

Shirenewton & Newchurch Parish Magazine September 2012



Sketch by Barbara Davies

Price: 50p

Dear Friends,

As the school holidays draw to a close, some young people will be preparing to leave home for the first time to go to University or to take a year travelling, or, in these difficult times, to take up some employment but whatever path they travel there will be some anxiety. Some will be delighted with their examination results and others disappointed but we at St. Thomas's will be especially remembering all our young people in our prayers at this time.

I am sure that many of you enjoyed the Olympics which were uplifting and exciting for those of us watching and we congratulate those taking part and not only the medallists; all those taking part were at the world level of their particular sport proving their tenacity and hard work in achieving their goals. We now look forward to the Paralympics where I am sure we will be amazed at what the human spirit can achieve despite tremendous adversities. These splendid sports people will encourage all who are experiencing some personal difficulties as they compete for the pure enjoyment of taking part.

There are many stories in the Bible which show that humans have always struggled to overcome adversity and certainly Christians throughout the centuries have turned to a loving God for encouragement. We know that in many countries Christians face discrimination and even death for their faith and we uphold them in our prayers. It is so easy for us to take our faith for granted and without fear but where would each of us stand if we were challenged in similar circumstances? Would we admit to being a Christian or would it not matter too much and allow us to turn away? St. Paul in several of his letters to the early churches talks about running a race; in 1 Corinthians he writes, "Remember that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize. You (Christians) must run in such a way that you will win. All athletes practice strict self-control. They win it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step. I am not like a boxer who misses punches. I discipline my body like an athlete, training to do what it should. Otherwise I fear that after preaching to others I might be disqualified." Winning a race requires purpose and discipline. St. Paul uses his illustration to explain that the Christian life takes hard work, self-denial and much preparation. As Christians, we are running towards our heavenly reward. The essential disciplines are prayer, Bible study, and worship which equip us to run with vigour and stamina. Don't observe from the grandstand and turn up for worship and others training sessions just a couple of times a year. Our spiritual progress and achieving our goal depends on diligent training which is much easier when in the companionship with others who are also part of the team.

I invite you to join us for worship where you will be warmly welcomed; the first Sunday in September will be a 'Back to Church Sunday' for those who have stopped attending Church, for whatever reason; those of us who already attend also need encouragement and so we hope many of you will come and join us. Remember that Sunday Service start at 10.a.m. and lasts for no more than an hour often followed in the Church Room with tea/coffee/cakes and fellowship. An hour's training once a week is not too difficult is it?

At the end of September is our Harvest Festival followed by the usual splendid lunch and tickets will soon be available. I look forward to seeing you soon, With every blessing Nansi Davies. Parish Priest.

SHIRENEWTON PARISH VISITORS

We have a team of five Parish Visitors who are members of the Church of St Thomas á Becket's congregation.

They are trained and supported to offer a listening ear and time to chat with those in particular need -- the housebound, the sick, the bereaved, or those facing some other kind of crisis. They are also there to welcome new people into the village and help them to integrate into the community more quickly.

They are not professional counsellors, carers or social workers, but ordinary people who are willing to be alongside you when you most need it. Their service is free to those of all faiths and none, with no strings attached.

Confidentiality

Our Parish Visitors work within a strict code of confidentiality so that you may be confident that whatever is shared with them goes no further.

The one exception to this is that Visitors may share the minimum information necessary to obtain support and advice themselves, if necessary, from our clergy or other appropriate person. This would only happen with the person's consent.

How to Find Out More

Contact our coordinator, the Revd Nansi Davies Tel 01633 400519 or Diane Marlow Tel 01291 641407 for an informal chat about your need.

If you would like to become a member of the Parish Visitors team please contact Nansi or Diane.



FROM THE REGISTERS

Marriage

Holly Martin and Mathew Sykes 7th July 2012

St Thomas á Becket Church

Sunday 30th September at 10 am. Harvest Festival Service, followed at 1pm by the Harvest Lunch which will be held at Earlswood Hall.

See page 4 & 5 for further details.

200 CLUB

Winners for July are

1st prize	Kakoon Cornwall
2nd prize	Norman Halls
3rd prize	Francis Thomas
4th prize	Annie Woodward

ST PETER'S CHURCH NEWCHURCH

Thursday 27th September at 7pm. Harvest Thanksgiving

Thursday 18th October at 7pm. Songs of Praise

Saturday 17th November Christmas Fare—time to be advised

St Thomas á Becket Church

HARVEST FESTIVAL & LUNCH



The Harvest Festival Service will be held at St Thomas à Becket Church Shirenewton at 10.00am on Sunday 30th September and the Harvest Lunch will be served at Earlswood Hall at 1.00pm.

In previous years this event has been a sell-out therefore please reserve tickets by contacting Meg Driver 01291 641558 megdriver@hotmail.com or Barbara Walters 01291 641338 barbaraw@lifers.org.uk . Ticket prices are £6.00 for adults or £4.00 for children. Please let us know if you wish to reserve a table of 8 or 10 but it is not practical to organise reservations for smaller groups. We suggest you arrive as soon as possible after 12.30pm.

We would be very grateful to accept bowls of your favourite salad or delicious puddings and/ or help in serving on the day. Again please contact Meg or Barbara.

MANY THANKS

Maureen Moody would like to thank everyone who helped raise £817.00 on Saturday 14th July at the coffee morning, in aid of The Velindre Hospital.

EARLSWOOD AND NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

Our AGM in April gave the hall committee a chance to reflect on a successful year. The newly installed solar panels on the roof are generating income for the hall and to pay back investors. We've hosted drama productions, barn dances, parties and other events, which together provide entertainment and enjoyment for several hundred local people. The production of Babes in the Woods, written by Glynis MacDonald, was particularly successful, raising over £800 for hall funds.

We were very sad to hear of the death of John Spary who was a long standing member of the hall committee and a loyal supporter of the hall. Our condolences go to his family.

If anyone would like to help run the hall or the annual Remembrance Service please contact me or another member of the hall committee.

Simon Stanley Chairman 01291-641616

St Thomas à Becket Church



HARVEST LUNCH

EARLSWOOD HALL

SUNDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

12.30 FOR 1.00PM

Admission by ticket only

Adults £6.00 or children £4.00

Please contact

Meg 01291 641558 megdriver@hotmail.com

Barbara 01291 641338 barbaraw@lters.org.uk

SHIRENEWTON WI JULY AND AUGUST 2012

July a light month, when one can go out for the evening and return still in daylight, unfortunately this year not often without a raincoat.

Thankfully our meeting on the 12th was one of the drier days. A very good turn out of members enjoyed the return of Beth Butler, her talk this time was on the 'Secularisation of the Church' in Wales and Britain generally. Her talk was about how society arrived where it is now.

For many hundreds of years the Church was the driving force in communities and all life revolved around its calendar. People were expected to observe religious requirements on the sabbath; they were not to carry on business and only necessary activities such as agricultural work, tending to animals, making bread were allowed. Saints days (holy days) were holidays and a time for fairs and celebrations. After the reformation Sunday was the only rest day, saints days were no longer holidays and efforts were made over the next couple of centuries to prevent all forms of entertainment on Sundays.

Beth told us how those in control didn't always make it easy for the church to be a support for all the community, as some members were encouraged to use it for personal advancement.

The beginning of secularisation initially aided society by making the bible available in English. The changes in working brought about by the industrial revolution made attendance at church a lower priority. Methodism was born and preached anywhere drawing large audiences. Another major change by the end of the nineteenth century saw people attaining important office without specific church attendance credentials.

The provision of transport in the form of bicycles, trains, buses accessible to all meant travel was possible, but since Sunday was the only day off that's when it had to be.

Gradually with new technology, changes in social order brought about by war and increased leisure time, everyone was being encouraged to see themselves as the most important person even in their own family.

How often we see in the media that those who appear to have everything are not actually enjoying a good life. So maybe a little bit of church and community is good for us even in the materialistic, secularised 21st century.

August

Our annual summer meal was a great success. Sixteen of us met at the 'Woodlands Tavern' Llanfair Discoed on a beautiful calm warm August evening. It was so pleasant sat outside with our drinks engaged in conversation that we were reluctant to go indoors.

The meal was delightful with every choice of equal merit. The staff were pleasant and attentive, providing an excellent and efficient service to all in the busy dining room. Jenny and Auriol started us off with the loyal toast and grace. After much pleasant conversation accompanying our meal we ended with coffee and mints, bade each other good night, returning home as gathering darkness enfolded us in its still warm blanket.

We next meet on September 13th, 7:15pm at the Rec Hall, our speaker will be Barbara Jones on the 'History of Patchwork and Quilting' our competition colour is 'Pale Green' so search your homes for an interesting pale green object to bring along



FAIRTRADE NEWS

In the spring issue of Fair Comment (a publication produced by the Fairtrade Foundation) there is an article reporting on a trip made by a Cumbrian farmer to Fairtrade banana farmers in the Windward Islands.



Robert Craig notes with interest that both his product :milk and the bananas he saw growing, can be used by supermarkets as loss leaders. He says 'The trip really opened my eyes to the damage that the continual pursuit of ever cheaper food has done to primary producers. Now, as never before, the world needs to support all of its farmers, big or small to rise to the challenge of more mouths to feed. The seven billionth person has just been born somewhere in the world, yet today following decades of price wars our supermarkets are still stripping out more and more value from our food.

So as a consequence we in the so-called developed world can throw away a third of the food we buy, in fact enough food each day that would feed the hungry in the world.'

This is, of course a favourite theme of mine ('rant' says my husband!). We need to consider food and indeed all the products we buy in a more thoughtful way. 'Buy mindfully' urges Traidcraft. Indeed, milk producers in this country need our support, as we now all realize.

Traidcraft autumn catalogues are now available.

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

STARGAZING

The seven stars of the Plough can be seen in the northern evening sky whilst the "W" of the constellation Cassiopeia lies to the northeast. The constellation Pegasus includes a large square that lies to the south. The Summer Triangle made up of the bright stars Deneb, Vega and Altair continues to dominate the night sky to the South. Deneb forms the tail of the constellation Cygnus, the Swan which lies pretty much overhead. Its brightest stars form a cross against the background of the Milky Way. The head of the Swan is a beautiful double star called Albireo. Viewed through a small telescope it can be seen to be a striking pair of stars, one coloured blue the other gold.

Early in the month, in the evening sky, you may just spot the planets Mars and Saturn, low in the west just after sunset. They form a triangle with the bright star Spica. The morning sky has more to offer. Venus, the very bright "Morning Star" lies in the east with Jupiter high in the southern sky above the constellation of Orion. On the 8th the last quarter Moon is very close to Jupiter. The crescent Moon is close to Venus on the 12th.

James Bradley was vicar of the parish of Bridstow, near Ross-on-Wye in Monmouthshire until 1721, when he changed vocation and became a full-time astronomer. Isaac Newton considered him to be the "best astronomer in Europe" and he was eventually made Astronomer Royal. Bradley carried out measurements that proved the Earth orbits the Sun, and that led to the first estimates of the distances of stars.

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING,

This month's meeting wasn't the most exciting thing I've ever been too.

Crime

PC Thorpe was unable to be at the meeting I think I heard she was up at the Olympics

01/08 There was a break in at the school on 1st August and contractors diesel stolen.

09/08 – a mattress was stolen from a garage in Bulwark.

Planning

1. DC/2010/00472 The Oaks, Red Barn Lane, Shirenewton
Amendment to original plans (dormer windows).

There were some quite lengthy discussions over the distinction between amendments to original plans and retrospective planning, the finer points of which escaped me. This is partly because me and my reporter's table are parked behind the council members and it's sometimes difficult to hear. Anyway this application was for a couple of dormer windows.

Eventually the council recommended approval.

There was also a nod to the new councilors as to what to do when a planning application comes through from MCC. The plans should go to the relevant cllr and he/she should make a site visit. Apparently there is a form which acts as an aide memoir to remind the cllr to takes photos where possible, to talk to the applicant, to chat to the neighbours as to any impact and to record the time and date of the site visit.

So if you see someone taking snaps outside your house it could be a cllr reviewing a neighbour's planning application. On the other hand, it might be a ne're-do-well casing the joint– in which case call the police.

2. DC/2012/00381 Red Barn Farm, Shirenewton
Erection of one wind turbine.

3. DC/2012/00384 Coombe Farm, Shirenewton
Erection of one wind turbine.

As this was an application by one of the cllrs, he was asked to leave the room

It was plain from the discussions that followed, that wind turbines are not universally loved. Comments included: they are noisy, they are ugly, they are huge, they are not good for wild life, they are not good for ecosystems and that they are a bit of a blot on a very pretty landscape.

Approval was not recommended.

4. DC/2012/00494 Land East of Ridge House Stables
Replacement of agricultural building with new portal framed steel building.

It would seem that the replacement building was going to be humongous inasmuch as it would be twice the size of the original – if not three times.

Discussions suggested that there would be quite an impact on the immediate countryside, neighbours would be able to see this huge structure, the ground wasn't level, there would, necessarily be vast earth-moving and therefore vast earth-moving vehicles, there was very poor access to this proposed jumbo steel framed structure and not only that but the planned doors were far too small for the size of the building. There also followed a very long discussion as to whether there was power there or not and local knowledge from one or two of the more mature cllrs suggested that there might have been a cable there once... possibly... donkey's years ago. Maybe.

Recommend refusal

Two other topics were discussed –light pollution from the caravan park and, somewhat puzzling, where exactly the path from Mynders Cottage was. And went to. And from where.... Yes but just a minute, which path?

Village Green Public Inquiry update

It was a disappointing although not completely unexpected result inasmuch as MCC, with their extremely expensive Council Barrister won the day. Carol Jones, who represented SCC had worked very hard over the last few years to try to maintain and uphold Village Green status on this patch of land. She was thanked by all the cllrs for her sterling work. Some of the newer cllrs remembered the time when but that's all too late now.

Queen Elizabeth 11 Initiative update

Interest has been lodged in registering the Rec in the Q. E II Initiative but the powers that be need to see official documents to prove ownership. Paperwork followed by more paper work. Followed by a fee.

The Village Shop Options

Plan A . One of our cllrs believes that 'someone' in the village might be interested in buying 'the premises' but once again I couldn't hear whether this referred to the shop or the ex Tan House. The plan might be to possibly use the upstairs as rented accommodation and to use the downstairs as a shop but apparently the person in question is away a lot at the moment...

Plan B. There had been a possibility that Monmouthshire Housing Association might be interested in a similar plan but it seems that all has gone quiet on that particular front....

Plan C. One of the cllrs had been in touch with the agents of the Tan House and was told that it had been sold to someone who has already bought 3 or 4 other such properties in other villages with a possible view to bringing back, possibly, a shop, possibly a pub and possibly a PO...

Hmmm...All things are possible I suppose.

Renewal of Recreation Hall lease

This is still on hold

To consider the decision of the Strong Communities Select Committee meeting on 24.7.12.

I have no idea what this was about. I wrote in my notes ‘

We won the argument but lost the vote.....The meeting that never was....The decision was made by one person on MCC... ‘

And apparently there was a ‘clear and concise report’ but as I wasn’t privy to it, it all remains a mystery. How disappointing..

Skateboard proposal

Last year some young boys presented a proposal to the council for a Skate board park in the village.

This was briefly discussed with questions like.... where to put it (on the Rec?) and who would maintain it and who would ensure it.... It was decided to discuss this at a further meeting and possibly ask the boys back for more details.

Clerk’s Report

The Results of the Best kept Village Competition wont be revealed until September or October....

Why does it take them so long to come to a decision – the weeds will have grown again.

Most of the Councilors have now attended the Councillors’s Code of Conduct Training

There had been an extension of a temporary license at Blethyn Close which should end on Aug 10th and any damage should have been made good within 5 days and it was agreed to keep a beady eye on this.

The Poorland Field was a bit tricky to find on the old 1841 tythe map and it was impossible to locate the exact field. MCC didn’t recognize the field numbers given. One of the cllrs remembered it being called Gobstoppers Field way back in the 1930s and 40s

The grass has now been cut. Breaking news huh. You heard it here first.

Next meeting as Monday 3 September 2012 at 7.30pm

THE BELLS, THE BELLS

Shirenewton Ringers were extremely lucky with the weather for their camping trip to Leicestershire on the third weekend in August, it was sunny and very warm all weekend.

Most of the ringers arrived at the lake side campsite about 3.30 set up camp, had a cup of tea and set out to the three towers arranged for the evening's ringing. The remaining ringers, who had not been able to get away so early, joined us at the first tower, a ground floor ring of six in the pretty village of Church Lawford. After this we all moved on to Rugby where we rang the bells at St Andrew's church. This church is very unusual as it has two rings of bells. Some of the five bells in the west tower are 300 years old and when a generous benefactor wished to augment the bells in the Victorian era it was felt a shame to spoil such an ancient ring. So instead a whole new ring of 8 was installed into the north east tower.

After the ringing everyone was famished, fish and chips were picked up on the way back to the campsite where all sixteen sat around several tables to eat and to have a few bebies.

The next morning we were all up bright and early to set out on our TT; that is to say our Ten Towers tour. Although this year we actually rang at eleven towers!

Lunch was in a the private dining room of a real ale pub The White Lion at South Kilworth.

The last two towers of the day, Husbands Bosworth and Marston Trussell were close to the site of the Battle of Bosworth field, the last and decisive battle of the Wars of the Roses fought in 1485 where Richard III was killed by Henry's (later Henry IV) troops and the house of Tudor came to the throne. Many of the defeated soldiers attempted to escape by running up the road towards the church at Marston Trussell, not realising it was a "pudding bag lane", what to day we would call a no through road. They were trapped and massacred.

All the ringers then returned to camp for a huge BBQ in the warm evening sunshine.

Sunday morning dawned warm and sunny and after walking through the pretty village of Sibberford and ringing for their service we drove (well some stayed in bed) to Welford on Avon and rang on the lovely ring of 8.

After all that ringing we were hungry for breakfast. The sixteen of us managed to consume five pounds of bacon between us and several dozen eggs. It was rumoured that several people had as many as six rashers each!

We all headed off home still in warm sunshine. In the evening James Leney who had not come on the TT had prepared a veritable feast for us. We were joined by other family members who had not come on the tour for an evening of fine food, fine wine and good company.

An SOS from SODS



SODS (Shirenewton Operatic and Dramatic Society) needs your help. Oh yes it does. Over the years we have put on some fantastic pantos.

But...we are flagging a tad...

We need some new fresh faces into the group. We'd love to see more actors, chorus and bit parts, and we need people to do back stage, tickets, marketing, publicity, painting, props and well... allsorts really.

Is there anyone out there who might like to direct and/or produce for example? SODS is a wonderful village group and we have a fantastic audience... but we do need a bit of a boost.

Interested? Please give Glynis a ring 641818 or email glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com or just turn up to our first meeting of the season Tuesday 18th September Earlswood Hall 8.00 to see where we're going.

WE NEED YOU! DO COME ALONG!

Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Fields Association

The Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Fields Association Limited (SAMFAL for short) was formed in November 2006 to protect and enhance the high biodiversity and special ecological value of the "Green wedge" between the two villages, and to allow the use of the fields as an educational resource for the adjacent primary school, with particular emphasis on its environmental curriculum, including the Forest School element.

You can help protect and improve this valuable Village resource by becoming a member.

- Membership Subscription Rates are:
- Single Community Member £10 PA
- Concessionary Community Member (OAPs, Full Time Students, Disabled, Unemployed) £5 PA
- Family Community Membership £15 PA
- Corporate Member (Non Commercial) £15 PA
- Corporate Member (Commercial) £50 PA

Membership application forms are available from the Web Site
www.shirenewtonchurch.info/samfal

Family Quiz

Saturday, September 22nd
Hood Memorial Hall,
Devauden
7pm for 7.30pm start
Teams of 4 maximum
£5 per person, under 11's £2.50
includes a light supper.
Licensed bar available.

Please reserve your table in advance by phoning Helen on 01291
650835 Proceeds in aid of St. James Church, Devauden

Concert

THE AYRES & GRACES CONSORT
Led by MOIRA FRASER-HOOK
With
ALISON WRAY SOPRANO
TWO'S COMPANY STRING DUO
And
SOPHIE ADAMS, ELLIOT & MANNI KEMPTON, CORRIN GREEN

Music for a
Late-summer evening
Music from 15th to 21st Century
St. James Church, Devauden
Friday 5th October 2012 at 7:30pm
Admission Free
Retiring Collection in aid of the Church Funds

**SHIRENEWTON
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LUNCHEON CLUB**

**Tredegar Arms
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tredegaramsshirenewton@hotmail.com

Please book early to secure
your place for lunch

Sept 26th

**SHIRENEWTON
PARENT
&
TODDLER GROUP**

Every Thursday
1.30 to 3pm Term Time
and the
Summer Holidays
Drinks, Snacks, Crafts,
& Songs. £2

Shirenewton Recreation Hall

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/
groups/181560798590317](https://www.facebook.com/groups/181560798590317)

**CHEPSTOW BUMPS N
BABIES GROUP**
MONMOUTH & DISTRICT NCT

Every month parents and
mothers to be get together
at another parent's house or
a local child friendly venue.
It is an opportunity to make
friends and extend a support
network in the area. Parents
volunteer to host this event
in & around Chepstow.

You do not have to be an
NCT member to attend
Bumps n Babes, we have
venues in the Chepstow
area organised for January,
February & March so please
get in touch for the details &
to be added to our mailing
list.

To find out more email
nctmonmouthnewsletter@yahoo.co.uk

Do You Need Help When You Are Away On Your Holidays?



I am a reliable and trustworthy 13 year old girl and live locally in Mynyddbach. If you would like my help whilst you are on holiday give my mum or dad a call on 01291 641970.

While you are away I will.....

- Feed and look after your pets
- Water the plants/pots and hanging baskets
- Close curtains and turn on lights

&/OR if you also need someone to regularly walk your dog when you are busy or delayed home from work I would love to help you with that too!



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WHIST DRIVES

In September we will play on Thursday the 6th and then in October on Thursday the 4th – at the Recreation Hall commencing promptly at 7.30 p.m. Our table fee per person is £1.00 which includes light refreshments. A raffle is held to raise funds for the Recreation Hall. New players are welcomed. Auriol Horton. 01291 641844

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

There is a problem at the moment with the Church website shopping portal. It's delivering error messages. The shops are listed and still working but you must scroll down below the error messages. I have no idea why the problem has arisen. The script has been working for a number of years without any glitches. I can only assume it was something at the 'backend' (i.e. the ISP upgraded the database or something similar). Anyway, the company that supplied the script is no longer in business so, I'm afraid, it's time to purchase a new script. I'm hoping to get something slightly prettier. In the meantime you can continue to use the existing site, just scroll down and the shop links are there.

Year to date the site has earned £611 for the Church. This is quite a lot down since 2011 when (to the end of July 2011) it had earned £866. I'm wondering if this is something to do with the new generation of virus/internet security protection including 'do not track' turned on by default. This function prevents tracking cookies being installed in your browser and, unfortunately, affiliate schemes rely on tracking cookies. Even more unfortunately a lot of the internet security companies include the affiliate websites as undesirable cookies and prevent them adding the cookie to the browser thus ultimately prevent the affiliate site recording the sale and giving us commission. So, if you are a regular user of the church website please turn off the 'do not track' option on your internet security package when purchasing via the website.

Safe browsing David Cornwell webmaster

MOTHERS UNION

We welcomed fourteen friends for an open evening, in Caerwent this time, on Wed 8th August.

We wanted to share with others what MU members are doing here in the UK, and around the world, for the welfare of children and their families. Very impressive it is too.

Our next meeting is on Wed Sept 12th, 2.30pm in Shirenewton church room.

Mrs Sue Griffiths will be with us, helping us to recognise and celebrate all our gifts and talents!

Come and celebrate all our collective gifts.

Rosemary Carey 425 010



SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The society had a very busy summer, our June talk was entitled '*The Roman Garder*' given by

Dr. Mark Lewis, who had just recently designed and planted a garden at the Roman Legionary Museum in Caerlioni well worth a visit by the description he gave of plants and the hard landscaping that has been done to recreate a British Roman garden.

We visited Ragland Castle on one of the sunniest days of the summer (yes, there were a few!) and had a very pleasant afternoon in the company of Mrs Anna Tribe who walked and talked our way around the castle. Giving us insights into the history of the castle and the surrounding area being a descendant of the Summerset/Beaufort family and afterwards enjoyed a welcome cup of tea at the castle tea rooms.

The month of July saw us visiting St Michaels's Church, Llanfiangel Rogiet, it now comes under the auspices of the Society of Friends of Friendless Churches. We were met by Peter Strong and he explained the unusual history of the church. It lies between two farm houses and you have to walk through the one to have access to the building. It has been renovated and is in very good order, it houses two very old tombs, well worth while a visit.

We are in the process of redesigning our web-site, you will shortly be able to access it once we have sorted out the usual glitches that always seem to occur, and our new address will be: www.shirenewtonlocalhistorysociety.co.uk

We have added to our archive during the summer, we have been given a considerable amount of new material on Itton Court and the Curre Family that you might be interested to view at our resource meeting, everyone welcome, please see below for dates.

Subscriptions are due this month, you will be able to find details on our web-site and be able to print off our subscription form and send it to the address mentioned in the form.

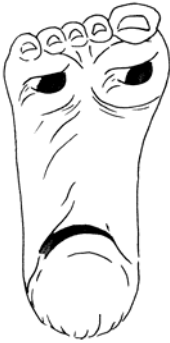
Dates for your diary:

Monday, 10th September, Resource Meeting at the Recreational Hall, Shirenewton, 2.00 pm – 5.00pm

Tuesday, 25th September, Meeting at the Huntsman hotel, at 7.30 pm a talk entitled, '*Nelson, and what happened to the family after Trafalgar*' given by Mrs Anna Tribe

Monday, 8th October, Resource Meeting at the Recreational Hall, Shirenewton, 2.00pm – 5.00 pm

Not Just Feet



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&
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Annabel Hancock MAR

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Paty Davies

Tel: 01291 641553

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Rob Parkin and the team strive for sustainability at The Anchor, Tintern

Having been a full calendar year since taking the helm as Head Chef at The Anchor, Rob Parkin has not only succeeded in improving the standard of food at the historic 12th century pub and restaurant, but has also greatly raised the ethics in terms of sourcing local and sustainable produce. After rising up the ranks to Head Chef at the Marriot St Pierre, Rob searched for a new challenge. In helping The Anchor to realise its full potential, given that it has been blessed with a location and views which are the envy of almost all competitors in Wales and the surrounding area, he has achieved remarkable success.

All lunch and dinner menus are fully home-made, including the signature "Anchor Burger" and the "Anchor Pie" which is filled with local beef and mushroom, cooked in Wye Valley Ale and topped with home-made pastry. In addition to this, their locally sourced braised Welsh lamb shank, from their newly released a la carte menu, highlights not only the increase in standards at The Anchor but also the desire to use only local ingredients. Now working with producers such as Great Dunkilns Farm at St Briavels for top quality local meat, Trellech Grange for free range eggs and local Welsh cheese producers, The Anchor can claim loyalty to surrounding farmers in hard times, as well as reducing its carbon footprint by not opting for cheaper ingredients sourced from a distance. Furthermore, Cod has been replaced with Hake which is sustainably sourced, emphasising The Anchor's determination to source food responsibly.

Reflecting on the last year, Rob says that "the dinner menu has reaped the rewards of long days and late nights, and now offers a very good standard of fine dining, with a strong returning customer base, meaning booking is strongly recommended".

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Is holding its Autumn Meeting on Thursday 18th October at the Priory, Monmouth starting at 7.00pm. There will be illustrated talks from group members about their meadows and how they have been preserved and managed. The species rich wildlife sites vary from a section of a domestic garden to large old hay fields on a farm.

Following the talks there will be a buffet supper.

Admission to the talks £2. Talks and supper £12.

To book see the Meadows Group website or contact Maggie Biss 01989 759 740

STEPHANIE DRAKE'S GREAT NORTH RUN

Sunday 16 September

Just to keep you all in the picture - my total so far is £2,145.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported me so far in so many ways, money still coming in to www.justgiving.com/Steph-Drake

"Look out for Mo Farah and I wont be far behind!"



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Nerys's Natty Nosh

Picnics

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Marilyn Lott

This is an email I received after the Jubilee Party at the Recreation grounds on the 4th of June.

Hi Nerys,

By popular request as a result of last night's bring and share picnic, Jane and Jackie asked me to submit recipes for Broccoli and Smoked Salmon Roulade and Cappuccino Bars to Nerys's Natty Nosh...

Love, Janet Horton

Broccoli & Smoked Salmon Roulade

(wheat and yeast free!) Serves 6+

Ingredients

225g Broccoli florets

4 eggs (separated)

Ground nutmeg

Freshly ground black pepper

200g smoked salmon slices

200g low fat cream cheese

2 tablespoons low fat plain yoghurt

2 ripe tomatoes (skinned and de-seeded and chopped finely)

1 tablespoon of snipped chives

Method

1 Oven heated to 220C (or 200 for a fan); Gas 6.

2 Line a Swiss roll tin with non-stick baking parchment.

3 Steam or simmer the broccoli and chop finely, place in a large mixing bowl with the egg yolks, nutmeg and some black pepper, mix well.

4 In a separate bowl, whisk the egg whites until stiff.

5 Use 1 tablespoon of the egg white to loosen up the broccoli mixture and then fold the broccoli mixture into the egg whites, carefully so as not to reduce the volume too much.

6 Spread the mixture out in the tin and bake for 10- 12 minutes until firm and golden.

7 Place another sheet of baking parchment on a cooling rack and turn the roulade out and leave to cool for 5 minutes. Peel off the lining paper and leave to cool completely.

8 Place the salmon on the roulade. Mix together the cream cheese, yoghurt, tomatoes and chives and spread over the salmon.

9 Using the sheet of paper to help, roll up the roulade and leave wrapped in the paper in the fridge until needed. Serve in thick slices

Cappuccino Bars Makes 16+ slices

Ingredients

3 tablespoons of Camp coffee

1 tablespoon of cocoa powder

225g softened butter

225g caster sugar

4 eggs

225g self raising flour

1 teaspoon of baking powder

115g milk chocolate

50g softened butter

3 tablespoons milk

175g sieved icing sugar

Method

1• Oven heated to 180C (or 160 for a fan) Gas 4; line a Swiss roll tin with non-stick baking parchment.

2 In a large bowl, blend together the coffee liquid and the cocoa.

3 Add all the remaining cake ingredients and mix for 1minute using an electric mixer.

4 Spoon the mixture into the tin, bake for 35 -45 mins until firm to the touch.

5 Cool in the tin for 10 mins then turn out on the rack to cool completely.

6 For the frosting, melt the chocolate, butter and milk in a bowl over a pan of simmering water. Remove from the heat and beat in the icing sugar until smooth.

7 When the frosting is cool, spread over the cake; leave to set and cut into bars .

Many thanks to Janet for her recipes. If you have any questions or recipes to share please email me :- Ranthonywilson@hotmail.com. Thank you.

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GARDENING CORNER

Hopefully you will have enjoyed the summer break. If you were really lucky, this may have coincided with one of the few spells of what could be termed seasonal weather! As I write this page, we have such a spell now, although for the garden this is far too little, too late. I think this season will go down as probably the worst certainly that I can ever remember for gardening. When the wind has been blowing and the rain has been lashing down, we have felt particularly sorry for the many keen gardeners who open their gardens up for charity. We did for eight years and it was particularly hard when so much effort had gone into making the garden nice, only for the weather to turn bad a few days before, or on the day itself, ruining weeks of hard work. During that eight years we did have to cancel one opening, simply because the field where we used to park the cars, being on a slope, was too wet and dangerous to let people in. We had visions of a demolition derby! I dread to think how many events have had to be cancelled or have been ruined by the weather this year. So spare a thought for these keen gardeners, and if you have the opportunity over the next month or so, get out and support any garden openings in the area, or whilst you are away.

The garden is looking a bit like a jungle at the moment as with the continuous wet weather it has been impossible to get into the flower beds to do any sort of weeding. You name it the weeds are there somewhere! In turn this has meant that some of the more delicate plants have started to be crowded out, some are rotting off altogether, whilst others are succumbing to diseases such as rust and mildew. Hopefully an 'Indian summer' will come along and I'll be able to have a few days off work to catch up, but looking at the garden presently I think we are looking at several months to try and get things back to any sort of order.

Apart from blueberries in the tunnel (I keep them in there because it is easier to keep the birds off), the fruit this year has been a complete disaster. Fruit set early on was not good to start with in the orchard and there were few apples and pears that had actually set. Those that did, have now been completely removed by jays and we won't be picking a single apple or pear this year. There were a few cooking apples left the last time I looked, so with any luck we might get a few blackberry and apple puddings if we're lucky. The strawberries either all rotted off or were stripped off by squirrels. War was declared on both, but too late to make any difference. As previously noted we had no nectarines or apricots (actually I tell a lie because I have found one single nectarine tucked away under the foliage) left thanks to a late frost.

In the vegetable patch the fortunes have been somewhat patchy. Certainly growing as many different things as possible has paid off this year. Fortunately I noted that the potato tops on our earlies and salad varieties were succumbing to potato blight, so I pulled them all off before the disease could spread to the tubers underneath. This was just before we had a week away. On our return I dug the spuds up to find that 99.9% of them were clean (apart from the usual slug holes of course and needless to say with the wet weather there were a few of them!), so that was timely intervention. We grow a blight resistant variety for main crop and as I sit here, these are showing no signs of any disease at present. The garlic crop was lifted in early July as the tops had been attacked by a rust disease. We had a reasonable crop, but the bulbs were not as big as usual. I've selected three of the

best bulbs from each variety and these will be planted in October to provide next year's crop. The cooking and pickling shallots suffered a similar fate, and many when harvested, had already started to rot due to the wet. The onion sets are faring a little better, but even some of those have started to look sick. The worst are being picked to use now, and hopefully the others will continue to grow on for a bit longer before they can be picked and dried for storage. The best crops so far have been the parsnips (I've never had such good roots before). Leeks (which have avoided rust problems so far and have actually enjoyed all the rain!) and the climbing beans. The first flowers on the beans failed to set, mainly because it was so wet that the bees couldn't get out to do their stuff. But a change in weather has meant that there are now too many beans to cope with. Normally we would freeze some, but at the moment we have no room in the freezers (and we do have two large chest ones).

Apart from lettuce leaves (we now tend to grow the cut and come again varieties rather than the actual lettuces) the rest of the salad crops have struggled. At least half the tomato flowers have failed to set and the cucumbers just never got going. I sowed a few more cucumber plants and these have now established and have started producing. With a few days warmer weather, things have improved and as a result peppers, courgettes and melons have started to look much better and are now cropping profusely.

Even though the flower beds have been left to their own devices I have managed to keep on top of the vegetable beds. Early crops have been removed and the beds are now ready for the late crops. I've mentioned the garlic already for October. Winter greens such as curly kale and purple sprouting were planted into the beds where potatoes had been removed, and these are now well established. I have persevered with over wintering onions and shallots, but I with recent bad winters I've now decided to give up on them, preferring to plant these in the spring when things are starting to warm up. I've found that they soon catch up and you don't get anywhere near as many losses.

The bees have also suffered badly this year and there will definitely be a shortage of home produced honey as it has been impossible for bees to fly due to the bad weather. Whilst cooped up of course they are eating honey supplies in the hive to keep them going so a double whammy really. I was minded the old saying about swarming bees and the fact that a 'swarm of bees in July, ain't worth a fly'. I didn't have any swarms at all this year – until July, when I had three in quick succession. The last, was a particularly large one. I had to feed all three with sugar syrup to begin with, as an aid to getting them to establish quickly. The first two colonies may be big enough to survive the winter, but the last certainly will. This brings the count of hives up to thirteen, although one of them appears to have lost their queen, and I haven't decided what to do with them yet. I could combine them with another colony that is struggling, but the last time I did this it didn't work. This is achieved by placing newspaper on top of a hive, then lifting the other colony on top. The theory is that, by the time they have chewed through the paper, they adopt the smell of the main hive, and the extra bees are accepted into the colony. Good in theory, but last time I had a big pile of dead bees outside the hive so I'm reluctant to try again. Anyway, I have a couple of supers which hopefully will have some honey in needing attention. Happy gardening until next month. Steve and Felicity Hunt.

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DIARY DATES

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3	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
6	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
10	Shirenewton History Society	Recreation Hall
12	Mothers Union	Shirenewton Church Room
13	WI Meeting	Recreation Hall
18	SODS First Meeting	Earlswood Hall
22	Family Quiz	Hood Memorial Hall Devauden
25	Shirenewton History Society	Huntsman Hotel
27	St Peter's Newchurch Harvest Thanksgiving	St Peter's Church Newchurch
30	St Thomas á Becket Harvest Lunch	Earlswood Hall
October	Event	Location
4	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
5	Concert	St. James Church Devauden
8	Shirenewton History Society	Recreation Hall
18	Monmouthshire Meadows	The Priory Monmouth
18	St Peter's Newchurch Songs of Praise	St Peter's Church Newchurch
30	Shirenewton History Society	Recreation Hall

Saint Thomas áBeckett		Sunday Services (Note Change of Service times) Start 10 am unless stated otherwise	
Date	Service	Readers	Sides-persons
2 nd September	13 th Sunday after Trinity BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY	Kevin Bounds Cynthia Smith	Kevin Bounds Cynthia Smith
9 th September	14 th Sunday after Trinity MATINS	Bill Clarke Janet Horton	Bill Clarke Janet Horton
16 th September	15 th Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Wendy Baker Diane Marlow	Wendy Baker Diane Marlow
23 rd September	16 th Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	John Nicholas Margaret Lock	John Nicholas Margaret Lock
30 th September	17 th Sunday after Trinity Harvest Festival Service	Andrew Baker Sally Saysell	Allan Saysell Claire Lewis
7 th October	18 th Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist	Wendy Baker Diane Marlow	Wendy Baker Diane Marlow



Monmouthshire



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.....because everyone needs a bit of help sometimes.....

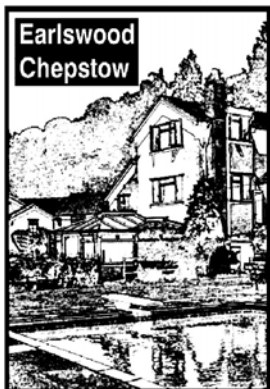
Could you spend time with a parent helping to build confidence as they adapt to life with a small baby, or share an outing with a family who finds getting out of the house difficult, or providing a listening ear to a mother who is experiencing post natal depression. Being a Home-Start volunteer means offering friendship to parents and spending time with families in a way that meets their needs.

- Are you a good listener?
- Could you spare a few hours a week?
- Do you have parenting experience - remember you don't have to be a 'super nanny'

All your expenses will be paid. You will need to undergo a CRB check.

If you think you would like to become a volunteer for the newly established Monmouthshire scheme then contact: Pam Lloyd on 01600715608 or email: enquiries@monmouthshirehomestart.org.uk

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EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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The views expressed are those of the contributor.

**Deadline for contributions to the October 2012 issue
is the 24th September 2012**