

A photograph of a weathered wooden gate in a cemetery. The gate is made of thick, aged wooden posts and horizontal rails. It stands on a stone path. In the background, there is a stone building with a window and several gravestones. The scene is surrounded by green grass and some foliage.

Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

October 2018

Price: £1

FROM THE VICARAGE

Julian E LI White

Dear People of the Parishes,

I would like to have you believe that I compose this piece on a reflective autumn morn whilst gazing out of the mullioned windows of the Victorian Vicarage having put down, momentarily, my aromatic pipe and gaze upon the mature climbing roses which caress the tranquillity infusing the ecclesiastical garden.

The truth, however, is somewhat different.

It is true that the vast majority of my colleagues now dwell in modern, bland and utterly boring Vicarages whilst Sandra and I hunker-down in a decrepit and icy pile (and, yes, given the choice we would far rather this option). It is also accurate that I sometimes am afforded the view of seductive rose-blossoms waving alluringly. Except, right now, they lie in an entangled mess at the foot of the wall, all 25 feet of them, having become a victim of the recent inclement weather. Amazingly, Rambling Rector has remained strong and upright. My wife's comments are needless to say, unprintable.

There must be a message here, surely. There probably isn't, but I won't let that stop me anyway. My wife whisked me away from other pressing parish considerations (I was about to watch *Eggheads* in fact) in order to address the chaos.

I ruminated on the sight before me. A thing of beauty suddenly thrown into distress (I am talking about the rose-bush, not my wife). Is this not sometimes true of life? How, over many years it seems, something that has grown steadily and with vigour accompanying its inherent beauty, is cast into apparent ruin and confusion.

Such an interpretation is but half the story. Out of the dismay comes the opportunity for unexpected action. For example, Sandra – thrusting some pruning shears at me – opined “Oh well, now the thing has blown down we can at least access it and cut out the dead wood before it is put back in position”. She led by example, followed by me in hesitant fashion and I speculated (before being wounded by a malicious nettle) that this could be a parable relating to the development, crisis, and rebirth of the Christian church at both international and local level. At this point I could feel a sermon approaching and, you will be relieved to learn, my wife brought out a cup of tea and a cake and all philosophical and theological considerations were put on hold.

The restoration project is now well in hand (but, thank goodness, heavy rain has delayed progress) and the re-vitalised rambler will be back in situ. Sandra also reminded me that new replacement stays would be needed and that it would take the efforts of numerous individuals to restore it to its former glory. Again, in keeping with the restored church motif, I grew excited about 'new' supports and the involvement of a multitude of people.

Next year presumably, to misappropriate a biblical quote '*The latter glory* (of the said rose) *shall be greater than the former*'. Keep your fingers crossed that this will be the case and that the above horticultural parable will not be subject to mildew or blight or else another extended metaphor will be on the way...

With every good wish and blessing,

Julian E LI White (Rector & Vicar)

200 CLUB

September

Congratulations to the September winners of the 200 Club:

1. Nansi Davies
2. Hanako Owen
3. Frances Gray
4. Vivian Clarke

Thank you for your support.

"Many people in the Parish will know that the Reverend Doctor Canon Andrew Todd has regularly officiated at our services in our Church for many years, particularly at Christmas, when he officiated at Midnight Mass. He and Catherine have moved to new roles in Cambridgeshire, where we wish them well. The PCC is organising a collection for a farewell gift for them and hope to be able to present it to them at an informal gathering over a glass of wine in the Saysell Centre at a date to be decided.

If you would like to make a donation to the gift for Andrew, please let Graham Lambert know on 01291641175 or glambert123@googlemail.com. If you wish to attend the presentation, please let Bill Clark know on 01291 641773 or williamjhclark@btinternet.com."

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

Found:

On Saturday, 1st September at the
Recreational Field, Shirenewton
A small purse with a number of coins inside.
Please contact: 641376

REPORTS FROM ST PETERS CHURCH, NEWCHURCH

Summer Fayre: After an extremely wet and blustery event last year, the sun shone brightly over the lawn at Church Farm on Saturday 30th June 2018 . With plant stall, tombola, cake stall and refreshments all available. The PCC are extremely grateful for the support from the community which helped raise a grand total of £634.40 which will be used towards the upkeep of the Church.

Harvest Festival: On Friday 7th September St Peters Church was beautifully decorated with fresh local produce ready for their Harvest Service. After the service of thanksgiving, light refreshments were distributed and a wonderful hamper was raffled raising a fabulous £375. A huge thank you to everyone who supported the event.

Forthcoming Events:

St Peters Church will be holding their Autumn Fayre on Saturday 3rd November 2018 at Earlswood Memorial Hall 10am-1pm. A variety of stalls will be available for you to browse around and then enjoy some refreshments. A warm welcome awaits you.

Christingle Service - Sunday 16th December 2018 2.30pm. A date for your diary.

Hello Villagers,

This is a photo of our Shirenewton road sign as you enter the village from the B4235 road - not very welcoming! I had a good idea the other day to go for a walk clutching my secateurs and cut back the overgrown greenery around this road sign. I didn't realise I would have to climb up a bank and tackle brambles and stinging nettles. I failed miserably as I am only 5'2", of mature years and was wearing a short, sleeved tee shirt! So I am appealing to tall, younger persons, armed with tree loppers, to climb the bank, hack back the nettles and brambles and reveal our Shirenewton road sign once again.

Thank you in anticipation of your help.

Barbara Walters





PUTTING THE CLIENT FIRST

Our Financial Planners are highly qualified and have the experience to help you with:

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The value of pensions and investments can fall as well as rise, you may get back less than you invested.

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.

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SHIRENEWTON LIFE CHANGES COFFEE MORNING

As Autumn and Winter approach, do you dread the onset of long dark days?
No more sitting or working in the garden and watching people pass by,
exchanging a word or a smile with the neighbour or dog walker.
Have you sent your children off to school, or University, and feel a bit "empty" ?
Are you spending time alone, but not sure what to do?

Do you fancy a coffee (or tea) and chat with someone new?
Come along to the COFFEE MORNING at the TREDEGAR ARMS on Friday 5th
October
Come anytime from 10 to 12. For more information e-mail:
shirenewton.lifechanges1@btinternet.com

**Life
Changes**

**COFFEE
MORNING**

at the **TREDEGAR ARMS**
Shirenewton

1st FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH

10 am to 12.00

Have you experienced changes ?

**We all experience so many changes as
we travel along life's journey.**

Come and join us for tea/coffee and chat

Meet new people . Tell funny stories
Talk about things that concern you.
Help someone else cope with changes they are
going through/ask for ideas.

or Call in an expert ?

TRY SOMETHING NEW - craft, poetry , art,
watching the world go by, outings, walks, etc

IT IS UP TO YOU.

We have welcomed 30 pupils into our Reception class and 5 other pupils into classes across the school. Everyone has returned refreshed and raring to go and it's been a busy start to the new academic year already (at the time of this newsletter going to print, we've only been back 2 weeks!); look how much we have achieved so far ...

DELVING & DISCOVERING

Key Stage 2 classes kick started this term's topic "Young Imagineers" with a delve and discover day where they learned about life and inventions in the past (mostly from the Victorian era) and possibilities for the future. They thought about the future of travel using hyperloop systems and were excited to find out the speed at which this could get you to places around the world!

LEARNING STREET



Foundation Phase classes were immersed into their new topic "People who help us" with a learning street in the hall of different role play areas to visit. It included a doctor's surgery, a hair and beauty salon, a police station and a cave! The children spent the day enjoying dressing up and acting out the different roles. They had a series of tasks to complete, such as working out from the clues who the robber was and finding out what illness the dolls had!



BIG PIT & IRONWORKS



All the Key Stage 2 classes have spent a day visiting Blaenavon's Ironworks and Big Pit learning about innovation and change. They found out how difficult life was for working families at the Ironworks' stack square cottages and down the coal mine. It was a real eye-opener and they all agreed they are glad to be children in this day and age!

PUPIL COMMITTEES

The newly elected pupil committees have met for the first time and have planned lots of exciting activities for the year including 'Grow a pound', community car wash, plant more fruit trees and make & sell jam, teach welsh to grown-ups, continue our 'Young at Heart' Club and decorate a window for the village 'Shamble' ... to name but a few!

Our Digital Leaders attended the first Governing Body meeting of the year and fed back on all their initiatives from last year. As always, the Governors were impressed with the confidence and eloquence of the committee and how hard they had worked last year ... even going into lessons to teach DCF (Digital Competency Framework) to all the different year groups.

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the meeting held in September 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.

Council noted that the Cayo Farm is not a farm but a 6 bedroomed private house. Council further noted that the building is 3.9m high at the ridge and some 76sqm but no length or depth measurements are given. The increase in volume is approximately 25%. No internal detail is given and it is unclear where the home office and gym are to be sited. If only the right hand end section is available for the home office it begs the question where the gym is to be sited. If in the roof then the building is effectively two storeys internally. No stair detail is given nor is there any for a toilet and or showering facilities.

There is lack of detail of the layout of the first floor and access within the building also lack of detail whether the home office is for business use and if so a business plan in support.

Council recommended approval of the application but as the building appeared to be capable of multi-use, recommended a condition restricting use to non-residential accommodation in connection with the occupation of the house by a single family.

Council further recommended preservation of the footpath on the left hand boundary of the property, also the Right of Way from Mynders Farm (old cart track) through The Cayo.

2. DM/2018/01222 Stone Barn, Bushes Farm, Earlswood

Conversion of stone barn to dwelling, with detached new double garage.

Council noted that this is a derelict barn with a rusted tin roof. It sits much lower than the road and is screened by the roadside hedgerow and further hedging along a public footpath running gradually away from the road.

The barn is a single storey 17 x 4.4m and around 4m high. The double garage is 5.5x6.5m and 5.3 high to the ridge, the upper part of which is for roosting horseshoe bats. The stone walls are retained and the roof tiled with slate.

Council recommended refusal of the application as the proposal is bigger than the

original footprint. The barn is in an isolated position with poor access. Council was also concerned at the loss of habitat for bats and barn owls, and as much vegetation would need to be removed, the potential loss of local flora and fauna. Another important concern was the detrimental impact on local infrastructure that every additional dwelling brings.

3. DM/2018/01042 Woodland View, Old Road, Penyaemawr

Construction of bedroom and living room extensions.

Council recommended approval, subject to the Right of Way being preserved.

Other items of interest

WW1 centenary celebrations on weekend of 9 – 11.11.2018:

a) Old Time Music Hall, Friday 9th and Saturday 10th November at Earlswood Hall – arrangements are now well in hand and a draft programme was circulated. Councillors confirmed they agreed the arrangements but felt that the ticket price should be held at £10 per person as the intention of the event was not profit making. Council to contribute £1000 to the costs of this event.

b) Beacons of Light, 7pm 11.11.2018, on Shirenewton Recreation field – reading of Tribute to the Millions to be read at 6.50pm, followed by the names of those that fell and the playing of the Last Post, with the beacon to be lit at 7pm – one of 1000 to be lit across the country, followed by the church bells ringing out for peace.

c) School and playgroup 'street' parties, Friday 9.11.2018 – these have been arranged. Council to contribute £150 and £50 respectively.

Taken from the County Councillor's monthly report:

Monmouthshire County Council Cabinet on the 5th of September covered a couple of reports of interest to parents with children, reports can be found in the following link: <https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MIId=2489> Firstly, the 30-hour free childcare offer for eligible parents of children aged 3 to 4 years old from January 2019, with the application process open from November 2018.

Secondly, a report went to the same Cabinet meeting, which gave a report back on the response to the consultation exercise on Additional Learning Needs (ALN) review and inclusion services across Monmouthshire.

The response looked at the proposals for the individual schools on ALN and proposed to currently not to proceed with the proposals for Mounton House Special School Pwllmeyric.

Dates of future meetings –Monday 1st October and Monday 5th November 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 of 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

SHIRENEWTON SUPER SATURDAY FUN DAY & FUNDRAISER SATURDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2018

What a lovely way to spend the first day of September – a community event in the sunshine on the Rec Field! The event was a great success with families and friends enjoying refreshments, live music, crafts and games.

The teas, coffees, cakes, ice creams, bar and BBQ were all well received and as suggested some families enjoyed their own picnic on the field.

Previous years proceeds were donated to the Village Defibrillator Fund, Cancer Research & Recreational Hall Improvements/Maintenance. This year we raised the fantastic total of £475.00 - this is being donated to Velindre Cancer Centre – many thanks to all for your generosity!

Special thanks to all on the Recreational Hall Committee and to their spouses/partners for all the help given – both on the day, with setting up and all the preparation prior to the event. A big thank you to Ken & Jamie for the wonderful live music (& to the Karaoke King & Queen – Stu & Shirley for their efforts again this year – so good apparently no one else could follow them yet again this year!). Huge thank you to:

Gordon - our barman extraordinaire (& Chair of the Rec Hall Committee) for setting up and serving (and all the tireless work he does all year behind the scenes for the Rec Hall), to Stu, Pauline & Lynne who ran the BBQ, to Julia for her help with the bar/organising the tug of war, to Phil at the Huntsman & Julie at the Tredegar Arms for donating fabulous cakes, to Tesco's for the tea & coffee donation, to committee members/spouses and volunteers for all the baking, to Sarah for organising bales, ice cream, the tug of war rope and for organising the children's scavenger hunt, to the Kitchen Crew – Barbara, Maggie & Elsie, to Beryl & the School for supplying games, to the PTA for the Gazebo's, to the Church for the Sound System, to both Sandras, Yvette & Catrin for the crafting tables (a great success), to everyone else who helped clear up at the end of the day & to the community for supporting the event.
Shirley Ayres (On behalf of Recreational Hall Committee)

Calling all dog walkers who use Shirenewton Recreational Hall Field.....

The Recreational Hall Committee and users of the field would like to say big "thank you" for clearing up after your dogs, but have you thought about what happens if they leave sticks behind? It doesn't sound like much of an issue, but it can be a problem when the field is being mowed & a hazard for youngsters running on the field. You can help by picking up any sticks left by your dog. Thank you!



SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

www.shirenewtonchurch.com
www.shirenewtonshop.com

Firstly, I'd like to say 'thank you' to those people who do mention to me that they've read, occasionally with interest, the columns I put together every month. It's good to get the feedback that people do read them!



As everyone knows, I'm more of a Windows PC/Android man than an 'Apple Fanboy', sometimes called iSheep! However, I do own an iPad and for all you Apple product users out there, I do keep my eyes open in the tech press for stories which could affect you. In general, in tech circles, Apple is thought of as a more secure operating system than Android because the Apple APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) are not generally available and therefore there are less vulnerabilities. This is confirmed by research which suggests that that a large percentage of malware targets the Android operating system. Of course, one of the reasons that Android is so wide spread and so much cheaper is that it's mainly open source. So, by definition, it's more open that iOS and therefore easier to attack.

However, that doesn't mean that Appleistas are entirely safe. A story in the tech press in early September reported that "Apple has removed an app called Adware Doctor: Anti Malware & Ad from the macOS App Store following claims it sent users' browser histories to a remote server in China.". Source The Register (<https://tinyurl.com/yax2fwuz>). This was a 'paid for' app (\$4.99) and the 4th highest grossing app in the 'Paid Utilities' category. Oh dear.

Unfortunately, this app is not the only app reported to be siphoning off data. Malwarebytes (which I run on my PC and recommend to all) has identified some other app doing the same, (<https://tinyurl.com/yazrycy6>). Thomas Reed, director of Mac and mobile security at Malwarebytes is reported to have said ""It's blindingly obvious at this point that the Mac App Store is not the safe haven of reputable software that Apple wants it to be. ... I strongly encourage you to treat the App Store just like you would any other download location: as potentially dangerous."

This seems eminently sensible advice. I never install an app without having researched it first (unless it's obviously 'official' like the MyMonmouthshire app). So you have been warned!

Moving onto the MyMonmouthshire app. I have used it to communicate to Monmouthshire CC and, after a while, received a response. So that bit works. The downside of it appears to be that, by having an account at Monmouthshire (necessary for the app) you are signed up to the regular Monmouthshire CC email newsletters. That in itself isn't the issue, it's the fact that these newsletters automatically include 'recent news' which may not be so recent and for which the deadline may have passed. In fact, it was complaining about this that made me contact Monmouthshire CC via the app. I'll keep you all informed.

Safe browsing

drc

A decorative border made of small red circles surrounds the text.

SHIRENEWTON

VILLAGE MARKET

DATES FOR 2018

PLEASE NOTE NEW MARKET

HOURS 10.30 – 12.30

20TH OCTOBER 2018

17TH NOVEMBER 2018

15TH DECEMBER 2018

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Spring Clean

EST. 1986

Proprietor:
Alan Knight

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Tel: 01291 424399

www.springcleanclean.co.uk

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaners Empty Property Deep and Sparkle Cleans Undertaken

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01291-01600-01594-01633 AND BEYOND

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**

Harvest Festival

Sunday 14th
October
Family Service
10.00 am
Shirenewton

Village Harvest Lunch

12.30 for 1.00

Earlswood Hall

Bring your family and friends
for

a sociable community
lunch followed by a
fun charity auction of
harvest offerings.
Drinks at the bar.



GAERLLWYD BAPTIST CHURCH

Gaerllwyd Crossroads,
Newchurch West, NP16 6DD

We Invite you to join in our
HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday, 14th October at 6.30pm
&

Monday, 15th October at 7.30pm

HARVEST SUPPER

and the sale of Harvest Produce

WILL FOLLOW THE MONDAY
EVENING SERVICE



[Update From SHAMBLE HQ!](#)

We're thrilled that so many people have already signed up to be part of the first ever Shirenewton and Mynydd Bach iLlumination Extravaganza on 13th and 14th October! But we think it can be even bigger and better than it's looking already. If you're planning on being part of the fun by decorating your windows **please remember to sign up here <https://goo.gl/forms/KxebEHT5QHb9HgTB3>** (it takes less than a minute) or you can fill in a paper form and post it in one of the boxes around the village, like the one in the old phone box near the Tredegar Arms. Even if you're one of the many who have already signed up, we still need your help. If each person who's already said they'll be taking part can persuade just one other friend or neighbour in the village to decorate their windows then we'll have doubled the size of the spectacle.

ShAMBLE is all about doing something together as a community and there are lots of ways that you can get involved, like handing out flyers, making cakes for the party on 13th October, liking and sharing our Facebook posts, encouraging your neighbours to take part & generally spreading the word! If you'd like to find out more do drop us a line at shirenewtonshamble@gmail.com or check out the blog: www.shirenewtonshamble.blogspot.com

We were incredibly pleased to see more than 30 people come along to our community crafting session at the hall on 22nd September, where we shared some ideas, craft materials and arty inspiration, as well as plenty of tea, cake and laughs.



There is a theme of 'The Sky at Night' to give a bit of inspiration, but the theme is totally optional; if you have a good idea, go with it. It can be anything from a set of artistically arranged fairy lights to a stained-glass creation, a band playing in your living room to some cut-out stars sellotaped to the glass; simple or spectacular—anything goes!

So be sure to come and 'Shamble' around the village on 13th and 14th October, pick up a map from the hall or look out for them in other places around the village, join us for the party in the hall from 6—8.30pm, and if you're going to decorate your window be sure to register!

GARDENING CORNER

The weather has returned to our usual pattern now, with rain and occasional sun. Until today the rain has been enough to re-green the lawn and to satisfy the plants, but not too much that we can't get on with working outside. Today it is absolutely hammering it down, so it will be back to the indoor jobs for a while. The 'other' Head Gardener has now recovered well from the new knee operation and, for the first time in probably two years, is back outside helping with the weeding and other light duties. With a garden our size though, it is surprising just how much of a difference even a small amount of work can make, so hopefully we will now be able to get back on top of things in the coming year.

At the moment there are so many jobs to get sorted that it is the usual "what shall we do first" decision rather than "what can I do". In the vegetable patch we are continuing to harvest the seasonal veg. The runner and French beans have been finished for some time, but I have left the pods on in order to save seed for next year. These were drying well, so if the rain persists I'll have to make sure I pick the pods and move them indoors to dry properly. I did buy some special seeds last winter ready for our attempts at showing. This wasn't cheap (seed these days never is), but at least I have been able to increase the quantities of available seed for next year and we won't have to pay out again hopefully. This can only be done for the 'normal' seeds though. Many varieties are F1 hybrids these days, so it is unwise to save seed from these. If you do there is no telling what quality you might get as any saved seed will demonstrate all sorts of properties – both good and bad. We did get some success on the show bench though, so overall the extra cost was worth it. All of the potatoes were dug up before any sign of potato blight arrived. This was another benefit from the hot dry weather in that this annual pest was slow in arriving as it thrives in damp, humid conditions. The potatoes are now all in the garage, stored ready for winter use, as are all the onions and shallots. We are still picking cauliflowers. I'm still amazed at how well these have done despite the weather. We simply could not eat them all, so many have 'blown'. These will be cleared away and chopped up before putting in the compost bins. Clearing the empty vegetable beds is now the key priority as the weather permits, as it will shortly be time to plant the first crops ready for next year. This will be garlic and cooking shallots, both of which benefit from a cold spell in order for them to grow properly. Our cooking shallots did so well this year that I will be able to use some of the smaller ones for planting out. The garlic on the other hand were a complete disaster. I dug them up and started to dry them, but the size of bulbs was so small that I actually ended up throwing them all away. It just wasn't going to be worth the effort of trying to peel them. Normally we grow shallots for pickling as well, but we have enough stored to keep the ploughman's lunch going for at least next year and maybe the one after as well, so I won't bother to grow any of these in the coming year. It seems odd to be talking about the coming season already, but that's the never ending gardening cycle for you! The carrots have done really well this year and are completely free of the root fly. This means that we will have a good store of carrots for the coming months – provided we can keep the slugs and mice away from them. The winter greens, including sprouts are also looking well, as are the leeks, so hopefully we will keep going pretty well with our own produce for a few months yet – but this will obviously depend on what the weather throws at us.

The flower garden has been hanging on by the skin of its teeth all summer. As I mentioned last month, the sweet peas and alstroemaria's suffered badly, but the gladioli and dahlia's have continued to thrive, especially the latter. We have a couple of dahlia varieties that have grown so well that it is almost impossible for

the other Head Gardener to cut them, as they are now taller than she is. They weren't meant to be, but that's old horse manure for you! The new rose bed has expanded, with a number of varieties now planted. I had intended to buy bare rooted plants from David Austin in the autumn but the garden centres that we visit near our youngest daughters' have been selling potted plants cheaper than the bare rooted ones, so it would have been rude not to have taken advantage of this opportunity! I think I need just one more variety, a climber, to grow up the pergola above the seat. It will be a choice between Bethesda or Gertrude Jekyll – whichever I happen to come across first. All of the plants that have been planted are looking really well and are already producing a steady supply of highly scented flowers. The selection has been restricted to English shrub roses which David Austin has specialised in over his lifetime. These are repeat flowering and mostly scented, so everything that you want from a rose. They aren't cheap to buy, but in the right soil, they will last for years, so hopefully they will be a good investment that will bring joy (and scent) for many years to come. I'm also hoping to be able to take cuttings from them as well so that they can be introduced into other flower beds as well around the garden. Some of the varieties do better in mixed beds than others so it's making sure we get the right ones. The spring bulbs for next year have now also arrived, so we are getting on with planting these out when we can. The daffodils especially should be in the ground by the end of October. We have also bought a few tulips but these will tolerate being left until November. The tulips are being planted between the roses, as are several varieties of alliums (ornamental onions). The idea is that these, along with several varieties of daffodils, will flower early in the year before the roses get going, but will be finished and out of the way for when the roses start to flower. Well that's the plan anyway, so we will see what happens.

Although the hedges had an early trim, they now need tidying up ready for the winter. It shouldn't take too long to whizz over them with the petrol hedge cutter and it will ensure they all look neat and tidy until things start to grow again next April.

I have started to work my way through the bees at long last. They have obviously been getting bored as many of the hives have been well stuck down with propolis – the sticky glue they use to stick things down with and to fill holes up to stop drafts. It is derived from tree resin and believe me it does a wonderful job! Because of the mess I haven't finished, but I'm now waiting for a half decent day, weather wise to be able to open the remaining hives up. One or two objected to my intervention as they haven't seen me for so long. A number have good honey stores, so I will need to see what I can steal before it gets too late. There is little point in removing the maximum crop possible, because it will mean that I will have to feed them with sugar syrup to replace the honey. In order for them to store this properly for the winter the bees need reasonable warmth to be able to evaporate the water content off, and with the sun getting lower and day temperatures following, there is simply not enough time for this to happen. So the bees will be mainly enjoying the fruits of their own labour this year, rather than me stealing it all. The honey they have stored is still quite runny so I will be able to extract some if I can get this off in the next couple of weeks. I will certainly have to do better next year. I did notice that one of the hives has a problem. Either the queen has died or she has run out of steam, as there was no young healthy brood in the nest and too many drones (male bees), which suggests that the queen has run out of sperm to fertilise her eggs. The best way forward will probably be to combine with another weak hive, or to let the colony die out. A lot will depend on the weather over the coming days. 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

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CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY 2018/2019 SEASON

CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY is now rehearsing for the new season, and a challenging and full programme beckons! In addition to our regular 3-concerts per year programme, we are privileged and proud this year to be organising Chepstow's *Remembrance Commemoration*, which will take place on SUNDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 4th, 3.00pm at St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow.

CCS will be joined for this programme with students from Chepstow Comprehensive School, along with representatives from all our Armed Forces, and especially the Rifles 1 Battalion. The Commemoration of the end of WW1 in November 1918 will be particularly poignant for this centenary anniversary. Local bellringers will ring the Church bells before and after the music and words commemoration, entrance is free for all, with a retiring plate collection for SSAFA –the Armed Forces Charity.

A few weeks later, on SUNDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 9th at 3.00pm, St Mary's Priory Church, CCS will perform their annual *Christmas Music Celebration*. On SATURDAY APRIL 6th 2019, again at St Mary's Church, 7.30pm the Society will present its major *Spring Concert*, with full professional orchestra musicians and soloists, and a wonderful programme of choral works by Handel, Beethoven and Vaughan Williams, and our *Summer Concert* –full of lighter items, with refreshments afterwards –will be WEDNESDAY JULY 3rd. in the Arts Hall, Chepstow Leisure Centre.

Chepstow Choral Society welcomes new members! The past 2 years have seen an increase in membership, including male members, and this is enabling us to attempt more programmes that are challenging as well as enjoyable and varied. If you would like to come along and sing –you do NOT face an audition and rehearsal times are Wednesday evenings, 7.30 – 9.30pm at Chepstow Leisure Centre! --please call Marjorie on 01291 623310 for further information about singing membership, what is entailed and involved, and about our future programmes.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! Come along, meet new friends and receive a warm welcome – CCS is your local choral Society, please help us to keep it thriving and active! Without singers we will not exist!

Marjorie Duerden (Asst Mus. Director, CCS)

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

The constellation of Cygnus the Swan lies pretty much directly above. It is in the shape of a cross – in fact it is sometimes called the Northern Cross. According to legend, Jupiter the king of the Gods changed himself into a swan when he wanted to visit Leda, the wife of the King of Sparta. In memory of the episode, he placed a swan in the sky.



The seven stars of the Plough are to the North and the four stars forming the Great Square of Pegasus lie to the South.

Two planets can be seen to the South in the evening sky. Brighter orange-coloured Mars is on the left and slightly yellow-coloured Saturn is to the right. On the 14th the crescent Moon is close to Saturn, whilst on the 18th the now waxing gibbous Moon is near Mars.

Edward Lowe, a Victorian gentleman-scientist lived at Shirenewton Hall from 1880 until his death in 1900. He has many scientific interests including astronomy. In particular he studied the "haloes" that sometimes form around the Moon, and sunspots. His memorial plaque in Shirenewton Church records his wide interests – he was a Fellow of the Royal Society, the Royal Astronomical Society, the Meteorological Society and the Linnaean Society.

The evenings are drawing in, providing glorious views of the night sky at relatively social hours. This is particularly true after the clocks go back on 28th October, giving extra darkness in the evening.



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Nerys's Natty Nosh

Roast Salmon with Charlotte Potatoes and Balsamic Vinegar

Serves 4



Ingredients

400g Salad potatoes (such as Charlotte or Maris Piper)
4 x 6oz fillets of salmon (skin on)
4 tablespoons Balsamic vinegar
½ red pepper, sliced
10g coriander leaves
4 tablespoons olive oil
Lettuce leaves
Mayonnaise to taste
Salt and Pepper.

Method

1 Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas

Mark 7.

2 Place the washed charlotte potatoes into a pan of boiling water. Add a pinch of salt and place on the hob on a high heat. Bring to the boil, and then simmer for 10 minutes.

3 Place a frying pan on the hob and when hot add 2 tbsp. olive oil, season the salmon fillets and seal on the skin side. When coloured, place on an oven tray and put in the oven for 10 minutes.

4 Make the salad. Put the thinly sliced lettuce leaves and peppers onto individual plates.

5 Drain the potatoes and pan fry in a little olive (or rapeseed) oil to colour and crisp edges and leave to one side. Place the salmon in the centre of the plate; arrange the potatoes around the edge, drizzle the mayonnaise and Balsamic vinegar. Garnish with the coriander. Serve. **Enjoy!**

Salmon contains a wealth of healthy nutrients, omega 3 fatty acids, vitamins and minerals, and is essential to a good and healthy balanced diet.

Omega 3 fatty acids help to control cholesterol thereby protecting the heart from disease. It is good for the brain and nervous system, keeping the memory working well.

Salmon provides low fat protein and contains many antioxidants which helps to boost immunity.

Salmon is packed with vitamin D, also known as the sunshine vitamin, which promotes calcium absorption in the gut. It is needed for bone growth. Without sufficient vitamin D, bones can become thin and brittle. Vitamin D sufficiency prevents rickets in children. Together with calcium, vitamin D helps protect older adults from osteoporosis. Vitamin D also has other roles in the body, including cell growth, healthy immune system, and reduction of inflammation.

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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For our July meeting we visited Trellech archaeological dig, we were given a tour and talk of the site by Stuart Wilson, who is so enthusiastic regarding his work, that it is infectious, and everyone agreed that it is such an interesting dig. He showed us some significant finds that had been discovered in this year's annual summer student dig, many large pieces of pottery and some coins. It is such a large site there will be years of interest left for archaeologists/

Please find below the Programme for 2018/2019, I hope there is something of interest for everyone.

Programme for 2018/2019

Date	Title of talk	Speaker
Tuesday, 30 th October 2018	A.G.M. 'Mownton House'	Chris Dale
Tuesday, 27 th November 2018	'Women Remembered'	Sylvia Mason
Tuesday, 18 th December 2018	Portskewett Church	
Thursday, 27 th December 2018	Winter Solstice	
Tuesday, 28 th January 2019	Recreational Hall	Quiz
Tuesday, 19 th February 2019	Annual Dinner	
Tuesday, 26 th March 2019	From Workhouse to St Woolos Hospital	Peter Strong
Sunday, 28 th April 2019	Visit to Kilgwrrwg Church	Naylor Firth
Tuesday, 30 th April 2019	T.B.D.	
Sunday, 26 th May 2019	Rogation Sunday	St Thomas a Becket Church
Tuesday, 28 th May 2019	The Gunter Mansion	Gill Wakely
Tuesday, 25 th June 2019	Vedw Garden	Anne Wareham
Tuesday, 30 th July 2019	'The Chepstow Dambuster'	David Priddis

Everyone welcome



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Thursday, from about 10.30am from the Hall.
Everyone is served, table by table, at 12.30pm
(leaving you time for shopping or attending the short service in
Church).*

**Do call at the Hall (Behind M&S and
the Bus station) one Thursday
morning, during term time, stay for
a meal or just have a look!**



**You might like to consider using the services of Monmouthshire's
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Water Vole Monitoring.



As well as conducting butterfly surveys, Jane and I have been monitoring the reintroduction of water voles down on the Magor Marshes. It is a sad fact that water voles are an endangered species but the Gwent Levels are an ideal habitat for water voles, and over the past five years, the Gwent Wild Life Trust has released captive-bred water voles onto the Marshes. To see how well these colonies are establishing themselves, volunteers regularly check specially made rafts which float elegantly on the reens. These rafts incorporate baskets which have a layer of clay spread over an oasis base. Then when little critters trot over the clay, they leave cute little footprints and that way we can tell what's about in general, and if water voles are about in particular.

Rather disappointingly the voles haven't done too well this year, the long cold wet winter didn't do them any favours but nevertheless they are around. We know that water voles like apples - eaters not cookers and the sign of a munched apple is always good. Jane sticks them on spikes on special food rafts. (Just to clear up any ambiguity, it is the apples which are rammed onto the spikes)

There are other ways we can tell what's been about. Here I should put in a spoiler alert if you are about to eat, your appetite could be spoilt. Jane and I have become pretty expert at identifying poo. We get quite excited when we spot vole poo. This is fairly clean and tidy stuff and it smells and looks like guinea-pig droppings. We are also delighted to spot a regular amount of otter spraint. This tends to be full of little fish bones and perhaps a bit of scale and fur. Rat, moorhen and duck deposits are not interesting at all. But last week was a first for us when we spotted something different. We collected it up in a test tube and took it to the centre to be identified. And good old Mr Google came up with the answer. Stoat do-dos. This is not to be sniffed at. It will destroy your nasal hairs. Glynis

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DIARY DATES

Date	Event	Location
October	Event	Location
1st 7:30 pm	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
5th 10:00 am	Coffee Morning	Tredegar Arms
11th 7:15pm	Women's Institute	Recreation Hall
13 & 14th	Shirenewton Shamble	
14th 12:30	Shirenewton Village Harvest Lunch	Earlswood Hall
14th 7:30pm	Harvest Festival	Gaerllwyd Baptist Chapel
15th 7:30pm	Harvest Supper	Gaerllwyd Baptist Cha
20th 10:00	Village Market	Recreation Hall
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 10:00am	Flowers for the fallen	Shirenewton Church
11th 12:00	Remembrance Day Service	Shirenewton War Memorial
14th 12:00	Soup Lunch	Devauden Village Hall
17th 10:30	Village Market	Recreation Hall

Readers and Sides Persons St Thomas a Beckett Church, Shirenewton		October - December	
Date	Sunday Service	Readers	Sides Persons
7th October	19th Sunday after Trinity	James Loney Ruth Savagar	Claire Lewis Graham Lambert
14th October	20th Sunday after Trinity	Chris Sturke Margaret Sturke	Chris Sturke Margaret Sturke
21st October	21st Sunday after Trinity	Bill Clark Janet Horton	Bill Clark Janet Horton
28th October	Bible Sunday	Jane Smith- Haddon Mark Broughton	Jane Smith- Haddon Mark Broughton
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 Loney	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)
- Yr Hen Stordy (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
Church Wardens	Sally Saysell Andrew Baker	01291 641 369 01291 641 925
PCC Secretary	Bill Clark	01291 641 783
PCC Treasurer	Graham Lambert	01291 641 175
PCC Members	Mark Broughton Charles Eickhoff Janet Horton James Leney Jane Smith-Haddon Frances Gray Paul Morcombe Andrew Baker Kevin Bounds	01291 641 797 01291 641 716 01291 641 783 01291 641 271 01291 641 525 01291 622 465 01291 641 671 01291 641 925 01291 641 648
People's Warden	Ruth Savagar Karen Millar Ruth Savagar James Leney	01291 641 411 01291 650 521 01291 641 411 01291 641 271
Gift Aid Secretary	Lynn Morcombe	01291 641 671
Organists	Mike Penney	01291 650 653
Sunday Club	Glynis MacDonald	01291 641 818
Tower Captain	Lynn Morcombe	01291 641 671
Saysell Centre Booking	Maureen Moody	01291 641 524
Safeguarding Officer	Terry Walters	01291 641 338
Church Flowers	Graham Lambert	01291 641 175
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