

Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

February 2015



Sketch by Barbara Davies

Price: 50p

FROM THE VICARAGE

Dear People of the Parish,

I find it to be most strange composing this piece.

For the first time in almost 35 years I am addressing, technically, a single parish in these ramblings. As you scan this, our sister parishes of Mathern, Mounton and St. Pierre remain suspended in silence as far as the Parish Magazine is concerned. O.K, so the loud lamentations and the cries of the bereft may fail to reach your ears (and all is tranquil down this end, to tell you the truth), but for the first time in decades no publication is dropping on door-mats in this vicinity with the intention of keeping local residents abreast of what is happening in their churches.

The truth of the matter is that we can find no one to act as Editor since the retirement of the last office holder at the end of 2014. This is despite a personal approach to at least six individuals and a widespread written plea circulated around the three parishes located this end of the group.

On a serious note, I am saddened by this turn of events for a variety of reasons. Mainly due to the skills and professionalism of a previous Editor, Prof. Derek Embrey, the magazine won an enviable reputation among its readership for – among other considerations – challenging journalism and a sense of humour.

Can you help? For a variety of reasons it was deemed expedient to keep the publication separate from the magazine which circulates in and around Shirenewton although the sharing of sundry ecclesiastical content soon became commonplace. Most of the Mathern/Mounton/St. Pierre articles are submitted by regular contributors on a monthly basis thus minimising the work load on the Editor/Compiler. What is chiefly required is a working knowledge of basic computer skills and a few hours of your time per month. Needless to say, a computer can be provided along with reimbursement of any printing cost from the Magazine Account. If you can assist in this direction, or know of somebody who can, I would be keen to learn of any interest. Please contact me on 01291 622317 if you feel that you can respond to this request.

The Church of Saint Thomas a Becket, Shirenewton, is – as you already know - an ancient foundation and it is valuable to be reminded, from time to time, that it is not only proud of centuries of past Christian tradition but also speaks to the present and the future.

I was reminded of this the other day at the funeral of Argyro Woodall, a lady whom I was privileged to know in recent years. Argyro was a Greek lady – and a feisty one at that! As a youth she had been a member of the Greek resistance in the last war and had been part of many challenging occasions. She was both a loving wife and mother and a formidable character at the same time (she once said that I spoke Greek with the 'enthusiasm of a dead-man'). She was also unashamedly left-wing and a strong adherent to the faith. As a result of her demise, following a long and active life, it was considered befitting that a Greek Orthodox priest should be invited to be part of the funeral rites. The Greek concept of time can be somewhat different to ours and so it proved at this solemn ceremony. The Archimandrite's intention to be 'simple and brief' in the service he shared with me would not have been the description used by many. But the gravitas he brought to the occasion was sublime! His religious chanting, both inside the church and in the surrounding churchyard, was exquisitely moving. His gift in switching from Greek to English vocabulary made the service both accessible and special and the use of olive oil and water at the burial rites was, surely, a first for the community as would have been his intoning at the graveside which echoed down the valley.

Those attending the service were touched by the antiquity of much of the ceremony and the fact that it remains so powerful to the situation which prevails today, is testimony to the relevance of the Christian faith. What we experienced, in fact, was the validity of two biblical statements: 'I am the beginning and the end' and, 'behold I make all things new'. Such is our belief.

With every good wish and blessing,
Julian E LI White

200 CLUB WINNERS FOR DECEMBER

1st Prize, £100	Ms B Bryant
2nd Prize, £50	Mr W John
3rd Prize, £25	Mrs S Williams
4th Prize, £25	Mrs M HUGes

"200 Club" subscriptions become due in February. "If you would like to participate contact Bob O'Keefe on: 01291 641686 or email: bobandwenche@aol.com"
15 Newton Manor, Shirenewton, NP16 6UA .

If you are not already using a direct debit and would be willing to do so, a form is available from Bob O'Keefe.

PARISH NOTICES – FEBRUARY 2015

Cost of the Parish Magazine

We need to make new printing arrangements for the Parish Magazine because Joyce Norfolk will retire by the end of 2015. This is a good opportunity for the PCC to review the financial arrangements for the publication, look at improving the quality and the ability to print pictures. The price has been held down at 50p per issue (£5 a year) for as long as most people can remember, and represents exceptional value for money. The PCC has decided to print the magazine in colour, which will be much better for reproducing photographs to accompany articles, and believe that a price increase is justified and necessary. After discussion it was agreed to increase the price of the magazine from £5 to £10 a year from March; and increase advertising costs from £30 to £40 per half page. This will still represent very good value for money for a very informative local publication.

Annual subscriptions of £10.00 for the 10 copies of the magazine for the next twelve months become due in February, would you kindly arrange to pay your regular "News boy / girl" during this period.

Alternatively, please send direct to Bob O'Keefe, at 15 Newton Manor, Shirenewton, NP16 6UA, including your name, address and the name of the person that normally delivers your magazine.

Additional copies of the magazine are usually available at the rear of the Church

Deanery Service

Our Area Dean, The Reverend Jeremy Harris, is arranging a Deanery Service for the Netherwent Deanery on Sunday 29th March 2015 at 6 p.m. in Caldicot Church. Our Bishop, The Right Reverend Richard Pain, has accepted an invitation to preach.

ELECTORAL ROLL

Every five years the Parochial Church Council is required by the Constitution of the Church in Wales to draw up a new electoral roll. This is due to happen in time for the Annual Vestry Meeting on Sunday 22nd March 2015. Therefore everyone who is currently included on the electoral roll is required to re-apply if they wish to be included on the electoral roll from March 2015 onwards.

What is the Electoral Roll? It is a list of names and addresses of the lay people of the parish who are aged 16 and over; and who fill the conditions below.

Why does my name need to be in it? Because only those whose names are on the Electoral Roll can:

- ◆ Stand for election to, and vote for, the Parochial Church Council;
- ◆ Be eligible to be a Churchwarden and vote for the People's Warden;
- ◆ Vote for representatives on the Rural Deanery Conference and the Diocesan Conference.

What are the conditions? Qualification according to the provisions of §2(4) of the Church in Wales Constitution means:

- ◆ for Anglicans: "that I have received communion, having been confirmed in (or received into) the Church in Wales or in a Church in Communion with the Church in Wales";
- ◆ for members of other Churches: "that I have obtained the permission of the Diocesan Bishop for my name to be entered on the Electoral Roll";
- ◆ for all applicants: "that I live in the parish, or have worshipped in the parish for at least the last six months";
- ◆ for all applicants: "that I agree to accept and be bound by the Constitution of the Church in Wales."

How do I go about it? Contact the secretary to the PCC for a form to complete, sign, date and return to the Secretary to the PCC by the end of February. The new roll will then be displayed in the Church porch from Sunday 1st March 2015.

What then? A copy of the Electoral Roll should be displayed near the main door of your church before the Vestry Meeting each year. You can therefore check that your name has been entered. If at any time you want your name removed, all you have to do is request in writing that the Secretary to the PCC remove your name. Every five years a new roll is prepared, which means you will need to re-apply.

Note: Data Protection Act 1998. The information on this form will be held on the electoral roll of the parish in accordance with Chapter VI of the Constitution of the Church in Wales.

WHIST DRIVES

We are going to have a rest during the rest of the winter months. We will resume on the 7th May 2015 and continue on the first Thursday of each month until the end of the year – we would love to see some more new faces.



Auriol Horton. 01291 641844

CHRISTMAS IN SHIRENEWTON CHURCH

A sunny, frosty morning in early December saw the first of the decoration of the Church for Christmas. Holly and evergreens in gardens and hedges around the village were ravaged - sorry, pruned - to deck the church windowsills and porch in an array of festive greenery, candles and bright decorations (not forgetting the cheeky flock of sheep!). Whilst one party filled the church with Christmas cheer, another was erecting a tree in the car park of the Tredegar Arms, and bringing another, courtesy of Tredegar Farm Trees, into church.

The next morning, the Church Room hosted the Advent Fair after our Sunday Service, where stalls offered cakes, jams and preserves, Christmas decorations and gift tags to raise money for Abraham's Children in Crisis, a charity working with children of all denominations in Gaza, which has been the chosen recipient of our Christmas fundraising and collections this year. We hope to have a visit in 2015 to tell us more about their work.

Despite drizzly weather which prevented our singing round the tree outside; there was an excellent turnout to sing carols in church with Chepstow Town Band, who played extremely well, kept on their toes by the ad hoc selection of carols by the singers. Musicians and singers alike were well rewarded with mulled wine and mince pies in the Tredegar Arms after the service.

On Saturday 20th December, the church saw the celebration of the marriage of Miss Rachel Bailey, who was most generous in allowing us to keep the beautiful professional decorations in the church over the festive period.

Christmas Praise! was a chance to celebrate the story of Christmas in words and music, though in a less formal way than the traditional nine lessons and carols. The service featured Christmas poems, carols both congregational and performed by the Netherwent Singers and some specially composed readings in Glynis Macdonald's inimitable style – who could forget the innkeepers' wives!

Christmas Eve was celebrated with a service of Carols and Christingles, again led by Jane and Glynis and featuring an impromptu nativity, with members of the packed congregation press ganged into participation (gently, I hope!). After the service, everyone was warmed up with mulled wine and mince pies in the Church Room, courtesy of Janet and Bill and a cohort of local bakers.

For the more traditionally minded, we held Midnight Mass to welcome Christmas proper. As always, this was a magical occasion and very well attended. Our thanks to everyone who participated in making Christmas special, including decorators, bakers, stallholders, donors, singers, participants, celebrants, bell ringers, coffee makers and particularly to Dr Andrew Todd for taking the Christmas Services this year. We trust that he had no nasty surprises from the presents

taken along on Christmas Morning!

It was very good to welcome so many to our range of services over the holiday and we hope that we offered something for everyone. We look forward to welcoming new friends and old to our regular Sunday Services in the New Year.

DEER, DRUIDS AND DARK DEEDS

About an hour before dawn on Saturday 27th December a small number of cars converged on the Woodland Tavern and disgorged their contents of walkers into the car park. As they pulled on their boots and adjusted their gloves and woolly hats, the light levels were gently increasing and they made their way up the road towards the path up to Gray Hill. For the first time in many years it looked as though it might be a clear morning, and as the 20 or so walkers plodded towards the top the air became clearer and lighter - although it was pretty wet under foot. The first to the standing stones - Phil Brabon and Joe Frost - disturbed some grazing deer, who majestically tossed their antlered heads and vanished into the undergrowth leaving only their hoof prints to show that they had been there at all.

In fact the walkers had allowed plenty of time to reach the standing stones and as the last of them reached their goal it was clear that they were in for a real treat. As the eastern sky became redder and redder, and then more and more gold merged with the red, a thin line of brilliant red-gold phosphorescence streaked along the top of the hills, presaging the moment they had all been waiting for, in some cases for many years. The sun eased itself up through the notch on the horizon, in line with the prehistoric standing stones, and we all felt an uncontrollable shiver down the spine, which was nothing to do with the temperature, as we witnessed a scene that is as old as the very hill on which we stood. Priests, Druids and ordinary men and women, ancient and modern, would have stood where we were standing, perhaps making human or animal sacrifices, or carrying out other dark deeds in the name of religious or pagan belief. They also would have watched the seasons turn and the earth come back to life as the earth spun through the shortest day of the year into the new season.

After the dramatic performance by the sun, the group walked the rest of the way up to the summit of Gray Hill, stood into the wind as it rushed and howled across the heather, and felt on top of the world before starting the descent back to the Woodland Tavern for a hearty breakfast and good companionship.

Anybody who would like to take part in next year's walk, please contact the Shirenewton Local History Society for details. The Society arranges the walk every year on 27th December because many people are too involved in planning family festivities to take part in a walk on the morning of the Winter Solstice on the shortest day, 21st December.

CHIMES AT MIDNIGHT

It would be quite wrong to say that the bells shattered the silence - there was no silence to shatter because of the noise of New Year's Eve revellers, and the bells were half muffled (unlike the listeners, who were fully muffled) - but they certainly caught the attention of everyone gathered inside and outside the Church shortly before midnight. Full of good cheer, good food, and good wine, courtesy of Kevin and Glynis's generous hospitality, the crowd was good natured, well behaved (apart from the usual suspects) and hopping from foot to foot with anticipation (the weather was mild, so it wasn't the cold causing the hopping, but it might have been the generous quantities of drink). So everyone was waiting for it all to happen, but even so as they waited for the bell-ringers to start, there was a definite air of anticipation, followed by pleasure and satisfaction amongst the crowds as they heard the half muffled bells peel, and ring the old year out. As Mike Penny explained, it is a toll for the passing of the old year - only dead monarchs are honoured with a peel of fully muffled bells - and the leather socks on one side of the clapper allows the bell to clang on one side and thud on the other. The bell ringers finished their peel just before midnight and the crowds left the Church to hear James play the trumpet in his own inimitable style whilst the bell ringers removed the muffles, and then the bell-ringers were back to work to welcome in the New Year in traditional fashion. Meanwhile Kevin had been busy getting the firework display under control, so by the time the bell ringers had joined the rest of the revellers he was ready to set them off - and what a display! There were oohs and aahs as the fireworks lit up the sky, not to mention the squeals and squeaks from those discovering the joy of waving a simple sparkler around in the dark. And then the level of noise reduced to its previous rumble as people made their way back indoors for more good cheer, or down the road to home and a welcoming bed.

NEWS FROM ST PETERS, NEWCHURCH

Sunday, 21st December, Carol Service and Nativity

On Sunday, 21st December the annual Carol Service was held at St Peters. This year an enhanced nativity was included, with a cast of angels, kings or wise men, and of course, the donkey. The excited cast had rehearsed under the direction of John Waters, been kitted out by their families and were ready to go well before the donkey arrived. St Peters is not the largest of buildings and filled up quickly, with service sheets having to be shared between four or five people at times. There were about 110 adults and 22 children present, spilling out into the porch. The donkey, possibly put off by these numbers, refused to come all the way into the church, but stood looking very impressive in the doorway, lending just the right atmosphere to the service. The service and nativity went smoothly, with all the children taking part in some way if they wished. It was a moving and fitting start to Christmas week, and the refreshments afterwards (as ever, a triumph of home cooking enhanced with a drink) were very welcome.

FROM THE REGISTERS

St. Thomas á Beckett Shirenewton

December 20th 2014
The Marriage of Rachel Bailey and Adam Britner

December 17th 2014
The Funeral of John Follett

January 29th 2015
The Funeral of Argyro Evagellia Woodall (Lula) 1924 - 2015

January 23rd 2015
The Funeral of Joan Ovens, 1923 - 2015

St. Peters Newchurch

21st December 2014
Baptism of Renee Natalie Howells and Harry Leuen Howells

St. Thomas á Beckett Shirenewton

Someone left a mobile telephone in the church after one of the recent funerals..
If it is yours contact Sally Saysell on 01291 641369

MAKE A NOTE!

Shirenewton Church have arranged two more "Bring and share " evenings:

Friday, 6th March – speaker is Ian Mills of Abraham's Children in Crisis – a charity which children of all denominations in Gaza

Friday 24th April – speaker is Catherine Todd who will talk about the challenges of being a prison chaplain

Both events are open to all – just turn up with a plate of food and possibly a drink and enjoy an evening of good company and food

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Planning applications considered - December

1. DC/2014/00969 Rhewl Farm, Shirenewton

Provision of photovoltaic solar park and ancillary infrastructure - amended plans.

Council acknowledged the amendments to the original proposal and the reduction in size, but felt that the changes were not significant enough to change the decision to recommend refusal of the application, and the original observations still stand. It was felt that a reduction from 41,900 units to 31,799 was still a very sizeable site.

County Cllr Down explained the Community Benefit offer and advised that this had been reported to the police under the Bribery Act.

2. D/2014/01397 'Sarisa', Old Road, Newchurch West

Agricultural shed.

Council recommended refusal with the following observations:

The proposed shed not being suitable for the purpose described,

The shed being completely enclosed, with no ventilation, so not suitable for housing animals,

No water on site (a bore hole on site but no electricity to pump water,

The proposed shed sited in a prominent position on the land and much larger than the current one,

Council felt that the activity proposed and the reasons for the activity should be assessed by an agricultural expert,

There is a current trend of farmland being sold off in small parcels and in this case there is a caravan on site and several small sheds, this is an AONB area and there should be clear guidance from Mon CC on planning policy.

January -

1. Application to divert Footpath 51 (part) Yew Tree Cottage.

Recommendation: Approval.

2. DC/2014/01428 Pen-y-Rheol Farm, Old Road, Penycycaemawr (LD)

Proposed canopy extended off the existing living area to the north of the barn.

Council noted that the canopy does not interfere with neighbouring properties, neighbours have been consulted and have no objections.

Recommendation: Approval.

Members were advised by C Cllr Down that the planning application for the solar park at Rhewl Farm had been refused by Mon CC.

Extracts from the minutes

Update on traffic issues -

County Cllr Down had issued the detail of the proposals prior to the meeting. Councillors expressed concern over the many months of negotiations, then having to respond within a week. In view of the timescale Council agreed to accept the proposals and were pleased to hear that the B4235 is on the agenda for speed monitoring. It was also felt that 300, 200, 100 yard warnings on the approach to speed restrictions would be of benefit. C Cllr Down confirmed that the proposals should be in place by the end of this financial year.

Finance - The annual precept for 2015-2016 was considered in detail and adopted. - During discussions Council resolved to increase the working hours of the Clerk from 12 ½ per week to 14 per week, with effect from 1.4.15.

- It was further resolved to make annual donations to local organisations the same as last year.

- Councillors were concerned about rising costs and in an effort to keep the precept as low as possible in 2015/16, it was resolved to use £2,000 from reserves.

Items of local concern -

Councillors were disappointed to learn that the newspaper collection service run by the Tredegar Arms has ended because people did not pay when collecting their papers. The Clerk was requested to write to the landlady to thank her for her community spirit.

- C Cllr Down advised of potential admittance problems for prospective pupils at Shirenewton Primary School. As priority is given to siblings already attending, this could mean that children within the catchment area may be unable to gain a place.

January Police Report - There had been no instances of crime in the area during the past month. PC Jones advised that an open meeting is to be held in the near future (date tbc) on the issue of traffic/motorbikes on the B4235 to which council members will be invited. He further advised of a Crime Prevention Initiative which involves the police asking for volunteers, who will be trained to give advice/support to victims of crime in their area. Some members of the Council expressed serious misgivings about this initiative.

PC Jones advised that they were no longer able to provide information on calls to Brookacre in the monthly police reports. As the established protocol with Brookacre had been confirmed at a recent meeting with the newly appointed police inspector for south Monmouthshire, Clerk to check future procedure with Chief Inspector M Moyles.

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The Chair fed back on a very positive meeting held with newly appointed inspector, David Morgan, on 8.12.14 and expressed his disappointment to learn that after a few weeks this inspector moved on from his post at the end of December. The Chair hoped for a continued positive relationship with his replacement and local councils.

Dates of next meetings: Monday 2 February 2015 and Monday 2 March 2015 at 7.30 pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

Mobile Police Station visits:- these are now to be known as 'surgeries with a purpose' and officers will combine a surgery with an activity advertised in advance such as, bike marking, crime prevention advice, OWL recruitment. Future dates to be confirmed.

Find full information in the draft copy of the minutes on the Community Council notice boards. Previous minutes of meetings can be found on the Council's website <http://www.shirenewtoncc.org.uk>

Contact the Clerk to the Community Council -
Mrs Hilary Counsell
Tel: 01291 421307
E-mail: Shirenewtoncc@gmail.com

THE BELLS, THE BELLS

The Shirenewton ringers had a busy Christmas and New Year. As well as the normal Sunday service ringing, we also rang for midnight mass on Christmas Eve, for morning service on Christmas Day, and then either side of midnight at New Year with before having the bells half-muffled to mourn the passing of the year. As has now become a tradition the ringing over this period was performed with the bell ropes down in the nave of the church and in full view of the congregation. With the increased draft together with a heavier mass of rope the bells do become a bit tricky to ring but there were no mishaps.

The New Year heralds the first of our tours - the Winter Tour. Visiting other churches to ring the bells is a common activity for ringers and the majority of towers welcome visitors. This year we decided to visit Worcestershire around the Pershore area. So on the 11th January bright and early 22 ringers set forth to

St James, Harvington to sample the 6 bells and from there to All Saints, Church Lench to the heaviest ring of the day (tenor [largest bell] 2lbs short of 14 cwt.). This was another 6 as were all other towers of the day. Thence we travelled to St James, Bishampton. Here many of the pews had been removed from the west end of the church to create a meeting space. Those pews remaining were arranged in a fan shape to widen the nave, and were not fixed but could be pushed against the walls opening the nave completely. It is interesting to see what some churches are doing to widen their use within the community they serve. The last tower of the morning was St Kenelm at Upton Snodsbury. Lunch was arranged at The March Hare, an excellent pub in nearby village of Broughton Hackett.

Permission had been sought to ring at Pershore Abbey (8) in the afternoon but there was a concert taking place so we could not be accommodated. Pershore Abbey is well known in ringing circles as the bells are rung from a chain cage suspended from the ceiling thus of some concern to those who suffer from vertigo or are of a nervous disposition. So a visit to Pershore Abbey will have to wait for another time. So after lunch we travelled to St Edmund, Stoulton and thence to St Mary Magdalene at Croome D'Abitot. This church is in the grounds of Croome Court a mid-18th century [Neo-Palladian](#) mansion surrounded by extensive landscaped parkland and administered by the National Trust. The mansion and park were designed by [Lancelot "Capability" Brown](#) for the Earl of Coventry with some of the internal rooms designed by [Robert Adam](#). A medieval church nearer the Court was demolished to make way for this church, the interior of which was designed by Robert Adam. The church is in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust and the bells are kept in excellent order. Those brave enough were invited to ascend to the tower roof for a magnificent panoramic view over the house and parkland. Finally we headed for the last ring of the day at St Mary, Madresfield. An interesting diversion here was assisting a local farmer to haul a vintage horse drawn plough into the back of the church for "Plough Sunday" the following day. Ringers were amused to find a small table in the ringing room with a brass plaque informing that it was entirely constructed from broken stays – a stay being an ash post attached to the headstock of the bell and used to "park" the bell in the upright (bell mouth heavenward) position between rings. Breaking stays is usually the result of inexpert attempts at ringing and it is a few years since one was broken at Shirenewton, so a similarly constructed table for us will be some time off hopefully. At the conclusion of ringing the band then headed back to Earlswood as guests of Mike and Pip Penney for a post-tour celebration.

M.D.Penney.

SHIRENEWTON WI NOVEMBER 2014

We enjoyed an excellent start to the festive season with our annual Christmas meal. We gathered at the Huntsman Hotel Thursday 11th December for a very festive and sumptuous Christmas meal interspersed with conversation, crackers and the passing of our Secret Santa box.



After the delights and excesses of Christmas and New Year we met for our first gathering of 2015 on the 8th January. WI in Britain is celebrating its centenary this year so with history in mind our speaker for the evening was Dorothy Brabon from Shirenewton Historical Society. Dorothy provided us with a very interesting walk through local history and an insight into how much the Archive has grown since its start in 2001. Dorothy provided many items of interest for us to look at and some fascinating photographs. This area is certainly rich in history with several significant sites from prehistory, rediscovered and still under investigation. The Shirenewton Historical Society is doing a fantastic job with the information found available to everyone.

Our next meeting will be Thursday 12th February 7:15pm at the Rec Hall, when our speaker will be Julie Morgan on Tai Chi, gentle exercise - standing or seated. On March 12th we will celebrate our WI's 64th birthday with a buffet provided by the Huntsman Hotel

Some of you were not at the Christmas Dinner and so will not have received the 2015 programme. A copy will be available for you at the next meeting.

We have not received copies of the January Gwent News yet but hopefully we will have them before the Branch meeting. However we are building up quite a stock of previous uncollected issues! These can be picked up in the January meeting.

One last thing - your 2015 subscriptions are due in January

I hope you had a good Christmas - Happy New Year!

Regards
Carole

FAIRTRADE NEWS



MPs on the Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee have been calling for the remit of the groceries watchdog to be extended so that dairy farmers can be protected from sharply falling milk prices. The campaigning group 38 Degrees is trying to mobilize public opinion by reminding us that supermarkets pay farmers 20p a litre of milk whilst the cost of producing it is 30p! How can they get away with it?

The Fairtrade Foundation is very aware, even if the public are not, that producers in the developing world are not the only ones to be subjected to grossly unfair practices at the hands of Big Business. And it fully supports the campaign backed by 38 Degrees.

In the past 10 years UK supermarkets have almost halved the price of bananas while the cost of producing them has doubled. A banana now costs approx 11p - 10 years ago it was 18p!

Currently the Fairtrade Foundation is running a campaign to try and persuade Asda and Tesco to make all their bananas Fairtrade. I'm sure even those consumers who do not positively support Fairtrade ('do-gooders' etc etc) do not actually want to support Grossly Unfair Trade! Vince Cable responded to Fairtrade Foundation's petition on this subject last year with vague positive noises but insisted that the current system works because it delivers low prices. I daresay chimney-sweeping was cheaper when 8 year olds had to do it!

Well, Fairtrade Fortnight is fast approaching: 23rd Feb - 8th March After last year's success Chepstow Fairtrade Forum will be running another Tea (and Home-made Cake!) Party in the Methodist Church Hall (next to the Co-op) on Thursday Feb 26th 2.30-4. Hope to see you there!

Do have a look at the Fairtrade Foundation website, or Traidcraft and 38 Degrees. Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

P.S. My current popular sellers are Palestinian almonds and Lavender handwash (made with fairly-traded palm oil)

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

Well here we are in 2015. I'm sure an exciting year awaits. However, before we look forward let's look back.

The church website raised £1,020 in 2014. So many thanks to all those who use the shopping portal. All those little commissions add up.

If you are not interested in website stats you can skip this paragraph. The website itself delivered 3,674 'sessions' (each time someone hits it and browses around it is a single session) serving 8,149 page views (so an average of 2.2 pages per session) to 2,986 different users. So that's an average of 10 sessions per day giving 22 page views per day to around 8 different people per day. Not surprisingly a majority (59.91%) came from the UK, then 15.35% from Brazil, 8.82% from the USA, 1.71% from Italy and then the remaining top 10 visitor locations are, in order, Portugal, Thailand, Argentina, Spain, Australia and Columbia. Why did we have 21 visitors from Columbia? I've no idea! What is moderately interesting is that there appear to be a lot of very poorly configured PCs out there. The number one keyboard configuration was 'US English' with 44.61%. This is despite only 8.82% of visitors being from the USA. So, either, there are a lot of Americans in Britain visiting the church website or a large number of Brits have their PC configured in US English. Chrome once again leads the stake in the browsers with 49.40%, with Safari coming second at 27.82% with Internet Explorer third at 13.53%. The android browser (i.e. droid mobiles) was used in 1.93% of sessions.

As I have mentioned previously, XP is no longer supported and this means that new security holes will not be patched. As there are estimated to be over 1.5 billion PCs in the world and an estimated 20% - 25% are still running XP, it is anticipated that malware writers will target the operating system. So it is **strongly** recommended that you do not use a PC which is running XP to connect to the public internet. So what to do?

Well it is possible to upgrade to a different version of Microsoft Windows although there is obviously a cost involved in this. Also, the old XP machine you have may not have a sufficient specification to run newer versions of Windows. But all is not lost! The other option is to install a free operating system. There are various 'cuts' of Linux (the open source operating system) which are designed to appeal to XP users seeking to move away from XP. This PC World article (<http://tinyurl.com/kfhcbuj>) from March last year covers off three of the most popular, Zorin, LXLE and Ubuntu. Linux Mint is also well regarded in other articles.

As it happens I have/had a couple of old XP machines kicking around and decided to upgrade one to see if it was as easy as suggested. It is. I used Zorin obtained from: <http://zorin-os.com>. I downloaded the Zorin OS 9 Core edition (32 bit as it's an older PC), created a DVD from the download (that was the hardest bit) and simply followed the instructions.

The two things which may get you:

1. Windows doesn't make it easy to create bootable DVDs directly. Therefore you need to download and install something like 'BurnAware Free' and select the 'burn image' option to copy the downloaded iso image to the DVD. I have a DVD here with the Zorin ISO image on it if anyone wants to borrow it;
2. When booting up the old laptop, you'll need to press down and hold the 'F12' (or sometimes the 'F2') key to get into the bios so you can instruct the machine to boot from the DVD – just read the instructions on the screen. If you are not sure which key to press there is a message on the screen as the machine is booting up. You'll need to press the key immediately the machine boots. Once it gets to Windows it's too late.

For me, once the machine started booting from the DVD I just followed the installation instructions. I elected to replace XP completely (it is possible to install alongside XP) and about 1 hour later the machine was running Zorin which looks a lot like Windows 7. It comes with browsers, email clients, a free 'Office' package, etc. So, if it's just a machine to browse the web, do email and the like, upgrading to Zorin is straight forward and will provide a longer life for your old machine. Having, succeeded in upgrading the old machine I'm now going to sell it on eBay and I'll report next month on how that went ;-). I'm also planning to upgrade another of the old XP laptop I have to a different version of Linux and will also report on that in the next few months.

As you start booking your Easter and summer holidays please use the Church website. There is a comprehensive travel section and you can book flights, hotels, hire cars, car parking, lounge access and, in fact, everything via the church website and help the church without it costing you any more.

Safe browsing.

David Cornwell, webmaster@shirenewtonchurch.com

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our November meeting held at the Huntsman Hotel was very well attended. Our speaker for the evening was Prof David Collard who gave a talk on the life and work of Alfred Russell Wallace. Wallace was born in Usk and lived an amazing life of research and discovery, spending time in South America and Malaya, corresponding with the likes of Darwin and other influential men of his time.

December saw us visiting St Pierre Church, where we had a talk given by Tony Utting on the long and interesting history of the church and the Lewis family. Afterward we enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies to start the festive season.

Our intrepid members once again this year walked up to Grey Hill to see the sun rise on the Winter Solstice. It was a clear morning and we were able to witness the sun rise over a notch in the landscape over Bath directly in line with the standing stones, initially bright orange turning to red as the sun moved further up in the sky. This was only the second time in 13 years we were able to see the sun rise, an extra bonus to our walk this year was the sight of a large white stag as the first members arrived at the standing stones only to disappear as the main party arrived.

Dates for your Diary:

Monday, 9th February 2015

Archive Meeting at the Recreational Hall, Shirenewton 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

Tuesday, 24th February 2015

Annual Dinner at the Huntsman Hotel, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm, After dinner speaker Mr Keith Tayton, the subject of his talk will be 'The History of the Post Office in Shirenewton'

I'm sure there will be something of interest for everyone in our new programme and everyone is welcome to join us at our meetings.

Further information on our web-site: www.shirenewtonlocalhistorysociety.co.uk

STARGAZING

The constellation of Orion the Hunter lies directly to the South. Four bright stars represent his shoulders and legs whilst a further three form his belt. Above Orion and to the right is a very bright orange star called Aldebaran. It's the brightest star in the constellation Taurus, the Bull. Looking further upwards and to the right you will see a small cluster of stars. These are called the Pleiades. With the naked eye, people can usually see six or seven stars in Pleiades. However, some people with better eyesight can see more. The cluster contains more than 200 young stars



born some 50 million years ago, which means they are only one hundredth of the age of the Sun, our local star. Aldebaran means “the follower” in Arabic, as it rises above the horizon after the Pleiades. Sirius, the sky’s brightest star lies to the lower left of Orion. It appears particularly bright because it happens to lie nearby compared with other stars, at a distance of a mere 9 light years. Its close compared with Aldebaran which is 65 light years away from us and the Pleiades star cluster which is 400 light years away.

In the evening sky, the very bright planet Jupiter can be seen in the east. On the 3rd, the Full Moon and Jupiter are close together. You should be able to see Jupiter, clouds willing, but little else except the Moon of course. The days close to Full Moon are not very good for star-gazing. For a while after sunset brilliant Venus and rather dimmer Mars are just above the western horizon. As February progresses, the two planets get ever closer to each other, are very close on the 22nd and then separate. The new crescent Moon is close to Venus and Mars on the 20th. In the early morning, the planet Saturn rises in the south-east.

Looking at Venus with telescopes reveals very little since it is shrouded in thick cloud. However recent space missions to Venus have used radars to reveal what the surface looks like. It has many volcanoes but they don’t appear to be active.

TREASURE ISLAND

22nd, 23rd and 24th January 2015 at Earlswood Hall

Once again we were hugely entertained by a fantastic group of talented local people. This year Alison produced, and Glynis directed a marvellous show. There were laughs from beginning to end and the audience participation was very vocal (possibly assisted by some very nice wine!). The singing was excellent – from the actors anyway!

Our timbers were certainly shivered by Long John Silver (Gareth Adams) and we were pleased that Dame Hawkins (John Montague) got her hands on Small Bits at the end, and Blind Pew (Glynis MacDonald) was hilarious. I loved Billy the Nanny goat or Nanny the Billy goat (Izzy Millar).

The number of people involved is really impressive, not just the cast but the team behind the scenes and the Band. It was obvious that they, as well as the audience, had a good time. SODS donations raised a total of £958.28 from programmes and refreshments which we will split equally between St David’s Hospice and RNLI

We are looking forward to next year!!

THE SEVERN'S EXTRAORDINARY TIDES OF 2015

Shirenewton overlooks a very special stretch of water. If you look south eastwards from the Newchurch ridge it looks as if Shirenewton village is the guardian of the Severn Estuary from the Severn Bridge to the Port of Bristol.

That stretch of water has the second highest daily tidal range in the World and the third highest extreme tidal range in the World exceeded only by a few feet in the upper reaches of the Bay of Fundy in Eastern Canada and on parts of the inaccessible western shore of Ungava Bay in North Eastern Canada. Nowhere else on the Planet experiences the full dramatic impact of the Moon and Sun working together on the surface of the Earth's land and oceans as is experienced by those stretches of water - one of which is visible from our village. It is an amazing thing that the greatest force on Earth exercised by the two largest objects in the sky should be seen right in front of our village, and what is more it will be at its greatest for 25 years in February 2015.

The maximum impact of the forces of the Moon and Sun working together on the World's tides is to be experienced several times in 2015. Six of the ten highest astronomical tides up to 2025 will be this year, 2015. According to the National Oceanographic Centre, the greatest 'astronomical' tide for that period will be on Saturday morning 21 February 2015 when it will reach 14.65m (48 feet) at Avonmouth Docks which is just about as high as it can ever go using just the gravitational pull of the Moon and the Sun. The depth of the River Wye at Chepstow Bridge will also be 48 feet at 9am on 21 February. Storm tides can be higher, such as the 51 feet tide on 3 January 2014, but not 'astronomical' tides. The second highest astronomical tide of the first quarter of the 21st century will be on the evening of 29 September 2015 and the third highest after 8am on 22 March 2015. There will also be 3 other 'top 10 astronomical tides' this year on: 20 February, the day before the highest; 21 March, the day before the third highest; and 31st August 2015.

Although Shirenewton stands guard over the stretch of water where the Severn Estuary tides reach their peak, it is not a good location for observing the tides. The best and safest location to see the tides is at Chepstow by Chepstow Bridge, which celebrates its 200th anniversary next year. Chepstow's graceful Regency iron bridge and its wooden predecessors for over 600 years bridged a higher tidal range than any other bridge in the World - until the Severn Bridge was built 50 years ago.

After September this year we will have to wait until 2019 and 2024 for the next highest 'astronomical' tides although there can be slightly higher tides at any time if south westerly storm winds were to accompany a normal high tide and these can be extreme as in the great tides of 1607, 1703, 1883, and 1981. Hopefully this year there will not be a storm surge at the same time as we have one of the highest astronomical tides.

John Burrows, Mynyddbach, johnwburrows@btinternet.com

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GARDENING CORNER

At long last I have agreed terms with my employers that will see me taking partial retirement at the end of March. It has taken six months to agree but like all things you get there in the end. Government finance cutbacks being one of the main stumbling blocks. So as of April I'll have much more time to go fishing and see to the garden. There is one unknown quantity in all of this however, as we are due to be grandparents for the first time at the beginning of March. A big development in our lives and one which no doubt we will make the most of! However this is a gardening page not Facebook so back to it.

In anticipation of having more time, I have started to blitz the garden in preparation. Since moving my job some eight years ago, I have spent far too little time in the garden, and as a result there are large areas that have gone back to nature thanks to the rank bramble and ash tree growth. The areas are mainly flowerbeds, which in their time were a fantastic picture when we were open under the National Garden Scheme for all to share. So bladed strimmer and chainsaw to the fore as I start the effort to bring it all back into some order that at least looks like a garden. The assistant head gardener keeps telling me that our garden is too big and that I should let a lot of it go back to grass that can be strimmed once a year. She is probably right, but I'm a bit of a stubborn old goat, so for the time being I intend a bit of a halfway house. I have loads of spare packets of seeds – I think they came off the front of gardening magazines that didn't sell and had to be taken off before they were returned to the distributors for re-cycling. My lips are sealed as to where. These are a rare old mix of wild flowers, hardy annuals and the odd perennial thrown in for good measure. Once the bramble and ash trees have been cut and poisoned, I'm just going to scatter the seeds and let the bulk of the areas get on with it. If nothing else the bees should hopefully enjoy the areas as most of the flowers are attractive to bees. It isn't until you clear the areas that you realise just how big the garden is, but I will see how things develop! The vegetable area has always received the main attention when time has been scarce for obvious reasons. The old saying that "you can't eat flowers" (although these days many do of course) has always rung in my ears. So we have managed to keep the volume of vegetables passing through the kitchen, but a number of the raised beds are now showing their age and the timber sides need replacing in many cases, before we plant up this year. It is too wet for this at the moment, but I aim to try and get the timbers bought in shortly, get them cut and then treat them with a preservative, so that things are all ready for when the weather improves.

If we get any large snowfall this year I have a feeling that the large tunnel cover will tear and give up the ghost. It has been on there now for either seven or eight years so it is "on its last legs" so to speak. I'll try and squeeze another year out of it if I can, but we'll see how things go. With snow forecast all I can do is keep a soft broom ready and try and push the snow off as it falls. It is quite a big job to re-cover, especially as the cover is very heavy and not the easiest thing to manhandle. I could just about manage when I was a bit younger but think it will

be time to call one of the son-in-laws to help this time – they might as well earn their keep!

One final battle zone is the fruit cage, although it hasn't had much in the way of fruit in it for some time! One year I forgot to take the soft netting off the top and it snowed. Needless to say all the netting and supports collapsed inwards and not having the time to see to, at the time, things got gradually worse, with the inevitable brambles and ash trees growing up through the netting and making a right old mess. I've probably got one more hour of work and at least all the vegetation will be removed. I've poisoned the stumps off as I have gone, but think it will be a year or two before the ground will be clear enough to start re-planting. The fruit I have missed most has been fresh raspberries. I was tempted to get some plants ordered up from our wholesalers that we use, but I need to show restraint. I did that about three years ago and the plants are still in their 'temporary home'! We have three Jostaberry (a black currant / gooseberry hybrid) plants which have also gone wild over the years. The blackbirds have enjoyed the harvest more than we have, but hopefully not any more. I've cut these back really hard, so it may take them a year or two to recovery properly.

In the rest of the garden it is too wet to do any digging or preparatory work weeding, so these are going to have to wait for a little longer. I still need to do some tidying up in the big tunnel. This mainly revolves around cleaning up. There are loads of leaves that have fallen off the fruit trees and I need to gather these up and burn as they will be harbouring numerous pests. The intention then is to spray the trees with a tar oil wash to kill off any over-wintering eggs of pests before they start to think about flowering for another year. Depending on the weather, the apricots often look to start around the end of February or beginning of March. I'm going to remove one of the beds of strawberries this year as they have run their time. Instead, I have potted up the ever-bearing plants that I grew in large grow bags last year. These will then in turn be planted elsewhere in the tunnel in some fresh ground.

The seed potatoes and shallot sets arrived last week. Depending on how the weather goes I may plant the shallots into pots again like I did last year. This gives them a head start and once established in the pots and the weather has improved they can then be planted out into their final resting place. I have only ordered cooking varieties this year as we still have a number of jars of pickled onions which will keep us going or quite some time. Normally about now I start to think about turning the hot bench on and start seeds growing for the coming season. However the bench is not cheap when it comes to the cost of electricity, so I'm sitting on my hands for the time being and resisting the temptation to get things going. I'll try to restrain myself until the second or third week in February. That way by the time the seeds come up through and need further attention I will be on the verge of retiring and will have the time to devote to them – grandchild permitting of course! There's a sharp frost outside but lots of cut material to burn. I can't think of a nicer way to spend a cold crisp Winter's morning!

Happy gardening until next month. Steve and Felicity Hunt.

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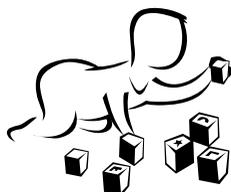
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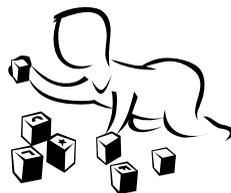
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For many years the Shirenewton Parish Magazine has been photocopied which has limited the quality of the printing. This service will no longer be available in the near future and the PCC has decided to have the magazine professionally printed. This will increase the quality and will allow us to use photographs and colour to get your message across.

Professional printing however is slightly more expensive and as a result the purchase price of the magazine has had to be increased. In addition the advertising cost will also be increased from 1st March 2015.

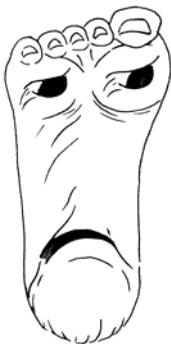
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Nerys's Natty Nosh

Type two diabetes is a very common ailment. Here are a couple of recipes which could be an occasional treat. This is a carrot cake adapted for diabetic diet.



Carrot and Olive Oil Cake *serves 12*

Ingredients

125g (4½oz) plain flour sifted
125g (4½oz) wholemeal flour
Pinch of cinnamon
1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
250ml (9floz) mild olive oil
100g (3½) soft brown sugar
4 eggs
2 tablespoon runny honey
Juice and zest of 1 large orange
400g (14oz) carrots, grated
50g (1¾oz) walnuts, roughly chopped



Topping

Juice of 1 orange

Method

- 1** Preheat the oven to 160C (325F, Gas 3).
- 2** Put both flours, cinnamon and bicarbonate of soda into a bowl. Set to one side.
- 3** In a different bowl, whisk the olive oil, sugar, eggs, honey and orange juice. Pour into the flour and mix until smooth. Stir in the grated carrots, walnuts and orange zest.
- 4** Line a 23cm (9in) round, loose bottom tin. Pour the cake mixture into the tin, level.
- 5** Bake for 1hour 30 minutes or until it is cooked all the way through.
- 6** Remove the cake from the oven and while still hot, pierce all over with a skewer, and then drizzle with the topping orange juice. Leave in the tin until cool.

This cake can be frozen for up to three months.

Energy 300kcal per serving. **Carbohydrates** 28g **Sugar** 13g **Fibre** 2g
Fat 19g **Saturated fat** 3g **Salt** 0.4g

Enjoy!

Nerys's Natty Nosh



Summer pudding as its name suggests is associated with summer fruit berries. This is a British invention which became very popular in the nineteenth century. We are now lucky enough to be able to buy a variety of frozen berries from the supermarket. Or you might have prepared your own bottled or frozen collection of fruit.

This recipe is also suitable for an occasional diabetic treat.

Summer Pudding serves 6

Ingredients

900g (2lb) mixed soft fruits, raspberries, strawberries, blackberries, pitted cherries or blueberries
50g (1¾ fructose) fruit sugar
8-10 thick slices of day old white bread
15g (½) redcurrants, to decorate and fresh mint.



Method

- 1 Put the fruit, fructose and 3 tablespoons of water in a saucepan. Heat **gently** for 3- 4 minutes. Cool.
- 2 Remove the crust from the bread.
- 3 Cut a circle from one slice of bread to fit the bottom of a 1.5 litre (2¾) pint pudding basin.
- 4 Arrange the remaining bread, apart from two slices, around the side of the basin, overlapping slightly, leave no **gaps**. Place the circle at the bottom of the basin.
- 5 Spoon the berries and enough juice to moisten the bread, into the basin. Put the remaining two slices of bread over the fruit to seal in the moisture and fruit.
- 6 Cover the pudding with a saucer or small plate and place a heavy weight on top. Place the pudding in the refrigerator and leave overnight.
- 7 **To Serve.**

Remove the weight and the saucer and invert the pudding onto a serving dish. Carefully remove the pudding basin, giving a shake if needed. Spoon any reserved juice over the pudding and decorate with redcurrants, and mint.

Energy 149kcal per serving. **Carbohydrates** 30g **Sugar** 9 **Fibre** 1g
Fat 1g **Saturated fat** 0.2g **Salt** 0.6g

Enjoy!

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PCC Secretaries	Bill Clark	01291 641783
PCC Treasurers	Kevin Bounds	01291 641818
PCC Members	Mark Broughton Charles Eickhoff Janet Horton Dr James Leney Allan Saysell Jane Smith-Haddon Frances Gray	01291 641797 01291 641716 01291 641783 01291 641271 01291 641369 01291 641525 01291 622465
Gift Aid Secretary	Ruth Savagar	01291 641411
Organists	Karen Millar Ruth Savagar	01291 650521 01291 641411
Sunday Club	Kerry Baker	01291 641925
Tower Captain	Mike Penney	01291 650653
Church Hall Booking	Glynis MacDonald	01291 641818
Safeguarding Officer	Dr. Kerry Baker	01291 641925
Church Flowers	Maureen Moody	01291 641524
Parish Magazine Editor	Terry Walters	01291 641338
200 Club	Bob O'Keefe	01291 641686

MP/Monmouth CC & Community Council Representatives

Clerk to Community Council	Hilary Counsell	01291 421307 shirenewtoncc@gmail.com
Shirenewton Ward:	David Adams Tony Hughes Mario Lenza Phil Moles Beverley Moore	01291 641792 01291 641360 01291 641333 01291 641521 01291 641532
Mynyddbach Ward	Lynne Prosser Ian Moore, Chair	01291 641666 01291 650766
Newchurch West	Louise Dyke	01291 650076
Earlswood Ward	Paul Harris Ken Morton	01291 650871 01291 650268
MCC for Shirenewton	Graham Down	01291 621846 grahamdown@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Member of Parliament	David Davies	020 7219 8360 daviesd@parliament.uk

Police Neighbourhood Watch Contacts

Comm. Police Officer	Louise Thorpe	01633 642068 louise.thorpe@gwent.pnn.police.uk
Shirenewton & Mynyddbach	Beverley Moore	01291 641532

Earlswood	Sue Leat	01291 641207
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Other Local Organisations

Beavers	Julie Hitchcock	01291 650548
Brownies	Bev. Leaf	01291 641680
	Jaci Crocombe	01291 641681
Church Fete	Seirian Edmonds	07980 757802 andyandseze@aol.com
Earlswood Hope	Mrs Sylvia Jeremiah, Mr Raymond Jeremiah 01291 641726	
Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall	Glynis MacDonald	01291 641818 glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com
Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel	Avril Smith	01291 650733
Gaerllwyd Baptist	Mrs E Remnant Brooklands, Usk Road NP16 6SA	
Girl Guides	Helen Cann	01291 650835 cannhelen@gmail.com
Recreation Association	Gordon Hughes	01291 641356 gordon.hughes3@tesco.net
Recreation Hall booking	Beryl Saysell	01291 641637
St Peters Church Newchurch	Enid Heritage	01291 622708
Shirenewton Local History Socty	Dorothy Brabon	01291 641376 brabonn1@hotmail.com
Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Fields Association Ltd (SAMFAL)	Alison Broughton: alison.broughton10@gmail.com.	
Shirenewton & Mynyddbach Initiative for Local Enterprise (SMILE)	Charles Eickhoff	01291 641716 eickhoff@shirenewton.org
Caerwent Group Mothers Union	Rosemary Carey	01291 425010 crcandkili@tiscali.co.uk
Treasurer	Auriol Horton	01291 641844 aur10l@btinternet.com
Shirenewton Operatic and Dramatic Society (SODS)	Glynis MacDonald	01291 641818 glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com
Shirenewton Play Group	Beverly Lindsay	Shirenewtonplaygroup@gmail.com
Shirenewton Primary School	Jayne Edwards	01291 641774 jayneedwards@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Shirenewton Tennis Association	P Brabon	01291 641376 brabonn1@hotmail.com
Shirenewton Toddler Group	Jude Langdon	07981 368213
	Paula Rimmer	rimmerpaula@mac.com
Fairtrade/Traidcraft	Marion McAdam	01291 641316
Whist drive	Auriol Horton	01291 641844 aur10l@btinternet.com
Womens Institute (WI)	Jenny Bonner	01291 641929

DIARY DATES

Feb	Event	Location
2 7:30pm	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
9 2:00pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Recreation Hall
12 7:15pm	Shirenewton WI	Recreation Hall
24 7:00pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Recreation Hall
26 2:30pm	Fairtrade Event	Methodist Church Chepstow (next to the Co-op)
21 9:00am	Extraordinary High Tide	Chepstow Bridge
March	Event	Location
2 7:30pm	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
6 7:00pm	Bring and Share	Church Rooms
12	Shirenewton WI (WI's 64th Birthday)	Recreation Hall
22 8:00am	Extraordinary High Tide	Chepstow Bridge
April	Event	Location
24th 7:00PM	Bring and Share	Church Rooms

	Saint Thomas a Beckett Shirenewton	Sunday Services	Start 10.00 a.m. Unless stated otherwise
Date	Service	Readers	Sides-persons
8 th February	Second Sunday before Lent	Mark Broughton Margaret Lock	Mark Broughton Margaret Lock
15 th February	Last Sunday before Lent	Bob Grattan Wendy Baker	Bob Grattan Wendy Baker
22 nd February	First Sunday of Lent	Gillian Lambert Mark Broughton	Gillian Lambert Mark Broughton
1 st March	Second Sunday of Lent Saint David's Day	Andrew Baker Sally Saysell	Claire Lewis Andrew Baker
8 th March	Third Sunday of Lent	Bob Grattan Cynthia Smith	Bob Grattan Cynthia Smith
15 th March	Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday	Bill Clarke Janet Horton	Bill Clarke Janet Horton
22 nd March	Fifth Sunday of Lent Passion Sunday	Gillian Lambert Ruth Savagar	Gillian Lambert Claire Lewis
29 th March	PALM SUNDAY	GROUP SERVICE AT MATHERN CHURCH	

Earlswood
Chepstow



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EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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The views expressed are those of the contributor.

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