

*Hereford Cathedral
April 2018*

Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

November 2018

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FROM THE VICARAGE

Julian E L White

Dear People of the Parish,

One of the consolations of growing old is that you can be as cantankerous as you like. Actually, I have been this way since early youth. Some years ago, for example, it was customary in the lead-up to the riveting and pulsating Diocesan Conference, to submit ones name when in pursuit of an ecclesiastical office. One was always asked to sketch an account of what one enjoyed in one's free time. Some of my colleagues would not even admit to having 'free time', so concerned were they (or so they would have you believe) with carrying out God's mission. I used to state that my interests lay with 'Chain-smoking, consuming too much alcohol and an unhealthy fixation with regards to mid 1960's American motor cars'. I never came close to securing such stimulating posts such as Member of the Sub-Committee for Diocesan Liturgical and Evangelistic Phraseology.

I entered the fray, as it were, because I was sick of reading that a gaggle of my colleagues asserted that what scant free time they had was spent 'walking the dog', 'researching Etruscan pottery shards' and (for all I know) 'watching paint dry'. It has long been my theory that many who share my vocation are tedious and grey. Well, I have recently read an article that confirms that we clergy are as dull as ditch water in comparison with our colleagues of yesteryear.

I was scanning through the review section of my Sunday newspaper the other week and chanced upon a fascinating piece by Christopher Hart in the Religion (not known it's side-splitting content) supplement in which he focused on '*A Field Guide to the English Clergy*' a publication by Fergus Butler-Gallie and released by Oneworld at £12.99. Sandra has said that she will secure a copy for my birthday (November 5th, as you ask) and is untroubled by the title. In an attempt to persuade you that I have vague literary leanings, I quote from the poet R.S.Thomas '*I am Welsh, does it matter?*'

I reproduce from Christopher's article:

The Rev Hawker of Morwenstow invented the modern harvest festival, but he also liked to spend time sitting on a rock in Bude harbour, wearing an oilskin wrapped around his legs, a long wig made of seaweed and singing haunting songs in the manner of a mermaid. He was also fond of opium.

Some parsons became spectacularly forgetful, such as George Harvest, who forgot to turn up at his own wedding not once but twice. The first time he had been distracted by "a sudden desire to catch gudgeons". On another occasion, he urinated on Lady Onslow, but it was unintentional.

*Sabine Baring-Gould could be almost as absent-minded. He was an expert on the lore of werewolves, and the author of *Onward Christian Soldiers*. At a children's party in his vicarage, he asked a waif, "And whose little girl are you?", at which the sensitive child burst into tears and replied: "I'm yours Daddy!". Mind you, he did have 15 of them.*

There were flamboyant parsons, such as Brian Brindley, who liked to be fanned with ostrich feathers during Communion and who wore red high heels under his cassock. (He never married).

Then there was the small Bishop of Norwich, Launcelot Flemming, who, as a naval chaplain in the 1940's, used to be wrapped in a large cloth and hauled through the ship's guns to clear them, like a clerical pipe-cleaner.

This is a marvellous tribute to the rich variety of oddballs and rouges who have made up our Broad Church, which in living memory has had at its head a man, the saintly Archbishop Michael Ramsey, who would start each day by banging his head on his desk and saying three times: "I hate the Church of England."

Its clergymen (today), meanwhile, laments Butler-Gailie, are supposed to be "gentle, inoffensive, and ideally, boring to boot", "grinningly optimistic about life, as well as obsequiously friendly to all and sundry". Here is a reminder that the Christian faith wasn't always thought incompatible with a sense of humour

Quite so. Less meekness, less management-speak and more mermaid impersonations is surely the way forward for our troubled national church.

Amen to that.

With every good wish & blessing,

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism

Dexter Oliver Phipps
Luna Phipps
Son and Daughter of Neil and Joanna Phipps

Marriage

Eleanor Morgan to William Jones

CHEPSTOW AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY HOMECRAFT SECTION

Will be holding a

SOUP LUNCH

on

Wednesday, 14th November

at

12.00pm for 12.30pm

at

Devauden Village Hall

£8.00

REPORTS FROM ST PETERS CHURCH, NEWCHURCH

From the registers

Funeral 26th September 2018
Mervyn John Jeremiah.

Autumn Fayre

3rd November 10am to 1pm.at Earlswood Hall.
Grand Draw will take place at 12.45.
Stalls will include cakes, tombola, white elephant, craft and refreshments

Café style service

Come and join us on the 18th November at 2.30pm
(Informal service with refreshments)

Advance Notice:-

Carol Service 16th December 2.30p.m followed by Sherry and Mince pies.
Everyone is most welcome, please come and support our little church.

Christingle Service

HELLO VILLAGERS,

Walking round the village the other day, I noticed to my great delight that some kind person(s) had attacked the nettles & brambles so that our Shirenewton sign was once more revealed. I wish I could find out who carried out this kind deed so that I could personally say a huge "Thank You". Can anyone give me any clues?





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CALL MY BLUFF 2018

On seventh of September, Shirenewton Charity Committee organised a sell-out Call My Bluff wine tasting evening. Apologies to those who were unable to get tickets or were turned away and I'm sure it's scant consolation to know that you missed a very enjoyable evening.



The evening started with a sparkling Saumur which went down very well followed by two white wines and three red wines punctuated by Charles' inimitable quiz.



The winning team celebrated raucously at the end of the evening but by then it was very raucous anyway. We were delighted that so many stayed on for the bar afterwards which was in good demand.

The evening raised a significant contribution to church funds but more importantly was a great community event. I'm sure it will be repeated next year, and I will let you know the date as soon as we chosen one.

Thanks for all who came to the evening and the team who appeared the next morning in surprisingly good spirits to restore Saysell centre to its normal pristine self.



Kevin Bounds
Chairman Shirenewton charity committee

P.S. Having decided that this year would be the last year for the Shirenewton Charity Golf day, there is a distinct possibility that it will take place next year but in Ireland – if so prepare for an epic weekend!

FAIRTRADE NEWS OCTOBER 2018



Some of you may have read in the press about the problems affecting Traidcraft one of the first organizations, and one of the most influential, to promote and sell a range of Fairtrade goods. Here are some of the points raised in a recent letter sent to its supporters :

'Traidcraft plc's recent trading has been poor, and despite enormous efforts by staff, management, Fair Traders (including me!), and many fair trade shops over the last few years to reverse the company's performance we have not yet succeeded. Traidcraft plc's assets remain considerably greater than its liabilities, and while this remains the case The Board of Directors believe it is prudent to close our current loss-making trading operations

We are very much aware of the impact that this will have on our producer friends. Over the years we have built up personal and trusting relationships with many organisations and we deeply regret that these will be coming to an end. We are communicating with all our partners to see if we can help them transfer their business to other organisations.

Traidcraft plc will continue to trade as usual through the autumn AND TO THE END OF 2018. We are proud our final autumn craft collection is one of the best we have produced.

Many supporters have already offered encouragement, support and offers of investment in any new model. . . . Although we believe our current model is not sustainable we remain passionate about Fairtrade and are considering other models for the future.'

As you may imagine I am extremely upset about this. For 20 years I have tried to promote the sales of FT goods, encouraging people to consider its many advantages : ethical, environmental and social. Rarely have I heard a dissenting voice. But overwhelmingly, people, even really decent people, do not actually buy very much. At times I have become incredulous, angry, upset, resigned. At a time when we are all at the mercy of giant corporations who are best amoral, and often immoral, how can it be such a difficult choice to make?

FOREST OF DEAN EULOGY FOR ROSE ROBINSON

25TH SEPTEMBER 2018

It was a small mercy that we had a short time to prepare for Mum's death and several people were able to speak about Mum before her passing. She has variously been described as "a very special lady", "a wonderful wonderful woman", "a tough old boot" and most movingly as "simply remarkable over the past two and a half years, brave, adventurous, caring, loving and so selfless". All 100% accurate in my view.

As her son I am bound to be biased but these comments reinforce my view that she was much loved as she loved much. Neuroscientists now believe that happy brains belong to those who make it a priority to make others happy, and I think Mum tried to do this. In addition, long before Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) was identified she believed in positive thinking and couldn't help but be constantly encouraging – though this could be a little annoying if you were a teenager, who felt the only rational option was to be miserable and grumpy.

She grew up County Wicklow, Ireland and, by all accounts, had a happy childhood with loving parents, though it sounds as if her mother was quite excitable. She used to walk with her Uncle Charlie through the woods near her home leaving messages for the wild animals who lived there and keenly looked forward to their replies (which had thoughtfully been secreted away down various burrows beforehand by her uncle). Mum retained this sense of joy in nature all her life and in her last few years she derived huge comfort from her dog, Pip, who's unconditional love for Mum was virtually matched by Mum's unconditional love for Pip (as there was a lot to forgive!).

In her teens she trekked down the hill every day to the family golf-course where she practiced endlessly, and eventually was good enough to become the first person from Woodenbridge to represent Ireland. She represented her country at Sunningdale and Gleneagles, and by a sheer fluke she was able to revisit Gleneagles only a few weeks ago. Golf taught her to be patient and mentally resilient; she often told me on the phone that "all was well", and her calm approach to life may be best summed up by a poem that occupied the window sill in the smallest room of her house all my life:

If every lie was teed up high.
And every shot a straight 'un
Then every game would be the same
No round a really great 'un
Golf goes you see to Life's own ditty
Without the Rough, there'd be no Pretty.

She gave up golf to marry my father in 1957 at the age of 26 and for the next 26 years was a dutiful military wife, and though the travelling was difficult for child care, she especially loved her time in Cyprus between 1976 - 79. I was born in 1958, Judy in 1962 and Tim in 1965.; for some ridiculous reason lost in the mists of time we were referred to as her ducklings. She has 7 grandchildren, Matthew, Anna, Toby, Jack, Hannah, Sam and Sophie as well as 2 step-grandchildren, Will and James.

They moved to Greenacres in 1983 where they spent a very active retirement making good friends, lots of travel and finally no little charitable work – in Mum's case, mostly with the RNLI, where she was active until shortly before her death.

Following the death of our father in 2016, Mum chose to remain in Greenacres near her friends. For someone who loved company, living alone must have been very difficult, more so because of her failing eyesight. Judy lives in York, Tim in Reading and I in Cornwall, so we'd especially like to extend our heartfelt thanks to those local friends who made the effort to support and care for her since Dad's death. She bore her last illness with almost unbelievable composure and dignity, claiming she felt "grand" even up until 48 hours before her death. Judy did an immense job helping to keep Mum at home, and Judy, Tim and I are would like to commend the staff of the local Re-enablement Team and St David's Hospice for their kind care, which was provided in her own home with great sensitivity, something which Mum valued very highly.

Colan Robinson

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the meeting held in October 2018.

URGENT

Vacancy on the Community Council

There is now only one vacancy on the Council in the Mynyddbach ward.

It is important that the vacancy is filled by a local resident who is interested in the surrounding community and wishes to join the Council –

if that means you - please contact the Clerk (details below).

Planning applications considered –

1. [DM/2018/01174 The Cayo Farm, Red House Lane, Shirenewton](#)

The erection of an oak framed 4 bay ancillary building for garaging and a home office and gym.

As Mon CC had confirmed that there was no impact on the footpaths, also that the restriction on use will be imposed, the Community Council agreed that having already expressed its views no further consideration was required.

2. DM/2018/01378 Land south of Owl Barn, Crick Road, Shirenewton

Retention of mobile home for two years for use by equine trainer. Because of the lack of detail on the Mon CC portal at the time, the recommendation was for refusal.

3. DM/2018/01413 Barns adjacent to Little Grondra Farm, Shirenewton

Conversion of redundant barns to dwelling, including new access. Council recommended approval of the application, but concern was expressed regarding the proposed access being acceptable to Highways as it involves the loss of hedging and the road characteristic, compromises vehicular safety and appears to form an alternative access off the existing farm track.

There is already a farm house, a barn conversion and a detached house in the immediate vicinity and a further dwelling of such a size would form a new cluster of housing just beyond the Shirenewton village boundary. Each development such as this adds to the burden on local infrastructure which has not expanded to meet the demand – this community has narrow roads, haphazard water supplies, poor internet and telephone connections, no shops and an oversubscribed primary school.

4. DM/2018/01390 Springfield bungalow, Bluebell Road, Earlswood

For Information Only – agricultural building for storage of machinery and fodder. Council had no comment to make on this 'Information Only' application

Other items of interest

Centenary celebrations to mark the end of WW1 on weekend of 9 – 11.11.2018: Old Time Music Hall, Friday 9th and Saturday 10th November at Earlswood Hall – arrangements are made – see poster elsewhere in this Magazine and book your tickets for a memorable Show - sponsored by the Community Council.

Remembrance Sunday Church Services at 10.45am on Sunday 11 November.

Beacons of Light, on Remembrance Sunday, 11th November at 7pm on Shirenewton Recreation field – the Last Post will be played at 6.55pm, with the beacon to be lit at 7pm – one of 1000 to be lit across the country. A reading of Tribute to the Millions at 7.10 pm, followed by the church bells ringing out for peace. This is a free event to pay tribute to the millions involved in the First World War, please take the time to come along and see the beacon being lit.

c) School and playgroup 'street' parties, Friday 9.11.2018 – these have been arranged and following WW1 themed projects should be lots of fun for the children.

From the monthly police report:

16/9/18 Report of a vehicle on fire in Wentwood Forest. The fire brigade attended. The vehicle was totally burnt out with very little distinguishing marks left on it. NRW was informed to get the vehicle removed.

There were no calls to Brookacre during September.

Another incident to note:

On the 17/9/18 the police had 2 separate reports of house burglaries in the Pwllmeyric area while residents were away. At both properties a rear window was smashed with a large stone and an untidy search of the house was made with items being taken from inside.

If you are going away please let your neighbours know (so they can keep an eye on the property) and if possible ask them to leave a vehicle on your driveway at different times. If you leave your neighbours with a key ask them to pop in to open the curtains in the morning and close them in the evening, use timer switch lights to come on at intervals through the night so that it looks as though there is activity at the property.

Please remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity at the time via either 101 or 999 if you deem it an emergency.

Best Kept Village Competition 2018 – the Award Ceremony was held in Llanarth Village Hall and in its population category Shirenewton won Best Kept War Memorial, Best Kept Village Hall and was runner up in the Best Kept Village category, losing to Llanfair Discoed. Many thanks to all those who were involved in planting, strimming, mowing, watering and general tidying to keep the village looking good throughout the judging period in June.

Mynyddbach bench - if anyone locally is interested in making or sourcing a new bench for Mynyddbach village green please contact the Clerk (details below).

Dates of future meetings –Monday 5th November and Monday 3rd December at 7.30pm at the Recreation Hall, Shirenewton. Members of the public are welcome to attend and may speak with the Council for the first 15 minutes of each meeting.

Find more information in draft copies of the minutes on the Community Council notice boards. Previous, approved minutes of meetings, can be found on the Council's website www.shirenewtoncc.org.uk

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

BATTLE'S O V E R



A NATION'S TRIBUTE

11TH NOVEMBER 2018

100 YEARS OF REMEMBRANCE

Shirenewton Community Council will be holding a commemorative event marking the Centenary of the end of the First World War and paying tribute to the millions killed or wounded in battle, and those on the home front who ensured freedom survived.

Come along to the Recreation Field on Remembrance Sunday 11 November 2018 at 6.45pm to take part and watch the beacon being lit as a symbol of the end of the darkness of war.

Welcome from the Chair of the Community Council, Councillor B Allen.

6.55pm: The Last Post

1000 individual Buglers sound this historic tribute at WW1 Beacons of Light locations across the Nation and UK Overseas Territories.

7.00pm: WW1 Beacons of Light

Over 1000 Beacons of Light symbolising an end to the darkness of war and a return to the light of peace.

7.10pm: A reading of 'Tribute to the Millions'

7.15pm: Ringing Out for Peace

St Thomas a Beckett church along with 1000 other cathedrals and churches will ring out their bells across the nation, and beyond, in celebration of peace.

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Shirenewton Babies and Toddler Group

Thursdays 1.30 – 3p.m. (term time only)

Shirenewton Recreation Hall



Great toys, good company – everyone welcome

(please bring your Carers too!)

Contact Jackie Broughton (01291 641797)

for further

I'VE BEEN CLONED!

You could have knocked me down with a feather a few weeks ago. I arrived home from work on a Friday to find a letter waiting for me. The letter was a Notice of Intended Prosecution.

By all accounts I was photographed speeding, doing 41 mph in a 30mph limit. The letter gave the correct details of my car make, colour and registration. I looked at the date and time, and thought where was I and what was I doing? I read on and found the offence took place in Birmingham. I was surprised to say the least. How could my car have been speeding in Birmingham, when it was parked outside my house in Wales?

At first I thought it was a scam letter, because only an address is offered, no other contact details, like email address or telephone number. The letter also asked for driving licence number etc.

I then called my local police to question them and was referred to West Midland Police. After four hours communications via telephone and internet chat, I managed to register the fact the my vehicle had in fact been cloned. (So don't worry, you haven't got more than the one of me to contend with). Luckily on the date and time in question, I booked a meal for my wife and I to eat at a local watering hole, and spent time talking with the landlord of the establishment, because they are going to host a church event.

At the time of writing I am still waiting for the police to produce the photographic evidence, I must admit I am really interested to see what I look like.

When I reflected on the events and experiences gained from the night, I thought, innocent until proven guilty! Wrong, when you are suspected of a driving offence like speeding you are deemed guilty until YOU can prove you are innocent.

I then thought what in the world can't be cloned, we've even done it with sheep? I then reasoned that my faith can't be cloned in anyway, because although those of faith have community with others of the same faith, each of us travel our paths in slightly different ways.

When we look deeper in to cloning, does this really mean a mirror image, as some of the cinema films show? When we study my car in more detail with the clone, they may both be the same make and colour, both may have the same registration number, but my vehicle is still unique because it has a chassis number and VIN number, which the other vehicle doesn't have.

Matthew 10: ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. ³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Let's take a look at the passage above, what do you think of sparrows? Do they all look the same to you? Do all the male sparrows look the same, and all the female look identical? Look closer, they are all slightly different, all have unique patterns on their feathers. They are individuals. I remember taking part in a survey once, where people were asked to record the types of birds that visit the bird feeders, and when questioned I said all I am getting is house sparrows. The person on the other end of the phone told me how lucky I was because the sparrow at the time was in decline. That is when I took more interest in the common, or not so common bird. Each has its own character and personality, they don't see themselves as clones, when you study their interactions, they are very much individual. We are told that God cares very much for the sparrow, and therefore, we are told that God loves us more than the sparrow.

Cloning of a human may happen in the future, whatever we say. But this does not mean the cloned person will have exactly the same traits as the original. They have to learn and experience after all, and therefore in the end they will have a completely individual personality.

I know that the Lord has counted the hairs on my head, but with the amount of hair I have now days believe me it didn't take him long. But again reflect on this section of the passage. If I challenged God and said how many hairs have I got? He would answer, the test would come with us being able to confirm the answer. But the Lord's answer would be different today than it would have been when I was younger.

ADOPTED FAMILY.

Due to our working patterns my darling wife Tracey and I only see each other about 30 hours per week, tops. We see each other briefly in the evening, depending on what other activities we may have to undertake. With me it's ministry, including the theology course and all the homework that entails, and with my wife it usually involves the family.

I am at work for approximately 40 hours per week, (including lunch), which means I can potentially see my colleagues more in the week than I do my darling wife.

I have said it before, and I will say it again, you are all my adopted family, although at my age I can't see any of you being my adopted father or mother - I am more of the age that I could take that role on for you. But we are family and as family we look out for each other, we are all adopted into the family of God our Father along with His Son Jesus Christ and of course the Holy Ghost. I also express the idea of adoption with my colleagues at work, and believe me we do look out for each other, we make sure we are all safe and are there when someone is in need. One area knew of a workmate who had fallen on hard times and did a whip round for them, to help ease the burden.

But we are told in the Bible that, *Mark 3:35: Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother.* (NIV). We could liken this to any area of our life where we are part of a community. For example, in the gym, people go for a reason, and there is usually common ground for going, so a community builds up, and we could say those going to the gym are our adopted family.

I haven't had to go to the barbers for many a year as my hair decided it didn't want to be part of my life anymore. I found that during a conversation with a person, the conversation went around to barbers and their skill. The person I was talking to was rather challenged, like myself regarding the upper head region, but they still visited the barber every six weeks or so. I asked whether they had ever considered cutting their own hair, and the reply I got was that this person visited the barber because they could talk with this person and get things off their chest, knowing that it wouldn't go any further, it was their time in the barber's chair, and they had the barber's undivided attention for the 20 minutes or so that it took to cut their hair. So, could the barber be the adopted brother, sister etc. for those who visited them?

What about you? Who do you confide in? You have already read that I don't have the barber to confide in, because I am Rickie Very Little Hair. But I know that I have many brothers, sisters and mothers and fathers that I can share my concerns with should the need arise.

We are all in the family of the church, we are all related through the Blood of Christ, where we have all received God's forgiving Grace. We all have one thing in common, that being each other, related through the love of God. I know that you all look out for me, and I look out for you all.

When I have the honour of marrying couples within the church, I always stress to those present that when they say, 'We will' in answer to the question whether they will look out for the couple and be there in their time of need, the 'We will' isn't to be said lightly, it is to be said with conviction, because they are witness to the marriage, and should commit to help the couple should the need ever arise. Again, family because those attending the wedding are all the couple's brother, sister, mother and father, whether physically (actual), or spiritually, as you all are to me.

Those on the outside should look in to our churches and have the urge to become part of our family, adopted by each and everyone of us, irrespective of their background.

We must never forget that we are all part of a worldwide family, each one of us taking our active part in the family. Remember who does what at home, some cook, some clean, some do the ironing, some to the DIY, which in our house is usually Tracey, because she doesn't trust me with drills etc. We are not only family, we are a team, where everyone is equal. Yours in Christ
Rick

SHIRENEWTON HARVEST FESTIVAL LUNCH

The harvest supper is such a happy occasion – it's a lovely and traditional way of bringing the community together.

Although it must be a bit of a headache for Jane (Eickhoff) organising it all, so a huge thank you to her and her willing team of helpers for a great afternoon. The food was, as always, delicious, the



tables were groaning with cold meats, coronation chickens, quiches, pies and such a selection of salads, it was difficult to know what to choose but luckily, the plates are large up at Earlswood Hall. And we could up for second helpings. Then, in the tradition of fairness, those who were last for the first course, (my table) could go up first for the last course. Again, what to choose!

Then, came the auction. I think that Dave (Cornwall) our delightful auctioneer has brushed up on his vegetable identification skills this year, as last year he didn't know his turnips from his swedes. He was probably helped by the fact that there weren't any turnips and swedes this year. What we did have, was an absolute bumper crop of apples – so much so that for every successful bid, you had a bag of apples thrown in for free. It became compulsory to have a big bag of apples.



Some lucky people even had a box of apples as a freebie. Even when people were crying out 'No, No, they didn't need apples as they had an orchard of them back home', Dave and his lovely young assistant Colin insisted.

It's has also been a very good year for squashes, gourds and pumpkins and I was lucky enough to put in a winning bid on a very attractive Turk's Turban. It became less attractive to me however, when I heard how the grower had fertilised his enormous gourd. Not sure I want to turn it into soup now...

I was also successful in putting in a winning bid for a jar of stringed conkers but so far, I

haven't found anyone willing to play. Probably all that Health and Safety stuff. People are probably frightened they'll get wrapped over the knuckles.

After the auction came the Raffle – lots of great prizes. This year the money raised



from both the auction and the raffle came to an amazing £924.85 which was being split between Cancer Research and Housing Justice. Thank you to everyone who helped raise this wonderful amount of money.

Also I'd like to put in a word about how nice Earlswood Hall looks. The Harvest Lunch this year was a week later than usual as the Hall was being painted – and it looks so nice and fresh now.

Again huge thanks to Jane and to all her helpers for organising the afternoon, we all had a great time.

Glynis MacDonald



GARDENING CORNER

Occasionally we actually find the time to sit in our garden and watch the world go by. Usually it is with a cup of coffee and a piece of cake, so we never linger long, but long enough to take in the changes that are going on by way of Autumn colour, the numbers of branches dying on the ash due to dieback or the amount of berries on the holly. All very mundane things, but it helps to de-stress after the rigours of working life. I'm lucky in that I am partially retired and only have to work two long days in Bristol for my sins, but those two days are full of stress from the minute I get up in the morning to the minute I get home in the evening. After forty years of working for the Forestry Commission, I now get up earlier than I have ever done, even when we had a workforce to start on their way at 7.00 am. There are no staff working in the woods as such, just traffic jams to beat. I'm then imprisoned, surrounded by a concrete jungle as I do my thing, and gradually feel the stress levels rise as the journey home looms closer. Where will the hold-up be today I wonder? Last night, as with most nights, it was trying to get back into Chepstow and out the other side, only this time the queue was half way across the Severn bridge. The journey into work usually takes just around 30 minutes, but it now takes me longer than that just to get through Chepstow on the way home. The assistant head gardener fares little better at times as she battles her way in and out of Monmouth. Others of you out there fare far worse I know, and there is little chance of you escaping the rat race for many years to come. You have my sympathy. Little wonder then that any time spent in the garden is probably some of the most valuable time you will have to help de-stress from the hassle of modern life. No matter what man does to mess it up, nature generally carries on albeit a constant battle against adversity. Often nature will lose out, but sometimes it will claim a small victory. We are watching one now as we note a couple of pairs of adult house martens feeding their young in two of our artificial nests. It is the second week in October and the martens are still here, although these are the stragglers. The bulk have now left for warmer climes and we are a little concerned that these youngsters aren't going to make it. The nests were put up at the beginning of April, just before the cuckoo arrived and were 'taken' within a few days. We keep an eye on things, and comment that this is the third brood that each pair has raised this year. The late arrivals had to build their own nests as the eight artificial ones were long tenanted by then. These have managed two broods thanks to the fantastic weather, but the third brood will help ensure that we have martens back next year. Whilst we are watching the youngsters launch themselves out of the nest and the next day they are gone. Hopefully they will make it all the way to Africa, and with any luck some of them will make it back again next year, when the cycle will start again.

Talking of cycles, the gardening calendar is ticking away and already plans are afoot for next year. The seed catalogues have arrived and orders are being compiled. The first of next years' crops are also going into the ground as the overwintering shallots and garlic are ready for planting. As I've said before, this year has been a real roller coaster of a ride, with some crops doing exceptionally well and others doing really badly. I was reading an article in a little local gardening magazine which was talking about how difficult it was to grow cauliflowers, yet this year we have had the best that we have ever had in over forty years of gardening, yet the beans were a waste of time. We have an excellent crop of carrots which will hopefully take us well into the winter, along with sprouts, leeks, kale and purple sprouting. These along with the various goodies in the deep freezers, should keep us going nearly all of the winter. We are still picking tomatoes and cucumbers, but these will be coming to an end in the next two or three weeks – depending on when we have the first hard frosts. The weather forecast is for the next week to be reasonably dry, so I'll be getting on with removing those crops that have finished, and getting the raised beds weeded and shut down for the winter. Hopefully I'll get most of them covered with manure, which will help to protect the soil structure and give the beds some

valuable nutrients ready for next year. The only beds that won't get the manure treatment will be those in which I'm planning on planting root crops next year (such as carrots, parsnips etc.), as the manure encourages forking and we get enough of this anyway due to the stony nature of the ground in places.

We have had a couple of frosts in recent weeks, but not hard enough to do any damage. I was half hoping that the dahlias would have succumbed, so that I can cut the tops off and lift the tubers for the winter. They are really in the way, but as they are still flowering I am reluctant to give them 'the chop'. As well as working on the vegetable beds I need to get on with the flower beds as well. There are quite a few annual flowers that will need removing as well as weeds, but again, due to the mild weather, many of the flowers are still blooming and are providing a valuable source of late pollen for the bees. So for now they remain, but I will have to bite the bullet soon, as I have loads of daffodil bulbs to get in the ground and the sooner this is done now the better. They should be in the ground before the end of October so that the roots can develop and grow whilst the ground is relatively warm. I have a few tulips as well, but these will tolerate being planted up to the end of November, provided that the weather is still half reasonable.

We have two strips of grass alongside our boundary wall. I say grass in the loosest of terms, as the ground was covered mainly with dandelions and buttercups. The soil level has sunk quite dramatically over the years as well, so it is time for action. I sprayed both strips off some weeks ago so everything has now died off. I will be bringing more soil down from our field to fill the level up again and at the same time will be planting a lot of new daffodils back in the ground. Both areas were planted with bulbs when they were created some ten years ago, but over time, these have gradually got less. Once the soil is in, bulbs planted and everything levelled off, it will be time to either sow more grass, or buy turf. I'm not sure which at the moment. Topping the wall is an oak fence. Last year I bought three wisteria plants that were potted up and have gradually got bigger over the summer. These are now ready for planting out and so hopefully the fence will be covered in wisteria in the next year or so, creating a striking, scented feature as you pull into the drive.

This year we had a 'big' wedding anniversary. Whereas the assistant head gardener settled for a nice red stone in a ring, I settled for some roses, with the intention of creating a nice scented bed of roses, with a seat in the middle on which to sit longer on and watch the world go by. The bed has started to establish well and is now also in the process of getting the 'bulb' treatment, with daffodils, tulips and alliums being planted in among the roses. As with everywhere else, the roses are still flowering away, and the scents, especially early in the day, are a tempting hint of what will come next year. They will be pruned back in March, which will give room for the bulbs to do their thing, before the roses start to grow again and cover the ground.

Although I cut most of the hedges earlier in the year, they are now starting to look a little scruffy, so they will get another haircut, which will put them right for the winter. The leaves are starting to fall from the trees in bucket loads now and these will also receive attention in the coming weeks. Any that can be, will be collected and added to one of the many compost heaps around the garden. Either I'll run the mower over the ground on a high setting to chop the leaves up and collect them, or where this isn't possible I'll get the old rake out and do it that way. I'm waiting for one more fine day to come along, so that I can open the last bee hives up and get them ready for the winter. Many of the hives are still loaded with bees as the warm weather has continued, but hopefully numbers will reduce drastically over the coming weeks, otherwise they will need too much food to get them all through the winter. Hopefully this year it will be kind to us so cold and dry, rather than mild and wet.

Happy gardening until next month. *Steve and Felicity Hunt.*

'Flowers for the Fallen'



A Time for Remembering

Flower arrangements by local people and local groups to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War One.

In Shirenewton Church

Saturday 10th November 10:00 - 5:00

Sunday 11th November 12:00 - 5:00

Remembrance Day Service

Shirenewton War Memorial

on Sunday 11th November 2018 at 10:50

The service will then continue with the uniform brigades and their colours in Shirenewton Church

Commemorating the Centenary of
the End of World War One

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Chepstow Remembers

*A selection of music and readings to
commemorate the end of World War I*

Sunday 4th November 2018

3.00pm

St Mary's Church, Chepstow



*With contributions from
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www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk

SHIRENEWTON WI

21 HOUSE MOVES IN 24 YEARS

...was the title of this month's W.I. talk. Our speaker, Beverley Jones, described her hectic life. Having lived in the same house for the first 14 years of her life, Beverley got itchy feet. She spent the next 24 years moving jobs and homes between South Wales, London and even Milton Keynes and did all of this at an exhausting rate. So exhausting that Beverley became ill in her forties. Her ill health brought her back home to Monmouthshire where she found a simpler and more peaceful life. She also found real romance and has vowed never to move again. So this story definitely has a happy ending. Recommended reading, Beverley – The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho.



Our next meeting is on Thursday 11th October, 7.15 p.m. at Shirenewton Recreation Hall. Our speaker will be Annabelle Hancock talking about reflexology. Everyone welcome. Please contact Diane Ashton Smith (01291 628838) or Jane Butterworth (01291 641704) for further details

STARGAZING

In the evening sky, the bright orange planet Mars lies to the south whilst slightly orange-coloured Saturn is close to the horizon in the south-west at dusk.



In the morning the brilliant planet Venus is in the south-east near the bright star Spica.

The new crescent Moon is near Saturn on the 11th and is at First Quarter (half-moon) when it is near Mars on the 15th.

The seven stars of the Plough lie to the North in the evening. It is also known as the Great Bear or Ursa Major. Ursa Major was one of the constellations listed by the 2nd century AD Egyptian astronomer Ptolemy. The constellation of Ursa Major has been seen as a bear by many civilizations. In Greek mythology, Zeus, the king of the gods, falls in love with a young woman named Callisto. Hera, Zeus' jealous wife, transforms the beautiful Callisto into a bear and places her in the heavens.

The cross of Cygnus is high in the western sky. The "W" of Cassiopeia lies nearly overhead in the Milky Way.

The Milky Way is a faint band of light visible on clear dark nights. It is the combined light of an enormous number of stars that make up our galaxy. There are approximately 200 billion galaxies in the Universe. Each galaxy contains very approximately 200 billion stars. So that's very approximately a mind-boggling 40,000,000,000,000,000,000 stars in the Universe.

Higgs Boson was late for church – the service was already under way. He ran into the church and shouted you can't have Mass without me!



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Nerys's Natty Nosh

Mississippi Mud Pie

Sometimes it's good to indulge in a little guilty pudding pleasure. This is a dairy-free, gooey chocolate pudding.



Ingredients

For the base

225g of Oreo cookies

90g Vitalite dairy-free spread

For the filling

175g Kinnerton dairy-free chocolate

175g Vitalite dairy-free spread

4 eggs

175g muscavado sugar

200ml coconut milk

For the fudge topping

150g Kinnerton dairy-free chocolate

150ml coconut milk

45g golden syrup

Method



1 Blitz the cookies in a food processor and add the dairy-free spread

2 Place the mixture into an ovenproof dish and leave to set for 10mins.

3 Meanwhile melt the chocolate and butter (I did this in the microwave – 30sec, stir then another 30sec – done!)

4 In another bowl, whisk the eggs and sugar (this will be quite a workout!)

5 Add the melted chocolate and coconut cream, mix, then pour into the biscuit case

6 Place in the oven at 180C for around 35-40mins



For the fudge sauce

- 1** Put all the ingredients into a pan and warm through, stirring constantly.
- 2** Pour over the cooled pie.
- 3** Serve with ice cream or cream.



Oozy gooey fudge sauce tastes amazing!! **Enjoy!**

Thank You Caryl Nagrani for the recipe.

**SHIRENEWTON
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DATES FOR 2018

PLEASE NOTE NEW MARKET HOURS

10.30 – 12.30

17TH NOVEMBER 2018

15TH DECEMBER 2018

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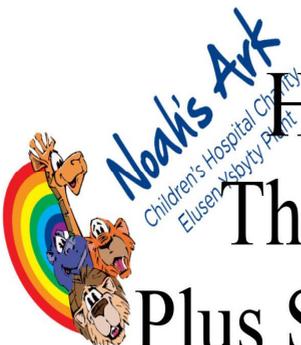
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"YOUNG IMAGINEERS"



KS2 classes concluded their "Young Imagineers" topic with a Science Fair for parents. The children eloquently shared their inventions and prototypes and confidently explained how they could help make tomorrow's world a better place!

PEOPLE WHO HELP US



Foundation Phase classes have enjoyed visits this term from parents and villagers who have taught them about their various jobs including ... police, firemen, a vet, architect and a dentist.

TALYBONT

Year 5 had a fabulous two days and one night at Talybont learning new skills including canoeing, stream walking and team building ...



SPORTING SUCCESS

Cross Country Competition Shirenewton came 2nd out of the 12 Chepstow and Caldicot primary schools who competed in the recent cross country competition, making it through to the Monmouthshire finals to be held next year.

Football Congratulations to our Y3/4 and Y5/6 football teams who both played extremely well during Monmouthshire Schools football tournament ... they both came second overall and showed excellent sportsmanship throughout!

SHAMBLE WINDOW TRAIL

Our Community Ambassadors enjoyed decorating a couple of windows for the recent village 'Shamble' ...



MACMILLAN

The final amount raised for Macmillan Cancer Support at our recent coffee morning was £310.99 ... diolch yn fawr iawn i bawb!

GROUNDS DEVELOPMENT DAY

We already have stunning outdoor play areas but have recently held a weekend 'grounds development day' - digging, chopping, weeding, painting, revamping and shifting things - to further improve our grounds. Huge thank you to all the parents, children and governors who supported us.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Please join us at our:

Young at Heart Community Club on Friday
9th November 2pm

PTA Christmas Fayre on Saturday 8th
December 11am to 2pm

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SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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The first meeting of our 2018/2019 year took place on Tuesday, 25th September the speaker for the evening was Jeremy Bosanquet who gave a talk entitled 'Lost Houses of Monmouthshire'. His list of houses that had already been demolished and one's that were lying in dereliction was very long, to our amazement. The First World War took a heavy toll on families that owned large estates. Fathers, sons and brother did not return to run these estates, resulting in buildings and farm land left to dereliction.

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday, 30th October at the Huntsman Hotel at 7.00 pm. Afterwards at 7.30 pm we will be having a talk entitled 'Old Mounnton House' given by Chris Dale

Dates for your Diary:

*Monday, 12th November
Hall*

Archive Meeting at the Recreational

Between 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Tuesday, 27th November

Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel

At 7.30 pm a talk entitle

*'Every Women Remembered' given by
Sylvia Morgan. This relates to the
contribution women made during
the 1st World War*

Everyone welcome

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I have learned basic CPR and First aid in Guides and Life Saving.

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A photograph of a dog walking on a dirt path in a field. The path is surrounded by trees and grass. The dog is in the foreground, and another dog is visible further down the path. The background shows a hilly landscape under a clear sky.

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LOCAL DIARY DATES

November	Event	Location
3rd 10:00am	St Peters Autumn Fayre	Earlswood Hall
5th 7:15pm	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
9th & 10th 7:00pm	The Good Old Days	Earlswood Hall
10th & 11th 10:00am	Flowers for the fallen	Shirenewton Church
11th	Battles Over	Recreation Ground
11th 12:00	Remembrance Day Service	Shirenewton War Memorial
12th 2.00pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Recreation Hall
14th 12:00	Soup Lunch	Devauden Village Hall
17th 10:30	Village Market	Recreation Hall
18th 2.30pm	Café Style Service	St Peters Church
December	Event	Location
1st 7.30pm	Winter Shirefest	Huntsman Hotel
2nd	Advent Fair	Saysell Centre
3rd 7.15pm	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
9th	Carols around the Christmas Tree	TA Car Park
15th 10.30am	Village Market	Recreation Hall
24th	Cristingle in Church Mulled wine & Mincepies	Shirenewton Church Saysell Centre
25th	Christmas Day family service	Shirenewton Church
26th 2.30pm	Carol Service Sherry Mincepies	St Peters Church
27th 7.30pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Huntsman Hotel

Readers and Sides Persons St Thomas a Beckett Church, Shirenewton		November- December	
Date	Sunday Service	Readers	Sides Persons
4th November	All Saints Day	Mark Broughton Frances Grey	Mark Broughton Frances Grey
11th November	Remembrance Sunday	Various Readers	Claire Lewis Graham Lambert
18th November	Second Sunday Before Advent	Chris Sturke Margaret Sturke	Chris Sturke Margaret Sturke
25th November	Christ The King	Bill Clark Janet Horton	Bill Clark Janet Horton
2nd December	First Sunday of Advent	Aileen Doggett Diane Marlow	Aileen Doggett Diane Marlow
9th December	Second Sunday of Advent	Mark Broughton Glynis MacDonald	Mark Broughton Glynis MacDonald
16th December	Third Sunday of Advent	Cynthia Smith Paul Morecombe	Cynthia Smith Paul Morecombe
23rd December	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Aileen Doggett James Leney	Aileen Doggett Claire Lewis
24 & 25th December	Christmas Day Midnight Mass 11.30 p.m (24th) 10.30 a.m Family Service	T.B.C.	Claire Lewis Graham Lambert
30th December	First Sunday of Christmas	Group Service at	Mathern

DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

(Cabinets do not require codes, they are unlocked although they have a key pad)



Carpenters Arms (on the Usk road)

Huntsman Hotel (on the Usk road)

Tredegar Arms (Shirenewton village)



(House half way between
Blethyn Close and the
School in Mynyddbach)
Earlswood Hall
(Earlswood)

Shirenewton School

LOCAL CONTACTS

*If you know of any changes or omissions please contact the Editor Terry Walters
Telephone 01291 641338 or email terencewalters@hotmail.com*

Church of St. Thomas à Becket Shirenewton

Rector	Revd Julian White Jel.white@btinternet.com	01291 622317
Parish Priest	Revd Nansi Davies CBE	01633 400 519
Lay Eucharistic Minister	Gilly Lambert	01291 641 175
Parish Visitor Coordinators	Revd Nansi Davies CBE Diane Marlow	01633 400 519 01291 641 407
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PCC Treasurer	Graham Lambert	01291 641 175
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Gift Aid Secretary	Lynn Morcombe	01291 641 671
Organists	Mike Penney	01291 650 653
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