

Shirenewton & Newchurch Parish Magazine October 2012



Sketch by Barbara Davies

Price: 50p

Dear Friends,

Some 10 years ago, following a review by The Church in Wales Finance Committee, it was concluded that meeting the costs of Ministry in the Dioceses would outstrip resources within 10 years. It was decided that clergy pensions were the priority and given the large number retiring to add to those already retired and the longevity of the population, Dioceses should plan the use of reducing central funds which would cease altogether by 2009. Each Diocese has always had some invested funds of their own derived from parish/quota, gifts, endowments and legacies etc. but certainly insufficient to meet the costs of clergy stipends, housing and other necessary costs of administration. Our Diocesan Finance group calculated that in future it could afford to fund 66 paid (stipendary) clergy which was a cut of approximately one-third of the then current numbers. In a nut shell this would mean that each Benefice/Group of parishes would have to pay the full costs of its clergy stipends and additionally need to contribute to Diocesan costs. In the light of this, our Bishop of Monmouth asked each Deanery to review its area together with a given budget and report to him how it could best use the resources it will have for the growth of the Church in its area.

The Netherwent Deanery, in which Shirenewton is located, carried out its review, involving clergy and laity, and given the budget for 7 paid clergy, produced a report in 2004 in which it recommended grouping of parishes where a minimum of worshippers of 1 cleric to 100 worshippers could be clustered, with contiguous boundaries, and which could meet the cost of the 1 cleric. The review also took into account the availability of Non-Stipendary Ministers, i.e. unpaid priests (of which I am one), and lay readers to assist with ministry in these larger groupings of parishes.

Earlier this year at a Deanery Conference, our Archdeacon told us of the Bishops proposals arising from our review and the changes amongst clergy that had taken place since it was first conceived. For Shirenewton this means that we would be added to the Mathern group which comprises Mathern, St.Pierre and Mounton churches under the Rector The Revd. Julian E.L.White, who is also the Area Dean for Netherwent Deanery. Shirenewton Parochial Church Council (PCC) is in favour of this proposal and consultations are now taking place amongst the Mathern Group PCC's. We await the outcome. I will let you know what it finally decided. Fortunately the membership and attendance at the churches in the Mathern group is larger than at Shirenewton; we need to increase both membership and attendance at services to play our full part in any future grouping.

There has been another review of the Church in Wales by an independent panel which may have some impact upon the future structures of our Deanery but decisions on the recommendations have yet to be taken by the Governing Body (GB) and the Bench of Bishops. However, it is clear that for the financial reasons outlined above we cannot delay implementation of the present Deanery proposals. It will be next year at the very earliest that any decisions will become known from this latest review.

One other piece of good news emanating from the last meeting of the GB in September is that it voted in favour of ordaining women bishops. However, in order to find a way forward to provide for those parishes who do not accept either women priests or women bishops nor the oversight of a bishop who has ordained women priests it was decided that this would be enacted in two stages. It is hoped that a solution would be forthcoming in time for the next meeting of the GB next Easter.

As I write I am looking forward to our Harvest Festival followed by the usual splendid lunch at Earlswood Hall and I hope to see many of you at both the family service and the lunch.

Every Blessing, Nansi Davies, Parish Priest.

SHIRENEWTON PARISH VISITORS

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

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

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

Confidentiality

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

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

How to Find Out More

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

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

FROM THE REGISTERS

Marriage

Matthew Howe and Kathleen Vandeveld 15th of September 2012

Baptism

Harrison James Marter son of James and Lisa Marter on 1st September 2012

Sara Chloe Walbyoff daughter of Paul John and Elizabeth Janet Walbyoff on 26th August 2012

St Thomas áBecket Church

FACULTY FOR AN AUMBRY

The PCC is going to apply for a faculty to install an aumbry in the Church. An aumbry is a secure place used to store consecrated bread and wine. It allows the parish priest to bless the bread and wine ahead of a service and then for a lay Eucharistic minister to administer the communion without a priest present. The priest can also use it to store consecrated bread and wine between services so it can be administered to the sick and the homebound in the Parish.

If any parishioners would like to know more about this application, please contact the secretary to the PCC, Bill Clark.

200 CLUB

Winners for September are

1st prize	Sonia Forrest
2nd prize	Frances Thomas
3rd prize	Bob Millar
4th prize	Sue Jones

EARLSWOOD HALL

Remembrance Service at Earlswood Hall
November 11th at 10.30am
Everyone Welcome

ST PETERS CHURCH NEWCHURCH

Songs of Praise on Thursday 18th October at 7 pm
Christmas Fayre Saturday 17th November ay 12 midday

GAERLYWYD BAPTIST CHAPEL

Harvest Festival Service Sunday 21st October at 6.30pm,
Speaker My Brian Medhurst of Newport.

Monday 22nd at 7.30pm Speaker My Wynn Lewis of Brecon,
Supper afterwards, everyone welcome

EARLSWOOD HOPE CHAPEL

Harvest Festival service October 7th at 3.00pm
Produce sale October 8th at 7.30pm

MOBILE POLICE STATION

Just to let you know we will be having the above vehicle every four weeks from this Sunday coming (16th).

During that week, we will be visiting Shirenewton – using the Village car park if that is okay – on the Thursday morning between 0900-1100hrs.

We will still be attending the Council meetings as usual so this is an extra visit. The next four dates are:-

18/10, 15/11, 13/12

So feel free to pop and see us if you wish.

CHEPSTOW NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

Latest Home Office Figures show that Gwent Police has the biggest reduction in crime in England and Wales

PC 1158 Louise Thorpe

QUIZ AND SOCIAL EVENING

at

Shirenewton Recreation Hall

on

Friday October 26th 2012

and

**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)**

STARGAZING

The planet Jupiter is very bright and can be seen in the evening in the east. The bright star Aldebaran lies to the right of the planet. Whilst the light from Jupiter has taken approximately 40 light minutes to reach us, the light travelling from the red giant star Aldebaran has taken about 65 light years.

Venus, the extremely bright "Morning Star" is rising in the east. Jupiter also appears in the morning sky to the south-west.

The Moon can be a useful pointer to the planets. On the 12th October the Crescent Moon is just to the right of Venus, whilst at the end of month the almost Full Moon is very close to Jupiter.

The constellation of Cygnus the Swan lies pretty much directly above in October. Its stars form a cross – in fact it is sometimes called the Northern Cross. The seven stars of the Plough are to the North and the four stars forming the Great Square of Pegasus lie to the South. The W-shape of Cassiopeia lies fairly high in the sky to the northeast. In Roman mythology Cassiopeia was a queen chained to her throne as a punishment for being boastful.

55 years ago this month, the great radio telescope at Jodrell Bank in Cheshire became operational. It hit the world newspaper headlines within days by picking up radio signals from the very first satellite launched into orbit. This was Russia's Sputnik 1 which heralded the start of the Space Age.

Dave Thomas

1ST SHIRENEWTON GUIDES

A new term begins – where did the "summer" go? Our older members completed their D of E expedition early in the summer and are now preparing their presentation. For some, this will complete the award and they are ready to move on to silver.

The younger Guides have been deciding on their programme for the term and have chosen to work on a Crazy Moose Challenge set by a young Guider raising funds to attend the Scout Moot in Canada next year. Unsurprisingly, the page that caught their eyes had recipes to try out! All the activities have Canadian links, so I look forward to learning all about the country in the next few weeks. In addition to this, we are also looking at their human rights and responsibilities and are planning a night hike and an evening walking the Chepstow town trail. The traditional autumn residential is also being planned.

As we have so many older members, it is hoped to set up a Ranger unit to run in parallel with Guides to give more opportunities and challenges for the 14+ age range. This will also make spaces available in the Guide unit for girls aged 10- 14. If you know of anyone that may be interested then please pass on my contact details.

Yours in Guiding

Kestrel	Helen Cann	01291 650835	cann71@btinternet.com
Kitten	Amanda Moreton	01291 650763	
Karen Ford & Debbie Henshall			



Girlguiding UK

.....because everyone needs a bit of help sometimes.....

Could you spend time with a parent helping to build confidence as they adapt to life with a small baby, or share an outing with a family who finds getting out of the house difficult, or providing a listening ear to a mother who is experiencing post natal depression. Being a Home-Start volunteer means offering friendship to parents and spending time with families in a way that meets their needs.

- Are you a good listener?
- Could you spare a few hours a week?
- Do you have parenting experience - remember you don't have to be a 'super nanny'

All your expenses will be paid. You will need to undergo a CRB check.

If you think you would like to become a volunteer for the newly established Monmouthshire scheme then contact: Pam Lloyd on 01600715608 or email: enquiries@monmouthshirehomestart.org.uk

Company No: 7157751 Charity No: 1141572

MONMOUTHSHIRE MEADOWS GROUP

Is holding its Autumn Meeting on Thursday 18th October at the Priory, Monmouth starting at 7.00pm. There will be illustrated talks from group members about their meadows and how they have been preserved and managed. The species rich wildlife sites vary from a section of a domestic garden to large old hay fields on a farm.

Following the talks there will be a buffet supper.

Admission to the talks £2. Talks and supper £12.

To book see the Meadows Group website or contact Maggie Biss 01989 759 740

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING,

You may remember me mentioning a couple of months ago that my reporter's table was strategically placed behind the councillor's horseshoe arrangement and that consequently, it was sometimes difficult to catch the finer points of the keenly contested discussions and arguments. Well I can report that I've been upgraded to sit in front of the horseshoe, on the same side as members of the public - assuming anyone turns up but now I have a better view of the councillors and it's much easier to hear them. So I can't use that excuse any more for missing any of the thrust and parry of political debate. No, this month's excuse is that a pile of electrics had fallen through the ceiling of Shirenewton Rec, tangles of cables were dangling and for H&S reasons, the power was off. I was obliged to put away my laptop and to use my pen and paper. And when my pen died, I was obliged to really dig deep into the old ways and find something called a pencil.

One plucky member of the public came – and stayed for the entire meeting! It's not often that happens. But luckily, it was the shortest meeting ever and we were out by 9.30. I put this speediness down to lack of heating, lack of lighting and a lack of councillors, as quite a few were away this month – so business was brief.

Police Report

5th August There was a motorbike accident on the B 4235 and the rider sustained superficial injuries

12th August A chap was seen mooching about. He was wearing camouflage gear but was still spotted.

16th August Torch light was seen at 2 am over a garden gate.

26th August A 3rd sheep was attacked by an unknown animal on the edge of Wentwood.

31st August A suspicious car was parked on a driveway.

Hedge trimming is about to start so take care of slow moving hedge trimmers.

And one councillor commented that, in his opinion, all horses should have their lights on after dark.

Planning

1. DC/2012/00531 Home Farm, Shirenewton

Agricultural building for storage of machinery.

It was thought that this was quite a sizeable building but that it would have very little visual impact. Also it would help curtail the heavy farm machinery trundling through the village and reduce the noise level. But once again, the plans were a tad sketchy as to where the building and the road access were actually going to be and the maps were poured over.

2. DC/2012/00612 Lower House Farm, Earlswood

Agricultural notification, 2 extensions to existing buildings. This is for info only as farmers don't need planning permission for agricultural buildings which are not dwelling places.

3. DC/2012/00419 Olive Cottage, Shirenewton

Porch. A question was raised as to whether Olive Cottage was a listed building. However, the councilors recommended approval.

4. DC/2012/00595 'Oslo', Mynyddbach

Outline permission for pair of semi detached dwellings and a bungalow. This application was merely an update to replace the out of date permission. This had

been a highly contentious application in 2008 but it had finally received approval. There have been bat surveys on the site and conditions have been attached to the trees and hedges. Once again it was felt that it was all going to be a little cramped on the plot and that visually it would have high impact. It was reiterated that great care should be taken over the preservation of the old wall of Postman's Lane and to the preservation of the lovely mature trees. It was hoped that photos would be taken to ensure that due consideration is taken.

To receive Queen Elizabeth 11 initiative update.

There was no further update.

Best Kept Village Competition.

There was still no news.

To discuss the Village Shop options.

There was no discussion. There was no news. There were no new options.

To discuss Play Area

Jobs need to be done on the play equipment but the clerk was finding it difficult to find out the cost because 'the man' is away.

Files and Tabs

Breaking news. After discussion, the clerk is going to be allowed to replace files and tabs to the tune of £33.32.

Curry Night

Councilors will be invited to this annual bun fight down at the MOD in Caerwent later in the year.

Llanmelin Hill Fort Footpath

Up popped the usual question. 'So where exactly is this footpath?' Sigh. Anyway, there is a big fat file that needs to be gone through to register the Footpath, once the path been located. But it doesn't need to be done until 2026. No rush then.

To discuss rental of community field at Earlswood.

The good news is the councilors do know where this field is but the bad news is they don't know where the deeds are. An envelope was found entitled 'Poorland Agreement' but when the envelope was opened, it was found to be... 'empty'.

What to do with the land once the paperwork has been located? Well there is a year's tenancy left while the council thinks about it. Sheep? No, you couldn't put sheep on it because it hasn't got water there. It hasn't got a fence. It hasn't got a gate. One councilor suggested it could be a playground. Or a football ground. Or a wild flower meadow. Or a nature reserve managed by SAMFAL.... The possibilities are endless. Or of course, it could be sold for quite a tidy little sum and the money used for... good things. Watch this space.

Correspondence

Would a councilor like to be the Council Governor for Shirenewton School?

Would a councilor like to be on the Schools' Admission Forum?

Would a councilor like to be the rep for One Voice Wales?

But as there were quite a few councilors missing at the meeting, it was felt to be only fair to send these attractive offers out by email to everyone, to have the opportunity to apply.

The proposed caravan park up at Tredegar Farm has been turned down.

Shirley Hughes will organize a 'Community Led Plans' meeting sometime in the future which will be for local people to come together to see if there are any local issues that could be addressed and what can be done about them. So if you have any ideas...

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The council will 'merely be the facilitator' of the meeting.

Items of Local Concern

The new improved entrance to Shirenewton School was ready for the new term.

The license to fence off a bit of ground near Blethyn Close whilst building work took place was apparently extended but an eye needs to be kept on this patch to make sure that the land is returned to its previous good condition.

There was some concern that the holey roads in Earlswood are not being filled in.

Finally the question of a skate board park in Shirenewton was raised again. And put back again. Maybe next month? It was a year ago that some young boys put a proposal to the council for a skate park. So...perhaps the boys will be invited back to give their presentation again? It's taken a year to get this far. I heard the Member of the Public quietly suggest that the council should put their skates on.

The next meeting will be on Monday 1st October, 7.30 at Shirenewton Rec



Saturday 24th November

**We thought we'd try something a little
different!**

Earlswood 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.

SHIRENEWTON WI SEPTEMBER 2012



The autumn season has begun, eased in by pleasant weather. A good turn out of members enjoyed a fascinating talk by Barbara Jones on the History of Quilting and Patchwork. Both patchwork and the art of quilting had their beginnings quite early in human history.

Barbara brought some examples for us to look at and handle and provided pictures of many others on her lap top. The oldest known surviving large patchwork quilt dates from the 1690's. Patchwork speaks for itself as being the production of a large item by joining many smaller pieces together, quilting however is not so obvious. Quilting requires three layers – a front – a back and something to go in-between. The quilt is then produced by stitching through the three layers to form a pattern over the whole article.

Many articles can be made using patchwork and quilting, but the main use for many generations in Europe, Britain and America is to produce bed quilts. Some of the designs are very traditional and very intricate and materials vary from fine silks to quite course fabrics with wool and cotton the most used.

There are many new quilts being made to both traditional and modern designs, but few of us today have to rely on having enough quilts to go on our bed to survive extreme winter temperatures as did many nineteenth century American pioneer women, one writing that it had been a ten quilt winter. Plain cloth quilts relying on pattern in the stitching and patchwork with amazing shapes and colours, both types are functional beautiful items to possess whether a gift, homemade or a much treasured family heirloom. (A good family heirloom can be made from your children's / grandchildren's out grown favourite clothes).

Our next meeting is 11th October 7:15pm at the Rec Hall, our speaker will be Graham Wren with a talk titled 'Baltic Summer'.

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 25th September at the Huntsman Hotel, Shirenewton at 7.30 our speaker for the evening will be Mrs Anna Tribe who will give a talk entitled '*Nelson, and what happened to the family after Trafalgar*'. I'm sure this will be a very interesting talk as Mrs Tribe is a descendant of Nelson and will be able to give us a first hand account of the family's history.

Dates for your diary:

Monday, 8th October, Resource Meeting at the Recreational Hall, Shirenewton, 2.00pm – 5.00 pm

Tuesday, 30th October, Annual General Meeting, 7.00 pm afterwards at 7.30 pm a talk entitled '*The Dark Ages in Gwent*' given by Frank Olding

BOBATH CHILDREN'S THERAPY CENTRE WALES.

Get your Wellies on in Autumn and make every step count! Many organisations and schools last year organised a Welly Walk to raise funds to help improve the lives of children with cerebral palsy. We would love you to do the same, if this month is not convenient for you please feel free to hold a 'Welly Walk' some other time during the year. Last year many schools held their fundraising day for Cerebral Palsy Awareness Week as part of their harvest celebrations.

Bake for Bobath is Wales' biggest Welshcake bake for charity and sees individuals, groups, work places and schools all over Wales sell Welshcakes, hold coffee mornings and afternoon teas during the week of St David's Day to 'raise some dough' for Bobath.

We are very happy to be supported by two home grown Welsh companies, Tan y Castell Welshcakes and Welsh Brew Tea. For a free Bake for Bobath Fundraising pack which includes ideas, stickers, balloons and recipe book and Welsh Brew tea bags contact the Bobath fundraising team.

Did you know that:

- Cerebral palsy is the number one disability in children in the world.
- Every six hours another child is born who will have cerebral palsy.
- Any woman who is pregnant could have a child with cerebral palsy.
- Although the brain damage that occurs is permanent and there is no cure available, Bobath therapy makes a real and positive difference to the life of every child who has cerebral palsy.

Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales is a registered charity providing specialist Bobath therapy to children from all over Wales who have cerebral palsy. Children are referred by their consultant paediatrician and we accept children regardless of the severity of their disability. Our cerebral palsy awareness month and Bake for Bobath helps to raise funds and the £900,000 needed to run the Centre and provide ongoing therapy to all the children who need us. It would be fantastic to have your support.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to

Nia Richards
Community Fundraising Coordinator
Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales
19 Park Road
Whitchurch
Cardiff
CF14 7BP
Telephone (029) 2052 2600
Fax (029) 20 521477
e-mail/ebost: info@bobathwales.org

bake for bobath

1 - 8 March 2013



what can a
welshcake do?



it can raise some
dough!



making a difference to children in wales who have cerebral palsy

For a free fundraising pack to organise your own
coffee morning, cake sale or afternoon tea...

contact:

029 20522600

fundraising@bobathwales.org

Supported by:



Registered Charity Number: 1010183



**SHIRENEWTON
COMMUNITY
LUNCHEON CLUB**

**Tredegar Arms
Shirenewton**

01291 641274

tredegararmsshirenewton@hotmail.com

Please book early to secure
your place for lunch

Oct 24th
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)

**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

September 6th saw the last of the light evenings at the Recreation Hall with a brilliant red sky. In October we will be playing on Thursday the 4th commencing promptly at 7.30 p.m. In November the Drive will be held on the 1st. Our 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 welcomed. Auriol Horton. 01291 641844

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

I have got a new shopping portal script up and running. You can click through from the church website or go directly to it at www.shirenewtonshop.com. It's prettier than the old one and has flashing banners and other exciting things.

For those of you who spotted the domain name: Yes, that's right, I've used the domain I set-up for the now defunct village shop project to host the new shopping portal.

My main reason for doing this is as follows: (i) I had the domain and it was sitting there doing nothing, and; (ii) we are getting rejected from various affiliates for being a religious site. In other words, certain affiliate schemes refuse to permit religious sites membership. Now, people can argue (and probably will) about this ad infinitum or, more likely, ad nauseum. Me, I've decided to accept it as a reality and work around it.

So, the portal is now under a domain which has nothing to do with religion and it is a 'community shopping portal supporting local charity'. I'll be setting up a different affiliate account and applying to these other affiliate schemes on that basis. The fact that the Church is the local charity support is entirely immaterial (unless they look at the small print). It will be interesting to see if it works.

By the time you read this the old shopping portal will be no more and the new one should be functioning. I will set-up a re-direct from the old portal so, if you have the old one bookmarked, you'll just be re-directed to the new one.

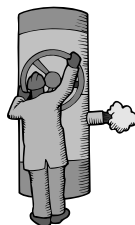
Other than that, you should be aware that there have been some very serious holes in Internet Explorer and some very nasty viruses are taking advantage of them is so called 'drive by' infections. This means that you only have to visit the website to get infected. You don't have to install anything. Obviously this applies only to infected websites but hackers are always looking to hijack websites and you can't tell if a website has been hijacked. Anyway the upshot of this is that there is an edict in my company (and within the Cornwell family) that Internet Explorer is *not* to be used and we have all defaulted to Chrome. So, my strong recommendation is to stop using Internet Explorer and change over to Chrome. To install it simply visit Google and type 'install chrome' and follow instructions. When the install process asks if you want Chrome as your default browser simply say 'yes'.

Safe browsing David Cornwell webmaster

EARLSWOOD HALL

Breaking News!!!

Earlswood Hall is delighted to announce that they have been successful in obtaining a grant from the Vital Villages 'Sustainable Energy Investment Programme for Community Facilities'. We are to receive a grant of £2500 for a new boiler and a good system flush out. This is great news because as some of you have experienced, our present boiler was quite temperamental and would go off the boil in bad weather.



A big thank you to those who came along to 'Bits of the Bard' and 'Babes in the Woods' in July as the £800 raised went towards the match funding for our boiler project.

So expect a warm welcome when you come along to our 'Beer, Beetle Drive and Bingo Evening' on Saturday 24th November.

Concert

THE AYRES & GRACES CONSORT

Led by MOIRA FRASER-HOOK

With

ALISON WRAY SOPRANO

TWO'S COMPANY STRING DUO

And

SOPHIE ADAMS, ELLIOT & MANNI KEMPTON, CORRIN GREEN

Music for a

Late-summer evening

Music from 15th to 21st Century

St. James Church, Devauden

Friday 5th October 2012 at 7:30pm

Admission Free

Retiring Collection in aid of the Church Funds

Not Just Feet



Reflexology
Vertical Reflexology
Indian Head Massage
&
Maternity Reflexology

Annabel Hancock MAR

Contact me for a home visit on
01291 650309



Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Fields Association

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

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

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

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

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PANIC, LOW SELF ESTEEM, AND MUCH MORE.

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Graham G Maiden is Sitting Behind Your Table

At The Anchor, Tintern we love your feedback, comments and suggestions. It's great to get to know visitor – who are always asking questions about our unique venue. There is one topic that is always comes up in conversation however, “who made that?” and “where did you find the artwork behind the table?”.

Graham G Maiden is probably not a name you would immediately know, however, if you have visited The Anchor, Tintern, then you will certainly recognise his work. With special pieces created by this talented artist located throughout the building, each one is unique and stands proudly in its home, collecting inexhaustible compliments.

In 1983 Graham became a name to watch as he joined infamous local Aardman Animations, and has led to his involvement on projects as brilliant as 2000 feature picture, “Chicken Run”. Working with puppets, sets and models, it is attention to detail that has clearly prevails in his personal art. His commissions and much sought after painted furniture are produced to such a high quality that you can find them worldwide. Graham continually creates fresh and exciting pieces both commercially and privately. His other film work has included the 1985 BBC “The wind in the Willows”, 2005 Tim Burton hit “Corpse Bride”, and the exquisite “James and the Giant Peach” (1996).

Those with a keen eye will recognise some of Maiden's personal pieces that include; the individually produced “Hares” on the cider press, the new paintings in the corridors, and beautiful screens in our new Garden Room Café.

With the festive season fast approaching, we are excited to know our decorations will feature specifically commissioned, Christmas editions from the Maiden collection, including a magnificent hand sculpted “Jack Frost”.

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We look forward to seeing you again soon.

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Nerys's Natty Nosh

Our family spent a very enjoyable afternoon at the Chepstow Show a couple of years ago. We saw a variety of livestock and an array of unusual breeds, dog shows and an assortment of exhibitions in the arena. The handicraft display was of interest and I was delighted to see friends of the village had won prizes. We tasted and bought chutneys, jams, beers, wines and cheeses. Last of all we visited the Farmer's market stall and bought home grown produce which included a marrow, so I stuffed it and this is the recipe.



Roast stuffed Marrow- serves 4

Ingredients

1 medium marrow, peeled.
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 lb (450g) minced beef
1 large Spanish onion, chopped
1-2 garlic cloves (optional) chopped
2 large mushrooms (optional) chopped
2 tablespoon tomato puree
1 tinned chopped tomatoes
¼ pint (150ml) stock
1 red pepper, chopped
Fresh herbs e.g. parsley, chives, sage or marjoram
1 teaspoon of honey
seasoning

Method

Preheat the oven to 180C, 350F, Gas mark 4.

To make the stuffing: Heat the oil in a frying pan. Add the chopped vegetables and garlic. Cook until translucent.

Add the minced meat and cook, stirring to avoid sticking.

Add the fresh herbs- marjoram is delicious, but a mixture of parsley, chives, thyme or rosemary is enjoyable.

Add the tomato puree, honey and stock, cover with a lid and simmer for 10 minutes on a low heat. Season and taste.

Split the marrow in half, lengthways and scoop out the seeds.

Fill the two halves with all the stuffing.

Add the tin of tomatoes to the dish

Cover the dish tightly with foil. Place in the oven and cook for about an hour. The marrow is cooked when a knife can pierce it without any resistance.

Serve with either- grated cheese, tomato and onion sauce, barbecue sauce, cheese sauce or just knobs of garlic butter placed on top of the stuffing. Place back in the oven to brown.

Accompaniments-serve with crusty wholemeal bread and a green salad or vegetables of your choice.

Enjoy!

Nerys's Natty Nosh

The courgette is a member of the squash and marrow family and originated from North America. It came to Europe in the late 19 century; the Italians calling it Zucchini (little squash). Courgettes can grow as long as 3 feet but have more flavour when young at 6 to 8 inches long. Look for firm, heavy courgette with bright unblemished, glossy skin. Home-grown courgettes are available from June to October. Courgettes have a high water content and are low in calories. They are a source of potassium, vitamin A and C.



Courgette Flan- serves 4-6

Ingredients

Pastry

3oz(80g) fat- half lard and half margarine from refrigerator

6oz(150g) plain flour

1-2 tablespoon iced water

Filling

6oz(150g) courgette thinly sliced

1 chopped onion

1oz(25g) butter or olive oil

4oz(100g) cheddar cheese, grated

6fl oz(170ml) plain yogurt

2 eggs

Method

Make short crust pastry. With cold hands, rub fat to flour until breadcrumbs are formed. Add the iced water and mix to form a dough.

Roll out the pastry. Line into an 8 ins tin. Rest in the fridge for 30 mins.

Pre heat the oven to 400F, 200C, Gas mark6. Bake the pastry blind. Place baking parchment + heavy dried pulses or something to weigh down the pastry; some people use clean coins. Bake for 15 min.

Fry the vegetables in the fat until tender. Cool, stir in $\frac{3}{4}$ cheese, and place in the flan case.

Beat yogurt and eggs till smooth. Pour over the vegetables in the flan.

Sprinkle with the remaining cheese, bake at the same temperature for 30-35 mins till firm.

To serve now: serve hot with a green salad or vegetable of your choice.

To freeze: cool, wrap, seal, label, freeze for up to 2 months.

To serve from freezer: reheat from frozen (375F, 109C, Gas Mark5) for 25- 35 mins or thaw at room temperature for 4 hrs, serve cold. **Enjoy!**

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GARDENING CORNER

Another month has just whizzed by and at long last the weather seems to have settled down to something approaching the seasonal norm. A case of too little, too late, but still welcome all the same. When time permits most of the gardening work is aimed at tidying up the war zone that is the result of this year's bad weather – too many weeds, crops run to seed, and rotting vegetables. The main crop potatoes which I spoke of last month eventually showed the tell tale signs of blight, which I guess was inevitable. So I ended up pulling the tops off in order to protect the crop underneath. As it was there were one or two potatoes nearest to the soil surface that had succumbed to the disease and had turned into a smelly mush, but otherwise they appeared to be OK. The crop was very poor compared to last year's bumper one, so I don't think that we will be able to keep ourselves supplied all this year, unlike last. The brassica crops appear to have fared the best of all, although I have started to pick the odd caterpillars off now, this is just a minor irritation. Hopefully we can keep on top of these. Bizarrely the parsnips and some carrots that I sowed outside have probably produced the best crops that I ever had – just goes to show that you can never tell! This also re-enforces my message of a couple of months ago about varying what you do and what you grow so that you don't have all "your eggs in the same basket". Many of the shallots ended up rotting in the ground, so there were limited numbers of jars of pickled onions to be stored this year as a result. The onions fared a little better and these are currently drying in the greenhouse, although they wouldn't win any prizes for size! Similarly leeks have done quite well, and I would have expected these to have succumbed to onion rust or similar such disease, but as I write these they look OK. There were a lot of main crop potatoes that had some minor slug damage, so I'm contemplating whether to process these and some of the leeks into soup, whilst they are still OK. These with some vegetable stock, cream substitute (the assistant is allergic to milk products) and smokey bacon make a very tasty soup. The only problem I have at the moment is making enough room in the freezer to fit everything in!

In the greenhouses and tunnel the salad crops have fared reasonably well, apart from the tomatoes. We have made one batch of passata sauce and may get another pan or two, but that will be it for this year by the seam of things. I planted some late cucumber seed as I always seem to lose the ones sown earlier in the year. This year was no exception and the latest crop has done better than expected. I have only found a recipe for cold cucumber soup, which neither I nor the assistant head gardener fancy, so the glut that we have at present will end up in the office or a harvest festival no doubt! One surprise has been the melons. We started off with some six plants and have lost all but two. The two that remain are doing better than ever before, and they have a number of melons set so far so hopefully we will be eating fresh melons before very long. The early beans grown in the tunnel have now finished and I'm leaving them to dry off naturally for use in stews etc. I'll remove these in the next week or so and replace them with calabrese. These were sown several weeks ago and transferred into pots to grow on, so are now ready for planting on. Hopefully these will supply the kitchen with

nice heads from the end of October through to Christmas, depending on the inevitable weather!

Outside life carries on and work towards next year's growing cycle is already in hand. I've selected some of the best garlic bulbs from this year's crop and will use these to produce next year's harvest. I usually grow one raised bed full of garlic, so this will be weeded, the soil loosened and a good quantity of farmyard manure liberally spread over the top. The garlic will be planted in October, breaking down the bulb into its individual cloves and then each planted 5 – 7.5 centimetres (2 – 3 inches) below the soil surface. Garlic needs a cold spell to ensure it grows well, but hopefully this year we won't get so much rain as well!

In the end I managed to extract about 90 pounds of honey from our bees. Not a very good year quantity wise, but more than expected given the weather. The bees haven't really known where they are as they built numbers up early with the nice weather in April and then had to eat all the honey stores during May and June as they could rarely fly out foraging. In effect they had to start again in July. The one hive that was queenless that I mentioned last month sorted itself out in the end. The other hives realised the falling bee numbers and just raided all the honey that had been stored, so I never did get the opportunity to try and amalgamate the queenless hive with another week hive. Jobs to sort out now that all the honey has been removed will include some varroa mite control (a scourge of most bee keepers) and shutting down the hives for the winter. This will include removing any empty supers, reducing the size of the hive openings and putting mouse guards across the entrances (to prevent mice getting into the hive). I have kept the wire mesh guards around the hives all summer in order to prevent green woodpecker attack, so don't need to worry about these. Hopefully they will continue to prevent these destructive birds doing any damage.

We visited the Usk show at the beginning of September. We find this to be a great 'traditional' one day agricultural show, keeping its roots very much in the local farming community. It was great to see many of the stands there dedicated to lost crafts, both farming / forestry, as well as 'crafty-crafts'! On arriving back at home, contractors in neighbouring fields were busy making round silage. One of our local buzzards seemed a little anxious as it wheeled above the field waiting for any potential meal to run from in front of the baler. We then noticed three birds of prey, but the other two were quite a bit bigger and it was then we noticed the forked tails of a pair of kites'. This was a fantastic site as I haven't seen these in our area before. I had seen one above Abergavenny previously and it was only a matter of time. We haven't seen them since, but they must be about somewhere as they didn't just appear. Whilst in the garden the following day, I heard the cry of the buzzard again. This time he had five mates with him – obviously determined to make sure that the kite's didn't muscle in on their territory again! I went fishing in the evening and as I arrived home, noticed something long and black run across our drive in front of me. Initially I thought it was a mink as I have seen one previously. This time though it appeared very 'ferret-like' so can only think that it was a polecat – another first.

Happy gardening until next month. Steve and Felicity Hunt.

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DIARY DATES

October	Event	Location
4	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
5	Concert	St. James Church Devauden
7	Harvest Festival Service	Earlswood Hope Chapel
8	Produce Sale	Earlswood Hope Chapel
8	Shirenewton History Society	Recreation Hall
11	Shirenewtom WI	Recreation Hall
18	Monmouthshire Meadows	The Priory Monmouth
18	Mobile Police Station	Recreation Hall Car Park
18	St Peter's Newchurch Songs of Praise	St Peter's Church Newchurch
21	Harvest Festival Service	Gaerlywyd Baptist Chapel
22	Service and Supper	Gaerlywyd Baptist Chapel
26	Quiz and Social Evening	Recreation Hall
30	Shirenewton History Society	Recreation Hall
November	Event	Location
11	Remembrance Service	Earlswood Hall
15	Mobile Police Station	Recreation Hall Car Park
17	Christmas Fayre	St Peters Church Newchurch
23	Quiz and Social Evening	Recreation Hall

Saint Thomas á Beckett Shirenewton		Sunday Services	Start 10.00 a.m. Unless stated otherwise
Date	Service	Readers	Sides-persons
7 th October	18 th Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Wendy Baker Diane Marlow	Wendy Baker Diane Marlow
14 th October	19 th Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Bob Grattan Kevin Bounds	Bob Grattan Kevin Bounds
21 st October	20 th Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Mark Broughton James Leney	Mark Broughton Claire Lewis
28 th October	Simon and Jude Holy Eucharist	Margaret Lock John Nicholas	Margaret Lock John Nicholas
4 th November	All Saints Matins	Jane Smith-Haddon Cynthia Smith	Jane Smith-Haddon Cynthia Smith
1 th November	Remembrance Sunday 10.50 at the Cenotaph	Followed by a service in the Church	
18 th November	2nd Sunday before Advent Holy Eucharist	Bill Clarke Janet Horton	Bill Clarke Janet Horton
25 th November	Christ the King Holy Eucharist	Bob Grattan Wendy Baker	Bob Grattan Wendy Baker
2 nd December	1st Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist	Bill Clarke Janet Horton	Bill Clarke Janet Horton
9 th December	2 nd Sunday of Advent Morning Prayer	Mark Broughton Ruth Savagar	Mark Broughton Margaret Woodliffe
16 th December	3rd Sunday of Advent Carol Service	Bob Grattan John Nicholas & Others	Bill Clarke Janet Horton
23 rd December	4th Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist	James Leney Mark Broughton	Mark Broughton Claire Lewis
25 th December	Midnight Mass at 11.30 p.m. Holy Eucharist	Sally Saysell John Nicholas	Allan Saysell John Nicholas
30 December	1st Sunday of Christmas Holy Eucharist	Bill Clarke Janet Horton	Bill Clarke Janet Horton

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 November 2012 issue
is the 22nd October 2012**