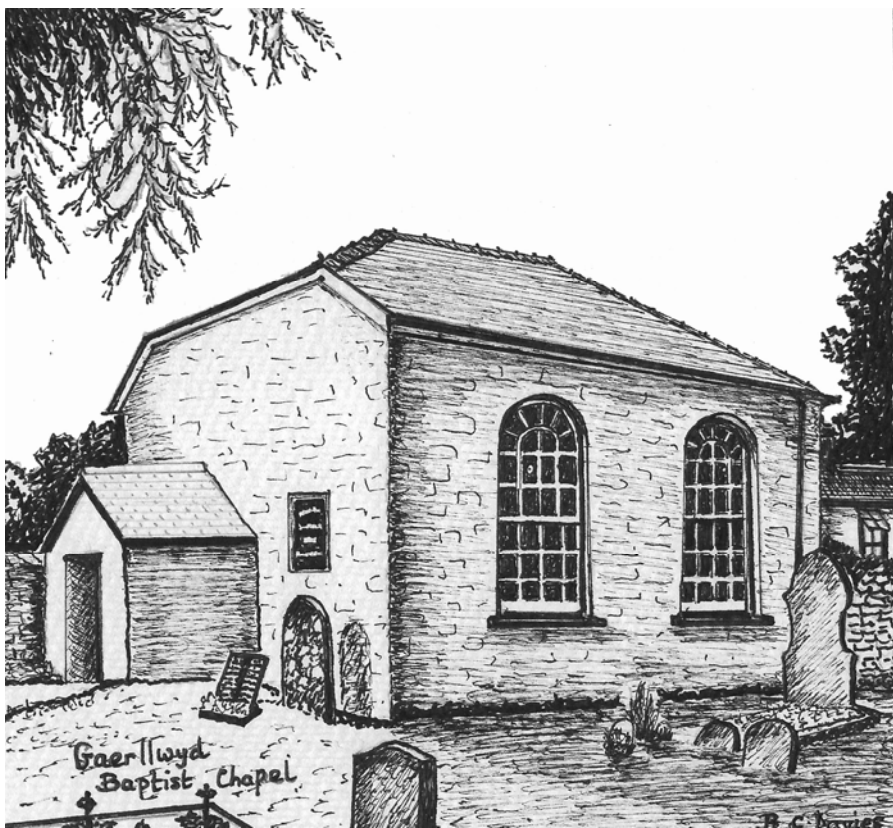


# Shirenewton

## Parish Magazine

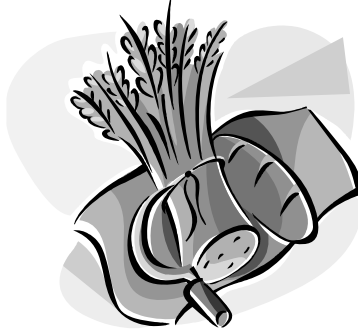
### October 2013



*Sketch by Barbara Davies*

Price: 50p

# St Thomas à Becket Church



## HARVEST LUNCH

EARLSWOOD HALL

SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER

12.30 FOR 1.00PM

Admission by ticket only

Adults £6.00 or children £4.00

For tickets contact:-

Sally 01291 641369 [sally.saysell@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sally.saysell@tiscali.co.uk)

Barbara 01291 641338 [barbaraw@lters.org.uk](mailto:barbaraw@lters.org.uk)

## **HARVEST LUNCH – LAST CHANCE TO BUY TICKETS!**

The Harvest Festival Service will be held at St Thomas à Becket Church Shirenewton at 10.00am on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October and the Harvest Lunch will follow at Earlswood Hall 12.30 for 1.00pm.

In previous years this event has been a sell-out therefore please reserve tickets by contacting:

Barbara Walters 01291 641338 [barbaraw@lterns.org.uk](mailto:barbaraw@lterns.org.uk)

or

Sally Saysell 01291 641369.

Ticket prices are £6.00 for adults or £4.00 for children.

We would be very grateful to accept bowls of your favourite salad or delicious puddings and/ or help in serving on the day.

Again please contact Barbara or Sally.

### **200 CLUB**

#### **WINNERS OF THE SEPTEMBER DRAW ARE:-**

**£40 ANDREW GRIFFITH**

**£30 BILL BENJAMIN**

**£20 GARETH THOMAS**

**£10 SIMON LEAF**

## **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.

## **SHIRENEWTON TODDLER GROUP**

Meet every Thursday (Term Time Only)

at

The Recreation Hall Shirenewton 1.30 to 3.00 pm

Age range 0 to pre-school

A nice cupper, chat, toys, crafts, snacks & songs

## PRESENTATION OF THE AUMBRY TO THE CHURCH



Following on from last month's article about the impending visit of The Worshipful Company of Woolmen to Monmouthshire and Shirenewton, the visit took place as planned over the weekend of 13<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> September. The group of Woolmen arrived at St Pierre during Friday afternoon in time for tea and Welsh cakes in the reception area, although about a dozen had arrived earlier for a day of (rather damp) golf. They enjoyed an informal dinner in the Chepstow Room that evening, and were entertained most mellifluously by the Chepstow Male Voice Choir, by arrangement with Peter Kent.

On Saturday they boarded coaches and visited Caerwent Roman Village, Chepstow Castle and Tintern Abbey, where they were shown round by Gordon Hill, an experienced blue badge guide. They had an excellent lunch at the Royal George Tintern, and James McMorrough and Sammie Wright looked after them very well. In the evening the Liverymen dined in black tie in the state rooms on board SS Great Britain in Bristol docks. They were played aboard the ship by the Lydbrook Silver Band conducted by Robert Morgan, who then continued to entertain them on the promenade deck during the champagne reception. Mr Keith Arnold, a Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists and also a Past Master of the Welsh Livery Guild, and fortuitously a resident of Weyloed Lane, was the guest speaker. In an amusing speech he was able to inform the guests that the Guild was most pleased to have been granted a Royal Charter by HM The Queen in their new title ***The Worshipful Livery Company of Wales, Cwmni Anrhydeddus Lifrai Cymru***. The Charter was sealed at the Crown Office on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2013, and the new title will be used from the Installation of the new Master on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

On the morning of Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September the Company attended the morning service at St Thomas á Becket Church and presented the aumbry, which was dedicated by the Reverend Julian White, who also gave the sermon. The aumbry was made by Siân Evans from Sussex, assembled by Allan Saysell, installed by John Saysell and the curtain for it was made by Claire Lewis. Karen Miller played the organ for the service, and the lessons were read by Past Master Richard Pickance and the Master of the Worshipful Company of Woolmen, Bill Clark.

## CHURCH WEBSITE & SHOPPING PORTAL

[www.shirenewtonchurch.com](http://www.shirenewtonchurch.com)

Despite me failing to get a Parish mag entry to the editor for the last few months, the church website continues to exist! The good news is that, to date this year, it has delivered over £1,000 to the Church. So, many thanks to those of you who continue to shop through it.

For those that don't use it, please start to use it. It really is free money. The actual shop is at [www.shirenewtonshop.com](http://www.shirenewtonshop.com) and there are approximately 220 shops on the portal in over 30 categories – including many of the high street and web shops you use all the time. 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.

It's not just about shopping. It's a community resource. There are photos of the village fete posted, historical copies of the parish magazine and copies of the community council minutes. Links to local traffic cameras and to various parts of the Monmouthshire County Council website.

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 LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

We have quite a lot going on in October to fill our diaries, the Gwent Local History Council will be holding their annual Day School on the 19<sup>th</sup> October, the topic of this year's school will be 'Monmouthshire Writers' it will be held in Abergavenny.

The Monmouthshire Walking Festival is in its third year and once again the society will be involved in organising a walk in the parish. This year it will be a circular walk to Dinham Castle and it will take place on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

If you are interested in any of the above events and need more information please 'phone 01291 641376.

Our forthcoming meeting are as follows:

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Monday, 14 <sup>th</sup> October  | View our village archive, 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm<br>At the Recreational Hall  |
| Tuesday, 29 <sup>th</sup> October | Annual General Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel at<br><b>7.00 pm</b> and afterwards a talk entitled<br>'Monmouthshire Oddments' given by Naylor Firth |

## GAELLWYD BAPTIST CHAPEL

### Harvest Festival Service



Will be held on

Sunday 20th October at 6.30 pm

Monday 21st October at 7.30pm

followed by the Harvest Supper

Rev. Michael Mortimer of Monmouth

Would anyone please volunteer as an Organist ?

## **EARLSWOOD AND NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL NEWS**

Over the last year the hall has been used for drama groups, private parties, dog show and other events. The hall committee held several events including a very successful skittle and bar games evening. We have welcomed two new members to the committee but are always looking for additional help. We were very sad to hear of the death of Dorothy Cochrane, who was a long standing member of the hall committee. Our condolences go to her family.

The hall is running a barn dance on Saturday 19th October. See advert or contact a member of the committee for more details. The annual Remembrance Service will be on Sunday 10th starting at 10:30am. If you would like to book the hall please contact Glynis on 01291-641818.

Remembrance Service

Sunday 10th November

At 10.30 am

Simon Stanley  
Chairman  
01291-641616

### **CHEPSTOW AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Registered Charity No.516919

Homecraft Section

Would like to invite you to a  
A SOUP LUNCH

Accompanied by an amusing talk entitled

'How I became a Fudge Fairy!'

By Helen Beveridge

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2013

At Itton Institute, 12 noon

£8.00



## CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY

New Season September 2013 - July 2014.

### SATURDAY OCTOBER 5<sup>th</sup> -- CHORAL WORKSHOP

Venue – Arts Hall, Chepstow Leisure Centre, 2.00pm – 6.00pm.

To include choruses from “Messiah” and “Les Miserables”!

Tea & refreshments included in registration fee (£5.00) – fee refunded to anyone joining the Society. Come along & meet us!

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> -- CAROLS AT ST PIERRE

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 8<sup>th</sup> – ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT

Venue – St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow, 3.00pm.

A lovely programme of seasonal choral music, family carols, readings etc.

SATURDAY APRIL 5<sup>th</sup> – G.F. Handel's “MESSIAH” (complete). St Mary's Priory Church Chepstow, 7.30pm –with full professional orchestra & soloists

WEDNESDAY JUNE 25<sup>th</sup> – SUMMER CONCERT - Arts Hall, Chepstow.

### **We welcome you to *Itton Village Hall***

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm.

The return of Alison Neil

In her show **'The Fossil Lady of Lyme'**

Tickets £7.00 .Can be reserved in advance by phone:

Elaine on 01291 641 615 or Rita on 07814 240 454.

or e mail: [secretary@ittonvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:secretary@ittonvillagehall.co.uk)

It is possible to pay at door

but you can be sure of a ticket if you reserve in advance.

We welcome Alison back with her new show. She delighted us before with her performances of 'The Just William Lady' and 'The Shakespeare Ladies'Club' to name but two. She portrays the story of Mary Anning of Lyme in the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when science was alive with new discoveries, especially fossils of strange creatures never seen on earth before. Mary came from a poor family but she became an expert fossil hunter (the Lyme Regis area being a well known site for fossils as it still is today). Wealthy people of the time paid high prices for her fossils; she mixed with eminent people of the day and became quite famous. However, some of the eminent scientists took credit for her discoveries. Her story is also told in a book by Tracy Chevalier, the author of 'The Girl with The Pearl Earring').

To learn more about Alison Neil you can view her website:[www.alisonneil.co.uk](http://www.alisonneil.co.uk)

Light Refreshments and Raffle available

**Sponsored by The Arts Council of Wales**

## **FAIRTRADE NEWS**

All kinds of new products are entering the fair trade market. I have written before about the ubiquitous presence of palm oil and the well-founded criticisms made of much of its production. There has been massive unregulated expansion of large plantations in South East Asia, very often to the serious detriment of the environment, the local population and wildlife. Palm oil is one of the world's fastest growing commodities and constitutes one third of global edible oil production with demand predicted to double by 2030. It's a high-yield versatile oil that can be used in a wide range of non-food and food products. As I have mentioned before, many 'moisturising, creamy' toiletries and cosmetics rely on palm oil.

West Africa is the birthplace of palm oil and this is where Traidcraft is working with small-scale producers to enable them to fulfil the criteria for fair trade status. Liberation peanut butter already includes a small amount of sustainably sourced palm oil. This and most of the other products in the Traidcraft catalogue can be obtained from the Fairtrade shop in the cafe in the Methodist Church Hall, Chepstow. Traidcraft is planning to launch other products containing palm oil when the developments in Ghana have come to fruition.

Another rather startling piece of news is that a Dutch company has just launched a fair-trade smartphone. Companies such as Apple and Samsung have in the past been criticised for failing to reveal that their products were made from resources mined in conflict zones and manufactured in far-east factories where labour practices are very poor. A number of minerals used in smartphones come from areas such as the Democratic Republic of Congo and armed groups controlling the mines are alleged to benefit, with profits fuelling the fighting. In contrast to Apple's sealed devices the Fairphone handset can be opened and repaired, extending its lifespan. Apparently almost 15,000 Fairphones have been pre-ordered. It will be available in December.

Marion McAdam 641 316 [msm316@gmail.com](mailto:msm316@gmail.com)

## STARGAZING



As it is now getting darker earlier there are more opportunities for stargazing.

In the evening the brilliant “Evening Star” Venus is close to the south-westerly horizon. On the 8<sup>th</sup> the crescent Moon can be seen just above Venus.

In the early morning sky, bright Jupiter lies to the south, forming a triangle with the stars Castor and Pollux. To the south-east and lower in the sky, Mars is the lowest corner of a triangle formed with the stars Regulus and Algeiba, the brightest stars in the constellation of Leo. On the 26<sup>th</sup>, the Moon is below Jupiter.

The constellation of Cygnus the Swan lies pretty much directly above. It is in the shape of a cross – in fact it is sometimes called the Northern Cross. According to legend, Jupiter the king of the Gods changed himself into a swan when he wanted to visit Leda, the wife of the King of Sparta. In memory of the episode, he placed a swan in the sky.

The seven stars of the Plough are to the North and the four stars forming the Great Square of Pegasus lie to the South.

Looking at Jupiter with binoculars should give a good view of Jupiter’s four largest moons: Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto – they form a line with the planet. In 1610 the Italian scientist Galileo used a telescope for the first time and discovered the moons of Jupiter. The four moons have been called the Galilean Moons ever since.

Dave Thomas

## WHIST DRIVES

Our next meeting is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October followed by the 7<sup>th</sup> November and the 5<sup>th</sup> December which will be our Christmas Special. - all being on the first Thursday of the month. We were pleased to welcome a new player from Mynyddbach at our Drive on the 5<sup>th</sup> September (making our numbers up to 24 that evening) and hope that some more may find their way to us during the winter months. 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 Recreation Hall, where we play - opening at 7 and starting to play at 7.30 p.m. promptly.

Auriol Horton. 01291 641844

## SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Extracts from the minutes of the meetings held on 2 September 2013 Planning applications considered

1. DC/2013/00453 Blue Bell Farm, Penycycaemawr. Proposed barn conversion to provide one dwelling. **This Council recommends approval.**
2. DC/2013/00600 Agricultural Notification, information only. Development of a new forest road and turning area, south area of Grondra Great Wood Shirenewton, to Rhewl Farm Shirenewton. **This Council recommends approval.**
3. DC/2013/00595 Tredegar Farm, Newchurch West. Change of use Planning Permission. Change of use to proposed caravan park and facilities block. (Previous application DC/2011/00008). **This Council recommends refusal.** Members were aware of the previous application made in 2011 which had been dismissed at appeal in March 2013. Mon CC had reported that there are currently sufficient small caravan sites in the area

Members acknowledged that the number of caravans had been reduced by 50% and they had been sited closer to the hedges to take advantage of screening, but despite the amendments to the proposal, the caravans will still be highly visible, and the Inspector made it clear that the number of caravans might be increased at any time with or without planning consent, which would be unacceptable. Hedges may be trimmed at any time and the site could quickly become extremely intrusive.

There would be an unacceptable visual impact on the countryside. The highways issue concerns all vehicles, but particularly motorcycles, which travel much faster. The slow egress of vehicles towing caravans onto a highway that is a renowned motorcycle route for testing the capability of motorcycles, along which they travel at great speed and present a very real risk of accidents. There have been fatalities on this road, and there are regular near misses between cars and motorcycles. This situation must be taken into consideration in any decision as it involves human life and limb.

There are also concerns of light pollution in the open countryside, and water courses at the location are already contaminated at times of heavy rain.

Overall, members felt the situation has not materially altered from the original application, and recommended refusal.

4. DC/2012/00631 Hill View Cottage, Shirenewton (IM/PM)  
Amendments to original application. **This Council recommends refusal.** Although members recognised that amendments had been made to the original plans, there were still concerns about access and members felt that not enough of an improvement had been made to recommend approval.

5. DC/2013/00231 Change of use, Shirenewton Village Shop. Council approved the Clerk writing to the Mon CC Planning Committee meeting being held on 3.9.13 to inform them of details of the previous recommendation for refusal made by this Council. C Cllr G Down advised of his intention to attend the meeting.

### **Items of local concern**

**Postcodes at Newchurch West** - Members discussed an e-mail received from Mon CC detailing delivery and emergency service difficulties with several properties in the area having the same postcode. A number of households did not wish to have alterations made to their address/postcode. C Cllr Down to contact and discuss with residents.

**Dog waste bins** - application made to 'Tidy Towns' for £810 funding for the supply of three bins. Clerk visited proposed bin locations with Alison Howard on 22.8.13, all acceptable and bins installed 23.8.13. Also requested a further £120 for litter bin for Earlswood to replace damaged bin opposite Cherry Orchard - this was agreed, total funding of £930. This Council to fund future specialist emptying of bins.

**Best Kept Village Competition** - invitation received 30.8.13 to Presentation Evening at Chepstow Garden Centre on Friday 20.9.13 from 6pm. Cllrs Jones and Hughes to attend.

**Car Rally** - a letter had been received from the Forresters Car Club - Notification of Patriot Stages Car Rally on Sunday 29 September 2013 at Caerwent Training Area. Marshals to enter by the East Gate at Crick and competitors by the West Gate, Caerwent from 6.00 - 8.00 am and leave at around 5.00 pm.

**New road surface from Huntsman Hill to Shirenewton centre** - a resident had spoken to the Clerk to express her thanks for the work being undertaken and to mention how pleasant and patient the workmen had been.

**The mobile police vehicle** will be at the Tredegar Arms car park on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October from 9 - 11am and at the Huntsman Hotel on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> from 9.30 - 11.30am.

**Date of next meeting:** Monday 7 October 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](http://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**

at the



**Tredegar Arms Shirenewton**

**01291 641274**

[tredegaramsshirenewton@hotmail.com](mailto:tredegaramsshirenewton@hotmail.com)

Please book early to secure your place for lunch

23rd October and 27th November

**ADVANCED NOTICE**

Shirenewton Recreation Association  
is arranging a

**FESTIVE CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

at

The Recreation Hall

on

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

at

**7pm**

Put this date in your diary  
for a wide range of shopping opportunities

## SHIRENEWTON WI JULY & AUGUST 2013

September and suddenly the days seem much shorter but it can be a lovely month, full of fruit and wonderful autumn colours.

We met for our meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> September at Chepstow Library anticipating a fascinating insight into how to research family history, we were not disappointed. We were greeted by four members of the library staff, two of whom have been investigating their own family history.

They provided a display of the material discovered during their research including family photos, interesting stories and documents. The librarians were very encouraging and informative showing us how to go about looking for information and how to cross check to make sure we had found the right person. After a break for refreshments we had the opportunity to have a go on line to look for members of our own families, giving us a taste of how to navigate Ancestry.com and findmypast.co.uk just two of the many sites where information can be found.

Several members came up with useful pieces of information and obtained printouts to take home.

The librarians were very encouraging and helpful, the library runs sessions for beginners on Saturdays from 9:30am to 10:30am, booking is necessary but free. Anyone can go along to the library and use their computers to do research the staff will give help, there is a charge for hard copy printouts.

Everyone enjoyed the evening and we were all given starter packs with tips on how to get started, lots of useful websites and how to make best use of the information on birth, marriage and death certificates. We were warned that tracing family histories can become addictive with the possibility of losing oneself for hours going through documents or taking trips to places you never expected to visit.

Our visit certainly gave us all a lot to think about.

Our next meeting will be on October 10<sup>th</sup> 7:15pm at the Rec Hall, our speaker will be Lena Dyche with a talk entitled 'Above the Arctic Circle'.





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BEAUTY BY KATIE

Manicures - Pedicures -  
Waxing - Shellac - Brisa -  
Lash/Brow Tinting - Hi Def  
Brows - Vajazzles - Polish  
- Nail Art - False Lashes

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**Keith Rowlands OBE**

Artist

*"From Valley to Sea"*

Oils on Canvas  
Prints on Canvas  
Fine Art Prints

Shirenewton Home Studio:  
To view tel: 01291 641551  
[www.keithrowlands.co.uk](http://www.keithrowlands.co.uk)

Author: Newly launched on Kindle and Kindle Fire

**"Noah and an Almighty Flood"**

'hilarious' 'laughed out loud'

# *Not Just Feet*



Reflexology  
Vertical Reflexology  
Indian Head Massage  
&  
Maternity Reflexology

**Annabel Hancock MAR**

Contact me for a home visit on  
01291 650309



## **Mynyddbach House for Sale**

- Large 4 Bed, 2-ensuite
- 4 Reception rooms
- Private situation  
with superb views
- Offers around £500,000



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- Occupational Problems
- Sport related injuries
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medical insurance companies.

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Liz O'Brien on 07831 740909, or email [lizobr@googlemail.com](mailto:lizobr@googlemail.com)

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PANIC, LOW SELF ESTEEM, AND MUCH MORE.

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A FREE CONSULTATION.**

FURTHER INFORMATION ON [WWW.HYPNOHEALTH.ME.UK](http://WWW.HYPNOHEALTH.ME.UK)

**MEMBER OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF HYPNOTHERAPY**

## GARDENING CORNER

One of the most noticeable results of the fine weather this year has been the numbers of butterflies in the garden. I have never seen so many Painted Ladies or Peacocks. There have been quite a few 'lesser' species around as well but the two mentioned have been the most striking because of their size and colour. Whilst going for a well earned cup of tea in the summerhouse the other day, we counted over thirty butterflies all sunning themselves on the roof and there were plenty more still flying around. Unfortunately the downside to this is the number of cabbage whites that are also around. Wholesale warfare has been declared in the winter greens department as we try to ensure that there is enough leaf left on the plants to continue to grow. I have had to resort to chemicals as well, but you have probably read my complaints about these in the past when I not only bemoaned the cost, but also the ineffectiveness of the odd ones or two's that are still available to the amateur gardener thanks to the EU. I think so far we have one a few battles, but the war will continue for a few more weeks, when colder weather will start to take its toll. Another downside is the increase in wasps. I and the many badgers around, have managed to destroy everyone we have found so far, but I know, by the numbers around, that there are at least one, if not more nests, that still survive fairly close to hand. I was working on the bees the other day, putting medication in the hives for the varoa mite. I opened one hive up to discover a number of wasps in the roof. They had obviously gone in to rob the honey, but decided that perhaps they wouldn't run the risk of going back down the hive again. As a result of this discovery I've reduced the size of the entrance to the hive so that the bees guarding it have a better chance of seeing the wasps off. Fortunately I haven't seen any evidence of hornets this year as they can also be a nuisance.

Our house martens have produced second broods this year which has also been a bonus. We have 8 artificial nests that I put up each year and last year we had another five built naturally as well. Unfortunately the rotten weather last year meant few chicks were raised which reflected in the fact that our artificial nests were full, but no others were built. We now have tens of youngsters swooping and crying around the house every morning as they build up strength and start to gather for the mass exodus south. Hopefully more will return next year – provided our EU colleagues don't shoot or catch them on the way there or back.

In the vegetable garden things have been a bit hit and miss this year. We have had some exceptional crops, but then again, due I'm sure to the heat, we have had some pretty poor results. The main failures have been some of the tomatoes and runner beans, whilst other tomatoes and the French beans have done extremely well. We have a bumper crop of melons and are continuing to cut cucumbers. The grafted plants have proved themselves with the melons resembling 'The Day of the Triffids' all over again. They have gone absolutely mad

in the tunnel and are now getting to the point where we are going to have to be violent and slash them back before they take over everything. The early and salad potatoes have been dug up and stored, but the main crop is continuing to grow at the moment. If it starts to turn moist and keeps warm we will have to keep a close eye out for potato blight, but at the moment things are looking OK. As soon as blight is noticed we will have to cut all the green tops off which will keep the potatoes below disease free. They can then be dug when conditions permit – but before the slugs start to find them! The dry weather has also meant a bumper onion and shallot crop, both of which have been dug up and are drying on the staging in the greenhouse. One of the next jobs will be to sort out the ones we want for cooking and those for pickling. Pickling, a nice little job to do one wet autumn evening! Having been removed the beds are now empty. Normally I would put winter or spring greens into these but the beds concerned are infected with club root so are no go areas for brassica crops. Instead I'm covering the beds in manure and then plan to cover with 'ground cover' to stop the birds from pecking and flicking the manure in all directions whilst they search for the worms! This will be left in place all winter and hopefully the worms and the weather will ensure that the manure works down into the soil, leaving beds in ideal condition for next spring planting.

We are busy harvesting everything that we can at present. We have two large deep freezers which are already bursting at the seams and we are switching to alternative means of storing. We have numerous bean varieties which are just starting to mature, nearly all of which are for drying. The first two varieties have been picked and are currently in trays in the conservatory allowing the autumn sun to do its work. The kitchen has also been busy with number one daughter and the assistant head gardener busy making chutney and jams. The nectarines did extremely well in the end and have ended up as either cooked fruit (now in the freezer), chutney (mixed with apples) or as jam (combined with blueberries) the latter being an experiment! We are also busy 'foraging' outside of the garden and this year has proved to be the best in my current memory anyway, for blackberries. Many have been frozen loose, or cooked with the fallen cooking apples to make either jam or stewed fruit. We have had an excellent crop of early eating apples as well, mainly the variety, discovery. These, picked fresh from the tree, are a revelation compared to most of the standard commercial varieties available. Because of the pressure on the deep freezers, we are actively considering whether to invest in a food dryer. These are electrically operated mini ovens that gently dry the produce for storage. This would allow us to dry our own fruit (like the dried fruit you pay huge money for in the health shops). The thought of our own dried apricots etc is very tempting. You can also use them to dry herbs etc as well, so quite versatile. Still must get on. We have started cutting all our hedges this week. There is something about a nice tidy hedge as it has a huge impact on what the rest of the garden looks like and we need to finish cutting them!

Happy gardening until next month. Steve and Felicity Hunt.



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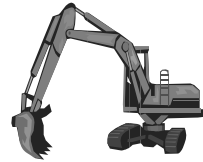
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## ***NERYS'S NATTY NOSH***

Haven't we had a fabulous summer this year? The sun shone and blessed our fruit trees with an abundant crop of delicious, sweet fruit.

We grow plums and apples in our garden. I preserve them by:- Cooking the fruit in a very small amount of water, cinnamon and sugar. Then freeze the fruit in plastic containers or freezer bags. I then use later for various puddings, toppings, and sauces.

The fruit can also be juiced or preserved into delicious jams and chutneys.



### ***Apple Chutney VI recipe- makes 2x 500ml (18fl oz.) jars***

#### **Ingredients.**

250g (9oz) onions, chopped

1kg (2lb 4oz) cooking apples, cored and chopped

125g (4½ oz) sultanas, raisins or chopped dates

1 tablespoon ground coriander

1 tablespoon paprika

1 tablespoon mixed spice

1 tablespoon salt

350 g (12oz) granulated sugar

700ml (1¼ pints) malt vinegar

#### ***Method***

- 1** Put all the ingredients into a large pan or preserving pan. Slowly bring to the boil, stirring often, until the sugar has completely dissolved.
- 2** Simmer for 1½-2 hours, stirring from time to time to stop the chutney sticking to the pan.
- 3** After 1½ hours, start checking if the chutney is ready by dragging a channel through the mixture (with a wooden spoon) so that the bottom of the pan is visible. If the channel fills immediately with liquid, the chutney is not ready. Cook for a further 15 minutes and check again. The chutney is ready when the channel does not fill and the mixture is very thick.
- 4** Remove the pan from the heat and leave to stand briefly. Carefully pour the chutney into sterilised jars and seal. Allow the chutney to cool completely before labelling and storing in a cool, dark cupboard. Store for at least 2 months before eating.

#### **Tips**

This is a spicy apple chutney, perfect for serving with cheese and cold meat.

**Enjoy!**

## ***Nerys's Natty Nosh***

Clafoutis is a baked French dessert of black cherries arranged in a buttered dish and covered with thick flan like batter. While black cherries are traditional there are numerous variations using other fruits including red cherries, plums, prunes, apple, cranberries, blackberries or blackcurrants. When other kinds of fruit are used instead of cherries, the dish is called Flaugnarde.



### ***Cherry Clafoutis Serves 4***

#### **Ingredients**

500g (1lb) pitted black cherries

#### **Batter**

75g (3oz) plain flour, sifted

25g (1 oz.) caster sugar

3 eggs

225 ml (7½ FL oz.) milk

Few drops of vanilla extract

#### ***Method***

- 1 Preheat oven to 200C, 400F, Gas Mark 6.
- 2 Make the batter. Whisk the eggs, then gradually add the milk, vanilla, sugar and sifted flour.
- 3 Grease a 1.5- 1.8 litre (2½- 3 pints) soufflé dish with butter.
- 4 Add the pitted black cherries to the greased dish.
- 5 Cover with the batter.
- 6 Bake for 30 minutes or until well risen.
- 7 Dust with icing sugar and serve at once.
- 8 Accompany with single cream or ice cream.

#### ***Did you know?***

- 1 When storing cherries, choose fruit on the stem (the darker the cherry the more antioxidants) to discourage decay and refrigerate for up to six days. Canned and bottled cherries retain many nutrients.
- 2 Glossy cherries are one of the best fruit sources of antioxidants, which help prevent many diseases associated with ageing. Research shows that these antioxidants inhibit inflammation-causing enzymes and reduce the level of uric acid in painful joints. Eating cherries daily can help alleviate inflammatory disorders such as gout and rheumatoid arthritis as well as relieving headaches and migraine.
- 3 Cherries have a very low glycaemia index, so a handful of cherries is an idea snack, stabilizing blood sugar levels and keeping hunger at bay.

**Enjoy!**

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4	The Fossil Lady of Lyme	Itton Village Hall
5	CCS. Choral Workshop	Arts Hall Chepstow Leisure Centre
<b>6</b>	<b>Shirenewton Church Harvest Lunch</b>	<b>Earlswood Hall</b>
10	Shirenewton WI	Recreation Hall
14	Local History Society	Recreation Hall
19	Barn Dance	Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall
20/21	Harvest Festival	Gaerllwyd Baptist Chapel
23	Community Lunch	Tredegar Arms
23	A Soup Lunch	Itton Institute
29	Local History Society AGM	Huntsman Hotel
Nov	Event	Location
7	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
10	Remembrance Service	Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall
27	Community Lunch	Tredegar Arms
Dec	Event	Location
1	CCS. Carols	St Pierre
5	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
6	Festive Christmas Fayre	Recreation Hall
8	CCS. Annual Christmas Concert	St Mary's Priory Chepstow

## 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
20th October	24th October
17th November	21st November
15th December	19th December

	<b>Saint Thomas a Beckett Shirenewton</b>	<b>Sunday Services</b>	<b>Start 10.00 a.m. Unless stated otherwise</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Readers</b>	<b>Sides-persons</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> October	19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity Harvest Festival	Kevin Bounds Cynthia Smith	Kevin Bounds Cynthia Smith
13 <sup>th</sup> October	20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Bob Grattan Wendy Baker	Bob Grattan Wendy Baker
20 <sup>th</sup> October	21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Mark Broughton Shan Henshall	Mark Broughton Shan Henshall
27 <sup>th</sup> October	Last Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Bill Clarke Janet Horton	Bill Clarke Janet Horton
3 <sup>rd</sup> November	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday before Advent Holy Eucharist	Mark Broughton Margaret Woodliffe	Mark Broughton Margaret Woodliffe
10 <sup>th</sup> November	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Advent	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b>	
17 <sup>th</sup> November	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent Holy Eucharist	Bob Grattan Wendy Baker	Bob Grattan Wendy Baker
24 <sup>th</sup> November	Christ The King	Frances Grey Margaret Lock	Claire Lewis Margaret Lock
1 <sup>st</sup> December	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist	Joanne Tomlins Diane Marlow	Joanne Tomlins Diane Marlow
8 <sup>th</sup> December	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist	James Leney Jane Smith-Haddon	Claire Lewis Jane Smith-Haddon
15 <sup>th</sup> December	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist	Bill Clarke Bob Grattan	Bill Clarke Bob Grattan
22 <sup>nd</sup> September	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist	Mark Broughton Ruth Savagar	Mark Broughton Claire Lewis
25 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Christmas Day</b> 11.30 p.m. Christmas Eve	Sally Saysell Andrew Baker	Allan Saysell Claire Lewis
25 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Day Family Service 10.00 a.m		
29 <sup>th</sup> December	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday After Christ- mas <b>Group Service</b> at Mathern 10.00 a.m.		

Earlswood  
Chepstow



# Parsons Grove

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## EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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The views expressed are those of the contributor.

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