

# Shirenewton

## Parish Magazine

### June 2016



## FROM THE VICARAGE

Julian E LI White

Dear People of the Parish,

Rick Hayes is somewhat special.

No, I do not imply that he is to be classed among those with 'Special Needs' but simply to say that there is something a little bit different about him. Seems as though I am digging the hole a bit deeper doesn't it!

What I mean is that Rick a comparatively rare commodity among us – he holds fast to the Christian faith and yet works in 'the real world'. He is therefore in the position, unlike a number of parish priests, to appreciate at first hand what is going on in the secular work-place and to apply theological considerations to the scenario.

For a number of years Rick has worked within Tata Steel (and whatever manifestation existed before then) in a role that exercised his people skills and this has been more pronounced recently with the well documented upheaval within the industry. Rick, again for some considerable length of time, has been one of the very few of that most rare breeds, a Diocesan Evangelist. In this capacity, established by our former Bishop and then Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, the idea was to link the relevance of holding the Christian faith in a largely secular world. In this respect Rick has been a most influential ambassador for Christianity. He has been at liberty to move among those at the work-face, as it were, without being curtailed by the often frustrating limitations of a typical parish church structure.

Why do I mention this? It is to announce that Rick is soon to be fully ordained into Christian Ministry. In other words, certainly as far as his work associates are concerned, he will wear a 'dog collar' and represent spirituality in the 'outside world'.

As far as we, a group of parish churches are concerned, Rick will continue to offer exploration and maintenance of worship with his regular ministry but, in addition, will soon be able to enhance this with priestly duties. Rick has long been a valued member of the Mathern/Mounton/St. Pierre church circuit and it is anticipated that he will soon add to the worshipping life at Shirenewton on a regular basis.

Please continue to support Rick as he enters a new stage in his vocational life. He will be ordained at the Cathedral Church of Saint Woolos, Newport on the afternoon of Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> June at 3pm and it would be fitting to welcome well-wishers to the occasion. Having said this, I understand from Rick that places are strictly limited so I guess that permits (sounds a bit like entry to a rock concert!) will be distributed on a 'first come, first served' basis. As parking around the Cathedral is somewhat traumatic, it is also hoped that car-sharing will help reduce congestion.

We very much look forward to joining with Rick on the journey of faith and wish him every blessing in this venture.

May God's presence be with you all at this time.

## **200 CLUB WINNERS FOR MAY WERE:**

1. George Howsen, £40
2. Janet Horton, £30
3. Beverley Leaf, £20
4. William John, £10

"A few members seem to have subscribed twice this year. We have allocated you additional numbers and thank you for your generosity."

With thanks,  
Graham

## **FROM THE PARISH REGISTER**

### **Death**

Anthony Hugh Davies aged 83 years

Funeral Service held at St Thomas á Becket Church Shirenewton 3rd May2016

#### **ANTHONY HUGH DAVIES**

Barbara and family wish to thank all who sent such beautiful cards and messages of condolence on the sudden loss of Tony. To all who attended the funeral service at St Thomas a Beckett church Shirenewton and for the generous donations to The British Heart Foundation.

## THE BELLS, THE BELLS

Is bell ringing a sport? This question briefly made the national news and the subsequent difference of opinions proffered by ringers created headlines in national newspapers along the lines of “Ding Dong in the Ringing World” and “Bell Ringing a Sport - Pull the Other One”. The whole debate started when the English Bridge Union applied to Sports England for recognising playing bridge as a sport. For if any activity is recognised as a sport it can apply for grants for development and training purposes from the devolved sports bodies. “Sport” as defined by the United Nations is:

*“All forms of physical activity that contribute to physical fitness, mental wellbeing and social interaction, such as play, recreation, organised or competitive sport, and indigenous sports and games.”*

Bridge failed to get recognition and a subsequent application for judicial review upheld this view in October 2015, but some activities (perhaps surprising to some) such as Life Saving, Quoits, Model Aircraft Flying, Angling and Rambling are already considered 'sports' and the keys for recognition appear to be a skilled physical activity and competition between participants of that activity using pre-defined rules resulting in a winner or winning team. On that basis bell ringing is clearly a sport. It is a skilled physical activity and there are competitions between ringing teams both local and national. For anyone interested in the highest level of competition go to [www.12bell.org.uk](http://www.12bell.org.uk) for details of this year's National 12 bell Striking Competition or go to [www.ringingworld.co.uk/news-articles/rwnyc.html](http://www.ringingworld.co.uk/news-articles/rwnyc.html) for details of the Ringing World National Youth Contest.

What is more a local striking competition in the Monmouth Diocese held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May at St Mellons church near Cardiff attracted a total of 12 teams overall in two competitions – Call Changes and Methods. The Shirenewton band entered both competitions. In the Call Changes we entered a band with the youngest member present in any team namely Pip Lockhart (aged 11) and came a credible 5<sup>th</sup> of 6 teams. In the Methods we came a spectacular 3<sup>rd</sup> of 6 teams with only 11 marks separating 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> teams with 11 points separating 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Pip Lockhart went on to gain 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the parallel Monmouth Branch Youth Cake Baking competition – which of course raises the question of whether Cake Baking is a sport? Maybe not but include running around the kitchen at the same time then maybe!

So if you fancy joining a new sport which does not require those tedious visits to the gym but has the demands of physical exertion, skill development, mental agility, social interaction, competition, team building, travel and occasional visits to the pub then bell ringing is it.

M.D.Penney.

## SHIRENEWTON OPEN GARDENS

Shirenewton Open Gardens provided an ideal opportunity for those of us whose gardens fail to live up to our own hopes and expectations to see how it can be done, to do more than peer over a hedge or hole in the wall and wonder at the craft and ingenuity on display.

The seven gardens which were displayed ranged from cottage to formal, modern to wildlife friendly and each surpassed expectation and left the beholder with ideas and a sense of future purpose.

Our village is extremely fortunate that people in the parish were willing to display their gardens to strangers in order to raise much needed funding for the Church fabric. This time of year is always a challenge to the gardener as plants waken from their winter slumber and a change in temperature can bring sudden surges in new growth or slither of slugs.

The garden furthest from the village (Wellspring) offered a maze, flamboyant fountain, herbaceous borders, formal lawns and would be a perfect setting for a future wedding. The hosts proved knowledgeable about all their plants and not a single weed dared show its face. The Clarke's garden was the next obvious stopping place and revealed clever use of trailing fruit trees, established shrubberies and a welcome glass of elderflower cordial and sweets for children less interested in the differences between azaleas and rhododendrons. The Broughton's garden in Redlands was very child friendly with croquet lawn, manicured beds and clever use of screening hedges to lead to new discoveries. Newton Lodge with its terraced beds, covered well and established planting and clever use of colour and texture was like a Pandora's box full of delight and ingenuity. The Tatum's garden sheltered behind high walls was lush and its mature trees and shrubs bursting into flower vibrant with new growth, left the visitor green with envy and wishing for a dip in the swimming pool. Cae Pw Cella with its wonderful views towards Bristol and beyond has always been a popular garden with a sense of fun behind every corner, the ornate Japanese Bridge, the offer to feed the plump chickens, the new village amenity allotment scheme. Finally the Chantry-home to so many village occasions, with its whispering acers, flowers falling out of pots in exuberant joy, again well behaved fowl happy to chew on a presented dandelion (not a weed but instead pandered to by Glynis in anticipation of children who enjoying, feeding her feathered friends).

The Chantry, a natural resting place and providers of the Christian Aid, afternoon Tea was the perfect place to finish the tour of Shirenewton's horticultural finest. The cakes, sandwiches macarons were to die for and gave people an opportunity to share ideas and catch up.

Overall the day was a great success and we owe a debt of thanks for all those who opened their gardens and obviously put in so much effort. £400 was made for the Church Fabric and £300 for Christian aid. Further donations are awaited before a final amount can be announced. However success is not counted in coins but instead by fellowship and sharing.

## SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

Well, by the time you read this I suspect it will be all over. You Mac users can stop reading now and pick up a bit further down! Windows users will probably have already established that Microsoft just got really aggressive in pushing Windows 10 updates, more or less forcing it on your machine if you leave it for a moment. For example, take my mother's machine. Windows 10 just installed itself (poorly). Given the couple of weeks delay between me typing this and you reading it, I suspect you may have had the same treatment. This forced upgrade really messed up my mother's machine.

So, my mother's machine was on Windows 7 and she was very happy with it – it all worked and she knew where everything was. It was all familiar. Important when you are in your early 80s and therefore not a digital native! Windows 10 installed itself and 'upgraded' the PC. In practice this means a relatively clean install of Windows 10 (the default browser seemingly to change from Chrome to Edge – the new Internet Explorer which, btw, messed up the carefully placed links to her email accounts at Yahoo and Gmail) and an attempt to upgrade/reinstall the other applications (especially security ones) on the machine. However, the result was not a success with the administrator account seemly not a full administrator account (meaning we couldn't change some settings) and a severe performance hit which made it almost unusable.

At this point, the options were (i) restore to Windows 7 (an option buried in the newly upgraded system options and available for 30 days after the upgrade), or (ii) fix it. I do recommend Windows 10 purely as it is now stable and it's never advisable to run a legacy operating system from a security perspective. So, I chose that latter option of fixing it.

In the end, after a lot of effort and googling, the only thing I could do was undertake a 'clean install' rather than an upgrade. Again this is a standard option within the upgraded installation. The good news is that you don't lose your data. The bad news is you lose most of your installed applications and need to reinstall. However the process puts a helpful list of all the stuff it's removed on the desktop! I'm pleased to say that it worked. So after several hours of 'playing' around the machine is as sweet as a nut. However, I'm not amused at the stress this cause both my mother and myself. And, of course, there is more stress to come. I can't install the printer here (as it is in Spain) and, whilst I've downloaded the drivers and place the installation package on the desktop ready to go, I guess there will be fun and games yet to come. Thanks for nothing Microsoft.

On another note, I received fan mail or a communication from my reader! It seems in the dim and distance past I recommended Google's Picasa for photo management and that is being deprecated with, more or less, immediate effect. It's a shame because, as a family, we run it for family photos. I haven't had a chance to play with other packages but will do so over the next couple of months and report back. I'm hoping that 'deprecated' simply means it just won't be supported rather than it will stop working. Google is deprecating a lot of stuff at the moment. Those who walk with me know I used to use MyTracks on my phone to record my walks. Google just terminated it and, by that, I mean it stopped working – end of. I've yet to find a replacement I'm happy with.

Please remember to book your airport parking and other such holiday stuff via [shirenewtonshop.com](http://shirenewtonshop.com). The little referral commissions do add up!

Safe browsing. David Cornwell [webmaster@shirenewtonchurch.com](mailto:webmaster@shirenewtonchurch.com)

## SHIRENEWTON W.I MAY '16

A very short report this month as it was the AGM where a new committee was formed, I stepped down to make way for new blood, unfortunately I still have the responsibility of writing the W.I. report! How did that happen?

During the meeting 'resolutions' were discussed and voted upon, followed by the obligatory refreshments.

Told you it was short!!



The next meeting is on June 2nd. It is an organised trip to the Tintern vineyard, please take note of the alcohol connection.

The following meeting is on July 14th, the topic is the 'Life of Journalism', sounds interesting.



Ladies you are all welcome to join us, remember tea and biscuits are provided. (no expense spared) We will be providing the refreshments at the church fete, please pop in and see us.

# SHIRENEWTON CHURCH FETE

**11<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

**Recreation Ground**

The countdown begins !

A fun day out for all the family including:

Alpacas	Local HistoryLocal History
Beefburger & HotDogs	Number of sweets in a Jar
Beer Tent	Pimms Stall
Book Stall	Raffle cake
Bottle Stall	Skittles
Bouncy Castle	Welly Wanging
Cake Stall	Welsh cakes
Candy Floss	White Elephant Stall
Ice Cream	WI Teas
Coconut Shy	Raffle & Church
Face Painting	Fairtrade
Flower/Plant Stall	LandRover
Golf: Chip into a tyre	Guess the Salmon Weight

***Miss this and there is not another one for a whole year***



# Shirefest 2016

Sat 4th June 2016

2pm - 11:45pm

Huntsman Hotel  
Shirenewton

Adults £10 - 16 & under FREE

All proceeds to Noah's Ark Childrens Hospital Charity.

Free parking or late-night buses available.

For more info visit:- [www.shirefest.org](http://www.shirefest.org)

## 17 Acts / Bands

including...

### MAIN STAGE

Taffy Was A Thief (Headline Act)

Turner Street Crash

Big Sky

Little Folk

Crowsaw

### ACOUSTIC STAGE

Bob Evans

Far Out Mate

The Bug Club

Platform 1

## VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATORS

*It has nearly been a month since I finished the London Marathon and wanted to thank everyone for their kind words of encouragement. The weekend was everything I thought it would be and more- to the extent I have already entered the ballot for a place next year! And I will always be able to say that I finished in the top 1,000,000 of London Marathon runners. More importantly, the generous donations means that we are well on our way to being able to equip Shirenewton with heart defibrillators. At present the pot is at £1800!! This is amazing and was certainly a motivator at mile 24 when my legs no longer wanted to run- Thank You Everyone!*

*We will continue to update the village with news of how this project is progressing- again Thank You so much to everyone who donated.*

*Many thanks,  
Laura Saysell.*



*Early Orchids on the SAMFAL site*

## SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

At our March meeting we had our old friend Roger James to give us a talk on the '*Morgan Family of Tredegar House*'. The Morgan family, each generation, definitely led interesting lives.

At our April meeting we had a talk entitled '*Japanned Ware*' given by Robin Williams, who brought examples of this art for us to see and handle.

We met on May Day to walk the Parish Bounds, we walked the northern route up through the Cwm and back to the Saysell Room for tea & cakes. The weather was kind for us and everyone made it back safely including the two dogs!

Our May meeting we are visiting Caerleon Roman Legion Museum and given a conducted tour by Dr. Mark Lewis the senior curator.

Dates for your Diary:

Monday, 13th June Archive Meeting at the Recreation Hall 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm.

Tuesday, 28th June Visit to the lost village of St Brides Netherwent meeting at the St Brides Netherwent Church with a talk on the history given by Janet Horton.

Everyone welcome at the above events

Further information on our web-site: [www.shirenewtonlocalhistorysociety.co.uk](http://www.shirenewtonlocalhistorysociety.co.uk)



## OPEN GARDENS



Thank you to all the people who came along on a lovely sunny day and supported the Shirenewton Open Gardens and the Christian Aid Afternoon Tea on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May. Thank you also to the gardeners who opened their beautiful gardens for us to enjoy.

We raised £428 for the fabric of the church  
and £315 for Christian Aid.

# SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the May meetings

There are still two vacant positions for the co-option of Community Councillors for the ward of Shirenewton – **if you are interested in applying for one of these vacancies, please contact the Clerk** (details below).

## Annual Meeting

Election of Chair: Councillor P Harris

Election of Vice Chair: Cllr B Moore

## Monthly meeting

### Planning applications considered

1. DC/2016/00426 Newton Edge, Red House Lane, Shirenewton (ML)

Addition of 2 dormers added to existing bedroom at first floor on N/W elevation, which faces the garden.

Council noted that the proposal will overlook open countryside and that the materials to be used are in keeping with the existing. The recommendation was for approval.

### Queen's 90th birthday celebration on 21 April

The Council held a celebratory birthday party for the Queen's 90th birthday at the Recreation Hall, attended by about 100 people. The PCC held a Treasure Hunt around the village, which was followed by tea and home-made cakes in the Hall - flags and bunting were up. There was also a display of work from the school children which included a time line of the Queen's life, birthday cards, job descriptions and profiles for the Queen. There was a quarter peal of the church bells (this took 3/4 of an hour) and finally lighting of the beacon at 8pm with a rousing chorus of Happy Birthday to You. Councillors wish to thank all those that helped to make the evening such a success.

**Monthly Police Report** - There were no instances of crime in the police report and five calls to Brookacre during the month. PCSO's E Studley and G Brown attended the meeting and advised that a new police inspector, Phil Morris, had been appointed from today. Council expressed disappointment at the lack of communication on this appointment and asked whether a monthly blog would still be distributed. The PCSO's advised that Twitter is used to distribute much of the police information, Council felt that in rural areas a police presence was more effective. The PCSO's confirmed that 'Gwent Now' will become more informative when training has been completed. Council requested feedback on the success of the mobile cameras on the Usk Road.

## **Items of local concern –**

**Grant applications from the 2016/17 budget** - Organisations within the community are reminded to submit a grant application form for the £1,200 available from the Council from the 2016/17 budget (please contact the Clerk for a form). **Closing date 30 June 2016**. All applications will be considered at the July meeting of the Council.

**Bus timetables** - the contractor for the bus service and times of buses have changed, notices have been posted in the noticeboards and the Clerk has requested that Mon CC update the timetables in the bus shelters.

**Council website** – the Community Council apologises for the fact that the website has been down for some time. Problems are recurring with the current hosting provider and the Council is pursuing a change of website host.

### **Best Kept Village Competition 2016**

The Competition takes place this month – the judges will be around between 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> 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. Planting of flower troughs will have taken place in mid-May when the general tidying up will have started.

Last year Shirenewton won Best Kept Village, Best Kept War Memorial, Best Kept Village Hall and was joint winner of Best Kept Churchyard, with the Tredegar Arms being Highly Commended. Can we do as well again 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. Please be vigilant throughout the month

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 all the Best Kept Village prizes in our category.

Dates of next meetings - Monday 4 July 2016 and Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August, both at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall. Members of the public may attend and address the Council for the first 15 minutes of each meeting.

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 website [www.shirenewtoncc.org.uk](http://www.shirenewtoncc.org.uk)

Contact the Clerk to the Community Council -  
Mrs Hilary Counsell Tel: 01291 421307 E-mail: [Shirenewtoncc@gmail.com](mailto:Shirenewtoncc@gmail.com)

# Come and join us!



**'An Afternoon Tea After an Afternoon Walk'**

**Earlswood Hall's Annual Mid-Summer Walk  
up to the top of Gray Hill. And back.**

**Sunday 19th June**

Starting at 2:00 from the Hall come rain or shine.  
Followed by Afternoon Tea and Cake in the Hall at  
around 5 pm.

Non walkers are also very welcome.

£5 per person.

Good dogs welcome.

For more details contact:

Marion Harris on 650871

or Glynis MacDonald on 641818

## **NEWS FROM ST PETER'S, NEWCHURCH**

We are getting ready for our Fun Day on 4th June at Church Farm next to the church.

There will be cake, plant and bric a brac stalls, as well as a barbeque, refreshments and tombola, and for the children a bouncy castle, tattoos and face painting.

Please come and join us in raising money to maintain this much loved church for the future, and an early opportunity to obtain tickets for the Harvest Festival and supper on 16th September, when the Bishop will be present.

### **Forthcoming Events at St Peters, Newchurch**

#### **Summer Fun Day**

Saturday, 4th June 12 – 3pm at Church Farm.

Garden, Bric a Brac, Cake, Stalls, Refreshments, BBQ, Tombola

And for the young at heart, Splat the Rat, Ping Pong Balls into the Jar, Tattoos, Face Painting, Bouncy Castle, Guess the weight.....

#### **Songs of Praise**

Thursday, 4th August, 7pm

Come and join us in favourite hymns, songs and readings - an appreciation of God and the beauty of life.

#### **Harvest Festival and Supper**

Friday, 16th September 7pm in the barn at Church Farm, followed by Harvest Supper.

The Bishop will be preaching at this café style service. Please do come and join us.

Tickets on sale soon. This year the fruits of the earth that will be on display will be sold after the service and supper.

#### **Carol Service and Nativity**

Sunday, 18th December 2.30pm

Come and start your Christmas here, with carols old and new, and a nativity (Children attending the service are very welcome to join in the nativity, it's a crowd driven experience, and nothing fazes John!). Last year there were two donkeys and I am searching for suitable camels for this year.....

To be followed by refreshments, courtesy of our star bakers.



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    - Do you enjoy training hard but suffer from repeated injuries?
    - Helping to alleviate chronic pain and restructure the body

**For more information and details of classes....**



#### **Penny Jones**

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### **Keith Rowlands OBE**

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Author: Newly launched on Kindle and Kindle Fire

**“Noah and an Almighty Flood”**

‘hilarious’ ‘laughed out loud’

## FAIRTRADE NEWS



Flowers make a lovely gift but many recipients (and indeed purchasers) would be distressed to know that most flowers from the developing world are produced by workers, primarily women, who live and work in very miserable conditions. This month Lidl joins a group of supermarkets who supply Fairtrade flowers in Britain : Sainsbury's, the Co-op, Aldi, Morrison, Asda, Tesco and M&S.

In an article published on the Fairtrade Foundation website Jennifer Shepherd reports on the benefits Fairtrade has brought to more than 48,000 flower workers across 8 countries. These include stable incomes, improvements in working conditions, more concern for the environment and health and safety and written contracts with the possibility of sick leave and holiday pay. Workers also have a say in how the Fairtrade premium is spent. This premium has brought immense benefit to the communities - e.g. new latrines, equipping schools, the introduction of adult skills and literacy classes (38% of the adult Kenyan population is illiterate).

It is usually women who receive a gift of flowers. Surely we would take much more pleasure in flowers if we knew they had been produced by women treated with dignity and respect. I recently sent a M&S birthday bouquet of fairtrade lilies to an old friend - she said they had arrived beautifully presented and she was delighted with their appearance and how long they had lasted.

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

## NEWS FROM SHIRENEWTON SCHOOL

### Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations

The children enjoyed wearing their party clothes and eating an 'afternoon tea' style lunch to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday on 21st April. Every class did an activity related to the Queen to be displayed in Shirenewton Recreation Hall for the village celebration evening: Reception pupils painted portraits of Queen Elizabeth II; Year 1 made her a birthday card; Year 2 wrote 'happy birthday' acrostic poems; Year 3 wrote poetry; Year 4 made fact files about her and Year 5 did a timeline of her life. If you would like to apply for the job of monarch, please read carefully the selection of job descriptions written by Year 6 which are included in this publication!

### Can you help?

Are you a pond expert?

The children would like to build a new pond so they can do pond dipping activities. We are looking for a local expert who could volunteer to help us set up and manage one at school. Please contact Jill Mitchell or Kim Farley 01291 641774.

**Would you like to volunteer to help with class administration?**

Year 2 are looking for some help in photocopying, laminating and covering books etc. Please contact Jill Mitchell or Kim Farley 01291 641774

#### Job description

##### Monarch

For this job you will need to know alot about politics and good reading skills and to be able to read out loud to a massive audience. In addition to that you will have to be a patron of many for this job and have a good education for the role of a monarch of the U.K

You will need a life of service to the job and be loyal to the role.

You need to always smile during races and meetings with important people like primeinisters and presidents all over the world.

As a monarch you will be head of the military but you dont control most of the operations.



Salery level: £0 but you are VERY important

Work time : all day every day

you do get money from interest

by Luke and James B

## **The job description for the Monarch**

### **Introduction**

Monarchs are the head of the army, the Air Force and the navy troops.

He/she must be committed to the role of Monarch and must be willing to give law and order to the country.

### **Skills required**

- ◆ You will have to put your job first and family second
- ◆ You will need to be patient and polite when you are doing a meet and greet or going to an important meeting/event
- ◆ You will need a standard education for when reading to important personal.

### **Benefits**

You will have the privilege of meeting important personal and will have the honour of being crowned with those precious crown Jewles

You would be adored by everyone you meet ☺

### **Salary**

If you're a Monarch you don't get paid a salary.

You have to work every day but you get some rest, between 6 - 10.

### **Concluding statement**

So if you want to be a Monarch, you will need to be up to the job and not be slouchy. You also get daily post from the Priminster to tell you about politics. So only sign up for the job if you don't mind being King/Queen for life.

## STARGAZING

To the south the constellation of Boötes the Herdsman, has the fourth brightest star in the whole sky, Arcturus. It is a red giant star and the curve of the handle of the Plough points down to it. Arcturus is at a distance of 40 light years, which means it takes light 40 years to cross space from the star to Earth. As light travels approximately 200 thousand miles in 1 second, Arcturus is at quite a distance! Even so it is one of the closest of the bright stars. The name Arcturus is derived from Greek and means “guardian of the bears”. Above and to the left of Arcturus can be seen a semi-circle of stars making up Corona Borealis, the Northern Crown.



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

In the evening, the very bright planet Jupiter is in the west below the constellation of Leo. It is joined by the Moon at first quarter on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The planets Saturn and Mars lie to the south, with slightly redder Mars to the right of Saturn. The almost Full Moon sits between Saturn and Mars on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

On the 20th June the Earth's axis is tilted towards the Sun to its greatest extent and the Sun reaches its highest position in the sky at noon. This is the longest day or summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere.

The great Italian scientist Galileo used his telescope or what was then called an “optic tube” to map the Moon, and estimated the height of its mountains to be roughly 5 miles. This is surprisingly accurate considering his measurements were made 400 years ago.

Help at home

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Web site [www.daycarewales.com](http://www.daycarewales.com)

Members- Care Forum Wales #

UKHCA (United Kingdom Home Care Association) #

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CSSIW (Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales) #

Approved by and working with Monmouthshire County Council

\*\*\*\*\*

## **CARERS WANTED**

*Contact Sadie or Hywel Lougher#*

**Peter Such**

**Agricultural Services**

Tel: 01291 650638

Mob: 07729 721090



Fencing

Hedge cutting

Tractor and Driver

Mini Digger and Driver

Paddock Maintenance

Chain Harrowing

Topping

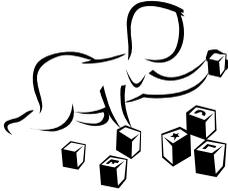
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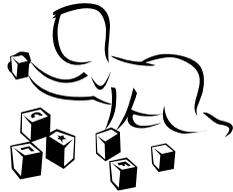


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## GARDENING CORNER

It looks like the hard frosts that we had a couple of weeks ago have taken their toll on the fruit crop this year. The apricots and nectarines in the tunnel have been particularly hard hit, despite the fact that they had a covering of fleece over them. There had been a good fruit set, thanks to some early bumble bees being around, but probably 70% of the baby fruits have now been killed, and some continue to fall off. Assuming that some fruit remains, we can at least look forward to them being a good size, but at the moment it's very much wait and see. We also have two peaches outside, but the blossom on these was completely decimated and to add salt to the wound the first leaves are heavily infected with leaf curl. So all in all, not a particularly auspicious start to the gardening year! I had concerns for our little orchard as well, but this seems to have survived fairly well. Being later, the blossom on the pears and apples proved to be a little more robust, so we are getting a good fruit set, but the amount of blossom is a lot less than last year, especially on the apples, but I've noticed over the years that cropping seems to follow a two year cycle and as last year was a good year it was only to be expected that this year's would not be quite so good.

With a period of mainly dry weather, things have moved on apace in the vegetable garden. All the beds have now been planted with this year's crop, or spaces allocated for the later plantings, such as purple sprouting. As you will know if you read this page regularly, I have been revamping the vegetable area, by replacing the rotting timbers on some of the beds, and building further beds as well. These are being established on an area that was once a flower bed, but which over the years of working away, reverted to an ash tree nursery and bramble patch! The intention was that the extra beds would allow me more flexibility when it came to cropping, especially when rotating what I grow, and allow some rest time as well. This year however they have all ended up being planted so not sure what has gone wrong there!

Today is wet, which was forecast, so I've saved all of the indoor (as in greenhouse) jobs for next. This involves the planting out of the tomatoes into the two tunnels, re-potting some young flower plants, and then sowing the last seeds for the main crops (mainly runner beans and winter greens). I had dug out all of the old soil from the tunnel beds and replaced with new, so hopefully the crops will be an improvement over the last couple of years. The soil had grown the same crops for some time and had lost all its structure, so was basically pretty sick. The old soil has been re-cycled with the soil in the new raised beds, so hopefully it will work fine. I have added copious amounts of compost, as well as the usual dosing of blood, fish and bonemeal – a good all round organic fertiliser.

No matter how careful I am at digging up the potatoes I always seem to leave some behind. In the smaller tunnel the usual has happened and I now have a very good looking crop of new potatoes. They were protected from the frosts that caused so much damage earlier and are looking well, with the first flowers already starting to show. We have now come to the end of our own potato crop from last year, but I think we will be digging our first early potatoes in the next

couple of weeks, which is just as well as the mint is looking good! Most of the other



*Our double white cherry at its prime in early May*

vegetable crops are looking good at the moment except for the parsnips. The sowing of these can be a bit hit and miss and it looks like this year might be a miss! I was late sowing the seed because of the wet weather early on, but this usually doesn't matter as the crop soon catches up as the weather warms up. Except that there is nothing showing as yet, so maybe they aren't going to germinate at all. Touch wood, everything else is looking good, especially the snap peas and the broad beans. The latter are covered in flowers, so here's hoping for a bumper crop. Unfortunately the hot weekend we had a few weeks ago finished off the curly kale and also the purple sprouting, making both run to flower almost overnight. This reduced our fresh vegetable cropping at the moment to lettuce in the large tunnel and asparagus, but we still have broad beans in the freezer. The broccoli in the tunnel will probably be cropping by the time you read this, so we haven't done too bad in the self-sufficiency stakes. Depending on the weather, we usually have our first strawberries in the tunnel by the 1<sup>st</sup> of June – the assistant head gardener's birthday, so here's hoping!

I love to browse around garden centres these days, especially looking for plants that are unusual. However a lot of garden centres around (and the Chepstow area is no exception), seem to have forgotten the plants element and instead sell everything else but, as well as having enormous restaurants of course! I get that they have to make a living, but for the gardening nuts around (like me) they no longer hold any attractions, which is why the small plant nurseries around, run by absolute enthusiasts, are so important. That said I have found two treasures, that still refer to themselves as garden centres, but which to me, have the balance right. The first is probably too far to travel as it is Beetham Nursery and Garden centre on the edge of the Lake District. They have a nursery area especially for the gardening buffs and oh what a selection to choose from! Nearer home another little treasure is the Engine Shed at Ross. It's not big, but has a great quality of plants – and there is even a nice little restaurant where you can have a nice Americano coffee, with scone, jam and cream. My idea of heaven!

Back to home, the bees have been enjoying some better weather and most of the hives have started to increase in size, as the queens are in full egg laying mode. I did discover one hive with queen cells in the other day, which I would normally tear down to prevent the hive from swarming. However on this occasion I decided to leave them in place for two reasons. One being that I couldn't actually find the existing queen, si I was concerned that she might have died or was weakening and the bees had decided to supersede / replace her, so I didn't want to be without a queen. Secondly I was concerned with one of the other hives, which was looking sick. The queen had pretty well stopped laying and on closer examination I thought it looked like the hive may have European foul brood, which is a notifiable disease which requires the destruction of the bees and frames. A quick call to the local seasonal bee inspector, and a visit later on the same day, produced

good results. It wasn't foul brood but looked like the queen was laying drone eggs in worker bee cells – a bit like fitting the engine of a Rolls Royce into a mini – they don't fit! I'm working on a resolution to this problem, but not sure how it will work out. Anyway, this won't get the tomato planting done. Happy gardening until next month.

Steve and Felicity Hunt.



*Long spurred aquilegias*

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### **Church of St. Thomas à Becket Shirenewton**

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<b>Mynyddbach Ward</b>	Lynne Prosser	01291 641666
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<b>Newchurch West</b>	Ian Martin	01291 650014
<b>Earlswood Ward</b>	Paul Harris Chair	01291 650871
	Ken Morton	01291 650268
<b>MCC for Shirenewton</b>	Graham Down	01291 621846 <a href="mailto:grahamdown@monmouthshire.gov.uk">grahamdown@monmouthshire.gov.uk</a>
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## **Police Neighbourhood Watch Contacts**

**Comm. Police Officer** Louise Thorpe 01633 642068  
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**Shirenewton Local History Society**  
Dorothy Brabon 01291 641376 brabonn1@hotmail.com  
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Glynis MacDonald 01291 641818  
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**Shirenewton Play Group** Beverly Lindsay Shirenewtonplaygroup@gmail.com  
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email jillianmitchell@monmouthshire.gov.uk  
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P Brabon 01291 641376 brabonn1@hotmail.com  
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Jane Butterworth (Secretary) 01291 641704.

## DIARY DATES

<b>June</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
2nd 7.50pm	Shirenewton Womens Institute	Tintern Vineyard Vist
4th 2.00pm	Shirefest	Huntsman Hotel
4th Midday	St. Peters Church Summer Fun Day	Church Farm Newchurch
11th 2.00pm	Shirenewton fete	Recreation Ground
13th 2.00pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Recreation Hall
18th 10—12	Village Market	Recreation Hall
19th 2.00pm	Earlswood Hall's Annual Mid-Summer Walk	Earlswood Hall and Grey Hill
28th	Shirenewton Local History Society	St. Brides Church Netherwent
<b>July</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
4th 7.30pm	Shirenewton Community Council	Recreation Hall
16th 10—12	Village Market	Recreation Hall
<b>Aug</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
1st 7.30pm	Shirenewton Community Council	Recreation Hall
4th 7.00pm	Songs of Praise	St Peters Church Newchurch
20th 10—12	Village Market	Recreation Hall

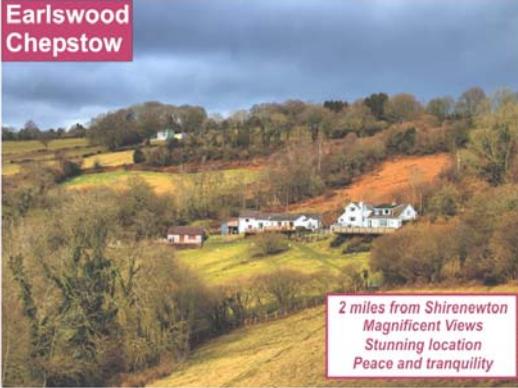
**St Thomas á Beckett Church, Shirenewton Readers & Side Persons June**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Sunday Service</b>	<b>Readers</b>	<b>Sides Persons</b>
05 June 2016	Third Sunday after Pentecost	Bob Grattan Ruth Savagar	Bob Grattan Graham Lambert
12 June 2016	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	James Leney Pat White	Claire Lewis Graham Lambert
19 June 2016	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	Mark Broughton Jane Smith-Haddon	Mark Broughton Jane Smith-Haddon
26 June 2016	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	Bill Clarke Janet Horton	Bill Clarke Janet Horton



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## **SHIRENEWTON PARISH MAGAZINE EDITORIAL INFORMATION**

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Editor: Terry Walters 01291 641338 email: [terencewalters@hotmail.com](mailto:terencewalters@hotmail.com)

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The views expressed are those of the contributor.

**Deadline for July/August 2016 issue is 9:00am 27th June 2016**