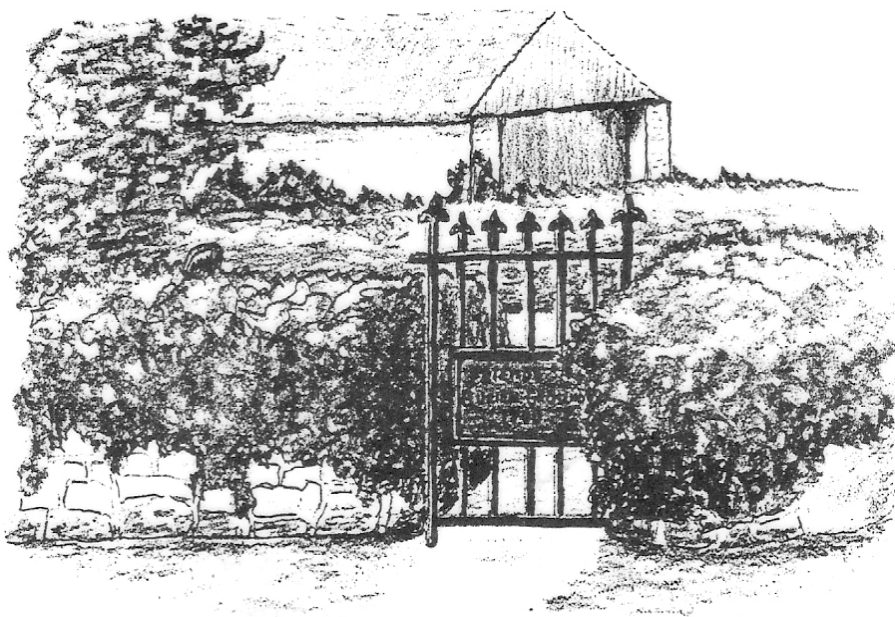


Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

April 2014



Sketch by Barbara Davies

Price: 50p

Dear People of the Parish,

It is now approaching twelve months since the Parish of Shirenewton was joined with those of Mathern, Mounton and St. Pierre to create a new ecclesiastical grouping. During this time people from the grouping have had the opportunity to meet each other on an increased religious and social basis.



From the outset of this development, the intention has not been to sublimate the identity of the various parishes but to link them in flexible unity. To this end much effort has been expended in ensuring that each parish in the grouping maintains its own character.

Regular services have not been truncated or lost. For example, each church held their traditional raft of Christmas services (yes, four celebrations of the 'Midnight Mass' and the same number of services on Christmas Day!) whilst the daily running of the parishes have remained 'in house'. Each church retains its decision making PCC and finances continue to be serviced at local level.

OK, perhaps this does not make for vibrant and stimulating reading so far. I am keen, however, for us to reflect on the situation and to give thanks for the fact that we, as a Christian community, have not slipped into gentle decay.

This, I believe, is overwhelmingly due to the witness and commitment of church officers. In relation to Shirenewton (which, after all, was the constituent part of the new grouping most affected) I pay particular attention to the Revd.

Nansi Davies. Nansi has not faltered in her dedication and has adapted to the new developments with grace, consummate skill and energy.

In like manner our regular leaders of worship, Revds. Andrew Todd and Christopher Carey, along with the Venerable Peter Woodman, have not 'missed a beat' during this time of transition. These persons, along with PCC members and others, are to be warmly thanked and congratulated for their contribution. Nansi, who is presently recovering from a period of indisposition, is in receipt of our prayers and appreciation at this time.

As indicated in this magazine last month, this is the time of year when individual churches tend to consider future opportunities and dilemmas.

At their most recent PCC, for example, Mathern expressed their wish to fully acquaint themselves with the workings whereby the Diocese levies the 'Quota' - sorry, I mean 'Parish Share' as they call it these days. As a result a suitable figure from the Diocesan Office has been approached with a view to making a presentation at the next PCC.

My apologies for a somewhat arid editorial this month, more flippancy in the next edition!

With every good wish and blessing,
Rev'd Julian White

FROM THE REGISTERS

The Marriage of:

Gemma Louise Hunt to Martin David Garbutt



At the Church of St Thomas á Becket Shirenewton on Saturday 1st March 2014

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH 200 CLUB

March Winners

1st Prize	£40	Vivien Ginley
2nd Price	£30	Gareth Thomas
3rd prize	£20	Susan O'Hara
4th Prize	£10	Rosie Gannon

The March Draw was the final draw of the 2013 -2014 season. If you wish to participate in the draws for 2014 -2015 please ensure your entries and payments of £10 per entry are with Bob O'Keefe by the second week of April.

With the entry list changing as people join and move out, the draw numbers you were allocated last year may change. A list of participants will be posted in the Church Porch prior to the next draw.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

For the last 2 weeks I have had no telephone or broadband connection.

Two promised dates for fixing the problem have come and gone, trying to contact BT is almost impossible, if you have ever had the problem you will now know how it is, it is a matter of wait and pray. Just how many bad connections you can get in two wires defeats me and I am an Electrical Engineer!

The problem has still not been solved so I have had to try and rely on the free use of the computers in Chepstow Library and a friendly neighbour's network. By doing so I think I have managed to download all your emails, but regarding telephone calls I have been unable to answer or access any messages.

So, if I have missed anything out I am truly sorry but it is out of my hands.
Terry Walters

PARISH MAGAZINE

Auriol Horton has now retired as a delivery girl, many thanks Auriol for all your hard work in the past.

Barbara Walters will now be taking over from Auriol from the April issue.

CHURCH FUNDRAISING

The Church fundraising group is pleased to publish its activities for the end of the year. It raised just over £4,000 during 2013 which has been distributed as follows:

Charitable donations 2013

Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby £14.50
Tenovus £372.40
Christian Aid £502.30
Chiboya charity £1,714.60
Church in Wales Lent appeal £200.00
Chepstow food Bank £195.00
Philippines Appeal £75.00
Chepstow Street Pastors £140.00
Bongo development organisation £476.50
TOTAL £4,090.30

Note - excludes Christingle collection of £243.00 which was paid in 2014

The Group is delighted to receive ideas and assistance for fundraising events and also to receive ideas for charities that the Church can support. Please address all queries to the Treasurer Kevin Bounds in the first instance.

Bill Clark

WJH CLARK, Beaulieu House, Shirenewton, Monmouthshire NP16 6RG

Tel: 01291641783; Mob: 07890945187

WHIST DRIVES

At our meeting on the 6th March we were pleased to have our best attendance for this year with 25 players. – Our next Drive is on the 3rd April, the first Thursday of the month. 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. We will continue through the year playing on the first Thursday of each month – we would love to see even more new faces.

Auriol Horton. 01291 641844



SHIRENEWTON WI MARCH 2014



We celebrated our WI's 62nd birthday on March 13th, this year we had a very mild and spring-like evening for our event.

It was wonderful to have new members swelling our numbers and adding a little extra sparkle to the birthday conversation. Interesting stories, information on many subjects interspersed with anecdotes flowed around the room.

A little after half seven our supper arrived and after grace had been said and the loyal toast given we all tucked in to the very nice fish and chips with tartar sauce. With our meal we enjoyed 'Fruit juices' in various forms. The main course was followed in style with a delightful selection of fresh desserts made by some of our committee. They all looked wonderful and tasted even better.

We rounded off our meal with tea and coffee whilst continuing our enjoyment of good company and great conversation. It was truly a lovely evening and we all hope to share many more of them and welcome more new faces to share them with us.

Our next meeting will be April 10th, when we will be having a progressive scrabble evening with refreshments and nibbles.

May the 8th is our annual meeting with information on this year's resolutions for the National meeting in June, refreshments will be provided.

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our society met in February for our Annual Dinner at the Huntsman Hotel.

Everyone agreed who attended the dinner that the meal and the after dinner talk was a great success. The meal as usual was excellent and we were given a very interesting after dinner talk by Dr Mark Lewis entitled *The Severn Tsunami*, topical after the exceptional wet weather we've been having.

Dates for your diary:

Monday, 14th April Archive Meeting at the Recreational Hall. Shirenewton Drop-in session, 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

Thursday, 24th April Visit to Treowen House, outside Monmouth, A Jacobean Country House, 2.00 pm
Please note a change of day and time to our usual meetings.

Monday, 12th May Archive Meeting at the Recreational Hall, Shirenewton Drop-in session. 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

Tuesday, 27th May Visit to Cornwall House in Monmouth. 7.00 pm

If interested in any of these visits please contact 641376.

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from minutes of the March meeting

Planning applications considered

DC/2013/01131 Lower Weyloed Barn, Mynyddbach
Proposed extension to former barn converted into dwelling.
Council noted that the proposal is within keeping, existing finishes are to be used and there have been no objections. Recommendation: Approval.

DC/2014/00045 Bluebell Lane Barn, Earlswood
Engineering operations to change ground levels for agricultural and rural purposes. Council noted that this was a retrospective application as the work had taken place. Recommendation: Approval.

DC/2014/00030 Bluebell Lane Barn, Earlswood
Proposed detached garage. Recommendation: Approval

DC/2014/00150 Dinwood Cottage, Shirenewton
Wildlife pond. Council noted that this property is on the edge of, but outside, the boundary with Caerwent. Recommendation: Approval.

Application to divert Footpath 51 (part), Yew Tree Cottage, Shirenewton, into adjacent field. Council recommended approval, with the following observations: that the adjacent field is not in the ownership of the applicant and confirmation should be made that permission has been sought, that the kissing gate should be sited in the vertical hedge, rather than the roadside hedge to allow walkers access from the field entrance rather than the roadside.

Items of local concern -

From the monthly police report - There were some minor incidents on the report, and no reported crime this month. We were advised that there has been four incidents of crime in Shirenewton since November 2013.

Small grant applications for funding available from 2013/14 budget - Six applications had been received for the £300 available and it was resolved to donate £50 to each.

Update on traffic calming proposals.

C Cllr Down advised that the next Working Party meeting would be held on 12.3.14. Council appointed Cllr Hughes to the vacancy on the Working Party.

Taliesen/Yew Tree Cottage, Earlswood - update of progress on the issues previously raised. Responses had been received from Enforcement and Rights of Way officers at Mon CC, confirming that there had been no change of condition, but no action has been taken by Mon CC to date. This Council resolved to contact C Cllr G Down to ask that he puts pressure on officers to prioritise these issues.

Vacancies on the Council - Council reluctantly accepted the resignation of Cllr Liz McCombe and expressed thanks for her contribution to meetings and longstanding support of the Council. As no applications had been received by Democratic Services, Mon CC for an election, Council resolved to advertise two co-opted vacancies - one in Shirenewton and one in Newchurch West, with a closing date of 23.4.14.

Shirenewton Community Council

**Notice of vacancy for the office of Councillor
in the Shirenewton Ward**

We have a vacancy on the Community Council for a Councillor in the Shirenewton ward and are now able to co-opt onto the Council. If any resident in Mynyddbach, Shirenewton, Earlswood or Newchurch West is interested in applying for this position and needs further details please contact Hilary Counsell, Clerk to Shirenewton Community Council, Five Lanes House, Caerwent, Caldicot, Monmouthshire NP26 5PQ.

E-mail: ShirenewtonCC@gmail.com or Tel: 01291 421307.

Closing date: 23 April 2014

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in the Mynyddbach Ward**

We have a vacancy on the Community Council for a Councillor in the Mynyddbach ward and are now able to co-opt onto the Council. If any resident in Mynyddbach, Shirenewton, Earlswood or Newchurch West is interested in applying for this position and needs further details please contact Hilary Counsell, Clerk to Shirenewton Community Council, Five Lanes House, Caerwent, Caldicot, Monmouthshire NP26 5PQ.

E-mail: ShirenewtonCC@gmail.com or Tel: 01291 421307.

Closing date: 23 April 2014

Mobile Police Station visits during April:

Thursday 24 April 10 - 11 am, Tredegar Arms Car Park

Sunday 27 April, 9.30 - 11 am, Great Barnets Wood Car Park

Mon CC Pollinator Policy - It was agreed to invite Nigel Leaworthy, Mon CC to the next meeting to present the Mon CC Pollinator Policy and wild flower planting.

Best Kept Village Competition 2014

Can you help?

The Community Council will be entering Shirenewton in the competition again this year and I need to rally the troops.

Judging will take place between 1st - 31st June and marks are given for the appearance and condition of the village, village hall and playing field, war memorial, churchyard, bus shelters and surroundings. The condition of hedges, fences, walls and verges is also taken into account, as well as the tidiness of flower and vegetable gardens, outhouses and sheds. Bonus marks are given for the general appearance of the village, noting the absence of litter and refuse dumps. BUT, marks are deducted for any unsightly areas.

In 2013 Shirenewton scored well, just one point away from the winner! Do you think we can do better than that this year? Of course we can. It will mean everyone in the village helping, not only with their own gardens, plant pots and hanging baskets, but also by being aware of their surroundings and taking care of the public parts of the village - the entrances to the village, weeding and clearing verges and footpaths and picking up litter near your home.

Planting troughs will take place in mid-May and if you are able to donate plants, they will be very welcome. If you can help with planting or would like to sponsor a trough, please let me know, offers will be gratefully received.

Shirenewton has entered this competition for several years and scores well because residents are proud of their attractive village and take care of its environment. Let's make a special effort this year and aim to walk away with the Best Kept Village prize.

Please contact - Hilary Counsell, Clerk to Shirenewton Community Council

Tel: 01291 421307

Shirenewtoncc@gmail.com

Find more information in the draft copy of the minutes on 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

ST PETER'S CHURCH, NEWCHURCH



**A SPRING WALK ON SATURDAY 17TH OF MAY FOLLOWED
BY A CREAM TEA IN THE CHURCH .**

A SHORT CIRCULAR WALK TO GAER FAWR.

MEET AT THE CHURCH 1.30.

Chepstow Agricultural Society

Homecraft Section

Are holding a

COFFEE MORNING

ON

Saturday, 26th April

AT

Beaulieu House

Shirenewton

(by kind permission of Janet Horton)

AT 10.30 AM

£2.00

**St Mary's Church
Llanvair Discoed**

**Flower Festival, Open Gardens
and scarecrows**



**Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th May 2014
10.30am - 5.00pm**

**Entrance to Flower Festival & Open Gardens
£5 per adult (children free)**

**Follow Basil the gardening scarecrow at:
[facebook.com/llanvairpengardens](https://www.facebook.com/llanvairpengardens)
and read his entertaining tweets at:
[@scarecrowBasil](https://twitter.com/scarecrowBasil)**

STARGAZING

The seven stars of the Plough or Saucepan lie pretty much overhead. It is one of the “circumpolar” constellations that are always above our horizon. Its classical name is Ursa Major, the Great Bear. The two stars furthest from the handle point to the North Star. The North Star or Polaris is approximately 400 light years away. This is a distance of approximately 2,000,000,000,000,000 miles! The light we now see from this star left the North Star 400 years ago.



American slaves in the southern States of the USA were taught a song in childhood. The first verse runs:

*When the Sun comes back
And the first quail calls
Follow the Drinking Gourd
For the old man is a-waiting for to carry you to freedom
If you follow the Drinking Gourd*

The song gave a time, after the December solstice, when the Sun begins to climb higher into the northern sky and the calls of migratory quail can be heard in the southern United States, and a direction – the Drinking Gourd is the Plough and lies to the North. This gave slaves the vital information which allowed them to escape to the North and to freedom.

In the evening sky, the slightly orange planet Mars is in the south-eastern sky above the bright star Spica. On the 14th, the Full Moon lies between Mars and Spica.

Yellowish Saturn rises in the south-east later in the evening.

The bright planet Jupiter is below the stars Castor and Pollux in the west. On the 6th, the First Quarter Moon is just below the planet.

Before dawn, the brilliant planet Venus is low on the eastern horizon. On the 25th, the Crescent Moon is close to the planet.

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH FETE

14th June 2014

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

Planning for the fete is underway and the fete committee would really welcome any offers of help as we have a number of stalls in need of manning. Full support & training will be given!

If you would like a chat about how to get involved or to understand what it is all about, please email or call Miss Seirian Edmonds, Fete Co-ordinator at andyandseze@aol.com or 07980757802.

Fete Thank You Evening

To thank stall holders and other helpers there will be the traditional Wine & Cheese evening in the Church room on the 20th June. All involved are welcome

FAIRTRADE NEWS

Chepstow Fairtrade Forum celebrated this year's Fairtrade Fortnight with a very successful tea-party at the Chepstow Methodist Hall. About 100 people enjoyed home-made cake and tea for the princely cost of £1 and jewellery and other fairtrade gifts were available.



In its Development Review 2013 Traidcraft has outlined 5 key priorities:

1 Economic Security

Roughly 1 in 5 of the world's population lives in poverty. That's almost 1.5 billion people living on less than \$1.25 per day. Many of these people struggle to meet their families' most basic needs, like healthcare, education and nutritious food.

2 Empowerment

People living in poverty are often excluded from decisions that affect their lives. Traidcraft helps to organise marginalised communities into groups so that they can develop a collective voice.

3 Gender Equality

Women in developing countries face gross inequalities and injustice. From poor education and nutrition to vulnerable and low-paid employment, the discrimination that women suffer is all too common. Women make up a staggering 70% of the world's poor. Evidence shows that women have a vital role to play as change-makers in their communities. As Traidcraft develops new projects it ensures that the empowerment of women is not only taken into account but put at the forefront of everything it does.

4 Wellbeing

Poverty is often defined as a lack of income. Yet poverty has many other dimensions such as a lack of empowerment, dignity and freedom. Traidcraft's development projects don't just increase people's incomes, but also help them to flourish as individuals and build strong communities.

5 Environment

Environmental damage is a serious threat to the developing world. In fact 75% of the world's poor live in rural areas and most depend on natural resources such as forest and fisheries. Traidcraft helps farmers to adapt to the effects of climate change and to become more resilient to shocks and disasters by increasing their variety of crops and developing additional sources of income. We also help producers manage their natural resources sustainably by reducing water usage, reducing pollution, recycling water and improving soil fertility.

All good stuff! The Review also includes many wonderful stories of individuals whose lives have been transformed for the better by Fairtrade. As I used to say at school 'Eat Chocolate and Save the World!'

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

CHURCH WEB SITE

Following last month's exciting prose on recovery disks, this month we move onto mirror images. So, what is a mirror image? It's not difficult, as the name implies, it's an exactly replica of an existing disk.

Server systems usually operated with a pair of mirrored disks using a technology called RAID (Redundant Array of Independent Disks) which ensures that, in the event of one of the disks going down, the other continues and the system remains operational. It would be like your PC having two identical disks and every time you saved a file it was save to both disks – so each disk is always an exact copy of the other.

However, your PC has a single disk so why would we want a mirror? Answer: to be able to replace/rebuild your disk very quickly in the event of a major disk failure. Think about it. On your computer's disk you have the following: an operating system which is, hopefully, regularly updated; a number of applications, and; data (i.e. files and such like). If your disk were to fail and you had to re-install everything this would take time. Remember the recovery disk gets you back to where you were when the PC was delivered. You'd then need to update the operating system, re-install all your applications and copy your data from your back-up to get back to where you were.

By taking an exact replica of your disk at a moment in time, the idea is that you are able to restore a disk to that precise moment in your computer's life. It's a bit like a system restore (which, you will recall, we talked about last week). So the theory is to, every now and then, create a disk mirror and, if your disk fails or you have a badly corrupted disk, you simply overwrite it with the mirror copy and, hey presto, it is restored. You would then restore the data from back-up because, although the mirror will have data, you'll have added data since the mirror and it is this incremental data you will need to restore from back-up.

Note: a mirror is different to a back-up, as a back-up backups data. It will not back-up the applications or the operating system.

So, how to create a mirror? The first thing you are going to need is a spare disk at least as big as the space taken on your current PC's disk. So if your PC has a 500GB disk of which 300Gb is occupied, your mirror disk will need to be at least 300GB.

Then it depends which operating system you are running. Top end versions of Windows 7 and Windows 8 have disk mirroring in-built. For those running lower versions there are various commercial products which will create a mirror for you. I've used Acronis True Image in the past but there are plenty of others. There is a lot of information available on the internet.

So, disk mirroring is a good thing to do. You may want to mirror, say, once per year or every time you add an application. It depends how stable your PC is. Do I use it? At the moment I do not. Why? For two key reasons (i) because my laptop is an SSD (solid state disk) which is a lot less prone to failure, and (ii) if my laptop did fail, we have company laptops on standby. I'd grab one of those, restore my data from back-up and be up and running very quickly – whilst it would be someone else's job to re-built my laptop! But, I guess I should take the opportunity of the wife being away to mirror her disk!

So, keep the request coming. By the way: if you are going to buy a new disk or a imaging product, please do it via the church website.

Safe Browsing

David Cornwell

webmaster@shirenewtonchurch.com

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING—NOTES

Monday 3rd March 2014

I was a tad late for the meeting as a couple of friends had called round and a bottle of wine was called for. So somewhat relaxed, I crept into the SCC ...sort of... unobtrusively and discovered that there weren't very many cllrs at the meeting either. Maybe they were out on the lash too... Anyway I hadn't missed much because the 15 minutes public airing time had been extended and was still continuing. A group of concerned people were worried about the ongoing unpleasantness of the neighbourly dispute and the discussion about the issues carried on for quite some while. It was suggested that it would be a really, really good idea for MCC to get its People from Planning, Highways and Rights of Ways all together to try and sort this problem out as it's a problem that SCC can't deal with. And it would be good if it could be sooner rather than later.

Police Report

Now either the police had been and gone before I got to the meeting – or they were out on the beat. The upshot of this was that I failed to get the Crime Report so I emailed Hilary Counsell later for the update. But looking at this report it was like déjà vu. Apart from the dates, it looked suspiciously like last month's crime report. Except there seems to have been even more horses roaming around the village. Leaving their evidence behind them.

Police Report

“ 24/02 – 10 ponies escaped from a field in Shirenewton. Enquiries are ongoing.

14/02 – There was a tree down near The Huntsman. Highways were informed and dealt with

13/02 – A car skidded into a tree on icy roads on the B4235. No serious injuries.

09/02 – There was a tree across the road at Pen Y Cae Mawr. Highways were informed and dealt.

02/02 –Reports of off road bikes in Wentwood Forest, Earlswood. Area search negative by the police.”

Planning

1 DC/2013/O1131 Lower Weyloed Barn, Shirenewton

Proposed extension to former barn converted into a dwelling

2 DC/2014/00045 Bluebell Lane Barn, Earlswood
Engineering operations to change ground levels for agricultural and rural purposes. Approval recommended

3)DC/2014/00035 Bluebell lane Barn, Eralswood,
Proposed detached garage. Approval Recommended/

4 DC/2014/00150 Dinwood Cottage. Wildlife pond.

Dear oh dear. As it happens, it wasn't clear whether this proposed pond would be within the Shirenewton boundaries – so sadly the cllrs were unable to discuss it.

5) Highways Act 1980 s 119 Public Path Diversion Order. Footpath No 459 (part) Footpath 51 (Yew Tree Cottage Usk Road, Shirenewton)

I again wished I'd stayed at home instead of leaving my friends to finish the bottle. No Objection. To the footpath that is.

Other issues. And I have to admit that my notes which are shaky at the best of times are almost impossible to decipher. But I think this is what I have written.

The Small Grant Pot

6 groups applied for monies from the 'Small Grant Pot'. So to make life easy, the council decided to divvy up the £300 equally so each group (St Peters Church, Shirenewton Brownies, the WI, Valley Chapel, Earlswood Hall and the History Soc) will be receiving £50

- Liz McCormack has resigned from SCC which means there are now two vacancies on the council.
- The Buckwell Farm Solar Panel Plan is now in limbo.
- The WI tree that was planted in 1973 is still where it was planted.
- The list of SCC assets include, among other things, 4 bus shelters, 2 seats, 1 picnic bench and part of a church wall. These have to be checked annually. To make sure they are still there.
- Councillors 's Attendance. Apparently they can miss five in a row – but not six.
- And I'm sorry but I think I must have fallen asleep during the discussion about 'model policies'

The Clerk's Report

Poor Land Field. Eventually... some news! But don't get excited. The solicitor has advised the council that the Land Registry needs 'statements' from residents about the status of this field. And not letters.

Continued on Page 22

Continued from page 21

Dobbin's head will soon be attached to its body. And the swings will be painted. And the chippings topped up. All by the end of April.

Despite emptying the bin on Mynyddbach Green for years and years and years, MCC deny any knowledge of this. Merlin Waste will now deal with it and it will cost £2.97 an empty.

The WW1 Memorial Clock on the Church is going to be fixed. Grants have been obtained by Charles Eickhoff (and me!) to get it mended, which will be particularly appropriate in this, the 100th anniversary of the start of the Great War.

The overgrown hedge on Ditch Hill House Lane has been trimmed finally.

Now that Carole Jones has left SCC who will be taking over the telephone kiosk, the WW1 commemorations and the Best kept village? Well... there wasn't exactly a stampede to take these projects on. 'Lower Lane' in Mynyddbach just might get a road name sign.

Graham Down's Issues

- Earlswood Hall might get some direction signs. MCC agree that signage from the Gaerllwyd crossroads is a tad shabby.
- The request from Weyloed lane residents to have improved signage has been agreed. Its going to be attached to a work schedule...?
- It seems there might still be obstructions on the footpath near Ridge House Stables and Graham Down will raise the issue with footpaths officers.
- There has been destruction of vergers and banks near Bluebell Lane from the use of heavy lorries going to Blackbird Farm

The next meeting will be Monday 7th April at The Rec at 7.30.

And absolutely no glasses of wine before hand.

But afterwards..... it's compulsory.

Chepstow Annual Walking Weekend



Saturday 12th - 14th April 2014

**Want to discover more about where you live
Grab your walking boots for 3 days of walking
action!**

**Guided walks led by experienced walk leaders
varying in length of 3 - 11 miles.**

**A 'one off fee' of £5 (Free for under 16's &
Walk4life) entitles you to as many walks as you
wish to take part in, parking in Chepstow with
transport to start/end points for linear walks.**

Full programme available end of February

**online at www.walksinchestow.co.uk
or Chepstow Tourist Information Centre**



**Poppy Rastall BSc (Hons), MSCh, SRCh, HCPC reg
Podiatrist / Chiropodist**

- General treatment – Nails, corns, callus
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- Sports Injury treatment and prevention
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**Call today for an appointment
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**Visit our Clinic or have a home visit
for only £20, our special offer for Parish Mag
readers only !**

**Fairlight Dental Practice,
Welsh Street, Chepstow, NP16 5LR**

Tredegar Arms Shirenewton
SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY LUNCHEON CLUB

23rd April, 28th May at 12.30

Curry Night 16th April

Bookings 01291 641274

tredegararmsshirenewton@hotmail.co.uk

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



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

Author: Newly launched on Kindle and Kindle Fire

“Noah and an Almighty Flood”

‘hilarious’ ‘laughed out loud’

GARDENING CORNER

With our youngest daughters' wedding scheduled for March 1st, St David's day, we thought it would be nice to decorate the church porch with daffodils. We always struggle here at Barn Farm to get a single daffodil flowering for this date. We usually do succeed with just one, literally, in a sheltered spot in the garden. So how to achieve a fine display? I ended up ordering three separate varieties from the wholesaler and planting these in 5 inch pots, before placing them in the smaller of our greenhouses, which has more insulation and is used for seed sowing etc. The propagating bench radiates warmth, so this should advance the growth a bit and we have the other greenhouse and tunnel that we could move the plants to if we needed to slow things down. With the relatively mild winter (I won't mention the rain!) it was a case of moving out, moving back, and then moving back out again, as we struggled to get the bulbs to flower just at the right time. In the end we had one and a half varieties come good. The best, 'February Gold' was in flower three weeks prior to the date, so living up well to its name. A spell outdoors kept them flowering for the special day, and in fact they continued for another four weeks after, just fading as we are about to move into April. They will now take pride of place outside and will be a reminder of that special day. With Chepstow male voice choir in attendance and the Welsh National anthem sung before the bride walked down the aisle it will be a St David's day that stays in the memory for ever.

Since that day the weather has turned in our favour a bit more, with the sun higher in the sky and a bit of warmth and dryness in the air I have at long last been able to get outside and start clearing some of the flower beds and the raised vegetable beds as well. In the vegetable patch there were broad beans and peas bursting to get out of their pots and water guttering and out into freedom. The beans were planted first before excavating a shallow trench about four inches wide for the peas. Then followed the skilful bit of trying to tip the guttering up enough to encourage the peas and their tangled roots to slide out of the guttering and into the trench, without landing in a big pile. The first being a bit older had stronger roots and slid out perfectly, forming a lovely neat row of peas. The second lot were not quite so well developed and ended up having to be 'manipulated' in order to form a neater row, but we got there in the end. Normally by now I have cut some pea sticks from one of my various tree jobs, but this year I haven't had any that were suitable. So it will be a trip round our field looking for some suitable hazel. I'll try to find some stems that are big enough to make some bean sticks out of as well, as I find these are much better for sweet peas to climb up than the smoother bamboo canes I use for the runner and French beans.

In the tunnel the apricots and nectarines have been in full flower over the last couple of weeks. In recent years we have had problems with cold weather and the bumble bees not being around when we needed them for pollination, but this year

I opened the tunnel door in the mornings and the 'dumbledoors' arrived in short order. They spent many happy hours bumbling from one flower to another so we keep the fingers crossed that they have done their stuff. This happened a few years ago, but then we had a very cold spell in late April which killed off all of the young fruitlets which then fell to the ground. Hopefully this won't happen this year, so we'll be keeping the fingers crossed. Out in the main garden I have already cleared two of our largest flower beds of weeds and dug over the soil. The flowers have responded well to the sunnier weather and are starting to grow at pace. There are a few gaps as usual, but fortunately I have a few extra plants available in the greenhouses and cold frame that can be planted out. There have been the odd trips to the garden centre to see if there is anything different around as well! In the propagating greenhouse things are almost at bursting point as the hot-bench is in full germination mode and the rest of the house is full of plants that have been pricked out to grow on in larger pots. The tomatoes are currently looking well and will be potted onto even larger pots to keep them growing vigorously. For some reason the sweet peppers have failed spectacularly, so I've had to buy another packet of seed and will try again. I had a packet of cucumber seed as a 'freebie' and have sown these even though I have some grafted plants ordered for delivery in May. They have germinated well, although I usually end up losing some before they grow to any size as a result of stem rot. Elsewhere in the greenhouse there are the early calabrese which are doing well, next year's Brussels sprouts, plenty of salad crops and more broad beans, as well as the first early French beans. The latter are some seed I had left over from last year, but these haven't germinated well, so think I will bin these and start again with some fresh seed purchased during the winter. The shallots that I planted in pots to beat the wet are growing well and will be planted out at the first opportunity. The onion sets have been delivered this week so these will also get planted out as soon as conditions permit. In the small tunnel (a new addition last year) the over-wintering lettuce have been providing pickings for the last 3 weeks, and there is enough to keep us going for several weeks to come, by which time the 'cut and come again' lettuce leaves in the big tunnel will be in full flow. I planted the first early potatoes in this small tunnel as well and earthed these up immediately. The first green shoots are already showing above the ground, so it will be a case of watching the weather each night for a frost warning, so I can shoot out and cover with fleece as necessary.

I was getting worried about the bees, as there seemed to be limited movement earlier in the year (bees will always fly when the sun comes out, even on cold days, to go to the toilet!). The better weather though encouraged the remaining two hives to fly and allowed me to open them up and check quickly that they were OK. One hive has done better than the other, with ample food supplies left, so I quickly fed the other and noted that both queen's were laying, so shut them back down again for a little longer. Still, there is more potting on to do and the wind is blowing cold outside, so off to the greenhouse to keep warm and catch up with the chores.

Happy gardening until next month. Steve and Felicity Hunt.

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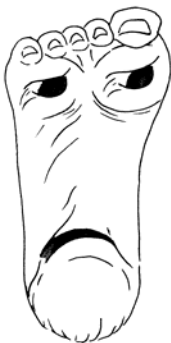
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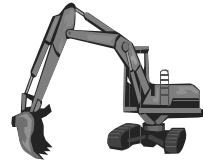
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NERYS'S NATTY NOSH

No one knows if King Henry VIII really did knight a rib of beef by touching it with his sword and saying 'Arise Sir Loin', but that is one of the stories about the origin of the name of the largest and most popular roasting joint. In England, roast beef is the signature dish which holds cultural and nationalistic meaning to England. For a good roast choose a joint from the back, the rib, fillet or sirloin.



Roast Sirloin of beef

Serves 6

Ingredients.

- 2 tbsp. vegetable oil or beef fat
- 1-1.5kg/2lbs-3.5lbs sirloin of beef joint
- 1 glass red wine or Madeira
- 400g stock or can beef consommé or beef stock

Method

- 1** Heat the oven to 200C/fan 180C/gas 6.
- 2** Heat the oil or fat in a large flameproof roasting tin in the oven for 5 minutes. Season the beef all over.
- 3 Carefully** place the joint **fat-** side down in the roasting tin and put it on the hob. Sizzle to release some of the fat, then turn the beef in the fat to seal and colour it all over, about five minutes.
- 4** The joint can now be roasted, fat-side up, allowing 10-15 mins per 450g (approx. 1lb) for medium-rare, 15-20 mins ,for medium, 20-25 mins for medium-well and 25-30 mins for well done.
- 5** Turn the joint halfway through its cooking time for an even roast.
- 6** Once roasted, remove the beef from the pan and leave to one side, loosely cover with foil, to **rest** for 15-20 minutes.
- 7** Meanwhile, to make the gravy, pour off any excess fat from the roasting tin, then put the tin on a medium heat on top of the stove. Once it begins to sizzle, pour in the red wine, allowing it to boil rapidly until almost completely evaporated.
- 8** Tip in the consommé or stock and allow to simmer for 4-5 mins.
- 9** Carve the beef into slices, offering the gravy separately.

Tips

- 1** For a thicker gravy, mix 1-2 tsp corn flour with a little water (or my favourite is Madeira wine), add a little of the gravy to the corn flour and mix. Whisk the corn flour mixture slowly into the gravy. Boil to thicken.
- 2** Par boiled potatoes around the joint make delicious roast potatoes.
- 3** Serve with Yorkshire pudding, mustard or horseradish sauce and your choice of vegetables.

Enjoy!

Nerys's Natty Nosh



The earliest publication of Trifle was in 1596. The recipe contained thick cream, flavoured with sugar, ginger and rosewater. Sixty years later, milk was introduced and a thick custard was formed, which was poured over alcohol soaked bread. Gelatine was added in the eighteenth century. Traditional trifle does not contain jelly. The beauty of the humble trifle is its versatility. It can be sweet, spicy, citrusy, fruity, aromatic, or tippy! It's such good fun experimenting with a host of different flavours to suit one's taste. It's a process of building a delicious tower of texture and aroma, or simply by using what's in the store cupboard.

Base can be made using any form of cake that soaks up liquid:- Swiss roll, gingerbread, chocolate, coffee, vanilla, lemon, spicy fruit cake, sponge fingers or even Brioche.

Liquid can be fruit juice, sweet sherry, port, Madeira wine, Galliano, Amaretto, whisky, brandy or rum.

Fruit is optional, try using whatever is in season that complements the base. e.g. With a spicy fruit cake, add sweetened cranberries or cherries.

Custard can be made or bought. Flavours can be added to transform the taste of the custard. Melted chocolate, fruit puree or essences change the appearance and tang of the dish. Leave the custard overnight to settle. To prevent the formation of skin, sprinkle a little castor sugar over the surface of the custard. Cover with cling film.

Topping Traditionally whipped cream covers the top. It can be piped or spread over the custard.

Decoration complement the trifle by decorating the surface with a flavour and texture that enhances the trifle.

Examples of different trifles:

Vanilla sponge, sherry, strawberries, vanilla custard and dry roasted almond flakes.

Gingerbread, coffee or whisky, chocolate custard, whipped cream and chocolate decorations.

Lemon drizzle cake, lemon curd custard and whipped cream, chocolate flakes .

Coffee cake, Kahlua, chocolate custard, whipped cream and walnuts.

Meringue, raspberries, custard, whipped cream and roasted hazelnuts.

These are just examples of what can be made using a traditional recipe and revamping the ingredients. Different flavours complement each other and can be married to make a happy combination. Everyone's taste is different.

Enjoy!

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DIARY DATES

April	Event	Location
3	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
4	Chepstow Male Voice Choir RNLI Concert	Shirenewton Church
5	Messiah Chepstow Choral Socty	St Mary's Priory Church Chepstow
7	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
10	Shirenewton WI	Recreation Hall
12 to 14	Chepstow Walking Weekend	
14	Shirenewton Local History Socty.	Recreation Hall
16	Curry Night	Tredegar Arms
23	Community Lunch	Tredegar Arms
24	Shirenewton Local History Socty.	Treowen House nr Monmouth
26	Chepstow Agricultural Society Coffee Morning	Beaulieu House Shirenewton
May	Event	Location
1	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
8	Shirenewton WI	Recreation Hall
12	Shirenewton Local History Socty.	Recreation Hall
27	Shirenewton Local History Socty.	Cornwall House Monmouth
28	Community Lunch	Tredegar Arms

	Saint Thomas a Beckett Shirenewton	Sunday Services	Start 10.00 a.m. Unless stated otherwise
Date	Service	Readers	Sides-persons
6 th April	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Bob Grattan Mark Broughton	Bob Grattan Mark Broughton
13 th April	Palm Sunday	Gillian Lambert Janet Horton	Gillian Lambert Janet Horton
20 th April	Easter Day	Sally Saysell Andrew Baker	Claire Lewis Allan Saysell
27 th April	Second Sunday of Easter	Shan Henshall Joanne Tomlins	Shan Henshall Joanne Tomlins
4 th May	Third Sunday of Easter	James Leney Cynthia Smith	Claire Lewis Cynthia Smith
11 th May	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Bob Grattan Wendy Baker	Bob Grattan Wendy Baker
18 th May	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Janet Horton Bill Clark	Janet Horton Bill Clark
25 th May	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Gillian Lambert Margaret Lock	Gillian Lambert Margaret Lock
1 st June	Seventh Sunday of Easter	Janet Horton Bill Clark	Janet Horton Bill Clark
8 th June	PENTECOST	Mark Broughton Jane Smith-Haddon	Mark Broughton Jane Smith-Haddon
15 th June	Trinity Sunday	Bob Grattan Bill Clark	Bob Grattan Bill Clark
22 nd June	First Sunday after Trinity	James Leney Diane Marlow	Claire Lewis Diane Marlow
29 th June	Peter and Paul Apostles	Wendy Baker Frances Grey	Wendy Bake Claire Lewis

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Deadline for May 2014 issue is 9:00am 21st April 2014