



Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

May 2020

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## **CORONAVIRUS-COVID19**

Coronavirus-covid19 is bringing social life to a halt in the UK and we all know we must take sensible precautions. While communal events are banned and the Church in Wales has stopped Church services and meetings, people may feel isolated and alone. To overcome this, the Christians among us may be interested in the link to the Redemptorists website where you can download the weekly reading sheets that are normally distributed in Church.

[https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/regular-downloads-anglican?utm\\_source=Anglican+Regulars&utm\\_campaign=e7c800616b-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_03\\_18\\_02\\_35\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_d53d96a6d5-e7c800616b-218198459&mc\\_cid=e7c800616b&mc\\_eid=75e61babco](https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/regular-downloads-anglican?utm_source=Anglican+Regulars&utm_campaign=e7c800616b-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_03_18_02_35_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d53d96a6d5-e7c800616b-218198459&mc_cid=e7c800616b&mc_eid=75e61babco)

Holy mass can be accessed on Sundays on line at <https://mail.yahoo.com/d/folders/1/messages/46158>.

The BBC's coronavirus-covid19 update website is at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000gnx3/bbc-news-special-coronavirus-your-essential-update> where the latest reliable news is available.

Dave Cornwell has set up a link on the Church website to advice on how to communicate whilst isolated. This is at [http://www.shirenewtonchurch.com/one\\_off\\_events/2020-Communicating-whilst-isolated.pdf](http://www.shirenewtonchurch.com/one_off_events/2020-Communicating-whilst-isolated.pdf)

## **MESH VOLUNTEER NETWORK**

Do you know of anyone who sews and would like to be involved with sewing scrubs for the NHS? We have a small group going in the village but need to increase our numbers if possible to fulfil a large order for Monmouthshire care workers. Please contact Jeni Harper at [jeh45\\_wales@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jeh45_wales@yahoo.co.uk).

## **DONATION BOX FOUND**

Anne Jenner has reported that she found a donation box dumped in the roadside not far from Gaer Llwyd crossroads. The lock had obviously been forced and there was no money inside. It looks like it has come from a church or chapel and had been in the hedge a long time. If anyone knows where it may have come from, please contact Anne at [2annejenner@gmail.com](mailto:2annejenner@gmail.com). See photo on page 44.

FROM THE VICARAGE  
Julian E LI White

Dear People of the Parish,

Easter Day is behind us and what an unusual celebration it was. What with 'lock-down' and social-isolation it continues to be a strange, and demanding, time in our lives.

All of the Parish Church communities continued to observe the season of Lent and Easter albeit in unaccustomed ways. Weekly 'Pause for Thought' communications were duly presented and I am grateful to Jen Marendaz and Bill Clark who, among other parish officials, attended to the distribution of such material. Also delivered in like manner were the Good Friday meditations – via video-link - and the Easter message.

I understand that a few hiccups occurred during this process and apologies are extended to any who missed out on it. Should you harbour an overwhelming desire to follow my words (hard to imagine!) please contact Jen ([pccclerk.mathern@outlook.com](mailto:pccclerk.mathern@outlook.com)) or Bill ([williamjhclark@btinternet.com](mailto:williamjhclark@btinternet.com)) who might be able to assist in this respect.

In accordance with the Bench of Bishops directive, all parishes are asked to maintain existing officers in post until such a time as the Corona Virus restrictions are lifted and church life resumes something approaching normality. This means that all Churchwardens and PCC members are requested to remain in office until the Vestry has taken place and re-elections duly completed. I sincerely thank them for their understanding and agreement in advance.

As to when we are free from the implications of lock-down, I am, of course, not in a position at the time of writing to enlighten you.

Much of my time has been spent in arranging funeral services (with the added problems of restricted numbers of mourners involved) at the end of a telephone and by internet.

I am also contending with something in the region of eleven scheduled marriages for the next few months which have to be postponed due to the situation. In this respect I am indebted to my wife Sandra who has been of immense assistance.

The Church in Wales has cancelled all weddings until July 31<sup>st</sup>. This is something of a 'suck-it-and-see' prediction and we are obliged to wait and see how the situation develops.

There has been an uplifting custom established recently – the public applause in appreciation of the dedication of the NHS. On the suggestion of Chris Hughes (a resident of Mathern) I attempted to ring the bell of Saint Tewdric's to add our support to this public initiative on a Thursday evening, only to find that the bell-rope was secured and inoperable for security reasons. So, we didn't forget and shall join in with applauding as usual and the beating of a metal bucket from the Vicarage garden in the future!

In conclusion, I join in with those who have expressed the wish of "Stay well" and express gratitude for the many who have shown selfless care in the prevailing conditions. What a contrast they are to those who bemoan their lot and give voice to the sentiment "I can't put up with this any longer!" What then, pray, are they intending to do?

This – to use the words of Charles Dickens – is 'The best of times and the worst of times'. It certainly brings out the compassionate side of the majority of people. They, and probably they would not describe it in such terms, 'are not far from the Kingdom of God'.

With every good wish and blessing;

Julian E LI White  
(Rector & Vicar)

### **FUTURE EVENTS**

All planned events are, unfortunately, very much subject to the progress of the coronavirus-covid19. As far as we are aware, all future events have been postponed and will take place at a later date, and some may be cancelled. Please contact the organiser of the event to establish its current status, if it is not shown in the table below.

**Village Fete**—13<sup>th</sup> June—POSTPONED—contact Andrew Baker

**Visit of the new Bishop**—14<sup>th</sup> June—POSTPONED—contact Bill Clark

**Shirefest**—20<sup>th</sup> June—contact Phil Moles

**Trip to Canterbury Cathedral**—5<sup>th</sup> July—Julian White

**Call My Bluff Winetasting**—10<sup>th</sup> July—Kevin Bounds

## **MESh and Coronavirus (Covid-19)**

Volunteers from Shirenewton, Mynyddbach and Earlswood have set up a community self-help group to look after people's shopping and other needs if they are required to self-isolate or restrict their movements. They are reaching out to let everyone know they are there and can provide help if needed.

They have arranged leaflet drops to every part of the Mynyddbach-Earlswood-Shirenewton Community (MESh) and a copy is included on page 6. They have used the template from the BBC at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-51880695>.

So if anyone needs help, just call the number or text a message to the number on the postcard you have received and help will be at hand. If you have not received a post card/leaflet drop please contact Jeni Harper at [jeh45\\_wales@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jeh45_wales@yahoo.co.uk).

## **MESSAGE FROM GAVO**

(Gwent Association of Voluntary Organizations)

We have been given **£25,000** by Welsh Government to distribute in small grants to support voluntary groups who are actively providing vital COVID-19 support to their communities in Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire and Newport.

**To find out more and to apply please visit our website <https://www.gavo.org.uk/covid-19funding>**

On this page you will find some other Coronavirus-related funding opportunities; you can also use the Funding Finder to find even more.

If you're after **non-Coronavirus specific opportunities**, we note some of them on [our Funding page](#), including funding for those affected by Storm Dennis, as well as local grassroots grants in Newport & Caerphilly and Food Poverty small grant in Caerphilly. Don't forget you have access to the free Funding Finder from this page too.

The claimants group needs to have a constitution, but SCC may be able to host the claim on the group's behalf. Please contact the clerk to SCC for more details.

**HELLO!** If you are self-isolating, I can help.

**My name is** .....

**I live locally at** .....

**My phone number is** .....

**If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:**

- Picking up shopping       Posting mail  
 A friendly phone call       Urgent supplies

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

**Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep.**

**#ViralKindness**

## **FOR THE REGISTERS**

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Wenche O'Keefe after a brave fight with cancer; and also the death of Betty Bryant.

### **A MESSAGE FROM BOB O'KEEFE**

The O'Keefe family, Bob, Helen, Paul and their families would like to thank the very many friends in the immediate community for their kind words and support following Wenche's sudden death and their loss of a lovely wife and wonderful mum and devoted grandmother. From the many kind messages we have received Wenche was much loved and admired by many more than I her husband ever appreciated. Wenche has lived with us for some fifty seven years but has always maintained close contact with family and friends in Norway, where her family there and ours in England and Wales have become a large extended family, as such the kind messages Helen Paul and I have received have been shared with them, in this difficult time when they are unable to join us to share in our joint grieving.

Thank you all that have been in touch, we are well blessed living in this wonderful supportive community.

Bob O'Keefe

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE POST OFFICE**

The twenty two local authorities in Wales have been reminded by the Post Office chief executive that the Post Office Payout service could help them ensure that any payment is made to individuals, businesses or groups quickly and securely without them requiring a bank account, or for the Council to have any BACs details for the recipients.

## THE BELLS

The bells remain silent during lockdown, so I am taking the opportunity to carry out some basic maintenance on the bells – more specifically the clappers of the bells. This is partially brought about through the recent purchase of new muffles. With the muffles came comprehensive instructions as to how to prepare the clappers. The instruction indicate that the lower part of the dappers (the correct jargon is the ball and flight) must be painted with a specific non-slip paint to prevent movement of the muffles occurring during half-muffled or fully muffled ringing.

The paint, which had to be obtained from a specialist supplier, is xylene based and is fairly toxic and the recommendation is to use of a protective industrial face mask during application. I decided that rather attempt to apply this paint *in situ* sitting under each bell in the belfry it would be a better plan to take the clappers out of the bells to apply the paint outside in the glorious sunshine. At the same time it would allow the replacement of each of the pads that exists between the stirrup (from which the clapper swings; see the pictures) and the bell. The pads are in ringing jargon known as “baldricks” and we obtained these in cowhide from a saddler, who happens also to be a ringer, and in this material will be much more durable than the original fibre ones.



Painted clappers with the circular baldricks on the shaft.

## **Shirenewton Community Council**

**Extracts Monthly Council meetings for both April and May were cancelled due to the corona virus outbreak and we are unable to hold any meetings until the current restrictions are lifted. However we would like to pass on some information.**

### **Vacancies on the Community Council**

**There are two co-opted vacancies for members to represent the Shirenewton ward and one vacancy for the Earlswood ward.**

If you are interested in supporting the community and would like to join the Council, then please contact the Clerk (details below)

**Resignation of Councillor** – Council has reluctantly accepted the resignation of Councillor Bryn Price who has represented the Earlswood ward for four years. She will be missed on the Council and has the good wishes of all members. Mon CC, Democratic Services are not able to advertise the vacancy until restrictions are lifted.

We will then have three vacancies on the Council and would encourage local people who are interested in the community to contact the Clerk to apply. There are people living in Shirenewton and the wider community that have local interests at heart – protecting the rural nature of the community, the countryside and the environment while supporting local organisations and residents. If this is you - **please step forward.**

Fortunately there have been no planning applications to consider since the lockdown.

Unfortunately the VE Day 75 celebrations we had planned for Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May have had to be cancelled, also the Keep Wales Tidy Litter pick.

Council was sorry to have to close the play area and car park at the end of March but hope that residents understand that it was because of government restrictions.

The good news is that the addition to the handrail at the top of the Funeral Path is in place and an extra dog waste bin has been installed at Blethyn Close.

### **Other items of interest**

**Firstly** - The Community Council wishes to sincerely thank the members of MESH, the church and all the local volunteers giving their time to support, shop for and chat to people in the community that are isolated and need a helping hand. A crisis like this often brings out the best in people and that can certainly be seen in our villages.

**Wildflower verges** - Bee Friendly Mon posts have been set up to mark our wildflower verges, on the left hand side going down the Crick Road above Runston Farm, and both sides down Red House Lane below Home Farm to the sharp right hand bend.

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

Application forms are now available from the Clerk for local organisations to apply for grants from the Community Council's 2020/21 budget. Please apply before the closing date of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

**Police Report** – there was no police report in April but several 'Keep Safe' reports which have been posted on the Council website. This is the latest message -

### **Support available for victims of crime in Gwent**

Victims of crime in Gwent can continue to access help and support from the Connect Gwent victims' hub while following the government's instructions to remain at home.

Connect Gwent, which is funded through the Gwent Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, is the only hub for victims and witnesses of crime of its kind in Wales.

It brings together a range of specialist organisations under one roof to provide advice, advocacy, support and guidance to victims, whether they choose to report incidents to the police or not.

The hub has staff and volunteers working across the five local authority areas of Gwent from Age Cymru, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Umbrella Cymru, Victim Support, and New Pathways.

To speak with an advisor at Connect Gwent call 0300 123 21 33. You can find out more information at [connectgwent.org.uk](http://connectgwent.org.uk)

### **Wentwood Forest and Unlicensed Music Events (Illegal Raves)**

These gatherings should not be happening, but this is a timely reminder of the contact details.

Two raves were held last year and each time access was gained to an area of Wentwood Forest through gates on the forest tracks. To try and make it difficult for the Rave organisers to use Wentwood Forest the local community can help.

If you notice a gate in Wentwood Forest is not secured:-

- 1) If the sign by the gate has a number, report the unsecured gate to Natural Resources Wales by phoning 0300 065 3000 and quote the gate number.
- 2) If there is no sign by the gate report the unsecured gate to Woodland Trust by phoning 02920 027732 and reporting the location of the gate.

If you notice either of the following, report it to the Police by phoning 101

- 1) An unusual amount of traffic heading towards Wentwood Forest particularly in the late evening,
- 2) If you hear loud music/sound checks where this would not be expected.

**Dates of future meetings are unknown at present due to the current lockdown, please check the website for updated information on the Covid-19 pandemic.**

**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](http://www.shirenewtoncc.org.uk)

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

**Please stay home, stay safe and support the NHS**

## Staying Safe and Staying Learning



Although school is closed to most children at the moment, pupils are still learning but in a vastly different way to normal! Teachers have planned a series of mini topics that pupils can complete at home with the support of their parents via several digital platforms. Before lockdown, the children were asked which themes they would like to study and the most popular ones were: Countries & Continents; Myths & Legends; Delving into Dinosaurs; The Great Outdoors; Awesome Animals and Sporting Stars and these are forming the basis of their studies over the next few weeks.

We are very fortunate that the Welsh Government has provided all students of all ages in Wales with a digital platform called "Hwb"; this supports the delivery of the curriculum and enables teaching and learning to continue in an online "Google Classroom". The children work online and submit their work for feedback from their teachers and can communicate with their peers too.

The children of "key workers" are attending our "hub school" for the Chepstow Cluster of schools at Thornwell and staff take it in turns to supervise them during week days, weekends and during the school holidays.

### Stolen Roof Lead

If you are passing our school site and see or hear suspicious activity on the weekends, during holidays or after 9pm at night – please phone the police! During the Spring term we had lead stolen off our roof which resulted in extensive water damage to ceilings, flooring and walls during the heavy rains. Please help us ensure the thieves don't strike in the same place twice! Thank you

## FAIRTRADE NEWS MAY 2020

So, this lockdown. For a 'lucky' few an unfortunate inconvenience (me for example), for many a real trial and a dreadful worry, for some an absolute horror story and a ghastly tragedy. And this in the rich west. In developing countries the virus will bring a decades-long catastrophe on an unimaginable epic scale. Millions of people scarcely managing to make a living suddenly without work with little access to medical help or even food enough to survive.



So, to Fairtrade. Traidcraft are still delivering many, but not quite all of their products. I have had 2 deliveries recently. Delivery time was a little longer (10 days or so) and there is toilet paper! (produced in the UK and sold to raise funds for farmers working towards FT accreditation). More than ever it is, I believe, incumbent upon us to support poor workers in these unprecedented times.

Ethical Superstore and Traidcraft offer a huge and varied range of FT products. I urge you all to consider extending (or initiating!) your support for Fairtrade.

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

An advertisement for S & R Whistance Ltd. The top half features the company name "S & R WHISTANCE LTD" in large, bold, blue, serif font, with "Haulage & Aggregates" in a similar but slightly smaller font below it. Underneath, there are four items listed in a 2x2 grid, each preceded by a blue circle: "Decorative Stone", "Sand", "Aggregates", and "Cement". The bottom half of the image shows a photograph of a gravel yard with several large piles of different colored aggregates (tan, yellow, grey) and some white bags of cement. At the bottom of the image, the contact information "07887 995906 / e: michael.whistance@btinternet.com" is written in white text on a dark background.

**S & R WHISTANCE LTD**  
**Haulage & Aggregates**

- Decorative Stone
- Sand
- Aggregates
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## *Food For Thought By Nerys*

Many people are expressing concerns about how they can maintain a balanced diet with a lack of perishable or staple ingredients when they are self-isolated. As a retired Home Economics teacher I can offer a few tips. The first step is to gain a good understanding of all the ingredients you have in your freezer and store cupboards.

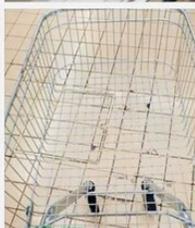
Frozen fruit and vegetables have the same if not more nutritional value than fresh products, as they are frozen at their peak.

Pulses :- beans, lentils, peas are all a good source of protein, minerals, vitamins and roughage. Supplement them for meat or use half meat and half pulses to make the meal go further.

Ingredients like rice and pasta are good staple ingredients and very useful as store cupboard essentials. Cereals which can be crushed to resemble breadcrumbs can be utilised. A good example is to use cornflakes as a coating for fish and chicken. Oats not only make delicious porridge but can also be used as toppings for sweet or savoury crumble dishes.

Nuts can also be versatile and nutritional ingredients. They again can be crushed and added into smoothies, stir fries, made into biscuits and a

classic nut roast. If eggs are hard to get hold of, look for an alternative substitute for baking purposes. For example in place of eggs vegan recipes sometimes use baking powder, bicarbonate of soda (accurate measurement is essential to achieve a pleasant taste) or vinegar as a raising agent. Now is the time to dust down those classic cookery books you have at home. Make use of



preserves in flavouring sweet and savoury dishes. Use chutneys in casseroles and savoury dishes to enhance the flavour. Jams and bottled fruit can be used to make classic puddings.

When vegetables are scarce why not use tinned soups as an alternative sauce. Add the soup into pasta dishes, casseroles and meat dishes, for example: - chicken and mushroom casserole can be made using fresh chicken or thawed chicken and mushroom soup. Tinned vegetable soup can flavour mince to make a delicious comfort supper.

If you do manage to get perishable foods, you can make larger meals than you currently need and freeze the excess for other days. At least then nothing is wasted. Cheese freezes well and can be used when needed. Bear in mind frozen cheese tends to crumble more but the flavour and nutritional value is not impaired. The good thing is even when frozen, cheese can be grated and added to dishes.

Don't panic. You can make delicious homemade soups from most ingredients. Look in your store cupboards for spices, dried herbs, stock, soya sauce, tomato/ brown sauce. Anything that flavours your dishes. Make the old fashion classics, like corn beef hash, cheese and potato pie, sausage and bean casserole, curries, shepherd's pie, vegetable pie, risotto, chicken cobbler, mince with crumble topping, fish pie

### **Corned Beef Hash- serves 4**

#### **Ingredients**

2oz (50g) butter

1 large onion, chopped

1½ lb (750g) potatoes, cut into small chunks

½ pint (300ml) beef stock

Salt and pepper

11oz (1x 325g) can corned beef, cut into chunks

Grated cheese (optional)

Sliced Tomato(optional)

Chopped parsley or chives to garnish.



## Method

- 1 Melt the butter in a large frying pan, add the onion, and cook gently, until soft but not burnt.
- 2 Add the potatoes and stir to coat in the butter. Fry for a few minutes.
- 3 Pour in the stock, simmer for 10- 15 minutes until the potatoes are tender and the stock absorbed.
- 4 Stir in the corned beef and heat to warm through.
- 5 Put the pan under a hot grill and brown the top.
- 6 Garnish with parsley.

## Tips

Other ingredients can be added; for a sweeter hash add carrots, sweet potato or parsnips.

For a different flavour; add Worcestershire sauce, Mayonnaise, Tabasco, mango chutney, caramelised onion chutney or tomato ketchup; the choice is yours.

For a crispy topping, add grated cheese and grill.

For a luxurious topping add melted butter then grill.

Garnish with sliced tomato then grill

Traditionally poached or fried egg would be served with the hash. Enjoy!

## *Nerys's Natty Nosh*

The avocado is known as the Alligator Pear, due to its shape and the leather-like appearance of its skin.

Avocados are also considered as one of the healthiest foods on the planet as they contain in excess of 25 essential nutrients.

## *Ten Reasons for eating Avocados.*

- 1 Maintains a healthy heart
- 2 Lowers cholesterol levels
- 3 Controls blood pressure
- 4 Anti-inflammatory properties
- 5 Promotes healthy eyes
- 6 Regulates the blood sugar level
- 7 Prevents birth defects
- 8 Protects against cancer
- 9 Anti-ageing properties
- 10 Skin care



## Ingredients

4 ripe avocados  
Small round Goat's cheese  
Avocado oil or olive oil  
1 tablespoon toasted pine nuts  
Balsamic dressing  
Chopped coriander

## Method

- 1 Dry roast the pine nuts in a frying pan on a low heat until they have a slight brown colour.
- 2 Halve the avocados, remove skin and stone.
- 3 Divide the cheese between the eight avocado halves.
- 4 Place on a baking sheet. Sprinkle lightly with avocado oil.
- 5 Grill until the cheese browns.
- 5 Place the avocados on a serving plate.
- 6 Place the roasted pine nuts on top.
- 7 Add the chopped coriander.
- 8 Evenly pipe the balsamic dressing. **Enjoy!**



## Pine Nuts

**Crunchy yet butter textured, pleasantly sweet and delicious pine nuts are small edible seeds of female cones in pine trees. Pine nuts are full of protein and minerals, zinc, iron and magnesium. They contain high levels of polyunsaturated fats, which help to maintain low cholesterol.**

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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.**

**The FCA do not regulate Inheritance Tax Planning.**

**Please contact Dr Josh Lewis for a free initial consultation on:**

**Mobile: 07979 157259**

**Chepstow office: 01291 626373 | Abergavenny office: 01873 854488**

**E: [joshlewis@thinkpositive.co.uk](mailto:joshlewis@thinkpositive.co.uk) | [www.iamfinancial.net](http://www.iamfinancial.net)**

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**SHIRENEWTON  
VILLAGE  
MARKET  
CANCELLATION**

**IT'S WITH REGRET THAT WE  
ARE CANCELLING THE  
VILLAGE MARKETS DUE TO  
GOVERNMENT ADVICE  
REGARDING THE  
CORONAVIRUS.**

**WE HOPE TO RETURN  
LATER IN THE YEAR &  
THANK ALL STALLHOLDERS  
& CUSTOMERS FOR THEIR  
SUPPORT.**

# Spring Clean

EST. 1986

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## **Shirenewton Babies and Toddler Group**

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

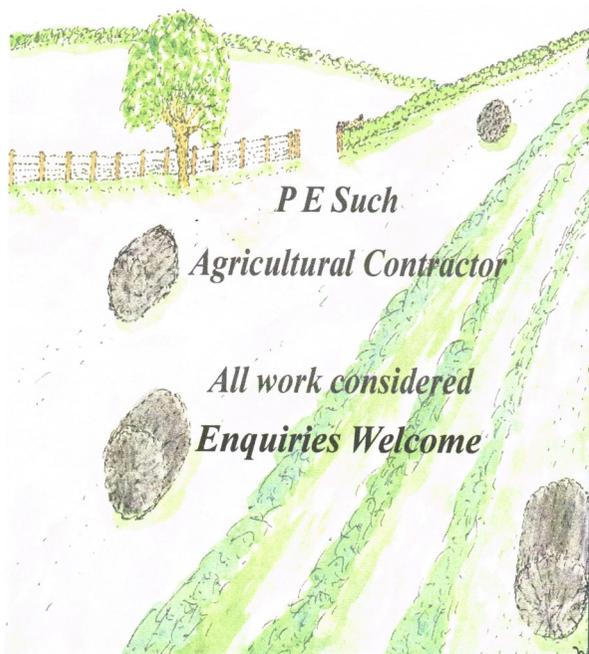
**Shirenewton Recreation Hall**



**Great toys, good company – everyone welcome**

**(please bring your Carers too!)**

**Contact Jackie Broughton (01291 641797)**



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## BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Shirenewton Bible Study Group is a friendly group who meet on one evening a month in the home of one of our very hospitable members to study the bible.

We focus to the readings from the lectionary for the Sunday preceding our meeting, so you can come along at any time, you won't have missed anything! Although many benefit from attending regularly, there is no obligation to do so and many members come when they can.

The Bible Study Group will not be meeting during the current coronavirus-covid19 outbreak, but will start again as soon as possible

If you would like to join the group or to be kept informed of the location of meetings, please ask to be added to our distribution group by contacting me via [lem.shirenewton@gmail.com](mailto:lem.shirenewton@gmail.com) or calling 01291 641175.

# SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

As our monthly meetings have been postponed until further notice due to the corona virus, I have been digging around our archive and found some articles that I thought you would be interested in. This one appeared in the Monmouthshire Merlin on 2nd August, 1962:

2.

## Shirenewton Annual Flower & Vegetable Show

C. Lewis, Mrs. Clarke, E. Cane, Esq., Mrs. Cane, and family; Rev. J. C. Prosser, T. and J. King, Esqrs., Miss King, J. T. Carruthers, Esq., Mrs. and Miss Carruthers, J. Evans, Esq., Rev. K. and the Misses Williams, H. Jenkins, Esq., H. Castle, Esq., T. Evans, Esq., Mrs. T. Evans, and son; Capt. Hawkins, Mrs. and Miss Hawkins; F. Levick, Esq., Mrs. and the Misses Levick, G. and T. Levick, Esqrs.; Rev. G. B. Hall, Mrs. and the Misses Hall, H. and A. Hall, Esqrs., S. E. Baker, Esq., Rev. F. and Mrs. Davis, Captain Triplett, Mrs. Thompson, the Misses Sandford, Rev. A. C. Saunders, Rev. John Hope, Rev. T. H. Hollin, W. Blackwell, Esq., R. Lawrence, Esq., Miss Lawrence, &c. The whole of the proceedings passed off harmoniously, and finished by the ascent of two fire balloons from the rectory garden, amidst the cheers of the assembled visitors.

2nd August 1862  
Monmouthshire  
Merlin

## SHIRENEWTON.

Last week the fourth annual Flower and Vegetable Exhibition of Shirenewton was held in the Park, by permission of Captain Hawkins. At eight o'clock in the morning a Union Jack was hoisted on the top of the church tower, and the bells rang out a merry peal, which they continued to do, with slight intermission, throughout the day. By nine o'clock four spacious tents were erected in the Park, and as soon as the tables were ready the cottagers began to arrive with flowers, fruit, and vegetables, which were well arranged by S. E. Baker, Esq, and the Rev. Frederick Davies, curate of Shirenewton; and as there were nearly eighty exhibitors, some of whom took five or six lots, an idea may be formed of the extent of the show and the labour of the judges, S. E. Baker, Esq., and Mr. John Pillinger, nurseryman, whose decisions gave universal satisfaction. The Chepstow Rifle Band, after having had luncheon in a tent in the rectory field, marched down to the Park at two o'clock, and at intervals discoursed a choice selection of music. The vegetables, fruit, and flowers, such as are grown in cottage gardens, were very fine, and it would only be invidious to make any selection; but we cannot refrain from noticing a basket of splendid fruit and vegetables sent by J. T. Carruthers, Esq., of the Grondra, two stands of fine roses by Mrs. Sandford, of Mouton, a floral cross by Captain Hawkins, a fruit basket of novel design by John Hitchman, gardener to F. Levick, Esq., of Blaina, and "a flower merchant," by E. Cliffords, servant to the Rev. C. R. Hall, of all which increased the beauty of the show. The park, at about five o'clock, presented a very lively appearance, owing to the splendid and numerous flags waving in the breeze, which had been kindly lent for the occasion by the Royal London Militia, J. H. S. Pigott, Esq., of Weston-super-Mare, and F. Levick Esq., and to the goodly assemblage of people, about 800, who seemed, if face were index of feeling, to be thoroughly enjoying themselves. During the afternoon there were various games, consisting of flat, hurdle, and wheelbarrow races, leaping the bar, and jumping in sacks; after which the 54 various useful prizes, including an extra one from S. E. Baker, Esq., two from Mrs. Cane, of Ilton Court, and one from Mr. Hawkesford, were distributed by the Rev. C. R. Hall, to the successful cottagers. Among the company present were Mrs. C. Lewis, Mrs. Clarke, E. Cane, Esq., Mrs. Cane, and family; Rev. J. C. Prosser, T. and J. King, Esqrs., Miss King, J. T. Carruthers, Esq., Mrs. and Miss Carruthers, J. Evans, Esq., Rev. R. and the Misses Wil-

## BIG PROPERTY SALE.

Messrs G. Nichols, Howes, Young, Alder, and Co., of Bristol, at the Beaufort Arms Hotel, Chepstow, on Tuesday afternoon, offered for public competition the estate of the late Mr E. J. Lowe, of Shirenewton Hall. Out of sixteen lots only four were withdrawn, and the sale realised £20,455, exclusive of timber. Details:—

Lot 1. Shirenewton Hall, with lawns, pleasure grounds, &c., and Shirenewton Farm, with out-building, pasture and arable land, the whole comprising 323 acres, 1r 29p, met with a bright competition. Starting at £4,000, the lot was eventually knocked down at £15,000 to Mr G. C. Francis, solicitor, for Mr C. O. Liddell, Chepstow, the timber being taken at a valuation of £853 10s.

Lot 2. A fully-licensed house at Shirenewton, known as Upper House, with stabling and buildings, went up to £850, when it was withdrawn.

Lot 3. 14a 3r 28p of accommodation land at Shirenewton, called Church Mead, bought by Mr C. O. Liddell for £180.

Lot 4. A close of 10a 2r 13p of accommodation land at Shirenewton, called Cattan Share, purchased by Mr J. W. Stanton, solicitor, at £400, for Mr E. C. Currie, Itton Court.

Lot 5. Cottage, with barn and buildings, at Shirenewton, Mr Currie, £235.

Lot 6. Two four-roomed cottages, with gardens, in the occupation of J. Pitman and C. Benjamin, at Shirenewton, Mr Liddell, £300.

Lot 7. Two pieces of accommodation pasture land, known as Rectory Mead, Shirenewton, containing 3a 2r 14p, Mr Liddell, £360.

Lot 8. A four-roomed cottage, with garden and pasture land, containing together 11a 0r 16p, situate on the road from Usk and Earlswood Common to Shirenewton, Mr Currie, £400.

Lot 9. Two closes of accommodation land, about .34a 2r 33p, on the road from Usk and Earlswood Common to Shirenewton, Mr Currie, £800.

Lot 10. Small farm, known as Coal Pits, with house, buildings, and lands, about 49a 3r 29p, adjoining roads from Crick and Ruastone to Shirenewton, Mr Currie, £1,000; timber, £54 7s 6d.

## MARRIAGE OF MISS CURRE, OF ITTON.

At Itton, near Chepstow, on Thursday, was celebrated the marriage of Miss Constance Rebecca Currie, only daughter of the late Mr. Edward Matthew Currie, of Itton Court, and Mr. Neptune Maghlin Blood, of Bryanston-place, London, and Brickhill, county Clare, Ireland. The day was delightfully fine throughout, and a large number of persons from the district round were present at the ceremony. Flags floated from several buildings, bunting and festoons of flowers and bannerets crossed the streets leading in the direction of Itton. At Itton a triumphal arch, bearing an inscription wishing happiness to the bride and bridegroom, was erected. The interior of the village church was very tastefully dressed. Shortly after 11 o'clock the bridegroom arrived from St. Pierre House, and proceeded to the church with his best man, Mr. F. Lort Phillips, whither he was shortly followed by the bride, leaning on the arm of her brother, M. W. E. C. Currie, and her ten bridesmaids and their attendant groomsmen. The bride was attired in white silk, with white lace and tulle veil. The bridesmaids were Miss Blood, Miss Winifred Peake, Spring-grove, London; Miss Peake, Oak Grove, Chepstow; Miss Maude Bovie; Miss Millman, Tesby; Miss Carne, St. Donatt's Castle, Cowbridge; Miss Eaton, Claverton-park, Bath; Misses Frances and Lucy Lord, Queen's-gate, Hyde-park, London; Miss Agnes Peel, Aylesmore; and they were tastefully dressed in white muslin with pick and mob caps. The groomsmen were Mr. W. E. C. Currie and Mr. J. Currie, brothers to the bride; Mr. Peake and Mr. Hugh Peake, cousins to the bride; Mr. Lord, Mr. Herbert Lord, Mr. F. Lort Phillips, Mr. E. Lort Phillips, Mr. Hegan, and Mr. Wyndham Quain. The wedding party were a numerous company, and several of the ladies were very richly dressed. The bride was given away by her brother, and the ceremony was performed by the Rev. N. Shafto Barthropp, rector of Itton, assisted by the Rev. W. Somerset, rector of Wotton, Gloucestershire. After the ceremony a large party, numbering upwards of 70, partook of a *recherche déjeuner à la fourchette* in a large marquee on the lawn. At about five o'clock the happy pair, amidst the congratulations of their friends and showers of rice, left the mansion in a carriage and tour for Chepstow, where they took train to London, en route for the Continent. A large dinner party was given in the evening.

## Congratulations to our 200 Club winners in April:

1. Joy Moore
2. Chris Sturcke
3. Roy Raikes-May
4. Ruth Savagar

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number of Lots.

Further Particulars may be obtained from  
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also at Usk and Chepstow on Market Days.  
8752

## Monmouthshire Observer

Lot 10. Small farm, known as Coal Pits, with  
house, buildings, and lands, about 49: 3r 29p,  
adjoining roads from Crick and Runstone to Shire-  
newton, Mr Curro, £1,000; timber, £54 7s 6d.

Lot 11. Red House Farm, with cottage and  
buildings, and land, about 17a 2r 24p, adjoining  
road from Crossway Green to Shirenewton, Mr  
Liddell, £730; timber, £45.

Lot 12. 6: 2r 14p of pasture land opposite L. a  
Plot, Mr Liddell, £210.

Lot 13. Small farm, known as Crossways, with  
house, buildings and land, 31a 0r 25p, Mr Liddell,  
£2540.

Lot 14. 14a 0r 32p of grazing land at Caldicot  
Moor was withdrawn at £100, and lots 15 and 16,  
two pieces of land at Earlswood Common, were not  
offered.

### GWENT ARCHIVES NEEDS YOU

Gwent Archives is not just concerned with preserving the past but also with documenting the present. It is our duty as a service to ensure that our collections reflect the history of Gwent and the experiences of our communities. But to do this, we need your help.

We are asking you, the people of Gwent, to consider keeping a diary or journal in the coming weeks and months and to deposit it with the archives in the future. They can be recorded as pen-and-paper or digitally. They can include photographs, sketches, or poetry. You may want to record your experiences as audio, rather than handwritten. We want to hear about how current events are impacting on you and your local area, what things are you hearing in the news, how it is affecting people you know?

We have already asked our staff and our volunteers to participate but to truly reflect our history, your history, we need you.

Any questions or queries, please contact [enquiries@gwentarchives.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@gwentarchives.gov.uk). More information on submitting the diaries will follow.



## ***Gardening Corner***

Four weeks in to our 'shielding' exercise. We are surviving so far but as with many a supply of perishable foods is proving a challenge. Fortunately, we still have some vegetables left over from last years labours, such as potatoes, and shallots with a few leeks, parsnips and the odd green leaf from kale, and cabbages to help out. Most of these are coming to an end, but the first of this year's crops have made a valiant effort to help plug the gap until the garden is in full production again. There will inevitably be a gap now for a few weeks, but as I said last month there are some very fast-growing varieties that can help plug this hole. We have already started eating our own baby salad leaves and have been since the beginning of April, thanks to the protection of the greenhouse. Also in full production some two weeks earlier than usual, is the asparagus bed. Fortunately, I buy most of our seeds earlier on in the gardening year, so all of our main seed orders were in before Christmas and most were delivered before the festivities started. At the time, fast cropping species (other than salad leaves) hadn't registered on our radar, but with lockdown in full swing, we changed plans slightly and dragged the seed catalogues off the shelf again. Needless to say, the sale of seeds has gone through the roof, and many varieties were either sold out or there was a long waiting list for delivery. We did manage to secure most of what we wanted, as fast-growing spinach, broccoli, pak choi and sprouting alfalfa seeds were added to our growing list for the coming season. Reading an article in 'Gardening News', many popular varieties had seen sales up by 700%, with some increasing as much as 2000%! Obviously, there are an awful lot of budding gardeners out there and we just hope they know what to do with all those seeds! If all goes well. Perhaps all these extra gardeners realise the benefits of growing your own – not just amazingly fresh vegetables with food distances measured in yards rather than miles – but good healthy exercise and mental well-being.



With shut down in full swing, the weather has been amazingly good. As I write this article, we have just had the first rain for at least a month and hopefully we have had enough to do some good. The dry weather has meant that I have been able to get on with loads of work in the garden – especially weeding and preparing the beds for this year’s crops. The greenhouses have been in full swing for the last few weeks with seeds germinating right, left and centre in the propagating house. For the first time for several years, I have had the assistant head gardener back in the swing of pricking seedlings out and potting small plants into the next size pots. A series of operations – knees and a hip – have meant that for a number of years it has been too painful for her to sit / stand at the potting bench, but having Felicity back at ‘The Bench’ has been a bit boon, as it leaves me more time to get on with the weeding and digging. So virtually all of the first crops are now ‘in progress’ to varying degrees, even most of the annual flowers are up and growing and will be ready for planting out in the next few weeks. The salad crops especially are growing well and as I said earlier that we are already harvesting baby leaves. If you haven’t grown these before, then you must give them a try. It takes around six weeks for seeds to germinate and grow enough to start harvesting. I always grow these the same way, which is to use small cell trays, fill with compost and water, then sprinkle the seeds liberally over each cell – usually about ten or so per cell, then cover very lightly with compost or I use vermiculite. Stand in the warm, in full light – a warm kitchen windowsill is just as effective as a heated propagator. Within a few days they will be showing signs of germinating. Keep most and in about two weeks they will have grown enough to plant outside. If you have limited space in the garden, or in fact no garden at all, they do particularly well in ‘grow-bags’, especially in a warm sunny spot. Other crops that can be grown in the same way are radish, spring onions and baby beetroot. You can also add spinach, pak choi and many other varieties to this list as well. Other salad crops such as tomatoes, cucumber and peppers all need more warmth, for longer and so these really do need protection for some time to come. Just the hint of a cold night will turn plants blue, or kill them off stone dead. This is why we prick the young seedlings out into 0.5 litre pots to begin with, and then gradually pot them on into ever larger pots. Eventually they may make it into 5 litre pots, which will be their penultimate resting place until they are planted into their allotted spaces in either a greenhouse or tunnel. If you don’t have such luxuries, then make sure you look for the varieties that can grow outside with no protection. Modern plant breeding

has ensured there are varieties that can survive all but the most difficult British summer. Developments in crop protection has also meant that we can grow varieties earlier than in the past. If you are a regular reader of this article you will have seen me mention horticultural fleece on numerous occasions. This really is a godsend when it comes to protecting crops from cold nights that would normally kill off, or at least badly damage, any early sown crops. As you will see from the photos below, I start many crops off early in the greenhouses - but also read window sills if this is all you have. If the latter your rooms may look like the Triffids are taking over before you get them planted outside, but crops at least two or three weeks earlier will be your reward. So the effort is well worth it in the end. As you can see, potatoes respond well to this treatment, and even one or two pots, which will provide beautifully tasty new potatoes earlier than Pembrokeshire grown ones, are worth the effort. Again, for those with no garden then don't despair as one or two large pots, or special potato grow bags are all you will need. If you currently make do with early grown potatoes from Egypt, that have relied on gallons of underground water that will never be replaced, then try growing some of your own. You will never buy an Egyptian grown potato ever again! You can see below how well the potatoes look in pots. To plant, simply dig a hole, pop the plant in and earth the soil up as much as you can to form. I plant three in a row in a raised bed. Any hint of a cold night, the bed is simply covered over with one or two layers of fleece and the potatoes remain snug and warm.



Similarly, all of the first 'greens' are also at a size that they can now be planted out. For a really early crop, I grow some of these in one of the tunnels, and then the rest are planted outside under a large, fine mesh covered cloche. The tunnel ensures an earlier crop (by up to three weeks) and usually an insect free one as well. The fine mesh cover on the cloche, does give some shelter and so the crop may be ready say a week earlier than outside, but it is mainly to keep cabbage white butterflies and other pests (rabbits included) away. We have a slightly acid soil which is prone to infection with club root. This is a nasty disease that literally prevent the roots from growing properly, resulting in a very poor crop, or no crop at all. The disease stays in the ground for as long as 20 years, so once you have it, there isn't much you can do. It affects all crops in the brassica family, from cabbages through to swedes. There are varieties that have been raised that are resistant which help, but another trick is to use garden lime at the time of planting. This 'sweetens' the soil, by increasing the Ph level, and the disease does not take hold so readily. Hence the white powder you can see sprinkled in each planting hole below!

The fine weather has meant that I have been able to open the bees up and go through each hive. This was done over a couple of days as fifteen hives takes some time. As usual it was a very mixed bag. Some of the hives had behaved impeccably, with everything neat and tidy and the queen laying well, but mor importantly, in the right place as well. For these it was simply a case of putting the queen excluder on over the top of the brood chamber, checking all was ok, and shutting down. For others, mainly the larger colonies, it was a right old muddle and a bit of a challenge – especially the ones where the actual brood frames were not being used, and instead the queen was laying well, but over three separate layers of 'super' frames. This posed a particular challenge to sort out! Even more of a challenge when you can't find the queen, so you don't know if she is above or below the queen excluder! It was a very bright day, so I can only hope that her reluctance to see the sun meant that she went down in the hive rather than came up to see what was going on! The next time I check will be the telling point as I will find new brood in completely the wrong place if I have got it wrong. One hive had died out completely, even though they had a supply of food, which is always a mystery to me. One other I found to be queen-less. This hive may not survive, but I did a

trick that has proved successful before, which was to place a frame of very young eggs from another hive into the one that has lost its queen. The bees hopefully then make at least one queen cell, using the eggs, feeding the chosen one (or two) royal jelly, which turns the ordinary bee egg into a queen. If this doesn't work first time around, I may try again, but this depends on the numbers of bees remaining. Sometimes it's best to either accept defeat and lose the hive, or combine the remaining bees with another, weak hive, to bolster numbers up. I'll let you know what happens. So best of luck with your gardening efforts. Please keep yourselves and your families safe during this difficult time and happy gardening until next month. *Steve and Felicity Hunt.*

### **The Huntsman Hotel Chepstow Ltd.**

Due to the Covid-19 crisis normal operations have been suspended until further notice. However, we do thank the enormous support and good wishes we have received from so many of you in and around Shirenewton, Mynyddbach, Earlswood, Itton, Caldicot, Chepstow and surrounding areas in using our Takeaway service supplied by Huntsman Catering LLP.

Huntsman Catering LLP is providing "Take Away Meals" as follows  
Every:-

Wednesday is Curry Night £10, collect from behind the Huntsman Hotel between 6pm & 7:30pm

Friday is Fish & Chips £10, collect from behind the Huntsman Hotel between 6pm & 7:30pm

Sunday Lunch "Ready Meals" ready time reheat available Saturday 1pm until 2pm & Sunday 12 noon until 2 pm.

All meals must be pre-ordered as we are limited on purchasing products.

Full details and menu choices - changes and other details are on the Huntsman Hotel Shirenewton Facebook page.

Payment by Cash, Direct Payment (details will be text to you & use the first 3 letters of the collection day with your name you have booked your order under for the reference) or debit card.

Collect from behind the Huntsman Hotel

We are also selling draught real ale, please bring your own container and 500 ml bottles of Rhymney Brewery, Export, Gold, Hobby Horse, Porter, etc & bottles of Bulmers cider.



Please keep your distance, stay safe & save yourselves and the NHS

## **NERYS' PRACTICAL COOKERY TIPS**

Many people are expressing concerns about how they can maintain a balanced diet with a lack of perishable or staple ingredients when they are self-isolated. As a retired Home Economics teacher I can offer a few tips. The first step is to gain a good understanding of all the ingredients you have in your freezer and store cupboards.

Frozen fruit and vegetables have the same if not more nutritional value than fresh products, as they are frozen at their peak. Pulses :- beans, lentils, peas are all a good source of protein, minerals, vitamins and roughage. Supplement them for meat or use half meat and half pulses to make the meal go further. Ingredients like rice and pasta are good staple ingredients and very useful as store cupboard essentials. Cereals which can be crushed to resemble breadcrumbs can be utilised. A good example is to use cornflakes as a coating for fish and chicken. Oats not only make delicious porridge but can also be used as toppings for sweet or savoury crumble dishes. Nuts can also be versatile and nutritional ingredients. They again can be crushed and added into smoothies, stir fries, made into biscuits and a classic nut roast. If eggs are hard to get hold of, look for an alternative substitute for baking purposes. For example in place of eggs vegan recipes sometimes use baking powder, bicarbonate of soda (accurate measurement is essential to achieve a pleasant taste) or vinegar as a raising agent.

Now is the time to dust down those classic cookery books you have at home. Make use of preserves in flavouring sweet and savoury dishes. Use chutneys in casseroles and savoury dishes to enhance the flavour. Jams and bottled fruit can be used to make classic puddings.

When vegetables are scarce why not use tinned soups as an alternative sauce. Add the soup into pasta dishes, casseroles and meat dishes, for example :- chicken and mushroom casserole can be made using fresh chicken or thawed chicken and mushroom soup. Tinned vegetable soup can flavour mince to make a delicious comfort supper.

If you do manage to get perishable foods, you can make larger meals than you currently need and freeze the excess for other days. At least then nothing is wasted. Cheese freezes really well and can be used when needed. Bear in mind frozen cheese has a tendency to crumble more but the flavour and nutritional value is not impaired. The good thing is even when frozen, cheese can be grated and added to dishes.

## OXFORD UNIVERSITY VISIT

We were one of only three schools in Wales to be invited to Jesus College, Oxford to celebrate the reinstatement of the professorship of Celtic Studies. The children had an exciting and memorable day which hopefully inspired them to aim high and further their studies at university in eight years time! Here they are chatting to Prince Charles ...



## EISTEDDFOD



We had a fantastic Eisteddfod celebrating the Expressive Arts where we were entertained by our extremely talented musicians, singers and artists. Congratulations to Mia who was crowned the Bard of the Eisteddfod for her beautiful poem about Wales; Evan, Juniper and Megan were the runners-up and helped crown her during the ceremony!

## GYM STARS



Congratulations to our Gym Stars who represented East Wales in the Welsh Tumble & Vault Final at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff - both the U11 Girls and U11 Boys team came second and B.C.S. won the individual silver medal too! Ardderchog!

## COFFEE MORNING



The children performed their Eisteddfod entries in a PTA Coffee Morning later in the week, attended by parents, Grandparents, our "Young at Heart" Club and some residents of Crick Nursing Home ...



... a good time was had by all!

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## STARGAZING



The seven stars of the Plough lie overhead in mid-evening. Its classical name is Ursa Major, the Great Bear. In mythology, Callisto, attendant to the goddess Juno was considered more beautiful than her mistress. To protect her from her jealous mistress, Jupiter turned Callisto into a bear. Unfortunately Callisto's son tried to kill the bear whilst he was out hunting, so Jupiter placed the bear in the sky.

The two stars furthest from the handle of the Plough are called the Pointers. Tracing a connecting line from the Pointers leads to Polaris, the North Star. Polaris is called the North Star because it is the closest easily visible star to the point in the sky about which the star patterns rotate. This point changes very gradually with time. In fact, over thousands of years, other stars have been the North Star.

The stars appear fixed with respect to each other, but over long periods of time the star patterns change. The pattern of stars we call the Plough looked very different many years ago, and will look very different in the distant future.

In the evening the brilliant planet Venus can be seen in the west at the beginning of May, but is too close to the Sun to be seen later in the month. Very early in the morning Jupiter lies to the south with Saturn and Mars close-by. Jupiter is joined by the moon on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

Joke: How does the man in the moon cut his hair? Eclipse it!

To get a detailed view of the stars and planets "Stellarium" can be down-loaded from the web. It is also available as a mobile app.

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Blethyn Close and the  
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Earlswood Hall (Earlswood)  
Shirenewton School

Shirenewton Church Website  
[www.shirenewtonchurch.com](http://www.shirenewtonchurch.com)  
[www.shirenewtonshop.com](http://www.shirenewtonshop.com)

So, the lockdown continues and we are all getting used to interacting with the world electronically. Welcome to my world! I'm finding that, apart from the gym and some other social occasions, my day-to-day life



is pretty much normal.

On the plus side we seen communities pulling together, looking after neighbours, and so on. It's mostly been heart warming stuff! However, there are always a few idiots who try and take advantage. ActionFraud is warning that there is an increase in fraud attempts using the virus emergency as cover. For example, criminals target members of the public with NHS scam emails. These emails appear to come from HM Government and look official. They are requesting donations to the NHS. Obviously, the NHS is not the end recipient. There are also a considerable number of online shopping scams asking people to order face masks, hand sanitiser, etc. These, of course, never arrive and the criminals have your credit card details!

It's not limited to these scams directly linked to COVID-19. There is a flight refund scam which suggests you fill in a form with details of your flight and the details of the credit card you used to book it! Of course, the data doesn't go anywhere near the airlines. There is also a scam going around which sends texts purporting to be from your mobile phone operator warning you that you are about to be cut off. Of course, it's not from your mobile phone operator. These are all phishing scams and all you are doing is giving cyber criminals your details.

So, be very vigilant! If someone is asking you for details assume it is a scam until proven otherwise.

Moving onto other topics ...

In the past I've recommended that you download and use CCleaner for windows. Unfortunately I can't recommend it anymore and have removed it from my PC. Most of the features CCleaner offers are available now automatically built-in to the browser or in Windows 10. However, there is a place for a 'single button' solution which saves you fiddling around. After a fair amount of research I've downloaded and installed

AtomicCleaner 3. Get it at: <https://www.atomicware.co.uk/products/atomiccleaner3/>. I'll let you know how I get on!

As many know, I placed a document on the Church website which covered communicating whilst isolated. It covered most of the standard options. I neglected to include HouseParty as there were questions about its security at the time. However, it does seem that these were malicious and that HouseParty is as safe as any other similar app. The Cornwell family tried a HouseParty but found it cumbersome and there are questions about its privacy. As [Which.co.uk](https://www.which.co.uk) says: Houseparty's privacy terms make it clear that it can grab anything from your chats to use for marketing or advertising.

The other increasingly popular app is Zoom. There have been various stories about Zoom's security – especially after Boris Johnson used it to hold a virtual cabinet meeting. You may have seen that, despite claiming it had end-to-end encryption for video chats (like WhatsApp for example) it actually isn't encrypted and some calls have been routed through China. However, Zoom does appear to be addressing the issues and it's hard to be critical when Zoom saw an almost overnight jump from 10 million users per day to over 200 million! The Cornwell family has participated in several Zoom calls and they work well. Dave's top tip is to ensure you are in 'grid' mode otherwise the screen seems to flip randomly between the participants.

The Which? report 'Video calling: are Houseparty and Zoom safe to use?' is here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc5laxfu>

Please don't forget to use the shopping portal to click through to your chosen online shops. That way we can hit the payment thresholds and close it down



Safe browsing

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Naomi's coffee morning to raise funds for her trip to Rwanda to support Friends of Rwandan Rugby could not go ahead because of the coronavirus-Covid19 restrictions, but that didn't stop us all having a good time in our own homes, and she still raised money for the charity!



Donations box found at Gaer Llwyd crossroads by Anne Jenner—see page 2



## Shirenewton 800 events

A number of the significant events we had planned to celebrate Shirenewton 800 have now obviously had to be postponed, but when restrictions are lifted we intend to dust off the planning and then we can all have some fun!

We were very lucky to have managed to complete most of the immediate maintenance work at the church before the lockdown took effect; one important piece of the project remaining is the work to make sure the story of Shirenewton is accessible and available for residents and visitors.

We have commissioned a specialist Creative Design agency to work on the fantastic material that has been curated by the Shirenewton Local History Society over the years and this work is continuing virtually'. We therefore hope that by the time we all emerge from lockdown the design work will be complete and we will have a permanent display of material that can be changed and varied and in due course, added to.

Janet Horton

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07711 439675



## LOCAL CONTACTS

*If you know of any changes or omissions please contact the Editor Bill Clark  
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Lay Eucharistic Minister	Gilly Lambert	01291 641 175
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	Diane Marlow	01291 641 407
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– People’s	Andrew Baker	01291 641 925
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PCC Treasurer	Graham Lambert	01291 641 175
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	Janet Horton	01291 641 783
	James Leney	01291 641 271
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	Paul Morcombe	01291 641 671
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Organists	Karen Millar	01291 650 521
	Ruth Savagar	01291 641 411
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Sunday Club	Lynn Morcombe	01291 641 671
Tower Captain	Mike Penney	01291 650 653
Saysell Centre Booking	Glynis MacDonald	01291 641 818
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## **Other Local Organisations**

**Beavers** Julie Hitchcock 01291 650548  
**Church Fete**  
**Earlswood Hope** Mrs Sylvia Jeremiah, Mr Raymond Jeremiah 01291 641726  
**Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall**  
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## **Shirenewton Tennis Association**

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