

Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

November 2017



Price: £1

FROM THE VICARAGE

Dear People of the Parish,

Sometimes the excitement is almost too much to bear.

So it was the other week when, after a run of sleepless nights and an unprecedented high-level of anticipation, the day came for me to attend the Diocesan Conference in Caldicot.

The cynical might imply that attendance is only the result of 'toeing the party line' or slavishly creeping to be seen by the Bishop and not to be numbered among those who used the day otherwise involved in watching football/drinking excessive amounts of alcohol/lying in bed.

Actually, it was a rather uplifting experience. The venue was the newly constructed school (an impressive building) and our wise Bishop moved what could have been an otherwise turgid agenda along at a cracking pace. The guest speaker was well worth listening to, and the coffee supplied was surprisingly drinkable. A number of clergy were not present, which helped, and the rest who were present seemed attuned and responsive to the larger issues swirling about them.

As jaundiced as opinions held by individuals such as myself might be, it is good to be reminded of what the wider nature and scope of the church we serve should be. It is an easy thing to get lost in the intricacies of parish life and – if pushed – to consider Deanery considerations but it is good to be reminded of the 'bigger picture' and the part we are called to fulfil therein.

Speaking of the Bishop (in the nicest possible way) we look forward to welcoming him again in the early part of the New Year. A couple of months ago the regulars at this end of the Grouped Parish appreciated his warming presence at Mounton Church and now we look forward to his visit to Shirenewton Church on Sunday, January 28th at 10.00am.

On this occasion he will dedicate the new altar frontal following the disappearance of the previous one by persons unknown. At the same time it is hoped that he will stimulate all present with words of wisdom – which will make a refreshing change from what I usually proffer. Doubtless, all members of the ministry team will be present and we shall every attempt to appear dignified. A special word of thanks must be extended to Bill Clarke and the rest of the PCC for so ably seeing this project through. Further mention of the special event will feature in future editions of this magazine.

By the time you read this the end of the secular year draws nigh. It seems appropriate, therefore, to thank all the ministers who give of their time and expertise to ensure that the Holy occasions in our four churches are observed assiduously. In this respect I record appreciation to Revd. Nansi Davies, Revd. Rick Hayes, Gilly Lambert, Ros Downs, Jane Smith-Haddon and Glynis Bounds who, along with Revd. Don Wood and David Flint for their contribution.

In like manner I am indebted to all the Churchwardens, PCC members and organists who give so unsparingly of their time and talent to ensure that the spiritual and secular life of our four parishes is presented to the highest standard.

With every good wish and blessing.

Parishioners will be delighted to know that Claire Lewis has made a new red altar frontal, fall and veil to replace the ones that went missing from the Church earlier in the year. The PCC would like to thank Claire for her hard work and generosity in making the replacements, and express their delight at the results, which are superb. Bishop Richard of Monmouth has kindly agree to consecrate the new altar frontal, veil and fall at the Sunday morning service on Sunday 28th January 2018. All members of the community will be most welcome to attend this service, which will also include parishioners from the other Churches in the group – Mathern, Mounton and St Pierre. Further details will be published nearer the time.

Many thanks

Bill Clark

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

Tel: 01291641783; Mobile: 07890945187

Thank you ...

to everyone who contributed to making the wedding of our daughter, Becky, and son-in-law, Dan, such a successful and happy event.

Particular thanks to the church community and it's many volunteers who helped to make the Church and Churchyard look so wonderful on the day.

Jackie and Mark Broughton



Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall 70th Anniversary

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Acoustic Music Festival

Saturday 2nd December 2017

7pm - 12am

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BANDS:

To be confirmed

TICKETS:

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www.shirefest.org

In support of: Shirefest 2018 Charity Fund Raising Music Festival

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The first meeting of the society's year was held at the Huntsman Hotel. Our speaker for the evening was Malcolm Watkins who gave a talk entitled 'Boil a Mouse in Urine'. Members were not quite sure of exactly what the topic of the talk would be all about. We soon realised that the topic was varied, we had medieval medical tips right through to interpretation of art in the guise of Old Masters.

We are holding our Annual General Meeting in October. After, our speaker is John Burrows who will give a talk on 'The Chepstow Bridge' which celebrated its 200th birthday last year.



Dated for your Diary:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Monday, 13 th November | Archive Meeting at the Recreational Hall,
2.00 pm – 5.00 pm |
| Tuesday, 28 th November | Visit to Chepstow Museum, the museum has currently an exhibition on called 'Hidden in the Lining' referring to the Indian textile that the museum has in its collection. Meeting at the museum at 2.00 pm. Afterwards, afternoon tea at a nearby teashop |
| Monday, 11 th December | Archive Meeting at the Recreational Hall,
2.00 pm – 5.00 pm
At these meetings everyone is welcome whether a member or not. |
| Tuesday, 12 th December | Meeting at Llanfyangel-tor-y-Mynydd Church at 7.00 pm talk & tour
Given by Prof Ray Howell with supper after at the Tredegar Arms. |
| Wednesday, 27 th December | Solstice Walk up to Grey Hill to see the sun rise, meeting at 7.30 am at the Woodland Tavern, sunrise 8.10 am approx.
Afterwards breakfast at the Woodland Tavern. |

Everyone welcome

www.shirenewtonlocalhistorysociety.co.uk

FAIRTRADE NEWS



Autumn seems to have well and truly arrived, and therefore commerce's thoughts turn to Christmas! People sometimes complain about Christmas goodies arriving in shops earlier and earlier but I know that a couple of years ago Oxfam was put at a bit of disadvantage when other charity shops had already started selling their Christmas cards and other goodies. This year Oxfam in Chepstow has quite a good selection of gifts, handicrafts and specialist chocs and edibles, and of course a wide range of cards both for Christmas and other occasions. One popular range is by Cath Tate – humorous and quirky eg a dour group of old biddies – strapline 'My bookclub can beat up your bookclub', or a straggling line of mountaineers traipsing through thick snow up a forbidding slope 'Why won't he ever ask someone the way?'

Traidcraft offers a large range of Christmas items as well as their usual everyday range of food, paper products, accessories, household products etc. My bamboo socks continue to sell well, but I will be interested to find out whether the fact that the price of new stock has risen by 20% (Brexit and the £ I assume) will deter people. Similarly with the delicious organic Palestinian olive oil – it always was expensive but now incredibly so. Over the years I have sold the odd bottle now and then, but use it myself and often take a bottle as a gift, rather than wine. It would make a real treat for a foody friend at Christmas and my goodness, it seems wonderful to me that Palestinians can export anything at all given their awful situation. Palestinian almonds are also of an excellent quality.

Chocolate is a key element of many Christmas festivities and I do urge you to support Fairtrade chocolate. It does seem a bit more expensive – chocolate coins for example, but the quality is excellent and as I have often observed about our meat consumption – a little less of a better quality product is better for everyone. (I do think eating no meat at all is an even better option – not so for chocolate!)

Marion McAdam 641316 msm316@gmail.com

Do have a look at FT goods on the Traidcraft website, or at Ethical Superstore

PS Correspondence in Private Eye continues, debating the recycling of Nespresso capsules. Apparently the company will supply a stamped addressed bag for recycling! Compatible pods, however, are made of plastic and therefore cannot be recycled. (I use a filter paper and a jug – coffee grounds (and the filter) make good compost with absolutely no effort at all!)



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SHIRENEWTON CHURCH HARVEST FESTIVAL LUNCH

We had a fantastic Harvest Lunch up at Earlswood Hall on Sunday 1st October. Many thanks to all the people who organised it all and to all those who donated the wonderful food. Then after the lunch came the auction. It's quite exciting because you never know quite what you're going to get. Dave Cornwell is a great auctioneer but he wasn't always able to tell the difference between a parsnip and a turnip, a pot of marmalade from a jar of jam, a pumpkin from a gourd and a courgette from a marrow. Life in the Cornwell kitchen with him as cook sounds gastronomically interesting. Anyway, I was very lucky because my bid for the fruit cake came with a huge bunch of beetroot, a vatful of apples and a lot of large leeks.

The money raised from the Auction and from the Raffle meant that we were able to send a donation of £820:00 to The MacMillan Nurses which is a great result for a wonderful organisation.

Many thanks again to everyone who supported the Shirenewton Church Harvest Lunch. It really was a happy village occasion.

Glynis MacDonald



SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the October 2017 meeting

Council reluctantly accepted the resignation of Cllr I Moore as Chair and Council member. Cllr M Davies was elected as Chair for the rest of the year until the Annual Meeting in May 2018. Mr Ben Allen of Green Pool, Earlswood was co-opted and welcomed as a Council member to represent the Shirenewton ward.

Your Councillors

Shirenewton ward	Telephone No.	E-mail address
Cllr Beverley Moore	01291 641532	mmoorebev@aol.com
Cllr Michelle Davies (Chair)	01291 641583	michelledavies100@yahoo.co.uk
Cllr Bryn Price	01291 641217	brynpricecc@gmail.com
Cllr Ben Allen	01291 641150	ben@rapier.org.uk
Vacancy		
Mynyddbach ward		
County Cllr Louise Brown	07598979719	louisebrown@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Vacancy		
Earlswood ward		
Cllr Ken Morton	01291 650268	ken.morton@hotmail.co.uk
Vacancy		
Newchurch West ward		
Cllr Ian Martin	01291 650014	longmeadow@outlook.com
Clerk to the Council		
Hilary Counsell Five Lanes House Caerwent, Caldicot Monmouthshire NP26 5PQ	01291 421307	shirenewtoncc@gmail.com
County Councillor		
Louise Brown	07598979719	louisebrown@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Planning applications considered:

1. DC/2017/00594 Land adjacent to Bluebell Lane, Earlswood
Proposed erection of stable building, shed/workshop.

Recommendation of approval made on 22.9.17 subject to the following conditions:

- the retention of all existing trees and hedging to retain natural biodiversity,
- that no external floodlighting be installed,
- that a scheme be drawn up for the processing and off-site disposal of waste.
- that there is no future commercial use of the buildings/site.

2. DC/2017/00997 7 Tan House Court, Shirenewton
Alteration to PVC glazed front porch inset into front elevation of single storey bungalow. Reconfiguration of ground floor area.

Council noted that the modification was relatively minor, the footprint of the property will remain the same and there were no objections from neighbouring properties on-line. The recommendation was for approval.

3. DC/2016/01365 Springhill, Earlswood
Alterations and extensions at the rear of the dwelling.

Council noted the following information and recommended that the application be approved.

"The house has been extended previously. The original stone central section, possibly 2-300 years old had both sides extended with rendering finish. The new external walls will be natural stone and rendering. The roof will match with existing brown concrete tiling. The windows at present are utilitarian d/g UPVC. New cottage style woodgrain finish UPVC windows are to be installed. A new window is to be added to the front elevation of the existing left hand extension to give a more balanced look. The extension is not visible from the road save obliquely to the right hand elevation where full length glazing is proposed to the rear to enclose the balcony and entrance area. The glazing is very modern and not consistent with the cottage style, but owners propose that the glazing be darkened so that it appears from the road (in so far as it is visible at all) to be solid walling."

4. DC/2017/01106 Maybee Cottage, Usk Road, Shirenewton
Remove an existing pergola canopy and construct an orangery style conservatory to the rear of the dwelling.

Council noted that the proposal would be the same height as the existing pergola and would significantly improve the property without increasing the existing footprint in a meaningful way. The recommendation was for approval.

Other items of interest

Next Community Council Coffee morning – will be held at the Village Market in the Recreation Hall on Saturday 21 October from 10 am – 12 noon. Please come along to enjoy coffee and cake also to meet and talk to your local Councillors.

Council Website – following the recent cyberattack, the website is now available again and is being hosted by a Newport based company. It has been updated with all the required information.

Continued on page 12

Outstanding Highways issues, responses received 2.10. 17 –

Lack of white lining at Shirenewton . Response - As the Community Council is undoubtedly aware, the Traffic Team made a conscious decision not to provide any junction markings as part of the Shirenewton traffic scheme. This was intended to create a shared space environment where no one group takes precedence over another. I do not feel that providing junction or centre line markings is necessary at this time.

Poor visibility on right when using the pedestrian crossing on Earlswood Road at recreation hall car park. **Response** - The visibility to the right when using the crossing point outside the Community Centre was improved as part of the scheme. However, given the adjacent boundaries it would be very difficult to improve it any more than we already have.

Confusion between 20mph and 30mph signage when located close to each other. **Response** - the advisory 20mph vehicle activated sign (vas) units are located within the limits of the 30mph speed limit, therefore, any motorist driving through the 30mph terminal signs should encounter the advisory 20mph vas units. Therefore, there should be no confusion in terms of the speeds the motorists are advised to drive at.

HGV's using Blacksmiths Lane. Response - the request for "unsuitable for HGV's" is on the current Road Safety & Traffic Management program for implementation this financial year.

Road repairs at West End. Response - the Area Maintenance Engineer will need to consider appropriate follow on action.

Cracks in 'cobblestones'. Response - the Project Engineer has discussed this matter with the Contractor and it is acknowledged that any applied surfacing such as that used within the village cannot be guaranteed owing to the historical make-up of the road. However an inspection has confirmed that the reflective cracking does not present a safety risk and therefore repairs will be undertaken as appropriate.

Best Kept Village Competition 2017

The awards evening was held at Chepstow Garden Centre on Friday 6 October and Shirenewton won the following prizes in the 201 – 400 population category:

**Best Kept Churchyard
Best Kept War Memorial
Best Kept Village Hall**

Highly Commended in the Best Kept Village category, losing out to Llanfair Discoed which was the winner

Remembrance Sunday will be held on Sunday 12 November 2017.

Dates of future meetings – Note change of date of November meeting to Monday 13 November 2017, and 4th December 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 approved 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**



SHIRENEWTON VILLAGE MARKET DATES FOR 2017

**EVERY THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH FROM
10-12**

AT THE REC HALL.

***YOUR MONTHLY ONE STOP SHOP FOR LOCALLY
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ENJOY COFFEE AND CAKE IN THE CAFÉ.

JOIN US TO SHOP AND SOCIALISE!

18TH NOVEMBER 2017

16TH DECEMBER 2017

CHRISTMAS MARKET

FANTASTIC FUNDRAISING

At the end of the summer term we left our school shoes on our desks and walked out of school barefooted ... we collected **236** pairs of shoes to send to our partner school in Rwanda!



We have held various charity and fundraising events this term including:

MacMillan Coffee Morning - **£289.10**

Rags to Riches - **£160.95**

Film Night - **£150**

And we donated our Harvest collection of food and toiletry items to Caldicot Foodbank ...



TRIPS & VISITS

As an introduction to the topic about 'Romans', all our KS2 classes spent a day in Caerwent investigating the remains:



Year 6 have enjoyed a week's stay at Gilwern where they went geocaching on the Blorence, canoeing on the canal, caving, climbing and crate stacking in teams and also learned some new Forest School skills.

Check out their class Blog at ...
www.shirenewton.monmouthshire.sch.uk

CHALET

We have a brand new 'Chalet' in our grounds which gives us a much needed additional teaching space - it includes a nurture and kitchen area, a learning zone and music area.



SPORTING EVENTS

Our sports teams have enjoyed competing in various tournaments this term, including football and cross country.



COME & JOIN US

In addition to our School Council, Eco Committee, Digital Leaders, Criw Cymraeg & Healthy Schools Committee we have a brand new pupil committee called 'Community Ambassadors'. They are trying to set up a 'Young at Heart Community Club' where different generations join together to chat and share their skills. They are inviting all interested people from the community to a tea party on Thursday 23rd November 2.15pm. Please contact the school if you are interested in attending or require more information 01291 641774 or email us: shirenewtonprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk



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SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

Following on from last month (in which Terry found room for the entire piece – thanks Terry!), I thought it would be useful to update everyone on best practice in passwords. The guidance has changed so read very carefully – I shall only type this once!



Previously it was all about complexity. So it was recommended that you use a mixture of upper and lower case letters with numbers and punctuation. Length wasn't a factor. So a password such as R3dW1ne! would be considered strong. But, alas no more! Now it's more about length and less about complexity – although complexity is always good. This is because of so called 'brute force attacks'. Such attacks use software programs to repeatedly try and log on with a very large number of guesses. So, a simple yet long password takes much more cracking than a short complex password.

However this is not an exact science and there is contradictory strength information on the web. If you go to 'http://howsecureismypassword.net' and enter R3dW1ne! it tells me that it would take a computer about 53 years to crack the password. This is contradicted by 'http://passfault.com' which suggests that it would take less than one day! Personally I think passfault is more likely to be correct.

However if I enter the password 'IliketoDrinkRedWineintheevening' both increase estimate of the years significantly to '124 Decillion Years' and to '24,794 Centuries' respectively! And, note that there is no punctuation or other complexity in that password. Add some numbers and punctuation (IliketoDrinkRedWineintheevening1234!!) and suddenly you are at '5 sexdecillion years' and '12,946,052,140 centuries'.

So the recommendation is to develop a little phrase which you can remember. For example: TheroadtoChepstowistheB4235! provides answers of '2 duodecillion years' and '87,003,266,786 centuries'! Imustshopatshirenewtonshop! also provides a very satisfactory result! However, make sure that your password is different for every website. That can easily be achieved with a slight change in the story for each account. Undoubtedly, the best way to manage passwords is to use a password manager. That way you don't have to remember them all. I personally use Roboform and have done for several years. There are however several out there. PCMag rates Dashlane, LastPass, Sticky Password, LogmeOnce, Roboform (in that order) and several others at <http://tinyurl.com/yawhq39u>

You may have recently read about the 'Krack' wifi hack risk. The Telegraph technology section had the following headline on 16th October: Every Wi-Fi network at risk of unprecedented 'Krack' hacking attack. I'm sure that there were other sensational headlines from others in the MSM (Main Stream Media).

The article said: " This could involve passwords, credit card numbers, photos and messages sent over a network to be stolen, or cyber attacks to be inserted into the traffic.". The critical word here is 'could'.

The facts, at the time of writing, are this: (i) the attacker has to be in range of the wifi network being attacked, must be technically sophisticated and have technically sophisticated kit; (ii) There are no known working exploits yet – currently the issue is theoretical; (iii) if the site you are using is https: or you are using a vpn or transmitting data via TLS or similar (this is how email clients do it) then you are safe because, even if they break in, all they will get is encrypted data; (iv) You may already be patched. The vendors were alerted to the flaw in advance of publicity and Microsoft released a patch in its October security updates. By the time you read this it is very likely that Apple will have patched iOS and MacOS. Google is apparently working on Android and ChromeOS.

Finally, as thoughts turn to Christmas and associated spending, please do click through from ShirenewtonShop.com. Year to date the website has earned just over £600 for the Church. All those little referral fees do add up so please keep clicking through.

Safe browsing
David Cornwell
Rock House, Mynyddbach, NP16 6RP, UK



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GARDENING CORNER



I realised the other day that some of the very first flower borders we created here at Barn Farm are now over 25 years old. I had intended to give them a good clean up as soon as the weather allowed, but on reflection I think they need a little more drastic attention. On closer inspection it's clear that many of the plants have 'had their day' and that some areas are clearly being gradually taken over by couch grass. When the borders are bulging with flowers it is a good way of hiding the weeds, but now the older flowers have well and truly lost their vigour it is very much a case of 'the boot being on the other foot'. Couch grass isn't the prettiest flower going! So rather than tinkle at the edges I have decided that it is now time for a full on assault. On reflection it is clear that we have spent thousands of pounds over the years creating our little oasis of colour in an otherwise green (although still fantastic) landscape. With full time retirement not far away, we now have to be a bit more restrained. We will still buy something that takes our fancy – after all there are some fantastic looking flowers coming to the market every year, but perhaps not in the quantities purchased in the past. That shouldn't be a problem though as nature can be very resilient.

The plan is to work our way through each border completely removing everything as we go. The large clumps of flowers that are now beginning to look ragged will be divided up, with the older and weaker bits being thrown on the bonfire and only the outside and more vigorous parts being replanted. The extra bits will be potted up and these will act as our reserve stock for next year should any plants fail leaving a gap. The weeds, especially the couch grass roots, will be removed as best as possible, and the borders will get a dose of manure. I said that nature is very resilient. Seeds can lie dormant in the ground for some time, and I would expect new plants to spring up everywhere (no doubt alongside weeds as well). Last year I made a few new raised beds in the vegetable garden and I noticed this year that half of the 'weeds' turned out to be garden worthy varieties that we had grown some time ago. One bronze coloured grass (a carex), probably hasn't been apparent in the garden for at least ten years, but I discovered several new plants that had germinated and were now getting established. These were soon removed and re-potted to add to the stock next year. So as soon as the weather permits the work will continue. I have made a good start clearing out what was always meant to be the 'cut flower' garden. The first elements in the firing line for the 'short back and sides' treatment, were the two pergolas that guard each entrance. The one was covered in a climbing and rambling rose, whilst the other had a honeysuckle and wisteria. The roses were cut back hard to just new growth and tied in to the frame. The honeysuckle had died several years ago, so this was cut down to the ground, whilst the wisteria was pruned back to some new growth sprouting from the base. Drastic action but very necessary and very satisfying looking at the end result! Ivy had also started to spread out from the base of the hedge across the ground, so this is also being ripped out as we go. One particular day lily has suffocated almost everything else in one part of this border, so this is also going. I might keep some fresh growth, but it is obviously a bit of a thug, so I might be a little more discerning as to where it gets re-planted. Another plant with similar tendencies is a Japanese anemone, the pink flowered, more common variety. It is quite pretty, but boy can it move. I've dug it out and even sprayed it with Round-Up, but it still keeps

coming back for more. I have cleared one area and replanted, but the anemone is coming up everywhere. I'll have to think hard what we do about this one! In amongst the daylily mentioned above we have one of our best coloured alstroemaria's maintaining a toe hold. This is a lovely deep plum colour and was actually the first variety we ever bought from a specialist grower in the Hampshire. At the time we didn't know whether it would survive the winter but here it is 25 years later and still hanging on in there. It is a very strong grower with superb stems that last at least two weeks in the vase. When the day lily goes I intend to carefully look for the alstroemaria roots and re-pot these up, as we don't have this variety anywhere else in the garden.

I did start this re-vamping exercise earlier in the year, but the weather and too many other things, have got in the way. However this delay actually gave me a bit of a 'light-bulb' moment, in that plants were short in number for replanting, so to fill the ground, and help smother weeds, I grew a number of annual flowers. Some of these were extremely successful and were a boon to the bees as I had chosen varieties that were especially good for nectar. Most successful were the various varieties of antirrhinum, cosmos and one variety of dahlia called 'Bishops children'. If you know dahlia's you will know that that is a series of bronze leaved dahlia's all named after Bishops. Probably the most famous, especially for around here, is the red flowered 'Bishop of Llandaff'. The children seed is obviously a mix from the different varieties, so you don't know what you will get colour-wise, but all will be bronze leaved. I didn't expect a seed sown dahlia to grow so strongly and produce a fantastic array of single flowers which the bees just loved. I have had to dig a few up whilst clearing the beds, and these have made good solid tubers, many of which can be divided for next year, and all in the first year. That's what I call value for money. So I know what I'll be doing if there are any gaps in the flower borders next year – they will soon get filled in with the annual 'stop gaps'!

In the vegetable garden it is very much a case of clearing out the weeds and last elements of the crops as each comes to an end. Shallots and garlic have already been planted for next year, and currently I'm thumbing through the various seed catalogues to see what to grow next season. There is time to dwell and take stock of what went well and what not so well. Biggest success by far was using the netting as a barrier against bugs and beasties. It's a pleasure to eat greens not shot to death by caterpillars, and we have actually had a decent carrot crop, with no sign of root fly, which is the first time in at least ten years. I had said that this would be the last year to try, but the overwhelming success will mean that several packets of carrot seeds will find their way into my basket this year.



At the end of what was a difficult year we did harvest about 100lbs of honey, but more about that next time. I have been feeding the bees with sugar syrup, and with the cooler days, this changed to fondant icing. All I need now is a reasonable day, weather-wise, to be able to shut the hives down for winter. At the moment I'm still waiting and may have to just bite the bullet.

Happy gardening until next month.

Steve and Felicity Hunt.

STARGAZING



In the evening sky, at the start of the month, you may glimpse the planet Saturn close to the horizon in the south-west, just after sunset. Saturn has a slightly yellow colour. The Moon is close to Saturn on the 20th. At dawn, the brilliant planet Venus can be seen close to the eastern horizon. Much less bright and with an orange hue, Mars is above and to the right of Venus. The Moon and Mars are near neighbours on the 15th.

The seven stars of the Plough lie to the North in the evening. Those of us with particularly good eye-sight can see that Mizar, the star that is the second along the handle of the plough, is in fact a double-star.

The “W” of Cassiopeia lies nearly overhead. In Roman mythology Cassiopeia was queen of the ancient kingdom of Aethiopia. She was chained to her throne as a punishment for being boastful, and placed in the heavens to sometimes hang upside down. The band of stars making up the Milky Way runs through Cassiopeia.

The Milky Way is best seen from the countryside, away from city and even village lights. There have been no really large telescopes of the type used by professional astronomers in the UK for 40 years or more. This is at least partly due to the effects of street lighting.

The Leonid meteor shower is due on the nights of 17th and 18th November – you may be lucky enough to see meteors, often called shooting stars, in the vicinity of the constellation Leo. Leo rises in the East around midnight. Meteors are caused by tiny grains of dust burning up as they enter Earth’s atmosphere. The dust particles result from the break-up of comets, and travel in swarms around the Sun around the same orbit as the original comet.

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Nerys's Natty Nosh



Lentil Gurry serves 4

Ingredients

1 tin organic green lentils
1 onion finely chopped
10g root ginger finely chopped
2 garlic cloves
1 green chilli de-seeded and chopped
1 tin tomatoes
½ teaspoon turmeric
1 tablespoon oil
2 teaspoons cumin seeds
½ teaspoon garam masala
¼ teaspoon ground coriander
Handful chopped coriander leaves
Salt to taste
Garnish
Handful chopped kale (optional)



Method

1 Fry the chopped onion, ginger, garlic, chillies and cummin seeds, into a soft consistency.

2 Add the remaining ingredients. Boil, reduce heat, then simmer, covered. Cook gently for 10-15 minutes. Season to taste.

3 Garnish with the corriander
4 Serve with boiled rice or Naan bread. Enjoy!



Bombay potatoes serves 4-6



Ingredients

3 large potatoes, cubed
15g root ginger peeled
3 garlic cloves, peeled
8 small tomatoes quartered
2 tablespoon vegetable oil
 $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon cumin seeds
1 teaspoon mustard seeds
1 large onion chopped
1 teaspoon turmeric
2 teaspoon ground coriander
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1 teaspoon garam masala
 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon chilli powder
Large handful chopped coriander leaves

Method

- 1 Place the cubed potatoes in boiling salt water. Cook until just tender. Drain.
- 2 Blend together the ginger and garlic.
- 3 Heat the oil in a large frying pan. Add the cumin and mustard seeds. Once the cumin seeds start to darken add the onion. Cook for a minute before adding the ginger and garlic mixture, the ground spices and salt. Saute gently for two minutes.
- 4 Add the tomato wedges, stir well and cook for three to four minutes.
- 5 Add the potatoes and cook for three to five minutes. Season to taste. Garnish with the chopped coriander. Enjoy!





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SHIRENEWTON W.I OCTOBER '17



The 'Tribal Belly Dancing' with Wendy Hughes was a resounding success. Four ladies with all their regalia turned up to demonstrate,



they came from different areas, Cheltenham, Pontypool, Abergavenny and Gloucester, all with one thing in common, a love for Tribal dancing. A background history and a display of the costumes were very informative.

Then came the audience participation...a great time had by all, the clue to successful tribal

dancing is in the 'hip' movement rather than the 'belly'. See what you are missing, come on ladies it's all good fun.

The next meeting 9th November, when our own Diana Such will again demonstrate and encourage us to make Christmas cards, this was a great success last year and deserved to be repeated this year.



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

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DIARY DATES

Nov	Event	Location
9th 7:15pm	Shirenewton Women's Institute	Recreation Hall
12th	Remembrance Service	War Memorial Shirenewton
13th 7:30pm	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
13th 2:00pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Recreation Hall
18th 10:00am	Village Market	Recreation Hall
28th 10:30am	Xmas Fayre	Hope Chapel Earlswood
28th 2:00pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Chepstow Museum
Dec	Event	Location
2nd 7:00pm	Winterfest	Huntsman Hotel
4th 8:00pm	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
11th 2:00pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Recreation Hall
12th 7:00pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Llanfangel Tor-Y-Mynydd Church
16th 10:00am	Village Market	Recreation Hall
27th 7:30am	Shirenewton Local History Society	Woodland Tavern

St Thomas a Beckett Church, Shirenewton

Date	Sunday Service	Readers	Sides Persons
5th November	Fourth Sunday Before Advent	Bill Clark Janet Horton	Bill Clark Janet Horton
12th November	Third Sunday Before Advent	Mark Broughton Cynthia Smith	Mark Broughton Cynthia Smith
19th November	Second Sunday Before Advent	Bob Grattan Frances Gray	Bob Grattan Frances Gray
26th November	Christ the King	Bill Clark Janet Horton	Bill Clark Janet Horton
3rd December	First Sunday of Advent	Mark Broughton Ruth Savagar	Mark Broughton Clare Lewis
10th December	Second Sunday of Advent	Bob Grattan Glynis MacDonald	Bob Grattan Glynis MacDonald
17th December	Third Sunday of Advent	James Loney Paul Morecombe	Clare Lewis Paul Morcombe
24th December	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Andrew Baker Sally Saysell	Graham Lambert Clare Lewis
25th December	Christmas Day - Midnight Mass Family Service 10 a.m.	Andrew Baker Sally Saysell	Graham Lambert Clare Lewis

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Earlswood Hall (Earlswood)

Shirenewton School

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PCC Treasurer	Graham Lambert	01291 641 175
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Brownies Bev. Leaf 01291 641680
Jaci Crocombe 01291 641681

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