# Shirenewton Parish Magazine June 2013



Sketch by Lynne Prosser

Price: 50p

### SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the meetings held on 13 May 2013

At the Annual Meeting Councillor Ian Moore was unanimously elected as Chair for the forthcoming year. The vacant position of Vice Chair will be considered at the June meeting.

The Council approved the financial accounts for 2012/13 and they will now be sent for external audit.

The monthly Council meeting then followed.

### Planning applications considered

- 1. DC/2013/00128 Ridge House Stables, Earlswood Retention of development one steel framed barn building to be used for stabling horses. The Council recommended refusal pending investigation into several areas a detailed plan for the management of waste disposal; Mon CC procedures; Rights of Way and Health & Safety risks to the public.
- 2. DC/2013/00225 Bluebell Farm, Penycaemawr 250m stock fence with farm gate. The Council recommended approval.
- 3. DC/2013/00093 'Oslo', Mynyddbach Erection of detached dwelling and a pair of semi-detached dwellings with ancillary works. The Council recommended refusal for several reasons, many of which have been raised on previous occasions, mainly concerning access; parking; use of the unadopted lane; elevations of property; ancient stone boundary and trees.
- 4. DC/2013/000289 The Old Coach House, Shirenewton Replacement of existing roof. The Council recommended approval.

### Dog waste bags and litter bins.

Mon CC has agreed to replace the current bin at the Tan House bus stop with a 110 litre covered bin - this should help with the current situation but will not be installed for 3 - 4 weeks. It has been reported to Mon CC that the bin is not being emptied regularly and this will also be followed up.

### Best Kept Village Competition 2013.

Flower troughs and baskets in Shirenewton will have been planted up by now and the verges and hedges cut back. Judging takes place between 1 - 30 June and residents are requested to help keep the village neat and tidy.

Four Council notice boards - have been varnished and repaired.

### Items of local concern

- problems with SAMFAL gate and boundary which have been taken up with officers of Mon CC and a neighbour.
- the grass crop on the Poor Land field, Earlswood is to be sold, interested purchasers to contact the Clerk (details below) for further information, offers close on Friday 31 May 2013.
- the mobile police vehicle will be at the Tredegar Arms car park on Thursday 6 June from 9 11am and at the Huntsman Hotel on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> from 9.30 11.30am. *(Editor: See page 47 for the full schedule)*

Date of next meeting: Monday 3 June 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

### **Best Kept Village Competition 2013**

Shirenewton has again entered the Best Kept Village Competition (which we so narrowly lost last year.) This notice is by way of reminder to everyone that the judges will visit the village at anytime from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June.

As most people know the Judges take particular account of public spaces, and remark upon any litter. Last year they commented on two pieces of litter!

Can I also remind you to look at the area outside of your gardens.

If you have grown your own flowers this year and are prepared to donate a few or if you feel that you are able to give a bit of extra help with tidying up can you please ring me on 641791 Carole Jones

### SHIRENEWTON WI MAY 2013

Around this time each year the WI's of Gwent Federation hold their annual meeting. The very mention of annual meeting or AGM, whatever organisation, tends to have many members running for the hills, but actually they are not only important and necessary they can be very interesting.

It's always useful to review the past year and be reminded of all its interesting events and highlights. For new members it's an opportunity to find out about the interests and activities of the group they have joined.

We met for our annual meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May and it was a very wild and windy day but this didn't put members off and we had a good turnout.

We went briefly through our regular branch business and then welcomed Anne Craig from Federation to our annual meeting.

The minutes of last years meeting were read by Margaret Woodliffe, our secretary. The agenda flowed through appointing a financial examiner, the presentation of the financial statement by Claire Lewis, our treasurer. Claire had done a wonderful job and was praised for her neat and well ordered accounting. Margaret gave a full and interesting account of our years activities, stirring good memories for everyone of enjoyable events.

Our President Jenny Bonner gave her thoughts on the year and thanked everyone for all their input and help reminding us that it takes all of us to make a good and enjoyable year. The adoption of the annual report was moved, seconded and adopted, we then moved onto the yearly elections. Anne Craig took over and read out the list of those members willing to stand for committee and out of these members voted for president. Jenny is our president for our next year, and everyone cheered and gave a round of applause.

Anne told us about forth coming federation events and asked if any members were interested in joining executive as federation are low with only eight committee members at present.

In June the National Federation annual meeting is being held in Cardiff and the resolution this year is about the decline of our high streets and urges all efforts to be taken to halt and reverse this trend. The members voted in favour as we are all concerned about this trend and the effect it has

We all enjoyed the tea and cakes and nibbles provided by the committee and were able to watch a DVD of activities at our Birthday Party in March and the entries from the Co-operative and flower arranging competitions held at the ACM.

Diana Such was inspired by Olwen Weevers talk in April to take up needle felting and she went to Wonderwool held at the Royal Welsh Showground at the end of April. Diana then set about making items out of wool by needle felting and brought what she had made so far for us to see.

Our June meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> is a guided tour of Roath Parks Conservatory (Cardiff) with maybe a chance to go on the lake. Members meet at the Rec. Hall at 1:30pm for car sharing.

### FAIRTRADE NEWS.

So who IS responsible for the deaths of more than 500 garment workers in Dhaka? I have described (more than once!) the plight of many of the producers of cheap t-shirts in the developing world :poor wages, appalling working conditions, a ghastly and deteriorating environment etc etc. Suppliers undercut each others' prices; it's a race to the bottom. Businessmen here wring their hands and maintain that they try really hard to monitor their suppliers and their workforces, and doubtless some of them do. Local corruption,in all its forms, also exacerbates the situation, bribes, tax-dodging, shoddy buildings.

'Cheap and cheerful' rings rather hollow doesn't it? Where did we get the idea that 'stuff', even food should be cheap? Well, a lot of it is certainly NOT 'cheerful'! And 'cheap' often comes at a high price.

Look for the Fairtrade mark which guarantees a fair deal for producers and the environment.

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

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### THE RUNSTON ROCK

By Countryman: Ernie Jones

High up on the Runston Rock where the wind blows free where the lonely buzzard flies on a wing so free while down below the lowly mouse must for ever watchful be.

Then man came with great intentions to take this hill away to take it to the wetlands to build a factory.

They came with tractors mighty they came with dynamite. They danced around excited gold gleaming in their eyes.

Then they hit the bedrock then the tables turned. They slunk away defeated never to return.

Nature came as always to hide up man made scars. She sent her plants and flowers to sleep beneath the stars.

Now on warm and balmy evenings when the sun is set the lonely vixen on her nightly prowl lets out her eerie howl.

The ghosts of men of Runston nod their heads all know their hill will be there always from age to age again.

When my time is over that is where my ghost will be high up on the Runston Rock where the wind blows free.



# **Charity Music Festival** The Huntsman Hotel Saturday June 29th

From 1.30pm to Midnight **Featuring** 

3 Live Music Stages Bouncy Castles And More..

Kids Cinema

f10 Adults

Under 13's Go Free

**Buy Advanced Tickets Online At** 

http://shirefest.eventbrite.co.uk/

Keep up to date on

www.shirefest.org

## **A Midsummer Murder**

### Featuring a Celebrity Hog Roast

evening is to be held on (of course) 21st June at Shirenewton Rec....

It is 1779, and by the creaking of the timbers, all is not well aboard the good ship Albatross. Davy Jones is calling, and before the night is out he'll have claimed another life....

All are welcome to this evening of skulduggery and derring-do. Why not come along and try to determine (using cold intellect, cunning questions, and sneaky observation....all aided with liberal quantities of rum) which of our 5 odious suspects is guilty of that most heinous of crimes.

Hog Roast courtesy of celebrity chef Ian Wood, and pay bar. Tickets, £10 per head. All proceeds to WATER AID.

Tickets: Karen Millar (650521), Dave Cornwell (641614), Tony Prout (641261).

The 'Village People' (Dave, Karen, Tony, Jane, Alan and Ian) are not stopping at a mere murder to raise money for Wateraid....instead, we are planning to conquer the 6 highest peaks in each of the nations of the British Isles (and the Isle of Man). Nutters.

### SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

A good turnout of members greeted our speaker this month. David Priddis gave an account of his family's experiences through both world wars. His maternal side of the family had many hair raising experiences during these dark times and miraculously came out fairly unscathed. He has done huge amount of research into this particular period of his family history and discovered a very brave and resilient family.

We are starting a new project to research and record details of many of the older buildings in the village. Anyone interested in helping with this task or have old documents, photographs or any oral history passed down, please contact the number at the bottom of this article.

### Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday, 28th May A visit to High Glannau Manor

(A garden near Trellech)

A tour of the garden, to include a glass of wine and

canapés.

Monday, 10th June View our Village Archive, 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm at the

Recreational Hall

Tuesday, 25th June A midsummer visit to Gaer Fawr Iron Age Fort.

Weather permitting

a view of the sun rolling down the Blorenge.

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.

Please ring 641376 if you need any more information on the above meetings

### **SAMFAL**

The gate is open for use once again, this is a temporary situation. The gates will eventually be moved so access to the SAMFAL field is from SAMFAL land via the Public Right of way.

### BEATING THE BOUNDS ON ROGATION SUNDAY

To celebrate Rogation Sunday on 5th May, Phil and Dorothy Brabon of the S hirenewton Historical Society organised a walk to beat a section of the bounds of the parish. Seventeen walkers and three dogs set off from the Church in glorious sunshine and headed down Spout Hill Lane and then turned off towards Rhewl Farm. At the farm complex they turned north on the footpath towards the Usk road and passed through the tunnel under the road. Continuing past Mounton and on up to Howick Farm, they then came back on part of the Itton Road walking past the mill and along the stream to the back of the Carpenters Arms, then back up through Mynyddbach to the Church room.

Along the way one walker and a dog dropped out, and another walker and a dog joined in! The walk was about four and a half miles in length and ended back at the Church Room where the walkers were refreshed with well-deserved tea and Dorothy's delicious cake.

Many thanks to the Brabons and all those who took part and also those who made the tea for a splendid day out in the sunshine

### SHIRENEWTON CHURCH

### From the Church Registers

The Marriage of:

Philippa Louise Broadribb and Jonathan Paul Southgate on the 27th of April

### ST. PETER'S CHURCH, NEWCHURCH

Forthcoming Events

Songs of Praise Thursday 20th June at St Peter's Church 11am Summer Fayre Saturday 6th of July at St Peter's Church 11am

### CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Many thanks to everyone who supported Christian Aid Week. We raised over £500, which is fantastic. It will go to help projects which support small communities develop their own strategies for sustainable living in developing countries. And for the last few months there has been a collection point in the church for anyone who wishes to contribute food to the Chepstow and Bulwark Food Bank. This helps feed local people in crisis – and so items like sugar, soup, pasta sauces, coffee, teabags, cereals, tinned meat and fish, tinned veg and fruit are most welcome. This food is taken down weekly to the Bulwark Food Bank Centre.

### CHURCH WEBSITE & SHOPPING PORTAL

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

Despite me failing to get a Parish magazine entry to the editor for the last few months, the church website continues to exist! It is even up-to-date!

To the end of April, the website has raised about £350 for the Church so many thanks to those that do use and, for those that don't, please start to use it. It really is free money.

The actual shop is at www.shirenewtonshop.com and there are approximately 250 shops on the portal in over 30 categories. Each one pays us a small commission on sales made by clicking through from the portal. All special offers, etc. at the linked shops are the same as if you went onto the site directly.

As summer approaches please book your travel, advanced airport car parking, etc. through the site. There is a comprehensive travel section.

BTW: I'd reiterate the warning I posted a few months ago regarding the increase in 'drive-bys'. This is where you get infected by malware for just visiting a site. It is strongly recommended that you disable Java and ActiveX in your standard browser. So, for example, I use Chrome as my default browser which has both java and ActiveX disabled (just google 'disabling Java in Chrome' for how to do this – you'll only have ActiveX if you installed it). I then have Internet Explorer with both these options enabled as it is sometimes necessary to use them for things like online banking, online meetings, etc. But I never generally browse with IE and only go direct to trusted websites.

Safe browsing. David Cornwell, Webmaster - Shirenewton Churrch

### **Coffee Morning**

Church Room Thursday 13th June 10am until 1:00pm

Anne Fisher will cycle through Nepal to raise funds for the National Deaf Children's Society

Free coffee and cakes for every £5 donation
There will also be a Raffle

### **1ST SHIRENEWTON BROWNIE**

We have enjoyed three lovely weeks in the sunshine out on the Rec. During two of these evenings all 26 brownies worked hard



to achieve their Agility badges which incorporated some circuit work, learning an aerobic dance routine, ball skills, balancing, hopping, skipping and running. We also held a team sports evening finished off with a game of rounders - all great fun in the Spring sunshine! Unfortunately last Tuesday was a washout and our planned treasure trail around the village had to be abandoned for indoor entertainment!

During the course of one of the evenings we met a racing pigeon handler who happened to be releasing his birds from the Rec. He kindly agreed to speak to the brownies about his pigeons, even letting the girls stroke one if they wanted to, before watching them be released. The trainer, Craig Nichols, told us it would take them around 15 mins to find their way home to Abertillery, whilst it would take him approximately 50 minutes in the car!

This week we will start our planning of the float for the next month's festival, which we are all looking forward to!

### SHARER/S WANTED FOR 12HH PONY

Do you have a child who would love their own pony (but you don't want the commitment & expense?)

Harry Potter is a 12HH section A welsh mountain pony who is not getting enough love and attention.

He is a cheeky chap, full of character and absolutely brilliant on the lead rein. He will go anywhere, is fine in traffic, good to handle. I am wondering if there is a family out there who might like to come and ride him 2 or 3 times a week for a contribution to his cost

He lives with me in Shirenewton and we have our own arena, as well as hacking out.

Contact Jaci on 01291 641681 for more information

# 1ST SHIRENEWTON GUIDES AND SENIOR SECTION.



We have just had a couple of beautiful days

as I write this and it is confirming in my mind that a certain walk from Devauden to Tintern is doomed. It was initially planned for last September, when we had to cancel due to that red weather warning. I rescheduled for last Tuesday and we had torrential rain all day – cancelled again! OK I know you can walk in the rain, but it really is not conducive to fostering a love of the outdoors when you are soaked to the skin.

The unit celebrated St George's Day with bead craft (reasonably successful) and tissue paper roses (rather less successful). Patrols have been working on their choice of activities so we have taste tested chocolate and fruit fondue, planned menus and made energy bars. Girls have shared their talents for music, magic tricks, singing and gymnastics. We have mastered the art of putting up our new day shelter (thank you to the Community Council for its support) ready for summer camp and have been studying maps. Part of this was in preparation for the "walk that never was" but the older members have been planning their D of E routes in preparation for the summer assessments.

Planning is progressing for summer camp and for the fete – make sure you visit us as we will have plenty of Welsh cakes for sale plus the "prize every time" card game for younger members of the community.

On a personal note my elder son, Tom, is taking part in the Tough Mudder Challenge, an SAS type assault course. He is raising funds for CLIC Sargent, the charity supported by his employer, J.D. Wetherspoon. The link below takes you to the Just Giving web site but there is then a link to tell you all about the challenge. All I can say is I am glad he is no longer my responsibility and I won't have to do his washing!! He would be grateful for any support.

### http://www.justgiving.com/chepstowtoughmudder

Yours in Guiding

Helen Cann 01291 650835 <u>cannhelen@gmail.com</u>

Karen Ford & Debbie Henshaw

### **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 Cormeilles, 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

### WANTED - GARAGE SPACE

Do you have any spare garage (or barn?) space in or around Shirenewton please, that you would be willing to rent or share?

If so, please contact Omar on 641277

# SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY LUNCHEON CLUB

# Tredegar Arms Shirenewton 01291 641274

tredegararmsshirenewton@hotmail.com

Please book early to secure your place for lunch

26th June 24th July 28th August



#### MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL

### SUMMER CELEBRATION CONCERT

WEDNESDAY JUNE 26th, 7.30pm.

Chepstow Leisure Centre Arts Hall.

### (good free parking available, disabled access etc)

Come & celebrate early Summer with Chepstow Choral Society's final concert of the season. An evening of popular classics & light music –

To include: JS Bach: "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring"

Gabriel Faure: "Cantique de Jean Racine"

Johannes Brahms: "How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings" Franz Schubert: Psalm 23 "Gott ist mein Hirt"

Cesar Franck: "Panis Angelicus"

Howard Goodall: Psalm 23 (Vicar of Dibley signature

music)

and

Selection medley from "Les Miserables", items from Gilbert & Sullivan, folk songs by Vaughan Williams, popular songs -- & a surprise or two!---

PLUS -- Music from the KEMPTON FAMILY STRING ENSEMBLE
Piano Accompaniments : MARJORIE DUERDEN
Musical Director: GRAHAM BULL

Tickets £10 – \*\*TO INCLUDE REFRESHMENTS, GLASS OF WINE/SOFT DRINK, plus PROGRAMME (students, under-18s free) -- available from Chepstow Bookshop, or choir members (tel. 01291 623310, 620414 for further information). Any unsold tickets available on the door. Chepstow Choral Society acknowledges the support from Ty Cerdd in helping to make this concert possible. The Society is a registered charity (no.1127098).

www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk

Come along & enjoy a lovely evening with CCS and friends!

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# SHIRENEWTON CHURCH FETE 8<sup>th</sup> June 2013

A fun day out for all the family, games, activities, stalls, entertainment, grand prize draw, refreshments and lots of lovely local cakes!

Carnival Queen and Floats will leave the
Tan House at 1.45pm
Official opening is 2pm at the
recreation field.
We look forward to seeing you there!

If you would like to get involved and support this community event please contact Seirian at <a href="mailto:andyandseze@aol.com">andyandseze@aol.com</a> All offers of help very much appreciated.

# JUST SOME NOTES FROM THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2013 - Glynis MacDonald

I wasn't sure whether to carry on pitching up for these meetings but hey, the Agenda plopped into my Inbox and I saw that it was the Council's Annual Meeting. For a brief moment I did wonder what I'd been attending for the past 11 months... but anyway, I couldn't resist and so turned up and sat in my usual corner. There were several other members of the public also at the meeting mainly for planning. And dog poo. But because of the Annual Meeting, it was agreed that this was going to have to be picked up later.

At the Annual Meeting, Liz McCombe resigned as Chair and she received a hearty vote of Thanks for all her hard work over the previous years. Ian Moore was then voted in as the new chair. Sadly, when it came to electing as Vice Chair, there was a bit of a lull as councillors were found studying their Agendas with deep interest and so it was decided to put the election of a Vice Chair to next month's meeting. Mind you, there were quite a few absentees so maybe it was only fair to wait until they were able to attend so that everyone would have the opportunity to volunteer.

There then followed the appointment of this year's representatives for One Voice Wales (Should that be One Bilingual Voice Wales?) the Shirenewton Rec Association, MCC Planning, Llanmelin Hill Fort Sub-Committee, Poor Land Field Sub-Committee, a Footpath Officer, a Trees Officer and a Sustainability Officer. You had to be there to experience the tension and the excitement as the officers were elected...

There was other stuff about audits and adopting Standing Orders and the Financial Assessment Strategy which was all jolly interesting too. Anyway the excitement drew to a close at 7.50 but then quickly resumed at 7.51 with the May Council Meeting.

With our new Chair in the Chair the meeting started with the

### Police Report

17/04 – A house was broken into in St Arvans where jewellery was stolen. The jewellery box was found in the Monmouth area. A ladder was stolen from across the road to gain entry to the house.

19/04 – There were two reports of oil theft from Shirenewton.

22/04 – There was a house break-in Shirenewton and a safe was stolen. The chair believed to have been used by the offenders to remove the safe was found in Cockshoot Woods, Usk Road. (Although I'd heard that this was not the burglary chair but a bogus burglary chair)

Copper pipes have been stolen in the area.

There was a collision on the Usk Road but luckily, no injuries.

Suspicious incidents included the following:-

There is suspected poaching going on in the Tintern Fishery area and a metallic green 'R' reg Peugeot with a roof rack was spotted.

Ahh! Long time – no see! The suspicious white van (Reg CX57XOE) has been spotted in Bulwark "not necessarily looking for scrap"

A cream coloured terrier has been seen running around the Shirenewton and Earlswood area. He/she could cause an accident. (Although hardly suspicious I'd have thought.)

Suspicious males were seen in the Forestry Commission car park carrying guns. Guns? They may have had a small green car.

Off road bikes were seen up in Earlswood - their number plates were covered up. Presumably not just with mud.

A suspicious white Citroen Berlingo (PN57WLE) was seen on the Bayfield estate. It had some sort of extendable pole which they were using to look into the upstairs windows of the houses.

And finally, a suspicious male was seen in the Shirenewton area described as being in his late 50s with a beard and wearing a red anorak. (Father Christmas?) The council asked about the Mobile Police Station and how that was being used by local people. It seems not a lot. Indeed the police were anxious for anyone, but anyone, to come and talk to them. One councillor suggested that local people don't actually know when the Police mobile van will appear and so a timetable will be published in the village mag, *(Editor: Please see Page 47)* 

We were to have received a Report from Graham Down about the **Cold Calling Zone** but as our Council Meeting is a week later than usual because of the Bank Holiday, he was unable to attend because he was at another local council meeting. Imagine that – a Community Council meeting every Monday... gulp. Anyway volunteers were asked to collect the replies to the questionnaire but as they haven't been delivered yet, this was going to be tad difficult. A member of the public wondered if this cold calling really was a big problem because, in all the years she had lived here she'd only had two cold callers and she'd bought two dusters from him and gave the chap a cup of tea.

### Planning.

### DC/2013/00128 Ridge House Stables, Earlswood

Retention of Development. Retention of one steel framed barn building, roof to be cladded to be concrete panelled. The barn building is to be used for the stabling of horses which is the same use as the existing barn buildings. (No I didn't write that, I cut and pasted it), Anyway, the discussions over this application were very long and detailed although from the outset it seemed as though this application was going to be turned down as there were too many serious issues which needed to be addressed including, doubtful original planning permission, questions over the 'change of use', rights of way and public footpath issues and the problems incurred by increased horse poo output. Approval was Not Recommended.

### DC/2013/00225 Bluebell Farm, Penycaemawr

To put in a 250 m stock fence with access farm gate. There was lots of interesting discussion about whether there has always been a hedge there. Hasn't there? Or maybe not. Or maybe it was a fence? Or had they taken the fence away?... Eventually agreement was recommended.

# DC/2013/00289 Listed Building Consent, The Old Coach House, Shirenewton.

Replacement of existing roof. This is a listed building - the applicants want a Slate roof which would be more in keeping anyway.

No problem! Approval Recommended. Amazingly quickly!

### DC/2013/00093 'Oslo', Mynyddbach

Erection of detached dwelling and a pair of semi-detached dwellings with ancillarywork. Yes 'Oslo' again. This is a contentious planning application which goes back quite a long way. There were members of the public attending the meeting to object to this proposal. Councilors also reported that other local residents had written in to oppose the plans. One of the major issues is the way that the entrances and exits of the three proposed dwellings would be onto the very narrow 'unadopted' road and that there would likely be vehicles exiting backwards onto what was regarded as a horrible blind spot. It was suggested that three new dwellings could well result in 9 extra vehicles using this substandard narrow track. Another objection was the planned windows on one of the proposed new builds would look directly into a neighbours home. It was felt that the plot was in any case too small for three new dwellings. Concern was raised over the damage to a well used footpath and the structure of the retaining wall. And damage to protected trees was a major concern too. It was also suggested that it would be a very good idea to have an archeological dig as it was felt to be a site of historical interest. And finally the new plans differed quite considerably to those plans which were granted in 2009 and so should be seen as a new application altogether. Approval was Not Recommended. (I see in my notes I had written, "Arrgghh, It's 9.15 and we still haven't finished Planning yet" )

### Other Stuff.

The **Notice Boards** have finally been mended, varnished and resealed. But it seems as though the board at Mynnyddbach will need to be replaced next year. And so this epic yarn will continue....

There was no news on the local **Commemoration of World War One**. Although, rather oddly, there was a brief discussion as to which war were we supposed to be commemorating. Sigh. And were we commemorating the start or the finish of the war? It will be put on next month's agenda.

There was no news about the **telephone kiosk**. It will be put on next month's agenda.

The councilors were asked to consider a response to a consultation on the Welsh Government's draft Social and Environmental Guidance to **Ofwat**. I think the esponse was 'What what? Are we going to respond? Let's put it on next month's agenda.'

The problem of **coloured bin bags** has been raised. It will be put on next month's agenda.

Next, progress (or not) on the Welsh Assembly's plans for encouraging local councils to set up **websites**. This seems to be floundering on a sea of possibilities. The latest idea is to have perhaps one overriding website to which each council can have its own bit. But apparently, many local councils don't want to opt in to this scheme. You can just tell that this rather unexciting project would be like trying to herd cats. In Welsh, too.

The evening continued to enthrall. Councilors were asked to consider a **Response** to a Consultation on Monmouthshire County Council's Proposed Improvement Objectives.

One councilor had actually read through this document which she said was so 'memorable – that she couldn't remember a thing'.

The response she suggested, ought to be that MCC should go on a Daily Mail Clear English Course. However, as the response should have been in by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May and as it was already the 13<sup>th</sup> the response was irrelevant.

The Best kept Village Competition was discussed although apparently the council has been underwhelmed with response. Notwithstanding, the Spout will be planted up, there have been generous sponsors for the War Memorial and the flower boxes and there was a plea for the Clerk to ask MCC to empty the Poo Bins or Shirenewton won't have a hope of winning the Competition.

Oh yes, **The Poo Bins**. It is to be hoped that the 30 litre bin at the Tan House will be replaced with a jumbo bin of 110 litre. Plus cover. It was suggested that this old Tan House Bin could then be relocated to behind the Church which is another 'hotspot' so to speak but apparently this can't be done because the bin is 30 years old and doesn't comply with recent Poo Bin legislation. And, despite MCC saying these bins are regularly emptied, it was reported by one cllr that they hadn't been emptied for over 4 weeks. That is some build up. The Clerk was asked to look into this.

### Other Items of Local Concern.

The problems around the SAMFAL fields have been resolved and one of the local landowners is going to move the gate, take down some barbed wire and put in a board-walk over the boggy ground.

The Earlswood Hall Committee has asked for some signs to indicate where the Hall is, (sounds like we've mislaid it...) as visitors to the area find it hard to locate. However, one local councilor said he would object to the brown signs but white ones would be OK. Someone raised the spectre of it having to be in Welsh as well – thus increasing the size and cost of the signs considerably.

### CLERK'S REPORT

**The Poor Land Field.** A padlock and chain for the field gate has been purchased and fitted. Jolly good – but the fence has a hole in so big that you could drive a pony and trap through it. But at least the gate will be locked. Later this land was discussed at GREAT LENGTH. What to do with it? To cut a very, very long discussion short – the grass will be sold to the highest bidder.

The **Queen Elizabeth II Field** - a further wall mounted plaque has been received which will be passed on to Gordon Hughes. This new plastic plaque was deemed a bit... sad.

The **road by the Huntsman** is still awful. As has been reported repeatedly, it's lost its sticky surface and is full of monster potholes. The Clerk will inform the Highways Depot.

### Matters of (Limited) Interest

The

Council will have a gazebo at the Church Fete thanks to Graham Down. The council wont be giving away anything this year but the police will be coming along with bits and pieces. ...

There was a local planning meeting last month involving MCC, Caerwent and I think MOD but disappointingly very few members of our council turned up which was a bit embarrassing especially as the meeting was held on our patch. There was more stuff – but I was bored, fed up, cold, hungry and I wanted to go home. The next exciting meeting will be on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 7.30



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### GARDENING CORNER

As so often happens I'll state the obvious. Despite a few days decent, more seasonal weather, it has now returned to being cool and a little damp. The rain is welcome as surprisingly the ground was starting to get guite dry. However we really do need it to warm up guite considerably in order to get things actually growing with some vigour. The cool has hit us a little more than most as we have iust returned from a week's holiday in Tuscany with the family, where temperatures reached a very warm 30 degrees – albeit only on one particular day. It was sobering to hear from one or two of the locals that they also had a very cold spring and that everything was well behind what it should be. Having said that they were a lot further forward than we are here, with broad beans in full flower and the runner beans half way up their sticks. Yes very sad but true to say that one notice's these things - even when on holiday! I also noticed how much activity was going on in their woodlands, driven mainly by the firewood market. I did resist taking loads of photos of trees and log piles - I have had enough ridicule from the kids in past years for such sad pastimes, so had to content myself this time with just mental pictures instead! One thing that I was really taken with however was the amount of blossom that was on the acacia trees - no wonder the bees do so well out there. The trees were covered in white frothy flower heads with guite a strong scent. Sobering to think that we are looking to start using acacia (among many other species), within new planting schemes in this country in order to make our woodlands more resilient to global warming in the coming vears.

Talking of bees I have bitten the bullet and ordered two new nuclei of bees – at great expense. Hopefully I can start to build numbers up over the next few years, but will need to rely on others swarms to help in this task. As I may have said before, it seems that there have been major losses and it does vary from beekeeper to beekeeper. Some have had no losses at all whilst others have been devastated as here. Overall it seems likely that there has been a 30% loss across the board. Sitting in the garden last week, when it was sunny and remotely warm, it was very difficult to take not hearing any bees buzzing around the flowers that were open.

Back in the garden things would normally now be in full flow, but we are still well behind with everything, even the most hardiest of peas and broad beans, being reluctant to get going. Hopefully there will be a plus side to this in that all of the growth will be 'hard', rather than soft and succulent, and as a result will be more resistant to pests and diseases in the coming weeks – time will tell. In the vegetable garden things were pretty hectic before we went away. We did manage to clear and weed all of the raised beds. The crops that needed to go in, also made it and on our return, looked to have got themselves established to some degree. In an effort to beat the cold weather I had planted all of the onion and shallot sets into pots in the greenhouse some weeks ago.

So these were planted out. This year I have also grown three separate varieties of leeks that are meant to follow on from each other. The assistant pricked the seedlings out into separate, small cells, some weeks ago and these were also ready to be planted out. I think she thought I was mad as on the face of it, we will be eating leeks nearly every day (assuming they grow of course!). Perhaps I am, but this year I wanted to try and get a decent crop, some of which can be turned into leek and potato soup (with crispy bacon added). We made some a couple of years back and it was delicious. All of the potatoes had been on the windowsill in my garage workroom for many weeks but had failed to shoot out as they would normally do. I couldn't wait for this to happen any longer so planted all of the varieties in the hope that they will grow on (first earlies, salad and maincrop). There is no sign of any shoots as yet, but that is a good thing as we don't want any frosts taking any new growth out and putting them behind any further than they are already. Also before we went away I put some runner bean and French bean seed into pots and left them on the hot bench. They are at least showing signs of germinating, but they won't be ready to go outside until June appears, which again, is probably a good thing at present! Normally the hot bench would be switched off by now but I intend to keep it switched on just a little bit longer. Whilst it is on I will put the last bean seeds in to germinate. As well as runner, broad and French beans, I have a few other varieties that I'm growing specifically for drying. These will then be used in soups and casseroles during the winter, which saves on freezer space and has actually proved to be well worth while as they provide some variety in the kitchen. The forecast is for substantial rain middle of this week, so one of the jobs I must get done before it does rain, is to get all the carrot seed in the ground. I intend to plant them where the purple sprouting broccoli has just finished, so will need to clear the ground first. This ground was well manured last year, so will hopefully be ideal for growing carrots in as, like other root vegetables, they do not like freshly manured ground (it makes the roots fork). Hopefully this time I will get around to erecting the fine mesh 'fence' around the raised bed in order to keep carrot root fly from destroying the crop. The mesh keeps the fly at bay by forming a physical barrier. Apparently carrot root fly can't fly more than 18" above the ground – but not sure how that little fact was discovered!

In the tunnel the freshly planted strawberries are now getting established and are setting fruit. I also noticed that my attempts with a paint brush haven't all been for nothing as we have got a few apricots that have set (I've counted around 24!). The nectarines have been a bit more successful but I lost count at 78. Time to get out and get the ground cleared for the carrots - so happy gardening until next month.

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### **STARGAZING**

The Constellation of the Plough lies high in the evening sky to the north-west. The curve of the handle of the Plough points down to a bright red star called Arcturus. Above and to the left of Arcturus can be seen a semi-circle of stars making up Corona Borealis, the

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

The slightly yellow planet Saturn can be seen to the south and to the left of the star Spica. On the 19<sup>th</sup> the waxing gibbous Moon is to the bottom left of Saturn. Brilliant Venus is just above the horizon to the north-west at twilight. Sometimes it is possible to see satellites in the night sky. The International Space Station, carrying a crew of astronauts orbits the earth regularly. It is particularly bright since it is about the size of a football field. The web-site http:// spaceflight.nasa.gov/realdata/sightings/index.html gives up-to-date information on where and when to look for it. You can check a satellite is not an aeroplane planes carry their own lights so provided it's clear it should be possible to follow a plane to the horizon. Satellites can only be seen when they are in sunlight – so they appear and disappear well above the horizon quite abruptly as they leave and enter the Earth's shadow. The time zone used on board the Space Station is GMT. The windows are covered during night hours to give the impression of darkness because the station experiences 16 sunrises and sunsets a day. On the 21st June the Earth's axis is tilted towards the Sun to its greatest extent giving the longest day or summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere.

Dave Thomas

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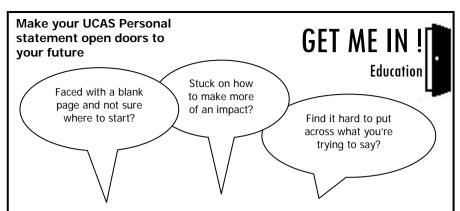
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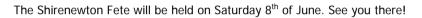
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### **FETE**

A fete. A fete, Come on, don't wait, Or at this rate, We'll be late, And everything good will be gone.

Me and my mate,
Our breaths abate,
When at the gate,
A sign does state,
That we've got the dates wrong.

Written by Lizzy Tomlinson



### Victoria Sandwich with Mascarpone Ingredients

175g (6oz) butter or soya margarine at room temperature 175g (6oz) golden caster sugar 3 medium room temperature eggs, beaten 175g (6oz) self-raising flour, sifted

### To assemble

4 tbsp. Raspberry jam 150g (5oz) mascarpone

1 tsp. icing sugar, plus extra for dusting.

### Method

- 1. Grease and line the base of two 7 inch cake tins.
- 2. Pre heat the oven, 180C, fan oven 160C, Gas mark 4.
- 3. Cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy.
- 4. Gradually add the beaten egg until the mixture is smooth.
- 5. Gently add the sifted flour and fold in using a metal spoon.
- 6. Divide the mixture between the prepared tins and gently level the surface. Bake for 25 minutes until golden, firm to the touch and beginning to shrink away from the sides of the tin.
- 7. Leave to cool in the tins for 5 minutes before placing on a wire rack. Leave to cool completely.

**For the filling-** beat the mascarpone to loosen. Add a little milk if too thick. Sweeten with the icing sugar. Sandwich the cake with the jam and mascarpone. Dust with the icing sugar.

### Variations

**Basic Victoria sandwich:** Omit the mascarpone and simply sandwich with your choice of preserve. Dust the top with caster sugar or icing sugar.

**Chocolate sandwich cake:** Replace 3 tbsp. flour with cocoa powder. Sandwich the cake with vanilla or chocolate butter icing.



**Coffee sandwich** cake. Blend 2 tsp. instant coffee granules with 1 tbsp. boiling water. Cool and add to the creamed mixture with the eggs. Sandwich the cakes with vanilla or coffee buttercream. Decorate with coffee cream and walnuts. **Citrus sandwich cake**; Add the finely grated zest of 1 orange, lime or lemon to the mixture. Sandwich the cakes together with orange, lime or lemon buttercream.

#### **Buttercream**

75g (3oz) unsalted butter or soya margarine 175g (6oz) icing sugar, sifted Few drops of vanilla extract 1-2 tbsp. Milk or water.

### Method

- 1. Put the butter into a bowl and beat with a wooden spoon until light and fluffy.
- Gradually stir in the icing sugar, vanilla extract and milk. Beat well until light and smooth.

### **Variations**

### Coffee buttercream:

Replace the vanilla extract with 2 tsp. instant coffee granules dissolved in 1 tbsp. boiling water: cool before adding to the mixture.

#### Chocolate buttercream:

Blend 1 tbsp. cocoa powder with 2 tbsp. boiling water and cool before adding to the mixture.

### Orange, lime or lemon buttercream:

Replace the vanilla extract with a little finely grated orange, lime or lemon zest. Add 1-2 tbsp. Juice from the fruit instead of the milk. Beat well to avoid curdling the mixture. If the mixture is to be piped, omit the zest.

### Glace icing

225g (8oz) icing sugar

Few drops of vanilla extract (optional)

#### Method

- 1. Sift the icing sugar into a bowl. Add a few drops of vanilla extract if you like.
- 2.Using a wooden spoon, gradually stir in 2-3 tbsp. hot water until the mixture is the consistency of thick cream.
- 3.Beat until white and smooth and the icing is thick enough to coat the back of a spoon.

### Variations:

**Orange or lemon glace icing:** Replace the water with strained orange or lemon juice.

Chocolate glace icing: Sift 2 tsp. cocoa powder with the icing sugar.

**Coffee glace icing:** Flavour the icing with 1 tsp. coffee essence or 2tsp instant coffee dissolved in 1 tbsp. of hot water.

Enjoy!

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	Andrew Baker	01291 641925
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Earlswood Ward	Paul Harris	01291 650871
	Ken Morton	01291 650268
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Member of Parliament	David Davies	020 7219 8360

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Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall

Glynis MacDonald 01291 641818

glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

**Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel** 

Avril Smith 01291 650733

Gaerllwyd BaptistMrs E RemnantBrooklands, Usk Road NP16 6SAGirl GuidesHelen Cann01291 650835cannhelen@gmail.comKids Ad Lib (KAL)Karen Millar01291 650521Gail Jones01291 650861Recreation AssociationGordon Hughes01291 641356gordon.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.freeserve.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)

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Shirenewton Play Group Beverly Lindsay Shirenewtonplaygroup@gmail.com

Shirenewton Primary School

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jayneedwards@monmouthshire.gov.uk

**Shirenewton Tennis Association** 

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Shirenewton Toddler Group Jude Langdon 07981 368213

Paula Rimmer rimmerpaula@mac.com

Fairtrade/Traidcraft Marion McAdam 01291 641316

Whist drive Auriol Horton 01291 641844 aur10l@btinternet.com

Womens Institute (WI) Jenny Bonner 01291 641929

### **DIARY DATES**

June	Event	Location
3	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
8	Shirenewton Fete	Recreation Ground
9	Monmouthshire Meadows Open Day	Shirenewton Area
10	Shirenewton Local History Society	Recreation Hall
13	Coffee Morning in Aid National Deaf Children's Society	Church Rooms
13	Women's Institute Visit	Roath Parks Conservatory Cardiff
20	Songs of Praise	St Peter's Church Newchurch
21	A Midsummer Murder	Recreation Ground
25	Shirenewton Local History Society visit	Gaer Fawr Iron Age Fort
26	Community Lunch	Tredegar Arms
29	SHIREFEST Charity Music Festival	Huntsman Hotel
July	Event	Location
6	Summer Fayre	St Peter's Church Newchurch
8	Shirenewton Local History Society	Recreation Hall
23	Shirenewton Local History Society	Caldicot Castle



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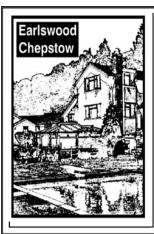
Sair	nt Thomas a Beckett Shirenewton	Sunday Services	Start 10.00 a.m. Unless stated otherwise
Date	Service	Readers	Sides-persons
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	First Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Wendy Baker Diane Marlow	Wendy Baker Diane Marlow
9 <sup>th</sup> June	Second Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Margaret Woodliffe Margaret Lock	Margaret Woodliffe Margaret Lock
16 <sup>th</sup> June	Third Sunday after Trinity Matins Morning Prayer	Bob Grattan Kevin Bounds	Bob Grattan Kevin Bounds
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Forth Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Andrew Baker Sally Saysell	Claire Lewis Allan Saysell
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Fifth Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist Group Service Shirenewton	Janet Horton Bill Clarke	Janet Horton Bill Clarke

### **CHEPSTOW MOBILE POLICE SURGERY DATES**

Huntsman Hotel Car Park Shirenewton 9:30 until 11:30 am	Tredegar Arms Car Park Shirenewton 9:00 until 11:00 am
2nd June	6th June
30th June	4th July
28th July	1st August
25th August	29th August
22nd September	26th September
20th October	24th October
17th November	21st November
15th December	19th December

### Cold Callers, if in doubt keep them out!

From water leaks and lost cats to impersonating a police officer, distraction burglars will do anything to get into your home. Keep your door closed and call 999 to report a suspect burglar in your area. Find out more at www.doorstepcallers.co.uk



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#### **EDITORIAL INFORMATION**

Published: by The Church of St. Thomas á Becket Shirenewton Editor: Terry Walters 01291 641338 email: terencewalters@hotmail.com The cost of the Magazine is 50P per issue/10 issues for £5. Copies are delivered free by local distributors to those who have pre-paid. Monthly copies are available at the Church.

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Deadline for contributions to the July 2013 issue is 9:00am on the 24th June 2013