

Shirenewton  
Parish  
Magazine  
June 2022



Platinum Jubilee  
by  
Lynne Prosser

Price £1:50



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## **SHIRENEWTON PARISH MAGAZINE EDITORIAL INFORMATION**

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

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

Monthly copies are available at the Church.

Previous editions of the magazine are available online on the Church website at [www.shirenewtonchurch.info](http://www.shirenewtonchurch.info).

**To order your regular copy, contact Aileen Doggett  
01291 641459**

### **Advertising Rates for Commercial organisations**

Full designated page for 12 months £150

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**Advertising for Local and Charity organisations is free.**

Editorial policy is to print what you provide, space and technology permitting. The views expressed are those of the contributor.

**Preferred Document format is an MS Word document attached to an email. Preferred Advert and Photograph format is JPEG attached to an email**

**Many thanks to Lynne Prosser for her cover portrait**

**Deadline for the July/August issue is  
9:00 a.m. Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

## FROM THE VICARAGE

Julian E LI White

Dear People of the Parish,

The stream of visiting dignitaries to our church never stops – or so it seems. Just a few weeks ago I had the privilege of conducting our Bishop around the ancient environs and, in the near future, the Archdeacon of Monmouth will grace us with his presence.

I have invited the Venerable Ian Rees to join us in worship on June 5<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am and this will be followed by his exposition of how he sees the potential of the new Ministry Area unfolding before us. All, of course, are warmly invited to one or both sessions.

To continue the theme of being present in exalted company, I share with you words from the Archbishop of Wales contained in a missive recently received.

In his Enthronement address Archbishop Andrew John said that we were facing “new and demanding challenges”, including the war in Ukraine, the soaring cost of living and climate change. They were challenges which needed to be met with a different type of power – one of love, service, honesty and forgiveness, as exemplified by Christ.

*Archbishop Andrew said, "When we resist evil and injustice (as we must) we also need something which takes us beyond the missiles, beyond conflict to a place where there can be reconciliation and a restoration of peace. We believe that God raised Jesus from the dead, not to take terrible revenge on those who laid hands on him but, extraordinarily, to offer forgiveness. God does not crush or brutalize but offers hope for all people".*

Expressing concern for the mental health of young people in particular, the Archbishop stressed a better future meant more than just economic prosperity. *"I've been conscious of the strain presented today by social media pressures and perfectionism stress with its attendant effects on mental health of young people especially. The echo chambers which reverberate with unkindness do us no good at all. It is not easy to build resilience when pressure levels are unremittingly high. Values and securities which foster spiritual and emotional well-being are as essential to any society as are sound economic policies."*

Julian White (Rector)

SEVERN WYE MINISTRY AREA

# Praying Together

JAMES 5:16

"The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results."

2ND AND 4TH MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
7.30 TO 8.30 PM

PRAYING TOGETHER FOR OUR MINISTRY  
AREA AND OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

**St Christopher's Church,  
Bulwark, NP16 5AF**

# School & Village Fête

## at Shirenewton

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022 1 O'clock

at the Recreation Field.

Parade from Shirenewton School 12.30



Prizes

£50

£50



Sweet



Parade



## **SCHOOL AND VILLAGE FETE—Saturday 18th June**

The 2022, first ever joint School and Church Fete is going to be amazing!

Please save the date and make sure you come along and bring your friends and family too.

Free entry

Carnival parade from the school leaving at 12.30 to the Recreation ground – Carnival King and Queen. Please join in the fun and come in fancy dress (bring your dog in fancy dress too if you like!).

All the traditional favourites – the legendary Shirenewton Cake stall, the Plant Stall, Bottle Stall, WI teas, Books, Toys, Pimms, Sweets and Ice-creams, Beer tent, Burgers, Raffle (with fabulous prizes), competitions, displays, entertainment, fun Dog Show and much more.

The Fete will be opened by our local celebrity, Jack Tottem (Cox of the winning Oxford team in the University Boat race 2022). Jack is an ex- Shirenewton School pupil.

### **How can you help?**

Make sure you come to the Fete and bring your friends and family

Donate items – a leaflet with details of what is needed and how and when it can be provided will be put through the doors of all the houses in Shirenewton, Mynyddbach and Earlswood in the next few weeks.

Bottles for the Bottle stall

Toys

Books

Homemade cakes, bread, biscuits

Volunteer to do a stint on one of the stalls. It would be hugely appreciated if we could have some volunteers to cover an hour sometime between 1pm and 5pm. Please contact Janet on 641783 to add your name to the list

All the proceeds of the Fete will be used to support our village church and school. The proceeds will be split pro-rata between the church and school based on the average proceeds from church and school fetes over the last few years.

## SHIRENEWTON CHURCH and SHIRENEWTON SCHOOL SUMMER FETE GRAND PRIZE DRAW

Raffle tickets are now available for the grand prize draw to be held at the Summer Fete on 18 June. **Don't miss out** on the opportunity to win one of our wonderful prizes, which include:

A brand new £499.00 Janome Computerised Sewing Machine, (the model being used on The Great British Sewing Bee).

£100.00 cash, a 3 month Health & Wellbeing Package, a 4 Ball Golf Day, a Meal for 2 at The Two Rivers - plus many other great prizes.

**Tickets cost just £1.00 each, £5.00 for a book of 5.**

**If you would like to buy any tickets and support our village church and school, then please just text me, ring me, email me or just ask me** if you see me walking my dog around the village. Thanks, Aileen. 07814 451943, 01291 641459  
aileendoggett@btinternet.com

Prizes secured:

1. Sewing Machine
2. £100.00 cash. Will be donated.
3. Bespoke Spirit Hamper
4. Bottle Champagne from Nathan James. I will probably put a box of chocolates with this to make it a "Chocolates and Champagne Hamper"
5. Fete Celebration Cake
6. L'Occitane Gift Set Value £50.00,
7. Neil Powell Voucher - value to be confirmed
8. £30.00 Voucher Chepstow Garden Centre (donated by village resident)
9. £10.00 Voucher for Chepstow Garden Centre
10. Two Rivers Hotel Meal for 2 (£40.00)
11. Tell Me Wine Voucher for Tapas and Wine Tasting Evening for 2. (£45.00)
12. Four Ball Golf Day at St Pierre. (I just wrote and asked them for it, and they very kindly obliged!)
13. Floral Arrangement.
14. Another Floral Arrangement!
15. Probable 'farm toy' from Frank Sutton, Agriculture Machinery Seller in Raglan.
16. One of Kevin's "Special" Bottles of whisky.
17. Health and Wellbeing Package ( 3 months of online personal training covering all aspects that you need to make progress, whatever your goal - training, nutrition, lifestyle will all be covered.)
18. Trim's Town Gate Butchery Voucher
18. Paint on Me Boutique £10.00 voucher
19. Avon prize.
20. Trims Towngate Butchery voucher

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## **Shirenewton Community Council**

**Due to the Local Elections the May Community Council Meeting is later in the month, therefore no extracts from the minutes of the meeting are available to include this month**

### **Annual grants to local organisations**

Application forms continue to be available from the Clerk for local organisations to apply for grants from the Community Council's 2021/22 budget.

**Please note the closing date of 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022.**

### **Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**



**Shirenewton  
Community  
Council Invites  
you to a  
Platinum Jubilee  
Beacon Lighting  
Event  
When: Thursday**

### **Summer Planting**

Many thanks on behalf of the Community Council and the Community as a whole, to the many volunteers who have come together to plant up various locations and troughs around the village and for their support in advance of the ongoing watering/feeding throughout the coming months. I hope you agree that they are looking beautiful and will offer a colourful red, white, blue and purple floral addition to the village decorations for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and beyond.

The Community Council would also like to thank Chepstow Garden Centre for supporting with the planting this year, by contributing to the purchase of plants and supplies.



## Media Release for the Shirenewton Community Council Logo Competition



## Six year old wins competition to design new logo for Shirenewton Community Council



Shirenewton Community Council

A six year old pupil has won a competition to design a new logo for Shirenewton Community Council. Amber Denne, a pupil at Shirenewton Primary School entered a competition to design a new logo for the Shirenewton Community Council, which serves Shirenewton, Mynyddbach, Earlswood and Newchurch West in Monmouthshire.

Three designs were selected by Councillors from the Community Council and Amber's design was selected because it was felt that it represented the identity and feeling of our community. The new logo will now be used on the council's headed paper, signage and social media sites.

The other winners of the competition were Evie Denne, aged 9 and Tomos Williams, aged 11.

Commenting on her design Amber said: "I drew the Shirenewton church because it represents Shirenewton. I did three sheep because I have two sisters and there are lots of sheep around Shirenewton. Also, I put a heart because Shirenewton is a lovely place to live and go to school."

Pupils from the Art Department at Chepstow School also helped in digitising the final image under the direction of Rachel Jeffery, Subject Leader for Art at Chepstow School.

Jillian Mitchell, Headteacher at Shirenewton Primary School said: "Being a school at the heart of our local community we were delighted to be invited to help the Community Council in designing their new logo. We are very proud of Amber's beautiful design and grateful to Chepstow School for their support in digitising it."

Mat Sims, Headteacher at Chepstow School said: "I was impressed with this skilfully executed piece of work. I was even more impressed to meet the six year old designer and hear the creative theory and the design process behind it. It is very clear she has put lots of careful thought into this work resulting in a visually appealing and memorable piece of work. She has cleverly portrayed her love for the community and her family in this piece".

Councillor Phil Butterworth, Chair of Shirenewton Community Council said: "The Community Council were delighted to award 1<sup>st</sup> place to Amber. We felt her entry captured the identity and feeling of our community. The Community Council would like to thank Shirenewton Primary School teachers and students for running the competition and Chepstow School for arranging for the winning design which was refreshed by their Art Department so it can be widely used by the Council".

He added "The Council would also like to record its thanks to Councillor Keith Dunn, OBE who is also a Governor at both schools, for getting everyone together from both schools and organising the competition."

**Dates of next meetings - Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 (including Annual Meeting) and Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 both at 7.00 pm, by public meeting in Shirenewton Recreation Hall.**

Find more information in a draft copy of 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 Natasha Jones

Tel: 01291 650133      E-mail: [Shirenewtoncc@gmail.com](mailto:Shirenewtoncc@gmail.com)

### **COSTS OF THE MAGAZINE**

Over the last few years, we have endeavoured to keep a lid on subscription and advertising rates for the magazine. However, in the current higher inflationary environment, printing costs have increased by about 15% since last year and some printing stocks have increased three-fold. As a result of this we will need to increase the subscription rate next year, probably to £15 (or more, depending on economic conditions). Advertising costs need to increase immediately, so as advertisers renew their arrangements their fees will increase to £100 a page (£50 a half page, £25 a quarter page). Free advertising will continue for charities and local organisations, but they may have to settle for black and white advertisements which will reduce costs of printing. To date we have been fortunate in being able to print whatever we receive, but it may be necessary in future to limit the page count which will mean that we would ask contributors to limit their articles to a set number of pages. We thank you for your understanding and support in these challenging times.

## ***Gardening Corner***

One of the latest news related reports recently suggested that Spring is now arriving three weeks earlier than it used to, with trees and shrubs flowering away. Hopefully for our native species, many will be able to adapt to the ever-changing climate driven by our reliance on fossil fuels. One thing we enjoyed during the covid lock down was the peace and quiet that resulted from no cars on the road and no planes in the air. When we had blue skies, they really were blue and above all, they were clear. We look up above now and see the main aeroplane highway from London to America and back again no longer blue, but instead covered by a thin veil of what are essentially I guess, exhaust fumes. One morning we could count the still evident individual trails, before they combined to make one general blanket. There were 19 in total, the majority were going East to West (or the other way around), but there were also a lot going North to South. We muse that it doesn't really matter how many trees we plant, we are never going to offset all the damage that we continue to do. Yet flight contributes apparently only a small percentage (I think around 3%), so a mere drop in the overall ocean of pollution. We live in a rural setting, and we count ourselves very lucky. Apart from starting my life in London and staying until I was 18, I have managed to avoid urban life – only visiting when I have to! Mind you, London was very different then, but it was still a tale of two cities. I walked to school, past green fields, still with cows grazing away on the dairy farm that belonged to a convent. Apparently at the time, it was the nearest working farm to central London. On the other hand, in winter I often had to walk to school with a hanky over my mouth and see more by listening rather than eye-sight, as the fog (smog) was so thick you had great difficulty in seeing where you were going. A yellowy tinge to it meant that the hanky would itself be tinged with a yellow stain by the time you got to school. The fields have long since gone of course, as has (generally) the smog. Apart from one trip to Chelsea flower show, I have never been back to London socially, just a few trips for work for meetings in the main Defra offices there. The assistant head gardener on the other hand has always been a country girl, apart from 3 years spent at university, which just happened to be in London! As I said, we have been very lucky, some would say privileged, to have lived all of our married life enjoying the countryside. More and more though, we notice the signs of urban life creeping ever closer. Wentwood forest has always 'buffered' us from the airborne noise, but with tree health problems, much of the forest has had to be removed, and our buffer has gradually disappeared. Instead, we lie in bed at night and can hear the continual drone of the main highways, trains as well if the wind is in the right direct, or there is no wind at all. We do count ourselves lucky, and we certainly do not take our lifestyle for granted. My working life has always been in the countryside, and it doesn't seem possible that come August, I will have notched up 44 years working for the Forestry Commission and 50 years working in forestry. The vast majority of my time has been working in the South Wales area and no matter where I travel, I see woodlands that I have had some involvement with seeing planted. It warms the heart to think that I will

leave a lasting legacy, even though this will be taken for granted, and no-one will remember my involvement. Despite Spring being earlier the cuckoo still arrived later than it traditionally did, two weeks late to be precise. The house martens were just about on time, but for almost a fortnight we only had one pair swooping around the house. They remained on their own for nearly two weeks, before a few more started to arrive. One or two of our ready-made nests have been occupied, but it is not clear how many of the eight we have put up, are fully in use. With Spring arriving early and the migrant birds arriving late, I can't help think that these are going to be the big losers. Greenfly smothered our roses many weeks ago, as the threat of frost declined, but the small birds in our garden soon got into gear, as did the ladybirds, and the greenfly are now on the decline. I was tempted to start spraying, but I resisted, and nature has made sure that the balance has been addressed. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the thousands of slugs and snails that are about this year – it is far worse than I can ever remember – probably because the mild winter has allowed the majority to survive, along with any eggs laid. Slugs and snail have always been the number one enemy here. We have a large wildlife pond that is usually full of frogs and toads, but not so many this year, and so their impact is obviously reduced as a result. We always used to find little piles of black hedgehog poo as well, but despite having absolutely ideal conditions for these adorable little creatures to thrive, we are now very lucky if we see any traces at all. The early spring has meant that the work in the garden has started sooner than usual, and we have been lucky. Apart from a string of three or four nights of frost in April, the temperature has stayed around average for the daytime. As always, I started some crops off early and these are now being planted outside – hopefully with all fear of frosts now gone. The potatoes were started in largish pots and soon grew to over a foot tall before I decided that they had to go outside. We desperately needed rain at the time, and some duly arrived. The soil is damp, but I wouldn't say it is wet. In fact I went to earth the potatoes up a little more, and the soil was still quite dry underneath the leaves. They currently look well, but the horticultural fleece is usually ready just in case the weather has a cold sting in its tail! Other crops that have gone out in the raised beds have included calabrese, cauliflowers, and celeriac, all protected from pests by mesh covered cloches. I did sow a whole bed with parsnips, but some six weeks later not a single seedling is showing. This was going to be the last chance, so in future parsnips will not be on my seed purchasing list. The weather has been pretty good since I sowed the seed, but this crop is particularly difficult and I wonder how professional growers achieve the result that they do. Reading an article recently I noted that many 'start' the seed off so they are almost at the point of germinating before they are sown properly outside, so maybe that is the answer. But I don't think I'll bother again! The other crop that is on its final notice to quit is carrots. Again, germination can be difficult. One year they will come up like mustard and cress and another just a handful. Carrot root fly is the biggest problem, and despite all of my best efforts to keep this pest at bay, any carrots that I do grow, have almost inevitably been destroyed by the

dreaded fly. Like the greens, I have covered the entire bed with a fine mesh cover so we will see how this goes. In the greenhouses and tunnels, room is at a premium, and we are desperately planting flowers and vegetable outside as soon as space becomes available. The big tunnel is located across the slope, it is 21 feet wide, but the topside still has restricted headroom. This year I am experimenting with growing the majority of our garlic, shallots and onions in this bed. The thoughts being that most of our onions and garlic come from warmer climes, so they must enjoy these conditions. Fingers crossed that they do OK, but just in case, I have planted some (apart from garlic) outside as an insurance policy. I have transplanted the main salad crops into larger pots, so that they keep growing well. The tomatoes are now being transferred to their final resting place, as space is created, and these will be shortly followed by the peppers and cucumber, as well as courgettes. The weather has also meant that the first runner beans and French beans have also been moved to their allocated spaces. It really is all hands-on deck at the moment. The trouble is remembering to do everything as we need to ensure we get a good succession of vegetables, so when we plant a grow bag with salad leaves plants, we need to sow the next cell tray, which in its turn will then be ready for planting some three weeks later. The same for Spring onions and radish, both of which have a relatively short turn around. For quick maturing crops this is not so difficult, but for the longer maturing varieties, this can be a lot more challenging for the old brain cells. So, if you are panicking that you have forgotten sowing something, don't despair, you still have time. I'd write everything down as a failsafe reminder, but I don't get time! I'm racking my brain at present, and check off the fact that the winter greens have been started off, so Brussels sprouts, savoy cabbage and curly kale have been ticked off the list. I do however have the thought that I bought some melon seed and these should really be on growing now. I need to sow the next salad leaf crop, so reminder to self – go through the entire seed box to see what has been missed! Happy gardening until next month, best wishes,  
*Steve and Felicity Hunt.*



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG

Year 4, 5 & 6 had the amazing experience of attending a local Iron Age hillfort site and being allowed to participate in an archaeological dig, where numerous pieces of pottery dating over 2000 years old have been uncovered. The curator of Caerleon Museum talked to them about local settlements and had a wide range of artefacts for the children to explore and learn about. They also spent some time exploring the hillfort imagining what it would have been like and identifying and sketching the wild orchids and bluebells. A huge thank you to Peter Bonvoisin for inviting our learners to be part of this incredibly exciting venture!



For more information about our school, please visit our website:  
[www.shirenewton.monmouthshire.sch.uk](http://www.shirenewton.monmouthshire.sch.uk)

## PLANETARIUM DOME

Reception, Year 1, 2 & 3 had a very exciting day exploring and learning about space in a massive blow up space dome in the school hall.



## TERRIFIC TALENTS

We are HUGELY proud of the sporting achievements of our pupils and love celebrating their successes. Brereton is now the U11s British Schools National Champion after coming joint first at the British Schools Gymnastic Finals ...



## URDD EISTEDDFOD WINNERS

We were thrilled to hear that Angela's (Year 3) T-shirt design for Mistar Urdd's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and Oscar's (Year 5) Môr y Mynydd print were both 1<sup>st</sup> place winners in the regional round of the competition and have been sent to the national Eisteddfod in Denbighshire. Pob lwc i chi!



# **Huntsman Hotel Chepstow Ltd**

**Huntsman Hotel Lounge, Beer Garden**



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**\*Lounge Dining Area (\*Sunday only)**

*with food available on our established  
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**ooOoo**

***Opening times Monday to Friday 5pm to 9.30pm,  
Saturday 12 noon until 3pm & 5pm until  
9.30pm, Sunday 12 noon to 8pm***

**ooOoo**

*Opening times may vary so let us know when you want us open....  
Happy to open for groups at lunchtime for drinks & food if enough of  
you!*

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***Lager, Cider, Wine and Spirits.***



***Roaring Fire in the Shed & Patio Heaters on the decking***

***OUR LOUNGE IS OPEN FOR SUNDAY LUNCH OR  
PRIVATE FUNCTIONS.***

## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

On 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022 the baptism took place in St Thomas a Becket Church, Shirenewton of

Emily Amelia Montague and  
Jack Thomas Montague

The officiant was the Reverend Nansi Davies

## **FOOD BANK**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) would like to remind everyone in the Parish that they operate a food bank from the Church. Donations can be left in the Church when it is open, or in the porch when it is locked. This important facility is a lifesaver for those who depend on it, so please give generously.

## **FUNDRAISING FOR MOONWALK**

Many congratulations to Gilly Lambert and her team who raised over £10,500 for breast cancer charities when they took part in the Moonwalk event on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

### **Congratulations to our 200 Club winners in April:**

- |                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 1. Frances Gray    | 2. Joy Moore |
| 3. Elizabeth Moore | 4. Ian Waite |

### **Congratulations to our 200 Club winners in May:**

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Barry Leat   | 2. Frances Gray |
| 3. Julian White | 4. Carole Waite |

# SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

*Registered Charity No. 1090167*

Our speaker for the April meeting was Roger Morgan who gave us a talk entitled 'A Custodian Sentence', nothing to do with the law, Roger had been the Custodian of Chepstow Castle. He gave an account of an average day taking care of one of our ancient monuments, which of course was never average! He was also custodian of the amphitheatre at Caerleon and he admitted to shamefully name dropping, the names of famous people he had shown around the site, Tom Jones, Anthony Hopkins.....

Our programme for May was going to include a visit to St Fagans Museum, unfortunately, the museum is still not able to have 'curator led' gallery tours since the covid outbreak, therefore, we plan to postpone the visit until next year when hopefully everything will be back to normal.

During April and May 2022 the Caerwent and Shirenewton local history societies carried out a community archaeology dig near Llanmelin Hillfort, with the support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The objectives were to engage younger local people in our history, and to get a reliable date for an 'enclosure' last examined ninety years ago by a famous archaeologist called V.E. Nash-Williams.

The excavation took three weeks and we were very lucky to have only one day of rain. The digging was carried out by thirty local volunteers under the supervision of professional archaeologist Dr Iestyn Jones ( who is also to be seen on S4C).

We had several visitors to the site during the dig, including a group of local Explorer Scouts, but the biggest group by far was nearly 80 children from Shirenewton Primary School who undertook activities with us over three days. Every child experienced digging on the site for themselves: some even found small fragments of Iron Age pottery! They also got to handle finds from other sites, and two classes were entertained by our own Dr Mark Lewis with his 'travelling show' of Roman artefacts whilst waiting for their turn to dig.

From an archaeological point of view the dig was incredibly successful too. The previous excavation on the site found one piece of Iron Age pot, we were lucky enough to find over 200 sherds,

and a large selection of bone. This should enable us to establish the age of the site: we expect it to date from just before the Romans arrived in Britain, or even earlier. This period is known as the late Iron Age, over 2,000 years ago.

Many people have asked if we found any metal objects. The answer is none at all. In fact it appears the pottery is entirely Iron Age (or almost so). Unusually there is no Roman or other material. That is actually good news as it makes it easier to interpret the site.

We will be arranging illustrated talks on the dig, with more information about the finds, in Caerwent and in Shirenewton later in the year.

### **Coffee Morning for Our Ukrainian Friends**



Thank you everyone who came and supported the Coffee, Cake and Posh Stationery Morning on Sat 14<sup>th</sup> May. It was great to see the garden full of people laughing and chatting away, and the kids roaring around. Mercifully no one fell in the pond. Although I must apologise for my bench collapsing under some friends. Luckily no one was hurt and I will borrow a slug-hammer (?) immediately and my ex-bench will consigned to the fire-pit. But on a better note, the cakes were outstanding! However, the star of the show was, without doubt, my hooter. The kids all lined up to have a parp on it. I'd bought it at an Oxfam shop. Now I just need the vintage car to go with it.

Talking of cakes I'm helping to run the Cake Stall at The Church and School Fete, Sat 18<sup>th</sup> June so could I ask, yet again, for donations of cakes and biscuits, cookies and cupcakes, jams and jellies, pickles and marmalades? Thanking you in advance. And anybody want to buy a raffle ticket?



Glynis MacDonald 641 818



## THE BELLS

The month of May marks the explosion of spring. With spring comes the competition season between bands of ringers within the Monmouth Diocese. Now a few years back pre-pandemic there was a debate as to whether bell ringing should be classified as a sport. I think this was precipitated by the players of the card game Bridge who wished to classify this as a sport! Why, one may ask should such a plea be made? Well The Sports Council has funds available for sports activities – why not Bridge or indeed why not Bell Ringing. After all what is a sport? One definition I have found is:

“an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others for entertainment”

So some activities are clearly sports e.g. athletics, cycling, winter sports, team games involving moving a ball – but what about darts or snooker or even Bridge. Well, arms and hands are moved (exerted?) in the playing of Bridge but possibly brains are more exerted. And, within the above definition, what about bell ringing?



Well it is a physical activity with a significant skill set. It is a team activity and yes, it is tested through competition. Which brings me back to the Monmouth Branch Striking Competition held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May at St Mellon's church on the edge of Cardiff. Shirenewton entered one part of this competition – the Call Change Section and came a close second behind the band from Trellech. A photo of the team involved is attached. Associated with this was a cake baking competition and I am proud to announce that one of our band - Glynis MacDonald - in a highly competitive field came third. Now I ponder – is cake baking a sport: physical exertion – yes, skill – yes, individual – yes, competition – yes and entertainment – yes. Bell Ringing and Cake baking for the next Olympics? Maybe!

M.D.Penney.

June 2022

## **The Right Royal Jubilee Revue Earlswood Hall. Friday 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May**

What a splendid evening! The Jubilee-Do proved to be wonderful entertainment with the all the fun of the show that we have come to expect from SODS and Friends. Plus the proceeds are going to the Ukrainian Appeal via DEC.

Minetta Morris set the evening off to a grand start with her rendition of 'Love Never Dies' followed by poetry recitations, skits and songs. We were entertained by a piece written by Karen Millar especially for the Revue: 'Five Get Into A Royal Fix'. Enid Blyton would have been proud. The evening finished with 'The Ins and Outs of Shagbury Manor' a Victorian melodrama written by Glynis MacDonald – a play which was tense with high emotion, taut with the discoveries of past indiscretions and filled with much soul searching and swooning. And a lot of over-acting.

But the piece de resistance has to be The Burlesque 'And All That Jazz'. It was performed with flair and panache even though one of the troupe found it hard to get his leg over. Despite that, this sultry troupe flaunted their suppleness, their je-ne-sais-quois-ness and their allure. And I've just been told that they will be going on tour shortly. Competitive rates. ***See pictures on the centre pages***

*I've just looked up the word 'allure', i.e. "the quality of being powerfully and mysteriously attractive and fascinating". Maybe that isn't the word I was looking for.* Betty Buntait – West End Critic

### **TENNIS AT SHIRENEWTON**

The new year for tennis subscriptions starts on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. As in previous years, if you wish to have access to the court, you will have to pay for a key. Access is granted until the 31<sup>st</sup> of May next year, when the locks are changed and new keys issued to subscribers. A subscription to the key costs a very reasonable £40, regardless of how long is left until the 31<sup>st</sup> of May – there are no pro rata subscription rates available.

The booking system is simple

Turn up.

If there are already people playing, then they have half an hour to clear the court.

If people turn up when you are playing, you half an hour to clear the court.

If you would like access or more information then please email

[shirnewtontennis@gmail.com](mailto:shirnewtontennis@gmail.com)

or call Andy on 07974187458 and leave a message

# **CHEPSTOW AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY LTD**

## **General Secretary Vacancy**

The Society is responsible for the organisation of the annual Chepstow Show and is run by a volunteer committee which meets on a monthly basis. The show is a traditional agricultural show and is currently held at Chepstow Racecourse attracting in excess of 5,000 people each year.

Our current Secretary, Isabelle Coates, has advised the committee she intends to stand down from her position. Isabelle has held the position for 6 years and during that time has made a significant contribution to the Show and the Society.

We are looking to appoint a successor, initially to shadow Isabelle in the period before next year's show on Saturday 13th August 2022, and then to assume the role for 2023.

The main responsibilities of the Secretary are;

- Acting as secretary at all society meetings, including the monthly meeting of the general committee, bi-annual trustee meetings and the AGM; taking and circulating minutes and dealing with correspondence.

- Collating and submitting the report to the Charities Commission.

- Organising certain aspects of the annual show including establishing section requirements, liaison with regulatory authorities, suppliers such as those of marquees and toilets and other stakeholders;

- Co-ordinate activities on the show site during the week before the show, on show day itself and the following day's clear-up.

- Dealing with any issues arising on show day;

Candidates will need good people skills and administrative skills. Experience with agricultural shows or the agriculture sector would be helpful. The workload is variable ranging from a couple of hours per month for most of the year up to a virtually full-time role for several days around the Show itself. An annual honorarium is payable.

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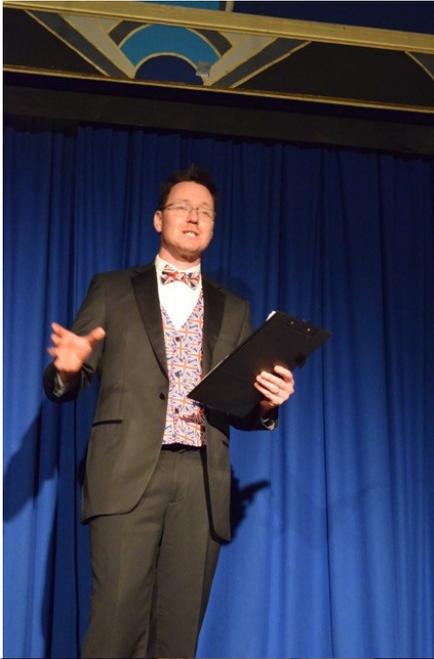
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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> June 7.30 p.m.	Ministry Area Praying Together St Christophers Church, Bulwark
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> June 1.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.	School/Church fete, Shirenewton Recreation field
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> June 7.00 p.m.	RNLI Evening of Colour and Light The Chepstow Club
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> June 7.30 p.m.	Ministry Area Praying Together St Christophers Church, Bulwark
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> August	Chepstow Agricultural Show, Chepstow Race Course

Please let the editor know about any events you are aware of that may be of interest to the readers of this magazine

“

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ANONYMOUS

## STARGAZING



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

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

On the 21<sup>st</sup> June the Earth's axis is tilted towards the Sun to its greatest extent and the Sun reaches its highest position in the sky at noon. This is the longest day or summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere. In Wales it is called Gŵyl Ifan Ganol Haf (St John's of Midsummer). Great agricultural fairs used to be held at this time, along with merriment and dancing. A bonfire was also kept this night. Its observance finally died out in SE Wales by the end of the 19th century.

Joke: After his first meal on the Moon, the astronaut said the food was good but the restaurant lacked atmosphere!

The Full Moon appears on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

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

## **CHURCH SERVICES**

Please note that all Church services start at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the church of St Thomas à Becket, Shirenewton. Times may vary for the periods over Easter, Christmas and New Year, but they will be reported in this magazine.

## **CHURCH SERVICES ON ZOOM**

Some services will be available to join via Zoom, if you cannot attend in person. Please contact Gilly Lambert (see contact list) if you would like to be included on the distribution for Zoom service invitations.

## **LOCAL BUS SERVICES**

Since the pandemic the No. 63 bus service to Chepstow from Cwmbran (via Shirenewton) and vice versa has been 3 hourly.

This is totally unacceptable for elderly people who don't drive, to have to wait such a long time to return home. The previous time table was 2 hourly. The bus stops at Usk ,Pontypool and Cwmbran giving passengers many shopping options. I have contacted Phil Anslow buses and also the Monmouthshire county council to try to persuade them to revert back to the old time-table, but I think a bit more pressure from the villagers who might like to use this service would help greatly. Many thanks. Barbara Davies.



**Eileen O' Dwyer**

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## Nerys's Natty Nosh

The Ukraine is very much in our thoughts as we pray for peace and normality.

Twenty years ago, Tony I and our two children visited Yalta and Odessa in the Ukraine. We were made to feel welcome and greeted with kindness.



After visiting places of interest, we finished off the day with the most incredible banquet washed down with vodka and wine. The merriment continued as we were serenaded by a local folk band.

As we greet our Ukrainian families in the vicinity, I wanted to share with you a cake traditionally made during the Easter celebrations. This beautiful bread was made by a Ukrainian lady living locally.



Ukrainian Easter bread is a slightly sweet egg bread that can be decorated with religious symbols. It is traditionally taken to church on Easter morning in a special basket with other foods to be blessed.

Paska and Babka are primarily from Ukraine, but the traditional Easter bread is eaten throughout Eastern Europe and in countries with Eastern Orthodox populations.

## What Is the Difference Between Babka and Paska Bread?

Babka and Paska are both yeasted, sweet, enriched breads. Paska tends to be wide and round with dough shaped on top to form religious symbols or decorative shapes. Ukrainian Babka is a tall cylinder that sometimes contains raisins and/or citrus zest and can have icing on top.

### Ingredients

#### For the Dough:

1 1/2 cups milk  
1/2 cup plus 1/2 teaspoon sugar  
1/2 cup water, lukewarm  
1 (0.25-ounce) package active dry yeast  
7 1/2 cups all-purpose flour divided  
3 large eggs, at room temperature, beaten  
1/3 cup unsalted butter, melted  
1 1/2 teaspoons fine salt

#### For the Egg Wash:

1 large egg, at room temperature  
2 tablespoons water

In a heavy-bottomed saucepan, scald the milk then set aside to cool until lukewarm.

In a large bowl, dissolve 1/2 teaspoon sugar in the water and sprinkle the yeast over it. Mix and let stand for 10 minutes.

Add the lukewarm scalded milk and 2 1/2 cups of flour to the yeast mixture. Beat until smooth. Cover and let rise until light and bubbly.

Add eggs, the remaining 1/2 cup sugar, melted butter, salt, and 4 1/2 to 5 cups of the remaining flour to make a dough that is not too stiff and not too slack.

Knead until dough no longer sticks to the hand and is smooth and satiny (about 7 minutes in a stand mixer, longer by hand).

Place dough in a greased bowl, turn to grease both sides, cover with greased plastic wrap, and let rise until doubled.

Punch down, cover and let rise again.

Reserve a third of the dough for decorating. Shape the rest into a round loaf and place in a 10- to 12-inch greased round tin.

Shape the reserved dough into decorations of choice—a cross, swirls, rosettes, braiding, etc.—and arrange on top of the dough.

Cover the tin with greased plastic wrap and let rise again until almost doubled.

Heat oven to 400 F. Brush bread with 1 large egg beaten with 2 tablespoons water.

Bake 15 minutes. Reduce temperature to 350 F and bake for an additional 40 minutes, or until a thermometer registers 190 F. If necessary, cover the top of the bread with aluminium foil to prevent over-browning.

Remove from the oven and turn out onto a wire rack to cool completely before decorating.



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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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For further information, please contact Lesley Arnold on 01291 641755, Chepstow RNLI Branch Secretary.

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## SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

You just have to love the MSM (main stream media) and their reporting of technology issues. In an article in the Telegraph on 28<sup>th</sup> April entitled 'Volodymyr Zelensky refused to be evacuated from Kyiv as Russian hitmen parachuted into capital', the reporter (Nick Allen) says "Ukrainian soldiers use ever-changing nonsense passwords to prevent infiltrators. Old passwords reportedly included "coffee cup suitor".

What Mr Allen appears to have missed is that using three random words is one of the recommended ways of creating passwords. This is endorsed by UK's National Cyber Security Centre. To recap the password advice I've given in the past, using three random words (ideally with numbers and punctuation) is perfectly acceptable. However, I do wonder if people can remember three random words. Personally I prefer the memorable sentence approach in which you make up a phrase to suit your circumstances. The example I've used previously in this column is: TheroadtoChepstowistheB4235! According to the [security.org](https://www.security.org) website this password would take about 52 decillion years to crack. As they say: that will see me out!

So, in summary, Mr Allen could have written: 'To ensure the integrity of their systems, Ukrainian soldiers use recognised password creation techniques based on the random words, which is endorse by leading cyber security organisations'. But he didn't. Oh well.

The Times had an interesting story on how a Ukrainian man was able to track the redeployment of Russian troops to the east of the country via a pair of wireless earbuds looted from his home near Kyiv. Vitaliy Semenets used the "Find my" feature (available on all Apple products) to follow the progress of the stolen AirPods. Stolen in Hostomel, 17 miles from Kyiv, they made their way via Belarus into Russia and down to the city of Belgorod where preparations for the assault on the Donbas were being made. I was unable to ascertain their current whereabouts.

Some may recall that in the April magazine I reported that 'Ukraine's defence ministry has begun using Clearview AI's facial recognition technology to uncover Russian assailants, combat misinformation and identify the dead.' I also reported that 'Clearview is the subject of numerous lawsuits' as many believed that their data scrapping techniques were illegal.

Interestingly the Washington Post recently reported that Clearview AI "has agreed to stop its sales to private companies in the United States as part of a landmark settlement reining in a technology criticized as threatening Americans' privacy rights.". What I missed when first reporting the use of Clearview in April is that the ICO (UK Information Commissioners Office) announced in November 2021 it's intention to impose a £17 million fine on Clerview AI issued a notice to stop Clearview AI further processing the personal

data of people in the UK and to delete it following alleged serious breaches of the UK's data protection laws. The ICO says: "Clearview AI Inc now has the opportunity to make representations in respect of these alleged breaches set out in the Commissioner's Notice of Intent and Preliminary Enforcement Notice. .... We expect to make a final decision by mid-2022." Watch this space.

What is interesting is that the big 'privacy' issue which campaigners have with Clearview is that their data has been 'illegally' scrapped from publicly accessible internet sites such as Facebook. Yet, in April there was a 'landmark ruling' by the U.S. Ninth Circuit of Appeals that scraping data that is publicly accessible on the internet is not a violation of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, or CFAA, which governs what constitutes computer hacking under U.S. law. The case under consideration was brought by LinkedIn and aimed at stopping a rival company from web scraping personal information from users' public profiles.

Where this leaves it all is unclear. LinkedIn say that "This is a preliminary ruling and the case is far from over" so there may be further clarification. However, what it does show is that the law in western democracies struggles to keep up with current technical developments and it takes time and lawsuits for clarity to emerge.

Finally, for those interested in the topical issue of electrical power and its generation may I recommend that you visit <https://gridwatch.co.uk>. This shows all UK power generation and its source. At the time of writing (3:50pm on Sat 21<sup>st</sup> May) the following is shown to be happening:

1. Generation is 18% Nuclear, 36% Combined Cycle Gas Turbine, 1% Biomass, 5.57% Wind and 20% solar – it is a sunny day out there what am I doing writing this?
2. The UK is currently exporting electricity to France and Norway. The demand is 27.64GW of which 42% is being generated by renewables and 59% is being generated by carbon neutral methods.

It's a fascinating website and has been added to my favourites. I think I'll go and put the kettle on and see what happens.

Safe browsing

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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 to 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.

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## LOCAL CONTACTS

*If you know of any changes or omissions please contact the Editor Bill Clark  
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Lay Eucharistic Minister	Gilly Lambert	07821 725 690
Church Wardens – Rector’s – People’s	Sally Saysell Andrew Baker	01291 641 369 01291 641 925
PCC Secretary	John Montague	01291 329 481
PCC Treasurer	Graham Lambert	01291 641 175
PCC Members	Janet Horton James Leney Frances Gray Paul Morcombe Wendy Montague	01291 641 783 01291 641 271 01291 622 465 01291 641 671 01291 329 481
Gift Aid Secretary	Vacant	01291 641 411
Organists	Karen Millar James Leney	01291 650 521 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 Mathern

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### Ministry Area Transition Team

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### MP/Monmouth CC & Community Council Representatives

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## **Other Local Organisations**

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## **Gwent Wildlife Trust Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Meadows (previously SAMFAL)**

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## **Caerwent Group Mothers Union**

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

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## **Shirenewton Play Group Shirenewton Primary School**

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## **Shirenewton Tennis Association**

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## **Fairtrade/Traidcraft**

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## **Womens Institute (WI)**

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Jane Butterworth (Secretary) 01291 641704.

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