

Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

July / August 2013



Price: 50p

Dear Friends,

Revenge, they tell me, is sweet. I wouldn't know, having always been on the receiving end.

Just the other week I said something to the effect of *"Ho, hum – I think I will get the garden in shape to accommodate the forthcoming Mounton Church Fete and other parish activities. Now, where did I put the secateurs?"*

This, actually, is a total lie. It had more to do with Sandra lunging at me in a crazed fashion whilst brandishing a rusty pruning-hook and declaiming that the Vicarage grounds outstripped the visual horrors afforded by WW1 battle fields.

In other words, it was that time again. Summer. The calendar might with a degree of boldness proclaim that the bee-heavy time is upon us and that everything outside is disturbed only by the languid flutter of leaves and the distant, lazy chug of a tractor as it meanders through a sylvan landscape. It is all lies. Or at least no one informed the weather which persisted in offering howling gales, driving rain and plunging temperatures. Yes, it was time for the garden plants to step up and have their revenge. I love gardens. In the depth of winter. When everything appears dormant or even, hopefully, dead. Come this time of the year, however, and roses suddenly burst into life to find themselves immediately contending with plague and pestilence. Twenty-four hour intensive care is the only answer, and guess who is responsible for administering this? Ground-Elder also emerges from nowhere and engulfs anything remotely attractive that has the audacity to grow in the garden. We could also mention the brackish pool (sorry, I mean 'water feature enhancing the Italian Garden') that is in desperate need of attention (i.e. removal of the accelerating crust of green slime which threatens to engulf the water). We wilt at the thought of the way in which brambles and nettles are remorseless in their invasion. And talking of wilting, why does every faintly attractive plant decide that this is the best time to keel over and die?

Not to mention the challenge faced by the neighbouring marauding chickens. But, in fact, I will mention them. In fear and fury. This year the ravenous pack (I know, they should be provided with a different and more gentle epithet) have been joined by a manic cockerel who's one ambition is to mutilate Sandra and myself in the most uncouth way possible. As a result I have even taken to mowing the lawn

(I use poetic licence here) with a yard-broom perched on the machine and a six-foot bamboo cane in one hand in the forlorn hope that this will provide some scant protection from the onslaughts of the beast.

Oh the joys of being a (semi) rural Vicar. I don't know how Kilvert managed it and who was the idiot who proclaimed that being in a garden brought us closer to God?

As an urban Curate I used to sigh for the delights of a rural parish. I pictured myself, mutton-chopped and clad in gaiters (and other items of attire, I hasten to add) taking the invigorating country air whilst pontificating in front of true sons of the soil. I also harboured the picture of my wife, bedecked in sun hat, decorously picking her way through the sun-dappled shade – slim volume of poetry in hand – at peace under heaven. There would be the occasional trial, of course, but I was fully prepared to cradle my wife back to rude health after she had fallen victim to one of her not infrequent bouts of the vapours.

Ah, how different and cruel it turned out to be. I find myself running like a headless chicken around not one, but four vaguely rural parishes whilst the locals stream past in their personal-number plated vehicles en route to an executive board meeting or else busy interfacing on their BlackBerry. How ironic is the final word of the last sentence!

Does all the above sound a trifle whimsical? Yes, it is the 'silly-season' once again and most of us will be preparing (if not already enjoying) a well deserved break by the time this magazine is in circulation. I urge you to make the most of it. Modern times can be most demanding and the annual 'time-out' should be treasured.

Until the next edition, when the usual service will be resumed, I trust that you experience health and happiness.

With every good wish and blessing,

Julian White

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH FETE 8TH JUNE 2013

The success of a Church fete is largely controlled by the weather, so when Saturday 8th July turned out to be a lovely sunny, warm summer day, it was a great relief to the organisers of the Shirenewton Church fete on the recreation field. The pageantry of the parade and the excitement of the children's fancy dress competition were only matched by the elegance of the Welsh welly-wanging competition and the decorum of the beer tent. The fine weather brought people out in their hundreds, from local villages, and from as far afield as Chepstow and Monmouth, and even some from England. The fine weather made sure the ice creams, Pimms and the beer sales went well, and the famous cake stall was as splendid as ever. There were the usual favourites of the plant stall, the bouncy castle, guess the weight of the salmon, WI teas and welsh cakes, and a few new stalls such as the Sweet Tombola. There were burgers, Welsh cakes and candy floss to eat, books and DVDs to buy, games to play - skittles, coco nuts shies, raffles, white elephants - there was something for everyone. It was a great day out and much fun was had by all. The whole event was a great success for the fete organisers, and our special thanks this year to our sponsor, Terry Hicks of Hicks Logistics.

Editor: *I understand the Fete raised around £4,400 "You all did very well"*

MAMA MIA EVENING AT EARLSWOOD HALL

To date we have raised £2820.47 this includes matched funding by Lloyds and Barclays Banks. If anyone would like still to donate money it is not too late. We are not doing the walk until 6/7 July so any other donations would be very gratefully received. I would imagine that by July the sum of money will have increased.

Many thanks

Liz Drake

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.

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

on

Saturday 20th July 10.00 am to 12.00pm

at

'Glenfield', Weyloed Lane, Mynyddbach

£1.50 per person including coffee or tea and a

Welsh cake

Raffle, Bring & Buy, books, cakes,

bric a brac, plants etc for sale

Gaerllwyd Baptist Chapel



Anniversary Service

Sunday 14th July at 6:30 pm

Speaker Mr Black of Newport

Monday 15th July at 7:30 pm

Speaker Wynne Lewis of Brecon

Refreshments afterwards

Everyone Welcome

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH 200 CLUB

May

1st Alison Broughton

2nd Fabian Cornwell

3rd Emily Ashby

4th Sara Walbyoff

June

1st Jane Tomlins

2nd Dylan Wilson

3rd Nansi Davies

4th Barry Leat

EARLSWOOD & NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

Our AGM in April gave the hall committee a chance to reflect on the last year. We've hosted drama productions, barn dances, parties and other events, which together provided entertainment and enjoyment for several hundred local people. The solar panels on the roof are continuing to generate income for the hall and we were able to return 15% of the loan back to investors last year. Ken Morton has resigned from the committee and we would like to thank him for his support of hall over many years.

At the end of April we ran a very successful Skittles and bar games evening raising funds for the hall. If anyone would like to help run the hall or events please contact me or another member of the hall committee.

Simon Stanley Chairman 01291-641616

SHIRENEWTON BROWNIE'S



Girlguiding UK

As I write this we have just returned from our two night brownie holiday at the Devauden Hall. As this was our first camp as leaders (and as I was also hoping to achieve my holiday licence) we kept it close to home and the venue seemed perfect with direct access into the woods, a big playing field and the adventure play area alongside. Unsurprisingly, not much sleep was had on the Friday night and we were all up bright and early Saturday morning. The weather was not as bad as was forecast and for that we were grateful! Only our mid-morning outside games activity was rained off, but we had plenty of indoor things planned 'just in case'. Our map reading walk in the woods in the afternoon went well, with each group also managing to 'scavenge' their list of items along the way that were then built into some amazing pictures on our return. We took all 26 brownies from the unit along and over the weekend we had a total of 8 leaders involved, as well as Helen being on hand at home as our emergency contact. It was a brilliant team effort from all involved and a big thanks to all those leaders who gave up their time not just over the weekend but in the weeks of planning beforehand - to Bev, Paul, Josie, Sarah H, Amanda, Sarah C, Hannah (and obviously I was there too!).

Jaci Crocombe

In a Brownie's own words:

"I went to Brownie camp at Devauden Hall and it was awesome! There was a park that we went in that had low ropes and a zip wire. We made s'mores on the campfire and they were yummy. It was cool when we went to sleep (eventually!) and on the last night we had a midnight feast! Also we did a scavenger hunt in the woods where we had to follow a map. I want to do it all again ...!!"

Hannah, age 9

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

For our May meeting we visited High Glannau Manor near Trellech. The last home of Avery Tipping who had previously built and lived in Mounton House, he also lived for many years at Mathern Palace. He had designed the house and garden at High Glannau and the present owner had restored both to their former glory. The weather on that day was slightly *damp* and there was doubt whether the visit would take place, but, our host Helena Gerrish assured us of a warm welcome by lighting the drawing room fire and opening the wine in anticipation of our visit. The garden was wonderful (and so was the house) with not a weed or perforated hosta in sight.

A good day was had at the Church Fete with plenty of interest in the history society's stand, with new members joining and sales of our walks still keeping our finance in the black. The National Library of Wales has made a request to purchase the two editions of our historic walks, quite pleasing for a small society.

Our 2012/2013 year ends at the end of July, membership subscriptions for 2013/2014 year will be due on 1st August.

Dates for your Diary:

- Thursday, 27th June A midsummer visit to Gaer Fawr Iron Age Fort. A talk & tour of the site, weather permitting. Hopefully a view of the mid summer sun rolling down the Bloreng. Meeting at the Huntsman car park at 6.30 pm
- Monday, 8th July View our village archive, 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm
At the Recreational Hall
- Tuesday, 23rd July Visit to Caldicot Castle, Talk & Tour 7.00 pm at the castle.
- Monday, 9th Sept. View our village archive, 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm
At the Recreational Hall
- Tuesday, 24th Sept. Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel at 7.30 pm
A talk entitled, 'The Cobb Family of Caldicot Castle'
Given by Pauline Hayward

Please ring 641362 if you need any more information on the above meetings. Everyone welcome.

FAIRTRADE NEWS

What fun! A spokesman for the Jersey government says 'Jersey is not a tax haven'. Interviewer 'Why then do so many large corporations conduct their financial affairs in Jersey?' 'Because of our expertise'. Mmm

Of course not all off-shore 'non-tax havens' have a profound connection with the UK - I think I read somewhere that only about a third (in the world) do!

The Netherlands also has a surprisingly important role to play:

Mongolia's vast natural resources should be enabling the country to radically improve the standard of living of its people.

The greatest threat to Mongolia's tax revenues is posed by its bilateral double taxation treaty with the Netherlands, signed by the two countries in 2002.

Under this treaty, if a Dutch company invests in Mongolia it is entitled to pay dividends back to the Netherlands free of any Mongolian tax.

Turquoise Hill Resources, the company which developed the incredibly successful Oyu Tongoi mine, is Canadian. But for tax purposes its investment qualifies as Dutch because it was routed through a Dutch company set up for the purpose:

Oyu Tolgoi Netherlands BV

As a result, Turquoise Hill is entitled to receive dividends through its Dutch company, free of Mongolian tax.

Records for Oyu Tolgoi Netherlands BV show it has NO employees. It is one of over 1,000 (yes, one thousand!) similar companies at a company formation service located in a SINGLE building in Prins Bernhardplein, Amsterdam.

All completely legal of course.

Before Boots was taken over by the private equity firm Kohlberg Kravis Roberts it paid tax of £100 - £150 million p.a. As the company was bought with loans (i.e. debt) it can offer the amount of interest it pays on the debt against UK tax i.e. the more interest you pay the less tax goes to the Exchequer, so in 2011 it paid only £25 million. Apparently this arrangement was set up to encourage the start-up and growth of businesses!

Yes, I know I should get back to Traidcraft and Fairtrade in general! All this other stuff is beyond me!

The range and quality of fairly traded goods have grown enormously. Do consider trying some of the newer products: peanut butter, olive oil, barbecue charcoal.

The Co-op sell fairly traded instant lighting charcoal - really convenient and easy to use : you just light one of the mini bags.

You will not be surprised to know that Traidcraft's accounts are transparent and ethical!

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

STARGAZING



The familiar pattern of Ursa Major, the Great Bear or Plough, is to be seen in the north-west, with the "W" of Cassiopeia climbing into the north-eastern sky.

The Summer Triangle can be seen overhead. This is a prominent triangle formed by the bright stars Altair, to the South of the triangle, Vega, closest to the Western horizon, and Deneb, to the East. South Sea Islanders call it the "navigator's triangle" since it was used to navigate on the open ocean in the Pacific.

Astronomers have used telescopes carried on satellites to observe a disk of gas and dust around Vega, which possibly means planets are forming in its vicinity. Approximately 900 exo-planets (extra-solar planets) orbiting distant stars have been found to date. Astronomers estimate at least 17 billion Earth-sized exo-planets are present in the Milky Way galaxy. The discovery of exo-planets has intensified interest in the possibility of extra-terrestrial life.

Deneb is a supergiant star which is very bright indeed and far further away than the other stars in the triangle. Deneb is approximately 1500 light years away whilst Altair and Vega are much closer at roughly 20 light years. So whilst the light we now see left Altair and Vega in the 1990s, we are viewing Deneb by light that left the star in the 6th century AD.

In the evening, the slightly yellow planet Saturn can be seen in the south-west, where it lies to the left of the bright star Spica. On the 16th July, the waxing gibbous Moon is on the lower right of Saturn. The brilliant planet Venus is in the west, close to the horizon at sunset. Towards the end of July, Jupiter is rising in the west, before sunrise.

Dave Thomas

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the meetings held on 3 June 2013

Planning applications considered

1. DC/2013/00335 Pandy Mill, Itton (TH)

Construction of a timber garage.

An error on the plans was noted - the roof is not to be constructed of wood as stated, but a type of felt. **This Council recommended approval.**

2. DC/2013/00363 Madeira Cottage (TH)

Construction of two single storey side extensions, one to provide re-built study and one to provide additional dining space.

This Council recommended approval with the observation that Mon CC should make the developer aware of the limitations regarding restricted access on a private lane. The volume of traffic is already an issue for existing residents.

The Chair raised planning application DC/2013/00128 at Ridge House Stables discussed last month under Minute 2934 (1) and advised that this Council has requested that the application be considered by Planning Committee rather than Delegated Panel as this would allow a representative of this Council to speak at the meeting likely to be held in early July. It is the Chair's intention to attend and speak on behalf of this Council.

Planning application DC/2012/00572 at Yew Tree cottage was also discussed. This had been previously considered at the October 2012 Council meeting and Mon CC had been asked to check whether planning approval had been given for all work being carried out. No response received, Clerk to pursue with Mon CC.

Dog waste bags and litter bins.

A new 110 litre covered bin has been installed at the Tan House bus stop in an effort to alleviate the litter/dog waste problems there .

Best Kept Village Competition 2013.

Members of the Council expressed their thanks to residents who helped plant containers, strim verges and generally tidy up the village - especially Carole and Stan Jones and those that sponsored planted areas, troughs and baskets. Judging takes place throughout June and residents are requested to be vigilant and do their bit to help keep the village neat and tidy.

Items of local concern

- The problems with the SAMFAL gate and boundary appear to be coming to a satisfactory conclusion between SAMFAL members and the landowner.
- There have been several complaints about the chevrons on the verge outside Shirenewton Primary School - C Cllr Down to raise this with Mon CC Highways. Clerk to contact Mon CC with alternative suggestions to the current chevrons to prevent parking on the verge.
- War memorial maintenance - Cllr Jones has been researching the costs of repainting the lettering on the war memorial. She is currently arranging three quotes for the work. Council agreed in principle to the work being undertaken, with the preferred option of black lettering.
- Notification from Garth Tyre and Auto Services to advise of Mid Summer Car Rally at Caerwent Training Area on Sunday 23 June 2013. Competitors will arrive between 6am - 8am and leave at about 5pm. Clerk to place notices on notice boards.
- The mobile police vehicle will be at the Tredegar Arms car park on Thursday 4 July from 9 - 11am and at the Huntsman Hotel on Sunday 28th from 9.30 - 11.30am.

Date of next meeting: Monday 1 July 2013 at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall. Members of the public may attend meetings and speak to Councillors about issues/problems/compliments for the first 15 minutes.

Find more information in the draft copy of the minutes in the Community Council notice boards. Previous minutes of meetings can be found on the Council's page of the church website.

Contact the Clerk to the Community Council -
Mrs Hilary Counsell
Tel: 01291 421307
E-mail: shirenewtoncc@gmail.com

Breathe Easy Chepstow

Do you have a lung condition?
Breathe Easy Chepstow is a group providing information and social activities for everyone with any type of lung condition, friends, family and carers.

New members are welcome to join us on
the fourth Wednesday of every month, 2 — 4pm
at
The Palmer Centre, Place de Corneilles,
High Street, Chepstow. NP16 5LH

Breathe Easy is free to attend, no need to book, no referral
needed,
just turn up, for more information call 01291 641666
or visit www.blf.org/wales

Self Awareness Group with Rose

Third Thursday of the Month starting 16 May 2013

7.30pm at Shirenewton Rec Hall

Fee to cover costs: £3.00

Come and discover how to find some peace of mind within your life.
We will have meditation to help focus and discipline the mind. Exercises
to discover our psychic abilities with help on using them to the limit we
require. And a fun social evening
discussing and answering questions on
what it is to be self-aware.

Call Rose for information at: 01291641943 or 07912384011

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY LUNCHEON CLUB



Tredegar Arms Shirenewton

01291 641274

tredegararmsshirenewton@hotmail.com

Please book early to secure your place for lunch

24th July

28th August

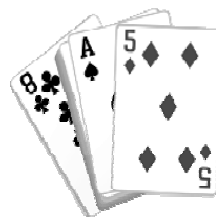
WHIST DRIVES

I'm sorry I missed getting my report in the June magazine.

Our numbers seem to be settled at around 24 to 26 players (poor health and the inclement weather keep the numbers down), however new players are always made welcome,

please join us; our Table fee is £1.50 per person which

includes light refreshments. We also have a Raffle that raises funds for the upkeep of the Hall. The dates of our next meetings are 4th July, 1st August and 5th September – all being on the first Thursday of the month. We play at the Recreation Hall, opening at 7 and starting to play at 7.30 p.m. promptly.



Auriol Horton. 01291 641844

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LOST IN TRANSLATION

In a Japanese hotel: You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.

In an Acapulco hotel: The manager has personally passed all the water served here.

In a Bangkok dry cleaners: Drop your trousers here for best results.

In an advert by a Hong Kong dentist: Teeth extracted by the latest Methodists.

In a Rome laundry: Ladies, leave your clothes here and spend the afternoon having a good time.

In a Rhodes tailor shop: Order your summers suit. Because is big rush we will execute customers in strict rotation.

In the Budapest zoo: Please do not feed the animals. If you have any suitable food, give it to the guard on duty.

In a Hong Kong tailor shop: Ladies may have a fit upstairs.

In an Austrian ski hotel: Not to perambulate the corridors during the hours of repose in the boots of ascension.

Advert for donkey rides in Thailand: Would you like to ride on your own ass?

In the lobby of a Moscow hotel across from a Russian Orthodox monastery: You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists and writers are buried daily except Thursday.

Not Just Feet



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Annabel Hancock MAR

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GARDENING CORNER

I'm writing this month from the beauty of the Lake District as we spend a few days away with daughter number one, whilst enjoying Father's Day. The last few days have been wet at home which has done the garden the world of good, but the accompanying winds have certainly knocked the flowers and vegetables about a bit. You won't need me to tell you that the last couple of weeks have seen proper 'summer weather'. This along with the fact that I can't go trout fishing at the moment (some of you may have noticed that the reservoir at Wentwood is a very unnatural colour due to blue-green algae), has meant that I have been able to start the long job of getting our flower garden back into order after several years of neglect. But more of that later.

Things have been moving apace in the vegetable garden and all of the raised beds are now fully planted up and beginning to grow in earnest. The potatoes have all come through and have been earthed up. All of the first sowings of runner and French beans have also been planted out. Unlike last year, despite the lateness of spring, we haven't actually had any late frosts like those that did so much damage last June. So these are starting to get going a bit now. They are still looking a little scorched as a result of the intense sunlight – it seems that if it isn't one thing it's the other! What we really need is some nice warm sultry weather, with cloud cover, moisture and warmth – if only! The broad beans and early peas are looking well, but have suffered in the wind. Every year I mean to tie the broad beans up to wires or similar, but I never quite seem to get there before gravity or the wind lay them flat to the ground – perhaps one year I'll get around to it. One good aspect of the dry weather is that I have been able to keep the beds weed free through regular hoeing, something I always like to see. There is nothing more satisfying than seeing regular rows of onions, garlic and leeks all standing like rows of sentries, growing unhindered. The flower garden I like to see in gay abandon with flowers seeding anywhere that takes their fancy, but in the vegetable patch – well that is something different. Well regimented order is of the day.

In the big tunnel the calabrese is in full production and we have probably the best crop ever. I think that this is due to the cooler weather, as it has meant that growth has been slow but hard, producing very strong and healthy growth. The recent warm spell has seen the crop all come in at once, but a combination of freezing the heads, plus making broccoli gratin and then freezing that for quick, ready meals in future weeks, has seen us keep on top of things. The early calabrese also throw up side shoots, so we will be picking regularly for the foreseeable future. Hopefully by the time they stop cropping, the peppers will be ready to go in. We have also been picking strawberries for the last two weeks and

these have been a delight. We took delivery of the cucumber and melon plants the third week in May. You may remember that we are trying plants that have been grafted onto 'wild' root stocks, the same as most professional growers. The melons arrived a little yellow looking, but all were potted on and the warm weather has seen them get well established and they are now planted in the tunnel. It will be interesting to see how these develop over the coming weeks. I have been gradually clearing a large raised bed at the bottom of the garden. This was planted up with flower stock plants several years ago, mainly to keep them going until we had a use for them. Over the years these beds have become overgrown with nettles and other weeds. However I now need the space for a new, smaller tunnel, as I need the extra growing space for tomatoes etc. More with the ability to move crops around (as I've been growing tomatoes in the same bed for four years and this desperately needs a rest), as opposed to needing to grow the quantity of food. As I've gradually been clearing the flowerbeds, so I've been able to replant with some of these stock plants, clearing the ground in the raised bed as I go. I almost have enough ground cleared now for the tunnel. I have a few days off work when we get back from the Lakes, so hopefully I will be able to get the frame put up – but must measure up and get the tunnel cover ordered up so that it can be put on the next fine bit of weather we get. The tomatoes are still in pots and growing on in the main tunnel at the moment, but they will need to get into the ground in the next two weeks if possible.

We have some areas of the garden that are almost entirely brambles and ash trees. The assistant head gardener has instructed me to return these to rough grass / flower meadow as we aren't getting any younger and can't keep on top of everything. We'll see how things go, but in the short term I need to get things tidied up, so I intend to put the cutting blade on the strimmer and set to cutting everything down in the next week or so. There are still a lot of flower plants in amongst the rubbish so hopefully strimming back will allow these to grow and survive a little longer so that I can then rescue them and plant elsewhere.

At great expense I had ordered a couple of new nuclei of bees. This essentially is a queen, with six frames of bees, brood and food supplies, which were coming from a bee farm in West Sussex. I was recently working in Hampshire, delivering some training to woodland owners and agents, so decided to contact the farm to see if there would be any hives I could collect. Fortunately they had some that had over-wintered that they were prepared to let me have, so following an overnight stay with number two daughter (handy having these daughters scattered around the country!), I headed south east early the following morning. The bees were safely collected and transported home, where they were soon exploring their new surroundings. Updates to follow over the coming months. Happy gardening until next month. Steve and Felicity Hunt.



(01291) 641462

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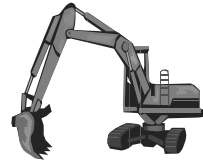
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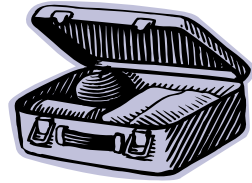
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Picnic

*Let us make a feast
Upon the summer grass
Let us find a quiet place
And make the moment last*

Ted Onulak

At the end of the eighteenth century, a new fashion crossed the English Channel. The French were having an informal party, known as pique-nique. The guests would bring along a share of the food and wine. Social gatherings were often held outdoors. To this day picnic is used to describe an outdoor meal. Here are some suggestions of accompaniments to take on a picnic.

Potato Salad

¾kg. (1½lb) new potatoes
1 bunch spring onions or chives finely chopped
2 tablespoons mayonnaise
1 tablespoon lemon juice
2 tablespoons fresh chopped mint or parsley
Pepper to taste.

Method

Cook the potatoes (in their skins for a more rustic and healthier option) for 15 minutes or until tender. Leave to cool.
Cut the cooked potatoes into chunks and place in a mixing bowl.
Add the chopped spring onions or chives.
Mix the lemon juice with the mayonnaise and carefully coat the potatoes using a metal spoon.
Transfer into a container and add more herbs and black pepper.

Tomato Salad

350g (¾lb) tomatoes, sliced
1 tablespoon grated onion

Dressing

8 tablespoons olive oil
3 tablespoons lemon juice
1 crushed garlic clove
1 tablespoons freshly chopped basil
1 teaspoon caster sugar
Salt and pepper to taste

Method

Arrange the tomatoes in a shallow container and sprinkle the grated onion. To make the dressing. Put all the ingredients in a screw top jar and shake vigorously until thoroughly mixed. Leave to stand for 30 minutes. Pour the dressing over the tomatoes. Refrigerate before serving.

Couscous

A hearty couscous salad is so simple to make. For a slightly different flavour, use the zest and juice of one lime.

Ingredients

225g/8oz couscous
1 bunch fresh parsley, chopped
1 bunch fresh coriander, chopped
1 red onion finely chopped
1 lemon, zest and juice
½ cucumber finely diced
1 red pepper, finely diced
2 tbsp. Sweetcorn or peas
30g/1oz sunflower toasted
30g/1oz sesame seeds toasted
4 tbsp. olive oil
Salt and freshly ground black pepper



Method

Cover the couscous with twice its volume of hot water and leave to soak for 10 minutes. Mix together with the remaining ingredients and leave to stand for 30 minutes to let the flavours develop.

A variety

For a spicier taste. Eliminate the olive oil and add mango chutney. Use a handful of chives to give a more onion flavour. Drain a tin of mixed beans and add to the couscous mixture. Add pickled gherkins
Sundried tomatoes
Grated carrot
Dried fruit
Flaked almonds or peanuts
Boiled egg
Or Cooked meats or flaked tuna.

Enjoy!

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PCC Treasurers	Kevin Bounds	01291 641818
PCC Members	Mark Broughton Charles Eickhoff Janet Horton Dr James Leney Mrs Diane Marlow Allan Saysell Jane Smith-Haddon	01291 641797 01291 641716 01291 641783 01291 641271 01291 641407 01291 641369 01291 641525
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Organists	Karen Millar Ruth Savagar	01291 650521 01291 641411
Sunday Club	Kerry Baker	01291 641925
Tower Captain	Mike Penney	01291 650653
Church Hall Booking	Glynis MacDonald	01291 641818
Safeguarding Officer	Dr. Kerry Baker	01291 641925
Church Flowers	Maureen Moody	01291 641524
Parish Magazine Editor	Terry Walters	01291 641338
200 Club	Bob O'Keefe	01291 641686

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Shirenewton Ward:	David Adams Tony Hughes Carol Jones Phil Moles Beverley Moore	01291 641792 01291 641360 01291 641791 01291 641521 01291 641532
Mynyddbach Ward	Lynne Prosser Ian Moore	01291 641666 01291 650766
Newchurch West and Chair of Community Council	Elizabeth McCombe	01291 652957
Earlswood Ward	Paul Harris Ken Morton	01291 650871 01291 650268
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Enid Heritage 01291 622708
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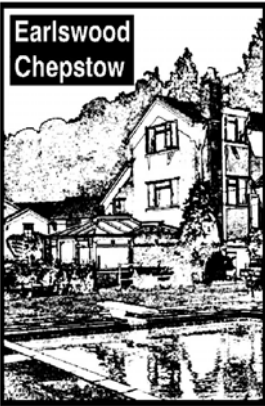
July	Event	Location
4	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
6	Summer Fayre	St Peter's Church Newchurch
8	Shirenewton Local History Society	Recreation Hall
14	Anniversary Service	Gaerllwyd Baptist
15	Anniversary Service	Gaerllwyd Baptist
20	Coffee Morning	'Glenfield', Weyloed Lane, Mynyddbach
23	Shirenewton Local History Society	Caldicot Castle
Aug	Event	Location
1	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
Sept.	Event	Location
5	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
9	Shirenewton Local History Society	Recreation Hall
24	Shirenewton Local History Society	Huntsman Hotel

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28th July	1st August
25th August	29th August
22nd September	26th September
20th October	24th October
17th November	21st November
15th December	19th December

	Saint Thomas a Beckett Shirenewton	Sunday Services	Start 10.00 a.m. Unless stated otherwise
Date	Service	Readers	Sides-persons
7 th July	Sixth Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Margaret Woodliffe Margaret Lock	Margaret Woodliffe Margaret Lock
14 th July	Seventh Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Bob Grattan Mark Broughton	Bob Grattan Mark Broughton
21 st July	Eighth Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Bill Clarke Janet Horton	Bill Clarke Janet Horton
28 th July	Ninth Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Kevin Bounds Diane Marlow	Bob Grattan Diane Marlow
4 th August	Tenth Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Wendy Baker Frances Gray	Wendy Baker Joanne Tomlins
11 th August	Eleven Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Bob Grattan Mark Broughton	Bob Grattan Mark Broughton
18 th August	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Jane Smith-Haddon Glynis MacDonald	Jane Smith-Haddon Glynis MacDonald
25 th August	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity Morning Prayer	Wendy Baker Ruth Savagar	Claire Lewis Wendy Baker
1 st Sept.	Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	James Leney Cynthia Smith	Claire Lewis Cynthia Smith
8 th Septem- ber	Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Mark Broughton Margaret Woodliffe	Mark Broughton Margaret Woodliffe
15 th Sep- tember	Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist 11.00 a.m.	Bill Clarke Janet Horton	Janet Horton Bill Clarke
22 nd Sept.	Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Jane Smith-Haddon Glynis MacDonald	Jane Smith-Haddon Glynis MacDonald
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Deadline for contributions to the September 2013

issue is 9:00am on the 26th August 2013