends. As a prank. (Fancydumping someone up in the nether regions of Earlswood - worse punishment than being tagged.)

Thurs 27th Sept The Postman for Bulley Hole Bottom reported that he ran over a dog whilst on his rounds. The dog was taken to the vets. The owners were aware. And the dog.

Fri 28th Sept The Suspicious White Van is back. The registration is AD52 KAA. It was being driven by a man with an Irish accent and he was looking for scrap metal. He had a female and a small child with him.

Planning.

1 DC/2012/00125 Seaview Nursery, Earlswood. To demolish/remove existing welfare cabin and increase overall height of approved agricultural building by approx 1m to provide office, rest room, wc and a dry store. The applicant was there – and approval was recommended

2 DC/2012/00572 Yew Tree Cottage, Usk Road, Shirenewton, Conservatory. There was a lot of discussion over this application and there were grumbles about a new double garage having been built, plus the entrance had been considerably widened and that when it rains the gravel on the new driveway washes down. It was felt that this building work might well have to be the subject of a retrospective planning application. And as quite often happens these days, it was felt that there was not enough detail in the application. And a field trip was in order.

3 Two Wind Farms down near the MOD in Caerwent. The Inspector would like to have some written submissions on this one. The MOD were unaware of this application and when they were asked for their views, they said that these wind turbines would be right in the flight path of the Chinooks flying directly from Caerwent to Afghanistan! It was suggested that the MOD should look closely at this application. There was also discussion about environmental concerns. And bats.

The Half Yearly Budget/ Forecast to 31 March 2013.

The councilors were treated to a half yearly report on the budget. There was a bit of grumbling by some of the new councilors as to why various voluntary groups should get small donations of money from the council and questions were asked as to 'how many tax payers want their money going to these groups' (eg the ' local Brownies, Girl Guides, our local halls, churches and chapels etc) and how many atheists there were....

However, it was pointed out that this was the precept that had been agreed at the beginning of the year – and was already fixed. It was merely a report/forecast of the current spending.

The Queen Elizabeth II Initiative. The powers that are in charge of this Initiative are Demanding the Deeds. But once again the knotty problem... Where are the deeds? Then we all sat back and listened to the story of the original contours of the Rec field.

The Village Shop Options

One of the cllrs had had a discussion with the new owner of the Tan House who was not averse to the idea of a shop/PO/pub etc. But the owner has 4 other such projects on the go and so he has had to put the Tan House on the back burner while he concentrates on getting 'The Chain Bridge' outside Usk up and going to cater for the spring time arrival of the caravaners.

Blethyn Close

There is a little bit of newly established grass on the rucked up land which was made messy by building vehicles. But the fences are still up and the area is still a mess. The 'License' is being extended but no one seemed to know who/how/why about this 'License' and so Debra Hill Howell of MCC will be written to.

Poormans Land and what to do with it. There is still a loss of details as to deeds etc and these might turn up eventually in the MCC archives. Meanwhile we had another interesting story about this land way back in 1967 when...

Registration of a Footpath up to the Iron Fort at Llanmellin. The clogged paths have been logged. Or is that vice versa?

Repair of the Play Area in Shirenewton. The contract has been awarded to Jamie Roberts. Hope the old nag gets a lick of paint.

Remembrance Day. Two wreaths have been ordered one for Earlswood Hall and one for the Shirenewton War Memorial.

The Curry Meeting down at the MOD down at Caerwent will be in November and councilors will be invited. Apparently these meals are excellent.

The Future of the 'Community Field' up at Earlswood. This moved into a series of questions along the lines of 'What shall we do with it?' Sell it? Rent it? Use it? Should it be sold for a handsome amount of money? Or rented out for a hay crop? Or used it as a Community resource? Should it be grazed? Would the GWT like to manage it? Is there much wildlife up there? Could it be planted with trees? Would the Woodland Trust like to be involved? Could it be for flowers? Would Monmouthshire Meadows be interested? Could it be used for allotments? Or sold to fund a shop in Shirenewton? It was agreed that the council was still in the 'info' gathering stage. And that it will be put on next month's agenda.

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The Skateboard Project. It was reported back that the Recreation Association felt that there was no room on the Rec for a skateboard park. Maybe there is a place in Mynyddbach? There were also concerns raised about the insurance, the increase in cars and floodlighting at night. I have also written in my notes that the area could be 'festooned with shoes' (What?) It was pointed out that there are sites in Caldecott, Bulwark and Wollaston and so children could go there.

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The general feeling was that a skateboard park was not a viable option in the area but Graeme Down has offered to do some more research into the project.

Repairs of Roads

After the recent heavy rains, the big hole that appeared in the road going through Shirenewton was reported - and filled with unbelievably amazing speed. But the repair of the road behind the 'golf course' took a long, long time, and it was felt that there were plenty of other roads in the area which are in a much worse state than that road.

The Car Rally. This was held down in Caerwent and was attended by a couple of councilors and Cllr Moore reported that it was absolutely fantastic and that it was one of the best days she had in ages.

Items of Local Concern

Earlswood Highways won't get any attention until at least the spring.

The Memorial Path will be cleared of its mossy growth

The hedge at Mynnders Cottage is to be reinstated.

There may be further consultation on road calming measures

A pane of glass had been broken in the telephone box outside the old Post Office.

And following on from that, the council is planning to discuss the BT 'adopt-a-box for a £1' scheme at next month's meeting and the WI are hoping to maintain it as a paperback lending library. I've written the note 'Health and Safety issues?' . I shall assume this means that people will enter the box one at a time.

As in many previous years, Graeme Down has kindly donated a sack of daffodils to the council for planting for the spring. The next explosive meeting will be on Monday 5 November 2012 at 7.30pm.

STARGAZING

The seven stars of the Plough lie to the North in the evening. It is also known as the Great Bear or Ursa Major. Ursa Major was one of the constellations listed by the 2nd century AD Egyptian astronomer Ptolemy. The constellation of Ursa Major has been seen as a bear by many civilizations. In Greek mythology, Zeus, the king of the gods, falls in love with a young woman named Callisto. Hera, Zeus' jealous wife, transforms the beautiful Callisto into a bear and places her in the heavens.

The cross of Cygnus 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. There are approximately 200 billion galaxies in the Universe. Each galaxy contains very approximately 200 billion stars. So that's very approximately a mind-boggling 40,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 stars in the Universe.

The bright planet Jupiter is in the evening sky to the East. The Full Moon and Jupiter are close together on the 1st and the 28th of November.

Jupiter can also be seen in the early morning sky in the West. The even brighter planet Venus is to the West in the morning. Towards the end of the month Saturn rises in the South-East to join Venus. You may also be able to see the fainter planet Mercury just below Venus at the end of the month. On the 11th the Crescent Moon is to the right of Venus.

Venus is sometimes called Earth's "sister planet" owing to their similar size and bulk composition. However, it is very different to Earth in other respects. Venus is shrouded by a thick layer of cloud. The atmospheric pressure at the planet's surface is nearly 100 times that of Earth's, and it has a surface temperature of nearly 500°C. All in all it's a pretty unfriendly place!

Dave Thomas

FAIRTRADE NEWS



A recent edition of The Extra Mile magazine published by Traidcraft had an interesting article describing how new fairtrade products are developed. Traidcraft had been working with CIPAC a beekeeping cooperative in Guatemala. On a visit to see how the success of this project was developing the sourcing team discovered that many of the beekeepers also grew coffee beans. Almost half the population of Guatemala live below the poverty line and so Traidcraft began work to develop a new high quality coffee product.

The arabica beans grow at high altitude. The coffee 'cherries' are collected, by hand, and transported in huge sacks down steep and dangerous slopes. The skin is scraped from these cherries and the remaining pith is removed. The beans are dried in the sun. It is staggering to note that it takes 20 metric tonnes of cherries to produce just one metric tonne of freeze dried instant coffee. The remote location and poor roads make moving the crop extremely hard. Producers were at the mercy of local traders who, at best, offered little support to the producers.

Traidcraft has helped producers increase their yields, decrease the impact on the environment and develop a better infrastructure. A major advantage has been the fact that a new coffee processing plant can process the beans close to source. This is very significant. Many developing countries lose out when it comes to processing - richer countries have traditionally reaped the benefits of adding value. This new plant keeps a large proportion of the money invested in the local communities.

This decaffeinated coffee has scored highly in blind tastings, even against traditional caffeinated brands! Why not give it a try!

Christmas is coming! Do consider buying fairly traded gifts and products!

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com



MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL

Programme & dates for 2012/2013 season
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10th, 2012, 7.30pm.

Sir Edward Elgar -- The Music Makers
Romance for Bassoon & Orchestra
Richard Strauss -- Serenade for Wind
CCS with Rhondda Symphony Orchestra

SUNDAY DECEMBER 9th, 2012, 3.00pm.
FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC & WORDS

Peter Cook (organ)
The Dell Primary School Choirs

SATURDAY MARCH 16th, 2013, 7.30pm
W.A. Mozart -- Vesperae Solennes de Confessore
Anton Bruckner -- Requiem in D minor
Orchestral items
CCS Orchestra (leader Paula Kempton)

SATURDAY JUNE 29th 2013, 7.30pm
Popular Classics for a Summer's Evening.

ALL CONCERTS AT ST MARY'S PRIORY CHURCH, CHEPSTOW.

For further information about any of the above, please tel. (01291) 623310, 620414. Tickets (students/under 18s free), available from Chepstow Bookshop or above contact numbers. If you enjoy singing, please contact Marjorie Duerden (tel. 623310) about singing membership. WE CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT YOU!!

CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd - Music Centre Wales, and is a registered charity (1127098).

Dickens & DYLAN

Lighthouse Theatre present a Christmas show with a difference. Stories from the two masters of the festive word, Charles Dickens and Dylan Thomas.

After critical acclaim last year, Adrian Metcalfe returns with his one-man version of *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, the perennial Welsh classic.

It is twinned with a new solo version of Charles Dickens' *The Cricket and the Hearth*, a chilling festive classic, performed by Senia Beck. Or possibly not...

The evening is up to the audience. Lighthouse will bring five Christmas short stories to the venue. Which two the audience see will be up to them....

GITTON VILLAGE HALL
WEDNESDAY 28th NOVEMBER

at 7.30pm

Tickets: Adults £6, u16 £3

Please reserve tickets by telephone:
01291 - 641 615 / 07814 - 240 454

or

by email: secretary@gittonvillagehall.co.uk

Accompanied by live music, Lighthouse promise an evening of festive fun accompanied by carols, mulled wine and mince pies...

A Child's Christmas in Wales, *Quite Early One Morning*, *The Signalman*,
The Cricket and the Hearth, *A Christmas Carol*...it's up to you.

'wonderfully told by Adrian Metcalfe', *South Wales Evening Post*.

Sponsored by Arts Council Wales - 'Night Out' Scheme



**SHIRENEWTON
COMMUNITY
LUNCHEON CLUB**

**Tredegar Arms
Shirenewton**

01291 641274

tredegararmsshirenewton@hotmail.com

Please book early to secure
your place for lunch

Nov 28th

Dec 19th

**SHIRENEWTON
PARENT
&
TODDLER GROUP**

Every Thursday
1.30 to 3pm Term Time

and the

Summer Holidays
Drinks, Snacks, Crafts,

& Songs. £2

Shirenewton Recreation Hall

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

Advent Fair at Shirenewton Church

Come along for *Coffee, Cake* and a lovely selection of
Homemade Christmas Goodies

Sunday 2nd December 11.00 - 12.00



The money this year will go to Chibolya School

Chibolya is an urban slum of about 100,000 people in the middle of Lusaka, the capital of Zambia. The money raised will go directly to support orphans where they will receive education at Chibolya School. Education is the way out of poverty

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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Tel: 01291 625451

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SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our first meeting of our year was a resounding success, Mrs Anna Tribe gave an excellent talk entitled *'Nelson and what happened to the family after Trafalgar'*. She gave an insight into the happenings around the time of Trafalgar and later when the family went abroad. As a direct descendant of Nelson she was able to supply us with copies of letters written by Emma to Nelson and showed us many family portraits.

The society will be participating in the Monmouthshire Walking Festival, we will be organising one of the walks entitled 'Llanmelin and the Cas Trogy Brook', starting at 10.00 am from the Tredegar Arms on Tuesday, 23rd October. We would like to thank the Tredegar Arms for allowing us to meet there so early in the morning.

Dates for your diary:

Monday, 12th November, Resource Meeting at the Recreational Hall, 2.00 – 5.00 pm

Tuesday, 27th November, at the Huntsman Hotel, 7.30 a talk entitled 'Childhood Memories of my Village' given by Eileen Grassby.

SHIRENEWTON WI

October; when the sun shines the autumn colours glow, the wind blows and falling leaves spread a multi-coloured carpet disguising the ground beneath. Our speaker at our meeting on the 11th October enthralled us with the flora and fauna to be found on the island of Gotland during two summers, far better than the one we've just had. Mr Graham Wren went on two occasions with a small group to record the Gotland wild life. Spending summer on a very flat Baltic island looked very appealing but their journey took 48 hours by ferries and road, no hotel at the end camping was the order of the day, with many long hours spent in hides waiting for the right picture.

Graham showed us some of the beautiful photographs of birds and their nests which had been captured by all that effort and a few of the just missed shots. Gotland is a place for orchids and we were amazed at the variety but even more so at the sheer numbers. Most of the birds recorded were waders and since their nests are on the ground great care was needed when moving around. Somehow the birds seem to cope with the grazing Danish Red cattle and Gotland sheep. The island is made mainly of limestone, much of the ground is rocky with marshes around lakes and stony beaches lapped by the Baltic, which is not really tidal but can be very stormy. Gotland appeared to be very a peaceful summer destination, but apparently there is one noisy period when thousands of motor bikes descend and roar around the roads at the yearly gala.

We all enjoyed seeing Graham's pictures and it made us realise how much effort goes into the wildlife programs and books we sometimes dismiss as just nice pretty pictures.

Our next meeting is on the 8th November with a talk by Fiona Ashley on 'Libraries for Life'.

Auriol Horton. 01291 641844



OPEN MEETING

Would you like to be involved in a Community Led Plan for your Village?

What is a Community Led Plan?

- A record of the village – its people, its assets and its aspirations
- A detailed account of local social, economic and environmental needs for Community Councils and other organisations to use
- A way of supporting funding applications
- An on-going opportunity for all villagers to get involved in community affairs and activities

In short, a way for the whole community to create a shared vision on the long-term sustainability of your village, and how it should develop over the next 5 to 10 years

Who puts the Community Led Plan together?

- Anyone and everyone in the community

**Please come along to an Open Meeting
SHIRENEWTON RECREATION HALL**

7.30pm

Thursday 22nd November

All welcome-including young people

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: **SHIRLEY HUGHES**

Tel: 01633 748311 / 07793 259016 OR email: shirley@adventa.org.uk



Not Just Feet



Reflexology
Vertical Reflexology
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The Garden Room proved a romantic setting on a beautiful sunny day in September for a local couples' wedding reception. We were holding our breath as it was going to be busy, a wedding, a coach party for dinner and a football match. Our fantastic staff pulled out all the stops and made it a day to remember for all concerned.

Our international friends were enchanted by the wedding party and having chatted to the bride in the garden insisted on buying her our finest champagne. A member of the coach party had managed to locate a long lost member of his family, who was found to be living nearby - so delayed his return back to the USA to stay in Wales for a reunion with his family and to enjoy all the Wye Valley has to offer.

Lastly, but certainly not least, to put the icing on the cake, Tintern Football club won their first home match. Cheered on by our international friends by 6 goals to 1 against Sudbrook CC.

Everyone really enjoyed the day and we felt privileged to be able to host a growing circle of friends from both near and far. It gave us a positive perspective on how tourism can bring people together in an interesting and diverse manner, it promotes links and broadens our horizons and definatley keeps Tintern well and truly on the map.

A big thank you to all the wonderful team of staff we've had over the summer who made it all happen. At the peak of the season we had 30 young people working here, some have now left to go to university for the first time, studying subjects they've had first hand experience of at The Anchor; hospitality, marketing and Izzy Woodfords degree in psychology wont go amiss. Good Luck to you all and see you at Christmas!

Don't forget to check out our festive Christmas menus online at www.theanchortintern.com, the holiday will be here before we know it!

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A Menu For Two

Carrot & Ginger Soup

~~~~~

*Spatchcock Poussins*

*With Garlic Sage Butter*

*Seasonal vegetables*

~~~~~

Oranges with Rosewater & Pistachio

~~~~~



**Carrot and ginger soup.**

#### **Ingredients.**

2 tsp olive oil

1 small onion, peeled and chopped

1 small garlic clove, peeled and crushed

½ level tsp ground ginger powder

8 oz (225g) carrots, peeled and chopped

1 pint (600ml) vegetable stock

½ inch (1cm) piece root ginger, peeled and finely grated

Seasoning

1 tsp lemon juice

Chives and strands of lemon to garnish

#### **Method.**

**1** Heat the oil in a large saucepan. Gently cook the onion and garlic for 3-4 minutes.

**2** Stir in the ground ginger and cook for 1 minutes to release the flavour.

**3** Add the carrots, fresh ginger and stock. Simmer gently for 15 minutes.

**4** Remove from the heat, cool slightly. Blend until smooth. Season.

**5** Stir in lemon juice. Garnish with chives and strands of lemon.

**Serve** with croutons, melba toast or crusty bread.

## **Spatchcocked Poussins With Garlic Sage Butter**

### **Ingredients.**

For the herb butter

3 garlic cloves

2 oz (50g) butter, softened

1 tbsp freshly snipped chives

1 tsp freshly chopped sage

1 small lemon, grated and juiced

Seasoning

### **For the Poussins.**

2 spatchcock poussins

2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil

Garnish

Chives and sage leaves.

### **Method**

1 Simmer the garlic cloves in a little water for 5 minutes. Drain. Cool slightly, pound until smooth. Beat in the butter, chopped chives, sage, Lemon zest and juice. Season.

2 Using your fingertips, gently loosen the skin from each poussin breast by sliding your hand between the skin and the flesh. Push one half of the herb butter under the skin, spreading evenly over the breast and the top of the thighs. Pull the neck skin gently to tighten the skin over the breast and tuck under the bird. Repeat with the remaining poussin.

3 Thread two wooden skewers crossways through each poussin, from one wing through the opposite leg, to keep the poussin flat.

4 Brush with the olive oil and season.

5 Arrange the poussins on a foiled rack and grill for 25 minutes, turning occasionally, until golden and crisp and the juices runs clear when the thigh is pierced with a sharp knife or skewer. (Position the rack about 12.5 cm/5 inches from the heat source or the skin will brown before the birds are cooked through).

6 Garnish with chives and sage leaves.

Serve with seasonal vegetables, rice or salad.

## **Oranges with Rosewater and toasted almonds.**

Ingredients

2 oranges, peeled

½ tsp rosewater

Pinch of cinnamon

1 tsp toasted almonds.

Dusting of icing sugar

### **Method**

1 On a low heat. Dry roast flaked almonds in a frying pan for 5 minutes. Cool.

2 Cut the oranges into thin slices.

3 Divide between two small plates.

4 Sprinkle with the rosewater and cinnamon.

5 Chill.

6 Before serving sprinkle with a little icing sugar and toasted almonds.

Enjoy!

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## GARDENING CORNER

The last month has not been the greatest. Sadly I lost my father and gardening / beekeeping mentor at the beginning of the month, so no longer have anyone to share and solve problems with. When drafting a eulogy for his funeral service, I was reminded of many gardening tales derived from our shared experiences which no doubt I will relay at some time or other.

We had a few days leave this month as well, some spent visiting National Trust properties in the Cotswolds and Warwickshire, whilst others were spent taking stock and catching up on a few things in the garden. With the ground outside still soaking wet it was off to the tunnel initially. I had left the crop of French beans to dry off and these were pulled and the pods picked off for 'haricot beans'. At the same time all the weeds were cleared out and most, apart from the tenacious ones, were added to the ever expanding compost heap. This left the ground clear for the next crop, which comprised of spring cabbage and broccoli plants, already grown for the purpose. I didn't bother digging the bed over as such and when removing the beans I had tried to break off the roots and leave them in the ground intact. The reasons for these actions were to ensure the soil remained firm, and the bean roots, as they capture nitrogen, would then break down and feed the young brassica plants, which demand high levels of nitrogen (for leaf production). If the soil is too loose it tends to make the brassica's 'blow' rather than form tight heads. I did sprinkle copious amounts of blood, fish and bone as usual, and hopefully this will give the plants the other minerals they require. I did have some young cauliflower plants as well, but experience to date is that these do not grow very well indoors. The dampness seems to make the heads rot very easily. So instead I had to wait for the beds outside to dry off a little, before planting them, but ground preparation was much the same, although in this case they replaced an earlier crop of sweet corn. The corn had not done too well (not surprisingly with the bad weather), so I'd left the actual cobs to mature, rather than pick them earlier. These will then feed the garden birds during the winter months. Whilst in the tunnel I picked all the 'red hot' chilli peppers ready for drying off and using in the kitchen. The peppers themselves will be threaded onto strong fishing line and then hung in the rear conservatory to air dry. The intention is to pull the pepper plants (as well as another bed of sweet peppers when they finish fruiting) and clear the beds before manuring and then planting with strawberries. I got fed up this year with either the bad weather rotting the berries or squirrels eating them before we could make use of them. So the intention is to plant the beds under the apricot and nectarine trees, so the fruits will grow and ripen before the fruit trees grow too much. With this in mind I have taken a lot of strawberry runners from a particularly good variety (one called Marshmallow) and potted them up. These are now growing in the larger greenhouse and should be ready for planting out as soon as the peppers are removed. Hopefully this will ensure that we get a good crop of strawberries in early to mid May and might even get some in the freezer, which we haven't done for many years.

With the outside beds drying off as well I also managed to get several weeded and one planted up with next year's garlic crop. I saved some of the best cloves



from this year's crop, breaking these down into their individual bulblets for planting some 8 centimetres deep (about 3 inches). There is still time to give garlic a go if you are minded to, but make sure you buy bulbs for planting, rather than use one you have left in the kitchen! The results will be ten times better.

The seed catalogues started to arrive several weeks ago. I'm trying a new supplier this year as the prices were very competitive. Last year I spent more than £200 on various seeds, seed potatoes and onion sets, whilst this year the cost was around £150 for much the same. This seems a lot of money, but in the overall scene of things we are probably self sufficient in vegetables for probably ten months of the year, and you definitely can't compare the taste of fresh pulled vegetables with those purchased from the shops. Plus of course they are unlikely to have any chemical residues. I was minded of this earlier this week as I happened to be driving through the Fen country with work. Driving through acre upon acre of cauliflowers, cabbages, broccoli and Brussel sprouts I mused as to how much chemical was used in order to keep them caterpillar / insect free for blemish free harvesting.

I've noted for several years that you can purchase plants of various vegetables that have been grafted onto hardy rootstocks which resist rotting. As I lose no end of cucumber and melon plants through these diseases I've decided to give these grafted plants a go for next year. I'll let you know whether they are any better and worth the money.

A nice warm day saw me spending most of it going through the bees and getting them ready for winter. This involved checking what stores they had ready for the cold months, putting mouse guards across the front of each hive, providing some form of treatment to help the bees fight off varoa mite, and removing any supers that they would not be able to see to during the winter. Bees cluster together around the queen during cold weather and it is important to have food supplies readily available to them without having to move too far. I have seen colonies in the past literally starve to death because they have been unwilling or unable to move six inches to reach food supplies. The first few hives were all fine and jobs done, the hives were closed down. The guards prevent mice getting into the hive itself, as they like nothing better than having some friendly bees to keep them warm, and also enjoy munching their way through the frames and eating up the valuable honey supplies. The wire mesh was left around the outside of the hives to keep the pest of a green woodpecker at bay. The next two hives were swarms collected this year, but weren't doing too well with very limited food supplies. I had some spare frames full of honey, so I removed some empty frames and replaced them with the full ones. Hopefully this will keep them going. For some reason one of my best hives had decided just to clear off, so I cleared this up and put the parts away in store. Must be that I hadn't spoken to them enough last time and felt unloved! A big blow but I don't know what you can do to prevent this happening. All the other hives were fine, so that was a job well done. Still must dash. I need to get the peppers threaded up ready for drying. Happy gardening until next month.  
Steve and Felicity Hunt.

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|                                                                      | Ken Morton         | 01291 650268                                                                                         |
| <b>Newchurch West</b>                                                | Liz McCombe        | 01291 652957                                                                                         |
| <b>MCC for Shirenewton</b>                                           | Graham Down        | 01291 621846<br><a href="mailto:grahamdown@monmouthshire.gov.uk">grahamdown@monmouthshire.gov.uk</a> |
| <b>Member of Parliament</b>                                          | David Davies       | 020 7219 8360<br><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**

**Beavers** Julie Hitchcock 01291 650548

**Brownies** Jackie Broughton 01291 641797

**Comm. Carol Services** John Nicholas 01291 641368  
jdrnicholas@tiscali.co.uk

**Church Fete** Diane Ward 01291 641843 lordward99@hotmail.com  
**Cubs**

**Earlswood Hope** Mrs Sybil Cullimore 01291 641563

## **Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall**

Glynis MacDonald 01291 641818  
glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

## **Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel**

Avril Smith 01291 650733

**Gaerllwyd Baptist** Mrs E Remnant Brooklands, Usk Road NP16 6SA

**Girl Guides** Helen Cann 01291 650835 cann71@btinternet.com

**Kids Ad Lib (KAL)** Karen Millar 01291 650521 Gail Jones 01291 650861

**Recreation Association** Gordon Hughes 01291 641356 gordon.hughes3@tesco.net

**Recreation Hall booking** Beryl Saysell 01291 641637

## **St Peters Church Newchurch**

Enid Heritage 01291 622708

## **Shirenewton Local History Socty**

Dorothy Brabon 01291 641376 brabonnl@hotmail.com

## **Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Fields Association Ltd (SAMFAL)**

Stu Dutton 01291 641677 stu@dutton47.freemove.co.uk

## **Shirenewton & Mynyddbach Initiative for Local Enterprise (SMILE)**

Charles Eickhoff 01291 641716 eickhoff@shirenewton.org

## **Shirenewton Mothers Union**

Rosemary Carey 01291 425010 crcandkili@tiscali.co.uk

## **Shirenewton Mothers Union Branch Treasurer**

Auriol Horton 01291 641844 aur10l@btinternet.com

## **Shirenewton Operatic and Dramatic Society (SODS)**

Glynis MacDonald 01291 641818  
glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

**Shirenewton Play Group** Bev Lindsey BeverleyLindsay@btinternet.com

## **Shirenewton Primary School**

Jayne Edwards 01291 641774  
jayneedwards@monmouthshire.gov.uk

## **Shirenewton Tennis Association**

P Brabon 01291 641376 brabonnl@hotmail.com

## **Shirenewton Toddler Group**

Jude Langdon 07981 368213  
Paula Rimmer rimmerpaula@mac.com

**Traidcraft** Marion McAdam 01291 641316

**Whist drive** Auriol Horton 01291 641844 aur10l@btinternet.com

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

## DIARY DATES

| <b>November</b> | <b>Event</b>                     | <b>Location</b>                  |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3               | Philippe Scharz & Others Concert | Shirenewton Church               |
| 4               | Whist Drive                      | Recreation Hall                  |
| 5               | Community Council Meeting        | Recreation Hall                  |
| 8               | Shirenewton WI Meeting           |                                  |
| 11              | Remembrance Service              | Earlswood Hall                   |
| 11              | Remembrance Service              | Shirenewton War Memorial         |
| 12              | Shirenewton History Society      | Recreation Hall                  |
| 14              | Mothers Union Open Evening       | Caerwent Church                  |
| 15              | Mobile Police Station            | Recreation Hall Car Park         |
| 17              | Christmas Fayre                  | St Peters Church Newchurch       |
| 22              | Community Led Plan Open Meeting  | Recreation Hall                  |
| 23              | Quiz and Social Evening          | Recreation Hall                  |
| 24              | Beer, Beetle Drive and Bingo     | Earlswood Hall                   |
| 27              | Shirenewton History Society      | Huntsman Hotel                   |
| 28              | Dickens & Dylan                  | Itton Village Hall               |
| <b>December</b> | <b>Event</b>                     | <b>Location</b>                  |
| 2               | Advent Fayre                     | Shirenewton Church               |
| 9               | Chepstow Choral Society          | St Mary's Priory Church Chepstow |
| 10              | Mothers Union                    | Patsy & Paul Lewis Home          |
| 13              | Mobile Police Station            | Recreation Hall Car park         |

| <b>Saint Thomas á Beckett<br/>Shirenewton</b> |                                                    | <b>Sunday<br/>Services</b>               | <b>Start 10.00<br/>a.m.<br/>Unless stated<br/>otherwise</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date</b>                                   | <b>Service</b>                                     | <b>Readers</b>                           | <b>Sides-persons</b>                                        |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> November                      | All Saints<br>Matins                               | Jane Smith-Haddon<br>Cynthia Smith       | Jane Smith-Haddon<br>Cynthia Smith                          |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> November                     | Remembrance Service<br>10.50 at the Cenotaph       | Followed by a<br>service in the Church   |                                                             |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> November                     | 2nd Sunday before<br>Advent<br>Holy Eucharist      | Bill Clarke<br>Janet Horton              | Bill Clarke<br>Janet Horton                                 |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> November                     | Christ the King<br>Holy Eucharist                  | Bob Grattan<br>Wendy Baker               | Bob Grattan<br>Wendy Baker                                  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> December                      | 1st Sunday of Advent<br>Holy Eucharist             | Bill Clarke<br>Janet Horton              | Bill Clarke<br>Janet Horton                                 |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> December                      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent<br>Morning Prayer | Mark Broughton<br>Ruth Savagar           | Mark Broughton<br>Margaret Woodliffe                        |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> December                     | 3rd Sunday of Advent<br>Carol Service              | Bob Grattan<br>John Nicholas &<br>Others | Bill Clarke<br>Janet Horton                                 |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> December                     | 4th Sunday of Advent<br>Holy Eucharist             | James Leney<br>Mark Broughton            | Mark Broughton<br>Claire Lewis                              |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> December                     | Midnight Mass<br>at 11.30 p.m.<br>Holy Eucharist   | Sally Saysell<br>John Nicholas           | Allan Saysell<br>John Nicholas                              |
| 30 December                                   | 1st Sunday<br>of Christmas<br>Holy Eucharist       | Bill Clarke<br>Janet Horton              | Bill Clarke<br>Janet Horton                                 |

## **SHIRENEWTON PARISH VISITORS**

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.

Earlswood  
Chepstow



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### **EDITORIAL INFORMATION**

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