

Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

Dec 2014

Jan 2015



Sketch by Barbara Davies

Price: 50p

FROM THE VICARAGE

Dear People of the Parish,

From one season of remembrance to another, it seems. At the time of composing this piece, the exhaustive arrangements for Remembrance Sunday have run their course. All the churches in the group have, hopefully, paid the occasion due gravitas with special services and, in addition, have serviced acts of remembrance within the community by offering (usually at the local war memorial) special ceremonies to mark the occasion.

Indeed, every Sunday we recreate something special when we strive to 'do this in remembrance of me' at the Holy Eucharist.

As I have said repeatedly, remembrance is of value only if it equips us to move forward with a new vision. Any other attitude runs the risk of locking us in the past and confining us to the uncertain whims of nostalgia.

I would suggest that much the same is true of our attitude towards Christmas. In many ways, of course, it is a time for remembrance. The original Christmas account has a strong historical background – but it requires a penetrating theological interpretation as well.

It is not enough to be satisfied with the folk-religion aspect of the season or to be content with the 'dumbing down' of the Christmas message. The easy option is to think that the time is all about jollity with family and friends, buying (literally!) into the banal view of the 'winter celebration' as often portrayed on TV and to become fuzzy minded with sentimentality centred around rosy-cheeked kiddies cavorting about on a frosty morn.

I find it sad when Christmas, an event celebrating the coming of God coming directly into the world, plays 'second fiddle' to routine domestic concerns. Many – including those who would claim the title Christian – seem to think it adequate to offer 'family commitments' as the reason why they opt out of this time to reflect upon the staggering assertion before them. It would appear that some flimsy 'feel-good' factor wins out against something of immense and long-term importance.

There is another more serious side to Christmas. It speaks of 'light shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it'. It speaks of well-grounded hope, of overcoming human frailty, of things that endure for eternity. There is a dark side to the Christmas message (the predicted suffering of Christ) but also the promise of ultimate triumph over adversity. Such considerations cannot be conveyed in a tinselled 'Yuletide Greetings' card or stuffed into a garish festive stocking.

For the Christian, and among the other deliberations advanced during this time of the year, is the claim that God gave his most precious gift – his Son – for the chaos in which humankind found itself struggling. Note, as has often been said, that God did not send a committee, instead he sent an individual. He knew that, at the end of day, we relate most profoundly to the individual call and example. Organizational structure, invariably 'the committee' is, in many ways, secondary. Like the chosen disciples, the local and international Christian Church functions to a great extent on a committee basis – look no further than your PCC if you want an example! However, it is when people are freed to act as responsible individuals that positive and lasting change can occur.

May this Christmas be, for all of us, a time of corporate relaxation, personal fulfilment and the opportunity to experience the true significance of peace. Then we can begin to have an understanding of what is stated in the church service book: *'The peace of God, which passes all understanding...'*. This is not just a claim made in respect of Christmas, it applies to all situations and to eternity.

With every good wish and blessing.

Julian E LI White

(Rector & Vicar of Mathern, Mounton, St. Pierre and Shirenewton)

200 CLUB WINNERS FOR NOVEMBER

1st Prize	Simon Rubatch
2nd Prize	Simon Roland
3rd Prize	Sally Saysell
4th Prize	Tony Clark

MAP MEETING.

On Friday 5th December the PCC will be hosting a Mission Action Plan meeting in the Church room at 7.30 p.m. This meeting is open to everyone in the Parish, and is the opportunity for you to have your say about how you would like to see the Church develop its mission in Shirenewton over the next five years and beyond. The PCC appreciates the tremendous support the Church receives from those who do not attend Church regularly, and would like to hear your views. So please come and discuss the future of YOUR Church.



Advent Coffee Morning and Fair



Sunday 7th December

Shirenewton Church Room 11:00 am

In aid of 'Abraham's Children in Crisis

Helping Jewish, Muslim and Christian children in Gaza

<http://acincrisis.weebly.com/>



Carols Around the Village



Christmas Tree

with Chepstow Town Band

Sunday 14th December

6:30 pm in the Tredegar Arms car park

(in church if inclement)

Collection for 'Abraham's Children in Crisis'



Christmas Praise !



Sunday 21st December

Shirenewton Church - 10:00 am

Mince Pies in the Church Room afterwards.

Join us at this informal carol service



'Carols and Christingles'



Christmas Eve

Wednesday 24th December

Shirenewton Church 4:00 pm

Mince Pies and Mulled Wine in the Church Room
afterwards

Bring your children to this family service, hear the
Christmas story and take home a Christingle candle



Midnight Mass



Christmas Eve

Shirenewton Church 11.30 pm



Christmas Day Morning Service



Shirenewton Church 10:00 am

Children are encouraged to bring one of their Christmas
presents to surprise the Vicar with!

Events and News from St Peters, Newchurch



The Autumn Fayre held on Saturday, 1st November, was extremely successful and raised £1800. Many thanks to all of you who came along and supported!

The Carol Service Sunday 21st December

The Carol Service will be held on Sunday, 21st December at 2.30pm. Come and sing carols old and new. Young and old are all welcome. As usual it will incorporate the nativity play with a difference. Last year it was live animals – this year's effort remains a surprise so far..... and afterwards homemade seasonal refreshments will be available.

Christmas Day

On Christmas Day the service will be held at 11.15am and all are welcome.

EARLSWOOD AND NEWCHURCH MEMORIAL HALL

Memorial Service

The service was led by Rev. John Waters

Roll of Honour by Suzy Lenthal

Wreath laying by Sapper J. McLean

Many thanks to all those who helped

EARLSWOOD VALLEY METHODIST CHAPEL

CAROL SERVICE

3 pm

SUNDAY 14th DECEMBER 2014

Come and join us for this festive service
and afterwards
enjoy a mince pie and cup of tea

EARLSWOOD HOPE CHAPEL

CAROL SERVICE

3pm

Sunday 21st December 2014

All are welcome and afterwards
there are refreshments

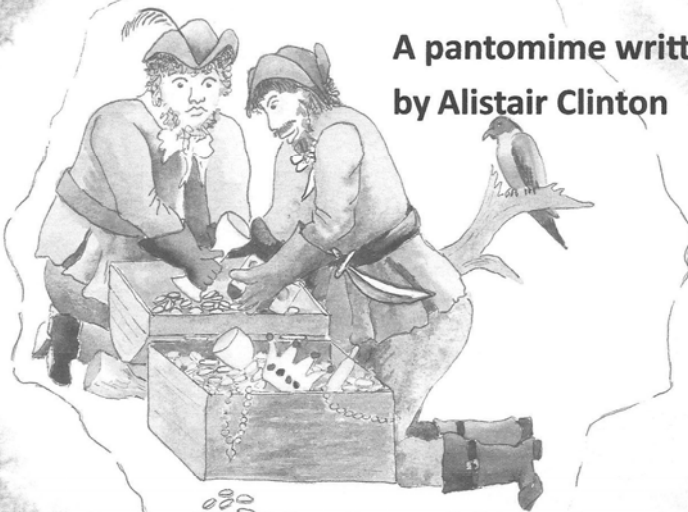
Shirenewton Operatic & Drama Society

presents



Treasure Island

**A pantomime written
by Alistair Clinton**



At Earlswood Hall for three nights only:

Thursday 22nd—Saturday 24th January 2015

Tickets available from Alison on 01291 641739

Prices: Thurs £6/£4, Fri & Sat £7/£5

ALPHA 2015

We (Churches Together) are gearing up for our next Alpha Course which starts on Tuesday 13th January 2015 at The Drill Hall, Lower Church Street, Chepstow, NP16 5HJ. The big screen will be used to show new Alpha talks and modern song videos from various Christian ministries. The same message, just a different packaging.

This is a hugely exciting project and the first time we have run Alpha outside of church or home locations. We will be handing out invitations at all the carol services in December and the Street Pastors will also be handing out invitations to the youngsters on the street, especially at Christmas and New Year.

Do we need help? Yes we do. The logistics of running a course in this type of venue are challenging, not least from the food aspect. We will be advertising in churches as usual but also around town with posters and banners. We have a website and a Facebook page and will be investigating Twitter and Instagram Apps. If you regularly "tweet" please get in touch! We need some expert input! The first evening will be setting the tone for the rest of the course and is not being run in the same way as previous years. We would respectfully ask church members to come only if they are bringing someone who is interested in doing the course and wants to know what is involved.

Contacts:

Isobel Mead - all general enquiries: 01291 620409 isobel@alphasewales.org.uk
Tony Williams - Facebook/Twitter/Instagram: 01291 625555
tony@alphasewales.org.uk

Website: www.alphasewales.org.uk

SHIRENEWTON SCHOOL — IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Meeting for parents of 2015 Reception intake at Shirenewton School

It has come to the attention of a large number of local parents that the spaces available at Shirenewton Primary School are going to be heavily over subscribed for the 2015 intake.

As a group of concerned parents within the catchment area, we have arranged a meeting with the LEA on the evening of 18th Dec at 18:30 in the Shirenewton Church Hall to discuss this issue.

If you are planning on putting Shirenewton school as your first choice on the local authority forms, please come along to the meeting to discuss this issue.

If you would like further information, please email:

Shirenewton2015applications@gmail.com or join our facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Shirenewton2015>: or twitter: @shirenewton2015

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

Number two son briefly returned from university to attend a local party and deigned to visit his parents (lift services to and from railway station, food and clothes washing services and so on were required). During one of his lucid moments he explained that the wifi in his rented house wasn't reaching all bedrooms and mobile phones couldn't connect. Now it just happened that I had a spare access point in the office so I set it up for him and sent him off. Worked perfectly. Mind you, I had to call and ask him. Apparently he really had been meaning to call and say thanks ;-)

The following weekend we went to see number one son's new flat in London. Guess what. The wifi in the front room didn't reach the back bedrooms. An access point was clearly required. But also a couple of powerlines to connect the access point to the router (via the mains electricity). A quick visit to ebay sorted out the all the necessary kit for about £20 delivered!

Then the following weekend we went to see my sister in Brighton, her big problem, the wifi in the front room didn't reached the back of the house. Clearly another access point was required. They had the powerlines so ebay sorted us out an access point for about £7 delivered! Three in as many weekends! It suddenly seemed that this is a common problem!

Now I know all about access points because wifi doesn't travel very well through the 18" Welsh stone walls we have in our house. So I have three access points broadcasting wifi throughout the house. So, if you have a similar problem it's easy to solve.

There are a couple of options. Purchase a wifi repeater from somewhere like Amazon (via the church website of course) and these are basically, as I understand it, plug and play – no set-up required. All they do act like a relay, picking up the existing wifi signal and boosting it. So they are not an 'access point' but a repeater. Personally I have no experience of these although I know one of my colleagues is using one very successfully.

Now, of course, the problem comes where you want to extend the wifi to an area of the house than doesn't have a wifi signal to boost. The answer to this is you need to use an 'access point' and connect it to the router. An access point is a device which as like a 'mini' router in that it is connected to your router by a 'hard'

or 'soft' wire (see below) and gives you a separate wifi network which uses the same internet connection. You can have as many access points as you need. So, if you've ever visited my house, you will see a little box of flashing lights on top of the fish tank. That's the access point and it provides the wifi network Rock_House_Downstairs. Now, as it happens, I took advantage when we were building an extension to run network wires around the house so this access point is 'hard wired' to the router. If you don't have that luxury, the same effect can be achieved with 'soft' wiring via powerlines. Powerlines are those gizmos which convert your mains electricity wires into the equivalent of a data network cable – whilst still allowing them to undertake their main function of providing electrical power.

So, you plug a powerline into the mains near your router and link it with an RJ45 cable (standard network cable) to your router. Then, where you want your wifi via the access point, plug the other powerline into the mains and link it with an RJ45 cable to the access point. Set up your access point and you are away to the races. It certainly made two sons and a sister very happy people.

You can get powerlines for around £20 on Amazon (and, if you are lucky, even cheaper via an ebay auction) and access points for around £30 on Amazon (and, if you are lucky, even cheaper via an ebay auction – I managed to buy one for 99p plus £2.80 - delivery = £3.79 delivered). There are lots of sites explaining how to set-up access points on the web – some better than others. So, this isn't rocket science and, if you have the problem, it's relatively easy to solve! BTW: if you try the above and get stuck setting up your access point do let me know as I've been meaning to write a simple guide on how to set-up an access point and it will prompt me to do that.

Anyway, it will be Christmas soon and that means buying stuff. Please do your gift purchasing via the shopping portal: www.shirenewtonshop.com

Happy Christmas
David Cornwell
Rock House, Mynyddbach, NP16 6RP
webmaster@shirenewtonchurch.com

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Planning applications considered at the November meeting

1. DC/2014/01061 'Montrose', Earlswood, Replacement dwelling.

Council noted that pre-planning advice had been sought and taken by the applicant; that the existing property has no architectural merit; that the footprint of the new build is slightly smaller than existing and is in line with Mon CC policy; that no objections have been made from nearby residents. Recommendation:

Approval

2. DC/2014/01185 Land adjacent to Clearview Court

Reserved Matters application for 7 no. dwellings and associated works on land adjoining Clearview Court granted outline permission under application DC/2009/01061, including details to discharge Condition 1 (Reserved Matters) and Condition 4 (Boundary Treatments).

- Council recognised that outline planning permission for 7 dwellings had already been granted in 2011.

- Attention was drawn to the previous application, noted above, where the applicants spokesperson gave assurance to residents that consultation would take place in order to minimise adverse effects on neighbouring properties, this does not appear to have taken place.

- The established use of the footpath to the western boundary was noted, as was several residents requests to retain access to the footpath. House numbers 7, 8 and 9 have used this as a rear access for a number of years. 'Ballintober' has deeds dated 1964 illustrating access to this property from the proposed site. In 1993 a Statutory Declaration was signed to give vehicular access to hard standing at the rear of the property.

- The number and type of street lighting should be as unobtrusive as possible, in keeping with the rural location.

- Street furniture, hedges, trees etc should not be allowed to impede vehicles using the existing drive shared by three properties located to the west of the plot.

3. DC/2014/01204 Holly Cottage, Shirenewton

Proposed two storey extension to existing two storey house.

Council noted that the proposed extension was in keeping with, and enhanced the existing property. Also that there were no objections from neighbours.

Recommendation: Approval

Extracts from the minutes

Police Report - There were a number of minor incidents, but police enquiries are ongoing into a break in and theft from a vehicle at the Recreation Hall, also on the same day, a suspicious vehicle in the Tredegar Arms Car Park, from which the registration number had been reported.

Update on traffic issues - County Councillor G Down fed back information from his meeting with Highways officers on 9.10.14 as follows:

- Regarding the request for a 20mph speed restriction through Shirenewton, monitoring has shown that traffic travels at around 30mph, this is to be reviewed.
- Officers were reluctant to put in a 20mph restriction in Mynyddbach as they felt the topography of the road reduced the speed of traffic, but will put in measurement devices to check.
- B4235 - measurements have shown that the speed of traffic is around 40mph, which makes a limit of 40mph achievable. Officers are to contact the police to investigate whether they would enforce this speed limit.
- noise monitoring - Wpc Thorpe confirmed that no noise monitoring equipment is available from local forces. A meeting has been arranged with the Traffic Officer next week to look at the way forward. Speed monitoring will take place in spring 2015.

Two Mynyddbach residents attended the meeting and expressed concerns about the ongoing traffic issues on the B4235, ie. Reducing the speed limit to 40mph; noise monitoring; increasing police enforcement of speed limits, illegal exhaust systems on motorbikes and dangerous driving.

Finance - Council considered a request from Shirenewton Local History Society for a contribution towards a three day WW1 Exhibition to be held in the Church Hall in April 2015. Council agreed to fund the £75 charge for room hire for the event.

Community Council Website - the website has been developed over recent months by two Community Councillors and is available on <http://www.shirenewtoncc.org.uk>, it is not finalised as there is more information to be added but residents are encouraged to take the time to access the website and e-mail the Clerk to let the Council know their thoughts on the current information available and any suggestions for useful additions to the website.

Dates of next meetings: Monday 1 December 2014 and Monday 5 January 2015 at 7.30 pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

**Councillors wish all residents of the community a very merry
Christmas and
a happy, healthy New Year.**

Mobile Police Station visits during November:

Thursday 4th December, 9.30 - 10.30 am, Tredegar Arms Car Park

Sunday 7th December, 9.30 - 11 am, Great Barnets Wood Car Park

Find full 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

Website: <http://www.shirenewtoncc.org.uk>

SHIRENEWTON WI NOVEMBER 2014

November a month for reflection before moving onto winter festivities, this year more so with the milestones of 100 years since the beginning of WW1 and 70 years since D Day. Adding to these todays conflicts and there are few unaffected or unstirred.

We welcomed Mr Williams Clarke as our speaker on the 13th November, he was director of the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall from 2000-2007 and had served in the Royal Engineers from 1969-1995. Mr Clarke led us through what remembrance is, what it entails, how it started and why it continues growing stronger and not diminishing.

Although remembrance services and the date of 11th November and the time 11am come from the 1st world war, it now centres thoughts for all conflicts since, providing a strong focus for everyone.

Mr Clarke told us how the Cenotaph (empty tomb in Greek) started as a wooden structure for soldiers to march past in 1919, by 1921 it had been rebuilt as we see it today in Whitehall. In 1921 the first service at the Cenotaph with a two minute silence and then parade past took place, also that year a reunion took place in the Royal Albert Hall with the Prince of Wales in attendance. After the reunion the Prince of Wales followed by the audience marched to the Cenotaph by torch light joined by thousands gathered outside. Since then every year (except 1940-1944) the Royal British Legion has organised the Festival of Remembrance in the Royal Albert Hall.

There are now two performances, one in the afternoon and one in the evening which ends at around 9pm, after which there is a reception for participants and guests. Each year the festivals theme is provided by current events, the presence of a large screen allowing the audience to see the footage shown to the television audience. The screen was first used the year that the Queen was in South Africa, it allowed Her Majesty to give a message to everyone whilst being unable to be present in person.

Mr Clarke told us that everything has to be worked out in great detail since there is very little rehearsal time available before the service. The Royal Albert Hall is only available from the Friday to set everything up and practice, then after the Saturday service everything has to be removed.

The festival and remembrance, services, with the two minute silence, allows everyone to fulfil the promise to remember those who have fought for all of us Everyone found Mr Clarks talk very interesting and informative. We gained a lot of information.



Our next meeting will be on December 11th at the Huntsman for a festive get together and Christmas meal.

We will be back at the Rec. hall Thursday 8th January 2015 for our first meeting in the Centennial Year of the WI movement in Britain.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the members of Shirenewton WI.

FAIRTRADE NEWS

Even though I've been using (and trying to sell!) goods from Traidcraft for about 20 years I still try to purchase fairly-traded goods from other stores, particularly supermarkets, where I hope my purchases will, in a small way, help persuade profit-driven businesses to continue to stock ethically produced goods. Many of these products bear the Fairtrade logo, some with sound ethical practices do not.



As I have said before, it is harder, but not impossible for the consumer to monitor the real validity of ethical claims if they are not guaranteed by the Fairtrade mark. The waters are further muddied when a well respected Fairtrade company is taken over by an organization which is, perhaps, less salubrious. Green and Black's is perhaps the text-book example: one of the earliest successful Fairtrade companies, first Cadbury and then Kraft now own it. Kraft is the second largest food company in the world! Rachel's Organic, a Welsh company that has become a British institution is now owned by Lactalis, a group with a self-confessed commitment to large scale milk production in all its forms. (Please do some quick research if you are not familiar with (what I consider) the horrors of mechanized factory-style milk production!). Then the Body Shop, such a beacon of positivity in the cut-throat world of cosmetics, is now owned by L'Oreal of course. Well, I suppose the moral is 'Check the label' (and then google it for info if in doubt!) Or you could always buy something from Traidcraft!

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

P.S. Some of you may remember my daughter Tash. Her publisher has just released her first book - a novella (all proceeds to charity) It's a Young Adult Science fiction adventure available only as an e-book from Amazon. It's called Slam. It is a prequel to the first book of her trilogy which will be published in the summer.

THE BELLS, THE BELLS

Shirenewton ringer invited to Australia

On 6th October Shirenewton bell ringer Pip Penney boarded a plane at Heathrow bound for Australia. Pip had been invited to go on an all-expenses paid trip by The Australian and New Zealand Association of Bell Ringers [ANZAB]. The purpose of the trip was to train a whole new generation of bell ringing teachers for Australia and New Zealand.

Pip has been developing an “evidence based” approach to teaching bell ringing based on her experience of teaching ringers at Shirenewton since 2009.

The teaching of bell ringing comes in two parts. First, a course of lessons undertaken individually to learn to control the bell. This is known as “bell handling” and is taught on a bell with the clapper tied so no sound is emitted to annoy the neighbours! Once the ringer can safely control the bell the second stage, ringing with other people in the band begins. This stage begins with rounds, where the bells sound one by one down the scale. As competence grows the ringer moves on to more complicated permutations known as “methods”. There are thousands of methods which can be rung and some of them are complex in their structure. Learning methods can continue for a life time! It usually takes a new ringer about two years to learn their first simple method. Shirenewton bell ringers as a band can ring about 6 methods together, although individual members can ring many more.

Pip has written two books on the subject and with others established the Association of Ringing Teachers [ART] in 2012, of which she is the current Chairman.

The teacher training courses were held in Adelaide and Wellington. Demand was high with approximately 10% of ANZAB ringers attending. In Adelaide the courses had to be doubled up to meet the demand.

During the trip two tutors were trained for ANZAB, leaving them in apposition of being able to train their own future teachers.

STARGAZING



In the evening, to the southeast the constellation Orion is particularly impressive – three bright stars make up his belt; two stars are his shoulders, and two more make his legs. The bright blue-white star in Orion's right leg is Rigel. The bright star at Orion's left shoulder is Betelgeuse (pronounce it "beetle-juice" and you'll be close enough). Betelgeuse means "the armpit of the giant"! Betelgeuse has a reddish colour – it is a vast red super-giant star, large enough to contain the entire path of the Earth round the Sun. Because massive stars burn their fuel at a much faster rate, Betelgeuse has an estimated lifetime of only 5 to 10 million years. This can be compared with our Sun's lifetime of about 10 billion years – bigger is not always better! One of the fainter stars in Orion, with the very romantic name of HD 38529, lies just below Betelgeuse. Careful observation of the star shows it has a slight wobble and this is accounted for by the presence of a planet. The star's planet is approximately 12 times the size of our planet Jupiter.

In the evening sky, just after sunset, the slightly orange coloured planet Mars can be seen in the south-west. The crescent moon is just above Mars on Christmas Day. Later in the evening, the bright planet Jupiter lies to the east. On the 11th the waning gibbous Moon is close to Jupiter.

In the early morning Jupiter has moved to the south-west. The planet Saturn which is slightly yellow in colour is low in the south-east, and is joined by the crescent moon on the 19th.

You may see some shooting stars on 13th and 14th December. These are the Geminid meteor shower. They should appear in the eastern sky later in the evening.

21st December is the Winter Solstice, our shortest day, often called mid-winter and a good time to take a trip to Australia where it is the longest day!

WHIST DRIVES

Once more our numbers went up a little in November and we had four and a half tables. 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. Our next Drive is our Christmas Special on the 4th December but we are going to have a rest during the rest of the winter months. We will resume on the 7th May 2015 and continue on the first Thursday of each month until the end of the year – we would love to see some more new faces.



Auriol Horton. 01291 641844

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The society's Annual General Meeting took place on Tuesday, 28th October, at the Huntsman Hotel, Shirenewton. Our chairman Dr Ivor Cavill gave his report on our years activities, three well attended visits to local historic houses (that are not usually open to the public) eight meetings with speakers held at the Huntsman Hotel and of course our Annual Dinner, eleven archive meeting at the Recreational Hall, with this years special event of installing and unveiling a blue plaque in honour of Edward Joseph Lowe. A vote of thanks was given to our outgoing secretary, Shirley Bonsey. It was declared a very busy and successful year for our society.

Election of officers and committee took place, a new secretary was voted in, Mr Bob O'Keefe and two new committee members, Dr David Thomas and Mr Keith Tayton were welcomed to our happy band!

Patently waiting in the wings was Mr Roger James to talk to us about 'Mr Rolls & Mr Royce, a very interesting illustrated talk on these two men.

Dates for your Diary:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Monday, 8 th December | Archive Meeting at the Recreational Hall, Shirenewton, 2.00 pm –5.00 pm |
| Tuesday, 16 th December | A visit to St Pierre Church, with a tour, talk and mulled wine and mince pies. |
| Saturday, 27 th December | A walk up to Grey Hill to see the sun rise aligned with the standing stones on the winter solstice. Meeting at the Woodland Tavern car park at 7.30 am to see the sun rise at approximately 8.10 am, returning to the Woodland Tavern for breakfast at 9.00 am. |

- Monday, 26th January 2015 Meeting at the Recreational Hall at 7.00 to view new acquisitions to our archive and at this meeting we will have two telescopes set up to view the night sky. This is following our theme of Edward Joseph Lowe who was very interested in astronomy and who had planned to build an observatory in the grounds of Shirenewton Hall. Please note new date & day from your programme.
- Monday, 9th February 2015 Archive Meeting at the Recreational Hall, Shirenewton 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm
- Tuesday, 23th February 2015 Annual Dinner at the Huntsman Hotel, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm
After dinner speaker Mr Keith Tayton , the subject of his talk will be 'The History of the Post Office in Shirenewton'

Everyone welcome at the above events

Further information on our web-site: www.shirenewtonlocalhistorysociety.co.uk

I'm sure there will be something of interest for everyone in our new programme and everyone is welcome to join us at our meetings.



Chepstow Choral Society

Conducted by Graham Bull

presents

A Christmas Celebration!

a selection of festive music & readings

with

The Dell Primary School Singing Group

Conducted by Hannah Adams & Lizzie Peckham

Organ – Peter Cook

Piano – Marjorie Duerden

Sunday, 14th December, 2014

St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow, 3.00pm

Tickets £8 (U18s & students FREE) from choir members, Chepstow Bookshop, on the door or tel. (01291) 623310, 620414

CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd – Music Centre Wales



and Making Music – The National Federation of Music Societies Registered charity no. 1127098

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CARERS WANTED

Contact Sadie or Hywel Lougher

GARDENING CORNER

With the rain pouring down outside I decided that the best thing to do was to get on and order the seeds ready for next year. I had three catalogues that I intended to choose from and the intention was to try and find the best value I could. The one was offering basic seed varieties such as spring onion and turnip at 0.99p pack, so couldn't really go wrong with them. The rest had the usual mix of new and tried and tested varieties so I selected some from each, picking the cheapest where I could. In all I still managed to rack up a bill of over £160, but as this provides us with most of our vegetables for the entire year I guess that isn't too bad.

It is now too wet outside to do anything that involves the soil, so it's time to carry on with all the clearing up jobs. There is a lot to do, as work continues to be very busy and we simply do not get the time to do everything that we would like. In the small tunnel I need to clear away all the remains of the tomato crop and hopefully get the soil covered in a good layer of manure ready for next year. I have got some calabrese plants in pots which need a home, so I may plant this tunnel up with these. They should over-winter pretty well, so long as we don't have really hard weather that is, but as always, that is the gamble that you take. The reward of fresh, excellent flavoured green vegetables in May is well worth the effort. I also have some purple sprouting plants that should have gone into the ground in August, but they never did make it. I will probably chuck these in the ground as well – they may come to something, so again it's worth a try. In the large tunnel there are more tomato plants to remove, and once removed the soil will get a good covering of manure. This will stay on the soil until next spring, when I will decide what to plant. The peppers are, remarkably still carrying fruits, especially the 'hot' variety. We will pick these this week and then gently heat them in a litre of extra virgin olive oil. The heat from the chillies will infuse into the oil, and once done, the mix will be filtered off and the oil bottled for our very own hot chilli oil – and believe me it is hot! A bit of that drizzled over a pasta dish or pizza certainly adds a bit of extra oomph!

We have planted a few sweet William flowers in part of a raised bed in an effort to provide some nice early scented blooms. We are still picking the occasional strawberry off the perpetual fruiting French variety maris de bois. They are planted in very large grow bags, but I want to take them out of the bags and plant them in one of the main beds. Unfortunately the peppers are still in the way, so I need to harvest the last of the fruits and clean the ground as soon as I can. This will allow the strawberries to establish well and hopefully fruit for next spring onwards. The blueberry plants have all changed leaf colour and we have now stood these outside on an empty raised bed. We keep them inside all summer as

the blackbirds just cannot leave the ripening fruits alone. We have several varieties and like the strawberries we now manage to have at least one picking a week from June through to October. They will stand outside until they flower and the bees have done

their job with pollinating. Once the fruits start to swell, the plants will be moved back indoors again. We left them a little too long last year and even though they were nowhere near even changing colour, the birds got in and made a right mess, knocking probably a third of the berries off the plants. So lessons learnt – we'll be earlier next year! The last job in the bog tunnel will be to prune the nectarine and apricot plants. The apricots in particular need a good thinning out to leave a mixture of new and old growth.

In the big greenhouse we have started to remove all the old cucumber and courgette plants. We tend to over-winter perennial plants both on the raised bed and also on the timber shelving. As it has been so wet recently we have been unable to plant out the new daffodil bulbs, so instead we have planted these into pots and will bring them on in the greenhouse until the worst of the winter weather is behind us. We took a few cuttings from some perennial plants at the end of September, and left these to develop roots in the small propagating greenhouse. Although neglected for several weeks they have nearly all rooted and have now been moved into pots to continue to develop for the next few months. Outside in the raised beds the garlic that was planted in early October are now growing strongly. A hard frost will cut the the top growth back a bit, but garlic do need a period of really cold weather in order to develop properly. What we don't want is a lot of wet weather though so hopefully we have had our share of rain this autumn and the rest of the winter will be a little drier. As soon as it dries up I will need to cut back the asparagus growth and weed the beds, so that they can be manured and rested for the spurt of new growth in May that is so valued. We still need to dig the Jerusalem artichokes up as well. Having never grown these before this crop will be a first. We need to get the vegetable cookbooks out to see what we can use them for. We also have half a dozen very large pumpkins ripening in the conservatory, which will soon need sorting out. We have a very nice sounding recipe for pumpkin and apple soup, but this will need freezing and as usual, both our deep freezers are full to the brim. We never seem to get space even though we keep eating! The trouble is we take fish out and make a lovely fish pie, but there is enough for 8 servings, so twice as much that comes out, goes back in again. The same with lovely winter warming casseroles, where the cooked vegetables bulk up the original meat. The only thing that actually makes space is when we take fruit out, but there is only so much fruit that you can eat. We hope that you all have a good Christmas and look forward to catching up in the garden again in the New Year. Happy gardening until then.

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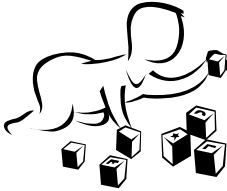
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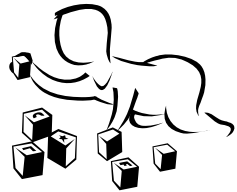
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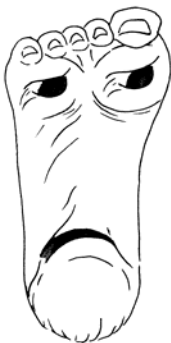


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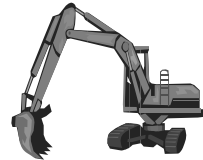
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Nerys's Natty Nosh

Christmas should be a wonderful, magical stress-free time spent with loved ones. With a little planning and a touch of creativity, all is possible. Start early and prepare dishes in advance that can be frozen and utilised when needed. Everyone in the household should rejoice in helping make the occasion that little bit special. Make a list of jobs and ask your family and friends to help. Play festive music and have a tippie of what you fancy!!!



Perfect roast potatoes serves 8

Ingredients

79g/ 2½oz goose fat or 5 tbsp. olive oil
1kg/2lb 4oz, even sized peeled potatoes
Coarse sea salt
8 fresh rosemary springs to garnish

Method

Preheat the oven to 230C/450F Gas Mark 8. Put the fat in a large roasting tin, sprinkle with sea salt and place in the oven. Equally score and size the potatoes. Place in a saucepan of boiling water and cook for 8-10 minutes. Drain well. Arrange the potatoes in a single layer in the hot fat and roast for 45 minutes. Reduce the oven temperature to 200C/400F/ Gas Mark 6. Turn the potatoes over and roast for a further 30 minutes until crisp. Serve garnished with rosemary sprigs.

Buttered Chestnut Brussels Sprouts Serves 8

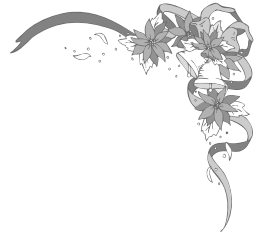
Ingredients

700g/1½pound Brussels sprouts trimmed
4 tbsps. Butter
Can of whole chestnuts
Pinch of grated nutmeg
Salt and pepper
1 tbsp. flaked almonds to garnish

Method

1 Bring a large saucepan of salted water to the boil. Add the Brussels sprouts and cook for 5 minutes. Drain thoroughly.
2 Melt the butter in a large frying pan over medium heat. Add the Brussels sprouts and cook, stirring for 3 minutes. Add the chestnuts and nutmeg. Cook for a further 2 minutes, stirring then remove from the heat.
3 Season to taste. Transfer to a warmed dish, garnish with almonds and serve.

Nerys's Natty Nosh



Honey glazed Red Cabbage serves 4

Ingredients

2 tbsp. butter
1 garlic clove, chopped
650g/11lb 7oz red cabbage shredded
150g/5½ sultanas
1 tbsp. Clear honey
100ml/3½ FL oz. red wine
100ml/3½ FL oz. water

Method

1 Melt the butter in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the garlic and cook, stirring for 1 minute, until slightly soft.
2 Add the cabbage and sultanas, then add the honey. Cook for 1 minute more.
Pour in the wine and water and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat, cover and simmer gently, stirring occasionally for 45 minutes, or until cooked. Serve.

Chestnut & Sausage Stuffing Serves 6-8

Ingredients

225g/8oz pork sausage meat
225g/8oz unsweetened chestnut puree
115g/4oz dried apricots, chopped
2 tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
2 tbsp. chopped fresh chives
2 tbsp. chopped fresh sage
4-5 tbsp. double cream
Salt and pepper

Method

1 Mix the sausage meat and chestnut puree in a bowl, then stir in the apricots, chopped parsley, chives and sage. Stir in enough cream to make a firm mixture. Season to taste.
2 Either Roll into small balls and place on a baking sheet or spoon into an oven-proof dish. Cook in a pre-heated oven 190C/375F/ Gas Mark 5 for 30-40 minutes. Enjoy!

*Nadolig Llawn a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda.
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Church Wardens	Sally Saysell Andrew Baker	01291 641369 01291 641925
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PCC Treasurers	Kevin Bounds	01291 641818
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Safeguarding Officer	Dr. Kerry Baker	01291 641925
Church Flowers	Maureen Moody	01291 641524
Parish Magazine Editor	Terry Walters	01291 641338
200 Club	Bob O'Keefe	01291 641686

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Mynyddbach Ward	Lynne Prosser Ian Moore, Chair	01291 641666 01291 650766
Newchurch West	Louise Dyke	01291 650076
Earlswood Ward	Paul Harris Ken Morton	01291 650871 01291 650268
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Member of Parliament	David Davies	020 7219 8360 daviesd@parliament.uk

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Shirenewton & Mynyddbach	Beverley Moore	01291 641532

Earlswood	Sue Leat	01291 641207
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Brownies	Bev. Leaf	01291 641680
	Jaci Crocombe	01291 641681
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Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel	Avril Smith	01291 650733
Gaerllwyd Baptist	Mrs E Remnant	Brooklands, Usk Road NP16 6SA
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Recreation Hall booking	Beryl Saysell	01291 641637
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Dec	Event	Location
1 7:30pm	Shirenewton Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
4 7:30pm	Whist Drive Christmas Special	Recreation Hall
4 9:30am	Mobile Police Station	Tredegar Arms Car park
5 7:30pm	MAP Meeting	Church Rooms
7 9:30am	Mobile Police Station	Great Barnets Wood car Park
7 11:00am	Advent Coffee Morning & Fair	Church Rooms
8 2:00pm	Shirenewton Local History Socty.	Recreation Hall
11 7:15pm	Shirenewton WI Christmas Meal	Huntsman Hotel
14 3:00pm	Carol Service	Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel
14 6:30pm	Carols round the Christmas Tree	Tredegar Arms Car Park
16	Shirenewton Local History Socty.	St Pierre Church
18 18:30	Shirenewton School reception intake	Church Rooms
21 10:00	Christmas Praise !	Shirenewton Church and afterwards Church Rooms
21 2:30pm	Carol Service	St. Peters Church Newchurch
21 3:00pm	Carol Service	Earlswood Hope Chapel
24 4:00pm	Carols and Christingles	Shirenewton Church
24 12:00pm	Midnight Mass	Shirenewton Church
25 10:00am	Christmas Day Morning Service	Shirenewton Church
27 7:30am	Shirenewton Local History Socty.	Woodland Tavern Car Park the Grey Hill

Jan 15	Event	Location
5 7:30pm	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
8 7:15pm	Shirenewton WI	Recreation Hall
22 to 24	Pantomime Treasure Island	Earlswood Hall
26 7:00pm	Shirenewton Local History Socy.	Recreation Hall

	Saint Thomas a Beckett Shirenewton	Sunday Services	Start 10.00 a.m. Unless stated otherwise
Date	Service	Readers	Sides-persons
7 th December	2 nd Sunday of Advent	Jane Smith Haddon Wendy Baker	Jane Smith Haddon Wendy Baker
14 th December	3 rd Sunday of Advent	Bob Grattan Mark Broughton	Bob Grattan Mark Broughton
21 st December	4 th Sunday of Advent	James Loney Margaret Lock	James Loney Margaret Lock
24 th December	Christingle	Service at 4 p.m.	
25 th December	Midnight Mass	Andrew Baker Sally Saysell	Andrew Baker Sally Saysell
25 th December	Family Service	10 a.m.	
28 th December	The Holy Innocents	Gillian Lambert Francis Grey	Clair Lewis Gillian Lambert
4 th January	Christmas 2	Gillian Lambert Joanne Tomlins	Gillian Lambert Joanne Tomlins
11 th January	The Baptism of Christ Epiphany 1	Mark Broughton Diane Marlow	Mark Broughton Diane Marlow
11 th January	Epiphany 2	Bob Grattan Wendy Baker	Bob Grattan Wendy Baker
25 th January	Epiphany 3	Kevin Bounds Frances Gray	Kevin Bounds Frances Gray

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