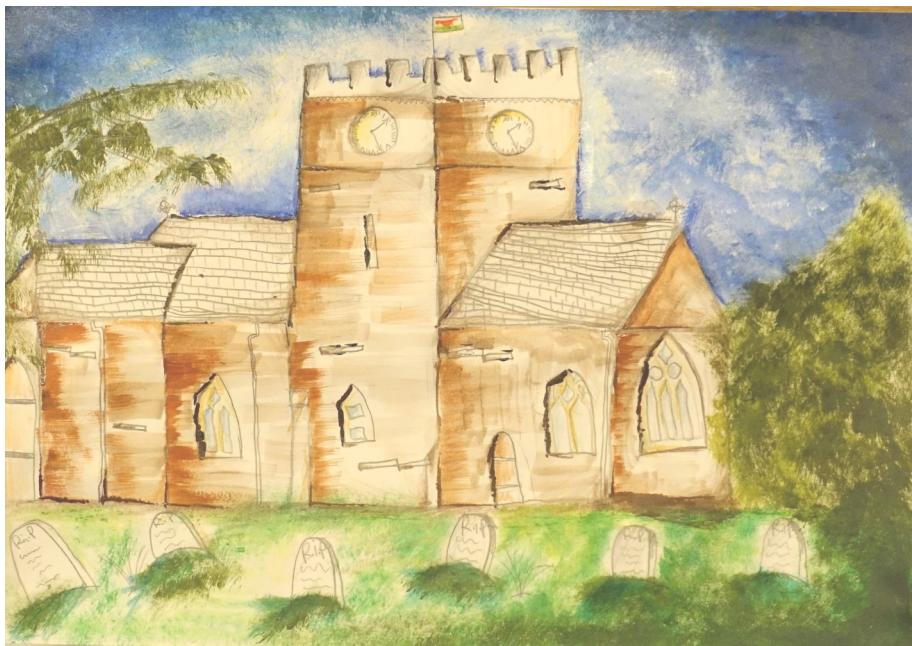


# Shirenewton Parish Magazine

## April 2021



Shirenewton Church, painted by Isabelle Francis-Lang  
of Mynyddbach aged 10  
*(see also page 18)*

**FROM THE VICARAGE**  
**Julian E LI White**

Dear People of the Parish,

As evident in past editions of this magazine, the overriding issue affecting our parishes concerns the plans to incorporate us into a Ministry Area alongside the Chepstow and Saint Arvans groups.

This involves a number of significant changes not least to parochial independence, existing organisation and financial considerations. These have, in broad terms, been outlined in the Zoom sessions arranged by Revd. Philip Averay (Ministry Area leader) recently. This has resulted in considerable feed-back including written correspondence and verbal approaches. It was generally felt that the Zoom sessions failed to provide any clear or adequate answers to a number of important queries.

An example of the issues that face the parishes is covered in the excellent letter below received from

Mr. John Burrows:

The Rt Rev. Cherry Vann  
Bishop of Monmouth

*24 February 2021*

Dear Bishop Cherry,

**Five requests** – regarding the Ministry Area Programme for Monmouth

- 1. Extension of time for consultation on the Ministry Area programme for Monmouth.**
- 2. Partial implementation of closer working aspects (Grouping of Parishes) of the Ministry Area programme.**
- 3. Continuation of separate Parochial Church Councils with existing powers and separate bank accounts into the future until an appropriate time for further review of performance against objectives.**
- 4. Identification of the objectives and targets which closer working between PCCs should achieve.**
- 5. Review, at an appropriate later date with full and open**

**discussion between existing PCCs, whether the agreed objectives are being achieved and, in discussion with all the PCCs, whether any merging of some or all PCCs in an area is appropriate or necessary for the further achievement of the objectives.**

**Extension of time.** We have received notification of proposals which fundamentally alter the 'church' in spirit, in composition, in structure, in relationships, in control and management, in independence and initiative, and in its role in the communities we serve. We have received only partial documentation, and limited opportunities to discuss the development of the ideas.

This is the most fundamental and irreversible change proposed in the real structure of the church to its members, churches and communities in at least 100 years and it has come to us at the most difficult time for us, the most directly affected, to be able to discuss the matter as we are unable to meet, and zoom is not an appropriate substitute for this kind of dialogue. The timing is not right, and we ask for considerably more time to discuss the proposals, starting from the time when the Government and the Church allows us to meet and speak freely again in congregations and public groups. The issues are so fundamental that it would be wrong to try to push them through at a time when we are prevented from participating in proper discussion.

**Partial implementation.** There are aspects of the proposals which are less controversial and could be developed further and so not hold up the implementation of aspects of the proposals. The grouping of churches and their geographical focus would seem to be reasonable and sensible and a basis for the churches to start working together more actively within those areas and with the assistance of a Ministry Area Co-ordinator. This would enable progress immediately on one of the key aims of the proposals to get parishes to work together and this could take place in a positive atmosphere thus taking the parishes along enthusiastically with closer working and addressing area -wide issues for which the many minds involved in the running of the member parishes can be called upon to help address.

**Continuation of PCCs and separate bank accounts.** The Parochial Church Councils should continue, with a brief to work together and address the very issues the strategy seeks to address but should remain separate and independent until such time as it is clearly demonstrated to all involved that something which must be achieved cannot be achieved with a structure of separate PCCs working together. If that was the agreed conclusion at a later date after much inter-parish working then the change would be understandable and supportable (and in the meantime we would have grown closer together anyway) but to disband now the structure of the past 100 years, and perhaps the last 1,000 years, of local people running their church locally, on the basis that it '*might*' make a difference to the great problems we face is an unwise and un-researched step to take, and potentially extremely damaging to the church we have and those within it.

'Merging' parishes rather than making parishes work together closely can have the opposite effect of the intended re-organisation which is intended to address the problem of smaller numbers, older congregations, and less resources. Merger will reduce church membership still further, reduce the numbers of those carrying out parochial duties and with a consequential loss of their time and considerable expertise, and the networks with the wider communities which include many people who give support to the church but do not attend church services.

This is a very big issue and there has not been consultation with the very people who are the church in the community. 'Top-down merger' proposals are characteristic of commercial organisations and usually do not end well in the long run but commercial organisations can remove their 'surplus' costs and employees and get the savings they want eventually. The affected people in this reorganisation are not costs but assets - unpaid volunteers and voluntary members of the church. Saying that the congregations are too small and then alienating a large section of those congregations is not the best way forward for achieving the reorganisation proposals. Taking away the autonomy of PCCs to organise the affairs of the community parish can be disastrous on the ground. There are very strong feelings about this process and the best way to proceed would be to leave the issue of PCCs, and how many, to a later

time and see if the PCC strengths can help bring about the changes that are needed. Let's see what can be achieved without altering the PCC structure. See what it can do. Don't alienate and lose the very people who are the church's most active members.

**Identify clear objectives.** Clearly changes may have to made but currently there is no discussion or documentation of what this is. No clear statement of objectives, or targets, have been shared yet with the parishes and yet the 'structure' of getting there has already been proposed. First, we should all be involved in discussions about what the diocese would like from the new arrangements and then let's see if we can deliver them with enthusiasm with the existing PCC structure working closely together within our Ministry Areas. The objectives and targets should be proposed and discussed with the members of the church and their PCC representatives to encourage involvement in them, and to produce good ideas, and good advice if they need changing from dialogue. This hasn't happened yet and would be a much better start for the Ministry Area Programme than starting with a conclusion about structure which, in essence, takes out (and certainly devalues the contribution of) 90% the churches' most active and skilled members!

**Review.** The need for review is important but a review in a few years based on performance would be more appropriate. The current PCC structure will need to deliver on the objectives set for the Ministry Areas, but they should be given a chance and if we can all see in a few years that the objectives cannot be met with that structure and the way we have performed and that restructuring is justifiable then it will be evident for all to see and you will have taken the church along with you. If we are achieving what closer working between and across parishes was meant to achieve then you would have done it whilst retaining a vital and active part of the church's existing structure, and the expertise and good will of the churches' most active members and their enthusiasm within the church and their example within the wider community.

The five requests we make for a stronger and more inclusive delivery of the reorganisation objectives are set out in the heading to this letter and we hope that you will be able to incorporate them in the programme. Yours sincerely,

Not least, the assertion has been made as to *Why*? - (the Area Ministry would be staffed by the same clergy and other ministers as presently in office) and would not include any additional parishes in the envisaged projection. In response it was claimed that we would be better positioned to assist other parishes encountering a variety of difficulties. It was felt that whilst parishes within our group currently supported other churches confronting difficulty, it was agreed that this consideration should be held as of serious importance. Feedback was also concerned that people were overwhelmingly inclined to support a church where they have had a long personal and historical connection rather than an over-arching, and therefore somewhat remote, institution. The letter from Mrs Leat reflects these concerns:

Green Paul Farm,  
Earlswood.  
Chepstow,  
NP16 6AW

6/3/2021

Dear Reverend Averay,  
Proposed 'Ministry Area'

I wish to place on record my dismay regarding the above proposal and my reasons. Also, if this is already fait accompli, I would like to pose some questions.

I have been resident in Earlswood for 51 years and several generations of my family have resided in both Itton and Shirenewton as a result of employment at Itton Court and Shirenewton Hall. Accordingly, my family have worshipped at both Itton and Shirenewton Churches and my past and immediate family graves are in Itton churchyard. Due to voluntary work in connection with my interests I have not in recent years been a regular member of a congregation, however I regard Shirenewton Church as my place of worship and take a keen interest in its services events and upkeep.

It has been customary for members of my family to leave a bequest to the church attended and also to the church where the family graves are situated. The latter bequest being made towards the upkeep of the churchyard. What is the guarantee that future

bequests left to Itton and Shirenewton will be used for this purpose in those churches only?

Villages throughout the country are losing amenities which form their heart – post offices, shops, and public houses are going or have already disappeared. Our churches remain at the heart of our village community and should be run by that community. We all witness what happens in industry when large takeovers take place, often to the detriment of small businesses. We need to learn from this. Let us not condemn Itton and Shirenewton to become dormitory villages devoid of an identity. If the latter happens locals will undoubtedly lose interest in community activities, volunteers to organise money raising events will reduce, as will donations and the church will be reduced to a monument devoid of its family.

During this pandemic with churches sadly closed for services it has been proven that Christian worship can flourish by alternative means; however, it is the holding of services and associated events in the church building itself which binds the community into its family of worshippers. In this 21<sup>st</sup> century that family often embraces members of other faiths also which is to be welcomed.

What is the point of a PCC if it becomes solely a band of manual workers devoid of the responsibility that being at the head of a family entails?

Shirenewton fete has always been well supported with proceeds going to Shirenewton Church. Will this continue?

The Saysell Centre. Villagers put much energy into raising funds and grants to provide this much required addition to Shirenewton Church. A villager was responsible for building it and it has proved to be an excellent amenity for gatherings of the Church Family. Will this Centre be put in Trust for the villagers?

Consider funerals and weddings. When organising these extremely personal occasions' families need to feel welcomed and comfortable when making their arrangements. To have to communicate with a central body of unknown people is intimidating and alien. Villagers brought up in the family of their church will remain with it in preference to an impersonal crematorium or registry office.

Why the need to form a ‘Ministry Area’? Is our community so short of volunteers that another tier of autocracy has to be created?

From time to time the Church in Wales, Monmouthshire Diocese and other churches may need to appeal for specific projects to which the PCC may consider making donations. However, the PCC’s responsibility should be towards its local Church and its nominated charities.

We already have opportunities to shape our Church arrangements for the future through our elected PCC. The arrangement of Church services should also remain in their domain.

I hope that this letter strongly conveys my feelings regarding this matter and that the final decisions are not made and agreed without due consultation with members of the affected villages.

If the outcome is in favour of our churches being consumed into a ‘Ministry Area’, we villagers must be given assurance that our Church’s assets are protected by the creation of trusts and that the funds and donations are ring fenced.

Yours respectfully,

Suzanne Leat

The reaction of most parishioners at Matherne, Mounton and St. Pierre was consternation at the prospect of PCCs having little control over the future of their church and their own finances.

The other bone of contention was the speed at which these plans are to be put in place. There has been no opportunity to voice their feelings or any form of consultation. When the PCCs asked the Bishop for a deferment of the zoom meeting in April until there could be a face-to-face meeting, the request was dismissed.

With all good wishes for Eastertide

Julian White

**Shirenewton Community Council**  
**Extracts from the minutes of the March meeting**

There were no planning applications to consider this month.

**Update on application DM / 2018/02066** - Outline application for the construction of 11 dwellings and associated works at Clearview, Shirenewton – outline planning permission was granted by Mon CC on 12.2.21, reserved matters (siting, design, lighting etc) is subject to a future application which will be consulted upon at the time. If all applications are approved, Section 106 contribution to be made for 5 dwellings @ £4,173 each = £20,865 (2 private and 4 affordable houses are exempt). “To carry out improvements at the village play area at Shirenewton playing field and for offsite recreation”.

**Monthly police report**

**Notable arrests for January/February 2020**

4 persons arrested after several drugs warrants carried out across Severnside & Lower Wye

**Operations/Our Work**

Patrols are still being carried out by Response Officers and Neighbourhood Officers in relation to dwelling/outbuilding breaks in our area. We are still asking residents to be vigilant, use CCTV, Lighting if you have it, ensuring you lock any outbuildings and report anything suspicious to Gwent Police on 101.

**ASB Calls**

Most ASB calls recorded this period have been in relation to Covid breaches/parties or people suspected of breaching lock down, few calls for youths being a nuisance these are areas we already know about and patrol. Some flytipping calls and some calls for a homeless person in the area. No new areas of concern highlighted.

**Your Voice Update**

The Your Voice surveys have gone live this week and are being circulated to the wider Community to vote on what matters to them. The surveys will be live for one month after which we will be discussing the results with our Partners. Please encourage residents to

complete the survey which will take only a few minutes:-

English:

<https://wh1.sapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=161279491391>

Welsh

<https://wh1.sapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=161296624518>

We urge the public to continue to follow Government Guidelines, keep yourselves safe, wear face coverings inside, keep 2 metres apart. For more information visit their website <https://www.gov.uk>

### **Other items of interest**

#### **Update on 20 is plenty Road Safety Campaign –**

**The petition to Monmouthshire County Council for mandatory 20mph speed limits through Shirenewton and Mynyddbach is now online, if you are concerned about the speed of traffic through the villages please sign up here**

[https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/introduce-a-20mph-speed-limit-in-the-residential-areas-of-shirenewton-and-mynyddbach?share=7012f469-956b-4e22-98db-2ecd3cbdad14&source=email-share-button&utm\\_medium=socialshare&utm\\_source=email](https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/introduce-a-20mph-speed-limit-in-the-residential-areas-of-shirenewton-and-mynyddbach?share=7012f469-956b-4e22-98db-2ecd3cbdad14&source=email-share-button&utm_medium=socialshare&utm_source=email)

Information received from C O'Connor at Mon CC to advise that they are committed to Shirenewton and Mynyddbach villages having mandatory 20mph speed limits in the 2021/22 financial year.

122 signatures were on the petition and it was agreed to continue with this to demonstrate to Mon CC the level of community support for the campaign when County Cllr Brown presents it formally to them. Some 20mph posters within the community had been taken down.

**Council website competition –** the website has been modified to be more easily accessible to users. The Council is holding a **competition** for residents to enter photographs of the local area to be displayed on the home page of the Council website and changed regularly, in order to encourage people to visit the website. **Please forward your entries to philip.b@shirenewtoncc.org.uk**

**Bus shelter at Earlswood** – the front of the bus shelter partially collapsed on 15.12.20. Reported to Mon CC on 16.12.20 and shelter

cordoned off with high fencing. Mon CC has advised that repairs should take place week commencing 1.3.21.

### **Update on hard path project on recreation field**

A meeting was held on 2.2.21 on the recreation field with community councillors, Mr P Bennett of the Recreation Association and Mr M Moran of Mon CC. All walked the site and discussed the various options being considered. Mr Moran advised that a planning application would be required, also a SuD's drainage report, costing in the region of £2,000 for both. He agreed to arrange for an independent contractor to visit the site to estimate costs of the project, for which external funding will be sought. Councillors understood that when initial plans are costed and firmed up a meeting with the public would need to be arranged to gather ideas and confirm community support for the project which was initially raised in the 2019 Community Survey. It was noted that the work may have to be undertaken in phases because of the costs.

### **Update on the planting of trees in the community.**

Due to local opposition, it was agreed not to plant the two trees planned for Mynyddbach green, they will be included in future planting when the Covid restrictions are eased.

**Senedd Elections 6 May 2021** – the Recreation Association has confirmed that Mon CC has provisionally booked the hall. If the election goes ahead the Rec Association will have a Risk Assessment, required signage and sanitation units, etc in place. The main hall will be used to accommodate one way movement. It has also been agreed that Playgroup would not run on the Thursday or Friday (Friday closure to allow for cleaning).

**Community Councillors wish all residents a very happy Easter.**

**Dates of next meetings - Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May (including Annual Meeting) both at 7.00 pm**, by public meeting in Shirenewton Recreation Hall, if possible, or by a remote meeting if government coronavirus restrictions still apply.

**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](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)**

## **LITTER PICKING**

A very big thank you to Ian and Rachel Bowler who have been so generous with their time and made such a difference to our village roads and lanes by picking up litter. Other people have been involved as well, and their actions have not gone unnoticed, and many people have commented on social media and elsewhere about the great difference it makes to our community. Many thanks to all those who have helped to make this difference.

## **REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CHURCH**

A number of people have recently asked how they can make regular contributions to the church when perhaps they are unable to attend e.g. because they are shielding, or because they prefer not to use cash or cheques. There are two easy ways in which you can make a regular financial contribution to the church:

1: The Church in Wales runs a "Gift Direct" scheme which collects your contribution by direct debit on a monthly basis. The scheme also allows you to Gift Aid your donation so that the church can claim a basic rate tax refund, making your money go even further. Details of the scheme can be found here: <https://churchinwales.contentfiles.net/media/documents/1798-Gift-Direct-English.pdf>. Alternatively please contact me and I will email the leaflet to you.

2: You can set up a standing order with your bank. Please contact me and I will let you have the bank details. You then need to contact your bank to set up the standing order.

Graham Lambert, PCC Treasurer t:01291 641175  
e: [glambert123@googlemail.com](mailto:glambert123@googlemail.com)



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## Gardening Corner

This last month seems to have flown by. I've been trying to resist getting too far ahead with seed sowing, simply because it has been quite a cold winter overall, and I have a feeling that the soil is going to take some time to warm up. Thinking back, it doesn't seem to have been that cold, probably because we didn't actually get much snow, but we are still eating our own apples from storage, as well as potatoes, onions and shallots. In a 'normal' year, the apples in particular would have long since finished. The hot bench is going though and the first seeds were sown several weeks ago. It didn't start off to auspiciously though as the first tray of cut and come again salad leaves came and died as a result of 'damping off'. My fault as I used water from the butt by the greenhouse and this is a no-no for seedlings as the water usually carries various bugs and diseases. It's alright to use on in the warm damp propagating house. was raining at the time and I convinced myself that watering can would make that mistake direct from the mains tap in future. Other things started well and have got propagated. They need potting pots. That's when started, as the seedlings started to grow. I suspected they were being nibbled by mice, as it



water usually carries various bugs and diseases. It's alright to use on in the warm damp propagating house. I know better but it time and I convince myself that watering can would make that mistake direct from the mains tap in future. Other things started well and have got propagated. They need potting pots. That's when started, as the seedlings started to grow. I suspected they were being nibbled by mice, as it

nibbled a night. But when you have paid over £3.00 for ten seeds, one or two a night starts to get a bit much, especially as seeds are in such demand that I may not be able to replace them if the first sowing disappears altogether. Hedging my bets, I used some dusting powder for crawling insects and put a mouse trap down for good measure. I lost a couple more seedlings the first night, but touch wood, nothing since. The cheese in the trap has been untouched so I'm hoping the insect doing the damage has got its just deserve!

With the weather varying between just plain wet, to grey and non-descript, the soil was too wet at the start of this month to really get on and do much weeding and preparation for the new growing year, so I

have bided my time and filled this with numerous odd jobs. I've finished cutting all of the hedges, a job I ideally like to do before the birds start nesting in earnest. This has extended into pruning a few trees, where the size of crowns have been reduced in height and density. Once these were done, I turned my attention to the summer house. We determined that this must be about 25 years old, and remember at the time that it was quite expensive, although an 'offer' at the time not to be turned down at the Gardener's World show in Birmingham one year. The sides are still like new, but the roof had started to rot and was beginning to leak. It was still too good to replace, so I decided to re-roof it instead. The old roof was boarded, then felted and then a cover of wood slats on top to finish it all off. I had been looking around to think what might be the best option to replace this with. In the end, as the shed was built of red cedar, I decided that red cedar roofing shingles might be an excellent and fitting alternative. They were expensive, relatively speaking, but nowhere near as expensive as a new summerhouse! So, these were ordered up, along with roof battening to fix them to and a waterproof membrane to go on top of the old felt. I had measured everything up, and added a 'little extra' on to make sure I had enough, and awaited delivery. This literally only took two days from ordering, so I was very impressed. The job took longer than expected, 3 days overall and in case you were thinking that the punchline was going to be that I ran out of materials. Wrong! More by luck than judgement, I literally used every single shingle, I had about 2 feet of membrane left on the roll, and quite literally about four small pieces of batten, barely three inches long. Chuffed with myself would be an understatement! Although I say so myself (but then the assistant Head Gardener says the same), the summerhouse now looks quite good, and on a warm day the wonderful scent of red cedar wafts across the garden. It is a gorgeous smell and one I always remember from my manual working days either felling red cedar trees in the forest, or when I was undertaking port inspections, when shiploads of Canadian timber needed inspecting for pests and diseases. As soon as you entered the docks in Newport, you could smell if there had been a part cargo of shingles as the scent wafted in the breeze.

Unfortunately, the un-named storm arrived a couple of days later. I'm pleased to say that the summerhouse survived unscathed, but as you will see our storage shed for keeping pots, seed trays and storage boxes in, was not quite so lucky. Pulling the curtains back the morning after the night before, I could see that a third of the oak tree in one of the boundary hedges had been ripped clean off, and landed fair and square on the shed roof. It was an old shed, and didn't owe us much, but was still handy. Our little wild, farm cat also used it for sleeping in on occasions, so we feared the worst. First job of the day was to get the chain-saw out, and cut our way in to see if he was OK. We had 30 or 40 wooden seed trays all stacked on top of each other, and as luck would have it, these had

supported the roof as it was crushed under the weight of the tree, so everything inside was completely undamaged. If little Harvey had been inside at the time, he might have suffered an almighty fright, but as he was on patrol later that day, there were clearly no lasting side effects!

The continuing poor weather enabled me to get on in the two tunnels, completely clean them out, and preparing them for the coming growing season. The beds in the big tunnel have been weeded and made ready for the tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers, whilst the small tunnel has been part planted with early potatoes.

Over the last couple of weeks, the weather has started to dry the ground up enough to enable us to get onto the flower beds. It has been a very efficient double act as the Assistant Head Gardener has entered the affray first, cutting down everything and pulling off all of the old dead growth, with me following up in the rear to prong the ground, loosening the soil and removing all the weeds. With a week's leave from work and nowhere else to go, we are making great inroads and hope to break the back of this job before we get more rain.

Elsewhere, the seed sowing is now starting to pick up apace and the first planting has gone on outside, with the over-wintered sweet peas going out first, followed by the first broad beans raised in the greenhouse, and all of the garlic and onions. The 2<sup>nd</sup> early and main crop potatoes have been planted into 5 litre pots to get them started early, and I will be giving the same treatment to the dahlias in the next week or so. We still have some dahlias in the ground from last year, as well as gladioli and I will need to dig these up as they are in the wrong place. I'll do this sooner, rather than later, otherwise they will have started growing again and be much more difficult to move successfully.

With cold damp weather persisting it has been impossible to access the bees and do much with them. I did feed them last month, so hopefully they are OK, but I will need to see to them the first sunny and warm day that we get. Anyway, must dash. I need to be down in Newport at 8.45 for my second vaccination jab.

As always, happy gardening until next month.

*Steve and Felicity Hunt.*



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Welsh corgies with their wagging tails.  
These are the things I love about Wales.

By Isabelle Francis-Lang



## To all local litter haters....

Like many people, lockdown for us has meant frequent walks and runs around our village. However the sight of roadside litter is annoying and like others we have felt the need to do something about it.

The quantity of bottles, cans and takeaway rubbish simply thrown away is shocking – and rapidly becomes too much to include with the fortnightly ‘black bag waste’.

But great news, there is now a solution: you could become a ‘*litter collection volunteer*.’

To become a volunteer I suggest you download, register and login to the MyMonmouthshire app and then follow the menu through <recycling and waste> and then <litter collection volunteer>

Monmouthshire Council will provide you with gloves, a high viz jacket and a litter picker. Most usefully, they supply orange bags in which you can collect as much litter as you like. We can’t stop ourselves: nine bags last week....!





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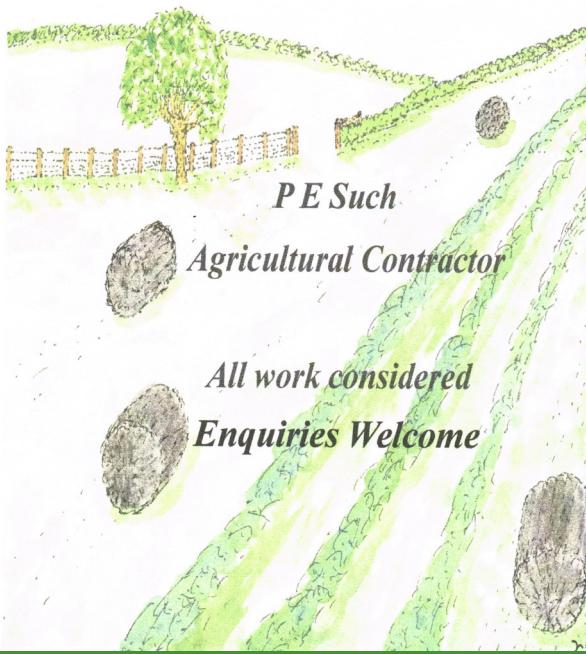
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## FAIRTRADE NEWS February 2021



'When we whistle, you jump'

Guy Watson from Riverford, the organic fruit and veg growers (+ much more!) explains that these were the words spat out by a supermarket buyer 30 years ago when he had suggested an alternative date for an appointment. Such abuse stems from an imbalance of power between buyer and seller, combined with an aggressive culture where buyers are promoted largely on their ability to generate margin per foot of shelf space. He admits things may have improved marginally since, but largely because virtually all small and medium suppliers have been driven out of business, leaving only the larger more powerful players.

Today Riverford is itself a big buyer, having achieved commercial success without relying on sales to supermarkets. He was anxious about the danger of a slow slide into the norms of distrustful, short-term deal making, so Riverford, in conjunction with its suppliers, has developed a Supplier Charter laying out, as specifically as possible, what they can expect of each other, how product specifications are created; how prices will be set; when payment will be made; and how disputes will be settled (critically via a third party ombudsman). Riverford is a **B Corp**. This global certification regulates and monitors a business's ethical claims. **'B' = benefit.** Benefit to society, the environment and workers, not just shareholders. Novel idea isn't it?!! Fancy that. A corporation that doesn't exist JUST to generate maximum cash for the shareholders!! The B Corp certification is reassessed every 3 years, and there are random spot checks. There are more than 3,000 certificated B Corps in 74 countries : Patagonia (wonderful outdoor clothing), JoJo Maman Bebe (local fab children's clothes etc), Danone (one of the biggest dairy products companies in Europe), Ben and Jerry's (I'm sure you know that one!)

It seems increasingly we cannot rely on companies (or governments?!) to 'do the right thing'. The B Corp initiative is a positive development, but a drop in the ocean of cut throat capitalism. I

suppose Fairtrade is another drop. It is significant that both these certifications require independent evaluation. Marking one's own homework is a phrase one hears with depressing frequency. Many companies have now dropped formal FT certification and opted instead for cheaper in-house FT, or environmental initiatives. At worst : greenwash! At best: how can we know?

More than ever, in these times of climate change and covid, surely we all need to support enterprises who are really trying to do the right thing. So many workers and producers are in the most desperate state.

You can order FT from Traidcraft and of course Oxfam on line. And that source of all things beneficial: Ethical Superstore. Or you can order Traidcraft from me.

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

**Congratulations to our 200 Club winners in December:**

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Terry Walters | 2. Alex Baker    |
| 3. Clare John    | 4. Penny Francis |



**REMINDER:** Shirenewton still has an open booking with Mark Smith from the Antiques Roadshow to come and give us a talk on the Victoria Cross when we are all able to mix socially again.

## SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

[www.shirenewtonchurch.com](http://www.shirenewtonchurch.com)

Well another month and another privacy revelation. The news doesn't appear to have the MSM yet but it is a topic in the techie press. The subject? Google Chrome on the Apple platform.

The current storm started last year when Apple decided to force app developers to disclose the data collected by apps and whether it was directly traceable to specific users. It transpires that, unlike Safari, Edge and Firefox, Google Chrome links all harvested data to devices and individuals. Safari collects data but doesn't link browsing history, usage data and locations to users. Neither do Firefox nor Edge. Furthermore some are reporting that that Chrome doesn't collect any data which **isn't** linked to user identities. Remember, Google makes its money selling ads specifically tailored to you as an individual, based on your search and other activity. It's the old saying that, if the product is free, you are the product.

Moving onto another take on data privacy and data harvesting, it seems that the latest wheeze is fake job ads. Jobs which offer an excellent salary and great benefits appear. People apply. Not all is as it seems. The job never existed and you have helpfully assisted cyber criminals to harvest all your personal data. The very same personal information which would be rather useful if they wished to impersonate you and hack your bank account or other account. Things like Mother's maiden name, etc. Clearly, it pays to be cautious and check any job ads you and your family members complete are real.

One thing I have stressed in the past which can make life more difficult for scammers and hackers, is that when you set up an account and answer security questions, lie! So even if they know your mother's maiden name, which football team you support, where you went to school, etc. they can't get past the security questions. For example, if the question is something like: favourite football team there is no need to give a truthful answer. Any text and or numeric string will do. For all the computer cares, an answer to the above may be: Medal Factory. As long as you keep a record of the responses all the security system will do is store the answer and then, when it prompts you and you reply, it simply compares the answer you give with the one stored.

Two things may pop into your mind at this stage. Firstly, how do I generate two or more random words? Simple, browse to a random word generator and use that. It just so happened that the first two words the

randomly selected random word generator generated for me were 'Medal Factory', which may not be a bad answer for favourite football team – depending on who you support. It could have just as easily been: Relative Lawyer – which was the next two random words it generated for me.

Secondly, where to store said information? I've addressed this before. I use the online password manager, Roboform. My wife uses LastPass. There are many others. Using a password manager has many benefits, not least of which is that you are more likely to use a different password for each site. So, if one password is compromised, hackers only have access to that site and not others. Roboform has the ability to generate and enter a complete random complex password of a length specified. So, all the accounts on the different sites I use have a complete random complex password and I can remember none of them – RoboForm has them all and the only password I remember is the Roboform master password. And, while I am on the subject, every website not only has a unique password, it also has a different answer stored to security questions, even if they are the same question.

Just as a reminder the best way to create a memorable complex password is to create a little sentence. The example I've used in the Parish Mag previously is: TheRoadtoChepstowistheB4235??? – that is a nice long complex password with upper and lower case, numerals and punctuation. Happy days.

Moving onto another 'flavour of the month' – the subject of electric vehicles. I know our esteemed editor has an EV and I am probably going to get one for local travel. However, while researching said subject, I came across this interesting fact. Tesla has been having problems with memory chips wearing out. Some of the Tesla functionality relies on chips which are typically used in phones and laptops. These flash chips have limits on their so called program-erase cycles (P/E cycles) and it seems that some of the older Tesla models have started hitting these limits leading to failures. In fact, Tesla has recently issued a recall for Model S and Model X owners to have their MultiMediaCard (eMMC) repaired or replaced. So it seems even EV have wearing components other than the brakes and tyres – who knew?

Safe browsing

drc

webmaster

Shirenewtonchurch.com

## **Shirenewton W.I.**



Many of us have appreciated the value of gardening over the past 12 months. From novice to experienced gardeners, we have felt the benefit of having an affinity with nature in our gardens and on our walks.

Our March speaker, Jeni Harper, knows more than most of us about the benefits of gardening. Jeni works as a self-employed gardener and has worked with the charity Growing Space at Tredegar House gardens. The charity works with people suffering with mental illness, isolation and low self-esteem and confidence. It runs projects that enable participants to acquire new horticultural skills, benefit from working in a team in a calm unpressurised atmosphere and develop employability skills through growing and selling plants.

Jeni's love of gardening started with her first job, while still at school, at her local garden centre. She went on to study Biochemistry at University and while working on her PhD she became involved, as a tutor, in supporting students with mental health issues. On her move back to Wales with her young family, Jeni decided to retrain, studying a Royal Horticultural Society Level 2 qualification and has participated in training courses in Therapeutic Horticultural through the charity, Thrive.

In her role as a Dementia Friend Jeni has also helped to plant up the garden at Severn View Dementia Care Home and was involved in planning the garden at the new Care Home. Many Dementia sufferers really appreciate having a garden full of bright colours and they particularly relate to the flowers

and plants from their childhood. Water features also help to create a calming environment for residents. Jeni's inspiring talk gave us a greater understanding of the wider benefits of gardening and reminded us of the joy of watching plants and trees grow.

Our next meeting is 8<sup>th</sup> April at 7.15 p.m. on Zoom when Naylor Firth will give us a talk on 'Chepstow in World War II'. We are still hopeful that we will be allowed to have an in-person 'socially distanced' outdoor meeting during the summer months. Watch this space.

Jackie Broughton

If you would like to join us, then please contact Jane Butterworth at [janeb247@gmail.com](mailto:janeb247@gmail.com) or Diane Ashton Smith (01291 628838)

## *Shirenewton Local History Society.*

*Walks in and around Shirenewton*

*£3.00 Contact  
641376*

## *Six Historical Walks around Shirenewton*



Shirenewton Local History Society

## THE TREDEGAR ARMS



Julie and her team have left the Tredegar Arms due to the end of their lease and the TA is currently empty with the lease on the market. Clearly this is not a great time to take over a pub lease, but of course we hope that someone will see it as a business opportunity once lockdown ends.

The TA's freehold is owned by the Stonegate Pub Company (which purchased the EI Group on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020). We have spoken to the area manager and he has made it clear that the future of the pub has yet to be decided and will not be decided until the pub trade reopens in Wales. This is currently looking like late April but, as that target is apparently for outdoor operation only, it is not clear whether this will constitute the 'pub trade reopening'.

However, we do know that the whole hospitality trade has taken a hammering and have no knowledge of what pressures the Stonegate Pub Company are facing (in retrospect it was an inopportune time to buy a pub group). So, we

simply cannot predict what the Stonegate Pub Company will decide to do.

However, forewarned is forearmed, and as a community we must be prepared to fight for the TA if we wish to keep it open. Therefore, a small group of us have been exploring the possibilities and worrying as to what would happen if the TA freehold came on the market as we understand that it would be of interest to a property developer who would, presumably, seek to convert it to a house and build on the car park.

There are various options which we have outlined at [www.tredegararmspub.com](http://www.tredegararmspub.com). Any effort would need to be a community effort and therefore we'd welcome the community's feedback to explore what appetite there is in the community to keep it open and keep any developers out.

Please take a look at the website ([www.tredegararmspub.com](http://www.tredegararmspub.com)) and give us feedback. You can email us at [tredegararmspub@gmail.com](mailto:tredegararmspub@gmail.com) or simply call one of us for an informal chat.

If there is enough interest, we will arrange a virtual meeting to consider next steps.

David Cornwell, Janet Horton, Bill Clark.

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The speaker for our February meeting was Dr Mark Lewis who gave us a very interesting talk on the archaeological finds in this part of Gwent, especially in the parish of Shirenewton and what to do if you find anything. Legally it is quite complicated, as some finds in this area have been of value, historically and monetarily.

I know our March meeting will be of interest as John Burrows is one of our popular speakers and I'm sure this meeting will be well attended (see details below).



The Quaker Burial ground is the topic for this month's snippet from our archive. It has a central position in the village and is one of the oldest recorded monuments here in Shirenewton.

You will find below a brief history of the local Quakers and an extract of the Register (which is kept in the Public Record Office in Kew) we have a transcription of this document if anyone would like to do any research, this document is dated 1671 which tells us that the burial ground was here before the Meeting House.

#### Dates for your Diary:

If anyone would like to join us for our virtual meetings they are very welcome, just get in touch with me and I will send you the relevant details.

## Shirenewton Local History Society

### The Shirenewton Quakers

Friends were meeting as early as 1655 in Shirenewton, having received Fox's message of Truth from one of his 'Valiant Sixty' preachers', Thomas Holmes, a Kendal weaver and his wife Elizabeth. The group at Shirenewton was recognised by the Society of Friends as a constituent meeting by 1668 and it continued as such until 1823.

The Friends at Shirenewton, as at many other places, following advice from George Fox in 1653 to his followers throughout the county, got themselves a burial ground of their own' *as a testimony against the superstitious idolising of those places called holy grounds*'. A review of the 'writings' (title deeds) by the Monmouthshire Quakers in 1718 of their property in the county includes.

*A lease for 99 years upen ye Graveyard and a plot adjoining at Shirenewton from John Walter lessor, and Wm Walter, ye tenant in possession, to John Meyrick, Patrick Walter, Elisha Beadles. Isaac Morgan, Joshua Phillips and Charles Hanbury for ye consideration of 20 (? Shillings) ye 8<sup>th</sup> of 12<sup>th</sup> month 1700. The yearly rent is 1d but if a meeting house be built there it is to be 1/-.*

The friends held meetings for worship in their burial yards and that some of those which still survive have surrounding walls containing flag stones which protrude to form seats for the worshipers.

By 1723 Shirenewton Quakers were strong enough in numbers to justify the building of a meeting house

Ref: Early Quakers in Wales, Reginald. Nichols, Gwent History Council Association, Monmouthshire Medley Vol1 3

Burials belonging to this place on record

4

175

- Morgan George was buried the 1<sup>st</sup> of Decr month 1670 —  
William Harry was buried the 21<sup>st</sup> of Decr month 3 1671  
Elizabeth Phillips the wife of George Phillips was  
buried the last day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> month 1671  
Margaret May the wife of Roger May was buried  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February 1671  
Roger May was buried 12<sup>th</sup> day of Feb<sup>r</sup> month 1671  
Elizabeth Thomas the wife of John Thomas of Great Blakenham  
was buried the 1<sup>st</sup> of Mar<sup>r</sup> month 1678  
Mordrake Thomas son to John Thomas and Bess  
the 5<sup>th</sup> day of Mar<sup>r</sup> month 1668  
Edward Hobley was buried the 19<sup>th</sup> day of Mar<sup>r</sup> 1674  
of the ninth month —  
Mary Jones was buried the 13<sup>th</sup> of Apr<sup>r</sup> month 1676  
George Phillips was buried the first day of the ninth  
month 1676  
Rebecca Sloyd was buried the ninth day of  
the first month in the year 1677  
Elizabeth Williams was buried the 20<sup>th</sup> of Mar<sup>r</sup> month in the year 1674  
John Horman was buried in the 12<sup>th</sup>  
of the fifth month in the year 1672  
Stephens Jr. of Duxford was buried the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 1673  
Thomas Water of the Parish of Dennington  
died was buried the 1<sup>st</sup> of Feb<sup>r</sup> month 1671  
Mary daughter of John Riggam of Parish of  
Dennington died was buried the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1671  
Martha Lewis of the Parish of Easton was buried  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Apr<sup>r</sup> month 1671

## **Locked Down Mania and Melt Down Moments**

I have been having a series of scam emails from a pretend Microsoft so, ho, ho, ho, I wasn't going to be caught. Oh no, being sensible and knowing I ignored them all. By Tuesday my emails stopped.

So it was not a scam - it was me not paying my bills. After much sweat time and tears I managed to pay Microsoft. But did my email system get up and running? No of course not.

More sweat, time, tears and punching the walls in frustration. But on Saturday morning after a sleepless night I came down and managed, by pushing my way through the fur coats in the wardrobe to return to the promised land of email communication. OK so who uses emails any more? OK so it wasn't my usual friendly system. OK so my contact list was gone, OK so it was a very old fashioned clunky sort of system – BUT I HAD DONE IT MYSELF! I had sorted it! And as if on cue, Gloria Gaynor popped up from an Italian Radio station (?) singing: 'I Will Survive' so I indulged in some wild, gyrating weird old woman dancing, this time punching the air and laughing maniacally and rather disappointingly, getting quickly exhausted.



*Did I really mange to dance the night away like that in my youth?*  
Anyway I was pleased as punch. Just a moment... pause for thought. Un-acceptable speech. I can't be as pleased as Punch because of his appalling behaviour.

Anyway on talking to a friend it seems that her mother has been scammed by a Microsoft look-alike. Oh dear. Maybe I was scammed. They are so clever at this stuff that I can't sort the real from the unreal. Its no good, I'm going to have to get a ... careful... a person in. to fix things. No more Gloria Gaynor for me. And definitely no more dancing. Glynis

PS Thank you for all the Food Bank donations that have been left under my porch. All very appreciated. By the people who run the Food bank!



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## Are you putting your online shopping to good use?

The **Lions Club of Chepstow and Caldicot** are raising funds for the local community even during these lockdowns. With us all being confined to home for work and play, most of us have had to utilise online shopping, and this is looking set to continue as the new normal.

The Lions Club of Chepstow and Caldicot serve local communities including our own, and like everyone else have had modernise through the use of technology. Some of their fundraising used to take place in supermarket doorways, but now a number of online mechanisms support their fundraising efforts.

One such fundraising tool is **Amazon Smile**. Every time you shop online at **smile.amazon.co.uk** Amazon will donate a percentage of the purchase to The Lions Club of Chepstow and Caldicot.

To find out more about this and other ways to support The Lions Club of Chepstow and Caldicot including **Amazon Smile**, **Easyfundraising** and **Just Giving**, please go to: [www.chepstowcaldicotlions.org.uk/page-8.php](http://www.chepstowcaldicotlions.org.uk/page-8.php)



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device.

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1182562-0>



## **MESh and Coronavirus (Covid-19)**

Volunteers from Shirenewton, Mynyddbach and Earlswood have set up a community self-help group to look after people's shopping and other needs if they are required to self-isolate or restrict their movements. They are reaching out to let everyone know they are there and can provide help if needed.

They have arranged leaflet drops to every part of the Mynyddbach-Earlswood-Shirenewton Community (MESh) and a copy is included on page 6. They have used the template from the BBC at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-51880695>.

So if anyone needs help, just call the number or text a message to the number on the postcard you have received and help will be at hand. If you have not received a post card/leaflet drop please contact Jeni Harper at [jeh45\\_wales@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jeh45_wales@yahoo.co.uk).

**HELLO!** If you are self-isolating, I can help.

My name is .....

I live locally at .....

My phone number is .....

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:

Picking up shopping

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Urgent supplies

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep.

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## The PT Shed

### **How to make health progress without extra exercise.**

Hi everybody, I'm Alex, a local Personal Trainer. I'll be writing a new feature for the magazine to help promote a healthier, happier population in our area.

Hasn't it been lovely to have a little sprinkling of nicer weather recently? It has been lovely to see more of you out and about and enjoying the fresh air. In this first edition of The PT Shed, I want to talk about sustainable habits, how they support our drive towards better health and how you can get started.

Many people think that the secret to losing weight and a happy, healthier future, is all about participating in a lot of exercise and restricting food. I'm going to tell you that this simply isn't the case. You can lead a healthy, balanced life with a huge amount of flexibility. You just need some guidance!

I am sure you have enough evidence, either through experience or anecdotally, of people having participated in a "exercise regime" or tried a "diet plan". They often see results initially, then something will happen – either the plan or regime comes to an end, they hit a sticking point, or the individual gets overwhelmed because they have no flexibility and they give up. The end result is that they end up right back where they started, or in a worse position. This is a very common occurrence and something that I have been through myself in the past. So, if you can relate, don't worry – you are most definitely not alone!

The key to improving health is having sustainable habits that underpin a healthy lifestyle. Let's be honest, many health issues in the UK are weight-related. Studies have shown a steady increase in obesity levels since the 1980s, alongside a decrease in activity levels. Add to this the events of the past year, which have led to many people leading a far more sedentary lifestyle and we can expect this trend to continue.

Where do we start addressing this and what can you do to help yourself? I want to give you something today that every single one

of you can work on, regardless of your current activity levels or life-style.

**SCIENCE TERMINOLOGY WARNING!** The vast majority of energy that we burn on a daily basis comes from two elements. Resting Metabolic Rate (RMR) and Non-Exercise Activity Thermo-gensis (NEAT).

What? Let's break this down!

RMR is the energy that you burn by simply existing and staying alive. E.g., your heart beating, digestive processes etc. NEAT is the daily activity that you undertake at a comfortable and moderate level. E.g., physical movements throughout the day such as standing up, fidgeting, cleaning, pottering around the house, recreational walks – anything that is not specific exercise where you deliberately increase your heart rate.

Of the two, NEAT is the one thing that we can control. This is what I want you all to focus on for the next month. Make a conscious effort to move about every day. If you find yourself sat down for an hour, get up and move about your house or garden for 5 minutes. This will also help you with your posture and stop you stiffening up so much.

The other big thing that you can do is to make use of something that we all have access to, our wonderful surroundings. Just getting out for a walk a few times a week can bring huge benefits, not just physically, but mentally as well.

You can monitor NEAT in a few different ways, depending on the equipment that you have available to you. The easiest way is to either track daily steps or keep a log of your activity. In the current world of technology, many people have devices like FitBits or other watches, which keep a record of steps. In addition, there are several apps that you can use on a smartphone to track steps or just distance covered on a walk. I am happy to give my suggestions out if you get in touch with me.

What I would like you all to do is to be aware of your daily activity and see what improvements you can make. Track it in the first

week and see how active you really are. Then, you can seek to improve on it week by week. Gradually increasing activity is far more likely to form a habit and be sustainable.

You will notice that I don't say that you should be walking 10,000 steps a day. The truth is that you are all individually unique. As a result, your requirements to improve your health will also be unique. I want you to build on what you already do. For some, you may just need to get outside for a short walk. For others, you may want to extend current walks by a few minutes. It all needs to be specific to you.

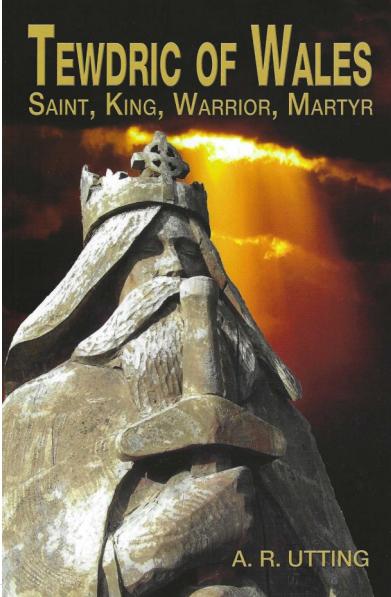
Final thought – Walk your own individual path with this and stay relevant to your current activity. We want sustainability. A little conscious effort to increase your own activity on a daily basis will chip away at the end goal.

I hope that you all enjoy trying out this method to get healthier. (and without adding additional specific exercise routines!) If anybody wants to share their progress with me, please feel free to do so. My email is at the end of the article. Please do not hesitate to stop me and talk to me if you see me around. I love talking all things health-related! I'll usually be in my Optimal Exercise gear and will often be accompanied by Winston, the resident Fitness Frenchie. I would love to hear how you have applied the advice in this article.

If you have any specific topics that you would like me to cover in future articles, please email me at [alex@optimalexercise.co.uk](mailto:alex@optimalexercise.co.uk). If you want to see more regular content from me, please follow my Facebook page (Optimal Exercise) or my Instagram (@alex\_hopkins\_optimal\_exercise)

Enjoy the start of Spring and I will see you all next month!

Alex Hopkins – Optimal Exercise



“

Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.

ANONYMOUS

### Gwent Archives Needs You

Gwent Archives is not just concerned with preserving the past but also with documenting the present. It is our duty as a service to ensure that our collections reflect the history of Gwent and the experiences of our communities. But to do this, we need your help.

We are asking you, the people of Gwent, to consider keeping a diary or journal in the coming weeks and months and to deposit it with the archives in the future. They can be recorded as pen-and-paper or digitally. They can include photographs, sketches, or poetry. You may want to record your experiences as audio, rather than handwritten. We want to hear about how current events are impacting on you and your local area, what things are you hearing in the news, how it is affecting people you know?

We have already asked our staff and our volunteers to participate but to truly reflect our history, your history, we need you.

Any questions or queries, please contact [enquiries@gwentarchives.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@gwentarchives.gov.uk). More information on submitting the diaries will follow.





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## STARGAZING

In the evening the orange-coloured planet Mars is to the West. By mid-April it forms a triangle with two bright orange stars, Betelgeuse in Orion and Aldebaran, with Mars at the top of the triangle. On 17<sup>th</sup> April the crescent Moon is close to Mars.

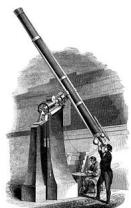


The seven stars of the Plough constellation are directly overhead and Leo, the Lion can be seen to the South. Orion the Hunter is just above the Western horizon whilst W-shaped Cassiopeia is to the North-West. The Plough and Cassiopeia can always be seen at our latitude, but Leo and Orion are only above our horizon during the Winter months.

The second star from the left of the seven stars in the Plough is called Mizar. On closer inspection it can be seen to have a close companion called Alcor. Mizar and Alcor together are sometimes called the "Horse and Rider", and the ability to resolve the two stars with the naked eye is often quoted as a test of eyesight.

The two stars furthest from the handle of the Plough point to the North Star. The North Star or Polaris is approximately 400 light years away. This is a distance of approximately 2,000,000,000,000 miles! The light we now see from this star left the North Star 400 years ago.

On clear nights, when the Moon is new and seen as a fine crescent, the rest of the Moon can often be seen as a very dark grey against the black sky. Whilst the bright crescent is directly illuminated by the Sun, the rest of the Moon is in its own shadow. The shadow is dark grey rather than black because of "Earthshine", where light reflected from Earth illuminates the Moon very faintly.



## **ADVERTORIAL**

### **Inheritance tax – Are you making the most of your allowances?**

I recently visited a widow who lived just outside Usk. She didn't consider herself to be wealthy, but like many of us had worked hard throughout life to pay off a mortgage. She is now retired and in a comfortable financial position. She has three children and you could probably understand her disbelief to be informed that when she passes away the tax man will receive a higher amount in tax than the share of her estate left to each of her three children! The continued rise in house prices in this area means that these days you don't have to be hugely wealthy to be affected by Inheritance tax (IHT). According to HMRC inheritance tax receipts 2019, a record £5.38 billion was collected in inheritance tax in the 2018/19 tax year and this is set to rise. There are many things you can do to reduce your inheritance tax liability and keep more of your wealth within the family.

The current IHT nil-rate threshold is £325,000 for individuals and £650,000 for a married couple or civil partners. Beyond these thresholds, IHT is usually payable at a rate of 40%. In order to help with aforementioned increasing house prices we recently saw the introduction of the main residence nil-rate band, which applies if you want to pass your main residence to a direct descendant, this now provides an additional £175,000 for individuals and £350,000 for a married couple or civil partners. However, it is important to be aware that for larger estates this extra relief is tapered when the estate is over £2m.

There is a range of options to help mitigate your potential inheritance tax bill, but as a starting point, you should consider the following allowances:

Annual gifting allowance – each year you and your spouse can each gift up to £3,000 in total. You can also carry this forward for one year. Furthermore, gifts of up to £250 to any number of people are exempt.

Wedding gifts – Parents can give up to £5,000 to a bride or groom, for grandparents this reduces to £2,500. Other well-wishers can give up to £1,000 before it becomes liable to IHT.

Gifts to registered charities and political parties are exempt

Gifts can also be made out of surplus income, however a number of conditions apply to this allowance and so I would suggest you seek advice in relation to this.

Assets left to your UK based spouse or civil partner are also exempt.

Remember planning pays and there are several routes which can help with such taxes. If you would like to come along to my free inheritance tax seminars just drop me a line. ([info@iscawellth.com](mailto:info@iscawellth.com)) Isca Wealth Management Limited is an Appointed Representative of Vision Independent Financial Planning Ltd which is Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). Firm reference number 487395. Please note that the FCA does not regulate inheritance tax advice.

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The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) do not regulate Inheritance Tax Planning, Tax and Trusts.

The benefits to the treatment of tax will depend on your individual circumstances and may be subject to change in the future.

## **LOCAL CONTACTS**

*If you know of any changes or omissions please contact the Editor Bill Clark  
Telephone 01291 641783 or email parishmagshirenewton@gmail.com*

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

Rector	Revd Julian White <a href="mailto:jel.white@btinternet.com">jel.white@btinternet.com</a>	01291 622317
Parish Priest	Revd Nansi Davies CBE	01633 400 519
Lay Eucharistic Minister	Gilly Lambert	01291 641 175
Church Wardens – Rector's	Sally Saysell	01291 641 369
– People's	Andrew Baker	01291 641 925
PCC Secretary	Bill Clark	01291 641 783
PCC Treasurer	Graham Lambert	01291 641 175
PCC Members	Aileen Doggett	01291 641 459
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	Paul Morcombe	01291 641 671
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Gift Aid Secretary	Vacant	01291 641 411
Organists	Karen Millar	01291 650 521
	James Leney	01291 641 271
Sunday Club	Lynn Morcombe	01291 641 671
Tower Captain	Mike Penney	01291 650 653
Saysell Centre Booking	Glynis MacDonald	01291 641 818
Safeguarding Officer	Andrew Baker	01291 641 925
Church Flowers	Maureen Moody	01291 641 524
Parish Magazine Editor	Bill Clark	01291 641 783
200 Club	Aileen Doggett	01291 641 459

### **Church of St Tewdrics's Matheron**

<b>Secretary</b>	Jen Marendaz	01291329422
<b>Church Warden</b>	Elsbeth Morlan	01291627538
	Peter Pope	01291624453

### **MP/Monmouth CC & Community Council Representatives**

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	Keith M Dunn OBE	01291 641152	keith.d@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
	Eleanor Chapman	01291 641421	eleanor.c@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
	Elizabeth Wixcey	01291641216	elizabeth.w@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
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<b>Earlswood Ward</b>	Jayne McKenna	01291 691774	jayne.m@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
	Andy Williamson	01291641451	andy.w@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
<b>Newchurch West</b>	Ian Martin	01291 650014	ian.m@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
<b>MCC for Shirenewton</b>	Louise Brown	07598 97971	louisebrown@monmouthshire.gov.uk
<b>Member of Parliament</b>	David Davies	020 7219 8360	daviesd@parliament.uk

## **Police Neighbourhood Watch Contacts**

**Neighbourhood Police Officer** Matt Scree matthew.screen@gwent.pnn.police.uk  
**Neighbourhood CSO** Andrew Jones Andrew.jones@gwent.pnn.police.uk

## **Other Local Organisations**

**Beavers** Julie Hitchcock 01291 650548  
**Church Fete**  
**Earlswood Hope** Mrs Sylvia Jeremiah, Mr Raymond Jeremiah 01291 641726  
**Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall** Glynis MacDonald 01291 641818  
glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com  
**Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel** Avril Smith 01291 627677  
**Gaerllwyd Baptist** Mrs E Remnant Brooklands, Usk Road NP16 6SA  
**Ranger Guides** Helen Cann 01291 6628534 cannhelen@gmail.com  
**Recreation Association** Beverly Lyndsay 07798 780971 beverlylindsay@btinternet.com  
**Recreation Hall booking** Beryl Saysell 01291 641637 bsaysell@hotmail.co.uk  
**St Peters Church Newchurch** Enid Heritage 01291 622708  
enidheritage@gmail.com

## **Shirenewton Local History Society**

Dorothy Brabon 01291 641376 brabonn1@hotmail.com

**Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Fields Association Ltd (SAMFAL)**  
Neil Fuller 01291 641324

## **Caerwent Group Mothers Union**

Rosemary Carey 01291 425010 crcandkili@tiscali.co.uk  
Treasurer Bridget Evans 01291 408125 bridget.caldicot@gmail.com

## **Shirenewton Operatic and Dramatic Society (SODS)**

Glynis MacDonald 01291 641818  
glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

**Shirenewton Play Group** Beverly Lindsay Shirenewtonplaygroup@gmail.com  
**Shirenewton Primary School**

Mrs Jill Mitchell, Associate Head Teacher 01291 641774  
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Jayne Edwards 01291 641774  
jayneedwards@monmouthshire.gov.uk

**Shirenewton Toddler Group** Jude Langdon 07981 368213  
Paula Rimmer rimmerpaula@mac.com

## **Shirenewton Tennis Association**

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**Womens Institute (WI)** Diane Ashton Smith (President) 01291 628838  
Jane Butterworth (Secretary) 01291 641704.

## **SHIRENEWTON PARISH MAGAZINE**

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Published: by The Church of St. Thomas à Becket Shirenewton

Editor: Bill Clark 01291 641783 email: [parishmagshirenewton@gmail.com](mailto:parishmagshirenewton@gmail.com)

The cost of the Magazine is £1.50 per issue/10 issues for £12.

Copies are delivered free by local distributors to those who have pre-paid.

Monthly copies are available at the Church.

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**April 2021**