

Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

July / August 2017



Price: £1

FROM THE VICARAGE
Julian E LI White

Dear People of the Parish,

History constantly moves on. This, at first, sounds something of a contradiction. But I am not talking about something forever locked away in the past but as something rooted in former days which continues to nourish the present and to promise a continuation into the future.

This, I feel, is certainly true of the oldest church in our group of four, Mathern (founded in the seventh century) and the others at Mounton, St. Pierre and Shirenewton. Unless what they represent is appropriate to contemporary society and, at the same time, unless they hold out a balanced vision for the future, they soon become a pile of mute masonry and as lifeless as the various places of worship and contemplation about which the poet R.S.Thomas often speaks.

I hold out Mathern in this instance as it was the venue for a step in the progression of faith within our Grouped Parish. It was the day we welcomed a new, duly consecrated, member to our team of ministers.

July 25th 2017 was the day that Rick Hayes joined with Nansi Davies and Julian White as priest charged with serving the local community. He joins with retired priests, Lay Ministers and all the local people of faith in making the journey of the spiritual towards God.

The previous day (The Nativity of John the Baptist – who came to know a thing or two about the cost of discipleship) Rick was proclaimed Priest by our Bishop, the Right Reverend Richard Pain at the cathedral in Newport. I was uplifted by the fact that a number of our congregation made the trip to support him and lamented the fact that disability prevented me joining them.

The next day Rick celebrated the rite of the Holy Eucharist at Mathern for all parts of the group. A pretty good job he made of it as well with myself confined to fluttering in corners (which is just as well) as he rejoiced in this special occasion by drawing on the point made in the Gospel that women are actually responsible for any success men may encounter, and rightly affirming that calling and vocation is a gift that comes from God. I am confident that God approved and that Tracy, Sandra and all other females present awarded him a big tick in his assertions. Obviously Rick is no fool when it comes to apportioning acknowledgement and praise.

It will not be all hugs-and-kisses for Rick in the years, God willing, ahead. But Rick is no stranger to set-backs, procrastination and other difficulties. After all, he has spent the best part of the last twenty years working to get to where he is now. We sincerely welcome him to the team and eagerly anticipate his interpretation of ministry.

Rick will continue to work with Tata Steel on weekdays where he represents the Christian faith in a secular and other faith environment. On Sunday, in particular, we look forward to his presence among us not least in that we shall be kept abreast of what the 'real world' is thinking and how it responds to various issues.

Congratulations Rick. The people of God in Mathern, Mounton, St. Pierre and Shirenewton welcome you and look forward to joining you on the next stage of the spiritual journey.

With every good wish and blessing to you all. Julian E LI White (Rector & Vicar)

200 CLUB WINNERS - JULY

Congratulations to:

1. Frances Gray
2. Carole Waite
3. Phil Henshall
4. Vivian Clarke

Please would the winners send their email address to
200clubshirenewton@gmail.com.

With thanks,

Graham Lambert

SHIRENEWTON W.I APRIL & MAY '17

This proved to be a very interesting evening, we met for a pre theatre meal at La Piccola, (bottom of Monmouth), everyone enjoyed the meal and the opportunity to converse and relax.

The 'Off Centre Theatre' presented 'Blue Remembered Hills', a play by Dennis Potter, plus 'Forest Humour' with Keith Morgan. The play, set



in war torn Britain, centred around a group of 7 year old children playing in the hills and fields of the Forest of Dean. All played by adults. This reflected the life of children at that time, ending with the untimely death of one of them. It was not a comedy!! The 'Forest Humour' was very entertaining with local anecdotes and poetry recitals.

Keith Morgan has published two collections of his poems.

July meeting: 13th July 'the importance of bees' by Steve Hunt. Ladies, please feel free to join us for convivial company **and** a cup of tea.

Contact: Diane Ashton-Smith (President) 628838
Jane Butterworth (Secretary) 641704

GÆRLLWYD BAPTIST CHURCH
176TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICES

**We would like to invite you to join us in celebrating
Christian Witness at Gaerllwyd**

Services will be held on
SUNDAY 9th JULY 2017
at 6.30 pm
and
MONDAY 10th JULY 2017
at 7.30pm

**Refreshments will be served after both services, with
the
anniversary tea after the Monday evening service.**
We hope you can join us in our celebrations.

***EVERYONE WELCOME TO JOIN US IN WORSHIP
FOR THESE SPECIAL SERVICES,
OR ANY SUNDAY AT 6.30 pm.***

**We meet at 6.30pm every Sunday and would welcome any of you to
come and share in Worship and fellowship.**
Find us at Gaerllwyd Crossroads, on the B4235,
half way between Usk & Chepstow (NP16 6DD)

EARLSWOOD VALLEY CHAPEL COFFEE MORNING

There will be a coffee morning and bring and buy sale at Earlswood Valley Chapel on Saturday 5th August at 10.30 a.m. to raise funds for the Hope and Valley Chapels.

Do come along and enjoy a tea, or coffee and biscuit.

CHEPSTOW MALE VOICE CHOIR COMES TO SHIRENEWTON

Chepstow Male Voice Choir will be giving a concert in aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution on Friday 22 September at St Thomas a Becket Church, Shirenewton, at 7 for 7.30pm.

Tickets, which cost £10 and include tea and coffee during the interval, may be obtained from Anne Octon (01291 641918), Mrs Sally Saysell (01291 641369), and from Merricks Pharmacy in Chepstow.

Please come, to enjoy a lovely summer evening concert given by our splendid Male Voice Choir, and to support our splendid Lifeboats!

SUNDAY PAPERS AVAILABLE IN THE VILLAGE!

Over a year ago we started our Sunday newspaper service for a trial period of four months, available by pre-order only.



The trial service is still going!

If you have not taken advantage of this service but would like to, please sign up now!

Please call Frances Gray on 622465

Papers need to be pre-ordered and collected from the Saysell Centre (also known as the Church Room) between 10 a.m. and noon on Sunday mornings.

Coffee and cake will be available in the Saysell Centre between 11 a.m. and noon.

Organised by St Thomas a Beckett Church

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of both the May Annual and ordinary meetings

Election of Chair for 2017/18: Councillor Paul Harris

Election of Vice Chair for 2017/8: Councillor Ian Moore

Your Community Councillors (contact details at back of magazine)

Code of Conduct - All Community Councillors signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office for the new term, which includes their agreement to adopt the Model Code of Conduct (Wales) Order 2016 (as amended). All Councillors are bound by this Code of Conduct.

Newly appointed County Councillor Louise Brown was welcomed to the monthly meeting. Contact her on: louisebrown@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Wards	
Shirenewton	Beverley Moore Michelle Davies Bryn Price Vacancy Vacancy
Mynyddbach	Ian Moore Vacancy
Earlswood	Paul Harris Ken Morton
Newchurch West	Ian Martin

Vacancies on the Community Council

As three Councillors did not stand for re-election this time there are currently three vacancies for co-option by the Council – 2 in the Shirenewton ward and 1 in the Mynyddbach ward.

If you are interested in the local community and wish to join the Council please contact the Clerk (details below).

Planning applications considered:

1. DC/2017/00329 Bluebell Lane Barn, Earlswood

Proposed re-instatement of now demolished lean-to.

Due to an error in dates in which to respond, the Council was unable to make comment on this application.

2. E6840/A17/3172829 (Planning Applic. DC/2017/00082)
23 Clearview, Shirenewton. Removal of Condition 2 from planning consent
DC/2015/01386.

Council responded to the Planning Inspectorate Wales recommending refusal of the removal of this Planning Condition.

3. E6840/C/17/3172828 (Planning Applic. DC/2017/00082)
23 Clearview, Shirenewton. Appeal against Enforcement Notice
E16/255.

Council responded to the Planning Inspectorate Wales recommending refusal of the removal of this Enforcement Notice.

4. DC/2017/00445 Olive Cottage, Crick Road, Shirenewton

Rebuild retaining wall and replace existing hedgerow with 1.5m high hit and miss fence for a distance of 13m along the western boundary with Blacksmiths Lane. Council noted that the Planning Officer dealing with the application had been in contact with the applicant, also that the applicant is seeking a structural engineer's report. The applicant advised the Council that no issues had been raised by the Conservation Officer. Council recommended approval on health and safety grounds.

Police reports for May/June – PCSO Andy Jones attended the May meeting and reported that the police have continued regular patrols of the B4235 on the weekends and will continue to do so when able through the summer months. Go-Safe has recently had some speed monitoring completed on this road near Mynyddbach, the results of which are printed on pages 20 and 21.

At the June meeting the following break-ins and thefts were reported:

26th May – An insecure garage broken into a bike was stolen, value of the £1200, tools were also taken from within garage. CCTV image viewed but unable to identify the offender.

27th May – Two males were seen outside a property. Caller did not report until the following morning. It is a great pity that this had not been called in at the time.

27th May – Male entered a house through an insecure door and stole a purse containing money, driving licence and bank cards

27th May – Theft from an insecure vehicle overnight. A sat nav and loose change was taken from the vehicle.

PCSO Vaughan asked that residents be vigilant and take note regarding these latest incidents. The property where the purse was taken had unfortunately been left insecure and the vehicle where the sat nav was taken from had been left insecure also. If you see any suspicious activity please call the police at the time "via either 101 or 999 if you deem it an emergency.

The Your Voice priority for the Shirenewton area will stay as speeding vehicles / motorbikes on the B4235 for the next few months. The police have continued to be proactive on this stretch of road with regular high visibility patrols.

There were no calls to Brookacre during either month.

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Other items of interest

Shirenewton Noticeboard – many thanks to the community minded resident who kindly replaced the hinges on the noticeboard door.

Extracts from the June minutes:

Planning applications considered:

1. DC/2017/00592 3 Tan House Court, Shirenewton

Removal of existing timber framed carport and replace with aluminium framed carport to same dimensions and appearance of existing.

Council recommended approval of this application as there was no increase in size and no objections from neighbours.

2. DC/2016/01369 Springhill, Earlswood

Detached garage and garden room to accommodate an office.

Council noted that in January 2017 it had recommended refusal of the original application for a detached garage and Mon CC had also refused it.

This proposal is for a flat roofed triple garage with the garden room situated behind it and replacing the existing shed. Council noted that a new and additional opening on to the road was made recently in order to remove fallen trees.

Council recommended approval of the application to build a garage and garden room (rear of house extension not included) as notified by Mon CC on 30.5.17, subject to the following conditions:

That either the hedge be replanted at the new opening or a retrospective planning application made.

That as the flat roofed garage block does not enhance the countryside, its aesthetic appeal should be reconsidered, possibly a grass roof?

That the garage and garden room remains as such and is not converted to residential use in the future.

3. DC/2017/00594 Location: Land adjacent to Bluebell Lane

Proposed erection of stable building and shed/workshop.

Council was unable to consider this application as the location plan did not show the location, there was no address or postcode given, the block plan gave no detail on the size of the proposal, elevations shown on the planning portal were incomplete (only showing North and East) and there were no contact details provided. **Council recommended refusal** of the application because of insufficient/incomplete information.

4. DC/2017/00514 Gaerllwyd Bungalow, Gaerllwyd

Alterations and extension of existing bungalow to form two storey dwelling.

Council noted that it had recommended approval of the original application in 2015 and this proposal was to widen the building to build around subsidence at the north wall. It was further noted that the bat survey may be out of date as it was two years old. **Council recommended approval** of the application subject to the following condition:

That the building be occupied as a single family unit.

5. DC/2017/00579 1 Usk Road, Shirenewton

Change of use, for detached garage with ancillary use, to full use as ancillary living accommodation.

Council noted that it had previously recommended refusal of application number DC/2014/00810 and when approved by Mon CC there was a condition that stated "The garage hereby approved shall be retained as a garage for the parking of private motor vehicles and for other uses ancillary to the enjoyment of the dwelling and for no other purpose". Council agreed that such conditions are imposed by the Planning Department for good reason and should be upheld by both the applicant and the Planning Department, the **recommendation was for refusal**.

6. DC/2017/00626 Brynawel, Earlswood. Agricultural Notification (Information only). General purpose agricultural building.

Council was unable to consider this application as it had not appeared on the planning portal at 5.6.17 so the size and location of the building was unknown.

Other items of interest:

Speedwatch initiative - County Councillor Brown explained that the Speedwatch initiative is operated by GoSafe and to go ahead there needs to be a minimum of 7 volunteers in the community willing to undertake the training. If you are interested, please initially contact the Clerk (details below).

Feedback from coffee morning held at the Village Market on 20th May 2017

Four forms were completed on things people like/dislike about living in the Shirenewton community:

Things you like	Things you dislike
Village Market (3)	Noise/speed of motorbikes on B2435 (2)
Friendly people/atmosphere (3)	Big lorries on lanes from Gaerllwyd cross roads to Earlswood (1)
Local pubs (2)	Poor visibility on right when crossing road at Rec car park (1)
Beautiful countryside/villages (2)	Dog mess on paths near school (1)
Community events (1)	Path at Cox's Well/school overgrown (1)
Church bells (1)	Condition of the Tan House pub (1)
	Confusion of 20mph/30mph traffic restrictions (1)

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In response to the issues raised, Council resolved to take the following actions:

1. Write to police inspector thanking him for recent increased presence on B4235 and asking him to keep up the monitoring through the summer season.
2. Arrange community speed watch with CC Louise Brown.
3. Poor visibility on right at Rec car park - raise this as an issue with Highways again.
4. Obtain signage and additional dog waste bin for Mynyddbach from Mon CC. Council agreed to fund additional emptying costs at £3.39 per empty.
5. Request Countryside, Mon CC to cut back the footpath at Cox's Well to school as it is a Safe Route to School.
6. Contact Guy Delamere, Enforcement Officer, Mon CC, to request issue of an Untidy Land Order at the Tan House pub.
7. As the 20mph signs are advisory and the 30mph mandatory there will be two signs. Chase Highways to request that 20mph become mandatory, then remove the 30 signs.

Next coffee am – 21 October 2017 at the Village Market (subject to permission).

Dates of future meetings – Monday 3 July, 7 August and 4 September 2017 at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend and may speak with the Council for the first 15 minutes of each meeting.

Find more information in draft copies 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

Contact the Clerk to the Community Council - Mrs Hilary Counsell

Tel: 01291 421307

E-mail: Shirenewtoncc@gmail.com





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SHIRENEWTON SUPER SATURDAY

SATURDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2017

2.00 TO 7.00 PM

**AT SHIRENEWTON RECREATIONAL
HALL & GROUNDS**

EVENTS INCLUDE - TEA & CAKE, CHILDREN'S
TREASURE HUNT & GAMES, LIVE MUSIC, OPEN MIC
SESSIONS, BAR & BBQ.

*BRING A PICNIC, BUT MAINLY BRING YOURSELVES FOR
A FUN PACKED DAY!*

SEE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR DETAILS

Shirenewton Super Saturday
Saturday 2nd September 2017 2pm – 7pm

Despite the elements throwing lashing rain & high winds at us last year the Shirenewton Recreational Association are hosting another family fun day -"Shirenewton 2pm – 7pm. The event taking place at the Recreational Hall & Field is our second event & judging by the support from the village community last year with such appalling conditions we are confident of another good turnout this year! It's the last chance of a get together before the children return to school – so let's make it a memorable end to the summer holidays!

There will be refreshments in the form of tea, coffee and cake, ice cream, a bar and later in the day there will be a BBQ, or you can bring a picnic.

Amongst the activities on offer are games and a Treasure Hunt for the children, with other games including outdoor Chess & Connect 4 on the field for them to enjoy. There will be a Local Live Band playing music throughout the afternoon and evening, together with Open Mic sessions and Karaoke. Any "Shirenewton's Got Talent" contenders will be welcome....

Put the date on your calendar – you don't want to miss it!
(Any volunteers wishing to help support the Recreational Association with this event can contact :

Shirley on 01291 641161 or
email ayresandgraces@tesco.net)



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GARDENING CORNER

Like most men I like 'boys toys'. I'm not into flashy cars or anything like that (chance would be a fine thing!), but I do have a weak spot for the latest fishing tackle and sadly (very sad I'm sure you will agree) I am a mug for the latest garden tools – just so long as they have wooden handles and stainless steel blades /cutting edges etc.) Ah it's the little things in life I hear you say. Yes I am easily pleased. Talking of which the assistant head gardener bought me a very nifty little weeding tool to go in my Christmas sock last year. The nifty little tool is a speed weeder. Imagine a strong wire clothes hanger, but shaped slightly differently. Hold it in one hand whilst working through the soil and pick the weeds up with the other. It doesn't cut through the roots but rather drags them loose from the soil. I have to say I was very sceptical, but if you like getting down close to your weeds then I would strongly recommend it. The other week, when in the Lake District, we called into our favourite nursery at Beetham. They have a plantsman's nursery – very much like an old fashioned traditional nursery, rather than a garden centre (which is also attached!). They have some fantastic plants, but in the garden centre, I found a Rolls Royce of the speed weeder world – wooden handle, stainless steel blade – what more can I say! This along with a dividing spade for splitting up overgrown perennials found its way into the basket! Is the Rolls Royce version better than the little Mini version? I think the juy is out on that one!

Any way less of this rambling on. What's going on in the garden at the moment? In the vegetable garden every spare inch of ground has been planted and it's a case of 'hurrying things' on the way or trying to work around the best I can. The calabrese in the tunnel and greenhouse is still cropping. The main heads were cut some time ago, but the variety that we grow sends out numerous side shoots – all nicely bite size or a little bigger. They are fantastic just picked, steamed for five minutes and then on the plate – what could be better. The trouble is they are in the way! In the large tunnel I want to plant the tomatoes, so the only way around it is to plant the tomatoes in very large pots and stand them in between the calabrese – so double cropping. In the small tunnel I want to replace them with hot peppers, but there isn't room to plant them in between, so I'm nursing the peppers on for a couple of more weeks in the hope that the calabrese will have finished! Similarly in the large greenhouse, I have dug up the early potatoes, cleaned the ground and manured it, and it is already replanted with water melons. I did try growing these last year but the plants all rotted off, but this year they are looking well at the moment (famous last words), so fingers crossed. One other new crop I'm trying this year is sweet potato. Those of you that have eaten it will probably know that it's not a true potato as such. I ordered five slips at great expense. Unfortunately they arrived when we were away and they spent several days in the packaging. They didn't look very well when I opened them up, but the guidance said to stand them in some water until roots appeared and did make clear that they wouldn't look very good to begin with. I wasn't too sure but did as I was told. A week later little roots appeared and a further week on they looked well enough to pot on into compost. I planted them out in some spare ground in the large tunnel. The guidance said they liked it hot and humid – well it's over 110 in the tunnel today, so if that isn't hot and humid then nothing is!!



I've started planting out many of the autumn and winter green crops, all nicely protected (for the first time ever) with over-sized cloches, covered in netting. Similarly the carrots and celeriac have been sown and they are protected by very fine mesh netting. Time will tell whether these measures prove successful in keeping the crops free from bugs and beasties – that's the idea anyway. The sweet Williams didn't flower very well this year, I think they were badly infected with eelworm. We managed to get a few bunches in the house but they were a bit of a disappointment. I got fed up with looking at them, so they were dug up and have been replaced with both dwarf and climbing French beans. I don't believe in messing around with anything that isn't paying it's way!

As well as the calabrese, we are obviously making the most of the very early new potatoes. The taste of these with fresh mint from the garden is indescribable and would beat any imported products into a tin hat. We have been pulling beautifully sweet baby carrots for the last three weeks as well as

lettuce and spring onions. The first garlic will also be ready shortly, as will the first seasons cabbages. Most crops have now been sown that need to go direct into the ground, the last being the turnips and Swedes. All of the winter greens are growing on in the large greenhouse and will be ready in about two weeks to be planted outside. I have some fresh ground dug and ready for them so no panic at the moment. I have sown a second crop of dwarf and climbing beans, but they haven't started to show in the pots yet. Which is just as well as I need the garlic to fully mature so I can dig them up to make way for the beans. Hopefully the early potatoes growing outside will also be ready by then as well, giving me a little more space should I need it!

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The bulk of the flower garden is starting to look nice now, although there are several small beds that I haven't got around to weeding as yet. I was hoping to be on these now, but it has turned far too hot, so I daren't make a start on them just yet as the flowers will roll over and die if I disturb their roots too much. The cutting beds are coming into full production and the alstroemarias in particular (note the photograph) are looking really good and we have had several pots in the house. With these, you need to pull the flowers from the underground 'roots'. This tears the roots, but in doing so stimulates them to produce more flower stalks, so although seemingly harsh, it does seem to work.



We have been picking strawberries now for several weeks and these are coming to an end. The blackcurrants are nearly ripe and I had to hastily cover them over with netting to prevent the blackbirds from stealing too many. Next to come in will be the blueberries. These are growing in large pots as they like ericaceous (acid) conditions. So they are grown in special acidic compost and fed with fertiliser rich in iron. Being in pots means that the blueberries can be protected inside the tunnel, so blackbirds don't stand much chance of getting at them. They seem to love blueberries better than almost anything else.

The bees are still driving me around the bend, but more of them next time!

Happy gardening until September. Steve and Felicity Hunt.



Do you Spit or Swallow?

Back by popular demand

Call My Bluff wine tasting

**on Friday 7th July in the Saysell Centre
(aka The Church Room)**

7:30pm for 8:00pm

Call my Bluff wine tasting is fun wine tasting evening which requires absolutely no knowledge of the subject but does require a sense of humour.

You will taste a number of wines each of which will have 3 descriptions - guess which one is the real description!

Needless to say, as the hour gets later, the guesses become wilder!

Tickets are £15 per person which includes a welcome glass of wine, 5 half glasses of wine and nibbles. There will be a bar available after the tasting.

Come with a team or join an ad hoc team on the night.

Prizes for the winning team.

Tickets (strictly limited) from David Cornwell (01291 641614) or Kevin Bounds (077144 30559) or email webmaster@shirenewtonchurch.com

Organised by Shirenewton Charity Committee





Wales Road Casualty Reduction Partnership (Gwent)

SafetyCameraEnforcementUnit@gwent.pnn.police.uk



CADW FFYRDD CYMRU' N FWY DIOGEL
KEEPING WELSH ROADS SAFER

12 May 2017

B4235 MYNYDD BACH (40MPH) – SPEED DATA

A Golden River speed analyser was deployed along the B4235 at Mynydd Bach, adjacent to property, Lower Weyloed (GR 348185, 194431) between 4-27 Apr 17. The analyser was deployed following a series of complaints regarding the speed and noise created by motorcycles transiting the road, especially at weekends. The analyser captured the speed over the period, which included three weekends. Sat 8, Sun 9, Fri 14, Sat 15, Sun 16, Mon 17 (Bank Holiday weekend), Sat 22 and Sun 23 Apr 17.

The speed limit for the stretch of road surveyed is 40mph. The ACPO threshold (i.e. the prosecution threshold) for this stretch is 46mph. The data does not identify individual vehicle groups, for analytical purposes all vehicles measuring 2.4m in length and under have been categorised as motorcycles.

Table One

4-27 Apr 17 - All Vehicles Surveyed (40mph)			
		Average Speed (mph)	85th Percentile (mph)
Total No of Vehicles	24,210	35	42
No of Vehicles 2.4m and below	5,782	30	40
No of Vehicles over 2.4m	18,428	37	43

*85th Percentile = the speed that 85% of the vehicles were travelling at or below

- 5,782 (24%) of the total vehicles transiting the road were 2.4m in length or under.
- All average speeds and 85th percentile speeds fell below the ACPO threshold.

Table Two

Vehicles Under 2.4m in Length - Weekends Only (40mph)				
Apr-17	Total No. of Vehicles	No. of Vehicles 46mph+	% over 46mph	Peaks for 46mph+
Sat 8	315	31	9.8	12pm-6pm
Sun 9	386	70	18.1	12pm-3pm
Fri 14	221	12	5.4	None
Sat 15	270	33	12.2	1pm-3pm
Sun 16	235	40	17	11pm-3pm
Mon 17	291	30	10.3	12pm-3pm
Sat 22	313	24	7.7	2pm-3pm
Sun 23	374	69	18.4	12pm-4pm
Total	2405	309		

- 309 (12.8%) of vehicles travelled over the prosecution speed threshold in 8 days.
- The greatest % of vehicles travelling over the prosecution speed threshold occurred on a Sunday during the early part of the afternoon.

Operation Darwen

Each weekend throughout Apr 17, Wales Road Casualty Reduction Partnership (Go Safe) officers conducted speed enforcement at 4 separate sites along the B4235 under Operation Darwen (Operation targeting the anti-social use of motorcycles). Of 11.5hrs of enforcement only 1 speeding offence was detected.

During the same period, 6 sites along the B4598 and A40 were also enforced. Of 34hrs of enforcement, 130 offences were detected (mostly cars).

Given the data above, no consideration will be given to adopting the B4235 Mynydd Bach as a camera enforcement site. However, periodically enforcement will continue at other sites along the B4235, the B4598 and A40 throughout the Spring/Summer months at targeted periods, as and when resources allow.

FAIRTRADE NEWS

June 2017



It is with a heavy heart that I have to report the likely demise of the universally recognized Fairtrade system. For 25 years this organisation has achieved increasingly positive results for poor producers, world-wide, 1.6 million currently. The environment has also benefited hugely – sustainable development is one of the key criteria for the award of Fairtrade status.

Now companies are looking to curb their costs in the ever increasingly competitive market, by setting up their own schemes, which of course will not be independently evaluated. I have never been much of a fan of self-regulation when vast amounts of cash are involved. I suppose some schemes might not be so bad, but how would we know? I have written before that companies stating that they give 'a proportion' of their profits to fine sounding schemes could be giving next to nothing. The Fairtrade mark is the only real guarantee. Costa, Starbucks, McDonalds, Mondelez/Cadbury, Unilever already have their own schemes. Do their names inspire you with confidence? Now Sainsbury's – one of the most important of Fairtrade supporters has said that their own products will now be labelled 'fairly traded' which is a complete and utter opt out of the recognised Fairtrade mark. The powerful retailers will again have the upper hand. I suspect there are real grounds for arguing that using the term 'fairly traded' is a deliberate invitation for consumers to assume that these products are independently evaluated, like those bearing the Fairtrade mark. This is absolutely not the case and is, I believe a deliberate misrepresentation.

Fairtrade represents a spark of positivism and hope in the increasingly profit driven world of multinationals, whose sheer size enables them to dominate markets, producers and even governments. Unfettered free trade often results in a race to the bottom, for everyone except those at the very top of those organisations.

Marion McAdam, 641316

msm316@gmail.com



THORNBURY CLARINET CHOIR

June 17th saw our Saysell centre full to bursting with clarinets of all sizes and descriptions, from the irritatingly small E flat to the frankly Heath-Robinsonesque contrabass. This was all courtesy of the Thornbury Clarinet Choir who performed a delightful tea concert for a very appreciative audience.

The first half of the concert (conducted by Karen Millar) featured well-known classics such as 'The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba', Delibes' 'Flower Duet' and Pachelbel's Canon. We discovered exactly how high the tiny E flat clarinet could play in Gershwin's 'Walking the Dog' (could this have been the prototype dog whistle in action?), and also discovered previously unknown but highly astonishing musical talent hiding beneath the debonair façade of Bill Clarke.



Who knew he possessed such impeccable timing and flair playing the prosecco bottles in the exact manner of fireworks in the Dambusters march?

Following a wonderful tea provided by the parishioners, Tony Fleming conducted the second half of the concert, including works specially composed for clarinet choir by contemporary composers such as Paul Harris and Gordon Lewin. Our journey began in the fairground with a scarily difficult number called Claribel, and proceeded via Spain and France (le Stella Artois est arrive) to a final romp with the Pirates of the Caribbean.

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

Well we've reached the longest day (today – as I write – and a glorious day it is too) and the nights are drawing in as you read this! Of course, we still have our summer holidays to go!

I'm assuming you've booked your holiday via, I hope, the travel selections on the shopping portal (www.shirenewtonshop.com). If you've not booked your car parking yet, please do so through the portal – there are lots of different options. If you are renting a car please do take a look at insurance4carhire (click through from the shopping portal) as it can save you a small fortune on excess insurance.

Shops featured on the travel section of the shopping portal are: A1 Travel; Accor Hotels; Air New Zealand; Airparks; Airport Taxis; APH Parking; Balkan Holidays; Best Western; Blue Sea Holidays; Blue Stone park; Booking.com; Brittany Ferries; Budget Car Rental; Cheap Flights.com; Corus Hotels; Country Inns & Suites; East Midlands Trains; eBookers.com; Essential Travel; Etihad Airways; Eurocamp; Expedia; Great Rail Journeys; Heathrow Official Parking; FlightNetwork.com; Hertz, Hilton Hotels; Holiday Autos; Holiday Extras; Holiday Taxis; Holiday Transfers; Hotels.com; Insurance4carhire; Jet2.com; LateRooms.com; Legoland; Lonely Planet; LoveHomeSwap; Marriott Hotels; Momondo.com; Opodo; Park Plaza Hotels; Priority Pass; Post Office Travel Money; Purple Parking; Qatar Airlines; Radisson Hotels; Ramada Hotels; Simply Park and Fly; Singapore Airlines; Skyscanner.com; The Trainline; Thomas Cook Airlines; Thompson; WeGoLow.com.

As of mid-June, the shopping portal had earned the Church just under £300 – as always, that's cash paid into Church coffers. So please keep using it (www.shirenewtonshop.com) as those small percentages of deals add up and provide a worthy contribution.

I'm sure that there is a report on the fete elsewhere in the magazine and even a photo of two. Additional photos will be available on the church website. Currently I've only published mine. If anyone has some they are happy to have published please get in touch and we can work out how I get them.

And finally, a brief reminder that, whilst on holiday, assume that any wifi hotspots are NOT secure and browse accordingly.
Enjoys the summer holidays and see you on the other side!
Safe browsing

David Cornwell webmaster@shirenewtonchurch.com

****** Stop Press ******

The fete photos and videos of both the parade and the sheep race are available via www.shirenewtonchurch.com

On the home page click on 'News, social events and community updates!' and they are available under 'Recent Events' in the pop-up box.



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WHEELCHAIR SPORTS



We had fun playing wheelchair basketball with a GB Paralympian coach. It was very tricky because you had to turn and hold one wheel and push the other whilst holding the ball ... it was fantastic fun!

CHARITY WORK

Our sponsored *readathon* raised **£675.50** to buy books for children in hospitals and books for our library! As part of KS2's Seaside and Coasts topic, Year 5 have been learning about the great work the **RNLI** do for us and they decided they wanted to give something back to them. George and Conor came up with the fundraising idea and they all worked together to make it happen, raising £138.50.

DRAGON'S DEN



A team of children in Year 6 entered a "Dragon's Den" competition held between older pupils from Chepstow primaries. Imogen, Anna, Jemima, Seren, Arran and William created a concept for a Health Watch to help people with learning difficulties or memory issues to keep a schedule and plan their day. The Team came second overall and impressed the judges with their original idea and confident delivery - they were a credit to the school, presenting without any nerves on a huge stage in front of an audience of about 100.

ENTERPRISE TROOPERS



Hannah, Will, Rhianwen and George went to Aberbeeg to an Enterprise Troopers competition regional final. They presenting their car wash and quiz enterprise project. They won a prize for the project that had the best curriculum links.

FANTASTIC FINGER-KNITTING!



Wow! Caitlin in Year 3 has just finished a sponsored 'finger-knit' where she raised well over £300 by finger-knitting a rope long enough to go around the whole perimeter of the school building. Actually with a slight mis-measurement of the distance, her rope was so long it ended up going one and a half times around the school!!! She has donated the whole sponsorship fund to the school and is currently deciding what we should buy with the money.

COME & JOIN US

Everyone is welcome to come and join us at our end of term Hog Roast on Friday 7th July 6pm. Tickets are available from the school office.

Check out our class Blogs at ...
www.shirenewton.monmouthshire.sch.uk

WHAT A GREAT SHIRENEWTON FETE!

What a wonderful day. We are so lucky to live in a village which has such great community spirit. And, as ever, everything went like a well oiled machine thanks to Tony Prout's and Colin Stephenson's precision and perfect planning. OK, so it was cold, grey and windy and the Pimms tent couldn't stay upright and had fallen down during the night. But that can happen to anyone. And despite the dire forecast, it didn't rain.

David Davies MP opened the Fete and was asked to judge The Prettiest Bitch and The Most Handsome Dog. He was to be found helping to run The Dog Show with our favourite Vet, John Montague.

And talking of running, in a sheepish sort of way, a new event at this year's fete was the 'Shire Ewe Ton Challenge' masterminded by that great sheep race organiser Dave Cornwell. There were six contenders in total: Lady Ba Ba, Chop Chop, Will.i.lamb, Woolly Thinker, Baa Humbug and Sheepy McSheepface. It was a first for them as well and being in such a prestigious event, you could tell they were all very excited. It was a very tense start but they eventually worked out which direction they were supposed to be running, and it was Lady Ba Ba trained by Vince Oliver who was on form on the day and who won the gold(ish) cup. It was a brilliant event and we do hope it will be run again next year but with perhaps even more races?

The youngest helper at the Fete was Jenny's three-day old baby and she ended up at The Beer Stall where people were encouraged to guess the length of the baby. Tony Broadribb was the closest with 57 inches and won three bottles of beer.

It being a coolish sort of a day the Burger Bar was doing great business. Although it always helps to have a spare, full gas canister on these occasions I feel. But it was so well worth the wait because, without doubt, they were the best burgers ever.

Graham Lambert, the Church Treasurer was delighted to win the lovely Welsh themed Fruit cake. It had a dragon on the top of it. And the Grand Draw had the most amazing array of Prizes. Young Harry won the £100 and I did hear that Howard won the £100 voucher to have his hair styled down at the fabulous hairdressers in Usk.

'Guess the Weight of the Salmon' was different this year as Tesco's muddled up the order and so it was the 'Guess the Weight of the Two Salmon Fillets' which, maybe didn't look quite so impressive but I'm sure they were delicious. Another ordering malfunction was over at the Coconut Shy when Richard Osbourne Tonner ordered 50 coconuts online but failed to tick the 'No Substitutions' box. He must have been a bit disappointed when Tesco's delivered 50 boxes of coconut water instead. I heard that Gaynor and Richard had a bit of a stressful time scouring the local shops trying to find 50 nuts at such short notice.

Which reminds me, I am now the proud possessor of two wooden balls. Thinking about it, they do look like they may belong to the Coconut Shy but I'm not sure. If you know who the balls belong to, can you give me a ring.

Thank you to everyone who helped and in particular, a big Thank you to Tony and Colin for their sterling work and see you next year!
Glynis MacDonald (641 818)

DEAR THEATRE GOERS

I am sorry not to have organised any theatre trips for a while, but hopefully you are all still up for the odd jaunt out to see what's on somewhere.

So please see below two opportunities to get out and about again in the next few months.



If you saw The Pantaloons performing Chaucer's Canterbury Tales at last year's Chepstow Festival in the Castle, you will know how funny, talented and skilled they are. This year, as part of Chepstow 950 they are performing their version of A Midsummer's Night's Dream at the Castle on Thursday 20th July at 7.30 p.m. So think of the play that Shakespeare wrote, then imagine it written by a load of monkeys on typewriters – no wait a minute, isn't that how it was written in the first place? A cast of just five talented actor-musicians play all the roles, there are quick changes and larger-than-life characters. Fast-paced, brimming with comic energy, contemporary references, slapstick and original live music. Advance tickets are £14 per adult, £12 per concession, and if we hire a minibus it will be £20 a head (unless we don't fill it, in which case it may be a bit more) – so I would expect the trip to cost £34 per adult and £32 per concession.

And at the Royal Theatre, Bath there is How The Other Half Loves (by Alan Ayckbourn) on Saturday 7th October at 8 p.m. Coming direct from the West End (yes, of London...) is a tale of matrimonial mishaps. As Bob and Fiona try to hide their affairs, their spouses' intervention adds to the confusion. William and Mary are stuck in the middle, falsely accused of adultery as the plot culminates in two disastrous dinner parties on successive nights, shown at the same time, after which the future of all three couples seems in jeopardy...

The cast includes Robert Daws (best known for The Royal, Outside Edge and Roger Roger); Caroline Langrishe (Lovejoy, Holby City and Judge John Deed); Matthew Cottle (Game On); Sarah Crowe (Four Weddings and a Funeral); Charlie Brooks (Janine Butcher in EastEnders) and Leon Ockendon (Coronation Street). These tickets are £29.50 in the Dress Circle, and I would expect the minibus to cost £20 a head (unless we don't fill it in which case it may be a bit more) – so I would expect the trip to cost £49.50 a head.

If you are interested in either of these theatre trips, please email me letting me know how many places you wish to book.

For A Midsummer Night's Dream, please get back to me by 18th June – that is, in a fortnight – to be sure of getting a place.

For How The Other Half Loves, please get back to me by 18th August.

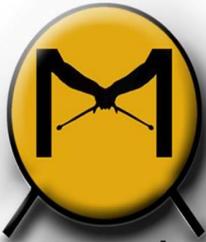
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Bill

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Stargazing



The constellation of Cygnus the Swan lies pretty much overhead. Its brightest stars form a cross against the background of the Milky Way. The familiar pattern of Ursa Major, the Great Bear or Plough, is to be seen in the north-west, with the "W" of Cassiopeia climbing into the north-eastern sky. The constellation of Sagittarius can be seen low in the southern sky. The ancient Greeks could see an archer with the head and chest of a man and the body of a horse in this pattern of stars, but it also looks rather like a teapot with the handle to the left and the spout to the right! On a larger scale, the Summer Triangle made up of the bright stars Deneb, Vega and Altair dominates the sky to the South. Deneb forms the head of Cygnus.

The slightly-yellow coloured planet Saturn is to the south in the evening sky in July and August and on the left of a reddish star called Antares. The bright planet Jupiter is in the south-west to mid-July and lies to the right of a star called Spica. On the 1st July the Moon is close to Jupiter. On the 6th July the almost Full Moon is close to Saturn. It is also close to Saturn on 2nd August. The Moon takes approximately 28 days to rotate around the Earth, which explains why particular phases of the Moon such as the Full Moon are seen 28 days apart. In the case of the Full Moon we are viewing the Moon with the Sun behind us which means the Moon's shadow can't be seen. In the case of the New Moon, just a fine edge of the Moon's disc is illuminated by the Sun whilst the rest of the Moon's surface is in shadow.

You may be lucky enough to see some Noctilucent Clouds. They appear after 11pm to the north. These wispy clouds are formed at heights of over 60 miles – normal clouds are much lower. Noctilucent Clouds are formed when ice particles in the atmosphere, gather around the dust produced by meteors. They can be seen because they are illuminated by the already set Sun.

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Nerys's Natty Nosh



As a family we enjoy barbeques (BBQ) when the weather is warm and sunny, though we can benefit from a "smoking" shelter if it happens to rain. We cook on gas rather than charcoal as it's more instant and controllable. We like to pre-heat the BBQ so that the meat sizzles and sears when it hits the grill. Fat from the meat dripping into the flames will create some smoke and if you need more you can throw on some herbs or wood shavings. Keep moving the meat so that it does not char in the flames. Jacket potatoes can be micro waved first so that they are soft inside and then put on the BBQ to

crisp the skins. We coat asparagus with a little oil and salt crystals and put them on a hot griddle for around 5 minutes until they are lightly browned. I tend to make my own beef burgers and shape them in a burger press. I buy organic mince or sometimes rump steak.



Ingredients

500g minced beef
1 chopped onion
1 tbsp. freshly chopped parsley
1 tbsp. freshly chopped chives
1 egg
Pinch of salt and pepper



Method

Add all the ingredients into a food processor and blitz for a few seconds until all the mixture is combined and forms a ball.

Shape and press the burgers into the desired thickness. I use greaseproof paper discs to help with the shaping. For a different taste a small amount of brie can be placed in the centre of the raw burger when shaping. Make sure the burger is thoroughly cooked throughout. Bon Appetite !!!!!

Nerys's Natty Nosh



There are so many different types of lettuce and greenery to choose from to make a delicious salad. The darker the leaf the more carotenes and vitamin C present. Cos lettuce, contains five times as much vitamin C and more betacarotene than iceberg lettuce.



When I make a salad I like to throw as much nutrition into the bowl as possible. For example this salad has:-

- Spinach leaves
- Cos lettuce
- Avocado, sliced
- Radish, sliced
- Red onion rings
- Cucumber, sliced
- Basil leaves
- Pomegranate
- Cherry tomatoes
- Lemon zest, grated
- Lemon juice



This salad has less ingredients:-

- Cos lettuce, shredded
- Cucumber, sliced
- Radish, sliced
- Tomatoes, halved
- Handful of sunflower seeds

Serve the salad with your chosen barbecue dishes.

Enjoy!



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Shirenewton Fete 2017



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DIARY DATES

July	Event	Location
3rd 7:30pm	Shirenewton Community Council	Recreation Hall
7th 7:30pm	Call my Bluff Wine Tasting	Saysell Centre
9th 6:30pm	176th Church Anniversary services	Gaerllwyd Baptist Church
10th 7:30pm	176th Church Anniversary services	Gaerllwyd Baptist Church
13th 7:15pm	Shirenewton Women's Institute	Recreation Hall
15th 7:30pm	Shirenewton Village Market	Recreation Hall
Aug	Event	Location
7th 7:30pm	Shirenewton Community Council	Recreation Hall
19th 7:30pm	Shirenewton Village Market	Recreation Hall
Sept.	Event	Location
2nd 2—7:00pm	Shirenewton Super Saturday	Recreation Hall & Grounds
4th 7:30pm	Shirenewton Community Council	Recreation Hall
22nd 7 for 7:30pm	RNLI Concert by Chepstow Male Voice Choir	Shirenewton Church

St Thomas áBecket Church Shirenewton Readers and Side Persons

Date	Sunday Service	Readers	Sides Persons
2nd July	Trinity Three	Bill Clark Janet Horton	Bill Clark Janet Horton
9th July	Trinity Four	Bob Grattan Joanne Tomlins	Bob Grattan Joanne Tomlins
16th July	Trinity Five	James Leney Margaret Lock	Clare Lewis Margaret Lock
23rd July	Trinity Six	Mark Brououghton Jane Smith Haddon	Mark Brououghton Jane Smith Haddon
30th July	Trinity Seven	GROUP SERVICE	Mathern Church
6th August	Trinity Eight and the "Trnsfiguratioin of Our Lord	Bob Grattan Cynthia Smith	Bob Grattan Cynthia Smith
13th August	Trinity Nine Tenth after Pentecost	Mark Broughton Frances Gray	Mark Broughton Frances Gray
20th August	Trinty Ten	Bill Clark Janet Horton	Bill Clark Janet Horton
27th August	Trinity Eleven	Paul Morecombe Ruth Savagar	Paul Morecombe Clare Lewis
3rd September	Trinity Twelve	Bob Grattan Diane Marlow	Bob Grattan Diane Marlow
10th September	Trinity Thirteen	Mark Broughton Glynis MacDonald	Mark Broughton Glynis MacDonald
17th September	Trinity Fourteen	James Leney Jane Smith-Haddon	Jane Smith-Haddon Clare Lewis
24th September	Trinity Fifteen	Andrew Baker Sally Sayell	Clare Lewis Graham Lambert



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